Steinhardt’s Extraordinary Students

“In this picture, I’m traveling in a Chinook U.S. military helicopter. I had never been in a helicopter before. I had been chosen to serve as “a bridge between Afghans and Americans” on the U.S. ambassador’s diplomatic mission to a Taliban stronghold after an incident that resulted in civilian casualties. I had arrived in Kabul just a few days before and I was traveling to Kunar (a remote and dangerous border province). I was kind of scared at this point, thinking about my family in New York and that I might get killed during the first week of my fieldwork.”

—Wazhmah Osman (Photo May 16, 2009)

Studying the Economics of How Food Moves from Farm to Table

Carolyn Dimitri, associate professor of food studies, has been thinking about sustainable food systems for more than twenty years.

A food economist, Dimitri studies the impact that the marketing, distribution, and production of foods have on our ecosystem, health, and the businesses involved in our food system.

“I was inspired to look into food systems when my children were very small. Like many mothers of young children, I wanted to protect the future health of my children and the earth by ensuring that their diets consisted of organic food,” Dimitri says. Her experience volunteering with them once a week at a community agriculture farm in the Washington, D.C. area led her to think more about how food moves from farm to table.

Now living in New York City, Dimitri finds herself thinking about urban food systems.

A recently awarded $453,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture will allow the associate professor and researchers at Penn State to study the economics of how food moves from farm to table.

At Snug Harbor Heritage Farms, Carolyn Dimitri and her students get a chance to visit a real farm and “get their hands dirty” planting, composting, and transplanting vegetables. “It makes our theoretical discussions in the classroom very concrete,” Dimitri says.

continued on page 4

America Reads: Teaching City Children By Words and Example

NYU Steinhardt runs the largest America Reads program in the country. Since 1997, 12,000 students throughout NYU have been employed in work-study jobs assisting public school teachers help students acquire basic literacy skills.

Working one-on-one with children from Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, tutors provide close to 10,000 hours per week of academic assistance at no cost to the participating schools.

Cindy Pineda, a master’s degree candidate from the program in international education, who is of Mexican-Salvadoran heritage, offered her students bilingual instruction, teaching them how to break down difficult texts using examples in their native Spanish language.

“I was an example of how important it is to go to college,” Pineda said. “I was a role model to the students because we came from similar backgrounds and I gave them hope that they could also one day go to college.”
Andrew Stein of the music technology program led the NYU basketball team to its first NCAA tournament in 14 years in February. He received an All-Academic District III award in January, finished First-Team All-Conference for the second year in a row, and was selected to play in the Division III All-Star Game in March.

ADecoratedCareerinCollegeBasketball

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“Do work that makes you proud. Do work of quality. Commit yourself to doing the work that matters in this brave and fragile world.”

MARY BRABECK, GALE AND IRA DRUKIER DEAN

Graduation Events Honor Students and Distinguished Alumni

Sharing the stage with graduating NYU students this year are public education activist Lisa Belzberg (PhD ’06), museum director Ann Philbin (MA ’82), and painter Ross Bleckner (BS ’71). The class of 2012 is comprised of 2,565 students who are being awarded baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees at three special ceremonies. Students will also attend NYU’s 180th Commencement exercises at Yankee Stadium.

Representing the Best and the Brightest

This year’s Baccalaureate and Valedictory speakers are Joseph Kopriva, far right, from the Department of Teaching and Learning and Kristen Ranieri, center, from the Department of Applied Psychology. Robert Moeller, right, of the Department of Applied Psychology is the speaker at Steinhardt’s Doctoral Convocation.

Creating Knowledge, Community, and the Resources for Change, Steinhardt’s external funding report examines how faculty address the needs of our global society. The 325 projects in the report represent nearly $100 million in active awards during the last three years. “The generosity and support of our community has helped propel a diversity of ideas into action,” says Mary Brabeck, Gale and Ira Drukier Dean.
Working at the Hyphen: Steinhardt’s Departments Join Forces to Create Specialized Courses

Two unique interdisciplinary courses enlarged clinicians’ visions of practice during NYU’s January session. Students of communicative sciences and disorders (CSD) and vocal performance gained a deeper understanding of the voice by working with singers seeking vocal remediation. Interdisciplinary Habilitation of Speaking Voice and Vocal Performance offered clinical demonstrations, hands-on vocal training, and a group practicum that taught students how to diagnose and direct singers and actors. Celia Stewart, chair and associate professor of CSD and Brian Gill, associate director for vocal pedagogy, led the class.

Nutrition students joined forces with CSD in another innovative offering that taught students how to manage patients with different stages of dysphagia, a swallowing disorder. Erin Embry, an associate director of the CSD masters program and Lisa Sasson, a clinical associate professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health, designed the class. Interdisciplinary Case-Based Management of Dysphagia showed students how to combine the clinical skills of swallowing assessment and evaluation with the task of creating a diet to meet clients’ needs.

Students in the vocal class visited NYU Medical Center to learn more about how vocal cords work; students in the dysphagia class took part in “mock” team rounds at the Rusk Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine.

Social Justice Fundraising

In Shanghai, Drew Todrys Raised Money for Migrant Factory Workers

While studying abroad at NYU Shanghai, Drew Todrys, a graduating senior in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, was surprised by workplace and dormitory conditions in the two factories he visited in Zhejiang City. Through grassroots fundraising efforts—bake sales, penny wars, and raffles—Todrys and his friends raised $4,250 for migrant workers. “This allowed us to buy 150 coats, 150 personal heaters, and an entertainment system which benefits the lives of 700 factory workers,” Todrys said. Todrys would like to start a non-profit organization to help factory workers in developing nations.

Photos: An assembly line in a factory and a dorm room for workers in Zhejiang City, Shanghai. Drew Todrys (in hat) raising money for migrant workers.

Germany Chancellor Fellowship Awarded to Drama Therapist

Elizabeth McAdam, master’s candidate in the program in drama therapy, is the recipient of the Alexander Humboldt Foundation’s German Chancellor Fellowship for Perspective Leaders. The fellowship, which covers the cost of living in Germany, will enable McAdam to build on her research which explores the ways that developmental transformations and role theory, two forms of drama therapy, create safe therapeutic spaces that address the unique needs of traumatized populations. In Berlin, McAdam will be working with the program director of the Institut für Theatertherapie to explore and develop trauma-informed drama therapy practices.

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.
An e-Site Launches with a Little Help from Sir Richard Branson

At nineteen, Stacey Ferreira, a first year student in Steinhardt’s music business program, is one of Sir Richard Branson’s youngest investments. The English business magnate—known for his Virgin group of companies—has invested in her newly launched, MySocialCloud. Ferreira’s website is an interface that connects different networking sites into a single online social site and allows users to automatically log into their websites without having to remember usernames or passwords.

Ferreira, who had supported MySocialCloud with birthday money and family loans, needed to expand her operations. “Taking a break from market research one evening, I logged into my Twitter account and saw a tweet from Sir Richard that offered people an opportunity to meet with him in Miami over cocktails,” she said.

Though she wasn’t old enough for cocktails, Ferreira managed to get to Miami and secure an investment just shy of a $1 million from Branson and his friend, Jerry Murdoch. The Huffington Post has called Ferreira a ‘teen entrepreneur.’ Perhaps Branson saw a bit of himself in her; he started his first business when he was just sixteen.

Login to MySocialCloud by using the launch code nyurocks.

The Community College Transfer Opportunity Program (CCTOP) is a scholarship and assistance program for students transferring from partnership community colleges into NYU Steinhardt. Since admitting its first group of students in 1990, the CCTOP program has graduated 1,500 students whose hard work and perseverance are a source of pride to the NYU community.

Sammy Ahmed (Applied Psychology), who carries his department’s banner at graduation, hails from LaGuardia Community College. Ahmed has distinguished himself through academics, leadership, serving as a peer mentor to undergraduates, and as a member of a research team studying “the immigrant paradox.”

Lizza Dauenhauer-Pendley (Media, Culture, and Communication) is a Western Scholarship Award winner who began her studies at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. Dauenhauer-Pendley spearheaded the creation of an Intergroup Dialogue course on disabilities issues for NYU’s Center for Multicultural Education and Programs.

Leslie-Ann Reid-Baccus (Communicative Sciences and Disorders) carries Steinhardt’s banner at graduation. Reid-Baccus has distinguished herself through leadership, academic performance, and generosity to those less fortunate as evidenced by her work at New York Cares, God’s Love We Deliver, and the PAL Afterschool Program.

Steven O. Roberts (Applied Psychology) received the Pi Lambda Theta Rho Leadership Award for excellence in academic achievement and leadership. A transfer student from Borough of Manhattan Community College, Roberts has published his original research in academic journals and presented at national conferences.

Barbra Rudolph (Media, Culture, and Communication), a transfer student from Nassau Community College, was a third place finalist in the Your Big Year competition. Rudolph founded the MAP (Maximize All Potential) Collective, a philanthropy that promotes awareness about social issues around the globe.

MFA Exhibition: Making Art That is Both Introspective and Open to the World At Large

Each year, Steinhardt’s MFA Program in Studio Art brings together an exceptional group of artists who are asked to challenge the assumptions of the larger world and pursue their visions to the point of excess. Lady Lydia (left) is the creation of graduating students.

Dimitri continued from page 1

study urban agriculture in fifteen cities. The project is titled, The State Of Urban Farming In The United States: Enhancing The Viability Of Small And Medium-Sized Commercial Urban Farms.

Urban farms are not easy to characterize because in many cities farms are located on roofs, vacant lots, or in greenhouses. The researchers will be analyzing data from the agricultural census, a survey of farmers, and information gathered from interviews to evaluate the technical assistance needs of urban farms.

“There is so much discussion about urban farming right now, but we really don’t know what is happening and where it is happening. I suspect there are a few farms that are actually raising food in quantities that can feed people within city limits,” Dimitri says.

The urban agriculture project is one of many studies Dimitri has undertaken at NYU. When school is in session, she can often be found canvassing Manhattan neighborhoods with her students, gathering information about what New Yorkers eat, where they shop, and how much fruit and vegetables they are consuming.

See the 2012 MFA show online visit steinhardt.nyu.edu/80wse/gallery/MFA_2012.
Steinhardt Students Travel to Turkey to Study the Culture of Higher Education

In March, master’s and doctoral students in Global Perspectives in Higher Education traveled to Turkey to study its higher education system. Led by Professors Teboho Moja and Ann Marcus, the group visited public and private universities in Istanbul, Ankara, and the city of Nigde in central Anatolia. At each university, they met with rectors, faculty members, deans, and students. Turkey’s ancient and recent university traditions provided NYU students with a contrast to the American education system. “I learned that Turkey is a nation between two worlds. It struggles to hold onto its rich history and past, while simultaneously modernizing its education system and culture,” said Rachel Frint, a student in the higher education program. “I was most surprised to learn that Turkish and American students share the same values and reasons for attending college.”

Pedro Noguera is the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education; Edward Fergus serves as deputy director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education at NYU Steinhardt.

“Latino males are disproportionately concentrated in low wage jobs; the jobs that keep America running in construction, agriculture, healthcare, hotels, and restaurants. They are also more likely to drop out of school and to be underrepresented in college. We wrote this book because we wanted to bring authors from various disciplines together to address the issues and challenges confronting Latino males. Unless policymakers take steps to address the disenfranchisement of Latino males in school, they will be permanently trapped on the lower rungs of American society.”

—Pedro Noguera, co-editor with Edward Fergus of Invisible No More: Understanding the Disenfranchisement of Latino Men and Boys.

Pedro Noguera is the Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education; Edward Fergus serves as deputy director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education at NYU Steinhardt.

“We wrote the book to help readers cope with what we see as the two central problems in maintaining a healthy weight: human physiology and the “eat more” food marketing environment. If you are trying to lose weight, you are fighting your own physiology and a food-marketing environment set up to get you to eat more calories, not fewer. (From the standpoint of the food industry, eating less is very bad for business). If you want to eat well and maintain a healthy weight in today’s food environment, we advise: Get organized. Eat less. Move more. Eat better. Get political.”

—Marion Nestle, co-author with Malden Nesheim of Why Calories Count: From Science to Politics.

Marion Nestle is the Paulette Goddard Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health.

NEW FROM OUR FACULTY

Books on Educational Policy and Nutrition and Public Health

Associate Professor Ted Magder Wins All-University Teaching Award

Ted Magder, an associate professor of media, culture, and communication, has been selected to receive NYU’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

“Professor Magder has taught at NYU Steinhardt for more than fifteen years and during that time has established himself as an acclaimed academician, stellar teacher, and exemplary school and University citizen,” said Dean Mary Brabeck.

In nomination letters, students, faculty, and alumni remarked on Magder’s ability to motivate and inspire others.

“One of Ted’s most notable accomplishments is that he has consistently engaged with new media as a pedagogical tool, using blogs and Twitter to loop students’ social media commentary into the course,” said Marita Sturken, chair of the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication. “He can make students in a class of 250 feel that the course is an active exchange rather than an impersonal large lecture.”

Magder is the author of Canada’s Hollywood, as well as monographs and articles that study how global media communications is influenced by regulatory codes and laws. He has designed media courses that are taught at NYU campuses in Prague, Paris, London, and Shanghai.

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We Celebrate a Lifetime of Learning

In this special issue, we sought to highlight the achievements at the end of the journey, to celebrate the passion and idealism that are the fabric of university life. We salute those who, despite life’s obstacles, never stop learning because they know education is its own reward.

Gerald LeBoff (BS ’42) graduated from NYU with a degree in accounting, served in the U.S. Army and as chairman of the board of the Acme Rivet and Machine Corporation, and raised three children with his wife Phyllis. His generous gifts to the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication include the LeBoff Scholars Program and the LeBoff Doctoral Fellowship.

A doctoral recipient at 91, he is the most senior member of the Class of 2012.

Congratulations, graduate.