# **STUDENT BULLETIN No 4**

## 2021

## **Introduction to Semester 2**



#### It is always great to receive reminders of our past students.

This is a group of students from 2019, pre Covid days, who gathered for a picnic during the semester break. Those were the days! Stay in touch with us when you can and let us know how you are.



#### From the Academic Manager's Desk

Welcome to 2021 Semester 2. ELSPM currently has 30 students, with 5 students in Melbourne and 25 online in many different countries. It is a sign of the times and with each lockdown we move to complete online learning. There are great challenges in this but with the support of local communities providing adequate technology and time for the students to study, they are making great progress with their English. In this edition of the Student Bulletin, you will meet the new EAP students. You can look forward to meeting the others in the next edition. One of our students, Huy, also takes us on a journey through the alleys of Ho Chi Minh City, during the pandemic.





#### **Introducing Our New Students**

#### Gusty svd



People often call me Gusty. I come from Kupang, the capital city of East Nusa Tenggara. I was born in Dili, on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1996. I was born, raised and educated in a simple family. My father is from Mauponggo, Nagekeo. His name is Kristianus. He was a civil servant. He married my mother in November 1995. My mother is from Ainaro district in Timor Leste. Her name is Pascoela. She is a civil servant too. So, there is such a kind of cultural mixing, between both of my parent's families, Indonesian and Timor Leste. I have three siblings and all are boys. I am the eldest child in my family.

Now I live in Maumere, Flores-East Nusa Tenggara. Maumere is a nice place where you can meet a lot of good people with a smile on their face. There are so many tourist destinations in

Maumere such as the Great Statue of Mary in Nilo, the Ancient Church in Sikka, Koka Beach and Lepo Lorun house of art.

We have a tropical climate here which consists of two seasons, the rainy season and the drought season. The temperature in Maumere is very hot, it can even reach 30° Celsius. Maumere was a good place for me to grow up. I learnt so many values of life and found my vocation there. There are so many people who really love me and support me in my religious life and study.

Li-Li

Kaohsiung is the second biggest city in the south of Taiwan. This city is surrounded by a hill, river, lake and ocean. The weather is very hot, always sunny, but with some winds coming from the ocean during three seasons. There are a lot of outdoors exercises, such as bicycling, swimming, walking and skating.

> My family has lived in this environment for over fifty years. My father worked for the government. My mother took care of four girls in my family. There are some values in my family, such as honesty, free expression, taking responsibility for oneself and cooperation. My parent desired to teach us to be good persons.

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They encouraged us to learn a lot of sports such as basketball, volleyball, table tennis, swimming and so on. My mother always told me to play basketball when I

was angry, I would get peace of mind again after I threw the ball repeatedly. Most important of all, my mother would prepare some special desserts at around 15:30pm. when we finished our outdoors exercises. Those desserts always surprised us. My father often brought some presents with great joy, for example, some gold fish or some birds. Once I learned how to discipline a young bird's flight to my finger to eat food when it heard a specific sound. I have a lot of happy memories of my childhood.

My family celebrates moon festival in September every year. We will prepare some moon cakes, fruits and other foods. All family members get together to talk, laugh and see the light of moon. Without a doubt, I think Kaohsiung is really a wonderful place to live and to enjoy one's life.

Li-Li hopes to come to Melbourne to complete a Masters in Spiritual Direction and work with the Jesuits.

## Paul Thach



My name is Thach. I came from the Centre of Vietnam which has many beautiful beaches and mountains. My hometown is Cam Ranh City (also known as the resort capital of Vietnam), My family has 7 members, I am the third of 5 siblings. My dad is 55 year-old and my mom is 53, they sell pork meat at the market.

There are two seasons: dry and rainy. The dry season is hot from March to August, and the rainy season is cool from September to February in the next year. I love the dry season because it brings good weather for me to travel and visit somewhere, especially the cold places. I love swimming in summer, because I feel comfortable and relaxed when I swim with my friends.

About tourist attractions, far from my place at 60 kilometers is known as a famous place in Vietnam. We called this Nha Trang Bay (one of the most

beautiful Bays in the world), it attracts a million people each year. It is also the biggest beach City in Vietnam. It has many places to go like visiting Cathedral Church, the Pagoda, Island hopping (Vinpearl Land), enjoying local street-food like Pho, seafood, and the Night Market. They also offer nightlife activities like the sky-bar on the top hotel (40 floors), a cinema, shopping centers, entertainment centers, seasidewalking and enjoying a cup of coffee in a coffee shop.

In conclusion, we are also friendly and helpful to foreigners when they are travelling to Cam Ranh and Nha Trang. If you have not visited my place yet, you can book a flight after the pandemic to enjoy yourself in accompaniment with your friends and families.

Thach is currently a candidate with the Missionaries of God's love, in the Philippines

### .Eileen

Hello my name is Yegi. Also, I have an English name which is Eileen. Many foreign friends call me "Eileen"

I'm from South Korea. I've been in Australia 2 years and I'm living near the Chadstone area. Before I came in Australia, I lived in New Zealand for 6 months. At that time, I did missionary work. I spoke the gospel to foreign people. And I shared God's love. Until now, I never forgotten this moment.

My habit is playing lots of instrument. Particularly, I love playing the violin and piano. Also, I really love traveling and talking with foreign people. In my opinion, I'm a talkative person

I have a family living in Korea. My family members are4 people

including me. My father is a Korean teacher who many students respect and

he has a good reputation. He is my best friend even though we are separated, we always pray for our faith and life. My mother is a housewife. She really loves cooking. So she is preparing for a chef's certificate. Also, she can play the cello, I think, my talents are inherited from my mom. A special family member is my older brother. He is a handsome man. And he is my most treasured person. When I was young, he always protected me, and we have good relationship.

I really expect that my EAP course will make me happy and I will gain new experiences.

Eileen hopes to begin her theological studies at the University of Divinity  Sheikh

I'm Sheikh, I was born in Baghdad, Iraq. My parents came from the North of Iraq to the capital Baghdad after their marriage. I have 4 brothers and one sister. Three brothers are bigger than me, and one brother and my sister are smaller than me. After the last war and fall of the system in 2003, my family returned to the north which is safer.

> The bad news for me is that my second brother and my mother passed away years ago. And the good news is that my other brothers and sister were married years ago, and we have some nephews, and my father is still living with my smallest brother.

I studied at primary and the secondary school in Baghdad. It was very hard for me and for my family to continue the study because of the poverty. But thanks to God and to my parents who helped me to graduate in my school and be able to go to the monastery and become a priest.

I worked as a parish priest in many different churches and in different areas in Baghdad for seven years. My bishop then gave me permission to study in Italy. This was a big step and the biggest change in my life. I started my study in Rome for three years, and I graduated in Canon Law for Eastern Churches. The teachers asked me to continue my study, but I felt sorry because I missed my home. I returned to my country, and I started teaching Canon Law in the seminar and worked as a barrister in the church tribunal, continuing my service in the parishes of Baghdad. At the end of 2018 they asked me to go to Australia to serve the Chaldean community, and I accepted that, and I'm here now, looking to learn English to raise my skill to be able to serve my community.

### Tai

I'm glad to introduce myself. **Tai** is my name. I'm Vietnamese and a 21 year old Passionist student. I've lived in many different cities. I was born in Bien Hoa city which is next to Saigon. But I was raised in Nam Dinh province which is located in the north of Vietnam with my grandma and my brethrens. I'm one of 9 siblings. In 2012 I moved to Hanoi and lived there for 4 years. Now I'm living in Saigon in Ho Chi Minh City as you know it but I prefer to call it Saigon because this name invokes many ancient memories.

Living in many different cities gives me a chance to discover and experience many wonderful things. The place that I like most is Nam Dinh because of its fresh air, peaceful village and friendly neighbours. Many funny and nice memories come to my mind when I remember my hometown. My grandma is a farmer. She taught me to do agricultural works but almost always I failed!

Nowadays, most people in my hometown go to the cities to seek a better opportunity to change their lives. Only old people and children live there.

Each Tet and summer holidays I go back to my hometown to visit my family relatives and neighbours.

Tai hopes to be in Melbourne by next July to begin his Novitiate with the Passionists.

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Photos of life in the alleys of Ho Chi Minh City no doubt greatly affected by Covid-19. Thanks Huy.

