

October
2017

Welcome to Our First Years and MIPPs!

**Dear Students, Alumni, Colleagues,
and Friends:**

After a busy summer during which many of our students worked or interned in Washington and Asia, we welcomed a new class of students concentrating in Japan, Korea, South Asia and Southeast Asia Studies. Our new MA, MIPP and PhD students are from China, Korea, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and the United States, with distinguished education and professional backgrounds. During the first week of school, as part of our orientation activities, they met faculty,



Photo: First-year students and MIPPs visit the U.S. Capitol for a Getaway Day.

staff and classmates at an all-hands meeting and reception. At the end of the week, they participated in a Getaway Day to the U.S. Congress, where they toured the Capitol and joined Congressman Joaquin Castro (TX), who serves on the House Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Committees, for a roundtable discussion about U.S. relations in the Asia region.

This semester, we are offering new courses in the South Asia and Southeast Asia Studies programs and have welcomed new adjunct and faculty instructors in the Korea, South Asia and Southeast Asia programs. We are planning a range of career development and policy briefings and activities for our concentrators and the school community. In September, we launched a monthly speaker series on issues across the Asia region, co-hosting with China Studies a discussion with David Rank, former Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, who discussed U.S.-China relations and the political and security dynamic in Asia. This month, Asia Programs will host Satu Limaye, the East West Center's Washington Director, who will discuss the evolving India-Southeast Asia relationship and implications for the United States. Our November speaker, Wendy Cutler, former Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and Asia Society Vice President, will discuss U.S.-Asia trade relations.

We are looking forward to a busy year for our students and our program.

Sincerely,

Kent Calder, Director
Sharon Yanagi, Associate Director

Fall 2017 Events

Orientation Week Visit to Capitol Hill



Left: Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX) speaks with Asia Programs first years and MIPPs in a roundtable on Capitol Hill.



Above: Johns Hopkins SAIS alumnus Sid Ravishankar (MA '17) speaks to students at the US Capitol.

First year and MIPP Asia Programs concentrators ended their first week of school with a tour of the U.S. Capitol, followed by a roundtable discussion with Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX) on U.S.-Asia policy issues. Congressman Castro serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is a founding member of the U.S.-Japan Caucus and launched a Congressional caucus on ASEAN earlier this year.

The congressman discussed some of the key priorities and activities of the bipartisan caucuses, and the role of Congress in U.S. Asia policy. With concentrations in Japan, Korea, South Asia and Southeast Asia, the students had a range of questions and observations, from U.S. policies with respect to the North Korea nuclear situation and the Rohingya in Myanmar, to U.S.-Asia trade relations in the post-TPP era.

The group also heard from Johns Hopkins SAIS alumnus Sid Ravishankar, MA '17, who serves as Congressman Castro's legislative assistant on foreign affairs issues. Sid spoke to students about his graduate school experience and how it helped prepare him for his position.

Below: Students and Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX), following the roundtable.



Roundtable with David Rank, Former Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires, US Embassy-Beijing

In a joint event hosted with Johns Hopkins SAIS China Studies, Asia Programs students attended a roundtable discussion with David Rank, former Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. On June 9, 2017, Mr. Rank resigned from the State Department over the Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the 2016 Paris Agreement on climate change. A 27-year veteran of the Foreign Service, he was one of the State Department's seasoned Asia hands, with a career that included six tours in greater China and appointments in the Office of Korea Affairs and as Special Assistant covering Asia for the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs. Prior to assuming his post in Beijing, Mr. Rank served as the Director of the State Department's Office of Afghanistan Affairs and as a Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. From 2011-2012, he was the Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Mr. Rank discussed his foreign service career and offered advice to students pursuing careers in diplomacy and policymaking. He noted the changing dynamics in Asia over his career and China's significant return to the global stage, manifested in its participation in multilateral institutions like the United Nations and its strengthening trade and military relations around the world. Mr. Rank also spoke about the future of Afghanistan and its relations with East Asia, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the challenges posed by North Korea.



Above: David Rank led a roundtable discussion with Asia Programs and China Studies students.

Twenty Years After the Asian Financial Crisis

On October 12, Johns Hopkins SAIS Asia Programs, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) co-hosted an assessment of the Southeast Asia region in the twenty years since the financial crisis. Southeast Asia Studies Professor Vikram Nehru moderated a distinguished panel of experts, featuring Mr. Yasuyuki Sawada, the Chief Economist for the Asian Development Bank (ADB); Dr. Hoe Ee Khor, the Chief Economist of AMRO; Dr. Sudhir Shetty, the Chief Economist of the East Asia and Pacific Region of the World Bank; and Dr. Markus Rodlauer, the Deputy Director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department. The discussion



centered on a newly released AMRO report, "ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook," with Dr. Khor giving a presentation on its findings and recommendations. Panelists commented on the report, discussing whether the economic institutions the ASEAN+3 countries rebuilt or restored following the financial crisis will prove capable of managing future economic shocks or disruptions.

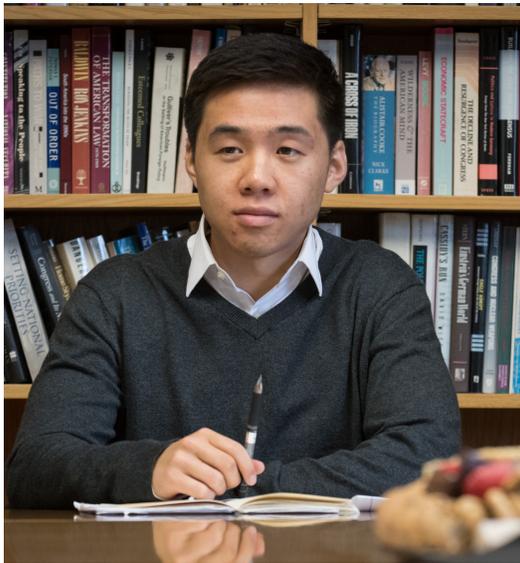
Upcoming Events

Roundtable with Dr. Satu Limaye, Washington Director, East-West Center
Thursday, 26 October 2017

Roundtable with Wendy Cutler, Vice President, Asia Society Policy Institute
Wednesday, 8 November 2017

Getaway Day to the US Department of State
Friday, 1 December 2017

Featured Club: Indonesia Corner



The Indonesia Corner is one of six student clubs focused on Asia at Johns Hopkins SAIS. Southeast Asia program concentrators Eddy Trang (left) and Luke Yanos (right) are Indonesia Corner co-presidents this year.

By Eddy Trang

On October 11th, the Indonesia Corner at Johns Hopkins SAIS hosted an information session on internship and job opportunities in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. SAIS students who interned in Southeast Asia over the summer spoke about their internship search process and their overall internship experiences. Second-year students from International Law; Energy, Resources, and Environment; International Development; and Southeast Asia Studies concentrations traveled throughout the region, including Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore. Students discussed their experiences interning for a range of organizations, including UNESCAP (Bangkok), Control Risks Group (Singapore), the Eurasia Group's Southeast Asia practice, Gerakan Kepedulian (NGO in Indonesia), USINDO Bahasa Indonesia language program (Yogyakarta), Vriens and Partners (Bangkok and Singapore), Asia Foundation (Myanmar), and LEARNx (an education startup in Bangkok).

The event also included a presentation by education coach, author, and consultant Sofia Blake, who is also the wife of former U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia and Johns Hopkins SAIS Southeast Asia Studies Professor Robert Blake, on Padi Internship. Sofia Blake founded Padi Internship, a nonprofit organization, to connect graduate students to specialized and meaningful internships in Indonesia. Selected candidates are matched up to a company or organization based on their interests and area of study. For summer 2018, Padi Internship is looking to match ten graduate students to internship opportunities in Indonesia.

For more information on Padi Internship, visit: <https://www.padi-internship.com/>

Learning Outside the Classroom

Summer Internships



Jon Foissotte, Japan Studies

Last summer, I had the opportunity to intern at the Japanese National Diet. During this time, I worked in a representative's office and attended a number of events including briefings on trade and security, as well as meetings between party members and foreign ambassadors. The time I spent interning afforded me a rare glimpse into the day-to-day functioning of Japan's legislative branch of government as well as a close-up understanding of the numerous channels through which Japan conducts diplomacy. I originally pursued this internship because of my interest in East Asian security and Japan-U.S. relations, and as a

result have been able to establish a deeper grasp on each of these from the standpoint of Japanese foreign policy. My coursework at SAIS has been especially helpful in preparing me for this internship by providing me with the necessary background on Japan's political system contextualized in East Asia's broader regional dynamic. Now beginning my second year at SAIS, I am confident that this experience will further benefit my studies going forward.



Shiyana Gunasekara, South Asia Studies

My summer was spent at CNA, the U.S. Navy's federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), working on a variety of projects related to Indian Ocean security. During my first month, I spent most of my time managing the logistics of the annual CNA-National Maritime Foundation (NMF) dialogue between affiliates of the U.S. and Indian Navies. The event was truly a special opportunity to vastly improve my understanding of U.S.- India defense relations and build upon some of the relevant courses I took, such as "The Rise of India and China" and "Maritime Asia." I spent the majority of my remaining time developing

a time-series database on the value of goods traded across the Indian Ocean. I presented my trends analysis to CNA's senior leadership and offered some insights on the implications of evolving economic interests in the Indian Ocean. The interns wrapped up our time at CNA with an excursion to the U.S. Naval base in Norfolk, Virginia to tour a U.S. aircraft carrier and a Nimitz-class destroyer. Certainly a highlight of my summer, the visit allowed me to put into context much of the analytic work CNA provides for the U.S. Navy and was a solid confirmation of my ambition to work in U.S. national security.

Carrie Williams, Korea Studies

Over the summer, I interned at ABB, Inc. as a government relations intern. ABB, Inc. is a Swedish-Swiss corporation that operates mainly in robotics and power and automation technology areas. I chose the internship because I wanted to learn about government relations; I applied with little understanding of what government relations is and walked away with a better understanding of how a foreign-based company contributes to the American economy and interacts with political figures and policy in Washington. Since ABB, Inc. focuses on environmentally friendly manufacturing practices and products, I became interested in learning more about sustainable development and eco-friendly products.



Shuting Yow, Southeast Asia Studies

Over the summer of 2017, I embarked on an internship at Control Risks. I was on the Global Risks Analysis (GRA) team focusing on political risk analysis in Southeast Asia, and coincidentally had a SAIS alumna as my mentor. I initially chose Control Risks as it had a good reputation in the sector, and had decided on the Singapore office as it was the Asia-Pacific headquarters which primarily did Southeast Asian political analysis. True enough, I found the GRA team to be made up of motivated and talented individuals with whom I had a very fulfilling time working. Over the course of five weeks, I prepared a database that classified global events into different types of risks, worked on threat assessments in various cities in the Philippines at the height of Abu Sayyaf's activities, and produced some of the monthly risk forecasts that are sent to Control Risks' clients. My classes at SAIS, particularly two on Myanmar and Indonesia, had greatly prepared me for the internship. Through them, I developed skills to better analyze the numerous in-country stakeholders' concerns and the broad political contours of the various Southeast Asian countries, allowing me to go beyond superficial descriptions of political events.

PhD Snapshots

Jaehan Park, Japan Studies

Jaehan Park's research interests include international relations theory, comparative foreign policy analysis, and geopolitics. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from SAIS, and a B.A. in Business Administration from Yonsei University. Prior to entering SAIS, he served as an officer in the Republic of Korea Army.

Jaehan gave Asia Programs a look at how he spent his summer: "Over the summer, SAIS offered a 4-week program on American foreign policy to undergraduate students from Kyung-Hee University, South Korea. I had the privilege of working as a teaching assistant for the course. Led by Professor John Karaagac, also a SAIS alumnus, 20 handpicked students attended class in the morning, followed by afternoon site visits and guest speakers. The course was highly timely for the students as a sound understanding of U.S. policy is crucial to South Korea, especially at this juncture. If education is a hundred-year blueprint (百年大計), their brilliance was a silver lining amidst turbulence in Northeast Asia."

Anand Mishra, Southeast Asia Studies



Anand Mishra has over fifteen years of professional experience in financial market research, international consulting, think tanks, corporate strategic planning and the media. He has undertaken multiple projects on economic and trade analysis including FTAs, the impact of nuclear weapons testing on the trade and investment climate, bilateral aid and education policy. His area of research at SAIS is the security environment in the Indian Ocean region. His other areas of interest include nuclear policy, political risk analysis and global governance. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from University of California, San Diego.

Where Are They Now?

Alumni Snapshots



Photo: Sunita and fellow SAIS classmates on Embassy Day in Washington, DC.

Sunita Kambhampati

South Asia Studies, Class of 2014

Since graduating from SAIS, I worked at CSIS where I conducted research on the US-India business and economic relationship. After a short stint there, I made the decision to move into the consulting world where I have been with Accenture Federal Services for two years. I have had the opportunity to work with the Department of Education and the State Department. Currently, I'm working with the Department of the Treasury in Dallas, focusing on business process improvements. At SAIS, I was a South Asia Studies concentrator, which meant most of my coursework was focused on the Asian region. This background made the CSIS job perfect for me. However, it also prepared me for my consulting job. At SAIS, we are tasked to think in a strategic manner about the world and economics around us. Much like this, in consulting, having the ability to identify the key business issue and formulate a strategic solution is invaluable. So while I was nervous about my transition into a relatively unknown industry, the ability to "think like a consultant" came naturally as SAIS had prepared me to do so.



Enoch Kim

Korea Studies, Class of 2013

After graduating from SAIS, I joined The Asia Group (TAG), a strategic advisory firm focused on helping U.S. corporates capture new growth opportunities across Asia. I support the firm's China practice, specializing in technology, media, and telecommunications, with a focus on developing and implementing market access campaigns. It's an exciting, fast-paced environment that features government relations, political and economic analysis, partnership development, and public relations, among other variables – tying these elements together into a cohesive strategy requires the type of critical thinking, regional expertise, and communication skills that are all key characteristics of a SAIS education. Additionally, beyond coursework, the various SAIS-sponsored programs, clubs, and activities helped shape my career path. TAG was a small start-up (only a few months old) when I joined, but being around a group of highly-motivated and entrepreneurial classmates proved contagious, and I decided to cut my teeth in helping to build a business from the ground-up rather than pursue an Asia-based opportunity with one of the more established consulting firms. It's been an incredible experience so far, with far more opportunities to engage at the highest levels of business and government than I would have expected at this point in my career.

Meet Our Professors



Ambassador Robert Blake

Southeast Asia Studies

Teaching "Demystifying Indonesia: The Political Economy of an Important Southeast Asian State," Fall 2017

What are the major issues in Indonesia to which students should pay attention?

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority democracy, and a G-20 country with a near trillion dollar economy. It achieved an important democratic and economic transformation after the Asian financial crisis of 1998 and has bright prospects because of its young population and growing middle class. Average growth rates of 5-6% over the last decade marked Indonesia as one of the faster growing economies of

Asia, but 40% of the country still lives on less than \$2 a day and growth has disproportionately benefited the very rich, exacerbating inequality. Indonesia successfully curbed terrorism following the Bali bombings in 2002, but faces a challenge from ISIS which sees Southeast Asia as a target of opportunity after its recent reversals in Iraq and Syria. Longer term, Indonesia must take steps to enhance its higher education and vocational training capacity so it has a work force that can compete with counterparts in fast-growing Vietnam, and other parts of Southeast Asia, and it must develop rule of law that inspires the confidence of its citizens and investors.

How does your professional background influence how and what you teach?

You never stop learning so I am excited to continue to learn from my fellow professors at SAIS. I also hope to bring the practical lessons of my three decades of experience as a Foreign Service Officer to the classroom so students can learn from the mistakes I made and the modest successes I had in influencing public policy in the many countries I served.

This will include the challenges of developing and executing policy in Washington, where other Government Departments, the White House, Congress, think tanks and non-governmental organizations all have influence. I hope these lessons will be constructive, whatever fields our students pursue.

What is your advice to SAIS students who might want to pursue a career similar to yours?

First, do consider a career in public service. I loved (almost!) every day of my Foreign Service career because I had the chance to serve my country and every day to make a difference in someone's life, whether it was helping a US business solve a problem or get a contract, advocating to promote human rights, alerting American citizens to security risks and providing emergency services when needed, or reporting on political and economic developments and what they mean for the United States. Every day was different and exciting, and the Foreign Service rewarded those who were proactive and imaginative about advancing American interests. Those who are interested should seek out opportunities to get experience overseas; working for a business or NGO, taking a summer internship at an Embassy or joining the Peace Corps are all good choices! And read widely.

What are you reading right now?

On my night table now is *The Golden Legend*, a novel by Nadeem Aslam about sectarian tensions in Pakistan, and *Thieves of State, Why Corruption Threatens Global Security* by Sarah Chayes.



Professor Nao Matsukata

Japan Studies

Teaching "History of Japan's Emergence as a World Power: From Isolation to Global Integration," Fall 2017

What is one of the major challenges Japan faces today?

One of the major challenges Japan faces is the complacency of its youth to reach out and engage with the outside world – other countries and cultures. The most concrete evidence, really, appears when I look back over the years since I began teaching at SAIS in 1997. There has been a relative decline in students from Japan studying here in the United States. We see fewer Japanese youth traveling to the

United States and fewer involved in exchange programs and various other study abroad programs. Probably one of the biggest challenges is that as the population shrinks, we will want as much of the population engaged with the outside world as possible. Aside from Japan's more prominent challenges – economy, national security, etc. – at Japan's core, it needs a population that is interested and curious about what is outside Japan.

How has your professional background influenced how and what you teach?

My background is a Ph.D. in history. I have always looked upon history as a wonderful tool for helping any aspiring policymaker to be better at their craft. When any policy issue or decision is in front of you, and you need to come up with a proposal solution or advice for someone you work for, instinctively people turn toward history – but they don't realize they are turning to it for the beginning of the search for their answer. When I was involved in government and policymaking, I always relied on skills I learned as an historian to better understand people and the situation in which I was involved.

What is your advice to SAIS students who might want to pursue a career or expertise similar to yours?

SAIS students should go without hesitation into whatever is available to them. I think the advice sometimes is, "never take the first job that comes to you." But if you're interested in public policy and in government, mobility in the industry is quite rapid – much more rapid than the corporate or private sectors. On the other hand, initial jobs there are hard to come by. So I've encouraged students not to worry too much about the first job; take it, embrace it, and don't worry about it. Opportunities to grow and develop will come quickly.

What are you reading right now?

I am reading a book I'm very fond of for the second time: *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945*, by Emily Rosenberg. It was written quite a while ago. It's a book about how American culture was exported in the 1920s. It was on that basis that a lot of American influence around the world developed. I'm reading it in particular because I am interested in how Japanese culture has been a very important arm of foreign policy for Japan – to my surprise. I personally never thought Japanese culture would be as exportable as it has been. Things we think of every day – food, manga, anime – all these things we take as part of our lives, but at one time they had to be consciously exported by Japan. The book looks at how the United States went through this process almost 100 years ago. Japan has become an export juggernaut that I don't think anybody would have imagined 25 years ago.



Professor James Person

Korea Studies

Teaching "The Politics of the Vortex? Political History of South Korea," Fall 2017

What is the biggest challenge facing the Korean peninsula?

The greatest threat facing the Korean peninsula today is the ongoing standoff with North Korea over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Undeterred by international sanctions and opprobrium, North Korea is on a fast track to demonstrating a credible deterrence capability. With limited channels for communication between Washington and Pyongyang, and a surge in belligerence and threats from both sides, there is an increasing risk of miscalculation.

How does your professional background influence how and what you teach?

I was trained as an historian, but have worked for the past decade in an environment where I had to apply a broader historical sensibility to contemporary developments on the Korean peninsula. In my classes, I try to get students to reflect on how the historical background of an issue or the broader historical context surrounding it affects the way in which we may perceive, address, frame or deal with the issue today. How might a U.S. policymaker need to adjust their expectations in light of this history? Does the past offer any suggestions as to ways that this issue might be addressed, resolved, managed? Having worked for a decade building and coordinating the North Korea International Documentation Project and with the Cold War International History Project, I understand the value of working with primary source documents to get a better sense of how policies take shape. I plan to introduce curated collections of primary source documents to my class so students can work with materials from U.S. and Korean archives on key developments in modern Korean history, such as the struggle for democratization in the 1980s.

What is your advice to SAIS students who might want to pursue a career similar to yours?

There is a great need for more historians to share their expertise in Washington. If there is one thing I have learned while talking with people about North Korea, for example, there is a need to highlight the continuities to policies to debunk many of the myths and misperceptions we have about the secretive regime. If more policymakers considered the historical evolution of North Korea's perception of the United States, they might find better ways to frame and deal with the ongoing standoff with Pyongyang. But conveying the importance of history to busy policymakers is a skill that requires honing. I've learned this the hard way. The individual you are briefing is likely to take a power nap if you launch into a lengthy and detailed history of U.S.-Korean interactions from 1866 to the present to explain the sources of Pyongyang's contemporary views toward Washington.

What are you reading right now?

I am reading Carter Eckert's Park Chung Hee and Modern Korea: The Roots of Militarism, 1866-1945. As the first of two volumes, it is an extraordinarily well-researched portrait of a man and the role Manchukuo and Japanese militarism played in the formation of his identity.



Professor Johannes Urpelainen

South Asia Studies and ERE

Teaching "Energy and Environment in South Asia," Fall 2017

What are the biggest obstacles for change in energy and environmental policy in South Asia?

South Asian countries face the difficult challenge of ending energy poverty and fueling their economies without contributing to climate disruption. The region has bright economic prospects in the coming years, but economic growth depends on secure access to affordable energy. South Asian governments must find ways to generate energy in a sustainable fashion. Promising solutions include renewable energy, such as wind or solar power, and energy efficiency. However, South Asian governments still face institutional constraints on effective energy and environmental policy. For example, politicians subsidize electricity consumption for political reasons, and thus encourage wasteful use of energy. Political conflicts in the region - especially between India and Pakistan - also undermine cooperation on energy.

How does your professional background influence how and what you teach?

For me, the most important experiences that inform my teaching come from a combination of careful analysis and experience in the field. When I started my fieldwork in India five years ago, I was able to put my research skills - research design, data collection, microeconomics, political economy, and so on - to a very good use. Going back and forth between careful analytical work as a researcher and observing the reality of energy poverty in India left a lasting impression on my teaching.

What is your advice to SAIS students who might want to pursue expertise or a career path similar to yours?

A successful research career in energy and environment depends on a combination deep domain knowledge, excellent research skills, and a passion for the topic. For anyone interested in this topic, I would encourage applying for a PhD program at a great university that not only offers excellent theoretical and methodological training, but also has world-class energy and environment experts. Spending lots of time in the field is essential for developing a deep understanding of the challenges we face as we try to improve our energy and environmental policy.

What are you reading right now?

Currently I am reading a biography of Sam Peckinpah, Becker's classic book Denial of Death, and an edited volume called The Coal Nation on the coal industry in India.

Thanks for reading!

If you'd like to be featured in our next
newsletter, contact
SAISAsia@jhu.edu.