



“You Were There” Series

By Kelly Johnson (MA13)

Ambassador Eric Edelman launched the “You Were There” lecture series in the spring 2012 semester as a spin-off from his popular “Diplomatic Disasters” class. The lecture series is designed to teach students about decision-making in times of crisis. Each of the lecture events involves a public lecture held at the SAIS campus followed by a question and answer session. The guest lecturer then joins a select group of Strategic Studies students, department professors, and a few special guests with expertise or experience on the topic for a more informal discussion over dinner at the Army-Navy Club. The lectures and dinner discussions are strictly off-the-record in order to promote an environment of candor and open-discussion.

Ambassador Edelman opened the series with a lecture on diplomatic negotiations with Tur-

key in the lead up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which he participated in as both Ambassador to Turkey and later as a national security advisor within the office of the Vice President. To date, other speakers have included Ambassador Robert Joseph speaking on “Lessons Learned from Libya’s Denuclearization,” Ambassador Daniel Fried speaking on the 2008 Russia-Georgia war, and Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, who spoke on the 2003 decision to dissolve the Iraqi army. So far in 2013, Elliott Abrams spoke on the provocatively titled topic “Who Should Bomb Syria?” This was a discussion of the 2007 al-Kibar reactor bombing. Former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Walt Slocombe concluded the academic year with a discussion of the development of nuclear targeting policy under the Carter Administration through the drafting of Presidential Directive 59.

Crisis Sim 2013

By Steve Farole (MA13)

While tensions flare over disputed islands in East Asia, North Korea’s increasingly belligerent rhetoric rattles its neighbors. Meanwhile, as Europe continues to struggle with a stagnant economy, its leaders must come to terms with an assertive Russia, threatening drastic action if NATO implements its European missile defense plans. In each region, the United States struggles to ease tensions and demonstrate its commitment to its traditional allies while forging the relationships necessary to meet 21st century security challenges.

This was not a bad day at the NSC, but rather the scenario for the 2013 SAIS Crisis Simulation. This year’s simulation, designed and run by a class of ten students under the guidance of Professor Mara Karlin, explored the question “How adaptive are established alliances when members’ interests diverge?” The student-led Control team sought to explore the durability of the current international security architecture, much of which was created during the Cold War, in light of global geopolitical shifts. The simulation examined this issue through two scenarios: first, a coup in North Korea leading to uncertainty over the country’s leadership, reports of civil wars, and

concern over Pyongyang’s control over its weapons of mass destruction; and second, a political dispute between NATO and Russia over NATO’s missile defense deployments in Eastern Europe.

More than 60 students from across SAIS concentrations participated in the simulation, role-playing 12 countries, the UN, NATO, EU, ASEAN, and media outlets. Building on past simulations, the Control staff shared information with players via the [2013 Crisis Simulation website](#), which also provided a forum for participating governments and media to share their positions and stories. Control and the players also extensively used Twitter accounts to share information

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Defense Against the Dark Arts

By Kimberly Pucher (MA13)

Sponsored by Professor McLaughlin, “Defense Against the Dark Arts” is a yearlong series of talks by senior practitioners, designed to convey practical knowledge to students about how to succeed in Washington. All comments are off the record, so students can hear the unguarded truth and receive helpful career advice.

The name of the course comes from and plays-off of the name of a school course in the wizard book series *Harry Potter*. To keep with this theme, at the end of an event, guest speakers are presented with the gift of a Harry Potter magic wand.

This year’s speaker series held six outstanding events. Guest speakers during the Fall Semester included Professor McLaughlin who spoke on “Working in Washington: Thoughts on Effectiveness and Survival;” Dr. Mahnken who provided advice on “How to Survive and Thrive in the Pentagon;” and former Congresswoman Jane Harman who gave a particularly candid speech on the state of Congress, Washington, and how to be a leader in National Security. During the Spring Semester the President and CEO of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIC) Dr. John Hamre, who has had a long career in Government, particularly in defense across every imaginable department and sector gave a speech on how to succeed when working in U.S. Defense.

The former speechwriter for President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, John McConnell gave a phenomenal speech on “Being the President’s Voice;” and finally Bob Woodward spoke on lessons learned from reporting on Washington and American politics.

This speaker series continues to be a favorite of students as it provides us with broad career and life advice, as well as specific advice for the more popular industry sectors of Strategic Studies students.



Top Photo: Professor McLaughlin and Bob Woodward speaking at the final Defense Against the Dark Arts event of the year, “Reflections on Washington: A Journalist’s Perspective.” (Photo courtesy of Kimberly Pucher, MA13)

Bottom: Photo Morgan Hitzig (MA13), Marcus Annibale (MIPP13), Staci Raab (MA13) trying on flight gear. See article on opposite page. (Photo courtesy of LtCol Marcus “Steroid” Annibale, MIPP13)

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Below: Meghan Cumpston (MA13) and Kimberly Pucher (MA13), the Vice and MC at the Grog. (Photo courtesy of Michael Youn, MA14)



Dining-In 2012

By Morgan Hitzig (MA13)

Every April, the Strategic Studies Department celebrates the close of another successful academic year with Dining In. Modeled after traditional military Dining In's, the banquet is a time to roast outgoing students and welcome in the new. While many Strategic Studies events require athletic gear and camouflage paint, Dining In is a chance to get dressed up in black tie attire and get to know the professors, distinguished visitors, alums, and the rest of the department outside the classroom.

This year's Dining In was held at the historic Willard Intercontinental Hotel. Based on an award show theme chosen by the Dining In committee, second year students Meghan Cumpston (Madam Vice) and Kimberly Pucher (MC) masterfully guided attendees through a night of awards, live and video entertainment segments, and mu-

sical numbers.

Awards included Best Odd Couple, What Not to Wear, Best Insurgent, Working Hard or Hardly Working, and Most Intense Super Senior, which was taken home by the one and only Steve Seabrook (Class of 2011). This year's unique entertainment included with "Real Talk with Meghan Cumpston," a therapy session show for disgruntled Strat students, and the musical performances of Justin Sokolowski (MA13), who adapted crowd pleasing favorites such as "Imagine," "Welcome to the Jungle," and "Because I Went to SAIS" to fit the Strategic Studies community.

Routed in traditions, some old and some new, the night was a great success and a very special thanks goes out to the entire Dining In team without whom this event would not have been possible.

"...the banquet is a time to roast outgoing students and welcome in the new."

JSF Tour

By LtCol Marcus "Steroid" Annibale (MIPP13)

As the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) Fellow, I arranged a visit to the Lockheed Martin Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Fighter Demonstrator Center (FDC) for SAIS students and faculty. Due to popular demand, this trip was arranged twice, once during each semester. Both events were attended by approximately 44 Strategic Studies students in total, as well as Professors Cohen and Keaney.

The events included an unclassified brief on the JSF program and the aircraft's capabilities. The briefs were given by Lockheed Martin and attended by both a test pilot and program officer from the Marine Corps to provide a current assessment. Following the brief, the students were able to "fly" the F-35 demonstrator. There was also an interactive social event following the brief. This event broadened the students' knowledge about this important capability, where the program stands, and the future path to full implementation.

The Joint Strike Fighter or F-35 "Litening II" is the Defense Department's largest and most ambitious acquisition program. The United States plans to buy a total of 2,000+ aircraft to provide the bulk of its tactical airpower for the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy over the coming decades. The JSF project has eight Partner countries and two Security Cooperative Participant (SCPs). The eight Partners include the United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, Canada, Australia, Denmark, and Norway. The two SCPs are Israel and Singapore. The F-35 will bring cutting-edge technologies to the battle-space of the future. The F-35's advanced airframe, autonomic logistics, avionics, propulsion systems, stealth, and firepower will ensure that the F-35 is the most affordable, lethal, supportable and survivable aircraft ever to be used by so many warfighters across the globe. For more information on the JSF, see the program's website at: <http://www.jsf.mil/>.

SSR 2013: The Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812

By Julie Lascar (MA14),
Jacob Cohn (MA14), &
Elizabeth McGovney (MA14)

The War of 1812 is considered by some historians to be the "Second War of American Independence." The Chesapeake Campaign provided a case study for many themes central to Strategic Studies. This includes the importance of the broader international context in understanding war; the difficulties a weaker power faces against a stronger power; and the roll the militia and civilians played in the defense of a young United States. It also provided countless compelling personal accounts of triumph and defeat, of devotion and honor, reminding us that strategy is nothing without the actions of individuals.

Over two days, participants travelled throughout Maryland and DC learning about U.S. flotilla operations, the Battle of Bladensburg, the burning of Washington, and the Battle of Baltimore. We were lucky to be joined by Mr. Steve Vogel (MIPP '98), author of the re-

cently published book on the Chesapeake Campaign: *Through the Perilous Fight*; Mr. Tom Donnelly (MIPP 94) of AEI; and Ms. Lori Cwalina, Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Relations.

Additionally, the Spring Staff Ride provided an opportunity for the Strate-

gic Studies Department to end what was a busy and exciting year. For the first years, SSR 2013 was their opportunity to lead and coordinate a staff ride and for the second years, the two days served as a farewell to their time at SAIS and the Strategic Studies Department.

Below: SSR 2013 participants: Justin Sokolowski (MA13), Bobby Strauss (MA13), Eric Lindsay (MA14), Gareth Collins (MA14), Mark Radin (MA14), and Professor Cohen.
(Photo courtesy of Julie Lascar, MA14)



Above: SSR 2013 participants: Josiah Kimbal, Yaniv Barzilai, Andrew Fair, Tracy Horton, David Gordon, Kelly Johnson, Stephanie Papa, Steve Farole, Lisa Frumin, Chris Appel, Meredith Hollowell, Margaret Ross, Jon Welch, Bobby Strauss, and Justin Sokolowski (all MA13).
(Photo courtesy of Julie Lascar, MA14)



ISR 2013: The Tet Offensive

By Matthew Williams (MA13)

Last March, fifty students, faculty, and distinguished guests of the Strategic Studies Program traveled to Vietnam to study the 1968 Tet Offensive in its fourteenth *International Staff Ride*. This was the Program's first staff ride to East Asia.

ISR 14, like all SAIS staff rides, was organized entirely by a team of students. In choosing to consider the Tet Offensive, the ISR team set out to understand how, after the surprise attack, military success against the National Liberation Front and North Vietnamese forces resulted in political defeat for South Vietnam and the United States. We were drawn to the Tet Offensive, in part, because we could sense the continued importance of the Vietnam War to U.S. foreign and defense policy, but were unsatisfied with the incomplete and inaccurate analogies drawn between conflicts in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The staff ride began in Saigon, or Ho Chi Minh City, as it is known now, and proceeded northward to Khe Sanh and the Demilitarized Zone, Hue City, and concluded in Hanoi. The story of the Tet Offensive was developed through a series of first-person character presentations, from all sides, as the group retraced the campaign. The campaign was particularly difficult to wrestle with, as "walking the ground" seemed at times to stress political factors over the oftentimes heroic military performance in fighting and winning the war. Participants portrayed a wide range of characters from Ho Chi Minh to NLF fighters, General Westmoreland to a Marine Corps Combat Artist at Hue City, Walter Cronkite, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy.

This staff ride, again like others, underscored the difficulty and importance of leadership and decision making, especially in wartime. Still, the Vietnam and

Cold War context was particularly compelling. Because this staff ride considered a more recent campaign than others, participants could engage with a variety of primary source materials, to include watching clips of their characters on YouTube. Several participants were able to contact their characters directly, providing a level of detail and emotion not found in history books. The campaign also allowed several distinguished guests and faculty who served in Vietnam, including Professors Keaney and McLaughlin, to share their own stories and reflections on the war. Additionally, participants visited the former U.S. Embassy in Saigon and site of the Offensive's initial attack, and discussed the legacy of the war and current bilateral relations with fellow SAIS alum, Ambassador David Shear. In sum, the staff ride proved to be a unique, and at times emotional, learning experience.

Below: USASOC visit participants: Tom Keating (MA14), Marcus Annibale (MIPP13), Yaniv Barzilai (MA13), Duncan Fitz (MA13), Mahrukh Hasan (MA 14), David Gordon (MA13), Sohel Sanghani (MA13), Jacob Cohn (MA14), Christina Garafola (MA 14), Corey Gannon (MA13), John McFarlin (MIPP13), Meredith Hollowell (MA13), Annie Seibert (MA14), Josiah Kimbal (MA13), Meghan Coffee (MA13), and Professor Keaney. (Photo courtesy of Yaniv Barzilai, MA13)



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Visit to USASOC

By Yaniv Barzilai (MA13)

On February 10th, the Strategic Studies department traveled to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for a one-night stay at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). USASOC is the largest component of America's Special Operations Forces and is home to the Army Green Berets. It is also the epicenter for America's extensive capabilities in irregular warfare.

During our time at Fort Bragg, we received briefings from the subordinate organizations responsible for Special Forces operations, psychological operations, civil affairs, aviation, and the training of all Special Forces, as well as the State Department's political advisor to USASOC. Following our briefings and meetings, we traveled to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School to practice our marksmanship and skydiving skills on advanced training simulators. We also reunited with SAIS Strategic Studies alumnus Josh Richardson and a few of his colleagues from the 82nd Airborne



for some beers, war stories, and informal Q&A.

From designing a covert operation, to producing a national intelligence estimate to studying counterinsurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan; the USASOC trip complemented classroom experiences like these, by providing practical

insights into the unique capabilities of America's Special Forces.

Above: USASOC visit participants practicing their skydiving skills at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. (Photo courtesy of Yaniv Barzilai, MA13)

The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies

The Johns Hopkins University

2013 Annual Fund

By Steve Riccardi (MA06) & Henry Nuzum (MA08/09),
Annual Fund Coordinators

In early 2013, Strategic Studies had another very successful campaign, raising \$33,316 (including two generous matching gifts). The Annual Fund is dedicated to domestic programs available to all Strat Students. By browsing this newsletter, alumni can see just some of the great activities that have been enabled by their generosity.

Total donations exceeded \$30,000 for the second consecutive year. Donations were made by 63 alums and friends of the program, demonstrating broad loyalty to Strategic Studies. As a result of individual gifts breaking the \$15,000 barrier, the drive earned two matching gifts: Marijke Jurgens-Dupree (MA92) and her husband David Dupree matched the first \$10,000, and Keith Bickel (MA89, PhD99) and his wife Suzan Bickel matched the next \$5,000.

In addition to the extraordinary generosity of the Duprees and Bickels, the drive greatly benefited from the efforts of the Class Reps Mara Karlin (MA05, PhD12), Chris Maletz (MA06), Ed Burnett (MA04), and Camille Chautraud (MA12). Their personal outreach to classmates had a tremendous impact, significantly increasing participation and funds raised. In addition, the Development Office provided great assistance, particularly recently arrived Liz Levine who tracked donations, gave daily updates, harnessed IT, and offered helpful insight throughout the campaign. David Fuhrmann and the Alumni Council provided steady leadership. Most importantly, the alums demonstrated their loyalty through gifts, which enhance the Strat experience for the current generation.

We welcome any assistance organizing and executing the next fund drive which will kick off at the end of the year – if interested, please contact us at hnuzum@hotmail.com or stevericcardi@gmail.com.

Crisis...(continued)

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during the simulation.

As the crises unfolded and North Korea became increasingly unpredictable, the American, Chinese, Russian, Japanese, and South Korean teams coordinated their policies in an unsuccessful effort to deter Pyongyang. The simulation ended following a North Korean missile attack on Maizuru, Japan that left scores dead and injured. During the post-simulation debrief, participants expressed frustration at information gaps and the limited options available to counter North Korea. For Control, the simulation suggested that expedient partnerships, such as those formed during the simulation, may be as effective as long-term alliances for addressing acute crises. For all participants, the simulation underscored the difficulty of predicting, much less controlling, when and how a crisis will unfold.



Crisis Simulation class and Control team: Meghan Coffee (MA13), Lachezar Manasiev (MA13), Rebecca Dash (MA13), Steve Farole (MA13), Professor Mara Karlin, Rob Garrett (MIPP14), Electra Tsakalidou (MA13), Ashley Bartlett (MA13), Felipe Buitrago (MIPP13), and Hind Al-Sulati (MA13). *(Photo courtesy of Steve Farole, MA13)*