“Intellect is great. I have no compunctions about having studied it. But ultimately what’s needed here and abroad are people of good character.”

—HOWARD GARDNER, EDUCATIONAL THEORIST AND VISITING PROFESSOR, DELIVERING THE INAUGURAL JACOB K. JAVITS LECTURE “FROM MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES TO FUTURE MINDS”

“The number of times that my reviews made a decisive difference in the fortunes of a movie is a very small one. But on the other hand, it is a very loud bullhorn that I have... if you say something mean in The New York Times, it's like 100 times as mean as it was meant to have been.”

—NEW YORK TIMES CO-CHIEF FILM CRITIC A. O. SCOTT VISITING A MEDIA ETHICS CLASS AT THE JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT

“I’m not claiming for a totally open border, I’m claiming for an orderly flow of immigrants to this land, for full respect of human and labor rights. Who would crop the vegetable fields in San Joaquin Valley? Who would serve the hotels in Vegas, the restaurants here in New York?”

—VICENTE FOX QUESADA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, AT THE VOICES OF LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS SPEAKER SERIES, HOSTED BY THE CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

“The reach of the universities may be far greater than [that of] the United Nations.”

—SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BAN KI-MOON ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLICY DURING THE THIRD-ANNUAL GLOBAL COLLOQUIUM OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS, HOSTED AT NYU
CRITICAL {EYE ON} AID

AS FOREIGN AID REACHES RECORD LEVELS, ACADEMICS ASK HOW—AND IF—IT CAN HELP THE WORLD’S MOST DESPERATE PEOPLE / BY NICOLE PEZOLD / GSAS ’04

THE POET CONSIDERS

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER CHARLES SIMIC (WSC ’67) DELIVERS INTEGRITY AND WIT TO HIS POST AS U.S. POET LAUREATE / BY MICHAEL SCHARF

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COVER PHOTO JACOB SILBERBERG
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since 1831, the idea of NYU being in and of the city has guided us as scholars and citizens. But more and more, we have also realized that we are an institution in and of the world—sitting as we do in the heart of the most cosmopolitan, polyglot city on Earth. NYU thrives on ideas and talents from nearly every nation, and as a result, however far-flung some places may be from this metropolis, we cannot ignore the most clawing questions they face. For many that question is what to do about poverty, an abhorrent reality for almost half the world population. In this, our 10th issue, we uncover the roots of this inequality and the range of ideas and research on how it might be rectified (“Critical {Eye On} Aid,” page 40).

This is not to say that we have in any way forgotten our beloved city. In addition to the endlessly popular “Best of New York” (page 22), you’ll also find in these pages a review of a galvanizing art movement spawned in our own backyard, which is now the subject of a Grey Art Gallery show (“The New York School,” page 56), as well as a profile of alumnus Charles Simic, who once sharpened his wry wit on the city’s sidewalks and this year added U.S. Poet Laureate to his list of distinctions (“The Poet Considers,” page 48).

Finally, we look at the one thing that far too often these days plagues us, in New York City and beyond: fear—and the astonishing work that NYU neuroscientist Joseph LeDoux is doing to counter it (“Anxiety on the Brain,” page 52).

We hope that despite the gravity of some of these topics, you’ll find there is much to be hopeful for this spring.

JOHN SEXTON

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FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON ADDS URGENCY TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION AT THE GLOBAL COLLOQUIUM OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS, HOSTED BY NYU.

POWER

STAR

TOP-DRAW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS PUT ON THE GLITZ FOR NYU

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON, THE WOMAN BEHIND THE SNARKY POLITICAL BLOG THE HUFFINGTON POST, DISCUSSES HER RISE AT AN SCPS EVENT.

HIP-HOP MOGUL RUSSELL SIMMONS MODERATES A PANEL ON MUSLIM-JEWISH RELATIONS ON CAMPUS.

JACKIE CHAN, WITH TSOA DEAN MARY SCHMIDT CAMPBELL, IS HONOURED FOR HIS FILMS AND PUBLIC SERVICE AT A RED-CARPET CELEBRATION OF TISCH'S NEW SINGAPORE CAMPUS.

ACTRESS AND ACTIVIST NATALIE PORTMAN STUMPS FOR MICROFINANCE AT A PUBLIC DIALOGUE CO-SPONSORED BY AFRICA HOUSE.
Thanks to all the alumni who responded to our ninth issue (Fall 2007). We are thrilled that *NYU Alumni Magazine* continues to stir so many of you to write and share your thoughts. Please keep the letters coming!

**BOARDERS, UNITE**

You can’t imagine my tremendous pleasure to read a profile of Jake Burton Carpenter (“King of the Mountain”) in the fall issue! Yes, Burton’s story is one of commercial success, but his creativity and determination have also delivered a product that offers unbounded excitement and a profound experience for snowboarders all over the world. Although we’ve never met, Burton has definitely had a huge impact upon my life, and now I can proudly add another factor we share: our bond with NYU.

Chicki Rosenberg
GSAS ’66
Killington, Vermont

**THE LIGHTER SIDE**

In your fall 2007 issue, you had an article about the illumination of the Empire State Building for the past three years (“Violet City”) honoring NYU’s commencement ceremonies. You briefly review the historical inception of lighting first celebrating Roosevelt’s 1932 presidential victory. For the record, my daughter, Mallory Blair Greitzer, a second-year student at Gallatin, single-handedly was able to convince the Empire State Building to be lit up blue and white honoring Hanukkah—the Festival of Lights—in 1997, when she was just nine years old.

Manny H. Greitzer, OD
NYU parent
Greenwich, Connecticut

After reading about the Empire State Building lighting 1,336 lights on many occasions, I have but one question: Why don’t they go back to the single beacon? It’s time to conserve, as “The Green Issue” says.

Harriet (Lery) Klein
STEINHARDT ’40
Palm Springs, California

**GREEN, AT ISSUE**

I enjoyed “The Green Issue,” but it would have been so much better if there had been discussion of the research that various NYU scientists are doing on climate change and other environmental topics. However, there appear to be very few environmental scientists on the faculty these days, no actual department of earth science or geology, and a biology department devoid of ecologists.

Judith S. Weis, PhD
GSAS ’64
Rutgers University
Newark, New Jersey

I was disappointed, but certainly not surprised, to learn that my alma mater has jumped on the global-warming bandwagon. What really galls me, however, is the way you smugly engage in psychobabble to discredit global-warming skeptics who are so audacious as to declare that the emperor has no clothes.
The Denial Justification). In essence, you claim that we are in denial because we don’t want to be inconvenienced by higher taxes and prices. On the contrary, there are large numbers of highly credible and well-credentialed scientists providing powerful evidence that the notion of human activity being responsible for climate change is fraught with error and dubious science. If we act upon the agenda of global-warming alarmists, the consequences to national economies will dwarf any alleged harm from human carbon emissions.

Lance Lamberton
GSAS ’79
Austell, Georgia

Your piece “Global Harming: Facts and Forecasts” presents an extremely one-sided view. The science is not settled and the debate is not over. Unfortunately, this issue has become politicized at a time when we need to look at and assess all of the evidence.

Former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz
STERN ’51, LAW ’53
Minneapolis, Minnesota

If global warming is occurring, it is cyclical and due to natural forces completely beyond the ability of man to control. Instead of the obsession with a disputed, unproven theory, we should be concerned with the very real threat to our existence that would occur with the acquisition of atomic weapons by North Korea, Iran, or Islamic terrorists.

George E. Rubin
WSC ’55
New York, New York

Editors’ note: Indeed the issue of climate change has become politicized and, for that reason, we received a number of letters from displeased alumni. However, NYU, this magazine, and the balance of scientists and nations feel there is now compelling evidence that the climate is changing, in large part because of human carbon emissions. What we do not know is when and exactly how this will alter our lives. It could wreak far greater havoc on the global economy than any attempts to regulate greenhouse gases. This is why NYU has committed to greening our campus and investing in research and new faculty—including the creation of an Environmental Studies program—so that we don’t just sound the alarm but contribute to resolving this problem.

Please send your comments and opinions to: Readers’ Letters, NYU Alumni Magazine, 25 West Fourth Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY, 10012; or e-mail us at alumni.magazine@nyu.edu. Please include your mailing address, phone number, and school and year. Letters become the property of NYU and may be edited for length and clarity.

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