

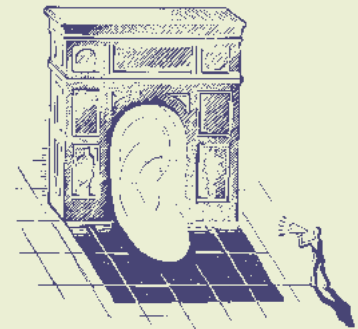
“Whether it’s about hygiene, or understanding why frying an egg works the way it does, or roasting a chicken...cooking is science.”

—CHEF **MAXIME BILET**, CO-AUTHOR OF *MODERNIST CUISINE: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF COOKING*, AT THE NYU EXPERIMENTAL CUISINE COLLECTIVE’S FOURTH-ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

“The more you remember your life, your childhood, your most shameful moments, the more you become creative because you get rid of the fear of shame.”

—EGYPTIAN PHYSICIAN, PSYCHIATRIST, AUTHOR, AND ACTIVIST **NAWAL EL SAADAWI** DELIVERING A PUBLIC LECTURE ON “CREATIVITY, DISSIDENCE, AND WOMEN” AT THE KIMMEL CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY LIFE

# HEARD ON CAMPUS



“I started off as a lecturer in a university when I was somewhat younger. Universities, as you know, stand for objectivity, rationality, impartiality—for the disinterested pursuit of truth. And these are all qualities you have to leave behind when you go into politics.”

—FORMER U.K. PRIME MINISTER AND NYU Distinguished Global Leader in Residence **GORDON BROWN** AT THE ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

“It would be no exaggeration to say that the Eichmann trial was instrumental in turning the Final Solution into the Holocaust, and by that I simply mean that it took a terrifying episode of state-sponsored atrocity—an episode which up until that moment had largely been treated and comprehended as one chapter in the overall horror of the Second World War—and liberated it from the logic of armed conflict to say that this event is perhaps the emblematic event of the 20th century.”

—LEGAL SCHOLAR **LAWRENCE DOUGLAS** OF AMHERST COLLEGE AT “THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EICHMANN TRIAL—A LOOK BACK,” A SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY THE TAUB CENTER FOR ISRAEL STUDIES

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/ BY ANDREA CRAWFORD

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## Behind the Scenes

The life of an editor can be literally sweet. For these pages, in addition to reviewing best-selling books, exploring pivotal research, and interviewing scholars and celebrities, we were required to taste-test gourmet doughnuts (“Best of New York,” p. 20). Call it the icing on the cruller of Issue 17, in which we were yet again amazed to discover the legions of fascinating and talented people associated with NYU.

In this issue, we chose to feature three alumni whose life’s work was trailblazing in their fields—photography, the music business, and civil rights. But as the stories unfolded, we realized that they all shared a common thread: Their careers were crystallized in the turbulent 1960s. Robert Gomel (“A Thousand Words,” p. 44) is a former *Life* photographer who was present at pretty much every major

moment of that decade. His iconic photos elicited a collective “Cool!” from our office, and we knew we had to share them with fellow alums. Also “cool” was sitting across the table from the legendary Clive Davis (“The Man With the Platinum Ears,” p. 32) as he discussed the



evolution of his career. Davis discovered his musical ear at the Monterey Pop Festival in 1967 and, at 79, is still searching for new stars while also regularly appearing on *American Idol*. Finally, we are proud to profile Edith Windsor (“When a Woman Loves a Woman,” p. 38), whose judicial fight over taxes may

just topple the Defense of Marriage Act. At 82, Windsor champions gay rights with the same fervor she had following the 1969 Stonewall Riots.

Lastly, some news to share: We’re proud to report that the magazine won two 2011 Circle of Excellence awards from the nonprofit

Council for Advancement and Support of Education. We received a bronze for College and University General Interest Magazines with a subscription of more than 75,000, and another bronze for Excellence in Design for our Spring 2010 cover, “The Icon That Almost Wasn’t,” which featured a photo by Joel

Sternfeld of New York City’s High Line before it was revamped as a public park.

Whether it’s through one story or many, we hope the Fall 2011 issue sweetens your season, too.

Cheers,  
The *Alumni Magazine* Team

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Issue #17 / Fall 2011

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POWER

# STAR

TOP-DRAW PERSONALITIES SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON IN YANKEE STADIUM BEFORE SPEAKING AT THE 2011 NYU COMMENCEMENT, WHERE HE RECEIVED AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS.



JANE GOODALL SPOKE AT STEINHARDT'S SCIENCE EDUCATION INNOVATORS EXPO & SYMPOSIUM.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND NOBEL PRIZE-WINNER ELIE WIESEL LED THE REYNOLDS SPEAKER SERIES.



ACTRESS CHRISTINE LAHTI CONDUCTED A SCENE STUDY WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS AT THE GALLATIN SCHOOL.



# We Hear From You

Thanks to everyone for the tremendous response to the Spring 2011 issue. We're delighted that the magazine continues to provoke comments and conversation.



## GLOBAL ISSUE

We were very disturbed by the article “Brand-New Game” in which President John Sexton attempts to make a case for the NYU satellite university in Abu Dhabi.

President Sexton asks rhetorical-ly if there was an appropriate partner for NYU’s campus in the Middle East, and then answers that Abu Dhabi was chosen because of its “leadership, culture...and unswerving commitment to academic excellence.” Culture? For whom? Try asking the mostly unseen women of Abu Dhabi, or the poorly paid, underserved, and exploited immigrants who comprise a majority of the inhabitants and who do all the construction work, or the non-billionaire (non-oil) people who live in the city’s shadows and whose emails are censored, unlike those of the students staying there. What about the concept of sharia law, infidels, the call to prayer on a daily basis, and what life is really like for anyone who is not a practicing Muslim?

Finally, why is there no mention that a central reason NYU partnered with Abu Dhabi is because it is a

sickeningly oil-rich city—one of the richest in the world—and its leaders do not care how much they give to President Sexton. He, in turn, has taken enormous amounts of tainted money, some of which will be used to continue hideously overbuilding the New York City campus.

Your PR fluffpiece doesn’t mention anything about this Faustian compromise.

Carol (WSC '68) and  
Michael Kort (GSAS '68, '73)  
Brookline, Massachusetts

## PRESIDENT SEXTON RESPONDS:

Dear Carol and Michael,  
I appreciate you taking the time to express your feelings on our endeavor in Abu Dhabi. Open and honest dialogue is at the core of our values as a university community, and that dialogue is enhanced by the participation of alums like you. This conversation will likely continue in many forms as we expand to new corners of the globe, where we will encounter other societies and cultures.

While it is true that Abu Dhabi has benefitted from the wealth of natural resources inherent in the land—as has the U.S., which is blessed with the world’s largest coal reserves and remains a significant producer of oil—it is also true that they aspire to pursue new and innovative avenues of academic understanding for their own benefit, for the benefit of the Middle East region, and beyond. They recognize that the world is changing, and that they will be an important part of that change. We consider it an honor to have been chosen to create a world-class university in their country, and to spearhead new research there that, in some cases, could not be conducted anywhere

else. We're also proud of the shared Statement of Labour Values we developed, which outlines workforce provisions for all companies involved in the construction and operation of the NYU Abu Dhabi campus on Saadiyat Island, and which was praised by Human Rights Watch.

Americans can tend to believe we have the perfect view of how the world works, or should work. It seems to me that if we are to prepare our students for the great transnational challenges that accompany this age—political and religious extremism, climate change, poverty—they will need a truly global education, and as we embrace that, we will encounter societies with different cultures, beliefs, and laws. The alternative, to turn our back on those different cultures, is unthinkable to me.

But those who can speak best to the Abu Dhabi experience are the students, faculty, and administrators who have been there over the past two years. They have forged friendships and working relationships with Emiratis as well as others from all over the planet. They have, almost unanimously, reported back that it has been among the most rewarding and eye-opening endeavors of their lives. Precisely that kind of response motivated us to cre-

ate the global network university, and propels us to continue.

Sincerely,  
John Sexton

## PAPER DAZE

I was leafing through the alumni magazine and was pulled up short when I turned to page 51 to find a yellowing *Heights Daily News* staring back at me (“Reliving the Dream”). From 1964–68, I was on the staff of the paper and we used to say it was the smallest daily newspaper in the country. This was no mean feat given the small Heights student population and the lack of a journalism school [at the time]. I didn’t realize that within 30 years the newspaper world would be revolutionized by the computer. A box of HDNs moldering away in my basement can bring back a lot of memories.

Ira Silverman  
ARTS '68  
Rockville, Maryland



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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