

NYU Abu Dhabi officially opened the doors to its downtown campus last December with a dedication ceremony that featured His Highness Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi. Some quotes from the event's speakers are presented below.

“Early in our class, I noticed that John [Sexton] would usually pick on many of my contributions. He would make me [feel] as if ‘you should have thought more before you said that...’ I thought maybe he didn’t like me, but then I started seeing the way he treated other students and I understood that he was actually trying to squeeze us, trying to make us learn something while we were talking.... This style of teaching and this course opened our minds and taught us critical thinking, to have a broader vision, to place ourselves in others’ shoes. [It taught us] discipline, respect, the value of having initiative, and— I don’t mean anything by saying this— but he also taught us to have a healthy disrespect for authority.”

—MOHAMED AL MAHMOUD, ALUMNUS OF THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SCHOLARS, AND FIRST CHAIR OF THE SCHOLARS’ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

“Mohamed, you know that I love you, but I will never accept less than the best that you can do. I will put high demands on you. I almost feel like hugging you. Although I hug students in New York, in Abu Dhabi we only do this—[*the two bump fists*—] because I said when I came here that if I cannot shake the hands of some of my [female] students, then I will do nothing with them and nothing with you that is different.”

—NYU PRESIDENT JOHN SEXTON, IN RESPONSE TO MOHAMED AL MAHMOUD

HEARD
ON CAMPUS

NYU
ABU
DHABI
EDITION

“As NYU Abu Dhabi, NYU New York, and NYU’s worldwide academic sites develop into a transnational networked university...we look forward to introducing a new paradigm for higher education.”

—ALFRED BLOOM, VICE CHANCELLOR OF NYU ABU DHABI

CONTENTS

FEATURES



30

BACK FROM THE BRINK

ONCE CONDEMNED FOR DESTRUCTION, NEW YORK CITY'S HIGH LINE IS REBORN AS A STRIKING PARK IN THE SKY

/ BY JILL HAMBURG COPLAN



38

THE MASTER'S NEW GIG

AFTER 31 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, PHILIPPE DE MONTEBELLO BEGINS A FRESH CAREER AT NYU / BY ANDREA CRAWFORD



42

THE VANISHING YEZIDI OF IRAQ

JARETT KOBOK / GAL '02 / GOES INSIDE NORTHERN IRAQ TO VISIT AN ANCIENT CULTURE BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS

COVER PHOTO © JOEL STERNFELD / COURTESY FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

NYU ALUMNI MAGAZINE (ISSN: 1938-4823) IS PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY IN FALL AND SPRING BY NYU OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS, 25 WEST FOURTH STREET, FOURTH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10012; 212-998-6912. CONTENTS COPYRIGHT © 2010. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: EDITORS/NYU ALUMNI MAGAZINE AT 240 GREENE STREET, SECOND FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10003, OR E-MAIL TO: ALUMNI.MAGAZINE@NYU.EDU. NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS AND ARTWORK. BYLINED ARTICLES REFLECT THE VIEWPOINTS OF INDIVIDUAL WRITERS AND ARE NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS EXPRESSION OF OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY POLICY. MAILED THIRD-CLASS NONPROFIT AT BURLINGTON, VT.

DEPARTMENTS

THE SQUARE

8 / SOCIOLOGY

RACE AND THE 2010 CENSUS

9 / SCORECARD

IN THE ENDOWMENT GAME,
LOSING LESS IS MORE

10 / ANCIENT STUDIES

THE OLD WORLD IS NEW AGAIN

11 / HISTORY

CELEBRATING GALILEO'S
EYE-OPENING LENS

12 / ART

A STUDIO ON THE MOVE

14 / IN BRIEF

HALLMARK TEAMS UP WITH
TISCH, THREE NEW DEANS
TAKE THE REINS, CAMPBELL
APPOINTED BY OBAMA,
AND MORE

16 / CUTTING-EDGE
RESEARCH

NEW TACTICS TO FIGHT HIV
IN AFRICA, MAPPING MUSIC'S
DNA, AND "BULLETPROOF"
MOLECULES GIVE MEDICINE
A BOOST

IN NYC

18 / POVERTY

INCENTIVES FOR THE POOR

19 / DENTISTRY

STUDENTS HELP TREAT
TORTURE VICTIMS

20 / THE INSIDER

EXPLORE GOTHAM THIS
SUMMER—FROM A
BARNACLED BAR TO
A SANDY GETAWAY

CULTURE

22 / PHOTOGRAPHY

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE
CITY'S DIM CORNERS

23 / FASHION

WEAR THE MUSIC

24 / CREDITS

ALUMNI STORM THE
RED CARPET

IN PRINT

26 / MEMOIR

EAT, PRAY, LOVE AUTHOR
ELIZABETH GILBERT
COMMITTS TO ANOTHER
BEST-SELLER

28 / BOOK CLUB

WHAT ARE YOU READING,
POET STEPHEN HAVEN?

28 / EXCERPT

HASIA R. DINER ON POST-
HOLOCAUST JEWS IN
AMERICA

PLUS MORE BOOKS BY NYU
ALUMNI AND PROFESSORS

CLASS NOTES



ALUMNI PROFILES

50 / WENDY HILLIARD /
GAL '88

GOLD MEDALIST PASSES
THE TORCH

52 / JOHN DeLUCIE / GAL '89

HUNGRY FOR CULINARY
GREATNESS

58 / DENISE MARONEY /

TSOA '06

BRINGING STREET THEATER
TO LEBANON

ALUMNI Q&A

56 / ASEMA AHMED / CAS '00
MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

PLUS ALUMNI NEWS,
BENEFITS, AND UPDATES

EVERY ISSUE

1 / HEARD ON CAMPUS

4 / PRESIDENT'S LETTER

4 / CONTRIBUTORS

5 / STAR POWER

6 / MAILBAG

64 / CAMPUS LENS

VISIT US ONLINE!

www.nyu.edu/alumni.magazine



MIXED SOURCES: PRODUCT GROUP FROM WELL-MANAGED FOREST, CONTROLLED SOURCES, AND RECYCLED WOOD OR FIBER.
CERT. NO. SW-COC-002556. WWW.FSC.ORG. © 1996 FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL.

IN KEEPING WITH NYU'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY, THIS PUBLICATION IS PRINTED ON FSC-CERTIFIED PAPER THAT INCLUDES A MINIMUM OF 10 PERCENT POST-CONSUMER FIBER. (THE FSC TRADEMARK IDENTIFIES PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN FIBER FROM WELL-MANAGED FORESTS CERTIFIED BY SMARTWOOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL.) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NYU'S GREEN ACTION PLAN, GO TO WWW.NYU.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each semester, as we gather engaging stories from alumni, faculty, and students for the next issue of *NYU Alumni Magazine*, we are usually forced to impose some limits on our coverage of arts and culture. The problem is NYU's community is so rich in such pursuits that they can easily overrun these pages. However, in our Spring 2010 issue we've given in to this abundance. Sometimes you just can't fight a good thing.

In this "Culture Issue," as we've dubbed it, "Back From the Brink" (p. 30) offers a stroll through the historic development of the High Line, a park and architectural masterpiece that has thrilled tourists and natives alike since it opened a year ago on Manhattan's West Side. "The Master's New Gig" (p. 38) profiles Philippe de Montebello, the famed former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on his debut in the classroom, while "The Vanishing



PHOTO © MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

Yezidi of Iraq" (p. 42) takes a rare look at an ancient minority culture now caught between a modern-day Scylla and Charybdis of religious and state violence.

But the focus on art, history, and style doesn't end with the feature stories. In addition to our regular Culture section, this spirit has swept into other parts of the magazine, where readers will find stories on new modes of teaching both studio art and ancient studies, pro-

files of creative alumni, and our regular "Best of New York" column (p. 20), which spotlights eclectic ideas on where to eat, shop, and play in the city.

As with all issues of the magazine, we hope this latest effort evokes readers' curiosity, imagination, and inspiration. This is the aim of arts and culture and, ultimately, the mission of the university as well. Enjoy.

JOHN SEXTON

CONTRIBUTORS

JILL HAMBURG COPLAN is an adjunct professor of journalism at NYU who writes for a variety of women's, parenting, and business magazines. She also serves as a writing consultant to the United Nations.

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

CHRISTIAN DeBENEDETTI is a correspondent for *Outside* magazine and a contributing editor to *Food & Wine* who also writes for *Esquire*.

MEGAN DOLL (GSAS '08) is a grad-

uate of the cultural reporting and criticism program at NYU. She has written for *Salon*, *ARTnews*, *Bookforum*, *Poets & Writers*, and *The Believer*.

PETER GREGOIRE is an Emmy Award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in *Sports Illustrated*, *USA Weekend*, *Golf Digest*, and *The New York Times*.

JARETT KOBEK (GAL '02) is a writer who lives in Los Angeles. He is currently preparing his first novel for U.K. publication in 2010.

COURTNEY E. MARTIN (GAL '04) is a writer who lives in Brooklyn. You can read more about her work at www.courtneymartin.com.

AMY ROSENBERG is a contributing editor for *Poets & Writers*. She has written for *The National*, *Bookforum*, and *Psychology Today*, as well as other publications.

MATTHEW SEPTIMUS (STERN '83) is a commercial photographer based in Brooklyn who began his career at NYU's *Washington Square News*. His clients include the French Culinary Institute, Fashion Institute of Technology, *The New York Times*, and the Museum of Modern Art.

ELWOOD H. SMITH's illustrations have graced the pages of *Newsweek*, *Time*, and *The New York Times*, as well as numerous children's books and advertising campaigns.

NYU

Issue #14 / Spring 2010

JASON HOLLANDER (GAL '07)

Editor-in-Chief

NICOLE PEZOLD (GSAS '04)

Deputy Editor

RENÉE ALFUSO (CAS '06)

Staff Writer

JOHN KLOTNIA / OPTO DESIGN

Creative Director

Articles

JOSEPH MANGHISE

Copy Chief

DAVID COHEN

Research Chief

LORI HIGGINBOTHAM (GSAS '11)

ANDRÉ TARTAR (GSAS '10)

Editorial Interns

Art / Opto Design

RON LOUIE

Art Director

KIRA CSAKANY

Designer

MARGARET LANZONI

Photo Research Director

Advertising

DEBORAH BRODERICK

Associate VP, Marketing Communications

Alumni News Editors

JOANNE WILHELM

Executive Director

Development & Communications

KRISTINE JANNUZZI (CAS '98)

Writer/Communications Coordinator

New York University

MARTIN LIPTON (LAW '55)

Board of Trustees, Chairman

JOHN SEXTON

President

LYNNE P. BROWN

Senior Vice President for University

Relations and Public Affairs

DEBRA A. LAMORTE

Senior Vice President for University

Development and Alumni Relations

REGINA SYQUIA DREW (WAG '01)

Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives

New York University Alumni Association

STEVEN S. MILLER (LAW '70)

President

JOHN CALVO (STERN '91, LAW '95)

MICHAEL DENKENSOHN (STERN '73)

BEVERLY HYMAN (STEINHARDT '80)

GERALD KLACZANY (DEN '86)

RONALD G. RAPATALO (CAS '97)

Vice Presidents

TAFFI T. WOOLWARD (CAS '04)

Secretary

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: © ELENA OLIVO; PHIL GALLO; JOHN COTTI; DAN CREIGHTON; PHIL GALLO; ARMIN BARDEL; MICHAEL LOCISIANO; DAN CREIGHTON

POWER



OPERA STAR ANDREA BOCELLI (RIGHT) SANG "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TO FORMER NEW YORK GOVERNOR MARIO CUOMO AT A RECEPTION HONORING THE RENOWNED TENOR WITH THE NYU PRESIDENTIAL CITATION.



OSCAR-WINNER EMMA THOMPSON HELPED OPEN "JOURNEY," AN ART INSTALLATION SET UP OUTSIDE WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK THAT TELLS THE STORY OF A WOMAN TRAFFICKED INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY.



ACTOR MATT DAMON AND THE LATE HISTORIAN HOWARD ZINN (WSC '51) DISCUSSED THEIR HISTORY CHANNEL FILM ON U.S. SOCIAL CHANGE, *THE PEOPLE SPEAK*.

STAR

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



EMMY-WINNING ACTRESS GLENN CLOSE FOR THE CAMERAS AT THE 2009 TISCH GALA.



PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN (TSOA '89) AND JOHN ORTIZ WENT HEAD-TO-HEAD AS IAGO AND OTHELLO, RESPECTIVELY, IN THE PUBLIC THEATER'S CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON THE SHAKESPEARE CLASSIC, WHICH PREMIERED AT NYU'S SKIRBALL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.



ACTOR AND COMEDIAN AZIZ ANSARI (STERN '04) PERFORMED STAND-UP AT THE SKIRBALL CENTER.



RON HOWARD WAS HONORED AT THE TISCH GALA.



TONY BENNETT CROONED AT THE KIMMEL CENTER.



We Hear From You

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



A SIZABLE ERROR

Editors' Note: As many of you noticed, an unfortunate mistake appeared in the Fall 2009 issue. The text on the final page of our cover story, "Size Does Matter," was printed incorrectly. As soon as we realized the error, we sent out a link to a corrected version, available online at our Web site www.nyu.edu/alumni.magazine. But we never expected the flood of positive messages we received in response. Thanks to all of those who reached out to us for the first time. Again, we apologize for the inconvenience and hope you enjoyed the issue.

Having been a reporter, editor, and a corporate communications professional since 1961, I can tell horror stories for hours—from page-one headlines gone way wrong to errors of serious consequence in corporate annual reports. The easy way out, of course, would have been for you to simply run a correction in the next issue. But, once again, NYU has maintained its reputation for being first-class. Thank you for e-mailing.

Arthur Samansky
WSC '65, GSAS '77
Old Bethpage, New York

Thank you for supplying us with the last three paragraphs of the article on the CCPP department. I was sure the remainder of the story was sucked into a black hole! As someone who has always been quite interested in cosmology and quantum mechanics, I was pleased to learn that NYU has started the first center in the world to merge these two disciplines.

Marc Miller
WAG '75, STERN '81
Bellmore, New York

I thought it was funny how I was back at the beginning two-thirds into the article. I was imagining that this was one of those extra dimensions they are looking for with the thingamajig. Keep up the good work.

Helmut Calabrese
STEINHARDT '96
Toms River, New Jersey

I do appreciate the update and the rest of the article to which I turned to first in this issue! I'm fascinated by the collider project and was delighted to see NYU so significantly involved. Thanks!

Brian Preston
STEINHARDT '94
White Plains, New York

HOME-SCHOOL

The article "Master Plan" [notes] that the economic downturn has motivated many to turn to grad school for "refuge, inspiration, and know-how." I'd like to add that schools serve to satisfy our instinctive need to identify with others and belong. Schools are the blan-

kets in our lives, our comfort zone. Returning to school is going home to the place away from home.

Loi An Le
CAS '96,
STEINHARDT '98
Brooklyn, New York

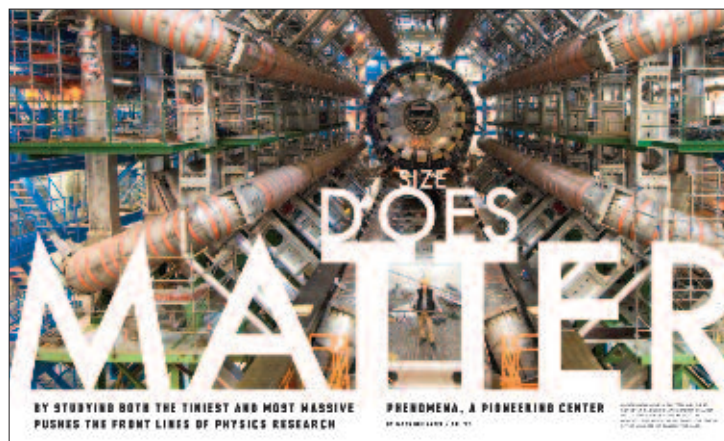
RESPECTFUL DISAGREEMENT

The story "An Island Unsilenced" is about lawyers who are working pro bono to obtain for terrorists in Guantánamo Bay [prison] access to the American legal system in contradiction of international law, common sense, and with no regard for the safety of this nation or its soldiers and citizens. Those who wage war against civilians or soldiers, who do not represent the armed forces of any nation and do not wear uniforms, have no rights under the Geneva Convention.... Unfortunately several of the lawyers

have close connections to NYU and their papers will be housed in the NYU Tamiment Library. Obviously the self-preening lawyers have no interest in the reality that there is a war on terrorism that has already resulted in the murder of many American soldiers and thousands of American civilians. NYU should not in any way be a party to their efforts.

George Rubin
WSC '55
Bronx, New York

Editors' Note: The Supreme Court has said that those detained at Guantánamo Bay are not beyond the purview of American (and international) law, and as such, have a constitutional right to challenge their confinement in U.S. courts. Even if one disagrees with the Supreme Court, there can be no doubt of the future value of these papers.



Please send your comments and opinions to: Readers' Letters, *NYU Alumni Magazine*, 240 Greene Street, Second Floor, New York, NY, 10003; or e-mail us at alumni.magazine@nyu.edu. Please include your mailing address, phone number, and school and year. Letters become the property of NYU and may be edited for length and clarity.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE SCHOOL CODES

THE FOLLOWING ARE ABBREVIATIONS FOR NYU SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, PAST AND PRESENT

- ARTS** - University College of Arts and Science (“The Heights”); used for alumni through 1974
- CAS** - College of Arts and Science (“The College”); refers to the undergraduate school in arts and science, from 1994 on
- CIMS** - Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
- DEN** - College of Dentistry
- ENG** - School of Engineering and Science (“The Heights”); no longer exists but is used to refer to its alumni through 1974
- GAL** - Gallatin School of Individualized Study, formerly Gallatin Division
- GSAS** - Graduate School of Arts and Science
- 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



Want Your Ad Right Here?

Advertising in *NYU Alumni Magazine* reaches nearly 200,000 of the most cosmopolitan, well-traveled, and savvy consumers of both high and popular culture. About 82 percent live in the Northeast—39 percent right in New York City.

.....

For more information or to request a media kit, call Rasheda Herndon-Cannon at 212.998.6836 or e-mail rasheda.hcannon@nyu.edu.

Plans Settled. Passions Renewed.



Take a step toward the next stage of your life.

A time for **renewal** and **transformation**. Renew your passions with life long **learning**, cultural **opportunities** and **wellness**, with new and old **friends**.

- *Plans settled now to secure your future*
- *Resident directed programs to enrich your life*
- *Enhanced freedom in an atmosphere of respect and autonomy*

To learn more about our Life Care Contract and Health Care Services, please contact us for a personal tour.



Kendal on Hudson
 1010 Kendal Way
 Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591
 914-922-1000 • 1-800-517-8964
 Email: admissions@kohud.kendal.org
www.kohud.kendal.org

KENDAL ON HUDSON
 A Continuing Care Retirement Community
 Not-for-Profit, Quaker-related