The Earth Institute has begun a program aimed at bringing the resources of its research and scholarship to the fore to solve real-world problems in developing countries. The new Earth Clinic helps developing countries relieve immediate economic and environmental problems and puts them on a path to sustainable development. The clinic’s operations will roll out in two phases.

“Our initial projects focus on drilling deep wells that are free of arsenic in Bangladesh; a new approach to ending poverty globally, the Millennium Villages project; helping Ethiopia expand its primary healthcare facilities; and advising São Tomé and Príncipe on new laws, institutions and economic development strategies to manage its new oil revenues,” said Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, the Quartet Professor of Sustainable Development and director of the institute.

The institute has received a generous $1 million gift to begin phase one, in addition to the $5 million grant from the Lenfest Foundation for the Millennium Villages project. In phase two, scheduled to begin in 2008, the Earth Clinic will expand its client base of developing countries and expand from treatment of symptoms to prevention.

“The Earth Clinic’s work is distinct from traditional consulting in that it brings a solid academic knowledge base to real-world problem solving,” said Peter Schorsch, the Vinton Professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering.

Jewish Theological Seminary Celebrates 50-Year Partnership

By Katherine Moore

Chancellor Schorsch greets President Bollinger.

Columbia University and The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) celebrate the 50th anniversary of their joint dual-degree program earlier this week. The two-day celebration, titled “The Best of Both Worlds,” featured lectures and discussions about the challenges and benefits of combining religious and secular education.

Speaking at a gala reception on Sunday evening, JTS Chancellor Ismar Schorsch called the joint dual-degree “a quest for truth and faith in one program.” Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger remarked that “the U.S. puts a premium on not crossing the [church-state] boundary,” adding that it was therefore particularly important that university students have forums like the JTS, where they can feel comfortable exploring issues of faith.

Launched in 1954, the program enables undergraduates to receive two degrees simultaneously: a bachelor of arts from the Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies at JTS and a bachelor of arts or science from Columbia’s School of General Studies. It is one of the most successful collaborations between a Jewish seminary and a secular institution in the United States.

Referring to the traditional separation of religious and secular education, Peter J. Avin, dean of the School of General Studies and a professor in the Department of Religion, said he was often teased by a colleague for belonging to “the only department in the University that doesn’t believe in what it teaches.” Avin went on to praise Columbia’s collaboration with JTS: “A secular university that does not believe in what it teaches. I owe a debt of gratitude to Columbia,” said Schulz in a speech read by his son Robert. “Receiving the Egleston Medal is the crowning glory of a life-enriching journey.”

With 64 patents to his credit, Schulz’s contributions to chemical engineering include the use of gas centrifuges for the separation of uranium isotopes and seminal research on laser development. Most of Schulz’s work was accomplished after a small laboratory explosion in 1940 that left him blind with damaged corneas.

Schulz’s impairment never slowed him down. In addition to continuing on page 11

Autumn Descends Upon Van Am Quad

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