

## News in Brief

### New Fellowship for Theater Producers

The Theater Arts Division of the School of the Arts and the University Arts Initiative has announced a one-of-a-kind fellowship program for theatrical producers. Created in honor of



T. Edward Hambleton

the program is intended to support gifted, emerging talents in the field of theater production. Each year, one or two outstanding individuals will be selected to participate in a two-phase program. First, fellows will be exposed to a wide range of theatrical producing practices, with opportunities for discussion. In the second phase, they will present the work they developed under the program's auspices. The application process takes place in the fall, and results will be announced in spring of next year.

### Guangdong Officials Visit SIPA for Management Training

This summer, a group of 35 senior local government officials from The People's Government of Guangdong, China's largest province, came to SIPA for a specially designed month-long executive management training program focusing on best practices for government management in the United States and around the world. "Guangdong is a pioneering province that started the reform era," said Xiaobo Lu, director of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute. "I see hope in China's future that officials like these are so open-minded and willing to learn."

The visiting officials took classes in topics ranging from financial and human resource management to management of police, emergency services and parks. Their instructors included Columbia faculty members Richard Betts, Steven Cohen, William Eimicke, Arvid Lukauskas and Xiaobo Lu, as well as outside public administration experts. Eimicke, director of SIPA's Picker Center and a program organizer, commented that the program had provided an "excellent balance of theory and practice, classroom and on-site, lessons learned and cutting-edge ideas on how government could be improved," adding that he expects it to be "the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial partnership."



### Arts Journalists to Receive Training in Improving Writing on Opera and Classical Music

On October 16-17, for the second consecutive year, the NEA Arts Journalism Institute in Classical Music and Opera will take place at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. The institute is part of a series of programs to be held all over the country aimed at improving critical writing on classical music, opera, theater and dance. "Outside our major cities, journalists who cover the arts often are overextended with multiple beats and assignments that allow few opportunities to concentrate on various artistic disciplines," said NEA Chair Dana Gioia. "Columbia has created an exemplary program of professional development for arts journalists."

Andras Szanto will direct the institute at the University in collaboration with artistic advisor Joseph Horowitz and institute producer Anya Grundmann. In addition to professional instruction, participants will attend classical music performances, such as Verdi's *Falstaff* at the Metropolitan Opera, and meet with senior administrative staff at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic and similar institutions. Finally, there will be a hands-on learning component, with participants being encouraged to try their hand at artistic creation. Some, for instance, will take lessons on musical instruments.

For more information, go to [www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/nea/](http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/nea/)

### Grecian Gatherings

In June of this year, Greece was the setting for several events featuring prominent Columbians. On the 15th of the month, Mark Mazower, history professor and program director of the Center for International History, delivered a public lecture in Thessaloniki at the invitation of the Kokkalis Institute and Thessaloniki's American College. His speech coincided with the release of his latest book, *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950*. "Greece is now no longer on the margins of 'Old Europe,' but a very important element in Europe's intensifying relationship with the Middle East, the Balkans, and Central Asia," Mazower observed.

Then on June 22, three Columbia-related events took place in Athens. Robert Mundell, Nobel prize-winning professor of economics, delivered an address to the Harvard Club of Greece. Alan Brinkley, provost and professor of U.S. history, spoke to members of the Greek Alumni Club of Columbia University about "America in the World under Bush." And Maria Vassalou, associate professor of finance in the Graduate School of Business, presented a keynote speech on "Hedge Funds and Their Prospects" at a Bank of Greece conference.

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### Business School Launches New Online Resource

Columbia Business School has a new online knowledge portal: Columbia Ideas at Work: <http://www.gsb.columbia.edu/ideas>. The site is designed for business practitioners who don't have time to keep up with pioneering research but who are nevertheless interested in learning about practical applications that will help them improve their management techniques and other business practices. The site is home to a quarterly online magazine as well as a searchable archive for research papers written by business school faculty (large-study findings are presented as research briefs). There are 14 main topics including accounting, real estate and international business. The first issue of the e-magazine, to appear in September, addresses risk management. The theme for December is emerging markets.

### J-School to Administer Environmental Awards Program

The Graduate School of Journalism is to assume the administration of the prestigious John B. Oakes Award for Environmental Journalism. The \$5,000 prize is awarded annually to the author of an article or single-topic series judged to have made an exceptional contribution to public understanding of environmental issues. The award honors the career of John B. Oakes, the long-serving *New York Times* editor who transformed the paper's editorial pages into a forum for debating previously neglected subjects such as the environment, and introduced op-eds to the mix. "John Oakes has the reputation of being one of the finest journalists of his generation," said Nicholas

Lemann, dean of Columbia's journalism school. "This prize is highly regarded in the environmental reporting community."

The awards program, which began 11 years ago, has recognized works ranging from a *Raleigh News & Observer* investigation of political favoritism in North Carolina's hog industry (which later won a Pulitzer prize) to a *Seattle Times* piece revealing that industrial wastes contaminated with heavy metals are being used on farms as fertilizer. Joan Konner, dean emerita of Columbia's journalism school, oversaw last year's selection process.

For more information, go to [www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/oakes/](http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/oakes/)



## Legislative Report

### Summer Internships for Columbia Students

By Ellen S. Smith

Each summer the office of Government and Community Affairs arranges internships for Columbia and Barnard undergraduates in DC Congressional offices or in local District offices. Students who work in DC have a first-hand opportunity to learn about the legislative process, while those who work for the state or city offices of Congressional representatives have more contact with constituents. Students sent to DC also have the chance to meet with alumni in senior positions and learn about their work. Alumni-hosted events are open to over 100 students from all university schools (graduate and undergraduate) who are in DC for summer jobs or internships.

This past summer, undergraduate students worked in ten Senatorial offices: Senators Bingaman (D-NM), Clinton (D-NY), Collins (R-ME), Corzine (D-NJ), Durbin (D-IL), Kerry (D-MA), Martinez (R-FL), McCain (R-AZ), Reed (D-RI), and Specter (R-PA). Others interned for Representatives Ackerman (D-NY), Allen (D-ME), Bradley (R-NH), Frank (D-MA) Kaptur (D-OH), Kennedy (D-RI), Lowey (D-NY), Nadler (D-NY), Reppersberger (D-MD), Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and Serrano (D-NY).

A number of the DC-based students went on special tours of the White House organized or led by Columbia alumni, including Mailman School of Public Health graduate Sonya Medina and Columbia College graduate Jamie Schneider. In addition, these students were exposed to the ideas of some of Washington's leading policy-makers through meetings with Columbia alumni who are working as staffers on key Congressional committees and some who are actually serving in Congress: Representative Charles B. Rangel, the recipient of an honorary Columbia doctorate; Representative Jerrold Nadler, a Columbia College graduate; and Senator Frank Lautenberg, a business school alumnus.

Other activities open to DC interns included attending *This Week*, hosted by Columbia College graduate George Stephanopoulos; touring the Smithsonian with curator Bryna Freyer, a graduate of GSAS; and learning about the workings of the health care system from Barnard graduate Saralyn Marks, a senior medical advisor at the Department of Health and Human Services; and from Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Zucker, a clinical associate professor at the Medical College with an L.L.M. from Columbia.