



UP VOICE

The Official Newsletter of the University of Puthisastra (UP)



UP'S PRESIDENT - IAN FINDLAY RECOGNIZED AS A TOP EDUCATION GLOBAL LEADER BY EDUCATION



UP's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ian Findlay was recently recognized as a TOP education Leader by Education Stalwarts – a leading Asian Education magazine - <https://www.educationstalwarts.com/global-education-leaders-of-2021/ian-findlay/>

Here is his story:

An avid leader envisioning to manifest his goals at every step of the journey is Professor Ian Findlay, President, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Puthisastra (UP), Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Today UP is one of the largest private universities in Cambodia and educates the next generation of doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, lab techs, and IT professionals-exceptionally important in a developing country ravaged by genocide.

A performance-driven individual with a diverse background, Ian has widespread experience in research, healthcare, teaching, patents, entrepreneurship, managing the commercial business, and education management in both higher education and vocational education sectors. With such an extensive knowledge base, Ian brings the best of different perspectives to organizations.

A Journey to the Front

Initially, Ian started his career in embryo stem-cell research which further progressed to managing an IVF laboratory (IVF was a new concept at the time and became successful in the UK within a year. Later on, he moved to complete Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics, which was just beginning its rapid ascent. Ian, a go-getter, was propelled to create his niche in single-cell genetic analysis and forensics, which was a win-win situation in his career path. This breakthrough led to many exciting adventures including DNA fingerprinting “Jack the Ripper” letters, publishing in the highest quality journals such as Nature, BMJ, Clinical Genetics, and many more. He received >\$5 million in competitive grants and gained multiple international awards such as “Scientist of the Year 1998” by European Society of Human Genetics and the “Bancroft Medal 2005” – the highest award by Australian Medical Association (AMA), 11 international patents, and directing several biotech spin-offs. All these remarkable achievements made him an established Professor at just 38 years of age.

Taking a detour from the professional life, Ian's focus shifted to his personal life, he got married, emigrated to Australia, and had a child. He knew it was time to set new family priorities and take a halt from his career to raise his child. He left the workforce and spent glorious and precious years raising his son until he went to school. After striking a balance between personal and professional lives, Ian wanted to explore new challenges and during that time he became increasingly interested in the nexus between higher education (explaining the why) and vocational education (explaining the how) realizing that artificial barriers were intruding from reaping the best of both. After all, many professionals including doctors, engineers, vets, and dentists require both theory and practical skills to succeed.

This made Ian realize where his future lay, he knew the advantages and experiences gained over the years could help him discover his new destination. He could see the opportunity of creating the next generation of health professionals who had the best of both “the why” and “the how” – a true understanding. It was now time for a comeback.

The Next Big Move

Ian believes that education inspires generations, it transforms young minds into global leaders and thinkers. He therefore moved to education management becoming Dean of Health at various public and private universities. He had the opportunity to improve curricula, embed the best of “how” and “why” to produce well-rounded graduates with the soft-skills required to get, make, and keep the best, meaningful, and highest-paying careers.

After stints as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (learning and teaching) and managing 30,000 students at a public vocational provider it was now time to make the quantum leap. Ian’s long background in health has been beneficial for him in the longer run. He further adds, “I was very fortunate to have gained the skills required of a President of a university during my varied career. My health background ensured that I knew what everyone was talking about for a health university - My background in research was handy to uplift research capability, write papers and grants, mentor young researchers, etc. My background in Learning and Teaching and academic governance gave me very strong foundations in contemporary best-practice andragogy including blended and flipped learning and learning technologies. My background in commercial gave me the skills to devour a P&L, create business plans and drive commercial revenue.”

UP’s vision is to pursue excellence in health science and technology – the skills that create and sustain the future. Its three core values are Honour Self, Respect Others, and Develop Society. By embedding these positive values in students, the university trains graduates and the country for the 21st Century.

The success rate has been incredible over Ian’s two and half years at UP which include:

- 100% student pass rates in Medicine, dentistry, and nursing, 97% in pharmacy
- 247% increase in international research publications
- Delivery >35,000 hrs of online learning in less than a year
- 37% increase in total revenue, 185% increase in commercial revenue
- UP becoming only university in Cambodia recognized by Times Higher Education
- 97% staff satisfaction, with pay rises averaging 12% despite COVID
- Keeping student fees as low as possible
- Comprehensive training plans (25 courses) for staff and students
- Major focus on Student Engagement – 27 initiatives
- Establishment of strong academic governance, curricula, and assessment improvement programs

Self-Motivation is the Ultimate Driver of Success

Ian believes that to be inspired or motivated by some external sources is temporary, but what is needed in the long run is self-motivation – the only truly sustainable source of motivation. His motto is to lead a meaningful and impactful life and leave behind a legacy for the upcoming generations. He often wonders, “what will I tell my grandchildren when they ask “What did you do to improve the world?” – and will they be proud?”

Professionally, he motivates his team with a vision of a bright future to become a part of something great and successful by making a real difference. Every fortnight each of Ian’s leadership team takes 3-4 minutes to share and celebrate their successes. Ian too participates in this ritual by sharing the bigger picture and the difference the team continues to make for their staff, students, community, and Cambodia.

Ian states his three beneficial hacks learned in his career:

- Inspire people to do their best and they will.
- Set high, clear expectations. Then help them achieve.
- Don’t take no for an answer. Find another way.

Overcoming Hurdles along the Path

Ian reckons the main obstacle to overcome is complacency. He adds, “My school guidance teacher told me that if I worked hard, I could end up even managing a shop! But I had more to do and more to give and I was determined. I was the first in the family to go to university, move out of our town and move out the country”. Throughout his career, he has continually challenged convention, asked questions, and created his own opportunities. Ian believes opportunities are all around us however it’s the courage and the drive to do something, that makes all the difference.

He loves Einstein’s quote “Creativity [and Innovation] is intelligence having fun” and enjoys can-do attitude – pushing boundaries.

Ian's Words of Wisdom for young aspirants are:

- Believe in yourself – you create your own future
- Be focused and committed, find and follow your passion
- Be the best you can be – whatever it is

A Life-Changing Experience

Over the years, Ian has transformed the lives of many students who were on the verge of giving up and has shown them the light at the end of the tunnel. Recollecting one such incident was meeting a student called Andrea, who was hitting rock bottom in her life.

He recalls, *"She had sunken, vacant eyes, bright green hair, rough blotchy skin, piercings through her nose, ears and lips and obviously on drugs. I arranged that she got full academic credit for what she had completed, and spoke to her for an hour about future career opportunities."* This piece of advice gave her the much-needed confidence and off she went. Exactly a year later, Ian was encountered by her when she tapped his shoulder in a lift and when he turned around there stood a stunningly beautiful girl. At first instance, she was unrecognizable until she confronted, "You don't remember me do you? I'm Andrea, we spoke about a year ago". She was now at the university and started her own business.

Ian fondly remembers Andrea's words of fulfillment *"Thank you for inspiring me and giving me a future"*. Ian concludes that her words will stay with him forever.

Education, like hope, is life changing.

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION YEAR PROGRAM

Dear Foundation Year, I am especially penning this for you so when you read your first 'UP Voice' newsletter you feel right at home, knowing that you're an integral part of the UP family. Everything we do here is done with each of you in mind.

My name is Sundas and I'm the Director of Foundation Year. You have heard from me through different channels and I understand that your first couple of weeks have contained a plethora of unexpected experiences, surprises and even challenges. Having to tune into a class of many unfamiliar faces must also have been daunting. I understand the overwhelming range of emotions you must be experiencing, but as you progress each day with your new academic family, you will see we all share the same hopes, fears, victories, and successes coming our way together; this is a year unlike any we've seen, but we are in it as one family.

The Foundation Year team has wholeheartedly and dedicatedly worked over the last year and has been committed to understanding and recognizing the blend of experiences within the lives of each of our students.

They have worked tirelessly to build a knowledge platform that consists of comprehensive academic resources. These resources are created keeping in mind all the unique pathways each one of you has taken to come to UP, and we have created these resources to ensure that you can successfully integrate into UP in a successful and fulfilling way, notwithstanding the challenges.

The resources we have carefully designed for you include video lectures that cover all the essentials of your core curriculum, with detailed study guides in video quizzes to help you track and measure your progress. We know the immense potential you have and we have designed our Foundation Year program to be led by you. We have 'flipped' our classrooms so that the primary drivers of knowledge are you, and our lecturers are your facilitators, present unconditionally to help you navigate your path.

We know how isolating two dimensional experiences from behind a screen can be, so to enhance your interactions, we have created discussion forums and have actively created an environment where you indulge in meaningful and fulfilling discourse with both your lecturers and your peers. We have designed classes making most of the online technologies available so you are equipped with tools to take charge of your progress and learning with support and guidance from your lecturers who will also be your mentors.



We understand that you have had to take in a lot of information and that you may still be struggling to retain or even understand some or even all of it. Knowing how alone you can feel in trying to make sense of everything on your own, our lecturers have dedicated special “office hours” for you, so you can drop in online, on a one-to-one basis and seek help or guidance with any challenges you are facing, discuss anything that can help you in your pursuit of knowledge or even simply to say hello and get to know your lecturers better.

We have made sure that the Foundation Year experience is an inclusive, welcoming, and caring one for everyone, regardless of the path that brought you to us. As you read on, you will get to know more about the wonderful team that will be playing a monumental role in your learning.

Signing out for now and giving over the stage to the rest of FY Team, *Sundas*.

WELCOME TO THE FOUNDATION YEAR DEPARTMENT UNIVERSITY OF PUTHISAstra (UP)



I am **Panha**, the Program Coordinator of the Foundation Year (FY). It is my privilege to be part of FY and UP alike. I have earned two master's degrees: an MA in TESOL (IFL, RUPP, Phnom Penh, Cambodia) and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership (UoA, Auckland, New Zealand). I have over 10-year experience in education, along with training in managing and leading projects, innovation and internationalisation in tertiary education, under the DIES University Leadership and Management Training Course (UNILEAD South East Asia 2020), which I am awarded with both a certificate of completion and a certificate of attendance. You can reach out to me for anything related to the FY programmes, FY administration, or general operations of the Foundation Year.

I am glad to welcome you to the Foundation Year and UP family!



I am **Thy Kimalai**, I am the Foundation Year Biology and Anatomy course coordinator. Working with Foundation Year has been an amazing experience. The University of Puthisastra is a great institution that provides knowledge and a multitude of experiences to the next generation of health sciences practitioners. Working with Foundation Year, I've grown as an educator, studying Biology and Anatomy at UP FY represents an immersive experience and we are constantly fascinated to learn new things from each other.

Being part of Foundation Year is most fulfilling and I enjoy all parts of the job, especially the interactions with the young and inquisitive minds of FY students. Constantly striving to be the best at my job, I am currently pursuing a Master's in Health and Community Health Development at the National Institute of Public Health.



SRUONG Sreyhak, I am the Foundation Year Physical Chemistry and Medical Terminology Course Coordinator After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology I trained in the Pedagogy of Biochemistry at the National Institute of Education (NIE) and then went on to receive a Master's Degree in Applied Biotechnology from Jeju National University (JNU), South Korea. I have research experience in the field of Applied Biotechnology along with technical knowledge of Molecular Genetics and Cell Tissue Culture. My master research was about “Purification and Characterization of Tumorsphere Formation Inhibitors derived from *Saururus Chinensis*.” There will be a surprise for anyone who guesses what it is and its popular use in Korea.

I have received multiple awards ranging from outstanding work performance to being great at all things food. I'm passionate about women's empowerment and education as well self-growth and leadership. I enjoy good company, have great taste in music and a green thumb. You might also find me sharing my home grown fruits and vegetables with you!



SUON Monirath is the Lecturer for Research Methodology Courses in the Foundation Year programme.

Monirath worked as a registered nurse for several years and earned her Master's Degree in Nursing Science from the Faculty of Nursing at Khon Kaen University in 2019.



My name is **Vary**, I hold a Master's Degree in Biotechnology from King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi in Bangkok, Thailand, along with pedagogy training from the UNESCO Biotechnology School in Asea at Osaka University in Japan.

I bring 5 years of biotech experience as a Foundation Year Lecturer at UP to share with my students.



Hi! My name is **Virak**. I'm a Research Methodology Course Coordinator in the Foundation Year program at the University of Puthisastra (UP).

I graduated with an MSc Degree in 2019 from King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Thailand, and a research internship from National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU), Taiwan. I have published my work at international conferences and in journals, such as the Bioresources Technology Journal. I love my job and believe very strongly in the power of education.

My only one goal is to help students to reach their full potential in conducting research and further personal development in their lives.



I graduated from the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) majoring in Physics and I also graduated from The Harpswell Foundation which is a Leadership Centre for Women in Cambodia.

I teach Mathematics and Physical Chemistry to Foundation Year students, fascinating subjects that help us understand interesting phenomena around us.

I connect with my students on a personal level and enjoy every second I spend interacting with them. It's a continuous learning experience!



My name is **Romnea**, I hold a Master's of Advanced Convergence Technology and Science Degree from JEJU National University (South Korea).

I am the Foundation Year Biochemistry and Embryology Course Coordinator. I have almost three years experience of teaching university students.

In addition to the subjects I teach at the foundation level, I am passionate about microbiology and biotechnology and appreciate the interdisciplinary approach we have within Foundation Year which allows me to share my cross-sectional knowledge with my students.



ENGLISH TEACHING FOR FOUNDATION YEAR HAS BEGUN!

The Faculty of English Excellence & Employability was delighted last week to be able to commence teaching for our 700+ new Foundation Year students. Despite the challenges we all face due to COVID-19 and UP's campus being temporarily closed to prevent the spread of the virus, the English team have been working relentlessly to make sure that 100% of our Foundation Year English programme is now delivered online! We believe strongly that English learning should be a top priority for all our students. English is the international language of success in health sciences.

But What Does 'Online Delivery' Mean For Students?

In short, online delivery is a digital revolution in teaching and learning. UP's English lecturers now meet and connect with their students in online classes using 'Google Meet', the famous online platform for hosting meetings, teaching and learning.

But that's not all - thanks to years of investment by UP, we have 'UPOP' available to use for every student. UPOP is the 'University of Puthisastra Online Platform', an interactive digital space where students can do research, communicate with their lecturers and each other, perform tasks related to their learning, take their exams online and so much more.

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, UPOP is our gateway to online teaching and learning success. Thanks to UPOP, today's generation of Cambodian students at UP now have access to the same standard of online education delivery that is offered at some of the best universities around the world. In fact, our online education delivery actually surpasses many top western university standards. Once again, UP is blazing a trail and making sure that only the best services are provided for all our students! And when it comes to language learning, we're proud to promote English as an essential second language, alongside Khmer, that our young people will be able to converse in and communicate with, in their future careers.

The English Team

The English lecturer team are really enjoying meeting all of their new students and getting to know them in these early days of the semester, as well as beginning the fascinating work towards ensuring that every single University of Puthisastra student graduates one day with the highest standards of English, something that will hugely benefit every student in their future careers as they enter the various industries, sectors and fields within health sciences.

In this edition of UP Voice, you'll see that there is a short profile of each member of the English team. If you're a student at UP, don't hesitate to get in touch with your English lecturer - they're ready and waiting to help you on your journey towards English Excellence!

PROFILES: FACULTY OF ENGLISH EXCELLENCE & EMPLOYABILITY

Profile: Daniel Gillard: Head of the Faculty of English Excellence & Employability

Daniel is the Head of the Faculty of English Excellence & Employability. He's 41 years old and comes from Bolton, Greater Manchester in the North-West of England. He came to UP as an English Lecturer in 2018, before serving as Lead Lecturer for Year 2 English, prior to becoming the Head of the English Faculty.

Prior to joining UP, Daniel taught English from 2016-2018 at a small English Language school in the city of Sihanoukville/Kampong Som. He has fond memories of his time there, living in Otres Village in Preah Sihanouk, which has a much slower pace of life, compared to the hustle and bustle of Phnom Penh.

Before he became an English Lecturer, Daniel worked in Government & Politics, and Child Protection Services in England. He holds a degree in Philosophy from the University of Bolton in England, alongside his teaching qualification.

His hobbies include listening to music and he also likes to travel on his Honda Click 125cc all around Cambodia!



Profile: Ms. Nichola Heaton: Foundation Year & Year 2 English Programme Coordinator

Nichola is the Foundation Year English Programme Coordinator within the Faculty of English. She is 52 years of age and joined UP in October 2019. Nichola is also from Manchester in the North-West of England. She has lived in Cambodia for three years and her daughter and grandchildren live here also. Nichola loves to travel and spent two years backpacking through Europe and South-East Asia. She loves to read for pleasure and enjoys cooking. Nichola has also worked previously in her career as a Mental Health Counsellor and an advocate for Domestic Abuse victims. Nichola holds multiple qualifications in a diverse range of fields, encompassing Counselling, Psychotherapy, Restorative Justice, Domestic Abuse and Leadership, to name just a few.



Profile: Micah McCaul: Year 3 & Year 4 English Programme Coordinator

Micah is our Year 3 & Year 4 English Programme Coordinator. Born in Harrisburg, Oregon, USA, his family moved to Cambodia in 1994 as Christian missionaries. Micah grew up in Toul Kork, near Psar Moan Ang. He grew up in a bilingual environment with both Khmer and English-speaking friends.

Micah has been teaching English for 9 years and holds International TEFL & TESOL Training (ITTT) certification, alongside studies in Psychology. Some of his hobbies include dirt-biking and exercising at the gym.



Biography: Tuy Manina: English Lecturer

Manina is a local citizen, born and raised in Phnom Penh. She graduated with a Bachelor of English degree from Paññāsāstra University. Prior to joining UP in 2019, Manina worked as a lecturer at Paññāsāstra for 8 years. She loves her job and believes strongly in the power of education. Her number one goal is to help students reach their full potential.

Away from teaching, Manina enjoys exercising, cooking, reading, watching movies and spending time with family.



**Biography: Ry Rangsey:
English Lecturer**

Rangsey is also from Phnom Penh. She graduated with Bachelor Degrees in English from the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL), and in International Relations from the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE). She has been teaching English for 5 years and really enjoys it.

When Rangsey isn't teaching, she creates and produces music, with the hope of inspiring people to believe in and stand up for themselves, despite failures and disappointments that we all face in life sometimes.



**Biography: Sok Neoun:
English Lecturer**

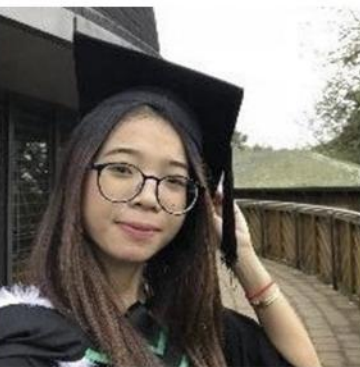
Neoun joined UP in 2019. He's 38 years old and he's from Massachusetts in the United States of America (USA). He has taught English Language since 2016 in Cambodia and prior to that in the US. Before he became an English Lecturer, Neoun worked with a variety of different educational organisations.

His hobbies include working out in the gym, basketball and reading, particularly fantasy literature. He also enjoys music and traveling when he has free time.



**Biography: Jason Dark:
English Lecturer**

Jason comes from the country of Wales in the United Kingdom, and he is 50 years old. He has been teaching English in South East Asia for the past 8 years, having become a certified teacher in Thailand, prior to making the move to Cambodia. He joined UP in March 2020 but has been living in the Kingdom for the past two and a half years. Jason enjoys watching a variety of sports, including football and rugby, as well as taking part on occasions. In addition, he loves travelling and watching movies when he has the time.



**Biography: Neang Lyda:
Critical Thinking Coordinator**

Lyda serves in a unique role here at UP, as the Coordinator for Critical Thinking and as a Critical Thinking Lecturer. She was born here in Phnom Penh and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL). Lyda also holds a Masters in Education (M. Ed.) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, having lived there from 2018 to 2020. She has been teaching in Higher Education for a total of five years. As a relatively new team member at UP within the Faculty of English, Lyda feels it to be a great honour and pleasure to work at a leading Cambodian Health Sciences university and believes that the effort we all make will be vital to improve the quality of teaching and learning available for Cambodian students.



**Biography: Mirjam Vigier:
English Lecturer**

Mirjam is from Germany and moved to Cambodia in 2019. She also lived in Cambodia in 2011 and 'lost her heart' here. She has diverse and extensive experience in several different professional fields, ranging from Medical, to Non-Governmental, Administrative and Education. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Communication Studies & Movie Science from the University of Berlin in Germany, as well as being a qualified Medical Laboratory Technician, with a Diploma in this field from University Hospital Aachen, also in Germany. Mirjam loves teaching, science and exploring countries, their cultures and food!



**Biography: Rob Collins:
English Lecturer**

Rob was born in Leeds, England and moved to Cambodia in 2019 to teach English. Rob is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, where he gained a Master's Degree (MA) in Natural Sciences (Genetics), and he also holds an M.Phil in Neurobiology from the University of Sussex, in England. Rob has worked in a variety of roles in the past: researcher, chartered accountant, energy analyst and scuba diving instructor. His hobbies include swimming, keeping fit, and singing. On the weekends he can be found singing karaoke somewhere in Riverside.

His aim as a lecturer is to pass on his experience to his students, both in the English language field and in respect of the world of professional work. He wants to help every student to achieve their goals.

**Biography: Eron Smith:
English Lecturer**



Eron is a 33 year old Texan, USA who came to Cambodia 4 years ago, from the USA. Before joining the English Department at UP, she taught at international schools in Phnom Penh, Korea, and the United States. She majored in Psychology at Patten University in Oakland, California (USA) and has also completed various programmes of study at Ewha Women's University in Seoul, South Korea, and the University of Central Florida in Orlando, USA. Eron is also trained as an Emergency Medical Technician.

When not teaching, she loves to play nerdy TTRPGs (Table Top Role Playing Games) and video games, study languages, solve puzzles, and read mysteries and sci-fi novels.

**Biography: Melih Kalender:
English Lecturer**



Melih was born in Ankara, Turkey and moved to Cambodia in 2020 with his New Zealander (Kiwi) fiancée and his Turkish cat! He has previously worked as a Freelance Translator & Editor, English Lecturer and Research Assistant. Melih studied at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey; he holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English Language and Literature and a Master's Degree (MA) in History from the university. He is also a former 'ERASMUS' Exchange student who attended Groningen University in The Netherlands. He is a CELTA-qualified English teacher and he holds additional qualifications in Spanish and Persian.

His hobbies include learning languages, calligraphy and cooking. On the weekends he can be spotted riding his bicycle along the riverside here in Phnom Penh. He is our newest member of the English Faculty team at UP and also spends some of his spare time improving his Khmer language skills whenever he has the opportunity.

**Biography: Elke Dobovsek:
English Lecturer**



Elke Sonja Dobovsek was born in Germany in 1984. She became a Pediatric Nurse in 2004, having studied at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. She previously worked in the field of psychiatry for 10 years. In 2014 she came to Cambodia and started teaching English and German. In her freetime, she likes to spend time with her family and friends, eat good food and travel to nice places.

UP- NURSING FAMILY CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2021

International Nurses Day ,12th May, every year shines a light on the diversity of activities that nurses carry out in their daily practice- from frontline clinical staff across many settings, to teachers and researchers in education, to those nurses working on national policy or projects – all striving to improve the healthcare of their populations and make a difference to the future of health care.

This year the Nursing family in University of Puthisastra is celebrating this 56th International Nurses Day to recognize the noble work of Florence Nightingale and to thank all nurses around the world who serve their communities through their nursing duties.

Our theme this year is A NURSING VISION FOR FUTURE HEALTHCARE. The International Council of Nurses, who identify the theme every year, note three major areas where nursing can make a difference:

1. Transformation to healthcare and nursing solutions.
2. Supporting nurses to leverage a better health system.
3. A vision for future health care focusing on accessible and affordable, equitable and ethically based, people and community- centered, integrated and holistic and sustainable and fit for the future healthcare.

We wrapped up our International Nurses Day celebration by using technology to meet with our nursing students and nursing alumni. It was -inspiring to hear the update from many of them, sharing their experiences as a nurses working in a public hospital, NGO or private hospital. Wherever we go as nurses, we bring three key components to our practice: our head to reason, our heart to care and our hands to perform.

Nurses play an important role and influence every part of healthcare, such as, evidence based clinical practice, including (-this is same as education) the vital work of combating Covid 19 at this time, education, research, policy making, community health promotion in the form of advocacy and, vaccination.



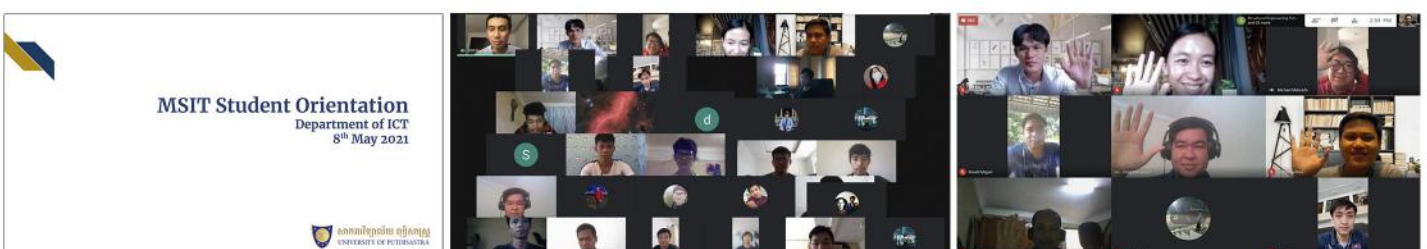
WELCOME TO THE NEW BATCH OF MASTER STUDENTS (IT & DATA SCIENCE)

On Saturday, 8th May, our new students started their 2.5 year adventure in the Master in IT & Data Science. This year has welcomed a record number of students – in total 39 students, from 3 different countries! Some students freshly graduated with a Bachelor degree, others are more mature and already have some professional experience.

The Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) is a 2.5 years program only on Week ends (Saturday + Sunday) designed for students working in the ICT industry. It enables students to study in-depth, a range of advanced specializations in an emerging field in IT such as Python programming, Cloud Computing, DevOps, Cyber Security, Statistics, Data Visualization, AI, Machine Learning, Computer Vision.

Besides building the technical skills, the Master's program also emphasizes Business skills (Entrepreneurship, Business Analytics...) and Soft skills (Critical Thinking, Analytic ability, Leadership, Communication, Creativity).

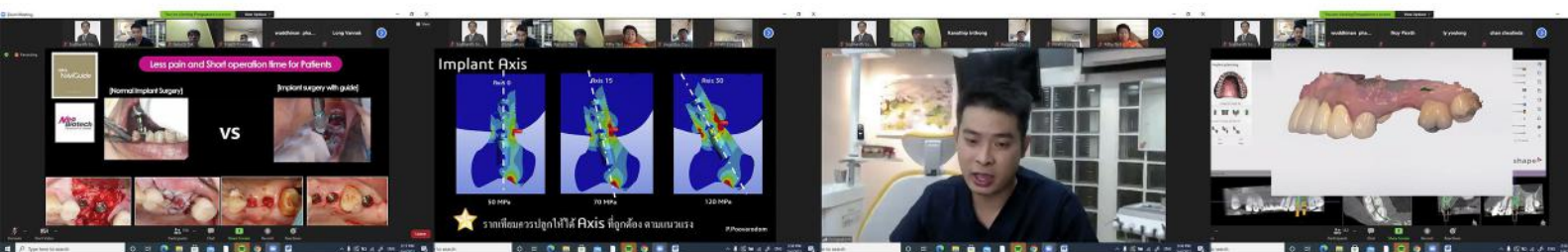
They started their course on the 9th May. We wish them good a happy learning!



THAI PROSTHODONTISTS PROVIDE WEBINAR ON IMPLANTS FOR UP DENTAL STUDENTS

The UP Faculty of Dentistry has recently been recruiting local and international speakers on clinical subjects during this time when dental students are temporarily unable to practice in the Dental Clinic. Last week Dr. Tak Ranuch, Head of Periodontology and Implantology at UP, arranged two webinars by Thai prosthodontists (Dr. Poonsakorn Poovarodom and Dr. Wuddhinan Panom) from Khon Kaen University (KKU). Both, like Dr. Ranuch, are graduates of KKU, and are currently employed as lecturers at UP.

The topic for the webinars was “Digital work flow in implant dentistry”. University of Puthisastra invited our UP graduates to attending this webinar, as well as senior dental students from UP and the other Cambodian dental schools, UP clinical tutors and lecturers, and some outside dentists. Approximately 200 dentists and students attended the course which was very well received. UP is glad it can arrange such courses for our staff, students and others in order to promote learning and advance dentistry in Cambodia. Thank you Dr. Ranuch, Dr. Poonsakorn and Dr. Wuddhinan for your contribution.



UP'S FIRST MOU SIGNED WITH A TOP INDIAN UNIVERSITY



Last week an MOU was signed between UP and the SRM KATTANKULATHUR DENTAL COLLEGE, SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

Located in the state of Tamil Nadu, the SMR Kattankulathur Dental College is one of the top dental schools in India, and is particularly renowned in the field of orthodontics.

Started in the year 2007 with an annual intake of 100 dental students they have since grown into a very successful postgraduate institution. The dental school is located in a sprawling 280 acres university campus which also contains a 1500 bed teaching hospital, and Colleges of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Humanities.

The Head of Orthodontics at UP, Dr Anand Marya, suggested that an agreement between the two institutions would be beneficial, especially as UP is hoping to launch its Masters in Orthodontics program this year.

The online MOU signing ceremony was attended by UP representatives - Professor Ian Findlay (President and Vice Chancellor), Professor Callum Durward (Dean of Dentistry) and A/Professor Anand Marya (Head of Orthodontics); and from SMR University, Lt. Col. A. Ravikumar (Pro-Vice Chancellor) and Dr Vivek Narayan (Dean). We are looking forward to having student and staff exchanges, as well as research, teaching and learning collaborations in the future.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IS MOVING RAPIDLY AHEAD



UP believes that as the world moves forward, skill development and curricula must move forward too – else Cambodia will be left behind.

UP's curriculum development takes the lead and aims to equip learners with knowledge, skills and attitudes to support their practices and further studies. More importantly, this curriculum framework aims to improve the quality of education in response to the changing world. To realize this goals, Cambodia has to promote deeper and more relevant learning to ensure the economic growth and improve its competitive capacity to move into a new industry of national, regional and international market of employment. At university level, curriculum development cannot stand still.

For example, in UP's Faculty of Pharmacy, The curriculum working group (CWG) of the Faculty of Pharmacy was established on the 3rd of February 2021. Its roles and responsibilities is to develop and review pharmacy curriculum. CWG has started its journey via weekly meeting regularly. The members have review core competencies for pharmacist across the globe, core competency framework for new pharmacy graduates in the Kingdom of Cambodia, Cambodian national pharmacy curriculum 2007, course outline, course book, reference book, assessment plan, assessment tool etc. As a result, program learning outcomes (PLOs) for bachelor of pharmacy was reviewed via competencies based approach. A couple of weeks, every course has been evaluated based on the designed checklist.

This is one of tremendous results which we are really proud of. From march, CWG has arranged meetings with lecturers or course coordinators to make changes for each course. This week, we have met with one lecturer and he has given us great inputs surrounding their teaching.

UPOP AND GOOGLE MEET SUCCESSFULLY USED TO TEACH STUDENTS – DESPITE ALL THE CHALLENGES



During the COVID-19 pandemic, all physical education is suspended. In return, online learning has been introduced and integrated. This obligates faculty members to improve their teaching skills for this digital transformation. UP has been working very hard to design many training series for lecturers and students for this dramatic change.

For upcoming new academic year, UP has provided trainings for students and lecturers on the use of UPOP, and Google Meet as online platform for synchronous and asynchronous teaching. Depending on the learning objective, learners can benefit from both synchronous and asynchronous learning to benefit students and their learning.

As a result, all teaching materials in semester II were placed in UPOP to serve students' learning and teachers' teaching. Teachers will also use UPOP as assessment tools plus other exiting tools.

UP RECOGNIZES MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES IN CAMBODIA

Historically, Cambodia is one of the Southeast Asia countries affected by war in Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) followed on by a further 3 decades of civil war. Consequently, many Cambodian people have and continue to experience mental health problems such as Trauma and PTSD. Therefore, learning and understanding about mental health in Cambodia is essential and cannot be ignored. The World Health Organization describes health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” So, when talking about health, this should include mental health.



Mr. Hoer Sethul
Mental health counsellor

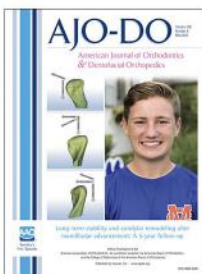
UP, as a leading University in Cambodia, have consistently implemented learning and teaching initiatives that combine physical and mental health together with students learning the foundations of physical and psychological well-being together underpinned by ongoing learning and use of communication skills needed to be a competent health professional that can provide holistic care. In 2017, I joined the University of Puthisastra as a lecturer for Professional Health Counselling and the Foundation Year Program in Professional Health Education Program. I was so excited to be part of this leading academic education university in Cambodia.

With more than 20 years of working as mental health professional with a number of local and international organization (NGOs) in Cambodia, and a Master’s degree in counseling psychology, it was an opportunity to share real world skills within a university environment the next generation of health professionals. From that time, I contributed to the learning of thousands of students on mental well-being and two cohorts of Professional Health Counselling programs underpinned by western standards. In 2019, I am proud to part of launching the first professional health counseling conference in Cambodia with numbers of my UP colleagues and students and supported by UP and Leeds Beckett University in the UK.

Currently, my main role is as a mental health researcher with the Department of Research at UP working on a youth mental health research project using participatory research approaches with young people. I continue to contribute my clinical to support a culture of emotional support for students studying at UP. I am proud to have joined UP and contributed to the modernizations of Cambodia’s education sector.

Hoer Sethul, MA in Counseling Psychology.

DR ADITH VENUGOPAL PUBLISHED IN THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS (AJO-DO)



Title	Type	SJR	H Index	Total Docs. (2019)	Total Docs. (2years)	Total Refs. (2019)	Total Cites (2years)	Citable Docs. (2years)	Cites / Doc. (2years)	Ref. / Doc. (2019)
1 American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics	journal	1.136	113	296	971	6254	1266	570	2.00	21.13
2 European Journal of Orthodontics	journal	1.128	78	86	281	2602	571	259	2.08	30.26
3 Angle Orthodontist	journal	1.054	81	140	402	3054	695	352	1.72	21.81
4 Journal of Adhesive Dentistry	journal	1.046	65	61	193	2221	470	168	2.46	36.41

Dr Adith Venugopal has recently published in the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (AJO-DO) which is the highest ranked orthodontic journal by number of citations according to the Journal Citation Reports®, published by Thomson Reuters, with an H index of 113.

In his article titled “The Quagmire of Collegiality Vs. Competitiveness”, he speaks about the values that uphold our profession. He talks about the human element to patient care being multidimensional; a combination of emotional, functional and sensorial needs. He stresses that ethical decision-making involves not only the doctor’s professional accomplishments, but also cardinal traits such as beneficence, trust and integrity. He strongly suggests that denigrating a colleague, no matter how bad the treatment rendered is, does not do the dentist any favors, and does not help the patient either. He then talks about certain professionals possessing a strong desire to succeed and being entangled in competitiveness and jealousy. He finally concludes by emphasizing that collegiality gives us a sense of effectively leveraging our collective talents in order to elevate our services and ultimately, our profession.

You could access this article titled “The Quagmire of Collegiality Vs. Competitiveness” from the latest issue of the AJO-DO at the following link: [https://www.ajodo.org/article/S0889-5406\(21\)00096-2/fulltext](https://www.ajodo.org/article/S0889-5406(21)00096-2/fulltext)

NURSING CPD TRAINING ON CUSTOMER CARE SERVICE IN HOSPITALS

The Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery at UP is proud to report that it has recently provided Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Training for Cambodian Nurses. The Faculty received permission from the Board of the Cambodian Council of Nurses to open a training course on professional development under the theme: "Customer Care Service In Hospitals."

Nursing professionals now have the opportunity to develop their career and professional standards without having to stop work, which is a great development. We aim to improve the knowledge of nurses and patients' care outcomes nationwide with this new CPD training program. Nursing CPD training and education is hosted online by the Faculty, and is presented by:

- **Mr. Tep Navy RN, MBA, PhD (Hon.),** Chief Operating Officer for Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC), and Senior Lecturer at UP and
- **Mr. Om Sothoeun RN, BSN, MHA.** Deputy Director of the Nursing Department. & Deputy of the IPC Committee at Takeo Provincial Hospital, and Senior Lecturer at UP.

By the end of the CPD training, participants will be able to receive 2 'CPD Points' via end of session testing, aimed at confirming the following outcomes:

1. Improved knowledge of Customer Care services and the benefits.
2. Development of the Therapeutic Nurse-Client relationship.
3. Effective Communication skill improvements.

And some more great news: The Faculty of Nursing will also be providing a second round of CPD training, in respect of Basic EKG Training for Cambodian Nurses! This will be hosted online by UP on 5th June 2021.

We hope to welcome many participants and invite you all to register on this CPD course as quickly as possible!



CONGRATULATION TO PHARMACY ALUMNI FOR HER MASTER THESIS DEFENSE

Congratulation to Ms. Huykhim Ung. Huykhim graduated from Bachelor of Pharmacy in 2018 from Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Puthisastra. Throughout the study, she had several opportunities for international internships or research presentation in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

After graduation, she began a work as a pharmacy assistant and pharmacy officer at University of Puthisastra. After a year, she got a scholarship from Her Royal Highness Princess of Thailand in 2019 for my Master of Science in Health Consumer Protection and Health Management at Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand. Her research interests focused on developed a measurement scale to measure psychological factors of self-medication without antibiotic and assess the validity and reality of pharmacy students.



UP ICT TEAM JOINING THE AWS HACKATHON

PAWS team, composed of UP students (Sovannareach DAROM MSIT Y1, Sokheng NOM MSIT Y1, Bunneng HOAT FY ICT), has joined the Build On Hackathon, and passed to stage 2 !

Their project is a banking app that would incentivize the younger generation to use online payment by encouraging them to be responsible financially. Build On, the first AWS (Amazon Web Services) hackathon in Cambodia, provides students from vocational institutions, polytechnics and universities a journey to learn, build and be rewarded with various opportunities from employment to developing the solution into a business in an equal setting.

During this hackathon, students will:

- **Ideate, develop and present on challenges given by J Trust Royal Bank and RHB Bank**
- **Receive valuable mentorship during prototype phase from AWS Solution Architects**
- **Win attractive cash prizes, and even internship opportunities with our customers**

We wish them good luck for the next stage !



YEAR 3 DENTISTRY STUDENTS STEP-UP TO HELP OTHER STUDENTS

A group of year 3 dental students have formed a club to help and encourage other students in their class (and in year 2), to enhance their learning in order to reach their potential and become their “best self”. This idea was put in their minds when they were in year 2 by one of their lecturers, Dr. Koeun Kalyan. She wanted to reduce the knowledge gap between the outstanding students and the less capable ones, so that all could benefit from the teaching efforts of the lecturers.

The student study club has several “lead students” will are responsible for making connections between the students, the class monitors and the lecturers, so that any information or queries can be transferred in both directions very easily. The lead students also help find resources for students to “self-learn” and organize “peer assisted learning” in small groups.

The lead students also look for opportunities for their classmates to do extra-curricular activities such as short courses, webinars or attending conferences. Among the lead students there are several roles. Some are assistants (who report information the leader and organise meetings for regular discussions), organisers (who create surveys and posters for events and divide students into groups to work on assignments), finance leaders (who collect money to buy anything necessary eg printing lessons), facilitators (who provide lessons and inform students about upcoming quizzes or other events), and storage leaders (who collect and store all the information and resources).

One of the leaders, Tan Bunho said: “from my personal experience, working as a lead student gives me so many benefits such as building confidence, learning to be more empathetic and understanding, as well as learning to manage my time effectively. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved as it can help our classmates and help ourselves in so many ways”.



TESTIMONY FROM AN ALUMNI TO ENCOURAGE UP NURSING STUDENTS ON INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY



My Name is Heng Chhenghour, I'm 21years old. I'm a student of Bachelor of Science in nursing program in the academic year 2017-2021 of university of Puthisastra. I'm successfully passed exit exam at UP on February and I got the Top score in Batch 4 and also a Top 3 on UP's Wall of Fame.

Nowadays I'm working at Sunrise Japan Hospital Phnom Penh as a Procedure Nurse. On 12th May every year at University of Puthisastra is celebrated across the world as International Nurses Day in memory of the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale knows as "the lady with the lamp," she set the vision for Nursing as a profession and transform health care system.

My main inspiration to become a nurse is to care for people in times of their need. I feel that helping patients overcome the burden of different health condition, as well as, support patient emotionally. Nurses are there when the last breath is taken, and nurses are there when the first breath is taken. Although it is more enjoyable to celebrate the birth, it is just as important to comfort in death.

The nurse curriculum at University of Puthisastra is not so much different from another medical universities, but the quality of education, standards, Technical are far superior. UP have provide the education, Behavior, Responses, Emotional, Character, Communication, Teamwork, Technique learn from lecture and professor to improve my skill and develop my education. Especially at UP, there are always exchange study program available to another country every year and I have been in the exchange study at Khon Kaen University at Thailand and I learnt a lot from the exchange program. So, after I'm graduated it is easy for me to apply for a job.

Because University of Puthisastra gave me all my confidence to be a professional nurse, in June 2020 I applied for intern at sunrise japan hospital Phnom Penh. I had the opportunity to enter the Intensive care Unit (ICU), Inpatient Department and Procedure Department. After Internship, I'm interest to apply to officially work at there and nowadays a staff of Procedure Department involved Surgery (Neurosurgery & General surgery), Endoscopy (Gastroscopy & Colonoscopy) and Angiography.

"Being a nurse is not about grades, it's about who we are"

Heng Chhenghour, Bachelor of Science in nursing program in the academic year 2017-2021

UP ICT STUDENTS JOINING THE CS CUP 2021

Many of our ICT students registered for the CS Cup 2021.

Among them: Bunneng HOAT (FY ICT), Yonghay LIM (Y2 ICT), Nalis UN (Y2 ICT), Sovannareach DAROM (MSIT Y1), Sengchhun CHHUM (Alumni), Sengheang SON, Lenghuoy HOUR (FY ICT). We wish good luck to them !

Cambodia CS Cup is a collaboration between Paragon International University, Royal University of Phnom Penh, University of Puthisastra, AUPP and Kirirom Institute of Technology and partners (Ministry of Industry Science Technology and Innovation, KhmerCoders Community, Passerelles Numériques Cambodia and Mango Byte).

This event is an annual competitive programming competition in which participants compete against each other through solving algorithmic problems to advance through up to four rounds of programming challenges.

Schedule:

- May 22, 2021----- Opening Ceremony
- May 24-30, 2021:----- Round 1
- May 31- Jun 6, 2021:----- Round 2
- June 10-13, 2021:----- Round 3
- June 17-20, 2021:----- Round 4

Registration is still open!

University students and high school students are highly encouraged to join and win the prize! Hurry up and register today via this link: <https://sites.google.com/paragoniu.edu.kh/cscup>



UP DENTAL CLINIC OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY

The UP Dental Clinic will be open each day from this week to see emergency patients. Patients must call the receptionist on 012 414 563 / 098 414 563 or contact us via our Facebook page (UP Dental Clinic) or by Telegram number 012 414 563 to make an appointment.

This includes patients undergoing orthodontic treatment who have lost a bracket or wire. Patients will be spaced to allow sufficient time to fully disinfect the clinical area between patients. Special measures are in place to prevent transmission of Covid-19, following MOH guidelines.

