Dear Colleagues and Friends of Johns Hopkins SAIS Asia Programs:

Graduation week at Johns Hopkins SAIS is always a very exciting time of the year. Our students are looking forward to jobs and internships in DC and Asia and the many opportunities their studies at SAIS have helped them achieve.

We are pleased to share with you highlights from the past semester. Asia Programs hosted an active series of events, including policy luncheons with Dr. Sudhir Shetty, World Bank Chief Economist for East Asia and the Pacific Region, and Jim Loi, Chief Operating Officer at The Asia Group. In March, we supported a committee of Asia concentrators who organized and led the annual SAIS Asia Conference, bringing graduate students from across the country to present research on vital issues facing the region. In April, we co-hosted with Lahore University of Management Sciences a conference on Pakistan’s current challenges and future prospects. Our students also participated in study trips across Asia and engaged in internships, professional development and policy and cultural activities in DC.

Looking ahead, there will be changes in our program leadership. Dr. Calder has accepted an appointment to join the Dean’s Office as Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and International Research Cooperation. In July, Dr. Devesh Kapur will join us from the University of Pennsylvania, where he has served as director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India. Dr. Kapur has accepted Dean Nasr’s invitation to serve as our new Asia Programs director; he will also hold the title of Starr Foundation Professor of South Asia studies. On behalf of SAIS and Asia Programs, we would like to extend a sincere welcome to Professor Kapur.

And as the academic year draws to an end, we congratulate our 2018 graduates in Japan, Korea, South Asia and Southeast Asia Studies and extend our best wishes for much happiness and success!

Sincerely,

Kent Calder, Director
Sharon Yanagi, Associate Director
Meet Our New Director

Professor Devesh Kapur
Starr Foundation South Asia Studies Professor
Director of Asia Programs

We are very pleased to welcome Professor Devesh Kapur, who will be joining Johns Hopkins SAIS in July as the Starr Foundation South Asia Studies Professor and new Director of Asia Programs. He will succeed Dr. Kent Calder, who will move to the Dean’s Office as Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and International Research Cooperation. Dr. Kapur will teach a cross-listed course on international migration and development in the International Political Economy and International Development programs and the new required course in South Asia Studies this fall.

Dr. Kapur has a distinguished background in research and academia. He joins us from the University of Pennsylvania, where he is a professor of Political Science. He has served as Director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India since 2006 and holds the Madan Lal Sobti Chair for the Study of Contemporary India. Prior to his tenure at Penn, Professor Kapur was Associate Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Frederick Danziger Associate Professor of Government at Harvard.

Dr. Kapur’s research has focused on five broad areas that examine the political and institutional determinants of economic development: international financial institutions; political and economic consequences of international and internal migration; the effects of market forces and urbanization on the well-being of socially marginalized groups in India; governance and public institutions; and higher education. His book, Diaspora, Democracy and Development: The Impact of International Migration from India on India (Princeton University Press) earned him a 2012 Distinguished Book Award of the International Studies Association, while The Other One Percent: Indians in America (with Sanjoy Chakravorty and Nirvikar Singh) was a Choice Outstanding Title of 2017. His other publications include The World Bank: Its First Half Century (with John Lewis and Richard Webb) and Defying the Odds: The Rise of Dalit Entrepreneurs (co-authored with D. Shyam Babu and Chandra Bhan Prasad). His latest edited works are Navigating the Labyrinth: Perspectives on India’s Higher Education (with Pratap Bhanu Mehta), Rethinking Public Institutions in India (with Pratap Bhanu Mehta and Milan Vaishnav) and The Costs of Democracy: Political Finance in India (with Milan Vaishnav).

Professor Kapur received the Joseph R. Levenson Teaching Prize, awarded to the best junior faculty at Harvard College and Outstanding Teaching in Political Science by the American Political Science Association, in 2005. He holds a B. Tech in Chemical Engineering from IIT (BHU) Varanasi; an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota; and a Ph.D. from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton.
EVENTS

Riding the Wave with Sudhir Shetty

On February 21, Johns Hopkins SAIS Asia Programs hosted a roundtable discussion with Dr. Sudhir Shetty, Chief Economist for the East Asia and Pacific Region at The World Bank. Dr. Shetty discussed his recently published regional report, Riding the Wave: An East Asian Miracle for the 21st Century.

Southeast Asia Studies Professor Vikram Nehru, Dr. Shetty’s former World Bank colleague, offered expert commentary on his findings.

Roundtable Discussion with Jim Loi

On April 4, Johns Hopkins SAIS Asia Programs hosted Jim Loi, Partner and Chief Operating Officer of the Asia Group LLC, for our monthly roundtable discussion. The Asia Group LLC is a strategy and business advisory group with a diverse client base with business interests across the trans-Pacific region. Mr. Loi discussed his views on the evolving role of China in Southeast Asia, as well as the effects of this role on U.S. interests in the region under the Trump Administration. Mr. Loi emphasized the need for balance between nations in the region, especially as China's economic power increases. He also discussed his experiences working extensively on Asia issues in both government and business. Mr. Loi joined The Asia Group after an illustrious 22-year career at the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer and member of the Senior Foreign Service.
Seventh Annual SAIS Asia Conference

Each spring, SAIS Asia Programs sponsors and supports a conference led by MA and PhD students from the five Asia concentrations. Students organize and run a conference that draws policy experts and officials and graduate students from across Washington and the United States to present and discuss original research on the challenges and opportunities facing the Asia Pacific region. This year, the student committee, co-chaired by PhD students Jaehan Park (Japan Studies) and Adam Lee (China Studies), added a policy debate to the day-long program, which was held on March 30.

by Peter Juhl, Korea Studies, MA 2018

The Rome Auditorium and environs abuzz with excitement; faces unfamiliar to SAIS regulars; generous amounts of food and beverage available. Such were some scenes from this year’s SAIS Asia Conference, back with a bang on a warm, early-spring Friday this semester. While people come and go from SAIS, institutions live on. The Asia Conference is such an institution, distinguished from other conferences at SAIS by its being run by students. As an ‘institution,’ it dates back to the halcyon days of fall 2011, when the first organizing team came together. This year’s seventh annual conference built on previous years’ momentum.

This year’s conference theme was “Competing Visions for Asia’s Future” (NOTE: last year's theme was “U.S.-Asia Relations: Past and Future;” two years ago, “Forging the Asian Century”). MA and PhD candidates from universities near and far were on hand to present their papers and participate in discussion panels around such subthemes as “Great Power Competition or Cooperation?” and “China at the Center.” The keynote speaker was Daniel Blumenthal, Director of Asian Studies and Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). This year, the conference organizers launched the “SAIS Asia Policy Debate” to much acclaim. Four SAIS students vigorously debated the proposition of whether “the United States can and should maintain extended nuclear deterrence in Asia” with audience participation. To the surprise of many, the ‘Against’ team won, as the audience broke narrowly in its favor.

Kudos go to this year’s chairman, the indefatigable Jaehan Park (SAIS MA ’16), a current SAIS PhD candidate. He and his eight-member Organizing Committee took care of running every aspect of the conference, with the academic side managed by SAIS PhD candidate Adam Lee.

See http://saisasia.wordpress.com for 2012-2018 SAIS Asia Conference material, including conference agendas, participant bios (presenters, keynote speakers, organizing committees, panelists, and moderators).
Pakistan Beyond Seventy: The Long View

by Stephanie Edwards, South Asia Studies, MA 2019

On April 16-17, the SAIS South Asia Studies Program partnered with Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) to co-host “Pakistan beyond 70: The Long View.” The conference featured distinguished Pakistan experts, diplomats, and faculty from SAIS and LUMS. Speakers considered Pakistan’s current challenges and discussed future possibilities for Pakistan’s internal state of affairs, its relationship with the United States, and its position on the international stage.

The conference opened with introductions by Dr. Joshua White, Dr. Rasul Bakhsh Rais (LUMS Professor of Political Science), and Shezad Habib (INDUS Special Advisor). The introductions led into panel discussions regarding challenges to Pakistan’s democracy. Panelists highlighted judicial inefficiencies, recent political scandals, voting trends, and dynastic politics. In the next panel, former U.S. officials—Ambassador Richard Boucher, Ambassador Robin Raphel, and Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli—reflected on past and present U.S.-Pakistan relations. The first day of the conference ended with “Kaleidoscope Pakistan.” This photography exhibit featured historical Pakistani architecture, thanks to collaborative efforts by Muse, INDUS, Zara, and SAIS Foreign Policy Institute.

Second day panels centered on Pakistan’s regional relationships, economic potential, and place in the world order. Distinguished speakers included Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Ambassador of Pakistan, and Mehmood Khan, Vice Chairman of Pepsi Co. Dr. Khan optimistically described the Pakistani consumer market and inclusion-driven solutions to help expand the Pakistani workforce and ultimately grow the economy. Speakers throughout the conference shared honest, thoughtful perspectives on Pakistan’s economy, security challenges, governance, and foreign policy.
Study Trip: US-Japan Relations in Global Context
by Steven Pelcovits, Japan Studies MA 2018

This past spring break, a group of us in Professor Bill Brooks’ class, US-Japan Relations in Global Context, went to Tokyo for a research trip. After beginning our trip on a cultural note with a tea ceremony, we met with experts from the US Embassy, Temple University Japan, and the Japan Institute for International Affairs. They briefed us on a variety of important issues for Japan, such as TPP, North Korea’s nuclear program, and the scandal-related political crisis faced by Prime Minister Abe. Our last group activity was dinner with Professor Calder at the International House of Japan.

In addition to the group meetings, we also split up to do individual interviews for our respective research topics. Since my topic is on the Trump Administration’s effects on US-Japan economic relations, I spoke with representatives from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Waseda University; and the Japan External Trade Organization, or JETRO. Each of them shared valuable insights and gave me plenty of food for thought.

Overall, the trip was both a great bonding experience for us as well as a unique chance to meet with leaders from government, academia, and other associated fields. We are grateful to the Reischauer Center and the other supporters who made the trip possible, and look forward to publishing our research papers in the 2018 US-Japan Yearbook.
Our schedule in Korea technically began with a Monday morning trip to the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History, but the mix of jet lag and coffee haze kept me on auto-pilot until the early afternoon. Despite the fatigue and busy schedule, however, I cannot imagine a more rewarding way to spend my spring break than the Two Koreas research trip, and that is coming from a guy used to T-shirts and shorts who spent the week shackled up in a necktie and suit.

Over the course of the week, we met with Korean, Japanese, and American diplomatic and government officials, as well as Korean journalists, business people, and U.S. military officers. One of the highlights was our trip to a school for North Korean refugees, all of whom were in middle or high school. Even though I had met North Korean refugees before, having the chance to visit classrooms and sit down for lunch with the students was incredibly impactful. It is easy to forget that North Koreans exist outside of the news reports and books you read, but seeing the students act like any other high schoolers grounded my perception of Korea in a lasting way.

Dr. Person’s Two Koreas course would have been worthwhile without the trip, but getting the chance to ground the lessons we learned in class to the real world undoubtedly made it a defining cornerstone of my time at SAIS so far.
PhD Snapshot

Yun Sun, Southeast Asia Studies

Yun Sun is a PhD student in the Southeast Asia Studies Program. During the summer of 2017, she attended the Oslo Forum on conflict mediation and spoke at the Financial Services Volunteer Corps’ annual symposium on global trends, hosted in Dubai. She visited China and Hong Kong as a member of a National Committee on U.S.-China Relations delegation as its Public Intellectual Fellow. For her dissertation research, she spent weeks on the Sino-Burma and Thai-Burma borders meeting with Myanmar’s ethnic armed groups to study Myanmar’s ethnic reconciliation process and the role of external players.

During the fall semester, Yun served as an expert escort for the largest Congressional delegation to China in 2017, accompanying six members of the U.S. House Representatives to Beijing, Tianjin, and Shandong province. The delegation met with the Chinese vice premier, military leaders, and American businesses representatives, among others. In November, she was invited by the Burmese government to speak at a conference on ethnic diversity management in light of the Rohingya crisis. In late December, she participated in a Chinese symposium on China’s strategic adjustment in South Asia.

Meet our Students

Myat Nyi Nyi Win
Southeast Asia Studies, MIPP 2018

Myat Nyi Nyi Win has pursued a concentration in Southeast Asia Studies this year as a student in the Master of International Public Policy (MIPP) program at Johns Hopkins SAIS.

Mr. Win, an official in the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was granted a scholarship from Myanmar’s government, and awarded a Thayer fellowship from the SAIS Southeast Asia Studies program (the Thayer fellowship program is generously supported by the Luce Foundation).

Mr. Win’s assignments at the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs have included serving in the ASEAN Affairs, and the Planning and Administrative Departments, as well as at the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore. He was a member of the Myanmar delegations that attended the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits held in Laos, and the 71st UN General Assembly held in New York.

Mr. Win believes his studies at SAIS have helped enhance his career skills in conducting international relations, particularly with respect to ASEAN affairs. While at SAIS, he had the opportunity to take a class tasked with finding policy solutions to the Rakhine crisis in Myanmar, and studied the U.S. Congress and Foreign Policy, Chinese Foreign Policy, Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.

Upon graduation, he believes he will resume his position at the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a much deeper understanding of ASEAN affairs.
Where Are They Now?
Alumni Snapshots

Matthew Goodman
Japan Studies, Class of 1988

I had lived in Japan for three years before I went to SAIS, so I had a good sense of the place but no formal training in Japanese politics, economics, or international relations. Not only did SAIS give me a solid grounding in all that, but I was able to branch out in several directions during my time there: academically, by taking a bunch of Doak Barnett’s superb courses on China; professionally, by doing an internship at USTR when Japan trade frictions were at a peak; and socially, by making a great group of friends I still keep up with 30 years later. And it was only because my SAIS economics professor, Isaiah Frank, put in such a strong recommendation that I persuaded a skeptical boss at the Treasury Department to hire me. Like the many other alumni I now work at a think tank down the street, and I got a great launch at SAIS.

Matthew Goodman has an extensive background in Asia economic policy issues in government, business and currently at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where he is senior adviser for Asian economics and holds the William E. Simon Chair in Political Economy. Before joining CSIS, he was White House coordinator for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the East Asia Summit. He also served as director for international economics at the National Security Council and as senior adviser to the under secretary for economic, energy, and agricultural affairs at the U.S. Department of State. He also worked at Albright Stonebridge Group as managing director for Asia, and headed the government affairs operations in Tokyo and London at Goldman, Sachs & Co. He began his career as a Presidential Management Intern at the U.S. Treasury after attending Johns Hopkins SAIS.

Shruti Jagirdar
South Asia Studies, Class of 2014

I currently work at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia, a research network headquartered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). I focus on generating randomized evaluations in energy, environment and agriculture and work with governments, donors, and implementing partners to ensure our research responds to policy priorities and effective programmes are scaled up as public policy. I also equip policymakers and practitioners with the expertise to carry out their own rigorous impact evaluations.

I found classes in development economics very useful (where assignments included replicating the research results of professors I’m currently working with) as well as co-curricular excursions to better understand the development trajectory of emerging countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. I benefitted tremendously from interacting with an intelligent, driven peer group.
The Korea Club is one of seven student clubs focused on Asia at SAIS. Korea Studies concentrator Peter Juhl is the president this year.

By Peter Juhl, Korea Studies, MA 2018

There was no shortage of excitement related to Korea in the news this academic year. We at SAIS Korea Club were there the whole while, trying to keep up with rapidly changing events “over there,” and actively planning our own club events here at SAIS. To highlight just a few:

We held a screening (Feb. 27) of the box-office hit “Ode to My Father” (Kukje Shijang), an emotional historical-fiction film following a family divided by the Korean War. SAIS’ own Dr. James Person introduced the film. A great experience for all of our approximately thirty guests.

Later came our highly anticipated Korea Club Happy Hour (March 9), which we ran this year on a Karaoke Night theme. It proved successful, with some pleasant singing voices booming throughout Kenney-Herter that evening, and K-Pop (naturally) making a strong showing. We were able to sell Korean food thanks to a kind anonymous benefactor. Many dozens attended; we earned hundreds to support next year’s activities.

On April 17, we hosted Korea Studies alumni for “One Year After the Moon Rise,” a discussion on recent developments in South Korean domestic politics. SAIS itself had entered the spotlight in the Korean media days earlier, with the closure of the U.S.-Korea Institute (USKI) at SAIS. While the Korea Club is not directly affected, we released a statement of appreciation for USKI in mid-April.

This year’s officers have all lived, studied, and/or worked in South Korea (as far as I know, none have North Korea experience). The President was Peter Juhl. The Vice President for Policy Affairs was Byungnam Jin, and the Vice President for Cultural Affairs was Jennifer Shin. Other officers were Helen Russell (Treasurer), Hannah Lee (Head of Marketing), Soon Hong (Head of Logistics), and Natalia Slavney (External Liaison). All but one of us were Korea Studies concentrators or minors.

To this year’s leadership: “Sugo-ha-shyeossoyo!” The Korea Club will be back in September.
Congratulations to our 2018 Graduates!

**Japan Studies MA**
- Xiaochen Cai (December 2017 Graduate)
- Jon Foissotte*
- Steven Pelcovits
- Jane Schott (Minor)

**Japan Studies MIPP**
- James Lambright

**Korea Studies MA**
- Peter Juhl
- Dongwoo Lee
- Hannah Lee (Minor)
- Helen Russell (Minor)
- Natalia Slavney (Minor)
- Ashlyn Weber (December 2017 Graduate)
- Carrie Williams
- Shan Wu (December 2017 Graduate)

**Korea Studies MIPP**
- Ji Hoon Yoo
- Ezra Kim

**South Asia Studies MA**
- Shiyana Gunasekara*
- Keji Mao
- Yutao Xie

**South Asia Studies MIPP**
- Michael Payne

**Southeast Asia Studies MA**
- Christopher Blood (Minor)
- Kristin Buchanan (Minor)
- Calin Brown
- Trang Thi Quynh Dang
- Dominique Dulay*
- Raenuka Fangtong*
- Gibson Haynes (December 2017 Graduate)
- Ignatius Randy Kasasih (Minor)
- Philip Lopez (Minor)
- Dat Tan Nguyen
- Eddy Trang
- Nathania Utomo
- Qianwen Wang (Minor)
- Luke Yanos
- Shuting Yow

**Southeast Asia Studies MIPP**
- Myat Nyi Nyi Win

*Graduated with Asia IR Specialization

Congratulations to our Award Recipients:

- **Shan Wu**
  Induction into Phi Beta Kappa

- **Shuting Yow**
  Induction into Phi Beta Kappa

Graduating with Honors:

- **Shuting Yow**
  Southeast Asia Studies