

“It’s very liberating to have a flop. Just remember that, because everyone has them.”

—TINA BROWN, FOUNDER OF THE DAILY BEAST WEB SITE AND FORMER EDITOR OF *THE NEW YORKER* AND *VANITY FAIR*, ON HER NOW-DEFUNCT TALK MAGAZINE AT THE “STAYING CURRENT, CLICKABLE, AND PROFITABLE” EVENT, HOSTED BY THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

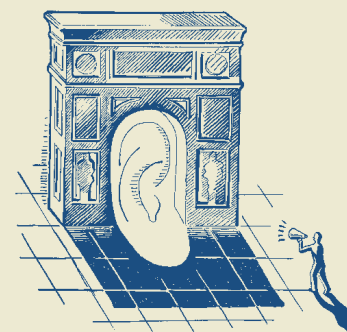
“The tropics inebriated [Darwin]. Recording in his diary his first encounter with tropical vegetation, he wrote, ‘It has been a glorious day, giving the blind man eyes.’ ”

—RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ENGLISH PROFESSOR **GEORGE LEVINE** AT A LECTURE ON “LEARNING TO SEE: DARWIN’S PROPHETIC APPRENTICESHIP ON THE BEAGLE VOYAGE” DURING A GALLATIN SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE SCIENTIST’S BICENTENNIAL

“American leadership is the only thing that will move [the Arab Peace Initiative] forward. We need the big bear behind our backs to push us, so when others ask, we can point to the big bear.”

—PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL, FORMER AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED STATES, SPEAKING AT THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES EVENT, “GLOBAL LEADERS: CONVERSATIONS WITH ALON BEN-MEIR”

HEARD ON CAMPUS



“I joke with my students that I’m hoping to win a Nobel Prize because I’m going to show conclusively that, after several years of NIH-funded research, we’ve discovered the treatment for malnutrition, and it’s called food.”

—PAUL FARMER, MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGIST AND PHYSICIAN AT HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, AT A “SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE 21ST-CENTURY” EVENT HOSTED BY THE CATHERINE B. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION PROGRAM IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Research universities are characterized by their effort to go beyond familiar truths and by their commitment to probing the unknown.

In this Fall 2009 issue, we illuminate two examples of how NYU's research has propelled us to the forefront of discovery. "Size Does Matter" (p. 30) features the work of scientists in our Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, who are pursuing a new understanding of the physical world. "Mind Games" (p. 42) describes how the intense world of video gaming, which many of our students know well, is being harnessed as a breakthrough learning tool.

Even as a university pushes the boundaries of new discoveries, its mission calls on it to preserve and examine the past, searching for new insights and meanings. In "Black Beauty" (p. 38), photographer Deborah Willis refocuses the narrative of African-American vi-



PHOTO © MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

sual history with a new book about perceptions of beauty and power. In another new book, NYU professors Michael and Elizabeth M. Norman offer a comprehensive, startling take on World War II's Bataan Death March (p. 10).

It requires great patience and inspiration to both explore the uncharted territories of our fu-

ture as well as offer a fresh take on historical events. These kinds of endeavors have shaped NYU into the institution it is today, and we are reminded of the similar work that our many graduates continue to do as we read through the pages of this issue of *NYU Alumni Magazine*.

JOHN SEXTON

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JOHN BRINGARDNER (GSAS '03) is news editor of *Law.com*. His work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *Wired*, *The American Lawyer*, and on his mother's refrigerator.

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ANDREA CRAWFORD has covered cultural news as a writer and editor for 15 years. She has been senior editor at *ARTnews*, contributing editor at *Poets & Writers* magazine, and a contributor for *Nextbook*.

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LARS LEETARU has illustrated for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Esquire*, *ESPN The Magazine*, *Forbes, Inc.*, and *The New York Times*.

Though best known for his work on *The Simpsons* line of comics, Eisner Award-winning cartoonist **BILL MORRISON** happily returned to his paints and brushes to create the cover for this issue.

KEN STIER currently writes features for *Time*. His reporting career has included long stints in Southeast Asia, the Caucasus, and Latin America, and domestic business coverage, most recently for CNBC.

LEIGH WELLS is an illustrator in San Francisco who has worked for Converse, Starbucks, and American Express.

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NYU

Issue #13 / Fall 2009

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AMERICAN IDOL WINNER DAVID COOK CRACKS A SMILE AT THE SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS DURING HIS FIRST SOLO TOUR.



STAR

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



PUBLIC ENEMY FOUNDING MEMBER CHUCK D RAPS ABOUT SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ART AS PART OF A REYNOLDS PROGRAM SPEAKER SERIES.



COMEDIAN ZACH GALIFIANAKIS PERFORMS STAND-UP AT SKIRBALL.



WHOOPI GOLDBERG ADDRESSES STUDENTS AT THE TISCH SALUTE.



BRITISH PRIME MINISTER GORDON BROWN AND FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT DISCUSS MULTILATERALISM AS A SOLUTION TO GLOBAL CRISES.

POWER



We Hear From You

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Spring 2009 issue. We are delighted that NYU Alumni Magazine continues to provoke conversation and comment.



SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

My name is Christopher Ketant and I am a student at what many would call a “struggling” New York City public high school. This afternoon, my teacher [Emily Warren (CAS '04)] handed me an article titled “Can We Talk?” Before I continue, I would like to say that I do not be-

lieve in coincidences; this will make sense soon. We students at Bayard Rustin Educational Complex were blessed to be able to work with the Student Press Initiative to collaborate in writing and publishing a book [on the stereotypes about us], titled *Dangerously Defined*.

Our teacher reached out to people all over the nation and asked humbly for them to be open and honest in revealing the stereotypes that came to mind when they thought about NYC public school kids. To our great surprise, we received hundreds of responses. To see the stereotypes placed on us so blatantly, in a long and unapologetic list, wasn't easy. But soon we realized that it was this type of honesty that we needed, so that a real conversation between two separated peoples could begin.

We appreciate your article because it is so real and so valid. I am thankful for what you have written, and I think that we are both championing the same cause.

*Christopher Ketant, 18
New York, New York*

SATISFIED CUSTOMER

My compliments to the editors. I must express my appreciation and enjoyment as I read through the entire issue nonstop. I must confess that it made me jealous—ah, if only I was young enough to participate in some of the current activities of college students (i.e., visiting Abu Dhabi, etc.).

I appreciated the recommendations of current novels. I loved that article on the difficulties of talking about race. And, of course, the arti-

cle [“Economy: Code Red”] on the contributions that NYU has made to resolving our economic problems today was fascinating.

I was so stimulated by your magazine; it made my day.

*Cyrelle N. Ratzkin
STEINHARDT '55
Boynton Beach, Florida*

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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