

August 20, 2025

Dear GUAVA Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

Greetings! I hope everyone had a good summer and is refreshed for the new academic year.

After much reflection, I have decided to step down from my role as President of GUAVA before the end of my term. This decision comes with deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve our community and full confidence in the next generation of leadership.

I have been part of GUAVA for nearly thirty years, from its earliest days as GUAV-Abroad/VASI to its transformation into GUAV-America. After the loss of the Fulbright GPA grant in 2012, I re-established GUAV-Abroad as GUAV-America, registering it as a new entity and securing its permanent home at Cornell University — a pivotal step that gave the new GUAVA stability and legitimacy. In those early years, I had the privilege of guiding the organization through periods of uncertainty, and it has been profoundly rewarding to see GUAVA grow into the vibrant professional community it is today.

Since 2020, I am especially proud of several key initiatives that have strengthened GUAVA and expanded its impact:

- **Strengthening communication and visibility:** Designing GUAVA's new website, logo, and guava-themed identity; launching biannual newsletters and monthly e-updates.
- **Building professional connections:** Establishing GUAVA Connect, our annual networking event fostering professional growth and connection.
- **Sharing knowledge and advancing pedagogy:** Organizing regular GUAVA Workshops and Conferences to exchange best practices, inspire innovation, and support professional development in Vietnamese language teaching.
- **Expanding influence:** Increasing membership and raising GUAVA's recognition among Southeast Asian language organizations in the U.S. and abroad.
- **Recognizing excellence:** Creating initiatives to honor members for innovative teaching and professional practices.
- **Updating GUAVA Bylaws:** Leading a comprehensive revision to reflect current practices, clarify roles, and strengthen the governance framework.

I am truly grateful to my Executive Board members, Chung Nguyen and Huy Phung, for their dedication and support. Their collaboration has been essential to our shared successes and has

played a vital role in ensuring that GUAVA continues to thrive as a vibrant, forward-thinking academic organization.

To ensure continuity, I have appointed Chung Nguyen, our Executive Manager, to serve as President until the next election. She has been with GUAVA since 2019 and is very familiar with its mission, operations, and history. She has overseen organizational initiatives, safeguarded institutional memory, and coordinated key projects. I am confident that under her leadership, GUAVA will continue to thrive and advance its mission with dedication, competence, and vision. The new leadership team will assume their roles on September 1, 2025.

Huy Phung will continue in his dual roles as Communication Manager and Newsletter Editor. His steady, reliable, and dedicated work provides invaluable support and continuity to GUAVA's outreach and communications.

Trang Tran, Lecturer at Brown University, will temporarily serve as Executive Secretary. Her professionalism and reliability will ensure smooth operations during this transition.

As I step down, I do so with confidence in our leadership team and GUAVA's bright future. The time is right for new energy, ideas, and vision. I will continue to support GUAVA in any way I can, but I believe this is the right moment to hand over the responsibilities to my trusted colleagues.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life to serve as President of GUAVA. Thank you for your trust, support, and shared commitment to our mission. I wish you all a successful and fulfilling semester!

With gratitude and warm regards,



Thúy Tranviet, PhD
President, GUAVA