I t was 4:30 a.m., hours before the sun would rise, but the buzzer kept buzzing and the intercom was broken, so Clara hit the button that unlocked the apartment building’s front door. It must be an emergency, she thought. Clara stepped onto the landing in her pajamas. A team of six armed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers marched up the stairs and flashed a warrant for her sister, Maria Clara, a lawful permanent resident originally from Guatemala, didn’t think she could prevent the officers’ entry, even though Maria wasn’t there. Shining their flashlights around the darkened apartment, the officers found several members of Clara’s extended family, including her brother, Erick. When they couldn’t produce documents showing that they were legally in the United States, the officers handcuffed and herded them into a van. They drove Clara’s family around Englewood, New Jersey, as the officers made another raid, and then another, before taking them to a detention center.

That March 2007 arrest triggered a Fourth Amendment legal battle over Erick’s potential deportation. But the case saw a major turning point in September 2012, more than five years after the raid, when Nikki Reisch (LAW ’12) and a team from the NYU Advocacy Clinic won a precedential ruling from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. It said “operatioN retUrN to seNder”—a mass dragnets of iLLegaL immigrant often occurring at night—had crossed a line.

In just its first three years in office, President Obama deported more people than President Bush did during his entire tenure.

by John Bringardner / GSAS ’03

A STUDENT-RUN CLINIC HELPS BRING JUSTICE TO IMMIGRANTS UNFAIRLY DETAINED

LAST YEAR, A TEAM OF NYU LAW STUDENTS W I N A PRECEDENTIAL RULING THAT SAID “OPERATION RETURN TO SEND—A MASS DRAGNETS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS OFTEN OCCURRING AT NIGHT” HAD CROSS E D A LINE.

The law clinic fights back on offense, they are being treated as drug traffickers—and risk being kicked out of the country for something that would otherwise warrant little more than a slap on the wrist for a citizen. “The law in practice is totally different from what it sounds like as a sound

Just the sheer difficulty of the cases and having the students understand what it means to represent a client is important,” says Alina Das (LAW ’05), who co-directs the clinic with Morawetz. Das says one of the most common issues they see is a marijuana conviction that results in the threat of deportation. The “Secure Communities” initiative, launched under George W. Bush in 2008 but greatly expanded under President Obama, was described to the public as a way to reduce the threat of deportation. It’s the kind of policy that might sound like common sense. But in practice, the initiative unfairly preys on a broad swath of people with low-level offenses, Morawetz says. Stop-and-frisk policies that target communities of color often net young people who have no idea that, when they plead out of a low-level possession

ter, the end of an eight-year battle. “It was incredibly rewarding for the students and our clinic,” she says, “but you have to fight so long and so hard for it.”
Diagnosed anxiety disorders have increased by more than 1,200 percent since 1980, and an estimated one-in-five adults now take at least one psychiatric drug.

by Courtney E. Martin / GAL '04

It is often cited that public speaking is the No. 1 fear of adults in the United States, which kills 20,000 people a day worldwide. Not plane crashes, not nuclear explosions, not “mad cow” disease—although statistically rare—may make for an awfully grizzly death. If one is a medium or even had public speaker, it might seem in some cases, but not all, a natural fear. So why do people experience such anxiety about something that, in reality, has such low comparative stakes?

University Professor Jerome C. Wakefield, who teaches in the Silver School of Social Work, has an explanation with implications far broader than the much-feared spotlight. In his recent book, All We Have to Fear: Psychiatry’s Trans- formation of Natural Anxieties into Mental Illness (University Press), co-authored with sociologist Allan V. Horwitz of Rutgers University, he argues that public speaking and other common fears—such as heights, snakes, and darkness—“are living fossils of a long-past era.”

What we’re saying could have rather dramatic implications for the current approach to anxiety disorders,” Wakefield admits. “We are prepared to be excoriated and re- jected by some of our peers.” Most of these fears are, he argues, not “weird” at all, but perfectly normal. He and his co-author, Dr. Allan V. Horwitz believe can lead to overtreatment. Reuters recently reported that psychiatric treatment for anxiety disorders increased by more than fourfold since 1990, and studies claim that more than half the population suffers from such disorders. In light of these numbers, it wouldn’t be outlandish for the average for human foibles, our normal fear of many dangers genuine sources of danger in an- cient environments. To this point, Wakefield and Horwitz’s work has been favorably reviewed in The American Journal of Psychiatry and The Lancet, among others.

It’s important to note that Wakefield and Horwitz don’t argue that anxiety is harmful. They will understand the need for some people to turn to anti- anxiety medication; indeed, an estimated one-in-five adults now take at least one psychiatric drug, such as antidepressants, antipsychotics, and antianxiety medi- cations. But one might also try cognitive behavioral therapy or increasingly popular mindfulness meditation, therapies which, in Wakefield’s view, are natural, if sometimes (but not al- ways) considered strange, for example, that those with more intense fear of heights from youth actually have fewer injurious falls produced by their lifetime behaviors. By simply exploring the biological roots of our reactions, Wakefield says, “It opens up a larger space of possible responses and suggests why, in the face of our natural anxieties, courage has always been a central virtue of humankind.”
there’s no place like home

how nyu reinvented its student experience

In the not-so-distant past (also known as the 1990s), an incoming freshman might show up at NYU to meet an overwhelmed RA, sample some greasy cafeteria food, and take in a random dorm party. Now freshmen are ushered into their new chapter of life by a cosmopolitan welcome wagon, including curbside greetings on Move-In Day, organic vegan menu options, and a full week of icebreakers that include a group hypnosis session and a social media scavenger hunt.

It’s no wonder that the Division of Student Affairs, the department responsible for this transformation, has captured 21 Excellence Awards from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators in the past eight years—more than any college in the history of the program. “We have worked to create a robust and vibrant campus life that supports the academic enterprise—in and out of the classroom,” says Marc Wais, vice president for global student affairs.

Getting there took more than a decade of self-examination. In the process, NYU discovered that it could indeed be both things to students—an urban adventure where undergrads gain unprecedented independence, and also a close-knit, nurturing community.

Here’s a look at some of the perks and highlights of campus life today:

Welcome Week
That’s entertainment: An orientation extravaganza packed with more than 400 activities now attracts 40,000 attendees each August. Even the Presidential Welcome and the annual Reality Show: NYU—the highly comic, unblushing student-produced musical that introduces freshmen to college life and all its pimples—are staged at landmark venues, including Radio City Music Hall and the Beacon Theatre.

Residence Halls
It all starts with a place to rest your head. Between 2002 and 2011, NYU invested $628 million in student housing and student services to reimagine the residential experience. Many dorms now offer academic-themed floors to help students connect with those of similar interests under the tutelage of faculty. Within a given residence hall, students may live next door to an international professor, a writer-in-residence, or even an imam or rabbi—making NYU the most faculty-embedded residential-life program in the country.

Meals
After pondering the expanding universe or a passage by Camus, young scholars may unwind with a quinoa salad and carrot juice using the CampusDish nutrition app. The dining halls provide gluten-free and vegetarian options alongside college classics such as burgers and fries.

Wellness
When that first flu away from home hits, never fear. Some 24,300 students were seen in 130,486 visits at the Student Health Center in 2012. And when there are problems that may seem overwhelming, students can reach out to the nationally recognized Wellness Exchange. The trained health professionals who staff the 24/7 hotline received more than 12,000 phone calls in 2012—a 253 percent increase from 2005.

Off-Campus
As good as things are on campus, New York City always beckons. More than 91 percent of students hold a part-time job or internship, with 24 percent holding both. In the past decade, more than 62 percent of undergrads participated in community service—landing NYU on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for five of the past seven years.

Jobs
It pays to have the right school on your résumé. For the Class of 2012, the Wasserman Center for Career Development reports that an average of 92.5 percent of graduating seniors were employed full-time or attending graduate or professional school by late fall of the following year. Starting full-time salaries for NYU undergrads have increased to $51,385, about $800 higher than in 2011.
**In Brief**

**Glied Appointed New Dean of Wagner**

When Sherry Glied was training as an economist, she never would have predicted that she’d end up a health-care policy expert, or that she’d be sitting in the dean’s chair at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, a role she assumed in early August. Glied, who formerly served as chair of the department of health policy and management at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, has published numerous works on health-care reform and mental-health policy, and has held multiple government advisory positions, including most recently the role of assistant secretary for planning and evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She looks forward to mentoring Wagner students, especially during a period of such vast change in the realm of health care. “The nice thing about health care is that it never stays still,” Glied says. “It’s always changing and if anything, the pace has only picked up.”

—Morgan Rikus

**Morrison Named Law School Dean**

Last April, NYU School of Law received a new captain at the helm: renowned constitutional law scholar Trevor Morrison. He succeeds Richard Revesz, who stepped down from the position after 11 years. Morrison previously clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, has taught at Cornell and Columbia universities, and spent 2009 serving as President Barack Obama’s associate counsel.

As dean, Morrison plans to enhance the school’s curriculum, launch new study-abroad programs, and establish a Washington, D.C.-based government lawyering clinic, as well as expand loan repayment assistance. “These are challenging times for legal education, when some of the basic premises of our mission and approach are being reexamined,” he says. “But part of what makes NYU so special is its capacity to equip students to succeed in today’s marketplace while holding fast to the core values that have long made it a distinctive, and distinctively valuable, leader in legal education.”

—Boryana Dzhambazova

**Sreenivasan Heads NYU-Poly**

The Polytechnic Institute of NYU has a new chief. Katepalli R. Sreenivasan was appointed president of NYU-Poly and will lead the affiliated institution through the final stages of its merger with NYU and its transition, in January 2014, to the university’s new School of Engineering. Sreenivasan, a distinguished experimental physicist whose research focuses on the behavior of fluids and turbulence, joined NYU as a professor of engineering and physics in 2009, after more than two decades at Yale University and an appointment as director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy.

Sreenivasan views the merger as a chance to concentrate the university’s efforts in urban engineering, bioengineering, and information technology for the good of all. “The resulting combination will enhance our collective opportunities in education, research, and economic development, benefiting Brooklyn, New York City, and the State of New York, along with our nation and the world,” he says.

—B.D.
UNDERGRAD JOE LANDOLINA MAY REVOLUTIONIZE HEALING
by Alyson Krueger / GSAS '12

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s a kid, Joe Landolina loved to invent things. Growing up on his grandfather’s vineyard in Pine Bush, New York, he experimented with new wine varieties in the two labs on the property. “It actually takes quite a bit of chemistry to make sure that every- thing is balanced in a good wine,” he explained.

Landolina, then a junior at Brooklyn College, had conducted informal experiments with polymers—the molecules that make up our DNA and proteins as well as other sub- stances in the universe—learning how to turn them into solids. So he figured if he could invent a polymer that could act like skin, it might just close wounds and stop bleedin g. He went to work read- ing as many books and papers on the subject as possible and visiting the two labs on the property. The results were promising, and on his grandfather’s vineyard, he performed a 12-animal study over the course of two months. Every time one of the researchers sliced into a liver or punctured an artery, the gel put the organ or pathway back together in seconds—and saved the animal’s life.

Now, Landolina and Miller, whom he met during the Stern competition (they currently op- erate under the company name Suens, Inc.), are working to formally produce the product, which they believe will especially benefit veterinarians, the military, and surgeons, but also the general public. Of course, this will require rigorous testing, so the first step is to attract backers who can finance more experiments and make plans for distribution. However, Veti-Gel is already being manufactured for veterinarians; more than 300 have expressed interest in it when it is ready for clinical evaluation later this fall.

Not only does Veti-Gel have a solid business plan, says Kurt Beck- er, a professor at NYU-Poly, but it also has some advantages that similar products don’t. It’s significantly faster in closing wounds, is much less expensive, and is easy to use (other products require applying pressure, something that isn’t always easy to do in surgery or on a battlefield).

Landolina says that the sub- stance may also be used for other medical tasks. Because it takes on the characteristics of skin and inte- grated seamlessly into the body, Veti-Gel may be able to deliver medicine to a particular spot or heal burns and other irritation. And the gel is designed to be ab- sorbed into the body, so it never has to be removed (the full effects of the substance on the human body still need to be tested). “Ever since I made the material, it really does surprise me every single day,” Landolina says.

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