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Alumni eNews – March 2009

Dear SIPA Alumni,

The first ever **SIPA Alumni Day** (4/25/09) is less than two months away and seating is limited! The event, to be held on the Columbia University Campus, will kick start with a breakfast, followed by panel discussions focusing on the Obama Administration's domestic agenda and foreign and security policy challenges. In addition to policy panels, alumni will have the opportunity to attend workshops on career transitions and market trends. The day will end with a lunch in the Faculty Room of Low Library. (You can find out more [here](#).) This is a great way to meet your fellow classmates and reconnect with faculty. Don't forget to sign up.

In response to the current economic crisis, SIPA Alumni Relations, working with the Office of Career Services, will continue to help alumni explore employment options in this difficult economy. The recent career event "Career Transition: A Proactive Approach" held in NYC on February 23rd can be accessed soon from the SIPA website.

In addition, if you happen to be in the NYC area, come hear representatives from the United Nations' Political Affairs Department on March 10th or the National Clandestine Service of the CIA on March 12th speak to alumni about employment opportunities in their respective organizations. (Details below)

Best wishes,

Daniela Coleman
Director of Alumni Relations, SIPA

News at SIPA

Joseph Stiglitz and José Antonio Ocampo have been appointed to the new Commission of Experts of the President of the United Nations General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System. Professor Stiglitz will serve as the chair. The Commission will seek to identify broad principles for the reforms needed to ensure global economic progress. [More](#)

Kemal Dervis To Teach a Course on Global Economic Governance

Following the conclusion of his tenure as head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kemal Dervis will co-teach a course next semester with José Antonio Ocampo. Dervis will be a fellow of the Committee on Global Thought during the 2009 – 2010 academic year. [More](#)

SIPA's Capstone Workshops Are Currently Accepting Proposals for Spring 2010

The capstone workshops allow teams of SIPA students in their final semester to engage in consulting assignments under faculty supervision with a select group of client organizations in the public, nonprofit or private sectors. Interested in getting your organization involved? For more information, click [here](#) or contact Program Coordinator Suzanne Hollmann at: sph2103@columbia.edu

The Morningside Post Announces Launch of New Site

[The Morningside Post](#), the community blog for Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, has announced the launch of its new website. The student managed site features unique perspectives from nearly 100 SIPA students, faculty and alumni and is read in more than 100 countries around the globe. Check it out [here](#).

Columbia Alumni Arts League (CAAL)

Would you like to receive discounts to more than 60 cultural organizations and attend exclusive cultural events with fellow alumni? CAAL members enjoy benefits and discounts at more than 60 New York City cultural institutions, connect with fellow Columbians and artists through exclusive arts events, and stay informed about the arts while supporting the arts at Columbia. To find out more, click [here](#).

Highlights of Upcoming Events and Programs

3/17/2009 NYC: Invite to the Inaugural MDG Awards Launch Event, UN (6:30pm)

SIPA Alumni are invited to attend the first Inaugural MDG Awards Launch Event to be held at the United Nations' General Assembly Hall. The Lifetime Achievement Award" will be given to Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This event is free. For more details including registration, please visit <http://www.ersvp.com/r/mdgawards> . (Please RSVP by **March 10th**. Photo ID is required.)

3/19/09 London: Inter-Ivy Drinks Social at the Old Crown Public House

The CUCL is hosting the third inter-Ivy drinks social (cash bar) at the Old Crown Public House, 33 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1BH (Tube: Tottenham Court Road, Holborn) from 6:30pm onwards. Look for reserved space on the first and second floors. Click [here](#) for map and details.

3/19 NYC: Gallery Reception for SIPA Alumna Lillian Alonzo 2002

SIPA alumni are invited to attend a gallery reception for fellow alumna Lillian Alonzo on March 19th from 6:00-9:00pm at **Shop Talk and Art Gallery**, (35 Lafayette Avenue, Fort Greene, Brooklyn, across the street from BAM. Phone: 718 498 5330) Lillian's artwork can be viewed [here](#) and at her [website](#).

3/20/09 Beijing: Celebrate the Launch of the Columbia Global Center in Beijing

President Lee C. Bollinger, Dean John Coatsworth, and distinguished faculty invite you to two panels and an alumni reception to celebrate the launch of the Columbia Global Center in Beijing. [More](#)

3/23/09 Amman: A Day of Conversations and Panels on the Middle East

Join Provost Alan Brinkley, Dean John Coatsworth, Professor Rashid Khalidi, and other distinguished faculty and alumni for a day of conversations and panels on topics about the Middle East and the World at the new Columbia Global Center in Amman. A day trip to Petra is offered the following day. [More](#)

3/24/09 London: CUCL – I-House Quiz Night.

Join fellow Columbians and I-House alumni at 7:00pm for the second quiz night at the Morpeth Arms (Upstairs), 58 Millbank, London SW1P 4RW (Tube/BR: Pimlico, Vauxhall). To register, click [here](#).

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

Join fellow DC alumni from 6:30-8:30pm for networking drinks at the Capital City Brewery Company (2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC). Recently admitted prospective SIPA students living in the DC area have been invited to meet alumni. Let's help convince them to accept admission at SIPA for 2009!

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

Robert [Lieberman](#), Professor of political science and public affairs at Columbia University and SIPA, will speak to alumni in Paris on “Obama and comparisons to FDR and the New Deal.” The talk will be on Thursday, March 26th at Reid Hall at 7:30pm. For more details including registration, please click [here](#).

3/27/09 United Arab Emirates: Kick Off the CAA Club of the United Arab Emirates

Come meet your fellow alumni in Dubai with a networking reception. Visit the club [webpage](#) for more information and find out how to become a member.

4/2/09 Egypt: The Columbia University Club of Egypt inaugural Event in Cairo

For more information and to become a member, click [here](#).

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

Talk with Ambassador Donald Blinken on the "The Role of the Ambassador in International Relations." The forum will take place at the Columbia University Club (25 West 43rd Street) from 6:30 – 8:30pm (Talk from 6:30 - 7:30pm with reception to follow). For registration 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 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 (Click [here](#) for details). For more information on the day, click [here](#).

4/30/09 – 5/1/09 NYC: Workshop in Development Practice – Final Presentations, SIPA.

Alumni are invited to view student teams' presentations of work accomplished as part of SIPA's Workshop in Development Practice. The students worked with clients in over twenty countries on innovative projects involving the intersection of international development with human rights, corporate social responsibility, humanitarian affairs, sustainability, entrepreneurship and media. For more information, contact Jenny McGill (em419@columbia.edu) or Melissa Giblock (mg2944@columbia.edu)

Alumni Career Programs & Events

3/10/09 NYC: United Nations Information Session for Alumni , 7:00-8:00pm, IAB 1501

Come hear Karina Gerlach (MIA 1982), Chief, Office of the Under-Secretary-General Department of Political Affairs, speak about new opportunities at the United Nations for mid-career professionals in political affairs. The talk will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 from 7-8pm, at IAB 1501 (SIPA 15th Floor, 420 West 118 Street, New York, NY). To register, please click [here](#) with event title keyword “**United Nations' Recruiting**.”

3/12/09 NYC: CIA Information Session for Business Professionals, 404 IAB 6:30 -8:30pm

Alumni are invited to attend a candid and informative presentation/discussion with officers of the National Clandestine Service (NCS) from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and learn about full-time career opportunities. The session is being held at SIPA in Room 404 IAB from 6:30-8:30pm. To register, please click [here](#) and type event title keyword “**NCS**.”
(*Only US Citizens, Dual US Citizens, and US Permanent Residents are eligible to attend.)

3/18/09 NYC: Job Search Techniques: Make Yourself Stand Out in the Crowd

In this small-group workshop, alumni participants will learn how to jump-start their job search with a dynamic resume and powerful cover letter. The workshop will be held from 6:00 – 9:00pm at Columbia’s Center for Career Education (East Campus, Lower Level Conference Room). For more information, click [here](#).

3/31/09 NYC: Finding Balance: Career Options for Current and Future Parents

This workshop, to be held on Tuesday, March 31, 6:00-9:00pm, allows parents to explore various career options and work arrangements that are more conducive to raising children. For more information, click [here](#).

The New York City Career Series

Alumni are invited to attend the series, which is organized by SIPA’s Office of Career Services. (OCS) The series is a means to inform students and alumni of career opportunities in the New York City area. For more information, see [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/>.

- Managing Director, Policy and Advocacy, **Amnesty International**
- Senior Policy Analyst, **New York City Council**
- Climate Fellow, **Clean Air-Cool Planet**

Recent Alumni Events

2/19/2009: 5th Annual SIPA NYC Career Conference Reception

More than 100 Alumni attended a networking reception with students as part of the 5th Annual SIPA NYC Career Conference, held at Studio 450.

2/23/09: “Career Transition: A Proactive Approach” with Ellis Chase - NYC

To meet the challenges of this difficult economy, SIPA Alumni Relations and the Office of Career Services held a Career Transition Session for New York alumni with career management consultant [Ellis Chase](#). For those who were not able to attend the sold-out event at the Eurasia Group, can be viewed shortly on the SIPA website (www.sipa.columbia.edu).

2/27/09: IMC Alumni Reunion Dinner with Acting Director Anya Schiffrin

More than 40 alumni recently met over dinner at the home of Anya Schiffrin, acting director of the International Media and Communications Concentration. Former IMC director Pete Johnston was on hand to share stories and hear updates from alumni. A special thanks to Anya for hosting the group.

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.

Katherine Metres (International & Public Affairs, 1997) writes, "I joined the International WOW Company as an actress in the fall of 2008. I played an Arabic-speaking Iraqi woman whose home is invaded by U.S. troops in *Surrender*, a simulated war deployment experience in three acts. My performance was noted by the *Wall Street Journal*. Prior to becoming a professional actress, I was a diplomat and human rights professional."

Basil Smikle (EMPA, 1996) recently joined Mayor Bloomberg's re-election campaign as a Democratic strategist., A former top aide to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Mr. Smikle is the founder of Basil Smikle Associates, a full-service consulting interest based in New York. His firm relies on his political and policy background as well as comprehensive partnerships with individuals across the country to provide a one-stop shop for political strategy, policy analysis, and government affairs. The firm also provides comprehensive public relations strategies in difficult political and media environments. He has consulted on a number of campaigns in New York State and elsewhere in the country.

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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