

Assistant Professor Dr. Warayuth Sriwarakuel

Awarded St. Montfort Award for Illustrious Service

Citation

Asst. Prof. Dr. Warayuth Sriwarakuel has played many important roles at Assumption University. Currently he is the Vice President for Research and Academic Services. But he also plays the roles of a teacher, a researcher, an advisor, a thesis/dissertation examiner, an editor, an IQA assessor, an EQA assessor, a peer reviewer, a project assessor, a guest speaker at many national and international conferences, and a servant leader.

His earlier life has been devoted to service to the church, to education, and to the community. When he was young, he was trained as a Catholic seminarian for ten years (1967-77). Later he worked as a teacher in a secondary school in Sakon Nakhon teaching students English and Ethics for two years. After he received his bachelor's degree, majoring in English from Srinakharinwirot University, Prasarnmit campus, in 1981, he went to teach English to Laotian refugees in Nongkhai Refugees Camp for six months before continuing his studies for a Master's degree.

He received his MA in Philosophy from Chulalongkorn University in 1985. During his master's studies, he also worked for two years as a credit and stock analyst in a company on Silom Road. After he had received his Master's degree, he continued working at Phanat Nikhom Indo-Chinese Refugees Holding Center, Chonburi, for seven years as an ESL teacher, a Cultural Orientation instructor, and a program coordinator. Then he moved to Bangkok and joined Assumption University in June 1992. He finished his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Chulalongkorn University in 1996.

Dr. Warayuth has taught at Assumption University since June 1 1992. He began as a full-time lecturer teaching undergraduate students logic and philosophy. He was then appointed as Dean of the Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion on May 1, 1999. He served as Dean for 16 years (from May 1999 to July 2015). He was also appointed Assistant Professor in October 1999.

As a teacher in Assumption University, Dr. Warayuth has taught different courses to MA and Ph.D. students. The subjects he has taught include process studies, epistemology, metaphysics, hermeneutics, research methodology, history of Western thought, philosophy of science, philosophy of social science, philosophy of religion. Process Studies is his most favorite subject because it requires the researcher to be both "jacks of all trades" and "masters of all." He has also taught professional ethics which is important for undergraduate students. He has always enjoyed teaching and learning from students. It is not exaggerated to say that he was born to be a teacher.

After having joined Assumption University for some time, in 2000, he participated in a Postdoctoral Research Program conducted by the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, Catholic University of America. This organization was created by Prof. George McLean's whose life and thought, has had a deep impact on him up to the present time.

As a guest speaker, Dr. Warayuth has been invited to give special lectures on philosophical and religious thought at various universities and colleges around Thailand. Those educational institutes include Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Mahidol, Kasetsart, Mahachulalongkorn, Mahamakut, Burapha, Ramkhamhaeng, Srinakharinwirot, Silpakorn, Khonkaen, Rambhaibarni Rajabhat, Payap, Bangkok, Rangsit, Krirk, St. Louise's, and Saengtham. Oftentimes he has been invited to be a guest speaker or a panelist abroad. Surprisingly, in Thailand he is recognized as a Catholic scholar, but in abroad he is recognized as a Buddhist scholar. If anything about Buddhist thought, scholars appeal to his expertise.

Dr. Warayuth was the editor-in-chief of the journal *Prajñā Vihāra* (2002-2012) which has been issued every six months to promote justice, peace, harmony, and mutual understanding among peoples in the world. It serves as the first journal of philosophy in Southeast Asia that has been recognized by the Philosopher's Index, the premier philosophy database, issued by the Philosopher's Information Center, a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to serving the global philosophical community. The journal was funded by the Office of Higher Education Commission three years in succession.

He is also asked to serve the scholarly community in the region. As a peer reviewer, Dr. Warayuth has been appointed to read and evaluate papers of those who have applied for academic titles, and for publishing in various academic journals in South East Asia. These journals include Saengtham College Journal, Manusya (Chulalongkorn University), Philosophia (De La Salle University), and Journal of the Philosophy and Religion Society of Thailand.

As an advisor, Dr. Warayuth has supervised both MA and Ph.D. students in writing their theses and dissertations. He has always maintained very rigorous standards for student research and writing. As a thesis/dissertation examiner, Dr. Warayuth serves both students in Assumption University and those in other universities both in Thailand and abroad. His comments and recommendations for students are always warm but also strict and straightforward. He always encourages students to follow Kantian Spirit of Enlightenment: *Sapere aude!* which means "Dare to think for/by yourself."

Asst. Prof. Dr. Warayuth has also served the Office of Higher Education Commission (OHEC) and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) as an IQA and an EQA assessor respectively. He has been an EQA assessor since 2006 and an IQA assessor since 2008. He has assessed both public and private universities and colleges at the school and at the institute levels. What he has learned from other institutes has been shared and applied in his School and other faculties in Assumption University.

As a researcher, Dr. Warayuth believes that conducting research is one of the main missions of university professors. The ability to do research distinguishes a university instructor from a school teacher. Dr. Warayuth has written and edited four books and published more than fifty articles, mostly in English. He is not reluctant to attend or participate in any conference, nationally or internationally, whenever he has a chance in order to learn something new and share it with his colleagues and students. He realizes that no one can give what s/he does not have and that no one can teach what s/he does not know.

Dr. Warayuth has served philosophy and the University in other ways as well. As a project assessor, he evaluated Chulalongkorn University's cluster of projects in 2011-2013. As a servant leader, he served as Vice-President of the Philosophy and Religion Society of Thailand (2001-2004), President of the Asian Association of Christian Philosophers (2004-2006), Regional Coordinator of the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (2004-present), President of the Philosophy and Religion Society of Thailand (2009-2012), Committee Director of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (2009-2014), and Member of the Subcommittee on the Promotion of Religious Affairs and Inter-Religious Relations, the Senate, Kingdom of Thailand (2011-2014).

He has served the University in different working groups and committees for years. Three of his favorite mottos are "To be is to be for others," "Our happiness is to make others happy," and "We are what we do." He always encourages his colleagues to follow what he calls "Jesus Christ's Equation of Satisfaction" or "The Two-Mile Spirit" as Jesus said: "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." This means that our performance should always double other's expectations.

In 1993, he was awarded funding by United Airlines to go to the United States to attend the ninetieth annual meeting organized by the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1998 and 2008, he was given St. Hilaire Award and St. Bernard Award (First Class) respectively by the University. The Fifth Class, Fourth Class, and Third Class of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn were bestowed upon him in 2000, 2006, and 2012 respectively. In 2010, the Association of Private Higher Education Institutions of Thailand awarded him as an excellent academic. He is the second faculty member from Assumption University getting this award from this organization.

Due to his outstanding services and dedication, Assumption University is pleased to award Asst. Prof. Dr. Warayuth Sriwarakuel St. Montfort Award for Illustrious Service on the auspicious date of December 24, 2017.