Dear EES alumni:

We are pleased to share with you this fourth edition of our annual letter to alumni of the SAIS European and Eurasian Studies Program (EES). We are pleased to report that interest in the wider European region continues to grow. Admissions numbers show that EES is now tied with Middle East Studies and Latin American Studies as the largest regional studies program at SAIS. We are preparing to welcome over 70 new and returning students to Bologna and Washington, DC in the fall.

Our second class of "EESers" has been out in the real world for a few months, beginning their post-SAIS careers with organizations such as the U.S. Foreign Service, the European Parliament, Allen & Overy Law Practice in Brussels, JP Morgan government relations in London, the Policy Institute at the International School of Economics in Tbilisi, and Goldman Sachs in Singapore.

An overwhelming majority of EES concentrators are also wrapping up summer internships in one of the 55 positions secured by the program across 15 different cities. Thanks to our alumni network, this year we were able to add opportunities at the Central Bank of Luxembourg, Ganes Strategy Consulting in Bucharest, Macro Advisory Partners in London, and with the Prime Minister’s Office of the Government of Serbia. Other new employers include the German Marshall Fund in Berlin and the Conference Board in Brussels. If you are able to provide an internship or refer us to a potential opportunity, this is one of the most valuable and long-lasting ways to contribute to a student’s experience at SAIS.

In the classroom, EES continues to offer new courses to respond to the changing policy landscape and interests of our students:

- Professor Nicholas Wheeler joined our adjunct faculty during the fall semester to teach "The EU and its institutions", the first time this material has been offered at our Washington, DC campus.

- In the spring semester, we welcomed back long-time SAIS colleague, Professor Stephen Szabo, to team-teach the German half of "Contemporary French and German Politics", together with new EES addition, Francophile Professor Steven Kramer.

- At SAIS Europe, I revived my course on "International Political Economy", an area of study which will become a new degree concentration in 2015-2016. This is important for EES concentrators because SAIS has just introduced the possibility for students to earn a minor, which means we will be able to recognize the strong political economy component in our EES program.
Looking ahead to the coming year, EES will continue to use video-conferencing technology to connect our students and faculty across the Atlantic - both through my course on "European Financial Markets" and through a new "Transatlantic Research Seminar". The seminar is a joint venture with Assistant Professor of International Political Economy, Matthias Matthijs (B'03,'02, Ph.D. '08), that will examine many of the forces operating in advanced industrial democracies both inside and out. Top scholars from U.S. and European universities will give papers as part of a series of public lectures. The course will culminate in the publication of a special issue of Government & Opposition, an academic journal published by Cambridge University Press. The working title for the special issue is "Dysfunctional Democracy".

Students this year will also have the chance to travel to Turkey on a study trip led by EES Adjunct Professor and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution Omer Taspinar (B'94, '95, Ph.D. '02). EES is the grateful recipient of funding from the Starr Foundation's Understanding Asia program, the same organization that made possible our 2009 trip to Turkey and 2014 travels to China. The theme of the trip is "The Kurdish question and the future of Turkish democracy" and will engage EES and Middle East Studies students in Bologna and Washington, DC.

EES bids farewell with great appreciation to our Program Coordinator Lindsey Love who has begun a new job at Butler University in Indiana. We are pleased to welcome on board Cristina Benitez as our Washington, DC-based Academic Program Manager. Cristina comes to EES from the Energy, Resources and Environment Program where she served as an academic advisor and coordinator. Cristina will work closely with EES Associate Director Kathryn Knowles (B'01, '02). Kathryn has taken on an additional role as the Director of Public Affairs at SAIS Europe.

In closing, I invite you to join me in recognizing and congratulating Professor David P. Calleo as he transitions from full- to part-time at SAIS. Professor Calleo has had a profound influence on all of us in the EES community. Professor Calleo will continue to teach two courses this year as he completes a forthcoming book which aims to answer the question "Is Europe in Decline?" A short article celebrating his 45-year SAIS career may be found in the recent addition of the SAIS magazine. A longer celebration of Professor Calleo's life and work can be found in the volume edited by Professor John L. Harper (B'76, '77, Ph.D. '81) entitled "A Resolute Faith in the Power of Reasonable Ideas".

Please take a moment to connect with us via the SAIS Europe Linkedin group and via the new EES social media pages on Twitter and Instagram (@SAIS_EES). I also invite you to read and comment on my weekly note published on my website and to connect with me personally via LinkedIn or Twitter (@Erik_Jones_SAIS). I am always pleased to hear from alumni and thank you for your continued interest and engagement with EES.

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