As dawn illumines oriental spectacular pearls
Your life has lit up the lives of Your people:
In the radiance of morning’s sun, incense smoke whirls,
Praises from young and old, like ornate temple steeples
Radiating the glory and the golden hues of Your giving
To the hapless and downtrodden as to those of means
Your generosity has kindled new hope in living;
Luscious mountain fountains, flowing into gushy streams
In one reality. Nowhere else can one find finesse and grace
Except in Your life, the exquisiteness of regality gleams
Jocundity for a Great Queen in our time and place
Sentiments of loyal praise and adulation, this verse encapsulates;
Birthday blessings from the bottom of our hearts we declare
Echoes from our greetings resound in feisty firmaments beyond compare.

(Dedicated to Her Majesty the Queen of Thailand on the occasion of Her birthday, August 12, 2008
by Mr. Glen Chatelier, Assumption University)
Queen’s Birthday observed at Assumption University on August 8, 2008

Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, the President of Assumption University led the Birthday Greeting Ceremony for the Queen at Hua Mak campus by paying tribute to Her Majesty’s work in the SUPPORT Foundation. Festive birthday poems, in the Thai and English languages were read and the Royal Anthem and a song of homage to their Majesties, the King and Queen were also sung. Representatives of the University community then posed for a commemorative photograph, bringing to end a memorable greeting ceremony for Her Majesty the Queen.

Deans of ABAC School of Management (1984-Present)

The ABAC School of Management will mark 40 years of its existence in 2009. To anticipate this anniversary, ABAC Today profiles the four deans of the school.

Rev. Brother Siriroj Viriyasirimongkol, Ph.D., FSG (June 1984 - 31 May 1987)
Education Qualification
- B.A. (Literature), Osmania University, India
- M.A. (English), Saint Louis University, Philippines
- Ph.D. (English), University of the Philippines, Philippines.

Rev. Brother Anupatt Petchara-Yuttachai, FSG (1 June
Ph.D. in Educational Leadership Seminar Trip to University of Dayton, Ohio, USA

The overall objectives of the Ph.D. seminar trip to the University of Dayton were for Assumption University’s doctoral students to be exposed to another Ph.D. program in Education Leadership and to interact with professors and doctoral students concerning issues in educational leadership and contemporary research within education leadership; to attend and participate in doctoral courses at the University of Dayton; and to familiarize students with contemporary issues within USA schools and the role of leadership dealing with these issues. The daily summary of the visit to the University of Dayton is as follows:

Saturday 16 February 2008
The group of 13 people from Assumption University arrived at Dayton Airport and was welcomed by Associate Prof. Dr. Bro. Thomas Oldenski and two undergraduate students. The members of the group checked in at the University Guest House and had a brief orientation. The houses were in a typical American style with comfortable facilities and a safe environment. The group rested well and recovered from the fatigue after the 30 hours of travel.

Sunday 17 February 2008
Some students attended the Sunday Mass from 9.30 am at Holy Angel Catholic Church near the University Guest House. Meals were provided at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Student Union (Kennedy Union). An informal campus tour was conducted by Dr. Bro. Thomas Oldenski. The group visited Chaminade Hall (School of Education), Library, and RECPLEX (sports center).

Dr. Daniel Curran, the President of the University of Dayton, hosted a reception dinner at his house in honor of the visitors from continued on page 4
Thailand. The dinner was also attended by the President’s wife, Dr. Thomas J. Lasley II, Dean of School of Education and Allied Professions, faculty members, Ms. Amy Anderson, Director of the Center for International Programs, and the Provost of the UD. There were around 40 people at the reception including 13 from the AU group. The Dean was planning to visit AU this year. The reception was hosted in a warm atmosphere and all group members were highly impressed by the President’s hospitality towards the visitors.

Monday 18 February 2008

The International Admission Department arranged a formal university tour. The group had a brief orientation of UD by Mr. John Huart, Associate Director of International Admissions, and Mr. Jacob M. Hemmerick, International Admissions Counselor. After the orientation, guided by Mr. Hemmerick, the group observed the whole campus including student resident halls. It was a holiday for secondary schools in the US. So, the AU group could see many groups of high school students who were guided by the staff members of UD. There was also a group of international graduate students who were admitted to the university recently. Lunch was hosted by the International Admission Department with Ms. Amy Anderson, Director of the Center for International Programs. Since Ms Anderson is currently conducting her Ph.D. research, AU students shared their dissertation topics and backgrounds. A Thai girl student who learned English at UD also joined and shared her experiences with fluent English. Her advisor told us that her English pronunciation had been improved dramatically.

The evening program of this day was a talk by Mr. Spike Lee, a very successful movie director. This talk was one of the series of Diversity Lecture which was organized by the University of Dayton for the public. It was organized at Schuster Center in the downtown area. In the audience of many hundreds were not only students and faculty members from University of Dayton, but also citizens of the city. We could observe how the university serves its local communities.

Tuesday 19 February 2008

After breakfast, the group visited the Bombeck Family Learning Center. This center was operated in conjunction with the University of Dayton. Therefore, the sophomores of the University of Dayton came to help this center as TAs. The group had a briefing with Dr. Adams, Director and Ms. Diana and Dr. Johanna who are in charge of teaching curriculum, resource, and assessment. The group was divided into three sub-groups and observed the day care and learning activities of the center. All facilities were well-equipped. University classes were also taught in the center. This was a good practice of knowledge-based learning on the latest theories. For example, all children were assessed by “learning by doing”. Teachers keep children’s portfolios and carefully assess them continuously.

Going back to the University of Dayton, the group had self-research time after lunch until the classes. There were two classes from 4.30 pm to 10.00 pm for this day. The first class was Capstone Research by Dr. Ridenour. Interacting with 18 Dayton Ph.D. students, AU students shared their professional backgrounds and dissertation topics. Since this class was the final research class for Dayton Ph.D. students, all of them showed keen interest in AU students’ dissertation topics. The second Ph.D. class was Quantitative Research & Statistics by Dr. Place. In this class, five Ph.D. students presented their assignment papers. They were assigned to design one qualitative research. AU students also participated by asking questions and stating comments after each presentation.

Wednesday 20 February 2008

The AU group visited the Dayton Early College Academy (DECA) in the morning. The group
was welcomed by Dr. Judy Hennessey, the Principal. Classrooms in this school did not have a wall, they are divided only by partitions. Students can learn outside the school as well. Some students attend university classes, others go to business firms. Students bring back what they have learned outside into the school. Therefore, their learning was extremely active. The AU group also met the former governor of Ohio State who briefly shared his experiences while working in the governor's office. A class conducted a research study based on interviewing the governor and presented their research in front of him. He was invited to judge their presentation. The questions and comments on students' presentations were keen and tough. However, all students defended very well. According to Dr. Hennessey, 100 percent of the graduates were admitted to college. She called many students by their first names and asked critical questions such as 'What are good points and bad points of this school?' and 'How is the learning here different from your middle school?' during the school tour. All of them answered her with confidence. The AU students were highly impressed by the students' independent thinking. The great result of 100 percent admission to the university was created in such an environment.

In the evening, the group attended Superintendency class by Dr. Kowalski who was a well-known writer of books and articles on Educational Leadership. The AU students had an opportunity to share what was on going in their country. Brief presentations were made by Ms. Yan Ye, Mr. Wallapat, and Ms. Mika as representatives of three different countries: China, Thailand, and Japan. After the class, the visitors from AU were invited to a dinner at the Chambers Street Marianist Community. Brothers of the University Dayton welcomed the group with homemade dishes. An eclipse of the moon could be observed in Ohio this night.

Thursday 21 February 2008

The group visited two schools in the morning and in the afternoon. The first school visited was Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic School, a primary school (Pre K-8). Ms. Debra Johnson, Principal, took the group to tour the school and answered questions from AU students. Although this school was in one of the poor areas of Dayton, AU group found that the school was well-operated by the principal and administrators. All students were provided breakfast and lunch at the cafeteria. They had music lessons, IT classes, and physical education. The day the group visited was one day before a big event on African Americans—most of the students are African Americans, and they learned some of the history and music of African Americans. They welcomed the visitors from Thailand by their excellent singing performance.

The next visit was to Chaminade-Julienne Catholic High School. Mr. John C. Marshall, the Principal and Mr. Mike Miller, Director of Curriculum and Instruction greeted the group and gave a brief introduction to the school in the conference room. The group observed English, biology, architecture classes. Students were allowed only three minutes to move to the next class. Despite this strictness, students were cheerful and active. They seemed to learn discipline through the strict regulations. Visiting the chemical laboratory, theater, chapels, and library, AU students found that all facilities were well-operated. They noticed that many of school administrators, including Mr. Marshall and Mr. Miller, were graduates of the school. Their love and loyalty toward the school may have created this school culture.

The class the group attended this evening, was Curriculum Evaluation & Instruction by Dr. Bro. Thomas Oldenski. Divided into small groups of 5-8 students, each group was a mixture of UD and AU students; students interacted actively. UD students shared information based on their small survey which was assigned by the professor. AU students stated their comments and were asked questions on their studies. A lot of information was exchanged among continued on page 6
students in terms of curriculum & instruction in their local contexts. After the class, the School of Education & Allied Professions arranged a reception in Kennedy Union. The Dean, faculty, and UD Ph.D. students joined the reception.

Friday 22 February 2008

Due to an ice storm, all public institutions were closed this day. The school visit to Dayton Public Schools was cancelled. Because of this, the group explored the town by local bus transportation. The group experienced life in severe chilly weather which they were unable to observe in Thailand. Black ice covered the road and this made walking outside very difficult. Even in this weather, the university library provided service, and some of our group spent time there. The University Art Series conducted a Shakespearean performance in Kennedy Union. The group enjoyed “Merchant of Venice” by the American Shakespeare Center.

Saturday 24 February 2008

The final day of the trip was reserved for a cultural trip. The group visited Air Force Museum. Since the Wright Brothers were born in this place, Dayton has many institutes which relate to aviation technology. The group learned the history of aviation in this museum. After the museum, two UD Ph.D. students joined our group and took the group for lunch and shopping. The group observed local life there.

Staying at UD for 8 days, despite 5 days of on and off snow and flurries, visiting four local schools and participating in four Ph.D. classes, and also attending several activities for public which were hosted by UD, we saw the UD ties with other institutes and local communities. In the US, the role of educational institutes for public benefit seemed to be more significant than in Asia. In the discipline of Educational Leadership, which Bro. President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran had pointed out to us before we left, many theoretical frameworks and practices are led by schools in the US. Discussions on Educational Leadership may be developed based on their contexts. Observing the relationships between school leaders and followers, we could see that these are totally different from Asian schools. For example, their desire to be independent and to be original are much different from Asians. Their goal of education and leadership style may reflect their perceptions and values. Transplanting one model from one context to another would not be the best answer. Interactions with UD students in a variety of backgrounds made us notice our roles as Ph.D. instructor/candidates/students, which we need to create the best framework for our own contexts. Without visiting the US, observing what was exactly happening there, and interacting with people who were currently involved the events, we could not have come to this point. In this sense, our field trip to Dayton has brought us many significant thoughts and ideas for our development as educational leaders.

Spending time in Japan for the past 10 months as an exchange student at Kansai Gaidai University was the best experience in my life. It enriched my world and shaped my thinking internationally.

My name is Supinda. Last year in May, I was luckily chosen and granted the scholarship from Jasso program through Dr. Sam who kindly recommended the program to me. I was a sophomore at that time. I’ve never lived away from home for a long time and I never have lived in a dormitory before, therefore this program provided me the chance to do so many things that I’d never do if I were to have remained in Thailand.

Japan is a beautiful country in all dimensions; its nature, people, traditions, cultures, knowledge and technology. While the society is full of many modern technologies, it still has its uniqueness in traditions. Their 10-month experience as an exchange student to Kansai Gaidai University (Osaka, Japan) via Assumption University through Jasso scholarship, September 2007 - May 2008

Kansai Gaidai University. people have very high discipline and demand highly in self-development. There are many adults as well as school teenagers who have interests in learning second and third languages especially English. They also want to pursue their dreams since they are young. I’ve seen many teenagers industriously practice their own skills in public places at night after school. The main purpose is not for money but to become good in what they like. Some sing, others dance. They are not afraid of people seeing them, they have inspiration and courage.

Reported by:
Mika Shaura Tanasarnsanee, Ph.D. Student
Athipat Cleesuntorn, Ph.D.
age to do what they like and think that it is not wrong to do so. I don’t see this much in Thai students, but it could be that our culture and environment are different, that’s why we do things the way we think. There is no right or wrong. But there are also things that we could learn from them and develop ourselves and our country to be successful like them.

In Kansai Gaidai University, we had about 670 exchange students; 335 students are from the United States, and the rest were from countries around the world. There were 3 Thai students; 2 students from Bangkok university and me. I had a great opportunity to meet people from many countries and make friends with them. We learned one another’s cultures and their ways of thinking. We exchanged our opinions and talked about our countries. I see many differences and similarities we shared among countries.

I had chances to experience Japanese and also international cultures; Yukata fitting and folk dance, Halloween party, etc. I was so happy to find out that many Japanese and also other foreigners like Thailand so much. Many of them even have visited Thailand before. They know about Thai culture; Wai, Buddhism, our beloved king, food and places to visit.

In the classroom, I studied Japanese language and also other business related classes in English. It was in a real international environment. Most of the classes; we discussed as a group and had at least one big presentation for each class. Foreign students felt so free to express their opinions and that made the class knowledgeable and not boring.

Kansai Gaidai has started the exchange program many years ago. It has a fixed system to deal with any issues related to an exchange student; mostly all messages and announcements go through email. Every student has to log in the university website to receive any university emails to their own email address in order not to miss any important messages from the university. The university has a certain department called “Center of International Education” or “CIE” to help exchange students from the very beginning till the last day those students stay in Japan. They can answer any questions about being an exchange student in Japan; provide every possible solution to any problems, student may have. The department has about 15-20 members, most are native speakers who are fluent in English.

There are many activities that the university offers to exchange students, so that they take the chance to make Japanese friends, practice language and learn-Japanese cultures. For example: CIE would set a short trip to the province next to Osaka for exchange students with Japanese students who are willing to make friends internationally and go for the trip with them. CIE would have the day for international festival for exchange students to participate and show their cultures to Japanese people; it could be in the form of World booth (share information about their countries), Food booth (sell food), Fashion show (in their national costumes), Dancing (Folk dance), etc.

In order to do this, CIE informed students in advance of their arrival to Japan via email, gave the details about the day for them to prepare and also granted some budget to 4th year student groups who were responsible for this day, enabled students to create booths within the suitable amount of budget. For food booths, CIE borrowed the cooking equipment from the cafeteria for the students. I found no difficulty to join the activities and found it very enjoyable. It also provided me chances to know other 2 Thai friends, worked together as a team with Japanese student staff, met a Japanese family who visited the booth and presented Thai costume... continued on page 8
and Thai wai on the stage in the fashion show as well.

A very interesting program CIE provided to exchange students was a “Speaking Partner” program and “Home Visit” program. For the first one, it was very helpful for foreigners to have friends and these friends created through his/her speaking partner to learn culture, to practice language, to know things about the university and its country. Many Japanese students applied for the program, for which they had to go through the long application form and interview to match with the request that exchange students made for to ensure that the selected Japanese students have enough skills in communication.

Home Visit program would enable the Japanese families who applied and are qualified for the program to learn other countries’ culture, meet people from other countries and so on. Of course this program needs much time for CIE to screen the appropriate family with the request of the exchange student. But none of these programs required the exchange students to pay any extra cost.

There are many students’ clubs in the university and they allow exchange students to join. Through this, students would have friends and activities to join throughout the semester. Many times in the CIE board, activity information was posted, persuading them to join; for example: Japanese food cooking, cooking dessert, watching firework displays, visiting temples, sightseeing, picnics in gardens, mountain climbing, hot spring during holidays, playing sport together, and so on. Japanese students have freedom to create any activities, provide date and time and the details about it and fill in the form at CIE. After CIE’s approval, the form would be posted at the board. The board is very important and updated; people know many things and about activities within a month from here. It’s located in the place that people have to walk pass it.

Beside from these wonderful activities I joined with the university, I also traveled a lot within Japan. Thanks to Japanese friends and families that allowed me to visit them and make friends with them during my stay, I had a wonderful life and didn’t experience any homesickness. Thanks to the money Jasso Scholarship kindly granted to me through Assumption University, I lived my life in Japan comfortably and enjoyably traveled around. Thanks to Assumption University and Dr. Sam for giving me this valuable opportunity to explore the world not only Japan but also other countries through studying their cultures. It is the best scholarship program I have ever heard and fortunately experienced it by myself. From this trip, I really learned a lot. Hopefully that the report I’m writing now would be beneficial to the university in order to develop such wonderful programs for Assumption University students in the future.

If you have any questions or would like to know any more details about any topics related to this program or my experience, please feel free to ask me via jer_nan@hotmail.com.

Report by:
Ms. Supinda Siritanawat
International Visitors to Assumption University and Events on and off campus

Dr. Ismail Ali Said and Mr. Glen Chatelier hosted a visit by a high level delegation from Libya to Thailand, and a representative from the Royal Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Suvarnabhumi campus on March 19, 2008.

Vice President for IT, Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman, greeted visitors from the University of Macau’s Business School when they visited Assumption University’s Suvarnabhumi campus on March 21, 2008.

Archbishop Crepaldi, secretary of the Vatican Commission on Justice and Peace visited Au on March 28, 2008. The Archbishop was accorded a campus tour by the President of Assumption University.

Bishop Vianney (Sri Lanka) and Father Pinto (India) visited Assumption University and were greeted by the President on April 21, 2008.

The President of Assumption University and the Dean of the Graduate School of Business signed an Mou with SCG to implement a Human Resources Training Program on April 22, 2008.

Dr. Samusa Nakasingh and her team welcomed the ABAC-Loyola Director and the study abroad program students from Loyola College, Maryland, U.S.A. at the Suvarnabhumi Airport on May 19, 2008.
Office of The FABC - Commission on Family held a seminar at Assumption University’s John XXIII Conference Center with participants from 17 countries between May 25-28, 2008.

Assumption University hosted a visit from Norton University, Vietnam. The visitors were briefed on Assumption University’s Information Technology facilities on August 19, 2008.

Rev. Brother Anupatt Petchara-Yuttachai, Vice President for Financial Affairs at Assumption University, hosted, on behalf of the University, a visit by 300 European Youth when they visited Thailand between July 21 and 28, 2008.

His Excellency Mr. Samak Suntharavej, the Prime Minister of Thailand poses for a photograph on August 25, 2008 with Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President of Assumption University, members of the Assumption University top management and representatives of the Alumni Association after awarding Assumption University the top award for the highest export of education services from Thailand.

Testimonial from an In-Bound Exchange Student

I spent a wonderful semester at ABAC University. I keep nice souvenirs of my different classes where I met many students coming from various countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Germany, Japan. It was an amazing experience to work in groups with them, share our methods of work and at the same time our cultures.

I enjoyed studying in Suvarnabhumi Campus where I had also the opportunity to benefit from the huge sport complex which proposes an important range of sports.

I encourage every one of you to come to study in Assumption University to acquire an international experience into the Thai Culture.


Ms. Johanna Flores
Wai-Kru Ceremony

Assumption University held the Wai-Kru Ceremony on June 21, 2008 at The John Paul II Sports Complex, Suvarnabhumi Campus. The ceremony consisted of freshmen students paying respect to the university administrators and faculty.

Academic awards were presented to the top performing students in the academic year 2007-2008. The student clubs prepared floral decorations to be presented to the faculty. The ABAC Dummy company also rewarded top salespersons for their summer sales campaigns.
Assumption University celebrated Songkran festival on April 11, 2008 at the Suvarnabhumi campus.

Faculty, staff and students paid their respects to the President, President Emeritus and the Vice Presidents by pouring lustral water on their hands and invoking blessings upon them.

The President and President Emeritus addressed the university community and while extolling the richness and meaningfulness of the Songkran festival, they urged the students to inculcate respect for traditions and cultural observations. The President and President Emeritus blessed the gathering and wished everyone the joys of the Thai New Year.

The photographs taken on the occasion reflect the rich splendor of the surroundings, the flushness of the Thai summer, and the meaningful ceremonies, and a happy university community.