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Dear SIPA Alumni,

As you may know, SIPA's independence from the Arts & Sciences became official as of July 1st 2009. (For more details, click [here](#).) As a result of this new status, the School will now be able to establish its own priorities in recruiting faculty, setting enrollment targets, and developing new programs, but will still maintain its strong intellectual ties to the university's social science departments and to the regional institutes.

While the School has been making the academic and administrative changes needed for its independence, Alumni Relations is using the summer months to strategize and develop numerous programming initiatives for the 2009-2010 academic year, with particular emphasis on career management. Look for our programming schedule in the fall.

As we get down to work, we wish you a relaxing summer holiday and hope to see you in September.

Best wishes,
SIPA Alumni Relations

News at SIPA

Honduras: Coup or Defense of the Constitution?

SIPA Dean John Coatsworth comments on the leadership crisis in Honduras via podcast. [More](#).

Have You Joined SIPA's Facebook Page Yet?

Alumni are invited to become a fan of SIPA's Facebook page. Our page offers news and information from the School; links to videos, podcasts, and publications; and updates on students, alumni, faculty, and staff. See: <http://www.facebook.com/Columbia.SIPA>.

Want your personal and professional information to be updated to Columbia via Facebook? Click [here](#) to upload the application.

Swati Desai Joins SIPA from NYC

Swati Desai was appointed as Associate Professor of Practice and will teach management courses in SIPA's new core curriculum, which emphasizes practical management skills along with rigorous social

science analysis. Desai served in a variety of positions with the City of New York's Human Resources Administration, most recently as Executive Deputy Commissioner of Evaluation and Research. [More](#).

SIPA Alumnus To Be Nominated Ambassador to Tunisia

Gordon Gray (MIA '82) is expected to be nominated by President Barack Obama as Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia. Gray most recently served as Senior Advisor to the Ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq from June 2008 – May 2009. [More](#).

Highlights of Upcoming Events and Programs

SIPA alumni events will resume in the fall. Enjoy the summer and stay tuned. In the meantime, check out what your local CAA Club has programmed over the summer by clicking [here](#).

Alumni Career Programs & Events

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/>.

- Program Director, Peace and Security Program, Rockefeller Brothers Fund (NYC)
- International Government Relations Officer (Asia), METLIFE, (Washington, DC)
- Program Development Officer, Visions in Action, (Arusha, Tanzania)

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

8/6/09 NY: [CDS International](#) will hold a joint information session on the [Alfa Fellowship Program](#) in Russia and the [Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program](#) in Germany. The event will be held at CDS International, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, 2nd Floor, from 12-1pm. To RSVP, please contact: alfa@cdsintl.org.

Recent Alumni Events

6/29/09 NY: A candid conversation about the U.S. Foreign Service with **Robert William Dry** Diplomat-in-Residence, U.S. Department of State

6/30/09 Washington, DC: Discussion with Ambassador Husain Haqqani on Pakistan: "On the Fragile Border of War and Peace" at the Pakistani Embassy in DC

7/16/09 Shanghai, China: Breakfast meeting and discussion on Corporate Social Responsibility with SIPA Professor [Jenik Radon](#).

7/19/09 Madrid, Spain: Professor Joseph Stiglitz meets CU/SIPA alumni over drinks. Click here for [pictures](#).

7/23/09 NY: CIA National Clandestine Service information sessions for SIPA alumni.

7/27/09 London: CU/SIPA alumni host breakfast meeting with Professor Joseph Stiglitz.

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 16,000 alumni in 155 countries.

Lisa (Balter) Balter Saacks (MIA 1995) recently accepted a position at Second Market located in New York, NY as VP Strategic Partnerships. Lisa recently was employed at The Deal as VP Publisher. "After many years in the financial media world, I shifted back into finance with an up and coming firm, Second Market. Our company brings together buyers and sellers in the largest centralized, independent marketplace and auction platform for illiquid assets. I'm in charge of developing strategic partnerships. Would enjoy getting in touch with those in the industry and reconnecting with alumni."

Aaron Ernst (MIA 2008) writes, "Since graduation, I have been working as an Associate Producer on PBS-Frontline, creating multimedia features for PBS [WIDE ANGLE](#). WIDE ANGLE was created in 2001 as a response to the lack of in-depth international news coverage in the United States. A recent story I produced focused on the annual American Druze Society convention, a weeklong affair in Washington, D.C. where over 500 Druze from all across America and as far away as Lebanon gather to worship, study, and more importantly, to socialize. Click [here](#) for details.

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.

Despite the troubles in the economy, this past year has been a record year for SIPA's Annual Fund with 1,188 gifts totaling \$387,439; this amounts to more than a 10% increase in the number of gifts as compared with last year. One hundred percent of donations to the SIPA Annual Fund support student fellowships for talented and deserving students. Thank you for helping to make last year the most successful fundraising year for the Annual Fund.

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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