

October 11, 2007

Danny Hiroyuki Teraguchi
Dean for Diversity and Academic Advancement
Wesleyan University
237 High Street, North College Rm 122
Middletown, CT, 06459

Dear Dean Teraguchi

I recently have received your email about the Diversity and Academic Advancement Fund. As the co-chair and on behalf of the Vietnamese Student Association, I hope to receive support from the Diversity and Academic Advancement office for our event, named Cultures Across the Continent.

Vietnamese Student Association, also known as VSA, has been working to promote interest and foster cultural awareness of Vietnamese culture in the individual Wesleyan student, and Wesleyan community as a whole. Last year, VSA participated in the International Food Fair and The Night Market. This year, VSA aims to organize more events for the Wesleyan community. At the beginning of this semester, together with other groups, VSA has a night celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival. At the end of this month, VSA will take part in the International Food Fair. In addition, VSA is also doing planning for the Cultures Across the Continent.

The Diversity and Academic Advancement Fund will make the event Cultures Across the Continent possible. Cultures Across the Continent fits the mission of the office of Diversity and Academic Advancement in creating multiple way of campus community to contribute in pursuit of excellence. The Wesleyan University will be benefited with have the chance to understand more about Vietnamese cultures and be more aware of foreign countries.

I have enclosed proposal narratives that include more specific details about the event. I look forward to talk to you in person to further discuss the event or answer any question. I can be reached at xxx, or by cell-phone xxxx, or by email at xxx. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Since its founding less than a decade ago, Vietnamese Student Association, formerly known as LacViet, remains to be a small, not widely-known group across the campus. In the past, to fulfill its mission to promote cultural awareness of Vietnam, VSA has participated in joint events with other cultural groups. Last year, VSA was in the International Food Fair and the Night Market. This year, VSA aims to contribute more to Wesleyan community by having more events. At the beginning of the semester, VSA organized a Mid-Autumn Festival together with Chinese Cultural Club and Taiwanese Cultural Society. The event was tremendously successful that Chinese House, the event location, seemed to be packed with students. VSA's next event will be the International Food Fair that will be a collaborated effort of all the different ethnic groups at the end of this month. In the past, VSA has worked on a smaller scale of organizing activity within the Wesleyan community; this year, here comes a chance to bring cultural awareness to a grander scale. VSA has the opportunity of inviting a movie-producing group from Vietnam to hold an event that is open to all Wesleyan community. With the fund from the Diversity and Academic Advancement department, the event will be made possible; furthermore, Cultures Across the Continent will bring incalculable benefits.

VSA greatly treasures this rare opportunity. The movie-producing group has flown across the continents all the way from Vietnam. In addition, they will be showing an excellent movie about the history and the culture of Vietnam. "This film depicts the life story of a very poor family in Hoi An and the struggle they endure because of their circumstances. It is an unforgettable story filled with an emotional romance embedded in traditional cultural. It deals with foreboding crises and tremendous emotional growth spanning twelve years in the lives of four characters in the sixties. They have nothing but

dreams.” Wesleyan community will have the chance to meet both the Vice-President of the film-producing company and the actress in the movie. By watching the movie, the Wesleyan students, faculty, and even staffs will have a better understand about the Vietnamese culture and its people whose are one of the minority groups at Wesleyan. This understanding will help to eliminate some stereotypes that are held about Vietnamese people. At the same time, this understanding will raise the awareness about other cultures, especially about East Asian cultures, in the eyes of the Wesleyan community.

The movie named “The White Dress Silk” is not simply meaning and informative. It has received three distinguishable awards: 1. "GOLDEN KITE," Viet Nam Cinematography Association's award for best film, best director, best director of photography, and best actor of 2006, 2. "AUDIENCE SELECTION," Busan International Film Festival, Korea, 2006, 3. "KODAK VISION AWARD," Fukuoka International Film Festival, Japan, 2007. Movie is a form of art, and art is one of the best means to have cultural understanding and exchanging, this is a concept has been known used by Wesleyan University to teach first year students about skills and arts by letting watch First Year Matters DVD. Similarly, through Cultures Across the Continent, VSA hopes to help students to improve their skills on critical thinking, information literacy, quantitative, ethical reasoning, capacity for effective citizenship, and many others.

Since Cultures Across the Continent has a significant arts value, VSA has previously discussed with the Film Studies Department which gives its full support. The Film Studies will preserve the night of November 11th and provides staffing for the event. Unfortunately, they can't help VSA financially. Other than the Film Studies Department,

VSA has also approached the East Asian Freeman Studies Center and the director agrees to contribute \$75 to the event. VSA has already received support from some different sources and the group still plans to go speak to SALD and the WSA. VSA also hopes to receive some support from the Diversity and Academic Advancement Fund to be used in making a fund of \$500, which is to be contributed to the movie-producing group coming from Vietnam for their international traveling expenses.

Cultures Across the Continent will not only help to raise Wesleyan community's awareness on Vietnamese culture and indirectly the East Asian cultures, but also the event sets a model to other cultural ethnics groups. In the future, if the other groups want to organize an event on a grand scale, they wouldn't be hesitated because they will be able to see the success from the Cultures Across the Continent. Since Wesleyan University has been known for diversity, the more events that will happen which are based on cultures of different countries, the more the school's motto will be emphasized. In the past, different ethnics groups have organized events that are campus-wide but yet have tried to put their events on a grander scale, the internationals. VSA will initiate this new concept of communicating through the name of Wesleyan to groups outside the United States. This method will help to carry the name of Wesleyan to more places and make know to more people. Cultures Across the Continent will bring benefits not only to VSA and the other groups, but also to Wesleyan University.