Columbia Banks on New Job Site

By Record Staff

Columbia has joined 42 other leading higher edu-
cation institutions to build a comprehensive job bank of academic opportunities in the greater metropolitan area.

The partnership, known as the Metro New York and Southern Connecticut Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (MNYSC HERC), will be headquartered at Columbia. It is the latest and one of the largest pieces of a nationwide network designed to over-
come the twin challenges of pro-
moting diversity of faculty and staff and accommodating dual-career families in academia.

“This new organization repre-
sents a recent trend in higher edu-
cation circles, namely collabora-
tion to solve problems too unwieldy for any institution to solve by itself,” said Jean Howard, Columbia’s vice provost for diver-
sity initiatives.

The creation of the job bank aims to solve the “two-body issue,” one of the most pressing problems in academic hiring, Howard said. That’s when a faculty member being recruited by a university comes with a partner who also needs to find a satisfying job with-
out a position for the partner or spouse, the recruiting effort is like-
ly to fail. The common job bank can be used to alert the partners of potential recruits about employ-
ment possibilities at area schools and research institutions.

“This creates a win-win situation where the needs of one institution can be met by helping another institution also hire a desirable can-
didate,” said Howard, who is also the William B. Randell Professor of English. “Collaboration trumps competition.”

The Web-based search engine includes listings for all faculty and staff jobs at member institutions and is available at no charge to anyone seeking employment in higher education. Job opportuni-
ties available through the service will help a wide range of applicants seeking employment or trying to transfer within the network.

Three universities—Columbia, the William B. Ransford Professor

continued on page 8

Al Gore and Jeffrey Sachs in Low Rotunda.

continued on page 3

continued on page 5

continued on page 8
Mira Nair, director, producer and adjunct film professor at the School of the Arts, crossed College Walk March 16 for a talk at the School of Arts. Nair, born in India and educated at Delhi University and New York University, despite his family’s reluctance to let go of their traditional ways. Writer Aseem Chhabra (J’02) moderated a Q&A and a few lucky students received a coffee-table book about the movie autographed by the director.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

MIRA KEEPS IT REAL

Mira Nair, director, producer and adjunct film professor at the School of the Arts, crossed College Walk March 16 for a talk at the School of Arts. Nair, born in India and educated at Delhi University and New York University, despite his family’s reluctance to let go of their traditional ways. Writer Aseem Chhabra (J’02) moderated a Q&A and a few lucky students received a coffee-table book about the movie autographed by the director. Nair, born in India and educated at Delhi University and Harvard, launched her career as an actress before finding success directing such films as Vanity Fair. The Namesake won the 2007 Grammy Award for Music Composition, one of the most prestigious prizes in the field, which includes a $50,000 cash grant. He won for Static, a six-movement work scored for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano. The prize is presented annually by the University of Louisville School of Music.

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RECYCLE MANIA HITS LAMONT-DOHERTY

By Record Staff

Halfway through Recycle Mania, a 10-week waste reduction contest involving colleges and universities nationwide, Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory is leading the pack in the contest’s first five weeks. The Observatory is currently number one, well ahead of the four other Ivy League schools participating. At the five-week point, Harvard is number two, followed by Dartmouth, Princeton, and Yale, tied at number three, and then Cornell in fifth place, behind Cal State San Marcos (first place) and the University of Michigan (8th).

The competition began in 2001, the brainchild of students at Ohio University and Miami University, who decided to do something to increase recycling in the residence halls on their campuses. The contest has since taken off, and now includes 201 schools nationwide, Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty is the leader in this category throughout the contest, widening its lead every week.

There’s also a “Per Capita Classic,” a prize awarded to the school that collects the largest amount of acceptable recycleables per person. Lamont-Doherty has held onto first place in this category throughout the contest, widening its lead every week.

Back to the grand championship, Lamont-Doherty is well ahead of the four other Ivy League schools participating. At the five-week point, Harvard is number two, followed by Princeton at third, Brown at fourth, and Yale at fifth.

For more information on the contest, visit www.recyclemania.org.

RECYCLE MANIA STANDINGS*

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<td>Dartmouth</td>
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*First six weeks ended March 16

Gore and Sachs
continued from page 1

The statement, the result of an initiative organized by Columbia’s Earth Institute, was signed by such multinational companies as Allianz, Bayer A.G., Citigroup, General Electric Co., Volvo, ING, Alcoa and Air France. By signing the agreement, companies pledged to address their own operations in a variety of ways, to reduce their own emissions by trying to increase public awareness. The joint statement, three years in the making, was crafted after careful discussions with all the companies and organizations that agreed to sign it.

The message is clear: businesses leaders are sending a message to politicians when they signed the roundtable agreement was not only that it’s a sensible way for the world to do this, but that we are ready,” said Sachs. He added that there’s no solution to the global climate crisis unless everyone is in the game.”

Gore and Sachs copped off the lecture with a question-and-answer period that focused on personal contributions. Both leaders urged the audience to start first with their own lives—from the type of car they drive to demanding change from their local politicians. Gore ended on a positive note. “We can still save the planet,” he said. “It is not a certainty, but we do have time.”

As a longtime investigative reporter in the Philippines, Sheila Coronel’s articles fueled political change and led to a presidential impeachment. Now a professor of professional practice at the Graduate School of Journalism and director of the Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism, Coronel urges his students to write and produce stories with impact. For a class assignment on unethical journalism, she had her graduate students profile disgraced journalists. Two of them thought of an incident involving the online magazine Slate.com, where a writer admitted fabricating parts of an anecdote-filled story about a bus trip to a Florida Keys island occupied by monkeys who were “fed” by fruit for hate.

Students Leonardo Blair and Gretchen Cuda decided to probe deeper. Their reporting resulted in a long-oversight confession from the writer, Jay Forman, and an apology to Slate readers from its editor. “Before they’ve even written the piece, their investigation has already made an impact,” said Coronel.

Their article will be one of seven profiles of disgraced journalists to be published in Columbia Journalism Review’s May issue. Prior to joining Columbia last fall, Coronel co-founded and led the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), which will be followed by a question-and-answer session with the architect, will be held March 23, 2:00-6:00 p.m. in Atkins auditorium at the International Affairs Building, and is free and open to the public. Reservations are required. To sign up, go to www.engineering.columbia.edu/about_seas/events/index.php/7297.

GOTCHA!

By Melanie A. Farmer

As a journalist, Coronel had the perfect ringside seat from which to watch a political transformation in her country. "Things were changing very fast," she said. "Being a part of the process, a part of the struggle against dictatorship and in support of the democratic transition, was a great privilege." Nowadays, Coronel is happily teaching graduate students the trade. The Journalism School officially opened the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism last fall with an inaugural class of 15 graduate students. The center is endowed by a $5 million gift from Toni Stabile of Naples, Fla., a former investigative journalist herself and president of the Vincent A. Stabile Foundation.

For Leonardo Blair, one of the students who uncovered Forman’s fabrications, the simple search for the truth is what attracted him to investigative journalism. “The program has really helped me refine my investigative techniques,” he said, “and use them to ferret information as efficiently as I can.”

architecture takes flight

SANTIAGO CALatrava, the internationally renowned architect whose designs transform glass, steel and concrete into supple building materials, will be the subject and star of a symposium sponsored by the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. The forum, “Life and Poetry in Technological Structures: The Contribution of Santiago Calatrava,” which will be followed by a question-and-answer period that focused on personal contributions. Both leaders urged the audience to start first with their own lives—from the type of car they drive to demanding change from their local politicians. Gore ended on a positive note. “We can still save the planet,” he said. “It is not a certainty, but we do have time.”

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an economist by training (he received his PhD from Vanderbilt University in 1978), Thomas Trebat has spent most of his professional career at a series of Wall Street firms. As senior international economist for Bankers Trust, he was involved in many aspects of country debt negotiations in Brazil, Chile and Mexico in the 1980s. From there he had a decade-long stint at Citigroup as an emerging markets analyst. Looking to distill the lessons he learned, Trebat joined Columbia in February 2005 as a professor and executive director of the Institute of Latin American Studies and the Center for Brazilian Studies at the School of International and Public Affairs. One of the two classes he teaches centers on economic issues with political and social development. One of them is a new course he designed entitled “Problems of Economic Growth in Latin America.” This course seeks to unravel the puzzle of why the much-vaunted economic reforms put in effect in Latin America in the 1990s, frequently as a condition of loans from the World Bank and other lenders, failed to improve living standards for the majority of the region’s citizens.

One of the things Trebat loves most about Columbia, he says, is its sense of unity and common purpose, something not always found in large commercial enterprises. It is in this spirit that Trebat and ILAS have reached out to local communities and engaged in a wide range of projects to improve quality of life in these communities and engage the political and economic systems. The argument of my book is that these organizations are about much more than just providing services. They play an integral role in giving voice to the aspirations of people in these communities and helping them set their own agenda for change.

The work of my book is oriented toward the annual conference, “Education Across the Americas,” an event that has reached out to K-12 teachers and educators. The next edition of the conference is on March 29th and 30th at Teachers College. ILAS will be sponsoring two panels on topics that concern educators of students of Hispanic origin.

Q. Have you partnered with the Association of Latin American Studies?
A. Yes, they are responsible for organizing the annual conference, “Education Across the Americas,” an event that has reached out to K-12 teachers and educators.

Q. What is your book, Bargaining for Brooklyn, about?
A. I got very interested in all the different efforts to redistribute neighborhoods. I looked at organizations serving Bushwick and Williamsburg. The argument of my book is that these organizations are about much more than just providing services. They play an integral role in giving voice to the aspirations of people in these communities and helping them set their own agenda for change.

Q. Was there something that surprised you during the research and writing process?
A. I was completely unprepared for the extent to which government contracts support nonprofit community-based organizations in low-income neighborhoods. Many of these organizations get 80 percent or more of their annual budgets from such contracts. Learning about this led to my newest research project, which examines the neighborhood, organizational and political factors that affect the distribution of government contracts to nonprofits in New York City. I recently won a grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct this research.

Q. What kind of field work do your students engage in?
A. My seminar “Latino Communities in New York City,” students write a term paper based on their own original participant-observation fieldwork in a Latino setting. Among many others, field settings have included a tax preparation office in Washington Heights (Manhattan), a Pentecostal church in Corona (Queens), an alternative high school in Tremont (the Bronx), and a community garden in East Tremont (the Bronx).

Q. Tell us about your projects with colleagues at Columbia.
A. My next project on government contracts to nonprofit organizations will involve faculty members and students from all departments of the University. It is in this spirit that Trebat and ILAS have reached out to local communities and engaged in a wide range of projects to improve quality of life in these communities and engage the political and economic systems.

Q. Do you include Columbia students in your projects?
A. Yes, we have partnered with the Association of Latin American Studies to include students in our projects.

Q. What is the K-12 outreach program?
A. We are hosting a symposium at Columbia’s Faculty House to coincide with the annual conference, “Education Across the Americas,” an event that has reached out to K-12 teachers and educators. The next edition of the conference is on March 29th and 30th at Teachers College. ILAS will be sponsoring two panels on topics that concern educators of students of Hispanic origin.

Q. How did you get the idea for this seminar?
A. I conceived it as a kind of social science equivalent of the Latino-focusing effort that has been led by Latin Americanist scholar John/a Keys, the director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia University.

Q. What contributions is this class making to the community?
A. One important feature of our project will be the creation of a new Latino-focusing effort that has been led by Latin Americanist scholar John/a Keys, the director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia University.

Q. What relationships does the class have to the community?
A. Last year, we organized the Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Helen Millbank Center at the American Society of Lincoln Center. Among the featured events was a screening of the film “Portrait of a Puerto Rican” directed by Franck Sardet, which was hosted by School of the Arts.

Q. What contributions is this class making to the community?
A. We have partnered with the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education at New York University. In particular, ILAS will work with the New York State Spanish Bilingual Technical Assistance Center to sponsor a new course, “Nonprofit Organizations in Economy and Society.” The two classes he teaches center on economic issues with political and social development. One of them is a new course he designed entitled “Problems of Economic Growth in Latin America.” This course seeks to unravel the puzzle of why the much-vaunted economic reforms put in effect in Latin America in the 1990s, frequently as a condition of loans from the World Bank and other lenders, failed to improve living standards for the majority of the region’s citizens.

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Vincent Guilamo-Ramos cares about la familia. He wants healthy families on-campus—minority faculty retention, for example—and healthy families off-campus—including Latinos and African-Americans in New York's most low-income neighborhoods.

As associate professor of social work at Columbia, his principal focus of investigation is the role parents can play to help prevent adolescent health risk behaviors, including alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and risky sexual behavior. In his research, the primary focus is on Latino and African-American youth and their families, with the South Bronx, Harlem and Lower East Side communities as his primary laboratories.

Recently, Dr. Guilamo-Ramos has expanded his efforts into the field of global public health. With support from the Provost's Office, he is conducting research with families in the Dominican Republic to identify empirical and sustainable family-based approaches to reducing adolescent vulnerability to HIV-infections, sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. In the wicker University system, Dr. Guilamo-Ramos also has been working with Vice Provost Jean Howard and a group of tenured-track ethnic minority faculty members to increase the recruitment and retention of such underrepresented groups at Columbia.

Q. What are your current programs of research?

A. I'm working on two projects called "Linking Lives Health Education Program: Building Quality Parent Components for School-Based Health Programs" and "Entre Familias: Family and Cultural Influences on Sex Among Latino Youth." Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Linking Lives is a six-year sexual and tobacco risk reduction intervention study on Latino and African-American youth. Its purpose is to develop and evaluate a parent-based intervention designed to prevent or reduce tobacco use or sexual risk behavior in young adolescents. Also funded by the CDC, the Entre Familias study is examining the social, cultural and familial factors that impact adolescent sexual decision-making in a sample of diverse Latino youth. The project will follow a cohort of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Dominican adolescents as they make the transition from early to late adolescence in the South Bronx community.

Q. Are Latinos and African Americans more at risk in the behaviors you study?

A. My research has found that the majority of the young people in my studies are not involved in risk-taking behaviors. They are more like everyday "low risk" youth than not. Most report feeling that they are too young to become sexually active and have no intention to do so in the ensuing 6-12 months. This is great news! The bias in the field of adolescent prevention science is in the opposite direction, with most folks believing that a greater number of these adolescents are involved in problem behaviors. To date, my research has not supported this.

However, a smaller percentage of youth in my studies do make the transition to involvement in risky behaviors during early adolescence. These youth are at a considerable disadvantage because of the context in which they reside. In my work, I define "high risk" not as a function of their racial or ethnic background but as a function of the structural factors that facilitate some of the negative consequences associated with risk-taking behavior. For example, the prevalence of HIV is high in the Bronx communities in which I am working. This puts the smaller percentage of youth who are sexually active at greater risk. This is but one example of my definition of "high risk."

Q. What have you learned most through your research?

A. It has to be the important role parents play in the lives of urban ethnic minority youth. Parents are a key socializing agent and can influence their adolescent child's decisions about sexual and other risk behavior.

What is the role of parents in the recruitment and retention of Latino and African-American students?

Q. Why is it taught by two professors?

A. Having two instructors is a great way to stimulate discussion in class. We each bring different perspectives to the table and provide a variety of insights that enrich the learning experience.

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Claudio Remeseira (left) and Roosevelt Montás (center) teach "Hispanic New York" through the American Studies program.

NEW YORK

EILEEN BARROSO

Remeseira (’02) is not a fan of point-negatives and other ethnic groups. The real Latinos apart but to emphasise their where "Hispanic New York," offered intervenes. In 2005, we offered the seminar for the first time, periodically, if not every year.

recently ran a workshop on "Hispanic New York." Year come about?

A. A survey course on the Latino and Latin American identity in its debut, the class last semester. The Record recently sat down with Roosevelt Montás, a native of the South Bronx, and a faculty member in the Department of Spanish and Portugese.

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**MONDAY**

**March 19**

*“Pearl Hearts”*  
Mina Bernhardt’s documentaty presentation about the human cost of war on an intimate scale. 

**Tuesday**

**March 20**

*The Balkans European Potential Project*  
The Harvard Institute presents *The Balkans European Potential and Its Significance in International Affairs*, with Anna Dziarmakopulo (Member of the Hellenic Parliament), 12:00-2:00 p.m., International Affairs Building, Room 212A, cn230@columbia.edu.

**Wednesday**

**March 21**

**Women’s Basketball vs. Hofstra**  
3:00-6:00 p.m., Andy Coughlin Field at Baker Field (218 and Broadway). gcw219@columbia.edu.

**Reading and Reception**  
A look at another of Mora in the Promised Land and the Live Wire, results from their fiction. Open to the public: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Philosophy Hall, Room 301, amhf04rotsky@gmail.com.

**Thursday**

**March 22**

**Friedman Conference**  
“Toward Peace and Justice”  
Tuesday March 27  
Introduction to a Special International Law in Combating War and Genocide with Richard S. Friedman. Columbia Law School Jerome L. Greene Hall, Room 104-106, x40000@columbia.edu.

**Earth Institute Conference**  
*“Is Sustainable Development Feasible?”* with Jeffrey S. Sachs, director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University, and Peter Schlesinger, associate director. Open to the public: RSVP: csen@earth.columbia.edu. 4/6-6:00 p.m. Alfred Lerner Hall, Room 555, 5th Floor.

**Friday**

**March 23**

**Epidemiology Seminar**  
*Opinions and Warnings: Exploring Private and Public Health.* An afternoon workshop with three workshops focusing on individual objects and a broader discussion of their methodological and theoretical implications. Open to the public: 1:00-7:00 p.m.. 612 Schermerhorn Hall, ivaw@columbia.edu.

**Saturday**

**March 24**

**The Scholar & Public Conference 2007**  
A look at globalization issues on issues in the University public sphere. 9:00-5:00 p.m., Barnard Hall.

**Baseball vs. Penn**  
Columbia baseball opens up its schedule with a double header against the Penn Quakers. 12:00-4:00 p.m. Columbia Softball Stadium at Baker Field (218 and Broadway).

**Sunday**

**March 25**

**Lacroze vs. Drexel**  
Drexel visits Baker Field in a non-conference battle. 3:00-5:00 p.m. Lawrence A. Wien Stadium at Baker Field.

**205 Coffee Break**  
Proceed to the various ways to break the vicious cycle. Attendees will get tips on how to transform it into constructive time: 2:10-4:00 p.m. Alfred Lerner Hall, Women’s Disability pancake@rotsky.com.

**MILESTONE**

**EVP KEITH WALTON STEPS DOWN**

Keith Walton, executive vice president and secretary of the University, decided to step down after more than 18 years, effective March 7.

“Keith has been a valuable member of Columbia’s senior staff, and I have always respected and appreciated the attention he has given to the University’s endeavors,” Bill Campbell, chair of the Board of Trustees, said, “We are sad to see Keith go, but feel a debt of gratitude for the more than a decade of outstanding service he has given on behalf of the Trustees.”

Keith has matched his professional duties with a wide range of civic and charitable endeavors that make a difference in our community. He has continued a ‘graduate of Yale and of Harvard Law School, he joined the University immediately after serving four years in leadership roles at the U.S. Department of the Treasury under secretaries Lloyd Bentsen and Robert Rubin. He served him for both his achievements and active citizenship.

“I want to thank the Trustees for allowing me to serve,” Walton said. “Columbia is a remarkable place, and I am grateful for both the challenges my role offered and my relationship with those with whom I have worked.”

“Keith will be available to the University for the rest of the academic year to advise the Trustees and the administration on matters of governance and trust,” Bollinger said. “Please join me in wishing Keith well.”

**Editor’s Pick BREAKING THE RULES**

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak likes to break rules, and traditional academic boundaries can’t contain her wide-ranging interests, which include post-colonial feminism and Marxism to name a few. On Wednesday, March 21, she brings her academic celebrity and intellect to the Low Round, to deliver a University Lecture titled, “Thinking About the Humanities.” Whatever she’s thinking, it will get you thinking, too.
MARCH 19, 2007

Senate Update: Discussion of New Science Building Construction

For opportunity as well,” said Christopher moss-salentijn (ten, dentistry) said her committee to students at P.S. 79, a school for children with disabilities that is adjacent to the park. Columbia’s associate dean of undergraduate studies at the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, is an engineer in every sense of the word—designing, arranging and managing projects. In addition to teaching engineering fundamentals to undergraduates claming to take his classes, McGourty focuses on designing and sustaining interdisciplinary programs through the Center for Technology, Innovation and Community Engagement, which was founded in 2005.

Whether it’s engineering relationships in the city so that students can modify playground equipment for disabled students at a public school, designing a new technology center for the 125th St. Business Improvement District, or planning a rooftop greenhouse at Eleanor Roosevelt Intermediate School so students can learn botany first hand, McGourty is known for crafting a multitude of connections in the community. McGourty talked about these projects and the ideas behind them with The Beacon.

How can Columbia strengthen its role in the community?

It's an excellent time to proactively search for connections that can be made between the community and the University, to do things together. Institutions like Columbia can provide human resources and intellectual capital, bringing them to bear on community educational and social challenges. Together we can enhance the education of our children or improve the workplace opportunities of our residents, because Columbia is an integral part of this community.

Q. Describe a project that's instructional and beneficial to the community?

In 2005, a collaboration between SEAS and the Bronx Zoo brought together 40 junior and senior high school students from across the country to design a play-ground for students with disabilities at Harlem's landmark Marcus Garvey Park. The result: a revamped playground design that better addressed the special recreational needs of students at P.S. 79, a school for children with disabilities that is adjacent to the park.

Q. Where is this kind of community engagement taking place at the engineering school?

One area that is becoming increasingly important for Columbia and the community is environmental sustainability. We are now planning projects for the summer. We're working with local organizations to come up with ways the community and University together can create composing projects. Waste-to-energy initiatives and methods to use bio-fuels for shuttle buses.

Q. How is the Center for Technology, Innovation and Community Engagement confronting some of the unique challenges facing Columbia's evolving relationship with the community?

A. One aspect of our educational philosophy that needs to be understood is that we've always approached community-based learning as a two-sided proposition. One side is teaching our students—it's engineering, the liberal arts or social sciences. We want to teach them in ways that help them understand how their work has an impact on society and how to make socially responsible decisions.

Equally important to us and to any civic engagement program is ensuring that the community benefits from the work being done by the students. The community must get tangible results. Doesn't the integration of student learning and community engagement foster socially responsible education?

For a complete list of Columbia community services, visit www.neighbors.columbia.edu.
Hail, Fellows

The 2006–2007 GSAS fellowship dinner is an occasion for recipients, donors, faculty and staff to meet and converse. It was held March 6.

Top left: Graduate student Abigail Scholer, associate professor and chair in psychology Geraldine Downey, and Vanessa Anderson.

Left: Vanessa Anderson, a recipient of the Christie Fellowship, addresses attendees. The fellowship supports research for her thesis on variables affecting the college choices of students of color.

Russia and U.S. Relationship

Thomas Pickering, Senior Vice-President, Boeing Company, and a retired U.S. ambassador spoke March 5 at the Institute for the Study of Europe in the School of International and Public Affairs. His topic was "Russia and the United States at the Beginning of the 21st Century."

Going, Going, Gone

The 15th Annual Columbia Public Interest Law Foundation Auction was held on March 1 in Low’s Rotunda and raised $85,000, more than in any previous year. The money will underwrite Columbia’s new initiative guaranteeing summer funding for first-year and second-year law students pursuing public interest work, and support numerous grants to community-based organizations that provide front-line public interest legal services.

Above: students bidding at the auction.

Upper left: Philip Gentry, clinical professor of law, twirls.

Lower left: James Tierney, director of the State Attorneys General Program, serves as an auctioneer. He also donated a long weekend stay at his Maine cabin. The winning bid was $8,000.

Columbia Job Site

continued from page 1

Yale and New York University—took the lead in creating the consortium over the course of 18 months. The launch was announced at Low Library on Feb. 22. University President Lee C. Bollinger said that as a result of the group effort “a successful series of grass-roots collaborations among institutions of higher learning now has become a truly national network of job banks, of immense service to the Academy as it seeks to attract and retain diverse faculty, researchers and staff.”

The metropolitan New York and southern Connecticut area has more than 130 accredited academic institutions, but until now no resources existed to provide a complete list of open higher education positions in the region. The HERC site is distinguished from other employment sites by its ability to accommodate dual-career searches, as well as the centrality of job postings.

“The Higher Education Recruitment Consortium gives us a new way of using technology to solve problems that are difficult for individual institutions to solve on their own,” said Vice Provost Howard. “It is just one example of the way universities are developing a new array of instruments and programs to address the career issues and the work-life problems that are part of contemporary academic culture.”

For more information about HERC, job listings and a complete list of member institutions, visit www.mnyscherc.org.

John Jay Awards

Columbia College honored five alumni on March 1 for distinguished professional achievement, during a dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street. Pictured from left to right are: Gisard Fonder, ’95, Lisa Landau Camony, ’89, Paul C. McCormick, ’78, David A. Patterson ’77, Charles W. Santoro, ’82 and President Lee Bollinger. The award is named for the first chief justice of the United States and member of the class of 1764. Proceeds from the dinner support the John Jay National Scholarship Program, which provides financial aid and special programming for College students.

Sacks

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Sacks

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to his temporal lobe that he couldn’t recognize his children or recall anything for more than 10 seconds. Yet he could conduct an entire symphony; only to forget having done so later. Another patient developed extraordinary musical gifts after being struck by lightning.

Sacks also discussed other areas of his research, including patients who experience musical hallucinations: people who can’t perceive music; absolute pitch; musical savants, including autism sufferers; and synesthesia, a condition in which two or more bodily senses are combined, resulting in people who strongly associate taste with music.

Even as he explored other projects, Sacks’ interest in music grew, especially when he experienced its therapeutic qualities after a traumatic leg injury in 1974. His leg in a cast, Sacks was convinced he’d lost the muscle memory to walk again. But after listening to Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto “about 20 times a day,” he found himself stepping in time to the music.

Sacks’ great talent lies not only in his brilliant powers of observation, but in his ability to explain difficult concepts in a compelling way, Kandel said, calling Sacks a “Copernicus of the unknown mental world.”

His oratorical skills also were much appreciated by the audience, who crowded into the Rotunda, leaning against the walls and sitting on the floor.

"He’s brilliant, but so self-deprecating, humble and modest—I love the concept of him as a public intellectual,” said Karen Dahlman, a neuropsychologist at Mt. Sinai and fan of Sacks’ books.