Schack Family Gives SCPS Real Estate Institute $10 Million

By Karen Brown

The Real Estate Institute in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) will be renamed the NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate in honor of the Schack family, donors of a $10 million cash gift—the largest in the school’s history—to provide critical support for students, faculty, research, and physical infrastructure for the 40-year-old institute.

“Our family is honored to play a part in the ongoing evolution of the real estate industry by strengthening the institute’s efforts to advance its curriculum, attract the highest caliber professors and students, and maintain its leadership position for education and physical infrastructure for the 40-year-old institute,” says Kenneth Schack ’70, part of the third generation of a family that has owned and developed real estate in New York City for the past 100 years.

The Schack family’s gift will be designated to support students, faculty, research, and physical infrastructure for the Institute of Real Estate in honor of the Schack family and will be used to maintain the institute’s position as the leader in the field, says Kenneth Schack, who is a member of the school’s Board of Trustees and a member of the school’s Executive Committee.

The Schack family’s gift will be used to support the work of the Schack Institute and to support the school’s efforts to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the real estate industry.

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Neuroscientists Say Film Content, Editing, and Directing Can Affect Brain Activity

By James Devitt

Using advanced functional imaging methods, NYU neuroscientists have found that certain motion pictures can exert considerable control over brain activity, and the impact of films varies according to movie content, editing, and directing style. The study, which appears in Projections: The Journal for Movies and Mind, offers a quantitative-tensor framework for assessing the impact of different filmmaking styles and may serve as a valuable way for the film industry to better assess its products.

The study’s authors are Uri Haselstein, a research scientist at the University of Munich, and Ignacio Vallines, a research scientist at the University of Munich. The researchers relied on two methodological tools in their study: functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and inter-subject correlation (ISC) analysis. fMRI utilizes an MRI scanner—like that routinely used for clinical evaluation of human anatomy—but reprogrammed to get a time-series of three-dimensional images of brain activity. ISC analysis is employed to measure similarities in brain activity across viewers—in this case, it compared the response in each brain region from one viewer to the response in the same brain region from other viewers. Because all viewers were exposed to the same films, computing ISC on a region-by-region basis identified brain regions in which the responses were similar across viewers.

NYU Announces Sustainability ‘Green Grant’ Recipients for 2008

NYU’s Beta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa inducted 137 new members into the society at a mid-May ceremony in the Eisner and Lubin Auditorium of the Kimmel Center for University Life.

The winning projects encompass a range of sustainability issues, from the food we eat (Community Garden Project), to the energy we use (GreenLight System), from the waste we produce (Composting Initiative), and from the air we breathe (Volunteer Program).

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PODELL DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS GIVEN TO THREE LAW PROFESSORS

School of Law professors Cindy Estlund, Clay Gillette, and Troy McKenzie were honored at the school’s end-of-the-year dinner in May with the Albert PodeLL Distinguished Teaching Awards. Established last year by PodeLL (LL ’76), the awards recognize outstanding achievements by faculty in the classroom.

Estlund is a leading scholar of labor and employment law, whose work has written extensively on the relationship between the workplace and democracy. She has almost two decades of teaching experience and joined NYU in 2006. Gillette, a distinguished scholar of commercial law and local government law, has been teaching for over 16 years, first at Boston University and then the University of Virginia School of Law, before joining NYU in 2000. McKenzie (JAW ’90), the newest member of the law school's faculty, is a bankruptcy scholar and teaches courses on complex litigation and procedure.

In addition to his support of the Distinguished Teaching Awards, PodeLL has made other significant contributions to the law school, including a faculty research fund and the Most Court Program. He is the sponsor of the Albert N. PodeLL Most Court Competition and established the Albert N. PodeLL Prize in Oral Advocacy as well as the Albert N. PodeLL Prize in Brief Writing. Most recently, he established the Albert PodeLL Global Scholarship Fund to support scholars, researchers, faculty members, and intellectuals out of the United States who face persecution in their home countries.

WAGNER SCHOOL EVENT TO EXAMINE ‘LESSONS FROM IRAQ’

The Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service will present “Lessons from Iraq: Avoiding the Next War,” on June 17, with Frances FitzGerald, author of the Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam; Aziz Huq, director of the Liberty and National Security Project at the Brennan Center for Justice; and Jeffrey Laurenti, senior fellow and director of policy programs at The Century Foundation. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Puck Building.

STEINHARD ANNOUNCES ANNUAL TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development recently presented two full-time and two adjunct faculty members with the school’s annual Teaching Excellence Award. The award, which includes a $1,000 gift, is given each year to distinguished faculty in the areas of teaching, advisement, and mentoring. Faculty nominations are solicited from students, and a selection committee chooses award recipients each spring semester.

The 2006 Steinhardt Teaching Excellence Awards were presented to Pamela Fraser-Abder, associate professor of dance science; Sharon L. Weinberg, professor of educational statistics and psychology; Desiree Hamburger, adjunct instructor, educational theatre; and Maria Horodenska, adjunct instructor, drama therapy.

Gallatin’s Foley Recognized by NYC Literacy Nonprofit

June Foley, director of the Writing Program at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, has been named a Literacy Recognition Award winner by the Literacy Assistance Center, a non-profit organization that supports and promotes adult literacy services in New York City.

Foley was recognized for her work on Gallatin’s Literacy Review, an annual book of writing by adults in Basic Education, GED, and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programs at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, has been included in the Literacy Review, which Foley founded and supervises, is compiled, edited, designed, and photographed by Gallatin undergraduates.

The publication has grown from an inaugural volume of 76 pages in 2003 to 120 pages by 63 writers from 31 sites this year. Contributors to volume six of the Literacy Review, which was published this spring, include authors who emigrated from 50 different countries as well as native New Yorkers.

Foley, one of six to receive a Literacy Recognition Award this year, will be honored on June 19 at a ceremony held in Scholaric, Inc.’s SoHo headquarters.

Two Gallatin Students Among Top 100 Collegiate Journalists

Avin Chang and Adam Playford, undergraduates in NYU’s Gallatin School of Individualized Study and editors at NYU’s student newspaper, Washington Square News (WSN), have been named to the inaugural UWIRE 100, which honors the nation’s top collegiate journalists.

Chang, a WSN columnist and its associate editor, and Playford, the paper’s editor-in-chief, were selected from more than 500 nominations submitted by students and educators at 132 schools. A UWIRE panel evaluated each candidate based on demonstrated excellence in a field of collegiate journalism. A full list of the UWIRE 100 is available at UWIRE.com.

“This is journalism at its most pure,” said Ben French, vice president and general manager of UWIRE. “The 100 best student journalists in the country—hard workers, big thinkers and gifted storytellers—were nominated by their peers and advisers for their potential to shape the media industry in the years ahead.”

UWIRE, founded in 1994, is a news service for college newspapers.
Students in Residence Halls Compete to ‘Unplug’

By Christopher James

E very year, NYU’s residence halls consume more than 40 million kilowatt hours of electricity, representing 30 percent of the University’s purchased electricity and equivalent to the consumption of 4,000 U.S. homes. “NYU unplugged,” a month-long conservation competition held in April, aimed to reduce electricity consumption and raise awareness with a campaign focused on the social and ecological impacts of electricity generation as well as the personal benefits of “unplugging.”

The program successfully encouraged students to cut electricity usage by an average of 6.5 percent, while Greenwich House, the winning residence hall, managed to cut consumption by 24 percent. In all, NYU unplugged conserved over 100,000 kilowatt hours, avoided 100,000 kilowatt hours, and encouraged students to cut electricity usage by an average of 6.5 percent, while Greenwich House, the winning residence hall, managed to cut consumption by 24 percent. In all, NYU unplugged conserved over 100,000 kilowatt hours, avoided 100,000 kilowatt hours, managed to cut consumption by 24 percent. In all, NYU unplugged conserved over 100,000 kilowatt hours, avoided 100,000 kilowatt hours, and encouraged students to cut electricity usage by an average of 6.5 percent, while Greenwich House, the winning residence hall, managed to cut consumption by 24 percent. In all, NYU unplugged conserved over 100,000 kilowatt hours, avoided 100,000 kilowatt hours.

Continued from page 1

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NYU's environmental sustainability strategy is centered on reducing the University’s carbon footprint and encouraging students to adopt sustainable living practices. The NYU Sustainability Task Force, led by the NYU Sustainability Office, is responsible for overseeing sustainability initiatives across the University. The NYU Sustainability Task Force was established to provide leadership and direction for the University’s sustainability efforts. The Task Force works closely with the Office of the President, the Provost, and other University administrators to identify and implement sustainable practices across the University.

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Numerous NYU students have been recognized for their contributions to sustainability efforts on campus. The NYU Sustainability Task Force has awarded sustainability grants to support student projects that promote sustainability on campus. These grants have supported a wide range of initiatives, from waste reduction programs to green building projects. The NYU Sustainability Task Force also recognizes outstanding sustainability projects through the NYU Sustainability Awards, which are presented annually to projects that demonstrate excellence in sustainability.

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Dentistry’s Stephanie Russell Finds Link between Pregnancy and Tooth Loss

The old wives’ tale “For every tooth a woman loses, a child has some validity, says Stephanie Russell, a professor in the College of Dentistry. Women who have more children are now less likely to have missing teeth, according to a nationwide study of 2,635 women by Russell, assistant professor of epidemiology and health promotion, which was published recently in the American Journal of Public Health. Russell’s conclusions are based on information on white and black non-Hispanic women ages 18-64 who reported at least one pregnancy in the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, a representative study of the U.S. population.

“This is the first time we’ve seen a connection between pregnancy and tooth loss affecting women at all socioeconomic levels in a representative sample of the U.S. population,” Russell says.

Profound biological and behavioral changes related to pregnancy and child birth are likely to be a factor in tooth loss, according to Russell. Pregnancy can make women prone to gingivitis (gum inflammation), and repeated pregnancies are likely to result in more frequent outbreaks of gingivitis that may lead to tooth loss in women with periodontitis.

A woman may postpone seeking dental treatment because of financial concerns related to having and caring for more children may lead a mother to cut back on the time she devotes to her own oral health.

“We need to be more aware of the challenges that women with children may face in gaining access to dental care,” says Russell, who means to extend these findings to the research setting and support them — which can be as simple as making sure a pregnant mother gets time off from work to see the dentist.”

Blood Disease Proven to Protect Against Malaria

By Marjorie Shaffer

Children with an inherited blood disorder called alpha thalassemia make unusually small, sick red blood cells that mostly cause a mild form of anemia. According to a new study, researchers propose that these small cells have a benefit—they can protect children against malaria, one of the world’s greatest killers.

“Packaging your hemoglobin in smaller amounts in more cells is an advantage against malaria,” says Karen Day, professor and chairman of the Department of Medical Parasitology, who led the research with colleagues at the University of Oxford, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research and the University of Queensland, Australia; and Angela Allen and Lie Ann V. Ng at the New Guinea Institute of Medical Research.

Recent studies have devoted to her own oral health.

“The incidence of melanoma continues to rise. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2008 there will be 62,480 new cases of melanoma in the United States, and that about 8,420 people will die of the disease this year. Excessive exposure to sunlight, a fair complexion, a family history of melanoma, and numerous moles, among other factors, place people at higher risk for the disease.”

Co-authors on the study include Nahedr Abbas, Melody Vancan, Allison W. Kopf, Imam Osman, Robert J. Friedman, and Darrell S. Rigol, from the Langone center; Katherine S. Panagou from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Dina Girkows-Koziose from Electrophysics and Optical Sciences Inc., and others.

By Marjorie Shaffer

Skin lesions that are about the size of a pencil eraser are more likely than smaller moles to be melanomas, a deadly form of skin cancer, according to a new study published recently in the Annals of Thoracic Surgery. Scientists confirm that an important warning sign of melanoma — moles larger than six millimeters, the size of a pencil eraser — is still valid. In recent years, some researchers have argued that strict adherence to this guideline may make clinicians miss smaller melanomas.

“Diameter is a reasonable guideline to pay attention to, and we did not see any reason to change it,” says David Polsky, assistant professor of dermatology and associate director of Pigmented Lesions Section in the Roland O. Petersen Department of Dermatology, who led the study. “Moles that are smaller than six millimeters are unlikely to be malignant. The new guidelines harmonize with length, and are the most concerning, and lesions that are multiple colors are especially suspicious.”

“More than 20 years ago, NYU dermatologists developed the widely used ABCD acronym for recognizing growths on the skin that could be early melanomas. We recently added the letter E to the list. The warning signs are: Asymmetry, a lesion larger than six millimeters; B for lesions with irregular borders, C for lesions with multiple colors, D for lesions larger than six millimeters, and E for evolving lesions that change in size, shape, color, shape, or symptoms (such as itching) over time.

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Educators and Political Leaders Discuss Positive Impact of Humanitarians in Darfur

NYU’s College of Arts and Science hosted a panel discussion, “The Impact of Education on the Quality of Life in Darfur,” in early June. The event, held in the Silver Center’s Hemminger-Hall, included educators and political leaders from Sudan and its war-torn Darfur region. They offered personal perspectives on the current situation in their country and described how the liberal arts are giving hope to those at risk. Pictured, from left, are: Abdelgalel Jabril, executive director of the Darfur Relief and Development Center in Geneva, Howaida Medani, an educator from a village in Sudan; and Earl Shortt, founder of the Clementa Course in the Humanities, an initiative designed to bring liberal arts to underserved populations.

NEW FROM THE NYU LANGONE MEDICAL CENTER

NYU Researchers Confirm that Melanoma More Likely in Larger Skin Lesions

By Marjorie Shaffer

NYU Researchers Confirm that Melanoma More Likely in Larger Skin Lesions

PROTEINS FOUND TO ACTIVATE BREAST CANCER TUMORS

New treatments for locally advanced breast cancer (LABC) may be on the horizon thanks to research by scientists at the Langone center who have located two proteins that act as a switch, turning on growth factors that promote formation of the blood vessels that feed large tumors.

Researchers discovered that when tumor cells lack oxygen due to rapid growth, the proteins function together as a switch to turn on the production of growth factors that promote the formation of blood vessels feeding breast tumors. This rich network of blood vessels allows these tumors to grow to a large size.

LABC accounts for about half of all breast cancers in the developing world and about 30 percent of breast cancers diagnosed in low-income and minority women in the United States. The reason is likely related to a combination of factors, including the lack of medical care and effective treatments, the researchers said. Breast cancer treatments are often ineffective because the tumors are so large.

“We think that this switch could be a target for new therapies,” says Robert J. Schneider, Albert B. Sabin Professor of Molecular Pathogenesis and lead author of the study.

MINIMALLY INVASIVE HEART PROCEDURE PROVES IDEAL

A studypublished recently in the Archives of Thoracic Surgery shows a 45 percent reduction in operative mortality in high-risk patients requiring aortic valve replacement when Least Invasive Valve (LIV) techniques are used. NYU surgeons Stephen B. Colvin and Aubrey C. Galloway developed the LIV minimally invasive procedure to allow surgeons to safely and easily perform heart valve repair or replacement without the need for conventional open chest surgery. NYU’s doctors have done more minimally invasive valve procedures than any other surgeons in the world.

“These techniques have developed reduce complications and lower mortality risk in the highest risk groups,” says Galloway. Seymour Cohn Professor and chairman of cardiothoracic surgery, who adds that the “least invasive surgical procedures can provide patients with a quicker recovery and faster return to normal activities.”

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE MAY HAVE A MATERNAL LINK

Medical center researchers have found that people with a history of Alzheimer’s disease on their mother’s side may be at increased risk for getting the devastating disease, based on the observation that their brains aren’t utilizing glucose, the brain’s fuel, efficiently.

“Finding was derived from a small study of 49 people. “This is a preliminary observation, and the results must be replicated,” says Lisa Mosconi, research assistant professor of psychiatry, who led the study, “We need to follow subjects over time until they develop clinical symptoms.” If the observation turns out to be true, it may be possible one day to identify a group of individuals at high risk who would benefit from therapies to prevent or delay the disease.”

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NYU Hosts PEN Festival of International Literature Events

Deutsches Haus was among the NYU venues for the PEN World Voices Festival of International Literature, which was celebrated this spring in New York City. The Deutsches Haus event drew more than 400 attendees, including authors Ingo Schulze, Daniel Kehlmann, Michael Krueger, and Jeffrey Eugenides, as well as German Consul General Hans-Jürgen Helmsoeth, Austrian Consul General Brigitte Blaha, and Swiss Consul for Cultural Affairs Gabriela Elpensatz. Pictured are representatives from the Swiss Consulate General preparing risotto, a traditional Swiss cheese dish. NYU’s La Maison Française and the Creative Writing Program also hosted festival events.

Steinhardt Sponsors 2008 New York State Spanish Spelling Bee

The 4th-7th grade 2008 New York State Spanish Spelling Bee took place on May 30 at Soho’s Scholastic Auditorium. The event was sponsored by the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development’s Metropolitan Center for Urban Education. Pictured, from left, are 4th-5th grade winners Bryan Moyón (third place), Ingrid Portillo (second place), and Sindy M. Ferreira (first place).

Courant Institute Hosts High School Girls for Computer Science, Engineering Workshops

NYU’s Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Princeton University teamed up for a day-long event designed to attract high school girls to the engineering and computer science fields. The early May session, which drew more than 100 New York City high school students, included interactive workshops, programming challenges, and speakers, such as Courant Director Leslie Greengard and doctoral candidate Raia Hadsell, right, who delivered a lecture on robotics. Pictured above is one of the day’s activities—a tower design competition, in which participants teamed up to build structurally sound towers using only spaghetti sticks and gumdrops. The event, held at NYU’s Kimmel Center for University Life, was co-sponsored by Courant’s Women in Computer Science initiative, Princeton’s Graduate Women in Science and Engineering, and Google.

Stern Professor Emeritus Robert Kavesh Honored

On May 14, the Stern School of Business honored Robert Kavesh (BS ’49), center, professor emeritus of economics and finance, at an event co-hosted by, from left: Henry Kaufman (PhD ’58), chairman emeritus of the Stern board of overseers; Paul A. Volcker (Hon ’83), former chairman of the Federal Reserve (1979-1987); and Alan Greenspan (BS ’48, MA ’50, PhD ’77, Hon ’05), former chairman of the Federal Reserve (1987-2006); with Stern Dean Thomas F. Cooley.

Stern has started a campaign to establish the Robert Kavesh Professorship in Economics to honor his distinguished career and contribution to educating generations of NYU students. For more information, visit www.stern.nyu.edu/kavesh/.

Putting Spitzer’s Last Days Under the Microscope

Karen Finley, performance artist and arts professor in the Tisch School of the Arts, standing, recently spoke about her newest work-in-progress, Impulse to Suck, which examines former Governor Eliot Spitzer’s confession, apology, and other issues having to do with the sex scandal that forced him from office. Finley’s talk was part of the sixth annual meeting of the Cultural Studies Association (U.S.) held on campus last month.
fem characterized as a “model minority,” many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) face barriers in mobility in U.S. society, according to an impact report prepared by NYU researchers. “Fact: Not knowing the Record Straight,” published by a team of researchers from the Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy and the Asian/Pacific American Institute for Public Affairs about Asian American and Pacific Islander access to and participation in U.S. higher education.

The study’s principal investigators are Robert Teranishi, associate professor of higher education in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and Jack Tchen, director of the Asian/Pacific American Institute and associate professor of social and cultural analysis in the Gallatin School of Individualized Study.

The study advises that parents expose their infants only to educational programming that is co-viewed by the mother. Mendelsohn also underscores the critical importance of the study’s findings that the use of educational programming alone did not promote co-viewing with their infants, which is a factor that contributes to verbal interactions. In addition, the study notes that the exposures consisted of programs not intended for young children at all.

“Passive viewing does not lead to interactions,” says Mendelsohn. “Our concern is that parents may still perceive educational programming as enough of a reason to park their children in front of the TV instead of co-viewing and interacting with their infants,” says Mendelsohn. “Passive viewing does not lead to interaction between infant and mother.”

The co-authors of this study include Samantha B. Berkute, Suru Tomopoulous, Catherine S. Tuan-LeMonda, Harris S. Huberman, Jose Alvi, and Bernad P. Dreyer.

The new study by NYU Researchers Debunks ‘Model Minority Myth’

By Timothy Farrell

Infants who are exposed to television and video in low socioeconomic households tend to have limited verbal interactions with their mothers, according to a new study led by Alan L. Mendelsohn, assistant professor of pediatrics and director of clinical research for the Division of General and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics at the NYU School of Medicine.

The study, published in the May issue of Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, is the first to assess parent-infant interactions as they relate to specific media content. It found that when the programming was educational and co-viewed by both mother and infant in each other’s presence, interactions increased. However, the study showed that educational programming did not promote co-viewing, which is a factor that contributes to verbal interactions. In addition, the study notes that the co-viewing with infants in front of the television or video at the median rate of two hours a day.

The new study’s findings also have implications for health care providers who work with parents of young children, many of whom are exposed to television and video, says Mendelsohn. The study advises that providers take good media histories. When infant television viewing is limited to no more than two hours a day, it may decrease interactions, as the study suggests that co-viewing with infants is especially important for early development, as well as the school advancement and success during adolescence,” says Mendelsohn.

Because of its findings, the new study supports the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics that television should be off limits to children under the age of two. Earlier data on this topic include a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, which cited that 61 percent of children younger than two years of age are exposed to television on a daily basis. In the new study, 97 percent of infants and toddlers reported that their parents watched television alone as a factor that contributes to verbal interactions. In addition, the study notes that the exposures consisted of programs not intended for young children at all.

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The Schack family’s donation is a testament to the ongoing effort of the institute, founded in 1967 through the advocacy of real estate leaders, especially NYU Trustee Larry Silverstein. The institute is now a global center of higher education and applied research, offering graduate programs in real estate and architecture and management sciences, enrolling nearly 5,000 annually in its continuing professional education courses, and hosting conferences on REITs and real estate capital markets.

As real estate professionals, we have participated in and observed the dramatic transformation of the business in 40 years,” says Schack. “Now, advanced education in financial analysis, portfolio and risk management, and the like are required for success in real estate. “And we believe that there is no better place to learn than the institute.”

“We are grateful and honored by the trust and respect for the work of the institute and SCPS that the Schack family has manifested through this transformation act of generosity,” says SCPS Dean Robert Lapiner.

The Schack family’s bond with NYU is strong and extends beyond their presence in the real estate community. Samuel Schack, founder of the original family business Schack & Schack Real Estate, graduated from the NYU School of Law in 1902. He and his son Leonard were active in Manhattan and the Bronx, specializing in the residential, loft, and secondary office markets. Leonard’s son Kenneth has run his own real estate company, Schack Realty Co., Inc., for over two decades and is a past chair of the Young Men’s/Women’s Real Estate Association of New York. His sister Linda Schack Teitelbaum is a 1963 graduate of Washington Square College.

The generosity of Ken Schack and the entire Schack family promises a successful campaign for greater institute and public support, according to SCPS Dean Robert Lapiner. “We are particularly honored that the gift recognizes the institute as an unmatched resource for the education and development of real estate leaders and for its four decades of advancing the academic and professional standards for an entire industry,” says the institute’s Divisional Dean Kenneth Patton.

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Master’s Program in Global Public Health Graduates 16 Students in First Class

By Robert Polner

The Master’s Program in Global Public Health is the first of its kind at NYU. The program was designed with the goal of preparing professionals to promote global public health through innovative research, practice, and policy-making. Institutions around the world have a growing need for public health professionals who can bridge both cross-functional and international expertise, and the Global MPH program is working to fill that gap.

“Program was designed with the right ingredients so that students can truly draw from the full resources of the entire University,” said Robert Berne, NYU’s senior vice president for health. “It prepares them to do innovative work in a range of domestic and international organizations on disease prevention, population issues, training, and more.”

Sheldon H. Solow Honored at Institute of Fine Art’s 75th Anniversary

By Richard Piero

Last month, the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) celebrated its 75th anniversary with a black-tie dinner honoring real estate developer, patron of the arts, and philanthropist Sheldon H. Solow, an IFA emeritus trustee and an NYU life trustee.

The Brooklyn-born Solow began auditing lectures at the IFA in the 1970s, as he was building his own collection of modern art. Solow has been a builder and owner of residential and commercial properties in New York City since 1950, and his buildings have set new standards of excellence in design and the application of innovative technology. With unprecedented views of Central Park, Solow’s distinctive office tower at 9 West 57th Street is one of the most desirable commercial addresses in the United States and is an iconic piece of the New York City landscape.

“It is very fitting that we should mark the 75th anniversary of the Institute of Fine Arts by honoring Sheldon Solow, an NYU emeritus trustee and benefactor of the Institute for more than 25 years,” said Judy Stein, hardh, chairman of the board of trustees at IFA.

Over the years, the Sheldon H. Solow Foundation and the Solow Art and Architecture Foundation have given to a number of philanthropic initiatives, including programs in arts, education, architecture, and libraries.

Philippe de Montebello to Join IFA Faculty

By Richard Piero

Continued from page 1

be effective January 2009 or upon the arrival of his successor as director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"There is no voice more recogniz- able, more cogent, or more powerful in the world of art and museums than that of Philippe de Montebello," said Mariel Westermann, director of the IFA and vice chair of the Solow Foundation. "His extraordinary leadership of the Metropolitan Museum of Art contributed incalculably to New York’s stature as an international cap- ital of art, culture, and ideas. Montebello has dared to do things that most people wouldn’t do, and he has very much improved the public’s respect for, understanding of, and love of art."

In addition to his professorship, de Montebello will also serve as special advisor on NYU Abu Dhabi, the comprehensive liberal arts and science campus. NYU is establishing in the Middle East. He will be involved in visual arts programming for the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute and the campus, the development of arts curricula, and structuring museum placement oppor- tunities for students and graduates.

"I am thrilled to be rejoining the IFA as a member of its distinguished faculty," said de Montebello. "In this new phase of my career, I will move from a life of action in the art field to one of reflection—and of course, ped- agogy. My courses and seminars will be about ideas, not museum manage- ment or practice, but through them I hope to inspire new generations of global art historians, art historians, and architects to look favorably on opportunities in the museum world of the future."

De Montebello has been director of the Metropolitan Museum for 31 years; he first came to the Met in 1963 as a curator in the Department of European Paintings. Under his leadership, the Metropolitan nearly doubled in size, vastly increasing its exhibition space, while acquiring sig- nificant collections and masterpieces, mounting acclaimed international loan exhibitions, developing wide- reaching educational programs, and reinstating much of its encyclopedic permanent collections in new and refurbished galleries.

De Montebello is the recipient of honors and awards including a National Medal of the Arts; honorary doctorates from NYU, Harvard, Dart- mouth, and Lafayette College; among others; the National Institute of Social Sciences Gold Medal, being named as a commendatore in the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy, being named an Officier dans l’Ordre National deze Légion d’Honneur; the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, from the Government of Japan, and others. He received his B.A. from Harvard College and earned his M.A. at NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts.
The Foundations of Positive and Normative Economics
Edited by Andrew Caplin and Andrew Schotter
(Oxford University Press, 2008)

The Foundations of Positive and Normative Economics, edited by Andrew Caplin and Andrew Schotter, professors in the Department of Economics, is the first book in a new series designed to open a dialogue on the rapidly changing methodological frontiers of the field of economics. This first volume, published by Oxford University Press, in conjunction with NYU’s Center for Experimental Social Science, reflects the challenges that are opened by new research opportunities.

Economists have been introducing new theories and new sources of data at a remarkable rate in recent years, and there are widely divergent views both on how productive these expansions have been in the past and how best to make progress in the future. “Should economics take account of neurophysiological data?” asks Eric Maskin, winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize in Economics, “Can subjective states of mind play a useful role in economic analysis?” These and other provocative questions are examined and debated in this fascinating volume of essays from some of the deepest thinkers in contemporary economics.”

Schotter, director of the Center for Experimental Social Science, studies economic theory, game theory, and experimental economics. Caplin, co-director of the center, has written extensively on defects in the U.S. residential real estate finance market.

Violent Partners: A Breakthrough Plan for Ending the Cycle of Abuse
By Linda G. Mills (Basic, 2008)

Founded of NYU’s Center on Violence and Recovery, Linda Mills, who is also senior vice provost for undergraduate education and university life, calls into question how the American legal system deals with domestic violence: mandatory arrest and prosecution, restraining orders, and batterer intervention programs. In Violent Partners Mills urges that the system deprives women of choices and provides few options for couples that want to stop the abuse without ending the relationship.

“In a scrupulously researched book,” Publishers Weekly says, “Mills uses her own experience in a violent relationship and other case studies as she examines the sources of domestic violence, looks microscopically at the complex dynamics between various victims and their abusers, and explores new treatments that are proving successful. This last is the book’s most valuable part, both for these couples and for policy makers.”

Mills describes a group therapy program in California and the Violence Circles Program she helped develop in 2004, in which the couples and sometimes whole families are treated, rather than just the abuser.

The Trouble with Black Boys...and Other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education
By Pedro A. Noguera (Harvard, 2008)

The statistics Pedro Noguera cites in The Trouble with Black Boys are startling: black males lead the nation in homicides, both as victims and perpetrators; black males contract HIV and AIDS at a faster rate than any other population; and, in most states, black males have the highest rates of arrest, incarceration, and conviction. Fifty years after Brown v. Board of Education ruled that separate schools for black and white children were unconstitutional, the United States is faced with alarming inequalities in our schools and society at large.

Calling black boys “one of several canaries in the mines of our schools,” Noguera takes a candid look at the subject of educational equity and social justice. Pulling together a range of subjects, from school improvement and violence to racial politics, Noguera examines the link between racial identity and school-related behavior, race and the achievement gap, and the educational future of Latino immigrants.

In a book that will be widely read by educators and policymakers alike, Noguera questions the role of leaders in restoring public faith in education, recommends investing in the social capital of students, and proposes how to reclaim the promise of public education. A professor of teaching and learning at NYU’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, Noguera is also executive director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and co-director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS) at NYU.