Roy and Diana Vagelos Donate $50 Million For New Medical Education Building

By Record Staff

When P. Roy Vagelos graduated in 1954 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, polio was rampant and heart attack victims spent weeks in the hospital. Over a long and distinguished career in medicine and the pharmaceutical industry, Vagelos gained a unique perspective on the power of the health sciences to improve the quality of human life.

Now with his wife, Diana, a Barnard College alumna, Vagelos is donating $50 million for a new medical and graduate education building on the medical center campus. It will be named in their honor. The gift is the largest received for Columbia University Medical Center’s capital campaign, and with its receipt, the campaign has raised more than $1 billion.

“It is clear that whatever the benefits Roy and Diana Vagelos may have gained from attending Columbia and Barnard, they have given even more back to our University through decades of service and support, and we are enormously grateful,” said Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger. “With this latest demonstration of generosity, they are helping establish a new sense of community and campus life at our medical center in Washington Heights that is so important to our attracting future generations of talented medical students and faculty.”

Utrecht sociologist Saskia Sassen was born in the Netherlands, grew up in Argentina and Italy, studied in France and the United States, and speaks six languages.

With such a background, “global thought” would seem to come naturally to Sassen, who specializes in the social, economic and political dimensions of globalization and is known for creating the term “global city.” The term refers to a city that plays a significant global economic role, illustrating in an extreme way some of the major features of globalization, from the organization of finance to new forms of socio-economic inequality, she says.

Now, Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger has named her co-director of the University’s Committee on Global Thought, which h"...
African drylands were the topic of a Sept. 20 forum with East African officials and Columbia faculty. From left, Shetan Rakhaire, head of the drylands program in Uganda; Belal Begashaw, director of the Earth Institute’s M.O.D. Center; and Rukikaire, head of the drylands program in Uganda.

The medical campus is at the heart of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine at the Medical Center. "Roy’s support has been essential to our efforts to improve the quality of life and learning on the medical campus," said Lee Goldman, executive vice president for Columbia University and dean of the faculties of health sciences and medicine at the medical center. "This $185 million project building will ensure that Columbia continues to be a world leader in medical research, education, and medical care, the scientists who will perform groundbreaking research, and the teachers who will help train the future generation of physicians and scientists."

The projected cost for the entire project is $185 million. The medical center was built in the 1920s, and has been periodically updated and added to as it has grown into a larger institution. But the need for new and improved space is widely acknowledged. "This new education building will ensure that Columbia continues to produce superior doctors and researchers, trained in the latest techniques, as medicine continues to evolve rapidly throughout the 21st century," said Lee Goldman, executive vice president for Columbia University and dean of the faculties of health sciences and medicine at the medical center. "Roy’s support has been essential to our efforts to improve the quality of life and learning on the medical campus.”

Jordi Manel Barnos, president of the European Commission, meets with students in the Barden Room of Low Library following his Sept. 23 speech during the World Leaders Forum. The 15 students, who are enrolled in a dual-degree program at the School of International and Public Affairs, got to ask Barnos one question apiece. Some of the questions dealt with economics, while others focused on policies and governance of the European Union.

Columbia College Dean Emeritus Austin E. Quigley speaks at the Sept. 13 dedication of a theater named in his honor in Lerner Hall. Quigley served as dean from 1995 to 2009, the second longest tenure in the school’s history. Quigley, who is the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature and special adviser to the president on undergraduate education, established the undergraduate major in drama and theater arts at the college, revived the doctoral program in theater and helped reinvigorate the M.F.A. program in theater at the School of the Arts.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

Hint: Although the serene sea-blue colors may fool you, this is no vacation retreat. Around here, students failing to produce the required work are likely to be issued a professional subpoena. Where is this? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. The first person to email the right answer wins a mug.

ANSWER TO LAST CHALLENGE: Sliding gate door of Journalism School building.

WINNER: Danielle P. Romandey, Associate Director, Print Services

The 315 incoming members of the School of Engineering and Applied Science kick off the academic year at an Aug. 31 orientation program by tossing their first-year beanies into the air. Engineering Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora revived the Columbia tradition of handing out beanies to first-year students, which dates back to the late 1800s, as a way to build community among class members. However, Peña-Mora told the students wearing it was no longer a requirement.

Vagelos continued from page 1

Saskia Sassen continued from page 1

grams and served as a mentor for faculty, students and staff. He also serves as chair of Columbia University Medical Center’s Board of Visitors and chair of the medical center’s capital campaign. "When I first came to P&S 60 years ago, the facilities were first-rate, as many of them had just been built," Vagelos said. "Naturally, over time, some of them have aged, and new technologies and teaching resources are now required to provide the best modern education opportunities. We are training the doctors who will deliver medical care, the scientists who will perform groundbreaking scientific research, and the teachers who will help train the future generation of physicians and scientists. It is important that their educational facilities are as exciting as medical science is today." The medical center was built in the 1920s, and has been periodically updated and added to as it has grown into a larger institution. But the need for new and improved space is widely acknowledged. "This new education building will ensure that Columbia continues to produce superior doctors and researchers, trained in the latest techniques, as medicine continues to evolve rapidly throughout the 21st century," said Lee Goldman, executive vice president for Columbia University and dean of the faculties of health sciences and medicine at the medical center. "Roy’s support has been essential to our efforts to improve the quality of life and learning on the medical campus.”

Vagelos met his wife, Diana, at a party held by a mutual friend while he was attending P&S and she was a first-year Barnard student. A 1955 graduate, she is now a trustee. The Diana Center, Barnard’s new student center, was named for her in recognition of a major gift from the couple. They also funded Barnard’s Vagelos Alumniae Center.

The P&S project is part of an overall medical center campus revitalization plan that will add green space, consolidate student services and renovate several existing buildings. The projected cost for the entire project is $185 million.

What are you looking at?

Hint: Although the serene sea-blue colors may fool you, this is no vacation retreat. Around here, students failing to produce the required work are likely to be issued a professional subpoena does occur. Where is this? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. The first person to email the right answer wins a mug.

Answer to last challenge: Sliding gate door of Journalism School building.

Winner: Danielle P. Romandey, Associate Director, Print Services

Jordi Manel Barnos, president of the European Commission, meets with students in the Barden Room of Low Library following his Sept. 23 speech during the World Leaders Forum. The 15 students, who are enrolled in a dual-degree program at the School of International and Public Affairs, got to ask Barnos one question apiece. Some of the questions dealt with economics, while others focused on policies and governance of the European Union.

Columbia College Dean Emeritus Austin E. Quigley speaks at the Sept. 13 dedication of a theater named in his honor in Lerner Hall. Quigley served as dean from 1995 to 2009, the second longest tenure in the school’s history. Quigley, who is the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature and special adviser to the president on undergraduate education, established the undergraduate major in drama and theater arts at the college, revived the doctoral program in theater and helped reinvigorate the M.F.A. program in theater at the School of the Arts.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

Hint: Although the serene sea-blue colors may fool you, this is no vacation retreat. Around here, students failing to produce the required work are likely to be issued a professional subpoena does occur. Where is this? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. The first person to email the right answer wins a mug.

Answer to last challenge: Sliding gate door of Journalism School building.

Winner: Danielle P. Romandey, Associate Director, Print Services

The 315 incoming members of the School of Engineering and Applied Science kick off the academic year at an Aug. 31 orientation program by tossing their first-year beanies into the air. Engineering Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora revived the Columbia tradition of handing out beanies to first-year students, which dates back to the late 1800s, as a way to build community among class members. However, Peña-Mora told the students wearing it was no longer a requirement.

Vagelos continued from page 1

Saskia Sassen continued from page 1

Columbia College Dean Emeritus Austin E. Quigley speaks at the Sept. 13 dedication of a theater named in his honor in Lerner Hall. Quigley served as dean from 1995 to 2009, the second longest tenure in the school’s history. Quigley, who is the Brander Matthews Professor of Dramatic Literature and special adviser to the president on undergraduate education, established the undergraduate major in drama and theater arts at the college, revived the doctoral program in theater and helped reinvigorate the M.F.A. program in theater at the School of the Arts.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

Hint: Although the serene sea-blue colors may fool you, this is no vacation retreat. Around here, students failing to produce the required work are likely to be issued a professional subpoena does occur. Where is this? Send answers to curecord@columbia.edu. The first person to email the right answer wins a mug.

Answer to last challenge: Sliding gate door of Journalism School building.

Winner: Danielle P. Romandey, Associate Director, Print Services

The 315 incoming members of the School of Engineering and Applied Science kick off the academic year at an Aug. 31 orientation program by tossing their first-year beanies into the air. Engineering Dean Feniosky Peña-Mora revived the Columbia tradition of handing out beanies to first-year students, which dates back to the late 1800s, as a way to build community among class members. However, Peña-Mora told the students wearing it was no longer a requirement.

Vagelos continued from page 1

Saskia Sassen continued from page 1

need new categories of thinking, new categories for research and for interpreting data.” She gives an example: China spends billions of dollars to buy mines in Africa and land to grow palm trees for bio-fuels. The leading investors in many developing nations are not from the West, but sovereign wealth funds from countries such as China and the United Arab Emirates. They are making new global geographies that often bypass Europe and the United States entirely; she notes, highlighting the need for new ways of understanding the growing economic and cultural interdependence of the world’s nations.

The committee’s first five years, Sassen says, really “put this organization on a global map.” Last year alone, the committee brought in 70 speakers from around the world. The next step, she says, is to move forward with projects that promote cross-disciplinary collaboration and take a new look at issues ranging from food policy and ecology to trade and war.

To that end, Sassen has organized her second Columbia conference about global cities on Oct. 1, “Cities and Eco-Crisis.” “My hope with these annual conferences is to make the subject of cities and their economic, social, technological and ecological challenges one of the core subjects of the CGT, along with governance and religion,” she says.

On Oct. 4 and 5, the committee will sponsor a forum titled “ Sovereign Wealth Funds and Other Long-Term Investors: A New Form of Capitalism?” Panelists will include speakers from the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Abu Dhabi Investment Council, as well as former Vice President Al Gore and George Soros.

“We do these conferences that either are mapping out a new global event or global actor,” Sassen says. “The sovereign wealth fund has existed for quite a while. But the global finance crisis has significantly increased their role in the world economy and we need to understand a great deal more about what that means.”