



NYIT MAGAZINE

FALL 2014

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NYIT.EDU

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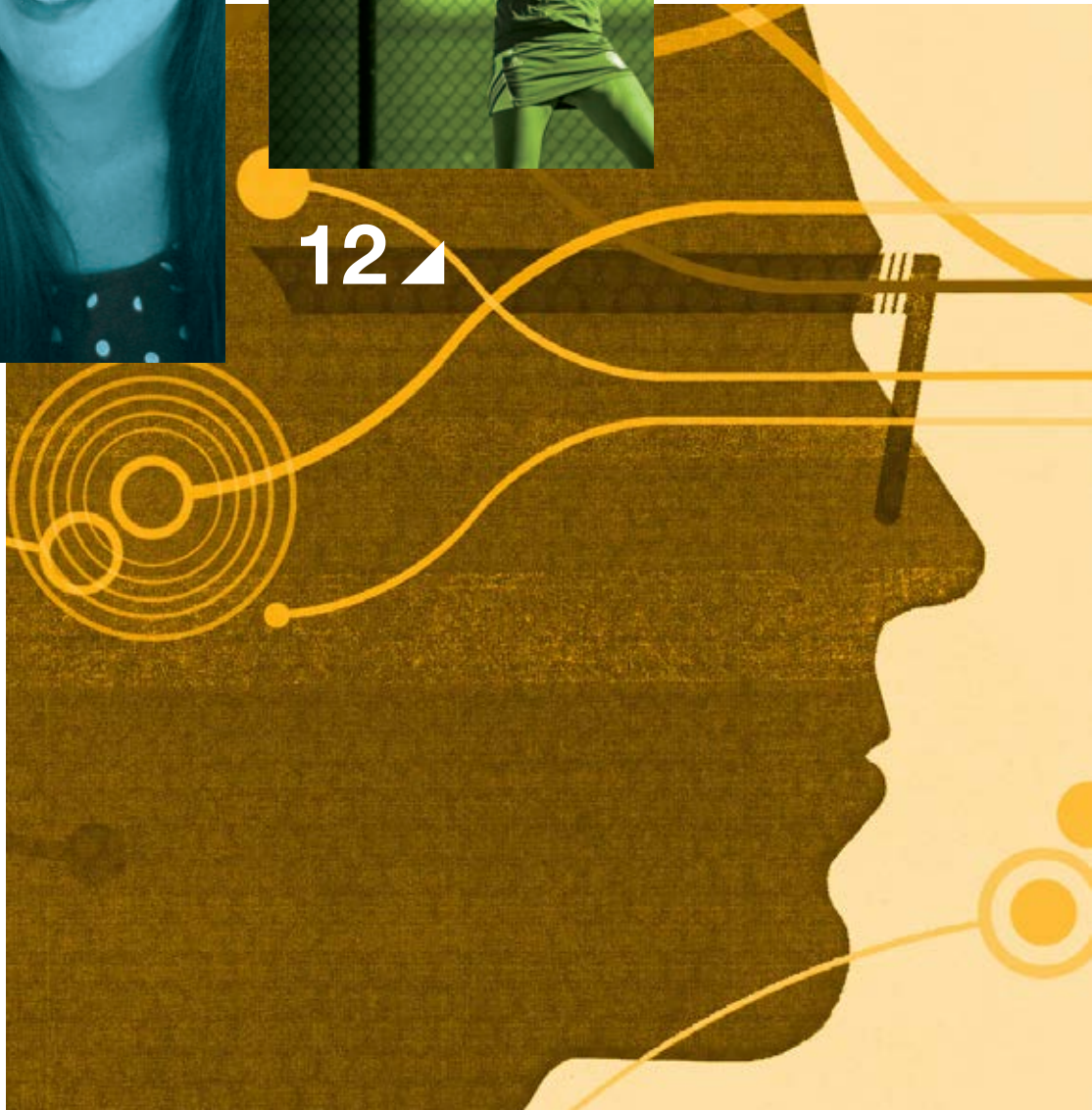
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Like what you see? Share your ideas, updates, and feedback at nyit.edu/alumni_notes and connect [@NYITmag](https://twitter.com/NYITmag), facebook.com/mynyt, and nyit.edu/linkedin.



The Power of Connections

In my commencement address to the Class of 2014, I talked about “cultural fluency” as a type of connectivity—something that allows us to bond with one another across geographic, linguistic, and cultural borders. This ability to recognize the value of people’s differences and commonalities is vital in today’s world, where products, companies, opportunities, and solutions to real-world problems are needed on a global scale.

Craig Wallace Dale



Recent data from the Institute of International Education finds that the number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities has reached a record high. There are now 40 percent more international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities than a decade ago.

Looking forward, enrollment in higher education globally is expected to more than double by 2025, nearing 265 million students. And while many students are already choosing to study outside their home countries, that number is expected to triple to approximately eight million students by 2025 as well. This anticipated growth can be attributed to several factors, including an understanding of the benefits of an international educational experience and becoming culturally fluent.

The profile of NYIT’s Class of 2018 mirrors this trend. In September, we welcomed our newest students to our campuses. They join a student body of more than 12,000, whose members hail from nearly 100 countries and all 50 states. They have also become part of our community of students, faculty, alumni, and staff who share a commitment to a global education. From Nanjing to Abu Dhabi to New York to Vancouver, we connect to one another and to NYIT by incorporating virtual technology in our classrooms, enabling transnational collaborations, and, above all, fostering internationally minded citizens of the world (see story p. 12).

Members of the Class of 2018 are just beginning their journey. They may pursue careers as doctors, engineers, business professionals, designers, architects, marketers, and more. Many will build careers in fields not yet created, based on knowledge that does not yet exist. Regardless of their field of study, their careers will inevitably morph over time and introduce them to experiences far outside their cultural comfort zones.

NYIT alumni are already progressing on life’s paths. Their journeys and experiences are a tremendous inspiration to the students who come to NYIT from far and wide, and they can lead by demonstrating the many ways to connect.

I encourage all of our alumni and students to leverage NYIT networks and resources; to attend professional development events, reunions, and workshops; to connect with our powerful alumni community that is nearly 100,000 strong; and to mentor the next generations of NYIT innovators. After all, no one tells the NYIT story better than our current and future graduates.

Sincerely,
Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., President



READ PRESIDENT GUILIANO’S REMARKS ON THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION PRESENTED AT THIS YEAR’S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN. NYIT.EDU/ROLE_HIGHER_EDUCATION

Winning Ways

NYIT STUDENTS captured high honors at several competitions this past spring, securing notable victories and recognition for their academic and professional achievements.

Five students in the School of Management's M.S. in Human Resources Management and Labor Relations program had a banner year. At a regional case-study competition in April, they beat teams from Villanova University and New York University with their analysis of a case involving a fictional college and its sexual harassment and discrimination policies.

After moving to the final round, based on a PowerPoint presentation they created in four hours, the team had one hour to refine their work. "Our goal was to deliver a presentation that left no questions in the judges' minds as to what we wanted to accomplish and how we were going to do so," says student Brendan Feifer, the incoming president of NYIT's Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapter. "I also believe that we had a level of professionalism in our demeanor that was unmatched by the other universities."

Advisor William Ninehan remarked that Feifer and his teammates Rebecca Weisz, Ingrid Bryni, Yuqing (Kenneth) Geng, and Stephanie Trinidad (M.S. '14) "stepped up" to help each other during the pressure-filled competition.

A few months later, SHRM named NYIT an "Outstanding Student Chapter" in recognition of its meetings, events, and fundraising activities. Only 6 percent of all student chapters nationwide earned the designation. NYIT was the only

Photo courtesy of William Ninehan



Brendan Feifer, Stephanie Trinidad, Ingrid Bryni, Yuqing (Kenneth) Geng, and Rebecca Weisz celebrate with Human Resources Program Development Director William Ninehan.

college to win both this award and a regional case competition.

"They're very ambitious, focused, and smart," says Ninehan, noting that the victories and awards have resulted in "lots of recognition from potential students and human resources chapters" around the country.

Meanwhile, NYIT's nine-member IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) robotics team placed 11th out of 62 college teams in the 2014 VEX Robotics World Championship last April in Anaheim, Calif. NYIT's robot displayed its impressive speed, dexterity,

accuracy, and power as it conquered obstacles and scored goals on a 12-foot-by-12-foot field. "I am glad I was able to close out my NYIT education with this experience," says VEX competitor Chinam Tomeda (B.S. '14). "It will stand out as one of my favorite memories of my college life."



MORE AT
NYIT.EDU/HR_COMPETITION_2014
AND NYIT.EDU/VEX_2014.

Back in New York, two NYIT teams advanced to the finals of the New York State Business Plan Competition in Albany. Finalists included students from the School of Management, School of Health Professions, College of Arts and Sciences, and School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. ■

"Our goal was to deliver a presentation that left no questions in the judges' minds as to what we wanted to accomplish."

Cetacean Echolocation?

You Heard That Right

TWO NYIT ANATOMY PROFESSORS have won a \$220,000 National Science Foundation grant to conduct the first wide-ranging research in nearly a century on the evolution and development of the skulls of whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

Jonathan Geisler, Ph.D., and Brian Beatty, Ph.D., of the College of Osteopathic Medicine are leading a team to explore how the aquatic creatures known as cetaceans evolved from their land-dwelling ancestors and developed the unique ability to use echolocation to communicate and feed underwater.

“We’re trying to document how evolution occurred,” says Geisler, who is assembling a library of computerized tomography (CT) scans and 3-D computer models of museum specimens as part of the project.

Geisler expects the grant to build on previous studies, including a paper he published in *Nature* that documented echolocation in a 28-million-year-old relative of modern-day toothed whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

The research team also will name four new cetacean species and extensively describe their skulls and evolution in published studies. One of the new whales, a primitive-toothed member of



Diego Rios

Jonathan Geisler, Ph.D., uses a MicroScribe to record the positions of anatomical landmarks on a fossil dolphin skull.

the group that includes living baleen whales, had a skull measuring nearly three feet long and rows of sharp, multipronged teeth.

By studying inner ear bones of fossil species, the researchers will better learn when and how echolocation evolved. “Our studies on fossil skulls will be complemented by dissections of cetaceans with NYIT medical students

to better understand the soft tissue anatomy of the head,” says Geisler.

Beyond echolocation, the research team is exploring the lives of ancient cetaceans. “One part of the project is to understand the competing interests of feeding, echolocation, and brain size and how it’s impacted the evolution of whale skulls,” says Beatty. “We’re focused on what pressures in life whales went

A 28-million-year-old skull of a new species of fossil dolphin from South Carolina. This specimen provides important clues to the evolution of hearing specializations in living toothed whales, dolphins, and porpoises.



Photo: Diego Rios

NSF Recognizes NYIT Projects

through that caused their skulls and faces to change so dramatically.” This part of the project will be based on extensive studies of the skulls of 47 species of living and fossil whales.

In a striking transformation over the course of millions of years, cetacean blowholes moved from the tip of the snout to the top of the head. Brains grew larger, mouths became elongated, and teeth shapes and spacing changed.

“We’re trying to understand the timing of those changes,” says Beatty. “We want to know what their lives were like.”

“We’re focused on what pressures in life whales went through that caused their skulls and faces to change so dramatically.”

With the anatomy department’s new 3-D printer, the team will produce models of inner ear bones, brains, and skulls for public exhibits at the Mace Brown Natural History Museum at the College of Charleston and the Georgia Southern Museum at Georgia Southern University.



FOLLOW THE RESEARCH AT
NYIT.EDU/WHALE_EVOLUTION

Joining Geisler and Beatty on the project are Assistant Professor Gabriel Bever, Ph.D., several NYIT student researchers, postdoctoral students, and researchers from the College of Charleston, Georgia Southern University, and University College London. ■

SPUTTERING SYSTEM

A \$230,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) will be used to purchase a direct current/radio frequency (DC/RF) sputtering system to support research on medical sensors, micro power generators, miniaturized flexible tag antennas, and more. Faculty and students will use the system, housed in the first clean room on NYIT’s Old Westbury campus, to research the development of wireless body area networks and acquire reliable data when diagnosing and monitoring patients. nyit.edu/sputtering_systems

ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED

Richard Simpson, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, received an NSF grant to present a workshop in September on virtual reality, gaming, and individuals with disabilities at the annual meeting of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. “A growing field of study has emerged at the intersection of computer science and individuals with disabilities,” says Simpson. “This workshop will provide an interdisciplinary forum aimed to advance the deployment of therapeutic systems based on virtual reality and gaming technologies.” nyit.edu/NSF_Gaming

UNDERGRADS TAKE ON MOBILE SECURITY

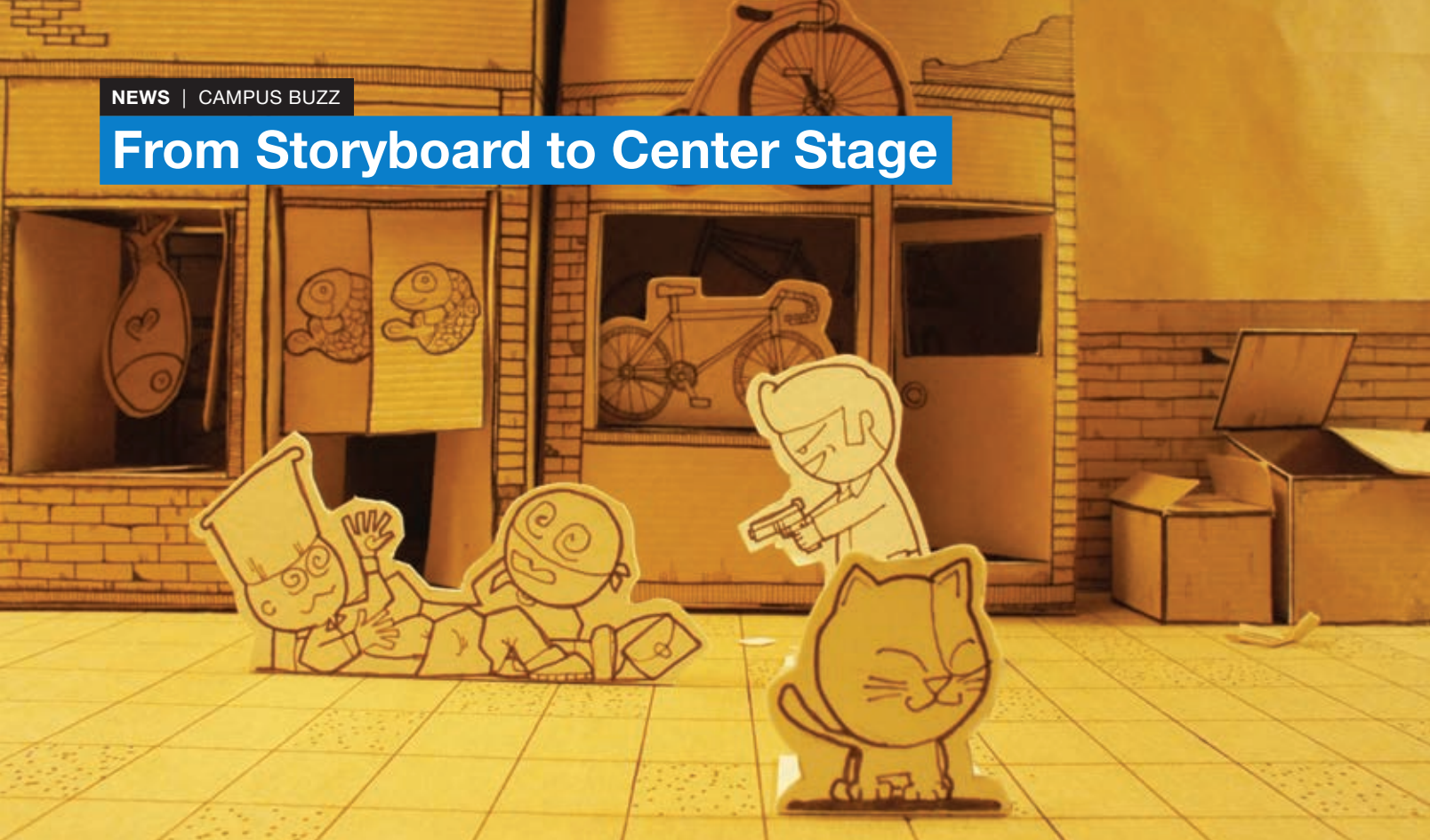
NYIT welcomed students from across the country this summer to its second Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The highly competitive program, which accepted only 10 students (including those from NYIT), featured lectures and presentations by industry experts and faculty, field trips to Motorola and AT&T, and other activities. The experience culminated when participants presented research based on the theme of mobile/smartphone security. Led by Assistant Professor Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong, Ph.D., NYIT’s REU program is funded by a three-year NSF grant. nyit.edu/2014_REU

CLEAN WATER

An NSF grant supported the April 2014 workshop “Clean Water Matters: Challenges and Research Perspectives” at Peking University in Beijing. Scholars in China and the United States collaborated on solutions to clean water issues affecting the world. The workshop was held in conjunction with the U.S.-China EcoPartnership conference, the Water-Energy Nexus: Sustainability and Global Challenges, organized by NYIT and Peking University. nyit.edu/clean_water_2014



From Storyboard to Center Stage



SOME OF NYIT's most creative students saw their work come to life on the big screen at the first campus-wide NYIT Film and Animation Festival on May 16 at NYIT Auditorium on Broadway.

With the spirit of competition in the air, students in the fine arts and communication arts programs from NYIT campuses around the world presented original short films, animations, and 3-D work to a panel of judges. An audience of more than 100 guests also enjoyed short films by faculty and alumni participants and artwork from seniors in the fine arts program.

Best of show in animation was awarded to *Catwalk* by Theerawat Khajornkhanphet, best film went to *The Paper's Edge* by Donnie D'Amato, and best cinematography went to Kristin Murphy and Terrell Pierre for their work on *Creep*. The awards for best B.F.A. animations were presented to Joe Kerkovich for *The Art of Fighting* and to Eric Mazzone, Jay Ma, and Carmine Lomonaco for *No Parking, Bro!* The best M.F.A. animation award went to Nina Mirhabibi for *In the Search of Zero*.

Film submissions were judged by prominent artists and professionals, including Rik Cordero, award-winning creative and commercial director and creative director of marketing video at Complex Media; Kweighbaye Kotee, entrepreneur and independent artist who is founder and CEO and director of programming for the Bushwick Film Festival; Donald Fizzinoglia, chairperson of the Department of Communication Arts, who has written, produced, directed, and edited a variety of productions with Hollywood artists; and Lin Tan (M.A. '10), talk show host, anchorwoman, and producer for New York-based SinoVision, the largest Chinese-language television station outside of China.



FOR MORE, VISIT
NYIT.EDU/FILM_ANIMATION_2014

Animations were judged by well-known artists, including experienced animator Kevin Brownie, who has created original storyboards for *Bugs Bunny*, *Beavis and Butt-Head*, and *Ace Ventura*; Ashley Gerst, a character animator who teaches

at five universities in the New York tri-state area; and Margalit Neusner, a motion graphics artist who creates 2-D and 3-D animations for broadcast and corporate clients.

Produced by NYIT's College of Arts and Sciences, the festival was coordinated by Assia Lakhlif, adjunct professor of film and award-winning filmmaker, and Yuko Oda, associate professor of fine arts, who has exhibited her artwork (including 3-D animations, game installations, sculptures, and drawings) around the world. ■

(ABOVE) A scene from award-winning animation *Catwalk* by Theerawat Khajornkhanphet.

Office Hours

FROM HACKERATIS to oenophiles, NYIT's adjunct faculty members provide a bounty of professional expertise.

 [READ MORE FACULTY NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS AT BIT.LY/NYIT-FACULTY-NEWS.](http://bit.ly/nyit-faculty-news)

Joshua Bienstock, principal of the Law Office of Joshua E. Bienstock PLLC, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in business law, alternative dispute resolution, and human resources practices and policies. As chairperson of the Adjunct Faculty Council in the School of Management, he oversees the development of adjunct faculty and offers mentoring and professional development opportunities for students, faculty, and staff throughout NYIT.

Lisa Granik, master of wine, lawyer, and founder of wine blog Tastingworks, brings her considerable knowledge and experience to the School of Management, where she teaches advanced wine courses to hospitality management students.

Fine arts students benefit from the experience of a number of faculty: Animator Kevin Brownie teaches a class in storyboarding, storytelling, and character development (see story p. 6); Matt Cornelius can be found in the motion capture studio, where he draws on his background working on high-profile motion capture projects, including ones featuring Olympic swimmer Dana Vollmer and retired Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera; Vera Manzi-Schacht, who teaches sculpture and design, comes to NYIT from Rome where she completed a visiting artist/scholar residency at the American Academy; and renowned photographer Lev Poliakov who has been featured in *The New York Times Magazine* and worked for many years with oceanographer and filmmaker Jacques Cousteau.

Rob Marano, entrepreneur and co-founder of software and development company The Hackerati, has more than 20 years of experience in the software

and telecommunications industries. He teaches computer science students at NYIT-Manhattan.

Emmy award winner David Ushery, co-anchor of the weekend editions of *News 4 New York* and host of *The Debrief with David Ushery*, teaches TV news reporting to communication arts students. Other adjuncts in the communication arts department include crisis communications instructor Larry Jaffee, president of East End Company and contributor to trade publications such as *Huffington Post UK*, and social media and branding specialist William Scheckel, who has worked with leading brands and heads of state, including the queen of England. ■

Vera Manzi-Schacht



Photo courtesy of David Ushery



(FAR LEFT) *L'Annunziata* by Vera Manzi-Schacht, terracotta in preparation for bronze

(LEFT) David Ushery

(BELOW) Lisa Granik

Lisa Granik



Ring in the New Floor

A GOLDEN BELL'S CLANG signaled the official dedication of NYIT's refurbished simulated trading floor at 26 W. 61st St. funded by Voya Financial and hailed for its high-tech design features.

NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., and Voya Financial officials, including Chairman and CEO Rodney O. Martin Jr. and Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Kevin D. Silva, an NYIT trustee, led the celebration.

Surrounded by large wall-mounted, high-resolution monitors, a Smart Board, market ticker, and electronic stock board, students, faculty, and guests applauded the room's role in creating career-ready business professionals. The trading floor has 30 computer workstations arranged at five kiosks to encourage collaboration.

"The room was designed to mimic competitive global workspaces where transactions involve multiple simultaneous users working under tight time constraints," said School of Management Dean Jess Boronico, Ph.D. An adjoining room houses the school's Bloomberg Terminals, which students use to monitor and analyze real-time market data and statistics.

Shiwei Li (M.B.A. '14), who worked as a graduate assistant to train other

Lorenzo Bevilacqua



students on the Bloomberg terminals, described the trading room as essential for finance research. "The trading room helps you easily get the data, formula, and information you need for your assignments," said Li, an investment consultant in private banking for Bank of Shanghai. "Most entry-level finance jobs require the skills you can learn in the trading room. The learning and research skills made me competitive in the field."

Current M.B.A. student Justin Kmietek (B.S. '08) remarked that the ability to access comprehensive financial information in the trading room "in the millisecond that you need it," coupled with his professors' lectures, are invaluable as he pursues a degree that he believes will advance his career. "It gives you a lot of in-depth understanding and shows you things that a lot of the outside world isn't able to see or have access to," said Kmietek.

The trading floor also supports the school's Student Managed Portfolio initiative, where students conduct research and invest real funds in global firms with an eye toward risk management and financial analysis. The School of Management also plans to host certification programs for industry professionals and hold networking events in the space. ■

(ABOVE) President Guiliano and Voya Financial's Chairman and CEO Rodney O. Martin Jr. officially open the simulated trading floor.

(RIGHT) One of the monitors showing real-time market information.



Lorenzo Bevilacqua

Energy Conference Showcases Wheels and Wings

DRONES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES were the stars of NYIT's 2014 Energy Conference as students, alumni, and other experts examined the theme of "Energy in Motion." Panelists discussed energy, regional transportation challenges, and future technologies for safe, rapid human and product transport.

At a panel on alternative fuels and technology, Joseph Ambrosio (B.S. '94), chief technical officer of Unique Technical Services LLC, spoke about development of green vehicles as an important factor in reducing the nation's energy costs. Attendees also enjoyed test-drives around the Old Westbury campus in high-end electric Tesla Model S cars.

Students from the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers demonstrated the Osprey, a six-rotor drone built



to transport payloads (pictured). The team worked for months to perfect the drone and demonstrated it on the patio of NYIT de Seversky Mansion.

NYIT Assistant Professor James Scire Jr., Ph.D., is working to incorporate drone technology into mechanical engineering courses, noting that knowledge about control systems, sensors, fluid mechanics, propulsion, energy storage, and energy conversion is crucial for engineers interested in joining the growing field of drone development. "The many disciplines involved in developing remote-piloted and autonomous vehicles span all of our programs," he said. ■

Andrew Lai



FOR MORE, VISIT NYIT.EDU/ENERGYCONFERENCE.

Top Chefs: Daniel Boulud Helps Honor Local Police

TAKE SOME FRIENDLY competition among neighboring police forces, add one of today's most celebrated chefs, put them in NYIT de Seversky Mansion on the Old Westbury campus, and what do you get? NYIT's cooking competition Cast Iron Chef, which recently pitted teams from the Old Brookville and Old Westbury police departments and NYIT against each other.

World-renowned chef Daniel Boulud and two students from NYIT's hospitality management program, Ryan Malone and Oksana Melnyk, served as judges. The trio tasted each team's dishes, which were based on a basket of mystery ingredients. Boulud warned the teams about pacing and advised, "I'm looking for a little bit of a story behind your dish."

As competition heated up, more than 100 spectators enjoyed appetizers from NYIT de Seversky Mansion's

French-themed menu along with lively commentary by popular chef and Long Island restaurateur Tom Schaudel.

NYIT-Old Westbury hosted the event in appreciation of both police forces. "We are so grateful to the dedicated service of our local police forces, and we were happy to have them here this year as part of Cast Iron Chef," said Robert Rizzuto, director of dining services.

In the end, the Old Brookville Police Department reigned victorious with pan-seared scallops and duck with fingerling potatoes. Richard Smith, chief of police in Old Brookville, said: "Today's affair was an outstanding morale booster for our department and not only provided our personnel with the opportunity to be recognized for the exceptional police work they do, but also uncovered some extraordinary culinary skills that I was previously unaware of." ■

Rob Rich Photography



Chef Daniel Boulud (center) with student judges Ryan Malone and Oksana Melnyk.



CONTACT 516.686.7675 OR DESEVERSKY@NYIT.EDU FOR MORE ABOUT CAST IRON CHEF EVENTS.

Women's Tennis Finds a Common Language

THE NYIT WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM made news last season when they went to their first-ever NCAA quarterfinals. With six Bears returning, the team is poised to repeat their success this year. Yet for these student-athletes, it's not all about tennis. Their passion and work ethic is as apparent in the classroom as it is on the courts; last year the team's GPA was 3.38, well above the department average. They have also learned to work together despite having disparate backgrounds and, in some cases, speaking different languages. Majoring in areas ranging from engineering to communication arts, team members are from all over the world, including Spain, Poland, France, Sweden, and Switzerland. Together, they bring their unique skills, experiences, and talents to the NYIT team.

"I learn a lot from meeting other people, especially those in news," says Melanie Benyadi, a junior from Saint-Étienne, France, who studies communication arts and dreams of working in the film industry. "Today, we are surrounded by media, and I think it is very important to understand it, how to interpret it, and how to express and explain ideas, written and orally."

That ability to understand and communicate is just as important on the court. Language differences aside, the team strove to overcome barriers and challenged themselves to do well. "I learned how to work in a team," says Benyadi. "It's not an easy task, especially on the court, because of different personalities. I learned to put my ego away to accomplish the team goal."

Senior Sara Burinato has always wanted to study mechanical engineering. "I think it is really interesting to learn how to create and design new technologies and machines," she says. Coming to NYIT from Barcelona, Spain, gave her

the opportunity to focus on her dream career and play her dream sport.

Gabriela Siembab agrees. Originally from Chrzanów, Poland, she is a sophomore studying engineering management. While she loves her professors and interesting classes, her favorite aspect of attending NYIT is meeting people from different countries. "It's fun!" she says. "We all share our tennis experiences and we always learn something new."

For Burinato, the experience has helped her improve her play and her education. "I have learned about new cultures and tried to learn new languages," she says. "The team also helped me to learn new ways to practice and new exercises."

Perhaps Benyadi best sums up the experience of being an NYIT student-athlete. "People help you when you need it," she says. "It's not just the professors but the people in the athletics department, too. Everyone tries to help and make you feel welcome." ■



KEEP UP WITH THE BEARS THIS FALL WHEN THEY DEFEND THEIR BACK-TO-BACK EAST COAST CONFERENCE TITLES. NYITBEARS.COM

(BELOW LEFT) The women's tennis team celebrates after winning its second straight East Coast Conference title.

(TOP) Gabriela Siembab

(BELOW) Sara Burinato



Photo courtesy of East Coast Conference



Sports Briefs

SEE YOUR BEARS IN ACTION

Missing World Cup action? It's not too late to catch your Bears' soccer teams for the 2014 season. Men's and women's soccer have a trio of home weekend matches in October, beginning with Molloy College on Oct. 11 and culminating with Senior Day against University of Bridgeport on Oct. 25. Tickets are just \$5 for general admission and free for senior citizens and children under 12. [Visit nyit.edu/athletics](http://nyit.edu/athletics) for complete schedules.

HAVE A "NIGHT OUT" ON NYIT ATHLETICS

Enjoy a night out without the kids. On Friday, Dec. 5, drop your children off on NYIT's Old Westbury campus for Night Out on the Bears, an annual event courtesy of NYIT Athletics. Activities may include yoga, zumba, and relay races, with arts and crafts provided by the NYIT Student Government Association and a healthy dinner. For more information or to reserve your child's spot, call 516.686.1216 or email athletics@nyit.edu. ■

NYIT Lacrosse Stars Reunite for World Championships

ALUMNI STILL CHEER when they think of former NYIT men's lacrosse coach Jack Kaley, who led the Bears to four national championships (1997, 2003, 2005, and 2008). The NYIT Hall of Famer, who now coaches for Germany, recently reunited with several of his NYIT players for the 2014 Federation of International Lacrosse Men's World Championship, presented by Trusted Choice. Team Germany included Germany native Hendrik du Bois-Reymond (B.S. '08), who was named team captain, and former NYIT student-athlete and All-American Tim Tuttle.

Playing together again was both fulfilling and a little unusual. "Not a lot of college players get such a unique opportunity to stay close with their coach," says du Bois-Reymond. "I have always enjoyed Coach Kaley's style and approach. He always wanted us to give 100 percent—that has not changed."

For Kaley, the tournament was another chance to mentor his players. "It has been so rewarding to continue to coach Hendrik," he says. "He's a team leader. Down the road, he'll be one of the best coaches."

Team Germany went 6-2 to finish ninth out of 38 teams. Du Bois-Reymond scored 14 goals with three hat tricks and

Hendrik du Bois-Reymond playing lacrosse when he was a student-athlete at NYIT.



dished out six assists. "My time at NYIT taught me how successful one can be if you set goals and work really hard to achieve them," he says. As for his most memorable moment in the tournament? "Winning the last game against Ireland on my 30th birthday. It was a great way to end my international playing career and gave Coach Kaley an opportunity to end his German coaching chapter on a winning note." ■





Mark Allen Miller

Learning to Connect



Now more than ever, NYIT is finding ways to enable connections and connectivity among all its students, no matter where they live, so that graduates are prepared to be engaged, global citizens.

IN AN APARTMENT in Gramercy Park in the heart of Manhattan, Livia Areas-Holmblad (B.F.A. '12), along with four SinoVision crew members, is interviewing award-winning director and producer Christine Choy. A Korean-American and inspiration to countless filmmakers, Choy is the perfect guest for Areas-Holmblad's show, *WE Talk*, which encourages mutual understanding among cultures.



WATCH THIS INTERVIEW AND MORE AT BIT.LY/WE_TALK.

Learning to transition seamlessly from one culture to another is right in Areas-Holmblad's wheelhouse. "I came here from Rio de Janeiro with two suitcases that con-

tained my whole life," she recalls. She enrolled in NYIT and pursued her interests in film, screenwriting, and media.

"My education at NYIT opened all the doors for me," she adds, "because it not only taught me what I needed to know to work, but it also gave me connections."

Four months after graduating, she landed her job as a host at SinoVision, a Chinese television station. Now the woman from Rio is a bona fide celebrity journalist in China. "People recognize me," she says. "Someone recently came up and said, 'I've seen you so many times in China!' I'm dubbed and I've never even seen myself. I don't think it can get any more global than that."

Areas-Holmblad's journey shows why an education focused on global competence and connectivity is so key in today's economy. ► CONTINUED





Livia Areas-Holmblad (B.F.A. '12) interviews Christine Choy for a piece on SinoVision.

NYIT: A Recipe For a 21st-Century Global University

Locate brick-and-mortar campuses in developing knowledge-based economies where an American degree is highly sought after and valued.

Offer the same curriculum across all campuses, allowing students to master the same skills in the same courses and to earn the same degrees.

Foster collaborations in teaching and research among its locations.

Teach all courses in English, the lingua franca of the Internet, commerce, and higher education.

Immerse students in a variety of curricular and cocurricular settings to improve their cultural competence.

Develop distinct dual-degree undergraduate and graduate programs with prestigious universities in China, Brazil, Turkey, Taiwan, U.A.E., and elsewhere. These programs enable students to take courses at NYIT and another campus, focus on in-demand professions, and benefit from the value of both an American and local degree.

“Careers are global. Career competition is global. Education must be global,” says President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.

With campuses in New York, Nanjing, Vancouver, and Abu Dhabi, and partner programs around the world, NYIT has strategically developed its global model. But though the technology to connect globally is omnipresent, a common language and multicultural competencies are not.

For institutions and their graduates to thrive in the 21st century, universities must help students acquire skills to fill those gaps. NYIT has helped address this need by building synchronous classrooms, expanding its English Language Institute (ELI), supporting numerous multicultural exchanges, and more. Through its efforts, NYIT has become a model for a 21st-century global university.

A Question from Nanjing

An NYIT professor is lecturing on cybersecurity when a student in Nanjing poses a question. The instructor asks: “Can anyone respond to that?” On-screen, a hand goes up. The volunteer is in Abu Dhabi and answers the question from there.

This scenario will come to fruition when NYIT reaches its goal of having synchronous classrooms at all of its campuses this fall. A student in China interested in special effects, for example, will be able to use virtual technology to manipulate equipment housed in NYIT-Old Westbury’s state-of-the-art motion capture lab. Students worldwide can talk to each other about class material, current events, and social interests and gain insight into one another’s cultures as they do so.

There are other benefits as well. “All of our faculty are top quality,” says NYIT Provost and Vice President for



Academic Affairs Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., “but in each discipline, you may have some standouts. All students will have the opportunity to take the class from that professor.”

The current generation of students is primed for this kind of interaction. President Guiliano notes, “We are now teaching students who grew up with instant social access and take Skype for granted. NYIT matches their everyday experience.”

And NYIT’s synchronous classrooms stand out among other colleges. “Many universities claim to be global, but they have not gone through the experience that NYIT has,” says Shoureshi. “They may not have an appreciation for what it means to be global. Part of it is to educate global citizens. We want students to really appreciate global citizenship.”

Passport to Global Mobility

With the spread of the Internet, smartphones, and other technology, English has become one of the most spoken, fastest-growing languages on earth. *The Economist* has even called it a “basic skill of modern life comparable with the ability to drive a car or use a personal computer.”

Says President Guiliano, “Not only is English the gold standard in business, science, and technology, it is increasingly a passport to global mobility.”

The demand for English is intense. In China, between 200 million and 350

million people are studying English. In India, office workers pay up to half their monthly salary to take night classes. “English gives transnational companies a global perspective,” says President Guiliano. “They no longer are associated with a particular nation or culture; they belong instead to the world. Modernity is associated with English.”

NYIT has long been diligent and attentive toward its required competency in English. Its ELI ensures that all students are proficient in English by offering noncredit courses at basic levels in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and comprehension, as well as American culture.

Universities worldwide are evolving toward this model. “In an age of globalization of higher education,” adds President Guiliano, courses in English are “gateways to study in America for students from emerging economies and essential for graduate study most places in the world.”

This past July, NYIT increased its efforts by rolling out ELI annexes at its global campuses so that talented students can master English before they begin their degree programs. Emily Zyko Rukobo, ELI’s new director explains: “My goal is to have a centralized system. Each annex can leverage a common curriculum, a common text, and the robust technology offered by NYIT.”

Rukobo has seen the benefits of English fluency firsthand. Her father

Synchronous classrooms allow students to take the same classes regardless of their home campus.

came from an immigrant family and did not speak English until he started kindergarten. Nevertheless, Rukobo explains, “he went on to be an incredibly successful, first-generation Albanian general in the U.S. Army, due to the fact that he was committed to learning English and immersing himself in the American education system.”

NYIT also delivers English skills through its required first-year undergraduate course, College Composition for International Students, and a variety of social, cultural, and curricular activities.

NYIT-Nanjing graduate Becky Jingting Yao (B.S. ’14) says she was shy about using English at first, but with her professors’ support, she persisted, eventually winning first prize in *China Daily’s* 21st Century Cup National English Speaking Competition for the Jiangsu Region/Province.

Last April, Yao received funding to come to NYIT-Manhattan to participate in the Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE). During the symposium, she became reacquainted with several of her Nanjing classmates who spent the academic year in New York. “I was amazed by how much my classmates’ English had improved,” says Yao.

This fall, she will immerse herself fully in American higher education when she enters a Ph.D. program in electrical and computer engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Cultural Competency Is Experiential

In his first years as an NYIT student in Manhattan, Asad Richardson was having a hard time focusing on his studies while pursuing a busy job with Microsoft in White Plains, N.Y. He had almost no spare ▶ CONTINUED

NYIT partners with universities around the world to provide unique study abroad opportunities. This past summer, 49 students from Brazilian universities studied at NYIT-Manhattan. The group is the first of three cohorts expected at NYIT in 2014–2015. At right: a visiting student from Brazil fills out paperwork.



Karen Marie Behnap

time. “My grades were slipping. I wasn’t getting enough sleep. It was really bad,” he says.

He decided to take advantage of the chance to study at NYIT-Nanjing; the experience changed his life. “It made me realize how life should be. I’ve tried to adopt a Chinese lifestyle,” Richardson says. “Life should be very simple. It should be about you, about your health, about respecting others, about getting the most out of life that you can.”

As societies and businesses interfuse, the need for cultural competency grows, and global citizens need to understand the nuances of different cultures. That holds true for students from any background. “Just as fluency in English is a necessary competency for this era of global mobility, so is cultural fluency,” says President Guiliano.

In China, Tony Lei Tong (M.S. ’09), associate director of employer and alumni relations currently based in Nanjing, observes the value of NYIT’s approach to dual-degree programs, such as the one offered in Nanjing with partner Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT). “There are other global universities in China,” says Tong. “Most only offer one type of education—the American or the British system—and without the experience of traveling to those locations. But with NYIT’s dual-degree program, students have NYIT professors coaching them in China and can get both an American and Chinese degree.”

NYIT-Nanjing graduates have gone on to work all over the world, including at international companies such as Google and Amazon. The program’s curriculum recently changed so that all students now spend their final year on campus in New York rather than it being optional.

Shoureshi, who came to the United States when he was 23 and has lived here for 38 years, explains further: “The way I look at it, when you are exposed to cultures, it is as if you are learning a new language. In educating global citizens, you enable them to look at complex problems from multiple perspectives and synthesize innovative solutions. You have something more comprehensive, more effective, and more creative.”

Multicultural Teamwork

“It hits you in face,” Ronald Maggiore, Ph.D., NYIT’s vice president for enrollment management, says of the university’s cultural mix. He recalls an experience he had in New York after he joined the university in early 2014. “In my first week, I got called down to the front counter where students pay tuition. A staff member was flustered. A student from a different culture was saying, ‘This paper says it costs \$1,900. Would you take \$1,400?’ We replied that the price was firm. Then he told us, ‘I’ll go to \$1,600.’”

As global firms rely more and more on multicultural teams, misplaced assumptions in business practices and communications can cause major

trouble. For instance, some cultures favor the “hint” over the “statement,” so key information can get lost or sensibilities can become bruised. Culturally competent team members have the tools to handle these situations and, in the process, smooth cooperation, reduce errors, and save money.

That kind of team building lies at the core of NYIT’s international expansion. “Diversity goes beyond simple student count,” adds Maggiore. “It involves faculty research exchanges, resource exchanges, cultural exchanges. The real core has to do with relationships. So you connect internationally on multiple platforms. Those partnerships are key.”

The admissions team works hard each year to enroll a diverse global class. Eleven percent of New York students attend NYIT on a student visa, and far more were born on foreign soil or have immigrant parents.

When these students arrive on campus, they have plenty of opportunities to be part of multicultural teams. “We are making our seniors in the schools of Management and Engineering and Computing Sciences form teams that have global members,” says Shoureshi. “Students from New York and China can be part of one team. That by itself is a great education for students. It’s relatively new, but we want to expand it more and more.”

Yao and Richardson know this well. Together with Paul Oliva, another student, they teamed up in fall 2013 to

The Global Experience

NYIT provides a host of opportunities for students to get a global experience, develop cultural competency, and join multicultural teams. Here are just a few of them:

The School of Architecture and Design offers international summer programs each year at World Heritage sites.

The NYIT Center for Global Health provides outreach programs in Ghana, Haiti, and El Salvador.

Alternative Spring Break lets students help solve real-world problems in places such as Peru and Ecuador.

NYIT hosts international conferences on key global issues:

- In March, two students from New York attended NYIT's conference on cybersecurity in Abu Dhabi.
- In April, NYIT's high-level conference on water resource management in China brought experts from New York and invited students from both the United States and China to participate.

The NYIT Center for Humanities and Culture at NUPT in Nanjing helps familiarize students with American culture through presentations by U.S. artists and spotlights on topics like Saint Patrick's Day and the cultures of the Gulf Coast.

NYIT joined with the Turkish Cultural Center to hold the Year of Turkey 2014 and celebrate new partnerships with three Turkish universities.

work on a project for NYIT's SOURCE. While all three were in Nanjing for the fall semester, Richardson and Oliva returned to New York in the spring. The team persisted, despite being separated by 12 time zones and the international date line. In April, Yao traveled to New York and joined them to present at the symposium in New York.

Projects like this one will become more commonplace. With the new synchronous instruction, Shoureshi says, teams from different campuses can regularly work on classroom projects and research, making multicultural teamwork an everyday part of life.

We Really Are All Connected

Ultimately, the 21st-century global university, particularly one with "technology" in its name, is one that uses all the tools and knowledge it has at its disposal.

"As a global university, we link three strategies: We teach students to spot and solve real-world problems. We give them an interdisciplinary, team-oriented approach to challenges. And we train them to use technology in these tasks," says President Guiliano.

Shoureshi adds, "Everybody looks at the Internet as a technology, and of course it is that. But a much deeper perspective is that it's a philosophy, a

change of mentality. It's the fact that now, when you address a problem, you can look at how many others face it, connect with them, and create a collaborative solution."

Connectivity is a mindset, an intuitive understanding of a world where everyone is right next door. "As information sharing becomes more pervasive and the world shrinks, centers of higher learning will play a critical role that no

one else can fill—not government, not K through 12 education, not industry nor think tanks, not even life experience," says President Guiliano.

NYIT has long had that understanding and continues to build on it and show others the way. ■



WATCH MORE AT NYIT.EDU/FYI

Visiting filmmaker Luke Jaeger gives students a behind-the-scenes look into his films as part of a series at the NYIT Center for Humanities and Culture at NUPT in Nanjing, which fosters intercultural communications.



FEATURE

Speak Up & Act Fast

BY ROSE SPAZIANI



NYIT students and alumni hone their leadership instincts, build networks, and deliver on their ideas.



ON A JULY EVENING, a few dozen people gather in the office of TurnToTech, a software education company. Six entrepreneurs power up MacBooks and iPads and take turns presenting their business plans to the judges and audience. The event, billed as “pitch night” on meetup.com, features ideas ranging from an online live-dating tool to a Web-based food-ordering platform to software that demystifies 3-D printing.

In the gaps between pitches, attendees tell each other about upcoming events, services, and jobs. A wiry young man says he’s looking to hire engineers now that he’s in the seed round of fundraising for his startup.

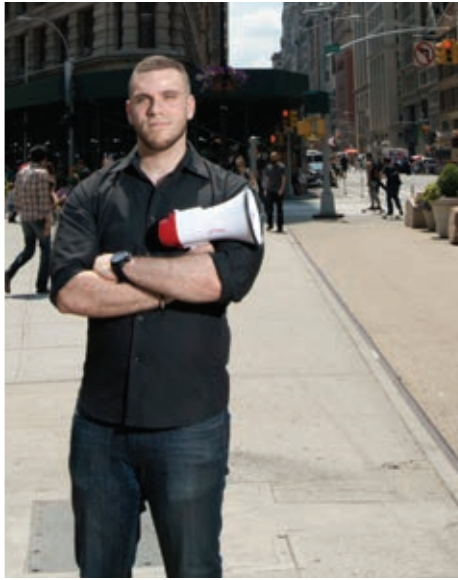
There’s a murmur of interest from the crowd’s techno-philosophers. The project sounds impressive—as does the thousands in funding already raised. The meetup has a Silicon Valley vibe, but it’s in New York City’s Flatiron district, and the young man is NYIT senior Arjun Rai, just one of the NYIT students and alumni who lead by taking intuitive risks and focusing on improving how people work, live, and connect with one another.

If You Can Make It Here

Rai’s startup Canvs+ (canvs.co) is a visual project management Web app (currently in beta) designed for creative businesses. “I’ve raised \$85,000 so far and am looking to raise at least another \$250,000 in the current seed round of funding for my startup,” he says. The app provides drag-and-drop features for matching people, projects, and files with tasks and comments—and everything can be projected onto an office wall or viewed in a Web browser on a tablet or desktop computer. The app was inspired in part by the sci-fi thriller *Minority Report*. In the film, Tom Cruise’s character navigates a computer with a wave of his hands and transmits data onto a glass wall from afar.

Rai first thought of the idea in summer 2012 when he interned at People Ideas & Culture, a marketing and advertising solutions firm in New York City. “We were looking for a collaboration tool, and there was nothing like what we needed for the job,” says Rai.

He nurtured Canvs+ in NYIT’s business incubator, an initiative that provides offices and facilities for students at the Manhattan campus. Rai uses the incubator for meetings with angel investors he meets at tech events and conferences. One of them is Brian Cohen, an early investor in Pinterest. ► CONTINUED



Martin Saack

“I use the things learned in school with real business people. I’m not just doing schoolwork anymore. I’m doing something real.” — Josh Greenberg

NYIT student entrepreneurs gathered in the Flatiron district, home to many New York City tech startups. (COVER) Erika Sanchez (PREVIOUS PAGE, THIS PAGE) From left to right: Erika Sanchez, Josh Greenberg, and Arjun Rai

Other NYIT students benefiting from the incubator are Josh Greenberg, creator of creative production house Tetra NYC (tetranyc.com), who also attended the TurnToTech event, and Erika Sanchez, founder of The Hang NY (thehangny.com), an events and lifestyle blogazine for college students in New York City.

Greenberg and Rai both study small business and entrepreneurship in the School of Management. Sanchez is an advertising major in the College of Arts and Sciences. They’re kindred entrepreneurial spirits who swap ideas and network at events in the city. “I do things differently from what people expect,” says Sanchez, who grew up in Veracruz, Mexico. “Getting out of my comfort zone helps me be a creative leader.”

Just Do It

Mixing people and perspectives in the business incubator is one way NYIT’s

School of Management helps students fuse ideas. Another is refining the streaming model of conversation, assessment, and action thriving within the school. Dean Jess Boronico, Ph.D., advocates a “bottom-up, not top-down” approach when it comes to receiving feedback on coursework, campus resources, and career development from student, alumni, industry, and faculty advisory boards and mentoring groups.

“Our primary aim is to serve our stakeholders,” says Boronico. “We have created a tapestry where every stakeholder represents an integrated and well-connected thread.”

Every spring, the school convenes NYIT students to give presentations based on the past semester’s coursework. They are assessed by members of the Dean’s Executive Council and the School of Management Advisory Board using goals and objectives from the curriculum. The audience also includes many NYIT alumni and employers. Feedback

gathered from this unique assessment is then discussed by the school’s faculty members at its annual summer retreat, and decisions are made concerning changes to the curriculum, the courses, and related delivery systems. This process has led to improved online courses, the opening of the high-tech Voya simulated trading room (see p. 8), and increased efforts to integrate global learning in the curriculum.

In addition, a gift from Debra Vogel (A.A.S. ’85), executive vice president at Lachman Consultants in Westbury, N.Y., supports the school’s Student Advancement Program. The program helps strengthen ties among Boronico’s stakeholders and has led to collaborations such as industry partnerships and empowering student associations and clubs to launch career-oriented activities.

This can-do mindset spurred Jaffer Rizvi (B.S. ’14), former president of NYIT’s CEO Club, to organize

TEDxNYITSalon talks on unconventional leadership and branding in February and April. “Jaffer asked if the School of Management could do something like that,” recalls Boronico. “I said, why not? Let’s make it happen.”

Around the same time Rizvi launched TEDxNYIT, he joined Greenberg on a team competing in the spring 2014 Corporate Challenge. Students competing in teams created business plans for boosting sales of the startup Herbal Destination. Rizvi and Greenberg’s team won first place.

“I’ve always been a self-starter,” says Rizvi. “At NYIT, I gained confidence to do initiatives on a larger scope.”

Take the Long View

Students who take part in the Corporate Challenge quickly learn how to follow the pulse of socioeconomic trends and connect them to business opportunities. It’s also a skill cultivated by Boaz Rahav (M.B.A. ’98), managing director and head of the Private Shares Group at Oppenheimer & Co., a global investment banking and services firm. He’s made a career of identifying novel investments and explaining them in a meaningful context to company stakeholders.

In 2013, Oppenheimer bought GreenCrest Capital, Rahav’s private equity research and advisory firm, one of the first to conceive a secondary marketplace for private company shares such as Facebook in its pre-IPO days. He and his team helped investors from around the world place hundreds of millions of dollars in private, pre-IPO, technology companies.

“The best service you can give to students is not to teach them to be accountants, or bookkeepers, or analysts,” says Rahav, who serves on the Dean’s Executive Council. “Hopefully, you provide them with the tools to figure out where the economy and business are heading and allow them to make smart decisions about where they want to be.”

Rahav moved to New York from Israel in 1996 with his wife, Sharon Rahav (M.B.A. ’99), now IT director for central procurement and profit improvement at J.Crew. They were part of a group of NYIT students who worked for various stateside offices of the Israeli government by day and earned their M.B.A.s at night. He says the Manhattan campus immersed him in local culture and business practices—experiences that established his broad perspective.

Erika Sanchez



Rebecca Weisz, who graduated from NYIT in August with an M.S. in human resources management and labor relations, knows the importance of developing a broad perspective. While she was still a student, she got her current position as a human resources associate at IKEA in Hicksville, N.Y. There, she applies communication skills gained as a leader of NYIT’s chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management. In spring 2014, she served as the chapter’s vice president and teamed with her peers to win the society’s Northeast Regional Conference and Case Competition, a test of their human resources prowess (see p. 3).

“People appreciate having their voices heard,” says Weisz. “You always need to have a conversation.”

Weisz says she motivates others by listening to their views and bringing positive energy to discussions. Her take-away sounds a lot like Boronico’s communal style of leadership and efforts to serve his stakeholders.

Boronico adds: “What speaks better than to involve our vibrant students in making decisions? We empower them to lead and they deliver.” ■



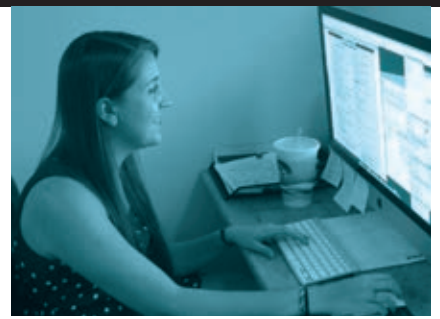
FOR MORE ON THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND UNCONVENTIONAL LEADERSHIP, WATCH NYIT.EDU/SOM-VIDEO.



Christopher Appoldt

(LEFT) Rebecca Weisz studied human resources management and labor relations at NYIT and works in the human resources office at IKEA.

(ABOVE) Presenter James Wightman, director of student success in the School of Management at NYIT-Manhattan, wears Google Glass at the April 2014 TEDxNYIT Salon, “The Branding Ingredient,” organized by Jaffer Rizvi (B.S. ’14).



THE KICKSTARTER



THE NETWORKER

BY JULIE GODSOE

New Grads,

Did you know that 87 percent of NYIT graduates have jobs in their chosen fields within six months of graduation? We caught up with a few of our newest alumni to learn how they are kicking off their careers.

When **Thulani Ngazimbi** (B.S. '11, Business Administration; M.S. '14, Energy Management) graduated, he took a risk and started theradblackkids.com, a blog/marketplace hybrid that sold bespoke longboards to the Los Angeles community. The business took off. He brought in partners, expanded to include apparel, and collaborated with designers on new products. At the heart of the company is his commitment to social responsibility: they plant a tree for every product sold.

Ngazimbi's path to entrepreneurship is complex. He and his family were forced to flee Zimbabwe when he was a teenager. His experiences shaped his goals: He enrolled in programs linked to in-demand fields and that appealed to his altruistic nature. Now he credits his education for helping him transition to working for himself: "The benefit of a college education is you learn everything you need. I apply questions I answered in class to my business all the time." As for others who want to start off on their own, he advises, "Put everything on the table and see what you can do. Never underestimate the power of socially engaged youth."

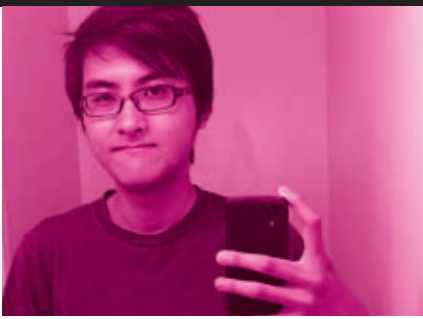
www.theradblackkids.com

Kristin Metzler (B.F.A. '14, Graphic Design) knows the value of NYIT connections. Meeting with a student ambassador and attending a class convinced her to enroll in NYIT; she later became a student ambassador herself. Her professor, Narin Gulec (M.F.A. '13), helped her land an internship with a design firm; that experience ultimately led to her position at FraSca Design Group, where two of her colleagues are NYIT alumni and the creative director and president is Frank Scarpa (B.F.A. '95).

Metzler is thrilled to be working in her dream field. "Graphic design changed the way I live my life and look at life," she says. "I'm influenced by everything I see." At FraSca, Metzler works on a variety of projects, from menus to advertisements. The diversity has challenged her and helped her develop as a designer.

She also plans to continue working with her alma mater as an alumni ambassador. "I love talking to students and helping them through such a stressful time," she says. "I think I can give them a real perspective."

kristinmetzler.com



Big Ambitions

Tim Shen (B.S. '14, Computer Science) has come a long way. He began his journey to Google in the computer science program at NYIT-Nanjing in China, his home country. Knowing he wanted to live in the United States, he transferred to Old Westbury and continued honing his coding skills.

So how did he land a job at much sought-after Google? "I got a good rank in an online computer programming contest," he explains. "The interview invitation came several days later." At Google, Shen writes machine-monitoring software. (What kind of software? That's confidential.) Going forward, he hopes to do research along with engineering.

Computer science majors, take note: Shen advises practicing your craft by writing a simple operating system, a compiler, or a database; learning different programming languages ("C helps you become a good programmer, Lisp helps you with science, Java helps you get a job"); and competing in contests like ACM-ICPC and Google Code Jam—after all, that's what got him where he is today.

After high school, **Lisa Giosi** (B.S. '11, Advertising; M.A. '13, Communication Arts) was torn about her passions. On one hand, she was focused on writing and performing in her band; on the other, she wanted to attend college. She enrolled at NYIT's Manhattan campus and took Advertising 101 with Professor Dena Winokur, Ph.D. The class changed her life.

Giosi fell in love with marketing. She coordinated NYIT's annual SOURCE three times, earned her master's degree, interned with an ad agency in New York (which led to a full-time job), and even did marketing for the deli she worked at in Long Island, N.Y. Now Giosi is an account executive with Velocity Worldwide, a global marketing company based in Manhattan. "We work with a lot of family-owned companies and help with branding, marketing, and social media," she says. "We become their go-to source for information."

Working in marketing has deepened Giosi's interest in the field. "I'm very interested in brand strategy," she says. "The way strategists can analyze research and in turn develop a new brand leaves me in awe."

When **Noelle Washington** (B.S. '14, Nursing) took a well-deserved vacation after passing her boards, she didn't expect to face another exam: "Halfway through my flight, the attendants asked if there were any medical personnel on board. I ended up giving a passenger oxygen, checking his vitals, and monitoring him the whole flight." EMS met them at the gate, and Washington handed over her patient. Her reward? "The airline gave me a voucher," she laughs.

Tests like these are a daily occurrence for Washington. After working at St. Francis Hospital as a surgical technologist while in college, she joined the hospital full-time as a clinical nurse. Washington has always been interested in nursing, but helping patients is where her heart is. "Nurses are on the front line and can make all the difference in a patient's care," she says.

Looking forward, Washington would like to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist. She'd also like to travel more. "Maybe Fiji or Paris." The airlines will be pleased.



WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATION? TWEET @NYITMAG OR VISIT NYIT.EDU/ALUMNI_NOTES.

Alumni Connections: Build a More Powerful Network

EVERY YEAR, students look forward to attending NYIT's career and internship fairs. Dressed in their business best, they walk from table to table, meeting and talking to recruiters, eager for the chance to start their careers.

As former students, you probably remember that feeling—you may have even landed your first job through a career event. At last year's All Majors Job and Internship Fair, more than half of the 86 employers in attendance had hired NYIT graduates and came specifically to source more NYIT talent. More than 20 of the recruiters were alumni.

Many of you have already helped your classmates to secure internships, jobs, and more. Many more of you have benefited from an alumni connection when pursuing your own career goals. The more you help each other, the more powerful your NYIT alumni network becomes and the more the value of your degree increases.



NYIT alumni participate in the 2014 All Majors Job and Internship Fair on the Old Westbury campus. Alumni served as recruiters for their companies or represented companies they own.

NETWORK AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Secure talented students for internships and new graduates and alumni for your professional positions through the Office of Career Services: nyit.edu/cs.

Participate as an employer or recruiter in a career fair: nyit.edu/careerfairs.

Network with more than 35,000 alumni on nyit.edu/linkedin.

Become an admissions ambassador, mentor, or member of the speakers bureau: nyit.edu/career_guide/mentoring or nyit.edu/alumni/ambassadors.

Start an alumni chapter, attend an alumni event, and discover more at nyit.edu/alumni.

Tell career services about your job or internship: bit.ly/report_hire.

1960s

Traveling the world in 113 days has brought **THADDEUS ROBINSON (B.S. '68)** to Panama, Easter Island, Australia, Thailand, South Africa, Barbados, and more. "A tremendous benefit of cruising is meeting new people," he says. In fact, Robinson and his wife, Jessica, sailed with friends made on a 2011 cruise around South America.

1970s

RICHARD WEINBLATT (B.S. '70) is a 2014 chair of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section of the New York State Bar Association. He is a partner at Haley Weinblatt & Calcagni in Islandia, N.Y.

As a judge of the 20th International Communicator Awards Competition, **STEPHEN LONGO (B.F.A. '71)** reviewed more than 300 graphic design entries in advertising, corporate communications, public relations, and brand identity. He received five Awards of Distinction at the the 29th Annual American Graphic Design and Advertising Awards competition this past July. Longo lives in West Orange, N.J., and teaches graphic design at County College of Morris. Prior to his teaching career, he worked at ad agencies such as Young & Rubicam and later opened a design business.

On his Internet talk show, *Cotolo Chronicles*, **FRANK COTOLO (B.F.A. '72)** reminisced with friends about attending NYIT's Manhattan campus in the late 1960s, when it was housed in the Knights of Pythias building. cotolochronicles.blogspot.com

The Outside in Book by **LISA MINTZ HARRIS (B.S. '73)** tells the story of Lisa Meryl, a 10-year-old girl who learns

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT



Eric Cole

(M.S. '94)

Photo courtesy of Eric Cole

important lessons about tolerance from her teachers. It's Mintz Harris's first children's book. bit.ly/Outside_in_Book

LEWIS WILSON (B.S. '78) is a principal at Sullivan, Goulette & Wilson, a multidisciplinary architecture and planning firm in Chicago. In 2014, the award-winning firm celebrated its 20th anniversary.

1980s

Infoblox, a network control solutions company, named **PHILIP FASANO (B.S. '80)** to its board of directors. He is executive vice president and chief information officer of the health care company Kaiser Permanente.

Three NYIT alumni and prominent industry executives have joined NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences' Dean's Executive Advisory Board: **SAM ABBATE (B.T. '81)**, sector vice president and general manager for the Command and Control Division of Northrop Grumman Information Systems in Herndon, Va.; **Laurie Cantileno (B.S. '85)**, a service delivery executive at Cisco Services for the Global Enterprise Segment who was named a 2014 VIP Business Woman of the Year for her leadership in business by the National Association of Professional Women; and **RICHARD JACOWLEFF (B.S. '81)**, president and CEO of iconectiv, a telecommunications solutions subsidiary of Ericsson. Established in 2010, the Dean's Executive Advisory Board comprises 28 leading executives in the global engineering, computing, and IT industry; 11 members are NYIT alumni.

ROBERT HARWOOD (M.B.A. '84) serves as executive vice president at New York Commercial Real Estate. He has 30 years of experience in the commercial and residential real estate industry.

ERIC COLE, PH.D., is a security expert, a fellow with SANS Institute, CTO for Secure Anchor Consulting, and inductee into the Infosecurity Europe Hall of Fame. With security breaches making news every day, we asked him for tips to keep your private data—well, private. For more, follow him on Twitter @drrericcole.

Just how safe is our data?

The average person is very vulnerable because they have multiple devices that are paired and not up to date. It's great if your home computer has a firewall and endpoint security, but there's a lot more to it. Today's cyberattacks are stealthy. You can be compromised for 18 to 24 months before you notice unauthorized activity on your accounts.

Why do hackers bother to target individuals?

Most of the scripts and processes are automated, so individuals are also targets. If you want to steal 100,000 credit card numbers, you can target a Neiman Marcus or you can email 10 million people and hope 1 percent click the hostile link. It's a numbers game.

Do I really need a unique password for every account?

Passwords are doomed for failure: You either make a password that's easy to remember and reuse it or create many passwords and then write them down in one place. Two-step authentication, any service that texts you a onetime code when you sign in, is better. It adds an extra layer of protection and makes a huge difference in keeping your data safe.

Public Wi-Fi is everywhere. Should I sign on or skip it?

It depends. Sites like Google use SSL-encrypted channels, but not all do. It's best to assume that everything you do on public Wi-Fi can be tracked in some way.

What should we do when we are compromised?

Be proactive. Cancel your credit cards, make sure your computers have endpoint security, limit who has access to your devices, and have the numbers for your banks and credit card companies handy so you can rectify the situation quickly.

Any other things we can do to protect our security?

Always cut and paste links—never click. If you get plain text emails (not html), you can better identify hostile links. Only open emails and attachments from senders you know.

Should I go off the grid? Is all this worth the risk?

Of course. Unless you're willing to forswear computers, you're at risk. Just take precautions to minimize your exposure: Patch your systems, keep your software up to date, use two-step authentication, and react when you're compromised. It's manageable. ■

Alumni Notes :: continued

LAURA STEWARD ATCHISON (B.S. '85) won a 2014 Silver Nautilus Award for her book, *What Would a Wise Woman Do?* The international Nautilus Awards recognize books that focus on positive themes and making the world a better place. WhatWouldAWiseWomanDo.com

Making a difference in his community is what **TOM CILMI (B.S. '86)** is all about. He is serving his third two-year term representing the 10th Legislative District of Suffolk County, N.Y. In 2014, he formed a Republican Caucus Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, which has advocated for, sponsored, and passed legislation in the fight against heroin and opiate abuse and addiction. "The communications courses I took gave me the tools to be successful as well as the confidence to speak in public settings," says Cilmi, who started out at NYIT as a communications major and later changed to business. "Likewise, the business

education I received provided a solid foundation on which to build real-life experience both as a business owner and now as an elected official responsible for watching over nearly 10,000 employees and a \$2.7 billion budget."

ANNA BENJAMIN (M.A. '87) is the president and director of the nonprofit art gallery New Century Artists, Inc., in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood. Her next exhibition, slated for Sept. 5-21 on Governors Island, will display work by 11 senior artists. She also published her first book, *Coney Island Mermaid Parade 2014*, complete with 110 color images.

DAWN JACKMAN (B.S. '87) is a 2014 Professional Woman of the Year selected by the National Association of Professional Women. She is associate director for regulatory affairs at the pharmaceutical company Bayer Healthcare, LLC, in Matawan, N.J.

The Construction Specifications Institute honored **GUY Y. PAGE (B.ARCH. '88)** for his service as president of the group's Long Island chapter. He is a vice president at H2M architects + engineers in the company's office in Melville, N.Y.

ROBERT FEIHEL (B.T. '89) is returning to his roots as a developer. After a long career providing nationwide sales support for startups and major manufacturers, he's decided to build his own startup, SwapMeet Consulting, to develop mobile applications that support business operations and sales. "While going to NYIT at night and working for Hamilton Test Systems here on Long Island during the day, I got the rare opportunity to put my studies right to work. A lot has changed since then, but my excitement for controlling hardware with software has not." His startup's first release, a financial calculator called House Flip Analyzer, is available for iPads, iPhones, and Macs. SwapMeetConsulting.com



FIGHT NIGHT

WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION (WBO) Light Welterweight Champion Chris Algieri (M.S. '10) will challenge boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, WBO welterweight champion, on Nov. 22 in Macao, China. The must-see fight follows Algieri's surprise split-decision victory over former champion Ruslan Provodnikov for the junior welterweight title on June 14 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Huntington, N.Y., native with a master's degree in clinical nutrition from NYIT says he always knew he would be a champion. "Where I am today is the culmination of two decades of dreaming, planning, and working toward a goal," says Algieri. "My title represents years of sacrifice, discipline, and pain, but at the end of the day it is more than worth it." ■

Chris Algieri (left) fighting Ruslan Provodnikov in June.

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

1990s

FRANK NAPOLI (B.T. '91) is vice president of operations at Air Techniques, Inc., a manufacturer of dental equipment in Melville, N.Y.

Tune in to *CAWL to Arms*, a new action-packed television series about college arm wrestling created and produced by **ROBERT BUCHALTER (M.A. '92)**. The show airs on ESPN2. CAWLtoArms.com

AL NAQVI (M.B.A. '94) is chief financial officer and executive vice president of Illinois Health and Science, a nonprofit holding company of Decatur (Ill.) Memorial Hospital and other clients.

MAHENDRADAT (SUNIL) SITARAM (B.S. '94) was promoted to vice president in the New York City office of Thornton Tomasetti, an international engineering firm.

JULIET HEALY (B.S. '95) and **ASSUNTA COSENTINO (B.S. '98)** are project architects based in Long Island, N.Y., for Spector Group, a global architecture firm.

BARB MATIAS (B.P.S. '95, M.S. '00) is executive director of human resources for Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth, Fla.



Gabriella Baroz (B.Arch. '13) and Valerie Costa

FRANK A. SZATKOWSKI (B.S. '95) may soon be able to say he helped design the tallest building in the United States. As an architect and partner at M.J. Macaluso & Associates Architects in New York City, he



Sharon Koehler

(D.O. '98)

IF THERE'S EVER BEEN a counterpoint to the theory of left-brained/right-brained dominance, it's **Sharon Koehler**, D.O. Koehler studied art history, theater, and film at Emory University, completed a master's degree in studio art at Adelphi University, pursued a career in photography, was a certified art teacher, and then went to medical school and became a fellowship-trained breast surgeon.

Having a diverse background has only benefited Koehler. Her interest in expression, for example, helped her develop a deep empathy—one that she draws on every day. “It’s my personality to treat the whole person, not just the disease. I try to give them everything they need—to make sure they have resources for things like child care, transportation, and emotional support,” she explains.

The program at the College of Osteopathic Medicine was a perfect match. Koehler also realized her gregarious nature was an asset when it came to her goals. “Many of the general surgeons I trained with didn’t want to spend the amount of time with the patients that I did.”

She sought a specialty that allowed her to spend substantial time and develop lasting relationships with patients and contribute to a rapidly developing body of knowledge. “Unlike many other diseases or even other forms of cancer, there are many new treatments and a great deal of research to draw from,” she says. “Now therapy is targeted to an individual genetic profile. Using this in combination with screening and early detection, I can save lives.”

Today, Koehler splits her time between clinical practices at NYIT’s Academic Health Center in Old Westbury, the Family Health Care Center in Central Islip, N.Y., and and NYIT’s newest Family Health Care Center in Uniondale, where she’s eager to start reaching out to the community. “That practice is really starting to grow,” she says. She is in the process of organizing a breast health symposium and men’s health program at the Grace Cathedral International in Uniondale, N.Y., featuring many of her NYIT colleagues.

Koehler also teaches medical students at NYIT and conducts research in cancer genetics and cancer screening practices. She is currently serving her fourth term as president of the College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association, where she encourages her fellow alumni to share their research and collaborate on cases.

Although her road to medicine might be considered circuitous, Koehler is sure she landed in the right place. “All that traveling makes you understand people a little better,” she says. “I don’t want to treat a disease. I want to treat a patient.” ■

Alumni Notes :: continued

collaborated with colleagues to produce a design for the Hudson Spire (pictured p. 27), an 1,800-foot tower in New York City. Even after 25 years in the field, he feels connected to NYIT. “My experience as a young architecture student at the Manhattan campus provided the strong foundation I needed to begin building a career in architecture,” he says.

MARK GOLDSCHMITT (B.S. '97) is director at EisnerAmper LLP, in Syosset, N.Y., and a member of the executive board of the Nassau County chapter of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

GreenLink Home Inspections owner **JOHN WEIBURG (M.S. '97)** has been in business on Long Island, N.Y., since 2004. His company does storm damage assessments, environmental site assessments/phase 1 inspections, and elevation certificates for flood insurance. He also teaches home inspection classes at Molloy College.

2000s

RAHUL WALAWALKAR (M.S. '03)

recently became a member of the standing committee on energy storage and hybrids for India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. He is vice president for emerging technologies and markets practice for Customized Energy Solutions, a company with offices in the United States and India.

HASAN AHMED (M.B.A. '05) is a senior financial analyst at the New York State Public Service Commission in Albany, N.Y. He is also pursuing a Ph.D. from Northcentral University.

ALVARO CORRAL (B.S. '05, M.S. '07) is a technical analyst at the National Institute for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Ecuador. His latest research project examines energy efficiency in the transportation sector. He also completed training in Bariloche, Argentina, to learn

LEAP (the Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning System), a software tool for energy policy analysis and climate change mitigation assessment.

MOURAD BERROUANE (M.ARCH. '06)

is a project manager at Goldstein Hill & West Architects in New York City.



Craig VanDerSchueren Studios

“Entrepreneur,” “writer,” and “philanthropist” are just some of the titles that describe the multifaceted **ROB CABITTO (M.B.A. '06)** (above). He is founder and CEO of 9 Mile Communications Inc., a provider of installation services for data and telecommunication equipment in

ALUMNI HELP MEDICAL STUDENTS SUIT UP

IN JULY, nearly 300 medical students received their white coats in a College of Osteopathic Medicine ceremony steeped in tradition and pride. Alumni joined faculty and other special guests to “coat” the students and congratulate them as they leave campus to begin their clinical rotations. Keynote speaker **Russell Owen Schub (D.O. '84)**, an expert in internal medicine and gastroenterology, offered the students advice or “prescriptions.” Schub urged students to remember “the unexpected can be a blessing” and “being different can be emancipating.” He said osteopathic medicine's philosophy of treating the whole patient as well as using the skill of osteopathic manual manipulation are guideposts in his professional path and in his interactions with patients. The students' longer, personalized white coats mark the transition into this new two-year phase of their medical education. ■

Russell Owen Schub (left) congratulates student David Guernsey at the white coat ceremony in July.



Jim Lutz

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

Eden Prairie, Minn. He is also the author of *The Fractured Life of 3743: A Journey to Redemption*, his memoir that explores his life as a member of the Native American Karuk tribe and how he overcame personal obstacles. robcabbitto.com

As owner of Repair Sharks, LLC in Long Island, N.Y., **DANIEL CIESLAK (M.S. '06)** is dedicated to fixing all the electronic devices we can't seem to live without—from smartphones to laptops to game consoles. His journey to becoming an entrepreneur began shortly after graduating from NYIT. "Originally, we were a mail-in-only business that was formed out of a basement," he says. Later, he was able to expand to the local marketplace. His stores in Great Neck and Williston Park are located near NYIT's Old Westbury campus. repairsharks.com

Introduce the young people in your life to architecture with *A is for Architecture*, a children's book by **ERIK HEULER (B.ARCH. '06)**. The American Institute of Architects recently featured it as part of the group's 2014 Emerging Professionals Exhibition in Washington, D.C. bit.ly/Heuler

"NYIT provided a solid education in the area of life sciences, allowing me to further my education in the field of nursing," says **NICOLE MORRIS (B.S. '06)**. She completed her Master of Science in Nursing Education from Mercy College and landed her first job as a clinical adjunct professor at Helene Fuld College of Nursing in New York City.

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded **MICHAEL ALLEN (B.F.A. '07)** a Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing. He is a freelance audio engineer for NBC Sports.

MARLON ESPIRITU (B.A. '07) serves in the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan.



Spilios Gianakopoulos

(B.ARCH. '09)

FOR SPILIOS GIANAKOPOULOS, a desire to juxtapose the ephemera of performance with the permanence of architecture inspired a practice that spans music, real estate, furniture, and fashion. A tireless creator, we asked him about some of his favorite and most high-profile collaborations.

Fischerspooner: Set Designer/Art Director

When electro-pop duo Fischerspooner was arrested for breaking into the Olympic Stadium in Athens, Greece, to shoot a music video after one of their shows in 2007, the group called a new friend to bail them out. An Athens native, Gianakopoulos was in town to see the band perform. Later, realizing how well the band's avant-garde sensibility matched his own, Gianakopoulos developed a partnership with Casey Spooner and started designing sets for the band. "I presented my thesis on a Monday and that afternoon I jumped on a tour bus and went on the road with the band," says Gianakopoulos. Since then, he's spearheaded the set design for the band's shows (including a huge Museum of Modern Art performance to kick off Performa in 2009), designed book jackets and other merchandise, and continues to think up new projects with Spooner. "Casey has an intellectual approach to performance and pop culture, so our work together is very creatively rewarding," he says.

BOFFO Building Fashion: Co-founder and Creative Director

Covering New York Fashion Week for *Vogue Greece* in 2011 gave Gianakopoulos insider access to the city's fashion scene. He created Building Fashion, a platform for emerging fashion designers to create pop-up stores with young architects. He partnered with collaborative public art nonprofit BOFFO and recruited Architizer and the Council of Fashion Designers of America to help run an annual competition to support collaborations between architects and designers like Nicola Formichetti and Gage/Clemenceau. "It was wonderful to be able to develop projects without anything more than an idea and some friends," he says. "It's a miracle that can only happen in New York."

MAC Cosmetics: Design Director, Global Events

"MAC found me right when Building Fashion took off, and it was an instant love affair," says Gianakopoulos. The cosmetics company became one of Building Fashion's biggest sponsors, and they offered Gianakopoulos a job. He quickly ascended to design director of global events and managed the team responsible for all of MAC's temporary architectural and environmental installations—a huge portfolio of more than 6,000 events, including pop-up cosmetic booths on Rihanna's world tour. ■

Gianakopoulos currently does independent brand consulting for luxury real estate and is developing a furniture line. spiliosgianakopoulos.com

Martin Saek

Alumni Notes :: continued

Mass media, pop culture, and intercultural communication are just a few of the research areas that **SHEENA HOWARD (M.A. '07)** investigates. She is an assistant professor in the department of communication and journalism at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J. Her first book, *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation*, has been nominated for a Will Eisner Comic Industry Award. sheenachoward.com



Mark Jeffries

KERRY BOUDREAUX (M.B.A. '08) (above) published his debut book, *Prism, Seeing the World Through the Hearts of People with Special Needs*. The book compiles his life lessons and perspectives as a father raising three daughters, including one who has Down syndrome. He and his wife, Karen, live in Lexington, Ky., with daughters Kala, Kelsey, and Kate. Boudreaux's family participates in projects such as Brighter Tomorrows, a nonprofit that educates new and expectant parents and physicians about Down syndrome. bit.ly/Boudreaux_Prism

COLLEEN MURPHY (B.F.A. '08) celebrated a career milestone when her production team won a 2014 Emmy Award for their work on *The Bracket* for MSG Interactive. To support the original TV series, which pitted New York's greatest athletes against each other, the team developed interactive content, including show clips, interviews, and photo galleries. Murphy is an editorial website programmer for msg.com.

JARED W. SMITH (B.ARCH. '08) is an architectural project coordinator at Stantec

Architecture in New York City. He has recently become licensed as an architect in the state of New York. He and his wife, Yahaira, have a son and a daughter. registeredarchitect.blogspot.com

Sales executive **JAMES COX JR. (B.S. '09)** joined Urban Compass, a technology-driven residential real estate company in New York City. As part of his role, he is developing business opportunities in the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

ROBERT MANSHEIM (M.A. '09) is director of communications for the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer in Aurora, Colo.

SANDRA MEYER (B.A. '09) is the new business editor for the *Osprey Observer*, a community newspaper in Brandon, Fla. Her writing focuses on entrepreneurs in the area, from a farm owner developing a wounded warrior project to the latest businesses opening in her town. www.ospreyobserver.com

RUSSELL SURASKY (D.O. '09) is a neurologist at Northport Wellness Center, a holistic health care facility in Northport, N.Y.

2010s

MEHERANGIZ TOHIMA BHUIYAN (B.F.A. '10) is a designer for Dauphin, a leading office seating manufacturer in New York City.

BURT GONCALVES (B.ARCH. '10) was promoted to associate at Perkins Eastman Architects in New York City. His position involves managing building information modeling and medical planning.

ANNEMARIE POCARO (B.ARCH. '10) is an associate at VVA Project Managers and Consultants in New York City. She provides

project management services that require specialized knowledge of New York City building codes.

Up-and-coming architects **DAVID FLECHA (B.ARCH. '11)** and **DANIEL HORN (B.ARCH. '13)** both received 2014 Jason Pettigrew Memorial ARE Scholarships. The scholarship, given by the American Institute of Architects, is awarded to 10 recipients and provides funding to cover the cost of the Architect Registration Examination.

Style maven **TARA FRASER (B.F.A. '11)** is a producer at Largetail LLC, a digital media agency in New York City. She shares career and fashion tips in the "WorkWeekChic" column of the online magazine *The Stylish Sophisticate*. bit.ly/Tara-Fraser

Several NYIT alumni participated in the New York City Department of Education's School Technology Summit in July 2014 in New York City. **LUZ MINAYA (M.S. '11)**, an instructional technology specialist and foreign language teacher at I.S. 528 Bea Fuller Rodgers School, served as a panelist for the discussion "Social Media for a Transparent Learning Community." **ILISA GUARNERI (M.S. '13)**, a social studies and technology teacher at Middle School for Marketing and Legal Studies, received an Excellence in School Technology Award. **GINA TESORIERO (ACERT '13)**, a learning specialist and STEM educator at Simon Baruch Middle School, presented the seminar "Engaging Students on Both Ends of the Academic Spectrum in 21st Century Skills."

ADAM HYMAN (A.DIP. '12) published his first teaching resource book, *Managing the Digital Classroom: Dozens of Awesome Teacher-Tested Ideas That Help You Manage and Make the Most of Every Digital Tool in Your Classroom*. It provides strategies, lesson ideas, and management tips for using various technology tools to help students build 21st-century skills. bit.ly/Digital_Classroom

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BECOME AN ALUMNI MENTOR OR AMBASSADOR

Alumni mentors help NYIT students negotiate the tricky transition from college to career. Learn more by visiting nyit.edu/mentoring or calling 516.686.7800.

On the road, in person, or on the phone, alumni ambassadors play a critical role in helping prospective students choose where to attend college. Visit nyit.edu/alumni/ambassadors or email alumniambassador@nyit.edu.

#NYITDIDTHAT

Show NYIT pride by wearing blue and gold for “Bearsday Thursday.” Share selfies and photos of you and fellow alumni in NYIT gear on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Use #NYITDidThat or email them to mtonuk@nyit.edu. Then check out more than 1,000 photos already tagged #NYITDidThat on Instagram.

Harry Shivakumar



Amal Al Haddabi

(M.B.A. '08)

ON MOST DAYS, Amal Al Haddabi feels like a superhero. “I sometimes dream of myself flying around in a cape with a big ‘S’ on it,” she says. Her work certainly requires a heroic effort. Al Haddabi is head of the Publications Department at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), one of the leading think tanks in the Middle East, and is responsible for the center’s numerous books, journals, research papers, and reports that tackle matters of strategic importance to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), the region, and the world.

After working for years in information technology and communications, Al Haddabi knew she needed to return to college to further her career. As a U.A.E. national, she had heard great things about the business administration and management and information systems programs at NYIT’s Abu Dhabi campus.

She enrolled and was pleased to discover NYIT met her expectations. “It is simply top notch, the best place for any aspiring professional to get the best education in the field of technology,” she says. She also appreciated the “fairly inclusive, non-sectarian, and education-friendly atmosphere,” not to mention the program’s track record of helping its graduates land great jobs.

Opportunities in technology are rapidly growing, and Al Haddabi is an advocate for more students—particularly women—pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). “The U.A.E. is among the few Arab and Muslim countries where women are well represented in the STEM fields,” she says. “There has been a remarkable uptick in recent years, but there is still a long way to go, both for male and female students.”

This astute, global perspective has served her well in her career. Her contributions to the information technology field have earned her the Leadership Award by Princess Haya Women’s Forum, the 2009 ICT Woman of the Year Award, and a certificate of acknowledgment from the Kuwait Information Technology Society.

Above all, she is most proud of the recognition she received in 2005 from the President of the ECSSR, His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the U.A.E. Armed Forces, for her work establishing the center’s acclaimed quarterly journal, *Strategic Visions* (strategicvisions.ecssr.com). “I’m proud to have been part of a pioneering publication that is raising new standards of excellence in strategic research worldwide,” she says. ■

Photo courtesy of Amal Al Haddabi

Alumni Notes :: continued

So you think you can dance? **GAURAV GULATI (B.S. '13)** knows he can. Millions tuned in to watch him perform with the Bollywood and fusion dance troupe Wanted Ashiqz on the most recent season of the Fox show *So You Think You Can Dance*. thewantedashiqz.com

NYIT's young doctors in the Class of 2014 are off to an impressive start. Straight out of medical school **GEBE GEORGE (D.O. '14)** became the first osteopathic physician accepted into New York Presbyterian Hospital's emergency medicine residency. **MATTHEW SCHEAR (D.O. '14)** was one of four doctors selected from 300 applicants for his medical residency in ophthalmology at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Hospital. **JODI ZIMBLER (D.O. '14)** is following her passion for family medicine through her residency at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Plainview Hospital. bit.ly/Gebe-George, bit.ly/Matthew-Shear, bit.ly/Jodi-Zimbler.

How does the Class of 2014 celebrate graduation? Well, if you're **SAMANTHA SNUKIS (M.S. '14)**, you take part in the first-ever Saucony Down the Mile Runway, a 5K event held on the Heritage Field Airport landing strip in Limerick, Pa. She placed fourth place in the race's elite division with a time of 5 minutes, 18 seconds.

NYIT student speaker **ANTHONY UNGARO (B.S. '14)** wasted little time taking up his next cause: raising awareness about adopting animals from shelters. The U.S.

Marine Corps veteran rode 4,000 miles on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle this past summer to bring supplies to animal shelters in Detroit, Mich.; Rapid City, S.D.; Midvale, Utah; and Los Angeles, Calif. facebook.com/anthonystrideforshelterpets

Passings

LISA LIJOI SPIELMANN (B.F.A. '77)
KURT G. LANGJAHR (B.ARCH. '92)

Birth

MELISSA DUPREE (D.P.T. '08) and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son, Michael Louis.

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SUBMIT
ALUMNI NOTES

NEW JOB? ON THE MOVE?
TELL US AT NYIT.EDU/ALUMNI_NOTES
OR MAGAZINE@NYIT.EDU

YOUNG ALUMNI REUNION

On Aug. 21, more than 40 alumni, ages 35 and younger, came together for NYIT's Young Alumni Reunion. The event, held at HB Burger in midtown Manhattan, provided a chance for alumni to reconnect with former classmates, enjoy refreshments, play games, and network. For information about future events or to host your own reunion, visit nyit.edu/alumni.



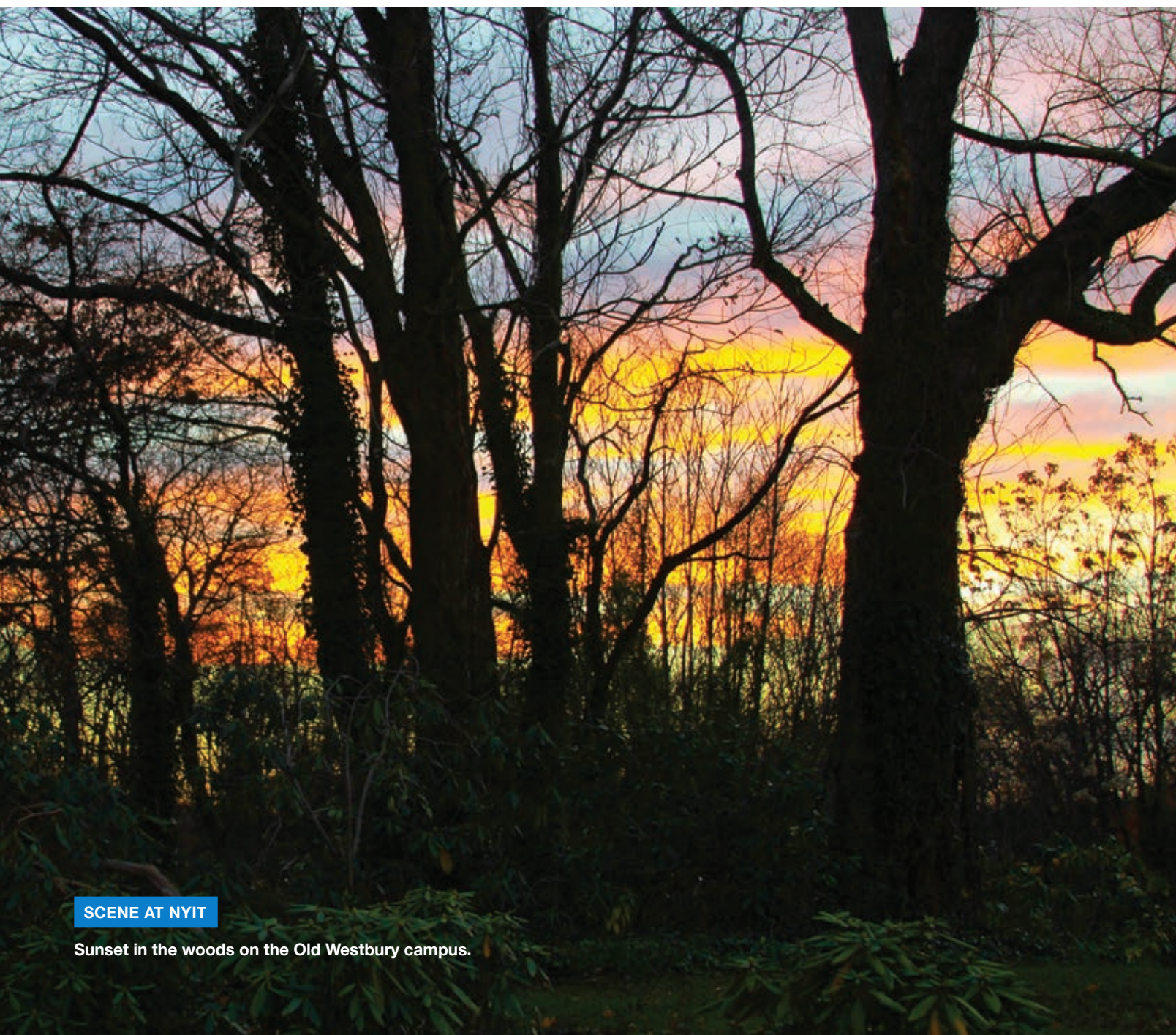
BROTHERS ARM IN ARM

In 1966, a group of NYIT students founded Omicron Sigma Upsilon. The fraternity was active from 1966 to 1977 and had more than 150 members. On Aug. 9, the group reunited with friends and family to celebrate their time together at NYIT and nearly five decades of brotherhood. Above right: Event organizer Sal Bracco (B.S. '70) (fourth from left) poses with other founding members of the fraternity at the reunion.



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SCENE AT NYIT

Sunset in the woods on the Old Westbury campus.