

changing patterns

The beginning of this 2005 calendar year marks a change not only in our college newsletter's name but also in its focus and direction. While we will continue to report on news events, our coverage will explore and highlight the changing patterns in the physical, academic and social landscapes at MUIC.



A case in point. This issue includes reports on MUIC's incremental and inevitable expansion. The Food Science and Technology Program is moving to its much-anticipated new facilities. Construction of additional rooms under Building 2 is completed. This year also marks the beginning of construction on Building 3; its progress will be featured in future editions.

There are similar, if less dramatic, changes in the academic and social landscapes as well. The Business Administration Division has

kaleidoscope: an instrument consisting of loose pieces of colored glass or plastic reflected between two mirrored plates to form a seemingly endless succession of changing patterns.

recently introduced an academic alternative to its internship offerings. Moreover, the college continues to support ongoing research and is offering more and more student scholarships in recognition of academic achievement. Student demographics continue to change, too, particularly with visiting and exchange students, and new features of our college community are emerging, such as the formation of the new MUIC Alumni Association.

Continuity at MUIC

Mahidol University has announced the appointment of Dr. Chariya Brockelman as Acting Director of MUIC.

Dr. Chariya, who completed her second 4-year term in December, will continue to exercise her administrative responsibilities until a new director is appointed.

Under her leadership, MUIC has experienced considerable growth and development: the introduction of a new managerial style, an expansion of facilities, more choices in majors and minors, a stronger full-time faculty and more efficient supporting staff and, perhaps most significantly, the establishment of policies that genuinely conform to the highest international standards.

Moreover, Dr. Chariya's efforts in international recruitment and the creation of collaborative networks with universities throughout the world have resulted in a substantial increase in international student participation at MUIC.

Given what has been accomplished and the challenges that still lie ahead, we welcome this opportunity for MUIC to maintain some measure of continuity.



> bba > humanities & modern language > new staff

The Business Administration Division recently announced the appointment of **MR. JIRANART SUTTHIRAT** as Head of the Finance Major. An alumnus of Chiang Mai University, Mr. Jiranart received his Master Degree in Finance from the University of Colorado. He is presently engaged in completing his doctoral studies at Thammasat University. Mr. Jiranart has been



a lecturer in finance at Kasetsart University; he has also lectured part time at MUIC over the past two years. His areas of expertise include credit risk management, portfolio management and international finance.

The Humanities and Language Division has appointed **MR. MARK RODELL** as full time instructor in the English Studies Program, beginning trimester two, 2005. Mr. Rodell, who is from the United States, has a B.A. in English/Creative Writing from

San Francisco State University and an M.A. in English/Creative Writing from Syracuse University. He has worked at the American University Alumni (AUA) Language Center since 1995, where he served as Director of the Special Courses and the Intensive English Program. His areas of expertise include creative writing, program development and self-access learning.



The PR-Office has appointed **MR. ALEXANDER HEITKAMP** as Screendesigner and Content Manager for the new MUIC website. Mr. Heitkamp has

been designing with Apple Macintosh since the beginnings of Desktop Publishing. He created and administered websites for companies in Germany and the United States and is writing for international magazines and newspapers.



MS. PATISE CHUAY-KUNOPAKARN, an MUIC alumna who majored in Social Science, has been appointed Managing Secretary for the Social Science Division.

The following people (pictured from left to right) have recently joined the ranks of the MUIC support staff: **MS. SIRIWAN TEERAKITWATANA**, Admissions, **MS. SUPANEE SAMNGAMTHONG**, Finance and Accounting, **MS. SUWASSA PLUBPOLACHAI**, Library, and **MR. SITTICHOKE KRASIN**, Premises and Vehicles.



Not pictured: **MS. PATTHARAT POTHONG**, **MS. NARIRAT LOEKTHANON** and **MR. SOMPHON BUACHAN** are newly-appointed members of the Pre-College office staff.

editorial

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

Publisher and Distributor:
Public Relations, MUIC
Editor:
Mr. Alexander Korff

Graphic Designer:
Mr. Alexander S. Heitkamp
Photographer:
Mr. Korrachai Lekpetch

Contributing Writers:
Varangkha Sintharapantorn
Onuma (Anna) Lakarnchua

www.muic.mahidol.ac.th

MUIC Newsletter Office:
PR, 1st Floor, Building 1,
999 Buddhamonthon 4 Road,
Salaya, Nakhonpathom 73170,
Thailand
Phone: +66 (0) 2441 5090
ext. 1413, 1418, 1326
Fax: +66 (0) 24410629
Email: icpr@mahidol.ac.th

An Increase in Scholarships

Unlike kaleidoscopic patterns, tradition offers a fixed and established pattern of customary action. So it was with MUIC's annual Wai Kru, a traditional ceremony that honors teachers and promotes more meaningful stu-

dent-teacher relationships. The proceedings, presided over by Dr. Pornchai Matangkasombut, Mahidol University President, and Director Chariya Brockelman, were not unlike previous Wai Kru celebrations. There was, however, a

new feature, namely, a substantial increase in MUIC academic scholarships, from 15 to 30, part of an effort to promote academic excellence. The following students were recognized for their achievements.

Information System Major

Ms. Varalee Khemangkorn	3.95
Mr. Arjun Rawat	3.64
Ms. Korakoch Charoensrisiripong	3.52

Finance Major

Ms. Jirawadee Kanrattanasoot	3.80
Ms. Sirinorn Thitiratdumkeng	3.58
Ms. Sirithida Chaivisuttangkun	3.48

International Business Major

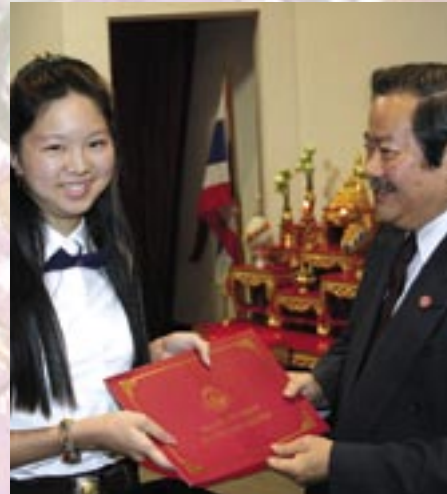
Ms. Thanida Amornpatsophon	3.63
MS. Jarayporn Pitaktiratham	3.63
Mr. Sathit Bowornkiengkai	3.60

Marketing Major

Ms. Chutiwan Tantiyamas	3.77
Mr. Sajja Sujjaporamest	3.61
Ms. Siwaporn Rattanasopinsawat	3.59

Management Major

Ms. Wilawan Kaewkhieoborisut	3.43
Ms. Zi Tao	3.41
Ms. Charinthip Kriengkraikul	3.28



Travel Industry Management Major

Ms. Tassya Putho	3.79
Ms. Wassawan Ratphitagsanti	3.68
Ms. Mamata Satyal	3.66

Social Science Major

Mr. Trip Kirtiputra	3.85
Mr. Aaron Williams	3.82
Mr. Kammasit Wichitphan	3.76

Biological Sciences, Food Science And Technology, Environment and Nursing Science Majors

Mr. Phuvadol Thanakiatkrai	3.95
Mr. Sabin Mathew Sunny	3.91
Mr. Marc Vastenavondt	3.89

Computer Science, Chemistry, Applied Mathematics and Physics Majors

Mr. Chawin Wangmutitakul	3.87
Mr. Phuwarat Norchoovech	3.83
Mr. Apirat Kongchanagul	3.82

General Education

Ms. Nawal Kalra	3.91
Ms. Suthida Euavisalsin	3.89
Mr. Hung Bui	3.80

In addition, MUIC is offering 4 scholarships to students with the highest entrance examination score. Ms. Shanshan Tang and Mr. Tawan Tahammasunthorn from the first and second entries, respectively, received scholarships.

MUIC Students join Leadership Forum



Mr. Trapal Singh

For the past six years the Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative has brought together 14 of the most promising and talented students from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Last year Mr. Gobind Rattivarakorn, now an MUIC alumnus, was selected as one of Thailand's four representatives.

This year MUIC has doubled its representation - and prestige

- with the selection of Mr. Trapal Singh (left), a Business Administration major, and Mr. Apirat Kongchanakul, a Computer Science major. They will attend the 7th Hitachi Young Leaders Initiative in Kuala Lumpur in July where they will have an opportunity to exchange views with prominent business, government and academic leaders from Asia and explore current regional and global issues.



Mr. Apirat Kongchanakul

> food science and technology

New Processing Lab and Coffee House

The Food Science and Technology Program was formally established ten years ago with only a handful of students. It wasn't until 2001 that a significant number of Food Science majors graduated. In 2002 there were 49 students in the program; currently it accommodates 84 Food Science majors.

Given this recent increase, the Food Science Program will shortly have a home of its own with the opening of its new facilities, located on the ground floor of the old Faculty of Science Laboratory Building directly across from the Salaya Center and Pre-College Program. The new facili-



The Princess Café in the old Faculty of Science Laboratory Building

Food is being processed right next door to the café



ties will include a processing lab, classrooms and office space for faculty and staff. There will also

be a coffee house, the Princess Café, that will feature food products produced in the processing laboratory. Initially the processing facility will focus primarily on bakery products; however, a wider range

of products will eventually be offered, such as dairy and other food items.

According to Dr. Andrew Kohnhorst, Program Director, this new complex will serve as a venue for student meetings and an information center as to what is happening in the program. It will also enable the Food Science Program to schedule student activities. Finally, Food Science majors will eventually have the option of doing their internship in the processing laboratory.

Expanding the Internship Program

As part of the requirements for graduation, all Food Science majors must complete an internship with a private company or government organization that has significant operations in one particular aspect of Food Science. The purpose of this internship program is to provide students with practical learning experiences that enable them to function effectively in a food-processing related enterprise.

This year 15 students completed their internships at organizations such as the Thai International Catering Facilities at Don Muang Airport, Boon Rawd Fruit Juice projects in Chiang Rai, the Walls Ice Cream plant in Lad Krabang and CP Meiji Dairy Products in Saraburi.

The Food Science Internship Program is currently being strengthened and improved with the assistance of Ajarn Brian Phillips, who has had previous experience with

the BBA Internship Program. Future plans include expanding the list of companies in both the public and private sector, allowing students to do their internships during any of the 10-week trimesters, and offering the option of an on-campus internship in the newly-established processing laboratory.

These changes are expected to strengthen the ties between the MUIC Food Science Program and the food industry in Thailand.

> biomedical science

A Growing Enterprise

In 1996 MUIC introduced the Biomedical Science Concentration, which was formally approved in 2001, accommodating only a handful of students. Presently the program boasts 158 students, making it the fourth largest program at MUIC. In response to the ever-increasing numbers, Dr. Maleeya

Kruatrachue, Program Director and Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, has enlisted the services of **DR. MICHAEL HURT**, who will teach Microbiology and Scientific Presentation and will be responsible for developing advanced courses for the program. Dr. Hurt received his Ph.D. from the South-



Mr. Michael Hurt

western Medical Center, an institute affiliated with the University of Texas, Dallas, where he taught and conducted research for several years. His expertise is in cancer research as well as molecular and pathogenic mechanisms.

> business administration

Streamlining the Division

During the first trimester Division Chairman Len MacKay-Cruise presided over a meeting for first, second and third-year BBA students in order to provide an overview of the five majors and their respective minors and to announce two development, one administrative and the other academic.

Given the sheer size of the program - presently accommodating 1,007 students - and its subsequent organizational demands, the BBA Division has established three committees: Administration//Evaluation, Curriculum and Examination and Research and Faculty Development. These work-

ing groups, consisting of BBA faculty members, will develop strategies to further streamline the division's needs, all of which will be coordinated by Chairman Len MacKay-Cruise and Assistant Professor Sarayut Nathapan.

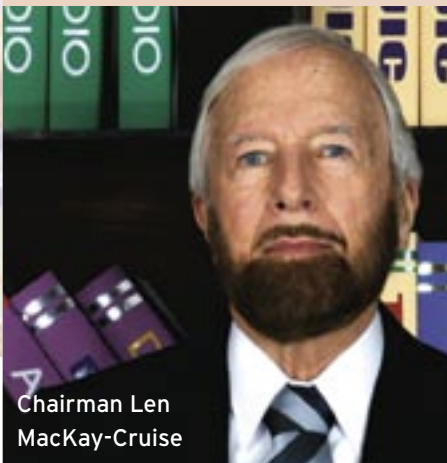
The increasing number of students has also necessitated changes in the internship program, a requirement for graduation. The on campus Cuppa Coffee House internship, administered by Ajarn Sarayut, and the off-campus program, administered by Ajarn Gregory Vrhovnik, can no longer accommodate all of the student requests. Consequently, an alternative is being offered, namely, directed research. Students will be required to select an advisor from their respective major programs and present their finding to a special research committee.



Ms. Oranuch

Ajarn **ORANUCH PRUETIP-IBULTHAM**, full time Lecturer in Management, attended the 3rd Annual

Conference of the Academy of Human Resource Development in Seoul, Korea, at which she presented a paper entitled "Whistle Blowing in the Service Industry in Thailand." Her research focused on the tourism sector and how to increase the capability of service and private organizations in coping with internal corporate wrongdoing by developing a strong network of business ethics. While this issue has been effectively explored in developed countries, limited studies have been done in developing countries.



Chairman Len MacKay-Cruise



Coral Athletics

Last trimester, MUIC scientists went chasing after corals. Chasing? Aren't they rather slow, like in, they don't go anywhere, do they?

Most corals are sessile creatures, permanently attached to the bottom after their larval stage settles there. However, a large group, the mushroom corals (Family Fungiidae), stays free-living throughout their lives. They live in solitary splendour, one individual animal unattached to other polyps.

Ajarns Laird Allan and Wayne Phillips have been out with their students, chasing these mobile critters about below the azure waves off Pattaya, Cholburi. Fortunately, the mushroom corals don't move that fast. The speed record so far is just over 16 millimeters a day, with average rates much slower. Relatively speaking, they would beat a continental drift hands down, but a speeding snail would have them for breakfast.

The researchers initial aim is to quantify these movements in the field and determine what factors get the animals going in the first place. Light is critical for all corals since they depend on symbiotic, intracellular algae to produce food by photosynthesis. So one hypothesis is that mushroom corals move to increase the light for their symbionts. New equipment from Germany is now being deployed

to characterize the underwater light regime. However, since all corals are predators, too, efficiently trapping hapless zooplankton in their numerous tentacles, they can certainly compensate for reduced light to a degree. Are there other possibilities?

One is that mobility helps them avoid space competition. The many sessile organisms on coral reefs exist in a finely defined hierarchy. Rapidly growing colonial corals can overgrow less vigorous neighbors; since solitary fungiids don't have this option, the quick,

small ones may just "get out of Dodge".

Larger, more cumbersome individuals aggressively deploy long tentacles to digest their reefmates instead. Not the sort of placid behavior one may fantasize exists on a beautiful Thai reef!

Invaluable assistance has been given by, in particular, Charinthip ('Pla') Kriengkraikul (BBA, Marketing), and Piyaraj



"Fortunately, the corals don't move that fast"



('Nan') Thiranansakul (BBA, Finance). With many other MUIC students, they have been taking underwater photographs, performing image analysis, managing equipment, and mostly having fun doing marine research. If learning while doing is appealing and you love getting out in nature, contact Laird or Wayne at 1408/1 (a.k.a. "The Beach at MUIC").

Laird Allan



Moving Beyond the Status Quo



New Students

With the arrival of 77 incoming students for the second trimester, MUIC currently accommodates 1,997 full-time students (1,551 in the Arts and 446 in Science) who have chosen the following majors: Business Administration (1,007), Travel Industry Management (426), Computer Science (175), Biomedical Science (158), Social Sciences (118), Food Science and Technology (84), Chemistry (12), Environment (10), Nursing Science (3), Physics (2) and Applied Mathematics (2)

These numbers, not including our international visiting and exchange students, approximates the size of the student body over the past several years. While the college's facilities are able to serve the demands of such numbers, the newly-proposed 8-story annex, scheduled for construction this year, will undoubtedly provide an opportunity for even larger numbers of students. And so recruitment continues.

Recruitment Efforts

MUIC recently joined scores of other colleges and universities at a series of educational fairs throughout Thailand, including the Ministry of Education's annual University

Fair at the Queen Sirikit Convention Center. In February the college will participate in the International Education Exhibition, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, Department of Export Promotion, at the same convention center.

Apart from these traditional venues, MUIC engaged the services of



I-Education Zone Company, Ltd, which embarked on a promotional campaign to attract Thai high school students in 15 provinces.

Regional Outreach

Recruitment efforts continue on a regional basis as well. Thus far, MUIC has welcomed students from China, Japan, South Korea, Sri

Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives, the Philippines, Malaysia, Burma and Vietnam.

In November Director Chariya Brockelman led a contingent of MUIC faculty and staff to a specially arranged education seminar in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Team members met with Principal Nguyen Dinh Han of Marie Curie High School to discuss arrangements for a group of Vietnamese students to visit MUIC early this year, after which Dr. Chariya gave a presentation about our college to a group of advanced science students.

She also held a press conference, assisted by Ajarn Anchalee Pongpun, Deputy Director of Students Affairs, and Khun Sumalee, Deputy Director of Administration, to announce that MUIC will offer two scholarships, covering tuition for four years, for outstanding Vietnamese students.

The following day Ajarn Paul Murphy, Pre-College instructor, conducted an English demonstration class to a group of students. He was assisted by Ajarn Brian Phillips, Chief of International Network Development, Ms. Supida Wangratanakorn, Head of Admissions, and Ms. Somluck Lunsuchep, Senior Chief for Administration.



Vietnamese students at the MUIC education seminar in Ho Chi Minh City

Dr. Chariya speaks out

WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED AT MUIC, WHAT WAS YOUR INITIAL IMPRESSION?

When I first arrived, the new building was still under rough construction, up to the fifth floor. I remember participating in one of the orientation sessions with Dr. Serene (the outgoing director). She was utilizing the resources as best she could, but I had the impression that everyone was waiting in anticipation for the new building to be completed. Of course, I was already familiar with the program. As a member of Mahidol's Faculty of Science, I helped teach students when ISDP was just beginning. I also followed the progress and development of the program which I thought had great potential.

WHAT DID YOU DECIDE WAS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY?

When I was considering taking this position, I was told that Mahidol's vision was to make ISDP a fully-fledged liberal arts college. I liked that idea. In fact, it was always a dream of mine to work on such a project but I never thought I would have the opportunity. The basic curriculum was already in place; it just needed further development.

When I first arrived here, my husband Warren and I had already sent our two daughters overseas, not for the sake of studying abroad but so they could get a broad-based, liberal arts education and not just get knowledge for their professions. That experience has broadened their horizons. I wanted that for our students, too.

HAS THAT BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

Yes, I think we've achieved that - although not a hundred percent. But a majority of our students and their

parents have come to understand the value of a liberal arts education. Our graduates realize this as a strength, too. Many of them are doing extremely well because they stand out from others in terms of their educational background.

HOW DID YOUR PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCES PREPARE YOU FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DIRECTOR?

I've always been interested in education, especially higher education, both as a teacher and researcher. I worked my way from adjunct to full professor in Mahidol's Faculty of Science and I'm happy to say that it was a good experience. My experiences abroad, especially in Germany and North America, also gave me insight into the different styles of curriculum development and teaching. And, of course, I worked in the private sector, in a large conglomerate for three years. Although I wasn't directly involved in finance and accounting, I did serve on the board and understood the vitality of financial issues.

A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING YOUR TENURE AT MUIC. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT?

When I first assumed the position of Director, I would ask myself: How can we attract more students to our college? What needs to be done? Warren, who is my strength, answered those questions for me. Raise the standards and make it difficult for students to get in. I think we've done that. We've established certain criteria - and mean it. During my first four years we had to make certain compromises but at the moment I think we've positioned ourselves at a higher level of excellence. And that makes it easier to attract good people, faculty and students alike.

Many of the multinational companies in Thailand request the names of our graduates. And I regularly meet parents who tell me they want their children to attend MUIC. When I ask how old the children are, they tell me they're not even in high school yet but are already planning to get a good college education. All of this suggests something very positive about our reputation.



work

play

abroad

**DR. CHARIYA BROCKELMAN,
WIFE, MOTHER, EDUCATOR
AND ADMINISTRATOR**

**HOW DOES MUIC COMPARE WITH OTHER
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES IN THAILAND?**

MUIC is the only full-fledged liberal arts college in Thailand and I don't know of any other international program that meets our standards. For this, I am very thankful for the encouragements and support of the two presidents, Prof. Attasit Vejjajiva, and Prof. Pornchai Matangkasornbut.

We also serve as a model for universities that want to establish an international program. We have groups visiting us at least twice a month, asking how we successfully manage the college financially and how we create a spirit in which both students and faculty function with such high standards.

**DO YOU EXPECT MUIC TO GROW SUBSTANTIALLY
IN TERMS OF ITS PROGRAMS AND ITS STUDENT
POPULATION?**

I don't think we need any more programs. We have 16 now and may add one or two more. For our purposes, 20 programs should be sufficient. We should be concentrating on improving and developing our present majors. If we become too big, matters may get out of hand and be too difficult to manage. Secondly, I don't think we should have more than 3,000 students. Look at all the successful liberal arts colleges abroad which have no more than 3,000 students. If we do go that high, we'll need more faculty to maintain a healthy student/teacher ratio.

**ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER
DEGREE PROGRAM?**

Mahidol University already has over 100 master degree programs in English so we have no need to duplicate those. But we are working on a master's program in tourism. This fulfills a need for the country since tourism is one of Thailand's major sources of revenue. The tourism industry requires planning and we need trainers and teachers who can train other people.

**FINALLY, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE NEXT
PRIORITY FOR MUIC?**

We need to build a stronger full-time faculty, with all members dedicated to their profession and devoted to the best interests of MUIC. We also need faculty members who are more progressive in their thinking. By that I mean we need more interaction and cooperation. It's counterproductive to maintain that this is my subject, my classroom, my lab, et cetera. We need a stronger spirit of cooperation and dedication to MUIC so that it can ultimately develop into a truly outstanding educational institution.

ISDP/MUIC ALUMNI REUNION BALL

If a picture paints a thousand words, not much copy is required for our coverage of MUIC's first major Alumni Reunion, except perhaps to report the following.

The venue for the gathering, the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Grande Hotel, was a fitting one: elegant enough to mark this special occasion and spacious enough to accommodate the 380 ISDP/MUIC alumni who represented every class, from 1990 to the present.

Representative from the MUIC Student Association, along with members of the MUIC staff, welcomed the guests as they arrived.

MUIC Director Chariya Brockelman, who was out of the country at the time, delivered a video-taped message to the participants. Dr. Serene Pibooniyom, who was Director when MUIC was the International Student Degree Program (ISDP), welcomed the group and urged them to remain involved with the college's progress and activities.

Video-taped messages were also delivered by long standing members of the MUIC faculty and staff. In addition, a filmed retrospective of the college, from its infancy to the present time, was presented. The camera also took the group on a tour of the Salaya area, which in many ways has paralleled the growth and development of MUIC.

The centerpiece of the evening, however, was devoted to renewing acquaintances, recalling moments from a collec-

tive past and learning about present developments. The sense of camaraderie was palpable as the vaulted room rang out with conversations, expressions of surprise and laughter.



ALUMNI NEWS +++

+++ Love Is in the Air

Over the past two months there has been a surge of weddings. Knarlarp Kusdmitsue (98) and Suniboon Shamshuen (97) discovered one another when MUIC was the International Student Degree Program. They've maintained their relationship over the years, culminating in their marriage this past November.

Other MUIC alumni who have recently married are: Kanitta Katchamart (97), Nora-sete Kamalasuddhi (97), Tassarin Srichco (97), San-anthorn Jirangpitakkul (07), Nunthant Chaiwimol (98) and Dhanasak Dhanaphatana (99).

Ajarn Michael Nagles (98), who coordinated the Alumni Reunion, has announced his impending marriage to alumna Nantaporn Sunondharom (97) in February (see picture).



Ajarn Michael Nagles with fiancée Nantaporn Sunondharom

+++ The Public Service Arena

Democrat Minister of Parliament Isra Sunthornvut (92), representing Bangkok's District 10, Huay Kwang Wattana, is busy preparing for the upcoming general elections in February.

Ake Choonachatrachai (00), lecturer at Rangsit and Stamford Universities, continues to represent the Democrat Party as a member of the District Parliament, Sampantawangse.

Duan-ramon Paaptanti (01) has accepted a 6-month assignment under the aegis of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. She is presently assisting the on-sites manager as part of the registration operation in refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border, located in Ratchaburi, Kanchanaburi, Tak and Mae Hong Son Provinces.

+++ Entertainment

Ponlawit (Top) Junyaem (02), who briefly appeared on UBC's Academy Fantasia, has recently launched his musical career as a member of the band Iconic. Their first album, Iconic, is a blend of jazz and blues with rock and pop and was released this past November under the Creative Artist Network label.



Exchange Students Surviving the Tsunami

This report was meant to focus on the new exchange students' introduction to the academic and social life of MUIC. Our attention, however, unexpectedly shifted to the first trimester international students, a diversion not so much of choice but rather necessity.

After the unprecedented tsunami disaster, still unfolding in its staggering scope, Ajarn Anchalee Pongpun, Deputy Director of Student Affairs, and Ms. Wanpimon Senapadpakorn, Head of International Relations, urgently began tracking MUIC students who were on holiday. "We were particularly concerned about our international students," explained Ajarn Anchalee.

That concern was a justifiable one. While our international students are primarily preoccupied with the academic demands of classes, an important part of their experience is a crosscultural one, participating in Thai festivals, visiting temples, savoring the food and enjoying the celebrated Thai hospitality. And, like so many others, they are drawn by the allure of the idyllic southern coastal areas, where many of them had flocked during the holidays.

Uncertainty was the worst

Exchange student Michael Follmann, whose girlfriend Anna had recently arrived in Thailand, wanted to enjoy a final holiday on Koh Lanta before returning to Germany. On the morning of December 26 he heard an unfamiliar sound, "like the noise of a low-flying airplane or a strong wind rushing through the trees." They were able to outrun the crashing waves and scrambled up the hills, waiting for the waters



New exchange students at MUIC

Twenty international students, 2 full-time, 11 exchange and 7 visiting, recently arrived at MUIC to begin their studies. Their numbers, a dramatic increase from last year's second trimester, clearly indicates the

growth of our inbound study abroad program. Representing the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Denmark, Finland, Japan and Malaysia, the group participated in a special orientation on January 6.

to recede. When they returned to the resort area to retrieve their belongings and assess the damage, a second tsunami, much stronger than the first, came roaring in. There was another desperate dash for survival with people screaming and children crying. Fortunately, a gentleman from Denmark, who



Michael Follmann and Amanda Ames on Loy Krathong

owned one of the resorts, offered the hospitality of his hill-top home to the 250 Thai and foreign survivors. "There was no TV or access to any information," explained Michael. "The uncertainty of what had actually happened was the worst part." After 3 days the group was finally rescued.

Two MUIC exchange students at an adjoining resort were less fortunate. Caught in the swirling waters, they were bruised and battered by the debris. In spite of their injuries, they managed to survive.

The luckier Ones

Others were virtually unscathed. Marcus Klang, from Sweden, along with two of his MUIC classmates, were at a resort in Phuket, far enough from the water's edge. They were able to motorbike into the hills where they waited for 2 days before being rescued. Four exchange students on Phi Phi Island were very, very lucky. Instead of spending that fateful Sunday on the beach, they had scheduled a trip inland, high up in the jungle. When they came upon an elephant camp, they were told what had happened and were transported by elephant across the island to safety.

Caring for Friends

Jessica Marcou, from France, was vacationing in Krabi with friends

from ABAC when the giant waves struck. As she and her friends began running to higher ground, Jessica saw an entire fishing village on the water's edge completely destroyed. When she returned to the devastated area, she volunteered her services in helping identify missing persons but her major concern was the safety of her MUIC classmates, some of whom she was unable to reach via cell phone. "I refused to believe that this would be the end of our experience here - with some of us either dead or missing," exclaimed Jessica. And so she went to Krabi Hospital for 3 days, calling other hospitals, checking lists of the missing, all in a desperate effort to find her friends, even visiting the large Chinese temple that was serving as an open-air morgue. There was a pause in her narrative - and the chilling memory that "there were lots of children, lots of babies."

During those three days she also utilized her language skills, serving as translator and general volunteer.

> reflections

by Onuma (Anna) Lakarnchua

The coming of the New Year seems to make most people jittery because when the next year looms ahead, most people begin to look back and take stock, counting successes and cursing failures. Around that time many people think about those three little words: new year's resolutions. What exactly is a new year's resolution? Simply, it's a promise made to oneself at the start of a new year, usually an enthusiastic attempt to remedy the flaws and follies of the previous year.

Last year, though, shortly before the new year, a horrific tragedy struck. Provinces in the south were ravaged by the waters of a tsunami, devastating land and people. Such a tragedy has a way of casting our lives in a harsher light, forcing us

Out of all that chaos and tragedy there were moments of clarity. "The solidarity of the people was amazing. Thais who had lost their homes and loved ones were comforting the tourists. And there were volunteers everywhere." There was one defining moment when Jessica was able to reunite 2 small Swedish children with their parents. "No matter what else may happen in my life, that will stand as one of my very best moments."

Jessica eventually returned to Salaya, as did all the others. When they were back at Chaipayruk International House, sharing their stories of survival, reading the press reports, watching the searing images on international television networks, only then did they begin to realize the enormity of what had happened.

Most of these students have returned home; some will remain at MUIC. All are grateful for their good fortune as they come to grips with the aftermath of this tragedy. As must we.

to examine how so many things we thought were so important are quite frankly not.

In its first conception, this article was about making new year's resolutions and how they can be an impetus for self improvement. However, the events in the south have shown us poignantly the fragility of life and the futility of procrastination. We cannot wait for an arbitrary day to change our lives, to make them better. That day may never come.

It is a tragedy that it takes a tragedy to make us realize this fact, One moment we think we'd be happier if we had more jewelry, a bigger house, a larger bank account, so we wait and wait and wait for these things - and then we suddenly realize that all these things are simply that: things. Once the tide recedes, all that is left are our own personal



Debris after the waves hit Koh Lanta

resources, what we've always possessed. Nothing on this earth can ever take them away. If we made a resolution to utilize these personal resources - our strength of character, our compassion, our special skills - every day of our lives, we would become better people. We can make the world a little better than it was; we can change our own or someone else's life.

If you are reading this article at this very moment, you are truly blessed. You have tomorrow to fulfill the resolutions of today, unlike many victims in the south. Remember, however, that every moment of your life is a gift that can be reclaimed at any moment. Live it to the fullest and if you're able, use your abilities to help others. If you resolve to be the best version of yourself, then you will have true happiness this year and every year.

Volunteering in Kanchanaburi

Each year the MUIC Volunteer Club embarks on a major project which targets a rural community in an effort to contribute to sustainable development in Thailand.

The past calendar year was no exception. From December 19 to 28, 50 members of the Volunteer Club and 10 members of the Photography Club visited the Ban Pamai Sapanalo School in Tongphaphoom District, Kanchanaburi Province. MUIC students engaged the 206

school children in a variety of activities. While some volunteers set about constructing a cement court for basketball and volleyball, others worked on renovating the small library building.

Classroom activities were also part of the agenda, including poster-making opportunities and informal tutorial sessions on basic English skills. There was also a focus during the ten-day visit on instruction in health education, particularly personal hygiene. As a follow up, the volunteers set up a

school dispensary and donated the necessary first aid and medicinal supplies.

Members of the Photography Club participated in all the activities but found time to practice their skills as well. The best of their efforts are featured in this report.

According to Ms. Shutisuda Chuchinnawat, Volunteer Club President, "We volunteers achieved all that we had planned. The work was sometimes difficult - but ultimately rewarding." The club is planning to return to Ban Pamai Sapanalo School in the 3rd trimester as part of a follow-up program.



A Matter of Helping Oneself

By Varangkha Sintharapantorn

"Volunteering" means you spend time, without being paid, doing something which aims to benefit other individuals or a group. A lot of volunteering activities have a social, communal, or environmental aim. Nevertheless, it has been clearly recognized that volunteering benefits you as well; it is not just a selfless effort but an opportunity to gain from the experience.

There are lots of reasons why you may want to become a volunteer. Maybe you are looking to develop new skills, trying out different types of work, training in a particular field, or adding some

experience to your CV to help in getting a job. Maybe you just want to get out of the house, meet new people, and spend your time more constructively. Or maybe you even feel strongly that you want to help other people, do something to improve the services or facilities in your area.

Personally, I wanted to join the volunteer club because it would get me out of the house to spend my time more constructively, it would bring me to new people, and it would definitely bring me new experiences I have never had before. After my first long end-of-the-year camp in Suphanburi with the club,

World Debates

The MUIC Debate Club participated in the World Universities Debating Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from December 27, 2004,



to January 4, 2005. Four teams, consisting of Sagar Jhalani, Wiracha Janyaroj, Ketsarin Malipetchara, Bongkod Khanpura, Ann Li Lai, Hussain Rasheed, Pathara Thampatpong and Patchara Ni-yomsus, represented MUIC. Trapal Singh and Hsin-Yi Lee served as adjudicators.

None of the teams, the majority of whom are new debaters, reached the octo finals. Nevertheless, everyone was grateful for the competitive opportunity.



“The people
teach me as
I teach them”



Volunteering for the 206 school children at Ban Pamai Sapanalo School in Tongphaphoom District, Kanchanaburi

I experienced all of what I wanted, plus much more.

Now that one year has passed and members are up for another long end-of-the-year camp in Kanchanaburi, as an old member who has learnt so much from the past camps myself, I now have more

substantial reasons for wanting to join the volunteering community.

Once I'm there, I realize there is actually something I can give back



to the community. As cliché as it may sound the community has given me so much so why not repay the kindness I have received? Once I'm involved, I realize many more people still need help so I just make the simple decision of letting it be me.

Ultimately, they, the people I go to help, teach me as I teach them. The most invaluable lesson was how I have learnt to appreciate the

providential life we already have, even though for us it never seems to be enough.

Many people wrongly associate volunteering with “do-gooders” or people who can't mind their own business. Although volunteers do much that is good, they often do so because they are simply following an interest. But they will always receive much satisfaction from giving their time because volunteering can be very rewarding. It is an excellent way to widen your social circle and increase contacts. Volunteering is not just a matter of helping other people; it is also a matter of helping yourself.

Women's Sports

Women's sport continues to triumph. Last summer the women's volleyball and badminton teams won gold medals at the International University Sports Competition. This time around the MUIC women's soccer team secured first place at the Inter Cup Soccer Competition 2004, which took place on the Thammasat University Thaprachan and Mahidol University Salaya campuses from October 19 to November 2.

Music Contest

The Music Club presented its annual Acoustics Competition in the MUIC auditorium this past November.

Eleven bands participated in the competition. The winners were primarily first and second-year students, an indication that the Music Club will continue to flourish in the future.



Editor's Note

Having eliminated the mailing address portion of this last page, kaleidoscope will utilize this space by featuring a miscellaneous collections of items, including trimester schedules, announcements and brief news reports, none of which will be related. A potpourri, if you will.



New Facilities

In spite of the challenges of the rainy season and several unavoidable delays, the construction of 3 rooms under Building 2 has finally been completed. One room is reserved for Music Club activities. Another has been designated an exercise room that is available to all the fitness freaks among MUIC's faculty staff and student body. The third room will be used as a storage area by student clubs.

Disaster Response

It was virtually impossible for MUIC to mobilize any organized volunteer response to the tsunami disaster since all of the students were on holiday. A number of students, however, exercised their personal initiative by volunteering at the Thammasat University, Rangsit Campus, information center to assist survivors. Others manned telephones at MCOT's Channel 9 in an effort to locate missing persons.

Two biomedical science students, Phuvadol Thanakiatkrai and Dithaya Punyaratabandhu, traveled to Wat Bang Muang, Takuapa District, Phangnga, where they assisted in collecting forensic evidence from tsunami victims, working with both



MUIC biomedical science students helping with identifying tsunami victims

Thai and foreign forensic pathologists.

Charity Concert

MUIC and the College of Music will co-sponsor a charity concert on Tuesday, January 25 at 12:30 on the ground floor of the MUIC building for survivors of the tsunami.

Academic Calendar 2005

Closing of Registration:
Withdraw:
Last Day of Class:
Final Examination:
Recess:

Fri., Feb. 11
March 7-11
March 26
March 28-April 9
April 10-17

Loy Krathong



MS. SUPANITA KESAKOMOL, a TIM major, was crowned Nang Noppamas (Miss Loy Krathong). MUIC was also first runner-up in the parade