Jacques Barzun Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom

BY JOE KENNEDY

Jacques Barzun, former Columbia professor, dean and provost, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony on Wednesday, July 23.

President George W. Bush, in his remarks at the presentation, noted, “From his first book published 71 years ago, to his latest, a best-seller published in 2000, Jacques Barzun has influenced generations of serious readers. Few academics of the last century have equaled his output and his influence.”

One of the most outstanding figures at Columbia University, Barzun was born in France 95 years ago and emigrated to the United States in 1919. His entire academic career was spent at Columbia. After graduating from Columbia College in 1940, he taught at Columbia for 55 years as a world leader in higher education.” said President Bollinger.

Bollinger announced the election of three new members to the 25-member Board of Trustees: Mark Kingdon, president of Kingdon Capital Management LLC, Esta Stecher, co-president and chief operating officer of the Institutional Securities Group at Morgan Stanley, and Vikram Pandit, a graduate of Columbia's 250th anniversary.

Incoming students with 136 flags representing their respective countries wear t-shirts celebrating Columbia’s 250th anniversary. See Page 7 for more photos.

Three New Members Elected to Columbia’s Board of Trustees

BY MICHAEL LARKIN

With the University’s historic 250th anniversary set to begin, President Lee C. Bollinger announced the election of three new members to the 24-member Board of Trustees: Mark Kingdon, president of Kingdon Capital Management LLC, Esta Stecher, executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary at Goldman Sachs & Co., and Vikram Pandit, chief operating officer of the Institutional Securities Group at Morgan Stanley.

“I am an honor to welcome such accomplished alumni and distinguished community leaders to the Board of Trustees at this momentous time in Columbia University’s history,” said President Bollinger. “Their contributions will strengthen our commitment to academic excellence as we celebrate 250 years as a world leader in higher education.”

Mark Kingdon, CC ’71, is a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors, and serves on the boards of the Harlem Children’s Zone, the New York City Police Foundation and the Academy of Political Science. In 1998, he endowed the C. Lowell Harriss Professorship of Economics at Columbia University in honor of his undergraduate teacher and mentor. Kingdon, who won Institutional Investor/Alternative Investment News’ first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003, is the founder and president of Kingdon Capital Management LLC, a Manhattan-based hedge fund. Prior to founding the company in 1983, he worked for the institutional investment management firm, Centum Capital Associates.

Vikram Pandit, a graduate of Columbia University’s Engineering School and Business School, is the co-president and chief operating officer of the Institutional Securities Group at Morgan Stanley. He previously served as the company’s managing director and head of the Worldwide Institutional Equities Division (1994-2000) and U.S. Equity Syndicate (1990-1994). Pandit served as director on the NASDAQ stock market board from 2000 to 2003, and is currently a member of the Morgan Stanley management committee. He is also a trustee of The Trinity School, a private school in Manhattan.

Esta Stecher, Law ’82, sits on the Law School’s Board of Visitors and the Dean’s Council. She is also a trustee of the Goldman Sachs Foundation and director of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty. Stecher is currently serving as the executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary at Goldman Sachs & Co. From 1994 to 2000, Stecher was head of the firm’s tax department. Prior to Goldman Sachs, she was a partner in the international law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell. Columbia has 24 Trustees elected for six-year terms. Twelve Trustees are elected by the Trustees acting alone, six by the Trustees working in consultation with the executive committee of the University Senate, and six elected after nomination by the University’s alumni. Kingdon and Stecher were elected as Alumni Trustees and Pandit was elected as a Trustee by the Trustees alone.

There are presently six Alumni Trustees on the board. Alumni Trustee nominees are identified and selected by the Alumni Trustee Nominating Committee, which is composed of alumni representatives from each of the schools and operates under the auspices of the Alumni Federation. The newly elected Trustees will begin their terms next month. For more information about the Board of Trustees at Columbia, go to www.columbia.edu/cu/secre- tary/trustees/bios.html

In two separate communications, one to welcome the incoming class of ’07 and another to update the entire Columbia community on the key issues facing the University as it marks its 250th anniversary, President Lee C. Bollinger laid out the central challenges of our times and described how Columbia is uniquely positioned to equip students with the understanding to approach them.

To the Incoming Class, A Personal Welcome

Under sunlit skies President Bollinger welcomed the incoming class of ’07 during the convocation ceremony with words to ease their transition to college, excite their imagination and challenge their intellect. Beginning with the personal, he assured students and their parents that the University took seriously their responsibility to safeguard the students’ well-being and promote their education over the next four years.

For more information about the University’s historic 250th anniversary celebrations, see Page 5.