OMG! A Cutting Edge Video Game Makes Math Learning Fun?

“We’ve made a brand new version of Numbaland! with a giant Octopus, Dr. Mayhem!!” is the homepage announcement at numbaland.com. Dixie Ching, a doctoral student in Steinhardt’s educational communication and technology program, created the award-winning video game in collaboration with graduate students from Carnegie Mellon University and UC San Diego.

NumberPower: Numbaland! is a collection of four games that help children in kindergarten through fourth grade develop a strong foundation in number concepts to support future learning in mathematics.

The video game won both the Impact and Collegiate prizes at the first annual National STEM Video Game Challenge. The competition was launched to support President Obama’s “Educate to Innovate” campaign, which is aimed at improving the participation and performance of America’s students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The two awards carry a total cash prize of $50,000; the $25,000 Impact Prize was awarded for the game’s potential to reach underserved populations.

NYU’s Distinguished Teaching Medal Awarded to Jim Hinojosa

Jim Hinojosa is the recipient of the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Award of Merit, its highest honor.

Jim Hinojosa, a professor of occupational therapy, has been selected as a recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award, given annually to faculty members who have contributed significantly to the intellectual life of NYU through their teaching. Hinojosa, one of seven faculty members selected this year, is a professor in Steinhardt’s Department of Occupational Therapy. Hinojosa’s work, which spans more than two decades, includes expertise in pediatrics and a research focus on therapist collaborations with families.

Researchers Look for Link Between Obesity and Academic Performance

The New York City public schools offer a unique laboratory for studying the effects of school food policies and programs on obesity and academic achievement. With its 1.1 million students and more than 1,600 schools, the school system exhibits wide variation in food policies and programs across schools, considerable diversity in neighborhood settings and contexts, and a remarkably diverse student body.

With a newly awarded $1.3 million grant from the National Institute of Health, a team of NYU researchers will study how school food policy shapes health, fitness, and academic outcomes among school children. Professor Amy Ellen Schwartz, who holds a joint appointment at the Steinhardt School and NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service, will lead the study.
Graduation Events Honor Students and Distinguished Alumni

Sharing the stage with graduating NYU students this year are New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery (BS ’71), nutrition expert Joy Bauer (MS ’89), literacy educator Angela Jaggar (PhD ’71), and Marian Miller Hamburg (MS ’45), pioneering health educator. The class of 2011 is comprised of 2,417 students who are being awarded baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees at three special ceremonies. Students will also attend NYU’s 179th Commencement exercises at Yankee Stadium.

Representing the Best and the Brightest
This year’s Baccalaureate and Valedictory Ceremony speakers are Katie Sylvester (center) and Dana Tuqan (right) from the Department of Applied Psychology. Rachelle Susman Rumph (left) of the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, is the speaker at Steinhardt’s Doctoral Convocation.

“
You, dear graduate, carry our hope for the future.
It is a future you must imagine; a future you must create with your two hands, your intellect, and your good heart.”

MARY BRABECK, DEAN

THE NYU STEINHARDT MISSION
NYU Steinhardt advances knowledge, creativity, and innovation at the crossroads of human learning, culture, development, and well-being. Through research and education, within and across disciplines, the school’s faculty and students evaluate and redefine processes, practices, and policies in their respective fields and, from a global as well as community perspective, lead in an ever-changing world.

Grants & Gifts

J. Lawrence Aber, distinguished professor of applied psychology and public policy, was selected by the International Rescue Committee to receive $209,000 from the United States Agency for International Development to design and oversee an evaluation of social and emotional learning interventions in schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Arjun Appadurai, Goddard Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, received $45,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation to support his study, ‘Exploring the Social and Physical Determinants of Urban Health.’

Carolyn Dimitri, visiting associate professor of food studies, received $153,666 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support her project, ‘A Spatial Analysis of Access to Healthy Food Incorporating Availability, Affordability, and Travel Time.’

Gregory Gutierrez, assistant professor of physical therapy, received $20,000 from the American Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Society for his research titled, ‘Proprioception and Neuromuscular Control Following Ankle Instability Surgery.’

James Kemple, executive director of the Research Alliance for New York City Schools and research professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, received $64,000 from the Fund for Public Schools to support the study, ‘Effects of School of One on Middle School Mathematics Achievement.’

Our Graduate Students Go Global

Steinhardt’s flexible study-abroad offerings were the focus of a recent U.S. News and World Report article that attributed a surge in graduate student participation in study abroad programs to the school’s willingness to accommodate their demanding schedules. Five years ago, 280 master’s-level students studied abroad under NYU Steinhardt’s programs; this year more than 600 will participate. Visit steinhardt.nyu.edu/study_abroad/ to learn more about January intersession, spring break, and summer offerings available to students and alumni.
Steinhardt Celebrates Miller and McCoy, 2011 Guggenheim Fellows

Mark Crispin Miller and Kevin McCoy, faculty members at the Steinhardt School, have been awarded 2011 Guggenheim Fellowships. The fellowships recognize artists, scientists, and scholars for achievement and exceptional promise. Kevin McCoy, an associate professor in the Department of Art and Art Professions, is a filmmaker whose projects explore how our thoughts, experiences, and memories are structured through genre and repetition. Marc Crispin Miller, a professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, is the author of many books and essays on American media and politics. His blog is News from the Underground at markcrispinmiller.com.

MFA Exhibition

Things

“I put things into walls. I make spaces for watermelons, sneakers, a drum, a piece of wood. I push through and claim spaces reserved for walls, floors, and bathtubs. I kneel and peer through small openings to watch anxious people working secretly in homes, decaying factories, and abandoned bathrooms. There is a sustained suspense that is never broken. In my films, though the views are clear, I do not know what task is at hand, only that there is something sinister. The objects in the walls are also plainly in sight, but only as surface, shape. The rest is nestled away and hiding in the architecture,” says MFA student Shadi Harouni about ‘Things,’ a piece displayed at Steinhardt’s MFA Student show.

Each year graduating MFA candidates in the Department of Art and Art Professions present their thesis exhibitions at Steinhardt’s 80 Washington Square East Galleries. Video installations, custom-built rooms, and other works can be viewed at steinhardt.nyu.edu/steinhardt/mfa2011/.

Kids Bully; Theatre Can Help

In April, Steinhardt’s Program in Educational Theatre sponsored The Bully Menace & Applied Theatre, a one-day NYU symposium exploring violence in schools, why kids victimize, and how applied theatre can help. The conference was created by Associate Professor Philip Taylor as a response to incidents throughout the world where young people have been victims of hate crimes.

“Theatre is a good place to explore issues of violence because through the use of theatre and drama, many issues can be addressed in a metaphorical realm where expression can flow more freely,” says faculty member, Nan Smithner. “We can explore violence that can summon up feelings of fear, anger, and pain through movement, writing, improvisation, and dialogue in a structured and safe environment. Drama work has great potential to build empathy and help us create cathartic situations.”

Voices of Student Volunteers

Liz Nellis
BS, Applied Psychology
I work at the Door (door.org), a one-of-a-kind community center for at-risk youth that features a multitude of services: health, crisis intervention, counseling, runaway and homeless youth services, LGBT resources, GED and college prep, tutoring, arts, recreation, and more. As an intake counselor for member services, I meet the young people (ages 12-21) and make sure they are healthy and safe before directing them to the awesome services and appropriate staff.

Gayle Gatchalian
MA, Media, Culture, and Communication
I am the development and communications volunteer at Day One (dayonenyc.org), the only organization in New York City solely devoted to the issue of teen dating violence. I assist the program associate in day-to-day tasks such as donor solicitations, press releases, grant applications, and government funding requests. I helped develop the organization’s blog, website, and quarterly newsletter, and was also involved in planning and executing their 2010 fundraiser.

Lawrence Grey Berkowitz
BM, Music and Performing Arts Professions
I work at the Center for Community Alternatives in Brooklyn Heights with 13 to 17-year-olds who have been arrested. Working as the music director, I teach the young men and women in the program how to write and record electronic music. I have discovered some very talented beat makers and rappers that the world should hear. By the end of the semester, I will be releasing their music with the help of my label Proximal Records (proximalrecords.com).
Metro Center Survey Will Offer Data on How to Use Zuckerberg’s Gift to Newark Schools

Steinhardt’s Metropolitan Center for Urban Development (Metro Center) will be helping out Mark Zuckerberg and the Newark, New Jersey public schools by designing and implementing a survey about how best to use the Facebook CEO’s $100 million pledge to improve the school system.

The survey will be undertaken jointly by the Metro Center and the Newark Schools Research Collaborative at Rutgers University with a $1 million grant from the nonprofit group PENewark.

Since 2009, the Metro Center has been engaged with state, city, and local leaders in Newark to help reform the public school system in a project called the Broader, Bolder Approach to Education. The project is led by Pedro Noguera, Peter L. Agnew Professor, and the center’s executive director.

In the Community

1890 Idaho and Wyoming are admitted to the Union, Emily Dickinson’s posthumous collection, *Poems*, is published; Scott Joplin invents ragtime music; commencement is held at the Metropolitan Opera House at 39th Street and Broadway; and NYU establishes the School of Pedagogy, known today as the Steinhardt School.

On March 25, 1911, 146 workers in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory—mostly young immigrant women and teenagers—were killed in a fire that started on the eighth floor of the Asch building on the corner of Washington Place and Greene Street.

One hundred years later, thousands of people from across the country gathered on Washington Place to mark the centennial of the tragedy that became a catalyst for a broad range of social reforms, including new laws to ensure the health and safety of workers.

Visit NYU’s Grey Art Gallery at Washington Square to see *Art/Memory/Place: Commemorating the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire.*

NYU is celebrating the re-opening of the historic Provincetown Playhouse with a special series of events throughout the 2010-11 Season. Visit us online for news about upcoming performances at steinhardt.nyu.edu/provincetown and watch playwright Edward Albee talk about the theatre’s rich history.

Tweeting & Shaking

*Time* has named the Twitter feed by Steinhardt Professor Marion Nestle as one of the 140 Twitter feeds “that are shaping the conversation.” The list also includes Lady Gaga, Starbucks, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, Boston Celtics Center Shaquille O’Neal, and comedian Conan O’Brien.

Follow her at twitter.com/marionnestle

Student Awards

Dana Charles, a doctoral student in the Department of Applied Psychology, received $79,914 from the National Institutes of Health’s Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Award for her study, ‘Social Risk Factors for Cognitive and Behavioral Dysregulation in Children.’

Sarah DeMott, a doctoral student in the international education program, received a $5,000 Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council.

Melvin Hampton, a doctoral student in the Department of Applied Psychology, is the recipient of a $126,088, three-year, Diversity in Research fellowship from the National Institute of Drug Abuse.