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Every so often, something happens that epitomizes much of what makes my job irresistibly gratifying. One of those moments occurred at the end of March in Mexico City, when I realized that our nearly year’s worth of work on the SIPA-sponsored conference, “Mexico on the Threshold of a New Century,” had paid off in multiple ways.

The conference was the brainchild of several Mexican alumni of SIPA, and the Columbia University Alumni Association of Mexico was one of its co-sponsors, along with the office of University Development and Alumni Relations, the Institute of Latin American Studies here at SIPA, and the Centro de Investigación y Docencias Económicas (CIDE), a distinguished social science research and education institute in Mexico City. CIDE’s participation was facilitated by the several Columbia alumni in its administration; coverage of the conference by TVAzteca was arranged by a Columbia alumnus; financial sponsorship by Booz, Allen & Hamilton’s Mexico office was secured by yet another alumnus.

The event produced by all these partners was remarkable. CIDE’s new auditorium was an ideal site, and the local arrangements were extraordinarily thorough and thoughtful—even the weather cooperated. An elegant reception for alumni and friends of Columbia provided an occasion for socializing and—as always—networking!

But, without a doubt, the most remarkable aspect of the entire meeting was the intellectual exchange and debate about policy among the scholars and practitioners from SIPA, CIDE, and the worlds of public policy in both New York and Mexico City. Columbia contributed faculty and practitioners who work on international economic policy, urban public management, international migration, political corruption, environmental policy, political consulting, and Latin American politics, crime and policing. It was a virtuoso display of the breadth and sophistication of SIPA’s capacities in policy analysis.

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We did not resolve all of the dilemmas which face Mexico at the beginning of the 21st century, but I suspect that our conference did contribute a few good ideas to the ongoing discussions. Equally importantly, we cemented our ties with a vibrant and growing alumni community in Mexico, a group that makes up a non-trivial element in the country’s policy elite.

It is my hope that we will continue to be a resource for all our alumni long after they leave Morning-side Heights: a source of research and ideas, of moral support and even of conviviality and friendship. This conference demonstrated the enormous gratifications in that role, and it is a model I hope we will be able to export well beyond Mexico. All we will need are alumni as talented and dedicated as Hector de la Cruz, Alejandro Echegaray, Raphael Freyre, Feliciano Garcíaarramos, Beatriz Leycegui, Francisco Meré, Federico Rublí, Luis Carlos Ugalde, and Abraham Zamora—and above all, Gustavo Cano, who served as the tireless and ever-smiling conference coordinator. I am proud to be associated with them and with their school.

From the Dean: Lisa Anderson

SIPA’s Bond with Mexico: Qué Viva!
Re-Configuring the Study of Africa

Few of us have the privilege of naming ourselves. Typically, naming is done by others. Africa was a Roman name, the name by which Rome called its southernmost province, what we today call North Africa.

The next big shift in the meaning of Africa came with the slave trade. Both the trans-Saharan and trans-Indian Ocean slave trade identified with Arabs, and the trans-Atlantic slave trade identified with Europeans. In the imagination of those who debased humanity in Africa through the slave trade, Africa became identified socially with Negro Africa and physically with sub-Saharan Africa. Instead of the bridge it had been between lands to its north and south, the Sahara was now seen as a great civilizational barrier.

Arabs called the land to the south of the Sahara “Bilad-as-Sudan,” the land of the black people. As the Atlantic slave trade gathered steam, Europeans followed suit. In Philosophy of History, Hegel divided Africa into three parts: “European Africa,” which included the Mediterranean lands of North Africa; “the land of the Nile,” by which he meant Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia, all “closely connected with Asia”; and finally, “Africa Proper,” the source of slaves debased in the European imagination as the land of childhood...lying beyond conscious history...enveloped in the dark mantle of Night.”

The Hegelian notion of “Africa Proper” as sub-Saharan Africa was modified in the era of colonialism and the Cold War. The more “apartheid” South Africa came to be seen as an exceptional experience, the more Africa came to be identified racially and geographically: racially with Negro (Bantu) Africa and geographically with middle Africa, the land between the Sahara and the Kalahari. This is the notion of Africa that came to be inscribed in the academy, not only in Europe but also in the United States and, indeed, in apartheid South Africa.

Even today, the academic preoccupation of institutes of African studies in the United States, including that of Columbia University, is not with the African continent, but with sub-Saharan Africa.

If the end of colonialism did not pose this question sharply, then the simultaneous end of the Cold War and apartheid certainly underlines the necessity to review a tradition that originated in the period of slavery and was institutionalized under successive doses of colonialism, the Cold War and apartheid. It is worth recalling that the first significant departure from this tradition came in the post-colonial African academy. Founded by social science faculties inside Africa, the Council for the Development of Social Science Faculties in Africa (CODESRIA) defined itself as a continental organization committed to reflect on the very historical experience that had come to define the contours of post-colonial Africa. With the end of apartheid, the reorganized Human Science Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa followed suit.

The new period poses a double challenge to the institutional study of Africa. The first stems from the legacy of slavery, colonialism and apartheid, one that has crystallized the institutional boundaries of African study as different from the geographical boundaries of Africa. The second stems from the legacy of the Cold War, which shaped a tradition of area studies that tended to treat the geographical boundaries of continental “areas” into boundaries of knowledge.

I would like to suggest a tentative answer to this double dilemma. The first is to redefine the institutional boundaries of African Studies to coincide with the geographical boundaries of continental Africa and surrounding islands. The second is to treat these boundaries as both shifting in time and porous at any point in time. By doing so, we would stop taking geography as a permanent artifact, a historical given, and rather treat it as a historical product that continues to be fluid.

If the end of the Cold War has set the stage for a single global process—globalization—then one needs to beware before turning globalization into a one-sided preoccupation that dispenses with the local in the name of the universal. Since globalization can only be perceived, defined and, indeed, shaped from a local vantage point, the recognition of global trends should be reason not to downplay area studies as local knowledge. It should, rather, lead to making the boundaries of areas sufficiently porous to problematize the relationship between the local and the global.
Helping New Yorkers Gain Access to Health Insurance

Planned Parenthood of New York City, Inc. (PPNYC) became the first birth control clinic in the United States when Margaret Sanger opened its doors in Brownsville, Brooklyn, in 1916. Today, PPNYC serves more than 25,000 clients annually in our three centers in the Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn. It provides comprehensive reproductive and sexual health services—birth control options and counseling, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing, surgical and non-surgical abortion, prenatal care, testing and treatment for sexually-transmitted infection, and testing and counseling for HIV.

PPNYC has always served clients who could not go elsewhere or did not have money to visit a private doctor. While we remain committed to those uninsured clients, we also believe that everyone entitled to health insurance should receive it.

Between 1996, when federal welfare reform legislation took effect, and 1998, PPNYC’s visits covered by Medicaid fell by 25 percent. At the same time, visits by uninsured clients who qualified for reduced fees more than quadrupled, from 2,300 in 1996 to 11,000 in 1998. Our clients are not necessarily leaving PPNYC for services elsewhere, many are simply losing health insurance coverage and now qualifying for our reduced fees.

Welfare reform raised eligibility standards for public assistance and delinked public assistance and Medicaid. This means that someone who qualifies for Medicaid may or may not remain eligible for public assistance. More importantly, even if someone does not qualify for public assistance, he or she still may qualify for Medicaid. It also means that individuals must now go through a separate application process for each program. Before welfare reform, they could apply for one program and simultaneously be screened for the other.

The White House Office of National AIDS Policy is spreading the message of free access to health insurance. When the eligibility standards were raised for public assistance, many people inadvertently lost Medicaid. Apparently, recipients were not clearly informed that even though they had lost public assistance benefits, they might still qualify for Medicaid. As a result, many recipients did not reclassify their Medicaid benefits at a city Medicaid office. Others, it appeared, tried to do so, but encountered obstacles.

Some were not given applications; others were told to come back after going on job interviews, etc. (Since then, the federal Health Care Financing Administration has ordered city officials to make the application process easier.)

In the meantime, PPNYC has undertaken its own efforts to provide access to Medicaid for our uninsured clients. One result is the PPNYC’s Entitlement Advocacy Program, launched last year. Through this program, an entitlement counselor is available in each of our three centers to help our uninsured clients obtain Medicaid or Child Health Plus, a state insurance program for youths under 19. These counselors have undergone extensive training in the Medicaid application process by the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA), which administers Medicaid, and the Children’s Aid Society. Because of this advanced training, these counselors are permitted by the HRA to fill out applications and submit them on the clients’ behalf at a Medicaid office. For clients under 19, counselors will help fill out applications for enrollment in Child Health Plus.

News of our Entitlement Advocacy Program is spreading through word-of-mouth. Clients, always our best source of referrals, are telling friends and family members. Doctors and community-based organizations are also spreading the word to more people. We are embarking on a creative marketing campaign, targeting our existing uninsured clients. The theme for this campaign is “No health insurance? We’ve got you covered.” Aided by funds from the New York State Department of Health, we have hired a Manhattan advertising firm to design a full spectrum of promotional and educational materials: posters for our walls, palm-sized cards for clients to store in their wallets, appointment cards, direct-mail post cards, and brochures. These materials should be in our centers by the time you read this.

Later this year, we intend to expand our campaign to the full New York City community through radio advertisements, bus shelter posters and wallscapes, brochures at health fairs, and mailings to our coalition partners and community-based organizations serving the uninsured.

PPNYC’s Entitlement Advocacy Program is only one way to begin meeting the needs of the rising number of New Yorkers who are uninsured.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
AFTER nine years of grue-
some civil war, Sierra
Leone is a complete
mess. It has the lowest
per capita income in the
world and is among the
countries in all “misery
index” indicators—infant mortality, life
expectancy, etc. The UN recognizes it
as among the least desirable places on
the globe to invest, travel or live.

In fact, it is so dangerous and
volatile that not even the U.S. Marines
have dared return to guard the Ameri-
can Embassy in Freetown since the
rebels ransacked the capital in January
1999. As an ex-U.S. Marine who
served in war zones in Kuwait and
Somalia, I find this fact particularly dis-
concerting.

As a commodities officer for the
Christian humanitarian organization
World Vision International, I have a
job where I really feel like I’m making
a difference, not just filling a position.
I’m responsible for the day-to-day
operations of the commodities pro-
gram here. That includes overseeing
food distributions, helping out with
proposal writing, and keeping up good
relations with donors.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not
some naive idealist who thinks he is
going to change the world—I know it
put in people’s minds. My belief in
God motivates me to serve others, not
to judge them.

There are some very practical,
earthly factors that compelled me to
take this job—and to love it. Eight
weeks paid vacation a year allows me to
decompress from the stresses of the
job and travel the world. Wearing
T-shirts and shorts to work every day
and shaving when I feel like it fits my
laid-back personality. Seeing the joy on
the faces of Sierra Leonean children
during a food distribution is more
valuable to me than any stock option
or six-figure salary.

OK, enough self-justification. It is
time to tell some stories. Let’s start
with the people I work with: My boss
is an ex-Croatian rebel with Serbian
shrapnel in his stomach and a million
things on his mind. Part mad profes-
sor, part stand-up comedian, I have
learned more from his chain-smoking
soliloquies than I ever learned in the
halls of academia. Another interesting
character is Ibrahim Kamara, a driver
for World Vision. He has talked his
way out of numerous attempts by the
rebels to recruit him and was the sole
survivor of a group of civilians fleeing
gun-toting rebels during the January
1999 invasion of Freetown. Two of his
CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
For SIPA adjunct lecturer Peter Danchin, past and present came full circle last fall in Johannesburg, South Africa. Danchin was 12 when his family left South Africa during the height of white rule and moved to Australia. Eighteen years later, he was back as a human rights lawyer, using his knowledge of international law to help the fledgling democracy interpret its new constitution.

Danchin, who teaches a human rights core course at SIPA, worked four months last fall as a judicial clerk for the president of South Africa’s 11-member Constitutional Court, Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson. The clerkship, which included research into cases before the court, helped shape the jurisprudence of the five-year old, post-apartheid Constitution and provided a real-life dimension to Danchin’s SIPA lectures on human rights philosophy, instruments and institutions.

“It was an incredible experience and a great privilege,” said Danchin, 30, sipping tea at a popular off-campus coffee shop.

“I would sit with Justice Chaskalson and we would debate comparative legal systems and different approaches to international human rights law, which is exactly what I teach.”

With his boyish looks and tousled blond hair, Danchin easily could pass for a student or big-wave surfer. In fact, he holds two law degrees and, in addition to his teaching duties, is a doctoral candidate at Columbia Law School.

The South Africa that Danchin returned to last year was remarkably transformed from the country he knew as a child. The Constitution has a sweeping bill of rights that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, marital status and sexual orientation. It protects economic and social rights, distinguishing it as one of the most progressive constitutions in the world today. By law, the Court’s interpretations of the Constitution must take into account international law, and may consider the laws of other countries.

Each justice on the Court is assigned two clerks, one of whom must be a black South African. Chaskalson’s other clerk was Lwandile Sisilana, with whom Danchin worked closely.

Sisilana’s first impression of Danchin was of someone “quite ladish.”

“He had this hair and sported a small goatee,” Sisilana recalled. In little time, Sisilana came to appreciate the depth of Danchin’s knowledge of international legal systems.

“We had quite a lot of discussion around legal philosophy. Pete’s time in America had obviously influenced him because he complained about the fact that Australia did not have a bill of rights,” Sisilana said.

Danchin taught “Human Rights in International and Domestic Law and Institutions” for the second time this spring. The course is one of two core requirements for students in the human rights concentration.

“Peter has operated in different legal systems and because of his broad legal experience is capable of preparing students who will soon be working in the field,” said J.Paul Martin, director of the Center for the Study of Human Rights at SIPA.

Danchin graduated from the University of Melbourne, where he studied law and the classics. His primary focus was on constitutional, international and human rights law. He came to Columbia to study with two of his heroes, the legendary human rights lawyers Louis Henkin and Jack Greenberg.

“I was interested in coming to Columbia because of Professor Henkin’s work on bridging constitutional rights and international human rights, mainly because Australia, then and now, still has a deficient constitution from a human rights perspective,” Danchin said.

Danchin earned a master’s in law from Columbia last year. When not busy with his teaching duties, he spends time preparing his doctoral thesis on comparative constitutionalism and international human rights law, with a focus on freedom of expression and legal reasoning.

Danchin, who is single and lives near Columbia, also enjoys sports. He competes in triathlons and plays racquetball.

In coming to Columbia, Danchin was following in the footsteps of Chaskalson. The chief justice was among a group of South African lawyers who studied human rights law at Columbia in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These young lawyers were brought to Columbia by Greenberg, in the hopes that they would return home to fight apartheid as human rights activists.

Mike Hickman (MIA ‘01) is studying journalism and Latin America at SIPA. Before beginning graduate school, he was an advertising copywriter and broadcast producer in New York City. He will intern with UNESCO in Brazil this summer.
Alumni Volunteers Lend Time and Talents to SIPA

By Anne Burke
SIPA News editor

Alumnus John Grammer said goodbye to SIPA student life back in 1963. But he never really left the school. As a volunteer career counselor who has helped thousands of SIPA students and grads over the years, Grammer’s ties to the school are as strong as ever.

“It’s been nearly 40 years and I’m still full of vim and vigor and doing my thing. It helps to keep me young,” said Grammer, a Manhattan management consultant.

Grammer is among hundreds of SIPA alumni who donate their time and talents to the school. Whether they’re advising Dean Lisa Anderson on ways to update the curriculum, soliciting donations from ex-classmates, or—like Grammer—offering job leads to young graduates, these alumni are SIPA’s unsung heroes.

“I really think they’re invaluable. They keep this institution growing and changing,” said Rodrick Dial, a Columbia development officer who works closely with SIPA alumni.

Alumni volunteers range in age from newly minted graduates in their 20s to old-timers who attended classes in a brownstone on West 117th Street when SIPA was the School of International Affairs.

Membership on the 26-member Dean’s Advisory Board is among the most coveted of volunteer posts at SIPA. This “kitchen cabinet” is hand-picked by Anderson and meets at the school four times a year to discuss curriculum and development matters.

“We advise the dean from a practitioner’s perspective about how to gear the school to a changing reality,” said board member José Gonzales (MIA ’93), a New York investment banker who also serves on the newly formed advisory board for SIPA’s Institute of Latin American Studies.

A 20-minute cab ride is all that separates Gonzales from Advisory Board meetings. Other members cross entire continents and oceans—at their own expense. Board member Lan Yang (MIA ’96), until recently a well-known TV anchor in Hong Kong, is bleary-eyed and jet-lagged when she arrives at meetings, but she says she does not mind.

“Even though I paid my tuition, I think I still owe SIPA. The school gave me a broad understanding of what is happening in the world, and that’s essential to being a journalist,” said Yang, who now runs her own production company in Shanghai.

Board members include respected names in diplomacy, foreign affairs, business and public life. Meetings are held in the mornings and conclude with a luncheon at the Faculty House and an informal lecture by a Columbia professor or visiting dignitary.

“IT’s a great way for me to stay in touch with what’s happening in the world,” said Advisory Board member Ralph H. Elmold (MIA ’64), who also chairs SIPA’s Annual Fund.

Many alumni volunteers do more than what is asked of them. Some are responsible for the ideas behind several of SIPA’s most successful alumni activities and development strategies.

A few years ago, Elmold was trying to come up with ways to boost donations to SIPA’s Annual Fund. Elmold hit upon the idea of asking one or two representatives from each class to solicit donations among former classmates. The Class Chair program is now in its second year. Fifty-three alumni—called Class Chairs—from the class of ’48 to the class of ’99 have signed on to the fund-raising effort.

John Pfeiffer is a co-chair for the class of ’99, with former classmate Caroline Washburn. Pfeiffer solicits donations over the phone, squeezing in a call or two whenever he has a chance at work or in the evenings at his Brooklyn apartment. Asking for money isn’t easy, but Pfeiffer has a knack for it.

“It’s a lot of fun. Most of the people are classmates I haven’t talked to in a while, so we get to catch up,” said Pfeiffer. “Then at the end, I sneak in a pitch for money.”

Many alumni said they volunteer to help make SIPA affordable for those who would not be able to attend without financial aid.

Dean’s Advisory Board member Claire Shipman (MIA ’94), NBC’s White House correspondent, studied at the Harriman Institute with the help of a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship. The expertise she gained helped her land her first job in broadcast journalism, at CNN’s Moscow bureau.

“I feel I owe Columbia a lot in terms of where I am today,” Shipman said.

Gonzales won a Ford Foundation
grant to study at SIPA, but would not have been able to come without an extra $3,500 that former Dean Alfred Stepan loaned him from a discretionary fund.

"For somebody coming from Peru, that is a lot of money," said Gonzales, who was a journalist in Lima at the time. "After graduation, when I got my first real salary, I paid back that financial aid."

Graduates who lend a hand outside of New York City are just as important as those working in the Big Apple.

From Moscow to Mexico City, grads organize SIPA-themed happy hours, dinner parties, lectures and conferences. The events strengthen ties between alumni and the school, and raise the profile of the school's name.

Ajoy Chandra (MIA/MBA '97) arranges monthly happy hours for SIPA grads in the San Francisco area, where he runs his own Internet startup. The Bay Area is a magnet for SIPA grads getting into dot-com ventures, but how do they all find each other in a crowded bar?

"I held up a copy of that book that we all had to read for Conceptual Foundations, The Political Economy of International Relations by Robert Gilpin. I looked like a total geek."

In Moscow, Julie Rasmussen (MIA '90) has been hosting parties for SIPA grads since moving to Russia in 1992 to launch Mary Kay Cosmetics. The festivities are usually scheduled around a visit by Associate Dean Robin Lewis or Harriman Institute Director Mark von Hagen.

"We'd put an announcement in the expat newspaper here and have all the alumni come. We'd throw a big bash, have it catered. I've got a big apartment, so we'd get about 50 people," said Rasmussen, who was recently promoted to president of Mary Kay Europe, and managing director of the cosmetics company's holding group, Richmont Partners.

Some events are more serious-minded. Gustavo Cano (MPA '96), co-chair of international alumni for the SIPA Alumni Association, organized a two-day conference in Mexico City last March. Titled "Mexico on the Threshold of a New Century," the event featured talks by several Columbia scholars and professors and marked the first major event sponsored by Columbia alumni in Mexico.

In New York, Anisa Kamadoli (MIA '98) is organizing a reception, which will bring together graduates of SIPA and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. In Washington, D.C., Camille Purvis (MPA '99) hopes to stage similar events with schools of international affairs.

Finding time to volunteer isn't easy for alumni. Shipman, for example, is criss-crossing the country these days covering Vice President Al Gore's bid for the White House. Pfeiffer has his hands full as director of operations for Adult Services for New York City's Department of Homeless Services. Hellmold, in addition to his SIPA duties, is active in the alumni association for his undergraduate alma mater, Harvard College. How do they do it?

"Busy people always find a way to make time," Hellmold said.

Anne Burke (MIA '00) was a newspaper reporter in Los Angeles for many years. She studied human rights at SIPA, and interned last summer at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in San José, Costa Rica.
Students Join Effort to Aid Ex-KLA Soldiers

After a week in Kosovo, Severine Autesserre (MIA '01) returned to SIPA impressed by the ability of Kosovars to bounce back. She was among a team of SIPA students who spent spring break interviewing former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army about their transition to civilian life. Many of these ex-rebels have lost their homes and are struggling to feed their families, but she said they’re eager to start new lives.

“These people have every reason to be depressed,” Autesserre said. “But they still have the energy to start a business and care for a family. They still want to improve their lives.”

Autesserre and her classmates interviewed the former combatants as part of the workshop requirement for the Economic and Political Development concentration. Students enrolled in the workshop fan out across the globe during spring break each year to work as pro-bono consultants for nongovernmental organizations.

The Kosovo team worked for the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration (IOM), whose Information Counselling and Referral Service program in Kosovo is helping former KLA combatants find employment and start new businesses. The interviews conducted by the three students assessed the effectiveness of the program.

“We talked with a lot of former combatants who are really grateful that IOM is doing this for them. The biggest complaint we heard was that IOM wasn’t paying people enough money,” said Karen Hirschfeld (MIA ’00), who, along with Christine Kuhn (MIA ’00), accompanied Autesserre.

More than 25,000 men have registered with the IOM program, far exceeding the group’s estimate of 10,000 former KLA combatants, Hirschfeld explained.

Even so, Autesserre said the organization’s grants have helped many ex-soldiers set up shop as carpenters, open restaurants, and buy livestock. Through IOM job referrals, others are now factory workers or mechanics. In all, the organization has assisted more than 4,000 ex-combatants since the end of the NATO air campaign.

Kosovo team members: front row, from left, Laura Ballman (MIA ’00), Ebru Erdogus (MIA ’00) and Sharifa Ali-Abdullah (PEPM) traveled to Kosovo in January to conduct research for the interviews. The group’s adviser was Adjunct Professor Ashok Gurung.

The Kosovo team was among 10 groups of EPD students working overseas during spring break. One group worked on business development in Ghana with the nongovernmental organization Aid to Artisans, while another worked on education reform in Mongolia for the Soros Foundation.

“It’s a great way to get a feel for what it’s like to work in the international arena,” Ballman said. “You’re working on international projects with an international group for international clients.”

For Autesserre, the visit to Kosovo did more than fill a class requirement. The Kosovars’ resilience, she said, gave her a new outlook on her own life.

“I在学校，you’re always worried that ‘Oh, I have to do this and have to do that,’” she said. The ethnic Albanians she met, “have to start from zero. But they do it.”

Matt Craft (MIA ’01) was a newspaper reporter and high school teacher in Louisiana before coming to SIPA.
Exhibit Showcases Rare African Currencies

Mike Hickman
SIPA News writer

The Rotunda at Columbia's Low Library last March became the temporary home for a rare collection of iron and copper currencies from Central and West Africa. Only in the last 20 years have these metal pieces been recognized within art circles as an important part of African history.

The exhibit was sponsored by SIPA's Institute of African Studies, Columbia University Libraries, and appropriately enough, Citibank and Chase Manhattan Bank. The 200-piece collection of tools, weapons, musical instruments, ornaments, objects of prestige and ingots revealed the intrinsic value that iron and copper have had in hundreds of African societies since 500 A.D.

The pieces were loaned to the Institute by Philip Gould, who curated the exhibit. Gould is an art collector and professor emeritus of art history at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York. According to Gould, Africans liked to use iron and copper pieces as instruments of exchange because they could always be recast into other objects.

"These currencies came in all shapes and sizes and most of the objects were easily recognized as symbols," Gould said. "But the relationship was so close that the actual object and the currency were interchangeable."

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Institute held a workshop for Harlem-area teachers. The event was led by the Institute's outreach coordinator, Paulette Young, and Aissata Sidikou, a lecturer of Pan-African Studies at Barnard College. Both focused on the many uses of African iron and copper currencies and the central role of the blacksmith in African communities past and present.

"Traditional African societies were influenced by various factors both internal and external," said Young. "The exhibit and writings on the subject by African scholars are a good way to teach students that African nations did not operate in a vacuum."

Iron and copper currencies continued in use among some African nations until the 1960s, when they were abandoned in favor of paper and coin money. Since then they have become increasingly popular among art collectors and dealers. Today, these metals still symbolize power and freedom to many Africans.

"It's an area that people really don't know about," Young told the approximately 20 teachers who attended the workshop.

At the workshop, teachers peered curiously inside glass display cases at elaborately carved hoes, shovels, and iron spears. Malene Hawkins, who teaches seventh graders at Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem, planned to bring her students to the exhibit during their studies of ancient African societies. Teacher Curtis Lawrence said the workshop will help him strengthen the Africa content of his seventh-grade history classes at the Academy.

The Low Library exhibit closed on April 15, but another, smaller exhibit of traditional African money is on display through July 23 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C.
SIPA Events Promote Diversity, Tolerance

Shomwa Shomapande and Brian Leventhal have much in common. They grew up in New York’s Westchester County, only 20 minutes away from each other. Their fathers graduated from Columbia. This spring, both are graduating from SIPA with degrees in public administration. But they don’t share skin color.

While their friendship is secure, Shomapande and Leventhal agree that differences in race and ethnicity are explosive issues in everyday life. Finding ways to ease tensions, they said, is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today.

“We both agree that this is a very, very important issue,” Shomapande said. “We decided that we wanted to wrestle with this topic in front of people.”

The two students organized a town hall-style meeting on race relations last February, as part of SIPA’s first Diversity Week. The event drew about 50 students, alumni, faculty and staff members who discussed and debated topics such as affirmative action, politically correct speech and self-segregation.

“It was one of the best discussions I’ve ever heard in my life on these topics,” said Brendan O’Flaherty, the MPA program director and economics professor who organized Diversity Week.

Diversity Week offered students and faculty members a chance to explore issues surrounding identity—from ethnicity to sexual preference.

The purpose of the week was to promote a climate of tolerance.

“This is a diverse world,” O’Flaherty said. “We better learn how to operate in it.”

The week’s activities included a panel discussion on diversity issues in the classroom and the workplace, and a performance by New York dancers who expressed issues of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, immigration and homelessness on a stage at Teachers College. In classrooms, instructors in MPA core classes brought up diversity issues as topics of discussion. O’Flaherty’s microeconomics class, for example, tackled affirmative action.

Leventhal and Shomapande said their town-hall meeting, titled “Race Relations: A New Framework,” had some tense moments. But the two students handled them with humor and self-deprecation. As a result, audience members relaxed and said what they thought.

“It allowed people to share their ideas,” Leventhal said. Whenever a question was posed, “we had more hands than we knew what to do with.”

Added Shomapande: “We wanted people to feel comfortable saying things that you might want to bite your tongue about at first.”

The purpose of the week was to promote a climate of tolerance.

“This is a diverse world,” O’Flaherty said. “We better learn how to operate in it.”

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Jacob Kupietzky graduates from the MPA program this spring with an impressive resume: consultant to a governor’s blue-ribbon panel, foreign affairs adviser to the mayor of Jerusalem, campaign staffer for a state attorney general, press officer in the Los Angeles mayor’s office.

The scary thing is he’s only 25. How did he do it?

Kupietzky was only 14 when he got his first job in politics, as a Jewish liaison in Los Angeles for then-U.S. Sen. John Seymour, a California Republican. He’s been running at full throttle ever since. Though he’s often the youngest person in the office, Kupietzky said he never lets his age hold him back.

“People measure you based on what you accomplish and not how old you are,” said Kupietzky, who grew up in Los Angeles.

The latest feather in Kupietzky’s cap is the consulting work he did last fall on California Gov. Gray Davis’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Hate Crimes, appointed in the wake of a shooting spree by an avowed white supremacist in Los Angeles.

Several of Kupietzky’s recommendations were incorporated into the panel’s final report, which Davis planned to include in an omnibus, anti-hate crime legislation bill.

Kupietzky’s contribution included recommendations that the government reward businesses that take a leadership role in fighting xenophobia, and that community organizations develop hate-prevention policies.

“My name won’t be found on it anywhere, which is totally fine with me,” Kupietzky said. “I’m just happy to know that if you have a good idea, someone else will think it’s a good idea, and they might actually use it, and it might lead to something good.”

Kupietzky also worked last fall as a teaching assistant for Visiting Professor George Stephanopoulos’s class on presidential politics. He fit the hate-crimes work into his busy schedule as an independent study project, under sponsorship of Associate Professor Mark Gordon.

After graduating from high school, Kupietzky worked on foreign affairs issues for Mayor Ehud Olmert of Jerusalem. While still in his teens, he worked as a press officer for Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and as the assistant to the manager of then-California Gov. Pete Wilson’s presidential campaign.

In 1998, after graduating in political science from Columbia College, he was hired as a political consultant for then-Attorney General Dan Lungren’s campaign for governor. That spring, Kupietzky was accepted at SIPA. But he didn’t want to give up his work with Lungren, and Lungren didn’t want to lose him. Since Kupietzky is the kind of guy who can keep a lot of balls in the air at the same time, he decided to do both.

“I tried to be at SIPA on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, then I’d fly back to L.A. I probably made about seven round-trips my first semester at SIPA.”

Lungren lost to Gray Davis, but the experience didn’t dull Kupietzky’s appetite for politics. Last summer, he worked as a consultant to the nonprofit New York Fair Elections Project, analyzing contributions to the 1998 New York governor’s race. His report is due out this month.

Kupietzky may be turning into a seasoned pro, but he’s not blasé.

“If you pick up the newspaper and it’s talking about an event, and you’re able to say, ‘Oh, I helped plan that,’ or ‘I was there with the candidate,’ or ‘That was my idea,’ it’s really exciting.”
SI PA Audiences Enjoy Speaker Smorgasbord

By Matt Craft
SI PA News writer

From former Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin to author Anna Quindlen, a steady stream of diplomats, politicians, academics and authors addressed audiences at SIPA this year on topics as diverse as the speakers themselves.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney urged the linking of labor rights with global trade, Luis Felipe Bravo, president of Mexico's principal opposition party, Partido Acción Nacional, updated students on his country's history-making presidential elections.

Azerbaijan Parliament member Eldar Namazov surveyed the foreign policy scene in the Caucasus, while Tanzanian writer and activist Gertrude Mangella, the secretary general of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, discussed the role of women in conflict resolution and peace negotiation in Africa.

Muhammud Muslih of the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University spoke at a conference titled "Peace and the Future of Syria."

U.S. and Russian economic cooperation was Chernomyrdin's topic. Speaking to an overflow audience in the Dag Hammarskjöld Lounge, he urged the two countries to team up in a "globalization partnership." Despite its grave political and economic weaknesses, Russia will not waver from its commitment to a market economy, he said, "as they say in Russia, you cannot escape your fate."

Chernomyrdin's was one of the many talks that focused on economics. Claudio Loser, the director of the International Monetary Fund's Western Hemisphere Department, explained how the agency plans to shift "from crisis management to crisis prevention." As part of the Journal of International Affairs' conference on shadow economies, Time magazine's Edward Barnes discussed illegal immigration into the United States.

Journalists tackled an array of issues. Pete Hamill, in a speech that brought tears to the eyes of many audience members, delivered a loving tribute to M exico, where he has lived on and off since the 1950s. It was the keynote address at a symposium, "Images of M exico in the U.S. Media." Hamill urged Americans to look beyond the clichéd images of M exico as a hotbed of corruption and drug trafficking.

Humphrey Hawksley, who reports on Asia for the BBC and has written a novel, Dragon Strike, sketched a scenario in which the United States finds itself on the brink of war with China. "What would we do," he asked the audience, "if pictures of a massacre in Tibet came up on our television screen?"

Hamill said his point was not to alarm. But he wanted people to consider what might happen if, for example, an unsuspecting American entrepreneur moved his toothpaste factory to China on the eve of a war. "Keep the global perspective in mind," he said, "you'll wind up with a warehouse full of toothpaste tubes that will never get sold."

In a two-day conference—"Opening the Channels: Television and Society in the Middle East"—Middle Eastern journalists and Columbia faculty members looked at the recent explosion of television channels and news shows in the region. According to participants, shows beamed by satellite from London and elsewhere are challenging the reliance on government-owned stations, which have a reputation for tiptoeing around anything controversial.

"We are seeing a new generation of Arab television journalists," said Moataz Demerdahs, an anchor and producer for the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Center. "We are not here to do a P.R. job for the government."

SI PA journalism Professor Donald "Pete" Johnston gasped when his friend, Anna Quindlen, the journalist and novelist, told students at the MPA Practicum, "I hate to write."

"But I love having written," she added, allowing Johnston to exhale. "And there is no way to have the one without the other."

Quindlen told students that they shouldn't be intimidated about writing. "They are just words," she said. "But the truth is that words, really, are everything."

SI PA speakers are remarkable for the breadth of their subject matter. The Harriman Institute sponsored a talk titled, "Autobiographers as Generic Cross-Dressers," while the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Center for the Social Sciences organized a lecture on quantitative analysis titled, "What Do Animals Do All Day?" You probably had to be there.
New Alumni Director Seeks to Strengthen Ties

By Matt Craft
SIPA News writer

SIPA's new director of alumni relations will be happy to see this year's crop of graduates head off into the world. Just one request: Please don't be a stranger.

"I really want to keep alumni involved in SIPA," said Nancy Riedl, 30. "I don't want the relationship to be just a past-tense thing—'That's where I graduated from.' I want it to be a present-tense relationship."

Since stepping into her new job in January, Riedl has turned her office on the 15th floor of the International Affairs Building into a sort of nerve center for alumni-related activities. One minute she's on the phone planning an alumni luncheon at the United Nations, the next she's working out details for the school's first black-tie gala, set for Oct. 2 at The Plaza in New York City. The phone rings and it's a grad looking for the date and time of a lecture at the university's Columbia Club. A minute later, another grad calls looking for information on finding a summer internship.

"There are so many ways that alumni can get involved. I'd be surprised if they couldn't find something to do that they would be interested in," said Riedl, who is single and lives on the Upper East Side.

Among Riedl's goals are to strengthen ties between the school and...

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Fourth Floor Renovations Begin

By Mike Hickman
SIPA News writer

The International Affairs Building's long-overdue fourth floor face-lift became noticeable last February. Eight-foot tall sections of drywall wrapped in pink construction paper suddenly flanked the elevator lobby. Urgent e-mails, sent almost daily, warned students to remove all belongings from lockers before spring break or risk losing them.

The $2.25 million renovation will create a new home for the Picker Center for Executive Education, spruce up the Amsterdam Avenue entrance, and completely refurbish the fourth floor's aging and uncomfortable classrooms. Some will be "smart" equipped with high quality electronic audio-visual equipment.

Renovations are expected to be complete in time for the start of classes this fall.

The Picker Center, which offers the Executive MPA and other programs for working professionals, was financed with a $1.5 million gift from former Dean Harvey Picker. The school's third dean, Picker put the "P" in SIPA when he established the Master's of Public Affairs program in 1972. Dean Lisa Anderson raised an additional $750,000 for classroom improvements.

Main features of the Picker Center are a reception area, administrative offices, and a seminar room equipped with laptop connections and audio-visual equipment.

Work commenced over spring break as construction crews began the cumbersome task of moving more than 400 student lockers to the open space inside the 118th Street entrance. Glass display cabinets, which will showcase special exhibits, awards and publications, will conceal lockers, said Associate Dean of Administration and Finance, Joan Turner.

Renovations to the fourth floor began in 1999 with the construction of the new Altschul Auditorium. Fund-raising efforts are continuing in anticipation of further renovation.

Belmont Freeman, the Manhattan architectural firm that designed the refurbished Alumni Auditorium and restored Bard Hall's art deco dining hall at the Health Sciences campus, created the fourth floor's new look with the Columbia University Office of Design and Construction.
ROUHAQ JAHAN has been concerned for years about the public health crisis caused by arsenic-contaminated ground water in her native Bangladesh.

Now, the senior research scholar at SIPA’s Southern Asian Institute is trying to do something about it. Jahan and five SIPA colleagues—aided by Columbia student researchers—are in the initial stages of a project aimed at analyzing the crisis and potential solutions from a social science and public policy perspective.

A number of organizations and institutions are approaching the crisis from scientific, technical and medical angles. “But many of the social science issues are not being explored,” Jahan said. “For example, what is the effect in terms of gender, families, or the communities? Are women more affected, or children?”

And what are the various policy choices? If we shift to a particular strategy, who will have to bear that burden more? Would it be the women, or the men? And what will be the various economic costs?

Students from SIPA, the School of Public Health, Barnard and Teachers College are researching the crisis and helping to write a briefing book as part of a group research course. Later, the project would need to secure funding and find local partners in Bangladesh, said Jahan, who is the editor of a forthcoming book, Bangladesh: Politics, Society, Economy.

The ultimate goal would be publication of a paper. “But the faculty have agreed that this cannot be pure research for the sake of publication,” Jahan said. “This is such a major disaster, and so many millions of peoples’ lives are being affected that we would like it to have some immediate impact.”

As many as 80 million people are at risk from arsenic contamination in Bangladesh and India. Of those infected, one in 10 may die.

In the early 1970s, UNICEF encouraged mostly rural dwellers to dig tube wells as an alternative to drinking pond water, a major source of diarrhea and bacterial diseases. No one knew it at the time, but many wells were heavily contaminated with arsenic.

Working with Jahan on the project are SIPA faculty members SHUBHAM CHAUDHURI, MARGARET MADAJEWICZ, STEVE RAYNER, ALEXANDER PFaffen, and PHILIP OLDENBURG.

—Anne Burke

Former New York Mayor DAVID DINKINS was among prominent African-Americans protesting the March acquittals of four police officers in the killing of Amadou Diallo.

Dinkins, who teaches public policy at SIPA, marched outside the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., with Diallo’s parents, Kadiatou and Saikou, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, and Kwesi Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The group urged federal prosecution of the officers, who fired 41 bullets at the unarmed African immigrant.

Dinkins said the officers should have been convicted of a serious crime, though a lesser one than second-degree murder. “They moved with what I view as an utter disregard for his rights and safety,” he said.

Dinkins is still battling New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani over appointment of an independent police monitor, one of the recommendations of the Molten Commission, which Dinkins appointed to investigate police corruption in the early 1990s.

“The one thing Giuliani desperately wishes to avoid is any kind of oversight of the police department,” Dinkins said.

Dinkins said he was asked by Diallo’s mother to be chairman of a Diallo Foundation to benefit victims and survivors of police brutality, and he has agreed to do so.

The former mayor, a Democrat, is also busy campaigning for Vice President Al Gore in his run for the White House.

JOHN S. MICGIEL, director of SIPA’s East Central European Center, believes that Polish studies in American classrooms are undergoing an important and long-overdue transformation. Today, Poland is appreciated as an intrinsically interesting country to study, rather than as a name that crops up now and again in European history, he said.

“The trend in the United States is to open up the way we assess Poland by globalizing it, by putting it more in the context of European development,” Micgiel said.

To help school teachers and college instructors adapt to the changing pedagogics, Micgiel last March organized a one-day workshop at SIPA, “Poland 2000: A Conference for Educators.” The event drew about 40 high school and college teachers from the New York area. Lectures included discussions of the latest trends in Polish literature, culture, painting, contemporary affairs and politics.

Micgiel, also an adjunct professor at SIPA, talked about the significance of Poland’s entry into the European Union in 2003. Poland is among countries involved in EU accession negotiations.

The purpose of the conference was to educate teachers so that they will incorporate materials on contemporary Poland into their
curricula, Micgiel said. It was among a number of educational events for students and teachers offered by SIPA regional institutes, in exchange for federal funding for language instruction and scholarships.

The conference included a photographic exhibit, sponsored by the Pilsudski Institute of New York, on Polish children deported to the Soviet Union between 1940 and 1941. The deportations were conducted as part of the Bolshevik policy of "liquidation of dangerous anti-Soviet elements" following the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland in September 1939. About one-in-five of the approximately 500,000 young deportees died due to inhumane conditions.

"This is one of the reasons that the Poles believe the Chechens," Micgiel said. "As Chechens are being driven out of their homes, the Poles remember that they, too, were driven out of theirs."

The conference was sponsored by SIPA's East Central European Center, the Pilsudski Institute, the Adam Mickiewicz Endowment for Polish Studies, the International Studies National Resource Center, the West European National Resource Center, and the Educational Commission of the Polish American Congress.

—Anne Burke

Associate Professor of Economics Brendan O'Flaherty's paper in the latest Journal of Urban Economics debunks the theory behind the "Dinkins Deluge."

O'Flaherty's piece, co-written with former SIPA economics instructor Michael Cragg, rejects conventional wisdom about the dramatic rise in the family shelter population in New York City's homeless shelters between 1990 and 1993.

"We found that was absolutely untrue," O'Flaherty said. The major factor behind the upswing was just the opposite: Widespread complaints led Dinkins to reduce the rate of subsidized-housing placements, resulting in a surge in the family shelter population.

The number of families in homeless shelters was about 3,000 in 1990, and peaked at 5,000 within a year. Other factors were the recession and the increasing use of private, nonprofit shelters rather than hotels, O'Flaherty said.

—Anne Burke

Adjunct Professor Herbert Spirer's work in the application of statistics to human rights has earned him membership in the International Statistical Institute, based in Voorburg, Netherlands.

Spirer, aided by his wife and research partner, Louise, has spent the past 15 years applying statistics to human
One of the most satisfying aspects of my work is following SIPA alumni in their careers as they fan out across the world and flourish professionally. In my travels for the school, I often have the opportunity to see SIPA graduates and catch up on their careers, and I also hear from former students via e-mail or telephone on a regular basis. To share my experiences, I have put together the following bits and pieces of alumni news.

London

MAX TRAUTMAN (MIA ’92) is now executive director of Emerging Markets Trading for Goldman Sachs International in London. 

DAN WHITAKER (MIA ’91) is associate director of National Economic Research Associates (NERA) and is reachable at: danielwhitaker@yahoo.com.

JOE HURD (MIA ’94), despite repeated threats to return to the United States, is still enjoying London as a solicitor at Linklaters & Alliance. He’s at: jhurd@linklaters.com.

JIANJUN (ALLAN) ZHANG (MIA ’96) has left Beijing to work for PriceWaterhouseCoopers in London, where he is senior associate in Management Consulting Services. Find him at: jianjun.zhang@uk.pwcglobal.com.

Paris

JOHN PIETRI (MIA ’90) is now vice president in the Corporate Finance Advisory Group at Société Générale. He can be reached at: john.pietri@socgen.com.

HYUN CHO (’94/PEPM ’95) has been temporarily assigned by the Korean government to the OECD Secretariat in Paris for a few years. He is also working part-time on a doctoral degree at our French partner-institution, l’Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po).

YUKO NAKAJIMA (MIA ’91) is an attaché at the Japanese Embassy in Paris, where she oversees European affairs. Her e-mail is: yuko.nakajima@mofa.go.jp.

Bangkok

Overlooking the busy Chao Phraya River, I had a wonderful dinner in March with a group of SIPA alumni here. The dinner was co-hosted by a member of SIPA’s adjunct faculty, ASHOK GURUNG (MIA ’93), senior program officer at the Trace Foundation in New York.

Joining us were three professionals from the United Nations Economic and Social
Hong Kong

I spent a lovely afternoon in November with Alec McCabe (MIA '93) and Kirsti Hastings (MIA '94). Alec runs the news side of Bloomberg in Hong Kong (amccabe@bloomberg.net) and Kirsti does the same at Dow Jones (kirsti.hastings@cor.dowjones.com). In their spare time, they are building a family: their charming daughter Maja has just been joined by Lucas Kai McCabe, who entered this world on December 12, 1999 at a whopping 8 pounds and 11 ounces.

Let’s be very grateful that SIPA preliminary application form right now!

Also seen was Alec’s step-brother, Adi Ignatius (Zuckerman Fellow, '90-'91), who is deputy editor of TimeAsia.com. Adi can be reached at adi.ignatius@timemagazine.com.

Moscow

I had the chance to talk with Andrei Kutienkov (MIA '90), who is CEO of Interpharma (andreyku@dataforce.net) and Vladimir Kuznetsov (MIA '90), who has his own consulting business, Financial Advisory Services (data@aha.ru). Both have weathered the Russian financial crisis and give at least some credit to their SIPA training for having been able to do so.

Elsewhere

Juliet Wurr (MIA '89), who occupies a special place in SIPA history as the founder of the SIPA Follies, has finished her State Department posting in Damascus and is now running the U.S. government’s American Center in Alexandria, Egypt. She would love to see any SIPA types who are in Alexandria. She is at: jwurr@usia.gov. I had a nice e-mail and phone chat with Jeremy Harris (MIA '95), who left Bangkok, where he was with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and moved to Paris, where he is senior logistics consultant for a start-up Internet company specializing in logistics solutions for Web merchants. Jeremy says that in two years he will either be rich or unemployed. He’d love to hear from old SIPA friends at: jeremyharris99@hotmail.com.

Monish Kumar (MIA '95) has left Booz, Allen & Hamilton to join the Internet frenzy as vice president for Strategy and Business Development at OnMoney. Find him at: mkumar@onmoney.com.

Visiting New York recently was Konstantin Sakharov (MIA '95), who is now deputy general manager of Komsomol’skaya Pravda in Moscow. He’s at: SAK-HAROV@kp.ru.

Also in town was Balachander Jayaraman (MIA '99), who now works at Johnson Controls in Singapore, where he is director of Performance Contracting for Southeast Asia. And I also had a brief visit from Dzii-k Agajanian (MIA '98), who is back in Armenia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she is in charge of information at the Policy Planning Department. She can be contacted at: ckm@arm.net.

Finally, I had along and bracing e-mail from Paula Hacopian (MIA '97), who has just finished up a very difficult and dangerous assignment for the United Nations in Tajikistan. After describing the rigors of her work, Paula wrote:

“But beyond all these words and tales, allow me to compliment SIPA for the excellent education it provided . . . . Sure, I still can’t run a regression (sorry!), but I know what it is and I understand why it should be done. I also can’t write an economic treatise, but I understand the relevance of macroeconomic stability and the principles underlying World Bank and IMF policies. I know how to read the fine print about methodologies, I understand that all conclusions must be substantiated . . . . Two years after graduation, I have no doubt that I chose the best program to help me reach my professional goals.”

Paula has just moved on to a new UN posting in Guatemala and would love to hear from SIPA friends at: hacopian@un.org.
IN MEMORIAM
Harrison Parker, MIA ’48
1924-2000
Class of 1948
First Editor of the Journal of International Affairs
SIPA Class Chair 1999-2000

Class Chair Program
Aids Annual Fund

Now in its second year, the SIPA Class Chair program was created as a way for alumni volunteers to generate support among their former classmates for the SIPA Annual Fund. Giving to the Annual Fund is the most common way for SIPA graduates to support current students and the school. 100% of the funds go directly to student financial aid.

We have a five-year goal to increase the fund to $1 million per year, with 50 percent alumni participation. If you would like to learn more about the annual fund, please contact your class chair at the e-mail or phone number below. If you are interested in volunteering for your class, please contact Senior Development Officer Rodrick Dial at rwd5@columbia.edu or (212) 870-2414.

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Grad Helps Retirees Find Fulfillment

By Raffi Khatchadourian

When Richard “Dick” Rowson (MIA ’50) got a call from a small, Washington, D.C.-area nonprofit organization that needed help drawing up a marketing plan, he knew exactly what to do.

Rowson, director of the Executive Service Corps of Washington, D.C., telephoned his friend Cheryl B. Owen, a 25-year veteran of the public relations and marketing world who was interested in volunteering with a nonprofit.

“I said, ‘Cheryl, I’ve got an interesting assignment for you.’ She and I went out to meet the people at the nonprofit. They liked her, we drew up an agreement, and we were off to the races,” said Rowson, 75, during an interview at the Washington, D.C. apartment he shares with his wife, Elena.

Matching accomplished business executives and professionals with deserving nonprofit organizations is the latest professional calling for Rowson, who already has enjoyed successful careers in foreign affairs education, broadcast journalism, publishing and the military.

The Executive Service Corps of Washington, D.C., is one of 45 nationwide affiliates of the New York-based National Executive Service Corps (NESC). The private, nonprofit NESC each year helps thousands of nonprofit organizations, schools, religious groups and government agencies by hooking them up with volunteer business executives and professionals. Like Owen, who has left the Fortune 500 world for her own consulting business, some NESC volunteers are still in the workforce. The majority, however, are retirees looking for the fulfillment and rewards that come with doing good work.

The NESC is only one among a growing number of organizations based on the principle that retired professionals and business executives have a wealth of experience and expertise that should not be wasted. More and more retirees are signing up with these organizations.

Lazy days filled with fishing, golf and matinee movies are fun for a while, Rowson said, but once the initial euphoria wears off, retirees find that “it’s not enough.”

“The mythology of retirement is changing,” Rowson said, pushing aside a lock of his straight, silver hair. “People are finding that it is really exciting to retire because you can do a lot of interesting things that apply the skills you learned in life.”

Today, Owen is busy writing a marketing plan to help the Interstitial Cystitis Association of Rockville, Maryland, reach a wider audience. The association provides information and support to people with chronic inflammation of the bladder.

Rowson has made dozens of other matches. Ross Grantham, a New Zealand business executive transplanted to Washington, D.C., is drawing up a business plan for the National Career Academy Coalition, a nonprofit which provides vocational training to young people.

Charles McConnell, a retired Wall Street chief financial officer, is helping a Washington, D.C., charter school arrange a real estate deal and bank financing so it can move to a more favorable location.

“The school didn’t know anything about those things and he knows all about it,” Rowson said.

“I really take pleasure out of seeing someone else succeed, especially if I had a little part in helping,” he said.

Rowson started working with professional volunteers two years ago, when he became director of the NESC’s Washington office. He established the Washington, D.C. affiliate earlier this year.

Rowson, who grew up in Beverly Hills, served in the Navy from 1944 to 1947. Two years later, he enrolled in Columbia’s School of International Affairs, now SIPA.

After earning a master’s degree, Rowson spent 12 years at the Foreign Policy Association, then moved to Munich to take a job as director of policy and planning for Radio Free Europe, now known as Radio Free Europe.

Rowson remained with the U.S. government-funded broadcast organization through some of the iciest patches of the Cold War, and helped shape coverage of events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the assassination of President Kennedy. Returning to the United States in 1969, Rowson left behind his work as a “cold warrior” and entered publishing, working as a director for Duke University Press in Durham, North Carolina. Today, when not busy with his ESC duties, he works as a consultant helping authors get their work published.

Rowson sets aside plenty of time for fun. He and Elena are fond of concerts, dance recitals and the theater. The couple summers at their vacation home in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, often joined by their two grown sons and two grandchildren.

“It’s a full life,” said Rowson, laughing.
Grad Loves Broadcast Life (Once She Gets Out of Bed)

By Laura Kreutzer

CNN anchor and SIPA grad Karuna Shinsho loves many aspects of her job: the intellectual challenge, the fast pace of a newsroom, and the exposure to people and cultures from around the world. The hours are a different story.

“I’m a night owl,” said Shinsho (MIA ’94). “I hate waking up early in the morning.”

Hate it or not, Shinsho, 32, stumbles out of bed when most of Hong Kong’s 6.8 million residents are in deep REM, arriving at CNN International’s Asia Pacific Headquarters in the heart of Hong Kong’s financial district at 3:30 a.m. By the time she scans the news wires, prepares for the morning’s interviews, and sits down in front of the camera, it’s still only 6:00 a.m.

For the next three and a half hours, Shinsho anchors four live segments of CNN’s Asia-Pacific morning news program, “CNN This Morning,” and co-hosts “Asian Edition,” a 15-minute live news show geared toward international business travelers and global viewers.

“It’s a pretty grueling schedule,” said Shinsho, who is single. “It’s not just a half-hour show in the morning and then we’re done.”

But she’s not complaining. Shinsho said that the sacrifices are well worth it.

“It’s great to be able to broaden my horizons and deal with faraway countries that I’ve never been to,” Shinsho, whose mother is Japanese and father American, was born and raised in Hawaii, but moved with her family to Tokyo at age 13. In 1990, she graduated from Tokyo’s Sophia University with a major in political science. Her first big break in broadcast journalism came when she was hired to anchor the English-language news program, “Today’s Japan,” for NHK, Japan’s national public television network.

The 25-minute daily show featured stories about economic, political and cultural issues in Japan.

Although Shinsho was confident of her reporting skills, she wasn’t sure she was up to the challenge intellectually. The solution, she decided, was to study international affairs. After checking out the possibilities, Shinsho settled on SIPA.

“At the time, I was covering Japan for viewers from around the world,” she said, “so I wanted to learn more about how other countries and other scholars look at Japan.”

“You really have to know what you’re talking about. You have to have a deeper understanding of the issues, so you can make your interviews more interesting and more educational,” Shinsho explained.

After graduating with a regional concentration in East Asia, Shinsho took a job as anchor for the Singapore television show, “Asia Business News,” where she remained for three and a half years. She joined CNN’s Hong Kong team in the spring of 1999.

Though thousands of miles and six years separate her from SIPA, Shinsho sometimes feels as if she never left.

She spends a good part of her working day conducting research on international issues—just as she did at SIPA. Her viewers are not unlike her professors; if she does well, they let her know; if she doesn’t, she hears about that too.

“All of me feels that, oh my god, I’m not out of school yet,” said Shinsho, laughing.

CNN International’s Asia-Pacific programs reach an estimated 26 million households in 29 countries throughout Asia, making Shinsho one of the best-known faces in Hong Kong TV news.

Shinsho said she doesn’t mind the double takes and autograph requests.

“Most of the time, you’re just looking straight into the black hole of the camera and you don’t know who’s watching,” she said. “So when you do hear comments from people that they watch the show, it’s great.”

Laura Kreutzer (MIA ’00) interned last summer at Bloomberg News in Hong Kong. Before coming to SIPA, she was an English teacher and interpreter in Japan, where she was a regular viewer of Karuna Shinsho on Today’s Japan.
alumni scattered around the world. One plan she’s working on is to encourage faculty members who are traveling outside the country to hook up with alumni, much in the way that Associate Dean Robin Lewis gets together for lunches and dinners with SIPA grads on his frequent recruiting trips to far-flung locations.

Getting alumni involved with SIPA often means simply getting them together, Riedl said. Whether they meet for drinks after work or attend SIPA-sponsored lectures, Riedl wants graduates to feel tied to the school no matter where they are.

“You can still be part of SIPA once you’ve physically left the building,” she said.

Riedl speaks from experience. She’s president of the New York chapter of her own alumni association at the University of Dayton, from which she graduated in 1991 with a degree in communications.

Riedl came to SIPA from the New York Botanical Garden, where she was director of new membership. Before that, she was a fundraiser for the Pleasant Village Community Gardens, which cares for two lots in East Harlem.

In the short term, Riedl wants to see stronger SIPA alumni organizations in Washington, D.C., and New York City, where the bulk of graduates wind up. Following that, her next big project is to organize other large pockets of alumni in London, San Francisco and Tokyo. Getting in touch with alumni is easy, she said. The hard part is finding people in those cities who are willing to do the legwork.

“I can’t spend my time in Tokyo to set up a happy hour,” she said, “unfortunately.”

SIPA grads interested in starting alumni organizations in any city are encouraged to contact Riedl at (212) 854-8598 or by e-mail at nr290@columbia.edu.

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Eddie Brown Writes Dear SIPA...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

blessed by the rebels in the early 1990s. They were killed not long ago during rebel infighting.

Violence continues to plague Sierra Leone despite the July 1999 Lome Peace Accords that outlined a power-sharing arrangement between the rebels and the democratically elected government. While the peace process has been less than perfect, it has renewed hope in the future and allowed organizations like World Vision to provide aid to previously inaccessible rebel-held territories in the north and east of the country.

I am based in the southern provincial capital of Bo, which is the base for most of our upcountry operations. It is a sleepy and beautiful town where people smile and wave and often call out my name when I pass by. Eddie Murphy is hugely popular here, so my name is instantly remembered and fondly repeated. Co-workers jokingly call me the mayor of Bo because I am so well known and liked.

The affection is mutual. Sierra Leoneans are the friendliest, gentlest people I’ve ever known — a sad irony in light of the extreme violence this country has endured. Infants’ hands hacked off with machetes, young girls gang raped, children burned alive in their homes, families mutilated, injected with drugs, and forced to kill their families and join the rebel movement.

I admit Sierra Leone is not a nice place to live. I’m exposed daily to the horrendous consequences of human evil and greed. (Illicit diamond mining has fueled the war.) I get malaria and weird tropical skin conditions. I haven’t had a hot shower in months. Untill recently, curfew was 6 p.m. Now that it is 11 p.m., the highlight of my social life is Friday night bingo at the Nigerian Peacekeepers Officers’ Club.

Yet there is no place in the world I’d rather live. I’m on the frontlines of the human experience, seeing the worst, but also the best sides of humanity. Children still play outside; cultural life is vibrant; and families love and look out for each other, despite the destruction and divisiveness of civil war. I’m American as apple pie, but I don’t miss the United States at all. (OK, I miss the Denver Broncos and Taco Bell, but not much else.)

So that is my life after graduate school. SIPA, with its economic graphs and political theories, seems like a million years ago. I still think that New York is the greatest city on earth, but it is not the only city and it is good to see how the rest of the world lives.

Well, the helicopter to Freetown is about to land, so I better close this letter now. Hope you enjoy your summer. And, as graduation rolls around, I hope you all find jobs that make you as happy as I am.

Sincerely yours,
Eddie Brown

Eddie Brown (MIA ’99) is from Denver, Colorado. He served in the Marines from 1989 to 1993. At SIPA, he wrote for Slant magazine.

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Helping New Yorkers Gain Access to Health Insurance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

of the uninsured, PPNYC does not have the capacity to screen everyone — nor should we. If individuals are entitled to Medicaid benefits, the government should take responsibility for enrolling them. To have a real impact and ensure that all those eligible are enrolled in Medicaid, there must be systematic changes to the entire Medicaid application process to make it less onerous and more accessible to potential applicants. PPNYC urges city government to work toward realizing this goal.

Diana Bruce Oosterveld (MPA ’97), PPNYC’s manager for marketing and outreach, helped develop the Entitlement Advocacy Program. For information about this program or to receive marketing materials, please contact her at diana.oosterveld@ppnyc.org.
Thank you!

The Office of Career Services and the Office of External Relations would like to thank all alumni for participating in the various alumni receptions, panels and other activities hosted during the 1999-2000 academic year. Your generosity in taking time out of your busy schedule to attend these networking events is very much appreciated by SIPA students, faculty and staff. Thank you all again for your participation and we look forward to seeing you all at next year’s events.

Compiled by
Mike Hickman

1959
As chairman of the legal committee of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI), Irwin Heimowitz, MIA, lobbies against proposed changes in the Israeli income tax code on behalf of all 28 immigrant associations in Israel. When not helping immigrants from financial ruin, Irwin works as a partner in the law firm of Herut, Heimowitz & Co, in Tel Aviv. He practices international law, specializing in private and corporate matters in the United States, Israel and other countries—from real estate to international marriage cases. heimw@netvision.net.il.

1963
Stephen Hunt, MIA, who studied Africa at Columbia, is now the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Cathay International Ltd. He lives in Hong Kong.

1968
Patricia M. Cloherty, MIA, is a special limited partner at Patricof & Co. Ventures, Inc. in New York. Last fall she participated in “A Celebration of SIPA Women,” an alumni event held at the University Club in New York City. She led a panel discussion on “Balancing Public/Private Sector Interests and Careers” along with Elizabeth Mathieu ‘79, President and CEO, Newberger Berman Trust Co., and Professor Emeritus Janow, Director of SIPA’s International Economics Policy Program.

1971
As director of marketing for the University of Houston, Susan Snyder Rosthal, MIA, has been on a roll. Last spring, the American Marketing Association and Women in Communications honored her for her work on the university’s advertising campaign. rosthal@uh.edu.

1973
John Kuhn Bleimaier, MIA, is still telling it like it is from his log cabin deep in the windy, poplar wooded mountains of New Jersey. In October, he delivered a lecture at Moscow University on the need for continued general education, with exposure to the masterpieces of Western civilization, in an era of ever-greater technical specialization. An avid automobile racer, John and his Cosworth head “16 valve” brought home autocross trophies from the Delaware Valley, Winchester, Virginia and Tampa, Florida. He also had an article published in Conde Nast’s Russian periodical, Vogue, on the automobile in the next century.

1976
After 14 years in international banking and management consulting in New York, Los Angeles and Hong Kong, Ruth L. Eliel, MIA, finally figured out what she wanted to do when she grew up. In 1991 she became the managing director of the renowned Lewitzky Dance Company in Los Angeles, helping the company recover from the brink of bankruptcy. The company closed in 1997 with the retirement of founder Bela Lewitzky. But Ruth landed on her feet. She’s currently executive director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. eielcooney@earthlink.net.

A year after graduation, Jeffrey Kashida, MIA, left a job at UNDP to work with toilets, tofu and elevators. As a consumer market researcher, Jeffrey worked for various New York state companies for five years until he established his own market research business in White Plains, New York. He sold it a few years later, yet continued his adventures in capitalism, working as a consultant for several New York-based Japanese companies. After a stint in Seattle, Jeffrey is back in Tokyo and wants to create a management team to take advantage of the next venture capital explosion out of Japan. He asks all interested SIPA alums to drop him a line. 01181-3-5688-5521. Or e-mail: jkashida@ace-denken.com.

1978
Susan Aaronson, MIA, just completed a book on how nongovernmental organizations have influenced the debate over trade and globalization, to be published by Johns Hopkins Press. She is also the author of a history of the GATT called Trade and the American Dream and a primer relating ordinary people’s daily lives, entitled Are There Tradeoffs When Americans Trade?

1979
Romanian Gabriel Plesea, MIA, was a management information systems specialist before turning to literary pursuits, ultimately publishing a variety of writings from poetry and short prose to novels and journalism. Since 1991, Gabriel has had two novels published and filed a series of literary columns with Jurnalul Literar and Lucafural, two literary magazines back in his native Bucharest. From 1993 to 1997 he covered the United Nations for the daily Romania Libera, also of Bucharest, and currently contributes to Lumen Libera Romanaasca, a Romanian weekly publication in New York City.

1980
After working within the international banking, trade and finance industries for 14 years, Lynn G. Lindsay, MIA, finally threw in the towel. He is happy now as finance director for People Incorporated, a small human services agency with offices beside the Mississippi River in St. Paul, Minnesota. LGLindsay@aol.com.

1981
Laurie A. Brand, MIA, was promoted last January from associate professor to professor of international relations at the University of Southern California.

Meredith Wong Cummings, MIA, is an associate professor of political science at Northwestern University. Her latest book, The Development State, was published last fall. In addition to teaching, she is busy working on a research project on economic reform in East Asia for the United Nations Institute for Social Development. mwc@merle.acns.nwu.edu.
1983
As the appropriation manager for the Defense Health Program, Rachel Cooper man Foster, MPA, oversees a $16 billion health services program for eight billion beneficiaries, the largest program of its kind in the world. After leaving SIPA, Rachel became a presidential management intern at the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), and has been there ever since. In 1994, with an OSD graduate fellowship, she received a post-master’s degree in health services administration from George Washington University. Rachel helped to ensure that SIPA, as a support for giving, would continue to be needed.

Max Dietshe, MIA, joined Openheimer Funds, Inc., as vice president and director of marketing communications. Previously, he spent 11 years in a variety of marketing positions for Deloitte and Touche. He is lives in Brooklyn with his wife and daughter. wswinslow@aol.com.

1984
Aubrey Alexander Carlson, MIA, is a political officer stationed with the American Consulate in Hong Kong until 2002. He is also the proud parent of a millennium baby. Karen Madison Carlson was born January 19th at 10:32 a.m. in Hong Kong. Carlson was born January 10, 1984.

Yukihiro Nishimura, MIA, is a managing director of derivatives and structured products marketing for CDC M arches Tokyo, a securities arm of Caisse de Dépôt et Consignation, a French public fiduciary institution. yngishimura@cdcmarche.fr.

1988
As the German bureau chief for The Detroit News, Daniel Howes, MIA, is covering the automotive industry, specifically, but has been around Europe to write about elections in Austria and turmoil in Russia. He is based in Wiesbaden, also writes a weekly column on the global auto industry.

1989
Janet A. Burroughs, MIA, is a co-founder and program director of the Learning English Adult Program, Inc. (LEAP) in Manhattan. LEAP offers free English classes to adult immigrants and refugees, 18 and older, who live in New York City. Janet is also an adjunct professor at Manhattan College, where she teaches a critical thinking course on immigration and American diversity. Currently, Janet is back at school, pursuing an advanced certificate in teaching English as a second language at NYU. LEAP jan@aol.com.

Last April, Cecilia Ciepiel, MIA, returned to the United States after four years in Russia working for USAID in Moscow. Cecilia led the agency’s Regional Investment Initiative, created to troubleshoot economic growth problems in Russia. She now works with an Arlington, Virginia-based consulting firm called the CARANA Corporation, which operates within the former Soviet Union. ciepiel@carana.com.

After almost three years working on technical-assistance issues in competition law at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Massimiliano Gangi, MIA, is back in the United States working for the Italian Competition Authority. massimiliano.gangi@agcm.it.

1990
Karen Alexander, MPA, has worked for the New Jersey Transit Authority as manager of its accessibility group for almost three years. Karen is responsible for the authority’s compliance to the Americans with Disabilities Act, making sure those New Jerseyans requiring paratransit get a lift.

1991
In 1998, Sebastian Corradi, MPA, founded Mission First Capitol Advisors in Arlington, Virginia, a financial consulting firm specializing in affordable housing projects that brings together investors and developers from all over the world. Previously, Sebastian worked for the Office of Management and Budget under Mayor Dinkins. He received his law degree from George Washington University and worked at the National Equity Fund in Chicago, supervising the underwriting of investments in affordable housing projects eligible for low-income housing tax credits. corradi@mission-first.com.

David Oliver, MIA, lives with his wife, Roberta, and five-year-old daughter, Antonia, in Brooklyn, New York. The two are expecting another child in early November. David works in the supportive housing field within the five boroughs of New York. DWO Brooklyn@aol.com.

Beatriz Pont, MIA, recently became an administrator with the Directorate for Education, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs at the OECD in Paris. Before moving to France, Beatriz worked for Arthur Andersen Consulting in Barcelona and the Economic and Social Council of Spain in Madrid. beatriz.pont@oecd.org.

Gregory Viscusi, MIA, lives in Paris, where he writes feature stories for Bloomberg News. gviscus@bloomberg.net.

1992
After graduation, Sara Benioff, MPA, worked in Brooklyn for two years as director of development for Project Reach, a New York City youth project. But Sara soon left, working in various streets of Brooklyn for London. She currently works as the national program manager for Crime Concern, a youth mentoring and education program that initially operated only in a single borough of London. Crime Concern quickly blossomed into a national initiative after Tony Blair and John Major visited the project two years ago. Today there are 12 similar projects throughout the UK. Sara lives to the north of London in Islington. sara.benioff@crimeconcern.org.uk.

Donna Lee Van Cott, MIA, a “singing” assistant professor of political science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, released a CD of original songs, titled “Eclipse,” in December. The revival of her musical career, which she put on hold while at SIPA, didn’t stop Donna from publishing her second book, The Friendly Liquidation of the Past: The Politics of Diversity in Latin America last March. You can visit Donna’s web page at http://web.utk.edu/~dvancott or send her an e-mail at dvancott@utk.edu.

Sissel McCarthy, MIA, has been on maternity leave caring for her little bundle of millennium joy – Justin, born Jan. 1 at 3:11 p.m. The four-time mom is in her sixth year at London-based anchor for CNN’s “World Business Today.” sissel.mccarthy@turner.com.

After working for New York City’s Office of Management and Budget for four years, Judy Salwein, MPA, was accepted to law school at the University of Pennsylvania. She graduated last year and currently works at the Wall Street law firm of Cahill, Gordon and Reindel. This fall she will clerk for a New York federal judge.
**1994**

**Sandra Bramwell**, MIA, left Manhattan for a warmer island after graduating from SIPA. In Jamaica, Sandra started Versan Educational Services, which offers preparation seminars for the SSAT, SAT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT and M CAT entrance exams. Catering to Caribbean and Latin American students interested in pursuing an advanced degree in the United States, Versan boasts an 80% success rate for placements within Ivy League schools. Ms. Bramwell now lives in New York, where she works as the general manager of GFC General Finance Securities in Istanbul, Turkey, where she’s been for many stops in between.

**1995**

**Last July, Karen Cellarius**, MPA, bought a little yellow house with a laundry chute and a backyard in Portland, Oregon. Karen works at Portland State University as the manager of a research project funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**1996**

**Julie Chung**, MIA, joined the U.S. Foreign Service after graduating and currently works as an economic officer assigned to the American Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. chungjj@state.gov.

“Nothing no matter where you go, there you are,” a positive philosophy that Constantine Dantoulis, MIA, uses to help remind himself that people’s individual strengths are their greatest asset. The Greek-born SIPA grad worked for AT & T Solutions and Booz Allen & Hamilton before accepting a position as managing director for Z-Tel in Tampa, Florida last June. Z-Tel is a new local, long-distance and Internet telephony company taking advantage of the growing telecommunications market in the United States. ccd@pobox.com.

**1997**

**After moving to Silicon Valley, Ajoy Chandra**, MIA / M BA, launched AsianTrading.Net, an Internet-based international trade platform. Ajoy, a Bay Area devotee of pick-up frisbee, encourages alumni to stay in touch. achandra@asiantrading.net.

One of the great things about working for Moody’s Investor Service for Patrick Ford, MIA, is that he gets to work with SIPA alums and former classmates. In 1998, Patrick was transferred to Moody’s in San Francisco, where he currently covers the Pacific Coast region. He lives near Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco, “the nexus of anti-corporatism,” and enjoys attending SIPA’s monthly happy hours at the Thirsty

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**Jim Wareck**, MPA, is the deputy director of congressional and federal affairs for the Mayor of Washington, D.C., Anthony Williams. Before working in Washington, Jim worked on the Connecticut State Legislature for four years and even ran for senator (losing in a close and controversial race). Jim fondly remembers the annual SIPA Follies as his first bonding moment with MIA’s.

**Hidemasa Yamakawa**, MIA, lives in New York, where he is general manager for PanDao.com. Hide@pan dao.com.


**Constantine Dantoulis**, MIA, was recently named a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute at the New School in New York City. His interests in Latin American politics, culture, finance and immigration issues prompted him to write the book, Why The Cock Fight: Dominicans, Haitians and the Struggle for Hispaniola.

**Susan Smith**, MPA/ MPH, will return to Columbia University next fall to become the director of special projects for the School of Public Health. While at SIPA, she worked full-time at the Carnegie Corporation of New York. She had the opportunity to work on a grantmaking program for health and youth projects after graduation. Presently, Susan is responsible for overseeing multi-million dollar grant initiatives in 11 cities concerning health, early childhood and adolescent development. She looks forward to her career transition and her homecoming to Columbia.

**For the last two years, Alexander Winslow**, MPA, has been the director of communications for the Bay Area Council, a business-sponsored public policy organization that works on economic and quality-of-life issues in the San Francisco Bay Area. Having run the Boston Marathon on April 17, Alexander plans to go the distance by getting married this August in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**David Gould**, MIA, is a senior field adviser working with USAID in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

**1993**

**Steve Walker**, MIA, has taken a unique path back into the classroom. Originally at SIPA in 1984-85, Steve left to work for the U.S. Foreign Service. After tours in Mexico, the then-Soviet Union and Washington, D.C., he returned to SIPA with a Zuckerman Fellowship in 1992 to finish his degree. Between 1994 and 1998, Steve co-founded the American Committee to Save Bosnia, the Action Council for Peace in the Balkans and the Balkan Institute—organizations that led efforts to lift the arms embargo and stop the ethnic and religious partitioning of Bosnia. Steve is now a high school social studies teacher in Westchester County, New York, and finds teaching high schoolers, “the most exciting and rewarding thing I have ever done—and that says a lot after Moscow and Bosnia.” swwalker@fcc.net.

**Cem Pensoy**, MIA, was recently named a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute at the New School in New York City. His interests in Latin American politics, culture, finance and immigration issues prompted him to write the book, Why The Cock Fight: Dominicans, Haitians and the Struggle for Hispaniola, published last year by H. Ili & Wang. michele@wucker.com.

**1996**

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“Nothing no matter where you go, there you are,” a positive philosophy that Constantine Dantoulis, MIA, uses to help remind himself that people’s individual strengths are their greatest asset. The Greek-born SIPA grad worked for AT & T Solutions and Booz, Allen & Hamilton before accepting a position as managing director for Z-Tel in Tampa, Florida last June. Z-Tel is a new local, long-distance and Internet telephony company taking advantage of the growing telecommunications market in the United States. ccd@pobox.com.

**Alexander Groushovsky**, MIA, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine, where he is a senior adviser for KPMG, Barents Group L.L.C., helping privatized Ukrainian businesses.

**Cem Pensoy**, MIA, lives in Istanbul, Turkey, where he’s the general manager of GFC General Finance Securities Corp., a firm offering wealth management and brokerage services for private investors. cem@gfc.com.tr.

**James Prusky**, MIA / M BA, recently completed Citibank’s two-year Global Emerging Markets Associate program and is now vice-president of business development for Citigroup’s online service, e-Citi. During the past two years, James has worked in Hong Kong, Singapore, London, Budapest and Bogotá, with many stops in between. prusky@hotmail.com.

**Stacy Gilbert**, MIA, is putting her economic policy and development studies of Central Europe to good use for the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. Stacy has worked on the Kuro M refugee crisis, Albanian elections, Balkan reconstruction and refugee issues in Pakistan and Afghanistan. She spent last summer in Macedonia and Kosovo as part of USAID’s Disaster Action Response Team. She plans to take a long break this summer and ride her bike from her native Washington state to Washington, D.C., her current home. sgilbert@state.gov.

**Thomas D. Zweifel**, MIA, works with a range of clients from The Hunger Project to the Harvard Business School, as CEO of the Swiss Consulting Group. Thomas will teach a new leadership course at SIPA next fall. Leadership in International and Public Affairs offers students an intellectual framework for executive administration, focusing on international and public affairs within government, non-government and transnational organizations. tdz@swisconsultinggroup.com.
president of strategic development for Dentsu, Inc., an advertising agency. 

Recently, Jill developed a welfare-to-work program for families with substance abuse problems that is now being implemented city-wide. She also serves as the representative for her agency to the HUD Homeless Management Information System Users Program.

As a financial analyst with IBM Global Services, Raphael Gross, MIA, works on strategic outsourcing, builds financial models and forecasts industry movements. He lives in Riverdale, New York, with his wife, Miria. Raphael would love to hear from other SIPA alumni who work in finance either in the United States or abroad. raphgross@yahoo.com.

Jerome Hohman, MPA, works at the U.S. Department of State as a budget analyst in the Bureau of Finance Management Policy. He reviews U.S. foreign policy as it interfaces with the Office of Management and Budget, White House and congressional objectives. Last month, Jerome had the opportunity to travel with President Clinton to India, serving as a member of the Department of State, White House travel support team.

Kris Mayes, MPA, a national political reporter for the Arizona Republic, was assigned to cover the 2000 Presidential election cycle. From October 1999 through March 2000, she followed Arizona Senator John McCain, and Texas Governor George W. Bush along the campaign trail through Iowa, New Hampshire, California, Michigan and South Carolina, making cameo appearances on CNN’s “Hardline News” and appearing on the cover of the New York Times. However, she did hit some bumps along the way. Mayes soon became the only reporter in America banned from McCain’s bus (The Straight Talk Express), a fate she dealt with by renting a car and following the Senator’s bus through snow drifts and sub-zero temperatures—its a challenge for a native Arizonan. Mayes’s ride is not over; she plans to cover the Republican National Convention in July, and later the general election.

Ron Perkel, MPA, is a management analyst for the U.S. Foreign Agriculture Service (a division of the USDA). He has responsibilities including making the agency’s food aid programs more efficient and e-commerce ready. Recently, Ron represented the USDA, promoting export credit guarantee programs in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras for the Central American frozen food market.

Mary Kay Santore, MPA, is a policy analyst at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Policy Economics and Innovation. She works on a range of activities focused on minimizing the environmental impacts of transportation and development decisions. In November, she represented the EPA at the biannual meeting of the OECD in Paris. France. She has also served as the EPA representative for a multimillion-dollar grant program administered by the Department of Transportation that supports local initiatives to integrate transportation and community preservation strategies.

1998

Kevin Baumert, MIA, works on issues relating to emission reduction and sustainable development in developing countries at the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C. He projects assess policies negotiated under the Kyoto Protocols. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Milo Sannoyama, MPA, lives in Tokyo, Japan and works as a strategic planner for Dentsu, Inc., an advertising agency.

1999

Jill Berry, MPA, works at the New York City Department of Homeless Services as a senior policy analyst in the Division of Policy and Planning. She coordinates policy for the agency and works with nonprofit, Federal, State and City agencies to develop programs on childcare, substance abuse, mental illness, employment, and healthcare issues as they relate to the homeless.

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Mary Kay Santore, MPA, is a policy analyst at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Policy Economics and Innovation. She works on a range of activities focused on minimizing the environmental impacts of transportation and development decisions. In November, she represented the EPA at the biannual meeting of the OECD in Paris. France. She has also served as the EPA representative for a multimillion-dollar grant program administered by the Department of Transportation that supports local initiatives to integrate transportation and community preservation strategies.

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