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ON THE COVER
William Zeckendorf Sr. was a real estate titan. He entered the School of Commerce, Accounts, and Finance—now the Stern School of Business—in 1922, before going to work at his uncle’s firm. By the time the above photo was taken in 1963, Zeckendorf had owned the land on which the UN was built; bought and sold and bought and sold again the Hotel Astor in Times Square; purchased the Chrysler Building before flipping it four years later for a nearly $250 million profit in today’s money; developed Los Angeles’ Century City; helped create Chicago’s Magnificent Mile; and worked with star architects including I. M. Pei and Le Corbusier. But a notable failure was his proposed Manhattan Airport, unveiled in 1945. Below runways elevated 200 feet above street level would hum a transit hub as well as offices, restaurants, and stores. The project required 990 acres spanning from 24th to 71st Streets and Ninth Avenue to the Hudson River. Absurd? Perhaps, although no one thought platforming over the West Side railyards to build Hudson Yards was doable not too long ago. It’s important to acknowledge that sometimes the quixotic precedes the possible and even the practical. An 843-acre park in the middle of the island, a bridge connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn, subterranean tubes for trains, and a 102-story skyscraper. All of these were once unthinkable, yet today they help to make the Big Apple the best place to live, work, and study. We asked some of this university’s outside-the-box thinkers to tap their inner Zeckendorf and share their most audacious visions for the future of New York City (p. 17).

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HOOP DREAM ACHIEVED
When David Hollander, clinical associate professor at the School of Professional Studies and instructor of the course How Basketball Can Save the World, learned about the residents of Porretta Terme in Northern Italy and their petition to the Vatican to recognize their local saint, the Madonna of the Bridge, as the first-ever Patron Saint of Basketball, he couldn’t be a benchwarmer. The town’s b-ball obsession started during World War II, when American soldiers taught the game to their Italian prisoners. Then by the early 1950s, Porretta Terme was the national center of women’s basketball, and in 1956 a space within its sanctuary was consecrated the Chapel of the Basketball Players. But the papal honor wasn’t a slam dunk: despite backing from the local priest, the Italian Basketball Federation, and fans, the effort bounced off the rim. It was a full-court press by Hollander and his students in the form of a letter to the Archbishop of Bologna that seems to have tipped the Vatican’s decision. “It’s incredible,” Hollander proclaims, “and our students had much to do with it!”
THE SINGLE GREATEST INSECT HEIST IN HISTORY?
In August 2018, roughly 7,000 live rare bugs—worth an estimated $50,000—were taken from the Philadelphia Insectarium and Butterfly Pavilion. Welcome to the underworld of exotic arthropod smugglers and the dedicated detectives hot on their tails. Director Ben Feldman (CAS ’06) goes creepy crawling in his four-part true crime docuseries Bug Out, now streaming on Amazon Freevee. Learn what other alumni have been up to in the Notes section starting on page 28.
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SO YOUR COWORKER IS INTOLERABLE . . .

How best to deal with an unbearable colleague? Tessa West, Arts and Science associate professor of psychology, wrote *Jerks at Work: Toxic Coworkers and What to Do About Them*, a book that draws on her years of research to help make you less beholden to soul-sucking jerks at work and the chaos they inflict on your life. “No one really gets training in low-level conflict at work,” she says. “We wait until somebody screws up, then punish them with, say, microaggression training.” This deficit led West to assemble this manual of tips; it includes how to spot warning signs, understanding why someone behaves the way they do, and learning how to open lines of communication so you can solve the problem quickly and minimize stress. And what if you’re one of West’s seven work jerk archetypes (“kiss up/kick downer” and “gaslighter,” to name just two)? “Lots of people go from being the victims of jerks to the perpetrators,” she notes, “from complaining about being mistreated to mistreating people, if accidentally. And the word ‘accidental’ is appropriate because most of us aren’t motivated to be jerks. It just happens because our own personality interacts with the situation and sometimes we come on too strong, sometimes not strong enough.” Go to tessawestauthor.com to take a helpful, if potentially troubling, quiz to learn if you’re the office pariah. —ANDREW POSTMAN • PHOTO COMPOSITE BY NATHANIEL KILCER
READING A METROPOLIS

The description for the City as Text course explains that it couples scholarly and journalistic readings with field trips to help students develop a nuanced understanding of the local, regional, national, and global forces that shape the character of a town. But how do you conduct experiential learning during a pandemic? Just ask Amy Wilkinson, clinical associate professor at Liberal Studies. “Actual physical field trips [were] very tricky,” she says, though not impossible, thanks to technology. Virtual indoor forays in 2020 to the New York Transit Museum in Brooklyn and the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens “were still surprisingly cool,” Wilkinson says. Outdoor exploration in 2021 was COVID-safe, so the participants took a walking tour of Greenwich Village, surveying the Aaron Burr House (17 Commerce Street) and the townhome where Louisa May Alcott lived and wrote a portion of *Little Women* (130 MacDougal Street—now part of NYU). They also visited Jefferson Market Library (425 Sixth Avenue), which was once a courthouse. “You’re standing in front of buildings you walk by all the time or take classes in, and [learning about and appreciating] the other lives that have passed through there,” Wilkinson notes. Other Manhattan destinations included Elizabeth Street Garden in Nolita, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in the East Village, and Little Island at Pier 55 off the Meatpacking District. Students work on creative projects that focus on the city’s past, present, or future, and the interdisciplinary approach encourages viewing a city through its arts, media, politics, economics, and social practices. The seminar is also taught at NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai, as well as at the university’s study away sites in Accra, Ghana; Berlin; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Florence, Italy; Madrid; Paris; and Tel Aviv, Israel. —A. P.

THE ART OF NURSING

Brightly colored figures—arms crossed, chins lifted in determination—stand out against a cityscape dotted with dangling pots and pans. “Portrait of Compassion” (detail at left), stitched in part by Leslie Goldfarb (MEYERS ’82), is included in *When the World Went Still*, a permanent installation at the Rory Meyers College of Nursing that acknowledges the work of nurses in the face of COVID-19. The quilt hangs alongside photos, drawings, and collages created by students, faculty, and alumni, while newspaper front pages trace the pandemic’s timeline and the community’s response. Curated by Ching-wen Janet Chuang (CAS ’21, STEINHARDT ’23), the exhibition spreads across the public spaces on five levels of 433 First Avenue. Despite addressing the challenges of the last two years, the show narrates an upward trajectory; it’s not just a sober reflection on the past but also a glance forward, full of cautious hope. For more information, visit nursing.nyu.edu/wwws. —KIRSTEN FRANCES O’REGAN (GSAS ’14)
SOCIAL DIGGING

ABC, BBC, CBC, CBS, CNN, NBC, the Guardian, the Independent, Smithsonian Magazine. These are just a handful of the outlets that wrote about the discovery of the world’s oldest industrial brewery, dating to 3000 BCE in Abydos, Egypt. Archaeologists on the excavation team include researchers from the Institute of Fine Arts, working roughly 5,813 miles east of their home base of the Duke House in Manhattan. One look at the cohort’s Instagram (@digabydos) suggests that even their routine days just west of the Nile River are rather spectacular. It’s not that the tools they use in the field are high-tech—think shovels, trowels, spades, brushes, sieves, and buckets—although donkeys cart these items to the field and, on a good day, artifacts back to their lab, which does feature 21st-century equipment. What is awe-inspiring is when they unearth a treasure from an ancient civilization. While they’re rightfully celebrating that suds-related exhumation (the on-site accessory de rigueur is an FBI, or Famous Beer Inspector, hat), even smaller finds make the difficult work worthwhile. To dig deeper, visit abydos.org.

1. An archaeological site hidden high in the desert cliffs of the sacred wadi (canyon), considered in early Egyptian cosmology to be the road to the afterlife.
2. This Ptolemaic face was the first find of the 2022 dig season at the pre/Early Dynastic brewery site.
3. Abydos field house, where the field teams live and work. Built between 1967 and 1968, the rooms, many designed in a traditional Egyptian dome style, surround courtyards. Ruff the Archaeology Cat is part of a colony of felines who claim squatier’s rights.
4. The signs used by the dig photographers to date and identify shots.
5. The Abydos conservation lab.
6. A beer vat.
7. A sign reading “mintaqat hafayir,” Arabic for “excavation area.”
8. Amulets—charm-like figurines believed to offer various forms of protection—found in the burial plot of a young woman to help her on her journey to the afterlife.
9. An ancient artifact containing an inscription in Coptic.
Stephen Duncombe was a young organizer when he realized that activists might more effectively transform consciousness with a little creativity. Taking part in the ACT UP protests of the 1980s “felt like you were going to a party,” says Duncombe, a professor of media and culture at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study and the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Crafting demonstration as performance or a banner as an art piece could inspire in ways a petition could not. In 2009, Duncombe cofounded the Center for Artistic Activism to explore and communicate how to combine art’s power to move people with strategic planning to creatively bring about social change. Now he has cowritten the book *The Art of Activism: Your All-Purpose Guide to Making the Impossible Possible* based on the center’s research with artists and activists around the world. Good artistic activism must be culturally contextual, so his book focuses on cultivating creativity in general versus teaching specific techniques. One case study is about a former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, who replaced traffic cops with mime artists. Rather than dispensing tickets, these performers would, for example, wordlessly pretend to be offended or hurt when a driver ignored a pedestrian’s right of way in a crosswalk. The result? People began to obey traffic signals and, for the first time, respect crosswalks. Duncombe says the book will have done its work “if people read it, then forget it entirely. We want them to think, ‘Oh, that’s a good idea. I wonder where I got that idea from?’ ” –K.F.O.
HONORING A GOOD FELLA

The Tisch School of the Arts’ stature as a preeminent nurturer of filmmaking talent is getting turbocharged thanks to the largest gift in its history. It will honor one of cinema’s most celebrated figures, Academy Award–winning director Martin Scorsese (WSC ’64, STEINHARDT ’68, HON ’92). The donation is from the Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation, run by Ariel Investments president and co-CEO and Starbucks chair Mellody Hobson and director, producer, screenwriter, and entrepreneur George Lucas. It’s earmarked for the creation of a student scholarship fund as well as the Martin Scorsese Institute of Global Cinematic Arts, an academic and production unit comprising the Martin Scorsese Virtual Production Center and the Martin Scorsese Department of Cinema Studies. Virtual production is a confluence of technologies that includes game engine software, graphics cards, camera tracking, AR, and VR; it is transforming the way many movies and television shows are made. Lucasfilm’s The Mandalorian and Scorsese’s The Irishman both employed some of these technologies: the former created entire worlds in real time, immersing actors in live images during production using a high-resolution LED screen; the latter used motion capture to de-age its actors. This set of tools “allows us to visualize as we work,” Scorsese says. The philanthropic husband-wife duo noted that the institute “deservedly highlights [Scorsese’s] legacy as a quintessential American filmmaker and will inspire generations of diverse, talented students.” For his part, Scorsese said that Hobson and Lucas’ generosity “is deeply moving for me, and doubly so since this state-of-the-art institute will be housed at my beloved alma mater.” The Department of Cinema Studies will also include an endowed Martin Scorsese Chair.

GAINING ON PAIN

Tens of millions of people in this country suffer from chronic pain, and tens of thousands die every year from the opioids designed to treat it. The College of Dentistry’s new Pain Research Center aims to find safer, more effective alternatives. “My vision is to launch it as a signaling center,” says its director, Rajesh Khanna, a professor of molecular pathobiology. He’s referring to the intracellular communications triggered by pain receptors. The labs will study pain on several levels, including looking at the structure and function of sensory receptors in cells, measuring animals’ sensitivity to touch or temperature as a proxy for pain, and conducting clinical trials of potential therapies. Funding, about $40 million to start, comes from the National Institutes of Health and industrial and philanthropic partners. Khanna notes other goals: educating the community, mentoring budding researchers, and fostering entrepreneurship so that findings can have wider impact. “Pain is not going away,” he says, “and opioids are not going away either.” —MATTHEW HUTSON
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In 1982, Mayor Ed Koch signed into law a mandate that 1 percent of the budget for city-funded construction projects be spent on public art. Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development graduate Sergio Pardo López oversees the Percent for Art program at the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. This currently includes 137 projects, across all five boroughs, with a budget of nearly $27 million. He’s also tasked with creating historic context for the city’s monuments.

Pardo López earned an architecture degree from Polytechnic University of Madrid in his native Spain before spending some time in the United States as a visiting scholar at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Years later, he won a Fulbright to attend NYU. His background in both architecture and arts administration comes into play as he endeavors to place public works at the forefront of the conversation about the purpose and impact of art.

“We work to create a sense of ownership by the local community from the beginning,” Pardo López says. “Even when the artist has an idea for a piece, the community gives it new meaning by the way they engage and activate it.” —ORLANDO LIMA
Jerrod Delaine's interest in housing kicked off when he was 6 years old and drew his mother her dream home. "That's beautiful," she said, adding that one day he could be an architect. From that point on, he was focused on doing just that.

Then, after earning two degrees in architecture from Florida A&M University, a developer walked into the firm where he was working. "He's like, 'We're going to have this many units. We're going to have this many parking spaces. We're going to have a water feature.'" Delaine recalls. "I realized, I want to do that. I want to be the visionary of how to improve communities. As an architect, I'm the artist painting the canvas. I want to be the person who's owning the canvas."

So Delaine moved from Orlando, Florida, to New York and earned an MS at the School of Professional Studies' Schack Institute of Real Estate. (Today, he's an adjunct instructor there as well as a professor at the Pratt Institute.)

His career trajectory was inspired by the realization that he was a lucky outlier. His parents, and two generations before them, owned their homes, but for so many other Black families, it was virtually impossible to do the same.

This year, he established his own company, making him one of the less than 6 percent of real estate professionals in the country who are Black. He'll focus largely on developing affordable housing, but he also wants to "work on housing policy initiatives that will facilitate financing structures that incentivize developers to create more Black homeownership opportunities," he says.

The business is built on connections with investors, institutional partners, and lenders, but its most important relationships are with the people he works for. "These are my cousins, my aunts, my uncles, my neighbors in church," Delaine notes. "I have family members in public housing. A lot of developers can't say that."

He has a challenge on his hands. Though once on the upswing, Black homeownership rates have declined to levels not seen since the 1960s. Delaine seeks to reverse that trend, and he firmly believes that Black-owned companies like his are key to getting those numbers back up. His goal is to inspire trust in those he seeks to help, who feel they haven't been heard enough. "They see me as one of them," he says. "And I have a vested interest in their success. I want other Jerrods out there to be successful." —Sonia Faleiro
NILY ROZIC (CAS ’07)
Bachelor of Arts in Politics

REPRESENTING HER COMMUNITY

She had not yet earned her undergraduate degree at the College of Arts and Science when Nily Rozic began making regular three-hour treks from her home in Queens up to the State Capitol in Albany. She finished her degree while working for assemblyman (and now state senator) Brian Kavanagh. She rose to become his chief of staff.

At 25, Rozic herself ran for a State Assembly seat, seeking to represent her home district (New York’s 25th). She was a first-time candidate, young, and a woman who decided to take on the Queens Democratic establishment. “I certainly ran against the machine before it was the cool thing to do,” she says.

Already a veteran of state politics, Rozic was convinced she knew what becoming the youngest woman in the State Assembly would require. Still, when it is your name on the ballot, then on the office door, it’s “a whole other ballgame,” she says.

Born in Jerusalem, Rozic emigrated as a young child to the United States with her Argentine-Israeli family. Right away, “I fit into [the] melting pot that is Queens,” she recalls. Her district is a popular destination for Asian immigrants, and Rozic jokes that she gets to celebrate three new years: January 1, Lunar, and Jewish.

Her background helps her form an instant connection with voters while campaigning. “My immigrant story might be a little different from my neighbor,” she notes, “but we all have the same struggles, like gaining citizenship, communicating with bureaucracies of government. Those are the steps you take in realizing the American dream, and my family was no different.”

Looking back on her relatively short journey from Washington Square to the New York State Assembly, Rozic says her alma mater taught her “how to be a leader within my community. I feel like, since then, I’ve continued down that path. I went to NYU knowing that I wanted to get into government and politics. I didn’t know what form that would take. I look back on that time with nothing but good memories and a great network of people who support me. And I’m really, really grateful.” —RAY SUAREZ (WSUC ’85)

Since 1987, the NYU Alumni Association has recognized graduates for their exceptional accomplishments. Read about this year’s NYUAA Award winners—including Rozic—on page 32. To learn about past honorees, visit alumni.nyu.edu.
JENNY STEINGART (WSUC ’90)
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
SHOWCASING BOLD NEW TALENT

On the day of this interview, Jenny Steingart is recovering from a killer flu. She jokingly fears her voice is “just beyond the realm of Lucille Ball after four packs of Camels,” but she’s eager to share her take on her studies at Washington Square University College.

Like most philosophy majors, she took flak for focusing on something so supposedly impractical, but “it altered my course as a human being,” she says. “I still have all of my notes, and in times of adversity and challenge, as nerdy as it is to say, I find myself going back to certain philosophers.”

One of those times came in 1997 with the sudden death of her younger brother, music producer Gabe Wiener. Steingart sought solace in the words of Stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius: “What stands in the way becomes the way.” In other words, while we can’t change what happens to us, we can change how we react.

To honor Wiener’s legacy, she and her husband, Jon Steingart, founded Ars Nova (Latin for “New Art”) in 2002. Today it’s regarded as the preeminent incubator of emerging theater, music, and comedy talent.

In 2004, Ars Nova helped an unknown Lin-Manuel Miranda and team turn the hip-hop improv musical Freestyle Love Supreme into an off-Broadway smash. It landed on Broadway in 2019 for a 15th-anniversary limited run; garnered a Special Tony Award in 2020; got its own documentary, We Are Freestyle Love Supreme, which premiered on Hulu in 2020; and had a San Francisco debut this year for the national tour she’s coproducing. Ars Nova also produced Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812 and the adaptation of Tina Fey’s film Mean Girls, both musicals. Other Ars Nova alums include comedians turned actors Bridget Everett and Billy Eichner and series creators Elizabeth Meriwether (New Girl, The Dropout) and Beau Willimon (House of Cards).

Steingart selects her projects carefully—and using her gut. “Things come across my desk all the time that I know will be successful,” she says. “But if I don’t feel passionate about it, or if it doesn’t feel aligned with what I want to put into the world at this moment, I don’t do it.”

So what’s it like to hang out with some of the most certifiably witty people on the planet? “When we do Freestyle meetings, they always have us do an impromptu improv,” says Steingart. “Even though it’s in a safe space, in private, with people that I consider my family, I have heart palpitations. In my wildest dreams, I cannot understand how they do what they do.” —LINDSY VAN GELDER
JONAS GÜNThER (TANDON ’18)
Master of Science in Management of Technology

SHRINKING FARMING’S FOOTPRINT

To satisfy his three core passions—technology, sustainability, and food—Jonas Günther, who had studied industrial engineering in Hamburg, Germany, came to study at the Tandon School of Engineering. Upon entering MakerSpace, the school’s collaborative projects design lab, he told an electrical engineering professor of his goal to use tech to grow food more sustainably. “On the spot,” says Günther, “he told me, ‘Go get the materials and don’t worry about the initial budget.’”

While still a student, he created Tandon’s Urban Food Lab. It conducts research surrounding aquaponic vertical agriculture, in which crops are grown on top of one another in a system that connects to fish-inhabited water; the fish waste is a natural fertilizer for the plants, and the plants help purify the water for the fish.

Before graduation, Günther teamed with Michael Udovich (TANDON '18) and Daniel Bernstein to launch We Are the New Farmers. The company grows, packages, and sells spirulina, a wildly vitamin- and mineral-rich blue-green microalgae.

Numerous studies point to spirulina's trifecta: concentrated nutrients and protein, lower environmental impact, and minimal carbon emissions. To yield the equivalent amount of protein as beef, spirulina farming produces 19 times less CO₂ and requires 4,000 times less land and 14 times less water.

The three partners didn’t discover the magic of spirulina, which has been around for roughly 3.6 billion years. Nor did they first detect its benefits, as it has long been athletes’ secret weapon for muscle recovery. What’s unique is the way they produce their spirulina. They create refrigerated paste or frozen cubes rather than the more common powder, which can taste bitter and fishy. The start-up prides itself on

another point of differentiation: its sustainability. “We’re completely vertically integrated,” Günther says of their operation in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. “We farm. We make our products. We ship our products.” Speaking of not impacting natural resources, “we barely need any inputs to produce this type of algae,” Günther says. “[Spirulina is] an incredibly fast photosynthesizer, which helps us with carbon utilization. It’s a carbon-eating machine.” —ANDREW POSTMAN
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SKYSCRAPER BRIDGES, 1925
Architect Raymond Hood had many successes throughout his storied career, including Manhattan’s 30 Rockefeller Plaza and Chicago’s Tribune Tower. His scheme for hybrid apartment bridges, detailed in the New York Times complete with this illustration by his collaborator Hugh Ferriss, was not among those triumphs.
CITY CORRIDOR, 1967
During the late 1950s, Robert Moses’ proposed 10-lane superhighway meant to connect New Jersey and Long Island was dubbed the Lower Manhattan Expressway (LOMEX). To put it mildly, the plan was widely reviled. Enter the Ford Foundation. They commissioned former Yale School of Architecture chair Paul Rudolph to study the implications of the project. As a result, the famed architect reimagined a kinder, gentler LOMEX. Decreasing traffic, eliminating noise, and reducing exhaust: all were possible, Rudolph asserted, if only the highway was buried. His island- and river-crossing megastructure included housing, but its heart was the HUB, a group of nine-story buildings containing pedestrian walkways, parking garages, subways, the highway, and people-shuttling monorails (indicated by the two illustrations opposite). LOMEX 2.0 was as hated as 1.0, and the entire thing was officially declared dead in 1971. Later in life, Rudolph declared it had been the right move.
It’s right there, the very first word of its name: New.

Metamorphosis is the defining characteristic of our metropolis, and imagination its engine. Consider these landmarks: Empire State Building, Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park. In the not-too-distant past, each seemed a folly. But these icons of Gotham made real inspire us to turn from the practical, the probable, and the present to the whimsical, the improbable, and the future. Joan Didion wrote in *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* of a sense “so peculiar to New York, that something extraordinary would happen any minute, any day, any month.”

At a moment when our city is wrangling with multiple crises—some systemic, some new—that desire to envision an impossible but brighter future has never felt more critical.

Our question is: Can this proclivity to focus on the next be leveraged to solve the challenges of the now?

We asked some of our institution’s most creative minds to share a vision of New York City a quarter of a century from now. Our only guideline was this: use your imagination to make it better. Nothing is off-limits or too out there. Go big.

All of these New Yorks in 2047—some more rooted in our current reality, some unabashedly fantastical—have intriguing seeds. Perhaps a few, when planted, will yield tomorrow’s Big Apple of our collective dreams.
Increase the Population from 8.3 to 25 Million

For a young person moving to the city now who wants to do anything other than banking or real estate, the requirements are to be rich or live an hour away. We can change zoning regulations to encourage density of housing. In the middle of the last decade, my family lived in Shanghai—my wife and I were helping NYU build its school there—and it is a wonderful, effectively run city with the same population as Australia [roughly 26 million]. If New York City dismantled the restrictions that make housing scarce and unaffordable while investing in the infrastructure that would make it work better, especially transit, the city could triple in size and be a better place to live.

—CLAY SHIRKY, Vice Provost; Associate Journalism Professor, Arts & Science; Associate Arts Professor, Tisch School of the Arts

Eliminate Street Parking …

This precious space was not designed for parking, and it is regressive—the free allocation of public resources to a relatively higher income group: car owners. The nearly four million parking spaces on residential streets are removed and redesigned from scratch.

—ZHAN GUO, Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Transportation Policy, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

… and Convert It

We make parking spaces into spaces for parks!

—LOUISE HARPMAN, Professor of Architecture, Urban Design, and Sustainability, Gallatin School of Individualized Study

Build Down, Not Up

We should build beautiful, light- and plant-filled places underground. People will still prefer their homes to have views of the outside, so most commercial real estate should be converted into residential real estate, and sidewalks should be made of glass or other transparent material, which will let light down to the new New York City underground.

—ROBERT SEAMANS, Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, Director of the Center for the Future of Management, Stern School of Business

Remove Highways from Communities of Color

The highways that are intentionally routed through communities of color—highways that destroyed those communities, entrench racial segregation, and resulted in racially disproportionate health and economic impacts—should be removed and replaced with surface roads and other economic investment that reconnect and revitalize those communities. This is coupled with investment in an expanded public transportation system including subways, electric buses, and light rail. The rebuilt New York City will be a walkable, bikeable, and more racially equitable city that unleashes economic opportunity for all.

—DEBORAH N. ARCHER, Professor of Clinical Law, Co–Faculty Director of the Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law, Codirector of the Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Program, School of Law; President of the ACLU

Retrofit Underutilized Buildings

To become more inclusive, democratic, equal, and decent, we need to fix the crisis of affordable housing. We declare it an official emergency and reckon with the fact that we have a massive stock of underutilized buildings—from office towers to retail space. They weren’t designed to be residential facilities, but we can retrofit them and create a new supply of affordable housing units, which is transformative. The most radical idea: the city government reclaims all the unused space in Hudson Yards, which has taken billions in tax breaks while giving New Yorkers little in return.

—ERIC KLINENBERG, Professor of Sociology, Professor of Social Science, Arts & Science; Director of the Institute for Public Knowledge

Develop a Different Draft

Every citizen who is physically able to is required to spend one full workweek per year (covered by a generous weekly wage, paid for by the city) to pick up trash, tend to green spaces, help the unhoused, and collect and redistribute unused food to shelters and the hungry.

—NINA KATCHADOURIAN, Clinical Professor, Gallatin School of Individualized Study; work exhibited in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and MoMA
CITY OF NEW MANHATTAN, 1911
T. Kennard Thomson was a respected member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. So when he proposed building two four-mile-long sea walls roughly half a mile apart on either side of the Battery, pumping out the water, and filling in the channel, the idea was taken seriously. Despite capturing numerous headlines as well as the public’s imagination, Thomson’s idea didn’t move past the drawing board. A later proposal was significantly more audacious; among the changes, the East River was to be completely filled in, replaced by an artificial channel linking Flushing and Jamaica Bays. Until his death in 1952, Thomson remained perplexed as to why his plan hadn’t been adopted.

Introduce a Land Tax
The idea of a land tax is not new: Henry George first proposed the idea of a land tax in his 1879 book Progress and Poverty. Land taxes discourage owners from holding undeveloped land and incentivize them to develop their parcels since they will owe the same taxes regardless of whether a parcel sits vacant, houses a single-family home, or holds a 30-story apartment tower. Land taxes thereby increase the supply of housing and, by doing so, enhance affordability. A land tax also advances equity by taxing away the windfall gains that landowners enjoy and promotes environmental sustainability by encouraging denser development in cities. —INGRID GOULD ELLEN, Professor of Urban Policy and Planning, Director of the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Name a Gaming Czar
The mission of this government appointee is to entice, encourage, and support the growth of the city’s game industry. For this purpose, games are broken out as their own domain, not bundled in with film and other media nor with general tech or interactivity. This person is given a substantial budget, ambitious targets, and an aggressive timeline. Three to five additional, major, triple-A game development studios relocate here, the kinds of studios that employ hundreds of developers in diverse creative and technical roles. NYC establishes itself as an important world capital of creative technology with its own distinctive approach to the intersection of media, culture, and tech. —FRANK LANTZ, Founding Chair of the Game Center, Tisch School of the Arts

Get Cat Eyes
Cats see as well as we can during the day, but about seven times better than us at night. When we have better night vision through special nighttime contact lenses or eyeglasses, we can dim the lights in the city and reduce our energy consumption at night significantly. This will have a tremendous impact on the climate, especially when other major cities follow suit! —S. MATTHEW LIAO, Professor of Bioethics, Director of the Center for Bioethics, School of Global Public Health; Affiliated Professor of Philosophy, Arts & Science; Division of Medical Ethics, Grossman School of Medicine
May Live to See
May Solve Congestion Problems
“THE WONDER CITY YOU MAY LIVE TO SEE,” 1925
This was the title of an article in the August issue of Popular Science Monthly. The magazine asked Harvey W. Corbett, president of the Architectural League of New York, to describe his vision of Manhattan in the year 1950. “A picture of the present-day metropolis, with its skyscrapers and subways, would have seemed scarcely more remarkable 50 years ago than his conception of future city seems today,” the article stated.

Quadruple Education Spending to $120,000 per Student Annually
Funding at this level increases salaries and attracts and mentors highly effective teachers and administrators; provides students with access to individualized instructional programs and technology tools tailored to their own strengths, needs, and interests; and extends learning time inside and outside of school buildings to eight hours per day, 220 days per year, from ages 4 through 18. This guarantees that every public school student receives 14 years of public education that ensures them of a pathway to economic security, civic engagement, and social and emotional well-being.
—JAMES KEMPLE, Research Professor of Teaching and Learning, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development; Executive Director of the Research Alliance for NYC Schools

Become a Cleantech Hub
Top global talent is attracted to New York’s famous laboratory skyscrapers, where ideas are transformed into sustainable technologies that reverse climate change and improve our environment. Cleantech manufacturing sets its roots in Brooklyn, where recycled plastic is used to make sustainable textiles for the fashion industry and cement for the ever-growing construction sector. The city’s focus on sustainability will transform the East and Hudson Rivers, which will boast beautiful public beaches where dolphins will be common sightings.
—MIGUEL ANTONIO MODESTINO, Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Director of the Sustainable Engineering Initiative, Tandon School of Engineering

Add a Sixth Borough
We should implement the NYC Seasteading Act in order to cultivate a new borough called FREEYORK, 12 nautical miles from the Rockaway Beach coastline. This micronational zone will be built from scratch, sovereign from US laws, and fully self-sufficient in the usage of materials, food, and energy. As a self-governing extraterritorial entity, the citizens will strive for radical equity and equality in all aspects of daily life. It will be located on a massive, floating, stabilized structure to be composed of hybrid synthetic biological resources on the Atlantic Ocean surface. FREEYORK will be entirely climate-resilient and the global paradigm of socio-ecological urbanity. Housing and commercial, educational, and civic buildings will be grown from engineered living materials. The basic necessities of life will be free to all participating citizens. Resident restrictions will apply to former criminals, existing billionaires, tax dodgers, anarchists, and various special interest groups deemed detrimental to society. NYU’s new campus for the School of Architecture and the Environment will be permanently located in FREEYORK.
—MITCHELL JOACHIM, Associate Professor of Practice, Gallatin School of Individualized Study; Cofounder of Terreform ONE

Make Cybersecurity Education Free
All community colleges should be totally tuition-free and provide living stipends for anyone who has had a city address for one year or more. This should be paid for by increasing the tax on high-rise residences, businesses, bars, etc. We need to make an investment especially in students interested in studying cybersecurity, so that we are able to bring our systems to the highest possible level of security. We need to be more than one step ahead of cyberterrorists, to out-smart them with better design and more robust protective systems in place, not just for banking but for hospitals, nuclear plants, elections . . . all critical infrastructure systems should be hardened, but we need to train a new generation of exceptionally well-prepared and qualified security technicians and analysts, in order to do this.
—ROBYN GERSHON, Clinical Professor of Epidemiology, School of Global Public Health

Construct the Hyperloop
This will transport passengers in New York, Boston, and Washington, DC, between cities in just one hour.
—AMY WEBB, Professor of Strategic Foresight, Stern School of Business; CEO of the Future Today Institute
Increase Social Work
A 2017 report stated that the city’s Department of Education employed approximately one social worker for every 900 students. Among the solutions should be building a larger pipeline of social workers, particularly from BIPOC and low-income communities—those where the need is greatest—by removing a barrier to entry with an MSW fellows program that pays all or part of their tuition. In exchange, graduates commit to working for several years in the city’s schools and other environments where they can support the behavioral health needs of youth and their families. —MICHAEL A. LINDSEY, Professor of Poverty Studies, Executive Director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, and Incoming Dean, Silver School of Social Work

Harness the Sun and Wind
Mass transit should shift from underground to a network of sailboats with solar panels on their masts. The boats will remain consistently on schedule and will even contribute to the power grid. New Yorkers will also contribute to the city’s energy supply by using pay-per-use rowing stations below deck on these boats. Rowing will become a status symbol for young, upwardly mobile New Yorkers as well as a way to both maintain and exhibit fitness while commuting. Those unable to row—or unable to pay to row—will be tasked with sitting in comfortable, on-deck observation stations where they’ll maintain biodiversity observation records. —KAREN HOLMBERG, Research Scientist and Codirector of the Gallatin WetLab, Gallatin School of Individualized Study

Devise a Flood Plan
Stormwater and coastal floods are increasing in frequency due to climate change, and they have a large impact on public safety, infrastructure, and water quality. To mitigate and adapt to these challenges, we should implement innovative water management and flood mitigation projects designed to account for the natural environment and historic streams and marshes that were paved over as the city expanded. Even when paved over, these historic waterways don’t go away and are prone to flooding. We need comprehensive flood plans protecting neighborhoods that are developed in consultation with those communities. —ANDREA SILVERMAN, Assistant Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering, Tandon School of Engineering
Albert Gallatin envisioned this university as an institution accessible to all, and scholarships are key to making his paramount goal a reality. The three gifts showcased here will enable deserving students to pursue their passions regardless of socioeconomic background and, in turn, to contribute to solving society’s most vexing challenges. The gifts also help NYU stay at the forefront of innovation and maintain its reputation as a center of academic and research excellence. Simply put, these acts of extraordinary generosity are cause for both gratitude and hope for the future.
TO PERSEVERE AND TO EXCEL

THE BENEFACTORS
William R. & Marjorie Berkley

THE GIFT
$50 million

THE MISSION
To broaden access to a business education

THE RECIPIENT
Stern School of Business

THE PROGRAM
Berkley Achievement Scholars Program

THE VISION
William R. (STERN ’66) and Marjorie Berkley’s gift will cover tuition for more than 60 undergraduates at any given time with financial need. Selected students will come from all over the United States, representing a full cross section of the country. William Berkley began giving back to his alma mater shortly after graduation, and his transformative generosity and ongoing service over the following five decades has largely been driven by his own personal experience. In addition to being elected chair of the university’s Board of Trustees, he serves on the NYU Langone Health Board of Trustees and is chair emeritus of Stern’s Executive Board. “I was the beneficiary of a scholarship that gave me the chance of a lifetime to study tuition-free,” says Berkley. “I often think about this extraordinary opportunity that dramatically impacted the path of my life, and I am fortunate to be able to pay it forward. Empowering people changes the world.”

THE BENEFACCTOR
Leonard N. Stern

THE GIFT
$50 million

THE MISSION
To provide undergraduate scholarships

THE RECIPIENT
Stern School of Business

THE PROGRAM
Breakthrough Scholars Leadership Program

THE VISION
A gift in 2015 from Leonard Stern (STERN ’57, ’59) created this program, which offers full financial, academic, and professional development support with the goal of making college accessible to students in need. His latest gift provides for the initiative’s expansion. Breakthrough equips members with the skills and networks necessary to succeed at Stern and beyond. The program has been impactful, with graduation rates of 100 percent in each of the three classes to date. These scholars have also taken on leadership positions, including president of the student council and Stern’s commencement speaker, and gone on to have impressive professional careers. “Students who have exceptional ability and fortitude but lack the resources for a world-class education deserve to have the doors open to them,” says Stern. “I encourage others to take on the challenge of access to education and change the lives of talented and deserving young people.”

THE BENEFACTOR
Bloomberg Philanthropies

THE GIFT
$25 million

THE MISSION
To foster government and NPO leaders

THE RECIPIENT
Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

THE PROGRAM
Georgina and Charlotte Bloomberg Public Service Fellowship

THE VISION
With Bloomberg Philanthropies’ magnanimous offering—the largest gift to Wagner from a single donor—up to 20 students a year will receive full tuition, paid internships, and mentoring to ensure that economic barriers don’t prevent them from joining the next generation of diverse government and nonprofit leaders. Named after the daughter and mother of former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, the competitive two-year graduate program will serve to further cement the world-class reputation of Wagner, which was ranked first in Urban Policy and second in Health Policy and Management by US News & World Report. “NYU gave [my daughter] Georgina (GAL ’10) and her grandmother, my mother, Charlotte (STERN 1929), so much,” says Bloomberg. “So it means a lot to our entire family to expand opportunities for some of the university’s brightest and most public-spirited students.”
1940s

MARCIA MARCUS (WSC '47) sees her 1973 painting Self Portrait as Athena on display at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

1950s

NORMAN LISS (STERN '52, LAW '55) retired after 65 years in practice.

1960s

ROBERT P. LISAK (ARTS '61) received a teaching award from the American Neurological Association. PHIL COLTOFF (SSSW '64) and LINDA LAUSELL BRYANT (SSSW '72), both Silver School faculty, cowrote the book Social Work: A Call to Action, with all proceeds going to scholarships. JOAN DINAH LIEBMANN (WSC '67) cowrote the book Medical Marijuana. C. FREDERIC JOHN (ARTS '69, GSAS '77) wrote the book Storytelling and Market Research. JEFFREY SUSSMAN (STEINHARDT '69) wrote the book Holocaust Fighters.

1970s

PATRICIA FREEMAN ROSOF (WSC '70, GSAS '71, '78) wrote the book of children’s poems Little Folks Growing Fast. MARIANNA DE MARCO TORGOVNICK (WSC '70) wrote the memoir Crossing Back.

1980s

THOMAS J. MCNAMARA (LAW '80) was named to Super Lawyers’ New York Metro list. RONALD RAND (TANDON '80) wrote the book Solo Transformation on Stage. SÜLE GREG WILSON (TOSA '80, GSAS '86) cowrote the books Funky Banjo Level 1 and Funky Banjo Level 2.

JAMES COLOTTI (TANDON '81) was elected chair of IEEE LI's Electromagnetic Compatibility Society and Circuits and Systems Society. JANET GOLDNER (STEINHARDT '81) had an exhibition of her sculptures at Carter Burden Gallery. JESSIE RILEY (STEINHARDT '82) and KATHRYN GORDON (STERN '88) introduced an online learning platform to their consulting business Food Startup Help. JAMIE GOLD (WSUC '83) won an award from the National Association of Real Estate Editors for her book Wellness by Design.

1990s

DANIELLE OFRI (GSAS '90, '92, GSM '93) is clinical professor of medicine at the School of Medicine and editor-in-chief of the Bellevue Literary Review, which won a Whiting Literary Magazine Prize. TAINA BIEN-ÂME (LAW '91) was named to Forbes’ 50 Over 50: Impact list.

JAMES BLUMA (LAW '91) was named to Literary Review’s 50 Over 50: Impact list.
What Is Coronavirus? LAUREN B. CARR (STEINHARDT ’95) wrote the book Mindful Admissions. KEVIN R. KOSAR (GSAS ’95, ’03) writes a monthly column for the Hill focusing on elections reform, Congress, and other governance subjects. SANJAY UPADHYA (GSAS ’95) wrote his fourth book, Empowered and Imperiled. SHEFALI RAZDAN DUGGLA (STEINHARDT ’96) was nominated by President Joe Biden as ambassador to the Netherlands. ZEV GEWURZ (LAW ’96) was named to the top lawyers in real estate list by Connect CRE.

VIJAY S. JODHA (STEINHARDT ’96) won a best series prize from the British Journal of Photography for “The First Witnesses.” RICHARD REICH (CAS ’96, LAW ’00) was appointed senior vice president and general counsel of New Jersey Resources. ANN SCHAUER (STEINHARDT ’96) had an exhibition of her work at A.I.R. Gallery. RANDLE G. SCHUMACHER (STERN ’96) is producing the film You Can’t Run Forever. AMY WU (CAS ’96) wrote the book From Farms to Incubators. DANIEL BULLEN (GSAS ’97, ’03) wrote the book Daniel Shays’ Honorable Rebellion. KANNNIE CHUNG (STEINHARDT ’97) hosts the tv series Exploring the Edible Planet. DAVID MEHRETU (CAS ’97, LAW ’06) was elevated to principal at Meyers Nave. JOSH MOGIN (LAW ’97) joined Thompson Coburn as partner. KRIS MAHER (GSAS ’98) is a reporter at the Wall Street Journal and wrote the book Desperate. ANN-MARIE MASON (LAW ’98) was promoted to chief legal officer at The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company. BONNIE S. MOLINA (STEINHARDT ’98) earned a Doctor of Education from Seton Hall University and is a district program supervisor for Perth Amboy Public Schools. SHEETAL SHETH (TSOA ’98) wrote the book Bravo Anjali! CRYSTAL WILLIAMS (SPS ’98) became the president of Rhode Island School of Design’s Board of Trustees.

RYONN ROLLY BAIN (GAL ’99) wrote the book Rebel Speak. IRIS E. BENNETT (LAW ’99) joined Steptoe & Johnson as partner. CARLOS O. CORTEZ (GSAS ’99) was named chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. AARON A. FORD (TSOA ’99) was promoted to senior vice president of Multi-Platform Planning for the Marketing Leadership Team at NBCUniversal Television and Streaming. DAVID OROZCO (STERN ’99) was named professor of business administration at Florida State University and cofounded the company SettleShark. ANALIA VEITZ-KEENAN (DEN ’99) is president-elect of the NYS Academy of General Dentistry.

2000s

LEILA CHACKO (CAS ’00) is director of public affairs at the UCF’s India Center. MELISSA ROBYN GLASSMAN (GAL ’00) and SARAH WILSON (TSOA ’00) coproduced the documentary Dear Mr. Brody. SUSANNE TRIMBATH (GSAS ’00) wrote the book Naked, Short, and Greedy. HEIDI WISTE (SSSW ’00) became president of Children’s Home Society of Minnesota and was named associate vice president for Adoption and Foster Care at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. JANET BEARD (TSOA ’01) wrote the novel The Ballad of Laurel Springs. BETH GEORGE (GAL ’01, LAW ’10) rejoined Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati as partner. JONATHAN REISMAN (CAS ’01) wrote the book The Unseen Body. TANYA ZIMBARDO (TSOA ’01) welcomed her first child, Clay Cielo Doyle, and curated the exhibitions Speculative Portraits and Susan Philipsz at SFMOMA. BECCA FRANKS (CAS ’02) is a research scientist in Arts & Science’s Department of Environmental Studies and won a grant from the Animal Welfare Institute. JACQUELINE FRIEMLAND (LAW ’02) wrote the novel He Gets That from Me. CLINT LUTES (TSOA ’02) is associated artist at Danse Pour Parkinson and works regularly with the Théâtre de la Ville, both in Paris. ALEXIS HASELBERGER (GAL ’03) is a time management and productivity coach and hit a milestone of 50,000 students enrolled in her online courses. MARJ KLEINMAN (STEINHARDT ’03) participated in the Photoville Festival with her documentary project Stoop Stories. MONICA ALESSANDRA TIERNY (STEINHARDT ’03) launched a children’s block set that received a Good Housekeeping Sustainable Innovation Award. DAVID E. BLABEY (LAW ’04) was made partner at Kramer Levin. ELLIOTT BLANCHARD (LAW ’04) became partner at Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg. BETH MYERS (CAS ’04) is partner at Burns & Levinson and was elected to the GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders Board of Directors. MICHAEL PHILLIPS (CAS ’04) was named cochair of the Institute for Security and Technology’s Ransomware Task Force. CHRISTIAN USERA (CAS ’04) founded U Magazine. ALEXANDER ZOPPA (GAL ’04) cocreated, cohosts, and produces the podcast ARTLAW. JACLYN GRODIN (CAS ’05) joined Goulston & Storrs as counsel. BRET KRUFTZSC (STEINHARDT ’05) is editor of therewealer.org, which won a prize from Religion News Association. MARLA SCHUCHMAN (STEINHARDT ’05, TANDON ’11) is manager of Research and Technology Partnerships for Jefferson Lab, a Department of Energy Office of Science national laboratory. DOUGLAS L. TANG (STERN ’05) was named partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler. AVI WISNIA (GAL ’05) released the album Catching Leaves. REBECCA A. BORGES (CAS ’06) was elected partner at Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti. ABBY COLEMAN (STERN ’06) was named to the College Diabetes Network Board of Directors. HATIM EL-HIBRI (STEINHARDT ’06, ’12) wrote the book Visions of Beirut. AARON SHERMAN (CAS ’06) was featured in Wine Enthusiast’s 40 Under 40 Tastemakers list. BILLY ZEB SMITH (GAL ’06) produced the film Two Yellow Lines. RACHEL RAE VASSAR (GAL ’06) joins the Longwood Gardens Fellows program. DINA WEINSTEIN (CAS ’06) was elevated to counsel at Pryor Cashman. DUSTIN S. WHITTENBURG (LAW ’06) was elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation. CHARLES BREEDEN (STERN ’07) was promoted to managing director at Accenture. JOSHUA EDELMAN (TSOA ’07) sold the streaming rights to his documentary Mentally Al. VELMA JONES (STEINHARDT ’07) is the director of Internet Brands’s automotive vertical and an AmeriCorps Civic Action Fellow.

MELANIE MAGIDOW (GSAS ’07) is the editor and translator of the Arabic epic The Tale of Princess Fatima, Warrior Woman. ’IOLANI L. BULLOCK (GAL ’08) wrote the middle school novel Lenox Takes Flight. EMILY DAVIS (TSOA ’08) made her Broadway debut starring in Is This A Room. THULANI DAVIS (GAL ’08, GSAS ’14) wrote the book The Emancipation Circuit. JARED MARKOWITZ (CAS ’08) was promoted to partner at Mound Cotton. TIFFANY OSHINSKY (TSOA ’08) cohosted the podcast The Lead. SHARON HEWITT RAWLETTE (GSAS ’08) won a prize from the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies for her essay “Beyond Death.” JOVANA RIZZO (CAS ’08) is vice president of communications at Fairstead. JEFFREY YIP (WAG ’08) completed the executive management program at UCLA. ZACHARY GOLDMAN (LAW ’09) was made partner at WilmerHale. MADELINE GREENBLATT (CAS ’09) is an attorney at Farrell Fritz and was named to Super Lawyers’ New York Metro Rising Stars list. MICHAEL LAVINE (LAW ’09) was promoted to counsel at Jones Day.

2010s

GABRIEL BEOYA (LAW ’11) is a partner at Honigman and was elected to its Board of Directors. CYNTHIA M. JORDANO (CAS ’11, LAW ’14) was promoted to partner at Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna. MICHAEL MIX (LAW ’11) was promoted to partner at Morrison Cohen. BLERTA BASHOLLI (TSOA ’12) wrote and directed Hive, which won the Grand Jury Prize, Directing Award, and Audience Award in World Cinema when it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2021.
JOSEPH RAUCH (STEINHARDT ’12) became manager of procurement content creation at Johnson & Johnson. Fati ROXANNA WALITZKI (WAG ’13) was named managing director of brand SHOKi. VICTORIA DAVIS (STEINHARDT ’12) wrote the book Addicted to Health. FARISA KHALID (IFA ’12, GSAS ’16) earned a PhD in English from GWU. SIV B. LIE (GSAS ’12, ’17) wrote the book Django Generations.

ROXANNA WALITZKI (STEINHARDT ’12) released the album Amor Fati. TIFFANY YARDE (SPS ’12) is the founder and CEO of the beverage brand SHOKi. MIRIAM ALTMAN (WAG ’13) and ALEXANDRA MEIS (WAG ’13) cofounded Kinvolved, which was acquired by PowerSchool.

KARIN DRYHURST (LAW ’13) was made partner at WilmerHale. SAM SANDAK FREIBERGER (TSOA ’13) had his “Eggman the Auteur” episode of the computer-animated show Sonic Boom screened at several festivals, with the complete series released on Blu-ray by SteelBook. ERIK HANSON (TSOA ’13) wrote the short story collection All Things Deadly and the novella Wicked Blood. EMINE KASAPOLGU (SPS ’13) became manager of procurement content creation at Johnson & Johnson. JOSEPH RAUCH (CAS ’13) wrote the novel The Last of the Mentally Ill.

CHARLOTTE WINCOTT (GSAS ’13, ’15) received the Activism Award from the Hollywood Women’s Film Institute for her documentary Fall Fight Shine. JEFFREY FEINSTEIN (STERN ’14) joined KBK Wealth Management as a principal. CHRISTOPHER GRIFFIN (STEINHARDT ’14), known as Plant Kween, wrote the book You Grow, Gurl! ALEXANDROS HATZAKIS (WAG ’14) was promoted to associate executive director at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. MELISSA MUSCATO (STEINHARDT ’14) was married in Larkspur, CO, with numerous NYU alumni in the wedding party and in attendance. MARIANNE OLANIRAN (GPH ’14) and her husband, Kabir Olaniran, welcomed their third child, Nathan. VALERIE WONG (STERN ’14) wrote the poem “Every Monsoon Exhasts Itself Eventually,” to be featured in the anthology Processing Crisis. JAYSON BROWDER (WAG ’15) was included on the Middle East Policy Council’s 40 Under 40 list. AVINA PEREIRA (CAS ’15), aka Evina, released the single “Serendipity.” ADA SMAILBEGOVIĆ (GSAS ’15) wrote the book Poetics of Liveliness. SHANNON SWEETING (TSOA ’15) wrote the free e-book Learn Simple Japanese Watching Anime. ABBEY WEMIMO (WAG ’15) and SAMIR GOEL (CAS ’15, STERN ’15) cofounded Esusu, which has a $1B valuation. KAMRAN SALIANI (TSOA ’16) started the Irvington Shakespeare Company and received permission from Sir Ian McKellen to rework his 1980 one-man show Acting Shakespeare as a four-person play. EMILY M. SUJKA (CAS ’16, STEINHARDT ’16) wrote the poetry collection Beautiful Ends. ISLA PERFITO (STEINHARDT ’17, CAS ’17) created the blockchain-based content engagement platform Sator.

MADELINE RAUBE (STEINHARDT ’17) made her Broadway national tour debut as Countess Lily in Anastasia the Musical. NICHOLAS PAGANO (CAS ’18, GSAS ’22) joined Exit Realty Private Client. MISHA MULLANY (TSOA ’19) wrote, directed, and cocomposed Infernal the Musical at NYC’s Flea Theater.

2020s

JACKSON LAWRENCE HIRSH (TSOA ’20), who performs as Rence, released the single “Awooo!” and played at Lollapalooza. UMAIR KAROWADIA (LAW ’20) joined Chamberlain Hrdlicka as an associate. DAN TURTEL (STERN ’20) wrote Greetings from Asbury Park, which won the Faulkner Society award for best novel. BILL MEYER (STEINHARDT ’21) wrote the children’s book Healing Breath.

DAVID K.A. MORDECAI (STERN ’87), MICHAEL KWAK (GSAS ’10), MIHIR GOKHALE (CAS ’12, STERN ’20), and PETER HORVATH (GSAS ’21) as well as Samantha Kappagoda, who, like Dr. Mordecai, is a visiting scholar at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, analyzed data related to police interactions, arrests, and use of force, retrieved from the Aurora Police Department (APD). The analysis made a critical contribution to an investigation commissioned by the Colorado attorney general that found that the APD engaged in racially biased policing and resulted in a legally binding consent decree for the APD designed to remediate the deficiencies uncovered. The findings have been cited by the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Guardian and inspired other states to announce similar investigations.
We want to hear your news!

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Milton Hochron  
(Steinhardt ’42)

Natalie Tenney  
(WSC ’42)

Bruce Spear Moffat  
(Tandon ’48)

Arnold D. Blum  
(WSC ’49, GSAS ’50)

Rose de Mella Boyko  
(WSC ’49)

Howard S. Wale  
(WSC ’49, Den ’49)

Robert L. Wolke  
(Tandon ’49)

David Curtis  
(WSC ’51, Stern ’55)

Robert H. Sagerman  
(WSC ’51, Med ’55)

Rudolph J. Yacyshyn  
(Stern ’52, WAG ’72)

Ralph Jacobson  
(Law ’53)

Melvin A. Stein  
(Stern ’53)

Joseph S. D’Agostino  
(Steinhardt ’54)

Isaac Matza  
(Stern ’57)

Joel A. Rose  
(Stern ’58)

Laura H. Chapman  
(Steinhardt ’60)

Coralie Hinkley  
(Steinhardt ’60)

Jenny Egan  
(Steinhardt ’61)

Abraham N. Silverman  
(GSAS ’65)

Michael G. Kesler  
(Tandon ’68)

Robert F. Lima  
(GSAS ’68)

Larry Dworkin  
(Tandon ’69)

Joyce Valborg Zerwekh  
(Meyers ’69)

Mark Levy  
(Tandon ’70)

Jerome Toenjes  
(TSOA ’70)

Joanne Kirk Henry  
(Steinhardt ’71)

Henry M. Silvert  
(WSC ’71, GSAS ’80, GSAS ’86)

Fredric C. Wheeler  
(WAG ’73)

Lee D. Server  
(TSOA ’74)

Marvin A. Wurzer  
(Law ’75)

Larry L. Cary Jr.  
(WAG ’79)

G. Scott Budge  
(Steinhardt ’80, ’88)

Peter Jay Silver  
(Den ’85)

Manuel Perez  
(Stern ’86, GSAS ’90)

Dennis Luke Payette  
(Steinhardt ’87)

Joan B. Bestor  
(Steinhardt ’92, ’99)

Melanie L. Fieffe  
(Steinhardt ’99)

Lucia Sampietro Girande  
(GPH ’20)
Each year, the NYU Alumni Association recognizes outstanding graduates for their exceptional achievements and public service contributions that reflect the university’s spirit. NYU President Andrew Hamilton and NYUAA President Dasha Rettew (GAL ’14) handed out this year’s awards to the deserving alumni featured here.

Zachary W. Carter (LAW ’75) was appointed by Bill Clinton to serve as United States attorney for the Eastern District of New York. He oversaw the prosecutions in the cases of Abner Louima and Yankel Rosenbaum, among others. During his distinguished career, Carter has also served as a judge of the Criminal Court of the City of New York, as a United States magistrate judge, and, most recently, as corporation counsel of the City of New York. In this role as the city’s chief legal officer, he advised the mayor and city commissioners on issues of legal policies and operations.

André De Shields (GAL ’91) won the Tony, Grammy, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his electrifying turn as Hermes in the hit Broadway musical Hadestown. Before that role, he was best known for a series of acclaimed performances in such legendary Broadway productions as The Wiz, The Full Monty, and Ain’t Misbehavin’, with the latter’s televised broadcast on NBC earning him an Emmy Award. In a career spanning half a century and counting, De Shields has worn many hats, including actor, singer, dancer, director, choreographer, philanthropist, and educator.

Betty Weinberg Ellerin (WSC ’50, LAW ’52) was, among many other achievements within the judicial system, the first woman appointed to two major roles: New York State deputy chief administrative judge (where she was responsible for the operation of all the trial courts within New York City) and associate justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. She helped found and served as copresident of the NYUAA and is a member of its Board of Directors—as well as a member of the university’s Board of Trustees. She is senior counsel at Alston & Bird LLP.

Nick Grassi (LS ’12) is the cofounder of Finerio Connect, Mexico’s first personal finance manager app. The platform, attuned specifically to the needs of Latin Americans, works to increase financial literacy through expense tracking and budget creation, among many other features. The innovative start-up has received positive press coverage in Forbes and Entrepreneur as well as on TechCrunch.com. Finerio won Best Corporate Initiative in the second local edition of the Everis Mexico Award, topping nearly 800 other entrants. It’s estimated to have saved its 300,000 users more than $40 million per year.

Marvin Leffler (STERN ’42, ’51) is president emeritus of the Town Hall Foundation, where he served as president for 35 years. Accepting no salary, he fought to save the historic venue from demolition and championed its revival structurally, fiscally, and programmatically. Prior to that role, Leffler was CEO and chairman of the National Council of Salesmen’s Organizations, penning three popular books on the topic of sales. Like Ellerin, Leffler helped found and served as copresident of the NYUAA, and he is still a member of its Board of Directors—as well as a member of the university’s Board of Trustees.

Nily Rozic (CAS ’07) is a member of the New York State Assembly. Upon her election in 2012, she became the youngest woman in the state legislature. She is also the first woman to represent the 25th District in the northeastern part of Queens, which includes the communities of Flushing, Queensboro Hill, Hillcrest, Fresh Meadows, Oakland Gardens, Bayside, and Douglaston. She chairs the Assembly’s Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection, and also serves on four other committees: Ways & Means; Labor; Correction; and Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions. To learn more about Rozic, read her profile on page 13.
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