The UNSP has launched the second edition of its program, “A Day at the UN: A View from Inside,” drawing an unprecedented level of interest from the SIPA student body. This exciting initiative provides SIPA students the unique opportunity to spend a day within a UN Agency, Program, Department, or Fund.

Reflecting the success of last year’s program, this year’s edition drew an incredible 144 student applications, making this year’s selection process particularly competitive, and representing a massive surge from last year’s 99 applications. Out of the 144 applicants, a lucky 32 have been selected. This year’s pool was unique not only in sheer magnitude, but also in the high quality and the wide breadth of interests reflected in preferences for placement within the UN. Among the offices where students will be placed are PBC, DPA, UN Women, DPKO, UNDP, DESA, OCHCR, UNICEF, Global Compact, DPI, Disarmament Office, UNFPA, and the Office of the Secretary-General.

The 32 students selected will have their first organizational meeting with Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Director of UNSP, on January 20th, at 12:30pm in Room 802. The students will receive their placements sometime between January and April, where they will be matched with a UN professional and allowed the opportunity to spend a day shadowing him/her. The range of activities will vary widely according to which office a student is assigned, but they may include: attending briefings, participating in meetings, observing teleconferences, conducting informal interviews with staff, etc.

The program will culminate on April 11, 2012 at 6 PM in Room 1501 of SIPA, with a panel event during which students and their UN hosts will share their experiences with the SIPA community.

Congratulations to the following students:

Kayoko Ajlani-Hashimoto  Tarik Chebli  Lisa Kim  Anuradha Shetty
Hande Apakan  Jesse Cottrell  Daria Kirilenko  Jennifer Singer
Jesse Baver  Marie Douchey  Andrew McCormack  Sarita Vollrhofer
Shreya Bhatt  Nadia Hasham  Mario Nascimento  Lila Wade
Amanda Buescher  Yang He  Aaron Pangburn  Juontel White
Frederico Brusa  Mona Jaber  Juan Manuel Rodilla  Malei Wu
Alejandra Bujones  Katrin Jaskiewicz  Priya Saraf  Annie Yang Zhou
Paula Cerutti  Ekrem Karademir  Natalie Sheppe  Carmela Zuniga

Mai Shitani, one of last year’s participants, sits behind UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, with Michele Bachelet to his left and Helen Clark to his right.
At the 2011 United Nations Studies Program (UNSP) Retreat, Ambassador Abdullah Alsaidi characterized the recent Arab uprisings as revolutions of empowerment. “This is just the beginning of political transitions,” he said. “The status quo is crumbling. A new world may be on its way.” These watershed events, constituting a major inflection point in Middle East history, provoked rich discussion and many questions that have yet to be answered at this year’s UNSP Retreat, held at the Guesthouse Retreat Center in Chester, Connecticut.

Over the weekend, 43 students debated recent events in the Arab world as well as the appropriate role the United Nations (UN) should now play. Students posed questions and grappled with them in a running dialogue with Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Director of UNSP, and a high-level panel of distinguished and experienced guest speakers. These guests included:

- Abdullah Alsaidi, Former Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations from 2002 to 2011 and Senior Fellow at the International Peace Institute (IPI);
- Francesco Mancini, Senior Fellow and Director of Research at IPI;
- Youssef Mahmoud, who comes from Tunisia, and was Special Representative for the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad;
- Christian Wenaweser, Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the United Nations and President of the Assembly of States Parties for the International Criminal Court; and
- Marc Jacquand, Strategic Planning Advisor at United Nations Office for the Middle East Peace Process.

The speakers’ personal and professional insights enhanced students’ appreciation for the dynamism and interconnectivity of the interests and actors in the Middle East. The core of the discussions was an attempt to identify root causes of the revolutions and lay out the terrain of future reform, and each speaker brought unique and valuable perspectives to the fore.

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Mr. Mahmoud, for example, spoke to the role of the UN in rebuilding and reform—a discursive focal point given the attendees’ shared interest in the UN. He emphasized ownership and the importance of not imposing solutions on Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Mr. Jacquand agreed, expounding on the need to shape programs that are more authentic to a country’s historical and contemporary identities.

Students absorbed and then engaged with these ideas in a breakout Working Group session. During this exercise, participants divided into groups to explore and debate key themes, including Root Causes, Role of the Security Council, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law, Rehabilitating/Building/Reforming Institutions, Political Transitions, Economic Recovery, and Civil Society and the Gender Dimension. Each group presented its findings, (Continued on p. 3)
with a prize awarded to the group who gave the best presentation, as judged by our panel of guests. However, diplomacy was of course in form, as Ambassador Alsaidi graciously acknowledged each group for the strength of their deliberations and presentations.

Overall, the retreat’s inclusive and collegiate atmosphere, with career ambassadors and high-level practitioners ready and willing to hear students weigh in on issues, made it an invaluable experience for students. We came away with a clearer understanding of the Arab revolutions, and – equally as important – the challenges that political analysts, development practitioners, and the UN global body are wrestling over in real time.

UNSP Kicks off Working Lunch Series with Indian Ambassador to UN, Hardeep Singh Puri, on “India and the Security Council”

On December 12th, India’s Ambassador to the UN, Hardeep Singh Puri, hosted as lunch for Professor Lindenmayer and 16 SIPA students at his residence for an afternoon of candid and fascinating conversation and delicious Indian cuisine. The working lunch was the most recent of the popular UNSP series with UN Ambassadors that gives SIPA students direct access to the current thinking of the UN’s diplomatic community, while providing Ambassadors the opportunity to hear students’ views and perspectives on topics of mutual concern and interest. Ambassador Puri fielded student questions and presented his insights on a wide range of issues, from India’s most pressing development challenges as well as its successes, to Security Council reform and the outlook for a permanent seat for India, to India’s relations with China, to the revolutions in the Arab world, to the complexity and shortcomings of Peacekeeping mandates and operations. The Working Lunch Series with UN Ambassadors is intended to continue strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and SIPA, and facilitate an ongoing dialogue between academia and the world of international politics. This event certainly delivered on both counts.
The UN Studies Program is pleased to announce its next Working Lunch

Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations

Friday, 27 January, 2012

Watch for announcements of additional lunches as well as application instructions.

### UNSP Panels

**October 25, 2011 - EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD: A Revolution in the Making**

**November 29, 2011 - The Security Council & the Arab Uprisings: Syria and Libya**

### “How will you lead?”

Panel on EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD raises the challenge to lead

**By Zara Rapoport**

“How do you become a better leader? How do you lead?”

It is rare that an audience at a panel discussion is put on the spot in this way, but these are the questions that Professor Lindenmayer posed as she concluded a panel on the UN-led global initiative, “Every Woman Every Child.” In celebration of UN Day, five guest speakers, representing the United Nations, the private sector, civil society and government, discussed their particular perspectives and involvement with the initiative, which aims to intensify global action towards achieving the key Millennium Development Goals of high standards of maternal and child health.

Moderated by Professor Lindenmayer, the panel’s guest speakers included:

- **Robert Orr**, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination;
- **Ian Pett**, Chief of Health Systems and Strategic Planning, UNICEF;
- **Scott C. Ratzan**, MD, VP, Global Health, Government Affairs and Policy, Johnson & Johnson;
- **Janet Karim**, First Secretary of Social Development, Permanent Mission of Malawi to the UN; and
- **Janna Oberdorf**, Director of Communications and Outreach, Women Deliver.

Robert Orr has called Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) a “revolution in the making.” So, the opening question of the evening was, “What makes this initiative so revolutionary?” Mr. Orr stated it is in fact 3 revolutions in one. The first revolution is one of ambitions and priorities. EWEC represents unprecedented global ambition to take issues once seen as least important and bring them to the forefront of the global agenda. Orr stated, “This initiative is to take the caboose of the MDG train and make it the engine.” It is an assertion that without improving the health of women and children, the other MDGs simply cannot be achieved.

The second revolution concerns the approach to addressing the issue. EWEC is a truly multi-sectoral attempt to engage all members of the international community in the commitment to
make women’s and children’s health a top priority. According to Orr, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon consulted with individuals working at the grass-roots level to learn what was truly needed to make this goal a reality. The Secretary-General quickly discovered that what was lacking was not technical know-how, or strategic plans, but political will – a lesson that people working towards women’s empowerment have learned through years of sidelined efforts. To make any serious headway on this front, maternal health and child mortality had to become priorities for the highest level of actors. CEOs, Presidents, and Prime Ministers had to understand how this problem affects them, and commit to improving their efforts and their funding to decrease the rate of unnecessary deaths. Not only did they have to commit, they would have to be held accountable for these commitments and the results of their actions.

This question of accountability brought about a number of questions from the audience, which included students from throughout Columbia University, as well as individuals from the UN and civil society. What exactly “accountability” consists of is still unclear, even after a round of responses and input from a representative from Canada working on the actual accountability framework. Whether it will go beyond, or even include the traditional “naming and shaming” that is standard practice in the human rights sector remains to be seen.

The final revolution that Mr. Orr spoke of was the revolution of results that has occurred since the beginning of the EWEC campaign just one year ago. Each speaker had something positive to say concerning the improvements that have been observed as a result of the initiative.

**Double standards or political limitations?**

**The Security Council and the Arab Uprisings: Syria, Libya, and Sanctions**

By Nadia Hasham

On the 29th of November, the United Nations Studies Program convened a panel to examine and compare recent events and Security Council action regarding Syria and Libya. The event featured two UN Deputy Permanent Representatives and two UN sanctions experts. The timeliness of the panel – and its intent to compare the cases of Syria and Libya – was clear, as Professor Lindenmayer, Director of the UN Studies Program and panel moderator, opened the discussion by noting the previous day’s events that saw the Arab League suspend Syria and impose economic sanctions, though the League had withheld support for sanctions on Libya. The panel ambitiously set out to address challenging questions surrounding the differences in the approaches of the Security Council to the events in Libya and Syria, including the importance and effectiveness of sanctions and the circumstances under which they are applied. Specifically, the speakers addressed the challenges the Council has faced in addressing these two cases, the discrepancy in its responses, the available tools of diplomacy and coercion, and whether or not the recent Arab League sanctions would lay the groundwork for the Council to follow suit.

Guest speakers included:

- **Martin Briens**, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations
- **Huseyin Muftuoglu**, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations
- **Enrico Carish**, Partner in Compliance and Capacity, International Expert on Financial Sanctions and Natural Resources, Former member of UN Sanctions Monitoring Group
- **Loraine Rickard-Martin**, Former Secretary of UN Sanctions Committee, Department of Political Affairs, Member of the Advisory Council on Sanctions and Security Research Program, University of Notre Dame

The panel - from left to right, Martin Briens, Huseyin Muftuoglu, Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Enrico Carish, and Loraine Rickard-Martin - fields a question from 2nd year SIPA student, Gregory Scopelitis
The United Nations Studies Program Newsletter  p. 6

UNSP Makes the Security Council its Classroom

The UNSP offers SIPA students the unique opportunity to attend open meetings of the UN Security Council at the invitation of the Director of UNSP. During the 2011 Fall semester, Professor Lindenmayer took students to two open meetings of the Council:

November 9, 2011 – “Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict”

Watch for announcements of upcoming trips in Spring 2012.

Women in Peace and Security takes center stage at the UN Security Council

By Nadia Hasham

The Director of the UNSP took a roup of 50 SIPA students to the 6,642nd meeting of the Security Council on October 28, 2011. This meeting had a special focus – “Women in peace and security” – with the aim of bringing issues surrounding women in conflict to the forefront of the UN agenda. Nigeria, who held the Presidency of the Council, chaired the session with the intention that it would culminate in agreement on measures to be adopted by each member state to monitor its implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, passed in 2000, on the theme of the day.

The meeting was opened by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, who was followed by Michele Bachelet, the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Executive Director of UN Women. These opening statements highlighted the needs of women during peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and mediation periods, and drew connections between the inadequacies of the current system and the lack of women in positions of leadership within the system. They not only stressed the unique difficulties faced by women in situations of conflict, but also called for the increased participation of women in official and observer roles in conflict prevention and mediation as a means of ensuring women’s rights and needs are adequately addressed in peace processes.

With the Secretary-General adamant that the “United Nations system should lead by example,” he presented a strategic framework for implementing Resolution 1325, along with targets for 2014 and 2020. Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet presented the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/598) on this issue, echoing his statements. Ms. Bachelet challenged member states to reinforce their implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, in appointments of women to important posts, and reactions to human rights violations. On a positive note, she indicated that there were improvements in areas of needs assessment and the development of programmes to respond accordingly. However, she noted that women’s participation was still often overlooked entirely in conflict prevention and mediation, and called on member states to become more engaged in changing this trend.

The President of the Economic and Social Council praised the taking up of this issue by the Security Council. The ECOSOC President, Lazarous Kapambwe of Zambia, stressed awareness of gender mainstreaming in terms of field-based issues such as violence against women, the role of men and civil society in positive initiatives, and coordination of security and development. He confirmed ECOSOC's and its members’ support for monitoring indicators relating to violence against women and for increased participation of women in development.

The Security Council also welcomed statements from Orzala Ashraf Nemat, from the Non-Governmental Organization

(Continued on p. 7)
Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, which presents a unique opportunity for the Council to engage with civil society. Voicing her frustration at the lack of representation of women in decision-making in spite of international commitments affirming support for this, she suggested that examples from Afghanistan and Sudan be used as lessons learned in considering security from a female perspective. She also stressed the importance of on-the-ground implementation of high-level agreements, currently lacking.

All member states agreed that the concerns of women in peace and security were valid, and many noted the recognition of three female 2011 Nobel Peace Prize recipients working in areas of conflict prevention and mediation. However, the appropriate level of engagement of the Security Council on this issue was debated.

Some key points from member states:
The United Kingdom noted their large financial pledge of $60 million to UN Women and their gender-based programming in Afghanistan and Nepal. South Africa highlighted personal experience with women acting as rebuilding forces. India presented the country’s accomplishments in involving women in politics. Gabon declared that its political transition was spearheaded by women. Bosnia and Herzegovina discussed regional and subregional organisations’ capacity to empower women. Germany mentioned the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s policies supporting Resolution 1325. The United States discussed accountability for conflict-related sexual violence. Lebanon indicated that investment in young girls and boys was necessary as evidenced by the Arab Spring. France suggested targeted sanctions for violations of women’s rights. Nigeria stressed the importance of national action plans and conflict prevention.

Presenting a more nuanced perspective, China stated that since conflict was contextual, one blanket strategy should not be imposed upon all states, but affirmed their support for improved mediation efforts with the involvement of women. And more controversially, Russia contended that the Council’s mandate limited the cases of violence against women that the body should address, and that regulating Resolution 1325 was the responsibility of UN Women, and the Council should not duplicate their efforts or the work of other UN bodies.

Following the statements of Security Council members, other non-SC member states, including Canada, Australia, Switzerland, and Afghanistan, as well as the European Union and NATO, had the opportunity to confirm their support.

This meeting of the Security Council brought the issue of women in peace and security to the forefront of the agenda of the member states by introducing a system of monitoring the progress of implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325. The most direct message that emerged from the meeting was the need for more women at decision-making levels in the field of peace and security, with a concerted effort by the UN to become a model for improved engagement of women.
UNSP Capstone: The Role of Peacekeeping Operations in Electoral Processes

Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Policy and Best Practices Service

The UN Studies Program (UNSP) is pleased to announce its 2012 Capstone project and team. Led by Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Director of UNSP, a team of five SIPA students - Derek Carnegie, Marie Doucey, Sara Jacobs, Inbok Rhee, and Christopher Sfetsios - will work closely with the Best Practices Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to examine the role of peacekeeping operations in electoral processes. This is the fourth research collaboration between the UNSP and DPKO. Last year’s UNSP research project was a highly successful study of the impact of natural resources on sustainable peace in South Sudan, and produced recommendations for how oil, land, and water could become drivers of sustainable peace.

The focus of this year’s Capstone project on the role of peacekeeping in elections is particularly timely. In 2011, 125 elections took place around the world, and 79 are slated for 2012, with many of these occurring in countries that have active peacekeeping operations, such as Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Timor Leste. The SIPA team will study the mandates of deployed missions, as well as existing reports and studies, to assess the support given by military, police, and civilian peacekeepers in establishing a political environment conducive to a credible electoral process. Critical to this analysis will be a comprehensive perspective on the electoral process, encompassing planning and implementing far beyond the security provided for the election event itself.

At DPKO’s Policy and Best Practice Service (PBPS), the team will be reporting to David Haeri, a SIPA Alumnus and now Chief of the PBPS. As an organization, the goal of the PBPS is to establish a unified system of experience-based doctrine in order to further strengthen the effectiveness of United Nations Peacekeeping and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge across all UN operations. The SIPA team will produce a report that includes lessons learned and good practices pertaining to the role of peacekeeping operations leading up to, during, and after elections. Additionally, the report will identify current trends in electoral processes and make recommendations regarding the wide range of support activities provided by ongoing and future peacekeeping operations to facilitate secure and credible electoral processes.
By Josephine Roos

Former SIPA student David Haeri started his career as an UN Volunteer in Cambodia and has since worked in peacekeeping missions in South Africa, East Timor and Afghanistan among others. From humble beginnings, David now leads the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit (PBSP) in the UN’s Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). When we met in his New York office he told me about his UN journey and shared valuable advice for SIPA students interested in working to build peace in fragile states.

I. FROM UNV TO THE HEAD OF PBPS

David’s career journey began with a simple trip to Cambodia, a decision that later lead to UN positions monitoring elections in South Africa and Liberia and building the new government in East Timor. David was involved in the elections that bought both Nelson Mandela and Charles Taylor to power, and speaks candidly about how elections must be free and a fair, not just efficient. He also relishes the unpredictability of fieldwork, which led him to assume positions in the field that he never would at first have imagined.

Q: You started your career with UNV in Cambodia, could you tell us how come it began there?

DH: Part of my youth I grew up in Thailand. I studied International Relations and Political Science at University and was as a result very interested in the region. In 1989, when Khmer Rouge still held the territory, I travelled to Cambodia for the first time, and I was absolutely fascinated by the country.

After the Paris Conference in 1991 (which convened to sign a comprehensive settlement and which gave the perimeters for UN’s involvement in Cambodia), I decided to return to the country. I had no job set up before going but I had friends working for UNICEF that I could stay with. Once in Cambodia I went on a job hunt. I basically looked up every possible NGO that I could potentially work for. I still have my calendar from that day, and it includes a long list of potential employers crossed out one by one as I was rejected.

Finally I knocked on the door of the UN section responsible for monitoring the elections. There I meet who was to become my future boss, Michael Malley. He told me that the UN section he worked for was facing a challenge in training all the incoming officers that were going to monitor the elections, and they needed someone to take up that position.

To avoid too much bureaucratic hassle he recommended me to go around the corner to UNV, which I did, and they hired me for the job.

Q: Can you describe your experiences from Cambodia?

DH: Yes. The time there was dynamic. Frustrating. Humbling. In a peacekeeping mission you become part of a challenging time of a country’s history. I had the feeling that you do not deserve to be there, and in fact you are there because of horrible circumstances that have led that nation’s system to break down.

(Continued on p. 10)
How did your career develop after Cambodia?

DH: During my time in Cambodia I built myself a network within the UN system. As I had been working on monitoring elections, and because of the developments in South Africa at that time, I was asked to go to South Africa to monitor the elections that brought Nelson Mandela to power.

After South Africa I travelled to Liberia. There I helped in monitoring the elections that unfortunately brought Charles Taylor to power. For me this experience showed that successful elections are not all about an efficient election process, but that it is also necessary to have an opposition and a media which can work freely which was not the case in Liberia.

I then decided to go back to headquarters in New York as I was offered a job within the Department of Political Affairs for the section responsible for East Timor. This position led me to be deployed in East Timor as a political officer with UNMIT in 2000. This was a very interesting time for me. What makes peacekeeping particularly fun, as well as challenging of course, is that often the needs are not foreseen. Once in the field you therefore have the opportunity to acquire more and more responsibilities, including for tasks you were never meant to do. In East Timor, this meant that the UN mission supported the government in the creation of a ministerial cabinet. I was asked to become the cabinet secretary. I had at the time of course little experience for a task like this one. But I reached out to New Zealand for advice on cabinet decision-making and they provided support. It was a very challenging and interesting experience as we were taking decisions on laws that were established for the first time.

II. INSIDE THE UN: DAVID’S EXPERIENCE FROM PBPS

David’s UN journey after East Timor has included many fascinating positions, both in the field and at UN headquarters. He worked as the special assistant to Lakhdar Brahimi in Afghanistan, lead the Secretary General’s policy committee, and was the special assistant to SIPA’s own Professor Jean-Marie Guehenno while he was Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations. David’s current work at headquarters is allowing him to gain experience in making executive decisions, managing staff, and having a more consistent schedule that allows him to spend more time with his family – the last of which can be a challenge for UN staff in the field.

Could you describe the work of the DPKO Best Practices Section (PBPS) and what some of the functions of your work are?

DH: The Best Practices Section aims to strengthen UNDPKO through a variety of tasks. These include Knowledge Management, which draws best practices and lessons learned from field reports to capture the innovation taking place in the field, policy, aiming for a systemic institution building of peacekeeping, and thematic work, which provides guidance to the field on issues such as Gender, Civil Affairs, HIV and Child Protection.

A great bulk of my work is Management Support. Another function includes sharing policy advice, and last week for example I travelled to Delhi to lead a conference on baseline standards for troop contributing countries in the issue of Protection of Civilians.

I also interact with DPKO and The Department of Field Support (DFS) and to some extent we serve as a think tank resource to the two. For example we assist DFS in documenting and extracting the best practices from the experiences related to the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake to come up with a toolbox for future emergency response by DFS.

After all this experience from the field and as special assistant, what was your motivation to take up your current position?

DH: One driving factor was that I wanted to take the opportunity to get more managerial experience. As the special assistant to someone you are in an extremely interesting position where you get to provide advice on a wide variety of issues. However, I also wanted the experience from making these decisions.

Also, as a special assistant you often find out what you will be working on the same day, as you are travelling to work by reading the New York Times. With this I mean that great part of the job is emergency response, which involves a lot of travel and an unpredictable schedule. While fascinating I wanted a position where I could spend more time with my family and my young children.

Q: How did your career develop after Cambodia?
III. SOME ADVICE FOR ASPIRING PEACEKEEPERS

Here David tells us about both mind and skill sets needed to work in the field.

Q: Finally, for us SIPA students interested in a peacekeeping career, what kind of advice and recommendations can you give us?

DH: First I think it is important that anyone who works in the field start from a position of humility. As part of a mission you are there by virtue of a tragedy in the country’s recent history. Your responsibility is to try to get out of there as soon as possible. There is always however a risk that you forget this, as with the mission comes a relative power, you have access to cars and helicopters that many in the host country could only dream having access to, creating a feeling of power, which can make you forget why you are actually there.

Second, you are there to be a professional, so study the country and their history. You need to have a good sense of the political aspects of the mission, and keep in mind that advancing the political situation is your main goal. Also, realize you are entering a professional field that is constantly learning, and innovation is necessary. You need to be driven and accomplish as much as you can. It will at many times be a frustrating experience, as the mission will never be able to meet all the needs you deem necessary. In a mission you also need interpersonal skills. It is important to be culturally adaptable, read people through a local lens, and make people at ease. Communication skills is one of the most important assets, as the mission and the UN in general require plenty of transactional work between a diverse group of partners.

Finally, what is really nice about peacekeeping is that everyone in the mission is in the same situation. You are all going through hardship, physical stress, sometimes security constraints, and you miss your family. This leads to intense bonding between the staff, and I can really say that some of my best friends are from these missions.

Some final words…

DH: Ultimately, if you are interested in international relations, and if you get the opportunity to work on an interesting issue and with good people, the UN is fascinating because it really allows you to push your envelope. You are not directly representing member states nor the secretariat, but are positioned somewhere in between. You are asked to provide advice and polices, which gives you the opportunity to have an impact.

Is there a journalist in you?

Would you like to personally interview a former SIPA student who now works at the UN, and be published in our next Newsletter?

Interested students should email:
Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Director of UNSP, at el2253@columbia.edu,
copying Giancarlo Cavallo,
UNSP Program Assistant, at gc2373@columbia.edu.