

Welcome to the Exeter Association of Thailand

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

Association News

November 2006

2nd annual Phillips Exeter Academy reception in Bangkok

On Thursday, November 9, 2006, overlooking the skyline of Bangkok in the newly built Column Tower on Ratchadapisek Road, 105 alumni/ae and prospective families gathered for a reception and film for the regional premiere of the Harkness 75th anniversary film, "Edward Harkness, Lewis Perry and the gift that transformed Exeter 75 years ago".

Sally Michaels '82 opened the evening, welcoming the guest and introducing **Khun Banthoon Lamsam '71**, the Association President. Khun Banthoon spoke of his experiences as a student of the Academy and its challenges and rewards. **Michael Gary**, our Director of Admissions, spoke to prospective students and their parents about the Academy, the admissions process and how Exeter's size is very much its strength. **Ron Kim**, Associate Dean of Faculty, gave an overview of the academic life and discussions around the Harkness table and then presented the film.

This anniversary film tells the little-known story of philanthropist Edward S. Harkness, who quietly gave away his family fortune in the first half of the 20th century, and his friendship with Exeter Principal Lewis Perry. We all learned of the origins of the Harkness table and heard the voices of those who continue the Harkness legacy today.

Joining us from the Academy were: **Harold Brown Jr. '74**, Director of Alumni/ae Affairs; **Rebecca Dunham '39 (Hon.)** Senior Philanthropic Advisor; and as mentioned, Michael Gary, Director of Admissions and Ronald J. Kim, Associate Dean of Faculty

We had a great representation with so many past parents attending the reception. Thank you for joining us and helping to answer so many questions for our guests!

Our kind thanks to Khun Banthoon & Usa Lamsam, and David & Sally Michaels for hosting this event.

Regional Contacts

Association President
Khun Banthoon Lamsam
'71

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President's Initiatives

This website and newsletter was created at the suggestion of our Association President Khun Banthoon. Within the year, we have had tremendous success at drawing our membership to events, and keeping us informed. We would now like to progress on another of Khun Banthoon's initiatives, a membership directory. Please send us your photo to be included in the directory. Photos should be emailed to Exeter.thailand@gmail.com

We need to you to help update your contact information, and spread the word to other alumni/ae and parents. Read on...



Association President and host Banthoon Lamsam '71 welcoming the attendees



Guests watching the 75th anniversary of the Harkness gift video

Ties To Thailand

From just last year, we have expanded and updated our membership list to over 110 persons. 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, parents perhaps, that don't have email, could you please send us their general contact information?

We need help getting more of our past Thai scholars registered and contact information for their parents.

Please help us keep your own 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 your updates to Exeter.Thailand@gmail.com

Newsletters

Newsletters available here in PDF format for download and printing.

[August 2005](#)
[August 2006](#)
[November 2006](#)



Harold Brown '74 with Ms. Vivian Raksakulthai '93 and Thunyachate Ekvetchavit '93



Some of the many present and past parents that turned out

[Click here to view more pictures from our evening together](#)

Thai Tidbit : Thai food at Exeter, New Hampshire

Did you know that Exeter now is home to a Thai restaurant? Anyone longing for pad thai can go to Pan Thai II Restaurant located on the corner of Portsmouth Ave and Main Street.

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

Prasong and Ammon Owlarn help launch first-ever Parents Program

At the November reception, we realized the great connection that past parents had with answering the questions of prospective parents, full of questions about the admissions process and adjustment issues for Thais attending the Academy. **Prasong and Ammon Owlarn**, parents of **Thiti 'Foo' Owlarn '2006** have kindly agreed to head the Parent's Program for the Exeter Association of Thailand. This **new initiative, the first ever group of its kind to help to foster a sense of community of past and present parents** for any regional Exeter Association, will work together with Phillips Exeter Academy and the Exeter Association of Thailand with a common commitment to the following broad purposes:

1. To strengthen and expand the involvement, commitment, and tie of 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 past, present and prospective student's parents
4. To enlist the service and support of alumni/ae, parents, and friends in the following areas:
 - admissions
 - communications
 - fundraising
 - public relations

Our plans for the first meeting will be in the May or June, for the welcoming of any new students admitted to the Academy for the 2007-2008 academic year.

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



Prasong and Ammon Owlarn (2nd and 3rd left), parents of Thiti '2006 with co-host Sally Jutabha '82(4th left) with one of the many prospective families at the November reception. The Owlarns will lead the Parents Program.

Thailand Association expands regionally

As of October this year, the Exeter Association of Thailand has expanded our outreach to include regional countries with a smaller alumni/ae base. Working together with the Academy, we have now added **Bangladesh, Laos PDR, Pakistan and Vietnam** to our group. The first outreach began with the November event, and while none could attend, we heard from many who are keen to be kept informed of our activities. With frequent travel in the region many no doubt come through Bangkok often. Please help us inform alums in these countries to update their information with us, and let us know of any other people and parents that should be included.

In June, Sally Michaels met with **David Fernandez '83**, President of the Exeter Association of **Singapore**, to discuss ideas for a Southeast Asia regional event with a speaker's program. We'd love to hear from you if you have any ideas or suggestions regarding what might be a draw for our alumni/ae group. **Debbie Pang Hung '82** and the **Hong Kong** group will be working with us to better our regional outreach.

Thailand scholars in the news : The Exonian

This article recently appeared in a recent issue of the Academy newspaper, The Exonian.

Thai Scholars Adapt to New Life at Exeter

By SAM STEELE and CONOR FLYNN

In the sixteenth year of the Thai Scholars program at Exeter, two Thai students, Chanya Punyakumpol, or Ping, and Siprapai Sitapong, or Ploy, are attending Exeter for their senior year. "I'd never traveled before," Ping said. "It was my first time in a foreign country."

The Thai Scholars program, which enables the brightest teenagers from Thailand to travel to prep schools in the U.S. and England for at least a part of their high school education, is financed entirely by their government. After graduating, participants are expected to return to their country, where they work for their government for the same amount of time that they attended prep school.

Ping and Ploy are two out of only eight Thai students who had been accepted into the King's Scholars program, which is the Thai Scholars' more prestigious counterpart and is bankrolled directly by the monarchy. Five of the others went to different schools in the U.S., while one traveled to England.

"[American culture] is a lot different," Ping said. "For instance, Americans like to have their own plate when they're eating, but Thais share a common plate. If we're eating, Ploy can use my fork, or I could take one from her."

To learn more about American culture and brush up on their English, before coming to Exeter the two spent ten weeks at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, along with the 54 other Thai Scholars.

While there, they had two main classes: one on writing a college essay, and

one on the SAT. Apart from academics, the students played sports such as football, dodgeball, and baseball, participated in mock holidays such as Halloween, and were even part of a mock wedding in which two of the Scholars were "married" in a traditional American ceremony.

When they arrived at the Academy, the two were checked into their dorms: Ploy moved into McConnell, and Ping moved into Kirtland house. Though at the beginning it was difficult for them to adapt, they have quickly grown into the boarding mentality.

"People are very friendly in McConnell, and I'm getting to know everyone," Ploy said. "It's very hard talking in a group when I want to say something, [because] I can't talk fast enough, but it's also very nice." Ploy also said that ""[When] I came, I knew no words except 'hi' and 'bye'."

Ping, on the other hand, enjoys living in a smaller house, and has grown close to the other girls in Kirtland.

"[Ping and I] have become friends," said Elizabeth DelRicci, a senior in Kirtland House. "She was shy at first, but she's really nice to be around."

Learning around a Harkness table, however, has not come as easily. "It's intimidating," said Ping. "I don't talk much in class."

The recent coup d'État in Thailand has added another obstacle for the scholars to overcome. Tuesday night the 'Democratic Reform Council' took power over the government and declared martial law nation wide. Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was in New York for a United Nations General Assembly, and when he ordered General Sonthi to dismiss his troops and head back to their barracks, his order was cut off in the midst of the coup.

The new leadership promises that they do not want permanent rule, and when the nation is ready they will return the power to the people. But all the same, Ping has strong feelings toward the new leadership. "I'm strongly opposed to the overthrowing because its shows that no rules of law can stop someone," she said. "It's like anyone can damage the constitution and the government when they want.... it makes it look like there's no order or stability, which is not really good."

But, even though there are difficulties, the two are still very happy about their time at Exeter so far. "It's a great opportunity to be here for a year," Ploy said. "I can't explain it."

Ping said, "It's a whole new world. Sometimes I wake up, and think, is this a dream?"

Exeter's participation in the program was set into motion in the spring of 1989, when then-Director of Admissions Richard Schubart traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with education officers from Thailand. The purpose of the trip was to discuss the Thai Scholars program. "I heard of the program," said Schubart, who now teaches History, "but when I went [to Washington] to explore it, it looked like the timing wouldn't fit with the [beginning of] school schedule."

Schubart decided to meet with the education officers regardless, and after a series of talks, the representatives agreed to select the Scholars by such a date that they would still be eligible for admission into the Academy.

"It was a remarkable confluence of interests in international diversity at a time when there was very little financial aid given to students," Schubart said. "It's a wonderful program."

After graduating, the two must work for their government for a year to repay the debt. They then plan to come back to the United States for college.

The Exeter Association of Thailand website wins award.

The Exeter Association of Thailand website has won an outstanding excellence award. The award presented "recognizes the chapter/club/class site which best provides members with the most satisfying end-user experience from both a content and design perspective". Also highlighted by Exeter was the ability to engage in a long distance program by offering services to the Exeter Association of Thailand halfway around the world.

The conference is held annually and attended by representatives of over two hundred schools and universities worldwide. All are clients of Harris Connect, an Internet hosting firm specializing in online alumni and regional communities. This specific award was given this August, in Las Vegas, Nevada.



The award received.

EXETER ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND

Khun Banthoon Lamsam '71
Association President