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A Cultural Afternoon with the Argentinian Ambassador



To raise the international profile of the Faculty, the Section of International Affairs has implemented a program entitled "Ambassadors' Courtesy Visits to the Faculty of Arts." To kick it off, in June 2009 the Section collaborated with the Embassy of Argentina and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in organizing academic and cultural activities. ✿

On June 23, 2009 in Room 105 Maha Chulalongkorn Building, from 2.30 to 5.00 p.m., the Section of International Affairs hosted "A Cultural Afternoon with the Argentinian Ambassador." His Excellency Felipe Frydman gave a short lecture on the art and culture of Argentina with a DVD presentation



of the South American nation's many highlights, from Maradona to meat. The audience did not only hang on the lively ambassador's every word, but participated actively, which culminated in a stunning improvisation of "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina," sung by Ms. Kamonwat Uncharoen, a Spanish major.

What followed was even more spectacular: a tango dance demonstration by the national champions of Argentina. The graceful glides and sophisticated steps of the professional dancers left the audience mesmerized and charmed. Once the rhythm was well set, a brief workshop on tango dance was given and, amazingly, almost all the audience joined in, including the Dean, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapot Assavavirulhakarn, who had never tried his foot at dancing before. "He could be a good dancer," commended one of the national champions. The disarmingly friendly Argentinian Ambassador himself supervised the workshop and also helped teach some students how to do the tango. The event concluded with a sampling of Argentinian food and beverages generously provided by the Embassy.



The "Cultural Afternoon with the Argentinian Ambassador" proved a big success, with enthusiastic participation and friendly interaction of approximately 150 students and faculty members. The event was conducted in both English and Spanish. The MCs were Ms. Parima Kampookaew, an English major, and Spanish majors Ms. Natnaree Uraiyapongson, and Mr. Rathee Ruangpisansil.

The success of this event would not have become a reality without the assistance and cooperation of the professors of Spanish from the Department of Western Languages. The committee of the Section of International Affairs would like to express heartfelt thanks to all involved. ✿

A Friday Morning Talk by the German Ambassador



On June 26, 2009, the Section of International Affairs welcomed students, faculty and general Europhiles to "A Friday Morning Talk by the German Ambassador" in Room 105, Maha Chulalongkorn Building from 10.00 to 12.00.



Upon his arrival, His Excellency Dr. Hanns Schumacher was warmly received by Dean, Asst. Prof. Dr. Prapot Assavavirulhakarn, Deputy Dean for International Affairs, Assoc. Prof. Surapeepan Chatraporn, Head of the German Section, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wanna Saeng Aramroeng, and Prof. Thanomnuan O-Charoen, Director of the Chalermprakiat Center of Translation and Interpretation, who together took His Excellency on a cultural tour of the historic building.



After an introduction by able Ajarns Dr. Mattanee Palungtepin (MC) and Claudio Kasperl (moderator), Dr. Schumacher's fact-filled yet lively lecture on "Germany and the European Union: 20 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall" prompted many questions from both students and teachers and led to a stimulating discussion—to the great delight of His Excellency, who had earlier on encouraged the students to participate by saying "There are no silly questions. There are only silly answers!" While he was certainly proven right by the intelligent enquiries from the audience, his replies, though deliberately informal, were far from "silly" and provided unique insights into the workings of the German state by an absolute insider. After the lecture, a luncheon was hosted in honor of the German Ambassador by the Dean at Plaza Athenee Hotel.

The "Friday Morning Talk by the German Ambassador" was another success, with enthusiastic participation by an audience of approximately 100. The Committee of the Section of International Affairs wishes to thank the professors from the German Section whose close collaboration and assistance were very much appreciated.



We are at Your Service.

The Committee Members of the Section of International Affairs, which comprises Deputy Dean Surapeepan Chatraporn, Dr. Brett Farmer, Charunee Hongcharu, Dr. Duanthem Krisdathanont, Dr. Ingo Peters, Dr. Julispong Chularatana, Dr. Mattanee Palungtepin, Dr. Nurida Hayiyakoh, Pawit Mahasarinand, Dr. Piriyaadit Manit, Dr. Saseporn Petcharpiruch, Dr. Sirivan Chulakorn, Wipada Petcharak, and Walailuk Chorpankul 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.



Thai Studies Center

The Thai Studies Center has been an important part of the Faculty and has helped broaden our international horizon. Yet, some of us may not be familiar with this Center. So, here is a short profile to introduce the Center to you.

The Thai Studies Center was established in 1991 as a multi-disciplinary international M.A. program in Thai Studies that provides students the opportunity to develop an in-depth knowledge of a discipline and thematic subject in Thai Studies under the supervision of recognized experts in various fields and to acquaint them with current research techniques and methodologies.

To date there have been fifty-seven M.A. theses written on various topics pertaining to Thai culture and society ranging from Thai Buddhism, literature, folklore, economics, sports, media and popular culture.

Interested people acquiring knowledge concerning Thai studies can also apply as non-degree students or occasional students taking certain courses with their specific interests or subjects.

After the continued success of the Master's program, Thai Studies Center started to offer a Ph.D. program in Thai Studies in 2005, and currently there are ten students enrolled aiming ultimately for a doctorate in Thai Studies.



The administration of the Thai Studies Center comes under Professor Dr. Siraporn Nathalang as the Director with Associate Professor Dr. Suchitra Chongstitvatana serving as Chairperson of the Ph.D. program and Assistant Professor Dr. Carina Chotirawe as Chairperson of the M.A. program.

For more information please contact the Center at room 204, Maha Chulalongkorn Building, tel. 02-2184862 or email thaistudies_chula@hotmail.com or visit the website www.arts.chula.ac.th/international/thai





Who? What? Where?



Assist. Prof. Fan Ying, Assist. Prof. Ji Hongfang and Ajarn Fan Chunming teamworked to train Miss Thanasri Sutirapak, a senior student majoring in Chinese, for the 8th Chinese Bridge-Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students, which took place on June 6, 2009 at Rachada City Hotel. Thanks to their assiduous guidance, Miss Thanasri won the Second Runner-up Award in the competition.

On March 29, 2009, the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University (CICU), in collaboration with the Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Thailand, organized an academic seminar on the topic of “The Economic Development and Cultural Prosperity in China” in Room 212, Maha Chulalongkorn Building. This seminar aimed to celebrate the 54th birthday anniversary of H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the People’s Republic of China. Approximately 160 Thai and Chinese participants attended this seminar.

From 11 to 13 May 2009 CICU cooperated with the CU Chinese Section to organize a project entitled “Chinese Language Training for College Teachers in Thailand for the year 2009,” which aimed to develop teaching methods for college teachers in Thailand. For this project, two experts from Peking University were invited to give lectures. Approximately 50 teachers from 34 universities in Thailand joined this training session. An academic seminar on the topic of “H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Her Royal Highness’s Contribution to Chinese Language Educational Development in Thailand” was also held in conjunction with this project in Room 212, Maha Chulalongkorn Building. The purpose of this seminar was two-fold: to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of H.R.H. the Princess’s inscription in Chinese characters stating “Before us is a heavy responsibility and a long path to go” and to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the establishment of the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University. 

Ajarn Claudio Kasperl, German Section, Department of Western Languages took part in a meeting of lecturers and representatives of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) at Hanoi, Vietnam, from 3 April to 6 April, 2009. The German lecturers and experts for academic exchanges from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, and the Philippines came together to discuss recent developments in their fields, particularly with relevance to the region of Southeast Asia. In this meeting Ajarn Claudio presented a paper on the educational background of German majors at Chulalongkorn University.

Professor Dr. Dorothy Hale, Director of Graduate Studies, University of California at Berkley, and former President of the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature was invited by the Thai Studies Center and the English Department to give a lecture entitled “On Beauty as Beautiful?: The Problem of Novelistic Aesthetics, By Way of Zadie Smith” on June 17, 2009 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in Room 707 Boromrachakumari Building.

Ajarn Dr. Ingo Peters, Department of English, had his article “A Sea of Stories: Islands as Shima in Rattawut Lapcharoensap’s Sightseeing”—presenting the first results from his research project on Thai American literature—accepted for publication by ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature, a reputable Canadian academic journal with a broadly postcolonial remit.

Ajarn Dr. Brett Farmer, Department of English, conducted a two-day workshop on teaching film and literature hosted by the Department of English for Thai ajarns of English on March 18-19. The workshop attracted over fifty participants from universities as far afield as Chiang Mai and was deemed a success by all concerned. Dr Farmer has also had two recent research publications come out: a chapter on celebrity media reception in a new collection of cultural theory essays from Oxford University Press, and an article on the Edison Chen internet scandal in the latest issue of "The Journal of Chinese Cinemas". 



We join all the international communities in the mourning of the loss of Michael Jackson, King of Pop.