**At a Glance**

**NEWS FROM THE STEINHARDT SCHOOL OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**

**Student Community Service**

**Distinguished Achievement Awards**

**The Matter in Question**

**Artists of Excess and Vision**

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**When most people think of studying abroad, they imagine doing their homework on a quiet spot beside the Right Bank of the Seine, or passing St. Paul’s Cathedral as they walk home from class. For me, after my class in the Ghanian language of Twi given by professor Kofi Saah, there is nothing I like more then to walk down the red-dirt path past a pineapple seller and a woman who fries plantains, to the Osu Children’s Home.**

I’m a junior in the Department of Teaching and Learning, studying childhood education and special education at the NYU Center in Ghana. I chose to study in Ghana because I wanted to be able to volunteer with children at a place where my help was really needed. Osu Children’s Home is a community for orphaned, abandoned, and needy children from birth to 18 years old.

My official job is helping in the nursery, feeding babies, and changing diapers. When I began volunteering, I noticed right...continued on page 2

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**Steinhardt Faculty Awarded $2.3 Million to Study South African Families in Crisis**

Larry Aber, professor of applied psychology and public policy, has been awarded a $2.3 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for a three-year study, “Well-being of South African Children: Household, Community, and Policy Influences.” Aber leads this project with LaRue Allen, director of Steinhardt’s Child and Family Policy Center, and Linda Richter, executive director of the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development program at the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa.

A decade after the end of apartheid, nearly 70% of the nation’s black African children live in households with incomes less than $2,000 per year. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate for pregnant women is more than 30%, and it is projected that by 2010, 19% of black South African children will have experienced the death of one or both parents due to AIDS.

In response to this crisis, the researchers will conduct a study of 7 to 10-year olds and their parents or guardians in the communities of KwaZulu-Natal. They will examine how household poverty, parental illness, and death affect these children’s well-being and life chances. In addition, the team will be evaluating supplemental income supports that are conditional on household investments in children’s health and education to see if they improve the health, education, and economic opportunities for South African families.

**Summer Reading**

The Places that Scare You • What Is the What • In Defense of Food • The Lost • Emily Dickinson’s poems • Dreams from My Father • Songbook. These are just some of the recommendations proposed by Steinhardt faculty for summer reading. To see the entire list, go to www.steinhardt.nyu.edu/summerReading.
Representing The Best and The Brightest

Lisa Vasfalo, a bachelor’s degree candidate in the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions, is this year’s student speaker for the Baccalaureate Ceremony. Christine Rhee, a master’s candidate of the same department, is the student speaker at Steinhardt’s Valedictory Celebration. Zoe Burkholder, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Professions, is the speaker at Steinhardt’s Doctoral Convocation.

A Letter from Ghana (continued from page 1)

away that the older children were fascinated with my camera. So I lent it to them, and when they returned, I noticed that they photographed very different subjects and scenes than I would. Where I saw a world of hopelessness poverty, they saw a life filled with highs and lows, joys and sorrows. I saw children who don’t have underwear to call their own, whose toys are often are empty water bottles and rocks; the children saw the good times — like a soccer game or a friend goofing off. I lend them my camera all the time — they return it usually while I’m bottle-feeding a baby — and they take pictures of every little thing that brings them joy. This could be a sticker I gave them or a car that drives by. An amazing part of my experience abroad is learning how children view their own world, and seeing that world through their eyes. The children of the Osu Children’s Home don’t want people to feel sorry for them. They want the same things all kids want — to spend good times with their friends, to be cool, to feel loved. — Catherine Rinko-Gay

Cookbook Author, Artificial Heart Designer, and Music Dean Honored

Sharing the stage with graduating NYU students this year are cookbook author, Shelia Lukens (Art Education, BS ’70), artificial heart designer, Robert Jarvik, M.D. (Occupation Health and Safety, MA ’71), and music educator and performer Giacomo Oliva (Music Education, EDD ’80).

Lukens, who is being honored at the Baccalaureate Ceremony with the Distinguished Alumnae Award is a chef, food writer, and cooking teacher. Among her best selling books are The Silver Palate Cookbook, The Silver Palate Good Times Cookbook, and Celebrate! There are more than 6.5 million copies of her books in print.

At Steinhardt’s Valedictory Ceremony, Jarvik will be awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award. The designer and biomedical engineer of the first artificial heart used as a permanent implant in a human being, Jarvik holds more than 20 patents for inventions such as permanent artificial hearts, temporary blood pumps for use in heart surgery, and virtual reality exercise devices.

Oliva, who will be honored at Steinhardt’s Doctoral ceremony with the Distinguished Alumnus Award is professor of music and dean of the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In addition to his work in education, Oliva is also a pianist and conductor in both the classical and popular music traditions.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Teresa Childers, an MPH candidate in community public health, presented a paper at the 18th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America.

Ellen Colcord, a master’s candidate, presented a video installation of animated paintings in Lima, Peru for the Peru International Jazz Festival.

Erin Heisel, a doctoral student in vocal performance, performed in “Arias del Operas” with the Orquesta Sinfonica Juvenil in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, last November. Her trip was sponsored by a grant from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy.

Patricia Bradby, who graduates with a BM in music business, created Threads that Teach, a non-profit organization that merges arts, education, and fashion. Bradby’s fundraising program engages grade school students by having them create their own apparel and sell it in their community. Revenues from apparel sales support schools’ arts programs.

Roy Jerome, a doctoral student in applied psychology, has received a Minority Fellowship Program Dissertation Support Award from the American Psychological Association to study methamphetamine abuse among black communities in New York City.

Jay A. Johnson, a junior in the program in vocal performance, will be postponing his studies to perform as Mark in the national tour of A Chorus Line. He writes, “If it were not for the preparation I received in my studies, this major achievement would not have been possible. I plan to come back to finish my degree.”

Penni Prince, a doctoral student in music education, has composed a new version of the Cinderella story for Lehman College, CUNY.

Jane Ross, a doctoral student in international education, was named Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Academiques by the French government in recognition of her service and activities on behalf of French education at an awards ceremony at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York City.
THE MATTER IN QUESTION: STEINHARDT PROFESSORS TELL US

What virtues in your students give you hope for the future of our complex, global world?

James Macincko

Assistant Professor
Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health

Students at NYU embrace diversity and complexity, and they don’t shy away from challenges. While working on field research, for example, our students are willing to really engage research participants to learn more about how they view global health problems, and, in turn, often end up proposing new ways of framing research questions. My hope lies in the ability of our graduates to contribute in some way to a new way of thinking.

Cybele Raver

Associate Professor
Department of Applied Psychology

In my role as the director of the Institute of Human Development and Social Change, I am impressed by the clear, deep level of NYU students’ dedication to pursue the twin goals of science and social justice. One of the youngest members of our research staff, graduating senior, Carissa DeHoyos, helped us complete federal grant applications for our research on supporting low-income children’s school readiness, and has also co-authored a research paper for this year’s National Head Start Research Conference. She is the kind of young leader whom I can count on to make a difference for our nation’s future.

Shondel Nero

Associate Professor
Department of Teaching and Learning

I believe that hope for the future of our complex, global world ought to be premised on greater and deeper cross-cultural understanding, which begins by developing tolerance for cultural and linguistic diversity. My students impress me with their dedication to working with immigrant students, especially those who are economically disadvantaged and lacking strong first language literacy. I think helping these students acquire English language skills, as well as taking the time to learn about the immigrant children’s culture, is a very hopeful step in building empathy and cross-cultural understanding.

Carlo Lamagna

Associate Clinical Professor
Department of Art and Art Professions

My students support and nurture art and artists, working as fundraisers, marketers, curators, museum directors, educators, and cultural entrepreneurs all over the world. They are resilient, flexible, and eager to embrace innovation and challenge. They are the future leaders and agents of change who will advocate for art as a public good and as an essential element of global citizenship and understanding.

In Dead Media Class, Students Research Life Before Cell Phone

Created by Ben Kafka and Alex Galloway of the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, Dead Media Research Studio is a course devoted to media archaeology. Students undertake historical research into forgotten and obsolete media technologies. The semester begins with a display of the single lens reflex camera, which the professors use to demonstrate the sound of an authentic shutter ‘click.’ “We talk about how cell phones, iPods, and digital cameras make that same sound even though there’s no mechanical or functional reason behind it,” says Kafka. Students work collaboratively to create dossiers, which are posted online. Among the dead media dossiers: pneumatic tubes, magic lanterns, 3-D television, Zuse palimpsest, and the typewriter. For more information, visit www.cultureandcommunication.org/deadmedia.

Go Green, Steinhardt!

Butterfly weed and flaming azaleas took up residence at Steinhardt in May when the Wallerstein Collaborative for Urban Environmental Education kicked off New York City’s Wildflower Week with “Exploring Native Flora in New York City’s Urban Landscape,” a lecture by Marielle Anzelone, landscape designer and founder of NYC Wildflower Week. The Wallerstein Collaborative provides year-round programs for public school teachers in the metropolitan New York City region who want to incorporate environmental education into their classroom curriculums. This summer, with NYU Family Care and the McBurney YMCA, the collaborative will launch, Go Green Summer Camp, a pilot program for children ages 6 to 11. “The city is a dynamic landscape for learning about the environment,” says Mary Leou, director of the Wallerstein Collaborative. “From a hike along a woodland trail in Inwood Hill Park, to a stroll along the network of piers along the Hudson River, there are many opportunities for learning about conservation and our city’s natural heritage.”

We gratefully acknowledge these generous gifts

Anonymous Parent $4 million gift for jazz scholarships and capital improvements to the jazz space • Tristan Argenti $3 million bequest for jazz scholarships • CMJ Network and Joanne Abbot Green (BS ’80) 584 passes to the CMJ New Music Festival for NYU students and faculty • Estate of Margrettta Von Sothen (BS ’39) $168,000 for scholarships for Steinhardt students • Estate of Evelyn Singer Haber (MA ’67) $128,000 for Steinhardt’s endowment • Wexner Foundation $120,000 for fellowships in Education & Jewish Studies • Estate of Elmer Shonts (BS ’42, MA ’47) $100,000 for Steinhardt endowment • Leif Olsen (BA ’49, WSC; MA ’50, PhD ’60 Steinhardt) $100,000 gift annuity to benefit the Steinhardt School • Elizabeth and Michel Sorel Charitable Organization $100,000 for scholarships to the women in film scoring program • Anonymous Faculty Member $100,000 for the Marilyn Moffat Chair in Physical Therapy.
Artists of Excess and Vision and Inner Beauty

Every year, the Steinhardt MFA program in studio art brings together an exceptional group of committed young artists who want to develop their work in a community of faculty and colleagues. MFA students are asked to consider their own practices and assumptions, as well as those of the contemporary art-world, and to pursue their visions to the point of excess as needed.

“Our students are asked to make work which is formally ambitious and intellectually aware of its own implications,” says Nancy Barton, chair of the Department of Art and Art Professions. “These artists show us the effects of historical, political, and personal forces on an individual. Unlike statistical research, which shows general trends, artistic research shows us an internal world in dialogue with society, mapping the shifts in subjectivity and meaning, and allows for a place of response to the forces which confront us all.”

This month graduating MFA candidates presented their thesis exhibitions at Steinhardt’s 80 Washington Square East Galleries. Among the works on view were paintings by Jason Ledet, below.

“Growing up in South Louisiana exposed me to a variety of life’s contradictions and hypocrisies,” writes Ledet in his artist’s statement. “In my paintings I combine conflicting imagery and materials in an attempt to find the delicate beauty that lies within.”

Left: the artist, Jason Ledet, stands in front of his painting, Word.