


The Metropolis: BALAC Open House 2017

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The Bachelor of Arts in Language and Culture (BALAC) on 8th October 2017 from 10.00 - 16.00 held the BALAC Open House in the theme of the metropolis, with the purpose of publicizing the BALAC programme to the general public, as well as promoting the new curriculum which will be implemented in the upcoming academic year of 2018. The main changes in the programme are the new concentrations offered which are Media Cultures and Global Cultures alongside the original concentrations offered of studies in a chosen foreign language. The event was hosted by the students of the BALAC programme and was open to the public, targetting mainly secondary school students and parents. The event was held in 4 different rooms which served different purposes: the Main Room, the Game Room, the Discussion Room and the Exhibition Room.

The Main Room held the opening ceremony with opening remarks by Associate Professor Dr. Kingkarn Thepkanjana, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and BALAC Director. This was followed by 4 lectures on various cultural study topics by BALAC's own faculty members: starting with "Are You What You Eat?" by Dr. Lowell Skar, then, "Two Concepts of Education: Humanising Students, Teachers and Education" by Dr. Sueng Soo Kim. The afternoon sessions included "Thai-Japanese Cultural Exchanges in Everyday Life" by Dr. David Malitz and "Introduction to Gender Studies" by Dr. Kyja Noack-Lundberg. The next session was an alumni and senior student talk in which the guests could learn about the academic, student life and future prospects to get an idea of what to expect while studying in the BALAC programme.

For a less academic approach and more of an interactive experience, the Game Room was designed to test out the participants' critical thinking skills by solving the riddle, "What is Missing from BALAC?". The game was a simulation of a museum setting where guests entered in small groups and solved the riddle together. Apart from this room, the Discussion Room was very popular amongst guests as it served the purpose of simulating classroom-styled discussion with various media analysis topics led by BALAC students. This gave the guests an opportunity to utilise their analytical skills, get a taste of the learning environment and exchange their ideas. Finally, the Exhibition Room exhibited all the details about the new and improved curriculum alongside student activities with guided explanations by BALAC students.

Overall, as the programme's first official Open House, the event was deemed successful as it welcomed over 150 guests and received positive feedback. In the future BALAC hopes to host more Open Houses and academic activities for the general public to spark an interest and enhance the understanding of the range of cultural studies offered by their programme.



