

# Talk Development

Spring 2006

## Inside this issue:

<i>A Word From EPD Interim Director Jacqueline Klopp</i>	1
<i>Student Initiatives: Microfinance and Education &amp; Development Working Groups</i>	2
<i>EPD Policy Analysis Track: Raising the Profile of Workshop "Sister Class"</i>	3
<i>EPD Workshop Profile: Evaluation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation</i>	4
<i>Policy Analysis Research Topics A Mexican in Jordan</i>	5
<i>Advisor Profiles: Marc Jacquand and Helen Epstein</i>	6
<i>EPD Faculty Profile: Popular Professor of Development Economist Miguel Urquiola EPD Forum Report</i>	7
<i>Alum's the Word: EPD Updates from around the Globe</i>	8
<i>Complete 2006 Workshop Presentation Schedule</i>	9
<i>SIPA Students Contribute to UNICEF's "Child Alert" for Haiti</i>	10

## A Word From Jacqueline Klopp

Dear EPD Diaspora,

Once again the academic year has passed in a whirlwind of new events, people and ideas-on April 27th and 28th we will celebrate EPD with public presentations of sixteen workshop projects, followed by a reception on Friday evening. For those of you in the New York area, we hope you can join us for some of the fun (see schedule on page 9). In the spring term, we welcomed a number of new faculty members. Former Director of the UN Human Development Report Sakiko Fukuda-Parr taught Development Ethics and Lenora Suki launched the course "Remittances and Development." We also welcomed Rafis Abazov, Marc Jacquand, Alice Miller and Helen Epstein as new faculty advisors for workshop.

As this newsletter shows, this term was also marked by a great number of student initiatives. This included an EPD Forum, which provides a way for students to more systematically make their concerns known to the administration. Key issues that surfaced were lack of a permanent Director, gaps in curriculum (lack of courses on South Asia and Africa figured prominently) and improving career services. A recent SIPA survey found improving career services was the number one concern of students. Alumni have lifelong access to the Office of Career Services and we are always trying to help connect alumni and current students (page 10). We have an amazing pool of talent! Feel free to be in touch if you have any further questions.

Finally, thanks once again to a wonderful and at times heroic EPD team: special thanks to PAs Angela Bailey and Nina Kolbe. We will miss you next year but look forward to hearing about your next steps in the world.

*Jacqueline Klopp, EPD Interim Director*



The Economic and Political Development Concentration  
*invites you to the*

**Final Presentations of the 2006 EPD Workshop  
in Applied Development**

Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28  
9:30am—5:00pm

15th Floor, International Affairs Building  
*Alumni reception and slideshow begin Friday at 4:50pm*

## Student Initiatives

### SIPA Microfinance Working Group is Busy and Growing

Alexandra Fiorillo ('07)

Simply put, microfinance is banking for the poor. This approach to finance has proven to be a powerful tool to help alleviate poverty in developing countries by helping poor entrepreneurs build assets, increase incomes and reduce economic vulnerability.

The microfinance industry has been growing rapidly over the last thirty years and several years ago, two students at SIPA responded to the simultaneous growing interest on campus by forming a student group dedicated to the topic. The Microfinance Working Group (MFWG) organizes lectures, panel discussions, mentoring services, networking events and access to career resources. Our goals are to:

- Promote the practice of microfinance to future policy makers, donors and practitioners;

- Serve as a venue for members to gather and exchange information about microfinance;
- Increase access to experts and increase knowledge of best practices in microfinance.

The demand at SIPA for microfinance classes and events has risen dramatically in the past few years. SIPA now offers three microfinance classes and the MFWG has increased its visibility on campus. On February 24, we held our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Careers in Microfinance Event at the law offices of Cleary, Gottlieb, Hamilton and Steen in lower Manhattan. Over 100 participants attended the two-panel afternoon focused on *Innovations in Microfinance* and *Investing in Microfinance*. Panelists discussed the current trends in microfinance including new microfinance technolo-

“The MFWG organizes lectures, panel discussions, mentoring services, networking events and access to career resources.”

gies being used in the field by financial institutions, investing opportunities in microfinance operations abroad, and the different prospects for students interested in working in the microfinance industry. Organizations represented at the event included: ACCION International, Banyan Global, BlueOrchard Finance, CGAP, Citigroup, Developing World Markets, Pro Mujer, and Women's World Banking and participants came from SIPA, the Business School, NYU, Georgetown University, London School of Economics and other academic institutions.

The MFWG is always planning exciting events so keep your eyes open for announcements! Please feel free to email us at:

[sipa.microfinance@gmail.com](mailto:sipa.microfinance@gmail.com)

### Education and Development Working Group Founded to Link SIPA and TC

Kendra Park and Nora Barakat ('07)

One of SIPA's newest student groups is the Education and Development Working Group (EDWG). EDWG was formally created in Fall of 2005 out of SIPA and Teacher's College student interest in education in the developing world. Since then, EDWG has organized several presentations by

international experts, Columbia professors, and Ph.D. candidates about a broad range of education-related topics.

The events have addressed girls' education in Jordan, disabled children's education in India, and HIV/AIDS in Zambia. EDWG also held an internship panel in March and

co-organized the education panel for SIPA's New York career panel series. The upcoming year holds even greater plans, including film screenings and brownbag discussions, lobbying for more education-related courses, and increased outreach to the Columbia community. Email [kp2173@columbia.edu](mailto:kp2173@columbia.edu) for info.

## Raising the Profile of EPD Policy Analysis Track

*Eva Quintana and Faye Leone ('06)*

By our calculations, the smallest class at SIPA is Policy Analysis II, the “sister” class of the EPD Workshop and the capstone experience for EPD concentrators who, instead of the Project and Program Management track, choose the Policy Analysis (PA) track. We are in a class of nine students, six of whom plan to graduate this year with a focus in PA. This is striking considering that EPD is the school’s largest concentration.

What do we suggest by highlighting this tiny number? Not that more SIPA students should have the same interests

as we do, but that many students who *do* share an interest in PA may not pursue it at SIPA. Why? First, it is not adequately known about or understood. Second, the Workshop is such an appealingly “real” experience that EPD students, understandably, gravitate towards the Project Management track.

This fracturing of the EPD concentration is unfortunate. It isolates analytic skills from programmatic skills. Yet most NGOs both in the North and South, as well as many international agencies, engage in advocacy with the aim to influence policy debates and promote changes in development policies. In many cases, these

organizations lack the expertise and skills to do rigorous policy analysis and effective advocacy. Their strengths lie in programmatic work – management, logical framework and program evaluation – and expertise in specific fields (health, nutrition, education, urban planning, etc). EPD prepares students to fill this exact niche, well populated though it already is. Training in advocacy for poverty reduction can create stronger links between programmatic work and analytical, political and advocacy work.

**“In the development world, campaigning, advocacy, and political skills are increasingly directed at economic and social rights, which is where human rights and development blend together.”**

Some improvements may be borrowed from the Human Rights concentration, such as its course in campaigning and advocacy. These skills are useful in addressing many issues beyond core human rights issues such as torture, homelessness, and gender violence. In the development world, campaigning, advocacy, and political skills are also increasingly directed at economic and social rights, which is where human rights and development blend together.

SIPA should support this trend with classes on the rights-based approach to development, and prepare its students with the skills to push the cross-over even further in practice. This includes being trained to lobby congressper-

sons, trade representatives, and UN agencies, so that the problems they seek to address with on-the-ground programs can also be addressed at the systemic level, where they are held in place by political and economic dynamics that we also have a role in influencing.

The EPD concentration would better serve its students by doing the following:

1. Give PA a higher profile in the concentration – the EPD first-year orientation should describe PA students’ projects in addition to those from the workshop.
2. Emphasize the centrality of policy analysis and advocacy in development.
3. Offer more courses on advocacy and campaigning for development issues, just as HR teaches advocacy for human rights issues.
4. Offer more courses on the conceptual and practical debates of rights-based approaches to development, allowing for a deeper systemic analysis of the problems we seek to address.
5. Consider an alternative structure which might consist of two or three tracks organized by issue area, but all of which incorporate a range of tactical methods. Or SIPA could offer a new concentration in “Policy and Advocacy for Int’l Affairs” to offer a more integrated approach to human, social and economic rights.

## EPD Workshop Evaluates Consultative Process of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for Women's Edge Coalition

Carli Rogosin ('06)

The mountainous Central American country of Honduras is the original banana republic, coined by O. Henry in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It now has the distinction of being the second country with which the United States has entered into a Millennium Challenge Account compact.

The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), launched in 2002, is a new organ to channel larger amounts of overseas development assistance to countries that demonstrate "greater accountability" according to corruption and democracy indicators. Once countries enter MCA Agreements, a local government organization, established in the country, identifies priorities for specific development projects and is responsible for implementation.

This spring, six participants in the EPD Workshop analyzed the extent of inclusion of women in the development of the MCA-Honduras compact and the potential impact for women of the MCA's transportation and rural development projects. The team worked on behalf of the Women's Edge Coalition (WEC), an organization based in Washington D.C. that "does focused, practical advocacy to make sure that U.S. international trade and assistance programs create economic opportunities and

self-sufficiency for women and their families worldwide."

This EPD workshop involved travel to Honduras, where the team interviewed U.S. and Honduran officials involved in the compact consultations, as well as non-governmental organizations and coalitions for (and of) Honduran women to determine the degree and scope of participation of groups representing women's needs. The Honduran government is currently in transition following January elections. The Millennium Challenge Corporation, as the MCA body in Washington is called, and its Honduran counterpart were extremely cooperative.

Most exciting for the SIPA team was the chance to listen to the voices of Honduran women. Three SIPA students met with a union group of female banana workers near the northern city of San Pedro Sula. "The number one concern we heard was about domestic violence," said Amy Boldosser, an issue that will not be addressed by the MCA projects.

"Most exciting for the SIPA team was the chance to listen to the voices of Honduran women. Three SIPA students met with a union group of female banana workers near the northern city of San Pedro Sula. 'The number one concern we heard was about domestic violence,' said Amy Boldosser, an issue that will not be addressed by the MCA projects."

One of the most interesting aspects of this project is that the SIPA team is highly invested in the issues that WEC seeks to address. All six members have experience working with gender issues. "It is difficult to be an unbiased consultant when you identify so strongly with the objectives of your client," says Carli Rogosin. "Especially when your preliminary findings indicate that those objectives were clearly not being met, or even considered by the MCC during its process in Honduras."

A knowledgeable and supportive adviser, adjunct professor **Eugenia McGill**, and a wonderful client in Women's Edge made the workshop a positive experience for the SIPA team. Both client and advisor viewed the workshop as a learning experience for the students and highly value their contribution. "It is encouraging to know that our work really will be used to lobby the Congress and the MCC to improve this program in countries all around the world," says workshop team member Liza Mantilla.

## Policy Analysis Research Topics

Faye Leone ('06)

In Policy Analysis II, taught by UNICEF Senior Policy Analyst and EPD Adjunct Faculty member **Enrique Delamonica**, the emphasis is on learning to critically examine and contextualize policies and their impacts, design alternatives and argue persuasively for these alternatives. In the process, students also gain fluency in current development policy debates.

In the first part of the course students increase their ability to critically analyze the various policy reports they are reading. The second part of the course involves more intense work on policy papers. By the end of this course students produce a high quality policy paper that will form a part of the EPD Working Series on Development Policy and in some

cases will be prepared for publication and wider dissemination.

And here are some of the projects students in the EPD Policy Analysis track are working on:

- *Could an increase in WB funding address water and sanitation's harmful impacts on women and girls' health and educational access?*
- *How can Brazil play a role in breaking through the current deadlock over agricultural issues in the WTO's Doha round?*
- *Can the new guidelines of the International Finance Corporation really reduce the negative social, environmental, and conflict-related impacts of mining projects?*



A large Muslim cemetery sitting in front of the eternal flame from the 1984 Winter Olympics. This is one of many war cemeteries surrounding Sarajevo. Photo by Amelia Erwit (MPA-EPD '06).

## A Mexican in Jordan: Meddling in the Middle East

Esteban Rodarte ('06)

Last summer, I interned at the Amman Center for Peace and Development in Jordan. I was there to observe the evolution of the Middle East peace process from an Arab perspective. It was a critical time to be there.

Since distances in this part of the Middle East are not a problem, traveling was a definite must. I traveled to Israel and the West Bank to witness the Gaza disengagement from ancient Jerusalem and modern

Tel Aviv while I interviewed members of the peace movement on both sides who kept glued to their TVs as the dramatic events unfolded. As people of peace, the Israelis I met where experiencing a mix of feelings towards the intractable settlers and admiration for the young soldiers sent out to pull them out. In Ramallah, my Arab friends remained skeptical about Sharon's unilateral pullout and feared his plans to take over East Jerusalem. They also discussed the rampant corruption of the Pal-

estinian National Authority and the political gains of the opportunistic Hamas.

The speed with which the players in the peace process have changed is startling, with Sharon no longer in power and Hamas' recent Parliamentary victory. Looking ahead, I am optimistic that the people I admire for their courage and peace building work will continue to carry on under the new Palestinian and Israeli governments.

## EPD Alum Marc Jacquand Turns EPD Workshop Advisor

Lucia Vancura ('06)

When Marc Jacquand ('00) graduated from SIPA, he had just completed an EPD workshop project involving a microcredit program in rural Nepal. "That workshop gave me my career direction," he says.

He took his pre-SIPA experience as an investment banker and his new interest in microfinance to the UN, where he has worked in microfinance at the UN Capital Development Fund and is currently a policy analyst for the Crisis and Post-Conflict Cluster. His UN work has taken him around the world, from Rwanda and Egypt to recent missions to Sudan and Morocco. Of late, his schedule now includes frequent trips back to SIPA, where he is the faculty advisor for a current EPD workshop team.

"The workshop was my best experience at SIPA... I like teaching and training and this is a chance for me to give back to SIPA" he explains. A partici-

pant in past SIPA panels and events, he now meets regularly with his EPD workshop team, providing valuable advice on evaluating microfinance institutions in the Philippines for their client Catholic Relief Services.

What is his advice for getting the most out of the workshop experience? "Remember that the greatest value of the workshop is as a learning experience. If, in the process, you can offer something that is of value to the client, that's good," he says. "But don't concentrate so hard on the final product that you miss chances to learn from the process."

Marc's insight make this process equally valuable for the next generation of EPD workshop teams. From "Don't underestimate how hard it is for 6 people to write one final report," to "Remember your teammates can important contacts for the rest of your career, as my Nepal project teammates have been for me,"



Above: Weekly meeting at the Mindanao, Philippines center where clients come together to repay their loans.

Below: Marc Jacquand and EPD team



Marc knows what he is talking about. After all, it was only 6 years ago that he was sitting in the sixth floor lounge too, planning his own workshop trip and wondering in what ways the experience would benefit him.

## Acclaimed Journalist Helen Epstein Joins EPD Adjunct Team

Jacqueline Johnson ('06)

Helen Epstein is a freelance writer and independent consultant specializing in AIDS and public health issues. Her particular expertise is in HIV/AIDS and reproductive health in Africa. She has conducted research for Human Rights Watch, the Open Society Institute, the

Rockefeller Foundation and other organizations. She writes frequently for various popular magazines including the New York Review of Books and The New York Times Magazine. She is currently working on a book *Why Don't They Listen: Africa, the West and the Fight Against AIDS*, to be published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

in early 2007.

Helen recently joined the EPD Adjunct team as the advisor for two workshops.

Helen was educated at the London School of Public Health, Cambridge University and the University of California, Berkeley.

## Faculty Profile: Popular Economic Development Professor Miguel Urquiola

Jayshree Bajoria ('07)

You know you are in the right classroom if Mozart's music fills the air. Just like the overture before the opera, it sets the pace for the next two hours – intense and engaged discussion of various concepts of economic development. Every person inside this classroom at SIPA is there to find the answer to the most fundamental question plaguing the world today: why do some people lead lives of such comfort and luxury while others confront squalor and extreme deprivation? What makes some countries rich while others struggle to provide one square meal a day and clean drinking water to its people?

Questions like these preoccupy economist Miguel Urquiola. Born and raised in La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, one of the poorest countries in South America, Urquiola is no stranger to ideas concerning development. "I was only 12 years old when Bolivia was faced with the worst inflation in history in 1982. As a kid, I always wondered what caused it. And it was in college that I

saw that economics had very tidy ways of explaining this."

Filled with curiosity and passion for knowledge, Urquiola was undeniably attracted to economics as a powerful tool that could provide answers to such phenomena. And soon after completing his undergraduate studies, he started working for the Bolivian government where he developed an interest in education related development issues. This interest was further enhanced while working with the World Bank and teaching at Cornell University.

"Education is certainly crucial to development. I am interested in understanding education as an industry and see what implications it has for policy," says Urquiola. His research primarily focuses on education issues that could aid in understanding and achieving goals like those imbibed in the American slogan of "no child left behind."

It is both as professor and economist that Urquiola makes his mark. His ready smile and anecdotes for even the most

tedious concepts of development make him popular with students. He possesses the kind of nervous energy that leaves most people gasping for breath. In these two hours inside the class, he only pauses either to answer questions or take an occasional sip of Dr. Pepper. Even then, his feet seem to have a life of their own as they continue to pace the platform in front of the class. Rushda Majeed, one of his students, says, "He is one of the best if you compare him with other professors."

As an economist, he tries to understand and explore ideas of development through his research, and his work influences important policies in the field. Lisa Anderson, Dean of SIPA says he is the perfect example of the kind of faculty that fits the profile of the school. "He is doing important research that contributes to the store of human knowledge but he is also making clear contributions to the policy debates of the day and balancing these two demands is very difficult."

## EPD Forum Report: Discussion on Director Search and the Future of EPD

Ann Warner ('07)

In February 2006, the EPD concentration held its first open forum. More than 70 people turned out to discuss some of the most important issues facing the school's largest concentration. These include an ongoing search for a permanent Director, the curriculum,

career services and the future of the concentration. Guests included SIPA Dean Lisa Anderson, Interim Director Jacqueline Klopp, Director Search Committee Head Professor Peter Bearman, and representatives from OCS and the office of Faculty and Curricular

Affairs.

While many decisions on the EPD Concentration will have to wait for a permanent director, the Forum allowed for key dialogue among students, faculty and administration. For notes from the event please contact [ajb2119@columbia.edu](mailto:ajb2119@columbia.edu).

## Alum's the Word

**Judith Kallick-Russell & Andrew Russell ('93 & '89):** We are living in Cyprus and interested in staying connected with SIPA. jkallickrus-sell@yahoo.com. Also, we would be happy to help out with internships or other issues, if students are interested in Cyprus. Judy is a consultant with a local NGO called the Management Centre, coordinating programs on civil society. Andrew is working with UNDP, heading up their Bi-communal Development Program. Although, economically Cyprus is doing fine, there are a number of capacity building, democratic dialogue and conflict resolution issues to be tackled.

**Queene Choudhury (EPD '02):** Consultant for the Poverty Group at the Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP New York.

**Julie Zissimopoulos, Ph.D ('93):** I received my doctorate in economics in 2000 and I am working as a research economist at RAND, a 'think tank' located in Santa Monica, California. My research primarily focuses on aging issues such as retirement, savings, and inter-generational transfers in the U.S. and around the world. I'm married to Ryan Irvine, and have two children, Audrey (2 years) and Greta (8 months).

**Laura Zaks ('05):** Hello and greetings to EPD! I returned to New York in December 2005 after completing a fellowship in Rome where I worked for Fondazione Il Faro, an Italian organization that provides training and social assistance to immigrants from difficult socio-economic and political situations. It was a wonderful experience but it is also nice to be back home.

**Allen Thayer ('05):** I am working for a small NGO that markets fair trade school uniforms produced in Thailand and Mexico. I did the EPD workshop last Spring, and our client was MST, the Landless Workers Movement in Brazil. Workshop gave me exposure to a new field, namely fair trade, which was extremely formative for me as I knew I was interested in local-level economic development, but didn't know how or what to work on specifically. Also, the workshop gave me substantial field experience working with small-scale farmers in Brazil.

After the workshop I knew I wanted to work in the fair trade field and my current job is working on starting a new fair trade endeavor similar to the MST project. Workshop helped teach me who the players are, what the issues are within this field and I was able to investigate these more after I graduated and started looking for a job.

**Sunanda Mane ('03):** I was a mid-career student at SIPA during 2001-2003 and thoroughly enjoyed my two years at the school, the highlights being the field projects in Tajikistan and Bangladesh.

After graduation in May 2003, I started to work as a consultant for UNDP and simultaneously the process of establishing a non-profit foundation, Lend-A-Hand India. This was what I wanted to do at some point in my career. With the help from friends and family, in December 2003, Lend-A-Hand India came into being.

By partnering with grassroots non-profit organizations, community groups, and local governments, Lend-A-Hand India helps to create better access to education, vocational training, career development, and employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Our goal is to help the poor realize their full potential to meet their aspirations for a better life. To learn more about us please visit [www.lend-a-hand-india.org](http://www.lend-a-hand-india.org).



**Lend-A-Hand India**

# Workshop Presentation Schedule

Thursday, April 27th, 2006

9:00 - 9:30	<b>Breakfast/Introduction</b>
9:30 - 10:15	<b>Girls' Secondary Education in Mauritania: Challenges and Opportunities</b> <i>Peace Corps and UNICEF Mauritania</i>
10:25 - 11:10	<b>Understanding Context to Reduce the Vulnerabilities of Young People in Bosnia</b> <i>Project Prepare!</i>
11:20 - 12:05	<b>Options for Change: Policy-Making in the Kyrgyz Republic</b> <i>UNDP Kyrgyzstan</i>
12:15 - 1:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
1:10 - 1:55	<b>Constraints and Opportunities for Rural Women Producers in Terabona, Nicaragua.</b> <i>Fundación Mujer y Desarrollo Económico Comunitario (FUMDEC)</i>
2:05 - 2:50	<b>Strategic Entry into Fair Trade Markets: A Brazilian Case Study</b> <i>Landless Workers Movement (MST) Brazil</i>
3:00 - 3:45	<b>Building an Ethical Public Life: Case Studies in Transformational Leadership</b> <i>World Bank Public Sector Group</i>
3:55 - 4:40	<b>Microenterprise Support for the Millennium Villages Project</b> <i>Earth Institute Millennium Villages Project</i>
4:50 - 5:35	<b>Empowering Communities: An Analysis of IIRR's Development Activities in Bicol, Philippines</b> <i>International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)</i>

Friday, April 28th, 2006

9:00 - 9:30	<b>Breakfast/Introduction</b>
9:30 - 10:15	<b>Meeting Basic Needs in a Rapidly Urbanizing Community: A Water, Sanitation, and Solid Waste Assessment</b> <i>Municipality of Ruiru Kenya</i>
10:25 - 11:10	<b>Improving Educational Quality for Underserved Children in the Dominican Republic: The Role of an NGO.</b> <i>The DREAM Project, Dominican Republic</i>
11:20 - 12:05	<b>Improving Care of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in South Africa</b> <i>Doctors for Life South Africa</i>
12:15 - 1:00	<b>Education For All? Lessons from the Abolition of User Fees in The Gambia.</b> <i>UNICEF Policy Division New York</i>
1:10 - 1:55	<b>Incorporating Women's Voices into the Development Process: Lessons Learned from Honduras</b> <i>Women's Edge Coalition</i>
2:05 - 2:50	<b>Bringing Together Diverse Needs: Findings from a Rapid Population and Reproductive Health Assessment with UNFPA Sudan.</b> <i>UNFPA</i>
3:00 - 3:45	<b>FilmAid in Kenya</b> <i>FilmAid International</i>
3:55 - 4:40	<b>Building Sustainable Institutions: A Comparison of Four Microfinance Institutions in Rural Philippines</b> <i>Catholic Relief Services Philippines</i>
4:50 -	<b>Reception</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Many thanks to all who have made this possible: our partners listed above, the School of International and Public Affairs, the Mellon Foundation through the Humanitarian Affairs program, the Harriman Institute, the Earth Institute, the Mailman School of Public Health, the Center for Sustainable Urban Development, the UN Alliance for Public-Private Partnerships and our dedicated faculty and staff.*

*For further information, please contact Jacqueline Klopp: [jk2002@columbia.edu](mailto:jk2002@columbia.edu) (212) 854-7476*

**Alumni, we want to hear from you so please send us your updates!**

Jacqueline Klopp      jk2002@columbia.edu  
*Interim Director*

Angela Bailey      ajb2119@columbia.edu  
*Program Assistant*

**Editors and Contributors**

Angela Bailey, *Editor*  
 Yehia Houry, *Designer*

Carinne Meyer  
 Jacqueline Klopp  
 Kendra Park  
 Eva Quintana  
 Esteban Rodarte  
 Carli Rogosin  
 Lucia Vancura  
 Ann Warner

Jayshree Bajoria  
 Nora Barakat  
 Alexandra Fiorillo  
 Jacqueline Johnson  
 Faye Leone



Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The bridge was destroyed in a bombing raid in 1993 and recently rebuilt. Photo by Amelia Erwit (MPA-EPD '06).

**OCS Services for EPD Alumni**

Please be aware that you have lifelong access to SIPA's Office of Career Services. Services available to alumni include access to the more than 2,000 job postings on MonsterTRAK, career counseling, and the SIPA Alumni Career Advisory Program (ACAP). ACAP is a directory of SIPA alumni willing to provide career advice to fellow SIPA alumni. Please stay in touch!

[www.sipaglobalconnect.org](http://www.sipaglobalconnect.org)

**SIPA Students Contribute to UNICEF's "Child Alert" on Haiti**

*Carinne Meyer ('07)*

This past fall semester, five SIPA students were selected to research a UNICEF media project called "Child Alert." The project's goal is to raise awareness and galvanize action for "forgotten emergencies" that greatly affect the health and education status of children in the world. The SIPA research team, made up of Laura Davies, Farida Kassin, Olivier Roux, Jennifer Keane, and Carinne Meyer, was assigned to Haiti.

For three months, the team met weekly with the media staff at UNICEF house presenting facts, reports and personal stories about the daily lives of children in Haiti who are living in horrible conditions of poverty, violence and

insecurity. In late December, three of the five researchers scrambled to finish finals and arrange visas so that they could spend a week in Haiti collecting first-hand stories from these resilient children.

Based out of the Port-au-Prince UNICEF office, Jennifer and Carinne met with elementary school students, orphans, street kids, domestic servants, former gang members, government officials, the Brazilian Ambassador to Haiti, doctors, teachers, MINUSTAH peacekeeping troops, and some of the inspiring Haitian people who have dedicated their lives to protecting these incredibly

vulnerable children during this unstable time.



Young Girls in Haiti Photo by Olivier Roux ('07)

Meanwhile, Olivier traveled to the countryside to experience first hand the disparity between urban and rural living. He spent two days accompanying a doctor on village visits and saw first hand the devastating impact of the crisis on children including high rates of

extreme malnutrition particularly for children under five.

The team delivered a twenty-five page report to UNICEF in January which contributed to the *Child Alert: Haiti* report released in 2006.