The report is the first major project by the Sullivan Project, which was established in 2004 with a $3 million grant from the Kallang Foundation. Sullivan is the founder and executive director of the Morehouse School of Medicine, and the commission is led by Dr. Robert Dole, former U.S. Senate majority leader, and Paul Rogers, former U.S. Congress member for Georgia and the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee chairman. Sullivan and his team of 16 commissioned researchers conducted field studies in six major cities across the country to collect data for the report. Working with representatives from medical and educational centers, the commission explored tactics for recruiting minorities to the field, types of ‘culturally compe- tent’ curricula, the best ways to meet the needs of underserved communities and the ‘dividends of diversity’ in medicine.

One of the report’s conclusions is that “minority providers are more likely to practice in minority communities and medically underserved communities,” making a surge in the number of minorities in healthcare, and addressing national health disparities.

Sullivan outlined several of the commission’s 37 official recommen- dations on the issue, including an appeal to the federal government to create an advisory council or taskforce.

Sullivan also said the commis- sion strongly supports scholar- ships, loan forgiveness and tuition- reimbursement programs to serve as alternatives to student loans. We have too many students who don’t even consider the health professions because of the high costs of education, with no financial mechanism other than loans, which many low-income students find completely threatening when they come from families whose finances are already mag- nified,” said Sullivan.

We should look at this as an investment in our society, in- vesting those health professionals needed by society, so that our society will be better off,” Sullivan then emphasized the need to reach out to minority stu- dents as early as elementary school to stimulate their interests in medicine and healthcare. Similar tactics for older students include “beautifying” programs between community colleges and baccalaureate colleges, because more African Americans and Hispanics attend two-year rather than four-year institutions.

To conclude his presentation, Sullivan answered questions from an audience including one from Allan Formicola, vice dean for community health partnerships at CUMC, who asked how realistic it is that President Bush might establish an advisory council to help explore the issue. Sullivan cited the success of the Morehouse School with publishing the publica- tion of its report, to continue its advocacy and push for public support and advocating for its recommen- dations.

Our commission is still in busi- ness, and we will indeed be push- ing this every year in the future. This is a long game, and we will meet that chal- lenge and we will demand an answer,” he said.

The complete Sullivan Com- mission Report is available online at www.sullivancommission.org.

Panel to Highlight Women’s Role in Jazz

Grammy Award- winning jazz vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater performs at the Columbia Community Fall last fall.

women have been involved in almost every aspect of jazz since its inception, yet the history of jazz continues to be told as the story of musical and innovator. Why does our cul- tural memory relegate women to only a few prescribed identities in the story of this unique American art form? Women musicians, espe- cially instrumentalists, are particu- larly inclined to be erased from his- torical memory. How might jazz history be told and remembered differently?

A panel and screening on Tuesday, Jan. 25, sponsored by the Center for Jazz Studies at Columbia University, will address these questions and offer sug- gestions for how to ensure that more accounts of women and greater attention to gender are represent- ed in jazz history. Some scholars believe that it is important to ana- lyze gender in all areas of jazz his- tory not just when women appear on the scene. Others believe that history is gendered and that it is formed through increased visibil- ity of women musicians, greater media accessibility to women musicians and education.

Lady Be Good

Being honored for Pro Bono Contributions

E llen Chapin, the dean for Social Justice Initiatives at Columbia Law School, recently received the Father Robert D. Omary Award for her service to the American Law Schools (AALS) 2005 annual meeting in San Francisco. The D’Omary Award is one of two given by the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Interest Opportunity and rec- ognizes ‘an individual, whether full- time faculty or not, who has for- warded the mission of the Section through personal service, pro- gram design or management.’

The award is named for Father Robert Doman, the former dean of Boston College Law School and a facul- ty member at Georgetown Law Center since 1981. He served in the United States Congress as a Representative from Massachusetts and is a prolific scholar and longtime human rights activist, serving on the board of direc- tors of the International League for Human Rights (the Lawyer’s Fund for International Human Rights and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund) among many others.

“It is particularly meaningful to me that this award was named after Dad,” said Chapin. “He is one of my heroes because he has consis- tently demonstrated integrity and humanity in a tireless effort to achieve peace with justice in the U.S. and abroad.”

Chapin is a thirteen-year vet- eran of Columbia Law and the founder of its Social Justice Initiatives program and its Center for Public Interest Law she initiat- ed and ran the mandatory pro bono program at the Law School, one of the first in the nation. Currently, she develops and imple- ments projects to prepare public interest gobierno lawyers and human rights lawyers of the future. She also further Columbia’s participa- tion in the U.S. and abroad regard- ing democratic governmental insti- tutions, legal education and civil society. Her other awards include: Sanctuary for Families Ab Pro Bono Achievement Award, Legal Aid Society of New York’s award for outstanding pro bono public service and the Pro Bono Students America award for best Law public school pro bono interest program.

Columbia Law School Dean David S.擢 presented the awards on behalf of the section on Jan. 7, 2005.