Individual student research projects, conducted with faculty guidance, put the power of finding answers into students’ hands. Undergraduates test their own ideas using research grants from their schools, colleges, and programs. Once their projects show results, they publish their findings—just as they’ve seen their mentors do. For example, at the American Public Health Association’s 140th Annual Exposition, NYU students and researchers delivered 42 of 76 research papers. Students have presented their results at meetings like the annual Developmental Genetics Symposium. On campus, too, hundreds of students present each year at research conferences in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities and publish their papers not only in NYU’s undergraduate research journal, Inquiry, but also in professional journals, such as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Students Take Initiative

- At the newly built Center for Genomics and Systems Biology, a state-of-the-art “hub of science” retrofitted with New York-style loft laboratories, biology major Theresa Apoznanski use a Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund grant to study the molecular networks underlying the reproductive processes of fruit flies, uncovering genetic findings with implications for human health.

- At the NYU Child Study Center, a group of NYU Steinhardt students conducted research on how siblings bond; the goal was to find ways to mitigate negative outcomes associated with the foster care system.

- NYU Stern students won The Next Idea competition for devising a business plan, Taxi Treats, that will put vending machines in New York City’s fleet of cabs. The competition was sponsored by the NYC Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with Columbia University.
Global research opportunities enable students to carry out original inquiries in the world’s greatest cities. They make use of the primary sources available at the Louvre, the British Museum, and the Smithsonian; conduct interviews in the barrios of Buenos Aires and the towns outside of Accra; and test their hypotheses in the financial markets of Shanghai and corporate headquarters in New York. Professors also take their own innovative inquiries abroad. Recently, NYU had six names on Foreign Policy magazine’s list of the “Top 100 Global Thinkers of 2012.” By learning to research internationally, NYU students are becoming the next group of global thinkers.

Global Impact

• Rachael Dayoung Rho, who is studying business, economics, statistics, and social entrepreneurship, traveled to Mumbai through NYU Stern’s India Leadership Exchange Program. She then wrote a case study on the economic status of the users of a Mumbai-based ambulance service. Her paper won fourth place and a $10,000 award in the NextBillion student case-writing competition, sponsored by the World Resources Institute.

• For Studio art major Beatrice Glow, a performance and politics course taken at NYU Madrid led to deeper study with the same professor at the Hemispheric Institute’s Encuentro in Buenos Aires. After additional research in Ghana and Greece, she won a Fulbright Scholarship to use for research on the Latin-Asian diaspora in Peru.

• Lu Paolina, inspired by her sociology course with Professor Ann Morning, received the Joe Nkrumah Memorial Grant to conduct a summer research project in New York City on ethnic identity and the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights.
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RESEARCH
At NYU, students are researchers in training, working with their professors to discover new knowledge through thoughtful experimentation. Our highly honored faculty is a force of creators and top global thinkers. Recently, economics professor Thomas Sargent won NYU’s 21st Nobel Prize and geometry scholar Mikhail Gromov won the Abel Prize, the mathematics equivalent of the Nobel. In 2012, NYU was named by Forbes magazine as a “University That Turns Research into Revenue,” ranking among the top five universities in the United States for generating patent income from its research. Student researchers work closely with their professors and graduate from NYU knowing how to think like leaders.
In the lab and in the field, students work hand in hand with expert researchers on remarkable projects. In 2012, anthropology professor Susan Antón and a research team helped confirm that fossils discovered in East Africa prove the existence of two additional species of *Homo erectus*. At the renowned Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences—consistently ranked No. 1 in the world for applied mathematics—a senior lecturer published an article that unpacked the math behind the Higgs Boson finding, while a student helped crack a decades-old math equation that models the formation of bacteria. Today’s leading thinkers inspire undergraduates to become tomorrow’s global leaders by cultivating a spirit of inquiry, creativity, and independent ambition.

**Student-Faculty Teamwork**

- Professor Athena Vouloumanos and linguistics major Hanna Gelfand coauthored a paper outlining a study proving that the ability of infants to recognize speech is more sophisticated than previously understood. Upon graduation in 2012, Hanna began pursuing a joint doctoral program in language and communicative disorders.

- Student and faculty researchers at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences are improving the way machines communicate with humans by designing artificial intelligence software that can see, listen, and think.

- Former president Bill Clinton presented four NYU Abu Dhabi sophomores with the top prize in the Hult Global Challenge. Under the supervision of Professor Ramesh Jagannathan, the students developed a plan and won the grant to bring solar-powered lights to over one million homes in Africa.
“During my summer internship at the Sheikha Salama Foundation in Abu Dhabi, I conducted a research project about the benefits of public parks. I studied best practices around the world and examined how these practices can be applied to parks in Abu Dhabi. My work at this foundation, whose mission is to give back to the community, made me realize that I want to work in strategic philanthropy after graduation. In my major, social research and public policy, I analyze important world issues through the lenses of politics, economics, and other social sciences. I feel that this is helping to prepare me to work toward improving people’s quality of life.”

MUSBAH DILSEBO ORMAGO
NYU Abu Dhabi, 2014
MUSBAH DILSEBO ORMAGO is a senior at NYU Abu Dhabi and a member of its inaugural class. Born to farmers in a small village in Ethiopia, Musbah moved to Addis Ababa, the capital, for primary school. After winning an academic scholarship to attend a private school for his secondary education, he became one of Ethiopia’s highest-ranking students, an activist for AIDS awareness, and a student ambassador at the Economic Commission for Africa. At NYU Abu Dhabi, he was a member of the student committee of six, which ratified the NYU Abu Dhabi student government constitution.