AIU Students receive scholarships, December 8

Recipients of the Grace Yang Fong Memorial Scholarship with AIU administrators and Mission Faculty of Nursing.

Recipients of the Poeling Tritasavit Scholarship.

Recipients of the Retnam Nambier Scholarship and Nupporn-Rupporn Scholarship Fund with Dr Priyawat, AIU administrators, and Faculty of Science.

New VPFA

The University introduces Mr Pradeep Tudu as the new Vice President of Financial Administration. We wish Mr Pradeep the best as he works in his new position for our institution.

Alumna releases Christmas debut album

Asia-Pacific International University is proud on the achievement of Alumna ‘09 Shimona Kee on the recent release of her first EP album entitled Christmas Lights.

In Christmas Lights, listeners are treated to four-well known carols (each covered in Shimona’s own eclectic and heart-warming style), and one unique acapella song, written and arranged by the artist herself.

Newsbyte is expecting 10 CDs to come soon on campus! If you want to secure a copy, email ivonne@apiu.edu and further instructions will be given. Orders are based on first come, first basis.

You can also purchase Christmas Lights at www.shimona.bandcamp.com or email info@shimonakee.com with your name, mailing address, no. of CDs and amount.

Part of the proceeds goes to helping needy families in Thailand through In Search of Sanuk.
DECEMBER EVENTS AT MUAK LEK CAMPUS

A Gift of Classical Music in AIU

On the night of December 14, one could be reminded—and actually understand—what Berthold Auerbach was talking about when he said “music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” Beautifully crafted songs streamed from the fingertips of AIU lecturer Mr Daron Loo and his Grade 9 AIMS student Eldrian Golden.

Both of them played in a piano recital held in the University Church Fellowship Hall. A total of nine songs were rendered, all from the memory of both performers. Their presentation of works from world-renowned composers like Beethoven and Debussy was performed with good skill and emotion. Those who attend were well-rewarded for attending the program, students and faculty alike.

“It’s like someone is singing,” said 3-year-old Josiah Pedragosa from his father’s lap, in the middle of Eldrian’s performance of Claire de Lune.

The recital was a great gift for AIU, which has had a record number of concerts only halfway into this semester. It is hoped that there will be more such recitals in the future, where one can once more brush away the “dust” of everyday problems in the shower of good music.

Faculty of Religious Studies holds Open House and Christmas Party ■ Acharn Gerard Bernard & Yoko Uchima

December 12 was quite a busy Sunday for the Faculty of Religious Studies. Two events have taken place in one day—the Theology Art and Culture open house and Christmas get-together.

The open house took place in the morning, from 9 am to 1 pm, in the second floor of the church building. The open house displayed arts and culture which are related to the Old and New Testaments as well as culture and traditions from different countries. Video clips were presented to enhance visitors’ view of culture and biblical understanding. Some of the exhibits are products of students’ assignments in religion classes. Many of them have been used as props in some of the worships held on campus. The exhibits have also served as educational aid for students who want to know more about the Bible.

During the weekdays, the exhibits are kept in the Theology Art and Culture Centre, which also serves as Theology library. Anyone is welcome to see them at any time during the day.

In the evening, from 6 to 8 pm, the Christmas get-together took place. It has been part of the tradition of the Theology club to hold a get-together every month and enjoy one another’s company and eat together. This is one of those monthly gatherings, only with a special highlight for Christmas that evening.

The theme for that evening could probably be said in one word: sharing. Faculty dean Dr Miguel Luna shared some thoughts on humility, relating it to Christmas. A slide show of 2010 activities were shown, which happily reminded the department of the delightful events that they had participated in and God’s blessings in those events. A couple of students were surprised by being selected as recipients for the Berith Scholarship Fund (a scholarship started in the Faculty about a year ago).

The Faculty also shared its happiness to have two of its ‘children’ ordained into the gospel ministry. One of them is our own alumnus Pastor Brian Scott,
and the other is Pastor Semilee Tajau. As part of the tradition, the Ministers in the group had Semilee surrounded, laid their hands on him and prayed for him, asking God to bless him in his ministry.

Besides the delicious home-cooked Christmas dinner where everyone thoroughly enjoyed eating and fellowshipping with one another, the most anticipated part of the evening was the traditional giving out of gifts by Dr Wann Fanwar.

“Names of all our regular members, theology students, faculties and family members were on the gifts. It was lovely for our names to be called by our rabbi, Dr Fanwar. It made us really happy to know that we are cared and remembered.”

Everyone in the room, including the visitors, received a gift. What a blessing to be in a room where the experience of sharing and being shared by are felt.

As the year is about to end, the club wishes everyone on campus a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year.

**AIU Church celebrates Student VIP Sabbath & Christmas ■ Porm Keosamone**

Muak Lek Heights Campus joyfully celebrated the anticipated Student VIP Sabbath along with Christmas on December 11. The service started at 9:30 am and concluded at 12 noon.

The international service took place at the Kiti-Tasanee Auditorium and the Thai service at the University Church. The former’s theme was “The Gift of Christmas” and the latter chose “The Savior Has Been Born.”

Both groups put their best efforts into presenting a meaningful service. As a result, they blissfully commemorated the Sabbath by dramatizing and signifying the birth of Christ that morning.

The Student VIP Sabbath is an event organized by students and is for students. There were many special items presented both by faculty and students. Colorful skits of how the Savior was born reminded worshippers of Christ’s great love. Various songs from different singing groups emphasized the significance of His birth.

The AIU University Choir melodically sang Joy and Gloria, the Indonesian singing group “Forever Praise” sang Jesus Is Coming Again, and the congregation enjoyed many other songs performed by various singers.

The singing of Dr Wayne Hamra and Khun Kosin Chanpisut will continue to linger in the minds of church attendees. Many were surprised and enjoyed their beautiful voices as they harmonized in Tiny Paper Sailing Ship.

One thing unique about the Student VIP Sabbath is that fellowship lunch is always provided by the faculty and staff. Students, both Thai and international, gathered at the church, waiting for a delicious meal. They were given the privilege to go and take their food first, followed by visitors, faculty, and staff.

The day was memorable as participants were spiritually and physically blessed. This experience will definitely endure until the next VIP Sabbath.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Report from Mission Faculty of Nursing ■ Dr Pornpan Saminpanya**

Fourth year AIU nursing students, along with nurses and staff from the Mitrapap Health Center, Muak Lek Health District Office and health volunteers, built two toilets that were needed in two homes in Muak Lek subdistrict.

The team expressed their gratefulness to Mr Udom Srikureja, Dr Supacai Wongpichate, teachers from Mission Faculty of Nursing and senior nursing students for the donations given to make this community service successful.

We hope to do such good and kind deeds again in the near future.

**Report from Faculty of Business Administration ■ Acharn Wanlee Putsom**

Students and teachers of the Management program picked up garbage and cleaned the tourist attraction site on Sunday, December 5 in conjunction of the King’s Birthday.

Many tourists and locals approached the group: Where do you come from? What is the name of your University? You are doing a very good job for the community. Students involved in this project commented that such community service must be held again, as it is good to take care of the environment and at the same time, promote our University in the area we live in.
Upcoming Events

WA Shipton Public Lecture Series: “The Paper Industry in Thailand” Speaker: Dr Shashank Bharti from Asian Information & Technology, Bangkok
  Date & time: Thursday, December 16, 7:30 pm
  Venue: IT 328

Library event: The Joy of Christmas
  Come and join the fun! Highlights of the evening: Gift exchange, Santa Clause stopping by the library, soft music and songs of Christmas, and a Christmas story by members of AIU Library Book Club.
  Date & time: Thursday, December 16, 7:30 pm
  Venue: Library Lobby

MEd Thesis Defense Presentation
  Topic: “Integration of Faith and Learning at a Seventh-day Adventist University in Buddhist Thailand” by Darrin Thomas
  Date & time: Friday, December 17, 11 am
  Venue: ADM 308

Friday Vespers
  Theme: Who is Jesus? by AIU University Chorale & MUCT 101 Introductory Vocal Technique
  Date & time: Friday, December 17, 7 pm
  Venue: Kiti-Tasanee Auditorium

The Seekers Christmas Worship
  Gift exchange, special praise and fellowship dinner!
  Date & time: Friday, December 17, After vespers
  Venue: Fellowship Hall

AIU Campus-wide Christmas Program
  Don't miss the University's Christmas Program!
  Date & time: Sunday, December 19, 6 pm
  Venue: Kiti-Tasanee Auditorium

Announcements

Mid-Semester Break
  ESL & University programs is from December 24, 2010 – January 3, 2011.
  Classes and the University will resume operating on Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

Public Holidays
  Friday, December 24, 2010
  Thursday, December 30, 2010
  Friday, December 31, 2010
  Monday, January 3, 2011

This is the last Newsbyte issue before the Mid-semester break. Newsbyte will resume its publication on Thursday, January 6, 2011.

Campus Calendar

DECEMBER 16, THURSDAY
  WA Shipton Public Lecture Series: “Paper Industry in Thailand” by Dr Shashank Bharti from Asian Information & Technology, Bangkok, 7:30 pm, IT 328.
  Library Christmas Celebration, 7:30 pm, Ground floor of Library

DECEMBER 17, FRIDAY
  Thesis Defense Presentation: "Integration of Faith and Learning at a Seventh-day Adventist University in Buddhist Thailand" by Darrin Thomas, 11 am - 12 noon, Admin 308
  Vespers: Who Is Jesus? by AIU University Chorale & MUCT 101 Introductory Vocal Technique, 7 pm, Auditorium
  The Seekers Christmas Worship, After vespers, Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER 18, SATURDAY
  Combined Sabbath Service -- Church
  SS lesson study, 9:30 am,
  SS program, 10:30 am,
  Divine Service, 11 am
  Youth in Worship (AY): Christmas Festival of Praise!, 5 pm, Church

DECEMBER 19, SUNDAY
  AIU Christmas Program, 6 pm, Auditorium

DECEMBER 22, WEDNESDAY
  Chapel: “Growing Through Temptation” by Acharn Ebenezer Belete, 10 am, Auditorium
  Campus Family Groups, 7 pm, Various locations