Harvard’s Jeffrey Sachs, One of the World’s Leading Economists, Will Head Columbia Earth Institute

BY VIRGIL RENZULLI

Harvard University Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs has been named director of the Columbia University Earth Institute, effective July 1, 2002. Sachs, who serves as an economic advisor to governments in Latin America, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia and Africa as well as to the United Nations, is widely considered one of the most important economists in the world.

Sachs will become professor of economics, international and public affairs, and Mailman School of Public Health. His Public Health projects will include working with programs to investigate the causes and health effects of toxic levels of arsenic in the well water in areas of Bangladesh and the school’s international HIV/AIDS initiatives.

His appointment was made jointly by Columbia President George Rupp, who will leave office in June, and his successor, President-elect Lee C. Bollinger. Sachs will report to Columbia Provost Jonathan R. Cole on the operations of the Institute as an academic research and teaching unit and to the University’s president on matters pertaining to the development of the Institute’s global agenda.

“Jeffrey Sachs is a major public intellectual, in the best sense,” said Bollinger. “He brings scholarly erudition and insight to the most serious and fundamental issues of our time—the organization of market economies in newly developing democracies; the methods of dealing with countries that are under threat of having their economies dissolve into bankruptcy, and the critical importance of focusing on the interactions of economic structures with, for example, disease and climate.”

“This is really the essence of the undertaking of the Earth Institute at Columbia. I am thrilled to be able to work with Jeff Sachs to help make it even more of a reality. It is a worthy goal of a great university like Columbia.”

Added Rupp, “I am delighted that Jeffrey Sachs, one of the world’s most important international economists, has accepted our offer to head the Earth Institute. The global dimensions of his work are a great fit with Columbia’s international character.

“He will provide extraordinary leadership for the Earth Institute, which has integrated the earth, life and social sciences in ways that no other institution has achieved. The Earth Institute provides an excellent vehicle for Jeff to pursue his goal of fostering economic growth in developing nations while also promoting human health and preserving the natural environment.”

“Jeffrey Sachs is the ideal person to lead the Earth Institute at Columbia. Indeed, he may be the ideal agent for the 21st century.”

Jeanette C. Takamura to Become New Social Work Dean on July 1

BY JAMES DEVITT

Columbia has named Jeanette C. Takamura as 17th dean of its 103-year-old School of Social Work. Takamura was assistant secretary for aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1997 to 2001. Since June 2001, she has held the Edward R. Roybal Endowed Chair in Applied Gerontology and Public Service at California State University at Los Angeles. On July 1, Takamura will become the first female dean at the nation’s oldest school of social work.

“Jeanette Takamura brings a record of achievement and proven leadership ability that will benefit both the School of Social Work and the University,” said President George Rupp. “She will commit her entire energy and imagination to building on the school’s more than 100-year history of generating and employing knowledge for the benefit of the socially vulnerable.”

“Jeanette Takamura has demonstrated a deep commitment to solving some of the most difficult social problems that the nation faces,” said Provost Jonathan Cole. “Her multi-disciplinary approach to solutions, her great energy and organizational skills and her record of practical accomplishments make her an ideal person to lead the nation’s premier school of social work. She is a person who likes to break new ground and we’re eager to work with her toward that end.”

Takamura succeeds Ronald Feldman, whose 15-year tenure as dean of the School of Social Work concluded at the end of the 2000-2001 academic year. Sheila Kaminman, Columbia’s Compton Foundation Centennial Professor and director of the University’s Institute for Child and Family Policy, served as interim dean for the 2001-2002 academic year.

During Takamura’s tenure as assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services, she led the development of a modernized Older Americans bill. (Continued on Page 6)

Community Outreach Day 2002

Student-run Columbia Community Outreach (CCO) assembled more than 1,000 Columbia volunteers to help cleanup parks and assist with other projects in Upper Manhattan on Sat., April 6. President George Rupp received a special citation honoring his years of support for CCO. Above, students paint a park bench on the cool spring day.

Student-run Columbia Community Outreach (CCO) assembled more than 1,000 Columbia volunteers to help cleanup parks and assist with other projects in Upper Manhattan on Sat., April 6. President George Rupp received a special citation honoring his years of support for CCO. Above, students paint a park bench on the cool spring day.

Sig Gissler Named to Pulitzer Post

Sig Gissler, former editor of the Milwaukee Journal and for eight years an associate professor in the School of Journalism at Columbia, has been appointed administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes.

He will succeed Seymour Top- ping, former managing editor of the New York Times, who has held the post since 1993.

The appointment, which will be effective July 1, was announced by the Pulitzer Prize board and by Presi- dent George Rupp, where the prizes have been administered since their inception.

Gissler was a member of the Milwaukee Journal’s staff from 1967 to 1993, serving as editor from 1985. During his newspaper career, he has worked as a reporter, editorial writer, edi- tor and management executive. At The Times, he has taught reporting and writing and founded the Columbia Workshops on Journalism, Race and Ethnicity.

He also conducts a 15-week seminar on coverage of race and eth- nic issues in urban America.

John Carroll, editor of the Los Angeles Times and current chair- man of the Pulitzer board, said, “After a distinguished career in journalism, Seymour Topping has given the Pulitzer Prizes nine years of strong and enlightened stewardship. No one has been more ardently devoted to the integrity of the institu- tion. We are in his debt.”

Rupp said, “Sig Gissler will be a great administrat- or for the Pulitzer prizes. He knows both journalism and the academy from the inside. That combination qualifies him to lead the Pulitzer program with the same distinction that Sey- mour Topping has brought to it.”

The administrator’s office provides support for the selection of juries, prize deliberations and the meetings of the board, which chooses the win- ners each April.

The prizes, established under the 1904 will of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, are regarded as among the most prestigious in jour- nalism, letters, drama and music.

Jeanette C. Takamura

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INSIDE

Twentysomething scholars enjoy early success and distinct part of Columbia’s history.

Dean Bernard Tschumi to build new Acropolis Museum in Athens: Greeks hope to facili- tate return of Elgin’s Marbles.

Global warming erodes wetlands near Kennedy Airport, Columbia study finds.

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