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KaleidoScope

Mahidol University International College Newsletter



KaleidoScope is environment-friendly.



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Advisors

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phitaya Charupoonphol
Asst. Prof. Dr. Sumalee Singhaniyom
Asst. Prof. Dr. Kangwan Yodwisitsak
Asst. Prof. Dr. Sarayut Nathaphan

Publisher

Mr. Korrachai Lekpetch

Editor

Mr. George Amurao

Circulation Officer

Ms. Ketvaree Phatanakaew

Art Director

Mr. Pratchaya Leelapratayanont

Photographers

Mr. Korrachai Lekpetch
Mr. Pratchaya Leelapratayanont
Mr. Sakon Lumpongphan

KaleidoScope Editorial and Production Office

Room 1110, MUIC Building 1,
999 Phutthamonthon Sai 4 Road,
Salaya, Nakhon Pathom
Thailand 73170
Telephone: +66 (0) 2441 5090 Ext.
1613
Fax: +66 (0) 2441 0629
Email: icwww@mahidol.ac.th
www.muic.mahidol.ac.th

Graduation *Season*

It's the season again of moving on and moving forward. As this year's batch of graduates accept their diploma and goes on to their very first job or to graduate school, *KaleidoScope* wishes to congratulate them on successfully completing their university studies. In this issue, our two cover stories feature two sides of the coin—first class honor graduates and MUIC's faculty members. Plus we have stories of achievements of current students and alumni. We also bring to you a look at some of our inbound exchange students. Hope you enjoy reading all these!



This Issue's Cover

KaleidoScope celebrates this year's graduation day with the following student-models (from left to right): **Ms. Chalisa Vantayavart** (Tourism and Hospitality Management), **Mr. Theerat Wattanakijrunroj** (Communication Design), **Ms. Stephany Auernig** (Biological Sciences), and **Mr. Thananat Siu** (International Business).



A student majoring in International Business hit the right spot and brought home a bronze medal from the recently held Southeast Asian (SEA) Games.

Mr. Sirawit Temmart, who is in his third year, won the medal in the Men's Double Trap Individual category. He previously won the bronze medal in the SEA Games pre-event earlier this year and the silver medal in the same competition last year.

He started young, engaging in competitive shooting when he was only 14 years old, inspired by his cousin and encouraged by his father who assured him on the eve of the SEA Games that whether he wins or not, the important thing was that he has done his best.

"Winning the bronze medal meant that no matter how hard or numerous the obstacles that you face, if you work hard and believe in yourself, then the outcome will be on your side," he told *KaleidoScope*. After his impressive performance at the SEA Games, Mr. Sirawit is now setting his sights on the upcoming Asian Games to be held in Indonesia.



First Class GRADUATES

We can all agree that education is not just about grades. It is also undeniable that having good grades is a sure sign that you have indeed done well as a student. In this graduation issue, we've selected five students who have made it to the First Class Honors List and we've asked them about their thoughts on their future career, keys to their success, and advice to their underclassmen.



Mr. Ashwin Sirinthipaporn, 21

Major: **Biological Sciences (Biomed Concentration)**

What are the keys to your academic success?

Self-discipline, awareness, and punctuality. Also, prioritizing your responsibilities will help you get through college and life with more ease.

GPA: **3.97**



Ms. Nathawadee Chaikusol, 22

Major: **Finance**

Your most unforgettable experience at MUIC?

Graduation day. It is the moment that allows us to cherish all the good and bad that we have been through and to appreciate all the experiences that shape us to become who we are today.

GPA: **3.89**



Ms. HaeJi An, 24

Major: **Communication Design**

Your advice to your underclassmen?

Be humble and passionate about whatever you do and whatever situation you are in. People will judge you, shake you, and break you, but how strong you stand determines who you are.

GPA: **3.76**



Ms. Nicha Hansamut, 24

Major: **Tourism and Hospitality Management**

What's your career plan?

I don't want to sit in the office and do the same job over and over. I want to do something that I am passionate about, something through which I can use my abilities. I want to have my own business in the future.

GPA: **3.61**



Thitaree Lapanaphan, 21

Major: **Social Sciences (International Studies)**

How did MUIC help you with starting your career?

MUIC offers a multicultural environment which prepared me for my career [in diplomacy] that requires me to deal with different kinds of people.

GPA: **3.55**



MUIC'S *Mentors*



**Dr. Nigel
Gould-Davies**
(Social Science Division)

A former ambassador and strategic analyst, Dr. Nigel Gould-Davies is MUIC's international relations expert. He is noted for his sharp analytical articles published in reputable international journals and media outlets.

Dr. Gould-Davies said his career has come full circle: He started teaching while at Oxford and after years of working in diplomacy and the private sector, he is currently a lecturer at the Social Science Division in MUIC. Asked what is so special about MUIC, he answered, "Excellent colleagues; a supportive research environment; and a genuinely international outlook. I believe that MUIC is the most open and globally minded college in Thailand."

"Thai students are very visual, and I have enjoyed adapting my teaching style to this. For example, I now explain the rather technical concept of 'extended nuclear deterrence' with umbrellas, paper balls and cookies. Learning is not easy, but it can be fun," he said.



**Dr. Tara
Chalermsongsak**
(Science Division)

One of MUIC's younger faculty members is Ajarn Tara whose achievements include being part of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) team while he was pursuing his Ph.D. studies at the California Institute of Technology. Their team recently won the Nobel Prize in Physics 2017.

Though the team finally detected the first gravitational wave (first hypothesized by Dr. Albert Einstein) a year after he graduated, his contribution was doubtlessly important in this scientific breakthrough. But Ajarn Tara remains modest about it: "I was just a small part of it." Now he's in pursuit of far more important matters: "Find the right girl. Raise a warm and happy family."

In the meantime, he gets fulfillment from teaching at MUIC. "[As a teacher] you provide students with the best education, and these young people will go out in the world and improve it in their own way. This gives me enough reason to keep teaching."



**Asst. Prof. Dr. Wankwan
Polachan**
(Fine and Applied Arts Division)

Dr. Polachan is a performing artist who has been teaching at MUIC for three years now. It is no surprise that as an artist and a teacher she deeply appreciates the academic freedom provided by MUIC.

"For me, teaching is a great profession. You can see with your own eyes how your teaching shapes your student's development."

As a teacher, she also practices what she preaches. Last year, she staged a solo acting performance entitled "I Occupy" at the Esplanade in Singapore. As much as she believes that acting onstage is the ultimate learning experience for herself and her students, Ajarn Wankwan is planning to codify everything that she has learned into a textbook on acting to serve as a guide to her students.

"Good acting talks about the truth of the character."

In this Graduation Issue, we give recognition to our student achievers and also to Mahidol University International College's (MUIC) mentors, under whose tutelage our students have learned not only their respective academic courses but also realized their potential.



**Dr. Roberto
Bruno Gozzoli**
(Tourism and Hospitality Management Division)

He is an archeologist and a scholar on Ancient Egypt who now explores historical and tourism places in Thailand. He recently had his second book, *Psammetichus II: His Reign, Documents, and Officials*, which is about an Egyptian Pharaoh who ruled between 595 and 589 BCE, published by a UK-based publisher and is now working on a third one. It is about hieroglyphics.

A faculty member since 2012 and now the Chairman of the Tourism and Hospitality Management Division, Dr. Gozzoli said the best thing about working in MUIC is "the international experience you get as a member of a multicultural environment."

Dr. Gozzoli acknowledges the fact that he also learns from his students. "Students very often have new perspectives on old topics."

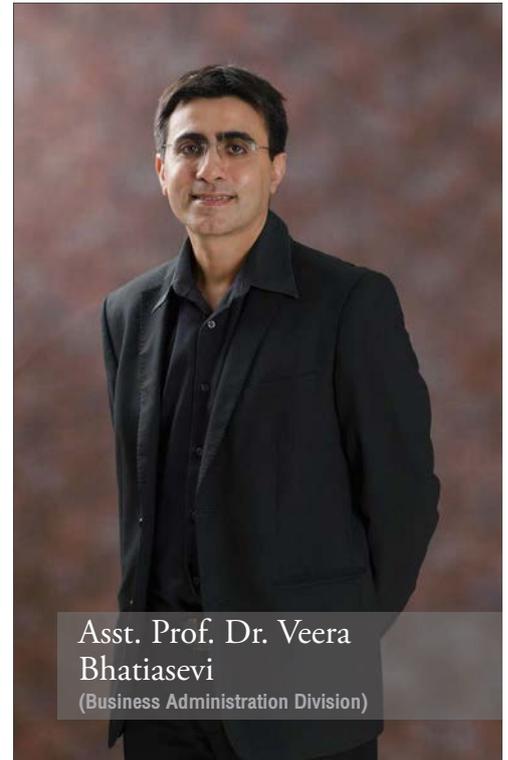


**Dr. Leyre
Alejandre Biel**
(Humanities and Language Division)

For Dr. Alejandre, the convergence of education and technology is one topic she is passionate about. This is evident in her doctoral dissertation which eventually led to her receiving the highest grade possible in her university, Sobresaliente Cum Laude.

"MUIC had an important role in this achievement," she said, noting that she finished her dissertation just as she started working in MUIC.

"MUIC has been crucial in my development as an academic. Since I arrived, I have been rewarded for my academic products, and this has pushed me to [continuously improve] my research [efforts]." Students, said Dr. Alejandre, make teaching worthwhile. "I feel so proud and delighted whenever I see how my students communicate in Spanish, travel to Spanish-speaking countries and solve problems in Spanish. They are the reason why I am a teacher," she said.



**Asst. Prof. Dr. Veera
Bhatiasevi**
(Business Administration Division)

Dr. Veera Bhatiasevi has been working at MUIC for the past 17 years. Last April, he concluded a two-year stint as Chairman of the Business Administration Division, during which time he had also published four research papers in ISI publications.

Dr. Bhatiasevi said he is, first of all, a teacher. "Teaching gives me the satisfaction of making an impact on students' lives through education."

Starting out as a guest lecturer at MUIC in 1999, he was recruited to teach full time the following year. "Some of my former students keep in touch with me and say that the lessons they had learned in my class helped them in their careers. That's the reward for me. Teaching can indeed be a fun and fulfilling career."



A Tourism and Hospitality alumna brought honor to Thailand and her alma mater when her dressage team won the silver medal in the recently concluded 29th Southeast Asian Games held in Malaysia. Ms. Pakjira Thongpakdi (Class of 2014) was a member of Thailand's national team led by Her Royal Highness Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana.

This is Ms. Pakjira's first time to win a medal in the SEA Games. "I am really happy with the result. Team Thailand did a super job," she told *KaleidoScope* in an interview.

Now a full-time athlete, Ms. Pakjira is now based in Germany where she has won 10 national tournaments and competes in horse-riding events in Europe with her horse, Hispania. She looks forward to competing in the Asian Games 2018 to be held in Indonesia.



A ccording to Ms. Yupharet Eakturapakal, the President of G-YU Creative Co. Ltd., an events management company that stages Japanese-related events in Thailand, she received excellent training in the field of tourism and hospitality management (Class of 1996) at the International Students Degree Program (ISDP), the forerunner of Mahidol University International College (MUIC).

She was recently given the "CEO AEC Awards 2017" for the second consecutive year by the ASEAN Network Thailand. The award is given to a person who is considered outstanding in business management.



W hat does it take to survive medical school? For Mr. Pun Kuhataparuks, a Biomedical Science alumnus (Class of 2015) who had just finished his basic science studies at Duke-NUS School of Medicine, Singapore, it means he must have "more initiative as a student and [that he should] change [his] style of learning."

Mr. Pun was awarded a scholarship grant by the medical school. His visit to his alma mater on July 5, 2017 gave him a chance to meet the current crop of Biomedical students in the "2nd Science Alumni In-focus" event where he gave advice on how to apply for medical schools and how to measure up to the challenges of medical studies.

Japanese Uni Opens Overseas Office in MUIC

In a move that reflected not only a growing trend in globalized education but also its esteem for its partner, Mahidol University International College (MUIC), Chiba University (CU) of Japan opened an overseas office with MUIC at the second floor of the latter's newest building, Aditayathorn Building, on September 19, 2017. Called the Bangkok Center, it will serve as Chiba University's liaison office with MUIC.

Prof. Takeshi Tokuhsa, CU President, said, "MUIC's English Program is very popular among Chiba students. In the last four years, more than 200 Chiba students have [attended courses at MUIC]. In the next three years, CU plans to increase the number of its students at MUIC to 100 per year."



CU students said they are impressed with MUIC's technologically advanced facilities that provide an ideal environment in studying English and other courses. They added that the campus also offers good security, nutritious and hygienic food, and comfortable accommodation.



EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY Seminar

What made "Teaching Strategies in the 21st Century Asian Context: Dealing with the Digital Natives in Our Own Classroom" a truly productive seminar-workshop was the fact that it adhered to the advice of Prince Mahidol that "True success is not in the learning but in its application to the benefit of mankind."

In this case, 55 primary and secondary teachers and 20 MUIC lecturers who participated in the seminar-workshop organized by the Humanities and Language Division, in collaboration with SEAMEO Regional Language Center-Singapore, learned much in maximizing the use of educational technology in their English classes. Dr. Jeff Mehring, a language specialist from SEAMEO-RELC, was the guest speaker and facilitator in the event that was held on July 8, 2017 at Taweewattana Room, Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center.



MASTER CLASS IN SOUND CREATION

Described as "a revolutionary one-day master class workshop that will allow participants to develop a unique style when composing music and sound," a one-day master class called "The Art of Sound Creation," was held by the Media and Communication Program of the Fine and Applied Arts Division, on July 15, 2017 at AETAS Lumpini in partnership with advertising agency Ogilvy and Mather (Thailand).

The resource speakers included: Mr. Yuthapong Varanukrochoke, an advertising specialist from Ogilvy and Mather (Thailand) whose famous works include commercials for Coca Cola, K-Bank, Thai Life Insurance, Nature Gift and 100 Plus; Mr. Kevan Frost, a Grammy and Tony Award nominee; Mr. Rapeedech Kulabusaya, a music director of Studio 28, and Mr. Jake Craig, a sound engineer who has over 13 years of experience in the industry.



STUDENTS *from* ACROSS THE SEAS



Alexandra Schweikert,
20 years old
Business Administration,
University of St. Gallen,
Switzerland



“There are many students from my home university who have been to MUIC. They strongly recommended that I come here.

“MUIC is very well-organized and I always got all the information I needed very quickly.

“I’ve been to the Elephant Jungle Sanctuary in Chiang Mai. We do not have Elephants in Europe (except in zoos) and I really love these animals. Elephants here in Thailand have a great significance to the people.”



Marco Michael Soworka,
22 years old
Business Administration,
University of Mannheim,
Germany



“I want to experience Asian culture and really get to know the people more.

“The three best things about MUIC are the friendliness and openness of the Thai students, MUIC’s excellent support for the exchange students, and the quality of education. The College has a lot of qualified professors. I like the teaching methods they use in small groups.”



Laura Elian Bosma,
20 years old
Human Geography,
University of Utrecht,
Netherlands



“I’m very comfortable in Salaya because it is a small community.

“There are lots of very nice and helpful people on campus, many food choices, and I love how bicycles are quite a common sight.

“I’ve been to Koh Tao, Koh Samui, and Koh Chang. I’d like to explore northern Thailand on a scooter!”



Terence (TJ) Turenne,
21 years old
Business Administration,
University of Victoria,
Canada



“I chose MUIC because of its reputation as one of the premier universities in Thailand and the wide selection of Tourism and Hospitality Management courses available.

“The buddy program exceeded all my expectations. My exchange program buddy is more than a just a helpful guide, he’s now my friend.

“I once chatted with a novice Buddhist monk at a temple in Chiang Mai. He was about my age and it was amazing to hear some of his perspective on living such a different lifestyle.”