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KaleidoScope

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Mahidol University International College Newsletter



MUIC'S
NEW DEAN

LEARN
a New
LANGUAGE

IDOLS
with
DIPLOMAS

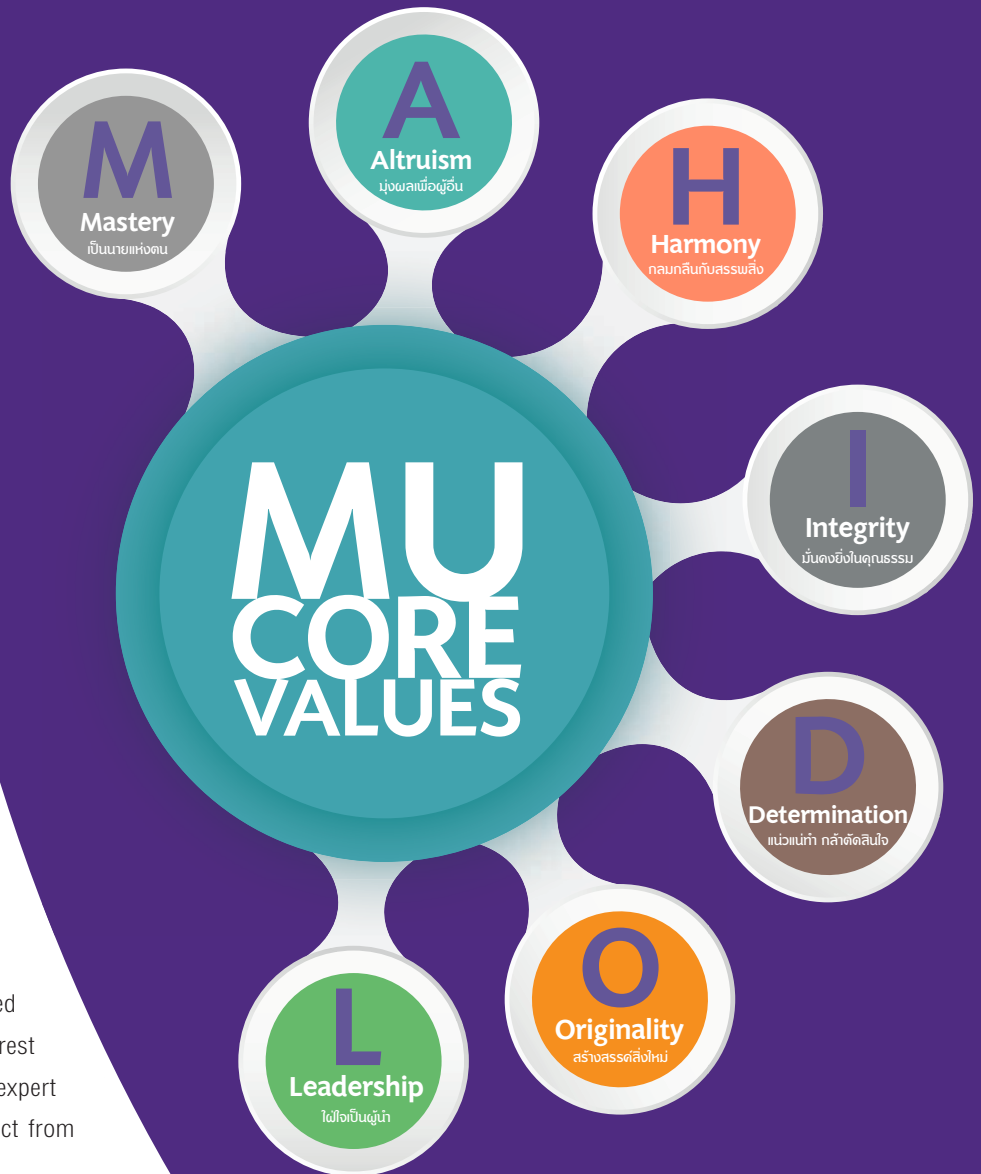
Turning a NEW PAGE

What comes next after graduation? Building a successful career, of course! In this issue's cover story, *Kaleidoscope* discusses that topic—from the traits of most MUIC students that give them an edge in the competitive job market to the careers that some of them start while they are still students. We also take a look at what's in store for career opportunities in 2019 and what advice MUIC's faculty members give so that the new graduates can clinch that dream job.

You might have also noticed the new design for this issue. It's part of the changes in *Kaleidoscope*: It will start looking at selected national and international issues that interest its readers and offer the perspective and expert opinions of relevant authorities on the subject from the MUIC community.

Have an enjoyable and informative reading!

What best describes a member of the Mahidol University community? Such a person should ideally possess the institution's seven **M-A-H-I-D-O-L** core values: **M**astery, **A**ltruism, **H**armony, **I**ntegrity, **D**etermination, **O**riginality and **L**eadership. Mahidol University does its best to instill these positive traits in each member of its community—executives, faculty members, staff, and students—in order to fulfill Prince Mahidol's call for everyone to make their contribution to society.



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MUIC's NEW DEAN

is a
Mentor, Doctor,
Researcher,
Leader

Appointed as Dean of Mahidol University International College (MUIC) with a four-year term of office by virtue of a resolution passed by the Mahidol University Council on August 15, 2018, Assoc. Prof. Chulathida Chomchai, MD, brings to the table a well-balanced set of skills in the areas of medicine, research, education, and leadership.

One of MUIC's own, Dean Chulathida has been a faculty member of the Science Division since 2010 and also served as Assistant Dean for Research from 2011 to 2014.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Science major in Biological Science degree from the University of California School of Medicine, USA in 1989, and finished a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, USA four years later. She is also a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics from the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, University of Southern California School of Medicine.

Coming home to Thailand, she joined the Faculty of Medicine of Siriraj Hospital at the turn of the millennium, participating in several committees including the Adverse Drug Reaction, Bioethics, and Emergency Medicine Service Improvement committees. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Siriraj Poison Control Center.

As a medical doctor, Dean Chulathida also served in various capacities in the Division of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, first as Chief of the Division of Ambulatory Pediatrics and Pediatric Toxicology in 2001, followed by being Chairman of the Outpatient Department Committee and the Risk Management Committee in 2008.

In addition to her field experience, she is also a prolific researcher who published a textbook

and numerous articles in the field of toxicology in teenagers and children.

With her concern for MUIC alumni obtaining the best possible graduate education, Dean Chulathida played a major role in successfully establishing the MUIC-SGU Doctor of Medicine Pathway Program, MUIC's collaboration project with St. George's University's (SGU) School of Medicine that would enable MUIC students to avail of the opportunity to enter medical school in a reputable university abroad. She also works as a counselor for the joint program between the Faculty of Dentistry, Mahidol University and MUIC.

As the new Dean of MUIC, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chulathida said she will continue to develop the educational quality of the College as it sets its goal to become one of the leading academic institutions in Asia. MUIC aims to produce qualified graduates who will be able to achieve a work-and-life balance and who can become excellent citizens in Thailand and the international community.

In her first official message to the MUIC community, Dean Chulathida said, "It is an unparalleled privilege to be working for the MUIC community. We hope to continue transforming this place that we love into an institution that is widely recognized for its unique and elite brand of international education for which we are all proud to take ownership."



Science Graduates Receive MEDICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

It is not easy to get into medical school. Aside from the battery of tests and the plethora of requirements applicants have to hurdle, the astronomical costs could also be daunting.

It is very fortunate then that four Biological Science students who graduated this year have been selected to receive scholarship grants to Saint George's University's (SGU) Medical School. Located in the Caribbean island of Grenada, SGU prides itself for being "the 4th largest provider of doctors to the US." It is also a partner of Mahidol University International College (MUIC).



Mr. Siradanai Kanithasevi, Ms. Alisa Srirat, Ms. Ajalaya Klomjamjit, and Ms. Pichapa Sangsawad are each getting a 50% tuition reduction equivalent to US\$150,000 for their 4-year study in SGU Medical School.

Under a recently signed agreement between SGU and MUIC, Biological Science majors now have the opportunity to enroll in a 50-credit Foundation Year program which would be equivalent to the foundation year program for the 5-year degree in medicine offered at SGU Grenada Campus.

The four scholars are scheduled to begin their freshman year in January 2019.

RIDE to VICTORY

Champion equestrienne Ms. Pakjira Thongpakdi, a Tourism and Hospitality Management alumna from the Class of 2014, told *Kaleidoscope* how hard she works in order to win in regional and international competitions.

Her latest feat was winning the bronze medal with the Thai dressage team at the Asian Games 2018 held in Jakarta, Indonesia on August 20 this year.

Though it was her first time to compete in the Asian Games, she said it was her third time to be in the national team.



She started preparing for the Asian Games as early as the beginning of 2018, going back to Germany and buckling down to work. "Normally, I train six days a week and ride 2-3 horses a day. I have one day-off per week to give the horses and myself a break. I can be found in the stable from morning to evening, taking care of my horses," she said.

Asked what her advice is to MUIC students who are also into sports, she said, "Never give up; keep practicing and training. Success is within your reach."

3

Benefits of Learning a Foreign Language

Based on an interview with *Mrs. Agnieszka Atthasit*, Foreign Language Program Director, Humanities and Language Division, MUIC



66.75%
of respondents were hired due to their foreign language skills.

Source: MUIC Office of Student Affairs, “Employment Survey 2015-2016”



Chinese



French



German



Japanese



Spanish

Language courses offered at MUIC
(General Education and Minor)



Celebrity GRADUATES

The trio of graduates featured in this issue's cover successfully concluded their university studies at Mahidol University International College (MUIC), not a small feat considering that they got their hands full with their jobs. Actor, singer, model—the demand alone for them to balance both their studies and work is already quite a challenge. Kaleidoscope sat down with them to get their thoughts on their career and studies, their status as celebrities, and how MUIC has become such a part of their lives.



**Mr. Chanon “Non”
Santinatornkul
FILM PRODUCTION**

Chanon “Non” Santinatornkul's biggest box office hit so far is “Bad Genius,” a teen heist thriller film released last year in Thailand but has since performed successfully in Asia, particularly China. Non says he started his acting career during his senior year in high school and has been busy with both his career and studies at MUIC.

Choosing to enroll in MUIC primarily for its use of English as the main medium of learning, Chanon discovered that MUIC has a lot more to offer: “The community, facilities and the superior teaching.” He adds that “you can be assured of learning a great deal and at the same time make a lot of great friends.”



What's your most memorable experience in college?

I loved the time when my friends and I were doing our final senior project, from pre-production to the screening of our film. It was such a fun process that I won't forget about it.

Your advice to students who are also working?

If you choose to work while studying, always remember that it is your decision. There shouldn't be any excuses nor should you ask for special privileges (from your professors). If you can successfully balance both work and studies, then you will be a good role model for other students.



**Mr. Naphat "Nine"
Siangsomboon
COMMUNICATION DESIGN**

The multi-talented Naphat is not just a professional model but also a singer and actor. He got his first break as a model in a Nivea for Men TV ad and became a household figure while singing and strumming a guitar in a King Power Duty Free commercial while he was still a sophomore student in university.



Appearing in a movie, a TV drama, a music video, and a string of commercials can be hard on your studies. How do you manage your time?

At first it was really hard. I could not control anything at first. But my professors and parents helped in planning my work every time. I made it a point not to be late or absent from my classes. I also did not receive any special treatment. I made sure that I have a strong self-discipline, devoting an equal amount of time for my work and studies. Once it became a routine, it became more fun.

Your advice to working students?

There are so many work opportunities that come along your way (even while you're still a student). If you turn them down, you would always wonder what would have happened. You might have regrets. That's why I don't say no to opportunities. Instead, I accept them and do my best in doing my part.

Viphurit has become a household name ever since the release of his single "Lover Boy" from his second, yet-untitled album. Chalking up 20 million views on YouTube, the single's video has cemented his claim to fame. At the time of the interview, he had just come back from a string of concerts in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Indonesia. Gigs in Europe and the US will take place a month after his graduation.



**Mr. Viphurit "Phum"
Siritip
FILM PRODUCTION**

What's the best thing about MUIC?

The independence you get in your senior year. We have a campus that suits the lifestyle of someone who wants to be independent. Someone who chooses what he wants to do with his life.

Did he get inspiration for his songs from his student days in MUIC?

The songs from my first album were mostly inspired by things that happened to me (in MUIC) while I was transitioning from my life in New Zealand to coming back in Thailand. They're inspired by the relationships, the heartbreaks, just like those experienced by any young college kid.



COVER STORY
ESS

SUCCESS



HOW LONG BEFORE THEY GET HIRED?



26%

HIRED IMMEDIATELY
after graduating from MUIC

39%

**SECURED A JOB
WITHIN 2 MONTHS**
after graduation from MUIC

Source: MUIC Office of Student Affairs,
"Employment Survey 2016-2017"

CHART Your CAREER

Thailand's economy appears to be in an upswing as 2019 fast approaches. Forecasts from international institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government (National Economic and Social Development Board), the academe (UTCC's Centre for Business and Economic Forecasting), and banks (Kasikorn, SCB, and TMB) all agree that Thailand's economy will grow to 4.5% in the latter part of 2018 and is expected to spill over to 2019 due to several factors including strong remarkable growth in tourism, exports, manufacturing, along with the considerable spending expected in the upcoming national elections.

This development could only result in optimism especially in labor employment. Add to this the contribution by an expanding service sector and major infrastructure projects like the Eastern Economic Corridor.

As an upsurge in the number of Thai professionals is expected, the government and private sector's embrace of digitalization will open up more work opportunities at the same time increasing demand for IT skills requirements. Demand for soft skills among applicants and employees also remain high.

Mahidol University International College (MUIC) is seen responding to these industry demands, with its focus not only on academic excellence but also on its emphasis on skills like acquiring a foreign language, access to information technology, encouraging creativity, training on service-mindedness, exposure to real-world settings and others.

Surveys conducted by the Office of Student Affairs indicate that MUIC students enjoy a high chance of getting hired immediately after graduation whether in the private sector, government agencies or international organizations.



CUTTING EDGE

Kaleidoscope asked several faculty members on the edge MUIC graduates have over others in the labor market.



GETTING READY FO



Asst. Prof. Dale Konstanz
Assistant Dean for Research

Asst. Prof. Dale Konstanz said most Communication Design Program alumni are in high demand in the advertising and graphic design industry. "It is not uncommon for our students to get several job offers before they even complete their studies at MUIC and many do freelance design work as students."

Should a student with artistic skills pursue a career in the arts or should he / she settle for a more stable and financially rewarding career (and keep his / her affinity for the arts as just a hobby)?

First of all, I think we should let go of the old stereotype of "poor, starving artists." Instead, we need to replace it with the more up-to-date image of innovative and enterprising individuals thriving in fields within the global creative economy.

With that said, I think it is up to each person to decide whether they want to follow their passion in life or focus on the money only.

The ones who are passionate about their creative interests will likely make money at some point anyway. So, why not "have your cake and eat it, too"?



As a follow-up to that, is there a growing demand for graduates of communication design and other related degrees in Thailand's job market?

The design sector is one of the fastest growing industries in Thailand. According to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs who has compiled extensive research

on Thailand's design sector, the creative industries in Thailand account for 13% of the country's GDP. In 2014 alone, the Thai creative industries were worth a total value of 1.61 trillion Baht. According to Thai government figures, Thailand's creative industries are expected to flourish over the next five years with a strong growth of 20-25% annually.



Ms. Nate-tra Dhevabanchachai
General Manager, Salaya Pavilion Hotel

Under Ajarn Nate-tra's management, an estimated 2,500 Tourism and Hospitality Management students from MUIC have undergone internship at Salaya Pavilion Hotel since 2009.



In your opinion, what other soft skills should students develop while in college to make themselves more marketable after they graduate? Why?

They need to develop patience and tolerance, greater self-motivation, and skills in navigating office politics. Many times I have learned that students easily get discouraged even when they do the work they love. It is undeniable that in the workplace, we need to handle not only office tasks work but human beings as well. People management is a key area—it means being adept at handling differences among co-workers with diverse backgrounds in the midst of office politics, whether it is in a family business or a private company.

Having a customer service mindset ("service-mindedness") is indeed important in the THM industry. In what way would this virtue be important also in other industries?

As a service-minded person, one will think first about the welfare of others. This is because as a service provider, one must hold a customer-centric attitude. Every industry needs service-minded personnel to help achieve success. A service-minded person is a good person who will automatically think of others first and sincerely care for the society in everything he does.



R THE JOB MARKET



Asst. Prof. Douglas Rhein

Chair, Social Science Division

MUIC has launched a new degree program this school year, BA International Relations and Global Affairs. According to Asst. Prof. Rhein, “it offers a broad scope of social theory which has practical applications and allows graduates to apply this knowledge in various industries from foreign affairs to media and others.”



What are the common qualities of successful students who enroll in a Social Science degree program? Why are these qualities important? What skills do they need (both academic and otherwise)?

The most successful students in the social sciences are those with curiosity, a willingness to analyze their environment and a desire to communicate their ideas with others. One of the great compliments we get from employers of MUIC alumni is our graduates’ ability and willingness to communicate effectively in professional settings.



What makes a career in social science so rewarding?

Careers in the social sciences have an impact on people’s lives. Whether you work for the United Nations or a charity helping the underprivileged, the work improves people’s lives.

The diversity of jobs available to graduates means that everyone can find a job which they feel makes a difference.

Our alumni have the flexibility to follow their passion and this translates to long-term internal rewards.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veera Bhatiasevi

Faculty Member, Business Administration Division

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bhatiasevi notes that “in this modern era of digitization and digital transformation, having these skills is a must, especially for non-IT university students if they want to be competitive.”

With the industries’ current move towards digital transformation, it is expected that there will be a huge demand for applicants who have IT skills. What should be the universities’ response to this forecast?

“Universities, including MUIC, should offer more modern IT-related subjects for non-IT students.”

What kind (and level) of IT knowledge and skills should non-IT university students acquire to make them more competitive?

- Basic and advanced Excel
- Data analytics and visualization
- More IT-related knowledge across business functions
- Web/mobile application development
- User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX) design
- Digital marketing





MUIC “YOUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY”

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of **ARTS** (B.A.)

- International Relations and Global Affairs
- Intercultural Studies and Languages

Bachelor of **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION** (B.B.A.)

- Business Economics
- International Business
- Finance
- Marketing

Bachelor of **COMMUNICATION ARTS** (B.COM.ARTS)

- Media and Communication

Bachelor of **FINE ARTS** (B.F.A.)

- Communication Design

Bachelor of **MANAGEMENT** (B.M.)

- International Hospitality Management

Bachelor of **SCIENCE** (B.SC.)

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Food Science and Technology
- Physics
- Environmental Science
- Applied Mathematics

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Master of **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION** (M.B.A)

Master of **MANAGEMENT** (M.M.) IN INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT



muic official fanpage



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**MAJOR CHANGES IN
KaleidoScope
in 2019**