The majority of participating students, about 63 percent, spent two or more days experiencing the complex but rewarding work of the United Nations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA), and UNICEF invited students to spend up to four days with their departments.

The third edition involved the help of over 150 UN staff and 26 host agencies. Out of 75 applicants, 34 lucky SIPA students were chosen to participate in the program. Interest was especially impressive given that the application’s initial due date fell during Superstorm Sandy, which wreaked havoc on Internet and electricity connections across Manhattan.

Once the students were selected, Lindenmayer worked diligently to match students with agencies that best fit their academic and professional interests. Host agencies carefully crafted their students’ agendas to give them an overview of the multitude of tasks and events occurring on a given day. Over 2000 e-mails were exchanged in this process to ensure that each and every participating student had a memorable experience.

The ultimate goal of ‘A Day at the UN’ is to

Continued on Page 5

DPRK Trip Update

See Page 12 for More Information
First-Hand Accounts Of

The staff treated me as though I were part of their team even though I was only there for a day.

Kathleen Ryou (MPA 2014), DSG Development Unit

I was inspired by the dedication the staff put in their work, and their honesty... when I asked them questions.

Matilde Mader-Blanco (MIA 2014), DPKO Operations and Crisis Centre

I found [A Day at the UN] more beneficial than previous internships... every member of the AD1 team ensured that they had devoted a block of time to meet with me.

Tara Badri (MIA 2013), DPKO Africa Division 1 Team

Though only an observer, I found the [TCC] meeting to be an exceptional opportunity to witness the interaction between the DPKO and member states...

Samir Ashraf (MIA 2013), DPKO Middle East Team

I will keep wonderful memories of these two days... they have tremendously helped me in my thinking about my career path.

Florian Dautil (MIA 2014), DPKO
UN Women does what no single organization, country, university, or company can do: They mobilize the people and resources to get things done...

Bunmi Akinnusotu (MPA 2014), UN Women

Given my interest in energy for development issues and renewable energy project development and finance, this was exactly the team that I was looking for all along!

Kelly Chen (MIA 2013), UNDP-GEF EITT

These are ordinary folks who do great work every day, and are as passionate about the world as you are.

Mohammed Ademo (MIA, Dual Degree), DPA East Africa Division

PPU allowed me to pick [assignments] that are close to my interests. That offer really made me think that they trusted me as a SIPA student and I felt like an equal member of the team.

Yigit Canay (MIA 2014), DPA Policy and Mediation Division
Thank You To...

Department of Political Affairs
Africa Division I
Policy and Mediation Division
Syria Special Envoy

Office of the Deputy Secretary-General

Department of Field Support
Somlia Team
Middle East Team
East Africa Team
Office of the ASG
Operations and Crisis Center

United Nations Peacekeeping

Department of Public Information

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
One UN Secretariat for Post-2015 Agenda

UNDP

UNFPA

Small Island Developing States
Division of Sustainable Development

UNICEF

PBSO

UNMAS

@UNWOMEN

Office of the Deputy Secretary-General
Africa Division I
Policy and Mediation Division
Syria Special Envoy

...Our Gracious Hosts of ‘A Day at the UN!’
You have given our students such memorable experiences, and we are looking forward to seeing you again next year!
Students listen to panelists' accounts of their 'Day at the UN' experiences. Photo courtesy of Annie Waldman.

Continued from Page 1
give students insider access to actual men and women behind the operations of the UN, an invaluable experience considering how difficult it can be to penetrate the organization.

“I wanted to try to destroy that myth of bureaucracy and give a human face to the UN,” said Lindenmayer. “I want to show that [UN employees] are people who are passionate about what they do. Politics is human, and the UN is made of people.”

Historically, ‘A Day at the UN’ has served as a launching point for mentorships, internships and even full-time employment with the UN. Quentin Coleen, a SIPA alumnus and UN host, remembered that he had gotten his current job at the UN Development Programme (UNDP) after participating in ‘A Day at the UN’.

“I wanted to give students access and the opportunity to establish relationships,” said Lindenmayer.

Items on the ‘Day at the UN’ agendas ranged from listening to briefings on Somalia by the Under Secretary-General for the Department of Political Affairs, attending press briefings, sitting in on substantive meetings planning future peacekeeping operations, posting on the UNICEF blog, and even trying on gear used by United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in the demining process.

“I think the UN feels a responsibility to make sure students have an exciting day, I envy some of the days the students had!” said Lindenmayer. “Perhaps one day, students will be able to spend a whole week at the UN!”

Mima Stojanovic, who hosted Christian Loubau (MIA ’13) at the UNICEF Innovation Unit, noted that having Christian spend more than one day at the UN allowed him to absorb more information.

“A lot of our days are very chaotic, so it takes a little bit of time for … all of these things to process. The second day that he came, he had a lot more questions, because he was able to go home and think about all the things he had learned.”

In addition to providing students with access and networking opportunities, Lindenmayer created ‘A Day at the UN’ so students could see first-hand the complexities of working in an organization that contains so many member states and performs such a variety of functions.

Menan Omar (MPA ’13), who spent the day at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), noted this challenge while speaking on the panel.

“It sounds very simple and obvious, but when you are trying to have over 193 countries agree on something, it is very difficult. We at SIPA think it’s challenging enough to coordinate things with 5 or 6 people.”

Pushkar Sharma (MIA’13), who spent the day with DPKO’s Somalia Team and attended a joint meeting with DPA and DPKO, found the different functions and fractures within the United Nations to be most interesting.

“It was interesting to see the different ideologies, perspectives and staffs coming together to work on this issue, and figure out what the future might look like.”

During the April 10 panel, both students and hosts expressed their positive experiences with the program.

Federico Brusa (MPA ’13), who spent the day with the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, said, “It was really great to be with one person who all day would give me a personal class on how UNDP worked.”

Annie Waldman (MIA ’14) expressed her surprise at the amount of access given to SIPA students, and remarked that the Canadian delegation treated her as if she were a full-time member of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

For the hosts, having eager, intelligent SIPA students observe and engage is a way to attract talent to the organization, and serves as a moment to reflect on the meaningful work being done.

Coolen said, “[Having a student shadow] forces us to speak clearly and intellectually, without using all the acronyms that we use all the time… it is a very good reminder of what it is that we do.”

At the end of the panel, Lindenmayer thanked the UN guests for hosting SIPA students.

“You don’t know, on your side, how excited and sometimes nervous students can be,” she said. “So the fact that you make them comfortable is wonderful. This is what the UN is about.”
International Women’s Day Panel: Three Inspiring Leaders Continue a UNSP Tradition

Three years ago, UNSP Director Elisabeth Lindenmayer began a tradition celebrating International Women's Day. Previous guests invited to speak include Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and Executive Director of UN Women, and Margot Wallström, UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

This year's panel included a lineup of high-level leaders. The UNSP hosted Leila Zerrougui, Under Secretary-General and Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflicts, Judy Cheng-Hopkins (MIA '78), Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, and Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women.

Aakanksha Tangri and Emily Yu

On March 6, 2013, three inspiring female leaders from the United Nations took center stage at SIPA for a United Nations Studies Program (UNSP) panel celebrating the 103rd International Women's Day. Students packed the room for a roundtable discussion, moderated by UNSP Director Elisabeth Lindenmayer, on challenges faced by women in peace, security and development.

The honored guests included Leila Zerrougui, Under Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships at UN Women; and Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace Building Support and SIPA alumna (MIA ’78).

Zerrougui, Puri and Cheng-Hopkins felt it was important to narrate their experiences working in conflict zones and in male-dominated settings at the UN because SIPA students will become the leaders of tomorrow. Puri even remarked she was happy to see a strong male presence in the audience.

“We are often talking to ourselves,” she said.

The panelists discussed this year’s Women’s Day theme: “A Promise is a Promise: The Elimination and Prevention of all Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls.” Zerrougui said raping women has become a new objective for war.

“Sometimes women are raped as retaliation against the community; sometimes it’s done to get people to flee...and for grabbing land. Sometimes it is to get access to mine diamonds [and] gold. It’s not an ideology, it’s really for other reasons.”

“When you rape a woman in front of her husband, father, parents...you’ve destroyed that family,” said Cheng-Hopkins.

“Often rape survivors feel guilty and the best way to prevent further abuses against women is to instill a sense of accountability,” Puri added.

Security and protection of women is a relatively recent concern for the UN Security Council. In 2000, it adopted Resolution 1325, which recognized the need to protect women and “reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building.

Cheng-Hopkins noted that this was the first time the question of gender was linked to peace and security. The resolution also emphasized the need for women in decision-making at all levels and asked the Security-General to appoint more women to leadership roles in conflict resolution and peace processes.

“War begins in the minds of men and I always point out that women… are the peacemakers,” Puri said. “Women are not included although their talent [and] propensity for peace is so much to be tapped.”

The discussion took on a personal tone when Lindenmayer asked the speakers what advice they would offer to students considering this field of work, particularly in terms of maintaining a family-work balance. Cheng-Hopkins’ piece of practical advice was to do [fieldwork] early. She said that in order to be credible, one must have spent time in the field. She added, “If you want this life in the field, you have to be very careful in who you select as your partner.”

Zerrougui stated how working at the UN allows its staff members to constantly broaden their horizons.

“[The UN] allows you to work in different settings and to meet people from different places. If you stay in your house, your city or country, it’s not easy to think about others.”

Lindenmayer concluded the panel by thanking the leaders for their time and devotion to women’s issues.
From SIPA to Assistant Secretary-General: Cheng-Hopkins Shares Her Insights in Exclusive UNSP Alumni Series Interview

The UNSP Interview Series with former SIPA alumni working at the United Nations aims to educate students about the everyday functions of this complex body and provide unparalleled networking opportunities. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support at the United Nations and a SIPA alumna (’78), sat down with Aakanksha Tangri (MIA ’14) to have a candid discussion about being a woman in leadership at the UN, what peace means to her, the importance of fieldwork and her time at SIPA.

Q: As Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, what does peace mean to you?
JCH: In the UN jargon we have peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Peacemaking is at a point in time - and I hate to use these words so casually - everyone is sick and tired of war. All the parties are willing to lay down arms and compromise. The job of peacemaking is trying to make the peace ‘stick.’ It’s very tough.

After there’s a peace accord and all sides agree, then there might be a need for a peacekeeping force to stabilize the situation. Because the recent history has been so fraught with hatred, frustration, and distrust, sometimes across ethnic groups or geographical groups, you cannot assume one day to the next that [people are] going to co-exist happily.

Q: You’ve worked in a male-dominated setting at the UN. What does it mean to be a woman in leadership?
JCH: That’s a good question. I would say thank God! Luckily for us, it’s not so rare anymore. I was very young when I started. If I entered the big boardrooms with the senior management groups, it was as a note taker and watching the men.

Q: And also – you’re a woman of color.
JCH: And from the “third world.” I’m Malaysian. Can you imagine sitting there? Nine times out of ten I was considered a secretary. You had to be prepared and have a thick skin. I remember just sitting around quite scared and overwhelmed. Fast-forward to today, 42 percent of senior UN managers are women. This is a huge increase — I believe the highest increase ever since the UN was created. It has changed the tone of the meetings a lot. Now as you sit down in these board meetings, half the room are women who have a voice and something to say. It really does change the mood quite a bit. Today I’m not intimidated or anything. The playing field is quite leveled.

Q: You’re on the Forbes list of “Top 10 Most Powerful Women at the UN.” What made you choose a career at the UN?
JCH: I’m sort of the black sheep of my family. My whole family is... in the private sector and doing very well. I was never really interested in that. I was interested in what makes society work, why some countries are so successful, why are some leaders successful? [The field] was very dynamic when I was growing up. A lot of countries gained independence, you had all these new theories [emerging]. The underdevelopment of Africa, for instance, was a key topic of the day at SIPA! I was always drawn by that.

By luck, I was picked for a job at the UNDP. I went to the field. I went to Africa and Zambia for 10 years and loved it… You get the bug. You can’t do anything else. I never wanted to leave the field. I’m so lucky to be doing [this job] at this point in my life because it’s the ultimate convergence of everything I’ve done in the past: humanitarian, development and human rights.

Q: How did you deal with the unfair criticism because of your gender and ethnicity?
JCH: I developed a system where I never cried... just rethink, re-strategize and come out better. I’m never one for self-pity. Take every occasion that comes before you and step up to the plate.

You just have to find ways to make yourself really noticed and really appreciated. I

“I love the fact that I work in a multicultural environment. I don’t think I could work in another environment after this.”

Q: You’ve worked in a male-dominated setting at the UN. What does it mean to be a woman in leadership?
JCH: That’s a good question. I would say thank God! Luckily for us, it’s not so
Second In Command:
DSG Jan Eliasson is Guest of UNSP at SIPA

By Alana Ngoh and Julie Nacos

It would be difficult to find a more suitable candidate to commence a semester of United Nations Studies Program (UNSP) high-profile panels; hosting UN Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) Jan Eliasson is about as “high-level” as it gets.

On Wednesday, January 30, Eliasson was the guest of the UNSP, accepting UNSP Director Elisabeth Lindenmayer’s invitation to speak and engage with the SIPA community. The event was titled “Second in Command: A Conversation with UN Secretary-General Jan Eliasson on Global Politics, Leadership, and His Role at the Top of the United Nations.”

Recently returned from a mission to Chile, Eliasson created time in his hectic schedule to engage with Lindenmayer about the current geopolitical climate, the challenges facing the UN, and his diplomatic career and experiences as “Second in Command.”

Described by Lindenmayer as “a man of passion and compassion,” Eliasson is known as a gifted and astute mediator with experience working on major international conflicts in Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Mozambique and Bosnia. Because of his extensive experience as a peace broker and widely respected leadership skills, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Eliasson as Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations in April 2012.

Eliasson’s past career experiences parlayed perfectly into his present vocation. His career in diplomacy began in 1965 when he joined the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs where he held several roles, including Director-General for Political Affairs. In 1992, he was chosen as the first UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and spearheaded initiatives on landmines, conflict prevention and humanitarian action. From 2000-2005, he served as Sweden’s Ambassador to Washington D.C., and in June 2005 was unanimously elected President of the General Assembly.

SIPA student Frederico Brusa (MPA ’13) said, “I have been following his work since he helped establish the UN Human Rights Council in March 2006. DSG Eliasson’s distinguished service is in many ways the archetype for those who aspire to a career at the United Nations.”

Setting a lively, spirited, yet reflective tone for the evening, Eliasson captivated the SIPA and Columbia community audience. Pointing to the portrait behind him of the second UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, he said it was fitting that he was speaking in the presence of his late mentor and fellow Swede because it reminded him of the important work needed to address today’s most pressing issues and tomorrow’s challenges.

“The future is not only about looking ahead to the horizon, but also about the small steps that you take now,” he remarked.

After decades on the international stage, the seasoned diplomat explained that he has never seen such a big shift in the global development landscape. He listed what he believes are the four most significant changes taking place: The unprecedented growth and energy of emerging economies; the power of technology and the rapid diffusion of information; the changing role and empowerment of women and; the threat of climate change and environmental degradation.

On this topic, Eliasson notes this is the first time in history that humanity has faced an existential threat.

“When people ask me what the Plan B is, I say there is no Plan B… we must focus on sustainability.”

For those with the tenacity for a career in conflict resolution, Eliasson provided some unique advice.

“The choice of timing is critical: do not do things too early or too late; choose a moment when at least one side is prepared,” he said.

He also emphasized the nuances of language, the importance of cultural sensitivity and the power of interpersonal relations, although he acknowledged this was “not so easy when negotiating with Saddam Hussein.”

Eliasson views his role as much more than a diplomat. The blending of “passion and compassion” is the hallmark of his leadership. It is also his guiding force when dealing with complex humanitarian crises. When asked how he deals with the harsh realities of his line of work without becoming cynical, Eliasson responded that he keeps a copy of the UN...
“I Dined with the DSG!”

At the 2012 UNSP fall retreat on the UN and Political Transitions, students were assigned to teams and gave presentations on countries in transition, competing for a mystery prize from UNSP Director Elisabeth Lindenmayer. Team Somalia won, and on March 15, Lindenmayer delivered a reward of a lifetime: A Brown Bag Lunch with the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

By Alana Ngoh

UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson graciously extended his hospitality to 10 lucky SIPA students, who enjoyed lunch with the UN’s second highest ranking official for one and a half hours.

Held in the DSG’s wing of the newly-renovated UN Secretariat building, the intimate meeting provided students with the unprecedented opportunity to interact with the veteran diplomat on a diverse range of topics. From his success in brokering the UN’s first humanitarian corridor to his personal agony over the enduring conflict in Syria, the DSG spoke candidly about the highs and lows of his challenging role.

The inquisitive students presented a long list of questions and the DSG was keen to cover as many as possible. This was understandable given the extensive responsibilities under the Swedish diplomat’s remit; he covers everything under the umbrella of political affairs and development. His political portfolio includes conflict resolution and peacekeeping, with the instability in Syria, Mali, Somalia and the DRC commanding much of his attention. His second dossier centers on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) and the post-2015 agenda, including the ‘new generation MDGs’ such as water, sustainability and maternal health.

In addition to his political and development work, a third portfolio for the DSG is rule of law. Eliasson spoke extensively about the rule of law as a vehicle for strengthening peace and security, as well as advancing human rights. While it has traditionally been viewed through a political lens, he explained that it is a growing priority and stabilizing factor that can have a major impact on development goals.

On the subject of enabling development, students were also keen to hear about what progress had been made in preparing for the post-2015 MDG’s. Eliasson explained that the UN had several exciting campaigns underway to promote and accelerate the second generation targets, beginning with water and sanitation, amongst the most lagging of the goals. He also spoke of the importance of merging poverty eradication with sustainability, and other MDG priority areas such as institutions and infrastructure, as well as the more controversial issues of reproductive and women’s rights.

The luncheon coincided with the closing day of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the DSG fittingly addressed this subject. One student commented on the pushback against women’s rights at the United Nations and wondered why the movement had suffered so many setbacks. Eliasson explained that cultural and social relativism with regards to sexual violence and reproductive rights was still a roadblock, particularly in countries where traditions are used as an excuse for impunity.

“I am the first one to support cultural sensitivity, but we must not ‘relativize’ the human rights declaration or undermine the basic principles of the charter,” he said.

When asked about the most gratifying moment of his career, the DSG reflected upon his contributions toward alleviating human suffering in the Sudan and the role he played in brokering the first humanitarian corridor in UN history. Stuck at an impasse in ceasefire negotiations with the fate of 50,000 lives in his hands, Eliasson got President Bashir to soften his position and agree to a neutral zone where critical humanitarian assistance would be provided. He did this by appealing to the dictator’s sense on a humanitarian level and tinkering with subtle nuances in language.

Drawing lessons from this example on the importance of perseverance in diplomacy, Eliasson said he wished that all UN conflict negotiations were approached with such tenacity.

“Veto power within the UN Security Council is used too often, and in many ways...”
UNSP Syria Simulation Tests Students’ Diplomatic Skills

By Terri Lim

What should the international community do if the sectarian violence in Syria escalates while Assad (together with key members of his regime) leaves the country?

This was the question my class on the UN Security Council (SC) set out to answer in a simulation exercise organized by our Professor and United Nations Studies Program (UNSP) Director Elisabeth Lindenmayer on Wednesday, April 17.

We each chose a country to represent, familiarized ourselves with our respective country’s positions, and simulated SC consultations on a draft resolution addressing a fictitious military transition in Syria.

To add a realistic flavor to the negotiations, Lindenmayer invited several UN staff members to assist in the deliberations: James Staples from the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria, Cris Stephen from the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, Quentin Coleen with the UN Development Programme, and Norma Chah for the Security Council Support Office. Chah drafted ‘Breaking News’ alerts, which moved the negotiations forward whenever there was a deadlock.

Whilst the formal environment was initially intimidating, we quickly grew comfortable with our roles, with some classmates imitating foreign accents or peppered their hair with white powder in a humorous attempt to look like the actual persons they role-played. My role as the Permanent Representative of China gave me (and I suspect most of the other members of the SC) a lot of grief. Like Russia, China fundamentally opposed many provisions in the draft resolution, e.g. an ICC referral and the deployment of a peacekeeping force in the absence of (a) a ceasefire agreement and (b) consent by the interim Syrian government.

My hands were glued to my placard, ever ready to raise it and defend Russia’s and China’s position. It was exciting and nerve-wrecking at the same time, and I was grateful for all the advice Lindenmayer and the UN observers gave us during the recesses.

The breaking news segments and fictional on-the-ground reports by the Human Rights Commissioner and the Secretary-General of the UN were the most exhilarating parts of the simulation, as it challenged us to make split-second decisions on amending our positions and coming up with instant arguments to support them. Being flexible and open to new proposals were key to successful negotiations.

The simulation also emphasized the need for all SC members to work towards consensus by persuasion instead of attacking one another. As China, it was important to play my cards strategically and let others take the lead on contentious issues where our positions were aligned. I also held back a threat to veto until almost all the provisions were agreed to in order to get my way on specific wording or provisions. It was helpful to engage in informal bilateral negotiations prior to the simulation, which enabled us to establish alliances on common issues.

As China, I playfully pressured Brazil by reminding its representative of our economic ties and shared positions on many other issues, effectively silencing her during much of the SC consultations. She later lamented the impossibility of her situation, as she did not want to “alienate any permanent members in the SC”.

By the end of our simulation, despite threats of vetoes by China and Russia along the way, we passed a unanimous resolution authorizing a peacekeeping mission in Syria. We reached this compromise after eight grueling hours of negotiations into the night.

Engaging the class in a simulation all-Continued on Page 12
Judy Cheng-Hopkins Talks Being a Woman in UN Leadership

Continued from Page 7

Q: Did SIPA prepare you for a career at the UN?
JCH: Oh incredibly. It was very important. I can actually think of the professors that were so critical. There was Professor Howard Wriggins, who used to make us write position papers. How do you get the interest of an ambassador who needs to have the facts or positions he should be taking in hand? All important people are busy; they do not have time to read long prose. They’re looking for that extra argument that makes the point so strong. We were used to writing long prose. If the memo was too long, Professor Wriggins would tear it up. Through practice, I learned to write very good position papers. Each professor gave me a different angle. Putting it all together, I was a pretty confident young woman when I faced the world. That’s what SIPA gave me.

Q: What was the biggest or the toughest challenge you faced at the UN and how did you overcome it?
JCH: You’re right about the challenges of being a woman back then. If you progressed too fast in your career, it was always something negative. It was never “because she really works hard or she deserves it.” It was always something else... As I said, you have to have a thick skin, give them a smile and come back with an even better paper the next time.

Q: What about the challenges in the field or during a particular assignment?
JCH: The challenge is having a family, of course. Having to go overseas for five or six years at a time is no joke. If you’ve decided that you want to travel to these countries that are a bit crazy but so interesting, then you better find a partner who is willing to go with you, or make a deal that the first three years is what he wants and the next three is what you want. I’m sorry to say, it’s not just love. If you really want this, you really have to think about it. If you don’t want a job in this crazy area, then fine. By accident, I stumbled across a good arrangement because my husband is a professor.

Q: If not at the UN, then what would you have done?
JCH: I don’t know because I’ve only known the UN! I love the fact that I work in a multicultural environment. I don’t think I could work in another environment after this.

Q: What is your advice for young women who want to pursue a career at the UN and in peacebuilding?
JCH: When you’re young, with no strings attached, for God’s sake go to the field! As Elisabeth Lindenmayer said, get it under your belt. It’s actually exciting to go to Juba, to go to Darfur and go to places like that and to learn the ropes and have the confidence to speak about the situation. Right off, you’re building your comparative advantage. So spend those years in the field, in the deep field even better yet. Get the experience before you think of the next phase. Plan accordingly.

Q: What do you like to do in whatever little free time you have left?
JCH: I have so little free time! I’m jet-lagged so in my free time I want to sleep. I spend free time with my husband. I have children and one grandchild now, so I spend more quality time with them and go out with my friends. We travel for leisure as well. We go to Malaysia once a year at least if not more.

Cheng-Hopkins Honored at GLAD, UNSP in the Spotlight at SIPA Alumni Day

By Annie Zhou

On a cool spring evening, SIPA’s deans, professors, students, and biggest sponsors gathered on the 35th floor of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel for the 13th Annual Global Leadership Awards Dinner to celebrate another year of milestones.

This year’s honorees included Judy Cheng-Hopkins, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support and SIPA alumna. After a brief video congratulating her on the award, United Nations Studies Program Director Professor Elisabeth Lindenmayer gave her a warm introduction, praising her for years of service and dedication to the causes of the UN.

Cheng-Hopkins spoke about SIPA being one of the most valuable experiences, stating that “understanding the theories [of international relations] and having a strong foundation” contributed to her career progression. She strongly advised members of the audience to go to the field in order to experience what had so deeply influenced her work and instilled a sense of duty to society.

Cheng-Hopkins has graciously donated her time to helping the UNSP this semester. She participated in the UNSP’s Third Annual International Women’s Day Panel, ‘A Day at the UN’ event and a sit-down interview with the UNSP Wire.

SIPA also invited Cheng-Hopkins to be a notable alumni guest at this year’s Alumni Day, which occurred on Saturday, April 27. Cheng-Hopkins spoke about her role at the United Nations and her time at SIPA, which strongly influenced her career path.

The UNSP would like to thank Cheng-Hopkins for her generosity, time and support of SIPA in the past year.
Syria Simulation an Educational Success

Continued from Page 10
allowed us to apply knowledge that we had gleaned from the course, and drove us to better understand processes in the SC. As Jiayu Jade Chen (MIA ’14), representing Morocco, eloquently said, “the dynamics of the simulation is beyond the control of any individual.”

Passing a SC resolution is beyond the control or ability of a single SC member, but represents a concerted effort by all members to reach an agreement.

I entered the simulation fiercely, hoping to muscle my way into a resolution (or to block one), but left as a friend of all members of the SC, having realized the utility of diplomacy and compromise.

DSG Accepts UNSP Invitation, Speaks at SIPA

Continued from Page 8
Charter in his pocket to comfort him and provide strength.

Waving the small blue booklet to the audience, he explained: “I look at the Charter and think about what it stands for and how we must translate that into action.”

He added, “We have a responsibility as global citizens to protect those who need our help. It is on our shoulders to safeguard people from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war and any other humanitarian afflictions.”

In the Q&A period, Eliasson expounded upon his 2011 Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture, “Peace, Development, and Human Rights: The Indispensable Connection” after a student in the audience told him it inspired him. He summarized the central theme.

“A decent society and international order rests upon respect of human rights and rule of law. If one of these pillars is weak: war, extreme poverty, inequalities, and violations of human rights, it is not only that sector that suffers, it is the whole. There is no peace without development, and there is no development without peace.”

To students of diplomacy, Eliasson offered the following advice:

“Life is a long voyage in learning. Being a good leader involves listening to people and breaking down walls horizontally. Try not to get lost in the silos. Today’s problems are so complex we need to bring in different competencies and different disciplines to deal with different issues.”

Students certainly appreciated Eliasson’s words of wisdom and it was clear from the turnout that events at SIPA featuring leaders of this caliber are a huge draw. Lilly Brent explained, “These kinds of events are why I came to SIPA. Through their professional network, faculty members are able to provide unparalleled access to global leaders and policymakers, which significantly enhances our learning experience outside the classroom.”

The success of Eliasson’s visit and other UNSP events would not have been possible without all the hard work and effort put forth behind the scenes.

“Professor Lindenmayer’s ultimate goal is to inspire students, to have them think provocatively and engage with the world around them. Forums such as these provide the opportunities to do so. Jan Eliasson’s visit was the perfect event to kick off the SIPA spring semester.”

UNSP Intends to Return to DPRK

Due to rising tensions in the Korean peninsula, the United Nations Studies Program (UNSP) and Conflict Resolution Working Group decided to postpone its trip to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Fifteen SIPA students had been selected to travel to North Korea, which would have been the program’s second trip to the isolated nation.

Last year’s unprecedented trip attracted much attention and praise. The UNSP had even secured a donor to help defray the travel costs of the 2013 trip for one student recipient.

UNSP Director Elisabeth Lindenmayer made the decision to postpone the trip after extensive consultation with her diplomatic contacts at the UN. The safety of her students was her utmost priority.

The UNSP intends to return to the DPRK once tensions have subsided.
DSG Eliasson Personally Hosts UNSP Students for Brown Bag Lunch

Continued from Page 9
is a sign of failure. We should, instead, be negotiating, no matter how hard it is or how long it takes.”

In terms of his biggest perceived failure, Eliasson said that it is without a doubt Syria, a heart-wrenching situation about which he feels solemn every day. When asked what the UN was specifically doing about this issue on a daily basis, Eliasson assured the students that Syria is a top priority at the United Nations and backroom talks are constantly taking place. He conceded, however, that the UN’s means were limited to negotiation, as it did not have the power to employ the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The Security Council does not want a repeat of the intervention in Libya, he noted, where some members believe boundaries were overstepped.

The DSG also reiterated the importance of creating space for diplomacy when it comes to North Korea. Having met with Chinese officials the week before, he shared his thoughts on the UN Security Council’s resolution to expand sanctions against North Korea and offered insight into why China voted in favor of sanctions against a key ally. He explained: “China is pragmatic and does not want to compromise the region’s increasing political and economic power by this type of nuclear confrontation. They need to have stability in order to prosper and the last thing they would want is for the North Korea situation to get out of hand.”

On the evolving role of peacekeeping, Eliasson spoke about the growing use of Good Offices before segueing into the importance of preventing conflicts before they begin. He then took out his beloved copy of the UN charter and read aloud Article 33; Chapter 6, which he referred to as “Christmas Eve for a diplomat.” It calls for parties in a dispute to first seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation or other peaceful means.

Still, Eliasson expressed regret that the United Nations has not focused on prevention nearly enough, particularly as the Security Council is supposed to act on threats to international security and peace.

Despite the heavy burden that accompanies his responsibilities, Eliasson remains passionate about the power of diplomacy and is a big proponent of multilateralism. Admitting that he should probably be tired by now, his overwhelming sense of duty propels him to continue his important work.

“With so many countries isolating themselves from the rest of the world, the biggest challenge the UN has is to prove that multilateralism works. That is one of the reasons why we have such a duty to deliver results and one of the reasons why I can’t quit,” he proclaimed.

On that note, Eliasson encouraged students to find their own source of inspiration and to work with people that they can learn from every day. He then left the group with some inspiring words of his own:

“You might not be able to save the world, but there is so much you can do. Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.”
Belgian Ambassador Discusses Challenges of Peacebuilding at UNSP Working Lunch

By Krisztian Simon and Maria Tirmizi

The beautiful view of Roosevelt Island was almost as good as the company. These were the sentiments of 12 fortunate SIPA students who had the unique opportunity to enjoy a United Nations Studies Program (UNSP) Working Lunch with Ambassador Jan Grauls, Permanent Representative of Belgium, at his Manhattan residence on Friday, February 1.

The Ambassador was especially gracious in hosting the UNSP given his upcoming departure from New York and return to Belgium, and his consequentially hectic schedule. UNSP Director Elisabeth Lindenmayer, who organized the event, started the afternoon by thanking the Ambassador for his time. The conversation centered on the challenges of peacebuilding that Grauls experienced as chair of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for Central African Republic (CAR).

“Having a practitioner discuss peacebuilding is really a treat,” said Lindenmayer.

During the first course of smoked salmon salad, Grauls shared the experience of his last five years at the UN, during which he represented Belgium on the Security Council, chaired the PBC for CAR, and served as Vice President of the General Assembly. These special mandates gave his role as Ambassador to the UN an extra dimension.

Grauls said he enjoyed his PBC position the most. He described the PBC as a “young child of the UN family” born at the 2005 World Summit, which also established the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ and the Human Rights Council.

“It was a mandate in which you could put a lot of personal commitment and emotional energy,” he said. “I relinquished it with a heavy heart.”

The birth of the PBC was not an accident, remarked the ambassador. He said the international community “wanted to have this baby” after witnessing a large number of crisis situations and sensing that the UN needed to be better equipped to address the high fragility and volatility that exists in transitional states.

When Grauls received his mandate for CAR, the country had just ended an internal conflict and was suffering from regional spillovers of instability. While visiting the country, he spoke to victims of sexual violence and 12-year-old child soldiers, illustrating the ground realities of peacebuilding efforts.

Despite being rich in natural resources, the country lacked the means to exploit its wealth and suffered from utter poverty. It was an “aid orphan,” he said, with only three donors: the World Bank, the European Union and its former colonial power, France.

“First and foremost, we needed security,” said Grauls, explaining why they started with the disarmament of rebels. Second, he pointed to the importance of legal security. “Investors will not come if there is no rule of law,” he said.

Third, he spoke about economic and social development. An interesting aspect of this was the creation of “development hubs.” This joint effort with the EU focused on establishing basic institutions such as a small hospital or a school building, with the hope that this trend would spread further in the country.

Lindenmayer also stressed the difficulty in choosing priorities and sequencing for each country: disarmament needs a functioning government and alternative jobs. But economic recovery cannot occur without agriculture, which cannot begin if there are mines on the field. Demining cannot take place if there is no security. These are just a few of the interconnected problems and the vicious circle they create for peacebuilding.

During the second course of filet mignon, students asked Grauls whether his experiences could be transferred to other post-conflict countries. He explained that he strongly believed that “there is no one-size-fits-all;” each country deserved its own strategy, developed by discussing the problems with the country’s government.

When asked about problems linked to resource mobilization, Grauls said performing an effective job takes considerable time and energy. He also stressed the need for advocacy, more operational support and better coordination if peacebuilding efforts are to bear fruit.

Finally, as dessert was being served, Grauls narrated how he had helped enable a meaningful relationship between the World Bank and PBC through personal interaction. But according to him, this also reflected a weakness, as achievements are sometimes dependent upon relationships rather than a systematic mechanism.

In her closing remarks, Lindenmayer touched upon the same issue, commenting on the realities of the diplomatic world where trust and links are built, but also cut short. She turned to the students with an advice for their chosen careers:

“Do not forget about human relationships, that’s what diplomacy is about.”
Working Lunches with UN Ambassadors: A Flagship of the UNSP

*Since its founding, the Program has hosted 15 lunches:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL 2010</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haroon, Permanent Representative of PAKISTAN</td>
<td>The Current Humanitarian Situation in Pakistan and the Role of the UN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of LIECHTENSTEIN</td>
<td>The ICC: Recent Developments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING 2011</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador John McNee, Permanent Representative of CANADA</td>
<td>Peacebuilding, peackeeping, and development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon, Permanent Representative of SINGAPORE</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Herman Schaper, Permanent Representative of the NETHERLANDS</td>
<td>The Crisis in Libya and the United Nations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL 2011</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of INDIA</td>
<td>India and the Security Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING 2012</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan to the UN, Permanent Representative of TURKEY</td>
<td>The Role of Turkey as an Emerging Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz, Permanent Representative of EGYPT, and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgam, Permanent Representative of LIBYA</td>
<td>The Arab Uprisings: The Way Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribiero Viotti, Permanent Representative of BRAZIL</td>
<td>Responsibility to Protect or Responsibility While Protecting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Abdalliah Y. Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of SAUDI ARABIA</td>
<td>&quot;The Kingdom: Current Developments and Trends on the Issue of Energy&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Albert Chua, Permanent Representative of SINGAPORE</td>
<td>&quot;Sustainable Development and Sustainable Diplomacy: Singapore's Experience&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL 2012</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan to the UN, Permanent Representative of TURKEY</td>
<td>International Order and Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Tsuneo Nishida to the UN, Permanent Representative of JAPAN</td>
<td>Threats of the 21st Century: Can the International Community Address them in an Integrated Manner?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Herman Schaper, Permanent Representative of the NETHERLANDS</td>
<td>From the MDG's to a New Agenda for International Development Cooperation: From North South to Global</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING 2013</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Jan Grauls to the UN, Permanent Representative of BELGIUM</td>
<td>Reflections on Peace Building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The 2013-2014 lineup will include Switzerland, Nigeria, South Africa and Romania*
On the morning of May 13, the United Nations Studies Program (UNSP) attended an important and timely Security Council meeting discussing the threat of terrorism to Africa. The debate was called by Togo, which held the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of May.

The meeting was chaired by President Faure Essozimna Gnaassingbé of Togo, The Foreign Ministers of Luxembourg and Morocco, the Vice Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, and Ambassador Eduardo Zuain also attended.

Briefings were provided by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, as well as representatives from the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) and the African Center for Studies and Research on Terrorism.

This is the program’s second trip to the Security Council this year. In the fall, it attended a historic meeting on the relationship between the UN and the International Criminal Court.

The meeting began by summarizing the recent entrenchment of terrorist activity on the continent, and the adverse relationship between terrorism and prosperity.

“Success is crucial for Africa to live in peace and meet their development aspirations,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in his opening comments.

“Terrorism is a global phenomenon that requires governance at a global level,” added Gnaassingbé.

Many members stressed this point, explaining that African terrorism is not isolated to the continent. Strong financial links exist between terrorism and international crimes related to drug, human and arms trafficking.

Africa has become a hub linking Europe and Latin America in the illicit arms and narcotics trades, and approximately 60 percent of terrorist are linked financially to the drug trade. President Gnaassingbé speculated that two-thirds of terrorists on the continent are pursuing financial, rather than religious, interests.

Many speakers also mentioned that effective solutions to the scourge cannot be isolated to military action. Targeted assistance in areas of human rights, rule of law, good governance, border control and poverty reduction must be employed.

US Ambassador Susan Rice noted that terror groups exploit the frustration of populations over lack of services or corrupt governments. Rwanda Ambassador H.E. Eugène-Richard Gasana added that instability breeds terrorism, and terrorist actions further aggravate internal conflicts.

President Gnaassingbé’s succinct comments and the link between national development and the international community provide a nice synopsis of the meeting.

“It is only in assuring the well-being of populations, in particular the most poor and the weakest, that they will be less receptive to extremist ideologies and violence.”

By Sarah Goldman

May 2013, Issue 9