



TOOLS

of Engagement

NYIT instructors embrace a 21st-century mindset to enhance student learning



■ **16 TOOLS OF ENGAGEMENT**

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Favorable Chances

AT NYIT'S ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES IN NEW YORK, BAHRAIN, JORDAN, ABU DHABI, AND CHINA, I HAD THE PLEASURE OF WELCOMING THE LATEST NYIT GRADUATES INTO OUR WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF MORE THAN 92,000 ALUMNI. WITH THE CLASS OF 2012, NYIT'S REPUTATION WILL CONTINUE TO GROW, BRINGING NEW IDEAS, SOLUTIONS, AND TECHNOLOGIES TO THE FRONT OF 21ST-CENTURY GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

In my commencement address, I posed a question: Where did ideas that shape our lives originate? And how exactly did they spread so rapidly—long before the Internet, radio, television, and telephone? Where, in fact, did the creativity that spawned invention come from?

The answer is that many of the most revolutionary ideas are developed as innovators share and improve upon each other's designs. Before today's multitudes of communication channels, journals and periodicals published articles and research, the government organized networking opportunities for engineers, scientists, and inventors, and great thinkers communicated in person, surprised and challenged each other, and sparked new ideas.

Put simply, no one did it alone. And the same holds true for the ideas that will shape and improve our lives in the future. Individual concentration and hard work are involved, but good ideas are far more likely to emerge as part of an accumulative process. And that process most often takes place in environments that promote collaboration.

Steven Johnson, author of *Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation*, calls these effective structures "spaces of innovation"—a phrase that describes anywhere that people come together to connect, share ideas, and innovate. Today, those collaborations still take place through journals and conferences but also on Facebook, Twitter, and



at global universities such as NYIT. As Johnson says: "Chance favors the connected mind."

It is because of these connections that the world has seen more scientific and technological advancement in the past 200 years than ever in human history. It is no coincidence that with more ways to communicate, there are more

ways to innovate. And today's social media and mobile devices have allowed interconnectivity among human beings to intensify.

Regardless of discipline and professional aspirations, to succeed in our complex, rapidly changing economy, we at NYIT have made it a priority to cultivate and sustain this interconnected mentality.

The fast-forward speed of transformations is extraordinary and often disorienting. The challenges of the 21st century are formidable. We need a cleaner environment, efficient and renewable energy, better health care, business models that can keep pace with economic and social change, and a cyber-connected global network that is more connected and more secure. But with connected minds come connected purpose, a reminder that we are all living in the same world, sharing many of the dreams and ideas for a better future.

We have created a unique academic infrastructure that empowers and encourages connections among alumni, faculty, students, and industry. Only through embracing and bouncing new ideas off each other can we embrace, enhance, and transform to create the opportunities and chances that favor our connected, global institution. ■

Sincerely,
Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.
President

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Gilliar Named Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine

At the annual College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Health Professions convocation in September, President Guiliano announced that Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., will serve as the next dean of the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, as of Jan. 1, 2013.

Gilliar, who has served as an NYIT professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine since 2004, brings a local perspective and experience as well as outstanding credentials as a practicing osteopathic physician and former professor at Tufts University School of Medicine and Stanford University School of Medicine. He succeeds Thomas Scandalis (D.O. '87), who served as dean since 2007 and is now chair of the College of Osteopathic Medicine's new Department of Sports Medicine and director of the new NYIT Center for Sports Medicine and Performance Sciences.

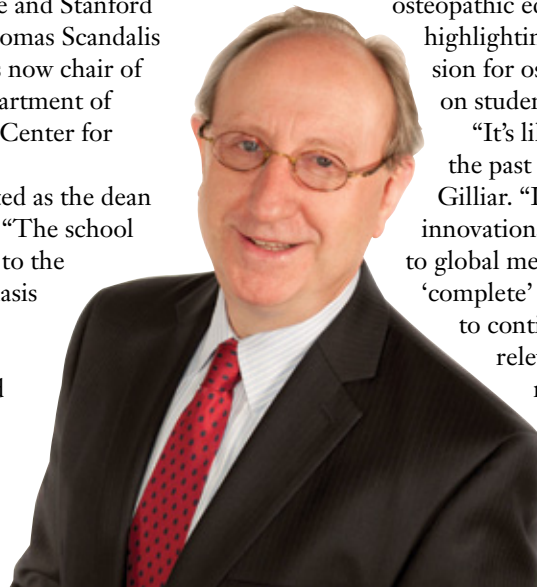
"It is indeed a privilege and honor to be selected as the dean of this osteopathic medical school," says Gilliar. "The school is poised to continue to make real contributions to the medical education community through its emphasis on exciting educational and research initiatives, progressive technology application, and by participating in inspiring health missions around the globe."

Gilliar is the author of or contributor to 20 books and book chapters on osteopathic and musculoskeletal medicine. He holds a Doctor of Osteopathy degree from Michigan State

University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. In addition, he founded an osteopathic medical center in California and previously directed the traumatic brain injury unit at Tufts' Greenery Rehabilitation Center. At NYIT, Gilliar's research has focused on the effects of osteopathic manipulative medical treatment on the immune system, on patients with asthma, and on patients recovering from strokes.

Earlier this year, he was named the 2012 Educator of the Year by the American Osteopathic Foundation. The award honors osteopathic educators who inspire others while highlighting their excellent teaching, passion for osteopathic medicine, and impact on students.

"It's like everything I've ever done in the past gelled for that moment," recalls Gilliar. "I try to really tie together the innovations of technology as they relate to global medicine along with a holistic, 'complete' physician component. I hope to continue to build on integrating relevant osteopathic concepts within modern medical models to equip and empower our students to use all of their tools—their hands, their minds, and their hearts—for the best patient management possible." ■



Students Earn White Coat Milestone



NYIT osteopathic medical students received their white coats in honor of their transition to clinical rotations in hospitals and health care practices.

Future osteopathic physicians in NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine received their white coats on July 18, marking the start of their clinical education following two years of classroom and lab work. With the help of alumni, the 284 students donned their white coats in preparation for clinical assignments at regional hospital affiliates.

The ceremony also honored former Dean Thomas Scandalis (D.O. '87), who is returning to the classroom and clinical practice as chair of the college's

new Department of Sports Medicine and director of NYIT's new Center for Sports Medicine and Performance Sciences.

Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., NYIT vice president for health sciences and medical affairs, noted the white coat's meaning: "This rite of passage is an acknowledgment of your achievement thus far and serves as a symbol of your ongoing commitment to the profession you aspire to enter and the patients you are entrusted to serve." ■

NYIT Rallies for Hurricane Relief

Caring hearts and helping hands were in plentiful supply as the NYIT community united to help friends, families, and neighborhoods impacted by Hurricane Sandy. In the days following the storm—which struck the New York metropolitan area on Oct. 29—NYIT students, faculty, and staff mobilized to deliver food, coordinate cleanup efforts, and communicate with colleagues and classmates to ensure their families were safe and essential needs were being met.

During and immediately after the storm, NYIT staff reassured students located at the university's New York campuses and their families of their safety. A special phone and email hotline was established for students to assist them with personal or academic issues they experienced as a result of the hurricane. NYIT's Hurricane Sandy blog at nyit.edu/sandy included daily updates on relief efforts as well as transportation information, carpooling opportunities, and Sandy-related news stories.

Throughout the month of November, NYIT students and staff delivered food and provided cleanup assistance to nearby communities, including Long Beach, N.Y., Fort Tryon Park in Manhattan, Clinton Hill in Brooklyn, and other areas hit by the



On Nov. 9, students volunteered in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, by cleaning up local communities and staffing a soup kitchen.

storm. Food and clothing drives were organized at the Old Westbury and Manhattan campuses, and an NYIT



Students and staff helped clean up at Fort Tryon Park in Manhattan on Nov. 4 as part of NYIT's Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

Family Relief Fund was established to assist students, staff, and faculty with essential needs. NYIT's School of Education launched a supplies drive to collect items for K-12 schools impacted by the hurricane.

In addition, NYIT faculty and students dedicated their expertise to ensuring local communities received vital assistance. Susan Neville, Ph.D., R.N., chair and associate professor in NYIT's Department of Nursing, worked at a Manhasset, N.Y., shelter alongside medical professionals from the Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other support groups to assist elderly patients and families. First-year medical student Iya Katz in the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine worked with her family to assist seniors struggling without heat or hot water in Coney Island, N.Y., a story that was also featured in the *New York Daily News*.

For students living in NYIT

residence halls in Old Westbury, the hurricane provided an opportunity to bond with classmates.

"I was proud to see other NYIT students reaching out to their peers who needed help," says Christopher Frumusa, who serves as head resident assistant, orientation leader, and first-year experience mentor. During the storm, the residence hall students had access to power, emergency lighting, food, and cell phones to contact their families.

At NYIT's New York campuses, storm damage was confined to a few broken windows in Manhattan and, in Old Westbury, there were brief power outages and fallen trees. Thanks to the tireless efforts of NYIT's buildings and grounds crews, both campuses were quickly up and running with normal operations and classes resuming on Nov. 5.

Only a few days following the storm, the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway hosted a Nov. 2 screening of Fox Searchlight's new film, *Hitchcock*, for movie critics and members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, proving that even following a hurricane, at NYIT the show must go on. ■

Doctors Center on Global Healing

The NYIT Center for Global Health returned to Oworobong, Ghana, in June as part of an interdisciplinary mission to provide health care and additional resources to communities around the world. For the third consecutive year, students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Health Professions accompanied medical residents, physicians, and faculty members on a three-week mission.

This year's trip included a special guest—celebrity chef Jeff Henderson—who taught students at the local St. Joseph's cooking school best practices in sanitation and hygiene. In addition, the team provided medical care at a clinic established by the Rohde Foundation, a Center for Global Health partner, and shadowed health care workers at Hawa Saviour Memorial Hospital.

"We saw a lot of malaria and some cases of suspected typhoid, upper respiratory infections, and complications from HIV," says Assistant Professor Michael Passafaro, D.O., who also found time to



Assistant Professor Michael Passafaro, D.O., was part of a team of NYIT health care professionals who traveled to Ghana in June to provide medical services.

catch up with a toddler he delivered three years ago.

NYIT doctors and students from the Center for Global Health also traveled to El Salvador and Haiti over the summer. From July 8 to 28, the team evaluated

the use of electrocardiogram analysis as a potential screening tool for Chagas disease, a neglected tropical disease that is prevalent in many parts of the world. The group also worked with local health care providers to offer clinical services and health education to students at the El Volcan School in Morazán County. ■

NYIT-Nanjing Gives Children a Helping Hand

Professors Sonali Chandel and Vesna Zeljkovic, Ph.D., of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences joined student volunteers for the first NYIT Community Service Event in Nanjing, China, on May 23.

The group visited with more than 40 children at the Nanjing Hongshan Elementary School of Children of Migrant Workers for a day of educational games, singing, and cultural activities. In addition, they donated 72 English-language books to the school library and 50 sets of traditional clothes for International Children's Day on June 1.

"NYIT is gaining a lot through our community service here by strengthening team spirit and showing our compassion," says Zeljkovic.

Tony Lei Tong (M.S. '09), associate director of alumni and employer relations at NYIT-Nanjing, organized the event with support from the NYIT Office of Career Services and Scott Liu, Ph.D., associate dean for global programs and executive director of the university's Center for International Business Studies.

"This is just a small, first step," says Chandel. "But we have many things we can do to help." ■

Entrepreneur Earns “Top 25” Award



Ravi Muti (M.B.A. '12) was among the winners of the Surrey (British Columbia) Board of Trade's "Top 25 Under 25" award for his commitment to the community and notable achievements as a role model for young business professionals.

"I have a passion for entrepreneurship because it brings out my creativity and an innovative mindset," says Muti, who was honored on May 29, just a few days before he joined fellow graduates on June 8 at NYIT's graduation ceremony at NYIT-Vancouver.

The young entrepreneur's startup, R.S. Muti Group LLP, works with local and global businesses to market to their customer bases through online, real-time, and mobile marketing applications.

"I hope to become an influential entrepreneur who does things that have never been done—and I'll keep going until this is accomplished," adds the Class of 2012 graduate. ■



NYIT-Bahrain students who produced the film *Silveraven* donated box office profits to the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, a humanitarian organization.

Filmmakers Help Fund Bahrain Charity

Many young filmmakers dream of box office success and the financial rewards that follow, but for students at NYIT-Bahrain, profit has a different purpose.

"We wanted to give to our country," says filmmaker Hala Alawiat, who played the lead role in the student-produced film, *Silveraven*, which premiered at Bahrain's Seef Mall Cineplex in May. Proceeds from the sold-out screenings benefited the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, a humanitarian organization that is part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The importance of community service was not lost on the cast and crew, says the film's director, Samar Osama Karkar (B.F.A. '12). She and her team also sold DVDs of an accompanying student-produced music video to boost their charitable donation.

On June 28, NYIT-Bahrain Campus Dean Suzanne White, Ph.D., presented a check for 1,000 Bahraini dinars (\$2,652 U.S.) to the executive director of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, who in turn awarded the filmmakers honorary membership in the society.

"NYIT is the only institute in Bahrain to produce feature-length movies that not only help students learn the challenges of filmmaking but also support a good cause," says NYIT Assistant Professor Zeeshan J. Shah, faculty supervisor of the *Silveraven* project.

In 2009, Shah conceptualized Special Projects B, a filmmaking course in which students could take the skills and techniques they learned in computer graphics classes and create feature-length productions. *Silveraven* is NYIT-Bahrain's third student-produced film.

"Their efforts showed the whole region that there are young talents in the world who can go beyond their abilities," adds Shah. "Hopefully, they can motivate others to do the same." ■

Have an NYIT story you want to share?
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Also visit nyit.edu/news for the latest campus updates
at all of NYIT's global locations.

Young Learners Get Out-of-this-World Experience

NYIT's Career Discovery Camp gave nine high school students a chance to interact with history on July 19 as the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City unveiled its exhibition area for the space shuttle *Enterprise*.

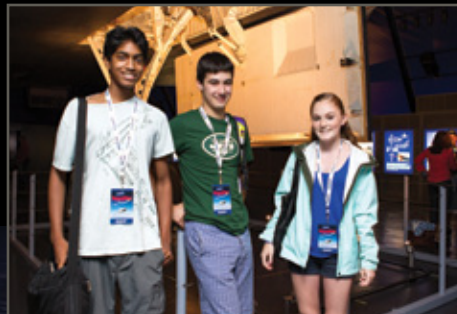
Completed in 1976, the 122-foot *Enterprise* was the first space shuttle orbiter constructed by NASA and designed to perform test flights within the atmosphere in the late 1970s. After being stored in the Smithsonian for nearly three decades, the vessel was transported to the Intrepid in spring 2012.

The students attended an opening ceremony that included representatives from the Intrepid Museum, NASA administrator Charles Bolden, and *Enterprise* astronauts Joe Engle, Richard Truly, and Fred Haise. Once inside the new domed pavilion, the campers learned the impact of engineering and technology on the shuttle. Videos and photos displayed the 30-year history of NASA's space shuttle program and visitors were permitted to walk around the shuttle and look inside crew cabin

High school students from NYIT's Career Discovery Camp toured the space shuttle *Enterprise* on July 19 at the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.

windows. Following the tour, the students returned to NYIT's Manhattan campus for a luncheon featuring technology evangelist Ramon Ray (B.S. '07), who spoke about the crucial roles engineers play in the 21st century.

NYIT's Career Discovery Camp in Technology and Engineering invites high school students from around the world to the university's Manhattan campus to promote STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math—disciplines. Workshops included video game design, robotics, electronic music composition, and field trips to Verizon's New York City offices as well as a technical tour of Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center. ■



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**NYIT FILM STUDENTS
WON FIRST PLACE AT THE
SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO.
WE'RE OUT THERE. JOIN US.**

IN BRIEF

BOUND FOR BRAZIL

NYIT has entered into an academic cooperation agreement with Centro Universitário da FEI (Fundacao Educacional Inaciana Pe. Saboia de Medeiros), a private nonprofit institution accredited by the Brazilian Ministry of Education. The agreement, signed on June 27, is intended to promote academic exchange and cooperation between the two universities and to provide dual degree programs in engineering and management slated for January 2013.

GRANT FUNDS GERIATRIC HEALTH EDUCATION

The Health Resources and Services Administration, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has awarded NYIT a \$500,000 grant to create a curriculum focused on educating health professionals in geriatric care. The School of Health Profession's Department of Nursing will use the three-year grant to develop and deliver courses that improve the expertise of nurses and other health care workers who treat elderly adults. Core courses will study gerontology, care strategies, and ethical issues involving nursing care for the aging population.

NYIT Expands the Brand

NYIT's "We're Out There. Join Us." brand awareness campaign ran this summer on the CBS Super Screen at 42nd Street in Times Square, between Seventh and Eighth avenues in New York City.

NYIT launched the campaign in 2011 to raise awareness of its global presence, its seven schools and colleges, numerous program offerings, and multitude of degrees. The CBS Super Screen provides a total of 520 square feet of viewing space and an optimal format to showcase unique NYIT student efforts and achievements, including: a School of Architecture and Design project in Havana, Cuba; students in the School of Health Professions bringing life-saving medical care to people in Oworobong, Ghana; students in the School of

Engineering and Computing Sciences designing a sustainable hangar for the USS Intrepid in New York City; and film students in the College of Arts and Sciences at NYIT-Nanjing winning first place at the Shanghai World Expo.

The CBS Super Screen estimates a viewership of more than 1.5 million views daily. The NYIT spots ran for 30 seconds every hour, 18 hours daily, for a 122-day period, generating in excess of 2.8 billion views.

In May, NYIT further targeted the New York market by advertising on the semi-final program and season finale of *American Idol*, reaching more than 1.1 million viewers in the 18-34 age group of prospective undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree students with its "Day in the Life" 30-second spots. ■

Conference Goes Off the Grid

Experts from the energy, sustainable technology, and medical professions gathered at NYIT-Old Westbury on June 13 to discuss "off the grid" power, water, and shelter solutions at the university's seventh annual energy conference.

Panelists—including David Schieren (M.S. '06) of EmPower Solar, Stephen Boyd of Aufbau Labs, David Abecassis of Biogard Inc., Ram Venkatadri of Pall Corporation, Rich Rotanz of the Applied Science Foundation for Homeland Security,

and Mickey Ingles of World Water & Solar Technologies—cited the role of technology in emergency preparedness and providing natural resources through innovations such as solar-powered water purification systems.

As part of the shelter issues panel, NYIT Assistant Professor Jason Van Nest described a School of Architecture and Design project that "upcycles" plastic bottles and the pallets on which they are delivered to form shelter roofs.

Edward Gotfried, D.O., of NYIT's

Center for Global Health, took conference attendees on a visual tour of Haiti and Ghana, where medical students and faculty provide health care in rural areas. NYIT engineering students have also traveled to those areas to work on projects bringing energy and clean water to medical clinics.

"There's a certain synergy that develops when you take other disciplines with you," Gotfried said. "There's an interconnectedness to all of this." ■

McDermott Helps Earn Silver Medal for Canada

By Sabrina Polidoro

The 2012 Summer Olympics in London wasn't the only place where nations competed to prove their athletic worth. The 2012 Federation of International Lacrosse World Championships in Finland featured its own measure of on-the-field heroics and nail-biting victories—and NYIT's Danny McDermott (right), who was voted Most Outstanding Defender and named to the All-World Team as he helped Team Canada nab a silver medal.

"The feeling [of representing your country] is one that is very hard to put into words," says the Bears' junior defenseman, who hails from Vancouver. "Being on a national team, representing my country, and playing the sport I love was absolutely phenomenal."

McDermott, who is majoring in business management, was one of 23 under-19 players chosen to represent Canada. The process began in November 2011 when he submitted an athletic resumé and was invited to a regional camp for the top 150 players in British Columbia. From there, McDermott made the top 50 cut and, over the Thanksgiving break, participated in national tryouts just outside Toronto, where coaches from the U19 Canadian team

selected the final 23 for the roster.

"Danny is an exceptional student-athlete who stepped into a starting defensive role and has never looked back," says NYIT head lacrosse coach Bill Dunn. "It wasn't a surprise that he made the U19 team."

A 2012 First Team All-American, McDermott not only represented his country and NYIT in the tournament, but was the only NCAA Division II athlete named to the Canadian roster.

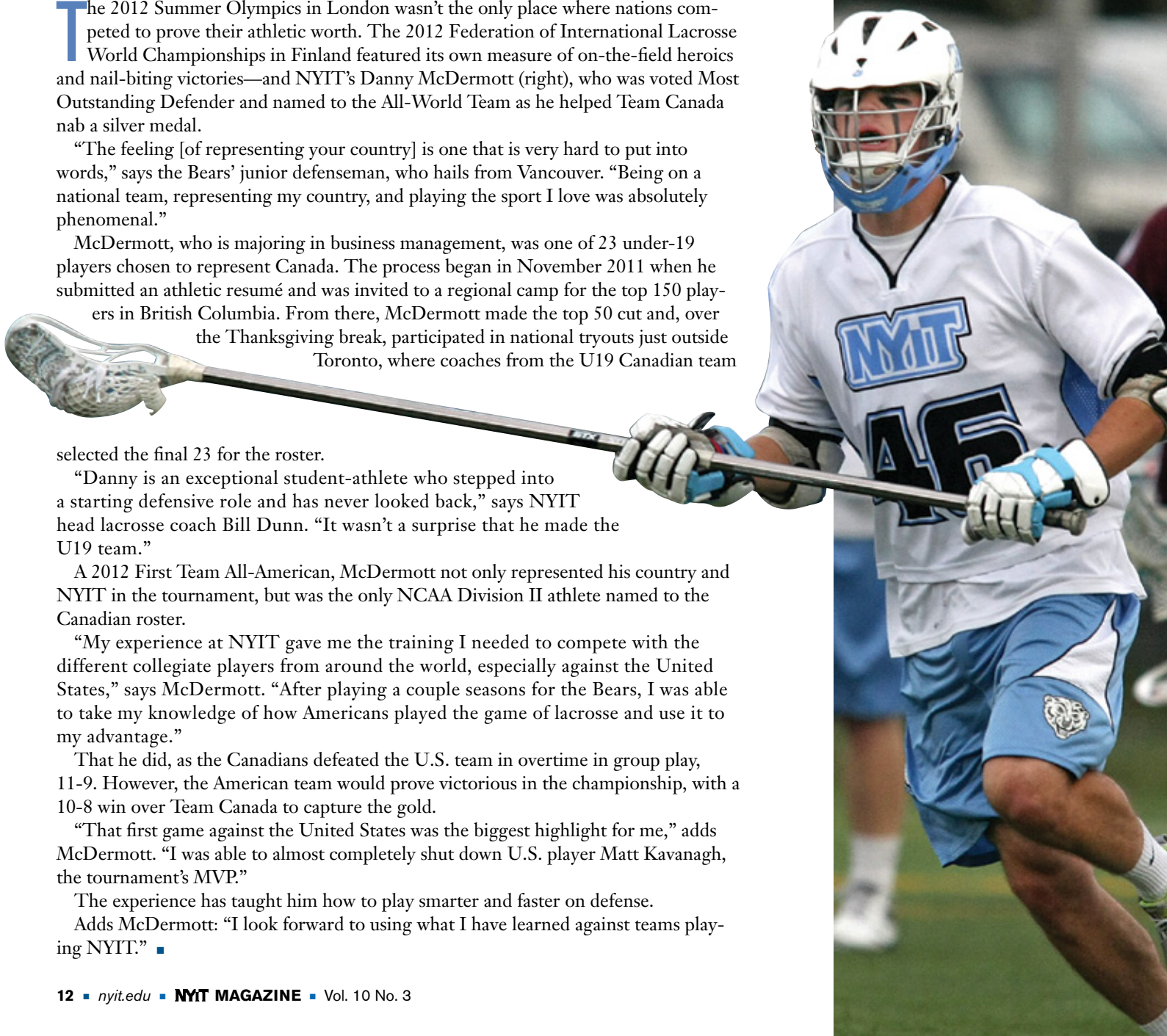
"My experience at NYIT gave me the training I needed to compete with the different collegiate players from around the world, especially against the United States," says McDermott. "After playing a couple seasons for the Bears, I was able to take my knowledge of how Americans played the game of lacrosse and use it to my advantage."

That he did, as the Canadians defeated the U.S. team in overtime in group play, 11-9. However, the American team would prove victorious in the championship, with a 10-8 win over Team Canada to capture the gold.

"That first game against the United States was the biggest highlight for me," adds McDermott. "I was able to almost completely shut down U.S. player Matt Kavanagh, the tournament's MVP."

The experience has taught him how to play smarter and faster on defense.

Adds McDermott: "I look forward to using what I have learned against teams playing NYIT." ■





Alumni Tee Up to Support NYIT

More than 100 alumni and friends of NYIT hit the links on Sept. 17 to help raise \$55,000 at the Eighth Annual NYIT Athletics Golf Outing at Cold Spring Country Club in Huntington, N.Y. All proceeds benefited NYIT's 12 intercollegiate athletic programs and facilities.

Pictured are (from left) former members of the men's soccer team: Paul Mendes (B.S. '89), Joe Brosi (B.S. '89, M.S. '94), Frank Palumbo (B.S. '91), Chuck Concalves (B.S. '89), Angelko Bogdanov (B.S. '90), and NYIT friend Brian Taylor. ■

NYIT Welcomes New Coaches

Bob Malvagna has joined NYIT as the new head coach of the baseball team. His more than 20 years of experience includes serving as associate head coach at Adelphi, where he helped the Panthers earn two NCAA Division II Regional bids and five winning seasons. During his tenure at



Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Clyde Doughty (B.S. '81, M.S. '96, M.P.S. '98, left) presents Head Coach Bob Malvagna (right) with his jersey at a ceremony held on the NYIT-Old Westbury baseball field.

Adelphi, 13 student-athletes achieved All-East Region honors from Daktronics, American Baseball Coaches Association, Rawlings, and the National College Baseball Writers Association. In 2011, Malvagna left Adelphi to assist Nassau Community College to the NCAA Division III Region XV Tournament.

In addition, Michael Caputo was selected as head coach of the women's soccer team. A former NYIT student-athlete, he played for the Bears'

soccer program from 1987 to 1989 and played professionally in Miami and Europe. After sustaining a leg injury, Caputo moved from the field to the front offices of the A-League and the N.Y./N.J. Metrostars of Major League Soccer. ■

SPORTS BRIEFS

PEACOCK NAMED SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Graduate student Lisa Peacock of NYIT's volleyball team took home the Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award at the 2012 East Coast Conference (ECC) Awards Banquet in May. She helped the Bears to a second-place finish in the ECC this season while leading the conference in digs. A three-time ECC Libero of the Year winner, she was also named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-East Region honorable mention team.

MEN'S LACROSSE EARNS ECC HONORS

The ECC named senior Billy McGee and first-year student Luke Miller as Goalkeeper of the Year and Rookie of the Year, respectively. In addition, midfielder Jason Smith and defender Danny McDermott were named All-ECC first team; midfielder Justin Annunziato earned second team honors; and attacker Bobby Calhoun, midfielder Brandon Gamblin, and specialist Matt Fitz (B.S. '12) earned honorable mentions. McGee tallied a career-best 164 saves and led the ECC and the NCAA in save percentage (.643). Despite missing the last four games of the season due to injury, Miller ranked among the ECC's top point scorers. In 12 games, the five-time ECC Rookie of the Week racked up 45 points on a team-best 27 assists and 18 goals.

STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

Senior Jason Smith of the men's lacrosse program and sophomore Julian Marcon of the men's tennis team were named to the CoSIDA Academic At-Large All-District I first team. In 16 games, Smith tallied 39 points on 18 goals and 21 assists, while picking up 19 groundballs. He graduated in May with a 3.78 GPA and a criminal justice degree. Marcon produced a 10-14 singles record and an 8-10 doubles mark, all while achieving his fourth straight semester with a 4.0 GPA as an aerospace engineering major. He helped the Bears to their first NCAA regional bid, playing mostly at the No. 5 singles spot. ■

Congratulations, Class of 2012!

More than 12,000 family members and friends gathered on May 20 at NYIT-Old Westbury to celebrate NYIT's 51st annual commencement and the achievements of more than 3,300 graduates. This year's class represented 41 states and 84 countries across NYIT's seven campuses.

NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., conferred degrees and, in his address to graduates, stressed the need to cultivate an interconnected mentality to succeed in today's complex, rapidly changing economy.

"Over the course of human history, one of the greatest drivers of innovation has been the steady increase in human connectivity," he said. "Critique, clash, conflict, collaborate, connect, and create spaces of innovation where you can openly share your ideas for the betterment of all."

Students from NYIT campuses in Old Westbury, Manhattan, China, Jordan, Bahrain, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, and online attended the ceremony. Honorary degrees were conferred upon Dean Kamen, president of the DEKA Research & Development Corp., inventor of the Segway, and founder of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology); Stephen A. Orlins, president, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations; and Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., professor of medicine and public health at The George Washington University.

On May 21, Dr. Cohen delivered the keynote address to 291 medical students at the 31st annual hooding ceremony of NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In addition, graduation ceremonies were held on June 1 at NYIT-Amman, June 4 at NYIT-Bahrain, June 5 at NYIT-Abu Dhabi, June 8 at NYIT-Vancouver, and June 9 at NYIT-Nanjing.



CAPT



Fifty-four percent of NYIT students earned undergraduate degrees and 46 percent earned graduate, medical, professional, or post-graduate degrees.



President Guiliano addresses the Class of 2012 and guests at NYIT-Old Westbury.



With the Class of 2012, NYIT's global alumni network is now more than 92,000 strong. This year's graduates represented 41 states and 84 countries across seven campuses.



NYIT's graduation ceremonies for its Middle East campuses took place in Jordan (June 1), Bahrain (above, June 4), and Abu Dhabi (June 5).



The NYIT-Nanjing graduation ceremony on June 9 included 311 students who earned undergraduate degrees in business administration, communication arts, electrical and computer engineering, or computer science.

Tools of Engagement

NYIT professors embrace teaching methods that put learning and student engagement at the head of the class

By Elaine Iandoli

An odd-looking canine just might become the mascot for a new breed of teaching and learning at NYIT.

The bizarre beast, a 3-D character model designed by a fine arts student, had a fatal construction flaw: its back and chest inexplicably shared the same surface vertices; in fact, the torso looked as if it had imploded. So Associate Professor Yuko Oda abandoned a scheduled lesson and challenged her class: fix the glitch in 20 minutes.

What came to be known as the “messed up dog” was animating in more than one sense of the word. Students jumped at the chance to correct the canine’s unfortunate contours, and they found several ways to do it. Oda discovered that her spur-of-the-moment decision to use the dog as a class exercise was an “organic” teaching moment.


The experience was a powerful reminder to experiment with approaches that depart from the usual instructional routine, Oda says.

She has company among her NYIT colleagues. With flexible in-class exercises, transitions to blended courses that incorporate online learning with face-to-face classroom work, new service-learning projects, experiential education, and enhanced multimedia content, a growing number of instructors are boosting student engagement by changing the way they teach and by incorporating more technology in their craft.

“Aristotle taught us that all arguments need to first consider audience and purpose, and the audience for today’s teaching needs to be considered and reconsidered with time,” says NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.

“Socrates also knew the value of being interactive with students in his questioning. This skill set and the experiences—today with technology and interactive approaches—cannot be ignored. We are utilizing the interactive toolbox of the 21st century.”

Satasha L. Green, Ph.D., dean of NYIT’s School of Education, is a strong proponent of online learning that promotes critical thinking.

A photograph of Associate Professor Yuko Oda, a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a grey and white patterned blazer over a white shirt. She is smiling and looking towards the camera while standing at a computer workstation. Her right hand is resting on the desk, and her left hand is clasped in front of her. The workstation includes a Dell Precision T5900 tower PC, a monitor, and a keyboard. The background is a blurred office or classroom setting with other computer monitors.

Associate Professor Yuko Oda is among the many NYIT professors who boost student engagement by incorporating technology and new teaching methods.



Physical therapy student David Block appreciates the blended learning he receives from NYIT instructor Rosemary Gallagher, D.P.T. “It makes you take hold of your own education,” he says.

A collection of phrases and words defines the tools and techniques; educators have long spoken of “instructional paradigm shifts” and “learner-centered models” in favor of the “guide on the side.” A more recent trend is the “flipped classroom,” where students view online lectures, readings, assignments, and videos on their own, leaving more time for group work and other learning activities in face-to-face classes.

No matter the terminology, the goal is twofold: expanding students’ active involvement in their education and improving their critical thinking skills.

“There’s a great deal of research that shows that when students are engaged and have well-designed learning experiences, they learn better,” says Harriet Arnone, Ph.D., vice president for planning and assessment.

Arnone praises faculty members who adopt new tactics to help students learn. A change might be as simple as altering a lecture that proved successful for a morning class but seems less effective with a different group of students in the afternoon. More ambitious adjustments include transitions to blended courses—a move that often requires a significant revision of how material is presented and organized.

“They’re paying attention to providing experiences that students get excited about,” says Arnone. “Engaged faculty make engaged students.”

Exchanging Ideas for Active Learning

At NYIT’s semiannual Assessment Day in late August, faculty members shared examples of how they help students improve critical thinking skills. They later posted summaries of their presentations in a faculty gallery on the web pages of NYIT’s Center for Teaching and Learning (nyit.edu/ctl/critical_thinking).

Adjunct Professor Joby Jacob, Ph.D., described “putting students in the driver’s seat” by challenging them to explain observations and evaluate scientific theories on their own. Assistant Professor Ana Petrovic, Ph.D., presented students with real-life problems to solve using online databases, teamwork, and communication. Professor David Hogsette, Ph.D., discussed his course’s critical thinking journal assignments that encourage students to understand, evaluate, and establish a position.

In his annual convocation address, Guiliano stressed the need to increase student engagement and urged faculty members to embrace the “disruptive innovations” that are changing the notion of a prescribed curriculum and format.

In a poetry course Guiliano taught last year, students from Old Westbury faced off against their Manhattan counterparts in a *Jeopardy*-like contest. They designed the questions and competed via NYIT’s distance learning classrooms. Some

groups even wrote software and graphic designs for a new game.

“That was real world and interdisciplinary,” says Guiliano. “Everyone had fun. There is no rule that teaching and learning cannot be enjoyable.”

Assistant Provost Francine Glazer, Ph.D., director of NYIT’s Center for Teaching and Learning, says learner-centered education helps students discover new connections to material—that “aha!” moment—rather than “pouring information into their heads” about facts, concepts, and relationships among ideas.

“A learner-centered approach would have students finding and forming those connections by themselves,” says Glazer. “Another thing that we know from studying how the brain works is that memories get solidified if there’s a strong emotional component. That’s why engagement is important.”

Notable education researchers Arthur Chickering and Zelda Gamson, authors of *Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education*, argued nearly 30 years ago in favor of “active learning,” cooperation, and feedback—basic tenets of project-based assignments that motivate and inspire students of all ages. Stan Silverman, director of NYIT’s Technology-Based Learning Systems and a nationally recognized expert in instructional technology, says project-based learning builds students’ understanding of content and their ability to solve problems in groups.

Silverman works primarily with K-12 teachers, who have often led the drive to bring technology and learner-centered education into their classrooms. Efforts in university environments help continue those educational trends on a higher level, with resulting improvements in student learning.

“There are multiple paths to explore the problem and multiple solutions,” says Silverman. “NYIT has an opportunity here, because of our global nature, to put students into real problem-solving environments, to make that the focus and locus of student activity.”

Blended Courses on the Rise

A U.S. Department of Education meta-analysis that examined dozens of studies on the effectiveness of traditional, online, and blended courses concluded that well-designed online or blended courses

can promote better learning than traditional courses, and that blended courses are optimal. But Glazer, editor of *Blended Learning: Across the Disciplines, Across the Academy (New Pedagogies and Practices for Teaching in Higher Education)*, acknowledges that some educators find it challenging to make the transition to the new formats.

“For many faculty members, it’s a new way of thinking about teaching and learning,” she says. “They’re often creating completely new materials. They have to make sure online and on-ground components are well integrated, and they need to make sure students see their professors in both places and realize both aspects of the course are essential.”

School of Education Dean Satasha L. Green, Ph.D., disputes a notion held by some detractors that online courses water down a curriculum.

“You can still have a rigorous program and students come out as critical learners and thinkers and not just able to regurgitate information that has been lectured to them,” she says.

“One of the main concepts I learned and had to shift in my pedagogical philosophy is that it wasn’t about me telling students what I know,” Oda says. “At first, I was a little anxious but they are responding positively. They enjoy the multiple points of interaction. Their brains are geared toward that more than mine.”

Giuseppe Prisco, a senior in Oda’s class, says he continually checks Blackboard, NYIT’s online educational platform, to keep up to date on assignments and deadlines, submit projects and required critiques of classmates’ work, and view Oda’s video feedback of his animation designs.

“I definitely like how she incorporates online aspects,” he says. “The assignments are always there if we need to double-check what they are. We get constant feedback from our peers, and we can edit, repost, and comment. I was definitely open to the idea of a do-it-on-your-time type of class. It helped me with my work habits.”

Six faculty members from the School of Health Professions also worked on

courses, she adds, often incorporate many aspects of the Internet to ensure that the student knows how to access information and become a lifelong learner.

Instructor Lisa Sparacino’s nursing fundamentals course will debut in the spring, complete with video tutorials, discussion boards, helpful links for students, and mandatory online participation.

“It’s going to result in nurses who are more prepared to work in today’s health care,” says Sparacino, noting the field’s movement toward electronic medical records and other technological tools. “They need to be comfortable using multiple venues of technology. This makes them more marketable.”

David Block, a second-year physical therapy student, appreciated the blended and flipped classroom approach of instructor Rosemary Gallagher, D.P.T., who asked students to prepare for class by reading, reviewing materials on Blackboard, and watching videos.

“It makes you take hold of your own education,” says Block. “If you want to be an active learner—or a good physical therapist—you have to do the pre-work.”

In a class last year, Gallagher reduced the number of PowerPoint slides for lessons on traumatic brain injury and multiple sclerosis. She recorded them using Camtasia software and broke up lengthy lectures with activities and questions. This fall, in an introductory course for first-year students, she recorded a segment that led students through a physical therapy guidebook. With Jing, a screencasting program, she made personal videos for each student to give them feedback on their assignments. With those resources online, her classroom became the setting for case studies, collaborative group discussions, and hands-on preparation for clinical care.

“When you front-load the class, they come in with knowledge,” she says. “Then we can dive into it deeper.”

Block says he benefited from group work in Gallagher’s classes.

“If you don’t get a concept, maybe other people in your group do,” he says. “You get lots of tools to put in your toolbox.”

Gallagher conducts frequent surveys of her class, asking for feedback about teaching methods and student engagement.



CHRISTOPHER SEMETIS

Giuseppe Prisco uses NYIT’s Blackboard online platform to keep up to date on assignments, submit projects and critiques, and view his instructor’s video feedback of his animation designs. “I was definitely open to the idea of a do-it-on-your-time type of class,” says the fine arts student.

Oda, the fine arts professor who adopted the canine construction exercise, was part of a faculty learning community whose members spent months with Glazer and other experts to transform their face-to-face, lecture-oriented courses into a blended format of online and in-class teaching.

creating blended courses for nursing, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

“Outcomes of blended courses demonstrate a higher degree of engagement by the student,” says Dean Patricia Chute, Ph.D. “You certainly cannot sit in the back of a classroom and answer your email.” Blended

“I say to the students: ‘We’re partners in this. I’m helping you discover things but you are also teaching me things.’”

Technology, Service-Learning, and Experiential Education

Seven years ago, NYIT offered 87 courses online and 206 courses used Blackboard. Today, there are 210 online courses, and every NYIT course has a Blackboard shell. Whether courses are fully online, blended, or predominantly lecture-based, Glazer says their success—measured in terms of learning outcomes and student engagement—often hinges on the amount and quality of opportunities that allow students to participate and interact with the professor, classmates, and course materials.

The blended format is gaining ground in 30 sections of NYIT’s core courses. Nicholas Bloom, chair of interdisciplinary studies and director of NYIT’s Discovery Core Curriculum, says all first-year students are expected to use Blackboard. For every two hours in class, another hour is spent online.

“It’s really pushing them to engage with technology, not just receive it,” says Bloom. “This is the future. It’s about figuring out and owning the technology.”



Amy Bravo, assistant dean of NYIT’s Office of Career Services, helps coordinate a wide range of service-learning opportunities grounded in technology.

He adds that while some students value the increase in technology requirements, others who are accustomed to lengthy lectures and note-taking might initially struggle.

“Blackboard is an interactive model—you have to put your work up, find your way through the system, and understand how to use it,” he says.

Yet the technology is more than a course delivery tool. Through efforts by

Bloom and Amy Bravo, assistant dean of NYIT’s Office of Career Services, several interdisciplinary seminars and core courses also include coursework and assignments based on themes of technology and service.

“They’re looking at technology from multiple disciplines,” says Bloom. “From an anthropology discipline, what is the impact of cellphone use? In politics, what is the influence of technology on an election?”

A Centered Approach to New Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is at the heart of many transformations in course design and instructional approaches at NYIT.

Under the direction of Assistant Provost Francine Glazer, Ph.D. (pictured right), the center works with faculty members in individual or group settings to help enhance teaching practices. Consultations are available for faculty members who want to improve and measure student learning, pursue research, or review aspects of their professional work.

The center also offers workshops, orientation for new faculty members, writers’ circles, and faculty learning communities, which allow NYIT educators to exchange ideas and work on individual projects within a larger supportive group.

“After every session, you come away so exhilarated, saying, ‘I can’t wait to try this, this is going to work so well,’” says Occupational Therapy Associate Professor Gioia Ciani, who joined six NYIT colleagues in a faculty learning community over the past year. “Just the interplay and exchange of ideas, getting feedback and building off each other—that was invaluable.”

Glazer says she wants the center to be known as a “safe space” where faculty members feel comfortable asking questions and learning about teaching approaches that improve student engagement.

“Some faculty are interested in using these instructional techniques but never had an opportunity to sit down and redesign their courses,” says Olena Zhadko, one of the center’s two instructional designers. “They are eager for information and support, and they put time and effort into the process.”

The center’s website includes video and PowerPoint presentations on topics such as student assessment, educational software, and Jing software, which is used to create video feedback of student work. Glazer’s blog, the *Weekly Teaching Note*, touches on issues ranging from student learning and classroom conflict to engagement and academic integrity.

When it was formed in the late 1990s, the center was known as the Center for Teaching and Learning with Technology. Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs Michael Uttendorfer, Ed.D. (M.S. '95), then an adjunct professor,

The diverse service-learning projects in 12 current courses are grounded in technology: one group of students is creating anti-bullying online games and public service announcements for the Child Abuse Prevention Society. Another is developing instructional guides to help immigrants with computer literacy, and a third is building social media campaigns for an organization that helps families and children with cancer.

“We’ve quadrupled the number of classes that offer service-learning,” says Bravo. “This is not volunteering. It’s project-based learning for the public good to address a public problem or a social issue.”

In one of the most ambitious examples of service-learning, 25 NYIT students promoted science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at a Harlem, N.Y., elementary school. The project was the focus of the Career Discovery Course for first-year engineering students, says Jim Martinez, Ph.D., assistant professor of instructional technology in NYIT’s School of Education, who oversees the course with Associate Professor Richard Meyers of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences.

Some students observed classroom lessons at P.S. 241 and determined

how teachers can enhance them with multimedia content, new explanations of STEM concepts, or questions that help younger students grasp complex ideas. A second group of NYIT students examined the school’s technology infrastructure to recommend improvements to deliver lessons. A third group produced a video documentary for an end-of-semester presentation with the elementary school students, their parents, and teachers at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway on the university’s Manhattan campus.

“I have definitely enjoyed this way of learning,” says Preston Volman, a computer science major. “It is very hands-on and for someone like me—a student who has had little work experience prior to college—it is really giving me a feel for what it’s like to go into a job and hit the ground running.”

Volman adds he was happy to provide assistance to the Harlem school.

“These kids are learning concepts that I would never have fathomed in elementary school,” he says. “We want to give them quality education, regardless of their geographic location.”

Martinez says the project offers several benefits for NYIT students: a ground-level view of challenges young students in

some urban neighborhoods face; a chance to develop a spirit of volunteerism; the opportunity to improve STEM teaching on the elementary school level; and communications experience.

“The real point is that our students will get used to asking people questions about their lives, needs, and issues, which is what you want a good engineer to do,” says Martinez.

Evaluations of the NYIT service projects, blended courses, and project-based activities will yield crucial assessment data about learning outcomes. Educators agree that standard lectures still have a place in the university. But the delivery methods, infusion of technology, and increased interactive exercises are disrupting the traditional way of teaching and learning.

“Our job as educators is changing,” says Glazer. “We’re not just providing the information. We’re helping our students learn how to find it, organize it, and use it. We can’t pretend to stand in the front of the room and know everything.”

“It’s revolutionary in a sense,” adds Bloom. “We are upending this idea that the class happens at one place at one time. Now the class happens in the classroom, online, in a service project, and elsewhere. I think this is just the beginning.” ■



provides assistance with Blackboard’s advanced features, video tutorials, and in-person support at the Old Westbury and Manhattan campuses. Last year, Glazer and TBSL Director Stan Silverman completed a project to create Blackboard shells for every faculty member and every course section at NYIT.

In the 2012-2013 academic year, Glazer hopes to unveil a series of online videos about grading student work and providing feedback. The course will include opportunities for faculty from all of NYIT’s global campuses to post comments and suggestions about the topic.

Ciani acknowledged the significant preparation and learning curve as she completes the transformation of her neuroscience course to a blended format. But she believes the resulting educational windfall will be

served as director from 2000 to 2008. The center was eventually renamed to reflect a broader emphasis: improving teaching quality for all faculty members, not only those interested in incorporating technology into their courses.

Technological assistance, naturally, is still available. NYIT’s Technology-Based Learning System (TBSL)

worth the effort.

“This is exactly what my students need,” she says. “The way we built it gives them much support. There will be more online learning initiatives, which means that students will take more responsibility for their education. If they do the work, they’re going to be successful!”

and Now You Know

How can I protect myself
from cyber theft?

How can I save money on my energy bill?

What are the best apps for amateur
photographers?

NYIT's finest minds answer questions we
face every day.

by Elaine Iandoli, Rose Sumer, and Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

1) How can I save money on my energy bill and “green” my home?

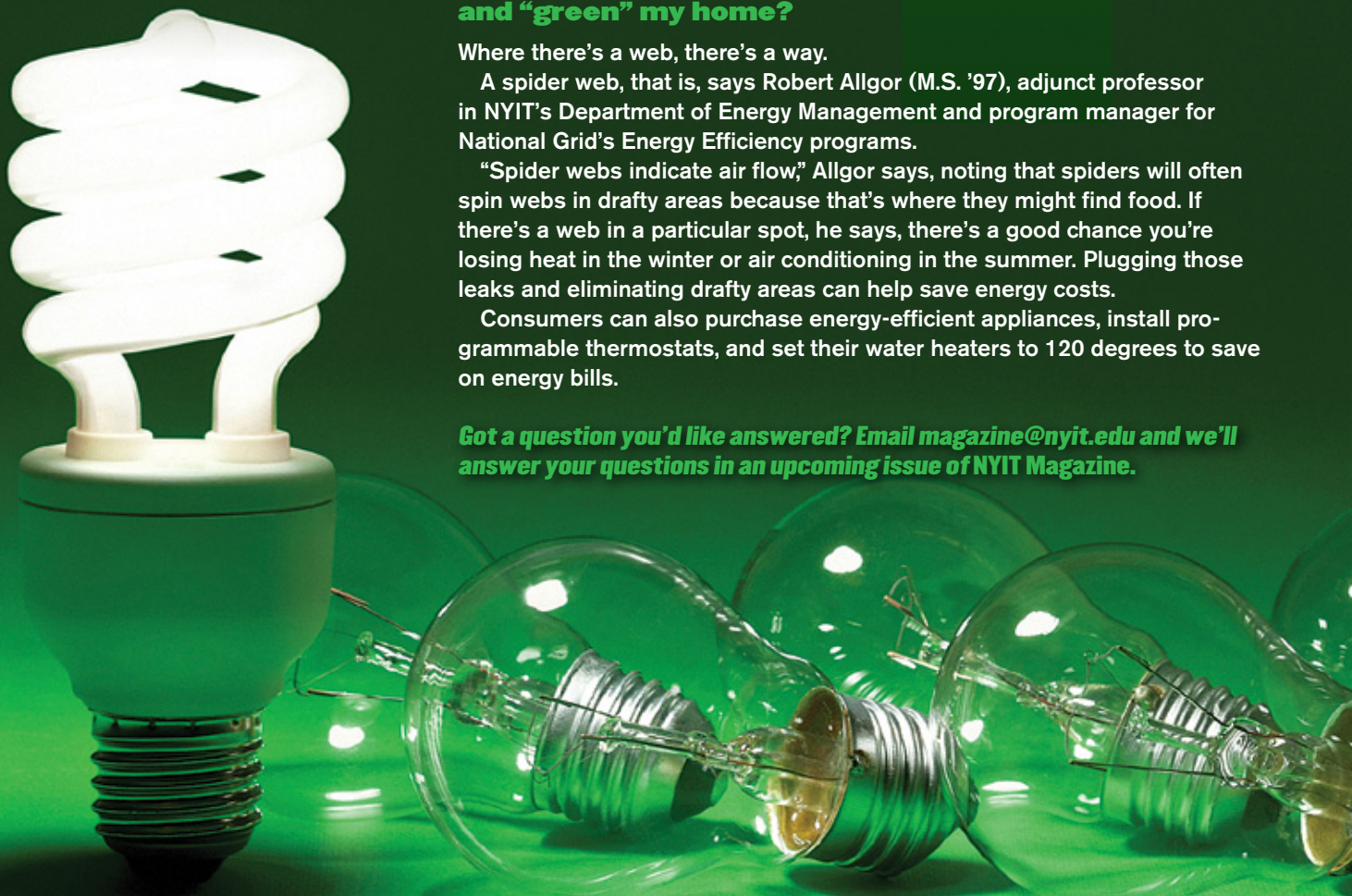
Where there's a web, there's a way.

A spider web, that is, says Robert Allgor (M.S. '97), adjunct professor in NYIT's Department of Energy Management and program manager for National Grid's Energy Efficiency programs.

“Spider webs indicate air flow,” Allgor says, noting that spiders will often spin webs in drafty areas because that's where they might find food. If there's a web in a particular spot, he says, there's a good chance you're losing heat in the winter or air conditioning in the summer. Plugging those leaks and eliminating drafty areas can help save energy costs.

Consumers can also purchase energy-efficient appliances, install programmable thermostats, and set their water heaters to 120 degrees to save on energy bills.

Got a question you'd like answered? Email magazine@nyit.edu and we'll answer your questions in an upcoming issue of NYIT Magazine.



“Another big one is to insulate your water pipes,” he says. “It’s such an easy thing for a homeowner to do.”

In the kitchen, Allgor advises cooking with lids on pans, choosing the right size pot and burner to maximize efficiency, and using alternatives like pressure cookers or microwaves that consume less energy.

David Schieren (M.S. '06), CEO of EmPower Solar, says solar energy continues to be a viable option for many homeowners. Rebates and tax incentives help make solar installations more attractive.

“It turns out to be a very smart investment and, in addition, there are a variety of financing options that allow people to start saving right away,” says Schieren.

A site assessment is necessary to discover the impact of shade and to determine the overall production capacity of solar panels. Roof structures should be relatively new and can be reinforced if necessary. Schieren says solar heating systems can also be used for domestic hot water and pool systems.

As for other green measures, Schieren recommends making improvements through LED technologies, especially for fixtures that homeowners use frequently.

Perhaps the easiest environmental and economic tip is simply to turn off appliances when you’re not using them.

“I always tell customers: ‘You have the power in your hands;’” says Allgor.



2) What are the best ways to keep our minds in shape as we age?

“Brain health should be a lifelong process,” says Tobi Abramson, Ph.D. (above), assistant professor of mental health counseling and director of the NYIT Center for Gerontology and Geriatrics. Abramson’s mission is to educate people of all generations about the aging process. She advises keeping your mind limber by getting involved in new activities.

“Trying new things challenges us to establish new neuro-connections,” Abramson says. Activities range from the simple—doing crossword puzzles or driving a different route to work—to the more complex process of learning another language.

Other suggestions include getting adequate sleep, eating balanced meals, exercising, socializing, laughing, seeking spirituality, and engaging in creative outlets. The latter could be anything from planting a garden to taking a dance class.

“Exercise is one of those fabulous things you can do for brain stimuli because it improves the circulation of oxygen,” she says.

Regarding proper nutrition, Abramson says omega-3 fatty acids found in salmon, vegetables such as kale and brussels sprouts, flaxseed, walnuts, and soybean oil have been shown by scientists to improve brain health. Consider taking them as a vitamin supplement or adding certain foods to your meals.

When looking for opportunities to socialize, she says, think about volunteer work. “Look for things you enjoy in volunteering, like reading to school children.”

Volunteering also hones social skills, another vital aspect of brain health. Spending time conversing with family and friends has the same effect.

For seniors looking to expand their creative repertoire and meet new people, there are nonprofit groups that offer acting and performance arts classes as well as courses in digital photography and music.

“You’re never too young to begin improving your brain health,” Abramson says. “Start now to reduce your stress level, break unhealthy habits, and find activities you enjoy.”



3) What is the most useful app for cell phone photographers?



Wang's three versions of a photo taken of the geyser area in Yellowstone National Park depict the versatility of Photoshop Express app features. The original photo's exposure (far left) was imperfect, so she used the exposure function to enhance it (middle photo), and applied a vintage filter (right photo).

More than 50 million users worldwide opt for Instagram, the mobile photo-sharing app bought by Facebook for \$1 billion in April. Instagram has artistic filters that give pictures a dreamy glow (“lomo-fi”), a sepia tinge (“sutro”), black-and-white contrast (“inkwell”), and more.

Photographer Calvin Xu (B.S. '12) uses Camera+ on his iPhone. He likes the advanced camera app's built-in exposure compensation for bright and dark areas. “It has different filters similar to Instagram and great editing tools for different camera settings,” he says.

The app's FX Effects are filters with names such as “grunge,” “so emo,” and “purple haze.” Other features include 6x digital zoom, a clarity option to brighten shadowy pictures, and organizational tool Lightbox, which saves pictures in an easy-to-sort system. ISO, focal length, and shutter speed can also be adjusted.

Amateur photographer Shiang-Kwei Wang, Ph.D., associate professor of instructional technology at NYIT, is known within the School of Education for recommending apps that can be used as teaching tools.

“For amateurs or people who don't have access to a desktop computer, Photoshop Express provides a quick and professional way to fix photos,” she says.

Its design is based on Adobe's Photoshop for desktop computers, but the mobile version is simpler to use.

In addition to basic editing features such as crop and rotate, the app provides several adjustment tools such as exposure, contrast, hue, and temperature. The latest app version (2.5) adds a series of artistic filters to enhance pictures. Photoshop Express also has a quick button to allow users to compare “before” and “after” photos.

4) How do I keep myself recession-proof?

“Education,” says Professor Diamando Afxentiou, Ph.D. (right), of NYIT's School of Management. “Educated people have the ability to transform themselves to perform the jobs of the future.”

Notes Afxentiou: “The U.S. economy is reinventing itself,” leading to opportunities in business and other sectors. “While the economy's evolving, we need to evolve as well,” she says. “There are always going to be jobs available. The thing is for people to have the skills to do these jobs. You have to have the competency and capability to adapt to the new changes.”

A key part of preparing for changes, she adds, is staying informed so you can be aware of what new skills you might need to acquire to protect your job.

Professor William Lawrence, Ph.D., of NYIT's School of Management offered what some might note is tried-and-true advice often ignored: Don't accumulate debt beyond your asset base.

“You want to make sure your debt-to-income ratios are really in control,” he says. You can avoid economic difficulties if you're balanced in how you're living, not spending beyond your means, and building a savings account.

“Make sure you have human capital and skills so you're marketable,” he adds. “You've got to be flexible. Be comfortable with accepting change and preparing yourself.”

Entrepreneurship offers another possible edge against economic downturns and uncertainty.

“Over the past 10 to 15 years, people have learned the corporate world is not the safe umbrella it always was,” Lawrence says. “You can have some freedom and security in owning your business because you're not dependent on mergers, acquisitions, or downsizing.”

Like Afxentiou, Lawrence advises that people stay abreast of new developments in their fields.

“The most important thing is to learn how to learn, to know how to seek new information, to watch these trends,” he says.



5) How can I become more creative?

Multimedia artist Yuko Oda finds creative inspiration everywhere. The NYIT associate professor of fine arts puts it to good use in her drawings of flowers morphing into galactic planets and animations of nature, such as digital renderings of insect metamorphosis at yukooda.com.

“I find creativity permeating through all aspects of life,” she says. “It’s not something that is compartmentalized in my studio practice. For example, another passion of mine is cooking, a therapeutic artistic process for me. I utilize my sculptural skills to stack up a sushi tower, and my design skills to assemble it on a plate, contemplating the color, textures, and composition—negative and positive space of the dish.”



Departure by Yuko Oda, associate professor of fine arts, is a 66" x 48" painting created in 2010 with Japanese pigment, gouache, and conte on denril.

She suggests some ways for anybody to get their creative juices flowing:

- Let go of your inner self-critic.
- Listen to music.
- Believe in your idea, no matter how “different” or “strange” it is.
- Turn off the computer, Internet, and wi-fi.
- Immerse yourself in nature and sit, walk, observe.
- Give yourself time to do something that you love to do.
- Go to galleries, bookstores, performances, museums, or walk down the streets of your town or city.
- Collect inspiration. Always be on the lookout for images, songs, people, and ideas that you find inspiring. Grab them, take photos, or write them down.
- Remember that creativity doesn’t have to be about making art for a gallery. “It can be the way you write a letter to a friend,” says Oda.

6) What are some proven holistic practices that can improve my health?

From guided imagery to reiki to therapeutic touch, holistic practices provide an extra level of care and, in some cases, curative benefits for the things that ail us, according to two NYIT nursing experts.

“We talk about the benefits of bringing in the mind, body, and spirituality of a person when caring for their illness or disease process,” says Assistant Professor Maureen Cardoza, Ph.D., of the School of Health Profession’s Department of Nursing. “It’s really a centering, a coming together of body, mind, and soul to reconnect and impact health and well-being.”

Assistant Professor Carol Caico, Ph.D., who sees patients as a women’s health nurse practitioner, says guided imagery can be an antidote for anxiety. “It’s almost like they’re transcended,” she says, referring to people who effectively use imagery to escape stress and tension by deeply meditating on pleasurable, satisfying scenes or experiences.

Caico says therapeutic touch, where nurses glide their hands over the body without actually touching the patient, helps “smooth the energy field” of ill patients, and delivers a soothing, positive effect.

“It’s an accepted practice based on Asian tradition,” says Caico.

Last March, NYIT’s annual nursing colloquium focused on alternative therapies to benefit nurses and their patients.

“With our nursing courses, we discuss the benefits of holistic and alternative therapies,” says Cardoza, noting that she guides students through a relaxation exercise prior to exams “so they can clear their minds.”

Cardoza advises anyone interested in alternative therapies to do some research and find experts in the field. Among the therapies that are most popular are: yoga, massage therapy, reflexology, aromatherapy, and acupuncture—all designed to complement traditional medicine and augment healing.

“See if it’s for you and if it fits your lifestyle, find a qualified person, and then try it,” she says.





7) What are the qualities of a great leader?

Dwight D. Eisenhower once said that leadership is “the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.” And one of the most effective ways of inspiring and motivating others is knowing how to deliver your message.

“Communication is key,” says Kate Benson (M.S. '95, above), founding managing director and president of executive search firm Martens & Heads! LLC in New York City. “If you’re the CEO of a global organization, it’s important to make sure your mission statement is succinct and solid and channeled through all levels of communication.”

When we think of great leaders, she adds, we think of people who can motivate others to follow them and learn from them. They must want to listen.

In addition, great leaders are not afraid to hire smart workers. “This is especially important in the areas they themselves are not that strong in,” says Benson. “For example, a leader who comes from a financial background needs someone who knows marketing better than she does.”

Empathy is also important so you can come across as a real person. “You should be someone other people want to be like,” she says.

At her company, Benson invites workers into her methodology so they can better understand her objectives. They map out the path together so they feel like they are part of the process. It also gives her the opportunity to see what unique skills her employees can bring to facilitate success.

“Leaders are not just giving orders,” she says. “A great leader also lets people put their own spin on things.”

8) How do I protect myself when I’m online?

From Wikipedia to Amazon.com to Facebook to YouTube, the Internet delivers information, commerce, social interaction, and cute animal videos on an unprecedented level. Unfortunately, it also delivers cyber headaches as web surfers often fall victim to phishing schemes, online hackers, and identity thieves.

“The most important thing to do is keep your security software updated,” says Assistant Professor Ziqian Dong, Ph.D., of NYIT’s School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. “Thousands of viruses are created on a daily basis.”

These viruses and other forms of malicious programming show no signs of slowing down or reducing their criminal effectiveness. According to Symantec’s Internet Threat Security Report published in April 2012, in 2011 there were 403 million new variants of malware created and 232.4 million identities exposed.

Numerous companies offer antivirus and other security suites for operating systems, though Dong points out that users should be wary about downloading software offering “free” help.

“If it’s sounds too good to be true, it probably is,” she says. “You may download a Trojan horse virus by clicking on a link for free software.” Security suites you can purchase from companies such as Symantec, McAfee, and Bitdefender are your best options.

Dong suggests also securing your home wi-fi with WPA or WEP encryption. This will prevent strangers from piggybacking onto your Internet service without your knowledge. In addition, be sure to change the username and password on your router. “Lots of people just keep the default settings,” says Dong. “If your username is ‘admin,’ change it”



With social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, she cautions that you avoid putting too much personal information on view to the public. Posting your vacation photos while still on vacation, for example, is a great way to announce to burglars that your home is unoccupied.

“Criminals are always looking for information,” says Dong. “And these sites are open to everybody.”

If you’re into online shopping, make sure you use sites that contain “https” in their addresses, which indicates a secure connection. Also look for a security certificate once you log into a secure site and make sure it is up to date.

Finally, avoid phishing schemes by ignoring links in your emails ... even from friends. Dong cites one trick in which hackers break into a person’s email and then send messages to friends containing links to phishing sites. Because the emails are from a personal acquaintance, the recipient often doesn’t think twice about clicking the link, unleashing malicious code into their computers or mobile devices.



9) What's the secret to achieving a healthy balance between my career and my personal life?

“The need to find a balance between work life and personal life is not restricted to women, of course, and has become one of the great struggles among today’s workers,” says Mireille Guiliano (above), wife of NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., in her bestseller, *Women, Work & the Art of Savoir Faire*. “Around the world today, the time people spend at work and at the office continues to creep back to yesteryear, when 10 hours a day, six days a week were accepted in agriculture and industry.”

Achieving this goal requires you to know when to “switch off.” As the Internet, smartphones, and other technologies keep us tethered to our work 24/7, coupled with a global economy that does not respect time zones and holidays, Mrs. Guiliano says it is vital that families and friends schedule days together.

“You need to spend time, not money: plan a long walk together, establish a go-to-a-movie night, take a fixed night out each month without the kids,” she says.

And during those days when you and a partner cannot be together in person, those very same devices that make us feel always connected to the office also make it easier for people to interact and stay connected.

Keeping stress in check is another crucial part of healthy work and personal life. Stress often plays a large role in how our bodies feel, affecting judgment, performance, and immunity.

“Some of us welcome the stress that drives us and energizes us to meet deadlines or complete special projects,” says Mrs. Guiliano. “But too often, like students at the end of an exam period, we get sick afterward. Our defenses are down.”

One way to alleviate stress is to find others—people in a work support group or outside the office—to talk to about factors that are stressing you. Also take time to reevaluate your job to see if it is truly fulfilling you. Is there a future for you at the company? Are you proud of your work? Do you respect your boss and other senior-level managers? If not, Mrs. Guiliano says, “One of your anchors is wobbly.”

Many people don’t need to take this form of self-test to realize if they enjoy their work. “It is a reminder, though, not to blame the job for all your stress and imbalance,” adds Mrs. Guiliano. “It is an invitation to revisit your priorities, time management, and other anchors.”

10) What are some great places to find free books for my e-reader?

The popularity of e-readers such as the Kindle and iPad continues to increase, and so do sales of electronic books, magazines, and other digital documents through online retailers such as Amazon or iTunes.

Gerri Flanzraich, director of branch services at NYIT-Old Westbury’s Wisser Library, loves the convenience of e-books and believes that all books will eventually find their way onto computer screens. She cites an April 2012 Pew Internet & American Life report indicating that 21 percent of American adults say they have read an e-book in the past year. In fact, 41 percent of tablet owners and 35 percent of e-reader owners say they are reading more because of these devices.

And while purchasing the latest bestseller may be the perfect solution for a long trip or daily commute, there are many free titles available through various outlets.

“Many public libraries use Overdrive or another vendor to supply e-books,” she says. “If you go to your local public library’s website, there is often a link to download e-books if you have a valid library card.

These e-book collections consist of current popular fiction and nonfiction titles and, as in a traditional library, it is free to “borrow” books and download them to your own mobile device.” The e-book disappears after a predetermined time.

In addition to public libraries, other places to score free e-books include:

- play.google.com/store/books
- www.gutenberg.org
- digital.library.upenn.edu/books
- smashwords.com
- kobobooks.com

And, of course, you can get free digital copies of *NYIT Magazine* at nyit.edu/magazine/tablet. ■



| 1960s |

A second career is in the works for **Jerry Feingold (B.S. '64)**, who retired from his position as president of JBL Speakers, a division of the lifestyle audio company Harman International, and founded Continuous Improvement Consultancy in Ventura, Calif. His com-

ment organization specializing in cost reduction, quality improvement, sourcing, consulting, and training services in Southbury, Conn.

Chester H.E. Schnepf (B.F.A. '72) is professor and chair of the humanities department at Gateway Community College (GCC) in New Haven, Conn. He

Peter Acquaro (B.S. '77) was ordained as a deacon by the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y. He is an airline transport pilot and aviation safety inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Edward Webber (B.S. '77), a 40-year veteran of the Suffolk County (N.Y.) Police Department, was named its new police commissioner.

Daniel O'Dougherty (B.S. '78) is council president for the borough of Kinnelon, N.J., chairs its public works committee, and was re-elected to the council in November 2012.

Changing the architectural façade of Queens, N.Y., is all in a day's work for **Stephen Bono (B.S. '79)**, principal at Fratello Construction Corporation in Farmingdale, N.Y. The borough's chamber of commerce honored his work with an Excellence in Construction award for improving the design of the Queens Central Library and Children's Library.

A thriller set in France about a woman with a secret past is the subject of a page-turner by **Michael Krozer (B.S. '79)**. Learn more about his book, *Diary of a Short Life*, at michaelkrozer.com.

| 1980s |

Six years ago, **Philip Fasano (B.S. '80)** made the leap from Wall Street to the West Coast, where he serves as executive vice president and chief information officer for Kaiser Permanente, a health care firm that has won 10 awards under his direction. His company's KP HealthConnect program allows Kaiser's 16,000 physicians to access patient health status and history instantaneously.

Food trucks are on a roll in New York's Hudson Valley, and **Winston Francis (B.S. '80)** is along for the ride. His truck, Winnie's Jerk Chicken and Fish, sells Jamaican food. Find his next stop at winniesjerkchicken.com.

Greg Calabro, Esq. (B.F.A. '82), a partner in the law firm Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Civil Court Committee of the New York City Bar Association. He brings more than

TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT



Joseph Gabriel (B.S. '78), principal of Holbrook, N.Y.-based Joseph Gabriel Architects PC, served as lead designer of the East Islip Community Chamber of Commerce 9/11 Memorial. The NYIT grad volunteered for the project, which was dedicated on May 27, 2012 (Memorial Day). Gabriel witnessed firsthand the collapse of the Twin Towers while working at the New York Stock Exchange.

Much of the materials were donated, including a piece of steel from the original World Trade Center.

"The towers are made from black marble over a base of the rubble to show them rising again," says Gabriel. "There's lots of symbology in the design."

pany helps clients become more competitive, a skill he honed as an executive for Fortune 100 companies across 34 years.

| 1970s |

Vincent Terrace (B.F.A. '71) is a New York-based television historian for McFarland Publishers in Jefferson, N.C.

Mark Hehl (B.S. '72) is president of Hehl & Associates, a business improve-

was appointed the grand marshal of the 20th commencement ceremony for GCC faculty in May, an honor bestowed for his 30 years of service.

John Sorrenti (B.A. '72, M.B.A. '78), founder and president of JRS Architect P.C. in Mineola, N.Y., was elected as the bursar for the 2013-14 College of Fellows Executive Committee of the American Institute of Architects.

22 years of experience in all facets of complex commercial and residential real estate to the committee, which addresses cases involving commercial landlord and tenant disputes, consumer debt collection, small claims, and no-fault insurance.

Steven Carter (B.S. '85) is senior vice president and associate broker at CitiHabitats in New York City.

Coleman Leviter (M.S. '85) is an IT software systems engineer at Arrow Electronics in Melville, N.Y., and a member of the board of directors for the

Independent Oracle Users Group.

Robert Corona (D.O. '86) is chair of the department of pathology and the John B. Henry Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y.

Suresh Kumar (M.S. '86) is chief information officer of the Bank of New York Mellon Corporation in Jersey City, N.J. He joined the company in the same year he graduated from NYIT and has since been recognized for his leadership abilities; *Computerworld* named him a

2012 Premier 100 IT Leader.

Randy Friedman (B.F.A. '87), president of Six Points Media Group LLC, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is co-author of *The Athletic Mindset: Three Tools for Success*.

Rinah Shopnick (D.O. '87) is a physician at the Las Vegas office of 21st Century Oncology, a national cancer treatment network and the largest radiation therapy provider in the country.

Turning trash into art is one of the talents of textile designer **Terry Rosen (M.A. '88)**, who got her start creat- ➤

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NYIT,

Congratulations to the Class of 2012! Fellow alumni, please join me in welcoming our newest members into the NYIT Alumni Federation. I had the great fortune this year to share the excitement and pride felt by graduates and their families at ceremonies around the world—in New York, Jordan, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, and China—and to witness NYIT's professional network of graduates grow to more than 92,000 members strong.

As you know, graduation is not the end of your relationship with NYIT. You are alumni for life. If you are newly graduated, I encourage you to stay connected to us so we can support you as you transition from your role as a college student to that of a career professional. Whether newly graduated or not, I invite you to access your alumni benefits and privileges that include free career services as well as discounts on graduate school tuition at NYIT.

One of the themes of this commencement season was the power of connections. In addition to a lifelong connection between alumni and their alma mater, NYIT alumni relationships connect families, friends, and colleagues.

The Naser family proudly introduced four of their five NYIT graduates to me at the commencement event in Bahrain. Two of the five alumni earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from NYIT. Within the group is a married couple who met while students.

A chance meeting with a 1964 graduate visiting Manhattan revealed the value he placed on his NYIT degree, which led to a fascinating career in engineering. As we toured the Manhattan campus, I saw how his excitement about the technology and smart classrooms was matched by his gratitude for the opportunities he enjoyed because of his NYIT education.

Yet another NYIT graduate informed me that she is currently working with six NYIT alumni! I was truly inspired by her enthusiasm for sharing her professional success with fellow NYIT graduates.

Let's keep the connections going. First, be sure to tell us about you. How many members of your family are NYIT alumni? Did you meet your partner/spouse at NYIT or through your connections with other NYIT alumni? Do you work with fellow NYIT alumni?

And don't forget to visit. Are you traveling to New York, Jordan, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Canada, or China? Why not include a visit to NYIT on your itinerary? Let me know about your plans so we can schedule a campus tour. NYIT is a dynamic institution and change is always on the horizon. Let's exchange information about our latest developments.

Above all, keep in touch! It is as easy as sending an email to alumni@nyit.edu. I can't wait to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kelly (M.S. '99)

Director of Alumni Relations



FLOWER POWER

By Elaine Iandoli

“Flowers are without hope,” poet Antonio Porchia once wrote. “Because hope is tomorrow and flowers have no tomorrow.”

Jim Daly (M.B.A. '05) would certainly disagree.

Like a prize-winning hybrid, he combines the strengths of scientific research and technological prowess with sales and marketing expertise to bring out the best in Floralife and its parent firm, Smithers-Oasis Inc.

“I’m involved in everything the Floralife division does [as it relates to] manufacturing and marketing,” says Daly. “Along with that responsibility, I’m in charge of research for Smithers-Oasis.”

Most recently, he directed a rebranding plan for Floralife, a 74-year-old Walterboro, S.C.-based company. The firm invented fresh flower food in the late 1930s and offers a range of post-harvest products manufactured in the United States, Colombia, Kenya, Belgium, and Korea.

“We try to be where the flowers are consumed and where they’re produced,” says Daly. “Colombia and Ecuador supply 80 to 90 percent of all flowers for the United States, and Kenya is the largest producer of cut flowers for Europe.”

He spent most of his career on the research side of the business. He double-majored in mathematics and chemistry at Elmhurst College in Illinois and holds an advanced degree in biochemistry from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Daly’s career with Floralife began in college with a position as a part-time lab technologist during his sophomore year.

“I ran out of money in the middle of the year, and I needed a job,” he recalls.

Jim Daly (M.B.A. '05) is the vice president of Floralife in Walterboro, S.C.

Daly never left Floralife, rising through the company’s research and development area and contributing to products and procedures that improved the care and transport of crops. Among them was a compound that inhibited the aging process for plants and produce.

“The base molecule was invented at North Carolina State University,” he says. “It was a pretty volatile gas. We licensed it, and my project was to figure out how to make that gas a powder.”

As Daly became more involved in the business side of the firm, he felt he needed additional education. Enrolling in NYIT’s School of Management helped him develop the skills that allowed his career to blossom.

“When you’re in business and you have a technical background, you start to see things that you don’t know, some of the basic things like different aspects of accounting,” he says. “I have a bachelor’s in mathematics so it’s not like the numbers scared me. I just never really understood accounting. It was an ‘aha’ moment when I had to build a financial statement in class.”

Daly says NYIT’s M.B.A. program also helped him appreciate “how the different pieces of business all fit together. You have to understand how marketing talks to accounting and how accounting talks to manufacturing. It’s hard to see that when you’ve just come up the research side.”

In 2007, Smithers-Oasis, a leading floral product and foam manufacturer based in Kent, Ohio, acquired Floralife in a move that allowed the smaller company to expand its global presence.

“Five years ago, 85 percent of our business was in North America,” he says. “Today, it’s 40 percent.”

The need for a large-scale rebranding initiative—geared to a new worldwide, technologically savvy yet diverse consumer base—made overcoming language barriers and incorporating linguistic diversity all the more key. “All the products now tie together,” says Daly. “The look of the labels is similar and visually connecting.”

That means farmers who don’t speak English can recognize the product they need as easily as growers in Texas.

With the advent of smartphone technology and social media, Floralife is committed to a larger Facebook presence, mobile website, and more direct consumer marketing.

The researcher-turned-business exec acknowledges the difference between board rooms and laboratories.

“I actually think business is harder than science,” says Daly, “because you’re dealing with people, and they’re harder to predict than chemicals in a test tube.”



ing dress prints of ticket stubs for fashion brand Nicole Miller. Lately, she is focused on making collages of objects found on New York City streets. She also has a collection of decorative pillow fabrics inspired by vintage bracelets. View them at terryrosen.com.

Tom Vecchione (B. Arch. '88) was among the top three finalists on *Design Star All Stars 2012*, an HGTV reality show that aired over the summer. He is design director at Gensler, a global architecture and design firm in New York City.

An up-close, personal interview with Dolly Parton brought **Steven Salvatore (D.O. '89)** to Nashville, Tenn., where he talked to the country singer about health, philanthropy, and fame for his nationally syndicated TV program, *Dr. Steve*.

| 1990s |

John Mazur (M.B.A. '90) is a senior

analyst in the networks practice at 451 Research in New York City. He provides perspectives on key trends and developments in enterprise networking, carrier networks, mobile infrastructure, and related support systems.

David Charash (D.O. '91) is medical director at the Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine of Danbury (Conn.) Hospital.

Michael J. Benanti (D.O. '92) is chairman of the Department of Imaging Services at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, N.Y., as well as the chairman of radiology for the eastern division of Catholic Health Services of Long Island.

Law and order is the specialty of former East Orange (N.J.) Police Director **Jose Cordero (B.S. '93)**, who owns the Cordero Group, a consulting firm specializing in security and safety management.

Richard Steimel (B.S. '93) is senior vice president at New York City-based Tishman Construction Corporation, part of AECOM, a global provider of technical and management support services.

Joseph M. Ambrosio (B.S. '94) is a founding member and general manager of ElectroMotive Designs, a provider of engineering services and products in the electric and hybrid vehicle industry in Ronkonkoma, N.Y. *Long Island Business News* featured him as "one to watch in construction."

Raj Goel (B.S. '94) published the book, *The Most Important Secrets for Getting Great Results from IT: Everything Your Computer Consultant Never Told You*. He uses experiences as the co-founder of Brainlink International Inc., a New York City-based IT consulting firm, to provide business owners with tools to integrate information technology solutions into their businesses. ➤



DEAR NYIT ALUMNI,

With the completion of NYIT's 51st annual commencement, we welcomed several thousand more graduates to the ranks of the NYIT Alumni Federation earlier this year. As we approach nearly 100,000 graduates worldwide, the university continues to look for ways to embrace our graduates.

The NYIT Alumni Federation understands the importance of staying connected, and we are committed to helping our graduates realize that the NYIT experience extends far beyond the classroom.

I am personally excited and optimistic about the continued changes and enhancements we make to connect with graduates. Whether it's through *NYIT Magazine*, our social media initiatives, or actual face-to-face meetings, we are making more connections every day. Career advancement, business opportunities, and friendships are only a few of the rewards.

One of my goals for the NYIT Alumni Federation is to expand the involvement of our board of directors. I am already fortunate to be supported by wonderful individuals who give so much of themselves as they work closely with university leadership, faculty and staff, students, and alumni. If you're interested, please email me at rsepe@nyit.edu.

I wish you all a wonderful winter and hope to see you in the near future.

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

FROM OLD WESTBURY WITH LOVE

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

In the colorful history of pickup lines, there are winners and there are groaners.

But if Bob Marcinka's (B.F.A. '84) approach is any indication, "Do you want to go to a computer graphics show?" may be a grand slam, at least for an NYIT fine arts student in the fall of 1982. He and his wife, Barbara Genova-Marcinka (B.F.A. '84)—the recipient of that line—celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on Sept. 21.

It was in the parking lot of Midge Karr Fine Arts Center, near the front stairs of the main entrance, when Bob posed that question to Barbara.

Never mind that Barbara's immediate response was, "Who are you?"

Bob, a Monroe, Conn., native who studied computer graphics at NYIT because of the university's reputation in that field, walked up to Barbara in the parking lot and acted as if it was a casual question, though he had spied her from afar.

"We both worked in the fine arts center," recalls Bob. "I was an assistant in the photography department."

Though Barbara acted as if she did not know him, she did in fact recognize Bob. "I remembered hearing his name around the department," she says. "Actually, everyone knew him. I didn't think he'd be interested in me. I didn't think I stood a chance."

After attending the computer graphics show at Midge Karr, Bob did some investigating to learn more about Barbara's schedule. "I'd know if she was at the 500 building or Education Hall," he said. "And I would conveniently be around."

It helped that Bob didn't have a car and was living off campus. "I had no ride," he says. So he constantly asked for rides in Barbara's green 1976 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am.

A week after the computer graphics show, the couple went on their first date off campus to see the Dustin Hoffman classic, *Tootsie*. Their relationship soon blossomed.

"We set up two drafting tables in my apartment where we would do our homework," says Bob.

From doing homework together came much more. The pair got engaged while still students at NYIT and were married in 1985. And in 1987, they celebrated the birth of their first son, Robert. Four years later, little brother Steven followed. Today, the couple lives in Brookfield, Conn., and Bob is now enjoying his lifelong dream of working in the computer graphics field.

As a 3-D computer graphics manager for Schawk Inc. in Stamford, Conn., Bob has spent the past 23 years creating global imaging resources for clients such as Unilever, Pepsico, Kellogg's, Proctor & Gamble, and Nestle. A typical day involves re-creating physical objects in 3-D computer programs such as Lightwave and Maya to create photorealistic products.



JEFF WEINER

"We help skip expensive photography," says Bob. "If Unilever comes up with a new product, for example, we educate the consumer on its functionality." He works closely with Schawk's sales team to promote products as well as offer his services to potential clients worldwide. Their son, Robert, works as a color technician for the company.

Their other son, Steven, is studying IT at a technical school. Barbara works as a medical receptionist and spends time gardening. Together, they enjoy vacationing in the Florida Keys.

The couple often visits Barbara's family, who still lives near NYIT-Old Westbury in Glen Cove, N.Y.

"When we go to Long Island, we occasionally go back to the Old Westbury campus to relive some old memories," says Bob.

One of those memories takes them back to a 1982 ride in Barbara's Firebird, traveling from Midge Karr to Anna Rubin Hall, when Bob reached over to the driver's side and shared his first kiss with Barbara.

"I thought he liked me just for my car," recalls Barbara.

"She swerved while driving away," adds Bob with a smile.

>> The design of retail spaces is the forte of **Michael Ho (B.S. '94)**, who serves as senior project manager at the New York City-based firm TPG Architecture. He previously spent seven years as the manager of retail construction at Tiffany & Company, where he honed his skills for developing rigorous and disciplined construction methodologies for new projects.

Ngoc Le (D.O. '94) is a family physician at Augusta Health Family Practice in Verona, Va.

Acrylic painting, photography, digital art, and drawing are the specialties of **William Mueller (B.F.A. '95)**. Read more at mereartist.blogspot.com.

Ophthalmologist **Barry Edison (D.O. '96)** specializes in the Pelleve Wrinkle Reduction System, a new technology for non-invasive skin tightening, at his offices in Eatontown and Brick, N.J.

Eric Freeman (D.O. '96) is the founder and medical director of Freeman Pain Institute in Edison, N.J.

Eric Oberman (D.O. '96) has served for 12 years as a physician at Orangetown Pediatric Associates in Tappan, N.Y. At NYIT, he received the prestigious Pharmacia and Upjohn Award for Academic Excellence.

Doug Weston (D.O. '96) is chairperson of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City.

Michele Reed (D.O. '97), medical director and owner of MS Family Medicine Health Care PC in Garden City and Queens, N.Y., was selected as a New York representative to meet with senior officials in President Obama's administration and other health care providers. She traveled to the White House in June 2012 to discuss how health information technology can help improve care quality and patient health.

Ron Alalouf (B.S. '98, M.S. '00) is senior project manager at TPG Architecture. He has 15 years of experience, including past work with upscale fashion clients such as Bottega Veneta, Calvin Klein, Ferragamo, Fendi, Yves Saint Laurent, and Sergio Rossi. >>

CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT



| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

ARDESHIR (ART) RASTINEHAD (D.O. '04)

CURRENT POSITION Director of Interventional Urologic Oncology and Assistant Professor of Urology and Radiology at Hofstra University-North Shore Long Island Jewish (LIJ) School of Medicine and Health System in New Hyde Park, N.Y.

FIRST IN HIS FIELD After graduating from NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine, Rastinehad became the first D.O. accepted into North Shore-LIJ Hospital's urology residency program and the first D.O. to serve as a fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Cancer Institute, where he studied minimally invasive techniques to diagnose and treat prostate cancer. At the American Urologic Association's 2011 national meeting in Washington D.C., he was the first D.O. plenary speaker.

PRECISION RESEARCH As principal investigator for a new clinical trial at North Shore-LIJ, Rastinehad applies MRI/ultrasound fusion technology to prostate biopsies. The technique zeros in on specific areas of the prostate using MRI scans and eliminates random prostate biopsies. Only three medical centers in the world are evaluating this new technology, and Rastinehad and his team are at the only center in the United States other than the NIH offering it to patients.

WORLD TRAVELER Though he devotes much of his free time to reading new studies and techniques, analyzing data, and writing medical research, Rastinehad finds time to surf and travel. "Last summer, I traveled around the world, heading east until I made it back home, stopping in 14 countries along the way."

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "Success comes from within you and how you set your own expectations. It is finding a place in your life that you can be happy with yourself as a person."

BEST PART OF THE DAY "Being able to connect with patients and seeing the relief on their faces when they believe that I am there to help them get better."

LAST BOOK READ *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* by Siddhartha Mukherjee

IRON MAN

By Nikita Japra

A driving ambition to succeed brings many business executives to the putting green, but one NYIT graduate's follow-through is truly entrepreneurial.

"Golf is an emerging sport in China—it's both a successful status symbol and an important measure of personal relationships," says Wu Linqi (M.B.A. '07), founder of China's Zhongshi Golf Museum. With Chinese entrepreneurship powering the world's largest middle class, it's no surprise that young Chinese are paying more attention to forms of recreation popular in the West. But though many tie golf's longtime association to Scotland, Linqi points to the sport's roots in China.

"Painters from the Yuan and Ming dynasties laid out scenes depicting emperors waving items resembling golf clubs and players striking a golf-like ball into a hole," Linqi says. "In Europe, the game of golf was first seen on paintings in the 14th and 15th centuries—that was at least 1,000 years after the first documented Chinese games of Chui-wan."

There are approximately 600 golf courses in China, but only one formal golf museum—founded by Linqi. Recognizing golf's potential to boost both Chinese tourism and the government's cultural industry development policy, Linqi founded the Zhongshi Golf Museum just two years after graduating from the



Golf is an emerging sport in China—it's both a successful status symbol and an important measure of personal relationships."

—Wu Linqi
(M.B.A. '07)

"China has a golf history that has not spread widely in the world because of language limitations and closed technology," he says, noting that modern golf can be traced back to China's royal game of Chui-wan, or "striking ball."

Experts cite Ning Zhizhai's *Wan Jing*, a book published during the Yuan Dynasty in 1282 A.D., as proof. He defines Chui-wan by a course layout, equipment, and rules that are very similar to today's golf game, and claims that it originated in China during the Warring States Period from 475-221 B.C. Historical records supporting this theory include antique books, balls or Chui-wan pellets, and Chinese poems that originated centuries ago.

NYIT-JUFE M.B.A. program in Shenzhen. He had already been studying the history of golf for nearly a decade.

"The history of any industry is like a string of beads; the curator's mission is to find a line, string them up, then show them to the world," says Linqi. He began collecting golf-related antiques in 2004, and during the past 10 years has collected nearly 1,000 Chui-wan pellets made from various materials: stone, ceramics, Tang tri-color pottery, wood, and agate. The oldest one dates back 1,500 years.

Like many entrepreneurs, Linqi and his family made sacrifices to support his goal—he sold his car, his home, exhausted his savings, and even had to part with his dog in the process. Yet he says the

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

RANDI DAVIS-LEVIN (M.A. '93)

CURRENT POSITION Director of Brand Strategy Creative Services, Viacom Corporation

BRAND POWERHOUSE Viacom's global entertainment brands include MTV, VH1, Comedy Central, Nickelodeon, BET, CMT, and Spike TV.

LESSONS LEARNED "When I went to NYIT, I learned how to really use a camera. I learned how to edit. But more important, I learned how to speak to people."

A MARCH TO REMEMBER Davis-Levin recalls a documentary she produced for class as an NYIT graduate student about the Irish lesbian and gay organization not being allowed to march in New York City on St. Patrick's Day. "It later aired on cable TV. Then I was watching *60 Minutes*, and they're interviewing everyone that we interviewed for the same story. I said to myself, 'We scooped *60 Minutes*!'"

ISLAND INSPIRATION "*Gilligan's Island* fascinated me so much when I was five years old. That was the reason I wanted to work in television. I liked the idea of being part of that world."

CHANGING TIMES Davis-Levin prefers not to use the word "television" in the age of on-demand services, such as Hulu and Netflix. "I prefer to use 'content' because the material goes so many places."

HEROES "I love storytelling, so I love people like Bruce Springsteen, who is a master and captures so much of America and its people. I was also very influenced by my father. He was unable to have a formal education but he made a great business for himself. I also admire a lot of the female CEOs who've made it easier to break that glass ceiling—women who have given other women the opportunity to realize there is no limit to what you can achieve."

9-5 PLUS EVENING CLASSROOMS In addition to her work at Viacom, Davis-Levin serves as an adjunct professor at NYIT. "I love connecting with young people, helping them. That's where you're having an impact on someone's future."



Left: Wu Linqi (M.B.A. '07) coaches his daughter, Nicole, on the fairway.

Above: Linqi's golf museum in Zhongshi includes a manuscript of *Wan Jing*.

hard times ended up yielding "the most precious of life returns."

While researching the fruit industry in Zhongshi, Weihei (located in the Shandong province), government officials discovered Linqi's museum and saw an opportunity to create an official Chinese golf museum with his help. Linqi agreed with their proposal and initial public offering plan and, as a result, moved his golf collections in Zhongshi to a newly built establishment on the Liugong island resort.

These days, when he's not researching the history of Chui-wan, composing nostalgic Mongolian grassland lyrics, playing golf with his daughter, Nicole, or designing golf-related gifts, Linqi works as the general manager of brand promotion at China South City, a trade and logistics corporation listed in Hong Kong. However, his heart lies in introducing ancient golf culture to Western audiences.

"Almost every day, I find a history book from a website, museum, or library that covers the heritage and historical records of golf," he says. "Now it's time for me to write my own book."

CHRISTOPHER APPOLOTT





The first mug shot in *NYIT Magazine*.

GRAD TAKES A MUG SHOT

If you're looking for a new way to enjoy coffee, Tigere Chiriga (M.B.A. '06) has an idea to float your way.

In December 2008, he came up with an idea for a new type of mug based on the design of a banana holder. The end result was the "Floating Mug," a porcelain cup that uses a patented design to help reduce the heat and moisture from hot drinks that often damage furniture and cause ring stains.

Chiriga, an avid tea drinker, sketched out his design and worked with a company in China to create prototypes. Unfortunately, he knew little about raising money to support his idea and even less about marketing the Floating Mug to stores.

"I didn't get any traction at first," says Chiriga, who is originally from Zimbabwe. "And I didn't have the resources."

That changed when he learned about Kickstarter, a crowd-funding website that allows the public to help finance projects and product ideas.

"It seemed like a good opportunity to see if there was any interest in my idea," says Chiriga. "And I could generate capital with minimal risk on my part." The Kickstarter campaign launched on June 21. By July 3, Chiriga had reached his goal of \$15,000. By July 31, he was 200 percent over that.

"It's gone from zero to 100 miles an hour," Chiriga says of his new business venture. "All the wheels are now turning."

Chiriga is getting more and more calls from distributors and retailers interested in his unique design. He has created a Facebook page with product shots and details (and more than 700 "likes" at presstime), and is in the process of launching Floating Mug LLC's website so that consumers can purchase the products directly.

As for future designs, Chiriga is tight-lipped but says he has some ideas brewing. His only hint: "It's in the glassware industry."

>> | 2000s |

If it's "too beautiful to eat ... too delicious to resist," then it must be a dessert made by chef **Idalee Cathcart (B.A. '00)**, owner of L'Dor V'Dor Confections. She was named Pastry Chef of the Year by the Dallas chapter of the Texas Chefs Association.

Chatchai "Chai" Huadwattana (M.A. '00) is one of the men behind three successful New York City restaurant launches since 2009: Spot Dessert Bar, OBAO Noodles and BBQ, and Ember Room, an upscale twist on American-Asian barbecue executed by world-renowned chefs Todd English and Ian Chalermkittichai. His company, Chace Restaurant Group, develops restaurants that fuse Asian and American influences.

Maria (Dontas) Rodriguez (B.F.A. '00) and husband Rolando welcomed a baby boy, Alexander, on March 15.

Thomas Zimmerman (D.O. '00) was elected president of the American Osteopathic Association of Medical Informatics. He is a certified professional in health care information and management systems and serves as director of both osteopathic medical education and the osteopathic family medicine residency program at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, N.Y.

Tattoos as pure artistry is the mantra of **Kurt Fagerland (B.F.A. '02)**, who did his first tattoo (on himself) at age 16 and is now employed at Memorial Tattoo-Cabbagetown in Atlanta. He also draws, paints, and sculpts in his spare time.

Jose Casillas (M.S. '03, M.S. '09, M.S. '11) works for Woofitos Solar Design Company in Puerto Rico, where he designs photovoltaic solar panels similar to the ones he learned about in the environmental technology and energy management classes taught by NYIT Professor Robert Amundsen, Ph.D.

Javier Saldana (B.S. '03) is a career counselor at Hostos Community College in Bronx, N.Y.

Ehsan Al-Kooheji (M.B.A. '04) was named to the board of trustees of the Bahrain Foundation for Reconciliation and Civil Discourse, a non-political

society seeking to foster greater social cohesion and harmony among the nation's communities. He is the founder and general manager of Kooheji Systems, a website and mobile application development company, and serves as a member of the Association for Computing Machinery and the British Computer Society.

Jose Hernandez (B.Arch. '04) is an associate of JKR Partners, an architecture firm in Philadelphia.

Architect **Zubair Kazi (B.Arch. '04)** has joined the Boston office of Integrated Design Group. His past experience includes roles at New York City-based architecture firms Ennead Architects, where he worked on hazard mitigation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and at William Nicholas Bodouva + Associates, where he served as an assistant project manager.

Read the new book, *Shambala*, by **Brian E. Miller (B.F.A. '04)**. The story follows Paul, a busy New Yorker who wakes up in the middle of an Indian jungle with amnesia. Learn more at brianemillerbooks.com.

Brad Horton (M.B.A. '05) is an automation engineer at Forte, a Mason, Ohio-based design-build firm specializing in the distribution sector of the supply chain.

Richard Meyer (M.B.A. '05) is a direct-to-consumer marketing professional who has a decade of experience working with pharmaceutical business clients. He recently conducted research to investigate how consumers are using social media for health care information and decisions.

Gahrey Ovalle (B.T. '05) handles engineering and construction operations for Solar Dad and Sons Inc., a renewable energy installation company in Smithtown, N.Y.

Brian Walters (D.O. '05) is director of emergency services at Upper Alleghany Health System in Olean, N.Y., and oversees the emergency departments at both Bradford (Pa.) Regional Center and Olean General Hospital.

Joseph D'Antonio (M.B.A. '06) is director of business development for ➤



HOLY ALUMNUS, BATMAN!

Artist, writer, and director Graig Weich (M.A. '99) made an appearance alongside the Caped Crusader in this summer's *The Dark Knight Rises*. Weich (above, top left), who appears in the fight scene between Batman and Bane, plays one of the villain's mercenaries who is out to rule Gotham City.

Landing the part was a dream come true for the lifelong comic book fan and artist. In 2011, he contacted friends in the comic book industry to learn where the cast and crew were going to film the scene, which turned out to be the Wall Street area.

"About 2,000 people showed up," recalls Weich, who is also the president and founder of Beyond Comics Inc., an independent comic book and film production company in New York City.

After rehearsing hand-to-hand combat for two days, he and his fellow actors were filmed each day from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. "Between each take we would stop and rehearse for up to 90 minutes, then shoot for three minutes then stop and rehearse again." Weich quickly forgot the long hours once his childhood hero made an appearance. "When I saw Christian Bale walk on set in the Batman suit, I was like a five-year-old on Christmas."

Playing a Gotham City thug in a summer blockbuster, however, is not without its drawbacks. During the fight scene, he recalls how one background actor fractured his jaw and another broke his nose. Even Weich got punched in the face (by an overzealous actor, he adds) and was hurled against the Batmobile, an experience he describes as both "painful" and "totally worth it."

He also experienced the red carpet treatment at the July 16 premiere and after-party of *The Dark Knight Rises* at Lincoln Square Cinema, alongside co-stars Bale, Anne Hathaway, Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, and Morgan Freeman. "When my sequence came up, I couldn't watch myself," says Weich. "If you think a facial blemish looks bad in the mirror, try seeing it on a giant IMAX screen." Look for Weich's next screen appearance in the E! TV show, *Ice Loves Coco* (the latter appears in his new comic book, *Gekido*).

► Oakworks Inc., a medical equipment manufacturer in New Freedom, Pa.

David Schieren (M.S. '06), CEO of EmPower Solar, was awarded a 2012 Smart Growth Award from Vision Long Island for his firm's clean energy projects on Long Island, N.Y.

Dan Spindle (B.S. '07) is a reporter for KSAZ-TV Fox 10 in Tucson, Ariz. He has reported on drug and human smugglers along the U.S.-Mexico border and does a weekly consumer products segment.

Edithson Abelard (B.F.A. '08) is the founder and senior creative director of Passion 47, a design firm specializing in branding, print advertisements, motion graphics, and Internet marketing.

Entrepreneur **Adam Steiger (B.P.S. '08)** has started a private jet brokerage company, Air Charter Advisors Inc.

Ezequiel Vega (M.B.A. '08) is administrative services director for the city of Watsonville, Calif.

At bat for the Long Island Ducks is outfielder **Kraig Binick (B.S. '09)**, who still owns NYIT's record for career hits (270).

Jannae Campbell (B.F.A. '09) is a co-owner of JLC, a New York-based online jewelry retailer.

Justin Dufner (D.O. '09) is a physician at Kay County Family Medicine in Ponca City, Okla.

Anthony Rotella (D.O. '09) is a practicing doctor at Oswego (N.Y.) Hospital and a member of the staff of Oswego County Opportunities Fulton Health Center.

Francesco Allevato (B.S. '10) is a police officer for the New York City Police Department.

Christopher Allison (M.S. '10) is a physician's assistant at the Union Square office of New York Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy in New York City.

Zhenwei Lin (M.B.A. '10) is CEO of Yihua Technology and president of the NYIT Alumni Association in China's Jiangxi Province. In August 2011, he launched daishu001.com, a website that incorporates IT service, logistics, mobile payments, and online shopping. He hopes

his project will help stimulate the economy of Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, where 157 convenience shops have joined forces with his site to serve the community.

Officer of the Year **Robert Martir (B.S. '10)** was honored by the Southside Optimists Club for his work for the Savannah (Ga.) Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. As a crime prevention officer, he helped the squad to develop iWatchSavannah.com, a website used by members of the public to report suspicious activities.

Ala' Al-Odeh (M.B.A. '11) is a financial analyst at the Insurance Commission in Amman, Jordan.

Yekaterina Fomicheva (M.B.A. '11) is a customer service professional at TD Canada Trust and continues to assist NYIT-Vancouver at recruitment events and fairs.

Gurpreet Singh Sahota (M.B.A. '11) was promoted to a managerial position at Walmart in Canada.

Eiman Al Sakha (B.Arch. '12) has started a master's degree in urban design at Columbia University in New York City.

The West Coast is now home to "**Galen**" **Gao Chang (B.F.A. '12)**, who is in graduate school at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.

Renyuan Cheng (B.S. '12) is studying computer science in a master's program at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

Xiaoxuan Han (B.S. '12) is pursuing a graduate degree at Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications in China.

The Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance is the graduate school of choice for **Mirza Junaid (B.S. '12)**, who is enrolled in a master's program.

Amanda Liang (M.B.A. '12) is the director for Asian marketing at M&P Yacht Centre, a premium boating company in Vancouver, Canada.

A master's degree in engineering management is the latest goal of **Huajing Lin (B.S. '12)**, who is studying at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

At Cornell University, **Hanting Lu (B.S. '12)** is enrolled in a master's degree program in electrical and computer engineering. ■

| MARRIAGES |

Frank Lombardi (D.O. '03)
to Marci Hazuka

| OBITS |

William Legg (B.S. '77)
Robert Kukla (B.S. '78)
Ursula M. Dadras
(B.F.A. '81, M.P.S. '85)



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