

Congratulations 2005 Graduates!

Our lives are marked by milestones, moments that signal significant changes in our journey of discovery and self-fulfillment. One such moment is the passage our 2005 graduates are undertaking.

These 259 students constitute MUIC's fifteenth graduating class. Ninety-nine of them have secured a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration (BBA): Marketing (36), International Business (30), Information Systems (15), Finance (12) and Management (6). Another 87 have earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree: Travel Industry Management ((51), Business Administration (23) and Southeast Asian Studies (13). The remaining 73 graduates will receive a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree: Computer Science (41), Biological Sciences (20), Food Science and Technology (11) and Chemistry (1).

Members of the graduating class have already participated in a number of rehearsals and events, including "The Final Touch" program in May and the more recent senior banquet in June. Today, however, July 6, 2005, marks their final participation at MUIC with a special



graduation ceremony, during which Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman delivers a valedictory address and presents the graduates with an English version of their diplomas. The official Mahidol University commencement will be conducted on Friday, July 8, 2005, at the Suan Amporn Auditorium, presided over by HRH Princess Sirinthorn.

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh! I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two road diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROST

That designation - commencement - is both accurate and fitting, clearly suggesting a celebration not of what has been so much as what is yet to come. This is a celebration of new beginnings. Whatever the road taken, whatever the choices made, wherever that next stepping stone may lead, our 2005 graduates will face the challenges, opportunities and perils of this new chapter in their lives. To take the road less traveled may, indeed, make all the difference.



Congratulatory Messages

Mahidol University has long enjoyed a reputation for academic excellence and innovation. We recognize the importance of increased international awareness through our many international programs.



MUIC embraces our values by focusing on self reliance and excellence in its efforts to develop high caliber graduates.

In a world full of changes, one of the major challenges facing today's graduates is uncertainty. It is reassuring to know that MUIC has provided you with the necessary skills to meet any challenge. I hope that you have developed both tolerance and humility in order to accept other people's ideas and that your generation will be better than ours in creating a harmonized and peaceful world.

I congratulate all of you on this special moment in your lives and extend my best wishes for your future endeavors.

Prof. Dr. Pornchai Matangkasombut
President, Mahidol University



Our aim at MUIC has always been to prepare students to meet the challenges they will encounter in their careers and to instill in them the importance of life-long learning.

It is important to understand that a university education is more than just academic learning. It is also about developing an analytic approach to problem solving and developing oneself as a person.

During the past four years we at MUIC have tried our very best to provide you with the skills and resources to meet the challenges of a dynamic, globalizing world. I believe that you possess not only the necessary qualities to recognize and respond to change but also the ability to make a genuine difference.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff at MUIC, I congratulate you on your accomplishments and wish you every success.

Prof. Dr. Chariya Brockelman
Acting Director, MUIC

Academic Achievements

In her message to this year's graduates, Interim Dean Chariya Brockelman stated: "It is important to understand that a university education is more than just academic learning. It is also about developing an analytical approach to problem solving and developing oneself as a person." Admittedly, an academic transcript cannot - and should not - con-

stitute the full measure of a person. However, given this special rite of passage, it seems only fitting to recognize those graduates who have distinguished themselves in terms of academic excellence. The 21 first class honor and 14 second class honor recipients represent 13 percent of the 2005 graduating class.

First Class Honors

- MR. TUL SUNATHVANICHKUL, 3.91, Biological Sciences
- MS. JIRAWADEE KANRATTANASOOT, 3.83, Finance
- MS. KANNARAT CHIEMCHITVANICHA, 3.75, Computer Science
- MS. MAMATA SATYAL, 3.69, Travel Industry Management
- MR. WERACHAI PRAYOONPRUK, 3.66, Computer Science
- MS. YADA TAWATVIBOONPOL, 3.64, Computer Science
- MS. ONJIRA NIRANATKUL, 3.61, Biological Sciences
- MR. SATHIT BOWORNKIENGKAI, 3.60, International Business
- MS. THUNCHANIT SIYONGLUCKANA, 3.56, Food Science and Technology
- MS. ONUMA LAKARNCHUA, 3.55, Biological Sciences
- MS. SIRITHIDA CHAVISUTTANGKUN, 3.50, Finance

- MR. MARC VASTENAVONDT, 3.90, Biological Sciences
- MS. CHERRYWIN KONGMA, 3.76, Biological Sciences
- MS. HELENABHA GREENSPOON, 3.74, Biological Sciences
- MR. SARIT ATHISIL, 3.68, International Business
- MR. THEPARATH LAOHAVORAVUDHIKUL, 3.65, Biological Sciences
- MS. THANIDA AMORNPATSOPHON, 3.62, International Business
- MR. POLAPUTT SIRODOM, 3.60, Biological Sciences
- MS. VARANGKHANA SINTHARAPANTORN, 3.57, Computer Science
- MR. KRIT JINAPONG, 3.53, Computer Science
- MS. BOONTAWEE TEAMVAN, 3.51, Southeast Asian Studies

Second Class Honors

- MS. PORNPUN PUPIANGJAI, 3.49, Southeast Asian Studies
- MS. ARATRA PUNGPERMTRAKUL, 3.45, Travel Industry Management
- MS. NAPAPAN NILASRI, 3.40, Computer Science
- MR. NIRANKAR SINGH CHAWLA, 3.40, International Business
- MS. BOONTIDA CHAIWONGKACHON, 3.35, Marketing
- MS. RESHMI SACHDEV, 3.32, Computer Science
- MS. TIPARAT BHAKDIKUL, 3.28, Biological Sciences

- MS. THANYAWEE PPRATOOMSUWAN, 3.47, Finance
- MS. ANCHALEE SUKSUDSANANANT, 3.44, International Business
- MS. SUREERAT SACHANAKUL, 3.40, Information Systems
- MS. PUKAEW KIRTIPUTRA, 3.39, Biological Sciences
- MS. PILASINEE TEPTADA, 3.34, Biological Sciences
- MS. PATISE CHUAYKUNOOPAKAN, 3.31, Southeast Asian Studies
- MR. THANAPAT CHIRAPUNTU, 3.26, Computer Science



The MUIC minor degree program is relatively young, so much so that only one of the 2005 graduates has earned a minor. **MS. ONJIRA NIRANATKUL**, a Biological Sciences major and first class honors student, is only the

third MUIC student to complete a minor and the first to secure a Minor in Psychology. Ms. Onjira is presently applying to several universities in California where she hopes to enter a Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy.

kaleidoscope

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

Layout:
Mr. Alexander S. Heitkamp

Photographer:
Mr. Korrachai Lekpetch

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW GRADUATES!



The Next Stop by Onuma (Anna) Lakarnchua

There's a lyric in one of the Sound of Music songs that says "I'm glad to go; I cannot tell a lie".

I'm certain that I do not speak for all the graduates but, honestly, this is the exact sentiment with which I greet my upcoming graduation from Mahidol University International College. I'm approaching this departure with unabashed joy. I suppose that's a credit to my instructors; they've equipped me so well, prepared me so thoroughly, that I can hardly wait to jump into the next chapter of my life. Their care and counsel have insured that I will not be content to merely sit on the sidelines of life. Yet that elation carries with it the inevitable twinge of sadness.

I'm not sentimental or romantic but days ago I was at MUIC, walking down the hallway, and I realized with a strange melancholy that this would be one of my last times here - doing anything. Suddenly, that simple act of walking down the hallway, which I've done perhaps four hundred times in the past four years, seemed very profound and moving. Oh my, I thought to myself, it's like some sort of Robert Frost poem. It's probably one of the sappiest moments in my life but I stopped right there in that hallway and just basked in the experience. Each corner, every classroom, seemed to be speaking to me, evoking one memory or another. Here's the couch in the library where I whiled away the time between classes reading Time and Scientific American. This is the computer lab where I vehemently cursed a printer because it jammed just before printing my developmental biology assignment. There is where I met my best friend for the first of many lunches together. The hallway was filled with the

echoes of the tears and laughter of my undergraduate life, my life as a student of MUIC.

My best friend has always said that time flies, and I always thought I'd understood her, but now I see that I only understood the concept vaguely, abstractly, like one understands love or death. That hallway, I knew, wasn't really just a hallway at all but a fitting last image, a metaphorical bridge even, for me to keep and take with me into my future life, like one takes along a cherished object, using it for comfort and strength. The next time I stood in the spot, if I ever got the chance, I realized I could no longer claim to be an MUIC student - the most I could say would be that I was an alumna. I'd only be someone who'd once traversed these halls too quickly to fully appreciate the moment, a girl like countless others who took her times here for granted because she thought they would last forever. They didn't. Most things do not and to be overly saddened by this inevitability is to misunderstand the point of education - and life as well.



ANNA LAKARNCHUA, who has previously submitted articles to *kaleidoscope*, is one of this year's graduates. She is presently attending Chulalongkorn University where she is majoring in English as an International Language and serving as a Teaching Assistant. Once she finishes her Master Degree, Anna may continue with further graduate studies in Forensic Medicine.

It's all right to look back and reminisce and feel slightly sorry it couldn't have lasted longer. As I watched a group of giggling girls storming past, I couldn't help but envy them just a little bit. They'll have years yet to enjoy MUIC in all its glory. They'll get to make the discoveries I did, like realizing that Dr. Paul Yablo's dry, oftentimes corny, sense of humor masks a brilliant academician or that Ajarn Alex Korff's gruff manner belies his innate gentleness and dedication to teaching; they'll see how Dr. Charles Freeland will work tirelessly to instill in them an appreciation for the finer things in life. Yes, I envied those girls but I knew as well that I must now look forward, as I'd been taught, as I'd been encouraged to from the onset.

Life is a train that waits for no one. When the time comes you must gather your belongings and climb on board. If you're lucky and blessed enough to be a graduate of MUIC, you'll look into your pack and see that you are more than well-prepared for the next leg of your journey. Still, as I sit on this train that's pulling away from the station of MUIC, excited about what's coming, I don't forget to look back. It is only by standing in that figurative hallway, by remembering the past in all its fullness, good and bad, that we have any hope for a bright future.

What's next? That question is undoubtedly on the minds of many of us graduates, and I don't have the answer anymore than anyone else does. However, I know that having been the recipient of so many good intentions - from all of MUIC, not just my dedicated instructors - the next station will be just as challenging and rewarding a stop as this has been.

God bless all of you on the rest of your journey.

Life after MUIC – the Next Chapter

Some of the graduates have recently completed their studies. However, given MUIC's staggered trimester system, others have fulfilled their academic requirements months ago, enabling them to begin the process of charting the next chapter in their lives.

During the past four years the Office of Academic Services, under the supervision of Ajarn Udomrat

Tivasab, has been conducting surveys to determine what choices MUIC graduates are making. A consistent pattern has emerged.

The surveys suggest that approximately **60 percent of graduates** directly enter the job market, especially in **multi-national firms** (20 percent are employed in family-owned businesses). A number of these graduates secure work

experience in preparation for graduate studies. Approximately 30 percent immediately enter graduate programs abroad, primarily in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia, while a minority elect to continue their studies in Thailand. The remaining 10 percent take a brief sabbatical before applying to graduates programs or seeking job opportunities.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MS. VANVISA CHAIMAHAWONG, who completed her studies earlier and served as a Faculty Assistant for the Business Administration Division, will pursue a Master Degree in Finance at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. +++ **MR. THANAKORN AEKSAMATHI-KUL** is presently majoring in E-Business and Management at the University of Luton, Great Britain. +++ **MS. SUPAPORN TANGJITATHITAM** and **MR. PANIT TECHAPONGTADA** have been accepted at Chulalongkorn University, majoring in International Economics/Finance and Economics, respectively.



MS. THITAREE SRITHONG is a Sales Executive at Unilever while **MS. SUREERAT SACHANAKUL** is employed as a Process Analyst at Exxon Mobil. +++ **MS. SIRICHAN RATTANAJITBUNJONG** is supervising Customer Service for her family-owned business, BJ Motorparts, Co., Ltd. in Bangkok.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

MR. PANVALEE BOONPHONGSA, who temporarily worked at the British Embassy in Bangkok, has enrolled in the graduate program at Thammasart University, majoring in International Relations.



MR. CHANIN CHINUMKANOKCHAI is presently working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in camps along the Thai-Burmese border located in Ratchaburi, Kanchanaburi, Tak and Mae Hong Son Provinces. +++ **MR. CHRIS GREENWAY** is currently teaching Social Science at Potisarn Phittayakorn School before embarking on a graduate studies program.



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The majority of Biological Science majors, particularly those with a Biomedical Science Concentration, generally enter graduate school immediately after graduation. **MARC VASTENAVONDT** has been accepted at



Oxford University, Nuffield, Great Britain, where he will major in Integrated Immunology +++ Others, however, have opted to remain in Thailand. **MR. TUL SUNATHVANICHKUL** is currently studying at the Faculty of Medicine, Thammasart University. +++ **MR. POLAPUTT SIRODOM** has been accepted into the medical program at Chulalongkorn University. +++ **MS. HELENABHA GREENSPOON**, who recently spent a year in Japan on a special exchange program, is working toward a Master Degree at the National Institute for Child and Family Development, Mahidol University.



TRAVEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT

MS. TIPPARAT SONGSAKDECHA will study for a Master Degree in Marketing, Macquarie University, Australia +++ **MR. VASIN BULSUK** is currently working towards a Master of Arts in Business Managerial Economics at Chulalongkorn University.



MR. JIRAPONG LAOPIYASAKUL and his brother **JIRAWONG** are Marketing Manager and Assistant Marketing Manager, respectively, at the BJ Holiday Lodge in Pattaya. +++ **MR. APISAK KOMALARAJUN** works in the Front Office of the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok. +++ **MS. JIRANUN CHAISIRIPANICH** and **MS. CHANIKA AUETHADA** are flight attendants for Japan Airlines. +++ **MR. SITTISAK SINGHALAKA** has established his own business, Market Research Consultancy (CMR) Co., Ltd.



(continued on next page)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

MR. JIRAROCH BHEGANAN is enrolled in the MBA Program at Boston University, U.S.A. +++ **MR. NAT-TAPHOL UBOLSING** is studying Computer Science at Kingston University, the United Kingdom, while **MS. KHWANRUTAI BOONLERT** is working for a degree in Computer Science at Thammasart University.

MS. YADA TAWATVIBOONPOL has joined Imagimax Studio where she will exercise her artistic talents as a graphic designer. +++ **MR. WERACHAI PRAYOON-PRUK** is a programmer at American International Assurance (AIA). +++ **MR. YOTHIN RODANANT** is presently serving as Computer and Security Auditor for Price Water House +++ **MS. PIYAWAN POL-SAKULCHAT** is Computer Systems Administrator at Amadeus while **MS. LADAWAN KHONGDAMNERN** is a programmer at Siam Commercial Bank.

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MR. CHALOEMPOL VONGSAKULPAISAL has been accepted by the University of California/Davis, where he will pursue a Master Degree in Business Administration. +++ **MS. THUNCHANIT SRIYONGLUCKANA** will major in Food Chain Management at Imperial College, London. +++ **MR. WATA OPARITKIATTIKUL** and **MS. KRIDSANA PIPAKSAMUT** will undertake their studies in Australia. Mr. Wata will major in Commerce at the University of Adelaide while Ms. Kridsana will study for a degree in Marketing at Curtin University, Perth. +++ **MS. WANLAPA ADCHARIYAKUNAKORN** is a member of the Research and Development staff at C.P. Intertrade Co., Ltd. +++ **MS. NICHABOON PONGTANAKORN** is a nutritionist at the A Fitness Centre, Bangkok. +++ **MS. NATPAT MASVANICH** is presently serving as Personal Assistant at Asian Initiatives Consultancy, Bangkok.

Graduation Banquet 2005

The Junior Class hosted a special graduation banquet on June 25, 2005 at Bangkok's Landmark Hotel, with the theme, "Fiore di Serenita," Flower of Serenity. The evening's festivities were enjoyed by the 2005 graduates and invited guests.

