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Royal Cards for All Occasions: The Crown Princess and Her 'Photography Day' at the Faculty of Arts



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has taken our Faculty as her inspiration to create a set of commemorative cards for several occasions, which have been available for sale—with the proceedings going to the

Ajarn William Handrich from the English Department, staging a "Pyramus and Thisbe" scene from *Midsummer Night's Dream* in International New Year's Party on December 17, 2008.



Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Foundation for the Faculty of Arts—since the beginning of 2009.

The cards not only contain royal photographs taken by the Crown Princess herself, but also captions in her own handwriting.

As for the story behind these fascinating works of art:

Her Royal Highness came to our Faculty on November 24, 2008, specifically to take photos to create her historic cards.

The Princess spent hours selecting the best spots, the best angles, the best perspectives to produce perfect pictures. Displaying her trademark kindness on this private trip, she graciously stopped by at the Office of the Dean, giving permission to the administrative team as well as Faculty officials to take photos with her.

The Princess also tried sitting on the Dean's chair and had her own picture taken in that pose. Her kindness was further extended to the construction workers and site supervisors of the Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Building, to whom she granted permission to take a group photo with her. This day was indeed a memorable 'photography day' for our beloved Princess, and for all of us at the Faculty of Arts. 

From Cuba to Germany: Courtesy visits by Ambassadors

On December 4, 2008 H.E. Mr. Lazaro Herrera, the Cuban Ambassador, paid a courtesy visit to Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, our Dean,



on the occasion of the former's taking up the position of the Ambassador to Thailand. Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn (Associate Dean for International Affairs), and Ajarn Chantira Pramulsub (Head of the Spanish Section) joined in the discussion on the possibility of academic and cultural cooperation between the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba and the Faculty of Arts. As part of the Ambassador's visit, the Dean took him on a walking tour of the Maha Chulalongkorn and Maha Vajiravudh Buildings.



Chula and Korea: Contract Signing

In late November, Assistant Professor Dr. Prapod Assavairulhakarn, our Dean, signed a contract with the Dean of the Graduate School of International Studies, Ewha University (Korea). According to the contract, Ewha University's Department of Korean Studies, in an 'Internship Program,' will send two M.A. or Ph.D. candidates to teach Korean language to students taking Korean courses, as well as to carry out assignments at the Korean Section, Department of Eastern Languages, Faculty of Arts, for a period of eight weeks during the months of June to August. The first phase of the agreement covers a period of four years.

Ewha Womans University was established in 1886 (the seemingly odd spelling was correct at the time of its founding and is kept for historical reasons), and currently has a student population of approximately 20,000. Ewha Womans University is among the world's most prestigious women's universities and enjoys a reputation of being one of Korea's best-known institutions of higher learning.

In connection with this new academic relationship, Ajarn Supaporn Boonrung was invited by Ewha Womans University—and funded by the Korean Ministry of Education—to attend, in her capacity as the coordinator for the Korean Language Teaching Project, a conference at Ewha Woman's University from January 14 to 16, 2009 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

From Cuba to Germany: (continued)

On December 15, 2008 H.E Dr. Hanns Schumacher, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany—accompanied by Ms. Elke Tiedt, the Cultural Attaché—visited the Faculty to present German books to the Dean as rewards for outstanding German majors and minors. Associate Professor Surapeepan Chatraporn, Professor

Tanomnuan O-Chareon and Associate Professor Dr. Wanna Saenga-ramroeng joined the Dean in giving the diplomats a warm welcome. The German representatives and Thai scholars went on to discuss ways and means to further strengthen cordial relationships and expand the academic and cultural collaboration.

BALAC Invited to Attend College Fair at EIS and RIS

Ajarn Dr. Sasiporn Petcharapiruch and Mr. Natchapol Boonprasertkij represented our new BALAC program at two college fairs. On November 7 at Ekamai International School or EIS and November 11 at Ruamrudee International School or RIS, they introduced and promoted the program to 250 intrigued listeners in presentations and question-and-answer sessions. Ajarn Sasiporn and Mr. Natchapol also welcomed six teachers and 120 high-school students from EIS to the Faculty of Arts for a college trip that stirred considerable interest in the new

program. The guests were treated to a walking tour of the Boromrajakumari Building and the Maha Chulalongkorn and Maha Vajiravudh buildings, as well as to all the vital information on the Faculty in general and BALAC in particular.

Contact Us

The Section of International Affairs welcomes suggestions and comments from you—our readers. If you would like to talk to us or have news to be published in the Aksara Arts Newsletter, you can call our secretary, Ms. Mallika Samart, at 02-218-4885 or send an email to her at jasmine9906@hotmail.com.



Memories to Last a Lifetime: The Crown Princess at Chula Academic Week



None of the current Arts students will ever forget November 27, 2008, the second day of the Chula Academic Week, as it was the day when Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously paid a private visit to all the rooms on the three floors where exhibitions were staged, lectures were given, and performances took place. Her Royal Highness stopped at every single exhibition; her attentive listening, her insightful inquiries, and her enthusiastic interaction with the students on duty reflected her keen interest

in all the projects. Understandably nervous and in awe of the most distinguished visitor, the students might have had an awkward moment or two in some of their presentations, yet the Princess's tender and forgiving eyes made every single participant feel like a winner—creating fond and cherished moments to remember for everyone involved.

“The Princess's visit to the Chula Academic week at the Faculty of Arts will forever be enshrined in our memories,” the students said concertedly. 

dances: “Daode xinxi” and the “Healthy Dance for Body and Mind.” Not to be outdone, Ajarn Zhang Zongzheng, Ajarn Fan Chunming, Ajarn Fan Ying, Ajarn Ji Hong Fang, Ajarn Fu Zengyou, Ajarn Yang Pinping, Ajarn Yang Lijun and Ajarn Sasiporn Petcharapiracha from the Chinese Section and the Confucius Institute continued the parade of cultural gems with their performance of a folk song of Jiangsu Province, entitled “Jasmine.” Ajarn Alexey Ryzhov (Russian Section), who would prove to be a veritable Pictionary wizard in the game section later on, sang a melodious folk song from his homecountry by the name of “Black Raven,” while Ajarn William Handrich from the English Department, staging a “Pyramus and Thisbe” scene from *Midsummer Night's Dream*, showed that all it takes to bring the spirit of Shakespeare to life is one single actor and (a lot of) props. As for games, Ajarn Ingo Peters, Ajarn Brett Farmer and Ajarn Mattanee Palungtapin got the party guests to either draw or shout their interpretations of the drawings out in the abovementioned Pictionary. Afterwards Ajarn Soleeheen Raseuy from the Malay Section won the crowd over with the song “Sepohon Kayu,” followed by a lively Burmese song-and-dance performance by the Burmese students from the Thai Studies Program. The party concluded with everybody joining in the Christmas carols and the traditional Thai New Year's song.

Ajarn Pawit Mahasarinant and Ajarn Sasiporn Petcharapiracha teamed up as MCs. During the party all ajarns took part in the judging of the Arts Newsletter Logo Design Contest. The Dean presented the winner, who is a graduate student from the Philosophy Department, and the first runner-up, who is an undergraduate English major, with money awards. The party proved a success, with active participation and friendly interaction of over 90 foreign and Thai ajarns. 

Songs, Sandwiches, Socializing: The International New Year's Party



The Section of International Affairs held the Faculty's first-ever International New Year's Party on December 17, 2008—to express heartfelt thanks to our foreign faculty members (whose efforts and expertise have been a boon to us, the most international of all Chula faculties), and to provide an opportunity for Thai and foreign ajarns to meet, mingle, socialize, and have a good time. That these objectives could be met in a great atmosphere was also due to the

fact that Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn had kindly bestowed sandwiches and cakes of various flavors as part of the food for the feast.

The party started with a brief talk from the Dean, followed by a mix of short performances and games designed to get all participants involved and interacting. Persuading everybody to join in, Ajarn Saowaluck Suriyawongpaisarn and Ajarn Michiko Imai from the Japanese Section introduced two