



# The Highlighter



U.S. Embassy Bangkok's Public Affairs Update

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

Week ending September 16, 2011

## Ambassador Kenney's first Phuket outreach productive and fun-filled!

Ambassador Kenney made her first trip to Phuket on September 9, where she visited an array of interesting places. She began her day at the American-run Phuket International Academy Day School, which boasts an innovative blended business plan with its sister business, an international sports center. She then went on to meet budding local tech entrepreneurs at the Phuket Software Park, a partner under the Mission's Creative Partnership. After an engaging lunch at the seaside with students and fac-



ABOVE: Ambassador Kenney meets with the creative minds behind the startup incubator Software Park Phuket.

ulty from the Prince of Songkhla University, the Ambassador proceeded to the Baan Holland orphanage where she met some of the children and awarded a small grant to the staff.

Throughout the day Ambassador Kenney discussed various issues with the local press. The expat press was particularly concerned with safety and security issues, which the Ambassador had the occasion to address in her afternoon meeting with the provincial police commander. During an end-of-day



ABOVE: Ambassador Kenney speaks with young students from Phuket International Academy Day School.

reception she held for the local nascent American Chamber of Commerce chapter and other contacts the Ambassador remarked that she found Phuket to



ABOVE: Ambassador Kenney hanging out with the kids from the Holland House Orphanage.

be much more than just a beautiful beach destination, but also a city of diverse economic prospects and a dynamic population inclusive of a large American community.





## Ambassador Kenney welcomes NBACares to Embassy Bangkok

On Saturday, September 10, thirty-five children from Abundant Life Home Orphanage came to U.S. Embassy Bangkok to participate in an NBA-Cares basketball clinic. During the clinic, basketball legend Chris Mullin and NBA staff gave the children tips on basic basketball fundamentals to improve their dribbling, passing and shooting, while



ABOVE: Abundant Life Home Founder Rick Sanchez (left), NBA Legend Chris Mullin (center) and Ambassador Kenney take a break from the NBA drills.



“Grizz”, the Memphis Grizzlies’

mascot cheered them on. Before the event came to an end, the Miami Heat dancers performed a traditional Thai dance with a group of young girls from the orphanage.



LEFT: Ambassador Kenney introduces “Grizz” to a new NBA fan.



ABOVE: NBA Director for International Operations Greg Stolt puts the Abundant Life Home kids through a passing drill.



LEFT: The Abundant Life Home girls introduce the Miami Heat Dancers to traditional Isaan (Northeastern) Thai dance.



## Work and Travel Program featured in Embassy Speaker's Program

Embassy Officer Kristi Law gave an informative and well received presentation on the Work and Travel Program to a classroom of hotel and tourism management students from Siam University. Ms. Law informed the students that the program is designed to provide foreign students with an opportunity to live and work in the United States during their summer college vacation, and be exposed to the people and way of life in the United States. She reviewed



ABOVE: Siam University Hotel and Tourism Management students expressed great interest in participating in the Work and Travel Program.



ABOVE: Embassy Officer Kristi Law reviews the basic requirements for participation in the Work and Travel Program.

the basic requirements of the program which include sufficient proficiency in English to successfully inter-

act in an English speaking environment, be a full-time student, have completed at least one semester of academic study, and have a job offer in hand before applying. She also provided them with a timeline that students should follow if they are interested in participating in the program. All of the students expressed great interest in this opportunity as they are quite eager to improve their English language skills, while at the same time obtain career-enhancing work experiences that will make them more attractive once they graduate and enter the workforce full-time.



## facebook facts

for the week ending September 16, 2011



**US Embassy Bangkok**

7,426 monthly active users ↓592 since last week

9,228 people like this ↑55 since last week

199 wall posts or comments this week ↓10 since last week

1,211 visits this week ↑8 since last week



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## EMBASSY WEBSITE STATS

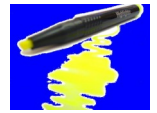
for September 12-16, 2011

### Visitor Summary

Visitors:	11,977
Visitors Who Visited Once:	10,713
Visitors Who Visited More Than Once:	1,264
Average Visits per Visitor:	1.19

### Visit Summary

Visits:	14,197
Average per Day:	2,839
Average Visit Duration:	6.27 minutes
Median Visit Duration:	1.42 minutes



## Spotlight on American Corners Yala and Pattani

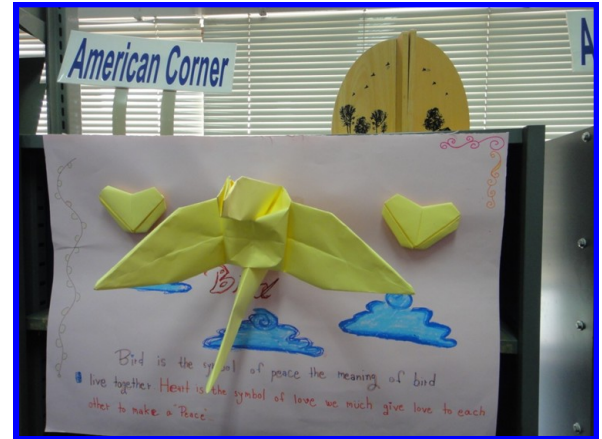
Yala Ratchabhat University's English Language Program organized two "English for Peace" programs at their American Corner on August 20-21 and 27-28. In total, forty secondary school students from in and around Yala participated in poetry readings and role-playing activities which emphasized the



theme of promoting peace in the southern three provinces of Thailand.

The students found the activities challenging, but extremely useful in helping them master English.

*LEFT: Yala area secondary school students participate in an English language role playing activity.*



*ABOVE: Yala Rachabhat University's American Corner has been quite active this year programming English language programs for their students.*

On September 14, American Corner Pattani welcomed Cultural Program Coordinator Jose Collazo via digital video conferencing where he gave a presentation entitled "Islam in American: A Statistical Snapshot." The fifty students in attendance were exposed to the rich mosaic that is present in the Muslim-American community, and learned that 2.75 million Americans identify themselves as practitioners of Islam. They learned that



the diversity of this community is a result of first-

generation Muslims who have immigrated to the U.S in the last fifty years. They were also surprised to learn that 35% of Muslim-Americans were native-born U.S. citizens who had converted to Islam.

*LEFT: Though small in number, Mr. Collazo informed the students that Muslim-Americans have made great strides in the U.S. civic arena as evidenced by the recent election of two Muslim-Americans to Congress.*



*ABOVE: Demographic data informed the students that 2.75 millions American identify themselves as followers of Islam.*



## Alumni find another way of giving back

On September 10, Youth Exchange and Study Thailand Alumni Club (YESTA) organized a Blood Drive Campaign to promote volunteer blood donation among Thai youth, and make a positive difference in their communities. A small but socially-minded group of 15 alumni and friends gathered at the Thai Red Cross Society to register and give blood. The group, several of them first-time blood donors, realized afterwards how important it is to donate blood. They will use this valuable experience to coordinate another blood drive in the near future, and plan to recruit will intend to inspire more of their fellow alumni to join them to help others with this cause.



ABOVE: A YESTA member is smiling knowing that her blood donation will make a critical difference in someone's life.

## Ubon Ratchathani University students visit IRC

Sixty students from Ubon Ratchathani University paid a visit to Embassy Bangkok's Information Resource Center (IRC) on September 8. They were welcomed by Ambassador Kenney, and were privy to informative presentations on the nominating process of U.S. cabinet members by the Political Section, the debt ceiling by the Economic Section, and the role of the Embassy's Press Office. The students finished the day by utilizing the many resources the IRC has to offer such as its vast internet databases, periodicals, Kindles and iPads.



ABOVE: Ambassador Kenney took time out of her busy schedule to meet the visiting Ubon Ratchathani students.



ABOVE: An Ubon Ratchathani student flips through one of the many magazines the IRC has to offer.

RIGHT: The Kindles and iPads were a big hit among the visiting students.





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## IRC Bangkok—Your key to info about the U.S.!

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Staffed by information professionals and reference specialists and equipped with modern information technologies,

we can help retrieve information for you efficiently and effectively.



Information queries may be submitted to us by phone, fax, mail, and e-mail. You are also welcome to visit us by appointment for personal assistance with research.

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