

21st-Century Medicine with  
Hearts, Hands, and Technology

Travel with the Center  
for Global Health

# On the Hunt

Scientists connect the  
evolutionary dots

arms were also thought to be  
relatively weak vestiges of larger  
primal arms. But contemporary  
evidence suggests that *T. rex*'s arms  
were stronger than human arms —  
stronger than expected from the arm  
of a 40-foot-long, 5-ton carnivore.  
Compared to the arms of similarly  
sized animals, though, the arms of  
*nostrans* were probably weak.

2  
**Tyrannosaurus**  
This skeleton  
specimens and  
difficult to  
skeleton of  
reconstructed



■ **16 ON CALL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine empowers students to use their hearts, hands, and technology to address looming health care challenges.



■ **28 MISSION CRITICAL**

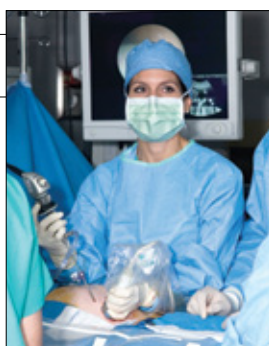
Cultural competency, interdisciplinary learning, and healing underserved populations shape the passions and purpose of the NYIT Center for Global Health.

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Courtney (Cook) Stephenson (D.O. '97) is one of 38 doctors in the United States skilled in fetoscopic laser ablation surgery.



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# More Than Doctors

IT'S APROPOS THAT A LARGE ISSUE OF *NYIT MAGAZINE* COINCIDES WITH A FOCUS ON ONE OF OUR UNIVERSITY'S GRANDEST SUCCESS STORIES: THE STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF NYIT'S COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (NYCOM). FOUNDED IN 1977 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF NYIT PRESIDENT ALEXANDER SCHURE, STANLEY SCHIOWITZ, DAVID G. SALTEN, AND W. KENNETH RILAND (WITH HELP FROM U.S. VICE PRESIDENT AND NEW YORK GOV. NELSON ROCKEFELLER), NYCOM HAS GROWN FROM A COLLEGE WITH AN INAUGURAL CLASS OF 36 TO AN INSTITUTION WITH MORE THAN 1,100 STUDENTS AND 5,948 ALUMNI WHO USE HANDS-ON MEDICINE AND THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY TO TREAT PATIENTS WORLDWIDE.

This edition of *NYIT Magazine* is not just about NYCOM. It's also about our colleagues and community members who work at all of NYIT's schools and colleges—from arts and sciences, education, engineering and computing sciences, architecture and design, management, and health professions—who contribute to our goal of nurturing achievement through interdisciplinary efforts. You'll read about our communication arts students designing a website for a Haitian hospital, physical therapy and engineering students working with doctors to create an advanced walker to help Parkinson's disease patients, our Center for Global Health coordinating with engineers and physicians to create clean, potable sources of water in developing regions of the world, teachers creating a unique educational model to educate families in Africa about malaria, and others.

It is not enough that we have a great medical college (or other schools) at NYIT—we must find ways to create new opportunities for growth and unique learning paradigms through multidisciplinary efforts among doctors and other physicians, engineers and programmers, architects and designers, writers and website creators, and teachers and entrepreneurs. We recognize that collaboration among these fields leads to solutions for today's most pressing challenges.

The fuel that powers these interconnected streams of innovation is technology

blended with human capital. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg once compared educational software with the enterprise and consumer technology markets. Specifically, he cited their collective emphasis on making software rich on features but low on offering solutions customized to individual users. Steve Jobs, too, believed machines do not incite and feed curiosity the way real people can.

Both are correct in that technology alone cannot be the agent of teaching. At NYIT, we have always believed that our campus technology—whether it's online discussion groups, smartphone apps, robotic patients, 3-D motion capture studios, streaming lectures, or distance learning labs—is the thread that reinforces and expands (but does not replace) the instructional channel between professor and student.

Technology also enables multiple disciplines to engage thinkers and creators, and empower them to act and collaborate in ways never before possible—across nations, cultures, villages, and NYIT classrooms. Our students, alumni, professors, and many partners bring their ideas and skills to the forefront, and the best way for our world to evolve is to ensure that these individuals connect with others in ways that foster unique solutions.

The major issues of our century, which include finding sources of clean water, environmental sustainability,

education, health care, and beyond, can only be solved through collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts. Most diseases, treatments, and health care concerns, for example, impact citizens worldwide. And most solutions involve or will involve coordinated efforts by government, universities, and business.

As I've noted, education is the currency that drives our 21st-century global economy. NYIT is proud to be among those minting this worldwide standard. And we are an institution that values medicine as part of our overall vision. Whether it's unearthing fragments of pre-history or using osteopathic techniques



CRAG WALLACE DALE

and the latest medical technology to teach students and serve communities around the world, NYCOM is central to NYIT's interdisciplinary and career-oriented professional mission, which also includes our commitment to applied research that benefits our global society. Enjoy reading our many proof points and take pride in the interconnected university that is NYIT. ■

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

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NYIT named its flagship building at 1855 Broadway in Manhattan the Edward Guiliano Global Center on March 16. Pictured is President Guiliano with Chair of the NYIT Board of Trustees Linda Davila (B.S. '78) and Chief of Staff Peter Kinney.

## The Building of a Legacy

Upon visiting an NYIT campus, one may see buildings adorned with the names of people who have left indelible marks on the university throughout its nearly six decades—pioneers, donors, and educators including David G. Salten, Anna Rubin, Hannah and Charles Serota, Harry J. Schure, Midge Karr, John J. Theobald, Nelson A. Rockefeller, W. Kenneth Riland, and George and Gertrude Wisser.

On March 16, 2012, a crowd of students, alumni, faculty, and staff gathered outside the flagship building of NYIT's Manhattan campus to honor the newest member of this exclusive group of leaders, a man whose name is synonymous with NYIT's worldwide expansion in the 21st century.

Located at 1855 Broadway, the newly christened Edward Guiliano Global Center is home to NYIT's schools of Architecture and Design and Engineering and Computing Sciences, a library and study center, and administrative offices. NYIT purchased the 12-floor building in 1976.

"President Guiliano has been a transformational leader of long standing, whose commitment to NYIT, scholarship, and philanthropy have heightened the university's brand, impact, and outcomes in New York and throughout the world," Linda Davila (B.S. '78), chair of the NYIT Board of Trustees, told the audience gathered at Broadway and West 61st Street.

Guiliano, who holds degrees from Brown University and Stony Brook University, joined NYIT in 1974 as an English professor and was vice president for academic affairs and provost before becoming president. He is a renowned expert on Victorian literature, particularly the works of Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll.

Since 2000, as president of NYIT, Guiliano has overseen the largest renovation and construction of campus facilities in the university's history, and has implemented an ambitious strategic plan to guide the university's growth

for the next two decades. He is credited with transforming NYIT from a regional school into a global institute with campuses in six countries, implementing a range of interdisciplinary programs, augmenting the university's technology, and establishing a worldwide branding and marketing campaign.

Weeks before the ceremony, a virtual wall at [nyit.edu](http://nyit.edu) gave hundreds of faculty, students, alumni, and friends the chance to congratulate President Guiliano.

"I was startled by the remarkable, overwhelmingly generous postings people made online—thank you. This virtual wall had the added reward of connecting me with several of my former students, a reminder of what is right about a career in higher education and why I am here," said President Guiliano at a reception following the March 16 event inside the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway. "In those postings, you all share in the pride and nobility of what we do." ■

## Students Earn Top Marks in Mideast

Students in the School of Management won the 2012 CFA Institute Research Challenge, hosted by CFA Jordan, an organization that promotes ethical and professional standards within the country's investment industry. The competition challenged universities to produce the best comprehensive valuation report on Orange Jordan, a mobile telephone network operator.

The goal of the research challenge was to teach university best practices in equity research, valuation, and ethics.

Organized under the patronage of the Amman Stock Exchange and in collaboration with the CFA Institute, the event also helps industry professionals train students in researching and reporting on public companies.

The winning team included NYIT-Amman M.B.A. students Ali-Al-Hilly, Mohammed Haj Khaili, Ibrahim Zananiri, and Hagop Gharnagharian, who were mentored by Aram Yousef Rabadi, CFA, senior analyst at Al-Arabi Investment Group. ■

## Lights, Camera, China!

Two days of panel discussions, academic paper presentations, film screenings, and remarks by directors and dignitaries, including Shanghai Counsel General Robert Griffiths and Oscar-nominated filmmaker Mike Figgis, marked the fourth NYIT-NUPT Student Film Festival and International Symposium at NYIT-Nanjing.

"The collaborative, cross-cultural, transnational aspects of the film industry cannot be ignored," said President Guiliano at the festival's opening on April 21. His keynote presentation explored the past, present, and future of film while emphasizing NYIT's role as a leader in the evolution of computer animation.

Documentary filmmaker Joanna V. Arong and theater arts professor Marcia Ferguson of the University of Pennsylvania were among other guest speakers. President Guiliano also moderated a panel discussion with academics at the event organized by NYIT's Center for Humanities and Culture at Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT) and the Student Union/Youth League, College of Overseas Education, NUPT. ■

## NYIT-Vancouver Tackles Cyber Security

Raj Goel (B.S. '94) and NYIT cyber security advisor Paul Stirpe, Ph.D., were among the featured speakers at presentations in Vancouver on Feb. 21 that addressed social media and its implications in business and security.

"People typically do not read privacy statements and are often not aware of the degree to which personal information is collected and used," said Stirpe, co-founder of technology solutions provider Letse LLC.

Goel, chief technical officer and co-founder of Brainlink International Inc., a business technology consulting firm, discussed social media and cloud computing privacy concerns, along with a seminar on "How to Increase Your Social Capital." ■

## Students Unveil Designs in Milan

Global innovators, sleek furniture, and an Italian city feted as a European design capital set the scene for NYIT's School of Architecture and Design to display student work on April 17-22 at the Milan Furniture Fair. A team of NYIT interior design and architecture students, alumni, faculty, and staff presented a chaise lounge, desk, and video about the school's programs.



The trade fair is the largest international design show in the world—the main fairground is a 5.7-million-square-foot exhibition space—and draws more than 300,000 people annually. NYIT was one of only two U.S. universities invited to present at the SaloneSatellite exhibition for emerging designers. Participating NYIT students included interior design majors Liz Cuadrado, Ashley Sarazen, and Barbara Schoenberger (B.F.A. '12), who conceived a patented chaise lounge on display at the NYIT booth, and architecture major Alex Alaimo.

"I am thankful for having had many conversations with artisans, architects, designers, and students from schools around the globe," Schoenberger says.

Prior to the event, students painted New York-style graffiti on panels that were cut into 10,000 reflectors, which were given out at the fair. The reflectors drew recipients to NYIT's website and were so popular that they had all been distributed by the exhibition's last day. Students blogged about their experiences, including how fashionistas wore them as buttons after hours. Read more at [nyit.edu/architecture/milan](http://nyit.edu/architecture/milan). ■

# Author Angles

John Hanc, associate professor of communication arts, and John Hill, assistant professor of architecture, sat down with *NYIT Magazine* to discuss their latest works.

Hanc's newest book, *Organize Your Mind, Organize Your Life: Train Your Brain to Get More Done in Less Time* (Harvard Health Publications, co-authored with Paul Hammerness, M.D., and Margaret Moore), looks at how to use the organizational power of the brain to make your life less stressful and improve efficiency.

## Why did you decide to write a book about helping organize our lives?

Hanc: Our society is in the midst of what some experts call a "distraction epidemic." All you have to do is look around the next time you're driving and see how many people are texting or talking on cell phones.

## How difficult was it to distill the neuroscience elements for a broader audience?

Hanc: I talked this through with my co-author. It was me questioning him in an effort to boil down some of these principles into English. For example, we describe a fire engine roaring down the street and how the brain reacts to this. I wanted to really break it down to show how we tune out other stimuli while the fire engine is passing, how we synthesize pieces of information from recent and long-term memory—about firefighting and so forth—and bring this to bear to the moment the engine passes us.

## What were the most fascinating elements of neuroscience you've learned?

Hanc: This idea that we have weak or puny attention capabilities is absurd. The human ability to concentrate is enormous. I also learned that multitasking is a myth. As we write in the book, "Trying to do a multiplicity of tasks well at the same time usually leads to one end—all of those tasks

are done inadequately or incompletely."

Hill's book, *Guide to Contemporary New York City Architecture* (W.W. Norton & Company), draws upon visits to the Big Apple with his wife and recognizes the need for an updated guidebook to New York's fluid and historic cityscape.

## How did you select the more than 200 buildings and spaces featured?

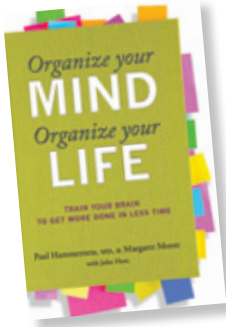
Hill: The main criteria were that the buildings and spaces should be public. This could mean the facade of a building on a street, an interior open to the public, or an outdoor public space. Further criteria included limiting the selection to projects intended for the long term, meaning temporary structures are not included, such as the shops and restaurants that come and go quickly.

## What are your top picks for a weekend in New York City?

Hill: While it's hard to choose favorites, I recommend places where a particular density of buildings occurs. This includes the High Line and adjacent buildings as well as the Bowery. Both are north-south routes with some of the most high-profile architecture in recent years, many by Pritzker Prize-winning architects. There are also pockets in the so-called outer boroughs with a density of quality architecture: Pratt Institute and parts of nearby Fort Greene; the Bronx in and around the New York Botanical Garden and Zoo; and Astoria, Queens.

## How will New York City look 10 years from now?

Hill: As in the past, the skyline will change, reflecting new developments like the World Trade Center site, Hudson Yards, and Atlantic Yards. Perhaps the greatest change will be in the public realm, as improvements like the pedestrianization of Times Square and Herald Square expand into parts of the city where people actually live, rather than where tourists gather. That is my hope, at least. ■



## NYIT Architect Wins AIA Award

Holler Architecture, run by Assistant Professor of Architecture Tobias Holler, is one of seven firms selected by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for its New Practices New York 2012 award recognizing innovative and emerging architecture firms in New York City. An exhibition featuring the winners is on display through Sept. 8 at the Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Place, in Manhattan.

"Most of the exhibited projects were done since I started full time at NYIT, and the synergies between what I teach, what I research, and the projects that my practice undertakes have been very productive," Holler says.

The award noted Holler's Long Island Radically Rezoned (LIRR) project, a sustainable vision of a self-sufficient, waste-free "living island" for 3.1 million residents.

Holler will also travel to Nosara, Costa Rica, with NYIT architecture and engineering students this summer to help build a new recycling and education center, which they designed. Since April, the group has raised more than \$20,000 toward the project on [kickstarter.com](http://kickstarter.com). ■







## New Alumni Director is Ready to Engage

**D**irector of Alumni Relations Jennifer Kelly (M.S. '99) is no stranger to NYIT. After earning her master's degree in human resources and labor management under the mentorship of Professor Richard Dibble (M.B.A. '90), she stayed on to serve as associate director of the NYIT Career Network Center (now the Office of Career Services) until 2006.

This spring, Kelly returned to her alma mater after working for Nassau Community College as career counselor and professor in the Department of Student Personnel Services. Since then, she has met with NYIT Alumni Federation board members to discuss new and exciting ways to engage NYIT's global network of graduates. To date, more than 92,000 alumni have earned degrees from NYIT.

"My NYIT education was a life-changing experience," says Kelly. "I'm looking forward to giving back and creating lifelong professional development opportunities for our alumni."

See page 34 for a special message from NYIT's new alumni director. ■

## New Trustees Join NYIT Board

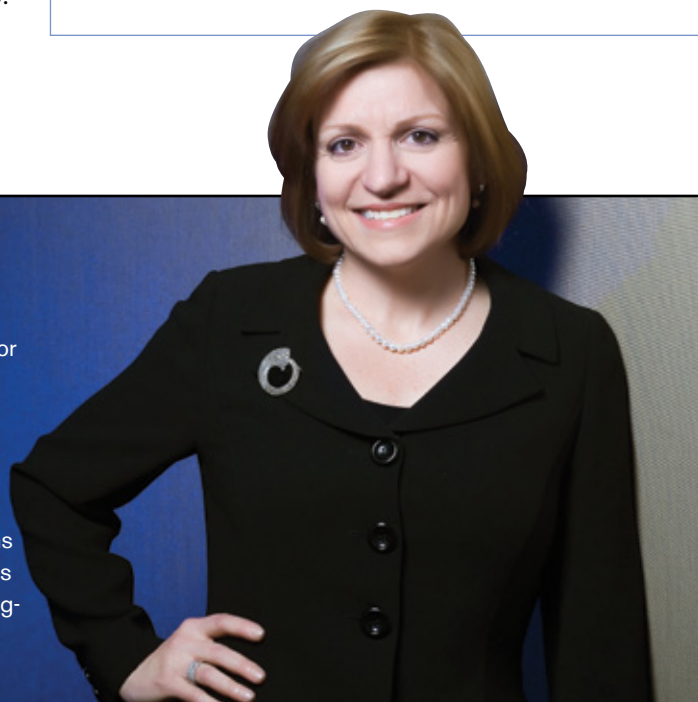
**N**YIT welcomes the newest members of its board of trustees: Lady Barbara Judge, CBE, chairman of the Pension Protection Fund in the United Kingdom and chairman emeritus of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority; and Peter J. Romano (B.S. '76),



founder and CEO of Peter J. Romano & Co., a management consulting and land development firm.

Lady Judge was awarded Commander of the Order British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2010 for services to the nuclear and financial services industries. She also serves as chairman of the University College London Energy Institute and as a business ambassador for the United Kingdom.

Romano specializes in architectural projects in the health care sector. He and his wife, Jane, established an endowed scholarship fund in 2009 to help students in NYIT's School of Architecture and Design. ■



## Dr. Anid Goes to Washington

**N**ada Anid, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, joined President Obama and other senior U.S. officials, engineering academic leaders, and Intel executives at the White House on Feb. 8 to address nationwide engineering student retention and graduation rates. The event was part of a partnership between Intel and the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness to address the nation's shortage of engineers. A member of the Public Policy Committee of the Engineering Deans Council for the American Society for Engineering Education, Anid is collaborating on a nationwide effort to measure, evaluate, and recognize excellence in engineering education. ■



NYIT students traveled to Peru in March to perform various community services and provide health education to local residents.

## Springing Into Action

A combination of altruism and adventure brought a team of 14 NYIT students and one staff member to the second Alternative Spring Break Project on March 17-25. The group traveled to South America to build on the foundation created by last year's team in Independencia, Peru. This year, they conducted educational workshops on safe water storage and sterilization, cleaned up beaches in Los Leones, and worked with the local community to build the concrete foundation of a rural pharmacy. They also provided health education to dislocated

children in the Arco Iris orphanage, where the team wrote and sang Spanish-language songs that explained proper hygiene and handwashing techniques.

"The children at the orphanage were so welcoming, so beautiful," says psychology major Theresa Piccolo. "Now I really know that I want to go abroad to work with children who have disabilities."

The project was part of an NYIT collaboration with the International YMCA and the YMCA of Peru to address health, environmental, and social issues facing the community of Independencia. ■

## Students Lose Hair, Gain \$\$\$ For Cancer Research



NYIT medical students, faculty, and staff from the College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) raised more than \$20,000 in March when they shaved their heads to support St. Baldrick's Foundation, an organization committed to finding cures for pediatric cancer and helping survivors live healthy lives.

The 39-member team donned green capes and lined up outside the Downtown Café in Glen Cove, N.Y., to have their heads shaved. Eight female students had 10 inches of hair cut to make wigs for children with cancer.

Second-year student Gebe George organized the event, and NYCOM's Pediatrics Club served as the main sponsor. In addition, several NYIT student organizations sold T-shirts, held bake sales, and presented a cultural show to help raise money for the charity. ■

## Campus Unites for Worthy Cause

More than 300 participants rallied to raise \$35,000 for Relay for Life, April 20-21, at NYIT-Old Westbury. The event, now in its fourth year and held in conjunction with the American Cancer Society, was organized by Michael Scarpa-Burnett, associate dean of student services; students Paolo Pironi and Mariel Liboreiro; five-year cancer survivor Laurie Hollister, associate director of student development; and Dina Karafantis, assistant professor of psychology.

In addition to the overnight relay at President's Stadium, the event included a survivors dinner, lighting ceremony, laser tag, karaoke, basketball foul-shot contests, and water balloon races. ■



# Actor and Activist Light Up NYIT-Manhattan

To Adrian Grenier, star of HBO's *Entourage*, technology gives everybody the chance to be a star—which has its upside and downside.

“We have to balance technology between our digital lives and our real, human, three-dimensional lives,” he told attendees at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway on April 17.

Grenier also discussed his directorial debut, *Teenage Paparazzo*. The actor-turned-director profiles Austin Visschedyk, a 13-year-old freelance celebrity photographer who earns up to \$2,000 a shot.

On March 21, the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway welcomed women’s rights activist Gloria Steinem, who screened her new HBO documentary, *Gloria: In Her Own Words*, and participated in a discussion with co-anchor of *CBS This Morning*, Gayle King.



Actor-director Adrian Grenier (center) speaks at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway.

The documentary recounts Steinem’s rise from reporter to feminist icon and includes interviews with Barbara Walters, Helen Gurley Brown, Phil Donahue, and Larry King.

The NYIT Auditorium on Broadway also screened a series of dramas, documentaries, comedies, and thrillers as host of the 2012 New York Film Independent Spirit Awards from Jan. 9 to Feb. 10. ■

## HERE COMES THE PRIZE

For the third consecutive year, the NYIT de Seversky Mansion received the Bride’s Choice Award from online portal WeddingWire for being one of the top wedding venues in North America. The honor was determined by reviews from more than 1.2 million newlyweds. Built in 1916, the NYIT de Seversky Mansion hosts weddings, corporate events, conferences, and other activities in Old Westbury, N.Y.

## MANAGEMENT GARNERS SILVER ACHIEVEMENT

NYIT is the only educational institution in New York to receive the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce’s (MCC) silver partnership designation. It is the second consecutive year the chamber awarded the honor to NYIT.

## MODERNISTS TAKE MANHATTAN

Nearly 100 scholars attended NYIT’s interdisciplinary conference, Modernist Manhattan, on March 2. The conference, organized by faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences, featured presentations on the Modernist visual arts, literature, society, and politics of New York.



# Student Shares Story of Tragedy and Triumph at Gold Coast Classic

For medical student Christina Trotta (pictured at podium), losing her father and grandmother to cancer in 2008 and 2011, respectively, taught her the power of helping and healing others.

“At first, I felt helpless and disillusioned,” she told the 200 attendees at the NYIT Gold Coast Classic on May 3. “But I soon discovered the compassion that comes from understanding the mental, emotional, and physical obstacles each patient faces.” Thanks to financial assistance from NYIT, Trotta was able to enroll in the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

NYIT’s 2012 Gold Coast Classic, held at the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park, raised more than \$314,000 to help students like Trotta. The event is held in conjunction with *Quarterly Review of Wines* and honors leaders in the food and wine industry. This year’s honorees included Daniel Bruce, Distinguished Chef at the Boston Harbor Hotel; Chuck Wagner, owner and winemaker at Napa Valley, Calif.-based Caymus Vineyards; and internationally known authors and wine critics Dorothy J. Gaiter and John Brecher. ■

# Students Redesign NYC Neighborhood

Architecture students and graduates created plans for a redesign of Willets Point in Queens, N.Y., as part of a citywide initiative to redevelop the area as an engine for economic growth for New York City.

The group prepared submissions to address Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Willets Point Redevelopment Plan, which calls for mixed-income housing, a public school, retail and entertainment amenities, a hotel and convention center, office space, parks, and playgrounds. The area currently suffers from petroleum contamination and other environmental issues.



NYIT architecture students created plans to redesign Willets Point in Queens, N.Y., as part of a plan by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Eleven graduate students from the School of Architecture and Design visited the site during the fall 2011 semester and submitted nine designs in response to the city's request

for proposals from architects and developers throughout New York.

Frank Mruk, associate dean for business and strategic planning at the School of Architecture and Design, said the NYIT graduate studio investigates sites that are hot points for the evolution of New York City.

"What happens at the Willets Point site has important ramifications for the future of New York City," he adds.

George Zeiss (M.Arch. '11), a graduate of the urban and regional design program, proposed a sustainable community of commercial, residential, business, and convention areas.

"This project gave me the opportunity to work on a very real problem in an urban environment," Zeiss says. "There were so many ideas I had for the project—the hard part was putting them all together in a coherent way."

The city broke ground on the infrastructure phase of the redevelopment of Willets Point in December 2011. Proposal review from architects and developers is now underway. ■



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# Students Start It Up!

The NYIT Business Incubator at the Manhattan campus is heating up with new computers, a conference room, and wall-length whiteboards for students interested in hatching business plans and entrepreneurial ideas. It's all part of a recent initiative to instill a culture of entrepreneurship within the School of Management.

The newest additions include the start of a chapter of the Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization Club, a student-launched publication and broadcasting venture called TheBizDen, and the incubator space on the fourth floor of 26 W. 61st St. at NYIT-Manhattan.

Most recently, the incubator was the meeting place for NYIT interdisciplinary teams that created business plans for two new ventures: an online interactive game for finding and saving endangered species and a water-bottle roofing system. Each team won an award at the New York State Business Plan Competition in April.

"The incubator is getting a lot of traction," says Entrepreneur-in-Residence Roy Arad (B.S. '07). "Students are coming to know it and are very interested."

Joanne Scillitoe, associate professor and director of NYIT's Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, says the

incubator's importance rests more on its ability to nurture ideas of networking and support. The space also offers a sleek, modern environment for students who want to meet potential investors for startup businesses.

"This is providing added value for them," Scillitoe says. "It's a support mechanism for creating their business plans, and helping to find the networks they need to develop their businesses."

Several students who use the center have already launched businesses in the areas of social media, computer customization, and digital technology.

"The mission of the center is all about the learning aspect," says Scillitoe. "It's nurturing, and it gives them the time and space to still be students." ■

*It's a support mechanism for creating their business plans, and helping to find the networks they need to develop their businesses."*

*Joanne Scillitoe, associate professor and director of NYIT's Center for Entrepreneurial Studies*

## NYS Awards Grant for Tech Center

A New York State economic development grant will support the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences' new Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center. It will foster innovation and promote collaborations among industry, the academic community, professional organizations, and government to boost the economy of Long Island and the surrounding area.

To encourage collaboration, NYIT will develop three new laboratories at its Old Westbury campus to explore research and business opportunities in health analytics and bioengineering, information technology and cyber security, and energy and green technologies.

"The center will create a pipeline of students, faculty, and employees from leading organizations working together toward the commercialization of ideas, software, and prototypes spanning many different fields," says Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. ■



### AUGMENTED REALITY CHECK

In collaboration with Texas A&M University, NYIT students and faculty are using Motorola Solutions' Golden-i headset computer to introduce augmented reality technology into the construction field. Sponsored by Motorola Solutions and IPS Technology, their work is helping to improve productivity by infusing augmented reality into the operations of Consolidated Construction Company, an international construction firm based in Europe and the Middle East.

The team is developing an application that will allow users to interact with the environment using 3-D imagery, facial detection and recognition, hand gestures, graphic overlays, and more.

### TEACHING A NEW GENERATION

NYIT students and faculty members visited the USS Intrepid as part of the Intrepid's Girls in Science and Engineering weekend on March 2-4. A team from the College of



Osteopathic Medicine demonstrated NYIT classroom technology, such as "Stan," a wireless robot (see page 16), to more than 100 young people, while students and faculty from the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences presented LEGO and VEX robots that can climb stairs and sort colors as well as showed how sensors can teach robots to lift objects. ■

# D.O. Ready For Splash of the Titans

By Sabrina Polidoro

**N**aresh Rao (D.O. '97), a physician for the U.S. Olympic water polo team, admits he didn't know a thing about sports medicine until he took a course at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM).

"The field sounded awesome, and I didn't realize I could do this as a career," says Rao. The two-week elective class, taught by Dean Thomas Scandalis (D.O. '87), was the entry point for a global career that has brought Rao to Romania, England, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and China ... and right back home in New York City, where he practices at Sports Medicine at Chelsea, a multispecialty medical facility that merges primary care with sports medicine.

"My dad is a physician who trained in India, and he said New York was the best place for me to be," says Rao. "I love osteopathic health and wellness, so NYCOM was a perfect fit for me."

His passion earned him a fellowship that took him around the world to study with leaders in various health disciplines, including cardiovascular disease prevention, addiction medicine, spiritual healing, and skin wellness.

"I spent a fair amount of time in England with a cardiovascular physiologist learning rehabilitation methods," says Rao.

"I also learned about addiction and looking at how to get down to the core of someone and allow them to be drug free. It was a rewarding experience."

After his fellowship, he co-founded the Lifewellness Institute in San Diego, Calif., with sports medicine expert E. Lee Rice, D.O. While serving as a volunteer physician for the San Diego State Department of Athletics, Rao got involved with U.S. Olympic water polo. He has also consulted for the U.S. Tennis Association.

"The pinnacle for any sports medicine professional is to work with the Olympic teams," says Rao. "That's why I got involved with the U.S. water polo team." Last year, he traveled with the team to Shanghai for the Fina World Championships.

As team physician, Rao mainly treats injuries involving overuse of the extremities, typical of the exertion that athletes subject themselves to. There are also the occasional serious injuries—Rao recalls one time in Romania when a water polo player received a head butt so severe "it filled his mouth."

"He was so scared," says the NYIT graduate. Rao treated the player and reassured him that he would be fine. "But that's how encompassing osteopathic sports medicine is. It's not just taping ankles. It's taking care of the mind as well as the body." ■

Naresh Rao (D.O. '97), a physician for the U.S. Olympic water polo team, discovered sports medicine as a career at NYIT.

JEFF WEINER

## “Hirsch” Tips His Cap After 33 Seasons

Friends, family, NYIT staff, and alumni gathered at the NYIT de Seversky Mansion on Jan. 26 to celebrate the career of a man whose name is synonymous with NYIT baseball. After more than three decades of coaching,



The NYIT community feted the career of retired Head Baseball Coach Bob Hirschfield in January.

mentoring, and inspiring young athletes, Bob Hirschfield announced he is retiring to spend more time with his wife, Rita, as well as their children and grandchildren.

Hirschfield joined NYIT in 1978 as pitching coach and, in 1982, became head coach—a season after the program moved into NCAA

Division I. As of 2012, he holds the NYIT record for most wins in a coaching career (668).

“Hirsch” was more than somebody who knew how to get runners in scoring position. His former career as a guidance counselor and teacher ensured that his players scored well academically, and his individual instruction, mentorship, and guidance helped produce more than 50 professional baseball players across 33 years, including Ray Giannelli (B.S. '96) of the St. Louis Cardinals, Brian Brady of the California Angels, and Al Watson, a first-round selection of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1991 and pitcher for the New York Yankees in the 1999 American League Championship Series. Many of his players have also been named Division I All-Americans by the American Baseball Coaches Association, including Watson, Fred Leone (B.S. '86), Paul Bruno, and Tom Merkle (B.S. '04).

Though he is retiring from NYIT baseball, Hirschfield will continue to manage the Old Westbury, N.Y.-based New York Baseball Academy for little leagues throughout Long Island and New York City, and plans to return to his alma mater, St. John's, as a color commentator for the Red Storm baseball team. ■

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCORES WINNING EFFORT

Despite losing 85-70 to fourth-seeded LIU Post in the East Coast Conference (ECC) Women's Basketball Tournament, the fifth-seeded Bears finished their season under Head Coach Anthony Crocitto with a record of 16-13. For their efforts, three players—Cierra Baker, Rebecca Lynch, and Nikki Jo Rotolo—earned All-ECC Second Team honors. Lynch and Rotolo, along with Sabrinna Moore, also made their way into the NYIT record books with 100 single-season assists for Rotolo and a .496 single-season field goal percentage for Moore (Lynch holds second place with .491). Crocitto, in his third year leading the team, was named the 2011-2012 All-Met Division II Coach of the Year.

### TENNIS SERVES UP FIRST POSTSEASON

In its second season after a 19-year hiatus, the NYIT men's tennis team eyed its first trip to the NCAA regional tournament this spring. The Bears finished with a No. 3 seed in the ECC Tournament, but fell 5-0 to the No. 2 seed, the University of the District of Columbia. Pedro Peixoto was named the league's top rookie, with a 17-10 record in singles play, earning him a spot on the ECC All-Conference Second Team along with teammate Dustin Wenchel, who went 7-11 in singles play. The Bears hold a No. 7 regional ranking by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, and Wenchel is ranked No. 13 in the region. ■

## Men's Soccer Hosts First Alumni Game

The men's soccer team hosted its first alumni game on April 14 at President's Stadium on NYIT's Old Westbury campus. Bears from previous seasons took on the 2011 team—winners of the East Coast Conference last season—in a 90-minute game. The 2011 champions defeated the alumni team 8-2. The game included some fine playmaking by NYIT's all-time leading soccer scorer Clitos Papadopoulos (B.S. '85, M.S. '89), Manuel Martinez (B.S. '06), Frank Spanos (B.S. '07), Vinny Tyrell (B.S. '10), and Ryan Blachly (B.S. '07). ■



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century *On Call for the*

NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine empowers students to use hearts, hands, and technology to address a looming health crisis

By Rose Sumer

Health care simulation expert Tony Errichetti, Ph.D., directs NYIT's Institute for Clinical Competence, a virtual hospital on the Old Westbury campus.

CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT





JOSH GERRITSEN

**Richard Cooper, M.D., director of the NYIT Center for the Future of the Healthcare Workforce, says the number of doctors is dropping as the demand for quality care grows in the United States.**

When 72-year-old Harriet Klein made it to NYIT's Old Westbury campus after falling in her home, doctors at the College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) faced a dilemma. A hysterical Klein, lying on a gurney and gasping for breath, was in dire need of medical attention. Her medical history posed a labyrinth of complications: diabetes, a Penicillin allergy, emphysema, and kidney disease.

Seconds later, she was in cardiac arrest. NYCOM students took turns giving CPR.

They saved Klein—and then had to do it all over again, at least six more times as part of their medical training. Each scenario is a human simulation exercise conducted on an anatomically correct robot, preparing students for rotations in hospitals and future residency programs.

Treating “Ms. Klein” is just one example of NYCOM's approach to real-time, high-tech medical education. This level of technological sophistication is hardly a luxury in the world of 21st-century medical education; it is indeed a necessity, and a crucial step toward addressing a troubling trend—a shortage of up to 200,000 doctors in the United States in the next 15 years, according to research led by Richard “Buz” Cooper, M.D., director of the NYIT Center for the Future of the Healthcare Workforce. NYIT's goal is to close this gap—it has the second largest total enrollment among osteopathic medical schools and

the third largest total enrollment of all medical schools (M.D. and D.O.) in the United States.

As America's population ages, baby boomers are poised to overwhelm an already strained health care system with fewer doctors to care for them. They demand a high quality of life in the face of heart, lung, and renal diseases afflicting them in record numbers. Add to the mix 24/7 access to good and bad health care information, primarily through the Internet, and physicians are confronting a medical field in flux.

### THE \$4.6 TRILLION QUESTION

“Current medical graduates are entering into a medical profession that will be under enormous stress,” says Cooper. “The essential ingredients are too few physicians, too many patients, too much regulation, and too little trust. The profession is beleaguered.”

According to Cooper, the major cost-containment strategies of U.S. presidents from Clinton to Obama have been to reduce reimbursement, constrain the supply of physicians, and regulate how physicians provide care. This has done little to alter the government's \$4.6 trillion projection for health care spending by the year 2020, when it will comprise nearly 20 percent of the country's GDP.

Primary care is among the hardest hit areas. When Cooper began his research, he expected to find nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) filling a void left by more doctors opting to become specialists over entering primary care. Instead, he



**NYIT's new Master of Science program in health care simulation will train students to teach and assess clinical competencies and professional skills at medical schools and hospitals.**

found NPs and PAs are following the same pattern and also devoting more effort to hospital services, leaving primary care in the lurch.

Cooper believes the broad representation of health disciplines at NYIT—physicians, nurses, PAs, physical therapists, and others—creates an opportunity to find innovative ways to solve the problem.

“We can draw on NYCOM’s tradition in primary care, NYIT’s breadth of disciplines, and the flexibility of leader-

ship across the university,” says Cooper.

Osteopathic medical schools such as NYCOM are poised to address a shortage of 45,000 primary care physicians projected by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The good news, according to the American Osteopathic Association, is that family medicine was the most frequently chosen specialty among osteopathic medical students entering residencies this year, and together with internal medicine and

pediatrics, the primary care specialties saw a 16 percent jump from 2011.

Last year, NYIT was awarded two grants totaling \$2 million from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to develop a geriatrics curriculum tailored for training family physicians, and to support an accelerated medical education track for students committed to practicing family medicine. The latter will enable undergraduate students to finish their schooling in three years instead of four, while the former addresses the void of primary care physicians prepared to treat America’s aging population.

In a shift of priorities, the AAMC is revising the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) to help identify more well-rounded students. Set to debut in 2015, the new exam will test social sciences, such as communication skills, ethics, and knowledge of diverse, underserved populations. Producing caring, attentive doctors has long been a goal of NYIT; its Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) upholds the holistic mission of using hearts, hands, and minds—along with a dose of technology—to promote optimal health.

“The passion that we have for our profession and the rigor it requires to be successful are important,” says Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., professor and chair of the OMM department. “It’s a noble profession, and you have to work for it.”

## Putting Parkinson’s in its Place

Small actions often taken for granted in everyday life have made all the difference for Jim Ross, a patient at NYIT’s Adele Smithers Parkinson’s Disease Treatment Center in Old Westbury, N.Y. “I think if we had not heard about the center then Jim would not be walking and talking today,” says his wife, Theresa.

At the center, doctors, nurses, scientists, and therapists provide patient care for the physical, mental, and emotional aspects of the illness. Established in 1997, the center treats 250 people annually and is the first on Long Island dedicated to Parkinson’s disease research and treatment.

Research is under way at the center’s biomechanics lab to better understand Parkinson’s disease, including the design of a motorized walker, testing of a horizontally-oscillating Exer-Rest Bed, and a cycling study. In the past eight years, faculty members at the center have published more than 10 experimental studies.

Parkinson’s disease develops when dopamine-producing nerve cells in the brain are destroyed, resulting in the loss of muscle func-

tion. And though there is no cure, medical technology coupled with specialty doctors can offer treatment to help offset the effects.

The center’s services include physical, occupational, speech, and psychological therapies as well as osteopathic manipulation, a wellness program for group exercise, and genetics counseling. Programs are designed to provide educational and emotional support as much to patients with Parkinson’s disease as to their caregivers and families.

NYIT’s biomechanics lab is equipped with the same motion capture technology used to produce films such as *Avatar* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Patients wearing reflective markers are filmed by infrared cameras at various angles to capture subjects walking or cycling. Their movement is transmitted from camera to computer, and the Vicon Motus motion capture system connects the sensor dots of the human body into a stick-figure outline, also collecting data about angles of movement, speed, and the size of a step.

A grant from the National Institutes of Health has enabled

## VIRTUAL MEDICINE

At the center of “anywhere, anytime” medicine at NYIT is Tony Errichetti, Ph.D., chief of virtual medicine, director of the Institute for Clinical Competence (ICC), and an expert on health care simulation. Errichetti and his staff operate virtual patient examination rooms and two mannequin-based simulation labs, where students practice inter-professional health care teamwork. At a satellite ICC at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y., medical students, residents, and health care teams encounter clinical scenarios similar to those unfolding every hour in doctors’ offices and emergency rooms around the country.

Each one of the ICC’s 14 standardized patient (SP) rooms in Old Westbury is a replica of a doctor’s office. They have diagnostic equipment, osteopathic manipulation tables, sinks, and digital video cameras to film interactions between students and SPs, people trained to simulate acute and chronic patient scenarios.

The pulse of the ICC, however, is found in its three robotic patients. These full-body mannequins, such as one called “Stan,” breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide like any human being.

“People like to focus on the gadgets and the robots, but simulation is a learning strategy, not a technology,” Errichetti

Ely Rabin, assistant professor of neuroscience and histology, to research how tactile and visual cues and other sensory feedback affect the movement of patients. One of the lab’s newest machines, the Balance Master, is designed to pinpoint balance deficits. A patient stands on a force plate inside a three-walled booth. A computer screen mounted onto a rainbow mural is straight ahead. As the force plate moves, the machine gathers the patient’s balance responses to varied visual and ground stimuli.

The walker combines the best features of a car, a computer, and the human mind. The project has also merged NYIT’s cross-disciplinary strengths—physical therapists and NYCOM neuroscientists such as



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Academic medicine scholar Jasmine Beria greets standardized patient “actor” Gilbert Darrell during a simulated doctor’s visit at NYIT’s Institute for Clinical Competence.

says. “The ICC staff and NYCOM’s clinical faculty make the mannequins come alive.”

This fall, NYIT will launch a new Master of Science program in medical and health care simulation, the first of its kind in the United States. It will prepare students to use SPs and mannequins to teach and assess clinical competencies and professional skills at medical and nursing schools, hospitals, and

medical licensing boards. Online learning will give students 24/7 access to courses and instructors.

“This is a big area of need right now,” Errichetti says. “We are training people to manage simulation centers and do educational research. The question in simulation learning is, does it help doctors, nurses, and health care workers do their jobs better?”

Errichetti, originally trained as a clinical psychologist, is intrigued by the potential to assess behavioral traits and



JOSH GERITSEN

Rabin bring their health care knowledge and sensitivity to patient needs, and faculty and students from the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences have collaborated on designing the walker’s sensor network system.

Its design is based on an Axon II microcontroller, a GPS-like operating system used in robots. The system’s nerves are infrared sensors detecting objects ahead of or on the sides of the walker.

When Michael Tautonico (D.P.T. '12, pictured left), opted to do an internship at the center, the experience launched an interest in helping people with neurological disorders.

“Prior to this internship, I had the impression the elder population was frail,” Tautonico says. “Most of my patients were elderly with neurological deficits and decreased balance, but they had more determination and will-power than many people my age. I was always amazed at how they surpassed what was expected of them.”

# Diagnosing Ms. Klein

On March 15, 2012, a simulation exercise is about to begin in the ICC. The banter is lighthearted among Anthony Guerne, patient simulation specialist, Carlos Magalhaes (D.O. '00), assistant professor of family medicine, and Terry Wanamaker, the standardized patient "actor" booked for the exercise.

Wanamaker is heard but not seen; her voice is piped into the station room from behind a two-way mirror separating her from where "Stan," the robotic patient, lies on a gurney, dressed in a wig. A microphone on the mannequin amplifies her voice.

As NYCOM students file into the room, Wanamaker is watching them from another room on the other side of the mirror. Guerne taps the vitals of the patient, Harriet Klein, into his MacBook computer, activating a nearby electrocardiograph (ECG) machine to blink jagged lines. His computer is ready to fire any of 300 drugs to the robot, which comes alive. This is now an emergency room, Harriet is the trauma patient, and the students are the doctors.

Second-year medical student Wendy Kadi plays the historian role. She soothes Harriet while extracting her medical history amid the beeping ECG machine and the cries of the distressed patient. Seconds before Harriet enters cardiac arrest, Wanamaker asserts her flair for drama.



**When student Wendy Kadi begins medical rotations at hospitals this fall, she will already have hands-on experience, thanks to participating in robotic patient simulation exercises at NYIT.**

"There's a fluttery feeling in my chest," she cries. "I'm feeling dizzy like I'm going to die!"

The students take turns doing CPR. They only pause once, when Wanamaker rushes into the room, this time as Harriet's frantic daughter, Rachel. Guerne, the coach, keeps them focused.

"Your patient's heart is not beating," he says. "You need to beat for it!"

CPR is the most basic of life-saving techniques and an underestimated feat of endurance, as Guerne will later explain to students. He cites an American Heart Association study of elite athletes who performed CPR during two-minute intervals; each slowed down at the 1.45 mark.

Once Harriet stabilizes, the students call another doctor to see her. This is where Magalhaes, as nephrologist, comes in and explains, "the first thing you have to do is follow the basics but you have to be thinking one step ahead."

In all, the exercise is over in less than 30 minutes. Wanamaker, Magalhaes, and Guerne debrief the students and provide feedback. They talk about strengths and errors made, such as the 20-second lull when the team stopped giving CPR due to Wanamaker's chaotic entrance as Rachel.

The exercise has made an impression on Kadi.

"The point is to teach us to work in groups," she says. "Anthony is right when he says you're in the middle of it. It was empowering to take care of Harriet!"

human factors. Over the past two decades, he established a health care simulation center at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and helped to develop the SP exams used by the National Board of Medical Examiners and National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners since 2004.

Medical students may look smart on paper, says Errichetti, but whether they are team players and can perform steadily under pressure are traits learned on the job. The ability to determine these qualities beforehand would enable residency programs to select the best medical student candidates. Two years ago, the Department of Surgery at St. Barnabas Hospital started screening residency candidates using simulation exercises.

"The department wanted to select smart candidates with appropriate human factors such as social and emotional intelligence, empathy and compassion, excellent communication, and sound judgment," Errichetti says. "We designed various simulations that would enable candidates to demonstrate those qualities."

## TEAM NYIT

"This is a hands-on field, not a watching field," says Patient Simulation Specialist Anthony Guerne, who knows the odds of life and death in the field. He is Errichetti's right hand at the ICC and a trained paramedic, who, in his first 14 years in the field, had only four outpatient cardiac saves with CPR. In the past six years, he's already amassed his 16th save.

Guerne is often the person programming the ICC's robotic patients. Humor and sensitivity mark his teaching style as he coaches students through simulation exercises.

"Teamwork is the buzz word in medicine now," Guerne says. "During these simulations, we hope students will start acting like a cohesive team."

NYIT medical students usually engage in robot simulations in six-person groups. Teammates repeat the exercises until students have played each role.

In March, NYIT faculty members organized four high-fidelity simulation sessions at the ICC for nursing, physician assistant studies, and medical students. They worked as a team and learned safe and effective communication.

Third-year medical student and academic medicine scholar Jasmine Beria participated

in the series. During a rotation at Queens Hospital Center (N.Y.), she played a role many times practiced in the ICC.

“When you’re called in, the whole team goes in and begins immediate resuscitative efforts,” Beria says. “In these situations, it gets crazy, and 50 things go on at once. When this happened during my rotation, I was able to step in, stay calm, and do CPR. The ICC has a lot to do with that.”

Beria almost didn’t go to medical school. In fact, she was the first among her parents and siblings to graduate from college. She earned her Master of Public Health from Columbia University while working as a clinical research coordinator at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center’s (MSKCC) brain tumor center.

Financial constraints prevailed until she met another NYIT academic medicine scholar, Jonas Sokolof (D.O. ’03), a physician at MSKCC. “He convinced me to apply to NYIT,” she says. “He said it’s a great school.”

NYIT scholars spend an extra year in school to pursue research and assist with teaching courses. Beria will travel to El Salvador to research Chagas disease. Her research in collaboration with the NYIT Center for Global Health is personal. She was born to Guyanese parents in Venezuela, another country afflicted by the disease, before moving to Rego Park, N.Y.

“I figured it was a great way to give back to that population but still help out here,” she says.

## HEARTS, HANDS, AND MINDS IN ACTION

Health care simulation is just one piece of NYIT’s medical educational strategy. The college’s curriculum offers students the choice between two tracks: lecture-discussion based and problem-based learning, also known as the Doctor Patient Continuum (DPC). Beria follows the DPC track, which provides small group, case-based learning. Both tracks are designed to train future primary care physicians in a continuum of education, an active learning process that continues outside of the classroom in clinical rotations at hospitals in students’ third and fourth years and into practice beyond.

Chellappa Kumar, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and chief information officer for NYCOM, says the college is implementing an academic technology infrastructure called Learn Everywhere, Anytime Digitally (LEAD) Framework. Mobilizing all academic content, such as nearly 30,000



The staff of NYIT’s Institute for Clinical Competence (from left): Mindy Roher, Anthony Guerne, Tony Errichetti, Patricia Myers-Hill, and Barbara Greene.

hours of filmed lectures on medical topics, is central to this approach.

By the time the class of 2017 enters NYCOM in 2013, Kumar plans for all students to have access to the entire curriculum as a set of interactive e-textbooks supported by several online medical databases used by practicing physicians.

“From day one, they will be using the tools needed for the rest of their professional lives,” he says. “This is really a breakthrough.”

The idea, says Kumar, is to have students learn core facts prior to lecture or lab sessions. Classes will emphasize active problem-solving. In the anatomy lab, for example, four learning stations will be outfitted with powerful computers and comprehensive software containing MRIs, CT scans, and 3-D images of the human body integrating traditional cadaver dissection with current imaging technologies.

“These approaches improve the efficacy of learning and help our students become better physicians,” says Kumar.

The departments of OMM and anatomy are among the school’s leaders in using technology to enhance learning through laboratory work. In OMM classes, students receive links to videos and materials to preview prior to lab work. During the lab, an array of images and videos are broadcast on monitors around the room.

There are six 50-inch flat screen monitors in the anatomy lab, along with a high-resolution, ceiling-mounted camera with remote

capability. The setup allows faculty to record dissections from an overhead vantage point and broadcast them on the lab’s monitors before students start working. Recordings also are available online for later review.

In the near future, the lab will have a kiosk-style computer display, with large touchscreens providing in-depth 2-D and 3-D examinations of muscle tissue, bones, and organs. Apple iPads with anatomy apps and videos will also be part of the curriculum.

“From a curricular and top-notch professional standpoint, we want to train the next physicians to meet health care challenges as experts,” Gilliar says. “This requires more than just knowing facts. It involves a broad tool set of cognitive and psycho-motor skills, as well as excellent communication abilities and empathy.”

He says good medical education should be a tight loop between learning and evaluation. “We follow high standards that will help guide our students to provide a thorough and relevant analysis of a patient’s problems so as to offer relevant treatment approaches,” says Gilliar.

Interpreting data will be crucial for students graduating into the medical field. As Gilliar says, they need to prepare for the patient who prints a 40-page pre-diagnosis from the Web.

“Nothing substitutes for firsthand, direct contact with a patient,” Gilliar says. “Technology should serve the physician, not the other way around.” ■

# Finders,

*NYIT scientists dig up the past to help shape the future of medicine* By Elaine Landoli

At the age of five, Brian Beatty, Ph.D., commandeered his mother's colander to search behind his Florida home for remnants of prehistoric life. Kneeling in the backyard stream, dipping and lifting the strainer, the young Beatty discovered an 8-million-year-old rib fragment from a sea cow.

A fossil hunter was born.

The brown palm-sized bone rests today in Beatty's office at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine, a symbol of his passion for paleontology, the study of evolutionary life through fossil records.

Beatty, an assistant professor of anatomy, has like-minded company at NYIT, where six paleontologists teach anatomy to first-year medical and health professions students. Among their responsibilities is introducing the students to an academic milestone: the semester-long dissection of a human cadaver.

Beyond the anatomy lab, the group's global treks to remote locations have led to fossil finds in Mongolia's Gobi desert, Kenya's Rusinga Island, and South Africa's Karoo Basin.

Amid bones lying unclassified in museum basements around the world, they delve into "deep time" to study the fossil record and generate data-driven hypotheses about the evolution of species ranging from the rhino-like Brontotheres—the mighty 50-million-year-old "thunder beast"—to *Basiliscus basiliscus*, a modern-day water-skipping lizard.

"We're all evolutionary anatomists," says Robert Hill, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the anatomy department who is a specialist in the study of crocodiles and dinosaurs, including the 75-million-year-old *Pinacosaurus*. "Every fossil that's found is a new data point and has the potential to modify or revolutionize the way we think about the natural world."

NYIT's anatomy experts also draw on other scientific disciplines, including ecology, biology, geology, histology (the study of tissues), and pathology. With encyclopedic knowledge about a vast pageant of creatures that slithered, crawled, swam, or walked millions of years ago (in other words, our relatives), paleontologists are well suited to teach human gross anatomy. Among the truths they share through their research and



# Teachers



Above: *Platecarpus tympaniticus*, an extinct aquatic lizard from the Cretaceous period (145.5 million to 65.6 million years ago).

Left: Two dorsal vertebrae of *Madtssoia bai*, a snake from the Eocene Epoch (56 million to 34 million years ago).

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# The First Patients

They can't talk about an ailment or answer the usual litany of questions a doctor might ask.

But these patients are among the most important any prospective health professional will have.

They are cadavers—human bodies donated for scientific study.

Each year, anatomy professors guide NYIT medical students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the School of Health Professions through cadaver dissections. A somewhat eerie scene unfolds on the first day of anatomy lab as groups of students gather around several dozen bodies lying on individual steel tables. During 28 three-hour labs throughout the semester, the students work on the same cadaver, carefully teasing nerves from blood vessels and separating fat from body parts. The final eight sessions are devoted to the complete dissection of the head.

It is at once clinical and intimate.

"I felt a connection, and I knew things about her that most people in her life wouldn't have known," says osteopathic medical student Elizabeth Barr, referring to the cadaver she dissected. "I wish I would have known more of her story, in her own words."

Faculty members present about 50 hours of live lectures, which they also post online. During lab, they circle the room, answering questions or assisting. Students may spend hours studying the dissection afterward.

By semester's end, students learn the first name, age of the person, and the immediate cause of death. Along the way, they have grown to appreciate the human body's sophisticated structures and form.

"Holding the heart was surreal," says Dane Masuda, a physician assistant studies student. "It was hard to believe that it had powered a whole body for 70-plus years. It just made me realize how intricate and essentially perfect the human body is, and how everything works together so well."

In the spring, NYIT holds a service to recognize the donors and the legacy of learning inspired by their most personal gift. The university plants a tree a short distance from the anatomy lab and the students write poems and letters or create art to memorialize the people they view as among their most important teachers.

"John, for you to give such an amazing gift after you had died leaves us only to imagine what you gave when you were alive," one group wrote this year.

Another cluster of students made a promise: "We will save people's lives and make you proud ... for you have taught us medicine and unconditional love."



CHRISTOPHER SEMETS

scholarship is that the tree of life displays an undisputed interconnectedness among species, evident when comparing tire-sized dinosaur vertebrae with tiny spinal bones of a dime-sized lizard or the flippers of the primitive dolphin with a human arm.

"We're all anatomically the same," says Professor of Anatomy Nikos Solounias, Ph.D., one of the world's experts on giraffe evolution and anatomy. "Evolution just changes the shape of body structures."

Students and non-students alike, Solounias notes, are often unaware how similar all animals are, and that humans are not as unique as we might believe.

"That realization doesn't lower humans, it just makes humans unexceptional," says Solounias. "The only thing we have that makes humans different is how smart we are."



Gaberiel Bever, Ph.D., begins excavation of an early Cretaceous specimen in the southern Gobi Desert of Gansu Province, China.

Students who explore anatomy research outside of class with NYIT's fossil hunters learn tenets critical to science and medical practice: observation, generating and testing hypotheses, rigorous inquiry, data measurement, and accurate reporting.

"What we want to do is help them understand the organization of the human body," says Assistant Professor Gaberiel Bever, Ph.D. "There are a lot of practical applications for basic evolutionary biology that can be conveyed to students through the research we do here."

Recent student-faculty collaborations include dissections and examinations of giraffe eyes, rhinoceros skin, and lizard hearts. Others have focused on dental pathologies of otters, seals, and sea lions as well as structural studies of living and extinct snakes and the evolution of teeth in manatees.



NYIT students Timothy Backus and Shaun Hager worked with Associate Professor Matthew Mhlbachler, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor Bennett Futterman, M.D., on a dissection of a rhinoceros brachial plexus, a network of nerves near the neck and shoulder. The students discovered that using the same dissection process and approach in a human cadaver can reveal parts of the nerves not seen in current dissection techniques. They are investigating how this approach can be used in future anatomy labs.

“Whenever we study the anatomy of animals, the discoveries we make can lead us to reexamine our understanding of some aspects of human anatomy,” says Associate Professor Jonathan Geisler, who will mentor first-year student Alexander Bulanov in a dolphin dissection this summer.

Bulanov, who is pursuing a surgical career, is interested in a particular nerve branch that may be important to a dolphin’s echolocation abilities. The self-described “fan of dissection” says the NYIT faculty’s wide-ranging knowledge as paleontologists is helpful to students learning basic structure and anatomical principles.

“They always have interesting tidbits,” he says, “and it helps integrate all of biology into medicine.”

Driving much of the faculty’s passion is the pursuit of new truths about old creatures. That’s why Assistant Professor Jack Conrad, Ph.D., the department’s expert in squamates (lizards and snakes), once found himself sleeping on the Arctic tundra for five weeks, searching for clues about the transition of fish to amphibious vertebrates in a place so far north that the compass read west. That was four years after he spent 92 consecutive days camping in the Sahara Desert, enduring temperatures of 100-plus degrees (the highest was 144 degrees), roving bandits, and a near-depletion of the expedition’s water supply. The team gathered 20 tons of material, including 10 new dinosaur species and a near-complete skeleton of the 40-foot-long *Sarcosuchus imperator* (“flesh crocodile”), the 90-million-year-old creature otherwise known as the “SuperCroc.”

“There’s always something new in paleontology that’s going to blow your mind,” says Conrad, who typically carries moleskin notebooks filled with sketches



JEFF WEINER

Assistant Professor Jack Conrad, Ph.D., of NYIT’s College of Osteopathic Medicine stands in front of *Tyrannosaurus rex* at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

and field notes in his cargo pants. “If you like diversity and animals doing crazy things, you can find more of that in the fossil record than even in the modern world.”

These days, Conrad’s burning question is a simple one: where do snakes come from? The answer is more complicated. “New data suggests the traditional hypotheses are incorrect,” he says, hinting that snakes are more closely related to skinks than to iguanas and monitor lizards. Conrad says working on “cool lizard stuff” is captivating. Similarly, Mhlbachler has found a certain allure in scuba diving to the bottom of Florida’s Aucilla River, excavating bones of Ice Age animals deposited in mastodon dung. Solounias is excited about this summer’s

prospect of researching giraffe fossils in natural history museums.

At any given time, each expert is typically supervising research with students, juggling fossil investigations, planning expeditions and museum visits, and preparing articles. Numerous journals, including *Nature*, *Science*, *Paleobiology*, and *The Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, have published their research on topics such as a previously unknown species of extinct dolphin, avian brain anatomy, ancient horses, and evolutionary patterns of antelopes. The department’s human anatomy studies have covered osteoarthritis, small muscles in the hand, and facial arteries.

“Paleontology is not just the study



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Members of NYIT's Department of Anatomy (from left) at NYIT-Old Westbury: Drs. Jonathan Geisler, Brian Beatty, Matthew Mihlbachler, and Robert Hill.

of dinosaurs,” says Beatty, dispelling a common myth. In fact, he has never studied a dinosaur fossil.

Mihlbachler and Beatty have focused often on the microscopic scratch marks on the teeth of extinct animals. Their observations provide clues about how the animals interacted with their particular environments. One of Beatty's recent papers details the teeth of *Dakosaurus*, a marine reptile described as the *Tyrannosaurus rex* of the ocean. Last year, Mihlbachler and Solounias published a study of the evolution of horse teeth in *Science*. Most recently, Beatty and NYIT student Danielle Turrin have advanced a method of reconstructing 3-D models of tooth enamel microstructures using an acetate peel technique.

While there are some moments of singular discovery—Solounias recalls finding similarities in giraffe neck vertebrae that provided clues about their fighting habits—the faculty members agree that their findings have, like the creatures they study, developed over time.

“There is not one ‘aha’ moment,” says Geisler during a break in his recent trip to a Charleston, S.C., museum to study dolphin fossils. “There are many little ones along the way.”

### Technology, Tools, and a Fossil's Movie Star Moniker

A few decades ago, paleontologists could look inside fossils only by destroy-

ing them. Today's computer tomography (CT) technology allows for a nondestructive peek into a fossil's composition, detailing spaces within bone that once held soft tissue and blood vessels.

“That's been transformative,” says Hill, who has used CT scans in his study of crocodiles and mammals. “Within the fossils, you always want a more complete picture of the anatomy and the organism. You can't know the whole story if you don't open the book.”

Confocal microscopes and scanning electron microscopy also allow paleontologists to peer ever deeper, illuminating previously hidden fossil features.

Technology's social aspects have led to a greater sharing of knowledge and data. Tweets from @NYCOMAnatomy provide updates on departmental doings. Recently, Beatty and Mihlbachler launched the online Dental Microwear Image Library containing thousands of magnified images of tooth surfaces that other scientists can use to establish hypotheses about ecological conditions in prehistoric times. They are pushing for greater open-source Internet availability of digital imagery so others have easy access to data.

“That makes the science everything you want science to be—reproducible and falsifiable,” says Hill. “Others can look at the hypothesis you made, do the same experiment, come to the same conclusion, or come to a different conclusion.”

Beatty's social media initiatives include his Twitter feed, @Vanderhoofus (named after an extinct hippo-like marine mammal), three Facebook groups, and a blog.

“I realized that almost every project or paper I do stimulates another idea for another research project,” says Beatty. “It was getting to the point that I was not going to live long enough to get all these things done. I saw the blog as an opportunity to share some ideas with people.”

In addition to high-tech instruments, simple tools like calipers and ordinary microscopes are vital. The bones have stories to tell, says Solounias, and nothing beats paper and pencil to record observations.

It may take years, however, before the bones speak. Even when chunks of fossil materials are discovered and brought to museums, the information they yield is inaccessible without the help of expert preparers. Using diamond-bladed saws, pneumatic hammers, micro-needles, chemical solvents, and blacklights, they spend months working on a grain-by-grain revelation of rock-encased remains.

Far from exotic locales, paleontologists examine and measure prepared fossil fragments, assigning numerical values for dozens of anatomical features. With a classification method known as cladistics, they compare specimens and determine if they are looking at a known species of an extinct lizard, for example, or a new species that deserves its own clade, or branch, on the fossil tree.

“It's all based on data,” says Bever. “We use algorithms to determine what trees are the most probable based on data.”

The detailed studies also allow paleontologists to better understand a particular anatomical feature, such as the brain cavity, or the entire anatomical structure of a particular species.

If the species is new, the paleontologist who describes it first—usually in journal papers containing exhaustive explanations of features—names it. Often, they aim for something clever or unique. Mihlbachler named one new brontothere species *Diplacodon gigan* after a huge monster that appeared in several Godzilla movies. In honor of his parents, Conrad called a lizard species *Ammoskius*, describing its habitat with a combination of the Greek words for “sandy” and “shade,” his parents' nicknames.

Finding striking differences among species' fossil remains gives observers a better appreciation for variation. But discovering similarities is more enlightening.

"I'm searching to show the similarities, to make them obvious to people," Solounias says, grabbing a cut giraffe bone from his office and showing where the giraffe's "big toe" is merged into the bone at a point about three feet off the ground.

"It's like two cars—a Honda and a Volvo," he says, describing how humans and giraffes are more closely related than one might think. "We're probably even more similar than that."

Or put another way: there are fish swimming around today that are more closely related to us than other fish. Take the lungfish, says Bever, with which we share a small number of derived features, the most obvious being lungs.

Striking differences—be they scales, shells, fins, or feathers—are obvious but may not be revealing.

"They don't demonstrate as much about evolution," says Hill. "The similarities are where the surprises come in. Subtle variations on a theme can actually be the most stunning examples of vertebrate evolution."

The independent acquisition of similar adaptations, known as convergent evolution, is another area of interest for NYIT's anatomy experts.

"For reasons we don't completely understand, the same solutions to the same problems have evolved over and

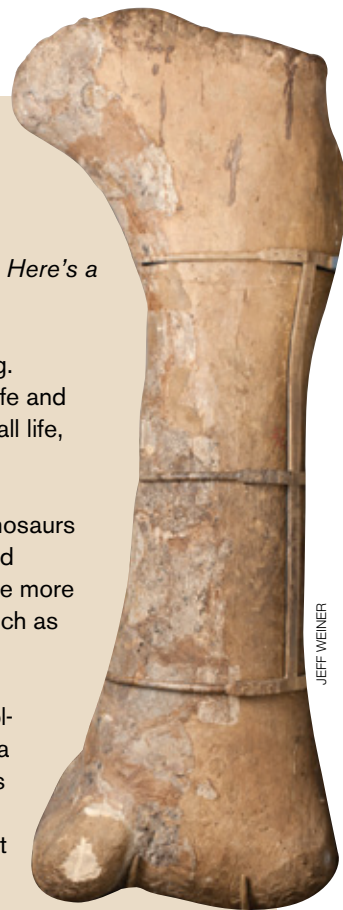


Associate Professor Jonathan Geisler, Ph.D., uses a rock pick to unearth fossils in China.

# Jurassic Lark

*Some paleontology and fossil myths are ripe for busting. Here's a list of common misperceptions:*

- Paleontologists and archaeologists study the same thing. Truth: Archaeology is the study of the remains of human life and culture. Paleontology is the study of the fossil remains of all life, including plants, fungi, invertebrates, or vertebrates.
- All dinosaurs are fossils. Truth: Birds are a lineage of dinosaurs known as theropods, a group including *Tyrannosaurus* and *Velociraptor*. Paleontologists have found both beasts to be more closely related to today's birds than to other dinosaurs such as *Triceratops* or *Stegosaurus*.
- Paleontology is an historical science. Truth: While paleontology deals with the examination of the fossil record, it is also a nomothetic science, meaning that it investigates natural laws and causal relationships. Paleontologists work as detectives to uncover the past but also may generate hypotheses about the future and how biological evolution works.
- Fossils are rare. Truth: "If you go to places where there are fossils, they tend to be all over the place," says Mihlbachler. What is rare, he says, is discovering a complete fossil specimen like the ones on display at a museum.
- Evolution can be depicted as a ladder, with humans at the top. Truth: Evolutionary history marks branching events and the "human branch" is neither higher nor lower than that of an insect or bacterium.
- Paleontologists spend most of their time in exotic locales. Truth: "People think we're all a bunch of Indiana Jones types," says Mihlbachler. "Ninety percent of the time is spent in an office, writing papers and working with data."
- Prehistoric plants and animals were huge. Truth: Paleontologists study tiny fossil bones and teeth. "People think there were gigantic plants and colossal spiders," says Solounias. "I think it's from Hollywood."
- Paleontological studies are made in the field. Truth: Most discoveries are made in museum collections, which contain unstudied fossils.



JEFF WEINER

over again," says Mihlbachler. "One of my burning questions is: why is that?"

Perhaps that is where the paleontologists at NYIT have an evolved sense of patience.

"Sometimes you don't get an answer to your question," says Mihlbachler. "Sometimes you just find a better question."

The answer may come through hunting and holding fossils from ancient times. After many years of study, in some cases

borne of an inquisitive child's fascination with creatures from the past, the paleontologists agree that cradling a 30-million-year-old fossil is exhilarating and humbling.

"You have to remind yourself of it," Bever says. "You sometimes lose that sense of wonder about it, that it's been around here since then. It's a pretty awe-inspiring thought. But if you thought about it too often, you'd just wax poetic all day long instead of writing scientific papers." ■



Osteopathic physicians from NYIT's Center for Global Health interacted with various populations throughout Haiti in January 2012, including the residents of Limbe (pictured).

# MISSION

Deb Lardner, D.O., of NYIT's Center for Global Health, stares up at the National Geographic 8' x 13' map of the world that dominates one side of her office. She counts off countries in her head: Ghana, Belize, India, El Salvador, Nepal, Thailand, Laos, Haiti, and many, many more—all the places she has traveled to as an osteopathic physician, and all the places she will bring students in the months to come.

"I feel my workplace getting bigger," she says with a smile. "We are making more connections worldwide."

Lardner's office at NYIT-Old Westbury reflects the doctor's globetrotting career. Sitting atop a printer rests a wood-carved rooster from Belize. Hanging from a file cabinet is a stethoscope from New Mexico with beadwork crafted by Native American women. Above her computer are three photos—two she took of villagers in Ghana and the third a 2008 class picture from the Bangkok School of Tropical Medicine, where Lardner earned a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene (she earned her osteopathic degree from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine). On her computer screen is a news report from the BBC's website on a health care crisis in Uttar Pradesh, India.

"I like to help people everywhere," she says. "And I want to share this experience with students. But they can't share it without first experiencing it."

Immersing students in the real world is one of the defining characteristics of an NYIT education, and the Center for Global Health represents one of the university's most interdisciplinary examples. Combining resources of the College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM), School of Health Professions, School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, School of

Education, College of Arts and Sciences, and School of Architecture and Design, the center was founded in 2008 by its director, Ed Gotfried, D.O., to educate students about global cultures and health care issues, to engage in research, and, most importantly, to deliver help to underserved communities.



Edward Papa (D.O. '12) poses with local residents in Oworobong, Ghana. In 2011, NYIT sent Papa and fellow students to the West African nation to provide health care education and medical support.

"We want to educate and inspire medical students by providing exposure to and immersion in international experiences," says Gotfried. "The language of medicine is universal."

So, too, is NYIT's commitment to ensuring that students across all academic disciplines earn their degrees after gaining an appreciation of today's globally connected society.

"The center's overarching concepts for students are service learning, the development of cultural competencies, establishing a global perspective in health care, and interdisciplinary training," says Barbara

# CRITICAL

**Cultural competency, interdisciplinary learning, and healing underserved populations shape the passions and purpose of NYIT's Center for Global Health**

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

Ross-Lee, D.O., NYIT vice president for health sciences and medical affairs. Medical students in interdisciplinary and global programs, she adds, are more likely to follow careers that help communities in need throughout the United States. “This is consistent with NYIT’s vision as a global university. We are training global citizens who can appreciate a wide scope of health care issues.”

Mike Passafaro, D.O., assistant professor in NYCOM’s Department of Medicine, Division of Emergency Medicine, is one of the center’s faculty associates. In March 2010, he traveled to Haiti two months after the devastating earthquake that killed an estimated

of 2011 to support the Center for Global Health. Since then, he has traveled with Lardner and students on NYIT visits to Ghana, Belize, El Salvador, and elsewhere, including a return trip to Haiti in January. “It can be frustrating to students who want to learn about global health but are confined to a classroom,” he says. “We are giving them an experience they can’t get at other medical schools.”

The center’s global efforts are coordinated with organizations such as the Jesse Rohde Foundation, Doctors United for Haiti, Pediatricians for Central America’s Children, and Save the Children, among others, depending on which part of the world the center visits.

in global health course at NYIT-Old Westbury, an experience he called invaluable in understanding the economics and infrastructure of a country, specific illnesses and diseases of the region, and public health policy, along with a specific focus on cultural competency.

“What they learn is relevant to health professionals in the United States,” says Zehra Ahmed (B.S. ’04), assistant professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, who teaches the global certificate program along with Lardner and Passafaro. “Culture takes so many forms. It is not just defined by geography or race but also includes age, sexual orientation, and other broad factors.”

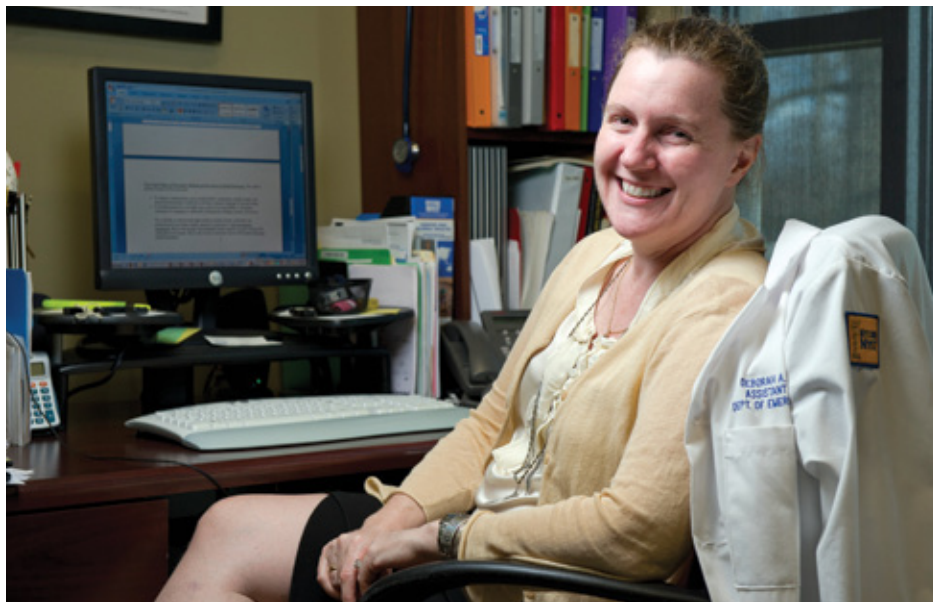
The ability to grasp the patient’s point of view—culturally, economically, and emotionally—is valuable not only for patients in other countries but also when dealing with the diverse patient base found in the United States. One of the first things a student must understand, however, is self-awareness.

“They must know their values, their beliefs, their prejudices, and their judgments,” adds Ahmed. “That always has to be the starting point.”

One of Masuda’s classmates who joined him in El Salvador was Bret Sparling, who also enrolled in the global certificate course. Upon arrival, he already had an understanding of local health care issues as he shadowed doctors in clinics, visited small towns and farms, and witnessed how local physicians interact with patients.

“I have a much better of idea of where people are coming from,” says Sparling. To see firsthand this Central American health care system up close and understand what local patients are accustomed to will help him treat future patients from this region. He describes the experience as repositioning his “cultural compass.”

During his stay in El Salvador, Sparling tracked visits and the status of patients. Such data is useful in analyzing the results of NYIT’s visits to various global locales as well as planning future trips. And it’s an area of interest to Bhuma Krishnamachari, assistant professor for clinical sciences and director of clinical research at the Center for Global Health. As an epidemiologist, she studies patterns of health care in defined populations to identify risk factors, collect and analyze data, and interpret results.



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Assistant Professor Deb Lardner, D.O., of NYIT’s Center for Global Health

316,000 people and injured 300,000 more. For 10 days, he lived in a tent on the roof of a police station in Port-au-Prince and worked as an ER physician under a makeshift hospital consisting of three 10’ x 20’ tents.

“One tragic scenario that occurred all too frequently was diagnosing patients for serious illnesses and conditions that were easily treatable back home,” says Passafaro, who earned a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene in London. He recalls seeing more than 140 patients in one day.

“When I came back, I realized how fortunate we are to have well-structured medical resources in the United States,” says Passafaro. “But you also notice the waste of resources in the U.S. medical system that Haiti can only dream of.”

Passafaro joined NYIT in the summer

As for the patients they meet, Passafaro says they are grateful for the support NYIT students and faculty provide. “They are trusting us with more than their lives,” he says. “They are trusting us with the lives of their children.”

Of great help is using osteopathic manipulative medicine when seeing patients, adds Lardner. “It’s a non-pharmacological way of treating people,” she says. “That’s a huge advantage in a country with poor resources and high levels of poverty.”

For physician assistant studies student Dane Masuda, the center’s visit to El Salvador this July will be the perfect introduction to a future career in global medicine. “There isn’t a general knowledge of how to react as health care providers,” he says of other schools. Masuda enrolled in NYIT’s certificate

“Ultimately, if you’re going to study a group of people, the goal should be to help them,” she says. “It’s irresponsible to gather data and not do anything with it.”

One area she is focusing on is NYIT’s annual visits to Ghana, which combine the expertise of engineers, doctors, and educators to deliver fresh water as well as health care education and services to populations in Oworobong. Krishnamachari is tracking the efforts of NYIT’s visits to the region since 2010 to find ways to better improve the design and structure of future trips. The Center for Global Health established a mission site in Oworobong, Ghana, in partnership with the Jesse Rohde Foundation.

“When we go to a community like Oworobong, it would be presumptuous to think that we have all the answers,” says Ahmed. “We tell them that we are here to help. They tell us what they want and then we collaborate with the community. This applies to all disciplines in global health.”

In 2010, the NYIT team assisted pregnant women with prenatal care and provided medical checkups for checking glucose levels and urinary tract infections.

Physician assistant studies student Jessica Stein (M.S. ’12) was part of the team that spent more than three weeks in the region. “It was my first time seeing patients,” she says. “It was an amazing experience to be immersed in another culture. We really can’t learn these things in the classroom.”

Associate Professor Sarah Meyland of NYIT’s School of Engineering and



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

#### Assistant Professor Mike Passafaro, D.O., of NYIT’s Center for Global Health

Computing Sciences worked with students from the university’s Engineers Without Borders chapter to help them finalize a potable water system for residents in the Oworobong region.

“When we arrived, there was no infrastructure for clean water or power,” she says. “The student teams had to live like local residents, which can be fairly demanding.”

The team designed a system incorporating solar power as well as a large roofing system that acts as a rain harvesting system. Meyland expects that even a small storm could generate about 500 to 1,000 gallons of water.

“Long term, we hope to provide a conventional water system through the ground and ensure it is drinkable,” says Meyland. She and NYIT engineering students are also working with the School of Architecture and Design, using an NYIT research grant to design a recycling center in Costa Rica. Next year, Meyland will travel with two graduate students to that country, and if the rainwater system is not feasible, they will explore additional water and power possibilities.

“It’s a more demanding project, because it is a much more public facility with a higher water demand,” says Meyland.

The Ghana trip also marked one of the more creative endeavors of the Center for Global Health. The goal was to come up with an original way to teach children and their families about the dangers of malaria and the need for mosquito bed nets.

Lardner contacted Janice Sawyer, director of field placements and certification in the School of Education, to help create a culturally appropriate puppet show that could be shown in both days and evenings with no power. Sawyer enlisted the help of Dean Michael Uttendorfer (M.S. ’95), Wisser Library personnel Ken Distler and Joan Baron Drury, and adjunct faculty members Gail Sachs and John Kappenberg to write and produce the show.

“To write our story, we needed to find a character that audiences would recognize from their own culture,” says Sawyer. “It had to be a character they could relate to.”

Designing the puppets fell to Jennifer La Cava (B.S. ’10), whose NYIT degree in visual arts and education helped as she used balsa wood, dowels, and acrylic paints to create a cast of characters suitable for local audiences.

“The puppets had to be culturally appropriate,” says La Cava, who studied African artists to develop a sense of the local artistic style. “For instance, the father is in casual dress to reflect everyday life and children are in school uniforms.”

In the show, the lead character of Ananzi the spider helps a family fend off Tum Tum the mosquito, who carries malaria. In the process, Ananzi—already known to Ghana residents as a wily, resourceful character—teaches the family how to use mosquito nets to protect themselves.

The show took place during NYIT’s

summer 2011 visit to Ghana to local acclaim. A separate set of shadow puppets was created for evening performances, during which the crew used flashlights to recreate a homemade rear projection.

“We knew that without electricity the evening performances would be a challenge,” says Sawyer. “Using shadow puppets and flashlights was a simple way to improvise.”

Finding interdisciplinary approaches to helping global communities is also happening in the College of Arts and Sciences. Following the January 2012 trip to Haiti by the Center for Global Health (see sidebar), Adjunct Professor of Communication Arts James Wyckoff and students in his advertising workshop/production house class coordinated with Hospital St. Raphael in Limbe to develop initiatives to raise awareness and plan a communications strategy.

The experience taught students about obstacles in working cross-culturally as it relates to bilingual communication and technological accessibility. “Week-to-week communication was very difficult because the client had little access to the Internet or phone,” says Wyckoff. “Decisions and ideas



Adjunct Professor of Communication Arts James Wyckoff and students in his advertising workshop/production house class are designing a communications plan for a hospital in Limbe, Haiti.

that could be made and conveyed in hours in the United States took days or weeks with the Haitian client.”

The fact that all the materials provided were in French was minor, since the class included students from NYIT’s program with L’École Française des attachés de Presse et des Professionnels de la

Communication in France.

However, Wyckoff was impressed with his students’ resourcefulness. Already they have developed identity, message points, and social media plans as well as redesigned the hospital’s logo, instituted a Facebook page and Twitter account, and finalized the design and copy for a website.

## A Nation In CRISIS

Local physician Richmond Jean-Baptiste of Hospital St. Raphael drives his gold Toyota Tundra through the village of Limbe, Haiti, carrying with him a team of NYIT doctors. He gives them a tour of poverty-stricken neighborhoods while describing his people’s needs for professional medical services as well as his own plans for helping them.

NYIT’s Center for Global Health sent four osteopathic physicians to Haiti in January 2012 to explore possible learning sites for students and to provide health care and education to local populations. The team also traveled to Port-au-Prince and Jacmel, in southern Haiti, during their eight-day visit. The doctors treated patients with cholera, malaria, typhoid, appendicitis, scabies, syphilis, muscle pain, high blood pressure, and arthritis.

Located in the north, Limbe is 16 miles from the nearest airport in Cap-Haitien, though the drive between the two regions is an hour-long trek through winding, unpaved roads. The village did not suffer the level of devastation Port-au-Prince endured during the massive earthquake in January 2010, but, according to Jean-Baptiste, it is because of the disaster that Limbe and its 40,000 residents suffer more. Much of the international humanitarian aid that once flowed into Limbe is now allocated toward rebuilding the capital.

“Port-au-Prince gets all the attention,” says Jean-Baptiste. “To many, Port-au-Prince *is* Haiti.”

After landing in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 20, the NYIT doctors met with Sidney Coupet, D.O., of Doctors United for Haiti. Born in Haiti but educated in the United States, Coupet founded the nonprofit in 2005 to help provide international medical support for Haitian families and improve the professional quality of Haiti’s health care practitioners.

“Major hospitals are not the solution,” says Coupet. “Small, community-based medical facilities are more effective.”

One such facility is Jean-Baptiste’s Hospital St. Raphael, which serves many regions near Limbe. The site, however, is limited in what services it can offer with only three physicians, three nurses, two small microscopes, and few medical supplies. If surgery is needed, patients must wait at least two hours for an ambulance to arrive from Cap-Haitien and transport them to a city hospital.

Jean-Baptiste talks about expanding the 8,500-square-foot facility before the central portions have roofs, power, and running water. The services he hopes to provide also include educational outreach about basic health, such as drinking clean water and proper sanitation.





JOSH GERITSEN

Library Assistant Joan Drury, Adjunct Professor Gail Sachs of the School of Education, Dean Michael Uttendorfer (M.S. '95) of the School of Education, Jen La Cava (B.S. '10), and Director of Field Placements and Certification Janice Sawyer helped to teach villagers about malaria in Oworobong, Ghana, using handmade puppets shown above.

It's yet another example of the Center for Global Health's commitment to teaching students using unique learning opportunities, providing cultural context, and helping people around the world improve their local community.

### THERE AND BACK AGAIN

At NYIT-Old Westbury, Lardner and Passafaro have just returned from a trip to Costa Rica. The pair met with physicians from Universidad Iberoamericana to review learning opportunities as part

of a new program. It would allow NYIT students from NYCOM and university residents at the Bronx, N.Y., teaching hospital, St. Barnabas, to learn about the health care system in Costa Rica as they live with host families, shadow local health care professionals, and visit hospitals and clinics in San Jose.

"Students may not understand at first what they're getting themselves into," says Lardner. "But once they go and return to talk about their trip, all they want to do is go back. The students feed on our enthusiasm. And it makes them more well-rounded, which ties together with the osteopathic philosophy of treating the body as a unified whole."

The weeklong visit to Costa Rica is another mental checkmark for Lardner as she gazes again at the world map in her office. She and Passafaro share more than a passion for global health; the couple married in September 2011. Passafaro admits he and his wife "try to have an adventurous life."

"It's good to be home," says Lardner. "But then the wanderlust kicks in. I don't like to stay in one place for too long." ■



A team of NYIT doctors from the Center for Global Health visited Haiti in January, including the village of Limbe (above).

"Education is the way this country will get better," says Ed Gotfried, D.O., director of the Center for Global Health and the NYIT team leader in Haiti. Accompanying him on the trip were NYIT osteopathic doctors Deb Lardner, Mike Passafaro, and Bill Blazey (D.O. '05).

The center is not the only NYIT presence in Haiti. Port-au-Prince native and architect Herve Sabin (B.Arch. '98) is among many alumni making a difference. The Rural Haiti Project he founded in 2006 helps improve Haitian communities through

educational programs, energy and sustainable practices, architecture and planning, and humanitarian assistance. One recent program involved building Internet-enabled centers in Jacmel and Camonette to help improve education and offer distance-learning opportunities.

"The goal is to pass on knowledge to local neighbors," says Sabin. He attributes his ability to analyze problems and find solutions in Haiti to his NYIT education. "It's the greatest asset I have."

But improving Haiti's infrastructure and the health care of its people stays sluggish as corruption in many levels of government diminishes much of the progress that can help the public.

"The day-to-day poverty of Haiti is not a new story, unfortunately," says Gary Shaye of the Save the Children Foundation, another Center for Global Health partner.

Looking at Limbe—and much of Haiti—is like looking at a puzzle and knowing the pieces aren't going to fit. For many trying to help, it's all about the small successes, one day at a time.

"We know Haiti has problems," says Coupet. "The question is where do we start?"

As Jean-Baptiste grips the steering wheel of his SUV, the NYIT team surveys the decayed buildings of Limbe, the homes never finished, dreams never realized. The tour ends, and their guide drives them away, but not before a small boy chases them, waving his arms and shouting in Creole.

Jean-Baptiste turns to Gotfried in the passenger seat and translates: "He's saying, 'Take me with you. Take me with you.'"

## | 1960s |

**Neale Kuperman (B.S. '69)** is president of Rockland Toyota in Blauvelt, N.Y., and represents metropolitan New York's franchised car dealers as a board member of the National Automobile Dealers Association in McLean, Va.

## | 1970s |

**Bob Lamelle (B.S. '70)** is a teacher at Pinellas County School in Largo, Fla. His daughter, Andrea, will be attending the University of Central Florida to study hospitality this fall.

Read the latest *New York City Mayors* book by **Ralph Caliendo (B.S. '72)**. It's the second in a series covering the politics of the past century.

**Kamal B. Chachra (M.B.A. '73)** is a licensed real estate salesperson for Houlihan Lawrence, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate, in Larchmont, N.Y.

**Fred Scott (B.S. '75)** is director of sales and business management for DNF Controls, a Sylmar, Calif.-based company providing hardware- and software-based control solutions for the broadcast, audio/video production, post-production, and graphics markets.

**Tom Bergen (B.F.A. '76)** is enjoying retirement after nearly 32 years working for JPMorgan Chase.

**Jaynie Smith (B.S. '77, M.P.S. '97)** is the CEO of Smart Advantage, a marketing and management consulting

firm in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She is also author of the book, *Relevant Selling: Research Proves Customers Value More Than Just Price*.

## | 1980s |

Artist **Regina Corritore (B.F.A. '80)** teaches printmaking, 2-D design, drawing, painting, and watercolors at the University of New Mexico-Valencia as well as classes in the university's honors department at its main campus in Albuquerque, where she lives.

**Frank Governale (B.F.A. '80)** is vice president for operations at CBS News in New York City.

The International Facilities Management Association honored **Ted Moudis (B.S. '80)**

## DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NYIT,

When I first set foot on the Old Westbury campus as a graduate student in 1996, I knew I had made a lifelong connection. Like many of you, I was working full time while earning my degree, and so I particularly appreciated the support and flexibility I received from my professors. Once I earned my Master of Science in Human Resources and Labor Relations, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as associate director of the NYIT Career Network Center (now the Office of Career Services) until 2006.

When I was invited to return as director of alumni relations, I couldn't help but be excited about picking up where I left off, building connections—building community—at NYIT. I have so many fond memories as an NYIT student, and I look forward to learning about your experiences as well as your accomplishments since earning your degree. As much as I cherish our shared history, I am reminded that alumni relations is as much about looking to the future as it is about remembering the past. As I develop a multi-year plan for alumni relations, I will focus on two overarching themes: connectivity and engagement.

With more than 92,000 alumni worldwide, building connections among alumni will be a challenge. Fortunately, today's world offers more technology and media accessibility than ever, and, taking a cue from President Guiliano and his vision as expressed in NYIT's 2030 strategic plan, I will take full advantage of 21st-century communication tools to ensure a vibrant community of NYIT graduates. I want you to know what is new and exciting at NYIT, and I want to know what is new and exciting in your careers. Your success inspires students, encourages faculty and staff, builds school pride, and enhances the value of your NYIT degree.

There is no substitute for an alumni presence at NYIT. I am pleased to note that the volunteer-led Alumni Federation is providing global vision and leadership for our future programming. We are eager to develop opportunities for all alumni who want to be more engaged. This may include serving as a volunteer mentor, as an internship provider or recruiter, or perhaps as a guest lecturer. Your participation will help us to build a network of relationships that will lead to increased opportunities for all. Every year, we graduate a new generation of innovators; as NYIT alumni, you have access to this talented pool of potential employees and business partners.

I hope you are already considering how you can be more engaged and benefit from this powerful network of professionals.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Kelly (M.S. '99)**



as a visionary architect. He is the founder of Ted Moudis Associates, a leading architectural and interior design firm with offices in New York and Chicago. His clients include the NFL, NBC Universal, and Tiffany & Co.

**Thom Gencarelli (B.F.A. '81)** is associate professor and chairperson of the Department of Communication at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y.

**Thomas Lubeski (B.S. '82, D.O. '86)** is a specialist at Shore Wound Care in Easton, Md., where he treats wounds resulting from diabetes, surgery, severe skin irritations, burns, and traumatic accidents.

**Vincent Capezuto (B.T. '83)** is director of air traffic systems in the program management organization of the Federal Aviation Administration. During Aviation Week in April, he was a guest speaker at the NextGen Ahead Air Transportation Modernization Conference in Washington, D.C.

**Nancy Rosenberg (M.B.A. '83)** has run A2Z Resumes in Tampa Bay, Fla., for more than 20 years. She has provided expertise for *The Complete Idiot's Guide to The Perfect Resume*, a book series by author Susan Ireland.

West African émigré and U.S. Air Force veteran **Aziz Adetimirin (B.T. '84)** is founder, president, and publisher of *The Network Journal*, a monthly magazine dedicated to educating and empowering black professionals and small business owners.

**John Dorr (B.S. '84)** heads the electrical department at O'Neal Inc., a design and construction firm in Greenville, S.C.

**Carl Franzetti (D.O. '84)** was honored by Saint Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers, N.Y., for his work as a family medicine doctor at its Fabulous 50s Ball.

**Patricia Galloway (M.B.A. '84)**, CEO of Pegasus Global Holdings, a management consulting firm in Cle Elum, Wash., was one of seven women who were named as "trailblazers" in 2011 by Women's eNews Inc. >>

JOSH GERITSEN



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

### MICHELE REED (D.O. '97)

**CURRENT POSITION** Medical director and owner of MS Family Medicine Health Care PC, with locations in Queens and Garden City, N.Y.

**GETTING THE WORD OUT** Reed is also the co-founder of the First Things First Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works with Long Island communities to educate families about healthy living and disease prevention. She helped launch the organization after realizing it wasn't just doctors who needed to provide health education. "I was talking to a little boy and told him he needed to start exercising. He looked at me and said, 'My mother doesn't exercise, so why should I?' If his parent is not being the model to follow, then I can talk all I want and it's not going to do anything."

**OSTEOPATHIC VS. ALLOPATHIC** When deciding which medical school to attend, Reed made the choice to focus on the more holistic approach to medicine that is one of the hallmarks of osteopathic science. "Whether it's not getting the proper food or maybe something is going on with your family, I wanted to look past the disease to find the root causes of illness."

**ACTIVE ALUMNAE** Reed still keeps in contact with her alma mater and welcomes NYIT student-doctors who perform rotations in her office. Their responsibilities range from maintaining electronic records to seeing patients and using osteopathic manipulative medicine techniques to taking patient histories.

**FUTURE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE** Like many of her colleagues, Reed believes that more needs to be done to educate the public about what a D.O. degree means as opposed to an M.D. "We need to make sure of who we are and what we stand for. That means more awareness of the osteopathic medical schools, in hospitals, and other areas."

**ADVICE TO MEDICAL STUDENTS** "Figure out your passion and focus. Don't let anybody stop you from reaching your goals."

➤ Colors, patterns, and textures come naturally to **Randi Halpern (B.F.A. '84)**, who runs an interior design business in New York City.

**Robert Pepe (B.S. '84)** is a founding partner, president, and COO of RTS Unified Communications, an audiovisual and information technology company in Hicksville, N.Y.

**Anthony Epifane (A.A.S. '85, B.S. '86, M.B.A. '09)** is director of the sales engineering group for the eastern United States at Karl Storz Endoscopy-America Inc., a medical devices company with offices in 38 countries. He says his NYIT education shaped his career path. "The classes I took were directly related to the work I was doing at the time—designing, repairing, and installing medical equipment," he says.

**Alexander Markowski (B.F.A. '85)** is president and founder of Audio Kitchen Post, a Wilmington, N.C.-based company that provides audio services for filmmakers and television producers.

Architect **Orlando Marin (B.S. '86)** is the Bronx representative on the New York City Planning Commission. He has dedicated his career to building and managing affordable housing—a focus derived from an experience in his twenties as a National Urban Rural fellow, when he worked as a special assistant to the city engineer of Phoenix, Ariz.

**Ali Araghi (B.S. '87, D.O. '90)** is director of the spine division at The CORE Institute in Phoenix, Ariz., and a member of the North American Spine Society.

**Randy Friedman (B.F.A. '87)** is president of Six Points Media Group, a

public relations and communications firm in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The rags-to-riches story of how a Chinese laundryman's daughter became an international star and an activist against all odds is the subject of the documentary, *Anna May Wong: In Her Own Words*, by **Yun-Ah Hong (M.A. '87)**. The award-winning filmmaker is based in New York City.

**Mantie Reid (B.S. '87)** is a consulting engineer for Verizon in New York.

**Sandra Kopecky (B.S. '88, M.S. '11)** was among the group of NYIT students to work on Golden-i, the world's first hands-free wireless headset computer before it comes to the market, as part of NYIT's technology partnership with Motorola Solutions.

"My proudest possession is my ➤



## DEAR NYIT ALUMNI,

As we approach the summer, there is a sense of excitement overtaking NYIT campuses worldwide. I'm excited and optimistic about the university's continued evolution, particularly across its interdisciplinary curriculum. This special edition of *NYIT Magazine*, showcasing the multi-faceted educational opportunities offered by the College of Osteopathic Medicine, exemplifies the importance of cross-disciplinary cooperation and collaboration. The NYIT brand continues to be enhanced and elevated by students, faculty, staff, and—of course—our alumni.

As I meet with students, I am happy to note they realize the NYIT experience does not end at commencement. Alumni, too, appreciate the incredible opportunities that exist when staying connected to fellow graduates and the university. It has only been two short years since I have assumed the role as president of the NYIT Alumni Federation, but I have already seen progress as our global chapters welcome new members and forge new professional relationships.

Career opportunities, business development, new friendships, and the chance to reconnect with former classmates are only a few of the rewarding benefits. Where else but in NYIT's network of alumni can you find so many people, across so many disciplines, cultures, and continents that share something so special with you?

Lastly, I'd like to welcome Jennifer Kelly (M.S. '99) as our new director of alumni relations. A fellow graduate, she brings with her professional experience and firsthand knowledge of the NYIT experience—the memories, the laughter, the academic rigors, and, of course, knowing what it feels like to hold that NYIT degree for the first time. Under her guidance, I know NYIT and the successes of our alumni will reach new heights.

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

# DOCTOR HEADS LASER TREATMENT FOR TWIN TROUBLES

By Rose Sumer

When surgeon and former gymnast **Courtney (Cook) Stephenson (D.O. '97)** moved to Charlotte, N.C., she proved that one person could make a difference for thousands. Now, as director of fetal therapy at the Charlotte Fetal Care Center (CFCC), she is one of 38 doctors in the United States skilled in fetoscopic laser ablation, a non-invasive surgery used to treat Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS). The CFCC is the only hospital offering the procedure in the Southeast.

TTTS is a prenatal life-threatening abnormality that affects nearly 15 percent of all identical twins sharing a placenta in utero. The placenta has to be shared by two fetuses, and many times blood flow is not balanced—one fetus receives nearly all the blood while the other does not receive much. This results in volume overload or a hypertensive state for one fetus and dehydration for the other.

"Women come from all over, and it's always an emergency," Stephenson says. "Their babies are in jeopardy, and we have to move quickly."

When Stephenson performs fetoscopic laser ablation surgery with her medical team, she first places a 2.5 mm scope into the patient's uterus to map the placental blood vessels causing the shunting of blood preferentially toward one fetus. Next, she uses a laser to photocoagulate or ablate the blood flow. The laser's heat destroys the rogue vessels. Screens in the operating room project the surgery.

"This allows the fetuses to stay in place, and grow and develop normally," she says.

Stephenson's view of medicine was shaped by athletics. From age five to 21, she competed in gymnastics and won a bronze medal as an All-American on the balance beam. "The mind-body connection attracted me to osteopathy," she says. "I always took a holistic approach to my body as an athlete."

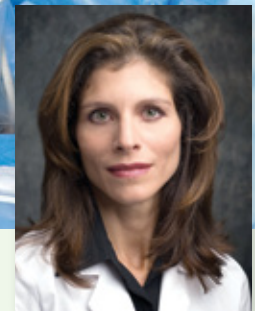
Stephenson says her education at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine provided an edge on medical rotations, thanks to a solid foundation in subjects such as pharmacology.

"The curriculum formed our minds to think of patients as emotional and physical beings, not just people with illnesses," Stephenson says. "This has helped me when interacting with pregnant women, who can have tremendous anxieties."

Stephenson won NYIT's Janet Glasgow Award, which honors a female physician in the top 10 percent of her



Courtney (Cook) Stephenson (D.O. '97) performs fetoscopic laser ablation surgery.



class. She went on to complete a residency at New York Methodist Hospital, followed by a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at New York University School of Medicine. She joined Carolinas Medical Center's Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division in August 2004 and performed the region's first fetoscopic surgery two years later.

In 2007, she sought training in the treatment of TTTS from leading fetal surgeon Timothy Crombleholme, M.D., at the Fetal Care Center of Cincinnati. The skills she acquired enabled her to open the CFCC in 2010.

Despite her busy schedule today, Stephenson finds time with her two children. "Balancing between being a mother and a physician is tough," she says. "But the benefit is your children grow up with an awareness of a world outside of them."

## | ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

**BILL BLAZEY (D.O. '05)**

**CURRENT POSITION** Assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) as well as a faculty associate to the NYIT Center for Global Health.

**BLAZING THE FAST TRACK** Just a few years after earning his medical degree, Blazezy helped to develop NYIT's Accelerated D.O./Family Medicine Residency Continuum Program, which allows students specializing in family medicine to complete osteopathic medical school in three years instead of four. "I created a new, 10-week course that covers the scope of care and skills that a family medicine physician encounters as well as directed the collaboration between residency programs and multiple departments." His efforts led to approval of the new curriculum by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation and the New York State Education Department as well as a five-year grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

**A FAMILY CALLING** Blazezy's path to becoming a doctor began when his younger sister was born with severe mental and physical disabilities. "I was exposed to health care throughout my life as my family and I spent most of my childhood traveling to and from hospitals to care for her." Years later, Blazezy met a family doctor—Richard Terry (D.O. '88, see opposite page)—who said if he was serious about being a doctor, then NYCOM was the best place to learn.

**THE POWER OF TEACHING—AND LEARNING—FROM NYIT STUDENTS**

"Our students are an amazingly diverse group. Each year, I learn more about the world we live in by my relationships with them. They have an idealism that is contagious and pushes me to reach out to the communities I serve. The entire experience makes me a better doctor and teacher."

**A HAIRY SITUATION** In October 2011, one of Blazezy's students asked him to participate in the Movember Foundation's annual moustache-growing event to raise awareness for men's health and cancer prevention. The experience led to one of his patients urging her husband to undergo an examination. Blazezy found a prostate nodule that signaled early-stage prostate cancer. Thankfully, the woman's husband received treatment in time and has been focused on maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

>> silver NYIT graduation ring," says **Anthony Leppa (B.S. '88)**, whose father came to America from Italy. Anthony, 81, was the first in his family to graduate from college.

**Barbara Scheele (B.S. '88)**, manager at Sun West Recovery Inc., a repositioning agency in Charlotte County, Fla., was named VIP of the Year for excellence in business management by *Cambridge Who's Who*.

Diplomacy is tantamount to **George Abraham (B.S. '89, M.S. '92)** as president of the Indian National Overseas Congress, an organization committed to strengthening U.S.-Indian relations. He previously worked at the United Nations headquarters in New York City for 36 years, including as chief technology officer for the UN Pension Fund's IT global operations.

**Luciano Bruni (B.Arch. '89)** serves as a senior project director in the East Rutherford, N.J., office of commercial real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield Inc.

**Sunita Holzer-Bhatia (M.S. '89)** is executive vice president of insurance company Chubb & Son in Warren, N.J., where she oversees all worldwide human resource functions. She also serves on the board of directors for South Jersey Industries, an energy services holding company in Folsom, N.J.

**Jim Hurtado (B.S. '89)** has patented a debris trap for rainwater collection systems. He is the CEO and founder of Danisa's Group LLC, a design-build firm in Fanwood, N.J.

**Steven Salvatore (D.O. '89)** won a Folio Award from the Fair Media Council in science, health, and environmental news for his nationally syndicated health, wellness, and lifestyle program "Dr. Steve," which airs on WPIX-TV in New York.

**Brian D. Silva (M.S. '89)** is senior vice president of human resources and administration for Fresenius Medical Care, a global leader in kidney care headquartered in Waltham, Mass.

## | 1990s |

**Yvon Antoine (B.P.S. '90)** is a cyto-technologist at New York University,

where he conducts the microscopic study of cells for evidence of disease.

**Leonard Berkowitz (D.O. '90)** is a board-certified family practice doctor at Medical Associates of New York in Manhattan.

**Donald M. DeMaio (B.S. '90)** is executive vice president and chief retail banking officer at Continental Bank in Plymouth Meeting, Penn.

Stop by the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts through Sunday, Aug. 19, to see the "Interstellar" exhibit featuring paintings by **Carrie Moyer (M.A. '90)**.

**Jack Nuszen (D.O. '90)** received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Young Israel of Houston, Texas. The award recognizes acts of kindness and dedicated service to providing medical assistance to the shul and local community.

**Panos Angelopoulos (B.S. '91, M.B.A. '93)** is president of Cleveland Polymer Technologies in Ithaca, N.Y.

**Theodore Galante (B.Arch. '91)** has run his namesake architecture firm, Galante Studio, for 12 years in Cambridge, Mass. His clients include Harvard University and Boston-based cultural institutions such as Mass Motion Dance Studio.

**Richard Humann (B.S. '91)** is president and COO of H2M, a Melville, N.Y.-based architectural, engineering, and environmental planning firm.

**Marc Loftus (B.F.A. '91)**, senior editor and director of Web content for *Post Magazine*, specializes in new technologies and creative techniques for film, television, and commercial post production.

**Gary Licker (M.A. '92)** is a director at Scott Entertainment in Westbury, N.Y. He produced and directed the documentary film, *Selling Cars in America*, which premiered on CNBC in February and will air throughout the year.

**Terence O'Daly (M.A. '92)** has served as a professor of art for 15 years at the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Long Island University. He is also a professional graphic designer, animator, and website developer.

**Ijaz Jafri (B.S. '93)** is vice president of engineering at Qualtré, a company that specializes in next-generation >>

## Overcoming Ourselves



MIKE MCGREGOR/GETTY IMAGES

The American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOF) named Richard Terry (D.O. '88) its 2012 Osteopathic Family Medicine Educator of the Year at its annual convention in March. He currently serves as chief academic officer of the Lake Erie (Pa.) Consortium for Medical Training as well as director of medical education at Wilson Regional Medical Center/United Health Services in Johnson City, N.Y. This July, he begins a new position as assistant dean for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

*NYIT Magazine* had the opportunity to sit down with Terry as he explained his philosophy on medical education and the future of osteopathic medicine.

### First, congratulations on your ACOFP recognition. Why do you think they chose to recognize you?

One of the most important aspects of teaching is giving feedback in addition to getting patients to remember what we offer. There is an identity crisis between allopathic institutions, and D.O.s forget their osteopathic foundation. I address what our value is by promoting how it's the most holistic approach, with the ability for doctors to perform manual medicine with their hands and an emphasis on family care. Those are the key principles of osteopathic medicine.

### What are the greatest obstacles facing osteopathic physicians?

The greatest obstacle is us. We don't advertise ourselves as D.O.s. Some are ashamed or some are afraid to show off their abilities. Only 10 percent of D.O.s practicing actually do osteopathic manipulation. We're our own worst enemy by not advertising what we offer. There are still not enough osteopathic training sites, so many students choose allopathic training instead. We need to be more geographically diverse so we can offer ample training opportunities.

### Speaking to that, how would you rate how we train osteopathic physicians?

We have to be careful of our growth to make sure we are giving enough individual mentoring. The biggest difference I've made is to offer mentoring for all of my students, no matter what their level. I think sometimes that gets lost because there are not enough mentors for students in their formative years.

### Are there growth opportunities for osteopathic medical education?

The key is more post-graduate education. The growth is in developing those programs for D.O.s who have graduated to give them more learning opportunities. This is going to be difficult because the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education is drawing the lines on osteopathic training opportunities due to more M.D.s graduating. For students, we have to develop more purely osteopathic training centers.

—Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

## NYIT HONORS POLICE HEROES



CHRISTOPHER SEMETIS

Nassau County Police Department Chief and NYIT graduate Steven E. Skrynecki (B.S. '10, right) joined NYIT Director of Facilities Operations William Marchand (center) and First Deputy Commissioner Donald Krumpter of the Nassau County Police Department (left) as they honored the heroism of several members of the Old Brookville, Old Westbury, and Nassau County police departments at the NYIT de Seversky Mansion on April 19. NYIT's Old Westbury campus has been ranked in recent years among the safest in the country according to *The Daily Beast*.

>> silicon MEMS inertial sensors for the consumer electronics market.

**Gary Lynch (B.S. '93)** is a senior research fellow at the Supply Chain Management Center at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business in College Park, Md.

**Ugur Sayan (M.S. '93)**, owner of the Hauppauge, N.Y.-based company Softheon, has made a major business deal: a contract with Computer Sciences Corp. to deliver Softheon software to the health care industry using cloud-based technology.

**Robert Werner (B.S. '93)** is managing director of Rose Associates, a New York-based real estate services firm. He has more than 20 years of experience in residential building operations, including successful openings of luxury properties in Manhattan such as the Chelsea Landmark.

**Ted White (B.F.A. '93, M.A. '95)** is

a reporter for WPBF 25, an ABC news affiliate station in West Palm Beach, Fla.

**Leslie Gonzalez (B.F.A. '94)** is vice president of communications and digital services at LG World Communications, a personalized, full-service company for media outreach, communications, and digital needs.

**Hadi Rassael (D.O. '94)** practices at Millennium Medical in Chevy Chase, Md., where he performs the non-invasive body contouring procedure called Zerona.

**Christopher Romance (B.S. '94)** is a police lieutenant for the Rockville Centre, N.Y., Police Department and a graduate of the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, Va.

**Robert Allgor (ACERT '95, M.S. '97)** is a lead program manager for National Grid's natural gas energy efficiency programs. He won a business leader award from the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership for his work

for the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center. The project involved installation of cutting-edge gas technologies that reduced the client's operating expenses, resulting in more than \$98,000 in rebates from National Grid and saving more than \$56,000 annually in gas costs. He is also teaching classes at NYIT on solar energy and photovoltaic technologies.

**Benjamin Knack (A.O.S. '95)** was selected as a celebrity chef for the first ever statewide New Hampshire Restaurant Week in May by the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association. He is a chef at the Bedford (N.H.) Village Inn and was featured on season 7 of Fox TV's *Hell's Kitchen* with Gordon Ramsay.

**Gregory Montenegro (B.S. '95)** is director of risk management at King Kullen Grocery Company, based in Bethpage, N.Y.

As market operations liaison at Wells Fargo Advisors LLC in Paramus, N.J., **Timothy J. Wong (B.F.A. '95)** is a member of the senior operations team managing service and operations for four branch offices.

**Gregory Alba (D.O. '97)**, a board-certified physician in family medicine, practices at Piedmont PrimeCare in Danville, Va.

**David Elkowitz (D.O. '97)** is a member of the visiting committee of Norwich University, his undergraduate alma mater in Northfield, Vt.

**Greg Faulhaber (M.S. '97)** is a realtor for Coldwell Banker in Goodyear, Ariz.

**David Bonney (D.O. '98)** is a board-certified physician in internal medicine and dermatology at The Dermatology Group's offices in Verona and West Orange, N.J.

**Rev. Richard Frechette (D.O. '98)** received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and addressed graduates at the May 2012 commencement ceremony at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa. Known by colleagues as "Father Rick," he is the director of medical services at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos St. Damien's Hospital in Haiti and provides medical care for children in nations such as Bolivia, El Salvador, and Honduras.



**Christopher M. Prior (D.O. '98)** was named Physician of the Year for Doctors Express, a nationwide urgent care franchise. He has served multiple tours with the U.S. military in Iraq and says, "My training and experiences in the army have prepared me for whatever comes in our doors." He now lives in Castle Rock, Colo., with his wife, Suzanne, and their three daughters: Casey, Brianna, and Emma.

**David Zuckerman (M.S. '98)** is president and founder of Durable Ventures Inc., a company specializing in business management, production, research and development, and marketing that's based in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Lior Barak (M.B.A. '99)** is chief financial officer of Skybox Security in San Jose, Calif., a company that provides automated tools for monitoring cyber security risks.

**Enrique "Rick" Jinete (B.S. '99, M.S. '00)**, D.P.T., runs Healing Therapeutics, a network of 14 centers specializing in rehabilitation therapy for senior citizens throughout New York and Connecticut.

| 2000s |

**Julie (Hauptvogel) Bombaci (B.S. '00)** is an inside sales account manager for Barcoding Inc., a developer of supply chain and mobility systems in Baltimore, Md.

**Samuel M. Galvagno (D.O. '00)** is a board-certified physician in anesthesiology, adult critical care medicine, and

## DAYS OF THE GREEK



Original members of NYIT's Xi-Gamma Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) gathered for their 40-year anniversary at Leonard's in Great Neck, N.Y. Founded in 1971, TKE is the oldest active NYIT fraternity and includes more than 360 alumni. Thanks to Steve Cooper (B.A. '74), president of public relations firm SCA Communications, for providing this alumni update!



public health; an assistant professor in the divisions of trauma anesthesiology and adult critical care medicine at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, Md; and an active member of the U.S. Air Force.

**Cassandra Thomas (M.S. '00)**, an associate minister at First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury, N.Y., has published *Divinely Inspired Love Devotionals*.

Watch **James Gaddis (B.F.A. '02)** report for NewsChannel 9, an affiliate >>



## MORNING IN NYIT-BAHRAIN

Chandrabhan Ramlakhan-Singh (M.S. '90) knows a photo op when he sees it. While visiting Bahrain in December 2011, he saw the NYIT campus when walking to his hotel and couldn't resist snapping this photo.

Send your photos from around the world to [magazine@nyit.edu](mailto:magazine@nyit.edu).

# TWO DEGREES OF CELEBRATION

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

**In medical parlance,** one may consider it an “unexpected outcome.”

Kerry Agnello (D.O. '02) enrolled at NYIT to become a doctor; as a bonus, she ended up with a husband.

It was during student orientation in 1997 when she met a second-year student, Robert (D.O. '01), who had been representing the Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy club at an Old Westbury campus fair. Immediately, the pair became friends and, as their friendship grew, so did the realization that the two were perhaps meant to find each other.

“We frequently found ourselves in workshops and treatment classes together,” says Robert. “There was something amazing that blossomed between us.”

During their first date at La Ginestra Restaurant in Glen Cove, N.Y., they learned that Robert’s grandfather grew up only two miles from Kerry’s home in Kingston, N.Y. The couple also shared a love of medicine; Kerry’s admiration sprang from her parents, both pharmacists, who kept her grounded in the world of medicine, while Robert’s fascination went back to his childhood days of visiting the ophthalmologist.

Best of all, they were both diehard New York Yankees and Giants fans.

“We were at first being a little flirtatious,” says Robert, a native of Staten Island, N.Y. “Then I realized this was a woman who’s gorgeous and smart and loves sports. After you have that kind of matchup, fuhgettaboutit.”

Robert and Kerry were engaged six months later. On April 21, 2001, just weeks before Robert earned his NYIT degree, they tied the knot.

Since earning their degrees, the couple has led busy careers. Both performed their residencies in family practice at Warren Hospital in Phillipsburg, N.J. Robert joined the U.S. Army as a reservist in 2001 and practiced medicine at the Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point. After 9/11, he began treating soldiers and their families at various medical facilities, including Fort Drum in Jefferson County, N.Y., and Berwick Clinic in Pennsylvania.

Kerry served as a faculty member at Warren Hospital, where she worked in geriatrics and coordinated osteopathic training programs. She says there is a distinct advantage to being an osteopathic physician.

“I truly believe it is the best of both worlds,” she says. “Not only do I have the tools in my medical bag of being a traditional physician—the type people think I am—to prescribe, diagnose, and treat ailments. But I can also use my hands to heal, and I have a broader understanding of the musculoskeletal system.” The experience, she adds, gives her the ability “to treat patients from so many angles.”

In 2010, the couple finally decided to settle down after Robert completed his service in the Army with the rank of major. His experiences at West Point and other military posts, however, instilled him with pride as he treated



Robert Agnello (D.O. '01) and his wife, Kerry (D.O. '02), met while earning their degrees at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

soldiers and families. Today, both husband and wife treat patients at Clark Clinic in Fort Bragg, N.C., where they practice family medicine on active duty personnel, spouses, and children.

"We plan to stay here for the long run," says Kerry. "So we bought a home."

It was a milestone in their marriage soon to be overshadowed by another. On Feb. 3, 2012, the couple welcomed their first child, Claire, into their lives.

Still adjusting to her new role as a parent, Kerry notes how North Carolina has already made an impact on her husband.

"I like the warm weather here and friendliness," says Robert. "I walk out of work in the middle of February and it's 70 degrees. It puts a smile on my face. And now with a beautiful baby, too, that gives me an even bigger smile. I think it's worked out."

Adds Kerry: "He thinks he was always meant to be a Southerner."



“We frequently found ourselves in workshops and treatment classes together. There was something amazing that blossomed between us.”  
-Robert Agnello (D.O. '01)

# Tell Us a **STORY**

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►► of ABC News in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Frank Lombardi (D.O. '03)** is an attending physician at Village Medical Associates in Phillipsburg, N.J.

Choreographer, international Latin dance champion, and licensed stockbroker **Christian Perry (B.F.A. '03, M.A. '05)** owns Havin' a Ball Dance Studio in Valencia and Pasadena, Calif., where he teaches ballroom dancing.

**Francesco Policaro (B.S. '03, D.P.T. '05)** is the clinical supervisor of the Rockville Centre, N.Y., office of Orlin & Cohen Orthopedic Group.

Neurosurgeon **David Spiro (D.O. '03)** is a member of the medical staff at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Conn., where he specializes in minimally invasive spinal surgery and brain tumors.

**Jan Garcia (B.T. '04)** is an instrumentation and controls engineer at Indian Point Nuclear Station in Buchanan, N.Y.

Fifth-grade school teacher **Kara (Curcuruto) Raap (M.S. '04)** published the children's book, *The Adventures of Carly Sage*. She teaches at Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary School in Cuddebackville, N.Y.

**Robert Roelle (M.S. '04)**, who began his career in education 16 years ago as an English/language arts and social studies teacher in North Carolina, is the principal of Pelham (N.Y.) Middle School.

**Salvatore Alonge (B.T. '05)** was named one of New York's "Top 20 under 40" in *Engineering News-Record* magazine. He is chief plumbing designer for WDF, a plumbing contractor company in Mount Vernon, N.Y.

**Christine Chiao (D.O. '05)** is a board-certified adult and child/adolescent psychiatrist in Harrison, N.Y.

Love, intrigue, and drama are central to *God's Great Stories*, the first film written, produced, and directed by **Paul Jacobs (M.A. '05)**, who studied with communications arts professor Michael Banks while at NYIT-Manhattan.

**Mylan Kohler (D.O. '05)** is a psychiatrist at Tamarack Behavioral Health Center, part of Holy Family Memorial Hospital in Manitowoc, Wis.

**Yury Mashkovich (D.O. '05)** is a doctor at Park Ridge Health's H.O.P.E. Psychiatric Program in North Carolina and at Park Ridge Psychiatry, an outpatient treatment center.

**Artemio Perez (D.O. '05)** is a New Jersey native who enjoys hiking, jogging, and weightlifting. He practices at Innovative Orthopedic and Spine Surgery in California.

**Erin Stoen (B.F.A. '05)** is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Science in Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Northern Colorado.

**Brian Walls (D.P.T. '05)** is a wellness coordinator at Friends Life Care in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., a leading long-term care provider for aging adults.

**John Dano (M.A. '06)** is the New York representative for SalesPartners, an international business services company with a branch in Wantagh, N.Y.

**Marie Eugene (D.O. '06)** is a neurologist with expertise in epilepsy at UConn Health Center.

**Erin Gatrell (B.S. '06)** works as a child counselor at the Frances Leiter Center of the Children's Aid Society in Chambersburg, S.D.

| MARRIAGES |

**Amul Goswamy (B.S. '99, M.S. '00)**  
to Kelly Ann Lehman

**Antonio Mallozzi (B.S. '01)**  
to Gina Garibaldi

**Steven M. Collegio (B.F.A. '05)**  
to Erica Mininni

| OBITS |

**Joseph Romanello (B.F.A. '76)**

**Don Cioppa (B.S. '77)**

**Anita Graham (B.S. '79)**

**John T. Horan (M.S. '88)**

**Nick Santino (B.S. '88)**

**Matthew Abramov (B.F.A. '93)**

**Roy DeBeer, D.O.,**  
adjunct associate professor, NYCOM

**Philip Marcus, M.D.,**  
associate dean for curriculum, NYCOM



KISS OF SUCCESS

Adam Bitterman (D.O. '10) and his colleagues at software developer JAMB Innovations (where he is CEO and co-founder) released KISS by Monster Mini Golf, an iOS scoreboard app named after the classic rock band and designed for the group's new miniature golf course in Las Vegas. JAMB's original Monster Mini Golf, released last summer, was featured in the Top 200 Sports Apps in iTunes for nearly seven months. Pictured is Bitterman (left) with JAMB co-founder Jeffrey Midgley outside the KISS golf course.

**Anas Z. Talhouni (B.S. '06, M.B.A. '08)** organized a Mother's Day event in March for orphans in Jordan.

**Rasha Batarseh (D.O. '07)** is an inpatient medical specialist and a member of the department of medicine at Nyack (N.Y.) Hospital.

**Padmini Bertsch (M.B.A. '07)** is an executive assistant at McKim & Creed, an award-winning engineering, surveying, and planning firm in Raleigh, N.C.

**Arabella Bull-Stewart (D.O. '07)** joined the staff of Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland, Vt.

**James Dempsey (M.B.A. '07)** is managing director of First Republic Bank, a leading private bank and wealth management company in New York City.

Hawaii, Tahiti, and Fiji are some of the exotic destinations that **Kristin Finamore (B.P.S. '07)** plans vacation packages for as the business development manager for the greater New York area at Pleasant Holidays, a travel company.

**Christine Gorman (M.B.A. '07)** is a financial and business analyst at Christensen Co., a Mission Woods, Mo.-based company that provides drilling and

related services for water infrastructure, mineral exploration, and energy.

**Ayman Ibrahim (D.O. '07)**, a neurologist with experience using Botox injections to treat migraine headaches, is a physician at La Porte Hospital of Indiana University Health.

**Sang Kromah (B.P.S. '07, M.A. '10)** published *Concealed*, a debut novel inspired by her parents' tales of Liberia, their native land.

**Brittney Nespola (B.S. '07)** is a digital advertising account manager for entertainment and lifestyle properties at CBS Interactive in New York City. She visited an NYIT advertising class in April and discussed how to get ahead in the media industry.

**Genelle Walters (M.S./D.O. '07)** is a physician at Tampa Obstetrics, Fertility, and Gynecology in Tampa, Fla.

**Duane Albro (M.B.A. '08)** serves as president and chief executive officer of WVT Communications Group in Warwick, N.Y.

Solving Israel's water crisis is the reason **Gil Ben-Meir (M.S. '08)** founded Green Solutions, a clean-tech company that >>

>> produces, sells, and installs alternative energy and water-saving systems for residences and businesses. Among its leading innovations is the Evergreen greywater treatment system.

**Kevin Braithwaite (B.T. '08)** is an electrical engineer and co-founder of the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based DAMN Digital Studio LLC, an interactive digital agency for clients in the media, retail, entertainment, and hospitality industries.

**Helen Chung-Hussain (D.O. '08)** is a family physician at UHS Primary Care in Apalachin, N.Y.

**Daniel De La Cruz (B.Arch. '08)** is an architect at Curtis and Ginsberg Architects in New York City.

**Shirley Eugene (D.O. '08)** lost both of her parents to cancer—a tragedy that inspired her career as a family medicine doctor at Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa.

**Nicholas Jewczyn (M.B.A. '08)** is pursuing his Ph.D. at Northcentral University in Prescott Valley, Ariz. He serves on the editorial review boards of five peer-reviewed scholarly journals, including the *Journal of Applied Sciences*.

**Robert Lukenda (D.O. '08)** has opened New Jersey Family Medical in Cranford, N.J. He is a lifelong New Jersey resident who lives in Union County, where he was born and raised.

**Ron Reed (M.B.A. '08)** serves as chief financial officer of Giyani Gold Corporation, a gold exploration company in Ontario, Canada.

East meets West in the medical practice of **Danielle Roberts (D.O. '08, M.S. '08)**, a holistic family doctor with nutrition expertise at Patients Medical PC in New York City. She applies a mind-body approach to her practice and is skilled in osteopathic manipulative therapy, reiki, and metaphysical healing.

**Adam Steiger (B.P.S. '08)** is director of business development for TWC Aviation in Miami, Fla. “My best experience at NYIT was on graduation day when I noticed how happy I made my family ... I became more disciplined and learned what the word perseverance means,” he says. “From that point for-

ward in my life, I decided that anything I start, I must see to the end.”

**Garance Clos (B.F.A. '09, M.A. '10)** of UrbanDaddy.com is an editorial assistant. The online media company that covers nightlife, restaurants, style, and entertainment in New York City.

Turkey, Russia, and Kazakhstan are just a few countries where **James Cox Jr. (B.S. '09)** has developed and sold luxury residential projects for the Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotel brands. He is currently senior vice president and associate broker at real estate firm Town Residential LLC in New York City.

The jury is in, and **Georgiana Haynes (B.Arch. '09)** is on it as a member of the American Institute of Architects' Diversity Recognition Program, which selects professionals to honor in the field. She is an intern at Hugh Robotham Architect P.C. and Jennifer Swee Architects in New York City, and the founder of studioENYA, a program for inner-city high school students interested in pursuing careers in architecture.

Pro boxer **Chris Algieri (M.S. '10)** has been a fan of the sport since he was a young boy. “The most enjoyable aspect of boxing is the dedication and discipline that is instilled during training,” he says. “As a fighter, every aspect of yourself is on stage for everyone to see when you are in that ring—even things you may not know about yourself.”

After graduating from NYIT, **Drew Glenn (B.S. '10)** founded Glenn Insurance Group in Westerville, Ohio.

**William Kuehl (M.B.A. '10)** serves as vice president for enrollment management at St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Okla.

**Nadia Logab (B.S. '10)** is the recipient of the Chevening Scholarship, a full-paid grant to study in the United Kingdom. She intends to pursue an M.S. in political science and political economy this fall at the London School of Economics.

**Yili Huang (D.O. '11)** is completing an anesthesia residency at Yale School of Medicine-New Haven (Conn.) Hospital.

**Geraldine Mezon-Aracena (B.P.S. '11)** is a hospitality professional who has

worked at the Disney Animal Kingdom Lodge in Orlando, Fla., and the JWU Inn in Seekonk, Mass.

**Victoria Rudenko (M.S./D.O. '11)** was the first author on an article published in the journal *Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior*. Her research may provide a therapeutic strategy for controlling seizures during certain stages in development without psychoactive or deleterious side effects. ■



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