



GUAVA Newsletter

President's Message

Dear GUAVA friends and colleagues,

Happy New Year! Happy Tết Quý Mão!

We hope everyone had a restful and relaxing winter break. This year, Tết comes early and those who are lucky to be in Vietnam at this moment, we can only imagine the good cheers and merriment as you welcome the Year of the Cat with friends and family!

New Year is the time to reflect and remember as we look back into the past and reconnect and rejoice as we look forward into the future. In 2022, we launched GUAVA Connect, our new networking platform to interact with colleagues across geographical regions and topics of interest in the Vietnamese language. Our first guest speaker was Dr. Nguyễn Thúy Anh, the founder and CEO of Reading with Children. GUAVA Connect will be a regular program and an integral part of GUAVA to share ideas and exchange knowledge while fostering personal connections with guest lecturers and participants across continents.

2022 was also a year of turning new leaves. We welcome the news of Hoa Le and Huy Phung, who have been appointed to their lectureship positions at Harvard University and University of California at San Diego (UCSD), respectively, as we congratulate Dr. Binh Ngo and Dr. Kimloan Hill on their retirement after a long and aspiring career.

Looking ahead, at GUAVA we are also making a few changes. In the coming year, our newsletter will come to you in the form of e-newsletter and will be available through email subscription. From time to time, we will continue to have special editions to showcase a particular topic or to commemorate a special event.

Hoa Đào Tết/Peach Blossom on Tết
Courtesy of Google Images via Google Slides

We hope to have an in-person workshop in the near future and at which time, announcements will be made.

In the meantime, I invite you to leaf through this newsletter, visit the two featured articles, one on the Vietnamese language programs in Australia by thầy Phan Văn Giường, and the other, a personal essay from Huy Phung on teaching Vietnamese to heritage language learners (HLLs). As language teaching professionals, I think you will all share his keen observations that HLLs hold special characteristics different from regular L2 learners, therefore, teaching this special group of language learners would require different approaches and applications, from materials development to assessment and evaluation.

Finally, I hope you'll spend a few moments taking delight in the flavors of Tết amidst spring plum and peach blossoms through the photos presented. On behalf of GUAVA, I warmly wish you much joy and happiness, health and prosperity for a great and promising New Year of 2023!

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới!

Thúy Tranviet, PhD
GUAVA President
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