

SIPA

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



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Alumni eNews – July 2008

Dear SIPA Alumni,

The summer months are a perfect time for our alumni to gather and meet. From Israel to Paris, London to Prague, SIPA Alumni are getting to know each other around the globe.

In order 'to be in the loop' on events in your area, please make sure that your contact information is up to date. You can do this by visiting www.alumniconnections.com/sipa or email us at: sipaalum@columbia.edu.

Wishing you a pleasant summer.

Best wishes,
Daniela Coleman
SIPA Director of Alumni Relations

News at SIPA

Professor Pablo Piccato Appointed Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies

Professor Pablo Piccato has agreed to serve as Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2008. Professor Piccato is a distinguished historian of Mexico whose work focuses on the fascinating intersection of crime, politics, and culture in the modern era.

Professor Peter J. Awn to Serve as Director of the Middle East Institute.

Professor Peter J. Awn will serve as Director of the Middle East Institute beginning July 1, 2008. Professor Awn is a distinguished scholar of the Middle East and Professor of Islamic Religion and Comparative Religion in the Department of Religion at Columbia University.

SIPA Alumna Lan Yang Takes on Earthquake Relief Efforts

SIPA Alumna Lan Yang (MIA 1996) has joined forces with National All-Women's Federation and the China Children and Teenagers' Fund to provide support for children orphaned by the massive May 12th earthquake in Sichuan province. The death toll from the earthquake has already surpassed 65,000, leaving behind thousands of children without parental support. The aim of the new CCTF fund is to provide immediate disaster relief as well as to prepare for the long-term support and educational needs of children in the affected area. For more information, see: http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/archive.html

SIPA Alumnus Millstein Appointed Executive Director of Coro New York

Scott Millstein (MPA 1995) has been appointed Executive Director of the Coro New York Leadership Center. Coro brings together leaders from government, corporate, media, labor and nonprofit sectors to encourage an open dialogue and help solve the city's problems. For more information, please visit:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/news_events/archive.html

SIPA Alumna Thottam Named *Time Magazine's* New Delhi Bureau Chief

Jyoti Thottam (MIA 1997) former *Time Magazine* senior editor and South Asian Journalist Forum president has been named *Time Magazine's* New Delhi Bureau Chief. Thottam, a native of India but mostly raised in Houston, began her career at *Time Magazine* at On Magazine/Time Digital. For more information, please visit: <http://www.sajaforum.org>.

Upcoming Events and Programs

7/11: PEPM Alumni & Friends Happy Hour at Amsterdam Café to Welcome New PEPM Class

Come join PEPM from **6pm to 9pm on Friday, July 11th** at Amsterdam Café (1207 Amsterdam Ave @ 119th Street) to welcome the new **Program in Economic Policy Management Class of 2008-2009!** For more information or to RSVP, contact David Caughlin, dc2170@columbia.edu, (212) 854-5310.

7/15: Book signing for *Golden Bones* by SIPA alumnus Ambassador Sichan Siv (MIA 1981) at *Borders* (1801 K Street NW, Washington, DC. See details at: www.sichansiv.com

7/16: CUCL Event: "The Marriage of Figaro"

The Columbia University Club of London invites fellow alumni and Columbia undergrads working in London for the summer to a free outdoor showing of "**The Marriage of Figaro**" in Trafalgar Square on **Wednesday, July 16** starting at **7 pm**. For more information regarding the event, please visit: <http://alumniclubs.columbia.edu/london/eventdetail.php?id=8500000000000357>

7/19: Columbia Reception in Prague

Join fellow alumni and special guests for an evening of Columbia conversation and a reception at the home of Nina and Capt. Jeff Holachek (MIA 1993) on **July 19** beginning at **7pm**. Special guests will include persons from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense. For more details including RSVP, see: http://alumni.columbia.edu/newsletter/ecards/prague_holachek_071708.html

7/23: Recruiting and Information Session for Alumni: CIA's National Clandestine Service

Alumni Information Session, Wednesday, July 23rd 6:30-8pm at SIPA (407 IAB -420 West 118 Street, NYC). To register, please visit: www.sipa.columbia.edu/ALUM/register with NCS in event title. (For more information, please contact SIPA's Office of Alumni Relations at Email: sipaalum@columbia.edu.)

7/25: Third US Alumni Summer Reception (Brown/Cornell)

The Cornell Club of London and The Brown Club of the UK invite SIPA alumni to the third annual **US Alumni Summer Reception** at the **Savie Club** in London on **Friday, July 25** from **7-9pm**. For more information, please visit: <http://alumniclubs.columbia.edu/london/eventdetail.php?id=8500000000000362>

9/10: NYC Alumni Happy Hour at the 79th Street Boat Basin Café (at the Hudson River). Save the date!

Alumni Career Programs & Events

Are you working in the carbon markets?

Join ***SIPA in Carbon***, a network of alumni with members across the globe. Alumni from other Columbia University schools welcome. Contact Email: lang@eib.org or Email: martin_berg@ml.com to join and/or for details.

OCS has transitioned to a new online recruitment system: SIPAlink!

We are excited to announce the launch of our new online recruitment system SIPAlink!

To access the new system, please log in at <https://www.myinterfase.com/cusipa/student> with the same user name and password that you used to access MonsterTRAK, as we have transferred all alumni profiles to the new system. We also strongly recommend that you bookmark this new link for easy future access.

SIPAlink will assist you in your job search through:

- Searching for and applying for opportunities online
- Managing multiple resumes, cover letters, and other employment related documents
- Maintaining an online personal calendar and a lot more!

When you first log in, you will be prompted to update your profile. Please be sure to update any information that may be incorrect or missing.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 212.854.4613 or via email at sipa_ocs@columbia.edu.

Highlights from Recent Alumni Events

6/5: SIPA NYC Happy Hour

SIPA alumni and the recent 2008 SIPA graduation class enjoyed happy hour drinks at Providence in New York City.

6/11: CUCL Hosted Robert Kasdin, Senior Executive Vice President of CU

CU Club of London invited fellow alumni to hear Robert Kasdin, Senior Executive Vice President of Columbia University, discuss key issues at Columbia at The Travellers Club in London.

6/11: CAA Program/Reception on Human Rights

The 2nd Annual CAA Spring Faculty Program and Reception on Human Rights featured Law School professors Sarah H. Cleveland and Peter Rosenblum presenting “Human Rights: Unexpected Disasters, Surprising Successes - A Conversation with Columbia Human Rights Faculty & Alumni,” at The Morgan Library.

6/19: Ambassador Richard Jones Spoke on *Progress of the Peace Process in Israel*

The Columbia University Club of Israel and Oxford University’s Said Business School invited alumni to a reception and remarks in Tel Aviv with US Ambassador Richard Jones. Over 180 people attended the event, which was also attended by CU Provost Alan Brinkley. To read Ambassador Jones’ speech, see: <http://israel.usembassy.gov/publish/mission/amb/061908.aspx>



**Ambassador Richard Jones signing autographs
(Ambassador second from right)**

SIPA also extends a special thanks to Gary Pickholz (CC’78 SIPA ’81) for his organizational efforts.

6/23: SIPA NYC ISP Dinner with Campaign Strategist Robert Shrum

The SIPA ISP Alumni Network hosted a dinner with Democratic campaign strategist Robert Shrum to discuss “The Race to the White House: Campaign Politics and Foreign Policy,” at Restaurant Trattoria Dopo Teatro. Special thanks to the ISP Alumni Network organizers: Francesco Mancini (MIA 03), Alexandra Lloyd (MIA 2004), and Sharon Roling (MIA 2004) for helping to put this event together. Over 60 people attended!

6/24: SIPA Happy Hour in Paris

Columbia Club of France hosted a Happy Hour at the Café des Arts et Métiers. Emily Morris from Columbia University Alumni Relations attended.

Alumni Notes

Have you logged onto [Alumni Connection](#) yet to update your [class note](#)? What are you waiting for! All you will need is your UNI and Password. (If you forgot them, you can access them [here](#)). Below are some recent postings. Post your note today and stay connected with over 15,000 alumni in 154 countries!

Loren Stephens, (International and Public Affairs 1967) is president of Write Wisdom and Provenance Press which she established to assist her clients in writing and publishing their life stories. Her clients include a Holocaust survivor, a life-time enlisted air force man who served in World War II and Vietnam, a couple who began their 63 marriage on the island of Guam and a nationally recognized nephrologist, born in Germany, who lived in Palestine/Israel during the War of Independence. Loren is also an award winning documentary filmmaker with "Legacy of the Hollywood Blacklist," "Sojourner Truth" and the bi-lingual "Los Pastores" to her credit. Her personal essays have been published in literary journals and newspapers throughout the country. She is currently at work on a biography of her Japanese mother-in-law. For more information, see: www.writewisdom.com.

Sharon Epstein, (International and Public Affairs 1971) has held diverse positions in sustainable development with substantial representational, management and technical assistance responsibilities. In 1984, Ms. Epstein joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer specializing in health and population. As an agency representative, a long-term resident advisor or on short-term assignments and consultancies, Ms Epstein has worked in many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and in Egypt, Turkey and Georgia (in the Caucasus). Her main geographical area of expertise is South Asia and she has worked on numerous occasions in all the countries in that sub-region, as well as in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. In Africa, she has worked repeatedly in The Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya; and in Tanzania and Zambia. She is currently on assignment in Haiti.

Suzanne Reisman (International & Public Affairs, 2000) writes, "I am excited that my first book, *Off the Beaten (Subway) Track: New York City's Best Unusual Attractions* will be released by Cumberland House Publications in July 2008. I got the idea to write a book about unusual attractions in New York City when I was working on community development policy and traveling around the five boroughs to work with community groups. It seemed like there was not very much attention given to smaller sites in the City, and as someone who loves road trips, I thought that encouraging people to take public transportation to sites that were off the beaten path would be good for the City. In many cases, half the fun of visiting the attractions in the book is meeting the people who run them. *Off the Beaten (Subway) Track* is available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and at bookstores around the city."

Giving to SIPA

New \$3.5 Million Fellowship at SIPA

SIPA's Office of Development is pleased to acknowledge a generous \$3.5 million gift from the Estate of Julius G. Blocker to create the "Julius Blocker Scholars Program Fund," which will foster an international exchange program between SIPA and German universities. A graduate of SIPA in 1956, Mr. Blocker was a Fulbright scholar after completing his studies at Columbia University and spent his Fulbright year in Berlin. Mr. Blocker passed away in July 2007 and leaves this extraordinary gift for future generations of SIPA students.

Through contributions to SIPA's annual fund, donations for student fellowships, or participation in SIPA's annual benefit dinner, you can help to foster the link between academic excellence and the practice of public policy that makes SIPA unique. For information on how you can contribute to SIPA's mission, please visit: http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/about_sipa/giving_to_sipa.html

Create a lasting contribution by making a donation to SIPA today!

Visit: <https://wwwb.ais.columbia.edu/udar/UDARGiftForm.jsp>

1. Select 'School of International and Public Affairs' from the drop-down menu.
2. Select 'Annual Fund' for the purpose of your gift.

Ms. Roshma Azeem

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