IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME
FROM 1919 TO 1966, THE STEINHARDT SCHOOL OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SENT MORE THAN 10,000 STUDENTS OFF TO SUMMER CAMP TO GAIN EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH YOUNGSTERS AND TO BE EXPOSED TO THE “NATURAL EDUCATION THAT TAKES PLACE IN THE OUT OF DOORS.” IN THIS 1943 PHOTOGRAPH, TEACHERS-IN-TRAINING PRACTICE LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUES ALONG THE BANKS OF LAKE SEBAGO IN SLOATSBURG, NEW YORK—ABOUT 40 MILES NORTH OF WASHINGTON SQUARE.
At first glance, in his blue inspector’s uniform with brass eagles on the shoulders, Khalid Latif resembles a typical cop on the beat. But as the New York Police Department’s second-ever Muslim chaplain, he doesn’t carry a gun and, in place of a police hat, he wears a skullcap. “There’s really nobody else in the department who looks like me,” concedes Latif, who provides counsel to the NYPD’s 53,000 uniformed and civilian employees—the majority of them non-Muslims. Last year, for example, he responded to an emergency call after a Russian officer had been shot during a traffic stop. The officer’s family was Russian Orthodox and spoke little English, but Latif kept vigil with them until the man died the following morning. “I don’t see myself as the ‘Muslim chaplain,’ so to speak,” Latif says. “I’m just there to help individuals regardless of their faith.”

It’s this mind-set of compassion and respect that has allowed Latif to dissolve many religious and ideological barriers at NYPD and far beyond. At 25, and although still studying at the Hartford Seminary—the nation’s first accredited Muslim chaplaincy program—he is one of the New York metro area’s leading voices for mainstream Islam and the face of major efforts to refute negative
LATIF, AT 25, IS THE NYPD’S MUSLIM CHAPLAIN AND A RISING STAR AMONG A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICAN IMAMS.

“We must collectively engage the outside world—by no means proselytize the masses—but combat the fringe elements that have dominated the conversation for too long.”

And he is spreading this message however he can. Latif podcasts his Friday sermons on his NYU Web site, www.icnyu.org, which receives 10,000 hits per month, and blogged his hajj to Mecca in 2005. Newsweek put him on its cover last summer for its “Islam in America” feature. He has spoken at national interfaith conferences with hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and other luminaries.

Latif’s understated sermons and conciliatory nature may be part of his appeal, but equally important is his own history. The son of Pakistani immigrants, he grew up in a Muslim enclave of Edison, New Jersey, captained his high school football team, and drove a Lexus that his friends labeled the babe mobile. He was into the rap group Bone Thugs-N-Harmony and working out. “When I was young, religion didn’t really take precedence over other things for me,” he says. “I didn’t see it as my calling then.” His faith emerged as an NYU freshman once he interacted with other Muslims. Even so, he remains mindful of the lessons of his youth, when he was estranged from religion by the restrictive orthodoxy that pervaded his local mosque.

“I don’t see myself as the ‘Muslim chaplain.’ I’m just there to help individuals regardless of their faith.” – KHALID LATIF

 perceives the faith. “What 9/11 taught me is that Muslims can’t be so passive when we see inaccuracies in the portrayal of Islam,” says Latif, who took his NYPD post last April and has served as NYU’s inaugural Muslim chaplain since 2005.
alumni leadership

EXPAND YOUR CIRCLE

You’re out, a fresh graduate on the career scene—oh, but wouldn’t it be nice to have more friends in high places? And maybe see some old faces? Such was the thinking when, in 2003, Brett Rochkind (STERN ’98), Vishal Garg (STERN ’98), and Bryan Sloane (STERN ’02) founded the Young Alumni Leadership Circle (YALC), NYU’s all-university networking and donor society.

“We wanted to build a group of recent graduates who were progressing in their careers and wanted to give back to the university,” Rochkind says. “We wanted the group to be a cross-section of young alumni and open up opportunities for them to meet other alumni leaders from the Alumni Association and the Board of Trustees.”

Now 360 strong, the circle has a goal of 1,000 members. Alumni from the past 15 years (from 1993 to 2007) can join by simply donating annually to The Fund for NYU. YALC members receive exclusive access to special events that bring them face-to-face with prominent leaders from the university, business, and civic communities. By creating an opportunity for young alumni from the entire university to network, socialize, and build relationships with other NYU leaders, the group continues to cultivate future leaders beyond their formal education.

For more information, visit alumni.nyu.edu/giving/donors/yalc.shtml.
A Bequest That Makes a Difference

As thousands of students do each year, Essie Barry came to New York in 1959 to pursue her dream of a college education.

Born on a former slave plantation in Mississippi, Essie was 46 years old and a widowed mother of three when she came to New York City without friends, family, money, or a ticket home. She left her youngest daughter Carlita, then ten years old, with her older married daughter.

And she persevered. Over a period of seventeen years, Essie worked during the day, first as a live-in domestic and later as a teacher, and studied at night — earning six separate degrees. She completed her last degree, an M.S. in educational administration, at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development in 1975 at age 62. Essie’s daughter Carlita eventually joined her in New York City, earned an undergraduate scholarship to NYU and then attended the NYU School of Medicine.

In recognition of the opportunities that NYU gave her and her daughter, Essie Barry has provided in her will for a generous legacy for student scholarships.

“NYU made it possible for my daughter and me to receive a great professional education. It is only wise to give back to the school that gave us so much when we had so little.”
— Essie Barry

Your Bequest Can Make A Difference.

Learn how you can provide through your will or living trust to support scholarships, professorships, and the exceptional programs that make a difference at NYU. We would be delighted to send you information about estate planning and the benefits of naming the University in your will.

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Helping to Right Great Wrongs

by Ted Boscia

IN 1990, 17-YEAR-OLD JEFFREY DESKOVIC WAS IMPRISONED FOR 15-YEARS-TO-LIFE FOR A RAPE AND MURDER HE DID NOT COMMIT. ON September 20, 2006, he exited the Westchester County Courthouse unshackled, his conviction overturned by DNA evidence that linked the crime to another man. Still, he faced daunting obstacles on the outside: finding an apartment, applying for a job, using new technologies such as cell phones and the Internet, and overcoming more than 15 years of arrested development.

For help reassembling his life, Deskovic leaned on Karen Wolff, of the Innocence Project, the nonprofit organization affiliated with Yeshiva University that has assisted in liberating, along with Deskovic, more than 200 wrongfully convicted inmates—including 15 on death row—using DNA evidence. Armed with both a social work and law degree, Wolff directs the extensive efforts required to care for clients’ post-prison needs and has campaigned to highlight the alarming dearth of services currently available for this population. “Exonorees have had something stripped from them—their dignity, time, family connections, experiences, and skills,” Wolff says.

“Exonorees have had something stripped from them—their dignity, time, family connections, experiences, and skills,” Wolff says.

As its first lone social worker, Wolff assists Deskovic, and some 30 other exonorees across the country, to sidestep the pitfalls that can lead to twice-ruined lives by lobbying for private and government resources, such as Medicaid funds, subsidized housing, food stamps, job training, mental health treatment, and disability payments. Many of the exonerated receive little recompense, and they usually don’t qualify for support offered to parolees, such as halfway houses, because of narrow funding mandates. In any case, their needs differ from ex-cons, and they usually try to distance themselves from such associations.

Wolff, who holds a JD from Boston College and practiced employment law in Northern California for eight years, backing women who had been harassed or discriminated against, has consistently sought to work with those who have been similarly marginalized or treated unjustly by society. “The wrongfully convicted definitely fit all of those categories,” she explains. “Our clients are generally poor and of color, and what happened to them probably wouldn’t have happened if they were wealthy and white.”

At the Innocence Project, which was founded in 1992, Wolff immediately alleviated some of the strain on her colleagues,
who credit her vast knowledge and empathy. “[She] knows how to battle for them,” notes staff attorney Nina Morrison (LAW ’98). But Wolff also hopes to empower her clients to use their tales to lobby for criminal justice reform. And there are some signs of change: Last fall the House of Representatives passed the Second Chance Act, a measure to bolster support for both parolees and exonerates, and The New York Times and other papers have shone a light on the plight of the wrongfully convicted. With Wolff’s support, Deskovic has begun to resurrect his life and now earns a meager living giving speeches and writing essays about his ordeal. “Karen recognizes that our clients have a really strong desire to be leaders themselves,” Morrison says. “That’s hard to do if their only focus is getting their car fixed or their rent paid.”

KAREN WOLFF IS THE INNOCENCE PROJECT’S FIRST AND ONLY SOCIAL WORKER, AND HAS ALREADY HELPED MORE THAN 30 EXONEREES RECONSTRUCT THEIR LIVES OUTSIDE PRISON.

(Continued from page 66)

Theory, Clinical Applications and Group Work (Routledge). Schwartzberg is professor of occupational therapy and adjunct professor of psychiatry at Tufts University.

JOANNE GILLIS-DONOVAN / STEINHARDT ’72 / celebrated her 10th anniversary in 2007 as president and CEO of Melmark, the Berwyn, PA-based non-profit provider of services for people with disabilities.

ROBERT J. HANEMANN / ENG ’72 / was recently appointed to lead the Tufts Gordon Institute, which educates engineering leaders. As the new director, Hanne mann will continue to push TGI’s boundaries to produce top-notch engineering leaders who have far-reaching entrepreneurial vision.

DONNA PUCCIANI / STEINHARDT ’72, ’79 / has published a new book of poetry, Jumping Off the Train (Windstorm), which is available through the publisher, www.windstormcreative.com/orders, and Amazon.com.

JANE E. SALMON / WSC ’72 / is the Collette Kean Research Chair and co-director of the Mary Kirkland Center for Lupus Research at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan. She is also the co-winner of the 2007 Carol-Nachman Prize for her two decades of outstanding research in rheumatology.

STEVEN LEADER / WAG ’73 / has been appointed to the Roster of Neutrals of the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court as a mediator.

BURT WOLD-ER / ARTS ’74 / is senior vice president and chief marketing officer of Hooper Holmes, Inc., in Basking Ridge, N.J.

RICHARD C. MCPHERSON / SCPS ’75 / is the president and creative director of McPherson Associates, Inc., a marketing, development, and Internet services company. His recent book, Digital Giving: How Technology Is Changing Charity (iUniverse), discusses technology’s intersection with traditional fundraising practices.

SANDRA HOLTZMAN / WSUC ’76 / co-wrote Lies Startups Tell Themselves to Avoid Marketing: A No Bullsh*t Guide for Ph.Ds, Lab Rats, Suits and Entrepreneurs (SelectBooks). She is president of Holtzman Communications, LLC (www.holtzmancom.com), an advertising, marketing, and public relations firm that works with the gaming, technology, life sciences, and food industries. She is also lead co-chair of the NY Chapter of the Licensing Executives Society.

MAXINE FEINBERG / WSUC ’77, DEN ’80 / has been elected to a one-year term as president of the New Jersey State
1980s

MEG D. GOLDSTEIN / LAW ’80 / is an attorney with Poyner & Spruill LLP in Raleigh, NC, and was recently selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2008.

NOEMI FIGUEROA SOULET / STEINHARDT ’79 / premiered her latest film, The Borinqueneers, in Newark, NJ, last summer and it was subsequently picked up by PBS stations nationwide. The one-hour documentary follows the 65th Puerto Rican Infantry Regiment, the only all-Hispanic unit in the history of the U.S. Army, from their founding through the Korean War.

ROBERT PERSHES / LAW ’80 / has been recognized as a 2007 Florida “Super Lawyer” by Law & Politics. He is a shareholder in the Buchanan, Doolittle & Broughs, LLP, Boca Raton, FL, office and a member of the Litigation and Intellectual Property Practice Groups.

LENORE REICH ARGEN / STEINHARDT ’81 / has become a member of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children, a nonprofit organization that advocates for the needs of gifted children and works to ensure that they have appropriate services in their school environments.


JANET GOLDNER’s / STEINHARDT ’81 / artwork was recently featured in the Brooklyn College Library’s exhibition “Singular Object.”

KEVIN J. BRENNA / STERN ’82, SCP ’92 / was appointed a manager in Ernst & Young’s New York office, for the firm’s transaction real estate practice.

LINDSEY CLARE ANDERSON / SCP ’85, WSUC ’87, STERN ’92 / just released her second full-length CD with her band Kitty & the Kowalskis, titled Chinese Democracy!!!, which is available on iTunes. She also started a new job at OgilvyAction, a division of Ogilvy & Mather, after living in Stockholm, Sweden, for 14 months.

M. MELISSE LEWIS / GAL ’85 / recently joined Brainbox Enterprises, Inc., the parent company for the Brainbox media group covering film, television, internet entertainment, and new media concerns, as its chief legal officer, chief administrative officer, and corporate secretary.

LT. COL. JAMES J. MCDONNELL / WSUC ’85 / retires from the U.S. Army in April 2008 after a
20-year career. His recent assignments included the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division (Light), where he was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and to Baghdad, Iraq, for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In both instances, he received the Bronze Star. He is currently the executive officer at the Center of Military History at Fort McNair in Washington, DC.

JORDAN LAGE / TSOA '86 / appears in the upcoming films Choke, directed by CLARK GREGG / TSOA '86 /, and Ridley Scott's Body of Lies, with Russell Crowe and Leonardo DiCaprio. He will also be in the off-Broadway production of Almost an Evening, written by Ethan Coen, at the Atlantic Theater Company.

MICHELE PISTONE / STERN '86 / co-authored the book Stepping Out of the Brain Drain: Applying Catholic Social Teaching in a New Era of Migration (Lexington Books). She is a professor of law and director of the clinical program at Villanova University School of Law. She lives in Villanova, PA, with her husband and their 3-year-old daughter, Julia Rose.

NATASHA THOMSEN / TSOA '86 / wrote Women's Rights (Facts on File). Her latest project is to travel to Greece to reclaim an apartment in her grandmother’s name while she works on lengthening a one-act play about homelessness.

1990s

TIM FOLGER / GSAS '90 / won the 2007 American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award, in the journalist category, for his Discover magazine cover story, "If an Electron Can Be in Two Places at Once, Why Can't You?" See: http://discovermagazine.com/2005/jun/cover.


JUDITH MALINOWSKI / STEINHARDT '90 / has been appointed to the Board of Health in Harrison, NJ.

CATHERINE COPELAND CASATI / WSUC '91 / is the president of Green Modern Kits, a company that promotes sustainability, preservation, and celebrates gorgeous, green, modern design. Learn more at www.greenmodernkits.com.

MONICA MARTINEZ / STEINHARDT '91, '04 / is a national expert on issues related to educational access and achievement for low-income and minority students. She was named vice president for education strategy by Knowledge-Works Foundation in Cincinnati, where she guides the philanthropy’s work to transform the national education landscape.

JAVA ROSSETTE / TSOA

‘91 / released the 2007 dramatic feature film, Susan Hero, an "indie cloning thriller," featuring Latino and Native American talent. Rossette also completed Hurricane, an accompanying production diary that follows the filmmaker from New York to New Mexico to Cambodia and beyond. More information about her work can be found at www.camerado.com.

TAMARA RUBIN / TSOA '91 / is a prominent advocate of lead hazard awareness after two of her children were poisoned when a painter used improper methods to remove lead-based paint from the exterior of her home. Her story has been mentioned in USA Today and other media outlets.

SAMANTHA H. GILBERT / WAG '92 / was appointed director of human resources at the Rockefeller Foundation.

NINA MARTIN / TSOA '92 / has been appointed assistant professor of film studies in the department of theater at Connecticut College in New London, CT. Her areas of research center on feminist film, cultural studies, and the impact of particular film and television texts on contemporary feminist discourse.

KAREN-CHERIE COGANE / STEINHARDT '93 / was elected to Who's Who Among American Teachers in July 2007.

This honor is a result of her work at Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University, where she taught ballet, jazz dance, and choreography. Cogane also teaches ballet privately and choreographs in New York City.

BEN GOLDMAN / WAG '93 / serves as executive director of City Without Walls, a nonprofit Newark art gallery for emerging artists. He created Defeye Productions and was featured in The Star-Ledger of Newark.

STEPHEN A. HAMMACK / GAL '93 / is an archaeologist at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia, where he manages 57 archaeological sites, 15 of which are eligible for the National Register. The sites range from the end of the Paleo-Indian to the Antebellum and Postbellum periods. Hammack, his wife Donna, and their sons, James and Thomas, live near Macon, GA.

MARCHE JENKES / WSUC '93 / has been appointed CEO at Voxant, one of the country's largest online syndication networks.

RONALD REINERTSON / WAG '93 / is a senior planner in Pennoni Associates' Cedar Knolls, NJ, office. Pennoni is an award-winning consulting engineering firm, and Reinertson pro-
provides comprehensive planning services in land use regulations and zoning ordinances for municipal and private clients.

CHRISTOPHER J. SPATARO / WSUC ’93 / is a Baker & Daniels LLP partner and received one of the Michiana (northern Indiana and southwestern lower Michigan) Region’s “Forty Under 40 Awards” for his work as an active volunteer in a number of community events. Last year, Spataro was honorary chairman of the Compassion Walk, which supports cancer patients’ medical needs, in memory of his wife.

RENA GORDONSON / SSSW ’94 / is director of volunteers for Hospice of New York. At the request of pre-med students, she and a team conducted two 15-hour hospice volunteer trainings at NYU last fall. Gordonson was especially pleased to return as an alumna to train future physicians in the specialized care of people with life-limiting illness.

JEREMY LIPKIN / TSOA ’94 / is a writer and producer with the Howard Stern Series & Specials team at Sirius Satellite Radio. He wrote and produced the 15-part radio documentary, The History of Howard Stern, which premiered in December 2007 on the Sirius channel Howard 100.

LORI JO MARSO / GSAS ’96 / authored her debut novel, Room for Love (St. Martin’s Griffin), a classic New York love story about a woman who realizes a sense of place can be as important as finding love.

‘94 / is professor of political science and director of women’s and gender studies at Union College. Her newest book, co-written with Michaela L. Ferguson, is called W Stands for Women: How the George W. Bush Presidency Shaped a New Politics of Gender (Duke University Press).

DAVID SUAREZ / TSOA ’95 / is the president and CEO of Interactive Training Solutions, LLC, a South Florida-based corporate training, team building, and executive coaching firm. Utilizing improvisation and creativity, the firm addresses issues facing both companies and employees.

DAN TRUMAN / TSOA ’95 / and KIRK MCGEE / TSOA ’94 / are two founding members of the filmmaking collective www.uneven distribution.com. They recently launched the Web site with a film festival, featuring 12 shorts, and a party at Manhattan Theatre Source.

DAVID VALENTINE / GSAS ’95, ’96, ’00 / is assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota and recently wrote Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category (Duke University Press).

ALUMNI Q&A

JEREMY LEBEWOHL / CAS ’05

Corned Beef, Revisited

TWO YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS REVIVE A NEW YORK INSTITUTION

by Jason Hollander / GAL ’07

On the morning of January 1, 2006, many New Yorkers woke with a heavy heart. It was the first day in 51 years that the 2nd Ave Deli—the legendary Jewish eatery that had fed the likes of Ed Koch, Joe DiMaggio, John Gotti, and countless others who “maybe could go for a nosh”—was no more. The troubles had started 10 years earlier, when beloved founder Abe Lebewohl, a Holocaust survivor and ultimate “mensch” to generations of customers, was shot and killed while making a bank deposit in 1996. His brother Jack stepped in, giving up his law practice to run the business until a 38 percent rent spike at the original East Village location forced it to fold. A Chase bank soon opened in its place, shiny enough to erase any memory of what Zagat had called “the best kosher deli in New York.” Fortunately for knish fans, Jack’s sons Jeremy and Joshua (LAW ’06) Lebewohl, who spent
years helping their “Uncle Abie” at 2nd Ave, refused to let the deli die. The brothers bought a space at 162 E. 33rd Street, eliminating any danger of being priced out again, and launched the new 2nd Ave Deli last December. Joshua helps out behind the scenes while Jeremy works the floor, ensuring the brisket is tender and the matzo balls are firm, and tending to a stream of phone orders and salivating customers. The only place you won’t find him is in front of the meat slicer. “When I was a little kid, my uncle never let me go near that machine,” explains Jeremy, who cut his entrepreneurial teeth when he opened a bagel store his senior year in college, catching up on homework when business was slow. “As a rule, I still try not to.”

The new spot, which is open 24/7, is right up the block from NYU Medical Center and, at lunch, plenty of white coats happily feast on corned beef sandwiches, stuffed cabbage, and potato blintzes. Jeremy reasons that dietary or not, food made from simple ingredients will always have a market: “A lot of people would rather have the calories than the chemicals.”

NYU Alumni Magazine recently spoke with Jeremy during one of his few moments of quiet:

WHAT’S IT LIKE RUNNING A RESTAURANT THAT NEVER CLOSES?
It’s a love/hate relationship. When it runs 100 percent smoothly, it’s the most enjoyable thing to watch, seeing happy customers. On the flip side, that doesn’t happen too often. It’s usually beyond stressful.

DESCRIBE 2ND AVE’S CLIENTELE.
Our customers are definitely in a league of their own. Part of the experience of coming to a Jewish deli is complaining, kvetching to the waiter. They complain, but they come back again and again. Many have religious restrictions, so the staff has to understand their needs. One rabbi told me that coming here is a “religious experience.”

WHAT MAKES THIS DELI UNIQUE?
A consistent product. There’s a reason why my food tastes different than other delis—we make everything here. Our seating is about half the size of our total kitchen space. We also make sure our staff goes through a thorough training. Our manager is Chinese, and he speaks both Yiddish and Spanish.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SEE THE NAME 2ND AVE DELI UP IN LIGHTS AGAIN?
It took me a while to process the loss after the old [restaurant] closed. It was hard to think that it no longer existed. New York showed they’re happy we returned. And business, thank God, has been very good.
Want to Hear More About Alumni Activities? Contact Us!

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BIA NCA NOIC ARAU / STERN
’98 / is an attorney in
the law offices of Richard
L. DeNapoli, P. A., and was
appointed by Governor
Charlie Crist to the Florida
Real Estate Commission.

LORI MCMILLAN / LAW
’99 / has been appointed
associate professor at
Washburn University’s
School of Law in Kansas.
She was previously a visiti-

(continued from page 72)

JOSEPH STEINBERG / GSAS ’96 / has been named one of New Jersey’s top “Forty Under 40” by NJBIZ, New Jersey’s premier business magazine. Steinberg is the CEO of Green Armor Solutions, a leading provider of information security software, which under his leadership has established a significant portfolio of intellectual property, achieved profitability, and won recognition as a technology leader.

ANN BARR / GSAS ’97 / has been named chair and tenured professor of the department of physical therapy at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Barr, who previously taught at Temple University, has informed the understanding of common repetitive stress injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis, through her research on ergonomics and biomechanics.

JOSEPH J. CICALA / STEINHARDT ’97 / was selected to receive the American College Personnel Association’s Senior Practitioner Award, following nomination by colleagues at La Salle University, where Cicala has served as dean of students since 1998. He was also named a Diamond Honoree of the association’s Educational Leadership Foundation.

JOE NIE GETSIN / CAS ’97 / is an associate in the New York City office of Reed Smith LLP, one of the 15 largest law firms in the world. She is a member of the American Bar Association’s Subcommittee on NASD Corporate Financing Rules and Committee on State Regulations and Securities. Getsin is licensed to practice in New York and New Jersey.

JOSEPH Q. LEGASPI / GSAS ’97 / debuted a collection of poetry, Imago (CavanKerry Press). He lives in Manhattan and works at Columbia University.

CLARE OH / STEINHARDT ’97 / has received her master of arts in international affairs from the New School in May 2007. She is working as the assistant director of strategic communications for Columbia University.

MATTHEW SUMMY / WAG ’97 / is the deputy chief of staff for policy in the office of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. In this role, he directs the development and implementation of major policy and legislative initiatives on behalf of the governor.

STEVEN WYATT / LAW ’97 / is a partner in the law firm of Tanner & Guin, LLC, in Tuscaloosa, AL. Wyatt offers services in wealth and asset protection and planning, business planning, partnerships and LLCs, charitable giving and tax-exemption organizations.


CARTER CRAFT / WAG ’98 / was recently featured in The New York Times City Room’s “Ask the Waterfront Expert” blog. As the director of programs and policy and a co-founder of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, Craft answered questions and discussed waterfront issues in New York City.

BEA LURIE / WAG ’98 / has been named the new president and CEO of Girls Inc. of Chattanooga.

GABRIEL BELLMAN / GSAS ’99 / directed the film Duffy’s Irish Circus, now out on DVD and available through Netflix.com. Bellman also co-founded the Frozen Film Festival in San Francisco.

RICHARD L. DENAPOLI / CAS ’99 / is an attorney in the law offices of Richard L. DeNapoli, P.A., and was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the Florida Real Estate Commission.

LORI MCMILLAN / LAW ’99 / has been appointed associate professor at Washburn University’s School of Law in Kansas. She was previously a visit-
NYU has embarked on vital planning for the next 25 years of its physical development. NYU Plans2031 will provide a strategic framework to guide the University as it seeks to locate six million square feet of space for academic programming, housing, and administrative uses.

The plan will develop a broad vision for the core campus in the Washington Square/Union Square/East Village area and identify other areas in the city that could help accommodate NYU’s space needs. The space planning initiative is led by NYU’s Office of Strategic Assessment, Planning and Design, working with a distinguished consultant team of SMWM, Grimshaw, Toshiko Mori Architect, and Olin Partnership.

Recently, NYU has held a series of open houses to share preliminary ideas with faculty, students, administrators, community groups, and government officials and to solicit their input. We encourage alumni to view the open house materials—at www.nyu.edu/nyu.plans.2031—and provide feedback. By late spring of 2008, the University will announce its preferred approach for the strategic plan.
A male figure peels apart his crumbling yellow chest; yearning arms extend from a torso moored in a red puddle. These are not images from Goya's final years, but the fanciful work of NATHAN SAWAYA (CAS ’95, LAW ’98), who sculpted Yellow (2006) and Red (2005), respectively, from the unlikely medium of Lego bricks. The sculptures joined a five-year span of increasingly sophisticated work in Sawaya’s first solo show, “The Art of the Brick,” at the Lancaster Museum of Art, which opened in April 2007 as the first stop on a museum tour that runs at least through 2010. As the first American museum exhibition devoted to Lego art, it offers a rare public view of mostly privately held pieces and attracted an overwhelming 25,000 people during its 45-day Lancaster run. “I don’t think there’s anything I can’t build with Legos,” says Sawaya, whom the U.K.’s Daily Star referred to as the “Picasso of Lego.”

Only a few years ago, the 34-year-old self-taught, New York–based artist was building legal cases as a corporate attorney. But the lifelong Lego hobbyist has been a full-time artist since 2004 and joins a short list of just six worldwide Lego Certified Professionals, a distinction that bestows credibility and allows him to make bulk purchases of the bricks. But Sawaya’s murals and conceptual sculptures far exceed their humble plastic origins. He meticulously crafts curves from tiny right angles, magically turning the children’s toy into serious art.

Until recently, much of Sawaya’s work has been commercial commissions—such as a set of billiard balls, 3-D corporate logos, and video game— and Star Wars–inspired figures—which can fetch up to $60,000 for a large sculpture. “I put my heart and soul into a lot of these pieces,” he says. One of Sawaya’s favorite creations was inspired by schoolchildren from all over the country who wrote in to say how they imagined New Orleans in the wake of Katrina: a colorful, jagged, 120,000-brick permanent installation called Rebirth of New Orleans (2006) now housed in the city’s main library.

—Suzanne Krause

LIKE THE ARTIST’S OTHER LEGO WORKS, RED (2005) FEATURES PLASTIC BRICKS IN FORMS JUST AS EMOTIVE AND VISCERAL AS CLAY.
We want to hear from you! Let us know what is happening in your career and life. Submit your news items, personal milestones, or an obituary of a loved one to: NYU Class Notes, 25 West Fourth Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY, 10012 or via e-mail to alumni.magazine@nyu.edu.
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RUSSELL BAILYN / STEINHARDT ’04 / is the author of the new book, Navigating the Financial Blogosphere (Wiley), which details how to benefit from free information on the Internet. The forward is written by NYU Trustee Michael Steinhardt, Bailyn’s idol since his freshman year. Bailyn is a wealth manager with Premier Financial Advisors, a boutique financial planning and investment advisory firm in New York City. His Web site is www.russellbailyn.com.

NATHAN BARRALL / STEINHARDT ’04 / has moved from commercial casting and talent management to an associate producer position at Arnold Worldwide. In 2007, he co-produced his first play and is now working on his first feature film.

JULIE HARBEEY / CAS ’04 / rang the closing bell at the NASDAQ on December 28 on behalf of the executive board of the Women’s Syndicate Association, which has created a vast and enriching network for women syndicate professionals nationwide.

JUAN HIDALGO / SCPS ’04 / spent the past two years as vice president of news operations at VMS. He is now applying to business schools.

SHIRI LEVENTHAL / STERN ’05 / was one of 20 runners in the Blue Planet Run (www.blueplanetrun.org), the first-ever around-the-world running relay. Its mission was to raise awareness of the need for clean drinking water, which 1 billion people currently lack worldwide. The run took place from June to September 2007, covered 15,200 miles across 16 countries, and began and ended in New York City.

KATHRYN MAUGHAN / TSOA ’05 / published her first novel, Did I Expect Angels? (iUniverse), available on Amazon.com. Her Web site is www.kathrynmaughan.com, and she invites fellow alumni to also visit www.myunexpectedangel.com, where they can upload tributes to their own “angels,” people who have given much-needed help at unexpected times.

ROBERT JAY RIVERA / SCPS ’05 / and his wife, Catherine-Mary, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Matthew Robert. Rivera graduated from Harvard University, the Divinity School, in June 2007 with a master of theological studies. In fall 2007, he began a PhD in theology at Boston College on a full university fellowship.

NATHAN SILVER / TSOA ’05 / wrote, produced, and directed the short film, Anecdote, which is an official selection of the 2008 Slamdance Film Festival.

AVI WISNIA / GAL ’05 / and his talented ensemble performed their Brazilian-influenced folk and jazz at the Bitter End last fall in New York City. The event was in celebration of Wisnia’s debut album, Avi Wisnia Presents.

SELENA SIMMONS / SCPS ’07 / is proud to be a network graphic designer and animator for CBS News, where she has worked on nationally televised projects and made great friends.

Obituaries

New York University mourns the recent passing of our alumni, staff, and friends, including:

RUDOLPH E. DROSD / ARTS ’34, MED ’38
SYLVIA SCHMELZER MALCOW / STERN ’34
SYLVIA ROSENBLUM TAPPER / STEINHARDT ’34
JULIAN HIRSCHFELD / STERN ’36
ARTHUR BLAYNE / DEN ’39
MARY C. HILL / STERN ’42
JEROME FLEISHMAN / STERN ’43
KENNETH LEVINE / WSC ’44, LAW ’46
CHARLOTTE HELEN NORTHCOTE SKLADAL / ENG ’46
IGNATIUS J. STEIN / MED ’46
WESTIN A. O’RORKE / ENG ’47
FRANK S. DODIN / WSC ’48
CHARLOTTE KLEPPER SCHOEN / NUR ’48
MANUEL RIKLAN / WSC ’49,
STEINHARDT ’56
ISIDORE R. TUCKER / LAW ’49, ’52
GEORGE L. AJJAN / WSC ’52, MED ’58
HAZEL KEARNEY OTTO / STEINHARDT ’52
ANTHONY J. ACCARDI / ARTS ’53
ELIZABETH SHUYER FREIDUS / STEINHARDT ’54
ALBERT I. MEYERS / WSC ’54, GSAS ’58
GLADYS ORETHIA INGRAM / STEINHARDT ’56
LAWRENCE WILSON / GSAS ’56, ’61
FRANCIS J. ALBERTS / STERN ’57
LENA P. DE CONDO / STEINHARDT ’62
MICHAEL D. SHAGAN / WSC ’63, LAW ’67
WILLIAM E. TARRANTS / STEINHARDT ’63
RONI E. HARED / WSC ’64
LOUIS MARTIN DESTEFANO / STERN ’67
TAUBE G. GREENSPAN / IFA ’67
MARY E. CERBONE / LAW ’68
H. RICHARD LEHNEIS / WSC ’70,
STEINHARDT ’75
JOSEPH V. CHUBA / GSAS ’71
DEBORAH C. SEARS / WSC ’71
WENCESLAO R. DE LA PAZ / LAW ’72
JOHN YUN-JYN MAU / STERN ’72, ’76
BEVERLY SILLS / HON ’73
NANCY BRADY / STEINHARDT ’74
THERESE L. MACKINNON / STEINHARDT ’74
RICHARD P. IMMERMAN / GSAS ’77
JANET K. O’NEAL / SSSW ’77
DEANNA M. D’APICE / SCPS ’80, TSOA ’86
BRIAN E. KRIGER / LAW ’80
LOUELLA SUDE SMITHEIMER / STEINHARDT ’80
EVELYN K. SAMUEL / STEINHARDT ’85
NANCY G. ORLAND / STERN ’91
KITTY CARLISLE HART / HON ’95
CORDELIA M. HOUTON / NUR ’95
SIBONGILE P. NKOMO / TSOA ’96
PATTY NOONAN / WAG ’99
VI LANDRY / GSAS ’06
WHAT
LET FREEDOM SWING! A 1950S BASH

WHERE
PALLADIUM RESIDENCE HALL

WHY
STUDENTS CELEBRATED THE HISTORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS WITH A ‘50S-THEMED DANCE AS PART OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEK AT NYU. THE SWING DANCE SOCIETY WAS ON HAND TO DEMONSTRATE SOME TECHNIQUES WHEN PHOTOGRAPHER ANTONIO DELGADO (TSA ‘10) CAPTURED THIS SHOT. “THEY WERE REALLY FEEDING OFF EACH OTHER,” HE SAYS OF THE SWINGIN’ DUO. “OTHER PEOPLE WERE WATCHING THEM CLOSELY AND THEN PICKED UP THEIR MOVES.”

—Renée Alfuso