



Above: Teaching principles of conservation on site at a mangrove swamp in Ao Nang, Thailand.

Below: Preparing for a coordinated seahorse release with the Thai Ministry of Natural Resources.



International Summer 2009 Thailand & Cambodia

Above: Teaching leadership development to university students in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Below: Hanging out with university students usually revolved around a delicious Khmer meal.



Above: Jam sesh in Khmer and enjoying one of many delectable Khmer lunches with Sambath.

Southern cooking meets Cambodia: Sampling deep-fried insects at a roadside stall in Phnom Penh.

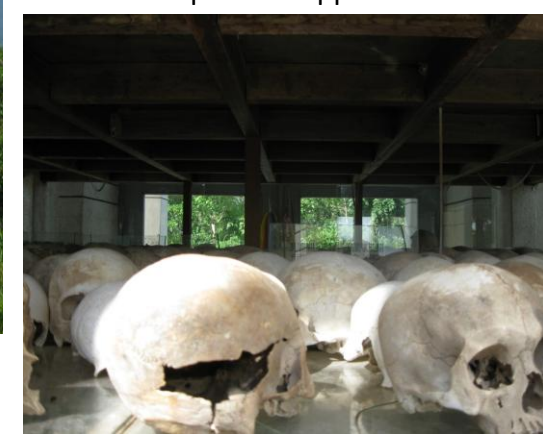
Below and Right: Taking advantage of the shade in the sweltering heat with my students and a road trip to the beach at Kampong Som.



"The Khmer Rouge took my father because they knew he worked in the former Lon Nol regime. They told us he was being sent to a re-education camp but everyone knew he was dead only hours later," recounted a stoic Dr. Ker (pictured on the left along with friend and translator Chhunleang) during my interview with him. During the KR's four-year regime, Dr. Ker would lose a father, two brothers, and suffer unimaginable psychological damage.

Below Left: Skeletons stand as a sobering reminder of the atrocities that took place at the Killing Fields at Choeng-Ek.

Below Right: Barbed wire frames S-21, a former high school that the KR converted into a prison for the torture and execution of political opponents.



Reef Conservation Ao Nang, Thailand



Above: Standing victoriously at the summit and scaling a rock face in Ton Sai.

Our project mission was promoting conservation, a goal toward which we worked by educating locals, conducting regular reef salvage dives, participating in a global conservation network called Reef Watch, cleaning beaches, and maintaining the health of a mangrove forest that a local community donated. Most of our work was concentrated in Krabi province, located on the Malay Peninsula, and delineated by the red circle on the map to the left.

Below: Taking advantage of one of the many cultural opportunities Thailand has to offer by enrolling in a cooking class.



As I sat perched on a stool and crammed into a stall, huddled over a steaming bowl of noodle soup before sunrise, I reflected upon my journey thus far. The heat from steaming bowls rice and noodles, the constant din of merchants and patrons bargaining in Khmer, the eternal thrack of a cleaver against the neck of a squawking chicken, the smell of crickets and cockroaches frying in oil before being choked down by customers, and ever-present smell of Asia's treasured durian fruit all bombarded my senses. Only 12 hours ago, I had arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, a city that truly is an assault on the senses.

I had spent the previous month working on a coral reef conservation project in southern Thailand, doing anything from managing a local mangrove forest to night-diving in shark-infested waters. And the exhilarating part was that the adventure was only beginning. Ahead lay one month in which to implement a cross-cultural leadership training program designed specifically for Cambodian university students.

- Journal Entry, June 6, 2009

Below: Frolicking at the water park outside of Phnom Penh and riding the bamboo train in Battambang.



Leadership Development Phnom Penh, Cambodia

