For nearly 35 years, the dean of the School of International and Public Affairs has had an unparalleled view of the world—literally and figuratively. From my perch on the 14th floor of the International Affairs Building, I look west, past the lovely dome of Columbia’s main administrative building—Low Library—and over to New Jersey. Most of the windows face directly south, though, and as I work into the evening, the lights of the Empire State Building come on and multistory skyscrapers illuminate the horizon. Every day, I am reminded that SIPA is part of Columbia University in the City of New York—and that New York is a remarkable mirror of the world as a whole. This issue of SIPA News is devoted to exploring and celebrating the nature of urban life in the twenty-first century. Virtually since the beginning of human habitation, cities have been associated with novelty, adventure, chance, and challenge. As we approach the day when more than half of all humanity lives in major urban agglomerations, we need to think系统性地 about the risks and rewards of urban life. One hundred and forty languages are spoken in New York by people new to the city who are here because they aspire to success for themselves and other services for them all. New York may be but one example of the modern global city, but it is a remarkable one. SIPA is fortunate to be a part of a place that is not only a wonderful laboratory for public policy research and education but also a place where everyone, including all our students, who come from 106 different countries, can find someone else from home. For those of you who haven’t had a chance to visit in a few years, I hope this issue of SIPA News inspires you to pay us a call. The view is still spectacular.

Lisa Anderson
Dean
In support of these Goals, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Mark Malloch Brown, launched the Millennium Project to recommend the best strategies for achieving the MDGs. Over a period of three years, the Millennium Project, under the overall direction of Columbia Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs, is working to devise implementation plans that will allow all developing countries to meet the MDGs and thereby substantially improve the human condition. While this is a bold ambition, it is also necessary and achievable.

The work of the Millennium Project is carried forward by ten thematic task forces comprising representatives from academia, the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and UN agencies, with the majority of participants coming from outside the UN system. The 15 to 20 members of each task force are all global leaders in their area, selected on the basis of their technical expertise and practical experience.

As an advisory body to the UN, the Millennium Project will report its findings directly to the UN secretary-general and the administrator of the UNDP. Task Force 8, “Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers and Urban Planning,” was established to specifically focus on the challenges of global urbanization and its impact on the urban poor. My purpose here is to convey the extent of the global urban challenge.

At the September 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit, the heads of state of more than 190 nations adopted eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals set clear targets for reducing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by 2015.

The problems of globalization in the twenty-first century are largely going to be challenges of urbanization. While the global population is expected to increase at an annual rate of 0.97 percent per annum over the next 30 years, the urbanized population of low- and middle-income countries will increase by almost 2.4 percent per annum. The doubling time for the urban population in these areas is 29 years, while for high-income countries it is 145 years.

Today almost two billion people live in the urbanized regions of low- and middle-income countries. The implications of this are enormous,
Planning a Solution

1. Work with slum dwellers to upgrade slums across the board

The forced demolition of urban slums does not reduce poverty, it creates poverty. It does not reduce slums, it simply removes dwellings. It does not improve the quality of life, it may make it even worse. It is also very expensive—indeed, as detailed in the 1997 report of the UN Secretary-General’s Task Force on Slums, the cost of upgrading existing slums is only a fraction of the cost of demolishing and rebuilding slum areas. This policy of slum clearance is thus both counterproductive and sustainable. It is also harmful to public health, as it increases the risk of disease transmission.

2. Plan for new urban settlements

Elliott Sclar is professor of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Professor Sclar is the co-coordinator of the Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers of the Millennium Project.

Adequate shelter is a human right and a fundamental attribute of human development. Improved living conditions are key to improving the health and economic well-being of the urban poor. Good urban governance is the key to making this happen. It is important to understand that “significant improvement” does not mean slum clearance or slum eradication. These practices have proven largely ineffective and socially divisive in countries at all income levels. Such policies have only exacerbated the housing problems of the very poor by forcing vacant dwellers onto urban peripheries and informal settlements. Task Force 8 seeks to demonstrate that changes in policies, plans, investments, attitudes, and processes by governments and international agencies can improve the lives of slum dwellers and ensure better living conditions for all urban residents for generations to come. It is possible to reverse the forces presently creating and sustaining slums, as well as stimulate the forces that generate good quality, low-income accommodation and settlements. Although the ostensible target for this goal—improving the lives of 100 million people—is large in absolute terms, it is actually small in relation to the challenge. According to the most recent estimates, 2.924 billion people can be classified as slum dwellers—this is one out of every four of the world’s population. Of this group, one out of every ten currently lives in slums.

As such, the term “slum-dweller” can mean, first, a person who lives in a settlement without a roof, in which case an appropriate policy response is to improve the settlement as a whole. Second, a settlement can have one or more physical characteristics that make it unacceptable for habitation—this is a true slum. In this sense, the appropriate response is to begin operations to improve the settlement, even if the settlement is not formally recognized as a slum.

Notes
1 For more detailed information on the MDGs and the Millennium Project, see the project Web site (www.millenniumproject.org).
2 The world’s “slum-dwellers” are defined as a settlement in which at least half of the population lives in poor-quality housing or lacks one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation facilities, sufficient living space, dwellings of sufficient durability and structural quality, and security of tenure. Not surprisingly, the present global urban population is approximately 3 billion. Hence, with almost 1 billion slum dwellers, we now live in a world where one of every three urban dwellers already lives in a slum. Based on 2001 estimates, the proportion of the urban population living in slums in Europe and other developed regions is “only” 6 percent. But contrast, 41 percent of the urban populations in the developing regions taken as a whole live in slums. But in the least developed countries, this percentage jumps to more than 78 percent. Urban slums are among the worlds most life-threatening environments. In addition, slum dwellers are excluded from the attributes of urban life that remain a monopoly of a privileged minority—political voice, decent housing, safety and the rule of law, education and health, decent transportation, and adequate incomes. Indeed, in virtually all low- and middle-income nations, a significant part of the problems of extreme hunger, income-poverty, and inadequate provision for water, sanitation, schools, and health care are urban problems. Within most national populations, urban residents make up a significant part of the population that suffers very high infant, child, and maternal mortality rates, as well as very high rates of infection for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other diseases that the MDGs seek to combat.

3 924 million people can be classified as slum dwellers—that is, lacking one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation facilities, sufficient living space, dwellings of sufficient durability and structural quality, and security of tenure. But slightly differently, the present global urban population is approximately 3 billion. Hence, with almost 1 billion slum dwellers, we now live in a world where one of every three urban dwellers already lives in a slum. Based on 2001 estimates, the proportion of the urban population living in slums in Europe and other developed regions is “only” 6 percent. But contrast, 41 percent of the urban populations in the developing regions taken as a whole live in slums. But in the least developed countries, this percentage jumps to more than 78 percent. Urban slums are among the worlds most life-threatening environments. In addition, slum dwellers are excluded from the attributes of urban life that remain a monopoly of a privileged minority—political voice, decent housing, safety and the rule of law, education and health, decent transportation, and adequate incomes. Indeed, in virtually all low- and middle-income nations, a significant part of the problems of extreme hunger, income-poverty, and inadequate provision for water, sanitation, schools, and health care are urban problems. Within most national populations, urban residents make up a significant part of the population that suffers very high infant, child, and maternal mortality rates, as well as very high rates of infection for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other diseases that the MDGs seek to combat.

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Shacks in a slum area of Manila near the Pasig River, Philippines.
For the last two years, Ester Fuchs, Professor of Urban Politics and Public Affairs at SIPA, has been on public service leave, working as Special Adviser for Governance and Strategic Planning to the mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg. "Being in the middle of things is a great education," says Fuchs, "and teaching in the fall is simply impossible."

Fuchs: That link between capital mobility and political behavior won't surprise most political scientists! For me, the bottom line is that people still want to live in New York—although the recession has hurt a lot of people and growing inequality has really squeezed the middle class. At the same time, this has meant that there are still plenty of people making money on Wall Street and willing to pay top dollar for a piece of the action.

Anderson: I think my teaching of policy will be much more informal, which my students will likely miss, but which will give me more flexibility. I think I will use the remainder of my time at SIPA as the opportunity of a lifetime, to be part of an ongoing, thoughtful, and responsible public policy dialogue.

Upcoming Conference at SIPA December 2004

Governing a Multicultural City in a Democratic Society: New York and Urban Policy around the World

Around the world cities are confronting dilemmas posed by increasing transnational migration, as new culturally, linguistically, and ethnically diverse populations converge on urban centers, bringing valuable new skills, talents, and outlets but also new public policy challenges.

New York has had the longest experience of any global city in grappling with the demands of democratic governance in a multicultural context. And the School of International and Public Affairs, with its urban location and expertise in the field of public policy, is well suited to host a forum to discuss these challenges.

This conference will showcase New York's efforts in several crucial policy domains—policing, public health, and education—and provide an opportunity for leaders of other global cities to share their experiences.

Check the SIPA Web site in the fall for details and registration information.
An Old City Reborn: Is Shanghai the Next New York?

by Xiaodan Zhang

The first weekend after I arrived in Shanghai to start my field research in 1999, friends of mine insisted on taking me for a drive along the newly constructed Pujiang Avenue. The boulevard runs through Shanghai’s Pudong district, a vast area on the east bank of the Huangpu River that in 1990 was still an open expanse of farmland. According to my friends, a trip to Pudong promised spectacular views of the old Western banks and office buildings along the Bund, the riverfront business district of Old Shanghai.

But why bother, I thought. I had seen Manhattan’s night skyline plenty of times from Queens or New Jersey. Since I couldn’t turn down the invitation, I went without much enthusiasm—but in the end I did come away impressed, and not because of the view. What struck me more were the speed of Shanghai’s development, its sense of competitiveness, and the pride of the city’s residents. All these embody a spirit best summarized by an official slogan I saw on a banner: “Connecting to the International Track.”

The phrase means doing everything in accordance with global standards, and my friends tell me it’s very chic now. Clearly, the “international track” is a thinly veiled metaphor for the capitalist world. This naked desire—to catch up with the West, to do things as the West does them and in the same way as the West—is written on the façade of every new high-rise and every steel frame of the four new bridges across the Huangpu.

Deng Xiaoping, the Communist Party’s supreme leader in the early 1990s, gets much of the credit for invigorating Shanghai, since he gave the municipal government more financial autonomy in 1992. Unlike the “special economic zones” along the southern coast, Shanghai did not take off until the whole country was more than a decade into its market reform—but the city has been speeding ahead ever since.

For statistics, readers can visit the municipal government’s Web site at: www.shanghai.gov.cn/gb/shanghai/node8059/basicfacts/index.html.

Located near the mouth of the Yangzi River, Shanghai is...
China's largest city, but until two hundred years ago it was no more than a small fishing town. Its dramatic transformation began in the middle of the nineteenth century, when the Treaty of Nanjing, forcing China after its defeat by Great Britain in the Opium War, designated Shanghai as a “martyr-port,” granting legal privileges to foreign residences and businesses and carving out certain neighborhoods as “concessions” governed by various Western countries and Japan. Shanghai’s rapid development as a center for international trade made it an important player in the global economy by the turn of the twentieth century, when it was known as the “Paris of the East” and attracted adventurous businessmen from around the world.

Old Shanghai’s vigorous, capitalistic, corrupt history came to an abrupt end when the Communists took power in 1949—but even through radical and often tumultuous reforms, Shanghai remained the economic and commercial center of the country. With its technological and managerial edge, the city made an indispensable contribution to China’s development, producing a fifth of all industrial output in the first year of the new socialist regime. Profits from Shanghai’s state-owned enterprises (SOEs) financed two-thirds of basic industrial investment throughout China—a boon to the rest of the country but a heavy burden on the city’s own economy, which stagnated until the early 1990s.

Deng’s life-giving nod, which allowed the city to retain more of its own earnings and turned Pudong into a “development zone” heavily subsidized by the central government, has shaped both the private and public face of Shanghai. The real estate boom has transformed the lives of Shanghai’s residents as well as its skyline. Shanghai has become a major global financial center, and the city’s reforms and private developers are the main players in this sector, and the real estate boom has transformed the lives of Shanghai’s residents as well as its skyline.

The majority of people, of course, can only afford new apartments beyond the city center. Most families did not own their old apartments, which originally belonged to the government or the SOEs they worked for. But if they can get the “right to use” to an old apartment downtown, they can often sell it to help pay for a new purchase or rent it out to help cover a mortgage. Quite a number of people still cannot afford new apartments, and their only option is to wait for the city or a private developer to take an interest in the land underneath their residences. They will then be assigned to a new apartment, though probably far from the city center. For most retirees who cannot get financial help from their grown-up children, this is often the best chance for getting new housing.

Better housing conditions are changing people’s lives and family structures to some extent. The anonymity of the new developments has weakened the close-knit neighborhood. This is not really a new phenomenon: the “gentrification” of the old foreign concessions is reflected in the type and location of apartment one purchases—but many Shanghainese still cannot afford a new apartment anywhere. Income disparities contribute to gentrification, and gentrification helps to glorify the disparities.

As a sociologist, I find it significant to observe how people feel about the growth in inequality and the values it is nurturing, which may be signs of more serious social problems. Income disparities, along with the hegemonic discourse of “modernity” that now dominates China’s official media, tend to create or reinforce status consciousness among Shanghai residents. Some people have become accustomed to showing no respect for those without money, and therefore, without “cultural capital.” At the same time, the mogaala for the Old Shanghai of the 1920s and 1930s is now being played up to the point of stereotype. People are eager to demonstrate their affinity with the West by identifying with the city’s “glorious” pre-revolutionary past. This justifies some people’s sense of superiority to those from different regions or with lower status, and supports the belief that many of capitalist values—often not at their best but at their worst—come from Shanghai.

Ordinary people, no matter how much money they had, had no way of securing additional housing space and became extremely ingenious in making use of every square inch: attics and balconies were remodeled into nuptial chambers with just enough space for a twin bed. With privacy a bourgeois luxury, newweds had to spend most of the day doing everything together with their in-laws. Some households were so crowded that there was no time for pre-marriage negotiations, since few girls had enough time to turn down a chance at marrying into the “having-a-room” class.

The gradual marketization of housing, the development of satellite towns outside the city, and the urbanization of Pudong have improved housing conditions for the majority of people in Shanghai. The growth in inequality and family structures is reflected in the type and location of apartment one purchases—but many Shanghainese still cannot afford a new apartment.

Another change is the gentrification of certain districts and apartment compounds. This is not really a new phenomenon: the “gentrification” of the old foreign concessions started more than a hundred years ago, and the colonial neighborhoods have retained their prestige in spite of China’s socialist revolution. But today’s trends are further segregating Shanghai residents into upper and lower classes based on where they live. The growth in income inequality is reflected in the type and location of apartment one purchases—but many Shanghainese still cannot afford a new apartment.

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O

t over the past 50 years, a series of technolog-

cal, social, political, and economic

trends have transformed the world

and left it a significantly different place

at the end of the twentieth century from what it

was at its beginning. Among these changes are

the rapid urbanization of the world’s population

and human modification of the environment,

both of which are expected to accelerate in the

next several decades. The urban environment

is the critical intersection of urban growth and

environmental change, and because of the rapid

trends that are taking place in both urban set-

tlements and the environment, the projected
growth of urban populations in developing coun-

tries has potentially serious implications, both

for the global environment and for the sustainabil-

ity of these cities and their hinterlands. The

Earth Institute has embarked on a project focused on

twenty-first-century cities in recognition of the

fact that the growth of cities and related environ-

mental changes are key to economic and social

development in low-income countries.

Urban growth is characterized by dense set-

tlements on relatively small land areas. Contrary

to popular belief, most of the continental land-

mass is sparsely populated by humans. In 1990,

50 percent of the human population inhabited

less than 3 percent of Earth’s ice-free land area.

Throughout history, humans have lived in small

settlements dispersed within larger ecosys-

tems. Because human domination of Earth’s ecosys-

tems is a relatively recent phenomenon, many of its

impacts may not yet have been felt.

However, the transition from a global settlement

pattern characterized by dispersed settlement

across large agricultural areas to one that is dom-

inated by dense urban settlement will have sig-

nificant environmental ramifications both

globally and within nations.

Contemporary urban growth will have socio-

economic as well as environmental impacts.

Cities have always exerted a disproportionate social,

political, and economic influence on the areas

surrounding them and on the regions and nations

of which they are a part. This impact has been

magnified with the emergence of the megacity,

cities of more than ten million people. In addi-

tion to their demographic and ecological impor-

tance, cities are economically dominant. They are

the locus of most of the world’s economic and

financial activities and contain the most valuable

nonagricultural real property assets of both indi-

viduals and corporations. These assets gain or

lose value according to the economic viability

of urban populations. In addition, cities are the

transportation, manufacturing, administrative,

and commercial hubs of most of the world’s enter-

prises. Because of the central social, economic,

and political role of cities and the large number

of people in urban areas, changes in the environ-

ments of cities and their hinterlands are likely to

have far-reaching repercussions.

There are three aspects of the emerging urban

environment that should be considered in the

study of twenty-first-century urbanization. First,

urban areas constitute a unique, densely populat-

ed setting that is environmentally distinct from

nonurban settings and, by virtue of its scale, dis-

tinct from urban settings in the past. Cities con-

stitute a different type of environment that has

new patterns of biodiversity, new needs for con-

servation, and new impacts on the urban popula-

tion. Rapid population growth, for example, leads
to greater vulnerability to natural and envi-

ronmental hazards. Second, urban areas exert

significant environmental impacts on their imme-

diate surroundings and on the regions of which

they are a part. They change regional land use and

ecosystem function and alter the composition of the

local atmosphere so as to affect regional weather

patterns. In addition, cities have significant impact

on the quantity and quality of both urban and

regional water supplies. Third, the largest urban

areas are frequently linked by transportation, trade,

and population migration in an interacting and

reinforcing system of global cities. Within this

system, economic, demographic, and political
decisions influence not only the local environ-

ment, but also the environments of distant regions.

Urban networks have become one of the

causes of global environmental change.

In order to understand these changes, the

Earth Institute has begun a series of case studies

of cities in the developing world. Each of the

cities to be studied, initially including Kampala

(Uganda), Accra (Ghana), and Santa Cruz

(Bolivia), is located in a developing country and

is experiencing rapid growth. Each needs

improvement in its energy, water, and transporta-

tion infrastructure, and, in addition, each illus-

trates a different urban and environmental policy

issue. Kampala is being studied to understand

how the environmental relationship between a

city and its surroundings can be more productive

for both city and homeland. Such issues as nutri-

tent recycling between city and countryside, dis-

posal of urban wastes, and regional impacts of

population migration will be examined with col-

laborators at Makerere University in Uganda.

Accra exemplifies the developing country city

that has adopted an aggressive policy to encour-

age tourism as a means of fostering economic
development and will contribute to our under-

standing of tourism as an urban environmental

driver. Earth Institute scientists will be exam-

ining energy, housing, and water needs and the role

of each in the quality of life and improvement of

the environment. Research on Santa Cruz, where

there is a lively commercial community and

transportation access to the Atlantic Ocean, will

help in understanding how manufacturing and

commerce can be used to promote economic
development and environmental improvement in

regional centers that are surrounded by agricul-

tural land.

These studies will be innovative in a number

of ways. Recent advances in global connectivity

and information technology, combined with the

increased availability of high resolution imageries

from Earth observation satellites, create an oppor-

tunity to use new sources of data, often in conjunc-

tion with existing or more traditional data sources,

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conjunction with existing or more traditional

data sources, that enable us to identify, monitor,

and apprehend a number of urban environmental

problems. Videocovering permits scientists

at the Earth Institute to work directly with sci-

entists in the city being studied, through tele-

conferences in which research plans and results

are discussed on a regular basis. But perhaps the

most innovative aspect of this research is the for-

mation of multidisciplinary teams of Earth Institute

scientists to study twenty-first-century cities.

Engineers, urban planners, demographers,

hydrologists, and agricultural scientists from

the Earth Institute are working together in the

process of defining research problems and pre-

paring preproject and problem statements.

Scientists are collaborating in this work with

engineers in the cities being studied and working
closely with local leaders in the definition of both

problems and solutions.

Roberta Balstad Miller is director of the Center

for International Earth Science Information Net-

work (CIESIN), Columbia University, and a senior

research scientist at The Earth Institute. Chris-

opher Small is a research scientist at Lamont-

Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University.

THE TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CITY

FROM ACCRA TO SANTA CRUZ

By Roberta Balstad Miller and Christopher Small

A city street scene in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

SIPA NEWS 13
The Greek word _omonia_ (pronounced o-MO-nee-ah) combines the ideas of concord, harmony, and unity. In Greece, whose long history is marked by discord, infighting, and division, the word also suggests the elusiveness of those ideas. And while the spirit of _omonia_ has rarely taken hold here, the early planners and architects of Athens in the nineteenth century were not discouraged. They weighed the word down with brick and mortar and gave it a central place on the city map, making certain that _omonia_ would never escape Athens again. For nearly two hundred years, Omonia Square, now a traffic circle, has physically and symbolically served as the city center. Rather than a downtown, Athens has a center (kentro), and Omonia Square has been the center of the center. But now even this reified form of _omonia_ is taking flight.

The signs that the center is losing its hold are not readily apparent. Omonia Square buzzes with traffic. People come from all directions, even from underground as the trains disgorge their loads. The fast-food restaurants on every corner always seem crowded. Before Easter, McDonald’s is keeping up its sales with what it’s calling _McSarakosti_, literally, “McLent.” All around, the shops, hotels, and office buildings lead visitors to believe that business at the Square remains good. The government has also sought to reaffirm the centrality of Omonia Square in anticipation of the 2004 Olympic Games. The city has built a new Metro hub, has encouraged the
The reemergence of a self-ruled Greek entity after the fall of Byzantium to the Ottomans in 1453 is memorialized by 3 Septembriou Street, which marks the revolt of 28 October 1919 against the autocratic rule of King Otto and the subsequent signing of the first Greek constitution. The avenue named after the ancient statesman, Eleftherios Venizelos, extends official Greek history to the 20th century. It was then that the Greeks successfully negotiated the northeast expansion of Greece and extended Greek sovereignty to Turkish- and Bulgarian-controlled areas inhabited by Greek-speaking peoples. But Venizelos’s name is also redolent of a period in the country’s history known as the National Schism (1923–1932). In a move to install a new order over this divisive past, Athens recently renamed another of the streets leading to the Square after Venizelos’s political nemesis, Panagis Tsaldaris. In dubbing the street Tsaldaris Street, the authorities not only gave expression to the political sentiment that favored the communist-led rebels and U.S.-backed government forces, the prosecution and execution of leftist, the emergence of a broad dictatorship that further widened the gap between the left and the right, and periods of atrocity; the Conservative New Democracy and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). On the map, the straight lines that lead to the neat little circle cannot account for such history. But as I step onto the Square in the middle of the afternoon, I sense decentralizing forces stronger than the intentions of urban planners and official historians. Around me, I know, Athens is sprawling in all directions, making any notion of a center hallucinatory. Within the circle, I feel I am being pulled in all directions. The people’s faces point me to the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia, and to places I cannot even guess. Here are two men in their thirties—perhaps from Bangladesh, perhaps brothers—who seem to be carrying all of their belongings in three canvas bags. I catch them in a photograph, standing in the midst of a moving crowd, looking worried and lost. The immigrants have made Omonia Square the place where they work, live, meet, and wonder what the next day will bring. The old Greek street vendors, who I always remember being here, keep them company. These weary men somehow survive by driving taxis and selling lottery tickets and kiosks—the Greek version of the pretzel. Among the immigrants and the old men, more Cyprus, drug pushers, and Greeks heading elsewhere. But the Greek and Christian. Constantine triggered the change when he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, ending the persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire, which included Greece. Some ten years later, he transformed the seat of the empire overseas to the city that took his name, Constantinople, or modern-day Istanbul. And there he himself concentrated on his deathbed. With Christ on their side, the Greek-speaking peoples of the ensuing Byzantine Empire achieved a level of geographic and cultural domination that they had been unable to attain since the reign of Alexander the Great (340–323 B.C.). With ferocious enemies coming from the papal West and the Islamic East, Greek history of that thousand years is also one of survival, a series of battles that would not only territorial control but also the extent to which Greek language and tradition, and the Greek Orthodox faith would continue. The nematogene of a self-ruled Greek entity after the fall of Byzantium to the Ottomans in 1453 is memorialized by 3 Septembriou Street, which marks the revolt of 28 October 1919 against the autocratic rule of King Otto and the subsequent signing of the first Greek constitution. The avenue named after the ancient statesman, Eleftherios Venizelos, extends official Greek history to the 20th century. It was then that the Greeks successfully negotiated the northeast expansion of Greece and extended Greek sovereignty to Turkish- and Bulgarian-controlled areas inhabited by Greek-speaking peoples. But Venizelos’s name is also redolent of a period in the country’s history known as the National Schism (1923–1932). In a move to install a new order over this divisive past, Athens recently renamed another of the streets leading to the Square after Venizelos’s political nemesis, Panagis Tsaldaris. In dubbing the street Tsaldaris Street, the authorities not only gave expression to the political sentiment that favored the communist-led rebels and U.S.-backed government forces, the prosecution and execution of leftist, the emergence of a broad dictatorship that further widened the gap between the left and the right, and periods of atrocity; the Conservative New Democracy and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). On the map, the straight lines that lead to the neat little circle cannot account for such history. But as I step onto the Square in the middle of the afternoon, I sense decentralizing forces stronger than the intentions of urban planners and official historians. Around me, I know, Athens is sprawling in all directions, making any notion of a center hallucinatory. Within the circle, I feel I am being pulled in all directions. The people’s faces point me to the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia, and to places I cannot even guess. Here are two men in their thirties—perhaps from Bangladesh, perhaps brothers—who seem to be carrying all of their belongings in three canvas bags. I catch them in a photograph, standing in the midst of a moving crowd, looking worried and lost. The immigrants have made Omonia Square the place where they work, live, meet, and wonder what the next day will bring. The old Greek street vendors, who I always remember being here, keep them company. These weary men somehow survive by driving taxis and selling lottery tickets and kiosks—the Greek version of the pretzel. Among the immigrants and the old men, more Cyprus, drug pushers, and Greeks heading elsewhere. But the spirit of Omonia, which is to imbue the city with the enduring spirit of Greece that informs the surrounding streets’ names, seems long gone. Waves of immigrants, crime, drug use, and poverty make the center a point in flux. If there is a unifying and harmonizing force here, it is the shared struggle to survive. The symbolic power built into Omonia Square stems from a national fantasy made up of ancient glory, Christendom, liberation, and national achievement. Each part of the fantasy carries a lesson in the importance of meaning, and the parts together are supposed to generate this elusive power. But now on the Square, it is difficult to believe the fantasy. The newcomers have brought their own histories and religions. Although they are pit positions to alter the official story, their presence alone is shaking Athens. From the Square, the forces of change push outward; the essence of Greece is not only shifting in Athens, but throughout Greece. Still, the Athenians I talk to—friends, strangers, and relatives—seem to think that they can endure the changes. Some have not been to Omonia Square in years, or they won’t go back, deterred by the underclass, the heroin addicts, the hustlers. When I announce my plans for a recreational visit to Omonia Square, friends advise me to reconsider. People speak of the Square as an area they have concealed to an invading army. But how do they make a bring and raise their children. I don’t blame them for turning away, but their retreat from the center makes life feel tight and constricted.
Late one night several years ago, Cecilia De La Macorra (MIA ’02) was leaving her university in the outskirts of Mexico City when she noticed a car packed with five men following her out of the parking lot. She sped away from her pursuers who chased her along a small highway. “I thought I had lost them once I got to Reforma,” one of the city’s major avenues, “but when I was five minutes away from my parents’ house, in a lonely dark alley, I slowed down for a speed bump and the same car passed me and stopped right in front of my car. They all jumped out and started running towards me.” Thinking quickly, she threw her car into reverse and got away unharmed but was shaken by the experience. The same thing had happened to a friend just a week before. In Cecilia’s case the robbery was only attempted. Her friend, however, was not so lucky and was shot. Instinct instructed Cecilia not to call the authorities; instead, she took out her cell phone and called her family. “In Mexico you never call the police.”
Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas sent police into the neighborhood to make sweeping arrests, the local merchants fought back, firing at advancing policemen until they were forced to withdraw.

To address the problems in Tepito, López Obrador has introduced a new type of police force called the Community Police. However, concern for human rights, however, is often eclipsed by a politically popular “tough-on-crime” stance, and López Obrador, a dynamic politician with presidential ambitions, is not likely to abandon the crime-fighting image that served Giuliani so well. “If the PRD could turn the police around, that would be the biggest home run in political terms ever,” says Varenik, “although it’s not clear yet how far they’ll go.”

Getting advice from the outside may be a first step, but Varenik cautions against drawing too many parallels between two completely distinct cities. With Mexico City’s problems, however, is often eclipsed by a politically popular “tough-on-crime” stance, and López Obrador, a dynamic politician with presidential ambitions, is not likely to abandon the crime-fighting image that served Giuliani so well. “If the PRD could turn the police around, that would be the biggest home run in political terms ever,” says Varenik, “although it’s not clear yet how far they’ll go.”

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In 1954, Ak-Mola received an important developmental boost when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev launched an initiative to bring Kazakhstan’s untouched “virgin lands” under cultivation. The program, which took advantage of the republic’s favorable climate for growing grains, massively expanded agricultural output in northern and central Kazakhstan, making the region Central Asia’s biggest wheat producer. Later the city’s name was changed to Tselinograd, Russian for “city of virgin lands.”

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic (KSSR) emerged as the independent state of Kazakhstan. As monuments to Lenin were removed and many cities regained their historical names, Tselinograd once again became known as Ak-Mola.

REASONS FOR THE MOVE

Situated in the foothills of the Zailijski Alatau mountains near the Chinese border, Almaty is the largest city in Kazakhstan and has been the republic’s capital since 1929. During the soviet era, it was the political, cultural, and financial center of the KSSR and one of the leading cities of the Soviet Union. By the end of the nineteenth century, however, the city’s expansion had reached its limits. Almaty’s population grew from 1.1 million in 1991 to about 1.5 million at present, making it home to 10 percent of the country’s inhabitants. The city’s growth led to overcrowding, pollution, traffic jams, and other urban ills—and since the region around Almaty had experienced several earthquakes in the past, its residents also faced significant seismic risks.

In addition, the city was thought to be too far from the geographic center of the republic. Kazakhstan was the “melting pot” of the Soviet Union, and it is home to many different ethnic and religious groups. The government began its search for a new location with a thorough study of Kazakhstan’s entire territory, taking into account climate, landscape, seismic risks, environmental conditions, infrastructure, human resources, and other factors.

Ak-Mola was identified as the best site for the new capital, and in December 1997, after approval by Kazakhstan’s parliament, the transfer was made official, with Almaty retaining its status as the main commercial center. A year later Ak-Mola was renamed “Astana,” the Kazakh word for “capital.”

MODERN ASTANA

Since its designation as the nation’s capital, Astana has experienced unprecedented construction and demographic changes, as well as an economic and cultural revival. Soviet-style houses of two to three stories have given way to modern glass and steel buildings, and Astana’s numerous roads have been restructured with European technology. The population of the city has doubled in less than five years and passed the half-million mark in 2002, much earlier than planned. Architects from more than 40 countries took part in an international tender to design the “General Plan” for the city. The successful bid, by Japanese architect Kenzo Tange, incorporates Astana’s existing landscape into designs for a futuristic “Euro-Asian” capital combining European and Eastern styles. The longer-term elements of the General Plan are now being implemented with impressive speed. While it typically took three to four years to complete a new-storey building in Soviet times, structures of 22 floors or more with a much higher level of architectural sophistication are now being built in less than a year. In addition to commercial and residential buildings, the government has also constructed museums, theaters, schools, universities, hospitals, and monuments from scratch.

The government’s critics have argued that the expense involved in moving the capital would become a burden on the national budget and divert public funds from other social needs. However, instead of financing Astana’s development directly, the government has mobilized capital from foreign and local private investors, state-owned and private companies, Astana’s own local government budget, and municipal bond issues, as well as aid from foreign governments.

Since 2002, Astana has become a net contributor to the national budget, which receives half of the city’s revenues. Beginning in 1997, Astana also established a number of “special economic zones” with tax and duty incentives to encourage businesses to relocate there. In the period from 1998 to 2001, the new capital attracted investments of more than $5.1 billion, or about 9 percent of Kazakhstan’s annual GDP.

CITY OF PEACE

The development of Astana symbolizes the development of Kazakhstan itself, and it is no accident that its official construction plan was entitled “The Rise of Astana—The Rise of Kazakhstan.” By building a modern capital city from the ground up, the government hopes to inspire the nation’s citizens and establish a model for development in other regions. Government ministries, state organizations, and major companies have now moved their staff to Astana, and with its young professionals, growing population, and massive construction projects, the new capital has achieved the image of “the city of the future.”

More importantly, the relocation is intended not only to spread economic growth but also to unite all of Kazakhstan’s diverse population. Astana today is a multicultural city hosting more than 44 religious associations, where Kazakhs coexist peacefully with more than a dozen national minorities. In recognition of the city’s success, in 1999 the United Nations Economic, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) awarded Astana the title “City of Peace.”

The writers are all Bolashak Scholars (Bolashak means “future” in Kazakh). The Bolashak Scholarship was established in 1993 by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Since then, about seven hundred of the country’s most promising scholars have received educational grants to study at the world’s top universities.

Janybek Iskakov, MIA ’04, is concentrating in International Finance and Business and International Energy Management and Policy, Dinara Urastayeva, MIA ’04, Yerlan Baizhigitov, MIA ’05, and Gibadat Kuliyeva, MIA ’05, are concentrating in International Finance and Business.
New York's new AirTrain is nothing to write home about, but from Manhattan's 42nd Street you can still catch a one-seat ride to China, Ireland, or Ecuador. Although many SIPA students think Queens is an undefined space between Morningside Heights and the nearest airport, a day trip across the East River offers at least as much international exposure as your last "Conceptual Foundations" class. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Queens is America's most ethnically diverse county, with immigrants from 167 countries.

A trip along the #7 Flushing line, made famous (or infamous) by former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker's notorious "anti-foreigner" comments in 1999, offers an elevated view of New York's immigrant landscape. Compared with Brooklyn, Queens is short on subway service, and the #7 train is a vital artery for its working-class residents. Even after midnight, its cars are often packed with swing-shift commuters by the time it leaves Grand Central Station.

Our crack team of SIPA News reporters boarded the #7 train at Times Square and headed east—and south, and west—to the home neighborhoods of those commuters: urban enclaves transplanted from Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Here's what we found.

61st Street–Woodside: Tastes Like Home

By Colum Murphy

My spirits low from a bout with flu, I had a craving for some hearty home cooking. Going home to Ireland wasn't possible, so I did the next best thing. On a sunny Friday afternoon in March, I took the #7 train for a twenty-minute ride to the 61st Street–Woodside station in Queens, home to one of New York's Irish communities.

Near the station I come across the Saints & Sinners bar and restaurant, with its name written in a large circular Celtic font, on the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and 61st Street. The menu posted outside is divided into different categories: Soups for the Soul, First Communion (appetizers), Confessions (entrées), and Garden of Eden (desserts). Intrigued, I enter.

"What can I get you?" says the tall young barman. His accent is easily discernible as Irish—but I can't determine from which county. I order a Guinness and make my confession: "shepherd's pie, please."

The large square-shaped varnished wooden bar dominates the dimly lit space. Framed photographs are dispersed on the salmon-colored walls. Hanging close to the ceiling is auburn-hued Guinness tap. "The taste of my motherland," I say, as I order a Guinness and make my confession: "shepherd's pie, please."

Meanwhile, I am struggling to finish my shepherd's pie. I manage, however, to polish off the black frothy Guinness. Fortified by the taste of my motherland, I leave Saints & Sinners behind and set off on my journey back to Manhattan.

Colum Murphy, MIA '04, is concentrating in International Media and Communications.
Perhaps there’s no better way to witness this spontaneous solidarity than a trip to Jackson Heights. As I was leaving my apartment on 76th Street one day two years ago, I was stunned to find traffic at a standstill along Roosevelt Avenue: car horns blared and cumbias blasted—so that one tries, some brave souls seek out Flushing’s employment agencies to find work in the American hinterland: washing dishes, little boy or girl, maybe, their descendents will live the dream themselves.

I went into a coffee shop with the flags of Uruguay, Colombia, Argentina, Paraguay, and the United States plastered across the door. The place is owned by Uruguayans, but most of the decor favors the yellow, blue, and red of the Colombian flag, and the food is a little bit of everything, from the Spanish tortilla to the Colombian Arepa. Most of the Latinos here are happy to be in New York for their children’s sake, and they’re not worried about their kids losing their particular identity. They’re hoping to give them a better version of it, with all the opportunities that America provides—including the opportunity for Latino solidarity. National identities are deeply rooted and vigorously defended in Latin America, even when there exists little genuine conflict or little visible difference among them. To a Colombian, the stereotypical Argentine has a penchant for using his hands where the reference can’t see and an ability to borrow money from the IMF that would leave a bookeeper speechless—and you can imagine what Argentines think of Colombians. Even within national boundaries, regional stereotypes abound: in Colombia, Bogotanos make fun of Pastusos for their “Ecuadorian” accent, while the inhabitants of Pastusos delight in teasing Bogotanos about their “Colombian” character.

Don’t Make Any Excuse for Failure

Anjali Cordeiro, MIA ’04, is doing an independent concentration in International Media and Economic Development.

In its smells, sounds, and images, Jackson Heights is like none of these countries alone, yet reminiscent of all of them. A cultural oasis is cooking at this stop, and the smell is intoxicating.

282nd Street: In New York’s Chill, Latin Rivalries Melt Away

By Ernest Archila

Stepping off the #7 train at 282nd Street, one is immediately struck by the vitality of a thriving and heterogeneous Latin community. Many of the neighborhood’s residents are Colombians, Argentines, Mexicans, Peruvians, Ecuadorians, and Uruguayans. The sights and smells of outer Jackson Heights are like none of these countries alone, yet reminiscent of all of them. A cultural oasis is cooking at this stop, and the smell is intoxicating.

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Don’t Make Any Excuse for Failure

Anjali Cordeiro, MIA ’04, is doing an independent concentration in International Media and Economic Development.
Peru is a country of myth and mystery. The ancient Peruvian city of stone, Machu Picchu, draws more visitors annually than all of Mexico. The two-thousand-year-old Nazca lines of the Moche Indians can only be seen from an airplane. Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world, supports man-made floating villages of reeds. The country has every geographical region imaginable, from desert lowlands to Andean highlands to the dense jungles of the Amazon.

Forty-five percent of Peru’s population is indigenous—nineteen million people—more than any other Latin American country. The majority are Quechua-speaking descendants of the Incas, but large numbers of Ayamar-speaking people populate the Riohuan border and 48 separate indigenous groups live in the Amazon basin. Some are so isolated it is impossible to estimate their numbers.

Peru is justly famous for its music and dance. Each of the twenty-five departments has hundreds of traditional dances. The department of Puno that lines the edge of Lake Titicaca is known for more than 500 different highly decorative dances. Many of the dances are performed in street festivals honoring Catholic saints. Some dances re-enact events in indigenous history like the Spanish conquest, while others predate the conquest, celebrating cyclical events such as the harvest. The dancers’ costumes are handmade and sometimes cost more than entire family fortunes. Dance musicians play indigenous instruments such as the tiny hand drums and the jires flute, carved from the free-foot wing bone of the Andean condor.
Indigenous people constitute Peru’s richest cultural resource but continue to suffer greatly from racism, poverty, and political oppression. Seventy-nine percent of all indigenous people live in poverty. They have severely limited access to education, health care, and water. During the war between the Maoist guerrilla group, Shining Path, and the Peruvian government in the 1980s and ‘90s, indigenous people endured the majority of human rights abuses. The recently released Truth and Reconciliation Commission report cites that of the 69,280 people who were killed or disappeared, three out of every four were Quechua speaking.

In 2001, a government investigation commission found that from 1995 to 2000 the Alberto Fujimori government carried out the largely forced sterilization of more than 200,000 women, the majority of whom were indigenous. The movement began as population control but quickly descended into a form of ethnic cleansing through eugenics. Women were detained, beaten, and sterilized in dangerous and unsanitary conditions, against their will. As a direct result of these sterilizations, 18 women are known to have died and many thousands more are suffering silently.

Despite the social, economic, and cultural marginalization of indigenous people in Peru, their strength is growing. Affirmations of cultural identity have swept across the country, aided by indigenous-focused nongovernmental organizations and support/advocacy networks. Human rights groups throughout Peru are working to ensure that indigenous cultures continue to flourish and are fighting for an honest and transparent Peru that fully respects indigenous and human rights.

Dara Kerr, MIA ’04, is concentrating in Human Rights.
Khieu Samphan was seated on his turquoise leather sofa, hands folded in his lap. He had obviously been expecting us.

At home, a stone’s throw away from the Thai border in the remote northwestern province of Banteay Meanchey, the former president of Democratic Kampuchea—the Khmer Rouge regime led by the notorious Cambodian tyrant Pol Pot—was casually dressed in a striped button-up pajama top and a bright plaid sarong. Spiky, white hair covered his head like that of a freshly shorn soldier. Large dark spots dotted his worn skin, and his eyes were clouded with age. The laborious effort of his movements suggested a withering frailty. But his mind belied his body. It was immediately evident that his mental fitness had not tired the way the physical had.
I think a seat on the couch next to my friend and colleague Vichet. Vichet is the director of a local nonprofit health organization that staffs a staff of 12 trained nurses, including Khieu's daughter. When she invited her couriers home for dinner one evening, Vichet was hesitant. Following the “elimination” of his father, Vichet spent ten years in a refugee camp on the Thai border, where illness claimed the lives of his mother and several other family members. Should he be the guest of the man so prominent in the movement that claimed the lives of approximately 1.7 million Cambodians, including his entire family?

Well, he agreed, not to the dinner invitation but, rather, to the opportunity to ask this monstrous human being the unanswered questions that had plagued Vichet since childhood. How could this have happened? Why? Was it possible that the father of his trusted and respected employer could be guilty of such heinous crimes? To what extent does Khieu deserve his allegiance? Even if he knew in his heart of hearts that Khieu was a war criminal, could he ever truly forgive Khieu?

Khieu's wife and daughters came up and down the stairs, each time bringing bowls of food with them: a pot of raw meat, a bowl of eggs, plates heaped with noodles, strained vegetables—cabbage and morning glory, mushrooms and chilies. The two girls set two clay pots filled with smoldering coals on the mantel, and on top of each they placed a bowel with an elevated island in the center. Strips of meat were placed on the raised perforated metal, while the meat around it was filled with broth, vegetables, then handfuls of noodles, and a raw egg or two, all left to simmer. We took our places around the "table." I sat at the head with Vichet to my left and Khieu to my right. His wife sat next to him and orchestrated this "soup fondue." He turned to me and said, "This is why I married her." She had been a cook for the Khmer Rouge.

It somehow seemed inappropriate to continue our conversation from the point at which we left off. The couch was pushed aside and two large mats were spread out on the floor. Khieu’s wife and daughters came up and down the stairs, each bringing bowls of food with them: a pot of raw meat, a bowl of eggs, plates heaped with noodles, strained vegetables—cabbage and morning glory, mushrooms and chilies. The two girls set two clay pots filled with smoldering coals on the mantel, and on top of each they placed a bowel with an elevated island in the center. Strips of meat were placed on the raised perforated metal, while the meat around it was filled with broth, vegetables, then handfuls of noodles, and a raw egg or two, all left to simmer. We took our places around the "table." I sat at the head with Vichet to my left and Khieu to my right. His wife sat next to him and orchestrated this "soup fondue." He turned to me and said, "This is why I married her." She had been a cook for the Khmer Rouge.

“Toul Sleng,” also known as “S21,” was a high school that was used as a prison/torture center/death camp. Only seven prisoners survived. At the mention of the words “Toul Sleng,” Khieu’s hands shot up into the air as though someone was holding a gun to his head and he was pleading for his life. His head turned back as though someone was trying to start this war crime tribunal and they want to take ME to it! He laughed at this. It wasn’t funny. Just sort of ironic.

Simultaneous laughter was heard coming from the far end of the room, from his grandchildren, who were watching TV. Rarara of the cartoons “Tom and Jerry” were playing. As we were discussing the tribunal later that afternoon as an item on our agenda, he turned back on the sofa.

The party claimed that in order to expedite the process of reorganization, the elimination of any individual deemed an obstacle in the path of the revolution was essential. This process of political purification meant McGuying hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

Lunch was announced, interrupting our conversation. The couch was pushed aside and two large mats were spread out on the floor. Khieu’s wife and daughters came up and down the stairs, each bringing bowls of food with them: a pot of raw meat, a bowl of eggs, plates heaped with noodles, strained vegetables—cabbage and morning glory, mushrooms and chilies. The two girls set two clay pots filled with smoldering coals on the mantel, and on top of each they placed a bowel with an elevated island in the center. Strips of meat were placed on the raised perforated metal, while the meat around it was filled with broth, vegetables, then handfuls of noodles, and a raw egg or two, all left to simmer. We took our places around the "table." I sat at the head with Vichet to my left and Khieu to my right. His wife sat next to him and orchestrated this "soup fondue." He turned to me and said, "This is why I married her." She had been a cook for the Khmer Rouge.

It somehow seemed inappropriate to continue our conversation from the point at which we left off. Khieu poured a small amount of whiskey in my glasses with ice, and we reverted to small talk.

KS: So, you’re a student in New York?

JB: What were you doing in New York?

KS: Uh, I was there for a few meetings at the UN.

JB: Really? General Assembly meetings?


Sitting on the turquoise couch, enjoying my glass of rum, I was trying to ask real questions rather than discuss Central Park. But I was afraid that if I moved too quickly, he would dismiss me the way he did the topic of politics. After all, an accused genocidalist is unlikely to be forthcoming with information about his role in the deaths of millions of people.

“I never really wanted to get involved in politics personally,” he said. “I wanted to watch to the dissolution. What I really wanted to be was a journalist.” While Khieu went too far in a scathing attack on government policy in one editorial, the police arrived at his doorstep to close his newspaper’s doors. After the paper was shut down, he was publicly humiliated when the police officers stripped him of his clothing and had a photographer waiting to capture the moment, to be printed in the national newspaper the next morning. Cambodian historian William Shawcross wrote that no man would easily forget this sort of humiliation.

During the early ‘70s, the small Khmer Communist Party guerrillas known as the Khmer Rouge evolved in the wake of an American-assisted coup led by General Lon Nol. Popular opposi-
For an economist focusing on trade and development policy, he says, College Park was an ideal site, near Washington-based “Bretton Woods institutions” like the World Bank and the newly created Global Commission on International Migration. “We are delighted to welcome Mary to our faculty,” said Dean Lisa Anderson. “Human rights issues have always been a cornerstone of SIPA’s international affairs programs. Our students will benefit immenly from Mary’s hands-on work in many of the world’s most volatile areas, as well as senior state experience in Ireland and a strong United Nations portfolio.”

Robinson’s relationship with Columbia University runs deep. In addition to her appointment as professor of practice at SIPA, she is also a senior research scholar at the Human Rights Institute at Columbia Law School and an adviser to Columbia’s Earth Institute. EGI is “very keen to work with Jeff Sachs and his colleagues in The Earth Institute,” Robinson said, “and bring a human rights perspective to their work.”

The syllabus for Robinson’s course, entitled “Human Rights and Ethical Globalization,” focuses on several of EGI’s themes, such as migration, international trade and development, and the responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa. She feels that her students have the capacity to take on such weighty issues. “I’ve gotten past the stage where I think you can change the world overnight,” she said with a wink. “It’s going to take at least a year or two.” The statement mirrors the obvious passion with which she focuses her attention on each of her multiple obligations.

A native of the Indian state of Rajasthan, Panagariya describes himself as “very happy” with the Columbia environment, but he’s easing gradually into academic life in Morningside Heights. After forfeiting an engineering career at Maryland in 1978 after completing his doctorate at Princeton, for an economist focusing on trade and development policy, he says, College Park was an ideal site, near Washington-based “Bretton Woods institutions” like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. (Beginning in 1989, he took a four-year leave of absence to work with the Bank’s Trade Policy Division.) But he adds that New York has advantages of its own—particularly a steady flow of influential visitors from India.

Panagariya says he’s optimistic about the future of globalization and believes that China’s entry into the World Trade Organization should give low-income nations more weight in future WTO negotiations, where the existing “Third World bloc” led by India and Brazil has often had little influence. Encouraged by “the way the developing countries came together in Cancun and were seen as a counterweight to the rich countries,” he says, he expects the trend toward liberalization to continue.

No stranger to academia, Robinson, at the age of 25, was the youngest professor of law to be appointed to the faculty of Trinity College in Dublin. “If you start out to do something, you’re going to have to give it your all. That was the case with me. I found it hard [to understand why human rights are important].’ If we can achieve that,” Robinson said with a smile, “we’ll be in good shape.”

As executive director of the Ethical Globalization Initiative (EGI), Robinson aims to “bring key stakeholders together to integrate concepts of human rights, gender sensitivity, and enhanced accountability into efforts to address global challenges and governance shortcomings.” “I’ve gotten past the stage where I think you can change the world overnight,” she said with a wink, “It’s going to take at least a year or two.” The statement mirrors the obvious passion with which she focuses her attention on each of her multiple obligations.

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The Humanitarian Tapestry

Conference on Rights, Security, and Development Bridges Chasms between Relief Sectors

By Daniel Gerstle

In the Democratic Republic of Congo’s war-ravaged northeast, Columbia Professor Neil Boothby, director of the Mailman School of Public Health’s Program on Forced Migration, met a thirteen-year-old girl with an assault rifle and a small child clinging to her back. Beyond them, a boy, not much older, brandished rimmed sun-glasses and a Rambo tattoo. Children like these, Boothby argued, play an active role in the waging of war in many countries throughout the world. After combat and displacement, child soldiers require “a double act of forgiveness” in order to reintegrate into their communities.


Dozens of cutting-edge experts from the aid world and beyond—Julia Taft, director of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at the United Nations Development Programme; Antonio Donini, senior fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs; William J. Garvelink, deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance at the U.S. Agency for International Development; and the editor of this publication, Dean, SIPA—joined Columbia faculty and guests for these events. Together, panelists broached dilemmas as vast and vital as forced displacement, human protection during guerilla warfare, contention between human rights and humanitarian law, and partiality in conflict resolution.

The other lead-up events included “Poverty, War, and Internally Displaced People” (January 29), “Common Arms, Clashling Frameworks” (February 19), and “Prospects for International Governance” (February 26).

Professor Dirk Salomon, director of SIPA’s Humanitarian Affairs Program, and Jessica Horan, a SIPA graduate and its assistant director of external relations, organized the series—the first phase of a joint effort between SIPA and the Mailman School of Public Health’s Program on Forced Migration, with the support of a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. “The goal of the series was to create a forum for SIPA faculty to consider how humanitarian issues impact their discipline—whether it’s security policy or economic development,” Horan explains. “The conference showcased their collaboration and introduced SIPA’s humanitarian affairs program to the larger Columbia community.”

For Salomon, this conference symbolizes a much-needed movement to build bridges between the varied sectors on issues imperative to the success of humanitarian action. “Humanitarian programs,” Salomon admits, “look at causes before failures in conflict resolution, failures in respecting human rights, failures in following productive social and economic agendas, and failures in international governance. None of these crises is solved in a vacuum or without a shared commitment by the international community. This conference is meant to place humanitarian affairs at the crossroads with human rights, humanitarian development, and human security, to show how both the causes and solutions go way beyond the humanitarian tragedies themselves.”

The March 4 conference, which began with a welcome by Dean Laura Anderson, consisted of four panels that brought together leading experts to discuss a number of the challenges and policy implications related to humanitarian intervention (see the conference program on the previous page).

In addition to attracting students and alumni from several Columbia schools and affiliates, including Law and Social Work, Teachers College, and the undergraduate schools, representatives from New York University, Fordham, and City University also participated.

“I hope that based on this conference and the lead-up events students from both the Mailman School of Public Health and SIPA will come together,” said Matt Hoover, an MIA candidate who helped coordinate the conference. “The event should broaden paths between disciplines, open more linkages.”

Daniel Gerstle, OS, is pursuing an MIA with a concentration in Humanitarian Affairs and an MPH in Forced Migration and Health.
The Citizens Budget Commission (CBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civic organization devoted to influencing constructive change in the finances and services of New York City and New York State government.

“As a city and state budget watchdog, we are not all that accustomed to getting praise for our work. Usually our reports manage to make someone angry,” joked Diana Fortuna, the organization’s president, who accepted the award from A. Michael Hoffman, 73, chair of the CBC Advisory Board. “What we do is try to move governments in the right direction, to the force of our argument. In making those arguments, we need well-trained minds. We rely on SIPA and other programs that offer such rigorous education and that produce thinkers equipped with skills and standards and insight to do CBC’s work.”

Ambassador Felix G. Rohatyn was presented with the Harvey Picker Award by SIPA Advisory Board member Brian Lippey, ’78. Ambassador to France from September 1997 until December 2000, Rohatyn currently serves as president of Rohatyn Associates LLC, a firm that he founded in April 2003, which provides financial advice to corporations. Rohatyn provided the audience with the observation that the upcoming election is the third most important in the history of the United States—after Lincoln’s second term and that of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The evening, hailed a huge success by organizers and attendees alike, was an opportunity for SIPA faculty, administration, alumni, and students to join together with public service activists to reflect on the world today and renew SIPA’s mission to prepare its students to make a difference.

Dean Anderson thanked attendees for paying Ins.

The fourth annual Global Leadership Awards Dinner was held Tuesday evening, March 9, at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. The honorees at this year’s event were Henrique de Campos Meirelles, governor of the Central Bank of Brazil, who received the Andrew Wellingington Covent Award for Distinguished Public Service; Felix Rohatyn, former U.S. ambassador to France and former chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, who accepted the Harvey Picker Award for Distinguished Public Service; and the Citizens Budget Commission, which received the Schuyler C. Wallace Award for Distinguished Public Service.

A number of SIPA student representatives were also in attendance. Matthew Welch, NIPA candidate; Yogesh Ghorie, NPA in Environmental Science and Policy candidate; Nepeti Nicanor, Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM) candidate; and Betty B. Wu, Executive NPA candidate, spoke briefly about the opportunities that their SIPA education has afforded them through its excellence in academics, access to distinguished core faculty, and professional resources.

Nicanor, a student in the Program in Economic Policy Management (PEPM), spoke about her experiences at SIPA.

My courses are empowering me to do that,” said Nepeti Nicanor, who comes to SIPA from Namibia. “When I’m listening to professors in class, I’m constantly thinking about how I can apply this information to make changes in my home country. Change in developing countries can only be made by those people from that country.

Honoree Henrique de Campos Meirelles has been governor of the Central Bank of Brazil since January 2003. Prior to his appointment, he was president of Bank Boston and FleetBoston Financial’s Global Bank. In accepting his award from Albert Fishlow, director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, Meirelles commented on Brazil’s efforts to combat poverty. “President Luiz gave me the privilege of inviting me to join his team and to be part of the effort to solve the crisis of 2002-03 and to build the basis for a strong growth pattern for Brazil. Our idea was to build an efficient, modern, productive economy combined with government investment policies that focus on social investment, which I like to call ‘building a powerful machine with a heart.’”

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EMPA Forum

By Amanda Zafian

Last spring, two students in the Executive Master of Public Administration Program, Kirsten Friedli (EMPA ’03) and Jenna Mandel-Ricci (EMPA ’04), realized that they not only wanted to stay in touch with each other after Friedli graduated in May, but that they wished to engender more communication between all current and past EMPA students. They therefore did what any good student of public administration would do. Working with SIPA’s Office of Alumni Relations, they started an organization, the EMPA Forum, with the three-fold mission of creating an EMPA alumni network, having alumni assist current students, and facilitating policy-oriented events. The group is now a recognized alumni association of SIPA.

“Because it is an executive program, most people are in their thirties and have really amazing experience professionally and personally. We wanted to found this group to make sure that we’d be able to network with each other,” said Friedli.

The EMPA Forum is the first and only student group attached to the Executive Program, which graduated its first class of just over 25 students in 2001. It also represents the first effort by either students or administrators to address the program’s alumni, who will number around 200 after this year.

“EMPA is a terrific hybrid,” said SIPA’s Director of Alumni Relations Rodrick Dial. “It’s the first time at SIPA that a group’s mission and by-laws explicitly mandate the shared leadership and participation of students and alumni.”

“This could be a way for them to share what they have to offer,” said Dan Lipka (EMPA ’05), the Forum secretary.

Kirsten Friedli

SIPA Global Connection

SIPA has more than 10,000 alumni living in 143 countries around the world. The Office of Alumni Relations is proud to announce the creation of our first full alumni directory ONLINE.

The First Alumni Directory Online

• All alumni are members.
• All alumni are listed.
• YOU decide what information you would like to make public.
• Fully searchable, with printing capabilities for approved users.

The online Alumni Directory includes:

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• Your degree information, including concentration and regional studies.
• Information about your current intellectual interests.
• Free text space to tell classmates more about your family and career.

To access the directory, you simply need a PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN). This PIN is the same for all of Columbia’s systems, including ALUMNI E-MAIL FORWARDING. To verify or create a pin, contact SIPALUM@columbia.edu or call Alumni Relations, at 212-854-8671.

The Global Connection is your single source for all address, e-mail, and employment updates—updated in REAL time, so you will continue to get news from Columbia wherever you are. To access the directory, you simply need a PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (PIN). This PIN is the same for all of Columbia’s systems, including ALUMNI E-MAIL FORWARDING. To verify or create a pin, contact SIPALUM@columbia.edu or call Alumni Relations, at 212-854-8671.

Volunteers Needed for Office of External Relations

Class Secretaries

Want to hear from your SIPA classmates around the world? SIPA alumni live in 143 countries on six continents. The Office of Alumni Relations is seeking volunteers to help communicate with our alumni from each graduated class. Alumni Relations will work with you to talk with your classmates (via e-mail) and print updates on them regularly in SIPA News. The Class Notes section of SIPA News creates opportunities for alumni to get in touch with each other.

Please contact Rodrick Dial, director of alumni relations, at 212-854-8671 or sipaalum@columbia.edu for more information.

Metropolitan Los Angeles
Donna Bachto, MPA ’93 dbachto2000@yahoo.com

Metropolitan Miami
Jennifer Cordes, MIA ’98 jcordes20@yahoo.com

Metropolitan Paris
Julien Regnaut, MIA ’01 j1033@columbia.edu

Metropolitan Washington, D.C.
Chris Loso, MPA ’97 (president of the Columbia University Club of Washington, D.C.) closo97@yahoo.com or Club Web site: http://www.cuccdc.org/

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Office of External Relations Staff

Director of Development
Yun Won Cho

Assistant Director of Development
Venetta Amory

Director of Publications and Special Events
John Crawford

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Regional Alumni Organizations

SIPA alumni are active the world over. Several have begun to explore activities for alumni in their regions, while the EMPA Forum has formed an official organization by degree program under SIPA’s auspices.

EMPA Forum: open to all EMPA students and alumni
Kirsten Friedli, EMPA ’03, and Jenna Mandel-Ricci, EMPA ’04, Co-Chairs
kirsten.friedli@gp.com
jgm2003@columbia.edu

Metropolitan London
Rick Faery, MIA ’00
rick.lawry@csfb.com

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dbachto2000@yahoo.com

Metropolitan Miami
Jennifer Cordes, MIA ’98
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1948
Sherwood G. Mosk, MIA
sipanews.com
Sherwood, a member of SIPA’s first graduating class, reports that he is “alive, well, and enjoying retirement”—which consists, among other things, of cooking, working out, commuting, visiting the Cayman Islands, and spending time with his family. He remembers his time at Columbia with pleasure, appreciates the start SIPA gave him as a budding career in foreign affairs, and observes with pride “how the School has grown and prospered.”

1950
Richard Rowson, MIA
rowson420@att.net
Richard was appointed last March as president and CEO of a program for a Community of Democracies (CCD). The CCD’s mission includes helping plan the biennial conferences of the Community of Democracies and helping to build a worldwide network of non-governmental actors.

1951
Carl R. Fritz, MIA
carl@carlfritz.com
Carl is now retired at the age of 80 and lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He recently completed an essay entitled “The World Is a Small Place,” which recounts his chance meetings with people in various parts of the world. These include an encounter in India with Gregory Kirk, his former professor and later the president of Columbia, and one on a street in Nairobi with Schuyler Wallace, the first dean of the School of International Affairs (now SIPA). The essay is available by e-mail on request.

1972
Oscar R. de Roque, MIA
sipanews.com
Oscar was recently appointed director of the Financing Development Office recently set up in the United Nations’ Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He previously served as coordinator of the intern seminar that organized the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002. The new permanent office will be responsible for coordinating all UN-led actions at the United Nations in relation to that conference.

1979
Ben Millroy, MIA
Ben is on the faculty of the Interdisciplinary Department of Social Sciences and the Program in Conflict Management at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Last year he published Peace and Peacemaking: Has J. Megalopulos and J. Jacobson (Lexington Books). He also co-authored Culture, Cognition and Perception Change in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” an article that appeared two years ago in the International Journal of Conflict Management.

1982
Barnet Sherman, MIA
sipanews.com
Barnet’s most recent article, “Layman’s Limnology,” appeared in the winter 2003 issue of MacWit/WW, a publication of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife. His articles have also been published in The Fisherman and On the Water magazines.

1984
Jana Alrues Karun, MIA
jkonkjawat@utk.edu
After working in international organizations and international business, Jana returned to Columbia to earn a master’s degree in journalism. Her first assignment book, Jana de Roque: A Year of Life and Death with FIAW, was published by St. Martin’s Press in 2002. The book examines what goes on in the back of America’s ambulances and profiles one of the world’s leading emergency medical systems. It was selected as Book of the Year by EMS magazine and as one of the Investigative Books of the Year. Jana was recently appointed to be editor of the New York Magazin, a Russian-language weekly circulating in the U.S., as well as to New York Magazine, a Russian-language weekly circulating in the U.S. and in the U.S. Russian American community.

1990
Kim Aoki, MIA
kim@californiaenvironmentalquality.org
Kim is a California Environmental Quality Act environmental consultant with EIP Associates in San Francisco. She and her partner, Pam Taylor, were married last summer in a ceremony attended by SIPA classmate Kathryn Furano (SIPA, 1990) and former SIPA teaching assistant Cynthia Miller (PhD, Economics, 1992). Kim was recently appointed to be assistant director of the Natural Resources and Environment Team at the General Accounting Office in Washington, D.C.

1992
Brennan Mabry, MIA
brennmabry@earthlink.net
Brennen is head of the African Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP), a new initiative of the Open Society Institute established to monitor African governments’ compliance with the democracy, human rights, and rule-of-law commitments set out in the Africa Commission on Good Governance and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). He joined AfriMAP after a decade at Human Rights Watch, where he was most recently deputy director of the Africa Division.

1995
Stacy Sullivan, MIA
sipanews.com
Stacy is a senior editor with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting.
Stephen Q. Cornman, MPA

of refugees’ human rights committees, including one for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered immigrants. He is also working more on immigration detention issues following September 11.

Jeremy Craig, MIA

CLASS NOTES

SIPA

March 25 and October 11, 2003, raising more than $42,000 for the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). They received the CWLA’s Champions for Children Award at the organization’s national conference in February 2004. Elisabeth lives with her husband in Montgomery, Alabama, where she practices law.

Joe M. Murphy, MIA

Edward Brown, MIA

Edward is relief manager for World Vision Angola. After a year in Paris, Tisa returned to the United States and now lives in the Boston area. She performs regularly as a stand-up comic and has a day job in university administration.

Elizabeth Kleinberg, MIA

Bare: On Women, Dancing, Sex and Power paperback by Seal Press

Aga is an investment director with Enterprise Investors, the largest private equity and venture capital firm in Central and Eastern Europe. Her first child, Maja, was born on September 17, 2003.

Stephen is a member of the research faculty at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute and was recently named national administrator of the university’s School Choice Demonstration Project. The program is a multiyear, twenty-year longitudinal study of the effects of education scholarships and other interventions on schools, individual students, and communities. He is responsible for research, data analysis and reporting, publishing articles and reports, and coordination among members of the research team. He is working with Patrick Wolf, an associate professor at Georgetown who was on the SIPA faculty between 1994 and 1998. Steve and his wife Phyllis have four children: Danny (12), Matt (17), Dylan (12), and Elizabeth (6). He is an active member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Ellen Psychas, MIA

Another leader in the struggle for Indian independence and human rights, Bhimrao Ambedkar helped draft modern India’s first constitution.

Edward Brown, MIA

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Bar, he plans to join Kirkland & Ellis, LLP in New York City as an intellectual property litigation associate.

Rosanna Bayon Moore, MPA
rosannam@earthlink.net

Rosanna has relocated to El Centro, a growing rural community on the border of Baja, California. She has since been elected to the El Centro City Council, where she joins a new female majority. Rosanna and her husband, Dean Syrengelas, celebrated the birth of their first child, Casilios, on October 3, 2002.

Madiha Murshed, MIA
murshed@projectspera.org

After graduating from SIPA, Madiha moved to San Francisco with her classmate Dana Curran to work for Project Spera, a non-profit they founded while still in school. Project Spera works in the Bay Area to raise young people's awareness of international issues, empowering them to take action locally and globally. In projects include a professional development program for teachers, an after-school program for middle school and high school students, and an academic competition called the World Affairs Challenge.

In Memoriam

Gary Yungerman, a student in the Executive MPA program, passed away in December at the age of 32. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration from George Washington University and was fluent in Slovak and Mandarin Chinese as well as Russian. Gary served in the Peace Corps in the Slovak Republic. His memory will always be a blessing to those who knew him.

David Lipschultz, MBA '97, died tragically in a skiing accident in Aspen, Colorado, on January 3, 2004. He was 33 years old. An avid skier, David was a freelance technology and business writer and, with his wife Juliana, coproducer of the television show “The Week in Aspen.” He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona. “David is a beautiful spirit,” said his wife Juliana. “He made this world a better place.” We extend our condolences to his wife, family, and friends.

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www.columbia.edu/cu/mpaenvironment
Correction: In the January 2004 issue of SIPA News, Colum Murphy and Bojana Zezelj should have been listed on the masthead as contributing editors. Their hard work and article editing were invaluable, and we apologize for inadvertently omitting their names.

SIPA News is published semiannually by SIPA's Office of External Relations.
Managing Editor: JoAnn Crawford
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