Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Alumni,

Along with the arrival of a terrific new class of students, we hosted an exciting series of high-level delegations from Myanmar and Vietnam, an international conference on U.S.-Philippines relations, and numerous lunch seminars.

Not surprisingly, the SAIS Burmese language course enrollment increased sharply this fall—a trend that will undoubtedly continue as we engage further with our Myanmar partners. Six of our students will spend the winter break working on their language skills in Yangon.

We owe our generous alumni, and all our donors, a hearty thanks for enabling us to offer two new tuition fellowships in addition to the Prem, Freeport-McMoran, and USINDO fellowships.

With Starr Foundation grants set to expire this year, we continue to need your help, particularly to make studying at SAIS possible for American students. Thank you again for your generous support and commitment.

Best Wishes for a joyous holiday,

Karl Jackson          Bill Wise

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Congratulations to the SEA Class of 2012!

Kathleen Bissonnette, Craig Blackburn, Sam Christophersen, Sean Creehan, Ran Hu, Scott Inouye, Bao-chiun Jing, Charlotte Putney, Noppon Sagnanert, and Alexandria Stuart.

We are pleased to recognize the high academic accomplishments of our talented graduates, including Sean Creehan and Kathleen Bissonnette whose records merit special mention. Sean was awarded the M.A. degree with SAIS-wide honors in May 2012. The degree with honors is awarded to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class and perform exceptionally well in the M.A. oral exams. Kate earned an M.A. with high merit, based on an exceptional performance on the capstone oral exam.

We also proudly announce our December 2012 graduates: Suraj Mungara and Nancy Ngo.

Grants and Gifts (see pages 3 and 7)

Henry Luce Foundation
The Ford Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Caterpillar Inc.
Royal Thai Embassy

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NEW M.A. AND M.I.P.P. STUDENTS

This fall we welcome 10 new students from Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, and the United States, with distinguished educational and professional backgrounds. Just prior to coming to SAIS, Melissa Carlson worked as a consultant for Ogilvy Public Relations in Hong Kong following positions as a U.S. Foreign Service officer in Shanghai and Bangkok. * Kittithep Devahastin Na Ayuthai served as Third Secretary (Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Maldives Desk Officer) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. * Anne Gillman worked as a strategic communications associate at Hamilton advisors Limited in Hong Kong. * Daniel Greenland was senior operations analyst at Merrill Lynch. * Amy Killian was country analyst on Freedom of the Press survey for Freedom House in Hyderabad (India) * Wanlapa (Fon) Komkai juggles her studies with her work as Mainland Southeast Asia associate at the US-ASEAN Business Council. * Pongkwan Sawasdipakdi was a news reporter for Voice TV in Bangkok. * Aichida Ul-Aflaha was special assistant to the head of the President’s Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight in Jakarta. * Kai Jiun Wong joined the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005 as an officer handling the China portfolio. Prior to SAIS, he served a three-year stint at the Singapore Trade Office in Taipei. * Heru Prama Yuda was assistant to the head in the Office of International Affairs at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta.

We are pleased to welcome Jacqueline Foelster, Kui-Tsung (Patrick) Lai, Young Lim Lee, and Annie Su to the Washington, D.C. campus, following their first year of study in Bologna and summer internships in Southeast Asia.

DR. GIOVANNA MARIA DORA DORE

On September 27, 2012, Giovanna successfully defended her dissertation titled Democracy? Hardly the Only Game in Town, An Investigation of Democratic Attitudes in Indonesia, South Korea, and Thailand. Her examining committee consisted of Professors Ruth Wedgewood (chair), Karl Jackson, Peter Lewis, Francis Fukuyama (Stanford University), and Benjamin Reilly (SAIS visiting professor from Australian National University). Giovanna’s dissertation is based on sample data survey collected across two time periods: 2000 in Jakarta, Seoul, and Bangkok, and 2011 in Indonesia, South Korea, and Thailand. Her thesis begins with the assumption that citizens are the software of democracy, and that what they know and think about democracy is vital to how and whether democracy endures in a particular country. Her findings challenge much of the accepted conventional wisdom on democracy. In Asia democracy does not seem to spread like a wave across countries; citizens see democracy mostly for its outcomes rather than procedures, and attitudinal support for democracy is shallow at the mass level in Indonesia, South Korea, and Thailand.

DR. ANDREW WELLS-DANG


Upon Dr. Wells-Dang’s arrival at SAIS, he spoke at the SAIS Indochina Roundtable, chaired by Visiting Scholar Frederick Brown, on “Shifting Political Spaces in Vietnam?” (11.15.2012). He noted, “the 2000s were a time of rising expectations for Vietnam, with pro-poor growth and an increasingly diverse society. The space for citizens’ collective action widened beyond the expectations of a single-party political system. In the last several years, however, economic instability and factional conflicts have tempered the sense of optimism about Vietnam’s future.” His talk addressed how recent events affected political spaces in Vietnam, including the role of the Communist Party, media, and civil society. He discussed the outlook for political change, both within and around the edges of the existing system, and assessed implications for U.S. policy.

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Through a major five-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, the newly established Philip W. Thayer Fellowships in Southeast Asia Studies enables highly qualified nationals from Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam to pursue graduate studies at SAIS, focused on Southeast Asia. The program also provides SAIS fellowships for junior faculty members from government foreign affairs training academies, or equivalent academic institutions, to spend four-month terms as visiting scholars. The program is named for Philip W. Thayer, SAIS dean from 1948 to 1962, who was a leading advocate of higher education in international relations and regional studies of Southeast Asia.

A generous gift from an anonymous donor will support SAIS program activities focused on Myanmar, including tuition fellowships for Myanmar nationals.

A major grant from the Ford Foundation funded two Leadership Academy for Development (LAD) seminars in Yangon and NayPyiTaw, and a delegation of Myanmar parliamentarians to Washington for the first of three week-long training sessions for Myanmar public officials and civil society leaders. At the invitation of Senators Jim Webb (D-Va.) and James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and under the direction of Karl Jackson, this program represented the first multi-party, multi-ethnic parliamentary delegation to visit the U.S. from Burma.

Funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the first Track 1.5 talks between Myanmar and the U.S., organized by Professors Karl Jackson and David I. Steinberg, commenced in March 2012 in Yangon and NayPyiTaw, and reconvened in October in Washington under the auspices of SAIS. Myanmar’s Minister of Industry U Soe Thein headed the 10-member Myanmar delegation. U.S. participants included Under Secretary of State Robert Hormats and Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell.

For AY 2012–13 Burmese language study with instructor Ye Min Tun is again made possible through a generous grant from Caterpillar Corporation. Since 2011 Burmese has been part of the regular SAIS curriculum, along with Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, and Vietnamese. Min Thein, a Myanmar foreign service officer, has kindly provided tutorial sessions for the students. He returns to Yangon this month after finishing his studies at SAIS and Chung Ang University, Seoul, on a U.S.-Korea Institute scholarship.

The SAIS Burma Study Group met for a discussion with U Aung Min, Myanmar minister to the Office of the President. He was accompanied by Ambassador H.E. Than Swe, Minister U Ye Lwin, U Hla Maung Shwe of Myanmar Egress, and Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing and U Thihan Myo Nyun of the Myanmar National Economic and Social Advisory Council (9.20.2012).

Upon their return, the students briefed the incoming class on their experiences. *** Jatuchatra had a chance to open the “black box” of the ASEAN Secretariat. His responsibilities ranged from making photocopies to writing speeches for the Secretary General of ASEAN. *** For Monitor Group, Alexis developed a 130 slide presentation on Myanmar’s economy, politics, and opportunities. *** Jacqueline worked on a Mercy Corp. economic development project in Maluku and learned about peace-building initiatives in support of communal and national reconciliation. *** Younglim worked on a World Bank community-driven development program for poverty reduction in Jakarta. *** Nicola wrote energy sector policy briefings in the economic division of MDRI, the presidential think-tank in Myanmar. *** Elizabeth provided an APCO multi-national corporate client with an overview of opportunities and roadblocks in entering the Myanmar market. *** Jenny wrote embassy reporting cables on the Mindanao peace process, South China Sea developments, and internet freedom promotion. *** Amanda assisted IJM in creating a baseline of the trafficking situation in Phnom Penh to create tools for a three-year evaluation effort, and conduct stakeholder interviews and data analysis. *** Adrian assisted several U.S. energy and technology firms to help them navigate complexities of conducting business in both the U.S. and Vietnam. *** Andrew made visits to World Vision field offices throughout Myanmar, and worked on a team review of its education programs, including literacy assessments.

Beyond their internship work, students had a host of experiences that ranged from Jenny’s experience of the rainy season in Manila and Elizabeth’s traversing the pricy urban center of Singapore to Amanda’s visit to Angkor Wat and Alexis’s visit to the Shwedagon Paya in Yangon. From Yogyakarta, Patrick traveled with a local friend to the nearby town of Wonosobo for an annual harvest festival and attended a Muslim marriage ceremony. Prior to their internships, Jenny and Andrew participated in the Asia Foundation Study Tour in China. Throughout the summer, students gained regional knowledge and interacted with others who will become long-lasting colleagues and friends.
Since academic year 1993–94, more than 50 students from Vietnam have received an M.A. or M.I.P.P. from SAIS, or have conducted independent research under the sponsorship of the Southeast Asia Studies Program. These scholars received primary financial support through The Ford Foundation, and also through the Fulbright Program, the Freeman Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and from SAIS.

For two decades FREDERICK Z. BROWN, visiting scholar and former associate director of Southeast Asia Studies, and a U.S. State Department Foreign Service officer in Vietnam (1968–73), has been the driving force that has enabled young scholars and government officials from Vietnam to pursue advanced work in Southeast Asia studies at SAIS.

Among our distinguished Vietnamese alumni are officials of the Vietnamese government and Communist Party (VCP) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Public Security, several ministries concerned with Vietnam’s economic development, and the Central Committee of the VCP Central Committee (VCP CC). Their SAIS experiences have been important in promoting the long term rapprochement between the United States and Vietnam.

BUI THE GIANG (M.I.P.P. ’94) came to SAIS as director of the External Affairs Commission of the VCP CC and later served in Vietnam’s United Nations Mission as an ambassador (2008–11). TRINH QUANG THANH (M.I.P.P. ’94) was director of policy planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After SAIS, he served as ambassador of Vietnam to Canada, then ambassador to Sweden, and finally head of the Institute of International Relations in Hanoi.

SAIS has hosted several Vietnamese research scholars. NGUYEN VAN THO, currently ambassador of Vietnam to China, was a Ford Foundation scholar (1997–98). BUI THI LAN HUONG, professor at Ho Chi Minh University of Economics, conducted research in 2005 under a Fulbright grant, as did DO DUC DINH, professor at the Institute of World Economy in 1999. In 2005 PHAN DUY QUANG from the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and Administration was a visiting scholar, NGUYEN TRUONG SON from the Office of the Prime Minister conducted research under a Fulbright grant.

NGUYEN BA HUNG (M.A. ’97), NGUYEN VIET ANH (M.I.P.P. ’01), LAI THAI BINH (M.I.P.P. ’09), VU HO (M.I.P.P. ’97), DOAN THI MINH TUYEN (M.I.P.P. ’95), NGUYEN HONG HA (M.A. ’99), NGUYEN THE CUONG (M.A. ’97), TRAN THI BICH VAN (M.I.P.P. ’95) are among the many Vietnamese diplomats who served in MoFA’s Americas Division before or after studying at SAIS. Several returned to Washington with the Vietnamese Embassy.

From 2005 to 2009 four young Vietnamese scholars received M.A. degrees: NGUYEN THI TAM (M.A. ’09) is now studying for an advanced degree in international financial development at George Washington University; LE XUAN LINH (M.A. ’09) is an official at the World Bank in Hanoi; and NGUYEN THI BICH THUY (M.A. ’07), a Fulbright scholar, works with USAID in Hanoi.

One of SAIS’s outstanding Vietnamese graduates, TRAN THI QUYNH HOA (M.A. ’09) passed away of cancer soon after graduating. She had received her B.A. degree from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Hanoi, where she became a member of the faculty. In celebration of the life and works of this brilliant, dynamic young woman, the Tran Thi Quynh Hoa Fellowship was established.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome BUI HONG HANH, a friend and colleague of Ms. Hoa, in spring 2013 as the first Tran Thi Quynh Hoa Fellow at SAIS. Dr. Hanh is a lecturer in the Faculty of International Studies at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. She teaches U.S. history and foreign policy within an historical overview of international relations and organizations. As a visiting research associate at SAIS, her research project will focus on Vietnam-U.S. relations in the context of the U.S.-ASEAN relationship.

This will be Ms. Hanh’s first visit to the United States. As with previous students from Vietnam, she will be under the guidance of the Southeast Asia Studies Program, with further kind assistance from the Friends of Hoa.
How to Make a Contribution

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.

* SEA Alumni & Friends Fellowship
* Language Study
* Course Trip Fund
* Tran Thi Quynh Hoa Fellowship
* SEA 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 SEA program of your choice on the “For” line. Mail to:

Southeast Asia Studies, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University
1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

**By credit card:**

Credit card contributions can be made through the SAIS website (www.sais-jhu.edu). Select (in order): “Support SAIS,” “Make a Gift,” and “Washington, DC.” In the form under Gift Information, select “Other” under Gift Designation and annotate your description with “Southeast Asia Studies”. The SAIS Development Office will send you a contribution receipt for tax purposes.

**Thank You!**

The Southeast Asia Studies Program Newsletter is published online at www.sais-jhu.edu/southeastasia.

Editor: Jacqueline Ganem
Contributing Editor: William M. Wise

Submissions and comments are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor, Southeast Asia Studies, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; seasia@jhu.edu

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**2013 Campaign for Southeast Asia Studies**

**Alumni and Friends,**

We would like to thank our alumni and friends who continue to generously give to the Southeast Asia Studies fellowship fund.

We are very pleased to announce that Ms. Anne Gillman is the recipient of the Nishaya Manklapruk and Khanh Pham Almon Fellowship and Mr. Daniel Greenland is the recipient of the Southeast Asia Studies Alumni Fellowship.

Anne received a B.A. in political science (magna cum laude) from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She worked in media and public relations in Hong Kong. Dan received his B.A. in education (cum laude) from the University of Delaware. He has worked as an inner city teacher in Philadelphia and a Peace Corps volunteer in Biliran, the Philippines. He is fluent in Cebuano and Waray.

Thanks to your generosity, Anne and Dan enrolled in the fall and are gaining expertise on Southeast Asia as they work toward their M.A. degrees at SAIS on two-year $30,000 fellowships.

With more than 60 alumni and friends to date who responded to our first Campaign Fund, your continued gifts have also helped us establish the Southeast Asia Studies Alumni & Friends Fellowship for an incoming student in fall 2013. In addition to the donors listed in our previous newsletter, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals:

Payton Deeks, 2006
Kyle Lemargie, 2001
Jennie Lin, 2011
Yoshihiro Nakanishi
Philippa Zainoeddin, 2008

**Thank You!**

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**Graph:**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Almon Challenge</th>
<th>SAIS Fellowship Challenge</th>
<th>2013 SEA Alumni &amp; Friends Fellowship</th>
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<td>15,000</td>
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**Legend:**

- Almon/SAIS Offer
- Alumni Match
SAIS, 11.6.2012 (rescheduled from 10.30.2012 due to Hurricane Sandy). A surprise happy hour was held to celebrate Karl Jackson’s 70th birthday. A singing chicken telegram (compliments of Anda, Kat, and Colin Jackson) kicked-off the festivities. Asian beer, chicken sate, and Washingtonian cupcakes (compliments of Dr. Dore) followed. Dr. Jae Ku played paparazzi and videotaped the chicken’s arrival, while SAIS colleagues and students joined the merriment.

FAREWELL TO BEN REILLY

After three years, Senior Visiting Professor Benjamin Reilly is returning to his home base at Australian National University. Students greatly benefited from his SAIS courses on Internal Conflict and Conflict Management in Southeast Asia and Democracy and Democratization in Southeast Asia, and his active participation at academic forums in Washington and nationally. This term he gave several presentations, including to the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, and to the Department of Political Science at Brigham Young University, Utah. His article “The Shadow of China” is forthcoming in the Journal of Democracy. As the Wednesday Lunch Seminar fall series concluded, Prof. Reilly noted, “The students have been the best part.”

SAIS THAI CLUB

On September 4, H.E. Chaiyong Satjipanon, ambassador of Thailand to the United States, visited SAIS to personally present a check contribution from the Royal Thai Embassy in support of the SAIS Thai Club. The ambassador met with club members to hear about their interests and activities, followed by a student-led tour of the Washington campus.

On November 7, SAISers in Siam participated in a JHU-wider forum on “After U.S. Elections: Asian Century, Eurozone, Mideast, and World Order” at the Mandarin Oriental. Speakers included Robert Fitts, former U.S. ambassador and director of American Studies, ISIS, Chulalongkorn University; Matthew Lobner, chief executive officer, HSBC (Thailand); H.E. Sihask Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary, Ministry of Foreign affairs, Thailand; and Phil Robertson, deputy director for Asia, Human Rights Watch. Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak, professor and director, ISIS, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, moderated the discussion.

ALUMNI NEWS

On November 15, JHU alumni, including our alumni regional representative Eddie Sian (’04), gathered for conversation and dim sum at the Summer Palace in Manila.


Alumni, send us more news!