Thai Club at University of California, Irvine
Meet the Current Officers!

Saharat Pinyo
President

Siamrath Boonsakul
External Vice-President

Kanyarat Konsue
Internal Vice-President

Apinya Thaipinnarong
Treasurer

Alex Vasquez
Academic Chair

Cynthia Liu
Publicity Officer
Dale Kim
Historian

Irada Wattanavitukul
Culture Night Director

Steven Dinh
Artistic Director

Tyler Nutsathitya
Event Coordinator
A Little About Our University

• The campus was founded in 1964.
• The mascot is Peter the Anteater.
• We are located in the middle of UCSD and UCLA.
• Fun Fact! The Science Library looks like the Star Trek enterprise ship!
Diversity of the University

- In the University there are: 10,975 Asian/Asian American students out of 21,347, about 51.41% of the undergraduate student body; 4266 White students (20%); 3817 Hispanic (18.0%); 552 African American (0.05%)
- Out of the 10,975 Asian/Asian American students there are about 571 Thai undergraduate students (including international students).
Thai Club @ UCI has been around since 2001, however four years ago our club had only 5 people remaining. This photo was taken on our first culture night that we hosted a year after 5 people was left remaining.
What Do We Do in Thai Club?

- Our mission is to foster and promote community awareness of Thai culture; to bring Thai students and those interested in Thai culture together; and to give back to the Thai community.
- Our club is classified as a social cultural club.
N.Gen (New Generation)

- N.Gen is a modern dance group that was founded last year. This fairly new group performed for our culture night as the opening act.
- N.Gen does not do auditions and is open to any Thai Club members who are interested in dancing.
- Our Publicity Officer Cynthia Liu and our Artistic Director Steven Dinh is the group’s captain.
Rum Dance Team

• The Rum/Rum Wong dance team started because of an event the local Thai residents of Irvine invited us to. Under the instruction of our Culture Night Director, Irada (P’ Bo) we were able to put together a group, and formalize it into our very own Rum team.

• We have traditional style Rum and also Rum incorporated with Ballet to add a modern twist.
Organizations That We Are Apart Of

• Thai Club is a constituent of the Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA).
• There are 14 organizations under APSA including Chinese Association, Taiwanese American Organization, Vietnamese Student Association, Tomo no Kai (Japanese American Organization), and etc.
Events That We Participate In

Irvine Village Festival 2011

• We help and volunteer for a group of Thai residents who works hard to promote Thai Culture at this annual event. We volunteer at the booth and talk to people who come by interested in Thai culture.
• The Royal Consul General, Irvine’s Mayor Sukhee Kang, and TASC President Khun Nikun came to greet us last year!
• This event will take place September 29th, 2012.
Events That We Participate In

Thai Cultural Day in Los Angeles

- Last year was the first year Thai Club @ UCI participated in this event. This year TC @ UCI will be MCing the event, and participating in various volunteer work around.
- This year’s event will take place September 16th, 2012.
Every year the Thai Clubs in SoCal hosts/participates in a joint bonfire. Normally it is in the beginning of the year to foster community and collaboration amongst ourselves.
Events That We Participate In

Irvine Senior Center volunteer

- We participated in Rum Wong to showcase Thai dance to seniors in Irvine.
- We received a certification of recognition from the city of Irvine for our participation and volunteer work.
Events That We Participate In

Songkran Festival in Los Angeles

- Thai Club at UCI Participated in the L.A. Songkran festival on Hollywood Blvd. We also participated in the parade afterwards.
Events That We Hold

• During Halloween our club hosts a Halloween Thai folktale story event!
• Members are encouraged to bring personal stories and/or bring some that they heard of
Events That We Hold

• During Loy Kratong we would make Kratongs like last year’s on the right. We would then talk about the significance of why we hold this festival every year, and the symbol it represents to the Thai culture.
• This coming year we are planning on making Yi Peng (sky lanterns) found in Northern Thailand.
To fundraise for the floods we sold Pad Thai and Thai Ice Tea on campus and made $500 dollars which we donated to the Red Cross in Thailand.

We also sold “There for Thailand” wristbands for 1 dollar.
Culture Night

• Culture Night is one of our biggest event of the year. It is normally a stage play that showcase Thai culture, and it attracts the general student population of UCI.
• Every year our culture night has a cause, and the net profit we make from the show we donate it all to a community in need in Thailand.
Culture Night

• This is our most expensive event, and we normally fundraise all year to find our own means to put this on.
• Estimated cost for each year’s play is around $3,000-$5,000 for stage, lighting, equipment and miscellaneous things.
Community Service: United States

- UCI TC joins the Thai Association of Southern California (TASC) in their event to help clean Wat Thai’s neighborhood.
- Future plans: Developing a student outreach program at Wat Pa
Community Service: Ayutthaya, Thailand

• Every year we go to a community in need and teach them English and bring them school supplies.
• This year we went to a school in rural Ayutthaya, and we bought them snacks, pencils, rulers, etc.
Family

- We are one people, one family, one club!