2001 Hamilton Medal Awarded—Philip Milstein, CC’71, was awarded the 2001 Hamilton Medal Award at a Commencement and Reunion Reception on Nov. 15 in Low. Rodin Hall, University President and CEO of Emergent Savings Bank, was recognized for working “tirelessly to better Columbia and the city in which it dwells.” From left: Gerald Sherwin, CC’55, president of the CC Alumni Association; Columbia College Dean Austin Quigley; Milstein; and President George Rupp.

BIVELLE SMITH

At the federal, state and city levels, leaders are drafting their budgets for fiscal year 2003 and all will be released in initial form in early 2002, even though the fiscal years begin at different times. Stressors on all of the budgets are apparent in the aftermath of Sept. 11, the recession and the loss of surpluses.

This update focuses on federal issues. High on the agenda of the US Congress are work on bills to prepare for bioterrorism, completion of annual funding for 2002 and additional monitoring of international students.

Annual Federal Funding bills for 2002 (H.R.1 942, H.R.2 793): The Congress has given the government funding with continuing funding, but many of the funding bills for this year have not been finally enacted. Six of the thirteen funding bills have been signed into law and increases in science budgets were included in the bills: National Science Foundation (+8.5%), NASA (+11.2%), Energy (+3.1%), NOAA (+10.2%), and USGS (+2.1%). Funding for health research, including the Centers for Disease Control and NIH, has not been agreed upon in final form by the Congress, but double digit increases in research funding are expected for the NIH. Student aid funding is likely to be level-funded with only a slight increase in Pell Grant maximum awards for the neediest students.

Bioterrorism Preparedness Act (S.91 7/HR 3310): In both the House and the Senate, bills were introduced to expand provisions included in the Antiterrorism legislation passed at the end of October. The Senate version introduced by Senators Bill Frist (R-TN) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) is entitled the “Bioterrorism Preparedness Act” and was introduced in the House of Representatives by Greg Ganske (R-IA). Expectations are that these bills will be passed before Congress adjourns. The bill authorizes $3.2 billion for preventing, detecting and combating bioterrorism. Of significant consequence to Columbia researchers are the provisions related to laboratory use of biological agents and toxins. The Secretary of Health and Human Services will establish and maintain a list of high-risk biological agents and toxins that has the potential to pose a serious threat to public health and safety [with exemption for] attenuated or inactive biological agents or toxins used in biomedical research for legitimate medical purposes or those cleared or approved by other governmental agencies or laws. The Secretary of HHS will develop regulations for transfer of such agents, prevention of access for criminal purposes, and assurance of availability of agents for research and education. Individuals and laboratories may also need to register for possession of these agents. These regulations as well as those related to the use of agents will be developed in consultation with universities and other research agencies.

International Students: Two Senate bills were recently introduced to expand controls on visas. S.1618 was introduced by Senators Kennedy (D-MA) and Brownback (R-KS) and S. 1627 was introduced by Senators Feinstein (D-CA) and Kyl (R-AZ). Neither bill proposes a moratorium on visas for the external tenured appointments to academic positions in the Natural Sciences in higher proportions than their representation in the applicant pool (34 percent to 23 percent), and the frction of women among successful internal candidates for tenure over the course of the 1990s (one third) has increased proportion of women in the A&T tenureed faculty from 13 percent to 20 percent.

In the Humanities, external appointments to tenure-fearing departments in the 1990s, which make up fully half of all tenure appointments, did not contribute to this pattern of growth. The record in the Natural Sciences was particularly “pathetic,” Applegate said, with women making up only 8 percent of the external tenured appointments (2/26) during that span, and 0/11 appointments “targets of opportunity,” or faculty stars.

The Commission’s research effort, inspired by a 1996 “academic pipeline” study at the University of Michigan, was led by Prof. Jean Howard of the English Department until her recent departure for Penn, then by Kim Kasten, a researcher at Lamont-Doherty, who wrote the final report. Applegate focused his remarks on what he called “stale women,” the qualified female graduates who aren’t applying for Columbia faculty positions in the Arts and Sciences. Whereas women comprise more than 40 percent of Ph.D.s in those disciplines, both at Columbia and nationwide, they made up only 23 percent of the applicant pool for Columbia tenure-track jobs in 1999-2000.

Invited by President George Rupp to speculate on reasons for the shortage of women in the applicant pool for faculty jobs, Applegate offered some guesses that the Commission has considered: New York City may deter women; a career at a research university is incompatible with a commitment to raising small children; an “old-boy” advising network may steer women away from elite institutions like Columbia; finally, women may be as likely to underestimate their qualifications as men to overestimate theirs.

Provost Jonathan Cole praised the commission’s work, and also urged members to familiarize themselves with a rich scholarly literature on these issues, including a major publication pending soon from the National Academy of Sciences.

Copies of the Commission report are available in the Senate Office (406 Low), and online at the Senate website (www. columbia. edu/cu/senate). The next Senate meeting is on Fri day, Dec. 14, in the Schapiro Engineering Auditorium at 1:15 pm. Anyone with a CUID is welcome.

By Tom Mathewson

On Nov. 16 the University Senate heard from its Commission on the Status of Women about obstacles on the career paths of women that continue to inhibit their progress through the academic hierarchy in the Arts and Sciences at Columbia.

The main problems, identified by tured Natural Sciences senator James Applegate in an oral summary of a 40-page Commission report, are higher attrition rates for female students in the Gradu ate School of Arts and Sciences and a puzzling absence of qualified women from the applicant pool for tenure-track jobs.

On the brighter side, women are hired for tenure-track jobs in Columbia’s Arts and Sciences in higher proportions than their representation in the applicant pool (34 percent to 23 percent), and the fraction of women among successful internal candidates for tenure over the course of the 1990s (one third) has increased proportion of women in the A&T tenureed faculty from 13 percent to 20 percent.

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