The UNSP Wire is intended to provide students, faculty and staff at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) as well as the larger community beyond SIPA with information regarding recent and upcoming initiatives of the Program.

**Special Interest Articles:**
- UNSP Haiti Research Team briefs the UN Security Council
- UNSP Panel – Stabilizing a Country: What does it mean? What does it take? The case of Haiti
- 27 SIPA Students at the UN Security Council

**Individual Highlights:**
- Coming to SIPA  2
- Ladies who Lunch: A Meal with Ms. Thoraya Obaid  3
- UN Management Reform Capstone Workshop  4
- About the Program  5

**Words from the Director**

Who is the United Nations? There are 4 United Nations:
- The UN of the 192 Member States
- The UN of the Secretary General and his staff
- The UN of the NGOs
- The UN of the people of the world.

It is a complex system that serves at the center of multilateral diplomacy. It is the only international intergovernmental organization of global scope and nearly universal membership.

The UN Studies Program (UNSP) aims to equip students with the necessary knowledge and insight to work towards effective and efficient solutions to global problems through multilateral cooperation.

Elisabeth Lindenmayer
Director, UNSP
SIPA
Columbia University

UNSP Haiti Research Team briefs the UN Security Council

On February 25th, the Haiti Research Team met with Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Costa Rica to discuss the current situation in Haiti. This meeting followed the UN Studies Program panel on January 28th where the team presented its preliminary findings from desk and field research on peacekeeping and development in Haiti. Following that discussion, Ambassador Urbina requested more research from Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer and the team as preparation for him to lead the Security Council’s upcoming mission to the Caribbean island nation. In an intimate meeting at SIPA, the team briefed the Ambassador on its research findings on state fragility, the Security Council’s investment in MINUSTAH, and the persisting feeling of deadlock in the country’s economic and political development.

Ambassador Urbina will be a panelist at the team’s upcoming conference on April 7th and will share the results of the Security Council mission.

Stay tuned for upcoming research projects in Fall 2009!

All UNSP research projects are under the academic leadership of the Program’s Director, Elisabeth Lindenmayer.
Events at SIPA:

In its quest to bridge the gap between the SIPA community and the United Nations, the UNSP invites a series of distinguished panelists to SIPA. Recent and upcoming events for the Spring 2009 semester include:

**Film Screening: Poto Mitan: Haitian Women – Pillars of the Global Economy**

**Haiti: A Future Beyond Peacekeeping?** A night of Haitian music, food and dance proceeded by a Conference to discuss the link between Peacekeeping, Development and State building in Haiti. **Panelists included:** Michele Montas, Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General and renowned Haitian journalist, and Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

**Protecting Civilians: What does it take? What does it mean?** A panel discussion and demonstration from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on the operational implications of protecting civilians in armed conflict. **Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2009  
**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 1512

Stay tuned for upcoming events in Fall 2009!

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**Can Peace be Sustained in Kenya?**

Two members of the UNSP student research team on Kenya, Ms. Elizabeth Edelstein and Ms. Divya Khosla, packed their bags and headed to Nairobi over spring break. Their mission: to accompany Acting Director of the UNSP, Elisabeth Lindenmayer on a series of in-depth interviews with representatives of the Panel of Eminent African Personalities, members of the Kenyan coalition government, Kenyan civil society and members of the donor community. With unprecedented access to key stakeholders, the students were exposed to the complex and fragile political situation in the country. Tensions have erupted recently at the one-year anniversary of the country’s newly formed Coalition agreement.

In March 2009, three students accompanied Ms. Lindenmayer to a conference on Kenya organized by the Kofi Annan Foundation in Geneva. In December 2007, the attention of the international community was riveted on Kenya following the outbreak of post-election violence 2007 that left thousands dead and over 300,000 displaced.

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**Stabilizing a Country: What does it mean? What will it take? The Case of Haiti**

The UNSP organized a high-level panel discussion at Columbia University with members of the Security Council to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Haiti and the concerns of the Security Council in this regard. After presenting the preliminary findings of their research, gathered during a 10 day visit to Mission of the United Nations in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and numerous interviews at the UN, the UNSP Haiti research team and fellow SIPA students were able to have a frank and informative discussion with Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil, Ambassador Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, Jean- Pierre Lacroix, Deputy Permanent Representative of France and Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Minister Councellor for the United States Mission to the United Nations.
27 SIPA Students at the UN Security Council

On Thursday, February 9, 2009, Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer provided the opportunity for 27 SIPA students to attend an open meeting of the UN Security Council on the situation in Timor-Leste.

The conversation focused on the Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2009/72). The open session was attended by H.E. President Ramos-Horta of Timor Leste and H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, who presided over the debate. This event provided a unique opportunity for students to observe first-hand the proceedings of the Security Council. Students listened to the riveting testimony given by President Horta regarding the United Nation’s presence in Timor Leste. President Ramos spoke candidly about the February 2008 attempt on his life. “I am very touched and encouraged by the unity of mind and purpose shown by all members of the Security Council and others who spoke. I am very pleased with such unanimous support and solidarity for Timor-Leste” the President stated.

UNMIT was mandated by the UNSC to assist the government of Timor Leste in the following areas: review and reform of the security sector; strengthening the rule of law; economic and social development; and promotion of a culture of democratic governance and efforts to enhance dialogue and reconciliation. The mission has been in operation since 25 August 2006.

The Security Council and the ICC

In light of the recent indictment of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, the UNSP hosted a high-level panel discussion entitled The Security Council and the International Criminal Court. Panelists included Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United States; Ambassador Ibrahim O.A. Dabbashi, Permanent Representative of Libya; Ambassador Ruhakana Rugunda, Permanent Representative of Uganda; Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein and Margaret Carey, Director of Africa Division at DPKO. The Panel was moderated by Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer.

Ladies who Lunch: A Meal with Ms. Thoraya Obaid

UN Studies Program Working Group member and SIPA student, Ms. Victoria Okoye, was one of 6 raffle winners at the UN Day Benefit, held in Fall of 2008. Her prize? A lunch organized by Acting Director of the UNSP, Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer, with Ms. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

UNSP Wire: Congratulations on winning. When did you meet with Ms. Obaid?

Victoria: We met early in the semester. Tuesday, January 27th to be exact.

UNSP Wire: How did your meeting go? Were you nervous?

Victoria: It was great! She was an incredibly inspiring person to talk to, very down to earth, and it was so nice to learn about her and more about her passions and how that's lead to her work with the UNFPA. She also gave me a tour of the office, introduced me to a number of the staff, and it was a great opportunity.

UNSP Wire: Have you remained in contact with Ms. Obaid’s office?

Victoria: When I met her staff, a few of them mentioned that they're working on the next "State of the World Population" report and needed some help on it - now I'm doing an internship with the UNFPA working with them on exactly that. Very cool, indeed!

“Now I'm doing an internship with the UNFPA. Very cool, indeed!”
– Victoria Okoye, 2nd year SIPA student
United Nations Management Reform Capstone Workshop

Working on behalf of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), this research workshop is examining U.N. Management Reform Efforts from the 2005 World Summit to the present. The final report will include a thorough overview of the process and effects of management reform at the UN using case studies addressing Ethics, Governance, and Personnel reform. Each case study will focus on a particular issue: the Ethics Office (Ethics); the Office of Internal Oversight (Governance); and staff mobility policy (Personnel). A description of the geopolitical context in which the reforms took place, the roles of different stakeholders in the reform process and of the UN as a multilateral instrument will be thematic throughout the report. The primary audience for this report is the CRS senior leadership. Members of the U.S. Congress and their staff, as the consumers of CRS analysis, are also an important audience. Students will present their findings to CRS in Washington DC in May 2009.

**Key interviews include:**
Angela Kane, Under Secretary General for Management, Robert Benson, Director of the Ethics Office, Tom Repash, Former U.S. Representative to the Fifth Committee, Moses Abelian, Secretary of the 5th Committee, Suren Shahinyan, Officer in Charge of Career Support and Performance Management Section, Uren Pillay, Executive Secretary of the IAAC Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, Comptroller of the UN (former), Inga-Britt Ahlenius, Under Secretary General for Internal Oversight Services, Fatoumata Ndiaye, Acting Director for Internal Audit.

All UNSP research projects are under the academic leadership of the Program’s Director, Elisabeth Lindenmayer.

Reforming the UN Security Council

Working in consultation with the Security Council Report and under the academic leadership of the UNSP acting director, Elisabeth Lindenmayer, this research group is examining the most recent initiatives regarding the reform of the working methods of the Security Council (SC). As the only UN organ with executive authority under the UN Charter the SC’s decisions are binding on all of the 192 sovereign member states. Therefore its legitimacy, credibility, efficiency and effectiveness matter as it executes its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The group is, inter alia, analyzing the many interventions made during the 2008 SC open debate (S/PV.5968) on the SC’s working methods, identifying the proposals for change which were put forward, comparing them with previous ideas for reforms, and determining the progress made, political support, legal implications and other outstanding issues related to their implementation. The research will culminate in a final report providing an analysis of its findings in May 2009.

**Interviews the team has conducted and will be conducting include:**

“As the only UN organ with executive authority under the UN Charter the SC’s decisions are binding on all of the 192 sovereign member states.”
Elisabeth Lindenmayer has been appointed July 1st, 2007 the Acting Director of the UN Studies Program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and teaches courses on the UN Security Council, peacekeeping/peace building in Africa and the United Nations in a global world. She also serves as a Senior Advisor to the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia and teaches in the Honor's Program at New York University.

Professor Lindenmayer is a member of the Advisory Panel of the Security Council Report. She also serves as a board member of the Kofi Annan Foundation and on the advisory board of the NGO STOP (Stop Trafficking of People). She was part of the Kofi Annan Mediation Team in 2008, which led to a coalition government in Kenya. In 1997 Professor Lindenmayer was selected to serve in the Office of Secretary General Kofi Annan as his Executive Assistant, where she served as one of his closest advisors and led the many teams which accompanied him to his political missions around the world. From 2004-2005, Professor Lindenmayer was promoted to the Assistant Secretary General level and named Deputy Chef de Cabinet, which placed her at the center of the preparations for the largest ever summit on UN reform in 2005. Upon leaving the UN, Professor Lindenmayer was awarded the Legion d'Honneur by French President Jacques Chirac. In 2007 she was honored by the U.S. Red Cross for her work in humanitarian affairs. She received the 2008 Outstanding Teaching Award at SIPA. Mrs. Lindenmayer was born in Gaoua, Burkina Faso (previously Upper Volta.) As the daughter of a French Army Officer, she grew up also in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, then French Indochina, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal, as well as in France and England. She holds university degrees from the Sorbonne University, the University of Geneva and New York University.

About the United Nations Studies Program (UNSP)

The United Nations Studies Program at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) promotes teaching, research, and career development in the pursuit of multilateral solutions to global dilemmas. Under the direction of Elisabeth Lindenmayer, the Program brings together scholars and practitioners to address the main priorities of the UN – security, development, human rights and the environment – strengthening synergies between the Columbia community and those within the UN system. The Program is supported by the UN Studies Working Group (UNSPWG), a student initiative that compliments and enriches the Program’s endeavors.