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Over 700 degrees were conferred at SIPA's Graduation on Saturday, May 14, bringing SIPA's alumni network to 18,000 strong. Speaker Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General turned SIPA Global Fellow and international spokesperson for a peaceful, democratic society, urged graduates to "be engaged, active, and value-driven citizens in everything you do" and "to maintain this optimism that change is possible." To watch Annan's full speech, click [here](#).

The summer months provide a great opportunity for our newest alumni to meet their fellow graduates. Whether mingling in Washington, D.C., or Hong Kong, SIPA's alumni network is global, robust and active. (A full list of Columbia Clubs can be found [here](#).)

Be sure to stay connected, either virtually ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), or our [SIPA Global Connection Alumni Database](#)), or through our alumni events around the world, or both.

Wishing you a great summer,

SIPA Office of Alumni Affairs

News at SIPA

Congratulations to the Class of 2011!

SIPA sent more than 700 graduates out into the world to change it for the better on Saturday, May 14. Graduation speaker Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General and SIPA Global Fellow, reminded departing students that their new diploma carries big responsibilities: "It is a responsibility to apply the knowledge you have gained and the analytical skills you have learned to help find and deliver the solutions to improve lives, extend opportunities, and serve your communities." [More](#)

SIPA Graduate is Columbia Alumni Medalist

SIPA congratulates Jian Ni "Nina" Sun (MIA '01) on being awarded the Columbia Alumni Medal at the 2011 University Commencement. The Alumni Medal is the highest honor bestowed by the Columbia Alumni Association for distinguished service to the University. Sun is co-founder of Sunnybund Consulting, Inc., a public relations agency in Shanghai, China. [More](#)

Crisis Mapping: Making a Difference

SIPA students are leading the way in using mobile technology to help disaster victims around the world. PBS featured SIPA's New Media Task Force for its groundbreaking work after the earthquakes in Japan, Haiti and Chile, and devastating flooding in Pakistan. Student volunteers gather reports from social media or text messages, and plot the locations to an online map for relief workers. [More](#)

LISTEN: SIPA Expert Discusses the Future of the IMF

Adjunct professor Irene Finel-Honigman spoke with Bloomberg News' Kathleen Hays about the International Monetary Fund and the bid by French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde to replace Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Download the podcast [here](#).

SIPA Grads Go Green with Alternative Energy Fund

Can financial markets protect the world from climate change? That's a question alumni Nao Minami and Patrick Kim pondered during much of their time at SIPA. Just a year after graduating, Minami and a business partner are growing an investment fund to develop alternative energy projects, with Kim as business development manager. The fund, Green Street Energy, finances solar energy systems on small commercial buildings and recently completed its first project on the roof of a Hawaiian hotel. [More](#)

Dawn of Democracy in Tunisia and Egypt

Former SIPA Dean Alfred Stepan, recently back from Egypt and Tunisia, shared his observations on the democratic transitions: "...for almost 40 years, not a single Arab-majority country has been classified as a democracy, so a democratic transition in either Tunisia or Egypt (or elsewhere in the region) would be of immense importance for the entire Arab world." [More](#)

Highlights of Upcoming Events and Programs

6/15/11 D.C.: Networking Event at the James Hoban Restaurant and Bar - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Come join fellow SIPA alumni for a networking event at the [James Hoban's Restaurant and Bar](#) at 1 Dupont Circle and welcome members of the recently graduated Class of 2011. Register with keyword "DC Networking Event" [here](#). Complimentary food and drink tickets (on a first come, first serve basis) will be given to alumni.

6/29/11 D.C.: Policy Forum at the University Club of Washington, D.C. - 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

You are invited to a SIPA Policy Forum evening lecture and reception with Robert Kopech (MBA/MIA '77), Group Chief Risk Officer for The World Bank. He will speak on "Market Efficiency: Myth, Mendacity, and Misguided Management." His talk will be followed by a reception. As space is limited, registration is required. For details, click [here](#).

Alumni Career Programs & Events

The Office of Career Services (OCS) is dedicated to providing lifelong services to SIPA's alumni. OCS offers several resources specifically designed to meet your career development needs, including: job postings on SIPALink, SIPA's online job database; career resources online and in the office; individual career counseling by appointment; and the SIPA LinkedIn page.

Register on SIPAlink to search for recently posted jobs or to learn more information about career events open to alumni. To register, please click [here](#):

Some recently posted jobs include:

- Director of Social Marketing, [IMIFAP](#), Mexico City, Mexico (Job ID 35460)
- Development Director, *Human Rights Watch*, Geneva, Switzerland (Job ID 35506)
- Program Manager, *Witness*, Cairo, Egypt (Job ID 35462)

Have you joined the SIPA LinkedIn Group Yet?

With almost 3,000 members, this is a great way to network with SIPA alumni and students. If you have a LinkedIn profile, please join us [here](#).

SIPA Alumni Career Development Webinar Program: “Salary Negotiations: For the Job Search and on the Job”

If you missed this informative webinar on May 6, you may view it [here](#). The Alumni Career Development Webinar series brings informative speakers directly to SIPA alumni several times during the academic year. Recorded webinars may be found at the link above and upcoming webinars may be found on the SIPAlink calendar and in upcoming Alumni newsletters.

6/22/11: Webinar: Beyond the Basics: Taking LinkedIn to the Next Level Meet via Webinar Platform – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET)

Columbia University’s Center for Career Education Staff

Perhaps you joined our April 2011 webinar (LinkedIn 101) or have naturally mastered the basic tools that LinkedIn offers through general use. Participate in this seminar to take one step further...what are some of the less obvious features on LinkedIn and how can you better use them to benefit your career? We will build on the basics that are reviewed in the previous month’s presentation. To access the LinkedIn 101 webinar, please click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Recent Alumni Events

5/19/11 NYC: SIPA Networking Event at the Boat Basin

Over 100 alumni joined recent graduates at the Boat Basin in NYC to welcome them to the SIPA alumni community.

6/9/11 NYC: EMPA Spring Fling

EMPA alumni and recent graduates mingled and caught up at Lady Mendls in New York City.

Alumni Notes

Have you logged onto SIPA’s Global Connection Alumni Directory 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 18,000 alumni in 153 countries.

Joe Feuer (MIA 1991) is currently the Executive Director of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Society for International Development (SID), a not-for-profit global forum of individuals and institutions committed to advancing equitable development by bringing diverse constituencies together to debate critical ideas, policies, and practices that will shape our global future. From July 29-31, SID-Washington will host the 2011 SID World Congress. For details, click [here](#).

Michael Sharpe (MIA 2001) is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at York College/CUNY. Dr. Sharpe's areas of specialization are comparative politics and international relations and his research interests include looking comparatively at globalization, the politics of international migration, immigrant political incorporation, and political transnationalism.

Giving to SIPA

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

Make your gift count in this fiscal year and donate by June 31, 2011!

Through contributions to SIPA's Annual Fund, donations for student fellowships, or participation in SIPA's annual Global Leadership Awards Dinner, you can help strengthen the link between academic excellence and the practice of public policy that makes SIPA unique. For information on how to further SIPA's mission, please click [here](#).

SIPA would like to also acknowledge Reed D. Auerbach (IF '81, MIA '82, JD '85) and his wife Adrienne for their endowed gift to the International Fellows Program. Auerbach, a Partner at the law firm Bingham McCutchen, spent five years at Columbia, both at SIPA and Columbia Law School, where he was involved in the International Fellows Program - first, as an International Fellow, and later as a teaching assistant to Dean Robert Randle. "The most rewarding part of the International Fellows Program was its interdisciplinary approach, which gave me the opportunity to interact with wonderful students from so many different graduate programs at Columbia," says Auerbach. "My wife Adrienne and I believe that the best and brightest students at Columbia should have the opportunity to take advantage of the International Fellows Program without regard to their ability to pay. We hope that our endowed fellowship fund will help in some small way towards this goal." For more information on the International Fellows Program, click [here](#).

To make contributions to SIPA's Annual Fund, 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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