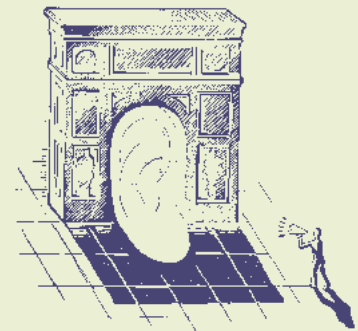


"I kind of like democracy, so I think we should start practicing it in the U.K. Because at the moment we've got an electoral system [that] gives thumping majorities...to parties, even though only a minority of people have voted for them."

—NICK CLEGG, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY THE ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

# HEARD ON CAMPUS



"If anyone wants inspiration, be inspired by the fact that there was never any sign in me of any kind of excellence.... What I think I do have is a desire to work incredibly hard. Take it from a kid who didn't pass one math or science class in high school. You can do anything you want if you're willing to work hard for it."

—PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR AND NYU FACULTY MEMBER **JUNOT DÍAZ** AT THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM'S FALL 2010 READING SERIES

"Music used to come out of the community. Now you've got Walmart and you don't even have to talk to anybody anymore. Today, the music is a reflection of that."

—ACCLAIMED JAZZ MUSICIAN AND PRODUCER **DELFEAYO MARSALIS** DELIVERING THE FALL 2010 ALBERT GALLATIN LECTURE, TITLED "NEW ORLEANS JAZZ: OLD SCHOOL TO MODERN," AT GALLATIN'S JERRY H. LABOWITZ THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

"Don't accept what everyone *knows*. If there's one thing we learned these past three years in economics, it's that what everybody *knows* can be totally wrong."

—**PAUL KRUGMAN**, *NEW YORK TIMES* COLUMNIST AND NOBEL LAUREATE, GIVING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE NEW YORK PRESS CLUB FOUNDATION'S JOURNALISM CONFERENCE AT NYU'S KIMMEL CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY LIFE

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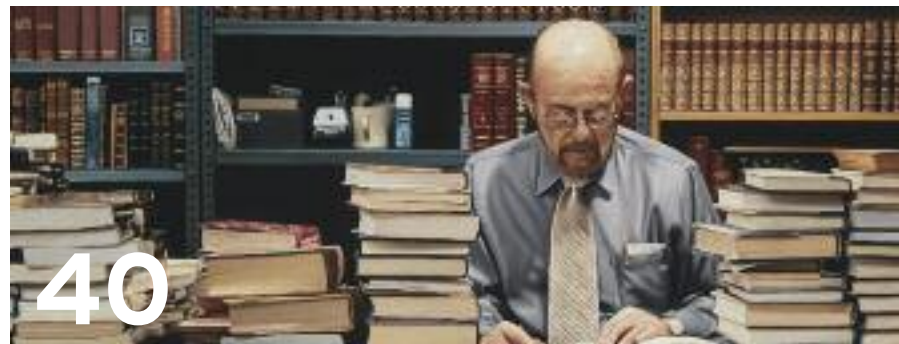
## FEATURES



### PATIENT, HEAL THYSELF

MIND-BODY BENEFITS ARE WELL-KNOWN, BUT MORE DOCTORS ARE NOW RESEARCHING JUST HOW MUCH POTENTIAL THEY HOLD

/ BY JASCHA HOFFMAN



### MASTER OF THE CRAFT

ARTIST MAX FERGUSON CAPTURES THE GRACE OF WORKING-CLASS NEW YORKERS IN HIS RICHLY LAYERED PAINTINGS

/ BY MEGAN DOLL / GSAS '08



### THE ART OF CONFESSION

NOVELIST DARIN STRAUSS VENTURES INTO MEMOIR TO REVEAL A TRAGIC ACCIDENT

/ BY ANDREA CRAWFORD

COVER: OPTO DESIGN

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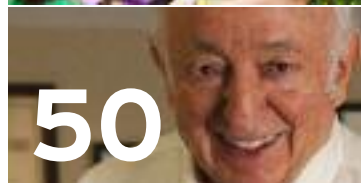
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**T**he end of the academic year and arrival of commencement season turn our thoughts to change.

How do we account for the past? How do we make the most of the present? How do we embrace an unpredictable future? The Spring 2011 issue of *NYU Alumni Magazine* considers these questions.

Our cover story ("Patient, Heal Thyself," p. 34) on the mind-body connection explores a growing understanding about the role we play in healing ourselves through the powers of suggestion and belief. The works of Max Ferguson (STEINHARDT '80), realist painter of urban scenes ("Master of the Craft," p. 40), invite us to linger on fleeting images of an ever-changing New York City. In a profile and excerpt from his recent prize-winning memoir, novelist Darin Strauss (GSAS '97) discusses the lasting effects of a tragic accident that occurred just as he crossed the threshold into young adulthood ("The Art of Confession," p. 46).



PHOTO © NYU PHOTO BUREAU (BROWNING)

ON MARCH 28, A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY WAS HELD IN CHINA FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S THIRD ANCHOR CAMPUS. PRESIDENT JOHN SEXTON (ABOVE) ANNOUNCED THAT NYU SHANGHAI WILL OPEN IN FALL 2013, AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE HOME TO UP TO 3,000 STUDENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [WWW.NYU.EDU/GLOBAL](http://WWW.NYU.EDU/GLOBAL).

From the effects of the current G.I. Bill to a new way of covering local news, the stories illuminate numerous issues we confront in our changing world.

Perhaps nowhere is transition more apparent than in NYU's role on the international stage. In this issue, I sit down for an in-depth interview (p. 12) on NYU's emergence as a global network universi-

ty and the promises and challenges that entails in an increasingly interconnected world. Today, with a presence on six continents, NYU, long "in and of the city," is now "in and of the world."

We hope this issue inspires you to contemplate your time spent here at NYU, as well as your bright futures, wherever they may lead.

—JOHN SEXTON

## CONTRIBUTORS

**SCOTT BARROW** is a friendly man who loves beautiful lighting and meeting people. He has chosen to be a photographer and for 35 years it has worked out very well.

**MEGAN DOLL** (GSAS '08) is a graduate of the cultural reporting and criticism program at NYU. She has written for *Salon*, *ARTnews*, *Bookforum*, *Poets & Writers*, and *The Believer*.

**JASCHA HOFFMAN** writes on science and culture for *Nature* and *The New York Times*. He is also a songwriter and lives in San Francisco.

**JOEL HOLLAND** is an award-winning illustrator/hand-letterer and amateur pizza maker based in Brooklyn. A book of his drawings, titled *Mundanes*, will be published later this year.

**LARS LEETARU** is an illustrator who lives in Philadelphia. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Esquire*. He recently illustrated the book *Broetry: Poetry for Dudes* (Quirk).

**ERYN LOEB** (GSAS '07) is a writer and editor living in New York. She

is a graduate of NYU's cultural reporting and criticism program.

**JUSTIN WARNER** is a NYC-based freelance writer, playwright, and lyricist. He has contributed to a variety of publications, including *American Theatre*, *New Scientist*, and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*.

**RACHEL WOLFF** is a Brooklyn-based critic, writer, and editor. She covers art for *New York* magazine, *Town & Country*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Art + Auction*, *Modern Painters*, *Chicago Magazine*, and various *Modern Luxury* publications.

# NYU

Issue #16 / Spring 2011

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Secretary





GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING SINGER-SONGWRITER ZIGGY MARLEY, SON OF REGGAE LEGEND BOB MARLEY, PERFORMED TWO SOLD-OUT SHOWS AT THE SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.



THE DAILY SHOW HOST JON STEWART SURPRISED STUDENTS AS A GUEST SPEAKER DURING A STEINHARDT MEDIA STUDIES CLASS, WHICH WAS FILMED FOR HIS APPEARANCE ON OPRAH.



ARIANNA HUFFINGTON, AUTHOR AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE HUFFINGTON POST, ARGUED AGAINST THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE AS A PANELIST IN THE INTELLIGENCE SQUARED U.S. DEBATE AT NYU'S SKIRBALL CENTER.



ACTOR HUGH JACKMAN SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE GLOBAL POVERTY PROJECT DURING THE 1.4 BILLION REASONS EVENT AT SKIRBALL CENTER.



AUTHOR SALMAN RUSHDIE VISITED THE ARTHUR L. CARTER JOURNALISM INSTITUTE AS PART OF ITS "PRIMARY SOURCES" CONVERSATION SERIES.

# STAR

TOP-DRAW PERSONALITIES SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

# POWER



# We Hear From You

Thanks to everyone for the tremendous response to the Fall 2010 issue. We're delighted that the magazine continues to provoke comments and conversation.

## COURANT MEMORIES

Amy Rosenberg's fine article about Richard Courant ("The Irrepressible Courant") reminds me of an exchange I had with him when I wrote a two-part series on the Institute of Mathematical Sciences for the *NYU Alumni Newsletter*—in 1957. The Institute was in great demand among graduate-level students, and I asked Courant how it would distinguish between two equally qualified applicants if there were only one opening. As Rosenberg notes, Courant loved music. His reply: "That depends on whether our ensemble was, say, short a cellist, oboist, or some other position."

Richard Magat  
ARTS '47  
Bronxville, New York

I was head of the math club in 1963. It never occurred to me that Richard Courant was still alive. After all, most people don't get their name on a building until they are dead. But I found out he was alive, so I asked him if he would speak to the math club. He agreed and told me his lecture would be about [German mathematician David] Hilbert. I got the largest auditorium that NYU had at the time. Once word got out, students and professors came from all over the country.

Ira Solomon  
CIMS '63  
Lowell, Massachusetts

Most mathematicians are pleased to read anything about mathematics in the popular press. However, Amy Rosenberg's excellent article was

marred by this sentence: "[Jews] were often excluded from the faculty of top-tier universities such as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton." This may have been true of Harvard and Yale, but it is not true of the department of mathematics at Princeton University. When I came to Princeton, as a graduate student in 1947, the chair of the department was Solomon Lefschetz, the first Jewish president of the American Mathematical Society. The very small faculty included Salomon Bochner and Valentine Bargmann, both Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution. In 1950, they were joined by Willi Feller. As early as 1933, John von Neumann and Eugene Wigner had shared an appointment. This is hardly exclusion from a faculty that numbered no more than 15 in those years.

Harold W. Kuhn  
Professor Emeritus of Mathematical  
Economics, Princeton University  
New York, New York

*Editors' Note: Our sincere apologies. Columbia University, not Princeton, should have been the third school on that list.*

I appreciated the fall issue of the magazine—especially the article on Richard Courant, a great teacher who taught me calculus!

Prof. Robert F. Brodsky  
ENG '48, '50  
Redondo Beach, California

## TO LABORERS LOST

I attended classes in the Brown Building, scene of the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire ("Remember the

Triangle"). I often paused to say a prayer at the plaque then. Every Labor Day, I tell the story of the fire as part of my sermon. (I am a priest of the Episcopal Church.) I point out—as you did—that it was a turning point in the labor unions' fight to protect workers from abysmal conditions. I get choked up every time I think of the young women injured and dead. I was not aware of the seven unidentified women and their memorial stone "a borough away."

Fr. Robert Warren Cromey  
WSC '53  
San Francisco

What a horror the Triangle fire must have been. Yes, we workers owe a lot to the memory of those women. They helped us gain many protections that we did not have or might not have even now!

Bernadette D. Chapman  
STEINHARDT '85  
New York, New York

## BUILDING DISCORD

Having lived across from Coles Sports Center for 20 years, I want to express how outraged and appalled I am at the overbuilding that NYU has planned for the next 30 years ("Looking to the Future"). These plans will forever change the bohemian atmosphere that both students and professors have so enjoyed throughout NYU's history. [...] I urge my fellow alumni, who have cherished walking the sacred blocks of Greenwich Village, to write to [NYU President] John Sexton and state your objections to the massive designs and encroachment upon historic and

cultural ground. If you would like to learn what the community is doing, visit [CAAN2031.org](http://CAAN2031.org).

Lee Schwartz  
WSC '65, STEINHARDT '72,  
SSSW '89  
New York, New York

*Editors' Note: NYU recently presented updated submissions of its plans for public review. See them at [www.nyu.edu/nyu2031](http://www.nyu.edu/nyu2031).*

## PROVOCATION

I read with shock that *NYU Alumni Magazine* had seen fit to print, on Page 1 no less, a quote by Lee Smith, [Middle East correspondent] for *The Weekly Standard*, positioning Zionism between colonialism and imperialism (Heard on Campus). As a proud Jewish person who has actively fought racism both at the domestic and international level, and followed the ideology of Tikkun Olam, I am unreservedly branding your de facto endorsement of Smith's disturbing words as neo anti-Semitism.

Daniel Berg  
WSUC '79  
Brooklyn, New York

Please send your comments and opinions to: Readers' Letters, *NYU Alumni Magazine*, 25 West Fourth Street, Room 619, New York, NY, 10012; or e-mail us at [alumni.magazine@nyu.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@nyu.edu). Include your mailing address, phone number, 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

**HON** – Honorary Degree

**IFA** – Institute of Fine Arts

**ISAW** – Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

**LAW** – School of Law

**LS** – Liberal Studies Program

**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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