mahidol university international college

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Tribute to the King

MUIC's 20th anniversary celebrations in June were superseded by Thailand's observances marking the 60th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

An extended holiday was declared as people throughout Thailand paid tribute to the King, the world's longest reigning monarch. The streets of Bangkok were awash in gold and yellow t-shirts, polo shirts and jackets; glittering lights illuminated the evening skies, punctuated by the spectacular display of fireworks.

Hundred of thousands participated in the festivities, which extended over several days, while millions watched the proceedings on television. There was a flurry of activity, with all the pomp and pageantry befitting the occasion.

Their Majesties the King and Queen paid homage to past monarchs and received the special blessing of senior monks. His Majesty also addressed the nation, thanking his subjects for their love, support and generosity of spirit. Royalty and dignitaries from around the world descended on Bangkok to participate in the celebrations, highlighted by the Royal Barge Procession in the fading light of dusk on the Chao Phraya River, the River of (continued on page 3)

Ordinarily, kaleidoscope would exclusively devote this summer issue, just as it did last year, to our graduates.

However, a number of celebratory events marking this 20th anniversary year, including MUIC's tribute to His Majesty the King, a forum on the college's history and a workshop for Mahidol University audiovisual aid professionals, require our attention. There is other news as well.

Nevertheless, we have made an effort to feature our 2006 graduates, recognizing their academic achievements and reporting on the commencement exercises. This group - all 344 of them - represents MUIC's 17th graduating class and is one of its largest.

On the occasion of this landmark 20th anniversary year - and on behalf of the entire MUIC community - kaleidoscope extends its congratulations and very best wishes for the future.



Staff Appointments

Koonthida











MS. KOONTHIDA
EKPOOM has
recently been
appointed Acting
Head of the
International
Relations Office.
Ms. Koonthida is
well versed with
MUIC's operational
procedures inasmuch as she served
as Liaison Officer
for the Dean from
2000 to 2003.

In addition, MS.
ANISA MEKAPORN
has been appointed
as the new International Relations
Officer.

The Office of Public Relations has bolstered its numbers with the inclusion of two new staff members:

MR. PATCHAYA
LEEPATCHAYANONT
and MS. ANYANA
KUSIYARUNGSIT.
MS. APINYA
CHANGSANOSH
has joined the Office
of Academic Services while MS. SOPA
NARKPOMCHIN
has been designated
as Secretary of the
Science Division.

Audio-Visual Workshop

Throughout its 20-year history, MUIC has relied on the support and goodwill of the greater Mahidol University (MU) community.

In recognition of that special relationship, the MUIC Audio Visual (AV) Center, under the leadership of Mr. Thammachart Kanjanapinyo and his AV staff, hosted a two-day workshop for MU audio-visual aid professionals on June 15 and 16 in the college's Seminar Room.

Approximately 200 participants, primarily from MU's faculties, colleges and institutes, attended the sessions. There were also representatives from Siriraj Hospital's Faculty of Medicine and other universities. Additionally, several firms marketing audio visual equipment set up demonstration booths.

The first day's morning session was devoted to the issue of inter-



national copyright regulations, with presentations by Dr. Jade Tonawanik, an attorney and parttime lecturer at MUIC, and Ms. Narin Phasoontarathum, a specialist in copyright law. In the afternoon, several groups, including Siriraj Hospital and MU's Institute of Language and Culture for Rural Development, offered demonstrations of audio-visual resources for educational purposes.

On the second day Dr. Somphon Pongthai of Mahidol University and Dr. Booppachart Thahikorn, from Kasetsart University's Com-

> puter Center, further engaged the participants devising effective strategies on how to use the media educational settinas. The workshop concluded with an afternoon excursion to the Channel 3 facilities in Bangkok.



kaleidoscope 3.06

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...Tribute to the King

While individual members of the MUIC community paid their own tributes, the college collectively observed this special occasion. On June 8, representative members of the administration, faculty, staff and

The college also sponsored a miniexhibition from June

5 to 16, acknowledging His Majesty's considerable contributions over the past 60 years, with an

20th 1986 - 2006 Anniversary

bition featuring

the work of the celebrated water-color artist, Dr. Suchart Vongthong. This display of 60 paintings, viewed with the accompaniment of music, was inspired by His Majesty's love for and expertise in music, especially jazz. This one-of-a-kind visual and musical exhibition was a fitting tribute. Part of the proceeds went to support talented music students at Mahidol who face financial need.



student body assembled in front of the MUIC building. Dean Chariya Brockelman delivered an address, after which the participants expressed their congratulations through both words and song. The brief ceremony concluded with an offering of personally written messages which were subsequently forwarded to the palace.

emphasis on the books he has both written and translated, particularly those available in the MUIC library.

MUIC, however, was not the only Mahidol University college which observed this anniversary. The College of Music, with which MUIC enjoys a special affinity, also sponsored an exhi-



His Royal Majesty - An Examplar for Students

With all the celebrations and the countless exhibitions throughout Thailand honoring the 60th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, it seems particularly fitting that schools and universities have made their own contributions.

His Majesty is an artist, musician, composer, linguist, writer and translator, as well as a student of the law, a computer programmer and engineer, well versed in fisher-

ies and farming and construction of irrigation systems, dedicating his efforts to environmental sustainability. H.M. has been as comfortable working in the fields of Thailand as he has been in the corridors of power, mastering the intricacies of international diplomacy. His Majesty is, in other words, a Renaissance man - the hallmark of a truly educated person - a rare commodity in this age of specialization.

As such H.M. is a role model for every student in Thailand, for every person actually, citizen and non-citizen alike, setting an example that is particularly fitting for students at MUIC, whose liberal arts focus promotes a longer reach in learning and experience. Perhaps our celebrations demand a rediscovery about the value and purpose of an education in an increasingly problematic and challenging world.

Business Competition

The Business Administration (BBA) Division is in the process of organizing MUIC's second annual Business Competition, which is being sponsored by the Thansettakit newspaper and jointly funded by MUIC and ExxonMobil Limited.

Last year's competition was confined to BBA majors. However, in honor of the college's 20th an-

niversary year, all MUIC students and non-academic supporting staff members are eligible to participate in this 2006 competition. Teams, consisting of four members, will be required to examine and analyze case studies in business, identify problems and develop strategies to solve the problems.

The competition, consisting of a preliminary and a final round, will be held at MUIC on August 4 and 5. Teams will deliver 40-minute

presentations in the preliminary round; the five final teams will give 60-minute presentations. The judging panel will include BBA lecturers and executives from the business community. The winning team will win a trophy and cash prize of 30,000 Baht and will represent MUIC at the Thammasat University Business Case Competition later in August, competing against university teams from Thailand, Australia, Canada and the United States.

> business administration

Charity Concert



Once again MUIC students were given the opportunity to translate theory into practice. Members of the ICMM 335 Project Management class, taught by Dr. Toryos Pandejpong, organized the "Give-A-Hand" Charity Concert on June 8 in the MUIC auditorium. The featured band was The Rhythm and Boyd E1EVEN1H.

Mr. Deeporn Rojanapenkul assumed the responsibilities of Project Manager while Ms. Nuancharas Phopoonsak served as Coordinator. They supervised their classmates in soliciting sponsors, organizing the event and generating the necessary publicity.

It was a win-win situation for everyone involved. The band promoted their songs, the students applied their organizational skills and the greater community benefited since all proceeds went to the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation.

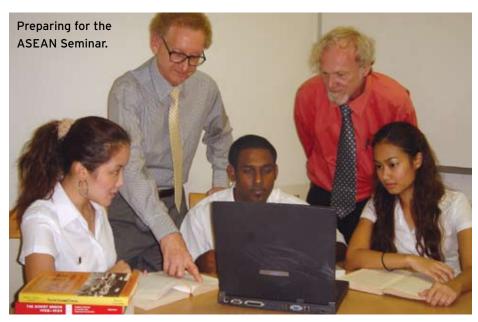
> social science

Another Regional Conference

In 2005 the Social Science Division set a precedence when several of its students delivered major papers at a regional conference in Malaysia, an innovation that introduced a new dynamic into the proceedings. That level of student participation is fast developing into a familiar pattern.

A delegation of instructors and students will attend another regional conference, "ASEAN Seminar," in Hanoi, Vietnam, on July 10-21. Dr. Dale Rorex and Dr. Eugene Jones will deliver papers on "British and American Studies in Southeast Asia" and "Dual Authority in Southeast Asia," respectively.

They will be accompanied by three students, Mr. Hussasin Rashyd and Ms. Pattaka Sa-ngimet, both Social Science majors, and Ms. Boonjira Suntornpoch, a TIM major. Mr. Hussain will address the issue of "Ethnic Minorities in Vietnam's Developmental Process" while Ms. Pattaka will explore the rather intriguing topic, "Hollywood and Vietnam." Given her research work, Ms. Boonjira will present a paper on "Sex Tourism and Vietnamese Immigration."



> travel industry management

New Seminar Series

The Travel Industry
Management (TIM) Division
has recently initiated a
series of seminar sessions
which explore issues in the
hotel and travel industries.

Ajarn Kaewta Muangasame, who teaches Consumer Behavior in Tourism, supervised the first session, "How Easy Is It to Manage a Hotel?," on May 29 in the MUIC Seminar Room. The guest speaker was Mr. Montien Tantakit, Assistant Managing Director of the Montien Hotel Bangkok, one of the city's oldest establishments which continues to serve its guests in the traditional Thai style. Mr. Montien focused on four aspects of hotel management: understanding the location and target market, delivering on guest expectations, creating a distinctive style and maintaining a quality staff.

On June 29 a second seminar



session was held, this time coordinated by Ajarn Pisut Yuwanond. The issue for discussion was "Key to Success in the Airline Industry," presented by Mr. Surawut Sristhita, Airport Shift Executive for ETIHAD Airways. Mr. Surawut, who is an MUIC alumnus, has been working in the airline industry for the past seven years and presently supervises all ground activities for ETIHAD Airways. He discussed the availability of career opportunities in the airline industry, both in the air and on the ground.

These seminar sessions primarily target TIM majors. However, all interested MUIC students are welcome to attend.



> social science

Embassy Visit

On June 19, seven exchange students from Monterrey Tec de Mexico, Colegio de Mexico, and their chaperone, Lourdes Epstein, were hosted at the Mexican Embassy in Bangkok. Organizers of the event were Laura Galacia, Protocol Officer, Francisco Samora, Cultural Attache, and Dr. Dale Rorex. Ambassador Barito spoke on the economic bonds between Thailand and Mexico as partners of the Pacific Rim of Nations. Also in attendance were Dr. Eugene Jones and three representatives from MUIC's Office of Student Affairs.

Announcements

NIDA Conference

The Office of Planning, Research and Development is encouraging administrative/supporting staff and faculty members to participate in an academic conference on statistics and technology.

The conference, "Knowledge Management in Organizations," is being sponsored by the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) and will be held at the Twin Towers Hotel on August 10-11. The registration deadline is July 31.

English Tutoring

This September a training workshop "Helping your Peers" will take place for students who would like to serve as part-time tutors for the English Studies Program's Resource Center. If you have completed English Communication IV and are genuinely interested in this offer, please register by contacting Ajarn Phillip Stiens. You can either visit him in the English Studies Office or contact him on extension 1306.

Twenty Years and Beyond

20th MIIIC 1986 - 2006 Anniversary

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, the college hosted a special forum, "MUIC: Past, Present and Future," on May 15 in the auditorium, with Dr. Serene Piboonniyom, Dean Chariya Brockelman and Dr. Chaiwat Viboonsawas as featured speakers.

MUIC's Past

Dr. Serene, who served as Director of the International Student Degree Program (ISDP), the college's designation at that time, addressed some of the challenges and developments during the first ten years. While citing the support and contributions of Mahidol University and the Faculty of Science, she admitted to genuine apprehensions in the beginning. After four years of struggle, however, by which time

her arrival in 1997. Two major priorities were placing more emphasis on liberal arts and instituting academic policies that more readily conformed to international standards. However, in the aftermath of the 1997 global financial crisis, which precluded many Thai students from studying abroad, MUIC experienced a sudden upsurge in student enrollment. With a student population of over 1,000 in 1998, other matters needed to be addressed, such as the recruitment of a much larger faculty and supporting staff and a more effective and professional managerial style. Dr. Chariya also explained the process of establishing the Pre-College Program, reorganizing the academic structure into a divisional system and developing a stronger network of communication with overseas universities. By 2004, with over 1,800 students, it became clear that further expansion was inevitable, necessitating the planning of the college's

new eight-storey extension which is currently under construction.

A Challenging Future

While MUIC has made great strides over the past 20 years, as articulated by the previous two speakers, even greater efforts will be needed in the years to come. Dr. Chaiwat, a noted academician, addressed some of the challenges the college will face in the future. He cautioned that students will be required to develop new skills, particularly in science and technology. While recognizing MUIC commitment to the liberal arts,

he also suggested that greater emphasis be placed on humanities and the social sciences. Living in an increasingly globalized world will demand even more from the 21st-century student. Accordingly, Dr. Chaiwat strongly recommended that MUIC students take every opportunity to travel and study abroad so they can understand both the risks and benefits of global citizenship.

Participants at the forum included representative members from MUIC, Mahidol University and other universities who either have international programs or are in the process of establishing them.

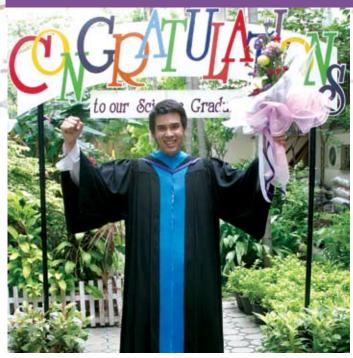


there were almost 300 students and an increasingly popular Travel Industry Management Program, she was confident not only of ISDP's survival but also of its success. When the program moved into its new facilities (Building 2) in 1992, other developments quickly ensued. By 1996, with a student population of 560 and its elevation to the status of a college, MUIC was already planning for further expansion.

It's Present

Dean Chariya Brockelman then proceeded to delineate the series of developments that occurred after

Congratulations 2006 Graduates



The college's very first graduating class in 1990 may have been small in numbers but that neither diminished the occasion nor did it detract from their sense of accomplishment. Ever since then, a succession of graduates have participated in Mahidol University's official commencement exercise.

If one were to consult any dictionary, the second definition of commencement is "the graduation exercise of a school or college." The first definition is more telling: "the act or time of a beginning." Graduation, then, is not so much the end of an era as it is the beginning of a new transition, a passage into further discovery. Our 2006 graduates seem well prepared for this new chapter in their lives.

The 344 members of this year's graduating class, one of MUIC's largest, have earned degrees in the Arts and Sciences, representing a wide range of disciplines: Travel Industry Management (108), Marketing (58), International Business (40), Finance (17), Management (14), Southeast Asian Studies (9), Social Science (8), Business Administration (4), Computer Science (34), Biological Sciences (18), Food Science and Technology (18), Applied Mathematics (1), Environment (1) and Nursing Science (1).

These graduates have distinguished themselves academically. The overall Grade Point Average (GPA) for this graduating class is 2.85. In addition, there were

20 first class honor and 27 second class honor students, representing 13.6 percent of the graduating class.

For the very first time, two inbound international students are represented. Ms. Dong Chu and Ms. Xiong Xiaoyu, both from China, received their degrees in Travel Industry Management. The latter is also a second class honors student. In the coming years, much larger contingents will be visible since MUIC is currently accommodating 208 full-time international students.

As is customary, members of the graduating class participated in a number of rehearsals and events, including "The Final Touch" program and the traditional graduation banquet, both of which are featured on page 9.

On July 4, MUIC hosted a special graduation ceremony in the college auditorium. Dean Chariya Brockelman delivered the valedictory address, congratulating the graduates on their achievements and challenging them not only to undertake life-long learning but also to effectively use their skills and humanity in a problematic world. The graduates were then presented with an English version of their diplomas.

The official Mahidol University commencement exercise was held on Thursday, July 6, 2006, at the Suan Amporn Auditorium, presided over by HRH Princess Sirinthorn.



First Class Honors

MS. VARALEE KHEMANGKORN

3.93 - Information Systems

MS. SRIPHRAE ANGELIQUE SRISAWAT

3.80 - Social Science

MS. SANA ZAKARIA

3.73 - Biological Science

MR. KANIN ANANTANASUWONG

3.67 - Computer Science

MS. ANUSARA SINGKUMARWONG

3.65 - Food Science and Technology

MS. PIMWADEE AGUILAR

3.64 - Food Science and Technology

MS. KING LUM CHENG

3.60 - International Business

MS. CHOTIMA CHUTIWATSATHIAN

3.57 - Computer Science

MS. SUMITRA SRIMASORN

3.54 - Biological Science

MS. NISA WIWATANAWONGSA

3.51 - Food Science and Technology

MR. PANET LERTSUPANONT

3.87 - Biological Science

MR. KAMMASIT WICHITPAN

3.78 - Social Science

MS. RATTIYA PERMPOON

3.67 - Biological Science

MR. AMMAR YUDHASOMPOP

3,66 - Computer Science

MS. KANTHANA KONGKAJORN

3.64 - Food Science and Technology

MR. SAJJA SUJJAPORAMEST

3.63 - Marketing

MR. JAKKARIN PIPOPKULLAPORN

3.59 - Finance

MS. JARAYPORN PITAKTIRATHAM

3.57 - Finance

MS. WIRADI BOONYOBHAS

3.52 - Travel Industry Management

MR. PORNTIP PALACHEVA

3.51 - Social Science

Second Class Honors

MS. KORAKOCH CHAROENSRISIRIPONG

3.49 - Information Systems

MS. LAKSMI CHATRIRAT

3.48 - Travel Industry Management

MS. KORNKAMOL PONGJETANAPONG

3.46 - Food Science and Technology

MS. VANRAVI PHONGPHIT

3.43 - Biological Science

MS. NATALIE ANANTVORANICH

3.40 - Social Science

MS. NAW WAH PAW

3.39 - Southeast Asian Studies

MR. PARON YODKRAISRI

3.35 - Finance

MS. YUWADEE RUNGPIAN

3.33 - Travel Industry Management

MS. ROAZITA MA

3.33 - Food Science and Technology

MS. POJANA CHANDHANAKIJ

3.29 - Food Science and Technology

MR. TYHANATE SRIRKHONG

3.27 - Marketing

MS. SURIRATH THAKRAL

3.26 - International Business

MR. KRIDSADA CHUTINATON

3.25 - Computer Science

MS. YANAPA BOONPARKOB

3.25 - Travel Industry Management

MS. KAMALA VUTHILERTDACHA

3.49 - International Business

MS. THIRADA PATIPATPAOPONG

3.47 - Food Science and Technology

MS. XIAOYU XIONG

3.45 - Travel Industry Management

MR. TRAPAL SINGH NARULA

3.42 - Finance

MS. RUJIMA BENJAWATTHANANUN

3.40 - Travel Industry Management

MS. UNGSUTORN THAVORNLERTRAT

3.38 - Food Science and technology

MS. RATWADEE TERMSUKNIRUNDORN

3.34 - Finance

MS. NUVADE SAE-LO

3.33 - Marketing

MS. PATCHARAPORN BUNLUENG

3.30 - Travel Industry Management

MS. INTIRA RUENGSOMBOON

3.27 - Travel Industry Management

MS. NATHATHAI KOMPHUSIRIKUL

3.27 - International Business

MS. SIWAPORN RATTANASOPINSAWAT

3.26 - Marketing

MR. TACHSACHAI LERTARIYASAKUL

3.25 - Marketing



2006 Graduates: Minor Recipients

MUIC's minor program is relatively new. Up to now there has only been a handful of students who have completed their minor requirements. This year, however, marks a first. Nineteen of the 2006 graduates have received minors in

addition to their Bachelor Degrees: Psychology (4), Marketing (4), Japanese (4), German (2), French (2), International Systems (1), Finance (1) and International Business (1). These minor recipients were duly recognized for their achievements at the July 4 graduation ceremony in the MUIC auditorium.

As the minor program continues to grow and flourish, MUIC expects subsequent graduating classes to have an even greater representation of minors.

The Final Touch

MUIC conducted its "Final Touch" session on May 14 for this year's graduates. Dean Chariya Brockelman welcomed the group; Ajarns Dale Rorex and Alexander Korff then addressed post-graduation issues, including job interviews,

the value of work and the necessity of life-long learning.

There was a special lunch for the prospective graduates, after which the participants were measured for their graduation gowns.



Under a Peaceful Moon

The junior class hosted a special banquet for the 2006 graduates at the Grand Hall Ballroom of the Plazas Athenee Bangkok Hotel on June 4. The evening's celebration, with the theme, "Under a Peaceful Moon," was a fitting tribute to this year's graduates.







A Spirit of Collaboration

MUIC's clubs generally coordinate and perform their respective activities independently. However, during this past trimester there were two major collaborative efforts.



Martial Arts

The Muay Thai, Karate and Taekwondo Clubs embarked on a joint effort when they traveled to the Sabaisabai Resort in Haad Mae Rumpeung, Rayong, from June 9 to 11. The purpose of the excursion was to engender a greater appreciation of self defense and the martial arts. All too often people perceive the martial arts as an exercise in violence and brute force when, in fact, it is an art, demanding the discipline and synergy of body and spirit which, in turn, offers a greater understanding of the universe.

Instructors engaged the 25 participants from all three clubs in inten-



sive training sessions in Muay Thai, Karate and Taekwondo. However, there was also time over the weekend for less demanding activities, including competition in the swimming pool and a paint ball match.

Everyone agreed that this first collaboration among the clubs was well worth the time and effort and should be replicated in the future.

Art/Photography Exhibition

A different kind of collaborative effort was initiated when the Art and Photography Clubs presented a special exhibition on the ground

Winning Soccer Team



In the last issue of kaleidoscope we reported on MUIC's winning soccer teams. While we featured a picture of the female team, we neglected to include the men. Their first place victory deserves recognition. So here they are. Once again, congratulations, gentlemen.



floor of Building 1 during the week of June 26-30.

The exhibition featured paintings in watercolor, oils and acrylic while members of the Photography Club offered their own distinctive pieces. In addition, students from the MUIC Drawing class, taught by Ajarn Leigh Pearsons, displayed their sketches.

During the week-long display art instructors Wanchai Phol-in, Suksan Chuayum and Chaikiaet Peerapolchaikul were available and conducted sessions in watercolor, acrylic and Japanese painting.



No Smoking Day

Any international school worthy of its name is expected to address international issues. It was not surprising, then, that MUIC participated in the world No Tobacco Day on May 31. The Office of Public Relations set up a number of displays and exhibitions, some of which were interactive, including testimonials by faculty members as to how and why they quit smoking.

The Office of Student Affairs, in conjunction with the Student Association, coordinated activities in front of the Atrium Cafeteria, calling students' attention to the dangers of smoking.

Celebrating MUIC

The MUIC Music Club sponsored the "MUIC 20-Year Celebration Concert"

on June 28th in the college auditorium, featuring a variety of bands. All proceeds went to foundations supporting people with disabilities.

Introducing the Weblog:

MUIC NEWS AND EVENTS

We extended the MUIC website by a weblog (blog) to bring you the latest information on the many activities in and around our college when they happen.

Log on to www.studyinthailand.blogspot.com regularly to see what is going on; browse the archive and leave a comment!

www.studyinthailand. blogspot.com





Open House

Given the significance of this anniversary year, MUIC's fourth annual Open House on August 9 is expected to be the most successful to date. The Office of Public Relations has begun its publicity campaign and preparations are well underway to coordinate activities which include a tour of the facilities, exhibitions, displays, interactive games and performances by some of MUIC's clubs.

Although the Open House traditionally targets students, teachers and parents, the general public is encouraged to attend.

Building Update

On May 11 representative members of the MUIC community participated in a ceremony to mark the setting of the new building's central pillar. Buddhist monks chanted their prayers and flowers were laid at the site, a traditional practice that is meant to ensure the safety and protection of the new structure.

Construction continues to progress on the elevated first storey and, by all accounts, is proceeding on schedule.

In addition, the college has recently renovated the second-floor administrative office, enhancing its visibility and offering easier access.



Executive staff members in front of the central pillar.



MUIC NEWSLETTER

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