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October 2010

# KaleidoScope

Mahidol University International College Newsletter

## Exchange Student



LOTUS FARM, MAHASAWAT CANAL

HALF DAY BOAT TRIP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TAKING THAI AT MUIC

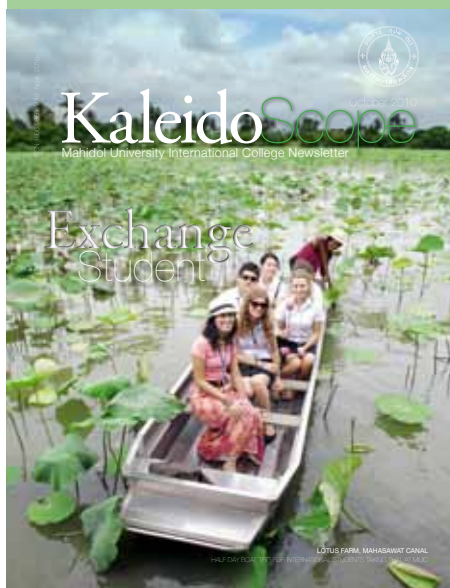
# Editor's Note

Being a part of the MUIC community means taking the opportunity to get international. In this issue of Kaleidoscope we've highlighted just a few of the myriad international trips, exchanges, conferences and seminars that MUIC staff and students have embarked on, and what better time to do that than right after summer break?

## CONTENTS

- 03 AcademicNews
- 06 Poetry
- 07 MonitorLizards
- 08 GraduateCenter
- 010 Feature
- 016 StudentActivities

### Cover Photo



Our cover photo was taken by Pratchaya Leelaprachayanont on a half-day boat trip on the Mahasawat Canal for international students.

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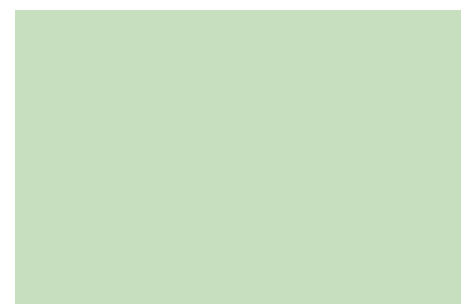
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## MUIC Honors Dr. Serene



**M**UIC hosted a special luncheon on September 10th at the Salaya Pavilion Hotel for Professor Serene Piboonniyom, who received an Honorary Ph.D. in Nutritional Biochemistry from Mahidol University.

Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat, Dean of MUIC, began the proceedings by welcoming the invited guests, congratulating Dr. Serene on her honorary doctorate and acknowledging her many contributions as the first director of the college, which at that time was designated the International Student Degree Program (ISDP).

The guests enjoyed a video presentation that featured long-standing MUIC staff members who shared their experiences of working with Dr. Serene. A number of personal testimonials followed.

Dr. Chalong Boonyananta and Dr. Thawatchai Chaijirachayakul, then Deputy Directors for Administrative and Academic Affairs, respectively, recalled their association with Dr. Serene, particularly during those uncertain beginning years, and paid tribute to her determination and leadership style during the ten years of her tenure as director. Then Dr. Peter Smith, Dr. Charles Freeland and Ajarn Alexander Korff, all of whom served as ISDP lecturers, cited Dr. Serene's pioneering spirit and her contributions to the growth and development of MUIC.

Several ISDP alumni also offered their congratulations and paid their respects, including Dr. Wirote Dejnambanchachai,

one of the College's very first graduates, and Ajarn Choompunuch Pongjit, Director of the BBA Marketing Program, who served as emcee for the occasion.

Dr. Serene was then given the opportunity to respond by thanking the featured speakers and other guests for their warm reception. She graciously insisted that it was the concerted effort and dedication of administrators, faculty, staff members and students that contributed to the early successes of ISDP, which has since developed into the thriving Mahidol University International College.

After the luncheon, Dr. Serene was presented with a floral arrangement and gifts, after which each of the guests gave her a red rose, a fitting expression of their respect and admiration.



## Scholarship News

**M**r. Ekachai Boonsathienwong, a recent Computer Science graduate has been awarded a full scholarship - including tuition fee, living allowance, insurance fee and airfare - to pursue graduate studies in the Republic of Korea, courtesy of the National Institute for International Education under the Ministry of Education and Technology of the Republic of Korea. Mr. Ekachai has chosen to study in the e-Business program at Daejeon University starting this September.

## Dr. Pongponrat Visits UNT

**D**r. Kannapa Pongponrat, full time TIM lecturer, was invited as visiting faculty to the University of North Texas (UNT) in the U.S. The trip, from September 12-19, was fully sponsored by UNT and was hosted by the School of Merchandising and Hospitality Management (SMHM) at UNT. The main objective for the visit was to create unique collaborative efforts, including academic exchange programs and research collaborations. Dr. Kannapa engaged in effective discussions with the dean, chairperson and SMHM faculty regarding the potential launch of a joint Master of International Sustainable Tourism program, the exchange of students and faculty and collaborative research development, themes, timeframe and funding sources.

Dr. Kannapa also had a chance to meet the Vice Provost and Assistant Vice Provost of International Education Offices and Programs to explore more opportunities to collaborate.



Moreover, Dr. Kannapa was invited to give a special lecture for SMHM graduate level courses, including International Sustainable Tourism and Issues and Trends in Merchandising and Hospitality Management.

Follow up trips are forthcoming for the faculties and administration of both institutions, in which MUIC and UNT will discuss and launch the partnerships proposed on this trip.

## Ajarn Boonratana Makes Japan Conference Circuit

In September, Ajarn Ramesh Boonratana completed a three-stop tour of academic conferences in Japan. From September 5-10, Aj. Ramesh participated in the Quest for Coexistence with Non-human Primates - the 23<sup>rd</sup> pre-Congress Symposium and Workshop of the International Primatological Society at the Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University in Inuyama, Japan. At the workshop, Aj. Ramesh gave a presentation entitled Primate Conservation in SE Asia: Issues and Constraints. The symposium and workshop were sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Exchange Program for 32 East Asian Young Researchers (ASIAN-HOPE Programme 2010) in partnership with COP10 of Aichi-Nagoya.



On September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, Aj. Ramesh attended Evolution of Sensor, Communication, and Society - 4th International Symposium of the Biodiversity & Evolution Global COE Project at Kyoto University, which was also sponsored by JSPS.

Rounding out his trip, Aj. Ramesh gave an oral presentation entitled Social Organization of Tonkin Snub-Nosed Monkeys in Northern Vietnam: Ecological Pressures and Evolutionary Implications at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the International Primatological Society in Kyoto. The Congress, which ran from September 12-18, included more than 1,000 experts and academics.



quarie University in Sydney and University of Melbourne and Monarch University in Melbourne in order to gain experience and knowledge that will continue to help MUIC develop into a leading institution in Asia.

MUIC continued its Professional Development Series with a visit to two Hong Kong universities from September 12-14. The Public Communications Department and the Academic Services Office organized the Personnel Development Program under the theme of Proactive Human Resource Development. The MUIC group, consisting of Communications & Public Affairs, Academic Services and a liaison from the Dean's Office, visited the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong in order to observe academic services, teaching methods, mass communications, public relations and media productions. The goal of the Professional Development Series is to broaden perspectives for MUIC

## Administrators Visit Australian and Hong Kong Universities

From August 12-17, forty-nine administrators and executives from Mahidol University International College visited four Australian universities to observe administrative practices, academic affairs and research methods. The group visited the University of Sydney and Mac-



## Faculty and Staff Transferred

The following departmental changes have taken place, effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**Ms. Wanpimon Senapadpakorn,**



Assistant General Manager has been transferred from the Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center to Assistant Chief of the International Network Development Section under International Affairs.

**Mr. Douglas Rhein,** Full-Time Lecturer



has been transferred from the Humanities and Language Division to Full-Time Lecturer in the Social Science Division.

**Dr. Walter Persaud,** Full-Time Lecturer



in the Pre-College Program has been transferred to Full-Time Lecturer in the Humanities and Language Division.

## EAIE and More in Germany and France



An MUIC delegation consisting of Dr. Chariya Brockelman, Dr. Yingyot Chiravutthi, Ajarn Veera Bhatiasevi (BBA Div.) and

Ajarn Bruno Mahon (Humanities Div.) traveled to Europe in September to develop exchange agreements and participate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> European Association for International Education Conference (EAIE) from September 15-18.

From September 2-14 the group visited several universities in Germany and France, including the Leipzig Business School, Paderborn University Business School, the University of Mannheim, the University of Stuttgart, the University of Tbingen, the Ecole de Biologie Industrielle (EBI), the ESSEC Business School (EPSCI) in Cergy-Pontoise, the ESC Brest Business School and the CIEL Language Center in Brittany.

With 3,600 participants from 82 countries, the 22<sup>nd</sup> EAIE Conference in Nantes, France, was the largest to date. On Sept.16, Dr.Chariya was a speaker in a session entitled, "Creating an international education organisation in Asia-Pacific: the promise and the challenge." During the conference, Dr. Chariya and Aj. Bruno had the opportunity to attend seminars on internationalization and to meet current and prospective partner universities.

The trip ended in Bordeaux, France, where an internship agreement was signed with Mr. Bruno Latour, General Manager of Hotel Mercure-Accord for two TIM students minoring in French.



## Staff Development Trip to Hua Hin

In accordance with MUIC's policy of encouraging staff development, the Administration Department conducted the workshop, Gathering Relationships, Gathering Connections and Gathering MUIC Admin, from July 29 - 31 at The Imperial Hua Hin Beach Resort in Prachuabkirikhan Province. The purpose of the workshop was to develop the professional and personal skills of staff members from the Operational and Environmental, Accounting and Financial, Central Administration, Procurement and Educational Technology Sections.

Two executives and 51 supporting staff members participated in the workshop. The weekend was full of activities, including a seminar, How to Increase Life Investment, by Asst. Prof. Sarayut Nathaphan, Deputy Director for Research Department, the Stock Exchange of Thailand; a walk rally led by Dr.Tanong Thongtem; the awarding of scholarships and donations for the Khokchangpatana School, Hua Hin; developing and practicing artistic skills at the Artist House; and mangrove planting at Klongkhone in Samutsongkhram Province.



## Four Complete Master's Degrees

Four MUIC staff members recently received their graduate degrees from Silpakorn University. **Ms. Aree Kongamnat**, Chief of the Procurement Section, and **Ms. Wannapan Onyaem**, from the Office of Planning, Research and Development, received their Master of Arts in Public and Private Management (MPPM).



**Ms. Anchalee Arunrat** of the Science Technology Section earned her M.Sc. in Food Science Technology from the Faculty of Engineering and Industrial Technology while **Ms. Prapai Kowphong** of the Salaya Pavillion Hotel & Training Center received her M.Ed. (Educational Technology) from the Faculty of Education.

# The Wonderful Strangeness of Words

This article was written by Ajarn Mariejoy San Buenaventura about the first poetry reading given by her students in her new course, ICEG 461 Topics in Comparative Literature: Poetry.

It is nearly 5 p.m. on July 7, 2010, and my student, Kotchsee, arrives at his third poem. At this public poetry reading in front of an audience of students and teachers at Princess Caf II, he has already read two poems. The last one is a surprise. Pulsing a strong beat through his head and shoulders, Kotchsee proceeds to rap. The steady rhymes and casually earnest tone of his poem comprise a natural rap song, and the audience applauds with gusto and whistles.

I breathe in pride and satisfaction. This reading is dessert to the eventful meal of words this past ten weeks. I demanded much of the students. In addition to essays and analytical discussions of poems, I required each of them to submit one original poem each week, offering them feedback, such as noting when rhymes did not sound natural or when they needed more images. To my deep joy, they never faltered. Week after week, they submitted poems that ranged from short and sweetly imagistic to witty, with the brevity of a punch to reflective and lyrical.

It would be a pity if MUIC remained unaware of this creative endeavor happening on campus. Poetry is an aural and oral art, meant to be spoken aloud and heard; generations before poems were written down, they were performed in the evenings around campfires as education and entertainment. There are poems that take their charm from the placement of words and lines on a page, but still, still, there is power in listening to a poem. The next natural move, then, was to organize a poetry reading.

Six of my students volunteered to perform their poems. During the practice session, I realized how greatly the students differ

not only in the voices of their writing, but also in their delivery. Warut had a gentle way of delivering which contrasted with the forceful voice of his poems. With diligent practice, he read with more strength at the actual reading. Others sound confident and declamatory, and only need to be reminded never to lose focus. A couple of students have tricks up their sleeves, such as Kotchsee the rapper, and Thanikarn who sings her third poem, a lyric full of startling images, set to a lilting tune from one of her favorite singers.

Another highlight of the reading was Mr. John Gartland, a published writer of poems, novels, and plays, whom I am grateful to have met a few weeks before the reading. I included him in the program as a guest poet, knowing that his mature voice and careful ear for images would benefit my students. The poems he read gave poignant sketches of life in Thailand and succeeded most particularly with the lecturers in the audience.

The last student reader, Aekarak, delivered his poems with the confidence and clear accents of a natural speaker, and the audience listened in rapt attention. After him, it was my turn, and I enjoyed reading and singing my own poems. It was a pleasure to see faces move from uncertainty to puzzlement to wonder at how differently words can be crafted. It was the same journey for my students. I am proud that they took up the challenge, moving beyond their apprehensions about poetry into sharing the wonderful strangeness of words.

## "Cat"\*

*As they dream in the room,  
I'm following a butterfly  
waiting for my mother.  
When I get tired of playing with him,  
I gaze at a cloud  
that looks like ice cream.  
While I taste it,  
I fall asleep  
and meet her in my dream.*

## "Death Awaits" \*\*

*In this white room.  
Standing tall and silent.  
You waited for me  
to finish my goodbyes.  
  
Thank you for waiting  
In that black dress of yours.  
I have no more regrets.  
I shall go with you.*

## "The Lost Dove" \*\*\*

*Today my dove is resting,  
alone in the pure white sheet  
of a placid white room.  
Her face was of a beautiful  
dream, but she writhes and screeches.  
Her eyes are still searching for that  
twig of olive she once held.  
I sing to her soft hymns of glory  
before lights pierces through concrete  
and shows her that branch she seeks.  
She bids me farewell and soars  
along with the lights back home.*

\*by Kazumi Takemaru

\*\*by Nontawat Thanakiatkrai

\*\*\* by Kanyahnna Tham-Amnuaysuk

# Water Monitor Lizards: A Misunderstood Species

*MUIC Social Science alum Saengabha Srisopaporn reports on a program to raise awareness of monitor lizards living on campus.*



**This project is a youth-led initiative, sponsored by Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program (BYEE) and inspired by Denso Youth for Earth Action Program. It includes a total of four phases: information gathering, establishment of signs, public awareness and media dissemination. The project has been operating since January 2010.**

**How did hia gets its name?** Traditional Thai-style houses usually have two floors, the first floor being a place to raise chickens, for instance, while the second floor is for living space. Monitor lizards became infamous for hanging around peoples houses and eating their chickens. Therefore, parents would tell their children not to behave badly like the hia. Monitor lizards also feed on dead and rotting matter, which compounded the negative attitude from the Thais. As time passed, people began to use the word hia as a rude name, which gave it a bad connotation.

From January to February, 2010, interviews were conducted to find disturbances caused by the lizards, assess key informants attitudes and record personal observations. Scientific methods were applied to estimate the campus monitor lizard population and frequency. Based on our data, it can be concluded that there are about 6 observable lizards, often visible from 7-11 a.m. The most frequent sightings occurred in or near the College of Music. The lizards can be separated into sizes: large (7), medium (6), and small (3). In addition to the living population, we found two small dead juvenile specimens. From this data, we have



hypothesized that the population of the lizards might be decreasing.

We are now at the stage where we will attempt to raise public awareness of the lizards presence on campus. We found one dead lizard on the street and observed lizards crossing streets near the College of Music; we are suggesting posting at least one traffic sign specifically for the lizard. Such a sign will help slow down cars and other vehicles while reminding MU community members of the presence of the lizards and their co-existence with human beings.



In addition, we are also hoping to post an open zoo sign near the College of Music to ensure that community members have knowledge and information of the various special animals on campus.

Our vision is the emphasis on co-existence between humans and nature. We wish to see this vision developed in the future for the betterment of our university and students. We believe that in order to reduce climate change and

changing lifestyles, an environmental consciousness should be built and hopefully it can happen in the university.

We would like to thank our team members as follows: Sasirapa Jampian (Social Science), Sirirat Intasong (Social Science), Pimvadee Kaewkiriya (Social Science), Fitra Jehwoh (Social Science), Weerapak Samsiripong (Social Science), Eddie Wang (Social Science), Siripat Suksaengsri (EM), Khadijah Chalermthai (Biomed), and Bushra Chalermthai (Environmental Science).

Please join the Facebook group Model Project: Water Monitor Lizards or contact Ms. Saengabha Srisopaporn for more information or if you are interested in joining our team - complicated222@gmail.com We are always looking for new members who care for the environment.

# Graduate Center Open House

**M**UIC conducted the third annual Open House for its Graduate Center at Sathorn City Tower on Saturday afternoon, July 31. The Center offers a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Business Modeling and Analysis, the only such program of its kind in

Asia, as well as a Master of Management (MM) in Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The event was open to the general public; more than 60 of the visitors were prospective candidates who expressed an interest in joining the programs, an indication that student enrollment will continue to increase. Assistant Professor Yingyot Chiaravutthi, Chairman of the Business Administration Division, and Assistant Professor Sompong Amnuay-Ngertra, Chairman of the Travel Industry Management Division, presented an overview of the MBA and MM Programs, respectively.



Dr. Atthapong Sakunsriprasert and Assistant Professor Chanin Yoopetch, Directors of the MBA and MM Programs, respectively, along with a number of faculty and staff members, were also available to field questions concerning the two master programs.

In addition, guests had an opportunity to tour the facilities and were offered an assortment of snacks and refreshments.

## 2010-11 Academic Year

**T**he Graduate Center received 123 online applications for the first trimester of the 2010-11 academic year, 75 for the MBA program and 48 for the MM program. As part of the Center's admissions process, a majority of these applicants were invited to sit for an en-

trance examination, based on TOEFL, Business English Writing and Math (for MBA candidates), on August 21, after which they were interviewed.

A total of 48 candidates were ultimately accepted into the program (25 for MBA and 23 for MM) and were invited to attend a special orientation session on Saturday morning, September 11. Professor Maleeya Kruatrachue, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, welcomed the new students and presented an overview of MUIC and the Graduate Center, after which Assistant Professor Sompong Amnuay-Ngertra, Chairman of the Travel Industry

Management Division, and Dr. Atthapong Sakunsriprasert, Director of the MBA Program, offered their own congratulations. The newly-accepted students then attended sessions detailing the curriculum for each of the respective programs.

The orientation participants then proceeded to the Salaya campus where they toured the MUIC facilities and enjoyed a special luncheon. With the inclusion of these new candidates, the Graduate Center currently has 199 MBA and 58 MM students.





# Mind-Set Trip



The MUIC Graduate Center sponsored a Mind-Set Trip on August 7-8, at the Wora Bura Hua Hin Resort and Spa. Participants included 34 students, staff and faculty members from the MBA and MM programs in an effort to promote stronger professional and personal relationships.

The weekend was a balanced mix of business and pleasure. The group engaged in a number of team building exercises in addition to social activities such as the traditional Thai blessing ceremony, a karaoke contest, birthday surprises and sightseeing. On their return to Bangkok, they enjoyed a brief shopping spree at the Plearnwan Market.

## Academic Achievements

The Graduate Center recently announced the first group of students who completed their graduate requirements and subsequently received an MBA in Business Modeling and Analysis.

- Kanis Charntawweekhun
- Kunlatida Suwannarat
- Ladawan Khongdamnern
- Nat-rada Ngamprong
- Panida Lertboonnam
- Pasawan Bunruang
- Paweena Prasatkitjareon
- Pinyada Sukavathanakul
- Piyaporn Kangjaturavet
- Prathana Srikaeo
- Selvia Lirita
- Sounay Phothisane
- Wasinee Poopongwattana
- Wijitra Krusri

A vast majority of MBA and MM students work full-time while they pursue their graduate studies. However, in spite of that daunting commitment, several of the aforementioned students distinguished themselves academically.

**Ms. Pinyada Sukavathanakul**, who graduated with a BBA in International Business Management from Chulalongkorn University, maintained a 4.00 Grade Point Average (GPA) during the course of her graduate studies.



She cites the uniqueness of the MUIC program and readily admits that the challenges were considerable, particularly the demands of working in groups and developing team-building skills. Pinyada adds that understanding business modeling and knowing how to analyze and use different models will help me with both forecasting and planning in my current position as HR Client Support Advisor at ExxonMobil.



**Mrs. Selvia Lirita** (3.83 GPA) graduated from the University of Indonesia with a major in Computer Science. She chose this MBA program for two reasons: MUIC's reputation

of excellence and the program's focus on business modeling, a compelling factor inasmuch as she owns and manages a licensed English school in Jakarta for 3-7 year-old children, based on the popular

animated character Pingu. Selvia had to balance the demands of her studies, her children and her business enterprise and credits her success in earning an MBA to her husband, family and colleagues at the Graduate Center. She plans to pursue a doctorate in management and expects to open more branches of her school in Jakarta.

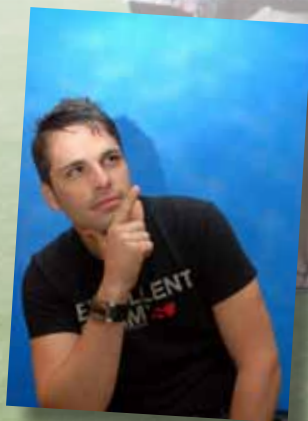
**Mr. Kanis Charntawweekhun** (3.80 GPA)



graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering from King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang. He is currently employed at Exxon-Mobil, serving in

its Center of Expertise, IT Systems for Human Resources. According to Kanis, I did not hesitate to register for the MBA program at MUIC after reading the curriculum and its focus on both quantitative and qualitative business skills. Although the qualitative subjects were a real challenge, he did cite an improvement in his marketing and negotiation skills. Kanis already senses an improvement in his working style, particularly in the way he analyzes, synthesizes and evaluates options for management, and eventually expects to implement those skills in establishing his own business.

# Exchange Student



**M**UIC has long prided itself on the 'I' in its name - International. As an institution that offers students and professors copious support for exchange opportunities and academic trips to competitions and conferences both inbound and outbound, MUIC fosters global thinking through cultural exchange, education and experience. Today, MUIC participates in more international programs than ever before, with more agreements and partnerships formed every year.

In the following four pages you will read firsthand accounts of recent exchange and academic travel experiences by current MUIC students, a professor and an exchange student who spent a semester at MUIC. In each piece you'll read about the ways that learning, travel and fun go hand-in-hand. New and different opportunities for travel spring up every semester as part of MUIC's curriculum, clubs and research, so what are you waiting for? Get international!





# Waxing Scientific in the Big Apple

*Wen-Yu Weng shares the experiences of three Biomedical Science majors at Columbia University.*

This experience was fantastic. Living in a city such as New York is eye-opening and ultimately exciting. The enriching activities that happen every moment around you are challenging and motivating. Everyone is busy in the city, even at the most unorthodox hour. Columbia University lived up to all of the expectations I had about it - it was ingenious, creative and possessing a dynamic and eager student population. Working in Dr. John Loike's lab, helping him edit bioethics papers and prepare for bioethics events, were some of the most demanding things I have done to date.

Dr. Loike is not only a great professor and mentor but also a great friend. On off days, he would usually take us on trips to experience new things in the city. One day he took us on a behind-the-scenes tour of the famous Metropolitan Museum. We got to see the science of conservation, preservation and museum display. It is much more complicated than the average museum goer would presume. Our guide at the Museum also showed how discoveries and technology (using gigantic x-ray scanners, for example) can reveal much about history and art. Another time, Dr. Loike took us to try local Kosher cuisine, which was perfect.

Resident students that shared our lab were very welcoming. Columbia students are the friendliest I've ever met in an exchange setting. With other labmates we went to amazing summer events such as Shakespeare in the Park (a free outdoor theatre performance of

The Merchant of Venice featuring Al Pacino himself!) and the chocolate restaurant, Max Brenners. I also took time to take a tour of Lincoln Center and visit the Julliard School of Music, which has been a long-time dream of mine.



At Columbia the working part of the exchange I worked with Dr. Loike on bioethics projects. Bioethics is the study of the ethical and moral concerns surrounding current biotechnology, medical and research issues. This field of study covers a vast number of topics, from stem cell research to reproductive technologies, and from cloning to the ethical concerns of medical and research dilemmas and paradoxes. During my stay, I worked everyday from 9-5, though some days were much longer. My fellow labmate, Jae Young Han, another MUIC exchange student, often stayed until 10 or 11pm to finish his experiments. Na Chiangpradit, the third MUIC intern, also worked very

hard and learned many new scientific procedures.

My job was mostly paperwork - writing, editing, rationalizing, brainstorming bioethical jeopardies. I did this from Monday-Thursday at the Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) at 168th Street.

Once a week, Dr. Loike also commended me to work as a summer intern at the UN-associated Appignani Bioethics Center (ABC) at the UN Millenium Plaza, with Dr. Ana Lita. At ABC, I became familiar with the administrative and research work that comes with the pressure to educate the public and help various individuals.

Every single aspect of my stay - educational, academic, leisure, social, accommodations - was fantastic. I would strongly recommend the College to host such an opportunity for MUIC students in the future! I myself would jump at a second opportunity!





# FAA does Hollywood

*Ajarn Aaron Schmidt on his adventures with twelve MUIC students in Los Angeles.*

In balmy Orange County California, not far from the epicenter of the entertainment industry, Ajarns Udomrat Tivasub and Aaron Schmidt accompanied twelve MUIC students studying Film, TV and Animation to industry workshops at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts.

Arranged by MUIC staff and FAA faculty, this unique opportunity was organized to enhance the educational experience of Thai students studying entertainment media. The students worked with renowned professors and industry professionals. Studying the art of lying with James Gardner and Ivar Brogger, both with extended IMDB listings, the students learned to get their actors to trick the audience into believing the emotions and feelings of the actor. In *Everything You Wanted to Know About Film Festivals but Were Afraid to Ask*, Derek Horne expounded on the film festival universe, giving tips and tactics to get films into "A" list festivals.

Another workshop included a motion capture demo on the campus motion capture stage. The stage boasts a 24 camera Vicon setup and that films and animates images of an actor wearing a blue capture suit. Alternatively, some students attended a Foley sound design demo or understanding the use of visual effects in movies.

When asked about the experience, Muanfhun, a 3rd-year TV major com-

mented, I learned about new technology and many new things from Chapman University. I can use this knowledge to help my future career. Sapolnawitch, a 3rd-year film student, remarked, "Chapman's teachers were really good. They are good and knowledgeable.



The workshops were followed by four days touring Hollywood studios organized by West Los Angeles College.

One tour, put together specifically for animation majors, was a personal tour of Sony Pictures Animation. The students attended a Q&A session with Lydia Bottegoni, producer of the hit animated film *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. This was followed by CG demonstrations in a learning lab and an exclusive tour through the pre-visualization rooms where the students got an exclusive sneak peak at the concept art for the upcoming animated film, *Hotel Transylvania*.

The students also got a unique look at the film side of the business with a tour of Deluxe Laboratories. The students were walked through the film development process, from the beginning of negative

emulsion to the film print stage. It was a valuable experience to see the importance of the film print and to see how much time, effort and skill goes into ensuring a perfect film print. An example of their dedication to perfection is a room where every frame is cleaned by hand with a cotton swab - there are more than 10,000 frames per film!

Having been exposed to Hollywood's entertainment industry, the students took home valuable insights into international media production, interacted with professionals in the field and learned self-sufficiency thanks to this once in a lifetime educational experience.





# University of Saskatchewan

## Student Experiences

### “The Land of Smiles”

*Canadian exchange student Ariane Lewis immersed herself in both the local and international communities at MUIC.*

I had an incredible, intense journey for three months living as an exchange student in Thailand, the Land of Smiles.

I chose Thailand as my exchange destination due to its unique culture, its tropical climate and because it is one of the most beautiful countries for a young traveler to explore. However, Thailand's extreme weather, busy traffic and cultural diversity certainly tested my ability to adapt.

I attended Mahidol University International College, where all courses are in English and school uniforms are mandatory. Girls are required to wear a white button-up blouse, a dark knee length skirt and a pin with the Mahidol emblem.

At MUIC I took women's studies, marine biology, Southeast Asian ecology and Thai language and culture courses. Class sizes are all under 30 students and I enriched my academic experience by forming personal relationships with my professors. In all but women's studies, I participated in field trips instead of attending weekly labs or seminars.

My Southeast Asian ecology class traveled to Khao Yai National Park, a conservation area of highland subtropical forest. My professor, who spent many years studying monkeys in Borneo, led the way through the thick forest pointing out species within the diverse habitat. We had to wear knee high leech socks to prevent the abundant bloodsuckers from getting up our pants! The opportunities to apply what I had learned

in class to practical situations have been invaluable to me and form some of the most memorable experiences of my stay in Thailand.

Thai has been very challenging but fun to learn. I learned this lesson the hard way while trying to be witty by saying, I am a doctor. Instead, I said, I am a pig. Thai people are generally charmed by any attempt at their language and the misunderstandings usually bring much laughter on both sides.



I really fell in love with Thai cuisine. I think I caught the secret of why everything tastes so good: lots of chili balanced by lots of sugar. Thailand grows a variety of exotic fruits that are available at open markets or roadside food vendors. Pineapple, rose apple, guava and mango are sold in individually-sized portions, perfect for a quick snack.

By a twist of fate, I became a team member of Dragonfly, a group that travels to Thai schools to teach English. A team of native English speakers, often university students, engage an assembly of Thai kids to assist them in learning the language in fun, interactive ways. In other words, you're a clown for a day getting kids excited about learning English.

Interacting with Thai children was one of the most amazing and therapeutic experiences I've ever had. I was challenged to communicate in creative ways and was astonished that I could make an impression on such dynamic youngsters.

Because my university schedule gave me Fridays off, I was able to travel outside of Bangkok on weekends. Many trips were to famous beaches such as Railay and Phi Phi Island. Other highlights have been traveling to floating markets in Amphawa, the infamous Full Moon beach party on Koh Pha-gnan, playing with elephants while visiting historical Second World War sites in Kanchanaburi, and exploring countless Buddhist temples.

Life as an exchange student in Thailand has given me an in-depth understanding of Southeast Asian culture and has allowed me to forge friendships with students and travelers from around the globe. I have learned so much about my limits and my strengths and the importance of patience while communicating in innovative ways.

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# SUSI Hawaii and Washington D.C.



MUIC student Aekarak Sethi shares fond memories of his summer abroad.



**A**loha! In the months of May and June, many of our friends felt our absence and had no idea where we had gone. Unbeknownst to many, Tawin Kim and I had absconded to Hawaii.

When you hear about Hawaii, it's not uncommon to envision girls in bright bikinis, funky tattoos, immaculate beaches, guys built with six-packs riding high on waves with a surfboard. I won't tell you that this idea is inaccurate; however, the experiences we had and the things we saw went well beyond such common images.

Our program - Study of the United States Institute for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues - was hosted by the East-West Center (EWC). The EWC is reputable among governments throughout the world because many successful diplomats have been a part of the EWC, including significant leaders in the Asia Pacific region.

This year's program hosted 20 participants, five each from Malaysia, the Philippines, Myanmar and Thailand. Ajarn Raywadee recommended Tawin and me, and we joined three other Thai students at the program.

During more than four weeks of intensive courses about global environmental issues, we underwent a lot of exposure to problems and possible solutions and got to experience so much of Hawaii along the way. From active volcanic calderas to awe-inspiring sunsets at Waikiki Beach, black sand beaches to Koala Ranch (where several movies and series such as Jurassic Park and Lost were shot), and famous Hanauma Bay to snorkeling with Hawaiian green sea turtles, Hawaii really is a natural wonder. In addition to visits and outings within the program, we also met with experts who had many interesting tales and tips to get us going in the right direction. However, as a dynamic group, we went beyond what had been in store for us.

We found the native Hawaiians to be more than delighted to hear about our adventures, especially when we told the story of our sail on the Hokulea, a sacred canoe that is revered in Hawaii, though rarely experienced by Hawaiians themselves.

During the last week, the program moved to Washington D.C. In the concluding week, we had appointments and rendezvous with senators, both Democrats and Republicans. Later we visited America's highest environmental authority, the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the Woodrow Wilson Center, GreenPeace and The CATO Institute. It was very interesting to meet with top negotiators from both sides of the climate change debate, including Patrick J. Michaels. At open sessions we created challenging diplomatic situations for these politicians and later we went to Chesapeake Bay to get some hands-on work.

To sum up, the experiences had in Hawaii and Washington were unique and wholesome. For this memorable experience, we are grateful to Aj. Raywadee, the US Embassy, the U.S. State Department, MUIC and all those who helped us form our own *Ohana* [family] in Hawaii as well as discover and grow from this experience.

*Mahalo Nui Loa! [Thank you very much!]*



## BBA Team Places at TUBC



From August 17-21, a team of 4<sup>th</sup> year BBA students - Sapol Laiwejpithaya, Navin Schaduangrat, Klongpaw Piumsombun and Wutthiyo Chachachai - coached by advisor Dr. Atthapong Sakunriprasert competed with 14 universities from around the world at the

Thammasat Undergraduate Business Competition (TUBC) 2010. At TUBC 2010, one of the largest international business case competitions in Thailand, teams were asked to create business strategies to solve the problems of AMC-ASEAN Material Conglomerate Group of Companies. The MUIC team made a strong showing, earning 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up honors.

## The ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum

In August, Miss Charoenporn Kaewmanorom represented MUIC at the 2010 ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum. Hosted and sponsored by the Asia Exchange Association and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ASEAN-Korea Frontier Forum (AKFF) was held



at Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea, from August 5-12. The purpose of the Forum is to foster a better understanding of the

relationship between ASEAN nations and the Republic of Korea by leading the next generation of Asian leaders through various exchange activities. In addition to daily group activities held at the Forum, a contest was held inviting teams of international and Korean students to propose ways to improve the trade, environment and tourism relations between Korea and ASEAN nations. Miss Charoenporn was a member of the Thailand-Korea team, which took second runner-up in the contest.



## SIFE National Exposition

A six-member team of MUIC students was very successful in representing MU at the SIFE National Exposition at Sasin from July 21-23.

The MUIC team Mr. Navin Schaduangrat, Ms. Narisa Sachdev, Ms. Khadijah Chalermthai, Ms. Sudathip Kaenratana, Mr. Rishab Krishna Shrestha, Mr. Worranart Yanyongveroj (tech support) won the opening round and the semi-final competitions and managed to finish second runner-up overall. In addition to their competitive wins, the

team was awarded the Financial Literacy Award from the Stock Exchange of Thailand from League 4 of the competition.

Dr. Chairawee Anamthawat-Kierig from the Business Administration Division and Ajarn Laird Allan from the Science Div. are proud to have advised and coached the team for another successful year.







Mr. Nattawut

Ms. Aroonrak

# The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program

**T**IM Students Ms. Aroonrak Tandulawess and Mr. Nattawut Wetprasit have been selected to represent MUIC at Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program 2010 (SSAYP). The Office of Welfare Promotion, Protection and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups will sponsor SSAYP from October 25 to December 16, 2010. The program will be hosted by Japan and various countries around Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam.



# MUIC Triumphs at EUTH



by the Championships through the planting of over forty trees, as well as new tabulation software that helped remove technical delays from the tournament.

The organization of this year's debate championship was led by Phra Chainarong Sangsranoi, the Convener of

**T**he MUIC Debate Club upheld their reputation as the leading debate institution in Thailand by winning the European Union-Thailand Inter-Varsity Debate Championship (EUTH) for the fourth straight year. Hosted by MUIC from August 30 September 3, the tournament brought in 60 teams from more than 30 institutions, making this year's debate championship the most inclusive one to date.

MUIC's winning team of Ms. Wen-Yu Weng, Mr. Panyarak Roque and Mr. Tawin Kim emerged as champions despite a very challenging field. A second MUIC team consisting of Ms. Kansala

Wanuntho, Ms. Daphne Hingert, and Ms. Panisa Thongma were the semi-finalists in the debate championship.

Although the MUIC Debate Club's success in national debate championships is not new, what was new this year was that the 2010 debate championship was hosted by MUIC. The EUTH has in the past been organized by Thammasat University. Now in its sixth year, the chance to host the EUTH was made available for the first time through an open bidding process which MUIC won in an effort spearheaded by the Debate Club. Also new in this year's tournament was the environmental initiative to offset the carbon produced

the tournament, and Mabrouq Azeez, the Chief Adjudicator of the Championship. Supporting them was Lily Kittisrikanawan from the Cambridge College of Sixth Form Studies, who acted as the Tournament Director, and her team of MUIC volunteers.



# Exchange Student Orientation Trip



On Friday, September 17, 70 new MUIC exchange & visiting students partook in a field trip to The Rose Garden in Nakhonpathom. The trip, organized by the International Relations Section of MUIC, was part of orientation for Trimester 1.

The Rose Garden is a tropical garden next to the Ta-Chine River and a living gallery of traditional Thai life. It has been called the perfect hub for discovering Thailand. The students toured manicured gardens, a river, a lake and elephant enclosures, enjoyed a traditional Thai dance performance and ate authentic Thai food. The office of International Relations arranges orientation and field trips for exchange and visiting students every trimester.

# Global <sup>Leader</sup> Challenge

Fourth year BBA students Klongpawon Piumsombun, Kamolwan Sahakitpinyo, Suchada Jarasjroj and Wutthiyo Chachaochai recently took the 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up Trophy at the Global Leader Challenge 2010 held by Assumption University. At this competition, students were given a week to create business strategies to solve the problems of the Thai Beverage Company. The students, who were coached by advisor Dr. Athapong Sakunsriprasert, presented their business plan on September 17 at Assumption University.



# Event Management Fundraiser

Students in Event Management (ICTM 310) raised and donated B106,175 to the Suthasinee Noiin Foundation for Children and Youths Ya-sothon Home Hug (Home of Love) at Mahidol University International College on September 28th. The donation will benefit more than 100 HIV-infected orphans who currently live at Yasothon Home Hug. The fundraiser was organized by last year's Student Association and the money was raised during the Ploy Saeng Project.



# Wai Kru Ceremony

Associate Professor Pprecha Sun-atranan, Mahidol University Chancellor for Student Affairs and Special Activities, and Associate Professor Rassmidara Hoonsawat, Dean of Mahidol University International College, presided over the Wai Kru Ceremony for the 2010-11 academic year on October



7 in the college auditorium. The ceremony included the presentation of traditional flower arrangements, with candles and joss sticks, as well as the awarding of student scholarships and special certificates of merit for both academic and non-academic achievements.



# International Student Housing Trip



The MUIC Housing Unit sponsored a field trip on October 2, 2010, to Phranakhonsi in Ayutthaya Province, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. More than 20 students residing at the Green Park Home and Chaipruk Village international houses participated in the outing. The purpose of this one-day excursion was to strengthen relationships between international students and the housing staff while at the same time learning about Thai culture by visiting the Ayutthaya Floating Market, the Ancient Palace and Wats Na Phra Mane and Mahathat.





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