



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 emails 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.

Spring Admission Deadline

The deadline to submit admission materials for the spring 2008 semester is October 1st, 2007. In order for an application to be considered complete, all materials must be submitted by this date. The Admissions Committee cannot guarantee that applications completed after the deadline will be reviewed.

If you are a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident and will be applying for the spring, we recommend that you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>) as soon as possible. Admission decisions for the spring will be sent out in early November.

World Leaders Forum

One of the distinct features of SIPA is the access our students have to influential scholars, leaders, diplomats, and officials from around the world. The World Leaders Forum is an example of the type of programming that provides an opportunity for students to interact with such individuals. In September the following speakers will be appearing on campus as part of the forum:

Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi

Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov, President of Turkmenistan

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile

Toomas Hendrik Ilves (CC' 76), President of the Republic of Estonia

Mikheil Saakashvili (LAW' 94), President of the Republic of Georgia

More information about the World Leaders Forum can be found by visiting the following site:

<http://www.worldleaders.columbia.edu/events.html>

SIPA Alumni Network

SIPA has a vast alumni network comprised of approximately 15,000 graduates living in over 150 different countries around the world. This past summer Dan McSweeney (SIPA '07) helped organize a reunion lunch in Baghdad for alumni of Columbia University working in Iraq. The following link has more information about the event:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/news/07/08/baghdad.html>

During his time as a student, McSweeney was also involved in helping to start the SIPA student blog, The Morningside Post. If you are interested in what SIPA students are blogging about, please feel free to visit the following link (the blog is RSS enabled):

<http://www.themorningsidepost.com/>

Institute for African Studies

The Institute for African Studies recently received a major boost as Mamadou Diouf joined the University. Diouf is a renowned scholar who has taught in Senegal, guest lectured at several European Universities, and most recently worked at the University of Michigan where among other things he led the Center for Afro American and African Studies.

In describing what attracted him to Columbia, Diouf stated, "This is one of the few places outside of Africa where Africa is discussed by Africans and non-Africans," he said. Columbia "can offer a neutral place for discussion."

For a full article on discussing his appointment at Columbia, please visit the following link:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/news/07/09/diouf.html>

Admissions Program Assistant, Caroline Bray

Caroline Bray is a second year MIA student concentrating in International Security Policy. She was awarded a SIPA fellowship this year and is working as a program assistant in the Admissions Office. Prior to her studies at SIPA, Caroline spent three years working in the field of communications. After beginning her career in consumer advertising, she joined a Washington D.C. public relations agency to work as a strategic planner – developing communication strategies for private, public and non-profit clients and focusing on social and cause marketing.

Caroline intended to enhance her media background by pursuing the International Media and Communications concentration at SIPA but was immediately drawn to SIPA's unique Security Policy course offerings. Now focusing on security and with a Middle East regional context, Caroline spent the spring semester interning with CNN and the summer enrolled in language courses in France. We recently spoke with Caroline about her time at SIPA and here are some of her remarks:

What has been the best part of your SIPA experience?

"Without a doubt, the people. I feel so fortunate to be surrounded by such amazing people, from all over the world and with such varied backgrounds. Professors are passionate, engaged and accessible, and I've learned as much from other students as I have from the classes themselves. Talking to friends in other graduate programs, I've come to realize that SIPA is the exception rather than the rule."

How did you find the first year core curriculum?

"I enjoyed the core curriculum and have found it beneficial to my elective studies. I didn't have a background in International Relations, and the Conceptual Foundations course provided a great introduction to the field and a framework that I have used in other classes. I was even surprised by Economics - a course I didn't particularly enjoy in high school or as an undergrad. But the course is applied to international issues in a way that makes it highly relevant and interesting."

SIPA Recruiting Events

This fall representatives of SIPA will be traveling to several graduate school fairs and universities both in the U.S. and abroad. For more information on these events please visit the following link:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/admissions/recruitment_cal.pdf

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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