“Love him or hate him, Michael Bloomberg has changed the entire game in terms of the gun-control debate because he was willing to spend as much money as it took to take that ‘A’ rating from the NRA and make it into a scarlet letter for politicians.”

—MANAGING EDITOR OF THEGRIJO.COM AND MSNBC CONTRIBUTOR JOY-ANN REID
AT “TRIGGERING THE DEBATE: GUN CONTROL, RACE, AND MENTAL ILLNESS,”
A PANEL HOSTED BY NYU’S INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

“Today, if you’re an academically talented student on the left, becoming a professor is something you might naturally consider as you search explicitly or implicitly for a career path that aligns with your political identity. By contrast, if you’re a talented student on the right, the chances are you would never seriously contemplate a career in higher education.”

—VISITING SCHOLAR NEIL GROSS AT AN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE EVENT CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF HIS LATEST BOOK, WHY ARE PROFESSORS LIBERAL AND WHY DO CONSERVATIVES CARE? (HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS)

“We have rebuilt houses in disaster-struck parts of the United States, attended each other’s religious services, held film screenings and discussion panels, and shared meals together. In that process, we created much more than a club. We built a community of people that the world says should not be friends.”

—GRADUATING SENIOR CHELSEA GARBEII (STEINHARDT ’13) TO HER CLASSMATES AT NYU’S 181ST COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY AT YANKEE STADIUM IN THE BRONX

“I went to the University of Georgia because I wanted to achieve my dream [of becoming a journalist]. Courage was never in my mind. This was something I wanted, and this was how I got it.”

—JOURNALIST CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT ON HER EXPERIENCE AS ONE OF THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICANS TO ATTEND UG, AT A STEINHARDT SCHOOL OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT EVENT ON THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION DECISION
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e’re often told to “live in the present”—that such an outlook leads most assuredly to a healthy, contented life. But living only in the moment has its drawbacks, too. We can forget how a past shaped us, and how we hope to shape the future. Dreams of other ages is one of the most creative impulses we have, and can inspire art, literature, scientific breakthroughs, or even just a dream of moment of reflection.

The Fall 2013 issue looks both backward and forward in search of a deeper connection to the time 21st-century readers. “Forces to reckon with” (p. 44) reveals the subtle influences everywhere that steer our thoughts, and suggests how we might harness them for the greater good. And “Earth Goes Urban” (p. 30) declares that the cities are our future, and imagines how we might make them more functional, equal, healthy places for those who will soon inherit them.

But there are many other stories to which you between the past and future, from a look (most likely forgotten) young women of the Manhatan Project (p. 26) to a truly groundbreaking new substance that instantly staunches blood loss (p. 14). We hope you share our wonderment for these and all moments in time. —The NYU Alumni Magazine team

Kudos All Around

Just received my Spring issue of NYU Alumni Magazine and felt motivated to complement you all on a job well done. Truly a classy issue.

I am continually amazed, too, at the accomplishments of so many of NYU’s graduates over the years. Howard K. Ottowitz (GSAS ’59) in Pineville, Maryland, May say that although I didn’t go to NYU, I do read your magazine full of interest, and well and colorfully produced. Keep up the good work.

—Kenneth M. Sanderson

WonderDrug

Thank you for publishing an article on the medical and therapeutic benefits of psilocybin mushrooms. The issue is close to my heart, as an NYU graduate student who was diagnosed with cluster headaches, pervasive and chronic conditions that causes truly debilitating headaches that often occur at designated times for a certain period. In my case, the headaches would come every evening and happen for a month or so (a “cluster”) at the same time of year. Medications for cluster headaches are often drastic, they require ongoing maintenance and come with many serious side effects.

I strongly believe that psilocybin, and possibly many other substances that are currently illegal, can have tremendous benefits to people suffering from medical conditions, and I applaud the work that NYU is doing to research this potential further. I also appreciate NYU Alumni Magazine for bringing this to the public’s attention.

Matthew Navas (STEINHARDT ’09)
New York, New York

Please send your comments to: Readers’ Letters, NYU Alumni Magazine, 25 West Fourth Street, Room 619, New York, NY 10012; or email us at 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.