Kenan Institute for the Arts Announces Fellowship Winners

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (June 7, 2011) – The Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts announces that two University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNSCA) students have been awarded fellowships to spend a month at WGBH Boston, the flagship of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) during the summer of 2011. This is the first year that a Kenan Fellowship has been offered with WGBH.

The 2011 WGBH/Kenan Fellows are Sean Francis, who graduated from UNCSA in May 2011 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Filmmaking with a focus in Producing, and Jessamyn Stanley, who is a graduate student in the UNCSA Performing Arts Management MFA program.

“We are delighted to be offering this Fellowship with WGBH,” said Margaret S. Mertz, Executive Director of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts. “It is a unique opportunity for UNCSA students to gain first hand experience working with a public media powerhouse.”

WGBH/Kenan Fellows Francis and Stanley will assist in the development and production of a variety of telecommunications programs from June 20 through July 14 at the WGBH offices in Boston, Massachusetts. They will have the opportunity to observe the inner-workings of this premier PBS station in Boston; focus on projects related to K-16 education, working primarily with producers in the Education and Interactive units in Boston; spend a week shadowing media professionals at Seftel Productions in New York City; visit television production units such as Frontline, Nova and American Experience and visit WGBH’s Archive and Media Resource Center.

Sean Francis is an alumnus of the UNCSA School of Filmmaking. Prior to studying film, he worked in visual arts for five years, and during the summer of 2010 he shadowed Jordan Kerner, the producer of Charlotte’s Web (2006) and Inspector Gadget (1999), on the set of his latest film The Smurfs (2011). Afterwards, he served as an intern at David Gordon Green’s Rough House Pictures, where he worked alongside Jody Hill and Danny McBride.
Jessamyn Stanley is a first year graduate student at UNCSA. As she worked toward her Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Stanley served as news director in UNCG’s independent radio station, WUAG 103.1 FM. During her tenure at WUAG, Jessamyn created, hosted and produced the station’s first news show GROW (Greensboro Radio Outlooks on the World.) She also created and hosted The Midnight Sun, a show that exclusively highlighted the musical talents of female musicians.

WGBH Boston (www.wgbh.org) is America’s preeminent public broadcaster, producing such celebrated national PBS series as Masterpiece, Antiques Roadshow, Frontline, Nova, American Experience, Arthur, Curious George and more than a dozen other award-winning series. WGBH also produces local TV productions that focus on the region’s diverse community, while WGBH 89.7 FM is Boston’s NPR Arts & Culture station. WGBH is the leading producer of online content for pbs.org—one of the most-visited dot-org sites. WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors, including Oscars, Emmys, Peabodys and duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards.

The Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts (www.kenanarts.org) is a privately funded program of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts that incubates projects that sustain artists at every point in their creative development through strategic partnerships that capitalize on visionary thinking in the arts.

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (www.uncsa.edu) is the University of North Carolina’s conservatory for the arts, dedicated entirely to the professional training of students possessing exceptional talents in the performing, visual and moving image arts. UNCSA offers students focused, intense, professional training at the high school, baccalaureate, and masters levels in its schools of Dance, Design and Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music.

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