On the “CUSP”

For the first time in history, more than half of the world’s population lives in urban areas. In just a few more decades, it is predicted that the world’s population will exceed nine billion, of which 70 percent are expected to live in cities. As part of Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s Applied Sciences NYC initiative, NYU and NYU-Poly will create the Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) to set the research agenda on the science of cities. CUSP will educate the next generation of engineers in how to apply that research, bring innovative ideas to a world market, and create a new, fast-growing, and indispensable industry—along with the many jobs that go with it. CUSP’s director is the renowned Steven Koonin, a theoretical physicist who has served as the under secretary of energy for science in the US Department of Energy, provost at California Institute of Technology, and chief scientist for BP.

NYU Poets Slam the Competition

SLAM! at NYU captured first place in the 2012 College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational, out-versing 45 other schools in the national competition. The NYU team attributes its success at least in part to local venues where they get to hone their poetic skills: New York City’s four main slam poetry clubs—the Bowery Poetry Club, Nuyorican Poets Café, InsideoutARTS, and the Intangible Slam—are all located near campus.

NYUAD Students to Provide Solar-Powered Light to African Homes

Former President Bill Clinton presented a team of NYU Abu Dhabi students with an award of $1 million as winners of the Hult Global Case Challenge. The NYU group placed first in the “Energy” track with a plan to provide solar-powered lighting to one million homes in Africa by 2013. The NYUAD team competed against teams from other prestigious institutions, including Boston University, Georgetown University, and Yale University.

Christiane Amanpour Goes Undercover

The world knows political correspondent Christiane Amanpour as a fearless seeker of truth in the face of danger through her reports from war zones and disaster areas. Recently Amanpour used her renowned investigatory skills to embed herself in a classroom of unsuspecting NYU undergrads. The stunt was set up for the International Politics of the Middle East course in the College of Arts and Science as part of mtvU’s Stand In. In the surprise guest lecture, Amanpour spoke passionately about Islamic nations’ struggle for democracy and the desire for freedom throughout the world.

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