

# POLY'S COLLABORATION WITH NYU FACULTY:

## Inroads in Innovation

**T**he Polytechnic and New York University merger may still be pending, but the two universities are already involved in a number of rich collaborations, which will benefit both institutions, and New York City's academic community at large.

One of the most promising projects is a long-term study of brain models. Richard Gross '86Chem, professor and Herman F. Mark Chair, director, NSF Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing of Macromolecules, and program director, MS in Biomedical Engineering in the Department of Chemical and Biological Sciences met NYU's Dr. Charles Nicholson through a series of exchanges facilitated by Poly's Associate Provost Kurt Becker. Nicholson, a professor in the Department of Physiology and Neuroscience, has been studying the diffusion of molecules in the brain for the last 25 years, explained, "We look at how substances move through the narrow spaces that separate brain cells, collectively called the extracellular space (ECS). The ECS is a crucial channel for drug delivery to the brain." Gross is designing a water-soluble polymer that will be attached to a small fluorescent molecule, which will be used by Nicholson's team to follow the diffusion in tissue, and eventually be used for more effective drug delivery.

Another exciting partnership is that between chemistry professors Avi Ulman and Michael D. Ward (NYU) for a high-profile seminar series to be hosted by leading scientists from around the world. The first lecture, scheduled for March, will feature Dr. Helmut Schwarz, president of Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. The two professors, who have worked together for many years, are also in the beginning stages of developing a state-of-the-art lab that will serve not just Poly and NYU, but the entire academic community in New York City.

In the realm of music technology, Myles W. Jackson, Dibner Family Chair Professor of the History of Science and Technology and Carl Skelton, founding director of the Integrated Digital Media Institute, are working with NYU's Steinhardt School to offer joint undergraduate and graduate courses next fall. A related series of workshops on topics such as architectural acoustics, the Moog synthesizer, and the history of sound itself are scheduled for next year. "We hope that bringing together music and music technology students from NYU with digital media and social science and humanities students from Poly, will result in new and exciting projects for students and faculty members alike," says Jackson.

*Cable* will continue to report on the important associations between these two great institutions as the merger process continues.

**Left to right:**  
Richard Gross,  
Myles W. Jackson,  
Avi Ulman.

