

BALAC Orientation Day

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The 2017 Orientation Day for parents and incoming students of the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Language and Culture (BALAC) International Programme of the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, was held on Friday 7 July 2017 at Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building, Faculty of Arts. This event, organised not only for the purpose of welcoming new students but also for the purpose of honouring fresh graduates who excel in academics and extracurricular activities, was attended by more than 150 new BALAC students, parents, staff and alumni.

Associate Professor Kingkarn Thepkanjana, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Director of the BALAC Programme, delivered the welcome speech and offered an introduction to the programme, its lecturers and supporting staff. This was followed by an award ceremony, where students who had earned their place on the honour roll were awarded with certificates of recognition by the Dean.

After the award ceremony, Ajarn Dangkamon Na-pombejra, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Alumni Relations, gave a talk on the topic of “Campus Life of BALAC Students”. This was followed by an overview of BALAC students’ past and forthcoming activities presented by Assistant Professor Verita Sriratana, PhD, and Ajarn Darintip Chansit, BALAC Deputy Directors for International and Student Affairs.

BALAC staff and lecturers were not the only ones involved in organising the Orientation Day. The BALAC Orientation Day 2017 was carefully planned and impressively coordinated by student volunteers. All sessions were wonderfully moderated by student MCs Hatsaya Teerananon and Chanawong Kittiwisetkun. After the first session on campus life and student activities, the invited BALAC alumni Mr Jirat Nitipon (Teacher at Triam Udom Suksa School), Mr Wisarut Homhuan (Founder and Designer of WRITE by WISARUT and Freelance Actor), Ms Thanyaphorn Rungreunghanja (Owner and Co-Founder of Amica Gelateria and Content Editor at Wongnai Media), and Ms Parima Sagulku (Interior Designer of August Design Consultant Co, Ltd) generously shared their experiences in a panel discussion entitled “Professional Opportunities and Career Paths: Meeting with Arts Alumni”. This animated session offered touchingly personal insights into how each of the BALAC alumni overcame his/her fear of the unknown and courageously challenged the overriding fallacy that Arts & Humanities students are faced only with limited range of career options after they graduate. The subsequent Q&A session, in which the MCs also invited fresh graduates to participate, was lively and thought-provoking. Incoming BALAC students and their parents joined in the discussion, in which they and the alumni exchanged their thoughts and opinions on the courses, exchange programmes, internship and job opportunities.

After lunch, Assistant Professor Chanyaporn Chawla, PhD, and Assistant Professor Penpisa Srivaranard, PhD, BALAC Deputy Directors for Academic Affairs, gave a presentation on academic life at BALAC, outlining the curriculum and available exchange programmes in which students could take part. This informative session was followed by the much-anticipated talk on the topic of “Introduction to Cultural Studies” by Ajarn Lowell Skar, PhD, and Ajarn Kyja Noack-Lundberg, PhD. Both lecturers not only stressed the significance of Cultural Studies as a discipline through which students can understand and critically analyse the socio-political impact and implications of culture encountered in their daily lives, but also shared their personal take on and encounter with cultural studies, recounting how such experience has transformed their lives and the way they perceive the world.

The BALAC Orientation Day 2017 concluded with new students' first meeting with their academic advisors. Before the meeting took place, BALAC student representatives Tientip Chalok-kongtaworn and Yeewah Kitsomsub gave a fun and titillating presentation on BALAC student life and activities through the point of view of current students. They proudly presented a student-made video clip showcasing the many clubs, events and activities in store for new students at BALAC. The video can be viewed via this link:



