



Smile!

A FEW MINUTES before this picture was taken, I had been looking over bamboo tray designs in the bamboo shop housed next to the orphanage. As with any other day in the village, I had come down from my cabin on the hill above the orphanage ready to eat the famous Karen interpretation of the egg omelet. After teaching a few English classes at the local government school, I came home to the bamboo shop to look over new bamboo samples, try out new waxes, or take pictures with my digital camera for a catalog I was compiling.

Suddenly, I heard a host of yelps and screams pass by on the dirt road and 50 children flowed in through the

gates of the orphanage. Seven or eight of the boys came directly for me and, after giving me the proper Thai greeting, jumped on me, wrestled the work and my digital camera from helpless hands. Smile! Smile! The children yelled in Thai, pointing the camera upside down at me. No, No. Like this, I say, turning it right side up for them. They all piled on top of me and one took the picture.

Work time was over; play time had begun.

ANDREW MASTERS graduated from Eastern Illinois University in December 2010. This photo was taken in Thailand during his self-designed education abroad experience.

YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.