

NYU

CLASSES

NOTES



PHOTO © MATHIEU ASSELIN



CLASS CLOWNS

SENIORS IN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING TOOK A BREAK FROM PEDIATRIC ROUNDS LAST FALL TO PRACTICE IMPORTANT SKILLS, SUCH AS OPTIMUM BUBBLE BLOWING. IN A CLASS LED BY THE NONPROFIT BIG APPLE CIRCUS, THESE NOW-RECENT GRADS CHanneled THEIR INNER CLOWNS AND LEARNED HOW TO BALANCE COMPASSION AND COMEDY WHEN CARING FOR CHILDREN.

1930s

JONATHAN STERNBERG / WSC '39 / was awarded the Conductors Guild's Lifetime Service Award for his contributions to the art and profession of conducting. Sternberg has influenced the lives of many students worldwide and corrected numerous editions of standard orchestral literature.

JULIUS S. YOUNGNER / ARTS '39 / is a Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, where he has taught since 1949. Youngner has worked for the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Cancer Institute.

1940s

LEONARD R. SUSSMAN / WSC '40 / received the first-annual Dana Bullen Press Freedom Advocacy Prize, awarded by the World Press Freedom Committee. Sussman was recognized for his lifelong advocacy for press freedom.

SAMUEL GARRY / STEINHARDT '47 / won third place in the F.E.G.S. Haym Salomon Arts Awards Competition for his work *Israeli Tribal Formation in the Sinai Desert*. Garry will be named Haym Salomon Fellow and receive a limited-edition medal.

MAX OPPENHEIMER, JR. / WSC '41 / authored *Is That What It Means? III—Metaphors: The Source of Meaning in Language* (Lulu.com), which is available on Amazon.com. He also recently published his second autobiography, *Cultivating Gratitude and Playing Your Cards as They are Dealt* (KS Publishing).

JUDY WERNER SALOMON / STERN '47 / wrote the book *When Do You Stop Getting Surprised?* (Vantage Press) and also co-edited the magazine *Time for Poetry*, which won first prize for elementary school publications from Columbia University. She is active in the Long Island Meadowbrook Chapter of Brandeis University National Women's Committee.

LOUIS M. SOLETSKY / ARTS '45 / published *100 Years of Medicine* (iUniverse), a collection of stories, gaffs, and triumphs gathered from the combined 100 years of medical practice of Soletsky and his late father, David Soletsky.

MILTON N. BRADLEY / ENG '48, '52, '54 / published his new book, *Improve Fast in Go*, online at <http://users.eniinternet.com/bradley/Improve%20Fast%20Index.html>.

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■ alumni profile

TYLER FLEET / TSOA '99

STEP RIGHT UP!

by Renée Alfuso / CAS '06

TYLER FLEET REMEMBERS THE FIRST TIME HE SAW THE RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY'S GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH IN

Atlanta in 1982. Like many 6-year-olds, he went home that day with dreams of running away with the circus. For years thereafter, he entertained family and friends by any means—from reading gypsy fortune-telling cards to shooting spaghetti and meatballs out of his nose. But it wasn't until Fleet took a circus class as an elective, while studying dra-

matic writing at the Tisch School of the Arts, that he learned the arts of juggling, trapeze, and tightrope walking. It was in this class that the Amazing Blazing Tyler Fyre was born.

Today Fleet is a veritable sideshow superstar—defying death and dazzling audiences by swallowing swords, escaping straitjackets, and eating fire. He's racked up 15,000 shows in

less than 15 years, including an appearance on *Late Show With David Letterman*, performing at P. Diddy's infamous White Party, and sharing the stage with rock legends such as the Who and Red Hot Chili Peppers. Now the 33-year-old tours the country with his wife, Thrill Kill Jill, in the Lucky Daredevil Thrillshow, for which they won a Candlelight Award—the

Oscar of the circus world. The show transforms the classic carnival sideshow act to the level of a glitzy, high-energy Las Vegas production, complete with music, costume changes, and a theatrical narrative arc.

The road to daredevil fame required a good deal of practice in both physical skills and stage persona. After graduating from NYU, Fleet found a job at Coney Island's Sideshowes by the Seashore as an "outside talker," whose lofty task is to draw people away from

the games and attractions of the midway. "That experience shaped me more than any other because I had 12-hour days on the microphone where all you have to work with is words to put on a show," he says.

But Fleet wasn't content to just bring in the crowds—he wanted to entertain them on stage, too. His roommate, Frank Hartman, was a Coney Island sword swallower but refused to share his technique; carnie tradition is to teach one person your act

JILL AND TYLER FLEET, HUSBAND-AND-WIFE PERFORMERS, TOUR WITH THE LUCKY DAREDEVIL THRILLSHOW.

only upon retiring. Not willing to wait, Fleet spent months painfully teaching himself and throwing up in the kitchen sink while his roommate tried to keep him alive. As he recalls: “I would try to swallow a sword and not be able to do it and Frank would holler from the sofa, ‘Oh, God no, not like that! You’ll kill yourself!’”

Sword swallowing has been around for 4,000 years, but there are only a few dozen people in the world who still practice it today. Accidents are often fatal, so Fleet, who can swallow swords as long as

their act, including lying on a bed of nails while he carves a watermelon in half on her stomach using a chainsaw. “The show is so therapeutic for our marriage,” says Jill, who is also a snake charmer. “If we’re arguing about something beforehand, as soon as we hit the stage we forget what we were even talking about.”

Funny how fire and chainsaws can put things like whose turn it is to take out the trash into perspective. Jill was working as a talent scout for an oddities museum/vaudeville venue when she met Fleet at a show in 2006.

Fleet can swallow swords as long as 27.5 inches.

27.5 inches, considers himself lucky to have had only one injury in more than a decade. On a Sunday at Coney Island, with just eight people in the audience, he swallowed a brand-new glass sword and heard a crack, which, he says, felt akin to hitting your teeth with a hammer. As he pulled the sword back up, the broken glass dragged along both sides of his throat. It took him weeks of drinking aloe vera juice and whiskey on ice to recover.

The incident didn’t hinder Fleet; he simply replaced the glass sword with a steel one that has a flaming torch on the end. His wife, Jill, also swallows swords—Fleet taught her all the stunts in

A year later they were married on Valentine’s Day by an Elvis impersonator in Las Vegas. Today they winter in the mountains of West Virginia, and spend the other eight months touring in a vintage 1974 Airstream trailer, along with their Doberman, two Burmese pythons, and a red-tailed boa.

They’re planning to start their own circus family soon, which will require a pregnant Jill to swallow a much shorter sword, topped with a baby rattle. “We’re hoping they don’t grow up to be doctors and lawyers,” says Jill, laughing. “But of course, that’ll be what happens with our kids.” ■

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S. SPENCER GRIN / ARTS '48 / published *Norman Cousins: Why This Man Matters* (Xlibris), a biography of Cousins and history of *Saturday*

Review, the literary magazine he helped to sustain.

ARNOLD B. BLUMENTHAL / WSC '49 / is volunteering as a paralegal for Nassau/Suffolk

Law Services’ Senior Unit after more than 50 years with Cygnus Business Media. He also serves as secretary and treasurer of the Metropolitan Burglar and Fire Alarm Association.

1950s

ARNOLD MORSE / WSC '50 / has penned many books under the name Jim Morse. Three of his books on musical history are listed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

HERBERT F. SPASSER / WSC '51, DEN '56 / is a retired clinical professor at NYU College of Dentistry and a certified wine educator in Atlanta. He published “Wine and Dental Health” in the online digest *Alcohol in Moderation* and was named vice-chanson honoraire of the Atlanta Chaîne des Rôtisseurs.

STEPHEN SUSSNA / WAG '51, GSAS '64 / authored the book *Defeat and Triumph: The Story of a Controversial Allied Invasion and French Rebirth* (Xlibris), a panoramic ac-

count of the Allied amphibious invasion of the French Riviera on August 15, 1944. Sussna served on D-Day as helmsman of one of the many landing ship tanks.

WILLIAM E. SILVER / DEN '53 / published his first book, *Dental Autopsy* (CRC).

WILLIAM PARROTT / WAG '54 / is a board member of Try God, an organization composed of members of the three major religions whose goal is to get people to attend church and participate more productively in society. Parrott helped create the Try God Video Workshop Program.

CECILY BARTH FIRESTEIN / STEINHARDT '55 / is an artist, teacher, and author who

has had more than 40 one-person exhibitions of work on paper in the U.S. and abroad, including at the National Association of Women Artists, Gallery Anthony Curtis, and the Mona Lisa Gallery.

WARREN J. PEARLMAN / STEINHARDT '56 / was inducted into the Oceanside, NY, School District Hall of Fame after teaching physical education for 50 years in Massapequa. He has been voted Teacher of the Year and cited for many achievements during his tenure.

JAMES A. HARRIS SR. / GSAS '59 / was appointed as a member of the Economic Development Authority/Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission.

1960s

JOHN V. McDERMOTT / GSAS '60 / published his book *Flannery O'Connor and Edward Lewis Wallant: Two of a Kind* (University Press of America). McDermott received a Doctor of Arts

degree from St. John’s University in 2000 and is a professor of English at Farmingdale State College and Suffolk Community College.

GIL ZWEIG / ARTS '60, ENG '60, '65 / is president of Glenbrook Technologies and was awarded a U.S. patent covering Glenbrook’s X-ray microscope technology.

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gy and its application to diagnostic and interventional radiology. This groundbreaking technology can

provide more accurate, detailed, and comprehensive motion studies of implanted devices in real time, with significantly lower radiation exposure.

MICHAEL A. BRODY / ARTS '62 / practices psychiatry and wrote the book *Messages: Self Help Through Popular Culture* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing).

PETER A. HOWLEY / ENG '62, STERN '70 / married his wife, Jeanine, on New Year's Eve 2007. Their early-stage consultancy, the Howley Management Group, continues to help entrepreneurs turn great ideas into great businesses.

JOHN A. OLSEN / WSC '62 / authored the novel *A World Just There* (Vantage), which follows Chris Halvorsen, a 55-year-old woman of Norwegian descent and a Long Island schoolteacher, through an intellectual, moral, and emotional crisis in the 21st century.

MARIA MAZZIOTTI GILLAN / GSAS '63 / is the founder and the executive director of the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, NJ. She is also the director of the

creative-writing program and a professor of poetry at Binghamton University-State University of New York. Gillan has won numerous awards for her poetry.

DAVID HUBLER / WSC '63 / has been in the technology publishing field for the past decade after a career in the federal government, which included seven years abroad with the CIA and 14 years with the Voice of America international radio. He is the author of two books and countless newspaper and magazine articles. While at NYU, Hubler was the co-editor-in-chief of *Washington Square News*.

HERMAN E. ROSEN / GSAS '63 / authored the book *Gallant Ship, Brave Men* (Xlibris), which chronicles Rosen's World War II service in the Merchant Marines aboard the cargo ship *S.S. John Drayton*. It profiles Rosen's voyage, a torpedo attack, and his struggle to survive on a lifeboat with other survivors.

FRED GROSS / STEINHARDT '64 / is the author of a new Holocaust memoir, *One Step Ahead of Hitler: A Jewish Child's Journey Through France* (Mercer University). The memoir is an account of his family's escape from Nazi persecution while Gross was a young boy and also examines the tenuousness of memory. The book can be purchased through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

BARBARA JOANS / TSOA '65 / authored the ethnography *Bike Lust: Harleys, Women, and American Society* (University of Wisconsin Press), about the Harley-Davidson subculture in California, from a woman's perspective. It also looks into changing the world of male bikers.

In May 2009, **JOEL M. LEVY / STEINHARDT '65** / received the Burton Blatt Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award for his four decades of contributions to the study of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

JUDITH GERBERG / STEINHARDT '66 / is president of the Career Counselors Consortium, creator of the Passion Projects workshops, and director of Gerberg & Co., a New York-based career development organization. She discussed her four-step program, "How to Keep Going When the Going Gets Tough," in interviews with ABC News and *Time Out New York*.

MARIAN LIEF PALLEY / GSAS '66 / and **JOYCE GELB / GSAS '69** / co-edited *Women & Politics Around the World* (ABC-CLIO).

THOMAS WYSMULLER / ARTS '66 / addressed the Johnson Space Center chapter of the NASA Alumni League and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Houston section on his research titled, "The Colder Side of Global Warming." His presentation was

highlighted in the 50th anniversary of NASA issue of *Horizons*, a quarterly publication of the AIAA.

ALAN A. WARTENBERG / ARTS '67 / was awarded the Nyswander/Dole Award given by the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependency to those who have advanced the field of treatment for narcotic abuse. Wartenberg is semi-retired but still practices part-time at the Providence Veterans Medical Center and in a private addictions practice in North Kingston, RI.

LAWRENCE ZIPPIN / WAG '67 / has been named CEO of the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network in Verona, Virginia.

WILLIAM G. EMENER / NUR '68 / co-authored a companion set of two self-help books with his University of South Florida colleague, William A. Lambos. The books, *My Loving Relationships* and *Our Loving Relationships*, are being used as textbooks in graduate classes in marriage and couples counseling.

MAX D. LEIFER / STERN '68 / is an attorney and owner of Brandy Library in Tribeca.

FRED R. SHAPIRO / LAW '68 / published *The Yale Book of Quotations* (Yale University Press), the first major quotation book to emphasize modern and American sources, and the first to use state-of-the-art research methods.

Want to Hear More About Alumni Activities? Contact Us!

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Q&A with NYU Trustee and Alumnus

EVAN CHESLER (ARTS '70, LAW '75)



What inspired you to create a scholarship at NYU?

I received a scholarship when I was an undergraduate, and I was then, and still am, very grateful for that. I absolutely would not have been able to go to NYU had I not been given that scholarship. And I want students to have the same benefits that I had.

Do you keep in touch with students who've received your scholarships?

I've gotten to know almost all of the students. I often receive and send notes back about their progress as they get through school and go through their careers. In fact, the very first recipient of our scholarship is now a young lawyer who is coming to work at my firm this fall.

You received a scholarship to attend NYU. How did that make a difference in your life?

I received a wonderful education at NYU that enabled me to go to NYU's School of Law. When I faced serious financial difficulties

in my third year, I was awarded a fellowship from NYU that allowed me to finish my degree. So the University paved the way for me to get a college education and then enabled me to finish law school when I had no money to pay my last year's tuition.

What advice would you offer to others who are considering giving to NYU?

Open up your checkbook. In my experience, you get so much more back from giving a scholarship than it ever costs.

Q&A with Chesler Pre-Law Scholarship Recipient

TANESHA THOMAS (CAS '10)



What initially attracted you to NYU?

I knew that NYU has really high standards and that I would have a lot of flexibility in choosing my major/minor combinations. I also appreciated the fact that NYU participates in the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which is a financial aid initiative for people from low-income families. And while I wasn't aware of the extent of NYU's global programs when I applied here, I've become a big advocate of studying abroad. I spent the past spring semester

studying in Ghana, and it was a truly eye-opening experience.

What made you apply for the Chesler Pre-Law Scholarship?

I believe in what it stands for, and I respect Mr. and Mrs. Chesler for their commitment to promoting diversity and integrity in the legal profession. Aside from the obvious financial importance, this scholarship supports people who have a desire to reach back and help others and the community.

Was financial aid an important factor in your decision to attend NYU?

Absolutely. I'm the first person in my family to go to college, and,

because my family lacked the necessary economic resources, it was essential for me to get financial assistance to go to college. Fortunately, my financial aid package to NYU was generous enough to allow me to come.

Now that you know the power of a scholarship gift, would you support scholarships at NYU after you graduate?

Definitely. I would hope that the NYU community would recognize the potential in investing in students who are willing to commit themselves to helping others—especially students who come from situations in which there are extra barriers to overcome to get into schools like NYU.

Please consider making a gift in support of scholarships, fellowships, and financial aid.

Online: giving.nyu.edu/calltoaction
Call: 212-998-6900
E-mail: call.to.action@nyu.edu

SUSAN B. FELDMAN / ARTS '70 / is the founder and artistic director of St. Ann's Warehouse. From 1979 to 2000, she oversaw the restoration activities and performing-arts series in the National Historic Landmark Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity.

ELLEN LANGER / ARTS '70 / published the book *Counterclockwise: Mindful Health and the Power of Possibility* (Ballantine). The book is about how opening minds to what's possible, instead of presuming impossibility, can lead to better health at any age.

DEBORAH E. KOOPERSTEIN / WSC '71 / is counsel to Farrell Fritz in East Hampton, NY. Kooperstein has been invited to join the bench of the Alexander Hamilton American Inn of Court in Suffolk County, NY.

FRANCIS C. SPATARO / STEINHARDT '71 / is the retired bishop of the Association of Independent Evangelical Lutheran Churches. He also authored *Charles Mason Remey and The Baha' Faith* (Carlton) and *Images of Godly Living* (Tober), and had poems published in periodicals, such as *Stopinder*, *Haiku Harvest*, *The Rose*, *The Journal of Pastoral Care*, and *Templar Phoenix Literary Review*.

MARTIN E. KARLINSKY / WSC '72 / has been elected president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. Karlinsky will receive an honorary fellowship from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in recognition of his long-standing leadership in the American Jewish community and advocacy for and defense of the State of Israel.

HOWARD LISCH / STERN '72 / moved his accounting, legal, and investment management practices to Jersey City, NJ. For the first time since 1945, there will not be a Lisch practicing accounting on 34th Street in Manhattan.

SOLOMON OLIVER JR. / LAW '72 / is a U.S. district judge from Cleveland. He has been elected to the Judicial Conference of the U.S., the policymaking body of the federal judiciary, which is chaired by the Chief Justice of the U.S.

JANE RUBINO / WSC '72 / co-authored *Lady Vernon and Her Daughter* (Crown) with her own daughter, Caitlen Rubino-Bradway. It is a novel-length reconstruction of Jane Austen's early novella, *Lady Susan*. Rubino is also the author of a mystery series set at the Jersey shore and a volume

of Sherlockian novellas.

JOAN I. SIEGEL / GSAS '72 / published a new collection of poetry, *Hyacinth for the Soul* (Deerbrook Editions).

MAXINE FEINBERG / DEN '73, '80, '85, WSUC '77 / was reappointed to a second term on the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry by Governor Jon Corzine. Feinberg was also elected to the trustee-elect position from the American Dental Association, Fourth District.

RICHARD T. FOLTIN / ARTS '73 / was appointed director of national and legislative affairs at the American Jewish Committee in Washington, D.C. He served a number of years as co-chair of the First Amendment Rights Committee of the American Bar Association's Section

of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and was elected last year as a member of the IRR's governing council. In May 2009, Foltin received the Dorothy Height Coalition Building Award from the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

MICHAEL B. RUBIN / ENG '73 / is a mechanical engineer working as a project manager and thermal-hydraulic analyst for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research in Rockville, MD. He also teaches piano and accordion, and performs regularly in the Washington, D.C., area. Rubin is an active volunteer in his community.

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alumni perk

JOIN THE NYU CLUB



Wouldn't you like to get away from the frenzy of city life once in a while? Have a quiet drink with friends or play a game of squash? Then head to midtown Manhattan, where the NYU Club offers alumni a members-only haven in the heart of the city.

Located on West 43rd Street in the nine-story building that houses the Princeton Club, the NYU Club

is a refuge for alumni, faculty, and administrators. The space features formal and casual dining, meeting rooms, banquet facilities, and hotel rooms.

Members have access to free Wi-Fi, cozy lounges, a library, and a fitness center, which features two international squash courts, massage, steam rooms, and much more.

For those looking to meet other alumni, the club offers exclusive events, such as a distinguished speaker series, topical lectures, networking programs, as well as Broadway theater packages, wine tastings, and holiday and specialty dinners. At the NYU Club, alumni always have a warm, welcoming place in the city, whether they live, work, or frequently travel to New York.

To learn more about the NYU Club, contact the membership office at the Princeton Club at 212-596-1240 or visit <http://www.nyu.edu/alumni/benefits/nyuclub.shtml>.

Alumni profile

HOWARD CEDAR / MED '70, GSAS '70

Methylation Man

by Kevin Fallon / CAS '09

HOWARD CEDAR HAS A PHILOSOPHY WHEN IT COMES TO RESEARCH: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BASICS. "IF YOU LOOK UNDER THE HOOD OF

a car to see what's wrong, looking at the surface and moving one thing or changing another may help," he says. "But if you really understand how the car works at a basic level, you could find the problem easily." This curiosity propelled him into the burgeoning field of cellular biochemistry and human genetics. It was the early 1970s and scientists were just learning the genetic code and developing methodologies for defining a gene and deciphering how it works in a cell. As one of the first graduates of NYU's combined MD/PhD Medical Scientist Training Program, he started working for the U.S. Army's Public Health Service and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. "It was all so brand-new and exciting," Cedar says.

Nearly four decades later, the native New Yorker—and Harry and Helen L. Brenner Chair in Molecular Biology at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School

in Jerusalem—is gaining international recognition for pioneering research on human development and genetic expression. More specifically, he, with fellow HU professor Aharon Razin, has advanced the knowledge on DNA methylation—or the chemical changes in a DNA molecule—for

which he was awarded the 2008 Wolf Prize, the Israeli version of the Nobel. The work could substantially alter how doctors approach disease treatments—and just might lead to a cure for cancer.

Every cell in the body contains the same genetic information, or operating instructions, but they must

be regulated according to their different functions. DNA methylation is a form of regulation and determines when a gene is turned on or off. This ensures, as Cedar puts it, that "liver cells behave as liver cells and kidney cells as kidney cells." When a gene methylates abnormally, it can generate cancer cells. So if researchers can find a way to inhibit the abnormality, they could alleviate certain types of cancer. Methylation may also revolutionize the way diabetes is treated and may help understand the programming of stem cells.

Cedar humbly describes his work the way someone might recite a recipe. But Andrew Chess, professor at the Center for Human Genetic Research at Massachusetts General Hospital, says it applies to the develop-

ment of basically every animal and plant: "Because many human diseases, including cancer, are caused by perturbations in the readings of genes and the genome, it's an outstanding contribution to the basic knowledge of medical science."

While he may downplay his accomplishments, Cedar seems cognizant of his *bracha vehazlaha*—Hebrew for blessings and success—over the past year. In addition to winning the prestigious Wolf award, which includes a \$100,000 prize, his son Joseph Cedar (TSOA '95) wrote and directed the Israeli film *Beaufort*, which received a 2008 Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. And last June, Cedar welcomed his twelfth granddaughter into the family. "Even after 12," he says, "it's still very special." ■



HOWARD CEDAR BEGAN HIS CAREER AS SCIENTISTS WERE UNRAVELING THE GENETIC CODE. "IT WAS ALL SO BRAND-NEW AND EXCITING," HE SAYS.

PHOTO © SASSON TIRAM

JARED SMITH / WSC '73, GSAS '76 / is a widely published and acclaimed poet and critic with experience in public- and private-sector technology and policy development. He has published his seventh book of poetry, *The Graves Grow Bigger Between Generations* (Higginum Hill).

ABRAHAM KUPER-SMITH / GSAS '74 / published his book *Twain and Freud on the Human Race: Parallels on Personality, Politics, and Religion* (McFarland).

HAIG R. NALBANTIAN / WSC '74 / and his colleague Richard A. Guzzo published a feature article on leadership development in the March 2009 issue of the *Harvard Business Review*. The article, titled "Making Mobility Matter," is a critical assessment of "the mobility equation," which is the wisdom that mobility develops breadth, which in turn is required for leadership.

JERALD PODAIR / ARTS '74 / published his book, *Bayard Rustin: American Dreamer* (Rowman & Littlefield).

NANCY KRASA / GSAS '76 / published *Number Sense and Number Nonsense: Understanding the Challenges of Learning Math* (Brookes). The book is an in-depth discussion of the difficulties students encounter while learning essential math skills. It provides educa-

tion professionals with insight for helping children who struggle with math.

SHERRY L. REITER / STEINHARDT '76 / is a clinical social worker and registered poetry therapist who combines talk therapy with writing therapy. She is director of the Creative *Righting* Center, teaches at Touro College and Hofstra University, and has a private practice. She is also the coordinator of Poets Behind Bars, a writing therapy program for inmates of the Indiana State Maximum Security Prison. Reiter published her first book, *Writing Away the Demons* (North Star), in 2009.

JOAN ROSOFF / WSUC '76 / has been named co-chair of the Real Estate and Institutional Finance Practice Group at the firm of White and Williams LLP. Rosoff advises clients in commercial real estate and finance matters and represents financial institutions, such as banks, insurance companies, and other lenders, in sophisticated lending transactions.

THOMAS W. MEAGHER / WSUC '77 / is the senior vice president and practice leader of Aon Consulting's National Tax & ERISA Practice. He has co-authored a chapter titled "Benefit Planning: Strategies and Risks in Business Transactions—All's Well That Ends Well" for the *NYU Review of*

Employee Benefits and Compensation.

STEVE CROMITY / WAG '78 / began a new career as a jazz vocalist after retiring from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He has since performed in New York clubs, including Cleopatra's Needle, the Lenox Lounge, and Sweet Rhythm. His Web site is www.stevetricromity.com.

JOSEPH P. ESPOSITO / LAW '78 / has joined the law firm of Hunton & Williams LLP as a partner in the Washington office, where he practices complex civil litigation.

ADRIENNE M. LAMIALIANDER / NUR '79 / earned a New York State License as a nursing home administrator. She is the vice president for nursing services at Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Staten Island, NY.

SPENCER D. LEVINE / WSUC '79 / has been named chief operation officer of Broward Health. He will oversee a variety of administrative support services and will have direct involvement in hospital operations and project management.

BARRY MAZOR / TSOA '79 / authored the book *Meeting Jimmie Rodgers: How America's Original Roots Music Hero Changed the Pop Sounds of a Century* (Oxford University).

1980s

DEBORAH CARTER / WSUC '80 / is working as an independent literary agent.

LORI PERKINS / WSUC '80 / is the editorial director of a new e-publishing venture, www.ravenousromance.com. The company's books have been featured in the *London Times* and *The New Yorker*.

ROBERT PERSHES / LAW '80 / is a member of the litigation and intellectual property practice at the firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs LLP, where he has also been elected vice president and member of the firm's board of managers.

JANET GOLDNER / STEINHARDT '81 / has been selected for a Fulbright Specialists project at the Balla Fasseke Kouyate Conservatory of Arts and Multimedia in Bamako, Mali. Goldner will conduct a three-week seminar for visual art and multimedia students.

CAROL M. JOSEPH / STERN '81 / joined the firm of Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the real estate development group.

ROBERT H. ZEILER / GSAS '81 / accepted a position as associate professor at the University of New England's College of Pharmacy after 25 years in corporate America.

JOHN A. BARNES / WSUC '82 / has been appointed

executive speechwriter at BP America in Houston.

GAYLE BERG / STEINHARDT '83 / was appointed an overseer of Boston University and is a current member of the Dean's Advisory Board at the College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences and the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Berg has served as chair of Psychologists for Legislative Action in New York and of Nassau County Psychological Association's legislative committee. She is a board member of New York State Psychological Association's Council of Representatives and conducts a full-time private practice in Roslyn, NY.

W. BRENNAN CARLEY / WSUC '84 / has been appointed to the board of directors of Marketcetera, which specializes in open-source platforms for automated trading.

MATTHEW GRABELL / STERN '84 / is CEO of Employee Relations Solutions, Inc., a national consulting firm specializing in training managers and employees in the area of discrimination and harassment.

ERIC COMSTOCK / WSUC '85 / made his fifth appearance with Lincoln Center's *American Songbook* series in 2008. He performed his March 2009 concert, *Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams*, with his wife, Barbara Fasano.

(CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 57)

JEAN M. FARRELL / WSUC '85, LAW '88

/ is married with three children and lives in New Jersey. Farrell practices law

at Reed Smith LLP in New York City, specializing in insurance recovery.

SHARON E. SARKISIAN / STERN '85 / authored the book *Tender Trysting: Cari*

Chesterfield and the Coat of Arms, Book I (Xulon).

The book follows the adventures of a young woman who returns to her ancestral home and how her homecoming touches the lives of those around her.

SUSAN CHRISTOFFERSEN / GSAS '86, '90

/ was awarded a U.S. Department of Education Business International Education Grant and now serves as director of the East Asia Business Center

at Philadelphia University.

MARY JANE HAYES / STEINHARDT '86 / wrote the children's book *Emma's House of Sound* (St. Augustine's), the story of a deaf child. The book was turned into a three-act play, which was performed at the Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine, FL.

ELODIE LAUTEN / STEINHARDT '86 / composed music for the avant-première of improvisations by the Zendora Dance Compa-

ny, presented by Lower East Side Performing Arts.

MARGOT MIFFLIN / GSAS '86 / published *The Blue*

Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman (University of Nebraska). The book is a biography of a 19th-century Mormon pioneer who became a celebrity after she was captured, raised, and tattooed by Native Americans, then ransomed back five years later.

NANCY BALBIRER / TSOA '87 / authored the

memoir *Take Your Shirt Off and Cry* (Bloomsbury), about her time as an actor in the trenches of show business. The first chapter concerns her time as a student at NYU.

CHRISTOPHER BOWEN / WSUC '88 / wrote *Our Kids* (Outskirts). The book was published just after Bowen was named Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and contains 36 stories from his classrooms over the years.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 60)

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 58)

MARVIN J. CASHION / LAW '88 / launched Cashion ADR International, which provides mediator and arbitrator services in English and Spanish for South Florida and Latin America.

WENDY HILLIARD / GAL '88 / has been inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame. Hilliard was the first African-American to represent the U.S. in rhythmic gymnastics. She founded the Wendy Hilliard Foundation to provide quality programs for young people in gymnastics and its related disciplines.

WILLIAM J. LIPKIN / WSUC '89 / specializes in podiatric medicine and surgery, and has several practices in New Jersey. He is also a consultant for the athletic teams at Stevens Institute of Technology. Information regarding his practice can be found at www.hobokenankleandfoot.com.

1990s

WILLIAM McCANN / WSUC '90 / was hired as provider communications manager at Healthfirst, a health plan managed by hospitals and medical centers in New York.

LANCE LAVERGNE / STERN '91 / has been named vice president and chief diversity officer at New York Life Insurance Company. He will oversee all the company's diversity programs.

KRISTINA RIOS DE LUMBRERAS / GSAS '91 / is partner and director of sales at FANDANGO Catering, a boutique catering business that she founded with her husband, executive chef Jesús Lumbreras-Calvo, whom she met while studying at NYU in Spain. She is active in historic preservation in Houston, and is also managing partner for FANDANGO Properties, a family-held real estate investment firm.

GERARDO SANTIAGO / DEN '91 / is the first recipient of the Humanitarian Award, presented by the "Let Our Actions Speak" committee on behalf of the Collier County Dental Association.

VALDIVIA S. BEAUCHAMP / GSAS '92 / authored the book *Because of Napoleon* (BookSurge).

JON DENHAM / WAG '92 / is principal of Denham Wolf Real Estate Services, a real estate consulting firm specializing in representing not-for-profit organizations. The firm is co-developing the renovation of the historic Bank Note building in the Bronx. It is the site of two charter schools and the organizations Sustainable South Bronx, the Bronx Arts and Dance Association, and LightBox-NY.

JACOB WISSE / IFA '92, '94, '99 / has been ap-

pointed director of the Yeshiva University Museum. He is a tenured associate professor and has been head of the art-history program at Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University since 2005.

LOUIS VLAHOS / LAW '93 / has been appointed to the Long Island City Business Development Corp. board of directors. He also serves on the board of directors of the Queens Theatre in the Park, the Queens Chamber of Commerce, and the Long Island City YMCA.

MONA ELYAFI / GSAS '94 / has published her memoir *DisCOENnected* (iUniverse). The book chronicles her terrifying descent into addiction and sheds light on what the human spirit can destroy, endure, and overcome.

JEFFREY HOFFMAN / GAL '94 / was elected to the city council

of Woodcliff Lake, NJ.

KEVIN R. KOSAR / GSAS '95, '03 / has been a researcher at the Library of Congress since 2003 and has been named contributing editor to *Public Administration Review*.

CLAIRE OLIVIA MOED / TSOA '95 / was the recipient of the 2009 Elizabeth George Foundation Grant in Fiction for her trilogy, *Wire Monkey*.

DAWN SCIBILIA / TSOA '95 / co-produced, directed, shot, and edited the documentary, *Home*, which aired on PBS in March 2009. She received two Emmy nominations, for Best Documentary and Best Photography. *Home* includes candid interviews with Susan Sarandon, Mike Myers, Woody Allen, Liam Neeson, Rosie Perez, Fran Lebowitz, and many others. For more information, visit <http://homethe movie.com>.

JULIE BUCKNER ARMSTRONG / GSAS '96 / is an associate professor of English at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. She is editor of the new anthology *The Civil Rights Reader: American Literature From Jim Crow to Reconciliation* (University of Georgia Press).

MIGUEL CENTENO / WAG '96 / was named one of Crain's "40 Under 40" up-and-coming New Yorkers for 2009. He is a vice president at Aetna.

ABBY S. PHON / TSOA '96 / is the executive producer and star of *Life Without Green*, a TV series about a young Jewish woman's struggle to keep her life together after her fiancé vanishes. Environmental politics clash with the gambling underworld in this new political drama by the NYC-based company, Aces Deuce Productions.

JANUARY GILL O'NEIL / GSAS '97 / has had her poems and articles appear in numerous publications, including *Seattle Review* and *Stuff*. She is a Cave Canem Fellow, and will publish her first poetry collection, titled *Underlife* (CavanKerry Press), in November. She is a senior writer and editor at Babson College, runs the Poet Mom blog, and lives with her husband and two children in Beverly, MA.

MATTHEW SUMMY / WAG '97 / has been named the president and CEO of the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 62)



■ alumni art

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Art in New York City subway stations easily disappears behind the rush of commuters. But when **LEO VILLAREAL**'s 800-square-foot honeycomb of full-color LED tubes is mounted to the ceiling of the 6 train's Bleecker Street station next year, it should give even frenzied New Yorkers pause.

Villareal (TSOA '94) creates art that you experience more than see. His sculptures employ thousands of LED lights, often sequenced to reflect natural systems, such as waves or clouds. Villareal studied sculpture at Yale University and computer programming at NYU, in what he calls a "long journey," before he began combining the two in the late 1990s. "It was a unique

way to visually manifest sequencing and programming," he says. "I could break out of the computer screen."

Since then, Villareal has built site-specific public works from Long Island City to Istanbul. "Multiverse," an installation now on view at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., spans 200 feet with more than 41,000 lights. His subway station piece, "Hive," will open in 2010. Although these works are massive, Villareal's motive isn't to overwhelm, but rather to provoke. "If I create a dialogue between my piece and the motion around it," he says, "that piece will resonate." —Emily Nonko

RISA YANAGI-SAWA WILLIAMS / TSOA '97, '98 / co-authored the book *Cinescopes: What Your*

Favorite Movies Reveal About You, which gives accurate personality assessments based on a person's favorite films. The book's Web site is www.cinescopes.com.

LAURA R. BRADEN / GSAS '98 / has rejoined the Washington, D.C., office of Fish & Richardson P.C. as an associate in its litigation group.

JESSICA CHICLACOS / CAS '98 / was awarded

the 2008 Cornerstone Award by the Lawyers Alliance for New York, honoring outstanding pro-bono legal services to nonprofits. Chiclacos was honored for her work with personnel policies for organizations such as Friends & Relatives of Institutionalized Aged.

TRACI R. STEIN / STEINHARDT '98 / received a PhD in clinical psychology from Columbia University's Teachers College. She is completing a post-doctoral fellowship in pain psychology in the department of anesthesiology at Columbia University Medical Center.

CHARLES E. STULL / STEINHARDT '98 / graduated with a Doctorate of Education degree in adult

learning and leadership from the department of organization and leadership at Columbia University's Teachers College. After 17 years in the substance-abuse counseling field, Stull has launched his own consulting business, providing leadership development and executive coaching services.

GABRIEL BELLMAN / GSAS '99 / is the co-founder of the San Francisco Frozen Film Festival (www.frozenfilmfestival.com) and started his own law firm, Bellman Legal. Bellman has also written three books and directed the feature documentary *Duffy's Irish Circus*.

JESSICA COLEMAN / STERN '99 / published her first book, *Crisis Com-*

munications—Weathering the Storm (Healthy Learning). Written specifically for youth programs, the book touches on all aspects of handling a crisis, including prevention, management, and post-crisis communications. Other versions of the book, including one for schools, are expected to be published over the next two years.

BOOKER T. MATTISON / TSOA '99 / published his first novel, *Unsigned Hype* (Revell). The teen novel chronicles a high school student's desire to quit school and pursue a career in music.

TERENCE NESBIT / SCPS '99 / released his second novel, *My Prerogative* (PublishAmerica).

2000s

JACOB M. APPEL / GSAS '00 / had his short story "The House Call" included in the Winter 2008 issue of *Shenandoah: The Washington and Lee University Review*. Appel's short fiction has appeared in *AGNI*, *The Missouri Review*, and *StoryQuarterly*. He also teaches at the Gotham Writer's Workshop in New York City.

CINDY PON / STEINHARDT '00 / authored her debut young-adult fantasy novel, *Silver Phoenix: Beyond the Kingdom of Xia* (HarperTeen). The book was named one of the top 10 sci-fi/fantasy reads by the American Library Association for 2009. Pon is penning a sequel for release in 2010.

KEVIN RYAN / LAW '00 / has been named the new president and CEO of Covenant House, the largest privately funded nonprofit agency helping homeless youth in North and Central America.

SHANE VOGEL / TSOA '00, '04 / authored the book *The Scene of Harlem Cabaret: Race, Sexuality, Performance* (University of Chicago Press). Vogel is an assistant professor of English at Indiana University, Bloomington.

JANELLE BENJAMIN / STERN '01 /, **SHAUNA GRAY / STERN '01** /, and **DIANE HENRY / GAL '01** / have launched the real estate company Red Real Estate in Manhattan.

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TIMOTHY HULL / GAL '02 / completed a research trip to Egypt. He produced artwork related to the trip that was featured in a solo exhibition at the Taylor De Cordoba Gallery in L.A.

ASHWIN MADIA / LAW '02 / joined the U.S. Marines after graduation and served a tour of duty in Iraq, where he worked as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and legal counselor to senior officers. Madia ran for the open seat in the Third Congressional District in 2008, and is opening his own law firm, Madia Law LLC.

MATTHEW BARON / STERN '03 / is the author of the *Perspectives* newsletter at Simon Development Group, which discusses New York City's macro real estate trends.

BENJAMIN MATI / CAS '03 / is a first-year medical student at Thomas Jefferson

University in Philadelphia.

SYLVIA MOHEN / CAS '03 / graduated with a MD from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She will intern at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, training in neurology.

EMILY FRANCES SCHLEICHER / CAS '03, LAW '06 / has rejoined the communications and appellate practice at Wiley Rein, LLP in Washington, D.C., after completing a one-year clerkship with Judge Andrew J. Kleinfeld of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

ROSARIO TORRES / CAS '03 / graduated with her Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco and was admitted to the California Bar in 2008.

ALFREDO J. URQUIDI / CAS '03 / was conferred his Master's of Government Administration degree from

the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. He works in the private sector as an in-house economist for a professional services firm.

ALEXIS ANNE HOLROYDE / CAS '05 / is finishing her third year at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

DAVID SCHMID / WAG '05 / is now assistant commissioner in the New York City mayor's community affairs unit. He joins the Bloomberg administration after four years at the department of housing preservation and development.

JOEL A. BROOKS / CAS '06 / started a new job at 1199 Service Employees International Union New England in Hartford, CT.

ANNE A. BROOKSHER / LAW '06 / joined the law firm of Winston & Strawn

LLP as an associate.

PRISCILLA HERNANDEZ / STEINHARDT '06 / started a private practice specializing in speech-language therapy and special instruction services for children, ages 0 to 3. She also provides both monolingual and bilingual intervention services to a variety of age groups.

PETER SANDERS / GSAS '06 / released the feature-length documentary *The Disappeared* in 2008, which has been licensed to History Channel International, History Channel Español, and the Documentary Channel. The film relives the military dictatorship in Argentina through the lens of a young man kidnapped in his infancy.

YVONNE FULBRIGHT / STEINHARDT '07 / published two books in 2008: *Pleasuring: The Secrets of Sexual Satisfaction* (Ster-

ling/Ravenous) and *Your Orgasmic Pregnancy: Little Sex Secrets Every Hot Mama Should Know* (Hunter House).

LILY GUTNIK / CAS '07 / is the 2008-09 national coordinator for the American Medical Student Association Surgery Interest Group, which provides networking opportunities for medical students and physicians.

HARRY OSTRANDER / WAG '08 / is now the director of research at Sustainability Roundtable, Inc.

LAURA MARIA PALAU / CAS '08 / moved to Los Angeles after graduation and now works at MySpace Latino in Beverly Hills, CA.

JASON SEVIER / STERN '08 / has joined the public accounting firm McGladrey & Pullen as a partner in the SEC audit practice in their mid-Atlantic region.

Obituaries

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

CLARENCE W. SPANGENBERGER / STERN '27
DOROTHY DOBSON KETTEL / STEINHARDT '31
MILTON M. STUCHINER / WSC '32, LAW '35
JESSE J. DOSSICK / STEINHARDT '34, FACULTY
MAX E. CYTRYN / ARTS '35, MED '38
LESLIE SCHWARTZ / WSC '35, LAW '77
ALBERT R. CROCKER / ENG '36, GSAS '37
FRANK E. BEHRMAN / LAW '37
WILLIAM J. HORVATH / GSAS '38, '40
RUBY BLUM SEGAL / STERN '42
NATHAN LAVENDA / GSAS '47, STEINHARDT '52
DONALD MORGAN SWINGLE / ENG '47
EUGENE STUART BROWN / WSC '48
PAUL R. CHANIN / ENG '48
MURIELLE POLLACK KLEIN / WSC '48
HARRY HOCHSTADT / GSAS '50, CIMS '56
LOUIS LAUER / WSC '50, SCPS '97
LAWRENCE SAMUELSON / MED '50
PERRY LUNTZ / STERN '51

FRANK G. JOHNSON / STERN '52
KENNETH GOLD / ARTS '53, GSAS '59, '62
GERVASE V. KEOGH / STERN '53, '54
MARILYN COOPER / WSC '54
ROGER E. EGAN / GSAS '54
THEODORE N. MILLER / STERN '54
LEONARD A. SCHONBERG / ARTS '55
ALFRED R. BRANDT / STERN '56
JOHN VLAVIANOS / ENG '56
FRANK McCOURT / STEINHARDT '57, HON '00
DAVID M. FRIEDLAND / STEINHARDT '60
FRANCIS LUIZ / ENG '63
STEVEN LEE CARSON / ARTS '64, GSAS '65
HAROLD HAGER / GSAS '65
ROSA LEE RANDOLPH / STEINHARDT '66
ELLIOT L. JUDD / ARTS '69, STEINHARDT '71
PETER G. BERGMAN / ARTS '70
ESTHER SENITZKY MARCUS / GSAS '70
MILTON HASSOL / GSAS '72

JAMES MAYNARD / GSAS '73
WILLIAM Z. LANDIS / STERN '78, '79
STUART C. GRUSKIN / STERN '83
PAMELA R. CHAMPINE / LAW '90
CURTIS CROSSLEY / LAW '92
LEMUEL MARTINEZ-CARROLL / STEINHARDT '92
MICHAEL A.X. LEAVITT / TSOA '00
AMY COMEAU / STERN '03
ERIK B. BLUEMEL / LAW '04
HUANG FENG / LAW '08
JOHN H. LAMENDSORF / TSOA '09
LARRY BENTSON / FRIEND
RUDOLPH W. BERNARD / SCPS FACULTY
BOB COHEN / OGCA STAFF
THOMAS FRANCK / LAW FACULTY
WILLIAM MURRAY-O'GRADY / SCPS STAFF
ROBERT RAYMO / FAS FACULTY
JACOB T. SCHWARTZ / CIMS FACULTY
GEORGE ZASLAVSKY / CIMS FACULTY



WHAT

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WHO

“A BUNCH OF NERVOUS FRESHMAN WHO BECAME UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER WHILE HYPNOTIZED,” SAYS STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER EMILY NONKO (CAS '10).

WHY

RENOWNED HYPNOTIST MICHAEL C. ANTHONY TOLD VOLUNTEERS FROM THE AUDIENCE THAT THE ROOM WAS FREEZING, SO THEY HUDDLED TOGETHER FOR WARMTH, NOTES NONKO, WHO STILL REMEMBERS CATCHING ANTHONY'S SHOW BACK WHEN SHE WAS A FRESHMAN.

—Renée Alfuso