ArtBots: The Robot Talent Show Comes to Harlem

It was an ArtBots extravaganza in Harlem. The third annual ArtBots Robot Talent Show, which took place on Sept. 17-19, at the Mink Building on 126th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, featured the work of 20 artists and groups from seven countries. The free event celebrated the strange and wonderful collision of style and science, of the contraptions made from cardboard, string and second-hand motors.

CUMC Gets $1.8 Million for Periodontal Research

Scientists at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) are exploring why people experience periodontal disease differently and why some individuals respond to treatment more successfully than others. Some patients, despite treatment, see deterioration of gum condition and tooth loss. In the first three years, a $1.8 million grant from the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research will support the new research, whose goal is to determine whether different forms of periodontitis can be classified based on gene expression in infected gums.

News in Brief

NSF Awards $2.3 Million for Math Teaching Resources

The National Science Foundation (NSF), recently awarded $2.3 million to a consortium led by the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning (CONMIL) to develop a program giving prospective early childhood mathematics teachers new tools to help them understand how children think mathematically. The program, called Video Interactions for Teaching and Learning: A Learning Environment for Courses in Early Mathematics Education, is one of several projects sponsored by Teachers College and William Patterson University. Frank Mitrovic, principal investigator and executive director of CONMIL, and Herbert Ginsburg, the Jacob H. Schiff Professor of Psychology and Education at Teachers College, will lead teams that will develop a curriculum, a digital library of primary source materials that includes videos, case studies and scholarly commentary, and an online community workspace.

Studies show that children employ mathematical ideas and methods developed beginning formal education. By analyzing videos of clinical interviews and classroom interactions, pre-service teachers gain a better understanding of how children think mathematically, and their students show an average gain of two years in their mathematical learning.

Architecture and Student Wins

Lucy Creagh, an Australian architect and doctoral candidate at Columbia, has been named a winner of a prestigious international scholarship offered to advance her research in Swedish cultural studies. The $6,000 prize was awarded to Creagh at Columbia’s Deutches Haus on Sept. 17, at a traditional Swedish crayfish party sponsored by the New York chapter of the Swedish Women’s Educational Association (SWEA). Previous recipients include Christina Møller, president of SWEA International, a nonprofit.global-organization for Swedish women and Swedish-speaking women that sponsors the annual competition. Creagh’s dissertation is titled “Sizing the Means of Consumption: Consumer Cooperation, The Home, and The Permeation of Modern Design Ideas in Sweden 1824 to the 1950s.” Her work explores the role of the cooperative movement in Sweden and its influence on Swedish architecture, design and consumption during the first decades of Swedish social democracy. The scholarship jury was convinced that her work will contribute significantly to the observation of Swedish cultural history to the English-speaking world.