

SEE YOU AGAIN, TED!

Gặp nhau đây rồi chia tay

Ngày dài như đã vụt qua trong phút giây

Niềm hăng say còn chưa phai

Đường trường sông núi hẹn mai ta sum vầy...

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Peter E. Bush, kindly referred to as Mr. Ted, sang emotionally during his “see-you-again party”. Indeed it was a “see-you-again” and not a farewell party because both Ted and VLS believe that they will meet again in the near future. The last ten months, from March 2010 to January 2011 have been an unforgettable experience for both Ted and VLS.

Everyday Ted would ride his bicycle to 45 Dinh Tien Hoang. Immediately upon arriving at VLS Ted would make a pot of “Chè Thái Nguyên” tea to enjoy before class, but more importantly he never failed to make more than enough to share with the teachers and office staff. Though we will miss sharing tea with Ted, we will miss his smiling face and contagious positive attitude toward learning more.

Not only was Ted a diligent and passionate student but he also eagerly participated in all extra curricular activities at VLS. During the Fun Run in Ben Tre in July, Ted was more than excited to cycle through the village, talk to the locals and amuse the children. Moreover, at the Teacher’s Day and VLS’ 16th Anniversary celebration held in November, Ted was the star of the night when he performed “Lỡ hẹn”, a love song performed in the style of cải lương (Reformed Theatre), Ted’s performance was nothing short of spectacular and impressed each and every member of the audience. The audience warmly cheered for his three performances including his performance of traditional songs from the three regions of Vietnam. He expressed his remarkable insight into Vietnamese culture through his role in the play *Trầu Cau* (Legend of Betel Leaf and Areca Nut.)





Nonetheless, Ted's competency with the Vietnamese language and his cultural insights reflect his love for Vietnam and his passion for learning. In his farewell speech, Ted congratulated VLS on its success in helping a foreigner not only speak Vietnamese but also understand the intricacies of Vietnamese culture, lifestyle and the soul of the Vietnamese people. VLS extends its appreciation to Ted for his effort and commitment in learning Vietnamese as well as his love for Vietnam. Ted proves that foreigners are able to learn to speak Vietnamese fluently and become dear, close friends, and even relatives of the Vietnamese people. Ted is now the cha nuôi (the sponsor) of two Vietnamese girls, making him a sibling in their respective families.

Indeed there are many more great things to say about Ted, but as he wrote in our Testimonial, it is unnecessary to write so much because he will soon return to Vietnam. Without a doubt, there will be more interesting stories to come.

See you again, Ted!