“I kind of like democracy, so I think we should start practicing it in the U.K. Because at the moment we’ve got an electoral system [that] gives thumping majorities...to parties, even though only a minority of people have voted for them.”

—NICK CLEGG, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY THE ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE

“Music used to come out of the community. Now you’ve got Walmart and you don’t even have to talk to anybody anymore. Today, the music is a reflection of that.”

—ACCLAIMED JAZZ MUSICIAN AND PRODUCER DELFEAYO MARSALIS DELIVERING THE FALL 2010 ALBERT GALLATIN LECTURE, TITLED “NEW ORLEANS JAZZ: OLD SCHOOL TO MODERN,” AT GALLATIN’S JERRY H. LABOWITZ THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

“Don’t accept what everyone knows. If there’s one thing we learned these past three years in economics, it’s that what everybody knows can be totally wrong.”

—PAUL KRUGMAN, NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST AND NOBEL LAUREATE, GIVING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE NEW YORK PRESS CLUB FOUNDATION’S JOURNALISM CONFERENCE AT NYU’S KIMMEL CENTER FOR UNIVERSITY LIFE
34
PATIENT, HEAL THYSELF
MIND-BODY BENEFITS ARE WELL-KNOWN, BUT MORE DOCTORS ARE NOW RESEARCHING JUST HOW MUCH POTENTIAL THEY HOLD
/ BY JASCHA HOFFMAN

40
MASTER OF THE CRAFT
ARTIST MAX FERGUSON CAPTURES THE GRACE OF WORKING-CLASS NEW YORKERS IN HIS RICHLY LAYERED PAINTINGS
/ BY MEGAN DOLL / GSAS '08

46
THE ART OF CONFESSION
NOVELIST DARIN STRAUSS VENTURES INTO MEMOIR TO REVEAL A TRAGIC ACCIDENT
/ BY ANDREA CRAWFORD

COVER: OPTD DESIGN
THE SQUARE

8 / GENETICS
HARRY OSTRER MAPS OUR GENOMIC PAST

10 / POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNEARTHING THE NATURAL DISASTER DISPARITY

11 / BUSINESS
FUNDING NYU'S ENTREPRENEURS

12 / CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT JOHN SEXTON
PIONEERING A GLOBAL SHIFT FOR UNIVERSITIES

14 / PUBLIC POLICY
WAGNER STUDENTS GET LESSONS IN DESIGN

15 / CAMPUS LIFE
A NEW GI BILL SENDS VETERANS BACK TO CLASS

16 / IN BRIEF
FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER APPOINTED AT NYU, AND MORE

18 / CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH
MUSIC TO YOUR EARS, ULTRASOUNDS STEP IN FOR ANGIOGRAPHS, HOW LOCAL CRIME LOWERS TEST SCORES, AND KEEPING PEACE AMONG CELLS

IN NYC

20 / NEW MEDIA
STUDENT REPORTERS GET A TASTE OF THE TIMES

22 / SOCIAL WORK
TEACHING PARENTS TO TEACH SEX ED

24 / THE INSIDER
SUMMER IN THE CITY BRINGS THRILL RIDES AND AN OUTDOOR SHOPPING MECCA

CULTURE

26 / ART CONSERVATION
MUSEUMS TURN UP THE HEAT

28 / FASHION
ASIAN-AMERICAN DESIGNERS ROCK THE RUNWAY

29 / CREDITS
AWARDS SEASON FOR ALUMNI

IN PRINT

30 / NONFICTION
BIOGRAPHER KENNETH SILVERMAN TURNS HIS PEN TO OFFBEAT COMPOSER JOHN CAGE

32 / PUBLISHING
HILARY THAYER HAMANN'S DEBUT GOES FROM CULT HIT TO MAINSTREAM LIT

PLUS MORE BOOKS BY NYU ALUMNI AND PROFESSORS

ALUMNI PROFILES
52 / TSIPI BEN-HAIM / TSOA, GSAS '81
PEACE OF ART

54 / DAVID FREEDENBERG / CAS '01
FAMOUS FAT DAVE'S TASTY TOURS

61 / MELISSA KUSHNER / WAG '06
TURNING SURPLUS INTO SUPPLIES

ALUMNI Q&A
58 / ROGER KAHN / ARTS '48
THE DEAN OF AMERICAN SPORTSWRITERS

PLUS ALUMNI NEWS, BENEFITS, AND UPDATES

EVERY ISSUE

1 / HEARD ON CAMPUS
4 / PRESIDENT'S LETTER
4 / CONTRIBUTORS
5 / STAR POWER
6 / MAILBAG
64 / CAMPUS LENS

VISIT US ONLINE!
www.nyu.edu/alumni.magazine

www.nyu.edu/alumni.magazine
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The end of the academic year and arrival of commencement season turn our thoughts to change. How do we account for the past? How do we make the most of the present? How do we embrace an unpredictable future? The Spring 2011 issue of NYU Alumni Magazine considers these questions.

Our cover story ("Patient, Heal Thyself," p. 34) on the mind-body connection explores a growing understanding about the role we play in healing ourselves through the powers of suggestion and belief. The works of Max Ferguson (STEINHARDT ’80), realist painter of urban scenes ("Master of the Craft," p. 40), invite us to linger on fleeting images of an ever-changing New York City. In a profile and excerpt from his recent prize-winning memoir, novelist Darin Strauss (GSAS ’97) discusses the lasting effects of a tragic accident that occurred just as he crossed the threshold into young adulthood ("The Art of Confession," p. 46).

From the effects of the current G.I. Bill to a new way of covering local news, the stories illuminate numerous issues we confront in our changing world.

Perhaps nowhere is transition more apparent than in NYU’s role on the international stage. In this issue, I sit down for an in-depth interview (p. 12) on NYU’s emergence as a global network university and the promises and challenges that entails in an increasingly interconnected world. Today, with a presence on six continents, NYU, long "in and of the city," is now "in and of the world."

We hope this issue inspires you to contemplate your time spent here at NYU, as well as your bright futures, wherever they may lead.

—JOHN SEXTON

ON MARCH 28, A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY WAS HELD IN CHINA FOR THE UNIVERSITY’S THIRD ANCHOR CAMPUS. PRESIDENT JOHN SEXTON (ABOVE) ANNOUNCED THAT NYU SHANGHAI WILL OPEN IN FALL 2013, AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE HOME TO UP TO 3,000 STUDENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.NYU.EDU/GLOBAL.

CONTRIBUTORS

SCOTT BARROW is a friendly man who loves beautiful lighting and meeting people. He has chosen to be a photographer and for 35 years it has worked out very well.

MEGAN DOLL (GSAS ’08) is a graduate of the cultural reporting and criticism program at NYU. She has written for Salon, ARTnews, Bookforum, Poets & Writers, and The Believer.

JASCHA HOFFMAN writes on science and culture for Nature and The New York Times. He is also a song-writer and lives in San Francisco.

JOEL HOLLAND is an award-winning illustrator/hand-letterer and amateur pizza maker based in Brooklyn. A book of his drawings, titled Mundanes, will be published later this year.


ERYN LOEB (GSAS ’07) is a writer and editor living in New York. She is a graduate of NYU’s cultural reporting and criticism program.

JUSTIN WARNER is a NYC-based freelance writer, playwright, and lyricist. He has contributed to a variety of publications, including American Theatre, New Scientist, and McSweeney’s Internet Tendency.

RACHEL WOLFF is a Brooklyn-based critic, writer, and editor. She covers art for New York magazine, Town & Country, Bloomberg Businessweek, Art + Auction, Modern Painters, Chicago Magazine, and various Modern Luxury publications.

New York University
President
LYNNE P. BROWN
Senior Vice President, University Relations and Public Affairs
DEBRA A. LAMORTE
Senior Vice President, University Development and Alumni Relations
REGINA SYQUIA DREW (WAG ’01)
Deputy Director, Strategic Initiatives

New York University
Alumni Association
President
MICHAEL DENKENSOHN (STERN ’73)
Senior Vice President, University Relations
PHYLIS BARASCH (STERN ’81)
STERN ’73
JERRY S. GOLDMAN (ARTS ’73)
JEFFREY S. GOULD (WSC ’79)
BEVERLY HYMAN (STEINHARDT ’80)
RONALD G. RAPATALO (CAS ’97)
VICE PRESIDENTS
TAFII T. WOOLWARD (CAS ’04)
SECRETARY

Issue #16 / Spring 2011
JASON HOLLANDER (GAL ’07)
Editor-in-Chief
ANDREA CRAWFORD
NICOLE PEZOLD (GSAS ’04)
Deputy Editors
RENEE ALFUSO (CAS ’06)
Staff Writer
JOHN KLOTONIA / OPTO DESIGN
Creative Director
Articles
JOSEPH MANGHISE
Copy Chief
DAVID COHEN
Research Chief
ASSIA BOUNDAOUI (GSAS ’12)
SALLY LAUCKNER (GSAS ’10)
Editorial Interns
Art / Opto Design
RON LOUIE
Art Director
KIRA CUKAR
Designer
MARGARET LANZONI
Photo Research Director
Alumni News Editors
ELIZABETH CHUTE
Executive Director, Alumni Relations & Communications
KRISTINE JANNUZZI (CAS ’98)
Writer/Communications Coordinator

New York University
MARTIN LIPTON (LAW ’55)
Chairman, Board of Trustees
JOHN SEXTON
President
LYNN E P. BROWN
Senior Vice President, University Relations
PHYLIS BARASCH (STERN ’81)
President
DEBRA A. LAMORTE
Senior Vice President, University Development and Alumni Relations
REGINA SYQUIA DREW (WAG ’01)
Deputy Director, Strategic Initiatives

New York University
Alumni Association
MICHAEL DENKENSOHN (STERN ’73)
President
PHYLIS BARASCH (STERN ’81)
JERRY S. GOLDMAN (ARTS ’73)
JEFFREY S. GOULD (WSC ’79)
BEVERLY HYMAN (STEINHARDT ’80)
RONALD G. RAPATALO (CAS ’97)
VICE PRESIDENTS
TAFII T. WOOLWARD (CAS ’04)
SECRETARY

PHOTO © NYU PHOTO BUREAU (BROWNING)
GRAMMY Award-winning singer-songwriter Ziggy Marley, son of reggae legend Bob Marley, performed two sold-out shows at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts.

Arianna Huffington, author and co-founder of The Huffington Post, argued against the two-party system of governance as a panelist in the Intelligence Squared U.S. debate at NYU's Skirball Center.

The Daily Show host Jon Stewart surprised students as a guest speaker during a Steinhardt Media Studies class, which was filmed for his appearance on Oprah.

Author Salman Rushdie visited the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute as part of its "Primary Sources" conversation series.

Actor Hugh Jackman spoke on behalf of the Global Poverty Project during the 1.4 Billion Reasons Event at Skirball Center.
I was head of the math club in 1963. It never occurred to me that Richard Courant was still alive. After all, most people don’t get their name on a building until they are dead. But I found out he was alive, so I asked him if he would speak to the math club. He agreed and told me his lecture would be about [German mathematician David] Hilbert. I got the largest auditorium that NYU had at the time. Once word got out, students and professors came from all over the country.

Ira Solomon
CIMS ’63
Lowell, Massachusetts

Most mathematicians are pleased to read anything about mathematics in the popular press. However, Amy Rosenberg’s excellent article was marred by this sentence: “[Jews] were often excluded from the faculty of top-tier universities such as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton.” This may have been true of Harvard and Yale, but it is not true of the department of mathematics at Princeton University. When I came to Princeton, as a graduate student in 1947, the chair of the department was Solomon Lefschetz, the first Jewish president of the American Mathematical Society. The very small faculty included Salomon Bochner and Valentine Bargmann, both Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution. In 1950, they were joined by Willi Feller. As early as 1933, John von Neumann and Eugene Wigner had shared an appointment. This is hardly exclusion from a faculty that numbered no more than 15 in those years.

Harold W. Kuhn
Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Economics, Princeton University
New York, New York

Editors’ Note: Our sincere apologies. Columbia University, not Princeton, should have been the third school on that list.

I appreciate the fall issue of the magazine—especially the article on Richard Courant, a great teacher who taught me calculus!

Prof. Robert F. Brosky
ENG ’48, ’50
Redondo Beach, California

What a horror the Triangle fire must have been. Yes, we workers owe a lot to the memory of those women. They helped us gain many protections that we did not have or might not have even now!

Bernadette D. Chapman
STEINHARDT ’85
New York, New York

Having lived across from Coles Sports Center for 20 years, I want to express how outraged and appalled I am at the overbuilding that NYU has planned for the next 30 years (“Looking to the Future”). These plans will forever change the bohemian atmosphere that both students and professors have so enjoyed throughout NYU’s history. [...] I urge my fellow alumni, who have cherished walking the sacred blocks of Greenwich Village, to write to [NYU President] John Sexton and state your objections to the massive designs and encroachment upon historic and cultural ground. If you would like to learn what the community is doing, visit CAAN2031.org.

Lee Schwartz
WSC ’65, STEINHARDT ’72,
SSSW ’89
New York, New York

Editors’ Note: NYU recently presented updated submissions of its plans for public review. See them at www.nyu.edu/nyu2031.

Daniel Berg
WSUC ’79
Brooklyn, New York

Please send your comments and opinions to: Readers’ Letters, NYU Alumni Magazine, 25 West Fourth Street, Room 619, New York, NY, 10012; or e-mail 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.
YOUR GUIDE TO THE SCHOOL CODES

The following are abbreviations for NYU schools and colleges, past and present

**ARTS** – University College of Arts and Science (“The Heights”); used for alumni through 1974

**CAS** – College of Arts and Science (“The College”); refers to the undergraduate school in arts and science, from 1994 on

**CIMS** – Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences

**DEN** – College of Dentistry

**ENG** – School of Engineering and Science (“The Heights”); no longer exists but is used to refer to its alumni through 1974

**GAL** – Gallatin School of Individualized Study, formerly Gallatin Division

**GSAS** – Graduate School of Arts and Science

**HON** – Honorary Degree

**IFA** – Institute of Fine Arts

**ISAW** – Institute for the Study of the Ancient World

**LAW** – School of Law

**LS** – Liberal Studies Program

**MED** – School of Medicine, formerly College of Medicine

**NUR** – College of Nursing

**SCPS** – School of Continuing and Professional Studies

**SSSW** – Silver School of Social Work

**STEINHARDT** – The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, formerly School of Education

**STERN** – Leonard N. Stern School of Business, formerly the Graduate School of Business Administration; Leonard N. Stern School of Business Undergraduate College, formerly School of Commerce; and College of Business and Public Administration

**TSOA** – Tisch School of the Arts, formerly School of the Arts

**WAG** – Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, formerly Graduate School of Public Administration

**WSC** – Washington Square College, now College of Arts and Science; refers to arts and science undergraduates who studied at Washington Square Campus through 1974

**WSUC** – Washington Square University College, now College of Arts and Science; refers to alumni of the undergraduate school in arts and science from 1974 to 1994