The SIPA Challenge for Endowed Financial Aid

A Partnership Between John Kluge ’37CC and Alumni and Friends of the School of International and Public Affairs

Increasing Your Gift’s Impact

Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs is at a crossroads. At a time of intense global challenges, Columbia is more focused than ever on expanding its global reach—and SIPA plays a crucial role in that mission. With a new dean, John Coatsworth, and with the promise of a new building in Manhattanville, SIPA is poised to become not only a center of excellence in policy education, but also a center of constructive influence on policymaking.

SIPA is currently engaged in strategic planning to embrace these opportunities. The first step is strengthening the school’s core by recruiting the very best students from around the country and around the world. Even as we look to strengthen new partnerships, cutting-edge research, and a first-rate faculty, we must first assure our ability to do more for our students.

Recognizing both the importance of SIPA’s mission to the entire University and the importance of a vibrant, diverse, and global student body to SIPA, the University’s greatest benefactor, John Kluge ’37CC, has agreed to allow the University to designate $30 million of his $400 million estate gift to build the financial aid endowment at SIPA. To fully leverage the Kluge gift and inspire other donors, we are using $25 million of Mr. Kluge’s gift to establish the SIPA Challenge program (the remaining $5 million of Mr. Kluge’s gift will be used to fund Kluge fellowships).

How the Match Works

Under the program, all donations of $100,000 or more to a new or existing financial aid endowment fund at SIPA will be matched 1:1.

Alumnus A, for example, makes a five-year pledge of $250,000 to create an endowed fellowship fund at SIPA in his name. At the time Mr. Kluge’s estate gift is received, Columbia will add the matching funds to this endowment, doubling the impact of the named scholarship fund and retaining the name designated by the original donor.

SIPA’s financial aid budget, currently approximately $6 million per year, is covered through a combination of philanthropic support, tuition dollars, and annual fund income. By adding up to $55 million to endowed fellowship support, a successful matching program would not only increase our fellowship budget substantially—allowing us to increase the size and number of packages we offer—but also relieve the budget so that other priorities can be addressed. Through the SIPA Challenge you can join a widening circle of alumni, parents, and friends helping to extend the opportunity of a SIPA education to all deserving students, for generations to come.