New Fellowship for Theater Producers

The Theater Arts Division of the School of the Arts and the University Arts Initiative 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.

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 Thessalonik’s Municipality. The lecture was coincided with the release of his latest book, Salonica, City of Ghostly 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 Mintz, Nobel laureate and 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’s “Old West.” 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.

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 searchable archives 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 contaminating farms are being used as fertilizer. John Conner, dean emerita of Columbia’s journalism school, oversaw last year’s selection process.

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