On John Bolton's nomination as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations:

“If he’s being sent to New York to throw rocks, it won’t do a lot of good. On the other hand, if he’s being sent to provide leadership for reform, that’s a different story. He’s the kind of person who could bring on board many skeptics in the Congress.”

**Columbia Graduate School of Journalism students awarded Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholarships**

Columbia Graduate School of Journalism students Maria Ahmed, Kristen Gilgespie and John Keay were recently awarded Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholarships at the foundation’s annual scholarship luncheon. David Schlesinger, global managing editor of Reuters, was the guest speaker. The OPC Foundation Scholarships recognize and support journalism students who aspire to become foreign correspondents.

Ahmed, Gilgespie and Keay were among 12 journalism students chosen by a panel of leading journalists. More than 175 students from 60 different colleges and universities applied.

Ahmed won the Stan Barnett Scholarship, named for the Associated Press reporter who broke the story of Benazir Bhutto’s death. Ahmed’s winning essay described Lebanese Christian teenagers making a pilgrimage in Hinnis. Gilgespie received her scholarship from Pamela Howard of the Scripps Howard Foundation. Her scholarship was named for Irene Combs Kuhn of the New York World Telegram. Gilgespie’s essay detailed the culture of violence that pervades the Lebanese city of Baabda. Keay’s essay about a Palestinian shopkeeper whose business was leveled by Israeli bulldozers earned him the Alexander Kenton Scholarship, named for the former CBS bureau chief in London and Vienna.

For more information on the program, see www.opcofamerica.org.

**Pancreatic cancer is the fourth-largest cancer killer among men and women, with more than 30,000 Americans dying each year from the disease. It is highly resistant to current chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and is often detected too late for surgery to be of use.**

The Lustgarten Foundation is the largest private supporter of pancreatic cancer research. Combined with grants previously awarded by the foundation since its inception in August of 1998, these grants total funding committed by the Lustgarten Foundation to more than $11 million.

**Paul B. Fisher**

Paul B. Fisher, professor of clinical pathology at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, has been awarded a grant from the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research for exploring defects in molecular cytology to selectively kill pancreatic cancer cells. The Lustgarten Foundation Scientific Advisory Board, comprised of leading experts in pancreatic and other cancers, awarded grants to seven researchers, each of whom will be using the grant funding to exploit defects in the cancer cell and other potentially fatal diseases.

Fisher’s research team is developing an effective viral-based therapy for pancreatic cancer,” said Fisher. “This innovative approach could lead to the development of a viable therapy for pancreatic cancer.

**Students Receive Biomedical Research Award**

Two Columbia graduate students have been chosen to receive the 2005 Harold M. Werntzab Graduate Student Award, sponsored by the Basic Sciences Division of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The awards are earned by M.D. candidates in the Medical Scientist Training Program in the Department of Microbiology.

David Sayah, left, and Robert Johnson Jr. have been selected to receive the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center’s annual scholarship. The recipients also will receive a certificate and an honorarium from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The center is a nonprofit research institution dedicated to the development and advancement of biomedical research to eliminate cancer and other potentially fatal diseases.

The recipients also will receive travel expenses to attend and participate in a scientific symposium on May 6 at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle. The symposium will include presentations by the awardees.

**A scene from God Is Good.**

Attendees of the sixth annual Newport Beach Film Festival, which runs April 21-30, will have the opportunity to see a special Columbia University showcase, featuring five films from the School of the Arts. The selected Columbia films are Family Portrait, directed by Patricia Riggen; the winner of the 2005 Sundance Jury Prize in Short Filmmaking; God Is Good, directed by Caryn Waechter; Extreme Mom, directed by Joyce Drososky; Loopy, directed by Seth Michael Donov; and Neighbors, directed by Ellis Kranew. All five films screened in the 2004 Columbia University Film Festival. The 2005 Newport Beach Film Festival accepted short and feature-length films from around the world. The festival also offers a rare chance to meet the filmmakers during post-screening question and answer sessions. The Columbia films will screen at the Edwards Island Cinema in Newport Beach, California. For more information about the festival and the dates and times of the screenings, visit: www.newportbeachfilmfest.com.

**Two Political Scientists Professors Win Research Award**

Professors of Political Science Shayan O’Halloran and David Epstein have been selected to receive the 2005 Decade of Behavior Research Award in recognition of their scholarly endeavors on issues of democracy. The award recognizes research that has most profoundly impacted the public’s understanding of behavioral and social science principles, as well as the use of social and behavioral science knowledge in policy settings.

O’Halloran and Epstein were selected by the American Political Science Association (APSA) for their joint research on the impact of racial redistricting on the democratic process. Their research has offered groundbreaking empirical and theoretical insights, and has been cited in recent Supreme Court decisions concerning the Voting Rights Act.

The two will present their work at a special Capitol Hill workshop to be scheduled later this spring. The Decades of Behavior (2000–2010) is a multidisciplinary initiative to focus the talent, energy and creativity of the behavioral and social sciences on meeting many of society’s most significant challenges. APSA is one of more than 70 supporting organizations.

**The Department of Public Safety held a formal ceremony of promotion and recognition on March 2 to honor several outstanding performances by members of the Department. From left: Wilmer Martinez, who recently returned from National Guard duty in Iraq, was honored for service to the University and to the United States. Jaime Rodriguez and Patricia Dixon were both recognized for one year of perfect attendance. Daniel Ayala, who has been at Columbia since 2002, was promoted to senior sergeant. Federico Morales, a veteran of the department who has served since 1985, was promoted to lieu- tenant. Michael Layne (not pictured) was honored for four years of perfect attendance.**

**Photo Note:**

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