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**From the Dean: Lisa Anderson**

**Raise a Glass to SIPA**

As Clock Strikes Midnight

As the last semester of the millennium draws to an end at SIPA, we have ample reason to celebrate. As the books closed on the fiscal year last June, we recorded one of our most successful years at fund-raising—thanks in no small measure to the work of our dedicated class chair volunteers and the chair of the Annual Fund, Ralph Hellimold (MIA ’64). Over the summer we secured funding for a new Center on Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy; and in September we welcomed a new director for the African Institute, Professor Mahmood Mamdani, one of Africa’s most distinguished social scientists. The students who joined us this fall make up one of the most selective classes in our history, a credit both to the attractions of living in New York and to the persuasive recruiting of Associate Dean Robin Lewis and his team in the Office of Student Affairs.

All these achievements also reflect the intrinsic merit of the School and of the faculty who are at its heart, so it is particularly gratifying to be able to celebrate them. We and the economics department bask in the reflected glory of Professor Robert Mundell’s Nobel Prize, of course, but also enjoy the honors and awards a number of other faculty are collecting, including Robert Lieberman’s Trilling Prize for his book, Shifting the Color Line, Richard Nelson’s invitation to deliver the prestigious Tinbergen Lecture in the Netherlands, and John Ruggie’s Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Studies Association.

All of you who have spent time at SIPA know the extraordinary talent of our faculty. From the reminiscences of what we are coming to call the “brownstone classes”—those who went to school here before we moved into the tallest building on the campus—we know that Andrew Cordier, Istvan Deák, Henry Graff, Lou Henkin, J.C. Hurewitz, Charles Issawi, Jim Morley, Philip Mosely, Marshall Shulman and many, many other remarkable faculty changed peoples lives decades ago. Our more recent alumni—should we call you the “elevator classes”?—continue to remember the faculty as having a profound impact on their lives and careers. As I travel to meet alumni, people ask after Dick Berls, Jagdish Bhagwati, Coralie Bryant, Doug Chalmers, Steve Cohen, Gerry Curtis, Bob Jervis, Paul Martin, Katharine Morgan, Madeleine Zelin and many other denizens of this building.

All of these faculty have made names for themselves while they worked hard for their students, designing curricula, directing institutes, concentrations and programs, teaching courses. They taught us well, but too often they have had to sacrifice time, energy and other resources to conduct their own research and policy analysis. We at SIPA have enjoyed and profited from their dedication to teaching and to strengthening our institution, and at long last we are in a position to reciprocate what they have done for us.

With generous support from the University Provost’s Office as well as help from several private donors, we are establishing an Office of Sponsored Research, to be directed by an Associate Dean for Research and staffed by several professional grant writers and administrators. This initiative is designed to assist the faculty and research associates of the School in obtaining financial support for their research, in developing local and international collaborative research networks, and in disseminating the results of the research done under the auspices of the School more widely and more effectively to both academic and policy audiences. We want to develop our working papers series, to put more of the faculty’s research on our Web site, to make it easier for our faculty to travel to conduct research or provide policy advice. After all, our students are only with us for two years, and our faculty continue to have wonderful ideas, serious policy insights, important empirical findings from which we think our alumni and other policy makers would benefit, no matter where they are.

Let us hope that with this initiative we will be greeting the 21st century better prepared for the challenges and opportunities it will bring. Certainly, I am more confident knowing that the students we have sent out to make our world more secure, more just and more prosperous have been.
Columbia economist lauded for research on common currencies, capital flows

Mundell Wins Nobel Prize

By Kareem Fahim

In his 1949 high school yearbook photograph, Columbia’s newest Nobel Prize winner, Robert Mundell, is staring into the middle distance, seemingly lost in thought. Was he worried about finding a date for the spring fling? Troubled by teen angst? Probably not. As young as age 17, Mundell was preoccupied with exchange rates and monetary policy.

“I became intrigued with the devaluation of the sterling area currencies in 1949. I couldn’t find a good answer for the meaning of those devaluations; my teachers weren’t much of a help, the newspapers were not much of a help."

So, Mundell taught himself. Last October, a lifetime of hard work and academic brilliance paid off when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences praised the Canada-born economist for choosing his problems with “uncommon — almost prophetic — accuracy in terms of predicting the future development of international monetary arrangements and capital markets.”

The Nobel citation underscores, in particular, work done by Mundell in the late 1960’s which illuminated the relationship between floating exchange rates and monetary policy. Mundell, who suggested the creation of what he then called the “euro” as early as 1969, dismisses suggestions that he is the father of the euro. “Maybe a godfather,” he conceded.

Seth Weisman, who reaches international economics at SIPA, is less restrained. “The European Union exists because of him,” Weisman said. “Except for Keynes, there’s no one else this century who’s had that kind of impact.”

Mundell, 67, has been a faculty member at Columbia since 1974, and is currently the C. Lowell Harriss Professor of Economics. He was attending a conference in Sweden when the award was announced on Oct. 13, but returned to New York for his SIPA class on international monetary theory and policy the following Monday. As Mundell entered the classroom, clutching a cup of coffee and smiling sheepishly, his students rose and applauded.

The prize carries with it a cash award of $975,000. Mundell said he plans to buy a pony for his son Nicholas, 2, and complete renovations on his second home, Santa Colomba, a 500-year-old villa in Tuscany, where Mundell and his second wife, Valerie, host lavish luncheons for friends, many of them artists and actors. Mundell is also an accomplished and prolific painter, and has three grown children from a previous marriage.

At home in his comfortable, cluttered apartment a few blocks from Columbia, Mundell stepped over Nicholas’s toys and sat down on the sofa. On a table sat a picture of the economist, his hair down to his shoulders, and his wife, standing on either side of President Reagan, who is smiling broadly.

Mundell described with relish his upbringing beginnings as a young economist in the early 1960s.

“My work was very controversial,” he recalled. “The first example of that was a paper I wrote at the International Monetary Fund which advocated a completely different monetary and fiscal policy mix than what the United States and the IMF were advocating. It was a recommendation that the United States shift from a policy of easy money and high taxes to a tax cut and tight money — tight money to correct the balance of payments, and tax cuts to spur the economy. Then, of course, President Kennedy, when the economy kept getting worse under (the old) policy mix, did shift course and he shifted to exactly my policy mix.

“That change — well it didn’t exactly make my position at the Fund any better. Being wrong is one thing, but being right is even worse,” he said, laughing at the memory.

The Nobel committee made little mention in its citation of Mundell’s work on supply side economics. He said he understands that decision, even though he believes that his supply-side work paved the way for the current economic boom. “I think they were wise, in a way, not to mention this, because this is a big political issue, and will be for a long time.”

The tax cuts he prescribed, and the subsequent expansion of the economy, in his estimation, “left a legacy that made President Clinton’s job a lot easier, and also Alan Greenspan’s job a lot easier.”

Kareem Fahim (MIA ’01) is studying journalism and the Middle East. He has worked in TV and film produc-
Filtering the Internet

In spite of dire predictions that the public library was rapidly becoming a civic dinosaur or a bibliographical mausoleum, the more than 1 billion annual visits to the nation’s public libraries far exceed the yearly attendance at all sporting events, concerts, and museums combined. “It turns out,” the author of a recent article in U.S. News & World Report comments, “that the very electronic revolution that was supposed to make libraries obsolete has made them indispensable.”

With the by-now ubiquitous computer sitting atop the reading room table, public libraries are surviving quite well in an informational environment in which print and non-print media peacefully coexist. Although problems still remain, including insufficient funding, the inability to recruit personnel owing to low salary scales, and a sometime lack of political recognition, public libraries, by and large, are serving as educational opportunities for a multitude of self-learners, whether child or adult. One jewel in the public library crown is the Queens Borough Public Library, holding the highest circulation record in the nation, which embraces people of more than one hundred national origins within its service area. Purchasing materials in 49 languages, the Library also sponsors English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, which provoked such a huge demand that a lottery for registrants had to be implemented in order to eliminate the lines of applicants appearing at dawn long before library buildings were opened. At the same time as the Library advances the English-language literacy of its constituents, it has taken the lead in creating WorldLinQ, an innovative multilingual electronic system, accessible on the Internet, which uses language modules in Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Russian, with those for French and Hebrew in the offing.

Although Internet access for the public is now available in 73 percent of the nation’s libraries (including central buildings as well as branches), the Internet, unfortunately, is proving a mixed blessing. With $400 million pledged by the Gates Library Foundation (established by Microsoft founder William H. Gates III, and his wife Melinda) to furnish public libraries in the United States and Canada with computer/communications equipment, the formidable cost of assisting institutions, formerly based almost exclusively on printed text, to embrace electronically produced information is being considerably lessened. And with the 1996 passage of federal legislation authorizing the E-rate (E = education) program, in which $2.25 billion in universal service funds are annually mandated to provide affordable telecommunications rates for schools and libraries, the goal of 100 percent access to the Internet for public library users seemed to be within reach.

The fly in the ointment, however, is the issue of computer filtering to curtail viewing by minors of Web sites that display pornographic images, advocate racial and ethnic hatred, promote violence, and demonstrate the manufacture of pipe bombs. A number of bills, in both houses of Congress and in several states, have been introduced or are being implemented to impel schools and libraries, receiving E-rate funds or other governmental subventions, to install filtering or blocking technologies designed to eliminate access to inappropriate Web sites, “the red light districts in cyberspace,” as they are sometimes described by legislators and government officials. However well-intentioned this effort to clean up the Internet may be, it often results in the blockage of nonpornographic material, including Web sites dealing with the treatment of breast cancer, matters relating to health, such as the transmission of AIDS, the pro-choice or pro-life issues affecting abortion, and many others. Interestingly enough, the latest Web site to be excoriated by conservative groups is none other than “Go Ask Alice,” the interactive health information site maintained by Columbia University’s Health Education Program. This site (http://www.goaskalice.columbia.edu) answers questions from young people about many aspects of health, including sexual behavior. An incensed Dr. Laura Schlessinger, the radio talk-show host, vehemently criticized the
I'm writing to you from the campaign trail of Bill Bradley for president.

My life has been moving at a frenzied pace since I joined the campaign after graduating from SIPA in May. It's dizzying to think how quickly politics is played out and how much the campaign has grown in such a short period of time — both organizationally and in terms of national media exposure. Given Bradley's personal strengths and policies, and the favorable political climate, I fully expected that we would play a major role in the presidential race. But when it actually happens, it's hard to believe that it's for real.

I had always been told that working on a presidential campaign is one thing that everybody should experience. It's an opportunity to participate — mind, body and soul — in the democratic process, and to actually feel that you are making a real difference in society. Well, all that is true. But for me, the experience has mostly been about three other things: information and experience overload, change, and pushing the envelope of my emotional highs and lows.

I'll tell you what I mean by describing my day. I get up early in the morning and go for a jog (if I have the energy), shower, review the morning news and campaign briefing on my laptop, selectively respond to my backlogged e-mail, grab some breakfast at a bagel shop, and eat on my 20-minute drive to work.

Work this morning happens to be at two New Hampshire towns. I meet some local supporters and officials who help me “advance” Bradley appearances at a diner, a bookstore, the town dump, city hall and a town square. We talk about logistics — timing, lighting, media shots, walk steps (that's campaign-speak for the candidate's exact route), contingency plans, and legal issues. By the time I leave for the office, I have a pretty good mental picture of how the events will go.

Back in the office, I work the phones, attend meetings with the decision-makers, lay out a detailed schedule for the Senator, and prepare briefing notes for headquarters to assemble. Of course everything — and I mean everything — can change at a moment's notice as the political winds shift, so we always have to be ready to switch gears. If we have time, and no crisis is breaking, the staff takes a dinner/social break to wind down and catch up with each other. We talk politics, personalities, and sports. (I'm embarrassed to admit on this campaign that I don't know the Knicks' starting line-up since the 1960s.) And, of course, we have a laugh over the latest Gore joke that somebody heard on the street that day.

Afterwards, we finish up that day's work and organize details for the next day. At 1 a.m., when all of New Hampshire (except for the overnight patrol officer we've befriended) has long ago called it a day, we head for home, driving past the empty, darkened Gore and Bush campaign offices.

We do stop and reflect on the big picture once in a while. There's a sense in the campaign that we are a part of something greater than the sum of our individual lives, a part of history being written, a part of a force for good. Even if we don't win, we have the ability to influence the national agenda to address important issues that deserve more attention — healthcare reform, children in poverty, and race relations. The presidential race is a great organizing force, and it's humbling to think that a group of people not much bigger than a start-up Internet company can influence the process in such a significant way.

Every now and then, I get to witness events that I'll tell my grandchildren about. We had an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime fund-raiser at Madison Square Garden last November. More than two dozen of the biggest names in basketball were there: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Julius Erving, Oscar Robertson, Bill Russell, Phil Jackson, Bill Walton, John Havlicek, and Moses Malone joined Bill Bradley to reminisce about his glory days and raise nearly $1.5 million for the campaign. It was truly memorable!

Well, I can't give away too much of my memoirs right now. And besides, I've babbled for entirely too long. Take care and I hope all is well at SIPA.

Best Regards,

Jun

Jun Choi (MPA '99) is a field coordinator and special assistant to the New Hampshire director on the Bill Bradley for president campaign.
Alumni Profile: John Neuffer

Pizza Put-Down Leads to 15 Minutes of Fame

By Paula Kling

Stale and bland. That’s cold pizza after a night in the refrigerator. Who would have thought that leftover Italian pie would catapult a SIPA grad to instant celebrity? Certainly not John Neuffer (MIA ’86).

Neuffer, a political analyst at a Japanese think tank, was giving an interview to the New York Times in July 1998 when he made a tart-tongued reference to Japanese prime minister-in-waiting Keizo Obuchi as having “all the political pizzazz of cold pizza.”

With an upper-house election around the corner and campaign season in full swing, the phrase became something of a national obsession. References to Obuchi’s “cold-pizza” pizzazz cropped up everywhere — on Japanese television and radio, and in the pages of the country’s leading dailies. Soon, “cold pizza” spread overseas. Before long, it was hard to find a news report anywhere on Japanese politics that did not contain Neuffer’s “cold-pizza” put-down.

“It was fun, crazy, wacky,” Neuffer recalled in a phone interview. Fortunately, Obuchi was a good sport. During the height of cold-pizza mania, the prime minister made light of the whole affair and had pizza delivered to a crowd of journalists in front of his home.

The hubbub died down after a few months. Now, more than one year later, it’s back to the grindstone at the think tank. The Tokyo-based Mitsui Kairyo Research Institute, funded by a major Japanese insurance company, conducts mostly economic research. But Neuffer has carved out a niche for himself as a political analyst, writing about Japanese politics and policy in an Institute newsletter called Behind the Screen, which can be found on the Internet at www.behindthescreen.com.


Neuffer grew up in Montana and graduated from Whitman College in Washington State. His fascination with Asia began when he participated in a study-abroad program in Nepal while a college junior.

After college, he spent eight months backpacking through India, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong — all on $2,000. “I did little jobs. I worked as an extra in a film in Bombay for three to four days. This was not a good film, but I desperately needed the money,” he said.

Neuffer returned to Washington State and worked in a law office, but he couldn’t get Asia off his mind. He packed his bags and moved to Tokyo to teach high school English. “I got addicted to this hemisphere,” he said. “All is new and challenging, and so much has to do with economics, politics and foreign affairs.”

In 1984, inspired by his older brother, Garth, a SIPA graduate, Neuffer decided it was time to “buckle down” and earn a master’s in international affairs. “I did the Japanese language program,” he recalled. “It was a real killer but excellent.”

Graduating in 1986 with a concentration in East Asian politics and economics, Neuffer went to work as an assistant to the New York bureau chief of Tokyo Shimbun, a daily newspaper in Japan. The pay was lousy, but it taught Neuffer how to hustle. “The bureau chief was a swell guy, but his English wasn’t quite up to par, so that gave me plenty of opportunities to get the story and do the reporting,” he said. From 1987 to 1990, Neuffer worked as press adviser at the Consulate General of Japan in New York. In that job, which he got with a little help from his Columbia connections, Neuffer also wrote policy speeches on trade, economics and security issues for the Japanese ambassador posted at the Consulate. In 1991, he started working for Mitsui Kairyo Research Institute.

Neuffer is married to Gloria Pan, a communications consultant for nonprofits and international organizations. The couple’s 5-year-old daughter, Cole, is bilingual in Japanese and English and feels comfortable in eastern and western cultures.

If Obuchi was ever offended by Neuffer’s comment, there don’t appear to be any hard feelings. In fact, Neuffer said, he and the prime minister have “kissed and made up.”

As Obuchi told Time Asia last April: “Mr. John Neuffer recently came to see me and told me I am not cold pizza anymore.” Indeed, Neuffer has a new opinion of the prime minister today: “more fuzzy, lovable and... politically appetizing.”

Neuffer has a new opinion of the prime minister today: “more fuzzy, lovable and... politically appetizing.”

Paula Kling (MIA ’91) is concentrating in Economic and Political Development, with a

SIPA news
“Miss C.C., why am I smart when I’m with you and dumb when I’m in school?” How could I answer this second grader’s question? I knew it was because I used workbooks and textbooks with her, while her teacher used only the infamous “folders.”

I searched for a plausible, though not truthful, answer. “Well, when you’re with me, you are my only student. When you are in school, there are 35 other children in your class, so your teacher can’t give you as much attention as I do.” It was a feeble attempt and the child saw right through it. “Then why can’t I just study with you all the time?” she asked. “Because the law says you have to attend school until you are 16 years old. Since I am not a school, you can’t come to me every day instead of going to school,” I said weakly.

I had to field such questions all the time: “Who is the law?” and “Why do the law want me to go to school if I can’t learn nothing?” It was painful and had been a painful pursuit for nearly 10 years — ever since 1989 when I had decided to become a professional tutor. My first student was the eighth-grade daughter of a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, where I was taking graduate courses. She was a strong B average student whose dream was to make the honor roll just once before entering high school the following year. After working with me for two semesters, she not only made the honor roll but received the highest grades in her class and was the winner of more awards than any child in the school’s history.

Her father was so pleased he asked me to tutor a little boy he’d been mentoring who was failing all his subjects. Since the professor’s daughter had all the necessary textbooks, I was shocked to learn the boy had none. Obviously, this was the main reason he was failing. And while both children attended the Oakland public schools, the girl, who was white, lived in the Oakland Hills; the boy, who was black, lived in the City of Oakland.

The problem of unequal textbook distribution is found in every major urban area in the United States, but it is most acute in schools dominated by Latino and African-American children. Yet, in those same cities, schools dominated by white and Asian-American children have sufficient numbers of textbooks.

When I returned to New York in 1992, I decided to continue tutoring for a while; but it became a lifelong passion when I discovered that the conditions in Oakland also existed here. Three thousands miles apart, both cities had identical conditions in their public schools!

Since those early days, I have watched child after child fall between the cracks, drop out of school, or, in the case of three of my former students, end up in prison. Such has been the case with my Latino and African-American students. Not one of my public school students of color has ever had the necessary textbooks and workbooks. These children had no biology textbook and had never had a biology textbook throughout two semesters of biology. I was outraged.

receive only mimeographs or photocopies known as roxographs (“recoxes” to the children) which contain little or no explanatory information. The children show up for tutoring sessions proffering nothing more than their “folders,” as if it’s the most normal thing in the world. To make matters worse, in every case, the children are failing miserably, and I have been called in by their parents to “save” them. I am expected to perform miracles with no supporting resources.

Nor is my pain alleviated when I work with white or Asian-American students who always have all the necessary materials. These children are generally B average students with parents who want them to become A students. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.
SIPA Hosts World Leaders

By Mitra Malek

One of the best parts of studying at SIPA is being able to hear major policy speeches from world leaders without leaving the building.

Last fall, SIPA hosted visits from foreign dignitaries, including Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Bolivian Vice President Jorge Quiroga Ramirez, and foreign ministers from Poland, Thailand and Estonia.

In fact, world leaders eagerly seek out opportunities to speak at SIPA, said Vice Dean Steven Cohen. “A non-political environment in which to make a policy speech is a rarity,” he said. “They know they’ll be treated respectfully regardless of their views.”

Speaking to a room crowded with students and members of New York’s diplomatic community, Vike-Freiberga said she felt a deep commitment to Latvia’s progress toward democracy. “I am happy to say that scholars in the West contributed greatly to filling the vacuum during the period of Soviet occupancy,” she added.

Quiroga boasted that Bolivia is freely and democratically from the party in power to the opposition, something that “would have been unthinkable a few decades back,” Quiroga added.

Quiroga promised that Bolivia will become the “first drug-free country in the hemisphere” by 2002. He said the promise will be fulfilled through aggressive eradication and interdiction, but also “community-based compensation,” such as sewer and water systems for those who quit cultivating coca.

Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek said that his country hopes to become a member of the European Union within two years, despite declining popularity for the idea at home. “We will have to explain that European integration isn’t against the interest of farmers, coal miners and those in heavy industry,” he said. In contrast, NATO membership enjoyed 85 percent approval among Poles, he added.

Estonian Foreign Minister Toomas Hendrik Ilves, a 1976 Columbia College graduate, said that joining the E.U. for his country is less a foreign policy objective than “solving this issue with great care because we don’t want the impression that the government is being forced from the outside to do certain things,” he said. “This will undermine the confidence in the government.”

Elanjelian Venugopat (MIA ’01) left Pitsuwans’s lecture impressed by what he heard. “He doesn’t have a dogmatic mindset, and he considered himself pragmatic in how he answered things. “I think he is one of the guys with new ideas.”

“Bolivia is shaking its ‘Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid’ image in favor of that of a governable democracy with an.”

shaking its “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” image in favor of that of a governable democracy with an open, stable economy. Inflation, about 4.3 percent in 1998, has dropped below the growth rate of 4.7 percent, and foreign direct investment in the year 2000 is expected to rise to $6 billion, the vice president said. Moreover, control of the government passes...
New Executive MPA Program Attracts Full House

By Mitra Malek

The popularity of SIPA’s new Executive MPA program has far exceeded expectations. Enrollment this year is 31 students — more than twice as many as expected by school administrators.

“Reaction was really amazing,” said Vice Dean Steven Cohen. “We decided to expand the class as much as we could.”

The program, offered through SIPA’s Picker Center for Executive Education, is geared toward mid-career professionals who want to earn a Master of Public Administration, but need to continue working. During the school year, students attend classes for a full day on Saturdays; summer session classes are held on weekday evenings.

Most students are motivated by a desire to acquire advanced skills so that they continue to grow in their careers and satisfy personal and professional goals, said Melissa Poueymirou, assistant director of the Picker Center.

The class that entered this year reflects a broad mix of professionals from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. “They’re directors of departments, directors of programs, senior vice presidents — people with a lot of experience who are well-placed within their organizations,” she said. “We’re looking for students with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to broaden perspectives and challenge ideas.”

Students can choose to complete the program in two or three years, depending on how many classes they take each semester. “Currently, they’ll be graduating with a concentration in advanced management and finance, but we may develop other concentrations” down the line, Poueymirou said. The program emphasizes practical applications over theoretical ideologies. “The program is designed to bring real issues into the classroom in order to help solve them,” Poueymirou said. The skills and knowledge that students gain in the classroom are immediately useful on the job. “These are people who have the ability to affect change in their organizations,” she added.

Students must fulfill the same core requirements as their counterparts in the full-time MPA program. In addition, they take a series of concentration and context courses. Concentration courses help students increase their depth of knowledge in management and analytic techniques, while context offerings provide perspectives on policies and the environments in which they are affected.

The Executive MPA program was first conceived about a decade ago, and was approved in 1998 by Dean Lisa Anderson. Planning began in earnest in January 1999, when former Dean Harvey Picker gave a $2 million gift to SIPA. $1.5 million of the gift was allocated to renovating the ground floor space that will house the Center by September 2000, while the remainder went toward designing and publicizing the program.
“The professors really listen to us.”

Through her work with a nonprofit that helps asylum seekers, Executive MPA student Hema Sareen knows a thing or two about what it’s like to deal with a big government bureaucracy.

“It’s frustrating,” said Sareen, whose work involved extensive dealings with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. “That’s where I got the incentive to get into this program. I wanted to understand better how government works.”

Until recently, Sareen, 25, was a director for a pilot project run by the Vera Institute of Justice, a New York-based nonprofit that undertakes innovative projects in partnership with governments. The project aimed to get asylum seekers out of detention and into community-service programs while they wait for their cases to be decided. When the project ended, Sareen moved into another job, senior planning analyst, at the Institute.

Sareen said the EMPA program strikes a good balance between lecturing by instructors and debate and discussion among classmates. “The professors really listen to us and want to hear about our jobs — that’s when we have the opportunity to hear about what other people do. People in the class are genuinely interested in each other’s jobs,” she said.

Sareen earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Hunter College. — M.M.

“If you don’t understand how dollars flow, you can’t manage the deals.”

The first day David Tsui stepped into his public management class he discovered that he and two of his classmates had dealt with many of the same clients: he on the business side, they on the public policy and philanthropic sides. “They knew the same customers and the same problems; and we were all working from the same perspective of improving that one organization,” said Tsui, whose bachelor’s degree is from New York University.

As a vice president for Chase Manhattan Bank’s Community Development Program, Tsui works to rebuild communities by lending to not-for-profit social service agencies that deal with AIDS victims, the homeless, and the physically and mentally disabled, among others. “It’s very exciting to see things happen that bring about social change and benefit,” he says. “But part of the problem in lending is understanding government policy, how dollars flow. If you don’t understand how dollars flow, you can’t manage the deals.”

Through the Executive MPA program, Tsui hopes to gain skills that are specifically applicable to his job: how to manage effectively, how to analyze and shape public policy, and how to deal with the various organizational mechanisms that are critical to moving issues through institutions. — M.M.

“I can immediately test out theories learned in

Dentice Faingar sees the Executive MPA program as the perfect complement to her experience as a supervisory import specialist with the U.S. Customs Service. “I really want to utilize my government knowledge in a different area,” said Faingar. “The MPA will further my knowledge about public affairs and allow me to reach my goal to help people and really make an impact on society, maybe with the United Nations, working with developing countries.”

Faingar expects the EMPA program will fine-tune her financial and quantitative skills, and she has already applied management tools learned in class to her job. “I can immediately test out theories learned in class, like negotiation skills, in my work environment,” she said.

Faingar particularly likes the sense of camaraderie in the EMPA program. “Everyone is pulling for each other, looking out for each other,” she said.

Faingar earned a bachelor of science degree in marketing from the Fashion Institute of Technology. — M.M.
Students Bring Love and Laughter to Refugees

Christina Munzer and coworkers Dragan Pendas, left, and Deaaner Music, after conducting a sanitation inspection at a refugee camp in Macedonia. Behind them are latrines, left, and tents.

By Anne Burke, SIPA News editor

Christine Kuhn still winces when she talks about the refugee camp in southern Albania where she worked as a SIPA intern last summer. The camp had been hastily erected in the back of an army base, alongside a bubbling tar pit, rusted machinery parts, abandoned trucks and stagnant pools of water. The camp was littered with land mines, presumably inert, but potentially dangerous nonetheless.

At this camp, it seemed, common sense did not prevail. “One family used a land mine to hold their tent down,” Kuhn (MIA ’00) sighed. “Before that, they had been using it as a footstool.”

The mines were eventually removed, but Kuhn will carry around forever the memories of her Balkan summer, as will her five SIPA classmates who worked in Albania and Macedonia during the height of the Kosovo refugee crisis in the late spring and summer of 1999.

Christina Munzer (MIA ’00) helped keep illness and disease at bay as a public health manager for the International Relief Committee at the sprawling Stenkovek camp in northeastern Macedonia. Mindy Prager (MIA ’00), a psychiatrist, comforted the scared and soothed the sorrowful as a psycho-social coordinator for Relief International at a refugee camp in Korca, Albania.

In the Albanian capital of Tirana, Jennifer Kouvant (MIA ’00) helped coordinate relief efforts as an external relations officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead agency for humanitarian efforts during the refugee crisis.

Comic relief came in the form of Ed Beason (MIA ’01). Beason dressed up as Elvis and staged karaoke sing-alongs at five Albanian camps, sending the refugees — especially the children — into howls of laughter. “It was such a big relief for the parents to be able to see their kids enjoying themselves,” said Beason, known in the camps as “Mr. Karaoke.”

Since refugees couldn’t go to the movies, Laura Ballman (MIA ’00) brought movies to the refugees. As a field director with FilmAid, an ad hoc partnership between the movie industry and the UNHCR, Ballman traveled from camp to camp showing Hollywood films on a big screen under the stars. “We ended up producing 30 shows in 47 days. We were like the circus coming to town,” she said.

Kuhn, Munzer and Prager had studied forced migration and refugee issues through Columbia University’s School of Public Health, and knew that camp work would be difficult, the hours long, and the frustrations great. They were not disappointed.

With the threat of infectious disease a big worry at all camps, part of Munzer’s job was to make sure that the latrines were properly used. That’s a delicate task, particularly for an outsider like Munzer, who did not know the culture well. Her solution was to recruit refugees — especially children and teens—agers who were only happy to do something useful — to help out with a public education campaign to promote good hygiene.

“We did a lot of visual stuff. The refugees would draw images that would best exemplify, in their own culture, how to change behavior and promote hygiene. We put up little posters in the latrines and did tent-to-tent distributions of leaflets that had helpful messages,” said Munzer, who had worked with public health issues as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal.

“Fortunately, there were no epidemics, which I think was partly due to our efforts, but also to the good health of most of the refugees and sheer luck.”

Kuhn arrived at her camp to find that the women’s center she had expected to take over did not yet exist. With no support staff and no experience working at a refugee camp, Kuhn was daunted by the prospect of undertaking the project herself. She forged ahead anyway. In about two weeks, the tent flaps opened on the women’s center. It wasn’t much, just a few wooden pallets on the floor in place of chairs, but the refugees seemed pleased. The first meeting attracted about 80 women.

“A lot of the women mentioned that since their husbands and fathers weren’t around, they felt their voices weren’t being heard. We just let them vent for a while,” said Kuhn.

Beason’s first show coincided with an unfortunately timed case of food poisoning. Though he was nearly doubled over in pain, the show went on. It took place at Korca camp, in a
big tent where Beason had set up the
donated karaoke equipment that had
accompanied him on his flight to
Tirana.

From what Beason could gather,
the refugees had never sung karaoke
and had no idea how to do it. Though
not much of a singer, he gamely
showed them how it was done. Wearing
“cheesy, Elvis-in-Vegas glasses”
and red, marching band pants from a
thrift store, he queued up his first
song.

“I started off with ‘Can’t Help
Falling in Love’ and then there was
sort of a dead silence. Then I did
another song, ‘All of Me.’ They didn’t
really know how to react, so I just sort
of clapped and laughed and pointed at
myself. They caught on that it was all
in fun. All of a sudden, everybody
wanted to come up and sing,” he said.

The most popular songs included
Elton John’s “Don’t Go Breaking My
Heart,” John Denver’s “Country
Roads,” and “You’re the One That I
Want” by Olivia Newton-John. But the
song that everybody seemed to
know was Roy Orbison’s “Pretty
Woman.” “If I got in a jam, that was
my go-to song,” Beason recalled.

While he was in Albania, Beason
e-mailed fund-raising letters to friends
and supporters in the United States.
His efforts raised $20,000 for Relief
International. The money went to
buy toolbelts to help the refugees start
rebuilding their homes and
communities in Kosovo, and disposable
cameras so that the children would have
photographic records of the time they
spent in the camp.

Kouvant’s internship evolved into
something she had never
expected and wasn’t sure she could
handle. Her first assignments
involved putting together information
packets that were handed out to for-

erign delegations visiting the UNHCR
office, scheduling VIP visits, and
writing updates on the refugee
agency’s activities.

A few weeks later, her boss, the
office’s executive assistant to the
UNHCR representative in charge of
the office, was called home to Italy.
He suggested that Kouvant take over
in his absence. Kouvant was excited
but scared; the UNHCR was respon-
sible for the repatriation of nearly
500,000 refugees, and she knew the
representative to whom she would
report had exacting standards.

“But things worked out really
well. He came to rely on me a lot,
mostly for writing, drafting, liaison
with the staff, and public relations,”
she added. “It was a classic right-
place, right-time situation.”

The rewards of the work came in
ways the students never would have
predicted. Prager and Munzer said the
refugees, especially the women,
treated them with so much warmth
and generosity that they started to
wonder who was helping whom.

“They were giving to me just as
much as I was giving to them,” Prager
said. “Who would have expected
that?”

FilmAid’s repertoire for the
refugee camps included “Mrs.
Doubtfire,” “Dr. Doolittle,” and “Titanic.”
Ballman was initially reluctant to
show “Titanic” because of its tragic
ending, but it turned out to be the
hands-down crowd pleaser.

“Whenever Leonardo and Kate
would kiss, they would go crazy —
hooting and hollering and shouting,”
she said.

Ballman and her crew of seven
transported their equipment — two
675-pound generators, 16 X 20
screens, and two projectors — in a
canvas-sided truck that traveled from
camp to camp in Macedonia, and
later, after refugees were repatriated,
to towns and villages in southwest
Kosovo. Crowds swelled to the thou-
sands in some locations.

The best part of working with
refugees is the “instant gratification,”
Kuhn said. “If you do something
good, you can see that it helps some-
body right away.”

Ballman agreed. “The results
were very tangible. You show up, you
show a movie, you see people laugh,
you know that, no matter how briefly,
you’ve helped them go to a happier
place in their heads. I really liked
that.”
Student Groups Offer Activism, Fun, Friendship

By Raffi Khatchodouman

On a fall evening at a busy African restaurant, about 20 SIPA students are seated together, talking animatedly and laughing. The restaurant is a little slice of Senegal in Harlem: a gazelle head hangs on one wall while a poster of a midair Michael Jackson decorates another. A music video of the Senegalese pop star Baaba Maal blares from the television.

The students are members of a SIPA student group called the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV), and they are holding their monthly meeting here. Struggling to be heard over the din of the music, they reminisce about the event that brings them together: the two years “over there” — the almost magical place that includes countries as diverse as Nepal, Mauritania, and Latvia and unites jobs as different as agro-forestry and English instruction.

Like many others involved in SIPA’s approximately 30 student groups, the members of RPCV get together as often as they can to share experiences, build professional and social relationships, debate social problems, and explore the city.

SIPA’s student groups span a staggering spectrum of interests. Some, like the Latin American Student’s Association (LASA), one of the largest and most influential of student groups, are based on shared cultural heritage or an appreciation for a particular region. Others address issues of gender and sexual orientation. They include Women in Public and International Affairs (WPIA), and Queers in International and Public Affairs Student Association (QUIPASA).

There are also groups that focus on humanitarian issues, such as the SIPA chapter of Amnesty International or the Conflict Resolution Working Group. Still others unite students with common professional aims, among them the Nonprofit Student Association, which helps students gain work experience and make connections in the nonprofit sector.

One important reason that students join and even initiate these groups is that they come to SIPA with passionate personal and professional interests that they don’t want to give up while pursuing a degree. However, as the meeting of the RPCV students at the African restaurant illustrates, student groups have as much to do with shared experiences as the convergence of current goals and interests.

In the dark, den-like restaurant, the stories spill forth as the RPCV students sip beer and nibble on Senegalese food. Laura McHale (MIA ’00), who served in São Tome and Príncipe, an archipelago off Africa’s west coast, recalled how worried she was when her father came to visit because of the local custom of grabbing a man’s crotch to authenticate his manhood. Jessica Farmer (MIA ’00), the group’s co-president, talked of the time she nearly drowned in a swollen river during monsoon season in Mauritania.

Like members of many other student groups, the returned volunteers share a sense of kinship and camaraderie that makes it a little easier to be a long way from friends and loved ones at home.

Once each semester, the French Club gathers at Maison Française, Columbia University’s French cultural house. There, club members cook crêpes, fondue and other continental cuisine. And as Rafael Cervantes, co-president of the club, puts it: “We’re enjoying ourselves and we’re cooking, and we’re speaking French. You know,” he added, “we’re a group.”

Yet, the goals of student groups extend far beyond fun and food. Indeed, many student groups come into existence because students feel deeply about certain social issues and problems, such as the Kosovo refugee crisis or repression in East Timor. Others come about so students can establish contacts that will help them get ahead professionally. Often, it is through these groups that students establish and strengthen links between SIPA and outside communities.

The South Asian Graduate Association (SAGA), for example, works with other South Asian community

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Students Expect the Unexpected At MPA Practicum Lectures

By Rachel Cardone

You can get speakers here, but you can never control what they’re going to say,” said Rebecca Needler, a student co-coordinator for the Practicum in Public Policy and Management, the MPA program’s yearlong series of lectures by guest practitioners.

Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson, for example, tossed aside his prepared remarks in favor of a freewheeling question-and-answer session that touched on everything from alternative energy to nuclear arms talks. Near the end, he made a curious remark, considering the fact that he was speaking to a roomful of people already committed to pursuing careers in public policy.

“He urged everybody to go out and get jobs in public policy,” said Needler (MPA ’00). “I think he forgot we were students of public policy.”

The practicum, now in its 15th year as a required MPA core course, brings the entire MPA class into one room for two hours each Monday afternoon to hear speakers discuss and debate issues of concern to public policy practitioners. Students can expect the unexpected.

Three-term Denver Mayor Wellington Webb ignored one of his pet issues — tighter gun control legislation — and talked instead about urban sprawl, his city’s three sports stadiums, and Denver’s efforts to promote trade with Africa.

Fashion designer Norma Kamali said nothing about the catwalks of New York and Paris, focusing instead on the need for private enterprise to play a greater role in the public schools. Kamali helped launch a student-run arts and fashion business at her alma mater, Manhattan’s Washington Irving High School.

Students also got a taste of bare knuckles politics — New York style. Mark Green, New York City’s public advocate, came out swinging against his political rival, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and called for an end to “machine” politics in the Big Apple. Former Clinton adviser Dick Morris traded predictions about November’s U.S. presidential election with a panel of political pundits.

Another afternoon featured panelists who explored the darker side of welfare reform: an increase in family homelessness, growing shelter populations and indications that more children are being put into foster care. The panel was led by Ralph Nunez, a SIPA adjunct professor and president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Children and Poverty.

The Monday afternoon lecture series has few problems attracting top caliber speakers. Policy makers “are attracted to the idea of speaking to our students,” said Vice Dean Steven Cohen. “They’re looking for informed audiences.”

“Practicum gives us great exposure to people,” said Abbie Holcombe (MPA ’01).

Rachel Cardone (MPA ’01) is studying environmental policy, with a focus on water issues. Before coming to SIPA, she traveled through the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa.
Lecturer Brings Economics Alive

From the you-don’t-hear-that-from-many-professors department: SIPA lecturer Seth Weissman says that the most instructive part of his international economics class occurred when he wasn’t even in the room. Before alerting the dean’s office, listen to Weissman’s explanation.

On the first day of class, Weissman announced to both sections that at the end of the semester he would hand out bonus points equivalent to one half point per student. The students, Weissman explained, could distribute the points any way they pleased (they could even buy and sell points among themselves), as long as they followed two rules: no half points could be distributed and Weissman could not profit monetarily. Weissman then left the room for half an hour so the students could talk about what they wanted to do.

The results were more interesting for what the students didn’t choose than what they did. Neither section opted to buy, sell or trade points on the open market. One section opted to distribute the points among students with borderline grades. The other decided to pass out seven points each to the five students with the worst grades, but later decided that was a bad idea, so they switched to a borderline distribution method.

“The point of the process was that they realized that economics is about scarce resources,” Weissman said. “There’s nothing I could have possibly done with them that would have taught them more about economics than that half hour discussion they had when I was out of the room.”

International Economics is a new offering at SIPA, part of the reconfigured core requirements for the MIA program. The yearlong course replaces separate, one-semester microeconomics and macroeconomics courses.

The class is a requirement for students concentrating in economic and political development, human rights and humanitarian affairs, environmental and security policy, and media and communications, so Weissman designed the curriculum with their needs in mind. That means that he emphasizes the applications of economic theories, using stories plucked from the newspaper headlines to get students to think through problems.

For example, Weissman illustrated supply and demand with a discussion about how a public debate over gun control legislation can result in an increase in the number of guns on the streets. In a homework assignment, he challenged students to come up with ways to solve food shortages in earthquake-ravaged Taiwan, famine-plagued North Korea, and war-torn Somalia.

Weissman, who holds a Ph.D. from Columbia, did something else unusual on the first day of class. One of the first things he told his students was: “Call me Seth.”—A.B

Mamdani Takes Helm at African Institute

Mahmood Mamdani is settling into his new job as director of SIPA’s Institute of African Studies at a particularly appropriate time. The Uganda-born scholar will help the Institute chart a new course reflective of Africa’s post-Apartheid “reconfiguration.”

“In the colonial and Cold War context, Africa meant the land between the Sahara and the Limpopo. North Africa was considered, therefore, part of the Middle East, and South Africa was considered an exception because of its white population,” Mamdani said.

“This post-Apartheid context invites a reconfiguring of Africa, whereby Africa takes on continental proportions. We need to think of North Africa as part of Africa,” he said, “and understand boundaries as porous, depending on the themes of study.”

Mamdani, who stepped into his new job last fall, said that Africa’s reconfiguration will be reflected not only in the broader geographical context, but in greater collaboration among SIPA’s regional institutes. “It means much more of a thematic exploration, rather than an area-based exploration,” he said.

Mamdani holds a Ph.D. from Harvard and a master’s from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Before coming to SIPA, he was director of the Center for African Studies at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is the author of Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism (Princeton University Press.)

Mamdani is Columbia’s Herbert Lehman Professor of Government. His teaching duties include courses in the Anthropology and Political Science departments.

Mamdani, who is married to the film director Mira Nair, replaces George Bond, who has returned to teaching and research after heading
New Nonprofit Lab To Boost Harlem Tourism

By Akiko Oi

SIPA students are preparing to launch and manage their own nonprofit organization as part of a new course in the Master of Public Administration program.

The Nonprofit Management Lab is designed to give students hands-on experience in running a real nonprofit, and is part of a broader SIPA effort to expand course offerings for students interested in studying policy and administration within the nonprofit sector.

This spring semester, students expect to file for 501(c)(3) status to register the class as a nonprofit corporation. In the meantime, the course’s 17 students have settled on the nonprofit’s first project — tourism promotion at Harlem churches.

Harlem churches already are wildly popular tourist destinations. On Sunday mornings, visitors from Brazil to Japan arrive by the busload to hear Harlem’s world-renowned gospel choirs.

But because most of the bus companies and tourism ventures are not locally owned, the profits don’t stay in Harlem. The aim of the nonprofit is to help the churches keep revenues in the community and generate additional profits through tourism-related products and activities, said Johanna Metzgar, the Lab’s student manager.

Students said the course offers valuable, hands-on experience that they’ll be able to put to good use after graduation. “This is the most important course I take here at SIPA. It actually impacts people and makes a difference,” said class member Tarece L. Johnson (MPA ’00), who hopes to start her own nonprofit after graduation.

The Harlem tourist initiative is a joint effort with the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI), a consortium of more than 90 congregations.

“SIPA students have a great deal that can benefit us. It’s great to see SIPA’s interest in the community,” said Paul H. Dunn, the HCCI’s vice president for human services.

The Harlem project is expected to get under way during the spring semester. The fall semester was devoted to research, under the guidance of two instructors, associate professors Mark Gordon and Paula Wilson.

Students divided themselves into six teams. They hit the books and the streets and investigated the current status of tourism in Harlem, fundraising possibilities, the legal requirements for incorporation, different types of tourism models, and other facets of the project. Students also interviewed Harlem ministers individually to learn about each church’s specific needs.

The churches, for their part, have several ideas of their own to boost tourism. They include made-in-Harlem products, Harlem “gospel tours” and “gospel nights,” and church Web sites.

SIPA students could help with those ventures by providing assistance with research, development, and marketing, Metzgar said.

But the Harlem tourism initiative is not just about making money, she added. “A lot of these ministers want to have more contact with tourists — they want it to be a real cultural exchange,” she said.

The Nonprofit Lab is evolving with each new semester, Metzgar said. If the Harlem initiative becomes self-sustaining, students may move on to another project.

Akiko Oi (MLA ’00) is studying media and human rights. She is from Tokyo, Japan and has worked for the Japanese wire service Fuji Press.

“SIPA students have a great deal that can benefit us. It’s great to see SIPA’s interest in the commu-
Center Probes Impact of Candidates’ Agendas

By Tammy Allen

Voters interested in learning how a presidential candidate’s political agenda would affect America’s cities may take advantage of a new service provided by SIPA’s Center for Urban Research and Policy.

The Center will begin publishing a series of “Urban Impact Statements” examining the political and social agendas of U.S. presidential candidates from the perspective of the needs and concerns of urban areas.

The project, which is partially funded by Columbia’s Institute for Social and Economic Theory and Research, is intended to help educate voters and stimulate policy discussion in anticipation of upcoming primary elections and the November 2000 general election, said Mark Gordon, acting director of the Center and an associate professor at SIPA.

Hugh B. Price, president of the National Urban League, the New York-based social service and civil rights organization, said the reports are an important service to voters.

“The National Urban League applauds Columbia University’s efforts to educate the public about the impact of candidates’ platforms and positions on citizens in urban areas,” said Price.

Compiled by a working group of about 30 Columbia faculty members, the statements will analyze candidates’ positions on crime, gun control, health care, taxes, education, poverty and other issues, said Gordon.

The analyses will be conducted without regard to a candidate’s political party and will not include ratings or endorsements. Working group members will draw on their expertise in economics, race, politics, and health and welfare policy.

The first statement was expected to be issued in late 1999. The Center then will issue regular updates as the candidates’ positions evolve, said Gordon. Reports will be available at the Center’s Web site: www.columbia.edu/cu/sipa/CURP.

The Center decided to undertake the project as a way to bring greater prominence to urban issues, which are not often addressed directly in presidential campaigns.

“The problems of cities have not received much attention by national candidates, so the Urban Impact Statements will alert people of these issues. They will help make urban problems more visible to voters,” said Alan Brinkley, a Columbia history professor and working group member.

The reports also will help voters “protect themselves from manipulation by candidates and the media,” said Robert Shapiro, a political science professor and member of the working group.

Eileen Nadelson, president of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York, said the statements will assist voters as they sort through the field of primary candidates.

Tammy Allen is studying media and communications at SIPA. Previously, she was director of Columbia’s Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies.

SIPA Helps Solve City’s Trash Troubles

By Mirna Malek

SIPA’s Center for Urban Research and Policy has joined forces with Columbia’s Earth Engineering Center to help New York City find a new destination for its trash.

The Task Force on Integrated Waste Management will offer technical advice and suggest public policy strategies to the City of New York as it searches for a solution to its trash crisis.

“It’s a real opportunity to have academic expertise help shape what direction the city moves,” said Mark Gordon, acting director of the Center for Urban Research and Policy.

Fresh Kills, the world’s largest trash dump, will close permanently on Dec. 31, 2001. The Staten Island facility was the sole destination for the 13,000 tons of residential waste generated each day in the city’s five boroughs. But under a temporary plan, the city in October 1999 began diverting about half its garbage to incineration plants in New Jersey and landfills in Virginia.

But that still leaves half of the city’s garbage with nowhere to go. The new destinations also are unpopular with local officials in New Jersey, who don’t want New York City trash trucks clogging Garden State roadways.

The Task Force was initiated by Vice Dean Steven Cohen and Nicholas Themelis, director of the Earth Engineering Center at the Columbia Earth Institute.
American Library Association (ALA)

FILTERING: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

during her April 15 syndicated broadcast for recommending “Go Ask Alice” to teenagers. In further castigating the ALA for its linkages to questionable sites, Dr. Laura wrote to Association officials: “...by advocating open access to hard-core smut, the ALA has constructed a protected haven to corrupt our innocent.”

A very heavy-handed approach toward the issue is Senate bill 97 (S. 97), the Children’s Internet Protection Act, introduced by Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona), chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, in January 1999. Although some of the filtering initiatives proposed by Congress merely require that schools and libraries receiving federal funds adopt an Acceptable Use Policy that governs access to the Internet by minors, the McCain bill goes beyond the requirement of a policy by mandating that schools and libraries must purchase technology to filter or block sites depicting obscenity or child pornography. The bill also allows, but does not mandate, local authorities to use these mechanisms in restricting access to additional sites deemed inappropriate for minors. Although E-rate funds can be used to pay for the acquisition of these blocking devices, the General Accounting Office estimates that the funds required for their purchase could amount to a nationwide expenditure of tens of millions of dollars. Especially hard hit will be the largest of U.S. cities having sizeable numbers of school classrooms and many branch public libraries. In anticipation of the bill’s passage, vendors of filtering technology are already offering discounts to school and public libraries.

Organizations opposed to the McCain bill include almost all of the major civil libertarian groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, which has coined the phrase, “censorship in a box,” to describe the use of filters on computer terminals. Regarding the McCain bill as a flawed “one-size-fits-all” solution, three major organizations most affected by the bill, the American Library Association, the National Education Association (NEA), and the National Parent Teachers Association, all oppose the bill. In the words of the NEA, the McCain bill and others of like ilk “would strip decision-making on Internet usage from local school boards, force new and untried technology on schools, and force schools to purchase and upgrade software and train staff.” Equally vehement, however, are the bill’s supporters, including conservatives and representatives of the Religious Right, who buttress their arguments with the evidence of recent violence in the nation’s public schools, which might have been shaped by exposure to depictions of hate and violence, either on film, TV, or the Internet.

This fall, I am using as the topic of my Workshop in Public Management course at SIPA the implementation of S. 97, asking my students not only to design a program to carry out the legislative intent as it is now constructed but also to develop a contingency plan for eventual litigation, involving the rights of minors under the First Amendment, ensues after the bill is enacted. As the students work through the semester, they are becoming increasingly aware that the technological solution proposed by Senator McCain may only exacerbate the problem without solving it. Filtering technology, based on keyword scanning, wipes out the Web site for the Mars Exploration endeavor because the URL “MarsEX” contains the word “sex.” Blocking technology, based on the selections of staff who screen the sites themselves, eliminates the National Organization for Women, because its Web pages deal with a woman’s right to choose an abortion. In both of these cases, the market mechanisms to either filter or block offensive Internet sites not only inhibit the transmission of constitutionally protected speech, but also serve to illustrate that no mechanism can ever serve as a surrogate for the rightful role of parents, teachers, and librarians in addressing the issue of children’s access to the Internet.

At a recent hearing on S. 97, Senator Ernest F. Hollings (D-South Carolina), a co-sponsor of the McCain bill, warmly commented that “after 30 years and billions of dollars fighting drugs, we are back to the task of education. Why shouldn’t we start with education here?” Wearly, the three national educational associations advocated the same point: “Indeed, why not start with education here?” The S. 97 workshop students may not find an answer to that question, but during the semester they are being exposed to the thorny problems of legislating a new technology, which is neither print, nor broadcast, nor film, and to the ever-impending issue of federal intervention in the conduct of schools and public libraries, historically a matter left up almost entirely to local authority and state oversight.

R. Kathleen Mola retires this January as professor of public affairs at SIPA, where she has taught since 1993. With Phyllis Dain, professor emerita in Columbia’s School of Library Service, Dr. Mola co-authored Circles of Space: Cyberspace: The American Public Library in the Information Age, published by The MIT Press in February, 1999.

I had complained for several years about the unequal distribution of textbooks in public schools, but no one ever acknowledged my complaints. I wrote scores of letters about this problem to teachers, principals, district superintendents, the chancellor, mayor, governor, congressional representatives, senators and even the president. I wrote to newspapers, magazines, TV stations and organizations concerned about education. Except for a letter to the editor, which appeared in New York Newsday in 1994, none of the other recipients ever responded.

That is, not until I decided to take the problem of textbooks to the public. I started a petition, which demanded that all children in the public schools receive a full complement of textbooks. I stood on the streets and in the malls of all five boroughs in the City of New York collecting signatures and making the public aware of the unequal distribution of textbooks. It was while collecting signatures (more than 5,500) that numerous people urged me to form an organization committed to the cause of equal distribution of textbooks.

In July 1998 I formed FEAT (Fighting for Equality in Allocation of Textbooks), a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3), tax-deductible organization. During the 1998-99 school year, FEAT was responsible for getting textbooks distributed at seven public schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. Among them was Bayard Rustin High School for the Humanities in Manhattan.

However, the problem persists.

Late last spring semester, an African-American tenth-grader from the High School for the Humanities asked me to help her study for her final exam and her Regents exam in biology. When I learned the student had no biology textbook, and had never had a biology textbook throughout two semesters of biology I was outraged. I immediately notified Chancellor Rudy Crew, Commissioner of Education Richard Mills, ABC News, NBC News, and City Comptroller Alan Hevesi. Within 48 hours, the student was given a biology textbook.

Unfortunately, for my student, it was too late. She had only three weeks before her final and four weeks before her Regents exam to prep for two semesters of biology. She failed both exams. She has since dropped out of school. Biology was not the only class for which she had no textbook. She also had no books for math or Spanish, both of which she also failed.

I believe that textbooks are available somewhere. I have been told that books are often stored in school basements, closets, cabinets and warehouses, rather than placed in the hands of children who need them. FEAT’s mission is to address this problem of unequal textbook distribution. We’re a struggling entity, fighting battles against social injustice, and we’re always looking for support from like-minded individuals and organizations.

Cecelia Caruso (MBA ’80) taught political science at Long Island University and served as a drug rehabilitation administrator. Currently, she is executive director of FEAT, Inc., and a member of the local advisory board of WRAI FM 99.5. She lives in New York City.
organizations in New York. The group’s co-founder is Sharmila Rao (MPA ’00). Rao, who is also co-president of WPJA, is among students who split their time between two or more groups. She was involved in community service projects before coming to SIPA, and was determined to continue doing similar work while pursuing her master’s degree.

Even RPCV, which is primarily a social club, works each year to raise money for Peace Corps-related projects. Last year members raised $1,000 in humanitarian aid for Honduras and Thailand.

But if student groups span a wide range of interests and objectives, they also vary greatly in endurance. Some become fixtures of extracurricular life. The oldest student group is Nihon Benko Kai, a Japanese study group, which has been around for more than 40 years. Others start off with a bang and then fizzle out once the active members graduate or lose interest.

New or old, though, all groups must register with the SIPA Student Affairs Office. SIPASA, SIPA’s student association, manages and allocates money for student groups. New groups generally receive $50 to $100; older groups receive substantially more.

However, some student groups operate somewhat outside the official system. Among them are working groups, which address specific problems or issues. The Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs concentration especially encourages these groups, which are more flexible and loosely structured than traditional student clubs.

“We are basically an energy-based group,” said Laila Mehra, co-coordinator and co-founder of the Women’s Rights Working Group (WRWG). “If someone has an idea to do something — whether it’s a brown bag, or fund-raising, or a panel or outreach — we’re basically an infrastructure to give support to those ideas.”

Dr. Paul Martin, director of the Center for the Study of Human Rights at SIPA, said that these working groups help students profit from one another’s experiences and make contacts in particular professions. The groups also perform an important function for the school by identifying gaps in the curriculum and lobbying for new courses.

Members of the Women’s Rights Working Group did just that last year. A new course, Feminist Theory in International Affairs, was added to the curriculum this year through members’ efforts.

Raffi Khatchadouian (MLA ’00) is concentrating in International Media and Communications at SIPA. Last semester, he interned at the United Nations bureau of the BBC.

Professor Richard Betts was recently appointed by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle to the National Commission on Terrorism. The 10-member panel, chaired by former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Counterterrorism, L. Paul Bremer III, will develop recommendations on ways to combat terrorism.

Betts knows a fair amount about terrorism, based on his scholarly work in U.S. defense policy and military strategy, not to mention 14 years in Washington, D.C. working with the Brookings Institution. He also worked for the National Security Council and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Still, Betts concedes, he’s no expert. So, what does he have to offer the Commission? “Great wisdom and sober judgment,” he answered.

Betts directs the Institute of War and Peace Studies and the International Security Policy program at SIPA. He is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The New American Interventionism: Lessons from Successes and Failures, edited by Professor Demetrios James Caraley, paints a portrait of American military intervention since the end of the Cold War through an examination of experiences in Bosnia, Lebanon, Somalia, Afghanistan, Panama, Haiti, the Persian Gulf and South Korea.

The volume of essays includes a reassessment of the casualties theory, arguing that Americans will support interventions that risk life and limb of U.S. fighting forces if they are persuaded that the cause is a deserving one. Caraley notes that the essay might have been useful to Saddam Hussein, who “was made to believe we would not use ground forces on the basis of the casualties hypothesis.”

The volume, published in September by Columbia University Press, contains an introduction by Professor Robert Jervis. Caraley is editor of Political Science Quarterly, where the essays first appeared. This spring, he will teach a section of the MPA workshop.

The forthcoming Presidential Power: Forging the Presidency for the 21st Century will include a chapter by Associate Professor Robert Lieberman titled “Political Time and Policy Coalitions: Structure and Agency in Presidential Power.”

Last year, Lieberman won the University’s 1998 Lionel Trilling Prize for best book by a Columbia professor for Shifting the Color Line: Race and the American Welfare State. The book examined the influence of race on American social policy since the New Deal.

Assistant Professor David Downie has published several environmental pieces this year, none more important, he says, than his United Nations document for the global negotiations on creating a treaty to control persistent organic pollutants (POPS).

The treaty would ban or severely restrict DDT, dioxins, PCBs and nine other agricultural or pesticide chemicals. “These things are really nasty. They could be linked with all sorts of huge health problems,” Downie said. Downie also wrote a piece in the fall 1999 Earth Matters and has contributed chapters this year to two books: The United Nations and the Global Environment in the 21st Century: From Common Challenges to Shared Responsibilities, and Anarchy and the Environment: The International Relations of Common Pool Resources.

Assistant Professor Arvid Lukauskauskas takes a critical look at scholarly work in international finance and
monetary policy in the summer 1999 issue of Review of International Political Economy.

In “Managing Mobile Capital: Recent Scholarship on the International Political Economy of Finance,” Lukauskas argues that scholars are not paying enough attention to the private- and public-sector actors making financial policy today.

“By not understanding who these actors are, what their preferences are, you get a very inaccurate picture of what is really driving the whole process,” Lukauskas said.

Senior Research Scholar Andrea Bartoli is the new director of SIPA's U.N. Studies Program. Bartoli takes over as the school seeks to integrate the program more fully into other areas of study, among them human rights and humanitarian affairs, conflict resolution, and security policy.

“There’s a great interest in the United Nations among students. We had more than 100 students sign up this year for U.N.-related activities such as courses, internships, and discussion groups,” Bartoli said.

SIPA’s already strong relationship with the U.N. is reflected in an array of current course offerings, programs, lectures and joint projects. Adjunct Professor Joseph Mehan’s class on communications and the United Nations is in its eighth year, while Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution in the U.N. is being offered this spring for the fourth time. SIPA’s annual U.N. Day is one of the school’s most popular events.

Bartoli replaces Stephen P. Marks at the helm of the U.N. Studies Program. Last fall, Marks became a professor of health and human rights at Harvard University, but continued to teach international law at SIPA.

When it comes to scholarly interests, Visiting Professor Richard Foltz is all over the map. His latest book, published in September, is about religions of the Silk Road in Central Asia. Currently, he’s writing about the wilderness debate in the American West.

“I suppose I’m a cultural historian and environmental ethicist. But I’m interested in everything,” Foltz said. “I think one of the major problems with academia today is the fragmentation of knowledge. People are too highly specialized and don’t see the general context within which their more focused research fits.”

Foltz got the idea for Religions of the Silk Road: Overland Trade and Cultural Exchange from Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century while watching a slide show several years ago on art from the historic Asian trade route.

“What you can see from this art is that it was a bizarre amalgamation of religious and cultural iconography, where these different traditions are thrown together. I just wanted to explore how this came to be,” Foltz said.

The Silk Road will be the topic of a class taught by Foltz this spring.

Adjunct Professor Elia Yi Armstrong was pleasantly surprised by the turnout at the Ninth International Anti-Corruption Conference in Durban, South Africa, Oct. 10-15.

“The organizers anticipated 1,000 and 1,600 showed up. I think there’s a real interest in government, civil society, and the private sector in the effects of corruption on the development process,” said Armstrong, a panelist at the conference.

Armstrong spoke on the evaluation and effectiveness of ethics programs. She is a public-sector ethics adviser for the Division of Public Economics and Public Administration in the United Nations Secretariat’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

During the fall semester, Armstrong taught a mini-course on corruption and development.

Adjunct Professor Bill Berkeley’s new book, The Color of Darkness: Portraits of Race, Tribe and Power, draws from his experiences during a decade of reporting in Liberia, Zaire, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda for The Atlantic Monthly, The New Republic and other publications. The book, which probes ethnicity and conflict in Africa, was due for publication late this year.

When Adjunct Professor Ashok Gurung talks about scaling new heights, he’s not kidding. Gurung was in the Himalayas in late October for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the New York-based Trace Foundation and the Qomolangma (Everest) National Preserve Working Commission.

The memorandum supports ongoing sustainable development in the 27,000-acre Qomolangma Nature Preserve. The preserve, which takes in Mount Everest, is home to about 80,000 people, mostly nomads and subsistence farmers who eke out a meager living, aided by government subsidies.

The challenge faced by Gurung and others interested in the region will be to help preserve dwellers find new and better ways to make a living in harmony with their natural environment. The key will be local involvement in the decision-making process, he said.

“Often, the problem with international development is that it’s the outsiders who determine what locals should do. Our approach is to strengthen local people’s capacity to identify how to better use resources and to prioritize what they need,” Gurung said.

Gurung is a program director for capacity development initiatives at the Trace Foundation, which has been supporting community-based projects in the northwest and southwestern regions of China since 1995.

At SIPA, Gurung teaches the Applied Workshop in International Development.

Adjunct Professor Daniel Klooster’s Ph.D. dissertation dealt with community forestry in Mexico, and he hasn’t stopped writing about it since. Klooster has recently published three articles on the subject, among them one in which he contrasts successful community-based forest management systems in the southern state of Oaxaca, with systems in the same area that have not worked out well.

“What’s happening in Oaxaca is that some 80 to 90 percent of forests are owned by village communities, and a number of these communities have been able to establish community-based forest management doing logging, and, in some cases, they even have sawmills. Some of these
projects are doing well, but some of them need a lot of help."

Some of that help will be coming from SIPA students. The Office of the Economic and Political Development Workshop in Applied International Development this spring, students will devise an evaluation strategy to help the World Bank assess its Community Forestry Project in Oaxaca. The project aims to help create social capital in Oaxacan indigenous communities.

Kloster will be the faculty supervisor for the project.

Adjunct Professor Milada Vachudova’s Aug. 12 piece in the International Herald Tribune argues that the European Union can help stabilize the Balkans by giving its people and goods access to Western Europe.

“When moderate politicians go to the voters and say, ‘We have to do these things to one day join the European Union,’ they have to have something to show in return,” Vachudova said. “The two intermediate rewards which mean the most are visa-free travel for people and market access for agricultural and industrial goods.”

Vachudova’s specialties, the EU and NATO expansion, will take her from Stanford to Harvard to Prague Castle for speaking engagements this winter.

At SIPA, she taught history and development of the EU during the fall semester.

— Anne Burke

A number of new employees have joined the staff at SIPA during winter 1999, on assignment from the University Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Tom Lansner, (MIA ’91), is a new assistant dean of student affairs, assigned to the human rights and humanitarian affairs, international media and communications, and economic and political development concentrations. Lansner will continue teaching Perceptions and Politics of Global News each spring.

Lansner, who holds a bachelor’s degree from Hobart College, has been a consultant for the United Nations Development Program and the Ford Foundation. He reported on Africa and Asia as a freelance writer for 10 years.

SIPA’s new assistant dean for student life, Sara Mason, is responsible for overseeing student groups, coordinating orientation and handling the annual spring open house for prospective students.

Mason has more than 10 years of experience in student services. She was assistant director of professional programs and external relations at City College, New York, and worked on educational programming for a number of nongovernmental organizations. Mason holds a master’s degree in cinema studies from New York University.

Student Affairs Officer Anne Doherty stepped into her new role after three years with SIPA’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations. She is a student liaison for the MPA program, in charge of program assistants, special events and academic records.

Rodrick Dial joined SIPA’s development team during winter 1999, on assignment from the University Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Dial is involved in solicitation of individual donors and administers the volunteer class chair program for the Annual Fund.

Dial has had a long association with Columbia University. From 1991 to 1997, he worked in a number of capacities, among them development officer and associate director for the Columbia University Office of Annual Giving and director of Annual Giving at Columbia Law School.

Melissa Poueymirou came to SIPA to help launch the new Executive MPA program at the Picker Center for Executive Education. As assistant director for the Center, she is responsible for administration of the EMPA program, student recruitment, faculty coordination and new program development.

Before coming to SIPA, Poueymirou was an account manager at Columbia Business School. She graduated from SUNY Binghamton with a bachelor’s degree in comparative literature.

Karen Fairclough is in a newly created position at SIPA—financial aid officer. She joined SIPA in 1998 after six years as a financial aid officer at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Fairclough doesn’t just spend her work days at SIPA. On Saturdays, she attends the new Executive MPA program. She is a graduate of Amherst College and was an elementary school teacher in Boston. She also has studied at Teachers College.

A 1999 graduate of
Columbia College, Edward Kim is the new systems coordinator for the SIPA Computing Center. He is responsible for supervising computer lab consultants and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Center. He also trains SIPA's computer consultants and audio-visual technicians.

Awilda Medina, the new administrative assistant to Assistant Dean Barbara Gombach, came to SIPA in June, after working as a development assistant with the Foreign Policy Association. She is a full-time student at Lehman College in the Bronx, working toward a bachelor's degree in social work.

Deb Carter began as Vice Dean Steven Cohen's administrative assistant in May. Previously, she was a program coordinator at the American Assembly, a public policy forum at Columbia.

Carol Banks is the new project coordinator for Professor David N. Dinkins, the former New York City mayor. Banks handles media relations, research and writing, and special events. She has been an assistant vice president at New York University, an executive assistant to the president of Bronx Community College and a freelance editor.

The new administrative assistant for the Department of International Affairs, Maria Barrios, provides support for 90 faculty and adjunct faculty members.

Classnotes

1957

Peter D. Ehrenhaft, MIA, was recently appointed the American Bar Association’s representative to the Department of Commerce-U.S. Trade Representative Industry Sector Advisory Committee for Trade in Services, and served as an ABA delegate to the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle in December. PEHRENFHAFT@Ablondifoster.com

1957

Peter D. Ehrenhaft, MIA, was recently appointed the American Bar Association’s representative to the Department of Commerce-U.S. Trade Representative Industry Sector Advisory Committee for Trade in Services, and served as an ABA delegate to the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Seattle in December. PEHRENFHAFT@Ablondifoster.com

1965

Mel. Gurton, MIA, is a professor of political science and international studies at Portland State University. He recently published two books: China's Security: The New Roles of the Military (Lynne Rienner, 1998) and Global Politics in the Human Interest (Lynne Rienner, 1999). mgurton@aol.com

1966

Ted d’Afflilisio, MIA, is the financial desk editor for Reuters. As one of two duty editors responsible for all media and terminal-based services from the Americas, he supervises 30 editors from the U.S., Canada and over 25 bureaus in Central and South America. ted.d'afflilisio@reuters.com

1978

Carole Grunberg, MIA, is legislative director to Senator Ron Wyden (D-Or.). She assists the senator with issues before the Senate Commerce Committee, particularly information technology, e-commerce, aviation and international trade. Stress relief includes training for the Marine Corps marathon and national squash competition. Grunberg@wyden.senate.gov

1980

Joe Collins, MIA, formerly chief speechwriter for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, has retired from the Army after 28 years of service. Now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, he is directing a study on American military culture in the 21st century. Joe also teaches Limited War and Low Intensity Conflict at SIPA and already has two grandchildren! Jcollins1@aol.com

Andy Dry, MIA, and his family recently moved to Amsterdam, where he heads the Telecommunications and Media Group, Structured Finance Special Industries Division for ABN AMRO Bank. He is responsible for all structured financing in this industry group in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.
1981

GARY GAMER, MIA, directs the International Programs Department for Holt International Children's Services, which helps children and families around the world with adoption and family reunification. He lives in Eugene, Oregon with his wife and their three children and would like to hear from his old friends at Columbia. GARYG@holtintl.org

MARGO BERTI MATZDORFE, MPA, is the coordinator of the Women and Children's Services Unit, in the Bureau of Treatment Policy and Resource Development, for the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. Based in Albany, she travels across the state assisting women's treatment providers on issues such as welfare reform and foster care laws. matzdorn@oasas.state.ny.us

MICHAEL PETTIS, MIA, a managing director in the Capital Markets Group at Bear Stearns, is currently writing a book on the history of sovereign debt and debt crisis over the past 180 years. He is an adjunct professor at SIPA and also teaches at the Columbia Business School. Mpettis@bear.com

1982

MICHELLE MILLER-ADAMS, MIA, received her Ph.D. in political science from Columbia in 1997. She and her husband, Richard Adams, a composer, live in Michigan, where she is a writer and editor and teaches at Western Michigan University. Her book, The World Bank: A New Agenda in a Changing World (Routledge UK) was published in 1999. MMhill@umich.edu

FRANK WONG, MIA, was recently appointed general manager of Frito Lay in China. He and his wife, Cindy, and their 5-year-old daughter, Jennifer, will be based in Shanghai. wong725@yahoo.com

1983

Paul B. Christensen, MIA, recently spent a week canoeing and fishing in Northern Minnesota. He caught walleyed pike and northern pike, saw a timber wolf and three bald eagles, and survived unscathed after a black-bear nosed around his tent. kmanrad@juno.com

LAWRENCE C. REARDON, MIA, received tenure at the University of New Hampshire, where he has been teaching Asian politics and international relations since 1991. His book on Chinese foreign economic policy will be published by the University of Washington Press. He's currently on sabbatical writing a book on China's coastal development strategy. chris.reardon@unh.edu

As a senior business adviser at the U.S. Agency for International Development, CHARLES SANTANGELO, MPA, has started an Internet-based trade network to facilitate commerce and goodwill among five Balkan countries. Charles co-edited a biography of his father, Lucky Corner: The Biography of Congressman Alfred E. Santangelo and the Rise of Italian-Americans in Politics. He is also pursuing an Executive MBA at Georgetown University.

1984

CLAIRE McCLEVEIGH, MPA, has been promoted to assistant county manager of Fulton County, Georgia. She also serves as state public policy chair for the American Association of University Women of Georgia. Claire is married and has two sons, ages eight and ten. cmckehou@bellsouth.net

1985

ALEX KAPLAN, MIA, a managing principal for K-12 Services for IBM Education for North America, is responsible for all IBM's consulting and services, involving the integration of technology in the classroom. As a break from his hectic work schedule, he traveled to Europe with his family. He lives in Albuquerque, NM. Akaplan@us.ibm.com

JOHN WYSHAM, MIA, recently began a two-year assignment as a refugee coordinator in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He previously served as a foreign service officer in China, Trinidad and Tobago, Washington, D.C., and Kazakhstan. johnwysham@yahoo.com

1986

CATHERINE O’NEILL, MIA, was appointed director of the U.N. Information Centre in Washington, D.C. Founder of the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children, she has been a public advocate on international humanitarian issues for the past 20 years, testifying before committees of the U.S. Congress and appearing on numerous radio and TV programs. She is married and has three children. concell@univwash.org

REBECCA M. LOWE, MPA, earned her Ph.D. in social welfare policy from Brandeis University in 1992; from 1993-1998 she taught graduate courses in social policy and administration at the School of Social Work of Adelphi University. She and her husband, Paul Carmichael, have two children. In addition to caring for Zachariah (almost 3) and Lilian (1), Rebecca works part-time as a consultant. RMLow@AOL.com

1987

WELLINGTON CHU, MIA, returned to the States after working in Taipei, Hong Kong, and Beijing from 1988 to 1996. He held positions in marketing research and marketing at AC Nielsen in Beijing, Unilever in Hong Kong, and Sastchi and Satchi. He's currently the marketing plans and brand development manager for the Ford Econoline van. He and his wife, Wakami Shimizu, reside in Ann Arbor, MI. wchu@ford.com

ANN TUCKER HACKETT (FORMERLY ELLENGHAUS), MIA, is a senior credit officer in the Power Group at Moody’s Investor Service in New York, where she assigns bond ratings to electric utilities. She was recently interviewed on CNBC on the credit implications of a com-
JoAnne Horwood Hetman, MIA, was promoted to managing director of the Financial Services Volunteer Corps, an international organization based in New York that provides technical assistance to countries in Central Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Asia seeking to develop market economies. She lives in Hastings-on-Hudson with her husband, Lewis (SIPA’86), and their daughters, Hannah and Emmanuelle. jheyman@fsvc.org

Chris Warshaw, MPA, is a principal in the firm of PHB Hagler Bailly, where he advises corporations on their environmental programs and consults to law firms on a wide range of environmental-related litigation. He lives near the beach with his wife, Susan, and their two daughters, Kate (5) and Johanna (3), and would enjoy hearing from his former classmates. cwarshaw@haglerbailly.com

1988


Gina Eckner Cinali, MIA, is director of the Transnational MBA program at Fordham University’s Graduate School of Business. She also teaches courses on the Middle East and on world affairs at Fordham, Ignatius College, NYU, and in the SUNY system. Although regularly working 70-hour weeks, she still finds time to garden and be with her children Alex, 14, and Mikala, 12. Gec11@columbia.edu

Alison B. Hooker, MIA, was promoted to partner at Ernst & Young this summer. She serves as the Mid-Atlantic director of economics, based out of Washington, D.C. The division focuses on benchmarking, econometric modeling and other analysis for tax, real estate and management consulting purposes. alison.hooker@ey.com

After three years as a correspondent for NBC, Donatella Lorch, MIA, is now based in Washington, D.C. as a staff reporter for Newsweek, covering the Department of Justice and the FBI. “I’m going back to print because I missed in-depth reporting,” she writes. Having spent eight of the past 10 years overseas, her new lifestyle includes a car and a “house on a very, very leafy street.” Donlyrch@hotmail.com

John J. Modzelewski, MIA, is program director for Non-Proliferation and Institution Building at the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union, a private, non-profit charitable organization created by the U.S. Government to address the declining state of science and engineering in the FSU by fostering collaborative projects between FSU and U.S. researchers. jmod@crdf.org

Randolph W. Baxter, MIA, received his Ph.D. in History from the University of California at Irvine in September, after completing his dissertation on “Eradicating This Menace: Homophobia and Anti-Communism in Congress, 1947-1954.” He is currently a visiting professor of History at UCI and welcomes contact from former SIPA colleagues. rwaxter@uci.edu

Lucy Craft, MIA, founded Friends of the Kurilsky Nature Reserve, an NGO whose mission is to educate the Japanese about the Northern Territories. The non-partisan group aims to create a constituency for joint Japanese-Russian conservation. Currently seeking grants and volunteers, she welcomes the advice and help of SIPA alumni. lucymara@aol.com

Joshua Farley, MIA, received his Ph.D. in Agricultural, Resource and Managerial Economics from Cornell in January, and recently became executive director of the University of Maryland’s Institute of Ecological Economics. He previously worked at the School for Field Studies’ Centre for Rainforest Studies in Yungaburra, Far North Queensland, Australia. Joshua and his wife, Andrea, have a toddler, Liam. SIPA students/grads interested in talking about careers can contact him. farley@cbf.unces.edu

Kellee S. Tsai, MIA, spent the last two years as an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies and received her Ph.D. from Columbia University last May. She’s currently an assistant professor of Political Science at Emory University, teaching courses on Chinese politics and foreign policy. ktsai@emory.edu

1990

Gregory Viscusi, MIA, is a reporter at Bloomberg News. He set up the Milan bureau in 1992 and since 1997 has been based in Paris as a pan-European features writer. gviscusi@bloomberg.net

1991

James Lonergan, MPA, is assistant director/user services coordinator at the Eric Clearinghouse on Urban Education at Teachers College. He received an M.S. in Library and Information Service from the University of Illinois in 1996. James had worked as a senior assistant manager at the New York Public Library and as an assistant librarian for Rand in Washington, D.C. lonergan@exchangec.re.columbia.edu

Laura Castañeda, MIA, relocated from San Francisco to Philadelphia last year. She freelances for various publications including the New York Times and BusinessWeek Online and published her first book, The Latino Guide to Personal Money Management, in May. She has a one-year appointment to teach journalism at Temple University and invites SIPA grads working in media to speak to her students.

Rebecca Gross, MIA/MBA, is a group product manager in the Consumer and Online Solutions group at Adobe Systems Inc., managing the definition and marketing of online software applications for worldwide distribution. She and her husband, Paul Bickford, have a son, Sebastian, born in August.

Robert Jystad, MIA, a Telecom regulatory officer, was the principal author of the Los Angeles IT Agency Broadband Access Report. The report, which analyzed the need to require cable companies’ high-speed Internet platforms to be opened to unaffiliated Internet Service Providers, is considered the best work by any local government on the issue.

Yalman Onaran, MIA, has been Bloomberg News bureau chief in Istanbul for over a year. He is trying to resume a normal life after covering last summer’s devastating earthquake. 74521.575@compuserve.com

After two years at Viacom as VP, Planning and Development, John Penney, MIA, has moved to Scient, an eBusiness consulting firm, where he is a media and entertainment strategist. john@penney.com

1993

1994

Jason Abrams, MIA, a legal officer at the U.N. in New York, is working on private international law matters in support of the
U.N., its peacekeeping missions, and the Iraq “Oil-for-Food” program. A book he co-authored, Accountability for Human Rights Atrocities in International Law: Beyond the Nuremberg Legacy, (Oxford University Press) was awarded the 1997 annual prize of the American Society of International Law. abrams@un.org

Hiro UGAYA, MIA, is back in Tokyo working as a staff writer for the Japanese weekly news magazine, Aera. (He had been a foreign correspondent for Aera in New York.) Hiro also writes rock reviews for Japanese music magazines and plays bass guitar. ugaya@da2.so-net.ne.jp

1995

Mark P. Barrett, MPA, is a utilities analyst in the Rates and Revenue Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy. His current position involves approval of electric utilities’ divestiture plans, resulting from the Restructuring Act instituted in 1997. He resides in the Boston area. Mark.Barrett@state.ma.us

Since receiving her law degree in 1998, Julie Min Chaeft, MPA, has been a trust and estates associate with the New York law firm of Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan, LLP. She recently moved to Westport, Ct., where she is enjoying married life and sailing excursions on Long Island Sound. Jmin@WBAAM.com

JUNO ONISHI, MIA, is a research associate at CIET International, an INGO based in New York. CIET assignments have taken her to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Canada and the Philippines. She is also pursuing a Ph.D. in applied epidemiology at the Universidad Autonoma de Guerrero in Acapulco, Mexico.

110167.2120@compuserve.com

ALINA PASTIU, MIA, is a first-year law student at Duke University. She previously worked as a democratization officer for the OSCE Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina and, most recently, with the ILO Liaison Office to the U.N.

CARLOS SANTISO, MIA, a senior program officer at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, is working on international development cooperation and managing programs in Central America and West Africa. He lives in Sweden and is engaged to a Swedish woman. Carolssantis@hotmail.com

1996

ANDY BLACKADAR, MIA, is the project manager for the Humanitarianism and War Project, an independent policy research initiative based at Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies. Andy lives with his wife, Laura, and their two children, Adrian and Natasha, in Warwick, RI and would like to hear from SIPA classmates. Andrew_Blackadar@Brown.edu

JOE HEAPHY, MPA, is the executive director of the New York State Tenants and Neighbors Coalition, a statewide organization that educates tenants to advocate for the preservation of affordable housing. Joe recently moved to Woodside, Queens and will marry Anne Osner next May.

jheaphy256@aol.com

MALA NARAIN, MIA, is currently in Hong Kong managing training for GIS Asia. “If anyone is passing through, do call (2978-0664) and say hello.”

BOB PITULE, MPA, a 1999-2000 Council for Excellence in Government Fellow, is a program analyst at the U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA, Office of Reinvention. He married Donna Harris, in 1997 at the Cadet Chapel at West Point. They’re enjoying life in Reston, VA. and invite MPA alumni to visit. robert.pitule@osha.gov

JILL SIMON, MPA, a senior consultant at KPMG, assists government, not-for-profit and higher education clients to become more efficient and cost effective. Currently working on a waterfront redevelopment project in Buffalo, she would enjoy speaking to other SIPA grads about opportunities or organizations that need assistance.

jasimon@kpmg.com

THOMAS D. ZWEIFEL, MIA, is CEO of the Swiss Consulting Group, a company based in New York City that specializes in strategic change management, leadership coaching and global integration. He has published on these topics (most recently in the Christian Science Monitor and in Fast Company magazine). Last August he lectured at a worldwide videconference with 250 participants in 60 locations. tdz@swissconsultinggroup.com

1997

WENDY (HANIBAL) ASTELL, MIA/MBA, works in the New York project finance group of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, focusing on infrastructure finance. She married Nigel Astell in May in New York, with a second ceremony in London two weeks later. In between they enjoyed an escapist scuba diving honeymoon in the Maldives. Astellw@dresdner.com

CARLA AVINI, MIA, has joined the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy’s International Program as a fellowship attorney, focusing on women’s rights in Latin America. She previously worked at the U.N. Development Fund for Women. She earned her law degree in 1992 from the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello in Caracas, Venezuela and her L.L.M. from Columbia University School of Law.

YOSHIKO KUWAHARA, MIA, recently began working at Goldman Sachs in Tokyo as a junior securities analyst, covering specialty finance, non-life insurance and securities firms.

LAWRENCE LEWITINN, MIA/MBA, was the Republican candidate for the Fort Lee, N.J. Borough Council. Although he lost the November election, he thanks fellow alums for their support. He’s currently a business development strategist at TheStreet.com, an online financial news site and also manages TheStreet.com Internet Sector Index. Llewitinn@thestreet.com

KATHERINE METRES, MIA, a former Javits Fellow in the foreign policy office of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, joined the Foreign Service in May 1988 as a political officer and was posted to Nouakchott, Mauritania. She loves diplomatic life and has been enjoying the quiet and sand of Mauritania.

METRESKM@nouak-chott.us-state.gov H.R. PAKE, MIA, was named special assistant to Defense Secretary William Cohen’s chief of staff. He
hands White House liaison with a focus on domestic terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction. In his spare time, he plays in a local soccer league and “longs for the days of good New York pizza on 125th Street.”
Hkpark100@hotmail.com

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LISA JACOBS RAYMOND, MPA, is public policy director at the Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy, a school of 120 ninth and tenth graders, in Washington, D.C. She is creating a public policy curriculum and organizing seminars and activities for the students. Alumni interested in getting involved, should contact her. lisajraymond@hotmail.com

1999

NAOKI TAKYO, MIA, a program officer with UNDP’s Nepal Country Office, acted as a focal point for the office in the May 1999 “Coordination and Assistance of International Electoral Observers” for the third national election since the reintroduction of democracy to Nepal in 1990. naoki.takyo@undp.com

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Posted in Skopje, ANDREW J. LOOMIS, MIA, observed Macedonian life while learning about the Search for Common Ground’s programs. On returning to Washington, D.C., he’ll be working within the U.S. policymaking community to influence development and peace-building policies in the Balkans.
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JOHN PFEIFFER, MPA, director of operations for the Department of Homeless Services’ Adult Services Division, is involved in efforts to contract our programs, improve services and enhance management information systems. He writes, “SIPA prepared me well for the challenges that land on my desk everyday.”

JAMIE PRIJATEL, MPA, is assistant for programs and contracts at the Association to Benefit Children, working with fellow MPA alumus Eri Noguchi. Her responsibilities include developing and implementing educational programs, such as Head Start and Universal Pre-K, which focus on families and children in need. Jdp18@columbia.edu

1998

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After passing the N.Y. State Bar Exam, JASON D. FRASER, MIA, began working for the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in New York City. He often works 12-hour days but enjoys his job, as it complements his understanding of international law and interest in development issues.
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SIPA News was delighted by the number of CLASSnotes submissions. Because of space considerations, we were not able to publish them all. If yours did not appear, please look for it in our Spring 2000 issue. Alumni are encouraged to submit a few paragraphs detailing your latest professional and personal activities. Please include your full name, year of graduation, program, address, name of employer, job title, e-mail address (and if you want it published), and phone number. Photograph submissions must be in print form (either black and white or color).

Submissions should be e-mailed to sipanews@columbia.edu, or faxed to (212) 854-8660. Photos should be mailed to SIPA News, Columbia University, 1508 International Affairs, 420 W. 118th St., New York, NY 10027.

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