

## City and NYU-Poly Continue Efforts to Assist Start-ups

### BEST Center Expands Incubator to Manhattan

#### 'Great Example' of Public-Private Sector Cooperation, Mayor Says

By William Modeste Jr

NYU-Poly has expanded operation of its BEST Center incubator activities to Manhattan, opening offices at 160 Varick Street. The opening-day ceremony, which took place at the new location on August 31, was attended by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a bevy of celebrities, and print, radio and TV reporters.

The incubator program is designed to assist start-up companies in conducting research and development work to build a commercial product. Bruce Niswander, who heads the BEST Center, said twenty-seven companies are currently "occupying the incubator at 160 Varick with another 12 companies at the BEST Center in Brooklyn." More than 300 companies have applied to take advantage of the low-cost Manhattan workplace, which encompasses 16,000 square feet.

New York City has provided the center with up to \$100,000 to open the Varick Street satellite. The companies using the facility or its Brooklyn counterpart pay a small rental fee to NYU-Poly of \$200 for each occupied seat, for which

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*Mayor Michael Bloomberg and President Jerry Hultin see a major boon to the city's economy from the expanding incubator program.*

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## T.C. Westcott Resigns, Will Join Cooper Union

*She views this as an opportunity to expand her current skills in real estate and endowment on a broader scale*

By Kishan Chanchall

T.C. Westcott, who has served as vice president of finance and administration for Polytechnic for the past five and a half years, will be leaving NYU-Polytechnic Oct. 23 to join Cooper Union as vice president of finance and administration and as treasurer. She views this, she says, as an exciting opportunity to enhance her existing skills and further expand her skills in real estate and endowment management.

"While this is certainly an exciting and well-deserved move on T.C.'s part, she will be greatly missed because of her invaluable contributions to Poly over these years, her leadership, professionalism, and her collegiality," President Jerry Hultin said. "Throughout her time at Poly, T.C. diligently shepherded the university through some tough times with great skill and expertise. T.C. energetically managed the financial, operational, and risk aspects of the university while upholding our commitment to our students, our faculty, our staff, and our mission."

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## Editorials

### Got a Great Business Idea?

## NYU Stern Will Give You Big Bucks

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The NYU Leonard N. Stern School of Business is offering all NYU students (that means us, too) an opportunity to propose an innovative entrepreneurial business idea and a chance to win \$75,000 or \$125,000 in seed money to jump-start your winning business plan. The amount awarded will depend on which category you choose to enter, with \$75,000 to be awarded in the private business category and \$125,000 for social entrepreneurial pursuits. The seed money comes from participating venture capitalists and angel investors, who will act as judges during the final stages of the competition, which will take place in April 2010.

The Entrepreneur Boot Camp for NYU students as well as alumni interested in submitting ideas for the competition was held on Sunday, Sept. 20, at Stern's Schimmel Auditorium, during which Stern professors gave students a crash course on the technical requirements expected of the submitted proposals.

I was one of the few NYU-Poly faces in attendance. The others there were supercilious NYU Stern grads and undergrads who seemed to be sizing up one another to see whom they had to defeat, as if this were some sort of athletic event. Believe me, friendly faces were scarce. Thus, the level of secrecy during the lunch break as to who was thinking of doing what was incredibly intriguing and one's curiosity met with mock smiles and fake wishes of good luck and congratulations.

(Side note: Aspiring entrepreneurs tend to be restless people dissatisfied with their current state of affairs, people who feel the need to take matters into their own hands. In this respect, their personalities can be a bit overbearing.)

The lectures were great. The professors were vivacious, energetic and funny and their deliveries were not only informative but extremely motivating and entertaining. Everyone left the Boot Camp with a renewed "can-do" attitude, which was strange for a group of students who spent a whole day listening to back-to-back lectures indoors on a warm Sunday afternoon. (For interested students who missed the lectures, the slides can be found on the NYU Web site noted at the end of this editorial.)

One of the best pieces of advice that came out of the lectures was in reference to teammate selection. Jeffrey Carr, a Stern professor and the executive director of the Berkley Center, said, "Don't partner up with someone you can hire." And then it struck me. The NYU-Polytechnic affiliation has the potential to be exactly just that, with the underdogs (us) making a name for themselves if only they take advantage of opportunities like this when they come along.

What we on this newspaper are saying is that this competition is the perfect opportunity for NYU-Poly students to make their mark in what would be our first official year to qualify and compete.

Poly students can prove to our NYU counterparts that we're not just some weak real-estate acquisition; that our ideas have solidity, credibility and substance; that we are a worthy partner because we are even stronger adversaries in competitions like this one.

It's become apparent to the board members and us that our affiliation is in the process of finalization, but we haven't yet "bestowed" our presence on the NYU student body, whose outlook and culture are different from ours. It's time to put our PolyThinking mantra to the test.

You are free to submit as many ideas as you like, but be mindful that there is a \$75 application fee for each and if your ideas do make it to the semifinals, you are permitted to follow through with only one to the end of the competition; what's more, you'll need to recruit one Stern student to act as a major member of your team to qualify (this is unnecessary in the first round of competition), so pick and plan wisely!

The deadline for the initial venture concept summaries for both competitions is Oct. 26 at 3 p.m.

For more information about the competition and the Entrepreneur Boot Camp lecture slides, visit: [http://w4.stern.nyu.edu/berkley/bpc.cfm?doc\\_id=6306](http://w4.stern.nyu.edu/berkley/bpc.cfm?doc_id=6306)

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*Mayor Bloomberg converses with Robert Lieber (second from left), deputy mayor of economic development; Bruce Niswander, head of the BEST Center; Carl Weisbrod, president of Trinity Real Estate; President Hultin; Seth Pinsky, president of the NYC Economic Development Corporation; and Meera Kumar, vice president of communications and marketing.*

*Continued From Page 1*

they have access to the facility, support services, professional mentors and the opportunity to employ NYU -Poly students.

The purpose of the program, of course, is to give new companies the necessary support services and the space in which to develop their products as well as their businesses.

The idea for expansion of the incubator's activities first came about last February through talks between Niswander and officials in the mayor's office. Mayor Bloomberg, in fact, has made the incubator a key part of his 11-point plan to help increase and promote entrepreneurial businesses throughout the city in this tough economic climate.

At the Varick Street ceremony, the mayor said, "The next generation of successful employers is being developed now, and no one can say for certain what they'll be. But we want to make sure as many of them as possible start and grow in New York City. Our business incubator on Varick Street is a great example of how the public and private sectors can work together to promote entrepreneurship. Based on its success, we're creating additional incubators around the city."

Bloomberg said the city planned to open four more incubators, which he said are so necessary for providing both business and emotional relief in these tough economic times. The mayor said he is prepared to spend \$800,000 to help create them. NYU-Poly, in fact, is considering plans for possibly two more incubators, Niswander said.

NYU-Poly President Jerry Hultin said, "I applaud Mayor Bloomberg for recognizing how important it is to provide an environment in which people with ideas can succeed in establishing companies and generating jobs.

"This incubator is living proof of how in the short space of six months--with the right leadership--an idea can go from concept to fruition. One of NYU-Poly's main objectives as an institute of technology is to lead in invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship – something we call i2e. We are delighted that this partnership with the mayor's office has given us a unique opportunity to strengthen the economy of New York City. The Varick Street incubator is breaking new ground in the level of entrepreneurial experience we offer to students."

Niswander explained the value of

the incubator program to students in this way: "The way the incubator will work is to provide students the opportunity to work through a paid or nonpaid internship as well as standard employment arrangements. In this way, the students will be involved with small companies before and even after they graduate. Such an experience will help make what they learn here at NYU-Poly more meaningful and will enhance their education. Bottom line: When a student goes for a job interview, he or she will have had three or four small-business jobs. That's a significant plus factor when looking for work in today's economic climate."

NYU-Poly is also the operator of a NYSERDA-sponsored business accelerator (with companies physically located in the 160 Varick Street space) that focuses on companies involved in renewable energy and clean technologies. This portion of the incubator expansion operates under the title of ACRE (Accelerating a Clean Renewable Economy).

The institute has signed a three-year lease at the Varick Street building.

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# Westcott

*Continued From Page 1*

Westcott has been in charge of finance and administration, including the budget, business offices, facilities, human resources, and information technology.

She was also responsible for developing prospective financial scenarios that define the objectives to meet the university's desired financial goals.

Asked what the requirements are for her successor, she responded, "Along with the basic skills required to be a finance officer, the person must be flexible and have the ability to multi-task."

She leaves NYU-Polytechnic in much better shape than it was when she arrived here in 2004. She participated in the NYU merger talks and believes "NYU now has access to a technologically oriented faculty, whereas Poly now has access to a much broader base of scholarly interests within NYU's facility. It creates great opportunities for collaboration. Operationally, NYU is much larger than Poly and since they have staff members who focus on fewer areas, there is a great deal of expertise in those areas. Poly benefits by having access to those experts when needed."

As for the most memorable moments of her career here, she says it was all the commencement ceremonies. "It is so rewarding to see our students successfully complete their college years." What she will miss the most, she says, are "the wonderful people I met during my time at Poly."

Prior to joining Polytechnic, Westcott worked for six and a half years at Planned Parenthood of New York City, ending up there as the senior vice president and chief financial officer. Before that, she worked at Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield for 11 years.

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After three years in limbo, PolyWOG, the senior yearbook, has been resurrected. Largely responsible for this welcome news is Jose Urena, who is serving as editor-in-chief. In fact, he and his team are busily working on the 2010 edition.

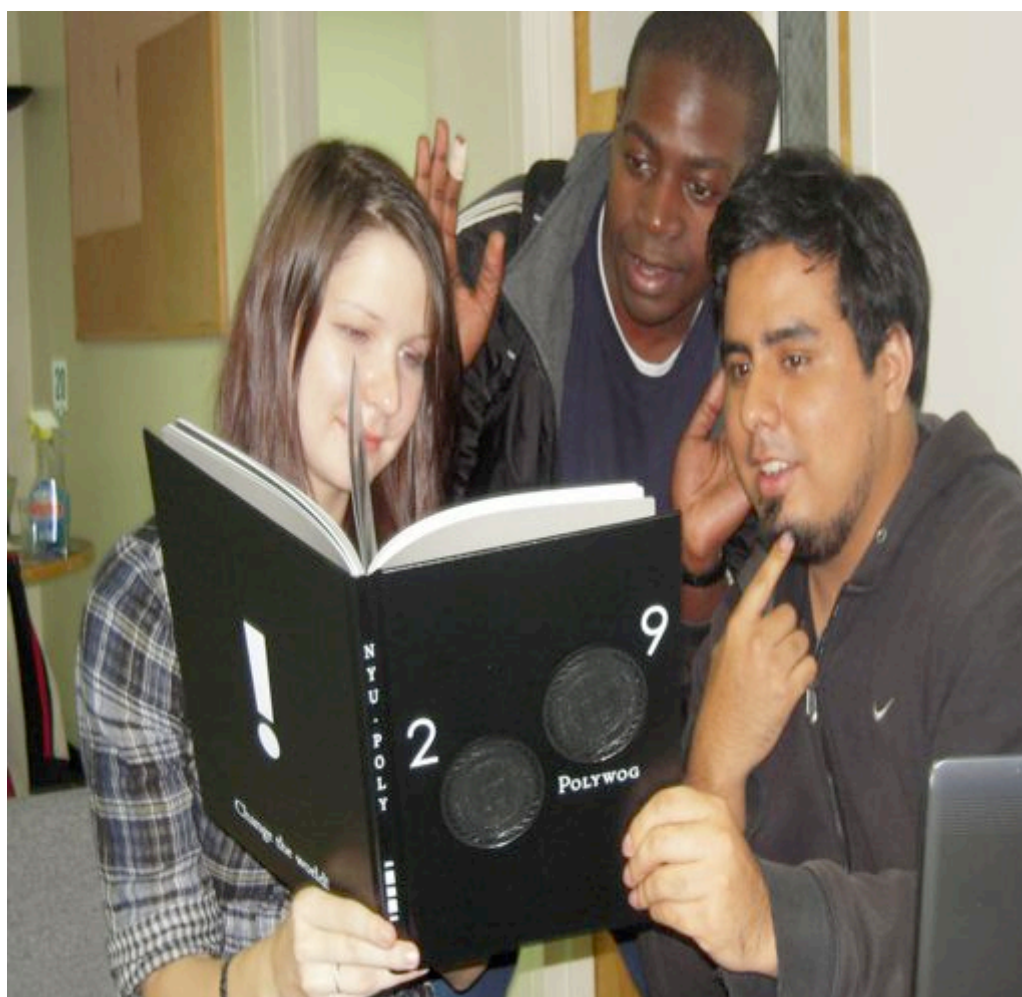
The last time the senior yearbook appeared was in 2006.

The current edition will be mailed to 2009 graduates.

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## PolyWOG Redux



*At long last--a yearbook!*

# Scandal Rocks Stevens Institute; State Charges Financial Improprieties And Seeks Ouster of Top Officials; School Fights Back With Its Own Suit

By Michael Hailemariam

The New Jersey attorney general has filed a lawsuit against the Stevens Institute of Technology, charging its president and board chairman with fiscal improprieties and seeking their ouster. Coming on the heels of a three-year probe, the 90-page lawsuit accuses the college of misappropriation of endowment money and excessive compensation. Last year, the salary of the college's president, Harold L. Raveche, was more than \$1 million. In addition, he has received more than \$1.5 million in low-interest loans from the school, the suit alleges, stating that in Raveche's case this was not permissible under the New Jersey Nonprofit Act since he is both an officer and a trustee.

In an attempt to mitigate the shocking charges, Stevens filed a lawsuit against the state's attorney general, requesting that the matter be dealt with in confidential arbitration. The school also argued that, as a private entity, the attorney general had no right to interfere with the operation of the university's board of trustees through legal action. A

Stevens spokesman, Peter McDonough Jr, issued a statement saying, "Nothing in the attorney general's suit is new; the issues raised have been or are in the process of being addressed. With the assistance of former Supreme Court Chief Justice [James R.] Zazzali, we are confident that if there are any remaining issues, they can be clarified and resolved." The school said it hired Zazzali "as an impartial fact-finder to assist a subcommittee of the board to review the reforms that have been put into place in recent years and to suggest any improvements that may be advisable."

The attorney general, Anne Milgram, has demanded changes in the school's business practices, particularly in the way it handles its endowment, and in its leadership, including the removal of President Raveche and board chairman Lawrence Babbio. If the school does not comply, Milgram said, she will take steps that could affect the school's accreditation.

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## Editorials

### Listen Up, Club Leaders

*Continued From Page 2*

We call on you again, as we did last spring, to contact us if you want to publicize events you are planning for this academic year. We will gladly run your announcements in our calendar of events and even assign a staff member to write an article on a particularly noteworthy activity. But we need you to get in touch with us. Why? If you'll glance at the list of reporters on Page 2, you will see that there are not many of us, so we have to apportion our time judiciously. We must spend the bulk of it covering breaking news and writing features—spread so thin as we are.

So, unfortunately, we can't make the rounds from club to club seeking calendar information from you on a personal basis. But if you'll give us a call or send us an e-mail, we'll be sure to have an editor or reporter get back to you promptly. So, please, take it upon yourselves to make sure that the NYU-Poly community is aware of your club's important activities. Perhaps one member of your organization should assume this responsibility. Send information about your club to William Modeste Jr, the editor-in-chief, at [williammodeste@aol.com](mailto:williammodeste@aol.com) or phone him at (718)-260-3513.

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## Recent Happenings...

# Club Day: Sign 'em Up

## *Clubs make an all-out effort for new recruits*

By Michael Hailemariam

Club Day is a longstanding tradition hosted by the Student Council and used by student organizations to recruit new members. It is usually the first official event that Student Council sponsors each academic year. This year's event was held Sept. 16. The event helps clubs make a great impression as they launch their mission. It also gives students a chance to find a club that best suits their interests.

The Club Day tradition has never lost its appeal at Polytechnic: "What do you guys do?" "How often do you meet?" "How do I join?" These were a few of the questions new and returning students were asking on Club Day. The event showcased all clubs from the social to the religious to the professional. All types of displays were set up to attract new recruits and show off each individual club's accomplishments.

The president of the NYU-Poly chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Vunayed Ali said, "We want to build a bigger robot this year," as he pointed to a small pet-like robot with a camera on its head. This enthusiasm carried forward with many clubs. The NYU-Poly chapter of the American Chemical Society (PACS) brought out its famous liquid nitrogen container to make ice cream. The chapters of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) also didn't shy away from bringing out their respective award-winning plane and concrete canoe.

Also seeking new members were the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), both clubs distinguished by the formal dress of their reps. Their tables were decorated with flags and special banners. The two organizations seem to have gathered steam since their joint event earlier this year during



President Jack Poon (third from right) with his happy cohorts.

Black History Month. They were registering new members on the spot, and SHPE reported more than 33 dues-paying new members.

Religious clubs were also present. The Muslim Student Association (MSA) was offering a free Arabic lesson. It was a hit. The Christian club, Navigators, is pushing forward with a unique partnership with its NYU counterpart to sponsor joint events and trips. The Navigators followed up Club Day with a general meeting (Navs Night) the next day. This approach--a rapid follow-up to student interest--and its collaborative reception with its NYU partner in fact earned the club the Most Welcoming Club award last year from Student Council.

All in all, although there were some common concerns, club leaders were looking forward to a productive year. The Engineers Without Borders chapter secretary, Kimberly Lo, said, "Sustaining the chapter is a priority. We need freshmen and sophomores to get involved because the majority of the team members are seniors." Others, including the Poly Fencing Club and the Poly Anime Society, stressed the dire need for more equipment and funds to expand their programs and thus be more responsive to their members' needs. Overall, the day was a good beginning for clubs and proved that the NYU-Poly clubs are off to a good start.



Anime's president, Raymond Chin (third from left), and his crew want you.

# Lambda Chi Alpha: Since 1909 and Still Going Strong: Fraternity Members Celebrate a Milestone



*Below: Lambda Chi Alpha's president, Roman Ambartsumov.*



*A happy day indeed for this group: Let the party begin--or has it already?*

## By Ari Case

Celebrating its centennial this year, the fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha marked this milestone with a joyous Founder's Day dinner at the popular Marco Polo Ristorante in Carroll Gardens. And for good reason. The fraternity continues to make a substantial impact in the community. NYU-Poly's Theta-Upsilon chapter, throughout years of struggle and strife, managed to outlast numerous other fraternities here, which is a feat in itself.

"It's a great feeling to know that we have been around for 100 years and that we are getting stronger with each passing year," said Roman Ambartsumov, the president of Lambda Chi Alpha. "Lambda Chi Alpha was started as a local fraternity at Boston University on Nov. 2, 1909, and today we are an international fraternity with more than 260,000 initiated brothers and chapters at nearly 200 universities throughout the United States and Canada."

Other brothers expressed the same enthusiasm toward the fraternity's long existence. "I feel that it is a great accomplishment for Lambda Chi Alpha to last 100 years," said Wilson Dieujuste Jr, the fraternity's educator. "To realize all the hardships and obstacles brothers have faced in the past and to have overcome them with the strong foundation that is Lambda Chi Alpha is very profound. I can speak for the rest of the brothers when I say that I am very proud to be a brother in this long, continuing history of this fraternity."

Brother Matthew Santiago, the fraternity's ritualist, said, "Lambda Chi Alpha has produced a century of upstanding men. It is amazing how a small group of dedicated students could grow to be a society of over 265,000 members. This fraternity definitely instills a bond that I have yet to see in any other organization. To

know that you can count on every brother to be there for you in time of need is comforting and rare."

The longevity of the fraternity, after having such a small and humble beginning, leaves him in awe and inspires him to better himself, he says, adding, "The purpose of this fraternity is ever inspiring and continually reminds me of our motto, "Vir Quisque Vir" ("Every man a man"). I strive to live up to that goal whenever I find myself doubtful of the challenges ahead."

President Ambartsumov speaks of the fraternity's significance to him and how it's molded him as a person. "Lambda Chi Alpha is more than just a club or an organization; it's a brotherhood of people who are always there to lend a helping hand. Being in this fraternity has taught me to be a leader. It has taught me to take responsibility for my actions and helped me grow as a person. Looking back on my life, joining Lambda Chi Alpha was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

Dieujuste added, "Lambda Chi Alpha represents the evolution, development, and growth in becoming a man. This is exactly what this fraternity means to me. Since being welcomed into the brotherhood over the past year, I have learned many new things. Being responsible, taking initiative, being a leader, and having respect for my fellow brothers and other people are just a few things that I have taken to heart during my time here. Whenever I think about Lambda Chi Alpha, it feels like I'm on the right path in my life and career. It represents a family that will always be your foundation when you try to stand up."

*Continued on Page 14*

## Graduate Center, Alumni Office Host A Networking Night

*Students and alumni gather for food, fun, and some serious talk about jobs*

By Roxanne Skyers

“Old school” met “new school,” so to speak, when alumni hobnobbed with students at the first ever Graduate Student/Alumni Social held here last month.

“It’s the first time the alumni and graduate center have partnered in such an event,” said J.C. Bonilla, director of the graduate center. “It’s an opportunity for graduate students to come and connect with alumni and for alumni to come back and check out what’s going on at the school. It may not look like it, but this [gathering] is a lab for graduate students to come to and develop their social skills for career-management purposes and career mobility.”

The partygoers enjoyed shrimp cocktails, spring rolls, crab cakes, Bailey’s shooters, passion fruit/vodka punch, and other hors d’oeuvres and drinks while listening to high-tech music. They were welcomed by both Bonilla and Dawn B. Duncan, vice president of development and university relations.

She welcomed the presence of such a large turnout of alumni and encouraged them to ask questions and reminded everyone to “enjoy the party and mingle, mingle. Everybody in this economy needs to help each other out. There’s strength in the Poly network.”



*Students and alumni socializing at the event.*

Forty-five alumni responded to the invitation, said Natalie Silva, associate director of annual giving.

One of them was Frank Namad, class of 1968. Namad is also a member of the board of directors and chairman of the awards committee of the alumni association. He has been an active member of the alumni association for more than 40 years.

“The essence of the school” is what keeps him involved, he said. “Aside from the technological greatness it used to have when I graduated, it represented a tremendous opportunity for immigrants. I’m an immigrant. I came to this country when I was 15. I had 20 dollars in my pocket. I was by myself. I went to night school. It is because of this school that I made it, that I owned companies and did all kinds of things. It’s the opportunity that this school has given me that is important. And, in the merger between NYU and Poly, on the board, I was really pushing very hard to make sure that that doesn’t get lost in the marketing process that NYU has. NYU is aiming at different demographics. And, we’re trying to make sure that they don’t forget the strength of Poly and its internationalism, and the fact that they offer so many opportunities to so many people. I can go to Israel. I can go to England, and they know more about Poly than they do in America. Why? Because of the people that I have met, and I go there often. It’s amazing. So, because of that, through ups and downs, the atmosphere, the principles, they’re still here.”

Faizan Sheikh, class of 2007, said he also hoped to “make it,” but in the film industry. After being laid off five or six months ago from an investment bank, he decided to make films. Sheikh developed an interest in filmmaking when, as a computer science major, he minored in digital media. He said he has just completed a documentary about how dance affects patients with Parkinson’s disease. He is currently working on a short film on the same subject. It’s called “My Angel, My Hero,” about a kid with Parkinson’s disease who lives and dances in the street and uses his dancing skills to reduce his tremors. Sheikh plans to



*Faizan Sheikh, class of 2007.*



*Frank Namad, class of 1968.*

*Continued on Page 24*

Once and for all...

## My View

# Let's All Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

By Ivana Sapon

For all of you who don't know it, Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Perhaps it's because it's so early in the semester, but it always amazes me that Hispanic Heritage Month was never celebrated for the three years that I've been at Poly. It is bad enough that the Hispanic population is sprinkled around the campus; there is now an urgency to unite and make our presence known.

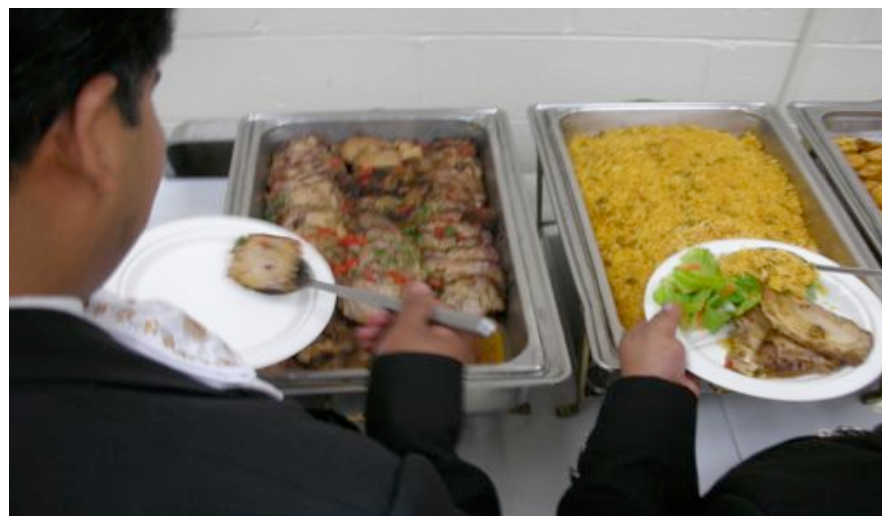
Despite being ranked third in racial diversity and 15th in economic diversity by U.S. News & World Report, I feel there has been no strong initiative taken by this college to retain the bulk of the 13 percent of Hispanic students who are a part of the NYU-Poly population.

The need to increase minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is often overlooked here and the college needs to improve its minority student retention rate by providing more services to these students.

One such endeavor has been undertaken by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE).

SHPE has revived the Hispanic culture at NYU-Poly. With the blown-up posters of Hispanic Heritage murals, photos honoring Sonia Sotomayor (our newly appointed U.S. Supreme Court Justice) and Jose Hernandez (NASA's Mexican astronaut), we're off to a good start.

An excellent example of Hispanic Heritage pride was the performance of a mariachi band in the campus cafeteria on Sept. 30. It filled the students with joy; in fact, this event attracted Hispanics of all countries. Even the cafeteria staff joined in. Such an



*Pernil (pork roast), arroz con gandules (rice and beans), and platanos (plantains).*



*Mariachi Band Performing.*



*SHPE Executive Board: (Back row, left to right) Ronald Dutan, Johnny Peguero, Andres Donoso, Leandro Quezada. (Front row, left to right) Hector Moreno, Ivana Sapon, Kristina Cantos.*

event was a long time in coming here. What's more, SHPE holds free Hispanic meetings every Wednesday in room 674 during club hour and provides salsa lessons every Wednesday from 6-7p.m. in the Student Cultural Center. On both Saturday and Sunday, we provide math tutoring from 2-4p.m. in rooms 705 and 708. On Saturdays, the club offers free Spanish lessons from 1-2p.m. in room 708.

All instructions – in dance, mathematics, and Spanish – are provided by leading professionals in their respective fields.

Hispanics, let's not allow this campus to overlook our month anymore. We must become bold and take pride in our background because if we not, then no one else will be.

I'd be glad to talk to any one of you about our national organization. I am the president this year of the school's chapter. You can reach me at [polyshpe.pres@gmail.com](mailto:polyshpe.pres@gmail.com).

[isny1121@yahoo.com](mailto:isny1121@yahoo.com)

## Interview: Herbert Scheftel, Career Services

*Here is more sage advice on job hunting from the manager of career services' career fairs, internships, co-op and work-study programs*



**Reporter:** You attended the recent career fair at NYU in Manhattan. How do you size up the job situation now for engineers and scientists?

**Scheftel:** Well, they didn't have a lot of prospects for engineers and scientists at the fair from what I could see. There were a lot of financial companies there. The types of engineers they seem to be interested in at some of the companies I spoke with were financial engineers, while the traditional engineers--the mechanical, the electrical, the civil, the chemical types--were not represented. And they wouldn't be because NYU in Manhattan is not geared to the engineering field. We are the engineering school of NYU.

However, there were opportunities for financial engineers so we are going to look at those companies to invite them here at our career fairs to do on-campus recruiting and to make sure they are posting opportunities on our Web site. We will be working with the finance and risk engineering department. Indeed, I thought there were opportunities in this area for our students. On Oct. 23 we will be part of an engineering consortium at Columbia University that will be holding a career fair on their campus and our students will be invited to attend.

**Reporter:** Were there any specific companies at the NYU event that might be relevant to NYU-Poly students?

**Scheftel:** As I said, they were financial engineering companies, including Duff & Phelps, NICO Holdings, Protiviti, and Knight Equity Markets.

We are surely going to invite them to do presentations here. Hopefully, they will be doing some recruiting here as well. Our financial engineering students should certainly research these companies to find out if there are any positions.

Incidentally, I spoke with a representative from a digital media company, Black 20. We invited the company to do a presentation here on campus. Also, we'd like to invite General Electric here. GE is actively looking for interns in computer science.

**Reporter:** How about the computer science field. Were many of these companies at the NYU fair?

**Scheftel:** Certainly. All companies could use someone with a computer background. It boils down to researching those companies and finding out whether they need the talents of an NYU-

Poly student. Students should always research companies before they apply. They should find out what the company does, and whether the firm is interested in someone with their background. It's really up to the students to do that. No one will do it for them.

**Reporter:** What about salaries in those two fields?

**Scheftel:** The current average starting salary we show for an undergraduate degree in computer science is \$61,687. For a student graduating with a financial engineering degree, we see \$63,727.

Let me sum up our talk so far by saying that the NYU career fair was not specifically related to engineering and science and that's why we will have our own career fair. And certainly our students should be coming to this event because it will be specifically related to their majors, of course.

**Reporter:** How can students prepare for the NYU-Poly career fair?

**Scheftel:** They should be going on-line to familiarize themselves with the companies that are participating. Every time a company registers it gets posted to our Web site, [www.Poly.edu/business/career](http://www.Poly.edu/business/career). At the bottom of that screen, you'll see "View participating employers." Click on that, and you'll see the companies that have registered. Bookmark this screen because companies will continue to register. We want our students to go back to this site to find what they should be aware of--that is, whom the companies will be hiring: what majors they're looking for, what kinds of positions(full or part time) are available, possible internships.

Students have to know a little about each of the companies they're applying to in order to demonstrate they're interested in working for the firm--not just "Here is my resume; I need a job." Interest in the firm is what impresses the interviewer. It's not about one more student needing a job. Companies want to know you are interested in working for them.

**Reporter:** So you strongly recommend researching prospective employers.

**Scheftel:** Absolutely, because you're not going to be able to interview every company. You're wasting your time interviewing companies not looking for people with your academic background. Make sure you're going to get to the companies that you are interested in and that are interested in you. And please do the research. See what they do, how you fit in and how you are going to make an impact to help them out. I cannot emphasize this point enough.

One more thing: Come dressed in business attire.

You'll have a map telling you where the companies are located. Search them out and start your interview with them. Polish your resume beforehand, of course. We run resume-writing workshops four days a week. We have some postings showing the days and times or you can come to the career services office and make an appointment.

Students will be able to use the feature "Optimal Resume" and build a resume step by step. In addition, the site will assist students in the preparation of the all-important cover and thank-you letters. Visit the career management home page for information and to register.

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Consensus of the Experts

# Economy May Be Improving, But Job Market Remains Tight

By Bolong Li

The economy has bottomed out, according to most economists, and some even see signs of improvement—except, that is, in jobs, where the outlook remains bleak, certainly for the foreseeable future. The one ray of hope here for students, say some experts, is that, as the job situation brightens, younger workers will be in far greater demand than older ones, especially in the science and engineering professions.

To get an indication of where the economy is headed, The Reporter turned to some experts, including several financial and risk engineering professors here on campus.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said recently that the recession was “very likely over,” as consumers showed some tangible signs of spending again, although spurred largely last August by the government’s short-lived “cash-for-clunkers” program. Bernanke said that forecasters agree “at this point that we are in a recovery.” Indeed, there have been some small but positive signs of this. For example, a home-sales revival that began last year in some of California’s cheaper inland areas has begun to spread to several more expensive coastal areas. Besides, the stock market also shows signs of life, although some experts think this is an aberration with no clear reason for it to last. In addition, the Standard & Poor Index recently reached its highest level since last October. Does all this good news mean the recession is definitely over or at least that it will be in the foreseeable future? Not in the opinion of a prominent naysayer like Joseph Stiglitz. The Nobel Prize-winning economist and former head of the World Bank has warned bluntly of more economic turbulence ahead: “I think we would be lucky to be out of the recession by 2012. 2010 may be a year of positive growth, though far weaker than would be necessary to get unemployment down significantly.” Economists such as Nouriel Roubini of NYU’s Stern School of Business and Paul Krugman of Princeton University hold the same opinion.

“I think Mr. Bernanke and Professor Stiglitz are both correct,” said Prof. Barry Blecherman of NYU-Poly’s financial and risk engi-



*Prof. Barry Blecherman*

neering department. “I don’t think there is any conflicting view between Bernanke and Stiglitz. What Bernanke is saying is that on the macro level—that is, considering the big picture—there are positive signs that indicators that had been going down have begun rising. While this is true, there is still a long way to go before the system is again healthy. I agree with Bernanke that things are going up, at least for now. Professor Stiglitz is emphasizing that it will take a long time before we are back where we were. But at least we are not at the bottom anymore.”

Another well-known economist, Arthur B. Laffer, believes the economy will remain in the doldrums if the government increases the country’s tax burden. “If there were one warning I’d give to all who will listen, it is that U.S. federal and state tax policies are on an economic crash trajectory today just as they were in the 1930s,” Laffer wrote recently in *The Wall Street Journal*. “Net legislated state-tax increases as a percentage of previous year tax receipts are at 3.1 percent, their highest level since 1991. The Bush tax acts are set to expire in 2011, and additional taxes to pay for health care and the proposed cap-and-trade scheme are on the horizon.”

Returning to Bernanke’s optimism, Prof. Charles Tapiero of NYU-Poly’s financial and risk engineering department said he thought that Bernanke was trying to encourage people to regain their faith in the economy. But this, he said, will take a long time because during this time of crisis, people were badly hurt and it will take some time before their confidence in the economy is restored. But, in general, Tapiero is optimistic “because the United States is a strong country and it is so diverse and mobile.”

As for controls on the economy, “The mere existence of the Federal Reserve itself is a big problem,” said Prof. Philip Maymin, also of the financial and risk engineering department. “There are too many regulations and laws that interfere with the normal operation of an effective market, and these trigger crises, including the one the country is currently in. Chairman Bernanke and President Obama both have the right to state their opinions about the mar-



*Prof. Charles Tapiero*

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## Graduate Center Roundtable

*Here's a look at the new policies now in place at the Graduate Center and the upgraded benefits and grad students*



*Jean Carlo Bonilla*

### **Roundtable Participants:**

Jean Carlo Bonilla, director of the Graduate Center

Kara Mitchell, associate director for retention and student services

Vasudeva Naranya, associate director for enrollment management

Abhyuday Pai, counselor for the graduate employment program

Marie Brathwaite, administrative assistant

Stacey Noel, administrative assistant

Lisa Bellantuono, counselor in charge of the scholarship programs

**Reporter:** How has the Graduate Center changed its method of operation in the past year or two?

**Bonilla:** With the growth of graduate education, we've seen that it's very important to address the needs of our incoming students from the time they start here to the time they graduate. Therefore, the admissions operation has moved into enrollment management so we can provide the university with guidelines as to what the size of our incoming graduate classes should be, what the needs of the various programs are, and, ultimately, how we can move forward in the ranking of our graduate school as a whole.

**Reporter:** When did the new method go into effect? What specifically does it involve?

**Mitchell:** It went into effect this past spring. It started out slowly. We've been making small changes in orientation and moving forward thinking about what we are implementing this semester versus what we are going to do for the spring semester.

**Reporter:** Yes, but specifically what kinds of things are you making?

**Mitchell:** We are looking at all different angles--from the social side, and, of course, to the career-development side to the professional side, and of course to the student's academic development. In short: career, professional, academic. With all of our programs, we are trying to take a look at the different angles and

how they all fit together.

For example, we promote such events as alumni-graduate student networking nights. As you may recall, we held one of these just last month. Yes, it's primarily a social event, but it also focuses on career development because the hope is that the graduate student will network with alumni. We also try to target some of our e-mail to enthusiastically invite our graduate students who are at a level where they are looking for internships and full-time positions. This is certainly an immediate need for them.

**Reporter:** Returning to an earlier question, if I may, what are you people

doing differently now from what you did, say, a year or two ago?

**Bonilla:** One of the things that has happened here was a restructuring of the Graduate Center. So what we have created is an operation that handles the incoming class. This is the responsibility of Vasu. He heads an operation that addresses the needs of the incoming student as he progresses in his graduate career, such as what programs the student requires; we strive now to provide our students with a transformational experience through our graduate school. And this is where Kara Mitchell comes in. She heads a team of counselors to assist the students with any problems they may encounter.



*Marie Brathwaite*

Lisa oversees the scholarship program and Abhyuday supervises the graduate assistantship program. As I said, these are very important operations. The institution acknowledges that the graduate assistantship program is a day-to-day operation. We are trying to make the program better, grow it, and add more meaning to the student's experience here. And let me repeat that the scholarship program and the graduate assistantships are vital to our success.

Please bear in mind that all these changes were made to provide our students—who spend one, two, three or even five years with us—with more than a diploma. It should be a life-changing experience, one that leads them to a better future.

**Reporter:** What specific scholarships are available?

**Bellantuono:** What we are trying to do this semester is find more opportunities for private scholarships. Right now we have a scholarship newsletter. We're going to be putting it on-line soon. We want to be able to offer more scholarships to our international students, e-Poly students, and regular campus students than we are now able to. We're going to have a variety of different types of scholarships. Of course, we can only provide so much financial help but we want to make sure every student has the best possible chance to get all the funding we can provide to help support his or her education.

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## Roundtable

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**Reporter:** What linkage is there with the NYU Graduate Center or are both programs still separate?

**Narayana:** Each NYU graduate school has its own graduate department. We are working to integrate with NYU. But we have our own different graduate admissions policies and graduate academic operations, but certainly there is a lot that's been happening recently between NYU and us when it comes to our decisions and what kinds of policies we are implementing. We are gradually integrating with NYU.

**Mitchell:** Before you continue, I'd like to add one point quickly about the NYU graduate schools from the student's viewpoint. They're definitely working to create more ways in which our graduate students can interact with the graduate students from all of the NYU schools because NYU has a central hub for graduate students. So, certainly, that is something we're working on as well. We want to ensure that our graduate students take full advantage of the programming that's happening for all graduate students in addition to what is taking place at the individual schools.

**Reporter:** Has a graduate program been established yet in the United Arab Emirates?

**Mitchell:** Dr. Sunil Kumar is in Abu Dhabi at the NYU Abu Dhabi campus.

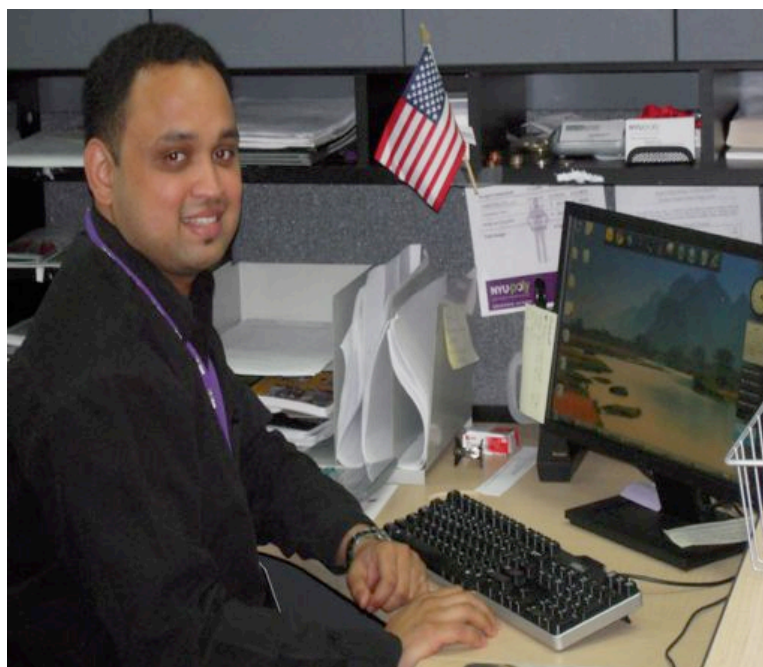
**Narayana:** He's functioning as the dean of the graduate program in Abu Dhabi.

**Reporter:** What is the current enrollment in the graduate school here? Has there been an increase or decrease in enrollment and in what departments and programs?

**Narayana:** There has been a significant increase compared with last year. Which departments? Our four major departments: electrical engineering, technology management, computer science, and financial engineering.

**Reporter:** Are the number of GAs increasing or decreasing?

**Pai:** The graduate assistantship program is about the professional development the student receives here. It's not about the money but the professional experience one gets from working



*Abhyuday Pai*

with different professors and different administrators. We have a wide range of graduate assistantships. Some students work on a research team while others work in administrative capacities and still others are joining a new assistantship program at the NYU medical school. We now have 55 assistantship positions. And they're professional research-oriented positions. It's not a student sitting at a desk and answering a phone.

Regarding the numbers, every year we structure the GA program in such a way as to help the incoming class as well as the continuing classes: As a result, every year we increase the GA numbers. This year, we have increased the numbers and even the hours a student works because if a student is working on a research project, he or she has to have continuity on that project from the start of the semester to the end. The student cannot stop work on a critical project for want of payable hours. And as this program is completely geared toward the professional development of the student, we have gotten together with the Career Management Center here at NYU-Poly. They have a Web portal that uploads all jobs for graduate students. It's called PolyLINK. This semester we are posting all on-campus jobs on PolyLINK. So all students have to do is go to the Career Management Center Web site to upload his or her resume. We strongly encourage that.

**Noel:** The only thing I want to add is that since graduate enrollment has significantly increased, our staff is increasing as well. We are currently working out of a small office, and we have satellite offices all around the school; but our hope is that we can expand to a bigger office because we are very limited in space and we would like to come together and work in one location as opposed to working in different offices. So this is a public plea for a larger space for us.

**Brathwaite:** I agree with Stacey that we need more space to accommodate not only our students but our staff.

**Pai:** Recently, NYU-Poly opened a new office, the NYU-Poly veterans affairs office, which is in the Graduate Center. In this office, we make sure that veterans who are enrolling here have no glitches in terms of admission or in regard to their documents. We also advise them on their courses, their VA documents, and so forth. What's more, I'm working closely with people in the registrar's office in striving to make this process simpler for the students. We're also contemplating a new program that's designed to provide special services to our veterans like tutoring classes and career-planning sessions. This year, we doubled the number of graduate and

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*Kara Mitchell*

# Lambda Chi Alpha

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Social chairman Kevin Sukhoo says, "Once you become a brother, you see the world differently. You learn secrets that have been complied with by many great minds within the past 100 years. So, yes, that can change things."

The brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha have all seen social and professional improvements in their lives because of the fraternity.

"Lambda Chi Alpha means strength, support, safety, family, just a place I can go to for anything at any time. It has shaped me by making me look at things on a larger scale," said Jovan Mayfield, the group's education chairman. "The fraternity is an extension of my college experience and it only amplifies what I learn in school and in life. I learned how to deal with multitudes of races and interests and how to manage finances, all while getting the best results from all of our combined efforts."

Fraternities usually get labeled as being strictly about being all fun, partying, and horseplay, but members of Lambda Chi Alpha described events that let them know that the organization was much more than a social club.

"The North American Food Drive was the first philanthropic event I have attended with the fraternity," said Ambartsumov. "This event showed a different side of the fraternity. Seeing the members waking up early on a Sunday morning to raise money and food for the local food banks showed that these guys cared about the community and that they wanted to help the less fortunate."

"I would describe the fraternity as just a group of guys having fun because we make everything fun," said Mayfield. "However, when we volunteered for the North American Food Drive last November, we collected cans from our neighbors and we also collected donations at Union Square for hours to get people's spare change for a great cause. To many, waking up early and standing out in the cold to beg for change is a humiliating chore, but I had the time of my life trying many techniques to get the speed-walking, peacoat-wearing, Blackberry-toting businessman to drop a penny on the ground for me to pick up. It was incredible and we had a great turnout and I'm very proud to say I contributed."

Santiago was most affected by his experience during initiation. "My most profound experience as a brother was the initiation ritual," he said. "It was extremely sig-

nificant and encouraging. It changed my view of the world but, most important, my view of myself. It showed me that we are ever-growing and need to strive to continually better ourselves and the world around us."

When asked what enabled him to see the fraternity as more than just a place for guys to joke around, Sukhoo said, "First, I can point to our philanthropic events. Next comes the emphasis on education. This is achieved through study groups with brothers and friends of brothers. Then comes the follow-up with monitoring of our academic progress and standings by an elected officer in the fraternity."

A lot of older brothers recall the times when the chapter wasn't in the best of economic conditions, in fact, almost losing the fraternity house and having a limited number of active brothers. Brother Santiago summed up this struggle:

"Every time I see our house it reminds me of all the hard work, sweat, and blood that had been devoted there throughout my three years," he said. "I can recall all of the times when we invented new ways of putting things together or making things stay up. Best of all would be when someone would uncover a bit of the history of the fraternity. There have been letters built into walls, names written on beams, and even aged magazines featuring some of the most beautiful women of their time. They all serve as a constant reminder that there were brothers just like me in the past who devoted their time and effort to the maintenance of our home."

Throughout the years, Lambda Chi Alpha has also become more involved with Poly.

"Our members are actively involved with campus life," said Ambartsumov. "Being members of the Student Council; volunteering their time as orientation leaders and peer counselors as well as being part of other clubs and organizations in Poly— these have been among our most cherished achievements." In fact, Santiago is also the president of the Inter-Greek Council.

Lambda Chi Alpha also prides itself in being the most active fraternity at NYU-Poly.

"Our chapter currently has 34 active members," said Ambartsumov.

"Our chapter participates in many philanthropic events," he said. "In addition to the North American Food Drive, where it collected 5,400 pounds of food for a local food bank last year, the fraternity participated in drives conducted by the March of Dimes, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk, Toys for Tots, and local soup kitchens.

"One of the major things that distinguish Lambda Chi Alpha from other fraternities is our stance on hazing. As an associate member of Lambda Chi Alpha, you will never be physically or verbally abused and will not be asked to do anything that a self-respecting man should not and would not do. What's more, joining Lambda Chi Alpha is a great way to network with other brothers across North America. Lambda Chi Alpha has the largest number of living alumni among fraternities. Joining Lambda Chi Alpha is a life-altering experience. It's a brotherhood based on seven core values: loyalty, duty, respect, service and stewardship, honor, integrity, and personal courage."

From the looks of things, Lambda Chi Alpha will be sticking around for another 100 years.

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## Economy

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ket and where they see it headed. But what if they are both wrong? Who will suffer? We will.” That is the reason why Maymin stresses that people should make key financial decisions on their own, not based on someone else’s urging. “We do not live in a world where we have to convince one another what the price of something should be.”

As to the government’s role in the current turmoil, Maymin said: “Government will always find excuses to use its power to control markets. And that is always a bad thing for freedom and that is always a bad thing for the economy. When the government controls medicine, that industry is hurt. When the government controls the market, the market is hurt. There is far too much overregulation of our economy today and that is the reason why the market cannot function well.”

On the other hand, Tapiero takes a somewhat different view: “Yes, we need regulation to eliminate the risks of non-transparencies in financial markets, the moral hazard risks, the many manifestations of insider trading, etc. Yes, we need to attend to the people in our society who have less than financial bankers and who cannot attend to their own health care. This does not mean that we have to downgrade the quality and the costs of health care to those who want to pay for it and can afford it. Yes, we ought to be more efficient and financially responsible and far less big spenders. And, yes, we need to reconcile our real with our financial economy.”

“In fact,” added Blecherman, “when you talk about the economy or finance, you talk about politics. There is a marriage between economics and politics that can never be broken and there is always a conflict between economics and politics.”

Blecherman sees people’s fear of the future as a factor prolonging this recession almost as much as the huge jobless numbers. “Economists from all walks generally agree that when there is a recession, you want people to have more money and spend more money. If people are afraid of tomor-

row, then next year will be terrible,” he says. “They hold on to their money and so more people lose their jobs because nobody buys what they are making. It’s a vicious cycle. How you get people to spend money in an environment like this is a really tough issue. Some politicians would like to tell people everything is OK to get them to feel confident about tomorrow. That’s what Bernanke is now doing. The idea of encouraging people to spend more money is correct. Whether the policies work or not, well, that depends. But I am sure the free market itself can solve this problem.”

In terms of the job outlook, the news remains grim. The unemployment rate for September was pegged at 9.8 percent and it is expected that at the end of the year, the figure will have risen to about 10 percent. This may sound terrible to college students about to enter the workforce, but the experts interviewed for this article expressed great confidence in the long-term outlook for the economy and job prospects for today’s students.

“You have to understand that the unemployment rate is a macro statistic, and it covers all the potential workers in the United States.” said Blecherman “But in a micro sense, none of this is true. Different sectors are vastly different. And quite frankly, the prospect for new, young college graduates is much better than for older workers. Students should be positive about their future because the employment situation, though dreadful now, will get better and better with time. For financial engineering students, he added, the situation was particularly bad because so many people on Wall Street lost their jobs. But it is certainly promising looking to the future “It is just like the process of gardening,” he said. “In winter, we have to cut down much to help the foliage survive; and when the spring comes, we harvest the bloom.”

Tapiero is also optimistic about the future for today’s engineering students. “Our students are, hopefully, learning to be employable for the economy of tomorrow, not for the economy of yesterday,” he said. “The market needs people who are adaptable to change, not people who just respond to orders. This is why education is so important; it must teach people how to adapt to changes in industry. There is one thing for certain: There will always be many jobs for engineers, especially in the hi-tech and soft-tech areas once this great economic recession is behind us. In fact, hi-tech engineering has not been hit especially hard during this crisis. “

Maymin expressed the opinion that the financial job market was

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*Prof. Philip Maymin*

## Roundtable

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undergraduate veterans on campus. It now stands at 45.

**Reporter:** What about the new Montgomery G.I. Bill? How does that work?

**Pai:** That’s the Post-9/11 GI Bill. If the veteran is eligible, he or she doesn’t have to pay a single penny out of their own pocket. If they are 100 percent eligible under this law, they are also eligible for “Yellow Ribbon” benefits. NYU-Poly is a “Yellow Ribbon” school.

The “Yellow Ribbon” program consists of universities that give extra financial aid to veterans who are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, or what you have called the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

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*Beyond the Girl From Ipanema...*

## Sojourning With Silva

*The Reporter's travel editor takes you on a verbal tour of the gorgeous back-country of his native **BRAZIL***

By Fabrício Silva

Brazil is widely known for its carnival floats, soccer, samba and thousands of beaches (and not just Ipanema or Copacabana), usually packed with beautiful sun-tanned bodies. However, the country, slightly bigger than the continental United States, provides much more for the visitor to see than the world-renowned attractions of the shoreline.

In my visit to Brazil this past summer, I chose to explore some parts of the interior of the country, known as the Cerrado—a straggling savanna that stretches from the equatorial states of Maranhão and Piauí all the way down to the southern state of Paraná, covering an area of more than 1.2 million square miles, or nearly two times the size of Alaska.

According to the NGO Nature Conservancy, the Brazilian Cerrado is the world's most biologically rich savanna, with over 10,000 species of plants, 935 species of birds and nearly



*The first of Bonsucesso's seven falls immediately compels the visitor to stop and ponder the other six falls and the challenges to ascend them.*

300 mammals, among which are many endangered species.

I'm familiar with many aspects of the Cerrado, as my home state of Goiás is fully covered by this vast grassland savanna. In Goiás, for instance, the Cerrado features some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world, including rivers, waterfalls, mountains, one of Latin America's largest hot springs complexes, and a unique variety of trees, flowers and fruits. Last summer, I visited four of the more than 10 states that the Cerrado covers. This article centers on Pirenópolis, a historic little town right near my own hometown, Goiânia, and just as close to Brasília, the nation's capital.

Founded in 1727, Pirenópolis is notorious for its preserved colonial architecture, its mysticism, folkloric roots, and its huge complex of waterfalls, some of them pictured in this article.

The town is located about 78 miles northeast of Goiânia, Goiás' capital, and roughly 83 miles west of Brasília. The founding of Pirenópolis is directly linked to Brazil's gold era, a



*The Our Lady of Holy Rosary Mother Church, now fully restored after a massive fire in 2002. The church, as well as the entire historic downtown, is illuminated solely by 18th-century style gas lamps.*

time when prospectors were traveling deep into the vast land, searching for the valuable mineral that characterized most of the colonization of the Brazilian inland territory. The basin of the Rio das Almas (River of the Souls), is known to have provided one of the state's largest gold mines, drawing gold miners and explorers from all parts of the country in the 18th century.

Much of the structure of Pirenópolis' historic downtown, including its peculiar quartzite stone streets, is reminiscent of the slavery era. The town is preserved as a National Historical Heritage (a title granted in 1988), and therefore maintains its 18th-century colonial-style homes, churches, and museums. Pirenópolis boasts a mix of variable faiths. While it is predominantly Catholic, the town has strong pagan and folkloric traditions. The main temple, Igreja Matriz de Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of Holy Rosary Mother

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*All around Pirenópolis' historic district, the houses are maintained in their original colonial style. They were built virtually on the street to save land in the backyard to grow vegetables and Cerrado fruit trees.*



*The Piri-Jazz Festival, featuring Brazilian jazz composers, happened during Silva's visit to Pirenópolis, last August. Several similar free concerts take place on rua do Lazer (Leisure Street) throughout the year.*

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Church), built between 1727 and 1732, is the oldest in the state of Goiás. In 2002, a massive fire engulfed most of the internal part of the monument, destroying its ceiling and large chunks of the gold-ornamented altars. A reconstruction effort took place promptly and the church is now fully restored to its original magnificence.

Among Pirenópolis' most traditional popular festivals, Cavalhadas stands out prominently. It dates back to 1819 and depicts the Medieval European fights among Christians and Moors. Portuguese settlers and Jesuits introduced the celebration to locals, who have for over a century carried it on. During the festival and jousts, hundreds of locals, mostly on horseback, representing both sides of the battle, dress up in costumes and take the fight to the historic streets to perform the rituals. It's all part of the festivities of Divino Espírito Santo, or the Divine Holy Spirit. The 12-day festival begins 45 days after Easter Sunday and attracts thousands of tourists. A massive procession that culminates with the victory of the Christians over the Moors takes place on the last day, and the residents, many of whom usually work year-round to prepare for this event, dress up with bull or puma heads and run up and down the streets scaring the tourists and celebrating their Christian faith.

Pirenópolis is at the bottom of the Pireneus Mountains, a Cerrado-protected ecological park, home to many of Goiás' most famous waterfalls. The mountains' peak is at 4600 feet. The waterfalls add a unique touch to the town's charm. Throughout the year, countless music and folkloric evening festivals are held in the historic downtown.

On the weekend I visited Pirenópolis, I attended the Piri-Jazz Festival, a three-day free concert of Brazilian jazz hosted at

the rua do Lazer (Leisure Street), a cozy, orderly, two-sided street filled with bars and local restaurants. The businesses are set up so that the sidewalks and streets are packed with outside tables, where the visitor can appreciate at leisure the stupendously delicious Piri-nopolean foods and beverages. Nearly everything is prepared from local recipes and Cerrado fruits such as pequi, so that one can savor the whole range of Brazilian Midwestern flavors. Following a great evening dining experience, you're set the next day for adventure at the dozens of waterfalls and biological reserves, roughly five miles from town.

Any direction one chooses can lead to one or several waterfalls. Usually they are part of a private farm, whose owners charge anywhere from \$5 to \$10 for a pass that's good for the whole day. At some farms, there are shops, restaurants and bars. To really explore

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*The author enjoying himself at one of Brazil's beautiful waterfalls.*



*The Lázaro Falls pictured from about a half-mile away. The exhilarating view brings an intense sense of calmness to the magic Cerrado scene.*

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the flora and the waterfalls, it's better not to visit more than two farms a day. At the falls, the visitor can swim freely and sunbathe on the naturally worn massive stones surrounding most of them. For safety reasons, diving is not allowed at most of the falls.

I visited the Bonsucesso Waterfalls, located on private property about three and a half miles from Pirenópolis. It has seven falls, the last of which is on the top of a mountain. As one climbs the mountain to go from one fall to the next, the ascent becomes even more challenging, more exciting—and more beautiful. The effort to climb the mountain is really worth it. At the last fall, the scenery is absolutely breathtaking, the air thin and pure, and the sense of accomplishment greatly rewarding. The visitor can spend the entire day at this farm alone, it has so much to offer.

I also visited the Pireneus Mountains State Park, which has two amazing waterfalls. The park, created in 1987, spans an area of 2,833.26 hectares. It's located about seven miles from Pirenópolis. This is one mountain you cannot climb. To get to the top, you'll need a car or motorcycle. You have to follow a three-mile circular route around the mountain to ascend it. There's no straight path to the top. The route resembles a winding staircase. Once at the top, though, if you continue driving for three more miles, you'll reach the Lázaro and Santa Maria Waterfalls. The falls are on private property and it costs \$8 to gain access to them.

The Lázaro Waterfalls offer an incredible view of the Cerrado landscape, but the water is a bit cold (at least for me), and, unhappily, mosquitoes are rampant. So be sure you have insect repellent with you. The route to Lázaro is not quite as difficult to navigate as it is to Bonsucesso, but the structure of the farm is unusual and therefore highly educational. The owners gave most of the main trees there scientific and popular names and explained their use. For instance, the Cerrado trees are scientifically recognized for having great medicinal value. Sucupira-preta (*Bowdichia virgilioides*) is commonly used for diabetes and rheumatism. Pequi (*Caryocar brasiliense*), certainly the most popular fruit, is used for nearly everything; it's cooked in the local recipes for its distinct smell and delicious taste. Its nuts are used to help children to expectorate, and the leaves can become a tea that, arguably, regulates women's menstrual cycles. Copaíba (*Copaifera langsdorffii*), another plant I found on the way to the Lázaro Falls, provides a sort of magic oil that's used to stop hemorrhages and coughs, and to treat bronchitis, urine incontinency and bladder malfunctions. This only scratches the surface of medicinal plants and trees naturally grown around the route.

The way up to Lázaro has its ups and downs, literally. It will be the most harrowing walking experience you'll ever have. So tread carefully. On the other hand, the route takes you through fields covered with Cerrado flowers, blooming fruit

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trees such as cashew, and through lots of unusually shaped, picturesque rocks. As stunning a sight as this is, nothing can be more rewarding than seeing the waterfall itself from about two miles away. It's indescribable.

Santa Maria is another astonishing, voluminous fall (incongruously known as Cachoeira do Inferno, or Waterfall of Hell). It forms a large lagoon about 20 feet deep, with surrounding white sand, perfect for sunbathing or tanning. Both Santa Maria and Lázaro are part of the biological reserve Varigem Grande on the Pireneus Mountains.

After an intense day of walking, sightseeing and swimming, you can relax at rua do Lazer, drink a few pitchers of the local beer, and walk a little more if your legs allow it. The town is a tourist's dream: accommodating and friendly. Walking around the Almas River and around the historic downtown area is a delightful experience. Exploring the local pubs, or botecos, can be another exhilarating way to enjoy the evening, and, without qualms, the locals will even invite you to dance with them.



*Rua do Lazer (Leisure Street) with its countless bars and restaurants. The owners usually set the tables outside so the visitors and locals can watch the ongoing concerts taking place in this area.*

Another option is to just shop in the little boutiques that sell arts and crafts. The shops sell silver, wood, and ceramic articles, typical Pirenopolitan jousting masks and also silver and semi-precious stones. In fact, Pirenópolis is known among jewelers as the Brazilian capital of silver craft.

Pirenópolis can be visited during all seasons. The climate is semi-humid, and the average annual temperature is around 70F. The best way to get there is to catch a flight to either São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro, and then a connecting flight to Goiânia or Brasília. Before making the trip, do a little research on the ongoing festivals the city hosts.



*A view of the Cerrado mountains, where hiking and climbing are popular. Most of the trees here grow delicious fruits that are often used for medicinal purposes as well.*

*Photos by Carolina Tuma and Fabrício Silva*



*A sacred place. Every Sunday, hundreds of Catholics join the mass at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Mother Church. This clay-made altar, housing the image of a saint, is one of the most visited altars in the temple.*

## Doctors Without Borders? True, and...

# Now Meet NYU-Poly's Engineers Without Borders

*Student volunteers make assessment trip to El Salvador to gauge needs of a developing rural area. Next step: finding the funds to help revitalize an indigent community*



*Engineers Without Borders meet local residents of Perquin to discuss their needs.*

**By Lonna Gordon**

“See you in Honduras!”

The Poly students dived under the water and swam across the stream. When they splashed up on the other side, they were in Honduras.

It was a beautiful morning. A waterfall filled the air with cool, sparkling spray, and the view of El Salvador – from where they’d just come – was beautiful. But then again, it always was.

Joy Ramsaywack and Ariel Chait, students at NYU-Polytechnic, are leaders of Poly’s Engineers without Borders chapter. Along with collegiate mentor Jason Kass of the EWB-NYC professional chapter, they were visiting a town in El Salvador to make assessments and measurements for a future project there.

Caserio la Tejera is a neighborhood with a view. Located in the mountaintop town of Perquin, every street affords a view of wooded mountains plunging into valleys and then soaring up again, over and over until the blue of distant mountains fades into the blue of the sky.

Tajera may be rich in scenery, but it is poor in one of life’s essentials: sanitary drinking water. An unreliable municipal system pipes relatively clean water in from Honduras--except when it doesn’t. On those days, villagers can choose to draw water from local wells or to get it from a stream that runs just below the village. The

only problem? Runoff and sewage filter into the groundwater, contaminating these supplies. The result is high rates of typhoid, diarrhea, and hepatitis.

“At first, we were just supposed to make a water-treatment facility for a school just below the neighborhood,” Joy said. “We felt a little bad about that – leaving out the whole town.”

But then they realized that runoff from the entire neighborhood poured onto the school property. “So basically, we’re treating everyone’s water anyway,” Joy explained.

Joy is fundraising chairwoman of EWB-Poly, and has singlehandedly put most of the organization’s funds into its treasury. Thanks to her efforts, the assessment team flew in on tickets provided by Taca Airlines, a Latin American-based airline.

The team was led by Ariel Chait, the project manager. Over summer break, he put his team through training designed to teach them about how to successfully interact with and assist a developing community.

“We didn’t force our idea on them,” he explained. “First we held a community meeting – a participation workshop we were trained to conduct by Village Earth.”

In these workshops, everyone in the community is



*Ariel Chait, the project leader, evaluates data collected in the field.*

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invited to voice their concerns and express what they would like to see improved over the next five years.

“In the end, the stacks of papers by ‘water treatment’ and ‘infrastructure’ were the largest,” Ariel said. “So then we said okay, we’ll work on water treatment.”

He added, “And if we want to follow up with this community afterwards we know that infrastructure is their next largest concern.”

The meeting gave the assessment team the chance to introduce themselves and figure out how they and the townspeople would work together.

“The town will provide the labor,” Ariel explained. “We provide the technical expertise.” Building materials will be arranged by Ron Brennerman, the man who invited EWB to Perquin in the first place. Ron started and owns the local school and hotel, and provided the students with accommodations during their stay.

Through most of this, Joy found herself more than a little confused. Having grown up in Mexico, Ariel speaks fluent Spanish, but Joy, despite her Hispanic appearance, does not.

“It was kind of funny,” she laughed. “People would start talking to me because they thought I’d understand what they were saying. And then this white guy would answer them while I’d just stand there.”

“For me, the hardest part was being the last to know everything,” Joy said wryly. “I needed everything translated twice: first from Spanish to technicalese, and then to plain English.” At least Jason, although not fluent in Spanish, could understand the technical terms.

After the meeting, the work began. Some of it seemed almost social: meeting with the mayor, circulating throughout the town. Some of it was hard: surveying what seemed like every inch of the 22 acres being donated for the project.



*Joy Ramsaywack (right) and Jason Kass study data from the assessment trip.*

“Everything over there is either uphill or downhill,” Joy explained, so just getting from point A to point B is a hike.

Jason provided the surveying expertise for the group, but the other two quickly caught on. And it’s a skill they’ll need: when the project is actually being built, two people will have to be surveying at all times, to ensure that the slope is properly graded.

The project itself will be a constructed wetlands. In this design, the bottom of the treatment area is lined with plastic and

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*Prof. Rastislav Levicky (left), Ariel Chait, Prof. George Vradis, and Joy Ramsaywack at a pre-assessment luncheon.*



Community residents post their concerns at a participation workshop arranged by Engineers Without Borders.

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sectioned into five terraced stages. Most of it is filled with gravel and sand, which act as traditional filters. But then the entire thing is planted with certain species of flora, mostly reeds. Microbes that thrive in the underwater ecosystem clean the pollutants out of the water.

"We'll be using local plants," Ariel said. "We saw a few of the right species when we were down there."

The terraces are at a 1-2 percent grade, which keeps the water moving. "Water is only in the system for about four days," Ariel explained. "It stays below the level of the gravel." This reduces potential issues with mosquitoes.

There are some challenges with implementing such a design in El Salvador. The most obvious is the wet season, when as much as 30 inches of rain can fall in a single day.

"It rains so hard the power goes out," Ariel said. "It would flood the system – completely overwhelm it."

They're thinking about diverting water away from the wetlands on such days. "The wastewater we miss on those days would be so diluted it wouldn't matter."

The trip was not all work and no play. The trio attended a saint's festival in Arambala one night. They played soccer with local kids, drove up to the river that provides the municipal water, and swam in

the river that forms the border with Honduras on their last day.

They also looked into accommodations for their return trip with the building team at a hostel down the road.

"It was nine people to a room, which wasn't a great start," Joy described. "We went to look at the showers and bathrooms, but after the showers, we decided we had enough. We'll stick with the hotel." The hotel where the assessment team stayed provided relatively luxurious accommodations. "Flush toilets. Individual showers. Most people don't have those," Joy noted. The average house has a pit latrine in the back – a toilet seat over a deep and smelly hole in the ground. Showering probably follows the bucket-and-tub model. And Tajera, compared with nearby neighborhoods, is pretty well off.

"You see these kids as young as five wandering around on their own," Joy said. "In Tajera, they had shoes and their clothes were in good shape. We visited other neighborhoods where the kids were barefoot." She recalled one little girl whose sleeve was almost completely detached from her shirt.

"People who have family in the United States who send money build houses out of concrete and can even put in glass windows," Ariel explained. Everyone else builds houses out of adobe – bricks dried in the sun for three months.

The only paved road in town is the

town square, which also has electric lights. The rest of the roads are of a hard-packed clay. Cows, chickens, and stray dogs roam the streets freely. People grow fruit, vegetables, and coffee around their homes to eat and sell. "There's a lot of subsistence farming that goes on," Ariel said.

Cooking is done over an open fire in the house, and washing is done in a pila, a large basin of water every morning.

"Tajera is growing, and it's ambitious," Joy explained. "There are 70 houses there now, but they're building, and they expect 90 more families by the time we return. People installed flush toilets and are just waiting for the municipal system to catch up. They're serious about recycling. There's a city compost pile. I was surprised by how eager they were to advance and grow in such a modern, green way."

Perquin has rebounded since it was destroyed in a 12-year civil war that ravaged El Salvador. The government was caught in a pitched battle with guerrillas based in these very northern mountains, and Perquin was at the center of the violence. The war is still very much in people's minds and trenches and bomb craters still pit the landscape.

One of the teachers in the school recounted that her father was a humanitarian doctor who helped both sides. He was killed by a bomb while traveling from one camp to another.

Another local recounted how the

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guerrillas rigged their radio equipment with bombs and allowed the government forces to capture it. The plane carrying the captured equipment exploded over Perquin, and the guerrillas used the scrap metal that rained down to make jewelry and gifts for their girlfriends and wives in detention camps.

All the local infrastructure was destroyed and everyone in Perquin fled the war to Honduras. By the mid-1990s, Perquin was deserted.

Ron Brennerman arrived as part of a foundation that builds refugee camps. When the war ended, he realized that he liked it there, so he stayed. His efforts, combined with a government repopulation program, have helped Perquin rebound. It was Ron who built the progressive school located just below Tajera and who invited EWB to build a water-treatment facility for it. The students in his school learn many things, but the thing that impressed their American visitors the most was the singing.

“They’ve got a school choir and a music teacher and they sing a lot, and

nicely,” Ariel and Joy both agreed. During their last visit to the school before leaving, the students surprised them with a good-bye song.

Michael Heilemariam, president of the Poly chapter of Engineers without Borders, emphasized that the work is just beginning, “We need to follow up the successful assessment trip with a successful implementation. We’re currently working on a new, larger design with professional mentors. We’re also planning a field trip to check out a working wetlands system in Washington, D.C. And during winter break, we’ll be returning to El Salvador to build it.”

The real problem isn’t the technical aspect, it’s the financial. EWB’s budget from Student Development is small, and promised financial assistance from offices in the administration never materialized.

“We need something in the realm of \$30,000 to pull this off,” Michael said. Right now, the club has about a fifth of that amount.

But Joy is not discouraged. She is hoping to find some corporate sponsors to

cover most of the tab.

“The other challenge is continuity,” Michael added. “We have a lot of seniors working on these projects, and that’s good – they can provide the technical knowledge. But we need more involvement by sophomores and even freshmen. Everyone can contribute or help out in some way and be in the right position to take the lead when they become upperclassmen.” He emphasized that EWB is looking to recruit new, active members this year so the organization can keep going even when the founders graduate and move on.

“We promise a five-year commitment to any community we assist,” Ariel explained. It’s essential to the project, to Perquin, and of course, to EWB, that it remain active and strong in the years to come.

To get involved, contact Ariel at [apchait@gmail.com](mailto:apchait@gmail.com).

More pictures, recordings, and interviews are available at [gallery.me.com/apchait#100093](http://gallery.me.com/apchait#100093).

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*Team members getting an overview of the community as they work.*

# Entertainment

## Restaurant Review

### The New Apollo Diner



By Victor Wassef

As I was walking back from work one day I saw The New Apollo Diner at 155 Livingston St. It appears to be newly renovated and the outward appearance is rather enticing. It was a long day at work, so I listened to my stomach and followed orders.

Walking in, I was planning my course of attack but then was distracted by the décor. The diner has a really warm feel to it and a simple but beautiful theme. With its large windows it's a very open atmosphere, yet the overall ambience can be very private. The wood paneling makes the room seem cozy, although the air conditioner seemed to be set to 60 degrees--I mean Fahrenheit-- and I wish I had on my North Face. I am bald! Don't they understand the heat transfer rates where there is no insulation-like hair.

I was seated immediately in a nice two-person booth that was very comfortable. The busboy brought out the silverware and all the tools needed to complete the intended task. A small shotglass of water caught my attention more than anything else on my table. I thought to myself "Cute." Opening up the menu, I considered the prices to be a bit steep: about \$10 to \$12 for a burger and around \$20 for something that would require a knife and fork. For an average college student, though, it seems everything is too expensive. On the other hand, you have to treat yourself special every once in a while.

I recommend the Apollo's chocolate milkshakes and its cheesecake. Both are great, although I didn't like the fact

that they don't have malts and they didn't put whipped cream on top of the shake. I also ordered a salad, which was great as well. It was fresh and the vegetables were sweet. Base of lettuce, with cherry tomatoes, one ring of green pepper, red onions, carrots, and some red cabbage--what a treat. Give me some French dressing and it's no longer healthy.

After the salad and milkshake, it was time for phase two of the meal. The toast came and I thought to myself that this would be a great meal. If you had seen the toast, you would have been speaking in different languages. "It's Gooooood."

My waitress was a sweet old lady, whereas the busboy and the rest of the staff seemed to hate their existence. The busboy kept filling this small shotglass with barely enough water to wet my table. Phase three: FEAST! The presentation was very nice but I got over that very quickly. My entrée choice was the BBQ spare ribs and chicken with rice. I think of myself as well versed in ribs. Come on, look at me! How can I not be! Their BBQ sauce was nice but too overpowering. It felt as though the chef was trying to cover up the fact that he did not know how to cook ribs. The chicken, on the other hand, was juicy and just right.

The restaurant is very clean and I intend to eat there regularly. On a scale of 1 to 10, I give the service 7, the food 6, the price 6 (10 being expensive), and the location 9. The diner is a brisk five-minute walk from the university. I recommend that you give it a try. As the doctor says, "Trust me."

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## Networking Night

*Continued From Page 8*

enter the film in the Sundance Film Festival.

Another attendee was Edward Collazo, a current graduate student majoring in construction management. A former private-airline pilot of celebrities whose clients included President Barack Obama, former President Bill Clinton, actor Robert De Niro and singer Tony Bennett. Collazo was laid off a couple of years ago and will be receiving his

master's degree this December.

According to Kara M. Mitchell, associate director of retention and student services of the Graduate Center, who, with Silva organized the event, there will be future graduate student socials. These are scheduled for Nov. 11 and Dec. 1.

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## Movie Review

# 'The Informant'

By Victor Wassef

From all the advertisements and previews about this movie, one expected it to be a blunt comedy, in fact, an over dramatization of an actual event. And that is exactly what I got. Just do not expect in-your-face jokes with cues telling you when to laugh. The comedy throughout the movie is very subtle, kind of dry, and tends to grow on you as the movie develops.

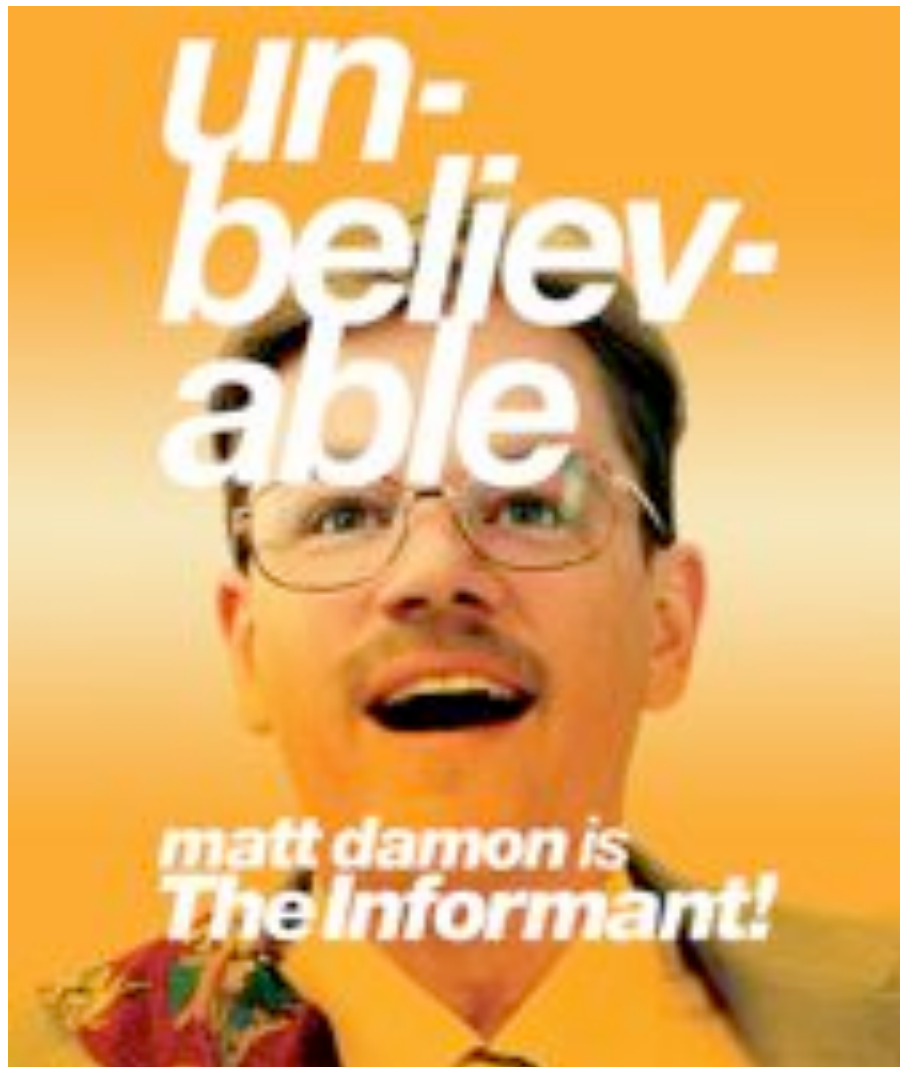
The plot begins rather slowly and remains slow with the exception of the few final moments. I watched it attentively but was not completely drawn into the plot, which builds to the point where the main character, Mark Whitacre (Matt Damon), became a very successful businessman. He "came up from nothing" and builds his career "even with the odds stacked against me." His house is beautiful as are his cars. He is the vice president of the biomedical engineering department at ADM.

He is very concerned about his work, to the point that he is always talking about it. Always! Work seems to be an obsession with him and brings to light his desire to take control of the company. This is key because this is the only true aspect of the movie.

The movie becomes very messy very quickly. Mark, a top employee at ADM, is now taping corporate meetings, phone calls, and informal talks (making them seem relevant to a price fixing case) for the FBI. "I am 0014 because I am twice as smart as 007" he brags. This price-fixing investigation becomes his Ph.D. thesis, in a way, and he spends two and a half years building the case.

The tables are turned on Mark when his own dirt surfaces and, just like that, focus shifts to him. He has this image of himself as a white knight doing the right thing by becoming a whistleblower. His own escapades are so lackadaisical and simple-minded that I would never imagine anyone getting away with it.

As the focus shifts, Mark sends the FBI and basically everyone in the movie in different directions and they believe him because of their appreciation for his sacrifice. FBI special agent Brian Shepard (Scott Bakula), the FBI agent working with Mark, ends up getting Mark to really see himself for what he really is, a



bipolar compulsive liar.

I appreciate the overall tone of the movie. The director, Steven Soderbergh, allows you to view this situation in a very particular light. It feels like a game. I wonder if this really is how Mark viewed this. You lose all sense of right from wrong and the consequences do not seem to be a reason to renounce from your misguided ways. There is only one main goal and concern: The company.

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## Economy

*Continued From Page 11*

bleak right now partly because of excessive government regulations. "The whole financial system has been politicized," Maymin added. "People nowadays think about financial markets from a political perspective, not an economic one. Government entities may soon become one of the largest employers of financial engineers. And though there has been too much government overregulation in the market--and with even more to come--talented people should still find good jobs because the market will always need bright young newcomers to function better, faster, and cheaper than the competition."

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## Interested in joining the Polytechnic Reporter?

Contact William Modeste Jr by email, [williammodeste@aol.com](mailto:williammodeste@aol.com) or by phone, 718-260-3513 for information.

# Sports

## At a Glance...

Corey Loupee, and Victoria Kalvert.

The men's soccer team's record was five wins and five losses as we went to press, which put them at fourth place in the conference. This is the best start for this team in years. In their wins, the team has allowed only two goals while scoring 13 goals. They post a home record of two wins and one loss.

Among the key players are Nick Michalczewski, Adam Lakawicz, Diego Schwartz, Nick Belesis, Allen Rohr, Joe Gabor, Fred Byrne, Volkan Turgut, Omar Guerrero, Gursimran Toor, James Lukban, and Tomi Fischer.

The women's tennis team had a record of one win and three losses at press time, a record that placed them eighth in the conference. The team's overall record is three wins and five losses.

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*Sal Devito protects the ball against Farmingdale State College.*



*Victoria Kalvert, Skyline Rookie of the Year and First-Team All-Conference last season, is once again leading the Blue Jays to a banner year.*

### Upcoming in Men's Cross Country:

Hunter Invitational 10/18/09 9:45 a.m. Van Cortland Park, Bx, NY  
Skyline Championships 11/01/09 TBA Van Cortland Park, Bx, NY

### Upcoming in Women's Tennis:

Bard College 10/18/09 1:00 p.m. Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

# NYU-Poly Fall Sports Schedule

## Men's Soccer:

St. Joseph's	10/14/09	7:00 p.m.	Brooklyn, NY
Mount Saint Mary	10/17/09	12:00 p.m.	Newburgh, NY
City Tech	10/19/09	7:00 p.m.	Brooklyn, NY
Purchase	10/24/09	12:00 p.m.	Purchase, NY
Medgar Evers	10/26/09	4:00 p.m.	Brooklyn, NY
Bard	10/29/09	7:30 p.m.	Brooklyn, NY
Skyline Conference Quarterfinals	11/3/09	TBA	High Seed Hosts



Gursimran Toor goes for tackle against John Jay College.



The Lady Blue Jays celebrate a volleyball victory against the US Merchant Marine Academy.

## Women's Volleyball:

Stevens	10/12/09	7:00 p.m.	Brooklyn, NY
Farmingdale	10/20/09	7:00 p.m.	Farmingdale, NY
Maritime	10/24/09	TBA	Throgs Neck, NY
Mount Saint Vincent	10/24/09	TBA	Throgs Neck, NY
Hunter Invitational	10/31/09	9:00 a.m.	Manhattan, NY
Skyline First Round	11/4/09	TBA	TBA
Skyline Championships	11/7/09	TBA	TBA



Stephanie Weldon hitting a ground stroke. She's known for her strong, flat forehand shots.



Siedah Lake hitting a backhand at third singles.

(Sports photos by Jim Pona)



## Women's Volleyball Team Leaps to Top of Skyline Conference

### Men's soccer team also off to a good start; Poly stars honored for their play

By William Modeste Jr

The month of September was a month to remember for the NYU-Poly fall sports teams, especially the women's volleyball team. The Lady Jays won 10 straight games before losing to Ramapo College and they had an overall record of 17 wins and 5 losses as we went to press. Meanwhile, the Skyline Conference announced player and rookie-of-the-week honors for the week of September 21; they were all NYU-Poly stars. And to top off a good month for Poly, the golf team finished third in the Farmingdale State Invitational.

The player of the week was Victoria Kalvert of the women's volleyball team. The rookie-of-the-week winners were Allen Rohr of the men's soccer

team, Ariel Zeig of the women's tennis team, and Corey Loupee of the women's volleyball squad.

Especially exciting has been the play of the women's volleyball team, which holds the conference's best record. NYU-Poly's latest win was over St. Joseph's of Long Island, previously unbeaten in conference play, a convincing 3-0 shutout on the Blue Jays' campus Oct. 7.

In the period from Sept. 19 to Oct. 1, NYU-Poly's Lady Blue Jays didn't lose a single set. They played eight games in that time frame. The stalwarts on the team include Melissa Pona, Judith Ford, Jacqueline Johnson, Nicole Breitbart, Marisa Mauerhan, Ryan Graybill, Alexis Walker, Meredith Shipman,