ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY MOURNS THE PASSING AWAY OF HRH PRINCESS GALYANI VADHANA

In the unchanging turn of life's histories
You came to us as a light of comfort
Princess, Daughter, Sister, Patron
Help to those who did not see hope

No life richer than Yours in nobility and regal action
Has been benevolent sister to two kings
With Your smiles and blessings
Your sisterly actions assisted their onerous missions

The light of Your life has dimmed in our midst
But flashed onto the reality that knows no pain, no earthly loss
To us, bereft of Your gift of life, amidst the tears, is fervent hope
That the merits of all Your good deeds, will be richly rewarded

Rest in peace, angelic Royal soul, may the gentler spirits
Accompany You to Your journey's destination
Where Your spirit will in eternity dwell, in freshness of divine favor
Your goodness and generosity we will forever savor

(Dedicated to Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana at Her passing away on January 2, 2008 by Mr. Glen Chatelier, Director, the Office of International Affairs, Assumption University of Thailand)
ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY PAYS HOMAGE AND RESPECT TO THE LATE PRINCESS GALYANI VADHANA

The Assumption University Community led by the President, Rev. Brother Dr. Bancha Saenghiran paid respect and homage to the late Princess Galyani Vadhana on January 3, 2008 at the Hua Mak Campus. Princess Galyani Vadhana well loved and respected by the Thai and International Communities, had passed away on January 2, 2008.

ABAC Today shares with its readers the text of the President’s message of condolence. Also shown are pictures from the commemorative ceremony of Homage and an Exhibition organized in the Princess’ Honor on January 3, 2008.

COMMEMORATIVE DEDICATION SPEECH BY ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY’S PRESIDENT

May it so please HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

“Mourners turning up to bid farewell to HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana, who passed away early yesterday (January 2, 2008), said they will remember the Princess for her good deeds and devotion to the kingdom”, (Bangkok Post, Thursday, January 3, 2008, p.2)

Today, we are gathered here to join the nation in mourning the death of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana. Her death is considered to be a great loss for the country.

HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana was born on Sunday, May 6, 1923, in London, UK, a daughter in the Mahidol Family. She was named May. King Rama VI granted her the name HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana. She attended kindergarten at Park School, Boston, USA, primary education at Rajini School, the first part of her secondary education at Miremont and then moved to secondary school for girls at Lausanne (Ecole Superioure de Jeunes Filles de La Ville de Lausanne) in 1935. Again, she became a boarder at the International School of Geneva. She proved to be excellent in her studies. She came first in the highest class of the school and third in the secondary level of Switzerland.

In 1942 she earned her first degree in Chemistry at the University of Lausanne and obtained deplôme de chimiste analyiste in 1949. While taking her first degree, she took parallel courses in education, literature, philosophy and psychology at the Faculty of Social Science.

She was also good at classical music. She studied how to play the piano.

In 1944, she married a commoner, Col. Aram Ratanakul Serirangrit in 1944 (พันเอกอรรถ สีรินทรภักดี) having one daughter.

Basically, people loved the Princess not because she was the elder sister of King Rama VIII & King Rama IX but it is because the Princess herself worked very hard for the people and for the country. For nine years, she taught French and French literature at Chulalongkorn University and Thammasat University. Later on she became only part-time lecturer at other universities due to her increasing royal duties.

She set up the Thai Association of Teachers of French to help improve the teaching of French. The Princess, financially supported Thailand’s participation in the Academic Olympics as part of her efforts to encourage excellence in the fields of math, physics, chemistry, computers and biology.

She looked after and supported the hill tribe people in different ways.

She also represented the King on many occasions. She took care of the public health, art and culture, and many other associations. Her life was
really dedicated to the people and to the country.

The Medical Volunteer Foundation which was started by the late Princess Mother, was taken over by HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana in 1995 after the Princess Mother died. It is a recognized pioneer in delivery of health care using mobile medical teams and radio medical teams. These are the legacies left by the HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana.

She was an accomplished educator, linguist, rider, pilot, a writer, a patron of the arts, classical music, and countless charities.

On her 72nd birthday in 1995, HM the King bestowed upon the Princess the titular honor of Krom Laung Naradhiwas Rajanagarindha (or Princess of Naradhiwas), in recognition of her lifelong dedication to charitable causes.

She passed away at 2.54 am on January 2, 2008 at Siriraj Hospital, where she had been receiving treatment for abdominal cancer for the last six months. She was 84.

The King has declared a 100-day mourning period for members of the Royal Family and palace officials.

The government has announced a 15-day mourning period for government and state enterprise officials, government agencies, Thai embassies and consulates, and educational institutes across the country will fly flags at half-mast for 15 days.

In deep condolences for the great loss of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana, whose royal benevolence, a life of devotion and dedication to the people and the country, will always be remembered and remain in the hearts of all Thai people.

The Administrators, Faculty and Staff and Students of Assumption University.

January 3, 2008

CONFERRAL OF DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA IN PHILOSOPHY ON HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL RENATO RAFFAELE MARTINO

Chapel of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, Suvarnabhumi Campus, Assumption University, January 8, 2008.

Assumption University conferred the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa on His Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino on January 8, 2008 in recognition of his distinguished career as Eminent Diplomat, Canon Lawyer, promoter of Justice and Peace, Prince of the Church and a long-standing friend to Assumption University.

The ceremony in the ornate chapel was well attended by university guests from among the catholic clergy and eminent personalities, members of the university council, top management, administrators, faculty, staff and students. His Excellency Dr. Ignacio Di Pace, Ambassador from Italy to Thailand was also present on the occasion.
Given below is the text of the citation on Cardinal Martino which was read by Assumption University Vice President for Academic Affairs.

“In a world confronted with so many challenges and problems, it is always a blessing to have individuals who are endowed with great wisdom and great experience. His Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, D.D., whom the university honors today, is a perfect embodiment of such wisdom and experience.

Born in 1932 in Salerno, Italy, Cardinal Martino was educated in Rome where he studied philosophy, theology, civil and canon law from the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Pontifical Lateran University, respectively. He was ordained to the ministerial priesthood in 1957. In 1962, after obtaining a Doctorate in Canon Law and training in Diplomacy from the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, the young Martino entered the Vatican Diplomatic Service.

For some 40 years, he distinguished himself as a diplomat of the Holy See in many places around the globe serving in different capacities. He served in the Apostolic Nunciatures of Nicaragua, the Philippines, Lebanon, Canada and Brazil, to name a few. In 1980 he was appointed Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to Thailand while at the same time serving as Apostolic Delegate to Singapore, Malaysia, Laos and Brunei. When his term of duty in Thailand ended in 1986 he was appointed as third Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Headquarters in New York. To facilitate the work of the Holy See Mission at the United Nations, he established the “Path to Peace Foundation” in 1991. During his stint at the United Nations he actively participated in its major international conferences. Notable are the numerous interventions he delivered in the UN Meetings from 1987 to 2002 on a wide range of topics - from disarmament to development, from poverty to the defense of the rights of minors, from the rights of Palestinian refugees to religious liberty and the promotion of human rights. During his 40 years as a veteran diplomat, Cardinal Martino has represented the Holy See at 24 international conferences and meetings all over the world, both as Member or as Head of Delegation.

In 2002, after 16 years at the United Nations, Pope John Paul II recalled him to become President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and he was elevated to the College of Cardinals at the Consistory in 2003. It was under his direction that the Pontifical Council published the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church in 2004. On 11 March 2006, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed him also as President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples.

In recognition of the distinguished career of this eminent diplomat, canon lawyer, promoter of Justice and Peace and Prince of the Church, Assumption University of Thailand is proud to confer on His Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino the title of Doctor Honoris Causa in Philosophy.

Given at Assumption University in Bangkok, this Eighth Day of January, In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Eight”.

The following photographs illustrate the proceedings of the ceremony, and other festivities on the occasion.

Cardinal Martino and the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Salvatore Pinocchio are greeted upon their arrival at John XXIII Conference Center to witness an exhibition on the launching of the John Paul II Center for Catholic Social Thought.

The President of Assumption University conducts a personal tour of the exhibition for the VIP guests.
The University Council members and top management are seen participating in the opening of the conferral ceremony.

The academic gown and hood being handed to Assumption University President and President Emeritus before the investiture ceremony for Cardinal Martino.

The newly decorated Assumption University Doctor Honoris Causa Cardinal Martino holds his Philosophy degree with Assumption University President Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saengthiran, while the President Emeritus Rev. Bro. Prathip Martin Komolmas looks on.

Cardinal Martino acknowledging the bouquet of flowers presented to him by Rev. Bro. Sirichai Fonseka, the Gabriellite Provincial Superior and Chairman of the Assumption University Council.

A commemorative group photograph with Cardinal Martino and (from left to right) Au Vice Presidents Dr. Chavalit Meennuch, and Rev. Bro. Dr. Amnuay Yoonprayong, Msgr. Dennis Kuruppapassery, First Secretary Apostolic Nunciature, Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saengthiran President of Assumption University, His Excellency Archbishop Dr. Salvatore Pennacchio, Ambassador of the Holy See to Thailand, His Eminence Cardinal Doctor Honoris Causa Raffaele Martino, His Eminence Cardinal Michai Michael Kitboonchu, His Grace Bishop Joseph Banchong Chaiyara, Rev. Bro. Dr. Prathip Martin Komolmas, President Emeritus of Assumption University, His Excellency Dr. Ignacio Di Pace Ambassador from Italy to Thailand, Dr. Somjit Porutyanuk, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rev. Bro. Sirichai Fonseka, Provincial Superior of the Foundation of the Brothers of St. Gabriel in Thailand and Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonnarn, Vice President for IT at Assumption University.
The newly decorated Dr. Honoris Causa Cardinal Martino graces his presence at a commemorative photograph outside the chapel of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, immediately after the award ceremony.

Aboard the Assumption University tram, Cardinal Martino and other guests chat while Assumption University President Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran leads the entourage to a congratulatory lunch at the Grand Salon.

At the end of lunch Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran hands to Cardinal Martino an Assumption University souvenir while thanking him for having brought honor to Assumption University by accepting the honorary degree awarded to him.

Rev. Bro. Dr. Prathip Martin Komolmas leads Cardinal Martino and Archbishop Dr. Salvatore Pinoccio to the John Paul II Center for Catholic Social Thought on the 2nd floor of the Cathedral of Learning.

His Eminence Dr. Renato Martino autographs a copy of the Compendium of Catholic Social Thought. Rev. Bro. Dr. Amnuay Yoonprayong looks on with deep appreciation.

Cardinal Martino poses for a group photograph in the John Paul II Center for Catholic Social Thought with Au Top Management, Catholic Clergy from Bangkok and the Director of the John Paul II Center.
ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY'S 35th COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AT QUEEN SIRIKIT NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (QSNCC), JANUARY 19, 2008

The 35th Assumption University Commencement Exercises were held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center on January 19, 2008. 3,600 of the 4,007 graduates at Doctoral, Masteral and Bachelor degree levels, attended the ceremony. The following pictures highlight the festivities of the ceremony and that of the Picture Taking ceremony held on January 12, 2008, at Assumption University's Suvarnabhumi campus.
TROJANS NIGHT

The Assumption University Alumni Association also known as ABACA organized the Annual Congratulations Party for all 2008 Au Graduates, "Trojans Night", on January 20, 2008 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, in the evening. The event, a dress up formal dinner attracted 1,500 graduates, Au Faculty Deans, lecturers and some special invited guests. The gala dinner had as its theme “EXPLORE THE WORLD” and featured a fashion dress contest through which Mr. Trojan and Miss Trojan were identified and awarded top attractive prizes. Speaking on the occasion the President Emeritus said “AU graduates like the trojans, have to be tough and they should fight to win over the battles of life.”

The following pictures represent some of the highlights of the evening with personalities from a broad spectrum of the ABAC Society at Trojans Night.
The John Paul II Center for Catholic Social Thought, Assumption University of Thailand organized a two-day Conference on “Enriching Perspectives from the Sacred Texts on the Issues of Justice, Peace and Integrity of all Creation”

Jonh XXIII Conference Center, Assumption University, Suvarnabhumi Campus January 24-25, 2008

At the opening ceremony, the conference was addressed by Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, President of Assumption University and the Keynote Address was by His Grace Archbishop Louis Chamniern Sunitsuknirun, D.D., Archdiocese of Tharae-Nongsaeng. The first day of the conference featured the following papers: on the Buddhist Perspective, presented by Phra Srisiddhimuni, Dean, Graduate School Mahachula Buddhist University, on the Baha’i Perspective by Mr. Jamshed K. Fozdar, Engineer and Author, on the Confucian Perspective by Dr. Suwanna Satha-Anand, Dept. of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. The second day’s proceeding featured a summary of the first day by Dr. Warayuth Sriwarakul, Dean, Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University. The Hindu Perspective was presented by Dr. Jirapat from Silapakorn University. The perspectives from Islam were presented by Dr. Imtiyaz Yusuf, Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion, Assumption University. Rev. Bro. Amnuay Yoonprayong, f.s.g., Ph.D., presented a synthesis of the Compendium on Catholic Social Thought. At the closing ceremony His Grace Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, D.D., Ph.D., Papal Nuncio of the Holy See to the Kingdom of Thailand, addressed the conference delegates. The closing speech was delivered by Rev. Bro. Dr. Prathip Martin Komolmas, f.s.g., Ph.D., President Emeritus, Assumption University. Overall the conference was very successful for the richness of inter-faith academic dialogue and for the participation of delegates from Thailand, Myanmar, The Philippines, South Korea, and Japan.

The pictures reflect conference presentations and ceremonial moments.
ABACA DINNER TALK

ABACA, The Assumption University Alumni Club featured a dinner talk by a prominent Thai Business leader, Mr. Kan Trakulhoon, President, Siam Cements PLC, on February 15, 2008 at 18:30 hrs. at The Shangrila Hotel. Representatives of the Harvard, Stanford, Cornell and Notre Dame Alumni clubs in Thailand attended. Also in the audience were special guests, the Ambassadors of Romania and Hungary, the Secretary-General of ASAIHL and Counselors from the embassies of USA, Switzerland, Australia, UK and Algeria.

Focusing on “The Business trends for Thailand in 2008 and Siam Cement’s response to Thailand’s economic challenges” SCG President Kan Trakulhoon was brilliant in his analysis of the current economic situation in Thailand. Where he was even more in-depth was in the future strategies and options for Siam Cements in Asia. All who attended the talk were well benefited and appreciative of the occasion hosted by ABACA.

The following pictures represent some of the highlights at the dinner talk, a great milestone in the success of ABACA.
Faculty of Nursing Science, Assumption University
Convocation Day, Graduate Nurses Class of 2007
March 13, 2007
Freshmen Orientation at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Pattaya on 8-9 March 2008 for the Graduate School of Business and MIT
On February 9th 2008, the IFPA International conference was organized with the collaboration of 5 sectors under the assumption that there are many factors that affect child development before giving birth and finally may lead to be “risky behavior” when they are in adolescence. Most of the parents, teachers, and educators and so on have agreed on the factors affecting the parenting of children and educating them from pregnancy, during schooling from 0-8 years, and during adolescence. Accordingly, this conference has pulled together knowledgeable or concerned people who had shared their opinions and experiences with an audience of professionals and participants from different places.

In conclusion, the impacts of critical times in parenting children or their development occur before schooling, during the first eight years of schooling, and the beginning of adolescence. They all come from factors that parents, teachers, and all concerned should understand as a process of child development, and how to conduct parenting and educating effectively. The speakers have emphasized the brain’s development in the important role of parenting the child, and the subconscious should also be considered. This conference also provided some research findings and suggestions on avoiding and preventing unsatisfactory or risky behaviors of the children in this age group. In the last part, more suggestions were added regarding parenting and educating the child. These are the main terminology that the educators or others who are concerned to use in order to help our children to be good citizens.

The parenting of a child and educating a child always are paralleled. Parenting children usually will relate to the parents, teachers, friends and environment. Each of these factors has to be clearly understood among parents and teachers. There are a lot of things to discuss and study about the role and the context on parenting the
ABAC School of Management, like Assumption University itself, in its 39th Year, sets its sights on the 40th anniversary in 2009

Since June 4, 1969 when it opened its doors to the first class of 61 students (and the first international student, a Hong Kong national), the ABAC School of Management has weathered the test of time and stayed on its course of offering its competitive curricula in ten different business specializations and attracting the highest number of students among the undergraduates at the university. The ABAC School of Management boasts among its alumni, top entrepreneurs and savvy managers across a wide spectrum of businesses in Thailand itself and in many foreign countries. The faculty, numbering around 500 fulltime and a sizeable adjunct resource from Thailand itself, are from 25 different nationalities and with advanced teaching and research capabilities and qualifications.

At the Suvarnabhumi campus, a new building for the ABAC School of Management is being erected, not only in time to mark the 40th Anniversary, but also to spearhead into the 21st century its trademark business education. The vision of the ABAC School of Management, is “To be the leading international business school in the ASEAN region providing high quality business education to enable graduates to make valuable contributions to organizations and to society”. Supported by its vision, the ABAC School of Management’s mission is “to shape students into independent-minded graduates who are well versed in business, able to communicate effectively, tech savvy, innovative and ethical to successfully face global challenges”. Future editions of the ABAC TODAY newsletter will feature more news on the ABAC School of Management by way of profiling its success and progress.

Roster of Assumption University Presidents

The following is the roster of Assumption University Presidents who have served between 1972 and the present time.

1972-1974
Rev. Bro. Somphong Jirananda

1974-1976
Prof. Wanphen Nopphakhet

1976-1979
Prof. Dr. Choop Karnjanaparkorn

1979-2002
Rev. Bro. Prathip Martin Komolmas, Ph.D., FSG

2002-Current
Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran, Ph.D., FSG

child. If parents and teachers, in educating the child, discuss who are responsible, it’s the teachers that need to know the way of educating at this level. The closing words of the conference, given by the organizers, were: “child’s feelings” should not be ignored and we should realize that “Today’s children, tomorrow’s parents” and “Today’s students, tomorrow’s teachers”. Then, we can have “Tomorrow’s good citizens”.

The pictures taken at the conference speak a thousand words and are for the reader’s pleasure.
AU ENGINEERING GRADUATE WINS TOP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TO JAPAN

The Panasonic Scholarship is an international scholarship that is founded and supported by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. to encourage students from Asia to pursue master degree study in Japan, since 1998. As the program focuses on leveraging science and technology of Asia, applicants must be graduates of Engineering, Science and Technology, Biotechnology, and IT. Every year, three students from Thailand are selected from a nationwide selection through application screening, first round interview, 2-days camping activities, and final interview. This year, there were students from Chulalongkorn University, Asian University, and Assumption University. In addition, it is the first time that the scholar is a graduate from private university and from Assumption University. Starting from April 2008, Paiboon Wongsawathikul will be a research student at The University of Tokyo, Japan. In the picture, Paiboon (holding an award certificate) is seen with his parents (far right). Dr. Kittipun Teachatikiroj and Dr. Sudhiporn Pratumsawawipibal (Dean of the School of Engineering).

Au faculty members present a paper at an International Conference in Germany

To steer engineering educational systems at both pre-university and University levels to be more cognizant and more responsive to the anticipated needs for qualified engineers and their educators, the IEEE foundation with sponsorships from Siemens, the European Commission on Information, Society and Media, VDE (Verband Der electrotechnik), and EAEIE (European Association for Education in Electrical and Information Engineering) organized an international conference on “Meeting the Growing Demand for Engineers and their Educators 2010-2020 Global Summit” at Munich, Germany, recently. Ms. Kyi Kyi Tin from the Department of Basic Sciences, the Faculty of Engineering presented a research paper entitled “Potential Remedies for Improving the Engineering Students Learning Strategies at Thailand’s Assumption University”. Her co-author, Dr. Min Aung from Mathematics Department, School of Management co-presented the paper with Ms. Kyi Kyi Tin.