



Greetings from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University. Thank you for signing up to receive information from the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid.

The email newsletters we send are meant to provide you with information about the opportunities available to SIPA students and details related to the process of applying for admission and financial aid. An archive of the emails sent can be found by visiting the following site:

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources\\_services/admissions/newsletter.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/admissions/newsletter.html)

### **Application Information**

This is a very busy season for the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. Around the admissions deadline each year it is not unusual for us to receive hundreds of emails and pieces of paper mail each day. One common question we are asked is, "I turned a document in and yet receipt is not reflected on the application site."

Our office date stamps mail when it arrives in our office. Documents are then alphabetized in a general file by document type. When an application is submitted on our site we then start to match the documents to the applicant file. This process can take up to three weeks during our busy season. With hundreds of pieces of mail being received per day we are unable to respond directly to requests about the receipt of a particular document.

If your document arrived prior to the deadline there is nothing to worry about because it has been date stamped and just needs to be filed. We encourage you to be patient and to keep checking the status of your documents on the application site.

### **Financial Aid**

#### *SIPA Fellowships*

SIPA's Office of Development is very pleased to acknowledge the generous support of David Ottaway (SIPA International Fellow '63 and Columbia Political Science Ph.D. '68) and his family with their gift of \$1 million to support student fellowships. The Ottaway Fellowship Fund will provide full scholarships for two students at SIPA. The Fund will be awarded for the first time in the fall of 2008 and will help SIPA make significant progress towards reaching its fellowship goals.

All applicants will be considered for the Ottaway Fellowship and the many other fellowships offered by SIPA. Our fellowship application is a part of the admission application and if you have applied you will be considered for funding.

### Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Now that it is 2008, U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents can file the FAFSA for the 2008-2009 academic year. The FAFSA is used to award loans and Work-Study awards to students. More information can be found at the following link: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> We encourage all qualified applicants to fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible. Completing the FAFSA requires tax information so we also encourage you to file your tax return as soon as possible. The SIPA FAFSA code is E00128.

### Outside Scholarships and Grants

We recommend that all applicants continue to research outside funding opportunities. More information is available on the following site:

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources\\_services/financial\\_aid/index.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/financial_aid/index.html)

As was stated in a previous newsletter, for the 2006-2007 academic year SIPA students were awarded close to \$5 million in outside scholarship and grant funding. Doing research can really pay off.

### **Student Interview: Matteen Mokalla**

Matteen Mokalla is a second-year SIPA student pursuing an MIA degree with a regional concentration focusing on the Middle East. His course work includes, classical Persian literature, Arabic, and various courses on modern Middle Eastern history and politics. He spent the last summer touring the Middle East.

Prior to SIPA Matteen worked in the technology industry and also worked as a research assistant for both the Village Voice and Mother Jones Magazine. Matteen completed his undergraduate education at the University of California, Berkeley where he studied politics and did extensive course work at the Graduate School of Journalism.

### **Why did you choose Middle East studies as your concentration?**

"SIPA has outstanding faculty in this field. Where else besides SIPA can one take courses with Rashid Khalidi and Richard Bulliet? I also think the region is infinitely fascinating."

### **What do you see yourself doing after you graduate?**

"I hope to work in television news as a producer or start my own not-for-profit media organization that focuses on the Middle East."

### **What has been the best part of your time at SIPA?**

"Hands down the people I have met. When I went back home to Napa I used to joke with my parents that because of SIPA I now had a friend from almost every country in the world. I never knew any Khazaks, Iraqis, Bhutanese, or Fins before coming to SIPA. It turns out there are lots of great people from around the world working for positive change."

### **Can you describe some of the activities you get involved in outside of class?**

"I have been active with the SIPA newspaper, Communiqué, as well as The Morningside Post (a student blog - <http://www.themorningsidepost.com/>). I often write about the Middle East for both of these publications."

## **News and Events**

### **SIPA News**

SIPA News is a biannual publication that is written by SIPA students. The latest issue of SIPA News focuses on the transition in power that is going to take place in the United States in the coming year. November elections will mean a new President and many Congressional seats will be hotly contested. It is likely that the direction of both domestic and international policymaking could drastically change. We welcome you to download the latest issue, and any previous issues, by visiting the following site:

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/about\\_sipa/sipa\\_publications/sipa\\_news.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/about_sipa/sipa_publications/sipa_news.html)

### **SIPA Events**

A steady stream of speakers are constantly visiting SIPA and in December, Gerhard Schröder, former Chancellor of Germany, gave SIPA's annual Silver Memorial lecture entitled, "Russia and the Future of European Energy Security," co-sponsored by The Center for Energy, Marine, Transportation and Public Policy (CEMTPP). The entire lecture, and several others, can be viewed by visiting this site:

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/news\\_events/multimedia/index.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/multimedia/index.html)

### **Alumni News**

A SIPA alumnus also made the news recently. Josh Lockwood (MIA 97) was recently appointed to the position of Executive Director of Habitat-NYC, a leading affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. The organization builds affordable homes for ownership in New York City's five boroughs.

Lockwood earned his Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in 1997. "I am honored and inspired to be leading Habitat-NYC at this historic time, when we are providing more affordable homes to hardworking New York City families than ever before," said Lockwood.

"Habitat-NYC is proud to name Josh Lockwood as Executive Director," said Les Bluestone, Chair of Habitat-NYC's Board of Directors. "Josh is the right person to lead Habitat-NYC as we take on the opportunities of larger-scale development. Josh has demonstrated that he is deeply committed to our mission of giving families decent and affordable homes as we help to build a better city for all New Yorkers."

## **Office Information**

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have questions. In addition, if you plan to visit New York City you are welcome to visit campus and attend an information session. We do request that you contact us at least one week prior to your arrival so we can make the proper arrangements. Thank you again and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

The Staff of the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid

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