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KaleidoScope

Mahidol University International College Newsletter



Stars
of the
OPEN HOUSE

KaleidoScope is environment-friendly.



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EDITORIAL

OPENING *our* DOORS

What better way to convince senior high school students to enroll at MUIC than by inviting them to an open house? Indeed, MUIC has been opening its doors to prospective students over the years to let them see firsthand the high quality of education they would get at MUIC. This year's event is another success, drawing in thousands of visitors who were able to meet our faculty members, staff and students and went home impressed with what MUIC has to offer. Speaking of success, in this issue we highlight two of our lecturers who recently achieved noteworthy awards. Plus we have impressive updates on our exchange students. Have a great read!



This Issue's Cover

Homegrown celebrities graced MUIC's latest Open House and made the visit of high school seniors truly informative and entertaining: (from left to right) **Mr. Viphurit Siritip** (film maker), **Ms. Cherprang Areekul** (entertainer), **Ms. Pongpisuth Jongudomsuk** (MC), and **Mr. Peter Denman** (actor/model).

AIMS Student Shares EXPERIENCE



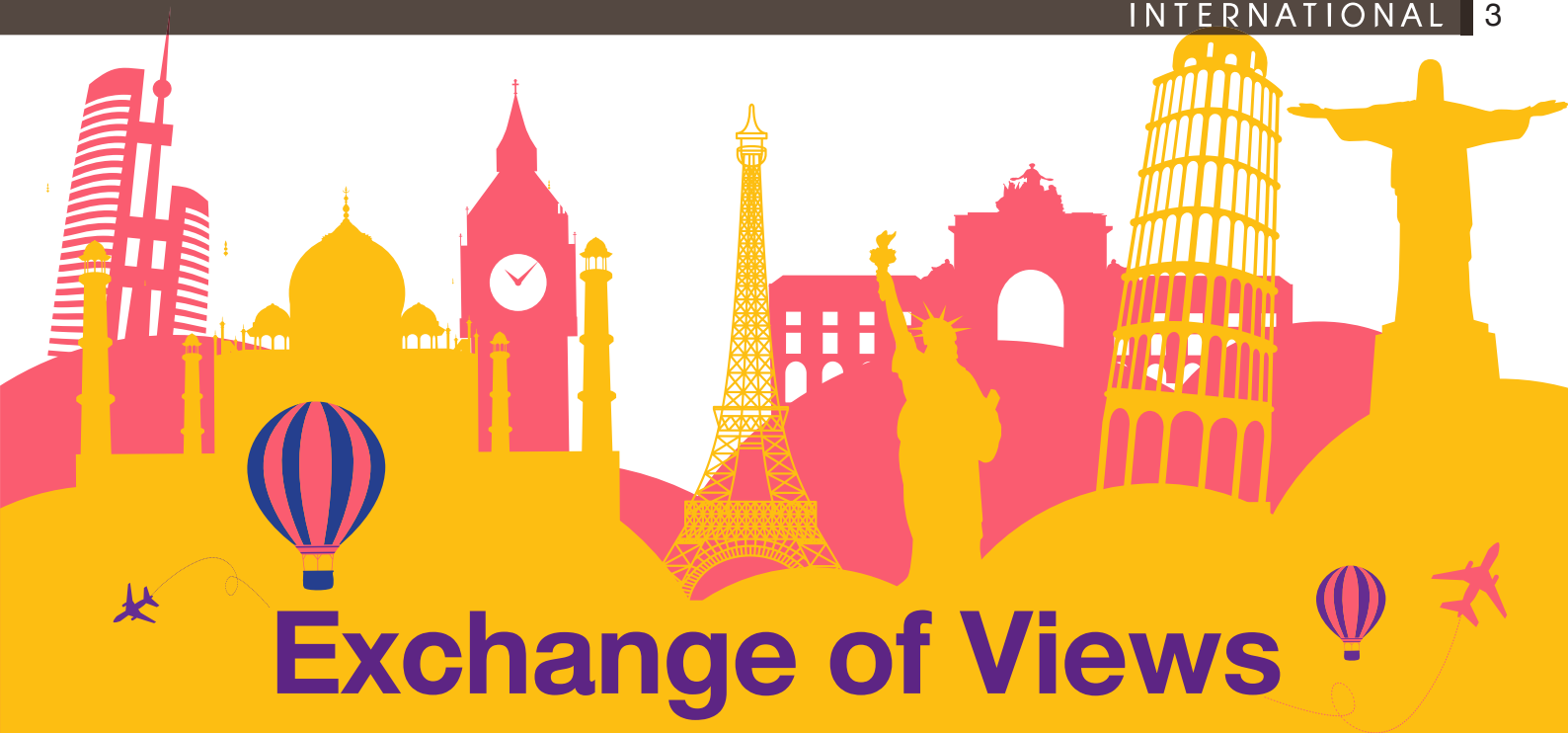
For Mr. Nuttanon "Tito" Sripysalcharoen, a 4th Year Marketing major who is on exchange studies at the University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia, being an exchange student gives him many advantages.

"It certainly improves my chances to work in a multinational company after I graduate. Or, if I establish a business later on, I enjoy many connections and good relationships with people where I had my exchange studies. It makes you ready for the future," he told *KaleidoScope* in an interview.

"In Indonesia, the style of teaching is different. Students are required to read the assigned chapter before going to class. Sometimes the professors give a quiz before the lecture," he added.

Mr. Nuttanon, who is on a scholarship grant from the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS), recently represented 140 other Thai AIMS scholars at the "11th Review Meeting of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Program" held at the Grand Inna Kuta Hotel in Bali, Indonesia.





Exchange of Views

KaleidoScope chanced upon **Ms. Madison Beauchamp**, an Animal Science and Industry major, while she was manning the booth of her home university, Kansas State University (KSU), during the Study Abroad and Exchange Exhibition held on November 13, 2017 at the Aditayathorn Building.



First we asked her why MUIC students should go on exchange study in KSU. She said her home university is No. 4 on the list of "Happiest students" and No. 6 for having the "Best quality of student life" in the 2016 edition of the Best 380 Colleges by the Princeton Review, an educational services company in the US. She added that KSU also offers free tuition for 15 credit hours and students will definitely benefit from the small classes (1:19 ratio).

She said that for someone like her who is very interested in animals, Thailand is the perfect place to go on exchange. "I travel a lot during weekends," she said, adding that she has gone to Chiang Mai, Ayutthaya, and Kanchanaburi, places that have notable sanctuaries for elephants.

What are her first impressions of MUIC? "It's a gorgeous place, with a large campus—more spread out compared to KSU. Students here also have good English skills," she said.

Mr. Jacob Howard, a Computer Science major from Western Illinois University, is a serious-looking, intense young man. And it's no wonder because he cited, in his own words, "My goal is to help advance the educational style in the US." He believes he has a better chance of doing that by going abroad and learning more about other countries and cultures.



"I find Thai culture to be very unique and interesting," he said. In just the few months that he was in Thailand, he had noticed the local cultural traits, from as simple as people taking off their shoes whenever they enter a house, to the respect given to elders and figures of authority.

"I noted the respect and reverence of the Thais to King Rama IX," he said, adding that he is learning a lot from all these values and wants to "bring the best part of them back to the US."

Speaking of which, what can MUIC students expect when they go on exchange in his home university?

"They will appreciate the small classes," he answered. "The exchange students from MUIC will also surely feel Western Illinois University's genuine concern for students to succeed in their studies."



THOUSANDS *of* HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TROOP TO *Open House*



This year, Mahidol University International College (MUIC) once again opened its doors to welcome high school seniors to its Open House. For students searching for potential universities to enroll in, the Open House provided an opportunity for them to see the best that MUIC can offer. It is worth noting that in this two-day event, more than 2,000 high school students—some of them accompanied by their parents and teachers—showed up at MUIC’s newest facility, Aditayathorn Building.



EXHIBITIONS *and* TOURS

Guided by the theme “Your International Community,” the Open House sought to show the senior high school students the advantages of acquiring a truly international tertiary education right here in Thailand. MUIC’s more than 30-year expertise in international education can be seen in the very informative and creative exhibitions of each academic division that provided plenty of attractions and at the same time—with the help of faculty members, staff, and students alike—guided and offered them much information on the degree programs they’re interested in.

The exhibition of the Student Association and the more than 20 student clubs also impressed the visitors with the variety of activities—whether in sports, the arts, the environment, hobbies, academic pursuits, and others—that they can participate in once they gain admission to MUIC.

Visitors also got the chance to have a guided tour of MUIC’s well-stocked library, modern science laboratories, and the Salaya Pavilion Hotel where Tourism and Hospitality majors undergo internship.



Case '17 Community

FAMOUS Faces

Homegrown celebrities also lent a hand to add color to the festive atmosphere of the Open House. One of the highlights of the Open House is the Talk Show wherein three celebrities (Ms. Cherprang Areekul, Mr. Peter Denman, and Mr. Viphurit Siritip) who are also current MUIC students sat down for some casual conversation about their student life to the delight of their fans among the high school students (please see related article). Another celebrity, model and actor Mr. Naphat Siangsomboon, interacted with fans in the exhibition room of the Communication Design program.



Vocab CONTEST

The Preparation Center for Languages and Mathematics (PC) also held its Online Vocabulary Contest. The winners in this competition were **Chulalongkorn University Demonstration School, 1st Place; St. Francis Xavier School, 2nd Place; and Sarasas Witaed Nakhon Pathom School, 3rd Place.**



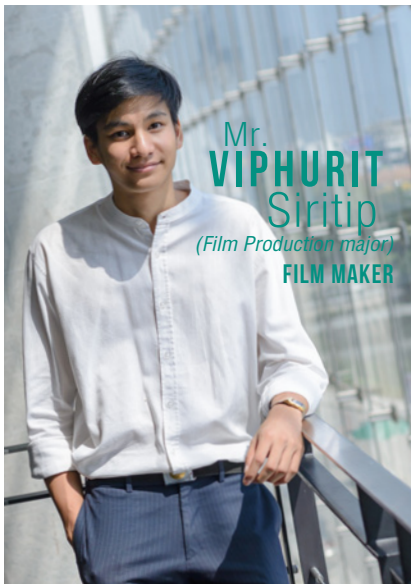
SPEAKING of the *Talk Show*

One of the highlights of the Open House was the 'Talk Show' where three celebrity students talked about their experiences as an MUIC student and also gave advice to the high school seniors on the best way to have a successful university education.



What have you learned at MUIC?

I appreciate MUIC's focus on liberal arts. It lets the students have a better perspective in life because their learning is not confined to the classroom. It's also important that a student develops the skill to easily connect with people and be able to contribute to society. These are some of the lessons I've learned in MUIC.



How did MUIC help you with your career?

"I was able to apply what I've learned in MUIC to my professional work. I was also able to make connections with influential people in the entertainment business. MUIC alumni who are in advertising and related fields were also able to help me. The English skills I have developed in MUIC would also provide me the opportunity to work with foreign productions."

What benefits did you get from studying at MUIC?

"I developed my English skills here at MUIC. It has a high standard when it comes to university education. I also made a lot of friends, including those from other countries like Japan, America, Europe. MUIC is a very close-knit community."

What's the best thing about MUIC's education?

"MUIC has leading specialists in their respective fields. They're also very approachable. The class sizes are small, only up to 30 students (per class) so you have the opportunity to ask your professors if you have questions."

What They SAY



"What I find interesting at MUIC is its facilities. It has a big environment and has many student clubs. When I arrived, I was greeted warmly by the staff. They were very helpful in explaining the majors I can choose from."

Ms. Victoria Harper
Global English School



"MUIC is considered to be one of the top college choices in Thailand. A lot of seniors from my high school also enrolled here and advised me to take the entrance examination."

"There is a warm welcoming feeling in MUIC. The teachers give extra time and effort in explaining what I don't understand in class."

"The facilities here are really good as well, and I find the place to be very clean – which is good as I have a lot of allergies."

"(Maintaining a good grade) requires more critical thinking, focus, time, dedication and additional work."

Ms. Chompunuch "Jamie" Phinyosmosorn
2nd Year, Intercultural Studies and Languages major, MUIC

"I want the best for my daughter. I compared the curriculum of MUIC with those of other universities (before deciding to enroll her here). We are satisfied with Jamie's university education at MUIC."

Mr. Mongkol Phinyosmosorn and Mrs. Udornporn Phinyosmosorn
Parents of Ms. Jamie



"A lot of our alumni who are already studying at MUIC visited our school and (encouraged us to consider MUIC) so we decided to visit and look at the programs. I like the environment. I also like the new building." – Mr. Pornthep

"I'm considering enrolling in BA (if my application is accepted). My sister studies Finance and she recommended me to come here." – Mr. McMullen

Mr. Pornthep Thatchakat and Mr. Matthew McMullen
Ekkamai International School



"I like MUIC because of its environment. If I qualify here, I would enroll in CDP. I like drawing and making designs."

Ms. Loshla Kalhanwanee
Sararas Witaed Bangbon



"I'm interested in arts and language degree programs offered by MUIC. Both Japanese anime and Western cartoons have influenced me. At MUIDS we have a separate course for the arts (that allowed me to further develop my interest)."

Ms. Pratsala Mingplatee
Mahidol University International Demonstration School

"We chose to enroll our daughter in MUIDS and are now considering MUIC for her university studies because of 'family ties.' You see, my wife and I both studied at Mahidol University. I graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital where I now teach while my wife works in the hospital as a nurse."

"If our daughter loves the arts, then she should pursue it."

Dr. Songkit Mingplatee and Mrs. Pinanong Mingplatee
Parents of Ms. Pratsala student

Screenwriter *and* Researcher **GIVEN RECOGNITION**



KaleidoScope caught up recently with **Mr. Bryan Ott**, a filmmaker, scriptwriter, and lecturer at the Fine and Applied Arts Division's Entertainment Media Production program to ask him where he gets all these story ideas. You see, Mr. Ott has directed several short films in recent years that have won awards in film festivals abroad. This year, his screenplay "Beasts and Children" was awarded the grand prize in the horror / sci-fi screenplay category at the Rhode Island International Film Festival 2017 in the United States.

"Beasts and Children" tells the story of an Irish immigrant woman who searches for her missing nephew believed to have been snatched by savage man-eating creatures in northern California during the Gold Rush in 1855.

"The writer must personally connect to the material and in a way, the characters and stories are extensions of themselves...as an exploration of the same fears, complications, flaws, interests, obsessions that consume the writer's personal life."

Mr. Ott then advises aspiring screenwriters and film makers on the importance of both good storytellers and credible characters.

"You have to tell a compelling story that pulls a reader in and forces them to keep reading till the end."

Asst. Prof. Dr. Viriya Taecharungroj of the Business Administration Division wears a lot of hats these days. He is an able administrator who has recently resumed his duties as one of the Division's Vice Chairmen after serving as an Assistant to the President for Administration of Mahidol University. His current tasks include supervising some of the Division's sub-committees and improving its admission process.

He is also a prolific researcher, regularly publishing his research papers in high quality academic journals. In fact, "City Ambassadorship and Citizenship Behaviours: Modeling Resident Behaviours that Help Cities Grow," one of his research papers (under a grant from MUIC) that appeared in the Journal of Place Management and Development (Emerald), was recently given the Award of Excellence by Emerald Literati Network.



"Research is the academics' contribution to this world. Through research, we strive to make this world a bit more informed. Personal accolade and achievements are but mere minor motivations."

And last but not the least, he is a teacher. Primarily responsible for the global marketing strategy course for BBA students and business innovation for MBA students, Ajarn Viriya says "everything about being a faculty member at MUIC is wonderful."

"I love teaching. It involves transferring not only those skills and knowledge, but also passion, curiosity, and perseverance to the students," he said.