

Exeter Association of Thailand

August 2006

Please read about our recent activities and send us your updates!

Thai families gather to congratulate three students accepted into Phillips Exeter!



Celebration dinner for new students

It was a wonderful evening as association members got together to welcome three new students into Phillips Exeter this fall. Congratulations again to the three newest members of Phillips Exeter Academy -- Ploy, Ping and Noon!! We wish you well.

Two of the girls, Sirrapai Sitapong (Ploy) and Chanya Punyakumpol (Ping) will be spending a post-graduate year as part of the Royal Thai Scholar program administered by the Civil Service Commission of the Royal Thai government. Daraga Tanchookiat (Noon) will be entering Phillips Exeter this fall as a prep, joining an elite group of students that will spend four years at the Academy.

Twenty six people came together with only two days notice - a great turnout for an event for our Association! We hope the Thai Exeter network will serve as support during their year at Exeter (and Noon's four years)!

The dinner on June 20th was hosted by Sally Jutabha '82, the Association secretary.

The Exeter Association of Thailand's Truly Grand Evening

The Exeter Association of Thailand's President Khun Banthoon Lamsam '71 hosted a beautiful Exeter Reception at Kaisornbank's main headquarters November 7, 2005. Hundreds of alumni/ae and potential students joined with their families for the two headlined events: an update of the Exeter Initiatives campaign drive and an overview of the Exeter admissions process.

The highlights of the evening, as agreed by many alumni/ae present, were Khun Banthoon's remarks on his own Exeter experience, and Trustee Charles Harris' '69 presentation of the goals of the Exeter Initiative campaign drive.

Our thanks to Khun Banthoon for a wonderful event!"



Association President Khun Banthoon Lamsam '71 welcomes everyone

PEA had a wonderful and diverse team out in force meeting with alumni/ae in Bangkok throughout the week. Harold Brown Jr. '74, Director of Alumni/ae Affairs, Rebecca Dunham '39 (Hon.), Regional Director of Major Gifts, Charles T. Harris III '69, Trustee, Chair of the Exeter Initiatives, Hal L. Lynch III, Assistant Director of Admissions, Edward W. Probert Jr., Campaign Director, and James M. Theisen '40, '52, '66 (Hon.), Director of Alumni/ae Affairs and Development.

Exeter in the Thai news

Salisa Pinkayan '90, penned an article about the Exeter experience, that was published in The Nation newspaper in Thailand. In the article, she also shares the reflections of Kasikornbank CEO Khun Banthoon Lamsam '71 and PrimeLink's Charlie Jutabha '88.

The Exonian edge

Published on Nov 7, 2005

I found myself at Exeter. I know that may sound a bit dramatic and trite at the same time, but the more I think about it, the more I know how valuable it was. I graduated in 1990.

Phillips Exeter Academy is a boarding college, a preparatory school in the northeastern US state of New Hampshire, an hour's drive north of Boston

It was there that I found my voice – the courage to speak my mind. The Harkness Table system of learning – in which 10 to 12 students and a teacher gather around an oval table to discuss and converse on the subject at hand – is a unique teaching method.

There's no place to "hide". You have to be prepared and ready to share your thoughts and opinions. It doesn't matter if you're right or wrong, as long as you participate in an intelligent and thoughtful manner.

I also discovered my love of literature and writing at Exeter. We were required to read a wide selection of fiction from Shakespeare to Hemingway to classic Russian tales such as "The Brothers Karamazov" and "Anna Karenina".

Aside from the academic subjects, I even came to appreciate sport as part of life at Exeter. The amazing physical education facilities include 19 tennis courts, two indoor skating/hockey rinks, two swimming pools, an indoor track and playing fields, among many others.

Exeter, established in 1781, is one of the oldest and most prestigious boarding schools in the United States. Almost 1,000 high-school students reside on the huge campus, which includes the largest secondary school library in the world and extensive facilities to support programmes in the arts and athletics.

For example, the modern languages offered are Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

Even with all these credentials, few Thais have heard of the institution and fewer still have attended it. The school's Thai alumni association would like to change that.

One of Exeter's most prominent Thai alumni is Banthoon Lamsam, chief executive officer of Kasikornbank.

"I would say that of the 10 years I spent in the States studying, Exeter was the most meaningful time. It had a tremendous impact on who I became and on my thinking in general. I learned about the importance of discipline, being self-reliant, about time management and about organised sports as an essential part of growing up."

"It was quite a shock to go there straight from Thailand," Banthoon says. "The culture and teaching techniques were completely different from anything I had been exposed to. But even with all the challenges, I wouldn't have changed a thing. My experiences at Exeter taught me so much during the formative years of my life. It was a definitive time."

Banthoon attended Exeter from 1967 to 1971 and went on to Princeton and Harvard. He stresses that Exeter is a tough and demanding school but the opportunities are valuable and endless.

"The Exonian [Exeter student] has to be a bit outgoing because he will be in a culture where he will have to interact with people from all parts of the world."

Charlie Jutabha, managing director of PrimeLink, an information-technology consultancy, graduated from Exeter in 1988.

"Many things impressed me about Exeter. First was the outstanding calibre of the students. I believe that if many Exeter students had stayed home, they would have been valedictorian of their classes."

After Exeter, Charlie went on to the University of Pennsylvania. Many Exonians go on to Ivy League colleges, but Charlie says Exeter isn't primarily about going to famous universities but about a way of living.

"Two of Exeter's mottoes are the Latin *Non Sibi* – Not for oneself – and in the founder's deed of gift, John Phillips said, 'Though goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble, yet knowledge without goodness is dangerous'. One does not exist in the world alone – we need to think and care for others around us."

For more information, write to exeterthailand@gmail.com.

Salisa Pinkayan
Special to The Nation

Regional Contacts

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Did you know?

Some Exeter statistics as of 2005-06:

Total faculty 194

62% with Master's degree

19% with PhD's.

Student profile: legacy: 13%

Applicants 2,142 Admitted 24%

Total Alumni/ae 21,065

Endowment \$706 million

Roll call!

We have names for some 42 alumni/ae registered in Thailand and at least another 22 parents. Please help us keep your record up-to-date.

You can update your contact information in the online directory at the Exeter Alumni website (<http://phillips.exeter.edu/>) and send us a fax or email copy of your updated page.

Alternatively, if you believe we don't have your most recent information, please send us your updates to Exeter.Thailand@gmail.com or fax it back to our Club Secretary, Sally, at 02-252-2117. We will ensure your information is updated in our files and with the Academy.

We are an active and growing group. If you know of any people with a Thai connection, not already receiving emails from Exeter.Thailand@gmail.com, please tell them to write us and add their information to our database. If you know people that don't have email, could you please send us their general contact information?

Exeter Association in Thailand and the World

There are forty-seven regional associations worldwide, ranging in size from fifty to over three thousand members. All regional associations are bound by together by a common commitment to the following broad purposes:

- 1.** To strengthen and expand the involvement, commitment, and tie of alumni/ae, parents, and friends to the Academy
- 2.** To initiate and encourage activities which further an ongoing relationship between Exeter and its regional constituency and promote the best interests of the Academy
- 3.** To increase attendance at events, with an emphasis on first-time alumni/ae event attendees
- 4.** To enlist the service and support of alumni/ae, parents, and friends in the following areas:
 - admissions
 - communications
 - fundraising
 - public relations