What did YOU do over summer vacation?
UNSP recommends North Korea

The SIPA team and Professor Lindenmayer, with a North Korean military officer (see p3 for list of participants)

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel to North Korea and see what the “hermit kingdom” really looks like and how it works? This May, SIPA’s Conflict Resolution Working Group (CRWG) and UN Studies Program (UNSP) teamed up and did just that. Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Director of UNSP, led a research team of 15 SIPA students from around the globe on this unprecedented adventure sponsored by SIPA. The team traversed the country from Pyongyang to the east coast, visiting historic sites like the Tower of Juche Philosophy and the Arch of Triumph, hearing an account of the Korean war at the DMZ (demilitarized zone), visiting two universities, holding meetings with UNDP on the ground, and...even unwinding at an amusement park with regular North Koreans from all walks of life.

TaeYoung Kim, of South Korean descent, with the team’s North Korean guide, in a symbolic gesture at the Reunification Monument in Pyongyang

How did they manage to arrange the trip? Whose crazy idea was it anyway? What did they experience? The team will share their findings, impressions, confusions, and recommendations at a special panel event on October 2, 2012, from 6 to 8pm in SIPA Room 1501. And stay tuned continued on p.3

The United Nations Studies Program promotes teaching, training, and career development in the pursuit of multilateral solutions to global dilemmas. We bring together scholars and practitioners to address the main priorities of the UN – security, development, human rights and the environment – while strengthening synergies between the Columbia community and the UN system.

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Second Year of ‘A Day at the UN’ Reveals Real People Behind The Bureaucracy

By Harriet Riley

It is no secret that many SIPA students dream about a job at the United Nations, says Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, Director of the United Nations Studies Program.

“Students kept asking what does it mean to work at the United Nations? And I could not answer them all myself.”

Naturally, the UN has such a variety of departments and organs that being a part of one might be completely different from being a part of another. “So,” says Lindenmayer, “I set up the ‘A Day at the UN’ program.” That was 2010, and in the space of ten minutes, 99 students applied. This year, the number of applicants rose to 140, just 30 of whom were selected, to keep the program small and competitive.

At a panel on April 11, a handful of those students shared their experiences alongside the UN staff who hosted them. A key theme of the evening emerged early on with Juontel White, who spent her time at the UN Development Program (UNDP) earlier that same day. Her host was Assistant Secretary General and Director of the UNDP Africa Bureau, Tegegnework Gettu, a SIPA alumnus. “I found it a pleasant surprise,” said White, “that Tegegnework was stressing the need for getting stuff done.

Marie Doucey agreed. She spent her day at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and for her, the true impact of the UN hit home during a videoconference with South Sudan. “The flow of information coming into the DPKO was huge. I realised that everyone wants peace and security, but it’s not easy, day-to-day, to make that happen. There are so many factors. You have to please so many people. So it’s important to see how complex it all is before you criticize.” Because SIPA students are trained to criticize, we have this fear that the UN is all talk and no action."

continued on p.3
‘A Day at the UN’, 2nd edition
continued from p.2

For students, a chance to learn from UN staff provided the obvious incentive to sign up for ‘A View from the Inside.’ But one might ask, what motivated their hosts to open up to them? Doucée’s host, Herve Lecoq of DPKO, says, “It’s cheap labor, even for one day. We get to use these brilliant young SIPA minds, and believe me, we put Marie to work.”

Levent Bilman, Director of the Policy and Mediation Division at the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), says, “There was egoism in this too, because we want people to know what we’re doing and how we do it. It also showed me how hard I’m working myself when I couldn’t spend a lot of time with my student. But I’m glad he got to see that, that’s what we want to show off by hosting him; how hard we work.”

Tarik Chelali, a student who spent two days in the DPA focusing on Libya, found out why his host agreed to have him during a funding meeting. “Suddenly I realised there was a lack of resources to tackle all the conflicts the UN wanted to tackle.” Host Denise O’Brien of the DPA Africa Division explains, “What we can and can’t do is limited by the resources we have. That’s why we took him to a funding meeting, so he could see what it’s like to go hat-in-hand. Because sometimes that’s the ugly truth.”

That wasn’t the only ugly truth students had to confront. Alejandra Bujones loved her time at the DPA Policy and Mediation Division, but was disappointed by a candid discussion she had with one staff member. “They said it was very difficult to recruit women in mediation, often because mediation occurs in conflict zones that aren’t exactly family friendly. So even when we have a strategy to increase the number of women at the UN, it can be hard to implement.”

UNSP and CRWG in N. Korea
continued from p.1

for a full trip report in the next edition of the UNSP Wire.

The following SIPA students participated in this unique experience:
TaeYoung Kim (Canada, ‘13), Pushkar Sharma (USA, ‘13), Mara Ladewig (USA, ‘12) Kazumi Kawamoto (Japan, ‘12), Patrick Martin-Menard (Canada, ‘12), Nicholas Java (USA, ‘13), Jin Zhou (China, ‘13), Samir Ashraf (USA, ‘13), Michelle Hanf (Germany, ‘13), Andrew Hill (USA, ‘13), Emily Siu (USA, ‘13), Kayoko Ajlani (Japan, ‘13), Sandra Choi (USA, ‘13), Tara Badri (USA, ‘13), and Tarik Carney (Jamaica, ‘13).

Panel Discussion on the CRWG-UNSP trip to North Korea

October 2, 2012
6 – 8pm
SIPA, Room 1501
We generally know, from what we learn and study at SIPA, that coordination is not always easy. Yet for the first time I experienced the real complexity of working in a multi-actor environment, where the responsibilities of HQ do not necessarily match the reality on the ground. ~ Marie Doucey, DPKO

Jessie Cottrell had a similar experience in the Situation Room where “people work 24 hours a day and need coffee to stay alive. The security guard checked my California driver’s licence. It was a bit old, and in the picture I had a huge Afro. He started laughing and joking about it, and called the other security guards over to see. This was at 7.30 in the morning, and they still had such a great sense of humor. I thought, this is the kind of place I’d like to work.”

Prof. Lindenmayer best summed up what the students had learned, “This is not only a bureaucratic organization. It is made of people, of warm people. Politics is human. Like the music of Wagner, it’s not as bad as it sounds.”

I enjoyed the opportunity to speak one-on-one with various unit directors. As they are the first point of contact for field staff, I gained a deeper understanding of both headquarters and field operations. Through these conversations, I also learned about their specific career trajectories and became further inspired about my future work in development in Africa. ~ Juontel White, UNDP Africa

The most striking quality of SitCen was the warmth, humor, and openness that pervaded its offices. Everyone was exceedingly sweet, not just to me but to each other as well. Paired with darkly humorous observations – the deposed Malian president’s ludicrous tweets asserting he retained power were a favorite target that day – and unapologetic idealism, the positive energy at SitCen seemed a useful coping mechanism for dealing with the heavy realities and limited means faced by the peacekeeping missions that SitCen monitors. ~ Jesse Cottrell, DPKO SIT-CEN

Hearing about my host’s diverse journeys to the United Nations, and their ideas about possible moves in my own career, helped me envision entry points to the UN as I look to my future after graduation. ~ Aaron Pangburn, DPA

Sitting in such a high-level interview and witnessing the interaction between the SRSG and journalists was fascinating! As SRSG, I realized, that she couldn’t dodge questions, but at the same time, she treaded a fine line in sharing even “heavily caveated” information that could be politically sensitive. Her training as a lawyer shone itself as a significant asset as she strategically chose the right phrasing to convey her message. ~ Priyam Saraf, Office for Children and Armed Conflict
What is the Role of a UN Peacekeeping Mission in Elections?
UNSP Capstone tackles mandates, expectations, and lessons learned

By Sara Jacobs

Peace operations and electoral assistance are major components of the UN’s work. Elections have become a centerpiece of peace agreements to end conflict, increasing their importance in the work of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). However, despite the importance of electoral assistance, there has not yet been a systematic effort to analyze the role and comparative advantage of DPKO in elections and how they can be improved.

Five SIPA students - Aaron Pangburn, Derek Carnegie, Inbok Rhee, Marie Doucey, and Sara Jacobs – under the leadership of Elisabeth Lindenmayer, undertook a Capstone Research Project to address this institutional knowledge gap for DPKO’s Policy and Best Practices Service.

This research focused on six UN peacekeeping missions that have provided significant assistance in elections: MINUSTAH (Haiti), MONUC and MONUSCO (DRC), ONUCI (Cote d’Ivoire), UNMIL (Liberia), and UNMIT (Timor-Leste). And it examined seven thematic areas of assistance provided by each mission: political affairs, civil affairs, gender, public information, human rights, police and military. The research was informed by extensive desk reviews of program documents provided by DPKO and supplemented by a large number of interviews with staff working in Headquarters and in the field.

The team met weekly with Professor Lindenmayer and multiple times per week independently. The first step of the research was collecting data, through the creation of a matrix. Then the data was analyzed and compiled into the report. As part of this process, two retreats were held. The end products of this research will be presented to a conference of Best Practices Specialists at the UN the first week of June, and will be used to brief other high level officials at the UN.

The goals of this research were twofold: On one hand, it identified the role of peacekeeping operations in electoral processes and its comparative advantages, in particular as these relate to missions’ substantive aspects. On the other hand, the project highlighted best practices in these areas for the elaboration of a set of guidelines and recommendations to assist in forthcoming elections. A parallel component of the project provided an analytical account of trends in the evolution of electoral assistance mandates given to peacekeeping missions. Thus, while there are many actors involved in the preparation, conduct and follow-up of elections, this research relates exclusively to the role and comparative advantage of DPKO.

Many of the recommendations and findings in the final report relate broadly to the need to approach electoral assistance in a manner that reflects its importance. Many of the best practices and recommendations found by this study emphasize the need for clearly established guidelines regarding electoral assistance activities before, during, and after elections. There have been a variety of innovative approaches already developed by various peacekeeping units, including coordination mechanisms to capitalize on their comparative advantages, but the benefits of these practices could be better spread within and across missions through more formalized means of information sharing.
“Naming and shaming” may be the best tool in the UN’s arsenal for ending the use of child soldiers, said Radhika Coomaraswamy, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict since 2006. Yet pockets of child soldier use still elude efforts by the UN and human rights groups to put the practice to an end since the General Assembly passed a resolution banning it in 1998.

A UN Studies Program (UNSP) panel January 31, held at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, focused on child soldiers in a two-hour program titled, “The Security Council and its Human Rights Agenda - Children and Armed Conflict: New Tools to Fight Impunity.” The discussion was led by Elizabet Lindenmayer, Director of the UNSP and a former adviser to Kofi Annan at the UN, and was presented in a unique round-table format, allowing for a more interactive forum for panelists. In addition to Coomaraswamy, who is a Sri Lankan Harvard-trained former human rights lawyer, the panel featured the following guest speakers: Grace Akallo, a former child soldier from Uganda and the founder of United Africans for Women and Children Rights; Jo Becker, Advocacy Director in the Children’s Rights Division of Human Rights Watch; and Ralf Schröer, Political Officer at the German mission to the UN.

Margot Wallström discusses “Women Under Fire”

By Giancarlo Cavallo

In commemoration of International Women’s Day, UNSP hosted Margot Wallström, UN Under Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict, on March 6th for a discussion on the targeting of women during conflict, and the efforts of Ms. Wallström’s office to combat the persistent scourge of this practice.

“Women have ended up on the front line of wars.” Wallström discussed the impunity with which systematic rape of women has been used as a new and highly effective tool of war. “Rape is not a sexual issue, it is not a cultural issue, it is a criminal issue...a war crime,” she declared, rebuking any notion that the rape of women requires any less than the most aggressive action by the UN and national governments. “Women are affected differently both in peace and in war,” she explained, noting the horrors endured during conflict, as well as the physical, emotional, psychological, and social consequences women face when wars end. The audience watched a documentary film that showed the arrest by UN forces of a known perpetrator from the bush in the Democratic Republic of Congo. While Wallström admitted that such operations would not likely become common, she was optimistic that the show of force, along with the threat of sanctions to the rebel group hiding the perpetrator, would send an effective message that the days of impunity are numbered.

Fighting the Use of Child Soldiers...With a List

By Dulcie Leimbach

“Naming and shaming” may be the best tool in the UN’s arsenal for ending the use of child soldiers, said Radhika Coomaraswamy, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict since 2006. Yet pockets of child soldier use still elude efforts by the UN and human rights groups to put the practice to an end since the General Assembly passed a resolution banning it in 1998.
To set the stage for this discussion of the UN Security Council’s role in ending the use of child soldiers, the program began with a screening of the short film, “Ana’s Playground,” depicting children playing in a desolate park, witnessing shootings, becoming the target of a sniper, and ultimately engaging in the battle. Following the film, Akallo was the first to speak, detailing her life as a child soldier. She was in high school when she was recruited in northern Uganda by the Lord’s Resistance Army, known as the LRA and headed by Joseph Kony, who is under indictment by the International Criminal Court and being hunted by Ugandan troops with the help of US advisers. The LRA trained children as young as 6 years old, Akallo said, beating them as an initiation rite, threatening them with witchcraft and forcing them to kill civilians and other rebels, using AK47’s. Life as a child soldier, Akallo said, was “worse than death itself.”

Furthermore, girl child soldiers, Akallo explained, suffered more than boys. “Being a woman, when you’re in a war, you want to be a man,” because girls are sexually abused, though boys are violated, too. But girl soldiers are forced to become mothers with unwanted pregnancies from rape and are possibly infected with AIDS, making reintegration in society even harder.

**Not a human rights issue**

Coomaraswamy outlined the tools that the UN Security Council has developed in the last decade to fight the practice of child soldiers. Processes have grown gradually, starting with an annual report on children and armed conflict and eventually encompassing monitoring, identifying names of perpetrators, creating a task force and a working group, conducting country visits, passing further resolutions and protocols, and imposing sanctions (though sanctions have been rare).

She reminded the audience that this was the first human rights issue the Council ever took up, though it has been labeled more broadly as a peace and security matter to appease Russia and China, who are “allergic” to human rights problems at the Council. But, she added, the Council was “horrified” by the existence of child soldiers enough to act.

“The normative framework has been such an incredible story in the Security Council,” Lindenmayer said. “The question is, really, has it worked? Has it made any difference for the children who are caught in conflict?”

**Getting off the list**

Naming and shaming, Coomaraswamy said, has been so effective that former warlords and militia members strive to have their names removed from the UN’s list, in the hopes of becoming political leaders in good standing someday. But to be removed from the list, they must sign an action plan with the UN and release the children.

The list includes 61 violators, 15 of whom have signed action plans and 6 are negotiating to have their names de-listed. “It is important to get off the list,” Commaraswamy said. Unicef, which partners with Coomaraswamy’s office, counted 11,000 children released through the program in 2010.

Yet the LRA in central Africa, al-Shabaab in Somalia, and the Taliban (to some extent) in Afghanistan all refuse to negotiate. Coomaraswamy conceded in the question-and-answer period later that she had “no clue” as to how to induce these holdouts to negotiate. “I’ll take any advice,” she said, referring
Fighting the Use of Child Soldiers  continued from p.7

specifically to al-Shabaab, who are immune to the naming-shaming device.

Schröer also reiterated the usefulness of the tools while confirming and emphasizing that the Council is looking at the violation of children’s rights and its consequences on peace and security, rather than approach it as a human rights problem. This is because some UN members, he said, may be worried about coming under the Council’s scrutiny in the future over possible human rights abuses of their own. Moreover, the conflicts involving children are “asymmetrical,” with armed groups fighting government troops at national borders, making such situations sensitive for the Council to address.

But Akallo was unimpressed by the tools, except for naming and shaming. From a former child soldier’s viewpoint, the Council’s work comes “too late.” She noted, for example, that the LRA is still operating in the bush of the Congo after it has reigned throughout many central African countries since 1987. And facing Schröer, Akallo asked how it is justified that the use of child soldiers is not a human rights issue.

“It’s an indictment, to a certain extent, to the UN,” Lindenmayer concurred, and turned to Becker of Human Rights Watch for her perspective on whether or not there has been any difference on the ground in the use of child soldiers.

“Nobody defends the use of child soldiers anymore,” Becker said, compared with 10 years ago, when there was no shame in such practices by militias. She added, “It’s now also recognized as a war crime,” when children under the age of 15 are recruited.

Commanders go to jail or are subpoenaed by the International Criminal Court or local UN-supported tribunals, Becker added, agreeing that the LRA, al-Shabaab and FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) are “pariahs.”

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UNSP offers Security Council courses to Saudi diplomats

As part of the Saudi Arabia UN Security Council Executive Studies program organized at Columbia University, the UN Studies Program has offered two courses for Saudi civil servants. Professor Lindenmayer has taught the following courses: “The Security Council and International Enforcement” during the first term, and “The Evolution of the UN Security Council from Peacekeeping to Political Missions” during the second term. The program aims to provide civil servants with the opportunity to examine key challenges in policy formulation and implementation, against a broad international perspective, and to generate practical insights and strategies for enhancing their respective roles in public governance.

Professor Lindenmayer and students at the Saudi Arabian Mission to the UN
UNSP Working Lunches with UN Ambassadors  
~ SIX lunches held this year alone! ~

Throughout the academic year, the UNSP offers students the opportunity to meet and engage in discussion with a current UN Ambassador over lunch at the Ambassador’s Mission to the UN, or sometimes even his/her personal residence. The topics vary, but the purpose of these lunches is to give SIPA students access to the current thinking of the UN’s diplomatic community on specific issues, while at the same time providing UN Ambassadors the opportunity to hear students’ views and perspectives on topics of mutual concern and interest. They are a means of further strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and SIPA through ongoing dialogue between the world of international politics and academia.

Since the start of UNSP’s Working Lunch tradition in 2010, eleven lunches have been organized:

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| 🇵🇰 | Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haroon, Permanent Representative of PAKISTAN  
The Current Humanitarian Situation in Pakistan and the Role of the UN |
| 🇲🇨 | Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of LIECHTENSTEIN  
The ICC: Recent Developments |

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| 🇨🇦 | Ambassador John McNee, Permanent Representative of CANADA  
Peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and development |
| 🇸🇬 | Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon, Permanent Representative of SINGAPORE  
United Nations Security Council Reform |
| 🇳🇱 | Ambassador Herman Schaper, Permanent Representative of the NETHERLANDS  
The Crisis in Libya and the United Nations |

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| 🇹🇷 | Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan to the UN, Permanent Representative of TURKEY  
The Role of Turkey as an Emerging Power |
| 🇪🇬 | Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of EGYPT, and  
Ambassador Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgam, Permanent Representative of LIBYA  
The Arab Uprisings: The Way Forward |
| 🇧🇷 | Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribiero Viotti, Permanent Representative of BRAZIL  
Responsibility to Protect or Responsibility While Protecting |
| ⌞ ⌞ ⌞ | Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of SAUDI ARABIA  
"The Kingdom: Current Developments and Trends on the Issue of Energy" |
| 🇸🇬 | Ambassador Albert Chua, Permanent Representative of SINGAPORE  
"Sustainable Development and Sustainable Diplomacy: Singapore’s Experience" |
TURKEY: Emerging Power and Mediator

By Michelle Moghtader and Tory Webster

On January 27, 2012, Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, Turkey’s Permanent Representative to the UN, hosted Professor Lindenmeyer and twenty SIPA students at his personal residence for a working lunch of delicious Turkish cuisine and diplomatic insights. The discussion was intimate and surprisingly candid, and occurring nearly one week after Turkish mediation efforts that nearly heralded a breakthrough in the Iran nuclear crisis, it was a timely forum to discuss Turkey’s evolving role in an evolving Middle East.

“We as Turks have a responsibility for our former cousins and brothers,” Ambassador Apakan said, focusing his presentation on the challenge of being a mediator and bridge in a region filled with conflicting parties and goals. Outlining Turkey’s history from the Ottoman Empire to its recent constitutional, financial, and political reforms, the Ambassador stressed that Turkey’s trajectory has been one of success and modernization. Citing Turkey’s increasing diplomatic presence in Africa, the Ambassador noted, “During the last three years, we have opened 26 embassies. Our role as a partner in Africa is getting bigger and bigger.” And domestically, Turkey’s effective integration of Islam, democracy, and liberal economic development has provided the region with a model, and the rest of the world with a mediator.

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EGYPT - LIBYA: After the Spring

By Andrew Sinanoglou

On February 3rd, 2012, twenty-five SIPA students and Professor Lindenmayer had the exciting opportunity to dine with the Permanent Representatives of Libya and Egypt, Ambassador Abdurrahman Shalgham (Libya) and Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz (Egypt). Over lunch they discussed current events in Middle East and North African politics, including the Arab Spring, the stability of their respective nations, and the deteriorating situation in Syria.

Both ambassadors identified unemployment and hereditary succession as common factors of the uprisings in their respective countries. Ambassador Abdelaziz postulated that former President Hosni Mubarak might have been able to finish his term in office had he agreed that neither he nor his son, Gamal Mubarak, would run for office in the future. Ambassador Shalgham recalled that, in the last conversation he had with Colonel Muammar Qaddafi during the Libyan revolution, he had tried to convince the now deceased leader to leave Libya. He talked to Qaddafi about government corruption, unemployment and Qaddafi’s notoriously profligate sons. In the end, his final impression of Qaddafi was that of someone completely disconnected from the outside world.

Ambassador Abdelaziz recognized that continued instability in Egypt was largely a result of the low levels of youth representation in its nascent government, while Ambassador Shalgham blamed Qatar for destabilizing his country by funding and arming Islamists. On the

continued on p.11
Turkey Working Lunch  
continued from p. 10

Ambassador Apakan expressed Turkey’s desire for a stable Middle East. “Whenever there is grave danger, or a crisis, we seek to be helpful, but without any imperial interests,” he explained, emphasizing that Turkey has no intent of attempting to dominate other nations. Due to its strategic location in an energy-rich region, and next to powerful and fiery countries such as Russia and Iran, Turkey has an incentive to stabilize conflict rather than incite it. This refreshing balancing act between empathetic concern and prudent isolationism, in the interests of what the Ambassador referred to as Turkey’s policy of “zero problems with neighbors”, is what drives much of Turkey’s foreign policy.

“We need stronger more robust Arab powers,” the Ambassador explained, “to balance Iran and Israel.” Although relations with Israel have been tense, with 100,000 Turkish Jews living there, Turkey has a strong incentive to improve relations and work for a more peaceful Israel. And Ambassador Apakan stressed his desire for a peaceful resolution of the Iranian nuclear crisis.

Faced with questions on the Syrian crisis, Iranian nuclear weapons and security issues, the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, internal human rights, the Kurdish conflict, Armenian history, and Cyprus, Ambassador Apakan maintained his confidence in Turkey’s ability to be a peacemaker.

With seemingly endless conflicts, like the Israel-Palestine or US-Iranian stalemate, entering the field of negotiations and diplomacy can seem daunting, but Ambassador Apakan gave students frank and useful advice. A true diplomat should be well versed in all issues, but ideally should “specialize in two.” And despite the complexities of the world we live in, the Ambassador’s concluding remarks were truthfully and simply hopeful: “Dream for world peace, then you will work for good,” to which Professor Lindenmayer poignantly responded, “Diplomacy is the realm of the possible.”

Egypt-Libya Working Lunch  
Continued from p.10

domestic political front, Shalgham was critical of the National Transitional Council (NTC), saying that it was operating on an exclusionary basis, attempting to deny political office to exiled Libyans, those who worked for Qaddafi, and women. Women, he felt, should clearly have greater than a 10% quota in the new government. However, his outlook on the upcoming Libyan election was grim; he expressed fear “that the Libyan revolution will fail,” giving Cuba and Zimbabwe as examples of good revolutions gone bad. When asked about basing their new governments on the secular Turkish model, both officials predicted that their governments would develop differently; Turkish secularism was not born of a civil war, as in Libya, and Turkey had a strong charismatic leader, which was not the case of the Egyptian revolution.

Both ambassadors highlighted that their states share many positive commonalities and are cut from “the same social textile,” but also decried the rise of fundamentalist Islamists in their countries. Ambassador Shalgham explained that he supports Islamic values but not Islamic law as it is literally interpreted.

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Professor Lindenmayer posed the question of what role the Ambassadors thought the United Nations could play in helping to rebuild or restore their respective countries. Ambassador Abdelaziz emphasized the need for election infrastructure assistance and loan facilitation, as the Egyptian economy continues to reel. Ambassador Shalgham identified continued torture and human rights violations in post-Qaddafi Libya as critical areas requiring United Nations attention.

Students raised questions about the upcoming UN Security Council resolution calling on Syrian president Bashir al-Assad to step down. Ambassador Abdelaziz’s impression was that the Security Council was paralyzed by the Russians and the Chinese, who did in fact block the resolution due to dissatisfaction with the NATO action taken against Libya under UNSC resolution 1970 (2011). Ambassador Shalgham felt that the issue had broader significance for the Russians; they were, in his opinion, reacting against a perceived lack of respect from the U.S., in that they were not being treated like a super power, especially in light of Secretary of State Hilary Clinton’s support for Russians protesting against the recent election result. “The US,” Ambassador Shalgham said, “is treating the Russians like they treat us [Libya and Egypt].”. This, he hypothesized, was leading the Russians to block the resolution based on the construction that the enemy of my enemy is my friend. He further hypothesized that the Chinese were worried about the Arab revolutions spreading to China. In Ambassador Abdelaziz’s analysis, the problem in Syria is that there are a large number of opposition groups but no designated leaders; he recommended that reconciliation be given a chance. Finally, in response to questions about their countries’ regional relations, both men reminisced about the “dreams and slogans” of pan-Arab nationalism and the Federation of Arab Republics, before charting ways forward for their respective states. The believe reengagement of this sort is necessary, especially in order to negotiate an acceptable distribution of Nile water. Ambassador Abdelaziz felt that the economic Arab Maghreb Union could be revived since Qaddafi was no longer an impediment; Ambassador Shalgham pointed out, however, that until Morocco and Algeria could resolve their differences over the Western Sahara the Union would likely remain frozen.

BRAZIL:
From R2P to RwP; a New Norm from an Emerging Power

On April 13th, Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti welcomed Professor Lindenmayer and a group of 19 SIPA students for a working lunch at the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations. The discussion focused mostly on Brazil’s new concept of “Responsibility While Protecting” (RwP), but also touched on additional responsibilities shouldered by Brazil as

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Brazil Working Lunch
Continued from p. 12

an ascendant power in the world, reform of the Security Council, and diplomatic relations with other emerging countries. Ambassador Viotti was joined by Deputy Representative Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunlop and First Secretary Leandro Viera Silva.

Ambassador Viotti offered initial comments on some of her signature contributions to the United Nations, and outlined Brazil’s proposed principle of RwP. The principle was born mostly out of unease with the way the intervention in Libya – UN resolution 1973 – was implemented, especially the insufficient attention given to civilian casualties. At the suggestion of Brazil’s President Dilma Rouseff, Ambassador Viotti and representatives from other countries proposed that in addition to the Responsibility to Protect, international interventions must also be accountable to a “Responsibility While Protecting”:

First, in any global conflict, the international community must exhaust all other options besides force, or be confident that no non-force options would be successful.

Second, when force is absolutely necessary, the UN must consider a use of force proportional to the conflict such that the benefits of the force do not outweigh the costs.

Third, there must be a mechanism that allows the international community to monitor and evaluate the implementation of force to ensure that boundaries of unnecessary force are not crossed.

The Ambassador closed her remarks by outlining how Brazil’s history and engagement with its neighbors is an example of the peaceful and determined cooperation Brazil hopes to see on the international scene as a whole. She reiterated her country’s belief that sanctions can sometimes successfully incentivize targeted entities to negotiate, but that they often simply harden resistance and make solutions more difficult to achieve. The Ambassador pointed to the lack of any resolution to the Iranian nuclear crisis as a case of the failure of sanctions to lead to a solution.

SAUDI ARABIA:
Energy and the Kingdom

By Sunserae Smith

On April 16th, eleven SIPA students were welcomed to the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the UN for a Working Lunch hosted by the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the UN, Ambassador Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi. The Saudi Arabian emblem -- two crossed swords with a palm tree in the space above between the blades – adorned the entrances of the Mission, and once inside, we got a glimpse into the thought processes behind the Kingdom’s current developments and trends on the issue of energy. Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, former Assistant Secretary-General and now Director of the United Nations Studies Program at SIPA, facilitated the fascinating discussion.

Speaking for the resource rich nation, Ambassador Al-Mouallimi shared the Kingdom’s long-term perspective regarding oil reserves and how they orient their policy for oil and oil markets towards long term stability. The Kingdom recognizes the need for alternative energy and generation of electricity and discussed the benefits of their research fund towards the advancement of science and technology. The Ambassador was asked to discuss Saudi Arabia’s objectives in the Security
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Students questions touched on the details of negotiations surrounding RwP, the standards for using force, and how this might be applied to the situation in Syria. Ambassador Viotti explained that Brazil, along with India and South Africa, supported “building bridges between the two sides” of the conflict. She expressed cautious optimism for Kofi Annan’s envoy to Syria and for a peaceful resolution to the violence of the past year. Additionally, she responded to questions about the BRICS Bank, the Banco del Sur, and overhaul of the UN Security Council by expressing Brazil’s opinion that the UN and other global institutions do not reflect current global realities and that those institutions must be revamped to allow greater participation and direction by the world’s emerging powers.

A significant contingent of Turkish students at the lunch asked the Ambassador about diplomatic relations between their two countries, especially in light of their recent joint leadership in 2010 to sponsor a program that would have seen Iranian uranium shipped out of Iran to be refined in a neutral third party’s territory and then returned to Iran. This was an unusual case of non-permanent Security Council members leading such negotiations and devising a “clever” plan. But after difficult negotiations, once all parties were almost on board, the US dismissed the agreement “without giving it a chance,” in favor of continuing its course of sanctions on Iran.

Towards the end of the lunch, students witnessed UN diplomacy in action, when an aide interrupted the lunch to confirm wording for a communication regarding recent military action in Guinea-Bissau. Conversing in Portuguese, the Ambassador and her colleague discussed the issue and she informed him that Brazil would use the phrase “military intervention,” and not “seizure of power,” to avoid hastily defining the event as the wholesale overthrow of the government. Students thus able not only heard a senior diplomat discuss policy but also saw policy created in real time, and came away with a renewed interest in Brazil and its contributions to international diplomacy.

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Council and if he felt the Council was an appropriate forum to leverage energy issues. He replied unequivocally that it is not. Ambassador Al-Mouallimi also discussed the Kingdom’s responsible decisions regarding oil reserves, gas resource production towards petroleum chemical projects, the moral stature of their geological-political location, and their position as the heart and birthplace of Islam. Saudi Arabia’s youth base was specially noted by Ambassador Al-Mouallimi in terms of the potential impact of the approximately 84,000 Saudi Arabian students in the United States – 30% of whom are women – and how this will generate change in the country.

As the world leaders are coming together for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June, I was curious to find out how they have prepared for the road to Rio. Ambassador Al-Mouallimi’s colleague discussed their challenges and how the definition of the green economy has varied from country to country. The Ambassador’s final comment was a brief one on the political tension and conflict in Syria, and he concluded by commending the students for an intelligent and intellectually stimulating conversation. The feeling was definitely mutual.

SINGAPORE:
Sustainable Development and Diplomacy

On April 20, the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the UN, Ambassador Albert Chua, hosted 6 SIPA students for an intimate Working Lunch on the subject of, “Sustainable Development and Sustainable Diplomacy: Singapore’s Experience.” This was Singapore’s second time graciously hosting a UNSP Working Lunch.
UNSP Visits to the Security Council

During the Fall semester of 2012, Professor Lindenmayer and the UNSP SIPA students to four open meetings of the UN Security Council:


February 23: Debate on “Women and peace and Security” – chaired by Togo

March 5: Debate on Somalia – chaired by the United Kingdom

April 19: Meeting on “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and security” – chaired by the United States

UNSP FALL 2012 RETREAT
~ Dates Announced: September 15-16 ~

SIPA’s UN Studies Program is pleased to announce that its Fall 2012 Retreat will be held from Saturday to Sunday, September 15 – 16, 2012, at the Guest House Retreat Center in Chester, CT.

Following 2011’s Retreat on the “The Arab Uprisings and the Role of the UN”, this year’s Retreat promises to offer another opportunity to engage with UN diplomats on an issue of current global relevance, and get to know other SIPA students who are interested in the UN.

Watch for more information on registration, the substantive Retreat theme and special guest speakers.

**STUDENTS take note:** Spaces are limited and they will fill up fast! Be sure to register early in the Fall.
Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and School of Continuing Education (SCE) offer this certificate in United Nations Studies. The courses outlined below are all 3 credits and can be taken independently or as part of a four-course certificate program. Visit [http://ce.columbia.edu/Summer-Sessions/School-of-International-and-Public-Affairs](http://ce.columbia.edu/Summer-Sessions/School-of-International-and-Public-Affairs) for complete information.

**INAF S6559D: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century: Challenges and Alternatives**  
Instructor: E. Lindenmayer  
(runs from the week of May 21 to Jun 29)

Does the United Nations matter? The course will offer a broad assessment and analysis of the place, performance and potential of the United Nations within the nation-state system. It will assess the world body based on a range of distinct expectations through the prism of global threats, global norms and global responsibilities. Increasingly the world is confronted with phenomena - related to both security and development - which require global responses; the question this course seeks to answer is to what extent can we rely on the UN to act as a global instrument for constructive change?

**INAF S6563D: The United Nations: History and Practice of Security Council Sanctions**  
Instructor: L. Rickard-Martin  
(runs from the week of May 21 to Jun 29)

Do sanctions work? This six-week intensive course will examine the history and use of multilateral sanctions as an instrument of coercion in the restoration and maintenance of international peace and security. Students will analyze the logic behind the imposition of international sanctions, explore specific factors that enhance and impede sanctions effectiveness, including their perceived credibility, the role of monitoring and enforcement, and challenges to sanctions legitimacy. The course will emphasize practical case studies and perspectives and students will benefit from regular guest speakers who have participated in various Security Council sanctions episodes.

**INAF S6567Q: Challenges of UN Post-Conflict Peacebuilding in Africa**  
Instructor: Y. Mahmoud  
(runs from the week of Jul 02 to Aug 10)

The objective of this course is to develop a shared understanding of the theory and practice of post-conflict peacebuilding within the context of the evolving nature of UN peace operations and as part of ongoing efforts to improve the international community’s collective ability to facilitate sustainable peace processes in countries emerging from conflict. Current Security Council-mandated peace operations, the challenges and dilemmas they face will be used as case studies to help attain the above objective. Because Africa has been the most important regional setting for these peace operations and has had a critical impact in defining their limitations and possibilities, the case studies will be drawn primarily from UN peacebuilding engagement in Africa.

**INAF S6569Q: The UN and Development**  
Instructor: B. Jenks  
(runs from the week of Jul 02 to Aug 10)

This six-week course will provide an analytical framework with which to understand the transformation that has characterized development thinking and practice at the United Nations over the last twenty years. It will familiarize participants with the key UN reports and resolutions that define the UN’s contribution and reflect on the evolution in development cooperation in practice through the prism of one UN institution in particular, in this case the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). It will also analyze current debates about the future of development cooperation and the evolving shape of multilateralism. The course will provide practical examples and draw from the extensive practical experience of the instructor.

**INAF S6552Q: United Nations & Human Rights**  
Instructor: Q. Coolen  
(runs from the week of Jul 02 to Aug 10)

What is the UN track record in promoting and protecting human rights? This intense six-week course will examine the UN human rights standards, mechanisms, institutions and procedures established over the past sixty years and question their effectiveness. With a particular focus on the actions (or lack thereof) of the UN Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council and diverse international judicial institutions like the International Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court, the course will illustrate, through practical case studies, the inherent challenges associated with the protection of human dignity, the enforcement of human rights and the fight against impunity.

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