



SIPA

MAGAZINE

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New Institute in Town

The Institute of Global Politics (IGP)
highlights SIPA's commitment to addressing
our toughest global policy challenges. **p. 18**

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On the cover: Members of the Institute of Global Politics (IGP) faculty leadership gathered on campus, July 2023: (back, left to right) Jason Bordoff, Douglas Almond, Jacob J. Lew, Michael A. Nutter, Sandra E. Black; (front, left to right) President Minouche Shafik, Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo, Joseph E. Stiglitz, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton

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A portrait of Minouche Shafik, a woman with dark, wavy hair and red-rimmed glasses, smiling and standing in front of a bookshelf. She is wearing a dark blue zip-up sweater over a white collared shirt. Her arms are crossed.

SIPA WELCOMES PRESIDENT MINOUCHE SHAFIK

Nemat “Minouche” Shafik became the 20th president of Columbia University on July 1. A distinguished economist, Shafik most recently served as president of the London School of Economics and Political Science, the parent institution of one of SIPA’s partners in the Global Public Policy Network. In recognition of her extensive background and expertise, Shafik was appointed as a professor of international and public affairs at SIPA.

Photo by Mark Bader



InBrief

ALUMNI & STUDENTS

In April students from SIPA's International Fellows Program visited the Pentagon to discuss national security with then Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl.



Photo by US Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Kubitzka courtesy of the Department of Defense



L-R: Maha Abahusseini MPA-DP '24, Sai Priya Kodidala MPA '24, Laura Correa Ocampo '24BUS, Nutjaree Chamaplin MPA-DP '23, Ray Lu '24BUS

SIPA and Business School Team Wins Turner MIINT Competition

Congrats to the team of three SIPA students and two Columbia Business School students who won the Best Due Diligence Award at the highly competitive Turner MIINT (MBA Impact Investing Network and Training) competition.

The competition was held by the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and involved participants from more than 40 schools around the world.



Eric Garcetti MIA '95 was confirmed in a bipartisan vote as the 26th United States ambassador to the Republic of India on March 15. Garcetti formerly served as the mayor of Los Angeles from 2013 to 2022.

Peña Elected President of Paraguay

Economist **Santiago Peña MPA-EPM '03**, Paraguay's former finance minister, was elected president in April and took office in August.



Mayor Eric Adams swore in Laura Kavanagh as commissioner of the New York City Fire Department in October 2022. Photo courtesy of the FDNY

Kavanagh Is First Woman to Lead FDNY

Laura Kavanagh MPA '21 was named commissioner of the New York City Fire Department. Kavanagh, who served as acting commissioner for eight months, is the first woman to lead the FDNY in the agency's 157-year history.

KUDOS

Uzochukwu Alutu MPA-EPM '23 won the Andrew Wellington Cordier Student Essay Contest. Once finalized, his essay will be published in the *Journal of International Affairs*.

Pekun Bakare MIA '22, an associate in the Investment Banking Division of Goldman Sachs, was appointed as a Carnegie Ethics Fellow.

Sarah Bieber MIA '10, head of energy partnerships at Acumen, was honored by Clean Energy Education & Empowerment (C3E) with its 2022 International Award.

Asha Castleberry-Hernandez MIA '12 was selected among the Middle East Policy Council's 40 Under 40.

Anisa Kamadoli Costa MIA '98 was named among *Sustainability Magazine's* Top 100 Women for 2023.

Daphne Ewing-Chow MIA '01 was voted Writer of the Year in Barbados by the Gine On People's Choice Awards 2023.

Eduardo Ayala Fuentes, an Executive MPA student, was named among *PoliticsNY*, *Gay City News*, and *amNY's* Metro New York's LGBTQ+ Power Players.

Annika Lescott-Martinez MPA '15, chief financial officer at the New York City Housing Authority, was named one of *Crain's New York Business's* 40 Under 40 for 2022.

Lara Pedrini MIA '10, vice president of Exiger, was named among the Top 50 Women Leaders of New York for 2022 by *Women We Admire*.

Alex Villarino MPA '11 and his partner, Megahn Chun, are the new owners of Hawaii's first Latin foods store, Mercado de la Raza.



Kelsey Chin performs at the 2023 SIPA Leadership Dinner. Photo by Diane Bondareff

Congratulations to **Kelsey Chin MPA '23**, a 2023 Grammy Award winner! Chin, a flutist, was among six Columbia students who are members of the New York Youth Symphony, whose debut album won a Grammy Award in the Best Orchestral Performance, Classical category in February.

Chin was also a featured speaker and performer at the SIPA Leadership Dinner in May.



Anjali Bansal MIA '97 (*right*) was named among *Fortune India's* Most Powerful Women in March. Bansal is a founding partner of Avaana Capital and a member of the steering committee for the Open Network for Digital Commerce.

PROMOTIONS

Olivia Albrecht MIA '11 was named CEO of Aspiration, a climate action company.

Ana J. Almanzar MIA '09 was appointed as deputy mayor for strategic initiatives by Mayor Eric Adams of New York.

Charlotte Ashamu MIA '05 was appointed as director of international programs at the Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage.

Tina Fordham MIA '99 joined the legal services management consultancy Properant as a principal senior adviser.

Lisa Johnson MIA '91 was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Lebanese Republic.

Chiwoniso Kaitano MIA '01 was named the executive director of MacDowell, a prestigious artists' residency program in New Hampshire.

Rachana Kumar MPA '14 was named chief technology officer at Etsy.

Michael F. Miller MIA '98 was named deputy director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

Rosanna Moore MPA '02 was selected by the Piedmont (CA) City Council as the city administrator.

Senthil Nathan MPA '18 was named CEO of Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand.

Emad M. Salem MIA '09 was promoted to executive director of Battery Dance.

Bruna Santos MPA '15 was named director of the Brazil Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Raffi Wartanian MIA '15 was appointed by the City of Glendale, California, as its first poet laureate.

Daniel White MPA '20 transitioned into a new role as deputy chief of staff to the secretary of the US Army.

Haoliang Xu MIA '94 was appointed associate administrator of UNDP.



Photo by Eileen Barroso

Secretary of the US Navy Visits with SIPA Students

Carlos Del Toro, secretary of the US Navy, visited Columbia in December 2022 at the invitation of President Lee C. Bollinger. As part of Del Toro's visit, SIPA hosted a lunch for selected students from the United States and other countries. The gathering included active and former military members in addition to civilians.



L-R: Gudfinnur Sveinsson MPA '23, Professor Sarah Holloway, Frank Reig MPA-ESP '13, Professor Merit E. Janow. Photo by Eileen Barroso

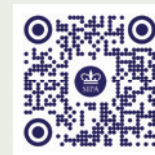
Reig and Brineworks Honored at Columbia Venture Competition

At the 10th annual Columbia Venture Competition in April, **Frank Reig MPA-ESP '13** was honored as Columbia's Entrepreneur of the Year, while Brineworks—a team of SIPA students comprising **Gudfinnur Sveinsson MPA '23**, **Theophile Pouget-Abadie MPA '23**, and **Dylan Malloy MIA '24**—won a \$20,000 SIPA Public Policy Challenge grant. **Luis Gustavo Perez Fakhouri MPA '22** received first prize in the Brown Institute Innovation Challenge in Journalism, Media, and Technology.

A Win for Period Equity on Campus

Aarushi Gupta MIA '24 spearheaded an important initiative for the SIPA community with support from student organizations, the student body, and the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). In April they launched a sustainable period product box, located outside the OSA office, so students now have access to free and sustainable period products, such as menstrual cups, period underwear, and heating pads.

"The aim of the project," Gupta says, "is to counter period poverty that is so rampant and often invisible on most university campuses."



Watch a video about SIPA students' period equity initiative.

Aarushi Gupta (second from left) and classmates in IAB this April





InBrief

FACULTY & STAFF



Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo met with the US ambassador to Japan, Rahm Emanuel, during her June visit to Tokyo.

Photo courtesy of the US Embassy

Economist Groll Receives Provost Grant

Thomas Groll, senior lecturer in international and public affairs, received a 2022–23 Teaching and Learning Grant from Columbia’s Office of the Provost. His project, “Assignment Builder for EconPractice and Adaptive E-Learning Assignments,” was 1 of 12 honorees in the category of innovative course design.



Fuchs Inducted into *City Limits* Hall of Fame

Ester Fuchs, professor of international and public affairs and political science, was inducted into the *City Limits* New York Hall of Fame.

Fuchs is serving as social impact officer and co-principal investigator for the Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3), a \$26 million research project led by Columbia Engineering and funded by the National Science Foundation. The project will use technology to address urban challenges while engaging community residents in an innovative partnership that will serve as a model for future research.



“The very means by which East Asian countries achieved economic success is at the heart of their poverty and other social problems.”

YUMIKO SHIMABUKURO, on her ongoing research on inequality

Read more about Shimabukuro's research and her journey to SIPA.



Photo by Leslye Smith



Nutter Serves in Federal and New York City Advisory Roles

Michael A. Nutter, the David N. Dinkins Professor of Professional Practice in Urban and Public Affairs and the former mayor of Philadelphia, is serving as chair of the Treasury Advisory Committee on Racial Equity. Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen announced Nutter's appointment in October 2022.

Nutter is also serving on New York City's advisory board on the implementation of the Racial Justice Charter Amendments, which was voted into law during the November 2022 general election. Mayor Eric Adams and Commissioner Sideya Sherman of the Mayor's Office of Equity announced the appointment in April.

SIPA Welcomes New Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Relations

In April SIPA welcomed **Katie Day Benvenuto '03CC, '12BUS** as its new associate dean for development and alumni relations. She has a rich history at the University both as a Columbia College and Columbia Business School graduate and as a leader within the Columbia College and Athletics development teams.



Denning Meets with Irish President to Discuss Food Security

Upon the publication of his new book, *Universal Food Security: How to End Hunger While Protecting the Planet* (Columbia University Press, 2023), **Glenn Denning** traveled to Ireland, where he met with President Michael D. Higgins (*right*) to discuss food security through the lens of that country's historical legacy of the Great Hunger.



Calvo Receives AEA Honor for Contributions to Economics

Guillermo Calvo, professor emeritus of international and public affairs, was named a Distinguished Fellow 2023 by the American Economic Association for his lifetime research contributions in the field of economics.



CGEP's Lott Testifies before Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

On June 1 **Melissa Lott**, director of research and senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP), testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The hearing examined the reliability and resiliency of electric service in the United States in light of recent reliability assessments and alerts.



Photo courtesy of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Adjunct associate professor **Alejo Czerwonko** was selected by the World Economic Forum to join the Forum of Young Global Leaders.

Yasmine Ergas, senior lecturer and director of the Gender and Public Policy specialization, received a grant from Columbia's Data Science Institute to support the development of an "early warning system" regarding illiberalism and threats to gender scholars.

Adjunct professor **Michael B. Greenwald** was selected to serve as a member of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission's newly constituted Technology Advisory Committee (TAC).

SIPA's Cysphus Cyber Recommendations Project—co-led by senior research scholar and adjunct professor **Jason Healey**—is a recipient of the 2023 Data Science Institute Seed Funds Program. Cysphus is a decision-support tool that does the heavy lifting required to mine existing cyber reports and the expertise of the cybersecurity community.

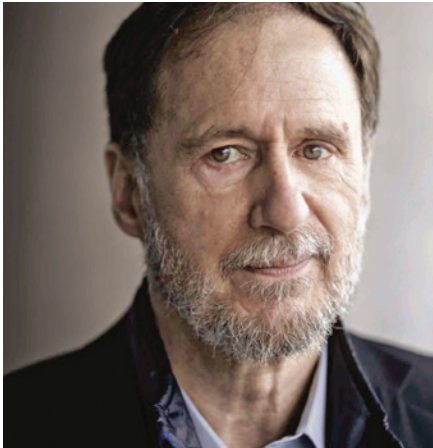
Adam Segal, adjunct professor, joined the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy to lead the development of a US international cyberspace and digital policy strategy.

Adjunct professor **Natalia Pasternak Taschner** received the Balles Prize for Critical Thinking from the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.

University Professor **Joseph E. Stiglitz** was awarded the XXXV International Prize of Catalonia.

Rebecca Weiner, adjunct associate professor, was appointed deputy commissioner for intelligence and counterterrorism of the New York Police Department.

Adam Zurofsky, adjunct professor, was named New York State's interim director of the Northeast Regional Hydrogen Hub effort.



Doyle Named 2023 Berlin Fellow and Publishes New Book

Michael W. Doyle, University Professor, was named among the Berlin Prize Fellows for fall 2023. The annual awards honor US-based scholars, writers, composers, and artists who represent the highest standards of excellence in their fields. Doyle will be working on a revised and updated edition of *Ways of War and Peace* (W. W. Norton) to include new chapters on “Post-Colonial Independence and Industrial Development,” “Third World Global Socialism,” and “The Impact of Race and Racial Consciousness.” Doyle’s latest book is *Cold Peace: Avoiding the New Cold War* (Liveright, 2023).



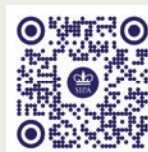
Murillo Wins Argentinean Research Award

María Victoria Murillo (pictured, center), professor of political science and international and public affairs, was honored in March by Argentina’s Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation with a 2022 RAICES Award in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

The awards, now in their 11th year, are given to “scientists, researchers, and technologists from Argentina who live abroad and actively collaborate with the strengthening of the National System of Science, Technology and Innovation.”



SIPA welcomed two new members to the advisory board of the Kent Global Leadership Program on Conflict Resolution: **Henrietta Holsman Fore**, former executive director of UNICEF from 2018 to 2022, and **Hamdi Ulukaya**, founder and CEO of Chobani.



**Read more about
Fore and Ulukaya.**

School News

SIPA Welcomes New Faculty

“Welcoming new scholars, practitioners, and researchers each year helps ensure that SIPA remains a vibrant institution. These faculty bring fresh and diverse perspectives to the classroom and relevant expertise to our community, especially as it relates to SIPA’s five global challenges.”

Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo

Economist Alan M. Taylor Will Join the SIPA Faculty in January 2024



The distinguished economist **Alan M. Taylor**, known for scholarly work across a range of topics including international economics, macroeconomics, finance, and economic history, will join SIPA as a professor of international and public affairs in January 2024.

Taylor, who is the C. Bryan Cameron Chair in International

Economics and Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at the University of California, Davis, is now a visiting professor at SIPA. When he returns in 2024, he will also direct the MIA-MPA concentration in International Finance and Economic Policy.

“I’m pleased that Professor Alan M. Taylor will join the SIPA faculty as a full professor,” says Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo. “He is a globally renowned economist known both for his scholarly

achievement and his extensive work in both policymaking and banking, including service as an adviser to financial institutions around the world. I’m confident he will bring innovative ideas to the IFEP concentration and provide intellectual leadership to the School’s work on the global challenge of inclusive prosperity and macroeconomic performance.”

Taylor’s scholarship is highlighted by the quantitative study of areas including credit booms and financial crises, the *trilemma* (a term he helped coin) of international macroeconomics, the determinants of exchange rates, and the economic history of Argentina. He also helped advance the unique methodological approach known as local projection techniques, which is now being widely adopted in the field of macroeconomics and beyond.

Taylor is a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a research fellow of the London-based Center for Economic Policy Research and serves as a coeditor of the *Journal of International Economics*.

Taylor has written or edited 10 books—including the widely used textbook *International Economics* (Worth), coauthored with Robert Feenstra—and more than 80 journal articles. He earned his PhD in economics at Harvard University.

New Faculty and Research Scholars 2023–24

Sigríður Benediktsdóttir, known as Sigga, has joined SIPA as a senior lecturer in international and public affairs. She studies international finance with a focus on central banks and financial stability. Benediktsdóttir was most recently an assistant dean and lecturer at Yale and previously held positions with the IMF, the Central Bank of Iceland, and the Federal Reserve, among other organizations.

“The systemic risk that has built up during the extended period of low interest rates following the global financial crisis threatens to materialize now as central bank policy rates rise worldwide. For countries in which external liabilities are high, debt service costs will increase, and refinancing may become prohibitively expensive. I am interested in evaluating which emerging and developing countries may be most vulnerable in the next few months.”

Daniel Björkegren, an assistant professor of international and public affairs, works on machine learning and digital data, especially its applications in developing economies. Björkegren comes to SIPA after teaching at Brown University for several years.

“My goal is to think about how new technologies can improve the lives of the poor, how innovation should be enabled, and how these [technologies] should be regulated. It’s a combination of dreaming about possibilities and also making them happen.”

Fernando Cirelli comes to SIPA as an assistant professor of international and public affairs. An expert in macroeconomics, monetary economics, and macro-finance, Cirelli has extensive experience teaching game theory, risk, uncertainty, development, and more. He earned his PhD in economics from New York University in 2023.

“In my latest work, I focus on the disproportionate harm caused by inflation to low- and middle-wealth households, as it erodes the value of their savings, whereas wealthier households can mitigate these effects through access to sophisticated financial instruments.”

Martsella Davitaya has joined SIPA as a lecturer in international and public affairs. Her research lies at the intersection of household finance and macroeconomics, focusing on the channels through which monetary policy impacts the economy and how heterogeneity observed at the micro level affects the economy. She received her PhD in economics from Columbia in 2023.

“After the Great Recession, the Fed kept interest rates low before raising them in 2022 and 2023 because of pandemic-related inflation. Many households already have low mortgage rates, so reducing rates in the future may not boost spending as expected.”

Erica Loneragan, an assistant professor of international and public affairs, has published widely on cybersecurity, grand strategy, military affairs, and international security. Loneragan previously held several positions at the US Military Academy at West Point, including as assistant professor in the Army Cyber Institute. She has also been a senior director at the US Cyberspace Solarium Commission and the Atlantic Council and had been an adjunct research scholar at SIPA since fall 2021.

“In US policy circles in particular, there’s been an ongoing debate for many years about when and how the United States should apply military force in cyberspace—how it should work with its traditional military allies in cyberspace. And my work sheds some light on those questions.”

After serving as a visiting professor at SIPA since fall 2021, **Marcelo Medeiros** returns this year in a new role as a senior research scholar. Medeiros is the author, coauthor, or editor of numerous books in the areas of social inequality and mobility, demography, health, education, poverty, development theory, and disability and social protection. He has been an economic sociologist at the Brazilian Institute for Applied Economic Research and has held visiting appointments at Princeton, Yale, and Berkeley, as well as institutions in Tokyo, Paris, and other international locations.

Timothy Naftali, an expert on national security and intelligence policy, has joined SIPA as a senior research scholar. Naftali is also a well-known presidential historian who appears regularly on CNN. He has been a clinical professor of public service and history at New York University and, among other notable positions, was the founding director of the federal Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. Naftali has written or edited several books as well as articles for the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, *Foreign Affairs*, and other popular publications.



Top, L–R: Fernando Cirelli, Sigríður Benediktsdóttir
Middle, L–R: Erica Loneragan, Marcelo Medeiros, Timothy Naftali
Bottom, L–R: Daniel Björkegren, Martsella Davitaya

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Truth and Reconciliation

New York is hoping marijuana legalization can correct the injustices of history. Damian Fagon MPA '17 is making it happen.

BY AASTHA UPRETY MPA '21

Damian Fagon MPA '17 has taken root in the world of cannabis. He's taught about cannabis cultivation at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, served as a board member of the Cannabis Association of New York, and founded his own hemp farm. In July 2022 he stepped into his biggest challenge yet: serving as chief equity officer for the State of New York's Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).

It's a role that carries immense historical weight. "By definition it is a reparations project," Fagon says. For decades before the drug was finally legalized, New York City was called the marijuana arrest capital of the world, with thousands of arrests yearly that overwhelmingly impacted Black and Latino New Yorkers. Tough policing measures like stop-and-frisk throughout the 2000s worsened the trend, and those who were impacted suffered from the social and economic impacts of criminalization, including housing insecurity and decreased future earnings.

Now, with the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA), signed in March 2021 after years of pressure from activists to stop the senseless arrests, the state is making sure legalization helps the communities who were most harmed by prohibition gain the most economic benefit from the new market.

The OCM seeks to "redress economic harms with economic development

solutions," Fagon says. "You can't just pretend these injustices didn't happen." Along with expunging past criminal records, under the MRTA, the OCM aims to issue half of all cannabis business licenses to underrepresented groups and populations impacted by prohibition, including those who were convicted of marijuana-related crimes and their loved ones. The OCM also plans to redirect tax revenue from cannabis to communities most harmed by marijuana criminalization.

"These are some of the most resilient, entrepreneurial, incredible people you'll ever meet," Fagon says of the first license recipients. "Some of them sold drugs in the '90s and 2000s because they had to; others are just taxi drivers who'd smoke a joint outside Times Square. There's also a large number of service-disabled veterans who came back from Iraq or Afghanistan and consumed cannabis to self-medicate when other prescription drugs were failing them."

It's an ambitious endeavor, and the rollout of social equity licenses has been a challenge. "The market we're building requires a lot of regulations to ensure a level playing field," Fagon says, adding that the state has sometimes struggled to communicate the significance of the complex regulatory framework to the general public.

But the OCM is doing its best to reach neighborhoods that have been harmed

by prohibition. Last year Fagon's team presented their plan to residents of the Brownsville public housing development in Brooklyn, where "one attendee said they'd never actually had a government agency come to them with an economic opportunity—ever," Fagon says. He was shocked to hear this from a man in his 60s who had lived in Brownsville his entire life and seen government presentations about schools, transportation, and gun prevention but never about business or building wealth. Fagon says he felt a renewed commitment to showing these communities that the government can work for them, not against them, "which is historically what the government has done."

'I Should Get My Hands in the Dirt'

Fagon grew up in Washington, DC, and spent summers visiting his family's orange farm back in Jamaica, which suffered under global agricultural policies implemented by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. "I remember, as a kid, seeing the farm deteriorate over time," Fagon says. "Why weren't we able to export oranges anymore? What policies were leading to the town that my family's from becoming so poor?"

Fagon enrolled in SIPA in 2015, fully expecting to earn his degree and return to the federal government to work on agricultural policy or international

development. But while at Columbia, his thinking changed. “I had visions of myself in an air-conditioned room, sending emails to farmers in Sierra Leone and telling them to use different fertilizer,” Fagon says. “It just felt very inauthentic.”

He had visited a few countries to work directly with farmers, who would often ask if he had ever farmed before. Fagon says he realized he needed to understand business from the perspective of a small entrepreneur. He recalls thinking, “I actually have to do this work—I should get my hands in the dirt.”

After graduating, he founded a hemp farm in the Hudson Valley. “I was always looking at farming as something to strengthen my understanding of agriculture and business development,” Fagon says. “I really didn’t expect it, but I fell in love with growing plants and growing cannabis.”

Fagon would wake up at 6 a.m. to take the train and spend hours among the nearly 15,000 six-foot-tall cannabis plants towering over his 10-acre field. “Walking through that every day, with the smells and the growth and watching how the plants are responding to the New York climate and soil, I loved it,” Fagon says. “It was incredible.”

At SIPA Fagon met his wife, Daniele Selby MIA ’17, and expanded his understanding of global social and economic issues.

One formative moment for Fagon came during a clash with a guest speaker: former NYPD police commissioner Bill Bratton, who had come to speak to the late Mayor David N. Dinkins’s class. Bratton was known for his “broken windows” style of policing, and when asked, he expressed disagreement with the activists who were pushing for marijuana-legalization efforts. Fagon pushed back, and their disagreement inspired him. He knew in that moment that he would be doing the work to undo years of punitive drug policy.

Fagon also recalls another guest speaker at Columbia: Sara Horowitz, founder of the Freelancers Union, who spoke to students about shifting economies away from extractive capitalism and toward structures that would benefit communities. “I was blown away,” Fagon says. “Up until then I felt a little trapped in my thinking around economic development.”

It’s because of these eye-opening experiences that Fagon urges SIPA students to seek learning opportunities wherever they can find them. “A lot of students were focused on just memorizing what they learned in the classroom,” Fagon says. But what he found most rewarding was taking those analytical tools and applying new ideas to economics, entrepreneurship, and advocacy.

“Look at the city you’re in, at the community you’re involved with,” Fagon says. “Learn from that, and take that into your career.” ●



Photo by Quang Trinh

“I had visions of myself in an air-conditioned room, sending emails to farmers in Sierra Leone and telling them to use different fertilizer. It just felt very inauthentic.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Fighting for the Climate Diaspora

Amali Tower MIA '09 is building expertise on how the greatest threat to human existence is already uprooting human lives.

BY AASTHA UPRETY MPA '21

“I myself am no stranger to a bit of displacement and insecurity in my own life,” says Amali Tower MIA '09.

A humanitarian and migration expert, Tower grew up traveling across borders. Born in London to a Sri Lankan family, she and her family moved nearly every four years, bouncing around between the United Kingdom, North America, and Sri Lanka, bringing her into contact with the South Asian nation's nearly 30-year civil war that began in 1983.

By the time she was eight years old, Tower had come to a realization: “In the time it took to take a plane from the UK to Sri Lanka, I was very familiar with how something didn't seem right,” she says. “Why did the landscape of how people live in South Asia vastly differ from how people live in London? In the space of a flight, there seemed to have been a massive change.”

It was this experience of war and displacement combined with an acute awareness of inequality that led Tower to later study international development. “My background hasn't just informed me, it's made me into the person that I am,” she says. “You can't unsee that level of injustice.”

'There's Political Responsibility'

Tower is a member of the World Economic Forum's Expert Network and is frequently consulted for her expertise

in human rights and humanitarian crises. Throughout her career she has worked in more than 20 countries with multiple refugee-focused organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Rescue Committee, and Amnesty International.

Eight years ago, Tower became founder and executive director of Climate Refugees, a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness and advocating for people who are forcibly displaced by climate change.

International law, including the UN Refugee Convention, does not give protected status to climate refugees, but the new reality of climate-driven displacement has advocates demanding that climate migration be taken more seriously. In 2020 climate-related problems displaced three times as many people as war and violence, and projections indicate that anywhere from 200 million to 1.2 billion people could be forcibly displaced by climate change by 2050.


“I use the term *climate refugee* to bring attention to the fact that there's political responsibility behind why someone might be displaced by climate events,” Tower says. “The poorest, most marginalized, Indigenous, disenfranchised communities in the world—in some cases, entire countries—are frontline to the climate crisis.”

Climate-related displacement is happening incrementally, Tower says. While sudden-onset events, like major storms or wildfires, are increasing in frequency and intensity, slow-onset events—which are much harder to distinguish and measure—can be just as deadly. Many envision the consequences of rising sea levels, for example, to be entire island nations submerged overnight, but Tower offers some nuance: encroaching waters can increase the salinity of soil, leading to failed crops, food insecurity, and crumbling export economies. “Climate change doesn't begin and end with disaster,” she says.

In Bangladesh, one nation deeply feeling the impacts of encroaching seas, some coastal residents are adapting by putting their homes on stilts or transitioning from rice farming to raising saltwater shrimp. Others are displaced and moving to slums in Dhaka or relocating to cities like Mongla, where the government has invested in climate-resilient infrastructure.

While the Global North reaps the benefits, countries in the Global South are dealing with the most severe impacts of burning fossil fuels. And although limited data tells us the vast majority of people forcibly moved by climate change are internally displaced, many must cross international borders.

“Is it any wonder that we see what we see at the US border?” Tower says,



“My background hasn’t just informed me, it’s made me into the person that I am.”

Photo by Ian DiSalvo

explaining that conditions in the Central American Dry Corridor, a region extremely vulnerable to drought, are causing Indigenous farmers to seek refuge in the US. “How immoral is it,” she says, “for polluting countries to put more money into securing borders and strengthening militaries than to help countries on the frontlines of an unending barrage of climate impacts?”

Doing the Work with Climate Refugees

The origin of Climate Refugees can be traced to the years Tower spent interviewing displaced people. She heard multiple accounts of climate impacts and environmental degradation, she says, but it took time to piece together the enormity and the power of what refugees were saying. Tower came to realize that those seemingly fleeing because of conflict and persecution may say the reason they left their home was because crops had failed and they couldn’t feed their families. “While we weren’t paying attention,” she says, “they were feeling the ravages of climate change.”

After Tower recognized this gap

in the migration landscape, Climate Refugees was born in 2015. But for years, there has been a severe lack of funding for the organization’s work. “In order for policy to be created, the work has to be funded to identify what the problem is,” Tower says. “But what happens when you’re ahead of the policy conversation, almost no national-level policy exists, and therefore no philanthropy is keen to address the issue.”

Still, through the organization, Tower has conducted field research on displaced populations, including interviewing more than 100 refugees and internally displaced people in the Lake Chad Basin and 130 people in Kenya and Somalia. She has served as a subject matter expert to members of Congress and the media, and in June 2022, her work was cited by the United Nations’ special rapporteur on human rights in the context of climate change.

‘I Needed to Keep Learning’

Because her family moved around so much as a child, Tower couldn’t finish traditional high school. She took a special UK O-level exam in Sri Lanka meant for students whose education

had been disrupted and then returned to the US and enrolled in community college night classes while working full-time throughout her 20s. Eventually, Tower transferred to UCLA and studied international development, building on her lived experience.

A few months into a job working with refugees, she says, “I just knew that I needed to keep learning.”

Tower applied to SIPA two weeks before the deadline—without researching any other graduate programs—and a year later, she moved across the country to New York. “It was incredibly unusual for me. I usually need to know all my options!” she says. “But it seemed so clear that SIPA was a school where people like me, who are misfits and don’t check a box, could find a place and contribute.”

Climate Refugees’ effort to educate and advocate is overwhelmingly a one-woman endeavor. Until recently Tower had been leading the work on a volunteer basis for eight years, along with a few contributors. “It takes a team of very spirited, courageous, giving, and philanthropic individuals to do this kind of work,” Tower says.

When asked what keeps her motivated, she says, “It’s the refugees themselves. That’s how I draw my strength, vision, and any sense of moral compass that I bring to this work.” ●

CAROLINE FLAMMER

Sustainable Investing—the Path Forward

INTERVIEW BY GIULIA CAMARGO CAMPOS MIA '24

Sustainable investing expert Caroline Flammer joined the Columbia faculty in January 2022 as a professor of international and public affairs and of climate with joint appointments at SIPA and the Climate School. Among her many roles, Flammer also serves as director of SIPA's Sustainable Investing Research Initiative (SIRI), which aims to foster scholarship, education, and dialogue on system-level investing.

Flammer's work examines whether and how sustainable finance and impact investing can help capitalize a more sustainable world. Moreover, her research explores how firms can incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into their activities to enhance their competitiveness and help address climate change, biodiversity loss, inequality, and other grand world challenges.

Web of Science ranked her among the top 100 Highly Cited Researchers in economics and business, and she has received many prestigious awards, including the 2023 University of Oxford Greening Finance Prize.

This conversation with *SIPA Magazine* has been condensed and edited for clarity.

For someone unfamiliar with ESG, can you explain how it can improve their competitiveness?

In so many ways! Companies' social and environmental responsibility practices can foster innovation, enhance employees' motivation, help companies differentiate themselves from their competitors on the product market, and improve their resilience during times of crisis.

Why then are companies' social and environmental responsibility practices often not considered at the core of their corporate governance and strategy?

A potential reason is a lack of good corporate governance practices, such as a long-

term orientation and private incentives for managers to care about societal and environmental issues. We know that individuals, in general, are myopic. As a result, they prefer short-term over long-term rewards, even if the long-term rewards are substantially higher. For managers, this myopic behavior might be further reinforced by career concerns, short-term incentives, and analysts' quarterly performance expectations. Because of this, managers may put more weight on business practices and investment strategies that pay off in the short term and less on the potential benefits of long-term investments, even if they would improve firm value in the long term. This tragedy of time horizons, as it's known, has negative implications for companies' social and environmental business practices.

My research suggests that corporate short-termism is really hampering business success. Unless we incentivize managers to adopt a longer time horizon and pay attention to these broader societal and environmental issues, whether through ESG-linked executive compensation or long-term financial-performance incentives, they tend to underinvest in long-term projects, which hurts companies and investors as well as society and the environment.

Switching to the financial sector, how are investors responding to this governance issue and the increasing risks and costs associated with climate change, inequality, and other societal issues?

Investors increasingly pressure their portfolio companies to adopt a longer time horizon and to improve their sustainable practices, as well as to disclose their exposure to climate-change risks and to what extent they adapt to these risks. Besides investing in equity and actively engaging with their portfolio companies via shareholder engagement and proxy voting, investors can also try to influence their practices by investing in debt

instruments such as certified green bonds and other ESG fixed-income instruments.

You've recently launched SIRI, which aims to foster research, education, and dialogue on system-level investing. What is system-level investing, and how is this different from current ESG investing?

In the absence of effective government actions to mitigate climate change, social inequality, and other system-level challenges, the spotlight is on the private sector. The question is: What can the private sector do to help mitigate these various crises? If you look at the current way we approach ESG both in academia and practice, our thinking, frameworks, theories, and practices are really confined to the firm and portfolio level, ignoring the broader system. For example, investors might consider divesting from emission-intensive industries to clean up their own portfolio. Yet the effectiveness of such an approach is likely limited as the investors lose their seat at the table and can no longer influence the sustainable business practices of those portfolio companies they just divested from. A likely more effective way would be to actively engage with the portfolio companies to help them transition to more sustainable and inclusive practices.

"The question is: What can the private sector do to help mitigate these various crises? If you look at the current way we approach ESG both in academia and practice, our thinking, frameworks, theories, and practices are really confined to the firm and portfolio level, ignoring the broader system."

A second example is that our current ESG metrics mostly focus on firms' core ESG practices, such as their DEI practices with respect to their own employees, without

considering their engagement with policy-makers—for example, their lobbying practices over abortion rights. Critical factors are needed to ensure the long-term health and resilience of individuals, communities, the natural environment, and economies.

Like what, for example?

For one, adopting a systems-focused approach that considers how business and investment practices impact the broader environmental, social, and economic systems and how these systems impact business and investment practices and opportunities. Another is developing better measures to track progress toward the mitigation of system-level challenges. And lastly, creating public-private partnerships to fill financing gaps.

Is that how SIRI fits in?

Correct. As you mentioned, SIRI fosters scholarship, education, and dialogue on system-level investing. We focus on five pillars: the development of better measures; the fostering of rigorous academic scholarship on system-level investing; improving dialogue across sectors; curriculum development and education to train the current and next generation of leaders; and executive education to inform and train investment and management professionals. SIRI is well aligned with the efforts of three of SIPA's five global policy challenges as it supports climate and sustainable development, inclusive prosperity and macroeconomic performance and technology and innovation. ●



Scan the code to learn
more about SIRI.





New Institute in Town

Members of IGP faculty leadership gathered on campus in July: (back, left to right) Jacob J. Lew, Douglas Almond, Michael A. Nutter, Sandra E. Black, Joseph E. Stiglitz, Jason Bordoff; (front, left to right) President Minouche Shafik, Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton



IGP Institute of
Global Politics

**The launch of the
Institute of Global
Politics (IGP)
highlights SIPA's
commitment to
bringing scholars
together with
the world's leading
practitioners to
drive change and
address our
toughest policy
challenges.**

**BY SIPA MAGAZINE EDITORIAL STAFF
PHOTOS BY SHAHAR AZRAN**

Hillary Rodham Clinton was itching for a new challenge. The former secretary of state, senator, and first lady was troubled by the escalating partisan rancor that hindered politics in the United States and abroad. She saw challenges that spanned borders—the rising tide of climate change, backsliding on women’s rights, the harm caused by online disinformation—but were not being addressed.

Clinton was eager to tackle these and related issues head-on. But she couldn’t do it alone.

It was 2022, and Clinton was periodically in touch with her old friend Lee Bollinger, who was then still Columbia’s president. When Bollinger led the University of Michigan, he had invited Clinton to deliver the commencement address; at Columbia, he’d spent years trying to recruit her as a professor. In the fall, Bollinger hosted Clinton at the President’s House to meet a handful of deans from across the University. Her last meeting of the day was with Columbia SIPA’s new dean, Keren Yarhi-Milo.

“It was like in a movie,” Clinton recalls. “The door flew open, and this young, energetic bundle of excitement walks in and begins in her rapid-fire delivery to tell me why I need to be at SIPA.”

Following their brief chat, Clinton says, “I turned to Lee, who’s been a friend of mine for many, many years, and I said, ‘Wow, that was really something.’ And he was looking at me with one of those patented Lee Bollinger half-smiles.”

The two women clicked right away. “There’s that movie line,” Clinton says, “‘You had me at hello.’”

It was Yarhi-Milo’s bold vision for SIPA that won over the former secretary of state. After she had become dean in July 2022, Yarhi-Milo

sought to reorient the School and elevate its scholarship to make it more impactful and policy-relevant. With input from faculty, alumni, and her peers, she identified a set of five global policy challenges to focus on: geopolitical stability, democratic resilience, climate and sustainable development, inclusive prosperity and macroeconomic performance, and technology and innovation.

But the School still needed a framework—a more formal structure—for addressing these challenges. How could she make her new vision for SIPA a reality?

It was the fateful meeting with Clinton that sparked the idea for the Institute of Global Politics (IGP).

“In my pitch to her, I said, ‘We have this big idea for an institute that will translate SIPA’s and Columbia’s cutting-edge research into real-world policy solutions,’” says Yarhi-Milo. “‘And if we build this with you, it will be bigger, better, and we can get there faster.’”

And things moved fast. Clinton was formally welcomed to the faculty in January 2023—the School’s highest-profile hire in a generation, if not ever. The next few months saw a flurry of activity to build the Institute essentially from scratch.

What would become IGP didn’t even have a name yet, much less a logo or office space, but the vision was taking shape. By late spring, the School had hired a small team—Christina Shelby was recruited from Bollinger’s office to serve as executive director—and started to consider programming, publications, avenues to engage students, and more. In May, renovations began on the 15th floor of the International Affairs Building (IAB) to provide new offices and a long-overdue makeover for SIPA’s signature event space.



↑ Members of IGP faculty leadership gathered on campus in July.

Ivy League, but Not Ivory Tower

Organizations that strive to guide and shape policy are hardly in short supply—not in Washington, in New York, or even on Ivy League campuses. So why IGP, and why now?

The answer, as Yarhi-Milo points out, is that the Institute is not just another think tank or Davos-like forum for world leaders to



“There was a real need to engage more with the policy community, to break down silos, to provide nonpartisan solutions backed up by research that only a university like Columbia could provide.”

DEAN KEREN YARHI-MILO

↑ IGP faculty advisory board members
**Joseph E. Stiglitz, Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo,
Jacob J. Lew, and Michael A. Nutter**

gather and deliver stump speeches. Instead, Yarhi-Milo aspires for IGP to think bolder and more globally: Her vision is for IGP to become a hub for leading scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to generate new ideas and find innovative solutions to the five policy challenges.

“Our campus will be home to conversations and debates that will shape how we live tomorrow and are not happening anywhere else,” she says. “When I became dean, I knew we already had scholars producing brilliant research, but there was a real need to engage more with the policy community, to break down silos, to provide nonpartisan solutions backed up by research that only a university like Columbia could provide.”

“We have incredible talent putting out tremendous research but no platform to translate it into impact,” she adds by way of emphasis.

As such, the Institute is an explicit manifestation of a concept Bollinger developed as president, what he called the University’s Fourth Purpose: to direct schol-

arship beyond the classroom and toward tackling global challenges and advancing humanity.

A case in point: When President Emmanuel Macron of France wanted to launch his *Etats généraux de l’information* (Estates General of Information), a general assembly to address the challenges democratic societies face with the spread of information, he recruited SIPA researcher Camille François MIA ’13. In close collaboration with one of IGP’s distinguished fellows, the Nobel laureate Maria Ressa, she is heading up an innovation lab at IGP as part of the program.

Such partnerships are key to the Institute’s success and impact, says Yarhi-Milo.

IGP has also won praise from President Minouche Shafik, Bollinger’s successor. “SIPA’s vision for the Institute is bold and impressive,” says Shafik. “It expresses, perfectly, the University’s deep commitment to world-class scholarship that serves the public good.”

The excitement around IGP quickly has spread to several current and former University trustees, including Jonathan Lavine ’88CC and Victor Mendelson ’89CC. Their friendship began more than 35 years ago, in a political science course taught by Ester Fuchs (then at Barnard and now the longtime director of SIPA’s Urban and Social Policy concentration). Today, while the two remain close friends, they are often politically opposed—but, in a testament to IGP’s spirit of civil discourse, both were early backers of the Institute.

“Our university is a global powerhouse, but we still need a platform to connect powerful leaders with brilliant academic minds to collaborate



↑ Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton and Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo meet with President Minouche Shafik.

on research unaffected by partisan agendas,” says Lavine. “Only Columbia, only New York City, has that kind of convening power.”

Mendelson adds, “The IGP will model civil discourse’s power and underscore the role of universities to shape the legislative process with big, evidence-based ideas based on their merits, not their politics.”

IGP’s commitment to nonpartisanship and bringing in all voices goes beyond hosting speakers across the political spectrum, according to Yarhi-Milo. It also means bridging the divide between the Global South and the rest of the world through its programming and editorial products and by providing a forum for underrepresented voices.

“One thing I want IGP to focus on,” says Yarhi-Milo, “is the importance of thinking about foreign policy in a global way, and not through a US-centric lens.”

Helping to bring the world to SIPA, so to speak, are IGP’s Inaugural Carnegie Distinguished Fellows—high-profile leaders who are looking to give back to students, engage with faculty on policy reports, and share their expertise and experience with the University community. The Institute’s inaugural cohort of distinguished fellows from around the globe includes a Nobel laureate, a former head of state, and a former CEO of a major technology company, to name just a few.

“The other institutes you have out there are mainly about just domestic politics in the United States faculty,” says Yarhi-Milo. “We are thinking not just about fancy events

and being a talk shop but bringing the fellows to truly engage with our community, to truly engage with our students and faculty. We want a very different level of engagement, conversation, and connection.”

IGP’s faculty advisory board, chaired by Clinton (see the interview on pages 24–25), is also a reflection of the Institute’s commitment to interdisciplinary and diverse perspectives. The board is charged with setting IGP’s research and policy agenda, as well as engaging with Columbia students, faculty, and its Global Centers.

Also notably, IGP’s leadership is predominantly women—which not only is core to the Institute’s identity, brand, and outlook on the world but also makes it unique in the traditionally male-dominated field of international affairs. Indeed, IGP will also launch a University-wide women’s initiative in March 2024 to come up with solutions for some of the major policy issues affecting women and girls around the world.

These values will also be reflected in IGP’s editorial products, the centerpiece of which will be its flagship policy reports. The reports will be written by faculty, in collaboration with IGP fellows, with an eye to providing actionable, evidence-based recommendations for decision-makers in both Washington and capitals abroad. SIPA’s Joseph E. Stiglitz, the Nobel-winning economist and University Professor, and

IGP FACULTY ADVISORY BOARD

- Hillary Rodham Clinton, *Chair*
- Keren Yarhi-Milo
- Douglas Almond
- Sandra E. Black
- Jason Bordoff
- Yasmine Ergas
- Alexander Hertel-Fernandez
- Jacob J. Lew
- Maria Victoria Murillo
- Suresh Naidu
- Michael A. Nutter
- Joseph E. Stiglitz

Argentina's former minister of economy, Martín Guzmán, a SIPA lecturer, intend to work on a series of projects related to sovereign debt and the global economy. Also in the works are policy reports on food insecurity and approaches to combating disinformation.

Like the faculty and fellows, students will contribute to the culture of the new Institute—as participants in policy roundtables and skills workshops, research assistants to fellows, and mentees. IGP has already rolled out its Student Scholars program, through which select SIPA, law, and undergraduate students—chosen through a competitive application—will gain direct access to IGP fellows and professional training.

"I think students are particularly anxious to be part of the solution, not just to wring their hands about the problems," says Clinton. "We're going to make sure that students have a chance to hear from decision-makers, to see people in action who have been at the forefront of what's gone on in our country and our world and the private sector, the public sector, the not-for-profit sector."

Imagine participating in a hands-on research project on the effects of artificial intelligence on democracy for Maria Ressa or taking part in a roundtable discussion with the prominent Ugandan activist Frank Mugisha on the rollback of LGBTQ+ rights across Africa and parts of the United States.

"For students to get hands-on training from this caliber of global leaders is unprecedented in the annals of higher education," says Michael A. Nutter, former mayor of Philadelphia and SIPA's David N. Dinkins Professor of Professional Practice in Urban and Public Affairs, who also sits on IGP's faculty advisory board. "This program will give students from all backgrounds not only the necessary tools to think critically about global problems but also the mentorship to shape their professional careers long after they leave Columbia."

A final constituency of the Institute is the wider public. "We want to make these topics interesting and engage a broad audience—on campus and off, in New York City and around the globe," says Yarhi-Milo. "IGP will not be a closed-door space," she adds, noting that events will be live streamed and accessible around the world.

Among planned events are Spotlight Interviews, a series of intimate conversations with boldfaced names from the public and private sectors to reflect on their careers. Last spring, the inaugural Spotlight Interview featured House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, who candidly discussed a wide range of issues, including the backsliding of democracy and the role of deep fakes in undermining public trust (see Notable Events, page 34).

IGP will also make a point to bring together speakers with opposing viewpoints, offering students a model for respectful and constructive discussion among those who don't necessarily agree. An early installment in the series, to be known as Across the Aisle, is slated to convene Jacob J. Lew (who is widely known as Jack) and Mick Mulvaney—each a former White House chief of staff and Office of Management and Budget director—for a discussion of policy and process tempered by shared respect for the institutions of governance.

Back at their initial meeting in Bollinger's library, Clinton and Yarhi-Milo discussed their shared enthusiasm for modeling civil dis-



ACROSS THE AISLE

The new speaker series will bring together prominent leaders to engage in respectful and constructive dialogue. In November, IGP will convene Jack Lew and Mick Mulvaney—each a former White House chief of staff and Office of Management and Budget director.

Register for the live stream at igp.sipa.columbia.edu.

course as a way to combat polarization and the crowding out of uncomfortable ideas in the public sphere. The need for greater dialogue has become one of the central pillars behind IGP. "Thanks partly to social media, we've created these echo chambers and we see that students and even faculty engage in self-censorship," says Yarhi-Milo. "The result is that the space to engage in the policy sphere is getting narrower and narrower—and that leads to groupthink."

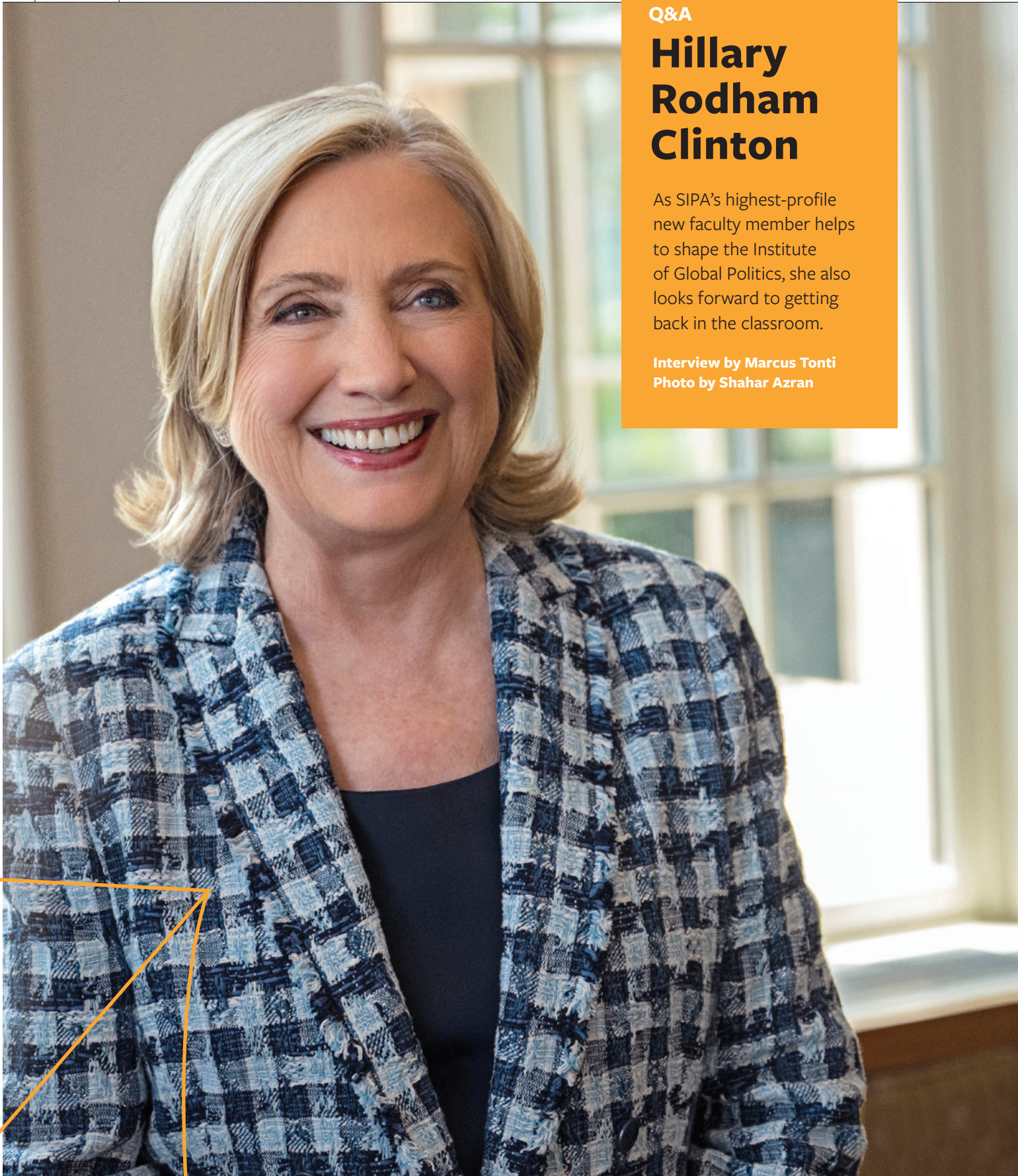
As somebody who has spent her whole career in public life, Clinton knows firsthand the importance of truthful information to shape smart policy.

"If you start from a position that you have a monopoly on the truth, however you define that, or you live in a post-truth world, facts and evidence don't matter," she observes. "If it's only your opinion or your ideology that you are motivated by, you can't reach agreement in a democracy."

IGP is one small step toward strengthening these and other bedrocks of democracy—and one large step for SIPA and Columbia. ●



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Q&A

Hillary Rodham Clinton

As SIPA's highest-profile new faculty member helps to shape the Institute of Global Politics, she also looks forward to getting back in the classroom.

Interview by Marcus Tonti
Photo by Shahar Azran

Hillary Rodham Clinton—the former secretary of state, senator, and first lady—joined the Columbia SIPA faculty in February as a professor of international and public affairs. She spoke with *SIPA Magazine* about the new Institute of Global Politics (IGP), her teaching plans, and more.

It was big news when you joined our faculty, and some people want to know why SIPA? What drew you to the School?

I had been talking with Columbia for a number of years about ways we could partner, and I was particularly struck by the exciting approach that SIPA was taking toward a lot of the problems of our time. On a personal level, I've been looking for opportunities to get back into the classroom for a while. But what really drew me to this school is its unique approach to tackling geopolitical issues in a way that combines the academic rigor of the University with the experience and know-how of its incredible faculty and leadership.

You've worked with Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo to conceptualize and develop plans for the Institute of Global Politics. What is your personal vision for the Institute?

We are globally positioned to be a leader in investigating a lot of the problems that we find at home and around the world, and more than simply convening people, we want to bring them together as collaborators to analyze problems that we face and put out practical solutions.

In many ways, IGP is an extension of the valuable work that SIPA has always done. I believe it can help cut through gridlock and bring together various parts of the University and participants from both inside and outside of Columbia to drive impact in the real world and perhaps raise visibility in the process.

What will distinguish IGP from other similar institutes of politics at peer schools?

I very much admire the work done elsewhere, but I think the very clear focus from the beginning on global politics defines us somewhat

differently to start with, as does Columbia's incredible placement in New York City and the Columbia Global Centers around the world that are going to be partners in this effort.

What do you see as some of the most pressing global challenges that we face today? Have they changed since you left office as secretary of state?

Some are continuing, like climate change and renewable energy transition. Some are more acute, like the protection and promotion of democracy. Some are universal, like human rights challenges. I think there is a tide that moves backwards and forwards in our history as to what needs to be focused on continually and what rises to a new level of attention and urgency at a particular time.

I'm very hopeful that the Institute—because of SIPA's very deep bench of faculty and outside support—will be very well positioned to deal with both the immediate and the longer term simultaneously.

You're the chair of IGP's faculty advisory board. What role will the board and SIPA faculty play?

I've been very excited by the positive reaction to IGP. SIPA faculty have expressed interest in everything from developing new research to examining how better to involve students to ensuring that participants in our events reflect a broad range of perspectives. Faculty members have a lot of work to do already, but there seems to be a level of both excitement and commitment that is very promising.

You've worked with some of our faculty members previously. It must be nice to join a new team and still see some familiar faces.

I'm thrilled again to be surrounded by people who I have such high regard for, like Jack Lew, Michael Nutter, and Joe Stiglitz. And I look forward to working with other faculty whose scholarship I've heard of but who I haven't met. And, of course, Dean Yarhi-Milo. I also know the new president of Columbia [Minouche Shafik]; I'm excited to have her on campus.

Not everyone knows that you've taught graduate students before. Are you excited about teaching again? What can students expect from your course, Inside the Situation Room?

When I taught many years ago, at the University of Arkansas Law School, I especially liked all the student interaction, so I'm very much looking forward to being back in the classroom.

I'm also looking forward to co-teaching with Dean Yarhi-Milo and covering material that reflects not only my experience in the area of international affairs and diplomacy, but also the dean's academic work and the political theory that can explain decision-making and individual leaders' calculations.

The course will give students an inside look at how decisions are made and what factors have to be taken into account, what happens when things go wrong, and how you try to deal with that. It's going to be a terrific course and a lot of fun.

Are you working on anything else at SIPA?

In addition to setting up IGP and preparing for the course, I'm serving on a faculty search committee. I am also very committed to finding ways to ensure that questions about women's leadership are addressed. Lastly, at Columbia World Projects, I'm collaborating with Ira Katznelson on digital governance and with Wafaa El-Sadr on wastewater infrastructure. So I think I have a pretty full plate, and I'm very excited to get to work. ●

This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

Nobel Prize winner Maria Ressa joins SIPA's IGP as a distinguished fellow.

By Brett Essler | Photo by Ian DiSalvo

In May, Maria Ressa delivered an inspiring, but cautionary, address to SIPA's Class of 2023.

"This is the worst of who we are, of human nature," she says, "and social media is doing its best to fan that flame inside you; it is inciting fear, anger, hate, tribalism."

No one understands the dark side of human nature better than Ressa, a journalist, entrepreneur, and activist whose personal experience highlights the dangerous threat that artificial intelligence technology poses to democratic norms and institutions.

As cofounder of the Philippine online news site *Rappler*, Ressa worked tirelessly and at great risk to her personal safety to expose the corruption, violence, and authoritarian tactics of former president Rodrigo Duterte's regime. Ressa's focus on Duterte's murderous war on drugs led to a regime-sponsored mis- and disinformation campaign against her and *Rappler* and her subsequent 2019 arrest under a cybercrime prevention law designed to silence critics of the regime. In 2020, a Manila court found Ressa guilty of "cyber libel" in a politically motivated trial.

Ressa's arrest and conviction drew the attention of democracy and free speech advocates the world over, including Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, who experienced firsthand how rapidly evolving technology like AI deepfakes can impact democratic elections. Clinton helped bring Ressa to SIPA as an Inaugural Carnegie Distinguished Fellow at the School's new Institute of Global Politics (IGP), where the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner will focus on the intersection of AI, democracy, and human rights.

"She was one of the very first people to recognize the dangers of mis- and disinformation," Clinton said at SIPA's Leadership Dinner in May. "It's not abstract to her. It's not just people saying goofy and untrue things online, it is using the internet to elect dictators, to run genocidal military missions against minority groups. It is shaping people's minds. It is undermining democracy."

Ressa's work as an IGP fellow will leverage her nearly 40 years in journalism to address what she calls the "treadmill" of using "old paradigms to solve new problems."

"I have had both the curse and the blessing of being the target of attacks," she says. "But I'm not just the journalist who's targeted in these exponential attacks. I run the business. I see the numbers. I also build the tech. So that gave me

a unique perspective where I could see the data. And it helped me stand up against a dictator."

Ressa was born in the Philippines but grew up mainly in New Jersey, where she attended Princeton. She returned to her birth country on a Fulbright and began a storied career in journalism in Asia. After two decades at CNN and heading the news at ABS-CBN, the Philippines' largest network, Ressa says she realized that the internet and social media are the future. Her investigation of al-Qaeda's use of social media to spread propaganda—chronicled in her 2013 book *From Bin Laden to Facebook*—led to the founding of *Rappler*.

"If the terrorists are using this new technology to grow, to spread this ideology, why couldn't we use it for good?" she asks rhetorically. For Ressa, the early promise of social media soon turned sour.

"I would say social media was a force for good until around 2013 or 2014," she says. "Essentially, these [tech] companies will take atomized posts and use machine learning to create a model of each of us on the platforms that they then use AI to pull together into the motherlode database that's used for microtargeting."

Russia's information operations used this technology to seed "metanarratives" on social media that helped pave the way for their annexation of Crimea and, ultimately, similar campaigns to influence Brexit, the 2016 US presidential election, and Duterte's efforts to silence Ressa.

What information operations have done, she says, is show us "that you can literally change history in front of our eyes."

At the Institute, Ressa is interested in furthering her work at the nexus of "technology, journalism, and community." She'll lead several projects related to the role of artificial intelligence in democracy, examining online harassment, coded biases in algorithms, and the effects of AI on human rights across the globe.

"We need to come up with new ideas, new directions, and bring different people to the table to find short- and medium-term responses to what tech has done," Ressa says. "It isn't necessarily working with the tech companies, because they have proven themselves unreliable partners. They've brought about great destruction. So, the first part is accountability. The second part is putting in place guardrails that will protect humanity."

Ressa and fellow Nobel laureate Dmitry Muratov recently introduced the "10 Point Plan to Address Our Information Crisis," which outlines "urgent actions that rights-respecting governments and the UN should take." The plan's signatories include Columbia and SIPA professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, a 2001 Nobel laureate in economics and member of the IGP's faculty advisory board, who noted that "self-regulation of the internet won't work any better than self-regulation of banking did."

In July 2024, Ressa will join the SIPA faculty as a professor of professional practice. She will teach courses related to AI in the public sphere and will push students to move quickly in the face of existential threats.

"We are living in science fiction times, and our fate is in your hands," Ressa told graduates in May. "I think I shouldn't say congratulations, I should say welcome to the battlefield." ●

Science Fiction Times

Inaugural Carnegie Distinguished Fellows Highlight IGP's Global Reach

IGP's inaugural cohort includes a diverse mix of high-profile practitioners from across a range of sectors, including a former head of state, high-ranking policy officials, diplomats, activists, and other distinguished leaders from across the globe.



STACEY ABRAMS
New York Times
Bestselling Author,
Entrepreneur,
and Political Leader

Stacey Abrams served as minority leader in the Georgia House of Representatives and was the first Black woman to be the gubernatorial nominee for a major party in US history.

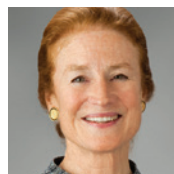
Abrams has launched multiple nonprofit organizations devoted to democracy protection, voting rights, and effective public policy. She has also cofounded several successful companies, including a financial services firm, an energy and infrastructure consulting firm, and the media company Sage Works Productions.

tor of UN Women and as chair of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health and the ILO's Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, among others.



SHABANA BASIJ-RASIKH
Cofounder and President
of the School of
Leadership, Afghanistan
(SOLA)

Shabana Basij-Rasikh is the cofounder and president of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA), the first and only boarding school for Afghan girls, operating in Kabul from 2016 through the summer of 2021 and the Taliban's return to power. That August, Basij-Rasikh led the evacuation of her school community from Afghanistan to Rwanda, where SOLA has reestablished its operations and its students have resumed their studies. In 2021, she joined the *Washington Post's* Global Opinions page as a contributing columnist, and in 2023, she received the Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year award from the National Geographic Society.



HENRIETTA FORE
Former Executive
Director of UNICEF

Henrietta H. Fore has worked to champion economic development, education and health, nutrition, and water and energy infrastructure—in both humanitarian and disaster assistance and long-term development—in all countries in the world. She has served in both the public and private sectors, most recently (2018–22) as global executive director of UNICEF, where she

led initiatives including the world's largest procurement and delivery of childhood and COVID vaccines and connecting every school and learner to distance learning and the internet.

Earlier, Fore served as chairman and CEO of Holsman International, a manufacturing and investment company. She also served as the first woman administrator in the US Agency for International Development (USAID); director of the US Office of Foreign Assistance and undersecretary of state for management in the US Department of State; and director of the United States Mint in the US Department of Treasury.



KIM GHATTAS
Emmy Award-Winning
Journalist, Analyst,
and Author

Kim Ghattas is an Emmy Award-winning journalist, analyst, and author with more than 20 years of experience in print and broadcast media, covering the Middle East, international affairs, and US foreign policy for the BBC and other media. She is a contributing writer for *The Atlantic* magazine and a regular contributor to the *Financial Times*. She is the author of the *New York Times* best seller *The Secretary* about US foreign policy and Hillary Clinton and the *New York Times* notable book of 2020, *Black Wave*, about the Saudi-Iran rivalry. Ghattas is now writing her third book, revisiting Lebanon's civil war as the origin story of the US-Iran clash in the Middle East, to be published by Holt.



MICHEL KAZATCHKINE
Former Executive
Director of the Global
Fund to Fight AIDS,
Tuberculosis, and
Malaria

Professor Michel Kazatchkine has over 35 years of experience in global health as a leading physician, researcher, administrator, advocate, policymaker, and diplomat. He is now a senior adviser to the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO) and a senior fellow with the Graduate Institute of Geneva.

Kazatchkine has played key roles in various organizations, serving as director of the National Agency for Research on AIDS in France and French ambassador on health. In 2007, Kazatchkine was



MICHELLE BACHELET
Former President
of Chile; Former
United Nations High
Commissioner
for Human Rights

Michelle Bachelet served as the United Nations high commissioner for human rights from 2018 to 2022. In that role, she was the principal human-rights official of the United Nations and spearheaded the UN's human-rights efforts worldwide.

Bachelet was twice elected president of Chile, serving from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018. Before becoming the country's first female president, she had been the first woman to serve Chile—or any Latin American nation—as defense minister, from 2002 to 2004. Bachelet also served as Chile's health minister from 2000 to 2002.

She has also served in leadership roles at multiple international organizations: as the first direc-

elected executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, a position in which he served until March 2012. From 2012 to 2020, he served as the UN secretary-general's special envoy on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia). He recently served on the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, established by the WHO to evaluate the global response to COVID-19.



SIR STEPHEN LOVEGROVE
Former UK National Security Adviser; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Columbia SIPA's Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP)

Sir Stephen Lovegrove was the UK's national security adviser until late 2022, during which time he was responsible for the UK's national response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the drawdown from Afghanistan, as well as overseeing AUKUS. Earlier, he was the permanent secretary for the Ministry of Defence for five years (2016–21), a role he also performed at the Department for Energy and Climate Change (2013–16). He joined the UK's civil service in 2004 after a career in investment banking.



DAVID MILIBAND
President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee; Former UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

David Miliband is the president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee. He oversees the agency's operations in 40 crisis-affected countries and its refugee resettlement and assistance programs throughout Europe and the Americas. He previously served as the 74th secretary of state for foreign affairs for the United Kingdom.



FRANK MUGISHA
Prominent Ugandan LGBTI Rights Advocate

Frank Mugisha is a prominent voice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and

intersex (LGBTI) rights, a respected human rights champion, and an anti-violence advocate. He has founded and led a number of advocacy groups, including Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), the largest and leading organization of the LGBTI movement in Uganda. In 2012, he started the first and only LGBT health center in Uganda. Mugisha's work has been recognized worldwide, including by former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and with a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.



ROBERT O'BRIEN
Cofounder and Chairman of American Global Strategies LLC; Former US National Security Advisor

Robert C. O'Brien is the cofounder and chairman of American Global Strategies. He was the 27th US national security advisor from 2019 to 2021. O'Brien served as the president's principal adviser on all aspects of American foreign policy and national security affairs.

Earlier, O'Brien was the special presidential envoy for hostage affairs with the personal rank of ambassador. He was directly involved in the return of over 25 detainees and hostages to the United States. O'Brien previously served as cochairman of the US Department of State Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan under secretaries of state Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Rodham Clinton.



MARIA RESSA
Nobel Peace Prize-Winning Journalist; Cofounder, CEO, and President of Rappler

Read a profile of Maria Ressa on page 26.



ERIC SCHMIDT
Cofounder, Schmidt Futures; Former CEO and Chairman, Google

Eric Schmidt is an accomplished technologist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He joined Google in 2001 and helped grow the company from a startup to a global leader in technology. Schmidt served as Google's CEO and chairman from 2001

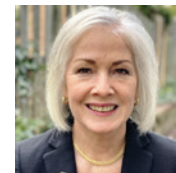
to 2011. In 2017, he cofounded Schmidt Futures, a philanthropic initiative that brings talented people together in networks to prove out their ideas and solve hard problems in science and society.



JOHN SULLIVAN
Former Deputy Secretary of State; Former US Ambassador to the Russian Federation

John J. Sullivan's career spans four decades in the public sector and in private law practice. He has served five presidents in prominent diplomatic and legal positions, including as US ambassador to the Russian Federation under presidents Joe Biden (2021–2022) and Donald Trump (2019–2021), acting secretary of state in 2018, and deputy secretary of state (2017).

Sullivan is a partner in Mayer Brown's Washington, DC, and New York offices and a co-lead of the firm's national security practice. He is also a distinguished fellow at the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University. As a leading authority on foreign affairs, he is quoted frequently in national media and is a contributor to CBS News.



MARIE YOVANOVITCH
Former US Ambassador to Ukraine

Marie Yovanovitch is the author of a bestselling memoir, *Lessons from the Edge*, a nonresident fellow at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, and a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. During her 33-year diplomatic career, she served as the US ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and Ukraine. She also worked in Russia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Somalia, and in multiple assignments in Washington, DC, including as the principal deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, where she coordinated policy on European and global security issues.



Scan the code to read more about IGP's distinguished fellows.



“Every July we loaded up the car and headed to Eastham for two weeks. And as we got to the Bridge, I would look at my dad quizzically to see if anything about him changed as we crossed it.”

THE RAPHAEL SMITH MEMORIAL PRIZE 2023

The Bridge

BY KEVIN BRUNELLI MPA '23

“Your father is a different person when he goes over the Bridge.” My mom used to tell us this when we were headed towards the Cape when I was young. Her mom used to say the same thing about my grandfather. I was too busy trying to spot the Bridge or power plant before my brothers could to understand what she meant.

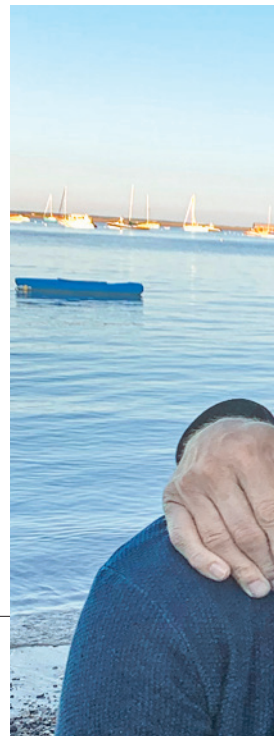
The “Bridge” is actually two bridges—the Bourne and the Sagamore. They go over the Cape Cod Canal connecting mainland Massachusetts to the Cape. Once over the Bridge, 45 minutes or so later, depending on if you get stuck behind a slow car in the one-lane section of Route 6, you get to Eastham.

Eastham is part of the Outer Cape, the forearm of the flexing arm-shaped peninsula. It is quieter and less populated than the Lower Cape, thanks in part to one of Massachusetts and Cape Cod’s favorite sons. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Cape Cod National Seashore and protected 43,000 acres of land and 40 miles of coastline. The federal government is now the largest landowner on the Outer Cape. The beaches and forests are pristine. And there is no boardwalk or carnival ride to distract from the beauty like in other coastal areas along the East Coast. Around the same time, my mom and her family began visiting Eastham. It was a small fishing town. From middle school through college, she spent every summer working there. It is where my parents went on their first date as my dad chased my mom there. My dad fell in love—with my mom and the Cape. They raised three sons to love the Cape as much as they do.

Every July we loaded up the car and headed to Eastham for two weeks. And as we got to the Bridge, I would look at my dad quizzically to see if anything about him changed as we crossed it.

Cancer is a dark cloud. Always there, hovering ominously. Each day, you don’t know if it will just make your path gloomier for a bit before the sun quickly shines again or if today is the day that brings a storm that will shake you and everything around you. In the spring of 2021, out of nowhere, my dad was diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer. It is rare and currently not curable. Storm clouds quickly enveloped everything. It was less than four years after my mom was diagnosed and beat breast cancer. But this was different. Even in my late 20s, my dad was superhuman to me. He never even caught a cold. There was no way this was possible. Everything went dark.

Once I got to college, trips to the Cape seemed boring. I wanted to travel elsewhere and see the world. Why do I want to go to Eastham again when I could travel through Europe? For five years after school, I was constantly on the road for work, crisscrossing the United States, covering major news stories. Through work and vacations, I traveled everywhere and anywhere except the Cape. Even when travel stopped in 2020 for most people, I kept traveling as I had to report on COVID. Travel for me meant learning and becoming someone new



in a place I had never been before; it wasn't the familiarity of going to the Cape again with my family. I would always have time for that. But as vaccines were rolled out in 2021 and people started planning their first trips, I moved home and headed towards the Cape.

At the start, my dad had chemotherapy in Boston every three weeks, for three consecutive days. Later in the week, instead of sticking around home we would head to the Cape, across the Bridge, and to Eastham for a few days. Around the rotary, past the pizza shop my mom worked at in college, and eventually a left on Rolling Lane. The same places I had been to a thousand times. And yet those trips became the best trips I've ever made. Between a mixture of the salt air, sand, and quiet, the dark clouds faded away. We were reminded that my dad was still superhuman as we had to tell him to stop shoveling or working out because he was only two days off chemo.

Massachusetts and Cape Cod's favorite son said when we go to the ocean, "We are going back to from whence we came." Every time we went to the Cape, it felt like going back to the world before cancer, before the clouds came in. But each trip gave me hope and made me smile more as it allowed my parents to relax again and gain strength. They crossed the Bridge and became different people.

ABOUT THE RAPHAEL SMITH MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Raphael Smith Memorial Prize is given in memory of Raphael Smith, a member of the Class of 1994 who died in a motorcycle accident while retracing his stepfather's adventure of motorcycling from Paris to Tokyo. The prize, established by his family and friends, is awarded annually to two second-year SIPA students for travel articles that exemplify the adventurousism and spirit of SIPA. The winners of this year's contest are Kevin Brunelli MPA '23 and Audrey Hatfield MPA '23.

And each trip showed me that you don't need to travel far or someplace new to be a different person.

Follow the dirt road near my parents' house to the end, walk up the small boardwalk, and you get to the top of the dunes overlooking Cape Cod Bay. From here the power plant next to the Sagamore Bridge is barely visible on clear days. Life in Massachusetts prior to the Bridge and everything taking place there seems like a world away. During the summer, standing on top of the dunes you see the jet-black clouds of a summer storm move in from the west and the bolts of lightning as they shake the rest of Massachusetts. But here in Eastham, the storm clouds remain off in the distance. Here, across the Bridge, the clouds are kept at bay, and you become a different person. ●



Photos courtesy of Kevin Brunelli MPA '23

THE RAPHAEL SMITH MEMORIAL PRIZE 2023

Difficult, More Difficult

BY AUDREY HATFIELD MPA '23

I was completely out of breath and red in the face by the time the switchbacks leveled out and we rounded the corner to the first flat section the trail had gifted us. We looked up at the wooden sign nailed to the tree indicating our bifurcated path forward and read “Difficult, More Difficult” as our options. I bent double and closed my eyes, listening to my pounding heart.

Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, I’m no novice to hiking. The activity has more or less threaded itself throughout my entire life, but it wasn’t until I made the life-changing decision to quit my job and return to graduate school that my relationship with hiking bloomed. I had been unhappy in my role for a long time but still struggled with the fear of leaving employed consistency for the unknown. When I finally put in my notice, it was like running towards a cliff and leaping.

I had decided to give myself a few months before starting at SIPA without any real direction in mind for how to spend them. It ended up being a close friend of my sister’s who reached out and asked if I wanted to go on a hike. It was in these first steps we took together along a prominent cliff of columnar basalt rising above the Columbia River Gorge that I knew what my next few months held.

I consumed hikes. When I wasn’t hitting the trail, I spent my time researching the best ones, reading reviews, building my inventory of gear, and often traveling several hours to try the next trailhead. The pastime I had once casually engaged with now became an anchor for me. The methodical rhythm

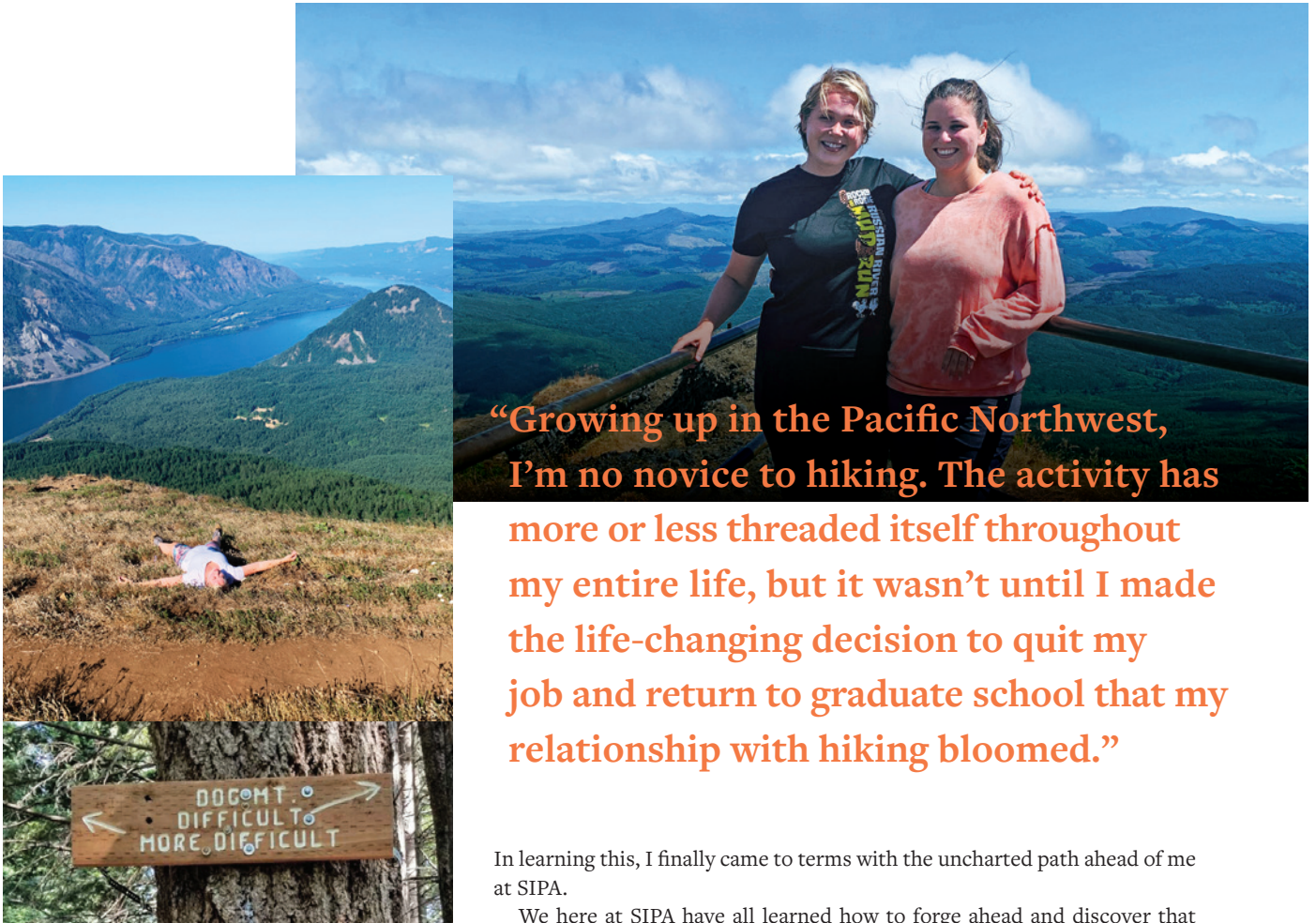
of my strides, the comforting weight of my pack, the sound of the forest alive around me. It all gave me a sense of purpose when, internally, I felt adrift.

My decision to study at SIPA was, by all means, a pivot. I was leaving a field I had become disillusioned with but still had no clarity into what I wanted to do next. The metaphorical path for my life wasn’t clear, so instead I chose to focus on the physical paths I could find.

It turns out that navigating the physical paths takes time and concentration as well. When the trail disappears across a raging glacial stream, you find the nearest fallen log and crawl across the rushing water. When your shaking legs give out on the downward slope, your scraped hands and knees teach you that listening to your body isn’t a suggestion. When you think you’re at the end of a grueling hike only to turn a corner and see a peak rise to the end, you have to reach deep inside yourself, because the only way forward is up.

Hiking became a reflection of my internal struggle. It was difficult progress marked by

*Photos courtesy of Audrey Hatfield MPA '23*



“Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, I’m no novice to hiking. The activity has more or less threaded itself throughout my entire life, but it wasn’t until I made the life-changing decision to quit my job and return to graduate school that my relationship with hiking bloomed.”

frequent doubts about my ability to make it to the top. So often along the trail, your gaze is down, watching your feet so that the rocks and roots don’t trip you up, don’t bring you to your knees. But it’s the hard journey that makes the view from the top worth it.

Because it is worth it. I was gifted with sweeping views of the Columbia River Valley, of turbulent and cascading waterfalls, and of sunrises and sunsets that gleamed from the horizon. On my favorite hike, the rocky outcrop at its summit affords hikers a 365-degree view of five mountain peaks—the furthest a whopping 196 miles away.

I discovered that I didn’t need to know what the path held for me in order to take the first step. Yes, the path was often treacherous and steep, but I grew strong enough to push the boundaries of what I thought I was capable of.

In learning this, I finally came to terms with the uncharted path ahead of me at SIPA.

We here at SIPA have all learned how to forge ahead and discover that where we thought we were going isn’t always where we end up. It’s been an uphill journey filled with unexpected twists and turns. But more often than not, I find we surprise ourselves by what we’re capable of and often extend our hands to those around us as we climb to the top.

My final hike before departing for SIPA was called Dog Mountain, a challenging ascent even by Pacific Northwest standards. My friend and I kicked off the hike at 6 a.m., me wearing my trusty hiking boots, which by this point were held together with duct tape. We were the first ones on the trail. When we reached the infamous “Difficult, More Difficult” sign, I’ll admit we unanimously elected the “Difficult” option. Upon reaching the peak, huffing and puffing, I laid down on the dirt and felt the support of the earth beneath me. My heartbeat slowed, and I breathed in the mountain air. Here’s to the many more paths we’ll begin. ●



Notable Events

2022-23



01



02



03



04



05



06

01

Former CIA director **John Brennan** visited SIPA for the panel discussion “Trump’s Strained Relationship with the Intelligence Community: Four Perspectives,” hosted by SIPA and the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies on September 15.

02

On October 12 SIPA convened Columbia’s top experts on Russia, Ukraine, China, and military strategy to examine the implications of Vladimir Putin’s annexations. Speaking to an audience of more than 230 at Low Library plus 1,000 online, the panelists discussed the prospects for an escalation of the war, including nuclear options; potential diplomatic off ramps; Putin’s domestic challenges; and whether the war has influenced Chinese thinking about Taiwan.

03

On November 2 SIPA welcomed **Huma Abedin**, the longtime aide and adviser to Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, for a discussion of her 2021 memoir, *Both/And: A Life in Many Worlds*. Joining Abedin in conversation were **Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo** and **Michael A. Nutter**, SIPA professor and former mayor of Philadelphia.

04

Avril Haines, director of national intelligence, delivered this year’s Silver Lecture at SIPA on February 17. Her talk, which was followed by a fireside chat with **Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo**, was part of a daylong conference honoring the late Robert Jervis.

05

Martín Guzmán, Argentina’s minister of economy from 2019 to 2022, delivered the William S. Beinecke Lecture on March 29 and was joined by **Joseph E. Stiglitz**, University Professor, to discuss the surge in global debt, especially across the Global South.

06

SIPA kicked off its Spotlight Interview series on April 3, welcoming House Speaker Emerita **Nancy Pelosi** for a conversation with former Secretary of State **Hillary Rodham Clinton**. The two touched on a wide range of issues, including the perilous state of US democracy; their personal experiences with deep fakes and conversations with Facebook and foreign leaders about AI and algorithms; and advancing women’s rights at home and around the world.

Photos by Barbara Alper (6, 7, 9, 10), Eileen Barroso (11), Diane Bondareff (3), Susan Farley (5, 12), Steve Myaskovsky (2), Lou Rocco (1), and Sirin Samman (4, 8)



07

The veteran European diplomat and George W. Ball Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs **João Vale de Almeida** delivered SIPA's annual Ball Lecture on April 11, discussing the serious global risks of economic and technological “decoupling” and warning that the world order could enter what he described as “an age of divorce.” Vale de Almeida was joined in conversation by journalist **Rana Foroohar** of the *Financial Times* and CNN.

08

To commemorate its 10th anniversary, the Center on Global Energy Policy's April 12 Columbia Global Energy Summit brought the foremost experts and leaders in energy and climate policy to talk about current trends in energy security, geopolitics, and the energy transition. Among the highlights was a conversation with CGEP founding director **Jason Bordoff** and **Jennifer Granholm**, US secretary of energy.

09

Hosted by SIPA's MPA in Economic Policy Management, former Bank of Japan governor **Haruhiko Kuroda** visited SIPA on April 17 to discuss his legacy at his country's central bank and the challenge of curbing deflation. Following his remarks, he sat down for a chat with fellow central banking veteran **Alan S. Blinder**.

10

McGovern Visiting Professor **Philippe Étienne**, who served as France's ambassador to the United States from mid-2019 until February 2023, gave the School's annual George McGovern Lecture on April 19. Étienne was joined by **Sara Schaefer Muñoz MIA '02**—the *Wall Street Journal's* deputy world coverage chief—for a fireside-style chat.

11

Mayor **Eric Adams** of New York talked about public safety and paid tribute to the legacy of one of his predecessors in a visit to Columbia SIPA for the 24th Annual David N. Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum on April 26. Following his address, Adams joined professors **Ester Fuchs** and **Michael A. Nutter** for a discussion that touched on fighting crime, the future of the city as a construct, and more.

12

The Picker Center for Executive Education organized “Leveling the Learning Curve,” a conference exploring the role of digital education at a crucial crossroads, on May 4–5. **Jilliene Rodriguez** (pictured), SIPA's associate dean for diversity and community engagement, was the event's host.

Alumni News



01

Celebrating the SIPA Class of 2023

SIPA held its Class Day on Sunday, May 14, as 824 graduates converged on Columbia's South Lawn for the annual ceremony. The featured speaker was 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa, who assessed the bleak landscape of democracy around the world and called out social media companies for allowing lies to spread while evading responsibility—triggering what she called “the doomsday clock for democracy.”

“This is the battle you are walking into today,” Ressa said, “and, boy, do we need you. We need your energy, your optimism, your commitment to justice Don’t complain about your government or corporate bureaucracy or the UN moving slowly. They do. You’ve got to jump in and change it.”

“We are living in science-fiction times,” she added, “and our fate is in your hands. I think I shouldn’t say congratulations; I should say welcome to the battlefield.”

Presiding over her first Class Day ceremony, Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo was ebullient—plainly thrilled to be leading the celebration of new graduates in seven academic programs representing 70 countries. She urged the assembled graduates to seize the moment.

“I want you to carry a sense of pride graduating from a School that is busily reinventing itself to meet the moment we’re in so that we are able to not just respond to the problems of today but also to anticipate the problems of tomorrow,” Yarhi-Milo said. “Whatever your concentration or specialization at SIPA was, whatever your background, now is your moment to dream big and to give back to the world.”

Following the featured speaker’s remarks, SIPA Alumni Association cochair **Kirsten Imohiosen MIA ’03** welcomed the new graduates to the alumni community. The former SIPASA president Courtney Manning MIA ’23 then introduced the student speaker, **Kat Sewon Oh MPA ’23**.

Citing the words of her late aunt—*imo* in Korean—Oh gave a benediction of sorts: “I’m proud of everything you’ve done up to this point. And I’ll be proud of everything you do in the future.”

Three days later, the Class of 2023 again convened, along with colleagues from across Columbia, for the University Commencement ceremony. ●



01

Aranzazu Jorquiera Johnson MPA-DP '23 cheers on fellow graduates.

02

SIPA graduates in the bleachers during University Commencement.

03

Nobel Peace Prize winner **Maria Ressa** welcomes graduates “to the battlefield.”

04

Chinwude Nwana MPA-DP '23 and **Nile Fossett MPA-DP '23** assemble at Lerner Hall for the Class Day procession.

05

Gadha Raj N MPA-DP '23, who served as SIPASA's University senator, celebrates during University Commencement.

06

Dawlat Soulam MIA '23 is joined by her children Issa (left) and Maryam at SIPA Class Day.

07

On University Commencement day, May 17, graduates continue a SIPA tradition — waving the flags of their native countries.

08

Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo addresses SIPA graduates at University Commencement as **President Lee C. Bollinger** looks on.

09

Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo embraces 2023 Campbell Award winner **Zaynab Abdi MPA-DP '23**

10

Student speaker **Kat Sewon Oh MPA '23** at SIPA Class Day.

11

SIPA graduates dance to Jay-Z and Alicia Keys's “Empire State of Mind.”

12

Black SIPA graduates in the Class of 2023 gather on May 15 at Black Graduation and are toasted and celebrated by family members, allies, and friends.

Photos by Barbara Alper (1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11), Diane Bondareff (5, 8, 9), Sirin Samman (7), Lynn Saville (12), and Chris Taggart (2)



SIPA Class of 2013 alumni enjoy their 10-year reunion. Photo by April Renae

2023 alumni award winners **Radha Kulkarni MPA '17** and **Jingdong Hua MPA '03** Photo by Diane Bondareff

SIPA Alumni Day and Reunion Dinner Draws Record Numbers

Graduates from classes spanning four decades flocked to campus for SIPA Alumni Day and Reunion Dinner on March 25. Former Air Force secretary **Deborah Lee James MIA '81** made keynote remarks, while **Jingdong Hua MPA '03** and **Radha Kulkarni MPA '17** received the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Emerging Leader Award, respectively. The day concluded with a sold-out dinner that drew 300 to Low Library's Rotunda.



Nominate a SIPA graduate
for an alumni award.

Leadership Dinner: 'A New Chapter for SIPA in the World'

More than 300 people enjoyed a panel discussion with Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, **Claire Shipman '86CC**, **MIA '94**, and President Lee C. Bollinger (who joined via Zoom) at SIPA's Leadership Dinner on May 3. The dinner, called "A New Chapter for SIPA in the World," raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for financial aid for deserving SIPA students.

Dean Keren Yarhi-Milo, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, and **Claire Shipman '86CC**, **MIA '94** share a light moment during SIPA's Leadership Dinner. Photo by Diane Bondareff**Aaron "Jay" Stout MIA '24** and **Anne Neuberger MIA '05** in conversation. Photos by Kaveh Sardari

SIPA students and alumni enjoy networking opportunities.

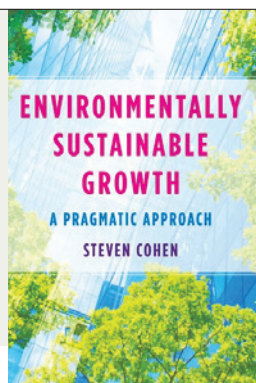
Neuberger Remarks Cap Off DC Career Conference

Anne Neuberger MIA '05, who has been the country's deputy national security advisor for cyber and emerging technology since January 2021, joined SIPA student **Aaron "Jay" Stout MIA '24** in a fireside chat on January 12 as part of the School's 46th Annual Washington, DC, Career Conference.

The gathering—sponsored by SIPA's Career Advancement Center and conducted over three days—offered SIPA students the opportunity to visit 18 employers in the capital region and take part in informational interviews with almost 120 participating alumni. On the conference's final day, more than 300 students and alumni attended the fireside chat and a reception at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood.

Bookcase

Read a Q&A with
Professor Cohen.



“I wanted to make it clear that the transition to an environmentally sustainable economy was an important goal. We are not going to solve the climate problem but we are going to make it less bad, and hopefully we will adapt to the warmer world we unfortunately will be living in.”

STEVEN COHEN, on his book *Environmentally Sustainable Growth: A Pragmatic Approach* (Columbia University Press, 2023)

FACULTY AND SCHOLARS

Steven Cohen

Environmentally Sustainable Growth: A Pragmatic Approach (Columbia University Press, 2023)

Glenn Denning

Universal Food Security: How to End Hunger While Protecting the Planet (Columbia University Press, 2023)

Michael W. Doyle

Cold Peace: Avoiding the New Cold War (Liveright, 2023)

William B. Eimicke and Adam Stepan (with Soulaymane Kachani)

Leveling the Learning Curve: Creating a More Inclusive and Connected University (Columbia University Press, 2023)

Seth Freeman

15 Tools to Turn the Tide: A Step-by-Step Playbook for Empowered Negotiating (William Morrow, 2023)

Keiko Honda and Takatoshi Ito

ESG Investing: Its History, Practice and Future (Nikkei Publishing, 2023)

José Antonio Ocampo (editor, with María Fernanda Valdés)

Políticas de desarrollo productivo: una agenda para el futuro [Productive development policies: an agenda for the future] (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung en Colombia, 2022)

Anya Schiffrin (editor, with Karolina Koc-Michalska and Michelle Ferrier)

Women in the Digital World (Routledge, 2023)

Yumiko Shimabukuro

Dream Rut: Navigating Your Path Forward (Wise Ink Creative, 2023)

Joseph E. Stiglitz (editor, with Rudiger L. von Arnim)

The Great Polarization: How Ideas, Power, and Policies Drive Inequality (Columbia University Press, 2022)

Zachary Tumin and Madeleine Want MPA '21

Precisely: Working with Precision Systems in a World of Data (Columbia Business School Publishing, 2023)

ALUMNI

Zaynab Abdi MPA-DP '23 (with Achraf El-Attar)

Voice for Refuge, Our Stories Carried Us Here, vol. 2 (Green Card Voices, 2023)

Jessica Barnes PhD '10

Staple Security: Bread and Wheat in Egypt (Duke University Press, 2022)

Trudy E. Bower MIA '78 (with John B. Crisci)

The Hunger Crime (Food4Livelihood, 2023)

Agathe Demarais MIA '09

Backfire: How Sanctions Reshape the World Against U.S. Interests, Center on Global Energy Policy Series, Jason Bordoff, editor (Columbia University Press, 2022)

Sonal Patney MPA '03

How Should We Think about Debt Capital Markets Today? ESG's Effect on DCM (Europa Edizioni, 2022)

Marc J. Selverstone MIA '92

The Kennedy Withdrawal: Camelot and the American Commitment to Vietnam (Harvard University Press, 2022)

Claire Shipman '86CC, MIA '94 (with Katty Kay)

The Power Code: More Joy. Less Ego. Maximum Impact for Women (and Everyone) (Harper Business, 2023)

Sumant Sinha MIA '92

Fossil Free: Reimagining Clean Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World (Harper Business, 2023)

Christopher Walker MIA '01 (editor, with William J. Dobson and Tarek Masoud)

Defending Democracy in an Age of Sharp Power (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023)



ClassNotes



What's your SIPA story?

Submit your SIPA milestones, achievements, and experiences for consideration to be featured in the School's social media, website, and publications. Class notes are published annually in *SIPA Magazine*.

Save the Date — SIPA Alumni Day and Class Reunion Saturday, April 20, 2024

This annual event brings alumni from around the world together to celebrate their SIPA connections and learn how SIPA continues to advance solutions to critical global policy challenges. Return to campus for a day of guest speakers, panel discussions, and socializing with fellow alumni. In the evening, alumni and guests join the Class Reunion, where milestone years are celebrated.

1955



F. LINCOLN GRAHLFS taught at several colleges, the last of which was in the University of Wisconsin System, where he taught sociology for 16 years and was department chair before retiring in 1988. In December 2022 he celebrated his 100th birthday (pictured).

1972



BOYD BLACK is the elected representative for Northern Ireland on the UK Labour Party's National Policy Forum (NPF).

1975

CLIFFORD D. MAY, founder and president of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, writes: "The think tank I founded is now over 20 years old and still doing significant research on national security and foreign affairs. I also write the weekly Foreign Desk column for the *Washington Times*."

1977



ALLAN GRAFMAN, CEO of All Media Ventures, was selected to join the board of the Phi Beta Kappa Association of New York.

1978



SUSAN ARIEL AARONSON conceived of, created, and directs the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub at George Washington University. The hub educates policymakers and the

public on data-driven change and data governance. It is also the only organization in the world that makes the governance of personal, proprietary, and public data for 68 countries and the EU at the national and international levels and analyzes how this affects innovation, human rights, and governance. Aaronson continues to take ballet and participate in triathlons.

1980



DAVID COOPER is spending his retirement improving his Hebrew and reading for pleasure. Previously, he was a poet, literary translator, and book critic.

CHRISTOPHER ZAVELO volunteers with the Audubon Society in New York.

1981

PAUL BERNSTEIN retired after 40 years as a national security professional and is now an independent consultant in strategic security issues with affiliations at National Defense University (NDU), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the US Air Force Academy. From 2011 to 2023, he was a distinguished fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies at NDU. Before that, he was vice president at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a Fortune 500 professional services firm, where he led strategic research programs.

1982

REX NISWANDER received a Cornerstone Award from the Lawyers Alliance for New York for outstanding pro bono service to nonprofits.



BARNET SHERMAN, a member of the Screen Actors Guild, signed with Model Club for representation in films, commercials, industrials, and print.

1983

PAUL CHRISTENSEN writes: “I am enjoying trips to Minnesota’s unique Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness every year. If any of my fellow 1983 graduates and friends see this, please reach out to say ‘hi.’ I hope you are all in good health.”

1984

MARK SPITZ writes: “We have been in Denver for the past 13 years, where I practice business law in my own firm. Mainly domestic clients but a bit international! Two grown children both here in Denver, and a 4-year-old granddaughter.”

1990



ROY C. JACKSON writes: “SIPA was instrumental in honing my critical-thinking and leadership skills as I embarked on numerous general management and leadership roles in the private and public sectors to support the foodservice industry. I have had the privilege of working with YUM! Brands and the Coca-Cola Company (for the bulk of my career)

and retired from Coca-Cola in 2018 after 22 years with the company. I also held nonprofit board positions in the industry, including chair of the Multicultural Foodservice Hospitality Association and board member for the National Restaurant Educational Foundation and the International Franchise Association.”

1991

EMILY SALTZMAN is deputy director of operations managing all Westchester County governmental departments and initiatives. She and the director managed Westchester’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, developed initiatives to assist county residents with ARPA federal funding, and recruited and hired senior staff.

1993



GINA (GALLI) BEHNFELDT was recognized for her work to rebrand invasive Asian carp and promote their

consumption. The new name, “copi,” is listed in the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, and the rebranding campaign won a 2023 Silver Anvil Award for marketing excellence from the Public Relations Society of America and an Anthem Award from the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. Recognized by *Forbes*, the campaign has led to significant market presence and the removal of over 15 million pounds of fish from midwestern waterways since its launch in June 2022.

URI MONSON was appointed secretary of the budget for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor Josh Shapiro.

1994



JAY CHAUDHURI is serving his third term as senate Democratic whip in the North Carolina State Senate representing the capital city of Raleigh. He was awarded a Rodel Institute Fellowship, the nation’s premier leadership program for elected



1993

As a chief marketing officer, **MARYAM BANIKARIM** led five major businesses through sweeping transformations and top-line growth. Her viral *New York Times* essay in 2018 on taking a “pause” at the height of her career captured national attention. In 2022 Banikarim once again pivoted, joining forces with the Partnership for New York City to lead an effort to revitalize New York via her purpose-driven consultancy, MaryamB. In March of 2023, she led the launch of the WE ♥ NYC campaign, which became the most viral campaign in the city’s history. At the height of the pandemic, Banikarim cofounded NYCNext, a grassroots volunteer movement aimed at supporting New York’s artist community and revitalizing the city. The nonprofit produced 14 live pop-ups, including A Moment for Broadway. To drive civic participation and build community, the team convened world-renowned artists for a star-studded video rendition of Billy Joel’s “New York State of Mind,” which received over 2.5 billion impressions, won the One Show Award, and was nominated for an Emmy.

leaders, and an UNUM Fellowship, which focuses on racial equity issues in the South.

1997

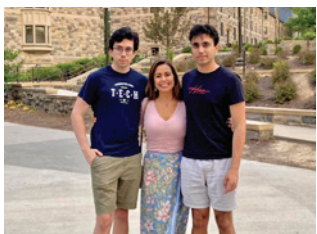
MARK HUANG is managing director of SeaAhead, which he cofounded five years ago. The company's bluetech platform's sustainability mission is to catalyze more STEM-based venture innovation to 'go-out-sea.' Huang writes, "Our oceans can't be an afterthought. We are out raising an early-stage bluetech VC fund that is fully integrated into the platform and look forward to setting up shop in NYC soon."

2000



CLARK D. GRIF-FITH launched a lending business, Legacy Corporate Lending, with Bain Capital, an investment he sees as "a significant opportunity to leverage our combined credit investment and industry expertise to provide borrowers with flexible, solutions-oriented capital."

2002



CAROLINA GUTIERREZ writes: "Excited to share that my son Luke Taliencio graduated from Virginia Tech Engineering in computer science and my other son, Noah Taliencio, is going to Columbia's School of Engineering this fall, and I am moving back to the US after 18 years overseas. I am looking for my dream job in NY or DC!"

2003



Program flyer for Projeto Hip Hop BR-US

AARON MYERS and **JON SOUZA '20** teamed up to co-deliver a hip hop diplomacy program called Projeto Hip Hop BR-US in Rio de Janeiro. They worked with local artists to present a series of workshops exploring the history and practice of dance. The project was sponsored by the US State Department's Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund.

SONAL PATNEY is a banker and a new author of *How Should We Think About Debt Capital Markets Today? ESG's Effect on DCM*, which explores sustainable-finance lending, ESG debt, regulatory landscapes, and case studies of companies like Enel, Novartis, and Hewlett-Packard to showcase the impact of sustainability-linked financings in Europe and the US. The book is published internationally by Europa Edizioni.



Professor Andrew Nathan (center) with Ching-yu Yao (third from right)

CHING-YU YAO represented Yu-Ih Hou, mayor of New Taipei City and a candidate in Taiwan's 2024 presidential election, on a visit to the New York City Mayor's Office on March 6.

The two cities jointly signed the NYC Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Declaration in 2020, and the two mayors share a background in law enforcement and an agenda of urban resilience and post-pandemic recovery. Since Mayor Hou's nomination, Ching-yu's role as the director general of secretariat has been furthering dialogues with key US officials and scholars on promoting regional peace and strengthening the US-Taiwan alliance, including arranging meetings with Laura Rosenberger, chair of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the top US official in charge of Taiwanese affairs, and conducting talks with Professor Andrew Nathan of Columbia.

2006



L-R: Arnaud Goessens, Shirley Binder, and Shira Yashphe

SHIRLEY BINDER, **ARNAUD GOESSENS**, and **SHIRA YASHPHE** attended the World Wildlife Conference in Panama. Binder represented Panama's Ministry of Environment, while Goessens works for the Wildlife Conservation Society and Yashphe works for the Cheetah Conservation Fund.

2008

BEATRIZ FRITSCHLER is serving as deputy commissioner of the Office of Strategic Partnerships for the NYC Department of Social Services. In this role she is responsible for the development of synergistic partnerships between the public, private, philanthropic, and academic sectors,



with the goal of enhancing resources and support for New York City's most vulnerable residents.

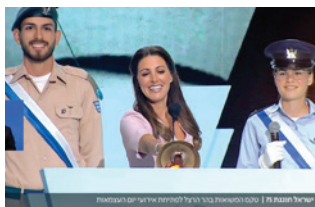


After graduation **MARC LIU** joined BDA Partners as an M&A adviser specializing in cross-border transactions between Asia and North America. He then launched and led ELMNTL, a digital marketing agency focused on travel, hospitality, spirits, and lifestyle. He is now the chief revenue officer for Civilized Cycle, an American electric bicycle brand, spearheading brand marketing, growth, and fundraising. Liu resides in Dallas, TX, and is a passionate martial artist, holding a black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

JUNG SOOK PARK is the secretary-general of WeGO (World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization) and has dedicated her career to international cooperation, including serving as the



Korean representative for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI). Park has also worked in education as a professor at Kyung Hee University and an adjunct professor of cultural diplomacy at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. She is the honorary ambassador for the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and founder and executive director of the Multicultural Network & Hope Kinds Korea, an NGO that provides education and mentoring for underprivileged children in Korea.



SIVAN YA'ARI, founder and CEO of Innovation: Africa, was chosen to light a ceremonial torch in honor of Israel's 75th Independence Day. Since its establishment 15 years ago, Innovation: Africa has installed solar systems in over 900 villages that, for the first time, have light and electricity in their schools and medical centers and, crucially, have access to clean water in villages with over 3,000 people. To date, Innovation: Africa has changed the lives of over 4.2 million people across 10 African countries.

2009



SACHIN GATHANI cofounded Laterite, a research firm specializing in data-driven insights. It has been ranked No. 54 on the list of Africa's Fastest Growing Companies 2023 by Statista and the *Financial Times*. With organic growth and a commitment to rigorous research, Laterite has expanded its operations across East Africa, West Africa, and the Netherlands, serving clients with high-quality research and data collection projects.



ALEJANDRO ROSALES MAYR joined the investment firm Cambridge Associates in September 2022 as an investment director in the firm's New York office. He serves endowments and foundations through custom portfolio management and asset allocation.



MARK ANTHONY THOMAS was selected by the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) as its president and CEO.



Hussein Ali Mwinyi, president of Zanzibar (*speaking*), was the guest of honor at the launch of the findings of the Amne Salim Fund for COVID-19 Research in Tanzania.

2010

AHMED SALIM partnered with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), the leading medical and teaching hospital in Tanzania, to launch the Amne Salim Fund to promote scientific research on COVID-19 and its impact on vulnerable people. The fund has supported research projects on vaccine hesitancy among women in Zanzibar, myths and perceptions on vaccines, mental health challenges among frontline health-care workers, and the use of traditional remedies for COVID-19.

2011

THOMAS RAINS is the founding executive director of the Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Institute, a nonpartisan nonprofit in Montgomery, AL, that creates programs and events to foster an understanding of the US Constitution and the Judiciary. The institute also hosts visitors at the Frank Johnson Courthouse, a site on the US Civil Rights Trail.



Homa Hassan (*right*) with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Assistant Secretary Molly Phoe outside of the West Wing in September

2012

HOMA HASSAN works at the White House on policy and resources for the Middle East and North Africa.

In 2022 she served as a director at the White House National Security Council. She teaches the graduate course Analyzing US Foreign Assistance at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Hassan and her husband, Naser, welcomed their second child in April.



JONATHAN MALAGÓN served as Colombia's minister of housing and sanitation from 2018 to 2022. At the time he was the country's youngest cabinet member. Malagón has also served as vice president of the Colombian Banking Association and director of economic analysis at Fedesarrollo. He was named among the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders and Apolitical's 100 Future Leaders: The World's Most Influential Young People in Government.

2013



CHRISTIAN LOUBEAU, who continues to be on leave from the US State Department, completed two years at the Ford Foundation and then transitioned to serve as an associate commissioner in New York City's Department of Design and Construction, where he oversees several divisions,

including programming to increase economic opportunities for businesses owned by women and people of color.

REBECCA SAXTON-FOX moved within USAID to the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, where she manages a team of 40 information officers who support the collection, dissemination, and communication of humanitarian information. The team, which includes several SIPA graduates, spans the globe and deploys to all humanitarian emergencies that USAID responds to. Saxton-Fox lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, Muhammad, and kids, Ziad (12) and Sally (7). Please reach out to connect at rsaxtonf@gmail.com.

2014



SRIDHAR ESWARAN writes: "I have been promoted and posted as commissioner for income taxes in the Ministry of Finance in Hyderabad (India), in charge of conducting search and seizure actions on tax evaders in India. I also received the Finance Minister's Gold Medal for exemplary performance in widening the tax base in India."

EDER GAONA-MACEDO, the first senior officer of community-engaged research at UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center, has extensive experience in advancing racial justice, immigrant rights, health equity, and education justice for marginalized populations. As a former executive director of Future Leaders of America and cofounder of 805 UndocuFund,



he significantly increased budgets, led grassroots organizing efforts, and provided disaster relief to marginalized communities in California.



WARDAH KHALID joined the US State Department as a foreign affairs officer in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs of the Office of Regional Multilateral Affairs.



JASON STOUT writes: "In February 2022 my family and I were forced to leave our home in Kyiv behind because of Putin's invasion. Since that time my team and I have worked to provide medical equipment, emer-

gency food supplies, protective gear, and other necessary items to vulnerable populations and volunteers on the front lines. We have returned to Ukraine ourselves whenever possible over the last 15 months, coordinating logistics with trusted local partners. We've seen firsthand the horrific and widespread destruction caused by Russian aggression, including two close friends and colleagues who nearly died from them. Yet thanks to the donations of people around the world, including many donors in Ukraine, we have been able to save many lives. Please help us at responsibilityfoundation.org."



2015

LT. COL. ERIC MEDINA took command of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, to which he will be assigned for the next two years. His most recent assignment was as the deputy division chief of strategy, plans, and policy for a Department of Defense agency in Washington, DC.



As the communications manager at the Open Society University Network (OSUN), **TERRY ROETHLEIN** coordinates digital communications for a



2015

AL-DAANA AL-MULLA is a senior diplomat of the State of Qatar. From 2012 to 2015, she was posted as a diplomat to the United Nations in New York as Qatar's lead negotiator on human rights, sustainable development, the advancement of women, and humanitarian, peace, and security affairs. A number of governments have recognized her work in international affairs and her ability to mobilize and manage complex networks of stakeholders in achieving intergovernmental consensus in UN decision-making, notably in leading high-level multilateral negotiations, bridging gaps between conflicting national positions, enhancing political cooperation, and advancing policy objectives on behalf diverse political coalitions, such as the Group of 77 and China. In 2017 Al-Mulla was posted to the Embassy of Qatar in Washington, DC, where she served as director of political affairs of the Office of the Ambassador for five years. Al-Daana is a strong advocate for advancing US-Middle East relations and common goals, and the Middle East Policy Council named her to the 2023 cohort for its 40 under 40 list of experts shaping the present and future of US-Middle East relations.

global network of higher education institutions, facilitating connected learning and research. He works with students worldwide, sharing their accomplishments and stories, and promotes civic engagement to address global challenges and inequalities. Additionally, he has experience in communications management within various organizations, including activism and social rights.

2016



After her graduation from SIPA, **ZHAZIRA KUL-MUKHAMMED** embarked on a career in international relations. She served at the Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Organization in Geneva, representing her country to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) during its most challenging sessions conducted at the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic in 2019-21. As the human rights officer of the Mission of Kazakhstan, she was part of the official delegation presenting Kazakhstan's Universal Periodic Report to the HRC as well as the national report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2019. Kul-Mukhammed now serves as the personal adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

2017



Since graduating from SIPA, **PAUL DELLA GUARDIA** has worked as an economist in Washington, DC, focusing on macroeconomics, sovereign debt, and capital markets. In January he founded *Sovereign Vibe*, a data-focused blog exploring global macroeconomics and the sovereign debt landscape. Della Guardia is also engaged in consulting projects, including one with NatureFinance to integrate sovereign debt market considerations for financial institutions into the recommendations for the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.



TARA HEUZÉ-SARMINI launched Commune, the world's first co-living space exclusively for single-parent families, providing them with a supportive community and turnkey housing solutions to address their needs and break the cycle of hardships. Before Commune she founded several successful initiatives, such as *Règles Élémentaires*, a leading charity fighting period poverty, and *glouglou*, the first universal holder for reusable bottles. Heuzé-Sarmini's work has garnered international media coverage, and she has received

multiple awards, including 30 Under 30 (*Vanity Fair*), Top 35 of impactful young leaders (Les Échos Start x Positive Planet), and Goalkeeper (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).

2018

CAMILA JORDAN writes: “Millions of people in Latin America and other countries lack affordable and safe housing, especially those living in informal settlements who face increased risks due to the climate crisis. As the executive director of TETO Brazil, a grassroots nonprofit working for housing justice and community development, I had the privilege of representing our organization at the Smart City Expo Latam Congress and witnessing the impact of our Seed House project, bringing strength and peace to families in need. While winning the prize was a great achievement, our true hope lies in raising awareness and taking action to secure housing as a fundamental human right worldwide.”



Economist **ANDRÉS OSORIO** served as director of the Office of Productivity and National Entrepreneurship (OPEN) in Chile’s Ministry of Economy and is now head of microeconomic analysis at Econsult and a part-time lecturer of economics at Universidad Católica de Chile. Osorio was recently recognized among Who’s Who Legal’s Future Leaders—Economists 2022.



HAI PENG, originally from Beijing, served in the US Army for seven years before attending SIPA. He is now deputy chief for China Division at Joint Staff J-5 DD Asia at the US Department of Defense. In this role he supports the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) by providing expert advice, information, analysis, briefings, studies, and reports on China and the Indo-Pacific region, both within the country and in a geopolitical context. He is responsible for preparing, evaluating, reviewing, and coordinating formal correspondence for the CJCS and senior members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with the National Security Council.

2019



ESTEBAN ANGEL and **CARLOS MATIENZO** cofounded DataInt, a company that helps organizations make better, data-driven physical security decisions with software that prevents, detects, and responds to physical security threats. The company achieved a significant milestone as part of the portfolio of 500, one of the top VC firms globally.



GIOVANNI PAGÁN VÉLEZ started a new role as an international economist at the US Department of the Treasury.

He works at the Office of Europe and Eurasia helping craft US economic policy and building stronger transatlantic ties with America’s allies.

2020



OSITA ABANA writes: “I’m happy to share that I have been promoted to senior manager, global brand communications and responsible marketing governance, at the Coca-Cola Company. I look forward to helping the Coca-Cola Company’s portfolio of loved brands reach more consumers and make a difference in the communities around the world.”



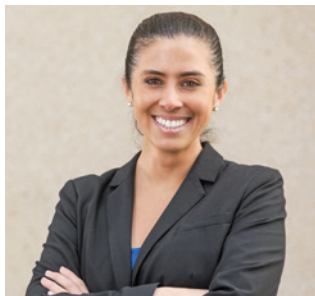
PATRICK DOUGHERTY joined the prestigious World Bank Group Young Professionals Program (WBG YPP). He was selected as 1 of 44

2019

CJ DIXON joined the Biden-Harris administration as a cyber policy adviser at the Office of Cyber, Infrastructure, Risk, and Resilience in the US Department of Homeland Security. Most recently, Dixon was a cyber risk specialist master at Deloitte, where he provided cyber strategy, detection, and response professional services to federal clients. He is also a former Google Public Policy Fellow, NYC Cyber Command alumnus, and Army veteran with eight years of active service as a medical services and psychological operations officer.



YPs this year. YPP is a two-year rotational leadership program as part of a five-year contract at the World Bank Group.



MICHELLE ANN MEZA writes: “Graduating during the pandemic, I embarked on an unexpected journey, working with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin to secure a victory for President Biden. Since then I have served in government roles, including as a political appointee at the EPA, contributing to the administration’s historic climate goals, and now serve as a National Urban Fellow

committed to equity-centered policymaking on the ground. Grateful for my SIPA community’s support, I look forward to the future as a proud public servant.”



REBEKAH MILLS won the Fulbright Study/Research Award in Archeology/History for Bulgaria. She started her 10-month grant in September 2023 to study the best practices in authenticity and sustainability in cultural heritage conservation. She is collaborating with the Balkan Heritage

Foundation on her project, Digging into History: Cultural Heritage Conservation Efforts in Bulgaria.

JON SOUZA and **AARON MYERS ’03** teamed up to co-deliver a hip hop diplomacy program called Projeto Hip Hop BR-US in Rio de Janeiro. They worked with local artists to present a series of workshops exploring the history and practice of dance. The project was sponsored by the US State Department’s Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund.

2021

SOUVIK CHATTERJEE is involved in a significant project training New York City agencies on PASSPort, a new financial management system, to streamline invoice submissions and payments, promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability across more than 40 city agencies. This initiative involves creating training videos and conducting weekly calls to guide agency users in preparing contracts and troubleshooting issues, with the goal of implementing the mandatory new invoice-submission process starting July 1.



ZISHEN (NORMAN) YE is a management consultant with McKinsey in Shanghai. During his time as a student leader at SIPA, he advocated for STEM designations for SIPA degrees.

2022

ELENA LIAPKOVA-POZSAR transitioned from a successful finance career to establishing her own executive coaching practice, driven by her passion for facilitating transformative change in leaders. With specialized training in the UK, she partners with clients worldwide, tailoring her approach to their individual needs and helping them develop new strategies to unlock their potential and thrive in today’s dynamic world.



FRANCESCO PAGANO joined Jakala, one of the largest MarTech companies in the world. He is also a shareholder at Tokenance, a Web3 studio; and Una Terra, a venture studio; and a contributor to Il Sole 24 Ore, Italy’s No. 1 business publication.



2021

CELESTE ZUMWALT joined the Biden-Harris administration at the Department of the Interior as a briefing book coordinator in the Office of the Secretary. She most recently was a policy analyst in the Office of the NOAA Administrator and an intern last summer at the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

We express our condolences to the families and friends of these members of the SIPA community who have recently passed away. Should you have news of a classmate’s death, please contact us at sipaalum@columbia.edu.

Richard Dodson MIA ’58
David Allen Kay MIA ’64
Sherwood G. Moe MIA ’48
Robert Nachshin MIA ’76
Karen Poniachik MIA ’90



Mila Atmos

MIA '05

Mila Atmos '96CC, MIA '05's SIPA story begins in Manhattan on September 11, 2001. Watching the planes hit the Twin Towers on television from her Wall Street trading desk, she knew she needed a reset.

Her subsequent journey includes a stint at *Sesame Street*—where she helped bring the program to Indonesia—and, more recently, as a podcast host and producer. Her weekly podcast, *Future Hindsight*, looks at civic engagement through in-depth interviews with citizen changemakers.

Atmos, who was born in Indonesia and raised in Germany, is a changemaker herself, funding an ambitious initiative at SIPA called Emerging Voices in National Security and Intelligence. Launched in 2021 and housed at SIPA's Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Emerging Voices encourages women and students from underrepresented backgrounds at both the undergraduate and the graduate level to learn about and consider career opportunities in the national security arena.

The following conversation with *SIPA Magazine* has been condensed and edited for clarity.

You attended Columbia College and worked on Wall Street. What was your path to SIPA?

I think I have a very relatable SIPA story, which is that after September 11, I thought, What am I doing here? I enjoyed working on a trading desk, but I had already been thinking I needed to change tracks. And when [9/11] happened, I thought, I really need to be in public service.

You host and produce the podcast *Future Hindsight* about civic engagement. Why did you want to start it?

I started the podcast after the 2016 presidential election. I had this hypothesis at the time that there are things we can do between voting and running for office. And I thought, let's talk about those things, because what we're still sorely lacking today, but especially in those days, is an engagement from the general public in our civic life. If we can showcase civically engaged people, I'm hoping we can inspire others to also get engaged but also give them tips on how to get engaged.

I've learned so much. I feel like I've earned a PhD in what's possible—what we can achieve as everyday people.



You made a generous gift to fund Emerging Voices in National Security and Intelligence, an initiative that will expand curricula at SIPA and Columbia and encourage women and students from underrepresented backgrounds to consider and pursue professional opportunities in national security and related fields. What was your motivation?

I saw the announcement that Saltzman appointed a new director [Keren Yarhi-Milo, in 2020]. I thought, Oh, maybe there's an opportunity here to do something that hasn't been done before at SIPA or Columbia. I'd been thinking about this for a long time but had never fully thought it out or articulated it until I read the article about Keren—that we don't have a pipeline of women or underrepresented communities in security policy.

I firmly believe that having diverse voices in decision-making positions makes for better, more effective decisions. I hope one day someone who's gone through this program becomes secretary of defense or secretary of state or even president—somebody with this kind of background. But in real terms, we know it's often staffers who do most of the work in drafting and executing policy, so it's very important to build a long bench of people who can go through the system and iterate on different kinds of decision-making. My hope is that having gone through Saltzman, these people become active mentors and pull other people along through the network.

What are the best ways for SIPA alumni to be engaged?

I think number one is giving money—at all levels. I sometimes feel like it's lazy to say, "Please give money." But actually, it goes the longest way, because Columbia has really good ideas of how to expand access to deserving students, how to make the curriculum more interesting, more academically demanding—all of those good things. What's lacking is the funding, not the ideas or even the execution. Ultimately, however you get involved, be it giving, volunteering, or mentoring, it will be interesting and impactful and enhance your life beyond whatever you invest. ●

**The SIPA community
thanks Lee C. Bollinger,
Columbia University's
19th president, for his
leadership.**

“To me, the most transformative change Lee brought to Columbia was encouraging SIPA to spread its wings and fly as its own independent school. This was no small undertaking, but it has allowed us to grow far beyond our original mission as a trade school for American diplomats.

He gave us permission to be bold and go beyond research confined to the academy. He inspired us to lead the conversation, set the agenda, and truly have a global impact.

Lee is the perfect example of what we do at SIPA every day—translate ideas and arguments into policy and action.”

—DEAN KEREN YARHI-MILO



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“A SIPA education is life-changing, providing students with a multifaceted experience—practical as well as academic—and preparing us to address important and complex policy issues as experts and leaders. Financial support from the SIPA community makes this educational experience possible for all, not just a privileged few.”

ZAYNAB ABDI MPA-DP '23



Today more than ever, the world needs SIPA-trained leaders working toward peace and prosperity. Please consider a gift to SIPA today to support financial aid for the next generation of SIPA students.



Photo by Barbara Alper