Dear Alumni, Friends, and Colleagues,

2015 was an exciting year for Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS! The highlight of the fall semester was our festive 20th anniversary dinner. What an evening! See page 3 for details. Students joined our fall courses in impressive numbers and, if their evaluations are a meaningful measure, appreciated what we offered. Our weekly Southeast Asia Studies Wednesday Lunch Seminars were very well attended, as were meetings of our public policy outreach groups focused on Burma and the Philippines and our student-centered Indonesia Corner @ SAIS and Thai Club. These activities provided intellectual and policy sustenance, accompanied of course by excellent Southeast Asia food. And speaking of cuisine, the Thai Club maintained its unbroken winning streak as best food at the SAIS International Dinner!

As pleased as we were with 2015, we must acknowledge that 2016 will be a year of challenges. First, we face a very competitive admissions environment this spring. We must redouble our efforts to attract the very best students to Southeast Asia Studies with a diverse curriculum and ample financial aid.

Second, the administration has warned us to expect a significant reduction in the fall in the General Funds allocation that supports our day-to-day operations, in-country language training during the January inter-session, summer internships, and Wednesday Lunch Seminars.

In response to these and other challenges, we are launching Southeast Asia 2020 – a self-assessment initiative – to provide a vehicle for alumni, faculty, and students to have a voice in the future of Southeast Asia Studies. See page 4 for details.

Otherwise, the spring semester will be a busy one. We have a full set of courses, including our heavily subscribed Myanmar/

In February we will have our first Southeast Asia Studies Giving Week (February 1–7). We hope alumni and friends will use this opportunity to support Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS. Our ability to provide financial assistance to our students and to sustain our many activities depends on the generosity of alumni and friends. This is really important!

So, this will be a pivotal year for Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS. With the continued strong support of our alumni and friends, 2016 will also be a great year for our students and our program!

With thanks and best wishes,

Karl Jackson  Bill Wise  Jacqueline Ganem

Bangkok, Summer 2015: SAISers in Siam

Pengiran Husaini Pengiran Alauddin, M.I.P.P.
Supanat Chan-unm, M.A.
Leah Cobelli, M.A.
Kevin Cottrell, M.A.
Conor Cronin, M.A.*
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Elizabeth Gaglia, M.A.
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Gian Gozum, M.A.

Burmese: Challenges of Transition. Our first 2016 Wednesday Lunch speaker on February 3 will be Singapore Ambassador Ashok Mirpuri. Subsequent February speakers will discuss the Indonesian fires and haze problem, the Preah Vihear temple conflict, US-Malaysia relations and the Thai political situation. Later in the semester we will follow up our successful Myanmar Votes 2015 collaboration with Carnegie Endowment (see page 2) with Philippines Votes 2016, a series of public seminars on the May 9 Philippines presidential election.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

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Alin Horj, M.A.
Martin House, M.A.
Hanna Jung, M.A.
Phillip Kerber, M.I.P.P.
Aye Mya Mya Khaing, M.I.P.P.
Pechini Lam, M.A.
Bartholomew Thanhauser, M.A.
Jacob Thomases, M.I.P.P.
Stephanie Jane Wilson, M.I.P.P.
John Ziegler, M.A.

* M.A. with high merit based on an exceptional performance on the Southeast Asia Studies Capstone Oral Exam.
**FALL 2015 HIGHLIGHTS**

**Wednesday Lunch Seminars.** Mely Caballero-Anthony, associate professor, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), spoke on non-traditional security challenges and the ASEAN political-security community; Kathy Santillo, Singapore-based regional managing director of the US-ASEAN Business Council, discussed public and private sector relationships in Southeast Asia; and former SAIS professor Bridget Welsh, senior research associate at the Center for East Asia Democratic Studies, National Taiwan University, analyzed PAP’s 2015 electoral victory in Singapore.

**SAIS Burma Study Group.** Yun Sun (SAIS Ph.D. candidate), senior associate in the East Asia Program at the Stimson Center, offered an observer’s report on the November 8, 2015 general elections in Myanmar where she served as a Carter Center election monitor; and Thomas Parks (SAIS ’06), governance and fragility specialist at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Embassy Bangkok, analyzed Burma’s political transition and implications for the peace process and governance reforms. With major support from Chevron Corporation.

**Indonesia Corner@SAIS.** Meredith Miller (SAIS ’99, center right), vice president, Albright Stonebridge Group, assessed Indonesian President Joko Widodo’s first visit to Washington. Reductions to climate change and deforestation, and increases to foreign business investment were discussed. With major support from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia.

**SAIS Philippines Roundtable.** Steven Rood, country representative for the Philippines and Pacific Islands and regional advisor for local governance at The Asia Foundation, discussed the Philippines in 2016; Ryan MacFarlane, coordinator, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, U.S. Department of State, outlined U.S. priorities and goals at APEC 2015 (co-sponsor, U.S.-Philippines Society); and Gloria Steele, senior deputy assistant administrator, reviewed USAID operations in the Philippines (co-sponsor, U.S.-Philippines Society).

**Myanmar Votes 2015.** Southeast Asia Studies co-sponsored with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace seven monthly public seminars on aspects of the 2015 Myanmar (Burma) elections. The series kicked-off on April 28 with a talk by Thant Myint U (SAIS ’90), followed on May 1 by “Conversation with Myanmar Lower House Speaker Thura Shwe Mann.” Subsequent seminars featured Southeast Asia Studies Visiting Scholar David Steinberg, panelist on “Why Myanmar’s Election Matters,” Senior Associate Director Bill Wise, on a panel discussing “Myanmar’s Military and the 2015 Elections,” and “A Conversation with Assistant Secretary of State Danny Russel.” The final seminar on December 14 addressed “U.S. Policy toward Post-Election Myanmar.” Southeast Asia Studies adjunct professor Vikram Nehru organized the seminar series for the Carnegie Endowment.

**SAIS Thai Club.** In addition to movie nights, the Thai Club hosted Desmond Walton, retired colonel, U.S. Army, former U.S. defense attaché in Bangkok, who discussed U.S.-Thailand relations. With major support from the Royal Thai Embassy.
More than 70 alumni, students, faculty and friends gathered at the Tabard Inn near Dupont Circle on October 22 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formal establishment of the Southeast Asia Studies program at SAIS. The lively evening — full of good cheer, toasts, conversation, and reflections — was organized by Senior Associate Director Bill Wise and an alumni committee chaired by Anne Gillman ('14) and Dan Greenland ('14). Former Associate Director Frederick Z. Brown, Freeport-McMoRan Inc. Jae H. Ku (Ph.D.’99), and Bruce Schulman ('99) provided generous financial support.

Honorary Dinner Chairman Fred Brown introduced the featured speaker, former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam David Shear ('92), now Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asia-Pacific Security Affairs. Amb. Shear spoke about Southeast Asia’s relations with China and the U.S. and the important role of SAIS in training diplomats, policy-makers, business and NGO leaders to manage 21st century relationships. Former SAIS Dean Paul Wolfowitz attended and spoke briefly at the cocktail hour preceding the dinner.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS!

We are delighted to welcome new student concentrators to SAIS Washington, D.C. Arriving from China, India, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States, and the SAIS Europe campus, they bring world experiences and a wealth of expertise into the classroom.

**M.A. candidates:** Zachary Harris • Nathaniel Ives • Jared Robert MacDonald • Samantha Power (General Funds Institutional Fellow) • Ashwini Srinivas • Sanittawan Tan (Prem Fellow*), and Itt Thirarath (Royal Thai Government Scholar); **minors:** Caitlin Coyle • Tzu-an Lee, and Richard Kho.

**M.I.P.P. candidates:** Bindu Alexander Frank • Laurence Paik, and Daniel Young.

**Ph.D. candidate:** Ying Yao (SAIS-Tsinghua exchange program)

*Prem fellowships provide tuition support to students from Thailand through a private endowment. A.I.G., the Bangkok Bank, CalTex Petroleum, the Charoen Pokphand Group, Siam Cement and the T.C.C. Group played formative roles in launching the program.
AIS Southeast Asia Studies, in collaboration with the East-West Center (Washington) and the US-Korea Institute at SAIS, organized an international conference on *Myanmar in a Regional Context* in Washington, D.C., September 28–29, 2015. The conference opened with welcoming remarks by Peter Lewis, SAIS associate dean for academic and faculty affairs, and a keynote address by U.S. Ambassador Derek Mitchell (Yangon, Myanmar). Panels focused on congressional views of U.S.-Myanmar relations and Myanmar's approach to external diplomatic and economic relations since the country's opening in 2011. Panelists discussed the Myanmar policies of China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and the United States and their effects on internal policies of Myanmar. Panelists included Neena Shenai, U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, Zaw Oo, Myanmar Development Resource Institute, Win Min, Vahu Development Institute, Iwata Yasushi, Trade Policy Bureau, METI, Suh Sang-Mok, former minister of health and welfare (Korea), Xiong Jie, Central Party School (China), David I. Steinberg, SEA visiting scholar, and Bill Wise, senior associate director of SEA Studies.

Marvin Ott, SEA adjunct professor, maintained an active speaking schedule before government agencies and think tanks, and published online and through traditional media primarily regarding China’s Southeast Asia and South China Sea strategies. Jacqueline Ganem, academic program coordinator of SEA Studies, is a contributing author of South and Southeast Asian art historical analyses in *75th Anniversary at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art* (Lucia Marquand, 2016). *Asia Struggles with Democracy: Evidence from Indonesia, Korea, and Thailand* (Routledge, 2015) by Giovanna Maria Dora Dore ('98, Ph.D.'12) investigates what citizens understand by the concept of democracy and what motivates them to embrace democracy as the preferred system of government for their countries to highlight the uniqueness of Asia’s path to democracy. It was a Spotlight Book in *PS: Political Science & Politics* (Cambridge University Press 48: 4, 2015).

**SOUTHEAST ASIA 2020**

What should Southeast Asia Studies look like in 2020? Should Southeast Asia Studies remain an independent, sub-regional program under the general rubric of Asian Studies? Where will our students and faculty come from? What should we be teaching? What careers should we be preparing our students for? How can we marshal resources for the future?

To wrestle with these and other questions about our future direction, we will launch our self-assessment initiative – Southeast Asia 2020 – on February 1, the first day of Southeast Asia Studies Giving Week 2016. The goals of SEA 2020 are threefold: (1) to assess the relevance of our current structure, curriculum, admissions goals, teaching technologies, career preparation, and resources for the next decade; (2) to establish the goals and objectives for Southeast Asia Studies at SAIS that will strengthen the program and position us to be the hub of Southeast Asia Studies in the U.S. for the coming decade; and (3) to identify a path forward, to outline a working plan to achieve those strategic goals and objectives.

Southeast Asia 2020 will rely on two independent streams of inquiry: an alumni study group to examine the overall program and an external review group of Southeast Asia experts to focus specifically on curriculum issues. **If you are interested in working on Southeast Asia 2020, please contact Professor Wise, Professor Jackson, or Dr. Ganem.** We need your help!

Our goal is to complete the two reviews by January 31, 2017. The results of these reviews will be presented to the Dean, the Senior Associate Dean of Operations and Finance, and the Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs.
Please give generously to the AY 2015-16 Campaign

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.

* SE Asia Alumni & Friends Fellowship
* Summer Internships and Inter-session Language Study
* Tran Thi Quynh Hoa Fellowship
* SE Asia Policy Outreach Program of your choice

Here is how to make a contribution:

By check:
Make checks payable to: “Johns Hopkins University,” and designate the SE Asia fund of your choice on the “For” line. Mail to:

Johns Hopkins SAIS
Southeast Asia Studies Program
1619 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

By credit card:
Credit card contributions can be made online through the SAIS website: https://secure.jhu.edu/form/sais. In the form under Gift Information, select “Other” under Gift Designation and annotate your description with “Southeast Asia Studies” and the fund name. The SAIS Development Office will send you a contribution receipt for tax purposes.

With sincere thanks to our alumni and friends who have generously given to student fellowships and our other important program funds.

The SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Newsletter is published online at www.sais-jhu.edu.

Editor: Jacqueline Ganem
Contributing Editor: William M. Wise

Submissions and comments are welcome. Please address them to the Editor, Johns Hopkins SAIS Southeast Asia Studies, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; seasia@jhu.edu.

Joshua Ahyong
Noelan Paolo Arbis
*Dat Cao
Jingyang Chen
Zhi Gan
Pechnipa Lam
Jared Robert MacDonald
Andrew Manugian
Jessica Pham
Tristan Thibodeaux

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The Asia Foundation (Bangkok)
Thammasat University (Pathumthani, Thailand)
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Institute of Security and International Studies, Faculty of Political Sciences, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok)
APCO Worldwide Advisory Services (Bangkok)
U.S. Embassy, Phnom Penh
U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration (Washington, D.C.)

*Supported by the Ake Densert Scholarship.

Paul Wolfowitz Prize Awarded

Washington, D.C., 4.23.15. Among the class of 2015 whose record merits special mention is Bartholomew Thanhauser (’15, near right) winner of the 2015 Paul D. Wolfowitz Fellowship Prize for the highest GPA among SAIS Southeast Asia studies graduates. The Wolfowitz Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of Bruce Schulman (’99, far right).