CGP ALUMNI
YEARBOOK 2014
This outgoing year, 2014, celebrated 25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. This event paved the way for the ending of the Cold War. But 2014 didn’t see only celebrations – rather, the world experienced several severe international crises and conflicts, in Europe and beyond. From a European perspective, the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine is particularly serious. The past year also brought along new global threats, like the emergence of a strange and dangerous caliphate and Ebola, which we need global solutions for. In times like these the CGP, inasmuch as an international network of global experts, is more important than ever.

As for the Center for Global Politics, 2014 was mostly a good year. Our network now counts over 1000 global professionals living in more than 40 countries who are interconnected. Numerous regional meetings took place all over the globe: in Berlin and Guangzhou, in Amman and Phnom Penh, in Yangon and Beijing. Moreover, alumni from 16 countries participated in our Alumni Workshop, which took place in September in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Above all, the expertise and the enthusiasm of our alumni make our network exceptional. During the past year we have been watching a further involvement of our Alumni Network. Thanks to the inspiring projects of our alumni we all benefit from their expertise and different perspectives on global issues. The marketing working group implemented a special and creative project – the CGP Alumni cookbook that includes delicious recipes from all over the world. Established after the alumni workshop in 2013, the Global Matters blog became a place for vivid and sophisticated discussions within merely a year.

Another priority of the Alumni Network was the promotion of the CGP brand. The Alumni Cookbook, Alumni Ambassador T-shirts and the Alumni Workshop video demonstrate the extraordinary creativity and talent within the CGP community. These are only a few examples for the inspiring ideas of our alumni – and our ambitions are constantly growing. In order to ensure the implementation of all our projects, our highly motivated fundraising group is working on new financing concepts.

During our Alumni Workshop in Siem Reap we took another big step towards a more sustainable and proactive functioning of our Alumni Network. For more details, read the report on “Alumni Workshop Cambodia” on page 19.

I want to thank our partners and sponsors in 2014. Let me mention just a few: the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); the Chairman of the CGP Board Dr. Hans-Friedrich v. Ploetz; Ernst & Young Moscow; SIRPA at Fudan University, Shanghai; the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences; the Renda University; Jinan University; the German-Jordanian University; the Aegean University and Eliamep; the Royal University of Cambodia; the School for International Relations in Teheran; the Kadir Has University in Istanbul; the Faculty for Political Sciences at MGIMO in Moscow, the German Embassies and General Consulates in Beijing, Shanghai, Teheran, Phnom Penh, Moscow, and Amman as well as our department for Political and Social Sciences at FU Berlin.

Sincerely,
Klaus Segbers
DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI,

In our first year as Board of Directors of the Alumni Association, we came to know many of you and were involved in the organization of a wide range of alumni activities. Ever since we took over from the first Board in March 2014, we have strived to take the Association to the center of alumni life.

In this book you will find reports of regional events, a tour in Berlin for fresh graduates and an alumni week in beautiful Cambodia. Every time an alumni event takes place, we realize how much energy and vitality our network has, and think very optimistically about the future.

Our goal will be to structure all this within the framework of the Association, which helps in formalizing our current structure. In this way, we can avoid depending only on enthusiasm and ensure that the spirit of CGP continues to live, even when life, work, families and other matters of importance often distract us.

Let us share with you the things we have done. We have started to sort out the finances of the Association, the functioning of the association, and have made attempts to secure a tax-exempt status for it. Unfortunately, because the German system has proven to be stronger than anticipated, we have enlisted professional help. With the firm belief that we can make it, we refuse to give up. At the same time, we have managed to double the number of our members and hope to double it once more during 2015.

During 2015 we also hope to finally achieve a tax-exempt status and will continue developing guidelines in terms of shared best practices for organizing alumni events and other issues that concern the management of the Association. We wish to include you in the development of the branding of the Association and the CGP. And we need to increase the visibility of Global Matters. Luckily, we have several working groups that are assisting us and we, the Board, are very thankful for their hard work.

In this light, we remain at your disposal for all kinds of suggestions, questions, and comments, and wish you success in all the challenges you face!

Good luck,

Merel, Boyka and Janis

Interested in becoming a member?

Have a look at http://www.global-politics.org/about_us/alumni/asso/index.html

or send us an email: alumni@global-politics.org
**FIRST STEPS IN THE ALUMNI NETWORK**

**SLAVA OBOZINSKIY, SEASONAL SCHOOL RUSSIA 2012**

New CGP alumni action plan:

1. Join the CGP Facebook group;
2. Become a member of the CGP Alumni Association;
3. Get to know your local fellow alumni;
4. Join a regional meeting and have a drink with them. 😊

**GUAN JIAN, SEASONAL SCHOOL CHINA 2007**

- Make more new friends and keep in touch with old ones. Know more about the world and its global changes.
- Join the regional meeting and discuss what are the features of that region. Organize activities that would meet the alumni’s needs and interest.
- Establish regular contact with your local fellows and communicate frequently to receive updated news of each other.
VUTHIKA HANG,  
SEASONAL SCHOOL CAMBODIA 2013

I created a Facebook group for all alumni of the Seasonal Schools in Cambodia and Vietnam. The group will help us to meet in person, to get to know more about each other and about our experiences, so that we can discuss what we can contribute to the network. Are you an alumnus or alumna of the Seasonal School in Vietnam or Cambodia? Join our group!

VASILIS TRIGKAS,  
SEASONAL SCHOOL CHINA 2012

So, my attempt is this:
1) Socialize with members at every opportunity and strategize with peers on atypical projects. The sky is the limit: you are in the largest Eurasian network!!! Not simply German or Russian or Chinese, but Global!
2) Join every possible electronic social media for the CGP alumni network and make sure to promote CGP through your professional or academic affiliations!!!
3) Humans are momentary beings, yet it is our social interaction that gives us intellectual energy and meaning in life! Build strong bonds with CGP alumni and commit to the cohesion of the team!

ANNA MAKARENKO,  
GERMAN STUDIES RUSSIA 2014

1) Find other local alumni and meet up;
2) Suggest your cool fresh ideas for developing the CGP network;
3) Present great possibilities of the CGP alumni network to those alumni who still haven’t joined it.
HIGHLIGHTS CGP

Each year at the Center for Global Politics is full of special events, business trips, interesting panel discussions, and interviews as well as a lot of interesting meetings with our international students, partners, and alumni. We would like to take the opportunity, here, to give you a glimpse of our personal highlights throughout 2014. We look forward to sharing many more special moments with you in 2015.

KLAUS SEGBERS, CGP DIRECTOR:

Seasonal School in Istanbul:
Well, CGP is in many regards about connections established through events.

One of these 2014 events still vividly in my mind is the Seasonal School in Istanbul. For the first time, the partner, the venue, the atmosphere, and the class size all contributed to a very memorable class. Before I left, the girl with an opera singer’s education performed a song. This was moving. Also great, once again, was the cruise on the Bosphorus on a boat, with dinner, and one of the most breathtaking views the globe has to offer.

Istanbul also included tear gas around my nose, walking on a Saturday late morning along Istiklal Boulevard to buy my weekend ‘Financial Times’ in a bookstore, while the fighting demonstrators and police, celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Gezi Park clashes, came closer. The taxi drivers, waiting for their chance, raised the normal tariff for their duties tenfold. I took the funicular. Meeting my coordinator at the hotel entrance – who earlier had informed me that she wouldn’t want to join me to Istiklal because it may be too dangerous – started to complain that I went there without her.

Alumni Workshop in Cambodia:
Talking about events, each of the other Seasonal Schools were also a highlight, each in its own way (apologies to Halong Bay – you are great as well). But let me focus on the Alumni Workshop, this year taking place in Siem Reap in Cambodia, against the background of Angkor and the other magnificent temples, regained from the swamps and forests. We had the ideal setting of a portfolio hotel offering diverse rooms and surroundings, and, a five minutes walk apart, a wonderful meeting hall, belonging to the local Khmer Studies Center. The excursion to the countryside with a cooking class (that I was following from a distance, but enjoying the results a lot); the visit to the French artist brothers Eric and Thierry Stocker and their wonderful laboratory, providing education and work for hundreds of disadvantaged local kids; the quiet ambiance of the Kaya Café in the old town; the obligatory visit to the ‘Monument Books’ store, and, again, the great place of the ‘Heritage Suites’ as a refuge all provided an unforgettable atmosphere – even without my beloved martial art performance.

CGP at Freie Universität Berlin:
The CGP, by the way, is an event in flux, permanently moving in sometimes unexpected directions. But 2014 was, may be for the first time ever, relatively stable, without significant turnover of people, or other hassles. The one thing that became ever clearer is while the CGP is happy to award FU Berlin certificates, this relationship is a troubled one. Maybe because it experienced its seventh year. This takes a lot of energy I’d love to invest otherwise. We’ll see where this will lead in 2015.
KRISTINA KLINKFORTH, EXECUTIVE MANAGER STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT:

Diving into Cambodia’s Cultural History:

It has been my great pleasure to be part of the CGP Alumni Workshop 2014 in Cambodia. The setting was excellent as ever and it was a joy to meet friends from former Alumni Workshops as well as new faces engaging in the CGP community. One of my personal highlights was a tour of Angkor Wat, with its stunning temples and rich cultural heritage. In this context, I had the pleasure to walk with one of our Cambodian alumni, who turned out to be an expert in the cultural history of Cambodia, thus adding so much more meaning to the vast structures of Angkor. The day was thus a great mix of wonder and learning – thank you, VK!

Introducing a New Learning Design:

For the better part of 2013, Stefan, Markus, and I have been working on a new learning and content management system (CMS). On the basis of student requests and evaluations we designed a community-based learning system for IRO. It combines: ease-of-use accessibility to the study content online; an interactive and personalized communication profile for students (to be finalized); editing and authoring as well as support functions. It is thus multifunctional and much more attractive to use. I was proud to see the new learning and content management system launch and work so well. I think that we designed something original, which addresses a lot of shortcomings we have had to cope with so far.

Finalizing My Academic Journey:

In 2014 I finally completed writing my PhD dissertation. I had been working on this project for the past years, next to working more or less full-time at the CGP. Sometimes this turned out to be a big challenge for me as the rhythms and intensity levels of both assignments have proven so different. Yet both, working for the CGP and doing my own research, have given me many and more opportunities over these past years. Being in the process of finally completing the process is thus a great milestone for me – I am now curious what the next years will bring at the CGP and beyond!

KATRIN RISCH, SENIOR MANAGER ALUMNI NETWORK:

The year at the CGP is full of events bringing us to different places around the world or people from all over the world to Berlin. There are so many instances where you will meet old friends and colleagues, make new acquaintances, and learn about their endeavors and projects. Limiting myself to only three very personal highlights it would be these:

- I arrived on a rainy and relatively chilly morning in Siem Reap, Cambodia, full of anticipation for the upcoming Alumni Workshop. I had two days for the finishing touches before all other participants and colleagues arrived – both with very bad weather. I literally saw the Workshop “falling into water” – but then blue skies when everyone arrived on Monday and it was sunny for most of the week. What a nice metaphor for the spirit and atmosphere of the event.

- Days at the CGP are generally busy. But this summer we took the time for a nice team picnic, pot-luck-style. It was great spending the lunch break in the nearby park we all have very fond memories and very nice pictures of the day.

- Meeting you here in Berlin! Be it long planned alumni meetings in the Eierschale with alumni bringing their whole family or spontaneous hangouts with people from 4 different countries in a cozy restaurant.
SEBASTIAN MEYER, HEAD OF MARKETING

Looking back at 2014, there’s a couple of things that are worth remembering and celebrating. From my perspective, the most important milestone was the establishment of the Global Minds Scholarship, which was awarded to two ambitious and gifted students from Myanmar. More about that later in this publication.

Another highlight is the fact that our blog “Global Matters. Bits and thoughts on world politics” has been online for a year now. I know how much time and energy our contributors, students, and alumni have put into this. Thanks for that. It’s quite interesting to look back at some of the topics we’ve covered. From the crisis in Ukraine, to Sochi, the World Cup (yes, “we” won it), Hong Kong, IS terror, and Ebola. But what I found most interesting was to read the comments on our very first question again: “What do you think are the three most relevant challenges to Global Politics in 2014?” None of our experts mentioned terrorism in Iraq and Syria or the conflict in Ukraine. I don’t blame our experts. I regard it as a call for humility since it shows us how difficult it is to predict human behavior in general and political and social developments in particular. The world and human interactions are just very complicated – even for distinguished social scientists.

Very impressive was the work of our Chinese alumna Chaoyi Chen. She put so much energy, patience, and idealism into the production of our wooden bookmarks that it was possible to bring them to our workshop in Cambodia. A huge thank you from the Marketing team for making this possible. To be honest, the whole process was a bit like making sausages. You don’t want to talk about the details, but you can enjoy the result.

And last but not least, I am happy that we were able to stabilize the number of IR Online students at a high level and that we could diversify our student body by attracting more dedicated and interesting students from Africa (in the current IRO run we have 7 students from the region). This development not only enriches the IR Online experience, it also fits well into our goals with the Global Minds Scholarship.

SABINE PAG AND ANJA PETERS, OUR TEAM FOR THE M.A. PROGRAMS

Our 2014 highlight? EES Online’s tenth graduation ceremony. Together with IR Online seventh run’s graduates we celebrated on 3rd October. As always: sad to see those leave whom we accompanied for more than two years, glad they achieved the desired M.A. degree, and hoping we will meet them again sometime, somewhere.
DOMINIK SONNLEITNER, SENIOR MANAGER GERMAN STUDIES RUSSIA:

1) It seems to be a little bit obvious, but one of my favorite moments in 2014 was definitely the 10th anniversary graduation of GSR. Not only because it was a pleasure to see all the students again, with whom I worked for over a year, but also to share their experiences in Moscow and Germany and to wish them a happy future. Also because ten years is quite a time for such a program! So many people already completed it and I sincerely hope there are many more to come.

2) A moment that is always a little sad, but nevertheless sweet, is the time to grant the scholarships. On the one hand, it is a good feeling because you give students, who really deserve it a – hopefully – great opportunity. On the other hand, it is a little bit sad, knowing that there are still many more of your students who would as well deserve such a chance.

3) Of course – the moment before your first class starts in the new year. All the new faces, everyone waiting, and you trying to get an impression, looking forward to the discussions, questions, and basically the whole year with them.

We enjoyed their presents: a wonderful bouquet of flowers (how did they guess the color of Sabine’s dress?) and lots of sweets from their home countries that indeed have sweetened our office hours since.
AMALA MEIWES, SENIOR MANAGER GRADUATE SCHOOL:

1) My first personal highlight this year at the CGP was the trip to China. As the coordinator of the Graduate School of Global Politics, I accompanied Prof. Klaus Segbers on one of his regular trips there. Currently, we are working on the introduction of a Joint Degree Agreement between the FUB and our Chinese partner universities. Since I just started working at the CGP, it has been extremely useful to meet our colleagues at Renmin University in Beijing, at Fudan University in Shanghai, and at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. Furthermore, it has been very enjoyable to meet former students at the alumni meetings. Besides our very constructive talks at the universities, I was very impressed by Beijing and Shanghai. It was my first visit to China and, unfortunately, I did not have enough time to visit all the city sights. Hence, I really would like to go back again. I was personally impressed by and remember best the market in Beijing. Unfortunately, I did not have the time to try all the known and unknown Chinese specialities that were offered.

2) My second highlight was the intensive seminar organized in October, where I met the new students personally for the first time. They are all very friendly, motivated, and enthusiastic about starting our program. For the first time we organized a workshop on “cross-cultural-communication”, held by Ms. Vera Yu who is working for the Studentenwerk in Berlin and who specializes in German-Chinese cultural relations. We received very positive feedback regarding this workshop, and we hope that we can continue and broaden the cooperation. Furthermore, the new students met current students. The opportunity to study in China was especially discussed at length. I think these personal meetings outside the university environment are also very important for the staff. We used the meeting to talk about problems, to provide advice, and to clarify remaining issues with the students.

3) My third highlight was the visit by five professors from Jinan University in Guangzhou, which is our fourth partner in China. It was a great pleasure to meet them and to show them our university. Our guests were very friendly and interested in our university and our students. They prepared an interesting presentation about their university, which emphasized their international and different English programs, extremely important for our students who would like to study there. Additionally, the Dean of the Department of Political and Social Sciences, Prof. Görke, and the Vice President, Prof. Mühlhahn, joined the meeting. Especially worth mentioning was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by our universities. This agreement is a further step towards the Joint Degree Agreement and an official commitment to strengthen our academic cooperation. Prof. Mühlhahn impressed our guests by speaking Mandarin fluently. Concluding, it was a very productive meeting for all parties involved and we are very much looking forward to the next meetings as well as further developments.
Political and social changes do not just occur. They require courageous and committed people. This year, therefore, the Center for Global Politics established a Global Minds Scholarship to support young and talented changemakers in various regions of the world. The students join our M.A. program International Relations Online and thereby have the opportunity to obtain a degree from a German Excellence Initiative university and to become part of a global network of experts, alumni and students.

Each year, the CGP will designate a different target country. The first two scholarships were awarded to two students from Myanmar, a country where we have already been active for a while. Currently, we count approximately 10 Burmese alumni – and we are considering to offer some professional trainings to members of its national parliament next year. “Myanmar is one of the most interesting cases of significant change happening without external intervention. While still coping with many difficulties and risks, there are signs of an emerging civil society. That is what we want to support by helping young and bright activists”, Klaus Segbers says.

May Myat Myo Oo is working as a training coordinator at the Myanmar Institute of Peace and Security Studies and has been engaged in several civic society organizations. Martin Tuang works at the Myanmar Scholarship Alumni Association and has been involved in several parliamentary, peace, and human rights movements.

The blended-learning format of IR Online will allow our Burmese students to continue their political and social engagement in their home country. By participating in week-long in-house classes twice a year in Berlin, the students will also be able to establish a valuable network of peers, experts, and alumni around the world.

The Global Minds Scholarship includes tuition and travel costs to the in-house classes. Applicants should have a strong record of their professional and social engagement and have proven to be potential changemakers.

The CGP will select a different target country each year in order to support important developments in those countries. We are working on expanding the Global Minds Scholarship next year and are presently in negotiation with a prominent political foundation about this project.
CGP CONNECT

Politics is all about communication. So it is no wonder that an institution that deals with Global Politics values communication that spans continents as essential. Over the years, we have created various platforms that help you stay informed about the CGP’s activities and that help us to get you involved with the CGP community.

Besides our website (www.global-politics.org) and our various program websites (see pp. 14-15), last year we launched our blog, “Global Matters. Bits and thoughts on World Politics” (www.global-matters.org). The concept of the blog is quite simple: every two weeks we post a question related to an important topic in current affairs and present short, but profound, comments from distinguished experts and practitioners from all over the world. The public is invited to take from there and carry the discussion further. One platform where we promote Global Matters is our new Twitter account. Be sure to follow us at:

https://twitter.com/cgp_gm

Facebook has also proven to be a valuable tool for us. By now, we have three official Facebook pages with almost 10,000 subscribers. That’s quite an achievement, we believe, compared to the 21,000 Likes of the FU Berlin Page. But it also leaves space for improvement, as other Facebook pages show: Shakira got more than 106 million Likes, in case you care.

https://www.facebook.com/CenterForGlobalPolitics
https://www.facebook.com/InternationalRelationsOnline
https://www.facebook.com/EastEuropeanStudiesOnline
What’s probably more important than our pages is the fact that our students and alumni have created dozens of Facebook groups. The most vibrant one is the “CGP Alumni” group, which you should join immediately if you are not a member yet: Facebook CGP Alumni. Here you can share news, photos, videos, job offers, and stay informed about events and new blog posts. Additionally, we keep you posted about all alumni events and news and there are interesting posts on current debates from other alumni. Most importantly, the group will help you to stay connected to your peers.

http://tinyurl.com/CGPAlumni

Another new way of doing exactly that is our LinkedIn page, which we set up in summer 2014. It helps you to connect with each other, to find out what your (former) classmates are currently doing, where they live, and what they work at. And you can direct potential employees to the CGP LinkedIn page itself, giving you another dimension of credibility and reputation.

https://www.linkedin.com/edu/center-for-global-politics-43268

We also have been running a YouTube channel for a couple of years. The channel was updated this year and presents all kind of videos. This is the place where our IR instructors talk about themselves and their modules, where our students talk about their experiences with us, or where you’ll find out more about our innovative teaching methods. Watch it at

https://www.youtube.com/user/GlobalPoliticsCenter.
CONTINUE NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY WITH US

In case your current or previous “CGP experience” got you hooked, here’s a very brief description of what our various programs might offer to you. In case you would like to attain an M.A. degree from a renowned German University of Excellence, the CGP offers you three options in 2015.

**THE M.A. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ONLINE**

is a Master of Arts program that can be studied full-time (2 years) or part-time (4 years). The program:

- Allows for an individual study path and a specialization in either Global Politics or Area Studies;
- Combines online study (90 percent) with four week-long in-house classes in Berlin;
- Prepares you for higher positions in governmental agencies, multinational corporations, NGOs, the media, and international organizations.

More at www.ir-online.org

**THE M.A. EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES ONLINE**

is a Master of Arts program that can be studied full-time (2 years) or part-time (4 years). The program:

- Focuses on the political, economic and juridical situation in Eastern Europe;
- Combines online study (90 percent) with four week-long in-house classes;
- Prepares you for a professional career in Eastern Europe or work related to Eastern Europe.

More at www.ees-online.org

**THE EXECUTIVE MASTER LEADERSHIP IN EASTERN EUROPE**

is a Master of Arts program that can be studied within one year and is designed for aspiring executives in corporations, media and NGOs, as well as social entrepreneurs. The program:

- Focuses on conveying professional and entrepreneurial skills;
- Combines online learning with face-to-face seminars;
- Is arranged around concrete challenges: “Leveraging Global and Regional Institutions”, “Developing Intercultural Awareness”, or “Establishing Contacts with the Civil Society Sector”.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL POLITICS

If you are looking for an innovative PhD program, find out what the Graduate School of Global Politics has to offer. It is:

– The first bi-national German-Chinese PhD program in the Social Sciences;

– Designed for students who wish to investigate International Relations and Global Politics with a regional focus on East Asia and Europe;

– Your opportunity for on-the-spot research at one of our renowned Chinese partner universities: Fudan University (Shanghai), Jinan University (Guangzhou), Renmin University (Beijing) and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

More at www.cgp-phd.org

SEASONAL SCHOOLS

If you want to travel and learn and embark on a global journey with us, you might want to check out one of our Seasonal Schools. These innovative and intensive short-term certificate programs take place in dynamic cities like Berlin and Shanghai. The seminars:

– Comprise state of the art teaching methods, ranging from working groups to simulation games;

– Offer an exciting supporting program, including: company visits, roundtable discussions with experts, and excursions.

More at www.seasonal-schools.org

GERMAN STUDIES RUSSIA

If you are a student at MGIMO and want to learn more about Germany, then our one-year certificate program German Studies Russia, offered in Moscow, is the right thing for you. It equips you with:

– Profound language training in German and English;

– Regional expertise about Germany;

– The opportunity for studying at FU Berlin and working in Germany.

More at www.german-studies-russia.org

STAND-ALONE MODULES

Or maybe you just want to dig deeper in current IR issues but only have a limited time budget? No problem. Then try one of our Stand-Alone Modules from IR Online. These single courses allow students and professionals to develop research skills as well as in-depth knowledge in areas of particular interest: be it simply to broaden your horizons, progress at work, or change your career path. The modules can be completed separately from the IR Online Masters program.

More at: www.ir-online.org/about_us/modules-standalone/index.html

More at
www.german-studies-russia.org

More at
www.seasonal-schools.org

More at
www.cgp-phd.org
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 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.

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. This year we celebrated 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 January 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.

Amala Meiwes
(Graduate School of Global Politics):

Once again I had the honor to be the senior program manager of the Seasonal Schools in 2014. It was a great year, with Seasonal Schools in Istanbul, Berlin, Shanghai, Hanoi, and Amman. I always get the question: “which school do you like the most?”, and I of course always answer the school where I am at that time. Funny enough, this is the truth, because when I am somewhere I really enjoy seeing all the students discussing interesting topics and becoming good friends! Even in a review of the year I cannot see it clear: “Maybe Amman? But, what then about Hanoi, Shanghai, and Istanbul? And what about meeting my Iranian friends for the first Seasonal School in Berlin?” I might sound corny, but I really enjoy all 5 schools! 😊

Bettine Marissen
(Seasonal Schools):

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 Gdansk, 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.

Sebastian Meyer
(Marketing):
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. 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?”

In April 2013 I started working for the CGP, being assigned various tasks. It was not until I took over the team assistance though that I really got an insight into all of our projects. The alumni network, which is a part of it, is a great asset to the CGP. Each one of you helps to keep up our work at a high level and, thus, improve the Center’s external impact and representation. Maintaining such an international network is, to a large extent, only possible because you put a lot of effort into it. Unfortunately, I have only been in contact with some of you via digital media so far. However, I truly hope that this is going to change soon and that I will get to know many of you in person in the future!

Markus Laspeyres 
Stefan Hohenberger
(IT Managers):

Lydia Tetzner
(Assistant to the Director):
Setting: People from 16 countries meet once a year in a different country to work on an ambitious project. It’s not the UN. It’s not the football World Cup. It’s not a reality show. It’s the CGP, and the ‘G’ truly stands for ‘global’. Professionals from Berlin and Beijing, from Canada and Cambodia, leave everything behind for one week and meet to develop new ideas, implement ambitious projects, and discuss current global issues. So, there must be something special about the event.

In September, 30 alumni from different CGP programs came together in Siem Reap, Cambodia, for another inspiring Alumni Workshop. For the ‘oldies’ it was a warm and cordial reunion. For the ‘rookies’, it was an overwhelming and special time. It was a classic CGP experience, flavored with a unique Cambodian flair. It was ‘same, same, but different’. See for yourself.
Design Thinking & Open Space: Awesome People Creating Awesome Ideas

During the workshop, innovative facilitation methods were used in order to create a fertile ground for fresh ideas and promising concepts. The Design Thinking session dealt with a very broad and challenging question: how to promote the CGP among different target groups worldwide? The colorful mess inherent to this method indicates both the originality and the variety of approaches. At the end, every five-person team came up with new ideas, which are both ambitious and promising. The CGP staff will look into those and see what to realize in the university context.

During the libertine Open Space session the alumni were asked to present and develop their ideas together with their fellows. Vague and ambitious ideas became implementable future projects, touching almost every aspect of alumni work: marketing issues, fundraising, alumni publications, and communication. We all are looking forward to see how they will develop. For further information on both the methods and the outcomes, please see “Working Groups” on page 26 or contact alumni.advisor@global-politics.org.

Working Groups: Getting Things Done

To be a member of the CGP family means to have a long-distance relationship with your working group fellows – active members of the Alumni Network meet in person mostly only once a year. Therefore, the working group meetings during the Alumni Workshop were incredibly important for discussing the achievements of the past year and designing concrete priorities and aims for the next 12 months. After evaluating the results of their activities, B@se, Marketing, Lykeion, and Fundraising working groups developed extensive to-do-lists, which will surely keep the group members busy for the upcoming year.

Academic Session: Political Animals

Alumni Workshops are a great opportunity to benefit from the academic potential of our network and discuss recent global topics. This year Prof. Dr. Klaus Segbers, CGP Director, introduced to the alumni the concept of sovereignty in a state of flux. This is an important issue for the South-East Asia region, as we learned from our guest speakers Dr. Kerstin Duell and Dr. Ratana Sopha, who talked about sovereignty issues in Burma/Myanmar and in the Mekong region. A discussion, both sophisticated and multifaceted, resulted from different perspectives from various disciplines and world regions. Additionally, our alumni speakers and PhD candidates, Daniel Cardoso, Assja Vishnevskaya, and Anastas Vangeli contributed their thoughts and ideas in a panel discussion (see also p. 23).
Discovering the World Together: Cultural Activities in Cambodia

Despite the tight schedule, we also took our time to discover the overwhelming cultural heritage of Cambodia, learning about its moving history and experiencing its exciting everyday life. During the authentic Cambodian Cooking Class that took place in the countryside, the alumni also found many new inspirations for the CGP Cookbook Vol. 2. Although cooking skills vary widely among the alumni, it was great fun and a team-building experience for everybody. On day four, our guides introduced to us the most tragic part of the Cambodian history – the rule of the Khmer Rouge. In a personal and moving way, they helped us comprehend how the inconceivable could happen. But then we went even further back in history. By tuk tuk, a traditional South-East Asian motor taxi, we headed to the majestic temples of Angkor to experience the unique architecture of the old Khmer Empire – epic, magnificent and mysterious.

Fun & Leisure: Even the Best Deserve Some Rest

Promising outcomes do not only come naturally. Creative brains need both inspiration and rest. The alumni obviously used their opportunity to discuss the relevant aspects of the CGP work in an informal atmosphere: by the poolside, during a market visit, while having a massage or even during a workout in an open-air gym.
FOCUS: SOVEREIGNTY

THE EVERGREEN CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY

By Assja Vishnevskaya

The participants had a chance to prepare themselves: a couple of scientific texts, discussing a very wide range of sovereignty-related issues, were distributed among the Alumni Ambassadors in advance, so that everybody could join in the discussion with a foretaste of how heated and relevant the debate on sovereignty is. The debate was spurred by input presentations by Klaus Segbers and two guest speakers as well as by a panel of three Alumni Ambassadors.

The academic part of the program started with a contribution by Klaus Segbers, who stressed how old the concept of sovereignty is. For the last 2500 years, people have been using some sort of understanding of this notion, with the peace of Westphalia anchoring it legally in 1648. This concept has always been attached to nation-states in the first place, who were expected not to interfere with each other’s relations and to have a monopoly on domestic power. It was possible due to the unitary nature of the actor. The state had particular national interests, which it has pursued. With globalization ongoing, this constellation has changed. The state is not a unitary actor anymore and it does not provide enough security from the external threats. According to Klaus Segbers, sovereignty has been transferred away from the national state into three major directions: upward to international organizations (first and foremost the EU); downward to lower units (e.g., cities and regions); as well as sideward to non-governmental actors (e.g., rating agencies and MNCs, among others). The erosion of state sovereignty is due to the growing importance of flows such as migration, financial flows or flows of goods, services and resources, which neglect national boundaries. Despite this seeming loss of importance, the concept of sovereignty is becoming more and more debated: the dissolution of big states such as Yugoslavia and the USSR is accompanied by heated debates and even wars, and more and more peoples want to become independent. The puzzle, according to Klaus Segbers, is that, though sovereignty is being challenged from so many sides, it is still desired. The most probable explanation is that storytelling about sovereignty serves the elites and pacifies the people, who feel anxious in a modern turbulent world. Independence also brings rents – various international organizations support forces which claim sovereignty as a smaller evil than failed or dysfunctional states. There are, however, various other alternatives to sovereignty as it is traditionally understood. These are optional sovereignty (extended arbitrage), integrated sovereignty (the EU), and joint sovereignty.

The last type of alternative forms of sovereignty was the topic of the contribution by the Operations Director of Ocean Technology in Cambodia, Ratana Sopha, namely the Mekong river management. Collaboration – or, better said, the attempt to collaborate – by several countries, through which the Mekong river runs, can be seen as a good example of how giv-
ing up a part of national sovereignty in favour of international cooperation can serve everybody’s interests. Even though the Mekong river cooperation does not always work as it should, and is often undermined by China, it still remains the only example of joint sovereignty in East Asia.

Lack of cooperation and willingness to hand over sovereignty was at the core of the other guest speaker’s contribution. Kerstin Duell, an expert on Burma, who has worked with numerous NGOs from and operating in East Asia, talked about the process of national reconciliation in Burma after its coup d’état. The power play between the government and insurgent groups goes on with both sides claiming more influence than they actually have. The dichotomy of the central government and the ethnic minorities’ insurgent groups revives the 100-years old debate about the right of nations to self-determination. In a way, East Asia goes through what Europe had to deal with in times of Woodrow Wilson.

This revival of an old debate was also the topic that I contributed to the Alumni Ambassadors’ discussion panel. Every year, more and more peoples, regions, and autonomous entities within states claim independence and, therefore, undermine the territorial integrity of the respective states, which is a huge challenge to their sovereignty. This poses a demanding question: which actors of global politics are entitled to sovereignty and which are not? Is sovereignty a “one-size-fits-all” approach or are there different forms and types of this concept, which change depending on the actor at hand?

Another Alumni Ambassador discussant, Anastas Vangeli, talked about the feasibility of the concept of sovereign nation-state as a basic form of political organization. Its rootedness in violence, and the pursuit of national rather than the human interest, as well as the lack of capacity to deal with global risks, make the sovereign nation-state a political organization unfit to provide a better life for the majority of humanity. In order to overcome future crises that stem from this, Vangeli calls for bringing the impossible back into political imagination and the day-to-day political agenda. The end goal should be the defragmentation of human society through important cognitive efforts.

The third discussant, Daniel Cardoso, challenging claims of sovereignty being in decline, discussed why the concept remains a guiding principle in international politics today. In his view, sovereignty cannot easily be replaced by a different modus vivendi, among other things because peoples’ expectations and hopes are tightly bound to the concept of a sovereign state and because actors’ behaviour in international relations are deeply embedded in that concept. People expect their respective states to collect taxes and redistribute income, provide health and educational services, and so on. In this sense, the question is: does globalization change the nature of sovereignty or does it only adjust its form – a question, which at least partially, was answered by the contribution of Klaus Segbers.

It was a very challenging and interesting afternoon, full of discussions and heated debate. One can say for sure, that as long as sovereignty can keep over 30 people occupied for more than three hours, the concept has neither turned irrelevant nor outdated.
CGP ALUMNI CSR PROJECT

SUPPORTING COUNTRYSIDE CHILDREN ORGANIZATION (CCO)

By Sokunosakphea Preung (May)

The days of the 7th Alumni Workshop nearly came to a close. Just before the preparation for the farewell dinner, which was the last thing on our agenda, Countryside Children Organization (CCO) happened. Introduced by May, one of our Cambodian Alumni, CCO is a locally-run orphanage just outside the urban spaces of Siem Reap city.

CCO was founded in 2011 by a group of Cambodian agriculturalists, founders and volunteers. Presently, CCO is run by Cambodian local volunteers, ranging from a cook and farmers to tourist guides and waiters, who set aside time from their professions to help take care of the orphans, administer, and – especially – find funds for the orphanage. There are 37 children in the organization, who come from Siem Reap province as well as other neighboring provinces. Out of the 37, there are 26 boys and 11 girls, ages 6 to 16. They are sent to local schools for formal education and also take part in English classes and vocational trainings provided by local and foreign volunteers as well as by other NGOs. During the time of the Alumni Workshop, CCO was facing a serious funds shortage and needed immediate help.

Raising donations for CCO and visiting the children on the ground was another amazing activity, added to the enriching experience that the workshop alumni had in Cambodia. Together we raised enough money to be able to purchase 300kg of rice grain for the orphanage. Mr. Bun Kao, a guesthouse-owner in Siem Reap, who was once an active NGO worker and is currently helping to manage the orphanage, took seven of our alumni on a joyful and refreshing countryside ride to purchase the rice grain as well as visit the organization. The car stopped right in front of the orphanage, where we were warmly welcomed by dozens of children. The orphanage staff took us on a short tour around the tiny organization, introducing the alumni to the classes, the dorm rooms, the kitchen, and their new canteen as well. Our alumni also had a chance to engage and talk to some of the children about their lives and studies. It was, overall, a touching and heartwarming experience to be able to directly help the community.
MARKETING GROUP

By Anna Kushch
Contact: anna.kushch@gmail.com

Our Marketing Group deals with the promotion of CGP programs and the CGP Alumni Association. Our goal is to make CGP and CGP Alumni a visible and recognizable brand.

Marketing strategy is what I do in my professional, non-CGP, life. That necessary experience allows me to lead the group. At the same time, CGP lets us be creative and develop our own interesting projects, so I can put my theoretical knowledge in practice.

We are an international group from 5 different countries, creative people with pretty different backgrounds, but all somehow connected with public relations or/and marketing.

Everybody can contribute to our projects by sharing her or his ideas about how to attract attention to CGP and its programs.

Any CGP Alumni is very welcome to support the key projects we are working on in 2015: share recipes for our CGP Alumni Cookbook, insider tips for the Trip Advisor, and/or stories for the Alumni (Career) Newsletter.
Fundraising Group

By Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk
Contact: tatjanameijvogel1@kpnmail.nl

From the first moment on, when we began with our Alumni work, fundraising seemed to be an important factor.

At the moment, our group is working on a future overall fundraising strategy for the CGP. We, until now, are: Magali, originating from France, but living for more than 10 years in China, having her own company there, graduate of the 5th run of IR online; Chaoyi, who is the only professional fundraiser among us, working at the University of Fudan, graduate of the summer school China; and myself, originally from Germany, after 11 years in the former Yugoslavia nowadays living in the Netherlands, working as project manager at ProDemos, House for Democracy and the Rule of Law, and graduate from the pilot run of EES online.

It is not easy: fundraising for what? For scholarships for high potentials who would like to study one of the master courses of CGP, but are not able to finance that themselves? For Alumni Ambassadors Workshops? Or for other CGP activities aimed at a broader audience? It seems that all these activities request their own donor target group and strategy.

Furthermore, CGP is very global and very international. Fundraising on the other side seems still to be very much locked in national and cultural traditions, since fundraising in China, the US or Europe might differ from each other very much.

In 2015, we will try to set priorities: which of all potential fundraising aims would be most urgent or strategically the smartest?

We are very much looking for people who have fundraising experience either through their careers or through any volunteer engagements. But, even if you do not have direct experience in this area, you are very much welcome to join the group. Looking at our composition nowadays (only ladies!) and the fact that more diversity is also the key for successful endeavors, we would especially like to encourage male candidates to join!

Please write a short introduction about yourself, explaining why you would like to join, and we will contact you as soon as possible.

You do not feel like joining, but have some ideas, concerns, and/or suggestions on the topic of fundraising? Please do not hesitate to contact us and to share your views!
B@SE – BUILD, STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND
THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CGP ALUMNI!

By Kristina Piilik, Rebecca Kašėns, Slava Obodzinskiy
Contact: obodzinskiy@hotmail.de

How to integrate as many alumni as possible in our CGP activities? The answer is networking. Our mission is to optimize the offline and online communication within our big CGP family.

The B@SE group has more than twenty active members in different places around the globe, with different backgrounds and various great ideas on how to further develop the interaction among the alumni. In the upcoming year, 2015, we are willing to straighten the communication between the working group members from different cities. Also, we want to develop new communication strategies in order to integrate more alumni in our CGP activities – online and offline.

Think globally, meet locally. Thanks to the CGP alumni events, our former students can have a dinner in Greece with their fellow alumni or enjoy delicious homemade dumplings in China. Or if you happen to be in Germany you will have a chance to meet our alumni family during brunches or while exploring German cities together. Numerous events took place in 2014; however, in 2015, we want to organize more events and establish regular regional meetings in as many CGP hot spots as possible. We still have many cities and countries in where we do not yet have event coordinators, which prevents us from organizing CGP events there. Join us and help us make the CGP more global, interactive, and interconnected!
LYKEION GROUP

By Anastas Vangeli
Contact: anastas.vangeli@gmail.com

Who we are:

Our group is in charge of content and knowledge management: this means coming up with creative ways of new content production, old content recycling, discovering synergies, facilitating convergence of the research work, and encouraging cooperation between CGP Alumni who pursue intellectual careers. Overall, we are trying to bring more global politics into the Alumni Network. Our name, Lykeion, is inspired by the Aristotle’s Lyceum, which was based on the principles of cooperative research, knowledge sharing, and systematic collection of scholarly works. The ancient Lykeion was also known as a Peripatetic school, as most of the intellectual exchanges occurred while the participants were strolling around. Our intellectual exchanges occur while we traverse the globe switching time zones.

Our team is founded on a shared passion for knowledge, vigorous interests in current affairs, and a desire to contribute to the ongoing debates and open new ones. Thus, it is not a surprise that the dozen members of our group are predominantly of a “nerdy” background – meaning that most of us are graduate students at different stages of their research. However, we also have a couple of members with steady careers in think tanks and the media. In terms of geographical origin, we have members from various parts of Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa – in this sense, we are a truly global team. Moreover, our members specialize in different research areas: we have political economists, security analysts, theorists, experts on development, experts on minority issues, and so on. Moreover, most of us have interest (and experience) in a vast and diverse spectrum of regions around the globe.

What we are doing:

We are currently focusing on several projects. First, we are in the midst of preparing our first co-edited volume, which shall be comprised of short articles from our group members and other CGP alumni that were selected through a competitive call for papers. At the same time, we are focusing on providing logistical support to the Global Matters website, and on providing creative solutions and advice regarding its future development. Soon we will start with our third main project, which is the compilation of a user-friendly digital bibliography of all CGP Alumni.

Why do we do this?

The establishment of the group in Gdansk in 2013 was one of the first moments when there was the creative spark between the different members. For me, it was a pleasure and honor, first to spend my time and work with such a group of people and, secondly, to represent them within the CGP Alumni Association. So, my personal motivations are really rooted in the “spark” we had at the Gdansk Workshop, which I found stimulating and inspiring. We had similar “spark” with our new members in Siem Reap.

Every CGP Alumni is more than welcome to join our work. The easiest way to reach us is either by contacting one of our members or me or writing to our working group email address: thelykeion.cgp@gmail.com. In the coming months, we would be especially happy if someone wants to join our task force on creating the interactive CGP Alumni digital bibliography/library.
WORKING GROUP PROJECTS 2014

Our alumni working groups have been very busy in 2014. All project ideas were developed during the Alumni Workshops 2013 and 2014 and were realized with a lot of effort by our alumni ambassadors. Here is a selection:

Cookbook
The CGP not only provides you with food for thought, but also offers you a taste of culture. How so? The Marketing Working Group collected recipes from our global community and published a colorful and entertaining CGP Alumni Cookbook. Thanks to the cookbook we now can “taste” the CGP – and its flavor is as international and diverse as our network: alumni from 15 countries contributed their favorite dishes to the first edition. The CGP is always unique: whether in the classroom, on your computer, or in the kitchen. Center for Global Politics – engaging global bellies!

CGP T-Shirt
White, a small CGP logo on the front, and a world map on the back: the CGP T-shirt that Alumni Ambassadors received during the Alumni Workshop is simple and chic! Made in Cambodia, it was manufactured and printed by a social enterprise in Siem Reap. And, everybody looks incredibly good wearing it. Every Ambassador surely will represent the CGP with dignity when they do. Looking good, CGP!

Workshop Video by Begimai
To tell the whole story about the Alumni Workshop in 5 minutes is not an easy thing to do. Begimai Alymbekova accepted the challenge and took her time to design a beautiful video documenting our time in Cambodia. Begimai and Markus were both armed with cameras during the whole workshop, taking countless impressive and exciting pictures and videos. The video highlighted all aspects of the workshop: from fruitful discussions in the classroom to the cheerful spirits at get-togethers. It is a nostalgic travel back in time for those who attended the workshop as well as a great insight into a week full of hard work, fun, and cultural experiences for those who didn’t. Watch it and see for yourself:
http://tinyurl.com/CGPVideo
REGIONAL ALUMNI MEETINGS

Beijing, March 2014
By Xi Yao

On 2nd March, 11 alumni came to our Beijing Alumni Meeting, including an international student. We talked about all sorts of the interesting things from our daily lives, sharing details about work, relationships, and present circumstances. Peanut Café is a nice place where everyone enjoys time with his or her former classmates. We discussed the terrorist attack that happened in Kunming the day before, offering our opinions about this serious incident. Professor Segbers presented the Alumni Yearbook and new programs at the CGP, including a one-year executive M.A. program that is currently under development. The participants were happy to share the information about this new opportunity within their networks afterward.

Guangzhou, March 2014
By Guan Jian

Mid-March is a rainy season in Guangzhou. But as soon as the alumni met each other and welcomed Prof. Segbers, a kind of familiar and friendly atmosphere came back to us. We shared our newest information and exchanged ideas, feeling proud of the latest developments and progresses of CGP and alumni. This year we even had Angela Heucher, a foreign alumnus, with us, who was in town for an internship. Our meetings are also a good chance for alumni to get know more alumni from different years and programs.

Phnom Penh, March 2014
By Anh Dao Quang

Our regional coordinators, Toch Somany and Oum Moullika, organized a very informative alumni meeting in Phnom Penh – they invited three Cambodian alumni to share details about their scholarships and experiences studying and/or working abroad. Participants received firsthand reports and advice on scholarship applications for US, EU, and Chinese programs.

Yangon, March 2014
By Hanoi, March 2014
By Anh Dao Quang

The CGP alumni meeting took place at a pleasant Western-style coffee shop with a spectacular view on downtown Hanoi. The number of participants this year fell because most of the students are studying abroad. There were students from CGP 11, CGP 12 and CGP 13 coming to our meeting. Once there, we talked about our lives after the school had ended as well as current issues in various fields. Professor Segbers shared his point of view on these and we all had a good time discussing with him. Professor Segbers also presented leaflets and brochures of CGP new programs and organized an interesting quiz for the participants. We all expect to see Professor Segbers and new students this September in Berlin., May, 2014

Long Night of Lively Debate
By Daniel Cardoso and Assja Vishnevskaya

This year the Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften (Long Night of Sciences) took place on May 10th, and the Center for Global Politics joined the event with a panel entitled “Innovating the Academics in Global Politics”. The goal of the panel was to present some of the most topical international political subjects of 2014 and discuss them with visitors.

The visitors were welcomed by
Katrin Risch, CGP’s Senior Manager, who gave a brief introduction to the center, followed by a short presentation of the CGP’s Alumni Association and its activities by Anna Kushch. Daniel Cardoso, Marc Venhaus, Miguelángel Verde Garrido, and Philani Mthembu, PhD candidates of the Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP), conducted the first session of the panel. Based on their most recent publication, entitled “The Transatlantic Colossus: Global Contributions to Broaden the Debate on the EU-US Free Trade Agreement”, which is available for download at bgogp.org, the panelists discussed the global implications of the agreement with the audience. The talk on TTIP was followed by Anastasiia Vishnevskia’s presentation of the results of her research on integration prospects between China and Central Asia.

Any discussion on relevant issues of international politics can hardly bypass the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, and so GSGP students organised a panel discussion on that problem. Ukraine-expert Inna Melnikovskaya agreed to chair the panel, in which GSGP students Kristina Piilik, Philani Mthembu, Daniel Cardoso, and Anastasiia Vishnevskia presented different perspectives on the crisis. The discussion was followed by an exciting debate with the audience.

It was a great opportunity to discuss with the concerns and interests that all the visitors had about global politics. We look forward to welcoming you all to Freie Universität again next year!

**Berlin, October 2014**
By Slava Obodzinskiy and Kristina Piilik

This year, the CGP Alumni Association invited our new students from the International Relations Online program to the Alternative Berlin Tour, in order to discover Berlin’s alternative culture in a social, informative, and fun way. Our tour guide from the Original Berlin Tours revealed unique scenes of Berlin’s Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain to us.

Over the two-hour tour we had a chance to get to know the stories behind the city’s street art, familiarize ourselves with everyday life in Berlin’s most legendary districts, and learn more about how Berlin has become Europe’s cultural capital. After so many experiences, the group headed to a well-deserved dinner, which offered the perfect opportunity to get to know each other further and familiarize our new students with our alumni activities.

At the end of the week of in-house classes, our fresh graduates and newest CGP alumni had the chance to enjoy brunch with our current alumni in Berlin. The main purpose of this event was to get to know our new graduates and introduce our alumni activities to them.

There were many questions regarding the work alumni do through their working groups. Most of them discovered that becoming a member is not only a great opportunity to stay connected with the Alma Mater, but also a chance to meet new people and connect with other global minds.

**Amman, October 2014**
By Ghadi Lutfi

On 12th October, 2014, an alumni meeting of former and new participants of the Global Politics Summer School was held in Jordan’s capital city, Amman. The meeting was held in Wild Jordan Café, a stylish and modern spot just off ‘Rainbow Street’, which overlooks Amman’s old city, its soaring hills, and its historic and picturesque citadel.

The Alumni meeting managed to reunite six former participants and six new participants. The participants were quite diverse, with students from Jordan, Egypt, and Germany present. Senior Program Manager Bettine Marissen and Professor Klaus Segbers warmly greeted every member of the CGP community.

While sipping their hot drinks and fresh cocktails, the Alumni exchanged personal information concerning their current professional and academic careers. It was interesting to see how some of the alumni have ended up in exciting job positions. Later, lively and interesting conversations and discussions, ranging from culture to politics, ensued among the participants.

The Alumni Meeting was a great success thanks to the organization provided by Bettine Marissen. All the participants returned home with good spirits and with new friendships.
PERSONAL MEETINGS

Italy – Boyka Boneva and Merel Rolf

Mondello Beach, July 2014: President and Vice-President of the CGP Alumni Association enjoying together 🌞

Latvia, Riga – Janis Berzins, Kristina Piilik, Yung Yung Chan

Baltic regional meeting with a guest speaker from Taiwan discussing regional politics 🤝

REGIONAL AMBASSAdORS

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WHO ARE WE?

The Board of Directors of the CGP Alumni Association (AA) was elected by the members of the Association in February 2014. Immediately thereafter this team of three started working together. Merel, Boyka, and Janis are a miniature version of the surrounding professional world: Merel works in a financial institution and deals with global payment flows on a daily basis; Janis is a Spokesperson for the Latvian Permanent Representation to the EU, representing the Latvian presidency of the Council of the EU; Boyka is heading an NGO, pointing out the importance of the non-profit sector in the economy and society.
WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We will represent the AA for a two-year period. Our work is based on common agreement and takes place mainly through electronic communication. Once a week we meet to discuss alumni issues: pending, urgent, short- and long-term. We also try to support the working groups in their initiatives and activities, while with the increased number of members and their respective annual fees, we are now in the position to support some small-scale budget projects, such as the publication of the Cook Book, the AA T-shirts, and others. At the same time, a lot of our time is taken by administrative work.

WHAT WE WANT YOU TO DO?

With a view towards the future, we’ll try to bring our association to a well-recognized alumni meeting point, offering a range of tangible benefits: professional and personal development, new friends and contacts, self-confidence, and an increased sense of belonging. What we would want you to do is to be more active and engaged in order to aid us in our efforts. Help us build a better community for ourselves, which serves our common needs and leads to benefits for all of us.

Contact us at: alumni@global-politics.org

or visit
http://www.global-politics.org/about_us/alumni/asso/index.html
The Center for Global Politics at Freie Universität Berlin unites several academic programs organized by Prof. Klaus Segbers. We offer different study and certificate programs: International Relations Online, East European Studies Online, German Studies Russia, Global Politics Seasonal Schools as well as the Graduate School of Global Politics. With their blended learning tools and cooperations with different partner universities our programs address students worldwide.

The goal of the alumni survey 2014 was to collect feedback from our alumni, as well as suggestions for improving our programs. Another core idea was to track our former students’ career paths and their professional development. Based on the information provided by our alumni respondents we want to:

1. Further develop our programs and alumni activities based on the needs and wishes of our alumni and
2. Fine-tune our marketing strategy towards specific target groups.

The survey was conducted between March 13, 2014 and March 31, 2014.

The survey was answered by 205 alumni, which equals a response rate of 25.85%.

More than 95% of our alumni would recommend their CGP program to a friend.

Of the survey participants are either very satisfied or satisfied with the CGP program they completed. Our graduates come from very diverse backgrounds in terms of nationality, age and profession – we are happy to see that our CGP programs meet the career goals of a vast majority of them.
Alumni Survey 2014

The CGP attracts many female students who are interested in further education. The majority of our former students (6 out of 10) are female. The flexibility that our blended learning formats offer is one of the many listed benefits.

AGE
More than 60% of our alumni are 20 to 29 years old, 93.5% are under 40, and about 6.5% are older than 40. This mirrors very well our attempt to offer lifelong learning programs that suit different age groups.

NATIONALITY
Alumni from 36 countries took part in our survey, demonstrating the unique international and multicultural character of our network of students and alumni. Have a look at our alumni website for further information on where our alumni are based.

CGP ALUMNI COMMUNITY
The CGP attracts students from diverse cultural, political, and professional backgrounds. They have all participated in one of the various programs the Center for Global Politics at Freie Universität Berlin offers.

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GENDER
The CGP attracts many female students who are interested in further education. The majority of our former students (6 out of 10) are female. The flexibility that our blended learning formats offer is one of the many listed benefits.
The largest age group (64%) of Master programs alumni who answered our survey are aged between 30 and 39 years. Persons who belong to this age group are mostly employed and already have some years of professional experience. The evaluation of the job-related answers of this survey supports this hypothesis.

The vast majority (almost 85%) of the M.A. programs alumni who participated in our survey are between 30 and 49 years old. Only 14% are in their twenties.

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The vast majority (almost 85%) of the M.A. programs alumni who participated in our survey are between 30 and 49 years old. Only 14% are in their twenties.

According to our survey, the content of the program (94%) and the reputation of the university (67%) were crucial factors for the decision to study with the CGP. The content of the programs remains our biggest strength. That convinced an impressive majority of participants. Therefore, in the future, the CGP will focus on keeping the high standard of content.

Flexibility (61%) and blended learning tools (31%) are also considered important reasons for choosing our M.A. programs.

About 3/4 of the M.A. program alumni said they chose their CGP program in order to develop new skills and/or to enhance their careers. A high percentage of our alumni who participated in our survey (76%) see the CGP programs as a good way to earn key qualifications. Another significant group of our alumni (74%) consider the CGP degree an efficient tool to enhance their career. A degree from a renowned university was a crucial reason for more than the half (56%) of the survey participants. The brand and the reputation of Freie University Berlin help to attract students to our degree programs.
EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL SITUATION M.A. ALUMNI

EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

- Foreign Service: 19%
- Academia: 16%
- International Organizations: 16%
- Military/Security Services: 14%
- NGO/Development: 14%
- Administration: 14%

CGP alumni work in numerous different professional fields. 19% of our alumni who participated in the survey are employed in Foreign Services. The same percentage of our alumni work in the media. 16% of our former students are employed in the field of academia, research, and education. Another 16% work for international organizations. NGOs and development assistance organizations provide jobs for 14% of our M.A. alumni.

NUMBER OF PROMOTIONS SINCE THE CGP GRADUATION

- 0 (35%)
- 1 (43%)
- 2 (16%)
- 3 (5%)

Almost 2/3 of the M.A. alumni have already been promoted since graduating from the CGP. This result indicates that a CGP degree has a strong positive impact on our alumni's career paths.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

- Full Time: 83%
- Self Employed: 10%
- Part Time: 5%
- Student: 2%

The results of our survey indicate that CGP alumni are highly in-demand professionals.

INCOME

- No income
- Up to $15,000
- Up to $25,000
- Up to $35,000
- Up to $50,000
- Up to $75,000
- $75,000 or More

1/4 of our M.A. alumni earn $75,000 or more per year. More than 45% of our former students said they earn more than $50,000 per year. Combining this result with the number of promotions participants of the survey received, CGP alumni are very successful in their professional fields.
More than 91% of our alumni who participated in the survey are interested in the CGP alumni network.

Now you have the chance to become an active member of one of our working groups introduced on page 26 or get in touch via the CGP Alumni Facebook Group with peers from all over the world.

If you would like to learn more about the network, your opportunities and our regional meetings get in touch with Katrin:

alumni.advisor@global-politics.org
ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

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Jānis Bērziņš
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Begimai is originally from Kyrgyzstan, but was raised first in Germany, than Russia. This year she graduated from MGIMO University (Russia) majoring in International Journalism. At the moment Begimai is studying at the Free University of Berlin and will hopefully work as an event manager in the future. She has been part of the great CGP family for the last three years.

Begimai is a student from the one-year program German Studies Russia and also from the Seasonal School in China 2013.

Frauke is the first graduate of the Graduate School of Global Politics (2012). Her PhD dissertation constitutes the first comprehensive study of the EU's 'embassies' and has recently been published with Palgrave Macmillan. After finishing her PhD, Frauke has worked as the Program Director and Assistant Professor in International Affairs of the Shanghai-Campus of ESSCA School of Management. Having spent nine years abroad, including four years in China, Frauke has returned home to the beautiful Rhineland and is now the Head of the Cologne-Campus of the International School of Management.

Frauke is an alumna from the Graduate School of Global Politics. She gained her degree in 2012.

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 Press and Information division at Latvia’s Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels and his main tasks are to ensure that society is made aware of what Latvia is doing as a Member State and as the rotating Presidency of the EU during the first half of 2015.

Janis was a student of the 3rd run in the IR Online program. He graduated in 2010.
Boyka Boneva
(Palermo, Italy)
boneva@interaliaproject.com

Boyka is the Vice President of the CGP Alumni Association (e.V.). As Co-founder and Networking manager of the NGO Inter Alia (www.interaliaproject.com), she works on her Nea Pragmata (www.neapragmatalbb.wordpress.com) project in Palermo, Italy. There she promotes, learns, and studies about youth work through the exchange of good practices with professionals from all over the world.

Boyka graduated in Finance and Banking Management and holds a Master Degree in South East European Studies.

Boyka is a student from the 1st run of our Seasonal School in Greece.

Duygugül Can
(Izmir, Turkey)
duygugulc@sabanciuniv.edu

Duygugül is from Turkey. Working full-time in a company as an import and export specialist, she is also a second year PhD student in Management and Organizational Behavior. CGP has a very unique place in her heart as it has encouraged Duygugül to pursue her PhD. For her, the CGP has a very great vision and mission that highly inspires her and makes her feel whole. She is grateful to be an Ambassador and highly enjoys being an alumna of the CGP.

Duygugül is an alumna of our 2011 Seasonal School Turkey.

Daniel Cardoso
(Berlin, Germany)
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Daniel was born in Brazil and raised in Portugal. There he completed his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in International Relations, while serving as information manager in the Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra. In 2010, he moved to Berlin to pursue a PhD at the Graduate School of Global Politics (GSGP). His goal: to research about the making of Brazil’s policy towards China. Besides his PhD, he took part in research projects about Macau’s role in China’s external affairs. In 2012, Daniel founded, with three other GSGP students, the Berlin Forum on Global Politics, a non-profit organization that blends political activism and academic research.

Daniel is in the final stages of his PhD at the GSGP.

Chaoyi Chen
(Shanghai, China)
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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. As well as this, she is now pursuing her second Master’s degree in Finance at Fudan. Chaoyi is also involved in different social networks, such as the Young Leaders Program 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.
Vuthika Hang
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(Guangzhou, China)
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Sawsan Halawa
(Amman, Jordan)
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Zhou Kang
(Beijing, China)
kaifeng_zhou@126.com

Vuthika Hang is an honors student majoring in International Studies, expecting to graduate by the end of July 2014 from the Royal University of Phnom Penh. During the 2012-2013 academic year, he was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to participate in the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program to the University of Montana in the U.S., where he pursued his studies in Political Science. Vuthika is an active alumnus of the International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC) in Cambodia, and of the Fulbright and Undergraduate State Alumni Association of Cambodia (FUSAAC).

Guan Jian
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 the 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
Sawsan holds a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering. In 2013, she started working in the International Foundation for Electoral Systems as a project assistant. She aspires to become an election trainer by taking bridge programs to become a fully accredited facilitator. Sawsan joined the CGP Alumni in 2013 and became a member of the CGP marketing working group in August 2013.

Sawsan is a student of our Seasonal School in Jordan in 2013.

Zhou Kang
Zhou Kang holds a Master’s degree in International Relations from Lanzhou University and HNC’s Centre, focussing on Central Asia Studies. After graduation, he worked at Midea Group as an investment manager based in India and EU for three years. Now he is a senior investment manager for By-health Group. Although Zhou Kang works mainly in business, he has a strong interest in international relations and development studies. He has left footprints, for business and academic fieldwork, in Australia and in most of European and Asian countries.

Zhou Kang is a student from our Seasonal School in China in 2008.
Rebecca Kašēns  
(Berlin, Germany)  
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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. Rebecca currently lives in Berlin with her husband and their two small sons. She works in the headquarters of the German Foreign Office, since 2013 as the personal assistant to the Director General for Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development. Since summer 2014, Rebecca and Kristina Pilik share the responsibility of being the spokespeople for the B@se working group.

Rebecca is a student from the 3rd run of our International Relations Online program.

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 a 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 as a Group Market Analyst and Marketing Planner at Volkswagen AG in Wolfsburg, Germany. 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.

Anna Makarenko  
(Berlin, Germany)  
anya.i.makarenko@gmail.com

Anna graduated in 2014 from the MGIMO, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations. Now she is doing her Master’s program in Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin. Anna is a scholarship-holder of the Heinrich Böll Foundation and engaged in various activities and events. Anna is a student from the 10th Run of the German Studies Russia program.
Magali Menant
(Shanghai, China)
magalimenant@gmail.com

With a Bachelor’s degree in International Business, Magali started working in China in 2001. During that time, she spent 9 years at the Delegation of German Commerce and Industry in Shanghai. She was in charge of promoting Sino-German cooperation for environmental and sustainability issues there. She developed a platform called Econet China with her team, helping companies and further organizations navigate the Chinese market, building partnerships with local institutions, and initiating demonstration projects to showcase energy efficiency, renewable energies, and further sustainable urban development-related solutions. Upon completing the IRO program, she joined a long-time friend to develop a consultancy in Shanghai, offering support for China-Europe cooperation projects with a focus on sustainability, learning, and innovation. Magali is a student from the 5th run of the International Relations Online program and graduated in October 2012.

Oum Moullika
(Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
Moullika.oum@gmail.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 the fields of project management and planning, research and development during her career. Moullika was also passionately engaged in various voluntary social activities and events. Moullika participated in our Global Politics Seasonal School in Vietnam in 2012.

Alexander Nal
(Yangon, Myanmar)
agnus.alex@gmail.com

Alexander is from Kayah state, the smallest state and most underprivileged community in Myanmar. He holds a Bachelor’s degree majoring in English Literature. Alexander worked as Coordinator and English Language teacher in a joint project with Myanmar Peasant Union and is currently working at the Myanmar Parliament, Office 20, as an Assistant Researcher and Junior Language Teacher. It was his golden opportunity to join the Alumni Workshop in Cambodia and meet with other senior participants from around the world. Alexander is a student from our Seasonal School in Cambodia in 2013.

Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk
(Amsterdam/ The Hague, The Netherlands)
tatjanameijvogel1@kpnmail.nl

Born in Hamburg, Germany, Tatjana studied Political Science at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. During the wartime period she worked as a 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 democratisation 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 worldwide since February 2011. Now she is an active member of the fundraising working group.

Tatjana graduated from the 1st run of our East European Studies Online program in 2005.
Kristina Piilik  
(Berlin, Germany)  
kristinapiilik@hotmail.com

Kristina is from Estonia. She has studied Law at the University of Tartu and Business Administration at the Estonian Business School. In 2012, she received her Master’s degree in East European Studies Online from Freie Universität Berlin. Besides her studies, she has worked for several organizations in both the public and private sector. Currently she is a PhD candidate at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her dissertation focuses on democratization processes in East Europe and East Asia.

Kristina graduated from our program East European Studies Online in 2012 and is a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Global Politics.

Poch Pisal  
(Phnom Penh, Cambodia)  
pisalpoch2008@yahoo.com

Pisal Poch is a fresh graduate from the International Relation Program from Royal University of Law and Economics, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Currently, he is enrolled in the Master of Economic Development at Royal University of Phnom Penh. During his academic year, he had worked with local NGOs and INGOs in the field of education, good governance, corruption, and transparency in Cambodia. At the moment, he works as program assistant at Transparency International Cambodia. He is deeply interested in political reform in authoritarian states in Southeast Asia, particularly Cambodia and Myanmar. He has finished his bachelor dissertation on Political Reform in Myanmar in 2014.

Pisal participated in our 2013 Seasonal School in Cambodia.

Osakphea Preung  
(Braga, Portugal)  
may_phea@yahoo.com

May is a student from our Seasonal School 2013 and a member of our B@se working group in the CGP Alumni Network. She is a recent graduate in International Studies and Education of the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL), Royal University of Phnom Penh. Having finished her bachelor degree with honors, she wrote her thesis on Women Political Representation in Cambodia. She also volunteers as a youth advisor to the Ambassador of the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia and as a project officer at the U.S. Ambassador’s Youth Council (U.S.AYC), running the Half the Sky project to promote women empowerment. May is currently doing her Erasmus Mundus exchange in International Relations at the University of Minho, Portugal, while also taking her time to travel in Europe and do online courses in the fields of entrepreneurship and corporate communication.

May is a student from our 2013 Seasonal School Cambodia.
Wisam Salih (Ontario, Canada)  
wisam.salih@usask.ca

Wisam completed his B.A. degree in Political Science in 2009 and his Master’s of International Trade, both from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He has worked at all levels of Public Service (Federal, Provincial and Municipal), but currently works as an Analyst for the Canada Border Services Agency, in the area of International Customs Cooperation. In his spare time, Wisam serves as the Communications Chair of the Executive Council of the Canadian International Council (CIC - National Capital Branch), in addition to being a part of the CGP Lykeion Working Group. In 2014, Wisam published articles on the issue of ISIS and the role for Canada, Iran and the United States. In August 2014, Wisam was also interviewed by the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) News Radio station on this very topic.

Wisam is a student of our 2011 Seasonal School in Jordan.

Dima Tarhini (Berlin, Germany)  
dtarhini@hotmail.com

Dima is a Senior Presenter in DW TV Arabic Service. She hosts the late news and a weekly political talk show on international affairs. For the last eight years Dima has worked in Europe and previously in the Arab world. She has covered important events in both continents and interviewed high-ranking politicians and experts from both regions. In addition to her B.A. in Political Science and Journalism, Dima has a Master’s degree in International Relations. She did intensive training in news production at Reuters Foundation in London and holds a certificate from the British Academy Centurion. After 15 years in the media field, Dima is an expert in Middle Eastern politics. She has experience in organizing and coordinating numerous political and social documentaries, too.

Dima is a student of the M.A. International Relations Online.

Merel Rolf (Brussels, Belgium)  
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After exploring her interests in Eastern Europe, Hungarian, and Estonian during her Master’s degree in East European Studies at the CGP, Merel developed a great interest in the financial world and global finance. Trainee- ships 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 Master program. She graduated in 2010.

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

Somany is a fresh graduate student in International Studies from the Department of International Studies at 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 degree in ASEAN affairs in the upcoming year.

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

Dima Tarhini (Berlin, Germany)  
dtarhini@hotmail.com

Dima is a Senior Presenter in DW TV Arabic Service. She hosts the late news and a weekly political talk show on international affairs. For the last eight years Dima has worked in Europe and previously in the Arab world. She has covered important events in both continents and interviewed high-ranking politicians and experts from both regions. In addition to her B.A. in Political Science and Journalism, Dima has a Master’s degree in International Relations. She did intensive training in news production at Reuters Foundation in London and holds a certificate from the British Academy Centurion. After 15 years in the media field, Dima is an expert in Middle Eastern politics. She has experience in organizing and coordinating numerous political and social documentaries, too.

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Wisam Salih (Ontario, Canada)  
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Wisam completed his B.A. degree in Political Science in 2009 and his Master’s of International Trade, both from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He has worked at all levels of Public Service (Federal, Provincial and Municipal), but currently works as an Analyst for the Canada Border Services Agency, in the area of International Customs Cooperation. In his spare time, Wisam serves as the Communications Chair of the Executive Council of the Canadian International Council (CIC - National Capital Branch), in addition to being a part of the CGP Lykeion Working Group. In 2014, Wisam published articles on the issue of ISIS and the role for Canada, Iran and the United States. In August 2014, Wisam was also interviewed by the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) News Radio station on this very topic.

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Merel Rolf (Brussels, Belgium)  
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After exploring her interests in Eastern Europe, Hungarian, and Estonian during her Master’s degree in East European Studies at the CGP, Merel developed a great interest in the financial world and global finance. Trainee-ships 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 Master program. She graduated in 2010.

Somany Toch (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)  
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Somany is a fresh graduate student in International Studies from the Department of International Studies at 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 degree in ASEAN affairs in the upcoming year.

Somany is a student from the 2nd run of our Seasonal School Vietnam in 2012.
Vasili Trigkas
(Beijing, China)
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Vasili is a research fellow at the Centre for China-EU relations at Tsinghua University. He is also a Young Leader and non-resident fellow for the Pacific Forum CSIS and a member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. Previously he worked for the Delegation of the EU in the United States, the Hellenic Air Force, the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, and was a global shaper for the World Economic Forum. Vasili holds degrees in Economics & European Affairs as well as in International Relations and Chinese Politics. In 2014, he cofounded the Tsinghua Student Association of Classics, which aims to promote civilizational dialogue and bring the liberal arts back into core curricula. His commentaries have appeared in the Diplomat, the Global Times and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Vasili is an alumnus of our 2012 Seasonal School in Shanghai.

Vitaliya Tsarik
(Moscow, Russia)
vitaliya.tsarik@gmail.com

Vitaliya is a coordinator for regional projects at the Public Relations Department for the oil company LUKOIL. She began her studies at MGIMO, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, graduating in 2007 with a specialization in Public Relations. While enrolled in the German Studies Russia program at MGIMO, Vitaliya spent a semester at the Freie Universität Berlin. She has also lived in Baku, Azerbaijan and Odessa, Ukraine as well as worked some time in Brussels, Belgium.

Vitaliya is an active Alumni Ambassador since 2008 and was among the first Board members of the CGP Alumni Association (e.V.). Now she coordinates the Alumni Newsletter. Feel free to contact her on her professional interests or alumni network or your visit to Moscow – she is always ready to welcome CGP alumni there.

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

Anastas Vangelis
(Warsaw, Poland)
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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. In 2013, the volume he co-edited with the GSGP alumna Frauke Austermann and Wang Xiaoguang, entitled ‘China and Europe in 21st Century Global Politics: Partnership, Competition or Co-Evolution’, was finally printed. Anastas is looking forward to advancing his work with the Alumni Network.

Anastas Vangeli is a student of our 2012 Summer School China. He was one of the organizers of the second workshop on China and Europe in Global Politics in Beijing.

Anastasia Vishnevskaya
(Berlin, Germany)
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Anastasia – Assja – Vishnevskaya studied a M.A. in International Relations in Russia and Germany. Originally from Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, she studied diplomacy and Dutch as 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 student assistant she supports the team of the German Migration Experts Council working for the research project on outmigration 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. She worked as a Communications Officer at RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests. Giang has also volunteered for several social projects in Singapore before, as well as in Hanoi. Giang speaks Vietnamese, English, and German, and is now studying Japanese. She is doing her Master’s program at Willy Brandt School of Public Policy in Erfurt, Germany.

Paul Walsh  
(Berlin, Germany)  
pwalsh1974@gmail.com  
Paul has a B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Canterbury, U.K. He spent four years living in the Balkans, from 2006 to 2009, where he developed an interest in the culture and politics of the region. He is interested in elites, decentralisation, pedagogy, left-wing politics, Bosnia and the Balkans – though not necessarily in that order.

He is a graduate of the 9th run of the East European Studies Online program.

Yao Xi  
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Born in a very beautiful town in Anhui Province, which is famous for the Yellow Mountain, Sissi holds a Master’s degree in International Politics from Renmin University of China, with a focus on European Studies. At the same time, she holds a graduate certificate from Johns-Hopkins University-Nanjing Center. After graduation, she entered People’s Daily Online, becoming an editor mainly working on new media and external cooperation.

Sissi is a participant of 2011 Seasonal School in Shanghai.

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Yang Xiaoping is now an Assistant Professor at National Institute of International Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Her area of research focus includes South Asian security and geopolitics issues in Asia-Pacific. She obtained her PhD from China Central Party School and served as International Visiting Fellow of IDSA, India in 2011 as well as adjunct fellow at Pakistan Center, Fudan University since 2013. She is the first generation of the CGP Seasonal School China and used to be the Beijing Alumni Coordinator from 2004 to 2011. Since the foundation of the CGP Alumni Association, she has been participating and contributing to the building of the network creatively.

Yang Xiaoping is a 2004 and 2006 Seasonal School China participant.
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Ye Yint holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Religious Studies (BARS), Liberal Arts Programs. Currently he is working with the KTZ Company Limited as a Human Resources officer. He has also worked with some local NGOs and INGOs, for example, Myanmar Egress and ActionAid Myanmar, Global Platform as a trainer for youth development, campaigning and youth leadership, as well as debating, graphic facilitations, street art and as a facilitator. In 2011, his friends and he established a volunteer group named Youth Voluntary Association for Development and Civic Education especially for rural people. He specializes in visual arts, creativity, photos and music. Ye Yint is working as an artist and trying to support the growth of social media in Myanmar.

Ye Yint is a student from our Seasonal School in Cambodia in 2013.

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Shi Xin graduated from Beijing University in 2005. He did his doctoral study at the Otto Suhr Institute of Freie Universität Berlin from 2006 to 2010. After that he returned to Beijing and started his first full-time job as the senior assistant to the Executive Vice President of Volkswagen Group China. In 2013, he left VW and started a career in Sino-European economic cooperation and international M&A for Chinese companies. He is currently a part-time senior expert for GIZ and is in charge of CETREGIO program between EU and China. Besides that, he works in a Chinese investment company and maintains his focus on the internationalization of Chinese companies, especially helping them to make investments or doing M&A cases in European countries.

Shi Xin is a student of the 2004 Seasonal School China.
PUBLICATIONS


The UACES Collaborative Research Network (CRN) on EU-China Relations was initiated by Prof. Dr. Shen Wei, Associate Dean for China at ESSCA School of Management in Shanghai, Prof. Dr. Men Jing, InBev-Baillet Latour Chair of EU-China Relations at the College of Europe in Bruges, and Dr. Frauke Austermann, Assistant Professor in International Affairs and Program Director at ESSCA School of Management in Shanghai, and an alumna of the Graduate School of Global Politics at Freie Universität Berlin.

The UACES Collaborative Research Network (CRN) on EU-China Relations aims at developing a vibrant interdisciplinary academic community in order to promote the exchange of ideas, to encourage research collaboration for high quality academic research among European, Chinese and other scholars, and last but not least to produce policy-relevant analysis for practitioners/policy-makers and civil society interested in Europe-China affairs. It brings together scholars not only from international relations and political sciences, but also from other academic fields such as sociology, geography, psychology, history and legal studies etc., who are working on the contemporary issues between Europe and China.

The CRN on EU-China Relations provides a valuable platform for PhD candidates of the CGP Graduate School to present their research during workshops held annually in China. Additionally, representatives of the network frequently share their expertise during Alumni Meetings in Asia.

More about the CRN, and its activities and members can be found on www.euchinacrn.org

Our Alumna Guan Jian is the Director of the Administration Office at the School of Foreign Languages at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou. The university and Guan Jian have been supporting the CGP and the CRN on EU-China Relations with the organization of workshops on the premises of the Sun Yat-Sen University.

Boyka Boneva, alumna of the Seasonal School Greece in 2010, is the co-founder of the not for profit organization INTER ALIA. She describes their core aims as: “We believe that the way for breaching with the existing, self-maintaining realities of EU policy making is the active involvement and participation of the driving force, the object and subject of the European Union; and that is its people. For we believe that “No kind of Europe” can be created without their inclusion. We envisage a sexier Europe for its constituencies, an inclusive Europe, a transparent Europe, a peaceful Europe, a growing Europe, Europe of people with a common sense of belonging.” The CGP has been cooperation partner for Germany in different European wide activities organized by INTER ALIA. Additionally, Boyka uses the CGP alumni network to exchange experiences with other youth workers worldwide and for promoting the core ideas of INTER ALIA.

CONSTELLATIONS International is a consulting agency based in Shanghai designing and facilitating cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary projects between Europe and China promoting dialogue, collaboration and learning. CONSTELLATIONS has a specialty in sustainability, social responsibility, cultural and urban related issues.

CONSTELLATIONS’ management has 15+ years of experience in the Sino-European project development in multi-stakeholder and trans-disciplinary settings. It was founded in 2009 by Katja Hellkötter, former Chief Representative of the City of Hamburg in Shanghai, and is co-owned since 2012 by Magali Menant, former Head of ECONET China at the Delegation of Germany Industry and Commerce Shanghai.

More information and references on: www.constellations-international.com
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