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Dear SIPA Alumni,

The first Annual **SIPA Alumni Day on April 25, 2009** is less than two weeks away, and seats are filling up.

The event will include panels focusing on the Obama administration's domestic and foreign policy agenda, in addition to workshops on career transitions and market trends. The activities will end with a lunch in the Faculty Room of Low Library. There are still places left, so don't forget to register. (More information can be accessed [here](#).) Please note that alumni who have purchased tickets to the Ninth Annual Global Leadership Awards Dinner can attend Alumni Day for free.

In other news, SIPA will become an autonomous professional school on July 1, 2009 and the fall 2009 incoming class will be the first to take courses under the School's new curriculum. This new curriculum, which was designed in response to suggestions from alumni and employers about the skills that are critical for success, will better prepare students as they embark on their careers around the world.

In the meantime, we hope that you are enjoying the spring and reconnecting with your fellow classmates.

Best wishes,
Daniela Coleman
Director of Alumni Relations
SIPA

News at SIPA

SIPA to Become an Autonomous Professional School

SIPA will become an autonomous professional school on July 1, 2009. It will now develop its own priorities in recruiting faculty, setting enrollment targets, and developing new programs. By the end of 2015, SIPA hopes to move to a new building, designed by Renzo Piano, at Columbia's new Manhattanville campus. ([More](#))

SIPA to Implement New Curriculum for Incoming Fall Class of 2009

A revised curriculum, which will go into effect in fall 2009, will add new managerial courses to a more unified core curriculum, in response to suggestions from alumni and employers about the skills that are critical for success. In addition, the School will streamline the number of functional concentrations from nineteen to six, allowing SIPA to focus resources on a smaller number of areas of excellence. ([More](#))

Human Rights Honorees Have Columbia Ties

Two human rights organizations with ties to SIPA and Columbia University were awarded the Geuzen Medal 2009 – B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and Al-Haq, the Palestinian Human Rights Organization. Its director, SIPA alumna Jessica Montell (MIA '95), accepted the award for B'Tselem. ([More](#))

Highlights of Upcoming Events and Programs

4/17/09 NYC: EMPA Alumni Homecoming Reception

The EMPA forum will host its annual EMPA homecoming and reception from 6:30 – 8:30pm at the **Columbia University Club**. Dean John H. Coatsworth will be the special keynote guest.

Location: 15 West 43rd Street, New York, NY

Dress Code: Business Attire, Reception Fee: \$30.00 EMPA Alumni; \$75.00 Guests.

Checks will be collected at the door, Payable to Columbia University.

To **register**, please click [here](#). Reference event title: Homecoming Reception

4/17/09 NYC: 1st Annual "United Food & Wine" Benefit

What & Where: Invite for alumni to join students at a Wine Tasting at the home of the UN Ambassador to Chile. Tickets: \$20/each and includes a private lesson on Wine Pairing Tickets. This is being sponsored by the SIPA student United Nations Studies Working Group. For details, including exact location, please contact Kode Nascimento, at Email: kjn2107@columbia.edu.

4/20/09 NYC: Global Finance Crisis and Emerging Markets: Impact and Outlook

The SIPA Finance Club and the Institute of Latin American Studies invite alumni to attend a seminar on “Global Finance Crisis and Emerging Markets: Impact and Outlook” with Joyce Chang, (CC '86), Managing Director and Global Head of Emerging Markets and Credit Research at J.P. Morgan Chase. The event will be held on Monday, April 20, 2009 from 6 - 8pm at Columbia University in [Philosophy Hall, Room 301](#). The seminar will be followed by a cocktail reception. Please [click here to register](#).

4/23/09 London, UK: First 100 Days of the Obama Presidency

The alumni clubs of Columbia, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Sciences Po and Tufts are collaborating on the fifth international affairs event, themed around the first 100 days of the presidency of Barack Obama (CC' 83). For details, click [here](#).

4/23/09 NYC: Ninth Annual Global Leadership Awards Dinner

The Awards Dinner will be held at the **Mandarin Oriental** (6:30pm reception, 7:30pm dinner and awards). The following honorees will be present: **Christiane Amanpour**, CNN's Chief International Correspondent; **Arminio Fraga**, Founder of Gávea Investments and former President of the Central Bank of Brazil; and the **New America Foundation**, a nonpartisan public policy institute that invests in individuals who bring promising new ideas and direction to our national debate. Alumni who purchase seats or tables at the dinner will receive free registration to SIPA's Alumni Day, to be held on the Columbia campus Saturday, April 25 (see details below). For more information, click [here](#).

4/25/09 NYC: The First Annual SIPA Alumni Day on the Columbia University Campus

We look forward to spending Alumni Day with you! Registration will be free for alumni who have purchased a seat at the Ninth Annual Global Leadership Awards Dinner on Thursday, April 23. For more information on the day, click [here](#).

4/30/09 - 5/1/09 NYC: Workshop in Development Practice – Final Presentations

Alumni are invited to view student teams' presentations of work accomplished as part of SIPA's Workshop in Development Practice. For more information, click [here](#).

5/18-19 & 10/6-7 NYC: Workshops on Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Effective Business Communication.

The Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR), in partnership with Consensus, is now offering executive workshops in negotiation, conflict resolution, and effective business communication. The interactive two-day courses, which satisfy CPE and CLE requirements, address the specific challenges posed by an international and cross-cultural marketplace. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

Alumni Career Programs & Events

4/16/09 NYC: Cracking the Code to Enter the Hidden Job Market

10-11 AM (ET)

Debra Feldman, Executive Talent Agent, Job Search Expert, www.JobWhiz.com

Join us for this tele-seminar with Debra Feldman, the JobWhiz, who will provide critical advice for those currently in the job market as well as anyone contemplating career change. For more information, click [here](#).

SIPAlink

SIPA's Office of Career Services (OCS) is proud to introduce **SIPAlink**, an online recruitment database! Follow the links below for online job and internship postings, employer information sessions, and much more. Some recent jobs are highlighted below. Register to find out more:
<https://www.myinterfase.com/cusipa/student/>.

Some recently advertise jobs are listed below:

The **U.S. Department of the Treasury** is currently seeking Jr.- and Sr.-level applicants who have specific experience in the specializations listed below. Applicants should review the needed skills and determine which position or positions best match their experience.

The Department of Treasury is hiring in the following areas:

Banking or Finance Attorneys, Risk Management, Compliance, Equity Analysis, Financial Institution Analysis, Asset Management, Contract Management / Paralegal Support, Economic Analysis, Community Affairs Specialists, Policy Advisor for Housing or Community Development

Capital Planning and Budget Manager, *The American Museum of Natural History* (NYC)

Please see **SIPAlink** for more detailed descriptions and application instructions.

Recent Alumni Events

3/4/09 NYC: The Financial Crisis -The Government's Response and Next Steps

The current financial crisis and the role of government was discussed by experts with experience in both the private and public sector. To view video of this event, click [here](#).

3/17/09 Tokyo, Japan: CU Club of Japan meets with SIPA students

The CU Club of Japan met with current SIPA students who were on an academic trip to Japan. Over 55 students met with alumni at a reception held at the University of Tokyo. Prospective SIPA students were also invited to attend the reception.

3/26/09 France: Talk with SIPA Professor Robert Lieberman

Robert [Lieberman](#), Professor of political science and public affairs at Columbia University and SIPA, spoke with alumni in Paris on “Obama and Comparisons to FDR and the New Deal.”

3/26/09 D.C.: Networking Drinks with Alumni and Newly Admitted 2009 SIPA Students

SIPA Alumni Director Daniela Coleman met with over 50 alumni and SIPA prospective students for happy hours drinks at the Capitol City Brewing Company in Washington, DC.

4/6/09 NYC: SIPA Policy Forum Sponsored by Dr. Susan Aurelia Gitelson

SIPA alumni gathered to hear Ambassador Donald Blinken on the “The Role of the Ambassador in International Relations.” The event was held at the Columbia University Club of NY.

Alumni Notes

Have you logged onto [Alumni Connection](#) yet to update your [class note](#)? What are you waiting for! All you need is your UNI and Password. (If you forgot them, you can access them [here](#).) Below are some recent postings. Post your note today and stay connected with more than 15,000 alumni in 155 countries.

Stephen Clapp, (International & Public Affairs, 1966)

Stephen Clapp has published *Africa Remembered*, an illustrated memoir of his Peace Corps tour in Nigeria and travels home through Central and East Africa, based on letters and color slides lovingly preserved over four decades. “I was privileged to witness this time of transition between colonial empires and fledgling nation-states,” he writes in an introduction. Hard copies are available at www.lulu.com.

Shagun Mehrotra (International & Public Affairs 2006)

Shagun Mehrotra recently published *Bankruptcy to Billions: How the Indian Railways Transformed*, (co-authored with Sudhir Kumar, adviser to the Minister of Railways). Shagun is a faculty fellow pursuing doctoral studies at Columbia University This book is a preliminary version of his more comprehensive dissertation that explores the conditions under which state-owned enterprises improve infrastructure services developing countries. He graduated from SIPA in 2006, prior to which he worked with the World Bank on infrastructure reforms in Africa. His advice has been sought by The Gates Foundation among others. With NASA research scientists at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Shagun is crafting a global institutional structure for a programmatic approach to incorporate climate risk into city development.

Giving to SIPA

Through contributions to SIPA’s Annual Fund, donations for student fellowships, or participation in SIPA’s annual global leadership awards dinner, you can help to foster the link between academic excellence and the practice of public policy that makes SIPA unique. For information on how you can contribute to SIPA’s mission, please visit: http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/about_sipa/giving_to_sipa.html.

Create a lasting contribution by making a donation to SIPA today!

Visit: <https://giving.columbia.edu/giveonline/>

1. Select ‘School of International and Public Affairs’ from the drop-down menu.
2. Select ‘Annual Fund’ for the purpose of your gift.

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