SIPA Appoints New Advisory Board Chair

The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) recently announced that Paul E. Tierney will serve as the new chair of its board of advisors. Tierney takes over from A. Michael Hoffman, SIPA ’73, who will continue to play an advisory role.

Paul E. Tierney

The SIPA board was launched by Hoffman and Anderson in 1998 to provide advice and assistance to the School’s dean, to represent its mission, and to promote its interests in the wider public policy community. Tierney is a managing member of a venture capital fund focused on the healthcare industry. He is also involved in various private direct investments in partnerships with leading entrepreneurs. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of TechnoServe, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation engaged in economic development in Africa and Latin America.

Tierney also is an adjunct professor in SIPA and the business school, and has served as an executive-in-residence at the business school.

“I am delighted that Paul Tierney has agreed to serve as chair at this crucial moment in SIPA’s history—on the eve of its 60th anniversary in 2006. Paul brings great energy and enthusiasm for SIPA’s mission,” said Anderson. “I am confident he will help the School to become even stronger both financially and academically, and even more visible in the global public policy arena in the coming years.”

Good Night, and Good Luck.

On Oct. 14, the School of the Arts and the journalism school hosted a special screening of George Clooney’s new film, Good Night, and Good Luck, about broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow’s attempt to bring down Senator Joseph McCarthy. Afterwards, journalism school dean Nicholas Lehmann led a panel discussion featuring (from left to right) Clooney, who co-wrote, directed and starred in the film as Fred Friendly, longtime professor at the journalism school, Victor Navasky, Columbia’s Delacorte Professor of Journalism, Cynthia McFadden, co-anchor of ABC’s Nightline and Primetime; and Grant Harris, who co-wrote, produced and starred in the film.

SIPA’s mission, “said Tierney, “is to develop leaders equipped to meet today’s most pressing challenges. Under its new leadership, SIPA will continue to provide unparalleled learning opportunities and resources to its students, and will work with the School and the University to further expand the impact of SIPA’s scholarship and policy-relevant research on the United States and the world.”

Legislative Report

“Stop the Raid on Student Aid!” Lobbying Campaign

By Ellen S. Smith

As Congress moves for-ward with plans to further reducethe federal budget, stu-dents are being asked to shoulder a heavier burden for deficit reduction. Some proposals call for cuts of nearly $11 billion from student loans.

Students across the nation have responded by lobbying their Congres-sional representatives to oppose these drastic reduc-tions in student loans. The Student Aid Alliance (www.studentaidalliance.org) organized a call-in campaign for Oct. 19 and 26.

With the inauguration of the Higher Education Act in the mid-1960s, stu-dent aid consisted primarily of grants to students able to prove need. Over time, the focus shifted to providing subsidized—or sometimes unsub-sidized—loans, and in the last decade, tax bene-fits have become the norm. Loan limits for sub-sidized loans have also remained unchanged for more than a decade. Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) include both subsidized and unsubsidized loans and provide favorable repay-ment terms, such as deferred repayment for those enrolling in gradua-tion and professional degree programs, Peace Corps or other service programs.

More than 5,250 Columbia students across all schools and campuses receive over $550 million in student loans. Recently, at the prompt-ing of Student Financial Services assistant vice president Michelle Brown and director Lichinia Beltre, Government Affairs staff met with the University’s student aid officers to discuss the threat to student aid programs. Officers announced that they planned to contact aid recipients to urge their involvement in the nation-wide lobbying campaign.

College-age applicants are expected to increase by 14 percent over the next decade, the vast majority of whom will require financial assistance. (Unless student aid programs are fully funded, many of these students will not be able to go to the col-lege of their choice—or college at all.)

For additional infor-mation, go to www.studentaidalliance.org/.