

Southeast Asia Studies JHU-SAIS ALUMNI Newsletter



Professor Panitan Wattanayagorn Starr Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor



During the Spring semester of 2006, Professor Panitan Wattanayagorn joined us as the 2006 Starr Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor. He is an Associate Professor of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science Department at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. During the government of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai (1997-2001), Professor Panitan was the head of a Special Working Group on Defense in the Prime Minister's office. He is an expert on security and defense issues in Thailand, and is currently an advisor to the Royal Thai Army, and the Southern Border Provinces Peace-Building Command. He also served as advisor to the Strategic Institute at the National Security Center from 1999-2000 and was a member of the House of Representatives' Military Affairs Subcommittee staff from 1998-2000. Between 1994 -1996, Dr. Panitan was director of Defense Studies Program at the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS). He is the author of several articles and chapters on foreign, security, and defense policies of Thailand and Southeast Asian countries. Dr. Panitan holds a bachelor degree in political science and masters degrees in public administration and international relations. In 1993 he received a Ph.D. specializing in comparative defense policy from Northern Illinois University. During the spring semester Professor Panitan taught a course on Contemporary Thailand and organized a major conference on Thailand. (See page 2) .

Timor –Leste Conference

On April 24, the department organized the first ever major conference on East Timor in Washington, entitled: "Progress in the Newest Country in the World: Timor-Leste". Professor Bridget Welsh played the central role in organizing the event. The conference focused on the progress in establishing democratic governance in Timor-Leste since the dramatic events in 1999-2001. The conference also allowed participants to discuss the critical economic and political issues facing this young nation, and the barriers to sustainable development. The event included remarks by several important Timor-Leste leaders including the Minister of Health Rui Maria de Araujo, Ambassador to the US Jose Luis Guterres, Aderito de Jesus Soares from the National University of East Timor, and Milena Pires from UNIFEM/Dili.

SPRING/
SUMMER
2006

MAJOR EVENTS

Book Launch– Feb 2nd

Indonesia Luncheon

Series Feb/March

Thailand Conference

April 11-12

East Timor Conference

April 24th



Timor-Leste Minister of Health Rui Maria de Araujo, and Ambassador to the United States Jose Luis Guterres responding to questions at the conference.

“Thailand: The Way Forward”

On April 11-12, the Southeast Asia Studies program hosted a conference entitled “Thailand: The Way Forward.” The conference was especially timely in light of the recent political turmoil in Thailand. Visiting Professor Panitan Wattanayagorn organized the conference, with the help of Carolyn Townsley, Derek Keswakaroon (first year student) and a number of Southeast Asia Studies students and faculty. The highlight of the event was a speech by former Prime Minister H.E. Anand Panyarachun, who recently served as head of the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) for the conflict in the southern provinces.



Former Prime Minister of Thailand Anand Panyarachun, arriving at the conference.

Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates

As another academic year comes to a close, we would like to congratulate our students in Southeast Asia Studies. The class of 2006 was a dynamic and diverse group. Our MA and MIPP students came from Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Singapore, Philippines, and Malaysia, as well as the U.S. Many of our graduates are moving on to exciting positions in the US and in Asia. For example, Lily will be working for UNICEF (VERIFY) in Jakarta. Tracey Tuyen will be working for Population Services International in Washington. Caroline Nuffort will be working with the Federal Reserve in New York, while Ted Rebolz will be a consultant with PC Consult, Inc. in Washington, DC. Tom Parks is returning to the Asia Foundation in San Francisco. Kate Schwarz is a senior analyst with DFI International. Karyn Wang will be a research associate with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.



A few of our recent graduates, including Nicole Convery (far left), Caroline Nuffort (2nd row on left), Bobo Nge (1st row center), Ted Rebolz (2nd row center), Tom Parks (2nd row on right), and Elisa Athonvarangkul (1st row on right).

VIETNAM and CAMBODIA

Professor Fred Brown, now a Fellow with the Foreign Policy Institute, is continuing efforts to improve relationships between the US and Vietnam. He organized a discussion session with **Mme. Ton Nu Ninh**, Vice-Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Vietnam National Assembly and **Hon. Le Van Bang**, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (continued pg 3)

Spring Semester Events

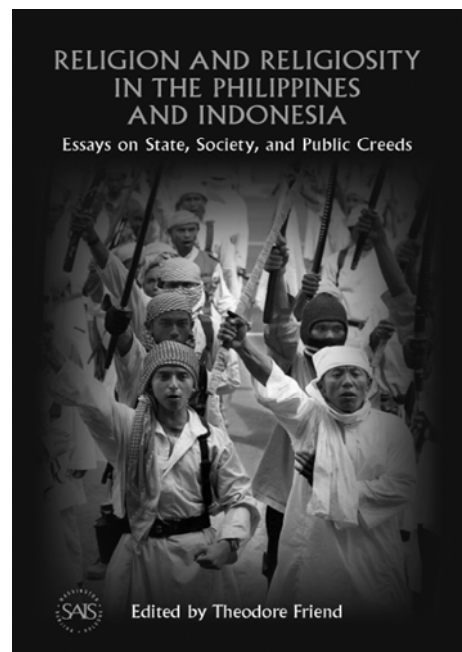
On January 30th, prominent Malaysian economist **Dr. K.S. Jomo** gave a presentation entitled “Challenges to Development in Southeast Asia”, which was co-sponsored with the Asia Society. We started our Indonesian Luncheon Series Feb. 1st with **Robin Bush** discussing “Islam as An Agent of Change In Indonesia.” **Dr. Nita Thacker** Senior Economist at IMF discussed the Indonesian economy on Feb 15th and **Dr. Dewi Fortuna Anwar** from the Habibie Center in Jakarta spoke about Indonesia’s Foreign Policy on Feb. 20th. In March **Dr. Blair King** of NDI discussed “Politics and Indonesia’s Future” and the series concluded with a presentation by **Dr. Jusuf Wanandi** of CSIS, “Indonesia Update: Turning the Corner?” On February 27th **Dr. Jose Ramos Horta**, Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, spoke on the role of the United Nations and the United States in Timor-Leste.

“Religion and Religiosity in the Philippines and Indonesia” Book Launch: February 2, 2006

The Southeast Asia Studies program and the Asia Society held a reception to meet the authors of this new book, which is a compilation of essays from a conference SAIS sponsored in 2004.

Three of the contributors were on hand for a panel discussion and questions and answer period: **Robert Hefner**, Professor of Anthropology at the Institute on Religion and World Affairs; **David Joel Steinberg**, President of Long Island University; and **Theodore Friend**, Senior Fellow with the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

[Books may be purchased](mailto:sea-sais@jhu.edu) from sea-sais@jhu.edu or the Brookings Institution Press, www.brookings.edu/press for \$19.95.



Fred Brown Fellowship Fund



Professor Brown and alumnus, Stephen Berlinguette

Thanks to all who have supported the **Frederick Z. Brown Fellowship** established last May. We hope to reach a target of \$50,000 in order to set up an annual endowment for future students in the program. The fellowship was established to honor Professor Brown’s untiring efforts to build the program from 1991 through 2005 and will go directly to support future Southeast Asia Studies students. [Contributions are encouraged.](#) Checks should be written to JHU-SAIS, with the Frederick Z. Brown Fellowship highlighted on the check, and sent directly to the Southeast Asia Studies office.

Vietnam and Cambodia continued from pg 2

Prof. Brown also organized a breakfast discussion with **Nguyen Anh Tuan**, Executive Director and CEO, Vietnam Software and Media Company. A lively discussion was held concerning the influence of the media and the internet on Vietnamese policy and politics. The program sponsored luncheons featuring **Craig Etcheson**, Visiting Fellow, SAIS, FPI and **Kevin Olbrysh**, Cambodia Desk Officer at the State Department on the “Trials and Tribulations” facing Cambodia, and **Dr. Philippe Peycam**, Center for Khmer Studies, Siem Reap, Cambodia, on “Reconciling Social Sciences Scholarship with Civil Society Building in Cambodia.” Professor Brown will teach a new course called the Politics of Indochina, featuring Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, during the spring semester of 2007.

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have recently changed your job, snail - mail address or email address, please notify us.

It is as easy as clicking on this link: sea-sais@jhu.edu

SURVEY

What should the Southeast Asia Studies Alumni Newsletter highlight???

We need your opinion!!

Please rank the following from 1 to 5 (1 = most important; 5 = least important)

_____ News about current students

_____ News about faculty and staff activities

_____ Information about events sponsored by Southeast Asia Studies program
(conferences & meetings)

_____ News about Southeast Asia studies alumni

_____ Calendar of upcoming Southeast Asia Studies events

Other suggestions:

ALUMNI - WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

We appreciate the responses from all of you who have gotten in touch with us to update your contact information, and let us know what you are doing, and where. We hope to get a more complete list of Southeast Asian Studies alums. **We therefore kindly ask you all to send us the following information:**

Name:

Email address:

Year of graduation:

Language when at SAIS:

Occupation (after graduation and now):

Addresses: Work:

Home:

Phone: Work:

Home:

Additional Information you wish to share:

Please send your information by email to sea-sais@jhu.edu, fax: 202-66-7711 or to JHU-SAIS, Southeast Asia Studies,

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