were alright. With telephone dis- ruptions throughout the city and beyond right after the attacks, many students relied on email and some took advantage of a special Internet phone connect- ion set up by technology experts at Columbia’s engineering school.

In his message to the Colum- bia community, Rupp said that while classes would not meet, faculty and staff would be avail- able throughout the day and into the evening to students who needed support during the crisis. “Many members of our com- munity are hurting directly from this tragedy,” Rupp wrote. “They have partners, other rela- tives and friends who worked in the Trade Center. Our hearts go out especially to them. But along with them all of us also are touched by these horrible acts, Whoever is behind them is intent on driving us apart, dividing us, turning us against each other. So this is all the more a time when we must come together. We are a community that encompasses and affirms diversity. Now more than ever we must hold fast to our ideals of inclusiveness and mutual support.”

Two ecumenical services led by the University Chaplain Davis were held at St. Paul’s Chapel, by the University Chaplain Davis and some took advantage of a 50-foot butcher paper letter campaign and organized vocal workers (See story on page 8).

Throughout campus, conver- sations focused on the attacks as a variation on the question— “Are your family and friends okay?”—became a common greeting between colleagues and friends.

At the School of International and Public Affairs, Dean Lisa Anderson, Professor Richard Bulliet and Gary Sick, director of the Middle East Insti- tute, convened a forum, “After the Attack,” to discuss the attacks and their meaning for U.S. foreign policy. Sick, who served on the National Security Council staff under Presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan, had been near the World Trade Cen- ter and witnessed the attack.

Many expanded services were available to meet needs on cam- pus, including temporary hous- ing on campus for staff, students and faculty who could not reach home as the city closed bridges, tunnels and other transportation links, and special group counsel- ing programs and sessions in dormitories to help students cope with the tragedy. “With all efforts to keep on teach- ing, we should not overdo it,” he said. “What happened is huge and most of us haven’t compre- hended it yet.”

The University administration and many individuals in the com- munity immediately responded by offering special equipment or expertise to the official rescue effort, along with concern and comfort to their colleagues, class- mates and fellow New Yorkers. Doctors, nurses and other medical staff at many of the Uni- versity’s teaching hospitals were on special mobilization in the hours immediately after the attacks to receive the injured. Columbia doctors sped to the scene to tend to the injured. A University mechanic also joined the effort, fixing a diesel engine on city fire equipment and the University provided new office space for the develop- ment agency in the World Trade Center.

More than 15 fourth year med- ical students at Columbia had volunteered at the rescue site and mental health professionals at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center were organizing volun- teers to assist relief agencies, such as the Red Cross (See story on page 7). In addition, the Columbia Health Sciences cam- pus collected bottled water, underwear, bandages and other items for the relief workers.

The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science on Mon- day, Nov. 12, will host an all-day forum with the top engineers of the World Trade Center, members of the structural assessment team at Ground Zero and leaders of the emergency response and recovery of Sept. 11 to gather first- hand information that could lead to improve- ments in building design and operations to cope with extreme hazards like the terrorist attacks.

The forum, “The Techni- cal Implications of the World Trade Center Col- lapses,” is open to the pub- lic and will take place from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Roone Arledge Audito- rium of Alfred Lerner Hall.,

There will be no admis- sion charge but attendees are asked to register in advance online at: http://www. civil.columbia.edu/wtcforum/#reg.

WTC Engineers Will Meet in Nov. 12 Forum at Columbia