



The U.C. Bulletin

March 2009 Edition, Volume 2

Rabbit Chosen as University Mascot

The student body has spoken and the new representative of The University of Cambodia has been voted into office – figuratively speaking.

After a contest to search for a university mascot, the students of UC voted to have the rabbit, an idea submitted by No Sophearith, Sao Phol Reaseh and Ly Sovandara, to serve as symbol of UC. Encompassing the ideals of knowledge, wisdom and justice, the rabbit will become part of the tradition surrounding the university.

In the contest held during December 2008 and January 2009, the UC administration asked students, faculty and staff to submit their ideas for a mascot design. Twelve contestants submitted entries and a university committee decided on the top three ideas: the rabbit, submitted by the students listed above; a dolphin, submitted by Sok Eng and Lach Bunthan; and the wild ox, submitted by Bandol Lim.

The rabbit won a landslide victory, receiving 494 out of 804 votes. The university will take the ideas of the three winning students and have a logo rendered by a professional artist.

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CES, AFD Highlights

Congratulations to the students in the Center for English Studies (CES) who graduated in December and February. In the third ceremony celebrated by CES in December, 149 students received certificates acknowledging their completion of the six-level English program. The 191 graduates who finished the program in February will be honored in a March ceremony. Most CES graduates continued with their Foundation Year studies in February.



Congratulations to the 233 Foundation Year students who graduated from the Academic Foundation Department and will begin their B.A. studies in February. The graduates will be honored in a ceremony in March.



CES Director Pay Chheng How attended this year's CamTESOL conference on English Language Teaching (ELT) in February. At the conference entitled "The Globalisation of ELT: Emerging Directions," How exchanged ideas on ELT with English teachers from 25 countries.

During the conference, which featured speakers from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and Cambodia, How attended a quality assurance seminar to learn how to maintain the quality of the CES program, which prides itself in setting the standard in terms of curriculum and resources.

AFD Undergoes Review



Dr.Y Ratana and a team of UC administrators met with the ACC to discuss the final year in the Academic Foundation Department's three-year accreditation. The ACC commended UC on its program.

In February, a team led by Dr. Y Ratana, Director of the Academic Foundation Department (AFD), met with the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) in the final of three accreditation reviews between 2006 and 2009.

The team, through the meeting and a report submitted in January, highlighted the strengths and improvements to the program in the past year. According to preliminary findings from the ACC, the program is doing "excellent."

Going into the meeting, Dr. Ratana had high hopes for how the ACC would find the AFD program.

"We have enough physical resources, such as books and teaching materials, and we have improved our course syllabi, which were approved by the ACC. Also, we have good teachers."

Over the year, the AFD has made adjustments to improve the already upstanding program. The grading system was strengthened and the criteria for scholarship students to keep their awards were set at a higher caliber – changes that have been implemented in Term 2 of the 2008-09 academic year.

"We encourage our students to study hard," Dr. Ratana said.

In addition, the university plans to modify entrance exams to incorporate subjects specific to each college.

As evidence of the increasing expectations of the AFD, nearly 280 students were admitted to start the program during Term 2 of the 2008-09 academic year, offering a

record high total of 500 students enrolled in the Foundation Year, Dr. Ratana said.

Alongside preparing to meet with the ACC, a committee finalized a six-year strategic plan at the beginning of February.

"We will continue to facilitate enrollment and registration and give counseling to the students," Dr. Ratana said, emphasizing the main priority outlined in the plan.

The actions outlined in the plan will enhance the development of the AFD and add to the overall quality of education at The University of Cambodia. According to Dr. Ratana, another major priority will be to provide an orientation for new students at the beginning of each term. The AFD also will implement graduation ceremonies in coordination with the Center for English Studies and participate in seminars with the UC Student Senate.

Each year, the AFD in conjunction with the Curriculum Development Committee - comprising the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Deans and Associate Deans - will oversee the plan's implementation and periodically revisit the plan to make amendments as necessary.

"These are priorities within the six years," Dr. Ratana said. "But in the six years, we can add activities and objectives in order to respond to Cambodian education markets."

University President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said there has been a drastic increase in the number of students enrolled in UC's Foundation Year program. The plan will help AFD to serve the changing needs of the students.

UC to Draft Strategic Plan

Beginning in March, The University of Cambodia will begin drafting its strategic plan, which will serve as a road map for the university in the next 10 to 20 years.

In formulating the “UC Strategic Plan 2020,” university leaders will meet with people internally and externally who have a vested interest in UC’s academic mission in order to examine a broad range of issues related to its development. Ideas that will be explored include enrollment, facilities, dormitories, staff and faculty training, financial sustainability, university networks and exchange programs.

“The plan needs to be crafted in line with the needs of Cambodia, which is still focusing on national reconstruction and development,” President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said.

A committee composed of key figures at

the university – the president, vice president of academic affairs, associate deans and department heads – will be appointed to discuss the framework of the plan, as well as its goals and tracking process.

Once the draft is complete, the university will consult with constituents outside the university to hear their feedback.

“We want to be as inclusive as possible. We will welcome all ideas then sort out how those ideas will be pieced together and formulated into a concrete action plan,” said Dr. Kao.

People in the labor market as well as government officials and other academics will provide particular insight as to what direction to take the university in the next decade, he said.

Two New Colleges to Open

As The University of Cambodia continues to develop and expand, it will be launching two new colleges: the College of Media and Communications and the College of Performing Arts.

Still in the planning stages of establishing the colleges, the university hopes to wrap up paperwork by the first term of the 2009-10 academic year and appoint teams to possibly open the colleges by February 2010, said UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.

“We want to establish a clear vision and concrete ideas,” Dr. Kao said. “Right now we are pushing the limits of the university facilities, but we have to push ahead.”

Construction is already underway for the new UC campus at Sangkat Tuok Thla, across town from the current residence near Independence Monument. Its scheduled opening in October 2010 will allow more room for these new colleges to be housed. Alongside the new campus will be the opening of the university’s new radio and television station, which will be inaugurated on October 2, 2009.

According to Dr. Kao, the two colleges will work with each other and already estab-

lished programs like the university’s radio/TV station and *The Cambodia Weekly*, the university-run newspaper.

“We want the students and faculty involved in various programs because they will provide hands-on learning,” he said. “Students cannot learn from theories alone. These resources will be our laboratory, so to speak.”

The initial cost of opening the colleges will depend on enrollment,

said Dr. Kao, but the university will keep the costs to run the colleges within the constraints of the university budget.

As plans for the colleges unravel, the aim of the university is to use them to fill a needed gap in Cambodian society. With the College of Media and Communications, UC wants to offer extensive programs that go above and beyond what has been offered at peer universities and with the College of Performing Arts, it hopes to cultivate creativity, culture and a sense of Cambodian identity.

In addition, the university plans to collaborate with like-minded universities overseas to set up exchange programs for UC students.

Editor's Note:



All institutes of higher education have their traditions. Traditions of academic excellence in the classroom, physical prowess on the sports field and fun pastimes with college chums. Now, at The University of Cambodia, we are experiencing the birth of traditions that will shape the face of our university for decades – perhaps even centuries – to come.

An exciting addition to the UC family is the newly created mascot. The rabbit will embody the ideals of wisdom, knowledge and justice surrounding the university.

*Another important tradition being formulated in the upcoming months will be the active involvement of UC alumni. If the students are the budding future of the university, the alumni are the fruit – examples of the strides our university has made in the past five years. They are the ones who will carry on the tradition of excellence to all parts of Cambodia and beyond. In March, the alumni will gather to elect the officers of the future UC Alumni Association, growing a new branch of the university that will take the university in new directions. Keep reading the *The U.C. Bulletin Online* for updates on how that progresses.*

And as a continuing tradition of UC, the Student Senate has taken off in 2009, planning more events than ever before. Under the leadership of their newly elected mandate, they will be getting their hands dirty – working closely with the student body and the community at large. Read more about what this year holds for them on page 15.

*~Rachael Brugger
Editor, The U.C. Bulletin*



Professor Encourages Women as Leaders in Development, Peace Building

“There’s no country in the world where women have the same opportunities as men,” said Professor Dena Merriam, founder of the Global Peace Initiative of Women. “I think with your generation, that will change.”

Merriam inspired confidence and vision in UC students during her dialogue on “The Future of Gender Development and Peace” on December 19, 2008, as part of the Asia Leadership Center’s Eminent Leaders Lecture Series. In a world where women make up more than half the population, men continue to dominate leadership positions in all aspects of society, she said. Because of this fact, she has made it her mission to promote the role of women in development and encouraged UC students to engage in gender-based discussions as well.

“In Cambodia, it’s going to be your generation that is going to build up the country,” she said. “You are going to see a lot of changes because of your efforts.”

The issue of gender inequality, an idea that, according to Merriam, has undergone much discussion in the West but is just beginning to emerge in Asia, touched her personally in 2000, during her role in organizing the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders. During this first UN summit for religious leaders, not

only was she troubled by the lack of women representatives at the meeting, but, as she shared with the students, it pained her when she had to ask a Thai nun to move from her seat at the summit because the woman was



in the view of a male leader.

“It made me start to think that there’s a deep problem,” she said. “Not only in the lack of leadership in business and politics, but also in religion.”

In meetings following the summit, Merriam and nearly 600 woman leaders from more than 70 countries came together to discuss their contributions to the issues discussed at

the UN summit. Out of these meetings, the GPIW formed in order to provide a global platform for men and women to work together to promote spiritual values, global unity, peace building and development.

According to Merriam, women bring unique qualities to the table but are under-represented, especially in the areas of development and peace building. The female perspective is critical to maintaining a society’s spiritual values and to cultivating youth programs, but also to international conflict resolution, she said.

“You can’t have peace until you can feel the suffering of the other party,” she said. “Women have the ability to cross over and say, ‘I understand your suffering.’”

She challenged the students to work on developing the partnership between male and female leaders in order to improve society in the future.

The dialogue with Merriam was hosted by Asia Leadership Center (ALC), which strives to develop the character of all leaders, including women and youth, by exposing them to a diverse array of leadership styles. Beginning in May 2009, the ALC will host a series Nobel Laureates to speak as part of the Eminent Leaders Lecture Series. For more information, visit www.alc.uc.edu.kh.

Promotion:

The University of Cambodia would like to express its warm congratulations to Chheang Sangvath his promotion in December 2008 as the Office of Student Academic Affairs (OSAA) Director.



ALC Appoints Board Heads



On February 10, 2009, the Asia Leadership Center (ALC) appointed three leaders to serve as head of its board:

Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chairman

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Vice Chairman

Lord George Carey, President

The board was established to lend credibility to the ALC, which will continue to be run by current Director Bandol Lim. It will provide guidance and advice, as well as be involved in its activities and programs. In the near future, the board will invite more people to serve as members, said President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.

An independent arm of The University of Cambodia, the ALC enriches the academic programs by offering programs and activities for students, faculty and the community at large.

“The ALC will be involved in training the future leaders of Cambodia,” said Dr. Kao, reiterating the center’s main mission of training young leaders to develop their personal leadership style. “In order to grow, we need input from the board.”

The ALC would like to connect with like-minded people and institutions, said Dr. Kao, and the board will help with that strategic maneuvering and help Cambodia reach out to the world at large.

Lecturers Bring New Views on Education

International Studies Director Analyzes Studying Abroad Perspectives

With the word “globalization” becoming the trendy term thrown around various academic circles – from law to economics to communication – the question then arises about how to educate students on the way the world works.

Over the years, attitudes toward studying abroad and learning about international affairs have gone through a metamorphosis.

“The natural boundaries of disciplines do change over time,” said Linda Yarr, Director of the Program for International Studies in Asia at George Washington University in the United States. Speaking to nearly 100 UC students as part of the Dr. Handa Eminent Lecture Series on January 19, 2009, she took a regional perspective on international education.

In her lecture “The Expansion of International Affairs Education in Asia: Past Achievements and Future Prospects,” Yarr opened students’ eyes to the evolution of International Affairs education, citing examples from her own personal history and discussing in depth the shift of viewpoints in Chinese culture.

After graduating with a B.A. in French from D’Youville College in the U.S., Yarr studied International Relations at the graduate level at the Institut d’Études Politiques in Paris. Being one of the few international students at the French university she asked one of her professors if French students ever considered studying abroad.

“French people don’t export themselves,” the professor told

me. Obviously, in past years, that attitude has changed,” she said, implying that students now seek out opportunities to gain experience in foreign countries.

This conversation stuck with her, and led her to work on expanding upon the view of International Affairs studies, particularly in China. The Committee

on International Relations with the People’s Republic of China (CIRSPRC) – as the program she leads was called when she first began her work there – hosted

workshops and a translation project, which she said created an upsurge of Chinese interested in International Relations. The Cultural Revolution in China put a halt on education, she said, but in recent years China has begun to set goals to improve International Relations education.

Yarr’s visit to The University of Cambodia also included the exploration of a Memorandum of Understanding between UC and George Washington University that could lead to an exchange program.

“The opportunity to study abroad is important for acquiring a global mindset – to understand people have different ways of thinking about things,” she told the students. “There’s no better way to do that than living in a different country.”

She suggested that students wanting to study abroad should research fellowship programs and study opportunities available on websites of universities they are interested in attending.

Professor Gives Tips to Study Abroad

Nobel Peace Prize winner Kofi Annan once said, “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” Echoing these words and expanding on his own educational journey, Dr. Kheang Un, a Visiting Fellow at the University of Louisville’s Center for Asian Democracy in the U.S., encouraged UC students in the pursuit of knowledge.

“Cambodia has moved far politically, economically and socially,” Dr. Un told about 50 students as part of the Dr.

Handa Eminent Lecture Series on January 30, 2009. “But much more remains to be done, which means empowering the next generation of Cambodians.”

In his lecture, Un discussed the urgency of young Cambodians pursuing a higher education. Investing in education is that key to empowerment, he said. Cambodia’s high proportion of young people will fuel development, thus making it pertinent to extinguish illiteracy throughout the nation.

“No time has this been more urgent than in this time of globalization,” he said.

As a “product of the post-Khmer Rouge education system,” Dr. Un underwent his fair share of struggles in attaining his PhD in Political Science and Southeast Asian Studies in the United States. Growing up in Cambodia, he started school as an 11-year-old and endured what he described as the passive environment of Cambodia’s education system. That set him up to face many hurdles when

he traveled abroad to begin his higher education studies.

Lacking the reading, writing and analysis skills of his fellow students, he said he had to put in extra effort to catch up with the rest of his undergraduate class.

“If we were assigned five essays, I wrote seven,” he said, explaining that he took advantage of every opportunity to increase his writing skills. He also

had to build his language capacity and confidence to participate in class discussions, which he said is a vital element of American education. This led him to be successful in pursuing his

Master’s and PhD.

Noting that American universities still have their flaws, he said his American education offered an environment conducive to learning. There he could achieve skills, like critical thinking, which are crucial to participating in the global landscape.

Dr. Un offered tips to students who wish to continue their graduate studies abroad. He said it’s necessary for students to study for and do well on the TOEFL and GRE, to maintain a G.P.A. of at least 3.5, to interact with professors in and out of class in order to get good letters of recommendation, and to possess the ability to write a clear and concise statement of purpose of their education.

Above all, he encouraged students to dedicate themselves to self-learning.

“In Cambodia, we don’t have a culture of reading,” he said. “But to be a successful student, it’s necessary to read.”



ADB Distributes Financial Plan to Students

In an effort to encourage students' participatory development in the financial sector, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) visited The University of Cambodia on December 2, 2008, to distribute information about their financial strategy for Cambodia.

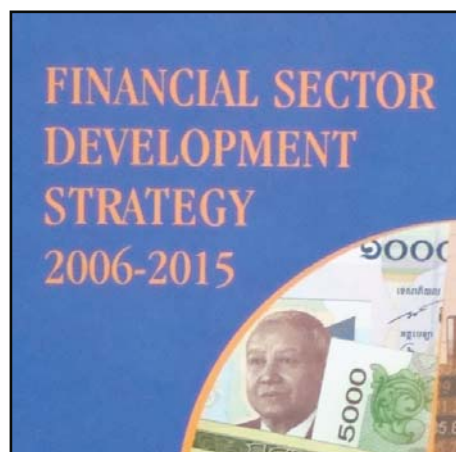
"We feel that students play an important role in helping to shape the development work through sharing knowledge and offering help to poor families and villagers," said Chantha Kim, ADB External Relations Coordinator and a UC alumnus. "ADB alone cannot do all the development work for Cambodia. We need Cambodians to help Cambodians."

The ADB distributed more than 500 Khmer and English copies of the *Financial Sector Development Strategy 2006-2015* to UC students and faculty. The 100-page booklet outlines the vision and framework for fostering financial cooperation and coordination between Cambodia's government and private sector.

The presentation at UC was the second in a circuit of universities the ADB visited. Vandy Hem, the Economics and Financial Sector Officer at ADB, encouraged students to connect the information presented in the booklet with what they learned in class to

make financial improvements in the country. He also touched on Cambodia's role in the global financial crisis.

"I think Cambodia is fortunate that it is not affected the way that bigger Asian countries are affected because it is not part of the



global financial system," he said, explaining that Cambodia's lack of a stock market has kept the country financially isolated.

Although, he projected that microeconomically, Cambodia will see a slowdown because of the exports to the U.S. and Europe, he said the ADB is promoting dialogue

with the government in order to protect the country from the financial crisis.

The booklet that the students received, contained revisions of the original strategic blueprint, which took into account reforms made by the ADB and International Monetary Fund in the past three to five years. The new publication picked certain priorities that will be focused on in the coming years.

Gina Lopez, Associate Dean in the College of Management, who coordinated the ADB visit, said the program was geared toward third- and fourth-year students, but many first- and second-years attended, exceeding the 200 students she expected would attend the presentation.

"The information will give them more insights on what they are studying in the classroom," Lopez said. "They will learn about part of the economy in Cambodia."

Kim said that additional copies of the strategic plan can be found at the ADB's Learning Resource Center while stocks last. The ADB also offers 70 scholarships a year to students and post-public servants. For more information on the scholarship program, visit www.adb.org/internship.

Down to Business

Students from the College of Management took advantage of learning opportunities outside the classroom. Here's a look at the conferences and events they attended in the past three months:



- During "Forum on Financial Inclusion and Empowerment," experts from the banking industry shared their successes in the field of microfinance. In particular, Tajul Islam, Director of the ASA Bangladesh, and Rose Manalo, CARD MRI Philippines Country Liaison Officer for Cambodia, related their experiences abroad to Cambodia's financial situation.

- A seminar co-hosted by the Kampuchea Institute of CPAs and Auditors (KICPAA) and the National Accounting Council discussed accounting education reformation in Cambodian and accounting professional best practices.



- Panelists at the 3rd Cambodia Economic Forum (CEF) discussed the government's strategies in reaction to the current global economic crisis. The forum entitled "Increasing Cambodia Competitiveness for Growth and Poverty Reduction in the Face of Global Economic Crisis" was presided by Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

For expanded articles on the students' experiences, read the January, February and March issues of The U.C. Bulletin Online at www.uc.edu.kh/newsletters.



From the Dean's Desk

The Art of Creative Writing

BY CHRIS SMITH, COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

into each other, reds to purples to the blackest blues, starting from the West, then taking in the sights directly over head and culminating in an examination of the gathering English summer night.

Ms. Kong Chetra achieved a similar effect in her piece describing sunset over the Royal Palace.

Unconscious of the passing of time, I saw the clouds floating overhead changing their hues. The sky was changing from a blue of the finest purity to golden yellow. The dazzling sun was setting and his radiant light gradually faded into a softened glow. There was only a circle of golden light like a garland around His head. The gold light reflected in the river and melted into a golden rolling wave.

In addition, having paid careful attention to explanations about personification, Ms. Chetra has given the sun the human characteristics of a god or king, an emperor-like figure with a “garland around His head” of sunbeams. This is an inspired touch of brilliance, given the royal setting of her writing.

Balance, or perhaps a pleasing sense of imbalance, is achieved by Bronte’s inclusion of the sun at one extreme and the twinkle of a rising star at the other.

Mr. Chrin Samvisal, another UC scholar and Creative Writing enthusiast, achieved spatial integrity in his response to the project. Picture the Royal Palace in your mind as you read his work.

The bright light of the setting sun shone on the Royal Palace, and it became a golden temple to peace, reflecting tranquility back to the Heavens above from whence it came. To one side, the National Museum boasted of its many treasures, its red walls taking fire from the light of the declining fiery orb, as if blushing in pride. Strolling along the grassy aprons of the palace, I felt the fresh breeze blowing through the darkling park while the trees and grass displayed diamond dew-drops, ach an inverted microcosmic reflection of the glories without. They contrasted well with the luscious greens of the humble blades beneath my feet.

Bronte’s work has been considered in isolation. Thus removed from the context of the novel, it still retains its brilliance and artistic value. Yet within the text, this gem does more than provide a bit of artistic padding

to extend the author’s word count. It illustrates the importance of sympathetic background – a plausible setting against which two lovers might speak of their affections for the first time; and to borrow a phrase from Shakespearean scholars, this passage also illustrates the concept of “Symphonic Imagery.”

Ever since the invention of the moving picture with sound, the imaginations of those in search of entertainment have had little to do. Their emotions are guided by sweeping soundtracks, wracked by explosions and the screams of a thousand actors delivering theatrical representations of violent death. If you haven’t considered the impact of sound and the latest computer-generated imagery techniques, just try watching your favorite action movie with the volume turned off. Not so full of sound and fury now, is it? And it signifies even less, if such a thing were possible.

Play-goers of the past did not have the dubious benefit of sound track and special effects. They only had the word, be it spoken or printed, and an imagination ready to be stimulated by such verbal visions as these.

Mr. Sok Lak’s work, could form the foundation of a very fetching love story, as his use of symbolism demonstrates.

I was walking alone on a clear road, along the Mekong River side as the sun shone over the western sky of Phnom Penh near Royal Palace at sunset. The cold breeze felt as if a beautiful girl’s soft hand went though my hair and on my face as a pleasant feeling came over me. I felt relaxed and then all my worries left my mind like someone took them away.

Repetition of images such as that of the hand is the stuff of artistic excellence in the world of literature. With each iteration, the image underlines the view that the world of emotions is mirrored in external conditions.

These students have clearly understood the qualities of writing that create an emotional response in the reader.

The selections used in this piece came from third-year English Literature students in Madam Ruchira Goswami’s Creative Writing class.

Creative writing is sometimes neglected in the heady atmosphere of Cambodia’s universities. The student is apt to forget the relevance of the art in the feverish hurry to get a collection of management, accounting, computing and business communication subjects under the belt.

Here at The University of Cambodia, the College of Arts and Humanities takes the act of creating a piece of writing that has artistic merit seriously. The enthusiastic and professionally-minded undergraduate is actively encouraged to examine some interesting and near perfect examples of the creative writer’s art. The carefully crafted introduction to Chapter 23 of Charlotte Bronte’s *Jane Eyre* is an example. This presents the reader with a tiny literary jewel that illustrates the qualities of perfect spatial ordering and organization. How many veterans of a thousand hours of Business English classes can claim to hold these considerations in mind when writing that all-important report for the boss?

At UC, such considerations are food and drink to the students of Creative Writing.

Let’s take a look at Bronte’s writing.

It was now the sweetest hour of the twenty-four: "Day its fervid fires had wasted," and dew fell cool on panting plain and scorched summit. Where the sun had gone down in simple state – pure of the pomp of clouds – spread a solemn purple, burning with the light of red jewel and furnace flame at one point, on one hill-peak, and extending high and wide, soft and still softer, over half heaven. The east had its own charm or fine deep blue, and its own modest gem, a casino and solitary star: soon it would boast the moon; but she was yet beneath the horizon.

Note how the mind’s eye is directed to take in the entire arc of heaven. With deft use of color, Bronte first asks the reader to consider the heat and grandeur of the setting midsummer sun. Note how colors bleed

COE Reports to be Compiled in Textbook

To supplement in-class learning, eight Master's students from the College of Education visited Bak Touk High School, where they met with the school's principal to discuss the school's administration and management.

Chheang Sangvath, Associate Dean in the College of Education, selected Bak Touk High School for the visit because of its clean facility and well-managed administration as well as for having a pre-existing strategic plan laid out in print form. He said it served as a model for the students to understand and apply educational theories learned through their coursework.

During the site visit, which took place on December 6, 2008, the Principal Sok Savanna shared information about his high school on twelve topics predetermined by Sangvath. The talking points included school policy, curriculum, resource management and drop-out rates. The floor then opened for a two-hour, student-led conversation regarding questions on issues that extended past the outlined agenda.

The Master's students then wrote reports about the information they learned as well as

one high school education issue – for example, school climate – which they discussed more in-depth, Sangvath said.

Punnreay Poeurn, one of the Master's students to visit Bak Touk, discussed the quality of education in his report, focusing particularly on how modern technology, like the Internet and text messaging, impacts the student climate.

"Providing a 100 percent quality education is difficult because modern society has exposed students to so much technology," Poeurn said. "Technology can have a negative impact on students because it can distract them from their studies."

Another topic discussed during the session with the principal was the high school drop-out rate. Master's student Thonachan Y learned that the school has a 4 to 5 percent drop-out rate. In her report she touched on the factors that contribute to this number, including gambling, peer pressure and low income.

Once completed, Sangvath will compile the reports into a booklet to be distributed to all Master's of Education students.

Students will take similar site visits to a



Principal Sok Savanna of Bak Touk High School discussed high school administration with UC Master's of Education students.

university and a primary school and compile reports on those visits as well, he said. Tentatively, the visits will take place in the next two consecutive terms.

Sangvath will then use the reports from each visit to lead students in comparisons between the different levels of education.

Scholarships Help Orphans

This year, in an effort to make a university education accessible to more people, The University of Cambodia is initiating a new scholarship program available exclusively to the students at the Future Light Orphanage of Worldmate (FLOW).

The UC-Handa Scholarships for Orphans will provide one full scholarship, up to five half scholarships and yearly 20 percent tuition discounts to FLOW students who graduate with a high school diploma or equivalent certification. Also, Dr. Haruhisa Handa, UC Chancellor, in collaboration with the Hawaii Group, will provide each scholarship student with US\$100 to put toward book purchases and US\$300 for clothes and food.

"It is important for UC to be able to reach out to the Cambodian community at large, especially the orphans," President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said. "There is a moral obligation on our part to assist those who are less fortunate but yet very bright. They are an important part of Cambodia's future."

FLOW aims to provide the children it serves with English and computer skills so

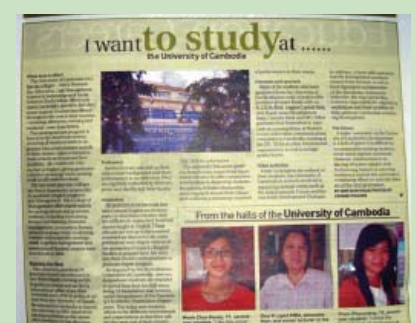
they can compete in the professional world. Because the students leave the center when they turn 18 years old, Dr. Handa, also FLOW's Chairman, initiated the scholarship program to give them the opportunity to continue their education into adulthood.

According to FLOW's Program Coordinator Simon Petro, 13 to 16 of the center's students are expected to successfully graduate from high school this year. He said that the scholarships give these students a chance at a free education, an opportunity that has never been presented to FLOW students.

"These scholarships will enable FLOW children who are capable, smart and educated enough to have great chances to get a higher education," Petro said. "They are a generous and important form of support for our children to build up their bright future and to reduce poverty and ignorance in Cambodian society."

The scholarships will be available to the students starting in Term 1 of the 2009-10 academic year, which begins October 5, 2009. To be eligible, they must meet certain scholarship standards set by the university.

Hot Off the Press



The Phnom Penh Post featured The University of Cambodia in the "Education & Careers" section of its February 5, 2009 edition. The article gave an overview of the university, providing information to the public on UC's colleges, professors, admission prices and activities as well as a brief profile of President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.

The article's reporter interviewed Associate Dean Gina Lopez and second-year students Monh Chan Kesey and Prom Pharavatey about their views on UC and featured their quotes alongside their photos.



From the Dean's Desk

Importance of Research in the Field of Education

BY CHHEANG SANGVATH, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

aware of pressing educational issues being debated today, such as the integration of AIDS education into the school curriculum, and research plays a vital role in addressing these issues. Through research, we develop results that help to answer questions, and as we accumulate these results, we gain a deeper understanding of the problems facing the educational system.

2. Research Improves Professional Practice

Research offers practicing educators new ideas to influence and improve their careers. From reading research studies, educators can learn about new practices that have been tried in other settings or situations. For example, an instructor working with immigrants might find that small-group interaction that focuses on using cultural objects from the various homelands could increase the rate at which immigrants learn the English language.

Reading research also helps practitioners evaluate approaches they hope to apply to individuals in their own educational settings. This process involves sifting through research to determine which results will be most useful. A teacher might first decide what needs to be implemented in the classroom then examine alternative lines of research. Finally, he decides which line of research might help accomplish his objective.

On a broader level, research helps practicing educators build connections with like-minded educators. Special education teachers, for example, might establish connections at research conferences where individuals report on topics of mutual interest, such as using small-group strategies for discipline management in classrooms.

3. Research Informs Policy Debates

Policymakers, from national government employees and state workers to local school board members and administrators, use research to influence conversation and debate on important educational topics. They use the knowledge they gain to take positions on educational issues important to their

constituents. For these individuals, research offers results that can help them weigh various perspectives. For example, policymakers might use research to summarize the alternatives on:

- Welfare and its effects on schooling among lower incomes families.
- School choice and the arguments proposed by opponents and proponents.

To be useful to policymakers, researchers need to present their findings clearly, summarized in a concise fashion with fact-based evidence.

4. Researching Builds Student Skills

On a personal level, the process of research helps individuals develop conceptual, organizational, writing and presentation skills. In graduate programs, conducting research requires students to use conceptual thinking to make sense of data, analyze complex relationships among ideas and synthesize disparate ideas. The dual concepts of synthesis and analysis also are involved when students conduct a review of complex research literature to eventually organize into a report format. When developing research reports for a master's thesis, students expand on these organizational skills and practice writing an acceptable proposal.

Education is the acquiring of knowledge, information and skills during the course of one's life. It plays an important role in the progress of an individual's mind and country. Ignorance and poverty are major speed bumps in the swift development of a country and can be overcome easily through education. To overcome these bumps in the road, educators need to engage in research to strengthen knowledge and initiatives.

At The University of Cambodia's College of Education, we are strongly committed to excellence in teaching, culture and, above all, research. Within our long plan for improving the qualities of education, we support students in conducting research - either mini-research or longer-term theses - because research is a life-long learning process.

Educators are in a business where we strive for continual improvement. This requires addressing problems or issues and searching for potential solutions. Adding to knowledge means that educators undertake research in order to contribute to existing information about various issues.

For this reason, we do educational research. Schools must take the main responsibility for improving the quality of learning and teaching, for raising educational standards, for motivating and organizing their students and staff, and for managing and developing their human resources. We want to learn about effective curriculum programs and teaching methods to help students learn. We want to discover relationships between variables in educational settings to plan interventions. We want to understand cultural contexts of schools to create institutions that embody justice and reduce prejudice and inequality.

Not all educators have an understanding and appreciation for research. For some, research might seem like something that is important only for faculty members in the ivory tower of colleges and universities. Although it is true that college and university faculty members value and conduct research, other personnel, such as school psychologists, principals, school board members, instructors, college administrators and graduate students, must also read and use research. Research is important for four reasons:

1. Research Adds to Knowledge

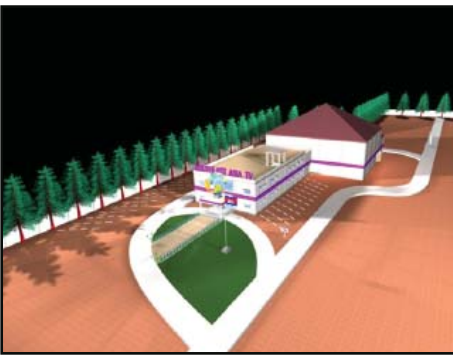
In striving for continual improvement, educators address problems or issues and search for potential solutions. Educators undertake research in order to contribute to existing information about issues. We are all

TV Station Prepares to Launch in October



LEFT: With nearly 75 percent completed, construction of the new Radio/TV building will finish by October 2009.

BOTTOM: The computer-generated model gives an idea of how the completed building will look.



In the coming months, as plans for the new College of Media and Communications emerge, The University of Cambodia will add to its media arsenal a new television station.

Southeast Asia TV, or SEA-TV, is set to launch in October 2009. It and the already operating Radio Southeast Asia (FM 106) will move into the new telecommunications building situated on the site of the future UC campus at Sangkat Tuok Thla. Accord-

ing to President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, the construction is nearly 75 percent complete.

The university and those involved with the launch have expressed their excitement for this new addition, given the success of the radio station.

"FM 106 has been very popular and has gotten lots of support from its listeners, especially students and government officials," said Huot Sovann, the station's Marketing Director. "We found that our station runs in the top three among the 20 radio stations in Phnom Penh, most of which have run for many years."

As plans for the television station are ironed out, the managers will work on syncing up its goals with the goals of the radio station and the university.

"The main goal of the radio station is to provide the Cambodian people who live in remote areas effective and fast informational educational programs as well as up-to-date economic news," Sovann said.

According to Dr. Kao, also in the future plans is the incorporation of student producers and reporters.

To learn more about TV and Radio Southeast Asia, S.E.A., visit www.radiosea.org.

UC's Newspaper Puts on a New Face

The restructuring of the *The Cambodia Weekly* is keeping the small staff at university's not-for-profit newspaper very busy.

In January, the paper saw major reforms to its content and structure. When publishing began more than a year ago, the paper made a broad sweep of news from around Cambodia and the world. However, in order to set the paper apart from the others in town, it's taking a new direction.

Over the course of the month, the paper shifted its content to take a more educational and cultural perspective, focusing especially on the viewpoints of the younger generation, said Managing Editor Aun Pheap.

"We need to provide information for students. Now, there are many students," he said, referring to Cambodia's young population, more than 50 percent of which is under the age of 24. "They need to know why others are successful and take action."

Doing away with the AFP news wire, all articles will be written in house and focus on national issues. The new format also will

include a directory to schools and libraries throughout the country as well as on-the-street interviews with university students from around Phnom Penh.

Amid these changes to the structure of the paper, the staff will be reorganized to incorporate student reporters upon the opening of the College of Media and Communications in the near future.

"It will be part of this puzzle. We also have a radio station and will soon have a TV station. We will use the newspaper as part of the training," said President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn. The students, he said, are expected to be involved by the end of this year.

As the changes slowly begin to reveal themselves, the editors of *The Cambodia Weekly* aim to set themselves apart from the other newspapers circulating around town. Being the only English-language weekly, they will define a niche that will be of importance to members of the community.

"It is not our intent to cover the same kind of news," Dr. Kao said. "The idea is



Managing Editor Aun Pheap discarded use of the AFP newswire to allow more room for in-house content.

to put all the national issues into perspective and to focus on education and culture."

To read the current issue of *The Cambodia Weekly*, visit www.thecambodiaweekly.com.kh or pick up a copy at newsstands in Phnom Penh.

Research Team Travels to Siem Reap to Interview Khmer Rouge Victims



The research team spent long hours interviewing 1,500 people from three districts in Siem Reap over the course of the trip. Priority for the funds will be given to elderly widows.

The University of Cambodia sent out a team to the provinces in February to interview potential recipients of the Dr. Handa Compensation and Memorial Fund for the Victims of the Khmer Rouge Genocide.

On February 10, 2009, a team of 11 volunteers led by H.E. Samraing Kamsan and Mr. Inn Tong An met with the governor of Siem Reap, H.E. Sou Phirun, and the village chiefs of three Siem Reap districts. The team interviewed 1,500 families in those districts about the problems they faced during the Khmer Rouge regime, life after the regime and their thoughts on the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

"According to reports from our research team, the people are very happy. They trust in the direction of UC," H.E. Kamsan said. "They are happy because the money they will receive will allow them to commemorate their ancestors – the spirits of their husbands and children who died under the Khmer Rouge regime."

A committee headed by President Dr.

Kao Kim Hourn will review the interviews and compensate 1,000 families from Siem Reap and 1,000 families from Kompong Chhang with \$100 for each family. The first priority for compensation will be given to elderly widowed women.

Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Chancellor at The University of Cambodia and Chairman of World Mate, started the fund three years ago with the plans to assist 10,000 families whose lives were disrupted by the Khmer Rouge.

"The fund is intended to make positive contributions to Cambodia's society by providing a token of compensation in its own way for those who died as well as for those who survived the Khmer Rouge regime," Dr. Handa said at a ceremony in 2006 establishing the fund.

Since the establishment of the fund, UC has visited five provinces and given assistance to more than 3,700 families.

Another team will conduct the same research on 1,500 families in Kompong Chhang province in early March.



A team of 11 UC staff traveled to Siem Reap to interview Khmer Rouge victims eligible to receive payment from Dr. Handa's compensation fund. The team will return to the provinces in March.

ALUMNI CHAT

To read the complete interviews of these UC alumni,
please visit **The U.C. Bulletin Online**
at www.uc.edu.kh/newsletters.

The University of Cambodia ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Cambodia will hold the first meeting of its alumni on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at the UC Conference Center. The inaugural gathering, "Barbeque with the President," will unite UC graduates to recount memories with old friends and teachers, plan for the future and learn what's going on at the university today.

At this first meeting, the officers of the University of Cambodia Alumni Association (UCAA) will be informally elected.

As a newly established entity, the UCAA will strive to connect alumni with the university, its students and other alumni in order to improve the value of a UC education for future generations. Its endeavors will include a scholarship program, mentorship program, student outreach, library enhancements and much more.

For more information or to R.S.V.P. please contact Por Malis, Gina Lopez or Kong Rathana or Chan Sreyroth at 023-993-274, 023-993-273, or malis.por@uc.edu.kh.



Kim Chantha, who received his B.A. Economics from The University of Cambodia in 2008, is currently working as the External Relations Coordinator for the Asian Development Bank's Cambodia Resident Mission, where he promotes ADB activities among various channels, including the government and mass media.

What advice do you have for UC students who are graduating this year?

Grab opportunities as soon as they surface. Once you're on the job path you will be able to find your way to your preferred career. Accept any job offer that is reasonable in terms of remuneration and responsibilities – don't wait for the job of your dreams. I find it is impossible for graduating students in Cambodia to secure a senior position immediately after graduation without any prior work experience.



Im Sophea, a member of UC's first graduating class in 2005, received a Master's in Public Administration. After working for several years in the corporate world, he made a drastic career change and now serves as Executive Deputy Director at the Center for Social Development where he coordinates the majority of the organization's programs.

How did your experience at UC help you in your current position?

I value the relationships that I built while I was a student. Our classmates were government employees, in the private sector and working for the civil society groups. Having an understanding of those key actors makes me more productive in my job. The UC President taught me during the early stages of my program. The chance to learn from him ... gives me a better understanding of Cambodia when the CSD meets with the foreign representatives.



Puy Kea has served for more than 10 years as a correspondent in the Phnom Penh Bureau of the Kyoto News, a Japanese news wire service, where he covers all stories relating to Cambodia. He earned his M.A. in Political Science from UC in 2005 as a means to inform his work as a journalist.

What are your thoughts on UC planning to start a College of Media and Communications?

Every day, any single person in any society is hungry and eager to learn something new, either from newspaper, television, radio or social communications, which are provided or deliberated by newsmen and newswomen worldwide. UC is on the right track to answer the needs and demands of the young generation by mapping out a plan to start a College Media and Communications. Great and strong leaders around the globe need the media as their supporter, mouthpiece or campaigner.

Alumnus Shares Valentine's Day Research



UC alumnus Tong Soprach shared his Valentine's Day research findings to UC students. He aims to use his findings to benefit NGOs in the health sector.

As street vendors sold roses to wooing young couples this Valentine's Day, UC alumnus Tong Soprach had another mission in mind – one that analyzed the romantic feelings surrounding this February holiday.

Soprach, who received his Master's in Public Health from The University of Cambodia in 2008, presented his findings on two independent research projects to an audience of UC students just days before Valentine's Day. The research examined the views and behaviors of young couples during the holiday.

His first research topic was a qualitative study that examined the behaviors of young people during Valentine's Day 2008 in Phnom Penh. In his second study, he performed quantitative research to learn about the relationships and sexual behavior among middle class 15- to 24-year-olds in Phnom Penh leading up to Valentine's Day 2009 and

to understand how they perceive their parents' attitudes regarding the holiday.

With a background in the field of sexual and reproductive health among young people, Soprach said he plans to use his research in the field to support different

“I want to help young people by advocating through media and presentations.”

TONG SOPRACH, UC ALUMNUS

organizations that have intervention programs for young couples.

“I want to help young people by advocating through media and presentations,” he said. According to him, reproductive health initiatives are something that need

strong attention.

Soprach's interest in his research was cultivated by a study he read from the National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs. The study examined the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among young people who were part of a couple versus those who were not. He also read a news report from Bangkok that said one in five teens would be involved in sexual behavior during Valentine's Day, but realized no such research had been performed in Cambodia.

From the information he gathered, Soprach said he came to the conclusion that Cambodian parents and children need to be more open about talking about safe sex.

“There's a discrepancy between students and parents,” he said, acknowledging that due to the culture in the country, safe sex is not something often discussed. “That's harmful to young people.”

With his research already covered by the local Phnom Penh media and his findings published on his personal website, Soprach would like to work with an organization or the government to put his studies to use. Institutions such as Family Health International and the Cambodian Red Cross are already interested in his work and have provided him with feedback, he said.

While studying at UC, Soprach performed research on the impact of premarital sex among young people in Cambodia. Currently working as a freelance social health consultant, he has an extensive history working with youth in the public health sector. He worked for five years at Gender and Development for Cambodia and three years at CARE International.

Bar Code Scanner Purchased for Book Store

The UC bookstore recently welcomed the addition of a bar code scanner and receipt machine that will help it accommodate the growing number of students purchasing books this term.

“It will help control the stock and make compiling daily and monthly reports more efficient,” said Por Malis, Deputy Vice President of Operations.

The bar code scanner and receipt machine will directly record the books sold in a computer database, which will make management of the bookstore run more

smoothly, she said.

The University of Cambodia also moved ahead technologically this month with plans to purchase new computers that will be used in the library and student computer lab and for key university staff and faculty. The number of computers to be ordered has yet to be determined.

The newly added bar code scanner in the university book store is expected to make operations run more smoothly.



Senate's Year-End Forums Help First-Years



TOP: Representatives from the Student Senate and Debate Club advised first-year students on university life.

LEFT: UCSS encouraged open discussion among students and panelists during December's forums.

The end of 2008 was a busy time for the 2nd Mandate of The University of Cambodia Student Senate (UCSS), with a month full of forums geared toward orienting first-year students to university life and implanting thoughts of career development in their brains.

Older students divulged the wisdom they gained during their time at UC during the month's first forum, "Study Skills, Time Management and Sharing of Experiences." The facilitated discussion between new and experienced students, which took place December 6, 2008, was important, according to then-UCSS President Oeun Sam Art, because the habits one forms at university are much different than those practiced in high school.

"For example, during general education, students read only books that the teacher assigns, but in university, we read as much as possible," Sam Art said.

The forum's presenters, representa-

tives from UCSS and the UC Debate Club, stressed the importance of not procrastinating and offered advice on how to do Internet and library research.

UCSS teamed up with the Academic Foundation Department (AFD) on December 17, 2008, for the month's second forum, "Understanding the Importance of Foundation Knowledge," in which the AFD department gave the first-year students an overview of what to expect after completing their English language training.

Once students complete the six levels of the Center for English Studies' Intensive English Program – an important first step in UC's academic structure – they enter their Foundation Year. AFD Director Y Ratana said the students need to understand why classes at UC are conducted in English and that having the skill of a second language will prepare them for the globalizing world and much more.

"Language is a symbol of our physical

CAREER SUCCESS: Preparing for the Future

During the "Career Development and Internships" forum hosted by UCSS, Associate Dean Gina Lopez from the College of Management offered career development advice. Here's an excerpt from her presentation:

14 Steps on a New Career Path

1. Show your company how you can help it meet its bottom-line needs.
2. Continually look for newer and better ways to be of more value to your employer.
3. Don't get stuck in an "information vacuum." Keep up on current events in your office, your company and your industry.
4. Don't be reactive.
5. Continually seek out new education.
6. Develop significant career and financial goals and figure out detailed plans to reach those goals.
7. Avoid a state of denial.
8. Prepare for survival in your present career and for taking the next job or career step.
9. Become motivated by your goals, not by anger, fear or hopelessness.
10. Market yourself aggressively.
11. Improve your motivation and commitment.
12. Put your weakness and inadequacies in perspective.
13. Realize that to survive and prosper in today's world, your primary job is to change yourself.
14. Take advantage of the professional counseling and guidance available.

(Information from Human Resource Management, 8th Edition by R. Wayne Mondy.)

community. It is a symbol of impression and of expression. We can learn new cultures by starting to understand the language," he said. "This is the first time the students have heard this kind of idea."

Dr. Ratana said he was impressed with

(Continued on page 15)

New UCSS Mandate Prepares For 2009

As Phnom Penh rang in 2009, the 3rd Mandate of The University of Cambodia Student Senate (UCSS) set their sights on a new beginning for the student body. Just days following student senate elections, the new group of leaders engaged in a series of meetings to lay out their plans for the upcoming year.

In the works, according to UCSS President Chheng Sovannka, a first year English Literature major, are a number of activities to develop student knowledge and create a more dynamic campus environment. In addition to planning the Khmer New Year celebration in April, she said the current mandate wants to implement university workshops, to research opportunities for study abroad scholarships and to coordinate Welcome Week activities for the 2009-10 academic year.

"We want to improve our students' knowledge and experience as well as the university," Sovannka said. "We will identify weaknesses, participate in our society and learn how to be leaders."

In a meeting held on January 24, 2009, President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn approved UC \$6,000 in funding for 11 projects that UCSS will carry out this year. Building on activities that the senate has performed in the past, the students will also collaborate with the UC Debate Club in a project entitled "Learning the Art of Debating" and will engage in community service projects to help the HIV/AIDS community and children who live near the dump site.

Compared to former senates, the new mandate has an extra spark that their adviser H.E. Samraing Kamsan said will allow them to work well together.

"All the students are enthusiastic to study and think," he said. "Especially in terms of leadership and management."

In addition to the plans they hope to car-



The UCSS 3rd Mandate Officers were elected for 2009 (left to right): Nuon Sopheak, Treasurer; Riel Rath Sathya, VP Administrative Affairs; Chheng Sovannka, President; Heng Limheang, VP Technical Affairs; Siyon Seithaudah, Secretary

ry out this year, the students were bubbling with ideas on how to improve the university in general.

Upon the university's move to the new campus in the coming year, Treasurer Nuon Sopheak, a first-year IT student, is advocating for improved Internet connections, solutions to the virus problems and improved technological resources.

Sovannka added that upon arrival to the new campus, students and staff will have to

work together to take care of the facilities.

"As part of the UCSS, I want to help develop situations at UC," said Secretary Siyon Seithaudah, a first year English Literature student. "I want to help the weak students to become as strong as the other students."

Overall, the new leaders said they hope to facilitate an environment where students can develop relationships and grow educationally as well as improve the university as a whole.

(Continued from page 14)

students' participation and concentration during the forum. After they learned about scholarship policies and what to expect in their studies, he said, they were also eager to understand other university processes, like the crediting system.

The final forum of the month, held on December 20, 2008, which was open to all students, focused on "Career Development and Internships."

"With globalization, people might face job and career security. They should know what to do to manage their career security," Sam Art said. "There is high competition, not only among Cambodians, but from foreigners who are well-educated."

The panelists from the Asia Leadership Center offered advice on how students could increase their marketability to potential employers after graduation and shared the value

internships played in their career development.

Overall, the first year students found the content of the forums helpful to their adjustment at UC.

"They are excited," Sam Art said. "They suggested UCSS do this again for the next class."

UCSS wrapped up the month with the election of the 3rd Mandate, which took over in January.

Former UC Student Earns MBA in India

Pursuing a Master's degree can be difficult. Long hours of studying and research. Intensive and brain-crunching lectures. Juggling projects and papers. But add to that a nearly 3,000-kilometer flight across the world and adjustment to a new culture, and you've got quite a learning experience on your hands.

When Than Nisay, a former UC business student, stepped off the plane in Bangalore, India, he met heavy traffic, auto drivers trying to cheat him of his money and spicy, vegetarian food that his palette wasn't accustomed to. He had to adapt fairly quickly, though, because he would be spending two years here, pursuing his MBA in Finance and Human Resource Management at the Regional Institute of Cooperative Management.

"I've never gone overseas for such a long experience," he said. "I realized the importance of friendship. I needed help when I first got there, but when I was there for awhile, I helped others to get over the culture shock."

The importance of friendship was just a sliver of knowledge he gained from his time in India. Having received a degree in Food and Chemical Engineering from the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Nisay completed five terms toward a second Bachelor's degree in Business Management from The University of Cambodia. However, he was selected from a pool of 10 UC students to receive a scholarship from the Indian Coun-

Former UC student Than Nisay earned his MBA in Bangalore, India, with the help of a scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. He said he hopes to use his degree to play a role in the development of the Cambodian stock exchange.



cil for Cultural Relations' cultural exchange program to further his studies abroad.

Already completing introduction-level management subjects like marketing, finance and human resources at UC, he embraced the opportunity to seek a higher level degree in India. Concentrating on Finance, he focused his thesis on the Indian stock exchange.

Now that he is back in Cambodia, he hopes to play a role in the launch of the Cambodian stock exchange, which he said he expects to happen in the near future.

"We don't have law regulating the stock exchange yet," he said. "So we can learn from India, in that respect. We can learn from those who are more advanced in this area."

In addition, Nisay said that once he earns enough money, he wants to start his own financial institution in Cambodia.

"I want to bring something new to Cambodia," he said. "I want to provide financial services for the younger generation."

UC supports its students to travel abroad and gain new experiences because of the knowledge and opportunities it brings. Although the university does not currently host an exchange program, at least 15 UC graduates are currently continuing their studies abroad. The students have traveled to Thailand, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Belgium, Australia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Leadership and Learning: UCSS President



Behind her sweet and modest exterior lies a force to be reckoned with – a true leader who wants her voice to be heard and who is set on making an impact on society. As the UC Student Senate's first female President, Chheng Sovannka possesses the drive necessary to lead the student body at The University of Cambodia.

"I never want to be a follower," she states matter-of-factly. "Followers never have new ideas, but as a leader you can spread your good ideas. As a follower, not all people will listen to you, but I want all people to listen to my ideas."

She adds in with a shy smile and a note of diplomacy, "But I will still accept people's opinions that are different from mine."

As a first year English Literature major,

Sovannka is no stranger to leadership. As a high school student, she immersed herself in community involvement, spending a year teaching children English at a small education center near Central Market in Phnom Penh. Currently, in addition to leading teams in class assignments, she exercises her willingness to take charge by competing in debates as a member of the UC Debate Club.

"Ms. Sovannka has quickly become the weapon of choice in our debate club," adviser Chris Smith said. "Her ferocious intellect is backed up by her outstanding communicative ability."

Now, she sees her presidential title as a new challenge to meet.

She said that this year, with plans for
(Continued on page 17)

Orientation Relieves Students' Nerves

BY TIM VUTHA

Students beginning their Foundation Year this term listened to procedural guidelines from the Academic Foundation Department (AFD) during course a orientation about how to perform well in their B.A studies. The program took place February 14, 2009, at the UC Conference Center.

In a short but tightly packed two hours, students learned how the Foundation Year courses are conducted and what they need to do to fulfill the requirements from the Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC) and the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MoEYS). Topics included school regulations, study assessments, scholarship requirements and the useful tips for students to complete their B.A degrees successfully. The participants for this orientation were CES students who passed the level 6 of the FasTrax program during Term 1 of the 2008-09 academic year and high school students who passed the CES test.

During his lecture, AFD Director Dr. Y Ratana highlighted university policy and ACC requirements. He also addressed students' concerns on the university requirements to successfully pass the exams.

The students paid strong attention to the orientation because the information is important for them as first-year students.

"I learned how to study well during my Foundation Year and what subjects I have to take. The orientation gave me enough information, so I don't feel nervous anymore," said Chhomnith Socheata, a new B.A student who received a full scholarship from The University of Cambodia. "I want to finish my Bachelor's degree with enough knowledge to be a good accountant."



Students said the orientation informed them about UC and its extra-curricular activities, easing their nerves upon entering their B.A. programs.

During the orientation, the UC Student Senate (UCSS) and UC Debate Club (UCDC) also had the opportunity to introduce themselves and present about their current projects to the new B.A Students.

The new B.A students were interested in the UCSS projects and many of them decided to register for UCDC.

Som Broeksa, who studies law and aims to be a professional lawyer, was among the many students interested in UCDC.

"I want to join UCDC to learn many new things to reach my goal," he said.

The AFD conducts two orientations a year for the new Foundation Year students, one before the start of each regular term. According to Bunthan, AFD's Deputy Director, each Foundation Year student must complete 10 subjects and 30 credit hours.



Dr. Y Ratana advised new B.A. students on succeeding in their studies.

(Continued from page 16)

more than 10 projects underway, UCSS will engage in more activities than in the past. They will focus on community service, building relationships among the UC community and spreading knowledge to students.

"For example, we want to push students to use the library," she said, a goal UCSS hopes to achieve through a library orientation seminar.

Other projects, she explained, will also increase students' awareness about careers, society and other important issues. In March's forum, "Youth and Civil Society: What Can

Students Learn from Civil Society Leaders?"

UCSS will invite civil society leaders to share their experiences with students. In November, UCSS will lead a student environmental field trip to Sihanoukville to pick up litter off the beaches and learn more about environmental issues. Most of all, Sovannka is looking forward to the annual Khmer New Year celebration that UCSS organizes, as it will be a time to spread Khmer culture.

"Sovannka will lead UCSS successfully this year," adviser H.E. Samraing Kamsan predicted. "She knows how to work hard and promotes close cooperation between the

members. She has a strong commitment."

When she's not busy with her studies, leading the student body or engaging in debate competitions, she likes to spend her free time creating art or reading books on communication skills.

Overall, it is Sovannka's desire to influence her peers and make a positive impact on the university. She doesn't take the burden of leadership lightly.

"Leaders must have responsibility. We have this thing – the ability to respond. If we don't do it, will other people do it? No. Because we are the leaders."

Law Students Test Client Counseling Skills in National Competition



Judges praised the ability of Heng Kunal and Lim Srey Sros to establish rapport with their client, a government official, in their negligence case.

Two teams from The University of Cambodia gave it their all in performances at the 2nd Cambodia Client Counseling Competition on January 22, 2009, at the Sunway Hotel, going up against teams from five other top law schools in Phnom Penh.

For weeks leading up to the competition, the teams honed their legal analysis abilities and perfected their listening skills under the guidance of Tep Punleou, Associate Dean in the College of Law. Part of this preparation included attendance at the International Client Counseling Skills Workshop hosted by USAID on December 19, 2008, where more than 20 UC law students sat in on lectures by lawyers working in the field. Following the workshop the students took part in mock competitions to vie for one of the four seats on the UC teams.

Their long hours of dedication spent outside the classroom led the four competing students to achieve personal goals, but they fell short of victory on competition day.

"They exceeded my expectations," Punleou said immediately following the performance of the first team. "That's all that I can ask for."

The first team to compete, composed of

fourth-year law students Heng Kunal and Lim Srey Sros, tackled a negligence case involving the release of private information of a government official. According to the judges, the team did well on establishing rapport with the client and systematically reviewing the information they extracted.

According to Punleou, during their practices, this team was flexible and good at drawing on their legal knowledge. Although they did not advance to the final round they took a lot away from the experience.

"We learned how to deal with a client's problem," he said. "As a counselor, you have to work with client to solve their problem. You have to learn to listen."

The second team of Mao Sovan Ratha and Van Chan Phila, also fourth-year law students, took the stage with a traffic accident case also centered on the theme of negligence.

"It was our first time competing [in the Client Counseling Competition] and even though we devoted all our energy to the competition, we weren't satisfied with the results," Sovan Ratha said. "But we learned a lot."

Chan Phila, who is interested in practicing criminal law one day, said the pair would examine the comments from the judges to



TOP: Van Chan Phila and Mao Sovan Ratha hope to apply what they learned during the competition to their future careers.



BOTTOM: More than 20 students attended the December workshop.

see where they could improve in the future.

Overall, the experience enhanced the capacity of the students' legal understanding. Throughout their practices, Punleou shared with the students the qualities needed to excel in the competition and in the real world, including interacting with the client, listening, preparing questions, analyzing the facts and summarizing the case.

"There are no courses in Cambodia that provide students with the skills to be a good counselor," Punleou said. "So the competition was a good opportunity for training."

The competition was jointly organized by the East-West Management Institute's Program on Rights and Justice and the American Bar Association and funded by USAID.



Student Perspectives

Students Should Fight IT Dangers

BY NUON SOPHEAK, IT STUDENT

it. Some people using computer technology these days create viruses for fun or to earn money by selling their anti-virus software. The Internet is the best place to gather information provided worldwide, but it is also where viruses live. It is really dangerous to access the Internet today without anti-virus software. Viruses affect students and researchers alike, who work on the Internet. Even more, online hackers who steal personal or company information cause many problems.

It is hard to prevent and fight abusive uses of computer technology. Students in general get angry when they access the Internet only to face lots of viruses, loss of information or accounts that have been transferred and hacked. Students must take care to search sites where they can be assured of protec-

“Students should know how viruses attack and how to properly install software to protect their computers.”

NUON SOPHEAK, UC STUDENT

tion from viruses or hackings, but this is not enough. We – all students – should fight and deal with these long unsolvable issues. We can conclude that some problems with computer technology come from experts of Information Technology or students themselves. Therefore, students in the field of Information Technology play important role in solving this problem.

According to the information I gathered by talking with my fellow IT students, some students create trial versions of their own viruses in order to test their work on websites. They try to invent something strange, such as new viruses or useless software, because they want to experience their creation. For example, *The Phnom Penh Post* reported a few years ago that an IT student at a large university in Phnom Penh created viruses that

attacked the school's computer system. IT students are skillful hackers as well. People skilled in computer technology are the people who produce viruses and hack information. These are also the people who will be able to solve the virus and hacking problems. The problems of using computer technology come from knowledgeable students or experts in Information Technology.

I do not accuse all IT students of causing these problems, but some of them have done so. I have a suggestion that should be heard by all IT experts and students skilled in computer technology. My suggestion, which all of us need to appeal, is that: “For the peace, please, stop the virus and the hacking right now!” Hacking is just like stealing and it is illegal. The main purpose of producing viruses is to make money selling anti-virus software. Therefore, we students in IT should try to be good citizens.

Non-IT students also should be ready to fight viruses and hacking activity by understanding these issues. Students should know how viruses attack and how to properly install software to protect their computers. For computers that are offline, I suggest installing anti-virus software via USB. For online computers, we should look for anti-virus software that can be updated regularly to shield against new viruses. Personally, I use both offline and online protection. I use anti-virus software called USB Disk Security to shield viruses while in an offline status, and for online protection, I use Avira AntiVir Personal, which can be updated every three days. With these two forms of protective software, I believe that our computers will be in safe.

As a society, we appreciate computer technology because it progresses our society, but we must deny the negative effects. Humankind needs peace and development, so all the inventors and computer programmers in this modern world should create things that are useful for humankind, not destructive. By all means, we can strive for a world where modern computer technology does not disadvantage us.

People living in the world today need to be involved with and get benefits from the many new discoveries and inventions of technology. The term “technology,” derived from Greek, literally means the study or the science of crafting. As far as I am concerned, the term technology for the modern world encompasses the new useful things that are being used. These are the advantages of the technology and they benefit humankind.

In the last few decades, computer technology has made tremendous progress in the world of communications. With the Internet, we can access the World Wide Web that contains a lot of information we need. Students these days cannot ignore computer technology such as the Internet because it helps them gain more accessibility to information needed to pursue knowledge as well as their studies. And in terms of communication, e-mail and instant messenger allow people to contact one another more efficiently.

Within reason, computer technology also allows us to design or invent things we need. In movie manufacturing, the use of computer technology attracts audiences. Most motion pictures we see these days are created with Computer Generated Imagery (CGI). CGI technology uses a computer to make the popular 3D pictures. Other sectors, such as the automobile industry, use computer technology for design and production. Computer technology has been used to design cars and to control robotic machinery to produce car parts.

Even though modern computer technology has advantages for our lives, at the same time, it has impacts that could threaten our lives and cause us trouble. While the advantages of computer technology assist our work and benefit us, we are still figuring out how to handle the problems that come with

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Indian Corner Established



The “India Corner” ceremony, presided over by President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn and Indian Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva, symbolized a growing relationship between the two countries.

The University of Cambodia would like to express its utmost gratitude to the Embassy of India in Phnom Penh for its donation of 180 books to the Toshu Fukami Library. The collection covering a medley of topics from history and economics to art and religion has been shelved in the library’s newly established “India Corner.”

This is the first collection of Indian books in a Cambodian library, according to UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.

“This is good because it will promote bilateral relations between Cambodia and India,” Dr. Kao said. “I also hope that this will help build our library collection as well as the reading culture in Cambodia.”

The “India Corner” was inaugurated in a ceremony on February 24, 2009, at the Toshu Fukami Library on UC’s campus by Dr. Kao and India’s Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva.

“Education is one area where we can really cooperate, institution to institution,” H.E. Sachdeva said to about 50 UC staff, faculty and students who attended the ceremony.

Dr. Kao said he is looking forward to the continuing partnership between UC and the Embassy of India. They will continue to collaborate on this project as the embassy said it plans to donate more books in the future.

Book Donations Expand Toshu Fukami Library



tion of 1,900 books and 505 magazines to the Toshu Fukami Library. The books were provided courtesy of the National University of Singapore, Mr. Teo Jing Kok, Mr. Koh Say Choon and Mr. Eric Sim.

We also would like to extend warm gratitude to the The Asia Foundation for its continued support in book donations to the library. In its most recent contribution, the Asia Foundation donated 161 books on a variety of subjects including business, politics and computer science. In total, the library has benefited from more than 600 books given by the foundation.

Also, thank you to Mr. Graeme Priestly, a former instructor in the Center for English Studies, for his donation of 32 books.

The University of Cambodia would like to give special thanks to Dr. Rikhi Thakral of the Thakral Group of Companies for his generous support in the garnering and dona-

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To give supporters from the private sector the opportunity to contribute to The University of Cambodia’s mission of excellence in providing quality education, research and public service initiatives, the university established the UC Foundation. Founded in 2005, the UC Foundation will support academic programs, student scholarships, faculty and facility developments, and more.

If you have a passion for improving higher education and would like to learn more about how to unite with us in continuing the UC tradition, please visit our website.

www.ucfoundation.net

Thank you to all individuals and institutions who have lent their support to The University of Cambodia. We hope to have included a complete list of those who have made financial and in-kind contributions, however, we would like to express our sincerest apologies to any names we have forgotten. If you have contributed to The University of Cambodia and are not present on the list, please write our editor at ucbulletin@gmail.com so we can add your name in next quarter’s newsletter.

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UC invites students, faculty, staff and other members of the public to use the Toshu Fukami Library’s resources. The library is open seven days a week, except holidays. Hours are Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday to Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.