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Two Deans of California State University, Sacramento at the Faculty



Dr. Edward S. Inch, the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, and Dr. Guido Krickx, the Dean of the College of Continuing Education at California State University, Sacramento, paid a courtesy visit to the Faculty of Arts on July 23, 2012, the importance of which is highlighted by the array of our professors welcoming them: Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, Dean, Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Professor Dr. Siraporn Na Thalang, Chairperson of the Thai Studies Program, Associate Professor Dr. Sujitra Jongsatitwatana, Director of the Thai Studies Institute, and Associate Professor Dr. Supakorn Disthapantu, Dean, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, treated the two Deans from California's capital to detailed information on different fields of study at the Faculty of Arts as well as at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts. Needless to say, the visit served to explore and forge links between the two Colleges of CSUS, and us and to explore the feasibility of concrete collaboration between Chulalongkorn University and "Sac State", one of the largest universities in California (and alma mater of Tom Hanks).

Zhejiang University Students Visit the Faculty



The Learning Commons at the new Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building is not only a big hit with our students—now, its reputation has spread to China as well. On July 25, 2012, 25 students of Zhejiang University, together with Prof. Zuoxiang Zhu, Director of the university's Work-Study Entrepreneurship

Education Office, visited our Faculty, and the Learning Commons in particular. Welcomed by Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, the guests learned about the history and development of the Faculty as well as about our Thai and International programs, before Ms. Yupin Chancharoensin, Director of Humanities Information Center, enthusiastically introduced the group to the system of the Faculty's library and its state-of-the-art equipment. The students were very impressed, not only with the high technology but also with the modern and comfortable ambience of the Learning Commons where students can both relax and study.

The next day, Prof. Fu, the Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute, gave a lecture on the Confucius Institute in Thailand and the relations between Thailand and the Republic of China.

Khyentse Scholarship for Arts Student

On August 14, 2012 Assistant Professor M.R. Kongkarn Tavetheekul, Deputy Dean for Administration, acting in place of the Dean, presided over the Khyentse scholarship presentation ceremony at the Learning Commons of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building. Dr. Peter Skilling, representative of the Khyentse Foundation, presented the scholarship to Ms. Wakul Mitphraphan. The winner is a graduate student in the Thai Department. Witnessing the ceremony were Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn and Dr. Charnwit Tadkaew, from the Scholarship Selection Committee, as well as Dr. Saerji,



BALAC Orientation



On Saturday, July 14, 2012 the new intake of 100 BALAC students crowded eagerly into Room 301-302 of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building for this year's BALAC Orientation Day. Accompanied by their parents and guardians, some of who had travelled from as far afield as Hat Yai and Chiang Mai, the students were treated to a full day of information sessions and welcoming activities.

Elegantly emceed by Ajarn Dr. Thoesaeng Chaochuti, the day's proceedings got off to a winning start with a gracious welcome speech from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn. The Dean congratulated the new students on gaining entry into the BALAC Program and gently drew their attention to the rewards and challenges that lay ahead across the course of their coming studies.



A fine example of the kind of academic success to which the new students should aspire was then provided as the Dean conferred awards on the top students from last year's cohort of graduating BALAC students. Four students graduated with First-Class Honours and were duly admitted to the BALAC Roll of Honour: Ms. Chernjuti Tempithak, Mr. Kris Chaiyawan, Ms. Laura Rand, and Ms. Alice Tsoi. As the student with the highest GPA, Chernchuti--who has secured entry into a Masters Program at the prestigious University of Oxford--was also conferred with a special award of outstanding achievement. In addition, two further students, Ms. Saowana Thakoonnan and Ms. Nuanpan Thamanovanish, were granted awards in recognition of their outstanding achievement in extra-curricular activities and community service.



The new Director of BALAC, Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, then took to the podium, welcoming the new students and parents and giving them a lively overview of the BALAC Program, its history and objectives. This was followed by a range of further information sessions offered by the Deputy Dean for Student Affairs, Assistant Professor Sankavat Pradithpongse; the two BALAC deputy directors, Assistant Professor Dr. Duantem Krisdathanont and Dr. Brett Farmer; as well as a panel of former and current BALAC student representatives.



One of the highlights of the day was an informative panel on professional opportunities and career paths, chaired by Ajarn Dr. Parida Manomaiphikul, and consisting of three former graduates of the Faculty of Arts who have gone on to very successful careers: Mr. Phanu Sungkhavon (Director, Information and Communication Technology Center, Office of the Civil Service Commission); Ms. Monrudee Gettuphan (Vice President, Aerodrome Standards and Occupational Health Department, Suvarnabhumi Airport, Airports of Thailand Public Company Limited); and, Ms. Montira Narkvichien (Communications and Outreach Officer of United Nations Women East and Southeast Asia). These three high

profile graduates spoke frankly and entertainingly about their professional experiences and how best to maximize the value of an arts education in the modern day workplace.

Students and parents were further able to mingle and get to know each other better over lunch and refreshment sessions and, by day's end, new friendships had been firmly established. All participants agreed that this year's BALAC Orientation Day was a very successful event that served effectively to welcome the new intake of students into the BALAC family and the Faculty of Arts.

Reaching the World 2012



The Section of International Affairs, Faculty of Arts Chulalongkorn University co-operated closely with the South East Asian Writers Award (S.E.A. Write) and the new Asia Pacific Writers & Translators Association (AP Writers) to hold a landmark international symposium in the lead up to UNESCO's 'World Book Capital 2013.' The event began on Monday, November 5 and ended on Friday, November 9, 2012. The venues were Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building, Faculty of Arts, Bangkok Art and Culture Center (BACC), and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The symposium, 'Reaching the World 2012', had two key themes: 'The Value of Literary Prizes' and 'Translating Asia', the latter theme dealing with the importance of literary translations for writers from Asia to find an international readership. Reaching the World attracted more than 120 participants from at least 20 nations.

The symposium was opened by the President of Chulalongkorn University, Professor Pirom Kamolratanakul, M.D. in Room 304 Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building, Faculty of Arts.

Also attending the opening was Australia's Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. James Wise, who represented the Australia-Thailand Institute (ATI), which funded the participation of seven Australian participants. The ATI funded participants included two indigenous Australian poets, an Australian-Thai author, an Australian-Burmese novelist, and a two Chinese-English language translators, among others.

The opening was also attended by a representative of AirAsia, Khun Krid Pattanasan, as the airline made possible the attendance of four participants from neighboring Asian nations, including the celebrated Burmese poet Zeyar Lynn, Malaysian author Bernice Chauly, Indonesian-based publisher John McGlynn and Cambodian PEN representative Mr. Heng Sreang. Substantial delegations attended from the Philippines, India, Hong Kong, and Vietnam.

The symposium heard numerous informative and provocative papers from authors and translators not only from Thailand but from other South East Asian countries and also north Asian nations and beyond Asia, including Italy and the UK. Insights from the symposium included the different, sometimes troubling way literary awards are decided in some countries, including both the lack of government support in some places and political interference in others. Numerous speakers mentioned the importance of quality literary translation that does justice to the language as the intentions of the author behind the language.



One of the highlights of this important international meeting was the opportunity for scholars to mix with established authors, international translators, publishers and emerging writers. A special addition to the symposium was 'Author Showcases', at which poets and novelists read from their work. Their books were made available for sale at the venues, thanks to Asia Books.

'Powerful writing, powerfully read,' wrote one participant after attending the Author Showcases. 'Even those work read in first language, untranslated, made connections with the audience. Gutsy poetry, deft short stories, intriguing novel extracts, incisive political rhetoric encased in clever characterization. No one who heard it will forget the reading by Mr. Jang Jin-sung, once the poet laureate for Kim Jong Il, who defected at great personal risk. His intense verse, read first in Korean and then translated, wrenched everyone's guts.'



Reaching the World 2012



The first day culminated in poetry readings by Thai and South East Asian poets at the Bangkok Arts and Culture Centre, opened especially (normally closed on Monday) for Reaching the World 2012 by Bangkok's Metropolitan Administration (BMA). The poets who performed for a full theatre that evening were Thai poets Zakariya Amataya, Krit Lualamai and Kal Real as well as Zeyar Lynn from Myanmar, Thailand-based American poet Colin Cheney, and the distinguished Singaporean poet Edwin Thumboo, a long-time champion of the S.E.A. Write Awards.

The Chairman of the SEA Write and Governor of Bangkok, M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, honored the participants and organizers by personally hosting a sit-down dinner with entertainment for all, on the first night of the symposium at the Patumwan Princess Hotel. Among the dignitaries were the Second Secretary of the Australian Embassy, Dr Moya Collett, many Deputy Bangkok Governors and mass media executives.

Another addition to the symposium was the creative writing workshops. Established authors mentored emerging writers in small groups, enabling the writers to explore new ideas and extend their skills. Three workshops were offered. One on Creative Prose, led by the Hong Kong-based Indonesian-Chinese author Xu Xi; another on Poetry, led by Bangkok-based American poet Colin Cheney, and a workshop of creative non-fiction, led by the Australian author and journalist Matthew Condon.

A further highlight on the second day of the symposium was a trip to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel where the author Mr. Harold Stephens gave a fascinating talk on 'The Spirit of S.E.A. Write' and the role the hotel has played in nurturing international writers for many decades. This was followed by a tour of the hotel's famous Authors' Lounge and library, led by the hotel's legendary Khun Ankana Kalantananda, a former PR Director for many decades, who has welcomed authors and other guests to the hotel for some 75 years.

The symposium, or 'Summit' as AP Writers billed Reaching the World, had a professional emcee in the person of Khun Oraya Sutabutr. Other VIPS included AP Writers outgoing and incoming Chairs, Professor Isagani Cruz and Mr. Nury Vittachi. This one-week event, which featured a series of literary activities, was made possible thanks to the close and assiduous collaboration between the Faculty of Arts, represented by Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Ms. Jane Camens, current Executive Director of Asia Pacific Writers & Translators Association, Associate Professor Dr. Soranat Trilanga, former President of P.E.N. International Thailand, and Khun Susie, PR Director, Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

'AP Writers is both as regional and as global as you can get. This reflects an increasingly obvious fact in today's literary world: international and inter-cultural exposure has become vital for writers, to expand both their perspectives and their networks,' wrote the award-winning Filipino author Jose Dalisay.

For the visiting writers, the cultural highlight was the closing gala banquet in the Mandarin Oriental's spectacular ballroom where the South East Asian Writers' Awards were presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana. International author Simon Winchester was the brilliant keynote speaker at the event and spoke of his meeting after many years with his mentor, Jan Morrison. One of the many remarkable aspects of the spectacular gala banquet was the dessert -- a marzipan book with a chocolate feather quill pen. A fitting start to UNESCO's 'Bangkok World Book Year 2013'.





Bharatasamay International Conference on Indian Writing in English



The Department of English, Faculty of Arts, in collaboration with the Indian Studies Centre of Chulalongkorn University, Institute of Asian Studies of Chulalongkorn University, Chula Global Network, and the Indian Embassy in Thailand, organised the Bharatasamay International Conference on Indian Writing in English, which was held from 21 to 23 November 2012 at Room 105, Maha Chulalongkorn building, Faculty of Arts. By bringing together Thai and international researchers in the humanities and social sciences, this conference aimed towards promoting a critical understanding of India from socio-political, economic and cultural perspectives as well as towards promoting Indian writing in English among Thai readers. The Bharatasamay International Conference on Indian Writing in English was the first of its kind in Thailand.

The keynote speakers of this international conference were: Amitav Ghosh, author of *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *In an Antique Land*, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, *The Glass Palace*, *Incendiary Circumstances*, *The Hungry Tide*, *Sea of Poppies* and *River of Smoke*, Jahnvi Barua, whose novel *Rebirth* was longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize 2011 and whose short stories collection *Next Door* was longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award in 2009, and Vikas Swarup, whose novel *Q & A* was adapted into an academy award-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire*. Papers were presented by Thai and international academics, researchers, writers and editors.



We are at Your Service.



The Committee Members of the Section of International Affairs, which comprises Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn, Assoc. Prof. Charunee Hongcharu, Assist. Prof. Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Dr. Anant Laulertvorakul, Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh, Dr. Pennisa Srivoranart, Proud Sethabutr, Kamon Butsaban, Dr. Brett Farmer, Dr. Ingo Peters, Donald Scott Humphries, Scott Oltmann, and Kankanok Singhareg as secretary, welcome advice and suggestions concerning any plans and activities. We aim to encourage a fully internationalized environment and to promote increased networking with overseas institutions and scholars. If you would like to talk to us, you can contact any of the committee members. We would be very happy to hear from you and cooperate closely with you.