Graduate Student of Theatre Arts Becomes Columbia’s First Liberace Scholar

By Kristin Sterling

The mention of Liberace typically evokes images of sequins, stage sets, and candela-burners. But to Bathsheba Doran, who arrived at Columbia University last fall from England to begin her graduate work in playwriting as a Fulbright Scholar, it does not. This year, Doran returns to Columbia with the help of a Liberace Scholarship, a unique program that provides financial support to accredited institutions and organizations for training in the performing and creative arts.

Although this is the first year that Columbia has had a Liberace Scholar, the opportunity for study for the Performing and Creative Arts has provided over $4 million in over 500 colleges and universities — what 100 prestigious institutions and 1,400 of their students for the advancement of music, theatre, dance and visual arts.

“I once read that Liberace coined the phrase ‘I laugh all the way to the bank.’ It is definitely the case that the Foundation he established is a major player in helping arts students and we are thankful to them,” said Bruce Ferguson, dean of the School of the Arts.

The merit-based review process was limited to promising and deserving students, who were engaged in playwriting, studying acting, directing or playwriting as a Fulbright Scholar. Doran has an extraordinary talent — and drive — and the potential to be a major force in the field of arts.

Lani Guinier Challenges the Rules of the Power Game at Barnard College’s Gildersleeve Lecture

By Matthew Schierman

Lani Guinier brought her unique vision of social justice to an audience at Barnard College on November 13th, exhorting her listeners to change the way they play the game of power, to take the lead in coming up with solutions to some of the nation’s toughest problems.

“When we become the winners, somehow we believe we will exercise zero-sum power differently — that we can all play uphill — but a college colleague- calling back- the male chaser — you are a woman of whom you are once- well.

Students, faculty and other members of the Barnard community filled the seats and lined the walls of the Julius S. Hledo Lecture Hall, urging to hear the outspoken civil rights theorist who first gained prominence when, in 1993, President Clinton nominated her as his assistant attorney general — only to withdraw her name before a Senate vote. The following 13 years later she became the first tenured African American woman faculty at Harvard Law School.

Guinier expressed concern for the creation of two junior facul- ty positions, and supported increased funding for minority programs to con- tinue the push of increasing diversity and access to higher education. She also suggested the nation to consider the ‘cultural’ dimensions of civil rights and civil liberties.

Philanthropist and Civic Activist Luella LaMer Slane, 82, Dies

By Kevin Larkin

Luella LaMer Slane, a philanthropist and civic activist who supported a range of research projects, educational endeavors, including the advancement of research on fusion energy at Columbia, died Nov. 3 at her home in Scarsdale, N.Y. She was 82.

Slane’s philanthropy high- lighted her commitment to edu- cation and civil service; her gen- erously supported research on Alzheimer’s disease and alternate energy sources, international and women’s studies, treatment and support for Alzheimer’s patients, scholarships for young women and center for battered women and their children.

As a member of the New York State Board of the League of Women Voters, she played an important role in changing the state voter registration laws dur- ing the 1950’s. She was born in 1919 in Englewood, N.J., the daughter of Ethel Grevy and Nettie S. Bateman; her father was Victor K. LaMer, Professor of Colloid Chemistry at Columbia from 1921 to 1952.

She was a benefactor of the Physics, Mathematics Library and the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. Through the Department of Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics, she provided funds for the creation of two junior facul- ty positions, and supported increased funding for minority programs to con- tinue the push of increasing diversity and access to higher education.

The committee’s alumni mem- bers are: Brian Krusberg, CC’62, Oscar Garfein, CC’61, Barbara Winslow and Deborah Slaner.

This year’s faculty members are: Martha Howell (Arts & Sciences), Michael Schwartz (Engineering), Harvey Goldschmid (Law) and Dahlia Remler (Public Health).

Committee on Socially Responsible Investing Announces New Members

Columbia has announced the new members of the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing for the 2001-2002 acade- mic year. The Committee’s purpose is to review the University’s policies on ethical and social issues relating to the management of the University’s endowment. The members of the committee are appointed by President George B. Miller. Following nominations by deans, the student campus of the University Senate and school admin- istration, the Committee on Socially Responsible Investing has announced the following new members for the 2001-2002 academic year:

Martha Howell (Arts & Sciences), Michael Schwartz (Engineering), Harvey Goldschmid (Law) and Dahlia Remler (Public Health).