

SIPA

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



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Alumni eNews – June 2008

Dear SIPA Alumni,

SIPA held its graduation on May 19th with SIPA alumnus and Pulitzer winner [Steve Fainaru](#) (MIA 1994) as the keynote speaker. Fainaru provided moving first-hand accounts of his experiences covering the war in Iraq, as well as personal insights to the Class of 2008 as they begin their post-SIPA careers.

Although the academic year is coming to a close, we encourage you to stay in touch. The DC and NYC groups will host happy hour events to help keep alumni cool over the summer.

Best wishes,
Daniela Coleman
SIPA Director of Alumni Relations

News at SIPA

Check out the latest *SIPA News*!

The Spring 2008 issue of *SIPA News* is here and in the mail! To view the magazine, please visit: http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/about_sipa/sipa_publications/sipa_news.html

Have you filled out the SIPA Trajectory Survey yet?

In April, SIPA launched a trajectory survey to get feedback from alumni on kinds of programming that would be most interesting and useful for alumni, including continuing education programs. Strong response rates are critical for planning for future resources for alumni. To give us your input, please see:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB227HHSYVNB2>



Participant in SIPA Executive Education program interviewed on CNN Heroes May 29th.

Ms. Phymean Noun, Executive Director of [People Improvement Organization](#) in Cambodia (PIO) and participant in SIPA's Southeast Asia Fellows Program (2005) has been nominated as a [CNN Hero](#). A clip interview with her on her work offering assistance and education, health care, and nutrition to reduce the level of poverty of underprivileged women and children in Cambodia, can be seen by visiting:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/05/29/heroes.noun/>. We wish Phymean good luck in winning votes and continued success in her vital work.

Andrea Bubula Granted Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching

Andrea Bubula, a long standing popular member of the faculty at SIPA, was selected as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching. For more information, please see:

http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/archive.html

Richard W. Bulliet —Three Decades of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Middle East Institute (MEI) and SIPA presented the fifth and final lecture in the spring 2008 series—**"Three Decades of the Islamic Republic of Iran,"** with Richard W. Bulliet, Professor of History, Columbia University. To view the video of the event, please visit:
http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/multimedia/index.html

A Panel Discussion—Emerging Markets and the Subprime Crisis

The Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM) presented a panel entitled, **"Emerging Markets and the Subprime Crisis: A Critical Look at India, Latin America and Transition Economies,"** with Chair Guillermo Calvo. To view the video of the event, please visit:
http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/multimedia/index.html

Zbigniew Brzezinski —US Foreign Policy: Beyond 2008

The Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies (SIWPS) presented The Third Annual Saltzman Forum with Zbigniew Brzezinski, 10th U.S. National Security Advisor 1977-1981. To view the video of the event, please visit:
http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/multimedia/index.html

QUIPASA SIPA Student Associates Invites Alumni to Meet

Queers of International and Public Affairs invites all LGBT SIPA alumni to participate in creating an advisory board that will oversee the longevity, stability and vision of QUIPASA. For more details on advisory board roles, and/or to keep informed of events, please contact Nathan Williams at nlw2113@columbia.edu

Upcoming Events and Programs

6/5: SIPA NYC Happy Hour

Come join fellow SIPA alumni and the recent 2008 SIPA graduation class for happy hour drinks at **Providence** starting at 6:30pm. Food and drink tickets (**on a first come first serve basis**) will be given complimentary to alumni who register. Please RSVP with keyword "Happy Hour in NYC" in the Event Title line at: <http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/ALUM/register/>


6/11: CUCL hosts Robert Kasdin, Senior Executive Vice President of CU

CU Club of London invites you to hear Robert Kasdin, Senior Executive Vice President of Columbia University, discuss key issues at Columbia.
For more information, please see:
<https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/COU/events/COU2159666.html>

6/11: CAA Program/Reception on Human Rights

Join fellow alumni at the 2nd Annual CAA Spring Faculty Program and Reception on Human Rights featuring law school professors Sarah H. Cleveland and Peter Rosenblum presenting **"Human Rights: Unexpected Disasters, Surprising Successes - A Conversation with Columbia Human Rights Faculty & Alumni,"** at **The Morgan Library on Wednesday, June 11th at 6:00 pm.** For more information regarding the event, please visit:
<http://calendar.columbia.edu/sundial/webapi/get.php?vt=detail&id=22632&con=embedded&br=uar>

6/19: Ambassador Richard Jones to speak on *Progress of the Peace Process* in Israel

 The Columbia University Club of Israel and Oxford University's Said Business School invites you for a reception and remarks in Tel Aviv with Ambassador Richard Jones on **Thursday, June 19** at the **Hotel Dan Tel Aviv** starting 6pm. For more information, including to RSVP, please visit:
http://alumni.columbia.edu/newsletter/ebm/israel_june2008.html

6/23: SIPA NYC ISP Dinner with Campaign Strategist Robert Shrum

The SIPA ISP Alumni Network invites you to a dinner with Democratic campaign strategist Robert Shrum to discuss "**The Race to the White House: Campaign Politics and Foreign Policy**," at **Restaurant Trattoria Dopo Teatro**. The price is \$35 prix fixe for SIPA alumni / \$50 for non-SIPA (Tax & gratuity included. Cash only.) To RSVP, send an email to Sharon Roling at ser2005@columbia.edu



6/25-29: Columbia Economists Host 15th World Congress of the International Economic Association in Istanbul, Turkey

[Guillermo Calvo](#), SIPA Professor of International and Public Affairs and President of the International Economic Association, will host the 15th World Congress of the IEA jointly with the Turkish Economic Association, TEA, in Istanbul Turkey. For more information, see: <http://www.iea-tek2008istanbul.org/MainThemes.aspx>

Alumni Career Programs & Events

OCS transitioning to a new online recruiting system

During the month of June, OCS will be transitioning to a new online recruitment system to replace the current MonsterTRAK/SIPATRAK. The new system will be launched during the first week in **July**. In this new system, alumni will be able to view and apply for positions as you have done in MonsterTrak.

When the upgrade is complete, **OCS** will send all alumni an email to let you know the new website address. If you had previously bookmarked OCS's site, you will no longer be able to use the old website address. Although your username and password will remain the same, you will need to re-upload your resume as well as other documents you had previously saved into the new system.

If you do not have your documents saved in another location, we urge you to log in **before June 30th**, download your resume, cover letter, writing samples etc. and save them to your computer. We are very excited about this transition and look forward to sharing with you more information in the upcoming weeks.

Please feel free to call OCS at 212.854.4613 or email at sipa_ocs@columbia.edu if you have any questions.

Alumni Career Development Tele-Seminar Series

6/18: Career Paths for Creative Types, 1-2 PM (ET), Tele-seminar (access by phone)
Hosted by the Columbia Center for Career Education, join Sharon Good, CC, Life, Career and Creativity Coach, (www.goodlifecoaching.com) for this informative seminar, to learn new strategies for navigating your creative career and come away inspired and energized! For more information, see: <https://calendar.columbia.edu/sundial/webapi/get.php?vt=detail&br=default&id=19824>

Highlights from Recent Alumni Events



5/29: SIPA Washington, DC Alumni Holiday Happy Hour

SIPA alumni in DC hosted a spring happy hour at the *Eighteenth Street Lounge*.

5/22: ISP Alumni Network Dinner Conversation "Crisis in the Middle East: Lebanon, Gaza and Iraq"

The SIPA ISP Alumni Network hosted an off-the-record dinner conversation on the ongoing crises in the Middle East with United Nations Advisor and Policy Coordinator Steven Siqueira at Restaurant Trattoria Dopo Teatro.

5/21: Columbia University Commencement 2008

University Commencement 2008 was held on Wednesday, May 21st on Morningside Campus.

5/21: Columbia University Club of London Event: “Race and Politics in the US Presidential Election”
CUCL hosted this topic discussion with Professor Rob Lieberman at the University’s Women’s Club in London. For more information, please visit: <http://alumniclubs.columbia.edu/london/newsevents.php>

5/21: Sovereign Wealth Funds: Conquerors or Saviors?

The Columbia Business School Alumni Club of NY collaborated with the DLA Piper of NY office to host this informative event of sovereign wealth fund and foreign direct investment in the United States.

5/17: Columbia of France & Columbia Alumni Association Happy Hour in Cannes

Columbia Club of France and CAA organized a special Happy Hour at the *Chokko* lounge bar in Cannes.

5/8: CORO New York’s Leadership New York Information Session

CORO New York’s Leadership New York hosted an information session hosted at the ING Group in the New York Central Building.

5/6: Women's Humanitarian Network (WHN) 2nd Annual Panel Discussion and Reception

WHN held a panel discussion, “**Playing the Game v. Changing the Game: Women's Leadership**,” at Columbia University’s Deutsches Haus.

5/5: Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Paris

Columbia University of France celebrated the holiday with other alumni from Columbia, Stanford and Harvard over Mexican food and margaritas.

Alumni Notes

Have you logged onto [Alumni Connection](#) yet to update your [class note](#)? What are you waiting for! All you will 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 over 14,000 alumni in 153 countries!

William Rigler (International & Public Affairs, 2004)

SIPA alumnus William (Bill) Rigler (**International & Public Affairs, 2004**) has been appointed as Chief of Staff of the Rockefeller Foundation. He most recently served concurrently as Chief of Staff to the CEO and as a Deputy Managing Director with Graying Global, an international firm specializing in corporate communications and government relations. Bill previously served as Chief of Staff to Geraldine Ferraro, the former Vice Presidential candidate, at the same firm. Prior to this, he spent three years as Executive Director at the Humpty Dumpty Institute. Earlier in his career, Bill worked for the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Bill has been a member of SIPA’s Alumni Council since 2007.

Scott Millstein (International & Public Affairs, 1995) SIPA Alumnus **Scott Millstein** has been appointed Executive Director of the Coro New York Leadership Center. Coro brings together leaders from government, corporate, media, labor and nonprofit sectors to encourage an open dialogue and help solve the city’s problems. Millstein has worked in public service for his entire professional career. Previously, he worked for 10 years in senior positions at Safe Horizon, the country’s leading victim assistance organization. Millstein also has worked as the Special Assistant to the Commissioner at the New York City Department of Homeless Services as well as at other NYC agencies, including the Mayors Office and the Parks Department.

Clifford Schechter (International & Public Affairs, 1999)

Cliff Schechter. (**International & Public Affairs, 1999**) released his first book, *The Real McCain: Why Conservatives Don't Trust Him and Why Independents Shouldn't*, on May 1, 2008. Due to pre-sales that began on Amazon.com in early April, the book shot up to #2 on Amazon's political books list and #15 on its non-fiction bestseller list within a week of its release. Schechter, who was a member of the International Media And Communications concentration while at SIPA, was also student-body president and a columnist for *Communique*. In the years since his graduation, he has worked as a political writer and advisor, and currently manages a popular campaign news site called Cliff Schechter's Campaign Silo and is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and Air America.com. You can purchase Cliff's book [here](#)

In Memoriam

Ing-ie Ava Shen (International & Public Affairs, MIA, 1996)

Ing-ie Ava Shen of Short Hills, NJ, April 21, sadly passed away of metastatic breast cancer at the age of 38. Ava was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan. She came to the United States at the age of 13 to attend St. Mark's School, a boarding school in Southborough, MA. She went on to get her bachelors in International Relations at Stanford. She received her Masters in International Affairs at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University. She worked for several years in market research at Roper Starch Worldwide and Jupiter Media Metrix before dedicating her time to her family as a full-time homemaker. She will be most remembered as a kind, generous, and loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend. She is survived by her husband David, son Oliver, parents Yang-Lien and Chu-Mei, and her sisters Ing-Nan and Judy.

Giving to SIPA

Through contributions to SIPA's annual fund, donations for student fellowships, or participation in SIPA's annual benefit 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://wwwb.ais.columbia.edu/udar/UDARGiftForm.jsp>

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

Ms. Roshma Azeem
SIPA's Development Office
420 West 118th Street
Mail Code 3328
1508 International Affairs Building
New York, New York 10027
212-854-0782
devsipa@columbia.edu