Center for Global Politics
Alumni Yearbook
CGP ALUMNI YEARBOOK 2013
DEAR READER,

We are leaving another year behind. In 2013 there were once more problems to be solved and impediments to be overcome. And there were encouraging developments, and unexpected challenges and solutions.

Toward the end of 2013, the CGP had about 850 alumni in over 35 countries. This is an impressive number after six years. We are a rather small organization that is quite picky when it comes to selecting students, so this very number, and the quality and enthusiasm of the students behind it, make us a bit proud.

Our network is continuously growing, and so does our outreach. In addition, we are watching a professionalization of our network’s activities: the CGP alumni act as guest speakers, they share their expertise as consultants, and they contribute creative ideas to the development of the CGP. The newly established Global Matters blog is a great example of alumni – in this case, Wisam Salih and the Lykeion working group – shaping our activities.

Another very welcome development is the increasing activity of our Alumni Network. During our 6th alumni workshop in Gdańsk (August 2013), a new division of labor and a better communication strategy were defined among the permanent working groups. An elected communication officer (Magali Menant) facilitates the exchange of ideas.

One example of our support for alumni ideas is our engagement for Apopo, an NGO that trains rats for mine detection. Two of our alumni – Ashley Fitzpatrick and Tess Tewelde – work for Apopo in Mozambique. With the adoption of Mojo, a “hero” rat, we will support Apopo to enable the organization’s important work in mine detection.

During our workshop in Gdańsk, in the last week of August, we made a significant step forward to a more organic and pro-active level of support from our Alumni Network. For details, see report on page 9.

I want to thank our partners and sponsors in 2013. Let me mention just a few: the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); Ernst & Young Moscow; SIRPA at Fudan University, Shanghai; the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences; the German-Jordanian University; the Aegean University; the Media & Communication Center at the Royal University of Cambodia; the School for International Relations in Teheran; the Faculty for Political Sciences at MGIMO in Moscow; the German Embassies and General Consulates in Beijing, Shanghai, Teheran, Phnom Penh, Moscow, and Amman; BWG Berlin Wall GmbH, a Berlin based company donating a significant grant to the CGP.

Sincerely,
Klaus Segbers
DEAR READER,

As one of our fellow alumni used to say: ‘Time flies…’ This is already the third time I have the honor to greet you here. Next February our Alumni Association will celebrate its third birthday.

What did 2013 mean for us? An ever growing alumni community. This year over 150 students graduated from one of the CGP programs, regional meetings were held in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Jordan, Iran, Greece and Germany, and we had our Alumni Ambassador workshop in Gdańsk, Poland.

Our workshop in Gdańsk was of a new quality: a group of newly appointed Alumni Ambassadors took the lead on the working process and with that ownership of the future structure and activities of our alumni community. We defined new working groups according to the new challenges ahead of us and designed a different structure of communication with each other. The result is a more sustainable working environment for us, one that is spread around the globe. And our first real project as an Alumni Association is on the horizon: a CGP cookbook featuring recipes from alumni all over the world!

No, our first interest is not in cooking but in global politics, but as our first ‘touchable’ project the cookbook stands for our efforts to establish long lasting ties and content.

When it comes to ideas and good intentions we are happy that such a lot of enthusiastic and creative people are part of our Association! But of course we as the ‘inner core group’ of Alumni Ambassadors would like to involve you guys in the broader network so much more.

In the past there has been a discussion of what your Association membership might bring you as Alumni. I would like to reply with a (slightly adjusted) quote of John F. Kennedy: Do not ask what the Alumni Association can do for you, but what you can do for your Alumni Association!

Think about your expertise and how far it could be of interest for the CGP Alumni Association, join a regional CGP alumni meeting to taste the ‘CGP – sphere’, write to us about your ideas for how to increase the benefit of this large international network of young professionals even more.

When you read this, the elections to the new Association board will be behind us. Maybe one of you will write the greetings for next year’s edition of this book…

I hope to meet you soon!

Yours sincerely,

Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk
DEAR READER,

The appeal of the CGP network – its global minds – plays a major role in the decision to apply for a master program or the graduate school: 800+ alumni, from an amazing range of countries – from Cambodia to Iran, from Jordan to Syria, from Greece to China, from Vietnam to Turkey, from Mozambique to Australia, from Canada to Venezuela – and from all walks of life, offer a truly global perspective and a unique interdisciplinary experience.

But the main challenge is clearly how to maintain an active network beyond graduation. How can we ensure a high level of interaction among the alumni?

Finding ways to energize the network is the mission that the Alumni Ambassadors have embarked on, on behalf of the whole Alumni Network. It goes without saying that some work and input is necessary. However, since the network is an amazing talent and expertise pool, having the opportunity to be an active part of the CGP Alumni Network does not only seem a natural move, but a chance for each of us.

For this purpose, two main working structures have been created: the face-to-face interactions, the yearly workshops, are a week-long idea jam, designed to leverage the highly diverse brain power around the table to come up with suggestions and project ideas to improve the alumni services. The last workshop in Gdansk did just that: the Ambassadors defined the fields of actions needed, forming working groups and defining the projects to be carried on. The virtual working groups have, since August, kick started key projects in marketing, networking, knowledge management, alumni services and fundraising.

Strategically, this means expanding the network of active alumni, rethinking the tools for interaction – forum, social media, newsletter, etc., creating marketing tools, starting an investors club to help raise funds for scholarships, developing a blog for knowledge generation and dissemination, and organizing local events around the globe.

It is also clear that the network needs a long-term structure to operate, hence the strategic build up of an association. An active and professional association is the vision towards which the Alumni Ambassadors are working. We hereby encourage you all to become members of the CGP Alumni Association to enable the alumni work to reach and benefit all of you.

Join us to make the Alumni Network and its association the right platform for you to enjoy networking with your peers or getting interesting insights on the latest global matters!

The CGP Alumni Ambassadors
My name is Sawsan Halawa and I was born and raised in Jordan. I have a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering and I am working today as a project assistant for an NGO called the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. I am also an environmental activist, I enjoy traveling, meeting people from different backgrounds, and last but not least, I love food.

I heard about the Global Politics Summer School from my friend Yosra as she attended the school in 2012. What attracted me to join the summer school were the topics and the serious nature of the course. The school was a very rich learning experience and I met amazing people that I became friends with.

When I received the invitation to join the Alumni workshop meeting in Gdańsk, Poland I was super happy and excited to join the workshop. I immediately started my visa application and I was stressed because visa procedures take time, but my family, friends, boss and Katrin from CGP supported me in preparing the visa papers. After a few days I got the visa around 3pm and my flight was the next day in the early morning, around 3am, so after getting my passport I said to myself “let the adventure begin!”

While I was waiting for my bag in the Gdańsk airport, I met four participants from the alumni workshop. I recognized them because of the pictures in the workshop booklet. Then we took our bags and the taxi driver was waiting for us so the trip was easy and everything had perfect timing.

The moment I arrived at the hotel I was surprised. It was a nice cozy hotel beside the beach and surrounded by forest. This was like heaven for a person like me who comes from Jordan as most of our areas are desert!

On the first day of the workshop at breakfast time I met some of the participants and the Center for Global Politics team and they were so friendly. Frankly, I was feeling stressed as it was my first time attending an alumni workshop, but after the first day all stress disappeared and I was really surprised how all the alumni were friendly, open to knowing about each other, and how all of them came to improve and develop the Alumni Network and programs with enthusiasm and amazing spirit.

Regarding the workshop itself, I wasn’t sure how I would be an added value to the topics as they mostly concentrated on the global politics courses and programs, and the Alumni Association, but the way the workshop was organized helped me to understand more about the Center and its programs and I was able to add my points of view in different aspects.

The moment that all participants received Alumni Ambassador business cards with our names on them, I was really choked up and I felt that I have a responsibility to be active and engage in this workshop to come up with great results. This movement makes me feel ownership of the CGP.

The workshop was very good and I especially enjoyed the part when we were organized into working groups. Even the times after the sessions were so fun. The nights that I enjoyed the most were the night on the beach and the farewell barbecue dinner. I felt so close to the other participants and I had the feeling that I am really a part of this network of amazing graduates.

In the last day’s session we divided ourselves into different working groups and I was chosen to be part of the marketing network because I like marketing, social media and talking with people. Each group reviewed the other groups’ presentations and added their inputs, and then a discussion followed after all groups finished reviewing the group presentations. All in all, it was an unforgettable learning experience.

The marketing team has started working on the time sheet and the cookbook. The Alumni Ambassadors were so excited; they have already sent many recipes and we are still waiting for more. The commitments, the excitement in our team and other teams, and the non-stop posts and blogs on Facebook always make me motivated. Being committed to the network, especially because of distance, is not easy, but feeling the ownership for this network and having this engagement with the CGP, where you can express yourself, is really a good feeling. I am connected with people from seventeen different countries and seeing them doing great in their lives is priceless.
My name is Wisam Salih. With roots in the Middle East, I call Canada my home. My travels have allowed me to connect with people from across the globe through academic endeavors, work and leisure. Like many others at the CGP, I have a background in international relations (trade and security) – Bachelor of Arts with a specialization in Political Studies and a Master of International Trade (M.I.T.), both from the University of Saskatchewan, my home province. I was fortunate enough to attend the Global Politics Summer School in Amman, Jordan, in the summer of 2011. More recently, I attended the CGP Alumni Workshop in Gdańsk, Poland in August 2013.

Although there were a few familiar faces in Gdańsk, I was able to meet dozens of incredible people. It was at this workshop that I was able to join the Alumni Network and where we were tasked with giving the CGP Alumni Network a “facelift”. More specifically, we looked at ways that we could increase interaction amongst the Alumni, attract new students to the CGP academic programs, and increase membership in the Alumni Network. For me, boosting membership in an organization, any organization, is simple: you must give people a reason to want to join. In my experience, people will want to gain membership if there is an added benefit from associating with an organization. In the case of the CGP Alumni Network, we must provide content. In my view, it’s really quite simple.

The CGP is in a very interesting position in that there is an invaluable pool of talent – professors, graduate and post-graduate students, as well as brilliant administrators. I thought to myself that the CGP should look to utilize its own resources from current students, professors and alumni in order to provide content and connect people from across the globe. In this regard, the CGP is unique in that the Summer Schools, which are offered several times in the year, are offered in so many diverse countries, which enriches the student body and especially the Alumni Network.

In Gdańsk, we were divided into working groups, each with its own mandate, direction and objectives. I teamed up with some brilliant minds to found the Lykeion Working Group, with a mandate “to facilitate the production and dissemination of knowledge, among the CGP (Alumni Network) and beyond”. The name is derived from the classical Aristotelian Lykeion, and its core principles of cooperative research and generating a systematic collection of works. In short, we are looking to produce a digital platform in the name of the CGP, where we can highlight some of the work of the CGP, whether that be the alumni, faculty or students. We hope to have an interactive website which will be linked to the CGP homepage and linked to social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.).

In addition, we had an idea to develop a “Global Matters” blog where we would pose questions based on current events in global politics to our “all star” panel of experts, composed of our own CGP-affiliated faculty. We thought it would be great to have our experts share their unfiltered opinions, which would also allow the public to comment on their answers and engage in a dialogue from wherever they are in the world.

It’s been approximately 4 months since Gdańsk, but we have made giant strides already. We are in the process of developing the look and feel of the website and populating it with content. Visit the blog “Global Matters: Bits and Thoughts on World Politics” and join the discussion. If you like what you see, please show some support in the form of “likes” on Facebook, comments where applicable, and sharing within your networks!

“We owe almost all our knowledge not to those who have agreed, but to those who have differed.”
—Charles Caleb Colton

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GLOBAL MATTERS BLOG
In summer 2008, a group of very bright Chinese students challenged me with an amazing eagerness. As I wrapped up the presentation of my work back then on sustainability cooperation projects at the German Chamber of Commerce in China, there was no need to try to kick-start a conversation, a debate automatically took place.

It was the CGP summer school in Shanghai, my first encounter with the Center for Global Politics. I knew this institution was something different in comparison to the many student groups we would encounter: it had been able to attract and select some of the brightest youth from all over China for a 2 week learning program delivered at the Fudan University. A couple of months later, I went on to recruit one of these minds, who unfortunately left for some higher calling from the Chinese government…

Those ‘global minds’ convinced me to apply for the IR Master Online program myself as I was about to make a change in my work. The run I enrolled for featured amazing profiles, from diplomats to people working for the EU, for foundations or on emergency relief missions, people whom I admire and from whom I might have learned possibly as much as from the program. They inspired me, they challenged me, they broadened my very narrow horizon. And this human capital is what is so unique about the CGP.

How to foster a vibrant community after graduation is a challenging but highly interesting mission. Therefore, joining the Alumni Ambassadors’ workshops has been a truly invigorating experience. An amazingly diverse and multidisciplinary group brainstormed ideas for structuring alumni work and organized itself. During the workshop in Gdańsk in 2013, I was elected to support the working groups with coordination, which involves communicating with working group leaders, finding synergies among working groups, and facilitating exchange with the association and CGP. This task surely has challenged my schedule, but added another very interesting dimension to my life. A sense of connectedness grows from the interactions with the various working groups across time zones, which is the first step towards an active network.

Challenges surely lie in the lack of face-to-face interaction and the distance. Working in virtual teams across continents, and next to one’s day job, make sustaining the energy level experienced during the yearly workshops difficult. But there are true opportunities in the amazing pool of talent gathered and connected around the world through CGP that could be leveraged.

Interestingly enough, some of my professional work has to do with building communities of practice, while mostly looking at developing interaction formats for learning, collaboration and dialogue. One more reason to actively engage in CGP alumni work! I look forward to pursuing this adventure with my peers, as this is a great learning experience.

Let us further build up this community of global minds together!
IMPRESSIONS [ALUMNI WORKSHOP]
The alumni workshop brings together alumni from all CGP programs and years. This is the place where Jordanian seasonal school alumni meet with graduates from our certificate program in Moscow, where Canadian security specialists interact with Ph.D. students from the Graduate School of Global Politics. Bringing together highly talented people from different professional and cultural backgrounds lays the basis for an inspiring and successful workshop. This year 27 alumni from 16 countries came to Gdańsk to shape the alumni work at the CGP and to give feedback on the Center’s work. It is important for us to learn what our alumni think and what they wish for when it comes to the Alumni Network. To create a space where ideas can be pitched and concepts developed, we applied different facilitation methods like Design Thinking and World Café. With a lot of Post Its and Magic Charts our alumni came up with many (truly) colorful and inspiring ideas, which will be realized in the coming months. Have a look at page 13 to read more about the different projects of the working groups and how to get involved!

Besides two intensive design thinking days, we explored Gdańsk, historic places like the Westerplatte, and learned a lot about the shared Polish and German history of this region. A highlight of our excursion was the visit to the European Solidarity Center, where we found out more about the union movement around Lech Wałęsa that inspired protests in the whole Eastern bloc which led to the crumbling of the Soviet Union in 1989. Our host, Basil Kerski, Director of the Solidarity Center, gave us further insights into the history and the influences it still has on current politics.

To still the thirst of our alumni (and our own staff) for academic input, we invited three renowned guest lecturers for a panel discussion on “Education in the Digital Age”. Dr. Malgorzata Zachara of the University of Krakow, IT and MOOC specialist of the Hasso Plattner Institute, Dr. Michael Totschnig, as well as our colleague Kristina Klinkforth discussed new developments in e-learning and the effects of digital content on how we learn, how universities cope with the opportunities and challenges posed by these developments, and the prospects that Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have for a worldwide learning revolution.

We as the CGP team found this year’s workshop to be extremely inspiring, professional and fun! What impressed us most was how our participants shared their professional expertise with us – be it in marketing, fundraising or facilitation methods. A big thank you to all those who participated and we hope to continue this success story next year with you.

Would you like to become an active member of the CGP Alumni Network? Are you interested in getting involved in one of our workshops or regional meetings? Drop us a line:

Katrin.Risch@fu-berlin.de
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  FUNDRAISING GROUP  LYKEION GROUP  MARKETING GROUP  EVENT/B@SE GROUP  CGP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Statement:
Facilitating communication among the Working Groups
Tasks:
Streamlining the communication between the Working Groups and the CGP team/ CGP Alumni Association, Drafting further communication items on behalf of the Alumni Ambassadors

Statement:
The Fundraising group tries to find funding for the wonderful and inspiring work of the CGP!
Tasks:
Raise funds for the Alumni activities, Raise funds for the CGP, Raise scholarships, Found and manage a CGP Alumni Investor’s Club

Statement:
Provide an outlet for all the academic content generated in the CGP Alumni Network
Tasks:
Establish an annotated bibliography of CGP affiliated and alumni publications, Support the Global Matters Blog

Statement:
we Create Global Promotion!
Tasks:
Promotion of CGP Programs and CGP Alumni Association, Make CGP and CGP Alumni a visible and recognizable brand by distributing information, producing marketing materials, promoting events and much more.

Statement:
Engaging Global Minds
Tasks:
Foster the exchange and among alumni, Allocate funds to support current students and research in the network, Sort out formalities, secure efficient cross-group communication, and ensure consistency between CGP activities and the alumni network

Statement:
Bringing alumni together!
Tasks:
Organize regional alumni meetings, Support the organization of the alumni workshop, Gather and update data of alumni in the local chapters

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Our Alumni Network is constantly growing – about 150 students graduate from all CGP programs per year. To keep the network together we communicate with you online, but there is nothing like face to face communication! That is why our dedicated regional alumni coordinators help us to set up alumni meetings at least once a year.

The alumni meetings range from social gatherings, to student-alumni networking events, as well as talks with experts on current issues in global politics. In 2013 we had the first ever alumni meeting in Iran, successful cooperations with ELIAMEP in Greece and the Carnegie Center in Beijing, as well as the first alumni meetings to feature talks from alumni speakers. We are very proud to have so many talented alumni in our network and we aim to have more meetings where our alumni are the key-note speakers providing insights from their professional expertise. This year we kicked off this new format with a first-hand report from Afghanistan from our alumnus Torge Matthiesen. Read more about all the meetings below.

SHANGHAI, MARCH 2013, BY CHEN CHAOYII

Our traditional annual gathering was held on the first of March with Prof. Segbers. About 10 alumni came to spend time together and exchange their personal experiences after the summer school. After the opening speech by Prof. Segbers, which introduced new developments of the CGP and our alumni association, some alumni recalled the wonderful time of the summer school. Coincidently, both the alumni of 2004 (the earliest) and the alumni of 2012 (the newest) were present at the gathering.

It’s the 10th anniversary of our Summer School China in Shanghai in 2013. We are very happy to celebrate the long standing success of the Summer School China.

GUANGZHOU, MARCH 2013, BY GUAN JIAN

Prof. Klaus Segbers came to Guangzhou for the German Higher Education Exhibition on March 5. It was also an opportunity for our alumni to meet and enjoy ourselves. Sticking with tradition, some alumni accompanied Prof. Segbers to the banquet reception hosted by the German Consulate. Afterwards, we had the Guangzhou alumni meeting at Joyman Café. Alumni exchanged their news and joyfully shared in each other’s progress.

It was a warm spring in Guangzhou. But every time we meet, our alumni feel another kind of warmth in our hearts, different from the weather.

BEIJING, MARCH 2013, BY XI YAO

16 alumni attended the Beijing alumni meeting, including some international alumni who are working or currently staying in Beijing. Professor Shi of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy gave an insightful lecture on China-EU relations. He argued that China-EU relations are more of an engagement than a marriage. His talk inspired an active discussion between all alumni in attendance and led to many questions. Alumni were curious whether China views the EU as an entity or rather as individual countries. Klaus Segbers also used the opportunity to award Frauke Austermann her graduation certificate from the Graduate School of Global Politics.
ALUMNI MEETINGS

HANOI, MARCH 2013, BY GIANG VU QUYNH

In late March 2013, the annual alumni meeting in Hanoi was held in a nice restaurant atmosphere. Many participants at the meeting were studying abroad or on business trips. We shared inspiring news about our successful steps, similar to those in the lives of many CGP alumni. Due to our noteworthy experience with CGP, many people have won scholarships for advanced degrees in worldwide education systems. Career promotion is also common among our alumni community in Vietnam, where we also appreciate CGP’s contribution to changing perceptions about the planet. Above all, our broadening network is continually strengthened via alumni meetings like this one.

AMMAN, JUNE 2013

This year Jordanian alumni joined the current seasonal school students for a panel discussion on “The role of Civil Society in a Changing Political Context”, which was jointly organized with the German ‘Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty’. The speakers who attended were representatives from NGOs in Germany and Jordan. Yosra Albakkar, regional alumni coordinator in Jordan and activist in an environmental NGO, also joined the experts on the panel to share her experiences. Afterwards students and alumni had the chance to share news and enjoy the buffet in the Wild Jordan Café.

PHNOM PENH, SEPTEMBER 2013

The annual alumni meeting was held near the university in the Royal Coffee Shop. As the meeting was held during the seasonal school in Phnom Penh, Bettine Marissen of the CGP used this opportunity to introduce the current students to our Cambodian alumni. Student-alumni networking events are always very lively as there are so many people to meet and there is so much news to be shared. Thanks for the wonderful evening!

TEHRAN, OCTOBER 2013, BY MAHDIYEH KHADIR

For the alumni meeting, alumni from the last seasonal school and students from the fall school 2013 got together at Café 78. About twenty people attended the gathering and exchanged their ideas. I had the great chance of meeting both my classmates and Prof. Segbers again a year after I finished the program. We talked about what we had done or experienced during the past year. We asked everyone to share their most happy memory during the seasonal school in Iran and their current news. Furthermore, we discussed social issues in Iran and Germany and I was happy to learn about the views from my former classmates and from Prof. Segbers.
On November 22, alumni of all CGP programs gathered in a cozy atmosphere of our alumna Rebecca’s apartment to eat, drink and discuss the German development aid strategy in Afghanistan. Torge Matthiesen, who is in charge of the Afghanistan desk at the BMZ (German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), talked about his experiences in the region and lessons learned by the German development programs. Underlined by impressive pictures of the countryside, construction sites, and people, we learned a lot of what Afghanistan looks like from a foreign assistance perspective.

Thanks to Rebecca for being an excellent host, to Torge for giving so many insights, and all who joined us and added to the great atmosphere of the evening.

This year we decided to change the setting, to act together with ELIAMEP and to invite participants from all four seasonal schools that have taken place in Greece and Turkey so far. And we succeeded: the meeting started more formally at a conference “Dilemmas, challenges and opportunities for Greek foreign policy”, organized by ELIAMEP, while the informal part took place at a Cretan restaurant where we managed to gather representatives from all seasonal schools plus one to be (2014). There, under the music of beloved Crete and the taste of Cretan raki, we all agreed that one evening is simply not enough… See you sooner next time!

The CGP Alumni Network is not only about official meetings – it’s about friends seeing each other in a cozy atmosphere as well. Cheers from Brussels, where I was very happy to meet Merel Rolf!

Each year students of GSR enjoy Christmas celebrations with songs, music and sweets. Many guests joined Professor Segbers in addressing the participants, including Mrs. von Knoop from the sponsor of our party Ernst & Young, Professor Vosskressenski from MGIMO University, as well as Mr. Beiküfner from the German Embassy.

I was surprised to see so many new ambitious students who enjoy learning about German politics, law, and media. As an alumna, they kept asking me for advice and about my experience as a GSR student. All in all such events should be held more often and I hope that the Christmas party will attract even more alumni next year!
This map shows the location of our regional alumni coordinators. They are dedicated alumni, who support the team in Berlin to organize all sorts of regional events in their respective hometowns. Contact Anna, Vitaliya, Boyka, Mahdiyeh, Yosra, Somany, Moulikka, Giang, Jian, Chaoyi and Yao if you would like to meet up in one of the CGP’s home-bases, if you would like to receive further information on the regional alumni communities, or if you need travel advice!
2013 was characterized by a number of demonstrations and riots all over the world. Many of our CGP alumni witnessed these happenings and published their first-hand reports in our vibrant alumni Facebook group. These postings enable us to comprehend the ordering of events and reasons why they occur, at a level not always possible from a distance. First-hand reports help us to better understand events happening around the globe and impressively demonstrate the value of our active international alumni community.

With more than 500 members, the CGP Alumni group on Facebook helps our alumni to stay in touch and spread the news.

Stay tuned – join our CGP Alumni group on Facebook!

Dear All,

[...]

Having participated in the protests for 4-5 days in Ankara, I have been in Istanbul and taking part in the resistance since June 5th. It is not easy to classify the characteristics of the protests nationwide, because Turkey uniquely witnesses a new form of movement: spontaneous, horizontal, non-hierarchical and creative but NOT vandalistic. [...] the majority of the protesters are composed of various backgrounds including LGBT, Kurds, students, anarchists, socialists, ecologists and so forth. There are also small groups of nationalist -Kemalists that oppose Erdogan and his party, but none of the above is pioneering or leading the protest movement. I have personally talked to many people who detach themselves from any political party or groups. Their major concern is the undemocratic abuses of the government in adapting key policies. They feel disregarded and as if they are, terribly passive actors. To them, democracy means more than voting in elections. People have questioned the limitations of the representative democracy and the new participation channels for ordinary people regardless of their ethnic or religious backgrounds. [...]

Thank you Said, very interesting!

You also mention a very crucial point I reckon: “democracy is more than voting in elections”. Sometimes, even in a country like Belgium, one wouldn’t think so.
Today I had a meeting through NDI and IFES with Syrian activists who are living in Jordan and working for media outlets or civil society organizations. Those activists communicate through Skype and they only include people who they know personally or are recommended by another trusted person. Also, many pages on Facebook are created to communicate and spread news immediately.

Activists in Syria are facing many problems since they can’t move or get together in many areas of the country. Also, if they want to attend trainings outside Syria, there are always difficulties with leaving the country to go to Lebanon, Turkey or Jordan and to go back again.

In general there are many challenges and difficulties that activists face inside Syria. There is no protection or security for NGOs, people can’t get further training, and they experience shortages of funds. Furthermore, refugees often don’t know about their rights, opportunities and duties which makes it difficult to provide help sometimes.

Will Alcmaeonid Great analysis by Professor Segbers but the role of economics should not be undervalued. Had these states had stronger economic fundamentals and offered good employment opportunities for their youth, it would be increasingly difficult for religious extremists to attract supporters. Hope for a better future is an inherent characteristic of human nature. [...]  

17 August 2013 at 13:34 · Like

Mary Pan I think it would also be interesting to look at identity/cultural differences between Egyptians over the age of 40 versus those under the age of 40. Would one group identify more as secular than Muslim? I live in a Muslim part of the world and there is a big difference in identity due to age because of the advent of HIGHER EDUCATION for the under 40 set.

18 August 2013 at 06:28 · Like · 2

Jānis Bērziņš In addition to what was stated by Mary Pan, I think it is worthwhile also to consider if belonging to a certain group does not mean also more opportunities for political and/or economical power due to the inherently isolating nature of some cultures and their subcultures. Thus while the clash might be between cultures, it is more about the frustration of inequality in access...

22 August 2013 at 16:06 · Like · 1

Hanan Abu Quaider I do agree with you Prof. Segbers about the major rule that culture and identities are playing in the current war or civil war in Egypt and Syria as these are two examples I’m following. Especially regarding Syria, since I am currently in Syria witnessing what’s going on, it’s not about economics and it has passed the liberty seeking; now it’s about cultural and identity conflict and it’s not only about Sunni and Shia Muslims – there are also Alawy as another cultural part [...]  

16 August 2013 at 15:14 · Like

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Hanan Abu Quaider I do agree with you Prof. Segbers about the major rule that culture and identities are playing in the current war or civil war in Egypt and Syria as these are two examples I’m following. Especially regarding Syria, since I am currently in Syria witnessing what’s going on, it’s not about economics and it has passed the liberty seeking; now it’s about cultural and identity conflict and it’s not only about Sunni and Shia Muslims – there are also Alawy as another cultural part [...]  

16 August 2013 at 15:14 · Like

*(Note: Some posts have been edited for brevity)*
JOINT AND ENJOY!
By Vitaliya Tsarik

The establishment of the CGP Alumni e.V. was an even further step in the development of the Alumni Network. It was formally registered by 7 international Alumni Ambassadors from all CGP programs in Berlin in March 2011.

As a formal body, the Alumni Association provides more opportunities for all alumni who would like to get involved in the Network:

- supporting the CGP as our alma mater
- supporting the development of the brand of the CGP and its Alumni Network to make CGP education a valuable point in your CV; and
- attracting sponsors and grants for joint events.

The last year brought almost a dozen new members: now there are more than 40 association members around the world. This is the core group among CGP’s 800 alumni, who are in very close contact with each other.

Together over the last year we helped to support regional alumni reunions, promoted opinion exchange on acute political topics on CGP’s Alumni Facebook page, and discussed further ways to develop the Network during the alumni workshop in Gdańsk, Poland.

What the Association needs now is your support and proactive position – share with us your ideas about how to make our community more vibrant and how to promote your careers in your regions and worldwide.

2014 will bring us the new CGP Alumni e.V. Board of Directors. All members are invited to take an active part in forming a new agenda for the new Board!

2014 also promises us another year full of events. Apart from regional cozy reunions, the association is planning to organize an event during the Long Night of Sciences (Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften) at the Free University of Berlin on May 10. So save the date and book your tickets to Berlin – the city that unites us!

Always looking forward to your ideas and comments!

Yours,

Board of Directors
Tatjana, Jana and Vitaliya

alumni@global-politics.org

CGP Alumni Association e.V. Board Members: Jana Bollinger, Massimiliano Pastore, Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk and Vitaliya Tsarik.
GLOBAL MINDS [ALUMNI AMBASSADORS]
Engaging Global Minds – this is the slogan for the CGP Alumni Network adopted in 2013 and we are very proud to have a circle of very active alumni who are exceptionally engaged. We refer to them as our Alumni Ambassadors – dedicated alumni from all CGP programs who help us to shape the alumni work, to reach out to our 800+ alumni worldwide, and who join us during our workshops and regional alumni meetings. Besides their many functions, the ambassadors are active members of the CGP Alumni Association and are involved in the projects of the five alumni working groups (see page 14/15). Here are the profiles of all Alumni Ambassadors who supported us in 2013. What makes someone an Alumni Ambassador? Active participation in the Alumni Association and working group projects as well as the enjoyment of communicating and working in a truly global community. Do you want to see your picture here in 2014? Start getting involved by contacting communications officer Magali Menant: magalimenant@gmail.com

Ariane Afsari (Berlin, Germany), afsari@kulturforum.info

Ariane Afsari studied German and Biology in Essen and Bangor, worked from 1998–2001 as a teacher in Warsaw, Poland and completed a trainee in a publishing house for film and theater in Berlin. Since 2002 she has been an employee of the publishing department at the German Cultural Forum for Central and Eastern Europe. During that time, she participated in the East European Online Studies from 2004–2006 and in the program “Forum Einheit Europa” of the German Council on Foreign Relations (2007–2009). Since 2009, she has worked as a research assistant at the German Cultural Forum for Central and Eastern Europe, in the publishing department and cultural education.

Ariane is a student from the 2nd run of our program East European Studies Online. She graduated in 2009.

Yosra Albakkar (Trent, Canada), y_albakkar@hotmail.com

Yosra is from Amman, Jordan where she acquired her undergraduate B.Sc. in Radiologic Technology at the Faculty of Applied Medical Science at The Jordan University of Science and Technology. She is currently doing her Master’s in Sustainability Studies at Trent University in Canada. She is the first recipient of the Daughters for Life scholarship award. She is currently writing her thesis about wastewater management in Jordan and Israel. Yosra speaks Arabic and English. She is also learning Hebrew.

Yosra is a student from the 1st run of our Seasonal School in Jordan in 2011.

Begimai Alymbekova (Moscow, Russia), beggymaya@mail.ru

Begimai Alymbekova is a 5th year student majoring in International Journalism at MGIMO University (Russia). Three years ago Begimai graduated from the one-year program German Studies Russia. Afterwards, she received a scholarship from the DAAD and the Freie Universität Berlin to study in Berlin. Last summer she took part in the CGP Seasonal School in Shanghai. Begimai enjoyed her stay in China, meeting new friends and learning a lot more about China-EU relations. As for her future, she is now applying for a Master’s Degree in Communications.

Begimai is a student from the Seasonal School in China in 2013.
Frauke Austrermann (Shanghai, China), frauke.austermann@fu-berlin.de

Frauke is the first alumna of the Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP), the German-Chinese PhD program at the Center for Global Politics. Together with her GSGP colleagues, Frauke organized a workshop on China-Europe Relations in Global Politics in March 2012 at Renmin University in Beijing. Frauke has recently published an edited book, based on the results of this first workshop. The workshop has become an institution and the third edition will take place in March 2014, this time at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou. Since completing her thesis, Frauke is working as Assistant Professor in International Affairs at the ESSCA School of Management in Shanghai. She speaks Mandarin and is still working on being able to read all those Chinese characters which are ‘just a little more’ than the 26 Buchstaben of the German alphabet.

Frauke is an alumna of the Graduate School of Global Politics 2012.

Janis Berzins (Riga, Latvia), janis.berzins@mfa.gov.lv

Janis is from Riga, Latvia, and has a Master’s degree from the IR Online program and a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and Business Administration from the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga. Janis has worked in the Latvian Foreign Affairs Ministry and at the Latvian Embassy in Berlin, where he facilitated the economic relations between the two countries and was involved in EU policy coordination. Currently, Janis is the Head of the COREPER II groundwork division and his main tasks are preparing the Latvian Ambassador to the EU for participation at COREPER II meetings, as well as the Prime Minister’s participation at the European Council meetings.

Janis is a student of the 3rd run in the IR Online program. He graduated in 2010.

Jana Bollinger (Potsdam, Germany), jana.bollinger@arcor.de

Jana is the Vice-President of the CGP Alumni Association (e.V.) alongside Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk. She holds two German law degrees and worked as a lawyer for eight years before she started working for public administration in 2011. She is also interested in history, literature and photography.

In 2008 Jana graduated from the 4th run of our program East European Studies Online.

Boyka Boneva (Athens, Greece), boyka_boyka@yahoo.com

After studying in Athens (B.Sc. in Finance and MA in Southeast European Studies), Boyka decided to live and work there. Boyka and two friends (Nikos Papakostas and Nikos Pasamitros) are currently running Inter Alia, a not-for-profit private organization whose main objectives are to promote communication between European people, enhance civil society and collective action at the European level, and strengthen Europeans’ common sense of belonging.

Boyka is a student from the 1st run of our Seasonal School in Greece.
Duygugül Can (Izmir, Turkey), duygugulc@sabanciuniv.edu

Duygugül has her Master’s degree in European Studies. Currently she is working as an export-import specialist in a private firm and is doing her PhD in Business Administration Sciences. Duygugül has attended several summer schools and conferences, but had the best experience with the CGP. She was happy to get to know a self-developing and homogenous group. According to Duygugül, the CGP, besides adding to her academic career, also contributes to her self-development and awareness.

Duygugül is a student from our Summer School in Turkey in 2011 and has been attending the Alumni Workshops ever since.

Chen Chaoyi (Shanghai, China), chenchaoyi@hotmail.com

Chaoyi holds a Master’s degree in International Relations from the Fudan University of Shanghai, China. She currently works as Development Officer at the Fudan University Education Development Foundation, where she mainly coordinates the alumni network and overseas donations to Fudan. In addition, she is now pursuing her second Master’s degree in Finance from Fudan. Chaoyi is also involved in different social networks, such as the Young Leader of the Pacific Forum, organized by the US Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and the Summer School program in China, which she helped to coordinate in 2006.

Chaoyi is a student of our Seasonal School in China in 2006 and 2007.

Pedro Fernandez Dapena (Oberammergau, Germany), pferdap@live.com

Pedro holds postgraduate degrees in the areas of Crisis Management, Political Violence, and Information and Public Affairs, and is currently planning the continuation of his studies. During his career he assumed different governmental positions that included various humanitarian roles in international conflicts. Pedro is currently working as an instructor and also as a Senior Analyst in the area of Strategy, Plans and Policy at a think tank of the NSO College in the white and blue Bavaria, Germany.

Pedro is a student from the 4th run of our International Relations Online program. He graduated in 2011.

Ashley S. Fitzpatrick (Portland, USA), ashleysimpsonfitzpatrick@gmail.com

Ashley holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Studies from the University of Southern Maine. In 2011 she received a Master’s degree in International Relations from Freie Universität Berlin, where she was also class speaker. In 2011 Ashley worked as a Program Coordinator for the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin, Germany, before pursuing cultural and language exchange in Hong Kong for three months. Her professional background is in humanitarian procurement, and she is currently working as a staff assistant at the University of New England’s Center for Community and Public Health (Portland, Maine).

Ashley is an alumna of the 4th Run of the CGP’s MA International Relations Online.
Guan Jian (Guangzhou, China), gretchenguanjian@163.com

Born in the province of Guangdong, China, Jian studied at Sun Yat-Sen University of Guangzhou. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Politics and a Master’s degree in International Relations from the Department of International Relations at Sun Yat-Sen. After working as an intern at the Foreign Affairs Office of Guangzhou, she is currently the Director of Administration Office at the School of Foreign Languages of her former university. Jian speaks fluent English, as well as Mandarin and Cantonese. French is her second foreign language.

Jian is a student from the 4th run of our Seasonal School in China. She participated in the program in 2007.

Sawsan Halawa (Amman, Jordan), sawsan.halawa@yahoo.com

Sawsan holds a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan. Currently she is working as program assistant for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. She enjoys talking about politics, the environment and women’s issues, and is looking to study for her Master’s in the EU. Travelling and meeting people is the most valuable thing that Sawsan wants to gain in life.

Sawsan is a student of our Seasonal School in Jordan in 2013 and attended the alumni workshop in Poland.

Tian Jianming (Beijing, China), jianming3721@163.com

Tian Jianming - nickname Camel - currently works as editor and journalist for China Ethnic News in Beijing, China. He holds a PhD from the Ji Lin University of China, as well as a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree, dealing with China’s soft power strategy in the 21st Century. What does Camel think about the Seasonal School in China? “Our Summer School is a rigorous dialog on global politics, which gives us wisdom and a global spirit. (It) is a positive bridge which links Asia and Europe.”

Camel is a student from the 1st and 2nd run of our Seasonal School in China. He participated in the program in 2004 and 2005.

Rebecca Kašēns (Berlin, Germany), rkasens@yahoo.de

Rebecca started her career as a diplomat in 2001, when she studied public administration with the German Foreign Office and was then posted to Kiev, Ukraine and Riga, Latvia. In order to get a broader political look on things, she studied International Relations Online and graduated in 2010, focusing her work on Russian and German soft power politics in Latvia. Rebecca lives and works in Berlin at the moment. She is in the Economic Department of the German Foreign Office and responsible for the economic relations with Russia, Central Asia and South Caucasus. In her free time she is involved with organizing informal alumni meetings for the CGP alumni in Berlin.

Rebecca is a student from the 3rd run of our International Relations Online program. She graduated in 2010.
Mahdiyeh Khadir (Tehran, Iran), mahdiyeh_khadir@yahoo.com

Mahdiyeh holds a B.S. in Journalism. Since she loves working and researching on human rights issues, Mahdiyeh works as part time public information assistant at the Iranian Independent Commission for Human Rights. Additionally, she works as an interpreter and tourist guide as well as owns a private company for interior design together with her sister.

Mahdiyeh participated in the Seasonal School Iran in 2012.

Anna Kushch (Berlin, Germany), anna.kushch@gmail.com

Anna Kushch is working for the Volkswagen Group in Wolfsburg, Germany, dealing with Group Sales Strategy and Planning. Holding a DAAD scholarship, she completed a Master’s degree in Economics at the Freie Universität Berlin in 2012. Born in Moscow, Russia, Anna accomplished a Bachelor’s program in International Economy at MGIMO, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Anna is a student from the 5th run of our program German Studies Russia. She graduated in 2009.

Torge Matthiesen (Berlin, Germany), torge.matthiesen@bmz.bund.de

Torge is a desk officer for Afghanistan at the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. He started his career in the German Armed Forces. As a civilian administration officer, he was assigned to the Naval Command, the Naval Academy, and deployed to Bosnia and Kenya. In 2005 he joined the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Berlin, first as development commissioner in Afghanistan, and later as desk officer for Pakistan. He is now part of the Alumni Network in Berlin and will happily contribute to the organization of alumni events in the region.

Torge graduated from the 6th run of our International Relations Online program in October 2013.

Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk (Amsterdam/The Hague, The Netherlands), tatjanameijvogel.1@kpnmail.nl

Born in Hamburg, Germany, Tatjana studied Political Science at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. During the wartime period she worked as Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid at the German Embassy in Croatia and Bosnia, then later for the EU Administration of Mostar and the OSCE in the fields of democratization and election assistance. Nowadays she is a project manager at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law, a Dutch Institution working in the field of citizenship education. Tatjana has been the President of the CGP Alumni Association (e.V.) and has worked on coordinating and promoting the Association amongst alumni and partners worldwide since February 2011.

Tatjana graduated from the 1st run of our East European Studies Online program in 2005.
Oum Moullika (Phnom Penh, Cambodia), moullika_oum@ymail.com

Moullika holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Cambodia and a Bachelor of International Studies degree from the Institute of Foreign Languages, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She has also been involved in project management and planning, research and development field in her career. Moullika was passionately engaged in other various social voluntary activities and events.

Moullika participated in our Global Politics Seasonal School in Vietnam in 2012.

Philani Mthembu (Berlin, Germany), philzmthembu@hotmail.com

Philani is from South Africa, where he studied at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and attained a Master’s degree in International Relations while also being involved in tutoring first-year students under the Academic Development Programme (ADP). He currently is a PhD candidate at Freie Universität Berlin (FUB), in the Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP) and his dissertation focuses on “The Rise of Emerging Powers as Sources of Development Cooperation in Africa.”

Philani is a PhD candidate in the final stages at the Graduate School of Global Politics.

Magali Menant (Shanghai, China), magalimenant@gmail.com

With a Bachelor’s degree in International Business, Magali started working in China in 2001. She spent 9 years at the Delegation of German Commerce and Industry in Shanghai promoting Sino-German cooperation for environment and sustainability issues. Upon completion of the IRO program, she joined a long time-friend in developing a consultancy in Shanghai, CONSTELLATIONS International, offering support for Sino-European cooperation projects. CONSTELLATIONS designs and facilitates collaboration projects focusing on sustainability, social innovation and urban related issues.

Magali was a student from the 5th run of the International Relations Online program and graduated in October 2012.

Denver Mullican (New Orleans, USA), denvermullican@mac.com

Denver is a graduate of the Eastern European Studies Online program and also holds a Master of Public Administration from Harvard. He is currently completing his Doctorate of Business Administration at Grenoble Ecole de Management in a program similar to EES Online. He is an adjunct faculty member of Upper Iowa University and Grand Canyon University where he teaches business and economics courses both online and in a traditional classroom. A resident of New Orleans, he is active in real estate and business development.

Denver is a student of the 5th run of our East European Studies Online program. He graduated in 2009.

Oum Moullika (Phnom Penh, Cambodia), moullika_oum@ymail.com

Moullika holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Cambodia and a Bachelor of International Studies degree from the Institute of Foreign Languages, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She has also been involved in project management and planning, research and development field in her career. Moullika was passionately engaged in other various social voluntary activities and events.

Moullika participated in our Global Politics Seasonal School in Vietnam in 2012.
Massimiliano Pastore (Prague, Czech Republic), massimilianopastore@gmail.com

Before and during the establishment of the Alumni Association (e.V.), Massimiliano advised the alumni community and ambassadors on several legal issues of the association. An attorney admitted to both the Italian and Czech bars, he advises and represents Italian corporate clients with a presence in the Czech Republic. He also regularly lectures on business and comparative law at the Anglo-American University in Prague and the University of New York in Prague. By quoting a notorious Italian – Michelangelo – Massimiliano wants to wish that all CGP alumni may always desire more than they can accomplish.

Massimiliano was a student of the 2nd run of our East European Studies Online program. He graduated in 2006.

Kristina Piilik (Berlin, Germany), kristinapiilik@hotmail.com

Kristina holds a Master of Business Administration from the Estonian Business School and a Bachelor of Arts in Law from the University of Tartu. During her studies in Estonia, she was an exchange student in Sweden and in the United States of America. Currently she is a PhD candidate at Free University of Berlin. Her native language is Estonian and she is fluent in English, German, and Russian.

Kristina is a student of the 8th run of our East European Studies Online program. She graduated in 2012.

Ren Lin (Beijing, China), huifeideyu_1@163.com

Lin participated in the 2007 Shanghai Summer School. After that she felt that her life was linked to the Center for Global Politics. She wrote her dissertation at the Graduate School of Global Politics, the German-Chinese PhD program at the CGP. Her research focused on the topic of Peace Building and Reconciliation. Lin enjoyed her stay in Berlin since she could meet more of our alumni from other CGP programs in the city.

Lin is a student from the 4th run of our Seasonal School in China in 2007 and an alumna of the Graduate School of Global Politics in 2012.

Merel Rolf (Brussels, Belgium), merelrolf@gmail.com

After exploring her interests in Eastern Europe, Hungary and Estonia during her Master’s program in East European Studies at the CGP, Merel developed a great interest in the financial world and global finance. Traineeships at the Dutch embassy to Estonia and the EU Committee of the Regions led to a job at a large Belgian brokerage house in Brussels. As the secrets of the international trading floor and worldwide stock exchanges begin to unfold, Merel gathers ever more experience and tries to make use of that in the CGP Alumni Fundraising group.

If you are ever in Brussels, you are warmly invited to visit her! Merel is a student of the 5th run of our East European Studies Online program. She graduated in 2010.
Vitaliya Tsarik (Moscow, Russia), vitaliya.tsarik@googlemail.com

Vitaliya is a coordinator for regional projects at the Public Relations Department for the LUKOIL Company in Moscow, Russia. She began her studies at MGIMO, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, graduating in 2007 with a specialization in Public Relations. While enrolled in the German Studies Russia program from 2006 to 2007, Vitaliya spent a semester abroad at the Freie Universität Berlin. She has also lived in Baku, Azerbaijan and Odessa, Ukraine, as well as spending some time in Brussels. Vitaliya participated in the 3rd run of our program German Studies Russia. Since the founding of the CGP Alumni Association (e.V.), Vitaliya has taken over the task of Secretary of the Association.

Vitaliya is a student of the 3rd run of our German Studies Russia program. She graduated in 2006.

Somany Toch (Phnom Penh, Cambodia), tochsomany@gmail.com

Somany is a fresh graduate student from the Department of International Studies of the Institute of Foreign Languages at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. He is interested in a variety of fields, particularly international relations and economics. He would like to pursue his Master’s degree in ASEAN affairs in the upcoming year.

Somany is a student from the 2nd run of our Seasonal School Vietnam in 2012.

Tess Tewelde (Maputo, Mozambique), tess.tewelde@apopo.org

Tess grew up in Eritrea where he completed a BS in Biology. After several years working internationally as a mine action professional in commercial and humanitarian contexts, he decided to pursue an advanced degree. He learned of the MA IR Online Program through internet research and graduated from the program in 2011. He currently lives and works in Mozambique where he is Program Manager for a mine action operator working to free Mozambique from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war. His studies through the CGP were challenging and rewarding and the aspect that is most memorable are the people involved.

Tess is a student from the 4th run of International Relations Online. He graduated in 2011.

Wisam Salih (Ontario, Canada), wisam.salih@usask.ca

Wisam Salih completed the Summer School in Amman, Jordan in 2011 and attended the Alumni Workshop in Gdańsk, Poland in 2013. Wisam completed his Bachelor’s of Arts degree (major political science) in 2009 and his Master of International Trade in 2013, both from the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. He has worked for the government of Canada in a number of different roles. Currently he is working as a Security Analyst for the Department of Public Safety. Wisam is looking forward to achieving the goals and objectives that were set out in Gdańsk through the Alumni Ambassadors.

Wisam is a student from our Summer School Jordan in 2011 and our Alumni Workshop in Gdańsk in 2013.
Anastas Vangeli (Warsaw, Poland), anastas.vangeli@gmail.com

Anastas graduated from the Master’s program in Contemporary China Studies at the Renmin University of China. He is a PhD student at the Graduate School for Social Research at the Polish Academy of Science focusing on the intersection of elite transformation, (anti)corruption and legitimacy in China and Eastern Europe. He was one of the organizers of the second workshop on China and Europe in Global Politics in Beijing and attended the CGP Alumni Network meeting in Gdansk, in September 2013. Anastas is looking forward to advancing his work with the Alumni Network.

Anastas Vangeli is a student of our 2012 Summer School China.

Miguel Verde (Berlin, Germany), ronin.no.kokoro@gmail.com

Miguelángel Verde Garrido is a PhD candidate at the GSGP, where he researches the economic and political dynamics of states, corporations and civil society regarding information and communications technologies. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello in Venezuela and he obtained his M.A. in Political Science and Political Philosophy from Kyoto University in Japan. His major research interests are global politics, political philosophy, security and surveillance studies, and Foucauldian theory, aside from the socio-political consequences of vastly accelerated development of information and communications technologies in the era of globalization.

Miguel is in his final stages of his PhD project with the Graduate School of Global Politics.

Anastasia Vishnevskaya (Berlin, Germany), anastasia.wischnewskaja@gmail.com

Anastasia – Assja – Vishnevskaya studied for her M.A. in International Relations in Russia and Germany. Originally from Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia, she studied diplomacy and Dutch for her Bachelor’s at the MGIMO in Moscow. She is currently working on her PhD in comparative politics dealing with separatism of autonomous units with an emphasis on Xinjiang, China. As a student assistant, she supports the team of the German Migration Experts Council working for the research project on migration from Germany.

Assja was a student of the 4th run of the German Studies Russia program. She graduated in 2011 and has been an active alumna ever since.

Giang Vu Quynh (Hanoi, Vietnam), quynhgiangvu@gmail.com

Giang holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Studies from the College of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Vietnam National University in Hanoi. In 2010 she participated in a scholarship program with the National University of Singapore that was made possible by the Temasek Foundation. She worked as a communications officer at RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests. Giang has also volunteered for several social projects in Singapore, as well as in Hanoi. Giang speaks Vietnamese, English and German and is now studying Japanese. She is doing her Master’s program at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy in Erfurt, Germany. This program is a DAAD scholarship program for Public Policy and Good Governance.

Giang is a student from the 1st run of our Seasonal School Vietnam in 2010.
Leon White (Beijing, China), leonmwhite@gmail.com

Leon grew up in New Zealand before moving to Europe at 18 to travel and see some decent live music. He has spent the last 12 years travelling and working around the world in film production, translation and environmental protection, both privately and with international organizations and NGOs. He is currently based in Beijing with Greenpeace and speaks English, German and Mandarin Chinese.

Leon is a student from the 4th run of International Relations Online. He graduated in 2011.

Sebastian Wolf (Vienna, Austria), wolfseb@web.de

Ick bin een Berliner. What John F. Kennedy in 1963 pretended to be Sebastian is indeed. Sebastian grew up in East Berlin and witnessed the collapse of the Eastern Bloc right in his backyard. Although it was an uncertain time, he enjoyed being confronted with a wide range of challenges. Travelling through Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, he could still recognize the same challenges, which fascinated him 15-20 years ago. The East European Studies Online program thus helped Sebastian to set his interest on a solid foundation.

Sebastian is a student from the 7th run of our East European Studies Online program. He graduated in 2011.

Xi Yao (Beijing, China), sissiyao1989@hotmail.com

Sissi holds a Master’s degree in international politics from Renmin University in Beijing, with a focus on European Studies. Based in Beijing after graduation, she is now working for People.cn. The two-week summer school was a fabulous adventure for Sissi and she would like to share her experience with the new graduates of the school.

Xi Yao – nickname Sissi – is a 2011 Seasonal School China participant.

Lu Xin (Berlin, Germany), luxin1115@gmail.com

Lu Xin comes from East China. While working on his Master’s degree, he participated in the CGP summer school in Shanghai in 2008. After graduation from Fudan University, he came to Berlin for his doctoral studies at the Freie Universität Berlin, with a focus on global cities in emerging economies.

Lu Xin is in his final stages of his PhD project with the Graduate School of Global Politics.
Hi, I am Sebastian, Head of Marketing and Public Relations at the CGP. Besides managing the marketing and PR efforts of the Center for Global Politics, I am in close contact with the alumni marketing and Lykeion working groups. The groups support us with the promotion of the call for applications, the development of giveaways and feedback on our website, and with the development of new content for our website, especially our new blog project: "Global Matters. Bits and Thoughts on World Politics". During the Alumni Workshop in Gdańsk, Poland, I realized how much energy and devotion our alumni have to offer. It is a beautiful experience and a great opportunity to be connected to so many inspiring people from all over the world.

KLAUS SEGBERS (DIRECTOR):

Well, you should actually know me: As Director of the Center for Global Politics I have the privilege (and as my team is never tired of reminding me: obligation...) to participate in all activities the CGP team plans. My travels take me to all Seasonal School locations, to intensive German Studies Russia seminars in Moscow and the Graduate School of Global Politics in China, and to all those weird dinner places the M.A. program staff picks here in Berlin. Talking to CGP students and alumni reminds me why I am on the move for about 4 months a year: this is an impressive network of inspiring people and it is an indicator of the Center’s outreach, impact and success.

KATRIN RISCH (ALUMNI NETWORK):

Since October 2010 I have been responsible for the strategic development of the Alumni Network and for organizing all events and communication related to it. During this time I have had the chance to meet many alumni and to organize workshops in Russia, China, Poland and 2014’s location in Cambodia. What’s most fun about my job? Working together with so many great people from all around the world, having the opportunity to realize new workshop concepts every year, and to express my creativity when it comes to conceptualizing and designing the alumni publications (as well as many other things)! What makes things even better is that we work in a great team at the Center for Global Politics and that my colleagues are part of the alumni work.

ANJA PETERS, KRISTINA KLINKFORTH, SABINE PAG (M.A. PROGRAMS):

After taking care of our students so intensively during their studies, we are always sad to see them leave as graduates. That is why we welcome them even more as alumni. We draw on our established contacts for all kinds of requests (searching for a speaker, needing information for an applicant, spreading the call for applications, and the like) and are always happy that we can rely so much on our EES and IR Online M.A.s. It is always inspiring to meet such interesting and diverse people and to be able to draw on their experience to improve the IR Online program as well as the services of the CGP. In 2013, we completely redeveloped the program’s e-learning features and opened a new area studies track alongside the traditional global politics track. In 2014, we will reach out to corporate partners to develop innovative executive formats for building professional skills. The insights and ideas of our students and alumni help us greatly along the way.

SEBASTIAN MEYER (MARKETING):

Hi, I am Sebastian, Head of Marketing and Public Relations at the CGP. Besides managing the marketing and PR efforts of the Center for Global Politics, I am in close contact with the alumni marketing and Lykeion working groups. The groups support us with the promotion of the call for applications, the development of giveaways and feedback on our website, and with the development of new content for our website, especially our new blog project: “Global Matters. Bits and Thoughts on World Politics”. During the Alumni Workshop in Gdańsk, Poland, I realized how much energy and devotion our alumni have to offer. It is a beautiful experience and a great opportunity to be connected to so many inspiring people from all over the world.
Since April 2013 I have been the manager for the Seasonal Schools program at the CGP. Before that I was a student assistant for the Alumni Network and now I enjoy being directly involved in shaping the alumni work in Moscow. How do I like my new tasks? Being in Moscow and teaching the students of German Studies Russia has been a great experience. But so is my work here in Berlin. German Studies Russia is by now one of the oldest cooperations in Eastern Europe. Next year we look forward to celebrating our 10th anniversary together with our partners in Russia. And the success continues; more and more students graduate every year and they are perfectly equipped to play a crucial role in the future of Russian-German relations, be it in business, diplomacy or media. Most of the alumni are still a vibrant part of the program. They help the current students to find interesting internships in their career area and share their experience at alumni meetings, such as our annual Christmas Party, and support the program wherever they can!

In October 2013 I joined the CGP team as coordinator for German Studies Russia. Before that I was a student assistant for the Alumni Network and now I enjoy being directly involved in shaping the alumni work in Moscow. How do I like my new tasks? Being in Moscow and teaching the students of German Studies Russia has been a great experience. But so is my work here in Berlin. German Studies Russia is by now one of the oldest cooperations in Eastern Europe. Next year we look forward to celebrating our 10th anniversary together with our partners in Russia. And the success continues; more and more students graduate every year and they are perfectly equipped to play a crucial role in the future of Russian-German relations, be it in business, diplomacy or media. Most of the alumni are still a vibrant part of the program. They help the current students to find interesting internships in their career area and share their experience at alumni meetings, such as our annual Christmas Party, and support the program wherever they can!

Since October 2013 I have been responsible for the Graduate School of Global Politics at the Center for Global Politics. Mainly, I am responsible for the administrative matters concerning the Graduate School, e.g., organizing meetings and lectures for our intensive seminars for the PhD students. Another very important task is to work on a Joint Degree between our partner universities and FU. Having an academic background in global politics, I really feel at home at the CGP. I enjoy working with a friendly and helpful team as much as communicating with the foreign professors and coordinators at our partner universities in China and Russia.

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We are commonly known as the “IT guys” at the CGP. We help CGP staff, students and instructors to cope with IT challenges and are in charge of the maintenance of several software systems like the alumni networking software. In 2013 we realized the Facebook Connect Button, which allows you to switch from your Facebook profile to the Alumni Forum with one click. I – Markus – have been travelling to the alumni workshops while Stefan was backing up in the FU office for the past three years – that is why we have been able to realize many new online alumni projects, like the Facebook Connect Button, the amazing and re-launched unit system for the online M.A. programs, the new Global Matters blog, etc. Last but not least, we would like to share our most common IT advice with you: “Have you tried to turn it off and on again?”
CGP alumni are working in a number of different professions. They are united in their interest in global politics. Here is a list of publications our alumni in academia and journalism have written in 2013.

For further reads visit our new Global Matters blog: http://global-matters.org/

- Cardoso, Daniel; Mthembu, Philani; Venhaus, Marc and Verde Garrido, Miguelángel (eds.). The Transatlantic Colossus: Global Contributions to Broaden the Debate on the EU-US Agreement, Berlin, December 2013.


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