Welcome from the Co-Chairs

Dear SAIS NY Alumni and Friends,

The SAIS NY Alumni Club (SINAC) had another terrific year, thanks to the hard work and support from your fellow alumni, the SAIS Alumni Relations office and an ever-widening group of volunteers who have helped to create programs that appeal to a wide base of SAIS alums.

Some of the highlights of 2012 included a talk in November from newly-appointed SAIS Dean Vali Nasr, which drew one of the largest crowds the club has ever had, as well as our 3rd Annual Career Development and Professional Networking Event, which drew more than 75 participants to hear a panel of career coaches, corporate HR executives and executive recruiters.

We sponsored very well-received talks by SAIS professors Jim Lampton, head of the Chinese Studies program, and Bob Thompson, Visiting Scholar on Agriculture, featured as part of SAIS’s “Year of Agriculture” program.

The Club has also been expanding its collaboration with fellow SAIS alumni organizations in the NYC area; the Nanjing Center alumni group actively supported Professor Lampton’s talk, which featured remarks from Jason Patent, the newly-appointed co-director of SAIS’s Nanjing Center.

We also helped to promote a first ever SAIS UN & Friends Springtime Luncheon Gala featuring SAIS alumnus and UN Assistant Secretary General Thomas Seltzer.

In addition to a broad slate of programming bringing SAIS faculty together with NYC area alumni, the Club continues to promote ways for current SAIS students to interact with alumni. We once again hosted a reception for current students working in NYC during the summer break together with alumni, and recruited alums to serve as “mock interviewers” for finance students during their annual career trek to NY as a way for them to hone their job interviewing skills.

We also work with SAIS to help promote the SAIS “brand”: club members have volunteered to make calls to newly-admitted students to encourage them to attend SAIS, and appear at graduate school fairs to answer questions from prospective students.

The Steering Committee and officers of the SNYAC are already hard at work planning a dynamic year of programming, which will include a talk in April by the head of the Latin American Studies Program, Riordan Roett, and a panel discussion in the summer focusing on the collaboration between the public, private and multilateral sectors on the implementation of the UN’s Millennium Challenge Goals.

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We will continue our annual career development event, and are hoping to reprise our successful Carnavale 2011 party with a SNYAC social event around the holidays. Details for all of these events are being finalized, so please watch for regular communications from the Alumni Relations Office, and make sure you’ve joined our LinkedIn and Facebook groups to get regular updates on the Club’s events.

The SNYAC is able to sponsor these activities only with the ongoing support of area alumni who bring the energy and programming ideas that have made the club so successful, and who have been incredibly generous in providing the space from their employers that we need to hold events.

Anyone interested in getting more involved in the Club, or who has a specific idea about a program or a speaker, please contact any of the officers of the Club (listed in this newsletter). We also welcome any feedback or suggestions you have on how we can make the Club event better going forward.

We look forward to seeing you at the SNYAC’s events in 2013! Thank you for your ongoing support.

Arthur Rubin ’92
Elizabeth Madigan Jost ’98
Co-Chairs, SAIS NY Alumni Club

About SNYAC

The goals of the SAIS NY Alumni Club (SNYAC) are quite simply to create a spirit of community among SAIS alumni in the greater New York area; to foster a more active relationship and dialogue between NY alumni and the administration, faculty and student body at SAIS; and to provide topical and timely programming related to international affairs of interest to SAIS alumni. We work actively with the alumni organizations of the Bologna and Nanjing Centers to develop programming of interest to graduates of these programs. In order to better achieve these goals, over the last three years the club has worked to put a more formal organizational structure into place.

The SNYAC has provided opportunities for alumni to get involved in promoting the school to potential applicants at career fairs, and in helping to convince admitted students to choose SAIS for graduate school.

Membership in the SYNAC is open to all SAIS alumni (including those who attended the Bologna and Nanjing campuses) in the greater New York area. We encourage alumni who are interested in becoming more involved in the SNYAC going forward to get in touch with us – as we expand our range of programming we are always in search of new volunteers with ideas about how to improve the organization!
Looking Ahead to 2013

As in the past years, the SNYAC agenda for 2013 includes a healthy mix of book presentations by SAIS professors, thematic or regional events relevant to current affairs as well as social events and student-focused activities. Below is just a small flavor of events in our pipeline for 2013:

- In April, Professor Roett, the head of the Latin American Studies Program, will share with us his latest thinking on the region.

- A panel discussion with leaders from the UN, the private sector and civil society will explore the role that business and civil society play in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and shaping the process for MDGs post 2015.

- As in past years, in early summer, SNYAC will host a Career Event featuring recruiters and Fortune 500 HR representatives for a panel discussion. Students, recent graduates and experienced professionals are all welcomed to attend.

- Several books will be presented by their authors in 2013 including a visit by the Dean Vali Nasr who is planning a book tour to promote his new book.

- After a very successful Brazilian carnival-themed party in 2011 organized by a group of volunteers, we are considering organizing another large party for SAIS and friends in NY. This event will likely take place around the holidays in December.

These and other events planned for 2013 will be announced by the SAIS Alumni Relations Office as well as thru the SNYAC Facebook and LinkIn pages. We welcome your ideas for other events.

SNYAC Officers

Co-Chairs: Arthur Rubin ’92 (arthur.rubin@aya.yale.edu) and Elizabeth Madigan Jost B’97,’98 (madigan@ms.com)

Treasurer: Mariola Pogacnik B’02, ’03 (mariola.pogacnik@us.pwc.com)

VPs, Programming: Claudio Felix ‘01 (cfelix@deloitte.com) and Susannah Gold B’94,’95 (susannah@goldcommunications.com)

VP, Membership Relations: Kathy Blake B’94, ’95 (kathleenpblake@yahoo.com)

VP, Operations/COO: Nancy Tran ’08 (nntran@gmail.com)

VP, Career Development: Kate Maloney ’02 (katherine.maloney@gmail.com)

VP, Admissions Support: David Perkal B’94, ’95 (davidperkal@yahoo.com)

Ex-Officio Member: Dylan Pereira ’02 (dylan_pereira@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editors: Kate Maloney ’02 and Mariola Pogacnik B’02, ’03

Stay Connected

To get connected to the SAIS NY Alumni club and our events, join the SAIS NY Alumni group on Facebook and SAIS LinkedIn.

Please also add your contact information to our listserv by emailing saisnyalumni@gmail.com.

Feel free to also peruse the SAIS Alumni website and JHU Chapters for alumni contacts around the world. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Tran at nntran@gmail.com.
2012 Highlights

David Lampton (China Studies Program Director) talk on China

The SNYAC and the Hopkins-Nanjing Center co-hosted a discussion with Prof. David M. Lampton, China Studies Program Director and Dean of SAIS Faculty on “Tensions in U.S.-China Relations: Where From Here?” This was a very timely topic in January given that both the U.S. presidential election and China leadership transition were underway. The event also gave an opportunity to introduce Jason Patent, the new Hopkins-Nanjing Center American Co-Director, to the NYC SAIS community. The evening further allowed old friends and new acquaintances to mingle over wine and hors d’oeuvres, and it made clear that increased collaboration between the Nanjing Center’s alumni and the general SAIS community was most certainly in order.

Bob Thompson (Visiting Scholar on Agriculture) talk on Feeding the World

Bob Thompson spoke at Morgan Stanley, introduced by former Dean Jessica Einhorn in April. The talk gave a panoramic perspective on geopolitics and climate change through the lens of agriculture. The topic, it was argued, is ever more pertinent with a growing world population and scarcity of resources. The talk was well attended and engaged alumni working across a range of disciplines who partook in a lively debate and Q&A after.

Book Talks by David Unger

The SNYAC sponsored two book talks in 2012 from current SAIS faculty members Jim Mann and David Unger. David Unger is an Adjunct Professor of American Foreign Policy at the Bologna Center, and sits on the Editorial Board of the New York Times. He spoke on his new book, The Emergency State: America’s Pursuit of Absolute Security at all Costs in March, and provided a provocative and thought-provoking account of the rise of America’s internal security apparatus in the years since 9/11.

Book Talks by Jim Mann

In September, SAIS Author-in-Residence Jim Mann spoke about his new book on the Obama administration’s foreign policy team, The Obamians: The Struggle Inside the White House to Redefine American Power. Mann’s previous best-selling book had been a 2004 study of the Bush Administration’s foreign policy team, The Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush’s War Cabinet. Both of these talks allowed SAISers to have an intimate conversation with the authors of these books in an informal setting, which resulted in lively conversations between the author and the audience.
SAIS NY News

2012 Highlights

SAIS Dean Vali Nasr talk on Iran

The SNYAC community had much to be grateful for with the post-Thanksgiving weekend NYC visit of new SAIS Dean Vali R. Nasr who offered his unique perspective in a talk and Q&A on the timely topic of "The Arab Spring: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Over 140 alumni and guests descended upon host Citibank's Lexington Avenue headquarters, lured by the chance to set their eyes on the new Dean and to benefit from his knowledge and experience as a Middle East scholar and foreign policy adviser to multiple Presidential administrations.

Annual Career Development Event

Each year, SNYAC has been organizing a Career Event featuring recruiters and Fortune 500 HR representatives on a panel discussion. The July 2012 event, held at KPMG LLP, drew over 70 participants, including both new graduates and experienced professionals interested in taking their career to a new level. A lively discussion centered on the state of the job market, the importance of personal brand management and what skills employees are seeking and how to identify and best position oneself for a future career move.

Mock Interviews with current students

During an annual Finance Career Trek to New York in October, a dozen of second year SAIS students had a chance to practice their interview skills during mock interviews with SAIS alumni. The alumni represented various financial sector companies from banks, insurance, and money managers to consulting companies. This event provided students an opportunity to sharpen their presentation skills in this competitive job market.

Unofficial SAIS Peruvian Holiday Party

A number of SAISers met at the Roger Smith Hotel just prior to the holidays in December for an evening of Peruvian culture with pisco-inspired drinks and live jazz by the Gabriel Alegria Afro-Peruvian Sextet. Information was also shared about "Peru Behind The Scenes" and exclusive touring opportunity to get a true "behind the scenes" experience of Peruvian culture, music and food. The next tour will be June 4-14, 2013. For more information, please contact Claudio Felix (LASP '01).

UN and Friends' Chapter

The ‘UN and Friends’ Chapter of the SNYAC was initiated in June 2011 by Thomas Stelzer, Bologna Center alumnus (B’83) and Assistant Secretary-General with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

Over the past two years, the Chapter has evolved into a dynamic group working within various departments of the UN Secretariat, UN funds, programmes, agencies and affiliates - including UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Department of Political Affairs (DPA), Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Peace-building Office, UN Capital Development Fund, UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Foundation, US Mission to the UN, International Institute of Education (IIE), International Rescue Committee, as well as SAISers from private sector and civil society organizations in the UN neighborhood.

In 2012 the SAIS UN & Friends Chapter held the following events:

- Luncheon with SAIS students on the Career Trek to NY in January
- Salon Piano Concert by Kimball Gallagher, a fundraiser for the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul
- Luncheon with Bharati Chaturvedi, founder and director of the Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group on the occasion of celebrating her receiving the US Secretary of State’s Innovation Award from Hillary Clinton, highlighting her work in the empowerment of women and girls
- Springtime Luncheon Gala on Rio+20 and Sustainable Development with UN Assistant Secretary-General Thomas Stelzer '83 in May at the Kaufman conference room hosted by the IIE. (Pictures on Facebook page)
- Winter Luncheon in December

All alumni and friends interested in learning more about SAIS UN & Friends Chapter can join our Facebook group "UN SAIS Alumni and Friends" and/or contact Gabo Arora (arora2@un.org) to be added to our mailing list.
Dean Nasr spoke proudly of the depth and bread of SAIS as an institution - one that offers a curriculum focused on 10 countries; access to the study of 17 languages with a distinctly competitive edge of 2 year proficiency; as well as a number of signature functional areas, such as development, energy and strategic studies. All of these distinct qualities - combined with the concentration on economics and finance - presents to the market a highly distinct offering and positions SAIS “to take commanding heights for future leaders.”

The focus of his efforts as Dean is to work continuously to underscore the unique value of the SAIS curriculum; to raise funds to support the school’s strategic objectives and investments in students, faculty and infrastructure to ensure ‘excellence’.

The outreach extends to corporations, international organizations, the Federal Reserve Bank and others – those institutions who both hire students and are thought leaders in their fields. In fact, thought leadership was one of those unique value propositions Dean Nasr highlighted in his remarks. The SAISPHERE is but one of these publications that presents a ‘unique cutting edge idea, or new thinking’ and helps to preserve the ‘unassailable position’ of the school.

The Dean expressed his mission as “retaining the same relevance and value for the next generation of SAIS students as those currently studying.”

**How can alumni groups – like SYNAC – work to support this vision?**

Dean Nasr repeatedly stressed the huge value of alumni. In his words: “alumni are the lifeblood of the school. A student is at SAIS for only two years; but they are an alumnus for life.”

He spoke of the importance of alumni working to reach other alumni and improving the networks between us. This doesn’t have to be just organized meetings, but can be teleconferences, videoconferences or other activities that bring people together around issues that relate to their jobs. As he noted, each alumnus in NY is but one degree removed from another person who could be a potential SAIS graduate or financial supporter.
While SAIS historically has not been as ‘aggressive’ as other schools (e.g. Harvard’s Kennedy School) in its fundraising efforts; more actively promoting SAIS and its distinct value proposition would be a very helpful action for SNYAC and alumni clubs in other cities.

Dean Nasr took a moment to stress the importance of alumni clubs supporting mentorship and helping graduating students get onto the right career tracks. As he put it, the school needs to do better with the “exit strategy” for students so they feel supported in the post SAIS market place. With particular reference to SNYAC, Dean Nasr said we could help by bringing more “flow” of SAIS alumni to meet with students – both in NY and on campus in Washington.

The Dean thinks this is very important for alumni to continually renew their links with the school, which he is actively encouraging by meeting with alumni around the world on a regular basis. It was very interesting to hear Dean Nasr confirm that the greatest percentage of students graduating from SAIS are going into the private sector, given that the US State Department, CIA and the Pentagon, just to name a few, are struggling under budgetary pressures and not hiring as much.

**What has been your favorite moment since becoming the Dean?**

Since becoming Dean, the best part of his job has been “interacting with alumni.” Dean Nasr admitted that response may appear tongue-in-cheek but he genuinely expressed his belief that this is the best way to get a better sense of the school. From his visits to Korea, to Hong Kong, to Los Angeles to meet with filmmakers, to Japan where he met with an award-winning Japanese brewing company - he is “astonished by the achievements, assets and diversity of the alumni” with whom he has met during his global introductory tour.

The “caliber of people in the room, the nature of their affiliations and the manner with which they talked about SAIS” really impressed him. Overall Dean Nasr has been struck by the energy, loyalty and appreciation of these alumni clubs around the world.

**How do you feel about leveraging activities across different schools?**

In the context of multiple school activities, Dean Nasr first spoke of SAIS’s own campuses or schools and said he wants to tackle the misperception that each campus is a distinct or separate institution. Rather, the SAIS brand is one of unity: “One school. One alumni.” He wants alumni clubs to work to bridge the perceived or actual divide between Bologna vs. SAIS, and specifically called upon alumni groups in London, New York and beyond to “go the extra mile to erase the distinction between the schools.”

Dean Nasr did light up to the idea of promoting cross-school activities with the likes of SIPA or NYU when there is a particular professor or speaker coming to New York who may speak on a topic of professional relevance to those outside the immediate SNYAC family. He said this is a terrific platform to open invitation lists to the wider community of JHU alumni as well as other schools.

**Background and Education**

Vali Nasr, Ph.D is a Middle East scholar, foreign policy adviser and commentator on international relations whose two most recent books, Forces of Fortune and The Shia Revival, dealt with the postwar sectarian violence in Iraq and the uprisings known as the Arab Spring and contributed to U.S. policy formulated in response to those events. Prior to being named SAIS dean, Nasr was a professor of international politics at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. From 2009 to 2011, he was special adviser to the president’s special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan; served on the faculties of the Naval Postgraduate School, Stanford University, the University of California, San Diego and the University of San Diego. He was also a Carnegie Scholar and a senior fellow at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, an adjunct senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and a senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution. Nasr is currently a member of the U.S. Department of State’s Foreign Affairs Policy Board, and a director of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the National Democratic Institute. He is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
**SAIS International Au Courant Cuisine**

**LEMON-LIME-COCONUT TART**

This tart is prepared in two separate steps. First, the tart shell is baked and then the custard mixture is poured into the cooled-down pastry shell. The whole thing is then baked in the oven, with the pre-toasted coconut added about 5-10 minutes before the tart comes out of the oven to add a little bit of crunch and texture to the final product. The taste is more citrusy with the coconut just an added touch. It can be omitted completely for those who don’t like it without changing the tart too much.  Prep Time: 1 to 1 1/2 hours (including baking time).  Serving Size: 6-8 people

**Ingredients:**

**For pastry:**
- 1/2 c. unsalted Butter, softened
- 1/2 c. Powdered Sugar
- 1 Egg
- 1 Egg Yolk
- one pinch Salt
- 1 1/3 c. Cake Flour, sifted
- 1 Egg, lightly beaten

**Assembly:**

Mix together softened butter and powdered sugar until smooth. Whisk in the egg and egg yolks. Add the pinch of salt and sifted cake flour together and combine with the butter mixture. If the dough is too crumbly, you can add a few drops of ice water, but it should be possible to pull it together without it. Shape the dough into a ball, pat it into a circle, cover it in plastic wrap, and put it in the refrigerator to rest for at least 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. On a lightly-floured board or between two pieces of plastic wrap, roll out the dough to fit the size and shape of the tart pan you will be using and to about a width that is the size of the space between the tines of a fork. I made this dish in a 4 x 13 x 1-inch tart pan that looks like this one. This is the size and shape of the tart pan you will be using and to about a width that is the size of the space between the tines of a fork. I made this dish in a 4 x 13 x 1-inch tart pan that looks like this one. This tart uses a bottom of 2 inches. The edges will have started to become light brown. Remove it from the oven and let it cool on a rack while you make the filling. Brush lightly with a thin coating of the beaten egg (you won’t use very much of the egg). This is to keep the filling from seeping through the bottom of the tart when it bakes.

With a fork, lightly poke holes on the bottom of the tart without going all the way through the dough. Place parchment paper on top of the unbaked shell and fill the shell with baking beans before putting it into the oven to pre-bake. Bake for 15 minutes with the beans and then remove the parchment paper and the beans and bake for an additional 10-15 minutes until the shell is lightly golden. The edges will have started to become light brown. Remove it from the oven and let it cool on a rack while you make the filling. Brush lightly with a thin coating of the beaten egg (you won’t use very much of the egg). This is to keep the filling from seeping through the bottom of the tart when it bakes.

To make it easy to pour into the tart shell, use a container or measuring cup to hold the filling ingredients. Lightly beat together the eggs. Add in sugar and heavy cream. Then, whisk in lemon and lime zest and lemon and lime juice until the mixture is smooth. Reduce the oven heat to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Place the tart shell on the baking rack and pour the filling into the shell while it is sitting on the rack so that you don’t run the risk of spilling all the filling while trying to put it into the oven. Bake for 20-25 minutes until the outside of the filling has set.

Sprinkle toasted coconut on top of the tart and continue to back for another 5-10 minutes until the the filling doesn’t move when you wiggle the tart. Remove from the oven and let it cool on a rack for at least 30 minutes. This should be served room temperature. You can store it in the refrigerator, but bring it to room temperature before serving it.

**For Filling:**

- 1/4 c. shredded Coconut, lightly toasted
- 2 Eggs
- 3/8 c. White Sugar
- 2 oz. Heavy Cream
- Juice and Zest of one Lemon
- Juice and Zest of one Lime
- Juice of one Lemon

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**WINE PAIRINGS BY SUSANNAH GOLD**

When pairing a wine with a dessert, one needs to take into account both the level of complexity of the dessert as well as the sugar concentration or sweetness of the dish. Pairing of desserts usually calls for an equally if not even slightly sweeter wine. For this particular dish, I suggest a Tokaji Aszu from Hungary.

This elaborate wine is made from a blend of two grapes, Furmint together with the more well-known Harslevelu grape. Tokaji finds itself in the shadow of the Carpathian mountains. The mountains protect the grape vines from harsh winds and create an extended growing season which allows grapes to develop noble rot otherwise known as Botrytis. Tokaji Aszú, is made from botryized grapes that are added to the grape must.

The sweetness in the wine is measured in Puttonyos, the name of the container that used to hold the grapes. The measure is between 3 to 6 Puttonyos. Anywhere from 3 to 6 Puttonyos or baskets of dried grapes were added to the wine, thus dictating their sweetness level. The name of this measurement has remained despite the change in the actual containers. 3 Puttonyos means there are 60g/l of residual sugar in the wine while 6 Puttonyos means there are 150g/l of residual sugar.

The name 'Eszencia' is reserved for the sweetest Tokaji of all. The wine ferments in oak for several months and then ages in wood until it is released into the market anywhere from three to eight years after the harvest. One of the great sweet wines of the world, the honeyed, citrus notes will pair perfectly with the Lemon-Lime-Coconut tart. The oak aging will also mellow any of the citrus notes will pair perfectly with the Lemon-Lime-Coconut tart. The oak aging will also mellow any of the tart sensation but the wine has enough acidity to have some structure. Some great producers are Disznoko, Royal Tokaji Wine Company, Oremus and Patricius, among others. The 5 Puttonyos sells for around $42.

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**The Experimental Gourmand** by Kathy Blake, is a website about getting out and experiencing your local foodscape and interacting with those who are a part of it by finding fresh ingredients at farmers markets with which to make great meals and sampling tasty treats at food events and artisan markets.

She is also currently a student in the Classic Culinary Arts program at the International Culinary Center (formerly known as the French Culinary Institute) and advises clients on how to use social media to build their brand and their business ([www.theexperimentalgourmand.com](http://www.theexperimentalgourmand.com)).

**Vigneto Communications** is a public relations consulting firm started by Susannah Gold, a SAIS alumni and certified sommelier in Italy, the United States and the UK. She also pens a wine blog at [http://avvinare.com](http://avvinare.com).