Dean’s Letter

Fall is the best time of year for many of us. For every one of us who, from kindergarten on, couldn’t wait for the first day of school, for whom the smell of a new book was better than the smell of fresh, cut flowers, I say, WELCOME BACK!

The year began for the Class of 2018 with Convocation and the Freshmen Dialogue, with wonderful speeches (see inside!), great music, and students and faculty engaging in intense discussions of Pat Barker’s *Regeneration*. I am grateful to the many wonderful colleagues who took time in the waning days of summer to lead students in their first academic exercise, while completing final preparations for their own fall courses. Thank you for making the Dialogue a success!

This fall also brings wonderful colleagues to new roles—Assistant Deans Fatiah Touray and Joel Ward, and Prof. Jenni Quilter, our new Director of National Scholarships.

Fatiah has been an academic adviser in the College for almost two years, working with our Academic Achievement Program. As Assistant Dean for Diversity and International Student Advising, she will now help shape programs for and lend increasing support to the breadth of our student body. Fatiah herself is a 2005 CAS alumna, with an M.S. in Education as well as a J.D. from Howard University.

Joel joins us from the University of Maryland, where he coordinated study abroad programs in Rome and Berlin. However, Joel in fact returns to NYU: he holds the Ph.D. from our own department of classics. He will be helping to coordinate the College’s undergraduate research initiatives and will work closely with the Presidential Honors Scholars Program, Women in Science (WINS) Scholars, and other groups of students who are the recipients of special CAS scholarship awards. Joel will also work with students interested in pursuing national scholarship competitions.

We are also happy to welcome to the deanery Jenni Quilter. Jenni was a Rhodes Scholar and is currently both a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Expository Writing Program and Director of our Office of National Scholarships. Jenni is uniquely poised to help identify excellent students and guide them successfully through often-intricate scholarship competitions. We are excited to have Jenni with us!

For those of you keeping score, you might want to know that NYU has again moved up in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings, and that the College ranks as one of the top fifteen U.S. schools with the highest starting salaries for liberal arts graduates.

Best wishes for a successful fall term!

G. Gabrielle Starr
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Standing here and looking at all of you—the Class of 2018, I see myself a year earlier; I see the same anxious first-year who sat next to his college leader right here in the second row, too intimidated to say hello, let alone partake in what seem to be awkward icebreakers; I see the same student who, if told to go back to Washington Square Park from Coles, would probably need to whip out Google Maps to find his way (and I am a native New Yorker); and I definitely see the student wondering “What am I even doing here?” But most importantly, I see the wandering expressions thinking, “What’s next?”

Before I go any further, I would like to mention a chance encounter I experienced with my friend David while traveling to Florence this past January through the scholars program at CAS. On the last day of our trip, we were given a free day to roam the city. David and I decided to go souvenir shopping. Our exploration led us through unknown turns down the narrow cobblestone streets, across the Arno, up a steep hill, and to one of the highest peaks in Florence: the basilica of San Miniato al Monte. There is a thrill in the unpredictability of the paths you may follow when wandering a city. Our path led us to an eye-catching view of Florence. The Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore and the Medici Palace dominating the skyline, the Apennine Mountains standing in the distant, the sound of church bells ricocheting around the city and the orange hew gave the city a breath of historical life.

I mention this second chance encounter not because it was a profound experience—though it was; rather, it serves as an image of how each of you should approach the next four years at NYU. David and I weren’t looking for this basilica. We were looking for souvenirs at a bargain price. However, we were in a wandering mood, got lost without the modern crutch of a GPS, and discovered something beautiful.

What does this have to do with all of you? Of course an NYU degree is your destination, but it should not define your path. Academic success is important. However, using the GPS and following the fastest route there will be far less interesting or fulfilling. It is important that you look back at your time here as one where you tried new things and better understood those around you. It’s easy to seek comfort. I challenge you to seek, and to embrace, the slightly uncomfortable. Try things that you are not sure you like. Explore ideas that you are not sure you understand. Befriend people who are your complete opposites and who challenge you every day. Drive off the well-beaten path, and you will truly value that time you will spend at NYU.

Right now, what binds all of you is your sense of uncertainty about what’s next. You are wondering how you will fit your entire life into a 12-by-12 foot dorm room. You are wondering how you will form a bond with your professors in a class with 400 other students. And I’m sure you are wondering how you will survive without your mom’s amazing cooking. I could tell you the answer to these questions, but I think figuring it out for yourselves is much better. The first few days, weeks, months, and even a semester at NYU may be difficult, but once you discover your niche, you will be laughing at the days you didn’t understand the difference between Campus Cash and Dining Dollars. Though all of this may seem overwhelming, remember you are not alone.

My first year at NYU came with its fair share of difficulties. I came from a small high school in Brooklyn with a graduating class of roughly 700 students. The thought of coming to a university with more than 20,000 undergraduates seemed nerve-wracking. To make matters worse, a month before Welcome Week, my father suffered a heart attack, and I abandoned my opportunity to dorm here to be at home with my father as he recovered. My first month at NYU seemed like the worse-case scenario. I was isolated, and I felt as though I was not making the most of my college experience. I needed to get involved. I decided to run for the position of Freshman Class President on the CAS Student Council. Luckily, I was elected, and that position proved to be a gateway of opportunity. A year later, I am the Sophomore Class President, a recipient of Presidential Service Award, a College Leader, and your speaker here today. One decision changed the course of my life here at NYU.

Remember, you will have your ups and downs. There will be days when you stare at a mountain of homework that needs to be done. You’ll just want to take a nap or, if you’re like me, watch the new season of Orange is the New Black on Netflix. However, this will be the beginning of a new chapter in your life. The next four years will test you, change you, and may very well knock you down at times. However, you can’t let these obstacles paralyze you. Embrace them. By the end of Welcome Week, your cohort will become your family, your academic advisor and College Leader will become your mentor, and CAS will become your home. Together, these elements will guide you towards a successful life at NYU.

Congratulations Class of 2018. Drive off the well-beaten path and get lost—figuratively! 😊
You are at the beginning of a four-year conversation. And the best thing you can do is to ask us—and each other—questions. To seek out faculty who share your interests and visit them in office hours. Take a class that’s about discovering your passions. We will explore your questions together: that’s research.

—Professor Patrick Deer, Convocation Address
We have had a great start to the semester here at CAS Student Council! Following the successes of Welcome Week and Block Party [see gallery, next page], we have had a large attendance at our General Assembly meetings and great participation in our Fall Elections. In all, we have fifteen students running and seven students applying for our open officer positions, and we are excited to be working with all of them to bring CAS Student Council to new heights!

Besides elections, we have a variety of great projects in the works for this semester. Our Student Advocacy Committee celebrated the World Day of Peace with the launch of its Upstander Facebook Page. Since its recent establishment, it has surpassed 100 likes and has served as a way to share stories about bystander intervention. The Advocacy Committee is also planning their bi-monthly panel series, with the first panel focusing on sexual misconduct on college campuses.

Our Curriculum Committee is hard at work organizing its Majors and Minors Showcase, which helps acquaint students with major and minor programs available through CAS. The committee is also planning its annual Student-Faculty Banquet which is a sit-down dinner that allows students and professors to get to know one another outside the classroom, forming stronger professional connections.

The Class Presidents (CP) Committee is working on a Halloween-themed “Meet the Presidents” social event that would introduce the class presidents to their constituents. The CP Committee is also partnering with the Programming Committee to put on a new event, CAS Pageant, where students from each class compete to decide which class has the most school spirit. Finally, the CP Committee is working with the Community Service Chair to host the first-ever CAS Day of Service, a showcase-style event where students can participate in on-site service activities or can go as a group to volunteer locally. We hope that these initiatives will promote both school spirit and service in the student body.

We are excited to be working as a full executive board to bring these events and initiatives to students! Don’t forget to stay in touch with us on social media: Facebook https://www.facebook.com/NYUCASSC and Twitter https://twitter.com/student_council. Here’s to a great semester!
In Pictures: 2014 Block Party
On November 4, 2014, the Arts and Science Alumni Office together with the CAS Advising Office (College Cohort Program) will host an event for CAS Juniors and Seniors featuring alumna speaker Sara Shepard (CAS ’99), author of the *Pretty Little Liars* book series. Sara will speak about her time at NYU and her career path as a writer. Students will have an opportunity to ask Sara questions following her remarks and the event will be followed by a reception.

On November 8, 2014, the College Alumni Association will present the Alumni Achievement award to Dr. Stanley Plotkin (ARTS ‘52) at the Dean’s Luncheon on Alumni Day. Dr. Plotkin is Emeritus Professor of the University of Pennsylvania, and Adjunct Professor of the Johns Hopkins University. Until 1991, he was Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania, Professor of Virology at the Wistar Institute and at the same time, Director of Infectious Diseases and Senior Physician at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

In addition to the CAS Dean’s Luncheon, we will be hosting a morning session titled *The Science of Taste*, featuring Rachel Meyer, a plant evolutionary biologist and postdoctoral fellow in the Purugganan Lab at NYU. We will also be hosting an afternoon session titled *History of the Italian Diva*, featuring instructor Valerie Hoagland.

A great way to hear about some of the phenomenal projects our alumni, students and faculty are working on is to subscribe to the NYU Arts and Science Alumni Blog. Visit [www.nyualumniblog.com](http://www.nyualumniblog.com).

**Arts and Science Alumni Relations Staff**

We are always looking for alumni, student or faculty interest stories as well as guest bloggers for the NYU Arts and Science Alumni Blog. If your department has events that you would like us to promote, please notify us at (212) 998-6880 or cas.alumni@nyu.edu.

*Ann Marie Ladisa* (Steinhardt ’89), Senior Director of Alumni Relations  
*Evan Nisenson* (Steinhardt ’03, Gallatin ’14), Assistant Director of Alumni Relations  
*Max Kubert* (SCPS ’14), Administrative Aide

This office is responsible for all alumni efforts on behalf of the College of Arts and Science, Liberal Studies, and the Graduate School of Arts and Science.
Preprofessional Advising Center

**Prehealth**

To engage with students early in their academic careers, the Preprofessional Advising Center held three prehealth information sessions during Welcome Week to introduce incoming freshmen and transfer students to prehealth advising and programming. Preprof staff partnered with the student leaders who comprise the Prehealth Advisory Board to host our annual “Prehealth Club Fair” in early September, which showcased the diversity of student organizations and communities our prehealth students can join. In late September, we collaborated with the NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development to present a workshop on medical and dental school interviewing, a perennial favorite program, which gives guidance to students preparing for this extremely important aspect of the medical and dental school admissions process.

Prehealth is offering some exciting new programs this year. We are collaborating with the Counseling and Wellness Center to offer a workshop designed to help students manage the stress often associated with being a student. Other programs address application readiness, personal marketing strategies, a panel of mental health professions, and our annual MD Admissions Deans event. Prehealth students can stay up-to-date by viewing our online calendar of events and reading our weekly e-newsletter, The Medical Record.

**Prelaw**

In September, we offered our first “Law School Application Year Overview.” This well-attended event covered law school admissions-related topics, including a timeline of the application year, the LSAT, letters of recommendation, and a look at the application service itself.

In October and November, the Preprof Center hosts admissions representatives from several top-tier law schools including Columbia, Harvard, George Washington, NYU, and Yale, among others, to conduct information sessions specifically targeted to NYU students and alumni. Attendees learn about the academic and social culture of each school and may ask questions of professionals involved in the law school admissions process. We are also offering two workshops entitled “Writing the Personal Statement for Law School,” led by an Expository Writing Program instructor with an NYU Law admissions representative on-hand to answer questions.

On October 21, Preprof partners with the NYU Wasserman Center to present “Exploring a Legal Career,” a networking event featuring legal practitioners, including NYU alumni working for a range of employers. These programs encourage students to begin building their legal networks with practicing attorneys by facilitating conversations about law school and legal career paths. Many students have created lasting connections with participating attorneys, beneficial as they navigated the law school application process. Prelaw students stay up-to-date with our programming efforts by viewing our online calendar of events and reading our weekly e-newsletter, The Legal Brief.

For more info about preprofessional programming visit: [http://advising.cas.nyu.edu/page/prepro](http://advising.cas.nyu.edu/page/prepro)
The College of Arts and Science welcomed the Class of 2018 during orientation in the last week of August. Throughout the week, students participated in a number of activities with their cohorts, including Freshman Convocation, Freshman Dialogue, CAS 101, and the annual CAS Block Party hosted by Student Council.

While all of these activities helped introduce students to the College and the Washington Square campus, students also got to explore the larger NYC community through a class-wide service project in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn. Service is one of the three pillars of the College Cohort Program (the others being college life and academic inquiry); immediately familiarizing students to the value of community-building across the city is a core part of students’ introduction to the Cohort Program.

For the third consecutive year, we collaborated with NYC Parks Department, which has been an amazing partner—it’s not easy to coordinate a service project that can actually keep 1500 students engaged and busy over the course of two days! Students took the subway to East New York with their cohorts (the first subway experience for many of them!), and there they provided care for “street trees” throughout the neighborhood.

The work done by students and Parks staff was part of MillionTreesNYC (http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/) a program with the goal of planting and caring for one million trees throughout the five boroughs over the next decade. Over two days in East New York, CAS students contributed to this goal by improving more than 1500 tree planters!

The partnership with NYC Parks is one we’re proud of and excited to continue. Our students get a chance to see different parts of the city and make a tangible difference in these communities. Throughout both days, neighborhood residents continuously approached our students—all clad in their NYU Class of 2018 t-shirts—to thank them for their work. NYU has long been “in and of the city,” and this annual experience is one of the ways that CAS and the College Cohort Program bring this motto to life.

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New Public Policy Major Announced

CAS students want to make a difference and change things for the better. Whether it’s through community involvement and service, leadership on campus, or political and social activism, our students are known for being informed, engaged, and committed. Now they have another way to put their energy and commitment to work.

The College is thrilled to announce that in January 2015, it will launch a new undergraduate major in public policy, jointly offered by CAS and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. The major is particularly appropriate for students who are passionate about policy problems and dedicated to reaching ethical solutions to these problems through the use of logic and evidence.

The major prepares students to play roles in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of policies that address the challenges faced by domestic and global publics in the twenty-first century. Coursework in the major is broad and interdisciplinary, allowing students to combine theory and practice. Before entering the major, interested students must first take Introduction to Microeconomics (ECON-UA 2) as well as one course chosen from Power and Politics in America (POL-UA 300), Comparative Politics (POL-UA 500), International Politics (POL-UA 700). After these two prerequisites, a trio of required Wagner courses addresses larger social, political, and economic contexts and concepts and gives majors a solid grounding in statistical methods. Every student also takes one course in ethics or justice and two further courses in analytical methods.

Students may pursue varied interests, with electives in such fields as environmental policy, health policy, international development, law and policy, management and policy, politics and policy, social policy, and urban policy. Everything is tied together in the senior seminar, where students apply the analytical methods and substantive knowledge of the policy process they have gained to a current policy problem of their choosing.

Public policy majors can look ahead to careers in government, the non-profit sector, research, and other fields involved in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies.

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CAS Summer Abroad

Thinking about studying away this summer? Get a head start on planning! The College offers 11 unique summer abroad programs across the Global Network and beyond. Students can apply to programs in Accra, Athens, Berlin, Dublin, Florence, London, Madrid, or Paris. These immersive experiences offer an opportunity to learn a language, complete a major or minor requirement, accelerate degree completion, or investigate a new academic interest. Unique cultural events and group excursions complement the intellectual experience.

**TO LEARN MORE, VISIT**: www.nyu.edu/summer/abroad/cas
November 27–Friday, November 28  Thanksgiving Recess
Tuesday, December 9, 2014  January term payment deadline
Wednesday, December 10  Legislative Day (all classes meet on Monday Schedule)
Friday, December 12  Last day of classes
Monday, December 15–Friday, December 19  Exam period
Saturday, December 20—Sunday, January 4  Student winter recess
Sunday, January 4  Last day of Albert access for January term drop/add
Monday, January 5  January term classes begin
Tuesday, January 6  Spring term payment deadline
Wednesday, January 7  Last day to drop a winter class without a “W”
Monday, January 19  MLK Day (NYU Holiday)
Friday, January 23  Last day of winter classes
Monday, January 26  Spring classes begin
Saturday, February 1  Last day to receive 100% refund of tuition for a full withdrawal
Monday, February 9  Last day to add a class; last day of waitlists
Tuesday, February 17  Last day to drop a class without a “W”
Monday, February 16  Presidents’ Day (NYU Holiday)
Friday, February 27  Last day to elect or revoke Pass/Fail
Monday, March 16–Sunday, March 22  Spring recess
Friday, April 3  Last day to Withdraw from a course
April 2015  Registration for fall 2015 courses
Monday, May 11  Last day of classes
Tuesday, May 12  Reading day
Wednesday, May 13–Tuesday, May 19  Exam period
Tuesday, May 19  CAS Baccalaureate Ceremony
Wednesday, May 20  NYU Commencement