Correction*

*Arctic explorer Frederick Cook was not a fraud
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$1 Billion Campaign for Student Aid

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#NOWTRENDING
YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA HABITS ARE A GOLD MINE FOR POLITICAL SCIENTISTS

/ BY LINDSY VAN GELDER

Cover photo: Courtesy the Ohio State University Archives. Back cover: Courtesy Jane’s Carousel.

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ISSUE #22 / SPRING 2014

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www.nyu.edu/alumni.magazine
Our university’s president is famous for doling out hugs to anyone and everyone—from the trustee after whom a building is named to the security guard working the front door. These are among the lucky legions who have been treated to a Sexton Squeeze...
Inspired by our feature on social media ("#NOWTRENDING," page 30), we asked our talented collective of guest wordsmiths and artists to share the thinking behind their Web handles (aka names) and avatars (icons).

Ali Bahrampour is the author of the children’s book Otto: The Story of a Mite (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux). He was in the last class of Sendak Fellows—artists mentored by Maurice Sendak and granted and living space on his Connecticut estate. He is not one of the many Ali Bahrampoors on Twitter.

Christina Ung (@chrinshung) is an Ontario, Canada-based illustrator. Her avatar, “Ice Cream Man,” created on a whim one night, landed first on the cover of Appli Art Magazine then went viral, eventually turning up on John Mayer’s Facebook page. “It was even plagiarized by some street merchants in Hong Kong,” she says.

Dulcy Israel is a senior editor at All You magazine. She is a former editor at Entertainment Weekly, Us Weekly, and Rolling Stone. She lives in Brooklyn, and her Twitter status is, well, complicated. As she confesses, “I do have a Twitter account… I just can’t remember that it’s mine.”

Eleni N. Gage (@eleninage) is the author of the travel memoir North of Blake and the novel Other Warm (both St. Martin’s Press). Her next novel, due out in 2015, is about three generations of Nigerian women. About her avatar: “It’s me in action, researching a travel story on Glysada Beach on Corfu.”

Erlin Wylie (@erlinwylie) / CAS ’03 / is a Brooklyn-based editorial consultant whose writing has appeared in New York and Nytes. “I hate having my photos taken, hence the face-covered [avatar], but I chose this because I’m in front of cool troglodyte cave dwellings in France,” she says. “Hashtag: humblebrag.”

Jennifer Blevier (@JenniferBlevier) is a staff editor at Psychology Today. Her work has appeared in Real Simple, Self, the New York Times, Thralladic.com, and elsewhere. Her handle, she explains, was “so chosen because my last name, Blevier, sounds like ‘lead pencil’ in Yiddish—sort of an anagram handle: “In 1994, when I signed up for AOL, my full name was already taken—nothing like the Internet to remind you that what you thought was unique is, in fact, a dime a dozen.”

Lindsy van Gelder (@lindsyvg) coined the term “bra burning” while at the New York Post, and has since written for numerous publications, from Ms. to Vogue. She’s been online since 1983 but knows “My goal is to spend less time on social media so I can read more books.”

Matthew Hutton (@ohverpack) is the author of The Kraus Project; 7 Laws of Magical Thinking (Hudson Street Press). He says, “I have high school purchased a silver metallic fireproof jacket that became part of my identity long after his Twitter handle. His avatar “It’s the Dalmatian from the cover of my book.”

Nancy Clare (@ClarzClair) is the West Coast editor of AARP’s Life Reimagined, the co-founder of the Los Angeles Times Magazine. As for her unique Twitter handle, she likens tweeting to “thinking out loud not knowing who, if anyone, will overhear.”

Nancy Blyeau (@Tudderscribe) is the executive editor of Doyou magazine. She is the author of two historical novels, The Crore and The Chalk (both Simon & Schuster). She jettisoned her own name on Twitter to reference an era she finds fascinating. Since then, she reports, “I’ve found thousands of like-minded friends.”

Rory Evans (@rorevans) is the editor-at-large of Martha Stewart Living. As for her Instagram handle: “In the 90’s, when I signed up for AOL, my full name was already taken—nothing like the Internet to remind you that what you thought was unique is, in fact, a dime a dozen.”

Sam Bruner (@sambrew) is an illustrator and filmmaker in North London, England. His work has been featured in The Guardian, AdWeek, Rodeo’s Digest, Lonely Planet, and on the BBC. His second choice for a handle would be: “@jumarooSticks. I used a random band name generator years ago to find an eBay pseudonym.”
In 2010, four freshmen at NYU Abu Dhabi answered a few questions for this magazine. Four years on, they’re proof that a violet-tinged education is thriving even 6,800 miles east of Washington Square. The 138 students in the class of ’14 represent a mélange of nationalities, traditions, religions, and political persuasions, so it’s no wonder that, as seniors, our quartet is literally worldlier. They’ve tweaked their dreams and rerouted their GPS—just as every college kid should.

**Musbah Dilsebo Ormago**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Goal:** A career in the Ethiopian diplomatic service

**Language(s):** Amharic, English, and Arabic

**Favorite recent movie:** The Hangover (2009)

**Major:** Psychology

**Favorite film:** Despicable Me (2010). “It’s an RA and it’s my floor theme. We have minions on each door and a huge poster of Gru on mine.”

**What you should know about her:** I was raised by a British mother and an Emirati father. I experienced both the Western and Arab perspective, so I try to really understand other people without judging them.

**Dream job:** To become a counselor. Therapy to Abu Dhabi as a counselor.

**Most amazing adventure:** That it was a great challenge, and very rewarding. So many things can be solved by just sitting and talking.

**What you should know about NYU Abu Dhabi:** That it was a great challenge, and very rewarding. So many times my freshman year, I skipped my family in tears. “This is too much! I’m too far away! Now that I’m almost done, I don’t want it to finish, but at the same time I’m ready to try something new.”

**Next step:** PhD in biology at an American or European university

**Dream job:** Working for an academic research lab and maybe someday my own lab, and teaching college or graduate students.

**Mubbash Dilsebo Ormago, NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.**

---

**Madhav Vaidyanathan**

**Chennai, India**

**Goal:** To be an international business leader in biochemistry and technology

**Language(s):** English, Hindi, Tamil, and Sanskrit

**Favorite music:** Kings of Leon, Muse, the Dandy Warhols, and Oasis

**What you should know about him:** “I’m a very open person, easy to approach. I do whatever I can to earn people’s trust.”

**Dream job:** To export that idea [of corporate, social, and environmental responsibility] to Ethiopia.

**Most amazing adventure:** Running the 240-kilometer “Dead2red” team race in Jordan from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, and a research trip to Ethiopia and Kenya.

**Next step:** An MA or PhD in economics at an American or British university

**Ultimate goal:** To make a serious contribution back home in India.

**Madhav Vaidyanathan, NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.**

---

**Florecia Maria Schlamp**

**Mendoza, Argentina**

**Goal:** To become a biologist and conduct research in the oceans and rain forests

**Hobby:** Scuba diving

**Language(s):** Spanish, English, and Portuguese

**What you should know about her:** “I can see myself sharing traditions and exotic customs with friends from all over the world, and calculating how many Argentinian alfajores (cookies) and Brazilian brigadeiros (chocolate pastry) I should cook for them.”

**Dream job:** To become a biologist and conduct research in the oceans and rain forests

**Most amazing adventure:** Running the 240-kilometer “Dead2red” team race in Jordan from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, and a research trip to Ethiopia and Kenya.

**Next step:** PhD in biology at an American or European university

**Dream job:** Working for an academic research lab and maybe someday my own lab, and teaching college or graduate students.

**Florecia Maria Schlamp, NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.**

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**Florencia Maria Schlamp, NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.**

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**The Kids Are All Right**

**NYU Abu Dhabi’s First Class Don Their Mortarboards**

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**The Hangover (2009)**

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**Despicable Me (2010)**
A PIANIST PRODIGY ADDS THE SILVER SCREEN TO HER REPERTOIRE
by Dulcy Israel

At some point in almost every professor’s tenure, he or she encounters a wildly gifted student who is also unusually young. Few, however, teach university-level concepts to a fourth grader—as Ronald Sadoff (STEINHARDT ’86) found himself doing three years ago with Emily Bear. “I got a cold call from her mother,” remembers Sadoff, chair of the department of music and performing arts professions at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. “Emily was interested in a film-scoring workshop we do every summer in tandem with ASCAP [American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers]. I assumed she was a minor because her mother was calling, but I don’t think I realized she was 9 at the time.”

While they spoke, a quick search on the Internet revealed that Emily had won an array of awards, was a favorite guest of The Ellen DeGeneres Show, had performed at the White House and Carnegie Hall, and had composed pieces for full orchestras. Her musical range was astonishing. “The first thing that struck me was, Wow, this kid’s in more than one area,” Sadoff says. “It’s not just the classical piano. And she’s not simply a songwriter. And she doesn’t simply improvise.”

He recommended waiting on the workshop but asked Emily to come see him the next time she was in New York from Rockford, Illinois. At their first meeting, he was bowled over, not only by the sheer talent of the friendly girl with long brown hair but also by how utterly unaffected she seemed, in spite of her immense gift. “They clicked right away,” Emily’s mother, Andrea, observes. “A relationship was born.”

These days, in addition to studying with Mary Sauer, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s principal keyboardist; Veda Kaplinsky, head of the piano department at Juilliard; jazz keyboardist Alan Swan; and jazz/ pop legend Quincy Jones—who produced Emily’s latest album, Diversity, for Concord Records last year—Emily flies in approximately every six weeks to compose with Sadoff. During a typical session, she’ll improvise scoring on a keyboard to a clip they’ve selected from NYU’s vast library of student and commercial films. “He shows me all this new information and technology I wouldn’t have thought of,” Emily, now 12, gushes. “It’s awe-inspiring.”

Helping Emily find her “signature, creative voice” while “attaining full technical control of the compositional craft” is unlike anything Sadoff has done before, despite his 25 years as an NYU faculty member or the 30 documentaries and short narrative films he’s scored, including John Canemaker’s Oscar-winning 2005 animated short, The Moon and the Sun: An Unfinished Conversation. But this uncharted course is less a function of Emily’s tender years than her unbridled imagination. “She differs from most students because I have to immediately determine which of her often many ideas best suits the film or scene at hand, which should she develop to fruition,” he says. “The speed at which we’re working is swift and compelling.” As is her schedule. This spring, Emily will headline numerous concerts—some solo, some with an orchestra, some with her jazz trio. She’s planning a summer tour and a new album and hopes to take a summer songwriting course at NYU—if time permits. Last June, she finally took the NYU film-scoring workshop that originally led her to Sadoff. “I think the piece she wrote, as far as the structure and everything else, was put together in an hour and a half,” Sadoff says. “It’s not just the classical piano. And she’s not simply a songwriter. And she doesn’t simply improvise.”

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As an adult learner and working mom, managing work-life balance wasn’t easy. I had a very good support system coming from family, friends, my professors, as well as from my colleagues and bosses. Know that your contribution will make a difference in people’s lives.
Where They’re Learning: Puebla, Mexico

by Eleni N. Gage

“Standing abroad” usually brings to mind backpackers and Eurail passes, stunted cathedrals and museums, cheap (good) wine and sidewalk cafes. But the students professor Vincent Guilamo-Ramos (SSSW ’95, WAG ’99, GPH ’12) leads to Puebla, Mexico, each summer derive many of these entertainments in favor of learning about the people they may soon be serving as social workers. Some 60 percent of New York City’s Mexican immigrants originally hail from the central highlands state of Puebla. “If you understand where they’re from, you understand how they think about migration from the other side,” says Guilamo-Ramos. “They don’t know what it’s like on their side of that bridge, but they don’t know what it’s like on the other side.”

American Harvest

Before they cross the border, students preview that other side of the immigration bridge with a collection of documentaries curated by Vincent Guilamo-Ramos:

American Harvest (2008) travels from Florida to New York, chronicling the plight of the legal and illegal migrant workers who bring food from our farms to our tables each day.

Social scientist Roy Germaro explores why so many people have fled Mexico in THE OTHER SIDE OF IMMIGRATION (2009). The film gives voice to more than 700 families left behind when their relatives migrated to the United States.

WHICH WAY HOME (2009) tells the harrowing story of unaccompanied children traveling through Mexico en route to the United States on a freight train called “The Beast.” The film garnered an Emmy Award for Outstanding Informational Programming, Long Form and an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary Feature.

Mexican actor Gael García Bernal shot THE INVISIBLES (2010), a series of short documentaries, to help Amnesty International expose the many dangers—including rape and murder—that Central American immigrants negotiate on their journey north to the United States.

In 2008, an Ecuadorian immigrant named Marcelo Lucero was targeted and killed by a gang of high school kids in Patchogue, New York. The PBS film NOT IN OUR TOWN: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS (2011) recounts his murder, the teens’ trials, and community efforts to stem anti-immigrant violence.

Reel Background

Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, director of the doctoral program at the Silver School of Social Work, NYU each January, thanks to a grant named Marcelo Lucero was targeted and killed by a gang of high school kids in Patchogue, New York. The PBS film NOT IN OUR TOWN: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS (2011) recounts his murder, the teens’ trials, and community efforts to stem anti-immigrant violence.

The Accidental Humanitarian

A Motor City Kid Finds His Calling in NYC—An App to Help Lost Children Everywhere

by Kate Meyers

What’s the trajectory for a teen who decorates the venetian blind in his suburban Detroit bedroom with strips of Violent Femmes and A Tribe Called Quest band posters? For Jorge Just (TOSA ’10), there was that internship with The American Life, then a stint as social media marketing guru for the indie band OK Go, and copywriting for Warner Bros. Records. But his most inspired work started in 2009 as a grad student in the Tisch School of the Arts’ Interactive Telecommunications Program. Taught by Clay Shirkey, the Design for UNICEF course has given students a chance to relive the fund faces, then brainstorm solutions, which they present to the organization at the end of the semester.

Just’s group became interested in how aid workers document displaced people. Together, they masterminded an app they named RapidFTR—they initiated initial work for Family Tracing and Reunification—and it’s a game changer. The smartphone-based cataloging system can cut down from more than six weeks to mere hours the time it takes emergency workers in war- or disaster-ruled zones to reunite lost children with their families.

What followed was three whirlwind years of devotion. It became Just’s thesis, and UNICEF helped underway development of the prototype. The London office of global software company ThoughtWorks not only do-...
**NO MORE VICE**

Dennis Di Lorenzo proves the old adage “the student becomes the master.” He arrived at NYU as a grad student two decades ago and is now dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. “His work is so immersive, so comprehensive,” says current dean of student affairs Dan Ruffner. Like Grier, Di Lorenzo increased graduate enrollment, launched a new career development office, and doubled the $60 million renovation of the school’s new headquarters on East 12th Street.

**ARTIFICIAL GETS REAL**

Facebook already grasp our collective fondness for all things face — now, it’s tapped Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences computer scientist Yann LeCun to help in severe become present. “It’s a really interesting problem,” says Grier. “What’s nice about this tel- eric realization of deep learning — described as “something of a celebrity scientist” —is that it also lacks mechanical joints, which are prone to failure. “One piece of gear in a jet can scuttle a billion-dollar mission.

**ELECTRONICS**

A tractor beam could precisely ar- range delicate components on a chip. It could also pull tiny samples out of an assembly line for quality assurance, automatically and non- invasively.

**MEDICINE**

A cell, at about 10 microns, and its nucleus, at about 1 micron, is the perfect size for tractor beam ma- nipulation. Scientists could probe poisonous or infectious samples through a sealed window. Doctor’s could perform in vitro fertiliza- tion without the danger of dam- age. “There’s no risk,” says Ruffner. “There’s no risk.”

**WOMEN’S ECON POW WOW**

We may have come a long way, baby, but as underscores during the 2013 Women’s Economic Empowerment Summit — organ- ized by NYU’s Institute for the Study of the Academic Center in Washington, D.C. — we’re not there yet. Tem- porary icon Bobbi Jean King, Glen- nor’s Editor-in-Chief Cindi Leive, MSNBC host Karen Finney, and 20 other silver-successful women from companies including Google, Nickelodeon, Goldman Sachs, and the Center for American Progress discussed, among other issues, uni- versal pre-K, paid family and med- ical leave, and the enduring gender pay gap. Host and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) ac- tually missed the day’s even as she was called away on business. “A woman’s work! Never done.

**STAMP OF APPROVAL**

Now this earns bragging rights: Mechanical, chemical, and biological engineering professor Anais Vaillant Patrinos has been immortalized in a postage stamp. The International Foundation for Greece honored the exquisite as part of its annual recognition of select Greek expa- triates. Patrinos is this year’s science honoree, and the stamp bearing his likeness will remain in circulation until September. Before joining NYU, he was deputy director of research at the Center for Urban Sci- ence and Progress. Patrinos spent nearly two decades at the U.S. Department of Energy, where he contributed to the Human Ge- nome Project, mapping DNA. Coincidentally, Patrinos’ stamp requires a bit of genetic material — it’s classic lick-and-stick postage.

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**IN BRIEF**

**TechCrunch**

A pioneer in the growing field of deep learning—described as “something of a celebrity scientist” by TelCoud—LeCun will direct the social media giant’s new Astor Place-based Artificial Intelligence lab (note: he’s keeping his day job at least part-time for now). Mark Zuckerberg’s outfit hopes to ap- ply out of the mechanisms of the human mind to machine learning—thereby predicting more accurately (if not eerily) what users want in the near future. And it also lacks mechanical joints, which are prone to failure. “One piece of gear in a jet can scuttle a billion-dollar mission.**

**SQUARE**

**DRAWN TO THE LIGHT**

**THE AGE OF TRACTOR BEAMS IS HERE**

by Matthew Hutson

While Grier’s optical conveyor is still too weak to transport Captain Kirk, here are four ways that tractor beams may soon change our lives:

1. **ENVIRONMENT**

Anything you want to sample par- ticles from a safe distance, a tractor beam’s your tool. It would let you measure pollution from smoke-stacks or the properties of dust from volcanic vents or a nuclear meltdown. Shine a beam of light from a mile away, and the particles come to you.

2. **ASTRONOMY**

NASA is particularly interested in collecting material from the tails of comet for study. The space agen- cy has done this once before, but it required flying a craft directly into the tail, exposing it to flying debris. A tractor beam would stay clear, and it also lacks mechanical joints, which are prone to failure. “One piece of gear in a jet can scuttle a billion-dollar mission.”

3. **ELECTRONICS**

A tractor beam could precisely ar- range delicate components on a chip. It could also pull tiny samples out of an assembly line for quality assurance, automatically and non- invasively.

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A cell, at about 10 microns, and its nucleus, at about 1 micron, is the perfect size for tractor beam ma- nipulation. Scientists could probe poisonous or infectious samples through a sealed window. Doctors could perform in vitro fertiliza- tion without the danger of dam- age. “There’s no risk,” says Ruffner. “There’s no risk.”

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**Spry Tech**

Each fall when the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering’s gymnasium at Brooklyn’s MetroTech Center becomes littered with snaking Ethernet cables and countless cans of energy drinks, it can mean only one thing: hack time. During the 10th-annual Cyber Security Awareness Week (CSAW), hundreds of students and professionals from around the world gathered to test their programming skills in challenges. There’s the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Quiz, as well as a forensics competition, in which high schoolers race to solve a digital murder whodunit. But the signature event is the CSAW Capture the Flag Competition, a 36-hour-straight software-hacking competition where buggy-eyed students forges sleep (aside from the occasional over-the-laptop nap) in hopes of sweet victory. Were it not for the comple- mentary midnight pizzas, plugged-in competitors would probably lose all sense of time. CSAW also entains a research conference, guest speakers, and a career fair to help students depart with a heavy foot in the door. Participants can meet with recruiters from organizations such as Face- book and the DHS, and network with the panel of judges from Google, FireEye, and FIs Global, among others. “It’s the perfect interview,” explains Julian Cohn (POLY ’13), who’s helped organize the event for the past four years. “The expert judges designed these challenges based on what they’re seeing— real-world attacks and security design issues”—skills that NYU and CSAW believe are best learned through a little friendly competition.
Do Look Back

The best predictor of the future is usually the past. Noted astrophysicist J. Richard Gott realized this when he formalized a method for predicting how long something in human civilization, the Berlin Wall, a Broadway show—would last. Lacking any special knowledge, assume you’re at the midpoint of its lifespan: If it’s been here a spell, you can bet it’ll be around a while longer. Hal E. Hershfield, an assistant professor of marketing in the Leonard N. Stern School of Business, suggests we unconsciously apply this principle to the age of our country, he and two collaborators looked at the environment. Hershfield says, “The running paradigm in climate-change communication has been to tell people about these doomsday, end-of-world scenarios.” His research suggests that a more subtle and effective way to encourage environmental stewardship is “to get people to appreciate the richness of their past, and to use that to project forward into the future.” —Matthew Hutson

OPEN UP AND SAY “AYE”

by John Bringardner / GSAS ’03 / and Matthew Hutson

If you want the federal government to build a Death Star, you have to do more than simply suggest it. A petition to that end on the White House’s We the People website has 34,435 signatures urging the creation of this hybrid space station/super weapon, but even an entire nation of supporters might impede getting at good ideas faster,” Noveck says. GovLab encourages the public to consider whether there are ways to reimagine the term democracy in light of scientific and technological advances. “If we can transform the nature of citizenship into something more participatory and engaging,” Noveck says, “then we’re stuck in the ultimate utopia.” —M.H.

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

Do by John Bringardner / GSAS ’03 / and Matthew Hutson

and found that the oldest nations had cleaner air and water, and a healthier ecosystem, even after they accounted for government for- mation and economic growth. Interestingly, some princi- ples she advocates for the public to consider whether there are ways to reimagine the term democracy in light of scientific and technological advances. “If we can transform the nature of citizenship into something more participatory and engaging,” Noveck says, “then we’re stuck in the ultimate utopia.” —M.H.

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

Do by John Bringardner / GSAS ’03 / and Matthew Hutson

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We all know that a tree can grow in Brooklyn, but can nine varieties of heirloom tomatoes flourish next to Houston Street’s six-lane thoroughfare? Yes, as those with tiny green thumbs tour Steinhardt’s Urban Farm Lab, a 2,800-square-foot garden at the foot of Silver Towers.

PHOTO © Jason Holland

We prove by NYU’s Urban Farm Lab, a 115’-x-25’ plot located behind Silver Towers and accessible to anyone in the NYU fold. This newcomer’s community space is essentially an outdoor classroom designed to give faculty, Silver Towers residents, and students of all levels—from University Plaza Nursery School kindergarteners to doctoral candidates—hands-on agrarian learning opportunities previously not available in Greenwich Village.

Although communal gardens in the Big Apple date back to 1973, Urban Farm Lab is groundbreaking for many reasons, says Jennifer Berg (STEHN-HARDT ’96, ’06), who is directing the initiative along with fellow food studies associate professor Amy Bentley. “It’s the first academic agriculture project in New York City on a landmarked site—with Landmarks Preservation Commission approval!” Berg notes proudly. While plenty of college campuses have gardens, Berg points out that most of them don’t have to contend with the scale and visibility of NYU. “A farm like this does not exist in a university of our size,” she says. “The types of conversations I’d have with people while I was working out here were just incredible. Passersby would ask me, ‘Does NYU know you’re out here?’ I’d say, ‘Yeah, NYU paid for it.’ They were floored.”

It did take a few years for this green project to get the green light: It was first proposed in 2010 by Daniel Bowman Simon (STERN ’01, WAG ‘13, STEHN-HARDT ’16) and Christina Ciambriello (STEHN-HARDT ’13), both enrolled in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development’s food studies program, who envisioned the farm as a way of reconnecting with NYU’s lost legacy of educational agriculture. (In the early 1900s, the university was the first to host a department of school gardens under the watch of Chancellor Elmer Ellsworth Brown.) The endeavor stalled until two years later when Berg, who served as an advisor on the initial proposal, was told that there was interest in an agriculture project at the site. After winning funding, thanks to a Green Grant from NYU’s Office of Sustainability, the farm was finally approved early last year.

On May 31, 2013, Berg and Bentley, along with a small group of students, began transforming the unmanicured backyard of Silver Towers into a farm with 18 raised beds made fertile with composted organic matter from NYU dorms—“so, like, Weinstein garbage,” Berg says wryly. (Next season, the farm will begin composting its own waste along with scraps from Steinhardt’s teaching kitchens.) Despite what Berg calls a “tragically late” start by planting in June, the farm’s organic, pesticide-free bounty included those aforementioned tomatoes along with arugula, bell peppers, carrots, eggplant, lettuce, okra, radishes, strawberries, watermelon, and herbs such as basil, chives, rosemary, sage, and lemon verbena. The produce was used by food studies students, shared with Silver Towers residents, and cooked into a feast for a September harvest festival, but it’s important to remember that the project is not about growing prize-winning edibles. “We want to generate agricultural knowledge—that’s where the lab part comes in,” Berg says. “In food studies, you can theorize about environmental conservation and about connection to food on communal and societal levels. This is the experiential way that our students are actually learning it.”
MUSIC can be found throughout the Big Apple—and not always where you might expect. From awesome acoustics to tunes with a view, those in the know from NYU share their favorite spots. Plus, six songs to put anyone in an Empire State of mind.

**Obscure Odeum**
420 STREET SUBWAY STATION TIMES SQUARE MTW INFO

“There’s an amazing old-time African-American banjo-and-string band called the Ebony Hillbillies, usually between the 1/2/3 and N/R/Q lines.”

—Michael Beckerman
Carroll and Milton Petrie Professor of Music at the College of Arts and Science

**Lyrical Landmark**
CAFE WHA?
115 MACDOUGAL STREET WEST VILLAGE CAFEWHA.COM

“It’s where Jimi Hendrix was discovered in 1966. In eighth grade, I snuck down there and saw him play guitar with his teeth.”

—Emily Armstrong
Archivist for the Downtown Collection at Fales Library

**Cyber Soundtrack**
GRAND THEFT AUTO IV:
ROCKSTAR GAMES.COM

“This video game has a radio station called ‘The Journey.’ The Philip Glass song ‘Pruitt Igoe’ and an untitled track from Aphex Twin’s album SAW II steal the show.”

—Andy Nealen
Assistant professor in the Game Innovation Lab

**Rocked, RIP**
GRAND THEFT AUTO IV:
ROCKSTAR GAMES.COM

“In the summer of 1975, a few fellow NYU film grads and I approached our mentor Billy Kristal about shooting his Unrecorded Bands Festival. He kindly consented, and the first night, we shot their-himself: Bob Dylan, Talking Heads, and the Heartbreakers.”

—Pal Ivers (TSOA '76, '89)

**Audio Alfresco**
GREAT LAWN CENTRAL PARK CENTRALPARKNYC.ORG

“I saw the Global Citizen Festival there, with Neil Young, Foo Fighters, and the Black Keys. More than 60,000 fans together in the heart of the city—really awesome and inspiring.”

—Emily Lasker (STEINHARDT '76)
The Lodge recording studio founder and chief mastering engineer

**Venerable Venue**
ROCKWOOD MUSIC HALL 196 ALLEN STREET LOWER EAST SIDE ROCKWOODMUSICHALL.COM

“For sound, vibe, location, and atmosphere, hands down, there’s no place quite like it. In particular Stage 2. I spend way too much time there.”

—Jared Scharff (STEINHARDT '01)
Saturday Night Live house band guitarist

**Red Rags**
ISSEY MIYAKE 119 HUDSON STREET TRIBECA ISSEYMIYAKE.COM

“I’ve been wearing his clothes for years. They fit my style and body, and give me a certain confidence that makes me feel like a rock star!”

—Susan Hilferty
Tony Award–winning costume designer and chair of the design department at the Tisch School of the Arts

**New Amsterdam Anthems**
“The Only Living Boy in New York”
(1970) Simon & Garfunkel
“TIMELESS, PASSIONATE, AND MAGICAL—A MUST-HAVE.”

“New York Groove”
(1978) Ace Frehley
“CAPTURES THE FEELING OF CROSSING THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.”

“Walk on the Wild Side”
(1972) Lou Reed
“EVERY NEW YORKER UNDERSTANDS EXPERIENCE.”

“New York State of Mind”
(1976) Billy Joel
“YOU CAN’T TALK ABOUT NYC MUSIC AND NOT THINK OF BILL Y.”

“Juicy”
“MOST HIP-HOP HAS A SHELF LIFE, BUT NOT BIGGI.”

“New York, I Love You but You’re Bringing Me Down”
(2007) LCD Soundsystem
“What New Yorker hasn’t felt this way at times?”

—Jeffrey Rabhan (WSUC '92)
Chair of Tisch’s Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music

**Rad Rags**
IsseY MIYAKE
119 HUDSON STREET
TRIBECA
ISSEYMIYAKE.COM

“I’ve been wearing his clothes for years. They fit my style and body, and give me a certain confidence that makes me feel like a rock star!”

—Susan Hilferty
Tony Award–winning costume designer and chair of the design department at the Tisch School of the Arts

**Audio Alfresco**
Great Lawn
Central Park
Centralparknyc.org

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—Emily Lasker (Steinhardt ’76)
The Lodge recording studio founder and chief mastering engineer

**Venerable Venue**
Rockwood Music Hall
196 Allen Street
Lower East Side
Rockwoodmushall.com

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—Jared Scharff (Steinhardt ’01)
Saturday Night Live house band guitarist

**Red Rags**
Issey Miyake
119 Hudson Street
TriBeCa
IsseyMiyake.com

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Clark Gregg isn’t a superhero. He doesn’t even play one on TV. And yet, the veteran actor has become the poster boy for Marvel, thanks to his turn as Agent Phil Coulson, the unassuming government suit who never loses his wit or stoicism, whether he’s bickering with an off-Broadway Atlantic Theater Company, which formed in 1983 out of an NYU summer workshop taught by supervillain stabbing gave them something to avenge. “I really didn’t know what to do this, but I just knew it’s gonna be fun. I was waiting for some rewrite pages and I was a mess,” he says. “I kept making jokes to the camera that I was waiting for some rewrite pages from the governor.” Moviegoers were even more distraught over Coulson’s fate. Refusing to accept his death, fans flooded to Twitter and Facebook, the dramedy premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival. “That’s a whole other level of rewarding,” says Gregg. Gregg’s newfound success. He recently wrote, directed, and starred in Trust Me, his second independent film (after 2008’s Choke, based on the Chuck Palahniuk novel). Featuring Sam Rockwell, William H. Macy, Felicity Huffman, Allison Janney, and Amanda Peet, the dramedy premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival. “That’s what happened after I turned 40,” he says. “The best stuff that happened me has been since I turned 40.”

The mystery surrounding Coulson’s resurrection was the driving force of the show’s first season, which debuted as TV’s highest-rated new drama in years. Now it’s Gregg who’s doing the heavy lifting, spending long days on set as No. 1 on the call sheet. “If I had lost track of the blinding-octo-11-year-old who read these comics and loved this world, I wouldn’t have been as I’ve been,” he says. “I get to fly amazing vehicles and do battle with tremendous alien creatures—it’s a really good way to be fifty-something!”
Helen Gadi Harel (STEINHARDT ’93) moved into Los Angeles’s Hancock Park neighborhood in 2011, he had no clue that the Cunninghams’ Happy Days home was right behind his own. After years in L.A., “It was the most exciting Hollywood encounter I’d had,” Harel recalls. “Fonzie lived above that house.”

A friend, charmed by Harel’s love of trivia, suggested a visit to the Brady Bunch house in Studio City. “That one blew my house in Hancock Park out of the water,” Harel says. “Fonzie lived above that house. I’d had a wood encounter I’d had,” Harel recalls. “Fonzie lived above that house.”

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Years a Slave, produced and directed by Steve McQueen (TSOA ’92), took home Best Picture at the 87th Academy Awards. Meanwhile at the 65th Primetime Emmy Awards, Breaking Bad was named Outstanding Drama Series for the show’s final season, with gold statuettes going to creator Vince Gilligan (TSOA ’89) and producers Stewart A. Lyons (TSOA ’72, STEINHARDT ’96) and Thomas Schnauz (TSOA ’84).... For the fourth consecutive year, Outstanding Comedy Series went to Modern Family and its writer-producers Paul Corrieri-Gan (TSOA ’94), Brad Walsh (TSOA ’94), and Bill Wrubel (TSOA ’93). HBO’s Liberace biopic Behind the Candelabra, written by Richard LaGravenese (TSOA ’80), won for Outstanding Miniseries or Movie. Jeremy Mott (STEINHARDT ’02) and Alex Jovanovich (STEINHARDT ’94), who both grew up in Manhattan, were among the artists selected to participate in the Whitney Museum of American Art’s 2014 Biennial.

—Holly Guern

At this year’s Academy Awards, the Oscar for Best Picture went to 12 Years a Slave. The thrilling, 1970s-era crime drama produced by Mark Kamine (TSOA ’92) and Richard Suckle (GAL ’91), Somali pirate thriller Captain Phillips, produced by Michael de Luca (TSOA ’79), and true-life AIDS drama Dallas Buyers Club.”

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A Reading From
The Book of Jezebel

Embedded in the press release for this two- and a-half-pound behemoth is the phrase “broad influence”—or, even more precisely, “an empirical and subjectively, more than 1,000 XX-friendly encyclopedia volume, printed for Grand Central Publishing, is inarguably among the most significant platforms for feminist cultural content, scrutinizing how women are represented in Washington, Empirically and subjectively, and Angela Merkel) is a happy co-
ument. The question of selfness is fundamental as the Suez Canal crisis, the U-2 spy plane incident, and the Vietnam War and, like many, people had a sense of, ‘Okay, if it comes to that, shall I go there?’” Warner, whose father earned his PhD at NYU and taught biochemistry at the medical school, escaped the fate of trading his greenbacks for loonies. Still, he thought, ‘What if my life had taken that turn?’

The question of selfness is also prevalent in The Mole. “Bates is half-Jewish, half-Christian, half-Canadian, half-American, and somewhat sexually ambiguous,” Warner notes. “So that was another reason for featuring Canada. [Canada’s] idea of identity has always been a slightly fraught issue.”

Warner began researching and writing the novel in the early 1980s, when Thirteen President of Thomas (Thomas Dunn) follows the titular Bates, a failed poet languishing in post-WWII Paris when he is recruited by his motherland, Canada, to spy on the United States. Bates moves to Washington, D.C., becomes an American citizen, and ascends the ranks of a shadowy boys’ club of intrigue and espionage. Crafted as a memoir complete with archival photos, footnotes, and an index, The Mole serves as an alternative history, in which “events stay the same, but the reasons things happen is changed,” Warner says. Bates throws back martini and honeypot with key historical figures, from superlawyer Roy Cohn to President John F. Kennedy on his inauguration night. And because of his access to the power, the accidental agent, often haplessly, nobly in such monumental events as the Suez Canal crisis, the U-2 spy plane incident, and the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

One of the book’s most intriguing ironies is that Bates, who is told when he’s recruited that he will be watched and contacted only when necessary, is uncer-

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In this era of celebrity chefs, genetically modified crops, and proposed 16-ounce soda bans, food is arguably more central to American culture—and more politicized—than ever before. No art form comments on this phenomenon as immediately as the editorial cartoon. In Eat Drink Vote: An Illustrated Guide to Food Politics (Rodale), Marion Nestle, Paulette Goddard Professor in Steinhardt’s department of nutrition, food studies, and public health, has amassed hundreds of contemporary cartoons that any future anthropologist studying our bewilderling society would be happy to discover. The best of them, such as this panel by Dan Piraro, viscerally convey the challenges we all face as we try to do right by our bodies and our planet.

—Ali Bahrampour

behind every book is a personal story, but few authors have one as rich and far-reaching as Shahan Mufti, who since childhood has shuttled between Pakistan and the United States, and, since 2007, covered the former as a war correspondent. His debut book, The Faithful Scribe: A Story of Islam, Pakistan, Family, and War (Other Press), is part memoir, part social studies lesson. It begins in Lahore in 1971, with his parents’ arranged marriage. On the eve of the wedding, India joined the war that would divide Bangladesh from Pakistan, and distant explosions sounded off during the festivities. From this joyous and violent occasion, Mufti (GSAS ’09) weaves together his family’s and nation’s stories, laying out the recent past—such as Pakistan’s 1956 founding as the first Islamic Republic—and the ancient dynasties that continue to impress upon the region. (One of Mufti’s more fascinating discoveries is a family tree written by an ancestor who traces his clan back 14 centuries to the inner circle of Muhammad.) The result is an insightful, suspenseful read that asks hard questions of both Pakistan and the United States, and has won high praise: The New Yorker singled out his “talent for explaining the political through the personal.”

Mufti, who has written for Harper’s, Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times Magazine, as well as this magazine, and teaches journalism at the University of Richmond, recently spoke with us.

DID YOU EVER CONSIDER WRITING THIS BOOK WITHOUT INSERTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY?

Actually, the family did come later. I knew I had a certain perspective on this that not everybody shared, which was being between these two worlds, Pakistan and the U.S. As a narrative journalist, I did feel strongly that I needed characters to tell the story. But I didn’t think at first that the characters would be my family members.

WHAT WAS THEIR REACTION TO THE BOOK?

My parents read it. Everyone is pleased. I haven’t alienated anybody, which was difficult, because I was trying to be very truthful about what I thought. Not everyone in my family in Pakistan can read English—I hope it is translated one day. It would be interesting to see the reaction there to the book. The stuff I’ve laid out is not necessarily stuff that has been said in Pakistan.

WERE YOU DRIVEN BY A SENSE OF URGENCY TO TELL THE STORY NOW?

I was frustrated as a writer, because there are huge problems with the way war is covered. The humaneness of war is very hard to capture. We have so much information as Americans about the war—just look at WikiLeaks—and we have no understanding of what war is, still. I think it was that desire to translate the reality and the understanding of war and this other place that is so large in our imagination—Pakistan—and it wasn’t just giving information about who’s the new leader of the new militant group. That is not going to lead us to peace or to anywhere useful even. What is going to lead us [someplace useful] is understanding.

ARE YOU HOPEFUL THAT READING YOUR BOOK WILL LEAD TO GREATER UNDERSTANDING?

Of all these Muslim countries, Pakistan is the one that America should be able to understand pretty well. [It’s a] country that began in idealism and came out of a colonial period, [with] an Islamic Constitution written in English by Anglophilists. This should be the easiest country to crack.
In the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge spins proof that—with enough elbow grease, tenacity, sacrifice, and belief—anything is truly possible.

Nearly three decades elapsed between the time artist Jane Walentas (STEINHARDT ’85) won the Idora Park merry-go-round (above) at auction in Youngstown, Ohio, and the day it opened as Jane’s Carousel on the Banks of the East River (right).
Everyone except my husband and son thought I was crazy,” says Walentas of her passion project. “Even having my studio in DUMBO seemed nuts because it was so desolate when I started in the 1980s. There wasn’t anything here but a coffee truck outside and mice indoors.”

Walentas leaned heavily on her fine arts training to help her authentically restore the horses—carved and painted in 1922—to their Roaring Twenties glory.

While Superstorm Sandy damaged the electronics of the carousel’s high-tech Jean Nouvel–designed pavilion (above right), the wooden equines remained, thankfully, unscathed.

PHOTOS: RIGHT cOURTeSY JaNe’S caROUSel; Below © JeSSIca daIleY

PHOTO cOURTeSY aNNa dORfmaN/dOORSIXTeeN.cOm PHOTO © JeSSIca daIleY
Social media has already changed how we communicate. Now it’s redrawning the frontiers of research as scientists mine it for clues to our political behavior.

by Lindsy Van Gelder
The **YouTube** clips had an exuberant grit that was part Occupy Wall Street, part *Thelma & Louise*. Very few videos actually showed the faces of those defying the Saudi Arabian ban on women driving; more often the camera lingered on an illicit but maniacally hand at the wheel, the sleeves of a black abaya, or dice dangling from the rearview mirror. As the protesters and their friends tooted through traffic—some with rock blasting on the car radio—their excitement was palpable. “We’re doing it—yes, we are!” piped up a voice from the passenger seat in one clip, breaking into gleeful laughter. “It’s spread like wildfire,” Morgan says. The demonstrators “realized that the outside world was behind them, and they decided to ride.” The rest of the conversation online, many worried it might now be considered treason, a capital crime. The Saudi organizer told Morgan that the government’s escalation was “the worst blow ever for the [Saudi] women’s rights movement during the last 30 years.”

Morgan is a veteran activist—she organized the campaign online. Many worried it was a stunt, and that some women would not be敢 to drive again to drivers (and their husbands) being banned from foreign travel for a year, denounced by name from pulpits across the country, and fired from government jobs.

Now there was a serious new wrinkle: The Ministry of the Interior had threatened to jail anyone who attempted to “disturb the public peace” by driving or even supporting the campaign online. Many worried it might now be considered treason, a capital crime. The Saudi organizer told Morgan that the government’s escalation was “the worst blow ever for the [Saudi] women’s rights movement during the last 30 years.”

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“One thing that always surprises me online is how much people are willing to share.”

Although it’s theoretically possible for government spies or ideological agents provocateurs to set up dummy accounts, transparency currently seems to be the unwritten rule. If anything, Tucker says, “We’ll be looking at the impact of social media on political participation, running the gamut from joining a demonstration to giving money to a candidate to volunteering to voting—or not voting,” Nagler explains.

“The target may sound clear enough, but reaching it brings up endlessly rich lines of inquiry. Does reliance on mobile social media surge in a press vacuum? Is it different in a rich or poor country, a democracy, or a repressive society? Do we make political decisions differently when we can get instant feedback on whether 50 of our friends ‘like’ or retweet the same information? Which is more important: the stuff we read in someone else’s post or the act of posting something on our own? How do people figure out what information to trust, particularly when staring down police or soldiers with guns? These are the kinds of questions SMaPP wants to explore. ‘We’ve always known that the spread of information is important in protests,’ Tucker says. ‘But we could never, ever study information like this before in a systematic way.’”

The group has already discovered that Twitter users are pretty much who they say they are. Pablo Barberá (KSSS ‘15), a PhD student in the department of politics, matched several thousand public voter-registration records in Ohio against the Twitter accounts of people whose tweets had indicated their political leanings; he was easily able to predict an overwhelming majority of party registrations.

SMaPP has also analyzed and charted the vocabulary tweeted by members of Congress (the researchers estimate that 96 percent of senators and representatives who have served in the current Congress have Twitter accounts). In general, Nagler says, congressional members haven’t yet figured out how to use the interactivity of social media to raise participation or otherwise involve voters; mostly they tweet some version of the phrase “Obamacare.” Republicans also talked a lot about “debt” and “spending” whereas, Nagler says, “for Democrats the key word was ‘shutdown.’” Democrats’ tweets also prominently featured the words “government,” “end,” “reopen,” “default,” and “bipartisan.”

Another ongoing SMaPP focus is measuring how information changes over time—perhaps, how quickly tragedies involving firearms devolve into political polarization. “It took about 20 days for the Newtown shootings to get heavily polarized,” Nagler says, “although to put it in perspective, it never got as polarized as tweets about Romney or Obama or—even the gold standard—tweets about the National Rifle Association.”

But the project is not limited to domestic affairs. When Istanbul exploded into anti-urban-development protests over the fate of Taksim Gezi Park last May, SMaPP researchers monitored some 2 million tweets over a 24-hour period. They found another surprise; unlike the Arab Spring, where the whole world was watching (and tweeting), most of the buzz was local. In fact, most tweets were in Turkish, Nagler says, and “a tremendous density of tweets came from inside or around the park.” The researchers believe that what was happening was at least in part a form of citizen journalism, with participants live-streaming and live-blogging their own protest to compensate for the failure of the mainstream Turkish media to cover the story.

At one point, the demonstrators even appealed to their fellow Turks to turn off their televisions in disent of the slip-shod coverage and then publicize their actions with #BugınTelevizyonlar_Kapat (#TurnOffTheTelevisionToday). Their appeal garnered more than 50,000 tweets.

As SMaPP advances, Jost’s psychologists will study at word choices within in tweets. “There’s research on inferring psychological states and characteristics,” he explains, simply from the words people use. The data may make it possible to discern what kinds of messages are most likely to encourage people to participate in politics. And the project has also spawned new courses in both New York and Abu Dhabi. Undergraduates will study the Facebook pages of members of Congress, for example, and then go to Washington to interview their office staffs about their social media practices.

Tucker, the politics and Russian and Slavic studies professor, likes to note that for most of his career, his findings could be contained on an Excel spreadsheet. “Previously, our best sources of data were that we might get to ask a thousand or 2,000 people an hour’s worth of questions, and if we actually got to go back to those people a year later, that would be amazing data. And if you could do that in 10 countries—well, there were only five to 10 data sets like that out there. And now, all of sudden, we have millions of people in every country in the world talking multiple times a day and leaving behind digital records of what they’re saying.” Even it only a small percentage of it is about issues of governance, he says, “it completely dwarfs what we’ve ever known about what individuals are saying about politics.”

Online extra: Some crises that play out on social media are distressingly personal. Read the companion piece, “Thrill Up Texts,” at nyu.edu/alumni.magazine.
Frederick Cook was celebrated as polar explorer extraordinaire then tarnished as a fraud. Now, long after his death, he’s redeemed.

BY JENNIFER BLEYER
Early in the morning of September 21, 1909, a steamship emerged through a veil of fog in New York Harbor and chugged toward the city. The Oscar II had set sail from Copenhagen 10 days earlier. As it approached lower Manhattan, half a dozen tugboats full of newspaper reporters flocked around it like so many pigeons.

A roar went up when Dr. Frederick A. Cook stepped onto the ship’s deck. A sturdy man with broad cheeks, a rope-strap mustache, and a derby perched on his head, Cook was an Arctic explorer who had left the United States more than two years earlier with the formidable goal of trying to reach the North Pole—a feat no one had ever accomplished. During a long lapse in communication, he was thought to possibly be dead. Yet there he was, wearing a stovepipe, looking handsome, and very much alive. The newsmen barraged him with questions through their megaphones as Cook confirmed that he had indeed captured perhaps the holiest grail of global exploration: “Standing at the North Pole, I felt I had conquered gold, evaded famine. I had proved myself to myself, with no thought at the time of any worldly applause.”

Frederick Cook, 44 years old and an 1890 graduate of NYU’s medical school, received a hero’s welcome that day. Wreathed in white roses, he was ferried by boat around Manhattan, saluted by steam whistles and foghorns, and applauded by masses of humanity enveloped him in a scene that one reporter described as having “all the elements of a riot except violence.”

Cook was adored by his peers. It was while in college at Stanford University that Heckathorn started studying medicine at NYU. Just as he was completing his medical exams, his life took a tragic turn when his wife and child died following complications during labor, and he buried his nose in books about exploration to escape his despair. The next year, he heard that Admiral Peary was looking for a physician for an expedition to reach the northernmost point of Greenland. Cook volunteered immediately.

His relationship was entirely collegial then. Cook admired Peary as a courageous and talented explorer, and Peary wrote of Cook’s “unruffled patience and coolness in an emergency” after Peary shattered his leg in an accident on the ship and Cook successfully set his broken bones. His appetite for adventure whetted, Cook went on more journeys to Greenland, both with and without Peary, as well as to Antarctica with the Belgian Antarctic Expedition. He devoured accounts of Captain Robert Falcon Scott’s journeys to Antarctica at the turn of the century, and he considered Peary among his greatest heroes. It was while in college at Stanford University that Heckathorn started to examine Cook’s story more closely.

Peary made statements to the effect that Cook was a liar who had faked his North Pole trip,” Heckathorn says. “I thought that would be fairly easy to substantiate, so I read articles by Dr. Cook, and his book, My Antarctic, of the Pole, and it was disturbing [because] it sounded very authentic. Looking at his exploration background, he was not what you would call a typical person trying to perpetrate something false.”

So began a lifetime passion for Heckathorn, who became a polar historian, writer, and mountaineer. Cook, he learned, was born in 1865 to German immigrants in New York’s rural Sullivan County in the Catskill Mountains.

Portrait of Cook. Beneath the explorer’s picture hung a sign nodding to the controversy already brewing: ‘We believe in you.'

**Shadowing his homecoming was the growing suspicion that his rival, Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, was the true discoverer of the North Pole. Peary was a U.S. Navy civil engineer and accomplished explorer who had long fancied this feat—a goal that seems to have been motivated by his single-minded, almost maniacal obsession with fame:

“My last trip brought me name before the world, my next well give me a standing in the world,” he wrote to his mother after an 1896 trip to Greenland. “I will be foremost in the highest circles in the capital, and make powerful friends with whom I can shape my future instead of letting it come as will. Remember, mother, I must have fame.”

Backed by some of the wealthiest and most powerful interests of the day, Peary set off on a well-appointed expedition to the pole a year after Cook had departed. He arrived at the North Pole—perhaps the holiest grail of global exploration—on April 6, 1909, nearly a year after his opposition. That September, as both of them returned to civilization and publicized their claims in quick succession, Cook found himself interrogated furiously and shrouded in doubt. Their disputed headlines across the world, and in spectacular fashion, Cook went from being treated to being dismissed as a charlatan who had concocted a hoax of enormous proportion. Peary ultimately seized the torch as the North Pole’s discoverer.

Yet the question of who got there first, or whether either of them got there at all, persisted as one of the most inflamed and enduring controversies of the century. And in the past generation, as more information has emerged, a new crop of Cook defenders has risen up to reassert his accomplishments. Though both men have long been dead—Peary passed away in 1920, Cook in 1940—the controversy lives on.

His family moved to Brooklyn, then an independent city, seeking greater opportunity, as Cook operated a business with his brother while studying medicine at NYU. Just as he was completing his medical exams, his life took a tragic turn when his wife and child died following complications during labor, and he buried his nose in books about exploration to escape his despair. The next year, he heard that Admiral Peary was looking for a physician for an expedition to reach the northernmost point of Greenland. Cook volunteered immediately.

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Even as suspicions surrounded Cook, the Arctic Club of America honored the explorer with a banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City on Thursday, September 23, 1909.

The quarrel between Cook and Peary quickly came to figurative blows, captivating the press from Brooklyn to Paris.

The question of who got to the Pole First, or whether Cook or Peary got there at all, is one of the most enduring controversies of the 20th century.
endless snow-dusted ice pack where, according to scanty calculations and observations of the sun, the latitude was most likely 90 degrees North, and the longitude most likely zero.

Standing on this spot, I felt that I, a human being, with all of humanity’s foibles, had conquered cold, evaded famine, endured an inhuman battering with a sluggish, unfathomable Nature in a soul-racking, body-sapping journey such as no man perhaps had ever made,” Cook later wrote. “I had proved myself to myself, with no thought at the time of any worldly applause. Only the ghosts about me, which my dazzled imagination evoked, celebrated the gloriuous thing with me. Over and over again I repeated to myself that I had reached the North Pole.”

Now came a new challenge: When Cook and his two Inuit companions tried to return, they found the ice had drifted west. They spent the next treacherous year just getting back to the north of Greenland. They wintered over in a cave on Devon Island, all the while surviving on musk oxen they killed. By the time they returned to civilization, having reached the pole was almost an afterthought because they’d very nearly died of starvation and frostbite many times over.

Heckathorn became convinced that Cook was an explorer of extraordinary capability and perseverance, and he spent decades investigating Cook’s supposed accomplishments as well as the surreptitious campaign that Peary and his moneyed supporters launched against him. In 1994, Heckathorn participated in a Mount McKinley climb that retraced Cook’s route, offering geographic proof that he got much closer to the summit than most historians had concluded. And in 1998, Heckathorn went on two expeditions to the North Pole by Twin Otter airplane, mapping and confirming the land points that Cook described.

Cook’s redemption has found a champion in Ramin as well. Dmitry Shparo is a renowned long-distance skier who, in 1979, was the first person to ever reach the North Pole on skis, and in 1988 skied across the Arctic Ocean from Russia to Canada by way of the North Pole. Shparo became intrigued by Cook’s story and spent years physically examining its veracity. In one effort, he led a team of mountain climbers in 2006 to retrace Cook’s disputed route to Mount McKinley’s summit, and came to the conclusion that Cook had indeed made the ascent as he’d asserted.

Shparo has also spent years poring over Cook’s writing and records, including the explorer’s papers archived at the Byrd Polar Research Center at the Ohio State University in Columbus. Although Peary’s claim to the pole was discredited in 1988 after his long-closed papers were made public in the National Archives. A study of his navigational records and other notes suggested that not only was he never nearer than 100 miles to the North Pole, but that he knew and purposefully lied about his failing. Three-quarters of a century after the fact, the National Geographic Society, which had helped finance Peary’s expedition, acknowledged the findings, and The New York Times, which had led the media’s ferocious charge against Cook, printed a remarkable correction to its 1909 editorial condemning the admiral’s discovery of the North Pole. Since then, other analyses of Peary’s papers have concluded that he may have reached the “near vicinity” of the pole.

Whether the truth behind Cook’s claim will ever be known with any certainty is unlikely, although it hasn’t stopped a new generation from inquiring. Journalist Bruce Henderson is the author of True North, a 2005 book about the polar controversy that portrays Cook as a man of far more decency, integrity, and sensitivity than Peary, and sympathizes with the deflation of character he suffered for the remainder of his life. “I came to have a lot of empathy for Cook,” Henderson says. “I think Peary was an egomaniac and the last of the wave of explorers who were just out to plant a flag and say ‘I did it.’ I say Cook as the first of the new wave of campaigners to actually attempt something pleasant, to actually feed the world, not just claim it.”

Yet even Henderson acknowledges that absent the navigational data or any other hard proof, Cook’s claim will probably always be a matter of conjecture—something that must be taken at his word. For Cook himself, that seems to have been enough, and the joy of his personal triumph never faded. “That was my hour of victory,” he wrote of his excitement standing at the northernmost point of the world. “It was the climacteric hour of my life. The vision and the thrill, despite all that has passed since then, remain, and will remain with me as long as I live, as the vision and the thrill of an honest, actsual accomplishment.”

“I have crossed the drifting ice for many thousands of kilometers,” Shparo says. “People say it was impossible to do what Cook said he did, but it was absolutely possible. I have the unshakeable conviction that Dr. Frederick Cook conquered the North Pole. He was not just an ordinary explorer. He was a genius.”

In December of 1969, a commission at the University of Copenhagen ruled that Cook had not provided enough evidence to assert that he had reached the North Pole, a ruling that the press pounced upon as definitive proof that he was a fraud. Yet herein lay one of the most sensational moments of Peary’s trickery, according to Cook’s supporters. Cook was said to have left three boxes of crucial navigational data he had collected on his polar trek with an American hunter named Harry Whitney in Greenland. Whitney later told sending the navigational data home on Peary’s ship, but the admiral refused to let anything of his rival’s onboard. The boxes were stored in the rooky expanse of Greenland and never seen again.

After this devastating blow, Cook retreated from the public eye, only to emerge nearly two decades later. “I did it,” he said. “I came to have a lot of empathy for Cook,” Henderson says. “I think Peary was an egomaniac and the last of the wave of explorers who were just out to plant a flag and say ‘I did it.’ I say Cook as the first of the new wave of campaigners to actually attempt something pleasant, to actually feed the world, not just claim it.”

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MELVIN AMLER / DEN ’44, GSAS ’50 / has written a book about his adventures as a dentist in the South Pacific during World War II titled Midnight on Mindanao (Universe). 

LEONARD FLOM / ARTS ’47, MED ’50 / was inducted into the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s National Inventors Hall of Fame for his 1987 patent, Iris Biometric.

LAURENCE S. BAKER / WSC ’48, STEINHARDT ’55 / has been presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Westchester County Psychological Association.

CARL STEINHOUSE / STERN ’52 / has published a book titled Now What? (AuthorHouse).

PHIL PRESSEL / ENG ’59 / has published Meeting the Challenge: The Hexagon KH-9 Reconnaissance Satellite (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics).

ELLEN BARRISH / GSAS ’60, ’66 / is the author of a major work of investigative biography more than two decades in the making, The Double Life of Paul De Man (Liveright).


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CORNELIA A. VOPARIL / STEINHARDT ’64 / is part of a three-generation NYU family. Her father, STANLEY F. PECHAR / STEINHARDT ’40, ’47, ’62 /, and brother GARY S. PECHAR / STEINHARDT ’73 / both attended NYU, where Stanley was a professor of Computer Science; Cornelia’s daughter JANINE VOPARIL VOLPI / CELLI / SCS ’96 / is also an alumna.

JEFF FURMAN / STERN ’65, LAW ’68 / is chairman of the board of directors of Ben & Jerry’s. He wrote the epilogue to the book Ice Cream Social (Berrett-Koehler).

ROBERT BAUMAN / ENG ’66 / has published his first World War II novel, Extension of Life (Xlibris).

ALAN HIRSCHMAN / WSC ’68 / is a professor and executive director of the Center for Medical Innovation at the University of Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering.

PAUL DILLON / GSAS ’70, ’74 / is the co-author of an article on the efficacy of the Farnesoid X Receptor in the September 2013 issue of the journal Gastroenterology.

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, New York, 10012 or via email to alumni.magazine@nyu.edu. You can also share Class Notes online by logging on to alumni.nyu.edu/class-notes.

ENGINEERING Comes Home

Call it destiny: The relationship between New York University and engineering began in the mid-19th century, then things got...complicated, and they’ve been separated for the past 40 years. But as with any great love story, they’re back together following NYU’s merger on January 1 with Polytechnic University. Scientific passion endures! Here’s a look at NYU Engineering’s homes, past and present.
It’s easy to be gobsmacked by organic chemist Phil Baran’s CV. Not only does he conduct research in a lab named after him (at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California), but in September, Baran was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, which was given to him “in recognition of his talent, extraordinary accomplishment and marked prospect for even more distinguished achievement.” To our quiz–"Genius"? Baran himself might respond, “You’re a capital-g Genius. So, I was very flattered.” To our quiz—"Genius"? Baran himself might respond, “You’re a capital-g Genius. So, I was very flattered.”

PHIL BARAN / CAS ’97

Science Nonfiction
by Julie Vadnal

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“Genius” Phil Baran will use his award to create new medicines and agrochemicals.

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Coaching class on a transcontinental flight is associated with many things—limiting legroom, screeching babies, a sense of indignity. It is not often viewed as a host of inspiration, but that’s what it was for Alli DeFrancesco. It was on her way home from New York City to San Diego in 2007, following the memorial service for her Vi- olets swim coach Lauren Beam, that DeFrancesco decided she was going to swim the English Channel. The feat would not be simply an athletic endeavor, but also a way to honor her mentor who passed away at age 34 from colon cancer.

DeFrancesco had only recently recovered from Hodgkin’s lymphoma herself. For months preceding her diagnosis in 2009, she had been so ill, her so-called “stable” mass in her chest that her oncologists monitor closely. Having been so ill, she realized “[this] was an opportunity. I’d been blessed with a second chance.” She wanted to say thank you to her late coach, who “was the best part about being a college athlete for me.” DeFrancesco says, “She saw my potential.”

Selecting the best way to pay homage to Beam was a no-brainer. “Memori- tism cancer to anyone and they wince,” she says. “I wanted to do something to recognize as universal- ly challenging as cancer, and when you mention the English Channel, you don’t have to offer too much of an explanation.”

At its narrowest, the Channel is 21 miles across. At its warmest, the water hovers around a bracing 65 degrees. Its currents sometimes through known breeding grounds for great white sharks. While train- ing, DeFrancesco had a dream about Beam. The student told the coach, “I’m swimming the English Channel for you,” and the coach replied simply, “I know. It’s the right thing.”

This past August 28th, DeFrancesco and her pilot boat (with an independent observer) launched from Samphire Hoe, near Do- ver, in the dark at 3 AM. For the next 11 hours and 24 minutes, DeFrances- co swam. The only time she went “vertical” in the water—the equivalent of sitting down during a mara- thon—was when a tanker neared. “I played music in the jukebox in my head. I had the ‘Purple People Eater’ song stuck for at least three hours,” she says.

Throughout the swim, the crew transposed text messages for her on a whiteboard. One read, “You fought cancer. You will finish this.” DeFrancesco says, “I yelled back a proud corre- ction ‘I lost cancer!’” With the rocky cliffs of Cap Gris Nez within view, “I had an out-of-body experience,” she says. “It was like, ‘How cool is this? I am swimming the English Channel!’ I had the sun on my back, I was crying into my goggles, and I didn’t feel cold.”

In honoring Coach Beam, DeFrancesco also became the first Italian woman in history to swim the Channel (thanks to her dual citizenship in Italy).

“Physically and financial- ly, these kinds of swims are insane,” she admits, and not so unlike her battle with cancer. She notes that both involved “taking a risk, committing to a plan, preparing for the unknown, knowing the possibilities, and using all of your energy to fight for the best outcome.”
### Updated Alumni News

**Susan Baer, Stern ’84** has joined Arup as a principal and global aviation planning leader.

**Madeleine Hsu Forte, Steinhardt ’84** was feted on her 75th birthday with an International Piano Celebration sponsored by Yale University’s department of music.

**Leo J. DeBess, Steinhardt ’85** was honored by the American Society of Safety Engineers as its Edgar Monsanto Queeny National Safety Professional of the Year.

**Daniel J. Kubinec, Wagner ’85** retired after 36 years with the New York State Court System.

**Ilka S. Rodriguez-Diaz, WSUC ’85** is a senior intelligence officer with the CIA, an assignment at the National Reconnaissance Office in Chantilly, VA.

**Lisa Hunter, Law ’85** was recognized for her law services in Long Island Business News’ list of Who’s Who in Women in Professional Services.

**Steven Gentile, TSoA ’86** and Mindy Beloff, Steinhardt ’85, ’93, have opened Intima Gallery in Saugerties, NY.

### NYU Summer Sessions

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### Momentum: A Scholarship Campaign for NYU

**Gabby Marano**

College of Arts + Science

**Class of** 2015

**Major**

Economics

**Application Essay Topic**

A rap about living in the Bronx and going to school in Westchester—two extremely different places

**Dorm Tour**

I live in University Hall now but I’ve tried Three Avenue North, Greenwich House Residence, and Lafayette Hall.

**Term-Paper Approach**

Pasta—no doubt

**Survival Food**

Study in Florence, Italy, for the Spring 2013 semester

**My Scholarship**

I traveled to Southern Italy, only speaking Italian for 5 days

**Let Me…**

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the most amazing stimulating, blissful four months of growth, and I wish you and your family lots of love, happiness, and pasta.

**Best Adventure**

**Message to Donors**

**NYU**
On any given day, you can find Eduardo D. Rodriguez sketching. Pen in hand, he outlines faces, shades in features, and delineates bone structures. He doesn’t consider himself an expert, but his love for drawing serves two purposes: It keeps his hands nimble, and it prepares him for surgeries that require a surgeon’s eye and attention to detail.

“Most surgeons who know me know that I mark and design very carefully how we’ll be performing an operation,” he says. “I’m a rookie sketcher, but it helps me understand what I’m going to do, giving me complete clarity.”

Rodriguez is no rookie, though, when it comes to the operating room. As the new chair of the department of plastic surgery at NYU Langone Medical Center, he is recognized around the world for his leadership in reconstructive and craniofacial plastic surgery. His creative vision, compassionate approach, and extensive experience have helped hundreds of disfigured patients return to normal lives.

Rodriguez, who spent the next six years imagining, researching, designing, and planning the unprecedented possibility of a complete face transplant. Though partial facial transplants have been performed for almost a decade, with relative success (out of 28 performed, four patients have died, both Rodriguez and Norris knew that their breakthrough surgery would be far riskier.

But when news of an organ donor arrived, neither hesitated. Overcoming a team of five surgeons and 150 medical experts, Rodriguez performed the most comprehensive full-face transplant in history at the University of Maryland Medical Center in March 2012. It took 36 hours, but Norris couldn’t be happier with the results. New research of gawkers, “there’s no one paying attention,” he says. “Unless they know me personally, they don’t know I am a face transplant patient. That right there is the goal we had.”

The surgery promises significant hope that people like Norris can also rebuild their lives. Such opportunities, Rodriguez says, will only expand at NYU Langone. In fact, since arriving in New York last November—which Rodriguez says felt like “coming home”—he and his transplant research staff have already begun partnering with outside agencies to expedite the organ donor process. And because of NYU’s well-defined progression of care and research in tissue transplantation and regeneration, Rodriguez says the innovative tools that exist here can take them to new frontiers in educating doctors around the globe. Surgical simulations, coupled with a network of computers and remote control tools, allow medical training to have a wider reach. “We can teach a surgeon in another part of the world to perform facial reconstructions,” he says.

Even with such great medical possibilities in front of him, at the end of the day, Rodriguez sees the art of caring as his primary focus. “I love to take care of people. Patients and families give me much more than I could ever give them. They come in with really complex problems, and I have to tell them that it’s going to get worse before it gets better,” he says. “But I make the commitment that I’ll be with them every step of the way, however bitter it may be. Are there ups and downs? Of course. But I find more ups than downs.”

EDUARDO D. RODRIGUEZ CALLS HIMSELF AN AMATEUR SKETCHER, BUT HE’S THE REMARKABLY RECONSTRUCTIVE AND CRANIOFACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY.
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—Discounts on car rentals, exclusive travel programs, and a seat on NYU’s trolleys and buses, via: Velocity is key.
—For a physically or mentally challenging trip, a free visit to the Coles bookstore becomes a member of Bobst Library, or log on to the e-library and coveted databases of Bobst Library, or log on to the e-library and coveted databases via: the Web or in person: Valiant Velocity.

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Learn all the details, via: alumni.nyu.edu/benefits
alumni.info@nyu.edu

2000s

PETER DEPIETRO / TSOA ’00 / is the author of Transforming Education With New Media (Peter Lang International Academic Publishers). He was elected to serve on the board of directors of the Florida based voters’ advocacy nonprofit Fair DistrictsNow.org.

SHIRAZ TANGIRI / WSC ’92 / has joined Meyers Nava's Los Angeles office to expand the firm’s land use and environmental practice group.

STANLEY VELIOTIS / LAW ’92 / has been made an associate professor at the University’s School of Business, teaching accounting and taxation.

STACY DEEMAR / TSOA ’94 / is a Steinhardt councilor who created a public service announcement called “Smartphone Pollution,” in conjunction with the Illinois Theatre Association.

BOB RAVENER / STERN ’94 / has released his first novel, Waponized (Mohollan), with fellow NYU alumnus NICHOLAS MENNUTI / TSOA ’00.

TIMOTHY E. MAGEE / CAS ’00 / has joined the litigation practice of Pashman St. Germaine, PC in Hackensack, NJ, as an associate.

SANDRA BAKER ZARRAGA / STERN ’00 / was recently promoted to partner/principal of Ernst & Young’s financial services office in New York City.

DEANNA MOINESTER ALBERT / STEINHARDT ’96 / has opened the educational consulting company Educational Solutions and Resources based in West Palm Beach, FL.

GREGORY MORRIS / CAS ’96 / has been named president and executive director of the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center in New York City.

STEPHANIE "TAFFY” BRODERER-ALKER / TSOA ’97 / has recently written articles for The New York Times, GQ, Women’s Health, and Vogue, among other publications.

ROBIN HAMILTON / GSAS ’98 / won a regional Emmy for hosting the documentary The Dream Began Here about Washington, D.C.’s early African-American community.

ALDEN JONES / GSAS ’96 / has won the New American Fiction Prize for her short story collection, Unaccompanied Minors (New American Press). An announcement called “An American Fiction Prize for Unaccompanied Minors” was featured in the New York Times, with co-writers Gregory Morris, Robin Hamilton, and Felicia Marder, who serve on the board of directors of the MicroLoan Foundation USA.

ANGEL AILEEN GRANT / STEINHARDT ’06 / has released her first book, 2:7: The Awakening of Love (CreateSpace).

MARK IMHOF / STERN ’06 / founded Mark Imhof, CPA, CIA, MBA, LLC to provide accounting, audit, and tax consulting services.

RAKHISI MADHAN / TSOA ’06 / earned an MBA from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management and has joined Booz & Company as a consultant in Chicago.

MARK M. SPREDELL / STERN ’06 / has been elected to the board of directors of the MicroLoan Foundation USA.

VILAS DHAR / LAW ’07 / was profiled by Forbes for his socially conscious law firm, Dhar Law, LLP, and co-founded the non-profit the Urban Resource Institute in New York City, working in its veterans associate program.

RYAN WONG / TSOA ’04 / served as co-producer on the film Top of the World starring Zhang Ziyi. The film topped the Chinese box office in its first week of release.

MALLORY CARRA / CAS ’02 / in writing for screen and television from USC’s School of Cinematic Arts. She now works at Hulu in Los Angeles.

WALTER GONDIN / CAS ’05, GSAS ’08 / has joined the immigration law firm of Kelleher Test Prep, which recently doubled the size of its office in Forest Hills, NY.

DANIELLE MIKLOS / CAS ’04 / is both a lawyer and veteran and is now an associate in the New York Stock Exchange, working in its veterans associate program.

KATHERINE MAHER / CAS ’05 / has been named and advocacy counsel.

ANGELA AILEEN GRANT / STEINHARDT ’06 / has released her first book, 2:7: The Awakening of Love (CreateSpace).

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When Eleanore Backer died in 1983, she left a generous legacy in her will to create the Frederick and Eleanore Backer Scholarship Fund.

Eleanore enjoyed a show business career as a dancer, appearing on stage and screen with Jack Benny and Rudy Vallee, among many others. She married Frederick Backer, who graduated from NYU School of Law in 1936.

Eleanore had a lifelong love of learning and recognized its value. The permanent Scholarship Fund that she established provides annual awards to students University-wide, and it has become one of the largest sources of aid available to the University’s most promising students.

You, too, can leave a legacy and become a part of the Momentum Campaign to unlock the potential and unleash the ambition of future NYU students. Contact the NYU Office of Gift Planning to learn more.
On the eve of NYU's 182nd Commencement this May 21, the Empire State Building (above) will shine violet as students, parents, and friends toast the graduating class. The ceremony will once again take place in the event's new home, Yankee Stadium.

Across the globe, another campus celebrates its very first commencement as NYU Abu Dhabi's inaugural class graduates on May 25.

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SET IN STONE

WHETHER ONE FLOOR OR 26, THE BUILDINGS ACROSS OUR MANY CAMPUS

ACROSS

1. Only residence hall with a rabbi and an imam (2 words)
6. Andy Warhol’s former Factory is just 77 yards from this residence hall (2 words)
9. Private restaurant at 18 Waverly Place (2 words)
11. The number of floors, including subterranean, in NYU Shanghai’s new academic center
12. NYU Buenos Aires is located on this street
14. Owls from the cornice of the old Herald Tribune building adorn this hall; houses the Jeffrey S. Gould Welcome Center
15. German mathematician whose name graces Warren Weaver Hall (2 words)
18. NYU Accra is located on this street
19. Home of the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center (2 words)
22. Soon-to-open new location for NYU Abu Dhabi (2 words)
23. NYU School of Law building named for the dean who served from 1943–48 (2 words)
26. Site of the first X-ray conducted on a human (2 words)
28. Fritz Glarner’s Relational Painting (1949–50) resides in this art space (2 words)
29. Center for the Performing Arts opened in 2003
30. Neighborhood where NYU Madrid is located (2 words)
32. Commencement takes place at this sports venue (2 words)
33. Previous incarnation of Rubin Hall (2 words)
34. Name of the Brown Building at the time of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911
36. The Duke House at East 78th Street and Fifth Avenue is this school’s campus (4 words)
37. Nickname for the all-freshman residence hall where Lady Gaga once hung her hat (2 words)
38. NYU London is located on this spot (2 words)
39. First coed residence hall on the Washington Square campus
40. Onetime brewery, now NYU Berlin’s academic center

DOWN

2. Architectural style of the row houses facing south onto Washington Square Park (2 words)
3. Estate bequeathed by Sir Harold Acton in 1994, which is now NYU Florence (2 words)
4. 298-seat theater at 35 West Fourth Street named for this Austrian-American composer (2 words)
5. Downtown skyscraper home to SCPs’s Center for Global Affairs
7. Gutzon Borglum’s 1930 bronze sculpture guarding the Minetta Room of Hayden Hall
8. Historic 88-seat theater on MacDougal Street (2 words)
10. NYU Tel Aviv is located on this street (2 words)
13. Extended version of NYU’s motto, as seen atop the Silver Center (4 words)
16. Husband-and-wife philanthropic duo behind the Kimmel Center for University Life (3 words)
17. Penthouse level of Kimmel (2 words)
19. Picasso’s 1934 sculpture enlarged in 1967 for Silver Towers courtyard (3 words)
21. NYU Prague is located on this street (2 words)
24. Closed East Village nightclub that lends its name to the residence hall erected in its footprint (2 words)
25. Center for Near Eastern Studies
27. Renowned architect who designed the Washington Square Arch (2 words)
29. The arrondissement in which NYU Paris can be found
31. Historic 1931 building housing NYU Sydney (2 words)
35. Eponymous ghost who supposedly haunts this residence hall
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Correction*

*Arctic explorer Frederick Cook was not a fraud