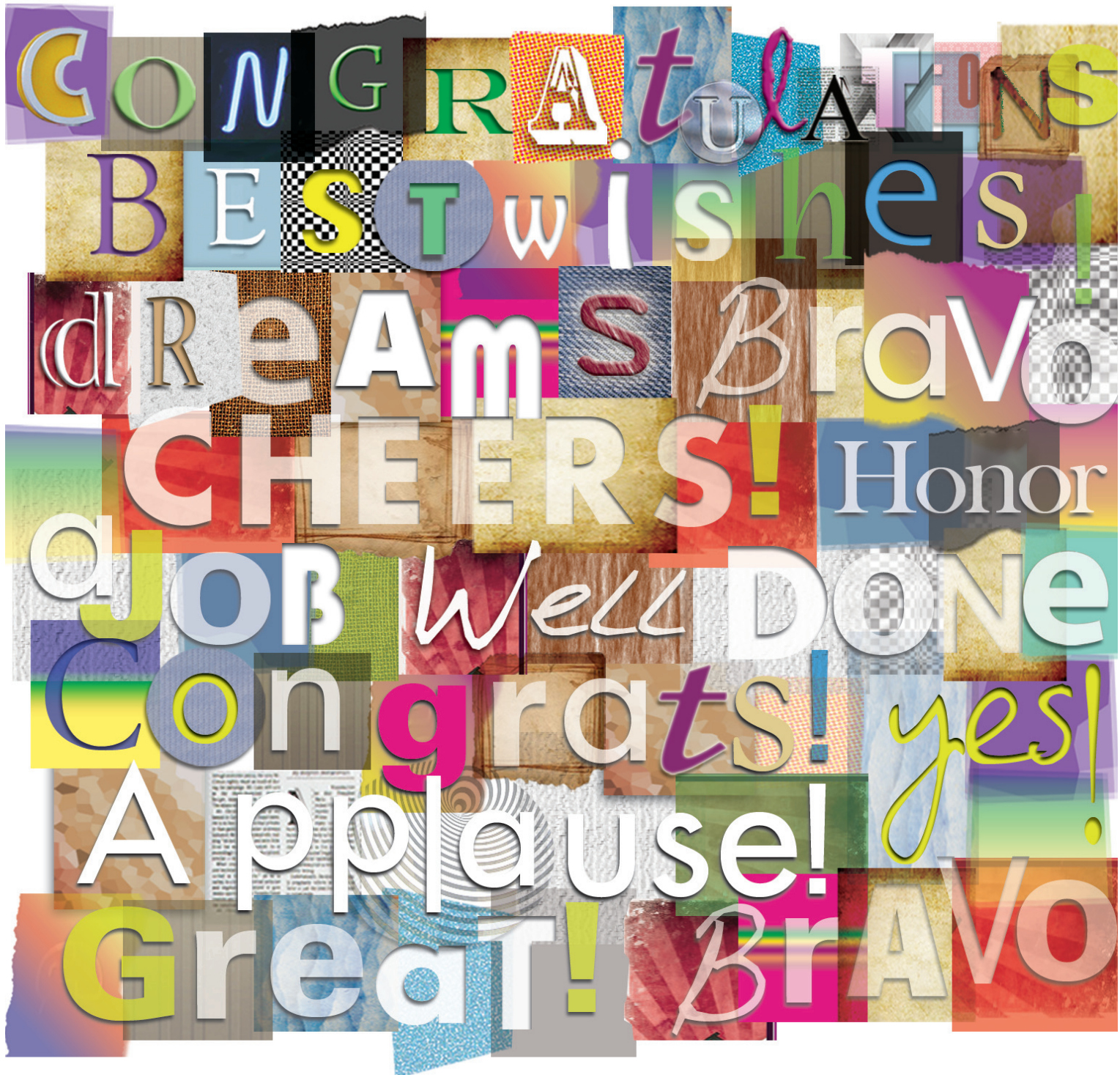




# KaleidoScope

Mahidol University International College Newsletter August 2009



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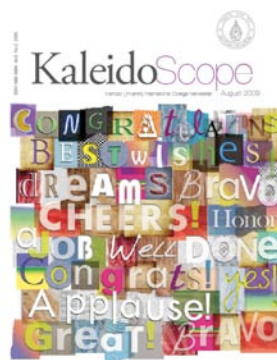
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## Editor's Note

The MUIC class of 2009 graduated in a ceremony at MUIC on July 3. Dean Rassmidara Hoonsawat delivered a congratulatory speech, and handed the students their official transcripts. Two days later, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over MU's Thai-language commencement ceremony, which was held at the Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall along the Chao Phraya River. One could say that our graduates graduated again.

With episodes like this, our students might feel like they are crossing back and forth between two mutually-exclusive worlds. Two graduation ceremonies, two diplomas, two languages—shouldn't one be enough? We don't know for sure, but judging by the number of cameras we saw flashing at every moment of the ceremonies, our grads' friends and families were very happy to be celebrating their double achievements.

## Cover Art



The collage on the cover is by Ajarn Dynaya Bhutipunthu who teaches in the Fine and Applied Arts Division and is involved in the development of the new Communication Design Program. Her collage is based on the theme of graduation.

# Promoting Higher Education in Thailand

MUIC Dean Rassmidara Hoonsawat, former Director Chariya Brockelman, Ajarns Brian Phillips and Michael Naglis, Assistant Dean for International and Student Affairs, respectively, Ms. Sumalee Visetratana and Ms. Somluck Lunsucheeep of Central Administration and Ms. Satja Sopha from the Pre-College Program represented Mahidol University at the 61st Annual Conference of NAFSA, Association of International Educators, on May 24-29 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The conference is the world's largest gathering of professionals in international education and exchange, attracting more than 5,000 participants from over 150 countries. According to Ajarn Brian, "NAFSA is the major global stage for establishing visibility and making significant contacts."

This year's conference, "Fostering Global Engagement through International Education," opened with a keynote address by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus and offered more than 200 concurrent sessions on a broad range of educational, exchange and global mobility issues.

While members of the MUIC delegation attended some of these sessions, much of their time was devoted to alternately managing the display booth



Thai Night in LA

Thai Night in LA

NAFSA

that promoted both Mahidol University and MUIC as well as meeting with other delegates, both individually and collectively.

In addition, Professors Rassmidara and Chariya delivered a well-received presentation about MUIC to regional managers from Asia LEARN, an exchange organization that sends visiting students to countries throughout the world, including Thailand. Ms. Somluck and Ms. Sumalee

were also busily engaged in organizing the final details of a special reception which was held on May 26 at the Thailand Plaza Restaurant.

By all accounts, that event, “Thai Night in LA,” was the highlight of the week. Approximately 100 guests, both current and prospective exchange partners, enjoyed the evening’s activities, jointly sponsored by Mahidol, Kasetsart and Kohn Kaen Universities, along with the

Tourist Authority of Thailand.

Professor Rassmidara welcomed the guests, after which Mr. Takerngsak Lekklar, Deputy Consul-General of the Thai Embassy in Los Angeles, offered his own welcoming and congratulatory remarks. The guests were treated to a special video presentation on tourism and higher education in Thailand, an array of Thai cuisine and traditional dance performances.

## Maintaining Regional Visibility

Part from its international outreach efforts, as exemplified by the NAFSA Conference, MUIC continues to maintain a strong regional visibility by providing its students with opportunities to participate – and excel – in forums, conferences and competitions. Over the past trimester, a number of Social Science majors enthusiastically took up that challenge in a variety of venues and settings.



### Civic Youth Forum

Saengabha Srisopaporn and Sofie Lisby, accompanied by Ajarn Natanaree Posri-thong, participated in the World Civic Forum 2009, in Seoul, South Korea, on May 5-8. Ajarn Natanaree was invited to deliver a paper on Thai Society, Islamophobia and Reverse Discrimination.

Meanwhile, Ms. Saengabha and Ms. Sofie were actively engaged in the youth component of the Civic Forum which was held at Kyung Hee University and served as a platform for young people around the world to discuss such diverse issues as the environment, development and poverty, human rights, gender equality and global citizenship.

The two student representatives attended lectures and took part in a number of working sessions on energy and sustainable development, conservation, human rights and the role of youth in promoting peace. In addition, Ms. Saengabha presented a paper on the self sufficiency philosophy as a global development paradigm while Ms. Sofie delivered a presentation on the 2009 World Development Report and its implications. They also contributed in drafting a formal youth declaration which was presented at the closing ceremony.



Piva

## ASEAN Student Conference

Piva Saengrattanachai was invited to attend the ASEAN University Student Conference 2009 in Bandung, Indonesia, on May 20-24, along with 240 university student participants who represented the 10 ASEAN nations as well as East Timor and Papua New Guinea.

The conference, entitled “Enriching and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage,” focused on the promotion and sharing of cultural traditions. Mr. Piva was asked to deliver a presentation on Thai history and culture, a public speaking challenge that was easily met inasmuch as he is an active member of the MUIC Debate Club. He also joined other participants in formulating a joint statement about the conference, a document which was submitted to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in July.

## Social Democracy Conference

Nattawat Theeralerttham, a second-year Social Science major and first-class honors student, is an active member of the Young People for Democracy Movement—Thailand, a youth network that promotes the ideals of social democracy. He attended a special seminar and training session in early May in Bangkok and was later chosen to represent the organization at the Regional Conference of the Network of

Social Democracy in Asia, which was held in Manila, the Philippines, on May 20-23.

The conference, entitled “Responding to a Systemic Crisis,” brought together members of political parties and allied organizations in order to confront the current financial crisis within the framework of social democracy. The 41 invited participants included students, politicians and trade union representatives from both Asia and Europe.

While the global economic crisis was the primary focus, other issues such as regional integration, redefining the role of the state, local governance and party building were also discussed and debated. Mr. Nattawat joined the other participants in drafting a communiqué that offered guidelines for countries’ developmental models, which was presented at a special press conference.



Nattawat

Mr. Nattawat continues to be involved in all matters political. Just recently he traveled to Hungary, where he joined over 5,000 other young activists at the International Union of Socialist Youth Festival 2009, a week of discussions, seminars, workshops and happenings that addressed the theme, “Development for Freedom – Our War on Poverty.”

## ASEAN University Network

Pakkamol and Chuenchanok Siriwat participated in the 11th ASEAN University Network Educational Forum and Young Speakers Contest



Pakkamol

Chuenchanok

on June 17-24 at the Universitas Indonesia in Jakarta. Twelve universities, representing 8 ASEAN countries, attended the conference, “The Global Economic Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities for ASEAN.”

The Educational Forum was devoted to an exploration of the conference’s theme, with papers delivered by both students and lecturers. Ms. Pakkamol gave a presentation on “Turning a Crisis into an Opportunity,” an overview of the economic crisis from Thailand’s perspective. She also joined other young leaders in formulating a joint statement of concerns which will subsequently be submitted to the ASEAN Summit which will be held later this year.

Ms. Chuenchanok, in the meantime, was competing in the Young Speakers Contest, in which the initial rounds focused on issues related to the economic crisis. She easily moved into the more challenging final round. The six contestants were required to speak both extemporaneously and impromptu, addressing the issue of “Youth’s Role in an Integrated ASEAN.”

Ms. Chuenchanok was awarded first place. Since Mr. Tanawat Phavovibul, another Social Science major, won the competition last year, Ms. Chuenchanok’s victory was of special significance, marking the very first time that any university has won the Young Speakers Contest consecutively.



## Australia Fair

The Office of International Relations sponsored a “Study in Australia Fair” on the afternoon of June 16 in the Seminar Room, featuring the Universities of Newcastle, Adelaide and Sydney, in addition to Griffith University.

A representative from each of the universities presented an overview of the respective graduate programs, after which there was a question/answer session. The four universities also set up special stations for the dissemination of



further information and one-on-one sessions with student participants.

The college’s two graduate offerings, the Master of Business Administration in Business Modeling and Analysis and the Master of Management in Tourism and Hospitality, took advantage of this opportunity to promote their programs as well.

## Scholarship Award



Juthamard Leykjarakul, who graduated in 2007 as a Food Science and Technology major, has been serving as both teacher assistant and research assistant for the Science Division, under the supervision of its chairman, Dr. Pakorn Bovonsombat. During that time she has had three research articles published.

Ms. Juthamard recently received the highly competitive 2009 Monbukagakusho Scholarship, which covers her admission, tuition and housing costs. She will begin her postgraduate studies this October, both on a master’s and doctoral level, in Bio-Systems Sustainability at the Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University, Japan.

## Kudos to



Dr. Peter Smith, Chairman of the Social Science Division, recently received word that two Social Science alumni have completed their graduate studies. Aaron Williams received his

Master’s Degree in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University while Chanathip Phenjati earned her Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Boston University.

## Crisis Management Lecture

The Travel Industry Management Division sponsored a lecture on “Crisis Management in Tourism” on May 28 in the MUIC Seminar Room. The guest speaker, Mr. Chris Hall, Senior Lecturer at the School of Service Management, Bournemouth University, the United Kingdom, offered strategies and contingency



plans for the hospitality industry when facing political and economic crises, with a focus on the challenge for low-cost airlines in the present economic climate.

# Same Venue New Name

In 2001 the Business Administration (BBA) Division established Cup-pa Coffee House as a mock business organization that would serve as an on-campus internship for its students. The college provided the location and a shareholder structure was implemented in order to raise the necessary capital. This enterprise has served both BBA interns and its clientele well over the years.

However, the division restructured this internship program in April by transferring all shareholder stakes to the college, introducing a more consistent accounting system, recruiting smaller teams and changing the name to "Brew and Bev."



The overall objectives remain intact, that is, to enhance student skills in leadership, small business accounting, inventory planning, conflict management and team building.

# IT Case Competition

BBA students Satida Srisakulpiny, Patchararak Thanasintrakul and Unnawut Leepaisalsuwanna, accompanied by Ajarn Atthapong Sakunsriprasert, competed in the Apex Global Business IT Case Competition in Singapore from April 29 to May 2, 2009.

The participants from 16 universities and business schools representing 11 countries were given the assignment to devise an IT strategy for Vestas Group, a real alternative energy firm. After 24 hours of intensive research and work, the teams presented their ideas to a panel of judges.

Although the MUIC team did not make it to the final round of the competition, they were grateful to have experienced that corporate challenge, meet business leaders and broaden their views of the cultural and business worlds.



# Recruiting Student Tutors

It was inevitable that last year's relocation of the Humanities and Language Division to the Salaya Center would cause some disruption, particularly for the English Studies Program and its Resource Center, which offers tutorial services to MUIC students. There was, for a while, a temporary suspension of such services.

However, Ajarn Phillip Stiens, Coordinator of the Center, was able to secure temporary quarters in Build-

ing 1 and began, once again, to recruit English tutors. He organized a special training workshop this past March, taught by Ajarns Jonathan Green, John Power, Nick Ferriman and Cristina Schoonmaker, with a focus on improving the student-tutor relationship, writing, plagiarism and other language control issues.

The student participants, all well versed in English, were Lea Perret, Ivan Ho, Dayne Barnes, Sandy Ng and Julie Yvin. They taught during this past trimester and will continue with their responsibilities at the beginning of the next academic year when the Resource Center's new accommodations in the Salaya building will finally be completed.

# Promoting Green Tourism

Travel Industry Management students in the ICTM 270 Consumer Behavior in Tourism class organized an exhibition on May 19 and 21 in front of the college's Atrium Cafeteria. "Supporting Green Tourism: Start a Sea Change" aimed to raise awareness about the



marine environment and promote responsible tourist behavior in order to protect that environment and support local communities.

The exhibition offered displays and a video presentation on marine debris, proper snorkeling gear, the protection of marine life, coral conservation and environmentally-friendly beach destinations for tourists.

Participants received free local products and souvenirs. They were also encouraged to buy Thai sweets and special book markers and to make monetary donations, the proceeds of which went to the Green Fins Foundation and the Thai navy's Sea Turtle Conservation Center.

# Professional Development

While Kaleidoscope is showcasing the academic achievements of MUIC's 2009 graduating class in its feature article, it seems fitting to likewise recognize the academic efforts and accomplishments of supporting staff members over the past academic year.

The college has always promoted the personal and professional development of its faculty and staff, as evidenced by its Education Fund whereby MUIC members can borrow funds interest free for educational purposes. A number of staff members have taken advantage of that funding while others have relied on their personal resources.



Suntaree Boonprasittipun

Over the past academic year, Ms. Suntaree Boonprasittipun, Computer Officer, received her Master's Degree in Computer and Information Technology from the King Mongkut University of Technology in Thonburi.

Ms. Laddawan Jianvittayakit, Secretary of the Humanities and Languages Division, is completing her Master of Science in Strategy Tourism Management at the Seram Business School in Nice, France. She is expected to return to MUIC this October.

The Science Division Secretary, Ms. Yaowapa Somhitsuksakul, received a full



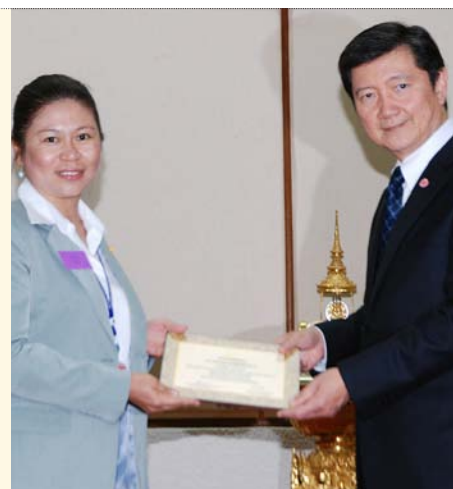
Laddawan Jianvittayakit

scholarship for four months to acquire a Certificate of Attainment in English Studies at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. She recently returned to MUIC and has assumed her secretarial responsibilities.

In addition to their work at MUIC, several other staff members are presently engaged in pursuing their postgraduate studies. Ms. Jutharat Thipboonsup, Chief of Student Affairs, Ms. Sasithorn Rojsongkram, Student Affairs Officer, and Ms. Suchanant Tanjaroentham, Premises and Vehicles Officer, are all



Yaowapa Somhitsuksakul



Mahidol University's 2008 Outstanding Personnel Award

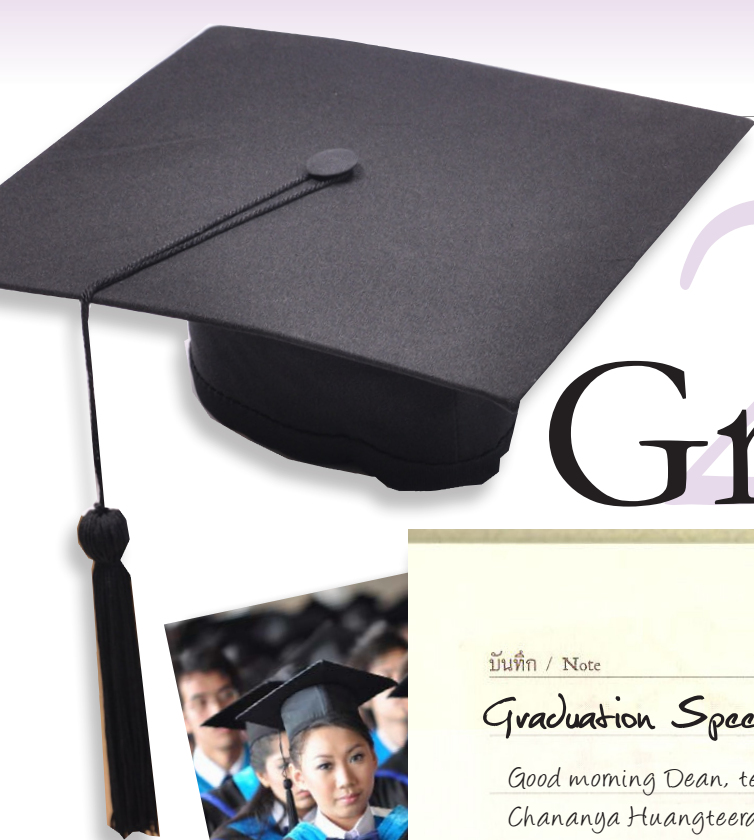
working on their Master's Degrees in Public and Private Management at Silpakorn University, along with Mr. Tiwa Hongto, who is majoring in Education Technology.

Ms. Pathyphorn Thitimongkol, Education Administration Officer, is currently studying for a Master's Degree in Business Administration at Siam University while Mr. Korra-ith Hongthong, Computer Officer, is pursuing his Master's in Information Technology at Dhurakij Pundit University.



Pathita Suwanwong

Finally, Ms. Pathita Suwanwong, Head of Student Records, is working towards her Master's Degree in Education Administration at Silpakorn University. This past year she also received Mahidol University's 2008 Outstanding Personnel Award.



# 2009 Graduation

บันทึก / Note

3/7/09

## Graduation Speech

Good morning Dean, teachers, friends and graduating class of 2009. My name is Chananya Huangteerakul and it is my pleasure and honor to stand here today as a graduate of MUIC. Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the graduates for their success, which clearly exhibits their commitment and intelligence. We could not have accomplished this, however, without our teachers. *Their constant guidance, dedication, patience and love have brought us to this point of our lives and made us ready to face the real world out there.* On behalf of this graduating class, we would like to say thank you.

The past four years have been a time of expanding horizons, self-discovery, emerging independence and responsibility, gaining priceless knowledge and developing valuable friendships. My memories of MUIC are filled with laughter, joy and even pain and tears, and I am sure so are yours. I will always remember having to eat my noodles within ten minutes because there was no lunchtime in our schedule anymore. I will always remember watching my friends fighting for car parking spaces that are worth more than gold. I will always remember facing the difficult task of registration on OASIS since the server would





บันทึก / Note

crash every time I clicked submit. And I will always definitely remember enduring sleepless nights with countless assignments, reports, presentations and examinations. These memories will always be cherished and never be forgotten.

To all graduates, this ceremony is not only the end of one chapter, but it is also a mark of a new one. We are about to embark on a new journey by writing resumes, going for job interviews, working or continuing to study for master's degrees or PhD's. **All of this has been possible because we are from MUIC, a place where we look out for each other.** There is always someone close by who will support us when we are down and so we have risen again and again after failures. Thanks to the rigorous and enriching curriculum of MUIC, I believe that nothing is impossible and we have been well prepared to face the challenges of the future. Do not remember this as "the best time of our lives" as this precludes better times in the future. Remember this as one of the memorable moments and use it as a good foundation on which to build a better future. As Prince Mahidol stated about education, "True success exists not in learning but in its application for the benefit of mankind." On behalf of the Class of 2009, I would like all of us to honor this belief by using the knowledge we gained to help our society and country. We, the class of 2009, promise that we will make positive differences to our society, reflecting Mahidol University's core values, which are mastery, altruism, harmony, integrity, determination, originality, and leadership.

**Being a student of MUIC has been a journey, which we can all feel proud to have been a part of. Class of 2009,** this has certainly been a journey to remember. Finally, I wish you all the best of luck and successful future.

**Congratulations Class of 2009! We did it!**

The Class of 2009 by the Numbers

Total Graduates:	356
International Business	72
Travel Industry Management	63
Marketing	55
Finance	49
Biological Science	35
Computer Science	24
Southeast Asian Studies	23
Information Systems	17
Food Science and Technology	7
Chemistry	6
Environment	2
Management	2
Physics	1
Minors	
Chinese	16
Japanese	4
German	5
Chemistry	1
Computer Science	1
Information Systems	1
Marketing	1
Psychology	1



# Graduates' Profiles



For two Chemistry majors in the class of 2009, participation in scientific research at MUIC has led to fully supported spots in graduate programs in the United States.

Miss Chiraphorn Khan, who grew up in Thailand's rural Isan region, will soon begin her PhD in Organic Chemistry at Case Western Reserve in Ohio, one of the best research universities in America. Mr. Rameez Ali, a student from the Maldives, will study in a similar program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Both students have been awarded full tuition and living stipends, which is a sign that the universities expect them to be valuable as research assistants and teaching assistants in their Organic Chemistry departments.

Completing a PhD at a large research institution in the United States is a great way to start a career as a research scientist, but it requires high levels of both scientific knowledge and fluency in English. Miss Chiraphorn and Mr. Rameez managed to reach these goals at MUIC under the guidance of Dr. Pakorn Bovonsombat. Dr. Pakorn is himself an active researcher as well as a Chemistry teacher, and he takes his undergraduate students' scientific potential seriously.

While science students generally do not get to contribute to real scientific research until they are in graduate school, many of MUIC's Chemistry majors spend their senior years working in Dr. Pakorn's experimental laboratory. When an article based on the lab's research was published in the June 3 issue of the scientific journal, Tetrahedron Letters, Chiraphorn Khan and Rameez Ali were both given credit as co-authors.

As Dr. Pakorn points out, the nature of scientific research is such that not all of his students will have their work published. However, regardless of scholarly recognition, solid scientific knowledge and training have clearly allowed these two students to aim high in their ambitions, and to practice the work they will surely be immersed in for the foreseeable future.

Biological Sciences

## First Class Honors

Ms. Chananya Huangteerakul	3.95	Biological Sciences
Mr. Wittha Kiettipirodom	3.92	Biological Sciences
Ms. Pattamon Rungchavalnont	3.91	Biological Sciences
Mr. Bin Wieringa	3.87	Biological Sciences
Ms. Manita Vivatsethachai	3.87	Biological Sciences
Ms. Sathita Ongarjphanchai	3.82	Social Science
Mr. Jaruchat Sirichokchatchawan	3.81	International Business
Ms. Chatchanit Arif	3.79	Biological Sciences
Ms. Warunee Adirek	3.79	Finance
Ms. Pariyaporn Lertvanichsutha	3.73	Computer Science
Ms. Thanchanok Lim	3.73	Biological Sciences
Ms. Ratikorn Sombutpiam	3.71	International Business
Mr. Puntep Bhayakaporn	3.7	International Business

## Sutree Duangnet

As an Advisor on Social Welfare Issues to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, Sutree Duangnet is one of MUIC's most distinguished graduates of 2009. Even though he just finished his Bachelor's Degree in December, he is already spending 17-hour days working as part of the PM's political staff. As Abhisit tries to chart a way for Thailand to heal from its political and economic crises, Sutree is behind the scenes helping with research, policy decisions, and speechwriting.



Sutree now has what would be considered a dream job by many young people who aspire to make a difference in the political world. But his time as an International Relations major at MUIC was characterized more by struggle and perseverance than by effortless academic achievement. "I was born in the United States," he says by way of explanation, "and my teachers would make fun of me, saying, 'How can you make such bad writing mistakes in English when you were born American?'"

Undergraduates typically spend four years at MUIC; Sutree stayed for six. But in those six difficult years, he never stopped improving. He now feels the most gratitude towards the teachers who challenged him the most, because they were the ones who gradually taught him how to write, analyze, and speak in front of people. "I was so shy when I started here," he says, "And Eugene [Jones] made me talk!"

Sutree's career as a political aide began with a for-credit undergraduate internship under Abhisit back when he was a Member of Parliament. Then Sutree's MP became Prime Minister, and Sutree finished his BA coursework, and suddenly he was a part of national politics. Now that he spends every moment of his waking life in the frustrating world of Thai politics, though, Sutree is reconsidering his career choices. He is about to start a Master's Degree in Political Management at Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University. But when asked what he wants to do after he finishes his degree, he replies, "I want to teach at MUIC."

### First Class Honors

Ms. Nadheen Abdul Razzaq	3.7	Biological Sciences
Ms. Pornpun Rabiltoosaporn	3.7	Marketing
Mr. Brijesh Khemlani	3.67	Marketing
Ms. Amanda Porcheron	3.66	Biological Sciences
Ms. Chiraphorn Khan	3.66	Chemistry
Ms. Naru-orn Klaotien	3.65	Food Science and Technology
Ms. Chananya Ariyasrijit	3.65	Biological Sciences
Mr. Yogesh Chhugani	3.63	Biological Sciences
Ms. Temsiri Samaitoedsak	3.61	Social Science
Mr. Rameez Ali	3.59	Chemistry
Ms. Jilamiga Chalermasuk	3.59	Biological Sciences
Ms. Waree Limsukhawat	3.58	Travel Industry Management
Ms. Budsadee Jirakunpattana	3.57	Finance
Ms. Sorlawan Lapanavanich	3.53	Food Science and Technology
Ms. Chayaluck Tummasiri	3.52	Finance
Mr. Patcharapol Jitramontree	3.5	Computer Science
Mr. Supasit Fhaumnuyapol	3.5	International Business

## STUDENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS



### NEW APPOINTMENT

Ajarn Michael Naglis was recently appointed Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, a position for which he is particularly well suited. He graduated from MUIC in 1998 and, after having received his MBA, returned to the college as a part-time lecturer for the Business Administration Division. One year later he became a full-time faculty member in addition to assuming the position of Director of the Physical and Health Education Program.

Over the years Ajarn Michael has been involved in a wide range of student activities and concerns. That experience will no doubt enable him to take on the supervisory responsibilities in managing the Office of Student Affairs.

One could reasonably speculate as to whether President Barak Obama's universal call for change, activism and community service has resonated even as far as the Salaya campus. It would appear so, given the dynamics of the latest MUIC Student Association elections.

Four teams actively campaigned for the leadership of the association – an unprecedented number – and more students than ever before cast their votes on May 19-20, 2009, with Team 1 capturing an overwhelming majority:

President:

**Tanis Sawannakul**, a fourth-year Computer Science major

Internal Vice-President:

**Yossanun Jivavuttipong**, a third-year Travel Industry Management major

External Vice-President:

**Sukhum Boondecharak**, a second-year Finance major

Secretary:

**Lalinthorn Wattanawechai**, a third-year Social Science major

Treasurer:

**Klongpaw Piumsombun**, a third-year Finance major.

When asked what accounted for his team's decisive victory, Mr. Tanis offered three possible reasons: (1) the team, which also consisted of candidates for club and sports commissioners, project managers and public relations staff, was highly organized, (2) the full slate of candidates included representation from all four years, unlike previous elections which featured mostly upper class students, and (3) there was a concerted effort to reach out by listening to as many student voters as possible.

This new team joined the present Student Association leadership on a trip to Hong Kong in late July to determine how other university associations in that area operate.

### CYCLING TOURS

While the Tourism Authority of Thailand has featured "Unseen Thailand," the MUIC Cycling Club, under the direction of Advisor Laird Allan, is promoting cycling tours into "Unseen Salaya."

The Club has been offering weekly "mini tours" of the Salaya area every Monday and Thursday, from 4:10 to 6:30 p.m. for members of the MUIC

community. For those who may be less fit, the term "mini" may be misleading since these cycling forays into the surrounding vicinity average 18 to 36 kilometers.

Some participants have readily admitted that they have seen parts of Salaya they never knew existed. Anyone interested in further details can either log on to Facebook: MUIC Cycling Club or e-mail [muic\\_bike@yahoo.com](mailto:muic_bike@yahoo.com)





## DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The MUIC Debate Club has succeeded once again. Five teams participated in the 5th EU-Thailand Intersivarsity Debate Championship 2009, which was held at Thammasat University's Tha Pra Chan campus this past April.

The tournament attracted over 200 high school and university students (comprising 70 teams from all parts of Thailand) who debated a wide range of national and international issues.

Three of the MUIC teams debated their way into the final elimination phase of the competition. The team of Mohamed Mabrouq Azeez (President of the Debate Club), Tanawat Phaovibul and Wen-Yu Weng reached the finals against Assumption University (ABAC), debating the issue: "Developing countries should bear the same burden as the European Union in fighting global warming." For the third consecutive year, MUIC won the championship.

The winning MUIC team also captured three of the top 10 speaker awards of the tournament. Mr. Mohamed was designated best speaker while Mr. Tanawat and Mr. Wen-yu Weng were named second and fourth best speakers, respectively.

## CONSOLIDATING SIFE PROJECTS



The MUIC chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) has been engaged in follow-up activities for two of its major projects. Twenty SIFE members traveled to Ayutthaya on May 18 to assess and participate in the progress of the Parachute Rice Plantation enterprise, which produces high-quality rice at a lower cost.

The students also met with a women's group, 32 in all, who have been making creative products from banana sheaths in addition to learning about the challenges of responsible entrepreneurship. Both of these projects are helping to raise families' incomes and standards of living, very much in line with SIFE objectives.

On June 3 SIFE members also organized a handicraft workshop on the ground floor of Building 1, a follow-up to its Banglen Banara project. Ms. Arom Siribut, an OTOP 5-star winner of banana sheath products from Angthong Province, provided the instruction. Participants included the Narapirom and Nakornchaisri women's groups, students and staff from Rajasuda College and members of the MUIC community.

In addition, SIFE members were busy compiling their annual report in

preparation for the 2009 SIFE Thailand National Exposition on July 13-15 at the Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration at Chulalongkorn University. Representatives from 23 universities were required to submit a written annual report and deliver a 20-minute presentation on their projects in a competition that would decide the best SIFE chapter in Thailand.

Chulalongkorn University won the competition and will represent Thailand at the World Cup in Berlin, Germany, in October. However, MUIC was able to secure the trophy for second place, a singular achievement inasmuch as this was only the second year that it has participated in the exposition.

The MUIC chapter also won awards for best performance in the preliminary, quarter and semi-final rounds as well as an award for financial literacy which was presented by the Stock Exchange of Thailand. In the final round, Ms. Saranya Laohavoravudhikul received a trophy and 5,000 Baht for best introductory speech and Dr. Chairawee Ananthawat was designated best faculty advisor; she will go to the international competition in Berlin as an observer.

**Congratulations to all!**

## VOLUNTEER CLUB ACTIVITIES

Members of the Volunteer Club recently engaged in two distinct activities, one focusing on the value of human resources and the other on a concern for our natural resources.



On the first Sunday of June, 26 volunteers visited the Foundation for the Blind in Bangkok where they organized special activities for the children and hosted a lunch. They also volunteered their services in typing materials in Braille, particularly stories and other fiction for recreational reading.



On the last Sunday of June, 33 volunteers, accompanied by Advisor Aropaporn Ieumbol, traveled to the Klong Krong District in Samut Songkram Province. Several members had previously surveyed the area to solicit the support of boatmen and supervisors for the club's reforestation project.

The volunteers were taken by boat to the mangrove area where they began planting trees which were provided by the government. The work was grueling but the effort was worth it inasmuch as it would protect the marine life in the area. The volunteers not only learned about the ecosystem of the mangrove forest but also, quite unexpectedly, gained insight into the real value of team work.

## RALLY/BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

The MUIC Sports Club organized a Rally/Badminton Tournament on June 20. This open event, which was sponsored by the Thai Ministry of Justice, targeted young people and promoted a wholesome and drug-free lifestyle.



Participants congregated in the early morning at MUIC for a rally, after which the motorcade proceeded to Pattaya, occasionally stopping at rallying points along the way. Once they arrived at their destination, another rally was held and the tournament began, a competition among MUIC students and others from public badminton clubs and organizations. The team Girl Gang won the championship, while the Mahidol University Badminton Club and the Vasabi Team took second and third place, respectively.

Later that evening approximately 200 participants and guests enjoyed a dinner at the Ambassador Hotel, during which members from the Music and Cheer and Dance Clubs performed. MUIC Travel Industry Management students were also on hand to assist in the coordination of the day's activities.

## ART CLUB EXCURSION

Every Monday evening during the past trimester, members of the Art Club gathered on the ground floor of Building 1 for lessons in acrylic painting, taught by guest artists, Ajarns Wanchai Pholin and Suksan Chuaynum.

These students, accompanied by Advisor Anchalee Pongpun and the two instructors, embarked on their annual art trip on June 20 for a two-day excursion to Chaiyapom in order to test their newly-acquired skills in a real setting and under the constraints of limited time.

According to Chittraboon Ruengchan, President of the Art Club,



this location was chosen because of the seasonal flowers that only bloom at this time of the year. However, visits to the Par-Cha-Nog-Hin National Park and the Tap-Na Waterfall offered additional opportunities for the budding artists to practice their landscape painting.

# Pre-College News

When MUIC's Pre-College was established in April 1998, there were only 100 students enrolled in two PC levels, and nearly the entire student body came from Thailand. Ten years later, the program this quarter boasts 365 learners, with students travelling from countries such as Japan, Korea and China for PC's intensive academic English courses.

The increase in popularity of the Pre-College is remarkable given that the PC program adds up to a year to the time a student spends in school. Some students see Pre-College as a barrier to their progress – a jail where they must spend time before they can begin their “real” college educations at MUIC.

However, as the accompanying stories show, students who apply themselves at Pre-College often find that they have gained much more than they expected.

To keep up with the expansion and internationalization of the Pre-College, faculty and staff are currently working to streamline the admissions process for international students, collaborate more with foreign universities, and create a more visible presence at conferences and in publications. This increasing popularity and diversity, however, will not change the Pre-College's strong emphasis on the core values of honesty, respect and integrity.

There is an old stereotype that Thai students expect to be entertained in the classroom instead of challenged. But increasingly, PC teachers are finding their students to be more like Nichawan Petchkul: self-motivated and serious-minded.

Now a freshman at MUIC, Nichawan entered Pre-College in 2008 at the PC2 level. Like many new students, she initially found the classroom environment quite difficult because of the discipline and hard work required. However, over the

weeks that followed, she discovered a way to make better progress in her work.

“I found that my study habits improved if I sat in the resource room and developed my vocabulary. The vocabulary in the reading classes really helped me in my writing classes.”



Nichawan

Thanks to Nichawan's independent studying and her ability to make connections between different English skills, she began to shine in her PC classes. She won the PC4 award for the most academic improvement when she graduated from the Pre-College program. According to her EC1 teacher, James Whitlam, Nichawan has achieved a B average this term and is showing good promise. She also has achieved three B's and an A in her other subjects.

“I can deal with the work at MUIC. To do well, you have to do things individually and work things out for yourself.”

One of the Pre-College's other success stories is third year Computer Science student Sujimas Kiettiseamkajorn. A member of the PC class of 2006, she won an academic scholarship at MUIC last year because of her outstanding GPA of 3.75. Sujimas now attributes much of her success to her time at PC – an experience that almost did not happen.

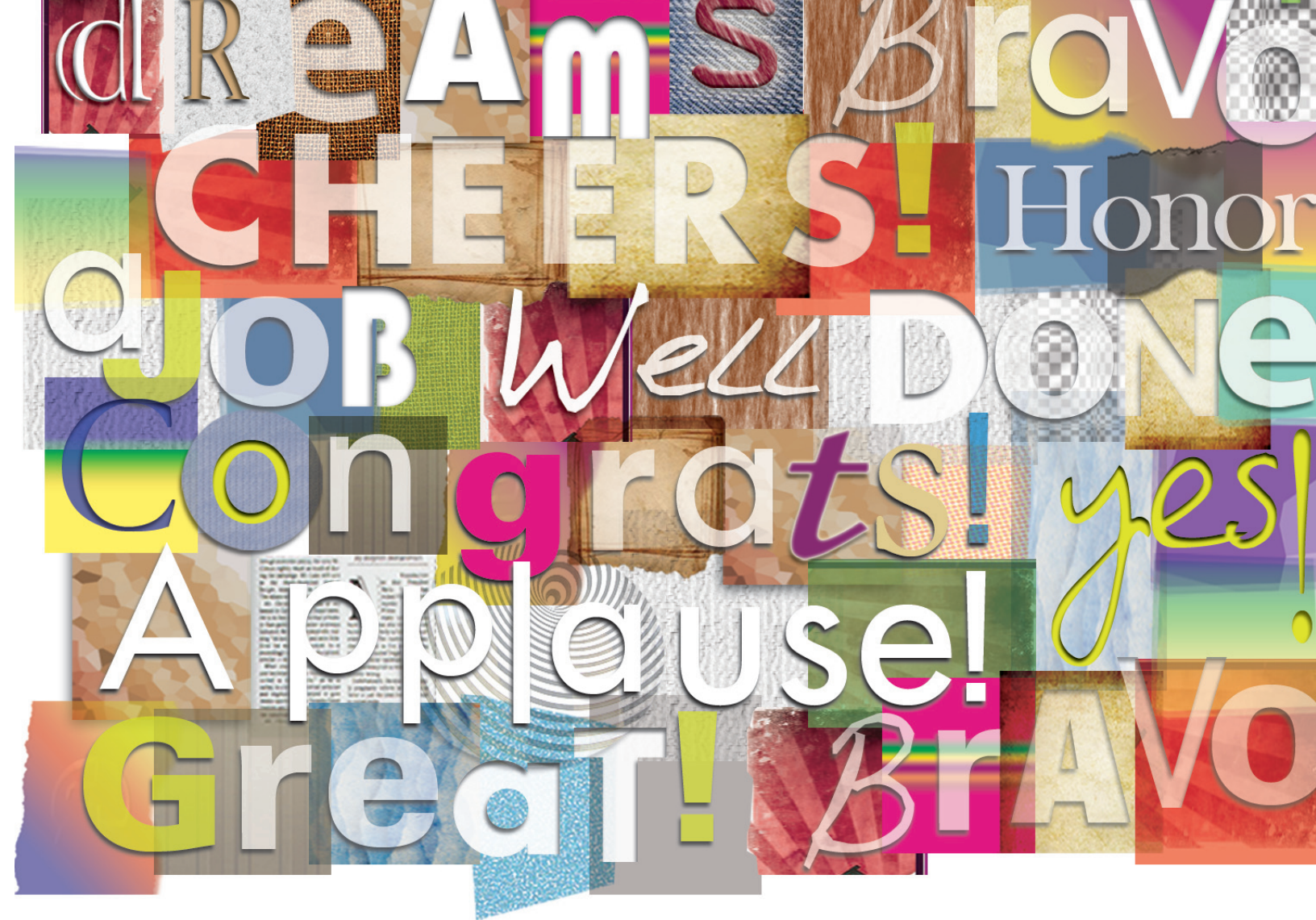


Sujimas

After passing through the Thai high school system and spending a year in the United States, Sujimas at first had decided to take up the place she had won at Kasetsart University. However, after being offered a PC placement, she realized that she needed more practice in English. She therefore made the difficult decision to delay her university entrance by joining PC, a study program she knew was not going to be easy.

Now, three years later, Miss Sujimas feels that PC gave her a head start at college. She also feels that the skills she learned and the friendships she made while in PC have strongly benefited her studies. Giving her particular confidence is her feeling that her grammar and overall writing skills are even stronger than those of her classmates who were admitted directly into the main college. Finally, she feels that the PC requirements to do public speaking, write essays and express ideas have developed her self-assurance and her critical thinking skills.

Miss Sujimas is a prime example of how students can use PC as a stepping stone to success at MUIC. Many MUIC applicants ultimately have to make the same choice: to enroll in Pre-College at MUIC or to start as a college freshman at a different school. Miss Sujimas says that when her younger friends face this decision, she always recommends PC.



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