

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Alumni Highlight 2026



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From Student to Inspiring Educator: Chawarut Choklapsiri

Chawarut Choklapsiri (Tonnam) is one of the outstanding alumni of the International College, KMUTNB, whose journey truly reflects the power of learning in an international environment. From a former student of the International College, she has returned as a full-time lecturer, bringing firsthand experience back to the classroom.

Having walked the same path as her students, she possesses a deep understanding of their perspectives, allowing her to continually refine her teaching and connect with them in meaningful ways.

The strong foundation in business and logistics that she gained during her undergraduate studies at IC not only sharpened her analytical thinking and practical skills through cooperative education and her research thesis, but also paved the way for her to pursue a Master of Science in Business Analytics at the Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University—ranked No. 1 in Business Analytics by *U.S. News* in 2025.

“I’m currently working as a lecturer at IC-KMUTNB. All the undergraduate courses I studied here have played a significant role in preparing me for this position by giving me a strong and comprehensive foundation. As an alumnus, I’ve been through the same journey, which allows me to understand students better and see things from their perspectives, which helps me adapt and improve my teaching. Moreover, this degree also equipped me with the essential groundwork that allowed me to pursue and proudly graduate with my master’s.”

The foundation she built at the International College has continued to guide her well beyond the classroom, shaping the way she approaches real-world challenges and applies theory with confidence.

One example is the weekly supply chain simulation she was assigned during her master’s degree at Tepper.

“Even though the instructions didn’t mention it, I realized from what I learned at IC about the bullwhip effect that over-ordering would only make the system unstable. So, I applied that concept and kept my weekly orders consistent instead of reacting to short-term fluctuations. This approach helped my team rank No. 2 overall. It’s a lesson I still use today, especially when planning inventory and handling demand changes in my family’s gemstone business.”

Beyond technical knowledge, her experiences at IC also shaped the way she works with people. Alongside analytical skills, the international and multicultural environment nurtured a mindset that values openness, respect, and collaboration—an approach that has proven just as essential as professional expertise in her career.



“After graduating, I worked as an education consultant where I communicated with universities worldwide and supported students from very diverse backgrounds. The international environment at IC helped me a lot. It taught me to be open-minded, avoid judgment, and understand that people grow up differently. The thought of ‘why don’t you do or think this way’ never came to me because I became aware that there are many valid ways to approach things. This mindset made my work more effective, smoother, and more collaborative. It also strengthened my passion for creating an inclusive environment, especially for anyone who travels from abroad to study or work with us, so they’ll feel included and supported.”

These experiences naturally led her to reflect on what truly shaped her professional readiness. Beyond individual roles and projects, her time at the International College provided a well-rounded set of skills and perspectives that continue to define how she works and grows in an increasingly global environment.

“First, I was fortunate to have a strong and comprehensive foundation in business and logistics, supported by hands-on experience from cooperative education and my research thesis. Second, an English-based learning environment strengthened my communication skills and helped me work comfortably across different cultures. Third, a broad and versatile curriculum prepared me for many fields in business, giving me more opportunities for a future career.”

With these foundations in place, her message naturally turns toward the next generation. Drawing from her own journey, she encourages students to make the most of their time at IC—not only to build professional skills but to discover themselves, embrace growth, and confidently shape their future.



“IC is a great opportunity to explore different areas of business and discover what you’re capable of, what excites you, and what you want to keep doing long-term before entering the workforce. Enjoy the ride, have fun, and stay mindful of the person you want to become. Once you know what you want, go for it. And remember, you are growing every single day, and you will not get any moment back. So, live with compassion, embrace failure as part of learning, and give yourself the freedom to explore your extracurriculars and the world around you.”

As the International College celebrates its 12th anniversary, Tonnam’s message is both heartfelt and celebratory. Grateful for the life-changing experiences IC has given her, she wishes the college to continue to grow and succeed in shaping future generations of global-minded leaders.

**“Happy 12th Anniversary to IC!
Thank you for the life-changing ride.”**

