

Mekong Current

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Special points of interest:

- Marcus Butler Computer Lab
- Welcome from Nha Trang Pensinger
- Merit Scholarship Winners
- Modesto Junior College
- Countryside School Project

Inside this issue:

- Meet that Farang: Dr. Justin Reese "Jay" 2
- International Merit Scholarship Winners 2
- Holger's Spiritual Section: What is Success? 3
- Ratanawapee English Camp 3
- Farewell to Modesto Junior College 3
- Countryside School Project 4
- Editor's Note 4

New Marcus Butler Computer Lab

Marcus Butler was one of the pioneering volunteers at FGCC. Since then, he has become one of its strongest supporter and benefactor. He is a professor at West Los Angeles Community College and a successful businessman who continues



(Marcus Butler)

to touch the lives of the Isaan people today.

In 2002, Marcus donated all of the computer equipment that allowed us to launch our

computer education programs. With his donation, we were able to buy and network 10 state of the art computers in our new computer lab. The computer lab is now known as the Marcus Butler Computer Center.

In 2004, Marcus made another generous donation, which allowed us to purchase additional

computer hardware. (Dr. Justin Reese and Robert Jansen)

Also in 2004, Marcus sent an extensive set of computer training materials, which we have already been able to incorporate into our instruc-

tion. And now, in 2005, Marcus has generously donated enough new computers to establish a new lab.



Welcome from Nha Trang Pensinger

Greetings to Volunteers and Friends of the FGCC Family and Welcome Back to *The Mekong Current*

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," they say. Indeed, during the rather long recent silence of our news-

letter, the desire to reach out and re-connect with you has grown very strong. We have decided that efforts should be made to again see the face of *The Mekong Current*,



(Dr. Nha Trang Pensinger)

which was started a few years back by a dedicated volunteer, Ms. Kelly Hancock.

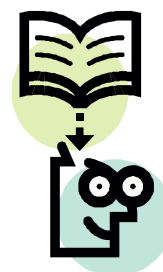
We are happy to introduce the energetic, exuberant, enthusiastic new volunteer, Ms. Ho-

Thank you Marcus for your continued dedication towards the technological advancement of FGCC.

*“Education
for All, and
All for
Education.”*

Welcome from Nha Trang Pensinger (cont.)

kunani Keehu, who bravely takes up the challenge of re-activating the dormant Mekong Current. The FGCC family will work closely with her to cover our activities and progress. And we would like to invite you all to read the newsletter and visit it online to rekindle your feelings for our college, to share and help in our effort to live up to FGCC's vision: Education for All, and All for Education.



**“One more
cup of
coffee
please”**



Meet that Farang: Justin aka “Jay”

Dr. Justin Reese is head of both the Science and IT Programs at FGCC. He was born in Pennsylvania and spent the latter part of his youth in Georgia. He has a BS in Biochemistry from Clemson, an MS in Cell Biology from the University of Georgia, and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Virginia. He currently does research in bioinformatics on the honey bee genome. He joined FGCC in July of 2004, and has been a valuable asset ever since. He started a successful internship



(Dr. Justin Reese “Jay”)

program for the IT department and developed a science program for FGCC as well. In Fall 2004, he assisted Pratumthep High School by teaching science. His hobbies are Judo (in which he holds a brown belt), playing the guitar, playing Grand Theft Auto, and running. He enjoys listening to Pang and his favorite foods are Hawaiian pizza and lahb mhu. His motto is “One more cup of coffee please.” He also speaks Thai, so feel free to stop by and visit him on the third floor for chat, or a sparing match.



Chunnapa Tesho (Nuy)
Wanluk Chaphuwong (Off)

International Merit Scholarship Winners: Wanluk Chaphuwong and Chunnapa Tesho.

Every semester outstanding students are selected by their professors to receive the International Merit Scholarship established by Maxim and Kristyn Zalota. The summer semester, 2 International Merit Scholarships in the amount of 4000 baht were awarded to Wanluk Chaphuwong (Off) and Chunnapa Tesho. (Nuy) Off is a first year student from Udon Thani. He enjoys reading business books, cooking, traveling and singing. His goal is to study at a university after FGCC. Nuy is a 19 year old second year

student from Phonphisai. Her hobbies include using the internet, swimming, reading and speaking English. Her goal is to become a tour guide. Congratulations to Nuy and Off!

The International Merit Scholarship program established in 2004 has provided an opportunity for several students to further their education and pursue their goals. Thank you Maxim and Kristyn for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.meritscholarship.org

Holger's Spiritual Section

What is success?

Success is in the way you walk
the path of life each day;
it's in the little things you do
and in the things you say;
success is in the glad hello
you give your fellow man
it's the laughter of your home
and all the joys you plan.

Success is not getting rich
or rising high to fame;
it's the man you are each day
through happiness or care;
it's in the cheery words you speak
And the smile you wear.

Success is being big of heart
and clean and broad of mind
it's being faithful to your friends
and to the stranger, kind;
it's the children whom you love
and all they learn from you –
success depends on character
and everything you do.

Edgar A Guest



Ratanawapee English Camp

On July 25th, Representatives from FGCC along with 8 Modesto Junior College students participated in the Ratanawapee English Camp held at the Nong Khai Rubber Research Station. There were 253 excited Thai students from 13 participating schools. The volunteers conducted one hour learning classes such as Communication, Go to the Market, Family Tree,



(Volunteers and teachers at the English Camp)

and Story Telling. It was a memorable experience for the volunteers as well as the Thai students and teachers. I remember a Thai teacher commenting that normally, the children cannot wait to go home after school, but on the 25th, they did not want to leave. It was a great feeling to know that we had made a difference. I would like to thank the Modesto Junior College students and FGCC volunteers for their participation in this event, as well as Ajarn Sirinan and the other organizers of the English Camp for inviting us to make a difference in the lives of so many children.



(MJC student Lisa signing autographs for students.)

Farewell Modesto Junior College Faculty and Students



Modesto Junior College Students and Faculty have been a presence at FGCC for the past month. They have been here conducting classes and participating in tutorials for Thai students as well as several social activities. They have made a great difference in the lives of FGCC students by providing a cultural exchange and an opportunity for them to practice English. We have enjoyed having you here and look forward to seeing you next year. We hope that this has been a wonderful experience for you. Thank you and have a safe trip home!



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Announcements

- Any student interested in becoming an assistant for the Science department please see Justin or Hokunani (P'Koong Hang)
- Any student whose profile is missing from the Student Pamphlet, please see Hokunani (P' Koong Hang)
- Any student interested in assisting with the Mekong Current please see Hokunani (P' KH)
- Any student interested in the IT internship program, please see Justin.
- Anyone interested in submitting an article or announcement for the Mekong current, please send an email to the above address.
- For free math or science tutoring during the month of August, please contact Holger or Hokunani (P'KH) on the 3rd floor.

Countryside School Project

Hello!! My name is Somkuarn Outumma (Tiew)

I'm president of the FGCC student volunteer club. Our club has 2 projects, the first is to help FGCC and the second project is to help a countryside school. There are 2 clubs to help the countryside school. The first club is a volunteer club. Hokunani is adviser of this club. The second club is the business club. Ken is adviser of this club. The 2 clubs also have the same goal, to help poor students. Students there don't have books to read and learn. We felt very bad for them. We wanted to give them opportunities for education. Right now we are looking for volunteers to join us and people to donate books or money to help them.

If would like to volunteer or make a donation, please contact me at:

email: somkuarn_112@hotmail.com
 telephone: 09-7150156
 Thank you very much.



(The School)

(Tiew (middle) and other FGCC students with a school representative)



(FGCC students with the school children)

Editor's Note

I hope you've enjoyed this edition of the Mekong Current. This is my first newsletter and would not have been possible without the help and support from many people. I would like to thank Dr. Nha Trang Pensinger, Dr. Holger Meinberg, and Mr. Somkuarn Outmma for their submissions. I'd like to thank Dr. Justin Reese for his support and assistance with the articles and interview, but especially for the words "Microsoft Publisher". I'd like to thank Robert Jensen in advance for putting the Mekong Current on the internet. I'd like to thank the staff at FGCC for their assistance with the hard copies. I'd like to thank Marcus Butler for his submission (which will appear in the next issue) and encouragement. I'd like to thank Don Culton for his encouragement, support, and advice. Last, but not least, I'd like to thank Dr. Pramote Nakornthab for continuously supporting activities such as this that I'm interested in. Thank you to all of you for reading.
 Hokunani (Koong Hang)

Fall Semester 2005 Courses

LAEN	101	Intensive English—Intermediate
LAEN	105	Study Skills
LAEN	112	English Communication—Intermediate
LAEN	121	Reading Comprehension I
LAEN	122	Reading Comprehension II
LALR	131	Literature and Creative Writing
LATH	101	Usage of Thai Language
LAPS	171	Journalism I
LASP	100	Spanish—Elementary
NSCO	114	Computer hardware Repair and Setup
NSCO	130	Introduction to Programming in Java
NSCO	150	Introduction to Web Site Design
NSCO	251	Computer internship (N/C)
NSBI	101	Introduction to Biology (Lecture and Lab)
NSGS	101	General Science
SSAN	101	Introduction to Anthropology
HUHI	100	Introduction to the Study of History
GSBU	101	Introduction to Business

Have a Good

vacation!

See you in

September!

