The Center for Community Health Partnerships at the Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) hosted a celebratory breakfast at the Plaza Hotel. C. Davidson Adair Medical and Dental Center in central Harlem on March 10 to recognize and honor Harlem community members and financial supporters who have helped establish the dental center during its construction and startup phases. The center provides basic primary dental and medical care to all community residents with a special emphasis on meeting the needs of senior citizens. This state-of-the-art Harlem facility features dental operators, six medical exam rooms, one procedure room, a dark room, a sterilization room, five administrative offices, a reception/waiting area, a conference/distance-learning room, a staff lounge and a medical records room. The Adair Center offers dental exams, cleanings, sealants, dentures and other dental services. It also offers internal medicine, health promotion, education and disease prevention and smoking-counseling programs.

The Center for Community Health Partnerships at CUMC manages and maintains the Adair Medical and Dental Center. The Center for Community Health Partnerships was created in March 2002 in an effort to unify community-based organizations and the Columbia community. The partnership is dedicated to understanding and reducing health care disparities both in northern Manhattan and nationwide and serves as a catalyst for developing new knowledge in community-participatory research to better understand health disparities.

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---Gregory Mosher, director, Columbia University Arts Initiative

The comprehensive website also includes a bibliography of print and Web resources for further study: a timeline of West African history spanning from the Songhay era in the 1400s to present day; a glossary of key people and terms related to Tierno Bokar; slideshows ranging from maps of West African Empires and ancient and modern Mali, to esoteric writing and film footage from Susan Vogel’s Interrogation: The Heart of the Exile; slideshows on Africa in the 20th century, the Congo, various tribes in West Africa, Mali, and the Mandingos; and interviews with Sotigui Keita, the actor who plays the role of Tierno Bokar; and interviews with Peter Brook, the director. The website also provides a Web site of classroom events, most of which are free and open to the public, Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning (CCTL) has created a Web site of classroom resources, including faculty and students, at cctl.columbia.edu events.html. Among the resources is an essay outlining the issues that should be considered when approaching Tierno Bokar as well as interviews with faculty members Awo, Ousmane Kane, associate professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, and Mann. Video interviews cover topics ranging from Sufism and Islam in West Africa to Amadou Hampâté Bâ and the message of Tierno Bokar.

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