

SAIS Southeast Asia program Semi-annual Update

Spring 2003 (nr 2)

Dear SEA Alumni and friends,

We appreciate all the positive comments on the first newsletter, and hope that you will enjoy reading this second update as well. We maintain our objective to let you know what is currently going on in Southeast Asian studies at SAIS, and to develop the network of alumni, as well as current students.

We have decided that the **"WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"**- list will be included only once a year. This will make it more likely to have been updated and therefore more interesting to read. For the same reason we ask you to respond to our plea for updated information on page three. Please also indicate how you want us to treat your information.

We very much welcome news, comments and pictures from you to include in the newsletter to make it even more fun to read. Keep in touch. We'd like to hear from you!

Ulrika Thunstrom and Edi Sian

EVENTS SPRING 2003

This semester featured three special events. Visiting Professor, Dr. Greg Fealy and the Southeast Asia Studies department organized a conference on **Political Islam in Southeast Asia on March 26th**. On March 27th Professor Bridget Welsh organized a Malaysia Forum: **"The Mahathir Years."** On May 14th, SAIS hosted **Honorable Ton Nu Thi Ninh**, Vice-Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in a luncheon that was widely attended. Professor Fred Brown organized four **Indochina Roundtable Discussions** over the course of the semester.

For more information on the realized and upcoming events please contact the Southeast Asia department at: www.sais-jhu/depts/asia/southeastasia_index.htm

'Brown Bag' lectures SPRING 2003:

- "US-Singapore Relations and Regional Security Issues", US Ambassador to Singapore Frank Levin
- "Philippine Democracy: Promise, Pitfalls and Prospects", Congressman Nereus Acosta, Republic of the Philippines*
- "Geopolitics in Burma", Bertil Lintner (Far Eastern Economic Review)*

- "Developments in East Asian Monetary Cooperation", Fred Neumann (SAIS)
- "Democracy Hamstrung in Singapore", Dr. Chee Soon Juan, Sec-Gen, Singapore Democratic Party*
- "Political Islam in India", Dr. Rollie Lal, Rand Corporation
- "State-Civil Society Relations in Singapore", Suzaina Kadir (National University of Singapore)*
- Dr. K.S. Nathan (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies) & Dr. Kwa Chunong Guan (Nanyang Technological University)
- Lecture: "Political and Economic Developments in Indonesia", Dr. Emil Salim (joint SEA studies and USINDO event)

* Part of the OSI Governance and Human Rights Series.

PLANNED EVENTS FALL 2003

This fall the Southeast Asia Studies Program will tentatively host two conferences. In late September Prof. Welsh will organize a conference entitled **"Southeast Asia on Capital Hill"**. Prof. Brown will host a **conference on Vietnam** in cooperation with the Institute of International Relations, Hanoi, Vietnam, in October.

IN THE NEWS

The Southeast Asian department was happy to host visiting professor Dr. Greg Fealy and Dr. Ross McLeod from the Australian National University during the spring semester.



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Skating... well, almost....

'NON-GRADED' ACTIVITIES...

The Southeast Asia department has organized a film series during the semester featuring film such as "The 317th Platoon" (Indochina), "The Killing Fields" (Cambodia), "Iron Lady" (Thailand), "I Not Stupid" (Singapore), "Scent of Green Papaya" (Vietnam), "Battle of Bataan" (Philippines).

The department celebrated the Lunar New Years according to tradition, then ended the evening with ice-skating on the DC Mall.

In the midst of the very cold Washingtonian winter, Tabbard Inn was the venue for the opportunity for alums, faculty and current students in DC to meet and have a few drinks.

The Southeast Asian studies social calendar also included a party in connection with Wungram Shishak's departure, a pique-nique at the end of the semester, and a barbeque at Professor Welsh's apartment.

*Enjoying the food –
it is Southeast Asia after all!*

SEA GRADUATE PROFILE

Stephanie Komsa, American, SAIS 2000

Stephanie is currently working for the Small Enterprise Assistance Funds (SEAF), which manages 12 private equity SME funds for emerging markets. As Grant Manager and Environmental manager, Stephanie helps to bring in grant funding to support SEAF and its portfolio companies and oversees environmental management of investments. At SAIS she studied Bahasa Indonesia, and did her summer internship at the Jakarta Initiative Task Force, a part of the Indonesian Ministry of Finance that assists with corporate debt restructuring, established in the wake of the financial crisis. Stephanie's long-term professional objective is to work in the field of financial and economic development in Southeast Asia, hopefully with SEAF as they expand into the region.

Stephanie emphasizes the support and encouragement from the professors, as well as the intensity of the relatively small program, as particular strengths of SAIS Southeast Asia program. She stays in touch with the department. She is establishing a SEAF fund for Vietnam which, once up and running, may offer an internship opportunity for a student from the program.



Today there are two groups of former SAIS graduates in Southeast Asia, Thailand (contact: Phil Robertson at floppy@loxinfo.co.th) and Indonesia (contact: Andrew Zlot at Andrew.Zlot@ubsw.com). These groups hold regular gatherings. If you would like to get in contact with former SAIS grads who are in your region, please let us know (via email at seasia@mail.jhuwash.jhu.edu and we will try to hook you up. Also, please forward the addresses of other alumni/friends who may be interested in the update.

We welcome remarks, comments and questions to
seastudentrep@sais-jhu.edu or seasia@mail.jhuwash.jhu.edu

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Professional Careers of Southeast Asia Studies Graduates

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. For next year's "*WHERE ARE THEY NOW?*" we hope to get a more complete list of Southeast Asian studies alums. **We therefore kindly ask you to send us the following information:**

5

1. Name:
2. Email address:
3. Year of graduation:
4. Language when at SAIS:
5. Occupation (after graduation and now):
6. Location:
7. Would you like to be notified when the semi-annual newsletter is posted on the department's web site: Yes/No
8. Would you like to receive information about events in Washington DC: Yes/No
9. 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
10. Would you agree to being contacted by current Southeast Asia studies students who want to benefit from your experience: Yes/No
11. Please feel free to add any additional information you would like to share with us and your former class mates (married? children? new pets?...)

Please send your information either by email to the address indicated below, or to SAIS Southeast Asian Studies, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 606, Washington, DC 20036, USA. Thank you!