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STATE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

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Thai Link

THAILAND STATE ALUMNI COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

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Message from the U.S. Ambassador to Thai State Alumni

Dear State Alumni:

Welcome to the Thailand State Alumni Community part of a global online alumni network sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. This is not just an ordinary alumni community, but a community of 1,000,000 alumni from around the world who participated in the U.S. Government's most prestigious exchange programs. I hope that you will take advantage of this global network of alumni to also get connected to your own Thai community through State Alumni at <https://alumni.state.gov/th>.

By joining us, you will continue an ongoing relationship with those you met during your exchange experience in the United States, while making new friends as well. I would like to encourage you to take advantage of the

many opportunities available to you through State Alumni. They include networking with alumni from all exchange programs; sharing information about your alumni activities, ideas or news; participating in live Q&A discussions with experts on particular issues; and, accessing resources such as job opportunities, research databases, grants, and photos.

I would also like to invite you to be part of the U.S. Embassy outreach program, which is an opportunity for you to give back to your community. There are many ways to get involved. A few examples include becoming a guest speaker at a university or school on the topic of your choice, contributing articles to share online, or volunteering at an Info & English Camp for Thai students. For more information

about how to get involved, please sign up [here](#).

Thank you again for visiting State Alumni. I hope you'll visit State Alumni regularly to stay up-to-date on events and activities that are happening in your communities and among your fellow alumni.

Sincerely,

Eric G. John



Ambassador Eric G. John

Who are State Alumni? How could you join us?



State Alumni are current and former participants of U.S. government-sponsored exchange, teaching or professional programs. This includes, but is not limited to, participants of the following programs: Fulbright, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), Humphrey Fellowship, East-West Center, Youth Exchange and Study (YES), Global Undergraduate Exchange

Program, USBT, etc. As part of the U.S. Department of State's commitment to this "global community," alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs are invited to join the exclusive global network State Alumni, at alumni.state.gov/th. Sign in to stay in touch with fellow alumni, and with the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok and U.S. Consulate in Chiang Mai, so that your exchange experience does not stop when you return home,

but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.



Thai Fulbright Alumni Association Holds a “Fulbright for Kids: Caring Kids for Planet” Camp



Fulbright for Kids: Caring Kids for Planet Camp

PRACHUAP KHIRI KHAN, Thailand - On March 24-28, 2010, the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association (TFA) organized a “Fulbright for Kids: Caring Kids for Planet” Camp at Naresuan Ban Huaysok Border Patrol Police School. Approximately 50 secondary school students from various remote schools near the Thai-Burmese border participated in this enlightening and entertaining camp. At the opening ceremony, Ms. Pissmai Khanobdee, Fulbright alumna

and President of TFA, delivered welcome remarks to the participants and introduced Fulbright alumni and staff who helped organize this event. Throughout this five-day long camp, a series of informative and fun activities were offered to students by alumni that addressed specific themes, including the environment, math, science, English, Thai language and painting. This event gave these students a wonderful opportunity to not only to enhance their academic

curriculum, but also to have a chance to know how to look after local natural resources and care for the environment. TFA has played an active role in reaching out to underprivileged communities and giving back to Thai society through public service for all they received.

For more information about TFA, visit www.thaifulbright.or.th.

Alumni Organize the “University Prep” Educational Advising Fair



U.S. education advisors give advice to a participant

BANGKOK, Thailand - On Saturday, March 20, 2010, a group of Thai Fulbrighters, together with a number of foreign university alumni, organized the “University Prep” educational advising fair at Bangkok Prep School. More than 250 students and over 50 American university alumni participated in various activities at the fair. These activities included one-on-one educa-

tional advising from Thai alumni who had attended several well-known universities throughout the world, panel discussions on specific topics such as getting an MBA degree abroad, the admission process, and university life, among others. At this event, the U.S. Embassy and EducationUSA also set up a U.S. education advising booth where advisors were on hand to provide infor-

mation and advice on pursuing degrees in America. This group of alumni operates under the name of the Thai Young Philanthropist Network (TYPN), which aims to promote a culture of social responsibility and to utilize resources for the good of society.



Alumnus Shares His Story Living With an American Host Family

KORAT, Thailand - On Friday, March 19, 2010, Mr.

Thanapol Detduang, Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) alumnus, joined Vice Consul Jim

Gallagher as part of the Embassy Speaker Program to talk about his experience during his exchange to the U.S. under this Department of State scholarship program. The event was held at Suranaree University of Technology’s School of English with a diverse audience of undergraduate students, graduate students, Chinese

exchange students and faculty members. Mr. Detduang shared his story about living with an African American host family and how he as a Muslim adjusted to life in an American community.

For more information on the YES Program, please [click here](#).



Mr. Thanapol gives a presentation on his exchange experience

Exchange Alumni Organize Cultural Learning Camp



SONGKHLA, Thailand - On March 13-14, 2010, a group of U.S. Department of State Youth Exchange and Study (YES) alumni from Thailand organized a "Language Learning with the Upperclassmen" Camp at Lam Suan-On, Muang Songkhla. More than 50 secondary school students grades seven to nine took part in the fun-filled activities. The event kicked off with Mr.

Alumni lead a session of icebreaking activities

JP Schutte, Cultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, presiding over the opening ceremony and delivering welcome remarks to the students who participated in the program. Then the spotlight moved to the YES alumni who returned from the U.S. in 2009. It was this group who took the initiative to organize the innovative and interactive two-day cultural learning camp. Camp participants were treated to a rare opportunity to practice their English and learn about American culture from local students who had spent a year studying in high schools throughout

the United States. The alumni also explained how they won YES scholarships and inspired the camp participants to follow similar paths in the future. With their active involvement in the community and with the young students, these YES alum have set a great example of how to give back to Thai society through community service. Congratulations to all!

The camp was sponsored in part by a grant from the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs section's "Community Development in Four Southern Provinces" program, administered by AFS.

IVLP Alumnus, Embassy Speaker, and University Students Gather at Thammasat

University to discuss U.S. Foreign Policy in the Muslim World

PATHUM THANI, Thailand - On February 16, Deputy Political Chief Eric Kneedler visited the Thammasat University Rangsit campus to lead a discussion about U.S. foreign policy in the Muslim world. The event was hosted by the Thammasat University Student Muslim club, and more than 100 students from several universities attended the

talk. The students enjoyed a series of short film clips about the experiences of Muslims living in the United States, before Mr. Chariyawat Charoenchang, an International Visitor Program exchange Alumnus, shared his impressions from his 2009 visit to various cities in the United States. Mr. Chariyawat, who currently serves as State Enterprise Ana-

lyst of the Thai Ministry of Finance, stressed that his fellow Muslims need to be open-minded and not to prejudge anyone or anything from what others have told them. His inspiring message was well-received by all students.



Mr. Chariyawat Charoenchang talks to students about his visit to the U.S.

Alumni Give Back to Society

NONTHABURI, Bangkok - On Monday February 15, 2010, a group of AFS-YES alumni joined Mr. Francisco 'Tachi' Cazal, President and Chief Executive Officer of AFS International, to bring books and toys to more than 100 students at Srisangwal School for the Disabled in Nonthaburi Province. The students, who ranged in age from 4-

20 years old, participated in this lively half-day event, which started with singing/dancing activities led by the alumni, followed by a quiz session in which the students who gave the right answers got prizes. The fun concluded with a sumptuous lunch which the alumni, the President of AFS, and his staff shared with students.

Srisangwal School is a school for disabled students and is a project of the H.R.H. Princess Mother's Volunteer Foundation. Visit <http://www.sswal.th.edu> for more information.



YES alumni Ms. Nudi Manundawi and Mr. Katcha Rerngsamut chat with a student at Srisangwal School

Alumni Inspire Thai Students With Their Worthwhile Experiences



Alumni speak at the "Get to Know Uncle Sam" Camp

SATUN, Thailand - On Sunday, February 7, 2010, YES alumni Ms. Sunwanee Dolah and Ms. Roslina Sumalee joined staff from the U.S. Embassy's Cultural Affairs Office and Information Resource Center (IRC) in guiding 25 high-school students and teachers from a dozen schools at the "Get to Know

Uncle Sam" Thai-American Cultural Camp in Satun Province. Ms. Sunwanee and Ms. Roslina, who each spent a year in Pipestone, Minnesota, and Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, respectively, shared their experiences as exchange students in U.S. high schools, and their memories with their American host families. The

camp provided a rare opportunity for both students and teachers to engage in various interactive educational activities aimed at promoting a better understanding of the English language, as well as interesting, first-hand insight into American society and culture.

IVLP, TESOL and YES Alumni Get-Together in Hat Yai



Southern region alumni gathering is held in Hat Yai, Thailand

HAT YAI, Thailand - On Saturday, February 6, 2010, the first southern alumni reunion was held in Hat Yai, Songkhla Province. More than 30 IVLP, TESOL and YES alumni gathered at Novotel Centara Hotel and spent the afternoon getting to know fellow alumni from the region. The alumni came from many provinces in the

Lower South including Trang, Satun, Songkhla, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat. The meeting started with a welcome message by Public Affairs Program Specialist Ms. Natalia Petroni. Later that afternoon, Alumni Coordinator Mr. Adisorn Laopiroon gave a presentation on how to become a [Thailand Community State Alumni](#) member, and

the many benefits that alumni receive from such membership. If you would like to host an alumni event in your area, please contact Mr. Adisorn Laopiroon, Thailand Alumni Coordinator, at Adisorn@state.gov or Tel. 02-205-4849. The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok would be honored to help you plan your event.

YES Alumnus Wins 1st Prize at the APEC Science Competition

PATHUM THANI, Thailand - On Saturday, February 6, 2010, the South Korean APEC Mentoring Center for the Gifted in Science (MAGS)

and the Thai Ministry of Science and Technology organized a science project contest on the topic of global warming solutions at the National Science Museum, Pathum Thani Province, Thailand. More than 30 talented high school students from 27 APEC member countries participated in this competition and submitted their projects. A YES alumnus, who is currently an 11th grader at the Prince of Songkla Univer-

sity Demonstration School, Mr. Naim Lae-ni, won 1st prize in the poster design category. His project was a study of oxalic acid levels in some local vegetables from the south of Thailand. The 2nd and 3rd Prizes went to students from Taiwan and South Korea, respectively. His winning poster will be published and distributed to all APEC member nations to promote awareness of the global warming crisis.



Mr. Naim Lae-ni receives an award and a certificate from the organizer

Alumni Reunited in Ubon Ratchathani

UBON RATCHATHANI, Thailand - On Thursday, February 4, 2010, the U.S. Embassy Bangkok



Alumni at a gathering in the North-east Region

hosted its first alumni reunion dinner in the Northeast Region of Thailand. State alumni and other local U.S. Embassy contacts joined Counselor for Public Affairs Kenneth L. Foster for a dinner at Torsaeng Hotel in Ubon Ratchathani Province to share their experiences and memories during their exchange years

in the U.S., as well as their future career plans.

Alumni were also encouraged to register as State Alumni members at [Thailand Community](#) to stay up-to-date on the U.S. Embassy's activities and to contribute their current contact information, news, articles and photographs to other members in the Community.



Fulbright Alumnus Gives Presentation on First Year of Obama Presidency

UBON RATCHATHANI, Thailand - On Thursday, February 4, 2010, Mr. Natapanu Nopakun, Fulbright Alumnus, gave a presentation at a conference on "The Obama Presidency: Thailand, Great Mekong Subregion (GMS) and the U.S." at Ubon Rajathanee University, Ubon Rajathanee Province, Thailand. Drawing

from his 15 years experience as a Royal Thai Government diplomat and his current profession as the official speechwriter, note-taker and interpreter for the current Prime Minister, Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Mr. Natapanu discussed how the U.S. and the Obama Administration can change South East Asian perspectives on democracy

and human rights. The seminar ended with lively Q&A discussion. More than 150 students, academics, and Thai & U.S. government officials participated in this special event, marking the first year of the Obama Administration.

Mr. Natapanu gives a speech at the conference



Fun at the Fulbright Families and Friends Fair

BANGKOK, Thailand - On Saturday, January 30, 2010, more than 200 Fulbright alumni along with family and friends flocked to the 2nd annual Fulbright Families and Friends Fair hosted by the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association. The event, which also honored the 60th anniversary of the Fulbright program in Thailand this year, offered an unparalleled opportunity for Fulbright alumni to

gather together to establish connections and reinforce friendships. Following a brief meeting to select new members of the Thai Fulbright Alumni Association committee for calendar year 2010, participants and guests enjoyed delicious food and fun activities – such as caricature drawings, fortune readings, stage shows and lucky draws -- amidst the blooming flora of Amata Founda-

tion's Hanging Garden. The 2nd annual Fulbright Families and Friends Fair proved once again to be a day filled with fun and friends. All proceeds from the event went to charity causes to help promoting education for underprivileged children in Thailand.



Alumni Join U.S. Ambassador on Thai Children's Day

BANGKOK, Thailand - To celebrate Thai Children's Day, on Saturday, January 9, U.S. Ambassador Eric G. John dedicated playground equipment donated by the Embassy, and toys donated by Mattel, to the Mahamek Home for Boys in Bangkok. Alumni from the State Department's Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES) also took part in this

special event and helped entertain the children. The program included a friendly 10-minute basketball game, in which the Ambassador led an Embassy team against the team from Mahamek. The Embassy team included three YES alumni: Mr. Nattawut Wetprasit, Mr. Sarawut Malaiphong and Mr. Katcha Rerngsamut. Other YES alumni who did not partici-

pate in the basketball game spent time playing with the younger children on the new playground equipment and handed out donuts donated by Dunkin' Donuts. These YES alumni were great role models for the boys at Mahamek, demonstrating through their actions how we can all help others, while also helping create a perfect way to remember Thai Children's Day!



Friendly basketball match: Embassy vs. Mahamek

YES Alumni in Action

BANGKOK, Thailand - It was alumni in action at the "Walk Together with AFS" cultural and information camp at Wat Nong Jok School in Bangkok on December 22, 2009. More than sixty alumni of the U.S. Department of State's Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program from six schools in Nong Jok District took part in the action-packed camp organized with the help of AFS Thailand that was designed to provide interest students with information and first-hand experience about

study abroad in the United States. The one-day camp led off with YES alumni leading the students in a fun-filled ice breaker session in which the students were asked to participate in various activities and interactive games. In the afternoon, YES alumni led small group discussion with the students during which time they exchanged ideas on a wide range of topics, including society, cultural diversity, English language, and environmental conservation. The

YES alumni also shared their experiences as exchange students in the United States. After returning from their study abroad experiences in the U.S., several YES alumni have worked to organize creative community service projects throughout Thailand. The "Walk Together with AFS" camp is just one example of such activities and highlights the contributions this innovative and energized group of YES alumni are making to their communities.



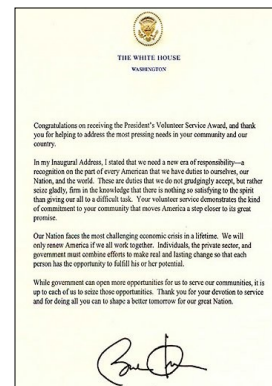
Ms. Anissa Naksevi, YES alumna, explains the exercise the students receive during the group activity session

The President's Volunteer Service Award Granted to Alumni

Ms. Pitchaya Pliensiri and Mr. Methas Sanitmajaro, YES alumni who have studied in the U.S. high schools from 2008-2009, were presented the President's Volunteer Service Award 2009 in recognition of their contributions and volunteer services to their local communities by Presi-

dent's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The President's Volunteer Service Award 2009



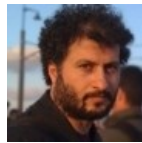


Spotlight on State Alumni Global Community

Around the globe, alumni are fostering mutual understanding by sharing their talents, knowledge, experience, and time with their community. Many have also risen to *positions of prominence*. Here are a few of their stories:



Renée Fleming
World-renowned Opera Singer, *Fulbright Student* in Germany, 1984.



Hüseyin Karabey
With his latest acclaimed

film, "My Marlon and Brando," the *International Visitor Leadership Program* (IVLP) alumnus Hüseyin Karabey is seeing his boyhood dreams become reality on silver screens the world over.

Fred Mutebi
Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Fred Mutebi, is a



dynamic artist who encourages women and youth to use art as a

means of communicating HIV/AIDS messages through his organization, "Let Art Talk."



Muhammad Yunus
Nobel

Peace Prize-winning founder of Grameen Bank, *Fulbright Student* in the United States, 1965-1966.



Yo-Yo Ma
World-renowned cellist, Yo Yo Ma was a

Culture Ambassador from 2003-2008.



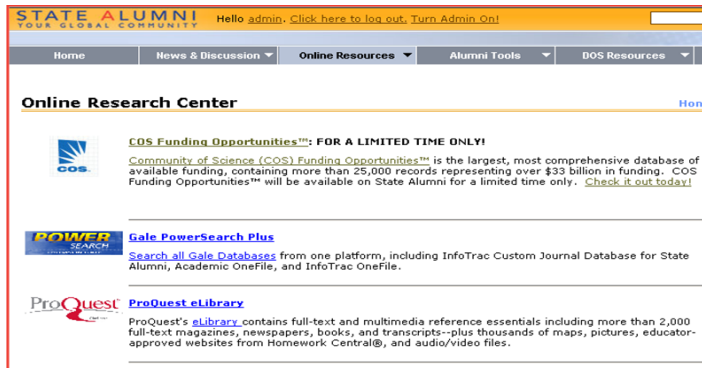
Maria Landa FORTUNE

alumna Maria Esther Landa is one of the founders of *Generando*, a Peruvian women's microentrepreneur network.

Do you know?



On **State Alumni** website, members can access over 20,000 periodicals, journals, and newspapers - including abstracts, full-text articles, and multimedia! **FREE!** So why wait? Join us now at <https://alumni.state.gov/th>.



The State Alumni Member of the Month for April is Cristina Poleacovschi from Moldova! To read more, please click on the link below. <http://exchanges.state.gov/alumni/alumnus.html>

Meet Your Coordinator



Adisorn 'Pae' Laopiroon
Alumni Coordinator
U.S. Embassy Bangkok

Many of you may have already met Khun Adisorn 'Pae' Laopiroon, the Embassy's brand-new alumni coordinator. Khun Pae joined the U.S. mission in 2005, previously worked as the Cultural Affairs Assistant for the Cultural Affairs Section, and now holds a new position as the Thailand State Alumni Coordinator, focus-

ing on keeping track of alumni and the many U.S. exchange and visitors programs. He will be contacting alumni, arranging alumni meet-ups, creating alumni data bases, and networking to ensure that Thais who have been on previous U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs will be able to keep in touch and benefit from other upcoming programs and

activities.

If you have anything to share with us or other State Alumni, please do not hesitate to contact Khun Pae at 02-205-4849 or send an email to Adisorn@state.gov.



"...When I left the house, I left my heart there..."
Mr. Nattawut Wetprasit
YES Alumnus

Mr. Sutthichok Linprasert
Director of Institutional Relations & EducationUSA Counselor
Ace! The Academy for EducationUSA
USBT Fall 2007/ NAFSA Spring 2008 & 2009



"The programs allowed me to understand more of U.S. and international higher education arena, to gain practical insights into successful admissions to U.S. higher institutions, network with global and U.S. higher institution communities, and, more importantly, share our perspectives and learning from others."

M.L. Nathasit Diskul
Counselor, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the WTO

IVLP October – November, 2006

"The program has proven to be very valuable for me professionally and personally. I believe that, through extensive knowledge sharing and discussions with the speakers and fellow participants, I have gained much better understanding of how trade policies are formulated in the United States."



Mr. Nattawut Wetprasit
Student, Mahidol University International College
YES 2007-2008 / Westchester High School, Playa Del Rey, California

"It was an indescribably marvelous experience I had with my host family. When I left the house, I left my heart there..."

Mr. Chaiwat Kaewphanngam

Assistant President for Academic and Research Affairs (International Affairs)



Silpakorn University
Fulbright, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York 2005-2007

"One of the greatest learning experiences of my life was the time when I studied in the US supported by Fulbright and Teachers College, Columbia University, and was one of the best gifts I brought back to apply to the rest of my profession in Thailand. The experience and knowledge in the US has helped supporting my profession in communicating with my over hundred friends living in more than 50 different countries in 4 continents with whom I still keep in touch with."

IRC: Your Key to Information About the U.S.



The Information Resource Center (IRC) of the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok is a specialized reference and research

facility. Our goal is to provide you with free, comprehensive, and authoritative information on the United States, its people and its policies. Our subjects of expertise ranges from American politics and government; foreign affairs and defense; economics and trade;

education and culture; to global issues (such as narcotics, human rights and the environment, etc.)

Staffed by information professionals and reference specialists and equipped with modern information technologies, we can help retrieve information for you efficiently and effectively.

“Thank you very much or keeping providing me knowledge and information. They are huge benefit for me and my work.”

*-- Deputy Commander,
Foreign Affairs Division
National Central Bureau
-INTERPOL Bangkok,
Transnational Crime
Coordination Centre.*

You Ask, We Answer

At the IRC, our reference specialists are ready to answer all your U.S.-related reference questions. You can reach us with questions via phone, fax, or email and we will respond as quickly as possible. It's fast and it's FREE!

We also offer a wide range of products and services, including:

Article Alert: A monthly summary of dozens of articles from major American academic journals arranged in five thematic areas: International

Relations, Economics & Trade, U.S. Politics and Society, Technology and Environment, Education and Culture.

Web Alert: A monthly comprehensive list of current online reports, documents and websites on selected topics.

Issue-in-Focus: A selection of links to information on timely issues dealing with the United States, its people and its policies.

News From Washington: A

daily collection of the current U.S. policy issues regarding the East Asia-Pacific region.

Website Highlights:

Summary of the latest information posted on the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok home page.



Contact Us

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Update your personal information



If you have something you would like to share with us or other alumni, please let us know.

Contact Information:

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Thailand State Alumni Coordinator

Media and Cultural Section

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Lumpini, Bangkok 10330

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Fax: 02-650-8921

Mobile: 081-813-0704

E-mail: Adisorn@state.gov

We realize that some of the State Alumni have moved either their home address or their personal business positions or plan to in the future. For those who have new contact information, we kindly ask you to fill out details on the following link.

http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni_signup.html

Also visit the U.S. Embassy Bangkok's website:

<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/alumni.html>

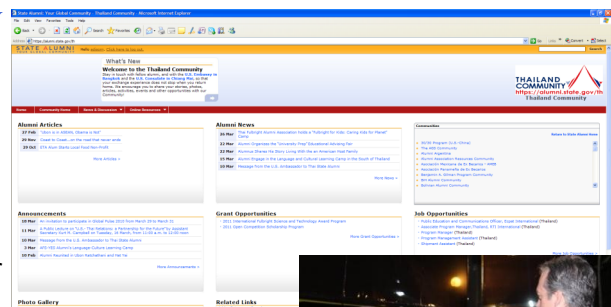


Join **Thailand Community Facebook**

STATE ALUMNI: Your Global Community

State Alumni operates over a secure connection. All members are verified as alumni of a U.S. government-sponsored exchange program before receiving full access. This worldwide community offers you a place to:

- Network with alumni from all exchange programs
- Share information about your alumni activities, ideas or news
- Participate in Q&A Live discussions with experts
- Access resources such as grants, job opportunities, and research databases
- Receive regular updates, announcements and invitations to alumni events
- Take part in *U.S. Embassy Bangkok activities*
- Keep your contact information up-to-date
- View photo galleries



'Jazz Under the Star' Event at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence



ODC Dance at Patravadi Theatre

In short, *State Alumni* is a platform from which to continue your international experience. Alumni have the opportunity to contribute to a website with more than 40,000 members. With free access to over 20,000 journals, newspapers, magazines and grant opportunities worth more than \$33 billion – State Alumni was created to support you, and help you in your efforts once you are home. The resources available to you once you're home extend beyond the website as well. We encourage you to join your alumni community, participate in events, and take on a leadership role.