

NYIT

MAGAZINE

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SUMMER 2011 ■ VOLUME 9 ■ NUMBER 3

**Mentor Program Earns
High Marks**

**Professors Bestow a
Legacy of Learning**

**Graduate Gets a
Royal Education**



Green Grads

**NYIT alumni do their
part in helping create a
sustainable world**

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The screenshot shows the NYIT Magazine website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS', 'CURRENT NYIT STUDENTS', 'PARENTS AND FAMILIES', 'ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS', 'BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY', and 'FACULTY AND STAFF'. Below this is the NYIT logo and a search bar. A main navigation bar includes links for 'ABOUT NYIT', 'ADMISSIONS', 'ACADEMICS', 'CAMPUS LIFE', 'ATHLETICS', 'CAREER SERVICES', 'GOING TO NYIT', 'NYIT WORLDWIDE', and 'MY NYIT'. The main content area features a large image of a woman in a lab coat using a microscope, with the headline 'Crowning Moment: Valencia de la Vega (M.B.A. '05)'. Below this are sections for 'Featured Content' and 'Featured Profiles', each with small images and text. A 'NYIT Magazine Video Spotlight' section features a video player with a woman speaking at a podium. At the bottom, there are four columns of links: 'Useful Links', 'Schools and Colleges', 'Resources', and 'Social Media'.

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Education Through Collaboration

REGULAR READERS OF *NYIT MAGAZINE* ARE FAMILIAR WITH OUR UNIVERSITY'S GOAL TO HELP DEFINE 21ST-CENTURY HIGHER EDUCATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE. THEY ARE ALSO WELL-INFORMED OF NYIT'S INCREASINGLY INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERCULTURAL APPROACH TO EDUCATION AS WE BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS ACROSS OUR CAMPUSES TO INTERACT WITH AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AS THEY COLLABORATE ON HIGH-PROFILE PROJECTS.

Since our earliest days in the 1950s, NYIT has sought new and exciting ways to bring the real world into the classroom and give students the skill sets they need to seize their future careers. Our decades as a leading innovator in the fields of technology and education have empowered us to provide access to opportunity for students of all nations. What began as a call to action in my early days as president to broaden our academic programs and expand our global presence is now a living and learning reality. Look no further than the newest group of NYIT alumni—the first to earn their degrees at our Nanjing campus, which opened in 2007.

Helping students identify problems worldwide and devise interdisciplinary solutions through team-oriented challenges is what today's NYIT is all about. That means medical students working with engineering students in Ghana to help local villagers improve their community. Or behavioral and computer science students traveling to Peru to share their NYIT education to help teach about alternative energy and improving the efficiency of waste management. Or architecture and energy management students creating a hangar aboard the USS *Intrepid* that uses the latest sustainable technology.

These opportunities to teach and improve communities around the world would not be possible without NYIT's academic and business part-



CRAIG WALLACE DALE

ners, each of whom is committed to helping our students by offering unique, practical learning experiences that exemplify the quality one can expect of an NYIT education. They also give this university more avenues in which to fulfill one of its most crucial obligations—to find new ways and new leaders to improve our society on local, regional, and global stages.

In the past year, we've solidified partnerships with Google and Verizon to bring technology into K-12 class-

rooms; we've garnered significant sponsorships from major corporations and foundations for our energy and cyber security conferences; we've welcomed entertainment industry partners, including the Screen Actors Guild and the Gold Coast Film Festival, into the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway; we've developed mentor and employer relationships with prominent alumni and Fortune 500 companies; and we've joined the American Cancer Society, Save the Children, and numerous other partners to give back to the community.

While these types of external partnerships are hardly a new concept in higher education, they are more important than ever as growth opportunities for universities, students, companies, and nations. By engaging partners to help us and our students meet the needs of today's global marketplace, we can be sure our graduates are equipped with the professional skills and the grasp of technology that is essential to 21st-century prosperity.

Today, more than ever, an NYIT education is made possible through collaboration, understanding, and technology; it is an academic and professional experience that is all inclusive of the human experience, a blending of dreams, talents, and skills that crosses

borders and embraces diversity. While we work even harder to strengthen our external relationships, we are grateful for you, our network of 89,000 alumni, and your role in our collaborative structure that not only enhances the reputation of NYIT, but is on the cutting edge of solving some of the world's most significant challenges. ■

*Sincerely,
Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.
President*



NYIT AUDITORIUM ON BROADWAY

A STATE-OF-THE-ART EVENT SPACE



The NYIT Auditorium on Broadway is just steps from Lincoln Center and Columbus Circle. Convenient to all public transportation, it can accommodate a wide range of events, from private parties and exclusive film screenings to public festivals, executive meetings, and chic cocktail parties. Its versatile, bi-level layout boasts a 1,622-square-foot, glass-facade atrium and an 808-square-foot lower-level concourse, both of which are ideal for registration and pre- and post-event receptions.

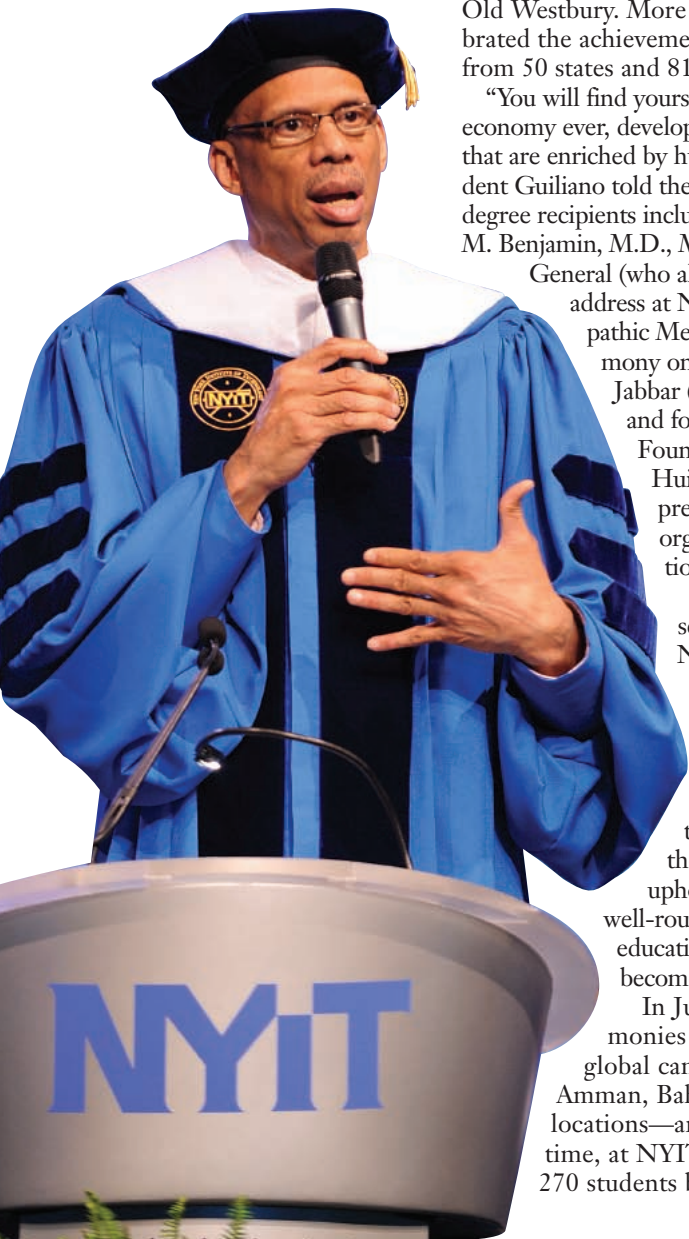
The 262-seat auditorium, comprising 3,716 square feet, features a platform stage and is fully equipped with high-definition and 35mm projectors; a 10.5 x 18.5-foot screen; DVD, Blu-ray, and Betacam players; videoconferencing capabilities; Mac/PC compatibilities; and wireless Internet. For more information, email aob@nyit.edu or call 646.273.6100.



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NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A Global Celebration!



NYIT welcomed 3,500 graduates to its global alumni network at the May 22 commencement ceremony at NYIT-Old Westbury. More than 14,000 guests celebrated the achievements of students hailing from 50 states and 81 countries.

“You will find yourselves in the most inclusive economy ever, developing strategies and products that are enriched by human differences,” President Guiliano told the Class of 2011. Honorary degree recipients included Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A., U.S. Surgeon

General (who also gave the keynote address at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine’s 30th hooding ceremony on May 23); Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (pictured left), NBA legend and founder of the Skyhook

Foundation; and Denis Huisman, Ph.D., founder and president of Groupe EDH, an organization of higher education institutes in France.

“I look out at you and see the community that is New York Institute of Technology,” said Class of 2011 student speaker Michael Cavalli (B.S. ’11). Today marks nearly six decades of tradition that we, as the graduating class, uphold—the tradition of well-rounded students, of global education, of graduates who become leaders.”

In June, graduation ceremonies were held at NYIT’s global campuses in Abu Dhabi, Amman, Bahrain, and Vancouver locations—and, for the very first time, at NYIT-Nanjing. More than 270 students became the inaugural



“Be flexible ... Be nimble ... Keep dreaming about the distant future, but prepare for the near tomorrow,” President Guiliano told graduates in his salute to the Class of 2011 on May 22 at NYIT-Old Westbury.

graduates of NYIT’s Nanjing campus at a June 5 ceremony that included hundreds of guests as well as Yang Zhen, president of Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and U.S. Consul General in Shanghai Beatrice Camp.

“We have succeeded in assimilating the essence of both Chinese and American cultures,” said student speaker Dai Yisi, an international business administration major. “We have learned how to live independently, think analytically, work as a team, and foster the problem-solving spirit in our daily life.”

NYIT now has 89,000 graduates worldwide.



More than 270 students comprised the first graduating class at NYIT's Nanjing, China, campus on June 5. Student speaker Dai Yisi noted their success at embracing Chinese and American cultures.



Class of 2011 student speaker Michael Cavalli said, "Our generation yearns for something larger—a sense of community." He encouraged his peers to forge human connections that build communities.



Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A., U.S. Surgeon General and 2011 recipient of an NYIT honorary degree, emphasized public service in her address to graduates.



Ninety bachelor's degree graduates and 99 master's degree graduates celebrated at NYIT-Amman's 10th annual graduation ceremony on June 12, 2011.



You will find yourselves in the most inclusive economy ever, developing strategies and products that are enriched by human differences.” - President Guiliano

Students Gain Global Perspective

During spring and summer breaks, NYIT students find plenty of ways to educate themselves—even in unconventional classrooms overseas.



NYIT students made a difference in Independencia, Peru, during NYIT's first Alternative Spring Break Project.

In March, 10 students from the Manhattan and Old Westbury campuses brought clean water, composting projects, and construction skills to Independencia, Peru, as participants in NYIT's first Alternative Spring Break Project. When not working in the field, they volunteered at a local orphanage and shared their ideas on alternative energy uses, including how to maximize benefits from waste material.

"The students did an amazing job in repre-

senting NYIT and in serving as leaders by contributing their time and efforts to help change the world," says project leader Jeremy Ducos, assistant director of student activities and leadership development.

The trip's benefits were mutual, according to behavioral science student Marisela Nunez, who had participated in other organizations' service projects abroad. She found NYIT's Alternative Spring Break to be particularly relevant because it gave students "the opportunity to forget about themselves and focus on really giving back to a community in need."

Other students found ways to apply new skills and information to their future careers.

"Social and economic factors affect housing conditions," explains student Cindy Chan, who gained insights in Peru for her architecture studio work. "Culture and other dynamics are harder to grasp when you're not exposed to them."

Computer science major Freddy Germosen Jr., who documented the Peru trip on video, traveled to Europe in June with engineering student Demetrio Lima. The pair attended the IPL International Summer Engineering School in Lyon, France.

"I encourage any student to participate in one of these programs," says Lima. ■

NYIT Hosts Experts on Moving Beyond Carbon

Climate change came out of the laboratory and roared into Monique Leclerc's backyard—literally. At NYIT's sixth annual energy conference, "Beyond Carbon: Offshore Energy and Technologies," Leclerc's keynote speech about climate science included a photo of tornado damage to her Georgia home—a stark reminder of the extreme weather scientists attribute to global warming.

"We have to change the way we do business, the way we think," said Leclerc, Ph.D. (pictured right), Regents Professor at the University of Georgia. She spoke to more than 140 conference attendees at the NYIT de Seversky Mansion on June 2 at the Old Westbury campus.

Other speakers discussed sustainable wind and ocean wave technologies. "The time to move on them is now," said Markian Melnyk, president of Atlantic Grid Development LLC, which is developing an offshore high-voltage transmission "backbone" for wind energy parks. ■



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In Memoriam: Stanley Schiowitz

Osteopathic medical pioneer and former dean of NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) Stanley Schiowitz passed away on June 27. He was 88.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and inspired as a teenager by a local physician, Schiowitz attended St. John's University and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathy (now known as the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine). He practiced in Brooklyn for more than 30 years and also served at Interboro General Hospital in Brooklyn.

Schiowitz later worked with NYIT leaders Alexander Schure, Ph.D., David G. Salten, Ph.D., and W. Kenneth Riland, D.O., to launch the osteopathic college in 1977 with help from U.S. Vice President and New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

Throughout his quarter-century of service to NYIT, Schiowitz held numerous positions, including director of its family practice centers, chair of the osteopathic manipulative medicine department, provost for medical affairs, and dean of allied health. He retired in 2002, but remained active as dean emeritus and a part-time



consultant for curriculum development.

In addition to numerous journal articles, Schiowitz co-authored the book, *An Osteopathic Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment*. He was also widely recognized for developing "facilitated positional release" treatment techniques.

From 1995 to 2000, as dean of allied health, he oversaw the development of programs in nursing, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and nutrition.

During Schiowitz's tenure, NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine grew from a college with an inaugural class of 36 to an institution with enrollment of more than 1,100 students. In 2007, he received the American Academy of Osteopathy's Distinguished Service Certificate, recognizing his dedication and role in creating the osteopathic school.

"As an institution, we are much stronger and better for all that he brought to NYIT," said President Guiliano. "He was a friend to many and one who made a difference in all of our lives."

"Dr. Schiowitz was a physician, educator, leader, and mentor," said Associate Dean David Broder. "He did not lead from a distance."

"The students learned about him, his techniques, and his love of teaching long after he retired," Dean Thomas Scandalis (D.O. '87) told *Newsday*. "They never lost touch with his guidance and his presence in the profession." ■

Researchers Expand OMT's Therapeutic Effects



(From left) NYIT professors Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., and Gregory Saggio (D.O. '94) completed a study of osteopathic manipulative treatment on immune system efficiency.

Using OMT to boost the immune systems of hospitalized patients could transform the health care industry. "If you can do these mild, noninvasive techniques and prevent someone from getting pneumonia, that's huge," says Saggio. "It could theoretically decrease the number of days spent in the ICU or even prevent a patient from requiring ICU care—saving hospitals thousands of dollars, and, most importantly, safeguarding patient health." ■

Thanks to homegrown research at NYIT, critical care patients with weakened immune systems may have a fighting chance. When predoctoral fellow Jennifer Pilc (D.O. '94) read a study on the inverse relationship between stress levels and healthy immune systems in canines, she noted that osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) improved the animals' health. An idea dawned on her—maybe the same is true for humans.

She teamed up with NYIT professors Gregory Saggio (D.O. '94) and Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., to conceive a human study to test this theory.

"We went through a rigorous review process and pushed everybody to ask the right questions," says Gilliar, NYIT's chair of osteopathic manipulative medicine.

The research team studied 25 second-year NYIT medical students scheduled to take their national board examinations within three weeks of the study—and therefore under considerable stress. Half the students received 20 minutes of OMT and showed an average increase of 139 percent in the levels of secretory immunoglobulin A—an antibody found in saliva—more than four times greater than those who received no treatment.

NYIT Partners With Verizon to Enhance Educational Tech

NYIT received a \$160,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to help the university train hundreds of thousands of teachers and community leaders throughout New York state. Specifically, NYIT will use the company's Thinkfinity program to help teach educators about implementing online lesson plans, instructional games, and other educational materials for a generation of students who love technology and crave interactive lessons that enliven school subjects.

"We're part of a serious movement right now to make sure every student gets an equitable education," said Stan Silverman, director of NYIT's Technology-

Based Learning Systems in the School of Education, which is working in conjunction with the Teacher Centers.

Making Thinkfinity lessons available to teachers and to students—both in and out of the classroom—expands resources and ways to make learning enjoyable.

"Teachers need to be innovative, while constantly updating their approaches to learning," said President Guiliano. "Thinkfinity offers interactive, educational tools that are effective in advancing teaching and learning, and we are proud to bring these resources to educators in New York through our ongoing partnership with the Verizon Foundation and the Teacher Centers." ■



President Guiliano (right) accepts a \$160,000 Verizon check to help fund teacher training.

NYIT Welcomes New Leaders

NYIT is proud to welcome Gen. Richard A. Cody as the newest member of its Board of Trustees. He is vice president of Washington operations for L-3 Communications, a prime contractor in aircraft modernization and maintenance, C3ISR systems (command, control, communications, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance), and government services that is headquartered in New York City.

A master aviator and graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Gen. Cody served in command and staff positions domestically and overseas during his 36-year military career. From 2004 to 2008, he served as the 31st vice chief of staff for the U.S. Army.

NYIT also welcomed Peter C. Kinney III as the new chief of staff to President Guiliano. He will lead university operations to drive the growth and quality of NYIT. Kinney comes to NYIT from the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, where he was program manager for an annual \$780 million service contract in Iraq. His experience spans directing global emergency preparedness at the American International Group, directing and managing funds at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and guiding restoration operations for the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11 attacks. ■

NYITeachings

"We think we know things... I love learning how much I don't know."

—Laurie Schroeder, educator at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York City, on the personal nature of her work at a health conference on May 25 at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway

"When you rise to a level of success, don't forget that you need to reach back and pull someone else up. A great leader goes a step further; they will push you out in front and make you even better than they are."

—Vice Admiral Regina Benjamin, Ph.D., M.B.A., U.S. Surgeon General, at the hooding ceremony on May 23 for graduates of NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine

"No' cannot be a stopping block. It can pause you for a second, but don't accept 'No.' "

—Actor Zach Braff, speaking with audience members after a screening of his movie, *The High Cost of Living*, at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway on May 26

"The world's problems cannot be dumped into traditional academic silos. Solutions for pandemics, for shortages of water and basic goods—all these require interdisciplinary action and multilateral perspectives, with technology as a driver."

—President Guiliano on the link between technology and global higher education at the International Association of University Presidents Triennial on June 20 in New York City

SOURCE of Inspiration

New ideas and research brought together students, faculty, and staff members for the annual Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE), a day-



Students presented their research at SOURCE, NYIT's annual Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression.

long event on April 29 at NYIT-Manhattan. Students made presentations to peers and faculty members on a variety of academic topics ranging from phototherapy to advertising trends to using numbers as a literary device.

The keynote presentation, "Left Brain/Right Brain: Round Two, Four Decades of Change in Visual Computing

and What Comes Next," was given by Don Greenberg, professor and director of Cornell University's Computer Graphics Program. Greenberg, a self-professed "creative type" who started his career as an architect and shifted into computer programming, recapped the past 40 years of computer graphics and programming history, and offered his take on their future development.

"I believe the future will be much more [advanced] on the creative side than the technical side," said Greenberg, who described this history as dominated by mathematical, factual "left brainers."

Though Greenberg predicts a shift from left to right brain dominance in computer programming, he said an interdisciplinary approach is needed in higher education to blend technical and creative thinking.

"SOURCE is the combination of science, art, and technology," he said. "The future, too, might be in this combination of skills." ■

COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES REBOOTED

NYIT has revamped its computer science program to offer new concentrations in network security, graphic design, and information management. Using real-world examples as part of their coursework, students will learn how to create mobile apps, improve their computer animation skills, and operate systems security by identifying and addressing threats as well as managing data in multimedia and social networks.

TAKE THIS JOB AND LOVE IT

NYIT is one of the best colleges to work for in the nation, according to a survey by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. For the second year in a row, faculty and staff rated the university highly for offering compensation and benefits that meet their needs. NYIT was also recognized for its high-quality teaching environment. The results are based on a survey of nearly 44,000 employees at 310 colleges and universities across the country.

NYIT MEDIA WIN AWARDS

NYIT Magazine and *LI News Tonight* won top honors for journalism in the 2011 Folio Awards competition on May 6 at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, N.Y. *NYIT Magazine* won first place in the Newspaper/Magazine Feature Story category for "In Sickness and In Health" (Winter 2010 issue). *LI News Tonight* earned the top prize in the Continuing News Story in a Regularly Scheduled Newscast category for a segment that aired on June 15, 2010, called "Wasabi Challenge."

READY, SET, COOK!

On May 12, the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway served as the home for the "Teen Battle Chef Invitational," a program of Family Cook Productions. More than 100 high school students from the Northeast competed in a cooking competition hosted by celebrity chef George

(continued on page 13)

Community Unites To Fight Cancer

Students, faculty, staff, and friends raised more than \$40,000 for the American Cancer Society on April 29 during NYIT-Old Westbury's third annual Relay for Life. Carlos Munoz, an architecture student, and Linda Spangler, an admissions representative, spoke about their experience as survivors to more than 500 participants who celebrated the lives of people who have battled cancer, remembered loved ones, and supported research to fight the disease. ■





‘Classic’ Fundraiser Nets \$375K

NYIT raised more than \$375,000 at its annual Gold Coast Classic to support student scholarships and academic programs. This year’s event, held in conjunction with *Quarterly Review of Wines* at New York City’s Ritz Carlton-Battery Park on May 5, featured presentations of Professional Excellence Awards to honorees Barbara Lynch, chef and CEO of Barbara Lynch Gruppo, and Michael Martini, master winemaker of Louis M. Martini Winery, in recognition of their food and wine industry accomplishments.

Student speaker and mechanical engineering major Christopher Jewth told guests how grants and scholarships have given him the chance to further his education at NYIT. “I am proud to say that I was smart enough to take part in many of NYIT’s amazing opportunities that have allowed me to explore my intellectual interests and understand the world,” said Jewth, who has participated in international academic conferences and service projects.

Pictured above are (from left) auctioneer David Reynolds; Linda Davila, chairperson of the NYIT Board of Trustees; Martini; Lynch; President Guiliano; and Richard Elia, president and publisher of *Quarterly Review of Wines*. ■

NIH Helps NYIT Get to the Heart of the Matter

The U.S. National Institutes of Health has awarded NYIT a \$1.8 million grant to investigate a link between heart failure and an underlying hormone imbalance—building on the work of A. Martin Gerdes, Ph.D., chair of biomedical sciences at NYIT’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM).

Gerdes will conduct the five-year, preclinical study on the benefits of treating a rat model of heart attack with thyroid hormones. Growing evidence in human and animal studies suggests a link between the progression of heart disease and chronically low levels of thyroid hormones, which can be treated at minimal cost. While doctors traditionally monitor thyroid hormones through routine blood tests, animal studies have indicated that these thyroid imbalances can occur within heart tissue itself. This finding suggests that even individuals with normal levels of thyroid activity in their blood can be at risk for heart failure.

Unfortunately, these cases go undetected and untreated, since a non-invasive method for measuring thyroid levels in a patient’s heart tissue does not yet exist. Gerdes hopes his study will set the stage for clinical trials to change that.

Earlier this year, Gerdes attracted nationwide attention with a study published in the well-respected journal *Circulation* that showed how fish oil prevents pressure-related damage to the heart (visit nyit.edu/magazine to read more in the Spring 2011 issue of *NYIT Magazine*).

“Hopefully, this will be the beginning of great things to come from NYIT in the field of heart failure research,” Gerdes said. ■

In Plane Sight

Some NYIT professors, like Ernst VanBergeijk (pictured, bottom), have a heightened sense of reality. On May 5, he plummeted 8,500 feet from the sky—a feat determined by his students, who walked 46 million steps for a fitness challenge meant to teach them about healthy living.

“Life is meant to be lived and sometimes you need to get out of your comfort zone,” he said after safely touching down.

VanBergeijk serves as associate dean and executive director of NYIT’s Vocational Independence Program, which helps students with learning disabilities by teaching skills and strategies as well as providing support necessary for successful and independent lives. ■





Stars of Cinema and TV Take the Stage at NYIT

Forget Hollywood. One of this summer's hottest places for film premieres is the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway. On June 8, actors Neil Patrick Harris, Patti LuPone, Jon Cryer, Christina

appearing on behalf of the SAG Foundation on May 26 was former *Scrubs* actor, director, and screenwriter Zach Braff, who previewed his new film, *The High Cost of Living*.



Actor Zach Braff previewed his new film, *The High Cost of Living*, at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway.

Hendricks, Craig Bierko, and Martha Plimpton walked the red carpet for *Stephen Sondheim's Company*, based on the musical which first debuted on Broadway in 1970.

On June 30, Kim Cattrall, best known for her role as Samantha Jones in *Sex and the City*, discussed her career as part of a series of interviews sponsored by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Foundation, and previewed clips from her recent PBS miniseries, *Any Human Heart*. Also

On May 9, the Gold Coast International Film Festival kicked off at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway with two short films featuring Isabella Rossellini, as well as a conversation with the actress and filmmaker.

Paulo Costanzo, star of the hit USA Network comedy series *Royal Pains*, visited on July 7, while CNN veteran Soledad O'Brien talked to students and journalists on May 2.

Other events included screenings of *Vito Bonafacci* on May 3, and the PBS documentary *OUT in America* on June 7.

This summer, the 262-seat venue is undergoing a makeover as NYIT installs a new sound system, flat screen televisions, and a renovated food area and control room. The improved auditorium reopens Aug. 23, with a full slate of lectures, celebrity events, and cocktail parties. To learn more, visit nyit.edu/aob. ■

(continued from page 11)

Duran of TLC's *Ultimate Cake-Off*. Students from NYIT's departments of Hospitality Management and Communication Arts co-produced the event, which helps raise funds for Family Cook's Summer Internship Brigade in which students are matched with employment opportunities in a variety of food-related career areas.

NURSING PROGRAM EARNS HEALTHY ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing program received notice of accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through June 2016. The CCNE is officially recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accreditation agency.

THE DOCTORS ARE IN

NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) opened a new medical center in Central Islip, N.Y., with expanded services and special features to improve health care for local community residents.

The Family Health Care Center will offer minor breast surgery procedures, genetic counseling, physical and occupational therapy, geriatric medicine, and teach preventative care in the areas of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and women's health for an estimated 15,000 patients. Twenty NYIT faculty members will staff the center, and third- and fourth-year osteopathic medical students will perform rotations.

PREPARE TO DUAL AGAIN

Tongji University in Shanghai, China, renewed its agreement to offer double-degree programs in management. Upon completion of the curriculum, students earn master's degrees in either business administration or human resources management and labor relations from NYIT as well as a Master of Enterprise Management from Tongji University. The program is designed for students who wish to expand their international exposure and earn an American degree. ■

Courting Success

By Rose Spaziani

When Melanie Li Foo Wing traveled across the world from her home in Mauritius (off Africa's eastern coast) to attend NYIT, she knew there was one thing she could never give up—the squeal of sneakers on polished wood, the pleasure of serving up an ace, and cheering fans ... the thrill of playing volleyball.

“I love being part of a team and pushing my limits for myself and my teammates, and I'm confident that sports played a huge role in making me who I am,” says Li Foo Wing, who plays for the Bears while pursuing her other passion—interior design.

Her interest in design is homegrown. In Mauritius, a popular destination for its beaches and scenery, she interned at V.K. Designs, a firm specializing in hotel design. Her surroundings instilled a respect for sustainability.

“I want to be able to design green and be good to the environment,” she says.

Her NYIT design portfolio has garnered multiple awards. In June, her furniture designs earned the 2011 Senior Student Scholarship Award, worth \$30,000, from the Angelo Donghia Foundation, named for the late New York-based interior designer. She was one of 12 students nationwide to be honored.

On April 7, Li Foo Wing won Honorable Mention and \$500 from the Decorators Club Education Fund for her design of a chic, minimalist apartment space and retail store for Jonathan Ive, senior vice president of industrial design for Apple.

“Designing is all about the client,” she says. “You bring your creativity and philosophy and combine it with your client knowledge.”

A strong work ethic has advanced Li Foo Wing on and off the volleyball court. She was named to NYIT's Athletic Director's Honor Roll in fall 2010 and spring 2011, earning a 4.0 GPA both semesters.

She honed her volleyball skills for years prior to joining the Bears. She has competed on the court since the age of 8, and in 2006, she served as national captain for Mauritius in an international volleyball competition sponsored by the Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien.

“Being selected as captain was the ultimate reward for months of hard work and determination,” she says. “It meant being a role model while still being a good teammate.”

When she was a freshman, Li Foo Wing played in 17 matches for the Bears and earned the team's most improved player honor during her first year away from home. Now going into her senior year, she has joined Bentel & Bentel, an architecture and design firm in Locust Valley, N.Y., as an intern to reinforce her classroom lessons with additional practical experience.

She eventually wants to return to Mauritius to use sustainable design in novel ways, such as making a polished countertop out of paper.

“I want to bring what I've learned at NYIT back home and make a difference,” she says. “That would be great.” ■

Volleyball player and interior design major Melanie Li Foo Wing strives for success on and off the court.





Del Cid Kick-Starts New Season with Veteran Talent

With a strong tradition that includes three NCAA Tournament appearances in the past 10 years and an NCAA Northeast Regional title, NYIT men's soccer strives to get back into the national spotlight this fall with a solid veteran cast and talented incoming class.

"We have a large recruiting class coming in," says Head Coach Carlos Del Cid (B.S. '97). "We have good players coming back and can cover every position."

The Bears' veterans are highlighted by Vinny Caccavale (pictured above), an All-East Coast Conference (ECC) First Team player. He led NYIT last season with 13 points on four goals and five assists. Also returning are Matthew DiDonna, Steffan Alm, and Jovan Pervaz. The trio combined for seven goals on the season, five of which were game-winners.

"It means a lot to have these types of players return, especially Vinny," says Del Cid of the potential All-American. "As a sophomore captain, we hope his winning mentality will rub off on our new athletes."

NYIT had a tremendous spring season that will help shape the team's attitude this fall. The Bears took on tougher-than-normal competition and won the Manhattanville 7v7 Tournament. The team also took two NCAA Division I opponents to overtime draws.

"The spring definitely sets us up for a good fall season," says Del Cid. "The schedule was one of the toughest in the region. Most of the teams finished with a record of .500 or better. We're not playing easy games."

Two teams on the Bears' fall slate—Shippensburg and Dowling—advanced to the NCAA Tournament. For NYIT to be competitive this 2011 season, Del Cid emphasizes the need to be a contender down the stretch.

"We need to be driven from start to finish," says Del Cid. "We need to be able to compete and play our game against anyone and on any day. Nothing is handed to you." ■

NYIT ATHLETICS HELPS SAVE THE CHILDREN

On April 30, the NYIT Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation partnered with Save the Children Long Island for a "Kick, Score & Save" soccer event to help Haitian families devastated by the January 2010 earthquake. Held at NYIT-Old Westbury, the event raised more than \$35,000 and featured soccer games played by NYIT, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Adelphi, Dominican, and Mercy as well as a soccer clinic for young players taught by NYIT student-athletes.

VALDEZ NAMED GWC BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Infielder Effrey Valdez earned Great West Conference (GWC) Player of the Year honors and was joined by three teammates as All-GWC selections. Valdez, a First-Team All-Conference, All-Tournament Team, College Baseball Insider Honorable Mention All-American, and ABCA All-Northeast Region honoree, finished the 2011 season with a league-leading .438 batting average. He also led the GWC with 11 home runs. Pitcher Ryan Dillabough received First-Team GWC honors, while outfielder Jerry Smith and infielder Rob Cafiero earned Second-Team All-Conference honors.

BLUE JAYS SIGN CARROLL

Catcher George Carroll (B.S. '11) signed with Major League Baseball's Toronto Blue Jays in the 2011 First Year Player Draft. Carroll will begin rookie ball in the Gulf Coast League with the Dunedin Blue Jays.

TWO BEARS EARN ECC HONORS

Volleyball player Lisa Peacock (B.S. '11) and softball player Nicole Constantatos (B.S. '11) were named Scholar-Athletes of the Year for their respective sports by the ECC. Peacock, a two-time ECC Libero of the Year, carries a 3.56 GPA in interdisciplinary studies and a minor in education. Constantatos finished her undergraduate degree with a 3.71 GPA and has already earned a 4.0 in her first semester in NYIT's childhood education graduate program. ■



Adrienne O'Brien,
Ph.D., and Melvyn
Drossman, Ph.D.

Legacies of Learning

By *Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)*

On the eve of his retirement, Melvyn Drossman, Ph.D., recalls how he taught computer programming before there were computers to program.

It was 1968, and the young professor had just been hired to teach computer programming and serve as a department chair for NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences at the Old Westbury campus.

"At the time, there were no personal computers around to test programs," he says. "So students wrote the computer code long-hand on paper. I had to manually check their answers."

It was a laborious process, though mercifully short lived once personal computers grew in popularity and affordability in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Drossman learned of NYIT by searching the local classified ads in the late 1960s. At the time, he worked for a medical center in Brooklyn, N.Y., as part of a team studying the effects of dreams. "The school was looking for someone with a background in electrical engineering and computer science as well as biomed-

ical expertise," he says. "It was like they wrote the position just for me."

Over the next 43 years, Drossman would contribute greatly to the university's academic achievements, from co-authoring the Bachelor of Technology curriculum to helping pave the path to accreditation for the school's academic programs as well as the creation of a master's degree program in computer science. He is also the recipient of the 1992 IEEE Region I Award and earned Engineer of the Year honors in 1990 from the Long Island Joint Committee.

Drossman grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., where as a child he was drawn to magic. Later, he turned his attention to technology, which he describes as magic for the modern age. He began his teaching career in 1958 at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, where he also earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. Today, the NYIT professor looks back on a career that has been defined by a commitment to making professional dreams come true.



Adrienne O'Brien, Ph.D., (third from left) and other faculty members during the construction of the Midge Karr Fine Arts Center at NYIT-Old Westbury.

"One thing I emphasized is that a deep understanding of the material is more important than memorization," says Drossman. "If you only learn how to solve the same problems, you're not going to succeed in this field. You've got to learn how to think."

From 1984 to 1992, Drossman served as dean of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences (then called the School of Engineering and Technology). He has been privileged to witness tremendous growth of technology in the classroom. "The progress has been absolutely amazing," he says.

For his former students, Drossman's classes held lessons for a lifetime. "Dr. Drossman is a legendary professor," says Aaron Feingold (B.S. '04), president and CEO of AFX Network Consultants on Long Island, N.Y. "The knowledge that I gained in his Database Management Systems class was essential to my work at a startup, and enabled me to start my own company two years later. Most professors are smart, but few have the wisdom that Dr. Drossman imparted to his students."

"Working with young people and helping them start their careers, I look back on it feeling very good about what I've done," says Drossman, who—between vacationing with his wife, Norma, and practicing his golf swing at the Eisenhower Park driving range in East Meadow, N.Y.—is already set to give a lecture to seniors this fall on critical thinking and problem solving.

"I couldn't have picked a better life for myself," he says.

Also announcing her retirement this year is **Adrienne O'Brien, Ph.D.**, the first dean of NYIT's School of Media and Arts (now incorporated into the College of Arts and Sciences) from 1979 to 1990. In 1974, O'Brien came to NYIT to head the university's first-ever Master of Arts program in Communication Arts.

It was her father's 8mm movie camera and Wollensack tape recorder, which O'Brien used to document family events, that drew her to the communications field. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in history from Hunter College, O'Brien completed her master's degree in political science at Villanova University. The televised 1960 Nixon-Kennedy presidential election debates convinced her of the power of media on the public and led to Ph.D.

studies in communications at the University of Southern California and Syracuse.

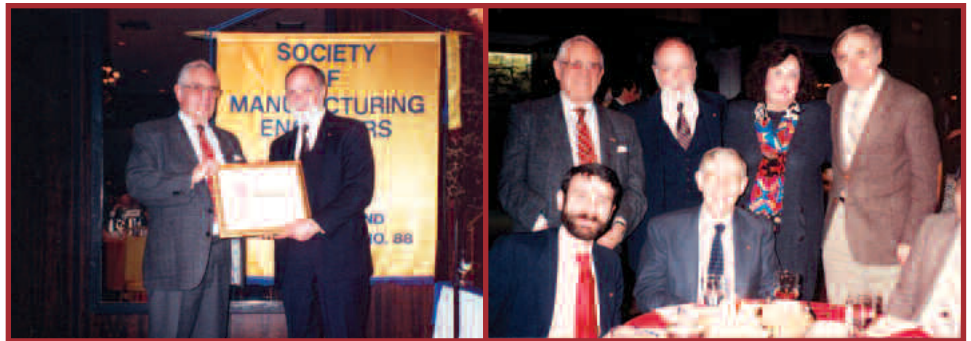
As dean at NYIT, O'Brien designed several new programs, including advertising and instructional technology degrees, as well as founded *LI News Tonight*, a nightly TV news program that enabled NYIT students to serve as reporters, camera operators, and news anchors covering the Long Island region. Today, the public relations and advertising agencies she founded at NYIT—the Carlton Group and NuVision at NYIT-Old Westbury and the Ad Agency at NYIT-Manhattan—still provide students with on-the-job experience as they work with local groups to create public relations, marketing, and advertising campaigns.

Recognizing her impact on the community, *Long Island Business News* named O'Brien one of the Top 50 Women on Long Island in 2001 and 2009; the Public Relations Professionals of Long Island gave her its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005.

Similar to Drossman's teaching philosophy, putting learning into practice was a key element of O'Brien's lessons. "Knowledge and skills are acquired by application," she says. "It's simple, it's active, it's personal—no one can do it for you. It's a process that we faculty can only guide. Only the learner can learn."

O'Brien urged her students to jump-start their careers and get involved with the Internet through blogging, writing for local online newspapers, and by understanding the multitudes of modern social networking.

Steve Churchill (B.F.A. '73, M.A. '77), a vice president and learning and development manager for Wells Fargo, recalls how O'Brien's lessons impacted his career. "Having a strong background in instructional design herself, Dr. O'Brien offered extremely useful advice for both my degree work and my future in the learning technology and design field."



Left: Melvyn Drossman, Ph.D. (right), receives the 1990 Engineer of the Year honors from the Long Island Joint Committee. Later that evening, Drossman shares a moment with NYIT colleagues and friends, including Matthew Schure, Ph.D., NYIT's second president (sitting, left); and professors Herb Fox, Ph.D. (sitting center), and Ed Kaffrissen, Ph.D. (standing, right).

Teaching and a love of helping others reach their potential still drives her, and O'Brien continues to speak to community organizations throughout Long Island to share her wisdom and experience.

"I still love producing, but what I love even more is the idea of somebody learning," says O'Brien, who will spend her retirement traveling the world and speaking to local groups on the state of journalism today. "I get more satisfaction out of seeing students understand something, gain new perceptions, or question the way things work. I like to smell the wood burning." ■

Mentoring



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Matters

Xiang Ji (B.F.A. '11, left), field reporter for the Chinese TV network Sinovision in New York City, got her start in the broadcast industry with guidance from alumni mentor Gina Colon-Bumbalo (M.A. '96).

Alumni share the gift of experience in NYIT's mentorship program

by Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07) and Briana Samuels



JOSH GERITSEN

Leigh Mascianica, assistant director of NYIT's Office of Career Services, and John Hyde, dean of career services, worked together to relaunch the NYIT Alumni Mentor Program.

For **Xiang Ji (B.F.A. '11)**, it began with a phone call and led to a career filled with promise.

Inside the Upper West Side offices of New York City-based Viacom, home to MTV Networks, the communication arts graduate reflects on an NYIT educational experience which taught her skills that no classroom lesson could deliver.

"I wanted to combine technology with communications, so I contacted the NYIT Alumni Mentor Program," says Ji, who is now working as a field reporter for the Chinese TV network Sinovision in New York City.

Ji transferred to NYIT-Manhattan to pursue a career in communications after studying in China. "I wanted to be in New York, home to the best media in the world," she says.

Her alumni mentor, Gina Colon-Bumbalo (M.A. '96), was only too happy to oblige. "Xiang was fantastic, ambitious, and just wanted to learn everything," she says.

A line producer for MTV Networks, where she has worked for 12 years, Colon-Bumbalo brought Ji to video shoots as a production assistant. She worked on shows like *My Super Sweet 16* and learned firsthand how professionals at one of the top global TV networks assemble and produce a hit show.

The mentoring experience proved beneficial to Colon-Bumbalo as well. During her days as an NYIT student, professors Tony Piazza and Don Fizzignolia served as mentors in their own way and helped her land jobs at News 12 and Bravo TV. To fulfill that role and have Ji as a protégé sparked an excitement and desire to continue helping young students.

"It made me want to do it again, especially with students who want to strive and don't know how," says Colon-Bumbalo.

In addition to working on MTV shows, Ji learned ways of enhancing her personal brand for future employers. "Gina helped me with my resume and showed me how to find job opportunities based on my interests and career goals," says Ji. "She also offered advice on the correct protocol for following up with employers after an interview."

It was the perfect complement to Ji's lessons in the classroom, where she learned the theories and professional skills that were put into practice at MTV. "Through my internship and with Gina's guidance," says Ji, "I was able to learn how it really is on the job."

Ji's experience is just one story among dozens within the NYIT Alumni Mentor Program, which



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Architect Rowan Georges (B.Arch. '98), associate at Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill LLP in New York City, believes alumni mentoring gives NYIT students an edge in the competitive marketplace by offering them the chance to learn the real-world rigors of their chosen profession.



Rekhaben Dhakan (M.B.A. '11, left) sharpened her communications and networking skills with help from alumni mentor Eli Mizrachi (B.S. '94, right), vice president of wealth management at Maxim Group LLC in New York City.

personally matches students with top professionals based on common interests and career skills. The program, relaunched in 2010, is already receiving rave reviews from student and alumni participants. In March, it won second place for best practices in career development from the Metropolitan New York College Career Planning Officer's Association (MNYCCPOA) Alva C. Cooper Awards.

The program's chief coordinators are NYIT Office of Career Services Dean John Hyde and Assistant Director Leigh Mascianica, working in conjunction with NYIT's Office of Alumni Relations.

"We've always felt this is the best way for students to learn about their careers," says Hyde. "And the alumni feel like they are giving back."

During the mentorship, which can last an entire semester or longer, students and alumni check in monthly with the Office of Career Services to provide updates on their progress.

"We ask about the things they've learned and the tasks they've been asked to complete," says Mascianica, who oversaw the revamping of the new alumni mentor program, which was originally launched in 2007. Among her priorities for this iteration were developing a hands-on, individual matching process, specific training materials to assist students with professional etiquette and mentor interactions, and 24/7 support from the Office of Career

Services throughout the entire mentor-communication among students,

Communication among students,



(From left) Janeille Calnick and Victoria Torres-Arroyo got an inside look into the architecture industry, including trends, real-life applications, and workplace demands, with the help of alumni mentor Rowan Georges (B. Arch. '98), associate at Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill LLP.

alumni participants—who can be found in Germany, Egypt, and Korea as well as the United States—and the Office of Career Services is handled through email, phone calls, Skype, and social media sites such as Facebook. On the popular career networking site LinkedIn, Hyde and Mascianica have created a special section for NYIT students enrolled in the mentor program that includes articles on making the most of their alumni relationships as well as a monthly e-newsletter.

"People share their own personal stories and strategies that have proven successful," says Hyde. "We want to continue to grow the mentor program, especially at our global campuses."

For Hyde, the best part of the NYIT Alumni Mentor Program is that it puts a human face on a career. "There isn't any better way for students to discover what it's all about."

Mascianica agrees. "It's an opportunity for NYIT students to be paired with someone who has shared connections, backgrounds, interests, and experiences. It is the foundation of a lifelong professional relationship."

SHARPENING ONE'S COMPETITIVE EDGE

Eli Mizrachi (B.S. '94) believes the timing of NYIT's reinvigorated mentor program could not have been better. As senior vice president of wealth management for New York City-based Maxim Group LLC, where he provides investment services for high net-worth individuals, asset allocations, and stock portfolio management, the NYIT grad understands the demands of the global market.

"Today's job environment is very challenging and very competitive," he says. "To take my work experience and use it to help someone makes me a little happier at the end of the day."

Two of his M.B.A. protégés—Dhruvi Vyas and Rekhaven Dhakan—joined the alumni mentor program seeking opportunities to broaden their NYIT education. For Vyas, who had previously worked as a junior accountant for a company in India, it was the perfect chance to get a taste of American corporate culture.

"We set specific goals for the mentorship," she says. "I wanted to understand how Americans communicate with one another because it is very different than interactions in India. Even though the language used back home is still English, there are a lot of differences in how business communication and ethics are conveyed. Eli helped me understand what to talk about when networking with professionals."

For Dhakan, joining the alumni mentor program was the best way to expand beyond her previous boundaries. Like Vyas, the future investment banker welcomed Mizrachi's experience and industry knowledge. "I had never worked in America before, so he wanted me to learn everything," she says. "Eli regularly gave me assignments to explore. He asked me what I thought about the current economic situation. He offered suggestions about how to view the market, and how I can improve myself."

The most important thing she's learned is how to effectively network, a skill she already puts into practice at conferences. "He helped me build confidence in the way I approach people and has also given me guidance about seeking mentors within other companies to get my foot in the door," she says.

The mentoring experience benefited Mizrachi as well. "Working with Dhruvi and Rekhaven gave me a chance to step back and take a look at myself and see if I'm living proof of my own advice," he

says. "After mentoring, I updated my own contacts and established new networking avenues. It gave me an opportunity to sharpen my skills."

Architect Rowan Georges (B.Arch. '98), associate at Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill LLP in New York City, agrees with Mizrachi about the fierce job market facing today's college graduates and the need for them to take advantage of mentoring and other professional development programs. "NYIT students are competing against some of the best schools in the nation," he says. "I like being a mentor because it gives me an opportunity to help people who are still figuring out their careers."



Larry Wilson (M.B.A. '06), a global business manager for electric vehicles at General Motors, became an alumni mentor because he enjoyed being mentored as an undergraduate student.

Architecture, Georges adds, is one of those professions where young graduates should talk to someone who has gone through the rigors and dug in the trenches.

One of his NYIT protégés, Victoria Torres-Arroyo, welcomes this approach. "Rowan and I always talk about what's going on in the architecture field," she says. "He pointed out specific topics and computer programs that I should be proficient in to succeed. In addition, it's refreshing to see the real-life applications of what I've learned in my classes."

Janeille Calnick is also taking advantage of Georges' experience. "Before I met Rowan, I did not know anyone personally who worked in architecture, so I wanted to get a better sense about what architecture was like," she says. "Now I consider him a friend who can help me

discover my main interests in the field. He is someone I can turn to for advice when dealing with challenges in the design studio and in the workplace."

Alumni mentor Larry Wilson (M.B.A. '06), a global business manager for electric vehicles at General Motors, recalls being mentored as a student and the positive impact it had on his career path: "It was always nice to get questions answered and bounce ideas off someone—like what the best classes are, things that come up on the job, and how to respond to specific situations. Every person has a different perspective, so the more input, the better you'll be."

For electrical and computer engineer-

ing student Randolph Duke, Mantie Reid (B.S. '87), a consulting engineer for Verizon, provided some of the best advice. "I learned that one doesn't just train the mind but also must maintain a great diet and exercise regimen," says Duke. "I never really heard that from any other engineers before."

As the alumni mentor program continues to grow, Hyde and Mascianica encourage NYIT graduates to get in touch with their alma mater to learn how they can help. Contact the Office of Career Services at 212.261.1537 or 516.686.7527 to learn more.

"A mentor is there to guide you and help you realize your inner strength," says Dhakan. "It helps students graduate with so much experience. The skills I built are transferable across the world." ■

Green Grads

NYIT alumni harness the power of sustainable technology and green practices to make for a healthier, more energy-efficient world

BY MICHAEL SCHIAVETTA (M.A. '07)



When A.J. Mesiti (M.S. '10) first learned about NYIT's energy management program, it was like a light bulb had lit up in his head—one that uses 75 percent less energy, lasts five times longer, and saves hundreds of dollars in electricity costs per year.

The Baldwin, N.Y., native serves as operations manager for Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. His mission: to design and implement energy management programs for the five-million-square-foot academic medical facility. This includes a comprehensive infrastructure survey to improve and conserve energy use for plumbing, lighting, information technology, and heating/venting/air conditioning.

"When I first started, I generated data on the center's energy uses and then designed 12 programs, each of them focusing on ways to save energy," says Mesiti. "I set out to determine the biggest bang for the buck, finding ways to improve energy efficiency in areas such as heating and cooling by sequencing them to operate at different loads."

These "low-cost/high-efficiency" measures saved 8 percent in energy consumption—even though Mesiti's original goal was only 2 percent. "This translates into millions of dollars in energy savings," he says.

Mesiti is among the hundreds of NYIT alumni harnessing the power of environmental or green technology, helping companies, governments, and consumers reduce power costs through sustainable methods that lead to a healthier, more energy-efficient planet. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in the green technology sector are expected to outpace other careers by 20 percent annually through 2018. The field of energy management is experiencing unprecedented growth, due to the restructuring of the utility industry, the automation of building management systems, and global corporations using technology to improve and streamline all areas of operational efficiency. Trained professionals skilled in monitoring energy use among software, hardware, security, and system management are at a premium.

Mesiti's interest in energy management actually stems from his childhood love of robots. As a boy, he created small robots using household motors, read science fiction novels, and once converted a mechanized Santa Claus doll into an alien for Halloween.

"The Santa Claus robot held a candle and was waving it around," says Mesiti. "So I stripped it down to make it an alien moving around and holding a laser gun. I was always able to take things apart and get them to do what I wanted."

When it came time to choose a graduate school, NYIT's robotics program interested him but the energy management curriculum got him hooked.

A.J. Mesiti (M.S. '10) serves as operations manager for Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, where he designs and implements energy management solutions for the five-million-square-foot facility.





JOSH GERITSEN

“Once I started looking into it, I really liked what I saw,” says Mesiti. “The thing that struck me the most was the professional experience of the instructors. Many of them were seasoned veterans in utilities and plant operations. Their teachings were very relevant to the knowledge students needed in their careers as opposed to purely academic textbook learning. The level of excitement among students was something I never experienced.”

At Mount Sinai, Mesiti has the opportunity to put his robotics experience into action. “The logic skill set you need to program robots is relevant to what I do,” he says. Equipment variable frequency drives—think complicated versions of light bulb dimmer switches—control various temperature systems, but their use varies on demand.

“You only have them operating when you need to,” says Mesiti. Programming the frequency drives requires computer logic skills using “If/Then” statements to control energy output based on time of day, local temperature, and other factors.

David Nadler (B.S. '98, M.A. '00) turned a passion for science into a career helping the environment. As director of Environmental Health and Safety Strategic Planning for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, he oversees compliance and regulatory policies to accommodate a rapidly growing world.

Mesiti predicts much of the sustainable technology and best practices used in businesses will trickle down to residential use over the next few years. On the commercial side, however, environmentally friendly power use will continue to be driven by energy managers.

“I’m seeing more energy managers in hospitals and other institutions,” says Mesiti. “It’s really shaping the industry.”

Growing up in Queens, N.Y., David Nadler (B.S. '98, M.S. '00) had a natural ability to understand how things worked. The inquisitive youth played with microscopes, Erector sets, and Legos to understand the fundamentals of how individual components contribute to the whole. When he was six, he performed experiments with water to understand salinity, buoyancy, and how it interacts chemically with other agents.

Today, he uses that same mindset as

director of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Strategic Planning for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP). His day-to-day duties include overseeing compliance policies, regulatory updates, and management strategies to help incorporate new policies to accommodate a rapidly growing world.

“When the city needs to address a hazardous waste regulation, I help to determine how the agency deals with it,” says Nadler.

It’s an enormous responsibility as Nadler balances the knowledge from his two NYIT degrees in life sciences and environmental technology with the need to bolster his project management skills when dealing with people across several industries.

“We have a lot of different operations,” says Nadler. “For instance, there are the people who manage the water,

the reservoir holders who supply the city with water, and the people who handle the water after it goes down your drain. Sometimes it's a challenge getting all the agencies to agree to stay on the same path."

Prior to joining the NYCDEP in 2003, Nadler worked as a consultant to several companies, performing environmental audits to assess sustainable practices, identifying contaminated soils and groundwater, and ensuring that cleanup projects met New York state requirements.

But perhaps one of his most humbling experiences was being asked by Professor Stanley Greenwald, chair of NYIT's Department of Environmental Technology, to return to his alma mater as an adjunct professor.

"When I was a student at NYIT, I was also working as a consultant," says Nadler. "And I was able to apply class assignments into my real-world work. I apply that same technique with my students today."

The growing demand for skilled professionals trained in green technology is evident by his burgeoning class sizes.

"Students today are very interested in learning about green," says Nadler. "It's their future."

When a home is demolished, Jacob Yahiyayan (M.B.A. '97) doesn't see trash—he sees opportunity.

As acting chief operating officer and advisory board member of Green Demolitions, a recycling company with retail locations in Norwalk, Conn., Fairfield, N.J., and Honesdale, Pa., he oversees an operation that takes luxury kitchens, appliances, bathrooms, and other home furnishings about to be destroyed and resells them at 50 to 75 percent off the market price. The result is a "win/win/win" scenario, as Yahiyayan describes it. Donators get a tax write-off, environmental waste is reduced, and a generous portion of the money raised goes to support Recovery Unlimited's All Addicts Anonymous, a nationwide organization that helps treat alcohol, drug, and other severe addictions.

"We get the best of the best brands," says Yahiyayan, who also earned graduate degrees from INSEAD and the City University of New York. A recent project involved a Clive Christian kitchen priced at approximately \$300,000, which Green Demolitions turned around in days and sold for a \$50,000 profit.

"We're expanding the concept of green

to recycle and avoid another layer of landfill," says Yahiyayan.

He describes his work as a labor of love and hopes it will also help educate the public about the significance of caring for the planet. Within the industry, Green Demolitions is already winning support from design, construction, appliance, and fixture firms.

"Thinking green is not a luxury anymore," says Yahiyayan, who was inducted into the Delta Mu Delta international honor society for business in May 2011. "Around the world, you're seeing the side effects of pollution and waste."

The challenge, he adds, is to compartmentalize the process as well as create incentives to motivate global corporations to recognize the power of recycling, solar and wind energy, and

to create partnerships with local organizations to help recycle and resell luxury home goods.

Previously, Yahiyayan worked for Standard Chartered PLC as head of its corporate banking subsidiary, a leading FTSE 100 financial group. There he managed firms such as IBM, Owens Corning, Honeywell, Johnson Controls, and Tyco International. Before joining Standard Chartered, he worked for the New York branch of Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad. It was during his time with the Southeast Asia-based firm that Yahiyayan decided to enroll at NYIT for his M.B.A.

"I needed a master's education where I could work and learn at the same time," says Yahiyayan. "NYIT offered the flexibility I needed."



CHRISTOPHER APFOLDT

Jacob Yahiyayan (M.B.A. '97) helps run Green Demolitions, a recycling firm that takes luxury kitchens, appliances, bathrooms, and other home furnishings about to be destroyed and resells them at 50 to 75 percent off the market price. Sales help support Recovery Unlimited's All Addicts Anonymous, a nationwide group.

environmentally safe waste removal. "It may take another generation but the 20-somethings today get it," says Yahiyayan. "It's about getting them to that level of business."

Yahiyayan also serves as the sole managing member of New York City-based Continental Advisory Services, a privately held investment and advisory firm that specializes in real estate, design, and engineering services. Continental works closely with Green Demolitions

Joe Reid (B.S. '86) knows a thing or two about keeping cool.

Specifically, he's talking about data centers, one of the largest consumers of electricity for companies around the world. Financial transactions, health care e-records, even Netflix—all of these services are driven by data centers to provide 24/7 service to mobile devices, home computers, and business systems.

"The energy consumption for these services is tremendous," says Reid.

“Energy prices, oil prices, the nuclear disaster in Japan ... all of these contribute to the cost of energy, thus increasing the demand for energy management professionals.”

— Rahul Walawalkar (M.S. '03)



process to save energy costs. “In a traditional data center, you have different levels of heat around the cabinets,” says Reid. “And when you’re trying to regulate the temperature, you always have to manage to your worst case. When this happens, you’re wasting efficiency because other servers are being cooled too much.”

With AFCO’s patented Sigma-T technology, cold air is circulated directly into the servers while a controller unit senses the environment surrounding individual data center cabinets. If the controller detects increased heat, fans automatically switch on to return it to an optimal temperature. In effect, the system controls temperatures from cabinet to cabinet while saving energy without using a wasteful, blanket cooling approach.

Reid’s engineering career began when he was still an NYIT student. Through a university co-op program, he landed a job at Syosset, N.Y.-based Harris Corp., where he worked as an electrical design engineer creating circuit boards for military vessels.

“It turned out to be a great experience,” says Reid. “I got to learn a tremendous amount and stayed full-time on the job while I earned my degree.”

Today, he reflects on a world that is rapidly reshaping itself to meet the growing demand for technology. As data centers continue to play a role in how businesses, governments, and consumers conduct themselves in the 21st century, the need for proper energy management is a paramount concern.

“The IT industry is putting a lot more focus on green solutions, designing right down to the chip level,” says Reid. As hardware shrinks, the need for proper cooling becomes more vital. “You’re going to need a lot less physical space to manage the same type of processing power. And when you cram that much into a small space, it generates a lot of heat. Someone has to help run it in a safe environment.”

When Rahul Walawalkar (M.S. '03) handled in-house energy management initiatives for India’s Tata Infotech during the late 1990s, he improved his skills mostly through reading books and technical journals.

Then he decided it was time for a change.

“I wanted to get formal training to broaden my perspective,” says Walawalkar. “But my key focus was finding a program dedicated to energy management.

He found that at NYIT, where he



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Joe Reid (B.S. '86) is vice president for customer service and support for Farmingdale, N.Y.-based AFCO Systems, where he puts his NYIT education to work by helping create data center solutions for global clients.

“Essentially, there are hundreds and hundreds of servers in a room sucking up energy. The challenge is keeping those servers cool.” He cites a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency survey that revealed data centers consume 2 to 3 percent of national energy usage. “That’s a huge amount of energy. And it’s on track to double.”

At AFCO Systems, a Farmingdale, N.Y.-based manufacturing and services company that provides data center solutions for high-end and high-tech systems, Reid serves as vice president for

customer service and support. His clients include JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, and several other global firms that rely on his expertise to keep their electronic services in working order. AFCO’s entire engineering department reports to Reid, who oversees the data center design, installation, and modifications in the field as well as providing technical data to support the company’s sales and marketing efforts.

AFCO’s cooling design differs from other data center ventilation systems that cool from vents in the floor by allowing systems managers to fine-tune the

MIKE OKONEWSKI/GETTY IMAGES



Rahul Walawalkar (M.S. '03) enrolled at NYIT to broaden his knowledge of energy management, including how to apply his skills in the global marketplace. He serves as vice president for emerging technologies and markets for Philadelphia-based Customized Energy Solutions, where he helps technology companies manage energy costs.

enrolled in the energy management program and took classes through the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences as well as the School of Management. “Apart from the core classes on energy management, I liked taking classes in marketing and economics,” says Walawalkar. “That helped me quite a lot, and not just from broadening my business senses. It helped me later in my career when I was expected to handle issues dealing with engineering as well as economics and public policy.”

Today, Walawalkar serves as vice president for emerging technologies and markets for Philadelphia-based Customized Energy Solutions (CES), which works with companies to manage energy costs through the wholesale and retail electricity markets. “My group specializes in new technology companies, helping them to understand their value proposition, optimize product configurations, and serve

their markets in a more economical way.”

Focusing on the commercial side of energy management is where his NYIT education is paying dividends, as is the global perspective his professors brought to the classroom.

“Energy prices, oil prices, the nuclear disaster in Japan ... all of these contribute to the cost of energy, thus increasing the demand for energy management professionals around the world,” says Walawalkar.

Now is the time, he adds, for students who want to focus on energy to get into the industry. “There are always different challenges and new developments,” says Walawalkar. “On the supply side, alternative energy resources such as wind and solar power are being integrated into grids to generate electricity. There are lots of exciting opportunities launched every day.”

Walawalkar has taken such growth potential and turned it into a successful

career. In addition to his work with CES, he currently serves on the board of directors for the Electricity Storage Association. He has also authored more than 50 technical papers on demand response and energy storage for various government agencies, received the Demonstration of Energy Efficiency Developments scholarship from the American Public Power Association in 2002, 2003, and 2005, and is recognized as a “Legend in Energy” by the Association of Energy Engineers. In 2007, he won the “Write Around the World” competition from the Institution of Engineering & Technology for his paper, “Deep Impact: Are We Prepared to Handle an Asteroid Collision?” and delivered his research to colleagues around the world.

With Walawalkar on board, CES has seen its own share of growth as well. Established in 1998, the company hired him as its fifth full-time employee in 2004. Today, it has 70 workers in its U.S. and India offices. In 2007, *Inc.* magazine listed CES as the 16th fastest-growing company in the energy industry.

To which Walawalkar simply says, “Things are going quite well.” ■

| 1960s |

Richard Garret (A.A.S. '64) is the executive vice president overseeing sales and marketing in North and Central America for Stoll America, a manufacturer of industrial knitting machinery in New York City.

Michael Rikon (B.S. '66) is a partner at Goldstein, Rikon & Rikon, P.C., a law firm specializing in eminent domain and condemnation law in New York City. Michael and his daughter, Carrie, co-authored the Guest Column in the 50th anniversary issue (fall 2005) of *NYIT Magazine*.

Musician **Raymond Weber (B.S. '67)** is treasurer of the Connecticut-based American Chamber Orchestra, for which he is a principal timpanist/percussionist and one of the orchestra's founding members. He also plays with the Troupers Light Opera Company and the Connecticut Symphonic Band, and has made two ensemble appearances at the world famous Carnegie Hall in New York City.

James Stefanich (B.S. '68) is receiver of taxes for the Town of Oyster Bay, N.Y., a position he has held since 2000. He is also a board member of the Theodore Roosevelt Council. James lives in Syosset, N.Y., with his wife, Kathleen. They have three sons and six grandchildren.

Lucille A. Daileader (B.F.A. '68) is a facilities/property manager specializing in interior and stage design.

Michael Bertin (B.S. '69) believes that a building's design should blend seamlessly with its natural environment. He serves as principal of Architectural Harmonics in Boulder, Colo.

Snow + slopes = fun for **Ken Black (B.S. '69)**, who is a math teacher at the Mount Snow Academy, a full-time winter program for ski and snowboard athletes in grades six through 12 in Mount Snow, Vt.

James F. Dickinson (B.S. '69), architect and principal at JFD Architecture in Baltimore, Md., was listed in *Stanford Who's Who* as a leading professional in his field.

Stephan Lang (B.S. '69) is senior vice president for Chartis, an insurance company in New York City.

Sam Pakrad (B.S. '69) is the owner

CLASSES OF 1960s REUNITE



NYIT alumni and friends (from left) Susan Malinick-Osser (B.S. '68), Steve Osser (B.S. '68), Joan Blumstein, Judy Klein, Joel Klein (B.F.A. '66), Paul Blumstein (B.S. '68), and Mark Baran (B.F.A. '68)

got together on June 15 in Washington, D.C., to reminisce about their days as members of "Tech House," a student social club founded by Joel in 1964.

"We rented a restaurant in an old hotel on 72nd Street in New York City and set up a clubhouse with a pool table and vending machines," recalls Joel, recalling Tech Houses's former home. "All members had keys, and you could hang out all the time."

Today, Joel and his wife, Judy, live in Denver, Colo., but travel frequently to Washington, D.C., where he produces webinars for the Internal Revenue Service. Joel reunites the Tech House crew under a new home with each trip. "When I come to town," he says, "we always get together."

of SMP Enterprises, a consulting company offering professional training and development in Brewster, N.Y.

| 1970s |

John Antioco (B.S. '70), CEO of Blockbuster from 1997 to 2007, now invests in retail concepts such as the frozen yogurt brand Red Mango and Friendly's restaurant franchises.

Benjamin P. Butera (B.S. '70) is president of Ormond Beach, Fla.-based Benjamin P. Butera Architecture, a firm specializing in residential and commercial designs, as well as interiors, multi-family homes, hotels, and resorts.

Joseph Greco (B.S. '70) is owner of DJG Direct Marketing LLC and CEO of Jakett New York, an apparel company in New York City.

Andrew Burns (B.S. '72) is president, founder, and principal advisor of the Burns Companies, a firm that provides real estate development services for single- and multi-family residential, retail, commercial, and industrial clients in Medford, Mass.

Vince Sabia (B.S. '72) is vice president of business development in the Kansas City office of Kay Prince & Company, a firm that specializes in life, career, and retirement strategy.

Emmanuel Nomikos (B.S. '73), an electrical engineer for CBS Television, provided technical support for the global broadcast of Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding this past April. He has lived in Tenafly, N.J., for more than 20 years.

In what can be described as an out of this world career, **Helen A. Ryaciotaki-Boussalis (B.S. '74)**, Ph.D., is director of the Space Center at California State University, Los Angeles. She is also featured in *Cambridge Who's Who*.

Ismail El Shanawany (B.S. '74) published a new book, *My American and German Years*, which chronicles his experiences as a young Egyptian studying and working in the United States during the 1970s and later adjusting to life in Germany during the 1990s.

Mark Biggs (A.A. '76) is head of sound for Al Jazeera Network in Qatar.

Richard Dormer (B.S. '76, M.B.A. '81) is Suffolk County, N.Y., police commissioner, a post he has held since 2004.

Gadi Naaman (B.S. '76) is president of Sir Speedy, a printing and marketing services company in Newtown, Pa.

Keith Bettinger (B.S. '78, M.P.S. '88) is a secretary at the Public Safety Writers Association in Las Vegas, as well as an author of mystery novels.

Lori Devlin (B.F.A. '78) is a 26-year resident of Patchogue, N.Y., where she has served as village trustee since 2006.

Robert W. Russell (B.Arch. '78) is a preservation architect and principal at HMR Architects in Princeton, N.J. During the past 30 years, he has completed projects for clients such as Craftsman Farms.

Louis F. Cruz (B.F.A. '79) is chief creative strategist at Cruz + Cruz Creative Consultants in Coral Gables, Fla., where he develops, designs, and implements creative solutions for clients such as American Express, Hearst, and the *New York Times* Company.

Like many other NYIT graduates, **Edward Hanratty III (B.S. '79)** works in the rapidly growing field of green

building and sustainable practices. He serves as vice president in the Orlando, Fla., branch office of Hardin Construction Company.

| 1980s |

Ever seen Disney's *The Lion King*, *Aladdin*, or *Pocahontas*? Then you've seen the storyboard designs of **Francis Glebas (B.F.A. '80)** brought to life by animation. He is currently a storyboard artist at Blue Sky Studios, a unit of Fox Filmed Entertainment based in Greenwich, Conn.

Architect **Victor Dadras (B.Arch. '81)** is an urban designer and founding partner of Dadras Architects in New York City.

Monte N. Redman (B.S. '81), president and chief operating officer of Astoria Federal Savings, was honored by the Queens Botanical Garden at its 16th annual Rose Gala for the bank's support of its public programs.

Gregory Calabro (B.F.A. '82) is a partner in the Landlord & Tenant >>

FELLOW ALUMNI,

At NYIT's 50th annual commencement, we celebrated the achievements of 3,500 new graduates who have joined the ranks of our global alumni network, bringing the grand total to 89,000. As the numbers continue to swell with each new graduating class, there is no better time to stay connected with the NYIT Alumni Federation. Our mission is to serve as the conduit that provides you with opportunities to grow as a professional, learn new skills, reconnect with old friends and forge new relationships, mentor an NYIT student, and serve as an NYIT ambassador.

Why is staying connected important? In today's global marketplace, relationships, networking, and having access to the right people can elevate careers and companies to the next level and beyond. Opportunities for new career paths, creating connections with business and technology leaders, and finding the right candidates to hire are just some of the benefits of being an active member of the NYIT Alumni Federation.

In July, we launched the first of our new alumni workshop classes, "Facebook for Business," at NYIT-Manhattan to give you the chance to reconnect with graduates while learning to promote yourself and your business through social media. Future classes will provide more opportunities to meet fellow alumni as well as learn about the tools and trends that impact today's technology-fueled marketplace. To learn more, please visit nyit.edu/alumni.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these events and welcome any feedback you have at rsepe@nyit.edu. Let's talk soon!

Ralph Sepe (B.S. '97)
President, NYIT Alumni Federation

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

RICHARD DALY (B.S. '74)

CURRENT POSITION NYIT trustee and CEO of Lake Success, N.Y.-based Broadridge Financial Solutions, a technology services company focused on global capital markets that processes more than \$4 trillion daily. In 2010, the New York State Society for Human Resource management ranked Broadridge Financial as the No. 1 "Best Large Company to Work For in New York."

SCIENTIFIC METHOD "I was originally a computer engineering major but there were so few jobs in the early '70s. Many people around me were saying, 'How many computers is the world really going to need?' So I decided to focus on accounting, which is the science of business."

PRACTICAL MATTERS "NYIT for me was an opportunity to get more out of life than good grades. I liked the interaction with professors who not only taught but also did it for a living. There are times when I tell high-priced lawyers 'No' because of something said with common sense by Professor Adele Deerson in class."

QUICK STUDY After graduating from NYIT, Richard worked for high-profile firms such as Arthur Andersen and Touche Ross. "Between my street-smart upbringing and the pragmatic education I received from NYIT, I was a very effective auditor in that I could understand the numbers and the business quickly. I found fraud twice but the thing I enjoyed the most was the interaction with management on the opportunities to help their business perform better." Richard sold the business he founded to ADP and went on to serve as group president of ADP's Brokerage Services Group. Later, he spun off Broadridge from the company in 2007 to serve as its CEO.

VALUED ADVICE "The most important part of being successful is a foundation of strong values and beliefs. Broadridge is constantly ranked at the top in all the services it provides. We value doing the right thing, not worrying about the short-term, and exceeding customer expectations."

FAVORITE MOVIE *Rudy*. "I have a quote near my desk from Henry Ford: 'Whether you think you can, or you think you can't—you're right!' That's what that movie was all about."

LAST BOOK READ *All the Devils Are Here: The Hidden History of the Financial Crisis* by Joe Nocera

DALY DRIVE Richard is an avid sports car enthusiast. Among his collection are a 1966 Corvette Stingray and a 1988 Porsche 930 Slantnose Turbo.



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

➤ Practice Group of Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, a law firm in New York City.

Peter Ruggiero (B.Arch. '82), A.I.A., is senior vice president and design principal in the Houston, Texas, office of HOK, an international architecture and engineering firm with 25 regional offices in North America, Europe, and Asia. Peter was profiled in the Winter 2010 edition of *NYIT Magazine*.

Robert P. Casola (D.O. '82) has joined Orthopedic Specialists of Southwest Florida, a group medical practice with several fellowship-trained surgeons. A specialist in limb salvage and the treatment of difficult wounds, Robert has practiced in Lee County, Fla., for more than a decade, and is certified by the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics and the American Board of Hyperbaric Medicine.

Mark Grossman (M.A. '83) is the Long Island regional representative for the New York State Department of Labor and also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Suffolk Community College in New York.

In January 2010, **Angelo Scialfa (B.F.A. '83)** founded Fox Run Group, which offers sales training for individuals and companies as well as sponsorship management and sales representation.

William J. Ennis (D.O. '85) will be honored with the 2011 Georgetown Distinguished Achievement Award in Diabetic Limb Salvage (DLS) during the DLS Conference at Georgetown University Hospital, Sept. 22-24, in Washington, D.C.

Alan Cohen (M.B.A. '86) is senior vice president of investments at UBS Financial Services in New York City.

Anthony Espinosa (B.S. '87) is an Archdiocesan priest at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Omaha, Neb.

Louis Molinari (B.S. '87) is electronics sector manager for the Sustainability Consortium, a network of global companies and individuals who research ways to improve consumer product sustainability.

Gregory Bonsignore (B.Arch. '87) is director of occupancy planning in the strategic consulting group of Jones Lang LaSalle, professional services firm focused on global real estate. ➤

AN EDUCATION FIT FOR A QUEEN

By **Rose Spaziani**

As mother, wife, and United Nations goodwill ambassador, Sylvia Nagginda Luswata (M.A. '89) is skilled in many roles. Yet she is best known as Nnabagereka—or queen of Buganda, the largest tribal kingdom in the African country of Uganda. When the American-educated Luswata married King Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II in 1999, she became the first queen of Buganda in nearly 30 years, a milestone she saw as an opportunity to embrace goals she set during her days as an NYIT student.

"While studying in the United States, I always kept at the forefront my return to Uganda to help people," says Luswata, who studied communication arts at the Manhattan campus.

Twenty-five percent of Uganda's mostly rural population lives in Buganda. The country itself has faced tremendous hardship over the years, mostly in the forms of a growing HIV/AIDS epidemic and rebel militants who have, according to the U.S. State Department, terrorized and murdered tens of thousands of Ugandans from 1986 to 2006.

Luswata is attuned to her country's challenges. Her first act as queen was to set up the Office of the Nnabagereka and establish the Nnabagereka Development Foundation (NDF) to promote socioeconomic development through education and health initiatives, environmental conservation, community empowerment, and good cultural values and practices. NDF now has a U.S. branch in Washington, D.C.

"In doing my work, I travel to different parts of Uganda," she says. "I address people in workshops, seminars, public rallies, and various events both large and small. I reach thousands of people each year directly and many more through the media."

She developed her media skills by producing ads and public service announcements in class at NYIT, and by working as a teaching assistant with Felisa Kaplan, Ph.D., professor of communication arts.

"I remember Sylvia first of all as a very composed, beautiful young lady," Kaplan says. "She was regal even then and I am not surprised that she is a queen now. She is highly intelligent, and we worked together more as a team than as a professor and assistant."

While at NYIT, Luswata researched and presented a paper on using communication for development in Uganda, exploring how governments build support for policies and programs.

"Without knowing it, I was preparing for this role," she says. "Just about every course I took has helped me in my work as queen of Buganda."



As queen of the Bugandan kingdom in Uganda, Sylvia Nagginda Luswata (M.A. '89) works to improve the lives of her people.

She also puts these global communications skills to use as a goodwill ambassador to the United Nations Population Fund, supporting the education of girls, HIV/AIDS prevention, maternal health, and gender equality.

"My interest in increasing women's access to health care stems from my personal observations while visiting hospitals and clinics around the country, from talking to people about the kind of treatment they get, and from the apparent lack of affordable quality medical care throughout the country," she says.

Born in England and raised in Uganda by her paternal grandparents, she lived a comfortable life compared to those afflicted by poverty in her community. "My grandparents helped [less-privileged] people in many ways, including educating children, so I grew up seeing a lot of giving and caring," she says.

She came to the United States to attend college and stayed for 18 years before returning to Uganda. In addition to NYIT, she earned degrees from City University of New York and New York University, and later worked in public relations, business development, and economic research.

The next step for Luswata is launching a chapter of the NDF in England, where she traveled to fundraise in July. She continues to improve the lives of others, especially those seeking to balance traditional beliefs with the global demands of the 21st century.

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

STEVE JOHNSON (M.S. '96)

CURRENT POSITION Group Director for Labor Relations at Coca-Cola Refreshments

LABOR OF LOVE Steve led labor and employee relations efforts during the integration of Coca-Cola Enterprises' North American operations into the Coca-Cola Company, as well as the creation of its anchor bottler, Coca-Cola Refreshments—an accomplishment he lists among his proudest.

SOCIAL REVOLUTION "The breadth of information available and the speed at which it travels creates a workplace where employees join collectively and are empowered in ways not seen before regardless of whether or not they are members of a collective bargaining unit. In such an environment, labor relations professionals need to expand their focus and recognize how even minor local labor and employee relations issues can result in significant—and potentially brand damaging—attention through the Internet and communications channels."

A THIRST FOR REAL-WORLD KNOWLEDGE "I chose NYIT to further my career because of the balanced and practical approach of its graduate human resources and labor relations program. My favorite memory is Professor Leon Applewhaite, who always brought to his classes a unique and interesting perspective."

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT ... "The biggest misconception people have about working for Coca-Cola is that if I'm running low on soda at my house, I can simply go down to our warehouse and grab a case."

FAVORITE MOVIE *The Shawshank Redemption*

FAVORITE FOOD Osso bucco and Vietnamese pho noodle soup



JEFF WEINER

➤ He brings 25 years of experience in the engineering and architecture fields to this role, which entails supporting the firm's corporate solutions business by driving innovation and product enhancement within the occupancy planning practice.

Patricia A. Sahn (M.B.A. '88) is managing director of New York City-based Auriemma Consulting Group, a company that provides solutions for the lending and payment markets.

Michael Stone (B.Arch. '88) is principal at JBS Consultant Group LLC, a real estate development consulting firm in New York City.

The story of **Sheila Dharsi (B.S. '89)** and her family was featured in the *Long Island Herald* on July 26. Dharsi lives in Elmont, N.Y., with her husband, Sheni, and three children: Sarah, Shane, and Sahil.

Lovy Khosla (B.S. '89) is founder and managing director of Elvy, a lifestyle mail-order catalog company based in India. He is also a partner in Stalwart Creations, Elvy's parent company, as well as founder and managing director of Stalwart Lifestyle.

Robert McDowell (B.S. '89) is senior vice president of global distribution for Choice Hotels International Inc.

Steven Salvatore (D.O. '89), host of *Dr. Steve*, a Tribune Broadcasting program about health, wellness, and lifestyle for families, will launch his 30-minute, multi-topic show nationwide this fall. It will air in 17 U.S. markets.

| 1990s |

Jeffrey Barry (B.P.S. '90) is director of sales at the Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation, a 251-room luxury

resort on Georgia's Lake Oconee.

Marc Tack (D.O. '90) is director of the department of infectious diseases at HealthAlliance, an integrated health care system for the Kingston and Benedictine Hospitals in Hudson Valley, N.Y., and is president of the board of health in Ulster County, N.Y.

Lt. Col. Marc Del Rosario (B.T. '91) graduated from the National War College in Washington, D.C., with a Master of Science in National Security Strategy.

Edward S. Kole (D.O. '91), a doctor specializing in plastic and reconstructive surgery, opened Kole Plastic Surgery Center, an ambulatory surgery center in Southampton, Penn., which services Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

Neil Albert (M.B.A. '92) serves as city administrator for the District of Columbia, Md.



Dylan Sheridan (B.F.A. '92) plans to run in the ING New York City marathon in November 2011 for the charity Standing Tall, which supports children with disabilities through a program that combines daily physical training and traditional academic studies.

May-Ling Chun (B.P.S. '93) is the interim director of tourism for the Caribbean island of St. Martin.

Steven S. Rubin (B.S. '94) is a patent attorney at Dilworth & Barrese LLP in Woodbury, N.Y.

Kate Benson (M.S. '95) is a founding member of New York City-based Martens & Heads, an executive search firm specializing in the fashion, retail, e-commerce, and beauty industries.

Chris Bruno (B.S. '95), a facility complex engineer in Brookhaven National Laboratory's Facilities & Operations Directorate in Upton, N.Y., won the Society of Professional Engineers' Government Award on June 28, in recognition of his professional

contributions to public health, safety, and welfare.

Dawn M. Graf (B.S. '95) is the owner of DMG Freelance, a company that provides consulting and legal services, as well as assistance with business reorganization and negotiation with government agencies.

Benjamin Knack (A.O.S. '95) is executive chef at the Bedford Village Inn in Bedford, N.H.

Azieb G. Lofton (D.O. '96) is a physician at the Kennedy Health Alliance, a network of primary and specialty-care physicians and medical support professionals in Swedesboro, N.J.

Diane Lang (M.P.S. '97) is a therapist at the Universal Institute in Livingston, N.J., where she counsels patients with traumatic brain injuries and substance abuse. She also teaches psychology at Montclair State University and Centenary College in New Jersey.

Zhou Mi (M.A. '97) is a freelance photographer in San Francisco, Calif. Check out his photos at zhoumi.net

Michele C. Reed (D.O. '97), a primary care physician at MS Family Medicine Health Care in Garden City and Rosedale, N.Y., started the nonprofit, First Things First Foundation for Health and Wellness, which provides health education and disease prevention initiatives.

Leonid E. Tafler (D.O. '97) is a family doctor in Brooklyn, N.Y.

P.A. Tomberlin-Hightower (M.P.S. '97) published her first book of poems, *Sonnets for the Soul*. She is married with two children and two grandchildren.

John Zambito (D.O. '97), emergency room medical director at Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center in Yakima, Wash., was named Physician of the Year by the Yakima County Department of Emergency Medical Services.

William Heidenreich (M.S. '98) is the new superintendent of Valley Stream (N.Y.) Central High School. He lives in Merrick, N.Y., with his wife, Suzanne, and two daughters. An avid runner, he has competed in 11 marathons. >>



| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

TARA KHAN (D.O. '04)

CURRENT POSITION Emergency physician and associate professor at New York Methodist Hospital as well as CEO of DocMatcher.com.

TURNING POINT "My father had a heart attack and was resuscitated at home. This experience piqued my initial interest in emergency services."

PLAYING MATCHMAKER "DocMatcher.com's concept is similar to a dating website but the algorithms help you find the perfect physician match. The site also helps physicians improve patient care and take control of their online reputations."

HIGH-TECH ADVANTAGE "It is important to use technology to improve and build upon the doctor-patient relationship, not to replace it. A web interface such as DocMatcher.com helps patients and doctors interact and share information."

BEST NYIT MEMORY NYCOM's White Coat Ceremony. "You felt like you were being inducted into a special society with the potential to save the world."

LAST READ *The Memoirs of Cleopatra* by Margaret George

WANDERLUST "I love international travel and make at least 12 trips per year, including medical aid missions in South America. One of the great benefits of my specialty is that it stimulates my appetite for adventure and offers the chance to explore new places."

MOTION Rapture

By **Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)**

Around 1982, at a corner coffee shop on Linden Boulevard in Elmont, N.Y., Chuck Mongelli (B.F.A. '94) poured countless quarters into a game called *Tutankham*, immersing himself in a pixelated world of adventure, daring escapes, and lost treasures. Thirty years later, he now brings to life some of the most popular video game franchises as head of motion capture production and operations for Rockstar Games, makers of the popular *Grand Theft Auto* and *Red Dead Redemption* titles.

Based in the company's New York City studio, Mongelli runs the motion capture facility and is involved in the creation of each production. His latest achievement is lending a hand to create the stunningly lifelike 3-D performances and animation based off real-life actors in Rockstar's acclaimed *L.A. Noire*.

Released in May 2011 for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, the title has earned numerous accolades for its aesthetic use of '40s and '50s film noir direction, storyline, and gameplay in which players follow clues and solve a series of crimes as a police detective in

they are telling the truth.

For Mongelli, it is a proud accomplishment, though hardly a solitary achievement. Since graduating from

founded Perspective Studios, a 3-D animation production studio in New York, with fellow NYIT alumni Joe Nolan (B.A. '06) and Keith Robinson



Chuck Mongelli (B.F.A. '94), head of motion capture production and operations for Rockstar Games, sits in the company's Manhattan studio.

NYIT, his skills and creative talents have been called upon to produce computer animation for Nike, HSBC, Adidas, Colgate, Mattel, Nickelodeon, Warner Bros, and even Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You* (in which his team used motion capture to animate ashes in a funeral home and morph them into a dancing character).

Positions at Acclaim Entertainment in Glen Cove, N.Y., helped pave the way for his career in video games. He helped produce titles that include *Alien Trilogy*, *Frank Thomas Big Hurt Baseball*, and *Turok*. "I was fortunate to have lived near one of the largest video game developers at the time," says Mongelli. "They were growing by leaps and bounds and had just begun to invest in motion capture. It was the first time the technology was being used in entertainment, and it was a very exciting time."

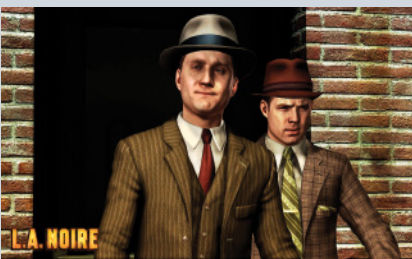
In 2002, after several years as a motion capture expert, Mongelli co-

(B.S. '93). The trio worked with Rockstar Games to help record motion capture for the characters in *Grand Theft Auto IV*, a popular video game released in December 2008.

This process of 3-D motion capture involves using multiple cameras to record a person's movement, which is then fed into a computer that can make use of the lifelike motions in video games, movies, and other computer animation. The individual being recorded usually wears a special body suit with reflective markers to help the computer properly capture the movement. For several years, NYIT has had a motion capture studio at its Old Westbury campus for its fine arts program. The technology is also used at its Parkinson's disease research center to help identify mobility and stability problems in patients.

Mongelli's own fascination with 3-D motion capture and computer ani- ➤

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROCKSTAR GAMES



Rockstar Games' latest hit video game, *L.A. Noire*, makes use of the latest achievements in 3-D technology to recreate lifelike

post-World War II Los Angeles. One of the game's innovative features is its use of Motion-Scan, an advanced motion capture technology that records an actor's facial expressions using 32 different cameras. The 3-D tool is used when players question suspects and can watch their faces to determine if

>> mation is rooted in his appreciation for sculpting, which began at a young age.

"I always loved building things with my hands," he says. "Sculptures were as close to 3-D modeling as I could get before learning computer animation. I remember the thrill when I first used 3-D animation software at NYIT. It was on an Amiga computer using a program called Imagine 2.0. It was like stepping into *The Matrix!*"

As a student at NYIT-Old Westbury, Mongelli knew computer animation in the early '90s was a world packed with opportunity. "Thinking about a direction for my career was never intimidating, as I felt the options were endless," he says. "I just wanted to see where it would take me and felt confident I would end up doing what I enjoyed."

In that regard, Mongelli has achieved every professional's dream—to work in a field you love. As for the future, he takes further delight in knowing the boundaries of computer graphics and 3-D technology are virtually limitless. And in the world of video games, the ability to draw in players and immerse them into alternate realities is invaluable. Furthermore, as games become more integrated into academic, social networking, and business environments, developers will be catering to people who may have never played a video game. The result may be new types of games that meet specific needs in the recreational, educational, or professional arenas.

"Game designers need to get creative in ways never before imagined," says Mongelli. "As the quality and content evolve, so do the gamers. This new breed of players will influence the future as games are incorporated into many aspects of our lives."

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

FRED HARRIS (B.S. '08, M.B.A. '10)



JOSH GERITSEN

CURRENT POSITION Senior manager at professional services firm Deloitte in Long Island, N.Y., where he leads the audit and enterprise risk services technology support group.

MEASURE OF SUCCESS "I believe that success is most sustainable when achieved without compromising core values or beliefs."

ADVICE FOR IT PROFESSIONALS "The days of IT being simply a service are coming to an end. As part of this evolution, IT must now be aligned with overall business strategy. To that end, I encourage all IT professionals to gain an understanding of business and consider pursuing a business degree."

DAILY HIGHLIGHT "I am a family man at heart, so coming home and sitting down to dinner with my family is absolutely the best part of my day."

BEST NYIT MOMENT "My favorite memory is my graduation day in 2008 and the feeling of accomplishment after such a long journey. Sharing that day with my wife, Diane, daughter Morgan, and my mother—after all of the love and support they provided while I pursued my degree—was very special. Unfortunately, my father had passed away nine months earlier, but I know he was there in spirit."

FOOD CRAVING Square pie and spumoni from L&B's Spumoni Gardens in Brooklyn, N.Y., and burgers from the Shake Shack in New York City.

METS OR YANKEES "I'm a Mets fan and go to as many games as possible. My wife even had Mr. Met come to my 40th birthday party."

COLLECTOR'S ITEM "I've collected comic books for more than 35 years and have almost 40,000 of them."

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

YAZEED KHALIDI (M.B.A. '04)

CURRENT POSITION Executive vice president and chief financial officer at Pharmacy1, a pharmaceutical chain in Jordan.

PHARMA TRENDS "The profile of the pharmaceutical consumer is changing. Consumers are now better informed and expect the industry to provide products delivering better health and greater economic value. The role that pharmaceutical firms play in meeting society's wellness needs cannot be underestimated."

COMPETITIVE EDGE "In Jordan, our pharmaceutical industry relies primarily on manufacturing generic medicine, coupled with a high focus on quality. This strategy presents a huge opportunity to enter new markets and sell high-quality products at a competitive price."

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "Success is a combination of health, happiness, material prosperity, love of family and friends, wisdom, influence, and fulfillment."

FACT VS. FICTION "I constantly hear people saying that Jordan's retail pharmaceutical business enjoys the largest percentage of profits as compared to other industries, while the fact remains that it is highly regulated with a small profit margin. For this reason, industry success pivots on persistence and patience to see results."

FAVORITE FILM *The Godfather*

LAST BOOK READ *Integral Life Practice: A 21st-Century Blueprint for Physical Health, Emotional Balance, Mental Clarity, and Spiritual Awakening* by Ken Wilbur, Terry Patten, Adam Leonard, and Marco Morelli



ROBINA STUDIO

>> | 2000s |

Vanessa E. Junor (D.O. '00), chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Lakeside Memorial Hospital in Brockport, N.Y., was recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for dedication, leadership, and excellence in women's health care.

Terry Lewis (M.S. '00) is a fifth grade teacher at Gotham Avenue School in Elmont, N.Y.

Jim Li (D.O. '00) is program director of the Geriatrics Fellowship at Long Beach (New York) Medical Center.

Michael Papierno (B.P.S. '00) is general manager at the Viana Hotel and Spa, a Long Island "green feng shui" hotel in Westbury, N.Y. Joining him is **Phil Rendel (A.O.S. '06, B.P.S. '08)**, who serves as executive chef.

Carol Greenblatt (D.O. '01) is a pediatrician who practices in Castleton, N.Y., and at CapitalCare Pediatrics in Troy, N.Y.

S. Mustafah Khwaja (D.O. '02) is medical director of emergency medicine at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown, N.Y.

Dee-Dee Shiller (D.O. '02) directs the Women's Wellness Center at Life-Bridge's Northwest Hospital in Randallstown, Md.

Ben Finley (M.A. '03) is a booking producer for *AC360*, a program starring Anderson Cooper on CNN.

Jason Gluck (D.O. '03) is a transplant cardiologist and director of the Emergency Cardiac Care Program at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut.

Brian Sutch (M.A. '04) is senior writer in the office of institutional advancement at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, N.Y.

Hasan Ahmed (M.B.A. '05), a senior utility analyst at the New York State Public Service Commission and adjunct lecturer at LaGuardia Community College, is currently pursuing a doctorate in international business.

Hasan Bazerbashi (B.S. '05) lives in Syria and works as a .NET computer programmer. In his free time, he dabbles in photography.

Marc Joel Guttman (D.O. '05) is a practicing doctor at Naples Urology

Associates in Naples, Fla., with expertise in minimally invasive and laparoscopic treatment of urological pathology and cancer.

Nanette Wessel Kissenberth (D.O. '05) has joined the Mad River Family Practice in Waitsfield, Vt. She specializes in adolescent and bariatric medicine, nutrition, and fitness.

If you're in the Brooklyn, N.Y., area, visit **Joshua Gizersky (D.O. '06)**, who has opened Vitality Logix, a medical practice dedicated to wellness and healthy aging.

Libby Zimmer (M.B.A. '06) is senior vice president and director of development for the Partnership at Drugfree.org, a nonprofit organization based in New York City aiding parents in prevention, intervention, and treatment of drug and alcohol use by their children.

Faisal Masood Asif (M.B.A. '07) is director of enterprise applications at BJ Services, an oil and gas equipment and services company in Houston, Texas.

Allison Bayer (M.B.A. '07), a three-time Olympic speed skater and Bronze

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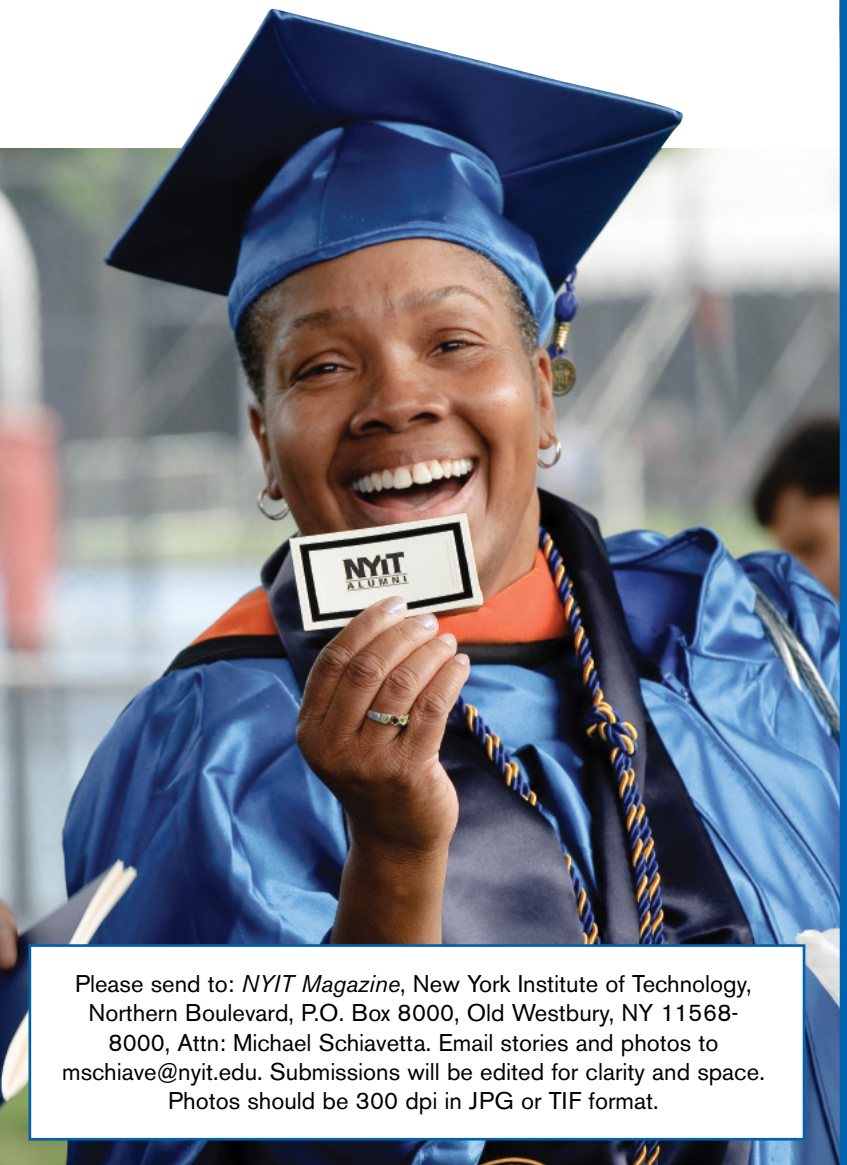
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Job title: _____ Employer: _____

Company address: _____

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Medal winner, gave a motivational talk at Hotchkiss K-8 and High School as well as Delta Middle School in Colorado.

Jason Hammock (M.B.A. '08) is North American sales manager at B&W Tek in Newark, Del., where he directs and drives growth of the company's line of modular fiber, optically coupled spectroscopy systems.

Jennifer Kabak (D.O. '08) was one of the first five residents to graduate from the family medicine program at Kent Hospital in Warwick, R.I. She will practice at the Community Health Center, affiliated with Lutheran Medical Center in New York City.

Navy veteran **Nicholas Palumbo (M.S. '08)** is director of the physical plant at Suffolk County Community College's eastern campus located in Riverhead, N.Y.

Melissa Stark-Baldwin (B.F.A. '08) opened Weddings by the Mis'ess, a wedding design, planning, and coordination business in Clifton Park, N.Y.

Marisol Lynch (M.S. '09) is an employee relations consultant for American Express in New York City.

Frank Papik (B.F.A. '09), board operator at WLIE 540 AM radio station and an emergency room volunteer at >>

| Marriages |

Jeffrey Smith (B.S. '07)
to Nicole Frisina

Helen Kei Fong Chung (D.O. '08)
to Anwar Ahmed Hussain

James Peter Weiss (B.S. '85)
to Robyn Ellen Stecher

**Capt. Alvi Arif Azad (M.B.A. '04,
D.O. '07)** to Sabrina Sharlin

| Passings |

John Kindred Molpus Jr. (M.B.A. '76)

Martin Pollizotto (B.S. '77)

Eli H. Stark
(former assistant dean of NYCOM)

Stanley Schiowitz
(former dean of NYCOM—see page 9)

| Births |

Stephanie (Cole) Sanchez (B.S. '96)
welcomed son Lennon on Nov. 8, 2010.

Please send to: *NYIT Magazine*, New York Institute of Technology,
Northern Boulevard, P.O. Box 8000, Old Westbury, NY 11568-
8000, Attn: Michael Schiavetta. Email stories and photos to
mschiave@nyit.edu. Submissions will be edited for clarity and space.
Photos should be 300 dpi in JPG or TIF format.



Lights, Camera, Alumni!

Writer/director **Rik Cordero (B.F.A. '02)** premiered his third feature film, *Starla*, at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway on June 25. Friends, family, and members of the entertainment industry watched the suspense thriller, which chronicles a young woman's struggle with the loss of her daughter to a botched surgery and her revenge on the surgeon who killed her. Following the premiere, Cordero and other cast and crew held a Q&A session for the audience. Pictured is Cordero (fifth from left) with his family at the premiere.

► Huntington Hospital in Huntington, N.Y., was honored with the 2011 Ann Marie Brown Memorial Scholarship from the Communications Committee of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council.

Robert Alan Scholler (M.B.A. '09) completed his doctorate in health education at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Mo.

Steven Maybloom (B.S. '09, M.S. '11) has relaunched his career after working for several years in the financial services sector. He now works in the energy management industry and recently started a new job as project staff assistant at Farmingdale State College, where he provides technical support for the "Smart Energy Corridor" on Route 110, a joint project promoting energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. "It's really great to be working in an industry I studied and retooled to be in ... and to be involved in the greening that's going on," he said in a *Newsday* article published on July 8.

Sachin Zawar (B.F.A. '09) is a design consultant at BoConcept, an urban design and modern furniture store in Carle Place, N.Y. He enjoys making stone carvings, glass paintings, and experimenting with new design concepts.

Nardeen Billan (B.S. '10), who was named Miss Queens (N.Y.) in a beauty contest in March, competed in the Miss New York beauty pageant in June on Staten Island, N.Y.

Nyasha Harmony Gutsa (M.B.A. '10) is chief financial officer of Pointed Leaf Press, a publishing company in New York City. ■

CONTACT US

Share your news with fellow alumni. Send us information about your work, family, hobbies, accomplishments, and things important to you. E-mail mschiave@nyit.edu or drop us a line at *NYIT Magazine*, P.O. Box 8000, Old Westbury, NY 11568-8000.



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