High-Flying Women Scientists

Beate Gertrud Liepert (center) was the “talk of the town” after taking New Yorker writer Nick Paumgarten on a balloon ride in August. CC student Priva Japaisinha Murthy accompanied.

By Fred A. Barstow

Beate Gertrud Liepert, a senior researcher at Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, spends much of her life in front of a computer—except, that is, when she is floating in a balloon above New Jersey or walking the streets of Manhattan checking pollution levels. She ventures out on occasion on behalf of her pioneering study of “global dimming,” a phenomenon by which pollution prevents sunlight from reaching the earth’s surface.

Liepert is one of hundreds of women scientists doing cutting-edge work in Columbia's Laboratories and classrooms. They include (to name just a few) Janet M. Conrad, a Harvard and Oxford-trained particle physicist; Darcy Kelley, a neurobiologist studying the sex-linked vocal styles of African frogs; and astronomer Jacqueline Van Gorkom, an expert in galactic structure.

But while their numbers are ballooning—and are expected to do so even more thanks to the efforts of both Jean Howard, the vice provost for diversity initiatives, and the scientists themselves—the road to success for women scientists continues to be fraught with hurdles. Many of them face choices—especially when work and family life conflict—that their male colleagues frequently avoid. Even those without families say the road to tenure can be especially difficult for women. At the Lamont-Doherty Observatory, the overwhelming majority of faculty members are men, while most of the women (including Liepert) are researchers, a status that lacks not only professorial perks but also job security.

Address such disparities. Columbia’s women scientists are working on developing a new kind of science: the science of diversity. Psychologist Geraldine Downey organized a symposium on Nov. 17 as a platform for the academic community to discuss advances in the study of inclusive environments. Participants found that bias remains deep-seated, especially when women aspire to do jobs thought to be highly male. At the same time, they agreed that one of the most useful techniques for combating this prejudice is the collection of basic data, such as the percentage of tenured faculty who are women. As panelist Joan Grigs of Princeton put it: “People engage around data more easily than around principle.”

Continued on page 8
RECENT SIGHTINGS

HOLIDAY AT THE HEIGHTS

Angelo Labiosa, Business '17, with Alexis Stonard (left) and her older sister, Tamarra

Taking advantage of its position at the northern pole of Manhattan, Columbia shifts into Santa mode during the holiday season with schools, departments and the president’s office holding gift giving parties for children from Harlem, Morningside and Washington Heights. Unbeating in this year’s season was Columbia Business School’s annual “Holiday Party for Kids” on Nov. 15. For one night, Lins Dei, the lobby and Heimann Lounge were transformed into a winter wonderland for nearly 200 children from youth centers throughout Morningside Heights. Local youth participated in activities such as decorating (and eating!) holiday cookies with the help of students, faculty and staff. Low Rotunda will be the scene of another such event on Dec. 5, when President Lee C. Bollinger and Jean Magnano Bollinger host their annual gathering for faculty and staff, who are asked to bring an unwrapped gift for a child for distribution to community organizations. Meanwhile, over at the Medical Center, the Office of Government and Community Affairs is sponsoring its annual toy drive. Over 600 toys will be collected at departmental holiday parties, including the dean’s holiday event, to be donated to local daycare centers, Head Start programs and after-school programs.

MILESTONES

President LEWIS C. BOLLINGER was one of three members recently appointed to the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the largest and most important of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks. He was designated as a class C member (from outside the banking community) director for a three-year term beginning Jan. 2007. His responsibilities will include approving the Bank’s budget and appointing its officers.

SUZANNE BAKKEN, professor of nursing and professor of biomedical informatics, has received the 2006 Virginia K. Saba Informatics Award for her innovative use of PDA-based technologies in the care of underserved populations.

Several Colombians have been awarded Fulbrights. DENISE BURNETTE, professor of social work, will lecture in India on the development of social work programs. JOHN C. DINGES, associate professor of journalism, will go to Chile to study journalism quality in Latin American countries. STEVEN HICKS, director of the International Family AIDS Program and a professor in the Department of Pediatrics, will examine maternal-newborn HIV infection in the Dominican Republic.

GARY J. ORISHIO, professor of international affairs, went to Japan in June to lecture on Asian American history.

ROBIN R. SEARS, a research scientist in the Department of Environmental Research and Conservation, will travel to Peru to study sustainable development in Amazonia.

An article in the Oct. 19 issue on Austin Quigley’s 10 years at Columbia erroneously reported that Dean Quigley was involved in the creation of the course: Frontiers of Science. This course is offered by Columbia College and SAS, which challenges students to understand the relationship between the humanities and science. In fact, the course was solely a faculty initiative, first proposed in 1986 and delivered in practice in 2003. As part of the Core Curriculum, it is not open to SEAS students and its primary purpose is to offer a 21st-century scientific perspective on the universe.

Can you tell me about the murals on the walls of Harlem Hospital?

Dear Alma’s Owl,

In your perestroikas, do you ever get up to Harlem Hospital, and if so, what’s the deal with the murals?

— Harlem Explorer

Dear Explorer,

A very discerning question! Few think to ask about Harlem Hospital as most are unaware of its connection with Columbia. But like the Jewish Theological Seminary, Teachers College and Barnard College, Harlem Hospital is a Columbia affiliate. It is affiliated through Columbia University Medical Center.

Your question is also particularly apt for me being part of a famous sculpture—have I ever mentioned that Alma Mater was designed by the artist who carved the statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial? I take seriously the need to preserve American art and architecture; Harlem has some of the most magnificent housing stock in all of Manhattan—well worth preserving. As are the Harlem Hospital murals, which stand among the most significant collections of public art in the country. Created under the auspices of the Federal Art Project works that depicted not only medical history and science but also local neighborhood life and imagined scenes from African American history. (A controversy erupted over the “Negro subject matter” of four of the designs, but it was eventually quelled).

Take some WPA projects, the murals have suffered damage over time. Columbia has been working with Harlem Hospital in seeing to their restoration. Digital Knowledge Ventures, Columbia’s multimedia design and development group, in consultation with the Institute of Research in African-American History and Arts, is working on the WPA murals in Harlem Hospital. You can see the progress here: www.columbia.edu/cu/cu/record/ frontiers_of_science/murals.html.

— Eileen Barroso, University Photographer; Alfred Crimi, associate provost; Office of Government and Community Affairs

ask alma’s owl
Columbia's Mount Rushmore Moment

It was as close as it gets on the East Coast to having a Mount Rushmore moment: the sight of three presidents—Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger and former heads of state Vaclav Havel and Bill Clinton—gathered on the stage of Roone Arledge Auditorium on Nov.15. The topic of the day was fittingly presidential: the challenges facing today's emerging democracies, the theme of this year's Kraft Family Fund event series.

It was hard not to be impressed by these three figures, each of whom has in his own way contributed to the growth of democracy. Bollinger as a Free Speech scholar and national leader on freedom of speech and diversity in higher education; Havel as a trailblazer to the post-communist era in his native Czechoslovakia and the rest of Eastern Europe; and Clinton as a champion of democracy in the former Soviet bloc (offering former Soviet countries closer ties with NATO, for instance) and in Haiti.

Bollinger pointed out that over the last hundred years, there have been 30 new democracies, many of which are still struggling to become stable. He said Clinton and Havel, both of whom have made the transition from the “poetry of political change” to the “prose of governing,” were ideally situated to provide these fledgling democracies with advice.

Havel said that the new democratic leaders should “think in terms of decades and act accordingly.” Clinton said that such leaders could find no better source of inspiration than Havel himself, who, along with Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, charged the course of history through nonviolence.

Eventually, the conversation came to rest on the challenge the United States is facing in trying to impose democracy on Iraq, with Clinton delivering some hard-hitting prescriptions for what the U.S. should do to rescue the deteriorating situation in that country as well in Afghanistan.

The conversation also had its lighter moments, such as when Bollinger asked the two leaders to comment on how to morph from president to private citizen. Clinton said, “I used to worry about that. I was very worried about being a nobody, and also an arrogant attitude.” Havel joked that in addition to being a pioneer for democracy, he is also a pioneer for the Czech ex-presidency, as most of the country’s leaders have died in office, been chased out of office, or else left in disgrace.

Samosas Instead of Sushi?

Goldman Sachs report issued three years ago on the so-called BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) economies predicted that in the next 25 years, India’s economy will outstrip Japan’s to become larger than all economies but those of the United States and China.

Columbia Business School put this provocative conclusion to the test when hosting major conferences on India and Japan in October. Anyone who was able to attend both events would have come away thinking that, while India’s economy is certainly gaining in strength, it’s still too early to say whether samosas will replace sushi bars in another 25 years.

At the Oct. 26 conference held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Columbia Business School’s Center on Japanese Economy, participants agreed that Japan is now firmly on the road to recovery after nearly two decades in the doldrums. “It was a lost 20 years, and now we are back where we started,” said Takatoshi Ito, professor of economics at the University of Tokyo.

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A recent survey of New York City hospitals, New York magazine asked more than 1,000 physicians in the metropolitan area to choose the top 10 facilities across 10 “bread-care” areas. New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH), which is affiliated with Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) as well as with Weill Cornell Medical Center, was voted the best for overall care, scoring a total of 5,088 points. (Runners-up were Mt. Sinai with 4,184 points and NYU with 3,021.)

In his introduction to the New York magazine’s cover story reporting on these findings, heart specialist Sandeep Jauhar said the survey results demonstrate the special advantages of big teaching hospitals like Columbia’s. Such facilities consistently outrank their competitors, he said, because of their ability to offer greater numbers of experienced health care professionals to diagnose patients’ illnesses and to consider the latest research on treatments.

The story went on to highlight Columbia’s achievements in six subspecialties, as summarized below.

ALZHEIMER’S: The Taub Center at CUMC has one of the world’s largest Alzheimer’s DNA databases for studying the disease’s secrets in search of a cure.

STROKES: Led by top stroke specialist Ralph Sacco, CUMC is conducting the Northern Manhattan Stroke Study. The first of its kind to examine why Hispanics have the highest incidence of stroke in the United States, Columbia is also the only hospital in New York City to be awarded a $1.2-million NIH grant for translational research on rapid diagnosis and treatment of acute stroke patients.

CUMC & NYPH: SIMPLY THE BEST

HEART SURGERY: Columbia offers state-of-the-art treatments that have led to some of the lowest mortality rates anywhere—no wonder Bill Clinton chose Columbia for his emergency triple-bypass. Columbia is further renowned for cardiac superstardr Mehmet Oz, Craig Smith, Eric Rose and Jeffrey Moses. Earlier this year, NYPH/Columbia broke ground on Müttenz Family Heart Center, a $250 million building in Washington Heights, which, when completed in 2008, will be one of the most comprehensive heart facilities in the world.

GIVING BIRTH: More than half of Columbia’s OB/GYNs are high-risk experts. Its neonatal intensive-care unit (NICU), located in the newly constructed Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, participates in a unique high-risk-pregnancy program.

PROSTATE CANCER: Columbia has distinguished itself through specialist Daniel Petrylak’s recent discovery that chemotherapy may be effective in severe cases as well as the research being conducted at its Center for Holistic Urology.

BULLETIN BOARD

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According to Kelley, who edits the journal Developmental Neurobiology, frog research has produced some important insights into how sex differences in brain function can affect social interactions.

Kelley received her B.A. from Barnard College and her Ph.D. from Rockefeller University. At Columbia, she is the Howard Hughes Medical Institute professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and a founder of the joint doctoral program in neurobiology and behavior with the Medical School. Strongly committed to undergraduate teaching, she received a major grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 2002 to help bring science education into the 21st century, which she used to help create a new Core Curriculum course called Frontiers in Science.

Q:\ How did you first get interested in science?
A:\ When I was 11, I read a book that described the discovery of insulin by Canadian researchers. After that, I was hooked. Another key moment was the summer before my junior year in high school, when I attended a summer institute sponsored by the National Science Foundation on the biological basis of behavior at Barnard. I focused on the interface between behavior and the brain. My interest coincided with the emergence of the field of neuroscience in the 1970s, when I was a graduate student.

Q:\ Once you decided to pursue scientific studies, what hurdles did you overcome?
A:\ No major hurdles, really. The generation of women that came before me had paved the way for women to become academic scientists. Boys and girls have been mentors for me, and in turn I serve as a mentor for both. Are there any innate differences between men and women, and how does this affect their approach to the sciences? Boys engage in more rough-and-tumble play. Men are more variable; more mathematical geniuses (and madmen) but also more mathematically-adapt taller and shorter; more fragile in terms of longevity. I'm not sure any of these translates into qualities that determine success in science.

Q:\ But do men and women approach scientific questions differently?
A:\ Men and women are socialized differently and do use different cognitive strategies in problem-solving. Happily, there are many ways to solve problems that work well for both sexes.

Q:\ What suggestions do you have for recruiting more women scientists at Columbia?
A:\ The problem for me is not so much women in science as it is the more mathematical geniuses (and madmen) but also more mathematical-adapt taller and shorter; more fragile in terms of longevity. I'm not sure any of this translates into qualities that determine success in science. What is perhaps even more important is that we can and should do a better job of recruiting talented women to come to our university, to put faces to the statistics. Who are the role models for both. When I was 11, I read a book that described the discovery of insulin by Canadian researchers. After that, I was hooked. Another key moment was the summer before my junior year in high school, when I attended a summer institute sponsored by the National Science Foundation on the biological basis of behavior at Barnard. I focused on the interface between behavior and the brain. My interest coincided with the emergence of the field of neuroscience in the 1970s, when I was a graduate student.

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Geraldine Downey

The Social Relations Laboratory in Columbia’s Department of Psychology researchers study the ways individuals perceive and respond to rejection. While the work once focused on rejection by individuals of the opposite sex, it has expanded to include any type of interaction.

The lab’s director is developmental psychologist Geraldine Downey. Born in Kilkenny, Ireland, Downey received her B.S. from University College, Dublin, M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia before coming to Columbia in 1991 as an assistant professor in the psychology department. Since 2002, she has served as department chair.

Downey has conducted extensive research on sensitivity to rejection in the context of interpersonal relationships and institutional settings such as schools. She is an expert on the effects of stigmatization on mental health.

A

Q. How old were you when you decided to study psychology?

A. I was about 5. Perhaps this led to an interest in the mind, and I was interested in how the mind works.

Q. When you were a young woman, were you encouraged to study science?

A. Yes, I was, although I was fascinated by Star Trek and adored Lieutenant Uhura, who was played by an African American woman. I stumbled into the field and liked it immediately.

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A. Yes, I was, although I was fascinated by Star Trek and adored Lieutenant Uhura, who was played by an African American woman. I stumbled into the field and liked it immediately.

Q. What hurdles have you faced in academia?

A. With a husband who is also an academic, I knew we would have to balance two careers. One big help was that my graduate school adviser was in a similar situation, and I saw that she and her husband could make it work.

Q. What can be done to improve the situation for women scientists?

A. Family-friendly policies, and the availability of infant care in particular, are very important. Another concern is that proposal writing and family responsibilities can be a problem for women, especially in the early stages of their careers.

Q. Do you think women and men approach the sciences differently?

A. It’s unclear whether there are any science-relevant differences, biological or otherwise, between the sexes. There are, perhaps, more women who are concerned with using science to improve the world rather than only to further scientific knowledge. But the place where biological differences really matter is in decisions about balancing childbearing and rearing with the pursuit of tenure.

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Q. How would you assess Columbia’s level of support for women in science?

A. Psychology is a very unusual department in that over a third of the faculty are women. However, the historically low likelihood of getting tenure becomes a factor when a woman in a junior faculty position has to decide whether to stay here or accept an offer elsewhere.

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On November 27, three days before the World AIDS Day, PLoS Medicine, a journal published by the Public Library of Science, carried a study showing that HIV/AIDS will now join heart disease and stroke as one of the top three causes of death worldwide in the next 25 years. This year’s statistics uphold that grim prediction. The United Nations recently reported that an estimated 39.5 million people are now living with HIV, of which 4.5 million were infected this year. There have been 29 million AIDS deaths in 2006, the highest number reported in any year.

The report noted that 220,000 of those individuals were women, who are likely to continue being one of the most vulnerable groups in the world. Robert Fullilove, professor and associate dean, Mailman School of Public Health, in November 16, his report examining the HIV/AIDS epidemic among African Americans was published by the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) after having been reviewed and endorsed by a blue ribbon panel of African American congressional lawmakers, civil rights leaders, public health officials, activists and researchers. Will their endorsement of an ambitious set of recommendations, ranging from reducing the impact of prisons on the spread of HIV to improving the quality of housing in poor communities, ultimately have an impact on the root causes of this epidemic? Only time will tell, but for this disparate group of leaders to acknowledge that AIDS has become one of black America’s number one problems has to be viewed as normal as brushing their teeth.

The occasion is the opening of their second American showing of 13 Most Beautiful Avatars, a series of digital photos that capture the most celebrated "stars" of Second Life, a 3-D Internet world built and owned by over a million "residents" from around the globe. Participants connect with each other via a massive multi-player online game. Using over 200 settings, they create an avatar, or virtual self, means to explore alternative lives in the virtual world for over a year, exploring its terrain and interacting with its peculiar inhabitants. This show—the occasion is the opening of their second American showing of 13 Most Beautiful Avatars, a series of digital photos that capture the most celebrated "stars" of Second Life, a 3-D Internet world built and owned by over a million "residents" from around the globe. Participants connect with each other via a massive multi-player online game. Using over 200 settings, they create an avatar, or virtual self, means to explore alternative lives in the virtual world for over a year, exploring its terrain and interacting with its peculiar inhabitants.

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This season I'm considering donating a cow, chicken or sheep to a needy family in my village. This is possible through Heifer International, a nonprofit that aims to end world hunger by supporting projects that encourage self-reliance and sustainability. I guess because I was one of those kids who liked looking at trees. I love the idea of making a gift of forestry. But for those in search of more personalized presents, then why not contribute to the Morningside Heights economy by shopping at some of these Columbia favorites?

MONDEL’S CHOCOLATES
295 Broadway (at 14th St.)
As the Jewish folk song says, “it doesn’t matter whether you’re Socialist or religious.” Either way you can sip on a 1.5 year old Chambord (starts Dec. 16)—Christmas, too—at this Upper West Side institution. What a wonderful blend wouldn’t have hiccups over a Sigmund Freud doll (only $20)? There is also a wonderful selection of jewelry, natural fiber clothing and craft items. And don’t forget to buy your 2007 Peace Calendar.

LABYRINTH BOOKS
536 W. 112th St. (at Broadway)
For the bookworms on your list, why not a word by a Columbia author? On a recent visit to Labyrinth, beloved of Columbia students for providing an alternative to the campus bookstore, I found poetry collections by two of my favorite professors: Saskia Hamilton’s & for Dream and Mark Strand’s Latest, Man and the Mountains. As for Dream is my favorite book. As a child, I was quite fascinated by the maps and pictures of the “land where there is no war.”

MARTIN BROTHERS WINES AND SPIRITS
2781 Broadway (at 70th St.)
In preparation for the 1.5 year old holidays, “judul Lang Syne.” Pick up a wee dram at Martin Brothers. (If more than a wee dram is required, the shop stocks three Macallan replicas: 1841, 1861 and 1876, each for around $210). If you’re not a Scotch drinker, Martin Brothers has a wide range of wines and fine wines by Columbia are well represented, too.

STAFF Q&A
SARAH CADICK
Interviewed by Dan Rivera
POSITION: Executive Director, Columbia Center for Neuroscience Initiatives
LENGTH OF SERVICE: 1.5 years
FAVORITE QUOTE: “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” – C.S. Lewis

We all know that Columbia has big plans for the study of mind, brain and behavior under the direction of Richard Axel, Thomas Jessell and Eric Kandel. Thanks to a generous gift earlier this year by Dawn M. Greene and the Jerome L. Greene Science Foundation, these pioneering neurobiologists will establish a new center that houses the University’s ongoing initiatives into unlocking the mysteries of brain diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

But few of us know the administrative core behind Columbia’s world-renowned research into the human mind. Sarah Cadick directs the Center for Neuroscience Initiatives, the organizing arm for the University’s current projects in this burgeoning field. She is the go-to person for setting up grant programs, connecting with other scientists, recruiting the next generation of faculty, increasing research space and getting advice on fundraising. She recently directed the launch of neuroscience.columbia.edu, which showcase the work of faculty members engaged in various aspects of the neuroscience. Aiming at this activity, she also found time to lobby for the creation of a neuroscience department, set to be approved by the trustees this academic year.

It’s natural to assume that Cadick holds an M.B.A., but she candidly admits she’s never taken a business course. Rather, she is a trained neuroscientist who chose to leave a career in research and experimentation with taking a job in academic administration. In late November, Cadick sat down with The Record to discuss her career transition as well as why it is a woman in a dramatically-dominated field.

Was leaving research a difficult decision?
I came from England to do a one-year post-doc at the Medical College of Virginia. Both were on biomedical research in epilepsy. The second lab was disastrous. Had I been somewhere else—Thomas Jessell’s lab, for instance—I would have had a different back then, when people left the world of science, they would torture themselves with the idea that they were mediocre scientists and couldn’t make the cut. When I look back at my research and compare it to the people we’re trying to recruit now, I wouldn’t make the cut. But I enjoy what I do now. And it’s interesting because I suspect that many younger scientists feel the same as I do. Not that we were mediocre scientists but that whatever we were doing probably wouldn’t have worked out.

Did you decide to go into the business world?
People assume I’ve done corporate. The truth is, when research stopped being fun, I didn’t know what to do. My father didn’t want me to leave but said that people who make a difference in the world are often in positions of power or money. So I explored alternative careers in science, museums, journals. National Institutes of Health and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Then one morning I was reading the New York Times classifieds and decided to apply for a position at a cancer foundation to help build a new clinical program. That’s how I got into philanthropy and foundations—and unexpectedly made my father proud.

Was being a woman in science difficult at the time?
I really had no female mentors until after I left research. I’ve been impressed with the female mentoring I’ve seen at Columbia. At the same time, there are plenty of women here who choose to limit their involvement with students. Some of the male faculty are domineering of women who are too much time teaching or mentoring. Scientists are as driven as anyone on Wall Street. But it takes a special mental and emotional cal to provide women scientists with extra support for their dual roles. The best example I’ve seen is German biologist Christine Nüsslein-Volhard. She took her money and put it in a foundation that disburses grants to female faculty members for the sole purpose of facilitating childcare.

It’s obvious that your training as a neuroscientist benefits the people you work with at Columbia. But what do you get out of it?
I enjoy the part that things get done. And then I can move on to something else. Also, because of my training, I can recognize the potential for collaboration among different scientists. Networking is a dirty word in science, but you know what? I’m really good at it. Does your brain ever take a rest?
It’s interesting you asked that question. Growing up, Alice in Wonderland was my favorite book. As a child, I was quite curious—and still am. My neurons are always acting up. In fact, going from one show to another, Theater—I’m a George Bernard Shaw fanatic—is a passion, along with running marathons, painting and listening to jazz.

One was a committee decision by majority vote to consider secretly recorded tapes in grievances but only if they bear on a crucial issue and only if other evidence is not determinative. Also discussed were the unregulated practices at some uptown schools of changing the appointments of tenure-track faculty from 12 to 9-months, and the supposed agreement of outside funding of faculty salaries apart from the Medical Center’s grant procedures. The latter practice, known as “pass-through” funding, was recently banned. The committee voted 11-4 with two abstentions to recommend the provost about jurisdiction over salary grievances and about the best procedure for determining a donor’s intent when there are disputes about appreciation for name change.

Most Senate documents are available online. The next plenary will be on Dec. 8 at 1:15 p.m. Anyone with a CUID can attend.

As a matter of fact, the Senate was seated in its chambers at the time. The record of this plenary was submitted by Thomas Mahtesian, manager of The Columbia Senate. His column is editorially independent of The Record. For more information on the Senate, go to www.columbia.edu/cu/senate.
That “we love Zvi more than Tel Aviv does.”

deans plans to leave on the strength of the argument expected to intensify their campaign to thwart the members of the Web-based Save Zvi Movement can be may miss him even more. In the coming months, mem-

staff and loyal alumni and parents, many of whom are Columbia’s great faculty, terrific students, excellent communications how much he has “enjoyed working with

chairs—the Morris A. and Alma Schapiro professor and The engineering dean, who also occupies two named

“realize its full potential as the premier university in Israel could hardly resist an opportunity to help the institution and jointly with Columbia until I became dean.” Thus he explained. “I served on its faculty full time for six years and I met my wife there,” he

was like a call to duty” as well as the “closing of a circle” given his strong personal ties to the institution.

“My late father was one of its six founders, I earned my B.S. and M.S. degrees there, and I married my wife there,” he explained. “I served on its faculty full time for six years and jointly with Columbia until I became dean.” Thus he

But if the decision was obvious, it was far from easy. The engineering dean, who also occupies two named

chains—the Morris A. and Alma Schapiro professor and Julian Clarence Levi professor of mathematical methods and computer science—doesn’t hide his sentiments for Columbia, stressing in several recent commu-
nications how much he has “enjoyed working with Columbia’s great faculty, terrific students, excellent staff and loyal alumni and parents, many of whom are now close friends.”

Gall will clearly miss Columbia, but Columbiaans may miss him even more. In the coming months, members of the Web-based Save Zvi Movement can be expected to intensify their campaign to thwart the dean’s plans to leave on the strength of the argument that “we love Zvi more than Tel Aviv does.”

N otice to all victims of burnout, shut down your machines and reboost your artistic drives. The remedy to your cubicle fatigue is at hand. For your visual stimulations, The Record presents a selection of works from the current shows at the Wallach Gallery in Schermerhorn and the Leffey Neiman Gallery in Dodge Hall. At the Wallach now is a stunning display of works showcasing architect and Columbia graduate Ely Jacques Kahn (1884–1972), taken from the collection at Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library. Kahn dedicated his life to transforming New York into a modern city of art deco splendor that could stand as a symbol of American power and financial clout. Little did he realize that his cherished ideals would become fodder for 21st-century artists exploring the evils of empire—as many of the artists fea-
tured in the Leffey Neiman show Dead Serious appear to be doing. The exhibit features a range of works that rely on biting humor to engage viewers in a critical dialogue about how we structure our world. While many of these pieces go beyond the surface, they can also make one no-
talge for more innocent times—when architects like Kahn literally had a ball dressing up as their most famous buildings (see “5”). The Wallach show runs until Dec. 9 and the Leffey Neiman show until Dec. 12.

Donald Wilson
continued from page 1

Workforce was met by “deafening silence,” Wilson said. The report, entitled Missing Persons: Minorities in the Health Professions, provided detailed recommendations to Congress on how to increase the representa-
tion of minorities in the nation’s medical and dental workforce. Past reports on nationwide med-

ical problems, Wilson said, were met with legislative demands for change.

In Wilson’s view, the time for debating the issue of diversity in health care is over. It is no longer an option but a necessity, he said, given the country’s changing racial composition. Quoting English novelist Aldous Huxley’s saying that “facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored,” Wilson noted that by 2030, half of the American population will be of ethnic minorities, which makes it imperative to tackle the need to improve minority health care right away.

He added that engendering diversity among medical professionals is not just about improving the nation’s physical health, it is also about strengthening its eco-

nomic base. “Unhealthy adults are poor workers, and unhealthy students are poor students,” he said, going on to warn that “as a nation, we ignore diversity at our peril.”

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

HINT: It’s indoors and on Morningside campus, albeit seen from a fresh per-
spective. Can you guess what it is? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. First to e-mail us the right answer receives a RECORD mug.

ANSWER TO LAST CHALLENGE: Trusset from GSAPP’s 125th. Winner: Josh Hirschland, CC’08

SCRAPBOOK

Kahn & Jacob’s company brochure (1407 Broadway cover), 1963

Society of Beaux-Arts Architects Ball (Ely Khan third from left), 1931

Society of Beaux-Arts Architects Ball (Ely Khan third from left), 1931

Elly Khan & Jacob’s company brochure (1407 Broadway cover), 1963

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Zvi Galil
continued from page 1

growth of technology and its interdisciplinary impact by forming partnerships with other schools and departments within the University.”

Gall told The Record that the Tel Aviv University presidency was “like a call to duty” as well as the “closing of a circle” given his strong personal ties to the institution.

“My late father was one of its six founders, I earned my B.S. and M.S. degrees there, and I met my wife there,” he explained. “I served on its faculty full time for six years and jointly with Columbia until I became dean.” Thus he

But if the decision was obvious, it was far from easy. The engineering dean, who also occupies two named

chains—the Morris A. and Alma Schapiro professor and Julian Clarence Levi professor of mathematical methods and computer science—doesn’t hide his sentiments for Columbia, stressing in several recent commu-
nications how much he has “enjoyed working with Columbia’s great faculty, terrific students, excellent staff and loyal alumni and parents, many of whom are now close friends.”

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