

## **An 84 Year-Old MBA Student Completes his First Year**

In September, eighty-four year old Mr. Le Phuoc Thiet, from the Dai Loc district of Quang Nam Province, returned to DTU to begin the second year of his Master of Business Administration degree program. He exercises every morning and is still healthy and energetic, despite his age.

Mr. Thiet used to live in America but came back home in 2013. Previously, he had supported seven children, so did not have time to go to university. In 1995, when they were all grown-up and independent, he went back to high school and then to California State University to study Finance. Just after his graduation in 2001, his wife became ill and he postponed his dream to study for a Master's degree. Returning Vietnam, Mr. Thiet enrolled in the DTU MBA program, receiving an exceptional, tuition-free grant from the DTU provosts.



*Mr. Le Phuoc Thiet*

After class, Mr. Thiet usually watches TV and surfs the internet for news. *"There is a huge amount of information stored in the university library, so I often go there to learn more. Younger people are very talented these days but I am older, so I have to study hard to keep my memory sharp. I am taking the*

*MBA course to broaden my knowledge, not for the degree, so I am free from pressure. Fortunately, I gained all my twelve required first-year credits with average scores."* he said.

When Mr. Thiet has problems, he contacts his lecturers for assistance. He is by far the oldest MBA student and actively participates in team projects and presentations.

Mr. Thiet's nephew, who is also studying for a Master's degree at DTU, takes him to university but, when they don't have the same schedule, Mr. Thiet takes the bus by himself. In heavy rain, his relatives advised him to stay at home, but he could not because he didn't want to miss the lectures.

Mr. Thiet recently contracted chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and was confined to the Dai Loc hospital for one month. *"I stayed in the hospital in the daytime but in the evening I took a bus to university and went back to hospital afterwards."* he said.

According to Mr. Nguyen Gia Nhu, Deputy Head of the DTU Graduate School, after one year of study, Mr. Thiet has proved he can keep up with the younger students and is now considered their role model. He is one of the hardest-working students in the class, always eager to learn.

*(Media Center)*