Dean’s Letter

Happy 2015! This year began, even before the start of our spring semester, with over 300 students traveling abroad to our global sites as part of our Presidential Scholars Program. First-year students went to Florence, and sophomore Scholars went to Buenos Aires, Paris, Abu Dhabi, Madrid, and Berlin. Students travelled with faculty and staff to explore our global network, experience the culture, begin research, and where possible, engage in community service. Some of our scholars were in Paris during the terror attacks. They were always safe and showed compassion, and respect as well as great leadership and grace.

The spring 2015 term is also an important time for the College of Arts and Science. Together with the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, and under the faculty direction of Professor Nikhil Singh, we launched a new Prison Education Initiative (PEI), with support from a grant from the Ford Foundation. In partnership with Wallkill Correctional Facility in upstate New York, the goal of the PEI is to help qualified incarcerated individuals obtain an Associate’s Degree and, upon completion of their sentence, be able to continue their studies and take advantage of new opportunities for life upon release. NYU faculty are offering two literature courses this term and in its first year, we have accepted 36 men as students. As multiple researchers have shown, offering educational opportunities to individuals in prison is the single best intervention one can make to reduce incarceration, promote productive engagement, and help families and individuals heal and strengthen. This is a testament to the service mission of NYU and of CAS.

Here on the square we are promoting another new initiative, NYU Upstander. Together with CAS Student Council, we are developing a network of student leaders to effect change among our community, to raise awareness about being responsible for ourselves and each other, and to take action as upstanding citizens. You can read a bit more about the Upstander campaign in the newsletter.

As always, I wish you well in the spring term and look forward to hearing from you, and seeing you at our spring events.

G. Gabrielle Starr
cas.dean@nyu.edu
Throughout the past semester, the College Cohort Program continued to promote a sense of community throughout the CAS undergraduate population. As CAS freshmen gathered biweekly for cohort meetings and participated in exciting outings with their cohorts and College Leader, CAS sophomores continued to build community through cohort-specific events and class-wide programming led by their Sophomore Cohort Presidents. All cohort and class-wide events upheld one of the three College Cohort Program pillars of College Life, Academic Inquiry, and Service.

On the freshman end, a group of College Leaders, headed by CAS junior Sarah Clarke, spearheaded a two-day Museum Murder Mystery event this past October at the Museum of Natural History. The event boasted 18 cohorts and roughly 175 students in attendance over the two days and was an enormous and incredibly well-executed undertaking for all involved.

This past fall’s sophomore class-wide events included a trip to The New Yorker Festival, a service fair, and an exclusive coffee tasting with Toby’s Estate. The final sophomore class event of the semester, CAS Sophomore Winter Fest, was held in collaboration with CAS Student Council as a “de-stress” event during finals season. With cookie decorating, a photo booth, great music, and tons of sliders, pizza, and candy, the event brought in over 220 students and was the perfect place for students to unwind.

Following the success of the Junior/Senior Kickoff event in the fall, all planning for the CAS Junior and Senior classes has been led by the inaugural CAS Junior and Senior Leadership Boards. These two groups are composed of exemplary CAS Junior and Seniors who are committed to creating an enhanced experience for their respective classes.

Both boards are planning exciting events for the Spring, including a CAS Alumni panel exploring “What I Wish I had Known When I Was a Junior”; workshops on how to prepare graduate school applications; opportunities for Juniors to connect with service projects throughout the New York area; and a series of “Silver Socials,” which will provide Seniors with information about topics like taking a gap year, post-graduation loan management, and how to be active CAS alumni. The College Cohort Program is excited for all the events being planned for the spring semester! 🎉
Freshman Seminars

*How do societies draw lines between science, religion, and superstition?*

*Are school reforms like No Child Left Behind actually working?*

*How does ambient sound influence musical composition?*

These are the kinds of questions that new students at the College explore in their Freshman Seminars. The academic cornerstone of the first-year experience, the Seminars are small, challenging courses taught by distinguished NYU scholars as well as by professionals drawn from the worlds of law, business, and entertainment in New York. They immerse students in the joys and challenges of research, showing them how to control for bias in a scientific experiment, decipher medieval script, record and catalogue oral histories, and interpret legal cases. They can introduce first-years to unfamiliar disciplines or give them a deeper understanding of a discipline they’ve already studied. Such is their importance to the goals of a liberal arts education that NYU president John Sexton has taught a Seminar on constitutional law since the Seminars were launched twenty-two years ago.

This year, CAS Dean and Professor of English G. Gabrielle Starr turned her interdisciplinary work in neuroaesthetics into a new seminar on beauty—what it is, how we recognize it, and what it represents. Her students read Plato, Ovid, and Henry James, whose prose could be considered the most beautiful in the English language, alongside studying evolutionary psychology and public art.

In *Conspiracy Theories and Paranoid Fictions*, Collegiate Professor and Professor of Russian & Slavic Studies Eliot Borenstein took students deep into people’s darkest fears and fantasies. Other participating FAS departments include sociology, history, Hellenic studies, and biology.

We are also thrilled to offer Seminars that expose undergraduates to the amazing scholarship being done at the University’s research institutes and centers. NYU’s Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) is a new partner. This fall, ISAW archaeologist Roderick Campbell and his students explored recent archeological finds that are helping create a more accurate picture of early imperial China. And this spring, students will gain historical perspective on the intersections of religion and politics in the Near and Middle East in Professor Robert Hoyland’s course *Monotheism and Empire: From Constantine the Great to Genghis Khan*.

Support for Undergraduate Research in the College

The Spring semester is a very busy time for undergraduate research at CAS, with two rounds of funding through the Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund (DURF) and the Undergraduate Research Conference (URC), in addition to workshops and individual consultations to help students prepare for both.

**DURF**

Every Spring semester there are two chances to receive funding (research grants up to $1000; freshman and sophomore training up to $500) for original research or program of training through the Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund. Students formulate an original research or training project in conjunction with a faculty mentor, and then, using our online application system, tell us what that project is, why it is significant, and what will be needed in terms of time and resources to make it happen. Proposals are reviewed by a faculty panel in your broad disciplinary area. If the proposal is judged to be both feasible and important, then in most cases it is funded.

For more information and submission forms, visit [www.cas.nyu.edu/page/deansresearchfund](http://www.cas.nyu.edu/page/deansresearchfund). Workshops designed to help students frame and refine funding proposals will be held on March 4 and 10, 5:00–6:00 pm in Silver Center room 907. Contact Joel Ward, Assistant Dean for Students by email at jsw298@nyu.edu for additional information on or assistance.

**URC**

If you are curious about what sort of projects receive DURF awards, there is no better place to find out than the Undergraduate Research Conference that CAS holds every April. All winners of DURF Research Grants present their work at the conference, but any undergraduate in the College is eligible to apply. A popular event with both students and faculty, nearly 250 CAS undergraduates presented last year at the poster and panel sessions. Faculty members attended each session, and offered comments and questions based on the presentations.

The Undergraduate Research Conference provides one of the most fun and effective ways to develop these skills, as well as being a venue to learn what student peers are doing in departments throughout the College.

This year’s conference will be held all day on April 24 in the Silver Center and the Waverly Building. Visit [www.cas.nyu.edu/page/researchconference](http://www.cas.nyu.edu/page/researchconference) for the online application and program for last year’s conference.

**RESEARCH+**

The College is excited to announce a new summer opportunity designed to enhance students’ practical research experience. Any CAS student who applies for a DURF grant and who will be pursuing their research in New York City in summer 2015 is eligible to apply. Participants will attend a weekly series of events including lectures, discussions and workshops that will add a new, complementary dimension to participants’ current academic and research endeavors and provide insight into key issues related to possible career paths. As a result, Research+ participants will be better positioned to achieve their personal, professional and academic goals whether they plan to pursue an advanced degree or other post-graduate training in the US or abroad.

Applicants to Research+ will be required to submit a 250 word personal statement and current resume along with their DURF grant application. Application deadlines are the same as those for the DURF program. Successful applicants will receive NYU housing for the duration of the program (Summer Session One, May 25–July 4, 2015) in addition to any funds awarded through a DURF grant. An information session will be held Wednesday, March 11, from 5:00–6:00 pm in Silver 907.
Baccalaureate 2015

THE MOMENT THEY'VE ALL BEEN WORKING FOR!

We are proud to announce that the 2015 College of Arts and Science Baccalaureate Ceremonies will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM in The Theater at Madison Square Garden. Graduates will have a choice to attend either the morning or the afternoon ceremony and continue the celebration with the all-University traditions of Grad Alley that evening and University Commencement the following day in Yankee Stadium.

For more information, visit http://seniors.cas.nyu.edu/page/baccinfo.

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Alumni Profile: Callum Voge

“Where are you from?” has always been a tricky question for Callum Voge (CAS ’13). A dual US/UK citizen born in New Mexico, his family moved oversees when he was five, living as expats in East Asia and the Middle East. This multiplicity of identities marks Callum as a classic “third culture kid”: a person that has spent a large portion of their childhood/adolescence in a culture different from their parents. Third Culture Kids typically build relationships with and in each culture, without fully owning any. This fragmentation can make it difficult for these global nomads to assimilate, but Callum found a home at NYU. The wide diversity of students, the multicultural vibrancy of New York City, and the offerings of the global network were invaluable to Callum for securing a sense of community—extending beyond national identity—enabling him to stay true to his own uniqueness without pressure to conform to a cultural norm.

Callum applied his perspective as a global denizen to his studies in the College. A double-major in politics and east asian studies (with a Mandarin focus), his academic interests concentrated on communism and the effects of privatization. In his junior year, Callum took advantage of the unique opportunities of the NYU global network and the pathways that CAS has articulated to allow students to seamlessly study abroad and stay on track for their major. Instead of pursuing the more obvious path and returning to Shanghai (where he attended high school) to work on his Mandarin, Callum chose to spend the semester at NYU Prague following his belief—honed as a Third Culture kid—that exposing yourself to new experiences is a great way to discover things about yourself and grow as a person. In Prague, Callum relished the individual attention of small classes, enjoyed the NYU facilities located in the medieval Old Town Square in the heart of Prague, explored the hip neighborhoods surrounding the dorms, took advantage of the NYU excursions throughout the Czech Republic, and used Prague as a springboard for his own European excursions. He also appreciated the chance to learn about communism and privatization—a reality not that far in the past of Czech history—in ways strikingly different than the situation in China. Callum’s interactions with the city were not limited to being a tourist, however. Through a program set-up with NYU Prague, Callum was able to intern a news syndication company, working with newspapers around the world. **CONTINUED NEXT PAGE**
After returning from Prague and completing his senior year in NYC, Callum again decided to utilize the assets of the global network and set-off for the NYU DC campus to take part in the NYU Brademas Program during the summer of 2013. The Brademas Program named after John Brademas—former U.S. Representative and 13th President of NYU—sponsors a handful of NYU students every year for summer internships on the hill. The program not only provides housing and covers certain student expenses, but also plays a crucial role in connecting students to offices in the Senate and House of Representatives. As any politics student will be able to tell you, getting an internship on the hill is a notoriously difficult and daunting process. The directors of the Brademas Program were instrumental in providing introductions and opening doors, eventually landing Callum placement in the offices of Senator Donnelly, the democratic representative of Indiana.

This summer internship was invaluable in providing Callum with direct exposure to US political culture. Interns were encouraged to attend hearings within the Senate and he attended as many as possible. The most exciting aspect for Callum, as a student of International Politics, was the close contact with the Senator’s foreign affairs team. The tasks that he completed required sensitivity to American public opinion and a deep and mature knowledge of controversial elements of US foreign policy.

This past June, Callum moved back to Prague, taking a job at the company he interned for during his semester abroad. He is a part of their global expansion team, focusing particularly on the Asia Pacific region. He works with major editors of newspapers, negotiating contracts that allow them to receive their articles in syndication, often flying to meet these editors in person. This has been a great fit for Callum and an excellent way for him to translate his international relations knowledge honed at the College and also use his Mandarin Chinese in meetings. As Callum attests, “studying abroad completely changed the course of my professional life . . . I consider myself really lucky to have my first job not only in Prague, a wonderful city to live in, but also in a capacity that employs all the skills I worked so hard to develop at NYU.”

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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](http://www.nyu.edu/summer/abroad/cas)
On November 8, 2014, the College Alumni Association presented 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. He is a pioneer in vaccine developments that have saved countless lives.

In addition to the CAS Dean’s Luncheon, Arts and Science Alumni Relations hosted a morning session, The Science of Taste, featuring Rachel Meyer, a plant evolutionary biologist and postdoctoral fellow in the Purugganan Lab at NYU. An afternoon session, History of the Italian Diva, featuring instructor Valerie Hoagland was also held.

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.

Arts and Science Alumni Relations Staff
In December, we welcomed Marta Wallien to the NYU Arts and Science Alumni Relations team.

We are always looking for alumni, student or faculty interest stories as well as guest bloggers for the NYU Arts and Science Alumni Blog. Keep in touch and stay connected! Phone: (212) 998-6880 or cas.alumni@nyu.edu

Ann Marie Ladisa, Senior Director of Alumni Relations
Evan Nisenson, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations
Marta Wallien, 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.
New and Noteworthy

Upstander Initiative Launched

Upstander is a joint initiative of the CAS Dean’s Office and CAS Student Council. As opposed to a bystander, an Upstander is someone who acts positively to support a cause, belief, person, or community. The Upstander campaign offers tools and the forum to come together and dialogue as a University community—virtually and literally—modeling civility, countering the bystander effect, and enacting meaningful change.

Resources to engage and take action can be found on Upstander Facebook page and website. Content includes the Everyday Hero feature, spotlighting your own Upstander stories; current national topics in the media surrounding college campuses and ideas of leadership, social and community engagement; details on upcoming Upstander contests and Action Grants; information on our partnership with the Leadership initiative; and an ally calendar highlighting events with partner organizations.

Please check out the resources below and join in the conversation!
http://cas.nyu.edu/page/Upstander
https://www.facebook.com/BeUpstandingNYU

Registration: Dates and Reminders for Fall 2015

Adding a Course: You may add a course by way of Albert through the end of the second week of classes (deadline: Tuesday, September 15). Courses may not be added after this date without consultation with a CAS adviser, written permission from the instructor, and a CAS dean’s signature on an add slip. “Late adds” are strongly discouraged.

Dropping and Withdrawing: Courses dropped during the first three weeks of the semester (deadline: Tuesday, September 22) will not appear on the transcript. Courses dropped during the fourth through ninth weeks of class will be recorded with the grade of a W (deadline: Monday, November 2); this requires a CAS adviser’s signature on a drop slip. After the ninth week, students with extenuating circumstances may petition Dean Richard Kalb, Silver 909, for a late withdrawal. NOTE—students should always discuss the academic and financial consequences of dropping or withdrawing with their adviser!

Pass/Fail: This option (available for elective classes only) can only be chosen or revoked within the first five weeks of classes (deadline: Tuesday, October 6).

Are you registered for a Core course? If so, please make sure that you register for both a lecture and its required recitation or lab, to avoid being dropped from the course.

Waitlists: Students who are on a waitlist for a course must check regularly to learn whether their status has changed; otherwise you may find yourself enrolled in and billed for a class you are not attending. Waitlists expire after the second week of classes ends on Tuesday, September 15. NOTE—after making a schedule change by means of Albert, students should always confirm the change by reviewing their revised schedule.
**SPRING**

**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 20** Registration for Fall 2015 courses begins

**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

**FALL**

**Wednesday, September 2** Fall classes begin

**Monday, September 7** Labor Day (NYU holiday)

**Tuesday, September 15** Last day to add a class; waitlists expire

**Tuesday, September 22** Last day to drop a class without a “W”

**Tuesday, October 6** Last day to elect or revoke Pass/Fail option

**Monday, October 12** No classes scheduled (Fall Break)

**Tuesday, October 13** Legislative Day (all classes meet on Monday Schedule)

**Monday, November 2** Last day to Withdraw from a course

**Mid-November (dates TBA)** Registration for Spring 2016 courses begins

**Wednesday, November 25–Friday, November 27** Thanksgiving Recess

**Tuesday, December 15** Last day of classes

**Wednesday, December 16** Reading Day

**Thursday, December 17–Wednesday, December 23** Examination period