School of Architecture

Last Orientation

The School of Architecture held last orientation ceremony for its graduates from the Departments of Architecture and Interior Architecture on 21 March 2008 at Hua Mak Campus. Reverend Brother Prathip M. Komolmas, President Emeritus, honored the opening speech and the last orientation program followed. Two guest speakers, Mr. Kittiratana Pitipanich, Design Advisory Director from the Thailand Creative and Design Center, and Mr. Thanawat Sukakanon, Managing Director of Interior Vision Co., Ltd., joined in the discussion in the topic, “Professional Practice in Cross-cultural environment.”

VIP’s at the Last Orientation (clockwise from top left): Dean Pisit Viriyavadhana, the MC, Bro. Martin P. Komolmas, and the two guest speakers, Mr. Kittiratana & Thanawat, with the MC.
arranged the annual Pin Decoration Ceremony to officially welcome all the freshmen as members of our family at the Hall of Fame, C. Building, Hua Mak Campus. In this event the President, Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran, delivered the inspiring speech to the freshmen for their further education. Afterward, Rev. Bro. Bancha and Dr. Churdchai Cheowtirakul, Dean of Faculty of Biotechnology, delivered pins to all freshmen as a welcoming sign.

Faculty of Biotechnology

Pin Decoration Ceremony

On 12 February 2008, the Faculty of Biotechnology

The Faculty of Biotechnology congratulated the senior batch of 47X-XXXX by arranging the Last Orientation on 19 February 2008 at the Hall of Fame, C. Building, Hua Mak Campus. During this event, the Faculty of Biotechnology was honored to have Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran, the President, who gave a speech and blessed the senior students that will graduate at the end of this academic year. As a custom, Dr. Churdchai Cheowtirakul, the Dean, as well as the lecturers...
Field Trip to Similan Island

During 10-14 March 2008, 21 senior students with ten staff members were on yearly field trip (A14291 and FT4191 Field Trip course) to Similan Island in the Abdaman Sea, southern Thailand. This year the students had the opportunities to observe the marine ecology of Andaman Sea in the area of Similan Island National Park and also visited Chumphon Palm Oil Industry Public Company Limited (CPI) which is a major producer of palm oil in Thailand.

Goodbye Senior

On the evening of 26 March 2008, the Biotechnology Student Association arranged a Goodbye Senior Party at SC Park Hotel, Bangkok. The event was attended by both junior students and faculty members to congratulate the new batch of biotechnology graduates. The event was filled with joy and ended with traditional Thai 'Bai Si' from the faculty members to bless the graduates.

Faculty of Engineering

Study Tour to AAT

Students from the Faculty of Engineering visited Auto Alliance (Thailand) Co., Ltd. - AAT factory at Eastern Seaboard Industrial Estate in Rayong Province on 18 October 2007. There was an exciting presentation about the background and works in AAT. After the presentation, they were brought into the factory to observe the operation of various job positions with different duty, for example, material processing, the part assembler, the color station, etc.
World Didac 2007

During 27-29 November 2007, at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, the Faculty of Engineering exhibited the laboratory equipment of the new department, “Mechatronic Engineering,” in cooperation with BOSCH as a part of the World Didac 2007.

This exhibition has the main objective to promote the latest innovations of education methodology and media to institutions and educators of the Asia region.

FEST Seminar

The seminar of the Federation of Engineering Students of Thailand (FEST) was held during 21-23 March 2008 at Suvannabhumi Campus of Assumption University. The Faculty of Engineering of Assumption University was the host of this event. The purpose of the seminar is to elect the committee of FEST. There were 155 representatives from 31 universities who participated in the seminar.

Special Lecturer from Australia

On 4 February 2008, the AU Nursing Science Faculty organized a special lecture at the Hall of Fame, Hua Mak Campus. The theme of the lecture was, “The new frontier in women’s health promotion,” which was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lily Stojanovska from the School of Biomedical Science, Victoria University, Victoria, Australia.

Dr. Stojanovska pointed out the most common diseases affecting women’s health, for example, breast cancer, osteoporosis and heart disease. She mentioned about the health promotion to improve long-term health and quality for women. She also highlighted the researches related to women’s health. Her lecture was very interesting and inspired the participants to initiate research about women’s health promotion.

Convocation for Graduating Nurse Class of 2007

The AU Faculty of Nursing Science organized the convocation project for the graduating nurses, Class of 2007, on 13 March 2008 at Salle d’Expo, Hua Mak Campus. This last orientation was considered as the final step in fostering the nursing graduates to achieve a high level of perfection before commencing their professional careers. There were 40 graduating nurses with their relatives who participated in this event. The program consisted of academic address by Asst. Prof. Dr. Nanthaphan Chintumprasert, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing Science. The opening speech was delivered by Rev. Bro. Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, the President of Assumption University, followed by the ceremony of adhering the black strip on nursing cap for the nursing graduates by Asst. Prof. Dr. Nanthaphan Chintumprasert and pinning on the crest by the
The Dean, Asst. Prof. Dr. Nanthaphan Chinlumprasert adheres a black strip on the nursing cap of a graduating nurse; Mr. Manorod Kusolasakd delivers his speech during the seminar.

faculty members. In addition, three AU Nursing Alumni, Dr. Rudee Pungbangekadee, the instructor of Nursing Science Faculty, Mahidol University, Ms. Pallapa Chagunsilpa, Coordinator Nurse, Asia Assistant Partners (Thailand) Co., Ltd., and Mrs. Rattana Kulkarnakorn, Clinical Trials Coordinator, Mahidol-Oxford Topical Medicine Research Unit, participated in the event by sharing nursing experiences with graduating nurses.

Professionalism Inculcation for Nursing Students

The senior nursing students and the Student Development Committee of the Nursing Science Faculty conducted a seminar entitled “Professionalism Inculcation for Nursing Students” on 14 March 2008 at Room C41, Hua Mak Campus. This seminar aimed to promote students’ good attitudes toward the nursing profession. The program consisted of three keynote speeches:

- “Insight your value through your career inspiration” by Mr. Manorod Kusolasakd, Managing Director, Unimax Net Co., Ltd., and Manopatara Co., Ltd.
- “Personality and service mind: How nurses are viewed through the lens of the public?” by Ms. Phinthiya Wongsarat, Manager, Pilot Recruitment Division, Thai Airways International Public Co.
- “How spirituality guides your professional integrity?” by Asst. Prof. Dr. Kanoknuch C., Faculty of Nursing Science, Bhurapha University.

Commentator in Master Thesis Seminar

Asst. Prof. Dr. Nanthaphan Chinlumprasert, Dean of Nursing Science Faculty, was invited to be a commentator during the master thesis seminar on, “Social Science Research on Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health in Southeast Asia and China,” which was organized by the Health Social Science (International Program), Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mahidol University, on 7 March 2008.

This seminar provided a forum for sharing ideas and obtaining comments from invited commentators and general audiences before pursuing final thesis defense.

Three students from the international program with interesting thesis presentations were commented by Dr. Nanthaphan. There were: (i) “Life without children, married women in an urban Myanmar society” by Dr. U Myint Moh Soe; (ii) “Medical Professionalization and Male Homosexuality: A study of identity conflict management of male homosexual medical students” by Mr. Thawatchai Prachun; and (iii) “An Economic Evaluation on NCMS (New Cooperative Medical Scheme) Financing: A Case Study of Meedu Country, Yunnan Province, China” by Ms. Yiyun Zhang.

External Examiner

The Dean of the Faculty of Nursing Science was invited to be the external examiner for the Master Thesis defense examination of Ms. Khim Sotheary, a graduate student in the Health Social Science (International Program), Faculty of Social Sciences and
Humanities, Mahidol University. She defended her thesis on the topic, “Patriarchy and Capitalism in male HIV Non-disclosure Pattern: A Case Study in Married Couples, Phnom Penh, Cambodia” on 27 March 2008.

**Graduate School of Psychology**

International Conference in Bangalore, India

Dr. Christine Bierdrager, Director of the Ph.D. Program in Counseling Psychology and Ms. Margot Schuereman, a Ph.D. student of this program, participated in a three-day international conference held in Bangalore, India, during 9-11 January 2008. The Conference, "Building Bridges to Wellness through Counseling and Psychology," had been jointly organized by the Sampurna-Montfort College, Bangalore, India; the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Ontario, Canada; and Bangalore University. The event had over 500 participants from more than 20 countries. Through various modalities ranging from plenary oral presentations to break-out experiential workshops, the conference program covered a wide spectrum of topics related to diversity; religion and spirituality; theories, techniques, eclectic practices, and research and supervision in counseling and psychotherapy; and the integration of traditional and indigenous healing practices.

At the conference, Dr. Christine Bierdrager and Ms. Margot Schuereman jointly presented the results of phenomenological research on the experience of providing psychotherapy to self-mutilating clients, i.e., clients who deliberately and directly inflict physical, bodily harm on themselves that is not immediately life-threatening. Their presentation compared qualitative data collected from licensed psychologists (California) in the mid-1990s and from professional providers of psychotherapy and counseling in Thailand, the Netherlands and the United States (2007). The data had been analyzed using Amedeo Giorgi's psychological phenomenological method (1985).

The research concluded, among important determinants for success in therapy with self-injurers was a positive, other findings, that the most empathetic stance of the therapist towards the client, a focus on the problems underlying the self-mutilating behavior rather than on the self-mutilating behavior itself, and the therapist’s belief that self-mutilation is a treatable behavior.

Dr. Christine Bierdrager and Ms. Margot Schuereman posing with other participants of an international conference in Bangalore, India.
couples education. He has received distinguished Services awards from the American Psychological Association, the American Counseling Association, International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, and the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology. He was named one of five “Living Legends in Counseling” in 2004 by the American Counseling Association.

In his presentation, Professor Carlson discussed the objective of Adlerian Theory which is to assist individuals to live effectively within the current society. The core concepts in his presentation included: viewing individuals positively, placing importance on family interaction, holistic view of the individual, striving for superiority, changing lifestyles, goal-directed behavior, free will, life tasks, and social interest. Professor Carlson demonstrated, through a video-cum-lecture method, therapist-client dialogues with interpretative commentary which portrayed the counselor’s active approach to assessment and collaborative problem solving in counseling and psychotherapy. He also gave the following advice to counseling practitioners and students in the audience: one’s approach to counseling and psychotherapy should be positively oriented; look for the strengths in the client to work from and not the weaknesses; be constantly versatile in using a multifaceted approach to counseling and psychotherapy according to the needs of the client; contextualize one’s approach to counseling and psychotherapy to the local situation and needs; and, in order to be effective, practice continuously while updating oneself simultaneously.

Reported by Thesigan Nadarajun, MS CP Student Graduate School of Psychology

Special Lecture on Leadership

Dr. Maria Bella Bamforth, GSP faculty member, gave a special lecture sponsored by the AU Faculty of Education on 12 January 2008 at the Hall of Fame, Hua Mak Campus. Entitled, “Building Leadership through Effective Communication Skills,” the lecture was presented within an I-P-O conceptual framework wherein the input highlighted the significance of leadership components including effective communication skills such as the best life position to take (“I’m OK; you’re OK”) which underlies the best behavioral response of assertiveness; congruent nonverbal communication including body language; effective and active listening; the use of metaphors, and the use of power words. The learning process consisted of
self-assessment exercises, graphics, introspection, demonstrations, and mini-lectures which led to the outcome of enhanced leadership traits and qualities in the participants, comprised mainly of FOE faculty members, staff, and graduate students.

The three-hour session emphasized that leadership at home, in the school, at work, and in society consists of a number of components including vision, motivation, humility, integrity, charisma, accessibility, flexibility and, more importantly, effective communication skills.

Senior Project Exhibition

The Faculty of Science and Technology (S&T) organized the Senior Project Exhibition of semester 2/2007 at the Hall of Fame, C. Building, Hua Mak Campus of Assumption University, on Wednesday, 26 March 2008. Shortly after the final examination session, the Bachelor Degree students from all the departments of the Faculty of Science and Technology proudly presented the final outcomes of the work on their Senior Projects. Each team of two students was given a small booth surrounded by partitions where the students displayed large colorful posters that displayed the essence of their studies. The academic writing style in reporting scientific results was enhanced by the student’s creativity in presenting specific results in their field of research to a broad audience. The posters contained the title of the Senior Project, the names of the students, an abstract, and a summary of the obtained results. Each team also prepared a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation which was attended by the advisor and two appointed committee members who independently from each other asked questions and evaluated the research findings of the students. The exhibition was a culmination of the hard work of the students throughout the semester and they enjoyed the friendly and exciting atmosphere at the Hall of Fame. Other students and instructors as well as parents also visited the event and shared experience and knowledge with the team members.

A team of two S&T students presenting their Senior Project