

Status of the Department

Dr. Tom Keane, Associate Director

Greetings to all our alumni who take an interest in our current program. Other articles in this newsletter will focus on the staff rides and student-run activities. Let me just make some general comments about the state of the Strategic Studies Program during the 2009-10 academic year.

First numbers of students: in May 2010 we graduated 44 Strat MAs in May, and expect 52 new first years, DC and Bologna total, to arrive in Fall 2010. Those numbers, combined with the MIPP students that affiliate with Strategic Studies, makes the program about as large as we can handle. We are looking at possibly capping the numbers SAIS will accept into the program next year or are allowed to transfer in while here. It's that tight.

In the year just completed we offered 17 courses, most of them completely full. The number of courses will decrease some next year, as Associate Professor Mary Habeck will be on sabbatical for the year.

Ambassador Eric Edelman and Prof. Tom Mahnken are now visiting fellows of the Merrill Center and teach Strat courses as adjunct professors. They have added substantially to the program based both on their academic credentials and prior government service. Our other adjuncts, John McLaughlin, Marc Cancian, Matt Levitt, Dave Kilcullen, Andy Hoehn, Mara Karlin, and Brady Cusick, remain in place. I need not add, but I will, all get tremendous reviews of their courses from the students.

My best to all of you, and I look forward to seeing you and the Alumni Dinner in October.

Work in Progress

Dr. Eliot Cohen, Director

"Shouldn't you be writing a personal account of the declining years of the Bush administration?" That is the implicit question behind the puzzled looks I have gotten when I explain that my current writing project deals with a string of skirmishes and battles along the Lake Champlain corridor from 1690 through 1867. So here is the explanation.

Why not the insider account? I don't know that I have all that much to recount, but more importantly, having been a senior adviser to the Secretary of State, I think it bad form to gossip about her and other officials as soon as I am out the door. I strongly believe, in fact, that it's best to let some time pass before writing anything resembling a memoir, so that you can be sure that you are contributing to history rather than burnishing your own reputation or settling scores with bureaucratic rivals.

AMERICA'S WARPATH, which is the working title for my current book, began life as a project conceived some years ago, and like most books, has gone through several outlines and conceptual reworkings. It looks at a set of not necessarily decisive, but revealing battles, which it uses as a way of writing about the origins, and some enduring features, of the American way of war. When Americans invaded Canada in 1775 their proclamations declared "you have been conquered into liberty" – a phrase that has some interesting echoes to it!

So why this book at this time? Well, I have a contract and long suffering publisher (and agent) who have every reason to expect it. But more importantly, it's satisfying – writing about a part of the country that I love, and have walked over for years (even retracing the Battle on Snowshoes...on snowshoes). It has important themes, and it is a great literary challenge. For someone trained as a political scientist, it takes a while to free oneself up for narrative writing, and that means expanding my skill set somewhat. And the research keeps on turning up remarkable figures and events – a Loyalist secret agent sneaking through the Vermont woods to meet with Ethan Allen, or Benedict Arnold leaping off his flagship (last man off, as *(continued on page 7)*)

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Bologna Center Liaisons

Michael Murphy (MA10)

The Strategic Studies Bologna liaisons serve as the primary point of contact for first-year Strategic Studies concentrators at the Bologna Center (BC). The liaisons work to maintain strong relations between the program's DC and BC campuses.

Established for the first time for the 2009 – 2010 academic year, 2nd-year DC Strategic Studies concentrators Michael Murphy and Karen Riley were the inaugural BC liaisons. Both Michael and Karen spent their first year in Bologna. Early in the Fall semester, the liaisons work to

identify two dedicated first-years who will become their successors. The DC and BC-based students coordinate throughout the year to provide information to Bologna's newest strategists about the program, staff rides, courses, SAIS life in Bologna and DC, and summer internship prospects.

The liaisons also help Bologna's newcomers keep in touch with Washington's full-time Strategic Studies faculty through joint videoconferences. During the 2009 – 2010 academic year, Professors Cohen, Keaney and McLaughlin held videoconferences with Strategic Studies first-years in Bologna. The ses-

sions allowed DC faculty members to engage with the incoming BC students on present-day strategic issues such as the U.S. efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the status and implications of the Iranian nuclear program, and the future of American air power. The videoconferences were incredibly well-received on the Italian side, and an increased number of sessions have been planned for the upcoming academic year.

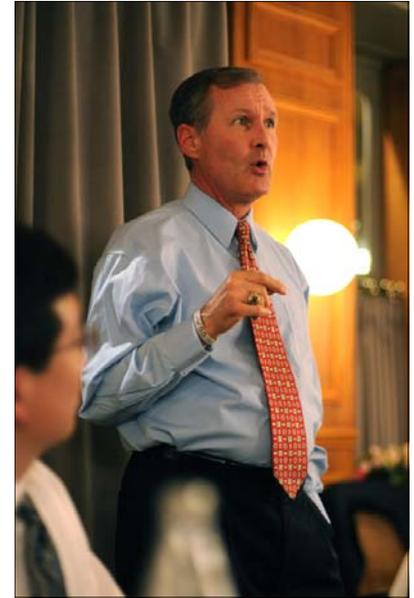
In addition, Dr. Cohen visited the Bologna Center in January 2010 to meet with Bologna's Strategic Studies concentrators. Similar faculty visits are being planned annually.



Above: ISR 2020 participants in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. (Photo Courtesy of Ted Alcorn)

Below Left: Dr. Cohen posing with extras from a movie being filmed at the Naval Headquarters on Place Concorde.

Below Right: LTG David Barno at the closing dinner. (Both Photos Courtesy of Ted Alcorn)



International Staff Ride 2010: The Fall of France

Andrew Rothgaber (MA10)

In March 2010, a handful of professors and distinguished visitors accompanied 40 Strategic Studies students to take a fresh look at one of the most studied battles in military history: the German invasion of France in May 1940. The 11th Annual International Staff Ride – The Fall of France – took a holistic approach to the six week invasion, calling on economists, war widows, and novelists to contextualize the often horrific decisions made by the military and political leadership on all sides.

The ISR began on the somber fields of Verdun, where students examined how World War I affected the evolution of French and German military doctrine. It ended in the early evening at the Jardin des Tuileries in Paris, where Pétain and de Gaulle stood on a bench and debated the politics of defeat and the future of French grandeur. In between, students trekked into the mildewed depths of the Maginot Line, hiked above Sedan and Monthermé to study the terrain which the intrepid Rommel advanced with such skill, and took many, many leaders to task over lunches and dinners.

Participants were invited to consider the extent to which World War II and 1940

still persist in modern France. This ISR experience rested largely on conveying the events as much more than the advent of tank warfare or the summation of revolutionary military doctrine. In 1918 we began to understand how a society neutered in the trenches of World War I could quickly find itself at war again. We continued through the interwar years to examine how the French could blunder mightily in their strategic planning. And we zoomed in on the heat of battlefields such as Sedan, seeing that military power does not rest solely on the relative strengths of opposing units and equipment, but also on the competencies of commanders and the initiative of individual soldiers.

A number of distinguished visitors embarked with students and professors. Michael Abramowitz, the former national editor of the Washington Post, portrayed the journalist William Shirer. Abramowitz took a break from his current efforts guiding genocide prevention efforts at the Holocaust Memorial Museum to describe the scene at the signing

“Participants were invited to consider the extent to which World War II and 1940 still persist in modern France.”

of the armistice in 1940. SAIS alum Colonel James Hickey (MIPP92), the man who captured Saddam Hussein, delivered a memorable performance atop our hotel castle in Sedan as General Heinz Guderian. Lieutenant General David Barno, who led Coalition Forces in Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan and is now at the Center for New American Security, discussed the decisive role played by infantry as Lt. Col. Hermann Balck.

Reflecting on his experience of the 2010 ISR after the final dinner in Paris, LTG Barno remarked this was the best staff ride he had ever been on. Professors Cohen, Keaney, McLaughlin (MA66), and Grygiel respectively played Churchill, Goering, Liss, and Stresemann.

Special thanks must also be given to Mrs. Marilyn Fuhrmann and Mr. David Fuhrmann (MA82), not least for their researched and powerful roles as a distraught French war widow and, in a full-length leather trench coat, Gen. Erwin Rommel. Quartermasters Andrew Rothgaber (MA10) and Will Upshur (MA10) wish next year's quartermasters the best.

Below: Jake Harrington (MA10) on SSR 2010.



Below: Beau Cleland (MA11) on SSR 2010.



Update: Alumni Council

Dave Fuhrman (MA 82), Chair
Strategic Studies Alumni Council

As we approach the anniversary the Strategic Studies Alumni Council's first organizing meeting at the Tabard Inn in 2009, we can look back with a sense of accomplishment. At that time, efforts such as the Annual Alumni Dinner and this biannual Newsletter were already in progress, while other projects, such as a more visible on-line presence and a targeted fundraising drive, were set in motion.

Planning is already in progress for our third annual Alumni Dinner, tentatively scheduled for October 21st. Last fall's dinner at the Willard Hotel was an outstanding success and once again Nadia Schadow (MA89, Phd05) and Tali Wenger (MA08) have graciously consented to carry-on organizing this much looked forward to event. Further details will be forthcoming over the summer.

Perhaps the most significant effort of the past year has been the fund raising effort, specifically for the Strategic Studies Program. In November 2009, a mailing was

made to all Strat Studies alumni for whom we had contact information. While at first glance the results appeared modest, it was in fact quite successful and a testament to the loyalty and generosity of Strategic Studies alumni. Just over four hundred letters were sent, resulting in a response rate of 5.2% and generating almost \$4000, with an average gift of \$179. While this may not seem like a large amount, when placed against the average response rate of 2% for the SAIS Annual Fund appeal, it indicates continuing strong support and a post-graduation connection with the Strategic Studies program among our alumni. We hope to expand and build upon this support in coming years.

Another consequence of the mailing was that we now have a pretty good data base of contact information for Strategic Studies alumni. Unfortunately, that information is a moving target given the wide-

ranging activities and adventures of our alumni. We would appreciate it if all alumni could drop us an email once in awhile, updating your contact information and letting us know where you are.

There isn't sufficient space to mention everything we've been doing or want to

"The idea of a Summer Alumni Staff Ride gets a universally positive response."

do to create a strong alumni base for Strategic Studies, but one project does merit mention. The idea of a Alumni Summer Staff Ride (ASSR) gets a universally

positive response. These events have typically lasted three days (plus some travel time), with two nights of camping followed by one night in a hotel for the final dinner. In the past, ASSR's have been focused on the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution in the New England region. Suggestions for next summer are welcome. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact me directly at: fuhrd@att.net.

Spring Staff Ride 2010: As the Civil War Waned

Steve Seabrook (MA11)

The 2010 Spring Staff Ride was an ambitious and novel undertaking. The participants in the SSR covered a significant amount of territory, making a round trip between Washington, D.C., and Petersburg and Appomattox, Virginia to examine the waning days of the Civil War.

Operational and strategic considerations dominated the first day of this year's SSR. Led by Quartermasters Beau Cleland and Stephan Seabrook, the staff riders traveled to Petersburg and Saylers Creek in Virginia. During this first day, participants studied the final stand and desperate retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia as it attempted to stave off defeat at the hands of the Army of the Potomac. The sites along this portion of the trip revealed the origins of trench warfare and emphasized the growing importance of industrial capabilities in the incipient stages of the age of total war. At the end of the first day, the trip participants dis-

cussed the cascade of surrenders that occurred among the Confederate armies and assessed the likely efficacy of continued Southern resistance via guerilla warfare. At this point, however, the trip moved from a discussion of military operations and strategy into a study of the politics and strategy of Reconstruction.

Assessing the post-conflict aspects of a campaign represented a new direction for local staff rides. Beginning at Appomattox with a moving presentation by Prof. Cohen as Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, the trip participants looked into the important symbolic gestures offered by each side to begin the process of reconciliation. Stopping in Richmond on the way back to D.C., the SSR touched upon Lincoln's visit to the Confederate capital shortly after its fall to Union forces and began an assessment of the President's magnanimous approach to Reconstruction. Upon returning to Washington, the staff riders were treated to a detailed discussion of the plot to assassinate key

Union leaders in the hallowed walls of Ford's Theater. The trip participants then took an inspiring walk along the Mall to the Lincoln Memorial where the late president's views on reintegration were juxtaposed with the harsher policies supported by President Johnson and the congressional Radical Republicans. The trip concluded by addressing the issues of civil rights in the decade after the end of the war and proliferation of the "Lost Cause" narrative among the former Confederate states.

Prof. Cohen was left the following impressions of the trip: "I was particularly glad to have had the opportunity to play not one, but two curmudgeonly heroes, and I do think that our QMs did a fine job. But the main impression was simply that there were no good choices going forward in 1865 -- but because of Lincoln's death and Johnson's ineptitude, things became a lot worse than they had to be."



Above: Spring Staff Ride 2010 attendees.

Politics and the Professor

Dr. Eliot Cohen, Director

In a political philosophy seminar that I took as a graduate student, Judith (“Dita”) Shklar told us, “you become a political scientist because you’re either fascinated by power or afraid of it. I’m afraid of it.” As one of the central Europeans whose life was touched by the Second World War that made sense. The implied observation – reproof, perhaps? – was that most of her students were fascinated by power, and the implied warning was – “be careful.”

Being a conservative in a largely liberal (in the twenty first century American, not the nineteenth century European) milieu, and spending more time than most in the proximity of power, has made me appreciate Dita’s wisdom. Being in a minority has the same effect of sharpening observation that being in a position of dependency has. Just as students have a keener awareness of the hypocrisies of their teachers, and children the foibles of their parents, so too being a conservative in academe makes one more sensitive to scholarly discourse that is thinly disguised politics.

To dwell on such matters, though, is to run the risk of self-pity. In my case, moreover, I cannot really complain: having taught at two fine universities and at an outstanding military educational institution, how could I? Nor does whingeing do much good. Rather, I would like to ask three questions: how have my political proclivities affected my own scholarly interests, how can one mitigate the effects of political bias in one’s scholarship, and what should one do to prevent one’s views from corrupting one’s teaching.

I do not think that I have been a particularly partisan individual: I was a Republican for a while, leaving the party in reaction to what I considered financial irresponsibility as well as the mishandling of some large foreign policy problems. Having been for years now an independent, I intend to stay that way, although it effectively deprives me of a meaningful vote in Maryland, where the Democratic

primaries are what count. But having served in a Republican administration albeit in a non-political position as Counselor of the Department of State, I know that I am identified with the Republicans. It would be disingenuous to deny that, by and large, I find more to agree with there than with the Democrats. In any event, having voted for candidates for both parties, and knowing full well that both parties have their share of crooks and pillars of integrity, hacks and statesmen, demagogues and true patriots, I am wary of all parties or rather, of most partisans.

My interest in politics has always focused most on national security and foreign policy. I suspect that a certain sympathy for military people and the military way has colored my interest in this field, although my last book, *Supreme Command*

“This is a slippery slope, and as academics we should worry about it.”

was read, incorrectly, as a call to politicians to slap generals around. But there can be little doubt that deep-seated, largely à priori, though not unexamined, set of beliefs about the nature of the world and

the United States have driven my scholarship. Those are that the world is a dangerous place; that a simplistic *realpolitik* will neither succeed nor suit the nature of the American polity; that some times war is a better option than all the rest; that on the whole the United States, to include in its universalistic and most idealistic moments, is, on the whole, a powerful force for good in the world. I do not think that those are partisan beliefs, since both Republicans and Democrats (traditionally those at the center of both parties) have held them.

Have those beliefs shaped my scholarship? Only in the sense of propelling me to ask questions like, “how have the ablest democratic statesmen dealt with their generals?” or “why do competent military organizations sometimes fail?” A deep belief in the power of individual leaders to make important decisions has, again, shaped my inquiry – but I find it hard to imagine that that is political in the sense of

partisan.

So to the first question, I would say that partisan politics have not particularly colored my scholarly work, but my deeper political views have. Scholars, however, particularly those like myself, in the policy arena, do not live in a realm of pure research. We participate, and should, in the debate in the public square, and we teach. In the former, we do, invariably, take sides, and we deceive ourselves if we think that we do not invoke our scholarly authority to lend force to our arguments.

This is a slippery slope, and as academics we should worry about it. Perhaps the most important thing we can do is to remind ourselves that our policy judgment is likely to be considerably more fallible than our scholarly expertise. Most intelligent people know this, which is why mass letters to the editor by professors protesting or advocating some policy carry so little weight. By and large, the policy world does not think of professors as being any wiser than any other class, and they are correct to do so. The ancient distinction between theoretical and prudential wisdom holds as strongly as ever. Humility is not, alas, a common academic virtue, and someone involved in the hurly burly of political discourse should try to make a clear distinction, at least in his or her own mind, about what he knows as a professor, and what he thinks as a citizen or policymaker. The most troubling area of pseudo-scholarship is likely to be that kind which nominally deals with policy in a scholarly way, but is, in fact, nothing more than a polemic masquerading as something else.

As someone who has been more involved than most in policy debates and policy-making over the last few years, my remedy has been to distinguish sharply the (*continues on page 8*)

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Dining In 2010

Adam Aviles (MA10)

The Dining In is a traditional military banquet that gives service members the opportunity to recall the events of the past year and recognize individuals for their achievements. SAIS's Strategic Studies department honors this tradition with its own version of the Dining In, and this year's event was a huge success.

Convening in the elegant rotunda of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in downtown Washington, DC, the students, faculty and alumni of the Strategic Studies department enjoyed an outstanding meal. The evening also included a commemorative slide show, skits, challenges (climaxing in a dramatic push-up competition), and numerous toasts with the Grog, a stomach-wrenching libation created to punish transgressions of etiquette and gaffes committed throughout the year.

But the highlight of the evening proved to

be an extraordinary 45-minute magic show performed by master magician and SAIS professor John McLaughlin and his enthusiastic apprentice and department head, Professor Eliot Cohen. The pair were bravely assisted by first-year student Diem Nguyen and alumna Tali Wenger, as flaming wallets, KA-BAR knives, color-changing handkerchiefs and disappearing eggs wowed members of the audience.

As the evening concluded, guests bid farewell to friends and colleagues, satisfied in the conclusion of a successful and rewarding academic year at SAIS. All were reminded of the characteristic of the Strategic Studies department that sets it apart as an institution: the camaraderie and collegiality that exist between its faculty and students, past and present, that are built through academic work together and persist long after the conferring of degrees.

Work In Progress

(Continued from page 1)

always) before setting it alight, avoiding an Indian ambush, and marching to Crown Point. It allows me to revisit history people think they knew, but was different than what they think, and to try my hand at painting character, landscape, and mood.

The serious study of history provides, as well, a perspective that anyone who has been in government, or simply lives close to it – needs. Some of the intellectual figures I have admired most – Michael Howard, for example, the dean of British military historians – have managed throughout their career to alternate between analyzing the present and exploring the past. And in an age of tweets and Blackberries, of clicking one's way through a dozen websites in fifteen minutes, plunging into the past by doing serious research and working one's way through problems in a stubbornly linear way is a steady and sobering thing to do.

How do you know your gift *really* goes to Strategic Studies?

This is the first in a series of articles for the newsletter on the facts—and myths—on gifts to SAIS and Strategic Studies.

Ruth Swanson, Annual Giving

When you make a gift to SAIS's Strategic Studies program—and later receive a tax receipt from Johns Hopkins—how do you know your gift *really* goes to Strategic Studies?

The first step is to make sure you indicate where you would like your gift designated. Whenever you respond to a mailing or an electronic appeal, there is the opportunity to direct your gift to the program of your choice. Mail appeals have a reply form that allows you check a box indicating SAIS DC, Bologna Center, the Hopkins Nanjing Center or Other. Simply check "Other" and on the line next to it write "SAIS Strategic Studies".

For online gifts, one of the required fields is a gift designation. Again, simply enter SAIS Strategic Studies. Easier yet, we recently developed a giving page just for Strategic Studies, where the designation

is already entered. You can find it here: <https://jhweb.dev.jhu.edu/eforms/form.do?formId=8025>

If you write a check and send it without any accompanying documentation, write SAIS Strategic Studies program in the memo section, and it will be directed accordingly.

After you've made your gift, you'll get a thank you letter from SAIS that may not mention that your gift is going to the Strategic Studies program. Don't worry. In a few weeks, you'll receive a formal acknowledgment from JHU that you'll use for tax purposes. The letter will list your designation as SAIS Strategic Studies Annual Fund which tells you you're part of a powerful group of people investing in the continued strength and growth of this unparalleled program. If you have questions, the SAIS Development team is happy to assist you and can be reached at saisdevelopment@jhu.edu or (202) 663-5630.



Above: Gabe Serrato (MA10) as Abraham Lincoln on the Spring Staff Ride 2010.

Politics and the Professor

(Continued from page 6)

kinds of writing I do – the short pieces for newspapers or popular magazines or websites, and the books that I write. And after leaving government in 2009 I deliberately turned to a kind of work as remote as could be from the policy debates of the 21st century – a study of warfare, chiefly in the eighteenth century, along the Lake Champlain corridor, with a view to learning something about the deeper roots of the American way of war. There will be connections with today's world, to be sure, but they will be indirect.

Finally, what does one do as a teacher? One can, and should, make an effort to keep one's politics out of the classroom. The better known I have become as a public figure, however, the more I realize that my students have me pegged – or think they do. (Often they get it wrong in quite amusing ways.) I have tried to avoid partisan politics, but at a school like SAIS, it is hard to dodge, say, a discussion of the origins of the Iraq war,

assessment of its conduct and likely outcomes, and the like. There I have tried as best I can to present opposing views. How well do I, or any of us, succeed in so doing? I don't know. I don't think anyone does. Luckily, I have had students whose political positions have been very different from my own, and we have gotten on very well. But I worry that others may have been, in the way that students can be, subtly intimidated or deterred from pushing hard against what they conceive, or misconceive, to be my political views.

The scholars I have admired most, and whom I took as role models when starting out, had strong political views and affiliations – I think particularly, but not only, of Sam Huntington. None of them pretended to Olympian detachment. But all made an effort to be fair and open-minded, to present views that varied with their own, to prevent political disagreement from becoming personal animus. At the risk of embarrassing him, I will

say that goes for Bob Jervis, who has organized this forum; and the same is true for Dick Betts, with whom I have had many long running disagreements.

To sum up my basic beliefs: our politics helps shape the first questions that animate our scholarly work; we should participate in the public square but be aware that the essential quality of our arguments there differ in kind and in authority from those of our scholarship; we should balance our policy work with deeper scholarship detached from immediate concerns; we should be particularly careful to make certain that our students hear all sides of a contentious contemporary issue; and above all, we should make an effort to treat colleagues with whom we disagree – barring some gross breach of decency or good manners – with respect.

Eliot A. Cohen, "Politics and the Professor," H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable on Politics and Scholarship, Vol. 1 No. 2, 4 June 2010, <http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/ISSF/roundtables/rt-1-2-cohen.html>

Alumni News

Kristin Carlucci-Weed (MA07) has been working for RAND Europe in Cambridge, United Kingdom, for the past two years as a Senior Analyst. At the end of the summer Kristen and her husband Josh will be moving to Ramstein, Germany.

John Kenkel (MIPP07) married Marka Peterson on October 24, 2009, on Jekyll Island Georgia. The small ceremony was held at sunset and attended by fellow SAIS alums Andrew Plieninger, Erin Schenck and Cainaz Vakharia (MIPP07).

After 3 years, Jeanette Kosoris Manfra (MA07) left Booz Allen Hamilton to become the Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Communications, a division within the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications at DHS. Jeanette is pretty excited about this new opportunity.

Arthur Lord (MA08) recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan, where he trav-

eled with Government Accountability Office colleagues to meet with U.S., NATO, and Afghan officials to discuss the current status of the Afghan National Army. It was a fascinating, and intense, experience. Arthur was pleasantly surprised that one of his DOD hosts was a certain LTC Killebrew- daughter of Strategic Studies long-time friend Col. Bob Killebrew. A great reminder that as big as our world is, it's still small sometimes...

Henry Nuzum (MA09) is approaching a year in Dubai and having a great time. Property bubble notwithstanding (and accompanying bling architecture, rarely tasteful), the city remains the global hub for the region -- blessed with good infrastructure, relatively liberal, a central location (7 hour flight from 5 billion people) and Anglophone (Henry's Arabic is even worse now than at his smashing Dining-In performance), it attracts folks from around the world. He's seen a couple dozen SAISers since his move. Henry has been lucky to see quite a few of the extended Strat family -- Anthony Diaz,

Nadia Schadlow, Todd Greentree, and Brendan Kelly; Henry sees Kyle Stelma too often. Drop Henry a line when you come through -- he's happy to play host for any SAISers.

Congratulations to Mariano Turzi (MA07, PhD10)! Mariano has just returned to Argentina, having finished his PhD at SAIS.

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