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Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations, joins SAIS Dean Jessica P. Einhorn at the 2009 graduation ceremony on May 21. Ban delivered the commencement address.

2009 Designated 'Year of Religion' at SAIS

SAIS will examine the critical role of religion in international affairs during 2009–10. Each summer, a subject of special interest is selected to serve as a substantive theme in the coming academic year.

Religious and cultural beliefs and traditions frame many of the major conflicts of our era. At the same time, religious convictions often motivate peacemaking efforts. With events in Iran, the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the search for lasting peace in Israel-Palestine and the changing patterns of faith around the globe, religion as a factor in international relations is a timely topic for exploration at SAIS.

The "Year of Religion" is expected to provide many opportunities for faculty, students and alumni to review scholarship, exchange views and even celebrate a diverse set of holidays during the coming months. Building on the theme, the 2009 issue of *SAISPHERE*, to be published in December, will focus on the interchange between religion and international relations. And throughout the year, the SAIS campus in Washington, D.C., plans to host a series of prominent speakers.

SAIS will partner with the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life in organizing three panel discussions that examine the diversity of religion in Africa, the spread of Islam through

Europe and the demographic characteristics of Islam. Cultural Conversations, a research center at SAIS, will welcome Iranian-American author Haleh Esfandiari, who has written a memoir about her unlawful imprisonment in her home country. Speaking invitations have been sent to

SAIS is updating its directory of alumni working in religion. Send a brief note to saisalum@jhu.edu, and you will be kept informed of "Year of Religion" initiatives at the school.

Joshua DuBois, director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships; Bishop John Rucyahana, the Rwandan founder of the Mustard Seed Project that is devoted to educating Rwanda's neediest children; and comedian Lewis Black, author of a book of essays on religion.

To stay informed of "Year of Religion" initiatives and events, go to www.sais-jhu.edu/religion.

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SAIS's Gabriel Serrato in Afghanistan

Interning in a war zone isn't every graduate student's ideal, but for second-year Strategic Studies Program student Gabriel Serrato, the opportunity was golden. Serrato said his summer internship, offered through the Counterinsurgency Training Center (CTC-A) based at Camp Julien in Kabul, Afghanistan, and made available to SAIS students through the Strategic Studies Program, represented an unusual chance "to see how military doctrine is implemented at the tactical level."

Before leaving for their 60-day internships that began on July 1, Serrato and second-year South Asia Studies Program student Paul Kane met with Colonel John Agoglia, CTC-A director, and SAIS Professor Thomas Keaney. The two students then developed a joint research proposal focusing on road construction as a tool of counterinsurgency (COIN) strategy and the interagency cooperation necessary to develop an effective partnership.

Serrato, who grew up in Chino, Calif., earned his B.A. at the University of California, Berkeley, then worked as a program manager at the International Diplomacy Council. Moving to Washington, D.C.,



SAIS students Gabriel Serrato (left) and Paul Kane at Camp Julien in Kabul, Afghanistan.

he served as executive assistant for the assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force. After four years at the Pentagon, he enrolled at SAIS.

SAIS Reports asked Serrato to reflect on his impressions of Afghanistan.

Why did you choose this internship, especially as it meant working in an active war zone?

The opportunity to work with the military in the area of operations was

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Sidney T. Jackson Is New SAIS Admissions Director

Though he came aboard in June and has yet to complete an admissions cycle, SAIS's dynamic new director of Admissions, Sidney T. Jackson—with 16 years of experience working in higher education admissions—is proud of the incoming class. The combined grade point average for M.A. students entering the Washington, D.C., and Bologna campuses has increased. Graduate record exam scores are also up, and there has been a noticeable increase this year in the percentage of international M.A. students entering the Washington campus—23 percent versus 19 percent in 2008.

Jackson comes to SAIS from Columbia University in New York, where he was director of Marketing and Admissions for the Executive M.B.A. Programs since 2004. Previously he spent three years as Columbia's associate director of M.B.A. Admissions. Jackson's other positions include serving as vice president of Diversity Recruiting at Morgan Stanley in New York and assistant director of Admissions at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass., and at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

"Sidney will bring valuable experience, vision and leadership to

SAIS's Student Affairs team," said Bonnie S. Wilson, associate dean for Student Affairs. In turn, Jackson said he was attracted to SAIS because of its stellar reputation, along with the opportunity to work with a new group of highly motivated peers and to recruit students whose primary focus is to make an impact on the world.

Jackson's immediate goals for the Office of Admissions have been laid out in SAIS's strategic plan, "Rolling Back the Future." They include upgrading technology to improve the efficiency of the admissions processes; expanding outreach to students of color, international students and individuals working in underrepresented industries such as business, engineering and public health; and aligning admissions practices among the Washington, Bologna and Nanjing campuses.

He believes SAIS must offer technologies that allow prospective students to interact with its Web-based content. "They are no longer bound by a static experience, and we need to engage them in platforms they already know how to use," he said. "Plans are in the works to roll out a schoolwide Facebook page, where we will showcase the school's



Sidney T. Jackson

thought leadership and expand the use of Twitter. We are experimenting with a student-led online video recruitment project. By increasing SAIS's presence through these tools, we can make a familiar interface feel welcoming and natural."

Alumni will continue to be an important part of the admissions process under Jackson's leadership. According to surveys, a significant number of students are prompted to apply to SAIS because of a unique relationship they developed with an alumnus at work or one they casually met in a social circle. "There is no one better to identify highly quali-

fied candidates than alumni who have lived through the SAIS experience," said Jackson. This September the Office of Admissions is launching a Web-based referral page, where alumni can submit detailed information about a candidate that will go directly to the Admissions Office, which follows up with communication to that candidate. In addition to continuing the congratulatory phone calls to admitted students by SAIS alumni, the staff plans to showcase more alumni as panelists at campus-based information sessions.

In the meantime, Jackson, his wife and their two young sons have embraced the pace of Washington. "Life is busy in the metropolitan D.C. area, but drivers aren't so quick [as in New York] to honk their horns, there are great historical attractions that are free, and the hard-shell crabs in the area have no equal."

Jackson received a bachelor's degree in international relations from Canisius College, an Ed.M. from Boston University's School of Education and an M.A. in higher education administration from New York University's Steinhardt School of Education. He can be reached at sidney.jackson@jhu.edu. ●



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Gabriel Serrato

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actually my primary motivation. To see how military doctrine is implemented at the tactical level was a unique and valuable experience, despite its obvious dangers, and the perfect complement to my experience at the Pentagon.

With the elections in Afghanistan scheduled for August, the push for civil and military surge, and the appointment of General Stanley McChrystal as head of coalition forces, the timing could not have been better for our research.

Can you describe your internship activities?

As the inaugural class of researchers to come to Afghanistan through the CTC-A, we were able to define the scope of our work as well as our methodology. Being the guinea pigs (as Colonel Agoglia affectionately dubbed us) for the program meant some small hurdles in legis-

tics navigation, but Paul and I enjoyed extensive travel throughout Afghanistan and access to high-level officials and conferences. Our schedule was filled with meetings, research interviews and long discussions on the evolving nature of our project, punctuated by excursions around Kabul and helicopter rides and convoys between provinces. A researcher cannot ask for more than access to knowledgeable staff, high-level interest in your work, and time to consider new and emerging questions.

From your observations, how do Afghans view U.S. efforts on the ground—both military and civilian?

On one hand, many Afghans have shown a brave commitment to coalition security forces and civilians working to build infrastructure and a government capable of serving the needs of the people. On the other hand, Afghans have faced outsiders before, watching as

they have come into the country, only to leave it a worse mess than when they arrived. I believe many Afghans see the American government as a rich source of aid, whose commitment waivers as opinion polls are published and whose time in Afghanistan is coming to an end.

What are the greatest obstacles facing the United States in fighting in Afghanistan?

The American objective is to leave behind a sustainable Afghan government, capable of delivering services to its people and successfully navigating the inevitable hurdles it will face as a new nation while fending off the influences of insurgents. As a result, Americans and our allies must build capacity among the Afghan people as well as the legitimacy of the Afghan government. And they must do this in a nation that suffers from substantial levels of poverty and illiteracy among the popu-

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DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS NEWS

Alumni Meet in Seoul

More than 40 SAIS graduates in Korea reconnected with former classmates and forged new friendships during a reception and dinner at the Korea Press Center in Seoul on July 15. The event was hosted by the U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS (USKI) and Director Jae Ku Ph.D. '03. Those present hope to create an established alumni group in Korea. USKI will serve as the point of contact as organizational meetings are planned in the coming months. SAIS alumni in Korea interested in being a part of this endeavor should contact Nicole Baillis at nbailis@jhu.edu.

Revolving Student Loan Funds Awarded

A select group of students from the Washington, D.C., and Bologna campuses have received loans through SAIS's innovative student revolving loan fund. The fund provides loans at below-market rates to top students. When graduates repay their loans, a new loan is made to another promising student—creating a revolving pool of funds invested in the next generation of world leaders. The first fund was established through a generous gift from SAIS Advisory Council member John McGillian. The class of 1984 has raised more than \$92,000 toward a second fund, named for former Associate Dean of Students George Crowell. To contribute to this fund or to establish a fund, contact Ruth Swanson at rswanson@jhu.edu.

Reischauer Center Receives Grant

The Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies has received a new grant of \$149,050 from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership for a project focusing on "U.S.-Japan-Canada Cooperation in a Multilateral Context." The three-year project, running from 2009 to 2012, will involve research and annual conferences in the three nations that explore the impact of global warming, the geopolitics of the Arctic region, and other areas of mutual concern in Asia and the North Pacific. The Reischauer Center will pursue the project jointly with the Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

Renowned Bologna Center Professor Siebert Dies

Professor Horst Siebert, who held the Heinz Nixdorf Chair in European Integration and Economic Policy at SAIS's Bologna Center, died June 2 in the Kantonsspital Münstertlingen in Switzerland.

Siebert was a world-renowned economist who helped shape German and European economic policy over the past two decades. He originally came to the center in fall 2003 as the Steven Muller Professor in German Studies. He also held the AGIP Chair in International Economics.

Before coming to the Bologna Center, Siebert was president of the Kiel Institute of World Economics. He was a member of the German Council of Economic Advisers from 1990 to 2003. The group, known as the "five wise men" of Germany, advised the government on its economic policies. He also had served a term as a member of the Group of Economic Policy Analysis, European economists who advise the European Commission's president.

A prolific author, Siebert wrote numerous books and articles on

international trade, the labor market, environmental economics and economic policy. He was the 2007 recipient of the Hayek Prize for excellence in economic writing. He received the Bundesverdienstkreuz, Germany's federal order of merit, the Karl-Bräuer Prize from the German Taxpayers' Association and the Ludwig-Erhard Prize.

Students and peers knew Siebert as a versatile professor whose mastery of a wide range of topics enabled him to teach in a variety of subject areas, including those related to the German economy, globalization and international monetary systems. His mentorship encouraged several of his students to pursue further academic degrees after leaving the Bologna Center.

Siebert had been a visiting scholar in universities throughout the world, including Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wesleyan University, New York University and the University of California, Riverside. He received his Ph.D. and post-doctoral degree or "Habilitation" from the University of Muenster in Germany and



Horst Siebert

was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Ghent.

"Horst was not only a distinguished economist and gifted teacher whose presence enhanced the academic reputation of the center, but he was also deeply committed to the goals of the center. As a teacher, scholar and writer, he was a beloved friend to the faculty, staff and students," said Kenneth H. Keller, director of the Bologna Center. "We will miss him greatly."

Siebert is survived by his wife, Christine. ●

Gabriel Serrato

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lation and within a government already riddled with corruption.

How do you think the outcome of the mid-August presidential elections in Afghanistan will affect U.S. war efforts as well as the overall situation?

The outcome isn't quite as important as the ability of Afghans to participate in free and fair elections. While a change in the presidency would obviously be significant, hosting a legitimate election process with Afghan National Security Forces taking the lead to protect the people is the real story.

So far, the results have been mixed. Early claims of success by Western nations have been overshadowed by allegations of massive voter fraud and miserable voter turnout caused by intimidation and violence. Insurgent-inspired instability affects not only local Afghans, but may have far-reaching consequences for the American commitment to Afghanistan. Mounting

casualty rates and a fractured and corrupt government could further strain American support for the mission in Afghanistan that is already on the decline. This is a dangerous combination of events that could prematurely end the American presence, which in my opinion would be a grave error.

What role are U.S. diplomacy and aid playing in Afghanistan to defeat the Taliban and other extremists?

Diplomacy and aid have completely transformed the military fight in Afghanistan. They are the cornerstones of the coalition COIN effort to win the trust and confidence of the Afghan people and stand up a government capable of sustainable governance. At Provincial Reconstruction Team [PRT] sites across Afghanistan, one finds integrated command groups composed of representatives from the State Department, USAID, the Department of Agriculture and military components leading the fight for Afghan hearts and minds. They not only seek to clear areas of insurgent

influences, but also hold and build the fundamental infrastructure and political elements of a new nation.

How has your Afghanistan work complemented your SAIS classroom experience?

Prior to this internship, Paul and I were well versed in COIN theory and focused on the application of COIN principles in the field and understanding the reality of implementation. Through the course of the summer, we received a well-rounded perspective: We met with high-level managers in charge of shaping COIN strategy and the men and women in the field applying those principles, and we were able to embed ourselves with PRT and military units. Our experience in Afghanistan was a perfect complement to our work at SAIS.

Paul and I are grateful to the SAIS faculty and students who helped us prepare for this outstanding opportunity. That support continued as we arrived in theater and crossed paths with alumni who offered additional resources for our research. ●

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SEPTEMBER

- 23** Bernard L. Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism, **"The Origins of the State: China and India,"** Francis Fukuyama, SAIS. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Rome 203, 202.663.5943.
- 23** Latin American Studies Program, **"Prospects for the Latin American Economies,"** Nancy Lee, U.S. Department of the Treasury. 12:45-1:45 p.m., Nitze 517, 202.663.5734.
- 25** Energy, Resources and Environment Program and International Reporting Project, **"Toward Copenhagen: Greening the Global Economy,"** Achim Steiner, United Nations Environment Programme, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5786.
- 29** European Studies Program, **"The Status of Migrants in Today's Europe,"** Kathleen Newland, Migration Policy Institute. 5-6:30 p.m., Rome Auditorium, 202.663.5796.
- 30** International Development Program, **"Making Business Work Better for the Poor,"** Harold Rosen, Grassroots Business Fund. 4:15-6 p.m., Bernstein-Offit 736, 202.663.5943.

- 30** Cultural Conversations, **"Breaking the Silence,"** Azar Nafisi, SAIS; Soheir Khashoggi, author; Zainab Salbi, author; Margaret Warner, PBS. 6-8 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5635.

OCTOBER

- 7** Bernard L. Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism, **"The Origins of the Rule of Law: Europe and the Middle East,"** Francis Fukuyama, SAIS. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Rome 203, 202.663.5943.
- 7** Latin American Studies Program, **"Understanding the Political Dynamics of Economic Crises: Lessons From Argentina's Recent Experience,"** Klaus Veigel, Princeton University. 12:45-1:45 p.m., Nitze 517, 202.663.5734.
- 8** Cultural Conversations, **"My Prison, My Home: One Woman's Story of Captivity in Iran,"** Haleh Esfandiari, author, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. 6-8 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5635.
- 13** European Studies Program, **"How Have Franco-German Relations Changed Since the Election of President Obama?"** Justin Vaisse, Brookings Institution; Klaus Larres,

University of Ulster. 5-6:30 p.m., Rome Auditorium, 202.663.5796.

- 14** Bernard L. Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism, **"The Origins of Accountable Government,"** Francis Fukuyama, SAIS. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Rome 203, 202.663.5943.

14 Latin American Studies Program, **"Will the Kirchner Government in Argentina Survive?"** Silvia Pisani, *La Nación*. 12:45-1:45 p.m., Nitze 517, 202.663.5734.

14 SAIS International Finance Club, **"Topic TBA,"** Dennis Lockhart '71, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. 4:30-5:30 p.m., Bernstein-Offit 500, 832.693.8997.

14 China Studies Program, **"Honorable Survivor: Mao's China, McCarthy's America and the Persecution of John S. Service,"** Lynne Joiner, author. 5-7 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5816.

16 European Studies Program, **"Countering Democratic Regression in Central and Eastern Europe,"** various speakers. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Bernstein-Offit 500, 202.663.5796.

21 Latin American Studies Program, **"President Lula and the Rise and Fall of the PT Government in**

Brazil," Stanley Gacek, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations. 12:45-1:45 p.m., Nitze 517, 202.663.5734.

22 International Reporting Project, **"IRP Journalists Cover the World,"** IRP fellows. 12:30-2 p.m., Beacon Hotel, 1615 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington D.C., 202.663.7726.

27 European Studies Program, **"Anti-Americanism in Europe: Is There a Change in Attitudes Since the Election of President Obama?"** Jodie Allen, Pew Research Center; Stephen Szabo, German Marshall Fund. 5-6:30 p.m., Rome Auditorium, 202.663.5796.

27 Cultural Conversations, **"Women and the Politics of Change in the Middle East,"** Azar Nafisi, SAIS, and various speakers. 6-7:30 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5635.

27 SAIS New York Alumni Club, **"The Fall of the Berlin Wall,"** Jessica Einhorn, dean of SAIS; John McLaughlin, SAIS. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Morgan Stanley, 750 7th Ave., New York, 202.663.5636.

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar of events, refer to the SAIS Web site at www.sais-jhu.edu.



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