



**Society of American Travel Writers Foundation  
Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Competition  
Awards for Work Published in 2008-2009**

Faculty members of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication, coordinated by Monica Hill, judged the competition. There were 1,191 entries. For questions, contact: Mary Lu Abbott, SATW Foundation administrator, 713-973-9985, or [awards@satwf.com](mailto:awards@satwf.com). The results and comments also may be viewed online at the Foundation Web site, [www.satwfoundation.org](http://www.satwfoundation.org).

**Category 6: Best Newspaper Article on Foreign Travel**

**Gold: Bill Fink**, “Magic Realism, Realized,” San Francisco Chronicle

This is an excellent journey into a tourist’s taste of real life in Colombia. With humor and sometimes parody, Bill Fink magically transforms the cocaine cartel image of Colombia into an Epcot-safe getaway. The fact that he pulls this off while weaving history and economics is a credit to his mature writing talent. It’s a golden piece that encourages the reader to give this south-of-the-border spot a new look. Suddenly Colombia doesn’t seem so foreign — and Fink has earned the gold.