With this issue of SIPA News we address a variety of perspectives and issues that are uniquely and especially interesting to slightly more than half of the world’s population: women. From the dilemmas that face women in industrialized countries as they balance the demands of challenging workplaces and taxing family obligations to the heartbreaking ordeal of women trafficked as virtual slaves in developing and transitional economies, women face gender-related discrimination across policy arenas around the world. And yet, women also represent disproportionately important solutions to myriad problems as well. As mothers, they are health-care providers and teachers, better access to medical care and education for women has a significant multiplier effect. That is true in business as well. Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, recounted in a lecture at SIPA how women came to be the vast majority of the four million of his bank’s microfinance borrowers. Women tend to be community and family oriented, he suggested, leading them to invest in productive activities and pay back their loans.

SIPA has reason to focus on women. Not only was SIPA the first major policy school to appoint a woman as dean when I took office eight years ago, but nearly 60 percent of our current students are women. We count among our alumni distinguished women in many arenas, from one-time foreign ministers Madeleine Albright of the United States and Rosario Green of Mexico, to . . . well, let’s just take the class of 1968. Here in New York alone, the class of ’68 boasts Patricia Cloherty, a highly regarded investment banker, now running the U.S. Russia Investment Fund and dividing her time between New York and Moscow; Donna Kirchheimer, chair of the Political Science Department at Lehman College and author of a book about homelessness in New York; and Joan Spero, one-time American Express executive, undersecretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs, and now president of the New York–based Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Whether by exemplifying the variety of productive roles women can play in public life, training future generations of women, or conducting research on issues of particular concern to women, SIPA is committed to extending the horizons of the world’s women.

The articles here are but a small sampling of the activity that takes place in the International Affairs Building every year. I hope you find them both enlightening and tantalizing. There is more where this came from, as you know, and we would welcome your thoughts about both the magazine and the contents of this issue, as well as about our programs and activities. We hope that those of you who are in regular contact will let us know what you think and that the rest of you will be provoked to get in touch with us. We love to hear from SIPA’s friends and family.

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Dean
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Compiled by Arvin Bhatt

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On the cover: Mother and child, ville nouvelle, Fez, Morocco, July 2004. Credit: Lauren Gottlieb, MIA ’05, is concentrating in the Middle East and in International Security Policy.
Cleo.com

E-Commerce Empowers Egypt’s Women Entrepreneurs

By Angela Sapp
The Web site that pays homage to Egypt’s famous queen is officially known as the E-Business Support Center, a joint effort between the Women Business Development Center (WBDC) and the Scientific Association for Egyptian Women (SAEW). Supported by nearly 1.3 million Egyptian pounds ($210,000) of U.S. Agency for International Development funds administered through the Cairo-based Information and Communications Technology Program, the project encourages women entrepreneurs to use online technology to showcase, sell, and deliver their wares to customers throughout Egypt.

Project Manager Dr. El-Tobgui, one of the driving forces behind Cleo.com, and her team have already signed on 30 participants from Cairo and north Sinai, and project 250 women-owned businesses will be selling through the Web site by December 2005. The project targets women who run microfinance or small-size enterprises that produce items such as pottery, carpets, wooden handicrafts, jewelry, and women’s clothing. The site also caters to service providers such as bakers, salons, and florists. After paying a nominal membership fee, the women can upload up to 40 photographs of their products to be displayed on their own personalized link within Cleo.com.

A local shipping company works with the businesswomen to ensure that products purchased online reach customers easily and on time, and the Web site will offer online payment functionality. “Every woman will feel like she has her own online business,” says Nevine Sobhi, the project’s portal administrator.

Now in the final stages of development, Cleo.com is expected to launch by May 2005. In addition to serving as an online sales engine, the site will also include links to resources for aspiring female entrepreneurs, and Dr. El-Tobgui plans to offer virtual business training courses and an “online business consultant” feature to answer questions online. “Everybody has heard of the Internet,” she says, noting that even women in tiny, rural areas are talking about how to sell their wares online. “Of course, some of them worry that it won’t work, but most of these women are excited by this opportunity and are anxious to get started.” Once the women are registered on the site, Cleo.com staff will train them so that they can regularly update their online marketing materials on their own. “Our goal,” Dr. El-Tobgui explains, “is to help them bring their hidden, beautiful products out into the light.”

Assisting women to start and expand their own businesses is one of the key mandates of the National Council on Women (NCW). Founded in 2000 by a presidential decree and currently chaired by First Lady Suzanne Mubarak, the NCW seeks to improve the social and economic well-being of the approximately 34 million women in Egypt by operating programs such as the Women Business Development Center, itself a partnership effort between NCW and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The highest profile women’s empowerment initiative operating in Egypt today, the NCW established WBDC as a “one-stop shop” for businesswomen seeking training and resources in finance, marketing, and sales development. The WBDC, along with the Scientific Association of Egyptian Women, hatched the idea of an e-commerce portal as an effective, practical tool to help female entrepreneurs develop their businesses and gain greater financial independence.

Though Egyptian women received full legal rights in 1956, significant gender gaps still remain in education, employment, and political participation. World Bank data from the year 2000 indicates that 56 percent of Egyptian women over the age of 15 are illiterate, compared to 33 percent of males. Twenty-two percent of the female labor force is unemployed, a rate nearly 2.5 times greater than the overall unemployment rate of 9 percent. Though they are 49 percent of the population, women hold only 6 percent of the ministerial-level positions within the Egyptian government. The National Council on Women is trying to reduce these inequitable trends through WBDC programs such as Cleo.com, which empower women both socially and economically.

By introducing and subsidizing technology to female owners of micro- and small-size enterprises, particularly in rural areas, Egyptian women will have the opportunity to expand their businesses’ reach in ways previously unimaginable. The hope is that economic empowerment will also ultimately give these women a greater voice in the social and political arena. It is true that when compared to many other countries in the Middle East, Egypt is not an environment of pervasive or hostile gender discrimination. “However,” Dr. El-Tobgui quickly points out, “not all women understand their rights.” The goal is that projects such as Cleo.com will allow Egyptian women greater economic independence, which will in turn encourage them to demand a more prominent role in their homes and their communities.

“To be financially independent—this is very important,” she says. “This independence will allow them to say what they think, to not be afraid.”

Angela Sapp, MIA ’03, is currently senior program officer for Financial Services Volunteer Corps in Cairo.
DOMESTIC DEFENSE:
TEN YEARS OF PROGRESS WITH THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT
By Deirdre Downey

On a crisp fall day a little more than ten years ago, President Clinton signed the landmark Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) into law in a ceremony on the lawn of the White House. The act, which was subsumed under the enormous 1994 omnibus crime bill, received little fanfare. Yet, for the massive grassroots coalition of women's and antiviolence groups—who for four solid years ferociously battled for its passage alongside the bill’s lead sponsor, Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE)—VAWA’s inclusion was nothing short of remarkable. Finally, for the first time in the history of the United States, the nation had passed legislation to comprehensively address the problem of violence against women.

While some felt the bill did not reach as far as it should, few have been disappointed with the progress that’s been made since that day.

Right: A young son shows his mother’s bruises to the police. She received the injuries from a fight with her boyfriend. After he threw her behind the couch and choked her, she was able to call the police, have him arrested, and come down to the police station to speak with a Family Violence counselor.
Over the past decade, VAWA has infused states and localities with federal funding—more than $3.8 billion since 1995—to increase anti-violence efforts, establish more and better women’s shelters, improve treatment and support for victims, and reform the criminal justice system. When the bill was reauthorized in 2000, it extended its reach to cover immigrant women and established harsh consequences for those involved in the trafficking of women.

As funding for VAWA will expire later this year, women’s groups are fighting to maintain current funding levels in an already tight fiscal environment and under an administration that many feel is, at best, indifferent to women’s issues. Nevertheless, these groups are hopeful that Congress will maintain current funding levels and broaden the legislation to incorporate stronger prevention efforts.

THE IMPACT OF VAWA
During VAWA commemoration events held this past year, many women’s rights and antiviolence advocates have spoken of VAWA’s tremendously positive impact.

Their testimonials are clearly backed up by the numbers. Violent crimes against women were halved between 1993 and 2001, with fewer than 600,000 victims of nonfatal violent crimes in 2001, compared to about 1.1 million in 1993, according to a recent report released by Senator Biden’s office. The number of women killed by abusive husbands or boyfriends fell by 22 percent over the same period. At the same time, those who had been victims of domestic violence and rape became much more likely to report crimes. For instance, more than half of rape victims are now stepping forward and reporting these crimes to the authorities, while from 1993 to 1995 fewer than one-third reported their attacks.

Breaking through the silence surrounding violence has been one of the greatest triumphs of the act. In fact, overcoming the belief that violence against women was a “private” matter was a significant barrier that Senator Biden and other legislators faced when they initially took up the battle in Congress in 1989. “With the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, we started talking about that dirty little secret that no one wanted to say out loud,” Biden said at a commemoration event held this past October. “We transformed private ‘family matters’ into public crimes with true accountability and meaningful victim services.”

Under VAWA, stopping violence ceased to be merely the dilemma of the victim; instead, it became the responsibility of the state. Pat Reuss, a senior policy analyst with the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the lead lobbyist for VAWA, credits the act with transforming
the way state leaders and local law enforcement officials approach the problem. Under a grant program known as STOP (Services/Training/Officers/Prosecutors), communities develop educational programs to inform law enforcement officials and prosecutors about the realities of violence against women. These programs teach that domestic violence is a serious problem that should be dealt with seriously, instructing that the appropriate reaction is not, “This guy is a meathead; let’s have him take a walk around the block to cool off,” but, “This guy is a criminal; let’s arrest him.”

Federal and state courts’ responses have likewise been strengthened. VAWA permitted women to file cases against repeat sex offenders and those who violate orders of protection by crossing state lines in federal court, where the criminal penalties are harsher. Many states have used VAWA funds to set up special “Domestic Violence” courts, so that judges and lawyers become intimately familiar with oversight and prosecution of such cases. With greater continuity, courts can deliver more consistent and expeditious verdicts, and prosecutors and judges are better aware of repeat offenders.

WE’VE SEEN PROGRESS, BUT WE’RE NOT QUITE DONE YET: REAUTHORIZATION IN 2005

VAWA’s accomplishments have been significant, but much remains to be done.

Reuss, the senior policy analyst with NOW, suggests that VWA needs to shift gears from retroactively remediying the problem to actively preventing it. “An effective antiviolence effort can’t just be about Congress sending money out to battered women’s shelters,” she said. “We need to start much earlier.” She recommends setting up programs in the schools—from grade schools to up programs in the schools—from grade schools to start much earlier.” She recommends setting up programs in the schools—from grade schools to middle and high school curriculums cover comprehensive units on domestic violence and rape, many do not.

Senator Biden’s office is working with women’s and antiviolence groups to expand VAWA’s reach to cover prevention, but funding poses a major concern. “As Democrats, we are in the minority,” said Louisa Terrell, a Biden staffer who works on VAWA, “and the Republicans have a different perspective on what shape reauthorization should come in. The question is, ‘Should we reauthorize the act just as it stands right now or broaden its scope?’ The main struggle will be over the price tag.”

While the federal budget is as tight as it’s ever been in recent years, those truly interested in saving money should take heed: a cost-benefit analysis conducted by researchers with the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, found that money spent to reduce domestic violence saved nearly 10 times the potential costs incurred between 1995 and 2000. By spending $1.6 billion on VAWA, the federal government avoided spending an estimated $14.8 billion on medical, legal, and other victimization costs that arise from domestic violence. On an individual level, the act costs roughly $15.50 per woman in the United States and saves an estimated $159 for each.

Beyond the dollars, though, VAWA’s importance lies in saving the lives of women: friends, neighbors, mothers, sisters, and daughters.

IS VAWA ENOUGH?

Reuss stresses that VAWA is “not a miracle” and that violence against women will continue so long as segments of society continue to enable it. The media in particular, she believes, should play a more active role in ensuring that violence is wiped out. She applauds the work that Lifetime and other media outlets and celebrities have done to raise awareness of the problem.

Angela Shelton, an actress turned documentary filmmaker, is doing her part. When she set out to create a documentary called Searching for Angela Shelton, which would survey the lives of women across America who shared her same name, to her surprise she found that of the 40 women she interviewed, 24 of them (herself included) reported being physically or sexually abused at some point in their lives. Consequently, she decided to focus her film on these women and their stories.

Searching for Angela Shelton is currently being screened by audiences across the country and will be broadcast by Lifetime later this spring. But, as Angela says, “This is more than a movie, this is a movement”—one that aims to engage the public in a conversation about violence against women while removing the stigma from victims. “There are many of us out there,” she notes. “It’s time we spoke up!”

Deirdre Downey, MPA ’05, SIPA News co-editor, is doing an independent concentration in Media and Public Policy.

“WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT, WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT THAT DIRTY LITTLE SECRET THAT NO ONE WANTED TO SAY OUT LOUD . . . WE TRANSFORMED PRIVATE ‘FAMILY MATTERS’ INTO PUBLIC CRIMES WITH TRUE ACCOUNTABILITY AND MEANINGFUL VICTIM SERVICES.” —SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN
A Chechen woman from Grozny looks through the bus window, crossing the Chechen-Ingush border to leave Chechnya in January 2000.
CHECHEN WOMEN: MENACE AND DESPERATION

By Audrey Kurth Cronin

Forced by the Russian government to return from exile in camps (especially in neighboring Ingushetia), many face increasingly desperate circumstances in their homeland, characterized by a lack of basic necessities, high rates of disease, and a deteriorating security situation, with atrocities against civilians sharply on the rise. As much as any other single factor, the tragic and ambivalent role of women in Chechnya mirrors a widespread social, political, and strategic context that must be confronted if there is to be any hope of breaking the cycle of violence.

During the first war in Chechnya (1994–96), the role of Chechen women was mainly secondary, and women suicide operatives were unheard of. The conflict was best characterized as a classic insurgency between highly networked Chechen guerrilla fighters and Russian military forces. Although terrorist tactics such as bus hijackings, kidnappings, bombings, and dramatic hostage-taking in other parts of Russia were key elements, they were carried out mainly by Chechen rebel leaders like Shamil Basayev and Salman Raduyev and their men. Women supported the resistance but played a minor role. Yet Chechen civilians, including women and children, fared worse overall than either Russian soldiers or their own fighters in the first war. Although estimates vary, most agree that upward of 50,000 Chechen civilians died (some claim 100,000), and about a third of the Chechen population was displaced. Most notorious were the zachistki, or cleansing operations, purportedly designed to search for male Chechen rebels, but often resulting in the looting and burning of civilian residences and the displacement of families. This was clearly a “scorched earth” approach. In highly traditional Chechen society, women played at best an ancillary function in the military hostilities and yet, with their children, represented a large proportion of those victimized by indiscriminate targeting, bombings, and human rights abuses.

This picture has gradually changed in the second conflict (August 1999–present)—not so much the victimization, but the nature of the Chechen response. From the outset, the Russian government has seen the second war as an opportunity to exact revenge, specifically for a series of bombings of civilian apartment buildings in Moscow and Vologodonsk and more generally for the national humiliation of Russia’s defeat in the first conflict.

Two years before Al Qaeda’s attacks on the
United States, President Vladimir Putin was framing the Russian counterinsurgency as a war on terrorism, and his political fortunes have been closely tied to the evolution of hostilities. Although the Russians quickly established dominance on the battlefield, war crimes and human rights abuses in Chechnya have prevailed. The pace of terrorist attacks by both male and female operatives in Chechen and non-Chechen areas of Russia has also significantly increased, with a large number of terrorist bombings against targets such as cafes, trolley bus platforms, and passenger and commuter trains.

Within this context, the relative importance of Chechen female operatives has dramatically increased. Since the second war began, women have engaged in at least 15 attacks of various types, including the seizure of the Dubrovka theatre in Moscow in October 2002, where 19 of 41 operatives were women. There were also at least two women, perhaps as many as four, among those who carried out the brutal seizure of the Beslan Middle School in North Ossetia, in which more than 330 people were killed and 700 injured—most of them children. The bloody dynamic of attacks and counterattacks in Chechnya’s insurgency and the Russian response is being echoed in the actions of women attacking and who are themselves now being openly targeted. Beginning last year, for example, accounts of Chechen men and boys being taken from their homes in zakhvati operations have been supplemented by stories of women who were abducted and never returned.

Most notorious and dangerous have been the female suicide bombers. While the act of committing suicide and the participation of women in combat are both contrary to Chechen social tradition, an increasing number of Chechen women are participating in suicide attacks against Russian targets, both military and civilian. There have been numerous attacks involving women perpetrators, including two Chechen female suicide attackers who detonated themselves outside a rock concert in July 2003 on the outskirts of Moscow, killing more than a dozen young people. Previous suicide attacks had been directed mainly at Russian military or government targets, so this one was seen as a sign of a possible shift toward targeting strictly civilians in the explosions. Many such attacks have followed, including on the Moscow metro and near Red Square, and the number of civilian casualties has been increasing. In August 2004, for example, female Chechen suicide bombers apparently exploded two civilian airliners in mid-flight, killing 89 people.

Internationally, the unprecedented prominence of women suicide attackers among Chechen fighters is seen as a sign of their desperation, but also a worrisome reflection of the increasing influence of militant Islamists. The motivations for female Chechen suicide attackers are often reported to be related to the deaths of husbands, brothers, fathers, and sons at the hands of Russian forces, indeed, the Kremlin calls them “black widows.” Others argue that the traditional nature of Chechen society pushes women into suicide missions because they are excluded from joining regular guerrilla units. There is countervailing evidence of coercion, drugging, and brainwashing of the women, it is unclear the extent to which these choices are voluntary. Broad generalizations about Chechen women’s personal motives are anecdotal, sometimes reflective of political agendas, and not supported by sufficient evidence—in part because good journalistic coverage has been squashed by the Russian government. But the fundamental facts of the attacks and their victims are indisputable.

There seems to be a conversion occurring in the Chechen resistance toward more terrorist attacks on traditional Russian soil, more apparent influence of Islamist fighters, and an increasing employment of suicide attacks by women. Whatever the motives of the women, their changing role seems to reflect a conscious transition in Chechen strategy, toward using operatives who more easily circumvent the counterterrorist tactics of the Russians. Thus, ironically, as the Putin government has portrayed this as a counter-terrorist struggle, the reality is evolving to match that description—whatever it may once have been, the Chechen insurgency is becoming a terrorist campaign. In the face of desperate conditions, willingly or not, Chechen women are playing a key role in changing the character of the conflict toward a relentless cycle of attack/retribution/attack that is unlikely to be interrupted.

Audrey Kurth Cronin is a professor at National War College and an adjunct professor at SIPA, where she taught “Political Violence and Terrorism.”

The views expressed here are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the positions of the National War College, the Department of Defense, or any other public or private organization.
Each year in rural China, hundreds of thousands of young women wield a terrible weapon against those people who they believe have wronged them: husbands, perhaps, or in-laws, or neighbors.

That weapon is suicide.

China, with 20 percent of the world's female population, accounts for more than half of the world's female suicides, with approximately 500 deaths per day, according to a joint study by the World Bank, Harvard University, and the World Health Organization. In fact, China is one of the only countries in the world where more women than men die by their own hand.

Rigid traditional social structures are a major factor. "More women dying reflects the difference in status of young men and women in rural areas—son preference is still rampant," says Veronica Pearson, a professor at the University of Hong Kong's Department of Social Work and Social Administration. Indeed, many Chinese in the impoverished countryside still follow the tradition of women leaving their families to marry into the families of their husbands. Though more women are marrying for love, others end up in arranged marriages, giving up their villages, families, and friends to move to unfamiliar surroundings. Once they are in their new home, social pressures dictate that they defer to their husband and in-laws, often unquestioningly. Yet more and more, these traditional roles clash with modern pressures, such as the need to earn money outside the home. The tension between these two conflicting forces is creating more family disorder, says Peking University's Wu Fei, who has done extensive research on the issue. Caught in this tug-of-war and separated from their support network of friends and relatives, young rural women can feel powerless to deal with the resulting marital problems, domestic violence, and family disputes. Under these circumstances, says Pearson, suicide becomes a tool for revenge. "Taking poison puts them in a powerful position, at risk to their own life, of course."

Pearson also notes that suicide can stigmatize the entire family, so young women often see it as a way to lash out at their tormentors. "It taints the family reputation," she notes, "and it has been used by young women in this way for centuries in China." As Pearson and her colleague, Meng Liu of China Women's College in Beijing, write, "A suicide is guaranteed to get the village talking—a sweet revenge in such a 'face'-conscious society."

While the idea of suicide as a weapon may not be new, modern means of suicide have resulted in higher death rates. "Like in other countries, many more women than men attempt suicide in China," according to Dr. Michael Phillips, executive director of the Beijing Suicide Research and Prevention Center. "But in the rest of the world, men are more successful at carrying out suicide. Chinese women, on the other hand, use methods as lethal as their male counterparts."

Chief among these methods is the ingestion of highly toxic pesticides and fertilizers, which are widely found throughout rural areas. Medications such as sleeping pills are also easily obtained, often without a prescription. Many villages are hours away from the nearest health care facility. Not surprisingly, those who attempt suicide often have little chance of survival.

In addition, experts say, most young Chinese women are drawn to suicide not from depression or mental illness, which accounts for 90 percent of suicides in the West. Rather, many Chinese women attempt suicide out of anger. For young women with few outlets for expression, anger over a particularly stressful event such as a family argument can trigger an impulsive, and extreme, response: studies show that nearly half of those who attempt suicide only think of the idea less than 10 minutes before. With such little warning, relatives and friends are often unable to enact preventive measures.

The government does recognize the problem. But despite efforts by the All-China Women's Federation and other government-organized NGOs to establish women's support groups and suicide prevention hotlines, female suicide rates continue to be among the world's highest. In the meantime, strict family hierarchies, coupled with the easy availability of poison and little access to counseling or medical care, remain a deadly combination for rural Chinese women.

Maria Ma, MIA '05, is concentrating in International Media and Communications.
Ending the Shame: Campaign Raises Hopes for Fistula Sufferers

By Saira Stewart

Sixty-year-old Akasua lived with fistula for two decades, since her third delivery. This photo was taken moments after her fistula surgery at the Holy Family Hospital in Berekum, Ghana, in March 2003. Akasua was treated by visiting British surgeon Dr. John Kelly and a team of local doctors. Right: Dr. John Kelly.
“THIS is the COMPLEX TRAUMA of the obstetric fistula!” Waaldijk declared with every slide, pausing occasionally for dramatic effect as we squirmed in our seats. “If you want to educate your audience about the issue,” he chided, “you’d better know what you’re talking about.”

Last summer, policymakers, health professionals, and representatives from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) gathered in Accra for a three-day meeting to take stock of progress in the “Campaign to End Fistula,” the first-ever global initiative addressing this little-known condition. The Campaign, launched in 2003 by UNFPA, now covers more than 30 countries—primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia—and involves a wide range of partners. As a consultant with UNFPA, I attended the conference and then traveled to Berekum to visit with patients and observe fistula surgery.

Chances are you’ve never heard of obstetric fistula. Yet before the medical advances of the 20th century, the condition was common throughout Europe and North America. Ironically, the Waldorf Astoria, a lavish hotel in midtown Manhattan, stands on the site of an old fistula hospital. The facility was torn down in 1895, after improvements in maternal care dramatically reduced the incidence of fistula in the United States.

Obstetric fistula is a rupture in the birth canal caused by days of obstructed labor without timely medical intervention—typically, a Caesarean section. During the prolonged labor, the pressure of the baby’s head against the soft tissues of the pelvis causes a fistula, or hole, to form between the mother’s vagina and bladder or between the vagina and rectum. In nearly all cases, the baby dies and the woman is left with chronic incontinence.

A steady stream of urine, and sometimes feces, drips down her legs. The foul smell is constant and humiliating, driving husbands and family members away. Women with this condition become social pariahs—isolated, ashamed, and often blamed for their condition.

The good news: Fistula is treatable, with success rates as high as 90 percent for uncomplicated cases. The average cost of treatment...
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(including pre- and postoperative care) is just $300. After surgery, many women resume full lives and can bear more children. Sadly, most women with fistula are either unaware that treatment is available or cannot afford it.

We stop for the night in Kumasi, ancient capital of the Ashanti kingdom. The next morning we’re up at dawn, arriving in time at Berekum’s Holy Family Hospital to observe an operation led by British urologist Dr. John Kelly.

Thirty-five years ago, Kelly assisted Drs. Reginald and Catherine Hamlin at the world-renowned Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. He has since treated some 3,000 fistula patients in Africa and South Asia. Kelly gave up his Birmingham, England, practice in 1996 and now spends six to nine months each year healing women with this condition.

Kelly’s first patient is Akasua, a 60-year-old Ghanaian who has been living with fistula for two decades, since her third delivery. Though older than the typical fistula patient who seeks treatment, Akasua fits the profile in other ways: She is poor, illiterate, and comes from a remote region of the country.

The operation appears to be going as planned. Then, an unexpected glitch. Kelly asks a nurse to pass him the dye, a required surgical supply for the procedure. “We have no dye,” he’s informed. “Well, go to the local pharmacist and buy some more,” says Kelly, his voice beginning to rise. “It’s Saturday,” he’s told, “and the pharmacy is closed.”

Kelly leaves the operating room and begins pacing in an adjacent hallway. He’d been assured the hospital would be equipped with the required supplies. “Dye, dye, dye,” he firmly repeats—hoping to spur others to action.

Why the need for dye? Fistula surgeons run dye through a woman’s bladder at the end of the procedure to ensure that the hole has been closed properly. If the dye leaks out, they know there’s more work to be done, if not, their job is complete.

Finally, a nurse manages to locate the dye, order is restored, and the surgery is a success. Though weary, Akasua says she is pleased with the outcome. She’d been afraid to seek treatment at a hospital, she tells us, echoing widespread concerns over the quality of care at health facilities in the world’s poorest regions. Indeed, many such facilities are ill equipped to provide adequate treatment to women who experience complications in childbirth.

I ask Kelly why he travels to Africa year after year to treat women with fistula. “I’ve learned far more and I’ve gained far more than I’ve ever given from working with these poor women,” he replies. “They may not have much education, but they’re certainly full of intelligence and dignity.”

Kelly is also quick to praise the local doctors and nurses—all poorly paid—who are eager to help. Yet few doctors in developing countries are willing to specialize in fistula surgery. “Although he or she may want to do it, there is no type of practice in this,” Kelly explains. “There is no money in caring for these women.”

Kelly will stay in Berekum for 10 days, treating the hospital’s backlog of fistula patients—mostly teenage girls—and training local doctors in the surgical procedure.

Preventing fistula through improved maternal health services is the key goal of the Campaign to End Fistula. But the real struggle lies in confronting deeply rooted cultural and social practices that deprive women of appropriate medical care. Too often, women and girls in resource-poor countries have little say in the type of delivery care they receive. These decisions, when left to ill-informed husbands or male relatives, tend to be based on cost rather than on the health of the mother.

In some cultures, early marriage is seen as a way of protecting girls’ reputations and securing their futures—a practice that does not bode well for their health. Girls under 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their twenties, and many of those who survive prolonged labor end up with fistula.

In the long run, the best way to address the problem of obstetric fistula is to educate women and girls and raise their status in society. Educated women understand the need for
appropriate care during pregnancy and childbirth. They tend to delay marriage and childbirth and are likely to have smaller, healthier families.

Kelly is particularly fond of a photograph he took at the Addis Ababa Hospital in Ethiopia. In the photo, two teenage girls hold hands: a fistula patient in a tattered dress awaiting treatment and a cured patient in a clean dress.

“I can show you the photos of these girls,” he says. “But what I can’t show you or adequately describe is the welcome that they give you when you arrive and the absolute trust and hope.”

There is reason for hope. In recent months, news reports have brought fistula to the attention of millions in the North and South, breaking the silence and stigma associated with the condition. In February 2005, UNFPA—in partnership with the Nigerian government, Virgin Unite (the charitable arm of the Virgin Group), medical professionals, and NGOs—launched a pilot project dubbed “Fistula Fortnight.” Over the course of two weeks, Nigerian and volunteer international doctors joined forces to treat more than 500 women with fistula, an effort that drew widespread media attention.

The Campaign to End Fistula has gained momentum with the recent endorsement of Natalie Imbruglia, the pop singer and L’Oréal model. Imbruglia hopes to use her celebrity status to raise awareness of the condition in her native Australia and the UK.

As word spreads that fistula is preventable and treatable, young girls and women in developing countries can begin to look forward to safer and healthier pregnancies.

Saira Stewart, MIA ’05, and SIPA News co-editor, is a consultant with UNFPA. For more on obstetric fistula, visit www.endfistula.org.

“I can show you the photos of these girls.
But what I can’t show you or adequately describe is the welcome that they give you when you arrive and the absolute trust and hope.” —Dr. John Kelly
A group of women return from Lake Tana to Chache and Alua, in Ethiopia, with jugs full of water.
A country’s economic health is generally determined by the extent of its market-related activities, as measured by its system of national accounts. Unpaid work that occurs outside the market is not included in the two most widely used indicators of a nation’s productivity: gross national product (GNP) and gross domestic product (GDP). Yet “unpaid” is not synonymous with “worthless,” and such a limited view of economic activity marginalizes the productive work carried out by millions of people around the world—primarily women—who spend much of their time performing unremunerated tasks at home or in their communities. From fetching water to preparing food, to caring for children or the elderly, women bear the unpaid work of the “care economy” disproportionately, and it is inextricably linked to productivity in the market economy.

What purpose would it serve to add the value of unpaid work to economic indicators? It would provide a more accurate reflection of the

A woman in an African village spends seven hours a day fetching water from a stream near her home. She hoists heavy buckets above her head and carries them two miles along a rocky dirt path. As she walks, the sun beats down on her, and she sweats profusely. Is she working? Common sense indicates the answer is yes. Yet, by some commonly used and internationally recognized standards of accounting, her toil is worth nothing.
productive activities taking place in a country and send the message that such activities are valued. By artificially limiting economic activity to market transactions, GDP and GNP are recording the work performed primarily by men and negating much of the work performed by women in developing countries.

Lack of recognition for unpaid labor is of particular concern here, where greater numbers of women work outside market economies. The international development community, which is concerned with making economies more efficient, strives to invest in projects that it sees are of greatest value to communities. But how can it plan and execute development programs effectively when it doesn’t have a complete picture of the country’s capabilities for productive work?

For example, while a woman in an African village may spend seven hours each day fetching water, a man in the same village may spend four hours traveling by foot to work in a factory. The man’s time in the factory is recorded as productive work and visible to the international development community. The woman’s work is not. Because the developers have information about the man’s activities, they may choose to build a road between the factory and the village, which saves the man three hours in travel time and allows him to work that much longer. Had they had information about both the man’s and woman’s work, however, they might have chosen instead to build a well in the village, so that the woman could use the newly liberated seven hours to attend school or work in the factory.

By “costing the care economy”—a process that assigns a value to unpaid care work—the development community can compare the costs and benefits of these two scenarios in an effort to maximize the well-being of all the members of the community. To begin the process, researchers survey the activities occurring in the home and then select a method to assign a value to the hours spent on various activities. One valuation method, which utilizes opportunity cost as a basis for determining the value of unpaid labor, accounts for the value of wages a person could have earned in the market economy. Another method uses replacement wages to value unpaid work by assigning market wages to each task. For instance, this method would assign a local cook’s wages to the food preparation activities taking place in the home. Other methods assign values to the “output” of the household production. Each method has strengths and weaknesses and is useful in some circumstances and not others.

Costing the care economy has been successfully undertaken in several countries, including Canada, India, and Nepal. When the value of the care economy was included in Canada’s economic measures in 1998, the procedure increased the country’s GDP by 36 percent. In Nepal, the value of the economy tripled when care activities were included in its GDP in 1995. Both of these circumstances indicate that the productive capacity of the countries were far greater than the traditional measures of GDP would suggest. While including the value of the care economy in traditional economic indicators poses problems—in that it no longer allows for comparisons across countries or an analysis of historical trends—a solution is to record the additional activities in satellite accounts, which can be combined with GDP (or GNP) to create a new measure of economic activity.

This past fall, Aster Zaoude, senior gender and development adviser at the UN Development Program, partnered with a team of 13 SIPA students to evaluate the success of past “costing” processes and offer guidance for future endeavors. This project, which constituted one of the six semester-long MPA Workshops offered to second-year MPA students, produced a detailed description of the benefits and drawbacks of various data collection and valuation methods; a discussion of factors affecting the care economy; suggestions of ways to incorporate the care economy into systems of national accounts; and an annotated bibliography of references and experts. In December 2004, at the invitation of their client, select members of the team and the group’s faculty adviser, Adjunct Professor Charis Varnum, traveled to Paris to present their findings to a group of development experts. Their work, which broadened the scholarship on the issue, is being used to prepare for a global development summit in late 2005.

Members of the “Costing the Care Economy” MPA Workshop team included Leila Azari, Diana Brauner, Luyi Chen, Karen Crow, Julie Evans, Graziano Graziussi, Fernando Gubbins, Kata Kiss, Laura Pitarys, Dana Puia, Kate Tarrant, Alper Tunca, and Chimi Wangchuck.

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HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST: Challenges of Implementing Liberal Arts Education in Conservative Settings

BY GINA EICHLER-CINALI

In the past few years, American-style universities have proliferated throughout the Middle East. Why, at a time when Samuel Huntington and others predict a "clash of civilizations" and anti-Americanism seems rampant, do so many people seek "our type of education"—particularly in the Arabian peninsula, the very heartland of supposed anti-American and anti-Western sentiment?

My work place, Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), established in 2002 by royal decree as the first private liberal arts university in Kuwait, has a cooperation agreement with the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and endeavors to provide a quality "American model" education. It has a little more than 1,300 students, approximately 55 percent male, 45 percent female, 84 percent Kuwaiti, and 16 percent other nationalities.

At GUST, teaching is only one of my assignments. My full-time job focuses on improving our university's academic standards, securing accreditation, undertaking curriculum review, promoting community
of university graduates. This has raised the literacy rate of women in Kuwait to 78.4 percent of females over 15. Additionally, women represent more than 33 percent of the work force; among these working women, 31 percent hold university degrees, compared to just 12.6 percent of men in the work force. (All figures: National Bank of Kuwait Quarterly, 1999).

Women's Aspirations for Political Participation
If women can vote in Iraq, Turkey, and Iran (all predominantly Muslim countries), why not in Kuwait? In order to solicit the students' thoughts on suffrage for Kuwaiti women and other issues of interest, I conducted a survey of nearly 90 women students taking social science classes for credit (see sidebar).

The survey seems to dispel a notion that women who cite religion as important have a higher propensity toward exclusionary politics. Yet most students looked lost when asked these questions about political participation.

Indeed, what was most shocking initially was the level of apathy among the young female Kuwaiti students. My question to the students had been: "Do you believe that Kuwaiti women should be allowed to vote and be allowed to run for election?" Even for those who favored the vote for women, imagining the next step—female members of the Majles—was a huge, and for many, unimaginable, leap. Although a few students seem willing to speak out, the majority remain silent, and their written responses show lack of involvement in issues that would seem of importance to them. The predominant attitude toward political participation seemed to be: "I don't really care" or "I don't think much about it."

Awareness of, and public expression about, women's rights in Kuwait has generally regressed over the past 30 to 40 years. There used to be Women's Societies, but they mostly focused on charity and tea parties as opposed to pushing vigorously for equality or women's rights, and while some individuals have bravely spoken out, no effective collective action has been forthcoming.

Private vs. Public Education
A lot of the apathy can be traced to a public school system with low and lax standards in which learning by rote is encouraged, while independent, analytical, critical thinking is discouraged, if not completely absent.

It is easy to spot the students—men and women—who have attended private schools in Kuwait or elsewhere. Apart from better preparation in English and basic study and research skills, these students have—to a large extent—been invited to think critically, to become independent learners, to take charge of their academic and professional development. In public schools they have not.

Why are female students generally better both in terms of performance and appropriate academic behavior, regardless of which school system they come from? Because they have to
be. Those who come from private schools are fortunate enough to have parents and teachers who care about quality education. The students from public schools who have been admitted to the university despite poor preparation succeed because they want to. They have put in extra work and understand the importance of education for future success, or they simply seek knowledge and intellectual stimulation.

Academic Misconduct—Taking the Easy Way Out

Academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, is rampant in this part of the world. Here the trend is clear: the incidence rate of misconduct is much higher among male students. Even when confronted with evidence, male students are likely to deny a misdeed and continue to see absolutely nothing wrong with plagiarism. Girls “fess up” immediately; some actually show signs of embarrassment or start to sniffle.

Interestingly, in general, women are better prepared, more enthusiastic, more meticulous, have a better attendance record, and lower incidence of academic misconduct than their male counterparts.

Many male students come to the instructor’s office with an unidentified, brutish male friend who will provide moral— and perhaps physical— support while they plead, cajole, and threaten with the aim of altering a poor grade. The girls are less likely to contest a bad grade. When they do, it is usually done more politely and without reinforcement or parental support. My colleagues at other local, private universities recount the same experience. Some instructors have had tires slashed and death threats left on their windshields, as a result of recording a low grade.

On balance, this is a phenomenally interesting, if sometimes surreal, experience in higher education. I refuse to believe that Kuwaitis are genetically encoded to be less apt for learning. That might happen anywhere in the world.

If yes, do you prefer segregated classes?

28%—Yes

86%—Yes

If yes, do you like the fact that some activities at the university are for both men and women?

50%—Yes

50%—No

*As SIPA News was going to press, the AP issued the following report. KUWAIT CITY—In a major step toward granting political rights to women in Kuwait, lawmakers agreed April 19 to permit them to vote and run in local council elections, although the measure requires more legislative action before it becomes law. . . . A second reading and a second vote, expected in two weeks, is required. Then it needs the Kuwaiti ruler’s signature, generally a formality.

Survey Says . . .

These are some sample answers to a brief survey sent to 90 female students at Gulf University for Science and Technology. All of the students were registered for credit courses within the social science discipline. About 50 percent responded.

Career and life aspirations

Do you plan to work either until marriage and motherhood or for the rest of your life?

90%—Yes

Do your parents want you to work?

80%—Yes

4%—No

16%—No Response

Religion and good morals

Is religion important to you?

86%—Yes

50%—Yes

50%—No

If yes, do you prefer segregated classes?

28%—Yes

Are young Kuwaiti females generally happy?

75%—Yes

Are there enough fun and meaningful activities for young women in Kuwait?

62%—Yes

Lifestyle and traditional roles

Do you think a woman should cook for her husband?

65%—Yes

17%—No

18%—No Response

Sample responses: “she is the wife” or “as she is a vital member of society, she should be a vital mother in the home,” “because it is his right.”

Do your parents want you to work?

80%—Yes

4%—No

16%—No Response

Women and political participation in Kuwait

Should women have the right to vote?

100%—Yes

Should women be eligible for elected office?

40%—Yes

40%—No

20%—No Response

Those who cited religion as important and favored segregated classes were more likely to favor women candidates.

Sample answers included: “men and women should be equal”, “she is a human with a brain same as men”, “because they are part of society and have their own opinion, so they have to vote.”

Positive responses included: “she can deal with it, in some countries women lead”, “it is our right, men and women are equal.”

Negative responses included: “she can’t handle it” (this type of response was found among women who did not cite religion as important), “they are not ready”, “not politically intellectual enough YET.”
To Sew or Not to Sew

By Elya Tagar

With some 50,000 employees, Nike is Vietnam’s largest private employer, exporting 22 million pairs of shoes annually.
There is no reason, economic or otherwise, that workers—and especially women—should be subject to conditions that we have ruled inhumane at home.

relatively low wages are the main source of competitive advantage, bringing in vital investment dollars that fuel the growth of economies like Vietnam and China. It is also true that without this growth, life for many would be far poorer.

There is also a general consensus that in the long run, this process of international outsourcing benefits both sides of the equation. Witness the prosperity in Japan and Korea on the one hand, and the wealth of affordable electronic and other goods enjoyed by consumers in Europe and the United States, on the other. Neither would have been possible without the extensive shift in industrial production that has taken place over the past several decades.

Nonetheless, there is no reason, economic or otherwise, that workers—and especially women—should be subject to conditions that we have ruled inhumane at home. Over the past century or so, the West has figured out that treating workers as human beings and treating all human beings as equal is not negotiable, at least in theory. We impose minimum wages; we ban child labor; sexual intimidation; and all forms of discrimination; we set maximum working hours; and we prosecute violations of basic health and safety standards. In theory, these measures have been agreed upon by society, not only at the national, but also at the international level. They are enshrined in the covenants of the International Labor Organization, to which most governments are signatories. They are also found in the national laws of countries like Vietnam. And, increasingly, they are accepted by the business world as both morally inescapable and economically wise.

One of the biggest problems faced by many businesses in Vietnam is worker turnover and related low productivity. There is a lot of economic sense to treating your workers well.

Labor standards such as SA8000, deployed by SAI to ensure basic working conditions and the protection of women workers, are starting to make headway in Asia and elsewhere in the developing world. Cambodia is proactively promoting its garment and textile industries as social-

A woman works at the Thanh Cong garment factory in Ho Chi Minh City.

Elya Tagar, MIA ’05, is doing an independent concentration in Corporate Social Responsibility.
TRAFFICKING IN DREAMS: THE DARK SIDE OF EUROPEAN UNION EXPANSION

BY AMY BOLDOSSE
In 2003, at an anti-child trafficking conference I attended in Helsinki, the president and her husband earnestly expressed the hope put forward by many proponents of EU membership that the opening of borders and the harmonization of immigration, border control, and asylum policies would reduce human trafficking, especially that of young women. This kind of trafficking has been rampant in the Baltics and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, due to poverty and the lack of employment opportunities occasioned by the post-Soviet transition, along with a global demand for cheap labor. Proponents of EU membership suggest that allowing the free flow of labor will reduce the need for people to migrate for work and offer better opportunities, so that they do not have to rely on traffickers to arrange their entry into other European countries.

The experience of antitrafficking advocates on the ground, however, illustrates that the simple freedom of movement is not a panacea and does not eliminate economic and educational barriers to migrating and obtaining employment that pays a living wage. While it will be years before reliable data on changes in migration patterns due to EU expansion are available, there is already anecdotal cause for concern about an increased risk of human trafficking, particularly for young women, in the Baltic states and the neighboring CIS countries, which are perhaps decades from the possibility of joining the EU.

The United Nations estimates that as many as four million people are trafficked each year worldwide and held in modern-day slavery by traffickers who exploit their labor for profit. Increased youth unemployment, a lack of realistic information on work opportunities in other European Union member countries, and a lack of reliable safe migration information pose a significant risk to young women migrants in the Baltics. While some restrictions on migration for work within the EU still exist under transitional arrangements that were part of the Baltic states’ accession treaties, by 2011 complete freedom of movement for workers from the new member states is guaranteed. This means that the time is now to take concrete action against human trafficking.

After EU accession in May 2004 and again in January 2005, prices in the Baltic states, especially for essentials like food and fuel, increased significantly. A Latvian colleague lamented, “We’re paying European prices but not earning European salaries.” According to the Youth Health Center Council of Latvia, this has resulted in an increased number of young people being unable to pay for housing and taking advantage of free three-month stays in state-run homeless shelters while searching for ways to migrate for work.

A local travel agent in Liepaja, Latvia’s third largest city, who stocks safe migration materials in her office, recently reported to our network of antitrafficking, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that she is seeing 20 to 25 young people per day picking up tickets to England and Ireland. They all say they are going for work, but most are not sure what type of work they will be doing, since the jobs have been “arranged” for them. Many state that they see no opportunity to earn enough money to get by in Latvia and are willing to take their chances and seek opportunity elsewhere in the EU.

This is particularly troubling in light of recently reported trafficking cases involving young women and men from the three Baltic states who were lured to Ireland with the promise of free English language classes and forced to work in factories or clubs. Another was the discovery last year of more than 700 victims, many from Latvia and Lithuania (along with Ukraine, Russia, and Moldova), who had been trafficked for forced labor in Scotland.

Other recent cases of young Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian women trafficked for sex work and other forms of forced labor have
A senior member of the vice squad dismissively equated trafficking with prostitution and asked, "WHY SHOULD WE HELP THOSE GIRLS? THEY'RE ALL ADDICTED TO SEX."

European countries, including the 10 newest members, harmonizing domestic laws and policies on human trafficking with international and European standards has become an important criterion for the accession of candidate countries. Despite the adoption of national action plans to combat human trafficking in Latvia and Lithuania and a draft plan in Estonia, the implementation of and support for those policies are lagging. Government ministries in Estonia, for example, have been playing a prolonged game of bureaucratic hot potato with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, deferring responsibility for dealing with the issue of trafficking to the Ministry of Social Welfare, which defers to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

This failure to identify ministry focal points and adopt an action plan earned Estonia a place on the ‘watch list’ of the U.S. government’s 2004 Trafficking in Persons report. In Latvia, a comprehensive National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons has been approved and working groups established. But the new government administration in Latvia, according to a recent speech by a representative of the Interior Ministry at a U.S. embassy meeting in Riga in December 2004, has failed to allocate any new funds to antitrafficking programs this year. Lithuania also has a Program on the Control and Prevention of Trafficking in Humans and Prostitution, but NGOs complain that state support for antitrafficking efforts and victim services is irregular.

Although all three countries have been documented as source, transit, and destination countries for victims from neighboring countries, as well as having internal trafficking of young women from more rural areas to the urban centers, government officials continue to question the severity of the problem in the Baltics. While the policy benchmarks set by the EU have certainly resulted in increased government attention to the issue, the very real lack of resources, coupled with competing priorities, means that young women are still at significant risk of becoming victims of the global trade in human beings.

All of these recent experiences since the 2004 accession reflect the reality that antitrafficking advocates on the ground have been aware of for some time. National action plans are insufficient if the political will and funding are not behind them. It is imperative that comprehensive safe migration education continue for young people. Trafficking prevention campaigns that rely on scare tactics, without providing both positive and negative information on the realities of working abroad, disregard the lack of opportunities and high unemployment that make the need to migrate a serious reality for many of the young people in our youth programs. Law enforcement and government officials must be trained to recognize human trafficking as an egregious human rights abuse—not solely an immigration, organized crime, or moral issue—and to shape policy to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers.

In a training session I conducted for Latvian law enforcement officials, a senior member of the vice squad dismissively equated trafficking with prostitution and asked, “Why should we help those girls? They’re all addicted to sex.” Clearly, these types of attitudes will not go far in protecting young women from becoming victims of human trafficking. While it is a positive reality that the Baltic states have not implemented discriminatory migration policies restricting the right of young women to leave the country in the name of “protecting” them, as some other source countries have done, the need to prevent human trafficking is still a real one. In addition to the benefits of open markets and democracy, the European Union’s goal of spreading respect for human rights can be embodied in the Baltics through continuing efforts to combat human trafficking. The lives and livelihoods of young women are too high a “European price” to pay for allowing modern-day slavery to persist in a free Europe.

Amy Boldosser, MIA ’06, is concentrating in Human Rights. She is a program officer at the International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA).
Rosa Franco has two haunting photographs to tell her story: one a portrait of her only daughter, Maria Isabel, smiling in a shiny white gown on her 15th birthday; the other, an aerial snapshot of a field in the outskirts of Guatemala City, where police found her daughter’s body three years ago.

A month before Maria Isabel turned 16 she was beaten, raped, strangled, stabbed in the chest, and bound with barbed wire before she died of a brain hemorrhage from a severe blow to the head.
“Her face was burned. It was hard to recognize her,” says Franco. “Whoever did this burned the crime scene to erase the evidence so they can’t find who is responsible.”

Maria Isabel’s gruesome case is only one of many in Guatemala, where 1,188 women have been murdered since 2001—more than 50 just in the first month of this year. No one knows who is committing the crimes, and little effort has been made to find out.

Fewer than 10 percent of the cases are under investigation, and as a result, there have been just 32 arrests and 11 convictions according to women’s groups and the country’s human rights commission.

The crimes mirror the mysterious murders of more than 400 women in the Mexican border town of Ciudad Juarez over the past decade.

While the situation in Juarez is the subject of international advocacy campaigns and media coverage, Guatemala has received less attention despite similarly shocking statistics.

Most of the victims are young, between the ages of 16 and 35 years old. Government officials blame their deaths on multiple causes, including domestic violence, street gangs, drug traffickers, and organized crime.

“The problem is not only the high numbers,” says Susana Villarán, a special observer for the Organization of American States (OAS) investigating the violence. “The way they leave the bodies sends a message of terror.”

Attacks against women stand out from other violent crimes because of their brutality—bodies are often mutilated, sexually abused, and left in public places far from where they disappeared.

Villarán’s OAS report, to be released later this year, links the murders to the legacy of the country’s 36-year-long civil war, which claimed more than 200,000 lives. Her delegation visited Guatemala last September at the request of President Oscar Berger and the First Lady.

“There is still a culture of violence because of the war,” says Hilda Morales, the head of a network of women’s organizations in Guatemala City, despite peace agreements signed by leftist rebels and government officials in 1996. “There is a proliferation of weapons. People try to resolve their conflicts with violence,” and women are often the easiest targets, says Morales.

In the first four months of last year, the number of women killed increased by 30 percent as compared to the same period in 2003, while the number of male victims fell by 8 percent.

Officials estimated that in 2004, 21 percent of the murders were due to domestic violence, 20 percent were gang related, 8 percent had a connection to drug trafficking, and 3 percent were linked to prostitution. The cause of the remaining 48 percent remains unknown.

Out of the cases handled by the Crimes Against Women division of the Attorney General’s office, 31 percent of the victims reported previous threats of domestic violence.

Because no discernible pattern to the deaths has been discovered, some observers have difficulty separating the attacks against women from overall insecurity in the country. This small, Central American nation of 14 million has one of the highest crime rates in Latin America.

“There is a great deal of concern about the coverage this is having outside of Guatemala,” says Francisco Villagrán de León, the former Guatemalan Ambassador to the United Nations. “There is no clear idea of where this is coming from. Is it part of the general picture of criminality in the country, or is it a case of organized crime singling out women? People don’t really know.”

But one common thread does weave through most of the stories: almost complete impunity for the killers.

Rosa Franco says the police have done nothing to follow up on her daughter’s case. “They don’t have information about her telephone calls, they are not looking for the license plate of the car that took her, they didn’t do a semen exam, they didn’t do a comparison of her blood with the sus-

“They don’t have information about her telephone calls, they are not looking for the license plate of the car that took her, they didn’t do a semen exam, they didn’t do a comparison of her blood with the suspects. There has been no investigation.”

—Rosa Franco on the murder of her daughter, Maria Isabel
Franco, frustrated with the lack of progress on her daughter’s case, filed a claim with the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. The international body is part of the OAS and can pressure governments to deal with human rights complaints by bringing them to an international court.

Seven petitions from Ciudad Juarez and three from Guatemala are currently in process with the commission, with relatives of women murdered charging their governments with negligence.

“The biggest disappointment is the continued abject failure of the justice system,” a U.S. embassy official in the country told the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, a Washington-based advocacy group. “It affects all aspects of governance in this country.” Impunity plagues Guatemala, and “there has been no dramatic change in this since Berger took office,” a year ago. She cited a lack of motivation and corruption among the overburdened and undertrained staff dealing with the cases.

“I am suffering so much,” says Franco about her ordeal. “I cry every day when I wake up and when I go to sleep for my daughter, but what hurts me more is that the police are doing nothing to investigate and punish whoever is guilty.”

Mica Rosenberg, MIA ’05, doing an independent concentration in Media and Human Rights.
More than 50 years have passed since Evita’s death, enough time to allow for a metamorphosis in the role Latin American women play in society, the way they are perceived by it, and their presence in the public and political arenas of their respective countries. Undoubtedly, today’s Latin women are a completely new breed that can be seen at all socio-economic levels, from the fully modernized cleaning ladies to the savvy and experienced taxi drivers. Of course, the first ladies couldn’t be left behind. As the saying goes: “first things go first,” particularly in the case of Martha Sahagún de Fox, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, and Ximena Bohórquez de Gutiérrez, married to the heads of state of Mexico, Argentina, and Ecuador, respectively.

Refusing to think of themselves in the traditional role of wife of a president, not only do these women play an active role in national politics—something very uncommon for women in the region—but they also have presidential aspirations of their own. It’s perhaps because of this last ambition that the three are such passionate defenders of their maiden names, generally not a custom in Latin American tradition. Although they don’t hold their positions as a result of an

By Diego Gómez-Pickering  

“Don’t cry for me Argentina . . .” sings an over-the-top Eva Perón, as portrayed in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s late 70s musical extravaganza *Evita*. The work depicts a powerful, self-interested, politically driven middle-aged woman who manages to endear herself to the social masses of mid-20th-century Argentina, earning her the love of a nation and a place in history. Though some consider this representation of the most famous female political figure in southern latitudes to be inaccurate, the depiction is still valuable when examining the role that other Latin American first ladies currently play.

First Ladies First?
electoral process, they have successfully introduced the idea that they are as important as their husbands and should perform state duties, just like them. And they are ready to take leading roles in a continent that has previously seen military dictatorships, guerrilla wars, and civil unrest.

These three women possess the essential traits of the Latin woman of the 21st century. They are educated, and, crucially, each has pursued a successful professional career, raised a family, and survived. Each of them has “worked” her way to the top—the question is whether the “top” is ready for them. Latin America has only seen one female president, Mireya Moscoso, sworn in as president of Panama in 1999 and recently defeated by Martin Torrijos during her country’s elections. Moscoso’s term ended with mixed results and did not help support the current trend of women holding important political charges in the region. Fortunately, the three first ladies do not share this pessimistic vision and are confident that the list of Latin American señoras presidentas will increase in the near future. As Martha Sahagún de Fox bluntly put it in an interview with Mexico’s major TV network, “the country is ready to have a female president.”

Alongside the Mexican First Lady, Fernández de Kirchner and Bohórquez de Gutiérrez seem assured of a change in the balance between gender and the presidency in the region. When asked about plans for becoming president by CNN en Español anchor Patricia Janiot during a recent visit to Atlanta (without her husband), Fernández de Kirchner indicated that she feels part of “a political project that’s changing Argentina.” She concluded, “As for the future, who knows?” Bohórquez de Gutiérrez, on the other hand, has repeatedly criticized the role of several ministers in her husband’s cabinet. These comments have not only been direct and harsh but have provoked the president to publicly reprimand the First Lady.

Though the way they approach the politics of their respective countries differs, each of these women has successfully asserted herself on the national scene. While Sahagún and Bohórquez have followed the traditional way, by directing social awareness campaigns and founding nonprofit organizations aimed at ameliorating the lives of the poor, Fernández, a self-declared admirer of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, is a senator herself and has been closely involved in major macroeconomic policies of her husband’s government. As much as the first ladies have gained public and private support, they have also been targeted by negative campaigns, generally carried out by wearisome political parties—in some cases, the same parties that took their husbands into office.

Our postmodern Evitas may see these campaigns as minor battles in a larger war aimed at gaining political relevance and significance. What is certain is that Martha Sahagún de Fox, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Ximena Bohórquez de Gutiérrez, and others who follow them may have to refine their voices before being able to belt out Andrew Lloyd Webber’s lyrics with their required high notes.

Diego Gómez-Pickering, MIA ’05, is doing an independent concentration in Cultural Development.

While Sahagún and Bohórquez have followed the traditional way, by directing social awareness campaigns and founding nonprofit organizations aimed at ameliorating the lives of the poor, Fernández, a self-declared admirer of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, is a senator herself and has been closely involved in major macroeconomic policies of her husband’s government.

*Editors’ Note: As SIPA News was going to press Ecuador President Lucio Gutiérrez had recently been deposed. He and his family were granted asylum in Brazil.
If we educate a boy, we educate one person. If we educate a girl, we educate a family, a whole nation.—African proverb
Gender roles and poverty are closely intertwined, and nowhere is this more pronounced than in developing nations. However poverty is assessed, whether in terms of financial security, control of productive resources, status in the community, political power, or other such measures, women are virtually always poorer than men, and their poverty is often exacerbated by legal and cultural barriers to opportunity.

Compounding this problem is the fact that traditional approaches to development typically favor men over women. Because women do not hold the same economic or political stature, their needs are often ignored, and the impact of policies on them often goes unnoticed. Underlying this bias is an assumption that men and male life patterns are “the norm.”

Yet where gender roles are involved, gender-blind policies are rarely gender neutral, and the impact on women can be devastating.
“Development policies pay a serious price for ignoring the concerns and contributions of half of humanity to economic growth through formal and informal work, and to human development through paid and unpaid care services,” says Aster Zaoude, senior gender adviser at the United Nations Development Programme. “When women lose some, humanity loses most,” she cautions.

Incorporating an awareness of gender roles into the policymaking process can offer a solution. One important key to development is lowering the barriers to women’s productivity. This can be accomplished by involving women in decision making, and ensuring equal access to productive resources, health care, and education.

Increasing household income is important, but so too is the issue of who controls the money. Mothers tend to invest more of their economic resources in children, and having control of income results in lower child and infant mortality, even when household income is the same. The marginal effect of women’s income is nearly 20 times as large for child survival as is the effect of men’s income.

Unfortunately, significant barriers to women’s economic independence remain. In many developing countries, women cannot own or inherit land, and while they produce about half of the food, they own only about 2 percent of the land. As a result, women working in agriculture often lack collateral for loans, and, consequently, they do not have access to technologies that could increase their productive capabilities.

In addition to resource poverty, women often have responsibility for an inordinate amount of unpaid work necessary to maintain the family. Unpaid work exacerbates resource poverty as well as time poverty, and women’s time poverty translates into girls’ time poverty, as girls are pulled from school to help with their mothers’ responsibilities. Consequently, girls tend to have lower enrollment and higher dropout rates than boys.

Where women’s job prospects are circumscribed, families are less inclined to invest in girls’ education. This trend persists even in spite of the fact that girls’ education yields significant long-term and intergenerational benefits, including improved family health and earning power, higher productivity, lower maternal and child mortality, and higher child literacy rates. As an African proverb says, “If we educate a boy, we educate one person. If we educate a girl, we educate a family, a whole nation.”

Gender-based divisions of labor, coupled with unequal access to resources, impede development by creating inefficiencies and lowering productivity. This, in turn, intensifies the uneven distribution of resources and renders women more susceptible to poverty on an ongoing basis. In addition to placing women and girls at a disadvantage, inequality hinders a community’s overall development and deepens poverty.

UN member states have acknowledged the link between gender roles and poverty, and, at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, they set the goal of generating and disseminating gender-disaggregated statistics to aid in policymaking. In March 2005, at a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, they held a 10-year review to assess progress on this and other priorities and renewed their commitment to incorporating an understanding of gender roles into development policy.

Gender equality is an important goal in itself, but it is also a means to improving education and health, encouraging sustainable environmental practices, and reducing poverty. Understanding the interplay between gender and public policy is critical to reducing poverty and inequality. Not only does poverty exacerbate gender inequality, but inequality also exacerbates poverty. By advancing women’s leadership and working to mainstream gender into the policymaking process, policymakers can better understand gender roles and their implications for development policy and best determine how to distribute scarce resources.

Charis Varnum is an adjunct professor at SIPA and a consultant on gender and policy issues.
The following questions were posed by members of SIPAs Working Group on Gender and Policy.

Q: There’s a kind of buzz around Gender and Policy at SIPA. Book talks, career panels, and oversubscribed courses. Students are excited—pasting up flyers, forming committees, lobbying for resources. I’ve a friend who regularly spends Friday mornings holed up in Room 418 with the Working Group on Gender and Policy plotting strategy. Sounds kind of radical. What’s going on?

A: (Hewlett, laughing) Nothing revolutionary. I mean, we do have a new student organization (the Working Group on Gender and Policy) and we are holding some interesting events this semester. On February 9, Harvard-trained psychiatrist Anna Fels came to talk about her new book, Necessary Dreams, which wrestles with the complicated challenge of how talented women can sustain ambition over the life span. And in March, a group of powerful women leaders spoke about how to find jobs with “gender traction” in the private sector.

Q: What is “gender traction”?

A: I’m talking about jobs that make a difference for women. For example, Ilene Lang, president of Catalyst, was one of our speakers. The mission of her organization (and she is a potential employer of SIPA grads) is to help women break through the glass ceiling in Fortune 1000 companies.

Q: Is “Gender and Public Policy” a new program? I feel it’s not well known in the SIPA community.

A: It got off the ground in the mid 1990s—really as a result of student action. A group got together, formed a committee, and put pressure on the administration to create a program that addressed gender issues. But no real resources were available for the initiative. For several years there was no director—and no faculty position dedicated to serving the needs of students in the program. As a result, the specialty remained small and inconspicuous.

Last spring marked a turning point. The school made a commitment to the program. I was brought in as the new director and now teach one of the core courses, oversee another, and am currently exploring how to expand and grow the program. Resources are still in short supply, but the administration has taken an important—if modest—step in the right direction.

Q: Why is this program important? Does a policy school actually need a program dedicated to gender issues?

A: Absolutely. Whether you are talking about domestic or international policy, an awareness
of the importance of gender is critical.

For example, in the American context, equal opportunities need to be supplemented by paid parenting leave (and other types of family support) if women are to realize their employment potential and narrow the "gender gap." In this regard, the United States can learn much from Europe. It’s sobering to realize that a 40-year-old French woman is currently doing better than her U.S. counterpart—not because she has more rights and opportunities, but because she has access to great maternity leave and day care.

Worldwide the applications of a gendered perspective are legion. How do you pump up lagging growth rates in Japan—or Jordan for that matter—without grappling with the cultural barriers that impede the full realization of female labor in these countries? Or, how do you curb the AIDS epidemic in Africa without wrestling with the asymmetry of sexual relationships in these societies?

In the end, gender is a powerful—if underacknowledged—unit of analysis. It helps you shed light on the constraints (and opportunities) faced by more than half the world’s population.

Q: Why is this program called 'Gender and Public Policy' rather than 'Women and Public Policy?'

A: Great question. "Gender" is a more powerful construct than "women," because in this—and other like-minded programs—we are more concerned with roles and cultural conditioning than biology per se. When a dad becomes "Mr. Mom" and takes on the role of primary caregiver, he is likely to be hit with the same career penalties as those routinely dealt with by working mothers.

Q: What are your goals for the program?

A: My short-term goal is twofold: to grow a rich set of course offerings and to seed some career opportunities (we have some great internships in the pipeline for both MPA and MIA students). Long term, it would be great to establish some credential (perhaps a certificate) in gender and policy that could be taken in conjunction with one of the more established concentrations. This would allow "double-dipping." For example, a student could both concentrate in Human Rights (or Economic Development) and demonstrate a proficiency in gender issues. As policymakers in our superconnected global community wrestle with unlocking the economic potential of women in newly urgent ways—in Asia, Africa, and blue-collar America—a rich understanding of gender issues will become increasingly relevant.

Q: Tell me something about your own research.

A: My current research is U.S. focused and demonstrates the salience of private sector policy. In February 2004, I launched a multiyear task force called "The Hidden Brain Drain: Women and Minorities As Unrealized Assets" to examine the challenge of how to retain and advance highly qualified women and minorities, many of whom are opting out of mainstream careers. To date, 19 corporations and law firms have joined the task force and committed to drive internal policy change.

I’m pretty excited by the first leg of our research, published in the March issue of the Harvard Business Review. The article, written by Carolyn Buck Luce and me, entitled "Off-Ramps and On-Ramps: Keeping Talented Women on the Road to Success," is already generating high profile attention. So stay tuned.

For more information on this initiative, please contact Nina Diaz, nd239@columbia.edu, or Helen Chernikoff, hc658@columbia.edu, co-chairs of the Working Group on Gender and Policy.

Sylvia Ann Hewlett is the director of the Gender and Public Policy Program at the School of International and Public Affairs.
Faculty Profile: Doug Almond  By Vince O’Hara

Last summer, after receiving a doctoral degree in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, Assistant Professor Doug Almond, 33, joined the SIPA faculty, marking a major step forward in his career as a health economist. At SIPA, Almond found a community where his research into the long-term efficacy of policies that promote prenatal and infant care—both in terms of health and economics—was regarded as part of a broader movement to understand sustainable development.

The importance of Almond’s research was recently acknowledged by the Fulbright Scholar Program, which awarded him a Fulbright Scholar grant to do research at the China Center for Economic Research, Peking University during the 2005–2006 academic year. Almond will study the effect of ambient pollution on infant health in China, using changes in pollution emissions generated by industrial expansions as well as the closure of large-scale State Owned Enterprises.

Growing up in West Hartford, Connecticut, Almond was captivated by the concept of scarcity. He wondered about things such as why his parents could not write checks ad infinitum or why cars could only go so fast. Though he does not recall where this fascination came from, it was during his undergraduate studies at Carleton College in Minnesota that he realized that the scarcity of things is the subject of economics. But the traditional bread-and-butter areas of economics never really appealed to him. Coming from a family of doctors, he was drawn more toward analyzing the economics of health care.

“What I’ve done without meaning to,” he says, “is to combine these two things, and it’s really gratifying.”

After a two-year stint with Mathematical Policy Research, a government consulting firm, Almond began his studies at Berkeley and his preparation for success as a health economist. The economics program there, he says, is very good at applying the tools of economic analysis to real-world problems, a skill that would serve him well during his service as a staff economist on President Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisors and later as a researcher.

In his dissertation and during a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Almond demonstrated the long-term effects of two health events in U.S. history: the 1918 influenza pandemic and the social reforms of the 1960s. His study of the influenza pandemic established that prenatal health affects our quality of life. In just several months, the pandemic killed more Americans than all the wars of the 20th century. From Almond’s perspective, it was significant that some 25 million Americans survived the tragedy, a sizable population of which had been infected in utero. Using U.S. Census data from 1960 to 1990, Almond examined the well-being of the infected population and determined that, relative to other cohorts, it showed lower educational attainment, income, and socioeconomic status as well as increased rates of physical disability and adult mortality. Moreover, the states that experienced the largest deterioration in fetal health during the pandemic exhibited the worst outcomes.

Almond’s studies of the social reforms of the 1960s demonstrate that public policy affects prenatal and child health with lifelong consequences. He first looked at the convergence of white and black infant mortality rates that occurred between 1965 and 1971 and concluded that the desegregation of hospitals was a causal factor. He then did a broader study that compared the health and birth outcomes of women born from 1961 to 1963 (before the reforms) with those of women born from 1967 to 1969 (after the reforms). There were substantial improvements among black women and small to nonexistent gains among whites, suggesting that the social policies that led to infant health improvements, such as hospital desegregation, Medicaid, and food stamps, may have had long-term and intergenerational benefits.

“I think these linkages are potentially very general and potentially very important,” Almond says.

On the basis of his findings to date, Almond concludes that, as a society, we may be able to improve health without spending more money if we spend more on infant care, because, as he notes, “it has this delayed benefit that we are not currently accounting for.” While it is apparent to many people that public policy and health matter, with the support of SIPA, Almond is proving it.

Vince O’Hara, MIA ’06, is concentrating in International Media and Communications.
When Eric Verhoogen began his teaching career at SIPA last fall, he was no stranger to being at the front of a classroom. In addition to having taught undergraduate students at the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a PhD in economics, Verhoogen spent his first three years after college teaching math to high school students in South-Central Los Angeles and Pasadena, California, as part of the Teach for America program.

Though his SIPA students are a different breed, Verhoogen sees his experience in some of the nation’s toughest neighborhoods as a boon to his teaching skills. “One thing you learn quickly teaching in South-Central is that you have to be extremely clear, and that helps,” he said in a recent interview.

Verhoogen, 35, joined the SIPA faculty at the beginning of the fall 2004 semester with a joint appointment in the Department of Economics. During his first semester at Columbia, he taught two courses: one for PhD candidates on industrial development, the other for SIPA students. The SIPA course (in which this writer was a student) was an advanced examination of development economics that sought to be a challenging new offering for economic and political development students. The course presented rigorous quantitative explorations of both economic models and empirical evidence from the real world.

Indeed, it was the real world that drew Verhoogen to economics in the first place. After leaving Teach for America, Verhoogen worked as a labor organizer, journalist, and antisweatshop activist. Yet he worried that many involved in fighting to alleviate poverty “had their heart in the right place but lacked the economics background” to address the problems they faced. He sees economic research as essential to developing policies that can address the persistence of poverty in the developing world.

As a PhD candidate at Berkeley, Verhoogen focused his research primarily on industrial development. His PhD dissertation, “Trade, Quality Upgrading, and Wage Inequality in the Mexican Manufacturing Sector,” explored the ways in which Mexican manufacturers reacted to the devaluation of the peso in 1994. In the wake of the devaluation, large and modern plants benefited with increased exports, while small- and medium-sized firms that were less technologically advanced suffered. The average quality of the goods produced in the larger firms also increased. Verhoogen found that such “quality upgrading” led to higher average wages for the workers in such plants.

Initially, his research looked only at aggregated plant-level statistics. However, Verhoogen is now examining employee-level detail to see if those average wage increases reflected the hiring of new, more highly skilled workers, or if plants merely began to pay their present workers more to realize quality gains. “It appears that they are taking the same workers and paying them more,” Verhoogen said.

Verhoogen joins the Columbia faculty amid a major multiyear effort to build the University’s economics program into one of the best in the world. Columbia has specifically tried to build its faculty in the development economics field, which made a position here all the more attractive to Verhoogen. “Columbia is becoming one of the best places in the world to do development economics,” he said.

Beyond that, Verhoogen is excited to be in New York and to be teaching at SIPA. “I was fearful that going back into academics I would become out of touch with the real world,” Verhoogen said. “What I really like about being in New York and at SIPA is that I can’t do that, and I find that really refreshing. SIPA students are knowledgeable and demand that I talk about what is really happening in the world.”

Hamilton Boardman, MIA ’05, is concentrating in Human Rights and Economic Development.
Assistant Professor Leigh Linden, one of the newest and, at 30, youngest faculty members at SIPA, has broadened the School’s teaching of economics to fields not commonly associated with this discipline. His dissertation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which awarded him a doctorate in economics last year, focused on education and political incumbency in India—not exactly issues that scream economics to most people.

“I get that a lot,” Linden says. “I’ll sit down on a plane with somebody, and they’ll say, ‘What do you do?’ I’ll say, ‘I’m an economist.’ And, of course, they want to know what the economy is going to do, what are the right stocks to invest in, which I can’t give any advice on.”

Linden describes himself as “an economist who has interests that strongly overlap with other disciplines.” This translates into a focus on labor and development, specifically on how family and social dynamics determine the effectiveness of social-service delivery.

A Southerner at heart, Linden grew up in the suburbs of New Orleans and Houston. He did his undergraduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned two bachelor’s degrees with highest honors, a BA in economics, and a BS in mathematics.

Immediately after college, Linden matriculated at MIT. After completing his doctoral course work and serving for a year as a staff economist on President Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisors, he received an e-mail from one of his professors that changed the course of his career. The professor was looking for a graduate student who could leave within a week for India to lay the groundwork for a massive evaluation of two remedial educational programs, one employing computers and the other low-skilled teaching assistants. The next thing Linden knew he was in Mumbai.

“I had never been before,” he says. “And that’s where everything started.”

By “everything,” Linden means his interests in development economics, his focus on India, his dissertation, and, ultimately, his landing a position at SIPA. In India, Linden discovered that he had a particular talent for designing and implementing program evaluations that deal with tens of thousands of people and last for several years.

“That’s definitely my comparative advantage as an economist,” he notes.

Indeed, it is a focus of his role on the SIPA faculty. In addition to a microeconomics theory course in SIPA’s doctoral program in sustainable development, he teaches “Program Evaluation,” an advanced course for second-year master’s students and doctoral candidates.

The “gold standard” among the methods he teaches is randomized evaluation, the approach he employed to assess the efficacy of the two remedial education programs in India. Rather than just comparing the performance of schools that have computers against those that do not, Linden and his co-authors randomly assigned computers and teaching assistants among the schools that agreed to participate. Some schools, for the sake of control, received neither. Through this method, they compared outcomes knowing that the differences were due to random variation and were not systematically correlated. Their findings had important implications for the allocation of education resources in developing countries. For students who are really performing poorly, teaching assistants are clearly the way to go. Not only are they less expensive than computers, but they also get better results. In terms of improving the average test scores of a class or a school, computers and teaching assistants yielded about the same results, which of course favors the use of teaching assistants on the basis of cost.

Linden emphasized that their results did not imply that there is no role for technology in poor schools. While computers improved learning achievement at about the same rate for all students, Linden and his team were unable to test the direct impact of teaching assistants on students other than those at the bottom of the class. It was thus impossible to assess the cost-efficacy of computers for middle and high achievers. It was clear, however, that computers were not uniformly the best solution.

The SIPA community can look forward to further interesting and influential research from Linden. He is currently working on an evaluation of education outcomes in Colombia, and he has his eyes set on continuing to push the bounds of how and on what issues the tools of economics are applied. This reflects one of the most exciting trends in economics, and with talented young professors like Linden, SIPA is set to remain at the forefront of innovation.
Tsunami: Learning from Tragedy?  By Thomas R. Lansner

When seismographs around the world began to oscillate wildly on the morning after Christmas last year, even seasoned observers of natural disasters could not foresee the vast tragedy about to envelop hundreds of thousands of people along the shores of the Indian Ocean.

Ten weeks later, on March 4, 2005, an array of scientists, public health experts, humanitarian workers, and media specialists gathered at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) to examine a wide range of issues connected to the disaster. The day-long conference, titled “Tectonics, Politics, and Ethics: The Tsunami and Its Aftermath,” was opened by SIPA Dean Lisa Anderson, who noted that Columbia University was perhaps unique in possessing the scope of interdisciplinary expertise to address multiple facets of the tsunami disaster.

The conference focused on early lessons from the tragedy at a moment when its many wounds, psychic as well as physical, remain distressingly raw. Better knowledge and communications might have produced quick warning to preserve many lives. Yet as the waters receded, application of learning from previous crises facilitated targeted relief that quickly aided survivors and launched plans toward reconstruction.

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, director of The Earth Institute at Columbia, framed the day's discussions by introducing several principal themes: the physical phenomenon of the earthquake and the massive wave it generated, the vulnerabilities of people affected, the local responses in both their public health and political dimensions, and the global mobilization to provide relief and reconstruction.

Dr. Rachel Moresky, of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, related her experience treating physical and psychological casualties on the ground with an emergency medical team in the most badly affected zone, Indonesia's Aceh Province. Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health, described a “delicate dance” between international donors and host country relief workers who can often better mobilize local knowledge and local resources. Dr. Neil Boothby of the Mailman School reinforced the need to thoroughly engage affected communities, adding that excellent cooperation in child protection indicates that local and international actors now agree on the urgency to address especially the needs of the most vulnerable groups at the earliest stage of any crisis.

Child protection and UN efforts to coordinate international relief were emphasized in the keynote address by Afshan Khan, UNICEF's deputy director of emergency operations. The UN's intergovernmental mandate, as well as its “preexisting and sustained presence” on the ground in tsunami-affected areas, she said, helped it to facilitate the global response. Ms. Khan added that the huge public support for relief efforts is also creating a welcome demand for relief groups to explain better their goals and actions to wider audiences.

Southeast Asia specialist Professor Ann Marie Murphy, of Seton Hall University, later described the context of conflict and corruption for relief operations in Aceh. There, the tsunami at least temporarily interrupted a long-running and brutal guerrilla war that has claimed thousands of Indonesians' lives amid widespread human rights violations. The disaster also brought renewed attention to the 20-year-old conflict in northern Sri Lanka, but panelists predicted that local realities point to renewed violence in both places as the global gaze shifts to new crises.

The day's final panel considered the massive media coverage of the disaster. Canadian-born journalist Suleiman Din, who reported on the tsunami's aftermath in Sri Lanka for the Newark Star-Ledger, reflected on the personal distress of witnessing such suffering and the difficulty of fully conveying the human impact on survivors. Columbia Journalism School Professor Sree Sreenivasan noted that because some reporting had initially emphasized the toll of Western vacationers in Thailand, this helped to engage European and American audiences and to evoke the enormous outpouring of public and private assistance for tsunami survivors in general. SIPA Adjunct Professor Thomas Lansner argued that by focusing almost exclusively on victims and relief work, media evoked “empathetic action” from a wide public but mostly failed to explain the larger political context and global and local development disparities that caused many victims to be at risk.

The great Indian Ocean tsunami could not have been prevented. Yet a consensus emerged around a recurring theme of the day's discussions. Greater
education and awareness of the dangers of tsunamis and other potential natural disasters can help lessen their impact—especially on poorer populations—but only if political will and economic resources are marshaled to apply lessons learned. “Tectonics, Politics, and Ethics: The Tsunami and Its Aftermath” was hosted by the Humanitarian Affairs Program at the School of International and Public Affairs, together with The Earth Institute at Columbia University, the Southern Asian Institute, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, the Mailman School of Public Health, and the SIPA Program in International Media and Communications. Thanks to SIPA Humanitarian Affairs Program Director Dirk Salomons and Matt Hoover (MIA ’05) for organizing the event. More information about the meeting may be found at http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/func/ha/tsunami/intro.htm.

Thomas R. Lansner, MIA ’91, is an adjunct professor at SIPA.
Silver Lecture: Madeleine Albright  By Sarah Rimmington

Strengthening democracy and spreading freedom in the Arab world is one of the most important objectives of American foreign policy in 2005, former Secretary of State and Columbia alumna Madeleine Albright told a SIPA audience during the Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture on February 7, 2005. She agreed with President George W. Bush that “the desire for freedom is universal” and that “democracy is the birthright of all.”

Albright’s strategy for helping democracy take root in the Arab world was the central focus of the lecture, an annual event at SIPA since its 1950 inaugural by then-University President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Albright, who is also the first Visiting Saltzman Fellow at the University’s Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, is a distinguished addition to a list of speakers that includes George C. Marshall, Abba Eban, Rajiv Gandhi, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and Mary Robinson.

Supporting Arab democracy is important to America because it is a crucial aspect of ensuring U.S. safety and winning the war on terrorism, she noted. Despite a strong belief that the United States should be involved in building Arab democracy, Albright stressed that such efforts must be an Arab-led affair that “fulfills Arab aspirations” if they are to succeed. And in a clear rebuke of the Bush administration’s approach to democracy building in Iraq, she said that “a broad chasm exists between wanting democracy and building it. Outsiders definitely cannot do it.” In Albright’s view, the appropriate role for the United States is to participate in cooperation with other nations, such as those in the European Union, in support of Arab-led efforts.

Albright stressed that building Arab democracies would be a long-term and complex project. And, in a clear reference to the recent Iraqi elections, she argued that free, fair, and competitive elections were only the first step. In order to build strong and enduring democratic nations in the Arab world, the United States and its partners must find ways to undertake other important initiatives, including efforts that support freedom of speech and a free press, an independent judiciary, respect for the rule of law, good governance, economic prosperity, civil peace, and civil happiness. The United States should encourage these conditions by organizing education and election campaign training projects, supporting independent media sources, and ensuring a role for women and Arab-Americans in the process, she said.

Islamic parties, whether fundamentalist or moderate, must be included in any Arab democracy-building exercise if it is to succeed, according to Albright. It is “incompatible with democracy to exclude Islamic political movements from government,” she argued, because “nothing is more likely than persecution to cause a group to take up desperate means.” Moreover, “even those associated with violence must be allowed to participate in the democratic project, but only if they are committed to change,” she suggested.

Albright reminded the audience that Islam is “no barrier” to democracy. “But where Islam is interpreted conservatively, democracy is perceived as a replacement for God,” she said. If America and its partners are to succeed in building democracy in Islamic countries, they must convince religious Muslims that democracy is not about denying God, she argued. It is about “denying despots the right to play God.”

At the same time, Albright warned that efforts to promote democracy in Islamic countries will never succeed if they are perceived by Arabs as a diversion from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For this reason, U.S. foreign policy must support the implementation of the two-state solution while simultaneously trying to shore up Arab democracy.

Despite her apparently strong support for U.S. participation in democracy building in the Arab world, Albright was careful to point out democracy’s limitations. Democracy alone will not ensure that moderate Islamic leaders are elected in Arab nations, nor will it create economic and social equality, end the Israeli-Arab conflict, or guarantee U.S. safety and security.

However, Albright remains convinced that democracy building in the Arab world is an important goal of U.S. foreign policy in 2005. Under democracy, individual freedom flourishes and “ideologies of hatred are harder to sustain.”

Sarah Rimmington, MIA ’05, is doing an independent concentration in Human Rights and Development Policy.
Development News  The David Lipschultz Fellowship Fund

To honor the memory of David Lipschultz (MIA ’97), his wife Juliana Lipschultz and her family have established The David Lipschultz Fellowship Fund at SIPA. David died tragically in a skiing accident in Aspen, Colorado, last January. He was 33 years old. David was a freelance technology and business writer and, with his wife, co-produced the television show “The Week in Aspen.” Once it is fully funded, this endowment fund will support a SIPA student of Latino descent every year. David was a passionate supporter of SIPA, and we are grateful to his wife and family for this fitting tribute to him.

If you would like to make a contribution to The David Lipschultz Fellowship Fund, please send gifts to:

SIPA Development Office
Columbia University
420 W. 118th Street, Room 1508, MC 3328
New York, NY 10027

For more information, please contact Yun Won Cho, Director of Development, at cy2117@columbia.edu or 212-854-7271.

SIPA Global Leadership Awards Dinner

SIPA presented its Fifth Annual Global Leadership Awards on Tuesday, March 29, at The Pierre in New York City to Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Kenneth J. Knuckles, president and CEO, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, an organization founded by the late Aristotle Onassis and named after his son, Alexander, to enhance research and education in key policy arenas worldwide. The foundation’s president, Stelio Papadimitriou, accepted the award. SIPA’s awards dinner is its most important annual celebration and provides critical support to its students through the School’s fellowship program. This year’s dinner co-chairs were former New York City mayor David N. Dinkins, professor in the practice of public affairs at SIPA, and Michael D. Tusiani, chairman and CEO, Poten and Partners, Inc. and a member of the SIPA Board of Advisors. ABC News correspondent Claire Shipman (CC ’86, SIPA ’94) served as master of ceremonies.

Past SIPA global leadership honorees include former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Senator George Mitchell, Ted Turner, Human Rights Watch, Brazil Central Bank Governor Henrique de Campos Meirelles, and the Nature Conservancy.
Ajit Joshi, MIA ’98, recently wrote “Speaking Out: Achieving Full Diversity in the Foreign Service” for the November 2004 issue of the Foreign Service Journal. SIPA News had an opportunity to speak to him briefly about the issues he sees facing “nontraditional families” in the Foreign Service.

Have you ever been in the Foreign Service?
No. I joined USAID as a presidential management intern in 1998 and have since received tenure as a civil service employee. Even though it would mean a cut in pay, I’ve seriously considered joining USAID’s New Entry Professional Program, the intake program for the Foreign Service. But I’ve been reluctant to do so because of the current Members of Household policy.

What is the Members of Household Policy?
“MOH” is a policy implemented at State in 2000 by Secretary Madeleine Albright. For the first time it recognized, at least in part, the relationships of those persons who share the household of an employee but fall outside the recognized family categories like legal spouse, dependent child, or dependent parent, sister, or brother. MOH includes three new categories of family—aging parents, adult children, and partners (same sex or opposite sex).

This sounds like a significant change. Why do you think it insufficient?
It is significant. As a longtime member of Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies, I know firsthand how much work has gone into bringing the MOH policy to life. MOH has had the longstanding support of archaic rules barring female Foreign Service personnel from being married at all, heterosexual women (and men) must marry their partners to confer on them government benefits. At least five of my female colleagues (of different ages, seniority levels and races) have either decided not to join the Foreign Service because they were unwilling to marry their partners, or have gotten married simply to “fit” into the Service and advance their careers.

In what way?
Right now, anyone whose relationship to an employee falls under MOH is barred from receiving the at-cost benefits afforded to Eligible Family Members (EFMs) like a spouse, child, or dependent.

What makes you concerned about Foreign Service in particular?
I’ve spoken with a number of people about this issue, including some very senior-level officials in the Foreign Service. Most agree that the support of a spouse or partner (same or opposite sex) or of one’s children is crucial when dealing with the crises and stress of the job.

Married employees who are assigned to accompanied Foreign Service posts are able to take their family (and children, when schooling is available) to post at virtually no cost to themselves. As an unmarried employee, I would have to assume massive out-of-pocket costs to bring a domestic partner with me to post, and we would find far less institutional and financial support there than our married colleagues.

What are the long-range implications of this policy for the Foreign Service?
Current Foreign Service policy essentially forces employees to find loopholes to address their needs. It is ironic that, barely three decades after the abolition of archaic rules barring female Foreign Service personnel from being married at all, heterosexual women (and men) must marry their partners to confer on them government benefits. At least five of my female colleagues (of different ages, seniority levels and races) have either decided not to join the Foreign Service because they were unwilling to marry their partners, or have gotten married simply to “fit” into the Service and advance their careers.

This will inevitably hinder efforts to attract a truly diverse workforce. While things are undeniably better than ever before for those of us with “non-traditional” families, the Foreign Service is still far from parity with the American private sector in regard to employee benefits.

What do you say to the opponents of extending benefits?
These struggles are about parity, equity, dignity—and employee productivity. If we are to recruit and retain a productive workforce in an era in which development, defense, and diplomacy are the three pillars of national security, our human resource policies must embody those values—just as we advocate those principles for the stakeholders in the countries in which we work. Enabling workers to be productive by treating them equitably isn’t an issue of special rights but of human rights, civil rights, American rights.

Is the United States behind the curve?
Our friends and allies such as the Canadians, Australians, and British are already well ahead of us, offering at-cost benefits to officers with domestic partners and other Members of Household. As more U.S. Foreign Service officers with same-sex partners get married in Massachusetts, Canada, and Europe, they will rightly move to have the federal government recognize their families and adjust its policies accordingly.

Do you think you will ever enter the Foreign Service?
One day I hope to join the Foreign Service. But right now, there is not enough evidence that USAID would be financially supportive of me as I fulfill my responsibilities both to my elderly parents and to a potential partner—to all my family members. Until I see tangible progress in this regard, I will, reluctantly, continue to defer a decision to join.

Ajit Joshi is currently working in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance at the U.S. Agency for International Development. He is a member of Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA) and served as a GLIFAA board member for partnership issues from 2000 to 2002.
Garry Hesser, IF, ’64
Garry is a professor of sociology and urban studies at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He was named 2004 Minnesota Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advance-ment of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Bruce James Grobe, IF ’76, Columbia Law ’76
Bgrobe7@msn.com or BGROBE@RCSWORKS.COM
Bruce’s current position is vice president and general counsel, Radio Computing Services, Inc., in White Plains, N.Y.

Louise Firestone, MIA
Louise feels very immodest in sharing this: She was one of 50 women honored at the Outstanding Women of the Bar celebration at the New York County Lawyers’ Association Annual Dinner on December 14, 2004.

Peter M. Robinson, MIA
probinson@uscib.org or www.uscib.org
This past April, Peter assumed the post of president and chief executive officer of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB), a leading pro-trade industry group. He has worked at USCIB for more than two decades and is currently its senior vice president and chief operating officer.

John Lund, MIA
john.lund@disney.com
John has been promoted to the newly created position of senior vice president of strategic asset management for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. In this new role, John is responsible for providing global oversight and strategic direction for all aspects of Parks and Resorts asset management, including sustainment, safety, and show quality standards. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife of 17 years, Yolande Simon, and their two daughters, Éléonore (11) and Eugénie (9).

Christopher Schuyler, MIA
Christopher was married to Susan Baker on August 21, 2004, in Yorkshire, England. Editor’s note: We apologize that this missed the last issue, since Mr. Schuyler informed us of his marriage in September.

Dr. Victor Cha, MIA
chav@georgetown.edu
Dr. Cha has taken a public service leave from his professorship at Georgetown to be director of Asian affairs at the National Security Council. At the White House, he is responsible for implementing the president’s policies for Japan, the Koreas, Australia/New Zealand, and regional security.

Gregory Giles, MIA
Gregory recently joined Hicks & Associates, Inc., as a senior director at the Center for Adaptive Strategies and Threats. Previously, he was an assistant vice president with Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC) and manager of its Weapons Proliferation Analysis Division.

John C. Turnbull, MIA
John has used his SIPA training to establish an Internet-based journal on world soccer, focusing on the game’s role in...
The Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM)

“I chose to attend PEPM because the program puts together the most important and controversial issues presently faced by developing countries. I liked discussing the practical lessons of economic policy successes and failures with my classmates from all over the world.”

The Program in Economic Policy Management provides professionals with the skills required to design and implement economic policy effectively, with an emphasis on the issues of developing economies.

The 14-month program includes three semesters of course work, followed by a three-month internship. Students earn a Master of Public Administration. Some applicants may qualify for full financial support.


For an application and additional information: pem@columbia.edu • 212-854-6982 • 212-854-5935 (fax)

The Program in Economic Policy Management is open to professionals from all over the world. The Web site is located at www.pepm.columbia.edu.

1991
Marty (Taylor) Murphy, MIA
marty@collageclothing.com or marty739@yahoo.com
After working as a foreign commercial service officer for the U.S. Department of Commerce and also for several Internet and CRM firms in San Francisco, Marty shifted gears completely and started a women’s clothing boutique in northern California’s wine country. Marty opened Collage in 2002 in Healdsburg, 70 miles north of San Francisco. Collage was recognized as a favorite new boutique in the nationally distributed Lucky Magazine in 2003. Marty lives in Larkspur, Marin County, with Rich Murphy (MPA ’91) and their two children, Drake (7 1/2) and Glennis (5). Rich works for ScanAlert, a new firm based in Napa that provides Internet security services to online retail firms. Come visit Marty at Collage in Healdsburg, enjoy some great wine, and let’s catch up on SIPA news and events.

1993
Lisa Dokken, MPA
ldokken@optonline.net
Lisa reports that after almost eight years in Latin America and Asia, she moved back to the NYC area this past summer.

1994
Julie (Tromberg) Ramirez, MIA

Barbara Magnoni, MIA, Mayada El-Zoghbi, MIA, and Meaghan Smith, MIA
Eleven years after working together on an EPD project in microfinance, three SIPA grads are reunited. Mayada El-Zoghbi, Barbara Magnoni, and Meaghan Smith are partners of GMI, a development consulting firm based in New York. GMI plans to open an office on the Upper West Side in the spring of 2005, and its partners look forward to working more closely with SIPA and its students. Recently, GMI hired Lisa Tarantino Pirozzi (MIA ’94) and Taara Chandani (MIA ’02). For more information, contact contactus@gmi-ny.com.

1995
Patricia (Tricia) Davies, MPA
daviespatrick@hotmail.com
Patricia (Tricia) Davies married Jeremy Blumenfeld (former systems administrator for SIPA’s Computer Lab) two years ago. She has lived and traveled in Ghana, West Africa, with Jeremy, providing capacity-building assistance to local NGOs on behalf of the American Jewish World Service. Tricia is now an independent consultant (strategic planning and organizational development) to the NYC government, local nonprofits, and non-U.S. community-based NGOs.

1997
Jane Leu, MIA, and Camille Ramani, MIA
Jane and Camille are pleased to announce that Upwardly Global, their Bay Area–headquartered nonprofit organization, is opening its first branch office in New York City in 2005. Current SIPA student Nadiya Satyamurthy (MIA ’06) is their spring intern. Upwardly Global works to create economic opportunities for underemployed immigrant professionals and to encourage immigrant inclusion in the workplace. Jane and Camille invite New York area alumni to get involved as corporate partners, volunteers, and supporters. Or come work with them! Please see their Web site at www.upwardlyglobal.org for more information.

Nancy Schwalje Travis, MIA
nancy.travis@verizon.net
After 15 years with the U.S. government, Nancy Schwalje Travis has joined AdvaMed, an industry association representing medical technology manufacturers, as associate vice president for global strategy and analysis. Nancy’s primary responsibility will be pursuing equitable market access and appropriate reimbursement for medical technology in China, but she will also cover Korea, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. Nancy has already traveled to Beijing and Shanghai since starting her new position in January and is looking forward to the crazy but wonderful journey ahead.
to more "hands-on" involvement in the China market.

1998
Maxim M. Duprat, MIA
max.duprat@bearingpoint.com
Maxim recently joined management consulting firm Bearing
Point as senior manager in the Financial Services CRM Practice.

Bernard Moon, MPA
bernard.moon@gmail.com or
bhms@columbia.edu
Bernard moved to the Bay Area in 2004 after four years in Asia
with his fiancée, Christine. Bernard and Christine are get-
ting married this summer and are enjoying San Francisco.
Bernard reports he is having fun starting a software company
and being a part-time columnist for AlwaysOn
(http://www.alwayson-network.com), a leading online technol-
yogy journal/blog.

Maureen Upton, MIA
mtu3@columbia.edu
February 1, 2005, marked
Maureen's first day at CH2M
HILL, a global engineering and construction firm, where she is
working jointly for the corpo-
rate finance and treasury areas.
It's the perfect fit for Maureen,
as she'll be traveling interna-
tionally quite a bit for infra-
structure finance and M&A
deals, and managing banking
relationships and FX exposure
while here in the United
States. Additionally, she'll con-
tinue in her role as trustee for
Janus Funds. As for her writing,
that'll have to wait a while.

1999
Chelsea Emery, MIA
ccece57@hotmail.com
In the space of a year, Chelsea
and her husband bought a

house in New Jersey, bought a
car, and had a baby—a girl
named Annabelle Ginger
Chelsea is taking some time off
from Reuters but will return to
her reporter's job around
August or so.

2001
Michael Joseph Andrews
III, MIA
mjandrews72@yahoo.com or
jandrews@ndi.org
Joe changed jobs in May 2004
After three years with the Uni-
ted Nations—in Guatemala,
East Timor, Democratic
Republic of Congo, and New
York—he moved to D.C. to
take up a new job with the
National Democratic Institute
for International Affairs. He is
a senior program officer on the
Southern and East Africa team

Janet Durieux, EMPA
On July 7, 2004, Janet became
the proud grandmother of a 7
pound, 10 ounce baby boy:
Jalen Alexander Clendenin.

Jordan Lieberman, MIA
jordan@ipecit.org
Jordan and his wife Kira had
their first baby, Eli Henry
Lieberman, 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

Vanessa Pino Lockett,
EMPA
vgl02@aol.com
Vanessa is currently the direc-
tor of community outreach for
the New York State Banking
Department. She is also attend-
ing Stony Brook University for
her PhD in Social Welfare with
a focus on Poverty and
Economic Development.

2002
Ben Delisle, EMPA
bjd2002@columbia.edu
Ben recently began working for
the municipal government of
Jersey City, New Jersey, as a
project manager within the
Department of Housing,
Economic Development, and
Commerce.

Daedre Levine, MPA
daedlevine@yahoo.com
After graduating from SIPA,
Daedre served a brief stint as
executive director of Vote for
America, which she merged
into the Common Cause
Education Fund. She and her
husband Wade Smith had a
baby girl, Sullivan Jane Smith
(whom they call Libby) in
November 2003. Since then,
Daedre has done some elec-
tion-related consulting work,
and teaches "Public Sector
Marketing, Strategy, and
Communications" as an adjunct
in the EMPA program at SIPA.
She is also starting a new chal-
lenge as director of media rela-
tions at Planned Parenthood
Federation of America.

2003
Janet Durieux, EMPA
On July 7, 2004, Janet became
the proud grandmother of a 7
pound, 10 ounce baby boy:
Jalen Alexander Clendenin.

Michael Joseph Andrews
III, MIA
mjandrews72@yahoo.com or
jandrews@ndi.org
Joe changed jobs in May 2004
After three years with the Uni-
ted Nations—in Guatemala,
East Timor, Democratic
Republic of Congo, and New
York—he moved to D.C. to
take up a new job with the
National Democratic Institute
for International Affairs. He is
a senior program officer on the
Southern and East Africa team

Vanessa Pino Lockett,
EMPA
vgl02@aol.com
Vanessa is currently the direc-
tor of community outreach for
the New York State Banking
Department. She is also attend-
ing Stony Brook University for
her PhD in Social Welfare with
a focus on Poverty and
Economic Development.

2004
Erin Nazarowitz, MPA
On September 25, 2004, Erin
and Kenneth Villari were mar-
mated at the Ben Marl Winery in
Marlboro, New York. Erin is
currently a special projects
coordinator for the Department
of Homeless Services in New
York City.

Cyrus Samii, MIA
cyrus@ipacademy.org
Cyrus has been globe hopping
with the International Peace
Academy for programs on
Israel/Palestine, Kashmir, and
reforming the UN and nonpro-
iferation regimes.

In Memoriam
Francis Stanley Bourne, MA ’55 and a longtime friend
of SIPA, died on March 27 at his home in Washington,
D.C. He was 85. A career Foreign Service officer, he retired
in 1979 after assignments as a public opinion researcher in
India, Vietnam, and elsewhere. Mr. Bourne was born in
Waraw and came to the United States with his family as a
child. After graduating from Harvard University in 1940, he
served in England, France, and Belgium with the U.S. Army
Air Forces during World War II.

Mr. Bourne was the grandson of Gabriel Silver, for
whom SIPAs annual Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture is
named. The lectures were established by Mr. Bournes
father, Leo Silver, in memory of his father, to foster interna-
tional understanding and world peace.

We extend our condolences to Mr. Bournes family and
friends.
Dear SIPA News,

After reading the December SIPA News, I was disappointed by the lack of diversity in the faculty response to the 2004 U.S. election.

Out of this collection, the least insightful point was made by Mr. Lieberman, who concluded that the current state of affairs—shown in the cultural divide—poses “a serious challenge not only for the SIPA community . . . but for all those who share the conviction that public policy is best shaped by knowledge and not faith.”

For the majority of the world, especially those living on less than $2 a day, daily life is shaped by faith. It is important for leaders, policymakers, and professors to consider this when devising policy.

During the recent electoral revolution in Ukraine, one group hosted a “prayer tent” on the main square. In the Palestinian elections, student fellowships met to pray for the future of their states, in both Hebrew and Arabic. In Iraq, many went to the polls after first going to the mosque, praying for leaders who will rely on faith to guide their country.

Oppressive, costly policy has been made by well-educated persons with a great expanse of knowledge, just as some progressive, beneficial policy has been written by leaders with a more religious slant. And vice versa. I hold the conviction that public policy is best shaped by both faith and reason.

Perhaps one day, Columbia will seek out other diverse voices to speak to, and for, the SIPA community.

Sincerely,

John W. Jordan
SIPA ’98

Response to John W. Jordan for SIPA News

Mr. Jordan misunderstands my point. Of course he is right that religious faith can be a powerful source of ethical judgment and an important impetus for public policy—for good or ill, I might add. He is also right that knowledge and expertise are not sufficient for good public policy.

But the core conviction behind the very existence and mission of SIPA and other schools of public policy is that knowledge can improve policy. This is why we aim to teach our students the basic tools of policy analysis: so that they can accurately diagnose social problems and design and execute effective remedies for them. Knowledge is not a substitute for the moral convictions and aspirations that can be generated by faith; but prayer tents and such will not by themselves ensure that children receive vaccinations, that villages have clean drinking water, that school and jobs are widely available, or that civilians are protected against military operations.

One lesson of the apparent cultural divide in the 2004 election is that many American voters seem to take a different view and look to their government primarily for moral leadership rather than problem-solving capacity. In the face of this belief, what role can schools of public policy constructively play? The challenge for the SIPA community—and the public policy community more generally—is to show that what we do matters, and this is a matter not only of faith but also of works.

Robert C. Lieberman
Because SIPA students and alumni rely greatly on other alumni for career guidance, we invite you to participate as a career mentor through ACAP.

- ACAP enables you to limit the number of times you are contacted each month.
- You can use ACAP to network with your fellow alumni professionally. Use it when you plan to change cities, countries, or careers.

We ask that all alumni who participate in ACAP:

- make all or part of their records available for students to view;
- indicate their preferred method of contact for ACAP inquiries (e-mail, phone, or mailing address);
- identify their title, employer, and industry.

To use this system you will need your UNI (Columbia's unique user name for all alumni, students, faculty, and staff) plus a password. Typically, your UNI is your initials followed by an arbitrary number, i.e., jk122. Passwords are encrypted and known only to YOU.

- SIPA students can log on immediately, using their student UNI and password.

Global Connection also includes SIPA's ALUMNI CAREER ADVISORY PROGRAM (ACAP), a project of the Office of Career Services.
Recent graduates can use the same UNI and password they used as students.
Alumni may use the same UNI and password they set up for other online alumni services at Columbia University.

If you know your UNI and password:

- Log on to SIPA Global Connection: http://www.sipaglobalconnect.org
- You will be prompted to enter your UNI and password to “Update your record” or SEARCH for another alum.

If you have forgotten your password but remember your UNI:

- Access https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/alumni/alumniat/help.html and request that your password be reset.

If you don't know your UNI and password:

- Access https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/alumni/alumniat/idreq.html and request your UNI. You will be sent a temporary PIN so you can create a password.
- Log onto SIPA Global Connection: http://www.sipaglobalconnect.org
- You will be prompted to enter your UNI and password to “Update your record” or SEARCH for another alum.

Please call our office if you have any problems getting started: 212-854-8671 or toll free at 877-797-2678.