



ACUCA NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN ASIA
*"Committed to the mission of Christian higher education of uniting all people
in the community of service and fellowship."*



Volume IX No. 3

July-September 2009

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Hong Kong Baptist University
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THAILAND

Mission College
Payap University
Assumption University
Christian University of Thailand

Experiences in Service Learning

**"When I was in prison and you visited me."-- Service Learning by
Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei, Taiwan**

In order to respond to the spirit of Service Learning in Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei, Taiwan, professor Mei Ching Chen cooperated with the Lourdes House for AIDS prisoners and invited students who enrolled in the course of Humanistic Psychology to provide service at Taipei Prison.

The course, Humanistic Psychology, is offered in the Department of Clinical Psychology, College of Medicine. It was taught by Mei Ching Chen, an associate professor. Humanistic Psychology has long been regarded as the Third Force in psychological studies. This paradigm emphasizes optimistic, positive, and healthy attitude toward life, and at the same time, it also reinforces the importance of a balance between freedom and responsibility. Humanistic Psychology explores the relationships between death, loneliness and will in the construction of human life, and by doing so assists people to live a "holistic life."

Therefore, the curriculum design focused on creating experiences for students to seek meaning from Service Learning while at the same time realize their lives by heightening their empathy and providing service for the HIV/AIDS inmates, a doubly marginalized group, at Taipei Prison.

Results of Service Learning:

Both the students of Clinical Psychology and the HIV/AIDS inmates at Taipei Prison benefited from the experiences of this Service Learning curriculum.

Most of the students expressed that they learned not only from class but from the inmates also. Students also expressed through the Service Learning that they discover their talents and themselves better. They tend to be tender-minded and other-centered and show care for the welfare of others by their generosity, consideration, willingness to help and tend to be self-disciplined. The students also realized that the Service Learning activity gave them an opportunity to appreciate the value of empathy, compassion and support from each other. They experienced how the support offered by them helped AIDS prisoners hope and at the same time foster their own personal growth. From the experience, they also learned to be more actively engaging and concerned with others, and more importantly they got rid of prejudice against people inflicted with AIDS. One student expressed: "I felt that my life has changed. I have never thought that a trivial input from me personally could bring changes to others; and the experience also let me realize that when all of us could

have some trivial input, together we could be powerful in creating happiness and hope for others. This experience, which might be the only in my life, had some weight in my life, and has given me an everlasting memory. In fact, I almost felt that the subject and object of service is reversed. It felt more like AIDS prisoners are serving us instead of us serving them. I would never have this same experience nor the accompanying memory. I am grateful to the class, the partners I work with and especially to the inmates who gave us the opportunity to work with them."

Another rewarding thing was that students got to know classmates better by sharing some common memory, whether sad or delightful during the process of Service Learning. A student even composed a song for the prisoners:

The Rainbow of Life

Lyrics/Music: Tien-Xian Gau

Hesitations with pacing back and forth,
Our past is too dark to retrospect.
Repentance for going astray,
Our dimmed life also craves for respect.

Who can be free from mistakes?
The true mistake is to duplicate mistakes.
Let by-gones be by-gones
Life ahead is worthy and should move on.

Reveal the smile in heart to
Search for the rainbow of life.
Discharge the Soul
From the mistakes made in the past.

Reveal the smile in heart to
Search for the rainbow of life.
Discharge the Soul
So we can shine bright tomorrow.

The AIDS prisoners were very happy because they felt concerned and respected by students. The following are some excerpts from them:

"Through the gatherings, I felt a happiness that I have not felt for many years. You were like angels who came to fill the missing part in my heart with love. Seeing your

youthful vitality and candid love, I was deeply touched. I could not thank you enough. Your presence made me feel that I was not alone. Your support, love and concern certainly heal me by mending the losses. Health is the greatest treasure of life. Hope you can take care of yourselves. Thank you!!"

"I want to thank the angels from the Department of Clinical Psychology, Fu Jen University. They brought us so much joy and happiness during the Christmas season. This was surely the greatest and most precious Christmas gift I received this year. There was no doubt that in years to come, I would think of these young students every year during Christmas. They came to give us joy when we were most downtrodden. May God bless them with physical and emotional health! Amen!"

Next Round of the Student Mobility Scheme

The ACUCA Secretariat is now accepting applications for the next round of the Student Mobility Scheme (SMS). For those who are unaware of the program, it was set up to foster understanding between students at ACUCA institutions, while at the same time making use of the diverse ACUCA network.

The SMS provides for a one semester, tuition free stay at a participation institution. Students are given administrative, as well as financial support with their exchange. The Secretariat acts as a conduit between the applicant and their chosen institutions. Students are usually placed in either their first or second, out of an initial choice of three universities. A travel grant is also given to a maximum of \$750.

We urge the international offices at each of the 31 member institutions to promote this worthwhile program to their student body. We also welcome applications to join the SMS from any ACUCA institution.

SMS Application Deadline

For Fall Semester 2010	October 31, 2009
For Spring Semester 2011	May 30, 2010

News from the Members

Obituary



UNIVERSITAS
ATMA JAYA YOGYAKARTA

The thoughts and prayers of all members of ACUCA go out to the family, friends, colleagues and students of Prof. Dr. Dibyo Prabowo, M.Sc late Rector of Atma Jaya Yogyakarta University. Dr. Dibyo Prabowo passed away on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Learning Partners Program for Exchange Students at Providence University, Taiwan



The Learning Partners Program (LPP) at Providence University is designed, organized and executed by the Office of International Affairs. Each exchange student is paired with a local student. The main goal for the program is to encourage exchange and local students to exchange languages and cultures so as to enrich their life experience and global vision.

Our student, Lin Hui Mei from the Department of Business Administration shared her experience as below.

Lin Hui Mei, a Taiwanese student of Providence University, participating in the LPP made a big difference in her semester. Pairing her with a student from Korea, Sangho Chae, an exchange student from Hannam

University, attending activities for international students, shopping with them, eating in restaurants, and going for field trips, were all very enriching to all participants.

To the foreign students, the LPP gives them some sense of security as they come to a new environment. It provides the students an opportunity to know each other deeper in being a "mentor" and "buddy" to each other. Lin Hui Mei admitted it definitely widened her perspective of other cultures, traditional practices. She learned that Sangho went back to Korea because each member of his family had to agree and approve of his sister marrying her boyfriend. Helping foreign students to learn Chinese, Lin Hui Mei motivated herself to be more conscious in speaking Mandarin correctly and realized how difficult the Korean language is.

Through knowing Sangho, Lin Hui Mei was able to meet other international students from around the world. Meeting other students from different countries, enjoying each others' company, Lin Hui Mei commented: "What we see on TV news is very different... Here, we can get along with each other peacefully... There's no sense of distance among us."

Blog: www.oiapu704.pixnet.net/blog

New ACUCA member institution President

Prof. Jong-wook Lee took office as President of Sogang University on June 29, 2009. President Lee is a well-known scholar of Ancient Korean History. He is familiar with university business as he has served at various times as Chairman of the History Department, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dean of Research and head of other administrative branches over the past 20 years.



Jongwook Lee, Ph.D.

Mission College, Thailand, Achieves University Status and Hosts Faith and Learning Conference

Mission College received university status on June 30, 2009 when the Minister of Education, Thailand, issued letters of authorization. This achievement came at the end of a protracted process. The institution has taken the name Asia-Pacific International University. It is among the top five universities in Thailand in terms of ability to attract university students.

The President, Associate Professor Dr. Warren Shipton, said: "Gaining university status is a magnificent achievement for an institution which has been operating only in its present international format since 1999. We praise God for guiding us through some major obstacles to reach this destination. We are also grateful that previous leaders built the institution on a firm foundation."

The character of the institution will not change. "It will maintain its focus on the Southeast Asian region and surrounding countries which do not have well-defined opportunities for Christian education. And it will continue to encourage all learners to appreciate the optimism and hope that Christianity gives and will encourage them to adopt the worldview and commitment which is characteristic of Christ's devoted followers", he said. The institution already attracts faculty and students from all the inhabited continents and around 40 nationalities are represented on campus.

On the eve of achieving status, the university hosted an international conference on the integration of faith with learning. This conference aimed to provide participants an opportunity and a context for focused study, reflection, and discussion of the essentials of Christian philosophy and mission as well as their implications for teaching, learning, administration, and research. Presenters came from the United States and Mexico where as participants came from Africa, America, Asia and the Pacific region.

TYPHOON MORAKOT UPDATE

Typhoon Morakot hit Taiwan this summer, resulting in significant damage. A number of our member institutions were affected and we would like to express our concern and care to all those who have been affected.

The following is an extract from a letter that was sent to the Secretariat from St. John's University in Taiwan. For the full text please go to the ACUCA website :

Dear friends,

On behalf of St. John's University, Taipei, may I express to you my sincere thanks and gratitude for your concern and prayers for the tragic situation in southern Taiwan as a result of Typhoon Morakot last week.

As the disaster unfolds, it is clear that many lives have been lost, homes and buildings buried, crops and livelihoods destroyed. Unfortunately one of our students lost his life when his car was swept away from a broken bridge into the flooded torrents of the river. We have more than 70 students from the affected areas, including around 10 students whose homes have been damaged and whose families need help.

.....In the USA, 'Episcopal Relief and Development' has set up a Disaster Response Fund to provide help. Here in Taiwan we are doing our own fund-raising to help our students who have been affected. If you would like to contribute, then all donations will be most welcome.

Thank you again for your continued concern and support at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-lien Chen

President, St. John's University

ACUCA NEWS is published four times a year by the Secretariat of ACUCA. It is published primarily for circulation among member institutions. Hence, contributions from members are most welcome. Organizations and scholars interested in obtaining a copy may contact:

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