

PI CAPITAL

Innovative business-academic partnership opens new networks for collaboration on urgent issues of the future.

Friday 5th September, 2008 - A new collaboration between Pi Capital and the James Martin 21st Century School will bring together some of the UK's most successful and influential business leaders with forward-thinking academics from the University of Oxford. They will meet at a series of private events and public lectures to examine, discuss and debate the major challenges and opportunities of the coming decades.

The initiative between Pi Capital, a private equity investment group, and the James Martin 21st Century School, based at the University of Oxford, includes the development of a series of dinners and lectures in London aimed to bring top business leaders together with leading academics. The dinners will foster a level of interaction and exchange with business and industry professionals that is rarely found in academic circles. The London lectures will highlight major research outcomes and implications arising from the 21st Century School's cutting edge research activities.

Both the James Martin 21st Century School and Pi Capital maintain extensive programmes of education, research and events, and this new collaboration is one of their innovative strategies to develop further such activities and bring them to new audiences. The 21st Century School's lectures and seminars in Oxford have included contributions from Nobel prize winners Professor Joseph Stiglitz and Sir John Sulston; former top government advisers such as Lord Nicholas Stern and Sir David King; and leading intellectual figures including Nassim Nicholas Taleb and Professor Paul Collier. Pi Capital holds monthly events with expert speakers on such subjects as climate change, philanthropy, entrepreneurship, and emerging markets. Former speakers have included Sir Martin Sorrell, Sir Richard Branson, George Osborne MP and Sir Stelios Haji-loannou.

A key aim of the events and ensuing discussions will be to expand the 21st Century's School's access to business and government audiences and to foster new collaborations and innovative solutions that address the major challenges of the next 20-50 years.

David Giampaolo, Chief Executive of Pi Capital says:

"It is vital that we explore the role of the private sector in identifying and developing solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our time. I am delighted to be in a position to facilitate such discussions and I am optimistic for the future initiatives that will arise as a result of these events."

Dr Ian Goldin, Director of the James Martin 21st Century School says:

"We at the James Martin 21st Century School are keen to engage in these kinds of cross-sector conversations where new opportunities for collaboration and innovation are explored. A key aim of the School is to ensure the relevance and impact of our research reaches the kinds of audiences who can take action to address humanity's most pressing needs. The collaboration with Pi Capital will help us engage with the private sector to achieve these aims."

ENDS

Notes for Editors:

About Pi Capital

Pi Capital members are some of the UK's most successful and influential business leaders. Members are typically entrepreneurs, CEOs, chairmen and non-executive directors of medium to large private and public companies or full time private investors. Together, they sit on over 600 boards and their combined expertise covers almost all major industries and service sectors in the UK.

Pi Capital is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and is a member of the British Venture Capital Association.

About the James Martin 21st Century School

The James Martin 21st Century School was founded in June 2005 at the University of Oxford as a place where innovative and collaborative research efforts could be fostered to address global challenges and seize new opportunities. The School has recently expanded to comprise fifteen interdisciplinary research Institutes that cover a wide range of cutting edge issues, from climate change and tropical forests to nanoscience and cancer therapy to migration and ageing populations.

About the University of Oxford

The University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, and a leader in learning, teaching and research. The University has a student population of over eighteen thousand, with more than a hundred and thirty nationalities represented. The University's aim is to remain at the forefront of centres of learning, teaching and research.

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