Violet and Ultra Violet Live

In February, two popular events—both named for NYU’s official color—brought students to their feet, one with dancing and the other with applause. First, the atrium of Bobst Library was transformed into a palace for the annual semiformal Violet Ball. With great food, music, and company, the ball capped off Spirit Week in style. Soon after that, Ultra Violet Live, NYU’s American Idol-style talent competition, filled Skirball Center for the Performing Arts after preliminary rounds in the residence halls selected the finalists. The top honors of the evening went to Tyler Johnson, who won the $1,000 grand prize. He wowed the judges with his original song, prompting one judge to compare his memorable performance and future prospects to Lady Gaga, whose own prize-winning performance was a highlight at the 2005 Ultra Violet Live.

Alec Baldwin Donates Scholarship Funds

Actor and NYU alumnus Alec Baldwin donated $1 million in November to the Tisch School of the Arts, supplementing an existing scholarship in his name. The Baldwin Drama Scholarship Fund began with an initial $1 million donation. Baldwin says, “At a time when funds for higher education appear to be more difficult than ever to access, it’s my great pleasure to do what I can to bring the best possible candidates into Tisch’s programs, which I believe are the best in the country.”

Spring Intramural Competitions

This spring at Coles Sports Center, the annual All-University Games included traditional sports like basketball and volleyball as well as foosball, limbo, dodgeball, and rock-paper-scissors. Greek Night XXXI provided swimming, tug-of-war, and indoor track events. Students also competed in a Futsal Tournament, Casino Night, and Class Wars, winning trophies and more than a few laughs.

NYU Commemorates a Pivotal Moment in US History

NYU recently honored the second anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. The fire, which occurred on March 25, 1911, in what is now NYU’s Brown Building, was the most devastating industrial disaster in New York City’s history and spurred sweeping reforms to American labor laws. A ceremony and vigil was held on its anniversary to remember the 146 victims. Today the Brown Building houses many science labs and is home to the biology and chemistry departments.