NOAA and Columbia Establish Cooperative Research Institute

By Jana Golesman

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Columbia have established a cooperative institute to study climate applications and research. The University recently was awarded a research grant for the Cooperative Institute for Climate Applications and Research (CICAR), to be headquartered at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. This five-year grant carries a funding ceiling of $50 million from NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, under a cooperative agreement for interdisciplinary climate modeling and applications activities.

At a lecture delivered at the Lamont-Doherty Campus, retired Navy VADM Conrad Lautenbach, undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator, explained the importance of collaborative partnerships for the advancement of scientific knowledge.

“The pressing socioeconomic challenges of the 21st century will call for new scientific and operational capacity within the institutions and agencies that work to understand the physical, biological, and chemical cycles that characterize the Earth’s natural systems,” he said. “This will require creative partnerships to understand and manage ecosystems in a global manner—the same interrelated manner as the environment that we observe, while recognizing the link between the economy and our planet’s environment.”

CICAR, hosted by NOAA’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) in Princeton, N.J., part of NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, will collaborate with NOAA scientists to advance climate research, education and outreach.

CICAR will be NOAA’s 13th joint or cooperative institute. The institutes bring together the resources of a research-oriented university or institution, the office of Ocean and Atmospheric Research (OAR), and other branches of NOAA to develop and maintain a center of excellence in research relevant to understanding the Earth’s oceans and coasts, atmosphere and climate.

“Partnerships like this one with Columbia are essential as we work to have a better understanding of Earth’s climate system and how to prepare for and cope with its variabilities,” said Ants Leetmaa, GFDL director. He noted that the University is one of the world’s premier institutions in the studying of the earth’s environment and its relationship to human society.

CICAR will focus on the modeling, understanding, prediction and assessment of climate variability and change; development, collection, analysis and archiving of instrumental and paleoclimate data; and the application of climate variability and change prediction and assessment to provide information for decision makers in assessing risk to water resources.

(Continued on Page 8)

Kofi Annan Inaugurates Columbia’s New Program on International Migration

By Hayley Miller

On Friday, Nov. 21, Low Library was host to a room teeming with curious students, faculty and staff from across the University. They were gathered to hear the inaugural Emma Lazarus Lecture on International Flows of Humanity delivered by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and sponsored by the new interdisciplinary Program on International Migration: Economics, Ethics and Law, housed at the Law School.

President Lee C. Bollinger welcomed Annan and the audience and expressed his enthusiasm about the new Program, spearheaded by University Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, which will act as an umbrella for faculty and students engaged in research on the multitude of analytical and policy-related issues raised by the international flows of humanity. Faculty affiliated with the program come from disciplines as diverse as economics, literacy theory, philosophy, sociology, political science, international relations and law.

Secretary-General Annan, who was introduced by Bhagwati, lauded the introduction of a new program dedicated to the exploration of international migration and human rights. He stressed the importance of such an endeavor at a global institution such as Columbia, located in New York City—a city, “which has been the archetypal success story of international migration.”

New York City, with more than one in three inhabitants born outside the United States, and boasting communities of 188 different national origins—only three fewer than there are member states in the United Nations—is a “success story of migration” right at our doorstep, Annan noted, unfortunately, many other countries, and more specifically individuals, have not experienced the same level of successful transition to new homelands.

While many migrants choose to move, others are forced to flee their countries of origin. Regardless of the motivation for a migrant’s move, there is little doubt that both host and sending communities face tremendous challenges in addressing a complex set of issues surrounding migration, “issues of human rights and economic opportunity, of labor of xenophobia and integration, of refugee crises and asylum seekers, of law enforcement.

“While many migrants choose to move, others are forced to flee their countries of origin. Regardless of the motivation for a migrant’s move, there is little doubt that both host and sending communities face tremendous challenges in addressing a complex set of issues surrounding migration, “issues of human rights and economic opportunity, of labor of xenophobia and integration, of refugee crises and asylum seekers, of law enforcement.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

PHOTO BY EILEEN BARROSO

PHOTO BY HEZI GILDOR

Autumn Illuminates the Campus...

PHOTO BY HEZI GILDOR

PHOTO BY EILEEN BARROSO