

NYU

CLAS S NOTES



1940s

STANLEY TURKEL / STERN '47 / is a consultant in the hotel industry and author of *Great American Hoteliers: Pioneers of the Hotel Industry* (Authorhouse). Turkel serves on the board of advisers at the NYU Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sports Management, where he also lectures.

ROBERT BRODSKY / ENG '48 / wrote *A Pilgrim Muddles Through* (Foxbro Press), a book of stories and essays that references John Wayne's famous epithet "pilgrim" and offers a glimpse of the trials and tribulations of a modern-day wanderer.

RONALD PROBSTEN / ENG '48 / is Ford Professor Emeritus of Engineering at MIT, and has been honored with membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has published 10 acclaimed scientific books and more recently *Honest Sid: Memoir of a Gambling Man* (iUniverse), which follows his father's adventures in the world of bookies and bettors, fighters and fixers, and players and suckers in Depression-era New York.

WINIFRED STRONG / STEINHARDT '48 / celebrated the graduation of her grandson, **BENJAMIN BUSH / DEN '09** /, who will continue a four-year special-training program



PHOTO COURTESY SAL SONMA COLLECTION

in oral surgery as a resident at Lincoln Medical Center in the Bronx, NY.

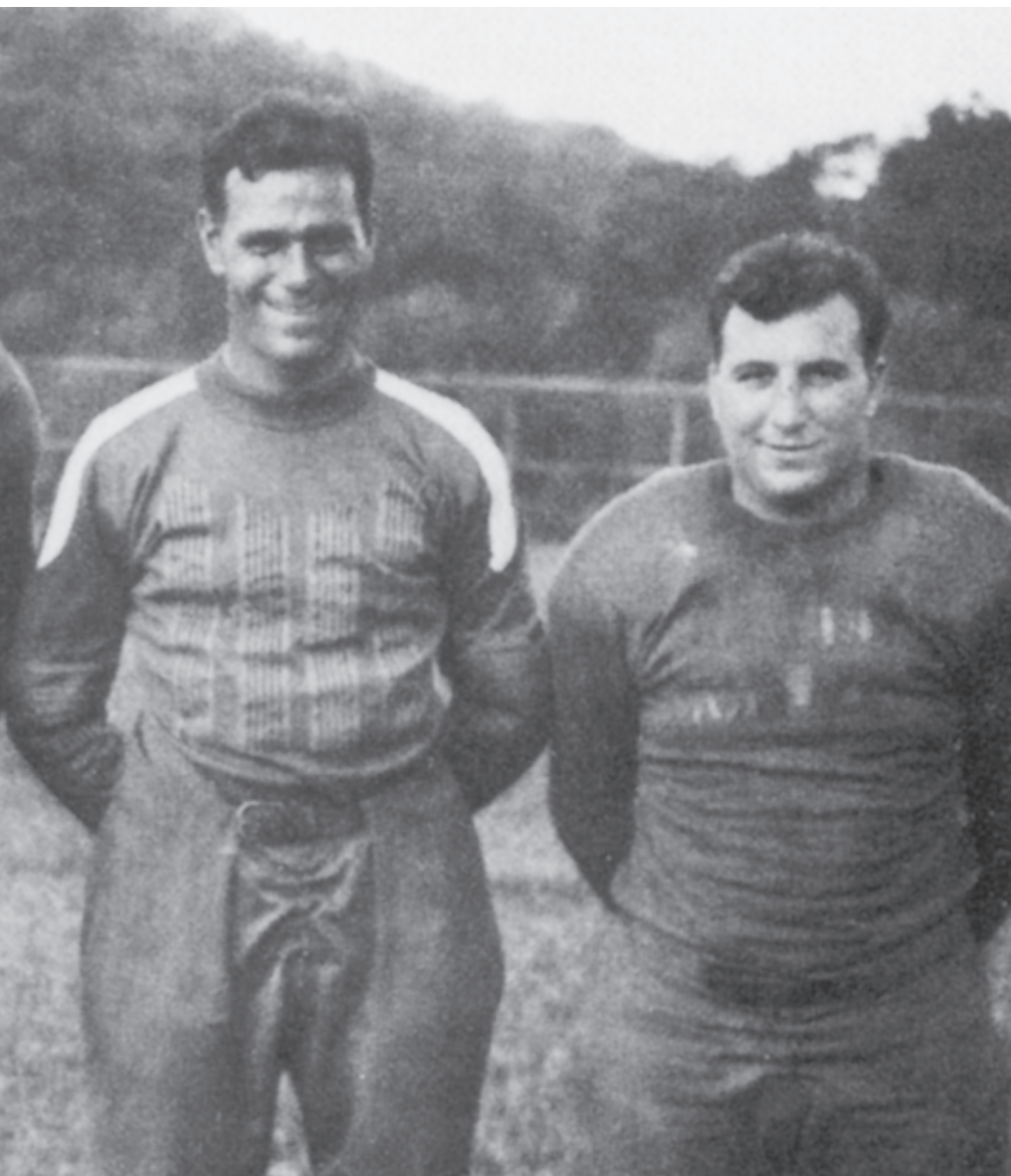
JEROME ROTH / STERN '49 / published his book *WWII—Army Air Force Chronicles* (Vantage Press), in which he provides an inside view of life in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War.

1950s

JULIUS TRAGARZ / WSC '50 / released *The Final Ethic* (Eloquent), a novel that follows Paul Bourveau, a budding Jesuit scholar who experiences an epiphany during World War II and is con-

vinced a divine force has assigned him the task of rectifying past wrongs.

MANUEL LUCIANO DA SILVA / WSC '52 / co-authored, with his wife, Silvia, the book *Christo-*



GRIDIRON GLORY

AFTER AN EMBARRASSING 21-0 DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF FORDHAM UNIVERSITY IN 1935, NYU TEAMMATES SAL SOMMA (STEINHARDT '37, '45) AND ANDY BARBERI (STEINHARDT '40) HELPED THE VIOLETS TAKE REVENGE THE NEXT YEAR WITH A 7-6 UPSET THAT KEPT THE RAMS, AND THEIR OFFENSIVE LINEMAN VINCE LOMBARDI, FROM A BERTH IN THE ROSE BOWL. DUBBED THE "BATTLE OF THE BRONX," THE GAME WAS WON ON AN EXTRA POINT BY SOMMA, WHICH HE KICKED DESPITE A BROKEN COLLARBONE, AND MADE HEADLINES IN EVERY NEW YORK NEWSPAPER.

IN THANKSGIVING 1959, IN WHICH THE ABOVE PHOTO APPEARS, JAY PRICE, AN AWARD-WINNING COLUMNIST FOR THE *STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE*, RECALLS THAT GOLDEN ERA OF NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE FOOTBALL, AND HOW SOMMA AND BARBERI'S TIME AT NYU SOLIDIFIED A BOND THAT LASTED EVEN AFTER THEY BECAME RIVAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACHES ON STATEN ISLAND.

FROM LEFT: NYU'S 1936 FOOTBALL STARS CHARLIE O'CONNELL, GEORGE BLOMQUIST, SAL SOMMA, AND ANDY BARBERI.

pher Columbus Was Portuguese! (Express Printing). The authors used medical and scientific knowledge in their reexamination of historical documents. The book has been adapted into the

movie *Christopher Columbus, The Enigma*.

OSCEOLA "OZZIE" FLETCHER / GSAS '54, STEINHARDT '54 / was honored with a 2009 Sloan Public Service

Award recognizing his lifetime of public service. Fletcher earned two master's degrees at NYU during his 24 years in the NYPD. He's currently the community liaison in the Crime Prevention Division

in the Office of the District Attorney, Kings County.

JERRY SILVERMAN / GSAS '55 / authored a new book titled *New York Sings: 400 Years of the*

Empire State in Song (SUNY Press).

DAVID PERETZ / MED '59 / published his second novel, *The Broderick Curse* (CreateSpace).

1960s

DOMINIC MASSARO / STERN '61, WAG '65 / was nominated by Governor David Paterson to the New York State Supreme Court in the First Judicial District.

SUSAN RABIN / STEINHARDT '61, '66 / is an author, seminar leader, therapist, communications consultant, coach, lecturer, and media personality whose two best-selling books are still in print more than a decade after publication: *How to Attract Anyone, Anytime, Anyplace* and *101 Ways to Flirt* (both Plume).

SERENA NANDA / GSAS '62, '73 / is an anthropologist whose work focuses on culture, gender, and law. Her most recent book is *The Gift of a Bride: A Tale of Anthropology, Matrimony and Murder* (AltaMira), a mystery novel about violence against women in New York City.

STANLEY TRACHTENBERG / GSAS '63 / is the author of a new picture book, *The Elevator Man* (Wm. B. Eerdmans), intended for ages 4 through 8 and illustrated by Paul Cox.

GARY GUBNER / STERN '64 / was inducted into

the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum last year at the Suffolk Y JCC in Commack, NY. At the 1964 Olympics, Gubner finished fourth in the heavyweight weightlifting class after an injury kept him from competing in the shot put at the same games.

BARNEY POPKIN / WSC '64 / published the article "Mining Challenges in Kosovo" in *European Geologist* magazine last November.

JUDITH WEIS / GSAS '64, '67 / has co-authored *Salt Marshes: A Natural and Unnatural History* (Rutgers University Press) with **CAROL BUTLER / STEINHARDT '67** / . Weis is a marine biologist at Rutgers University-Newark.

SANFORD ARANOFF / GSAS '65 / published the article, "How Is a Teacher of the Gifted Supposed to Teach?" in the Fall 2009 issue of the *Gifted Education Press Quarterly*. For more information, visit www.giftededucation.com.

ROBERT PILUSO / GSAS '65 / was honored by the French government with a Knighthood in the *Ordre*

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WENDY HILLIARD / GAL '88

Gymnastics for the People

by Courtney E. Martin / GAL '04

IN THE EARLY 1970S, WENDY HILLIARD SAT CROSS-LEGGED ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR, TRANSFIXED BY THE COMPACT RUSSIAN

women leaping across the TV screen. At age 12 and the youngest of four girls in a middle-class African-American family in Detroit, she had next to nothing in common with these gymnasts. But the determination was already flooding her face. "That's what I want to do!" she

yelled to her mother who, after some research and penny-pinching, found a gym for her daughter out in the suburbs, because there was no equivalent in the city then. When Hilliard came home from her first practice, she told her father, "Daddy, daddy, I'm going to do rhythmic

gymnastics!" He replied, "That's great, baby. What's rhythmic gymnastics?"

His unfamiliarity was not surprising. Gymnastics has long been a sport of the wealthy and white, thanks to the high price tag of training and traveling to competitions. Rhythmic gymnastics,

which involves twirling ribbons and dancing with balls and hoops, requires even more specialized training. Hilliard, who went on to become the first African-American to represent the United States in rhythmic gymnastics in 1978, is changing all that. In 1996, she founded the Wendy Hilliard Foundation to give girls and boys from low-income neighborhoods the opportunity

to participate in gymnastics and, more broadly, learn the indispensable life lessons therein. "There's nothing like gymnastics for teaching self-discipline and determination," Hilliard explains, reminiscing about the thousands of hours she spent in the gym under the stern eyes of Vladimir and Zina Mironov, the Russian husband-and-wife team who nurtured her early on.

PHOTOS: LEFT UNKNOWN; RIGHT © PENNY GRAVES



IN 1978, HILLIARD BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES IN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS AND WAS INDUCTED INTO THE GYMNASTICS HALL OF FAME 30 YEARS LATER. TODAY, THROUGH HER FOUNDATION, SHE TEACHES FREE CLASSES TO CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS.

Hilliard's foundation has now served more than 10,000 young people through free weekly gymnastics classes, summer camps, literacy and nutrition workshops, competitive rhythmic gymnastics scholarships, and annual girls' and women's sports clinics. Indeed, being a mentor and ambassador comes naturally to the former international gold medalist, who was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 2008. Since retiring from

her late, much-loved coach Zina on gymnastics and life: "It's hard, but hard isn't bad."

Hilliard has clearly passed this wisdom to her own students, some of whom are now competing at the highest national levels. At 14, Alexis Page is one of the most talented gymnasts to come out of the program and is considered an Olympic hopeful. Her training—four hours daily—costs upward of \$25,000 a year, almost all of it supported

Hilliard recalls the philosophy of her late coach on gymnastics and life: "It's hard, but hard isn't bad."

competition, she's helmed various organizations in the gymnastics world, and from 1995 until 1997 led the Women's Sports Foundation as its first African-American president. She also recently helped to design a 15,000-square-foot gymnastics center for Aviator Sports and Recreation, a new multimillion-dollar, multi-sports complex in the Marine Park section of Brooklyn.

Hilliard's next big dream is to find a permanent gym for her foundation, which currently operates out of a small office in Harlem and relies on a constellation of public facilities and gyms to host its programming. It won't be easy in these economic times, in this crowded city, but Hilliard recalls the philosophy of

by the foundation (especially since her mother lost her job). But it's not just money that Page gets. "Wendy believes that anything is possible," the young gymnast says. "She's taught me that if I work hard, rewards will inevitably follow."

But Hilliard isn't all hard work. On a recent Saturday at Riverbank State Park in Upper Manhattan, Hilliard was surrounded by a large circle of children wearing stretchy pants and goofy smiles as they jumped and squirmed indiscriminately. Hilliard's eyes twinkled mischievously as she shouted "T!" The kids suddenly froze in unison, their arms stretched out from their sides. "I!" Hilliard shouted next, and a hundred tiny arms shot up to the sky. ■

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des Palmes Académiques for his successful endeavors in disseminating the French language and culture.

M. MEDHAT A. HAS-SANEIN / STERN '66 / of Cairo, Egypt, has been named a nonexecutive member of the board of Commercial International Bank. Hassanein, who served as Egypt's minister of finance from 1999

to 2004, is currently professor of finance and banking at the School of Business, Economics, and Communication at the American University in Cairo.

STEPHEN PAYNE / ARTS '68 / authored the new book, *How to Purchase Archaic Jade: On the Internet* (Trafford Publishing).

FREDERICK GOLDBER /

LAW '69 / recently published *Uncivil Rights: A Guide to Workers' Rights* (Beachfront Press).

GERARD J. PELISSON / GSAS '69 / co-authored *The Castle on the Parkway: The Story of New York City's DeWitt Clinton High School and Its Extraordinary Influence on American Life* (Hutch Press). For more information, visit www.castleontheparkway.com.

1970s

GARY FORLINI / WSC '70 / co-authored the book *Help Teachers Engage Students: Action Tools for Administrators* (Eye on Education). Its three authors are educators with a combined 100 years of experience working with K-12 teachers and administrators.

EARL "BUD" WERTHEIM / STEINHARDT '71 / was selected to represent the United States with his sculpture, *Bamboo Flyrod Makers Challenge*, at the International Medallion Sculpture Congress to be held in Finland in June 2010.

WILLIAM HEATH / STERN '72 / published *Some Kind of Plant: Learning While Teaching in Taiwan and Hong Kong 2003-2009* (BookSurge Publishing). The book offers Heath's often witty teaching and tourist experiences in Asia.

KEITH DANISH / WSC

'73, LAW '82 / is a recipient of the Lawyers Alliance for New York's 2009 Cornerstone Award honoring outstanding pro-bono legal services to nonprofits.

CAROL HEFFERNAN / GSAS '73 / released a new book, *Comedy in Chaucer and Boccaccio* (D.S. Brewer).

BEATRICE LOERING HELFT / GSAS '73 / is now the academic director of the online business programs at CUNY School of Professional Studies.

SUSAN REVERBY / GSAS '73 / authored *Examining Tuskegee: The Infamous Syphilis Study and Its Legacy* (UNC Press).

SHISHIR K. BAJAJ / STERN '74 / has been named a director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, a Mumbai-based global financial organization. Bajaj is the chairman and managing director of Bajaj Hin-

dusthan Ltd., India's largest sugar and ethanol manufacturing company.

SHELDON ISAACS / STEINHARDT '75 / moved his Café Cinéma-thèque International and Senses of Cinema Foreign Film 101 programs to the Cinema Paradiso in conjunction with the Ft. Lauderdale International Film Festival. Isaacs also teaches at Florida International University and hosts an international film series for the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

PAUL GARBER / GSAS '76 / was one of 29 animal conservationists nominated to receive the Indianapolis Prize, the world's leading award for animal conservation. A Brooklyn native and professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Garber was recognized for dedicating more than 30 years to the conservation of monkeys

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in Latin America.

CATHY E. MINEHAN / STERN '77 / has been appointed to the board of trustees of the MITRE Corp.

MARYLYNN SCHIAVI / WSC '77 / won an Emmy for her TV series, *Matter and Beyond*, which explores the ethical and spiritual dimensions of science and technology. The show won for its episode devoted to artificial intelligence. Schiavi served as the program's writer, associate producer, host, and narrator.

HELAYNE ANTLER / WSUC '78 / was promoted to senior vice president in the labor relations department at Sony Pictures Entertainment.

RON HARTNETT / WSUC '78 / published his first book, *The Complete Guide for Successful Umpiring: How to Survive Little League Baseball and the Soccer Mom* (Varsity Prints). It's the first amateur umpire book ever written that promises to meet youth baseball's needs head-on.

EMILY SANDERS / STERN '78 / is president and CEO of metro Atlanta-based Sanders Financial Management and received the World of Difference 100 Award in the entrepreneurial category from the International Alliance for Women, which recognizes those who have advanced the economic empowerment of women.

■ alumni profile

JOHN DELUCIE / GAL '89

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

by Christian DeBenedetti



The Waverly Inn is the kind of place that doesn't list its phone number because it doesn't need to. A place that counts models, moguls, and movie stars as regulars. A place where even the mac and cheese costs \$95 because it's flavored with white truffles flown in from Alba, Italy. To those who want to get in, it can seem impenetra-

ble. To those who do get in, it's the modern epitome of "see and be seen."

Back in the early 1990s, when John DeLucie was stuck in a cubicle at a Midtown employment agency, he had no idea that he'd someday be the executive chef and co-owner of such an establishment. His humble past is still evident on the menu, where patrons will find dressed-up comfort food—a simple yet stylish alternative to haute

cuisine. And unlike chefs at some exclusive restaurants, DeLucie, who recently launched his second Village venture, *The Lion*, warmly greets guests as though they're family coming over to dinner.

In his recent memoir, *The Hunger: A Story of Food, Desire, and Ambition* (Ecco), DeLucie offers readers an intimate look inside one of the hottest restaurants to hit New York in decades and tells

the tale of his unlikely rise to culinary fame.

Cooking had actually never been part of DeLucie's plan. Until he moved to Commack, Long Island, at age 5, he lived in then-working-class Carroll Gardens, where his father was a wedding band musician and his mother an office assistant. After college, he was again living in Brooklyn, laboring as a headhunter in the insurance industry—a job he



PHOTO © TONY CENICOLA

DeLUCIE FLED HIS CUBICLE JOB AND NOW CO-OWNS THE ULTRA EXCLUSIVE WAVERLY INN. "I LOVE IT WHEN IT'S CRANKING AND THE WATTAGE IS HIGH," HE SAYS.

hated. "I'd grown up wanting to be a fireman, a jazz musician, and here I was," he says. Soon after deciding "I can't do this gig one more day," DeLucie, who'd been practicing his mother's Italian recipes, realized his calling one night when he absent-mindedly whipped up some spaghetti for a group of friends. "I loved the vibe of making people happy," he writes. "It was like my father playing them a song."

DeLucie enrolled in a 12-week culinary class at the New School and, upon finishing, walked into Dean & DeLuca to ask for a job. The next day he found himself there chopping 40 pounds of onions. With that experience on his résumé, it wasn't long before he landed his first restaurant gig at Yellowfingers, an Italian café across from Bloomingdale's on the Upper East Side. And for the next 15

years, DeLucie, like many New York chefs, careened through several more restaurants until the fateful day that he and two business partners, along with *Vanity Fair* editor Graydon Carter, inked a deal to buy a faded Greenwich Village restaurant known as Ye Olde Waverly Inn. It was a venture in which, he admits, "[I was] hardly able to believe that somehow I was involved."

The restaurant opened

to packed houses in 2006 and soon DeLucie was cooking for the likes of feared *New York Times* critic Frank Bruni, who praised the fare, which focuses on simple classics such as roast chicken, pork chops, and old-timey cocktails. While DeLucie ran the kitchen, Carter brought in throngs of writers, celebrities, and tycoons happy to bask in the buzz. "If they graced the cover of *Vanity Fair*, more than likely they graced the red leather banquettes of our dining room," DeLucie writes. Take a recent Thursday night: By 6:30, the front room had swelled with walk-ins hoping to score a glimpse of someone famous. Soon rapper Adam Yauch of the Beastie Boys arrived, cutting a low profile. By 8:30, Condé Nast publishing titan S.I. Newhouse, *GQ* publisher Tom Florio, and author Malcolm Gladwell had filed in (separately) as well. "It's industry night," DeLucie cracked.

Some critics have tasked DeLucie's dishes for being ordinary and overpriced; others disapprove of the Waverly Inn's meticulously cultivated exclusivity. But DeLucie shrugs it off. "We are certainly not on the edge of culinary innovation. But that's the point," he told the *New York Daily News* restaurant critic. "You come here to eat well and have a great time, not be challenged." For now, the real challenge is getting a table deep inside the restaurant's cozy inner sanctum—which is the kind of challenge that New Yorkers seem hardwired to take on. ■

Want to Hear More About Alumni Activities? Contact Us!

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NYUAlumni

AFFINITY ADVANTAGE



SPOT ILLUSTRATIONS © ALAN KIRUCH

Just because you're no longer a student doesn't mean you've lost passion for the things you believe in. Whether you're a green guru, a newly transplanted expat, a parenting pro, or a proud veteran, NYU's alumni affinity program offers everyone a forum for celebrating shared interests with fellow alums and reconnecting with the university.

Affinity groups bring together alumni of all ages and provide unique opportunities to engage in the activities that connected many of you as NYU students—or that

can create new bonds now. From volunteer initiatives and professional development workshops to inspiring lectures and networking events, there is a wide array of affinity activities to choose from every month.

To expand your NYU network, visit the alumni Web site, NYU-niverse, at www.alumni.nyu.edu. And if you have ideas for new groups, we welcome suggestions at alumni.affinity@nyu.edu.

1980s

JAMES BERG / GAL '80 / and co-creator **STAN ZIMMERMAN / TSOA '81 /** are executive producers of *Rita Rocks* on the Lifetime network. They have previously earned WGA nominations for *Roseanne* and *The Golden Girls* and have written for *Gilmore Girls* and both *Brady Bunch* movies.

RICHARD SILVERMAN / WSUC '81 / and his brother, **MITCH SILVERMAN / WSUC '82 /**, launched their own communications consultancy firm, Silverman Communications Group, which will be entering into a strategic alliance with a PR agency in Israel, K2 Strategic Innovations, whose co-founder and principal consultant is **LARRY KENIGSBERG / SSSW '83 /**.

BRIAN MCCARTIN / CIMS '82 / has been awarded the Chauvenet Prize for his essay titled "e: The Master of All." The Chau-

venet Prize is the highest award for mathematical expository writing and has been described as the Pulitzer of the math world.

MICHAEL J. NEWMAN / TSOA '82 /, chair of the Labor and Employment Appellate Practice Group of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP's Cincinnati office, has been appointed to chair the Federal Courts and Practice Committee.

LINDA ANDRE / TSOA '83 / published *Doctors of Deception: What They Don't Want You to Know About Shock Treatment* (Rutgers University Press).

NICHOLAS FENGOS / WSUC '83 / is a trial attorney for MetLife at Abamont & Associates in Garden City, NY. Along with his wife, Katherine Kostakos, MD, he celebrated the birth of their son, James Nicholas Fengos, on February 24, 2009.

BRUCE McBARNETTE / LAW '83 / was presented an award by USA Track and Field at a reception at the Embassy of Croatia in Washington, D.C., for setting two new American records last summer in the high jump for his age group.

CONSTANCE SISKOWSKI / WAG '83 / has been awarded a Lifetime Ashoka Fellowship and grant to expand the American Association of Caregiving Youth, the national outgrowth of the Caregiving Youth Project, which Siskowski established in 2006 as the first comprehensive program in the U.S. to address the challenges faced by children who take care of aging, ill, or disabled family members.

SUSAN M. BAER / STERN '84 / of Upper Montclair, NJ, has been appointed director of aviation for the Port Authority of New

York and New Jersey, overseeing the John F. Kennedy, Newark Liberty, and LaGuardia airports. Most recently, Baer was the agency's deputy director and COO.

MARY ANNE GALLAGHER / NUR '84 / is the recipient of the American Organization of Nurse Executives Institute for Leadership, Research, and Education Organization Innovation Award for Nurse Director 2009 and is currently the president of the Greater New York, Nassau, Suffolk Organization of Nurse Executives and is on the board of New York Organization of Nurse Executives.

DANIEL SCHULMAN / STERN '86 /, CEO of Virgin Mobile USA, received Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in New Jersey and was named to the board of directors of Flextronics and also to the board of gover-

nors for Rutgers University, where he currently serves on the board of trustees.

LEANN STELLA / STEINHARDT '86 / recently established a private practice in the healing arts, focusing on energy healing and vibrational therapies. Modalities include Reiki, quantum-touch, healing touch, Bach flower essences, Tong Ren therapy, EFT, and sound healing. For more information, visit www.peacefulhealings.com.

JOHN W. BABCOCK / LAW '87 / of the law firm of Wall Esleeck Babcock, LLP, has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2010 edition.

GEORGE BARRETT / STERN '88 / was named chairman and CEO of Cardinal Health, a \$91 billion health-care services company ranked 18 on the Fortune 500.

■ alumni q&a

ASEMA AHMED / CAS '00

Something Blue?

by Lori Higginbotham / GSAS '11

Among the bolts of rich velvets, creamy silks, flowing gossamers, and crinkly tulle that line the walls and much of the floor space at Magnolias Linens' narrow Upper East Side showroom, Asema Ahmed looks rather small. Figuratively though, she's a pretty big deal in the rar-

efied world of custom linens. Magnolias, which she co-founded with her mother and sister, and for which she serves as president, has brought to life the special events and nuptial visions for a long list of celebrities. The company has graced the pages of *InStyle*, *New York*, and *Elegant Bride*, and has an enviable contract with the Plaza Hotel.

But Ahmed will happily help any bride anywhere to create everything from fluffy, embroidered towels for a poolside wedding, tablecloths rife with peacock details, or white chiffon palisades for a winter wonderland in Palm Beach. She sits down with each client, sketches a design, and then directs a team of 20 to 30 artisans in India who handstitch the fabrics. Her first event was her own wedding in 2007, an elegant affair in New Delhi, India, where she made her own tablecloths, chair covers, and tenting fabric using a velvet-flocked gray satin.

PHOTO © MAGNOLIAS LINENS



THE COUNTLESS STYLES OF TABLE DECOR AT MAGNOLIAS LINENS INCLUDE PINK FUSILI (TOP) AND ORANGE GALORE (BOTTOM), WHICH IS MADE WITH HAND-PAINTED SILK.

Why import fabrics from India?

I think people have an idea of what kind of fabric comes from India, but we wanted to show that it can look like anything. It can be any nationality, any concept; it can look classic, traditional, ethnic, whatever. So one of our goals was to show all the beautiful work that comes out of India and how skilled the different artisans are.

Are they less expensive?

It's not that cheap in India anymore, but we're also dealing with very high-

end fabrics. What is more cost-efficient for our clients is the fact that we don't go through a middleman, so there aren't price increases along the way. A lot of other companies that do production overseas go through about three or four other people before they get the final product.

Is there any fabric or design you'd discourage a bride from using?

Nope, they walk in here, and they can go crazy basically. And they love it because it looks like a big messy closet. ■

1990s

DOREEN LILIENFELD / WSUC '90 / is a recipient of Lawyers Alliance for New York's 2009 Cornerstone Award honoring outstanding pro-bono legal services to nonprofits.

LISA ROSS / WSUC '90 / is president of rbb Public Relations, which was named 2009 Boutique Agency of the Year by *The Holmes Report*. In 2008, rbb was also named National Agency of the Year by *PRWeek* magazine, after garnering Small Agency of the Year in both 2007 and '08.

WILLIAM BILA / STERN '91 / was elected to the board of directors of the Toronto Roma Community and Advocacy Centre and now holds the position of co-chair. This nonprofit organization provides support to refugees mostly through social settlement services but also through arts and culture programs.

CHRIS DAVIS / TSOA '91 / has joined RTI as vice president of corporate communications, where he will manage a staff with experience in a range of communications, including executive positioning, media relations, employee communications, graphic and visual design, and brand identity.

CHERYL HADER / LAW '91 / has joined the firm Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, LLP as a partner in the individual clients group.

JOSEPH MACKIN / GSAS '91 / published the novel *Pretend All Your Life* (Permanent Press), about an enigmatic egoist hard-pressed to hold on to his place in a post-9/11 world he hardly recognizes.

ANNIE RYAN / TSOA '91 / was awarded Best Director in the 2010 *Irish Times* Theatre Awards ceremony, for direction of the play *Freefall*. She is the founder and artistic director of Dublin's Corn Exchange Theatre.

DENNIS HEAPHY / TSOA '92 / is the resident tinsmith for the Statue of Liberty and has developed, produced, and performed the lion's share of educational theater at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. He also takes the programs that he's developed out to schools and organizations across the nation.

JAY HOPLER / WSUC '92 / was awarded a 2009 Whiting Writers' Award in October at a ceremony in New York City. This \$50,000 award recognizes 10 young writers for their talent and promise.

JOHN RADANOVICH / GSAS '92 / released a new book, *Wildman of Rhythm: The Life and Music of Benny Moré* (University of Florida Press).

SUSANNAH APPELBAUM / TSOA '93 / wrote *The Hollow Bottle* (Knopf),

the first installment of the Poisons of Caux fantasy trilogy, a macabre and witty children's tale of herbs, magic, and poison. Printed in green ink, the book is accompanied by 13 original illustrations by award-winning artist Jennifer Taylor.

EVE MOROS ORTEGA / TSOA '93 / is series producer and managing director of *Art 21: Art in the Twenty-First Century*, a series that debuted on PBS in October 2009. The series previously won a Peabody award and has been nominated for an Emmy.

MICHELLE REYNOSO / TSOA '93 / was a finalist in the 2009 New York Book Festival and accepted an Honorable Mention Award in the poetry category for her book, *Do You?* (Xlibris).

WILLIAM SABADO / WSUC '93 / is deputy executive director for St. Vincent's Services, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Brooklyn, NY, that specializes in a family-centered approach to social services.

GIORGIO BERTELLINI / TSOA '94, '01 / authored *Italy in Early American Cinema: Race, Landscape, and the Picturesque* (Indiana University Press), which traces the origins of American cinema's century-long fascination with Italy and Italian im-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 59)



BOOKS IN MOTION IS AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN, WHO ARE BROUGHT ONSTAGE FROM THE AUDIENCE TO PLAY A PART IN THE ACT.

plays adapted from Lebanese children's literature but sophisticated enough for all ages were performed at each stop. *What Is the Color of the Sea?* is a poetic story of teens who trek to the Mediterranean, and *The Slippers of Tanbouri* is a folkloric tale about an old man who, try as he might, cannot get rid of his filthy shoes. "We're not trying to heal the world," says Maroney, whose goal is simply to provide all people with smart, quality entertainment.

Maroney, who is half Lebanese, first dreamed of launching street theater over drinks with friends the summer before, while in Beirut for a wedding. Instead of dismissing this as idealistic bar talk, her literary agent friend Yasmina Jraissati suggested that they submit the idea—to combine literature and theater—to UNESCO, which had fortuitously chosen Beirut as its 2009 World Book Capital. The two then spent three exhausting, exhilarating days in a children's library in Paris, where Jraissati is based, searching for stories that could speak to a wide audience. After reading the entire Lebanese shelf, with Jraissati translating for Maroney, who does not read or speak Arabic, they settled on two.

That was just the beginning. Even once UNESCO green-lighted the project, they had to scramble to find actors,

PHOTO © ALEXANDRA SCHNEIDER

alumni profile

DENISE MARONEY / TSOA '06

TROUPING THROUGH LEBANON

by André Tartar / GSAS '10

LAST JULY, A CURIOUS SIGHT AROSE IN BINT JBEIL, A LEBANESE TOWN STILL HALF-STREWN WITH RUBBLE FROM THE SUMMER

2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. As a crowd gathered, a man strutted about on stilts, while others balanced a giant replica of a book overhead and plopped it down on the main thoroughfare. Books in Motion, a literature-infused street theater

troupe, tends to have this effect, founder and producer Denise Maroney says. By the time the stage is set—a process she calls “almost theatrical in and of itself”—an audience has materialized.

Bint Jbeil is not the only town that could use a show.

There is no national theater in Lebanon; no theater district, even in the cosmopolitan Beirut. What live entertainment there is, such as the country's renowned summer music festivals, can eat as much as two-thirds of the average person's weekly income of less than

\$150. “It's really an industry for tourists and the few people who can pay for tickets,” Maroney explains, which is why she started Books in Motion—to bring the stage to the streets, free of charge. Last summer, a troupe of six actors, five production assistants, and celebrated Lebanese director Lucien Bourjeily embarked on a nine-city tour. Two short

a director, and funding—all new terrain for Maroney, a costume designer by training who often works on off-Broadway shows in New York and had never produced before. However, with the help of many partners—from the Maison du Livre in Lebanon to New York City Children's Theatre Company—and several months of intensive auditions and rehearsals, things came together despite the predictable preproduction jitters. "I was terrified no one would show up," Maroney admits.

But the tour surpassed her dreams. Crowds in the hundreds were common, and one show counted 500. People of all ages came out—the elderly in the ancient seaside city of Tyre, surly young men in Beirut, and even soldiers in Bint Jbeil, near the Israeli border. In the mountain retreat of Jezzine, the children clamored so excitedly that the performance had to be halted to restore order. "The audience literally took us in," Maroney says. ■

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57)

migrants to the popularity of the pre-photographic aesthetic—the picturesque.

KRISTYN BURTT / TSOA '94 / has created a new Web series, *The Web.Files*, which launched its inaugural episode in July 2009. *The Web.Files* was planned as a weekly talk/interview show featuring five-to-seven-minute episodes.

JACQUELINE KLOSEK / WSUC '94 / published *The Right to Know: Your Guide to Using and Defending Freedom of Information Law in the United States* (Praeger), which illustrates practical methods for citizens to protect themselves and their communities.

KARA NEWMAN / GSAS '94 / wrote *Spice & Ice* (Chronicle), which brings the "hot" drink trend to the home bar with recipes for 60 drinks that make the most of fresh seasonal ingredients and spicy flavorings.

MICHAEL CONNORS / STEINHARDT '95 /, a West Indian decorative-arts scholar, published *Caribbean Houses* (Rizzoli), an illustrated account of the development of historically significant houses in the West Indies.

STEVEN L. ROSENHAUS / STEINHARDT '95 / co-authored the book *Writing Musical Theater* (Palgrave Macmillan) with Allen Cohen.

MARK ACKERMAN / WAG '96 / was named president and CEO of Lighthouse International, the 104-year-old nonprofit leader in health care, research, and services for the visually impaired.

BRENT E. ADAMS / LAW '97 / was unanimously confirmed as secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

LYNN TAYLOR / TSOA '97 /, a nationally recognized workplace expert, authored *Tame Your Terrible Office Tyrant™* (TOT): *How to Manage*

Childish Boss Behavior and Thrive in Your Job (John Wiley & Sons). She is an online workplace contributor to *Psychology Today* and *BusinessWeek* and the monthly HR columnist for SmartHRManager.com. As the CEO of Lynn Taylor Consulting, Taylor provides seminars to leading organizations. For more information, visit Tame YourTOT.com.

FRANK WESTON / GAL '97 / is the producer, director, and screenwriter for *Man in the Mirror*, which won the 2007 United Nations NGO Art and Humanitarian Award and the award for Best Original Story and Screenplay at Sol Film Festival. Weston established Zania Films Corp., LLC, to restore and complete the nearly lost classic motion picture *The Appleman*.

JOE CHAN / WAG '98 / was appointed to the Panel for Educational Policy by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

DAVID BECKER / TSOA '99 / recently produced a feature-length documentary titled *Saint Misbehavin': The Wavy Gravy Movie*, which premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival and made its New York theatrical premiere in August 2009.

PETE CHATMON / TSOA '99 / is president and CEO of Double 7 Film, a production and marketing boutique that was profiled on the "Young Guns" segment of Fox Business Channel for entrepreneurs under 35 making their mark in business.

RICHARD GNOLFO / STERN '99 / co-wrote, associate-produced, and acted in the film *The Dog Who Saved Christmas*, which premiered on ABC Family in November 2009.

■ alumni connections

EXPLORING THE NYUNIVERSE



A new world of features awaits you on the NYU alumni Web site, which has undergone a complete makeover—and name change. Now known as *NYUniverse*, this one-stop resource for all graduates gathers more than 380,000 alumni from all corners of the globe into one online community. Users can create a customized profile to share information about their professional and personal paths since graduation or link their alumni profiles with existing social network accounts on sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Once you're on *NYUniverse*, you can easily reconnect

with former classmates and network with fellow alumni who share your interests by joining any of the numerous affinity or regional groups. You can also find news and information about alumni events, benefits, career advice, and goings-on at NYU.

To get started, visit www.alumni.nyu.edu and click on "First Time Login." Then simply enter your personal information, as well as the 10-digit NYU ID number on the mailing label of this magazine. The whole *NYUniverse* awaits you!

2000s

KAZIM ALI / GSAS '01 /

has authored *Bright Felon: Autobiography and Cities* (Wesleyan

District in Massachusetts, she lives outside of Boston with her husband, **SETH LEVIN / STEINHARDT '01 /**, and their two sons, Sydney and Elijah.

ANALIA SEGAL / STEINHARDT '01 /

has designed Alex Kalpakian's new carpet collection, titled Design Carpets Author's Collection, which relies on differing heights, volumes, textures, and cuts. Segal is the recipient of grants from the Antorchas, Pollock-Krasner, and Guggenheim Foundations. Her "aleph" carpet collection was recently acquired by the Buenos Aires Museum of Modern Art.

KAMI LEVIN / STEINHARDT '01 /

launched her blog, *The Fence*, dedicated to working moms (www.livefromthefence.blogspot.com). Recently hired as the K-12 social studies instructional coach for the Cambridge Public School

FANON CHE WILKINS / GSAS '01 / is a co-editor of the new book, *From Toussaint to Tupac: The Black International Since the Age of Revolution* (UNC Press).

KELLY KENNEDY MACK / STERN '02 /

was recipient of NYU's first Distinguished Young Alumni Award. Mack became president of Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group in 2006, where she previously served as executive vice president. Since her promotion, Corcoran Sunshine has become the largest new-development marketing group worldwide, with sales totaling more than \$9 billion since 2005.

BEN RHODES / GSAS '02 /

is President Barack Obama's only foreign policy speechwriter and was charged with writing his address to the Muslim world, delivered in Cairo in 2009.

DIANA CHAIKIN / GAL '03 /

graduated with a JD from Seattle University School of Law and passed the Washington State Bar Exam in 2009.

JOSEPH DISCEPOLA / STERN '03 /

has joined Marc A. Kaufman & Associates, a personal injury law firm with offices located in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and Boca Raton. He holds a JD from the University of Miami's

School of Law and an MBA from its School of Business.

LISA FEIGENSON / GSAS '03 /

assistant professor in the department of psychological and brain sciences at the Johns Hopkins University Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, has won the American Psychological Association's 2010 Boyd-McCandless Award for her investigation into the cognitive development of young babies and children.

ALYCIA RIPLEY / GSAS '03 /

author of the novel *Traveling With an Eggplant* (Trafford Publishing), has written a new novel, *The Final Alice* (Trafford), an

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New York University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

adult modernization and homage to fairy tales and children's stories to be released in 2010.

ARIEL CHURI / TSOA '04 / and **AMY PARNES / TSOA '04** / have co-founded Sparkle Labs, a new design firm that develops products that inspire. Their goal is to empower kids and adults to be creators, not just consumers.

JOEL DABU / WAG '04 / is currently completing a

one-year German Chancellor Fellowship in Leipzig, Germany. He is working at CIMA, a planning and economic development consultancy.

SHARON DISCORFANO / GSAS '04 / has been living in Tucson since 2004, where she founded Lyric Yoga and Wellness, a consulting company. She recently launched LettersToPushkin.com, offering people an opportunity to use

letter writing as a tool in coping with the loss of a loved one. People using the site have the options of keeping their letter private or posting online.

SEAN DONNELLY / TSOA '04 / and **ALESSANDRO MINOLI / TSOA '04** / are co-creators of the original short "Basement Gary," which was named winner of the Playboy Enterprises 2009 Animation Contest.

SARAH GARLAND / GSAS '04 / wrote *Gangs in Garden City: How Immigration, Segregation, and Youth Violence Are Changing America's Suburbs* (Nation Books).

DANIEL NAYERI / CAS '04 / co-authored the young-adult book *Another Faust* (Candlewick Press), the first of a series of modern retellings of classics. The novel was chosen as one of the top 10 new books to watch by Ameri-

can Booksellers for Children and is being released in audio format. Nayeri is currently working on *Another Pan*, to be published in 2010.

YANFEI SHEN / CAS '04 / graduated from the George Washington University School of Law in 2009.

JORDAN ANDERSON / WAG '05 / and **VAIDILA KUNGYS / WAG '05** / have created a Web site for New

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 63)

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York City bicyclists, ridethecity.com. The site helps riders find the safest routes in cities such as New York, Chicago, and Austin.

EDGAR BENJAMIN CABRERA / STERN '05 / works with Wokai (www.wokai.org), an organization that raises money for microfinance loans in rural China and an ardent supporter of long-term, fundamental social development, such as microfinance and education.

SIMRAN SACHDEV / STEINHARDT '05 / is currently pursuing her master's degree in global affairs at NYU-SCPS and is spending the summer in Belgrade, Serbia, working with an organization called Women in Black.

NICHOLAS COPE / GAL '06 / recently founded Green Painting, an eco-responsible contracting company focused on the environmental impact of building projects. For more information, visit www.green-painting.com.

NIKKI D'ERRICO / GAL '06 / recently co-edited, with Sheryl Feinstein, the book *Tanzanian Women in Their Own Words: Stories of Disability and Illness* (Lexington Books), a collection of oral histories that challenge readers to learn about both local and global health inequalities.

EMILIE ZASLOW / STEINHARDT '06 / has authored a book titled *Feminism, Inc.: Coming of Age in Girl Power Media Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan).

EDGAR JARAMILLO / STEINHARDT '07 / made his operatic debut in the role of Riccardo in a production of *A Masked Ball*, staged by the Brooklyn Repertory Opera in June 2009.

PATRICK OLESKEY / SSSW '07 / was promoted to director of independent living and behavioral health services at Presbyterian Children's Village in Philadelphia.

KERRY ALLISON / STEINHARDT '08 / is the latest winner of a national contest to identify socially responsible "It Girls" of the millennial generation. The "It Girl Essentials" contest was designed to recognize young women who embody the confidence, re-

liability, and poise of their generation.

DIANA MAO / WAG '08 / recently launched an anti-trafficking organization in Cambodia called the Nomi Network (www.nominetwork.org).

CASSANDRA L. CARBERY / MED '09 /, clinical assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has joined the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island.

MOLLY O'BRIEN / CAS '09 / is one of 123 Northwest Jesuit Volunteers, who began their service in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, or Washington in

September 2009. The volunteers work in many areas, including advocating for refugees, nursing in community clinics, teaching in schools on Native American reservations, assisting at shelters, and organizing a local response to climate change.

ADAM ZELLER / STERN '09 / has been promoted to director of digital media for Starz Media, LLC. He oversees the marketing of long-form content for digital and on-demand transactional distribution and also the management and product development for Starz Media's burgeoning gaming business.

Obituaries

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

IDA GARFINKEL SCHWARTZ / WSC '31, LAW '34
FLORENCE PERLOW SHIENTAG / LAW '31
HAROLD GRUBIN / WSC '32, MED '35
OLOF HOGRELIUS / WSC '36
SIDNEY SILVERMAN / DEN '37
EDITH LEORA DENNIS / STEINHARDT '38
DAVID B. BLACK / STERN '40
SHIRLEY GROSSMAN KLEIN / WSC '40
FRANK ANGELL / STERN '41, FACULTY
SEYMOUR GRUBER / ARTS '41, MED '44
ROBERT S. McLELLAN III / STERN '41
JOHN C. ARMSTRONG / ENG '42
STANLEY FORMAN / WSC '44, GSAS '55
ELLEN ROSENHEIM LORCH / WSC '46
HAROLD MARANTZ / DEN '46
WILLIAM M. GRIM, JR. / ENG '47
RICHARD H. BREECE / MED '48
ROBERT PFISTER / ENG '48
ARTHUR D'LUGOFF / WSC '49
MURIEL H. SLATER / WSC '49

EWALD J. H. STECHHOLZ / STEINHARDT '50
THEODORE J. SULLIVAN / ENG '50
LILLIAN CROMEY / WSC '51
HOWARD ZINN / WSC '51
ANITA FOSTER / WSC '52
MARTIN KNEBEL / ENG '52
GEORGE MAKER / WSC '53
LILLIE MAE HARRIS FINCHER / STEINHARDT '54
YALE H. GELLMAN / ARTS '54
ELLENEVA WEENING / STEINHARDT '54
LEE A. ARCHER, JR. / GSAS '56
HARRY W. EICHENBAUM / WSC '57, MED '61
GLENN HAYS JOHNSON / GSAS '58
SIMON KARPATKIN / MED '58, FACULTY
HAMILTON STEPHENS / STEINHARDT '59
JACK LIBIDINSKY / ENG '60
JAY MAGID / ARTS '60
ARTHUR W. RHODES / STERN '61
ROBERT JONES / STEINHARDT '62
RICHARD V. DAVIS / STERN '63

HUGH OVERCASH / LAW '63
RENATO ALDEN / ARTS '64, STEINHARDT '65, GSAS '69
ABRAHAM EDELMAN / GSAS '67
NANCY LONGLEY AGNEW / STERN '68
DIANE ZIOR WILHELM / GSAS '69
INEZ STEWART BULL / STEINHARDT '72, '79
GARY I. RUSKIN / TSOA '72
CAROL VANDERMEIR / STEINHARDT '75
STEPHAN WOJCECHOWSKYJ / STERN '79
BARBARA JESTER / GSAS '81, STAFF
PHYLLIS J. KARNO / STERN '81
BRENDA BRUNO WHITE / STERN '81
TERRENCE K. FOSTER / TSOA '85
REBECCA LIPKIN / GSAS '86
BRIENIN NEQUA BRYANT / TSOA '00
ALLISON DIAMOND / TSOA '03
JUSTINE TORRES / CAS '04
AMIR PNUELI / CIMS FACULTY



WHAT

NYU VIGIL FOR HAITI: A PLEDGE TO REBUILD

WHERE

GOULD PLAZA

WHY

AT 4:53 PM ON JANUARY 26, STUDENTS LIT CANDLES TO COMMEMORATE HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE AND REMEMBER ITS VICTIMS EXACTLY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DEVASTATING EVENT. THOSE GATHERED COLLECTED DONATIONS IN BUCKETS AND LISTENED TO HAITIAN STUDENTS TALK ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THEIR FAMILIES BACK HOME. "IT WAS VERY REFLECTIVE," PHOTOGRAPHER SEAN KROSS (CAS '12) RECALLS. "I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE SEARCHING AND SAYING, 'I'M HERE AND THIS IS GOOD, BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?' "

—Renée Alfuso