

Enrichment through Diversity

MUIC's designation as an international school requires not only an academic program and teaching culture that reflect acceptable international standards but also an outreach effort in order to establish partnerships with other universities throughout the world.

A familiar - and positive - pattern has emerged concerning the latter: an increasing number of foreign students are arriving at our college with each passing year.

This September, with the onset of the 2005 academic year, MUIC welcomed 60 inbound international students (29 exchange, 21 visiting and 10 full-time), the largest group to date. Although this increase may not be dramatic, it does suggest a consistent development in our Study Abroad Program.

A majority of these students are concentrating on disciplines in Business, Travel Industry Management and Social Science. However, almost half (45 percent) are science majors, indicating a noticeable shift from previous years. This group is also the most diverse, representing not only North America, Europe, Australia and Asia but also - and for the first time - the continent of Africa.

This diversity should, by all accounts, enrich the academic and social land-

scapes at MUIC. And yet, apart from the personal initiative of individuals, there has been little exchange between our international students and the regular student body.

Formal mechanisms (seminars, symposiums, special presentations) need to be established; structured



Representative international students (from left to right): Nina Fleischmann (Germany), Matan Levanon (Canada), Sayaka Fujimoto (Japan), Seedy S. Fofanah (Gambia), Bin Wieringa (Netherlands), Nadheen Abdul Razzaq (Maldives).

social events (food fairs, concerts, our own International Day) should be scheduled. We have the resources. Enrichment through diversity does not happen by chance. It can only be achieved if we create effective networks of cooperation so that we can celebrate and experience the differences in governance, economic and political systems, religious traditions, cultural imperatives and developing lifestyles.



AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

The tsunami of last December was a tragedy of global proportions, not only because of the staggering number of victims from around the world but also because of the unprecedented international response. More recently, the catastrophic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina along the U.S. Gulf Coast has elicited a similar response, one in which MUIC is able to participate.

Ms. Lindsay Renee Nash and Ms. Madeline Sheton were scheduled to begin their first year at Tulane University, New Orleans, and had already moved into their accommodations on campus. Regrettably, the wrath of Katrina, which destroyed much of the university, forced them to evacuate. Soon after, MUIC received a request that they be accepted into our exchange program.

While Mahidol University's Faculty of Public Health and Institute of Nutrition enjoy exchange agreements with Tulane, MUIC does not. Nevertheless, Dr. Charinya Brockelman, Interim Dean, graciously agreed to accept them as exchange students for one trimester - and quite conceivably even longer.

MUIC welcomes these two science majors. May their brief experience with us be a successful and meaningful one.

Faculty Appointments

DR. DALE ROREX, who has had considerable teaching experience in the United States, Saudi Arabia and Japan, has been a part-time instructor at MUIC for several years. He has been appointed full-time lecturer for the Social Science Division. Dr. Rorex was recently elected a fellow to La Asociacion de Hispanistas del Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg).



ROREX

DR. MICHAEL HURT joined MUIC last year as part-time instructor and consultant, responsible for the development of advanced courses in the Biological Sciences Program. He, too, has recently been appointed a full-time lecturer. Apart from the demands of teaching, Dr. Hurt is engaged in a number of research projects.



HURT

MR. ZHANG BO has been teaching Chinese at MUIC for the past year; he has been designated a full-time lecturer in the Foreign Languages Program.



ZHANG BO



KANOKVORN

The Business Administration Division has appointed three full-time lecturers and one teaching assistant for the coming academic year, three of whom are MUIC alumnae.



VARUMPA

MS. KANOKVORN OMODA and Ms. Worakamol Sarayangkul will teach in the areas of Human Resource and Total Quality Management, respectively.

MS. VARUMPA TEMAISMITHI has been assigned to the Finance major courses.



SIRITHIDA

MS. SIRITHIDA CHAVISUT-TANGKUN, who graduated from MUIC in 2004, will serve as a faculty assistant.



Staff Appointments



UDOMRAT

MS. UDOMRAT TIVASUB, Chief Coordinator for Academic Affairs, has been appointed MUIC Registrar. She will, however, continue to serve as Academic Counselor.

Over the past several months, MUIC has enlisted the services of the following support staff members (pictured from left to right): **MS. SUNTAREE THAMMAVIPHAT**, International Relations; **MR. SUPPALUCK TAPESARN**, Academic Services; **MS. WARAPORN YAIBUA**, Academic Services;

MR. CHAINARONG RODKRATHUEK, Premises and Vehicles; **MS. SIWIKA SRI-NGAM**, Front Office Manager, Salaya Pavilion Hotel; **MR. ACKRAVAT SRISURIN**, International Relations; **MS. KAMONWISA MOOK-SOMBAT**, International Relations; and **MS. PITCHAYA KAEWLUMHUD**, Secretary, Salaya Pavilion Hotel.

An Academic Perspective

Professor Maleeya Kruatachue, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, came in 2003, when MUIC was consolidating a number of organizational and curricular changes, all of which demanded her full attention. Two years later Dr. Maleeya offers an assessment of our academic landscape, including developments in the minor program.

WHEN YOU FIRST ASSUMED THIS POSITION, ONE OF YOUR STATED PRIORITIES WAS A REVIEW OF MUIC'S ACADEMIC PROGRAM. WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL ASSESSMENT?

The overall assessment is generally positive. We've made some revisions, particularly in the Science Division, for example, with the Food Science and Environment Programs. We've also restructured and added courses in the Biological Sciences Program.

Moreover, we've introduced minors in science. We already have minors in Business, Travel Industry Management, Social Science, Modern Languages and English. Now we've added minors in science for both science and non-science students. This is in line with Mahidol University's policy which encourages all faculties to offer minors so that students will have more academic choices and broaden their horizons.



HOW MANY SCIENCE MINORS ARE THERE?

Your newsletter *kaleidoscope* already announced the minor in Computer Science. In addition to that, minors will be offered in Applied Mathematics, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Environment and Food Science and Technology, in all the majors except for Nursing Science which is a professional degree. We're targeting first and second year students so they can adequately prepare themselves. We've found that a number of our students are concerned that the additional 32-credit workload may be too much and may even affect their GPAs, but if they plan ahead and take, for instance, one course each trimester, they shouldn't have any problems.

THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA PROGRAM IS OFFERING THREE MAJORS IN FILM, TELEVISION AND ANIMATION. ARE MINORS BEING OFFERED AS WELL?

Yes. The process of submitting minor proposals and having them approved and implemented is a long one so we recommended that both majors and minors be introduced simultaneously.

IS THERE A CONCERN THAT THESE MAJORS IN FILM, TELEVISION AND ANIMATION ARE TOO HANDS-ON AND MAY LACK AN ADEQUATE ACADEMIC COMPONENT?

I don't think so. The dean has assigned Dr. Gerard Fouquet, Chairman of the Humanities and Foreign Languages Division, to oversee the Entertainment Media Program. He's very demanding about academic requirements and is on the committee with people from Kantana who are responsible for drafting the curriculum.

We have a reputation as a liberal arts college with a strong general education program so the Entertainment Media students will have to comply with all of our academic requirements even though they will be taking more practical courses at the Kantana studios.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER MAJORS ON THE IMMEDIATE HORIZON?

We have more than enough to deal with right now. We offer over 300 courses each trimester. Fortunately, the Office of Academic Services has a very strong support staff who work in a very systematic way. They are both efficient and effective, and I value their efforts.

WHICH MUIC PROGRAMS DO YOU CONSIDER THE STRONGEST?

Every program has its own strengths. For example the BBA Program is by far the most popular, with over half of our students majoring in business. The TIM Program is unique, given the resources made available to students. And it has good connections with the travel industry, especially hotels and travel agencies. Social Science is attracting an increasing number of students and has the advantage of a strong faculty, most of whom are PhDs. As for the science programs, there is more student interest. Computer Science is presently revising its curriculum to be more technology-oriented while at the same time maintaining a classical approach. Biological Sciences is another strong program, especially in terms of some very accomplished students who go on to study at medical schools in Thailand or abroad or else go on to pursue doctoral studies.

> humanities & foreign languages

Entertainment Media Major

MUIC accepted its first majors in Entertainment Media this September. Twenty-eight students have enrolled in the program: 11 in Film Production, 11 in Television Production and 6 in Animation Production. In addition, one student has declared a minor in this area of study.

These students will begin with a focus on general studies and move on to the aesthetics, ethics and production techniques in the en-

tertainment media, utilizing the resources of Kantana studios, one of the most professional film, television and animation facilities in Asia. Extensive planning sessions were conducted by Dr. Gerard Fouquet, Chairman of the Humanities and Foreign Languages Division, Cristina Schoonmaker, Administrative Coordinator of the English Studies Program, and members of the Kantana staff to ensure that the cutting-edge curriculum for this major consists of strong academic and technical components.

DR. CHARLES H. HARPOLE, who founded a similar media pro-

gram at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, has been appointed the new Program Director. "I am especially impressed by the quality and thoroughness of the curriculum," commented Dr. Harpole. "I consider it an honor to be the director of this new program in Thailand."

Dr. Harpole comes to Thailand with considerable experience. His former students include the creative team of the feature film, *The Blair Witch Project*, along with others who have succeeded in their film careers as Oscar nominees and winners at the Cannes Film Festival.

Dr. Harpole is an acclaimed documentary filmmaker, having worked with CNN and BCC; he also produced animated television for the Public Broadcasting System's "Sesame Street". In addition, he is the founding editor and research director of the Cinema History Project which has created the ten-volume "History of American Cinema."



HARPOLE



ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA STUDENTS AT REGISTRATION



Farewell to Long-Serving Ajarns

Two of MUIC's longer-serving faculty members have recently resigned their positions.

DR. THONGCHAI SAVASDISARA was involved with MUIC at its very inception. In 1986, when our college was the International Student Degree Program, Dr. Thongchai was a part-time lecturer. He returned to MUIC in 1998 and served as a consultant in hotel training. One year later he was appointed Director of the Travel Industry Management Program and General Manager of the



THONGCHAI

Salaya Pavilion Hotel. When MUIC underwent a change in its organizational structure in 2000, Dr. Thongchai was appointed Chairman of the Travel Industry Management Division, a position he held until this year. Dr. Thongchai is now the Executive Director of the International Hotel and Tourism Management School,

> humanities & foreign languages

A Summer Agenda

Given the constraints of time, MUIC offers a limited number of courses during the summer session. On the other hand, it offers an opportunity for experimental and practical approaches to certain academic disciplines. This past summer students participated in two such endeavors, one in Chinese and the other in Ecology.

From July 30 to August 31, 57 MUIC students, accompanied by Ajarns Prateep Wongverayut, Zhang Qiujuan and Zhang Bo, studied at the Faculty of Chinese Language and Literature, Ocean University of China in Qingdao City, Shandong, China.

The students were divided into two specific groups. Five, with a declared minor in Chinese, enrolled in special oral and written skills courses as part of their minor requirements. The others, who may have taken one or more of the Chinese classes at MUIC, were required

to take a placement exam and were subsequently assigned to their appropriate levels.

All of the participants studied each weekday morning for four hours (a total of 80 hours), focusing on the skills of reading, grammar, listening and speaking. While afternoons were primarily devoted to reviewing the morning lessons, additional activities were introduced, including Chinese drawing and Tai-Qi (martial arts) classes. There was also an opportunity to attend special tutorial sessions in Chinese with students from Ocean University, which soon became a popular feature of the program since MUIC students could improve their Chinese skills and interact socially with the student instructors.



The students spent each weekend sightseeing around the Qingdao area; on the last weekend they traveled to Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai. This summer session was an unqualified success. All of the students passed their courses and received a certificate from

Ocean University. The opportunities in cultural exchange made a lasting impression on the participants. Finally, and perhaps more significantly, a number

of students who attended this summer session have decided to minor in Chinese.



whose program is based on the Swiss hotel model and offers a one-year certificate and two-year diploma sequence, leading to a Bachelor of Arts.

MR. GREGORY

VRHOVNIK arrived in Thailand in 1996, after having taught at a college in Japan for five years. He became a full-time faculty member at MUIC in 1997, responsible for teaching both English and Business English, which he later developed into the present Business Communi-



VRHOVNIK

cation curriculum. He also served on the team which reorganized the BBA program in 2000-2001. He was appointed Head of the Management Major in 2002 and continued to teach Business Communication along with management courses, particularly Cross-cultural Management.

Mr. Greg resigned this September. He will return to the United States, a decision that was prompted by family matters. "Over the years I have seen MUIC develop into a full-fledged and respected international program," explained Mr. Greg. "I am proud to have been part of that growth and development and will especially remember the students I've taught. I have done my best. Now it's your turn."

> science

ICNS 151 Basic Ecology

Another off-campus offering this past summer was Basic Ecology, an intensive three-week course taught and supervised by Dr. Wayne Phillips, with an enrollment of 20 students who were either interested in biology and environmental studies or needed to fulfill their general education requirements in Natural Science.

The class traveled to Chumphorn in order to study forest and coastal ecology. Students attended formal lectures and participated in discussions prior to their field work in the mangrove forests, counting trees and seedling, measuring light and plant pigments, and collecting samples which were later analyzed in evening laboratory sessions. The group also explored the coastal area, studying the elevation of the beach, observing coastal changes and determining the crab



This picturesque island group lies about 5 kilometers off Pattaya. Cholburi harbors many scenic underwater sites but overuse and pollution are damaging the ancient reefs here.



Piyaraj Thiranansakul (Biology) and Anurak Jittanonta (Biomedical Science) after a successful coral survey.

and snail population. After four days the class went on to Koh Tao where they were introduced to the region by members of the Coastal Preservation and Development Foundation (CPAD), a non-governmental organization that addresses environmental issues. While the students examined landfill areas, they focused primarily on coral reefs, studying their structure, behavior and function; data were collected and subsequently analyzed.

During the last four days members of the class engaged in a number of mini-projects, conducting research on coral reef sites, beach clean up and types of litter, the impact of boating on coral reefs and tourist satisfaction with the beach environment.

This highly intensive experience, involving long hours each day, was both exhausting and exhilarating. In order to share their experience, research, conclusions and enthusiasm, the Basic Ecology class gave a presentation at MUIC on September 30 for interested members of the student body.

MUIC Cares About Coral Reefs

Although Ajarn Laird Allan did not participate in the Basic Ecology expedition, he has been actively involved in the research of coral reefs during this past year. The following report is his assessment of Thailand's endangered coral reefs.

A student's excited shout, "Did you see the turtle?" came faintly over the waves as our boat maneuvered to pick me out of choppy waves south of Koh Sak (Mortar Island) in Cholburi. After 30 tiring minutes swimming up a strong underwater current groping for corals in the murky green water, that

was the last question I wanted to hear. Concentrating on the bottom of the cove and the food chain, I'd missed the dive's main event: a wild specimen of a supremely well-adapted species that existed before the dinosaurs more than 180 million years ago. A bit like doing Nepal yet missing out on the Himalayas.

Twenty-five years ago, when Bob Marley was still in the Top 40 and the Internet was being born, sea turtles around Thai coral reefs were about as common as monitor lizards around Buddhamonthon Park today. Now scientists estimate that sea turtle populations have fallen 50 to 95 percent from the past. Yet even if one disre-

gards this crash, the poor underwater visibility that prevails in the upper Gulf of Thailand has made the chances of sighting such magnificent creatures during a typical dive worse than staying dry during Songkran.

Both the murky water and the near extinction of marine species result from the overexploitation of resources. The fundamental marine resource in Thailand – the home of turtles, the nursery for our seafood and the destination for thousands of tourists – is this nation's 153 square kilometers of coral reefs.

Reefs are incomparable to behold: aquamarine, verdant, iridescent and spectral. Any eyewitness

MUIC Cares About Coral Reefs (continued)

would attest to this. Even if you've seen the movies Finding Nemo and Shark Tale half-a-dozen times, as bright and lyrical as they are, you'll have just the slightest appreciation of the experience that a healthy coral reef provides.

People pay hundreds of US dollars daily for this sensory blitz, but they won't if the reef is in poor shape. Yet it is herein that the irony lies; our very fascination with coral has led to its unremitting ruin during our lifetime. Since starting work at Koh Sak in mid-2004, Mahidol University International College researchers have witnessed irreparable damage by well-meaning visitors. Typically ten to twenty boatfuls of people are disgorged into the little cove every day. Sheltered from waves and strong currents, it is ideal for day-trippers from Pattaya. They snorkel, walk on the sea floor (using a pumped down air supply) or cruise in a submarine. All to see sadly diminished schools of fish, lots of hardy black spiny sea urchins, and piles of dead coral rubble.

with the tour operators and people who run the on-site attractions. They do not enforce simple rules. Swim above the coral, rather than



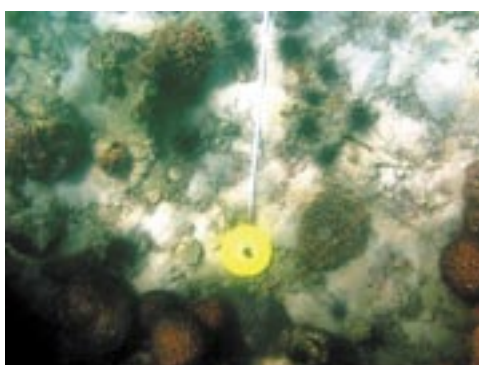
Sea urchins survive by virtue of their nearly impregnable set of toxic, ten centimeter spines, waved threateningly at any intruding shadow.

stepping on it. Carry garbage back to the mainland. Don't take souvenirs of living coral or fish. Use mooring buoys rather than dropping anchors on top of 500 year old coral heads.

The delicacy of coral stems from its unique anatomy. The living part of coral is only a soft, paper-thin layer (just a few cells and a layer of gel) that covers the heavy calcium carbonate skeleton. Even light pres-

through package reuse and recycling, keep canals and rivers pollution-free, preserve forest cover and use less fossil fuels (to ameliorate climate change, which causes the bleaching and eventual death of coral). Direct interventions include eating less seafood, refusing to purchase reef-derived knickknacks like shells and stuffed fish, populating your aquarium with fish and coral from breeders (not specimens stunned and captured in the wild) and donating time, money or equipment to conservation organizations (three possibilities are www.cpadfoundation.org, www.wwfthai.org, and www.greenpeace.org/seaasia/en).

Most importantly, each of us must come to realize our own dependency on the sea. Without the reefs that enrich Thailand's 2,624 kilometers of coastline, we would be much more impoverished as a nation. The sea permeates our daily lives, in the tidal flow of the rivers, the presence of mussels and mackerel in the markets, and in our choice of holidays. Much economic activ-



Estimating coral cover (left):

Most of the Koh Sak reef is sandy bottom littered with broken coral. Small, young coral colonies are scattered throughout the area. The yellow case is 20 centimeters in diameter.

Broken colony (right):

A healthy area at Koh Sak marred by a broken brain coral in the center (white area, about 50 centimeters across). Someone probably dropped a heavy object like an anchor on this colony.



With each visit, the reef sustains damage. It is not simply the fault of the visitors; coming from temperate countries, they probably have no idea of the delicacy of a coral reef. It seems so robust: How can spending a couple of hours looking at it hurt at all, they would wonder if they read this. The fault must lie

sure or stress on the living skin can damage it. Coral grows only slowly because it takes a lot of energy to build the heavy skeleton. Therefore, any damage it endures takes very long to heal.

Basic environmental mindfulness on land can help to heal and preserve the reefs. Reduce solid wastes

ity is dependent on healthy reefs as well—brood-stock for shrimp farms, seaside resorts and hotels, and diving schools. Our livelihood, economy and way of life in Thailand are heavily reliant on the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, and the most vital part of our seas are their inimitable coral reefs.

Visitors from Abroad

The Office of International Relations, under the leadership of Ms. Wanpimon Senapadpakorn, is primarily engaged in the supervision of MUIC's Study Abroad Program, an enterprise that has been flourishing over the past several years.

The Study Abroad Program, however, entails more than just the recruitment and placement of inbound international and outbound MUIC students. During the last few months there has been a steady stream of visiting groups descending on our campus, each with its own agenda but all determined to enjoy a meaningful cross-cultural experience.

Visitors from Mexico

Last year MUIC hosted a group of Mexican students from the Tech-



nological Institute of Superior Studies of Monterrey for a three-week study program in computer science, under the tutelage of Dr. Udom Silparcha, Director of the Computer Science Program. This past summer the college welcomed six students, along with their instructor, from Tee de Monterrey High School, for two weeks. Their visit, too, had a decidedly academic flavor; the group attended classes (16 hours each) in the Philosophy of Religions in Southeast Asia and International Relations,

taught by Social Science lecturers John Glatzmeyer and Dr. Dale Rorex, respectively. These studies were complemented by a visit to Maha Chulalongkorn University at Wat Mahatat and a session with Bhikkuni Ahammamanda, the celebrated female Buddhist monk, at Songthumkalayanee.

In spite of a heavy schedule, Mr. Ackravat Srisurin, a recently-appointed staff member of the Internal Relations Office, led the students on tours of prominent sites in the Bangkok metropolitan area, visiting the Grand Palace, Vimanmek Mansion, the floating market, Siam Square, a river tour and the cultural show at the Rose Garden. The group also traveled to Nakhon Pathom, one of Thailand's oldest communities, where they visited the Phra Phathom Chedi, the tallest Buddhist monument in the world.

Before they departed for Mexico, our visitors were asked to evaluate their experiences. The question "What can MUIC do to improve this educational tour next year?" elicited the following response from one of the participants: "Invite me back!" That seemed to be a sentiment that was shared by everyone.

Establishing a Tradition

In 2003 a group of students from Shorter College, Georgia, arrived at MUIC for their first Southeast Asian educational tour in order to explore the issue of ecotourism. The following year another contingent of art and music majors visited MUIC and collaborated with members of the Drama Club in mounting a theatrical production.

More recently, 16 Shorter College students, accompanied by two of their professors, embarked on another educational tour, this time

"You did an awesome job of scheduling and arranging everything. MUIC rocks!"

There wasn't enough time!

I enjoyed the combination of education and adventure.

Extremely impressed by our conversation with Ven. Dhammananda. A remarkable woman!

with a focus on Southeast Asian literature and religions.

Apart from formal and informal sessions on literature and Buddhism, the group set out to experience the culture of Thailand during the two-week visit. Accompanied by MUIC staff members from International Relations and Student Af-



fairs, they toured the Bangkok area, particularly the wats and temples, and proceeded to Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, visiting cultural centers, the hill tribes and elephant camps, and journeyed along the Mekong River. During the last few days the group went on to Cambodia, which

I'm exhausted! But it was worth the effort. Thanks for a wonderful time.

Thanx for your hospitality and for treating us Texans so well.

I've actually grown to love elephants after of visit to the elephant camp.

It was amazing to see how people live on the opposite side of the world."

has become a regular feature of their annual stay.

According to one participant, "This has been quite an experience. As an American it has put a whole lot in perspective as far as our way of life is concerned."

These annual visitations have created much stronger ties between MUIC and Shorter College; in fact, some of these participants will return as visiting, exchange or full-time students.

KIAsia

Under the initiative and supervision of Ajarn Brian Phillips, Chief



of International Network Development, MUIC has forged a partnership with the Kenan Institute of Asia (KIAsia), a Thai-based foundation that offers study abroad and internship placement for foreign students.

Students from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) annually participate in the Singapore Summer Immersion Program, a five-week study period in the city-state. Last year, through the collaborative efforts of MUIC and KIAsia, a visit to our college was added to the agenda so that UNC-CH and MUIC students could engage in direct dialogue about cultural differences, political and social issues and personal lifestyles.

This past summer 25 freshmen from UNC-CH arrived once again. Highlights of their visit included a lecture on "Buddhism and Politics in Thailand" by Dr. Marja-Leena Heikkila-Horn of the Social Science Division and an overnight stay at MUIC which was hosted by members of the freshmen class. The shared experience of the two groups culminated in a formal dinner at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel and the traditional Bai-Sri Soo-Kwan ceremony. In addition, members of the MUIC Student Association escorted the visitors on a tour of Bangkok which included a dinner at the Cabbages and Condom Restaurant at which Khun Meechai Veerawaithaya delivered a speech.

A New Partnership

Ajarn Brian Phillips has also established ties with the Knowledge Exchange Institute (KEI), a New York City-based organization that offers study abroad placements. As a result of this new partnership, MUIC welcomed 24 students and two instructors from Stephen Austin State University, Texas, this past summer. These travel, nutrition, design and architecture majors were introduced to the Ma-

hidol University facilities by Ms. Wanpimon and members of the International Relations staff. The group also attended a lecture on "Traditional Thai Temple Architecture," delivered by Dr. Thongchai Savasdisara.



While their two-week excursion included familiar tourist attractions in Bangkok, Ayudhaya, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, the highlight of their experience was a visit to the tsunami-affected region of Thailand, including Phuket, Khao Lak, Pha Nga and Phi Phi Islands. In Khao Lak they received a briefing on the tsunami disaster and rebuilding efforts by Mr. Mark Heather, General Manager of La



Flora Hotel and former Director of MUIC's Travel Industry Management Program.

"I hated seeing all that destruction," commented one of the visitors, "but I was very impressed to see the Thai people rebuilding their homes and communities."

inbound

Cross-Cultural Internships

While groups of students continue to arrive at MUIC on their respective educational tours (featured in the previous article), MUIC has introduced a new component to its Study Abroad Program, namely, internships whereby international students can gain practical experience in their discipline by working with professional in different cultural settings.

In collaboration with the Knowledge Exchange Institute (KEI), MUIC hosted five such interns over the summer. These students lived at Chaiyapruk International House and used the college as their base of operation.

Two medical science students underwent an intensive one-month internship. Ms. Emily Lowry from Barnard College, Columbia University, fulfilled her requirements at Siriraj Hospital where she pursued her interest in neuroscience and behavior with instructors from the Faculty of Medicine and doctors from the Department of Neurology. Mr. Michael McIntosh, a student at Butler University, Indiana, interned at Sanoh-Synthelabo in Bangkok in order to explore the economic and ethical implications of pharmaceuticals and business.

Mr. Daniel Bruin and Ms. Rachel

Dillon, Social Science majors from California Polytech State University, arrived at MUIC to participate in a three-month internship in criminal justice since both have a declared major in this field. They attended classes at MUIC in International Law and the History of Southeast Asia and took the opportunity to tour Thailand. Their focus, however, was working at Thailand's Central Institute of Forensic Science, getting first-hand experience in crime scene investigations, the missing persons bureau, DNA analysis, documentation and toxicology.

The two expressed their gratitude not only for the unique experience but also for the Institute's accommodating staff. "Their cooperation and concern were amazing," explained Daniel. "This hands-on experience could not have been better."

The last of these five interns, Ms. Kenia Gomez, a Mental Health Counseling major from Boston College, came on an altogether different mission. Her seven-week internship was centered both at and on MUIC as she set about identifying how cultural differences may determine the personal problems of college students



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and how solutions to those problems may vary.

Ms. Gomez devoted much of her time and effort interviewing faculty, staff members of Student Affairs and, most especially, MUIC students. She also participated in the Student Association training session in Cha-Am. Her research was compiled in an extensive report, which has been submitted to the Office of Student Affairs, with recommendations on how to improve MUIC's counseling services.

New Arrivals

KEI is sponsoring 10 of our current visiting students from the United States, six of whom are also interns. These students are taking a limited number of courses in order to fulfill the requirements of their respective internships.

Three students are from Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, all Biology majors and all with an expressed interest in biomedical science. Mr. Oluwaseun Adekanya and Mr. Javon Edgecombe are engaged in on-campus internships, the former with Dr. Pakorn Bovonsombat, Head of MUIC's Physical Sciences Program, and the latter with Dr. Naiphinich Kotchabhakdi of Mahidol Universi-



outbound

Overseas Internships

The arrival of inbound international students who are engaged in internships is being complemented by MUIC's efforts in initiating similar opportunities for its outbound students.

This past summer two MUIC students have served as trailblazers in this new venture, one in Australia and the other in the United States.

Ms. Kitaya Suengchitmet, a fourth-year student majoring in Travel Industry Management, received the Chueng Kong Scholarship from La Trobe University, Australia. She braved the winter elements during her ten-week internship at the Mount Buffalo Ski Resort in Victoria, working in the resort's hospitality sector, and is currently taking courses in hospitality management at La Trobe University, Victoria. She expects to return to MUIC at the end of this trimester.



KITAYA

Ms. Pattaka Sa-ngimet is a fourth-year Social Science major with a concentration in International Relations; she has also been working as part-time secretary for the Social Science Division. She recently

returned from the United States where she interned at the International Program of the University of Central Arkansas (UCA),

One of Ms. Pattaka's major responsibilities was familiarizing herself with UCA's academic and social programs, after which she acquainted students from Africa, Asia, South America, Central America and Europe to their new surroundings. In addition, she participated in the university's re-



PATTAKA

cruitment program, focusing on community college students in the States as potential candidates for UCA. According to Mr. Jim Brosam II, Director of the International Program, the response to Ms. Pattaka's efforts was "nothing short of outstanding."

UCA's own response to her contributions is clearly positive; the university has offered Ms. Pattaka a scholarship when she begins her post-graduate studies next year.

Mr. Brosam has also expressed an interest in expanding UCA's relationship with our college. He intends to include MUIC on his agenda when he visits Asia next spring and has extended an open invitation to Dr. Chariya and members of the administration to visit Arkansas.



ty's Neuro-Behavioral Biology Center, Institute of Science and Technology for Research and Development. Ms. Nikesha Haynes is interning at the National Cancer Institute of Thailand.

These three exchange students/interns are completing their studies in the United States. However, Mr. Oluwaseun, Mr. Javon and Ms. Nikesha actually hail from Nigeria, the Bahamas and Trinidad, respectively, bringing that much more diversity to MUIC.

Mr. Cameron Day and Ms. Alana Albernathy represent Rice University, Texas, and are majoring in Mathematical Economic Analysis and Cognitive Science, respectively. Mr. Cameron is working with ASCENT, an executive training company while Ms. Alana, whose interest is in physical and occupational therapy, has been assigned to Mahidol University's Faculty of Physical Therapy and Applied Movement Science.

Finally, Ms. Laura Stupin, an Engineering and Innovation Environment major from Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, Massachusetts, is presently interning at CPAD, a non-government organization that deals with environmental issues, with Mr. Virit Vichitvadakan, an alumnus of MUIC.

An Exercise in Leadership

Last year the outgoing Student Association leadership team and representatives, along with club presidents, initiated a first-time-ever training session for new members of the association.



At the time, participants expressed the hope that this innovative exercise would become an annual event.

That hope has been realized. This past July, under the sponsorship of the Office of Student Affairs, both old and new members of the MUIC Student Association participated once again in a similar training exercise in Cha-Am, Petchaburi Province, during which they shared their insights, experiences and expectations.

There were presentations on leadership and administrative matters by Dr. Thongchai Savasdisara and

Ajarn Anchalee Pongpun, respectively, as well as an analysis of the Student Association structure and mission. However, much of the time and energy during the two-day session focused on a more pressing issue: how to engage more students in MUIC activities.

As a follow up, the Student Association had a meeting on September 19 during which members formulated a strategy to coordinate special events and activities for the 2005 academic year.



The traditional Club Rush, which introduces new students to MUIC clubs and activities was held September 28. The following day the Student Association sponsored the annual Blood Drive. Other activities for the first trimester include:

October 8-9:
WELCOMING CAMP FOR NEW STUDENTS

October 20:
THE WAI KRU CEREMONY, HONORING TEACHERS

November 7:
A ONE-DAY EXCURSION TO ONE OF THE CULTURAL CENTERS IN THAILAND

November 16:
THE LOY KRATONG FESTIVAL

December 16-23:
THE VOLUNTEER CLUB'S ANNUAL PROJECT

December 23-30:
THE 33RD UNIVERSITY GAMES (MU SALAYA CAMPUS)

The success of the Cha-Am training session will be determined in large measure by the performance of this year's leadership team: Mr. Phuvidol Thanakiatkrai, President; Mr. Kongwit Lertwisetheerakun, Vice President; Ms. Ditghaya Punyaratabandhu, Secretary; and Ms. Karnthip Kullark, Treasurer.

Siemens-Scholarships for MUIC Students



KATA

Siemens Limited recently offered the Innovative Spirit of Youth Scholarship 2005 for students who submitted an essay on "Innovation in Our Life." Two MUIC students, Mr. Phuvidol Thanakiatkrai, President of the Student Association, and Mr. Kata Sanguangsat were among those who received scholarships to support their present studies.



PHUVADOL

Microsoft Competition

The Institute of Information Technology Development (ITIT) and the Microsoft Corporation sponsored a competition, "Microsoft Office Specialist Olympics 2005," this past May at the Queen Sirikit Convention Center.

Ms. Wichanart, a Computer Science major, represented MUIC in the Microsoft Word competition. She won first place and was selected to represent Thailand in the world competition. In preparation for her participation, ITIT provided Ms. Wichanart with a series



of learning sessions under the direction of their best instructor. "It was an eye-opening experience," commented Ms. Wichanart. "I never realized there were so many useful functions to Microsoft Word."

The world competition was held at Disney World, Florida, USA, on August 12-16. This event not only served as the world finals for the Microsoft Specialist competition but also as a solution providers conference which took place at the Disney Contemporary Resort with student representative from 40 countries around the world.

The Microsoft Word champion was a student from the United Kingdom; however, Ms. Wichanart managed to secure a respectable third place.

Student Conference

Mr. Pathara Thampatong and Mr. Pachara Rojanapitayakorn were selected to represent MUIC at the 51st Japan International Student Conference this past August in Osaka.

The first week was devoted to a study tour. Participants lived with host families and experienced aspects of the culture including wearing traditional clothing, learning to cook special dishes, participating in Japanese games and visiting castles and temples around the Osaka region. The highlight of the week was "Hanami" (fireworks), an annual Osaka festival that is celebrated with spectacular pyrotechnics.

The second week was all business. The conference was held in Chika, a four-hour drive from Osaka. Ninety student participants from 20 developing and developed countries attended lectures and seminars and shared with one another their cultural experiences. They



PACHARA

were also required to deliver individual presentations on important contemporary issues. Mr. Pathara spoke about the environment and sustainable development in Thailand while Mr. Pachara addressed the issue of AIDS in Thailand.



PATHARA



Students in Full Control: MUIC to Introd

MUIC student frustration with our present registration system is no secret, long queues, unexpectedly full classes, selecting the right section or reconciling time conflicts are just some of the problems. In addition, there is the perennial problem of late registration for those who may be abroad at registration time.



Two screenshots of the former Intranet E-Payment Program.



Although MUIC implemented an e-payment program last year for students, many of these problems remain. In response, a program development team was established, with Ms. Udomrat Tivasub as project manager and Mr. Chaiwat Sumetphong as advisor. This team, in collaboration with a professional company, Biz Potential, has developed a new system that will be implemented next trimester, effective January, 2006.



uce Online Registration System 2006



Personalized access: The new system's welcoming screen will provide all available services at a glance.

All MUIC students will have access to this new system. Their personal username (first name) and password (ID number) will enable them to register online. In addition, applications to MUIC can be submitted via this system. Once a candidate has been accepted, he or she will be issued a username and password.

Course Number	Title	Credit	Dist
ICM 250	Introduction to the Tourism Industry	4 (4-0)	
ICM 251	The Tourism Development	4 (4-0)	
ICM 252	Sales and Marketing in the Tourism Industry	4 (4-0)	
ICM 401	Human Resource Management	4 (4-0)	

Course Number	Title	Credit	Dist
ICM 254	Working in the Tourism Industry	4 (4-0)	
ICM 255	Process in the Tourism Industry	4 (4-0)	
ICM 259	Marketing, Product Management	4 (4-0)	
ICM 224	Food and Beverage Management	4 (4-0)	
ICM 226	Hotel, Restaurant, Convention and Exhibition Mgt	4 (4-0)	
ICM 227	Human Resource Management for the Tourism Industry	4 (4-0)	
ICM 262	Tourism and Hospitality Law	4 (4-0)	
ICM 402	Planning and Operations of Food and Beverage Service	4 (4-0)	
ICM 424	Quality Management for the Tourism Industry	4 (4-0)	

Subject Class	Subject Title	Credits	Grade
ICM 250	English Language Skills	0	S
ICM 251	Elementary Chinese II	0	C
ICM 252	Introduction to Tourism	4	B
ICM 254	Introduction to Tourism	4	C

This new system will enable students to review their course record during registration.

Apart from registration, students will be able to use this system to declare their majors, change their majors, check time schedules and review their course records. Moreover, they will be able to check on up-to-date news and events at MUIC.

Besides registration, students will have easy access to many other features via the Internet.

This system will be available 24 hours a day, provided that users have access to the Internet.



SCHEDULE

Final Withdrawals | November 14-18

Last Day of Class | December 3

Final Examinations | December 6-13

Recess | December 14, 2005 - January 3, 2006

**New Student Orientation and Registration
December 15-16, 2005**

Advising Day | January 4, 2006

Current Student Registration | January 5-6, 2006

New Lunch Prices

In order to cover increasing food costs while maintaining its high standards, the *Herb Garden Restaurant* has raised the price for its lunches as follows:

Lunch Buffet

(Monday-Thursday) 160 Baht

Set Lunch (Friday) 195 Baht

Open House

MUIC hosted its third annual Open House on August 10, 2005. Over 1,800 high school and university students, parents, teachers and invited guests participated, making this the most successful Open House to date.

Dr. Chariya Brockelman, Interim Dean, welcomed the guests and participated in a panel that highlighted the advantages of attending MUIC. The third floor classrooms were reserved for exhibits from each of the five divisions while stu-

dent activity displays and presentations were featured on the ground floor. Scheduled quizzes and games also kept the student participants fully engaged. Overall, this year's event was much more proactive.

Mr. Nutthaboon Pornratanacharoen, Head of Public Relations, organized the event. He expressed satisfaction with the turnout and promised an even more successful Open House next year.



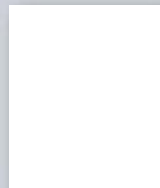
Studying Abroad

Ms. Gingpayom Rodklongtan, Senior Chief of Academic Services who supervises admissions and prepares documents for the Office of the Registrar, has taken a leave of absence for one year. She departed last July for Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia, where she is working towards a graduate diploma in tourism.

MUIC NEWSLETTER

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