



Farang Ba

We in UOAA first learned about the exploits of Craig Wilson when we read his amazing story in the Winter 2006 issue of *The Phoenix* magazine. How an “East Coast” middle age international corporate attorney -- living in Thailand, battling ulcerative colitis and colon cancer, living with an ileostomy and in search of an exercise program -- had entered the world of amateur boxing. Craig’s often successful determination in the ring, facing opponents half his age, earned him the respect of the Thai boxing fans, which they showed by giving him the affectionate nickname of “Farang Ba” or “Crazy White Foreigner”.

Craig’s refusal to allow his medical life challenges and eventual ileostomy to be an excuse to stop engaging in a sport he had grown to love serves as an inspiration to his fellow ostomates, and a stigma-busting message to the world in general ... ostomates can accomplish anything they are committed to do!

Craig’s story was highlighted by his appearance at UOAA’s first National Conference in 2007 in Chicago and in the DVD that captured the 2003 Banff “Rockie Award” for best sports documentary, a film that captures his zeal to overcome all obstacles.

The following is a link to the film’s website: <http://www.crazywhiteforeigner.com/> and to the film’s current page on **Netflix**:
http://movies.netflix.com/WiMovie/Crazy_White_Foreigner/70067556?trkid=2361637#height932

UOAA considers this film to be of great importance in our announced campaign to combat the stigma and general mis-information surrounding ostomy surgery. There is graphic footage in the film that leaves no doubt about what an ostomy is and then goes on to illustrate how little it impedes an ostomate’s quality of life.

The producer of the film *Farang Ba (Crazy White Foreigner)* has asked for UOAA’s assistance in a matter regarding **Netflix**. They have advised that for the last few years *Farang Ba* has been enjoying a level of exposure and availability on **Netflix** as a DVD. However, **Netflix** is steadily and quickly moving towards phasing out DVDs and replacing them with digital streaming of their titles. In order for films to qualify for that phase change they need to have a fairly strong level of DVD requests. Because of the nature of the film featuring Craig (an ostomate who continues to participate in amateur boxing at a very high level) we have been asked to take all necessary steps to raise awareness of this film’s availability on **Netflix**. In response, we urge our members who subscribe to **Netflix** to add the film into their queue in order to drive demand towards digital download of the film.

UOAA considers this to be an important film, on many levels, and its continued presence on **Netflix** as they shift their business model can ensure that the film will continue to raise awareness about the misconceptions about limitations of people who have an ostomy. In addition it will allow the film to continue to inspire all that watch it -- Craig is now over fifty and continues to actively participate in boxing (he just won his latest match last week)! We would really appreciate all of your help on this.