Student military veterans, University officials and alumni gathered to salute the Yellow Ribbon Program on Sept. 10 at Faculty House. The Program is a provision of the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, which makes it financially accessible for student-veterans to attend private universities like Columbia. Pictured from left to right: Brendan Rooney (GS), John McClelland (GS), Erica Gallegos (GS'09), United States Sen. Frank Lautenberg (BUSB'49), Jose Robledo (GS), Peter Kim (GS'09), Ester Raha Nyaggah (GS), and Derek Blumke, executive director of Student Veterans of America. To see a video, go to http://news.columbia.edu/oncampus/1009.

President Lee C. Bollinger (center) at the Morningside Gates with other early risers to set off on the Annual Fun Run. Each fall, Bollinger kicks off the academic year with the five kilometer run/walk through Riverside Park. This year more than 700 Columbia students, faculty and staff participated in the annual tradition, which is co-sponsored by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education.

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European market, whereas Johnson contended that geography worked in New York’s favor, making the city “the unrivaled fi-
nancial center of a massive single market, North America.” Johnson also said that New York benefited from a grow-
ing perception that it is safer than in the recent past. But he couldn’t help tweaking Bloomberg, adding, “I can’t conceal the fact from you that your murder rate is still about three times higher than in London.”

Even so, Bloomberg replied, New York is one of the safest big cities in America, but he lamented that the number of guns on the streets exceeds the number of people. “Which is why we’ve got to keep fighting this battle with Washington against the National Rifle Association,” he said, drawing ap-
plause from the audience.

After the conference, Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger described New York and London as leading cities in the search for solutions to many of the world’s most pressing problems. “Great research universities are essential to the life of both these great cities, generating the talented people and intellec-
tual capital that drives innovation in every field of human en-
deavor across the globe,” said Bollinger.

Ester Fuchs, professor of public affairs and political science and a former policy advisor to Bloomberg, will direct the new Global Mayors Forum. “When these mayors come to Colum-
bia and are willing to engage in a dialogue with the Columbia community, our students can better understand both the chal-
lenges and solutions to the most pressing issues we confront in the 21st century,” she said.

Fuchs expects to hold several more Mayors Forums this academic year, featuring mayors from the developed and the developing world.

Dean John Coatsworth of the School of International and Public Affairs noted the immediate impact mayors can have on the lives of residents by supporting the police, firefighters, transport and sanitation systems, parks, libraries and schools. “By engaging these leaders in our Global Mayors Forum,” he said, “we will benefit from their thoughts about the role that cities play in the generation of new policy ideas and their expe-
riences in trying to improve urban life.”

In a press conference held after their discussion, Bloomberg and Johnson announced a mutual travel pact in which they will share advertising space and best practices to encourage tourism between their two cities.

“History is littered with examples of British people who have come to New York and experienced tragic or comical results,” said Johnson. “People who like London will want to come and have a look at New York. And vice versa.”

COLUMBIANews on the Web


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

HINT: Search for the light within and you shall find something new and great. Where will you find it? Send answers to condesc@columbia.edu. First to e-mail the right answer wins a Record mag.

ANSWER TO LAST CHALLENGE: Ceiling of the entrance of Butler Library (Latin translation, People Learn When They Teach). Blood Wisconsin SMP'09

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nating CO2 emissions. Waste-to-energy schemes have been studied by many researchers, but Park’s novel ap-
proach will advance this area of the research by provid-
ing not only sustainable energy but also environmental benefits through carbon sequestration.

Her research team is also investigating ways to engi-
eer mineral carbonates so that they can be used as car-
bon-neutral filler materials for papers and plastics. This, again, closes another loop for the carbon cycle.

Park joined Columbia in the fall of 2007 after com-
pleting her post-doctoral studies at Ohio State Univer-
sity, where she focused on converting coal into jet fuel. She is also the associate director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy. Professor Klaus Lackner, who is the center’s director, and Park work closely to address three main areas related to sustainable energy: solar energy, nuclear energy and fossil energy with carbon capture and storage. As a chemical engineer, Park has worked on various energy-conversion systems, an in-
terest she developed as an undergraduate at the Uni-
versity of British Columbia. These days, however, she is looking at the bigger picture regarding our energy uses and how they are tied to the environment.

“We know how to process natural resources and convert them into products, from your plastic coffee cup to spaceships. The future is focused on how we can do this in an environmentally friendly way,” said Park. “That’s what motivates me, to design the energy-
conversion system from the beginning in such a clean way that we don’t have to clean up our mess at the opposite end.”

For her next project, Park will be working on a way to convert biomass into pure hydrogen, which can then be fed to a fuel cell directly. Asked whether her mom has offered any other new research sugges-
tions, Park replied with a laugh, “Not yet. She’s trav-
eling in Japan and having a good time, but I should talk to her soon.”

Dart continued from page 1

tion established the Dart Center as a national resource at the University of Washington, encompassing awards, fellowships and seminars, as well as research on the im-
pact of reporting traumatic events. The center now op-
erates full-time programs in Europe and Australia and has satellite offices in Seattle and Tulsa, Okla.

It also provides consultations and counseling for journalists. After the Sept. 11 attacks, for example, it set up a support and education program for New York City journalists (including post-9/11 students). After Hurricane Katrina, it worked with reporters who were both victims of the disaster and reporting on it.

The executive director since 2006, Shapiro is a teacher of investigative journalism at Yale and a long-
time reporter and editor who covered human rights and criminal-justice issues for The Nation. And he

is no stranger to tough stories. In 1994, he became a crime victim one evening when a man sitting in a New Haven, Conn., coffee shop suddenly began stab-
ing patrons; seven people, including Shapiro, were badly wounded.

Shapiro saw firsthand the need for education and support when covering violent events. At the time, post-
traumatic stress disorder—anxiety that can be triggered after a highly stressful event—was a relatively new psy-
chiatric diagnostic. While early research focused on how military veterans and crime victims were affected, there was little study on its impact on journalists, who fre-
quently witness life’s biggest tragedies.

Recent research shows that PTSD rates for general assignment journalists are on a par with other first responders, such as police or firefighters, Shapiro said. Rates for war correspondents are much high-
er, with about 28 percent exhibiting signs of PTSD. “Whether you’re a war correspondent for the BBC or a cops reporter for the Charlotte Observer, you face many of the same choices and issues in storytelling,” he said.