



1920s

**LILLIAN MARKS / WSC '28 /** has written a number of articles on the Holocaust, her friendship with Otto Frank (father of Anne Frank), and the trial of Adolf Eichmann. Her stories can be found in NYU's Bobst Library.

1930s

**JONATHAN E. STERNBERG / WSC '39 /** received an honorary doctor of fine arts degree at Cabrini College's commencement ceremony in Pennsylvania on May 20. Maestro Sternberg was honored for his long-standing contributions to the fine arts.

1950s

**GEORGE G. MAGDALANY / STERN '50 /** attended NYU on the GI Bill, taking classes at night while working full-time. During WWII, he served as a member of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, where his knowledge of Arabic and French was put to good use. After graduation, Magdalany had a successful 30-year career as a purchasing agent for Durex Abrasives, the 3M Company, Union Hardware, and the Brunswick Co. He has been retired for about 30 years, and at age 95, he lives with his daughter in Delmar, NY, and still manages his stock portfolio himself.

**AUBREY J. SHER / STEINHARDT '51 /** has published 19 books, including most recently *Showcase of the Century's Legendary Singers* (Wasteland Press), released this past summer. Dr. Sher is a former superintendent of the Teaneck, NJ, public school system, and a retired executive director of

the Yeshiva Gedolah of Los Angeles.

**SAUL SIBIRSKY / WSC '54 /** and **MARTIN C. TAYLOR / WSC '54 /**, who have both taught classes at universities across the country, recently collaborated on *Language Into Language: Cultural, Legal, and Linguistic Issues for Interpreters and Translators* (McFarland). Sibirsky previously worked for USAID in Ecuador to develop the country's higher-education capabilities. Taylor helped to charter and develop the first private American university in Panama and recently published *Gabriela Mistral's Struggle With Man and God* (McFarland), which chronicles the life and work of the Chilean poet.

**CECILY BARTH FIRESTEIN / STEINHARDT '55 /** recently exhibited her collection of large combined-media works on paper at the Phoenix Gallery in New York. This year marks her 80th birthday, as well as

her 50th year of collaboration with the gallery.

**SAMUEL WEISSMAN / ENG '55 /** is the recipient of the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2012 Metropolitan Section Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

**STEVEN SCHRADER / WSC '56 /** published his most recent book, *Threads: More Stories From a New*

*York Life*, reflecting on his Washington Heights childhood in the 1940s and '50s. Hanging Loose Press, the publishing company of **ROBERT HERSHON / STERN '57 /**, published *Threads* in May 2012.

**SARAH (BETTY) BROWN WEITZMAN / STEINHARDT '56 /** published her fourth book, a children's novel titled *Herman*

FROM MARSH TO ARTIST'S MECCA

Today it's an idyllic home to musicians, painters, and sunbathers, but Washington Square Park wasn't always such a cheerful place. Once a marsh fed by Minetta Brook, the lot was first used as a potter's field (mostly for victims of yellow fever) and then an execution ground where gallows hung, before becoming a public park in 1827. NYU began to purchase buildings around the square in 1833, bringing students and an intellectual spirit to the neighborhood.

Fast-forward 100 years (around the time this picture was snapped) and the

newly appointed Parks Commissioner Robert Moses would begin a nearly three-decade fight with local residents—including Jane Jacobs and Eleanor Roosevelt—over whether to push Fifth Avenue straight through the park. Luckily, the people prevailed and the park remained intact, allowing the likes of Bob Dylan, Jack Kerouac, Buddy Holly, Allen Ginsberg, and countless others to enjoy years of peaceful reflection and impromptu jam sessions.

See page 64 for this view of Washington Square Park today.

*and the Ice Witch* (Main Street Rag). She is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for "Excellence in Poetry," and is widely published in academic journals. A full-length volume of her poetry, *Never Far From Flesh* (Pure Heart), was published in 2005. Weitzman, a former NYU faculty member, is retired and lives in Delray Beach, FL; all of

her books are available in the Bobst Library.

**JOSEPH BRANDES / GSAS '58 /** has rereleased his book *Immigrants to Freedom* with the new title *Immigrants to Freedom: Jews as Yankee Farmers! (1880's to 1960's)* (Xlibris). The book is a historical account of Jewish agricultural communities in America,

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We want to hear from you! Let us know what is happening in your career and life. Submit your news items, personal milestones, or an obituary of a loved one to: NYU Class Notes, 25 West Fourth Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY, 10012 or via e-mail to [alumni.magazine@nyu.edu](mailto:alumni.magazine@nyu.edu). You can also share Class Notes online by logging on to [alumni.nyu.edu/classnotes](http://alumni.nyu.edu/classnotes).

PHOTO COURTESY NYU ARCHIVES



■ alumni profile

ASHLEY MEARS / GSAS '07, '09

# MODELS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

by Alyson Krueger / GSAS '12

**BY THE TIME ASHLEY MEARS MOVED TO NEW YORK CITY IN 2003, SHE THOUGHT SHE'D LEFT HER MODELING YEARS BEHIND.**

From the age of 16, she had bounced around from high school in suburban Atlanta and college at the University of Georgia to Milan and Tokyo while “pursuing the model

dream,” as she calls it. Every young girl thinks she might be the next big thing, Mears says, which keeps one going to endless shoots and casting calls. By 23, she'd had enough.

But in her first semester as a graduate student in sociology at NYU, Mears was reading at a Starbucks in Union Square when a scout sat down across from her, told her she had a

“great look,” and asked whether she wanted to model. Her initial disinterest quickly gave way to an idea. Researchers had written countless ethnographies after immersing themselves in work at factories or McDonald's; Mears explains.

Initially, there were skeptics. “I had heard that people in the department

SAYS MEARS OF HER BOOK: “PEOPLE HADN'T REALLY INTELLECTUALIZED MODELING OR THOUGHT ABOUT THE ECONOMICS OF THIS MARKET.”

with modeling. The new agency agreed to let her take notes on the job and interview clients, agents, and other models. This time she had no illusions of fame or fortune—instead, her goal was academic.

For the next two-and-a-half years, Mears led the restless life of a student-model. She ran from class to photo shoots, studying on the subway or while in line for auditions. The resulting book, *Pricing Beauty: The Making of a Fashion Model* (University of California Press), provides a pioneering account of how a “look” is chosen, why pay scales vary wildly, and how some girls succeed for the worst reasons. (She asked one casting director why he chose the model that he did. His answer: “I don't know what to tell you. She reminds me of someone I used to have sex with.”) And because the market has been oversaturated with young hopefuls from around the world who will do anything to strike it big, agents and clients can use models for a short time and then dispose of them with little compensation or thought.

“People hadn't really intellectualized modeling or thought about the economics of this market and the way it can teach us more generally about other kinds of industries,” Mears explains.

Initially, there were skeptics. “I had heard that people in the department

were dismissive,” Mears says. “[Modeling] is aligned with superficiality and also with the feminine, which are things that often clash with the ‘serious’ work of academia.” But no one could dismiss the attention the book received. *Publishers Weekly* called it “a well-researched, well-written, and thorough study of the industry.” *Slate* proclaimed: “Mears gives voice to a group of women who are paid to be seen and not heard.” And *The New Republic* conceded, “In ably laying out the evidence, she provides a valuable service.” Mears believes the book helped her to secure a gig writing about Fashion Week for *The New York Times* and, more important, her current position at Boston University, where she is an assistant professor of sociology. “It's so secure,” she says. “It's the complete opposite of being a fashion model.”

Indeed, one of the book's major revelations was just how poorly models are compensated. A daylong magazine shoot typically pays only \$100 (for the cover of *Vogue*, one may expect an extra \$300). Models are often expected to pay their own airfare overseas and, as a result, live under a mounting crush of debt as they pursue their careers. And one can forget about health or retirement benefits.

Former and current models frequently write to Mears, thanking her for shedding light on the industry, and she is help-

ing the nonprofit Model Alliance to advocate for better conditions, such as guaranteeing smoke- and drug-free work environments, and more fair and standardized labor practices, including a private place backstage in which to change and get ready for photo shoots. “I was never very much the advocate,” Mears says, “but if my research can help inform debates that make positive changes, I'm all for that.”

Her scholarly eye is now trained on the international network of model scouts who supply girls to fashion capitals such as New York, Paris, and Tokyo. Mears believes that how these scouts form tastes in beauty—and how that varies around the world—may answer questions about the spread of cultural values. She's also researching the phenomenon of bottle service at reserved tables in nightclubs. Mears calls the indulgence “a piece of a highly organized nightlife economy,” noting that “women and girls, especially if they look like models, are comped in hopes of luring big-spending men. It is essentially a global market that is run by men and for men, but on women.” Unlike the material for her last book, Mears won't be conducting fieldwork because individual bottles of alcohol can easily exceed \$500 in some clubs. “I don't think my research account will cover it,” she jokes. ■

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and is the fourth and latest by Professor Brandes. He has been an honored member of the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Historical Asso-

ciation, and the Economic History Society.

**FRANKLIN STEIN / STEINHARDT '59, '63, '68 /** recently completed the text *Clinical Research*

*in Occupational Therapy*, 5th Edition (Cengage) with Martin Rice and Susan Cutler. Stein is a PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, and the editor of *Occupational Therapy International*.

## 1960s

**DAVID J. JAFFIN / GSAS '61 /** recently celebrated his golden anniversary with his wife. Dr. Jaffin is the author of more than 100 books, including 28 volumes of poetry, and has lectured all over Germany on the topic of Jesus the Jew.

**LOU DeLUCA / STEINHARDT '64 /** was recently inducted into the Wagner College Athletics Hall of Fame. The Staten Island native has served as an adjunct professor of education at Wagner for 21 years, and was formerly Wagner's vice president of development. The honor recognizes DeLuca's more than 50 years as a mentor and fundraiser for Seahawks sports.

**ROBERT ROBERSON / STERN '64 /** of Williamsburg, VA, was recently re-elected a member of the executive committee of

the Cypher Society, an organization composed of former members of the governing board of visitors of the College of William and Mary. He also continues to serve on the board of trustees of the Roberson Museum and Science Center.

**SHEILA SCHWARTZ / STEINHARDT '64 /** has just published her 19th book, a biography of F. Scott Fitzgerald titled *Fitzgerald* (Haus).

**LEO TWIGGS / STEINHARDT '64 /** recently published *Messages From Home: The Art of Leo Twiggs* (Cecil Williams/Claflin University), which explores how he pioneered the use of batik as a painting medium (as featured in “Batik, Jazzed Up,” *NYU Alumni Magazine*, Fall 2007), and how growing up in the segregated South influenced his art.

**BARBARA JOANS / TSOA '65 /** has had a successful career in anthropology. Her book *Bike Lust: Harleys, Women, and American Society* (University of Wisconsin Press) is widely used in anthropology 101 classes. She has also served as an expert witness in many court cases, and received the Mayfield Award from the American Anthropological Association in 1997. She is currently director of the new Merritt Museum of Anthropology in Oakland, CA.

**BRENDA ROSS / STEINHARDT '65 /** is now part of the fellowship program in Teaching the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which prepares educators to work with hearing-impaired children and youth.

**MARION K. PINSDORF / GSAS '67 /** published her fifth book, *Surviving Toxic Bosses: Seagulls, Peacocks and Sharks* (Xlibris).

## 1970s

**PAUL DILLON / GSAS '70, '73 /** has retired after 26 years as a biostatistician at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics

(and predecessors Bayer Diagnostics and Technicon Instruments) in Tarrytown, NY. Dr. Dillon and his wife, Jane, live in Bri-

arcliff Manor, NY; they have two daughters and five grandchildren. He will continue as program di-

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PHOTO © PABLO DI ZEO



■ alumni profile

JAY HAYES / STERN '12

# Out, on the Court

by Brian Dalek / GSAS '10

JAY HAYES INTENDED FOR HIS “IT GETS BETTER” VIDEO TO MIRROR THE REST: SIT FACING A WEBCAM AND TALK ABOUT BEING

gay or bullied—and over-coming—like the other 50,000-plus videos up-loaded to the project’s web-site to inspire LGBT youths. But the undertak-ing he embarked on in fall 2011, he says, “was just a total train wreck.” He looked awkward and fum-bled his words. He felt too solitary staring at a laptop in his Manhattan apart-ment. In Hayes’ mind, the video couldn’t tell his story because so much of it had taken place on a volleyball court.

Hayes was a gregarious senior co-captain on the NYU Men’s Volleyball squad at the time, and he realized the most convinc-ing way to send the message was with his teammates and coaches standing alongside him. Other college athletic departments had submitted similar videos, but they only hinted at athletes being gay or lesbian, and none included anyone who identified as such. Hayes decided to go to the heart of the matter. “I know I can achieve anything I set my mind on doing,” he says confidently in the resulting video, “and I can

do that while being out and being proud of who I am.” Within days, the video went viral on Facebook and gay blogs. The Huffington Post and *New York Daily News* praised it for its directness. In the nearly three-minute message, a string of men and women—entire teams from basketball, soccer, volleyball, and swim-ming—talk candidly about

the lingering hostility toward homosexuality in sports and state that it will not be tolerated at NYU. Women’s Volleyball Coach Jolie Ward tells viewers she’s proud to be a mother and in a long-term, same-sex relationship. Assistant Swimming and Diving Coach Scott Donie, a 1992 Olympic silver medalist, who is not gay, talks about bullying based

on one’s perceived sexual orientation. In the final sec-onds of the film, more than 100 student athletes, ad-ministrators, and coaches shout out: “It gets better!” To understand the sig-nificance of this, one must look to the world of pro-fessional sports. No active American male athlete in any major sport—baseball, basketball, football, or hockey—has come out publicly. “There’s a real fear that if you let being gay take over who you are, then you won’t perform as well

on the court or the field,” Hayes says. “That if you’re gay, you can’t be as good. There’s also the fear of losing the bonds you have with your teammates.” This fear in particular kept Hayes in the closet until college. The few peo-ple who were out at the Catholic high school he at-tended in suburban Chica-go had tended to participate in theater or band—not sports. And while he was close to his family, they were devout Catholics and he was unsure how to reveal himself within what he describes as “a very Christian, conservative, Midwest type of bubble.” Hayes decided to attend NYU for its competitive volleyball team and for the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, where he majored in marketing. But the prospect of living in such a gay-friendly city was comforting too.



A FORMER CO-CAPTAIN ON THE NYU MEN'S VOLLEYBALL SQUAD, HAYES REALIZED THE MOST CONVINCING WAY TO SEND HIS “IT GETS BETTER” MESSAGE WAS WITH HIS TEAMMATES AND COACHES STANDING ALONGSIDE HIM.

PHOTO © RACHEL KARIAN

During his sophomore year in New York, Hayes started telling some close family and friends that he was gay. He hesitated for a while to come out to team-mates, but soon discovered it wasn’t an issue for them either. “He’s a teammate and a friend, and anything less than full support is not right,” says outside hitter Pat Dodd (CAS ’12), who also played club volleyball with Hayes in Illinois. It took him another year to tell Men’s Volleyball Coach Jose Piña (CAS ’87), who was gratified that Hayes trusted him enough to dis-cuss it personally. “[Com-ing out] was his gift to give to us,” Piña says. “It’s not for someone to out him or to spread rumors.”

Buoyed by this support, Hayes wanted others to know that NYU accepts everyone on the court or field. He spent five months of his senior year writing and directing the “It Gets Better” film—with the aid of friends in the Tisch School of the Arts—while helping his volleyball team win 20 matches. Along with praise, came thanks. Gay athletes from across the country reached out to say how watching the video helped, and he recently addressed the issue in a panel discussion at Providence College in Rhode Island. Hayes is now working at the global consulting giant Accenture in Chicago but intends to continue spreading the message that young ath-letes should embrace who they are. “I thought I was done when the video was done,” he says. “But that’s not true. It’s really just the beginning for me.” ■

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rector for the Westcester Chemical Society.

FRED MAIDMENT / STERN '70 / is a profes-sor of management at Western Connecticut State University in Dan-bury, CT. He is the editor of *Annual Editions: Man-agement, Annual Editions: Human Resources*, and *Annual Editions: Interna-tional Business* (McGraw-Hill), as well as a number of other titles for the col-legiate business class-room. His latest book is titled *What Your Boss Doesn't Want You to Know: How to Succeed (and Excel!) in the Global Economy* (Motivational Press). Maidment and his wife, Sandra, who live in Torrington, CT, are the parents of four children—two daughters and twin sons—and they have three grandchildren.

ELAINE WOLF / WSC '70, STEINHARDT '71 / published her novel, *Camp* (Sky Pony), a mother-daughter story about Holocaust guilt, bullying, and the collater-al damage of family secrets. It is a young adult novel that's enjoyable for all ages.

ANDREW J. BARILE / STERN '72 / has been in the reinsurance business for more than 35 years and recently had an arti-cle published on Property Casualty360.com. He is an expert on captive in-surance companies and has been featured on *Fox Business News* to speak on the subject.

RAE PARTELOW / STEINHARDT '73 / re-cently retired from 37 years of teaching various special-education classes at Gorton High School in

the Yonkers, NY, public schools. She also has an MS in special education from the College of New Rochelle ('76) with a spe-cialization in learning disabilities.

ROBERT BLECHMAN / STEINHARDT '74, '78, '81 / celebrated the book launch of *Executive Severance* (NeoPoiesis), a humorous murder-mys-tery novel originally com-posed on Twitter, 140 characters at a time, at New York City's Mysteri-ous Bookshop. This com-plete Twitter narrative, with illustrations by California artist David Arshawsky, is part of what Blechman expects to be new efforts by writ-ers and artists to explore creative uses of social media.

SUSAN L. SOLOMON / WSUC '75 / has served

as the New York Stem Cell Foundation's CEO since she cofounded the organization in 2005. The foundation scientists' success in introducing DNA from a human skin cell into an unfertilized egg from a separate donor was named the “No. 1 medical break-through of the year” for 2011 by *Time* magazine.

MICHAEL AQUILANTE / STEINHARDT '77 / has recently completed his co-translation, with his partner Jon Laskin, of Italian playwright and Nobel Prize-winner Dario Fo's classic farce *Pay Unfair! Take Your Share!* He and Laskin also co-translated Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, which was most recently staged in U.S. cities and in the U.K.

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■ alumni network

## AROUND THE WORLD WITH NYU



Do you plan on spending your summer traveling in Europe, vacationing in Sydney, or on a business trip to Shanghai? Wherever your travels take you, or if you call one of these places home, there’s a good chance that NYU alumni are nearby and the NYU Alumni Global Passport program, a new online resource, will help you find them.

In June, the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations launched the new online resource (alumni.nyu.edu/global-passport), so that alumni can keep up with all things NYU outside of NYC. Visitors can view upcoming events, check out profiles of fellow alumni, learn about alumni clubs, and read more about

the university’s Global Academic Centers—in Abu Dhabi, Accra, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Florence, London, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Shanghai, Sydney, Tel Aviv, and Washington, D.C. Alumni are invited to attend events hosted by alumni clubs in London, Beijing, Shanghai, South Korea, and the Middle East, or reconnect with fellow alumni at lectures, recep-tions, and educational programming at any of the NYU centers.

To keep up with all that NYU has to offer, alumni may also subscribe to a monthly global events e-mail that highlights the NYU events taking place outside of New York City.

Whether you participated in the study-away program as a student, live somewhere outside of NYC, or travel the globe, you’re invited to reconnect with fellow alumni through the NYU Alumni Global Pass-port program.



**THOMAS MEAGHER / WSUC '77** / is a partner and practice leader of Aon Hewitt's Legal Consulting &

Compliance Practice, and recently co-authored an article, "Frozen Defined Benefit Plans: Considerations and Strategies for Employers," for the Bureau of National Affairs' *Pension and Benefits Daily*. The article was cited in the January 2012 U.S. Senate Committee on Finance Report by Ranking Member Orrin

Hatch (R-Utah) titled "State and Local Government Defined Benefit Pension Plans: The Pension Debt Crisis That Threatens America."

**LAURA COHEN / WSUC '78** / recently published her first novel, *The Cusp of Everything* (Prince Willow), a story of suburban teen life during the bicentennial era. The book features more than 200 songs of the time woven through the story, available to play on the accompanying website.

**PATRICIA A. FARRELL / GSAS '78, STEINHARDT '90** / has signed on as a blogger for Humana's

REAL, a lifestyle website for boomer women. Dr. Farrell is a licensed psychologist in New Jersey and Florida, and author of *How to Be Your Own Therapist* (McGraw-Hill) and *It's Not All in Your Head* (Demos Health).

**EDWARD ADLER / GSAS '79** / was named partner at RLM Finsbury, a global leader in strategic communications. Prior to joining RLM, Adler built a successful strategic communications practice at MediaLink and served as the EVP of corporate communications at Time Warner Inc.

## 1980s

**STEVEN STRAUSS / WSUC '80** / is visiting Harvard as an Advanced Leadership Fellow for 2012 and living in the Cambridge, MA, area.

are thrilled to report that their oldest daughter, Samantha, is following in both their footsteps at the NYU Law School, Class of 2014.

**STEPHANIE BLOCK / GSAS '81** / introduced a new e-guide to university admissions, *College Admissions Advice in a Nutshell*, available on all e-reader platforms including Kindle, Nook, iBooks, and Kobo.

**ROB STEINFELD / LAW '81** / and wife **DONNA STEINFELD / LAW '82** /

**MARJORIE A. STOCKFORD / STERN '82** / recently started Your LifeLines (yourlifelines.com), through which she helps individuals write their own personal histories. She is also starting research on her second book, which will detail the lives of female high-wheel bike racers in the late 19th

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### health benefits

## NEW PERK HELPS ALUMNI NAVIGATE HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS



Health insurance is vital to everyone's well-being. Unfortunately, navigating the maze of health insurance options is an often difficult and confusing task. Now, the NYU Office of Alumni Relations offers alumni a way to simplify the process. Marsh U.S. Consumer, a service of Seabury & Smith, Inc. and the insurance broker for NYU's alumni insurance programs, has launched an online health insurance "mart" in order to give alumni quicker and easier access to information on affordable options.

By offering different coverage options from highly rated insurers and providers on a state-by-state basis, the Marsh Health Insurance Mart helps alumni find the plan that best meets their unique needs. The mart allows alumni to compare standardized plans, including all costs of co-pays for prescriptions, doctor visits, and hospital stays. In addition to individualized major medical insurance, the mart offers other valuable plans including dental insurance, Medicare solutions, and prescription discount cards. And, so that alumni don't have to go it alone, they can ask for personal assistance from a Marsh Health Insurance

Mart representative to guide them through the process. The aim is to ensure that alumni make the most well-informed decision to meet their needs.

Insurance assistance is just one of many benefits and services provided to NYU alumni. Others include access to Bobst's e-Library; lifetime e-mail; discounts on hotels, car rentals, restaurants, and entertainment; the NYU Signature credit card; and the ability to join the NYU Club in residence at the Princeton Club of New York in Midtown Manhattan. Additional benefits are offered to alumni who make an annual gift to the university and hold a valid Alumni Card, such as discounts at the NYU Bookstore, access to Ticket Central, the ability to rent the NYU Torch Club for private events, and a limited number of free passes to Bobst Library and NYU's athletic facilities.

For more information, log in to the alumni website at [alumni.nyu.edu](http://alumni.nyu.edu) (first-time users will need to reference the mailing label on this issue for their 10-digit NYU Alumni ID), or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni.info@nyu.edu](mailto:alumni.info@nyu.edu) or 212-998-6912.

## Phillip Hughes TSOA 2013

*Hails from:* Magnolia, DE

*Major:* Film & Television Production

### Why is alumni scholarship support so important?

Being at NYU is an eye-opening and unique experience. Alumni should do everything possible to ensure future students have the same amazing opportunities they had. Without that support, I wouldn't be here!

### Greatest source of pride:

I am the first person in my family to go away to college.

### Favorite thing about living in NYC:

NYC is composed of so many cultural centers. You feel as though you've traveled the world without leaving the city.

### Favorite class:

Producing for TV

### Future plans:

I'd like to secure a job in TV to work in digital media. Eventually I hope to return to business school for my MBA in marketing.



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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY





ULFERS REMAINS A FORCE IN THE CLASSROOM AFTER MORE THAN A HALF-CENTURY OF TEACHING AT NYU.

half-century, his administrative roles have included assistant dean in the College of Arts and Science, director of undergraduate studies in the German department, and director of NYU’s Deutsches Haus. Beloved by students (who once created a fan page for him on Facebook), he won the university’s Great Teacher Award (1991), Heights College Faculty Hall of Fame Award (1994), the Distinguished Teaching Medal (2001), and three times won the College of Arts and Science’s Golden Dozen Teaching Award (1989, 1998, 2003). Ulfers was dean of media and communication and Friedrich Nietzsche Professor at the European Graduate School in Switzerland in the summers, and has authored two books, numerous articles, and chaired conferences, including a special session on Günter Grass for the Modern Language Association. With these achievements and nonstop academic pursuits, it might surprise some to discover that, to Ulfers, none of it ultimately has any *meaning* in the greater scheme of things. As he insists: “Meanings are made up for utilitarian purposes.”

in 1945 felt like a victory, despite his country’s defeat. “For me, the coming of the Americans was a day of liberation,” he says.

Perhaps it’s no wonder that a childhood full of such conflict and confusion would provoke a desire to understand. Ulfers emigrated with his family to New York in 1951, and after attending City College for accounting, which failed to enchant him, he enrolled in graduate school at NYU, concentrating on his first love—German literature. It was then that his attention zoomed in on two authors, Franz Kafka and Friedrich Nietzsche, who would forever change how he perceived the world.

Ulfers began teaching literature at NYU’s University Heights campus in 1962 and, at age 77, he remains a force in the classroom. Over the past

he says that social protocol in his hometown made it clear “you had to conform.” He recalls his teachers exploring students to report derogatory statements about the Third Reich made by family or friends, and a popular taunt in the schoolyard: “Watch out, or you’ll go to Dachau.” So to Ulfers, the end of the war

■ alumni profile

FRIEDRICH ULFERS / GSAS '61, '68

THE OPPOSITION OF ABSOLUTES

by Jason Hollander / GAL '07

TOWARD THE END OF 1944, ALLIED FORCES AIRPLANES BEGAN PUMMELING GIESSEN, A SMALL GERMAN CITY NORTH OF FRANKFURT,

which would be 75 percent destroyed by World War II’s end. During the nighttime raids, 10-year-old Friedrich Ulfers would huddle with his mother (his father had been conscripted to fight Russians in the East) in their apartment building’s cellar as the neighborhood shook and screamed. Most locals were gathered

nearby in the Nazi’s official “bombproof” shelter, but Mrs. Ulfers had an awful feeling the one time she brought her son there. Her instinct proved right: Shortly before the war ended, the bunker gave way, fatally crushing more than 300 people.

Ulfers’ parents never joined the Nazi party, but

that “all judgments are fabrications...that don’t correspond to the facts of the world.” Truth, he realized, “is not made up of con-

tions. From his interpretation of Nietzsche’s works, Ulfers coined an original term, “chiasmic unity,” which similarly refers to a

Ulfers coined the term “chiasmic unity, [which] ties opposites together while simultaneously tearing them apart.”

cepts, but of singularities”—which, like a gravitational singularity in physics, has infinite defini-

reality that “ties opposites together while simultaneously tearing them apart.” Ulfers likens this to human

cells—which operate in a constant state of coming into being and passing away.

Such dreamy literary interpretations sparked murmurs when Ulfers first started teaching in the conservative early 1960s. “I was sometimes accused of engaging in a vague mysticism,” he says. “But I felt I had to follow what I thought was coming out of these texts.” The students, however, flocked to his sermons on nonlinear, non-oppositional thinking. And there’s still a waiting list for

his courses, where Ulfers’ rapid-fire, German-accented delivery is only outdone by his physicality in punctuating a point. “When he presents a new idea, you can always see that sparkle in his eyes, and watch his hand gestures get crazier and crazier,” says Richard Zhang (CAS ’15), a physics major who is currently taking his second class with the professor. “That passion is really contagious.”

Perhaps a source of that passion goes all the way back to the war, and the memory of seeing the first

American soldiers walking through his city as the smoke lifted. One can imagine Ulfers’ feeling of relief from a period he very well may not have survived. “I found that literature left me with a similar liberating feeling,” he says. “But it’s a two-way sword, because you do lose your faith in conventional language. You can no longer operate by absolutes.” ■

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

For questions regarding application deadlines, requirements, or course offerings, please contact the NYU Office of University Programs, 18 Washington Place, New York, NY 10003 ■ 212.998.2292 ■ [university.programs@nyu.edu](mailto:university.programs@nyu.edu)

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century. She lives in Portland, ME, with her daughter.

**LARRY BYRNE / LAW '84** / will be honored with

the Robert M. Morgenthau Award by the Police Athletic League of New York in recognition of his distinguished legal career. Byrne is a partner at Linklaters LLP, and also on the Irish Legal 100, an annual list of the most distinguished and accomplished attorneys of Irish descent in North America.

**GEORGE CONOMOS / STERN '84** / was named managing director at UBS, responsible for Americas Home Office Real Estate, and he is based in Weehawken, NJ.

**NILLIE GOLDMAN / STERN '84, '87** / is the founder and publisher of WebToTheRescue.com, a free entrepreneurship website designed to help founders build their companies—quicker, easier, and with more support.

**STUART HALPERIN / TSOA '85** / recently joined Quixote Studios as vice president of marketing. Quixote Studios, based in the Los Angeles area, is a premier provider of boutique film studios, production-related vehicles, grip and lighting equipment, and production supplies. Quixote is also the managing partner of Smashbox Studios, a leading photo studio brand in Los Angeles.

**HEIDI SORVINO / SSSW '85** / has joined Hodgson Russ LLP as a partner in the New York City law

firm's bankruptcy, restructuring, and commercial litigation practice group.

**ROSEMARY ROTONDI / TSOA '86** / was recently honored as part of the team of researchers for the 2011 Academy Award-winning documentary *Inside Job* by Charles Ferguson. Rotondi has been an archival film, photo, and network news researcher for documentary filmmakers, writers, and artists since 1986. She served as a researcher on upcoming documentaries such as Matt Wolf's *Teenage*, Penny Lane and Brian Frye's *Our Nixon*, and Mark Mori's *Bettie Page Reveals All*, among others.

**KAREN TENENBAUM / LAW '87** / has been named one of the Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women

2012 Achievers' Award honorees. She also recently appeared on the cable TV show *Something to Talk About*, where she discussed New York State tax audit pitfalls and financial literacy for children.

**MATTHEW SOLARI / TSOA '89** / received honorable mention for a 2010 Brass Ring Award from the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions for "Exploration Space: Explorers Wanted" at NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, for his work as director and writer in the category of Best Live Edutainment Show of the Year. Solari was also nominated for Best Revival of a Classic Play by the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle in 2007, as producer for William Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life*.

## 1990s

**PAUL A. GRENER / WSUC '90** / published two children's books, *Lulu & Lux Have a Lust for Life* and *Lulu & Lux Celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah*. Four of his novels—*Fast and Furious*, *Alone in a Crowd*, *Delicious Malicious*, *Egon*—and seven of his collections of poetry—*The Misfit*, *Wild Child* and *What Lurks Beneath*, *The Big Three-Zero* and *the Big Three-Won*, *Love & War*, *Y2K*, *Poems for the New Millennium*, and *Last Words*—are available on Amazon's Kindle.

**REBECCA ROBBINS / SCPS '90, WSUC '91** / became a published writer when she was the national spokesperson for Slim-Fast Foods in 2001-02 as she wrote and developed a live chat session for Slim-Fast's website. Robbins also appeared as the Fourth of July cover girl for *Woman's World* magazine in 2002. She is currently working on her first novel and a screenplay.

**JOSEPH VERCELLONE / TSOA '90** / is entering the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medi-

cine to begin a second career as a physician. Vercellone credits his time at NYU for instilling his belief in himself and the knowledge that life is truly an adventure.

**RAY NEWMAN / WAG '92, '94** / was recently appointed as professor and chair of the department of community health sciences in the College of Health at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Newman was previously professor and vice chancellor of Tulane University Medical Center in New Orleans, and

professor and dean of the College of Business and Economics at Houston Baptist University.

**MARK CIRINO / WSUC '93** / published *Ernest Hemingway: Thought in Action* (University of Wisconsin Press).

**MICHELLE REYNOSO / TSOA '93** / was recently nominated for a Global EBook Award for her book *Do You?* (Xlibris), a collection of original poems and photographs, which was also a finalist in both the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 61)

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### A LEGACY OF LEARNING



## A Legacy That Makes a Difference

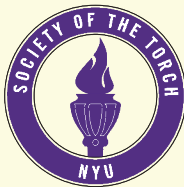
Eminent mathematician, physicist, and devoted NYU triple alumnus Dr. Abraham Kadish passed away last year and left a major legacy for the benefit of the University's students.

Dr. Kadish's legacy established the Harry and Sylvia Kadish Scholarship Fund at NYU's College of Arts and Science. The fund, honoring his parents, will stand as one of the largest single sources of student financial aid at the College, and will make it possible for the University to attract and retain the most talented students, who will be future leaders in their fields.

Dr. Kadish received a B.A. from Washington Square College in 1960, an M.A. in 1961 from the Graduate School of Arts and Science, and a Ph.D. in 1966 from the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences. He taught at NYU and at the University of Wisconsin, and worked at the US Department of Energy before moving to Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he lived for thirty years and worked in plasma physics at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Dr. Kadish's habits of immersive engagement, enthusiasm, curiosity, and his quick sense of humor made him an invaluable colleague at Los Alamos for consultation across a wide variety of research topics. These qualities also drove his commitment to support future generations of students in reaching their own goals through an NYU education.

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# NYU GIFT BOX

AN INSIDE LOOK AT RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY

## NEW GIFTS EXPAND ACADEMIC ENTERPRISES ACROSS CAMPUS

The following are some of the generous gifts recently presented to NYU:

- The Starr Foundation has pledged \$10 million to establish the Maurice R. Greenberg Scholarship Fund. This university-wide scholarship was created by the foundation in recognition of Greenberg’s decades of leadership, under which it became one of the largest private foundations in the United States.

- Evan (ARTS ’70, LAW ’75) and Barbara Chesler have pledged \$3 million to establish and support scholarships at the College of Arts and Science and the School of Law. Their gift will enable both schools to provide tuition assistance to meritorious students without regard to their fields of study.
- Through a gift of \$5 million to the School of Medicine, Klara and Larry Silverstein have es-

tablished the endowed Silverstein Scholarship Fund, which will cover full tuition costs for up to five deserving Silverstein Scholars each year, based on academic merit. The Silversteins’ generosity demonstrates their remarkable commitment to medical students and the future of health care.

- Andre Koo (STERN ’94), member of the NYU Stern Board of Overseers, has pledged a significant amount to the Leonard

N. Stern School of Business. Andre Koo’s gift will support faculty research in the fields of economics or finance, and benefit graduate and undergraduate students with an interest in Taiwan or Asia. Andre Koo’s generosity will enable Stern to further its mission to address real problems in real time, provide a top quality education to a diverse group of future global business leaders, and create value for business and society.

- Septodont, NA has pledged a total gift of \$1.3 million to the College of Dentistry. In recognition of this commitment, the college has given the company naming rights to its premier lecture hall, which will now be known as the Septodont Lecture Hall. This newly refurbished space will provide the college’s largest facility for student lectures, continuing education programs, and special school-wide and community events.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 58)

New York Book Festival and the Writer’s Digest International Book Awards.

**STEPHANIE KORENMAN / CAS ’94** / recently joined Stern Tannenbaum & Bell LLP, a law firm in NYC, as a partner and co-head of its Financial Markets Practice Group. Korenman practices securities law with an emphasis on broker-dealer compliance, litigation, and regulatory work.

**DIEDRA KRIEGER / CAS ’94** / displayed her impressive ongoing (since 2007) art project, “Plastic Fantastic,” a 16-foot geodesic dome covered in more than 6,000 post-consumer water bottles, at the Figment Project on Governors Island in summer 2012.

**RAYMOND KEATING / GSAS ’95** / published his first novel, a thriller titled *Warrior Monk: A Pastor Stephen Grant Novel*, and his fourth nonfiction book, “Chuck” vs. *the Business World: Business Tips on TV* (both CreateSpace).

**ROBERT QIU / POLY ’95, ’96** / received the 2012 Kinslow Award from Tennessee Technological University, an annual prize for the best paper written by a TTU College of Engineering faculty member. With a PhD in electrical engineering from NYU, Qiu is currently a professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering at the Center for Manufacturing Research at TTU.

**SANJAY UPADHYA / GSAS ’95** / published his second book, *Nepal and the Geo-Strategic Rivalry Between China and India* (Routledge). Upadhy is a U.S.-based Nepalese journalist specializing in his country’s politics and foreign relations. He has contributed to BBC Radio, *The Times* of London, *World Politics Review*, Inter Press Service, and *Khaleej Times*.

**CHRISTOPHER COCCHIARALEY / CAS ’97** / arrived back from Tokyo after an eight-year stint as an English instructor and a Japanese-to-English translator. He missed the 2011 earthquake and the resulting tsunami by about a week but has many friends in Tokyo who are dealing with the aftermath

of the Fukushima nuclear power plant crisis.

**MARJORIE ANNE WALLACE / STEINHARDT ’97** / was awarded the Huntington Middle School Teacher of the Year and the Virginia Region II Teacher of the Year in 2010. She is exhibiting paintings at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center in Newport News, VA, through November 2012.

**ALEXANDRA CHAN KATZ / DEN ’98** / was appointed CEO and president of Chan Katz Investment Management, P.C. USA ASIA after her father, Joey C. Chan, retired. She has a master’s degree from Columbia University (’04) in health policy and management and business administration, and

completed her post-doctoral residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, with a focus on oral and maxillo-facial trauma surgery. She received a fellowship award from the Academy of General Dentistry, and holds a lifetime faculty appointment at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

**RANDI KAUFMAN / STERN ’98** / has been appointed as senior vice president and asset manager for Newport Beach, CA-based KBS Realty Advisors, to oversee 5.9 million square feet in New York and the Northeast.



### GIVING. PHILANTHROPY. COMMUNITY.

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## 2000s

**A. DAVID BROWN / CAS ’00** / became engaged to Natasha Lewin on December 25, 2011, and was installed as treasurer of Boston University Lodge A.F. & A.M. on June 23, 2012.

**MARCIA DAWKINS / GSAS ’00** / is a professor and visiting scholar at

Brown University in Rhode Island. She published *Clearly Invisible: Racial Passing and the Color of Cultural Identity* (Baylor University Press) in August 2012.

**B. STACY GIBBONI / STEINHARDT ’02** / presented a solo exhibition,

“Show & Tell,” at Galleria SpaziOfficina in Padova, Italy, with works reflecting more than 20 years of creative, colorful production on paper, painting, installation, video, and photography. Gibboni is represented in New York by the Chace-Randall Gallery.

**TYLA CACCSE / STEINHARDT ’04** / and her rug company, Caccese Collection LLC, were certified by the GoodWeave program, which has licensed almost 100 North American importers committed to products free of child labor. Based in New York City, Caccese draws inspi-

ration from the natural environment to design custom, hand-knotted carpets incorporating natural fibers such as bamboo and hemp.

**JUAN D. HIDALGO / SCPS ’04** / accepted a position as COO of PUSH

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 63)

## NYU Family Legacy

NYU takes great pride in recognizing those who have made a family tradition of attending the university. If you and another member of your family are NYU graduates, let us know via a Class Note and we’ll list your names here.








This issue’s spotlight family:

**ANITTA R. FOX / STEINHARDT ’45, ’47** / (MOTHER)  
**SERENA J. FOX / MED ’79** / (DAUGHTER)





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Observer, a media monitoring and analysis firm in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. PUSH is a start-up company that monitors media throughout East Africa for advertising and editorial clients based in Africa, Europe, and the U.S. Hidalgo graduated from Rutgers Business School with an MBA in global management in May 2011.

**VITRA SINGH / CAS '04 /** wrote *Living Life for Yourself, Not Your Job* (CreateSpace), which profiles 24 people who left their nine-to-five jobs in order to pursue or find their career passion. The book is available in paperback, Kindle, and Nook.

**JON R. ANSARI / STERN '05 /** has been named executive vice president and chief financial officer of Magyar Bank in New Brunswick, NJ.

**CHRISTOPHER SKURA / SCPS '05 /** featured his artwork in the collaborative show “Fragmented” at the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, NJ,

from February through June 2012.

**AMANDA LAKOMY / GAL '06 /** was married to **DAVID SOLOMON / TSOA '06 /** on July 18, 2010.

**MICHAEL THOMAS MARINO / WAG '06 /** is now assistant director of the Office of Research and Doctoral Studies at NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. In this role, Marino will be responsible for obtaining research funding for faculty and doctoral candidates, and he is happy to be back on campus and working with a team of all Wagner grads.

**SORA CHUNG / WAG '07 /** became assistant director of development research at Stanford University in California in September 2011.

**MARC BURTON / STEINHARDT '08 /** joined the litigation team at WNF Law PL, in Miami in 2011, and was sworn into the Florida and Massachusetts bars in 2012.

**EDWARD DAVID / STEINHARDT '08 /** now teaches humanities courses at Trinity School at Meadow View, a private, classical curriculum secondary school in the Washington, D.C., area. David also graduated Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, with a master's degree in philosophy.

**DAVID FOEMMEL / SCPS '08 /** is now working as the director of athletic facilities at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

**MAUREEN GIANNONE / GAL '08 /** was awarded a New York Emmy Award for her segment “Levy's Unique New York” in the Historical/Cultural: Program/Feature Segment category. Giannone is currently a segment producer/videographer and Web contributor for *1st Look*, NBC's weekly lifestyle show, which takes viewers across the country for the best places to eat, drink, and play. It airs weekly right after *Saturday Night Live*.

## Obituaries

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

EDWIN L. BASS / STERN '39  
ALLAN H. CASHMAN / WSC '40, DEN '43  
MARION E. MCCREIGHT / WSC '44  
JULIUS BACCI / STERN '46  
JOHN MAXWELL ANDERSON / GSAS '47  
BARBARA CUMMINGS DAILEY / STERN '48  
MICHAEL J. DONTZIN / WSC '48, LAW '51  
BERNARD GERSON / WSC '50  
REGINALD J. PEARMAN / STEINHARDT '50  
GEORGE M. MARSHALL, JR. / STERN '51  
DAVID SLATER / ENG '51, '53, TRUSTEE  
JULIAN P. BERCH / ENG '52  
PHILLIP J. CANGELOSI / WSC '52, GSAS '57

SAMUEL J. GIULIANO / STERN '54  
PATRICIA LIVINGSTON / STEINHARDT '54, '59, STEINHARDT FACULTY  
RICHARD M. BALL / ENG '61  
CARL PETER SCHMIDT / GSAS '67, STEINHARDT FACULTY  
CHARLES GIANNOBILE / ENG '72  
ELLEN D. LEVINE / LAW '79  
JOSEPH PHILLIP HANDLEMAN / LS '84, WSUC '86  
ESTHER B. HOLZER / LAW '89  
MICHAEL H. NASH / LIBRARIES  
MARTIN PAKLEDINAZ / TSOA FACULTY  
GEORGE STONY / TSOA FACULTY

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Enjoy flexibility in designing a gift that pays income. It can pay income to you, or to you and another person. Begin receiving income now, or direct that the income begin in the future.

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Age at Date of Gift	Rate
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75	5.8%
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85	7.8%
90+	9.0%

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**NYU Gift Planning**  
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[alan.shapiro@nyu.edu](mailto:alan.shapiro@nyu.edu)







#### WHAT?

A HAWK-EYE VIEW OF THE NEWLY RENOVATED WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK.  
THE \$35 MILLION, FOUR-YEAR PROJECT ADDED ONE-FIFTH MORE GREEN SPACE.

#### HOW'D THEY DO IT?

IN PART, WITH THE LITERAL SHIFT OF SOME ICONS: THE FOUNTAIN WAS MOVED  
MORE THAN 20 FEET TO LINE UP WITH WASHINGTON SQUARE ARCH—CREATING A SMALLER AND  
MORE LEVELED CENTRAL PLAZA—AND THE GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI MONUMENT WAS ALSO RELOCATED  
WITHIN THE PARK. SOME OLD SECTIONS OF ASPHALT WERE PLANTED OVER WITH GRASS AND FLOWER BEDS.  
THERE ARE ALSO EXPANDED DOG RUNS AND A NEW PERFORMANCE STAGE, WHERE PEOPLE  
AND CANINES CAN ENJOY CONCERTS AND PLAYS.

#### WHAT ABOUT COMMENCEMENT?

THE REFURBISHED PLAZA CAN NO LONGER HOST THE DECADES-OLD TRADITION.  
BUT FUTURE GRADUATES MAY TAKE COMFORT KNOWING THAT MANY MORE FAMILY MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS CAN ATTEND COMMENCEMENT AT ITS NEW HOME SINCE 2008: YANKEE STADIUM.

FOR A LOOK BACK IN TIME, SEE PAGE 48.