



# SOUTHEAST ASIA STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 2011

## FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Dear Friends, Colleagues, Alumni,

This long overdue newsletter indicates just how busy we've been in Southeast Asia Studies! With 30 M.A.s, three Ph.D.s, three MIPPs, and six visiting professors/scholars, we've had an active year of events. Along with a full complement of academic courses, we held two major international conferences, 24 Wednesday Lunch Seminars, six monthly meetings of the Southeast Asia Forum, five meetings of the Philippines Roundtable, and two Indochina Roundtables in the past nine months. In February, we inaugurated our monthly, invitation-only Burma Study Group. In April, we hosted the Prime Minister of Timor Leste. In May, we graduated 15 M.A.s and two Ph.D.s. And, Prof. Jackson took a moment for a well-earned sabbatical in the Spring semester.

All of this is to say that Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS is alive and thriving!



With the new academic year 2011-12 beginning, it's a great time for New Year's resolutions. While we will work harder to stay in touch with our community and supporters, please help us sustain the best Southeast Asia Studies Program in existence. Send us alumni news, encourage potential students, and share your ideas about building our program! And, most importantly, help us provide fellowship assistance to the next generation of SAIS Southeast Asianists! *We need your financial support to keep this program competitive and affordable!*

Best wishes,

Bill Wise

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UNIVERSITY

## 2011 SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Graduates

We proudly announce the SAIS Southeast Asia Studies graduates of 2011: **Kami Dozier, Cheng-Chwee Kuik** (Ph.D. with distinctions), **Allison Fajans-Turner, Paula Guevara, Liana Hinch, Duk Hwan Kim, Mee Jung Kim, James Lerch, Jennie Lin, Christopher Liu, Ellen Psychas** (Ph.D. with distinctions), **Conor Riggs, Awidya Santikajaya, James Wilson and Wallis Yu**.

We are pleased to recognize the high academic accomplishments of our talented graduates, including **Paula Guevara** and **Wallis Yu** whose records merit special mention.

**Paula Guevara's** strong grasp of economics and regional issues comprised an exceptional performance in the Southeast Asia Studies Capstone Oral Exam on May 3, 2011. This exam tests our students' abilities to organize knowledge acquired in coursework in international economics and Southeast Asia Studies. The exam requires students to articulate principles, to explain practices, and to demonstrate applications.

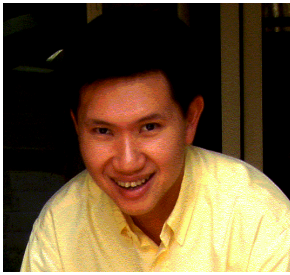
**Wallis Yu** is the 2011 recipient of the Paul D. Wolfowitz Fellowship Prize in Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS. The Wolfowitz Fellowship Prize was established through the generosity of **Bruce D. Schulman**, a former student in Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS. The award recognizes Wallis's achievement of earning the highest grade point average (for the first three semesters) of the Southeast Asia Studies graduating class.



Prof. Karl Jackson and Bill Wise greeting students and their families at the pre-commencement party held at their homes.

We wish Paula and Wallis and all the graduating students the best of luck in their future endeavors.

## FACULTY PROFILE: THITINAN PONGSUDHIRAK



Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak

**Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak** joined the Southeast Asia Studies Program as associate visiting professor for the Spring term. Dr. Thitinan is associate professor of international political economy at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Political Science, and director of the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS Thailand).

Dr. Thitinan has co-edited and authored three books, including *Thailand's Trade Policy Strategy and Capacity* (with Razeen Sally), and a range of articles and book chapters on Thai politics, political economy, foreign policy, and ASEAN security and economic cooperation. His articles have appeared in *Journal of Democracy*, *Journal of International Security Affairs*, *Global Asia*, *Southeast Asian Affairs*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, and *East Asian Forum Quarterly*. He is frequently quoted and his op-eds appear regularly in international and local media, including a column in *The Bangkok Post*. He has previously worked for *The BBC World Service*, *The Economist Intelligence Unit* (EIU), *In-*

*dependent Economic Analysis* (IDEA), and held consulting projects relating to Thailand's macro-economy and politics. He serves on the editorial boards of *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *South East Asia Research*, *Asian Politics & Policy*, and *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*.

Dr. Thitinan is a SAIS '92 alumnus and earned a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics where his work on the political economy of the 1997 Thai economic crisis was awarded the UK's Lord Bryce Prize for Best Dissertation in Comparative and International Politics. He is the only Asian recipient of this award.

During the Spring 2011 term, Dr. Thitinan taught "Thailand's Crisis and Transformation," and participated in numerous events at SAIS and other institutions, including leading a discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations on "Elections, Revolution, or Stalemate: Whither Thailand in 2010?"; serving as a workshop discussant at the "ASEAN 2030: Growing Together for Shared Prosperity," co-sponsored by the Asian Development Bank Institute and American University; and speaking on ASEAN and the Thai-Cambodian border dispute at the East-West Center, Washington, DC.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Professor Karl Jackson** was on sabbatical leave during the Spring term as he works on a research project on the underpinnings of democracy in Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. This study replicates the one SAIS carried out in Seoul, Jakarta, Manila, and Bangkok in 2000. As many may remember, the earlier results pointed to the fragile nature of democracy, not on the basis of current events and personalities, but because of the relative weakness of civil society and the absence of political participation in between national elections. This project will determine whether these factors have changed with the passage of a decade. For research, Prof. Jackson traveled to Beijing, Bangkok, Myanmar and Jakarta, delivering papers, including a paper on "Northeast Asia and Afghanistan" and developing bi-lateral MIPP and executive education programs.



Prof. Reilly shown with the Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa and the Director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy, Dr. E. Ketut Erawan.

**Senior Visiting Professor Benjamin Reilly** participated in a series of events during the Spring term. In January, he led a roundtable on "Challenges to Democracy in Divided Societies," sponsored by the Center on International and Comparative Law at Duke University. In February, he travelled to the U.K. to take part in the interna-

tional collaborative project "Power After Peace: The Political Economy of Post-conflict Statebuilding," sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The meeting addressed policy implications of this topic and was held at Wilton Park, the British-Government's foreign policy conference centre. In March, he

served as a panel chair and convener on "Democracies and Development in East Asia" at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting. In April, he participated in "Party Regulation and the Management of Ethnic Conflict," a workshop on "Peace through Institutions: What Works Under Which Conditions?" at GIGA, Hamburg. In May, he presented a paper on "The Political Economy of Post-conflict Elections," at the University of Maryland.

**Visiting Scholar Frederick Brown** presented numerous papers this spring, including one in February on "The Parameters of Vietnam-United States Rapprochement" at the Asian-American Forum; a paper in April on "The Rise of Vietnam in a Multi-Polar World" at the *New Security Environment: Implications for American Security in the Asia-Pacific Region Symposium*, National Defense University; and papers in April on the "Implications of Vietnam-United States Rapprochement" at the 26th Annual Mansfield Conference, *Vietnam and Regional Architecture in Southeast Asia*, and the University of Montana.

**Professorial Lecturer Marvin Ott** (SAIS MA '65) participated as a guest speaker at numerous events this Spring 2011, including a briefing on strategic issues in Southeast Asia to senior corporate officers of Procter & Gamble, and a presentation on Malaysian security policy—both held at the Woodrow Wilson Center in January; a lecture on China's strategy regarding Southeast Asia at the World Policy Institute in March; lectures on China and Southeast Asia and U.S. security strategy in Southeast Asia at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Dept. of State in March and May; and a presentation on foreign policy, security, and defense careers in government at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore in February and April.

## THE SOUTHEAST ASIA STUDIES WEDNESDAY LUNCH SEMINAR

As the centerpiece of Southeast Asia Studies' enrichment and community-building effort—the Wednesday Lunch Seminar concluded its fall series with **Kelley Currie**, senior fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, on “Mirage or Reality? Asia’s Emerging Human Rights and Democracy Architecture” and opened its spring series with presentations by Professorial Lecturer **Marvin C. Ott** on “Southeast Asia: A Strategic Overview” and Associate Visiting Professor **Thitinan Pongsudhirak** on “Thailand’s Crisis and Transformation: International Implications.”

Kelley Currie speaking at the SEA Wednesday Lunch Seminar with Senior Visiting Professor Benjamin Reilly serving as discussant.



Understand Sino-Myanmar Relations”; **Nguyen Manh Hung**, professor of Government and International Relations, George Mason University, on “Implications of the Vietnamese Communist Party’s 11th Congress”; **Frederick Z. Brown** and **Catharin E. Dalpino**, visiting scholars, Southeast Asia Studies, SAIS, on “Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos: Prospects for American Policy”; **Robin Bush**, country representative for Indonesia, The Asia Foundation, on “Indonesia’s 13 Years of Democracy: Achievements and Challenges”; **Krislert Samphantharak**, associate professor of economics, School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego, on “A Micro-Foundation of Economic Development of Southeast Asian Economies”; and **Julie Chernov Hwang**, assistant professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Goucher College, on “Normalization of Islamist parties and the Mainstreaming of Political Islam in Indonesia.”



Catharin E. Dalpino

Other guest speakers included **John Riady**, executive director and editor-at-large, The Jakarta Globe, on “Indonesia and the 21st Century Globalism”; **Li Chenyang**, director, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Yunnan University, on “How to

## OTHER ACADEMIC SERIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA STUDIES

*The Philippines Roundtable*, the principal forum in Washington, D.C. for the discussion of Philippines issues and U.S.-Philippines relations, is made possible by the steadfast support of individuals. The Roundtable resumed this spring with **Maria A. Ressa**, author-in-residence, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore, on “Media for Social Change.”



Maria A. Ressa

*Southeast Asia Forum at SAIS* is a small group of Washington-area Southeast Asia specialists who come together monthly to discuss policy and research concerns and provide information and analysis helpful in policymaking. The Forum is made possible through a grant from **The Asia Foundation**. In the spring, the Forum hosted **Thitinan Pongsudhirak**, associate visiting professor, SAIS on “U.S.-Thai Relations”; **Ta Minh Tuan**, visiting fellow, Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies, Brookings Institution, and **Frederick Z. Brown**, visiting scholar, SAIS on “The Future of Vietnam-U.S. Relations in a Multi-Polar World”; and **Benjamin Reilly**, senior visiting professor, SAIS, and **Brian Joseph**, senior director, Asia and Global Programs, National Endowment for Democracy, on “Democratic Dilemmas in Southeast Asia.”

*The SAIS Indochina Roundtable*, organized by **Frederick Z. Brown**, SAIS visiting scholar in Southeast Asia Studies, brings together specialists on Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, to discuss policy issues. The Roundtable hosted **Vannarith Chheang**, visiting fellow, East-West Center, and executive director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation & Peace on U.S.-Cambodian relations and **Carlyle A. Thayer**, University of New South Wales and the Australian Defence Force Academy, on a discussion of the 11th VCP Congress, South China Sea, and other regional events.

*The SAIS Burma Study Group* is newly organized by **William M. Wise**, acting director, Southeast Asia Studies, and **David I. Steinberg**, distinguished professor of Asian studies, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. The purpose of the Group is to discuss at the expert level current developments in Burma/Myanmar and the state of U.S.-Burma/Myanmar relations; and to develop policy recommendations for the U.S. and other states and international organizations in managing relations with Burma/Myanmar. Those who have been in-country or nearby speak briefly about their experiences and observations. In April, **David Steinberg** led a discussion on ethnic minorities, and in May, **Yun Sun**, senior program officer on China and Hong Kong, National democratic Institute for International Affairs, led a discussion on China-Burma relations.

## SPRING 2011 CONFERENCE

Myanmar and the Two Koreas:  
Dangers and Opportunities

April 11, 2011



This international conference was co-sponsored by the Southeast Asia Studies Program and the U.S. Korea Institute at SAIS, and Georgetown University. The conference illuminated important relationships between North and South Korea and Myanmar, analyzed regional implications of such relationships, and sought to inform U.S. policy. Panel discussions included: Politics and Economics in Myanmar under a New Administration; Myanmar-South Korean Economic and Trade Relations; Strategic Interests in Myanmar: China, India and ASEAN; Security Cooperation between Myanmar and North Korea; and What It All Means—Implications of North and South Korean Relations with Myanmar.

This conference was organized by

David I. Steinberg, Distinguished Professor of Asian Studies,  
School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University  
William M. Wise, Acting Director, Southeast Asia Studies Program, SAIS  
and Jae H. Ku, Director, U.S.-Korea Institute, SAIS

and made possible through the major support of

**Pacific Century Institute**

*With additional funding from Georgetown University,  
and the Southeast Asia Studies Program and the U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS*



On February 24 H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, spoke in Kenney Auditorium on “Goodbye Conflict, Welcome Development: The Timor-Leste Experience.”

This event was made possible through the generous support of



The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of  
Timor-Leste, Washington D.C.

## INTERSESSION LANGUAGE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS

The Southeast Asia Studies 2010-11 Language Study Fellowships provided limited support to M.A. students for intensive language study in the region during the January 2011 intersession. The funding is intended for students concentrating in Southeast Asia Studies to prepare for the SAIS language proficiency examinations in Vietnamese, Thai, or Bahasa Indonesia. Recipients of the 2010-11 fellowship were **Kathleen Bissonnette, Samuel Christophersen, Allison Fajans-Turner, Jia Han, Scott Inouye, Darin McAnelly, Suraj Mungara, Charlotte Putney, Conor Riggs, Alexandra Stuart, Amy Weiner, and James Wilson** (Bahasa Indonesia); **Craig Blackburn, Ran Hu, Bao-chiun Jing, and Wallis Yu** (Thai); and **Christopher Liu** (Vietnamese).



## YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to apply your gift to a specific fund, please let us know.

If you have no preference, be assured we will use it to the best advantage.

### Graduate Student Fellowships

### Course Trip Fund

### Tran Thi Quynh Hoa Fellowship Fund

### Program of your choice

To make a gift to the Southeast Asia Studies Program, checks should be made payable to:  
*Johns Hopkins University, Southeast Asia Studies* and mailed to:

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Suite 623  
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Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20036

Please contact  
William M. Wise  
for more information  
about giving.  
202-587-3221  
wwise2@jhu.edu

**THANK YOU!**

## M.A. STUDENT PROFILE

### ALLISON FAJANS-TURNER

Allison Fajans-Turner is a second-year master's student pursuing dual concentrations in Southeast Asia Studies and Conflict Management.

While at SAIS, Allison has explored violent instability in the SEA region with particular focus on separatist movements in Southern Thailand, Aceh, PNG, and Mindanao, and disputes over housing, land, and property rights which aggravate these and other conflicts and plague many of the region's post-conflict societies. These studies have culminated in a SAIS-sponsored research trip to Mindanao, from which she has just returned.

Prior to coming to SAIS, Allison graduated with a BA in international development from Brown University in 2007 and engaged in politics on the U.S. home front as an organizer for Barack Obama's U.S. presidential campaign. Post-election day, Allison rekindled her love of travel and worked for a legal advocacy NGO on housing rights and evictions in Cambodia.

Allison built on these work experiences with SAIS internships at The Asia Foundation's Governance and Conflict Management Division in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Office of Reconstruction and Stabilization at the U.S. Department of Commerce. After graduation, she will continue to pursue her passion for foreign policy and her commitment to SEA through involvement with International Conflict Management NGOs that mediate conflict in the SEA region.

## PH. D. STUDENT NEWS

On January 18, 2011 Ms. Giovanna Dore defended her dissertation prospectus entitled "The Puzzle of Democratic Support in Times of Economic Crises—An Investigation of the Impact of Economic Crises on Democratization Processes in Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand." Her doctoral research is based on data collected in 2000 and 2011 by Prof. Karl Jackson's SAIS Asian Democracy Study.

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

### SAISers in SIAM

SAISers in Siam organized events in honor of **Professor Karl Jackson** during his travels in Bangkok in the Spring semester. In March they all gathered together over dinner at the lovely home of **Bob and Pichaya "Noi" Fitts** (class '04) in Bangkok. In April Prof. Jackson was welcomed again at an Easter Happy Hour at Molly Malone's near Silom.

On May 27, SAISers in Siam gathered together at the Roadhouse Barbecue to bid farewell to numerous SAIS alumni—**George Kent, Bee Prinat Apirat, Lawrence Petroni, Natalia Ospina Petroni, and JP Schutte**—to the whims of the diplomatic rotation.



Southeast Asia Studies alumni among SAISers in Siam at a dinner get-together in Bangkok on May 27, 2011.

### ALUMNI EVENTS in the U.S.

In March, **Professor Karl Jackson** delivered a talk on regional integration in Southeast Asia at the SAIS alumni club in Boston.

On April 6, **Associate Visiting Professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak** (class '92) participated in a breakfast discussion with alumni, speaking on "Entrenched Incumbencies Under Stress: Thailand's Crisis."

On April 25, **Hans Vriens**, principal partner, Vriens & Partners Pte Ltd. and SAIS graduate, spoke with Asia studies students on "Career and Internship Opportunities in Southeast Asia and Beyond."

*Alumni, please send us more news!*