



KALEIDOSCOPE 3.08

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER | ISSN 1685-5884 | VOL. 4 NO. 3 | AUTUMN 2008



2008 Graduates

2008 GRADUATES

ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, JULY 12, THE COLLEGE AUDITORIUM WAS FILLED TO CAPACITY AS MUIC CONDUCTED A CONGRATULATORY CEREMONY FOR THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES. THIS WAS A CELEBRATION OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT THAT REPRESENTED THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF STUDY, LEARNING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.



Not unlike the 17 graduating classes which preceded them, these graduates arrived at MUIC four years ago as neophytes, gradually acclimating themselves to the demands of the college's academic and social life. During their tenure some of the graduates excelled academically, earning first and second class honors (see

page 4). Others assumed additional responsibilities by taking on leadership roles, engaging in student activities, participating in international conferences and becoming involved in community outreach programs. Remarkably, some were able to achieve both – all of which has brought them to this moment.

Not unlike the classes which preceded them, these 446 young men and women, constituting the largest graduation class to date, earned their degrees in the Arts, Sciences and Business Administration, representing the following disciplines: Travel Industry Management (99), Social Science (39), Food Science

and Technology (25), Computer Science (20), Biomedical Science (22), Biology (3), Environment (5), Chemistry (4), Physics (1), Marketing (83), Finance (56), International Business (61), Information Systems (17) and Management (11).

At the July 12 ceremony Professor Chariya Brockelman, Director of MUIC,



addressed the graduates, congratulating them on their achievements and reminding them that learning is a life-long process. She then awarded the graduates the English version of their diplomas.

Mr. Chawin Wangmutitakul, who received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics, was presented with

a special plaque that cited his academic achievements. He not only received first class honors but also earned the highest Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.94.

Each of the divisional chairpersons then proceeded to offer their own congratulatory remarks. Finally, Mr. Ekularn Wattanatanasul, a Biological

Science major and first class honors student with a GPA of 3.90, delivered an address on behalf of the 2008 graduates (see page 4).

After the official ceremony, the graduates took advantage of a photo session and were subsequently treated to a luncheon at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel.

The 2008 graduates

participated in rehearsals on July 14 in preparation for Mahidol University's official commencement exercise on July 16, which was held at the Thai Navy Convention Hall and was presided over by HRH Princess Sirinthorn.

GRADUATION ADDRESS

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of the graduates for their success. This morning walking through the main lobby and making my way to the auditorium brought back many memories of MUIC. I can still remember the feeling of excitement and fear on the first day of orientation in this very room. And as time passed, not only did we gain knowledge but also formed invaluable friendships that have prospered and will continue to do so into the future.

I am sure that the years spent here at MUIC were filled with many cheerful memories, full of joy and laughter, but also with sad memories that may have brought tears and pain. Nonetheless, each of those memories rests in a special place inside our hearts and will continue to bring a smile when we think about them.

Secondly, on behalf of the class of 2008, I would like to thank Professor Chariya Brockelman, our respected teachers and the MUIC staff, without whom we would not be here today, for their dedication, patience, love and care – and for having put up with us over the past few years.

Thank you for believing in us, for giving us hope and inspiration and for giving us strength. Thank you for those A's that have shown us that nothing is impossible. Thank you for those B's that have taught us to aim higher.

Thank you for the C's that have allowed us to forever say goodbye to that subject: "Yes, I passed!"

Thank you for the D's that reminded us that D does not stand for divine and thank you for the F's that have taught us that F means 'too much fun and no work done,' but more importantly taught us that there can always be a second chance.

Our 'Royal Father', Prince Mahidol, once said: "True success exists not in learning but in its application for the benefit of mankind." On behalf of the class of 2008 I would like to honor his belief and, as a payment for his gratitude, promise to use the knowledge and experiences we gained here at MUIC to help benefit our society, our country and the world.

Finally, congratulations to all of you once again. I wish you all the best of luck and good fortune for your future.



Ekularn Watanatanasup

First Class Honours

Chawin WANGMUTITAKUL

3.94 – Physics

Ekularn WATANATANASUP

3.90 – International Business

Shanshan TANG

3.83 – International Business

Chomploy LEERAPHANTE

3.78 – Food Science and Technology

Satapon WONGKHOMTHONG

3.73 – Social Science

Wariya ASDORNNITEE

3.72 – Food Science and Technology

Pawit KHID-ARN

3.72 – Computer Science

Thana RAKBANCHA

3.68 – Computer Science

Nina Sitapan MOLLER

3.67 – Social Science

Yossiree LORPIPAT

3.65 – Finance

Vipavee TRIVITTAYASIL

3.61 – Food Science and Technology

Phuwarat NORCHOOVECH

3.58 – Computer Science

Rungkarn RUJIWARANGKUL

3.57 – Chemistry

Rachen SINGHAKUMAR

3.55 – International Business

Phananong THANAROJPHAKORN

3.55 – Finance

Kosoom SINWATTANARAK

3.53 – Travel Industry Management

Vasan NARANG

3.53 – Environment

Apirat RATTHAVINIJ

3.51 – Travel Industry Management

Peera RUNGSAPPHAIBOON

3.51 – Computer Science

Wongsiya WONGSERBCHART

3.50 – Travel Industry Management



NEWLY ENROLLED MBA STUDENTS

STUDENT-GENERATED ACTIVITIES

MUCH OF THE DIVISIONAL ACTIVITY DURING THE THIRD TRIMESTER WAS GENERATED BY STUDENT INITIATIVES – FROM ENROLLMENT IN OUR POSTGRADUATE MBA PROGRAM TO PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND COMPETITIONS.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MBA ORIENTATION

The MBA in Business Modeling and Analysis Program conducted an orientation for its second in-take of students on the morning of July 5 at its facilities at Sathorn City Tower.

Ajarn Sirithida Chaivisuttangkun, Program Manager, welcomed the newly-accepted candidates, after which Professor Ban-chong Mahaisavariya, Dean of Mahidol University's Faculty of Graduate Stud-

ies, addressed the participants, emphasizing the university's commitment to academic excellence.

After a multimedia presentation on MUIC and MBA programs and facilities, Assistant Professor Sarayut Nathaphan, Director of the MBA Program, provided an overview of the curriculum and introduced some of the program's cutting-edge technology.

Once these formal ceremonies were concluded, the new students registered, took a brief tour

of the facilities and posed for a photo shoot. Everyone then proceeded to the Salaya Campus where they were introduced to the MU and MUIC facilities and later enjoyed a special luncheon at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel.

L'OREAL COMPETITION

After four months of research, analysis and

intensive teamwork, all of which was conducted in an effort to develop a new and innovative product for Vichy's sun-care range of products, two MUIC teams were eligible to participate in the final round of the L'Oreal Brandstorm Competition 2008, which was held at the Grand Millennium Hotel on May 12, 2008.

The Voyager team, represented by Ms. Pun-natorn Chiewhutpong, Ms.



THE VOYAGER TEAM CELEBRATING ITS ACHIEVEMENT

Lalita Punnakitti and Ms. Raveena Sachanandani, and the Sleepless Mats team, with Ms. Wanmai Phanthong, Mr. Akarapong Boon-Anuntabudh and Mr. Titi Korcharoenpanich, joined four other teams from Assumption, Chulalongkorn and Thammasat Universities in the finals. The judges were recognized experts in marketing, advertising and public relations.

The Voyager team, which addressed sun-addicted consumers and developed a protective sun care product with corrective action under a “wipe and milk” process, was declared the first runner-up and was awarded a prize of 50,000 Baht.

SIFE PROJECT

MUIC is a representative member of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), a global non-profit organization that is active in more than 40 countries around the world. Its purpose is to mobilize university students to create economic opportunities for others while at the same time discovering their own potential.

The MUIC chapter, under the direction of its advisor, Dr. Chaiwaree Anamthawat, and in collaboration with Pattani Technical College,



THE BANGLEN BANANA EXHIBITION

sponsored an exhibition, “Banglen Banana” on June 4, on the ground floor of Building 1.

The chief objective was to feature new skills in making interesting and creative products from dried banana sheaths by women of the Banglen-Narapirom community. In addition, there was information, along with demonstrations, on market economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, business ethics and sustainability.

These products have won several awards and have generated interest locally, regionally and internationally and were recently featured at The Mall Department Store.

The one-day exhibition was open to all members of the Mahidol University and MUIC communities. Participants also had an opportunity to purchase T-shirts, designed by the SIFE students, in order to raise funds to further promote and develop the “Banglen Banana” project.

FUNDRAISING EFFORT

Ajarn Ignatius Tan, BBA lecturer, spearheaded a fund-raising effort in June for the victims of the devastating cyclone and earthquake in Burma and China, respectively.

He solicited the help of the MUIC Student Association, along with the Volunteer and Multicultural Clubs, in promoting the drive and organizing stations at which members of the MUIC community could make their donations. Their combined efforts were well rewarded: 80,000 Baht was raised in a matter of a few days.

Director Chariya Brockelman led a contingent of MUIC representatives on a visit to the Bangkok headquarters of the Thai Red Cross on June 10 in order to personally deliver the funds.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

ASEAN CONFERENCE

During the week of May 20-27, one faculty member and two students from the Social Science Division participated in the 10th ASEAN University Network (AUN) Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest, organized by AUN and the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The conference, whose theme was “How ASEAN Can Move Forward Towards a Single ASEAN Community,” was attended by 17 universities from 9 ASEAN countries.

The week-long proceedings included the Educational Forum during which Ajarn William J. Jones, Social Science lecturer, presented a paper, “Is ASEAN Identity Possible?” Social Science major, Ms. Pattamon Rungchavalnont, was among the 25 student and lecturer participants and delivered a paper on “ASEAN Identity, ASEAN Community.”

After an extensive discussions on the papers, students were asked to nominate one young ambassador for each country; among the Thai students from three universities, Ms. Pattamon was selected. She subsequently delivered a report on Thailand’s concerns and prospects for further development. These country reports were



AJARN WILLIAM JONES, MR. TANAWAT AND MS. PATTAMON AT THE ASEAN CONFERENCE



AJARN ZHANG QIUJUAN WITH MS. BUSABA SAKULTAPANICH

used as a basis for drafting the first ASEAN Youth Joint Statement, which will be presented at the ASEAN Summit this coming December.

In the meantime, Social Science major, Mr. Tanawat Phaovibul, was among the 15 participants in the Young Speakers Contest. His speech in the first round addressed the issue of using language to foster a single community, recommending that university students in the region learn an ASEAN language.

His performance earned him a place as one of the six finalists, along with students from the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, the Royal Phnom Penh University, the University of the Philippines, the National University of Singapore and Chulalongkorn University.

The final round consisted of both extemporaneous and impromptu

speaking. Each contestant was given an hour and a half to prepare a five minute speech on the topic, "Disaster Management Cooperation for the Realization of a Single ASEAN Community." After that, the contestants were required to speak impromptu on their role in building a single ASEAN community.

Mr. Tanawat captured first place in the Young Speakers Contest and was subsequently awarded a \$ 1,000 prize during a farewell dinner on May 26, at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Royal Polo and Riding Club.

Both students have expressed their gratitude for having been given this singular opportunity, not only for the eye-opening exposure to a multiplicity of regional issues but also for having established bonds of friendship with other university students from the region.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Several years ago MUIC forged a formal exchange agreement with the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), a collaborative effort that has especially benefited the Social Science Division in terms of student exchange and internships.

Ms. Ornthicha Duangratana, a third-year Social Science major with a concentration in International Studies, will engage in a six-week internship over the summer at UCA. She is the fifth Social Science intern to do so and, like the others who preceded her, will work with UCA's International Program, familiarizing herself with the university's academic and social programs, welcoming international students and participating in recruitment efforts.

HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGE

CHINESE SPEECH COMPETITION

Ms. Busaba Sakultapanich, who is taking Chinese as a minor, participated in the 7th Chinese Speech and Proficiency Contest 2008, which was sponsored by the Chinese Embassy and took place on April 6, at the Rachada City Hotel.

A total of 18 contestants from various Thai univer-

sity that offer major and minor programs in Chinese delivered prepared speeches relating to the Olympic Games in Beijing. In addition, they were required to answer a set of questions about Chinese history and culture and had to deliver an impromptu speech.

Although she only minors in Chinese, Ms. Busaba was awarded third prize. Ajarn Zhang Qiujuan and other Chinese lecturers at MUIC expressed their pleasure with Ms. Busaba's success and are encouraging other Chinese minors to follow her example.

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

The Office of International Network Development, under the leadership of Ajarn Brian Phillips, organized the Australian Universities Study Abroad Fair on June 17, in the Seminar Room. This was the first such event of its kind.

In order to promote the fair, the Australian Educa-



ORNTHICHA DUANGRATANA

DIVISION NEWS



DR. CHARIYA AND DR. CHAIRAWEE WITH BIG C PARTICIPANTS

tion International Agency conducted a seminar on “Studying in Australia,” after which MUIC students had an opportunity to visit the stations of the 12 representative universities and learn about their undergraduate and graduate programs, including the possibility of scholarships.

STAFF

TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Academic Activities Department, under the management of Ms. Gingpayom Rodklongtan, collaborated with the

Travel Industry Management Division and the Thai Hotels Association in organizing a month-long training program, “Management for Executives in the Hospitality Industry,” in June.

Twenty-six executives from hotels in Bangkok, Chiang mai and Samui attended the training sessions, which were conducted on weekends (for a total of 48 hours) at the Narai Hotel in Bangkok.

Another training program, this one long-term, is currently being conducted by the Academic Activities Department and the BBA in International

Business Program.

Twenty executives from Big C, a chain of well-know department stores, are participating in the “Mini MBA in Retailing” program. The sessions, which are being conducted every Monday and Thursday evening at the Big C Learning Center, began on June 2 and are expected to conclude on October 29, 2008.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Ms. Sumalee Visetratana, Deputy Director for Administration, Ajarn Udomrat Tivasub, Assis-

tant to the Deputy Director, Ajarn Brian Phillips, Chief of International Network Development and Ms. Ketvaree Phatanakaew, Head of Public Relations, represented MUIC at the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors (NAFSA) 2008 Annual Conference on May 25-30 in Washington, DC.

Over 9,000 international educators participated in the conference and exhibition, promoting their respective institutes. After the conference, the MUIC participants took the opportunity to visit the College of New Jersey and Princeton University.



PARTICIPANTS AT THE AUSTRALIAN STUDY ABROAD FAIR



MS. SUMALEE AND AJARN UDOMRAT AT THE NAFSA CONFERENCE

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

CLUB DAY

The MUIC Student Association held its annual Club Day on June 26 at a dinner at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel. A multimedia presentation provided an overview of student activities during the past academic year, after which each of the clubs was recognized for its contributions. The Volunteer Club received a special citation once again as the best club. Both present and future club leaders participated in the evening's activities.

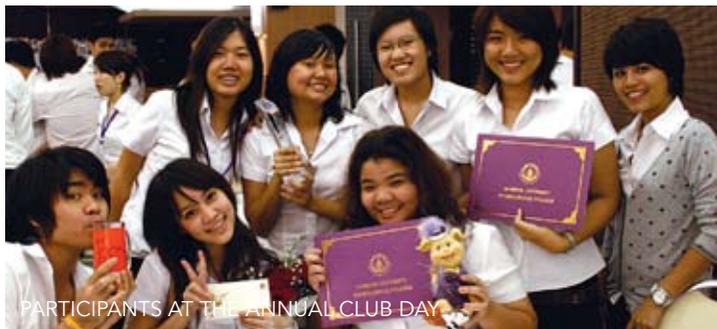
The occasion also served to introduce the new leadership team of the Student Association, which won the election two weeks earlier: Mr. Tananun Saranak, President, Mr. Sanchai Waleecharoengpong, External Vice President, Ms. Kayvalan Lowajinankul, Internal Vice President, Ms. Nalin Sangpatson, Secretary, and Ms. Chayada Patchakapati, Treasurer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In an effort to promote its community outreach activities, members of the Student Association visited the Baan Klong Sawang Arom School on June 24. They donated



THE NEW STUDENT ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP TEAM



PARTICIPANTS AT THE ANNUAL CLUB DAY

school supplies and spent the day engaging the children in educational games, sports activities and English-learning sessions.

The Student Association members also invited 13 students from Mahidol University's Faculty of Dentistry who promoted oral hygiene by performing checkups and examinations.



KULTHIDA ANUCHACHART, LEAD SINGER OF THE WINNING BAND

CHARITY DRIVE

Ms. Siriluck Siripratkul and Ms. Chananya Huagterrakul, Student Association project managers, organized a Charity Drive in June to raise money for the various MU foundations.

The targeted areas for fund-raising were MUIC, the Faculty of Engineering, the College of Music,

the university's central cafeteria, JJ Market and the Salaya Friday Market. The amount of money raised totaled 53,412 Baht.

DRAMA CLUB PRODUCTION

The Drama Club mounted a production, "Sax and Violin," on June 10-12 in the MUIC auditorium. The play, consisting of a series of humorous vignettes on the foibles of the human condition, was directed by M.A. Richard, a visiting graduate student from Hawaii who is auditing courses at the college.

BAND COMPETITION

The MUIC Music Club sponsored its annual Band competition on June 19 in the college auditorium. Approximately 70 student musicians, including MUIC alumni, represented the 16 bands which participated in the event. The winning band was The Story, which received a 3,000 Baht first prize.



CASTMEMBERS OF "SAX AND VIOLIN"

promoting multiculturalism

LAST YEAR A GROUP OF MUIC STUDENTS MET IN ORDER TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CLUB THAT WOULD PROMOTE MULTICULTURALISM. THE RATIONALE WAS STRIKINGLY OBVIOUS: ANY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE WORTHY OF ITS NAME SHOULD ACTIVELY BE CELEBRATING ITS INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER.

According to the regulations of the MUIC Student Association, however, good intentions alone are not enough to formally establish a club. Instead, students are required to demonstrate some measure of leadership and commitment by organizing activities that would benefit the college. Under the leadership of Ms. Pasttamon Rungchavalnont, that is precisely what members of this new group did.

During the first trimester of this academic year, they not only sponsored Democracy Week, which featured films of prominent non-governmental organizations, but also collaborated with the Student Association in organizing the MUIC Multicultural Day.

During the second trimester a guest speaker from Amnesty International Thailand was invited to address the issue of human rights, which was followed by another week-long forum on gender issues.

Given these activities, the Student Association this past trimester officially endorsed the Multicultural Club whose charter states its commitment to “create learning experiences whereby MUIC students will have a better understanding of the differences among cultures and how those differences can be celebrated.”

This past May members of the Multicultural Club went on an excursion in the Bangkok metropolitan area to visit different religious sites, in an effort to explore their commonality as well as their diversity. MS. VETHYITA SETHICHAIYEN submitted the following report.



MULTICULTURAL CLUB EMBRACES RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

Religious diversity and freedom of worship have long been maintained in Thailand; yet many of us still remain ignorant of religions that are not our own. In an effort to educate and enrich its members, the MUIC Multicultural Club embarked on a journey to discover what different religions in Thailand have to offer by visiting five places of worship.

The first location on the trip was Dev Mandir. Literally translated as “House of Gods,” this Hindu temple very much lived up to its name. To the surprise of most visitors, the temple also provides primary and secondary education for students of all races and nationalities. On entering the temple, statues of various Hindu deities were being worshipped. Our club advisor, Ajarn Ruchi Agarwal, herself a Hindu, leapt

into a fascinating history of the gods and goddesses as well as Hindu customs and religious practices. The Brahmin, or high priest, also honored us with his presence and generously answered our various enquiries.

The next destination was the Guru Singh Sabha or the Sikh’s Gurdwara. The Sikhs’ way of life is determined by the Guru Granth Sahib, which is their holy book. Brochures and Sikh magazines were distributed to help us better learn about and understand the religion. A representative of the Sikh community also conducted a question-and-answer session.

It was nearly noon when the session concluded so we all headed towards the langar hall where free food and water were provided. This

STUDENT ACTIVITIES



was definitely a new experience for the non-Sikhs among us since the lunch consisted of traditional Punjabi food. While we were still in the Phahurat area, known as Indian Town, we also tried some of the different Indian delicacies, such as Samosa and Tikki.

Our next destination was the Tonson Mosque, which is over a hundred years old and is said to be the oldest mosque in Bangkok. It is located in Issaraphap where a local Muslim population thrives. Much like our visits to Dev Mandir and Gurdwara, this was a first-

time experience for many of the students. A representative from the mosque was kind enough to inform us about the importance of Mecca in Islam as well as clarify the sometimes offensive claims against Muslims around the world. The ambience of the mosque was quite remarkable as we learned about this beautiful religion and its people.

After a 10-minute ride, we arrived at Wat Kalyanamittr, a Buddhist temple that represents an amalgam of Thai and Chinese architecture, as evidenced by the statues of Chinese gods gracing the entrance.

Inside the temple a massive Buddhist statue in a reclining position occupied most of the space. All heads were bowed in prayer as monks bestowed their best wishes on the visitors. Since the majority of our club members are Buddhist, this experience was a familiar one as they took time to make merit.

Our final stop was at Santa Cruz Church which also runs a well-known convent school. The church's architectural style was very different from the previous four places of worship since it was built in a western

style, namely, Portuguese. We were able to imagine the stories as the church's representative narrated the history of Adam and Eve, Noah, Moses, Jesus and other important figures from the bible.

As we returned to MUIC, the members of the Multicultural Club engaged in a lively discussion about their experiences. There was also a consensus that everyone wanted to learn more about religions other than their own. However, the most important lesson that we learned was religious and cultural tolerance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 28-AUGUST 24

SUMMER SESSION

AUGUST 6

MUIC OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 25-27

SUMMER SESSION FINAL EXAMINATIONS

SEPTEMBER 9-12

FIRST TRIMESTER REGISTRATION

SEPTEMBER 18-19

ORIENTATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

SEPTEMBER 22

INSTRUCTION BEGINS

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