

ISSUE #12 / SPRING 2009

NYU ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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PLANTING ROOTS
IN ABU DHABI

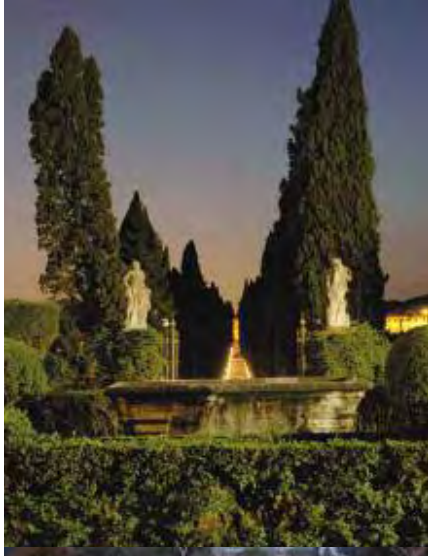
A "POSTRACIAL"
CONVERSATION

THE SOLUTION SQUAD

KEY ADVICE FOR
OBAMA'S FIRST TERM

STERN'S FINEST LIGHT THE PATH
TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

PLUS: SCIENTISTS UNRAVEL
THE FINANCIAL MIND



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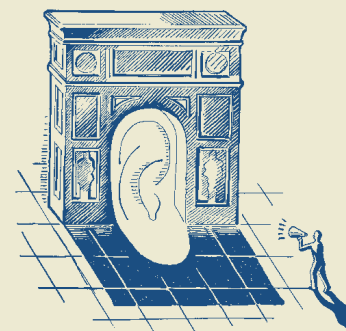
“This man-made calamity—the great liquidity crisis—has had the same effect on the international [financial] system that the asteroid had on the natural world.... There will be an extinction. Many, many species will not survive this change of atmosphere.”

—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

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring 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 "post-racial" society. While the researchers 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 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 the Global Walk" (p. 52).

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

JOHN SEXTON

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

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NYU

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PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: © SUSAN COOK; SAM HURR; FRED BUSH; PATRICK MCWULAN (2); ELENA OLIVO

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.



POWER

STAR

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.



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We Hear From You



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 1974

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 Work

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 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

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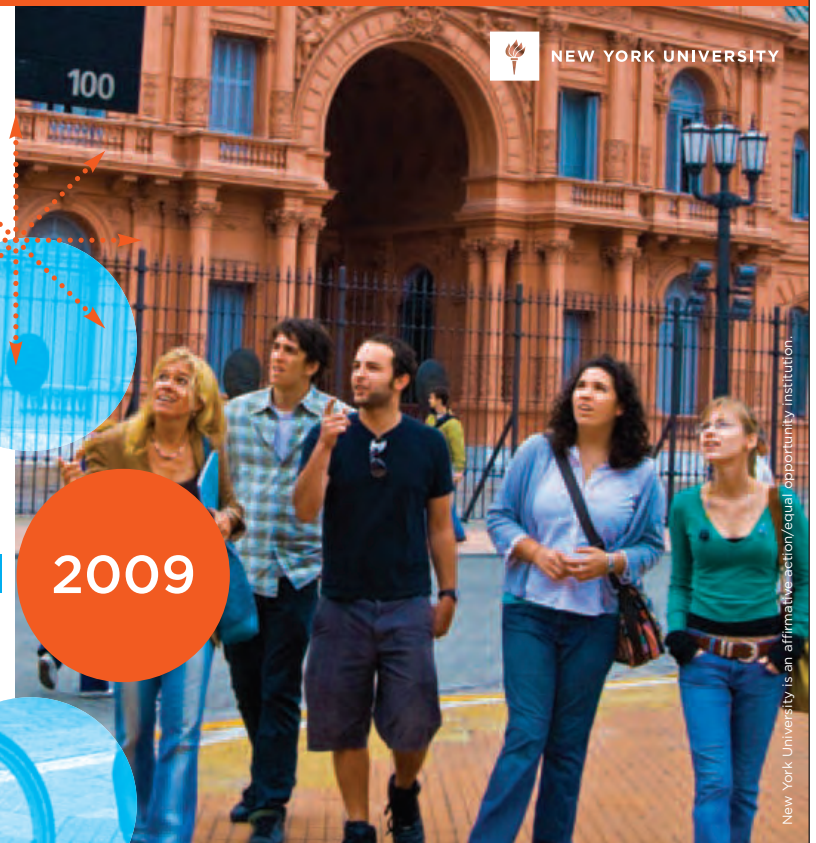
6 months from Monday.

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- Board plane.
- Be there.

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NYU StudyAbroad. Be there.



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expert advice

Letters { TO THE } President

SINCE JANUARY, OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF HAS FAMOUSLY LENT AN EAR TO BOTH CRITICS AND ALLIES. HERE'S ADVICE FROM SOME OF NYU'S OWN EXPERTS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JACK UNRUH

ECONOMICS | DEBT OF RECKONING

Dear Mr. President, The two most pressing economic problems are pretty clear to Americans:

the breakdown of our (and the world's) financial system and the nasty recession that has resulted.

Our government has responded to these crises in time-tested ways. The Federal Reserve has

acted as a "lender of last resort," the Treasury has invested hundreds of billions in financial institutions, and your administration, working with Congress, has fashioned an economic stimulus package calling for public spending and taxpayer relief.

These measures, if history is a guide, will restore the functioning of our financial system. Financial meltdowns and recessions do happen, but they also go away.

The cost of this fight, and victory, however, is likely to come to something in the trillions of dollars. We will see the national debt rise by that amount, and we will pay the interest on

that increased debt for years to come. Social Security and Medicare spending are also likely to increase at even faster rates in the years ahead, as more and more of the baby boomers retire. The yet unfunded liabilities of these programs run into the tens of trillions of dollars, and they beg for reform as Americans are living and

working longer. Should we raise the age at which Social Security retirement benefits begin? Should we ask those who can afford to do so to draw less from Social Security and to pay more of their Medicare costs?

Foreign hands hold much of our debt, which makes it all the more necessary to right our fiscal house. If we are tempted to lighten the real burden of public debt via inflation, foreigners are likely to reduce their holdings, and also to avoid relying on the dollar as a world currency.

Mr. President, we face a ticking fiscal time bomb, made worse by the current financial predicament. So far, politicians and most of the rest of us have ignored it. As our current economic problems recede over the next four years, I

hope that you will lead a public discussion of our long-term challenges and how they can be solved.

Sincerely,

RICHARD SYLLA

Henry Kaufman Professor of the History of Financial Institutions and Markets, Leonard N. Stern School of Business



Dear Mr. President, As you said at Grant Park last November, your election victory was a triumph for the American people. They showed that they want change, and that they reject the use of fear in the

justification of policies or the manipulation of opinions, which had come to characterize so much of the public discourse. The people expect you to take bold steps.

In your speech in Prague, you took exactly one such bold step: the proposal to eliminate all nuclear weapons. As you recognize, as long as nuclear weapons exist, they will proliferate amongst states—and possibly nonstate groups. Experts agree that use of them is inevitable, whether by accident or decision, and any use would constitute an environmental, political, and moral catastrophe.

The arguments typically advanced against elimination—it can't be done, others would cheat, we need them to fight terrorists—are, to put it mildly, empty. The deterrence-of-terrorism argument is particularly egregious given the fact that we have developed extraordinarily capable conventional weapons to more effectively combat terrorists' guerilla methods of attack. As I recall, we had plenty of nuclear weapons on 9/11. More to the point, the only way terrorists will acquire such weapons is from those who, like us, continue to possess them.

There is another reason for removing this intolerable danger: energy. Many countries have turned to nuclear power as an alternative to costly, polluting petroleum products. But this must not be permitted to increase the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Reliable surveys show that some 73 percent of Americans and 63 percent of Russians already support elimination. There are concrete steps that could be taken immedi-

ately to safely and progressively curb these weapons, including urging Congress to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, negotiating a treaty that prohibits any further manufacture of weapons-grade fissile material, and cooperating with the Russians to take all strategic missiles—some 1,500 on both sides—off of hair-



trigger alert. Another important step is to renew the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires at the end of 2009, but with much lower levels of weapons systems.

You and your team have already made strides toward these ends. The leadership you have shown in calling the world to this

task is crucial. The way ahead will be tough and you have many other pressing issues on your agenda. But there's a saying: If you've got a big problem demanding immediate action, give it to a busy man.

Godspeed you.

**AMBASSADOR
RICHARD BUTLER, AC**

*Global Diplomat in Residence,
Center for Global Affairs, School of
Continuing and Professional Studies*

EDUCATION | FROM CLINIC TO CLASSROOM

Dear Mr. President, Congratulations! As promised in your campaign, you have already launched an ambitious education agenda, including supporting early childhood

education, reforming the No Child Left Behind Act, addressing the dropout crisis, recruiting and retaining teachers, and expanding afterschool programs.

These are all worthy initiatives, but in order to tackle any of them, policymakers and teachers need usable knowledge about how children learn and what teaching methods get the best results. Should a teacher, for example, give homework to first-graders and, if so, what kind and how much? What's the best way to introduce fractions to fourth-graders—or teach high school stu-

dents who failed to learn fractions earlier? How can we help hyperactive children pay attention? Teachers grapple with these questions daily and research can point out clear directions for their decision-making.

However, in education, we have a "clinical lab to classroom" gap. Vital knowledge too often remains with the researchers, unavailable to those in positions to help children and youth. One of your priorities these next four years should be to promote research that easily translates to classrooms by reauthorizing the Department of Education's Institute of Educa-



tion Sciences (IES) and increasing its funding. Just as in medicine, where researchers are now working to overcome their own "bench to bedside" gap, the federal government and universities must ensure with the same urgency and concern that education research translates to practice.

Funding will be critical. The IES budget for 2008 was less than 1 percent of the \$59.2 billion appropriated to the Department of Education. Mr. President, you have already nearly doubled the department's budget, but I urge you to also double the current funding for the IES. If we spend modest amounts on education research, we will know how to invest in reforming our educational system. Without this, we will continue to blindly throw money at our problems.

Sincerely,

MARY M. BRABECK, PHD

*Dean and Professor of Applied
Psychology, Steinhardt School of
Culture, Education, and Human
Development*

Dear Mr. President, Health-care reform is a tough issue in the United States, and while there have been windows of opportunity for change before, this time is different. You have a

mandate: Exit polls showed health care to be the No. 3 issue of concern to voters after the economy and the war in Iraq, and 75 percent of voters think the federal government should play a more active role. So, what should the priorities be?

First, starting with the personal health-care system, most Americans want to see the uninsured provided with coverage, and many say that they're willing to pay more taxes to make it happen. Efforts toward a universal policy could move

quickly through incremental coverage programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program, offering buy-in to Medicare for people 55 and older, and extending the age of young



adults who can be covered by their parents' plans up to the age of 30. Then we face the hard questions about strategies to cover those left out and the role that government can play to include them.

Second, we spend more than any other country on health care—more than \$7,000 per person each year—but the return is disappointing. Among the 30 countries in

the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the American system is the most expensive and least efficient. Our infant mortality and life expectancy rank 27th and 21st, respectively. Why have our investments brought poor results? One reason is that access to medical care is not the major factor in health. It accounts for only about 10 percent of avoidable mortality in the United States but attracts more than 95 percent of health dollars. Health-care reform must spend more on primary care and prevention, as well as on community-based programs in areas such as tobacco use prevention, and healthy diet and exercise promotion, which save nearly \$6 in health-care costs for every dollar invested.

Finally, the public needs to understand that health is everyone's business! As you have said, it is an economic issue, an educational issue, and an environmental issue, and your attention to strengthening these sectors and communicating these links will be critical to improving health for all.

Sincerely,

JO IVEY BOUFFORD

Professor of Health Policy and Public Service, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and President of The New York Academy of Medicine

CIVICS | ON GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Dear Mr. President, The federal government's 1.8 million civil servants are ready to be called again to faithfully execute the laws and to be partners in changing the way Washington works. All you have to do is ask.

First, you should speak to federal employees as a whole. George W. Bush mostly ignored the federal service. He made dozens of speeches to uniformed officers involved in the war on terrorism but never asked for sacrifice from the civil service. Interviewed in 2002, 65 percent of defense department civil servants said they felt a new sense of urgency after September 11th, while just 35 percent of their colleagues in the domestic departments agreed.

Second, you should cut the number of political appointments at the top of government. You have already promised to cut middle managers, but remember that between a quarter and two-fifths of the stultifying management layers in government

are occupied by political appointees, including more than 2,000 that you will appoint without Senate confirmation. There are plenty of career senior executives who could fill these positions. Doing so would signal that bloat is bloat at whatever level it occurs.



Third, you should hire at least 100,000 front-line servants for beleaguered agencies that no longer have enough staff to handle their responsibilities. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration needs inspectors to intercept counterfeit drugs and poisoned peppers; the Social Security Administration needs representatives to handle the surge in disability claims; the Internal Revenue

Service needs agents to collect more than \$300 billion in delinquent taxes. And they are hardly alone. Name a front-line agency, such as the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the shortages are palpable. They need new employees and fast.

For inspiration, you might look to George H.W. Bush, who considered himself a product of the federal service and made every effort to engage them. The first president Bush met with senior executives immediately after his inauguration in 1989. The sooner you call on the federal service for commitment, the sooner they will respond.

Sincerely,

PAUL C. LIGHT

Paulette Goddard Professor of Public Service, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service



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THE ART OF WAR

VETERANS FIND STORYTELLING OFFERS CATHARSIS AND COMMUNITY

by Anna Weinberg

On the bitterly cold Saturday before Thanksgiving, five veterans gather on West 10th Street in New York to give thanks. “Thanks for the tree / between me & a sniper’s bullet,” reads Roy Scranton, a soft-spoken, 32-year-old Army veteran. “Thanks for deflecting the ricochet / against that anarchy of dusk.”

The poem is by the Vietnam vet Yusef Komunyakaa, a Pulitzer Prize winner and distinguished senior poet in NYU’s graduate creative writing program, and the men are veterans of the first and second Gulf Wars who have come together for a workshop organized by the university’s Graduate Creative Writing Program. The group, which meets once a week for two hours, encourages veterans to bear witness through fiction, essays, and poetry to their own stories of combat and homecoming. While the 18 men and women have varying degrees of comfort

with writing, and wildly different wartime experiences, they manage to find some common, safe ground each week in the calm cream-and-slate confines of the program’s

Lillian Vernon Creative Writers House. Like other veterans before them—Hemingway, Heller, Vonnegut—many use their writing to communicate who or what was taken or gained through their service. “I lost two friends while over there and I feel I would be wasting myself if I didn’t try to do something that educated people on them,” says Jerry Della Salla (TSOA ’92), a 39-year-old actor who enlisted after 9/11 and served as an MP at Abu Ghraib prison from 2004–05.

This November morning, Laren McClung (GSAS ’09), a warm and thoughtful second-year MFA student who leads the group, asks everyone to reflect on the seasonal themes of gratitude and food through poems by Komunyakaa and Langston Hughes. “Let it rise from your own voice into the poem,” she tells them, marking out 15 min-

utes to write. “Don’t worry about forcing the music.” With photographs of Philip Roth, Susan Sontag, and Gwendolyn Brooks gazing down upon them, the men settle into stillness and begin.

“They produce some of the most beautiful writing, really powerful, really horrifying at times,” says McClung, whose father was a Vietnam War draftee and who is currently working on an anthology of writing by the children of Vietnam veterans. “But they’ve all been able to kind of go into themselves and pull out the stories.” When a writer runs into difficulty, McClung simply encourages them to write “whatever comes to mind,” she says. “I tell them not to worry about straying from the assignment, but to just write. And if they want, I encourage them to talk out a memory or an idea until they say something that triggers writing.”

This connection makes it easier to share the intense stories that occasionally spill forth. “Trying to take a lot of this stuff into a [regular] writing group is weird because no one else can relate to it,” says Scranton, who’s completing a joint BA and MA in liberal arts/liberal studies at the New School, and was stationed in Germany, Iraq, and Oklahoma during his four-year tenure with the Army. “It’s like they can’t even talk about the writing because it’s a freak show, whereas coming here, we’re all freaks together.”

Komunyakaa, the poet, says he once thought he would never write about his time in Vietnam but that the need to express one’s self through written words is natural, regardless of the experience that creates it. “A soldier is no different than any other human being,” says Komunyakaa, who served as an information

“Trying to take a lot of this stuff into a regular writing group is weird because no one else can relate to it,” Iraq war veteran Roy Scranton says.

While topics range from a sailor’s love of the sea to the perennial fallback of writer’s block, the singular experience of war presents its own complications and urgency for the workshop. Fewer than 2 percent of Americans serve in the military, and this is a part of what the writers consider each Saturday. “[War] changes you on so many levels—you don’t feel the same, you don’t look at things the same way,” says Alexander Misiewicz, 49, a gruff Army captain who composes a prayerful poem about a promise he made to his wife. “It’s very lonely because there are so few. Even though everybody’s experience is different, there are things that connect us.”

specialist and then as an editor with the Army’s *Southern Cross* newspaper in 1969, and who, along with other guest writers, is leading workshops this spring. “He or she possesses attributes of a complex organism, the innate capacity to respond to stimuli. But each of us also possesses the capacity of reflection and compassion. Maybe poetry is a path.”

When the 15 minutes are over and it’s time to share the day’s endeavors, Scranton offers up his poem of thanks for his own survival. “My amazement at being alive / when I remember / remember / a bullet / a truck / a night / a mistake / glows so hard,” he reads, “I can’t even say thanks.” ■



IN BRIEF

AN "A" FOR RESEARCH

The ABC's really can be as easy as 1, 2, 3—or at least, in a phrase, that's what Richard Arum, professor of sociology at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, hopes to prove with the recently formed Research Alliance

for New York City Schools. The nonpartisan group will use data-based evidence to determine which policies within the school system are most effective.

"Education policy too often has been made based on hunches, fads, and good intentions," Arum explains. "The Research Alliance

is designed to help support policy and practice that is based on data-driven research." With an emphasis on improving student outcomes, the alliance will use independent research from NYU, Columbia University's Teachers College, and the City University of New York to better inform policymaking for educators, administrators, researchers, and parents.

First on the to-do list is finding out why large numbers of teachers give up working for the New York City schools in their first five years in the position. Attrition rates are particularly high in the city's schools and the Alliance will study how this affects learning environments. The researchers are also creating an archive that will combine survey data about students, teachers, and schools from throughout the city to guide current policy and simplify future research.

—Jaclyn Perry

BUSINESS WITHOUT BORDERS

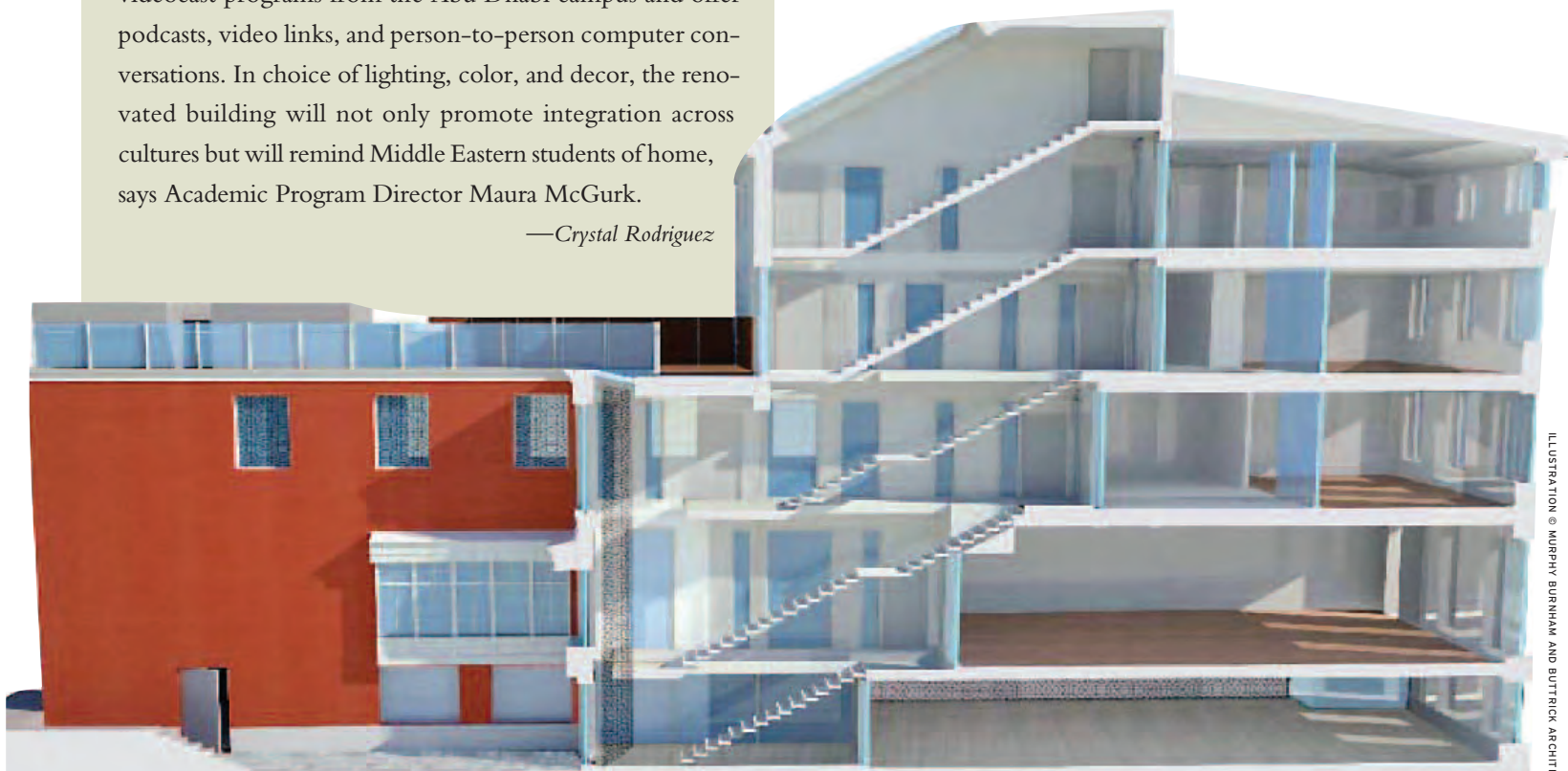
The financial world is no longer bound by time and national borders, so why should business school be? Starting in fall 2009, the Leonard N. Stern School of Business will offer 50 undergrads a chance to learn as they travel the world through the new Business and Political Economy program. These budding globetrotters will examine political economy in London during their sophomore year and learn about emerging markets in Shanghai during the second semester of their junior year. The rest of the time will be spent studying in Washington Square. "It is no longer sufficient to simply understand another country and culture," Stern undergraduate dean Sally Blount says. "Now an educated person needs to understand the convergence points across multiple countries and cultures."

—Candice Horn

ABU DHABI COMES TO WASHINGTON SQUARE

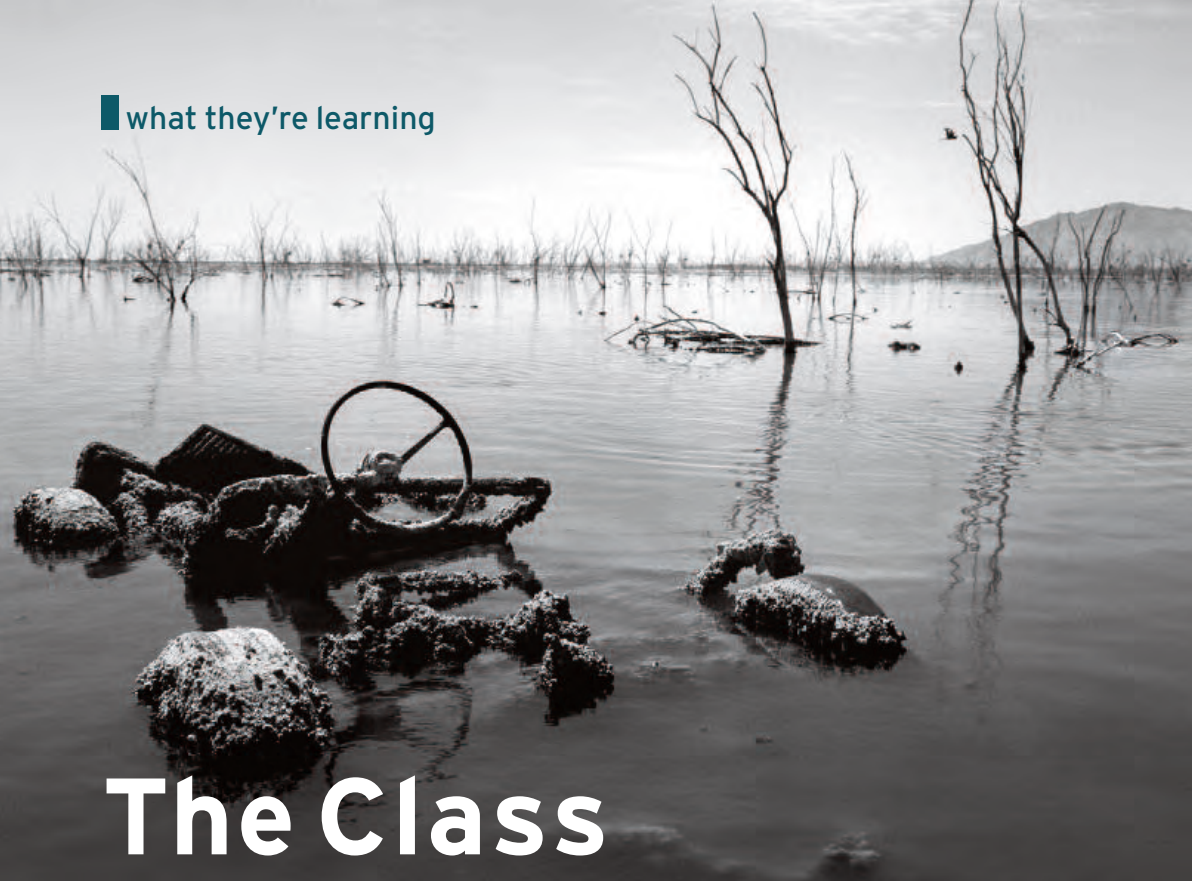
The northern strip of Washington Square, which Henry James depicted in his eponymous 1880 novel, has a classic Greek revival facade. But this fall one will be able to walk through the door of 19 Washington Square North, a new gateway to NYU Abu Dhabi, and be transported across cultures. The space will house a communication center to hold live conferences between NYU Abu Dhabi and New York, a scholars' library, faculty and administrative offices, and a formal gathering area. The research center will videocast programs from the Abu Dhabi campus and offer podcasts, video links, and person-to-person computer conversations. In choice of lighting, color, and decor, the renovated building will not only promote integration across cultures but will remind Middle Eastern students of home, says Academic Program Director Maura McGurk.

—Crystal Rodriguez



WITH LIVE-CONFERRING AND A WARMLY LIT RENOVATION, 19 WASHINGTON SQUARE NORTH WILL BE A PORTAL TO NYU'S NEW CAMPUS IN ABU DHABI.

ILLUSTRATION © MURPHY BURHAM AND BUTTRICK ARCHITECTS



A RUSTED CAR EMERGES FROM THE WATER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SALTON SEA.

Here's a quick look at some of the class's expansive readings:

L.R. Brown, "The Effect of Emerging Water Shortages on the World's Food," from *Whose Water Is It? The Unquenchable Thirst of a Water-Hungry World* (2003).

K.M. Strzepek and D.N. Yates, "Responses and Thresholds of the Egyptian Economy to Climate Change Impacts on the Water Resources of the Nile River," from *Climate Change* (2000).

S. Galiani, P. Gertler, and E. Schargrodsky, *Water for Life: The Impact of the Privatization of Water Services on Child Mortality* (2002).

L. Smith, "The Murky Waters of the Second Wave of Neoliberalism: Corporatization as a Service Delivery Model in Cape Town," from *Geoforum* (2004).

J.A. Allan, "Hydro-Peace in the Middle East: Why No Water Wars? A Case Study of the Jordan River Basin," from *SAIS Review* (2002).

V. Bennett, *The Politics of Water: Urban Protest, Gender and Power in Monterrey, Mexico* (1995).

E. Yuhás and T. Daniels, "The U.S. Freshwater Supply Challenge: Experiences With Desalination as Part of the Solution," from *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* (2006).

S. Burra, S. Patel, and T. Kerr, "Community-Designed, Built and Managed Toilet Blocks in Indian Cities," from *Environment and Urbanization* (2003).

The Class

THE THIRSTY WORLD

by Renée Alfuso / CAS '06

Given the array of bottled water lining supermarket shelves these days, it's difficult to imagine what life is like for the one-in-six people worldwide—about 1.2 billion—who live without access to clean drinking water. But over the next 50 years, it will become increasingly clear, even in the United States, as that number skyrockets along with the world's population. And as climate patterns shift because of global warming, the distribution of water availability will also change, so that water may soon soar past oil as a resource in crisis. "Water will be the defining issue of the next century," says Natasha Iskander, assistant professor of public policy at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. "While we have enough land to feed the world's growing population, we may not have enough water unless we discover new ways of using it much more efficiently."

Iskander's fieldwork on labor migration in Morocco and Mexico gave her a firsthand look at how water availability, or lack thereof, led many people to leave their home villages. Compelled to better understand the issue and how to avoid shortages that could reach catastrophic levels, Iskander designed a new course called Water Sourcing and Delivery in an Era of Climate Change. The class simulates real-world problem solving by assigning student teams to examine five existing cases of water harvesting and distribution systems, such as the Ghana Water Company's delivery in Accra and the supply shortages in Las Vegas. Because it's an emerging field, the students must take initiative and think creatively about the problem in a way that few courses require. "There is no textbook on this," Iskander says.

The students analyze their assigned sites through various lenses, such as the political economy of water and how each system is like-

ly to be affected by climate change, and file reports for each. And after exhaustive readings and guest lectures from experts, including senior research scientist Daniel Hillel, who is an international authority on water sustainability at the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University, they share their findings with the class. This way, colleagues can consider how, for example, negotiations on industrial water use in San Diego might inspire the expansion of sanitation services in Cuenca, Ecuador. Many students are also completing projects in Wagner's Capstone program, in which they offer recommendations to real international clients, such as the World Bank.

"The problem is at once ecological, political, and logistical," Iskander says. "This class is trying to create a dialogue among those areas in order to produce public servants who can act as a bridge between the people who worry about hydrological cycles and climate change, and those who are worried about pricing systems and infrastructure for municipal water." ■

PHOTO © JOHN TROTTER

An NYU Student Will Be Calling You... *And It Might Be Romina.*

Romina (CAS '11)

PART-TIME JOB: NYU Phonathon
Student caller

CAREER ASPIRATIONS: Anthropologist

SUMMER '09 PLANS: Study Abroad in Florence

FAVORITE CLASS: Conversations of the West

FAVORITE BOOK: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: New York Mets

PLACE TO EAT ON CAMPUS: Cafe Spice

Nearly 1/2 of
her annual tuition
is covered by
financial aid
and scholarships.

I actually get to talk to the alumni
who make it possible for me to be a
student here. It's an amazing feeling.

When your phone rings, please take a moment to speak with her.

Gifts from alumni, parents, and friends make it possible for students like Romina to pursue the kind of top-notch education only found at NYU. She, and the 70% of NYU students who receive financial aid, are enormously thankful for the generosity of donors to The Fund for NYU. Many of these students, including Romina, reach out by phone to over 150,000 alumni every year. When one of them phones you this year, please answer the call and support The Fund for NYU.



To make sure you receive your call this year, e-mail thefund@nyu.edu, or call (212) 998-6984, and update your information.

CUTTING-EDGE

neuroscience

FORGING A NEW PATH TO TREAT AUTISM

by Matthew Hutson

RECOGNIZING A FACE. RIDING A BIKE. READING A BOOK. WITHOUT LONG-TERM MEMORY, NONE OF THESE

tasks would be possible. Neuroscientists have long aimed to explain the intricate molecular clockwork that allows experience to accumulate so that we may tackle each day more capably than the last. A malfunction in any one cog can leave us forgetful or, as NYU researchers have found, not forgetful enough. Their work, published recently in *Neuron*,

reveals new information about one of the enzymes crucial to long-term memory and may soon lead to novel treatments for neurological disorders, such as autism and obsessive compulsive disorder, or OCD.

Long-term memory is thought to rely on a process called long-term potentiation, where, when two neurons fire together, their synaptic connection is altered to let them communicate more easily. As we learn, certain connections are strengthened more than others, etching pathways in the networks of our brains. This requires the synthesis of new proteins, and neuroscientist Eric Klann, along with col-

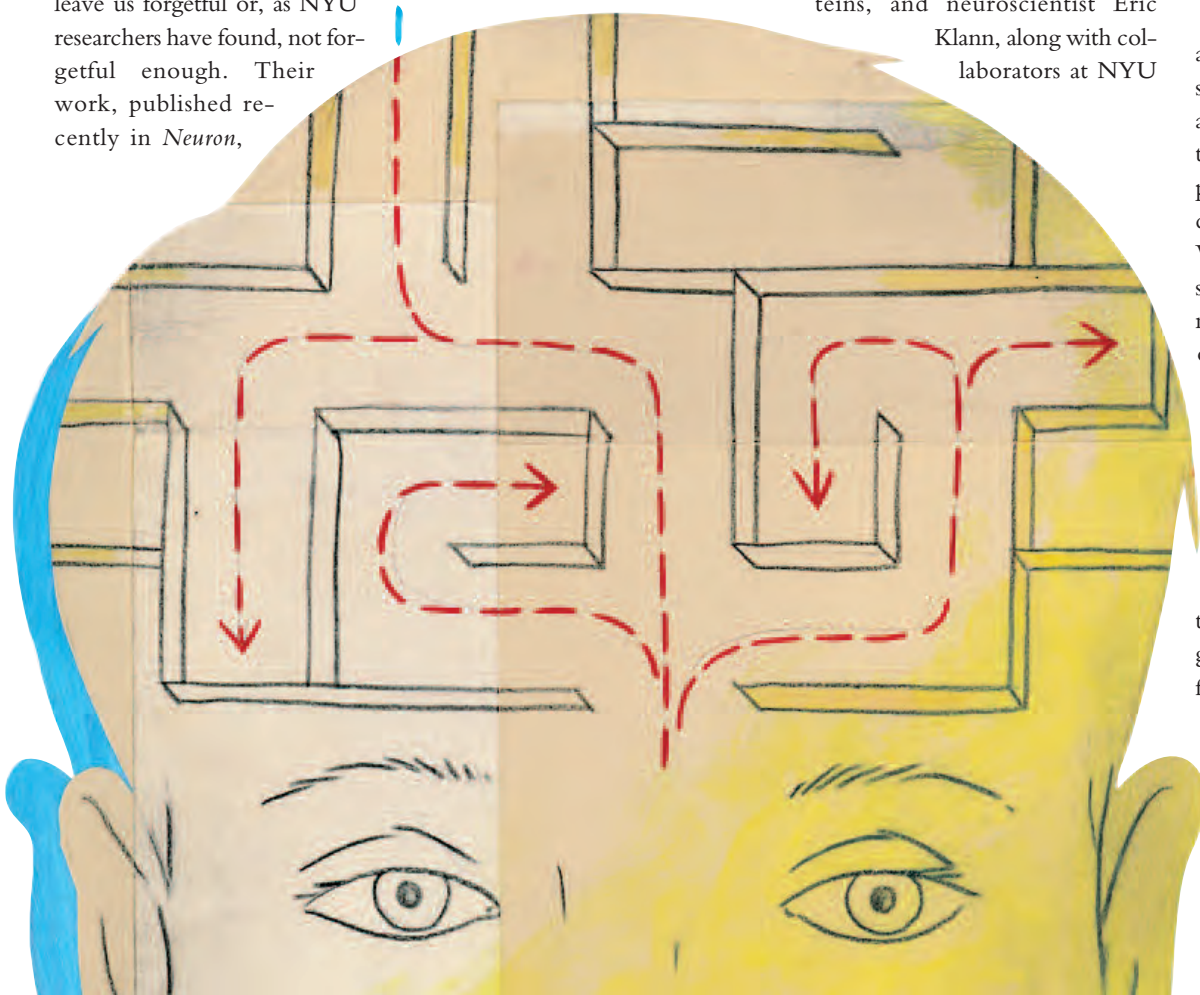
laborators at NYU

and the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, found some surprising things about one of the enzymes critical to the process.

The researchers developed mice lacking FKBP12, a protein that interferes with the enzyme in question, mTOR, which regulates the cellular manufacture of other proteins. Removing FKBP12 should let mTOR do its thing unchecked, facilitating long-term potentiation. “In our original tests, it looked like there was enhanced memory,” Klann says, “but then we found it was a little more complicated. Although the mice could memorize things—in some cases better than normal mice—they weren’t flexible.” The mice could learn a maze without a hitch, but if you put them in a slightly different maze, they hit a dead end. They couldn’t adjust to changing conditions.

Further tests revealed that these affected mice showed behavior resembling that of humans with autism and OCD. For example, they repeatedly buried marbles, a pattern similar to tics in autism or constant hand-washing in OCD. When presented with a previously seen object and a novel one, the mice showed more interest in the old object, revealing discomfort with the unfamiliar. And when given a shock in one environment, they were more likely than normal mice to freeze when placed back in that environment. “If something bad happens at school,” Klann says, “some autistic children have a difficult time going back because they’re fearful.” The memory is too persistent.

Both biochemical and neurophysiological experiments confirmed the source of the repetitive behavior. Removal of FKBP12 did indeed enhance the activity of the mTOR en-



zyme, and scientists found increased mTOR signaling in several areas of the mouse brains. Klann's team is now trying to isolate which molecules downstream of mTOR's enzymatic activity are responsible for its effects on memory. Then maybe they can pharmacologically target those pieces of the clockwork.

Importantly, the changes in the mice did not kick in until two or three weeks after birth, implying that autism and related disorders can develop even in people who are born healthy. "It's not necessarily the case that the brain is wired differently," Klann says. "It also could be that these pathways are just misregulated." While correcting the misregulation may be too tall an order, Klann hopes that some of the symptoms that decrease the quality of life, such as repetitive behaviors, could be treated—even in an adult. Such a breakthrough, he believes, is "not far off at all." ■

■ parasitology

Cracking Malaria's Code

by Lindsay Mueller / CAS '09

Plasmodium vivax is not the type of malaria parasite that kills you, explains parasitologist Jane Carlton, "but they say it makes you wish you were dead." It causes flu-like symptoms—aches, shivers, high temperature, and a general feeling of malaise—and is responsible for more than a quarter of the 515 million malaria cases diagnosed worldwide each year. If infected, a patient might feel fine one day and ill the next. "The danger is that you can have it and not even know it because the parasite can hibernate in the liver and remain dormant for months, even years," Carlton says.

So many will take heart in knowing that Carlton and a team of colleagues at the NYU School of Medicine have decoded the DNA for this species, which is endemic in Asia and the Americas. Their



work, published as the cover story in a recent issue of the journal *Nature*, will allow them to identify weak spots in the parasite's armor and, most important, provide a foundation for the development of a vaccine.

Carlton's discovery marks a milestone in malaria research. It is impossible to grow the parasite in a culture, mainly because it requires young red blood cells, which are notoriously difficult to cultivate. Carlton and her team partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to infect several South American squirrel monkeys with an El Salvadorian strain of *P. vivax* in order to obtain sufficient DNA for the project.

In the future, Carlton and her team plan to collect blood samples from *P. vivax*-infected patients all over the world to better understand different strains of the disease and, in time, target treatments for it. ■

■ dentistry

MOUTH REVEALS AN ALZHEIMER'S CLUE

by Ted Boscia

For most people, the nightly ritual of brushing, flossing, gargling, and rinsing is ingrained at a young age in the hopes of keeping their teeth sparkling white and armed against decay. But a new study suggests that these simple acts, which take just a few minutes each day, might also help

stave off one of the most devastating diseases of the brain.

A team of NYU doctors recently linked Alzheimer's disease to gum disease, the latest discovery in a growing body of evidence tying bacterial infections that elevate inflammatory molecules in the brain to Alzheimer's, which more than five million Americans suffer from. Earlier research at the

University of British Columbia showed that those suffering from dementia also had high levels of the bacterium found in periodontal disease.

"I can't state that the management of periodontal disease would suddenly or immediately halt Alzheimer's," cautions Angela Kamer, assistant professor at the College of Dentistry, and leader of the NYU study. "But it could slow its progression and also warn doctors and patients to be more aware of the risk."

Kamer and her team compared 18 patients with early signs of Alzheimer's to 16 patients with normal brain function and discovered a sharp difference. While 72 percent of the Alzheimer's

patients displayed an antibody associated with periodontal bacteria, only 38 percent did in the other group.

Kamer recently presented her findings at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference in Chicago. While the work may lead dentists to screen their patients more actively for periodontal disease, it could also help scientists more precisely identify the causes of Alzheimer's and shape the search for more effective treatments, or even a cure. Already, brain specialist Mony de Leon, director of the NYU Center for Brain Health, has integrated Kamer's findings into his hunt for biological markers for the disease. ■

NYU

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PHOTOS COURTESY HIV BIG DEAL

AN ONLINE SOAP OPERA CENTERS ON THE TRIALS OF A YOUNG GAY MAN WHO FEARS HE MIGHT BE HIV-POSITIVE.

■ prevention

OUT OF THE CLINIC

WITH HIV CASES SOARING, RESEARCHERS BRING FACTS—AND FREE SCREENINGS—TO THE GAY HOOKUP SCENE

by Alex Cotton / GSAS '08

It's after midnight on a Saturday and the West Side Club in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood is getting crowded. Men in towels wander through a dimly lit labyrinth of narrow hallways as techno music throbs. Breaking off from the crowd, two men enter a cramped room with blank walls and a bare mattress and shut the door. It's business as usual, until the music suddenly stops. "Welcome to the West Side Club," says a cheerful voice over the speakers. "For free, confidential HIV testing, just follow the arrows..."

The owner of this voice is Demetre Daskalakis, a physician and assistant professor of infectious diseases at the NYU School of Medicine, who runs the first-ever HIV testing venue at a New York bathhouse. Though long a part of the underground sex scene in the United States, as well as nodes of the HIV epidemic, until now no one had brought testing into a New York club. But as the rate of infections continues to climb among gay men—a study by the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene showed New York's rate was three times the na-

tional average—doctors and researchers are increasingly offering information and screenings to those most at risk at the actual sites of hookups, whether it's bathhouses or gay Internet dating sites.

In a private room located at the back of the club, Daskalakis administers rapid HIV tests that deliver results in 20 minutes. The idea is to provide much-needed services and collect groundbreaking data, such as whether or not these men discuss their HIV status with partners. "Other cities have been doing HIV testing in bathhouses, but not in a structured, ac-

ademic way,” says Daskalakis, who, dressed head to ankles in black, with a full beard, shaved head, and silver sneakers, blends well with the club-like vibe.

Since he started in 2006, Daskalakis has tested nearly 1,400 people, both bathhouse regulars and an Internet crowd he has found by advertizing on gay hookup Web sites that post his messages for free. In fact, half of his clients don't come for the bathhouse at all; they just want to get tested. Daskalakis believes that this is because he offers a judgment-free environment. “By putting it in one of the most stigmatized venues in the city, it kind of neutralizes the stigma,” he says. And he has uncovered some

disturbing statistics: 3.6 percent of the men are HIV-positive and, while a majority of the bathhouse clients had unsafe sex in the past three months, only 17 percent have discussed their HIV status with their partners. “Notice how quiet it gets when the music stops,” he says. “There's not a lot of talking going on in those rooms.”

professor Francine Shuchat Shaw at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Shaw and Mary Ann Chiasson, a vice president for research and evaluation at the nonprofit Public Health Solutions, co-wrote and produced a video soap opera titled “HIV is Still a Big Deal,” which premiered

“learning only occurs through failure,” from theorists like the Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget. So far, an online viewer survey suggests that after watching the video, people are more likely to get tested for HIV or disclose their status. Chiasson hopes to confirm this through an ongoing rigorous, randomized-controlled

“Traditional HIV prevention methods have failed. I think anything that pushes the envelope and tries something new—to make it entertaining or sexy—is worthwhile,” Daskalakis says.

Ending a certain silence is the goal of another project started by

on their Web site in June 2008. The story follows the misadventures

of Josh, a young man on the make in Greenwich Village. In the first episode, Josh finds a date, Eric, on the Internet, and after sharing many drinks at a bar, stumbles back to Eric's apartment. The following morning, he finds a cabinet full of HIV medication in Eric's bathroom. An uncomfortable confrontation ensues and, after a period of denial and missed doctors' appointments, the second episode ends as Josh gets the results from an HIV test.

trial. “We're trying to get it out there as much as we can,” she says. “We've marketed it to gay porn sites, hookup sites, anywhere we can.” The soap, which was filmed at various locations around Manhattan and Brooklyn with actors recruited through Craigslist, was featured on the PBS show *In the Life*, a documentary series that explores the gay experience. But these successes are just first steps in a long race. Daskalakis envisions branching out to private sex parties, because the bathhouse is, he believes, “the least underground of the underground scenes.” Shaw and Chiasson hope to further Josh's saga in subsequent episodes, introducing more characters and raising related issues, such as depression, the dangers of other sexually transmitted infections, and the difficulty of staying healthy on antiretroviral therapy. In the meantime, Chiasson, who is also an associate professor of clinical epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, awaits the results of her study. And Daskalakis continues to put in late hours at the West Side Club, keeping his clinic door open until 2 AM. “Traditional HIV prevention methods have failed,” he says. “I think anything that pushes the envelope and tries something new—to make it entertaining or sexy—is worthwhile.”

To tailor the script to young gay men, they drew on Chiasson's survey data to create realistic characters, and Shaw's expertise in educational media to craft a narrative that incorporated ideas such as

PHOTO © JACQUELINE DI MILLA



BY VISITING BATHHOUSES AND ADVERTISING ON HOOKUP WEB SITES, DEMETRE DASKALAKIS HAS PROVIDED HIV TESTS FOR NEARLY 1,400 MEN.

the insider

BEST OF NEW YORK

NYU FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI OFFER UP THEIR FAVORITES

by Renée Alfuso / CAS '06

HAYDEN PLANETARIUM

CENTRAL PARK

TAKE A BREAK FROM SPRING CLEANING TO ENJOY SOME ITALIAN ICE CREAM OR A CLEAR NIGHT SKY

STAR SEARCH

The bright lights of the Big Apple mean less twinkle in the sky at night, but David Hogg, an associate professor at the Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, says the pollution, humidity, and proximity to sea level also hinder New York stargazers. So for a better view, Hogg brings his Observational Astronomy students to the roof of the Gallatin School of Individualized Study building on Broadway. But for those not in his class, Hogg suggests heading out on the water or seeking an open area for a more unobstructed view. “You can do better than you would think by just finding a playground or parking lot where the lights of the city aren’t in your face,” says

Hogg, who observed the last lunar eclipse from the playground at Tompkins Square Park in the East Village. Be sure to bring binoculars—which Hogg says are better to start with than a telescope—to catch Saturn’s rings in the southern sky during spring and summer evenings this year, or the Perseid meteor shower after dark around August 12. And if all else fails, the one way to guarantee a stellar show is to check out the **HAYDEN PLANETARIUM** at the American Museum of Natural History. “The planetarium has one of the finest projectors that’s ever been built,” Hogg says of the custom-made Zeiss Mark IX Star Projector—the world’s largest and most powerful virtual reality simulator. “When

they turn it on, it’s just one of the most beautiful things.”

175 CENTRAL PARK WEST (AT 81ST), 212-769-5100; WWW.HAYDENPLANETARIUM.ORG

FOREIGN FLAVOR

When it comes to finding the perfect gelato, things get pretty competitive between the students and faculty at the NYU summer program in Florence. So when one newcomer became a unanimous favorite, the only problem was having to leave it behind to return to the States—until **GROM GELATO** finally followed them back home, opening two stores in New York City. “I was curious to see whether the quality would be the same, and I have to say—it is,” says the program’s director Stefano Albertini, who is also director of Casa Italiana and clinical associate professor

of Italian. Luckily Grom brought with it the traditional method of making artisanal gelato, which has less than half the butterfat of American ice cream but a richer taste because of its high density. Made fresh daily, Grom’s gelato doesn’t contain any artificial colorants or preservatives, opting instead for seasonal fruit and nuts from the best regions of Italy, such as Amalfi’s Sfusato lemons and pistachios from the hills of Bronte, Sicily, which means that there are new flavors each month. Albertini, who grew up in northern Italy and makes his own gelato at home, knows the sweet treat is only as good as what goes into it. “The ingredients have to be absolutely first quality,” he explains. “Eating it makes you fat, so it’s not good if it’s just filling.”

233 BLEECKER STREET (AT 6TH

PHOTOS: HAYDEN PLANETARIUM © KORB/AGE FOTOSTOCK; CENTRAL PARK © 2008 LANCE EVANS; COURTESY OF GROM



AMF 34TH AVENUE LANES



GROM GELATO

AVE), 212-206-1738; 2165 BROADWAY (AT 77TH), 212-362-1837; WWW.GROM.IT

DOG DAY AFTERNOON

A cramped New York apartment is a rough place for a dog, so it's important for urban canines to get outside and stretch their paws. "It's a huge behavioral issue because dogs that don't get enough exercise will *find* something to do—like chew your sofa or bark all day," explains dog trainer and animal expert Nikki Moustaki (GSAS '97, '08), who has authored many books on dog care, including the popular *Dogfessions* (HarperCollins). Moustaki lives in Manhattan with her three parrots and two miniature schnauzers, whom she loves to bring with her everywhere. So for the perfect doggie day on the town she sug-

gests getting an early start at Central Park, where the 843 acres offer plenty of space to roam and they can walk off-leash from 6 to 9 AM in certain areas. In addition to special dog fountains for water breaks, from May to September, the park offers monthly Bagel Bark breakfasts, where pooches and their owners gather to enjoy free coffee, pastries, and, of course, dog biscuits. "When dog owners get together, it's a very social thing. It isn't solely for the dogs to run around and play," Moustaki says. And to top off the morning's exercise with some well-deserved shopping, she seeks out stores that allow dogs, such as Barnes & Noble and Bed Bath & Beyond. But for a real treat, she opts for specialty pet store **SPOILED BRATS NYC**, which features organic foods, all-natural

grooming products, and fashionable leashes and clothing for the hippest of pets.

340 WEST 49TH STREET (BTW. 8TH & 9TH AVE), 212-459-1615

BOWLING, OLD SCHOOL

Bowling alleys in Manhattan seem to have morphed into nightclubs that just happen to have some lanes, where traditional nights of beers and strikes have been replaced with apple martinis and booming dance music. Tim Senft, deputy director of strategic communications, remembers when the tiny alley at Port Authority was once a sleazy-in-a-good-way dive, but now calls it "trendy and overcrowded." So for bowling the way nature intended, Senft suggests traveling to the outer boroughs, particularly **AMF 34TH AVENUE LANES** in Woodside,

Queens. "There's no scene to it—it's just a bowling alley," he explains of the 60-year-old establishment that's maintained its original character and charm. Senft says the space is large enough that there's hardly ever a wait, so the pros can bowl alongside those just looking for a fun night of hot dogs and cheese fries, which are essential on weekends when the alley stays open as late as 4 AM. Senft even chose it as the site for his bachelor party 10 years ago and still recommends it to anyone who wants to experience the real NYC, not just a glamorized version. "It's a throwback to the New York of the 1970s, '80s, and '90s that's disappearing," he says. **69-10 34TH AVENUE IN WOODSIDE, QUEENS, 718-651-0440; WWW.AMF.COM/34TH AVENUELANES**

COMING OF AGE

A CROWD-PLEASING FESTIVAL MARKS ITS NEW PLACE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

by Renée Alfuso / CAS '06

There's no doubt that the TriBeCa Film Festival has had something of a Willy Wonka effect on its community. Each spring, it temporarily transforms the neighborhood into a giant playground where movies come to life—blankets and lawn chairs lined the Hudson for a lavish luau when the animated comedy *Surf's Up* screened, and thousands joined in a zombie dance disco to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. There's also the basketball shooting contests and football theme

park set up for movies premiering on TriBeCa/ESPN Sports Day. Since it was launched from the ashes of 9/11—in just 120 days—more than two million visitors have flocked to the festival, and it has screened over 1,100 films from more than 80 countries. It has also generated more than \$530 million in economic activity for lower Manhattan.

The purpose of most film festivals, however, is not just to screen movies but to sell films to distributors and reach the broadest of audiences. With this in mind, Jane Rosenthal (GAL '77), who co-founded TriBeCa with

Robert De Niro (HON '96), her film partner of more than 20 years, is retooling the festival to be both a neighborhood carnival and a serious cinematic contender. In 2007, she created a year-round industry department to put those who acquire films directly in touch with the artists who make them. That same year, 34 films that premiered at TriBeCa were acquired for distribution—almost double the number from the previous year. Documentaries have found the most success, with *Taxi to the Dark Side* taking home the 2008 Oscar and *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*



EACH SPRING, TRIBECA TAKES OVER THE STREETS OUTSIDE THE FESTIVAL'S FILM SCREENINGS WITH (COUNTERCLOCKWISE) PERFORMERS, GAMES, AND A DRIVE-IN ON THE HUDSON.

landing on the short list this year after both premiered at TriBeCa. “Our birth was about what we could do for our community, so that will always be our roots,” Rosenthal says. But the festival is making its name by striking an unusual balance among the fun, art, and business of film.

Seven years old, TriBeCa is still the new guy amidst a sea of well-established film festivals: Cannes began back in 1946, the New York Film Festival is approaching its 50th run, and even the hip indie-fest Sundance started out as the United States Film Festival in 1978, before Robert Redford transformed it years later. The media was quick to compare TriBeCa to these predecessors and early on criticized it for being too broad and lacking a clear enough identity. “We had so much focus on us and everybody was looking at us and saying, ‘What are you going to be? *What are you going to be?*’” says Rosenthal, adding that it took years before Sundance established itself with the 1989 screening of *sex, lies, and videotape*.

Right away, though, TriBeCa

was able to separate itself from its uptown neighbor. The New York Film Festival, which *The New York Times* has described as “elitist,” selects just 28 features each year with no competitive categories or prizes. In contrast, TriBeCa recognizes outstanding films with an array of awards for features, shorts, and documentaries, and a handful of prizes for films made in or about New York.

For viewers, the NYFF feels like a private Upper West Side cocktail soiree to TriBeCa’s raucous downtown block party, where the box office hit *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones* premiered alongside the chick-flick *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, just blocks from the Oscar-nominated Norwegian film *Elling* during the inaugural festival. “It’s New York and there’s not just one type of filmgoer here,” director of programming David Kwok explains. “You have your cinephiles, but you also have the recreational filmgoer, so our hope is to be able to cross those audiences.”

“The key is to have as many voices as you can and especially voices that are not often explored

or exposed,” adds Sharon Badal (TSOA ’80, GAL ’92), who programs short films for the festival in addition to her role as associate teacher at the Tisch School of the Arts. Those voices come from all over the world, in foreign films that would otherwise have a difficult time reaching U.S. audiences, but also from the festival’s own backyard with community-based cinema like those discovered through the TriBeCa All Access program, which connects filmmakers from underrepresented groups with industry professionals.

As they’ve found their equilibrium over the years, Rosenthal says, the festival has refocused its program by cutting down the number of features it screens to 85 from as many as 174 in 2006. Many critics took note of the change, as Stephen Holden of *The New York Times* wrote last year, “A sign of the festival’s confidence is its willingness to shrink. No longer does it project the panicky sense of an event grabbing too many things offered to it in a mad scramble to demonstrate its size and importance.”

What hasn’t changed is the fo-

cus on its community audience. This year’s festival kicks off with the world premiere of Woody Allen’s *Whatever Works*, which marks his cinematic return to New York after shooting his last four films abroad. And there are still special neighborhood events like the TriBeCa Drive-In outdoor screenings and the Family Festival Street Fair, where costumed characters and performers roam along rows of tents offering local food, arts and crafts, puppet and magic shows, and face painting. “[Here] you don’t have to just be an industry insider to have access to the world of the film festival,” Rosenthal says. “Anybody can come.” And this won’t change because while TriBeCa is finding its place, it hasn’t lost the spirit of why it came into being. Rosenthal explains: “As there were steel workers and firefighters and police who did their jobs, as filmmakers, the only thing we knew how to do was to put on a show.” ■

The 2009 TriBeCa Film Festival runs from April 22-May 3. For the full lineup, visit www.tribecafilm.com/festival.



LEFT: MICHAEL JACKSON'S *THRILLER* COMES TO LIFE WITH A ZOMBIE DANCE DISCO. RIGHT: FESTIVAL CO-FOUNDERS ROBERT DE NIRO (RIGHT) AND JANE ROSENTHAL, WHO HAS PRODUCED MANY OF THE ACTOR'S FILMS, INCLUDING *MEET THE PARENTS*.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

A House Reunited

A NEW FILM FOLLOWS THE MOVE OF A SOUTHERN PLANTATION—AND RECKONS WITH ITS COMPLICATED PAST

by Kathryn Robertson / CAS '09

In 2004, historian Robert Hinton received a nervous voicemail from one Godfrey Cheshire, a filmmaker and critic based in New York City. In a lilting North Carolinian accent, Cheshire, who is white, explained that he had seen Hinton's recent letter to the editor in *The New York Times Book Review*, in which he talked about growing up black in Raleigh. He was working on a project related to a plantation near there called Midway. Could they talk?

Hinton knew Midway Plantation; he'd long suspected his grandfather had been born a slave there around 1860 and been given the surname of its owners, the Hintons. Intrigued, he invited Cheshire to his office in NYU's Africana Studies department, and quickly realized that he was sitting before the descendant of his grandfather's former owner. He wanted to dislike him but instead found himself gladly pulled into Cheshire's new film about the relocation of the 160-year-old plantation house. Cheshire's cousin, the current owner, had decided that the best way to preserve the

home, which was now lapped by a new highway and suburban subdivisions, was to hoist the 280-ton building onto wheels and slowly roll it to a new, nearby resting place. Cheshire knew that he could not tell the home's full story without discussing slavery. He needed Hinton's help, both as a scholar and as someone intimately connected to Midway.

The resulting documentary, *Moving Midway*, presents a region full of complexity, emotion, and quirk as it follows the home's physical move and contemplates the mythology surrounding these icons of the Old South and the living legacy of slavery. (During the project, filmmakers discovered another branch of black Hintons who, because of a liaison between an owner and a plantation cook, are not only descendants of Midway's former slaves but also blood relations of Cheshire and his kin.) On balance too is the South's hunger for both modernization, in the form of strip malls and interstates, and its antebellum past. *The New York Times*' A.O. Scott wrote that the film "takes up the agonies and ironies of Southern history

with remarkable empathy, wit, and learning," and *New York* magazine named it runner-up for best documentary film of 2008.

Central to the film is the tension between the perspectives of Cheshire, the writer, director, and co-producer, and Hinton, chief historian and associate producer. For Cheshire, and many of his relatives, the film was an opportunity to indulge in nostalgia, to revel in seven generations of family lore about ghosts and outsize characters. Though the house was built in 1848, it stood on land granted to the family by the English crown in 1739. "As a kid, it was fun for me to go out there on the weekends," he remembers. "The place had an old and magical feeling."

The project linked Hinton with a past not so easily retraced. "I was walking on floors that my great grandmother had swept," he explains. "I slept in a bed she had probably made a thousand times, and I ate at a table where she had served the white folks, and so, while it wasn't an ideal situation, it felt like I was reconnecting."

The big house, the land once filled with tobacco fields, and the

graveyard where Hinton's relatives were buried were testaments to what they endured. "My people built the house, and I wanted it to be preserved as proof of their labor and their skill," he says. "As long as it exists, no one can say that they weren't enslaved."

LEFT: TO ESCAPE SUBURBAN SPRAWL, MIDWAY PLANTATION WAS TRUCKED TO QUIETER PASTURES. RIGHT: HISTORIAN ROBERT HINTON (LEFT) AND FILMMAKER GODFREY CHESHIRE CONSIDER THE MOVE'S MEANING.

In a final scene, Cheshire's cousin hosts an uncommon and unlikely family reunion at Midway, now located three miles north of the original site on a spread of 46 acres. "I would like to think there'll be further contacts between the two branches of the family and maybe even some shared reunions in the future," Cheshire says. "I feel a strong kinship, literally, through our shared interest in family history."

Both he and Hinton consider the film just the first words of a longer, more difficult conversation, which they plan to continue, perhaps in a book, about Midway and the reconciliation between the family's black and white branches. "I want to encourage people—black and white—to talk about slavery," Hinton says. "Because neither want to, and we can't make sense out of racism unless we talk about slavery." ■

A REAL HOME FOR ART

by Megan Doll/GSAS '08

Not known for its art scene, the Upper West Side is nevertheless where Susan Eley (STEINHARDT '91) decided to open her eponymous art gallery in 2006—in the town house where she lives. “I wanted more of a home environment, something more intimate,” Eley says of the salon-style setting, where the former professional ballet dancer acts as an articulate yet approachable Virgil, guiding visitors through the often intimidating world of contemporary art. “I wanted to be a gallerist who could really offer service, so everybody who walks in here gets me full-on.”



Averaging five to six exhibitions a year, Eley's gallery offers an eclectic stable of early- to mid-career artists, from North America, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Her mission also includes facilitating in-depth discussions about the art being displayed. A 2007 show, for example, which was titled “Europe Redrawn” and exhibited the photography of Jay Hochheiser, also featured a talk from critic Stephen Perloff, the founder and editor of *The Photo Review*. “The average person tends to stay in a gallery for half an hour, 45 minutes,” Eley says. “I really want people to come in and stay and have a cup of coffee and ask questions.” ■



SUSAN ELEY'S UPPER WEST SIDE GALLERY OFFERS FIVE TO SIX CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS EACH YEAR.

PHOTOS: TOP © MARIA PASSAROTTI; BOTTOM COURTESY SUSAN ELEY FINE ART

CREDITS

NYU STARS LIGHT UP RED CARPETS AND THE SILVER SCREEN



PHOTO COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

ALEC BALDWIN (TSOA '94) took home Best Actor statues from the Emmy, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild awards for his role as the overbearing network exec Jack Donaghy on NBC's *30 Rock*... Set decorator **VICTOR J. ZOLFO** (TSOA '85) won Best Achievement in Art Direction at the Academy Awards for his work on *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*... For her film *The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)*, nominated for Best Documentary at both the Oscars and Film Independent's Spirit Awards, **ELLEN KURAS** (GAL '88, '90) followed a refugee family from Laos for 23 years... Writer-turned-director **CHARLIE KAUFMAN** (TSOA '80) was honored with the Robert Altman Award for *Synecdoche, New York* at the Spirit Awards, where he also picked up Best First Feature... **ETHAN REIFF** (TSOA '86) and **CYRUS VORIS** (TSOA '85) co-wrote last summer's *Kung Fu Panda*, which earned an Oscar nod for Best Animated Feature, as well as Ridley Scott's upcoming *Robin Hood*, starring Russell Crowe... Director **TOM HOOPER** (TSOA '94) scored an Emmy nomination for the HBO miniseries *John Adams* and next turns to the big screen with an adaptation of the John Steinbeck best-seller *East of Eden*... Writer **BRUCE JOEL RUBIN** (WSC '65), best known for the 1990 film

Ghost, penned the screenplay for *The Time Traveler's Wife*, starring Rachel McAdams and Eric Bana... **BILLY CRUDUP** (TSOA '94) brought graphic novel superhero Dr. Manhattan to life in last month's *Watchmen* and will be back in theaters this July alongside Johnny Depp and Christian Bale in Michael Mann's *Public Enemies*... Fellow alumni **CHANCE KELLY** (WSC '90) and **JOHN LAVELLE** (TSOA '04) can be seen in this summer's remake of *The Taking of Pelham 123*, which features Denzel Washington as an NYC subway dispatcher caught up in a hostage situation... *Red Tails*, which George Lucas has been developing since 1989 and details the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American pilots who flew in World War II, will finally be written by **JOHN RIDLEY** (GAL '87)... **GLEN WHITMAN** (GSAS '00) puts the science in sci-fi thriller *Fringe*, working behind the scenes to provide research and plausibility to the new Fox show... Former *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* cast member **TED ALLEN** (GSAS '90) is the host of two new shows on the Food Network: *Chopped* and *Food Detectives*... **NICK SPANGLER** (TSOA '07) returned to the off-Broadway show *The Fantasticks* after winning the \$1 million prize on CBS's *The Amazing Race*.—Renée Alfuso

GRAFFITI INNOVATION

JAMES POWDERLY WALKS THE LINE BETWEEN INVENTOR AND “ANTIGOVERNMENT ZEALOT”

by Kolby Yarnell



PHOTOS © GRAFFITI RESEARCH LAB

JAMES POWDERLY OUTFITS GRAFFITI ARTISTS WITH PLAYFUL OPEN SOURCE TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS L.A.S.E.R. TAG, WHICH USES A LASER POINTER AND PROJECTOR.

Like many artists, James Powderly (TSOA '02) is in touch with his inner adolescent. In a project called “Train Bombing in Europe,” he helped organize dozens of people in Linz, Austria, one evening to surround a city train and hurl magnets at it, terrifying both passengers and conductors. Attached to these magnets were colorful LED lights, a Powderly invention called the “throwie,” which transformed the train into a moving Christmas tree. Some

passengers justifiably took the incident for a terrorist attack. Powderly called it a “prank” and believes a little fear is good: “I think that’s a useful place to put someone in.”

Yet Powderly isn’t so eager to explore the usefulness of any fear he experienced while in police custody in China last summer, after being arrested for “upsetting the public order” during the 2008 Summer Olympics. Powderly spoke about the episode in December at an Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts event titled “DIY Law-Breaking & Mis-

chief-Making: A Conversation about Rogue Artists, Pranksters, and Other Trouble-Makers.” In keeping with the night’s theme, Powderly strolled in 15 minutes late and noted that he is not, and never has been, a graffiti artist, the label most often applied to him. In fact, his work is far geekier: He writes computer code, rigs fire extinguishers to spray house paint on hard-to-reach surfaces, and fashions lasers that can project words onto buildings from far away. He’s a graffiti inventor, as it were, ushering the outlaw

urban artist into the 21st century.

After graduating from Tisch School of the Arts’ Interactive Telecommunications Program in 2002, Powderly took a job at Honeybee Robotics. The company worked on contracts for NASA and the military, but with the start of the Iraq war, Powderly felt conflicted. “It was really hard to do good things for bad people,” he says. “There are so many auxiliary uses for a technology.” This tough lesson has been deeply entrenched in his work ever since. Whether it’s benign, like a

magnet, or benevolent, like a fire extinguisher, what Powderly seems to be demonstrating with his “research” is that technologies have no fixed application.

In 2005, he was awarded a residency at the Chelsea-based art and technology center Eyebeam, where he met and collaborated with Evan Roth. During this residency, they founded the Graffiti Research Lab (GRL), dedicated to outfitting graffiti artists with technologies for urban communication. They adhere strictly to an open source, anticapitalist philosophy. All of their ideas, from codes to paint guns to throwies, are up for grabs, and GRL relies on art galleries and donations for funding. On the GRL Web site, under the videos that document each project, is a link to instructions on how to do it yourself.

“Only in the art world can you work without slavish dependence on copyright,” says Powderly, who described his work as “neutral,” yet

moments later called himself an “antigovernment zealot.” So long as you aren’t in marketing or advertising—and especially if you’re a little bit of a villain—GRL will help you with your high-tech art project.

That goal took him to Beijing last August, to work with the organization Students for a Free Tibet. He admits that he flew there

questioning before the U.S. State Department arranged his release. He appreciates the irony that being American in China is both what led to his arrest and what got him out of jail much sooner than his cell mates. In hindsight, he said what he regrets most—more than the interrogations, the money lost (they charged him for his deportation

killed my ass,” he says, adding that at the moment he’s planning to create 3-D models of the cell he was in. Powderly will be traveling for a number of projects this year while also producing the film *GRL: The Complete First Season 2*.

The lab’s policy of turning down commercial work has become financially more problematic for Powderly and Roth, so they plan to do more projects with FAT Lab, the Free Art and Technology space where GRL is located, including “assisted technology for disabled people—with a graffiti twist.” Powderly is trying to make the public domain a more playful, anarchic place—at least to a point. “I might be a model, but not a role model,” he says. “If everyone was doing what we are, it would be really hard to get attention.” ■

What Powderly seems to be demonstrating with his “research” is that technologies have no fixed application.

without knowing much about the region’s troubled history, but he was willing to help the group create a laser stencil to project the words “Free Tibet” in Tiananmen Square. The Chinese police, however, had been monitoring his cell phone calls and text messages, and Powderly spent five days in jail, enduring sleep deprivation and harsh

ticket), and the fate of those who were also arrested—was his failure in the role of wily mischief-maker. “I probably wouldn’t wear a kaffiyeh and sleeveless shirt again if I were trying to go incognito,” he says.

Going forward, Powderly is hoping to throw a little fear back at the Chinese government. “They are going to wish that they



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IN
PERENNIAL

FOER'S MENTOR, JOYCE CAROL OATES, IS AN INSPIRATION IN HIS TEACHING.



PHOTO © ADAM BERRY

creative writing

Wunderkind in the Classroom

NOVELIST JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER DISCUSSES FICTION—AND HOW TO TEACH IT

by Catherine Fata / CAS '09

Jonathan Safran Foer went from receptionist to best-selling and critically acclaimed author with the 2002 publication of his debut novel, *Everything Is Illuminated* (Harper Perennial), when he was just 25 years old. Praised by the likes of Francine Prose and John Updike and winner of the Guardian First Book Award, the National Jewish Book Award, and the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award, the novel announced the arrival of a brazen new talent to be reckoned with. The responses from critics were polarizing—everything from hailing him as a genius to calling his work gimmicky.



With a second novel under his belt (*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Mariner Books) and a work of nonfiction due out next year, Foer has joined the faculty at NYU as a professor in the Graduate Creative Writing Program. And it turns out that his pedagogical philosophy is as unorthodox as his literary style. David Grumblatt, an MFA candidate, recalls assignments as varied as oral storytelling, eulogy writing, and singing karaoke. “[Foer’s class] was much more focused on the process of writing, rather than the creation of a finished piece,” Grumblatt says. “We were encouraged to experiment, to be playful, and to question how we approached our own writing.”

During his first semester on campus last fall, *NYU Alumni Magazine* caught up with Foer,

who is now 32 and, dressed in jeans and sporting a close-cropped haircut, can easily pass for one of his students.

AS A TEACHER YOU MUST BE REMINDED OF HOW MUCH EFFECT ONE OF YOUR TEACHERS—JOYCE CAROL OATES, WHOSE CLASS YOU TOOK AS AN UNDERGRAD AT PRINCETON—HAD ON YOU.

I would not have become a writer if I hadn’t met her. She encouraged me when there was very little to encourage. Really. I didn’t know I wanted to be a writer. I didn’t think that I was particularly talented. I wasn’t producing work that was great. But she felt like she saw something that was worth, you know, fostering. And one lesson she helped me learn is that at that age, most

people are very impressionable. A few kind words or a few unkind words can really send somebody into a different orbit. And she did that for me.

HOW CAN WRITING BE TAUGHT?

What people are born with, more than any talent, is stories: where their families come from, how they talked around the dinner table, or didn't talk, the conflict of their childhoods, things like that. In terms of my approach, it's not to perfect pieces of writing but rather to encourage students to think about writing in ways they might not have before.... There's plenty of time to perfect your craft, whereas when you're a student, it's a good time to have your basic notions of writing changed. So a lot of my assignments test the boundaries of fiction.

WHAT'S YOUR WRITING REGIMEN?

That's like saying, "What's your regimen for getting out of a burning building?" I mean, stop, drop, and roll is generally a good idea. Be close to the floor is generally a good idea. Don't breathe smoke. Don't catch fire.

Writing is a kind of emergency, it's kind of a horrible thing to have to write. But I think ultimately each person finds his own way or her own way out of it. My regimen has changed a lot since I started. And I don't really even have one now. I like trying to start in the morning, and I like trying to spend three or four hours a day doing it, but it doesn't always happen like that.

AND WHEN IT'S A STRUGGLE?

It's really always a struggle. And I don't say that flippantly. It really is always a struggle. And how do I work through it? Sometimes I just work through it. Sometimes I just put it down and go away and come back. Sometimes I have to put it down for a really long time, like weeks or months, and come

back. And sometimes things have to fall apart in order to come back together in a way that's good. But it's hard. And not only does each writer face these problems differently, but each project presents different problems.

DOES WHAT YOU READ INFLUENCE WHAT YOU WRITE?

Everything influences what one writes—everything interesting does. I'm rereading a book, which is maybe my favorite of all books. It's called *Life? or Theater?* by a woman named Charlotte Salomon. I only know about it because I happened to walk into a museum in Amsterdam where I saw it. It's halfway between paintings and a book—just a total work of art. Every time I open it, it inspires me but also totally debilitates me because it's so good.

BOTH OF YOUR NOVELS ARE STORIES FROM DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS INTERTWINED INTO ONE. IS THERE A REASON YOU CHOSE TO DO THEM THIS WAY?

Sometimes there's no reason for things in writing. That's what's nice about writing, nice about art. It's not responsible to reason in the same way that everything else in life is.

YOUR BOOKS HAVE BEEN HIGHLY PRAISED, BUT ALSO HARSHLY CRITICIZED. WHAT IS THAT LIKE?

It was just, like, a matter of fact. It didn't hurt my feelings or anything like that. I'd rather people like what I do than dislike what I do. But as long as people are having very strong reactions, then I'm happy. Because what I don't want someone to say is, "It was a nice book." I want someone to say that I really connected with it or I really hated it. And I would prefer the former, but I would take the latter over a lukewarm response. ■

■ bibliofile

PET FOOD POLITICS: THE CHIHUAHUA IN THE COAL MINE (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS)

MARION NESTLE
PAULETTE GODDARD
PROFESSOR OF NUTRITION,
FOOD STUDIES, AND
PUBLIC HEALTH
STEINHARDT



In her latest book, nutritionist Marion Nestle chronicles how what started with a few telephone calls about sick cats snowballed into the largest food recall in American history. Using official U.S. government documents, interviews with doctors and researchers, and Internet blog chatter, the best-selling author tracks contaminated ingredients from China to Canada's Menu Foods company pet food—and eventually into barnyard feed and the human food chain. Though investigations by the FDA and USDA eventually uncovered a lapse in oversight, the episode is a cautionary tale about the food-safety hazards of globalization. As Nestle notes, "Even our most skeptical colleagues could see that pet foods were the proverbial canary—in this instance, the Chihuahua—in the coal mine."

—Kevin Fallon

OUT OF THE BLUE: A HISTORY OF LIGHTNING: SCIENCE, SUPERSTITION, AND AMAZING STORIES OF SURVIVAL (DEACORTE PRESS)

JOHN S. FRIEDMAN
GSAS '74



Steve Marshburn Sr. sat at his bank-teller window clutching a metal date stamp when a lightning bolt suddenly zapped the bank's drive-up window microphone, which, by chance, was pointed at his spine. "It felt as if someone had hit me with a baseball bat," Marshburn tells John S. Friedman in *Out of the Blue*. Tracing the history of lightning through Greek mythology, scientific study, and even the *Harry Potter* series, Friedman, a contributor to *The Nation* and an Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker, unearths some of the mystery surrounding this natural phenomenon. Most gripping are the stories of survivors, such as Marshburn and a mountaineer group struck while climbing the Tetons in 2003, which underline the fragility of human life and how—out of the blue—it can be ripped from our grasp.

—Jackie Risser

WHAT CAME BEFORE

FOLLOWING AN ACCLAIMED MEMOIR AND FILM ADAPTATION, JAMES McBRIDE PENS A HARRIET TUBMAN-INSPIRED SLAVE NARRATIVE

by Adelle Waldman

For James McBride, an old-fashioned aesthetic is no mere decoration. The vintage typewriter that sits on his desk could well be the one on which Ralph Ellison toiled away in a Harlem basement in the early 1950s, but it's where McBride works, often after penning a first draft in longhand. The typewriter—like the man himself, who is often dressed in suit, tie, and fedora—may seem anachronistic in the sleek, new of-

his childhood in Brooklyn as one of 12 black siblings raised by his white, widowed, Jewish mother. He followed that up with the 2001 novel *Miracle at St. Anna* (Riverhead), made into last fall's film by Spike Lee (TSOA '82, HON '98). The story, which the author himself adapted as a screenplay, follows a small group of soldiers from the U.S. Army's all-black division during World War II who are stranded behind enemy lines in a remote Italian village and become objects of fasci-

“The minute you start to judge people as a creative writer, you are dead creatively.”

fic at 20 Cooper Square, where McBride is a distinguished writer in residence at NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. But a classical elegance is appropriate for a man who keeps turning his eye to the past.

McBride, who is also a professional jazz saxophonist and award-winning composer, first gained literary fame with his best-selling 1996 memoir, *The Color of Water* (Riverhead). Published in more than 16 languages, it chronicled

nation to the townspeople. With prose that gains force in large part because of its restraint, the author rarely comments overtly on the potent injustice that underlies his story.

McBride stepped even further into the past for his most recent novel, *Song Yet Sung* (Riverhead). Released in paperback in January, it tells the story of slaves living on Maryland's Eastern shore in the 1850s. The haunting and complex portrait teems with a sense of un-



easiness as whites, aware of the tenuousness—both morally and pragmatically—of their dominant position, live in fear that their slaves will revolt, or escape to freedom in neighboring Pennsylvania. “How close it all seemed,” one widowed slave owner thinks. “Just eighty

miles.” McBride also depicts a society riddled with tensions between not just white and black but also wealthy plantation owners and struggling oystermen, and he captures the lawlessness of life in this remote, swampy, and superstitious region, a peninsula isolated from

JAMES McBRIDE HAS WORN THE HATS OF MEMOIRIST, NOVELIST, JAZZ SAXOPHONIST, COMPOSER, AND SCREENWRITER.



PHOTO © SARAH LEEN

the rest of the East Coast by the Chesapeake Bay.

It was the place itself that originally attracted McBride. Feeling stuck in his writing, he set off one day from his home in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to visit Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln was shot.

But on the drive to Washington, D.C., something came over him. "I just went to the left," he says. "I was trolling for ideas." He knew that Harriet Tubman was born on the Eastern shore, but when he got there he was struck by the palpable history of the region. "You can smell it, you can feel it when you are down there," he says. "You learn silence. You learn to listen to the land."

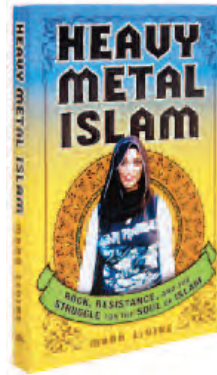
The story that emerged was loosely inspired by Tubman herself. McBride's protagonist, Liz Spocott, is a beautiful slave who escapes from the plantation owner who has been raping her since she was a teenager. Liz, like Tubman, suffered a head injury, and it leads her to have prophetic dreams, one of which enables her to free 14 slaves trapped in an attic. Their escape sets off a chain of events that endanger all the blacks in the area, including those vital to the operation of the "gospel train," as the Underground Railroad is called. What follows is both a suspenseful chase and a meditation on what it means to be a good person in a society riddled with moral contradictions.

McBride says that he is interested in bringing out the humanity in all of his characters, even the ones whose livelihood is derived from chasing down "human chattel." "The minute you start to judge people as a creative writer, you are dead creatively," he says. "Judgments are the cork stops of ideas, and if you are a person who lives by his wits, then you'd be foolish to put a cork stop in the bottle."

And for McBride, his bottle of ideas is full of the past: neglected corners of history rife with human drama on both the internal and societal levels. It's no wonder, then, that the man himself—with his typewriter and fedora—pays homage in his person to what came before. ■

■ bibliofile

HEAVY METAL ISLAM: ROCK, RESISTANCE, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF ISLAM
(THREE RIVERS PRESS)
MARK LeVINE
GSAS '99



In *Heavy Metal Islam*, Mark LeVine canvasses much of the Muslim world, from Morocco to Pakistan, to examine a burgeoning—and potentially democratizing—movement of young metalheads. Here metal, as well as hip-hop, punk, and reggae, is used not so much as an anthem of teenage angst but to protest authoritarianism (as in the case of an Iranian rocker) and to celebrate Islam (one Turkish band recorded the Muslim testament of faith over a "driving hard-rock groove"). In detailing this subculture, LeVine, a guitarist and professor of modern Middle Eastern history at the University of California-Irvine, paints a picture rarely seen by outsiders: a generation impassioned by their love of both Islam and the secular music of the West.

—Rhett Bixler

ONLY LOVE CAN BREAK YOUR HEART
(THE NEW PRESS)
DAVID SAMUELS
ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
ARTHUR L. CARTER
JOURNALISM INSTITUTE



From college kids sloshing through raw sewage at Woodstock '99 to a company charged with demolishing a landmark Las Vegas casino, David Samuels' collection of stories paints brief portraits of the relatively unexamined lives of a wide-ranging cast of Americans. The essays, each previously published in magazines such as *Harpers's* and *The New Yorker*, combine animated reporting, personal reflection, and social analysis, harkening back to New Journalism greats such as Joan Didion. Although individual characters—from environmentalists celebrating the destruction at the Seattle WTO protests to workers at a Nevada nuclear test site—get limited page time, Samuels writes with a compassion that gives readers just enough information to care about them, if only for a moment.

—Padraic Wheeler

Diagnosis

by Sharon Olds

Erich Maria Remarque Professor at NYU

*By the time I was six months old, she knew something
was wrong with me. I got looks on my face
she had not seen on any child
in the family, or the extended family,
or the neighborhood. My mother took me in
to the pediatrician with the kind hands,
a doctor with a name like a suit size for a wheel:
Hub Long. My mom did not tell him
what she thought in truth, that I was Possessed.
It was just these strange looks on my face—
he held me, and conversed with me,
chatting as one does with a baby, and my mother
said, She's doing it now! Look!
She's doing it now! and the doctor said,
What your daughter has
is called a sense
of humor. Ohhh, she said, and took me
back to the house where that sense would be tested
and found to be incurable.*

Excerpted from *One Secret Thing* by Sharon Olds. Copyright © 2008 by Sharon Olds. Excerpted by permission of Knopf, a division of Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this excerpt may be reproduced or reprinted without permission in writing from the publisher.

AMERICANS ABROAD

IN DAPHNE BEAL'S DEBUT NOVEL,
AN ADVENTUROUS YOUNG WOMAN
COMES OF AGE IN NEPAL

by Eryn Loeb / GSAS '07

In 1989, eager for a break from her theory-obsessed, hyperpolitical college campus, Daphne Beal (GSAS '98) spent a year living in Nepal and quickly fell under its spell. Ending up there, she says, was “a bit of dumb luck,” but as she studied and trekked through the mountainous country, its beautiful landscape and suffused sense of spirituality began to ease her restlessness. “And I really loved that it had a stronger oral tradition than a literary tradition,” Beal remembers. “Even then I knew that I wanted to be a writer.”

After she returned to the United States and graduated from Brown University, the experience kept a tight hold on her. Over the years, as Beal pursued a journalistic career, she thought about it all the

her time there and to untangle some of her thoughts from that early trip, as well as subsequent visits to the region. The result appeared last summer: *In the Land of No Right Angles* (Anchor), Beal's gorgeous, stirring first novel.

At its center is Alex, a 20-year-old Midwestern woman traveling through Nepal on leave from college, and the prickly, intense friendships she forms with a young Nepali woman named Maya and with Will, an older expat American on an endless quest for enlightenment—which he seeks mostly through a parade of young, attractive women. The three conspire, dream, and drift apart over a period of eight years, culminating in a fraught reunion in Bombay.

Throughout the book, Alex wrestles with what it means to be an outsider in the place that's

“There's a great kind of narcissism to being 20 that's fun—and also fun to grow out of.”

time. “It was almost like being obsessed with someone you'd once been in love with,” she says. While some of her journalism work focused on the region, Beal felt she could engage more deeply with her own understanding of it through fiction. Writing a story based in Nepal seemed a good excuse to dwell on the memory of

captured her heart. It's a struggle that Beal based largely on feelings of her own. “I never would have written the story from the point of view of Maya,” she says, conjecturing that Alex is about “40 percent me and 60 percent everyone I ever met there.”

Nepal's landscape is a character in itself, and as Alex, Maya, and



DAPHNE BEAL CREATES RICH CHARACTERS WHILE CRITIQUING THE EX-PAT EXPERIENCE.

Will climb mountains, bike around Kathmandu, and hike through pouring rain, Beal renders it vividly, detailing the intoxicating sensations of exploring a faraway place. “There’s a great kind of narcissism to being 20 that’s fun—and also fun to grow out of,” Beal reflects, describing both her characters and the spate of Western students who come of age in foreign settings.

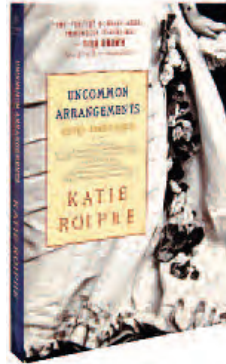
In the mid-1990s Beal worked at *The New Yorker*, an experience she credits with honing her attention to detail. Her journalistic work proved an easy complement to writing fiction—an essay she reported for *McSweeney’s* about Falkland Road, Bombay’s notori-

ous red-light district, provided plenty of fodder for her novel. “I’m happy, in my late thirties, to figure out that what makes a good story in a fictional narrative also makes a good story as a nonfictional narrative,” she says. “I don’t really think of myself as either a novelist or a journalist; I think of myself as a writer. It’s all much more melded than I once imagined it was.”

As for her next book? She’s still circling around the exact story, but it will be set in the Midwest, where she—like Alex—is originally from. “The setting of rural northern Wisconsin is something that I think about when I’m daydreaming,” she says. ■

bibliofile

UNCOMMON ARRANGEMENTS:
SEVEN PORTRAITS OF MARRIED
LIFE IN LONDON LITERARY
CIRCLES 1910-1939
(DIAL PRESS)
KATIE ROIPHE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OF JOURNALISM
ARTHUR L. CARTER
JOURNALISM INSTITUTE



Social critic Katie Roiphe casts an eye on seven “marriages à la mode,” the unconventional, fashionably experimental relationships that proliferated among some British literati and artists from 1910 to WWII, and which helped to redefine the rules of matrimony. Using memoirs, letters, and personal accounts from a pantheon of writers, including a biting Virginia Woolf, Roiphe dissects the less-than-holy unions of, among others, H.G. Wells and Rebecca West, and Katherine Mansfield and John Middleton Murry. Though many of the partnerships could seem outré even today—open marriages and love triangles abound—they wrestle with the perennial tug of an idealized equality between the sexes and stiff traditional roles. In a starred review, *Publishers Weekly* called it “provocative, dishy, substantive, and fun.”

—Christiana Molina

THE GOOD THIEF
(DIAL PRESS)
HANNAH TINTI
GSAS '97



In her fanciful debut novel, Hannah Tinti follows the fate of Ren, a one-handed orphan and natural pick-pocket in 19th-century New England, after his greatest wish—to be adopted—comes true. But his idyll of family bliss is quickly dashed by his new father (a charming con) and a growing circle of misfit friends, from a drunken onetime teacher to a chimney-climbing dwarf. As their adventures careen from fraud to grave-robbing and worse, Ren’s sense of morality—beaten into him over 12 years in a Catholic orphanage—is tested and amended, even as the mystery mounts over his true identity. Though the premise recalls Dickens, Tinti’s yarn, at times violent and bizarre, is thoroughly original.

—Nicole Pezold

STERN FACULTY RUSH TO RESPOND WITH A PLAN— AND WASHINGTON LISTENS

by Jill Hamburg Coplan

CRISIS TIMELINE

2007

More than 25 U.S. subprime mortgage lenders go

BANKRUPT.

NEW CENTURY FINANCIAL CORP., the nation's second-largest subprime mortgage lender, **FAILS**. Most believe it is just an isolated incident.

01.07 - 03.07

04.07

ECONOMY:

On Friday, September 12, Viral V. Acharya sat beside boxes of belongings in his new Manhattan apartment. The finance professor had just moved from London to take a position at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, but he couldn't even think about unpacking. Instead, he sat glued to CNN and CNBC as a fast-moving global financial emergency unfolded. At the center was Lehman Brothers, the storied, 158-year-old investment house, teetering on the verge of collapse.

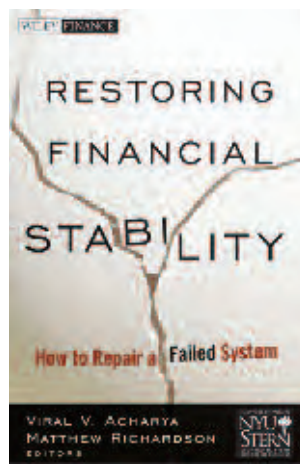
For two years, Acharya, a bank regulation specialist and former academic adviser to the Bank of England, had followed the simmering credit crisis, created when risky mortgages, made to borrowers with poor credit histories, went into default, taking dozens of so-called "subprime" lenders down with them. But this was drama of a different order: If Lehman failed, with nearly \$650 billion in assets, it would be

the biggest bankruptcy in American history. "I had the instinct that evening: This is really going to be a disaster," Acharya says. "It was like a movie, like something you read about in books."

He was right. By Monday, September 15, Lehman had not only failed but a nearly insolvent Merrill Lynch had sold itself to Bank of America, and the giants Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs were floundering near collapse (and would soon convert from high-flying investment banks into bank holding companies)—all because their enormous stashes of complex, mortgage-backed derivatives now appeared to be practically worthless. The next day, the money-market system un-

derpinning global commerce seized up for the same reason, and the Federal Reserve mounted an emergency rescue of the world's largest insurance company, AIG. A few days later, Washington Mutual was seized by the FDIC.

At Stern, the conversation in faculty meetings, in the halls, and on blogs went into overdrive. Dean Thomas F. Cooley called for an emergency brainstorming session. The school's Board of Overseers had asked him for a response to the meltdown—something big, in writing. "At a moment like this, at a business school, with the wealth of knowledge we have gathered, one puts it all in perspective," Cooley says. The question he posed to his faculty was simple: "What do we really need to do?"



Two highly leveraged **BEAR STEARNS HEDGE FUNDS** invested in subprime asset-backed securities **plunge in value, then shut.**

MERRILL LYNCH, a creditor, **can't find buyers** for the funds' assets, revealing their worthlessness. **THE CRISIS BEGINS TO SPREAD....**

HEDGE FUNDS experience **MASSIVE MELTDOWNS** in one week.

French bank **BNP PARIBAS** **freezes** the short-term lending market as popular investment vehicles are revealed to be supported by toxic subprime assets, erroneously rated triple-A.

CRISIS GOES GLOBAL: France, China, and others report subprime-related losses.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE starts **cutting rates.** Banks start hoarding, lending interbank only overnight, rather than the conventional three months.

Banks begin writing down **BILLIONS OF DOLLARS** in mortgage-backed derivatives.

The new book describes the growth, and implosion, not only of megabanks but of the risky shadow banking system they parked outside the reach of regulators.

06.07

08.07

09.07

10.07

CODE RED

Wiley recently published their answers in the new book *Restoring Financial Stability: How to Repair a Failed System*. Edited by Acharya and financial economics professor Matthew Richardson, and compiling 18 white papers authored by 33 scholars, the book describes the growth, and implosion, not only of megabanks but of the risky shadow banking system they parked outside the reach of regulators. It documents how investment banks, insurers, hedge funds, and others invested long-term, while funding their holdings short-term—a prescription for runs and instability. Ultimately, the book lays out a new style of “systemic” financial regulation, designed to monitor and defuse emerging dangers in today’s rapidly shifting, deeply interconnected global economy.

In February, the book was in the hands of President Obama’s economic team—Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner and Lawrence H. Summers, who heads the White House’s

National Economic Council. Dean Cooley notes that Stern also sent galleys to “the people we know at the Fed,” the Bank of England, and the most powerful policymakers on Capitol Hill. The House Oversight Committee on the bailout requested 10 copies. At press time, when Geithner revealed new plans for the biggest overhaul of financial regulation since the Great Depression, the book’s recommendations were much in evidence. “We have had a role, for sure, in shaping the debate,” Cooley says.

The book, like the crisis, was significant for another reason: Academics, accustomed to spending years on major projects, had to deliver it to the publisher in just six weeks. To get it rolling, professor Ingo Walter, vice dean of faculty, drew up a blueprint, created a faculty e-mail list called CrisisFac, and blasted an announcement soliciting contributions: “This is probably the most important event of our lifetime.” Three dozen economists signed on

that day. Richardson, a capital markets expert who runs Stern’s Salomon Center for the Study of Financial Institutions, managed the process.

Contributors gravitated to areas where they’d done research and in many cases advised government. Some had worked on securities and derivatives exchanges, others with central banks and public agencies, such as the Federal Home Loan Bank. They’d testified before Congress on the Savings & Loan crisis, rating agencies, and the 1999 repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act, the milestone that tore down the wall among banks, brokerages, and investment managers—creating the megabank model that, the economists would write in the book, had proven a failure.

Throughout the month that they prepared the book, the Stern economists circulated ideas in hundreds of e-mails. In the home stretch period of comments and revisions,

2008

U.S. STOCKS FALL 8%
amid the largest drop in U.S. home sales in 25 years.

After a run on **BEAR STEARNS**, the government arranges **JPMORGAN CHASE'S PURCHASE OF THE INVESTMENT BANK**

> for \$2/share, down from \$172/share only months earlier by guaranteeing \$29 billion in toxic securities.

FDIC SEIZES INDYMAC, in one of the largest bank **FAILURES** in U.S. history.

"This is probably the most important event of our lifetime."
VICE DEAN INGO WALTER

FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC experience huge losses in their

\$5.2 TRILLION DEBT PORTFOLIOS, creating a systemic risk. The government puts them into conservatorship and replaces their leaders.

158-year-old **LEHMAN BROTHERS**, with \$639 billion in assets, files for the

LARGEST BANKRUPTCY in U.S. history



a single economic question posed on the list-serv generated 60 e-mails in 45 minutes, and these online debates, Acharya and Richardson say, sometimes flourished at 4 AM. Just before the deadline—while the crisis continued and the United States doubled the funds committed to failing insurer AIG and spent \$125 billion on equity stakes in major U.S. banks—the authors presented papers at nine back-to-back roundtables. Then Acharya and Richardson pulled six all-nighters to finalize the manuscript.

The book's recommendations would end up representing a collaborative agreement, reached through weeks of aggressive debate. The most vociferous disagreements were over whether bankers' pay should be regulated and what role monetary policy should play during a bubble. While they differed on these points, they did agree that financial institutions that pose systemic risk should be forced to buy insurance against

catastrophic losses.

The book narrates the years leading up to the financial crisis, when easy availability of credit fueled a housing bubble and a boom in lending during which loan standards plummeted. Banks packaged or "securitized" high-risk mortgages into trillions of dollars of exotic, little-traded instruments, which were bought and sold in an unregulated, over-the-counter market. Unlike with simpler derivatives, such as futures and options, there was no central clearinghouse where everyone could see who's trading what. Now, thanks in part to the new book, that's set to change.

As the underlying risky loans' interest rates ballooned, homeowners defaulted, and the widely held, complex securities made from those loans started weighing down Wall Street. The mortgage-related derivatives, it turned out, were now toxic and a gigantic problem for any bank that held them. Banking and housing's declines left Americans feeling

poorer, so that even fewer bought homes, which sank related industries—from home electronics to the building trades. Stocks followed suit, creating a dangerous recessionary spiral. The Fed cut interest rates several times but couldn't rev the economy.

Part of the problem was that rather than greasing the wheels of commerce by turning deposits into loans, the banks had acted like supersized, risky hedge funds. They ignored their own business models, Richardson says. They were supposed to transfer risk by off-loading the complex mortgage securities onto investors. Instead, the banks kept them in-house, like time bombs ticking in the basement. Regulators were too weak to stop them and seemed unable to meet the challenge once the crisis hit. "You got the feeling the regulators didn't have it all in control—that they were caught without sufficient forewarning, were maybe even in a state of panic," Acharya says. "Some very natural responses policymakers

WHITE PAPER BRIEFS

HERE'S A PEEK AT A FEW KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Regulating individual banks is no longer enough to ensure the safety and soundness of today's globally interlinked system of behemoth financial institutions. Authors argue that it's time for what they call a special, dedicated regulator, under the auspices of the Federal Reserve, to constantly monitor the soundness of these behemoths. That new regulator should be able to continually measure risk system-wide and should not only gauge it with the single, most commonly used ratio of capital to risk-weighted assets, but a far more well-rounded approach that takes into account an institution's loans to deposits, insured deposits to assets, liquid bonds to assets, etc.

- Now that U.S. taxpayers are out \$7 trillion in guarantees to financial firms, the public will demand that banks stop rewarding irresponsible behavior and short-term thinking with outsized salaries and bonuses. The book suggests long-term compensation contracts (rather than a salary cap, as President Obama announced in February) and other financial incentives to reward long-term thinking.

- About one in 10 U.S. mortgages are delinquent or in foreclosure. To prevent this statistic from ballooning even further, the authors call for modifying more mortgages, but in a new and improved way—before foreclosure and bankruptcy sets in. The snag here is that about 80 percent of troubled home loans have been sliced and diced thanks to securitization. To untangle them, the laws that protect lenders from modification must be repealed. And lenders need better incentives to modify loans, such as in exchange for restructuring loan terms, they would receive a share of any future appreciation in the property's value.

- Another concern is the \$50-trillion-plus over-the-counter derivatives market, where no one knows precisely what the exposure is, where the danger is concentrated, or the values of the contracts. For the most widely traded derivatives, the authors advocate a centralized clearinghouse—as there is now for futures and options—to impose volume and pricing transparency.

- The United States has long guaranteed, implicitly, that it would rescue failing government-sponsored enterprises, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as troubled banks. But these guarantees actually became part of the problem. The comfort level they created led to a low cost of borrowing and little "market discipline" to punish these institutions when they took on increasing risk. In the future, the authors oppose such "ill-designed and mispriced guarantees" for both private and quasi-public banking institutions.

For a complete list of the authors and to read from the white papers, go to <http://whitepapers.stern.nyu.edu/home>

MERRILL LYNCH SELLS ITSELF TO BANK OF AMERICA,

amid fears that it's insolvent.

Prices of **MORGAN STANLEY** and **GOLDMAN SACHS** stock and derivative securities reflect belief they are

NEAR FAILURE; their creditors demand more collateral.

RESERVE PRIMARY FUND,

ONE OF THE LARGEST MONEY-MARKET MUTUAL FUNDS, SEIZES UP

as its **\$785 million** of *Lehman Brothers short-term paper* becomes nearly **WORTHLESS.**

MASSIVE UNCERTAINTY CAUSES

a run on the money-market system, the primary source of short-term funding. In the most serious event of the crisis, the Fed steps in to guarantee all money-market funds.



Similar collateral calls on **AIG** prompt the Fed to inject **\$85 billion into the giant insurer, fearing failure would be catastrophic.**

Federal Reserve Chairman **BEN BERNANKE** and Treasury Secretary **HENRY PAULSON** call for a

MASSIVE BANK BAILOUT.

Rather than greasing the wheels of commerce by turning deposits into loans, the banks acted like supersized, risky hedge funds. They ignored their own business models.

THE \$700 BILLION

Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) is unveiled.

GOLDMAN SACHS and **MORGAN STANLEY**

convert to bank holding companies, **ENDING THE ERA OF THE INVESTMENT BANK.**

WASHINGTON MUTUAL

is seized by FDIC, then

SOLD TO JPMORGAN CHASE.

WACHOVIA

enters crisis takeover talks with Citigroup and is then

BOUGHT BY WELLS FARGO after the **IRS** sweetens the deal with a tax subsidy.

09.17.08



09.19.08



09.21.08

09.25.08

09.29.08

would have considered, if they'd been researching these issues for a long time, weren't being considered. That lack of preparedness surprised me."

By contrast, the Stern economists had spent their careers studying these very matters. The book's prescriptions for remedying the catastrophe share an approach the editors call "regulation light"—using incentives, such as taxes and fees, yet relying finally on the power of markets (see a roundup of recommendations on page 37). The fixes also proceed from the recognition that "free markets" aren't actually free: Government guarantees and subsidies, as the ongoing bailout makes clear, are inevitable features of modern finance. "Once you accept that," Acharya says, "you can focus on getting the incentives right." One key challenge is solving the problem of "moral hazard," the danger that a safety net becomes an invitation to misbehave,

CONGRESS PASSES AN AMENDED BAILOUT BILL.

Global powers coordinate an interest-rate cut as
THE CRISIS DEEPENS.

U.S. STOCKS POST WORST WEEK IN A CENTURY

as **DOW** drops by almost one-quarter amid
concern about government missteps on the crisis.
**THE FED ANNOUNCES AN ADDITIONAL
\$900 BILLION IS AVAILABLE TO BANKS.**

10.03.08

10.08.08

10.10.08



WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

Two scientific subdisciplines may offer future clues to the financial collapse

by Jill Hamburg Coplan

Brightly colored blobs of swishing, glowing matter: This is your brain on economics.

Or, more accurately, this is the view of your brain that interests researchers in the controversial, infant science of neuroeconomics. It is a field evolving at the intersection of psychology, neuroscience, biology and economics—a melding that was little imagined even five years ago, before the advent of sophisticated brain-scanning technology. And, along with behavioral economics, which considers irrational behaviors that classical economic theory can't explain, its practitioners are pursuing novel lines of research that might one day unravel the decision-making that informs investing, saving, insuring, and the way government regulation works.

MAPPING OUR FINANCIAL DECISIONS

Neuroeconomics, in a nutshell, is the study of different brain regions that kick into gear when people make economic decisions, which are now observable with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Blood flow is visibly greater in one area when we learn under stress, for example, and in another when we weigh risk, and in yet another when we assign value to something. Along with the California Institute of Technology, NYU is the global center of this research, and recent studies here have found differences in brain response when a decision involved novelty, ambiguity, or deep emotion.

Neuroeconomics, of course, has its detractors. At conferences and in scholarly journals and books, critics have questioned—sometimes heatedly—the compatibility of the disciplines, holding that neural science and economics have different goals, ask unrelated questions, and explore different types of evidence. In fairness, it's still not clear exactly how much we can extrapolate from images of blood flow. But while economics departments are yet to grant degrees in the field, a leader in the discipline, Paul W. Glimcher, principle investigator at the Center for Neural Science at NYU (whose 2008 book, *Neuroeconomics: Decision Making and the Brain*, was the field's first), suggests that this research will one day be as useful to

economists as biologists now find chemistry and physics.

A step in this process is to understand the role of emotions in decision-making. Elizabeth A. Phelps, a professor at the Center for Neuroeconomics at NYU, is currently investigating the relationship among arousal, fear, and economic choices. Phelps won't generalize about how her lab's findings speak to the current crisis—"We aren't even close to mirroring the situation in the markets," she cautions—but it seems neuroeconomics may one day help explain the underlying emotions that recently drove euphoric speculators, risky borrowers, aggressive lenders, or timid regulators. The economy's implosion has already sparked fresh interest from academics in joining the center's cross-disciplinary collaboration, Phelps notes. People realize that they need to understand bubbles, she says, and to learn how policymakers' emotions "might mediate changes in decision-making that we see in crisis times."

These heated emotions are also the issue of the moment for another NYU neuroeconomist, Andrew Caplin, an economics professor in the Faculty of Arts and Science and co-director of the Center for Experimental Social Science. Bridging traditional and experimental economics, he co-authored a chapter on mortgages in the Stern School's book and, on the neuroecon front, he's working on improving the new discipline's methods.

Caplin believes getting to the bottom of the neurological basis of economic decision-making matters because, just to cite one application, currently much of America's rapidly aging population isn't taking the necessary financial planning steps to ensure their security in old age. He also says that there are ways the science could be useful to policymakers in Washington, to help them better understand the biological roots and impact of stress: "We need nonemotional analytic clarity to prevent another [crisis] event. Policymakers, as human beings, undergo naturally dangerous responses to stress. Right now they are overwhelmed and their decision-making facilities are extremely impaired."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 40)

The U.S. announces its **HEAVIEST JOB LOSSES** in 14 years.

GOVERNMENT DOUBLES FUNDS COMMITTED TO AIG.

The Treasury gives Citigroup **\$20 BILLION IN TARP FUNDS**

and guarantees \$306 billion of assets in exchange for warrants and preferred stock.

2009

JPMORGAN CHASE announces fourth quarter 2008

PROFITS FELL 75%.

A Congressional Oversight Panel questions the way TARP has spent its billions. The Treasury purchases about \$7 billion in stock from troubled U.S. banks.

Congress passes a

\$787 BILLION STIMULUS PACKAGE,

mostly along party lines. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner unveils a rescue plan.

DOW drops below 7,000 for first time since 1997.

Anger swells after **AIG** reveals that it paid

\$165 MILLION IN BONUSES

to the very employees responsible for its troubles, some of whom no longer work for the insurance giant.

The Fed announces plan to buy up treasury bonds and other securities, effectively pumping \$1 trillion into the economy.

GEITHNER ANNOUNCES PLAN TO DRASTICALLY TIGHTEN FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATIONS.

11.07.08

11.10.08

11.24.08



01.09



02.09

03.09



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39)

Brightly colored blobs of swishing, glowing matter: This is your brain on economics.

Or, more accurately, this is the view of your brain that interests researchers in the controversial, infant science of neuroeconomics. It is a field evolving at the intersection of psychology, neuroscience, biology and economics—a melding that was little imagined even five years ago, before the advent of sophisticated brain-scanning technology. And, along with behavioral economics, which considers irrational behaviors that classical economic theory can't explain, its practitioners are pursuing novel lines of research that might one day unravel the decision-making that informs investing, saving, insuring, and the way government regulation works.

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observable with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Blood flow is visibly greater in one area when we learn under stress, for example, and in another when we weigh risk, and in yet another when we assign value to something. Along with the California Institute of Technology, NYU is the global center of this research, and recent studies here have found differences in brain response when a decision involved novelty, ambiguity, or deep emotion.

Neuroeconomics, of course, has its detractors. At conferences and in scholarly journals and books, critics have questioned—sometimes heatedly—the compatibility of the disciplines, holding that neural science and economics have different goals, ask unrelated questions, and explore different types of evidence. In fairness, it's still not clear exactly how much we can extrapolate from images of blood flow. But while economics departments are yet to grant degrees in the field, a leader in the discipline, Paul W. Glimcher, princi-

because you know you'll be rescued. To meet that, the economists say, the Fed's lender-of-last-resort role must stop being ad hoc and unconditional. Instead, emergency help should come with conditions: Banks must hew to limits on leverage and stiffer capital requirements. They should also pay a tax into a guarantee fund, commensurate with the risk they're adding to the system.

Back at the business school last winter, while students rushed around the elevator banks, Cooley headed to lunch with former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker, now running Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, to discuss the book. The volume and its authors, Cooley says, "changed the focus from the present to talking about the way the world should be. It was the ultimate teachable moment for a business school." ■

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



XIAO YAN, A GOAT BUTCHER, RESTS DURING A BREAK AT THE SLAUGHTER MARKET IN CHANGSHA, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF HUNAN PROVINCE AND THE SITE OF MUCH OF DUNDON'S PHOTOGRAPHY ON CHINA'S DISAFFECTED YOUTH.



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PHOTOGRAPHER RIAN DUNDON UNCOVERS
THE YOUTH LEFT BEHIND BY CHINA'S BOOM

BY CHRISTIAN DEBENEDETTI

IN 2005, WHEN PHOTOGRAPHER RIAN DUNDON (TSOA '03) FIRST MOVED TO THE INDUSTRIAL MINING TOWN OF JISHOU, IN CHINA'S HUNAN PROVINCE, HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS THERE, LET ALONE A PLAN. ON A WHIM, HE'D FOLLOWED HIS GIRLFRIEND, WHO HAD LANDED A TEACHING FELLOWSHIP. SO HE JUST WANDERED THE

streets armed with his Nikon FM2 SLR film camera and a New York sensibility, which came in handy because he spoke no Chinese. "I made most of my friends just hanging out, smoking cigarettes, and smiling at people," he says, much like when he did "the struggling photographer-artist thing" while studying imaging and photography at the Tisch School of the Arts. Though the run-down city was at times daunting, there was something intriguing in its decay. To get by, Dundon, an Irish-American born in Portland, Oregon, taught English at Jishou University, where he picked up some conversational Chinese, and burned through 300 rolls of black-and-white film in eight months.

"I didn't really know what I was doing at first," admits Dundon, now 28 and living in Beijing. But he quickly realized that the place didn't fit what he calls the glossy image of "Eastern model cities and the economic miracle of the new China." In Jishou, and even more so in Changsha, the larger, ramshackle province capital where he moved a year later for a university job teaching English, he noted overcrowded, claustrophobic warrens of dilapidated high-rises. Next to wealth and prosperity, he found evidence of alienation and disaffection all around him. With little hope for academic success or financial wealth, scores of young people—the offspring of many government mandated one-child-only families—were caught in the slipstream of modern society, a fringe where recreational and hard drugs, alcohol, and a fatalistic resignation to the future hold sway even as a radical new individuality takes root. They've become China's "lost generation," remarked one photo editor at *Time* magazine, which recently featured some of Dundon's pictures and writing.

The name "lost generation" is apt for the subjects in a number of Dundon's works. Many Chinese born after 1979 are "caught between the older mind-set of their parents and modern society," he says. Pressure to excel academically is constant and suffocating, and rather than fight the system, many simply drop out. Others flee rural communities to experience the sexual freedom and anonymity of China's larger cities, where they band together in underground karaoke clubs to drink, perform, and experiment with sex and drugs. "They're too ambivalent to be frustrated," Dundon explains. "I think a lot of people feel powerless amid the pace of life and competition in China, like they've lost control of their own destinies."

Ambivalence and melancholy hover like a smokestack's haze in much of Dundon's work, which earned him a Tierney Fellowship from NYU in 2007. One photo from his collection titled "Between Love and Duty: Chinese Youth Culture" depicts gay teenagers in the countryside commingled in a tentative but tender embrace; another, titled "Li Qiang Waits for His Bride on Their Wedding Day," captures a man gripped in uncertainty, his fists curled, eyes narrowly searching the middle distance.

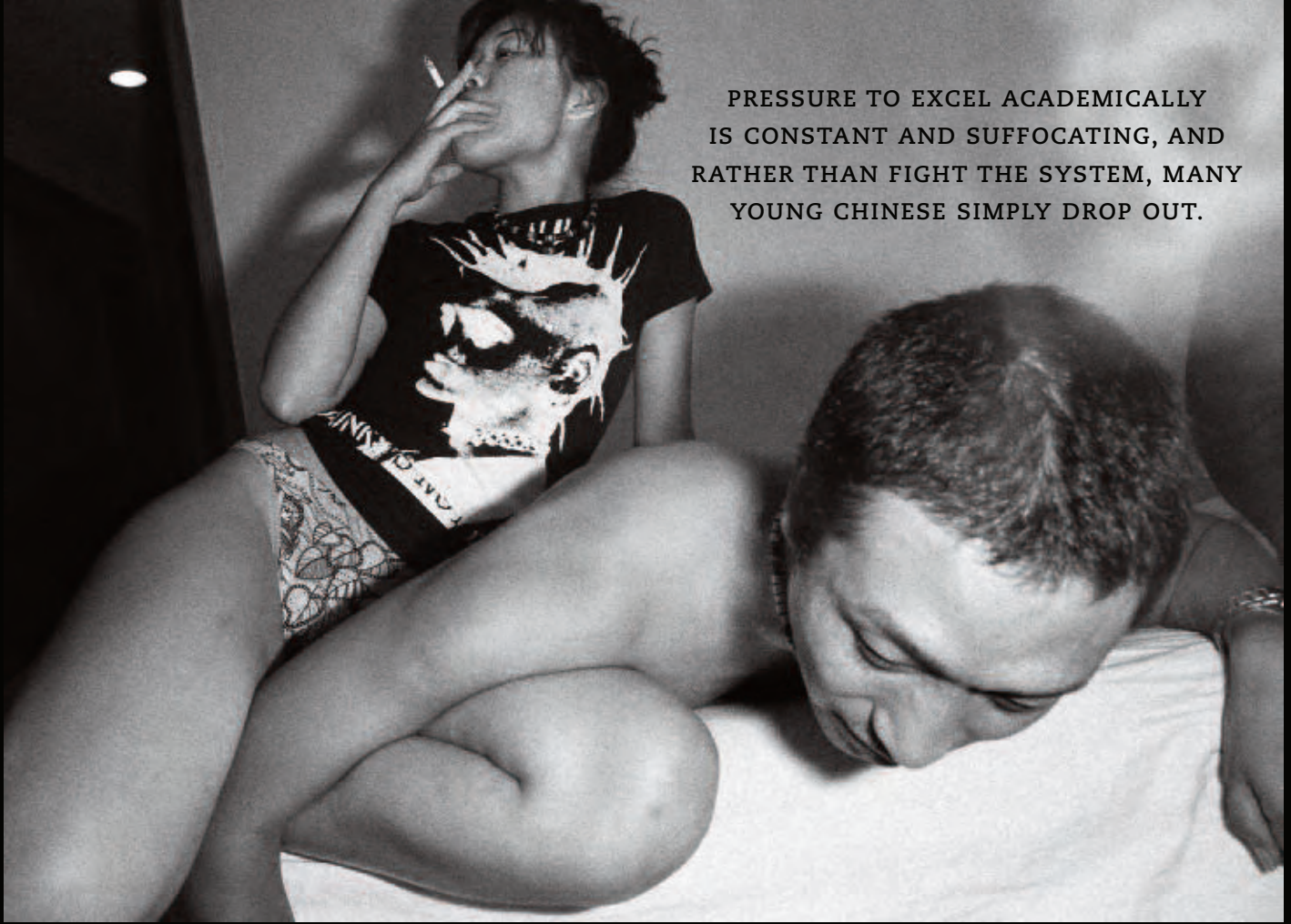
Dundon, who counts noted portrait photographers August Sander and Anders Petersen as key influences, explores other emotional dimensions, too. In one striking image, a crowd restrains a young Changsha man who, distraught over a girlfriend, had moments before attempted to kill himself by lying down in traffic. Another subject beams as he embraces his friend, a smiling transvestite. Still another writhes in pain, wounded from a fall off his skateboard.

Despite the sensitive nature of his work, Dundon has yet to earn the unwelcome attention of Chinese government censors. He works slowly and unobtrusively to gain the trust of his subjects, many of whom have become his friends. This familiarity has allowed him to photograph, for example, his university students in the midst of military training as well as intimate shots of ecstasy-addled clubgoers and couples in bed after dark. Some locals find it shocking. "Some say that I'm seeing stuff most Chinese people don't see," Dundon says. "And some don't want to look at it. They don't tell me that they don't like it or that they don't approve, but I can tell they don't want to see that side of society. They think, Who's this foreigner who wants to put China in a bad light?"

Dundon deflects such criticism by pointing out that he is merely documenting China's convulsive cultural shifts and the emergence of new social classes, both rich and poor. His work, he argues, doesn't sensationalize those pushing the fringes but let's them tell their own stories. "Beyond the social context, this work is about human relationships," he says. "Personally I think the pictures are uplifting—and a little bit joyous at times." ■

To see more of Dundon's work, visit www.riandundon.com.

PRESSURE TO EXCEL ACADEMICALLY
IS CONSTANT AND SUFFOCATING, AND
RATHER THAN FIGHT THE SYSTEM, MANY
YOUNG CHINESE SIMPLY DROP OUT.



ABOVE: LOVERS FROM TIANJIN IN A BEIJING HOTEL ROOM. BELOW: GAY TEENAGERS EMBRACE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: A KARAOKE BAR IN JISHOU CITY; UNIVERSITY FRESHMEN, SOME OF WHOM WERE THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S ENGLISH STUDENTS, DRILL DURING COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING; A YOUNG MAN DISTRAUGHT OVER HIS GIRLFRIEND IS RESTRAINED MOMENTS AFTER ATTEMPTING SUICIDE.





LI QIANG, 22, WAITS OUTSIDE HIS BRIDE'S HOME ON THE DAY OF THEIR ARRANGED MARRIAGE IN XIANGTAN.



CAN WE TALK?

NOW THAT AMERICA HAS ELECTED AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN TO THE HIGHEST OFFICE, MANY EXPERTS CONTEND THAT IT'S TIME TO DISCUSS RACE—FOR REAL

By Carlin Flora

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES STEINBERG



IT'S FAIRLY EFFORTLESS, and occasionally entertaining, to chat with your co-workers about last night's Knicks-Lakers game or the latest moral failings of a state governor. But when newsworthy events with racial themes and overtones occur—such as the Jena 6 protests, the building of a fence on the Mexican border, or O.J. Simpson's now legendary murder trial—we're often too flustered for water-cooler talk or reluctant to share our true views for fear of upsetting or offending someone else.

Take the tragic murder of an aspiring actress on January 27, 2005. The next morning, New York City's newspapers featured the tale of the beautiful 28-year-old woman who was mugged by seven teenagers on the Lower East Side and then shot and left to die in her fiancé's arms. When NYU journalism professor Pamela Newkirk read the white victim's biography in the papers, aside just a few sketchy details about

the African-American perpetrators, she wanted to talk about how the teens got there, and how race had shaped their circumstances.

Just imagine the water-cooler problem therein: Talking about the kids' disadvantaged past might look like an effort to excuse their violent actions. But Newkirk was running a class, and so she asked her students to retell the story. One, for example, profiled the school that some of the teens attended and found a high dropout rate, and a correlating high incarceration rate for those students. "This became less a story about a few bad apples," Newkirk says, "and more a story about low-achieving schools as breeding grounds for crime." The exercise got her students talking about race in new and more complex ways.

Such conversations, in theory, should have become easier since Barack Obama's election to the presidency, which has infused Americans of all colors with great optimism. A CNN poll taken just before the new president was sworn in found that more than two-thirds of African-Americans

believe Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for race relations had been fulfilled. Some have even called this era "postracial." Still others have balked at that characterization, given the race-based inequalities that persist in our society. But the need for frank, perhaps uncomfortable conversations on race is more urgent than ever given the expanding diversity of cultures and religions in the United States. By 2050, there will be no majority race—whites will make up just 46 percent of the population then, compared to 74 percent in 2006. By that same time, Hispanics will account for 30 percent, African-Americans 15 percent, and Asian-Americans 9 percent. Add into the mix a slew of class-based and religious differences and it becomes clear that in order for us to truly claim that America is "postracial," some conversations will need to move beyond the reliable: "How 'bout them Knicks?"

VITAL AS THEY MAY BE, we can't expect breakthrough dialogues on race to occur spontaneously, especially where they're needed most—in work and social-service settings. Erica Foldy, a professor in the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, is on a quest to understand how people can benefit from differences when they work and learn together. Research shows that diverse teams often perform worse than homogenous ones because those underrepresented within the group tend to either withdraw or assimilate, denying others their individual perspectives. Foldy believes it's not diversity itself that brings down work teams, but rather the mismanagement of differences among members.

Even those specifically trained to confront race shy away from doing so, according to Foldy, who has tracked racially diverse teams of child-welfare workers who help families in crisis. She discov-

ered that some of these workers consider themselves "color-blind" and rarely mention race. Others believe that race and ethnicity do matter but engage in what Foldy calls "race minimization"—they acknowledge race, but then downplay it. In observing 96 case meetings, Foldy says, only 14 team leaders referenced race and only five out of these addressed race in any depth. So although the professional norms of social work call for color-cognizance, the dominant behavior of these workers was avoidance. Perhaps not surprisingly, research shows that while practicing color blindness generally makes dominant groups feel more comfortable, it makes people of color feel less so. "We call race an undiscussable," Foldy says. "It's a taboo topic. I think the color blindness is a response to that."

So how can social workers and others talk more constructively about race? In addition to encouraging color-cognizance, Foldy advocates that team leaders ask for feedback, review past work for errors, and display a general willingness to improve how they approach race-based issues on the job. Seems simple enough, especially since last November. However, Foldy cautions that Obama's victory could actually increase workplace tensions. People may become less sensitive to the presence of discrimination, because Obama's win supports the notion that the playing field has officially been leveled. "It may be harder for people to make a case for affirmative action now," Foldy explains.

Despite the refreshing frankness of Obama's now famous speech on race delivered in Philadelphia during the primaries, some observers also fear that the president's conflict-averse style of governance may actually limit the national race conversation. In his new book, *American Prophecy: Race and Redemption in American Political Culture* (University of Minnesota Press), George Shulman connects the prophetic language of figures such as Henry David Thoreau, James Baldwin, and Toni Morrison to Democratic politics and, in particular, racial politics. Abolitionists and civil rights leaders, for example, often evoked biblical language to frame their struggles. Shulman, a professor at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, notes that Obama's striking lack of prophetic language signals his efforts to distance himself from a strong African-American tradition and appeal to a broader constituency. It is not coincidental, he says, that Obama mentioned Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln during his convention speech last summer, but referred to Martin Luther King Jr., only as "the preacher from Georgia."

The same sometimes occurs in Shulman's classroom. Even his most open-minded students

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can tend to underestimate the impact of race. “They do not see the invisible forms of inequality,” he says, noting that segregation is worse now than it was in 1965, while incarceration rates, infant mortality rates, and unemployment rates remain three to eight times higher for African-Americans.

MEANINGFUL TALK ABOUT RACE in the present requires an understanding of what came before. Too often history has been written by the majority and, intentionally or not, minorities’ experiences have been presented more as sidebars to the true American tale. For her part, Newkirk is bringing intimate voices of the past to life in the new book she’s edited, *Letters From Black America* (FSG). In one letter to Abraham Lincoln, the writer laments how slow some were to follow the law after slaves were freed, suggesting that we shouldn’t underestimate the work ahead.

But this is just one thread of the larger American story. An enduring limitation of the race conversation in the United States is that it has traditionally been seen through a black-and-white lens, avoiding focus on other emergent ethnic groups. To move the conversation forward, we’ll have to understand the pasts and challenges facing immigrants from East Asia, South Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and all points in between.

A perfect example of this oversight, anthropologist Arlene Dávila says, was the frequent characterization of the Latino vote as a “sleeping giant” that woke up in 2008 to elect Obama. “It seems like during every major election, the Latino electorate is discovered, and then quickly forgotten again,” says Dávila, whose book *Latino Spin: Public Image and the White-washing of Race* (NYU Press) was published last

year. While Latinos are our nation’s largest minority group, for instance, they are woefully underrepresented in our political system. And the fact that Latinos voted for Obama in large numbers doesn’t convince Dávila that their needs will now be addressed.

But as the histories of Latinos and other minorities are increasingly, if slowly, woven into the American fabric, some have experienced even greater obstacles. Since 9/11, and especially during the recent election season, there has been a growing tendency to conflate Muslim-Americans—or anyone with olive skin and a dark beard—with terrorists. Shulman notes that it was Colin Powell’s defense of Muslim-American soldiers last fall that helped draw attention to the anti-Muslim sentiment. “Powell’s point was that there would have been nothing wrong if Obama were in fact a Muslim—a point no one made during the campaign,” says Shulman, who adds that because blacks seem to be increasingly folded into the category of “American,” there is now this other, the Muslim, who marks the boundary of “non-American” for some.

THE RIGHT SETTING goes a long way in facilitating race conversations. Newkirk was able to get her students to share their reactions to the murder of the young actress because she provided a safe environment, where everyone was asked to express their perspectives and respectfully accept those of their classmates. And they were relieved to be able to do so. “There seems to be a hunger for the kind of open and honest dialogue that even in the academy is often avoided out of fear of being viewed as racist,” she says.

One organization trying to make space for open, thoughtful dialogue is the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond, an antiracist initiative

started in New Orleans that has created a workshop titled “Undoing Racism.” Last year, Dean Ellen Schall brought the workshop to the Wagner School where one participant was graduate student Ariana Hellerman, who grew up in New York City and considered herself pretty savvy to the different forms of racism in her midst. “There were a lot of ideas swirling around in my head,” she explains, “yet I never had a platform to discuss them because race isn’t usually discussed.”

Hellerman and her fellow attendees were asked to come up with slang words that people use to refer to poor communities. Examples were “ghetto,” “reservations,” and “el barrio.” They were then challenged to think of “institutional” words that are used to describe poor communities, such as “underserved,” “disadvantaged,” “at-risk,” and “low-income.” The question posed was how “ghetto” becomes “underserved,” and vice versa, and how seemingly innocent adjectives can promote old stereotypes. The talks still linger in Hellerman’s mind while she attends classes and works at her job in philanthropy, where she has noticed, for example, how the organization must employ two distinct languages to reach out to its local community and its more affluent donors.

One of the more discomfiting lessons from the workshop is that no matter which racial group we identify with, or what our socioeconomic status or political persuasion, everyone makes race-based judgments all the time. Perhaps this is truly the most honest starting point for the conversation to begin.

As a song from the hit musical *Avenue Q* explains: “Everyone’s a little bit racist sometimes. / Doesn’t mean we go around committing hate crimes. / Look around and you will find, no one’s really color-blind.” ■





WALKING THE GLOBAL WALK

IN AN EFFORT
TO TRULY EMBRACE
THE NOTION OF A
BORDERLESS
EDUCATION, NYU
BUILDS A SECOND
HOME AT AN
EMERGING
CROSSROADS
BY JANET ALLON





NYU STUDENTS AT THE REICHSTAG IN BERLIN



ABU DHABI SKYLINE AT NIGHT



THE SHEIKH ZAYED MOSQUE OF ABU DHABI IS THE THIRD LARGEST IN THE WORLD

It was one of the profoundest revelations of the 9/11 attacks, reiterated more recently in Mumbai, and could even be said to be a subtext in the election of Barack Obama as president. A larger-than-ever chunk of the planet's 6.7 billion people believes the United States is a selfish, narrow-minded bully that cares little about other cultures. *Newsweek's* Fareed Zakaria eloquently summarized the problem in his groundbreaking essay, "Why They Hate Us," published right after the towers fell. He and others suggest that one way to change how the world sees America—and how we see them—is through the most universal of cultural bridges: higher education.

This notion is part of the thinking behind a bold new partnership between NYU and the leadership of Abu Dhabi to build a comprehensive liberal arts and science campus in the heart of the Middle East. When it opens its doors in 2010, NYU Abu Dhabi will be the first such project created by a major U.S. research institution off American soil. With this, NYU and Abu Dhabi will embark on an audacious experiment—one, it should be noted, that is not without risk. But it is also one that President John Sexton sees as a pivotal step in positioning NYU as a truly global university. "It takes global education to a qualitatively new level," says Alfred H. Bloom, who will soon be stepping down as president of Swarthmore College to become the first vice chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi. "It will be a university not anchored in a particular region or culture, but one that searches for common ground."

The permanent campus (to be completed in 2013) is being built from the ground up on Saadiyat Island, a once desert island just off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, where its neighbors will be new outposts of the Louvre and the Guggenheim Museum. NYU Abu Dhabi will be financed by the Executive Affairs Authority, or EAA, of the Abu Dhabi government and the future campus's international composition, rigorous academics, and extracurricular activities will be aligned with Abu Dhabi's ambitious vision to emerge as a leading city in the 21st century. Over time, the site is expected to grow to 4,000 students, admitted according to NYU's standards of quality.

It's not surprising that Abu Dhabi was interested in attracting a top U.S. university. Higher education is, in the words of Zakaria, "the United States' best industry." With just 5 percent of the world's population, the U.S. is home to eight of the top 10 universities in the world, and in fields such as computer science, for example, American universities simply leave overseas competitors in the dust. Sure, rising countries like China and India have elite institutions—but coming to America for a college education is still the surest

NYU ABU DHABI'S PERMANENT CAMPUS IS BEING BUILT FROM THE GROUND UP ON SAADIYAT ISLAND, WHERE ITS NEIGHBORS WILL BE NEW OUTPOSTS OF THE LOUVRE AND THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM.

path to success and employability in a high-tech world. This desire for U.S.-style higher education, which is, Zakaria reminds, "good at developing the critical faculties of the mind" and explains "why the U.S. produces so many entrepreneurs, inventors, and risk takers," is only growing, and fine American universities are answering the call in the Mid-

dle East. Cornell, Georgetown, and Carnegie Mellon are all establishing programs in the region, though none on NYU Abu Dhabi's scale. For NYU, having Abu Dhabi as a partner in this venture was "almost as obvious as the move," Sexton says. "We share important perspectives, a mindfulness of history but a focus on the future, and a belief that there's an evolving global dynamic that is going to bring about the emergence of a set of idea capitals around the world."

While this new education project may be unprecedented, NYU has always been an international kind of place. Deeply intermeshed with the fabric of America's most polyglot city, the university has educated immigrants, and the children of immigrants, at rates exceeding those of just about any other institution. It has also long maintained a rich, evolving, and ever-more-popular study-abroad program—its first outpost, in Madrid, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. And during Sexton's tenure, the percentage of NYU students who avail themselves of study-abroad opportunities has risen to 42 percent from 23 percent. For the past several years, NYU has sent more students abroad than any other American university, and students can now pursue their studies at any one of 16 locations on five continents—London, Paris, Madrid, Prague, Hong Kong, Florence, Buenos Aires, Ghana, Zurich, Beijing, Shang-

hai, Singapore, Dublin, Havana, Capetown, Berlin, and soon, Tel Aviv.

The fact that the programs in both Latin America and Asia are among the most heavily subscribed is a reflection of the distance traveled from the old study-abroad model, in which students would take a leave of absence to visit a foreign country—usually in Eu-

rope—to immerse themselves in the language and local culture then return to the home university to resume progress toward a degree. Increasingly over the years, NYU has offered programs that transcend the usual semester or summer abroad. One distinction is that students may make meaningful progress toward many kinds of degrees—not just foreign languages—while studying abroad, making this

has joint degree programs in Hong Kong, London, Paris, and Zurich. Jiri Pehe, who directs the program in Prague, says that the university is seen as something of a trendsetter in other parts of the world. “Expanding its efforts to become a more global university gives NYU a very specific identity,” he says. “In this area, it is far ahead of other major American universities.”

for globalization and multicultural affairs and professor of German and comparative literature. This trend signals, in part, the rise of a generation of globe-trotting, intellectually curious students—a generation that pollster John Zogby has dubbed the “First Globals.” But it also reflects the fact that many industries now require a more global vantage point. “If a bank is hiring, it’s probably better if you’ve spent a



ILLUSTRATION © TDIC

part of their education friendlier to those learning, say, math or biology, or those who wish to graduate on time.

Some opportunities are even more comprehensive: The Tisch School of the Arts and the School of Law both operate degree-granting graduate programs in Singapore, and the Leonard N. Stern School of Business

The idea of the college as portal to the much larger world is what draws many students to NYU in the first place. “More and more, they want to make connections between vastly different places, be able to move between different cultures, and develop the confidence and the humility to leave their cultural assumptions behind,” says Ulrich Baer, vice provost

half a year in China, studying business and also learning at least some Mandarin,” Baer says. As recently as the 1990s, American students could reasonably assume that English would be the lingua franca in the world of international business. Not so anymore. “You can still do business in English throughout the world, but not quite as well,” Baer adds.



GHANA



BERLIN



FLORENCE



BUENOS AIRES



PARIS



SHANGHAI



MADRID



LONDON

David Sharon (Stern '10), a business student from Israel, is already studying abroad by virtue of pursuing his education in New York, but he wanted to enhance this by going somewhere even farther outside his comfort zone. He chose Shanghai, where the classes are sensibly geared toward China's rapid modernization. "I learned the most by becoming a consumer in the country," Sharon explains. "From negotiating in the markets for souvenirs to going to dinner with Chinese students I met on campus, I started to learn the rules of negotiation and expected cultural behavior in business and social settings. I expect these soft skills to help me in the future."

And travel abroad can often lead to more travel abroad. It did for Fareed Mostoufi (TSOA '08), who completed a television writing major with a minor in Spanish. He spent a summer in Madrid, taking acting and journalism classes, and in the process getting "much more interested in the Spanish language." When he came back, he landed a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina.

Another mark of Zogby's First Global generation is their extra-border perspective, an offshoot of the technology they have grown up with. "First Globals," Zogby writes, "want borders pushed back because in their own

its critics. There are those who worry that creating a second campus will drain Washington Square of much-needed financial resources and energy, and there are those who worry that the NYU brand will be in danger of dilution. "I think the development of a global university has terrific potential, but there are quite a few pitfalls," says Craig Calhoun, University Professor of the Social Sciences. "We need to make sure all of our parts share in the achievement of intellectual excellence that is at the core of a research university." Sexton and others point out that NYU Abu Dhabi is funded separately—and entirely—by the EAA,

movement in Abu Dhabi, Chaudhuri notes, theater and other art scenes are still developing. Having grown up in India, she's especially aware of the need to frame lessons in the right cultural context but is anxious to examine student reaction to American trends. "The energy there is very attractive," Chaudhuri says, observing that the youth culture is increasingly exploratory and experimental. "We really need to look for meaningful ways to interact with this part of the world. I think this is a visionary project not just for NYU, but for American higher education."

"There is no question that we will learn

PHOTO © CORBIS



"[NYU ABU DHABI] WILL BE A UNIVERSITY NOT ANCHORED IN A PARTICULAR REGION OR CULTURE, BUT ONE THAT SEARCHES FOR COMMON GROUND." -ALFRED H. BLOOM

CREATING NEW KNOWLEDGE IS CENTRAL TO NYU ABU DHABI

minds they exist in the largely borderless world of the Internet." NYU Abu Dhabi will put this perception to a test and will help refashion the university as a somewhat decentered institution, one in which two portals—one in New York, one in Abu Dhabi—offer access to what President Sexton has called the first "global network university." In this new system, students from all over the planet can receive the imprimatur of an NYU education while moving easily among any one of the far-flung sites.

It's quite a concept. And, naturally, it has

so it won't have any effect on resources in New York. In fact, the Abu Dhabi campus and financial support will provide new research, teaching, and faculty recruitment opportunities both from NYU's existing faculty as well as from external recruitment sources.

One of the first to sign up for a semester in the U.A.E. was Una Chaudhuri, professor of English and drama, who sees a unique opportunity to create an arts curriculum in a place not yet saturated with Western culture. While there is an emerging visual arts and design

something by being in Abu Dhabi and by being in the Middle East," Baer agrees. "We may evolve into a different university. I would describe it as a calculated risk." The move reminds Baer of when, in 1969, Yale College decided to admit women, arousing heated debate and calls that it would change the Yale experience or compromise the brand. But Baer believes that this speaks to the very foundation of the academic mission. "Education is not a product you are selling," he argues. "It's about bringing in voices." ■

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Dr. Gerald P. Curatola (DEN '83)

Stephen E. Fischer (LAW '62)

Morton D. Flaum (WSC '58)

Sally R. Frenkel (GSAS '90)

Gerald A. Gellin, M.D. (MED '58)

Norma Esrin Greco

Jonathan M. Herman (HEIGHTS '69; LAW '73)

Ira J. Jackson (MED '43)

Angela M. Jaggar, Ph.D. (STEINHARDT '71)

Patricia Elaine Kitson, M.A. (WSC '50;
STEINHARDT '70)

Herbert Kurz

Dr. Judith K. Lauterstein

Bernard Lederman

Saul Lesser (LAW '46, '66)

David J. Levidow

Paul Lott

Joyce Lowinson, M.D.

Louis T. Mazawey (WSC '71)

Frank Christian Moser (WSC '74)

Priscilla Elkow Muller (IFA '59)

Mrs. Lloyd C. Nelson

Richard C. Nerod (STERN '63)

Dr. Mary Slusser

Joseph F. Spagnola (STERN '81)

Albert J. Thomson (STERN '61)

Bobbi Todres

Karl R. Wyss (STERN '69)

Gary Yale (STERN '81) and

Leah Bishop (Parents)

Dr. Janet (GSAS '01) and

Joseph Zuckerman

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NYU

CLASSES NOTES



BROAD STROKES

THE FIRST WOMEN ENROLLED AT NYU IN OCTOBER 1873 IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS, WHERE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO STUDY PAINTING BUT WERE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR DEGREES. BEFORE LONG, THEY GAINED ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE, TEACHING, AND LAW SCHOOLS, BUT IT WOULD BE ANOTHER 86 YEARS—

NOT UNTIL 1959—BEFORE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO ATTEND UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CAMPUS, ONE OF THE LAST SCHOOLS TO ADMIT WOMEN AT NYU. TODAY, MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF UNDERGRADUATES AND NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF PROFESSORS ARE WOMEN.





■ alumni profile

ROBERT RENNER / WSC '64

BRIGHTENING NEGLECTED SMILES

by Ted Boscia

WHEN TRAVELING ABROAD, IT'S ALWAYS HELPFUL TO KNOW A FEW STOCK PHRASES IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGE, SUCH AS "TWO MORE

beers, please" or "Is the hotel far?" Dentist Robert Renner has acquired a more unusual vocabulary. He can now say, "Open your mouth wide" in a handful of languages,

including the Mayan dialect Ixil.

Since his retirement in 2002, when he launched a mobile clinic in El Salvador with the nonprofit Save the Children, Renner has

regularly visited the forgotten corners of the world to deliver dental care to children. Many of his patients have never seen a dentist, let alone owned a toothbrush. Most are mal-

nourished and plagued by decaying teeth, the result of a sugar- and carbohydrate-fueled diet. He operates by setting up in the ramshackle homes and schools of his hosts, few of which enjoy running water, electricity, or refrigeration. There "Dr. Bob," as the children call him, ex-

tracts cavities and abscesses by flashlight, his small patients propped up on chaise lounges or desks. "You have to work under crazy conditions and not get frustrated," says Renner, 66. "But once you get started, you get hooked."

Part of the draw is the staggering reach one can



PHOTO © DR. PUROBI PHILLIPS

DENTIST ROBERT RENNER SPENDS NINE MONTHS OF THE YEAR TREATING CHILDREN THROUGH MOBILE CLINICS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND ASIA.

reality has led Renner to expand his focus to mentoring native doctors and educating parents about the importance of dental care and healthy diets. “In many cases, these countries are starting from scratch,” he says.

Renner’s dedication to caring for indigent kids is borne out of his own experience as an orphan. A native New Yorker, Renner went to Bayside High School in Queens and, though cared for by his godparents, felt no acute sense of family. At age 17,

a physicist, Renner oversees every aspect of his grassroots endeavor: coordinating country visits with Save the Children and other nongovernmental organizations, obtaining supplies and equipment, and attracting professional and dental student volunteers. The couple spends about \$40,000 annually to run the seasonal clinics.

Last month, Renner started a fourth clinic in the Philippines, where he will face a perennial problem: allaying children’s fears of the den-

Many of Renner’s patients have never seen a dentist, let alone owned a toothbrush.

he started working at Broadway Savings Bank in Manhattan and saved enough money to pay his way through NYU, where he studied languages, before attending dental school at Columbia University. Over the next three decades, Renner worked as a dental educator at Stony Brook University, at the North Fork VA Hospital, and in private practice on Long Island. At every stage, he nurtured his passion for volunteering—running clinics at a Utah Navajo reservation and caring for migrant workers near his home. “I know the value of charity and having people reach out to you when you’re all alone,” he says.

With the help of his wife, Purobi Phillips,

tist—and locals’ distrust of a foreigner. Seven years ago, for example, when he first treated Wendy, a 12-year-old in El Salvador, for severe cavities, she was incredibly frightened. But she now has perfect teeth and comes running to “Dr. Bob” whenever he visits. His time-tested strategy for winning over patients is to pack dental supplies, surgical instruments, and several suitcases of crayons, coloring books, and toys. If a child has no cavities or gum disease, she gets her pick, plus a high five. “It’s like a fiesta when we go to Wendy’s village,” Renner says. “All the parents and kids wear their finest clothes and turn out to see the dentist.” ■

have. On a typical day at a clinic, Renner treats up to 200 children—compared to the average of 10 patients he’d see when he practiced on Long Island. He now treats close to 5,000 children annually and spends nine months abroad each year conducting mobile clinics in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Cambodia. Vast disparities in treatment divide the wealthy and the poor in these places. Cambodia, for instance, has just 300 dentists for a population of 14 million. This

1940s

GERALD FISHER / STERN '40 / is a mentor at the Berkley Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and a business plan competition coach at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business. Now retired, he previously served as president and CEO of Arch Bilt Container Corp. and Energy Recycling Corp.

ADRIAN S. PRICE / STERN '49 / of Boynton Beach, FL, published his book *A Gentleman From Boynton* “B-Y-T-E-S” Back (iUniverse), which included a series of columns and humorous commentaries on global, economic, social, and technology topics.

1950s

DAVID T. NASH / WSC '50, MED '53 / authored the article “Role of Lipoproteins in Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease” in the *Journal of Clinical Lipidology*, and a review of a new anti-angina drug in the globally recognized medical journal *Lancet*. His list of peer-reviewed publications exceeds 230.

named the Harold M. and Beverly Maurer Center for Public Health in their honor. Maurer is chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

HARRY A. EZRATTY / WSC '55 / completed his historical trilogy about Jews in the new world with the 2008 publication of *The Builders: Jews and the Growth of America* (Omni Arts). Ezratty practices law and is a member of the speaker’s bureau of the Jewish Museum of Maryland and the board of the Society for the Study of Crypto-Judaism.

MILTON PACHTER / LAW '58 / was presented with the Jefferson Fordham Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Bar Association, in recognition of his outstanding assistance to the practice of state and local government law. Pachter is general attorney and senior litigation counsel for the Port Authority of New York and the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety.

HAROLD M. MAURER / ARTS '57 / and his wife, Beverly, were recently recognized by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, which

MARTIN SELTZER / ENG '58 / has been designated a senior statesman in Ohio in the area of natural resources and the environment by Chambers & Partners, publishers of *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business*.

1960s

ROBERT P. LISAK / ARTS '61 / was elected as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in the United Kingdom. Lisak was one of only five physicians from the U.S. chosen for this distinction in 2008.

New York State Governor David Paterson appointed **DAVID B. CORNSTEIN / STERN '63** / a member and chair of the board of directors of the New York City Off-Track Betting Corp., a position he previously held in 1994. Cornstein is president of Pinnacle Advisors Ltd., a consulting and advisory firm, and serves as chairman emeritus of Finlay Enterprises, a leased fine jewelry company.

JAN KASOFF / STERN '63 / has worked as a cameraman for NBC for 36

years—26 of them on *Saturday Night Live*, for which he has won several Primetime Emmy Awards.

ANTHONY MOTTA / ARTS '63 / published his second book, *Love, Sex & Politics* (A. Motta), in August 2008. It is the love story of a Hillary Clinton aide and an Obama pollster who must compete with each other during the Democratic Party primary election. Motta's first book, *Memoirs of a NYCity Guy* (A. Motta), was published in 2007.

ROBERT ROSE / MED '63 / has performed extensive research on the literacy and printing skills of kindergarteners and has found a strong correlation of reading skills among students who are taught using the Montessori method.

JOHN GARRISON / WAG '64 / recently retired after a long career as CEO of Easter Seals and, later, of the American Lung Association, where he was recognized for his anti-tobacco efforts by Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, and others.

MEL P. ROSCH / GSAS '64 / is founder and vice president of marketing for Discount Safe Outlet in Palisades Park, NJ. After graduating from NYU, Rosch served in the U.S. Navy's elite Naval Security Group. He is also a member of Mensa.

ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN / LAW '65 / received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Yeshiva University. Foxman addressed that university's 2008 graduating

class with a lecture on "The 11th Commandment." Foxman is the national director of the Anti-Defamation League and a leader in the fight against anti-Semitism.

FELISSA R. LASHLEY / NUR '65 / has stepped down as dean of the College of Nursing at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

ELIZABETH DAVIS-RUSSELL / STEINHARDT '66, GSAS '87 / retired from her position as the SUNY Cortland provost and vice president for academic affairs, a position she had held since 2001. She is now president of the Tubman College of Technology in Liberia, West Africa, where she is helping to reconstruct the higher education system.

HERBERT I. LONDON / STEINHARDT '66 / recently published his book, *America's Secular Challenge: The Rise of a New National Religion* (Encounter Books). Last fall, he lectured on the subject at NYU.

CATHERINE M. PEREBI-NOSSOFF / WSC '66 / is the principal of www.newyorkcity-tours.com, an upper-crust tour and event concern that caters to domestic and international individuals and corporations. She is also a producer of the Internet radio program "Let's Travel," located at www.letstravelradio.com.

THOMAS G. ANGELO / STERN '67 / of Stratford, CT, has been appointed to the Town of Stratford's Financial Advisory Committee. In 2002, he retired

alumni connections

OUR FAR-FLUNG ALUMS



Whether you've planted roots in Manhattan, New York, or Manhattan, Kansas, it's easier than ever to connect with alumni—and your alma mater—right in your own neighborhood. With alumni in all 50 states and more than 180 foreign countries, Regional Alumni Groups have sprung up not only across the United States, but even in Europe and Asia. Each group is organized by alumni and is unique in its membership and activities. NYU is here to help each group succeed.

One standout is the New York University Club of Washington, D.C. Originally formed in 2002, the group recently revamped its programs and has grown into a strong network connecting not only those who live in

the D.C. area but alumni visitors, too. Now on Facebook, the club is attracting grads from all walks of life to participate in a wide range of social networking events, from wine tasting at the U.S. House of Representatives to movie night at the D.C. "Screen on the Green" series. The D.C. group has also organized community-service activities, such as preparing meals for the homeless and fund-raising to support scholarships for current students, and is presently developing a guest lecture series.

Other alumni groups are active in Boston, Chicago, Houston, Boca Raton, and the San Diego/Los Angeles metropolitan area, as well as such far-flung places as Korea, Switzerland, and Taiwan. And if there isn't an existing alumni group in your area, NYU will help you start one!

To learn more, visit alumni.nyu.edu/groups/regional.shtml, or contact Riley Gallagher, regional program manager, at 212-998-6946 or riley.gallagher@nyu.edu.

1970s

after 13 years as chief financial and administrative officer of Beck's North America, a subsidiary of INBEV, the world's largest brewer.

CAROL A. BUTLER / STEINHARDT '67 / recently published her second book, *Do Butterflies Bite?* (Rutgers University Press). The book explores issues in butterfly conservation and supplies a trove of intriguing facts about their biology and behaviors.

DAVID L. COHEN / STERN '67 / has been elected to serve as vice president for the 11th District of the New York State Bar Association's Executive Committee.

ROBERT F. LIMA, JR. / GSAS '68 / was awarded the Institute for the Arts and Humanities Medal by Penn State University in 2008. He also recently published two articles, "Tríadas en el Teatro de Valle-Inclán" and "Gendering Evil: Pandora, Lilith, Satan."

JAMES R. MILLER / ARTS '69 / is president, CEO, and chairman of the board at the Pittsburgh office of Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C., and was recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer. Miller is a member of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, Defense Research Institute, Pennsylvania Defense Institute, and Product Liability Advisory Council. He was also named one of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

LEE RATZAN / ARTS '70, GSAS '72 / published his book, *Understanding Information Systems: What They Do and Why We Need Them*, with the Chicago American Library Association.

JAY S. KWAWER / GSAS '71 / was selected as the new director of the William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis, and Psychology in New York City. His four-year term began in July 2008.

CONSTANTINE NICHOLSON / WSC '71 / wrote an original film script titled *Freedom Dance*, which was short-listed for the prestigious Odysseus Award at the 2008 London Greek Film Festival.

ELIZABETH NUNEZ / GSAS '71, '77 / has been appointed provost and senior vice president of Medgar Evers College. In 1999, her alma mater, Marian College, awarded her an honorary doctorate in humane letters for her contributions to the arts and education and the City University of New York appointed her distinguished professor. She was inducted into the Hall of Excellence of St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School in Trinidad in 2007.

LUCILLE CARRA-TACHIKAWA / TSOA '72, '76 / won the Best Documentary Award from the Iowa Motion Picture Asso-

ciation for her new film, *The Last Wright*, about the last standing Frank Lloyd Wright hotel. She recently discovered the lost Glenn Gould program, "How Mozart Became a Bad Composer," not seen since 1968, and is supervising its remastering for public performance.

SUSAN RYERSON / STEINHARDT '72 / received the American Physical Therapy Association's 2008 Henry O. and Florence P. Kendall Practice Award.

ANDREA TROY / STEINHARDT '72 / published her debut novel, *Daddy: An Absolutely Authentic Fake Memoir* (iUniverse), in 2008. The book is a satiric send-up of the recent scandals surrounding James Frey, Margaret Seltzer, and other authors whose first-person accounts turned out to be partly, largely, or totally invented.

JOHN W. WHITE / LAW '73 / has rejoined the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP after leaving the Securities and Exchanges Commission's Division of Corporation Finance. In his new position, White will work with corporate governance and board advisory practices.

MARGARET KING / GSAS '75 / published her second book in 2007, titled *The Exodus in the Quran* (Susiana Press),

in which she argues that the biblical story of Exodus is a distortion of Near Eastern history, as proven by archaeology. The book is available through Amazon.com.

FRANCES WARD / NUR '75 / was recently named chair of the department of nursing at Temple University's College of Health Professions, where she will continue her research on care delivery for the uninsured and underinsured.

PETER F. DE NICOLA / STERN '76, '78 / has been elected president of the Westchester-Fairfield Chapter of the Tax Executives Institute, a professional association of corporate tax practitioners. He is the group tax manager for Fujifilm Holdings America Corp. in Valhalla, NY.

MICHAEL NASH / TSOA '76 / was recently appointed investigator at the U.S. Department of Justice, after four years at the Office of Investigations/Office of the Inspector General. In his new post, he will continue to examine major contract and health-care fraud cases.

ROBERT PRIETO / ENG '76 / published his first book, *Strategic Program Management*, with the Construction Management Association of America.

STEPHEN ROLANDI / WSUC '76, WAG '80 / recently became CFO for the New York City Police Athletic League. Founded in 1914, PAL is the city's largest independent nonprofit youth organization.

AGUSTIN ARBULU / LAW '77 / was awarded the Samuel R. Marotta Faculty Ethics Award at Northwood University. Created in 2001, the award honors faculty who best model integrity and high ethical standards.

DEBRA LACKS / GSAS '77 / was named president and CEO of the Wordsworth Academy, a not-for-profit institution offering behavioral health, child welfare, and education services to children and families in the Greater Philadelphia area. She has been promoted numerous times over her 20 years at Wordsworth, most recently serving as the organization's vice president of community services.

MICHAEL ABRAMS / TSOA '78 / has co-authored a new text, *Personality Theories: Critical Perspectives* (Sage), the final book and only college textbook authored or co-authored by Albert Ellis, the father of cognitive behavior therapy.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 67)

Alumni profile

ANDREW D. HAMINGSON / STEINHARDT '08

THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

by Beth Stevens / TSOA '93, '95

AT THE OPENING NIGHT OF THE PUBLIC THEATER'S REVIVAL OF *HAIR* IN CENTRAL

Park last summer, the audience was invited to dance on stage during the final number, "Let the Sun Shine In." Andrew D. Hamingson had a particularly good reason to kick up his heels—after climbing the ranks of off-Broadway theater over the past 15 years, he had just been named executive director of the Public, a piece of news announced from the stage by artistic director Oskar Eustis. "[Hamingson] is smart, honest, and has an invaluable work ethic, a complicated imagination, and a highly developed ethical sense," Eustis says. "Plus, he's fun."

All of these traits have served Hamingson well since he took over the administrative and financial reins of the Public last October—just in time for the worst economic downturn in recent memory. Despite the financial gloom, he and Eustis have announced a grand vision for revitalizing the venerable theater company, including a renovation of its 19th-century home on Lafayette Street and an initiative to bring a professional, mobile Shakespeare troupe to New York's outer four boroughs. "My goal has always been to help a theater develop new

work," Hamingson explains, "and the Public allows me to do that on a much larger scale."

Founded in 1954 by Joseph Papp to make theater more accessible, the Public is one of the nation's foremost producers of Shakespeare and new works. The current plans will further its mission by updating the venue to be both greener and more hospitable, with a new lobby, easier street access, and an overhauled heating and ventilation system. Hamingson's challenge will be to reconcile these aspirations, as well as the mobile troupe, with a weakening economy. "[It] has made us take a little bit of a harder look at our plans and reevaluate them," he ad-

mits. "But we're not at the moment feeling that we want to run away from any of our goals."

Even before joining the Public, Hamingson was the engine behind some of off-Broadway's most ambitious recent shows. He produced two notably adventurous works back-to-back during his tenure as managing director at the Atlantic Theater Company. The first, Martin McDonagh's comically violent *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, was nearly deemed "unproducible" due to its Tarantino-esque special effects requirements, including gallons of fake blood as well as scattered, severed limbs. The second, *Spring Awakening*, was the provocative musi-

cal adaptation of a 19th-century German play about teenagers realizing their sexuality. "We thought we were going to be arrested for promoting child pornography," Hamingson says about the latter. Instead *Spring Awakening* transferred to Broadway and won the 2007 Tony Award for Best Musical.

Although Hamingson has always concerned himself with the offstage side of theater, he says, "Every first preview is a rush of adrenaline." He first felt this when he observed his classmates rehearsing *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* while a high school student in Rochester, New York. But he did not immediately see how he could make it his career. Instead, he stud-



PHOTOS FROM LEFT: © ANDREW HENDERSON; MICHAEL DANIEL

FRESH FROM OFF-BROADWAY SUCCESS, ANDREW HAMINGSON (LEFT) BRINGS HIS BACKSTAGE AMBITIONS TO THE PUBLIC THEATER. CENTRAL PARK'S DELACORTE THEATER (ABOVE) IS ONE VENUE FOR THE PUBLIC THEATER'S WORKS.

ied accounting at the State University of New York at Geneseo and went on to run several businesses, including a Domino's Pizza franchise. But, he says, "It didn't feed my soul."

Manhattan Theatre Club. Though he initially made only \$75 a week, over the next dozen years he rose to the post of development director and, finally, in 2004, moved to the At-

Hamingson's grand vision for the Public Theater includes an initiative to bring a mobile Shakespeare troupe to New York's other four boroughs.

In 1992, Hamingson moved to New York City to pursue graduate studies in performing-arts administration at NYU and, before he could complete the degree, landed a job as an intern at the nonprofit

lantic. "I don't think you could call it overnight success," Hamingson says wryly. But success did come, and last year he finally finished his graduate thesis—an academic paper on *Spring Awakening*. ■

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65)

LAURA FOTI COHEN / WSUC '78 / launched www.LoveHowTo.com, a how-to site on finding love and keeping it alive. If love fades, there's also advice on moving on gracefully, as well as a directory of more than 150 dating services.

THOMAS E. HOUGHTON / TSOA '78 / was the director of photography for last year's feature film *Finding Amanda*, starring Matthew Broderick, Steve Coogan, Brittany Snow, and Maura Tierney.

THOMAS B. WELLS / LAW '78 / is the incoming president of

the American Bar Association.

SYLVESTER (SLY) EDAGHESE / WSUC '79, GSAS '80 / is a successful author in Lagos, Nigeria. He has published 13 novels and children's books.

LINDA S. JACKSON / STERN '79 / of Brooklyn, NY, has been appointed acting associate provost of the City University of New York's Medgar Evers College. Jackson is an associate professor of English and previously served as deputy chair of that department.

JEFFREY B. SHAPIRO / LAW '79 / has been nominated to the Council

on Litigation Management, a nonpartisan alliance that recognizes lawyers who sponsor educational programs, foster communications, and provide resources to further the highest standards of litigation management. He is partner and head of the Miami and Ft. Lauderdale offices of Arnstein & Lehr LLP.

MARION E. SHERMAN / STERN '79 / was appointed medical director for the Ohio Department of Mental Health. Sherman currently serves on the faculty at both the Ohio State University School of Medicine and the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

1980s

GREGORY C. BUFFALOW / LAW '80 / is a partner at Alford Clausen & McDonald LLC, a regional defense firm serving the U.S. Gulf coast. He heads the firm's maritime practice in Mobile, AL.

ELISE MEISNER HEALY / WAG '80 / is a founding shareholder in Spencer Crain Cabbage Healy & McNamara, a law firm in Dallas, which is the first significant firm in Texas to enjoy a majority of female owners.

PAUL KIRSCH / TSOA '80 / just published his book, *This Way to the Stars* (Timeless Voyager Press), which is available on Amazon.com. Written

in lay language and illustrated throughout, the book tackles the theory of interstellar travel via macroscopic quantum tunneling. To learn more, visit www.thiswaytothestars.org.

ALEENA SHAPIRO / LAW '81, '85 / has recently been appointed counsel at Hartman & Craven LLP.

NANCY NICHOLS / TSOA '82 / published *Lake Effect: Two Sisters and a Town's Toxic Legacy* (Island Press), an in-depth investigation into the pollution of her hometown and her and her sister's cancer. *People* magazine called it a

"chilling indictment of how government and big business prized profits over health."

BRUCE NOZICK / TSOA '82 / is an actor in Los Angeles. His recent TV appearances include guest-starring roles on *Entourage*, *Shark*, *Big Shots*, *Women's Murder Club*, and *Private Practice*. He is married and has two teenage boys.

ROBERT A. WYCHULIS / WAG '82 / was appointed CEO of Amerigroup Community Care of New York, to which he brings more than 30 years of health-care experience.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 69)

DE'SHAWN WRIGHT / WAG '02

Charting a Course for Newark's Youth

by Joie Jager-Hyman

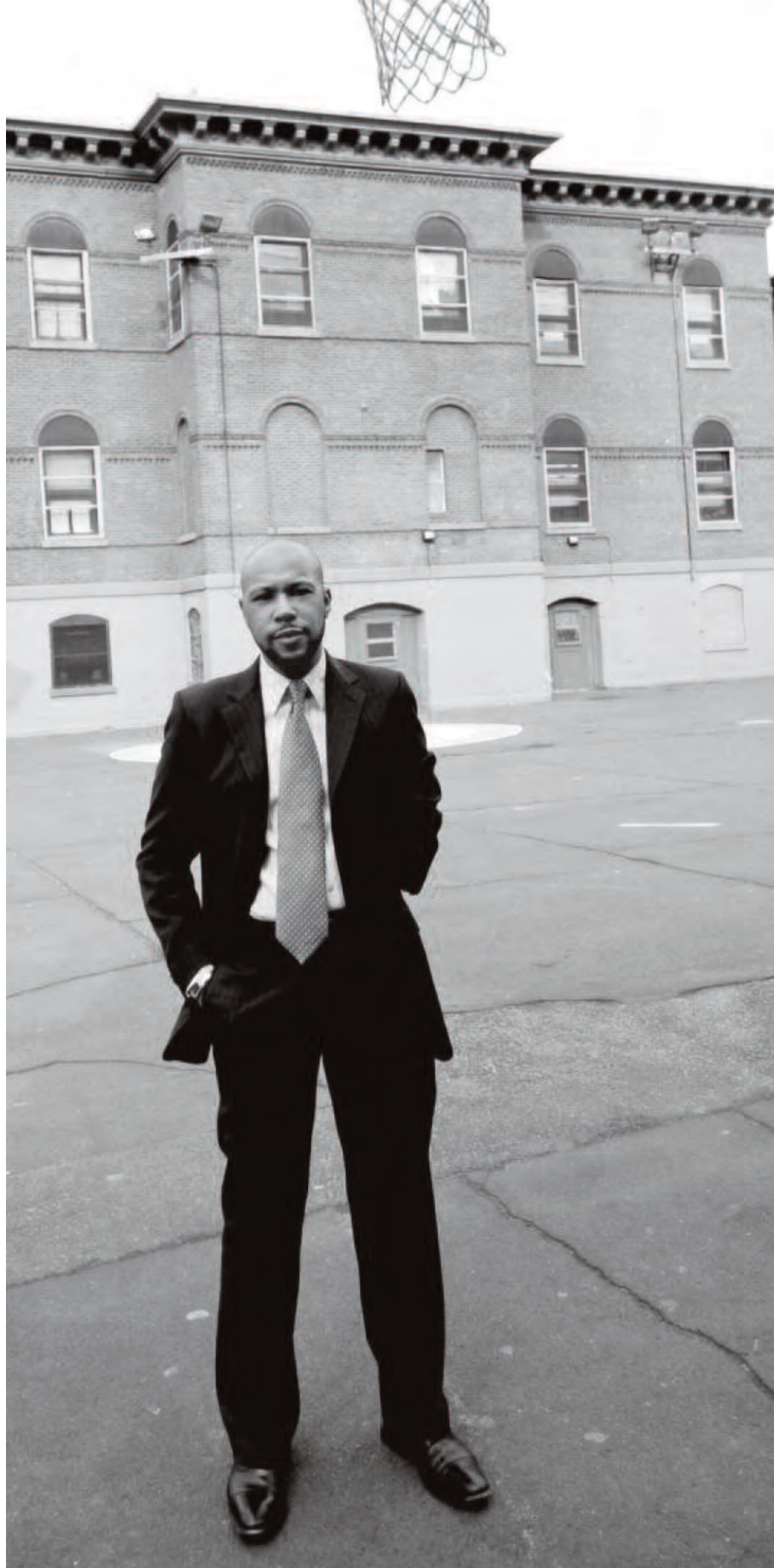
DE'SHAWN WRIGHT COULD HAVE BEEN A MODERN-DAY CHARACTER FROM THE

TV show *Mad Men*. Armed with a quick wit and a degree in marketing and communications from James Madison University in Virginia, Wright was on the fast track at a powerful New York advertising agency. But despite his bright future, he felt something was missing and signed up one day to volunteer at the Lower East Side Boys Club. In a short time, everything changed for him.

"I spent most of my time tutoring and discovered a skill set I didn't know I had—conveying complex concepts to kids," Wright remembers. He also became attuned to the poor state of public education and decided to leave the ad game behind. In 2000, he landed a spot in the Teach for America program in Upper Manhattan's Washington Heights, where many of his students con-

fronted poverty, neighborhood violence, domestic abuse, and exposure to drugs, which often hindered their ability to commit to schoolwork. To better understand how public policy might reshape conditions for students to succeed, Wright simultaneously enrolled in the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. "I was able to take what I learned in class and immediately apply it on the ground," he says. Since then, he has employed this experience at nearly every level of education reform and has helped to turn around two of the most fraught public school systems in the country.

After graduation, Wright used his policy chops at the New York City Department of Education, where, with funds from the Gates Foundation, he helped break up large pub-



lic schools in the city to open 75 small public schools that offer students far more specialized attention. It was then that Wright joined Chancellor Joel Klein's team, implementing the Children First Initiative to give principals autonomy in exchange for greater school accountability. He later met newly elected Newark Mayor Cory Booker, a fateful encounter that would lead Wright to refocus

local foundations to found the Newark Charter School Fund in April 2008. The fund's aspirations are lofty—the goal is to retain 80 percent of all charter students over a four-year period and ensure that 80 percent of pupils reach proficiency on the state's math and English exams.

In order to make this happen, Wright is applying innovative approaches to education. Now working full-time as a

Wright says: "Schools have the responsibility to educate every child, so they should also have the flexibility to do what works. That includes extended hours, weekend classes, and longer school years."

his energy from NYC to a city that, while much smaller, confronts equally daunting education obstacles.

Booker was looking for advice on the thorny issues affecting Newark's underperforming schools—which have been controlled by the state of New Jersey since 1995—and recruited Wright to serve as his chief policy adviser in 2006. During his two years in this role, Wright succeeded in opening two thriving charter schools as well as helping to secure \$22 million pooled from a coalition of national and

partner at the fund, he is helping to redefine the concept of a school day. "The old way of looking at it, as Booker often describes, is that time is constant and achievement is the variable," Wright explains. "We want to turn that paradigm on its head so that achievement is the constant and time is the variable. Schools have the responsibility to educate every child, so they should also have the flexibility to do what works. That includes extended hours, weekend classes, and longer school years." ■

DE'SHAWN WRIGHT IS HELPING TO REFORM EDUCATION IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, WITH A CHARTER-SCHOOL INITIATIVE.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 67)

From 2003 until recently, he was president and CEO of the Florida Association of Health Plans, a trade association that represents more than 20 insurers.

YVONNE FARROW / GAL '83 / was nominated for Best Producer for **YVETTE HEYLIGER's / GAL '83, '87** / hit stage play, *What Would Jesus Do?* at the 18th Annual NAACP Theater Awards show held at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, **BRUCE McBARNETTE / LAW '83** / organized and hosted a series of fund-raising events called "Art for Obama" at more than 45 galleries in 13 cities across the country.

CLIFFORD BOB / LAW '84 / was editor of the 2008 book, *The International Struggle for New Human Rights* (University of Pennsylvania Press).

Pianist **MADELEINE HSU FORTE / STEINHARDT '84** / was invited to last year's International Convention of Mu Phi Epsilon in Jacksonville, FL, where she performed a selection from Olivier Messiaen's "*Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus.*"

BARBARA ROSENBAUM / WSUC '84 / has been hired as senior account supervisor of Stern + Associates, a full-service public rela-

tions and marketing communications agency.

TRACY ROSENTHAL-NEWSOM / TSOA '84 / was the senior producer of Rock Band, a video game that lets multiple players perform together virtually in music videos by the world's biggest rock artists. Rock Band received 3 D.I.C.E. awards, including Innovation in Gaming, Sound-track, and Family Game of the Year.

LYNDA SMITH / GSAS '84 / and **CRAIG SMITH / GSAS '86** / announce the founding of Palisade Press, a small independent literary publisher. For more information, visit www.palisadepress.com.

ARTURO CASADEVALL / MED '85 / received the William A. Hinton Research Training Award from the American Society for Microbiology for his outstanding contributions toward fostering the research training of underrepresented minorities. He chairs the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University.

PATRICK DeALMEIDA / WSUC '86 / was appointed as judge of the Tax Court of New Jersey by Governor Jon Corzine in January 2008.

CATHY MEZINIS-BALENOVIC / GAL '86 / launched Sagesse Designs, which offers

greeting cards and relaxation CDs for those with cancer or experiencing difficult times. For more information, visit www.sagesse designs.com.

HELDER COELHO / STERN '87 / left the practice of public-interest law to study healing arts. He now has an MS in acupuncture and opened the Manhattan-based Classical Wellness Center, which follows the principles of classical Chinese medicine.

KATHLEEN G.R. MADIGAN / STERN '87 / of Bensalem, PA, has joined the Dow Jones Newswires editorial team as an economics writer and regular columnist. Madigan was previously a senior writer and market analyst with Lord Abbett, an independent money management company.

ALEXANDRE POLO-ZOFF / WSUC '87 / has been recognized as a master investor by IBM Software Group for his leadership and mentoring among patent holders and inventors.

CRAIG E. STEARNS / TSOA '87, '88 / joined Lenox Advisors, a wealth management firm, as a senior vice president in the firm's Stamford, CT, and New York City offices, where he will con-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 70)

sult on financial, estate, and retirement planning, risk management and insurance, asset management, and

corporate benefits.

In 2004, **JOANNE GOLDBLUM / WSUC '88** / founded the Diaper Bank to collect diapers and cash donations for bulk pur-

chases of diapers, which are distributed through local shelters, food pantries, day-care, and health facilities. The bank gives out about 100,000 diapers a month through 50 local agencies in New Haven, Bridgeport, and Hartford, CT.

PEDRO REINA-PEREZ / WSUC '88 / received the second Bolívar Pagán Award 2006 in Puerto Rico, and an honorable mention in the José Ramón Piñero León

International Journalism Prize in Spain. His latest book looks at Republican cellist Pablo Casals in exile following the Spanish Civil War.

HABIB P. ACHKAR / STERN '89 / of London, England, has been appointed CEO of Morgan Stanley Saudi Arabia. He has worked at Morgan Stanley since 1989 and was formerly the firm's head of sales and trading for France.

ALEJANDRO BADIA / MED '89 / recently opened his own practice, Badia Hand to Shoulder Center, in Doral, FL.

STACY HORN / TSOA '89 / recently published her book, *Unbelievable: Investigations Into Ghosts, Poltergeists, Telepathy, and Other Unseen Phenomena From the Duke Parapsychology Laboratory* (Ecco).

RICHARD ORTIZ / STERN '89 / is the

managing director for Hudson Realty Capital and was ranked No. 6 among the "NY Area's Largest Minority-Owned Companies" in *Crain's* magazine.

LYDIA PANAS / STEINHARDT '89 / displayed her artwork at the 26th-annual Membership Exhibition at the Houston Center for Photography. Panas's work can be viewed at Social Documentary.net.

1990s

RONNI BAER / IFA '90 / was honored as a knight-commander in the Order of Isabella the Catholic by the Spanish government and by Juan Carlos I, King of Spain for her outstanding contributions to the dissemination of Spanish culture in the U.S. The Order's insignia and entitlement was presented to Baer by Ambassador of Spain to the U.S. Jorge Dezcallar at a special ceremony at the home of Carlos Robles, Consul General of Spain.

RON DANIEL / STEINHARDT '90 / owns a real estate practice, which he runs with his partner, Sheldon Stivelman, in Miami. Last year, he relaunched the company Web site, www.SeaHouseMiami.com.

PAUL GREINERT / WSUC '90 / recently published the novels *20/30* and *Ashes of X-Girlfriends and Other Stories* (both by

PublishAmerica). They're available through most online book retailers.

JAMES RAINES / SSSW '90 / recently published his first book, *Evidence Based Practice in School Mental Health* (Oxford University Press).

LISA K. ROSS / WSUC '90 / is president and partner of RBB Public Relations, which *PR Week* magazine named "Small PR Agency of the Year" in both 2007 and 2008.

DEBORAH HIETT / GAL '91 / married Australian entrepreneur Matthew Valenti, founder of eZoetic.com, in April 2008. Hiett is a screenwriter and actress (debhiett.com) living in Los Angeles.

PAUL KADETZ / WSUC '91 / is a doctoral student at the University of Oxford's Institute of Social & Cultural Anthropology

and is leading an expedition to Guatemala with funding from the Royal Geographic Society to assess the health and nutrition of indigenous Guatemalans.

ALICIA D. POLAK / WSC '91, WAG '01 / is CEO and founder of the Khaya Cookie Company, which was established to better the lives of residents in her adopted home of South Africa. For every 150,000 boxes of cookies sold, 100 jobs are created that support sustainable opportunities and job skills training for residents of the local community, where the ingredients are sourced and the cookies are made.

JOSHUA SETH / TSOA '91 / recently authored *The Weight Loss Hypnosis Solution* (New You Press), in which he outlines a system of psychological suggestions that help people control crav-

ings, eliminate overeating, and enjoy exercise.

LIZ ELTING / STERN '92 / and her company TransPerfect Inc. appeared in *Crain's* ranking of the "New York Area's Largest Women-Owned Companies."

LAURA L. JALOWAYSKI VIDLER / WSUC '92 / was promoted to associate professor of Spanish at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, NY, where she focuses on performance theory and staging practices of 17th-century Spanish drama.

MICHAEL J. AGOVINO / WSUC '93 / recently published *The Bookmaker: Money, Luck, and Family From the Utopian Outskirts of New York City* (HarperCollins), a coming-of-age story about how people are shaped by the places they inhabit.

CHAD BOLTON / WSUC '93, WAG '07 / has taken a new position as general manager at the Film Forum, New York City's only autonomous nonprofit cinema.

WILLIAM J. CASTILLO / GSAS '93 / is a partner in the intellectual property law firm of Caesar, Rivise, Bernstein, Cohen & Pokotilow, and addressed lawyers on IP issues and the pharmaceutical industry at the second-annual Intellectual Property Law Institute sponsored by PBI.

ANIL BARAL / SCPS '94, TSOA '02 / and **KATHRYN MAUGHAN / TSOA '05** / are among the inaugural recipients of a filmmaking grant from the Tribeca Film Institute's Sloan Filmmaker Fund, which supports compelling science and technology stories. Baral and Maughan were awarded for their project, *A Noble Affair*, which profiles Marie



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Think back—perhaps way back—to your NYU days. You may not remember every course you took or every professor you studied with, but you probably can't forget the clubs, sports, and activities that let you truly bond with your peers.

These connections don't have to end at graduation. The new Alumni Affinity Program is working to help you reconnect with the people and activities that defined your

NYU experience, allowed you to explore the world, and helped shape the person you are today. Whether you participated in student govern-

ment, studied abroad, shared a particular hobby, interest, or social cause, or took part in one of the campus religious and cultural communities, you can join a group or found a new one through the Alumni Affinity Program.

Help jump-start the program by signing up for an existing affinity group, including the Athletic Alumni Network, Choral Alumni, Empty Nester Group, Greek Alumni Alliance, Green Action Affinity Group, Islamic Center, LGBTQ Alumni Council, Multicultural Alumni, Parenting/Families Club, RA Alumni, Recent Alumni Network, or Women's Initiative.

To get more information or to propose a new group, visit www.nyu.edu/alumni/groups/affinity.shtml, or contact alumni.affinity@nyu.edu.

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Curie's personal and professional life.

STEPHANIE (ROSENBLATT) KORENMAN / WSUC '94 / was promoted to senior vice president and senior attorney of the executive financial services arm of Citigroup's global wealth management division.

NICK MACCHIONE / WAG '94 / has been appointed director of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency. He served as deputy director and regional general manager for the past 10 years.

DOUGLAS D. McINNIS / TSOA '94 / received a juris doctorate degree from New England School of Law during commencement ceremonies at the Citi Performing Arts Center in May 2008.

KEELEY P. MITCHELL-WALLACE / WSUC '94 / recently joined South-Search Legal Recruiters where, as vice president, she will establish and man-

age the firm's office in Research Triangle Park, NC. She previously practiced commercial real estate law at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP in Miami, and Wolf Block Schorr and Solis-Cohen, LLP, in Philadelphia.

JOSEPH C. SPONHOLZ / WSUC '94 / recently joined the online marketplace BabyAge.com where as the chief operating officer, he will oversee finance, operations, and sales and marketing.

VINAY T. DAYAL / STERN '95 / of Little Neck, NY, has been appointed to the position of treasurer for the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Dayal was most recently its acting finance director.

BERL D. JONES / STEINHARDT '95 / was recently promoted to director of the Individual Assistance Division within the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

DAVID SUAREZ / TSOA '95 / has been facilitating corporate training and team building workshops for the past five years for organizations such as Burger King, Taco Bell, Bayer CropScience, Honeywell, Florida International University, and Miami Dade College.

BRIAN KENNELLY / GSAS '96 / has been promoted to professor at California Polytech State University, where he is chair of modern languages and literatures.

DONNA H. MACPHEE / STERN '96 / of Ridgewood, NJ, has been named vice president for alumni relations and president of the Columbia Alumni Association.

MINA MORITA / TSOA '96 / was selected for the Bret C. Harte Directing Internship at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, where she will work with many respected directors and award-winning playwrights.

HASANTHIKA SIRISENA / STEINHARDT '96 / was awarded the 2008 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award and is working on a coming-of-age novel, *Edenboro*, in which a 15-year-old Sri Lankan immigrant and her family move to a black neighborhood in the South. She is also compiling a collection of short stories.

ALISSA TORRES / GSAS '96 / recently published the graphic novel *American Widow* (Villard), about her husband Eddie Torres's death on 9/11, when she was seven months pregnant, and what followed. The book is the personal story of how one woman endured a public tragedy.

KAINE AGARY / WAG '97 / won the 2008 Nigeria Prize for Literature for her 2006 debut, *Yellow-Yellow* (Dtalkshop). In 2007, the novel won Victor Nwankwo's Book of the Year Award, and the ANA/Chevron Prize for Environmental Writing. She also runs DTalkshop, an NGO in Lagos that educates people about their rights.

CHRISTOPHER LEVENDOS / WAG '97 / was named executive director of New York City's FiOS franchise management for Verizon, where he will oversee the fiber optic build out for the city.

DARIN B. STRAUSS / GSAS '97; FACULTY / published his third book, *More Than It Hurts You* (Dutton), which he plugged on the *Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson*.

ERIC TAUB / STERN '97 / is the founder and managing partner of Verus Carbon Neutral, an eco-conscious company that helps businesses and individuals to reduce their carbon footprints. In its latest project, Verus worked with 18 business owners in a retail district in Atlanta, the Corner-Virginia Highland, to create the first carbon-neutral zone in the country.

KAREN BROWN / WAG '98 / received the Martha Newman Award in May 2008 from the Connecticut Council for Philan-

thropy for exemplary and sustained staff performance at the Fairfield County Community Foundation in Norwalk, CT, where she is vice president of programs.

ALEXANDRA CHAN / DEN '98 / is currently the director of dental services for Hill Health Corporation in New Haven, CT, where she leads a multimillion-dollar oral health program and a multipractice expansion within the state. Chan is an active member in the Connecticut Primary Care Association, Connecticut Health Foundation, Connecticut State Dental Association, New Haven Oral Health Coalition, Academy of General Dentistry, American Dental Association, and the American Public Health Association.

DIANE SCOTT-LICHTER / GAL '98 / was appointed publisher and head of the American Association for Cancer Research's scientific publishing division, where she will oversee all aspects of production,

marketing, and strategic planning.

COLLEEN KELLEHER SORRENTINO / STERN '98 / was named one of the "50 Most Influential Women" by *Irish Voice* in the newspaper's first such ranking. She is vice president of advanced strategies and senior investment officer at Wall Street Access LLC.

HEBRON SIMCKES-JOFFE / TSOA '99, GAL '07 / is working on Warner Bros.' new digital initiative. He will conceptualize, write, and direct content with a team of filmmakers in a "creative lab."

DAVID W. TANG / STERN '99 / of Shanghai, China, was appointed CFO and vice president of Vimicro International Corp., which designs and develops multimedia semiconductor products. Prior to joining Vimicro, Tang served as the CFO of CNinsure Inc., a NASDAQ-listed company operating in China.

2000s

JONATHAN CHOA / CAS '00 / joined the firm Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP's Litigation Group, where Choa will focus his practice on intellectual property and commercial litigation.

CHRISTOPHER CLAPS / LAW '00 / has been promoted to senior vice president of Quantitative Analysis for Contemporary Healthcare Capital, LLC.

DEIRDRE R. WHEATLEY-LISS / LAW '00 / is a shareholder in the law firm of Fein, Such, Kahn & Shepard, P.C., in Parsippany, NJ, and was featured in a *Consumer Digest* article as an authority on estate planning and elder law issues. She was also named one of *NJBIZ's* "Top Forty Under 40."

PAULA BOHINCE / GSAS '01 / published her debut collection of poems, *Incident at the Edge of Bayonet Woods* (Sarabande).

HELENA CORONADO-SALAZAR / CAS '01 / was awarded an Equal Justice Works Legal Fellowship for 2008-10. She will work at the Equal Justice Center, Inc., in Austin, TX, where she will help immigrant and low-income workers recover unpaid wages.

SHAHID KHAN / STERN '01 / was promoted to senior partner at Interac-

tive Broadband Consulting Group, LLC, a boutique consulting firm in the broadband-related sectors of cable, mobile, technology, and digital media. Khan is a strategist in media and telecommunications, with expertise in cable, broadband, and wireless.

DANIELLE LANTEIGNE / STEINHARDT '01 / opened Leche-Vitrines Art Alliance, a fine-art gallery in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The gallery represents more than 30 local, national, and international artists, and is one of few in Broward County to exhibit original works by emerging and mid-career artists. Visit www.lechevitrinesart.com.

JENNIFER Y. PARK / STEINHARDT '01 / is coordinator of special projects at the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology. She co-authored *Gothic: Dark Glamour* (Yale Press), a book on the origins and cultural roots of Gothic style and its contemporary flourish under many famous designers.

MATTHEW PAWLIK / CAS '01 / is co-founder of MixMyGranola.com—a new Web site where you can custom mix granola by choosing from 50 different ingredients.

MARC WARNER / TSOA '01 / has been named vice president for com-

munications and marketing at New York Institute of Technology, where he will lead the university's global integrated marketing initiatives and guide its award-winning communications, marketing, public relations, and advertising efforts.

THOMAS D. ZWEIFEL / GSAS '01 / was married to Gabrielle Wurmser of Zurich in December 2008. He is the CEO of Swiss Consulting Group, a leadership professor, and an author. His fifth book, *The Rabbi and the CEO: The Ten Commandments for 21st Century Leaders* (SelectBooks), was co-authored with Aaron L. Raskin and published in 2008.

KRISTIN BLEMASTER HOGAN / CAS '02 / is an associate at Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto, and winner of the 2008 Burton Award for Legal Achievement for an article she published in *The National Law Journal*. She received the same award in 2006 for an article she co-wrote while in her third year at Columbia Law School.

EVELINE KUHN / STEINHARDT '02, '04 / is cofounder, managing director, and a member of America's Dream Chamber Artists, a cham-

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alumni event

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ADVANCING DIVERSITY AT NYU

In 1988, NYU established the Office for African American Student Services to respond to the needs of students of color. Since then, the office's mission has evolved—as has its name—to address the university's broad spectrum of experiences related to diversity. It's now called the Center for Multicultural Education and Programs, and supporters will celebrate two decades of work and progress with an event on May 15 titled "OASIS to The Center: Commemorating 20 Years of Advancing Diversity at NYU." The dinner program will be held in the Kimmel Center's Eisner & Lubin Auditorium from 6 to 9 PM, and the cost is \$25 per person. For more information, e-mail Marian Newsom at marian.newsom@nyu.edu or call 212-998-6940.

ber music society based in New York City.

MIRANDA MORALES / CAS '02, GSAS '03 / co-

founded a non-profit youth theater group, Artists for Creative Theatre. Its first production, *Little White Lies*, opened in July 2008.

ANGELA FAYE TAYLOR / STERN '02 / of Minneapolis was hired as vice president and general manager of the Washington Mystics, a Women's National Basketball Association team based in Washington, DC. Previously, Taylor was the vice president of business

development for the Minnesota Lynx.

MARGARET ANNE FLORENCE / STEINHARDT '03 / stars as Luisa in *The Fantasticks*, along with

JORDAN NICHOLS / TSOA '07 /, at the Snapple Theater Center in Times Square. The off-Broadway show is currently the longest-running musical in the world.

STACEY BETH (FREIS) SCHULMAN / STEINHARDT '03 / is a registered dietitian who maintains a private practice in both midtown Manhattan and Westchester county. She specializes in the treatment of eating disorders. Her Web site is www.staceyschulmannutrition.com.

EDMUND CHEN / SCPS '04 / recently joined Exhibitgroup/Giltspur's global design and creative network team in New York, where he will develop creative solutions for LG Electronics.

JULIE HARBEY / CAS '04 / rang the closing bell at the NYSE on Friday, April 11, 2008, on behalf of the Women's Syndicate Association, for which she serves on the executive board. She was joined by the group's entire board and its active New York members.

ALEXANDRA KLEIN / LAW '04 / recently authored *The Estate and Gift Tax Map* (Thomson-West) with the assistance of **AEJAZ DAR / LAW '04**. The book is a self-study

guide for the dense and often confusing estate and gift tax provisions in the Internal Revenue Code.

FIONA SZE LORRAIN / CAS '04 / recently co-authored a book with Gao Xingjian, the 2000 Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature, in which his poetry is translated from French to English. She also worked with Gao on "Initiation International," an international performing arts festival in Singapore in 2007.

MATTHEW McQUEENY / CAS '04 / has returned to Winning Strategies, a public relations and online communications company, in Newark, NJ, after two seasons as the Web producer for NJNets.com, the

official site of the New Jersey Nets NBA Basketball team.

LISA MONDELLO / CAS '04 / married Matthew Fielack in Stony Point, NY, on April 19, 2008. Mondello is a senior publicist at Picador books in Manhattan; Fielack is an HVAC technician with Johnson Controls in Brooklyn. The two met at a Wolfe Tones concert in 2006.

JAMES F. O'SULLIVAN / WAG '04 / has been named director of donor services at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, where he will focus on foundation clients.

VITRA SINGH / CAS '04 / launched her own small business Web site called www.ItsyBitsyBraBar.com, which is a specialty site catering to petite women looking for petite undergarments.

HEATHER A. VAUGHAN / STEINHARDT '04 / recently published two articles, "Foreign Treasures: Elizabeth Ginno's Costume Etchings at the 1940 Exposition on Treasure Island, San Francisco" in the *International Journal of Local & Regional Studies* and "Natacha Rambova, Fashion Designer (1928-1931)" in *Dress (Journal of The Costume Society of America)*.

ROBIN WILSON / SCPS '04 / won the Black Enterprise Business Innovator of the Year award, presented at the Small Business Awards luncheon in May 2008 in Charlotte, NC.

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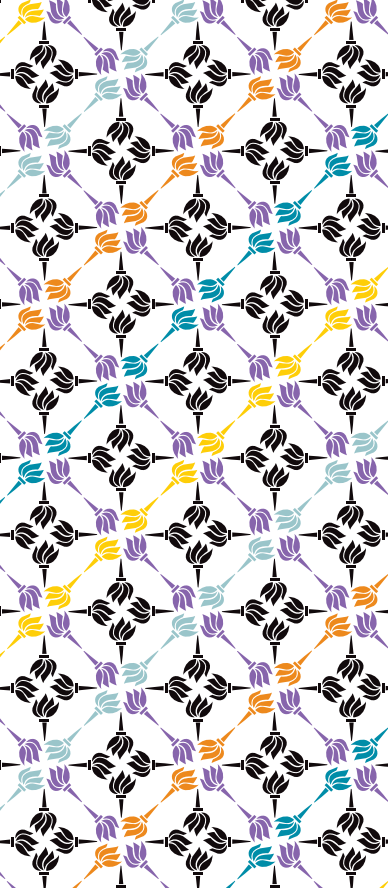
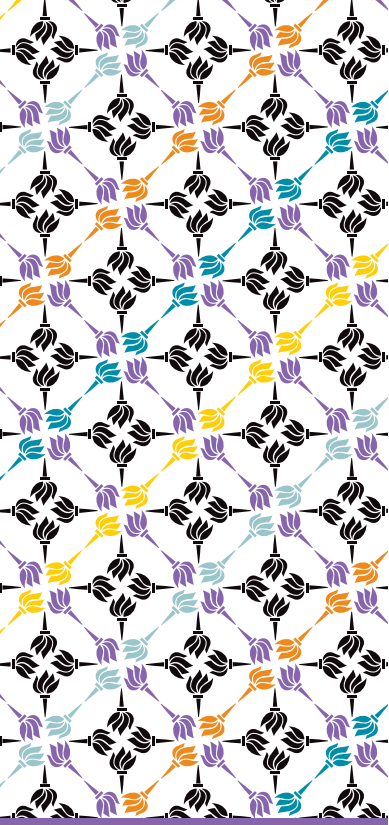
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■ alumni art

MATERIAL EXPERIENCE

Dorothy's ruby slippers, the Big Bad Wolf, and Rapunzel's lengthy locks have all served as inspiration for the interactive artist **MK GUTH (STEINHARDT '02)**, whose work often derives from fables and mythology. In the *Red Shoe Delivery Service*, for example, a mobile gallery picked up random passengers who then selected a pair of red shoes, clicked their heels, and told the camera where they'd like to be transported.

In *Ties of Protection and Safe Keeping* (pictured above), a room-scale

installation that made cross-country stops on its way to New York City for the 2008 Whitney Biennial, visitors answered the question "What is worth protecting?" on fabric ribbons. Guth then wove their responses with synthetic hair to form a massive braid that grew to more than 1,800 feet. "At the core of the interactive work is this notion of making," she explains. "I don't just document people's experience, rather, those experiences become the material to make something new."—Renée Alfuso

We want to hear from you! Let us know what is happening in your career and life. Submit your news items, personal milestones, or an obituary of a loved one to: NYU Class Notes, 25 West Fourth Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY, 10012 or via e-mail to alumni.magazine@nyu.edu.

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MAUREEN ANDARY / CAS '05 / was one of 12 finalists in the 2008 Mountain Stage New Song Contest, an international competition presented by the Folk Alliance in Charleston, WV. Andary also received a Young Emerging Artist grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Her debut album of original songs, *Nostalgia*, was released last year. For more, visit myspace.com/maureenmusic.

FELICE BATLAN / GSAS '05 / was named co-director of Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute for Law and the Humanities. Batlan previously taught at Tulane Law School. She practiced corporate and litigation law for nine years, and served as head of global compliance and associate general counsel at Greenwich Capital Markets.

MALLORY CARRA / CAS '05 / covers real estate news for the New York *Daily News*. She previously worked as a sportswriter

for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* in Tennessee.

NICK MOLINARI / WAG '05 / was recently promoted to deputy director in the Planning Division of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.

SUSHMITHA NARSIAH / CAS '05 / is a gender analyst at the World Bank in Washington, DC, where she studies women entrepreneurs from 181 countries for the Doing Business project. She is also attending the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced Inter-

national Studies for a master's degree in international affairs.

THOMAS K. PATTERSON / TSOA '05 / recently finished a run of *Arms and the Man* at Electric Theatre Company in Scranton, PA. He has been a member of Actors' Equity since 2006.

JORDAN SILVER / WAG '05 / recently opened Silver Lining Opticians, a luxury optical boutique in Soho featuring independent brands and unused vintage frames from

around the globe.

JENNIFER TIPPINS / TSOA '05 / received a Fulbright scholarship to study animated film and art at City University of Hong Kong. She is one of more than 1,450 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2008-09 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

BYRON AU YONG / TSOA '05 / is exhibiting his collaboration with artist Randy Moss titled *Kidnap-*

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 78)



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ping Water: Bottled Operas at the Jack Straw Media Gallery in Seattle.

NATASHA LYCIA ORA

BANNAN / WAG '06 / is a 2008 recipient of the Peace, Health, and Justice Award from Casa Atabex Ache, an organization in the South Bronx that facilitates collective transformation and social change for women of color.

GLENN S. ROBERTELLI / STERN '06 / of New Brunswick, NJ, has been selected as a finalist for *Entrepreneur* magazine's 2008 Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year award for his new venture, ViewGuard.

YEVGENIYA ROYSEN / CAS '06 / was accepted into the 2008 Summer Associate Program at Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP in New Jersey. Roysen is a law student at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law of Yeshiva University.

DAN CARMELI / STEINHARDT '07 / launched Namaste of Mind, a company committed to helping rural artisans sustain their livelihoods, improve communities, and find markets for unique, handmade, natural fiber goods. For more, visit www.namasteofmind.com.

MATTHEW FRIZZELL / STEINHARDT '07 / of the International Leadership Charter School has been chosen as a MetLife Fellow in the Teacher's Network Leadership Institute, an honor shared by several hundred exemplary

public school teachers across the nation.

ANNE KLINGEBERGER / CAS '07 / was awarded a 2008-09 Fulbright grant. She will teach English and American studies in Oranienburg, Germany.

KELLY MARCEAU / STEINHARDT '07 / is teaching English at a secondary school in Hunan Province, China, through World Teach.

ELLEN E. SHEETS / STERN '07 / of Concord, MA, has been appointed chief medical officer with Predictive Biosciences, a molecular diagnostics company developing noninvasive products for cancer management. She most recently served as chief medical officer and SVP at Hologic Inc., a women's health diagnostics company.

SULTAN TORSHKHOEV / WAG '07 / holds the newly created position of health and forensic services project director at the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault.

ANDREW P. CARLSON / LAW '08, STERN '08 / is the first-place winner of the 2008 Carl Marks Student Paper Competition, hosted by the Turnaround Management Association to recognize outstanding student achievement in the field of corporate renewal.

PAYAL DALAL / WAG '08, STERN '08 / is now the head of public affairs for North and South America for Standard Chartered Bank, an emerging markets bank that specializes in financial services in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

SCOTT MORGAN / WAG '08 / has become deputy

director for Treatment Action Group, an independent AIDS research and policy think tank fighting for better treatment, as well as a vaccine, and a cure for AIDS.

JENNIFER ANN THOMPSON / CAS '08 / is traveling to Bangladesh for World Teach, where she will teach English at the Access Academy, a preparatory school for Southeast Asian women from economically disadvantaged or refugee backgrounds.

JEFFREY YIP / WAG '08 / is an audit supervisor at the NYC Health and Hospitals Corp.

ALISON DEVENNY / WAG '09 / was selected as a board member of the Dusan TynBoard, and junior board member of the Family Center and ThinkQuest NYC.

Obituaries

New York University mourns the recent passing of our alumni, staff, and friends, including:

LOUIS J. LEVINSON / WSC '30
WILLIAM S. NYDORF / ARTS '31, STERN '33
MALCOLM ARTHUR BRILL /
STEINHARDT '33, LAW '36
PAUL F. MASON / STERN '33
SHIRLEY FUCHS MILTON / GSAS '33
JOSEPH PEVNEY / WSC '33
JOSEPH G. GLADIS / STERN '34
DAVID M. MORSON / ARTS '34, MED '39
JOSEPH RELKIN / ARTS '34
HYMAN BAKST / ARTS '35, MED '39
DOMINIC E. BALLANTI / WSC '35, LAW '37
MILDRED LEVY GOLDBERG / STEINHARDT '35, '60
VERA F. MINKIN / STEINHARDT '35, '60
JEANETTE KATZ SEMER / STEINHARDT '35
NATHAN DIAMOND / WSC '36, LAW '40
DUDLEY D. DOERNBERG JR. / STERN '36
WALTER W. LEHLE / ENG '36
RALPH E. LOWENTHAL / STERN '36,
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ARTHUR I. MEYER / WSC '36, LAW '38
SAL J. PREZIOSO / STEINHARDT '36
MARTIN SPATZ, MD / WSC '36, MED '40
MARTHA L. THOMPSON / STEINHARDT '36

IVAN F. BARNES / ARTS '37
AVRUM H. BEN-AVI / WSC '37, STEINHARDT '40, '42
CARL A. RAPOPORT / ENG '37
HAROLD ROBINOWITZ / WSC '37
STANLEY AUGUST / WSC '38
HAROLD BRUSTIEN / STERN '38
RUTH GREENBERG GUDIS / WSC '38, LAW '40
WILLIAM J. HORVATH / GSAS '38, '40
SAUL L. KLAW / STERN '38
RUTH SHAPIRO LISMAN / WSC '38, LAW '40
ALBERT ANTHONY OPPIDO / WSC '38, LAW '42
COLONEL LEONARD PETKOFF / WSC '38, LAW '40
MONTAGUE ULLMAN / MED '38
GEORGE J. WITKIN / WSC '38, DEN '42
NORMAN BRASSLER / STERN '39
ANDREW B. BREUDER / WSC '39, MED '43
ANNA MARIE CARLSEN / STEINHARDT '39
ARTHUR KANTER / ARTS '39
THE HON. HUNTER MEIGHAN / LAW '39
SIGURD M. OSTERHUS / WSC '39, LAW '46
ARTHUR A. OTCHY / LAW '40
IRVING LESLIE SPERLING / MED '40
FRANK A. BIRBAUER / ENG '41, '44
EDWARD S. GRANDIN III / STEINHARDT '41

JULES M. HOFFMAN / DEN '41
MILTON A. MARTEN / ARTS '41
BARBARA A. PARKER / MED '41
MYRA KOVAR WALLACH / LAW '41
IRVING M. WELLS / STERN '41
RICHARD K. BERNSTEIN / ARTS '42
JOSEPH C. CORNWALL / LAW '42
HELEN E. PARKER / STEINHARDT '42
EDGAR MILTON SHERMAN / STEINHARDT '42
NIDA E. THOMAS / STEINHARDT '42
HEATH WAKELEE / STERN '42
NORMA S. WALSH / WSC '42
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■ campus lens

WHAT
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WHERE
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WHY
THE KIMMEL CENTER EVENT CONJURED MEMORIES OF BYGONE BIRTHDAY PARTIES WITH PIÑATAS, HULA HOOPS, AND A GIANT LITE-BRITE. BUT IT WAS THE RAINBOW-COLORED BALL PIT, À LA CHUCK E. CHEESE, THAT SAW THE MOST ACTION. "AT ONE POINT THERE WERE ABOUT 20 PEOPLE CRAMMED IN THERE, AND PLASTIC BALLS AND GLOW STICKS WERE FLYING EVERYWHERE," SAYS JAMIE SIMONE (STEINHARDT '09), WHO SHOT THESE GROWN KIDS AT PLAY.

—Pey C. Tan

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June 13-21

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July 1-9

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