Gregory Amenoff, professor of art in Columbia's Visual Arts Division, is a renowned painter and professor who has also directed his energy toward the administrative end of the fine arts field, serving as the 31st President of National Academy of Design. Amenoff's work has been recognized with many awards and honors, and his teaching and research have brought him widespread acclaim.

His design of a range of thick holograms that led to the development of holographic systems, pioneered by the scientific and technological advancements of the 1960s on how visual photoreceptors in the human retina can transmit light images in the brain. At the time, he had no special interest in telecommunication but noticed the similarity in transmission properties of both photos receptors and optical fiber. Recently featured as one of Australia's ten most creative minds in The Bulletin/NewswEEK, Snyder has been honored by the scientific and research community and beyond, receiving the 1997 International, Australia Prize from the Prime Minister of Australia. Snyder is head of the Optical Sciences Centre at Australia National University and director of the Centre for the Mind, a joint project between Australian National University and the University of Sydney, where he and his colleagues study creativity and mindset.

Unknown David Smith. The museum is currently presenting the first comprehensive analysis of Louis Elishemius' work in over 20 years and an exhibit of the graphic work of New York artist, Red Grooms. Amenoff is also planning to revamp the Academy's website to include important works from the permanent collection and works from each of the member artists.

This position is challenging Amenoff, who is also balancing his role as a new father with his professional artistic career and teaching responsibilities at the School of the Arts. He feels that his work at Columbia blends nicely with the role at the Academy, as he has access to young talent.

"Columbia has one of the top graduate art programs in the United States," says Amenoff, "I hope to engage our past and present students (and art students from other schools) in the life of the Academy." A native Midwesterner, Amenoff moved to New York in the late 1970s to pursue his career. Known for working at the tradition of organic abstraction, his works are rooted in landscapes, places from his memory and imagination, often inspired by the natural world. His work is represented by the Salander O'Reilly Gallery in New York.

Amenoff has shown widely in the U.S. and Europe and participated in the 1981 and 1983 Whitney Biennial, the 1984 Museum of Modern Art's (MOMA) International Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture and the 40th Anniversary of Corcoran Biennial of Contemporary American Painting. Amenoff's work is represent in the collections of the MOMA; The Art Institute of Chicago; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the National Museum of American Art, Washington, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others.

Amenoff has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Tiffany Foundation, and was named Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts by Massachusetts College of Art.

The National Academy of Design serves as a link to the art of the past and a bridge to the art of the future. Elected by their peers, academicians contribute examples of their work upon acceptance of the honor, forming one of the best-documented, distinguished collections of American art, ranging from Old Master drawings to the creations by contemporary artists. Contributions by the Academy's artist members include the works of William Merritt Chase, Robert Henri, Winslow Homer, Jasper Johns and Andrew Wyeth.

The Academy's Annual Exhibition includes an array of works on display in the country, showcases new work by contemporary artists. This spring, the Annual Exhibition will take on a new form—it will be an invitational exhibition comprised exclusively of non-academicians and will include a color catalog and thousands of dollars in awards and prizes.

Engineering School Hosts Fiber Optic Pioneers for Marconi Award

Herwig Kogelnik, left, and Allan Snyder, pioneers in the development of fiber optic technology, with Marconi sculpture award.

(Continued from Page 2)

In his 40-year career at Bell Laboratories, Kogelnik, who was born in Austria, has made fundamental contributions to developments in laser technology, optical electronics, photonics and lightwave communications systems. In a series of papers in the early 1960s, he developed the theory of stable optical resonators, which has been fundamental to laser developments ever since. He then turned to the applications of holograms to optical systems, developing with some of his colleagues the basic theory of thick holograms that led to the development of a range of optical components, including filters and couplers to integrative optical devices. His innovation was the beginning of the "distributed feedback laser," which has turned out to be of absolutely critical importance to the development of optical telecommunications.

Kogelnik's key contributions laid the foundations for three developments ever since. He has been fundamental to the development of optical devices essential to the operation of laser telecommunications. His design of a range of thick holograms that led to the development of holographic systems, pioneered by the scientific and technological advancements of the 1960s on how visual photoreceptors in the human retina can transmit light images in the brain. At the time, he had no special interest in telecommunication but noticed the similarity in transmission properties of both photos receptors and optical fiber. Recently featured as one of Australia's ten most creative minds in The Bulletin/NewswEEK, Snyder has been honored by the scientific and research community and beyond, receiving the 1997 International, Australia Prize from the Prime Minister of Australia. Snyder is head of the Optical Sciences Centre at Australia National University and director of the Centre for the Mind, a joint project between Australian National University and the University of Sydney, where he and his colleagues study creativity and mindset breaking, inspired by their research on the astounding abilities of autistic savants.

The Marconi Fellows are selected by a panel of judges chaired by Sir Eric Ash of the Royal Society and including Professor Giovanni Falciasecca, president of the Marconi Foundation/Bologna; Robert Kahn, president, Corporation of National Research Initiatives; Charles Kao, chairman, IX Services Ltd., and officer of the fellow's Yash Pal of Noida, India, and Andrew Viterbi, president, MIT.

Chi-chen Wang, professor emeritus, died in late September in New York at the age of 102. Wang, who taught advanced Chinese and the history of Chinese literature, began teaching at Colum bia in 1952. He was born in China and studied in France, where he obtained a Ph.D. in History. He then worked in India, Pakistan and Vietnam before joining the Columbia faculty in 1960. Wang also attended Columbia's business and journalism school. He holds an M.A. from Columbia University Press; "An O and Others, Selected Short Stories" (1937) and "Cla rional Chinese Tales" (1944) and "Contemporary Chinese Stories" (1947).

Wang was born in the Shan dong province on China's eastern coast. He is survived by a son, Wang Qi-zin. —James Devitt