

# KALEIDOSCOPE 1.07

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER | ISSN 1685-5884 | VOL. 3 NO. 1 | WINTER 2007



Looking to the Future

# the past is merely prologue

OVER THE PAST YEAR MUIC OBSERVED ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY BY ENGAGING IN A SERIES OF CELEBRATORY EVENTS, HIGHLIGHTED BY A GALA DINNER AT THE DUSIT THANI HOTEL. THAT WAS THEN, A PLACE AND TIME DEVOTED TO A REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST.

To cite an observation by that master of language and insightful commentator on the human condition, William Shakespeare: what is past is prologue. The last 20 years of struggle and incremental development has ultimately served as a preface to what matters now. And so the college is currently, and rightfully, preoccupied not only with the present but also with what is yet to come.

On November 17, 2006, MUIC Director Chariya Brockelman met with members of the media in the Seminar Room to formally launch the college's next chapter, the begin-

nings of its third decade of service. After having expressed her appreciation for the past coverage of MUIC's programs and student activities, Dr. Chariya proceeded to address several issues concerning the college's immediate future.

#### STUDENT ENROLLMENT

At the onset of the first trimester of this 2006-07 academic year MUIC welcomed 304 new full-time students who have participated in a series of activities in an effort to adapt to the demands of university life. Their numbers brought the full-time student population to



MUIC DIRECTOR  
CHARIYA BROCKELMAN

2,101, with no expectations of a dramatic increase in the foreseeable future.

Since then, of course, an additional 100 students have enrolled for the second trimester (a normal intake), reflecting a familiar pattern in declaring their majors.

#### ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Among the current full-time student body, almost half are majoring in Business (1,121), with Travel Industry Management (433) the second most popular choice although the number of students selecting majors in the Sciences (425), Social Science (156) and Entertainment Media (66) is steadily increasing.

According to Dr. Chariya's briefing, the college will focus on maintaining its reputation for academic excellence and strengthen-

ing its present academic offerings. However, students will be encouraged to diversify and broaden their academic horizons by pursuing double majors and taking advantage of the wide range of available minors. Efforts will also be made to promote studying abroad so that our students can more readily develop important cross-cultural sensibilities.

#### PHYSICAL EXPANSION

While the beginning of this third decade will generally be devoted to maintaining the status quo, two major developments in terms of physical expansion are on the horizon. Although construction on the new eight-storey extension will not be finished by the third trimester as anticipated, the building and its interior furnishings are expected to be



MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA VISITING THE AIR ORCHID FARM

completed by September. Moreover, plans are well underway to relocate the Foreign Languages and English Studies Programs to the Salaya Center, where the Siam Commercial Bank now operates and where construction is already in progress.

The rationale for this additional space, as articulated by Dr. Chariya, is two-fold. First of all, the college is committed to maintaining a well-balanced and consistent teacher-student ratio in the classroom. Secondly, these new facilities will provide MUIC lecturers with private office space in

order to more effectively conduct academic counseling and advisement.

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Sujin Chaichumsak, Chief Officer of Buddhamonthon District, also addressed the members of the media, citing MUIC's outreach programs which have contributed to the development of surrounding communities, particularly in terms of education. Under the aegis of the Office of Student Affairs, MUIC students have provided tutoring, developed teaching materials and donated equipment for

extra-curricular activities.

MUIC students have also visited district orphanages and centers that cater to children with disabilities. A majority of these efforts are spearheaded by members of the Volunteer Club.

#### LOCAL TOURS

After the press conference, which was organized by Mr. Nutthaboon Pornrattanacharoen and the Public Relations staff, the guests were taken on a tour of the MUIC facilities and the Salaya campus, after which they were treated to a special luncheon on a river cruise. They also



MR. SUJIN CHAICHUMSAK

visited two district tourist attractions, the floating market in Donwai and the Air Orchid Farm.

The day's activities concluded with a visit to Kantana Movie Town in Salaya, the studio complex at which Entertainment Media majors develop their craft.



GROUP PICTURE AT KANTANA MOVIE TOWN

## ACADEMIC NEWS



### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION: PROMOTING A SPECIAL AGREEMENT

In August, 2006, MUIC formally signed an exchange agreement with the University of Adelaide, one of Australia's oldest and most prestigious institutes of higher learning. It was no surprise then when university representatives arrived at the college to participate in the Study Abroad Fair on November 10. Moreover, they came with a specific agenda: to promote a special 4+1 Articulation Agreement.

According to this agreement, BBA students at MUIC who have earned their degrees, received a GPA of 3.0 and above and who have successfully completed Business Communication as one of their electives are eligible to study for a one-year Master of Commerce Degree at the University of Adelaide in the fields of Applied Finance, Marketing or

Performance Management. However, only graduates with a finance major can elect to study for a Master of Commerce in Applied Finance.

A master's degree usually requires eighteen months of study with a total of 36 credits. According to this agreement, 12 credits will be awarded to BBA students from MUIC in the following subjects: Accounting Essentials for Decision Making, Economic Principles, Marketing Principles and Quantitative Methods.

The University of Adelaide has also waived the IELTS test requirement and will offer one free scholarship for every seven MUIC students who undertake their graduate studies at the university.

MUIC is grateful for this partnership and looks forward to strengthening its collaboration with the University of Adelaide in both student and lecturer exchanges and in the area of research.

### HUMANITIES: ENGLISH TUTORING WORKSHOP

Six years ago the English Studies Program established the Resource Center in an effort to assist MUIC students with problematic writing skills. Under the direction of its Coordinator, Ajarn Phillip Stiens, the center has grown considerably and now includes additional tutorial sessions in oral communication and mathematics, with an expectation of other disciplines as well.

While the tutorial staff primarily consists of English and math lecturers, the Center has always encour-

aged the participation of student tutors, especially our international students and others with a proficiency in English, all of whom receive the proper guidance and direction.

More recently, Ajarn Phillip initiated more formal training sessions which will be conducted twice a year. On September 14, 2006, one such workshops explored teaching strategies. Ajarns Jonathan Green, Euan Harvey, Mark Rodell and John McNulty addressed the issues of student-tutor communication, avoiding plagiarism, in-text commentaries and oral communication, respectively.

Six students, Supakit Punyaratabandhu, Alissha Sachchathep, Chakrit Thensang, Wang Lulan, Choorai Dinesh and Ezra Tantikijrungruang, received certificates of recognition for their participation in the workshop and their continuing contributions to the Center.

The Resource Center is still located in Room 1312 in Building 1. Any student requiring assistance can



## ACADEMIC NEWS

consult the information board in front of the Center and sign up in advance for tutorial sessions. Those interested in training and tutoring can contact Ajarn Phillip at ext. 1306 or by email: icphillip@mahidol.ac.th

### WAI KRU CEREMONY

On October 5, MUIC faculty and students participated once again in the annual Wai Kru ceremony, presided over by Professor Somphon Pongthai, Mahidol University Vice President for Academic and Professional Affairs, and Professor Chariya Brockelman, Director of MUIC. Accompanied by the strains of traditional Thai music, student representatives from each of the classes, along with international students and



alumni, presented their floral arrangements.

While this tradition is meant to honor teachers, the college also uses the occasion to recognize student achievements, academic and otherwise. Students from each of the majors who excelled academically were awarded scholarships. Ms. Yi-Tin Huang and Mr. Sabin Sunny, both Biological Science majors, distinguished themselves with GPAs of 3.98 and 3.96, respectively. Others were recognized by virtue of their participation in the Student Association, student activities and service to the community.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Dr. Charles Freeland of the Humanities Program is currently having a photographic exhibition, LUMINOSITY: The Muse of Light, at the Kathmandu Photo Gallery, 87 Pan Road, Silom, Bangkok. The exhibition was launched with a special reception on December 2, 2006, and will continue through January 28, 2007.

An excerpt from the exhibit's brochure states: "The images in this exhibition are signatures, traces of this elemental intersection of light, time and chemistry. Their purpose as photographs is, therefore, neither to document not to conceptualize but rather to be moments of vision, moments of meditation on the visible. They are presentations of the visible; they show – one could say that they commemorate – what was there, given to be seen in an ephemeral, luminous moment of time."

### ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

The number of science majors continues to increase, particularly in Biological Sciences and Food Science. However, other disciplines such as Chemistry, Environment and Physics seem to attract far fewer candidates. Nevertheless, they, too, play their part in the arena of academic excellence.



Noppakhun Suthichitranont, a fourth-year physics major, received the Utrecht Summer School in Theoretical Physics Scholarship from Universiteit Utrecht. Mr. Noppakun, the first science student to have received such an honor, studied in the Netherlands during August, 2006, and expects to pursue a doctoral degree in physics in the United States once he graduates.





## an alternative approach

TRADITION IS THE HANDING DOWN OF BELIEFS OR CUSTOMS FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER. FROM ITS VERY BEGINNINGS THE COLLEGE HAS FAITHFULLY -- AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY -- OBSERVED ONE SUCH TRADITION, LOY KRATHONG. 2006, HOWEVER, WAS AN EXCEPTION.

FLOOD VICTIM  
RECEIVING HELP FROM  
MUIC STUDENTS

Every November on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month MUIC has joined countless others throughout Thailand in celebrating this festival of water and light, culminating with candle-lit krathongs illuminating the rivers, canals and waterways. This tradition has always served as a powerful reminder not only of our responsibility towards the environment but also of our dependence on water, that vital resource which sustains our lives.

Paradoxically, water's life-giving benefits are sometimes superseded by its death-dealing possibilities. The unprecedented 2004 tsunami and its tragic aftermath come to mind. More recently, during the latter part of 2006, massive flooding affected many parts of Thailand, leaving death and destruction in its wake.

Given the thousands of victims whose homes and livelihoods were at risk, Mahidol University decided it was inappropriate to en-

gage in celebrations for Loy Krathong and subsequently cancelled all scheduled activities.

In response, the MUIC Office of Student Affairs collaborated with the Student Association in launching a campaign to raise funds for flood victims, a campaign that was conducted throughout November and supervised by Ms. Sasithorn Rojsongkran and Praewthip Wongpaiboon, both Student Affairs staff members, who coordinated with Mr. Thawatchai Gaewkongka, Deputy Officer of Buddhamonthon District.

The month-long campaign raised 90,440 Baht, some of which was used to purchase rice, cooking oil, dry goods, canned goods as well as medical supplies. In some cases, depending on the victims' circumstances, money was donated.

Ms. Sasithorn and Ms. Praewthip enlisted the help of a core group of dedicated students who assembled special aid packages and delivered them to flood victims



in two nearby communities, Klong Yong and Klong Mahasawas, Buddhamonthon District.

In addition, Professor Sriprasit Boonvisut, Mahidol University Vice President for Student Development, requested aid packages for the Nakhon Suwan Campus and its neighboring communities which were severely affected by the floods.

Some of the funds have been kept in reserve; follow-up visits to the areas will be conducted in order to determine what further kind of aid may be required.



MUIC FLOOD CAMPAIGN

BUDDHAMONTHON DISTRICT:

KLONG MAHASAWAS POPULATION: 550

KLONG YONG POPULATION: 270

EVERYONE IN BOTH COMMUNITIES WERE AFFECTED BY THE FLOODS

SOURCE OF INCOME: RICE FARMING AND FISHERIES

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY, NAKHON SAWAN CAMPUS:

COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT MAJORS: INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT

STUDENT POPULATION: 101

# a year of challenges and rewards



2006 WAS A PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING YEAR FOR MUIC'S EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF. APART FROM THEIR REGULAR DUTIES, SO CRITICAL IN ENSURING THE COLLEGE'S OPERATIONAL SUCCESS, THEY TOOK ON THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING, COORDINATING AND IMPLEMENTING THE SERIES OF CELEBRATORY EVENTS MARKING MUIC'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY.

Staff members from Central Administration, Academic Services, Student Affairs, Planning, Research and Development, International Relations, the Audio Visual Center and Public Relations all expended their time and energy in that series of events, the last of which was organized by the Office of Academic Services.

## SOCCER COMPETITION AND CARNIVAL

On November 16, 2006, MUIC hosted the President's Cup Competition, a soccer match between faculty-staff, managed by Ajarn Michael Naglis, and MUIC students-alumni, managed by Ajarn Phillip Stiens. The student-alumni team barely outpaced

and outmaneuvered the faculty-staff contingent, edging its way to a 1:0 victory. After the match the players and spectators proceeded to the Princess Garden, in front of the Princess Cafe, for the MUIC Carnival where they joined others from MUIC, Mahidol University and the neighboring communities.

The venue for the estimated crowd of 2,500 provided a variety of activities. There were dozens of food stalls as well as booths set up by the MUIC clubs, offering games of chance. The Cheer and Dance Club performed several numbers and a band from Mahidol's College of Music provided additional entertainment. The evening concluded with an open-air cinema, featuring the film, *Seasons Change*.



## MUIC STAFF



### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In spite of the demands of their work and the additional onus of contributing to the 20th anniversary celebrations, two MUIC staff members managed to complete their postgraduate studies during 2006 while another took a leave of absence in order to earn her master's degree.

Ms. Supida Wangrat-tanakorn, who arrived at MUIC in 2000 and has been serving as Head of Admis-

sions for the past two years, received her MA in Linguistics from Naresuan University.

Ms. Rossukon Somjai, Assistant Liaison Officer for the Office of the Director for the last four years, recently received her MBA in Marketing from Burapa University.

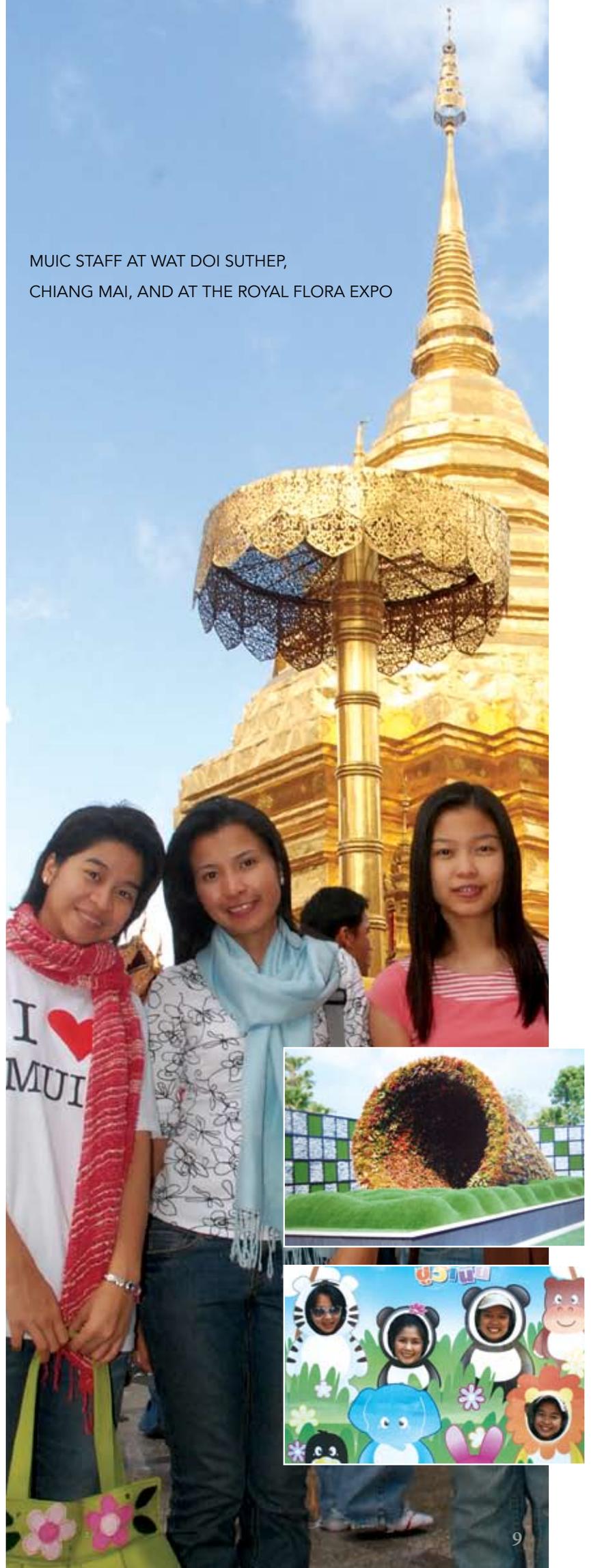
Ms. Gingpayom Rod-klintan, Senior Chief of Academic Services, took a leave of absence in 2005. She earned an MA in Tourism Management from Curtin University in Australia.

### ANNUAL OUTING

Every year executive and support staff members participate in an outing, usually with an educational component, which is meant to create a greater sense of comraderie and an enrichment of their professional and personal lives.

One hundred staff members, representing every administrative section, traveled to Chiang Mai on December 15, 2006, for a three-day excursion. They visited the Doi Suthep Temple and Phu Phing Ratchanives Palace, spent one leisurely morning at the Chiang Mai Zoo and toured the San Kam Pang Village, celebrated for the production of its paper umbrellas. The highlight, however, was the Royal Flora Expo 2006 which has attracted visitors from around the world.

MUIC STAFF AT WAT DOI SUTHEP, CHIANG MAI, AND AT THE ROYAL FLORA EXPO





## OPEN HOUSE REVISITED

In the last issue of *kaleidoscope* we reported on MUIC's fourth annual Open House, the most successful to date, attracting approximately 2,800 visitors.

The college conducted a survey among student participants which, in turn, elicited the following responses. The visitors were very impressed with MUIC's location and environment as well as with the warm welcome by the college's recep-

tion team. The academic exhibitions and displays also generated a great deal of interest, particularly the Science, Business Administration and Travel Industry Management Divisions. Moreover, the range of students activities and special performances received high marks.

This evaluation clearly suggests that many of the student participants intend to pursue their undergraduate studies at MUIC.

## PROFILE

The Office of Public Relations was highly instrumental, if not actually indispensable, in promoting MUIC and its 20th anniversary celebrations during 2006. That success can be attributed to the leadership of Mr. Nutthaboon Pornrattanacharoen.

After completing his undergraduate studies at Silpakorn University, Mr. Nutthaboon briefly worked as a photographer for two metropolitan Bangkok magazines. He then went on to earn an MA in Design from Western Sydney University, Australia. Upon returning to Bangkok, he took the position of Information Designer at Ramathibodi

Hospital for one year and began teaching part time at MUIC.

In 2000 Mr. Nutthaboon joined MUIC as a full-time staff member and was appointed Head of Public Relations. Apart from utilizing his experience and expertise in promoting the college, he also teaches two courses for the Business Administration Division: Multimedia Presentation and Print Design for Advertising.

In his free time Mr. Nutthaboon enjoys traveling. Fortunately, his work at MUIC supports that avocation since he has had opportunities to travel to Europe and a number of countries in Asia.



NUTTHABOON (2ND FROM RIGHT) AND THE PR TEAM

# INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

## STUDY ABROAD FAIR

The inbound component of MUIC's Study Abroad Program continues to flourish. During the first and second trimesters of this academic year, 59 exchange and 36 visiting international students arrived at our college. In addition, 14 full time international students have begun their four-year course of studies, bringing their total numbers to 242, approximately 11 percent of the student population.



While the outbound component of this program is also progressing, it has not fared as well in comparison. In order to promote more participation in overseas studies, Ajarn Brian Phillips, Chief of International Network Development, in collaboration with the Office of International Relations, organized the MUIC

Study Abroad Fair which was held on November 10, 2006, in the Seminar Room.

Twelve universities and colleges were represented: Colorado State University, USA, and the University of New Brunswick, Canada; Bournemouth University, Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies, the University of Westminster and Royal Holloway, University of London from the United Kingdom; the Dublin Institute of Technology and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Ireland; the University of Adelaide and La Trobe University from Australia as

well as Osaka and Okayama Universities, Japan.

Each of the representative colleges and universities were given an opportunity to present an overview of its undergraduate and graduate programs in addition to pertinent information on the availability of scholarships, after which they conducted private sessions with MUIC students at stations that were set up for that purpose.

MUIC students will have another opportunity to explore studying abroad when the college sponsors its annual Education Fair on February 1, 2007.

## ERASMUS SCHOLARSHIPS

Three recent MUIC graduates have been awarded scholarships, due in large measure to the college's close association with a number of universities around the world.

Ms. Chutima Chayutdisyakul and Ms. Nalinrat Wattanataworn, both Food Science and Technology majors who graduated last year, won "prestige scholarships" from Erasmus Mundus, a collaborative and mobility program that supports the European Masters Program, jointly run by a consortium of European universities, and offers scholarships for the

Erasmus Mundus Masters Course.

Ms. Chutima and Ms. Nalinrat are currently engaged in postgraduate studies in Food Science at the Dublin Institute of Technology (a participant in MUIC's Study Abroad Fair in November). After they complete their course work in Ireland, the two will have an opportunity to work on their masters' science projects in Germany, France or Portugal.

The Erasmus Mundus Program has expressed an interest in recruiting more MUIC students, given their proficiency in English. For more information, go to the Erasmus Mundus website: <http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus>

## UCA AND MUIC SCHOLARSHIP

Ms. Pattaka Sa-ngimet, a Social Science major with a concentration in International Relations, served as secretary for the Social Science Division for 18 months. She completed her undergraduate studies in December and

was awarded a full tuition scholarship and monthly stipend from the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), where she briefly did an internship in 2005.

Apart from her graduate studies in World History, Ms. Pattaka's responsibilities will entail working for UCA's international student program, including recruitment and serving as liaison.

MUIC has also awarded Ms. Pattaka a scholarship that will cover living expenses during her two-year course of studies. As part of the agreement, she will return to MUIC after receiving her master's degree and teach courses for the Social Science Division for three years.



## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

MUIC DIRECTOR  
BROCKELMAN IN  
CUERNAVACA,  
MEXICO



# focusing on latin america

### ASIA-LATIN AMERICAN FORUM

Ajarn Brian Phillips represented MUIC at the First Forum for East Asia-Latin American Universities at the Beijing International Hotel on October 14-17, 2006. The conference was an initial attempt to create networks of collaboration between the two regions.

Latin America was represented by five South American countries, Guatemala from Central America and Mexico, the largest delegation which included three universities and the Asociacion Nacional de Universidades, an organization representing over 80 percent of all Mexican universities. The East Asian contingent consisted of universities from China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and Thailand.

According to Ajarn Brian, “many of the Latin American participants

were hesitant, probably because they didn’t know much about Asia, but the Asian participants were very open and welcoming.” That spirit of generosity ultimately enabled all of the participants to develop strategies for cooperation.

MUIC enjoyed an advantage at the international conference inasmuch as it had already established a working relationship with one of the Mexican universities. For the past several years, students from the Technological Institute of Superior Studies of Monterrey have been arriving at MUIC in order to participate in summer internships.

### STRENGTHENING TIES WITH MEXICO

As a follow up to the China conference, Director Chariya Brockelman traveled to Mexico in late December to further strengthen MUIC’s associa-

tion with the Monterrey University system.

Dr. Chariya initially spent several days acclimating herself to the Mexican culture, climate and lifestyle in order to determine how well MUIC would be able to adapt to that environment. Her conclusions were decidedly favorable, particularly in light of the warmth and hospitality of the people.

The first order of business was a visit to the State of San Luis Potosi and the Instituto Tecnologia de Monterrey, acknowledged for its strong programs in business, computer science and engineering. Dr. Chariya met with the leadership team and successfully negotiated an exchange agreement between the Institute and MUIC, an agreement that will be formally enacted in March and will enable outbound MUIC students to begin their studies in Mexico in August.

Dr. Chariya’s other objective took her to the State of Moreles and the Universidad Internacional with its Center for Linguistics and Multicultural Studies in Cuernavaca. There she successfully explored the possibility of recruiting a Spanish lecturer so that MUIC’s Foreign Languages Program could introduce Spanish in its curriculum for the next academic year. In return, MUIC will offer its expertise, through the resources of the Social Science Division, to develop and strengthen the Center’s Asian Studies Program.

During her stay in Cuernavaca, Dr. Chariya lived with one of the local families, sharing in their lifestyle, enjoying authentic Mexican food and learning the language, a first-hand experience that will enable her to advise and prepare MUIC students for their prospective studies in Mexico.

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## STUDENT ASSOCIATION INITIATIVE

The leadership team of MUIC's Student Association invited student representatives from 10 Mahidol University faculties and colleges to attend a special meeting in November, 2006. Participants included Music, Art, Science, Engineering, Religious Studies, Sports Science, Physical Therapy, Information, Communication and Technology as well as Medicine and Nursing from Siriraj Hospital. MU's Offices of Student Affairs, Student Activities and the Student Congress, which oversees all student activities, were also represented.



The purpose of the meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Ittipol Radsameepaitoon, President of the MUIC Student Association, was to create a workable network of communication and establish closer ties among the various faculties and colleges by collaborating in future activities.

A discussion ensued concerning possible



avenues for cooperation, including more active participation in MUIC's clubs. Mr. Arnon Sripthraana, representing Mahidol's Office of Student Activities, proposed a series of

campus visits which, in turn, might reintroduce the Focus Games whereby all MU students can participate in a variety of sports activities.

The College of Music announced that it will coordinate a charity concert and sponsor a showcase for the performing arts. Both events, scheduled for February, will involve the participation of all MU students.

This group is committed to meeting every trimester in order to coordinate their efforts and

promote a stronger sense of unity among the university's faculties and colleges.

## TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP

Members of the MUIC Taekwondo Club participated in the Siam University Championship 2006 at Siam University's Sports Center on November 25-26. Sutthiksat Saththithan won a gold medal in the welter weight division; Worakit Arayawatanavech and Ezra Tantikijrungruang secured bronze medals in the bantam and light weight divisions, respectively.



## MUIC MUSIC CLUB

The Music Club held its annual Acoustic Competition, sponsored by Cup-pa Coffee House, on the ground floor of Building 1 in early November. Fifteen bands participated in the event and the group, "Something Chill," captured first place.

The club also sponsored a Grammy Free Concert on November 14, in the MUIC auditorium, featuring four professional Grammy artists. While the concert was meant to promote the performers' latest recordings and provide

entertainment for the MUIC student body, the occasion also served to raise funds for the Student Association's campaign for flood victims.

# debating challenges

THE MUIC-TEAM IN VANCOUVER

DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER OF 2006, MEMBERS OF THE MUIC DEBATE CLUB WERE ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE PREPARATION FOR ANOTHER MAJOR DEBATING CHALLENGE, RESEARCHING THE 10 ISSUES FOR DEBATE IN THE COMPETITION AND CONDUCTING PRACTICE SESSIONS NOT ONLY AMONG THEMSELVES BUT ALSO WITH NEIGHBORING UNIVERSITIES. THOSE EFFORTS WERE WELL REWARDED.



### THE NATIONAL ARENA

On November 9, 2006, 18 members of the Debate Club, constituting nine teams, arrived at ABAC, Bagna Campus, to participate in the 1st British Parliamentary Debating Championship Thailand, which ran through November 13. They were accompanied by eight adjudicators, including MUIC alumni Sureerat Schanakul and Apirat Kongchanakul.

The MUIC debaters performed exceptionally well under this debating system, which requires two-member teams and a final round consisting of four teams. In spite of the fierce competition, four MUIC teams fought their

way to the semi-finals, with two of them reaching the grand final. Phra Chinarong Sangsranoi and Choorai Dinesh competed against Michael Krause and Wang Lulang; the other two finalists were from Chulalongkorn and Assumption Universities. The team of Phra Chainarong and Mr. Choorai emerged as the victors.

Moreover, the MUIC debaters won six of the ten best speaker awards at the competition, with Courtney James O'Connor receiving the Best Rookie Speaker award. The overall performance of Debate Club members generated considerable interest, so much so that three other universities requested the

MUIC debaters to train their students.

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shortly after the British Parliamentary competition, four members of the Debate Club, Phra Chainarong Sangsranoi, Jagruti Sampat, Bousakorn Bouchatuck and Michael Krause, began preparations for the World Debate.

The group traveled to Singapore in mid-December in order to participate in a Pre-World Debate Tournament at Nanyang Technological University and competed with university teams from Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. That three-day and three-

night exercise further enabled the MUIC teams to hone their parliamentary debating skills in preparation for the World Championship.

In late December the two teams, along with an adjudicator, Pathara Thampatpong, took part in the prestigious World Debate Championships at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, from December 27, 2006, to January 3, 2007. The MUIC team competed with 672 teams from around the world and was ranked in the top third of competitors. The experience was an invaluable one and served to promote the college in an international setting.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The MUIC Volunteer Club constitutes one of the college's most important components in exercising its community outreach responsibilities. Apart from their regular activities throughout the year, club members embark on a project every December, an annual undertaking that has fast become a tradition.

The 2006 project, dubbed Volunteers for Sustainable Development, targeted the Baan Pubong Phakhee School in Dan-chang District, Suphanburi Province. In preparation for this 10-day venture, Chayaluck Tummasiri, President of the Volunteer Club, Panita Jansiri and Yanin Tungboontina consulted with Principal Wattana Plianrasri and Mr. Hong Teepala, Head of Tambon Baan Pubong, to determine the needs of both the school and the commu-

On December 17, 2006, 50 student volunteers, along with their advisor, Ajarn Arpaporn Iemubol, arrived at Baan Pubong Phakhee School, which has a student population of 138 and is located in an underdeveloped but environmentally friendly part of Thailand. After a brief orientation, the group of volunteers immediately got on with their respective tasks.

One group of volunteers focused on the classroom setting by engaging the children in decorating the classrooms with educational displays and providing instruction in English, Thai and mathematics. Another group addressed health matters and personal hygiene in addition to stocking the school dispensary with donated supplies. Two other projects included improvements to the school library and the more challenging task of constructing a cement court for sports activities.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The volunteers also had ample opportunities to socialize with the students and teaching staff during their 10-day stay, which offered its own lessons in responsibility, working together, understanding the value of shared experiences and making a difference.

### EXPLORING THE DEEP

In late December 13 members of the MUIC Diving Club went to the Similan Islands, acknowledged as one of the most beautiful diving sites on the planet. They tested their stamina and seaworthiness by spending five days and nights on a chartered boat.

While they set about coping with the demands of would-be mariners, their focus was on the business at hand, diving, 13 extended dives in all, including night diving which was

particularly challenging as they plunged into the watery darkness, wielding saber lights that directed their way.

Each dive in that rich and diverse ecosystem provided new discoveries about marine life, highlighted by encounters with scorpion fish, sharks and some of the largest mantrays in the world. According to Sirachai Arunrugstichai, "we were stunned by the beauty of all that marine life. It's sad that most people miss such a great life-time experience."

When they finally came ashore, some club members returned to Bangkok; others remained in Phuket for an additional day in order to avoid any possibility of decompression sickness. Before their departure, members of the group made a point to visit Promthep Cape, the last place where the sun sets in Thailand.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **FEBRUARY 1**

MUIC EDUCATION FAIR ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BUILDING 1

### **FEBRUARY 2**

MUIC JOB FAIR ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BUILDING 1

### **FEBRUARY 2-4**

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR, QUEEN SIRIKIT  
CONVENTION CENTER, BANGKOK

### **FEBRUARY 3-4**

WELCOMING CAMP FOR NEW STUDENTS AT THE BAAN PHU  
WAAN PASTORAL TRAINING CENTER

### **FEBRUARY 14**

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

### **MARCH 6-8**

MOVIE FESTIVAL, FEATURING EDUCATIONAL AND  
INSPIRATIONAL FILMS, IN THE MUIC AUDITORIUM

### **MARCH 30**

RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP FOR PROSPECTIVE GRADUATES

### **MARCH 26-APRIL 1**

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

### **APRIL 2-17**

HOLIDAY RECESS

### **APRIL 18-21**

REGISTRATION FOR THE THIRD TRIMESTER

### **APRIL 23**

CLASSES BEGIN

The MUIC newsletter is written and produced by the faculty and staff of Mahidol University International College (MUIC).

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