"This man-made calamity—the great liquidity crisis—has had the same effect on the international [financial] system that the asteroid had on the natural world.... There will be an extinction. Many, many species will not survive this change of atmosphere."

-NIALL FERGUSON, LAURENCE A. TISCH PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND THE AUTHOR OF THE RECENT BOOK *THE ASCENT OF MONEY*, SPEAKING AT THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES CENTER FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

"The UN, which embodies all that should be good about international diplomacy, is suffering a crisis of legitimacy in many parts of the world because it reflects the distribution of power in 1945, and not in 2015."

-DAVID MILIBAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, ON WHAT MATTERS SHOULD BE IN PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S "IN-BOX"

# HEARD ON CAMPUS



"[The Large Hadron Collider] will reproduce, in a very small volume for a very short time, the conditions last seen in the universe when it was about a 10,000th of a second old in the early moments of the Big Bang."

-NOBEL LAUREATE AND MIT PHYSICIST FRANK
WILCZEK AT THE INSIDE-OUT SPEAKER SERIES,
SPONSORED BY THE SCIENCE, HEALTH, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING PROGRAM AT THE
ARTHUR L. CARTER JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

'Having courage to look beyond your own personal safety, to realize a vision for coming generations, can cost you your life."

-HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR OF JORDAN AT AN ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE ON COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP, SPONSORED BY THE ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE





# **ECONOMY: CODE RED**

IN THE MIDST OF AN ECONOMIC MELTDOWN, STERN FACULTY EXPLAIN HOW WE GOT HERE AND HOW TO ESCAPE THE MORASS

# WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

SCIENTISTS PURSUE NEUROLOGICAL AND BEHAVORIAL EXPLANATIONS FOR FINANCIAL DECISION-MAKING / BY JILL HAMBURG COPLAN



## LOST IS FOUND

PHOTOGRAPHER RIAN DUNDON DISCOVERS AN UNDERGROUND SCENE OF SEX, DRUGS, AND DISAFFECTION IN CHINA / BY CHRISTIAN DEBENEDETTI

# **DEPARTMENTS**

# THE SQUARE

#### 8 / EXPERT ADVICE

FIVE NYU AUTHORITIES
OFFER COUNSEL TO THE
NEW PRESIDENT

12 / WRITERS WORKSHOP VETS TELL THEIR STORIES

#### 13 / IN BRIEF

A NEW EDUCATION FOR NYC SCHOOLS, ABU DHABI SETTLES IN AT WASHINGTON SQUARE, AND BUSINESS STUDENTS GET THEIR PASSPORTS READY

# 14 / WHAT THEY'RE LEARNING

STUDENTS STRIVE TO KEEP THE PLANET HYDRATED

#### 16 / CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

FLOSSING TO FIGHT
ALZHEIMER'S, DECODING
MALARIA PARASITES, AND
DELVING DEEPER TO UNDERSTAND AUTISM

NYU ALUMNI MAGAZINE (ISSN: 1938-4823) IS PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY IN FALL AND SPRING BY NYU OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNIN RELATIONS, 25 WEST FOURTH STREET, FOURTH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10012; 212-998-6912.CONTENTS COPYRIGHT © 2093. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: EDITORS/NYU ALUMNI MAGAZINE AT 25 WEST FOURTH STREET, FOURTH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10012, OR E-MAIL TO: ALUMNI.MAGAZINE®NYU.EDU. NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS AND ARTWORK. BYLINED ARTICLES REFLECT THE VIEWPOINTS OF INDIVIDUAL WRITERS AND ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS EXPRESSION OF OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY POLICY. MAILED THIRD-CLASS NONPROFIT AT BURLINGTON, VT.



## CAN WE TALK?

SCHOLARS ARGUE THAT WE MUST CHANGE THE CONVERSATION TO MAKE AMERICA TRULY "POSTRACIAL" / BY CARLIN FLORA



## WALKING THE GLOBAL WALK

WITH A NEW AND UNPARALLELED CAMPUS OPENING IN ABU DHABI IN 2010, NYU CONTINUES TO ADVANCE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES OVERSEAS / BY JANET ALLON



**ALUMNI PROFILES** 

62 / ROBERT RENNER / WSC '64 SPREADING SMILES ABROAD

66 / ANDREW D. HAMINGSON / STEINHARDT '08 MAN OF THE THEATER

68 / DE'SHAWN WRIGHT / WAG '02 NEW SCHOOLING ALUMNI ART

76 / MK GUTH / STEINHARDT '02 RAPUNZEL. RAPUNZEL

PLUS ALUMNI NEWS, BENEFITS, AND UPDATES

# IN NYC

18 / PREVENTION
HIV CLINICS HIT THE CLUB
CIRCUIT AND THE WEB

20 / THE INSIDER

THE CITY'S TOP SPOTS FOR STARGAZERS, FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS, AND MORE

## **CULTURE**

22 / FILM
REBEL FESTIVAL WITH A CAUSE

24 / DOCUMENTARY
SOUTHERN RECONSTRUCTION

25 / GALLERY VIEW

FROM TOWN HOUSE TO ART HOUSE

25 / CREDITS

ALUMNI STRIKE HOLLYWOOD GOLD

26 / URBAN ART
HIGH-TECH GRAFITTI

### **IN PRINT**

28 / CREATIVE WRITING
JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER
TRIES HIS HAND AT TEACHING

30 / FICTION

JAMES McBRIDE REIMAGINES
THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

**32 / POETRY** 

LAUGHTER IS SHARON OLDS'
BEST MEDICINE

32 / TRAVEL WRITING
DAPHNE BEAL'S DEBUT NOVEL
DRAWS ON MEMORIES OF NEPAL

PLUS MORE BOOKS BY NYU ALUMNI AND PROFESSORS

# **EVERY ISSUE**

1/HEARD ON CAMPUS

4 / PRESIDENT'S LETTER

4 / CONTRIBUTORS

**5 / STAR POWER** 

6 / MAILBAG

**80 / CAMPUS LENS** 

MIXED SOURCES: PRODUCT GROUP FROM WELL-MANAGED FOREST, CONTROLLED SOURCES, AND RECYCLED WOOD OR FIBER. CERT. NO. SW-COC-002556. WWW.FSC.ORG. © 1996 FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL.

IN KEEPING WITH NYU'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY, THIS PUBLICATION IS PRINTED ON FSC-CERTIFIED PAPER THAT INCLUDES A MINIMUM OF 10 PERCENT POST-CONSUMER FIBER. (THE FSC TRADEMARK IDENTIFIES PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN FIBER FROM WELL-MANAGED FORESTS CERTIFIED BY SMARTWOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE FORESTS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL.) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NYU'S GREEN ACTION PLAN, GO TO WWW.NYU.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY.

# **VISIT US ONLINE!**

www.nyu.edu/alumni.magazine

COVER PHOTO © TETRA IMAGES/CORBIS; VITO PALMISANO/GETTY IMAGES COMPOSITION BY RICK'S IMAGEWORKS

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

pring is the season of renewal, when we wake with expectation from the winter. As we mark a new era in Washington, D.C., and a fresh chance to tackle the challenges of the day, we have rarely felt the need for rebirth more vividly or more urgently. After taking in the harrowing economic news of recent months, it feels like we are staring down one of the greatest tests of our lifetime.

Such was the sentiment among scholars at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business last fall when they watched the astonishing global economic crisis unfold. Even as they rushed to make sense of the ruin, they realized that they must put forward their best ideas on how to rebuild a stronger financial future. The Obama administration has taken note of their recommendations, as seen in this magazine's feature, "Economy: Code Red" (p. 34), and in a new book published in March.

Barack Obama's ascendency to the presidency has not only prompted new hopes for economic policy; it has also inspired many to wonder



NYU AT THE FAR REACHES OF THE GLOBE: BRITTANY LAUGHLIN (STERN '06), TRUSTEE JAY FURMAN (LAW '71), AND PRESIDENT JOHN SEXTON POSE WITH ADELIE PENGUINS DURING A RECENT TRIP TO ANTARCTICA.

whether we now live in a "postracial" society. While the researchers

magazine widens its lens to look at NYU's efforts to redefine the term "global education." In order to truly understand the world

. . . . . . . . . .

in which we live-and to help that world understand us-the university is expanding overseas to a branch campus in Abu Dhabi and a network of new study-abroad sites, as examined in "Walking

**JOHN SEXTON** 

# Issue #12 / Spring 2009

JASON HOLLANDER (GAL '07)

Editor-in-Chief

NICOLE PEZOLD (GSAS '04)

**Deputy Editor** 

**RENÉE ALFUSO (CAS '06)** 

Staff Writer

JOHN KLOTNIA / OPTO DESIGN

Creative Director

ANDREA CRAWFORD

**Contributing Editor** 

#### **Articles**

JOSEPH MANGHISE

Copy Chief

DAVID COHEN

Research Chief

#### Art / Opto Design

**RON LOUIE** 

Art Director

KIRA CSAKANY SHIHO OSUMI MASHA ZOLOTARSKY

Designers

MARGARET LANZONI

Photo Research Director

#### **Advertising**

**DEBORAH BRODERICK** 

Associate Vice President of Marketing Communications

#### **Alumni News Editors**

JENNIFER BOSCIA SMITH (SCPS '04)

Director of Development and **Alumni Communications** 

KATIE D. GRAHAM

Communications Associate

#### **New York University**

MARTIN LIPTON (LAW '55)

Board of Trustees, Chairman JOHN SEXTON

President

LYNNE P. BROWN

Senior Vice President for University Relations and Public Affairs

#### **DEBRA A. LAMORTE**

Senior Vice President for University **Development and Alumni Relations** 

**REGINA SYQUIA DREW (WAG '01) Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives** 

#### **New York University Alumni Association**

STEVEN S. MILLER (LAW '70)

#### President

JOHN CALVO (STERN '91, LAW '95) MICHAEL DENKENSOHN (STERN '73) **BEVERLY HYMAN (STEINHARDT '80) GERALD KLACZANY (DEN '86) RONALD G. RAPATALO (CAS '97)** 

Vice Presidents

TAFFI T. WOOLWARD (CAS '04) Secretary

featured in "Can We Talk?" (p. 48) wouldn't say we've come that far, there is consensus that we're in a better place than ever to have a frank conversation about how race affects our work and personal lives. From this introspection, the

the Global Walk" (p. 52).

As always, we hope this issue of NYU Alumni Magazine offers you new opportunity for both reflection and connection.

# CONTRIBUTORS

**JANET ALLON** is a freelance writer living in Manhattan who has written for The New York Times, New York magazine, and AVENUE.

TED BOSCIA lives in Ithaca, New York, and is a writer for Cornell University. He has written for the San Francisco Chronicle, Stanford Magazine, and Baseball America.

JILL HAMBURG COPLAN is an adjunct professor in NYU's journalism institute who also works at Business Week magazine. She has written for Bloomberg News, Barron's, and The New York Times.

## CHRISTIAN DEBENEDETTI is a

contributing editor to National Geographic Adventure magazine who also writes for Esquire and Outside.

CARLIN FLORA is a senior editor at Psychology Today who has written for Glamour and Women's Health.

JOIE JAGER-HYMAN is a Brooklyn-based writer who specializes in topics on youth and education.

JAMES STEINBERG is an illustrator whose clients include Reebok, the Los Angeles Times, Forbes, and Reader's Digest.

BETH STEVENS (TSOA '93, '95) is the managing editor of Broadway.com. She has contributed articles to American Theatre magazine and Time Out New York.

JACK UNRUH is an illustrator who lives in Dallas. His work has appeared in Rolling Stone, Time, Sports Illustrated, and National Geographic magazine.

ANNA WEINBERG is a freelance writer living in Brooklyn. She has contributed to The Wall Street Journal, Slate, The New York Observer, and The Village Voice.

THE NINTH PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND WINNER OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE SHIMON PERES DELIVERS AN ADDRESS, "THE GLOBALIZATION OF PEACE," AT VANDERBILT HALL.

FORMER CBS EVENING NEWS ANCHOR DAN RATHER JOINS A PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE JOURNALISM INSTITUTE.



OSCAR-WINNER KATE WINSLET HOSTS A TISCH FILM SCREENING.



BROADWAY LEGEND ELAINE STRITCH PERFORMS AT THE TISCH GALA.

STAR

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

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



GRAMMY-WINNER ALICIA KEYS SPEAKS AT THE KEEP A CHILD ALIVE COLLEGE STUDENT AIDS SUMMIT.



RAINN WILSON (TSOA '89) HANGS WITH SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE CAST AND VETS AT THE TISCH GALA. FROM LEFT: KRISTEN WIIG, WILSON, TINA FEY AND HUSBAND JEFF RICHMOND, FRED ARMISEN, AND WILL FORTE.



# Special Tax Break for Charitable Gifts from Your IRA

**NOW EXTENDED FOR 2009** 

# Use Your IRA to Make a Tax-Free Gift to NYU

Now you can enjoy a tax-effective strategy for IRA distributions in 2009. Congress extended the tax advantages for individuals who make charitable gifts from an IRA account.

## You can make your gift to NYU from your IRA entirely tax free.

You can use your IRA charitable distribution to make your annual gift, pay or prepay your current pledge, or establish a named fund at NYU.

# To take advantage of this limited-time giving opportunity:

- You must be 70  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of age.
- You must make your charitable distribution (up to \$100,000) by December 31.
- You must instruct your IRA custodian to make the charitable distribution directly to NYU.

#### FOR DETAILED INFORMATION,

please call Alan Shapiro, NYU director of gift planning, at 212-998-6960, or e-mail him at alan.shapiro@nyu.edu.





Thank you to everyone who responded to the Fall 2008 issue. We are delighted that NYU Alumni Magazine continues to provoke conversation and comment.

#### **LEADING THE WAY**

I read the alumni profile of Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika with sustained interest. She continues to be a spokesperson for those who have no voice—particularly women, children, and families facing changing times in our world. Her work in Africa and the United States has had a positive impact, and she continues to build new bridges in the world at large. Thanks for showing us the great work of an educator.

> Aseye Demasio STEINHARDT '91 New York, New York

#### **GOING GLOBAL**

I helped put my five children through college. The first got his BS from Lycoming College and his MBA from the University of Connecticut. The other four all got their BS degrees from Pennsylvania State University. One of them also got her MBA there, while another got his law degree from Villanova University. I would like to show *them* what an international university NYU is. Besides La Pietra, where else do you have international teaching locations?

Karlyle Facey STERN '48, '56 Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Editors' note: You're in luck! Check out our feature "Walking the Global Walk," on page 52, to see just how far beyond Washington Square NYU now reaches. For more information about study abroad opportunities, go to www.nyu.edu/global.

#### **HELPING HANDS**

I read the article ["The Little Difficult"], where it was mentioned that many NYU alumni had volunteered to help in New Orleans. Ariel Harman, my daughter, graduated from NYU in 2002 and was recently sworn in as an attorney for the New Orleans Public Defenders Office. She has been working very hard representing a large number of people there.

Rosalie Harman NYU parent Brooklyn, New York

#### **DANCERS ANSWER**

Editors' note: Thanks to some sharp alums who wrote in, we discovered that the mysterious gravity-defying dancers pictured in our Fall 2008 issue (and below) were part of the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, which taught annual three-week workshops at NYU from 1978 to 1985 to help new generations of dancers take flight. As it turns out, the shot was actually snapped at Purchase College in 1980 when the dance "Cavalcade" premiered—and somehow made its way into the NYU Archives.



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

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

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

CAS - College of Arts and Science ("The College"); refers to the 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

GAL - Gallatin School of Individualized Study, formerly Gallatin Division

GSAS - Graduate School of Arts and Science

LS - Liberal Studies Program

**HON** - Honorary Degree

IFA - Institute of Fine Arts

ISAW - Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

LAW - School of Law

MED - School of Medicine, formerly College of Medicine **NUR** - College of Nursing

**SCPS** - School of Continuing and Professional Studies

SSSW - Silver School of Social

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

formerly School of Education

STERN - Leonard N. Stern School of Business, formerly the Graduate School of Business Administration; Leonard N. Stern College, formerly School of

School of Business Undergraduate Commerce; and College of Busi-

ness 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

# Programs offered year-round in world cultural centers New York University Monday morning. • Have coffee.

- Fill out NYU study abroad application.
- Submit and go to class.
- 6 months from Monday.
  - Wave goodbye to family.
  - Board plane.
  - Be there.

apply now and be there for fall

www.nyu.edu/abroad/sitesabroad



NYU StudyAbroad. Be there.

