

SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Program

Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2005

New Associate Director **William M. Wise**



We would like to introduce our new Associate Director of the Southeast Asia Program, **William M. Wise**. Professor Wise's career includes nearly 40 years of experience in government, business and academia, with a focus on national security affairs. Most recently, he was president of The Sorrento Group, an international consulting firm, and adjunct professor in the Practice of International Affairs at The George Washington University. Professor Wise's government service included five years as the deputy national security advisor to the Vice-President of the United States. Prior to his White House service, he was chief of policy at the U.S. Pacific Command and served as deputy director for Policy Planning, East Asia and Pacific Region, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. From 1967 to 1983 he held various positions in the U.S. intelligence community. He served more than 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a colonel. He has been adviser to three special government commissions and was a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 1999. A native of Hingham, Massachusetts, he received his bachelor's degree in political science from Amherst College and a master's degree in American Studies from the University of Hawaii.

At SAIS, Professor Wise will teach a course on Asian Security issues, organize seminars and workshops on Southeast Asia, manage the Southeast Asia Studies internship program, and counsel students on academic and career matters. He will also conduct research on Asian security as a fellow at the SAIS Foreign Policy Institute.

The United States Indonesian Society recently published a monograph by **Professor Bill Wise** entitled "Indonesia's War on Terror".

New Program Coordinator **Carolyn Townsley**

We would also like to introduce the new Program Coordinator for the department, **Mrs. Carolyn Townsley**. Prior to joining SAIS, Carolyn was a mathematics teacher in Fairfax County, Virginia public schools. In this capacity, she spent the last seven years working in the International Baccalaureate program. Carolyn is familiar with Southeast Asia. She has lived abroad for 16 years with three of those years in Bangkok, where she was a mathematics instructor at the International School of Bangkok. She has traveled in over 55 countries and remains fascinated by the people and cultures of the world. She worked as a budget analyst for the Department of Defense in Europe, as well as a teacher in the Department of Defense Schools in Germany. She received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Ohio University and her master's degree in education from the University of Southern California. When not working at SAIS, she hopes to be on the golf course, traveling, or enjoying her two grandchildren.



Faculty Notes

Professor Karl Jackson has been consulting at the World Bank since May working with his colleague Paul Wolfowitz. One key area of focus has been aid in Aceh. **Professor Fred Brown** is now a Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute and this fall will be a featured lecturer for a tour of the Mekong sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. **Professor Bridget Welsh** is completing her book manuscripts on contemporary Malaysian politics and violence in Indonesia, in between teaching and policy workshops. This year she has published four articles on regional issues, primarily on Malaysia and regional transnational issues.

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Fall 2005

Welcome to New Southeast Asia Students

As August brought the pre-term students to SAIS, the Southeast Asia Studies Program, now at 43 students, welcomed new students to our family. A luncheon was held on August 3rd for the new class of Southeast Asia Studies Students. This year, we have 16 new MA and MIPP students joining us, from Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, and from all across the US. On October 22 and 23, the second year students arranged another Southeast Asia Retreat to Annapolis, Maryland, to welcome the new students and re-ignite SEA studies camaraderie.



Michael Hogge, Nurul Izzah Ibrahim, Ye Gyaw Mra, Desiree Hwang

Highlights of Recent Events Summer 2005

In July, the program held a luncheon with a Vietnamese delegation from the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee. **Professor Fred Brown**, who is now a Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute, organized the event. During the event, the delegation met with Professors Jackson, Wise and Brown and other selected guests from the government, to discuss recent trends in US Foreign Policy in Asia.

Also in July, **Anwar Ibrahim**, Distinguished Visiting Scholar at SAIS and Former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, spoke at an Asia Society/SAIS event entitled "Engaging Myanmar: ASEAN's Next Chairman." The program focused on how ASEAN and the international community should handle the Myanmar leadership in order to promote political liberalization and the restoration of democracy.

In July, **Professor Bridget Welsh** hosted a dinner with the SAIS alumni in Kuala Lumpur.

Highlights of Recent Events Fall 2005

In September, **Professor Welsh** organized a **US-Malaysia Bilateral colloquium** entitled "**Promoting Understanding and Cooperation**", in cooperation with the Asia Foundation and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. The new program coordinator, **Carolyn Townsley**, and MA Candidate **Karyn Wang**, provided critical administrative support. The conference brought together senior government officials and non-governmental leaders from Malaysia and the US and allowed influential actors from both countries to discuss critical issues facing the bilateral relationship. Keynote luncheon speakers were Dato' Seri Panglima **Syed Hamid Albar**, Foreign Minister of Malaysia and Congressman **Gregory Meeks (D-NY)**. Key topics included expanding economic ties, security cooperation, and addressing the challenges of cross-cultural differences.

In September, **Phil Robertson**, a dedicated SAIS alumnus and organizer of the active SAIS Siam alumni group in Bangkok, made a presentation at SAIS on human trafficking in Southeast Asia. During his talk, entitled "**Probing the Hot Spots: The Fight Against Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong-Sub-region**," Phil described the scope of the problem in the region, and the challenges of developing programs to counter this growing crisis. Phil spent more than two years as the Program Manager for the UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Office on Human Trafficking, and is currently working as an independent consultant and advocate on this issue in Thailand.



SAIS Alumni in KL with Professor Welsh

SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Program

Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2005

Highlights of Recent Events *Fall 2005 (continued)*

Also in September, **Professor Fred Brown** hosted a special event with the **Vietnam Literature Project**. The highly regarded poet and Vietnamese dissident, **Nguyen Chi Thien**, spoke about his experience and read some of his work. Mr. Nguyen spent nearly 30 years in jail as an anti-communist in Hanoi from 1960-1990. He was awarded the Lillian Hellman Dashiell Hammett award by Human Rights Watch while he was still in prison in Viet Nam.

In October, SAIS/SEA hosted an event on the recovery efforts after the Asian Tsunami from December 26, 2004. The speakers included **Joel Charny**, Vice President for Policy at Refugees International, and **Dayan Jayatilleka**, Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo and a visiting Professor of South Asia Studies at SAIS. The discussion focused on the political challenges of the recovery effort in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Also in October, **Datuk Zaid Ibrahim**, a Malaysian MP from Kelantan, who is also the Chair of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Caucus for Democracy in Burma, spoke at a SAIS/SEA organized event. He spoke about the challenges of democratization in Southeast Asia, and Myanmar in particular.

On October 19, **Ambassador Gary Quinlan**, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Australian Embassy in Washington DC, made a presentation entitled, "*Australia's Role in Asia: Politics, Development and Security*" highlighting the challenges for Australian foreign policy in Southeast Asia.

Upcoming Events *2005-2006*

On November 1, SAIS will collaborate with the East-West Center to present a public forum on the conflict in Southern Thailand, entitled "*The Rise of Malay-Muslim Militancy in Southern Thailand.*" We have an exciting group of speakers coming from Thailand to speak, including **Surin Pitsuwan**, an MP from Thailand and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Donald Patham**, Foreign Desk Editor of *The Nation* newspaper in Thailand, and **Thitinan Pongsudhirak**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University and a SAIS alumnus.

Other speakers featured this fall in our speaking series include **Matthew Daley**, President of US-ASEAN Business Council, (November 2nd), **Anwar Ibrahim** (November 17th) **Joshua Kurlatzick** of *The New Republic* (November 16th), **Marvin Ott** of the National Defense University (November 30th) and **Eric John** of the Department State (date to be confirmed).

Next semester events include conferences on Thailand organized by C.V. Starr visiting professor Panitan Wattanayagorn, Singapore and Timor L'Este (both organized by Professor Welsh) as well as our weekly speaking series. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have suggestions for speakers in the Washington DC area.

Southeast Asia Studies Program *Scholarships*



Professor Brown and alumnus, Stephen Berlinguette

We would like to thank alumni for supporting the **Frederick Z. Brown Fellowship** established last May. To date, we have raised close to \$15,000. We are hoping to reach a target of \$50,000 in order to set up an annual endowment for future students in the program. The scholarship 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 should be written to SAIS, with the Frederick Z. Brown Fellowship highlighted on the check, and can be sent directly to the Program.

SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Program Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2005

Southeast Asia Studies Program Scholarships

Fundraising efforts continue to raise support for the **U Tin Tun Scholarship Fund** established by Professor Welsh in 2002 to raise funds for students from Burma/Myanmar to attend SAIS. The scholarship focuses on members of civil society from the country who will return to Burma/Myanmar after completing their studies and compliments our support for civilian government officials to attend SAIS as MIPP students.

Recruitment Efforts

Collectively Southeast Asia Studies has decided to ratchet up our recruitment efforts within the United States and in Southeast Asia to increase applicants to Southeast Asia Studies. Professor Brown made a trip to Thailand in October/November to promote the program and Professors Jackson and Welsh will be making trips to the region in December to promote our program. We are asking alumni for support. If you are interested in assisting our efforts, please contact us.

Improving Communication with Alumni



Anwar Ibrahim and Michael Bak at SAIS

We would like to publish a Southeast Asia Alumni Directory, similar to the Asian Studies Program Directory we gave you when you were here. It would contain contact information and help you keep in touch with other alums living near you. We would hope to update this directory annually. Please complete the following information and send it to us via email to: sea-sais@jhu.edu or via regular mail.

Southeast Asia Studies Alumni Information

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Year of graduation: _____

Language when at SAIS: _____

Current Occupation (after graduation and now):

Contact Address:

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Answer the following questions:

Would you like to be notified when the semi-annual newsletter is posted on the department's web site?
Yes/No

Would you like to receive information about events in Washington DC? Yes/No

Would you agree to the department making your contact information available (by request) to other Southeast Asia alums that might want to contact you?
Yes/No

Would you agree to being contacted by current Southeast Asia studies students who want to benefit from your experience? Yes/No

Would you be interested in receiving an alumni directory and allowing your name to be included?
Yes/No

Please feel free to add any additional information you would like to share with your former classmates (married? children? new pets? new job?...)

For more information, please visit our website:
www.sais-jhu/depts/asia/southeastasia/index.htm

We welcome remarks, comments and questions to sea-sais@jhu.edu