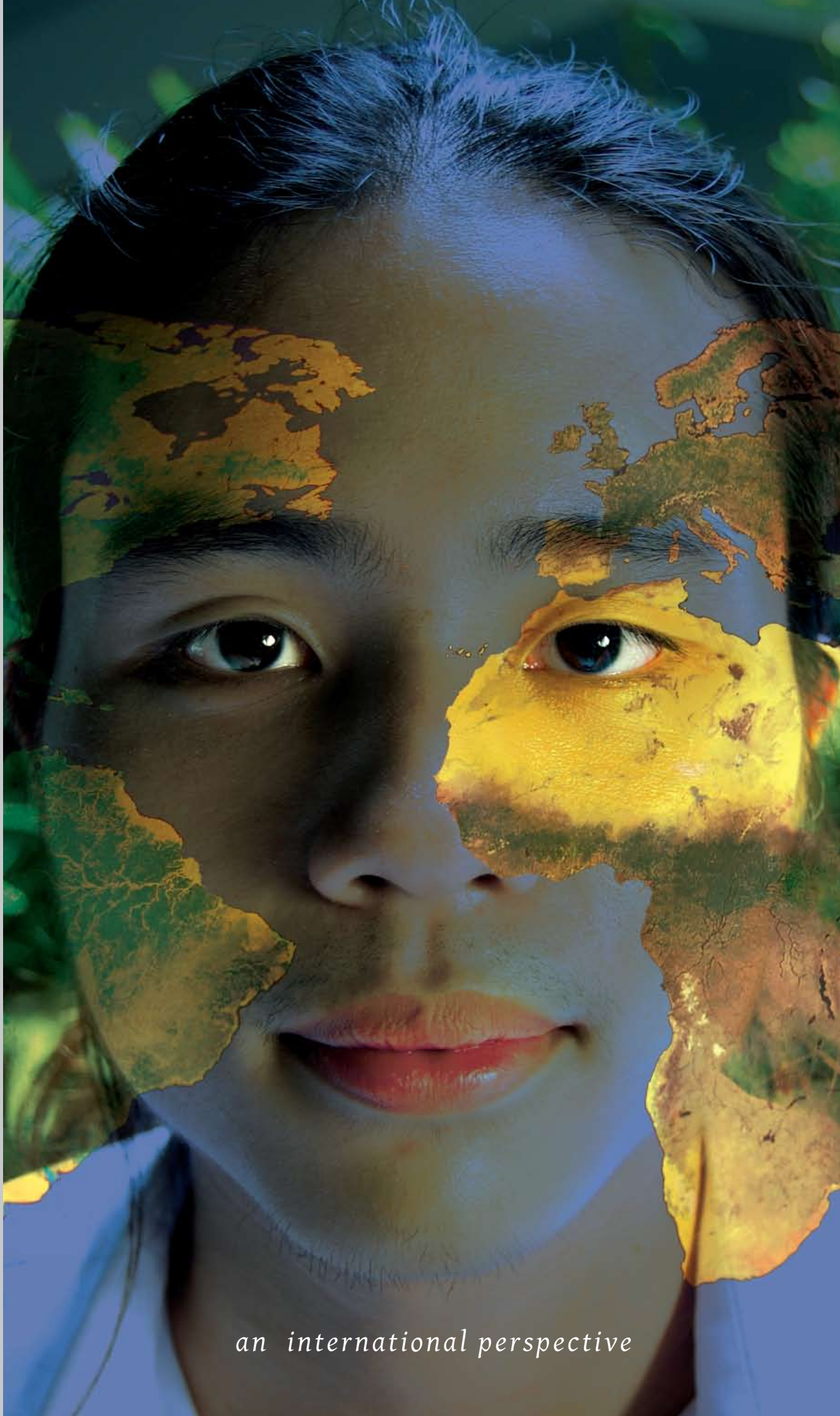


# KALEIDOSCOPE 1.08

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER | ISSN 1685-5884 | VOL. 4 NO. 1 | WINTER 2007



*an international perspective*



# maintaining an international perspective

THE BEGINNING OF ANY CALENDAR YEAR IS GENERALLY A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND APPRAISAL, A TIME TO REASSESS ONE'S PRIORITIES WHEN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE. IT SEEMS FITTING, THEN, TO CONSIDER AT THIS TIME THOSE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH MUIC HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE ENGAGED, GIVING CREDENCE AND LEGITIMACY TO ITS DESIGNATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.



THE EXTENDED AND NEWLY-RENOVATED HERB GARDEN RESTAURANT



A PARTIAL VIEW OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE



THE HOTEL'S NEW LOBBY/INNER COURT AREA

## THE SALAYA PAVILLION HOTEL

The Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center officially opened in 1998, with a complex of 17 rooms, a conference center, the Mango Bar and Herb Garden Restaurant. Over the past nine years it has served as a major venue for Travel Industry Management internships and has catered to a variety of guests, including an international clientele who participate in conferences, seminars and competitions at Mahidol University and other sites in the immediate vicinity.

In November of 2007 the hotel's additional facilities, located on the sixth, seventh and eighth floors

of the college's new extension, were finally completed, providing 26 new guest rooms (including a presidential suite), two conference centers, an additional lobby area and an extended and newly-renovated Herb Garden Restaurant.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCES

### SATU SUMMIT

The very first guests to enjoy these new accommodations were participants at the SATU Summit on Industry-Academia Collaboration and Business Plan Competition on November 19-21, 2007.

The Presidents' Forum of Southeast Asian and Taiwan Universities (SATU) was initiated by the National Cheng Kung University



(NCKU) of Taiwan in 2003 in order to strengthen academic cooperation between Taiwan and Southeast Asian countries and foster sustainable development in the region.

The summit and competition were jointly organized by NCKU and Mahidol University (MU). The aim of the Industry-Academia Collaboration workshop, which was held in the MUIC auditorium, was to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas between outstanding business leaders and university academics.

Professors Pornchai Matangkasombut and Michael Ming-Chiao Lai,



MALAYSIAN PARTICIPANTS REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE

Presidents of MU and NCKU, respectively, welcomed the participants, after which Mr. Pramon Sutivong, Chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, delivered the opening address.



MALAYSIAN PARTICIPANTS REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE DR. PETER SMITH ADDRESSING THE PARTICIPANTS

Keynote speakers, Mr. Satit Chanjavanakul, Secretary General of the Board of Investment of Thailand, and Mr. Kan Trakulhoon, President of Siam Cement PLC, offered their insights on industry-academic linkages, as did others from both industry and academia in Thailand.

In conjunction with the conference, 21 teams of undergraduate and graduate university students from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam participated in the Business Plan Competition, which was coordinated by Dr. Chairawee Anamthawat, Ajarn Chompunuch Pongjit and Ajarn Kandapa Thanasuta of the Business Administration Division.

The preliminary rounds of the competition were conducted in each of the respective countries, making way for the final elimination rounds at the

summit. National Sun Yat-Sen University of Taiwan won the competition, with the Ateneo de Manila University of the Philippines taking second place. MUIC students Naren Thonkaow (team leader), Pon Nussitthaikarn and Withoon Hardat, representing MU, secured third place.

### MALAYSIA-THAILAND CONFERENCE

Approximately one week later, from November 29 to December 1, 2007, the Salaya Pavilion Hotel was the venue for the 3rd International Malaysia-Thailand Conference on Southeast Asian Studies, a collaboration between the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the Social Science Division of MUIC.

The theme of the conference was "Defining



THE MUIC TEAM WITH THEIR ADVISOR, AJARN ATTHAPONG SAKUNSRIPRASERT



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AT THE SATU CONFERENCE





THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW KYUSHU OFFICE

Harmony in Southeast Asia: Competing Discourses, Challenges and Interpretations.”

Professor Chariya Brockelman, Director of MUIC, and Professor Saran Kaur Gill, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UKM, formally welcomed the participants, after which Assistant Professor Parichart Suwanbubha, Vice Director of Mahidol University’s Research Center for Peace Building, delivered the keynote address.

The first day’s plenary sessions explored the issues of Malaysia’s role in ASEAN, education and communication as well as visible manifestations of harmony in the region and concluded with a special reception dinner.

Other topics under consideration during the following two days included religion and ethnicity, policies and politics, language in ASEAN, education and youth, tradition and family, migrant workers and gender issues.

The conference concluded with a final panel discussion and closing ceremony.

## EXCHANGE PROGRAM

### STUDY ABROAD FAIR

The Offices of International Relations and International Network Development organized a Study Abroad Fair in the Seminar Room on October 15, 2007.

MUIC students were given the opportunity to learn about the undergraduate and graduate programs of various overseas universities from Europe, the United States and Australia, a majority of which enjoy formal exchange agreements with our college. Also represented were educational agencies from the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan.

A more extensive Study Abroad Fair has been scheduled for February 1, 2008.

### EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

As a result of Director Chariya Brockelman’s trip

to Mexico last year, the college recently signed formal exchange agreements with the Instituto Tecnológico De Estudios Superiores de Monterrey and the Universidad Internacional.

tor of MUIC, and Professor Pornchai Matangkasombut, President of MU, welcomed Professor Masaharu Yanagihara, Vice President for International Affairs at KU, and Dr. Kuo Ikejima, Director of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Bangkok Office, at a special ceremony to mark the occasion on November 26, 2007, in the Seminar Room.

They spoke of Kyushu University’s long-standing association with Mahidol and other Thai universities, enthusiastically endorsing



The current number of exchange agreements that MUIC enjoys with universities around the world is 38.

### KYUSHU UNIVERSITY OFFICE

Kyushu University (KU) of Japan formally opened its own office at MUIC, located on the second floor of Building 1. Professor Chariya Brockelman, Direc-

this bilateral agreement between KU and MUIC which, according to Professor Yanagihara, “constitutes a new step in promoting both student and faculty exchange.”

A group of MUIC students are scheduled to visit KU in March for a two-week study tour; other short and long-term projects are also being scheduled. In the not too distant future, MUIC

## MAINTAINING AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

anticipates opening its own office at KU in order to further bolster this exchange agreement.

Two students minor-ing in Japanese, Mr. Pawit Khid-arn and Ms. Tamsiri Samatthordsak, addressed the guests and participants in Japanese, expressing their own support for this new venture.

Everyone then pro-ceeded to the office area for a ribbon-cutting cer-emony, after which they enjoyed a special lunch at the Herb Garden Restau-rant.

Central Asia and Africa, with even more sessions scheduled for the coming year. In the meantime, individual instructors have also made their contribu-tions in training.

Ajarn Nate-tra Teva-banchachai conducted a training workshop in October for 16 hotel owners and managers in the Cham-pasak area in Laos. The purpose of the three-day session was to address the skills necessary for more effective guest service as well as motivating and retaining hotel personnel.

Development for ASEAN Countries” in October. Thirty participants from 10 ASEAN member coun-tries explored the issue of community-based ecotour-ism development, with an emphasis on tourism personnel competency.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Gawin Pla-on, Academic Affairs Officer and Manager of MUIC’s Sci-ence Laboratories, traveled to the United Kingdom in October for a two-month

technology for developing environmental resources, and his experience as lab manager at MUIC made the transition that much easier.

Most of Gawin’s time was devoted to working with the technical teams in the lab preparation room, setting up the nec-essary conditions for the teaching labs. He was par-ticularly impressed with the team’s organization in the use and maintenance of equipment, along with all the safety features in protecting the lab envi-ronment.

AJARNS RAMESH AND NATE-TRA



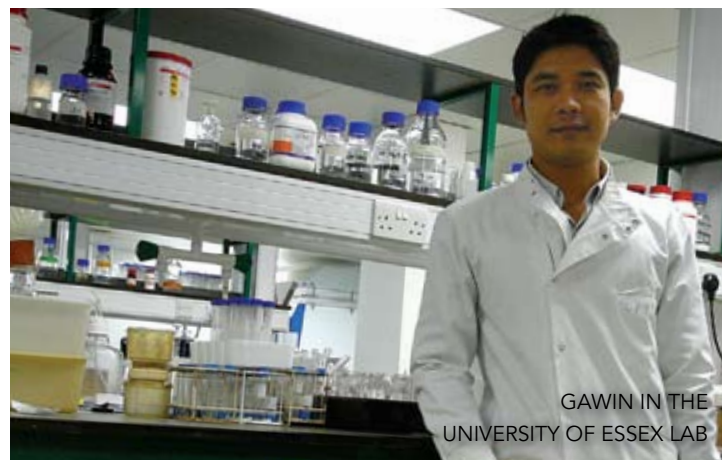
## TRAINING PROGRAMS

### TIM AND TOURISM

Over the past year the Travel Industry Manage-ment (TIM) Division, in col-laboration with the Tour-ism Authority of Thailand, conducted a series of train-ing workshops for delega-tions from Southeast Asia,

Given the success of the workshop and the enthu-siastic response from the participants, Ajarn Nate-tra was invited to conduct a follow-up training session in December.

Dr. Ramesh Boonratana was invited by Thailand’s Office of Tourism Develop-ment to be one of the in-structors at the seven-day “Training Program on Com-munity Based Ecotourism



GAWIN IN THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX LAB

training session at the Uni-versity of Essex, Colchester.

During his stay Gawin lived off campus, enjoy-ing the hospitality of Dr. Lian Dong, a university researcher, and experienc-ing a taste of the British lifestyle. He spent the first two weeks familiarizing himself with the research labs and the staff. His credentials, including a Master of Science Degree in

Gawin’s experience at the University of Essex will enable him to more read-ily maintain the MUIC labs according to international standards, one of the prior-ities of the college’s Science Division. Although the training sessions were both intensive and demanding, Gawin had an opportunity to travel to Oxford, Cam-bridge, Stratford-On-Avon and London.



# MAINTAINING AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

## CROSS-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

EVERY TRIMESTER THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE (IRO) CONDUCTS AN ORIENTATION SESSION FOR VISITING AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS, INTRODUCING THEM TO MUIC AND THE CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS OF LIVING IN THAILAND. IN ADDITION, THE IRO, ALONG WITH THE OFFICES OF ADMISSIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, TRADITIONALLY HOSTS A BARBECUE, AS IT DID ONCE AGAIN IN OCTOBER, WHICH PROVIDED A SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITING AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS TO INTERACT WITH MUIC'S FULL-TIME STUDENTS.

Apart from that, the Office of International Network Development introduced two new activities for visiting and exchange students during the first trimester: a field trip to Lopburi and the Salaya bike adventure, both of which are expected to become fixed features.

### FIELD TRIP

In October Ajarn Brian Phillips escorted a group of students on a field trip to Ayutthaya Province where they visited the celebrated

Cultural Arts and Crafts Center in Bangsai. They then proceeded to Lop Buri and the Wat PraBat-NamPhu's Center of Hope, a complex that not only serves the medical needs of HIV-AIDS patients but also operates a school and orphanage.

The group spent much of its time at the orphanage which was celebrating a round of children's birthdays. According to Ajarn Brian, this one-day excursion offered insights into Thailand's cultural and social realities.



AJARN BRIAN PHILLIPS WITH FRIENDS



HENNA PAINTING AT THE MULTICULTURAL DAY

## MULTICULTURAL DAY

The Student Association sponsored the college's annual Multicultural Day on November 14, 2007, on the ground floor of Building 1. The event, which was organized by Project Managers Arunporn Likhitlersuang and Chananya Huangteerakul, featured an international food fair, with booths representing Australia, Burma, India, Korea, Mexico, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Participants not only savored a variety of international foods but also took in demonstrations on how to prepare certain dishes. Some booths offered additional activities, including henna painting from India, a display of traditional Chinese toys and piñatas from Mexico.

## BICYCLE ADVENTURE

ANOTHER NEW ACTIVITY AVAILABLE TO VISITING AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS WAS A CHALLENGING BICYCLE TOUR. AJARN LAIRD ALLAN SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT.

Clear and cool. Clean and quiet. Not words typically associated with Bangkok, but six intrepid MUIC students and instructors discovered that they suited the delightful conditions of the inaugural MUIC Bicycle Adventure on November, 16, 2007.

The Science Division's Ajarn Laird Allan, a dedicated fitness cyclist, ably assisted by fellow 'century' rider (100 kilometers plus in one day) Ajarn Galon Melendy, led the pioneers on a circuit ride along little known-paths and byways.

The energetic team covered 30 kilometers of beautiful, lightly-trafficked roads between Salaya and Don Wai Floating Market before lunch. "Every road is different," noted a fascinated Adam, a BBA exchange student from the University of Victoria, Canada.

Enroute they refueled on snacks at the locally

## THE SERENITY AND SPLENDOR OF BUDDHAMONTHON PARK



famous Wat Suwannarom, a charming country temple that overlooks Klong Mahasawat, where narrow but raucous long-tail boats still move much of the region's bountiful produce. An impromptu Thai and English lesson with young students hanging out the windows of the next-door elementary school was an unforgettable highlight.

Arriving at Don Wai for a delicious lunch proved to be just the thing to revive everyone for the homeward journey. Passing through almost deserted single-lane roads between Sai 6 and 4, they entered Buddhamonthon Park, where local riding clubs have cleared challenging single-track paths. This became the venue for an adrenaline-pumping climax to the otherwise mellow six-hour experience. "That was fun!" exclaimed Scott, a veteran of Colorado's world-class mountain bike scene.

Some ice-cold Sponsor ('seen it but never thought of trying it,' commented American exchange student Alicia) and water shared over a discussion of Buddhist philosophy and practice in the shadow of Phra Buddhamonthon (the world's tallest standing Buddha image) perfectly rounded off the ride. With 46 kilometers officially undertaken, everyone from first-time cycle tourists to the veterans felt wonderful. It was a visceral kind of satisfaction; they worked out kinks and kilocalories while safely probing rarely exercised physical limits.

Although originally conceived as a great way to familiarize many of our visiting and exchange students with the rural pleasures around Salaya, these slow and easy rides are open to all MUIC students, faculty, staff and friends. Firm plans are already in place to schedule this Bike Adventure each trimester.

Space is limited to the first 15 registrants. Contact Ms. Pan Ling (Coco) in the International Network Development Office on the first floor of Building 2 to ensure a place. A fee of 450 Baht covers bike rental, helmet, water, most food and an escort vehicle for anyone who may get weary.



PARTICIPANTS  
STRETCHING THEIR LIMITS





## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Members of the Student Association (SA) welcomed a contingent of participants from the Ship for Southeast Asia Youth Program to the Salaya Campus on November 26, 2007.

This program, sponsored by the Japanese government, enabled approximately 330 young adults to travel to Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, where they lived with host families in order to engage in cultural exchange and develop mutual understanding among the nations.

Representatives of the MUIC SA escorted the

group on a tour of the campus and the Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development's Thai House where the visitors watched a Muay Thai Show and learned about Thailand's traditional festivals of Songkran and Loy Krathong.

## STUDENT RECOGNITION

### UN INTERNSHIP

Mr. Brian Gartland, a full-time international student from California who is majoring in International Studies, has been granted a coveted internship with the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He begins his 3-to-6-month internship in late January and will work out of the UN Headquarters in Bangkok.

After familiarizing himself with the UN system, Brian is expected to take on the responsibility of interviewing refugees in order to determine both their status and possible relocation, a somewhat daunting prospect. The UNHCR section in Bangkok relocates more people than any other center in the world.

### UNIVERSIADE REVISITED

In the last issue of *kaleidoscope* we reported on

MUIC students who volunteered for the Universiade 2007 in Bangkok, the 24th World University Games, the second largest gathering of athletes and officials after the Olympics.

The Office of the Director recently received a message of commendation from Dr. Jan Boutmans, a member of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and one of the organizers of the academic conference associated with the games. He cited the efforts of four MUIC students who served as attaches.

"Ms. Kung (Sasiporn Wattanasakulkiat), for the most part, served as secretary for our Commission and I would like to express my deepest admiration for the way in which she kept up with me, running, driving, making phone calls, arranging meetings and generally working to make the conference a success."

"I also want to express my admiration for Ms. Praew (Chalita Sheerangsu), clearly young in years and with less experience, but during the 18 days we were together she developed into an enterprising young lady. We were also assisted by Ms. Cheng (Darat Preechalertpiriya) and Ms. Anchisa (Suankun), two smiling, friendly and very efficient young ladies."

Ms. Sasiporn, Darat and Anchisa are fourth-



BRIAN GARTLAND



UNIVERSIADE PARTICIPANTS TAKE A BOW



year students majoring in Finance, Marketing and International Business, respectively, while Ms. Chalita is a second-year student majoring in International Business. All have been involved in extracurricular activities and envisioned participation at the Universiade as a new and challenging experience. Their efforts obviously made an impression.

Dr. Boutmans concluded as follows: “As a professor of the University of K.U Leuven, Belgium, involved

in the formation of our students, I would like to congratulate you and your college for such high-quality students, efficient, polite and friendly.”

### WORLD DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Members of the MUIC Debate Club previously traveled to Glasgow, Scotland, Singapore, Johannesburg, South Africa, Sydney, Australia and Vancouver, Canada, in order to participate in world debate

championships.

Their participation in the 28th World University Debating Championship was far less problematic inasmuch as the competition was hosted by Thailand’s Assumption University. With 400 teams and more than 1,200 debaters and adjudicators representing 185 universities from 40 countries, this championship was the largest ever.

In the past the college would sponsor only one or two teams, given the distances and expenditures

involved. This time, however, MUIC was represented by four teams who competed with some of the most prestigious universities in the world.

The MUIC team of Phra Chainarong Sangsranoi and Michael Mergy Krause battled their way into the top one third of the competition and distinguished themselves by being not only the highest ranked team from Thailand but also the two top Thai speakers, placing first and second, respectively.

## IN MEMORIUM

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND ENTIRE OF ITSELF; EVERY MAN IS A PIECE OF THE CONTINENT, A PART OF THE MAIN; IF A CLOUD BE WASHED AWAY BY THE SEA, EUROPE IS THE LESS, AS WELL AS IF A PROMONTORY WERE, AS WELL AS ANY MANNER OF THE FRIENDS OR OF THINE OWN

WERE; ANY MAN’S DEATH DIMINISHES ME BECAUSE I AM INVOLVED IN MANKIND. AND THEREFORE NEVER SEND TO KNOW FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS; IT TOLLS FOR THEE.

JOHN DONNE

In its coverage *kaleidoscope* commonly makes reference to the MUIC community, that diverse and disparate collection of administrators, teachers, students and staff, sometimes at odds with one another but always focused on its mission to teach and learn, to develop and grow.

In October of 2007 one of our members, Kong Somboonsuwat, died. And with his passing we as a community find ourselves diminished, left wanting, that much poorer. Incomplete.

Kong arrived at MUIC in September of 2006 with considerable promise, having received a scholarship for achieving the highest score on the entrance



examination. He did not disappoint. During his first two trimesters he earned a 4.00 Grade Point Average.

Although burdened with the knowledge that he was suffering from terminal cancer, Kong impressively took on the full demands of university life, both in and outside the classroom. He was unable to complete his third trimester studies and finally lost his struggle with the disease on October 8, 2007.

Kong’s time at MUIC was far too brief, his life’s journey much too short, tragically, even absurdly so. And so we mourn and are left to consider – and imagine – all that might have been.

KONG SOMBOONSUWAT  
JUNE 3, 1988 - OCTOBER 8, 2007





## mourning the death of a princess

The MUIC community joined all of Thailand in mourning for Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vahana, elder sister of His Majesty the King. She succumbed to a long illness on January 2, 2008, at the age of 84.

Throughout her life HRH Princess Galyani was a staunch supporter of the arts, particularly classical music, and devoted much of her time and energy to countless charities, many of which were

initiated by HRH the Princess Mother.

Noted for her public service and dedication to the welfare of the poor and disenfranchised, Princess Galyani was also a distinguished teacher, linguist and writer.

The college has designated an area in the main lobby to serve as a memorial to the late Princess, where members of the MUIC community can express their sympathies in a special book of condolences.

## DEVELOPMENTS AT MUIC

DR. PIAYASAKOL  
FIELDING  
QUESTIONS



### NEW MAHIDOL PRESIDENT

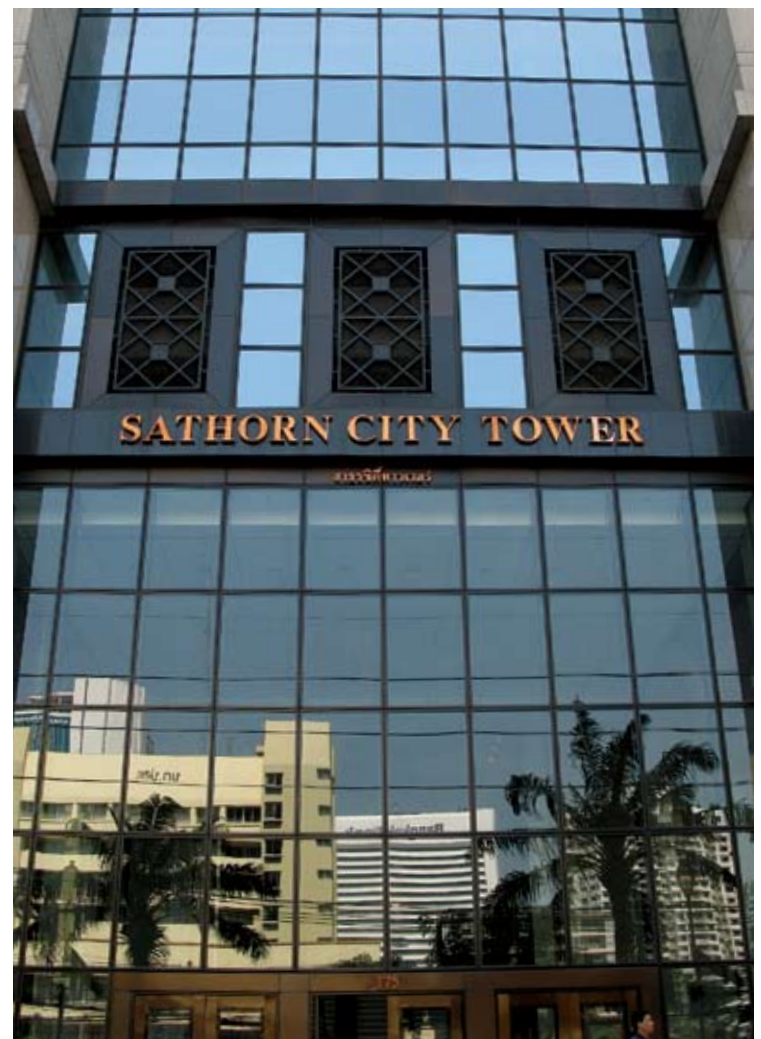
Professor Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, was appointed President of Mahidol University (MU) in December. One of Dr. Piayasakol's first priorities is to meet with each of the university's faculties, colleges, research institutes and centers.

President Piayasakol, along with several

of MU's vice presidents, visited MUIC on January 7, in order to meet with Professor Chariya Brockelman, Director of MUIC, and representative members of the administration, faculty and staff. Discussions centered on two major issues: MUIC's contribution in making MU one of the 100 top universities in the world and more effective strategies on the part of MU to promote the college's development.

### MBA VENUE

The Business Administration recently announced the venue for its MBA Program in Business Modeling and Analysis: the 12th floor of Sathorn City Tower, 175 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok.





The application period for the upcoming trimester ended on January 9 and the roster of successful candidates admitted to the program was announced on January 19. The next application period is scheduled for June. Classes will begin on January 28.

For further information, visit the website [www.bba-muic.net](http://www.bba-muic.net)

## KUDOS

On November 8, 2007, the college hosted a special reception at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel's Banquet Room to honor Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue, Association Director for Academic Affairs, who received the 2007 Outstanding Teacher Award (on the professorial level) from Mahidol University's Faculty of Science.

## HEADING TO HAT YAI

MUIC recently established the Academic Service Center (ASC) in Hat Yai, Songkhla, located in the downtown area opposite the Hat Yai Wittayalai School.

The center will enable students in the area to apply to MUIC, submit their documents, take the entrance examination and sit for the required interview, avoiding the inconvenience

and cost of have to travel to Salaya.

Students in the Songkhla area and other nearby provinces, such as Nakhon Si Thammarat, Trang and Phuket, will also be able to enroll in the center's Intensive English Program in preparation for the MUIC entrance examination. If



DR. CHARIYA, AJARN SANHAPONG AND ASC STAFF

there is a positive response to this new enterprise, with every indication that there will be, the college is prepared to establish a



DR. MALEEYA RECEIVING CONGRATULATORY ROSES

branch of its Pre-College (PC) Program in the area.

Ajarn Sanhapon Khovong has been appointed Program Director of the Academic Service Center. He previously served as Director of the PC Program, is currently Director of MUIC's Intensive English Program and has

supervised special projects, such as MUIC student participation as television newscasters and emcees at last year's World University Games.

In December Ajarn Sanhapon organized a 10-day visitation for the newly-appointed ASC staff. They familiarized themselves with MUIC's educational system and consulted with administrative and academic staff members, particularly with those in the Offices of Admissions and Academic Services.

A Grand Opening has been scheduled for January 24, 2008, which will be

## PC SUMMER COURSE

The Pre-College (PC) Program will again offer its Summer Course from March 17 to May 16, 2008. This program is designed for high school students who would like to spend their summer break more productively by acquiring the skills and knowledge that will help them in their current studies and prepare them for the demands of university life.

This year's program will consist of three classes, with no more than 25 students in each class. Placement will depend on their English abilities in reading, writing, listening and speaking. In addition to the academic courses, students will participate in other activities, including off-campus excursions and on-campus projects, all of which will enhance the classroom experience.

The program will be conducted on the Salaya Campus and will be taught by MUIC faculty members. For further information, contact Ms. Satja Sopha, Chief of the PC Section, at [icsatja@mahidol.ac.th](mailto:icsatja@mahidol.ac.th) or call 02-800-2335.



## DEVELOPMENTS AT MUIC



MU PRESIDENT PIYASAKOL SAKOLSATAYADORN WELCOMING PARTICIPANTS

presided over by Mr. Sonthi Taechananth, Governor of Songkhla. For more information concerning this new program, visit [www.muic-hatyai.ac.th](http://www.muic-hatyai.ac.th)

### STAFF

#### EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SEMINAR

The Audio-Visual Section of MUIC's Office of Education Technology conducted its 3rd Educational Media Workers Mobilization Seminar on December 13-14, 2007, in the college auditorium, an event which attracted 200 participants from universities throughout Thailand.

The purpose of these seminars has been to exchange experiences among educational medical workers, to keep abreast of progress in technology and communication and to foster partnerships in educational technology in Thailand.

Participants had the opportunity to explore issues on knowledge management, information

technology for education, organizational strategies, research and demonstrations on the progress in technology and educational media.

One important feature of the seminar was highlighting achievements in technology and educational media. Participants were invited to submit their special project beforehand; out of the 55 respondents, three were cited for special recognition.

In the print medium category, Ms. Siriwan Chathiranmongol from the King Mongkut Institute of Technology, Thonburi, won the award for creating pictures and sounds which accompany Braille texts. Ms. Ratri Panpinit from Mahidol University's Faculty of Pharmacy was recognized in the animated film category; her entry teaches children about the benefits of Thai herbal medicine. Mr. Warong Thawarat, also of King Mongkut Institute of Technology, Thonburi, won the first prize in the public relations medium

for his video highlighting the culture of Bangkok's Tungkrui District, a predominantly Muslim community.

#### CHARITY DRIVE

Although staff members of the Audio Visual Section were preoccupied with preparing and organizing the Media Seminar, they found the time and energy to launch a special charity drive, under the leadership of Mr. Jukhapun Intachai, for the Baan Kaeng Jor School in

Kanchanaburi Province.

The college donated funding in order to enlarge and renovate the school's library. In addition, stations were set up at four locations around MUIC at which students, faculty and staff members gave monetary contributions and donated such items as clothing, medicine, books, school supplies and sports equipment.

A delegation of volunteers, led by Director Chariya Brockelman, Ms. Sumalee Visetrana and Ms. Somluck Lunsucheep, both executive



NEW LIBRARY OPENING CEREMONY AT BAAN KAENG JOR SCHOOL



THE AUDIO/VISUAL STAFF IN THEIR NEW OFFICE



administrators, traveled to Saiyok District, Kanchanaburi on December 21, 2007, to deliver the donations, dedicate the new library

and meet with teachers and students.

NOTE: The Audio Visual Section has relocated its office and facilities to the

fourth floor of Building 3, Room 3411.

### NEW APPOINTMENT

Ajarn Udomrat Tivasub, Chief Coordinator for Academic Affairs and Academic Counselor, has been promoted to Assistant to the Associate Director for Academic Affairs, a position that more readily



MS. UDOMRAT TIVASUB

reflects her indispensable contributions to the college. She will continue to serve as Academic Counselor.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### ALUMNI GET-TOGETHER

The MUIC Alumni Association hosted a special get-together on October 13, 2007, at Gazebo, a club on Khaosan Road. Approximately 100 alumni and their friends participated.

The evening was primarily a social one, as was anticipated. The venue offered an ideal setting for clusters of people, both large and small, to renew acquaintances, socialize and generally have a good time.

Throughout the evening refreshments were provided, along with live music from the club's guitarist/singer and a band. The socializing was briefly interrupted

when Michael Naglis, liaison to the Alumni Association, and Piyasat Praewpraisunkakul took to the stage to officially welcome everyone.

They also introduced members of the MUIC Volunteer Club who made an appeal for donations in order to support their efforts at the Baan Kaeng Pralom School in Kanchanaburi Province, a ten-day outing that took place this past December. The alumni get-together was also an opportunity for

the Association to bolster its membership.

### AN INVITATION TO TEACH

Over the years alumni and alumnae have returned to MUIC to serve as either part or full-time lecturers; that tradition continues.

The Science Division invited alumnus Chanin Nantasenammat to teach part-time beginning this trimester. He graduated from MUIC in 2002 and received a scholarship



to continue his master's and doctoral studies at Mahidol University and the University of Lund, Sweden, where he began teaching postgraduate students at the Department of Clinical Biology, Faculty of Medical Technology, in 2006. Dr. Chanin is currently teaching Scientific Research and Presentation to students in the college's Science Division.



ALUMNI ENJOYING AN EVENING AT GAZEBO

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES



CHILDREN AT THE BAAN KAENG PRALOM SCHOOL

### VOLUNTEER CLUB

This past December 45 members of the Volunteer Club participated in the annual Volunteer Camp; they were accompanied by Advisor Ajarn Arpaporn Ieumbol and staff members from the Office of Student Affairs.

They journeyed to the Saiyok District in Kanchanburi Province, an isolated area near the Burmese border, for a 10-day visitation in order to address some of the needs at the Baan Kaeng Pralom School. A majority of the 100 students, from kindergarten to Grade 6, are primarily Burmese migrants.

One group of volunteers focused on a major

construction project, expanding the overcrowded canteen area. The work easily progressed on schedule, particularly because of the generosity of villagers who offered their services in laying the cement foundation and extending the roof. The donation of new tables and chairs completed the project. In addition, the piping system for the canteen was replaced to allow greater access to running water.

In the meantime, a second group of volunteers concentrated on the classroom setting, providing instruction in a variety of disciplines, including basic English, along with an emphasis on personal hygiene.

The Volunteer Club,

under the leadership of Ms. Sunthini Pholwiwat, had previously conducted a charity drive at MUIC. This enabled the members to donate kitchenware for the canteen, clothing, books and school supplies as well as toys for the younger children.

On the last day of their stay, the volunteers organized a Sports Day for the children and local people, after which they hosted a special dinner to mark the completion of the canteen area.

### FRIENDLY GAMES

Seventy members of the Sports Club participated in the Asian University and MUIC Friendly Games at Banglamung, Chonburi Province, this past November, competing in basketball, table tennis, badminton, volleyball and



WORKING ON THE EXTENSION TO THE CANTEEN

football. The MUIC men's team won in basketball and tennis in addition to fighting to a tie in football while the woman's team celebrated a victory in volleyball.

The friendly competition served to create even stronger bonds between the two universities. The MUIC students were particularly impressed with Asian University's warm hospitality and the spirit of sportsmanship that prevailed throughout the competition.

### DEBATE CLUB

#### AMERICA AND WORLD DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

The MUIC Debate Club continues to maintain its reputation for excellence. Three MUIC teams, consisting of three debaters each, participated in the 2nd America and World Debating Championship at Chulalongkorn University on November 16-19, 2007. They competed in the Asian style with 13 other teams from six universities.

The team of Ms. Pimtip Faktornngpan, Mr. Azeez Mohamed Mabrook and David Alexander Callaghan Gray won the championship, arguing the motion that "America is ready for a female president." The



final was adjudicated by top trainers and debaters in Thailand as well as an official from the United States Embassy. Mr. Azeez Mohamed won the Best Speaker of the Finals Award.

This is the first national title that these team members secured. In addition, the other two teams, one which contested its way to the quarter finals, consisted primarily of new members, all of which suggests that the Debate Club will continue to be a force to be reckoned with in future tournaments.

## EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH COMPETITION

The Debate Club's string of successes is due, in large measure, to its recruitment efforts, enabling prospective members to develop and sharpen their speaking skills. In that spirit, the club organized its 3rd Extemporaneous Speech Competition last November.

Participants engaged in a series of eliminations, evaluated by faculty members of the English Studies Program, with Tanawat Phaovibul, Tawan Thammasunthorn, Anishka Tewari, Maung Aung Khaing Swe and Suravuth Liengsaengthong making their way to the finals, which was judged by club

advisors Dr. Eugene Jones and Ajarn Barry Clements, along with Ajarn Alexander Korff.

The finalists were each given a topic on current events, after which they had only ten minutes to prepare. Mr. Tanawat won the competition, with Mr. Tawan and Ms. Anishka placing second and third, respectively.

According to Michael Krause, President of the Debate Club, "the standard of speeches was exceptionally high this year." The competition more than adequately served its purpose: not only to promote public speaking but also to encourage new membership for the club.

## DIVING CLUB

The Diving Club initiated its activities for the 2007-08 academic year by organizing an Open Water Course for new members. Nineteen students, along with instructors and staff, went to Samaesan, Chonburi Province, in October to learn about safe diving and underwater skills, culminating in a series of tests to determine what they had learned.

These new recruits joined more experienced members on a five-day

excursion to Similan Island during the holiday break in late December. While they had an opportunity for multiple dives in order to explore the diverse marine life, they also learned about the ecosystem and took time to participate in a clean-up project to protect the coral reefs.



THE MUIC BASKETBALL TEAM AT THE FRIENDLY GAMES

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **JANUARY 24**

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED ACADEMIC SERVICE CENTER IN HAT YAI

### **JANUARY 26-27**

WELCOMING CAMP AT BAAN PHU WAAN, THE PASTORAL TRAINING CENTER OF BANGKOK'S CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE

### **JANUARY 31**

MUIC'S JOB FAIR ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BUILDING

### **FEBRUARY 1**

MUIC'S STUDY ABROAD FAIR ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BUILDING 1

### **MARCH 17- MAY 16**

PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER COURSE

### **MARCH 22**

LAST DAY OF CLASSES

### **MARCH 24-31**

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

### **APRIL 1-19**

HOLIDAY RECESS

### **APRIL 9-12**

REGISTRATION FOR THIRD TRIMESTER

### **APRIL 21**

THIRD TRIMESTER CLASSES BEGIN

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

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PORNRATTANACHAROEN

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