(Continued from Page 1)

Gates, the chairman and chief software architect for the Microsoft Corporation, revealed that his interest in philanthropy comes in part from his parents, who both set an example for him as a child. His father, William H. Gates, was the head of the local Planned Parenthood, and his mother, Mary, volunteered for the United Way. As he amassed his fortune, Gates knew he would every want to give back as well, but didn’t expect to devote himself whole-heartedly to one project until he was about 60.

However, Gates, 47, began to question his ability to wait that long. “It seemed there was a real time urgency,” Gates said. “I started to think, ‘How many lives could I save before them?”

As early as 1994, the Gateses narrowed their focus of charitable giving to causes addressing global health issues, education, libraries and community service organizations in the Pacific Northwest. In January 2000, two existing organizations, the Gates Learning Foundation and the William H. Gates Foundation, were merged to form the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a new enterprise devoted to “improving people’s lives by sharing advances in health and learning with the global community.” The Seattle-based charity is being co-chaired by Gates’ father and Patty Stonefifer, the foundation president.

Gates says a lack of visibility is preventing people from realizing the crisis occurring in so many countries around the globe. Children are dying of diseases that have been mostly eliminated in Western countries, and could be stopped with inexpensive vaccines. A plane crash in any part of the world, Gates noted, will get more attention than the fact that AIDS epidemic is a reflection of the poor state of health in many countries, said Gates. He called the neglect of certain populations a “failure of capitalism,” noting that while free-enterprise does serve as a “wonderful motivator” for people, on a global scale, it has let many others down. AIDS is spreading rapidly, while diseases like malaria and polio still persist as well. Gates believes money needs to be spent to stem the current tide.

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates addresses an audience in the Faculty Room of Low Library.

A self-described gadfly, Schwartz has never steered the doctor has never lost sight of the core relationship in the medical world: doctor and patient. Schwartz prides himself on keeping up-to-date with the latest developments throughout the industry while maintaining a down-to-earth approach with individual patients. Of his long career, and in respect to the diversity and large number of patients Schwartz has seen over the years, he says, “It’s been so enriching and profoundly fascinating.”

Yet Schwartz has also influenced other areas of the medical world, such as having been selected—because of his work as a medic in Vietnam—to an editorial board of Save the Children; and Pat Mitchell, president and CEO of PBS. Rosenfield began the program by introducing a short film documenting the needs of populations in the developing world. After the taping, Rosenfield and Bollinger co-hosted a reception for Bill and Melinda Gates in Low Library’s Faculty Room.

Both Bill and Melinda Gates spent a good deal of time at the reception interacting informally with students and other guests. Prior to the taping the couple met with 12 Mailman School students to discuss the students’ studies, careers, and thoughts on today’s most pressing global health challenges.

By COLIN MERRIS

Senior Internist Howard Schwartz Set To Retire After 30 Years of Service at Columbia

A broad scope of scholarly interests emanates from the art pieces and inspirational messages strewn about the four walls of Howard Schwartz’s office. Upon first look—and ignoring a rather large patient’s chair—one could easily misinterpret the office for one in the philosophy or fine arts departments. But this is the office of Columbia’s Senior Internist, who is retiring after thirty years of service to the University and surrounding community.

Attending medical school when the first mention of a double helix arose, Schwartz has worked through three decades of some of science and health-care’s most influential developments. And though, as Schwartz explains, “I’m very curious about life and many things in life that go outside the boundaries of what we call medicine,” the doctor has never lost sight of the intent of providing the best care for his patients. He has always promoted a rules-are-meant-to-be-broken approach with his staff and defends them when they do the same. Among the mantras on his wall and in his life he points out an Einstein quote scribbled onto a prescription sheet—“Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Schwartz emphasizes, however, that the elasticity he allows his people is in the pursuit of excellence: constant study and questioning in the patient’s best interests.

Schwartz views the need for students to discuss the students’ studies, careers, and thoughts on today’s most pressing global health challenges.

Gates said he became a student of global health, trying to obtain as much information as possible. His staff would give him strange looks, he joked, when they started finding copies of world reports on morbidity and mortality on his desk. When a colleague recommended he study a particular field of health treat-ment, Gates responded by reading 17 books on the topic. In fact, Gates says that on a typical vacation, world health books still account for about half his reading.

“I knew I’d have to learn quite a bit,” said Gates, noting, “The statistics are mind-blowing.”

By COLIN MERRIS

A self-described gadfly, Schwartz has never steered clear of controversy through the intent of providing the best care for his patients. He has always promoted a rules-are-meant-to-be-broken approach with his staff and defends them when they do the same. Among the mantras on his wall and in his life he points out an Einstein quote scribbled onto a prescription sheet—“Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Schwartz emphasizes, however, that the elasticity he allows his people is in the pursuit of excellence: constant study and questioning in the patient’s best interests.

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