Middle-School Girls Experiment with Science Day

By Kelsey Chavus

The halls of Havemeyer and Pupin filled with chatter and laughter on Saturday, Nov 19, as 50 middle school girls descended for a day of hands-on scientific experiments led by Columbia gradu- ate students and faculty. Known as Girls Science Day, the event was hosted by Women in Science at Columbia (WISC), an organization of graduate students and postdoc- toral associates, as well as faculty and students traditionally underrepresented by women. The goal is to provide a supportive environment for facilitating the success of women at all levels of science. This is the second year it has held a program for middle-school girls.

“It’s really fulfilling to see that kids can accept women as scientists,” said less Rogers, a third-year E38 graduate stu- dent who also participated in last year’s program. “I think it helps that we try to make sci- ence into something more fun, and not so foreign.”

With rosters filled just 10 days after opening enrollment, students, as well as 10 years old experimented with sub- jects ranging from electricity and motion, to chemical reac- tions and nanotechnology.

Girls from schools in all five boroughs donated aprons, gloves and goggles to get on learning some scientific basics. Organizers agreed that this year’s students were not only eager but extremely knowl- edgeable. “I was floored by what they knew,” said physics graduate student and GSD instructor Laura Newburgh. “ Didn’t know this stuff in seventh grade.”

Faculty and Students Initiate Interfaith Programs, with Help of Kraft Family Fund

Students and faculty have set an ambitious agenda of activities to inaugurate new programs, the first of which was sponsored by the Kraft Family Fund—from a benefit concert and panel discussion on the three Abrahamic faiths, a February event, cosponsored by the Middle East Institute, features Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, interna- tionally acclaimed for his role in facilitating the success of

Krafts' gift is allocated to stu- dent-initiated programs submitted to and chosen by a nine-person com- mittee chaired by Chaplain Jewelnel Davis. The University-matched pro- gramming is developed by a commit- tee of distinguished faculty on behalf of the Offices of the President and Provost, and includes lectures, con- ferences, and symposia with recog- nized experts.

The Fund’s selection committee includes Dean Baskin, the George Sansom Professor of History and a professor of East Asian languages and cultures Edward A. RAND, the Albert Einstein Professor of History and University Professor; Nicholas Lemann, dean of the Graduate School of Journalism and Henry II. Luce Professor of Journalism; and Robert O’Meally, the Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and Comparative Literature and director of the Columbia University Center for Jazz Studies.

Faculty-generated programs this coming semester will focus on reli- gion in the public sphere. The first event, cosponsored by the Middle East Institute, features Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, interna- tionally acclaimed for his role in

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St. Paul’s: Tiled and True

By David Poratta

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