Students Advocate for Aid in Albany,

Researchers Speak and Exhibit in D.C.

(Continued from page 1)

Voting Schedule and Locations:

Morning Heights Campus

Dates and Times:

March 13, Wed, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
March 14, Thurs., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
March 19, Tues., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Earl Hall, Second Floor Auditorium

Health Sciences Campus

Dates and Times:

March 13, Wed, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
March 14, Thurs., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Location: Alumni Auditorium Lobby, Black Building Entrance

Lamont Doherty Campus

Dates and Times:

March 13, Wed, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Geoscience Building, Room 100

Nevis Campus

Dates and Times:

March 13, Wed, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Conference Room

The election will be held although the University has asked the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in Washington, D.C. to review the ruling issued by the Regional Director of Region II on Feb. 11, 2002, holding that Columbia’s graduate research assistants are employees and to include them in a bargaining unit with graduate students with whom they have no common law interest. According to the ruling made last month by the Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board the following groups of students are eligible to vote:

- All graduate and undergraduate Teaching Assistants (Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, Law Associates, Preceptors, Instructors, Listening Assistants, Course Assistants, Readers and Graders),
- Graduate Research Assistants and Departmental Research Assistants.

Both employers and employees employed this semester at the Morning Heights, Health Sciences, Lamont-Doherty and Nevis facilities.

Those ineligible to vote are:

- All other employees, including Teaching Fellows and Research Assistants in the Law School;
- Instructors and Teaching Assistants in the Summer Session program;
- Teaching Assistants, Course Assistants and Program Assistants in the School of International and Public Affairs; and
- Departmental Research Assistants in the School of the Arts, the Division of Instruction and Service Fellows in the School of the Arts.

For additional information, please consult the following website: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsas/gsu.

—Joeclyn Wilk

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Students Advocate for Aid in Albany,

Researchers Speak and Exhibit in D.C.

BY ELLEN SMITH

On Feb. 26, 2002, over 30 students and administrators traveled to Albany, N.Y. to advocate for student aid at the state level. Visiting more than 25 key legislators and their staffs, students urged the legislature to retain the current methods of administering the Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) program and retaining the maximum $5,000 award for undergraduates and increasing the program to $3,000 for graduate students.

Columbia advocates also spoke about the importance of opportunity programs with particular emphasis on the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP).

For HEOP, the recommendations included providing funding of $26.9 million for the program. Susan Long, assistant director of government relations, and Catherine Dente, government relations and special events coordinator, had the student lobby day.

Antonio Moura, director general of the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) and other key scientists from the IRI presented on Seasonal Agriculture’s Agriculture Outlook.

In the meeting, he explained his office’s policies and goals to improve climate predictions.

The proposed plan also recommends increased accountability to states (New York already has a model law), increased accountability to institutions, and increased accountability to students.

The plan poses problems for the higher education community that have been detailed by associations.

Of concern to the AAU, ACE and NAICU is the fact that the major role played by the federal government in financing higher education is not discussed nor is graduate education or international education. The proposed plan also recommends increased accountability to states (New York already has many areas of accountability).

In addition, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) distributed a draft for discussion about the evaluation of science spending through performance criteria.

The OMB is seeking comments from the academic community. Please contact Ellen S. Smith (esmith@columbia.edu) or Susan Long (sl758@columbia.edu) for OMB contact information.

TA, RA Vote About Unionization

Scheduled for March 14, 19, 14

For additional information, please consult the following website: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsas/gsu.

—Joeclyn Wilk

Barnard Dean

Virginia Crocheron Gildersleeve

Born in 1877 in New York City to the New York Supreme Court Justice Henry Alger and Virginia Crocheron Gildersleeve, the younger Virginia Crocheron Gildersleeve graduated from Barnard College in 1899. She went on to receive her M.A. in 1900 and her Ph.D. in 1908, both from Columbia. She taught English at Barnard College until she was asked by then-President Nicholas Murray Butler, to become dean of Barnard in 1910. She accepted and became the college’s third dean in February, 1911. She held this position until her retirement in 1947 and then was appointed dean emeritus of Barnard until her death in 1965.

Gildersleeve was regarded as one of the county’s foremost educators, a champion for the rights of women (insisting that the goal of women should not be limited to marriage nor should marriage be an obstacle to a career), and was also intensely interested in foreign affairs. She fought for the League of Nations in 1916 and after the failure of that international organization, she involved herself in the creation of the United Nations.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gildersleeve as the only woman delegate from the United States to the San Francisco conference that drafted the U.N. Charter. FDR told an aide: “She was the only woman in the United States worthy of consideration.” While at the conference she had a voice in the selection of the organization’s name and was a creator of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Later, she briefly served as an alternate delegate to the General Assembly.

—Joeclyn Wilk

A Glimpse of Columbia History...