

world and spending large sums of money. By 2020 overseas spending by Mandarin-speaking Chinese is projected to top \$458 billion per year.

The program Chiew runs, the LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Fundamentals in Luxury Retail program, is a collaboration of the council, the luxury retailer, and the Parsons School of Design. The program, to which Mandarin-speaking immigrants must apply, takes the successful applicants through eight weeks of classroom instruction on subjects from fashion history to retail operations, and a two-week internship at one of the stores. Of the 60 people who have participated in the program since it began in 2014, 80 percent have found employment in stores such as Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Dior.

"Most of our students never saw themselves in luxury retail," says Chiew. "A lot of the people we are working with are severely underemployed or long-term unemployed."

Salina Zhao, an alumna of the program, came to the United States from southern China at the age of 11. Before she began her training, she was afraid to set foot inside a luxury retailer. "I was intimidated," she recalls. "If I can't afford something like that I wouldn't even enter into the store."

As part of the program, Zhao interned at Christian Dior at the Saks Fifth Avenue flagship store. She was hired by Dior right after. She says Chiew prepared her well.

"I think Simon prepares us as much as possible for everything that we're going to experience in the future. He will spend an hour or two going through our résumé, making sure it's as professional as possible, and going through even small details like how we dress up and how to professionally answer the questions."

Now she looks forward to career advancement within the company. "I think this program really gave us a huge opportunity to get into a different environment," she says, describing the training experience as a valuable shortcut into a world that would otherwise be hard to reach.

Chiew says successful alumni are part of what will help the council's training programs to continue.

"Some of the people who are successful now went through our services to get to where they are. So they're very aware of the struggle and the barriers," he says. "Our focus on building our alumni network and having them contribute either with funding or with their time has really improved. People do want to give back." **R**

—MAYA DUKMASOVA '12



NOMINATED: Recordings by Eastman alumni Maria Schneider, Kristian Bezuidenhout, and John Fedchock (from left) are among those nominated for 2016 Grammy Awards.

In the News

Eastman Counts Seven Grammy Nominees

One Eastman professor and six Eastman alumni have been nominated for 2016 Grammy Awards, which will be presented on February 15 in Los Angeles:

Kristian Bezuidenhout '01E, '04E (MM), fortepianist and pianist: Best Classical Instrumental Solo for *Mozart: Keyboard Music, Vol. 7* (Harmonia Mundi); Best Classical Solo Vocal Album for *Beethoven: An Die Ferne Geliebte; Haydn: English Songs; Mozart: Masonic Cantata* (Harmonia Mundi).

Martha Cluver '03E, soprano, and **Eric Dudley** '01E, tenor, of the ensemble Roomful of Teeth: Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for *Render* (New Amsterdam Records).

John Fedchock '85E (MM), trombonist,

bandleader, and arranger: Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella, for "You and the Night and the Music" from *Like It Is* (Summit Records).

Bob Ludwig '66E, '01E (MM), recording engineer: Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical, for *Sound & Color* by Alabama Shakes; *Sound & Color* was also nominated for Album of the Year.

Paul O'Dette, professor of lute and of conducting and ensembles at Eastman: Best Opera Recording for *Steffani: Niobe, Regina Di Tebe* (Erato) by the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra, with O'Dette conducting.

Maria Schneider '85E (MM), jazz composer and bandleader: Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album for *The Thompson Fields* (ArtistShare); Best Arrangement, Instru-



Better Basketball

Former Yellowjacket basketball star **John DiBartolomeo** '12 (with the ball) had a chance to post up against one of the professional game's all-time greats this fall, when his Israeli professional team took on sure-fire Hall of Famer Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers in an exhibition preseason game at Staples Center in Los Angeles. DiBartolomeo and the Maccabi Haifa lost 126-83 in the game, which was part of a U.S. tour for the team.

ments and Vocals, for arrangement of “Sue (Or in a Season of Crime),” by David Bowie, from his retrospective album *Nothing Has Changed* (Columbia/Legacy).

Smithsonian Recognizes Rudolph Tanzi '80 for Ingenuity


Rudolph Tanzi '80 is among the best known and most accomplished scientists in the field of Alzheimer's disease research. In its annual announcement of top American innovators, *Smithsonian* magazine named Tanzi, the Joseph P. and Rose F. Kennedy Professor of Neurology at Harvard and the director of genetics and aging research at Massachusetts General Hospital, as among 12 winners of its American Ingenuity Award.

Late in 2014, Tanzi and Doo Yeon Kim, also of Harvard, developed a new means of tracking the progress of Alzheimer's and experimenting with new treatments. According to the citation in *Smithsonian*, the new technique, a cell culture dubbed “Alzheimer's in a dish,” “is considered the most persuasive and useful laboratory model yet invented of the neurodegenerative disease. It offers researchers a chance to both track the course of Alzheimer's in unprecedented biochemical and genetic detail, and to quickly and cheaply test thousands of potential treatments that might block or at least slow its malign progress.”

Earlier in 2015, *Time* magazine acknowledged the discovery by naming Tanzi one of the world's 100 Most Influential People.

A National Honor for a Pediatric Pioneer

Robert Brent '48, '53M (MD), '55M (PhD), '88 (Honorary) is the winner of the 2015 Gustav O. Lienhard Award, a national honor recognizing outstanding achievement in improving health care service. The award is given annually to one person by the National Academy of Medicine.

Early in his career, Brent conducted pathbreaking research on environmental risk factors for birth defects. His research provided groundwork for much modern understanding of the nature and degree of risk to the developing fetus from radiation, as well as from various drugs and chemicals. Brent has also played an educational role, offering free counseling to pregnant women about the risks for most of his 60-plus-year career. Brent is the Louis and Bess Stein Professor of Pediatrics at Sidney Kimmel Medical College in Philadelphia. 

Top Teacher

Brian Alegant '93E (PhD) is earning high marks for his work as a professor of music theory at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Alegant, who has taught at Oberlin since 1996, was named this fall as one of four U.S. Professors of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, or CASE, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Representing undergraduate baccalaureate institutions, Alegant was one of four professors selected from nearly 400 nominees for the national honor.



According to Oberlin, he's the first music professor to be honored in the 35-year history of the award.

A respected theoretician whose research interests include performance and analysis, pedagogy, and twelve-tone music, Alegant has published widely in peer-reviewed journals.

His book on the twelve-tone music of Luigi Dallapiccola (published by the University of Rochester Press) has also been well regarded by peers and colleagues.

Known for cultivating music theory classes that are notoriously challenging—and students who sign up on wait lists to take part in them—Alegant routinely earns accolades from students for his brilliance, passion, fairness, and wit.

“The whole idea for me,” he has said, “is to put the student in charge of his or her own learning.”

At Oberlin, Alegant also serves as chair of the conservatory's Division of Music Theory, a position that makes him a mentor to Oberlin's one-year postdoctoral instructors, each of whom has gone on to full-time work in higher education.

While a doctoral student at the Eastman School of Music, Alegant received the school's Teaching Assistant Prize in 1985.

CASE launched the program in 1981, and since then has recognized 1,200 teachers at state and national levels. Awards are given in four categories: undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and community college institutions.

Nominees are judged on their influence and involvement with undergraduate students, their approaches to teaching and learning, their contributions to undergraduate education in their institution, community, and profession, and support from colleagues and students.

The entries are judged by top U.S. instructors and other leaders in education.

CASE BY CASE: Oberlin music professor Brian Alegant '93E (PhD) was named Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.