**Global University**

Columbia Celebrates Its Chinese Connections

By Peter Kobel

With participants coming from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and various parts of the U.S., as well as Columbia, the university, the symposium “Columbia University: The Chinese Connection” Sept. 10-11, actually originated in the New York borough of Queens. The initial idea was conceived more than a year ago with Bernadette Li, who is the director of the Institute of Asian Studies at St. John’s University in Queens.

Columbia Trustees Clyde W. Wu and Savio W. Tung approached Li with the idea of doing something in connection with the Columbia 250 celebrations recognizing the role of Columbia in China. Li enthusiastically endorsed the concept. The seed then grew into a tree that sprouted a total of 12 panels over two days covering topics ranging from diplomacy to business and economics, from art to science, and from education to law. Organized by Columbia’s Weatherhead East Asian Institute under the aegis of President Neil Jacobson, the conference took place at Alfred Lerner Hall and the Columbia Law School.

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At right: image from The Record.

Above: William Theodore de Bary, Paulus Emeritus, and Joan Mitchell, Professor of the Fine Arts, Political Science at Barnard College, and director of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute.

Chinese civilization

"It is another thing to recognize that Confucian humanism has a life of its own outside mainland China," he continued, "and not to be seen as simply identifiable with only China. Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and Japan all have their own parts to play, and it would hope the same would be true of Columbia.”

Economics, from art to science, and...