Columbia to Open New Math and Science School in Manhattanville

Columbia University will collaborate with the City of New York on the creation of a new public secondary school (grades 6-12) that will address the critical need to improve education in science, math and engineering.

The new school, tentatively called the “Columbia Science, Math and Engineering Secondary School,” will be located in Manhattanville, West Harlem, where Columbia has proposed building a new campus. Scheduled to open in September 2007, it will initially occupy a transitional space, with a student body of approximately 200.

Enrollment will be selective, with priority given to high-performing local students from northern Manhattan above 96th Street. At least half of the school’s total enrollment will comprise students from northern Manhattan.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the proposal following a visit to Columbia’s Morningside campus on Oct. 21, in an event hosted by Columbia’s College Republicans. Columbia University president Lee C. Bollinger was among those in attendance.

“Columbia is one of the finest educational institutions in the nation, and this new secondary school will be able to draw upon its vast intellectual and academic resources,” Bloomberg said.

This collaboration grows out of Columbia’s deep and longstanding commitment to increase educational opportunities for New York City schoolchildren. It will also meet a pressing national need to improve educational opportunities for New York City schoolchildren. It will also meet a pressing national need to improve education in science, math and engineering.

CABOT PRIZES

Setting New Standards in Latin American Press Coverage

By Eileen C. Gullo

Burning with passion for their beats and frustrated by the difficulty of getting their stories into the world, this year’s Maria Moors Cabot Prize winners told of the joys and challenges of reporting on the Western Hemisphere, a region where news tends to be focused on the United States to the exclusion of other countries in the region. The Maria Moors Cabot Prizes, which recognize distinguished journalistic contributions to inter-American understanding, are the oldest international awards in journalism. They are awarded annually by the Center for International Conflict Resolution at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and by the United States Institute of Peace.

The former, which publishes the SIPA quarterly, the Journal of International Conflict Resolution, and the latter, which awards the annual Peace Prize, both were established by the University’s Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

The Cabot Foundation was established in 1932 by the late Maria Moors Cabot, the daughter of a wealthy New York family.

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Report Card on the United Nations Summit

Kofi Annan Acknowledges a Mixed Performance

By Ernest Beck

A s discussions continue on the most effective role for the UN, the Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivered a frank appraisal of the summit’s achievements and limitations.

He acknowledged, however, that there also had been several “missed opportunities,” expressing his disappointment at the summit’s failure to reach consensus on several key issues, including reform of the Security Council, the UN’s main decision-making body.

Annan addressed an overflow audience of faculty, students and community leaders at a daylong conference held at Columbia on Oct. 17 and devoted to reviewing the results of last month’s discussions at the UN General Assembly, said to be the largest gathering of world leaders in history.

Entitled “New Perspectives on Reforming the United Nations,” the event was cosponsored by Columbia’s Center for International Conflict Resolution at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and by the United States Institute of Peace.

The latter recently published a task force report on UN reform developed by former U.S. Senate majority leader George Mitchell, who served as host for the Columbia conference, and former House speaker Newt Gingrich.

Annan said that September’s UN summit had achieved several important results, including the doubling of aid to Africa and a renewed commitment to increase overall development aid to 0.7 percent of gross national product.

Alluding to U.S. government criticism of the UN’s activities and efforts to reform, Annan praised President Bush’s endorsement of the summit’s goals and expressed support for his offer to give poor countries the chance to “trade their way out of poverty.”

Trade, Annan added, is no less a step toward development than financial assistance or debt relief.

If such progress continues, he added, this may be remembered as the decisive moment when mankind at last broke out of the vicious cycle of global poverty.

In addition, Annan said, the summit had marked important gains for human rights. All member states have finally accepted the responsibility to protect their own populations from genocide, he reported. They have also declared their willingness to take collective action to stop genocide wherever it is taking place. He went on to note “the growing significance of the international body reaching these decisions sixty years after the liberation of the Nazi death camps, thirty years after the Cambodian killing fields, and ten years after the horrors of Rwanda and Srebrenica.”

Additionally, the summit had forged ahead toward creating a new Human Rights Council, Annan reported, though details of the new body have yet to be specified.

Another encouraging result was the decision to establish a peacebuilding commission to supplement the UN’s existing peacemaking and peacekeeping activities.

Finally, on the critical issue of UN management reform, Annan said that detailed proposals are being developed to create an independent oversight committee as well as an ethics office, and to improve the overall transparency of UN operations.

While praising the summit’s accomplishments, Annan was

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