

News in Brief

George Soros to Be Keynote Speaker at SIPA Graduation



George Soros

Philanthropist George Soros will be the keynote speaker for the School of International and Public Affairs' graduation ceremony on May 17. Soros is chairman of the Open Society Institute and the founder of a network of philanthropic organizations active in more than 50 countries. As a successful investor, Soros began his philanthropic activities in 1979, when he provided funding to help black students attend the University of Cape Town in apartheid South Africa. Today, his foundations implement a range of programs focusing on civil society, education, media, public health, as well as social, legal and economic reforms throughout the world.

As an author and philosopher, Soros has published eight books, including *The Bubble of American Supremacy: Correcting the Misuse of American Power*, *George Soros on Globalization* and *Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism*.

Soros was born in 1930 in Budapest, Hungary. He survived the Nazi occupation of Budapest and left Communist Hungary in 1947 for England, where he graduated from the London School of Economics. Soros came to the United States in 1956 and founded an international investment fund. He is now chairman of Soros Fund Management, LLC.

SIPA's graduation will be held at 2 p.m. on May 17, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Nickolas Themelis Honored By Mining Institute

Nickolas J. Themelis, director of the Columbia University Earth Engineering Center and Stanley-Thompson Professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering (Henry Krumb School of Mines), recently received the Environmental Conservation Distinguished Service Award from the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers. He was honored at the organization's March 16 annual meeting in Charlotte, N.C., for his outstanding contributions to the research and development of environmental conservation technologies and in recognition of his distinguished career as an educator.

The award specifically recognizes Themelis' work in developing novel copper smelting and refining processes used worldwide to reduce sulfur emissions and energy consumption. Themelis, who came to Columbia in 1980, is a founder of the Earth Engineering Center, a unit of the Earth Institute created in 1996. The center's mission is to create technologies that can help in the sustainable development of the Earth's resources: minerals, energy,

water and the environment. Themelis previously served as chairman of the Henry Krumb School of Mines and was the first chairman of Columbia's Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering.

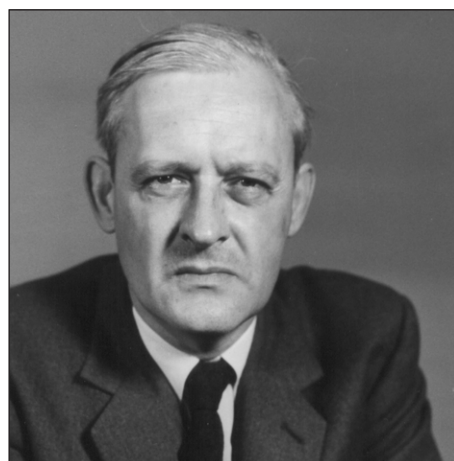
Theater Professor to Receive Honorary Degree in Bulgaria

The National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts "Krustyo Sarafov" of Sofia, Bulgaria, will confer an honorary degree May 11 on Kristin Linklater, a professor in the Theatre Arts Division of the School of the Arts.

The Academy, which was founded in 1947 as the first higher-education institution for theater and film arts in Bulgaria, stated in its letter to Linklater that she is being honored for her "exceptional merits for the development of modern theater pedagogics."

Linklater's areas of expertise are voice production training for actors, text work and Shakespeare. She came to Columbia in 1997, after teaching at Emerson College in Boston.

John Mundy Dies at 86



John Mundy

John Hine Mundy, Columbia University professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of History, died April 13. For more than four decades, he taught medieval and modern European history at Columbia.

Mundy, who was born in 1917 in London, attended Columbia College and received his doctorate in history from Columbia University. After serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II, he started his long career at Columbia, serving as history department chair in the 1960s.

He was an expert in the history of 12th- and 13th-century France. His books include *Europe in the High Middle Ages 1150-1309: A General History of Europe* and *The Medieval Town*.

Mundy was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Council of Learned Societies. He also belonged to the Medieval Academy of America, and served as its president from 1988 to 1989.

SOA Student Awarded Tiffany Foundation Grant

Dana Schutz, SOA'02, was recently honored with the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation 2003 Biennial Award. The distinguished awards go to emerging American artists and craftspeople whose work shows promise, but who have not yet received widespread critical or commercial recognition. Grants of \$20,000 were awarded to 30 artists in the 2003 biennial competition.

"As a painter who is advancing the

Kara Walker Wins Smithsonian Award

The Smithsonian American Art Museum recently announced that Columbia professor Kara Walker won its annual Lucelia Artist Award, which is given to a leading contemporary American artist younger than 50. The prestigious award, created in 2001 and funded by the New York-based Lucelia Foundation, has a \$25,000 honorarium. Walker, an associate professor of visual arts at Columbia's School of the Arts, expressed her gratitude for the award, adding that, "It'll be a great help for my studio practice."



Kara Walker

Walker is best known for her large-scale silhouettes through which she examines slavery, race and the old South. Her provocative work has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art. In 1997, she received a MacArthur Foundation fellowship.

"Walker has already influenced a generation of artists and produced an impressive body of challenging work in a relatively short career," noted the Lucelia jurors in bestowing the award.

Last year's winner of the award was Rirkrit Tiravanija, associate professor of professional practice in Columbia's School of the Arts' Visual Arts Division. His works span a range of media and embrace interactivity, inviting the public to eat, cook and sleep.



COURTESY BRENT SIKKEMA NYC

"Influence of the Recent Dead" (2001), mixed media and paper on board.

sheer force of ecstatic imagination, ideation and subjective color, Dana Schutz just might be our finest contemporary symbolist," noted an article in the April 2004 issue of *Artforum*. Since graduating from the Visual Arts Division, Schutz has exhibited worldwide, in addition to teaching a figure painting class at Columbia University.

CU Student to Play Carnegie

A Columbia University student, Ulrich Kreppein, will perform May 10 at

Carnegie Hall as part of the program "Sound Understanding," an annual concert and fundraiser for the German Academic Exchange Service. Kreppein is one of 13 jazz and classical musicians who had participated in a competition of the best graduates of German music colleges to win yearlong fellowships to study in the United States. He is currently studying composition with Tristan Murail, Columbia professor of music. Kreppein's works include pieces for the cello as well as for string quartets, brass quintets, chamber ensembles, large orchestras and operas.

Quotable Columbian



Joseph A. Califano Jr. recently discussed his new memoir, *Inside: A Public and Private Life*, with Tim Russert on CNBC. Califano worked at the Pentagon with Robert McNamara and later became secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the Carter administration. Currently, he heads the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia.

Asked why he chose to take on that job, Califano responded, "What I saw was that addiction is the number one health problem, the number one crime problem, the number one child abuse problem, probably the number one divorce and family breakup problem in this country. Alcohol, drugs, pills, cigarettes—all of it. The issue is addiction, not the substance."

"And there was no place that looked at the subject as addiction, whatever the substance, that said you need more than doctors and cops to deal with this. You need economists, you need epidemiologists, you need anthropologists, you need psychologists, you need social workers. We've got to take all our skills, look at all substance abuse everywhere in society."