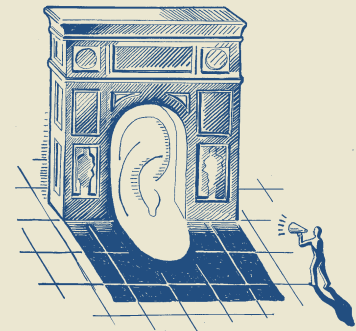


“Our interest in living does not commonly depend upon our having projects that we desire to pursue; it’s the other way around. We are interested in having worthwhile projects because we do intend to go on living, and we would prefer not to be bored.”

—HARRY FRANKFURT, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND AUTHOR OF *ON BULLSHIT*, DELIVERING THE SEVENTH-ANNUAL LEWIS BURKE FRUMKES LECTURE IN HEMMERDINGER HALL

HEARD ON CAMPUS



“I was in Kabul [for] the inauguration of President Karzai. There were no traffic lights, no electricity, no army. We started from scratch. Sometimes when people blame the Afghan government for not doing enough, they should remind themselves that we started from a very chaotic situation.”

—ZAHIR TANIN, AMBASSADOR OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, IN THE FORUM “GLOBAL LEADERS: CONVERSATIONS WITH ALON BEN-MEIR,” HOSTED BY THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS IN THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

“This country makes it seem like it’s just about being a celebrity, but being an actor is about being a storyteller, and society needs storytellers.”

—TWO-TIME ACADEMY-AWARD-WINNER AND NYU PARENT SALLY FIELD DURING A LECTURE “LIFE, LEARNING, AND AN EVOLVING CAREER,” SPONSORED BY THE GALLATIN SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY

“I’ve interviewed young men who are just torsos and heads. The vests are so damn good [that] they all would’ve been KIAs in Vietnam, but they’re coming back—with no limbs.”

—NBC NIGHTLY NEWS ANCHOR BRIAN WILLIAMS ON REPORTING FROM IRAQ AT THE JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT’S BROWN BAG SPEAKER SERIES

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Green is in the air. One cannot pass a newsstand, radio, or TV without catching the latest report on global climate change. Even rock stars helped spread awareness last summer with a day of Live Earth concerts across the world. On the political stage, 169 nations have ratified the Kyoto Protocol and, despite a lack of participation by the United States, a few courageous leaders in this country have already set agendas to confront the challenges of global warming.

Among them is New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (HON '03), who acknowledges that the issue requires not only talk but action. This year, he announced PlaNYC 2030, which maps a course for how the city will absorb one million new residents over the next two decades, modernize its aging infrastructure, reduce global warming emissions, improve polluted air and brownfields, and prepare for rising sea levels.

As one of the largest property

owners in New York City, NYU shares this burden and last spring accepted the mayor's challenge to reduce the university's greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent—a feat we intend to accomplish by 2017. While there's much work to do, NYU is already the largest purchaser of wind energy in the city and among universities nationally, and our recently created Green Action Plan has students, alumni, employees, friends, and neighbors joining forces to improve our sustainability. We also hope to position NYU on the front line of innovative research and ideas that will help assuage our planet's impending climate and energy crises.

Climate change is so central to the university's future—indeed the planet's—that we have dedicated a double feature to it (“The Heat Is On,” page 36), in which we outline the evidence that our planet is changing, our slow acceptance of the problem, what New York City and NYU are doing about it—and what you can do, too. This magazine tackles another issue being discussed in higher education



PHOTO © MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

circles—the state of free speech on American campuses (“Civil Wars?” page 48)—and offers an in-depth conversation with one of our most celebrated and visionary alums, filmmaker Ang Lee (“The Tao of Ang,” page 54), director of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Brokeback Mountain*, among others. I hope these stories, and others in our Fall 2007 issue, will inspire you to continue these vital social, environmental, intellectual, and artistic conversations. **JOHN SEXTON**

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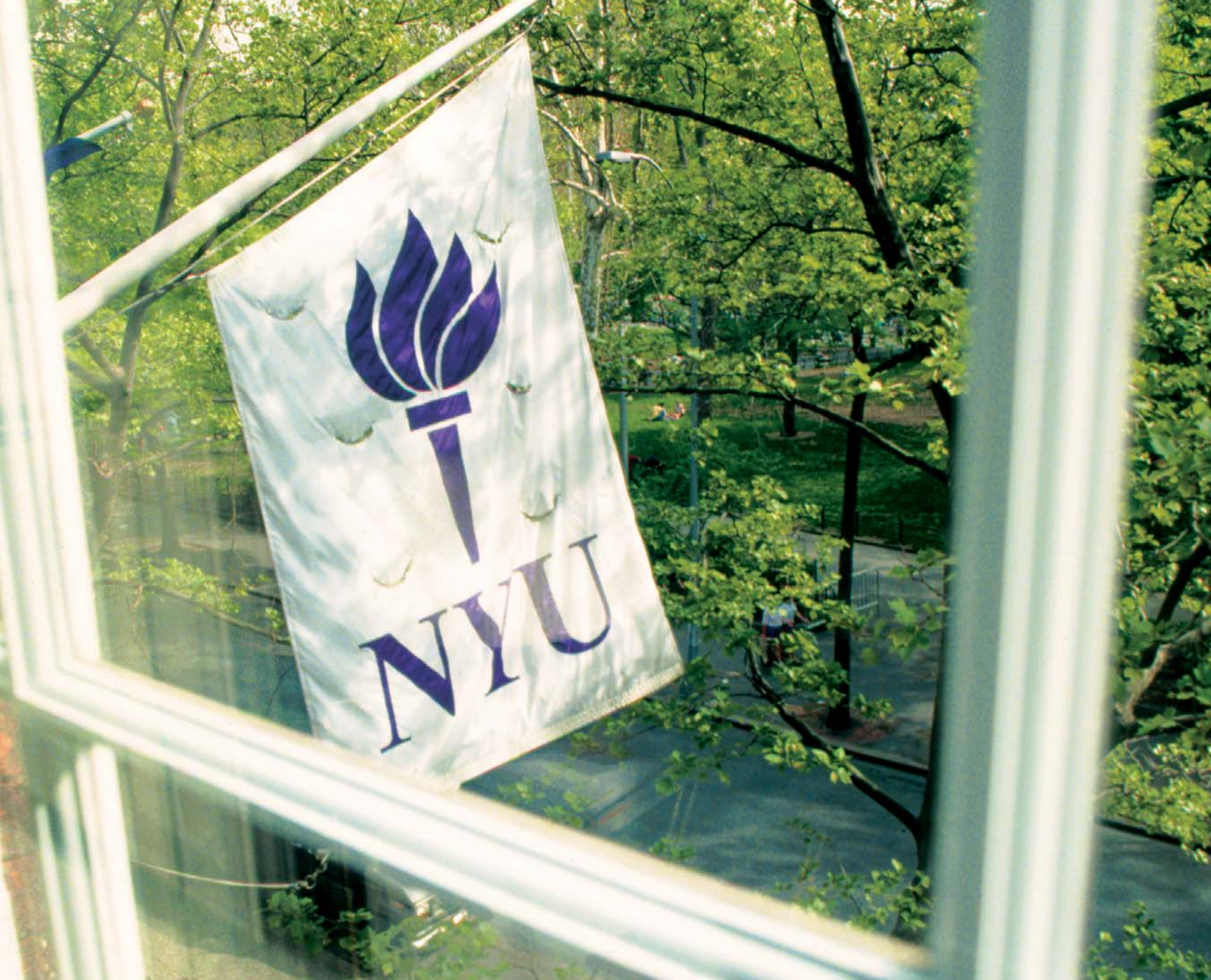
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Creating a platform for excellence. NYUPlans2031

NYU has embarked upon an important undertaking: planning for the next 25 years of the University's physical development. This new undertaking is referred to as NYUPlans2031. To guide the planning effort, NYU has formed the Office of Strategic Assessment, Planning, and Design and has selected a team of consultants, led by the award-winning firm SMWM in association with Grimshaw Architects, Toshiko Mori Architect, and the Olin Partnership.

We want the entire NYU community—faculty, students, administrators, staff, and alums to be

involved. For more information on this important initiative, materials from previous open houses, and for the most up-to-date news regarding future open houses, please visit www.nyu.edu/space.planning.

To learn more about the Office of Strategic Assessment, Planning, and Design and the in-house team leading this effort, please visit www.nyu.edu/sapd. This Web site will also provide the opportunity for you to give us feedback on our space planning initiative, which we would very much value.





We Hear From You

Thanks to all the alumni who responded to our eighth issue (Spring 2007). We are thrilled that *NYU Alumni Magazine* continues to stir so many of you to write and share your thoughts. Please keep the letters coming!



ROUSING CONVERSATION

NYU Alumni Magazine is a great publication, and I always look forward to reading it in detail. I was disappointed, however, to read the Angela Davis quote in “Heard on Campus” that was so absurd that at first I thought it to be satire. [It starts: “The institution of the prison has become a kind of symbol of the democracy the U.S. is

offering to the world...”] People risk their lives and the lives of their children to get to the United States. I doubt that their image of the United States is one of a shiny, new prison.

Andrew Laviano

LAW '65

Charlestown, Rhode Island

Editors' note: While the quotes featured in “Heard on Campus” do not represent the opinions of NYU Alumni Magazine, we do aim to provide readers with a taste of the provocative, timely dialogue happening on campus, and we take the fact that Mr. Laviano was motivated to send us his thoughts as evidence that we are succeeding.

BOOMERS BOOMING

Samme Chittum’s article outlining the baby boomer’s reinvention of life, “The Longevity Revolution,” is not

only timely and socially important, it is a piece of journalism at its best. There’s truth in your research, and your encouraging delivery caused me to share your article with fellow baby boomers. “Wake up, and harvest the coffee! We’re not dead yet!”

Kathryn Ferrin-Robinson

NYU parent

Anaheim Hills, California

GEOGRAPHY LESSON

Thanks for sending me a copy of the Spring issue, with its many thought-provoking articles. A small quibble from one who has lived in Maine for 30 years: The article “Journey to the

Center of the Brain,” regarding neurosurgery, refers to “northern Maine’s craggy coast.” This state indeed has a beautiful and often craggy coast in its southern and eastern regions, but northern Maine (where my wife was born and raised) is far from the ocean. In northern Maine, you will find acres of potato fields and some startling scenery, but no salt water.

Peter Bickerman

LAW '76

Readfield, Maine

Editors' note: Thanks for clarification on the Pine Tree State! Our obsession with Maine lobster must have skewed our perception.

Please send your comments and opinions to: Readers' Letters, *NYU Alumni Magazine*, 25 West Fourth Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY, 10012; or e-mail us at alumni.magazine@nyu.edu. Please include your mailing address, phone number, and school and year. Letters become the property of NYU and may be edited for length and clarity.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE SCHOOL CODES

ARTS - University College of Arts and Science (“The Heights”); used for alumni through 1974

CAS - College of Arts and Science (“The College”); refers to undergraduate school in arts and science, from 1994 on

CIMS - Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

DEN - College of Dentistry

ENG - School of Engineering and Science (“The Heights”); no longer exists but is used to refer to its alumni through 1974

GAL - Gallatin School of Individualized Study,

formerly Gallatin Division

GSAS - Graduate School of Arts and Science

GSP - The General Studies Program

HON - Honorary Degree

IFA - Institute of Fine Arts

LAW - School of Law

MED - School of Medicine, formerly College of Medicine

NUR - College of Nursing, now part of College of Dentistry

THE FOLLOWING ARE ABBREVIATIONS FOR NYU SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, PAST AND PRESENT

SCPS - School of Continuing and Professional Studies

SSW - School of Social Work

STEINHARDT - The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

STERN - Leonard N. Stern School of Business Graduate Division, formerly the Graduate School of Business Administration; Leonard N. Stern School of Business Undergraduate College, formerly School of Commerce; and College of Business and Public Administration

TSOA - Tisch School of the Arts, formerly School of the Arts

WAG - Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, formerly Graduate School of Public Administration

WSC - Washington Square College, now College of Arts and Science; refers to arts and science undergraduates who studied at Washington Square Campus through 1974

WSUC - Washington Square University College, now College of Arts and Science; refers to alumni of the undergraduate school in arts and science from 1974 to 1994

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: NONPAREIL JAZZ TRUMPETER WYNTON MARSALIS PLAYS A FEW LICKS AT COMMENCEMENT, WHERE HE RECEIVED AN HONORARY DOCTORATE; MARY TYLER MOORE SMILES AFTER SPEAKING TO THE NEWLY MINTED CLASS OF DENTAL SCHOOL GRADUATES; DEBBIE HARRY, OF BLONDIE FAME, INTERVIEWS *BILLBOARD*'S EXECUTIVE EDITOR AND ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER TAMARA CONNIFF AS PART OF STEINHARDT'S CEOS IN THE ARTS SPEAKER SERIES.



STAR

TOP-DRAW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS PUT ON THE GLITZ FOR NYU

BELOW: FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NEWT GINGRICH (R-GA) DEBATES GOVERNMENT ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE WITH SENATOR AND 2004 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOHN KERRY (D-MA) AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY THE JOHN BRADEMANS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CONGRESS IN THE ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE.



ABOVE: CHEF-RESTAURATEUR EMERIL LAGASSE OFFERS ADVICE AT THE INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE; SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER (D-NY) SPEAKS ABOUT HIS RECENT BOOK, *POSITIVELY AMERICAN*.

POWER