

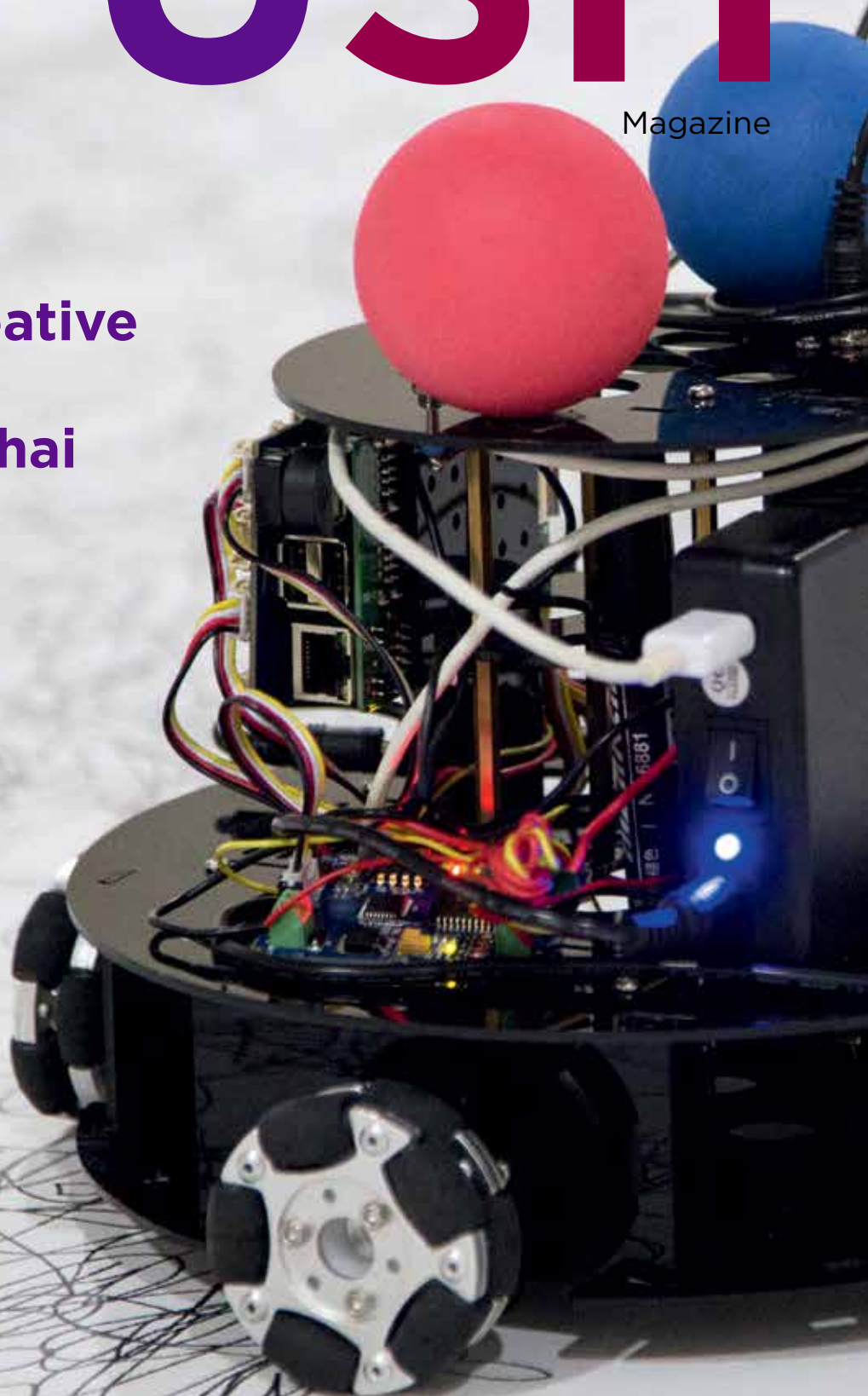
NYUSH

Spring 2018

Magazine

Building a Creative Community at NYU Shanghai

For and about the
NYU Shanghai community





VISIT NYU SHANGHAI
IN VIRTUAL REALITY

Curious what NYU Shanghai’s campus looks like, or want to give relatives far away a chance to see where you study? Now, you can take a tour of the Pudong Academic Building, JinQiao dorms and sights around the city virtually using our 360-degree guide!

Go to 360.shanghai.nyu.edu to take a look around or scan QR code.



Photo: Frank Su Huang

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PUBLISHER’S LETTER

Dear Readers,

To many, NYU Shanghai may indeed be the ultimate startup project in higher education, in fact in global higher education as a whole. To the University Communications team, however, we have the good fortune to experience it everyday as a blossoming flower!

Within the grasp of every unfurling petal, lies yet another surprise or new tradition drawing its energy from faculty and students who are building an unparalleled academic institution with each lecture, each field trip, each assignment and every departure into unscripted territory. The very idea of NYU Shanghai is innovative.

This issue looks at the teaching of creativity and innovation within our campus, and the people who make it happen every day in the classroom and beyond. I invite you to

grab your copy, read it through and bookmark your favorite pieces, from news highlights to roommate experiences. If you have the time, flip the magazine and read it in our second language and tell us if we are making the mark.

Enjoy!

Tommy Bruce
Publisher

WRITE TO US

Do you have a suggestion or a story you would like to share for our next issue? Let us know at shanghai.magazine@nyu.edu

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by Jack B. Du '17 as part of his
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ACADEMICS



New Graduate Program Launched

NYU Shanghai has launched a new Master of Arts program in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in collaboration with the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

The two-year TESOL program is grounded in pedagogical methods from the United States and tailored to teaching in a Chinese context. The new program adds to NYU Shanghai's growing number of graduate degree offerings, which currently include a global Master of Social Work program, offered jointly with the NYU Silver School of Social Work, and a Shanghai-track PhD program, offered jointly with the NYU Graduate School of Arts & Science. More programs will be announced in the coming year.

Find out more: shanghai.nyu.edu/graduate

ALUMNI

Alumni to Benefit from New China Work Visa

NYU Shanghai's graduates from around the world are the first beneficiaries of a new Chinese law that removes barriers to employment for foreign students in Shanghai.

Previously, foreign job seekers were required to have at least two year's work experience or a master's degree before applying. Under the new system, foreign students at universities in Shanghai can obtain a permit to work in Shanghai's Free Trade Zone or Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park upon graduation.

Currently, eight NYU Shanghai foreign graduates are working in the city's tech, environment, finance, and education sectors. A full report on our alumni's first destinations will be released in early 2018.



Photo: Shanghai Daily

AWARDS

NYU Shanghai Graduate Named Fulbright Scholar

Hannah Johnstone '17 is the first graduate from NYU Shanghai to be awarded a coveted Fulbright Scholarship. She will travel to Malaysia in January for a 10-month teaching assignment.

As one of the winners of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program, Johnstone will be teaching English to high school students. "In my time at NYU Shanghai, I have seen how valuable and impactful cross-cultural learning is on one's fundamental beliefs, ideas, and perspectives," said Johnstone. "This scholarship allows me to use that experience to develop my work in global education."

TECHNOLOGY

Live Capture Studio Opened

The Program on Creativity + Innovation (PCI) is using a state-of-the-art motion-capture system to allow students to further their projects in mixed reality (AR/VR). The Optitrack equipment, on loan to the program, is already helping NYU Shanghai connect with VR enthusiasts and professionals, as well as major companies that are all establishing VR divisions within

their organizations in China. Recent collaborations include staging Shakespeare's Hamlet in VR with NYU Tandon and NYU Abu Dhabi; and a mixed visual arts performance with Tongji University and the Shanghai Conservatoire at the Science and Technology Museum.

Find out more: shanghai.nyu.edu/pci

FACULTY

Jun Zhang Named APS Fellow

Professor Jun Zhang has been elected a 2017 Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) for his exceptional contribution to physics. Jun was cited for his "elegant and artful experiments that have moved fluid-structure interactions into the scientific mainstream, and which have inspired their study in physics, biology, engineering, geophysics, and applied mathematics." Zhang currently leads the brand-new fluid physics lab at NYU Shanghai.



GALLERY



Borders: Us and Them

Earlier this year, the NYU Shanghai Gallery presented "Borders: Us and Them," an exhibition drawing together five international artists from three different continents. The works by Rasmus Degnbol (Denmark), John Craig Freeman (US), Lorenzo Pezzani (Italy) & Charles Heller (Switzerland), and Reena Saini Kallat (India) examined the existential conditions of living between borders in a world increasingly marked by rising nationalism.

Photo: Tim Franco



Photo: NYU Photo Bureau/Gallo

UNIVERSITY

China's Vice Premier Visits NYU

NYU welcomed Madame Liu Yandong, vice premier of the People's Republic of China, to the Washington Square campus in September to celebrate US-China collaboration and innovation.

During the visit, President Andrew Hamilton bestowed Madame Liu with the NYU Medal of Honor in recognition of her role in developing US-China relations in higher education. In her speech, Liu described the cooperation between NYU and China in recent years as "very fruitful."

"The establishment of NYU Shanghai in 2012 in partnership with East China Normal University has especially become a significant milestone of Sino-U.S. education cooperation," Liu added. "I keenly feel that cultural and people-to-people exchange as a foundation of Sino-US relations deserves great attention and requires long-term investment."

NEW SPEAKER SERIES

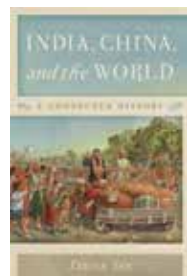
The Geometry of Chance

Senior mathematician Geoffrey Grimmett of Cambridge University opened the Provostial Distinguished Lecture series with an introduction to the geometry of chance. Described by moderator Professor Vladas Sidoravicius as "the most important probabilist of modern times," Grimmett is known for his research in probability theory and statistical mechanics encompassed in his three books *Percolation* (1999), *The Random-Cluster Model* (2006) and *Probability on Graphs* (2010).

BOOKSHELF

India, China and the World

This pathbreaking new study by **Tansen Sen**, professor of Global China Studies and director of the Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai, provides the first comprehensive examination of India-China interactions in the broader contexts of Asian and world history.



By focusing on material exchanges, transmissions of knowledge and technologies, networks of exchange during the colonial period, and little-known facets of interactions between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China, Sen argues that the

analysis of India-China connections must extend beyond the traditional frameworks of nation-states or bilateralism.

Examining the connected histories of the two regions, Sen fills a striking gap in the study of India and China in a global setting.

Chroniques de la Maladie Chronique



This latest book by **Todd Meyers**, professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Society, Health, and Medicine at NYU Shanghai, is based on over a decade of conversations and encounters with one family—around one woman suffering from

several chronic diseases in the United States. The book shows how chronic illness is folded into the world of the family, how illness reconfigures relationships of care, and how it directs the work of medicine in unexpected ways. *Chroniques de la Maladie Chronique* is an ethnographic portrait written on and through the body over time.

A Chinese-language edition of Meyers' previous book, *The Clinic and Elsewhere: Addiction, Adolescents, and the Afterlife of Therapy*, with a new introduction, is also forthcoming.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?
NYU Shanghai Live

GENTA KONDO, Catalyst, Mission ARM Japan

"The premise for designing prosthetics is to remember that we're all different. I'm left handed and the world is not designed for that. When there's a mismatch between mind, body and environment, everyone can feel limited occasionally."

— Presentation on 'Open Source Affordable Accessible Prosthetics'



HELEN SCHULMAN, Bestselling Author

"As a writer you have to get bored, or you're never going to write anything. If you're always entertained you just don't dream. Students come to me all the time and complain that they can't write and they don't have ideas. I tell them to sit down for two hours without a computer or a book and see what happens."

— The Literary Series at NYU Shanghai

"Introducing students to leading voices in business, government, and the arts and sciences through talks, panel discussions, performances, film screenings and seminars is an immensely important part of the University's mission. With more than 100 events each semester, there is always something happening on campus to spark curiosity and inspire debate."

CONSTANCE BRUCE, Director, External and Academic Events



YANN LECUN, Director of AI Research at Facebook

"The challenge of the next several years is to let machines learn from raw, unlabeled data, such as video or text. This is known as predictive learning. However, the main technical difficulty is that the world is only partially predictable."

— Talk on 'Predictive Learning and the Future of AI'

or the Boston Tea Party, you're going to know about the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882."

— Premiere Film Screening at NYU Shanghai



ELIZABETH CHEN, Senior Executive in Residence at NYU Shanghai, former MD of Goldman Sachs (PWM)

"NYU Shanghai students have overflowing energy and enthusiasm for exploring the world, and knowingly or not, they are an integral force that is shaping the future of this world. It's highly rewarding to feel that vibrant energy, and learn about the latest trends that they are helping to create every day."

— Conversations with the Vice Chancellor



RIC BURNS, director of new documentary 'The Chinese Exclusion Act'

"It needs to become a part of the curriculum; like the way you learn about Thanksgiving, or the American Revolution,

FIND OUT WHAT EVENTS ARE COMING UP AND BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW AT SHANGHAI.NYU.EDU/EVENTS

SNAPSHOT

1. Reality Show

The Class of 2021 were welcomed with a performance of the Reality Show, a hilarious, gritty, musical about college life at NYU Shanghai.

2. First Model UN

NYU Shanghai hosted China's first official Model United Nations Conference, with students from 10 Chinese schools debating action on global issues.

3. Students host TEDx Talk

Guest speakers included Provost Joanna Waley-Cohen, Weibo influencer Gu Da Bai Hua, Marvel Themed Entertainment lead designer Brian Crosby, and Shanghai Symphony Orchestra president Zhou Ping.

4. Badminton win

Members of the badminton team broke the university record for wins in Pudong's 6th Sports Games competition at Shanghai DianJi University.

5. Ally Week

Students pledged their support for Allyship during a week of activities promoting equality in gender, ethnicity and sexuality, which has become a university tradition.

6. One in 24 Film Race

The 24 Frames film club challenged students to produce a short film in 24 hours. The twist? They had to include a randomly assigned object, line of dialogue and location in the city.

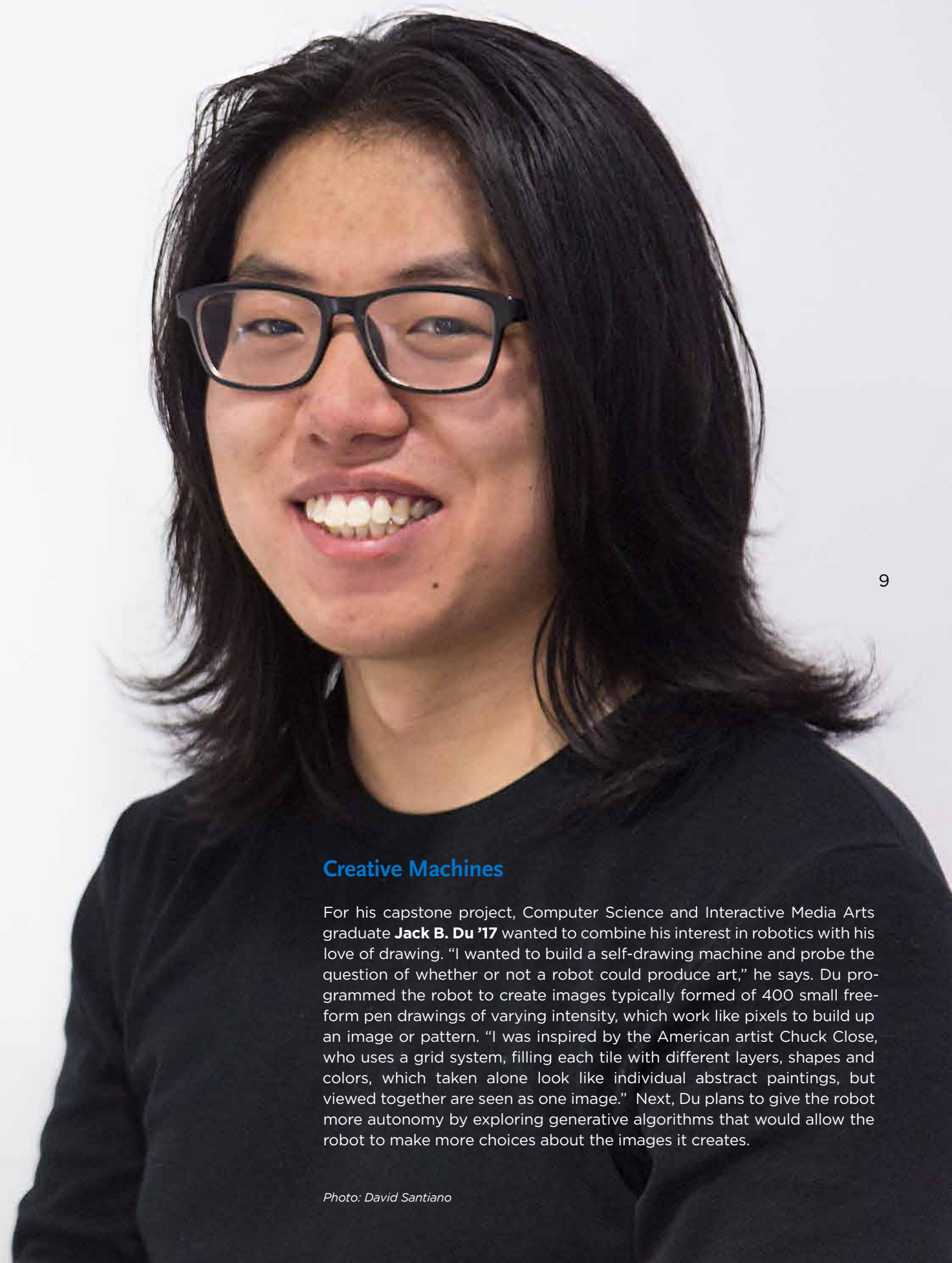
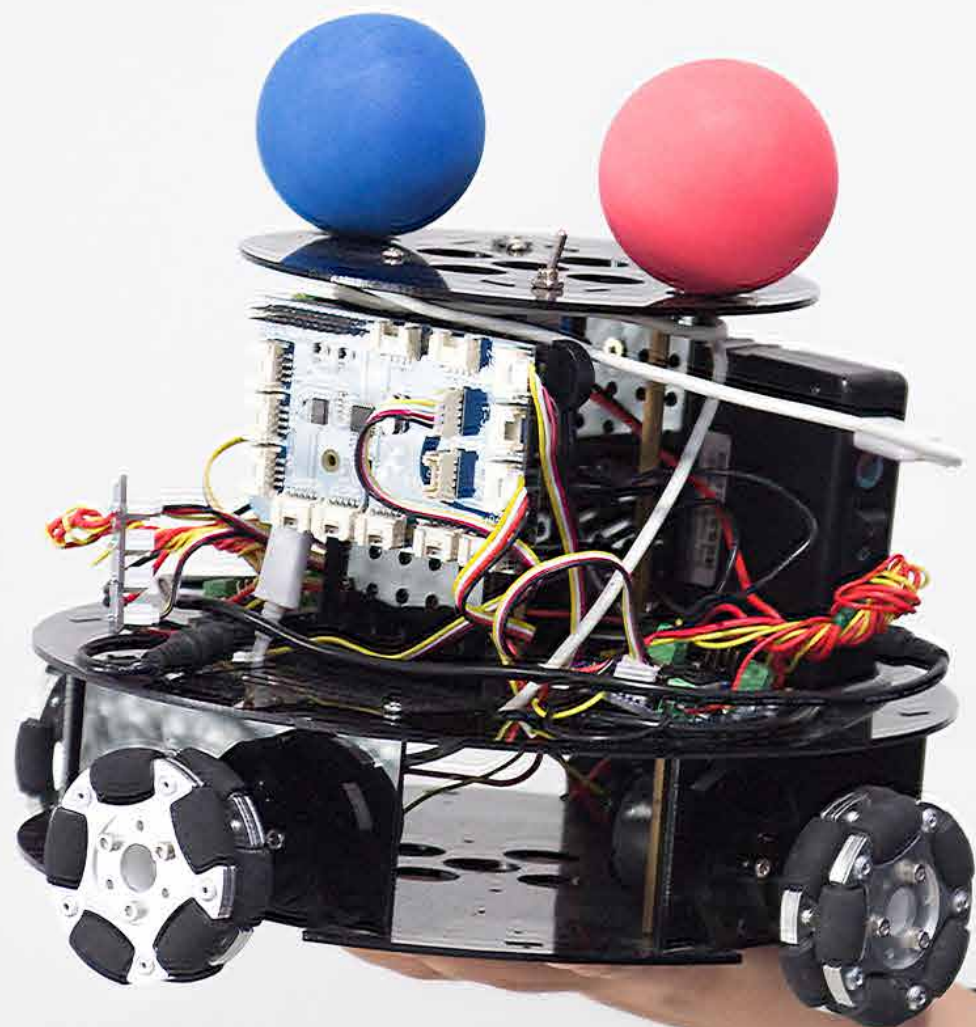
7. Trash Fashion

NYU Shanghai students strike a pose at the Shanghai Himalayas Museum in garments made from trash to highlight consumer waste during GoGreen Week.



There's no containing it.

At NYU Shanghai, creativity has burst beyond the arts and humanities, spilling into physics, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering; flooding technology, emerging media, and business; blurring the boundaries between disciplines, forcing an evolution in collaborative problem-solving; building on traditional media; challenging our perceptions of space, time, light, ego, and, well, higher education.



Creative Machines

For his capstone project, Computer Science and Interactive Media Arts graduate **Jack B. Du '17** wanted to combine his interest in robotics with his love of drawing. "I wanted to build a self-drawing machine and probe the question of whether or not a robot could produce art," he says. Du programmed the robot to create images typically formed of 400 small free-form pen drawings of varying intensity, which work like pixels to build up an image or pattern. "I was inspired by the American artist Chuck Close, who uses a grid system, filling each tile with different layers, shapes and colors, which taken alone look like individual abstract paintings, but viewed together are seen as one image." Next, Du plans to give the robot more autonomy by exploring generative algorithms that would allow the robot to make more choices about the images it creates.

Photo: David Santiano

Why now?

“The world needs new knowledge urgently,” says Professor **Adam Brandenburger**, J.P. Valles Professor at the NYU Stern School of Business and Faculty Director of the Program on Creativity + Innovation at NYU Shanghai. “Climate change and the economic dislocations of globalization sit high on the list of big challenges we face. Meanwhile, new technologies and the emergence of a new global middle class, present huge opportunities. In this context, learning only a static set of assumptions constitutes a far-from-adequate education. New knowledge is needed to address these challenges and opportunities. Helping students learn how to create their own new knowledge and meanings—to be creative—can help them throughout their lives.

New knowledge demands creativity.

“You might as well ask why food and water is important,” says **Gus (Guangyu) Xia**, Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow of Computer Science. “Creativity is how humans differentiate themselves from nature.” Creativity, in other words, is at the core of what it means to be human. What is the difference between humans and machines? “It’s like peeling an onion. The thing left in the center is what makes us human.” The creative core.

Matthew Belanger is the Assistant Dean for Emerging Media at NYU Shanghai. Inspired by NYU’s two-year graduate level Interactive

Telecommunications Program (ITP) located in the Tisch School of the Arts, he co-founded the Interactive Media Arts (IMA) undergraduate program at NYU Shanghai, combining art and emerging technologies. “At NYU Shanghai, we playfully engage with technology but not for technology’s sake: for humans, to meet human needs,” Belanger explains. This ethos has led to the recent launch of a cross-disciplinary major in Interactive Media and Business, as well as plans for a 14-month Low Residency Master’s program that will take place in Shanghai, New York and Berlin, combining three of the world’s modern design capitals.

The word creativity leaves Belanger cold because it is so often associated with ego. “Too often creativity involves one person taking credit for the work of a community.” Indeed, creativity no longer requires or implies isolation. “The internet and A.I have made mass collaborative creativity possible,” explains Professor Xia.

“Creativity is now a measure of greatness,” says Provost **Joanna Waley-Cohen**. “If we can help students bring seemingly disparate elements together in new ways, we’ll be helping them to develop an important skill for today’s world.”

In other words, it’s a cross-disciplinary effort: choreography and augmented reality; the technologies of air purification and robotics; the art of eating and the science of taste; user-centered design and music education; the era of big data and the needs of small businesses; and much more.

Project Neuron

The 43rd International Computer Music Conference opened in Shanghai with an audio-visual show designed by NYU Shanghai faculty and students in collaboration with local artists. “Project Neuron tracks dancers’ motion and visualizes their movements as 3D graphics,” says project manager **Sean Kelly ’17**. “As dancers move and interact with each other, Neuron uses a synthesis of optical motion tracking, real-time graphics, and motion-controlled audio effects to create a live audio-visual show.” “When you take an idea like this out of the controlled environment of the lab and apply it to a live situation, it increases students’ learning,” says arts professor **Christian Grewell**. “Trouble-shooting under pressure really pushes students to find creative solutions, and teaches them skills that prepare them for the world outside of academia.”

Photo: Kadallah Burrowes



“We help students find what motivates them,” explains **Belanger**. Then we give them permission to pursue it. We give them the confidence to find, explore, and listen to themselves. We help them embrace the idea that they will fail at some point, and that failure is a critical part of the learning process. Only by pushing through and trying alternative ways to reach their goals can students grow.”

It also helps that faculty are given quite a bit of autonomy to design courses. “Because of the consistency of our students’ work, the administration trusts us,” says Belanger.

The Program on Creativity + Innovation (PCI) at NYU Shanghai is open to students across all majors.

Students can currently take courses that help them explore connections between society, technology and innovation, such as Innovation-Shenzhen Style, Design Thinking, and The Design Sprint: Modern Aging and the Future of Health in China.

For the latter course, students visited local nursing homes and experienced some of the physical challenges of old age by wearing equipment that blurred their vision and dulled their senses, to gain a first hand perspective of old age. Using research and design sprint methodology developed at Google Ventures, they then created a user-friendly prototype App “Health Front,” designed to connect Shanghai’s growing elderly population—many of whom lack connection

to healthcare services—to local activities and health services. The App also serves as an alarm, with an emergency button to alert the nearest emergency room if the user has a fall or is unwell.

NYU Shanghai creativity is also on display in the sciences. Inspired by her longtime concern over drunk driving, Computer Science major **Chelsea Polanco** led a team of students in creating a pseudo alcohol-sensing device that could prevent drunk drivers from taking the wheel.

“A lot of people put the act of combining things at the heart of creativity,” says Brandenburger. “Actually, it is first having sufficiently varied experiences and then combining what you have experienced in an interesting way. Steve Jobs put it very well once, when he said that creators are people who are ‘able to connect experiences they’ve had and synthesize new things.’ We want to help with this process—by building activities that mix together students across majors and by connecting students to all of the worlds of business, technology, and the arts beyond the university.”

Students who come to NYU Shanghai are entrepreneurs in their own education, says Brandenburger. “They are committed both to participating in, and also building the best education possible. They are at the beginning of the journey of NYU Shanghai. I admire them for that, and I like to be around people who start new things!”

The City As Classroom

“If you want to understand China and Shanghai, you have to read fiction,” says **Lena Scheen**, professor of Global China Studies and author of the monograph *Shanghai Literary Imaginings: A City in Transformation*. “Fiction can teach us a lot about society, culture and the person who wrote it, which you won’t find in an academic text.”

Professor Scheen’s course, Shanghai Stories, uses literature to examine the history and evolution of Shanghai through the eyes of modern writers, from the treaty port era to the drastic urban change of the 90s. Students read 2-3 different Shanghai fiction writers each week. “In total, it’s about three full novels and a lot of short stories.”

Into the City

Scheen uses Shanghai as a classroom to literally walk students through the city’s past. “Every single week, they have to go to a location that’s mentioned in the stories they’re reading—it gets them out into the city and makes them read the text in a different way.”



Photo: Gabby Gabriel

“If you actually walk along the routes being written about, you place yourself in the story. You’re where the characters were, seeing what they might have seen, or seeing how a place has changed,” Scheen explains.

“It’s about getting out of the bubble we are living in to explore new places. And sometimes that means encountering the unexpected.”

“Not only does it reveal Shanghai’s urban development, but it helps students connect the writers’ reflections with the space they are living in. It’s a very intimate experience.”

Beyond the essay

Fitting for a course about fiction, Scheen assigns students with producing a creative work of their own. “I want to teach students that an academic analysis of a text can come in forms beyond the standard academic paper.”

“We have students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, and for some, this creates a space in which they can express themselves much better than in a traditional academic paper.”

“I always enjoy grading these assignments,” says Scheen, who has seen students write theater scenes, draw a graphic novel, and even compose a modern jazz dance piece.

The unexpected

Occasionally Scheen gets an email from a student telling her they got lost trying to find locations in the texts, but ended up interacting with people they never would have met otherwise, from local residents to curious security guards.

“It’s about getting out of the bubble we are living in to explore new places. And sometimes that means encountering the unexpected.”

DANCE FOR CAMERA

Artist and choreographer **Aly Rose** has released a series of videos created in conjunction with the NYU Shanghai dance program and four leading art spaces in Shanghai.

Dance for Camera features Rose’s dance and choreography students performing among the artworks at the ShanghART Gallery, the Museum of Contemporary Art, at the Long Museum, and in the West Bund Art Center, at times alongside professional dancers.

Drawing inspiration from the architecture of the venues as well as the art therein, Rose creates a platform for choreographic storytelling and creative expression.

In ‘The Turning Point,’ recorded at the Long Museum and in the West Bund Art Center, the dancers perform among the bare concrete columns of the former industrial building.

“Coupled with former US President Jimmy Carter’s 1979 *Crisis of Confidence* speech, the performance adds an exploration of the role of institution and the role of the individual,” says Rose.

Her choreography for ‘Blackfish + Black Wave’ takes inspiration from the tiny strokes that make up Hu Liu’s installation ‘Dark Wave,’ which was on view at the ShanghART Gallery in May.

“Likewise, in our dance, we use small gestures and movements ... incrementally rippling out into this grand finale,” she explains.

For Rose, performance is part of students’ learning process: “Being on stage is transformational,” she says. “Performances also serve as a bridge to engage in dialogue with the local community ... and provide exceptional experiences for students to gain recognition and future work.”

Watch *Dance for Camera* here: shanghai.nyu.edu/dance-video

MEASURING RISK

by Eleanor Williamson

Despite the rapid growth of China's economy, the Shanghai Stock Market has had a roller coaster ride since its launch in 1990. With investors often lacking information about the market's risks, understanding the dynamics that feed its fluctuations has become a key area of financial research.

"Chinese influence in the world has gone up since the market crashes of 2008 affected the US and West so drastically, and there has been a greater need to study the risk of the Chinese markets," said Professor **Jian-Ye Wang**, managing director of China's Silk Road Fund and professor of economics at NYU Shanghai.

Wang founded the Volatility Institute at NYU Shanghai in 2014 with Professor **Robert Engle**, one of the world's experts on the study of volatility.

Engle, of NYU's Stern School of Business, received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2003 for the research behind his ARCH model, which uses a statistical approach to measuring risk and forecasting it. Following the 2008 crisis, Professor Engle launched the Volatility Institute at NYU Stern. Its V-Lab uses ARCH plus other mathematical models to provide real time measurement and forecasting of financial volatility and makes these models publicly available on the V-Lab website.

Building a similar center of expertise for the Chinese market was a logical next step. "We needed to promote empirical-based research of China's financial markets, and it made sense to link Shanghai as a financial center with NYU's expertise in studying volatility," Wang said.

Volatility Insights

After NYU Shanghai's Volatility Institute (VINS) launched in November 2014, Robert Engle and **Xin Zhou**, the new institute's executive director, began adapting the V-Lab's model to the China context.

The online user interface, called VINSIGHT, provides daily volatility analyses for major stock indices and stocks across different regions, industries and types. The quantitative models driving VINSIGHT not only include historical volatility, but also "realized volatility" and "implied volatility," which incorporate high-frequency data throughout the day.

Thanks to VINSIGHT, not only academics, but also Chinese investors, government regulators, and anyone in the world with a mobile phone can quickly see data about the risks within China's financial markets.

The Volatility Institute's reputation for providing accurate data quickly attracted the attention of government regulators. In 2015, the Shanghai Stock Exchange called on the VINS team to help price the first options offered on the Exchange. With no pricing history, the market required an estimated volatility in order to set the price. Using the ARCH model's predictions, Robert Engle and Xin Zhou were able to make recommendations that turned out to be very close to the actual initial price.



Photo: Mick Ryan

Professor Xin Zhou: Thanks to VINS, investors and regulators now have access to public data on risks within China's financial markets

A Model for All

Undergraduate students at NYU Shanghai also benefit from the Institute's expertise. Its Research Assistant program selects 10 students a year to work on projects that range from applying the China volatility index to hedging, analyzing the relationship between volatility and option pricing, and evaluating the Shanghai-Hong Kong public markets link. "This exposes them to real-world research," says Zhou. "It is very challenging work."

Professor Zhou also teaches an introductory class on "Chinese Financial Markets," which explains the intricacies of the Chinese financial system, how it differs from the U.S. and how the banking sector, the stock market, and the bond market operate. "This is the most useful class I've taken in college," says

junior Lou Demetroulakos, "I've loved living in Shanghai but it wasn't until I took Professor Zhou's class that I realized this is the place to be." Where else can you discuss which airlines stocks to buy with your taxi driver on your way to a class where you debate the challenges of a market dominated by speculators?

Tracking the Herd

The powerful influence of individual investors in China, and how they love to share ideas and often trade based on what their friends are doing, is the subject of Zhou's recent research in a joint project with China Financial Futures Exchange.

"The herding effect increases the volatility," says Zhou. "Investors don't want to get left behind."

This affirms the need to make the risk data publically

available and keep the VINSIGHT user interface simple enough for individual investors.

Professor Zhou says VINS will continue to help China's markets to develop by expanding the range of data that is included in its models, and providing an academic perspective on risk.

"I hope that VINS becomes the first place that investors, scholars and regulators think of when they search for volatility-related information in China's financial markets."

For more information about The Volatility Institute at NYU Shanghai and the VINSIGHT index, visit research.shanghai.nyu.edu/vins or follow us on WeChat '上海纽约大学波动研究所' to find out about upcoming events.

CULTURE

by Susan Salter Reynolds

Living abroad is a life-enhancing and resume-enriching experience. “Employers always give us feedback that the most important skill they look for in students is communication, both oral and written,” says **Hiba Dabis**, Senior Manager, NYU Shanghai Career Development Center. “They also look for students that are flexible and can adapt easily to new environments and situations, as the workplace today is constantly changing.”

NYU Shanghai students come from China, the US and around the world and, at some point in their four years at NYU, all will experience living abroad as they move around NYU’s global network of campuses and centers, choosing between locations in 12 other countries. Adapting to new cultures, and the often overlooked experience of re-adjusting to their home culture, help students gain new perspectives.

Maya Williams ’18 grew up in L.A. She applied to NYU, hoping to experience “a real city.” She got more than one. In her four years at NYU Shanghai she has experienced New York, Shanghai, Washington D.C. and Accra. “I didn’t have a passport,” she says, remembering her life before Shanghai, before she had experience with international flights or any form of public transportation.

The new Maya Williams lives “on the brink of a great adventure,” not a typical address. The first stage of culture shock in Shanghai was weather. What to wear? Dressing like it’s summer all year long was now absolutely out of the question, because of Shanghai’s chilling winter. In thinking about how this new life would impact her style, however, Maya also thought, “I’m never going to blend in so why try to conform to Chinese dress codes?” Maya’s hair alone was a source of fascination, with women on the subway regularly reaching over to grab a handful of her braids.

“Some Chinese people had a hard time believing I was American,” she says. “That I was a black person AND an American.” “All of a sudden I had to defend my American-ness. In the U.S. my identity is based on being black. In China, my identity is being black and American. I only started to strongly identify as American in the last four years. I feel a lot of love for the U.S.”

Washington D.C. in the first semester of her junior year (during the recent election) was political culture shock. It was also reverse culture shock—China had become home. “In China, I’d gotten used to being silent because I don’t speak the language fluently. Going to D.C. I suddenly re-entered a space where I am invited into small talk on the subway and English conversations no longer feel private.”

Global Citizenship is Lightness

After winter break, and with some trepidation, Maya went to Ghana. “This was the first place I’d been where blackness was the norm! I realized that I’d grown up in a place, surrounded by white people, where being aware of being black had become a habit. In Accra, I didn’t have to think about it. I felt a lightness and a sense of freedom I’d never felt before. A lot of people get to feel this lightness all the time. I’ve been missing out.”

As a Social Science major and Interactive Media Arts minor, Maya thinks about race a lot. In the end, she admits, she prefers diverse environments. But she returned to China with new thoughts on global citizenship. “Everyone should be able to move around the world with ease. Identity shouldn’t be a factor.” Maya is finishing up her capstone project on inclusivity in Chinese society. She admits that she feels sad when she thinks about leaving Shanghai.

“A big part of me,” she smiles, “feels at home here.”

BENNY WEILUN ZHANG ’18

“Growing up in an international environment in Shanghai, I was exposed to all sorts of cultural influences,” says **Benny Weilun Zhang ’18**. “Probably also because of my extroverted personality, I enjoy new cultural encounters and meeting different individuals.” He immediately felt at home in NYU Shanghai’s multi-cultural environment. “Studying at NYU Shanghai has given me a real sense of global community. From the very beginning of freshman year, I was exposed to different ideas, cultures, and beliefs from just being with my peers and mentors within the NYU Shanghai community.”

Benny embraced the opportunity to study abroad with NYU, travelling to New York in summer 2015 to train at NYU Tisch for the Reality Show (an NYU theatre production), and spending a J-term studying at NYU Abu Dhabi. During his junior year, he went to Berlin for an NYU Summer Program before moving to New York where he studied for almost 5 months, and finally travelling to NYU Florence where he spent his Spring semester.

Despite enjoying living abroad, the self-confessed cultural chameleon still admits to being overwhelmed at times. “When I arrived in Florence with my good friend and roommate from NYU Shanghai, who also happens to be an Italian-Hungarian, we arrived at our host family and I was bombarded by Italian language and passionate greetings. It was both overwhelming and amazing to listen and watch the gestures and facial expression they were using—it was quite a new thing for me coming from an Asian background. By the end of the semester though, I had already started to adopt my *Mama e Papa Italiana’s* gestures! I hadn’t even realized until I was back in Shanghai and my parents noticed them.”

Now a senior, Benny is open-minded about where he calls ‘home.’ “I am still Chinese, but I think I eventually find a sense of belonging wherever I go. At times, I really feel that I am a citizen of the world!”

“When I first got to China, I was so eager to experience everything. Going through so many new experiences at once can also be overwhelming, and that’s what I think makes living abroad difficult at first. You want to try everything, but you’re also not used to anything. Over the years things naturally become more familiar, and now living in China feels completely normal to me. During my years at NYU Shanghai, I studied abroad in Spain and Argentina. Coming from NYU Shanghai to a study away location, I felt perfectly natural being outside my element. Although Spain and Argentina are nothing like Shanghai, I was already familiar with living outside of my own country and speaking a language other than English. Even though I was adjusting to living in a new country, I never went through the “shock” part of culture shock. I still feel like an American, but I don’t feel like national boundaries are so rigid after living abroad for so long. I’ve met so many people from all over the world, and I think this experience has opened my eyes to how connected the world really is.”

“I am from a small town outside of Boston in the United States. I had already studied abroad in China during high school, so I didn’t experience a lot of culture shock coming to Shanghai.”

LIZZY LECLAIRE ’18

Win-Win

Mentors and Mentees at NYU Shanghai

by Susan Salter Reynolds

There was no doubt in Gabriela Naumnik's mind. "She knows what she wants," laughs **Julliet Pan, NYU Tisch '04**, founder of SHE&JUL Films Productions and Media Company, based in New York and Los Angeles. And what **Gabriela Naumnik '19**, majoring in Interactive Media and Business at NYU Shanghai, wanted in her sophomore year, was to work with Julliet Pan. Mentees choose three possible mentors. Gabriela chose Pan all three times.

When Pan came to Shanghai to meet Naumnik and talk about the internship, she was working on a new TV series called "The Lane,"

a *Melrose-Place-meets-Sex-in-the-City*, set in Shanghai. She showed Naumnik the trailer. "I love it!" was the immediate reaction.

"I was affected by her enthusiasm," Pan admits. She asked for Naumnik's thoughts on lowering the characters' ages from 23–30 to 18–23, Naumnik's own demographic and Naumnik agreed. She also suggested making the episodes much shorter—around ten minutes—for an internet audience.

Gabriela's enthusiasm re-energized Pan. "I gave her twenty questions to ask expats in Shanghai. She posted the questions on Facebook and began to gather stories." Naumnik then conducted over forty in-person interviews and brought in other NYU Shanghai students to help.

"I got so much energy from the fearlessness of these students," says Pan. "They helped me to realize the global appeal of the project." Pan advises her mentees to "know what they want" and "be honest about their interests with their mentors." "Through honesty, you gain trust. Gabriela was bold and clear."

"Pan embodied everything I was interested in," says Naumnik. "After she told me to follow my heart, I decided to minor in producing. And I have never felt so happy about studying something." Gabriela's advice to future mentees? "Choose someone who not only interests you as an industry professional, but also as a person."

Ambassadors from the "Real World"

Qingchuan (Kyle) Sang '18 was torn his sophomore year between chemistry and engineering, so he chose **Mark Yang, NYU**

Courant '99, General Manager, Spectra Gases (Shanghai), as a possible mentor. Yang was working on special gases, producing a reactive gas for medical usage. He introduced Kyle to the chemical engineers working on the project and took him to a business conference in Beijing to meet the company leaders and give Kyle an inside look at decision-making in his industry. Kyle's take-away? For now, he feels more comfortable in Research and Development. "I thought the business side would be easier but it's NOT! Questions like...how big should the factory be; how fireproof do the materials have to be; what should the dirt the

factory is built on be composed of... made me realize that I am a scientist!"

Yang did not have a mentor before he began working in the industry, and felt that sharing his experience was critical for students considering his field.

I got so much energy from the fearlessness of these students. They helped me to realize the global appeal of the project.

"There is a great leap from the academic world to the commercial world." Staying in the lab, he feels, does not give a student in the sciences the whole picture. "It really helps to have a mentor prepare you for the culture of the industry and what is expected of you in that culture."

Culture Counts

Like Mark Yang, **Danny Bao, CFA, NYU Stern MBA '01**, Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer, HJY Capital Advisors (HK) Limited, had no mentoring experience in his college years. "In my undergraduate

study, I had very limited career counseling. I had no idea of how the business world worked! Luckily, J.P. Morgan had a mentoring program." Bao helps his mentees understand their personal strengths. "I try to move the conversation away from what the student's parents want. I ask about their hobbies and I try to reduce the gap between the parents' aspirations and the student's interests."

Bao's mentee, **Olivia Taylor '17**, was considering investment banking, but Bao helped her to realize her true interest in consumer products, and that this was a culture she might enjoy more. "Danny helped me with the interview process, and with an action plan." Taylor is now in a two-year marketing and development program at L'Oreal. Participants switch roles each year. In her first year, Taylor is working in the luxury division. "For millennials, the culture is so important. The life advice I got from Danny gave me real insight into this. I've made friends at L'Oreal—in the end, it's not just about the resume. It's about the people you will be working with."

Julliet Pan

Gabriela Naumnik

MAKING HISTORY

“We are the inaugural class of NYU Shanghai; there is nothing that came before us but so much to follow after us. We pioneer, we pave the way, we climb gates, we shatter ceilings, and we build bridges. We made the world our major.”

Roxanne Roman '17, student speaker

Forever Violet!

NYU Shanghai's Class of 2017 became the first students to earn their degrees at NYU's campus in China last May, marking a milestone in the University's history.

On the eve of commencement, the Pearl Tower was lit violet for NYU Shanghai graduates, echoing the lighting of the Empire State Building in New York for NYU graduates.

The ceremony, held at the Shanghai Oriental Art Center, opened with a message of congratulations from China's Vice Premier Liu Yandong, in which she praised NYU Shanghai for achieving “remarkable success” in bringing innovation to higher education, cultivating outstanding talents and boosting cultural exchanges. After students received their diplomas, torchbearer Tyler Rhorick '17 symbolically passed NYU Shanghai's ceremonial torch to Class of 2018 representative Dylan Crow, reprising a tradition in New York that has been a part of its commencement ceremonies since 1938.

The NYU Shanghai Chorale brought the ceremony to a close with a performance of the University's Alma Mater, composed especially for the occasion by NYU Shanghai members to be a bilingual anthem for our diverse community.



Photo: Tim Franco



Photo: Tim Franco



Photo: Tim Franco



Photo: Tim Franco



Photo: Tim Franco

Home: Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Major: Business and Marketing
First impressions: Na's first ever email to me started: 'Dear Tapasco Leidy Tatiana...' a mixture of all of my names, which was funny; and I thought her first name was Sun! When I arrived at the dorm it was 1am and Na was still up waiting for me. She'd brought me comic books, and her mom had got me a blanket that I still use in my room. I thought she was really sweet.
Hanging out: We love doing karaoke, although Na always tells me I get the pitch wrong!
Best thing about Na: Her honesty. She tells you what you should hear, not what you want to hear.

Interview: Charlotte San Juan
Photo: Daniel Cuesta

家乡: 美国佐治亚州亚特兰大
专业: 金融学
对室友的第一印象: 孙娜给我的第一封邮件是这么称呼我的, “亲爱的Tapasco Leidy Tatiana...”把我名字的顺序全搞错了, 当时我觉得特别好玩; 而我也误以为她的名是“孙”。那天来到宿舍已经凌晨一点了, 她还没睡, 等着我。她给我带了漫画书, 她的母亲给我带来一条毯子, 现在我还用着, 特别贴心。
常去的地方: 我们喜欢K歌。不过, 孙娜总是说我跑调!
最喜欢室友的一点: 她的诚实。她总是告诉我事实, 而不是说我想听的。

Seniors Na and Leidy have been friends since meeting as roommates in freshman year. After bonding over K-pop and K-dramas, the pair helped each other adjust to their new environment. “We struggled together,” says Na. “I remember staying up working on our papers. Leidy was always helping me with my grammar and run-on sentences.” Meanwhile, Leidy was “new to Chinese, new to China, new to everything!” “It was so funny in the beginning,” says Na. “She didn't know how to pronounce Chinese pinyin, but we were both familiar with Korean hangul, so I used it to teach her Chinese pronunciation.”

During freshman year, Leidy visited Na's hometown in Xiamen. “We walked around Gulangyu Island and had great food. It was good to escape from the city for a bit.” She then invited Na to spend junior year winter break back in Atlanta. “I had fun spending Christmas with Leidy's Colombian family,” says Na. “It was so different!”

After studying away together in New York, and a semester in Prague, Leidy has moved back into dorms, this time as a Resident Assistant supporting the new freshman class. “I like the convenience of the dorms, and being an RA is fun. It's helped me bridge back into the community.”

孙娜和Leidy Tapasco从大一一开始就是室友, 如今大四, 两人已经是很好的朋友。出于对韩流音乐和韩剧的共同喜爱, 两人越走越近, 并帮助彼此适应大学的新环境。“我们算是一起奋斗, 一起挣扎吧,” 孙娜笑道, “还记得我们熬夜写论文的情景。Leidy一直帮我纠正语法, 特别是连写句的错误。”而Leidy则“刚到中国, 刚刚开始学中文, 什么都不懂。”孙娜说, “我们之间发生了很多好笑的事。一开始她不知道怎么读拼音, 但我们都懂韩语字母, 所以, 我就用韩语字母教她中文发音。”

大一时, Leidy应邀来到孙娜的家乡厦门。“我们一起在鼓浪屿散步, 品味美食, 远离城市喧嚣, 给身心放个假。”大三时, Leidy邀请孙娜到自己的家乡亚特兰大过寒假。“我和Leidy的哥伦比亚家人一起度过了圣诞节,” 孙娜说, “真是难忘的经历!”

两人一起在纽约海外学习, 又在布拉格学习了一学期后, Leidy搬回金桥宿舍。这一次, 她还担任了宿舍助理一职, 为大一新生提供帮助。“我觉得住宿舍很方便, 当宿舍助理也很有挑战, 让我与我们的学生大家庭建立起更紧密的联系。”

采访: Charlotte San Juan
摄影: Daniel Cuesta

家乡: Xiamen, Fujian Province, China
Major: Business and Marketing
Best thing about Leidy: She always takes care of me, emotionally and physically. She's a good mom.
Favorite place to eat: We both enjoy hanging out in malls and local food plazas. We still go to Mr. Pancake House. It's our tradition after every semester final.
Anything you didn't agree on? The AC! In summer she makes the room super cold and in winter she wants it super hot!

家乡: 中国福建省厦门市
专业: 金融学
最喜欢室友的一点: 她一直都很照顾我, 关心我的身体健康、心情好坏。她是一个好“妈妈”。
最爱的餐厅: 我们很喜欢逛商场, 找美食。去松饼先生 (Mr. Pancake House), 成了我俩期末考后的一个传统。
不合的地方: 空调! 夏天她总是把空调开得很冷, 冬天又开得太热!