



# SOUTHEAST ASIA STUDIES PROGRAM

FALL 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The loss of Hoa Tran dominated our lives for the past month. I remain intensely proud of the way in which the entire SAIS community responded to Hoa's needs and comforted her in every way possible. Accepting the tragic reality of what has occurred remains very difficult for all of us but I take at least some solace in the knowledge that the SAIS community pulled together in an unprecedented way to provide comfort and resources.

Above all, Professor Bridget Welsh and Dominic Nguyen did everything possible, showing what truly dedicated human beings can do for a friend. As I said at the SAIS memorial service, as long as there are bright and smiling Vietnamese students at SAIS, Hoa will be with us in spirit, and death shall have no dominion.

## HOA THI-QUYNH TRAN 1984–2010

A Celebration of Her Life, Her Spirits, and Her Beautiful Smile



**Tran Thi Quynh Hoa**, SAIS MA '09, passed away on October 18, 2010 in Hanoi after a long battle with cancer. During the final months of her life, Hoa welcomed a number of her SAIS classmates, including **Dominic Nguyen**, SAIS Southeast Asia Studies '09, who was constantly at Hoa's bedside in

Vietnam until the moment of her passing.

Special thanks go to **Professor Bridget Welsh**, now on the faculty of Singapore Management University, who orchestrated and supervised Hoa's care at the JHU Medical Center in Singapore and in whose house Hoa lived during her months-long

treatment. Our thanks also go out to the scores of friends of Hoa who provided both financial and emotional support, and to the SAIS administration who cooperated so efficiently in handling insurance and other financial matters. Hoa was grateful for your love and devoted support.

A funeral was organized in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 23, 2010, and a Memorial Service in Washington D.C. on November 4 gathered more than 150 of her friends at SAIS to celebrate her brilliant life. Organized by her 2009 classmates, the Service offered a chance to share an outpouring of remembrances, expressions of admiration and love for this remarkable young woman from Hanoi who, during her two years at SAIS, had captured the hearts of so many.

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JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY

## THE TRAN THI QUYNH HOA FELLOWSHIP

This Fellowship honors the memory of **Ms. Tran Thi Quynh Hoa**, SAIS MA in International Affairs, 2009. Its purpose is to promote friendship and cooperation between students from Vietnam and the United States through graduate education and research at the Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

This Fellowship in Vietnam and Southeast Asia Studies was established in 2006 by **Frederick Z. Brown** and his friends and colleagues. Its name was changed in 2010 in order to commemorate the extraordinary life of Ms. Hoa and her contributions to the SAIS Southeast Asia Studies program. The Fellowship offers financial assistance to students from Vietnam who have been accepted into the SAIS Master of Arts (MA) or Master of International Public Policy (MIPP) degree programs.

If a student from Vietnam is not available to receive this Fellowship in any given year, it may be awarded to an American citizen of Vietnamese heritage, or the income may be reinvested in the Hoa Fellowship fund for future grants to Vietnamese students.

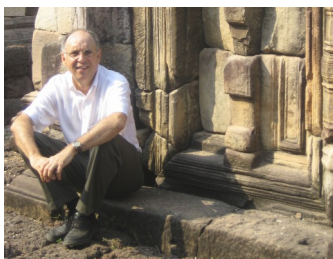


For more information or to make a contribution to the Tran Thi Quynh Hoa Fellowship, please contact SAIS Development, [SAISDevelopment@jhu.edu](mailto:SAISDevelopment@jhu.edu) or 202.663.5630; go to [www.sais-jhu.edu/giving](http://www.sais-jhu.edu/giving); or mail a check payable to "Johns Hopkins SAIS" with "Tran Thi Quynh Hoa Fellowship" noted in the memo line to 1740 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA. You may also email [fzbrown@jhu.edu](mailto:fzbrown@jhu.edu).

## SOUTHEAST ASIA STUDIES EVENTS

This Fall, we hosted distinguished speakers from government, politics, academia, business, journalism, and civil society groups.

The *Wednesday Lunch Seminar* is the centerpiece of Southeast Asia Studies' enrichment and community-building effort. This fall our guests included the **Honorable Kim Beazley**, Australian Ambassador to the United States, on "Australia's Role in Southeast Asia"; **John Burgess**, author and former Deputy Foreign Editor, *The Washington Post*, on the "Legacy of the Khmer Empire: How the Ancient Behemoth Influences Present Day Southeast Asia"; **Olivier Cunin**, Associate Researcher, National Architecture School of Nancy, France, on "'The Small Citadel': Reconstructing the Ruined Buddhist Complex of Banteay Chhmar"; **Colonel John B. Haseman**, U.S. Army (Retired), and **Sophie Richardson**, Asia Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch, on "Indonesia Military Reform and the U.S. Relationship"; **Shawn F. McHale**, Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, George Washington University, and **Chheang Vannarith**, Visiting Fellow, East West Center and Executive Director, Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, on "Why are (some) Cambodians so Anti-Vietnamese?"



John Burgess at the Sdo Kok Thom Temple, Cambodia

*A Return to Civilian Rule? The Prospects for Democracy and Right in Burma After the Election.* This international conference, co-sponsored with **Human Rights Watch**, explored three aspects of contemporary Burma: Politics and the November 2010 election, Human rights and Efforts at Accountability, and Asian Regional Perspectives. **Amartya Sen**, 1998 Nobel Laureate in Economics and Harvard University Professor, delivered the keynote address. More than 250 persons attended the event, the second Burma conference in as many years at SAIS.



Amartya Sen speaking at the Burma Conference.  
Photo credit: Sarah Lerner

*The Philippines Roundtable* is the principal forum in Washington, D.C. for the discussion of Philippines issues and U.S.-Philippines relations. The Roundtable features speakers from government, politics, academia, business, journalism, and civil society groups. It is open to all persons in the Washington community. This Fall, the Roundtable hosted **Roberto F. de Ocampo**, Director and Founding Partner, Centennial Group and Former Secretary of Finance, Republic of the Philippines, on "Current Developments in the Philippines"; and **Marites Danguilan Vitug**, Author and Advisory Board Chair of *Newsbreak*, on "President Aquino's First 100 Days." **Professor Patricio Abinales**, Woodrow Wilson Center Fellow, will speak to the



Roundtable in December. This program is made possible by the steadfast support of individuals interested in the Philippines to whom we remain grateful.

Marites Danguilan Vitug

*Southeast Asia Forum at SAIS* is a small group of Washington-area Southeast Asia specialists who come together monthly to discuss policy and research concerns and to provide information and analysis helpful in policymaking to government officials and others whose responsibilities include Southeast Asian affairs. The Forum is made possible through a grant from **The Asia Foundation**. In September, **Marvin C. Ott**, Adjunct and Visiting Professor (SAIS and Baltimore), Johns Hopkins University, and **Bonnie S. Glaser**, Senior Fellow, Freeman Chair in China Studies, CSIS, led a discussion on "U.S.-China: Strategic Confrontation in the South China Sea." In October, **Dino Patti Djalal**, Indonesian Ambassador to the United States, spoke on "Prospects for the Indonesia-U.S. Partnership." In November, **Robert Scher**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (South and Southeast Asia), will meet with the Forum.



Dino Patti Djalal

## VISITING FACULTY NEWS

**Professor Marvin C. Ott**, SAIS MA '65, made numerous presentations on the South China Sea, including NPR's "Talk of the Nation" (10/18). He argued that despite a multitude of rationales put forth by China—reflecting a deliberate attempt at obfuscating its position, China is actually claiming full sovereignty over the South China Sea itself. The increasing significance of this issue and its strategic implications for the U.S. is evidenced by recent events, particularly Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's statements at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Hanoi (2010). See Marvin C. Ott, "Asia's Clouded Horizon" *International Herald Tribune*, 9/29/2010. **Professor Benjamin Reilly** presented several invited lectures, including a talk in October to the Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville on the subject "Democracy in East Asia: An Elephant's Graveyard?" and on "Political Parties in Post-Conflict Societies" to the U.S. Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) in November.

## PH. D STUDENTS

After seven years of hard work, Southeast Asia Studies Ph.D. students **Cheng-Chwee Kuik** and **Ellen Psychas** defended their dissertations with distinction in May 2010. **Dr. Kuik's** study is entitled *Explaining Smaller States' Alignment Choices: A Comparative Study of Malaysia and Singapore's Hedging Behavior in the Face of a Rising China*. **Dr. Psychas's** dissertation is entitled *Building State Failure in Timor-Leste: Patterns of Political Competition and Constraints to Private Sector Investment (1999–2006)*. Congratulations to Cheng and Ellen!

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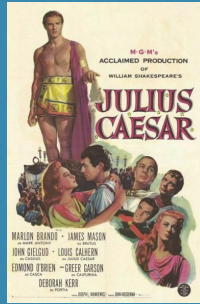
To make a gift to the Southeast Asia Studies Program, checks should be made payable to:  
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Please contact William M. Wise for more information about giving.  
202-587-3221  
wwise2@jhu.edu

**THANK YOU!**

**ASSASSINATION  
FILM FESTIVAL**



This fall 2010 festival featured film screenings of the Shakespearean classic, *Julius Caesar* (1953); Oliver Stone's *JFK* (1992); *The Day of the Jackal* (1973); *The Man Who Knew Too*

*Much* (1956); *Silmido* (2004); and *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962).

The festival was held in conjunction with SAIS Asian Studies and Strategic Studies course "Politics of Assassination in Asia." This new course by **Professor William M. Wise** explores fundamental strategic, legal, and moral issues involved in assassinations and what governments often call "targeted killings." It raises questions about why assassins choose murder to advance their political interests, how assassins operate, how they assess risks and benefits, and how assassinations affect politics and policy.

**Silmido**

Based on a true story of 31 recruits sent to a remote island and trained to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Il-sun



**SAIS THAI CLUB**

Through the very generous support of the **Royal Thai Embassy** in Washington, D.C., the **Thai Club** at SAIS hosted **John J. Brandon**, Director, International Relations Programs, and Associate Director, The Asia Foundation. Mr. Brandon offered an analysis of the dramatic civil unrest in Bangkok this past May and its wider implications for both Thailand and other Asian nations.

**NEW SPRING COURSE**

Among the unique offerings in Spring 2011 is a new course by **Visiting Professor Thitinan Pong-sudhirak**, Director of the Institute of Security and International Studies and Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

**Professor Thitinan**, SAIS MA '92, will teach *Thailand's Crisis and Transformation*. As dramatic media images enter the classroom, this course asks what has happened to Thailand's seemingly consolidating democracy and its burgeoning "fifth tiger" economic miracle. It will probe the dynamics, contours and makeup of contemporary



Thitinan Pongsudhirak

Thailand in its ongoing transformation. Its main thrust will conceptualize, dissect and discuss the causes, consequences and meanings of Thailand's prolonged and protracted crisis in the early 21st century in view of the relevant literature and scholarly debates. Historical legacies, developments in the body politic, uneven accumulation in the political economy, civil society underpinnings, foreign policy directions, and roots of insurgency will provide an interactive and interdisciplinary arena for the course. How Thailand's transformation impinges on the international and bilateral relations of Southeast Asia and how it matters to global democratization trends and issues will be covered. Class sessions will intersperse lectures and open discussions in seminar style on the basis of assigned readings.

**ALUMNI**



Professor Karl Jackson with SAIS alumni in Bangkok.

In October, **Professor Karl Jackson** met with alumni, including **Elizabeth Case '02** and **Markus Taussig '99**, at the Union Club of Boston for a reception on "The Evolving Complexities of Asian Multilateralism."