



Southeast Asia Studies Newsletter

SPRING/SUMMER 2009



Southeast Asia Studies students after the graduation ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall (left to right: Pongsiri Vorapongse, Sumi Shane, Ai Ghee Ong)

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

IN THIS ISSUE

- Commencement
- Boren Fellowships
- Thai Fulbright Scholar
- Indonesia Trip
- Program Coordinator
- Spring 2009 Events
- SAIS Thai Club News
- Southeast Asia Studies at a Crossroads

Congratulations to the Southeast Asia Studies Class of 2009!

Southeast Asia Studies graduated 19 students at the 2009 SAIS Commencement on May 21. Ban Ki-moon, 8th secretary-general of the United Nations, gave the keynote address on "Global Leadership in a Time of Crisis."

Parents, friends, faculty and staff joined together on May 21 to honor the Southeast Asia Studies class of 2009 at the ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall. The graduates included 16 M.A. students and three M.I.P.P. students.

Among the graduates were the first three Southeast Asia Studies Prem Fellows, Pavis Devahasadin, Brian Jungwiwattanaporn and Danny Marks. The Prem fellowships for promising Thai students are awarded from an endowment named after former Thai Prime Minister, General Prem Tinsulanonda. Two other graduating students, Alysso Oakley and MIPP student Riaz Saeu, an Indonesian Foreign Service Officer, received Freeman Foundation fellowships while at SAIS, 10 students

received Freeman Foundation fellowships, and one student received a Thai government fellowship. As in the past, generous donors formed the strong backbone of Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS.

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon urged the graduates to "be a part of something larger than yourself" and "to take risks. Without risks, there is no success." Perhaps the Secretary-General was thinking of Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS

when he told the class of 2009: "Live lives of adventure. Engage. Think of how you want to invest your energy and passion and help us change the world for the better, and aid the many helpless people in the world. And then, when you sit one day in the future, watching your own children graduate, you will be able to look them in the eye and say: "I did everything I could to make a difference in this world."



Southeast Asia Studies students at the SAIS reception after the commencement ceremony.



Southeast Asia Studies students Boren Fellowship recipients. (left to right: Jennifer Frias, Dominic Nguyen, Danny Marks, Cambria Hamburg)

Donate to Southeast Asia Studies

To donate to the Southeast Asia Studies Program, please make a check out to: "Johns Hopkins University", annotate "Southeast Asia Studies" in the memo line, and mail to:

Southeast Asia Studies Program
Suite 623
1619 Massachusetts Ave.
NW
Washington, DC 20036

Or contact, Bill Wise at
wwise2@jhu.edu

Four Southeast Asia Students Win Boren Fellowships

Southeast Asia Studies graduates claimed four of the six Boren Fellowships awarded to SAIS students in 2009.

The prestigious Boren Fellowships provide up to \$30,000 to U.S. graduate students to add an additional international and language dimension to their graduate education through specialization in area study, language study, or increased language proficiency. Boren Fellowships are funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), which focuses on geographic areas, languages, and fields of study deemed critical to U.S. national security.

Southeast Asia Studies Boren Fellows will pursue research projects across the region:

Jennifer Frias will study the conflict in the southern Philippines and Tagalog in Manila and Mindanao;

Danny Marks will research climate change and continue to learn Thai in Bangkok;

Dominic Nguyen will study foreign policy and advanced Vietnamese language in Hanoi.

Cambria Hamburg won a Boren Fellowship to study in Laos, but accepted a Presidential Management Fellowship at the Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

Southeast Asia Studies Welcomes Thai Fulbright



Southeast Asia Studies is pleased to welcome Thai diplomat, Natapanu Nopakun, as the first Fulbright ASEAN Visiting Scholar during summer 2009.

Mr. Natapanu is beginning his fifteenth year as a Thai foreign service officer. His most recent assignment is speechwriter for the Thai Prime Minister. He previously served in the Department of American and Pacific Affairs and the Department of ASEAN Affairs in the Foreign Ministry. No stranger to Washington, Mr. Natapanu was posted to the Thai Royal Embassy from 2002 to 2005 as First Secretary for Political Affairs. Prior to Washington, he served as a develop-

ment cooperation officer in the Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He is a graduate of De La Salle University and holds an M.A. in International Relations from Boston University and a Certificate in International Business Management from Georgetown University. Mr. Natapanu comes from a respected Thai diplomatic family. His father, the late Ronarong Nopakun, was Thai ambassador to Nepal, Israel, and Switzerland.

Mr. Natapanu's research project at SAIS is entitled "Developing ASEAN-US Defense Relations: Possibilities and Prospects for the Select Few."

Southeast Asia Studies graduates claimed four of the six Boren Fellowships awarded to SAIS students in 2009.

“Business and Politics of Indonesia” Course Trip

During intercession in January of 2009, Prof. Karl Jackson and Adjunct Professor James Castle (of CastleAsia) led a group of ten students from the “Business and Politics in Indonesia” course (Fall 2008) on a

trip to Jakarta, Indonesia. In Jakarta they met with officials and business leaders in two sectors, consumer goods and oil/gas. The oil and gas group flew to Sumatra to tour Chevron’s oil production facilities while the

consumer goods group did field work in Bogor and Jogjakarta. On returning to SAIS the entire class of 20 students held a half-day conference analyzing the investment climate of Indonesia.



Program Coordinator Profile

The bright smile greeting students and visitors to Southeast Asia Studies belongs to Shelley Su, Program Coordinator for Southeast Asia Studies.

Shelley joined the program in April 2008 after interning at Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. She has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley where she was a course facilitator and teaching assistant for the Asian Pacific American Theme House. Originally from Southern California, she also interned at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Taipei, Taiwan.

As Program Coordinator, Shelley not only supports the administrative needs of the Southeast Asia Studies faculty, but also arranges the many events sponsored by the program. Her responsibilities include the critical task of choosing the menu for the

weekly Wednesday Lunches. Most important, Shelley serves as a vital communications link with students in the Southeast Asia Studies program. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, tennis, cooking, and karaoke.

Shelley Su,
Southeast Asia Studies
Program Coordinator



Spring 2009 Courses

Southeast Asia Studies Courses

Politics of Indochina (Professor Frederick Z. Brown)

International Relations of Southeast Asia (Professor Karl D. Jackson)

Domestic Politics of Southeast Asia (Professor Karl D. Jackson)

Development Issues in Southeast Asia (Professor Bridget Welsh))

Asia Regional Courses Taught by SEA Studies Professors

Democracy and Human Rights in Asia (Professor Bridget Welsh)

Current Asian Security Issues (Professor William M. Wise)

Other Courses Taught by Southeast Asia Studies Professors

Exclusion and Empowerment - Gender and Politics (Professor Bridget Welsh)

Spring 2009 Wednesday Lunches

"Southeast Asia Studies Spring Kick-off"
January 21

"Surviving Oral Exams"
January 28
Prof. Karl D. Jackson
Director, Southeast Asia Studies, SAIS

"Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World"
February 4
Mathew Burrows
U.S. National Intelligence Council

"Perspectives on Regional Political and Security Dynamics in Southeast Asia"
February 11
James Clad
Professor, Near East-South Asia Center for Security Studies, National Defense University and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Southeast Asia

"Human Rights and Southeast Asia"
February 18
Sophie Richardson
Asia Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch

"The Impact of the Global Recession on Southeast Asia"
February 25
Atticus Weller
Deputy Director, South and Southeast Asia
U.S. Department of the Treasury

U.S.-Vietnam Security Relations
March 25
Dr. Lewis Stern
Fellow, National Defense University

"Working on Southeast Asia in the Public and Private Sectors"
April 1
Holly H. Morrow
International Advisor, Asia-Pacific, Exxon-Mobil Corp., and
Former Director for Southeast Asia, U.S. National Security Council

"Thailand Update: Big Picture Issues"
April 6
Catharin Dalpino
Visiting Associate Professor of Asian Studies
Georgetown University
(SAIS Thai Club)

"Building the Khmer Rouge Tribunal"
April 8
Dr. Gregory H. Stanton
James Farmer Professor of Human Rights
Mary Washington University

"Fiery Dragons: Banks, Moneylenders, and Microfinance in Burma"
April 22
Dr. Sean Turnell
Macquarie University
Sydney, Australia

"Conflict Prevention, Transformation and De-escalation in the Southern Philippines"
May 20
Prof. Octavio Dinampo
Mindanao State University
Sulu, Philippines

Other SEA Spring Events

"Tough Times, Hard Choices: Security, Democracy and Regionalism in Southeast Asia"
March 30

Panel Discussion:

Dr. Donald K. Emmerson, Director, Southeast Asia Forum, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University

Dr. Ellen L. Frost, visiting fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics; and

Dr. Michael J. Green, Associate Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

"Rebalancing Asia's Growth"
April 13

Lecture:

Dr. Jong-Wha Lee

Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

(Co-sponsored with the Asian Development Bank and the Asia Society Washington Center)

Book Launch – Vietnam: The History of an Unwinnable War, 1945–1975
April 28

Panel Discussion (chaired by Fred Brown):

John Prados, Author and Senior Fellow, National Security Archive, George Washington University

Dale Andrade, Senior Historian, U.S. Army Center of Military History

Bernard Kalb, Former Network television journalist

“Chef Brock Kuhlman gave a hands-on cooking demonstration of Isaan cuisine at a local test kitchen.”

MAKING A GIFT

To make a gift to the Southeast Asia Studies Program, please make a check out to: “Johns Hopkins University”, annotate “Southeast Asia Studies” in the memo line, and mail to:

Southeast Asia Studies Program
Suite 623
1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036

Or contact, Bill Wise at wwise2@jhu.edu

SAIS Thai Club News

Last year was a busy time for the SAIS Thai Club.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, SAIS has an active Thai Club. Membership is open to all SAIS students with an interest in Thailand and Thai history, culture and contemporary life. During the last academic year, Thai Club members organized a wide range of activities and drew broad participation from the SAIS community.

Thai Club hosted a successful school-wide happy hour celebrating *Loy Kratong* in November, followed by a social get-together to explain the fall semester's activities and get to know one another.

The club screened two films during the year: *Last Life in the Universe* and *Love of Siam*. The club served a Thai dinner before each film and students participated in an informal discussion of the film's theme after each screening.

Several speakers were featured at club events. Catharin Dalpino, Visiting Associ-

ate Professor of Asian Studies at Georgetown University, discussed recent political developments in Bangkok. Author Boun-sang Khamkeo shared his memoirs of arrest and detainment in a Laotian prison camp. He touched on the development of Communist parties in both Laos and Thailand in 1960s and 1970s. Head of Fulbright Thailand, Pornthip Kanjananiyot, briefed club members on his organization's activities and Thai Fulbright Scholar Sakol Suethanapornkul briefed students on inclusive education.

Finally, Chef Brock Kuhlman gave a hands-on cooking demonstration of Isaan cuisine at a local test kitchen. Students sampled ingredients prominent in the food of the Northeast, discussed the political and historical developments which shaped both the human geography and cuisine of the region, and actively participated in cooking five dishes.

Josh Johnson served as Thai Club president during academic year 2008-09. Professor Bill Wise is the Thai Club Faculty Advisor

Southeast Asia Studies at a Crossroads

A former Chairman of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisors once remarked, “If something can't go on forever, it won't.” The global imbalances in which the U.S. and Western Europe did most of the consuming and almost none of the saving while Asia did most of the saving but very little of the consuming couldn't go on forever. Now the U.S. savings rate is at 6% while Asia exports have plummeted.

Closer to home, the Southeast Asia program at its inception received generous support from the Freeman and Starr foundations, both of which derived their funds from the original A.I.G. fortune. But this foundation funding has declined precipitously.

For this reason, the program is now in search of alternative funds to provide fellowships for future generations of Southeast Asia specialists. During the fall semester I will be writing to each of you to ask for your personal help, as well as for any contacts you may have acquired since leaving SAIS. The Southeast Asia program is simply too important to be stopped by the worst downturn since World War II. With the help of each and every one of you, I feel sure we can continue to move forward with confidence.

Karl D. Jackson

Southeast Asia Studies Program Faculty and Staff

Karl D. Jackson, Director of Southeast Asia Studies
William M. Wise, Associate Director of Southeast Asia Studies
Frederick Z. Brown, Professorial Lecturer in Southeast Asia Studies
Shelley Su, Program Coordinator of Southeast Asia Studies