In the Community

Columbia 250 Community Festival

Sudden ground and hefty gusts of wind didn’t slow down a steady flow of neighbors, students and faculty through a diverse array of events and activities for Columbia University’s 250th anniversary at the Columbia 250 Community Festival. Celebrating with our Neighbors, music, food, art, sports clinics, health screenings and interactive exhibits brightened up the campus and beyond on Saturday, September 18.

“Community Day, part of the University’s 250th anniversary, is a time to celebrate the social, cultural and educational connection we share on a daily basis with our neighboring communities,” said President Lee C. Bollinger.

“We want to open the doors of our campus to our neighbors and to all of New York City to help us celebrate this special occasion. We hope that community organizations, residents and elected officials—a long with our students, parents, faculty and administrators—will use the day to reflect on the education, health, environment and arts aspects of our extended neighborhood, while having a good time at Columbia University,” he added.

While many events took place outside, Low Library was host to a mock trial featuring real politicians from Bob O’Meally, Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature and director of the Center for Jazz Studies, to Taj Mahal and Eddie Palmieri, director of the Center for Jazz Studies. Meanwhile, world-famous musicians such as Taj Mahal and Eddie Palmieri were in front of damp, yet eager fans on stage, entitled “Community Block Party.”

Clockwise from top left: children enjoy interactive features; Taj Mahal brightens the day; an exuberant crowd braves the weather.

In front of damp, yet eager fans on the South Lawn. Dee Dee Bridge water closed the afternoon’s performances, receiving a bouquet of flowers from Bob O’Meally, Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature and director of the Center for Jazz Studies. With the rain washing out ten-}

MANHATTANVILLE
IN WEST HARLEM

Community Employment Development Program

A part of Columbia University’s commitment to strengthen relationships with the diverse residents and institutions in Upper Manhattan, the University is enhancing its employment practices to improve its ability to hire qualified applicants from the local communities.

In the initial phase of this effort, Columbia has embarked on a relationship with Managed Work Services (MWS), which will identify community applicants for positions and, where necessary, help prepare them for work-ing at Columbia. MWS was chosen because of several important strengths they currently work closely with Columbia managers and so deeply understand the work and the work environment, their assessment and coaching skills enable them to identify candidates that are a good match for a job and they provide selected candidates with targeted support so that each individual can succeed.

MWS has solid connections with community resources as well—enabling them to connect candidates to social services or training resources, improving the candidate’s ability to qualify for or be ready for active work. MWS stays involved after each placement, working with supervisors and employ-ees, providing support and coaching. This fall, MWS has been working with the GSE departments Facilities, Student Services and Insta- tional Real Estate and has already placed 15 local resi- dents in positions.

Columbia Human Resour- ces plans to open an Employment Programs Infor-mation Center at 5180 Broadway at 125th St. in December. MWS will have a full-time daily presence at the center.

Simultaneously, the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and HR are working together on an innovative program that improves employability called MLICE, which stands for Service Learning in a Community Environment. This program introduces local residents to basic technical and work-place skills, such as collabora- tion, communication, problem solving and project man- agement. They learn how to apply basic computer tech-nologies, such as Web design, word processing, spreadsheets and presentation soft-ware to actual, client-oriented community projects. The participants use the state-of-the-art multimedia, interac-tive facility, the Botwinick Gateway Laboratory, and are part of an engineering design class.

Columbia 250 Parade of Alumni -Free Event—Everybody Welcome!

Baker Field (Athletic Complex, 214th Street and Broadway)

Free round-trip shuttle buses from Morningside campus to Baker Field! Run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Buses depart from Amsterdam Avenue at 116th Street.

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