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SAIS students Chad Miner and Stephanie Harmon embrace on the National Mall after President Barack Obama's January 20 swearing-in. With the crowd cheering him on, Miner got down on one knee and proposed to Harmon as the ceremony concluded. "I thought I would one-up the inauguration," he said.



AN ENGAGING INAUGURATION

Former Treasury Secretary Paulson Joins SAIS

Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr. joined SAIS in late January as a distinguished visiting scholar.

Paulson, who served since July 2006 as the 74th Treasury secretary, is a fellow at the Bernard Schwartz Forum on Constructive Capitalism, an initiative led by Francis Fukuyama, director of the school's International Development Program.

"I am pleased to join an institution as prestigious as SAIS, and I look forward to engaging with the many accomplished scholars here," said Paulson.

"We are so honored that Secretary Paulson has chosen to come to SAIS," said Dean Jessica P. Einhorn. "His record of achievement in the private

sector and his leadership in the public sector during these extraordinary times make him the ideal visitor to our school. He has been extensively engaged with global finance and with China—just two of the many critical areas in which his experience can enhance our students' studies."

From 1999 until he became Treasury secretary, Paulson was chairman and chief executive officer of Goldman Sachs, where he spent 32 years. Early in his career, he held government positions at the White House and Department of Defense. Paulson received his B.A. in English from Dartmouth College and his M.B.A. from Harvard University.

"I'm very pleased to welcome Secretary Paulson to SAIS and to Johns

Hopkins," said JHU President William R. Brody. "He is, of course, an acknowledged expert on the workings of the global financial system.

His long experience in the private and public sectors and his front-line leadership role in the government's response to the current financial crisis will make him an extraordinary resource to our faculty and students." ●



Henry Paulson

SAIS Graduate Geithner Named Treasury Secretary

President Barack Obama appointed Timothy F. Geithner, a 1985 SAIS graduate, as the 75th U.S. Treasury secretary. Geithner, who assumed his new post on January 26, most recently served as New York Federal Reserve Bank president since November 2003.

At the November 24 announcement of Geithner's nomination, then-President-elect Obama said, "With stellar performances and outstanding results at every stage of his career, Tim has earned the confidence and respect of business, financial and community leaders; members of Congress; and political leaders around the world—and I know he will do so once

again as America's next Treasury secretary, the chief economic spokes-

man for my administration."

In October 2006, SAIS Dean Jessica P. Einhorn presented Geithner with The Johns Hopkins University Woodrow Wilson Award for Distinguished Government Service. "The award was an opportunity to celebrate Tim Geithner's years of public service and achievements, which are now well recognized in his appointment to the cabinet," said Einhorn.

From 2001 to 2003, Geithner was the director of the Policy Development and Review Department at the International Monetary Fund. In 1988, he began his first stint at Treasury, rising to under secretary for international affairs—a position he held from 1999 to 2001.

Geithner, who studied East Asian affairs while at SAIS, is a second-generation graduate of the school. His father, Peter B'59, '59, is an Asia expert who spent nearly 30 years with The Ford Foundation.

At press time, three other SAIS graduates have been appointed to high-level positions in the new administration. Philip H. Gordon

B'86, '87, Ph.D. '91 and Jennifer E. Sims '78, Ph.D. '86, also former professorial lecturers at SAIS, have been named to U.S. State Department posts—Gordon as assistant secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs and Sims as director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Evan Ryan '06 is serving as Vice President Joseph Biden's assistant for intergovernmental affairs and public liaison. ●



Timothy Geithner

Azar Nafisi Directs Cultural Conversations, New FPI Program

It is only February, yet 2009 has already been a landmark year for best-selling author and SAIS scholar Azar Nafisi: She has published a well-received memoir, *Things I've Been Silent About*; has toured the country, giving countless interviews about her revealing book; and has launched a new research center at SAIS.

Nafisi, a visiting scholar at the Foreign Policy Institute and SAIS professorial lecturer, is now executive director of Cultural Conversations, a new program within FPI that serves as a forum for U.S. and international scholars, writers and artists to discuss the cultural aspects of policymaking. Nafisi's goal is to challenge previously held notions of geographical, racial, national and religious boundaries and biases.

The center's components include a bimonthly lecture series, educational workshops and graduate-level courses. Cultural Conversations succeeds the Dialogue Project, a program Nafisi started at FPI in 2000, focused on building bridges between the West and the Muslim world. Cultural Conversations maintains the same goal of creating dialogue and understanding between different



Scott Simon and Azar Nafisi during a Cultural Conversations forum on January 26

cultures but does so on a global level.

Nafisi, who came to the school in 1997 from Iran, said SAIS is playing a key role as facilitator of these discussions and as host for a series of timely events and partnerships. "I believe students need to be familiar with the culture and politics of America as well as other countries," she said. "Especially at this juncture in history, when our business leaders and politicians have led us into a serious crisis, we need to nurture more meaningful com-

munications that will enlighten us about where we have been in order to discover where we will go. It is not a coincidence that our new president is a writer who understands the importance of such great Americans as Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr., men without whose poetic vision we would not be where we are today."

Cultural Conversations officially launched in November 2008 with "Power, Politics and the Prism of Literature," an event fea-

turing JHU trustee and novelist Joanne Leedom-Ackerman, then-*Washington Post* "Book World" editor and author Marie Arana, and Nafisi as moderator.

On January 26, Cultural Conversations hosted the official Washington, D.C., launch of *Things I've Been Silent About*, Nafisi's narrative about her family's life in Iran published by Random House in December. The event featured a discussion about politics and the challenges of literature between Nafisi and Scott Simon, host of National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition Saturday" and author of *Windy City: A Novel of Politics*.

As a curricular component of Cultural Conversations, Nafisi and Leila Austin '93, the program's director, are teaching a course this semester in the SAIS Global Theory and History Program. "Politics and Literature" is based on the premise that literature sheds light on history and the human condition, and therefore has much to say about the nature of political life.

Austin said that one of the most memorable courses she took while a student of Middle East Studies at

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SAIS Again Wins Thunderbird Student Competition

For the second consecutive year, a team of five SAIS students finished in first place out of 138 teams competing in the Sustainable Innovation Summit Challenge hosted by Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona, November 13-15.

SAIS was the only non-MBA school participant in the group of 10 teams competing in the final round of this international competition, which tasked the students to develop innovative and sustainable business solutions to address real-life challenges presented by sponsoring global corporations Johnson & Johnson and EcoVerdance. Graduate students from 47 universities in 11 countries took part in the overall competition.

Sarah Austrin-Willis, Caroline Levington, Kimberly Wattrick, Victoria Wilson and Lauren Wtitin

comprised the first-place SAIS team, taking home a \$20,000 prize and 1,000 shares of EcoVerdance stock. They were the only all-women team participating in the final round of the competition.

Wattrick, the SAIS team captain, said their approach to the final-round assignment was to demonstrate that a company can create a sustainable venture by building its social capital. "The competition was challenging, but I believe the holistic SAIS education truly set us apart. Drawing on our understanding of culture, economics and foreign languages, we were able to propose unconventional,



The SAIS Thunderbird team, from left: Victoria Wilson, Caroline Levington, Kimberly Wattrick, Sarah Austrin-Willis and Lauren Wtitin

yet highly effective, solutions to the sponsor questions. Moreover, having the opportunity to work with such a talented group of SAIS women was incredible. From the beginning, our strengths complemented each other, making this one of the most rewarding experiences we have ever been part of," she said. ●

Petasis Becomes First-Ever Chief Information Officer for SAIS

This past September, SAIS welcomed George Petasis as its first chief information officer (CIO), the head of an enhanced technology team that is leading the school and each of its campuses into a new era of connectivity.

Petasis joins SAIS with more than 17 years of managerial experience in the information technology (IT) and services field. Most recently, he was a senior program manager at the Architect of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., where he provided IT support while managing large-scale enterprise projects. Petasis has worked in the commercial financial services and government sectors, but his rewarding experience as an IT director at Howard Community College in Maryland and part-time IT consultant at American University in Washington while earning his

M.B.A. attracted him to the newly established CIO position at SAIS.

"I worked in higher education for about seven years," said Petasis. "I can honestly say those were the most fulfilling years of my professional life in terms of believing in the mission of my employer."

In his new role at SAIS, Petasis is managing several large technology overhaul projects, including upgrading software and computers on campus; implementing a user-friendly, SAIS-wide technology service desk; and creating programs that will allow students in Washington and Bologna to remotely participate together in courses.

The addition of a CIO position is intended to fulfill one of the school's strategic plan goals, which is to "use technology as a tool to uncover, connect and support physical and human assets." Technology is a key component of the school's overall mission

to upgrade and modernize its infrastructure. Funding for the CIO position was made possible in part by a pledged gift from SAIS Advisory Council member Robert Hildreth '75, who is dedicated to aiding the growth of technology at SAIS.

It was a priority of the SAIS Advisory Council to create a core technology team, led by a "visionary" in the IT field, that would guide students, faculty, staff and alumni in adopting and using technology while creating a strong connection between the three campuses. Along with Petasis, SAIS hired Nathan Kreps this fall as the new instructional designer in the Office of Academic Affairs. Kreps is tasked with helping faculty members incorporate technology into their teaching methods.

"In the short time since he arrived, George has wowed the SAIS community not only with the technology skills we all hoped for but also with the energy and interpersonal connections that make change happen," said SAIS Dean Jessica P. Einhorn.

Petasis is most excited about the introduction of the IT Council. The council, consisting of representatives from the faculty, staff, students and advisory council, will meet monthly to consider IT investments, policies and



George Petasis

plans and to discuss the technology direction of the institution.

"This council will ensure that IT is properly aligned with the best interests of the school, and that technology is applied where it can have the most impact in fulfilling SAIS's strategic goals," said Petasis. "There's a strong need to ensure that each IT expenditure produces the most value for the institution as we deal with scarcer resources due to the global financial crisis."

A native of the Greek part of Cyprus, Petasis completed his M.B.A. at American University's Kogod School of Business. He was a Fulbright scholar at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, earning a B.A. in physics with minors in mathematics and computers. ●

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS NEWS

Alumni/Faculty Hold Gatherings Around the Globe

Alumni throughout the world are staying connected with SAIS and its faculty. From November 2008 through January 2009, alumni in Rio de Janeiro met with Professor Riordan Roett, while alumni in The Hague and Paris hosted Professor Francis Fukuyama. Professor Karl Jackson visited alumni in Jakarta and Beijing. And in Boston, a group hosted scholar Azar Nafisi. Visit www.sais-jhu.edu/alumni/ events to see photos.

Class of '84 Launches Student Loan Fund

The Class of 1984, known for creating enduring traditions, established the time-honored SAIS Excellence in Teaching Award. Now, on the 25th anniversary of their graduation, class members are mobilizing to raise \$100,000 for a students' revolving loan fund in honor of George Crowell—the popular dean of students from 1976 to 1995. Headed by Peter Drittel '84, former Student Government Association co-president and member of the SAIS Advisory Council, and supported by a class steering committee, the effort has raised more than \$45,000 in gifts and pledges. For more information, contact Ruth Swanson, rswanson@jhu.edu, 202.663.5640.

Frank Record Issues Matching-Gift Challenge to Support Student Stipends

Speaking to 225 SAIS alumni and students at a panel discussion on "Transitioning With the New Administration," Frank Record '75 challenged alumni to support the Fund for Public Service by promising to match all contributions up to \$20,000 through May 20, 2009. The fund will award stipends to students working in unpaid internships with the federal government. To participate in this matching opportunity and invest in the public service careers of future SAIS graduates, go to www.sais-jhu.edu/publicservicesfund or contact Spencer Abruzzese, spencera@jhu.edu, 202.663.5641.

IRP Grants Aimed at Improving International News Reporting

The International Reporting Project (IRP) has received two grants to support improved media coverage of international issues. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund committed \$250,000 to IRP's Gatekeeper Editor Fellowships. The Hewlett Foundation's \$60,000 Organizational Effectiveness Grant will be used to develop a new IRP Web site that will launch later this year. The current site is at www.internationalreportingproject.org.

Azar Nafisi

(continued from page 2)

SAIS involved studying the Arab-Israeli conflict through works of literature and memoir. "Looking at social and political issues through the lens of literature and film offers much greater insight into issues and a more flexible mindset that is not afraid to continually challenge the assumptions used to build policy."

Nafisi has not been in the classroom since 2003, when she published her best-seller, *Reading Lolita in Tebran: A Memoir in Books*. "It has been way too long, and it's fitting that I'm returning to teaching during the semester that my latest book has come out. ... We have designed a brand-new format for the class and can't wait to implement it. I'm a true believer that knowledge brings joy and fun." ●

Calendar

(continued from page 4)

27 International Development Program, "Gender, Politics and Poverty," Ritu Sharma Fox, Women Thrive Worldwide. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Rome 200, 202.663.5943.

30 Office of the Dean and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, "Water and Agriculture: Implications for Development and Growth," various speakers. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5636.

31 Office of Development and Alumni Relations, "Year of Water Lecture," Greg Allgood, Children's Safe Drinking Water Program at Procter & Gamble. 12:30-1:30 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 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 calendar Web site at www.sais-jhu.edu.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FEBRUARY

13 International Development Program, "Paying for Progress: The Cash-on-Delivery Approach to Development Assistance," Nancy Birdsall '69, president of the Center for Global Development. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Rome 200, 202.663.5943.

18 Global Energy and Environment Initiative, "A New Electricity Business Model for a Low-Carbon World," Peter S. Fox-Penner, Brattle Group. 12:30-2 p.m., Bernstein-Offit 500, 202.663.5786.

18 Latin American Studies Program, "The Future of Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America: Progres-Oportunidades," Santiago Levy, Inter-American Development Bank. 12:45-1:45 p.m., Nitze 517, 202.663.5734.

19 Office of Development and Alumni Relations and Ph.D. Program, "Ph.D.

Alumni Gathering," 6-8 p.m., Herter Room, 202.663.5636.

20 International Development Program, "Water and International Development," Aaron Salzberg, U.S. Department of State; Geoff Dabelko, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Cinnamon Dornsife '77, SAIS. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5943.

23 European Studies Program, "The End of Neoliberalism," Mark Blyth, JHU; Kathleen McNamara, Georgetown University; Matthias Matthijs B'02, '03, Ph.D. '08, American University; Mitchell Orenstein, SAIS. 5-6:30 p.m., Bernstein-Offit 500, 202.663.5796.

24 Global Energy and Environment Initiative, "Recent Developments in Cellulosic Ethanol Technologies and Their Policy Implications,"

Carlos A. Riva, president and CEO of Verenum Corporation. 1-2 p.m., Bernstein-Offit 500, 202.663.5786.

25 Latin American Studies Program, "Brazil: Implications for Growth in the Context of the Current Financial Crisis," Kellie Meiman, McLarty Associates. 12:45-1:45 p.m., Nitze 517, 202.663.5734.

27 International Development Program, "Faith-Based Organizations in International Development," Ken Hackett, president of Catholic Relief Services. 12:30-1:45 p.m., Rome 200, 202.663.5943.

27 Office of Career Services, "2009 Spring Career Fair," employers from a variety of sectors will attend. Open to SAIS alumni. 1:30-4:30 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5710.

MARCH

2 Global Energy and Environment Initiative, "The Future of the Biofuels Industry: A Brazilian Perspective," André Correa do Lago, Brazilian Ministry of External Relations' Department of Energy. 12:30-2 p.m., Rome Building Auditorium, 202.663.5786.

4 China Studies Program, "China's Economic Development," Justin Lin, World Bank. 5:15-7 p.m., Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5816.

17 Office of Development and Alumni Relations, "Bologna Center Alumni and Student Reception," Kenneth Keller, Bologna Center director. Time TBA, Kenney Auditorium, 202.663.5636.

25 Global Energy and Environment Initiative, "The Future of the Transportation Sector in the Carbon-Constrained Environment: A Honda Perspective," Ichiro Sakai, American Honda Motor Company. 12:30-2 p.m., Bernstein-Offit 500, 202.663.5786.

25 Latin American Studies Program, "The Future of Populism in Latin America," Carlos de la Torre, FLACSO-Ecuador. 12:45-1:45 p.m., Nitze 517, 202.663.5734.

26 Office of Development and Alumni Relations, "Obama's Opportunities: Putin, Proliferation and Pakistan," Ruth Wedgwood, SAIS. 6-8 p.m., Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter St., San Francisco, 800.548.5481.

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SAIS SUMMER PROGRAMS 2009

It's not too early to start thinking about experiencing international affairs through SAIS Summer Programs. SAIS offers courses in international relations, economics, policy studies, development, conflict management, regional studies, foreign languages and more in a condensed eight-week term. Courses are held during convenient evening hours. For more information: 202.663.5671 or www.sais-jhu.edu/summer.

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