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from

Executive
Director



Porntip Kanjananiyot
Executive Director

Greetings from TUSEF ka!

Hope you all are very healthy, especially during this time of H1N1 Flu outbreak na ka.

Despite challenges around the globe, TUSEF has great news to share and publications to offer ka. This issue starts with our warmest welcome to Khun Kenneth Foster. He is back as Public Affairs Officer and will serve as a Director on our TUSEF Board. We have published four new booklets, which will be available upon request.

For the 60th Anniversary Celebration, we successfully organized our first press conference, promoted our preamble activity on 'Cleaning and Caring', showed some souvenirs produced, and informed the public about various activities we have planned to conduct. We were very proud to present, 'We Learn to Care', our Fulbright Thailand song with special thanks to Prof. Michael Zager, 07 Fulbright Senior Specialist for composing it.

As always, our Fulbright alumni have written interesting stories for you to read. Rawi Nanakul, 08 American researcher and Watcharapong Areekich, 05 Fulbrighter were representatives from Thailand to participate in a Joint Symposium on Japan-US Soft Power: Addressing Global Changes in Tokyo. Rawi stated that Fulbright is a globally shared form of soft power. You can find out why from his article.

Although her grant period was short, Dr. Xae Reyes, 08 Fulbright Senior Specialist, blended and learned well of Thai culture, especially the 'Wai' way of Thailand. The last from our American grantee for this issue, was from Kate Jenks, 08 researcher, on 'Dholes—The Whistling Dog That No One Knows'. It's interesting to learn how the 'whistling hunters' hunt for Dholes for their conservation status.

On the Thai side, Phontip Tanompongphandh, 09 Open Competition Program, told us what she had learned during the 3-day pre-departure orientation. We are very happy to hear from Petch Manopawitr, 08 Humphrey Fellow, who reflected his unique experience with so many insights and lessons learned, based on his belief that 'You have to go for it and make it happen!' For Dr. Sumalee Wongwittit, 08 Thai Visiting Scholar, 'library' has a new definition after she went into one at Indiana University. Siriporn Lerdpaisalwong, 08 FLTA had a fantastic learning experience, integrating cultural activities with her Thai teaching at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

Enjoy the beauty of learning from all the stories ka!

Swasdee ka for now!!

Welcome Back Home

On July 14, 2009, Board Members of the Thailand-U.S. Educational Foundation (TUSEF) gladly welcomed Khun Kenneth Foster back to Thailand and to the Board. For four years during his previous position as the Cultural Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Thailand and the Board's Vice Chair, Khun Ken had played an active role in TUSEF activities with dedication and passion. All were delighted to see that Khun Ken has not only been promoted to be Counselor for Public Affairs, but will also serve as a Director on the TUSEF Board, bringing his professional and practical experiences to help with the overall management of the Fulbright Program in Thailand. Welcome back home ka, Khun Ken!



Travel Back in Time: Fulbright Study Visit to Phetchaburi

TUSEF, in collaboration with Tourism Industry Development and Management Division, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Phetchaburi Rajabhat University, organized a special trip to Phetchaburi, on theme of the "Living Ayutthaya", during May 4-5, 2009. The tailor-made program included visits to various archeological sites (with privilege to peep in some places normally not accessible by the public) and workshop on stucco-work, gilded lacquer art, as well as banana stalk carving with renowned local artists. At Pak Thale subdistrict, we had a good chance to try propelling a plank on mud ban, mangrove planting, bird watching, and visiting Wat Koh community (the hub of traditional dessert, traditional goldsmith, and ancient buildings). Specially, the program reflected collaboration between higher education institution and the community through the involvement of villagers as resource persons and guides. It was indeed an enriching and entertaining trip!

Once is not enough!



Fulbright Publications

TUSEF has recently released four new publications;

The bi-lingual "Knitting the Fulbright Family (5th year)" gathers stories and experiences of Fulbrighters and networks in a light style but full of contents and cultural essence.

"The Thai-American World (in Thai)", jointly published by the Ministry of Education, collects questions and answers from the 175th Anniversary of Thai-US Relationship Quiz.

"Fulbright's Survival Cookbook – 2nd edition (in English)" includes new recipes and tips useful for every first time cook.

"The second issue of FBKSharing (April 2007 – April 2009) (in English)" compiles selected email messages from TUESF e-group, sharing experiences, stories, news, and reflections relevant to Fulbright community and beyond.

These new publications and others are available upon request.





Press Conference

The press conference to officially launch the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Fulbright Program in Thailand was organized on June 3, 2009 at Bangrak Room, Dusit Thani Hotel, with the presence of Dr. Manaspas Xuto as Chairman of the TUSEF Board of Directors and Mr. Eric G. John, U.S. Ambassador to Thailand as the Honorary Chairman. The gathering aimed to inform the public of the 60th anniversary celebration of the Fulbright Program in Thailand. As the preamble activity is on "Cleaning and Caring", Director Wipawee Pongpiriyavanich of Bangrak District, was also present, representing the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, which has agreed to act as a co-host for the, together with Bangkok Christian College on November 26, 2009. The activity aims to help promote social responsibility and awareness on public cleanliness.



Souvenirs

As part of the campaign to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Fulbright Program in Thailand, TUSEF released a set of souvenirs including collectible pens, buttons, umbrellas, bags, and thumb drives for distribution at Fulbright events and activities.



Fulbright Song

Presented as a gift to celebrate the 60th Anniversary, the first time ever Fulbright Thailand's song, "We Learn to Care" was composed by Professor Michael Zager, Director of Commercial Music Florida Atlantic University and Fulbright alumnus, and his able team (mostly volunteers). The song was based on lyrics by Khun Pornpip Kanjananiyot, TUSEF Executive Director, which states Senator Fulbright's vision to inspire 'caring leaders across cultures' while reaffirming TUSEF's mission as a key actor to sustain Thai-U.S. education collaboration. It will be used for the 60th Anniversary Celebration in 2010 and as TUSEF anthem.

Chatterbox

Starting with good news, congratulations to Dr. Ratana Tungasvadi (OC 1959) on being honored as 'Venerable Professor' by the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, and also on the twin grandchildren expected this November. After coming back together from Fulbright conference in Japan, Watcharapong Areekich (OC 05) and Rawi Nanakul (US Junior Researchers 08) discovered they are twin despite differences in age, nationality and height! Inspired by his college teacher Dr. Nualpachong Swetwej (OC 60), Dr. Pisit Sarawichitr (OC 63) has been composing poems every day for some 50 years with almost 35,795 poems! Does anyone know what time (Japan's, Thai's, or US's) the food is served during the long flight to Pennsylvania? Please tell Arkarachai Fungtammasan (OC 09).

Rawi Nanakul
2008-09 Fulbright Student/Researcher
Chulalongkorn University



Being the only Thai scholar who received the 2007-08 Fulbright The world is currently undergoing a global economic crisis on a scale not seen since the American Great Depression. In these times of hardship, especially in Asia, what are Fulbrighters to do? Recently, Fulbright Thailand, other Fulbright countries and global representatives were invited to the first Fulbright-CULCON Joint Symposium on Japan-US Soft Power: Addressing Global Changes, held on June 12, 2009 in Tokyo. This was the first conference to discuss Japan and US soft relations and how they apply globally. Watcharapong Areekich and myself (Fulbright Thailand 2005) were invited to go as Fulbright Thailand's representatives. During the course of the symposium we met a great many number of extraordinary people, formed new ties with our international Fulbright family, and discussed soft power.

Soft power is a term coined by Joseph Nye, a professor of international relations. Hard power is defined as coercive power, namely money and guns. The most common analogy is of the carrot (money) or the stick (guns). Soft power refers to power that one country exerts on another by non-coercive force. Usually this is through cultural attraction or some sort of popularity. Some of Thailand's soft power is Thai food, Muay Thai (Thai kickboxing), and Thai action movies. In turn, Japan and the US exert much soft power on Thailand. Both Japanese and American culture and goods are greatly desired in Thailand. One well known example of US soft power in Thailand is Fulbright Thailand. Although it is jointly funded by Thailand and the US, it is still an US organization and promotes the US image. Soft power is all around us, in many different forms.

Although the conference was titled US-Japan soft power relations, this conference had pertinence to Thailand. Many people have asked me why Thailand would be asked to attend a Japan-US relations meeting. The answer is twofold. One, the conference was hosted by Fulbright of which Thailand is a part of. The second is because Thailand is greatly intertwined with both Japan and the US and therefore greatly benefits from a strong Japan-US relationship. Economically, Thailand maintains a Free Trade Agreement with Japan and many of Thailand's exports end up in the US and Japanese markets.

Soft power-wise, Japanese K-1 fighting, derived from Thai kickboxing is now an international sport. This popular sport, is now promoting Thai kickboxing globally. Thai kickboxing is already greatly popular in the US and is only growing with the explosion of mixed martial arts. Since Japan and the US are the archetype country that many countries look to emulate, Thailand can only benefit from their inclusion of Thai culture. The US and Japan act like a spring board for Thai goods and Thai soft power. Their strong relationship can only strengthen Thailand's relationship to each country and countries worldwide.

Beyond politics and economics, the symposium was a reminder of how powerful the concept of the Fulbright Family is. The concept can always be heard in the family of Fulbright Thailand. What is a Fulbright Family though? To me: we are all family and should work together for the betterment of our society! Most often the concept extends to the close relationship between Fulbright and the many groups involved in its workings. However, the concept of family, education and partnership can be applied to international affairs, especially as a means of soft power.

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Pre-departure Orientation : Learning before Leaving

Phontip Tanompongphandh
2009-2010 Open Competition Program
University of Pennsylvania



From June 3-5, 2009 TUSEF organized a Pre-departure Orientation for 2009 Thai Fulbright Grantees at Y.W.C.A. Building. The comprehensive orientation covered issues such as our role as Fulbrighters, facts about Thailand, and how to adjust and prepare for the live in the US. A number of guest speakers and alumni were invited to deliver us speech or run discussions which provided us with a better understanding of our country and be ready for the US.

We gained a lot of knowledge on critical issues of Thailand such as economic, politic and intellectual crisis from Dr. Somkiat Tankitvanich, Vice President of the TDRI. We learnt from Khun John Paul Schutte, Cultural Affairs Officer from the US Embassy, that most Americans don't know much about Thailand or some do but have misperceptions. Thus as cultural ambassadors, we must not forget our important role in increasing mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and Thailand. The session led by Khun Kanjana Patarachoke, Director of Northern American Division from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, helped us to become aware and understand important issues such as the role of the King, sex and drug trafficking, in order to represent Thailand in the proper way.

We also learnt how to cope with challenge which may arise by applying Buddhism from Phra Ajarn Kukrit Sodhipalo from Napapong Temple. Furthermore, Khun Ladda Tangsupachai, the Head of the Cultural Surveillance Department, Ministry of Culture, made us realize why Thai Society needs cultural surveillances. From "Museum Appreciation" session led by Ajarn Penpan Jareporn, a lecturer at Faculty of Archaeology, Silpakorn University, we found out that going to museums is a great way to spend free time where you can enjoy and learn about heritage of humanity and environment at the same time. She also advised us which museums are "must see" museums.

The Fulbright alumni also came to share their experiences in the US and answer any questions that we had. We had chances to speak with the alumni who was in the same program, therefore we have got specific and detailed answers and advises from alumni who has direct experiences. Moreover, we were introduced to the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association with Dr. Ratana Tungsavadi as a president and other alumni. They shared their precious experiences and encouraged us to join the TFA once we return in order to keep the network strong and organize activities in giving something back to the society. We had great fun listening to their experiences.

On the evening of June 3, the reception party was hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Khun Eric G. John at Dusit Thani Hotel. We were present with the letter of congratulations from the hand of the Ambassador with our parents or employer as witnesses. We all felt overwhelmed but luckily the atmosphere in the hall was very friendly as we always found ourselves speaking to someone or being congratulated by somebody. At the end, Mr. Thawiphum Wiban, on the behalf of all 2009 Thai Fulbright Grantees, gave a touched remarks of thanks to the Fulbright Foundation.

After these three days, we are ready for the journey to reach our goals. We are equipped with better understanding of Fulbright goal and way to fulfil our missions as the Fulbrighters. I felt very lucky and proud to be selected as a Fulbright grantee and I believe that all of my fellow grantees would agree with this. I also believe that we will do our best to accomplish whatever lies ahead during the time in the US and upon returning to Thailand as well. Thank you again for letting us be a part of this warmth family.

From Coast to Coast...on the Road that Never Ends

A reflection on a rewarding year as Fulbright's Humphrey fellow

Petch Manopawitr
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow 2008-09
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

"There are incalculable resources in the human spirit, once it has been set free."

Hubert H. Humphrey

In a life-long journey, particularly when one is at a mid-career path, we often dream of some time for ourselves to reflect on experiences we have gained, to contemplate our future directions and to broaden our knowledge and network professionally. The Hubert H. Humphrey fellowship, a Fulbright exchange program, has given me a unique opportunity to do just that.

When I was asked to reflect on what the Humphrey year has meant to me, at first I felt it was almost impossible to capture it all in one short article; so many insights, unforgettable experiences and lessons learned from this eventful and memorable year in the United States. Before I started my Humphrey fellowship, many Humphrey alumni had told me that the Humphrey year was a turning point in their lives, because once the program had ended, they were fully ready for a new beginning. I never quite understood this until I completed the program, and I could not agree more.

For ten months, together with other fellows from seven countries, I was placed in a graduate study program at Cornell University, befitting my research interest on biodiversity conservation and climate change. At Cornell, I was overwhelmed by the numerous opportunities to gain more knowledge through taking rigorous courses, and attending many seminars organized by different faculty throughout the semesters. Since I intend to do an integrated study on climate change issues in Thailand, I immersed myself in the many aspects and different approaches to the topics ranging from marine ecology to geographic information system, from global climate model to international conservation. These were eye-opening experiences.

However, the learning hardly stopped there. I was given countless opportunities to make professional visits to discuss with renowned scientists and visit world-class research institutes of my interest in New York City, Washington D.C., Denver just to name a few. These were networking opportunities at their best. During study break, I took up a long journey across country to visit various National Parks from Atlantic Coast of New York to Florida to the Pacific Coast in California and ended the trip at President Obama's inauguration in D.C. It was memorable and I could not think of any country that has such diverse natural and cultural landscapes.

Exchange of knowledge and fostering a mutual understanding about issues of common concerns such as environmental conservation, globalization and social changes in the US and our home countries is a key aspect of being a Humphrey fellow. I gave lectures about biodiversity conservation at the University, advised graduate students who wish to pursue volunteer work in Thailand after their studies, and promoted Thai culture when opportunities arise and by interacting with people over home-cooked Thai dinner!

During the year, we were also required to attend a Global Leadership Forum that brought together all the 163 Humphrey Fellows from 90 different countries in the year 2008-09 to discuss global development, share ideas among each other and to learn more about Humphrey's legacy.



Hubert H. Humphrey (1911-1978), the late Senator and Vice President of the US, was a long-time advocate of international cooperation and understanding. President Jimmy Carter announced the creation of the Humphrey program in 1978 in honor of Humphrey's exemplary leadership, his tireless devotion to public service, and his sincere hope for greater understanding among nations. Since its establishment, more than 3,700 Fellows from over 140 countries have carried Humphrey's spirit throughout the world.

Toward the end of the program, I moved on from Cornell University in upstate New York to Hawaii to fulfill the requirement of a six-week professional affiliation, which I did with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. There I worked with marine biologists in the field to learn about coral research and climate change from a hands-on perspective. Hawaii is beautiful and, admittedly, I have never learned so much in six weeks. It simply was a great learning exposure in paradise.

Now when I look back, the Fulbright's Humphrey program has really given me incalculable opportunities to learn through exploration and discovery. I have traveled deep and far. I have seen quite a bit of this great land, learned a great deal academically and professionally, and received the greatest gift of friendship.

It was an incredible year and sometimes it felt almost unreal. But I also know that all of this did not come by itself. You have to go for it. You have to make it happen.

The Humphrey year has already ended for me and indeed a new journey has also begun. I will never forget what I have learned and I will always remember one thing Hubert Humphrey often says "Everyone has to reach out and everyone can make a difference".

1. Together with other Humphrey fellow at Red Rocks Park and amphitheater, Denver for Enhancement workshop on Sustainability, Natural Resources and Human Security.

2. Before becoming Vice President of the United State, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey worked closely with President John F. Kennedy on the issues of civil right, world peace and social reform and was instrumental in the creation of Peace Corps program.

3. At Everglade National Park in Florida after 11,000 miles on the road trip from New York to California and back.

4. Moon rise on the road near border between Tennessee and Arkansas.

5. Cornell Humphrey Fellow in a meeting with Carolyn K. Peterson, Ithaca Mayor. A former environmental activist turned politician has made Ithaca one of the most progressive thinking cities in term of environmental conservation and social welfare.

6. Unis Library and McGraw Tower, one of the landmarks of Cornell University.

Food for Brain and Big Tummy!

Sumalee Wongwitit, Ph.D.
2008 Fulbright Thai Visiting Scholar Program
Faculty of Law, Ramkhamhang University



What do we all know and think about libraries? I believe you know that each library serves as the research arm of people with millions of books, recording, photographs, maps and manuscripts in its collections. Yet, this is a story that you may not know.

I had experience while I visited Indiana University, Bloomington, as a visiting scholar. There are several libraries in the university such as Herman B. Well library, Music library, Neal-Marshall Black Culture library, Law Library and so on.

The Herman B. Well library or the so-called main library is located on 10th street and Jordan Ave. The library is separated into two buildings, east and west. I like the west side since there are about a hundred modern computers and it is open 24 hours. I enjoyed visiting the underground floor at a media room where I could borrow various video, CD or DVD and also XBOX, PS2 and PS3 games. To me, this library is really modern, yet, within my expectations!

What was more fascinating that completely the Law library It in the Michael Maurer School of Law. I know you too will love it like I do. This library seems to be similar to others as it has a reading area, where you have to keep quiet. Otherwise someone will come to warn you politely.

Well! The special area is when you first enter the library, you will see a big lobby where students group together and discuss loudly (yes, LOUDLY!). At the left side of the lobby, there is a counter for check-in and out the books. Beside this area, most of the time you will see some food and drink, like salad, pizza or pasta, that you just pick up and eat without any charge. Sometimes you can even get coffee and tea, including snacks. People feel free to speak out loud too. It is the wonderful eating and discussion zone for all!

As people can read and eat at the same time, sometimes when I was reading or writing, I became hungry from smelling delicious food in the area!

The remarkable thing that also impressed me was that all law students here are very responsible when they are in the library. They never make the library messy or noisy.

I like to say that I love this library best because the books satisfy our curiosity, and the food satisfies our tummy!

Swasdee ka for now!!

Learning the “Wai” way of Thailand

Xae Alicia Reyes, Ph. D.

2009 Fulbright Senior Specialist

Burapha University International College



“Just as students abroad benefit most from a total immersion in cultural difference and the unpredictable, so too do faculty members stand to gain more from teaching at a different institution, with different students, in circumstances outside their academic comfort zone. The proverbial yellowed lecture notes, stained and creased from years of use, rarely work with students whose assumptions and frames of reference are very different from those of American undergraduates.” Hall (2007)

As I ponder on all the ways in which my experiences in Thailand will enhance my teaching and my work upon my return to the U.S., I can't help but to focus first on the manner in which these experiences change and renew our worldviews and our lives in deeper ways. In my case, I felt surrounded by an aura of gentleness and kindness. Perhaps the novelty of having a “stranger” in their midst and the concern communicated and modeled by the chief administrator, had fueled the attentiveness. But I left totally convinced that it is the “wai” way of Thailand and its people, to be concerned for your well-being. Everyone from the administrators, to the office staff, to the students wanted to know if I had plans for dinners, weekends and any times that they perceived I might need company. Their graciousness and care was unparalleled, and so were their surprised reactions when they found that I had gone out on my own, a made new friends at a church one of my son's fund for me on the internet, shopped, and even went bowling. Nonetheless, I took them up on the numerous invitations to share an outing and learn more about surrounding towns and cemented friendships in the process.

When I return to my classrooms in the fall I will remember to add some of the elements I experienced in Thailand for the first time. Although I have lived in places where teachers are revered, no activity I recall can parallel the significance and ceremony of the Wai Kru I attended while at Burapha University. The students playing traditional instruments and singing en masse, the chanting of the Monks, the University President leading the processional of faculty, and the fragrance of flowers of massive arrangements and garlands offered by the students to teachers, were impressive and unforgettable. The students' polite greetings –everywhere on campus, regardless of whether or not they were your students-- were absolutely amazing.

The experience has also helped me confirm once more, how the context informs the behaviors of our students in Thailand and in the US. While in the US, my students are eager to engage in debates and discussions in class, students in Thailand (both Thai and Chinese) were more passive and needed to be prodded to speak up in class. Once in a while a student would email me to state that they wanted me to clarify something in class even though I had asked numerous times if they had questions and understood. In examining the issue of saving face for oneself and/or for one's group, I saw it had implications for our own class' behavior patterns and I was all too happy to use these examples and they began to understand how this might affect them if they were to study abroad. In the same manner, my US students might be seen as overpowering if they were to interact among Asian students as they do in the US. Because many of my students are or will be teachers of diverse students, it is important to have knowledge of the cultural patterns associated with our students' backgrounds. Although this is something I have always emphasized in my teaching, Thailand has strengthened my resolve to encourage them to live these experiences through working abroad. No amount of research can fully inform the understanding of other cultures as lived experiences do. The opportunity offered by these short-term Senior Specialist projects is invaluable, and the long lasting transformations they can spawn may impact the lives of many more through our teaching.

Getting to know colleagues and students outside of the classroom is a practice I will continue to encourage because these dialogues can result in shared research and in facilitating opportunities for each other's professional growth. Conversations with the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Ajarn Aom, reaffirmed my belief that these cultural events contribute to a well-rounded educational experience and long lasting networks. Finally, in Thailand I felt right at home sharing smiles and sharing the joy of our encounters with each other during this fabulous journey.

FLTA ...From Fall to Spring....From Theory to Practice...

Siriporn Lerdpaisalwong
2008-09 FLTA, U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee



Being an FLTA (Foreign Teaching Assistant) fellow went beyond just an opportunity to teach Thai language to undergraduates at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). I was able to introduce my country, its language and culture; gain professional development, and understand Americans and their language and culture.

In the class, I enjoyed teaching very much since students were eager to learn Thai language and culture, for example, Thai life and thoughts. It really confirmed my strong belief that the crucial part of language learning is to understand the culture behind that particular language and vice versa. At the same time, teaching at UWM helped me become more familiar with Communicative Approach, which is the current trend in language teaching. I have unquestionably gained more skills in foreign language teaching and more fluency in English.

In Fall, I took TESOL and Discourse Analysis courses and found it very beneficial for me as a language teacher and learner. From the TESOL course, I learned how to use technology effectively in language teaching. This course was a floor to share the ideas and knowledge in language teaching and learning. It was also great to be in contact with the scholars in the TESOL field. I could apply the lessons to my own classes such as interesting activities, technology in language teaching and teaching methodologies. In Discourse Analysis course, I gained knowledge in some aspects of typology such as spatial relation, referential density and motion event. Besides, I had the insightful knowledge on Thai serial verb constructions.

At the end of the Fall semester, all FLTAs from every part of the world gathered in Washington DC. It was such an exciting and memorable event. We shared our knowledge and its application while creating our FLTA network. Additionally, I had a chance to travel to many places from the east to the west, visiting terrific tourist attractions, historical sites and museums and receiving warm welcome from Fulbright grantees and FLTAs in many places I went.

My Spring semester was even more fun with different extra-curricular activities. I practiced Zumba and Belly dancing, which happened to be one of the greatest ways to exercise and meet people from other departments. I felt I fully served as a cultural ambassador, representing Thai woman in Milwaukee in the Songkran Beauty Contest 2009 at Wat Dhammaram in Chicago. The Thai Consul-General of Chicago kindly presided over the ceremony. Although I did not win any prizes, I had lots of fun and made lots of new friends. It was such a good experience for me.

My duty as a cultural ambassador continued when my students and I celebrated our Thai New Year in the classroom. Other Thai teachers and I gave a presentation on a basic standard Thai classical dance, and the Bathing Rite for a Buddha Image. We had some and e quizzes with modest prizes as well. Everyone enjoyed the activities so much that I myself was delighted to be able to present our beautiful and lovely cultures in depth.

Living, teaching and traveling in the US have made me appreciate and understand better not only Americans, their language and culture but also Thai people, Thai language and Thai culture. Definitely, I know myself better.

Last but not least, I would like to say "thank you" to all from my family to my home and host universities, and TUSEF for making this trip of mine special.

Dholes --The Whistling Dog That No One Knows

Kate E. Jenks

Ph.D. Candidate in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and
Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation at the University of Massachusetts
2008-09 Fulbright U.S. Student / Researcher
Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary

Piercing the wind, cries of “Waaaaaaa-waaaa-waaaa-wa-waaaa” echo from the tower across the jungle water hole. The sound quivers and hums, a desperate cry, yet there is no response other than a few smiles and giggles. Then, another attempt, “Waaa-wa-wa-waaaa!” My team, rugged Thai park rangers dressed in camouflage, sit back and laugh at the funny farang (foreigner). The farang is me and the desperate cry is my attempt at a fawn distress call. I am trying to attract dholes. Hardly anyone knows about them, yet they may be the key to the conservation of natural communities in tropical forests and grasslands of Southeast Asia.

The little that is known about dholes is unique and fascinating. They are secretive wild dogs that live in highly social, close-knit packs of 3 to 20 individuals. Dholes hunt cooperatively and maintain communication with pack members by ‘whistling’ through dense forests, which has earned them the name ‘whistling hunters.’ I am a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Massachusetts and my research focus is on dholes in Khao Ang Rue Nai Wildlife Sanctuary. I plan to trap adult dholes and equip them with a radio-collar. The collars use global positioning systems (GPS) and cell phone technology. Satellites orbiting above the Earth transmit radio signals and by using four satellites, GPS can calculate the location of an animal on the ground. GPS positions are stored in the collar until the dhole is within the cell phone coverage area and positions can be transferred direct to me by email. This allows the monitoring of these elusive canids without trekking through difficult terrain and in times when scientists cannot find the packs. I will use the GPS locations to identify pack movements and obtain basic behavioral data on pack size, pack structure, and pack behavior.

In close collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, Thai graduate students, and sanctuary rangers, I hope to provide essential new information on the importance of dholes for natural ecosystems in Thailand, their behavior, and foremost their conservation status. Concurrent with my ongoing ecological study of dholes, I also plan to evaluate the risk that domestic dogs represent to the health of dholes. To evaluate the risk of disease spillover from domestic dogs to dholes, I will measure both species’ exposure to pathogens and I will estimate the contact rates of domestic dogs and dholes by tracking domestic dogs’ travel within the protected area.

June was an exciting month with plenty of dhole activity. My team was working hard in the 110 degree F temperatures from 5am to 10pm every day for 3 weeks. Then one afternoon, as we stopped to find the source of a sambar deer distress call, canid shapes came into focus across the reservoir. Three dholes were herding a young deer into the water! It was my first chance to observe their hunting behavior which was surprisingly silent. Still, there was enough non-vocal communication for them to coordinate efforts to keep the deer struggling in deep water. The lead dhole was so intent on its prey that my field assistant was able to approach within 20m for a photograph. This confused everything we have learned thus far about the pack avoiding human activity. Unfortunately, we did not see a kill, the deer was able to sneak away into cover.

We also received news of two dholes that were shot by farmers in a village bordering the west of the sanctuary. They accused the dholes of stealing chickens. I set up cameras in the area. The cameras rely on an infrared beam to detect motion and trigger the camera. Wildlife and people cannot see the infrared beam and the cameras provide a way to census wildlife in the absence of human observers. Terrific “eyes” in the forest, however, we rapidly lose cameras...from inquisitive elephants stomping them to pieces...to tiny black ants laying eggs inside the electronics.

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This symposium brought experts from the academic, private and diplomatic sector into a forum of open communication. Some of the attendee's included His Highness Crown Prince Nirohito of Japan, the Managing Director of Morgan Stanley Japan, Robert Feldman, Professor Velina Houston of USC's School of Theater, many other distinguished guests, and Fulbright. To have everyone from different fields exchanging ideas, forming cross sector relationships is really what the core of the concept of the Fulbright Family is. This symposium showed that the Fulbright Family can be applied to just beyond the Fulbright organization.

My journey in Tokyo reminded me how global the principles and organization of Fulbright are. Fulbright is a globally shared form of soft power. While it is a US organization, Watcharapong and I went representing Fulbright Thailand, not just Fulbright. Fulbright Japan, Fulbright Korea, and Fulbright New Zealand, just to name a few, represented their individual country, not just a US organization. Perhaps this form of globally shared soft power might be a new way form of diplomacy in the 21st century? Fulbright is more than just a scholarship program, or a form of soft power. It's a community of people working together for the same common goal: a family.

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Fieldwork means learning as you go along, so we now seal all cameras with silica caulk and built strong, heavy, steal "elephant resistant" housings that bolt directly to the tree to protect our cameras. Work in July will focus on extensive camera trapping to locate the pack of 10 dholes to the west of our study site.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://home.roadrunner.com/~jenks/kate/home.html>

