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WET BOONKHOOM : THE REASONS FOR CONTINUATION OF OR RETIREMENT FROM THE MONKHOOD OF THE FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS OF MAHACHULALONGKORNRAJAVIDYALAYA UNIVERSITY. THESIS ADVISORS : THAVWATCHAI CHAIJIRACHAYAKUL Ph.D., SUBPHACHAI SUKARAWAN M.S., PUNSA PAUNGTANG Ph.D. 136 p. ISBN 974-633-511-5

The purposes of this study were to find out the reasons why students of religion at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University continue or discontinue monkhood after graduation and to study the relationship between their decision, to continue or to retire from monkhood, according to the variables of age, number of year in monkhood, number of brothers and sisters of the same parents, major subject, grade point average, and level in Pali. The sample subjects for this study were 221 fourth year students of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University class of 1999. The questionnaire, prepared by the researcher, was used for data collection. The statistical tools of percentage, t-test, and chi-square were employed for data analysis.

The researched findings revealed that :

1. The students decisions to continue or to retire from their monkhood significantly depended on age, and number of years in monkhood at the .05 level but did not significantly depended on number of brothers and sisters of the same parents, major subject, grade point average and level in Pali.

2. The overall reasons for students who decided to continue thier monkhood in each area were not significantly different from those that decided to retire from monkhood at the .05 level. However, there were some reasons, in each area, which were significantly different at the .05 level between the continuing and the retiring groups of students.

From the study it is suggested that the career counseling, and career information should be properly and effectively provided.