

# Incomm-unicado



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## Semester in Review: Global Affairs, Development, Human Rights and Spooning Working Group

By Aaron Timms

When I first approached Dean Coatsworth and suggested setting up a student group to look at the intersection of international relations and human rights with the millennium village and spooning agendas, he told me he was busy and asked me to come back a week later. The next week it turned he was out of the country. Five months, 674 emails and one threatened court action for common law assault later, the Global Affairs, Development, Human Rights and Spooning Working Group was born. Not surprisingly, given the depth of its agenda, the group has already achieved a considerable following in its short life: we've already polished off seven separate fruit platters, a first year came up to me the other day and wanted to know "what the f--k all this s--t is about", and we are still awaiting reply from no fewer than 12 people



to the facebook invitation to our graduation week happy hour.

Things got off to a bang when we combined our start-of-semester wine and cheese night with a screening of the very best of Al Qaeda's beheading videos, a hugely successful evening that allowed everyone to de-stress after the end of the add/drop period. Around Valentine's Day we secured tables on level four to raise the group's profile – since the Gender Policy Working Group had already cornered the market for

vagina grams, we decided to give students the opportunity to show their love for each other via fat-o-gram. It was a really effective way of drawing people's attention to the problem of global poverty and development.

The following week we screened a highly engaging documentary from French public TV about the Moops, a semi-nomadic tribe of mentally-challenged muppets who lived in Central Asia from pre-historic times until a Russian pogrom all but extinguished them in the mid-19th century. To this day it's possible to walk the streets of Tashkent without coming across one f--ked-up muppet, and that's a tragedy I think we can all feel rightly aggrieved about. In week four we took a look at a documentary charting the success of the "burger", a completely veiled hamburger that McDonalds has introduced in

Saudi Arabia as a way of promoting dialogue between the faiths. The culinary theme flowed on to our next film, a locally-produced insight into the LGBT BLTs, New York's own indigenous class of persecuted transgender sandwich.

In the week before spring break we held a special double-header screening of the 2002 smash hit from Iran, *There's Something About Mahmoud*, followed by its no less popular 2005 sequel, *Actually, There Isn't Anything About Mahmoud*. In week eight we held a series of wildly popular auditions for our end of year stage show, *The Protocol on Child Soldiers: The Musical*. In week nine we were informed by SIPA administration that *The Protocol on Child Soldiers: The Musical* would not be allowed to go ahead. Week ten was given over to the group's participation in "Hum-

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### Newsfeed: Headlines from Around SIPA

By Patrick Kim

*Aakash Doshi declares himself "King of all SEEPs and Prime Minister of New Jersey"*



*Graduating MIA student applies for MPA degree. Believes MIA/MPA will give her an edge in job market.*



*Carrot Top is 2010 Commencement Speaker*



*Ban Ki Moon washes his hands seven times after using 5th floor men's bathroom*



## SIPASA Vows: "Worst Party of the Year Yet To Come!"

By Johan Kharabi

In an effort to quell widely-held suspicions that the Black & White party was the single worst SIPASA event of the 2009-2010 school year, officials from the student group have ensured that they have yet to reveal the "most ill-conceived and unpleasant" party of the year.

"It's going to be really bad," a SIPASA official disclosed. "We are thinking of something in mid-town, or maybe Jersey. Either way, there will be a significant number of sleazy characters

present, a \$3 coat check with an hour wait, and incredibly bad bar service." While many details of the event have yet to be finalized, individuals close to the SIPASA administration have said that they are confident that the party will be poorly received by students who will have their purses or coats stolen after paying \$11 for bottom-shelf cocktails and/or be physically harassed by non-SIPA attendees. Many students are finding such a promise hard



to accept considering what they have already been through. "At the last party, drink tickets ran out in 12 minutes," explained a second-year student, "And at the Black & White party I was punched in the face. I can't imagine how any

party could get worse than that."

Johan Kharabi, a second-year SIPA student, doesn't know how to use STATA, so don't ask him for help.

# Bellydancers Awarded Cordier Fellowships

By Nicholas Chang

A quartet of Columbia College undergraduate students, all part of the student organization, CU Bellydance, have been named Cordier Fellows as part of SIPA's entering class of 2012. As recipients of SIPA's most prestigious fellowship, Joanie Rasmussen and Lauren Jameson will pursue MPA degrees next fall, while Jennifer Bruges and Faith Liu will join the MIA program.

Ironically, none of the four students had ever heard of SIPA until a few weeks ago, when they were approached by several members of the Office of Admissions during post-show networking at SIPA's annual Multicultural Night. The American women were reportedly informed of their "high priority" status as applicants even though they had yet to formally apply to the school at that time. Although SIPA administration has declined to comment, witnesses claim that a senior member of the Dean's Office was overheard saying,



"We could use your talent at the School of International and Public Affairs" and "Did you know that Andrew and Dorothy Cordier are strong supporters of dance and the Middle East? If they don't sack up, I know at least the Pickering fellowship people value ladies who know how to use their bodies, um, I mean, minds."

A SIPASA task force, made up of ten "representative" students found lingering around SIPA during Spring Break, found no wrongdoing in the students' applications. An official statement was released by the task force this week asserting, "Their hips don't lie, if you will. The new

Cordier fellows might have been extended some executive leeway in regards to the application deadline, but ultimately, they are just as qualified as the publicly-educated American students in the current student body. Not that that's saying much."

Despite the negative attention and general pessimism of yet-to-be-employed SIPA students, all four women remain upbeat and optimistic. "We're so grateful to SIPA and the Cordier family for bestowing us with the honor of being Cordier fellows," said Rasmussen during a break from her weekly bikram yoga class last Tuesday. "We believe our fine arts background will be an asset

to the SIPA community, and our work experience managing the CU Bellydance organization will allow us to contribute practical ideas and learnings to class discussions in POP and Conceptual Foundations."

Eager to get involved with student activities, they have all accepted complimentary tickets to the Arab Student Association's spring party, A Thousand and One Nights, where they plan to set up an information table for Colombian singer-songwriter Shakira's Pies Descalzos Foundation. This philanthropic organization campaigns for more international aid to be directed toward arts education programs in developing countries to teach students belly dancing, pole dancing, hula dancing and other forms of the new wave of "gyration art."

*Nicholas Chang is a second year MIA student who now supports Columbia University Arts programs.*

## More Headlines from Around SIPA

By Johan Kharabi

*Absurdly Aggressive Typing Indicates Student Now Sending An Email In Class*

*Student to lose wallet and dignity at Thursday SIPA event*

*Study: Guilt and Food Best Ways To Ensure Friend's Attendance at Student Group Event*

*Fall 2010 Conceptual Foundations Course To Be Taught In 3D*

*Semi-enjoyable conversation comes to halt upon student's revelation of dual-degree status*

*"I'm Going to Subconscious," Friend Declares For 43rd Time This Semester*

*2010 EPD Curriculum To Place Greater Emphasis of Feelings, Emotions*

By Nicholas Chang

*Decision Models T.A. Facebook fan page surpasses Jeffrey Sachs fan page in number of fans*

*Study finds FLAS irrelevant language focus proves useless in jobs, life*

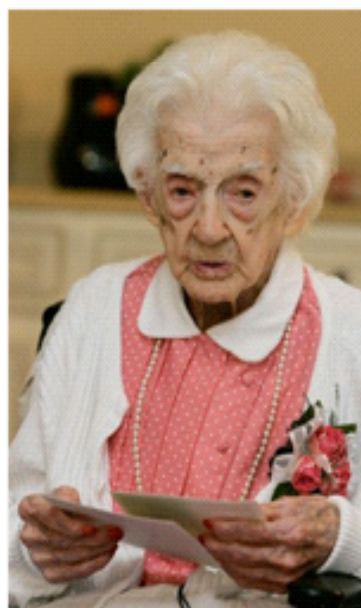
*EPD Workshop participants teach beer pong to indigenous community*

# Grandma Not Given Graduation Ticket, Will Not Be Alive For Next Family Event

By Johan Kharabi

Due to what any reasonable person would consider a bizarre and actually pretty insulting policy on graduation tickets, second-year student Gerald Stang's grandmother has been asked to stay home from this year's ceremony due to the fact that Stang's parents, both divorced and remarried, and his two sisters, will all be vying for tickets this spring. "I want everyone to come," explained Stang. "but I'll just have to rank them in order of emotional importance and choose the top two."

After producing such a list, it was revealed that Stang's grandma, 92, ranked slightly lower than his mother—because his mother physically gave birth to him—and also below



his father—who had impregnated his mother—, placing grandma in a very close 3rd place. While this puts her in front of his two sisters, who unlike his grandmother would not be rotting 6 feet underground next October, such a ranking is simply not good enough. Like his fellow classmates,

Stang has only been allocated two tickets, and as a result, must choose his favorite two family members.

SIPA Officials have insisted that such a policy is well intentioned. "This will provide students with an opportunity to decide which family members are most important," explained a representative from the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), "Plus, grandma will be able to spend plenty of time with the family as a ghost after she dies next fall." Officials have pointed to the fact that, at 92 years old, Stang's grandmother is unlikely to remember the event at all anyway, and that "she probably would prefer to stay home, watch daytime

television, and take her liver medication."

Students must learn to make difficult decisions, say officials, even among people with whom they have emotional bonds and who may be traveling from thousands of miles away to see them complete a Columbia University graduate program. "Picking two family members for the event is an excellent way of letting those closest to you know just where they stand," explained one dean. Despite the convincing logic offered by OSA officials, Stang was saddened by the decision he was eventually forced to make. "I guess I will make it up to grandma next fall when she enters the afterlife. I'll lay my diplo-

ma on her delicate and frail corpse at the wake and tell her I love her before they place her body under the earth allow her to depart this world in peace," Stang decided happily. "Yeh, grandma would like that, and it would be a lot less strenuous on her than making her sit through a long and drawn-out graduation ceremony."

## 30 minutes Into Lecture, Student Wishes She Had Brought Her Laptop

By Johan Kharabi



After nearly a half hour into class, 2nd year SIPA student Kate Brick noted to herself that she should have brought her laptop. "This is the most boring lecture I've ever encountered," Brick disclosed internally. "I really wish I had just gone ahead and brought my laptop like I had origi-

nally planned." As the professor continued to talk in a ridiculously dry fashion about the effects of something on something else in some country, Brick found it increasingly difficult to distract herself from the thought that she could be checking her email or updating her Facebook status.

Eyeing the computer

screen of the person next to her only made the experience less bearable. "Is [that guy] on Gmail?" Brick asked herself angrily. "I can't believe that I don't have my laptop. Why didn't I bring my laptop?" Brick was relieved, however, upon realizing that she had in fact brought her cell phone and as a result would be able to exchange texts with her friend, located three seats to her left, for the remainder of class.

*Johan Kharabi is a sturdy, talkative young chap with a heart full of passion and a stomach full of cheap whiskey. Add him on Facebook!*

## Semester in Review: Global Affairs, Development, Human Rights and Spooning Working Group

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mus for Haiti", a school-wide initiative aimed at giving the people of the tragically earthquake-ravaged nation of Haiti what they most need right now – an enormous consignment of pureed chickpea. Outstanding stuff.

In the final week of semester, we will wrap things up with a screening of Ronny Glasscock's searing 2008 documentary looking at the work of Medecins Sans Diplomes, a pioneering group of doctors without medical degrees who have travelled the world offering incorrect health policy advice to a number of developing countries. Most recently they travelled

to Cambodia and told the government there, and I quote: "AIDS? Are you sure? That looks more like a cold." Should be fascinating.

All in all, it has been an extremely rich and enjoyable semester, and we look forward to coming back next year, by which time we will have all graduated and will be unemployed and surviving purely on the complimentary cornbread from Mamie's Spoonbread Too. Happy holidays, girlfriends!

*Aaron Timms is a second year idiot.*

## SIPA Administration Creates New SIPA Degree: "Masters in Ineffective Graduate School Administration (MIGSA)"

*Denies Accusations of SIPA Turning into a Degree Mill*

By Patrick Kim

Prepared to groom the next generation of middle-managing graduate school administrators, SIPA believes that they will dominate the emerging academic field of meager management with their brand new MIGSA degree.

"SIPA not only has the academics and practitioners, but we also have plenty of experience in being incompetent at best, and frustrating at worst. Our laundry list of idiocy includes changing the 2010 commencement date, removing the 4th floor computer lab, making the 6th floor café as unappealing as possible, and always being unhelpful and patronizing...all at the same time. And we are located in New York City, the leading global capital in unfriendly ex-



changes with weird people from all walks of life. And the United Nations is here too. We got it all baby!" When asked how they will start advertising this new degree program, administration said, "We are trying to target the hidden talent out there, so subway advertisements will be key, advert space near

airport baggage conveyor belts, billboards on the NJ turnpike, and possibly creative spots, like the space between the steps in Grand Central Station." The two-year program starts with a hefty tuition price tag of \$55,000 per year. Administrators say they would like to move slowly and start with a

class of roughly 550-650 students. When pressed further about the current status quo of incompetency and whether it could be maintained, an administrator replied, "Look at the current situation right now. We hear student complaints, but we give bungled and uncaring responses, and that's if we choose

to respond. Do we listen? Of course we do, we do not want a revolt on our hands. We will throw a happy hour every once in a while to SIPASA, and we'll do a town hall. Can we do more? Of course we can. This is where the real art lies of being a bureaucrat, and we hope through our vigorous coursework, we can convey these pragmatic skills to members of our new MIGSA program." If you are interested in the program and would like additional materials, please ask any SIPA administrator, who will curtly reply that all program information is on the website.

*Patrick Kim is not bitter. He loves SIPA and prefers it over unemployment*

# Mass Exodus of Canadian Students

By Nicholas Chang

School administrators are scrambling to convince several Canadian students to stay enrolled in SIPA after a sudden mass exodus occurred in early March. It appears that once Canada won the gold medal in the men's ice hockey competition of the Vancouver winter Olympics on February 28th, Canadian students no longer feel the need to pursue their master's degrees.

"As a nation, we are fulfilled, ay, and, as an individual, this victory makes all my personal failures irrelevant such as when I took Economics of Energy last semester or propositioned the Brazilian Econ tutor at Spring Fling," said first-year MPA Johnathon LeRoque. "Winning the ice hockey gold medal at home here in Canada is like Dorothy Boyd coming into Jerry Maguire's life: Canadian hockey, 'you complete me.' It's something you Americans, Latin Americans, Europeans, Africans, Asians, Australians, and Antarticans can never fully understand."

Most, well, actually, all



SIPA students other than the Canadians find themselves wondering what's so appealing about ice hockey. As a result, their life priorities have come under fire by classmates and colleagues.

"With his gold medal winning goal, Sidney Crosby has joined the ranks of hockey legends Wayne Gretzky and Don Cherry as the greatest Canadians in history," claimed second-year MIA and Columbia women's hockey team member, Janice Peltier. "People ask me why the three of them are more important to us than fel-

low Canadians Frederick Banting, the discoverer of insulin, and Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone. It's simple: in Canada, hockey comes first, then everything else follows like world peace, health care, science, innovation, technology, and all that mumbo jumbo. And after that come the issues we study at SIPA like national security, development, microfinance and climate change."

As of March 1st, fifteen out of the seventeen Canadian students across all SIPA programs have dropped all of their courses. Only one MPA student and one EMPA student remain enrolled. The two



students that have chosen to remain matriculated site their dual-degree status as the main rationale. One of them, Stephanie Sloan, is an MBA-MIA, while the other, James McPhinney is an MPH-MPA.

"Yeah, I stopped doing my homework and my degrees are now irrelevant, but I mean, the school of public health is crawling with talent, and I'd be crazy to leave these chicks," explained McPhinney. For example, Christy Turlington and Christie Brinkley both go to Mailman, and we don't let Business School students come to any of our parties and scare off our women. 168th Street is where it's at!"

Canada finished the 2010 winter Olympics with 14 gold medals, 7 silver, and 5 bronze. The Canadian Olympic Committee plans to recognize all 25 other medal winners once the national hockey league season ends in June and after the men's ice hockey team meets Prime Minister Stephen Harper and participates in victory parades in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa.



## SIPA Class of 2010: The Gchat Highlights

By Aaron Timms

**August 29 2008:** "I'm so stressed about this quiz!"

*Student overestimates importance of orientation week math quiz.*

**September 15 2008:** "Hahahahahaha"

*Student laughs at fellow student's joke.*

**September 16 2008:** "HAHAHAHAHAHA"

*Student laughs very hard at fellow student's joke.*

**September 17 2008:** "Jajajajajajajajaja"

*Spanish-speaking student laughs at fellow student's joke.*

**September 18 2008:** "JAJAJAJAJAJAJAJA"

*Non-native-Spanish-speaking student who really, really wishes she was from Latin America laughs at fellow student's joke.*

**September 19 2008:** "Ha."

*Student does not find fellow student's joke all that funny, but offers encouragement nevertheless.*

**October 18 2008:** "OMG I KNOW!!"



*Student agrees with classmate that they are both "so over this f-ing paper right now".*

**November 5 2008:** "Have you seen Bubula today? He has a polo shirt on, so cuuuuuuteeeee"

*Student mistakenly believes the word "cute" has more than four letters in it.*

**November 24 2008:** "OMG BUBULA BUBULA BUBULA!!!!"

*Student successfully incorporates Bubula's name three times into single chat message.*

**February 9 2009:** "you going to the lasa party?"

*Student attempts to make contact with fellow student regarding plans to attend LASA party.*

**February 9 2009,** one hour later: "okay i have to go to the gym now might see you down there later then"

*Having not received reply to earlier question regarding plans to attend LASA party, student attempts to retain some dignity out of humiliating gchat rebuff before making himself invisible.*

**March 12 2009:** "Sorry just on Skype to my parents"

*Student offers non-negotiable excuse for not engaging in gchat with fellow student.*

**November 10 2009:** "Come to the IFEP panel on working in ratings agencies with me tonight!"

*Student deludes herself into thinking anyone would be interested in going to the IFEP panel on ratings agencies with her.*

**December 12 2009:** "Hahahahaha i love these emoticons!!"

*Student loves these emoticons.*

**January 23 2010:** "Have you seen Alex Giron today? What's up with his glasses?"

*Student fails to understand the subtle irony and beauty of second year student Alex Giron's taste in eyewear.*

**January 30 2010:** "Hahahahahaha have you seen Alex Giron's new pair of glasses?"

*Student arrives at newfound appreciation for the subtle irony and beauty of second year student Alex Giron's taste in eyewear.*

**February 15 2010:** "Hey just up on the sixth floor, there's no one here except for those two really good looking Asian guys—Nick Kim, Pat Chang—that are always here"

*Student finds herself doing computer work on the sixth floor at 4am.*

**February 27 2010:** "We should get a beer some time if you're around"

*Student extends beer-drinking offer to fellow student.*

**February 27 2010, ten seconds later:** "Oh. Cool. Well good luck then!"

*Student realises beer-drinking offer has just been extended to J-termer who has already graduated and left the country.*

**March 10 2010:** "Yeah totally"

*Student begins to run out of things to say in gchat exchange.*

**March 10 2010, ten seconds later:** "Yep"

*Student has completely run out of things to say in gchat exchange.*

**March 23 2010:** "Maybe I'll come visit you in Uzbekistan some day!"

*Student fails to conceal total lack of desire to go visit fellow student in Uzbekistan after graduation.*

*Aaron Timms should probably get a haircut.*