SIPA Reaches Out Around the World
1

From the Dean  Learning Wisdom: Debate at SIPA

2

Alumni Profile  Cecile Brunswick: The Diplomacy of Art

3

Alumni Forum  WTC Town Meeting: Democracy Downtown

4-6

Faculty Profiles
Jeffrey Sachs, Kenneth Prewitt, Joan Helpern, Richard Robb, David Nissen

7-8

Student Profiles
James Lalremruata, Violeta Krasnic, Robert Seidman, Svetlana Pinzari

10

SIPA Reaches Out Around the World

12

Extending East: SIPA Travels to Asia

14

On the Job Around the Globe

17

Alumni News  MPA Graduates Celebrate Their 10th Reunion

18

Alumni News  Letter from Jakarta

9  Picker Center News

19  Class Notes

21  Development News
Learning Wisdom: Debate at SIPA

From the Dean: Lisa Anderson

To live life at SIPA is to live at the center of controversy. But, and you may be surprised to read this here, that is exactly how I think it should be. Whether we deliberate about curriculum reform, argue about the merits of economic policy in Manhattan or Mongolia (and we have alumni in both places, and nearly everywhere in between, debating economic policy right now), discuss admissions criteria or challenge the World Trade Organization, we are a community not simply of disinterested scholars but of deeply committed and passionate analysts and activists. It is our dedication to the schooling of that passion and commitment which makes SIPA the magic place it is.

I was reminded of this most recently as we began a debate here at SIPA, indeed, at universities across the United States, about the merits of the campaign calling for universities to divest their holdings in firms that manufacture and supply weapons used by Israel to maintain the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Debate being what it is, this conversation has been heated, as proponents of divestment have voiced very pointed and harsh criticisms of Israeli government policy and opponents have drawn on arguments from national security to free trade to condemn the campaign.

In permitting — indeed, encouraging — students, faculty, and staff to debate this question, or any other question of public policy, we at SIPA are fulfilling one of the fundamental purposes of a university, to provide an arena in which ideas are tested.

We often forget that there are three elements in a good education. The most familiar is learning, of course, the transmission of a community’s received wisdom to new generations. All SIPA students experience this, learning as they do from the work of their elders, and it allows each generation to incorporate and build on the work of its predecessors. A good education also entails the creation of new knowledge through research. Most SIPA students are also familiar with this, working on data sets, pouring over archives, designing surveys, participating in workshops with faculty and other researchers. Sometimes the product is a major scientific breakthrough — the kind of thing that quickly becomes the received wisdom of the next generation. Usually it is more modest — perhaps a new plan for managing a not-for-profit organization’s social service delivery — but this sort of invention is nonetheless a part of the creative impulse at the core of true education.

There is a third vital element of genuine education, and that is the refinement of ideas, both received and new, through testing and debate. This constant, restless challenge to our understanding of our world in what John Stuart Mill called the “marketplace of ideas” is not ordinarily listed as part of the university’s curriculum, but it is an essential part of the translation of new knowledge into received wisdom, indeed, of the conversion of information into knowledge in the first place. Unlike the first two elements, this one does not have a formal venue or time slot on the university schedule. It may take place in the classroom, but it doesn’t have to. Indeed, it should infuse the entire experience of life at a place like SIPA. Any good class and all research require testing, critical analysis and argument. But the habit of mind that reflects an educated person is discriminating, thoughtful and demanding outside of class and beyond the research project as well.

A competent citizen takes seriously the responsibility to think reflectively, to examine questions carefully, to both treasure and to test the received wisdom of the community. In order to nurture this capacity among our students at SIPA, we steadfastly defend the notion of academic freedom. There would be nothing to debate, no reason to question our assumptions, to challenge received wisdom, to create new knowledge if we all agreed on everything. Fortunately, we do not. We provoke each other to reflect on and refine our beliefs and our arguments and in the process we strengthen ourselves as individuals and as a community. So, yes, dear readers, you may take exception to some of the positions you see or hear among the students and faculty at SIPA in the debate about divestment, and in many other forums.

From my experience, there is no better place in the world than at Columbia, from the International Affairs Building’s sixth floor coffee shop to the steps of Low Library, for an animated discussion about issues of concern to our community. We hope that our friends and alumni, like today’s students, seized and treasured the opportunity to test their ideas in this most accommodating of marketplaces. And we hope that they are all better citizens for it, still committed and passionate, but discerning and wise as well.
Walking into Cecile Brunswick’s studio in the garment district of Manhattan is like stepping through the looking glass into Alice’s Wonderland. Each door of the labyrinthine space yields a new surprise — a boxy foyer hung with black and white photos, a tiny anteroom warmly decorated with cinnamon-colored walls and whimsical sculptures, and a long, narrow hallway lined with large canvases wrapped in plastic like gifts waiting to be opened.

And at the very end of the path, the apartment unfolds into a brightly lit room with high ceilings and pure white walls dressed with her paintings, whose signature style includes bold lines against backgrounds gently washed in color.

Brunswick, who graduated back in the days when SIPA was still SIA (the School of International Affairs), has shaped a career for herself as an artistic ambassador, using her painting as an avenue for dialogue about international affairs and understanding.

When she started at SIA, though, she dreamed of being a diplomat in the Middle East, focusing on Arab-Israeli relations.

"Not a very good choice for a woman at that time," said Brunswick, who was born in Belgium and came to the United States as a young child.

After graduation, she stayed in New York, instead, and worked for the Foreign Policy Association, the Indonesian consulate, and as a speechwriter for the Afghan delegation to the United Nations.

At the UN, Brunswick spent so much time with the diplomats she worked for that "other diplomats thought I was a member of the Afghani delegation, which amused me to no end," she said.

A short while later, Brunswick married and moved to a "teeny tiny town" in western Pennsylvania, where her only contact with international affairs was through books borrowed from the local library. Instead of writing speeches for diplomats as she had done in New York, she penned letters to the editor of the local paper offering commentary on current events.

"I didn’t know what I would do. There wasn’t anything I could use my degree for," she said.

Within a year and a half, she and her family had moved back to New York City, but instead of resuming her career in international affairs, she started down another path, photography. She began working for a photo agency, and soon started taking her own pictures and building her own business.

After attending an intensive art workshop in Assisi, Italy, where she "did nothing but paint," Brunswick changed course again and focused on the fine arts.

"I use my paintings to express my feelings about what I see and feel, and what is happening in my life," she said. "It isn’t haphazard. It’s based on what I’ve learned."

Two years ago, during a trip to Morocco, she finally had an opportunity to merge her interest in art and international affairs, and to use her paintings to raise awareness about other countries and cultures.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
By Erin Doyle, '01

On Saturday, July 20th, 2002, I had the opportunity to participate in something awesome: democracy in action. As someone who has spent most of her life in a thriving democracy (and enough time in fledgling democracies and non-democracies to know better), I am certain that we Americans take our freedom for granted on a daily basis. Perhaps that’s because most of us have never known anything else. But I have, and that’s what inspired me to participate in the town hall meeting to discuss the rebuilding of lower Manhattan.

Brief visits to Soviet Russia, Cuba, and Nicaragua and three years working in Eurasia for NGOs that aim to foster participatory democracy in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union have blessed me with a deep appreciation for all the freedoms we enjoy. After years of watching others work to build better societies, to voice their opinions loudly enough for their (sometimes unwilling) governments to hear, I was presented with the opportunity to be a voice in the civil society of my own world. I was also presented with the responsibility to act on that opportunity.

The town hall was nothing short of extraordinary. I had witnessed countless similar exercises in new democracies, but nothing can compare to what happened in New York City that day. More than 4,000 citizens came together to make their voices heard. More than 4,000 citizens were not complacent about their civic responsibility. We devoted an entire Saturday (a beautiful day in the middle of summer) to the rebuilding of our city and, ultimately, to our belief in democracy. We were addressed by members of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (the organization charged with heading up the rebuilding effort), the Port Authority (the organization generally responsible for the World Trade Center), the mayor’s office, and one of the victims’ families associations. A brilliant facilitator walked us through a day of structured discussion that covered topics from our hopes and concerns about rebuilding downtown to reactions to the six plans unveiled earlier that week for the WTC site and ideas on appropriate settings for a memorial.

Using the latest technology (each participant had a keypad to respond to multiple choice questions) we were able to see results to simple questions immediately. A review of the demographics of the participants showed that the group was representative of the region at large in terms of gender, age, income, race, and ethnicity. We also learned that: 9% of us were survivors of 9/11; 33% were at or near Ground Zero on 9/11; 21% became displaced or unemployed as a result of 9/11; 6% were rescue or recovery workers; 23% live or lived in lower Manhattan; 41% work or worked in lower Manhattan.

For more involved questions, we held small group discussions at tables of up to 10 people: picture a room with over 400 small group discussions occurring simultaneously. Each table had a professional facilitator to assist with the discussion, all of whom came to New York on their own dime, in response to a call for volunteers over the Internet. They came from all 50 states and six foreign countries, including Afghanistan. The participants at my table included: a Caucasian, handicapped woman of about 50, who is a resident of lower Manhattan and head of a tenant organization in Battery Park City; an African-American woman who is a lawyer and whose two sons worked at the WTC (neither was hurt on 9/11); an Arab man who worked at Windows on the World but was not at work on 9/11; a Caucasian woman in her 20’s who is a Ph.D. student in sociology at Columbia and was there primarily to observe the process; and me (I was at Ground Zero on 9/11 and am still displaced from my place of work.) The dynamic in the room was phenomenal — everyone was focused on the task at hand, was serious about discussion, and considerate of everyone’s opinions. Participants laughed and cried together, as the subject matter warranted.

Each table was equipped with a laptop computer, hooked into a network. Responses were funneled to the network and read by a team of analysts who summarized the results and posted them on large screens throughout the room about an hour after we submitted them. It was amazing not only to receive such immediate feedback but also to see such dramatic trends in the responses from throughout the room. Opinions were expressed on an array of issues — from a review of the six concept plans to a proposed mission statement for the memorial, the importance of restoring the skyline, and the need for affordable housing in the neighborhood. Due to an overwhelmingly negative response to the six concept plans, the planners agreed at the end of the day to re-think them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16
When Jeffrey Sachs gave his first lectures at Columbia this fall, SIPA’s auditorium could barely hold the throng of students who poured in. The eager audience had come to hear the scholar who has served as an advisor to governments all over the globe and has, on occasion, been called the “world’s most important economist.” They weren’t disappointed. Sachs’s forthright opinions on achieving sustainable development in the 21st century left them with plenty to think about.

Sachs’s move from Harvard University to Columbia last year and his much-publicized appointment as director of the Earth Institute was seen as something of a coup for Columbia. Sachs also serves as special advisor to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals, an international plan for poverty alleviation that includes cutting extreme poverty by half and achieving universal primary education throughout the world.

Sachs says that his responsibilities at the UN will complement his work at the Earth Institute, where many scientists are already working on ways to meet the Millennium goals. “The fact that I personally have these two responsibilities, and, more importantly, that the United Nations agencies and the Earth Institute are working together on this shared commitment, is extremely exciting and strongly promotes the shared objective,” he said.

Sachs does not mince words when he talks about the progress on the Millennium Development Goals. “If things are left as they are right now, we will not meet the Millennium goals, we will not find the political will, and we will have continued extreme suffering of billions of people in the coming decade,” he said. “But it is quite possible not only to meet the goals from a technical point of view but actually to find the political organization and will to do that. I think that at critical moments like this we have to work especially hard to try to turn these potential crises into a real positive opportunity.”

Sachs, who is known for unorthodox views about development, is equally candid when he discusses the commitment resource-rich countries must make towards issues of sustainable development. He is especially vocal about their role in the war against AIDS in Africa. “We got the treasury secretary to Africa this spring. He went to hospitals and he went to the clinics and he was horrified by what he saw. I’m still waiting for the policy response to that. There is a little bit of progress, but it is much too slow. It is not satisfactory at all. I won’t take heart in it until the U.S. is really exercising the kind of leadership that it is capable of exercising and that the world needs it to exercise,” he said.

Sachs came to Columbia after a long tenure at Harvard, where he was director of the Centre for International Development and the Galen L. Stone Professor for International Trade. He has acted as a consultant to organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme, and has served as an economic advisor to governments on every continent. “The things I have been able to see and learn in the past 20 years of on-the-ground work in all parts of the world for me suggest real solutions to some of these great challenges,” he said.

Besides heading the Earth Institute, Sachs has appointments at SIPA and at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He is giving lectures all over the university, meeting students and working to get them involved with the Earth Institute. “I definitely plan to devote a lot of time to teaching. But this first year is teaching through visiting all parts of the university and giving a lot of talks and lectures along the way,” he explained.

And how does Columbia compare to Harvard? “I love Harvard, I have to say. I spent 30 years there and didn’t imagine that I was not going to spend the next years of my career there. This came as a surprise, but I am finding Columbia and New York to be completely exhilarating.”

Anjali Cordeiro is a first-year MIA student concentrating in International Media and Communications and South Asian studies.
Ken Prewitt

By Fabiola Salata

When Professor Ken Prewitt got a call offering him the position of director of the United States Census Bureau, overseeing the 2000 population survey, he was so surprised, he suggested several other people he thought would be better suited for the job.

But once he began working on the census, often hailed as the largest peacetime mobilization in America’s history, it became a “fascinating experience,” said Prewitt, who started his new appointment at SIPA in January 2003.

Prewitt said he loved “watching the civic participation in the census unfold in thousands of communities across the country.”

Inside the nation’s capital, however, he got a different view.

“Initially, I underestimated the way in which partisanship would try to trump evidence and rational argument,” Prewitt said. “In the university, we believe that facts are stubborn things, and that they should and will prevail. In partisan politics, facts are not stubborn but endlessly flexible.”

After leaving the Census Bureau, Prewitt served as dean of the graduate faculty at the New School University before coming to SIPA. This semester he will teach two courses, one on the role of race in census surveys around the world, and another on the complex interaction between the social sciences and policy analysis.

Prewitt, who has done considerable research on the role private foundations play in policy analysis and policy advocacy, has twice served as president of the Social Science Research Council, and as a board member of several academic and international organizations.

Prewitt said he is excited to engage SIPA students in discussions about how national measurement systems, such as a census, affect group identities and social issues such as race relations. With such a diverse international population, SIPA offers a great opportunity to gather different perspectives, he said.

“This is the early tremor of an earthquake in how we understand race and ethnicity… The public is ill-prepared, and the policy process confused. Perhaps SIPA is the place to prepare the lesson plans for the country.”

Joan Helpern

By Christine Caralis

“Y
ou will have to be very direct, I ramble,” said Joan Helpern, founder of the fashion house Joan & David, with a warm smile.

A native New Yorker who has lived all around the world, a social psychologist, a business entrepreneur, a CEO and a fashion icon, Helpern joined the SIPA faculty this past fall as a co-professor with Professor Hans Decker of the International Finance and Business (IFB) Internship Workshop.

She was attracted to the international aspects of SIPA, which she likens to a mini-United Nations, because she values mentoring so much. She describes the students as “committed scholars from all of the world exchanging ideas, learning new skills, getting to know each other, refining their thinking, and re-examining their issues.”

Although new to SIPA, she has a Columbia Master of Social Psychology and is currently a faculty advisor and mentor to the Business School’s Lang Entrepreneurial Studies Program. Helpern had always intended to stay in academia, and she attended Harvard University to complete her doctorate in social psychology.

Eventually Helpern left academia to establish a successful fashion company, Joan & David, targeting intelligent business women. Ever since, she has been shattering the glass ceiling for women.

Helpern presently serves on Harvard’s JFK Women’s Leadership Board. She is the recipient of over three dozen awards, from design excellence to personal achievement, is a member of the Council of Fashion Directors of America, and is a co-founder of the Committee of 200, a forum designed to encourage and support women entrepreneurs and corporate executives.

She says her real mentors were her mother and grandmother, who taught her to never be satisfied. She recounts proudly that her mother completed a double major in 1912 and her grandmother established a successful insurance business in the 1800s. Like these women who inspired her, Joan Helpern is pioneering the way for women and is now bringing those skills to benefit SIPA students.
Wearing black converse sneakers, an old polo shirt, and faded black jeans, Richard Robb hardly seems the corporate type. While pursuing a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Chicago, Robb distinguished himself as a serious academic, conducting research with Nobel Laureate Gary Becker on manpower training programs. Currently, in his spare time, Robb manages a hedge fund that trades and invests in European asset-backed securities.

Robb’s obvious intellectual curiosity and concern for social policy may seem hard to square with his 16 years in corporate finance. Although Robb won’t claim he “wanted to help mankind through derivatives,” he denies selling out. In Robb’s view, “society benefits from a banker who helps underwrite a novel residential mortgage bond (allowing families to buy homes) in the same way that it benefits from a researcher who devises more effective urban policies.”

As a professor, Robb engages students with his obvious love for economics and his liberal pragmatism. He said the highlight of his first year at SIPA was when his students developed an economic policy solution for increasing the supply of AIDS vaccines to Africa.

What’s unique about our program is the concentration on the interaction between energy policy, business, and economic development… which is appropriate for our location here at SIPA,” says David Nissen when describing the Program in International Energy Management and Policy (IEMP).

Nissen became director of IEMP this fall and has spent the last few months solidifying the program’s graduate curriculum while settling in at the Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy.

That Nissen has worked in both the public and private sectors gives him a vantage point from which to further develop the IEMP goal of getting “policymakers and business developers on the same page.” He spent the last 12 years as the “resident economist” for Poten & Partners, an energy consulting firm, but also worked for the federal government during the administrations of Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter.

During his time at the Federal Energy Administration, which eventually became the Department of Energy, Nissen worked on the development of a national energy policy, originally called “Project Independence” by the Nixon Administration. “It was a very exciting time of my life; we were trying to bring some rationality to a very big problem,” Nissen said.

Mohammed Hadi is a second-year MPA student concentrating in Media and Communications. Last summer he interned atAFX News, a business newswire in New York.
James Lalremruata

James Lalremruata, a political activist from Burma (also known as Myanmar) is an MPA student at SIPA studying international development and management. James possesses a determination to fight, through non-violent means, to restore democracy in Burma, which he describes as “one of the most repressive governments in the world.”

Lalremruata’s political activism dates back to the 8888 movement (August 8, 1988), the nationwide uprising which was brutally repressed, calling for an end to military rule. In the 1990 election, Aung San Suu Kyi, the General Secretary of the National League for Democracy, won 82% of the national vote. However, the government nullified the election. As Lalremruata attests, “It is still the will of the Burmese people that power be transferred to our elected government.”

Lalremruata, a teenager at the time, was part of an underground network that assisted activists fleeing into neighboring countries, and in 1992, he also left Burma for New Delhi, India, where he received political asylum as a refugee. This was the last time Lalremruata saw his family.

While in India, Lalremruata co-founded the All Burma Student League (ABSL), a non-violent movement that believes in “people’s unity and strength” in establishing a truly democratic government and “will leave no stone unturned in its fight to remove the bloody military regime in Burma.” Lalremruata lobbied the Indian government, international organizations, and political parties to appeal for the support of the Burmese people; he also launched a number of political and social awareness campaigns.

He left India to finish his undergraduate degree at Hartwick College in New York and then came to SIPA to continue his studies. After graduating this spring, Lalremruata will not return to his homeland, as he would be forced to acknowledge the military government as the true and legitimate government of Burma. However, he will continue his struggle and that of the Burmese people. He considers the fight for democratization as “do or die.”

He believes that, “The most important part is keeping the spirit alive. If you lose your heart, you lose everything.”

Violeta Krasnic

Violeta Krasnic is a problem solver. She saw a crisis in her native country — violence against women — and set up a women’s center to help victims and put an end to the abuse. Before coming to SIPA, Krasnic, a first-year MIA student from Belgrade, Serbia, co-founded the Autonomous Women’s Center Against Sexual Violence in Belgrade in 1993.

“At that point, the rape of Muslim women by Serbian men in Bosnia was receiving lots of attention,” said Krasnic, whose studies at SIPA focus on human rights. “We knew Serbian women had been raped, too, so we said, “Let’s go find them.”

Krasnic established a hotline for victims of sexual violence, provided one-on-one counseling, and formed self-help support groups to address the various needs of victims. The organization also provided legal help, healthcare, and economic support to women. At one point it had a theater, where the women would put on skits for one another.

“It was encouraging to see someone do something for themselves,” Krasnic said.

While running the women’s center, Krasnic worked with nongovernment organizations focused on women’s issues, and, in 1997, helped organize the first Women’s Human Rights Conference for Central and Eastern Europe. Krasnic also helped organize support groups, education sessions, and worked on media relations as she traveled throughout Serbia.

Krasnic’s work with victims of violence started while she was a student at Belgrade University, studying psychology. A domestic violence hotline sought volunteers, and Krasnic offered her time. “I had these huge ideas of changing the world, of changing their world,” she said.

Krasnic left the center and Belgrade in 1998 to continue her formal education. She finished her psychology degree at Columbia’s School of General Studies in 2001, and then decided to continue her studies at SIPA.

She expects to graduate with her MIA in December 2003, and says she has no formal post-graduation plans, but knows she wants to work in the area of human rights. The only way to secure women’s safety is through empowerment, she said, and she hopes to continue working on behalf of women.

Sandra Kinne is a first-year MPA student concentrating in education policy. Before coming to SIPA, she taught fourth grade in Compton, California.
For Robert Seidman, SIPA has provided a perspective that reaches well beyond his days on Wall Street. He is in his second year of the Executive MPA program, attempting to add something “more than spreadsheets” to his resume.

“Wall Street has its own sub-culture,” Seidman says of his six years in the financial world. “I was surrounded by so many smart people, and you never stand out with your just-above-the-average smartness.” Wall Street culture also startled him with its own lingo and intensive interaction in the financial market. “I needed a translator for the first six months.” Even though he made his way up the corporate ladder in this field at major organizations such as Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs, he was still drawn to politics and the public sector.

He decided to leave the corporate world, and he is now working at New York Governor George Pataki’s office. Seidman finds SIPA’s EMPA program so appealing because it not only allows him to continue working, but he can apply much of what he learns in the classroom to his job.

“She is dealing with public-private partnership, to which I can apply a lot of my coursework at SIPA,” Seidman says excitedly. He is enjoying learning about the various political, financial, and legal aspects of working in the public sector.

SIPA also offers Seidman a much broader perspective. Before SIPA, he had only limited exposure to international environments at work, “since all their overseas offices are only located in industrialized countries.” But at SIPA, with nearly half of the students coming from places outside of the U.S., he is learning about countries and cultures that he was never exposed to in his Wall Street days. He is confident that SIPA is opening the door for him to a broader world.

Studying at SIPA with students from around the world has inspired Svetlana Pinzari, former vice-governor of the Bank of Moldova, to promote government support of university education, particularly in the areas of economics and technology. Pinzari, a student in the Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM) at SIPA, is studying for her MPA, focusing in macroeconomic policy management.

In 1991, Pinzari was working in a small village bank when Moldova gained its independence from the USSR. Moldova then commenced the transition from Soviet-style government to one of its own design. During the past 10 years, the Moldovan government has revamped its entire economic system, often with the assistance of short-term training offered by many international organizations.

Pinzari attended the trainings and steadily moved up the ranks from the village bank to vice-president of the commercial bank to the very prominent position of vice-governor.

Her willingness to learn and try new things has helped her advance in her career and led her to SIPA. “I benefit greatly from meeting people from the central banks of different countries such as Pakistan, Mongolia, Haiti, and China and discussing monetary policy and government procedures. It helps me to learn of the strengths and weaknesses of different regimes.” Pinzari also plans to promote a government program she learned of from a classmate from Kazakhstan “to send young people to university as a means to invest in the future.” She finds it very hard to compare studying at SIPA to her previous university study in Moldova, pre-1991. At that time she only studied the socialist model of economics and says that “free discussion was not encouraged.” Pinzari appreciates the teaching style of PEPM Director Francisco Rivera-Batiz, who encourages the students to analyze the weakness and strengths of policies.

The learning environment at SIPA does not leave her with very much free time, which is her only regret. Nonetheless, Pinzari finds that after so many years of practical experience, it is good to be a student again. “I just remember that where there is a will there is a way!”
After two years of planning, the Northern Ireland Peace Builders Program was launched this semester. In this pilot program, 20 participants (10 policemen, nine community workers, and one housing executive worker) came from Northern Ireland and spent six weeks living, studying, working, and socializing together in New York City. Through two weeks of classroom lectures and a four-week internship placement, the participants were able to gain a broader understanding of Northern Ireland’s problems and to build relationships with each other that would have been virtually impossible in Northern Ireland.

The program was hosted by SIPA’s Picker Center and jointly organized with Frank Costello, head of Costello Associates, which is involved in community development investment in Ireland and the U.S. During the first and the final weeks, students spent their days in the classroom focusing on topics as general as globalization and as specific as the data gathering system used by the New York Police Department. Supplemental speakers and activities throughout the program included: Lisa Anderson, dean of SIPA; Senator George Mitchell, senior research fellow at SIPA’s Center for International Conflict Resolution; Joseph Esposito, the chief of the NYPD; and visits to the International Institute on Conflict Resolution, Ground Zero, the United Nations, and the Federal Reserve.

Although it was a challenge for many of the participants to be back in an academic environment and to be so far away from loved ones, both the organizers and participants rated the program as a huge success. For many participants, this was their first time visiting the United States, or for that matter, leaving Northern Ireland. Coming to New York City and being based at Columbia gave them the opportunity to step back and see Northern Ireland’s problems in a bigger context. “In short, our experience at Columbia University allowed us to see that the problems we face in our day-to-day lives at home are no different, and perhaps lesser to some extent, than the problems many others face in New York City,” said Ciaran McClean, a community worker from County Tyrone.

Participants learned specific tools and techniques to be applied in their community work back home, and, most importantly, formed relationships with people whom they wouldn’t normally have acknowledged. Stuart Mullan, a community worker in West Belfast, said that before this program he had “little experience of working constructively alongside policemen and had few personal relationships with local officers.”

Community workers and policemen who participated were intentionally chosen from the same communities, and organizers hope that the relationships formed at SIPA will continue when the participants return back home. Relations between these two groups have been strained, and the increased understanding and knowledge gained by the participants, ideally, will increase their cooperation and effectiveness as peace builders. Bill Eimicke, director of SIPA’s Picker Center, said, “I think this program will make a difference in Northern Ireland. I think if we can replicate it, it will make an even bigger difference.”

Rebecca Tunstall is a first-year MIA student concentrating in International Economic Policy. Before coming to SIPA, she researched the political economy of Latin America at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.
SIPA Reaches Out Around the World

By Christine Ostrowski

SIPA aims to promote an environment in which its graduates are able to excel in an increasingly interdependent world. But this feat cannot be achieved alone. Cooperation and exchange with universities and institutions around the world lead to a more cosmopolitan and rewarding experience, both for students and faculty members of international and public affairs.

One of the most popular and well-established student exchanges is the Sciences Po program. Students earn a dual degree from SIPA and the Institut des Sciences Politiques in Paris, spending one year in New York and the other in France. It is a demanding program, in which students must not only take intense courses in economics, political science and international affairs, but must do so in French and English.

“It was definitely a challenge,” says Rosa Ailabouni, an American student who spent her first year at Sciences Po, and is now at SIPA studying international finance and business. “In addition to having to overcome the language barrier, you’re also learning a different educational system. But that is also what makes the program so unique.”

Assistant Dean Melissa Poueymirou, who heads the Sciences Po program at SIPA, describes the program as a multidisciplinary education in international affairs. “The program works to prepare students for a global career in the private, nonprofit and public sectors,” she said. “Graduates join a growing network of internationally trained decision-makers and professionals.”

Ailabouni believes the SIPA/Sciences Po dual degree program is a way for students of international affairs to get two different perspectives on issues facing the world today.

“I think the students that participate get a very well-rounded education, learning about different conflicts and putting forth resolutions,” she said. She added, “There is no better preparation for working in the international arena than immersing oneself in it.”

One of the most recent additions to SIPA’s exchange programs is an initiative with the London School of Economics (LSE). Similar to the Sciences Po program, students will be able to earn a dual MPA degree from SIPA and LSE.

Judith Rees, deputy director of LSE, believes the joint program will foster students’ expertise in policy management and help them develop a unique skill set. “Our goal is to improve the training of people going into the public sector to cope with critical problems in a complex world,” Rees said at the program launch in September 2002.

If approved by the University Senate, the dual-degree program will kick off next fall, sending its first group of SIPA students to London, and receiving LSE students from across the pond.

Turning to South America, the Externado program, run by the Picker Center, is one of the most well-established faculty exchanges at SIPA. Externado is one of the premier universities in Bogotá, Colombia, with a curriculum that Director Bill Eimicke says “parallels SIPA’s MPA and MIA degrees.”

The program began in the early 1990’s, with faculty from Columbia traveling to Externado to instruct students concentrating in international business. Today, SIPA professors teach compressed courses in a number of subjects ranging from management to accounting and finance.

“It enables us to bring the quality of a SIPA education to people who otherwise wouldn’t be able to get it,” says Eimicke. “It has also enabled our faculty to learn about another important part of the world.”

Members of the SIPA faculty have performed joint research with visiting scholars from Externado. As a result of the program, SIPA has seen a high number of Colombian students deciding to continue their education in New York.

“The Externado program has proved a huge success, both for the students and the faculty,” says Eimicke.

Looking to the other side of the world, the newest initiative is SIPA’s partnership with Renmin, a prominent university in China. Robert Mundell, a Nobel Prize economist and SIPA...
faculty member, is one of the initiators of the partnership.

Economic policy managers from China will come to Columbia and participate in the Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM). At the end of the two-year program they receive a master’s of finance degree from Renmin.

Next fall, eight to 12 Renmin students will constitute the first class of the collaboration effort. In addition to student participation, faculty will also be involved in the venture. This spring two or three SIPA economics faculty will travel to China to teach at Renmin. Dean Robin Lewis described the initiative as “a capacity-building project.”

Lewis said he is excited about the initiative. “This is an important new collaboration with a top Chinese university that promises to offer new opportunities for China’s future economic managers to receive world-class training,” says Lewis.

Finally, SIPA has taken a leading role in the launch of a new partnership, appropriately named Alliance, which encompasses Columbia University as a whole in conjunction with a consortium of schools in France, namely Ecole Polytechnique, La Sorbonne, and Sciences Po. These four institutions have come together in a commitment to interdisciplinary programs surrounding the issue of globalization.

“There exists a gap of understanding between the U.S. and Europe on a number of different themes related to globalization,” says Francis Verillaud, a vice president at Sciences Po. “We are attempting to close such a gap through forums and talks led by the participating education institutions.”

The consortium is looking to involve students, professors and professionals in working towards solutions to the various gaps and problems that exist. Stemming from these initial forums, the group hopes to develop workshops, joint courses, and research programs to work towards solutions.

“We don’t want to have a situation in which we have a conference and examine all of these inconsistencies between the two systems, and then everybody goes home and forgets about it,” explains Pascal DeLisle, a visiting professor at SIPA from Sciences Po and one of the organizers of the program. “We want to create a dynamic that encourages continued public dialogue.”

The program held its first venture on November 7-8 at SIPA on the topic of “Risk in the International System.” Possible themes for future meetings include intellectual property and development and public utilities. The organizers are planning to hold the next meeting in France this spring.

In this increasingly interdependent world, SIPA is well prepared to meet the challenges and needs of its students and faculty. However, there is no better way to train for leadership in the interconnected world of the 21st century than by experiencing and learning from a different intellectual community and culture.

Christine Ostrowski, SIPA News editor, is a second-year MIA student concentrating in International Media and Communications. Last summer she interned at CBS News in London.
Extending East: SIPA Travels to Asia

By Choongo Moonga

SIPA has extended its presence in Asia by launching a dual degree program in finance and economic policy with Renmin University in Beijing, China. At Renmin’s invitation, Dean Lisa Anderson traveled to Beijing in May to formally sign an agreement between the two schools. She was joined by Francisco Rivera-Batiz, the director of SIPA’s Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM), PEPM’s assistant director, Maya Haddow, and Economics Professor Robert Mundell.

The dual degree entails joint academic work between the Program in Economic Policy Management and Renmin University, and is a culmination of long-standing cooperation between the two universities, Rivera-Batiz said.

“Professor Robert Mundell of the economics department and Hong-yi Chen, a former Renmin student who is now a doctoral candidate in the Columbia economics department, have been instrumental in getting the program implemented,” Rivera-Batiz said. Professor Mundell, who has taught at Renmin in the past, strongly recommended the program, which began formally in September of last year.

Dean Anderson is also enthusiastic about the new program. “We are committed not only to educating the future leaders of the world, but to strengthening the capacity of other institutions devoted to the same goal. In this wonderful collaboration, we are accomplishing both of these purposes.”

As part of the daylong festivities, Dean Anderson was invited to deliver the Mundell Huang Da Lecture to an audience of Renmin students, administrators, and several SIPA alumni. Dean Anderson’s talk covered the current contributions of social scientists to public policy development and was followed by an impressive traditional dinner hosted by Renmin’s President Baosheng Ji.

Over the course of the three-day trip to Beijing, the dean was also able to meet a number of SIPA alumni including Guoqiang Chen ’95, Yue Wang ’95, Steven Zhang ’93, Michael Pettis ’81, Songzuo Xiang ’01, and Victoria Zhou ’94. About a dozen alumni joined her for an informal breakfast, and several were able to accompany her on sightseeing excursions to the Forbidden Palace, Tianamen Square and the Great Wall. SIPA is especially indebted to PEPM alumnus Songzuo Xiang ’01, who provided the dean’s transportation and acted as a tour guide on all of her side trips. Special thanks are also extended to Hong-yi Chen, who planned all of the logistics for the trip, including travel, accommodations, scheduling with Renmin, and touring.

As part of her May trip to Asia, Dean Anderson also visited Seoul, South Korea, to present a posthumous degree to the family of the late JooWon Park (MIA ’01), a SIPA student who died from wounds he sustained when his apartment caught fire in October 2001.

Park, then 25, was completing his last semester as an Economic and
Political Development (EPD) concentrator. A group of about 50 Columbia University alumni attended the reception, hosted by Anderson, where the posthumous award was formally presented to Park’s family.

“The students appreciated the dean’s decision to honor the late student,” said Rodrick Dial, SIPA’s director of alumni relations, who accompanied the dean on the trip.

After dining privately with Park’s parents and sister on her first night in Seoul, the dean hosted a dinner the second evening at the InterContinental Hotel for SIPA alumni in Seoul. Thirty-five SIPA graduates attended, along with several newly-admitted SIPA students who were scheduled to begin their studies in the fall of 2002. Woo-Taik Kim, the president of the Columbia University Alumni Club of Korea, also attended the dinner and formally welcomed the dean to Korea with several of his board members.

The dinner program included the dean’s presentation of Park’s diploma to his family. In addition, Do-Hyung Kim ’99, who provided invaluable help in scheduling the dean’s trip and planning the dinner, used the gathering to introduce his idea of forming a SIPA Alumni Association in Korea. Kim’s suggestion was met with enthusiasm, and he has since begun to organize a formal alumni association that will cooperate with Columbia’s University-wide club.

Thanks to the great hospitality of Park’s parents, his sister Yeonjoo Park, and his close friend, Young-Im Cho ’02, the dean was able to tour many of Seoul’s major sites during the short trip. Cho, who was also a leader of the SIPA group Korea Focus, specifically made the trip to Seoul to help the dean and the Park family.

Several months after the trip, SIPA was delighted to receive a generous contribution on behalf of the Columbia University Alumni Club of Korea. The gift is intended to support Korean student activities at SIPA and will be used to provide fellowship funds for a Korean student and support for Korea Focus.

Yue Wang, MIA ’95, Dean Lisa Anderson, Rodrick Dial, Maya Haddow, and Songzuo Xiang, MIA ’01, at the Great Wall of China

“We are committed not only to educating the future leaders of the world, but to strengthening the capacity of other institutions devoted to the same goal. In this wonderful collaboration, we are accomplishing both of these purposes.”

—Dean Lisa Anderson

Choongo Moonga is a second-year MIA student, concentrating in International Economic Policy. Last summer he interned at the United Nations in New York.
Some work places are harder to reach than others. Last summer Leith Baker traveled by barge to get to his internship and returned by helicopter. Working with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in East Timor in the remote Oecussi district, which was burnt to the ground in 1999, was probably more challenging than most summer jobs. The Economic and Political Development concentrator was the IRC’s only international staff person in the district, and his post included working on developing proposals for new projects. Baker said his summer was extremely fulfilling “because working with the IRC was something I had always wanted to do”.

Like Baker, SIPA students traveled all over the globe this summer to get some hands-on experience in their chosen professions. Sunanda Mane, a second-year MIA student, spent her summer interning with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Gharm, Tajikistan. It was a summer spent largely in remote areas far away from family and friends, but one that allowed her to interact very closely with the people of Tajikistan. “I was surprised how much they knew about the country I come from, India,” says Mane. “I was particularly amused when a huge strapping Pathan man came up to me in one of the villages and told me that he cries every time he watches an Indian film,” she added, smiling.

Over the summer, Mane evaluated the credit component of the UNDP rehabilitation project in the region, which had just completed its fifth year. “It was wonderful to be exposed to the UN system and see how it works. The Gharm region where I was had been the center of civil war. I was able to speak to UNDP staff who had been there in the initial years of the project. I spoke to commanders who had been in the forefront of the war. We talk about infrastructure bottlenecks in classrooms but in this region I saw it in reality,” said Mane, also an EPD concentrator.

A lot of SIPA students do their internships abroad, and the school offers a special incentive for those who choose to do so. “We offer around a hundred travel grants every year for those interning abroad. They cover up to 60 percent of the students’ travel to and from the place of internship,” says Katarina Holm-Didio, who is in charge of first-year internships and recruitment at SIPA’s Office of Career Services. “Last year OCS was able to increase the number of internship listings, but we believe that, besides using the information put out by us, it is also very profitable for students to do their own networking to find something that meets their specific requirements.”

Many students are drawn to internships outside of the United States. Zeeshan Amin, an MIA student concentrating in International Security Policy (ISP), traveled to Islamabad, Pakistan, to spend his summer with the Institute of Strategic Studies, a think-tank partially funded by the government. During the two months he spent there, Amin did research on the history of Asian cooperation. “Thailand had just proposed the creation of a new organization called Asian Cooperation Dialogue, so we were researching to see what potential such an organization would have and if it could be in Pakistan’s interest to join it. I wrote a paper at the end of my research which will be published in the institute’s journal,” says Amin.

His experiences outside the office were just as valuable as the work he did, Amin said. “Well, doing research was not something that is new to me,” Amin shrugs, “What was more interesting,
though, was being able to spend time in the city, getting to know people and government systems.”

Other SIPA students chose to draw from the wealth of opportunities that New York City has to offer. Second-year MPA student Karine Jean Pierre spent her summer in the Big Apple, juggling two completely different jobs simultaneously. For nearly three months, she spent the first half of every week at the Office of Environmental Coordination (a part of City Hall) and the second half at the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) working on its Africa program.

“At the office of Environmental Coordination I focused on the issue of brown fields: contaminated pieces of land that the community now wants to use. I focused on legislation, wrote memos. While at ITDP I worked on the newsletter and did research on bike tours organized by the Peace Corps in Africa to create awareness about AIDS. Both were so different: I got a taste of city government and of an international NGO. It was wonderful to be able to mix them both up.”

Jean Pierre’s experiences in New York were very different from those of Nori Akashi, an International Media and Communications concentrator who did an internship with CNN in Tokyo. Akashi says that she had a chance to try her hand at everything from office management to setting up studios for a shoot. “The bureau in Tokyo was small, with only four people. As a result, they depended a great deal on interns, and I managed to learn a lot. I did a little bit of everything, from producing stories and editing to translating from Japanese to English.”

All in all, it was a productive and interesting summer for SIPA students.

Election meeting to choose village representatives in Gharm, Tajikistan, where Sunanda Mane interned with the United Nations Development Programme

Anjali Cordeiro is a first-year MIA student concentrating in International Media and Communication and South Asian studies. Before coming to SIPA, she worked as a journalist in India.

Leith Baker had a rough commute to work this summer
On a tour of an old palace, she glimpsed a courtyard that had been the only place where women were allowed to socialize and sit outdoors. “It shocked me into understanding on an emotional level what it must have been like for a woman,” she said.

The experience inspired her to create a series of paintings called “Moroccan Enclosures,” in which she explored the idea of how people lived in the past and the strictures imposed on women. The paintings were exhibited last fall at SIPA.

Over the last few years, Brunswick’s works have been exhibited in locales ranging from New York to Slovenia, Tokyo to Jerusalem. Instead of becoming “a diplomat who would travel to all the glamorous capitals of the world,” as she once envisioned herself doing, she has become an artist whose works do that.

Last summer, Brunswick was invited to Morocco for a three-week residency during the town of Asilah’s International Arts Festival. She became part of a delegation of artists whose creations served as vehicles for dialogue about international issues. The experience fulfilled her long ago dream of working in diplomacy in an unexpected way.

“Essentially, it worked out in the end,” she said.

Sharing art and ideas with artists from around the world “was a wonderful experience. The feeling of getting along with other people, I found it was an easy thing to do,” she said.

Besides some of her paintings, Brunswick also left behind a replica of a Tibetan prayer wheel that she made and dubbed a “peace wheel” for participants in the program to sign. It was another personal act of artistic diplomacy, she said.

“If everybody thinks about peace and makes up their mind that peace is something they truly want, then maybe some day down the line, we’ll have it.”

Celeste Tarricone, SIPA News assistant editor, is a first-year MIA student concentrating in International Media and Communications and Economic and Political Development. Before coming to SIPA, she worked as a journalist in Rhode Island and Latin America.

In the final session, we were asked about our experience at the town hall. Did we learn anything new? Did group discussions lead us to change our minds on any aspect of the rebuilding effort? When asked how confident we were that the city would listen to our voices, the response was generally negative (approximately 10% very confident, 25% confident, 45% somewhat confident, and 20% not confident). One of the planning representatives tried to suggest that such a vote translated to 80% of the room believing they would be listened to; he was heartily booed.

Despite the cynicism of the crowd, the day left me feeling empowered. I was impressed with everything about the day — from the facilitators to the technology, the questions asked, the way the groups worked together, and the responses of the planners and city representatives. In particular, I was encouraged by the planners’ pledge to hold more town halls as the process continues and kick off each town hall with a report card, if that’s what it takes to prove to us that they are listening. But most of all, I was proud of making my voice heard and honored to have the opportunity to participate in an historic process, the result of which will stand as a great symbol of the freedoms we Americans hold so dearly and take, all too often, for granted.

ALUMNI news

SIPA Alumni Authors Series

Since the last issue of SIPA News, SIPA was pleased to host three events in our continuing Alumni Author Series. Please check your local bookstore or your online resource to find these books.

Thursday, June 6, 2002

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Thursday, October 31, 2002

Please contact sipaalum@columbia.edu or call 212-854-8671 if you have a book you would like to present to an alumni or student audience.
MPA Graduates Celebrate Their 10th Reunion

In October, SIPA hosted the 10th reunion for the MPA Class of 1992, one of the only 10-year reunions the school has ever sponsored.

The reunion was a tremendous success and the brainchild of James Lonergan, who has kept in touch with many of his MPA classmates since graduation. “We shared common interests, and are a group of dedicated people who wanted to make a difference,” he said. “Some of my best friends are from the program.”

He and his reunion co-chair, Susan Smith, worked with the Office of Alumni Relations throughout the summer to plan the cocktail reception and dinner, which was held at the Kellogg Center at SIPA.

Over 30 of their approximately 60 classmates were able to attend with their partners/spouses, and many more alumni contributed to the 10-year reunion booklet, which provides classmates with updated contact and personal information.

“It’s still exciting to be here,” said Debbie Jabobs Levy, a tenant organizer. “The 15th floor brings back memories of anticipation, excitement and accomplishment.”

Joining Dean Anderson to welcome alumni were Steve Cohen and Nancy Degnan, who have been involved in the MPA program almost since its inception. Many former students traveled from as far away as Caracas, Montreal and Honolulu for the event.

While SIPA does not have a strong tradition of holding class reunions, Rodrick Dial, the new director of alumni relations, is hoping to work with individual classes and programs who are interested in organizing a reunion.

Reception Celebrates Endowment of Award In Memory of SIPA Student

By Clara Perez

Friends, family and former classmates gathered on October 4, 2002 to celebrate the full endowment of the Raphael Smith Award Fund, and to honor the memory of this exceptional SIPA student. The award is given out every year at commencement for the best essay in Slant, SIPA’s student magazine.

Although the award was created in 1995, this year marks a milestone. Last year $25,000 was raised, ensuring that the award is fully endowed in perpetuity.

Smith, an IMC concentrator who loved to travel, had worked for The New York Times during his second semester at SIPA and was on the editorial board of Slant. In the summer after his first year, Smith died in an accident while attempting to realize his dream of retracing an extraordinary journey undertaken by his stepfather, Robert E. Fulton Jr., who rode a motorcycle from Paris to Tokyo in 1932.

In their speeches, both Dean Anderson and Greg Dalton (MIA ’94), a friend and former classmate, acknowledged the bittersweet nature of the occasion: both celebrating this milestone and mourning the loss of an adventurous and compassionate individual. Both Dalton and Dean Anderson also remembered Smith’s late mother, Anne Boireau Fulton, who worked tirelessly to make the award possible.

Dalton, who was instrumental in carrying the project forward, said of Smith, “He was one of those guys who had a twinkle in his eye. His adventurous and spirit embodied the best of SIPA, and we wanted to capture that by recognizing exceptional travel reportage that embodies his spirit.”

Former classmates in attendance included Michele Douglas Eleta (MIA ’94), who traveled from Panama to attend the reception, and Hilary Dunst (MIA ’93), who remembered Smith’s “joyful spirit and expansive way of thinking.”

Clara Perez is a first-year MIA student concentrating in International Media and Communications.
Dear Family and Friends,

On Saturday, October 12, I was at a dinner party in Jakarta with Embassy friends, including a security officer and the emergency duty officer. We were about to leave for a nightclub when their phones started ringing. The news of a bomb blast in Bali shocked us all, particularly as the magnitude of the damage and destruction became apparent.

Many of our Embassy staff were out of town over the holiday weekend, including a number of people vacationing in Bali, my consul general vacationing outside Jakarta, and my two consular colleagues attending a conference in Korea. That left the deputy consul general and me during the hectic first 48 hours to coordinate the American Citizen services from Jakarta with our Consulate in Surabaya and our Consular Agency in Bali. The first day I did double duty helping the ambassador and the deputy chief of the mission, answering the phones as well as trying to track down and assist the Americans in Bali. I was up until 2 a.m. on Monday taking the call about the first dead American from the friend who identified her body. We worked the phones and the authorities for 24 hours straight, convincing them to release the body on a visual identification of the scar on her back and a fingerprint match. It was a logistical miracle and a relief that we were able to provide this small comfort to the family—knowing they would have their daughter back when so many others were still in hospitals unidentified.

Our consular officer in Surabaya, Tom Daniels, was the first to arrive in Bali on October 14. He began the coordination efforts to identify our presumed dead victims. Within the first three weeks, the Australian Disaster Victim Identification team had confirmed five more American victims through dental records and just last week confirmed the last victim through DNA testing. Tom was there at the scene every day, walking through the morgue to check for bodies, giving dental records to the team, and making sure the odontologists there had enough dental supplies to keep making matches. I went out to Bali on October 21 to assist his efforts and to work on the list of 45 missing Americans. Over two weeks, I checked hotels, airline manifests, and immigration records to track down the individuals who had not called home yet to tell family and friends that they were okay (or whose family and friends had not yet called us to say they were okay). Tom and I worked long hours, talking to the victims’ families almost every day as we explained to them what we were doing to identify their loved ones, treat the remains, and ship them and their belongings home. By the end of October, we reached the end of our tasks and were ready to return home ourselves.

I returned to Bali on November 15 to participate in the Hindu ceremony that would cleanse the island and purify the souls of the victims, and with the hope of doing some of my own mental purification. I found the island awash in red, white, and blue signs and T-shirts reading “Bali Cinta Damai” or “Bali Loves Peace,” much as our American cities were awash with red, white, and blue flags after September 11. On the same day in New York, the families of September 11 opened the private viewing platform at the World Trade Center to the families of the Bali bombings to participate in a Hindu purification ceremony. They had a procession down to Battery Park and threw flowers in the Hudson River as the sun set behind the Statue of Liberty.

Indonesia was at the top of my job preferences when I received my bid list on September 12, 2001, because I figured the world’s largest Muslim country would be an interesting place to work. I certainly have not been disappointed. All it takes is dealing with one emergency to see that the work of protecting Americans overseas truly is the primary mission of the Foreign Service.

It has been incredibly rewarding, though heart-breaking and exhausting, to do this work on behalf of the U.S. government and the families who need our assistance.

You are all in my thoughts and missed very much.

Love,
Danielle
1969
RICHARD FOSTER, MIA
dfoster@brazilwatch.com
Dick is the publisher of three newsletters dealing with politics and economics in Brazil and Argentina. The name of the company is Brazil Watch Publications, located in Bethesda, MD. The company was started in 1984 and the original publication, Brazil Watch, a fortnightly analytical report on Brazil for businesses, enters its 20th year in January. Dick also teaches at Montgomery College in Rockville, MD.

1972
MELVYN J. SIMBURG, MIA
msimburg@sksp.com
Melvyn is a partner in Simburg, Ketter, Sheppard and Purdy LLP and has been appointed to the faculty for businesses, enters its 20th year in January. Dick also teaches at Montgomery College in Rockville, MD.

1975
TOM GOODHUE, IF
Tom has just published the first biography ever written of the woman who started the world’s first dinosaur craze, Curious Bones: Mary Anning and the Birth of Palontology. Tom is a reverence and the executive director of the Long Island Council of Churches.

1978
GEORGE MARSHALL WORTHINGTON, MIA/MBA
Worthworldx@sprintmail.com
George has seen his consulting practice go from strength-to-strength since relocating his firm to Houston a little over two years ago. He currently has four clients, with proposals out to other organizations with which he hopes to establish relationships in the near future. Among the services he is providing to these groups are: strategic planning/adaptive marketing; philanthropic marketing; event marketing; marketing new services and venture creation; and corporate sponsorships and cause-related marketing.

1981
AUSTIN C. AMALU, MIA
Austin is the senior regional administrator with the UN Department of Peacekeeping. He was recently in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo, with the UN Security Council in an effort to broker peace in the ongoing war in the country.

1983
RACHEL FOSTER, MPA
rachel.foster@ha.osd.mil
Rachel was appointed director of financial management and performance at the Office of the Secretary of Defense. For this position Rachel will get to use the skills and knowledge she has learned to help improve financial management of the program. She hopes to be able to make a difference from the inside.

1986
FRED BURKE, MIA, JD ’87
Fred.Burke@baker.net.com
Fred and his wife, Tran Thi Bich Loan, had their first child, a healthy baby girl named Mai Ly, on March 8th (International Women’s Day) in Saigon, Vietnam. Fred is still working in Vietnam as the managing partner of the Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi offices of the international law firm of Baker & McKenzie. In his (increasingly rare) spare time, he plays with a rock band called “DURIAN DURIAN”.

DR. JOSEPH M. HENNING, MIA
Dr. Henning has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at Tohoku University, Japan, where he will teach courses on the history of US-Japan relations. Dr. Henning is the author of the book Outposts of Civilization: Race, Religion and the Formative Years of American-Japanese Relations, which won the Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

1987
DOUGLAS CLIMAN, MIA
ClimanDP@state.gov
Douglas left Buenos Aires to become the economic counselor at the American Embassy in Islamabad.

PEDRO VASQUEZ-COLMENARES, MPA
pvc@issste.gob.mx
Last October, Pedro became the CEO for ISSSTE — Mexico’s Social Security Agency for the Public Sector Employees. ISSSTE provides pensions, health services, personal loans, cultural and social activities, plus children nursing, funerary services and home loans. Pedro joined ISSSTE in order to help design a profound financial reform for the organization.

1988
STEPHEN GAULL, MIA
sgaull@hotmail.com
Stephen received an appointment as an executive fellow at the Export-Import Bank of the United States, where he is originating structured and project finance transactions, and advising on loan restructurings in emerging market countries.

1990
PETER S. DUKLIS, JR., MIA
duklis@hqda.army.mil
Peter and his wife, Elisabetta, welcomed their third child, Diego Stefano Duklis, on November 14, 2001. Diego joins Derek (5 yrs) and Alexandra (4 yrs). Peter also graduated from the US Army War College in June 2002 and received a Master of Strategic Studies from the college.

1991
MARGARET FORGIONE, MPA
Margaret was appointed Manhattan Borough Commissioner in February 2002. She is the agency advocate for the delivery of transportation services in the borough and advises the Commissioner on all sensitive issues affecting transportation in the borough.

1992
JAMES HOLTJE, MIA
James will serve as managing editor for all of Siemens’ print and online publications, and will also write articles, executive speeches and other thought leadership pieces. He will also be responsible for the direction and content of the Siemens Corporation intranet, as well as a special web site, which provides the company’s top U.S. leaders with competitive information and a means of sharing best practices.

1996
HARRY ROBERT SULLIVAN, MIA
harry_sullivan@yahoo.com
Harry married Julia Mei on September 15, 1999. At the time, he was working as director of regional telecommunications policy at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. His responsibilities focused on working with U.S. industry to identify barriers to trade in telecommunications trade and negotiating with foreign countries to address those issues. In July 2001, Harry and Julia left for Cameroon, where Harry is the chief of the U.S. Embassy’s combined political/economic section; he is responsible both for relations with Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.
1992

LAURA HARWOOD, MPA
laura.harwood@erg.com

Laura can’t believe it’s been 10 years! She is currently living and working in Arlington, VA, as an environmental policy analyst for ERG. Laura provides technical, communication, and evaluation support to a variety of EPA programs including pollution prevention, compliance assistance, waste reduction and recycling, and performance measurement.

MARC SILVERSTONE, MIA
ms9pc@virginia.edu

Marc is an assistant professor at the University of Virginia, holding down a variety of jobs, such as editing and annotating the Kennedy White House Tapes as part of the Miller Center of Public Affairs’ Presidential Recordings Project. In addition, Marc is the managing editor for AmericanPresident.org, as well as co-editor of a print and online project to improve the quality of standards-based history education in Virginia high schools. Finally, he is teaching courses in the UVA history department on the Cold War and U.S. Diplomatic History. On the personal side, Marc and his wife Bonnie had a son, Jake, on June 14, 2001.

1993

MICHAEL TATU-CATLEFEN, MPA
Michael was recently appointed executive vice president at Population Communications International.

LINDA DWORK, MIA
ldwiorak@gidc.org

On August 17, Linda was married to Juan Munoz. The couple lives and works in Manhattan.

1994

MARIO AGUILAR Y MAYA, MIA
Mario heads the Ministry of Finance at the government of the Mexican state of Guanajuato.

JAY CHAUDHURI, MIA
CHAUDHURI@mail.ius.state.nc.us

Jay is currently serving as special counsel to North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, where he manages a number of policy initiatives, particularly in the area of education and juvenile justice. Previously, Jay served as Roy Cooper’s legislative counsel, when he was State Senate Majority Leader. Jay recently closed on a house in Raleigh, so he invites fellow SIPA alums to come and visit if they ever get out of the New York-Washington axis.

1995

KLAA FAMIRA, MIA
Klaus.famira@bmnac.gov.at

Klaus will return to Belgium after three years in Rome, where he is currently finishing his dissertation on the integration of Schengen in the European Union.

1996

ELIOT HIGHTON, MIA
Eliot and her husband, Willy Patty, recently had a baby boy named Andrew Patty.

1998

CAROLINA AGUILERA
Aguilera@ao.com

Carolina had her first book, Our Heroes, published by Planeta in August. The book profiles the Latino firemen who died on September 11. This is the first time that Planeta, the largest of the Spanish language publishers, released a book in English.

The book is also available in Spanish, under the title Nuestros Héroes.

CLAUDDE DEMERS
claude.demers@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

For the past four years Claude has been working at the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Currently, Claude is second secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo.

ALEX MARTINEZ, MPA
AMartinez@uwnc.org

Alex has recently embarked on a new position with the United Way, where he is working to help women and families infected or affected by AIDS. Although Alex does not do direct service provision, he funds agencies that do the work.

TASARA MUZORORI, PEM
TASARA MUZORORI, PEM

Since September 2001, Tasara has been employed by a company called Techfin Research (Pvt) Ltd. in his home country of Zimbabwe. The company carries out business, economic and investment research for Zimbabwe and the Southern African Development Community. Tasara maintains that the training he received at Columbia is invaluable to his career and hopes one day to enroll in an Economics PhD program at Columbia.

ADRIENNE SANDERS, MIA
adrienne_sanders@yahoo.com

Adrienne is currently a reporter at the San Francisco Examiner.

Sarah White, MIA/MBA
sarah_c_white@hotmail.com

Sarah is currently in the D.C. area working as a sports producer. Sarah has her own production company called Big Water Productions and primarily focuses on extreme sports production. She has been in the sports industry since graduation, producing both online and for TV shows.

On a personal note, Sarah was married last summer in Greece.

Laura Limonic is a second-year MIA student concentrating in International Economic Policy.
The fall semester of 2002 proved to be an exciting time at the School of International and Public Affairs. As is her custom, the dean planned an annual excursion “somewhere in the world” to visit SIPA graduates. Mexico City, Tokyo, Shanghai, Korea, Russia, and Hong Kong are just a few of the international destinations which have been a part of the dean’s recent travels. Six weeks into the semester, Dean Anderson traveled to London, where we had occasion to visit with a number of SIPA graduates and also to celebrate the school’s new dual degree program with the London School of Economics. As luck would have it, I accompanied the dean to London and also took a side trip to Paris to meet with graduates in that beautiful city. Here is a snapshot of our trip to Europe:

Day 1 — James Rubin ’84 was our first stop in London. As former assistant secretary of state for public affairs in the Clinton Administration and the State Department’s chief spokesman under U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Rubin updated us on his post-Washington, D.C. professional activities. Currently, he heads his own consulting firm in London. We also met with Malcolm Stewart ’78 IF, ’79 MIA, managing director, Citicorp at Canary Wharf for lunch at Ubon and John Quitter ’67, ’68, chairman, The Northern Partnership Limited and chairman, The British-Icelandic Chamber of Commerce for afternoon tea. Both alumni shared their student experiences while at SIPA and their professional lives as post-graduates. The dean ended her day with the first of a series of meetings at Human Rights Watch, an organization whose board she is a member of.

Day 2 — The second day of our trip was brimming with activities: the dean’s in London and mine in Paris. While the dean attended her morning board meeting at Human Rights Watch, I flew to Paris to visit the Centre d’Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratèges and to meet with three SIPA graduates. My first meeting was with Bruno Frydman ’80, former president of AMC Europe, followed by a visit to Centre d’Etudes Diplomatiques et Stratèges, where alumnus Michael Strauss ’76 is working on his Ph.D. My last meeting of the day was with Giorgio Stock ’88, vice president, Global Licensing for Disney Publishing Worldwide. As I listened to these men and those I met the day before discuss their career paths, I was reminded how incredibly prepared SIPA alumni are for any career path they choose and struck by how each one could — with a SIPA degree and a wealth of experience — chart a new course in any professional direction. That really is the “beauty” of SIPA.

Back in London, the day was marked with an event in celebration of SIPA’s new dual MPA degree program with the London School of Economics (LSE). The program, which will begin in fall 2003, will give students the opportunity to study policymaking from a trans-atlantic perspective at leading institutions in two of the world’s most international cities. The event was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for SIPA graduates to make connections not only with each other but also to reconnect with the school and Dean Anderson. The dean delivered a report on SIPA’s recent developments, future plans, and activities to a room of over 40 guests, which included Advisory Board Chairman, A. Michael Hoffman, managing partner of Palamon Partners, and board member Jeanette S. Wagner, former vice chairman of Estee Lauder, and her husband, Paul Wagner, who were in from New York City. The evening concluded with a private dinner hosted by A. Michael Hoffman and John Quitter in the Terrace Room at the RAC Club. Hoffman and Quitter were joined by Mercedes Hoffman, Peter and Susan Arndt, both from the class of 1990, Arpad Krizsan ’94, Kevin Caulfield ’84, Elizabeth Katkin ’92, her husband, Richard Waryn, Michael Lehman ’72, Bronwen Manby ’92, Erich Stock ’88, Jeanette and Paul Wagner, and Jianjun Zhang ’95.
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SIPA news 23