Queen Elizabeth II Honors Marconi's John Jay Iselin

The United Kingdom’s Queen Elizabeth II has awarded John Jay Iselin, president of Columbia’s Marconi Fellowship Foundation, an honorary CBE. The CBE stands for Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, an order founded in 1917 that honors foreign and British citizens for public service. Iselin’s investiture, which took place at a Washington, D.C. ceremony, occurred June 9.

The honor is in recognition of his outstanding contribution to British television interests in the United States and his service to Cambridge University, Iselin was formerly president of WNED, the New York PBS station, and was the driving force behind a distinctive schedule of program-granting, which elevated WNED to one of the two leading public television stations in America. In so doing, he nurtured key relationships with the BBC and various British companies that opened the door for the incredible penetration of British television into the American market.

He helped WNED to program Upstairs/Downstairs, Monty Python’s Flying Circus and I Claudius. He also launched the program Nature and oversaw WNED’s unprecedented six-year series, The Shakespeare Plays.

Nina Shapley Receives Grant

A associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Nina Shapley has received a research award for showing leadership and scientific discovery in the field of biotechnology. The award is from the James D. Watson Investigator program, which was created to maximize the potential of life sciences research being conducted at New York’s public, not-for-profit and private academic research institutions. The program complements New York’s comprehensive efforts to make the state a global leader in biotechnology. The program complements New York’s public, not-for-profit and private academic research institutions.

Shapley will research the behavior of concentrated suspensions and emulsions that capture key elements of the real circulatory system, which could be used to improve diagnostic nuclear magnetic resonance imaging and hydrodynamic targeting of drug delivery.

Bill Berkeley Named 2004 Carnegie Scholar

Bill Berkeley, Columbia adjunct professor of international affairs, was recently named a 2004 Carnegie Scholar, joining a total of 52 others awarded the fellowship since 2000. The 15 scholars chosen this year will explore such issues as economic growth and human development; the rise of far-right extremist groups and the role masculinity plays in their resurgence; and how U.S.-Transatlantic relations can remain effective. Each scholar will receive up to $100,000 for a period of up to two years to pursue his or her research.

Recently, former investigative reporter and editorial writer for The New York Times and the author of The Graves Are Not Yet Full: Race, Truth and Power in the Heart of Africa, was selected by the Carnegie Corp. of New York for his ongoing research on the Iran hostage crisis, a focus of his current book project. He also was recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in support of this work, the examination of the hostage crisis as seen a generation later. In this book, he will focus on the surviving Iranian hostage-takers, some of whom have emerged in middle-age as leading figures in Iran’s reformist movement.

SOA Student Gets Grant From Mitchell Foundation

Nicola López, SOA’04, Visual Arts Division, received one of 10 Joan Mitchell Foundation 2004 MFA grants. The honor includes a $10,000 grant in recognition of artistic quality. The annual MFA grant program was created in 1997 to help MFA painters and sculptors further their artistic careers and to aid in their transition from academic to professional studio work upon graduation. To date, the Joan Mitchell Foundation has awarded 81 MFA grants.

Music Pulitzer Rules Change

The Pulitzer Prize Board announced on June 1 in its entry requirements for the music prize, beginning with the 2005 awards. The board stated that it now would consider a broader range of musical compositions, “from the contemporary classical symphony to jazz, opera, chamber music, and movie scores and other forms of musical excellence.”

The previous requirements called for compositions that had been publicly performed for the first time in the last year. Now, either a public performance or a recorded performance in the last year is permitted. Opening the door fully for improvisational works, composers will no longer be required to submit a score to enter their entry.

The board also will widen its pool of music prize judges, previously consisting of four composers and one music critic. On the new jury there will be slots for three composers or one critic and one for “presenters of musical programs, orchestra conductors, musical arts journalists, and other knowledgeable members of the music world.” The 2004 Pulitzer Prizes were announced on April 5 and were presented on May 24 at the University. Columbia awards the prizes on the Pulitzer Prize Board’s recommendation.

National Endowment for the Arts Creates Arts Criticism Institute at Columbia

The National Arts Journalism Program at Columbia University has been chosen by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to become one of three NEA Arts Journalism Institutes that will focus on improving arts criticism in classical music, opera, theater and dance. Columbia’s program will center on classical music and opera criticism. All three institutes will be designed for journalists who cover the arts for print and broadcast outlets located outside the country’s largest media markets, where professional development opportunities are limited.

“We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts for giving the Columbia Journalism School the opportunity to deepen its service to the profession,” said Nicholas Lemann, dean of the Journalism School. “The program the NEA’s grant makes possible will provide journalists from all over the country with a wonderful means of learning about classical music and opera, and over time it should have a demonstrable positive effect on American journalism in that area.”

Columbia’s institute, which will continue in 2005, is part of the NEA’s $1 million overall national initiative. Other institutes for theater criticism and dance criticism will be hosted by the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and Duke University, respectively. All of the participants’ expenses will be covered.

Up to 25 journalists—critics and reporters specializing in classical music and opera, as well as editors who supervise them—will be selected to attend the Columbia institute this fall. The curriculum includes classroom and hands-on sessions conducted by experts on classical music reviewing and the basics of musical performance.

For more information or to apply, visit www.najp.org.

Quotable Columbian

F red is back, and not just in theory,” declares Mark Solms, chair of neurophysiology at the University of Cape Town, in a feature article in the May issue of Scientific American. Reporting that neuroscientists are confirming Freud’s theories with biological studies of the brain, Solms quotes University Professor and Nobel laureate Eric Kandel several times in his article. So The Record asked Kandel for his thoughts on Freud’s comeback, and his answer was: Not just yet.

“If psychoanalysis is satisfied with its current position, that’s fine,” said Kandel. “But Freud would be read like Shakespeare and Homer, as great works of literary insight. But if they are to become accepted in the areas they need to get an empirical basis. Certainly the discovery of implicit memory—how the unconscious influences the conscious—has biological basis of the unconscious. Freud had some interesting notions—some of which are now in a position to be tested by neuroscience—but that baby has not grown scientifically since 1910.”