International Affairs

LISA ANDERSON, dean of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), on global events in 2005:

1) This was a year of dawn- ing realizations rather than discrete events. In the wake of several major natural catastrophes—the aftermath of last year’s tsunami, the summer’s hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the devastating earthquake in Pakistan in the fall—we began to acknowledge that we need to be more skillful in our assessment of risk and less compliant in our assumption that we can control the natural environment.

2) Worries about the possibility that East Asia’s avian flu might mutate into a form easily transmitted among humans suggested that global pandemics may be a significant feature of the 21st century. The AIDS epidemic was not a fluke.

3) The year’s early euphoria about democratization in Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan has now yielded to greater focus on vaccine development of vaginal microbiota in the developing world.

What’s ahead?

1) Difficulties in Iraq will continue to dog the American-led coalition, leading to increasing uncertainty at home.

2) Elections in Israel and growing Palestinian support for Hamas will draw attention to the increasingly high-stakes politics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and U.S. policymakers will be drawn yet again into efforts to mediate the conflict.

3) And, for the sake of a imagining a bright spot, a consensus candidate for Secretary-General of the United Nations will appear early, permitting serious attention to the complex issues of UN reform.

VICTORIA DE GRAZIA, professor of history, on European developments in 2005:

1) The January inauguration of Viktor Yushchenko as prime min- ister of Uk- raine, remind- ing us of the tribulations faced by new democracies on the edge of Europe.

2) French youth riots this fall, demonstrating the failure to absorb the children of immigrants into European society. Americans should not be smug—many immigrants to this country don’t have rights.

3) In the last 2-3 weeks, the revelation that the U.S. has secret prisons in Europe, where torture is illegal.

What’s ahead?

1) So long as the Iraq war goes on, America’s relations with Europe will get worse rather than better.

2) The fates of the three Bs, as they call them, in Europe—Berlusconi, Blair and Berlusconi—are tied together; and Berlusconi may well go down in Italy’s April elections.

MICHAEL DOYLE, Harold Brown Professor, SIPA, and the law school, on the UN’s performance in 2005:

2005 has been a very bad year for the UN.

What’s ahead?

Next year doesn’t look much more promising.

Visual Arts, Theatre & Film

JON KESSLER, associate professor of visu- al arts, on gallery exhibitions in 2005:

1) Mike Kelley & Gagosian Gallery. This sprawling show of 28 instal- lations, reorienting psychological states of adolescence and the abject, proved that a 50-something can still hit the power chords.

2) Johannes Van Der Beek @ PS1. A single room of architectural ruins displayed on a tabletop, all con- structed from folded and cut New York Times paper, a way to the way events and news create an architecture of information, only to become the ruins of history in an instant.

3) Tamy Berlina Tour (MFA 2006) @ Zach Feuer Gallery. An exhibit of works—a single-channel video and a performance piece—created by one of Stein’s students. You could clearly see Tamy’s humor and her fury—her unswerving commitment to interrogating ethnic, national, racial and cultural stereotypes.

What’s ahead?

Robert Rauschenberg @ the Met, a show of revolutionary ‘50s pieces of sculpture created from pieces of ‘junk’ and, later, silk (overlays). Rauschenberg broke so many taboos with his work that we’re still negotiating the crates.

ARNOLD ARONSON, professor of theater, on top stage performances in 2005:

Technically, it wasn’t theater, but Patti Smith’s ‘Horses’ concert at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) surpassed any recent plays I have seen. For my theatrical ‘horse’, here goes:

1) The Wooster Group’s revival of House/Lights, based on Gertrude Stein’s Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights. Thirty years after its inception, the Wooster Group continues to do the most innovative work of any American compa- ny.

2) Isabelle Huppert’s amazing perform- ance in the French production of Sarah Kane’s Phycosis 4:48—in its quietly intense confrontation the theatrical equivalent of Patti Smith.

3) The New York City Opera’s production of Richard Strauss’ opera Orlando. Some of the most exciting work in theatre in recent years has actually been in opera where the staging possibilities are more open, and the budget allowed designers and directors more leeway than in conventional theater—although such possibilities can also be abused.

What’s ahead?

1) We’ll see more use of digital video pro- jection in both commercial and experi- mental theater. Recent examples include The Women in White on Broadway, Shelter and Super Vision at BAM, and the work of Collapsible Giants at the off-off Broadway world of Williamsburg.

2) Experimentation with online, real-time streaming of new works will continue. (Leading the way are Richard Foreman’s Ontological-Hysteric Theatre and Collective Rapture.)

JON KESSLER, associate professor of visu- al arts, on developments in the motion picture industry in 2005:

1) Fewer people going out to the movies. Attendance at movie theaters has been dropping for several years, and the trend seems to be accelerating.

2) The continuing rise of the Internet (especially through broadband), high-definition TV, video games and specialized cable TV, all of which contribute to the decrease. We are in a per- iod of fundamental change in viewing habits and leisure time pursuits, at the expense of the traditional movie thea- ter—a trend as profound and irre- versible as the rise of television in the decades after World War II.

3) Decreasing costs for making a first film. Thanks to digital video, young directors have a much easier time getting a film produced. This year’s Sundance Film Festival received over 1,000 American fea- tures, most of which will never be seen by more than a handful of people.

Taken together, these trends mean that getting a film made is becoming less dif- ficult than getting it to an audience.

What’s ahead?

1) New mechanism-based targeted drug therapies will be developed for human diseases, following the gleamee example.

2) We’ll see new cells being used for more effective gene delivery for therapy of human genetic diseases.

3) The therapeutic use of nanoparticles to deliver drugs to treat human disease will be com- bined with novel, biologically-based imaging to measure the efficacy of treatment. What’s ahead?

1) Advances in stem cell biology lead- ing to potential novel ther- apeutics.

2) Nanotech- nology for im- proved local drug delivery.

3) Improved diagnostics and imaging tech- niques using biological probes. This provides a new understanding of cellular signaling and hence a more realistic view of how cells work.

What’s ahead?

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3) The therapeutic use of nanoparticles to deliver drugs to treat human disease will be com- bined with novel, biologically-based imaging to measure the efficacy of treatment.

ALLAN ROSENFELD, dean of the Mailman School of Public Health, on global health issues in 2005:

1) Thanks in large part to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Grand Challenges program, greater focus on vaccine develop- ment and treatment for neglected tropical diseases.

2) Significant progress on the development of vaginal microbicides, a means by which women will be able to help prevent HIV transmission. Considering that near- ly half of all adults living with HIV around the world are women, this is a colossal step forward.

Taken together, these trends mean that getting a film made is becoming less dif- ficult than getting it to an audience.

What’s ahead?

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KLAUS LACKNER, Ewing-Worzel Professor of Geophysics, on progress in the environmental sciences in 2005:

1) A major shift in public percep- tion of climate change. It’s taken seriously now: The Kyoto Treaty another, which in turn will raise car- bon emissions in some form or another, which in turn will raise car- bon emissions in some form or another, which in turn will raise car-

2) Progress in developing technolo- gies to eliminate the climate change problem through carbon capture and storage.

What’s ahead?

1) New power plants will be built to collect their own carbon diox- ide emissions. In particular, coal producers and power plant opera- tors using coal are likely to move toward zero emission plants.

2) Business approaches to curb carbon dioxide emissions will grow rapidly. More and more car- bon emitters will be subject to more rigorous, more stringent regulations.

3) The recognized and growing importance of building the basic health care infra- structure in rural areas, and of focusing on both the system and a variety of key issues concerning the health care workforce.

What’s ahead?

1) We are likely to see significant progress in the development of vac- cines for diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. We are in the hope of approved vaccines in the next five years.

2) Within the next year or two, we will see additional progress on the development of diagnostic tools and treatment for emerging infec- tious diseases and, hopefully, more funding for developing new vac- cine technologies along with a viable business model for vaccine production.

ANDREW MARKS, chair of physiology and cellular biology at the Medical Center, on progress in medi- cine and science in 2005:

1) Advances in stem cell biology lead- ing to potential novel ther- apeutics.

2) Nanotechnology for im- proved local drug delivery.

3) For more effective gene delivery for therapy of human genetic diseases.

What’s ahead?

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Medicine, Health & Environment

Andrew Marks, chair of physiology and cellular biology at the Medical Center, on progress in medicine and science in 2005:

1) Increases in stem cell biology leading to potential novel therapeutics.

2) Nanotechnology for improved local drug delivery.

3) Improved gene delivery for more effective gene therapy for human genetic diseases.

What’s ahead?

1) Advances in stem cell biology leading to potential novel therapeutics.

2) Nanotechnology for improved local drug delivery.

3) For more effective gene delivery for therapy of human genetic diseases.