



July 13 through July 20, 2016 - Newsletter 8

THE FINAL WEEK BEFORE HEADING HOME

With only a few days left, the students are beginning to express sorrow about leaving, but they are also looking forward to being back in Hawai'i. Some research projects are completed; whereas, some students are rushing to finish. Of course, time is running out for sight-seeing and shopping, too.

Wrapping up their Research Projects & Giving Seminars on their Results to their Foreign Colleagues	
Thailand	The group will be presenting their results on Tuesday, July 26
Jeff	<i>"Since my main research project is over [completed], I am helping the biostatisticians with other datasets and analysis." "Aside from the data analysis I have started to work on the projects that Dr. Nittaya has assigned me, such as the CBO (Community Based Organization) flyer..." "This is taking a little more time as ... I need to step back from the research and apply a more creative approach in communicating the importance of the community-based organizations that participate in the Princess PrEP project." Ah, the important word "Communication."</i>
Gabby	<i>For most of the week, "I used statistics taught by Dr. Narisara to analyze the results from my SNP assays." We are all interested in learning if differences in the human genome (SNP) are associated with severity of <i>B. pseudomallei</i> infections.</i>
Meno	<i>Completed, final report has been written and submitted to us. Wow! Well done.</i>
Tiffany	<i>"It was a stressful week in the lab with Dr. Som away..." "I worked on using LAMP for the samples I had already screened with PCR. Unfortunately I was having issues in the beginning obtaining false negatives with the positive control." After successful troubleshooting, "I screened some samples but the results all came out positive...even the negative control due to contamination. Unfortunately I will not have enough reagents to continue LAMP assay. I will have to figure out what the focus of my project is." Welcome, Tiff to the real world of research. Not every experiment works, especially when there is a deadline.</i>
India	They will be presenting their results on Monday, July 25
John	<i>"I am attempting to interpret my results in order to decipher the biological implications of HIV co-infections. Unfortunately, things are never as clear cut and I am scrambling like a chicken without a head. But worry not, I have no doubt I will make it in time before I leave India. Hopefully?"</i>
Tiana	<i>"We are wrapping our summer work by giving a presentation next week Monday [7/25] to our fellow lab mates. I am in the process of preparing for that and learning two or three new techniques by the end of this week."</i>
Cameroon	They will be presenting their results on Friday, July 22
Michael	<i>Michael spent the week completing PCR analyses. "On Friday I sent the positive PCR products out for sequencing." During the next two days, he will analyze the results of a large dataset and then obtain the sequencing results on Friday. Alas, on Friday, Michael has to give his final presentation at the Biotechnology Center at 4:00 PM. Time is definitely short! Good luck, Michael.</i>
Ernest	<i>"After 7 weeks of training and research, I am proud to have finally completed my last samples with my remaining DNA strips." "It's amazing how fast time flies when you're busy conducting experiments all day. It truly is a humbling experience, because of the effort given in waiting for experiments, expecting great results, only to stumble upon vague answers that lead to more questions." Welcome Ernest, to the real world of science. He will also present his results to faculty, students and friends at the Biotechnology Center on Friday.</i>

OUT AND ABOUT:



FINAL TRAVEL: "This past weekend, the Thailand group took advantage of the Buddha holiday and took a trip up north to Chiang Mai. A few highlights of our trip consist of visiting a 3D art museum, experiencing the old historical city, eating khantoke (a traditional Chiang Mai dish), walking up Bua Tong waterfalls, exploring the night markets, visiting Doi Suthep temple, and taking a Thai cooking class." Here are pictures of us at Bua Tong waterfalls, and Old City of Chiang Mai eating khantoke."



LEARNING TO COOK: The Thai group also took a cooking class at Thai Secret Organic Garden. "May, the instructor, taught us how to make authentic Thai dishes such as pad thai, papaya salad, mango with sticky rice, and curry. Everything was so delicious!!! What I (Gabby) loved most about her class was that she gauged everything based on taste and technique rather than time. She also made sure that we used fresh ingredients, which we picked by hand in her garden. Despite being an amateur in the kitchen, I am proud to say I successfully completed her class and even received a certificate and a personalized cook book. Can't wait to share these recipes with my family and friends back home!"



SHOPPING:

Ernest: "As time dwindles down, I am constantly reminded to buy things for my family back at home. So we went shopping for gifts!" "It certainly was an experience walking through the compact markets." "As foreigners in the market, we were targets with dollar signs on our foreheads that attracted vendors showcasing their store material." "I needed to get my mom, sisters, and grandma something. So I bought purses and collected a bunch of colorful bracelets. I hope that they'll enjoy it!"



John: "I realize that my time here is about to end, just as I truly got acclimatized to this place. Also the weather is becoming lovelier every single day and it's a shame I will miss out. I've also realized I procrastinated on gifts for the folks back home. Hopefully I can find the right thing for everybody."

Tiffany: In Chiang Mai, "we went to the night bazaar and shopped until we dropped. It was interesting to see all the beautiful crafts that were sold at the market."

Michael: We already know what he is bringing home as gifts. Shea butter soap.



Tiana: "This past week I've been exploring more markets and taking in all of the amazing sceneries before my one week countdown. I've always been very keen to India's women fashion and decided to try for myself. Here is a picture of me wearing a saree." Beautiful Tiana!

Meno, Gabby, Tiff & Jeff: Shopped at the Night Market in Chiang Mai



Over the last eight weeks *Staying Connected* has chronicled the experiences of MHIRT 2016 students. Next week will be our last Newsletter. We look forward to having the students back and joining with them on August 12th as they share their experiences with us during *E Ho'oulu Haumana* Presentation.