A Word from the Director

I was delighted to see so many of you in Washington, New York, and Buenos Aires during the 2016-17 academic year. LASP enjoyed another busy and rewarding year with newly-developed courses on Andean security and the role of the private sector in development. Moreover, through on-the-ground research, faculty publications, and public events, LASP furthered academic and policy debates on global populism, Latin America-India-China relations, and regional competitiveness, among other topics. In the spring, Professor González carried insights from our global populism event to alumni in the San Francisco Bay Area. As a complement to LASP coursework, I accompanied 12 students to Argentina to further explore the most pressing topics facing the country. Over winter break, Professor González led a group of LASPies to Singapore and Malaysia to discuss the future of trans-Pacific trade.

On the staff side, Dr. Guadalupe Paz was appointed Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs in the SAIS Office of Academic Affairs, and John McGeoch was promoted to LASP Associate Director. Anne McKenzie continues to extend the program’s outreach; this year, she placed 15 interns in the region including new opportunities in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Mexico. Also, this summer, we welcomed our new program coordinator Michael Weiner. As we wish our 2017 graduates well, I take this opportunity to thank our alumni, donors and friends who continue to mentor, fund and create meaningful opportunities for our students. I share a special note of congratulations to 1986 LASP alumna Sarah O’Hagan who received the SAIS Founders Award at the 2017 graduation ceremony. I invite you to read this year’s LASP recap, and I look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

With best wishes,

This Year’s LASPies

During the 2016–17 academic year, LASP welcomed 55 program concentrators (50 MAs, 2 MIPPs, and 3 PhDs) from 14 countries—China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Germany, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Spain, United States and Venezuela. Eleven LASP students completed the first year of their M.A. degree at SAIS Europe in Bologna, Italy. In May 2017, the program graduated 28 LASPies; job placements for this year’s class include: Astris Finance, IMF, OppenheimerFunds, Presidential Management Fellows Program, Morgan Stanley, McKinsey & Company, impact investment fund sponsor TriLinc Global, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Frontier Strategy Group. Also among graduates, Theodore “Teddy” Kahn completed his Ph.D. dissertation titled “Elusive Alliances: Local Government, Transnational Capital, and Regional Development in Post-Reform Mexico.” Congratulations to Teddy for graduating with distinction.

International Study Trips:

Singapore and Malaysia - January 2017

During January 18-27, Dr. Francisco González and Canadian Studies Professor Dr. Christopher Sands accompanied eight students on a joint LASP-Canadian Studies trip to Malaysia and Singapore. The trip explored the future of trans-Pacific trade following the U.S. withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Meetings included roundtable sessions with senior officials from private industry, government and academia, to discuss how TPP fallout impacts global supply chains, finance, multilateral relations, and future trade negotiations. Specific site visits included the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore), Malaysia Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Singapore office. We are grateful to the Starr Foundation’s “Understanding Asia in the 21st Century” initiative which funded this enriching experience.

Argentina - March 2017

From March 17-25, Dr. Roett led twelve students to Argentina to examine the programs of President Mauricio Macri’s government after defeating the Peronists in the 2015 presidential election. The group met with senior representatives from the private and public sectors to assess the state of the economy, the redefined foreign policy of Argentina, and the political landscape prior to the country’s midterms election. Trip highlights included visits to the Central Bank, Ministry of Education, La Nación, Cresud/IRSA and Chilean Embassy, among others. LASP would like to thank the organizations and alumni in Argentina who opened their doors to the delegation. The program is indebted to our donors whose support significantly enhances the student learning experience.

LASP Graduates are Ready to Make an Impact

The graduating class of 2017 is poised for success within multilaterals, investment firms, and national governments. This enterprising group of young alumni brought a diverse set of experiences to our program. After two years of study, we are excited to send them off armed with lessons from LASP coursework, on-the-job training from internships, and friendships within our strong alumni network. We send a special thanks to the many alumni who guided and supported our students throughout this journey. We highlight five of this year’s graduates below.

Miguel Mendes (Portugal)
IMF Research Analyst

Cailey Stevens (U.S.)
Presidential Management Fellow

Pui Shen Yoong (Malaysia)
World Bank Economist

Max Lowenthal (U.S.)
Astris Finance Analyst

Fernando Ventura (Costa Rica)
Microvest Investment Officer

2017 Summer Internships

For summer 2017, SAIS Latin American Studies facilitated internship placements and provided stipend support to 15 program concentrators. Placements included positions in the public sector (Government of Oaxaca, Mexican Federal Authority for the Development of Special Economic Zones), the private sector (Thomson Reuters Brazil, DAX Energy Group Chile, AT Kearney Colombia, and Cefiendas International Advisory Argentina), and multilateral organizations (CAF Development Bank of Latin America Colombia, IFC Brazil), to highlight a few. The program remains committed to professional development experiences which broaden classroom learning and offer substantial field experience. These opportunities are only made possible through the support of engaged alumni and generous program benefactors. We recognize the long-standing endowed internship support of Robert Hildreth ’75, the Zemurray Foundation, and Olivier ’91 and Jennifer Lemaigre ’83. Also, we thank Robert Botjer ‗67, Lynn Exton ‗79 and Richard Marney ‗79, Eric Gibbs ‘99 and Samprit Ganguli ‘01, David Kyle ‘79, Sophie Lynn ‘91 and David Frederick, D. Jefferson Finch ‘10, as well as Dr. D. Scott Palmer. Further, we acknowledge the donations of countless alumni who help finance our internships, financial aid fellowships as well as other LASP initiatives.

If you are interested in hosting a LASP intern within your organization, please contact Anne McKenzie at amckenzie@jhu.edu.

Alumni Engagement

Alumni contribute their time, energy, and expertise to make the extended LASP family a dynamic network of colleagues and friends. LASP is grateful for ongoing alumni engagement through mentoring support, generous donations, and participation in networking activities.

Lasp alumni from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Eurasia Group, and US Department of Commerce participate in a career panel to share their insights and expertise.

Celebrating Dr. Roett

Dr. Roett has announced that the 2017-18 academic year will be his final year as Director of the SAIS Latin American Studies Program. 2018 will also mark Dr. Roett’s 45th year at SAIS!

As a fitting tribute to thank him for his dedicated teaching/mentorship, cutting-edge scholarship and strategic vision, LASP will host an evening celebration in Washington, DC on the evening of October 11, 2017. We look forward to welcoming alumni and friends back to SAIS to celebrate Dr. Roett’s legacy.

More details are forthcoming.