



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn gives an  
Honorary Degree in Medicine to Professor Karen Olness,  
December 18, 2007 at Khon Kaen University

*Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand*

**MD @ KKKU Today**

Newsletter Volume 6 Number 1: January-June 2008

[www.md.kku.ac.th](http://www.md.kku.ac.th)

### *In this issue*

- Professor Olness is awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Medicine, Khon Kaen University
- House for Patients' Relatives at Srinagarind Hospital
- Overseas Professors Visiting Program granted by the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University
- A visit of Professor R. Palmer Beaseley from the University of Texas, USA and recipient of the Prince Mahidol Award in 1999
- Elective Thai Medical Students at the Foreign Medical Schools
- Foreign Elective Students
- Highlight: Student Life and Facilities in Campus

## Professor Olness is awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Medicine, Khon Kaen University



*Professor Karen at the statue of HRH Prince Mahidol of Songkla and HRH Princess Srinagarindra, the Princess Mother at the Faculty of Medicine*

On December 18, 2007, Professor Karen Olness attended the Graduation ceremony at Khon Kaen University to receive an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Medicine from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Professor Karen is a Professor of Pediatrics in Family Medicine and Global Health at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Cleveland, USA. She is also the Founding Director of Rainbow Center for Global Child Health.

"I am very grateful to Khon Kaen University and the Faculty of Medicine

for bestowing this honor upon me. I consider it symbolic of the strong and productive relationship that Khon Kaen University has had with Case Western Reserve University for nearly 20 years. I am proud to have been part of this relationship and to have received this honorary degree. I hope that the linkage between Khon Kaen University and Case Western Reserve University will continue for many years to come," Professor Karen remarked.

Professor Karen has had an important role in teaching and mentoring doctors, residents and students at the Faculty of Medicine, as well as encouraging the Faculty to strive for international medical standards. She actively supported the Department of Pediatrics as a trainer of the Curriculum for Pediatric Residency Training in "International Child Health," the first curriculum of its kind in the USA. She also initiated Pediatric Residency training in Lao PDR, for which the Faculty of Medicine has been a main cooperating institute. This curriculum is being expanded to the Department of Medicine.

Professor Karen played an important role in establishing Khon Kaen as a leader in Disaster Child Care by training staff from the Faculties of Medicine and Nursing, and encouraging the Faculty of Medicine and the American Academy of Pediatrics to hold the international training workshop in Khon Kaen, "Complex Humanitarian Emergencies: Focus on Children and Families". She encouraged Khon Kaen University's helping victims from the 2004 Asian Tsunami with support from UNICEF and the International Pediatrics Association.

In addition, Professor Karen strengthened the knowledge and practice of hypnosis among physicians and nurses treating patients suffering refractory mental and physical pain. Professor Karen strongly supported physicians and nurses' participating in international conferences so that the Faculty of Medicine could become an international leader in Pediatric Pain Management.



Professor Karen with the Dean, Professors and new graduates at the Faculty of Medicine

In Pediatric Developmental and Behavioral Sciences, Professor Karen was a trainer for the Department of Pediatrics and Psychiatry. Over the years, she has actively encouraged 65 professors, residents and medical students to attend the subspecialty training and academic visits.

For 20 years, Professor Karen has kindly coordinated with institutions in the USA so that Thai medical students from the Faculty of Medicine could attend exchange & elective programs. She also assisted in organizing a seminar on medical curriculum development at the Faculty of Medicine with faculty from the USA and the UK.

On account of this life of great dedication to the development of medicine and improved healthcare, the University Council of Khon Kaen University resolved that Professor Karen Olness should be awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Medicine.

*"Professor Karen Olness offers a unique opportunity and experience for our students and staffs to gain knowledge from the U.S. They all come back and develop their works and skills for KK community," says Professor Wiroon Laupatarakasem, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University. "We are very proud and lucky to have this opportunity to get to know Professor Olness for this 20 years."*

*"No person has been more involved with international training in pediatrics than Professor Karen Olness," says Associate Professor Arunee Jetsrisuparb, Head of Pediatrics Department, the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University.*

## House for Patients' Relatives at Srinagarind Hospital

Twenty years ago, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej observed a need for better accommodations for relatives of inpatients attending Srinagarind Hospital, so that patients could receive encouragement from their relatives. "This is above the textbooks. Being above the textbooks is good but we can do better," His Majesty wryly noted.

Professor Dr. Kawee Tungsubut said, "when relatives and neighbors came to visit patients some slept and cooked on the balcony, so we initiated the building of a house for patients' relatives after the completion of our main buildings."



House for patients' relatives at Srinagarind Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University

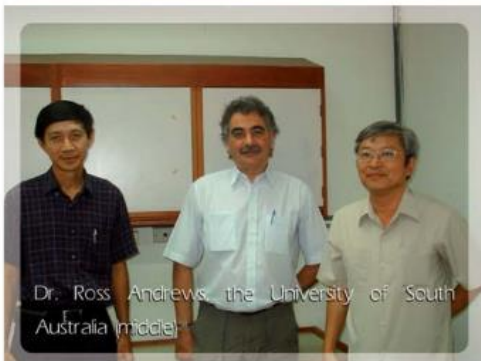
In 1988, motivated by the King's words, the 14th Class of Medical Students at KKU under the leadership of Mr. Sawate Srisiri, a medical student, organized a fundraising marathon through 4 provinces including Bangkok, Ubonratchathani, Nong Khai and Khon Kaen between May 29 and June 4, 1988. The marathon raised 2.5 million Baht in donations. Dr. Sawate Srisiri, currently Head of Surgery at Suppasithprasong Hospital, Ubonratchathani, said, "I learned many important lessons through staging this marathon which I apply to my work management to this day. As economics, society and politics change, each generation of medical students has to adjust their attitudes so that they can be effective in society."



One of four buildings of the house for patients' relatives

"Everyday, we have 500-600 patients and relatives staying with us of whom 60% are cancer patients waiting for radiotherapy and chemotherapy. For example, a relative of a patient at 5C Ward has been staying at this house for 5 years," Mrs. Nattarada Taweewuan, Head of the house for patients' relatives at Srinagarind Hospital said. "There are four buildings, one each for: women, men, families and general purposes. The daily income of our tenants is between 600 and 2,000 Baht, so our rate is only 3 Baht per night. We also coordinate with the Social Welfare Section for patients who do not have enough money to return home. In addition to income from guests, we receive about 16,000 Baht from donation boxes which we open every 3 months. We provide sleeping mats donated by the Khon Kaen Provincial Administrative Organization and blankets donated from Nurse Day. We have electrical fans and televisions which we turn on after 4:30 p.m. As part of their training, our staff attends basic emergency training. For a more pleasant environment, we landscaped our grounds, constructed a waterfall and planted trees around the buildings," she said.

## Overseas Visiting Professors Program granted by the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University



Dr. Ross Andrews the University of South Australia middle

Dr. Ross Andrews from the University of South Australia visited the Department of Parasitology at the Faculty between November 12 and December 15, 2007. Dr. Ross has visited the Faculty several times to conduct joint research with Associate Professor Paibool Sitthithaworn in the Department of Parasitology. While at the Faculty, he delivered seven special lectures to students, residents, doctors and medical staff. Moreover, he helped to prepare joint research projects with the Department of Parasitology for funding from the Wellcome Trust, National University of Singapore and the Thailand Research

Fund. Dr. Ross and the Department of Parasitology also plan to extend their research collaboration to other countries in Eastern Europe, the UK, Germany, China and South Korea.



Professor Stephen E. Greenwald, Barts and the London, Queen Mary Medical School and Dentistry, UK

Professor Stephen E. Greenwald, Barts and the London, Queen Mary Medical School and Dentistry, UK, visited the Department of Physiology between November 22 and December 3, 2007. The collaboration between Barts and the London, Queen Mary Medical School and Dentistry, UK, and the Faculty developed rapidly with the assistance of Professor Stephen, who supported the application of Associate Professor Yupa Kookongwiryapan, Professor in the Department of Physiology, to receive a scholarship for teaching and research development under the PMI 2 Connect Research Cooperation Award 2008 from the British Council, UK. While at the Faculty, Professor Stephen lent equipment which he invented for non-invasive measurement of pulse wave velocity for measuring blood circulation to the Department of Physiology for teaching and research. He also delivered lectures to medical students on the use of this equipment. In addition, he improved the software of the data recorder and data analysis of this equipment to be appropriate with the objectives of the Faculty of Medicine.



Dr. Geoffrey Lionel Abbott, Clinical Fellow from the Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Australia, visited the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculty of Medicine between February 2 and 7, 2008, upon the invitation of Assistant Professor Nattasate Manimmakorn, Department Head. Dr. Geoffrey gave a special lecture on "Spasticity Evaluation & Management" and "Neurorehabilitation Patient Care" to the students, residents, doctors and professors.

Dr. Geoffrey Lionel Abbott, Clinical Fellow from the Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Australia



Upon the invitation of Associate Professor Surasakdi Wongrattanacheewin, Department of Microbiology and our Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor Gary Splitter, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin, visited the Department of Microbiology between February 16 and 21, 2008, to provide a special lecture on "Discovering *Brucella melitensis* Vaccines & its Pathogenesis" and do joint research on immunology with staff in the Department of Microbiology.

Professor Gary Splitter, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin, USA and his wife.

## A visit of Professor R. Palmer Beaseley from the University of Texas, USA and recipient of the Prince Mahidol Award in 1999

Professor R. Palmer Beaseley from the University of Texas, USA, and recipient of the Prince Mahidol Award in 1999, visited the Faculty. The Professor met Assistant Professor Charoon Jetsrisuparb, Associate Dean for International Affairs, Associate Professor Boonsong Patjanasontorn, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor Pisaln Mairiang, Associate Dean for Medical Education, to discuss the feasibility of conducting education planning and joint research on cancer with the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University.



Professor R. Palmer Beaseley (second from left) from the University of Texas, USA

## Elective Thai Medical Students at the Foreign Medical Schools (March-April 2008)

I spent a few weeks at the Department of Pediatrics at Mie University which specializes in oncology and congenital heart disease. I saw many AML and ALL patients. The doctors used a holistic approach, which helped the patients to relax when in hospital. During the elective program, I stayed with a host family, who were so kind. I spent some time traveling around Japan which also gave me many new experiences.

**Ms. Anuch Juengsamarn**, a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at the Department of Pediatrics, Mie University, Japan



This was my first time going overseas and Wakayama Medical University was a great experience. I was assigned to the Department of Pediatrics for 2 weeks. I was both excited and afraid of going to the hospital on my own, but the professors and also the students were kind and made me feel part of the group. I had many friends who helped me during my rotations. In fact, I did everything like the Japanese students. When I was assigned to make a medical report, they helped to make sure it was done thoroughly. I think if I had the chance, I would go to Wakayama Medical University again.

**Ms. Jutapat Werapattana**, a 5th-year student, attended the elective program at the Department of Pediatrics, Wakayama Medical University, Japan



I had a very good time during my elective program at Wakayama Medical University in Japan. I was assigned to the Department of Medicine. Everyone there was very kind. My Japanese peers helped by translating the lecture from Japanese to English. Dr. Sasaki, my advisor, took special care of my schedule by allowing further study. He made contact with a clinical pathologist so that I could observe investigations in the Department of Cardiology. It was my first time to see cardiac catheterization techniques, echocardiography and MDCT. I really enjoyed the elective as I gained new knowledge and skills as well as having many experiences and good friends that made a lasting impression.



Ms. Sawan Iammatavee (left), a 5th-year student, attended the elective program at the Department of Medicine, Wakayama Medical University, Japan.



Ms. Suchaya Jeeranukosol (second from left), a 5th-year student, attended the elective program at the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Wakayama Medical University, Japan

good habit to be on time from this programme too. I had many great experiences and gained knowledge from this programme even though I sometimes had trouble communicating with my Japanese friends but they tried to explain everything in English and I did learn some Japanese. Everyone was very kind.

Last summer vacation, I had a chance to go to Wakayama, Japan, to attend a one-month medical exchange program. I chose the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wakayama Medical University because I wanted to observe the technology used in operations in Japan. My activities were very interesting. I saw hi-tech operating room where everything was automatic. I had an opportunity to join and see operative fields, such as total hip arthroplasty and spinal laminectomy. The most interesting operation was an endoscopic spinal surgery which facilitated patient recovery within 3 to 4 hours of the surgery. Japanese doctors were highly knowledgeable and polite. They were always on time and hard-working. They started ward rounds each day at about 6:30 a.m., so I got this



Ms. Pimchanok Tantiwong (left), a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at the Department of Medicine (Geriatrics), Sassari University, Italy

I spent my holidays at Geriatrics, Department of Medicine, University of Sassari between March 3 and 24, 2008. I have never had an experience in Geriatrics before and it made a great impact on me. I enjoyed visiting the patients every morning on rounds with Professor Tedde and the residents. Professor Tedde approached his patients using a multi-dimensional evaluation form created by the professor. Five to eight patients suffered from geriatrics and each patient had a serious problem. Most of geriatric patients suffered some sort of chronic disease such as COPD, MI, lung cancer or DM. I had many experiences and learned new skills. I am certain that I can share these with my peers at Srinagarind Hospital. Perhaps Geriatrics will be my future specialization!

I was really excited to spend my holiday in Italy. This was a really good chance for me to gain lots of valuable experiences. I attended the Department of Community Medicine. I could learn the knowledge about the Italian prevention from the diseases. I appreciated the hospitality of the doctors, professors and everyone extended to me while I was staying in Italy. Italy is a very beautiful country. I really want to visit there again!



Mr. Pongsatorn Paopongsawan (right), a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at the Department of Community Medicine, Sassari University, Italy



Ms. Sinobol Chusilp, a 5th-year student attended the elective program at University of Vienna, Austria.

Being a medical exchange student at the Medical University of Vienna provided me a great experience. 'Allgemeines Krankenhaus' is the largest hospital in Austria. There are many specialist professors and new, high-tech medical instruments for helping patients. It was really exciting to see the progress of modern medicine. Although I had trouble with the language, the generosity of the professor and gorgeous friends, who tried to explain everything to me, made the big city of 'Vienna' friendly and intimate.





Miss Piyanuch Chobchai (second from left), a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria

At the Medical University of Innsbruck, there is more advanced technology and magnificent medical instruments for all of the patients. Not only the modern things impressed me, but also the discipline, responsibility, friendliness and generosity of the staff. I really enjoyed my time at the Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Innsbruck. I gained much useful knowledge and skill from my observations there. I had a lot of new friends at Medical University of Innsbruck including some who were also visitors from other countries. The university allowed me to join a tour with a group of foreign students. I would like to say "Thank you very much!" to everybody who gave me this precious opportunity; a lifetime memory!

I was very impressed and appreciated the warm welcome. I was also impressed by the way they studied, worked and took care of patients. People at the Medical University of Innsbruck were friendly and helpful. Although I had an unfortunate accident while skiing and my right leg was broken, I felt that this visit was marvelous! While I stayed in hospital, my friends, the doctors and staff were very kind and cared very well for my health. I would like to thank everyone there who had a part in making my visit wonderful!

Ms. Danunan Jiraviboon, a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria



Miss Chonmaphan Krasae, a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at Kuzemura Clinic, Gifu, Japan under the collaboration of Gifu University, Japan

I would like to thank Professor Yuzo Takahashi, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Parasitology at Gifu University for his kind assistance in helping me and offering my friends and me the opportunity to visit and attend the elective program at Kuzemura Clinic. I really appreciated the kindness he showed us. During the elective program, I gained a lot of experience. Activities included trying clinical skills in the Outpatient Department, taking care of elderly patients at a nursing home and making house-calls. Everyone in Kuze was very kind. They treated me like a family member and taught me Japanese. I can now speak a little Japanese. We had a social gathering almost everyday!! I can't express how impressed I was. I really want to go to Kuze Clinic and meet everyone again! Gengi desu!! Take care!!



Mr. Sitthi Chaowchuen (right), a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at Kuzemura, Gifu, Japan, under the collaboration of Gifu University.

I was an elective medical student at Kuzemura, Gifu, Japan. I knew the clerkship was short so I decided to focus on Family Medicine because I wanted to compare the primary care provided by Japanese doctors with Thai doctors. The answer was in their practice of truly personal care. I was impressed how all of the patients smiled when they saw doctor although they were sick. I would like to thank Professor Yuzo Takahachi for his kindness in supporting me in Kuzemura. I would like to thank my Japanese friends, the doctors, nurses and everyone who extended me such warm hospitality. I would also like to acknowledge Khon Kaen University for granting me the scholarship to visit Japan. Thank you Gifu for a very beautiful place and wonderful memory. I will be back again, wait me Japan.

I attended a medical clerkship in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Encrinology & Metabolism, Fujita Health University, for 2 weeks. I attended ward rounds Monday to Saturday which provided opportunity to learn more about diabetic patients and diabetic complications through the direct contact with patients. I got involved in the diabetes education program available in this hospital. I enjoyed studying about diet therapy. I also learned about thyroid disease when I had an opportunity to observe at the Out-patient Clinic under the guidance of Professor Ito. I went to the laboratories almost every afternoon, which inspired me to be aware of practices in countries where medicine is advanced. I loved socializing with the Japanese medical students. I appreciated the opportunity to share my life as a Thai medical student with them and to gain a broader perspective of being a medical student in today's world. This was a valuable experience which has broadened my medical awareness and skills and matured me, which will certainly make my style of treating my patients more sensitive.



Ms. Thitima Sirimontakan (sitting first from left), a 5th-year student, attended an elective program at the Department of Internal Medicine, Fujita Health University School of Medicine, Japan