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GUAVA Newsletter

President's Message

Dear GUAVA friends and colleagues,
Season's Greetings!

Wow! What an eventful year 2024 has been! This newsletter is packed with highlights, reflecting the many accomplishments of GUAVA members this year.

In September 2024, after five years of action-packed workshops, countless emails, and long Zoom sessions, the SEALC projects officially concluded. The culmination of this initiative was marked by a Symposium at Cornell University. Through this collaboration, numerous projects to improve curricular resources were successfully completed. In conjunction with the Symposium, GUAVA hosted a workshop featuring notable presentations selected from peer-reviewed abstracts. Two of these presentations have been transformed into featured articles in this newsletter.

This year, we implemented several new initiatives and revised key policies. We've introduced two membership tiers: one for U.S.-based members and another with reduced rates for international members, retired instructors, graduate students, and FLTAs.

Our annual networking event, GUAVA Connect, held its third installment in November 2024 with the theme "*Vietnamese as a Heritage Language*" (*Việt Ngữ Di Sản*). This year's guests were Thầy Nguyễn Thế Dương from Trường Yêu Tiếng Việt in Brisbane, Australia, and Cô Phạm Nguyễn Đan Thư, a Vietnamese teacher from a trilingual elementary school in Southern California.

We're also proud to announce the GUAVA Innovation Awards, which will recognize members for creative contributions to Vietnamese language teaching. If you've developed resources for your courses, why not showcase your innovations? Learn more about the awards on page 4!

Continuing our mission to foster collaboration and engagement, we opened our meetings this fall to all members, encouraging suggestions and active participation in various projects. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Trang Tran for coordinating GUAVA Connect 2024 and An Sakach for assisting with the GUAVA Innovation Awards initiative. These new working models—appointing coordinators and forming small working groups—are vital to advancing GUAVA's mission.

As 2024 draws to a close and Tết Ất Tỵ, the Year of the Snake, approaches, we reflect on this remarkable year with gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. On behalf of the GUAVA family, I wish you and your loved ones health, joy, and happiness in all aspects of life.

Warm regards,
Thúy Tranviet, PhD
GUAVA President
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