



# The U.C. Bulletin

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## Asia Economic Forum

# Market Talk

## Experts Analyze Effects of Global Crisis in Asia

CONTRIBUTIONS BY DR. ANGUS MUNRO

In perhaps one of the most diverse Asia Economic Forums to date, the fifth conference, "Asia's Challenges and Opportunities During the Time of Global Economic and Financial Crises," addressed the very pertinent topic of the global economic downturn.

Taking place in the wake of the G-20 Summit in London, which also sought solutions for action against the crisis worldwide, and preceding the ASEAN Summit

in Pattaya, the conference was appropriately timed, said H.E. Ong Keng Yong, former ASEAN Secretary-General, who returned to Phnom Penh for his fifth conference.

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen opened the two-day conference at the Raffles Le Royal Hotel in Phnom Penh, on April 6, with his keynote address commenting on Asia's rise during the crises and prospects for the future. He noted that because of the now discredited American banking system, there is a desperate need for reform throughout the region. Countries must be smart and innovative to deal with the upcoming challenges.

He noted the effect of the global financial crisis on Asian countries. Although India and China have sustained economic growth, major trade channels in Asia have seen a sharp decline and there has been a definite imbalance between the rich and poor. He said Cambodia intends to address vulnerabilities and deal with the social impacts of the economic and financial crises, but Asian countries must work together to reform the financial system,

*(AEF - Continued on page 17)*



Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen addressed attendees of the 5th Asia Economic Forum regarding the global crisis' impact on the Millenium Development Goals. "Asia's Rise and the Global Economic and Financial Crises: Prospects for the Future"

## CONTENTS

- 2** U.S. professor discusses best teaching practices
- 3** Indian university signs partnership agreement
- 4** Alumni Association established at gathering
- 6** Admissions director reaches for high standards
- 8** New dean brings fresh perspective to UC
- 9** Former ASEAN leader gives advice on leadership
- 10** CEO explores realm of servant leadership
- 11** Civil society leaders explain their public roles
- 13** Professor encourages better German business
- 18** Student News
- 28** University Supporters

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## Best Practices of University Teaching: An American Perspective

BY CHRIS SMITH



**Visiting Professor Katherine Marshall of Georgetown University in the U.S. returned to UC to offer her insights on the changing role of professors in today's institutions of higher education.**

The University of Cambodia hosted the welcome return of Professor Katherine Marshall as she visited Phnom Penh in the course of her academic duties. Marshall is the former Counselor to the President of the World Bank and a high profile member of the North American academic community. Currently, she works for Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and is a trustee for Princeton University. Given this extensive experience, Marshall spoke to UC faculty on the topic of “Best Practices in University Teaching Today.”

Following an introduction by Dr. Angus Munro, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Professor Marshall admitted that educators across the world are starting to feel restrictions caused by the downturn in the global economy. Nevertheless, she noted many establishments view the crisis as an opportunity to rethink, retool and renew.

This process includes an ever-accelerating trend towards incorporating IT into the lives of all those associated with the advancement of further education. For instance, Marshall said she makes regular use of social applications such as Facebook and Twitter to keep

in touch with her students. She also mentioned she teaches in lecture halls equipped with hand-held communication devices – one for each student – allowing her to conduct swift concept-checking exercises with her students in real time.

While it is likely to be some time before fresh and growing organizations such as UC adopt such technology, Marshall did advise members of the audience to keep abreast of technological change, accepting and adapting that which best suits the demands of the hour.

Marshall also addressed the matter of instilling a sense of “perpetual curiosity” in the minds of students. Recalling her days in the World Bank, she introduced the audience to the ideal of “sequential specialization.” Here, recognized experts in particular fields are also expected to be conversant in an additional area of specialization closely linked to their main discipline.

To play into this notion, Marshall suggested exposing students to a range of different learning styles and settings to effectively encourage the first steps along the path toward lifelong learning. The result is

an intelligent, well-rounded individual who will push against the boundaries of society.

Marshall also found that a series of provocative, if not downright controversial, freshmen seminars conducted in the presence of high university authorities fosters a right-thinking approach to academic excellence. When confronted early in her student career with such seminars, her enquiring mind is oriented towards the heady, oxygen-rich environment of academic discourse and naturally led her to contribute to it.

UC is at the forefront of efforts to provide the best education for all. Marshall had this fact in mind when she predicted that in future, the majority of the world's academics will be female, as is already the case with the student population of her university. She suggested that the acceptance of diversity is an essential aspect of today's progressive educational establishments. In catering not just to changes in gender balance, but also to diversity of race, religion, attitudes and needs, barriers are lifted and change for the better introduced.

Marshall suggested that the era of the global citizen has not been derailed by current economic uncertainties, and it is, she said, the business of the future to train students to become effective global operatives. This might be achieved by presenting students the opportunity to study abroad, such as UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn's recent work in establishing links between UC and the European Union and India promises to achieve.

In conclusion, Marshall pointed to classic fields of study such as the law or medicine and asked students to consider how much these disciplines had changed over the course of a decade in response to technological advances. A willingness to embrace advances in applied computer technology is central to the university's evolution, she noted.

*To read more about past  
and future lectures, visit  
The University of Cambodia's  
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[www.uc.edu.kh](http://www.uc.edu.kh)*

# Indian University Inks MOU

CONTRIBUTIONS BY BANDOL LIM



The University of Cambodia and India's Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology agreed to support each other in an educational partnership, joining together two young but thriving universities. This May, the universities' presidents signed an MOU to symbolize the relationship.

Two young universities on the cutting edge of education in their given societies united in ceremony that will pave the way for future collaboration and partnerships.

On May 11, 2009, UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder and Chancellor of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in India, to address commonly shared objectives in advancing educational excellence development.

According to H.E. Rajesh Sachdeva, India's Ambassador to Cambodia, who spoke at the ceremony, both universities possess reputations beyond their age, with strong visions and common goals. They each have a vested interest in providing education to disadvantaged students, as is demonstrated through UC's scholarship program, which offers 600 scholarships to financially disadvantaged students yearly, and KIIT's various scholarship programs and on-campus amenities.

"I'm really happy the two young presidents and chancellors and two young universities are going to join hands," he said.

According to Dr. Kao, because UC is the tender age of 6 years old, it will be able to learn a lot from KIIT in terms of curriculum and faculty development, teaching methods, student services and fund raising.

KIIT made its humble beginnings in 1992 with only 12 students, but in a short time, grew to be one of India's most prominent educational institutions. Nationally

accredited and approved by the Statutory Bodies of Government of India, it has 40 academic programs and campuses complete with a library, residence halls and widely available Wi-Fi. On record as being the youngest deemed university and having the youngest chancellor and largest tribal institute in Asia, it is also, according to a recent survey by the *Times of India*, ranked as 5th among the nation's private universities and 16th in all of India.

"The partnership will help strengthen the position of UC as well as allow UC's students and faculty members to visit and learn from KIIT's staff and faculty members," Dr. Kao said. "UC and KIIT can support each other in various ways."

Excited for the partnership and especially for UC's student support of the MOU at the signing ceremony, Dr. Samanta said he looks forward to the lifelong relationship between the two universities.

"I used to tell my students, I was once a student and I will die in the midst of students," he said.

KIIT and UC will begin working together in the coming months and years in a sort of sibling relationship - based less on formalities and more on mutual interests and partner agreements.

"Our interests are to work closely with KIIT and to support each other during times of need," Dr. Kao said.

## Editor's Note:



*When I crossed the Pacific from the U.S. to Cambodia and entered the gates of The University of Cambodia nearly a year ago, I had no idea about the adventure on which I was about to embark. I might have come to offer my services to the future leaders of this great nation, but little did I know that I would do more than contribute to the world of higher education in Cambodia. I too would don the attire of a student.*

*The thirst for knowledge emanates from the students and professors here at UC and their attitudes are highly contagious. The university and the country as a whole offered me many lessons onto which I hastily grabbed ahold. Lessons in language and in economics. Lessons in friendships and in cultural diversity. Lessons in eating cuisine outside the typical Western diet. (Spiders anyone?)*

*This is the last U.C. Bulletin that will be published under my supervision. As I pass along the baton and move on from this place, I'm grateful for the many experiences I've incurred and the lessons I've endured. I might have only made a small dent into life at this young and flourishing university, but the impressions it has left on me will last a lifetime.*

*I hope our paths will cross again soon. Until next time, take care!*

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

# Alumni Association Established at Gathering

BY TIM VUTHA



**UCAA President Sean Thoninn said despite their busy careers the members of the newly formed association will collaborate their time and resources in order to give back to UC.**

Hundreds of UC alumni reunited on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at the UC Conference Center, giving birth to The University of Cambodia Alumni Association (UCAA).

“The minute you enrolled at UC, you became part of the UC community and you remain so today,” President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said to the gathered alumni. “We warmly welcome distinguished alumni back to The University of Cambodia.”

H.E. Samraing Kamsan, the UC President’s adviser, said UC is proud to see the alumni work together to benefit the university and the younger students.

“We want to see them be good leaders,” he said.

He highlighted that once UCAA begins running, it will offer many benefits to UC, its students and its graduates. Not only will it serve as a network of communication among alumni, the association will be able to provide feedback to the university, aid in recruitment and fund raising, and offer advice and career advancement opportunities to current students.

“UCAA will send a good image of UC to the outside world and establish a strong network among UC alumni,” Samraing said.

During the March meeting, the alumni

engaged in an election campaign where they nominated themselves and their friends as candidates for the five UCAA officer positions. The candidates each gave a 5-minute speech to reveal their individual capacities and perspectives. All alumni who attended the gathering then voted on the officers. The winners were:

- Sean Thoninn, President**
- Pich Panha, VP of Admin. Affairs**
- Kim Chantha, VP of Technical Affairs**
- Tep Chakriya, Treasurer**
- Soch Kunthea, Secretary**

All other candidates became UCAA committee members.

Sean Thoninn, who earned an MBA from UC in 2006, quickly adopted a new perspective for the future as the newly elected President of UCAA.

“I wish to remain part of UC, establishing networks for graduated students where we can exchange experiences with one another,” he said. “Even though we are busy working, we devote our time and resources to benefit UC.”

For his two-year mandate, Thoninn has short-term, medium-term and long-term plans. First, he wants to arrange the UCAA office and prepare the regulations and policies for the association to run smoothly.

## UCAA Officers



**Sean Thoninn**  
*President*  
Deputy Business Development Manager, Microfinance Institute “Amret”



**Pich Panha**  
*VP Administrative Affairs*  
Clinician Coordinator, TPO



**Kim Chantha**  
*VP Technical Affairs*  
External Relations Coordinator, ADB Cambodia Resident Mission



**Tep Chakriya**  
*Treasurer*  
Administration & Finance Officer, Aide at Action Cambodia



**Soch Kunthea**  
*Secretary*  
Program Development Officer, CDC-Global AIDS Program

Candidates not winning the election were automatically appointed as UCAA committee members :

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Kuch Phearun  | Tong Soprach       |
| Morm Mom      | Khan Malin         |
| Chhit Muny    | Nou Channy         |
| Vann Lyheang  | Hy Kimhout         |
| Phan Mora     | Sokhan Sereyvethia |
| Pen Vandarong | Boun Rathana       |

Next, he wants to conduct regular meetings among the members to discuss what UCAA will do for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students. Moreover, he will at-

*(UCAA - Continued on page 5)*



**After entering the working world, UC alumni reunited in an evening to network and elect officers to the newly established Alumni Association. Graduates of UC placed their votes for officers at the alumni dinner.**

*(UCAA - Continued from page 4)*

tempt to raise funds to help students and the community. As part of his long-term vision, he wants to help the university organize student exchange programs between UC and international universities.

As President, he also offered his perspective on ideal leadership.

"I will try to manage people by heart. It is a long-term strategy, and it is the most

successful way to be a leader," he said, preparing himself to be a strong president. "A manager won't always be a leader, but a leader can be a good manager."

UC Student Senate Vice President Riel Rathsatya attended the event and said he looks forward to UCAA's impact on UC.

"We can depend on them to help us find jobs or learn how to apply for jobs successfully," he said.

Rathsatya said upon graduation, he plans



**According to Por Malis, Second Deputy VP for Operations, all UC graduates can currently join the association, but the first mandate will set bylaws for future membership.**

to enroll as a member of UCAA and run as a candidate for President as well.

Following the ceremony, the alumni, students and the staff gathered in a reception.

"We had a nice party together. We ate, drank and danced contentedly as a sign of good relationships at UC," Rathsatya said.

## UC To Offer Design Courses in Term 3

In June, the College of Management will launch three new textile design courses to give students a more in-depth perspective on fashion and the garment industry.

"If the students want to work in the fashion industry, even if they don't want to become designers, it is very useful to learn what jobs people do in the industry," said Anneliese Helmy, the course instructor who spent more than 15 years working in the Australian fashion industry. "If students are going to work as managers, they will find they are able to manage their people better if they understand the job responsibilities of the people they are managing."

Helmy has worked on mainstream labels with large production runs as well as in bridal couture, giving her a wide range of expertise in the fashion and garment indus-

try. The three courses she will be teaching focus on fashion illustration, fashion design and range design. In the fashion illustration

**"There are many different areas of fashion and these courses give a taste of the design areas."**

ANNELIESE HELMY,  
COURSE DESIGNER AND INSTRUCTOR

course, students will learn the basics of illustration and presentation and have the opportunity to begin a portfolio. In the fashion design course, students will take a look at the history of fashion and learn basic ele-

ments for clothing design. Finally, the range coordination course will give students an understanding of range cohesion, presentation and production when creating a clothing line.

"I designed the courses to try to give students a taste of what the fashion industry is about," Helmy said. "There are many different areas of fashion and these courses give a taste of the design areas."

According to Gina Lopez, Associate Dean in the College of Management, the courses will be offered to UC students as well as the public and require no prerequisites to register. As of right now, the courses will be offered only during Term 3 of the 2008-09 academic year, which starts June 22, 2009, but could be offered again in the future pending student interest.

# Admissions Dir. Aims for High Standards

BY TIM VUTHA

**K**ong Sambathrorth, a 28-year-old native of Prey Veng province, joined the UC family as the Admissions Director in early March.

Sambathrorth, who graduated with his Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Build Bright University's Siem Reap branch, has lived in Phnom Penh since 1992 when he took a job as an English tutor at Somrong Andet High School. He also taught English at New York International School (NYIS) and was promoted to Deputy Principal of its branch in Siem Reap province.

Sambathrorth said he feels passionate for his new job at The University of Cambodia and hopes to become a lecturer here sometime in the future. When he came across the job announcement on the UC website, he saw it as a golden opportunity.

"I love working in the university environment," he said. "I chose the university with the highest standards."

As Admissions Director, his main responsibility is to effectively gather and pass along information to people at UC who have questions or concerns. He keeps track of student records so they are easily accessible to students and departmental staff, organizing a documenting system in both hard and soft copy form.

He said he has strongly committed to developing a higher standard in the admission office among his small staff of Chem Sophana, Chhim Kimlun and Tek Molika.

"I plan to build the capacity of the admission staff and improve their daily work, especially since the university plans to add more staff in order to facilitate the work effectively," he said. "I also plan to improve the technology and IT system here as well."

Because of his kind management, his staff admires him.

**Taking pride in a well-run office, new Admissions Director Kong Sambathrorth has been working diligently to organize student records so they are easily accessible to students and faculty. He also hopes to become more involved in UC life in other ways.**



"He works fast and effectively. He is usually kind to us and when the staff is busy, he is happy to help us," Molika said, noting that he insists on a reasonable size workload.

According to Sambathrorth, having a well-run admission office is important because it provides benefits for the university and students. Students must be able to conveniently access the office, whether it be to obtain information about UC activities or make adjustments in their student records.

The office also serves as a sort of liaison between the public and the university and is consulted if outsiders want a tour of the campus, he said. It also plays a major roll in recruitment.

"Before students decided to register at UC, we have to persuade them to see the value of our university. So, it is up to the talent of our staffs," he said.

Sambathrorth's future goals continually link his life to the field of education.

"I want to work in the higher education institutions," he said. "I want to be a lecturer or even a professor at a university. If possible, I can work as the Admissions Director during the week and teach on the weekend."

As an idealist, his personal goals include tying in his passion for education to help out poor and orphaned children in Cambodia.

"I plan to get involved with some NGOs doing humanitarian activities to help the poor and orphaned children. I can teach English and life skills to them. In fact, I want to help them much more than this," he said, hoping to do more once he obtains his Master's degree.

In his free time, Sambathrorth loves to play football, watch news on Discovery Channel and travel. He has been married since 2002 and has made a warm family with his wife and two daughters.

## Radio/Television Building Opens in July



**A**s construction of the new University of Cambodia campus progresses, the new radio/television building structure was completed at the end of June. Work will continue on electrical and interior design as the building prepares for operation.

The house of the university-owned FM 106 and Southeast Asia Television, will officially be inaugurated on October 2, 2009, but initial on-air testing for the television

station will began in July. According to UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, the station will begin programming around August. The radio station has been in operation for almost 2 years.

Also underway at the new campus is the Handa Building, nearly 20 percent complete.

The new campus will open in its entirety in by late 2010, or early 2011.

# New Assistants to Aid in UC Growth

Five colleges and departments at The University of Cambodia gained new staff members in March to aid in the growth and expansion seen at the university in the past year.

Assistants were hired for the College of Education, the College of Arts and Humanities, the Center for English Studies, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and for the Administrative Director.

“To handle a college takes a lot of work since the number of students has been growing,” said Por Malis, Second VP for operations at UC. “We want the Deans and Associate Deans to be able to focus more on curriculum development and textbook reviews.”

The assistants will aid with clerical work and data entry so that the department heads can work to expand the depth of their programs, she said.

The assistants are quickly learning the ropes of UC and setting up routines with their counterparts.

“It’s a new challenge and opportunity for me,” said Soeun Dara, Assistant to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Looking to gain administrative experience, he has found his niche at UC and gets along well with his boss, Dr. Y Ratana.

“It’s easy to work with him because we have similar personalities,” Dara said. “So there’s no pressure.”

Assistant in the College of Arts and Humanities, Hy Voun said he also gets along well with his boss, Chris Smith, and is learning more and more everyday about what the job entails. Aiming to one day become an English instructor at UC, he said he looks

**RIGHT: In the College of Education, Hout Norithya likes solving administrative problems involving students and will study for his Master’s in Education Administration while working at UC.**

**BOTTOM: Hy Voun, Assistant in the College of Arts and Humanities, looks forward to learning more about academia.**



forward to learning more about the field of education through the work he’s doing.

Also planning to gain more experience in the field of education, especially education management, Hout Norithya, Assistant in the College of Education, will begin studying for his Master’s in Education Administration at UC in addition to performing the duties the job entails.

“I like figuring out strategies to deal with students who have problems,” Norithya said. He said he looks forward to learning more about managing curricula and other administrative tasks while working at UC.

The college and department heads said they welcome having the extra help of the



## Tech Dept. Upgrades University ts



In a recent technological overhaul, The University of Cambodia ordered 19 new computers for deans’ offices, administration offices and the virtual library.

The new computers contain one gigabyte of RAM and 180 gigabytes of hard drive that will run smoother and faster than the older systems, Teav Chhun Nan, Director of the IT Department said. The IT Department will also be working to remove old computers or refurbish them so they process at higher speeds.

“We will upgrade the old computers and

format them with Windows to put in the computer lab,” Chhun Nan said.

Through this process, the computer lab, which is used for teaching computer courses from all majors, will expand to accommodate 12 more computers, he said.

In addition to the new computers, UC ordered CD players for the Center for English Studies classrooms and a copy machine and scanner for the administration office.

*For more university news, visit*  
[www.uc.edu.kh/newsletters](http://www.uc.edu.kh/newsletters).

# New Dean Brings Fresh Perspective

Jumping on board with the mission and vision of The University of Cambodia, the new Associate Dean of Graduate Studies possesses a young, optimistic spirit that will aid him in nurturing tomorrow's leaders.

A PhD candidate in Asia Pacific Studies at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan, Chheang Vannarith said his passion lies in improving the graduate programs at the university, especially the Master's programs. With his background in International Relations and Leadership, he provides a unique perspective to the already strong faculty of associate deans and is currently devising ideas to accomplish this goal.

"With his background in social sciences, he will make life much easier for graduate students in the social sciences," Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Munro said.

According to Munro, the social science degrees are the second most popular programs and adding Vannarith to the UC team is the first step in strengthening that program.

"The students will have someone to consult and seek advice from," he said.

One obstacle Vannarith sees for graduate students is that the majority of them work while attending school, leaving less time to focus on their studies and research. To combat this problem, he wants to seek out scholarships from institutes and foundations.

"If they do not have to worry about their

income, then they can focus on their studies," he said.

In addition to serving as Associate Dean, Vannarith will also serve as Deputy Director of the Institute of Research and Advanced



Studies. Confronting this position head on, he wants to push graduate students as well as faculty to conduct research and publish their studies in academic journals.

"I want to promote a learning community for the university as a whole," he said. "Everyone needs to be involved."

Vannarith said he is looking forward to

being an active member of the university community. Noting the successful and rapid expansion of the university's programs, such as the soon-to-open Colleges of Media and Communication and Performing Arts, he looks forward to playing a part in improving the quality of the programs as resources are invested in each college.

"As an individual, I want to create a space for everyone to contribute their ideas," he said. "Only through the sharing of ideas can we improve."

His goal, he said, is to talk to faculty, staff and students in order to better understand issues facing the university. Seeing his young age as a challenge, he said communication will be the tool he will use to prove his capabilities as Associate Dean and gain a better understanding of how the university operates.

"He is young," said Por Malis, Second Deputy VP for Operations, agreeing with the challenge that lies ahead of Vannarith. "But his competency levels meet our standards. But we need his commitment."

When he's not around campus working or talking with students, Vannarith likes to play sports, especially badminton, volleyball and tennis. To talk with him in person, visit his office at UC.

# Defining Character of Leaders in Education

Humans will never be complete in their knowledge as ignorance is part of the human condition, Lord George Carey told students, faculty and staff during a lecture in early April.

"Education is successful when a teacher can provide for his or her students a lifelong love of learning," he said.

As part of the Asia Leadership Center's Eminent Leaders Lecture Series, Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury who is actively involved in the U.K. schools, converged the topics of education and leadership to explain his viewpoint of what makes an inspiring educational leader.

Citing British examples of exemplary educational figures - such as Robert Owen, a 19th century philanthropist in Wales who saw education as the key to development, and Kathy August, a present-day figure who



lead her Manchester city school to receive the title of "outstanding" - Lord Carey named four characteristics of inspirational leaders in education.

1. *They must have vision.*
2. *They must motivate others.*
3. *They must have moral vision.*
4. *They must implement the tools of simplicity and failure.*

A good teacher, he said, encourages a lifetime of learning and dissects information so even the slowest pupil can understand.

The presentation continued with an open dialogue among students, discussing what they perceived as the greatest needs in Cambodia. The students' responses of poverty, high unemployment and other all boiled down to the developing quality of education in the country.

Lord Carey encouraged the students to engage not only in formal education, but non-formal education as well - learning

*(Lecture - Continued on page 16)*

# Bringing Out the Best in Others: Tips From Former ASEAN Leader

The demands of the era of globalization edge their way to the top of discussions on economics and politics, and when it comes to discussions about leadership, the point ranks just a high.

"The paradox of globalization is that it limits the role of governments and yet it makes good governance more important than ever," said Ong Keng Yong, Singapore's Ambassador at Large for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former ASEAN Secretary-General.

Speaking as part of the Asia Leadership Center's Eminent Leaders Lecture Series, Keng Yong addressed the topic "Leadership and Youth: Bringing Out the Best in People" in which he drew on his experiences in ASEAN to encourage UC students toward good leadership in the emerging era.

He said that overall, good leadership requires discipline, diligence and dedication and he touched upon the qualities seen in effective leaders. In addition to acting as a team player and thinking strategically, a leader must possess knowledge, honesty, sincerity and transparency.

"Different individuals and communities would require different ways of communication to bring out the best in people," he said,

noting that these qualities have worked best in the situations where he has worked.

As ASEAN Secretary-General, he found it is important to understand how ASEAN operates within the region and how it pro-



notes its regional identity. Adding to this quality of knowledge, he said leaders need to be free from corruption and trustworthy to the people they represent.

When working with their counterparts, he said, it's most effective if leaders encourage a decision-making process that is clear to all participants and stakeholders and es-

tablishes an environment centered on teamwork and partnerships. This includes communicating a strategic plan that looks ahead to the future.

"Minor issues from day to day will prevail, but you must look at the big picture," he said, which includes foresight and planning.

Above all, a leader must be composed and committed, adhering to the law and fostering societal growth.

These key qualities apply not only to leadership in general, but to the leadership in ASEAN. For the future of ASEAN to remain strong, he said, there needs to be more than a high GDP and positive socio-economic indicators but also strong leadership. This leadership not only lies in the hands of politicians, but includes people from all sectors of society and places great importance in leaders from the younger generation. These people will establish a common identity, belief and purpose that will take ASEAN nations into the future, he said.

Keng Yong also updated the students on the progress ASEAN leadership has made in establishing a plan for an ASEAN Economic Community to be implemented by 2015 and pursuing a higher standard of human rights throughout the region.

## UC Participates in Educational Congress

On March 16-18, 2009, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports hosted its annual educational congress to discuss the achievements of the past academic year and set goals for the upcoming year.

Chheang Sangvath, Associate Dean in the College of Education, attended the meeting to give his input on the standards of higher education in Cambodia. During day three of the event, all the participating attendees were broken into groups to address specific topics related to the various levels of education.

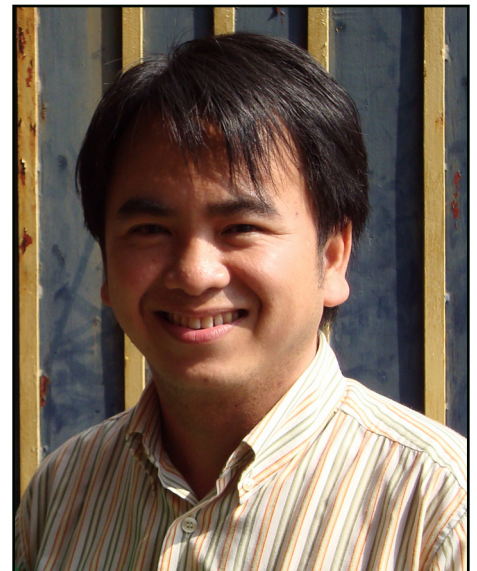
In his breakout group, Sangvath discussed the equity of gender for those entering institutions of higher education. The group concluded that in order to assure gender equality, Cambodia's universities must increase the number of scholarships, revise curricula to meet Cambodia's devel-

opmental needs, support research and staff capacity building and apply good governance and administrative implementation.

"We are glad to see the recommendations given at the educational congress because they are in line with UC's priorities," UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said.

At all levels – staff, faculty and student recruitment – The University of Cambodia tries to maintain a gender balance, Dr. Kao said. He said in terms of staff and faculty recruitment, the university always considers female applicants, as is evident through the balanced employee levels. Female students are also encouraged to apply for university scholarships and are accepted if they have the merits and commitment to learning.

"It is important to strive for gender equality," he said.



# Success as Servant Leaders: A CEO's View



**LEFT: UC Management students and those from other disciplines piled into the UC Conference Center to claim their free can of Pringles potato chips and hear from CEO of P&G.**

**BOTTOM: Samuel Kim, VP of ASEAN and Asia Developing Markets at P&G, shared his company's leadership model, which involves serving it's employees.**



With cans of Pringles potato chips popping open across campus and a booth set up outside the main building selling Oil of Olay face cream and Gillette razors, one might have feared The University of Cambodia was being overtaken by Lucky Supermarket. In actuality, leading consumer good distributor Procter & Gamble graced UC with its presence.

The company's Vice President of ASEAN and Asia Developing Markets Samuel S. Kim visited UC in April to enlighten students on the leadership strategies at P&G that has led it to become one of the highest ranking companies in the world.

"No one is born a strong leader," Kim

said. "It's a journey... you have to understand where you want to go."

Since its establishment in the mid-1800s in the U.S., P&G has operated within the model of servant leadership, he said, with the consumer being the boss and the CEO being at the bottom of the totem pole, serving those who operate under him. This is done through transparent action among the company's employees and managers, keeping connected to the company's consumers and worldwide employees, insisting on a clear business focus, cultivating a high performance culture and building top talent.

He said this model is particularly successful when faced with challenges such as the current economic downturn and the 1997 financial crisis in Asia.

"Servant leadership is more important during these times because we really have to understand what the consumer wants," he said.

The key to success during tough times, he said, is keeping an open mind. Top leaders in this century anticipate the change before the environment causes the business to react, stay in touch with the world around them, keep high personal integrity and think in terms of breakthroughs.

"It's not always about being right or wrong," he said. "You have to learn how to do things differently. If you don't open

your mind to new ideas, you can't learn. If you can't learn, you can't become a strong leader."

In Cambodia, P&G works with its partner Goodhill Enterprises to strive toward the goal of providing its products in 10,000 stores.

"It's a young and small economy today, but one that has a lot of potential," Kim said of Cambodia.

P&G's main competitor in the country, Unilever, is bigger and has been here longer, but Kim said that just means his company will have to work harder to understand what the people of Cambodia need and bring innovation to the country.

The nearly 300 students who attended the lecture had an abundance of questions for the company VP and took away a lot of information they could apply to their current and future careers.

Second-year Accounting student, Lam Sothea, agreed with P&G's leadership model and the way it reaches its customers.

"It's important to have open discussions with employees and customers because sometimes their ideas are better than ours," Sothea said. "If I sell products, I will find out my customers' needs and figure out relationships between employees and customers."

To CES student Sao Pholreasey, this was a new definition of leadership.

"I learned that we have to be open-minded because we can learn from our employees," he said.

P&G made the visit to Cambodia through ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan's invitation, and after reviewing top universities, chose UC as the workshop location.

"They are business people, but they are coming here to meet Cambodians, so who are we not to come and hear what they have to teach us," Gina Lopez, Associate Dean of the College of Management, said she told her students. "There is something you can learn from them that you can enjoy for the rest of your life."

According to Lopez, the representatives at Goodhill Enterprises were so impressed with students interest in the workshop and their questions, they want to offer scholarships to UC students. Lopez said she will continue discussions with the company and release details about the scholarships at a later date.

# Civil Society Leaders Explain Role of Cambodia's Public Sector



**The Youth and Civil Society forum, organized by the UC Student Senate, gave UC students the opportunity to meet and network with prominent societal leaders with vast experience working in or with the public sector.**

Kicking off the activities for 2009, the 4th mandate of the UC Student Senate (UCSS) hosted the forum “Youth and Civil Society: What Students Can Learn from Civil Society Leaders,” inviting distinguished guests to teach students about how civil society operates and give them ideas on how they can become more involved in civil societal initiatives.

“We know what the government is doing, but to know more about what is going on around us, we need to know about civil society,” said Heng Lim Heang, a second-year English Literature major and UCSS member who coordinated the forum held on March 14, 2009.

Dr. Chap Sotharith, Former Executive Director for the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, H.E. Chou Ban Eng, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Interior, and Phuong Seth, Executive Director of Human Rights Vigilance of Cambodia, served as panelists on the forum, and with their past experiences in civil society, offered their insights to the nearly 200 students who attended the forum.

As the first to address the students, Dr. Sotharith emphasized the need to get civil society experience before graduation. Students can apply for volunteer jobs or internships with organizations or businesses to gain work experience and perform research

related to their studies, he said. He also noted the necessary balance between civil society and government in order to meet the needs of the country’s citizens.

H.E. Chou Bun Eng expanded on the relationship between civil society and the government, explaining they each have their separate roles and ways of doing things in order to attain the same goal of improving societal living conditions. Civil society fills in the gaps of the government, she said, by helping to maintain peace, building relationships between people and the government, influencing international issues and advising the government.

Seth concluded the forum with his support of human rights. Although civil society does not have the level of power that the government has, he said, it must act as an active observer and alert the government to society problems and advise the government to potential solutions.

According to Lim Heang, the panelists’ open-minded expertise enlightened student views and presented the students with future opportunities

“The seminar was held to integrate students with civil society during their time of study,” she said, noting that this gave students the opportunity to meet top leaders face-to-face and establish relationships with them before graduation.



**TOP: H.E. Chou Ban Eng, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Interior, explains to students that civil society leaders take on roles the government does not fulfill.**



**BOTTOM: Dr. Chap Sotharith, former Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace; Advisor and Chief of Cabinet of DPM emphasizes that students who work in civil society as either a volunteer or intern while attending university gain valuable job experience that will help them in their careers.**

UCSS adviser H.E. Samraing Kamsan said the students were eager to learn more about the link between the government and civil society from experts in the field.

“In class they study theories from textbooks, but with the forum the civil society leaders who have lots of experience spoke frankly to the students,” he said.

# Singapore Sets Example in Public Service



**David Ma, who worked in Singapore's Civil Service for more than 30 years, said the Singaporean government operates on the CARE system, meaning public servants are trained in the areas of courtesy, accessibility, responsiveness and effectiveness. With a lack of natural resources, Singapore relies on creativity and innovation to compete globally and the private and public sectors work together to meet society's needs.**

Singapore and Cambodia have their drastic differences, but according to David Ma, an instructor at Singapore's Civil Service College who worked in the country's civil service for more than 30 years, the two countries have a lot they can learn from each other in terms of public service.

"What works in Singapore might not work here and what works here might not work in Singapore, but it's important for us to share our experiences," he told UC students in his presentation "Serving the Public - A Singapore Experience," sponsored by the Asia Development Bank.

Known for the efficiency with which it's government conducts its daily affairs, Sin-

gapore has devised and executed a public service campaign that has attracted the attention of countries worldwide. According to Ma, this notoriety stems from the interest the Singaporean government takes in meeting the needs of its society and the framework for service delivery, aptly named CARE, which it has adopted.

Public servants, or government officials, are trained in the areas of "Courtesy," "Accessibility," "Responsiveness" and "Effectiveness," preparing them so they have the capacity to do their jobs and exceed the expectations of the public, he said.

"We have no natural resources, so we must use knowledge and innovation to survive," he

said. "We pay much attention to creativity."

Singapore has set the mold in many areas of society. Ma showed students, for instance, how the government is transforming into an e-government so that they are more accessible to the public, offering one-stop services such as post offices that also serve as banks. He also explained the government's strategy to eliminate red tape, noting its policy of officials helping any customer find the appropriate office to address their concerns, even if it isn't their own.

Ma also explained how the government and private sector work together to meet society's needs. In areas such as transportation, he said, businesses have taken control to more efficiently serve the public with the government offering support only in terms of providing infrastructure. However, the government maintains control in other areas where the private sector doesn't meet critical standards. For example, the government continues to run television media so that members of the country's four language groupings receive equal access to information.

The UC students who attended the presentation seemed inspired by Ma's insights and eager to continue to improve and develop the public service sector in Cambodia.

Singapore's effort to "cut the red tape" and make government offices more accessible impressed Lim Ainay, a second-year Tourism and Hotel Hospitality student.

"Sometimes it's difficult to find the exact place to go if you need information," she said. "If the government could figure out a way to shorten the process to make it easier, people would like to meet with the government."

Chhea Kuntheara, a second-year Finance and Banking student, also looked at Singapore's high level of service as something for Cambodia to aspire to.

"Cambodia's services are still low, as we are a developing country," he said.

Ma urged the students to remain patient during Cambodia's development.

"As a citizen, you have the right to demand the best from the government," Ma assured the students. "But from the perspective of the government, the government faces a lot of constraints. It takes time."

The presentation took place March 12 in the UC Conference Center. Gina Lopez, Associate Dean in the College of Management, arranged Ma's visit as part of an on-going Asia Development Bank Lecture Series.

# German Professor Encourages Students to Do Better Business in Germany

Cambodian enterprises might find it advantageous to begin peddling products in German marketplaces, according to Dr. Lutz Hoffmann and Katrin Schlatermund, who spoke to UC students as part of the Dr. Handa Eminent Leaders Lecture Series.

According to Hoffmann, a professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Germany who has traveled extensively through Southeast Asia in the past few years, consumer trends in his home country lend themselves to Cambodian products. Germans, he said, value individuality, environmental protection and sustainability, health and wellness, other cultures, modern designs and home decor.

"You must discover what your country has and the possibilities it has," he said, reminding the students that Cambodia has unique resources that people in Germany would be willing to buy.

However, the key to success in Germany, he said, is in how Cambodian business people market their products. He provided the students with five tips:

**1. Don't copy products.** *"If you sell copied products in German markets, you will get a low price and most likely have problems with the German law and government," he said. Although this sort of business could benefit in the short term, in the long term its reputation would be destroyed. Instead, he suggested to find a product that Cambodia specializes in, like silk or rattan, and brand it.*

**2. Figure out a price strategy.** *Many Asian countries aim to sell inexpensive products, but he said this doesn't work. He suggest Cambodian businesses aim to sell quality products at a higher price than their "cheap" counterparts, but not as high as the market leaders.*

**3. Veer from mass advertising.** *Only 1 percent of advertisements and commercials are perceived by German audiences, he said. Instead, Cambodian businesses should select target markets and contact those people directly.*

**4. Figure out a distribution system.** *"Focusing on sales and distribution is the most efficient means of reaching your customers, especially with a limited marketing budget," he said. "But it's also risky." He suggested using*



**Dr. Lutz Hoffman of Germany's University of Applied Sciences explained to UC students the ins and outs of trading in Germany. He said Cambodian businesses, with their high quality products, could prosper in his homeland with a well thought out marketing plan.**

*channels such as trade fairs, importers and the Internet to reach customers. According to Schlatermund, the Director of Mess Frankfurt, one of the largest trade fairs in the world, trade fairs seem to be the most effective means of distribution in Germany, as the customers can touch, see, taste and smell the products as well as build relationships with distributors.*

**5. Find a niche market.** *Market research has been made much simpler with the Internet, he said, but business must zone in on who they specifically want to sell their products to.*

In addition, Hoffmann and Schlatermund shared German economical statistics that students should keep in mind if they want to do business in Germany one day, such as the country's over-aging population and its high spending rate. They also raised the point that Cambodian products are not

too visible in Germany.

"There are stores [in Germany] selling Cambodian products, like silk, but people aren't aware they are from Cambodia," Schlatermund said.

For this reason, the speakers encouraged the business students to find ways to brand Cambodian products and make them more well-known abroad.

Hoffmann and Schlatermund took an interest in what the Cambodian markets have to offer after learning about the country's high-quality products and resources and noticing the popularity of products from other ASEAN countries, like Thailand and Vietnam, in Europe.

"We strongly believe that Cambodia has great possibilities of achieving pieces of cake on foreign markets - starting little by little, of course, but becoming stronger over time," Hoffmann said.



## From the Dean's Desk

# Understanding the Role of the Modern University

BY CHRIS SMITH, COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

As The University of Cambodia prepares to embark once again in enrollment and registration, it would be an auspicious moment to remind ourselves of the nature of this organization for higher learning. Since the moment of its creation, UC has been successful in providing an educational service shaped by the following considerations.

UC encourages its students to pursue knowledge for its own sake. For instance, an understanding of the adaptive nature of Cambodian folktales serves no immediate purpose beyond the personal satisfaction

of mastering the wisdom - unlike an understanding of double-entry bookkeeping, which could be out to immediate account.

In addition, UC students are guided by reason (in contrast to astrology or phrenology, for example) and view society through this corrective lens. This is not to say the students are deaf to the mood music of a situation nor a stranger to intuition, educated guesses or faith. Nevertheless, they understand and are taught to work with the principle that knowledge at the university level is limited to that which can be observed directly. UC concerns itself with phenomena that can be explained or tested using logical arguments; and UC is an organization where a mind oriented toward this type of exertion may find a home amid minds of a similar caste.

Nowadays, academics specialize in a

certain field of choice and UC is geared towards serving this trend. Of course, given the complexity of modern society, specialization is a must: no one could realistically hope to know everything about computers for example. No! They specialize in a subtopic that falls under the general subject of computing. It is UC's goal to stimulate the mind's capacity to generate specialized hypotheses, knowing well that what is true today was yesterday only imagined.

At UC, this activity is shaped by the demands of society. UC students realize the need to absorb all the details of a choice area of study and then, if possible, add to it. In doing so, they are confident they are contributing value to society. Although they are aware they stand on the contributions

(Smith - Continued on page 16)



## From the Dean's Desk

# Law: Not Just for Lawyers

BY TEP PUNLOEU, COLLEGE OF LAW

Most Cambodians who are not involved in the law field assume the study of law is the study of so-called criminal or contract law. This misconception is the result of media distortions. Movies and the news portray victims, bad guys, judges, lawyers, plaintiffs, defendants or police officials in a romanticized version of courtroom life.

The law encompasses much more than what ordinary citizens believe. Everyday, we are affected by the law in many different and common situations. If we consider and try to answer the following questions, we can

have a better understanding of where law is used in different aspects of society:

- *When we travel on the road, can we keep moving while the traffic light is red?*
- *If we make a contract when we are drunk, do we have to abide by that contract?*
- *If we have an income, do we have to pay tax? If so, how much?*
- *What do we do if the police want to search our house, car or motorcycle?*
- *Do we have the right to study abroad? If so, what rights do we have?*
- *If we want to build a house on our own land, do we need permission from the authorities? If so, how do we get such permission?*
- *What are our election rights?*
- *If we become a diplomat, what privileges and immunities would we have?*

When we look at these sorts of issues, we realize they cover many situations in our

daily life. Everyone needs to know the law – not just lawyers. People should also know about their rights and obligations under these laws. At the same time, knowing the law means we can be careful not to break or violate it. In addition, to help change our society, we should know what laws cause problems and try to change those laws. Finally, knowing about the law is extremely important in many different activities and careers that serve different aspects of society.

Another misconception people believe is that those who study law only do so to become judges, attorneys-at-law, court officers, court clerks or police officers. In fact, studying law can help people in various careers. Here are just a few of the sectors where a comprehensive law background is helpful:

*Court System:* judge, attorney-at-law, court officer, court clerk, court reporter, police officer, forensic scientist

(Punloeu - Continued on page 16)



## From the Dean's Desk

# The KISS of Success

BY GINA LOPEZ, COLLEGE OF MANAGEMENT

the field of management or business means something slightly different.

Everyone should keep in mind the KISS of success, especially given the current situation of the global crisis. The economic downturn presents more opportunities to enhance our KISS. In the global crisis, everyone needs not live in despair but rather embrace the crisis as a way to create alternative ways of doing business.

The people who succeed are the ones do not lose hope in any given situation. They have more KISS in managing the survival of their business. They have more KISS in facing the consequences of crisis. They have more KISS in overcoming their weaknesses and most importantly, they have more KISS in achieving success in the middle of crisis. How strong is your KISS? How determined is your KISS? And how long is your endurance in using your KISS to achieve success?

I have been pressing the word KISS here so let us uncover the meaning of the KISS I want to share with you.

- K = Keep trying no matter how hard it seems, it will get easier**
- I = Ignore those who try to discourage you**
- S = Stop procrastinating**
- S = Seek more resources**

What do you think about this KISS? Is it inspiring? Now we can say that the terms SUCCESS and KISS have a connection. Many authors of books about planning or setting goals refer to KISS as "Keep It Short and Simple," and others say "Keep It Short Stupid," but with my KISS you will

be inspired to achieving your goals to succeed. We can also transform the acronym to mean this:

- K = Knowledge**
- I = Initiative or Innovation**
- S = Self-Awareness**
- S = Skills**

More exciting, isn't it? Of course, if you want to succeed, you need to seek more resources to improve your KNOWLEDGE. You need to have INITIATIVE to keep yourself going and INNOVATION to keep giving people like your employer new ideas, concepts and options. You need to have SELF-AWARENESS to keep your feet on the ground and stay up-to-date with what is happening in your surroundings. And most importantly you need to enhance your SKILLS to secure yourself amid competition, especially in the era of globalization when no one is indispensable.

At all times you will be in the midst of insecurities from your work and from your business operations. Therefore, the presence of KISS in your studies, career and business plays a significant role toward success. Every letter in the word KISS is an essential ingredient in achieving success. As many people believe you cannot spell s-\_c-c-e-s-s without "u," meaning it is not complete without YOU, you must also understand the importance of the KISS of success. The impact of KISS in one's life achievements is undoubtedly produces long lasting benefits.

So shower yourselves with the KISS of success!

What is success? What is a KISS? Is there any connection or link between these two terms? Well, let us find out.

First let us look at the formal definition of success:

**Success (n.): the achievement of something planned or attempted; impressive achievement, especially the attainment of fame, wealth or power; something that turns out as planned or intended.**

*Encarta Dictionary*

It's synonymous with terms like achievement, accomplishment, victory, triumph. You will hear many other words tossed around the business world that can also be associated with this term.

Everyone in the world seeks for success and many have devised their own ways of achieving it. Success adds sweetness to one's life and that is why people are always aiming for success. Success in one's studies, career or business is always there for people who have the KISS of success.

A "kiss" is commonly known as a gentle or passionate touch with lips or a very light, almost imperceptible touch in passing and we also have the not-so-sweet "kiss of death," of something is certain to destroy or ruin us, but "the KISS of success" in

## UC Participates in Think Tank Discussions



Chheang Vannarith, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, attended the ASEAN ISIS and Think Tank meeting in Singapore on April 16, 2009, as the Cambodian think tank representative. The meeting, sponsored by the Singaporean Institute for International Affairs, gathered 11 ASEAN experts and think tank representatives from around the region to discuss East Asia's relations with the United States.

Vannarith and the other experts provided recommendations on how to engage the U.S. in the regional grouping. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, they said that ASEAN's economic integration is a positive signal for the U.S. to get involved with economic and security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and it should be invited to attend the next ASEAN Summit.

*(Lecture - Continued from page 8)*

through their job and community experiences and through resources like newspapers and the Internet.

One audience participant commented on the Cambodian trend among university students to study two or three majors at several different colleges and asked Lord Carey's advice on how to manage such studies.

"We mustn't think of universities as places to be trained to do jobs," he said, alluding to the idea that students shouldn't think of a university education as a guarantee to finding a job, especially given the downturn of the global economy. "In the U.K. they are more seen as a place where you are pre-

*(Smith - Continued from page 14)*

of previous generations of scholars, it is a worthy activity to contribute further.

The UC academic appears to be a placid individual, but appearances can be deceptive. UC students are encouraged to be argumentative, never taking an assertion at face value. In countless debates and student presentations over the UC years, champions of two opposed theories have confronted each other. They test one body of knowledge against another to see which provides the most accurate reflection of reality.

Alternatively, the two are melded into one to produce improvement in both schools of thought. UC instructors love to hear points of view that differ from their own, as long as they are backed up by cogent arguments. It demonstrates that the students think for themselves, and therefore, their mission as an instructor has been accomplished.

UC conducts academic business sincerely and openly, as countless universities across the centuries have done before. The authorities welcome the airing of the full range of different points of view, as we must know what others think before we can either agree or disagree with their ideas. As with other quality institutions across the world, UC is also confident enough to realize that where no solid conclusions can be found, it is better to live with uncertainty than to conduct life based on dubious ideas or stale conventional wisdom.

UC is also characterized by its concern for truth and academic honesty. UC students are cautioned as often as necessary about making statements without having the evidence to back them up. They are also taught to accept new evidence as a gift - even if it disproves a pet theory - for in accepting the

pared to do life."

Many of the students and staff took away valuable lesson from the lecture.

Prang Chanthy, a second-year Business Management student who works with Save the Children Australia, said she will share the information with her colleagues.

"People believe they can do everything when they have money, but that's not true," she said. "Look at the example he gave of Kathy August. She didn't have money and she still was able to improve children's lives."

Soeun Dara, an assistant in the College of Social Sciences, said he appreciated Lord Carey's mention of leaders, like Abraham

contradictory, the truth has been served.

UC is an institution that respects intellectual property, given its willingness to mix it up with global trends in education. This requires the free flow of information.

However, if ideas are publicized without acknowledging the source, the true originator goes unrecognized. One of the main goals of the Academic Foundation Department is to encourage the habit of documentation - citation of sources and bibliographies that give credit to the originator of the idea. Plagiarism - the inclusion of other people's work without acknowledgment - is regarded as a serious violation of UC rules.

In forming part of the world, UC reserves the right to draw attention to ideas and practices in society that are unproductive, unjust, illegitimate or harmful. UC students are encouraged to comment on what is wrong with the world, be it a matter of global or local concern and comment upon it from the perspective of their discipline.

Lastly, UC is characterized by its tolerance. Its doors and the minds behind the doors are always open to difference and cultural diversity. Its authorities realize that a rainbow of different opinions and ways of life is infinitely preferable to a generic institutionalized shade of mental grayness. All shades of opinion, all ways of life, as long as they do not reduce other patterns of thought or living, are welcome here.

These then are some of the more important characteristics of the modern university. In choosing to embrace them, UC is setting itself at the vanguard of academic development for the nation and welcomes input from the finest minds Cambodia has to offer.

Lincoln, who started at a low level and were able to move themselves up in the world through education.

"The road to real education is not just from school, but it also through informal education, from the outside," he said.

The ALC's lecture series aims to expand upon the meaning of leadership among students and community members by inviting leaders from around the world to share their leadership experiences.

*For more information about the Asia Leadership Center and its visiting lecturers, visit:*  
[www.alc.uc.edu.kh](http://www.alc.uc.edu.kh)

*(Punloeu - Continued from page 14)*

*Social Work:* women and children's aid, human rights advocate, divorce mediator

*Public Sector:* government official, Parliament member, diplomat

*Private Sector:* financial consultant, business consultant, CEO, manager

*Freelancer:* legal consultant or paralegal

As I mentioned above, every part of society is governed by law and this is evident by the list of careers where legal knowledge is useful. People can learn more about the law at law school or by accessing the law, which is openly available to the public at the Cambodian Royal Gazette or other relevant public institutions. It is not possible that ordinary citizens or even lawyers know every single detail of law and most people might only need to research the laws that are closely associated to their career or personal situation.

People wishing to pursue the legal profession, however, need to attain a law degree. The University of Cambodia offers law degrees on the Associate's, Bachelor's and Master's levels. Our programs carefully polish students, giving them a solid grounding in the core subject areas of the law: constitutional law, commercial law, contract law, criminal law, civil law and more, with qualified and experienced instructors. We teach the skills essential to becoming a qualified lawyer. Lawyers need the ability to conduct research or learn in-depth about the area law where they work. More importantly, lawyers are skilled in presenting effective written and oral arguments, know how to effectively use advocacy and can think critically and legally.

To learn more about UC's College of Law programs, visit its website at [www.uc.edu.kh/02-Colleges/law.htm](http://www.uc.edu.kh/02-Colleges/law.htm).



**In the first plenary session, H.E. Ambassador Wang Xuexian of China speaks on the key issues affecting Asia in the economic downturn.**

*(AEF - Continued from front page)*

insisting on collaboration between the public and private sectors to conquer the crisis, not only economically, but politically.

Several major themes emerged throughout the conference. While many of the forum's participants attributed the crises to moral failure in the West and warned against implementing protectionist strategies when combating the problem, others focused on the effects that the crisis would have on climate change, security and the Millennium Development Goals.

In the first and second plenary sessions, regional ambassadors and economics experts examined key issues affecting Asia and its response to the crises. As the panelists observed, Asia has links to the West through trade and tourism, and will likely feel the effects of the crisis a bit later. While the tendency could be to implement protectionist strategies, most speakers took a strong stance in avoiding such policies, a conclusion Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General, said was also reached at the G-20 Summit.

Ambassador Wang Xuexian of China suggested proactive measures Asia should take to restore financial order. He highlighted steps China has taken to implement stimulus plans and encourage confidence in its people. Despite the likelihood of the region's countries to fall victim to the imbalance of the international market structure, the long-term outlook remains unchallenged.

"I think Asia might be among the first group of countries to walk out of the crisis," he said, given their rich abundance in resources, political stability and market potential. "Asia countries have become more resilient to risks and have developed rela-

tively sound financial systems."

Others noted that the potential shift of power from the West to the East means that Asian nations must cooperate with one another while respecting their individual differences. In doing so, H.E. Jose Almonte, former National Security Adviser for the Philippines warned against a reoccurring crisis.

"I have no doubt that globalization will persist, since its benefits outweigh its disadvantages. Participation in the global economy is embedding all the powers and networks of economics, politics and security relationships that serve their mutual interests and offer the hope of a world without great power wars," he said. He continued, "In my view, whatever measures the G-20 may take to resolve the present global crisis cannot guarantee that similar crises will not happen again, simply because the uncaring character of human nature is unchanging."

The speakers moved into discussions about the crises MDGs, where UNDP Resident Coordinator Douglas Broderick said Cambodia is on track, but took note that there's still work to be done, a point echoed by the other panelists. The following sessions culminated interesting deliberations on prospects for Asian trade and investment, security issues and climate change. Given the region's extreme weather conditions and socio-economic status, Indonesian Ambassador to Cambodia Ngurah Swajaya pointed out that it will lie most susceptible to the dangers of climate change, and suggested developing countries pay special attention to environmental policies despite the economic downturn.

The conference ended with talk about Asia's political and economic outlook, one that will involve cooperation.



**International ambassadors to Cambodia and representatives from Asian institutions provide insight to the global economic climate.**

The Asia Economic Forum operates as an independent think tank, established by The University of Cambodia as a way to promote policy dialogue on major issues affecting Asia. The next forum is scheduled to take place in January 2010.

## Students Raise Donations for Children Living at City Garbage Dump

When a friend of Ry Sovanna showed him a document outlining the conditions endured by the children and adults who work at the Stung Mean Chey garbage dump, it changed his perspective on how he would approach life.

Enrolled in his first term as a B.A. student at The University of Cambodia, he decided to take the information he learned and incorporate it into a project for his political science class. He visited the garbage site and talked with the children, who he said work from sunup to sundown to earn a day's wages of about 2,000 riels. The children, he said, don't even have the opportunity to attend school.

"It's not balanced," he said. "They work a lot but only earn a small amount of money."

To carry out his project, he contacted People Improvement Organization (PIO), which provides children from Stung Mean Chey with educational opportunities, and began forming a relationship with them. With the help of his classmates, he raised 300,000 riels for the organization, but this amount didn't satisfy him.

"I knew that small amount of money could not help the children," he said. "It provided clothes, but it wasn't enough."

So when he joined the UC Student Senate (UCSS), he broached the idea of the student body jumping on board the effort to support the children at the garbage dump.

"The UC students were interested in the project," he said. "They asked a lot of questions. They wanted to visit the garbage site and learn about the conditions."

UCSS decided to take on the Stung Mean Chey project as one of their 11 activities for the year. UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn provided 1 million riels for the project and the 20 students of UCSS raised an additional 1.7 million riels from their classmates and others within the UC community. The money bought school uniforms, rice, noodles, cakes and face masks, which they gave to the children at PIO at the end of March.

"The children have no money, no scholarships to receive an education and no happiness from their families," Sovanna said. "Their way of life is really difficult."

During UCSS' visit to the organization, the UC students played games with the chil-



**UCSS provided uniforms, rice, noodles, cakes and face masks to children at the People Improvement Organization near the Stung Mean Chey dumpsite. In addition to the donations, UCSS taught children about health and hygiene.**



dren and performed a skit to teach the children about personal hygiene. Ean Pheara, PIO's Operation and Project Manager who coordinated with the students on the project, said he appreciated the student's ability to communicate effectively with the children and organize quality activities for them.

"Our children seemed to like them so much," he said. "I hope that UC will do more as a means of helping underprivileged children."

According to UCSS adviser Samraing Kamsan, this is the first time UC students

have been involved with a project to help children who live and work at the dump.

"Generosity is very important," he said. "Poverty reduction is important, not only for the government but also for the private sector and academic institutions."

Students need to learn about the challenges facing Cambodian society, especially about the plight of orphans and those working at the garbage site, agreed President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.

*(Service - Continued on page 19)*

# Internships Give Students Value For Their Careers

BY TIM VUTHA



**LEFT: Heng Kanal interned at International Law Firm and Legal affairs.**

**BOTTOM: Thai Rithy interned working as the call center consultant for at ANZ Royal Bank.**



He also benefited from the networks he made in his working environment. He got to know important people such as lawyers, prosecutors and other legal officers. As an added bonus, the internship allowed him to make money to support his studies.

However, he also met some challenging tasks during his internship experience.

"I had to complete tasks on time, maintain professional demeanor in the office and work under the pressure of higher supervisors," Kanal said. "The tasks that they gave me to do I had to complete within the time provided and no one could help me. I had to be very careful in writing because they were legal affairs."

Thai Rithy, who worked as an intern for ANZ Royal Bank, saw the positive effects of his internship experience on his studies.

"The company only lets you work when you are free. If you study in the morning, you can work in the afternoon," he said.

According to Tep Punloeu, Associate Dean in the College of Law, internships prove to be good experiences in attaining career goals. He said most of the law students at The University of Cambodia usually apply for the careers as paralegals, law clerks, legal assistants, staff members at NGOs involved in human rights, attorneys-at-law and court officers.

"Students are smart to find internships. It is good for them to get experience," he said. "However, some internships are not suitable for students to apply, for they are not really related to their majors."

UC encourages students to find internships while they are still in school.

"When companies or NGOs inform us about internship opportunities, we announce it to individual classes and put the information on the bulletin boards," said Por Malis, Second Deputy VP for Operations.

She also said when she meets with various organizations, she inquires about their internship needs and will set up positions for qualified students, especially those actively involved in the Student Senate or Debate Club.

Kanal said he used the university's resources to search for an internship on his own.

"I usually look for jobs on the UC information board. Moreover, lecturers and classmates usually motivate me to apply," Kanal said. "When I apply, I can use my lecturers' names as references on my CV."

Rithy, on the other hand, said that UC has networks, partnerships and other UC students working in institutions throughout the city who can facilitate the students wanting to work as interns.

"I got the chance to intern as a call center consultant at ANZ Royal Bank because of these networks," he said.

Having interned for several months, Kanal offered recommendations for students beginning their internships.

"Students have to work hard. Then the director will consider them as valuable assets in the company, and they will be hired as full-time employees," he said. "They also have to manage the time properly between working and studying."

However, most importantly, he said interns need to watch their health because work can bring with it stress and fatigue.

"Employers need a healthy and fit staff," he said.

Internships have become the trend for students wanting to practice what they learn in school and for them to gain new knowledge in the work place.

Heng Kanal, a fourth-year Law student, who interned for six months as a lawyer assistant, handling administrative affairs at the International Law Firm for Business and Legal Affairs, said that while working as an intern he gained job experiences in the law field that fit his major.

"I learned how to write law suits in Khmer language, access administrative and legal documents and translate legal documents," he said.

*(Service - Continued from page 18)*

"The students here are privileged. Not many Cambodians have the opportunity to go to a leading university and study another language," he said. "It's important that stu-

dents stay in touch with the reality of the community."

Sovanna said the work he has done at Stung Mean Chey gave him his first taste of real world experiences and he wants to continue to do this project in the future.

"Those children encouraged me and I will try my best to help them," he said. "It's good for Cambodians to help one another. It's good for our culture."

## Debaters Plan for Year Ahead



**Leaders of the second UC Debate Club mandate (from left to right): Ou Dane, Treasurer; Ieng Chankreusna, Vice President of Program Development; Tim Vutha, President; Ry Thany, Vice President of Technical Affairs; Lam Sothea, Secretary. Not pictured: Nhan Kongkearith, Public Relations Officer.**

Upon the election of the The University of Cambodia Debate Club's (UCDC) 2nd Mandate at the end of February, newly elected President Tim Vutha brought with him fresh vision and the desire for the club to gain notoriety among UC students.

Joining Vutha in leading the new mandate were Ry Thany, Vice President of Technical Affairs; Ieng Chankreusna, Vice President of Program Development; Lam Sothea, Secretary; Ou Dane, Treasurer; Nhan Kongkearith; Public Relations Officer; Sry Kimhong, Membership Committee Chair; and Chhay Raksmeay, Financial and Administrative Committee Chair.

"They have a good group," UCDC Adviser Gina Lopez said. "They were dedicated members before, so it's time for them to be officers and make UCDC stronger."

Immediately jumping into action, Vutha and the other officers passed a policy that the club would meet every Sunday, barring extreme circumstances such as holidays that fall on that day. They also hope to enforce membership policies so as to increase active membership, he said. So far this year, member attendance at the meetings has increased, offering promise of a productive year.

"Our members have a high competency that I can depend on and work with," Vutha said.

In addition to taking part in formal debate competitions, the club also holds work-

shops during its weekly meetings to develop skills and provide resources for its members. During the workshops, UCDC officers train the members in time management, communication and exam preparation, as well as provide information on how to apply and qualify for scholarships.

A debate workshop is slated on the agenda for August, Vutha said. In September, they will hold an internal debate competition among the UC members. Plans are also in the works for an inter-university debate competition.

The mandate's first formal event was a televised debate that took place April 1, 2009. (See pg. 21 - *Novice Debate Team Achieves Victory*)

Although Vutha said the new mandate, with most of its members being first- and second-year students, is at a slight disadvantage as compared to last year's mandate, most of which recently graduated, he has confidence that the members will be able to learn from one another.

"We can learn, share and grow together," Vutha said, reflecting upon one of UCDC's main goals. "We can learn from members and the other members can learn from us."

He said the officers intend to seek the advice and input of UCDC advisers Gina Lopez and Chris Smith as well as graduated officers.

## Mock Trial Team Reaches Semi-Finals

Testing their knowledge of civil law, a young team from The University of Cambodia went head to head against Panaasatra University of Cambodia and Royal University of Law and Economics among other top law schools in the third annual Mock Trial Competition on May 27 to 29, 2009.

The team of five second-year law students held their own against seniors from some of the city's best law programs, said adviser Tep Punloeu, Associate Dean in the College of Law. Given their lack of experience, he said he took pride in how much they accomplished.

Throughout the month of May, Chum Pheasa, Sin Piseth, Veng Pheakdey, Chhuon Panha and Seng Chantho worked with their coach Mom Seilakboth, a UC Law instructor, to study theories behind civil cases and elements of contract law.

"They were not singly responsible for the material," said Punloeu. "It was a good strategy for all of them to be knowledgeable in the material so they could find where to apply the strengths of each individual to perform."

While one student might excel in memorizing and delivering a clear closing statement, another might demonstrate cleverness and flexibility in cross examining a witness, he said.

Throughout the process, Pheasa gained confidence and acquired new advocacy skills. Because this was her first mock trial competition, she was excited but often intimidated by the older competitors. However, overcoming the challenge gave her newfound hope for her future career as a lawyer.

"Before the mock trial, I was shy, but I'm not shy anymore. Throughout our practices I became braver and braver," she said.

The competition took place this year at PUC with the final round at RULE. Each year the organizers at USAID, East-West Management Institute and the American Bar Association select a different university at which to hold the event. UC hosted the 2008 competition.

# Novice Debate Team Achieves Victory

BY THYDA KAO

On April 1, 2009, four members of The University of Cambodia Debate Club (UCDC) made their debut on national television at the "Youth Environmental Debate," hosted by the Ministry of Environment at TVK, going head to head against teams from International University, Chenla University and Cambodian Mekong University.

With the team of new UCDC members, many were skeptical they would succeed. UCDC adviser Gina Lopez wasn't sure if the students would be prepared to compete.

Originally, Lopez thought that there would be no debate this year, but by the end of February, she received a notice of the topic, leaving only a month to prepare. She asked the students if this amount of time would be sufficient, and the students engaged in a day of practice to make sure they could take on the challenge. After the practice, they told Lopez they could do it.

With strong faith in her students, Lopez allowed them to do what they needed to be ready for the event. She guided them when they needed help, but overall, watched how they practiced for the competition.

"They are very devoted," Lopez said. "I

believed that they would win, but you never know. The ball is round."

To choose the four competitors, UCDC held a mock debate among 25 students who were judged by student adviser Heng Kanal and the club's officers. Out of the finalists, the competitors were chosen based on their confidence, poise and ability to work under pressure. Rising to the occasion were Noun Sopheak, an IT major; Ieng Chankreusna, a Finance and Banking major; Eng Sokha, an International Relations major; and Chin Tyheng, an International Relations major and the youngest member of the debate club.

With only a month to prepare for the competition, the entire club rallied around the team to gather research and practice mock debates.

"We want to create a good structure to work together so they feel confident going into the debate competition and don't feel alone," UCDC President Tim Vutha said.

The club's research committee gathered documents from a similar competition the club took part in September 2008 as well as other materials from the Internet, newspapers and library while the team met with of-

ficials at the Ministry of Environment and at GERES Cambodia, a local organization dealing with climate change, to gather primary information.

"Although this was their first time on national TV, I felt as though they were more prepared compared to last time," Lopez said.

In the first round, UC competed against International University in a debate on economic development versus environmental management, with UC being pro environmental issues. The debaters said they felt well prepared and knew they would make it past the preliminary round. They were right, but heading into the final round against Cambodian Mekong University, debating that human intelligence does not originate in schools, the students did not feel as confident about winning. Although the topic seemed to favor the other team, the debaters still worked hard to persuade the judges to their side.

"We were very confident about Topic 1 because we had a lot of information. We did not have much information to go by on

*(Debate - Continued on page 27)*

# Poetry Students Pay Tribute to 'The Bard'

*How far that little candle throws his beams. So shines a good deed in a weary world.*

So said William Shakespeare. Although he wasn't talking birthday candles, Ruchira Goswami's poetry class did indeed celebrate the playwright's birthday with cake and readings of some of his best works.

The sonnets of Shakespeare have stood the test of time and are celebrated by diverse groups people all over the world.

"Without Shakespeare, we'd be without movies or plays," said Chrin Samvisal, a third-year English Literature student who enthusiastically jumped into the role of Othello for the class presentations. "Even though he died hundreds of years ago, his works still remain today."

Through the birthday celebration, which is officially recognized on April 23, the poetry students got a taste of Shakespeare's repertoire. From tragedies like *Romeo and Juliet* to comedies like *The Taming of the Shrew*, they explored the lyrical words portraying love, death, jealousy and passion that made Shake-

**Poetry students Phon Chanvutty and Soun Sovannara, both second-year English Literature majors, act out a scene from *Julius Caesar*. Students in the poetry class took turns presenting 10-minute skits to discover some of Shakespeare's greatest works.**



speare a legend.

Scarves transformed into Cesarean togas and bracelets became royal tiaras as the students adopted their characters.

"They were exposed to Shakespeare for the first time in their lives. They never heard

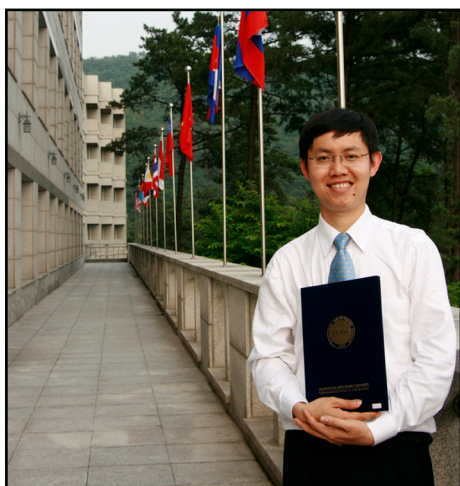
of him before," said Goswami, noting that only Shakespearean sonnet in the course's curriculum came from *As You Like It*. "I think they did quite well."

# UC Supports Students' Education Abroad

BY TIM VUTHA



**Mey Sithin, a UC graduate, will continue his education in Australia once he completes his English-language training.**



**Tong Heng studied International Law in South Korea for two years.**

Obtaining the opportunity to study abroad is among the intentions of many UC students. To fulfill the students' desire, The University of Cambodia is working hard to create scholarships and exchange programs for students to continue their studies overseas.

Dr. Angus Munro, Vice President of Ac-

“If students need us to help direct them to win the international scholarship, we are willing to help them in giving advice for research papers and many other things,” she said.

The UC Alumni Association (UCAA), in its first mandate, is currently developing its long-term strategic plans, which includes transferring students to study at partner universities overseas.

“Basically, I attempt to invite some of my friends who have won international scholarships studying abroad to share their experiences with UC students. Then students will grasp the key to winning a scholarship,” UCAA President Sean Thoninn said. “We will facilitate them to win.”

The student exchange program, however, is on UCAA's long-term agenda.

“I have to discuss with UC first to negotiate about fund raising for the program. Aside from this, we have to negotiate with partner universities about the program to make it applicable,” Thoninn said.

Tong Heng, Juvenile Justice Associate for UNICEF, who received his Master's in Public Administration from UC in 2005, went on to study in the Republic of Korea through a scholarship program. He graduated with a Master's degree in Public International Law at Transactional Law and Business University (TLBU) in June 2007. He spent 22 months completing his courses.

Heng insisted on the need for students to write an effective proposal when applying for scholarships.

“First, you need to identify the problem facing Cambodia nowadays and find out what can be done to improve by comparing the lesson learned from the country where you want to study,” he said. “For instance, New Zealand is a model country for juvenile diversion while Cambodia has not yet prepared itself for this program. You need to look around this and find out what can apply to Cambodia. That is what you need to mention in your proposal.”

He gave more points for writing an effective application proposal.

“Find out students who study there and contact them for further information. It is really useful to know in advance the concept and criteria of the selection process,”

*(Abroad - Continued on page 27)*

# Arts & Humanities College Welcomes First International Grad Student

As a native English speaker who decided to study English at The University of Cambodia, Suzanne Gillespy made a unique decision that marks a first in UC history. The new face in the College of Arts and Humanities accepted the enrollment as the university's first international graduate student.

From the United States, where she received her Bachelor's degree in French Language and Literature with a minor in Earth Science at the University of Central Missouri, she plans to use her degree to teach and do research at the university level as well as pursue her doctorate and perhaps do some writing on the side.

"My experience at UC should grant me a unique, outside-the-box perspective in regards to my field of study," Gillespy said.

Gillespy made the decision to attend UC with ease. UC's English-led instruction played a major role in her selection, she said, plus she found the curriculum to rank higher compared to other local universities.

"UC's Master's program offered a variety of courses that fit my interests and the staff

and instructors were knowledgeable and friendly," Gillespy said. "When you factor in a conveniently located campus, UC became an easy choice."



Beginning her studies with Foundation Year courses in research paper writing -- a requirement for all Master's students -- and proposal and grant proposal writing, she has found her classmates to be major influences in shaping her experience. They bring a

sense of humor and positive attitude to the classroom. They are also curious about her situation, she said, and are willing to help her adjust life at UC and in Cambodia.

"Cambodia is a crossroads of many different cultures. Phnom Penh is no exception -- there's an eclectic meeting of both East and West here. It's a great environment to study in," she said.

According to the college's Associate Dean Chris Smith, Gillespy's enrollment at UC underlines the international standards set by the university.

"If as an American she is happy with UC, it speaks volumes for the university," he said.

However, being the first international graduate student doesn't come without its challenges. Her expressed interest in Literature Transformation and Fan Literature and the advanced level of her degree has set out uncharted territory for the college. Smith has had to pull on different resources to acquire the needed texts for her studies, but the quest has surely put the college on the map.

## Graduate Programs Begin Transformation

The graduate programs at The University of Cambodia are steadily growing and with new Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Chheang Vannarith taking charge, the programs are expected to really take shape.

### Eyes Abroad

While graduate students partake in all majors offered at UC, interest has peaked in the area of International Relations, with many students enrolled in that area of study.

"International studies are attractive in a Cambodian context," said Vannarith. "Students want to study about the outside world to open their minds to what is going on around the region and the world."

The interest in international issues, he said, stems from the students' tendencies toward gaining what he calls "global citizenship" as well as broadening job opportunities. Keying into the global context makes them more attractive to private companies and NGOs throughout the country.

Sim Vireak, an International Relations

instructor at UC agreed. He said unlike specializations like marketing or business administration, International Relations offers general knowledge that can be applied to a myriad of fields.

"Now, it's becoming impossible for students to graduate from university not knowing about international politics," Vireak said.

The mode of thought that regulates students being fluent in international issues has been adopted by students trying to make ends meet in the rapidly globalizing world, but it also lines up with the ideals that university President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn has for his institution of higher learning.

In a 2004 case study published in UC's *Journal of Cambodian Studies*, Dr. Kao detailed the role that institutions of higher education must play in helping the quickly developing Cambodian society connect to the world at large. An issue gaining consideration by today's Cambodian universities in order raise the standard of the academic role, he said, is the push for their students to participate

beyond their local communities.

"How we go about bringing the two together, 'the global' and 'the local,' in a meaningful and fruitful way is a focus of much debate in the East as much as it is in the West, in rich nations and in poor nations," he wrote.

### Focusing on Research

According to Vannarith, the graduate program currently operates in a top-down method of instruction with lecturers passing on information to students and holding class discussions. While the graduate students eagerly seek out knowledge from their instructors, he said the problem lies in the students' experience gap.

"Some students are knowledgeable on international issues and are mature for their age," he said. "Others lack the experience and reading, which makes it difficult for them to catch up."

In the coming months and years, he hopes to evolve the graduate program into

(Graduate - Continued on page 27)

# Students Seek Scholarship Information



**RIGHT: Teang Chhayheang applied study abroad many times before receiving a scholarship, but because of his persistence was able travel study in South Korea.**

**BOTTOM: Chheng Kimlong studied in Japan. In addition to lecturing at UC, landed a job in the U.S. Embassy.**



Attend a lecture at The University of Cambodia, and you'll find the students to have one thing on their minds. Scholarships.

As most UC students are well aware, the acquisition of knowledge does not come without a hefty price tag, and in their endless pursuit toward higher learning, they seek out information on how to alleviate the financial pressure from whomever is willing to provide it.

Tapping into this interest among the student body, UC's Debate Club (UCDC) and Student Senate (UCSS) teamed up to cast light on the issue of obtaining scholarships to study abroad.

"From my own observations, most students are interested in scholarships overseas because they want to search for a new life,

know a new culture and understand a different sort of education," said Tim Vutha, UCDC President and organizer of the event. "We've gotten the same style of education since we were young."

The three-hour long workshop held on May 23, 2009, received an overwhelming amount of interest from students, with only standing room available in the UC Conference Center. Addressing students were Chheng Kimlong, a UC lecturer and U.S. Embassy official who studied in Japan; Teang Chhayheang, ABCD training director who studied in South Korea; and Sun Sam Nang, a UC lecturer who studied in the U.S.

As the first speaker, Kimlong offered the 5 P's and 3 A's to the successful completion of a scholarship interview.

The applicant must have a clearly defined **Purpose**, develop a **Proposition** for their field of study, be committed to daily and long-term **Planning**, be **Prepared**, and get to know **People** through networking, he said. In short, it boils down to the three A's: **Ambition, Action** and **Attitude**.

Adding to these tips, Chhayheang encouraged students to never give up when pursuing education abroad, even when times get tough.

"Try and fail, don't fail to try," he offered as his mantra.

When trying to study abroad, he said he had to apply three times before being accepted into a scholarship program. To better prepare themselves for the application pro-

cess, he advised students to read a lot and continuously improve their English usage.

Upon accepting an invitation to attend a university abroad, Chhayheang recommended students pay careful attention to and fully understand course syllabi, manage their time wisely and, of course, take time to relax.

Wrapping up the event, Samnang urged students to include items on their application that will distinguish them from the other applicants. Once in the interview, students need to convince the selection committee of why the study abroad experience is necessary. For example, if a student wants to study International Relations in Japan, the student must give adequate reasoning for how their studies will, for instance, help in Cambodian development.

Students who attended the workshop said they would take the information they learned from the workshop and make changes to their study habits.

As suggested by the speakers, Taing Leng, a third-year English Literature student, said she would work to improve her English and her academic records so that she could study business in Singapore, something she wanted to do since high school.

"I want to go to Singapore because it's more developed in terms of its education and legal system," she said.

To improve her English studies she planned to do more reading, continue writing in her personal blog and begin studying for the TOEFL.

Leang Phannara, a second-year Development Studies major, also planned to focus on improving his English as well as compose a research paper before graduating from his Bachelor's program.

"I'm not sure yet what I want to research," he said, keeping in mind his intention to study in China or Japan. "I need time to figure out Cambodia's social issues and development gaps."

Luckily, when it comes to studying for English, UC students are ahead of the learning curve. According to Ry Sovanna, a second-year English Literature major who wants to study law in South Korea or Japan, he speaks English in his classes and downloads research and reading material online so he can better understand English grammar and vocabulary.

"If we excel in English, it will be easier to get a scholarship to study abroad," he said.

# Japanese Education an Option for Students



**Professor Kiyoshi Fujikawa from Nagoya University in Japan explained a study abroad opportunity for UC students at the Graduate School of International Development where he teaches.**

Cambodian students place a high priority on an overseas education, something that Asia Development Bank (ADB) representative Emi Morikawa said is apparent by the number of Cambodians who attend Japanese universities.

“The percentage of Cambodians who study in Japan is higher than the total number of Japanese who study abroad,” she said. “Therefore, in general, Cambodians have more foreign exposure.”

Morikawa accompanied Professor Kiyoshi Fujikawa of Nagoya University to The University of Cambodia in March as part of a lecture series sponsored by ADB. He presented UC students with a study abroad opportunity at the Graduate School of International Development (GSID), where he teaches.

The mission of the school, which trains international students in how to develop their home countries, is to create original development models that differ from Western models by fostering a cross-cultural understanding. According to Fujikawa, 60 percent of students enrolled in the GSID programs are international students, and in one of the seminars he teaches, three out of 10 students are Cambodian.

GSID offers both Doctoral and Master's programs in International Development, International Cooperation and International Communication. In all courses except those

in the Department of International Development, which Fujikawa said focuses on training Japanese students to work in developing countries, the faculty teaches the courses in English, making it a natural next step for UC students wishing to take their studies abroad.

Nagoya University also caters to international students, Fujikawa said, by providing them with one year of Japanese language training and a personal tutor who will help them learn Japanese customs. International students also receive priority in the dormitories, which are free of charge, and can apply for university scholarships after their first year of study.

However, the transition to a new country isn't necessarily easy, according to Phim Runsinarith who acquired his Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and PhD in Japan. Communication barriers make the adjustment challenging.

“You have to be well prepared,” Runsinarith said. “Read books before class. Attend reviews after class. After the first year though, things get easier and you become a better student.”

UC students, though interested in the opportunities in Japan, raised concerns about how to fund an overseas education. Morikawa directed those students who are serious about studying in Japan to contact the Japa-

## Get a Scholarship

Students who want to study in Japan and are interested in scholarship information can contact the following organizations:

### Embassy of Japan

No.194, Moha Vithei Preah Norodom Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkar Mon Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: +855-23-217-16  
[www.kh.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.kh.emb-japan.go.jp)

### Japan Scholarship Program, Asia Development Bank

Office of the Cofinancing Operations  
P.O. Box 789, 0980  
Manila, Philippines  
Tel (Cambodia Resident Mission):  
+855-23-215-805, +855-23-215-806, +855-23-216-417  
Fax: +63-2-636-2444; +63-2-636-2456  
[adbjsp@adb.org](mailto:adbjsp@adb.org)  
[www.adb.org/JSP/default.asp](http://www.adb.org/JSP/default.asp)

### Graduate School of International Affairs, Nagoya University

Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku  
Nagoya 464-8601, JAPAN  
Tel: +81-52-789-4564  
Fax: +81-52-789-2666  
[iss@gsid.nagoya-u.ac.jp](mailto:iss@gsid.nagoya-u.ac.jp)  
[www.gsid.nagoya-u.ac.jp/global/index-en.html](http://www.gsid.nagoya-u.ac.jp/global/index-en.html)

nese Embassy, which offers scholarships to many of Japan's 400 universities. She said the ADB also offers 2-year scholarships to Japan and other countries.

UC has also established an exchange relationship with Osaka University in Japan, said Dr. Angus Munro, UC's Vice President of Academic Affairs. He said he will be investigating in early April how to facilitate students who wish to pursue their studies there and at the other international universities with which UC has partnerships.

Students who are interested in information about Nagoya University can see Gina Lopez in the College of Management.

## Partnership to Offer Cultural Experiences for Students

The University of Cambodia will work with a committee from Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan to set up the Peace and Friendship Mission Group, which will allow groups of five students to participate in a cultural exchange. During their trips they will visit universities and local communities to share ideas with students from the host country. The first group of students will travel from Japan to Cambodia before the end of 2009.

# Student Perspectives

## Youth Can Influence Society



BY OEUN SAM ART

The youth are a dynamic force that can push the wheel of the society toward development and prosperity as well as change bad habits of people. During beginning stages of one's life, generally between the ages of 15 and 30, a person is strong in term of physical strength and energetic thinking. In Khmer society, youth are considered the pillar of the country. Although we tend to think of youth as full of energy and the hope of the country's future, many questions have been raised about what youth can do for society. Even youth themselves have raised

such questions. There are many things youth can do to help their society toward development, prosperity and harmony.

Cambodia fell into civil war for decades. As a result, this society is still weak in almost every field. Nowadays, the country tries to transform itself from the desperate wreckage into a more healthy society through the improvement of social infrastructure, economics, education and other societal sectors. This transformation can take place through societal participation, especially with a high commitment from youth. ...

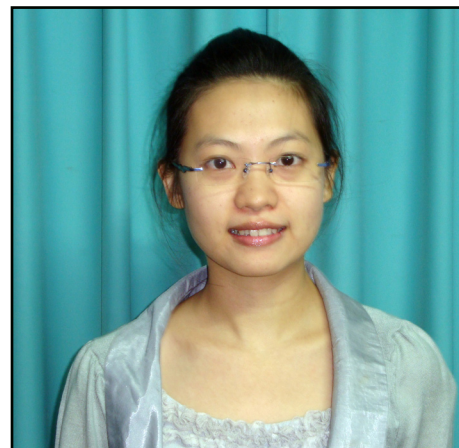
## Life in War: Investigating Family History

BY SONG LIN

Taking my first faltering steps into journalism, with a book and pen I sat in front of my grandparents and asked them for information about their lives during the Pol Pot regime. At first, they were happy to answer and told me a long story about the happenings during that time, but as time wore on, their expressions changed to sadness as they recalled distant horrors and loved ones no longer here. Grandfather looked especially sad as he remembered the extremes of kindness and savagery he received from people.

During Pol Pot's regime, Grandfather was separated from his wife and children. They stayed behind in Prey Veng province while he was arrested. Without knowing why, he was detained along with six other people, two of whom were his brothers.

Over the next five months, they were interrogated one by one about their lives before the regime. During this time, five people, including his brother, were executed before his eyes. Despite his shock and anger, there was nothing he could do to save their lives. ...



## Helping Children at Stung Mean Chey



BY PEM PENH AND YANG LEAPHEA

The goal of The University of Cambodia is to build tomorrow leaders. All UC students are encouraged to strengthen their abilities, not only in their studies but also in society. In March, the UC Student Senate participated in a project called "Students Reach Out to Children Living at the Dumpsite," where they raised money to buy needed items for children living at the Stung Mean Chey garbage dump. UC students should continue to be involved with those children because they are part of our nation. They are the future of the country. They are in need and we have to help.

The Stung Mean Chey garbage dump is

located in a suburb in the southwest corner of Phnom Penh, and the children who live there come from different places in Cambodia. Some of them are Phnom Penh citizens whose parents are very poor and some come from provinces. Many of their families sold their land to merchants to live in the city, yet could not afford living here for long. The children at Stung Mean Chey have met so many problems they should not have to face. In addition to exposure to the unsanitary conditions, their families can't afford basic needs such as food or shelter. They live in harsh conditions from the time they are born. ...

## Human Rights Degree in UC's Future

As The University of Cambodia continues its horizontal expansion, it hopes to soon add to its repertoire a degree in Human Rights and Development.

UC already offers two courses about human rights: Human Rights Law and Human Rights and Global Justice, with more than 100 students are enrolled in the latter. UC plans to begin integrating the new degree program by offering short-term seminars and recruiting a new human rights chairperson.

### (Debate - Continued from page 21)

the second topic, but persuasiveness is key. That's all we had to help us," Sopheak said.

The final topic was a great debate between the two teams, with the debaters battling back and forth - both well prepared. While the judges decided the winner, during decision making process, everyone was nervous. Sopheak, said his heart was beating fast. Sokha felt tired and antsy.

"At first I didn't feel hungry, but during the deciding moment, I felt so hungry I could hear my stomach growl," Tyheng said.

As the judges went to announce the winner, everyone from UC was scared because the judges focused on the other team, but as they shifted focus to UC, everyone felt a

### (Abroad - Continued from page 22)

he said. "At anytime and place, building up good human relations is the key to success."

Finally, he recommended that students not to give up in pursuing their goals.

"It is ok to fail - everyone has. We can consider failure as a blessing in disguise and learn from it as one of life's greatest teachers. Nothing in this world will come to you if you don't try. Thus, scholarships are always yours if you only try," Heng said.

Mey Sithin, who graduated with a Master's degree in Education from UC, now works in the Ministry of Environment. He won a two-year scholarship to study Environmental Planning Management in Australia.

"To win the scholarship, we have to be clear about the scholarship requirements, whether it fits with our qualifications or not," he said. "We have to develop our English by listening to the radio, reading books and speaking a lot, for we have to get a high score on the International English Language test."

He also emphasized the applicant's need to gain a high understanding about the field in which they wish to study in order to show the elected committee that he or she deserves the scholarship.

little better. Then the score was given. The University of Cambodia won!

"As long as we won by one point that's all that mattered," said Kanal, but in fact, the team won by 2.5 points.

Chankreusna could not believe they won. She was so overwhelmed with emotions that she started to cry. Even Lopez cried.

"I could not hold in my feelings," she said.

The students attributed their win to being able to pick out certain words that were applicable to the question. Lopez felt that a visit from the President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn before the competition also helped boost their morale.

For their effort, Dr. Kao awarded the team 1,000,000 riel, which the team put toward a celebration and investment in the club.

"We must be well prepared for the interview stage, for most applicants fail in this stage. If we are clear with the applied field, we will win. We must be clear in the area we work," Sithin said.

He will travel to Australia in early 2010, after he finishes his English language training.

Currently, UC is working toward building affiliations with some world-renowned universities and other institutions in the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe, Australia and Southeast Asia. Most recently, the university signed MOUs with Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in India and Cambodia's European Commission Delegation.

"Regarding the exchange program, now we only cooperate with Ohio University. We have the Asia Leadership Center here which works in cooperation with the Global Leadership Center at Ohio University," Malis said. "Up to now there have been three interns from Ohio University, which were sponsored by a memory-chip manufacturing company in the U.S., through the Paul W. Heng-Unigen Scholarship Program."

### (Graduate - Continued from page 23)

a more bottom-up approach by implementing research-based instruction, which falls in line with the university mandates.

To encourage an environment toward research, Vannarith has compiled a 30- to 40-book collection for the graduate reading corner in his office. This is only the beginning of what is to come for the program. He also hopes to increase student publications in the *Journal of Cambodian Studies*, especially among those performing PhD research, and invite lecturers to talk to students regarding current issues in research methodology.

"I want to get students excited [about publishing their research]," Vannarith said. "Especially, for those who wish to do their PhD elsewhere, publication is important."

Some lecturers, like Vireak, have already begun to adopt this instruction method. In his classes, he tends to take the first three to four weeks to lecture, and then he turns the tables and has the students to do the research and teach one another while he acts as the class facilitator. Each student, he said, usually presents once or twice a term.

"Graduate students must have better English skills, presentation skills, writing skills and critical thinking ability. They cannot afford to take it easy as if studying for a Bachelor's degree," he said. "I push the impossible. After the work is done, you can see that you can do better than you thought."

### Setting the Standards

As the flourishing University of Cambodia continues to evolve, along with it will come its graduate studies program. While UC's diverse and interdisciplinary curriculum sets it apart from universities around the nation, the young program will also mature to accommodate the needs of the students seeking further education.

While many new ideas still rest at the discussion stages of development, Vannarith wants to incorporate programs and courses to meet the demands of the job market. One such idea is an "executive program," which he said would promote communication skills and leadership in the classroom.

"We should redesign the program so that it could help students to practice leadership in the workplace," he said.

He also said that developing the curriculum to promote creative thinking and critical approaches to current situations would also be beneficial to students in helping them to apply theories to today's societal context.

# UNIVERSITY Supporters

## UC Unveils EUi Center

CONTRIBUTIONS BY BANDOL LIM



**UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn unveils the university's new EU Information Center to guests from Cambodia's European Commission Delegation. UC will be working with the European Commission Delegation to provide public materials about Europe as well as partner on university affairs.**

Two days before designated Europe Day on May 9, which marks the day that the idea for European Union was conceived, The University of Cambodia partnered with Cambodia's European Commission Delegation to open the European Union Information Center to the public.

UC President Dr. Kao Kim Hourn and Ambassador David Lipman, Head of the EC Delegation to Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding initiating UC as an "EU i," meaning that UC will house the dissemination of free EU information to the public.

As the cornerstone of educational cooperation between the EU and UC, the university established the EU Information Center in its Toshu Fukami Library to hold books, magazines and state of the art computers to explore Europe through the World Wide Web.

"Our goal is to have this EU Information Center operating for all the open hours because we want to provide more access to the printed materials," Dr. Kao said.

As a gateway to Europe, the EU Information Center will welcome Cambodians without the means to travel to Europe but wish to research the 27 European Union members and its institutions. Cambodia's EC

Delegation donated four desktop computers as well as shelves of updated brochures and documents about the European Union.

"The EU has informed its country members to send us their information so we can reserve one block for each country in the corner," said Por Malis, Second Deputy VP for Operations. So far, Germany has submitted materials.

The center will allow UC students and community visitors to use the materials in house as well as browse the documents in soft copy form.

"We are committed to sharing our achievements and values with countries and peoples beyond our borders," Lipman wrote in a Europe Day newsletter.

Representatives from the Spanish Embassy attended the signing ceremony.

According to Dr. Angus Munro, UC's Vice President of Academic Affairs, the information center should be a good resource for the soon-to-be established European Studies major once the university is moved to its new campus in 2010. The partnership with the EU Commission will allow UC to gain feedback on course content, organization and materials as well as provide a network of guest lecturers.

*The University of Cambodia*

### FOUNDATION

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](http://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](mailto:ucbulletin@gmail.com) so we can add your name in next quarter's newsletter.*

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