On October 3, 2006, when the much beloved founder of the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, celebrated her ninety-sixth birthday anniversary, her current residence together with the land deed was bestowed to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to be further developed as a discovery museum and library. The major aim of this new establishment is to be a place where students and the public alike can organize learning activities and gain knowledge through studying the reading materials as well as viewing the exhibits representing the work of the late residence's owner on Thai, Pali, and Sanskrit collected.

The working committee, comprising several organizations such as the Thai Library Association, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, The Stock Exchange of Thailand, and the Office of National Museum, has planned for the residence to consist of a museum and a library. It is HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's initiative to build a small library on the lawn in front of the house where the museum is to be located. In addition, exemplary house-turn-museums of certain famous people in China are also recommended to be used as models.

Last year in September the walk rally to raise funds for the center added baht 2,350,000 to the initial fund of baht 1,440,000. However, more donations are expected for the center to be completed. For further information regarding the matter, please contact the Faculty administrative office on 02-218-2417 or the affiliated demonstration schools on 02-218-2785 and 02-218-2310.

ONESQA Director Nominated the 20th Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Education

The director of ONESQA (The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment), Dr. Somwung Pitiyanuwat, the internationally renowned professor of educational research, was nominated the 20th Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Education by the University Council.

After receiving a doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1976, Dr. Somwung Pitiyanuwat resumed his teaching career at Chulalongkorn University and has since become a well-respected leader in higher education. Besides his great success in teaching and research, he was appointed key administrator positions such as dean of education, vice president for research, and executive member of the Education Reform Commission.

At present, he is in his second term as the director of the Office of National Standards and Quality Assessment, reporting to the Prime Minister of Thailand.

Dr. Pitiyanuwat who received the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development's first Distinguished International Alumni Award in 1997 was also the recipient of the University of Minnesota's Outstanding Achievement Award (OAA) in a ceremony at Coffman Union. The OAA is conferred on graduates or former students of the University who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen profession or in public service, and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national, or international level. Here in Thailand, Dr. Pitiyanuwat was also the first to be named "National Researcher of Distinction in Education."

Most recently, at the 49th anniversary of the establishment of the Faculty of Education in 2006, Dr. Pitiyanuwat was named "Alumnus of Distinction" by the Faculty Board in recognition of his great accomplishment and contribution to the institution.
**Workshops and Lectures on Brain-Based Learning**

Throughout July 2006, a series of workshops and lectures on Brain-Based Learning were organized by the Office of Foreign Affairs and Outreach Projects for students, faculty members, and the public. The resource person was Dr. Clark Remington, an expert on the topic from Upper St. Clair School District, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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**2006 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program (ETA)**

From 16 September to 13 October 2006, Thailand-United States Educational Foundation (TUSEF) and the Faculty of Education (FOE), Chulalongkorn University organized an orientation for ten ETA teachers from the U.S. prior to their teaching in provincial schools for one semester.

It is the major aim of TUSEF and FOE to help develop Thai students' English proficiency and promote English language learning in schools. One way to do this is to expose students as well as Thai English teachers to native speakers of English. With the latter's presence and teaching, it is hoped that the students' communicating skills will be improved. The ETA teachers are degree graduates in various fields of study who have a keen interest to enhance their international experience and teaching skills and to contribute to English instruction through working closely with in-service teachers.

The pre-service orientation comprised sessions on Thai language and culture as well as sessions on teaching methodology and syllabus design. Experts and renowned resource persons in and outside the University were invited to give lectures and lead workshops. During the training, ETA teachers had a chance to student-teach in secondary schools in Bangkok to practice their teaching skills and gain more confidence in classrooms. After one month, ETA teachers were then assigned to teach at schools in Kayong, Nakhon Pathom, Pitsanulok, Sukhitothai, Lampoon, Lampang, Chiengmai, Roi-Et, and Sri-saket.

The evaluation session has been scheduled in March 2007 before ETA teachers departing for the U.S. This will allow all parties especially TUSEF, FOE, and ETA teachers themselves to reflect on the project and make recommendations for next year's ETA.

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**International Conference on Poverty Alleviation through Lifelong Learning Strategy**

On September 5-6, 2006, Non-Formal Education Division, Department of Educational Policy, Management, and Leadership, organized an international conference on Poverty Alleviation through Lifelong Learning Strategy at Room 401, Prachumsuk Achava-Amrung Building, Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University. The main aim was to exchange knowledge and experience and to propose lifelong learning strategies to alleviate poverty worldwide.

Present at the conference were educators from Mekong River countries, experts from the U.S., Australia, and UNESCO. The conference was also well attended by a great number of Thai non-formal educators, practitioners, and graduate students.
Recent Research Studies of Interest

In June 2002, an eight-nation education research program was set up as a result of the meeting among educators from seven countries, including Thailand. The program was aimed at a comparative study of five key areas, i.e. math and science education; incentive-based accountability policies for schools, principals, teachers, and students; preparing and retaining high-quality teachers; construction and quality assurance of 21st century higher education; and high school to college transition. However, one out of the preliminary eight nations dropped out subsequently: only China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States of America remained. In Thailand, the Office of Education Council was responsible for a research study on preparing and retaining high-quality teachers. As part of the study, research on qualifications of the teaching force in seven nations was conducted by Associate Professor Dr. Prueet Siribanpitak.

The objectives of the study were to compare the qualifications of the teaching force among the seven nations and to propose a policy for preparing and retaining high-quality teachers in Thailand. Among the findings were:

1. All of the seven nations required both educational and professional qualifications from the teaching force. Regarding the educational qualifications, primary and secondary school teachers in Japan, South Korea, Thailand, and the United States of America must first of all complete a bachelor’s degree or higher. Primary school teachers in China must complete a high school diploma while those in Hong Kong and Singapore must complete at least an associate degree. Teachers at lower secondary level in China and all secondary teachers in Hong Kong must complete an associate degree. Teaching licenses, results of the examination taken by teaching applicants, and professional training were looked into in terms of the professional qualification. It was found that teaching licenses were required in all nations studied except Hong Kong. Applicants for teaching positions in Singapore and Hong Kong did not have to take examinations. However, professional training was required in all nations.

2. Most in-service teachers in all nations, except China and Singapore, held at least a bachelor’s degree or higher. At a primary level, all teachers in the U.S. obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher whereas ninety-two percent in Thailand did so. At a secondary level, ninety-nine percent of teachers in the U.S. held a bachelor’s degree or higher and ninety-eight percent in Thailand did so. Regarding the out-of-field teaching in four core academic subjects, thirty-five percent of secondary school English teachers in the U.S. had neither a major nor minor in English, fifty percent of those teaching mathematics in Hong Kong had neither a major nor minor in mathematics, thirty-five percent of those teaching science in Hong Kong had neither a major nor minor in science, and thirty-six percent of those teaching social studies in Hong Kong had neither a major nor minor in social studies.

The findings led to three policies proposed to prepare and retain high-quality teachers in Thailand. First, promote the classification of teaching licenses by academic or teaching fields. Second, improve teacher recruitment, posting, and transferring systems and procedure. Third, provide accelerated professional training together with a mentoring system to out-of-field teachers. All teachers should be trained to be able to teach two to three subjects.

The Ninth Joint Seminar between Kanzai Society for Educational Administration and the Faculty of Education

On August 27, 2006, the Faculty of Education hosted a joint seminar in honor of Associate Professor Dr. Paitoon Sinhrat, the former education dean and higher education expert, on Education and Knowledge-Based Economy. Educators and researchers from Japan and Thailand took turns presenting their research works during the meeting. The seminar was well attended by faculty members and graduate students.
Step into Christmas

On December 21, 2006, the Faculty of Education organized a seminar-cum-Christmas party, aiming to teach students to learn about the real meaning of Christmas as part of their cross cultural understanding and the lyrics of some meaningful Christmas songs. The event was well attended by both the faculty members and students. They enjoyed the Christmas cookies while listening to the music.

Foreign Guests to the Faculty of Education

On November 20, 2006, Dr. Barbara Landis Chase, School Principal of Phillips Academy at Andover, Massachusetts, gave a talk on Education Administration and Management. The talk interested both the faculty members as well as students from the graduate program in Educational Administration. The picture shows the Dean himself listening attentively to the lecturer.

On November 15, 2006, Mr. Fang Jin Long, a renowned musician from China met with the Dean and his associates, during his trip to perform his famous works and give workshops to the music education students at the Faculty of Education.

On November 21, 2006, high ranking officials from the Ministry of Education in Laos listened to a talk on teacher training given by Associate Professor Dr. Narutt Suttachit, during their visit to Thailand.

On December 20, 2006, the Vice Minister of Education and Training, H.E. Mr. Banh Tien Long and high ranking officials from Vietnam visited the Faculty of Education. During the visit, Associate Professor Dr. Chanita Ruksponmuang and Assistant Professor Dr. Pongsin Visedarsi gave talks on Current Thai Educational System and Framework of Education and Changes in Thai Education respectively.