

# MAGAZINE

SPRING  
2016

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

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# Diversified Learning

“Blending disciplines to generate new knowledge and pedagogies is something we champion at NYIT.”

Craig Wallace Date



IT'S SOUND FINANCIAL ADVICE to invest in a diversified portfolio. It's just as wise to pursue diversified academic and experiential learning opportunities to maximize the value of an NYIT degree. The next generation of technologies and innovations that shape cultures, markets, and everyday lives will result from the thoughtful collaborations and leadership of scientists, entrepreneurs, artists, designers, and many others who use their experiences and skills to weave together truly multidisciplinary solutions.

Blending disciplines to generate new knowledge and pedagogies is something we champion at NYIT. In a recent *Washington Post* op-ed, for example, I outlined the need for doctors, engineers, researchers, and other STEM professionals to balance their technical expertise with a foundation in the humanities. Today's biggest challenges require critical thinking, empathy, cultural literacy, and creativity—key skills that the humanities provide. At NYIT, all undergraduate students are required to take our core curriculum, which emphasizes humanities, global perspective, ethical and moral judgment, civic engagement, and other key competencies that are essential for successful careers. This in turn prepares students to become global citizens with the capacity to analyze and respond to specific situations while ensuring that a human touch factors into every decision.

On a larger scale, NYIT is diversifying its portfolio of interdisciplinary talent and resources to help provide solutions to the most pressing issues facing our society. Following last fall's Sustainable Megacities conference and workshop in China, our university hosted the Innovations & Technology: Solutions to the Global Water Crisis Forum at NYIT Auditorium on Broadway. This event, focused on one of the top global concerns cited by the World Economic Forum, welcomed Seth Siegel, best-selling author of *Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World*, as well as a panel of experts from government and academia who discussed ways to address water shortages around the planet.

This summer, NYIT will continue to collaborate with scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, designers, educators, and government leaders at our annual energy conference in Old Westbury, N.Y. This year's theme, “Green Buildings,” will examine the sustainability, energy and power, and performance of modern structures. If you're an NYIT graduate who works in this field, I encourage you to join the discussion. Together with the New York State STEM Education Collaborative, we will also host the three-day 2016 STEM Education Summer Institute for educators and STEM professionals in Old Westbury.

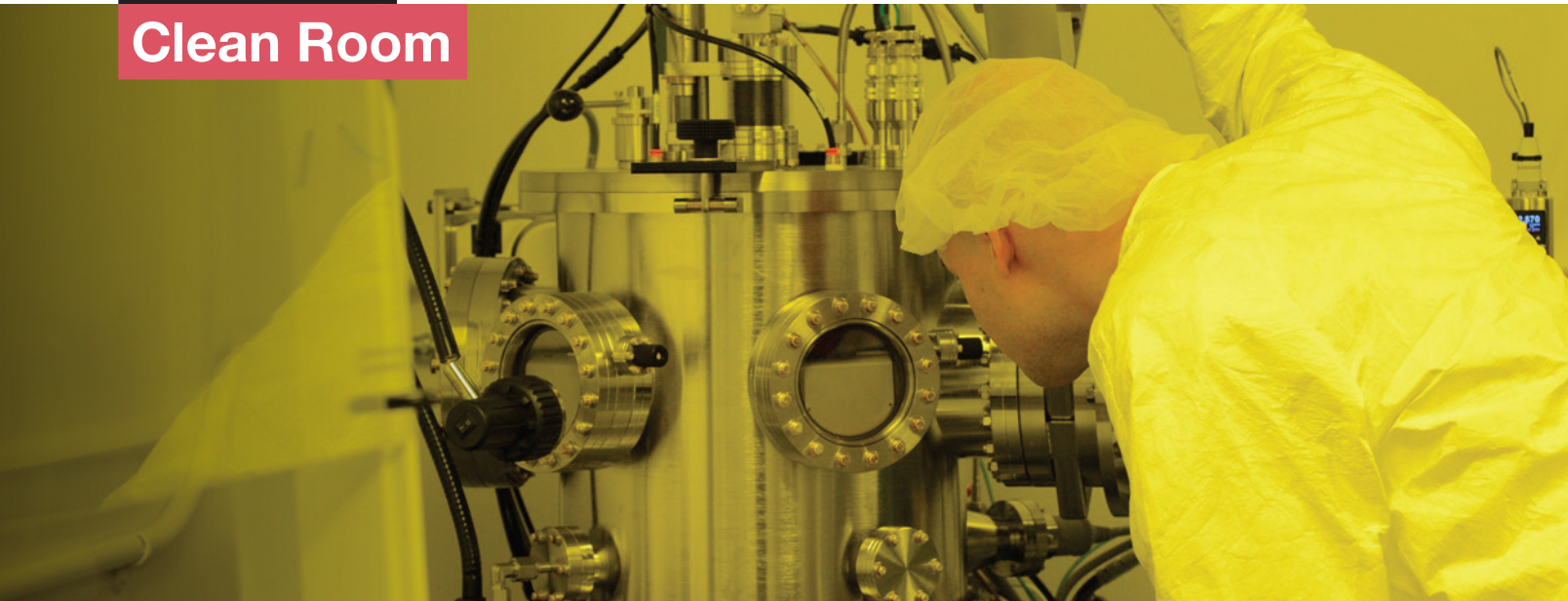
Learn more about these and other events at [nyit.edu/events](http://nyit.edu/events), and be sure to explore our newly redesigned website, which features a streamlined navigation and revamped visual aesthetic that reaffirms NYIT's global brand. This prodigious redesign required the combined work of dozens of NYIT administrators, faculty and staff members, and students. I hope you enjoy our new digital face to the world—feel free to email [magazine@nyit.edu](mailto:magazine@nyit.edu) and let us know what you think.

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



Read President Guiliano's op-ed in the *Washington Post*: [bit.ly/Wash-Post-2016](http://bit.ly/Wash-Post-2016)

# Clean Room



Lorenzo Bevilacqua

WANDER THROUGH the engineering labs in the basement of Harry Schure Hall on the Old Westbury campus and at some point you'll find a door shrouded in clear plastic curtains. Turn on the light behind the door, and you'll discover equipment that would make any sci-fi fan giddy. This is NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences' new clean room—and it has the distinction of being the first Class 10,000 clean room in Nassau County, N.Y.

The lab, which officially opened in February and received funding from the Empire State Development Corporation and the National Science Foundation, provides new opportunities for research and development to faculty members and students as well as external partners.

"We are here to contribute to advances in electronics, photonics, communications, medicine, and many other fields," said President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., at the room's ribbon-cutting ceremony. "We are here living NYIT's DNA vision of performing applied research for the betterment of society."

Clean rooms are classified according to the number and size of particles permitted per volume of air. These particles are measured in microns (one micron is smaller than a living cell). The atmosphere inside NYIT's clean room allows only 10,000 particles (half

a micron or larger) per cubic foot of air. In comparison, typical office building air contains 500,000 to 1 million such particles per cubic foot of air. Inside, researchers can use equipment to nano-engineer microchips, sensors, implantable and wearable medical devices, and more without compromising them with external particles.

"It's sophisticated equipment and adds to our capabilities, not just in engineering but across many schools," said Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. "The sputtering machine inside the room will be able to fabricate sensors and other materials on demand for specific uses."

Fang Li, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, wasted no time in utilizing the new resources. Already, she and her students are fabricating micro- and nano-sensors that can be used to record data in challenging environments—like those with high radiation levels. "We choose special materials that work in those areas," she explained. "Sensors can be used to measure data remotely and monitor long-term conditions of various materials like nuclear waste."

Because it's housed inside the materials science and microscopy lab, engineers can also take advantage of

other equipment—like spinners and coaters—to create composite and new materials. That makes the lab especially enticing for industry partners in Long Island who need access to the specialized research and development environment.

But it is the students who are benefiting most. Rarely do undergraduates get to work with equipment like this on their own campus or contribute to such sophisticated research efforts. Not only do they gain a greater understanding of how materials work at a sub-molecular level, but they also can use their knowledge to stand out in their field.

"We're living NYIT's mission in a new way. We are creating these research labs for the students," said Anid. "That's the exciting part." ■

(above) Jonathan Furniss, a junior studying mechanical engineering, shows off the clean room's sputtering machine. To use the lab, researchers must wear protective gear to ensure they don't introduce external particles into the room and to their work.



Read more: [bit.ly/clean-room-OW](https://bit.ly/clean-room-OW)

# Buzzland

NYIT is recognized for international education, Alternative Spring Break returns to Nicaragua, and an alumnus kicks off his career in Nairobi. Read up on the latest news below and find more stories at [nyit.edu/box](http://nyit.edu/box).



**EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION:** NYIT is a recipient of the prestigious 2016 Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization. NAFSA: Association of International Educators is recognizing NYIT and three other universities for encouraging international engagement both inside and outside the classroom. Learn more online and stay tuned for more in the next issue.

[bit.ly/Simon-NYIT](http://bit.ly/Simon-NYIT)

**RESEARCH REWARDED:** NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine students Artur Rozentsvit (pictured), Usman Aslam, and Chirag Parikh were each one of only 10 students nationwide to win \$1,800 from the American Physiological Society. They presented their research at the Experimental Biology meeting in April. Read more about their work—and why it matters—online.



[bit.ly/research-rewarded](http://bit.ly/research-rewarded)



Courtesy of Trevor Chikawa

**GLOBAL CAREER PATH:** An interview for a Hospitality 101 course led to the ultimate internship for Kudzaishe (Trevor) Chikawa (B.P.S. '16). After meeting with the director of trade relations and communications for the Africa Travel Association (ATA), Chikawa landed a gig planning and attending ATA's 40th Annual World Congress in Nairobi, Kenya. He now hopes to pursue a career working in the tourism industry in Africa.

[bit.ly/Chikawa](http://bit.ly/Chikawa)



Jin Feng

**SECURING CYBER TALENT:** In an op-ed on FoxNews.com, Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, writes about the importance of properly training students to enter the cybersecurity field. She writes, "In addition to playing an increasingly central role in business, computer science know-how is vital to America's economic and national security."

[bit.ly/Anid-OpEd](http://bit.ly/Anid-OpEd)



**THROUGH THE LENS:** Two students and one faculty member won NYITCOM’s 10th segment of the Through the Lens initiative focused on the theme “learning through observing.” First place went to Monica Mureb, a first-year osteopathic medical student, for “Las Salinas de Maras”(pictured).

 [bit.ly/lens-2016](http://bit.ly/lens-2016)



**NEW DEGREES IN VANCOUVER:** NYIT will offer two additional master’s degrees at its graduate campus in Vancouver: a Master of Science in Energy Management and a Master of Science in Instructional Technology. These programs are now accepting applications for their inaugural student cohorts.

 [nyit.edu/vancouver](http://nyit.edu/vancouver)



**DEAN’S SPEAKER SERIES:** In 2000, Valerie Goldstein suffered a serious spinal cord injury as a result of a car accident. She shared her story and perspective on how medical professionals can better treat patients with spinal cord injuries as part of the Dean’s Speaker Series hosted by NYIT School of Health Professions Dean Patricia Chute, Ed.D. (See more p. 31.)

 [bit.ly/Valerie-Goldstein](http://bit.ly/Valerie-Goldstein)



**SPRING MAKERS:** 2016 Alternative Spring Break brought students and faculty and staff members back to Nicaragua where the group developed and ran day camps for children, renovated a public space, and worked with community members to understand and troubleshoot water access and filtration challenges.

 [bit.ly/alt-spring-break-2016](http://bit.ly/alt-spring-break-2016)

# Website Story

NYIT.EDU HAS SPRUCED UP and slimmed down. After a year of development that included input from staff and faculty members, alumni, and students from across the university, NYIT launched its redesigned website in February. Beyond the bold new look and more intuitive navigation, you'll notice a number of other improvements—some subtle, some more obvious—that provide a better user experience for all. (For more on the alumni section, see p. 24.)

“There are approximately 5,000 colleges and universities in the United States alone competing for attention,

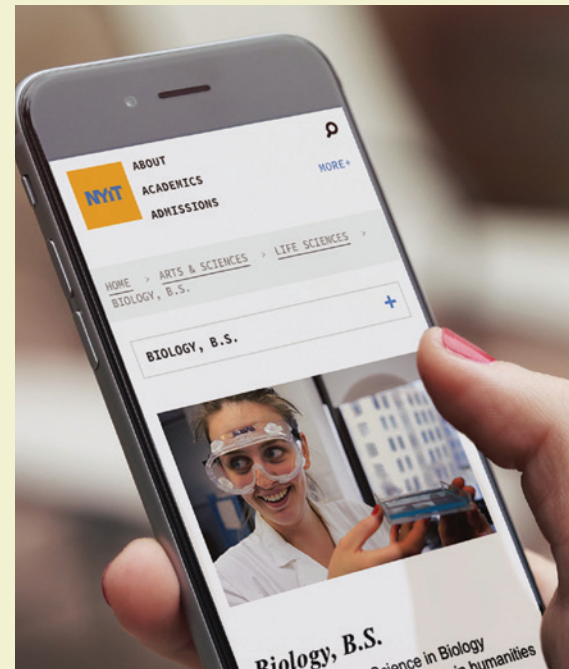
and the average American has a shorter attention span than that of a goldfish [theirs is nine seconds, ours is eight],” said Vice President for Communications and Marketing Nancy Donner, whose team led the project. That fact alone influenced how the redesign evolved.

First and foremost, the website was built to be “responsive,” meaning user experience is intuitive across all types of devices. Most people, after all, now browse with their thumbs on mobile devices instead of using a mouse. The site is also “high performance,” so even though it includes more rich media

The team went into the project with a newly established NYIT visual identity that focused on the university's DNA: technology, entrepreneurship, career-focused programs, applications-oriented research, and diversity.

## MOBILE FIRST

The website looks as good and works as well on your phone as it does on your desktop.





(like photos and videos), it loads and performs quickly.

As for the design, the team went into the project with a newly established NYIT visual identity that focused on the university's DNA: technology, entrepreneurship, career-focused programs, applications-oriented research, and diversity. "We have generated dozens of new photos, multimedia, *The Box* news blog, printed collateral materials, and an ad campaign to reflect this messaging," said Donner. NYIT engaged digital agency Happy Cog to ensure the website reflects its vibrant identity and meets performance goals.

But good design alone is not enough. "We thought a lot about our audiences and what they need to get out of their experience, but we also thought about what NYIT wants them to know," said Donner. Nearly every page is a combination of lively content that helps explain the university to the uninitiated along with basic facts that help give the viewer easy access to the important information they need to know. Audience-specific portals and a more robust search feature get users to the right information faster.

"This was truly a team effort that required the collaboration, buy-in, and feedback of many members of our community," added Donner.

And the new design is just the beginning. A website, like a garden, needs tending to grow and flourish. The team is already thinking about what's next: new content, new features, new multimedia that continues to reflect the best of what NYIT has to offer, and new tools that serve the university's many audiences—like you. ■



Go further behind the scenes:  
[bit.ly/website-story](http://bit.ly/website-story)  
 Share your thoughts:  
[bit.ly/NYIT-feedback](http://bit.ly/NYIT-feedback)



## HIVE of Activity

THE NYIT COMMUNITY celebrated the opening of the HIVE (Home of Innovation, Visualization, and Exploration) facility in March. Located in 16 W 61st St. on the Manhattan campus, the new lab features motion capture technologies (such as FaceShift Headgear and Synertial Gloves), Oculus Rift virtual reality software, and 3-D printers and scanners that enable students and faculty members to create and collaborate on projects using the same technology as professional digital designers. The facility also helps NYIT students in Manhattan and China remotely direct motion capture shoots in real time at the 3-D Motion Capture studio in the Midge Karr Fine Arts Building on the Old Westbury campus.



Pictured: In the HIVE, NYIT students use technology such as 3-D printers and virtual reality systems.

The HIVE's resources have drawn the interest of neighborhood partners such as Isabel Walcott Draves, founder of Creative Tech Week and Leaders in Software and Art. Creative Tech Week, which kicked off when *NYIT Magazine* went to press, welcomes more than 25,000 attendees from the digital arts industry. More HIVE initiatives are in the works, including a collaboration with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and its MediaLab to research ways people can use technology to interact with and discover art, and a project with Haddington Dynamics to help design and develop tools for its 5-axis robot, "Dexter." ■



Read more: [bit.ly/HIVE-opening](http://bit.ly/HIVE-opening)

# Saluting Our Scholars

## FACTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT THE NYIT FACULTY IN 2015:

- Nearly 100 authors, with more than 250 published works.
- More than 75 presenters at nearly 250 conferences.
- More than 100 grant recipients.
- 13 awardees and honorees, three designers and exhibitors, and three patents.

The impressive work of more than 160 NYIT faculty members from around the globe was celebrated at the Faculty Scholars Reception in March.

The annual event, now in its 15th year, showcased research ranging from urban planning and the impact of service learning, and from architecture to business and health and wellness. Full-time and adjunct faculty members shared their scholarly and creative work with colleagues who gathered in NYIT de Seversky Mansion and cheered each other's academic achievements.

"Great universities are rooted in great faculty," noted President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D. "Today, we celebrate your distinguished work, which reaffirms our university's reputation as a breeding ground for knowledge creation, interdisciplinary and creative thought, and applications-oriented research. Our efforts spark inspiration in NYIT students, colleagues, and the greater world outside our campuses."

One student already inspired is Archenar (Archie) Yepes of NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Co-presenting with Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., he demonstrated

a prototype of their research using a patented technology: a smart shoe insole designed to help prevent falls and reduce neuropathy in diabetic patients.

Other research presentations included Jan Greben, M.S.A.A.D., adjunct instructor, architecture, on the restoration of houses in France designed by architect Eileen Gray; Jim Martinez, Ph.D., assistant professor, instructional technology, on how service learning can be used to transfer knowledge and practices related to STEM; John Hanc, associate professor, communication arts, on the process of writing collaborations; Rakesh Mittal, Ph.D., assistant professor, human resource management, and Birasnav Muthuraj, Ph.D., assistant professor, management, on supply chain management; and Kristine Prazak, assistant professor, physician assistant studies, on how an educational virtual patient impacts students' knowledge relative to end-of-life care.

Across the board, NYIT faculty scholarship and visibility continues to grow. For example, the number of faculty members who have been presenters and attended conferences has nearly doubled since 2012. "Clearly, your productions this year, as in the past 14, represent



(above) Provost Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., and student Archie Yepes demonstrate a prototype of their smart shoe project at the Faculty Scholars Reception.

the success of the NYIT faculty, who stride the globe and include giants in their fields," said Allison Andors, Ph.D., assistant provost for research and director of sponsored programs and research. That level of productivity and dedication benefits everyone. "There is a synergy between teaching and scholarship," said Shoureshi. "Faculty scholarship has not only resulted in professional development and national and international recognition, but also has more importantly enhanced student learning at NYIT." ■



[bit.ly/2016-faculty-scholars](http://bit.ly/2016-faculty-scholars)

# Career Goals: Breaking Into the Tech Industry

Phil Reuter

EVENTS FEATURING ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKERS and exclusive site visits are giving students real insight into pursuing their dream careers. At a “How-To-Hackathon” panel in March, Soyeb Barot (M.S. ’05), a director at New York Life Insurance Company, spoke to engineering and computer science students about the value of participating in hackathons, where participants work in teams to solve a problem and are then ranked. Hackathons are great opportunities to network and may even lead to internships and jobs. And the experience goes beyond rankings. “It’s not always about winning,” advised Barot. “Figure out how to add value to your team and show the fruits of your labor. In the end, your ideas and research will count and make you memorable.”

“I’ve started to notice a pattern going to different tech companies,” said Assistant Director of NYIT Career Services Larry Kamguia (M.A. ’13). “It’s not enough for our students to have degrees; they need to network, do things outside of school, and show their passion for the field.” Kamguia has organized a series of site visits and events, like the “How-to-Hackathon,” to help them do just that.

At a recent “Tech Talk” panel at NYIT-Manhattan, Google employees Jason Robinson (B.S. ’03), a network engineer, and Joseph Kubena, a software engineer, spoke to students from NYIT’s chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers about “imposter syndrome” (i.e., a persistent fear of inadequacy or of feeling like “a fake”). “Quite often students, and even professionals, doubt themselves,” said Kamguia. “This often stops someone from applying for their dream job because they think they are not good enough—even though their credentials show otherwise.” The speakers gave tips for overcoming imposter syndrome, including keeping track of accomplishments and using them to remind yourself that you are good at what you do.

Students are also getting the opportunity to learn what it’s actually like to work at tech companies. In the past six months, they have toured Google, Tumblr, and BuzzFeed, and more visits are planned. Known as “site visits,” the outings are part tour, part Q&A session with engineers, human resources recruiters, and marketing professionals.

At the Tumblr site visit in March, students majoring in computer science, marketing, and communication arts toured the company’s offices in the Flatiron District. After the tour, four Tumblr employees sat down to answer questions about their experiences, give career advice, and share personal insights.

“Be open-minded,” said Mary Cannon, Tumblr’s office culture coordinator. “It’s cool to go after what you want. Embrace your weirdness.” In other words, personality matters.

Cannon and her colleagues encouraged NYIT students to find brands that resonate with them and to explore their talents and hobbies beyond the classroom.

“It was great to see how this company works,” said Ana Robakidze, a computer science major and member of the Class of 2016. “I learned about more than the daily schedule of employees and the interview process. I also learned about how to see whether a work culture is the right fit. It’s one thing to have technical skills. It’s another thing to love what you do.” ■

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“Be open-minded,” said Mary Cannon, Tumblr’s office culture coordinator. “It’s cool to go after what you want. Embrace your weirdness.”

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Larry Kamguia



(above) Students visited Tumblr’s New York City offices in March.

*Interested in hosting an NYIT visit at your company? Email [lkamguia@nyit.edu](mailto:lkamguia@nyit.edu). Learn about career events by following [facebook.com/NYITcareer](https://www.facebook.com/NYITcareer) and [@NYITcareer](https://www.instagram.com/NYITcareer) (Twitter and Instagram).*

# Nothing Stops Lynott

Jon Lynott knew three things when he applied to college: He wanted to stay on Long Island near his hometown, he wanted to be part of a great lacrosse program, and he had to do everything while being type 1 diabetic.

“It is very difficult to balance being a student-athlete and a full-time student,” says Jon Lynott, now a senior pursuing a degree in nursing and a member of the NYIT men’s lacrosse team. “You must always follow a rigorous schedule and make sure you get the tasks done that need to be completed each and every day.”

Lynott is a part of a highly regarded lacrosse program that has made NCAA Division II history more than once. The Bears won national championships (the highest level of success for their division) four times: 1997, 2003, 2005, and 2008. Being a member of the team requires dedication and hard work in practice and in the classroom. On top of handling those pressures, Lynott also has to manage his type 1 diabetes.

Diagnosed at age 12, Lynott’s daily routine has always been much different than those of his friends and classmates. Type 1 diabetes is often diagnosed in childhood and cannot be prevented. Because people with diabetes do not produce insulin, they must carefully and consistently monitor blood sugar levels to prevent serious complications. Lynott’s mornings always start off with checking his blood. Then he gets in a team workout, goes to class, fits in extra workouts if possible, then more practice,

and finally schoolwork. It’s a grueling schedule, so Lynott makes sure to eat healthy, balanced meals throughout the day.

Lynott came to NYIT in the fall of 2013 after spending one season with the Seawolves of Stony Brook University. He quickly made his mark on the field and was named a United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Second Team All-American in 2014.

He also pursued a challenging academic course of study. Originally, he wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps and join the Fire Department of the City of New York. When he found out he couldn’t become a firefighter because of his type 1 diabetes, he changed his goals.

“Ever since I was in high school, I knew I wanted to educate people about diabetes,” he says. “One of the best ways to do that is by becoming a nurse first. I chose nursing because it is another profession where you are truly able to help people.”

And helping people is integral to his plans for after graduation. The



defenseman has aspirations to become a registered nurse, work in an emergency room, and eventually teach others about diabetes. In time, he even hopes to establish his own diabetes educating facility.

For now, though, his focus is on his final semester and season at NYIT. “I have such a strong bond with my teammates,” he says. “Most people will never experience what our team has—we are like brothers.” But to reach the ultimate goal of a national championship, Lynott knows he needs to take things one game at a time. “In order to get into the NCAA tournament, you need to win the ECC conference championship,” he says. “So my main goal right now is to win that.” ■

Brian Ballweg, Barry Sloan

“I chose nursing because it is a profession where you are truly able to help people.”

# Women's Basketball Makes First-Ever NCAA Championship

THE NYIT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM made history in March by competing for the first time in the NCAA 2016 East Regional Championship. The game came after the Bears' two historic postseason victories in the NCAA East Region Tournament.

Though NYIT just missed victory over top-seeded Bentley (the final score was 79-74), the Bears brought their A-game. Dina Ragab (pictured right), East Coast Conference (ECC) Player of the Year, topped all players with 29 points, 15 rebounds, and three blocks, earning her a place on the 2016 All-Tournament Team along with teammate Nina Vukosavljevic, who finished the game with 22 points and five assists. Shanice Allen (pictured left) averaged 21.5 points through the tournament with a .464 shooting percentage from the field and a more than .500 shooting percentage from three-point range.

Ragab was one of three players making a return appearance at the competition. The Bears first played in the NCAA tournament in 2012, when Ragab was a freshman. This time, she says, they were more prepared. "We took it day by day," she says. "The first day, we played really well together—our starters all scored in double digits and that gave us a boost."

"This has to be the most amazing season I've been a part of in almost two decades of college basketball," says Head Coach Anthony Crocitto. "This team bought into everything we tried to do and also served the community, the university, and their academics with tremendous success."

The fans also played an important role. "The parents, alumni, and fans have been taking care of us for four years. As an international student, that show of support has been phenomenal," says Ragab, who is originally from Cairo, Egypt. "They came all the way to Massachusetts to the tournament. We weren't out there on our own."

The women's basketball team ends its historic season at 26-9 overall, a new program record for wins. In ECC play, the Bears' 18-2 record captured the regular season title and included a season-high, 16-game winning streak. ■



Read more about this year's team: [bit.ly/NYIT-roster](http://bit.ly/NYIT-roster)

SportPix, LLC

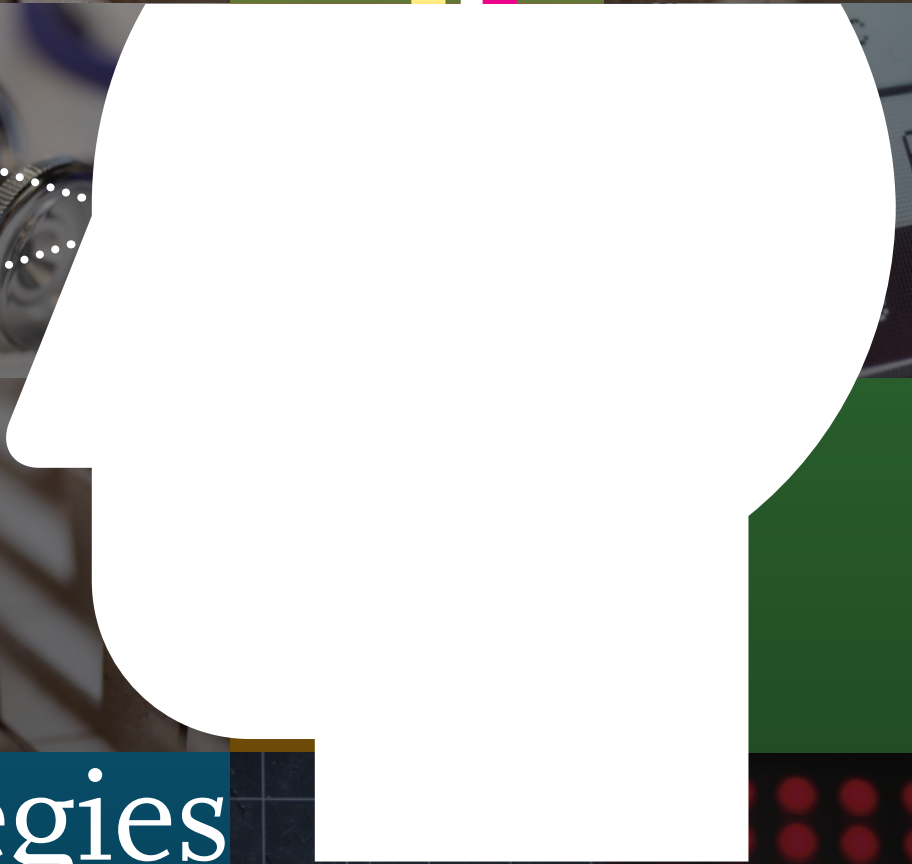


## Sports Briefs

### GOLF OUTING

Don't miss the annual NYIT Athletics Golf and Tennis Outing on June 20 at the Muttontown Club in East Norwich, N.Y. Four outstanding honorees will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Visit the website for more details, honoree information, and the complete schedule of the day's events. [bit.ly/NYIT-golf-2016](http://bit.ly/NYIT-golf-2016)

FEATURE



# A Tale of 2.0 Strategies

NYIT defines the next phase of its strategic vision.

BY MICHAEL SCHIAVETTA (M.A. '07)

**In 2006, NYIT put forth its largest and most expansive strategic plan to date. *NYIT 2030: Setting Directions, Meeting Challenges* mapped how NYIT would embody what it means to be a 21st-century global university. In 2015, the university evaluated its progress and defined the next phase of its strategic vision: *NYIT 2030 2.0*.**

#### UPGRADING TO 2.0

SO, HOW DID THE FIRST ITERATION of NYIT 2030 fare?

That was the question posed to the 2030 2.0 Steering Committee. Led by Hattie Arnone, Ph.D., vice president for planning and assessment, the committee was established to review 2030 progress and consult with members of the NYIT community. It included faculty and staff members across a diverse section of academic and administrative departments, including student services, financial affairs, and admissions. Integrating input from all sources, Arnone presented NYIT 2030 2.0 to NYIT's Academic Senate and Board of Trustees in December 2015.

Richard Simpson, Ph.D., an associate professor in the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, says being part of the steering committee offered him and others at NYIT the opportunity to have a stake in the future of their university. "NYIT is an institution where you feel the impact of plans like this," he explains. "You're never tucked away in a corner like you

are at a large university. This makes you want to be more involved." He also describes the advantages of this strategic plan and its value for NYIT. "Public universities struggle having to be everything to everyone," he says. "A private university like NYIT doesn't have to. It can have a focused vision."

As for the results of the committee's investigations, Arnone is refreshingly candid about some of the lessons learned over the past decade.

"We realized that some of the goals in the original version were too big," she says. "So we recalibrated to do this better."



Read more about various goals of the original plan and performance outcomes over the past decade: [bit.ly/2030-scorecard](http://bit.ly/2030-scorecard)

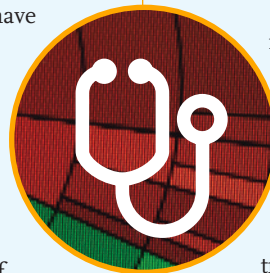
Meaningful progress, Arnone adds, will only be achieved if the university focuses on a limited, albeit crucial, number of objectives while staying true to the original plan's long-term goals (see charts pp. 14 and 15). "With any strategic plan, you

don't take on too much," she says. "So we narrowed it down to five things we're going to do right. What NYIT 2030 2.0 does is take what we accomplished and learned, and builds upon it. It refines where we want to go."

#### THE DOCTORS ARE IN

FACULTY MEMBERS at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) are ready to bridge a chasm.

Sitting in his third-floor office in the Rockefeller Building at NYIT-Old Westbury, Kurt Amsler, Ph.D., associate dean for research at NYITCOM, looks forward to helping launch a dual-doctorate degree program that will address a major gap between clinical practice and academic research in the health professions. It will be NYIT's first Ph.D. program, offered in combination with a D.O.



"This will be a great recruiting tool," says Amsler. "It demonstrates how NYIT is maturing as an academic institution."

With a proposed start date of fall 2017, the D.O./Ph.D. program will train students to become

both physician practitioners and medical researchers. This will enable them to compete more effectively for faculty positions in medical schools, universities, and biomedical research centers. "People expect this type of offering from a major university," adds Amsler. It's also practical from a faculty research standpoint. As D.O./Ph.D. students fulfill their degree requirements, they remain part of NYIT research efforts. This accelerates the progress of each project as their expertise and training become

increasingly valuable. “Students will gain extensive experience in the planning, design, and execution of biomedical research as they study with us in our laboratories for years,” he says.

Once approved by the New York State Education Department and Board of Regents, this will be another major milestone for the university. The strategic plan also calls for more—a second Ph.D. program to be offered by the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences as well as a Master of Arts in 3-D Visualization through the College of Arts and Sciences.

**THE INTERDISCIPLINARY INITIATIVE**

SOMETIMES the best thing science and technology can offer is a human touch.

That’s what drove Associate Professor Elizabeth Donaldson, Ph.D., another steering committee member, to develop NYIT’s minor in medical humanities. The 15-credit program helps students improve their cultural competencies and communications skills in the context of a medical environment. The minor examines issues of personhood, the social model of disability, the psychological impact of illness, and the history of medicine and its practice in literature, philosophy, ethics, anthropology, psychology, and sociology.

“Traditional medical education can feel like trying to drink out of a fire hose with all the technical data you need to assimilate,” says Donaldson. “We want to explore the human part of the equation as it relates to medicine. Better communication with patients can lead to better outcomes as students enhance their ability to listen, develop a rapport, and express their concerns.”

The minor is just one example of NYIT’s commitment to promoting interdisciplinary academic and research projects. Under 2030 2.0, this priority initiative calls for a shift from independent graduate centers to a School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Education that is an evolution of the existing School of Education. The school will have a new dean and become a champion and a home for interdisciplinary collaboration at NYIT.

“In the first version of NYIT 2030, we moved beyond this idea that knowledge exists in silos,” says Donaldson. “In order for research to be broadly applications oriented, it helps to go outside narrow fields and reach out to people with other specialties and see how to apply knowledge and expertise. This opens up new areas of research and knowledge creation.”

Finding commonality between people and causes is what defines the

evolution of NYIT, adds Jess Boronico, Ph.D., dean of the School of Management and interim dean of the School of Education. “We’re uncovering passion, inspiration, creation, and innovation and putting them on the table,” he says. “Through interdisciplinary work, we’re now creating a unique model that harmonizes people across disciplines.”

“We’re moving where careers are moving,” adds Nicholas Bloom, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the departments of Interdisciplinary Studies and Urban Administration in the College of Arts and Sciences. As part of a university-wide team, Bloom oversaw the implementation of NYIT’s revised core curriculum in 2010, another outcome of the original plan. This 36-credit requirement for all NYIT undergraduates builds competencies in areas needed in the 21st-century

workforce, including critical and analytical thinking, ethical and civic engagement, global perspectives, science and art, and developing an interdisciplinary mindset.

“Employers want diversified skills,” says Bloom, “and you can’t just say you want interdisciplinary education and hope it happens. We’ve re-energized our curriculum, building off the original 2030 plan.”



**PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR 2016–2019/20**

1. Become a Ph.D.-granting institution with two Ph.D. programs and establish a pioneering master’s program in a visual-based field, all built on NYIT core competencies.
2. Increase institutional support for interdisciplinary work.
3. Make participation in high-impact educational practices a requirement for graduation and a defining feature of an NYIT education.
4. Develop an NYIT culture where faculty and staff members, administrators, and alumni consistently provide students with the transformative experiences at the heart of a college experience.
5. Activate NYIT’s global network of students, faculty and staff members, administrators, and alumni from all NYIT locations to enhance mobility, build community, and foster engagement and global competency.



## Long-Term Goals for 2030

- NYIT's forward-thinking academic portfolio, including several top-rated graduate and professional programs, will have anticipated the needs of the global marketplace, ensuring that NYIT graduates are distinctly profession-ready.
- NYIT's applications-oriented research and programs will demonstrate the exceptional value derived from its constellation of academic specialties, links to industry, interdisciplinary collaborations, global reach, and technology-infused environments.
- NYIT will be a student-centered community where members of the NYIT faculty, administration, staff, and alumni provide all students with the transformative experiences at the heart of a university education.
- NYIT will be home to high-quality teaching and learning that is consistently challenging, engaging, learner-centered, and profession-focused.
- NYIT faculty, administration, staff, students, and alumni will address the globally significant challenges of an interconnected world at local, national, or global levels in their academic, professional, and civic lives.
- NYIT will invest in continuous improvement in the quality and reputation of its academic and co-curricular programs in pursuit of its strategic vision.

### HIGH-IMPACT EDUCATION

**MORE LEARNING.** Less lecturing.

That's how Assistant Professor Cecilia Dong, Ph.D., in the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences describes the focus of NYIT 2030 2.0. A key objective of the new plan is to transition from outdated notions of teaching and to develop more project- and research-based experiential learning opportunities. Such "high-impact" educational programs lead to better learning, improved retention, and happier alumni with stronger ties to NYIT.

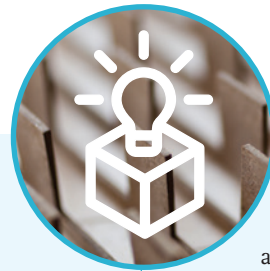
"We've become a very student-centered university," Dong says. "And that includes bringing new technology into the learning experience."

For example, students now have access to financial software packages that Wall Street executives use to capture and analyze

real-time market data, robotic patients that capably mimic human ailments, and 3-D printing and motion capture labs that allow them to fuse technology with art. Engaging in research projects, internships, global service learning, international workshops, and study abroad opportunities also add to the high-impact learning environment.

"Getting a college degree should be more simple than counting off credits until you graduate," says Francine Glazer, Ph.D., associate provost for educational innovation and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. The Gallup-Purdue Index (a recent survey of more than 30,000 U.S.

college graduates) revealed how participating in "high-impact educational practices," such as experiential learning and extended research opportunities, leads to greater well-being later in life. "The more high-impact

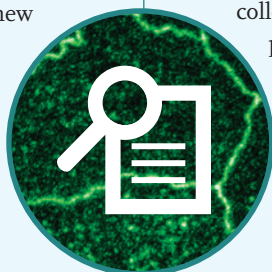


activities students perform, the better they'll do years after they leave college," she says. "They'll have greater financial, physical, and emotional well-being, with stronger connections to their community and more engagement at work."

### TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

IN TODAY'S competitive global marketplace, employers are not just looking at what graduates learned in college, they want to know *how* they learned. In other words, what makes a particular student an ideal employee? What learning experiences have transformed her or him into someone with great interpersonal, critical thinking, and leadership skills?

"We want NYIT students to grow intellectually as well as personally," says Raddy Ramos, Ph.D., NYITCOM assistant professor and steering committee member. "This includes



working with classmates from all over the globe and taking on leadership roles and other experiences that lead them to become mature professionals.”

Nurturing such transformative experiences is a priority for all NYIT faculty and staff members under NYIT 2030 2.0. “We know just accumulating knowledge isn’t education,” says Patrick Love, Ph.D., vice president for student affairs. “It’s about learning how to apply your education, which helps students learn more, retain more, and enhance their skills and competencies. This helps NYIT students appreciate our complex world.”

Some of this is achieved through participation in extracurricular programs, such as campus clubs and organizations. Dong notes how her female students are taking on more leadership roles in NYIT’s chapters of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers. “This is about students empowering their own education,” she says. “They have a better sense of identity and become part of NYIT.”

It also means getting alumni feedback on which NYIT experiences were the most transformative from a professional standpoint. “Often the best time to assess our performance is not at the end of the semester with student evaluations but when graduates are five years into their career,” says Love.

To ensure that transformative experiences are at the heart of an NYIT education, NYIT 2030 2.0 calls for the university to undergo an organizational review to maximize its ability to deliver them. This includes changing outmoded roles, responsibilities, and practices inside and outside classrooms; using more data to provide better analysis; providing training and professional development; creating clearer career paths for staff members; fostering

communication among the NYIT community; and gaining a better understanding of what NYIT students want and expect.

“We have to be challenged,” says Love. “We’ll be better for it in the long run.”

**A GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

WITH CAMPUSES in New York, Arkansas, China, Canada, and the United Arab Emirates, NYIT and its educational offerings truly span the world.

The first iteration of NYIT 2030 defined growth as establishing a global university with physical locations that delivered on the university’s mission to provide access to opportunity for all qualified students. Under NYIT 2030 2.0, there will be more ways to connect, collaborate, and generate new learning experiences across NYIT’s global network. “Globalization has produced a new context where what we do in one place affects others,” says

Farzana Gandhi, assistant professor in the School of Architecture and Design. “Decisions are interconnected across market forces and geographies. While you might be thinking you are working within a small, narrow framework, your decisions have greater outside impact.”

Enhancing global networks means providing more study abroad opportunities and developing more strategic partnerships worldwide to help expand NYIT’s cross-cultural learning environments. NYIT 2030 2.0 also calls upon the university to develop programming and collaborative research that boosts contact across all cultures and campuses.

“As the walls come down and students share common experiences, they realize that we’re more connected than they know,” says Barbara Multari,

director of international education. “They become global citizens.”

**THE ROAD TO 2030**

ARNONE and her colleagues on the steering committee appreciate the holistic approach NYIT 2030 2.0 takes as it continues to assess institutional strengths, set actionable priorities, and advance the university.

“You can’t just accomplish this set of goals one at a time,” she says. “They’re all interconnected. The first version of NYIT 2030 was a foundational plan and learning process for us. With 2.0, we can build and focus on our strengths.”

Change and evolution, Donaldson adds, are necessary in any strategic plan. “It’s interesting how some of the goals we set in the original NYIT 2030 plan are shifting,” she says. “I really like that kind of thinking. It’s very healthy for the university.”

By doing several defined things really well, NYIT’s reputation in global higher education will continue to grow, says steering committee member Len Aubrey, vice president for financial affairs—and students will continue to be rewarded.

“We’re building upon the heritage of this university that began in 1955,” he says. “It ensures NYIT graduates will keep succeeding in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.” ■



Read more about the plan at [bit.ly/NYIT-2030](https://bit.ly/NYIT-2030).



FEATURE

BY RENÉE GEARHART LEVY

# Peak Performance

**NYIT's new Center for Sports Medicine provides state-of-the-art care to athletes of all ages, from training to wellness to comprehensive concussion treatment and prevention.**

IT WAS AN ORDINARY DAY of football practice last fall for the Long Island University Post Pioneers. In the middle of one-on-one drills, sophomore wide receiver Justin Degroat jumped up for the ball and landed on his head. He blacked out and was taken to the emergency room, where he was diagnosed with a concussion and sent home.

Fortunately for Degroat, his trainer referred him to the nearby NYIT Center for Sports Medicine at NYIT-Old Westbury, which had recently opened. Offering a unique blend of medical and health services, the center helps athletes recover from injuries and improve training approaches. It also specializes in providing comprehensive concussion care. Degroat became one of the center's first concussion patients.

"Our patients benefit from technology and resources that most other concussion centers simply don't have," says Assistant Professor and Center for Sports Medicine



Director Hallie Zwibel (D.O. '11) who also served as Degroat's physician.

That's due in part to the center's interdisciplinary approach. An outgrowth of the interests and expertise of faculty members from both NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) and NYIT School of Health Professions, the center brings together physical therapists, occupational therapists, nutritionists, psychologists, neurologists, and physicians in one place.

"We offer patients a pretty rare combination of tests as well as a rare combination of therapeutic interventions once we've identified a patient's specific issues following a concussion," says Zwibel.

Over several weeks, Degroat received occupational therapy and osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) to treat headaches and sensitivity to light. He also participated in wellness counseling so he would be alert for anxiety or depression, which can occur. "I got to the point where I felt like my symptoms were gone, but then they would put me on the balance machine, and I would fail the balance test," says Degroat. Eventually, he was cleared to return to class and the field.

### Leaders in Concussion Care

Awareness, education, and outreach have quickly become center hallmarks. In April, Zwibel convened a six-hour professional development seminar for physicians, physical and occupational therapists, athletic trainers, and health and medical students. That evening, the public was invited to a conference featuring retired New York Islanders hockey players, Zwibel, neurologist Adena Leder (D.O. '99), a local student who suffered multiple concussions, and an expert from the Brain Trauma Foundation. In front of the standing-room-only crowd, the players recalled shaking off head injuries, unaware of their long-term effects.

"We want to help other people and what better way to do that than to share our experiences," says former Islanders star Bob Nystrom, one of the center's most public supporters. Nystrom played helmetless for 14 years. "At that time, we didn't pay much attention to it. If you could stand up and skate, you were out there again."

Nystrom wants to encourage more coaches, trainers, and athletes to talk about prevention, baseline testing, and

comprehensive treatment. "This was a learning experience for me," he says. "I was surprised to learn that a concussion could happen without a blow to the head—that a jar to the body could be enough. I also thought, to a certain extent, that you had to be dazed in order to incur a concussion, and that is untrue."



Read more:  
[bit.ly/concussion-conference](https://bit.ly/concussion-conference)

"Many concussions occur during practice, and coaches may not recognize one," says Zwibel. "Every year, thousands of athletes who suffer a concussion return to the field before they are fully healed, putting themselves at risk for serious cognitive disabilities." Had Degroat's treatment been limited to an emergency room visit, for example, he might have returned to football much earlier.

The center aims to prevent this. "I perform a neurological assessment on each patient, which is important for treating patients with concussions," says Leder, a specialist in movement disorders.

Not every facility that specializes in concussions has a neurologist on staff.



A mild traumatic brain injury, a concussion occurs when the normal functioning of the brain is disrupted by a blow to the head or body. Symptoms can be physical, cognitive, and emotional.

## What is a concussion?

Concussions and their effects on athletes—particularly football players—have received more attention in recent years, in part due to new findings that link concussions to brain disorders such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

When Degroat was treated, he received a full neurologic screening to assess his cognition, vision, and balance. Based on those findings, he was referred to additional clinicians. “Each concussion is unique, so we need to determine the proper therapies based on that patient’s symptoms and condition,” Leder says.

In addition to finding new ways of treating patients, the center’s clinical faculty members are also conducting research in the field and teaching others how to provide proper concussion care.

One study is looking at whether the use of OMM helps concussion patients recover faster. “We believe that if we can manipulate part of the body to put it into proper alignment, it helps the body heal itself,” explains Zwibel. Preliminary results were recently published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

Zwibel also co-authored a *Newsweek* opinion piece ([bit.ly/zwibel-burke-newsweek](http://bit.ly/zwibel-burke-newsweek)) with Alice Heron-Burke, NYIT’s senior director of counseling and wellness, advocating that the NCAA adopt a “return-to-learn” protocol for student-athletes to parallel its “return-to-play” protocol.

### Broader Mission

Services at NYIT Center for Sports Medicine go beyond treating concussions.

“Whether it is the collegiate-level tennis player who wants to get stronger, the employee who likes to jog on weekends, or the student who practices yoga, the center is available to all athletes on campus and in the community,” says Jerry Balentine, D.O., vice president for medical affairs and global health.

Balentine says that unlike most sports medicine facilities, which are typically physical therapy centers or orthopedic practices, NYIT’s center includes multiple therapy modalities, nutrition and psychological counseling, and fitness evaluation services to patients. It also offers a broad range of wellness resources and programming on topics ranging from better sleep to diet and nutrition counseling to starting a fitness program.

“So many people start exercise programs and get discouraged because they do not see the results they are looking for,” says exercise physiologist Joanne Donoghue, Ph.D., a former Ironman competitor. She says exercise in any form has therapeutic value, but most people don’t know their optimal dose of exercise to achieve their goals. Donoghue employs state-of-the-art equipment, such as a metabolic cart that measures oxygen consumption during rest and during exercise. “For athletes, it helps optimize their performance,” she says. “For individuals looking to be healthy or to lose weight, it helps us determine a therapeutic level of activity to optimize their results.”

Another machine provides a full body composition scan, measuring body fat percentage and lean body mass. “If we use the machine to look at lean mass in athletes, it helps determine performance, but it also helps us monitor muscle wasting in older individuals and to train them appropriately so they retain their muscle mass,” Donoghue says.

### Teaching by Doing

While student-athletes utilize the center as patients, NYIT medical and health professions students play a key role in the center’s research and services.

“It’s one thing to explain a therapy in the classroom and another to give a student the opportunity to see what it looks like in practice,” says occupational therapist Christina Finn. In addition to focusing on physical rehabilitation with a specialty in vision therapy and post-concussion syndrome, Finn teaches physical rehabilitation to occupational therapy students.

Zwibel says the training and experiential learning opportunities are integral to the center’s mission. “There’s significant overlap in everything we do,” he says. “Our primary focus may be treating patients, but our patients inform our research—which our students participate in—which in turn continues to improve and evolve the care we are able to provide patients.”

Justin Degroat is simply grateful to be back at class and back to football, headache free. ■

The center offers an array of services and evaluations to treat concussions:

#### NEUROLOGIC EXAM /

BY TESTING MUSCLE STRENGTH SENSATION AND DEEP TENDON REFLEXES, THE EXAM DETERMINES IF THERE ARE ANY DEFICITS IN THE NERVES ORIGINATING IN A PATIENT’S SPINE OR BRAIN.

#### OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATIVE MEDICINE (OMM) /

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE TREATS THE BODY AS A UNIT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE BODY’S ABILITY TO HEAL ITSELF. OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS USE THEIR HANDS TO HELP DIAGNOSE AND TREAT ILLNESS AND INJURY.

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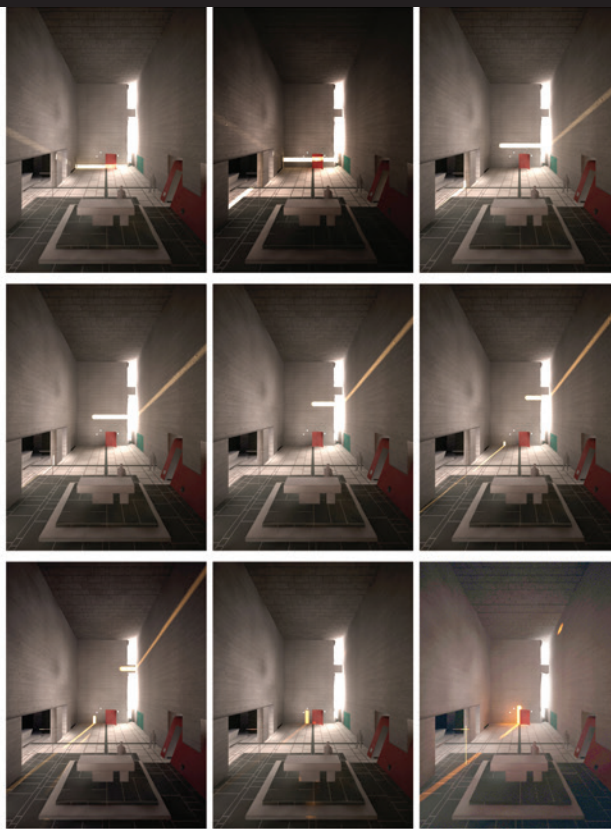
THE TEST EVALUATES THE QUICK, SIMULTANEOUS MOVEMENT OF BOTH EYES, KNOWN AS SACCADIC EYE MOVEMENTS (SEE IMAGE FACING PAGE).



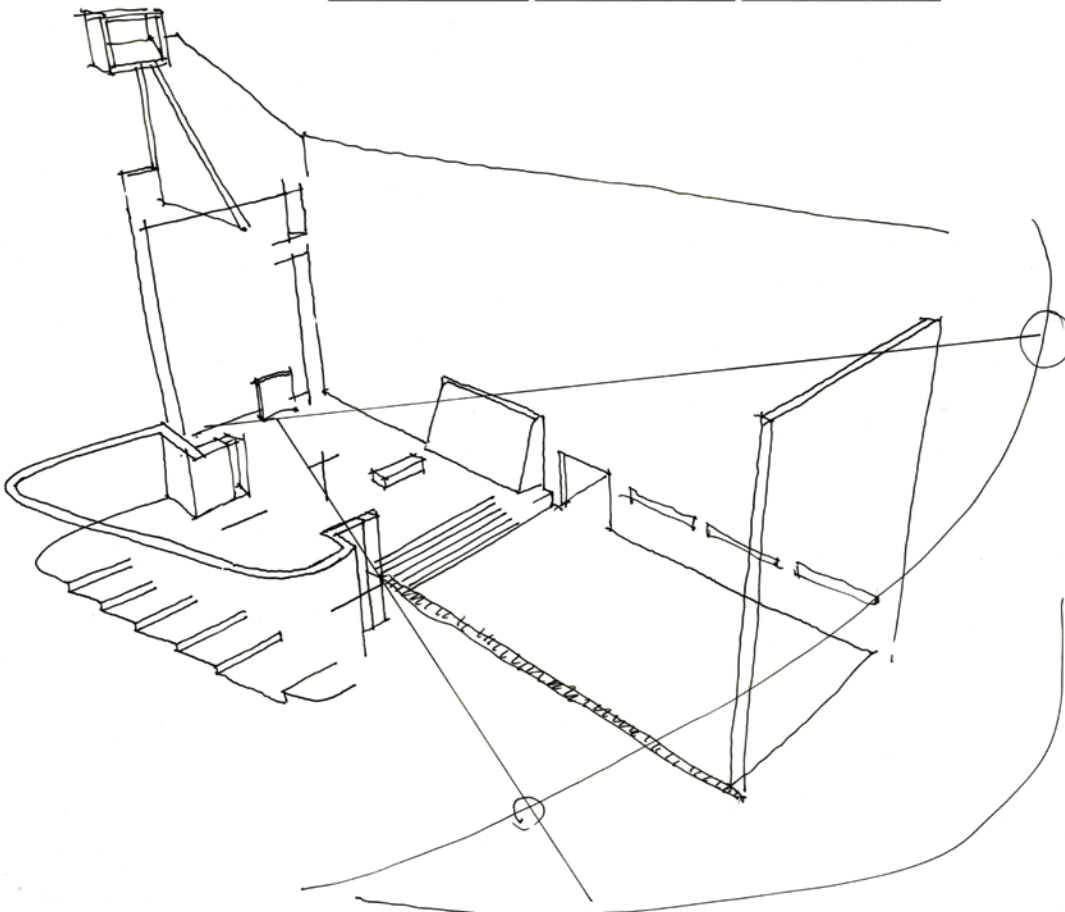
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FEATURE

BY ROSE SPAZIANI



**A collaboration between two architects influences a body of research around structures, light, and landscapes.**



(top) Nine stills from a digital animation simulate daylight on June 21, beginning at approximately 7:45 p.m. until sunset at La Tourette.

(bottom) The diagram shows the flow of light during sunset on the summer solstice.

(facing page) David Diamond at Le Corbusier's Unité d'habitation in Marseille, France.

THE SUN WAS ABOUT TO SET in a small vale in Eveux-sur-l'Arbresle, a town in southeast France where the Rhône and Saône rivers unite. At this grassy edge of the country's Beaujolais wine valley, light glinted on a structure of austere and undulating concrete forms: Le Corbusier's Couvent de Sainte-Marie de la Tourette, known simply as La Tourette. On this evening, during the summer solstice of 1994, architect and tenured NYIT Associate Professor David Diamond had just finished dinner and decided to take a walk. He strolled into the church. The next moments would define his career path for years to come.

and from his architecture to his paintings. His design for La Tourette (made in the 1950s and built in 1961) demonstrates this. "I'm interested in the ways Le Corbusier related his architecture to the world outside," says Diamond. "One way is how he admitted light into his work."

Diamond returned to New York intent on re-creating what he had captured in those photographs. He continued his research on Le Corbusier in tandem with his teaching career, and in 2000, turned to then-NYIT architecture student Esteban Beita (B.Arch. '03) for help.



Photo courtesy of David Diamond

# Borrowing Landscape

"I started to see something amazing," recalls Diamond. He snapped a series of photos recording the solstice sunset. "This bar of light coming through the window began to travel toward the altar wall, where it traced a diagonal path before escaping through an upper window. At that moment, another bar of light came through a hidden window, illuminating the cross and turning it red. The ceiling glowed. This incredible thing was happening that no one had ever described or written about before, and I needed to record it."

Le Corbusier was a pioneer of 20th-century modernism in architecture and painting. He often adapted forms from his still-life paintings to his architecture,

Diamond, who served as chair of the Department of Architecture at NYIT-Manhattan from 1998 to 2011, met Beita when he first arrived on campus to begin his studies. Diamond reviewed his portfolio and noted his dexterity with digital media. Their ensuing collaboration would prove pivotal for both men.

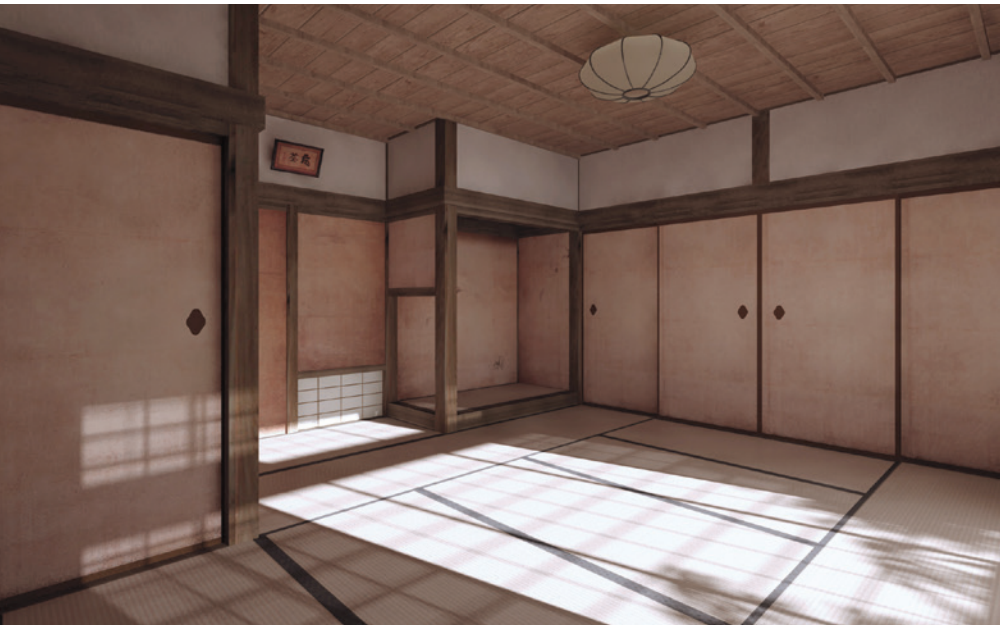
Beita built a computer model that simulated lighting effects at La Tourette on certain days and times. Ultimately, he helped Diamond to develop the tool needed to demonstrate what he witnessed years before.

"I was able to reproduce and disseminate what I saw," says Diamond, who would return to La Tourette again and again, often with NYIT

students. (He also directs some of the School of Architecture and Design's summer study abroad programs, which bring students to different locations to explore architecture up close.) He most recently presented his research in Paris at the Société Française des Architectes' (SFA) spring 2015 colloquium; this past November, the SFA published his essay "Borrowing Landscape and the Enigma of Corbu" in their architectural journal *Le Visiteur*. Visuals of Beita's daylight simulations accompany the essay.

"Borrowed landscape, borrowed scenery, or shakkei, as it is called in Japanese, refers to the incorporation of distant views into the scenography of formal gardens," writes Diamond in

Images of Japanese temples in Kyoto, Japan, from Esteban Beita's 2015 NYIT Gallery 61 exhibition. Clockwise from bottom left: Bosen Tea Room, Rurikoin, and Tofuku-ji.



his essay. "It involves the foreground framing of distant vistas, and the selective blocking of the middle distance to obscure unwanted features from view."

Diamond's collaboration with Beita introduced the younger architect to the allure of those different viewpoints and would influence his future steps thousands of miles away and to the opposite side of the world.

### Seeking Space

Beita's journey actually began independently of his work with Diamond. He was browsing the library at NYIT's Manhattan campus and saw a book on Japanese architecture. The ancient temples and tea houses beckoned from

the pages. They captured his imagination for reasons he couldn't quite describe, in the same way that Diamond was and continues to be drawn to the works of Le Corbusier. Some things Beita knew for certain: how the beauty of each temple and tea house tied closely to its nearby gardens, and how the spaces seemed to change with the shifting seasons.

"I became interested in how outdoor and indoor spaces work together," says Beita, who later saw this effect in action while working on 3-D light simulation models for Diamond. "From there, I set my goal to get to Japan."

Beita arrived in Japan in 2005. He received the Monbukagakusho Scholarship, which paid for his master's

degree and Ph.D. in architecture from the University of Tokyo. He stayed in Japan for five years, during which time he completed his degrees and focused his doctoral thesis on documenting the Bosen Tea Room in Koho-an Temple, designed in the 1600s by Kobori Enshu.

"The Bosen Tea Room is part of a temple considered a national treasure," says Beita. "Monks live there. Unless you get a private tour or request access in advance, you can't go in. It took me two years to get permission to enter."

When Beita finally entered the temple, he brought an antique Nikon camera (1955 film camera) and a more current digital Canon with an 8 mm fisheye lens for capturing wide-angle views, as well as sketch pads for jotting down dimensions and building details. Most importantly, he brought his curiosity.

"I talked to the monks first," says Beita. "I wanted to know their experiences and any special moments I should be looking for."

One of those moments was the way light rippled, like waves, on the temple's exterior during early afternoon in summertime. Beita knew Enshu had



“My research has to do with how architects conceive projects, and it overlays with my teaching interests in helping students to translate their ideas.” —David Diamond

grown up near a lake and may have been inspired by water, however, the Bosen Tea Room is in an area far from any lakes or the sea.

“I learned the rippling effect occurs because of a small water basin in front of the tea house,” says Beita. “By later doing a 3-D model, I could prove this.”

Beita also photographed the surrounding landscape and noted the coordinates of trees, bushes, and gardens to be included in his models.

“To know what happens from morning to evening within a space is hard to see unless you live there year-round,” says Beita, who only had a couple of hours in a single day for his fact-finding mission. “I could see at what point the light hit the space. Is this the architect’s intention or a coincidence? Making the 3-D models helped me to figure it out.”

At the time, Beita made his models using AutoCAD and 3-D Studio Max software with a V-ray plugin for rendering photorealistic materials. The process entailed piecing together data on the space’s dimensions with his photos taken from many angles to create a single accurate reproduction of the entire Bosen Tea Room, outer landscape included.

“I looked at how the space works from morning to evening throughout the whole year, through spring, summer, fall, and winter,” Beita says. And the rippling effect in question? His 3-D models narrowed down the lighting effect to between 1 and 2 p.m. in summer. “Japanese spaces are always different,” Beita says. “No matter which season you go, you can have your personal experience.”

#### From Tokyo to New York City

While Beita and Diamond are fascinated

by different architectures and time periods, both believe in the interplay of a built structure within a given topography—a visual poetry that can merge a piece of architecture with the world outside: gardens, terrain, the changing seasons, and solar events. The effect can transform a place into something else: a metaphor, or a framed tableau. It can collapse time and space or alter them, like a painting cropped by an artist for his canvas, or an optical illusion captured from a particular vantage point.

Beita and Diamond have individually shared their research with the NYIT community as part of the School of Architecture and Design’s lecture series. Beita returned to NYIT as an adjunct professor of architecture in 2012 (he is also a full-time assistant professor of architecture at New York City College of Technology), and presented his photographs of the Bosen Tea Room and other temples at the 2015 NYIT Gallery 61 exhibition, “Together in Harmony: Images of Japanese Architecture.”

The two architects plan to visit La Tourette together soon and use a 3-D laser scanner to better document the convent. For now, their focus is on guiding students in New York to think critically about how they approach their craft in relation to the contexts in which their projects are designed.

“My research has to do with how architects conceive projects, and it overlays with my teaching interests in helping students to translate their ideas,” says Diamond. Students in his studio course Design Fundamentals II choose an image of a painting and are asked to envision it in three dimensions.

“We start with a fact, a mark on a canvas,” says Diamond. “What does it mean? Is it a wineglass or a piece of fruit

or a guitar? Then we look at what else it could be. Could this be a tabletop and a guitar at the same time?”

NYIT student Robert Nafie took Diamond’s studio course. During a mid-term review in March, he presented his 3-D interpretation of *Las Meninas*, the 1656 masterpiece by Spanish artist Diego Velázquez.

“I looked at spatial relationships in the painting and how they interact,” says Nafie. “I struggled to create a model that you know is from the painting but also showed these compositional relationships.”

The studio is a safe place for students like Nafie to talk about their creative ideas and challenges. “In addition to learning concepts and skills, students develop the ability to evaluate and critique,” Diamond adds.

Ultimately, Diamond and Beita teach architecture students to contemplate the mysteries of architecture—whether in the form of an island temple or a convent in the countryside. The beauty of architecture is just as much about what the eye sees, as it is about the inner life of the person who sees it.

“I tell my students that, every day, they are building the person they will become,” says Diamond. “I tell them to keep their aspirations high and directed toward being better decision makers.” ■

## ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

## A New Virtual Home for Alumni

THERE'S A NEW WAY to interact with your NYIT network: The Office of Alumni Relations invites you to explore the redesigned alumni website. Consider it a virtual alumni house—the hub of all things alumni. Through its more user-friendly interface, the website provides more ways for you to engage with the university community, learn about events and benefits, and connect with alumni across the globe.

On the new site, you can:

- Update your contact information through a password-protected portal.
- Manage email subscriptions.
- Submit alumni news, photos, and videos.
- Join networking groups with fellow alumni.
- Search for former classmates in a password-protected alumni directory.
- Participate in webinars.
- Register and pay for events.
- Make online donations to campaigns, scholarships, or your fund of choice.
- Choose from volunteer opportunities that suit your needs and interests.

Remember, this is your house; only NYIT alumni have access to the full user experience, and information you submit is private and secure. And while the address is the same, the experience is anything but. Drop in and check it out. ■

[nyit.edu/alumni](http://nyit.edu/alumni)

## 1960s

**GEORGE MARKS (B.S. '65)** and wife Bette completed a 27-day tour of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

## 1970s

**JOHN SORRENTI (B.A. '72, M.B.A. '78)**, founder and president of JRS Architect P.C. in Mineola, N.Y., is the 54th chancellor of the College of Fellows for the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He is the first Long Island architect to achieve this honor. The College of Fellows promotes the AIA and the advancement of the architecture profession.

**GERARD GILIBERTI (B.F.A. '74)** is president of the East End Photographers Group of East Hampton, N.Y. His favorite NYIT memory? “*The Slate!*” he says. “I first wanted to be a photographer for the newspaper but what they really needed was writers, so I ended up being the entertainment editor. I’ve been a musician most of my life so it was an easy fit, plus I was able to get earlier releases of albums and even concert tickets.” [eastendphotogroup.org](http://eastendphotogroup.org), [ggiliberti.com](http://ggiliberti.com)

**LEN DONOVAN (B.F.A. '75)** serves as national sales manager for MultiDyne Video & Fiber Optic Systems in Hauppauge, N.Y. He has more than three decades of sales and marketing experience working at companies that include Panasonic, Ikegami, and the Vitec Group.

**ROBERT COOMBS (B.F.A. '76)** credits his NYIT degree for giving him the foundation to build a career in the arts. He is an elected member of the Salmagundi Art

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Club, one the nation's oldest private art organizations, founded in 1871. As an NYIT student in Old Westbury, he had the opportunity to experience early computer animation technology—and a device that would revolutionize the world. “Our senior design class was invited to a demo at NYIT’s computer graphics lab,” he recalls. “The operator showed us how crude line drawings could be morphed and animated on a black-and-white monitor with a gadget that would later be known as a ‘mouse.’ Needless to say, we were all blown away.”

**ROBERT ALGAR (B.S. '78)** is a retired New York Army National Guard brigadier general.

**KEVIN DOLAN (B.S. '78, M.B.A. '89)** is vice president at the Colony Group LLC in Naples, Fla. The financial advisory firm has 85 employees at offices in Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and Florida.

The College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects awarded **STUART NAROFSKY (B.ARCH. '78)** a fellowship for his notable contributions to the advancement of architecture. Of the organization's 88,000 members, he is among 149 members this year recognized for this honor. Narofsky is married to **JENNIFER RUSCH (B.ARCH. '94)**. They are partners in Narofsky Architecture, a design firm located in Long Island City, N.Y.

**HOWARD ROWLAND (B.S. '78, M.B.A. '88)** is president of E.W. Howell General Contractors/Construction Managers, which has been in business since 1891. To honor the company's 125th anniversary, he and his colleagues celebrated at the New York Botanical Garden—one of the many projects E.W. Howell worked on in the New York City area.



**Michael Wang**  
(EXECUTIVE M.B.A. '12)

**F**ROM WORKING AS A POLICE OFFICER AND A LAWYER IN BEIJING to becoming a global entrepreneur, **Michael Wang's** career has been wide-ranging and ambitious. Today, he runs GNet Group ([www.gnetgroupplc.com](http://www.gnetgroupplc.com)), an e-commerce company based in China that provides integrated online-to-offline and offline-to-online services through its proprietary technology platform. Wang spoke to *NYIT Magazine* about his career, the importance of getting his Executive M.B.A., and advice for others who want to make their mark on the world.

**DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER PATH.** I worked as a lawyer for over 10 years, but I knew if I worked harder, I could do better. I wanted to challenge myself. I came to NYIT to study business. After graduation, I established an e-commerce company with friends. I knew almost nothing about e-commerce at the beginning, but now my company has begun to grow. It's a great challenge for me—learning by doing. I encounter difficulties, but I know I am fulfilling my dream, so I enjoy working hard.

**HOW DID NYIT PREPARE YOU FOR THE CAREER YOU HAVE NOW?** First, I have a more systematic knowledge about business administration; I can manage and market myself better at work. Secondly, I met a lot of mentors, like Dr. Scott Liu and Professor Xie. They gave me great help and encouragement when I started my company. Finally, NYIT is located in the center of New York City. It is close to Wall Street and other financial centers. An NYIT education helped me further my understanding about society, economy, commerce, and finance in the United States.

**HOW DO YOU HANDLE BUSINESS CHALLENGES?** I gain a lot from them, such as learning new knowledge, discovering new skills, broadening my horizons, improving my way of thinking, and finding more like-minded friends. The most important thing to remember during this process is that you will always gain a new level of understanding about yourself. That is my greatest achievement.

**YOU CALL YOURSELF A “WORKAHOLIC,” BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES?** My hobby is Go [a game played on a 19x19 grid with black and white stones]. Because I'm an Aries, I have a hot temper. Playing this game can bring me peace of mind!

**WHAT'S YOUR ADVICE TO STUDENTS?** When you have an idea, just do it. Don't settle and don't think that your life will not change because you're 30 or 40 years old. Learn and try to ascertain unlimited possibilities. ■

*Thanks to Betty (Qiaoying) Zhang in the NYIT Shanghai Office of Student Affairs for translating this interview. Some answers have been edited for length and clarity.*

## 1980s

**ROY GOTTLIEB (D.O. '82)** and son Josh, a student at NYITCOM, co-authored two articles in the February 2016 issue of *Diagnostic Imaging*. The first discusses OHVIRA syndrome, a rare congenital anomaly found in women. The second, "Everything Is Backwards," is a case study involving a complex heart disorder. [diagnosticimaging.com](http://diagnosticimaging.com)

**MARK MCCRAY (B.F.A. '83)** is senior manager of programming operations for the Adult Swim network. "Obtaining a degree from NYIT opened many opportunities, which include pursuing my professional dreams of working and having a voice in the evolving television landscape," he says. McCray resides in Powder Spring, Ga., and is the author of *The Best Saturdays of Our Lives*, which chronicles the origins of Saturday morning programming. [thebestsaturdaysofourlives.com](http://thebestsaturdaysofourlives.com)

After helping design the observatory at the top of One World Trade Center, **DANIEL J. MONTROY (B.ARCH. '83)** plans to lend his architect's hand to his native hometown of Ogdensburg, N.Y. He is looking at the St. Lawrence River and Oswegatchie River shorelines as prime real estate area. Montroy is co-founder of Montroy Andersen DeMarco in New York City, which also includes fellow graduate **RICHARD J. DEMARCO (B.ARCH. '83)** as a principal.

With more than 30 years of experience, **JOSEPH PARISE (D.O. '84)** was elected president of the Delaware Board of Medical Practice and Discipline. He is a family medicine doctor in Dover, Del., and is affiliated with Bayhealth Medical Center. "My favorite NYIT memory is being part of a new medical school early in its infancy, and seeing it become a grand institution," he says.

As Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos defeated the Carolina Panthers at Super Bowl 50 in Santa Clara, Calif., **EDWARD WALDEN (B.T. '85)** (pictured) was on hand to do his job as chief engineer for NFL Films. In his role, he supervises the upgrade, maintenance, and installation of the hardware and software video packages that capture league footage. Two other NYIT alumni also worked Super Bowl 50: **MIKE MARSICO (B.F.A. '96)** and **CHANTEL DIAZ (B.F.A. '13, M.A. '15)**.



Courtesy of Edward Walden

**BERNARD WHEATLEY (M.B.A. '86)** is CEO of Schneider Regional Medical Center in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Previously, he served as vice president of operations at Athens (Ga.) Regional Medical Center.

**ELIZABETH KOLLIGS (B.F.A. '87)** is an artist in residence at Old Field Farm, Ltd. in Stony Brook, N.Y., where she exhibits her work (pictured) and gives painting demonstrations. [elizabethkolligs.com](http://elizabethkolligs.com)



Courtesy of Elizabeth Kolligs

Strathmore's *Who's Who Worldwide* recognized **JERRY W. MCDANIEL (M.A. '87)** of Encino, Calif., as a 2016 Professional of the Year for his outstanding contributions and achievements in fine arts.

**STEWART I. SCHWARTZ (D.O. '87)** works at the Vida Clinic in the Bronx, N.Y., where he serves the local Hispanic community. He also has a private practice in Westchester County, N.Y. He specializes in general, child/adolescent, forensic, and addiction psychiatry. Schwartz recalls his days interning at Peninsula Hospital Center and the impact of his NYIT degree. "There is not a day in my professional career that I don't fall back on that wonderful year of a general rotating internship," he says. Later, he did his residency in general psychiatry at New York Medical College. "I was accepted into their child-adolescent fellowship, and in my last year I served as chief resident," he says.

**MICHAEL J. EDBAUER (D.O. '88)** is president and CEO of Catholic Medical Partners in Buffalo, N.Y. The organization represents more than 1,000 physicians to improve delivery of care, infrastructure, and the patient experience. Edbauer also serves as chief clinical officer at Catholic Health.

**CHRISTOPHER E. HOLMES (B.S. '88)** is CEO of Channel Technologies Group LLC, a Santa Barbara, Calif.-based manufacturer of piezoelectric ceramics, transducers, and sonar and navigation systems. He has more than three decades of experience in the aerospace and defense industries. Previously, Holmes was CEO of RM Techtronics.

Surgeon **FREDERIC ITZKOWITZ (D.O. '88)** practices at North Coast Surgical Associates and serves on the medical staff at Firelands Regional Medical Center and its Center for Breast Care in Sandusky, Ohio.

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**SANDRA L. SPIRO (B.S. '88)** is a partner at Kirkwood Spiro Marketing Communications, a consulting firm for the food and hospitality industry. She is a 2016 candidate for village trustee in her hometown of Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.

**GREGORY L. BORIS (D.O. '89)** of Connecticut Emergency Medicine Specialists was named a 2015 Top Doctor in Derby, Conn., by *Leading Physicians of the World*, a subsidiary of the International Association of HealthCare Professionals. He has been in practice for more than 26 years.

**MIKE LEONARD (B.S. '89)** is on the Board of Governors at Fleming College in Central Ontario. He also serves as a plant manager at GE in Peterborough.

## 1990s

**STEPHEN CANNIZZARO (B.S. '90)** volunteers for the National Alliance of Mental Illness, where he assists with communications outreach and its e-newsletter. His favorite NYIT memories include the financial management classes taught by Ethel Silverstein.

**NICOS IONA (B.S. '90)** has been a computer programmer and analyst for 22 years with the Ministry of Defense in Cyprus.

**JULIETTE MCKENNA (M.S. '91)** is director of charitable giving at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson, N.Y.

**SCOTT A. WOLF (D.O. '91)** serves as president of Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, Pa., where he oversees operational performance, strategic growth, financial management, and other hospital operations.



**Elissa Charbonneau**  
(D.O. '88)

**IT'S ALWAYS REFRESHING** to talk to someone who loves what they do. When **Elissa Charbonneau, D.O.**, speaks about her position as chief medical officer of HealthSouth Corporation, you can hear she is thrilled with her job. "I work with really smart people: I respect and admire them," she says. "And I love the challenge of restoring function to patients' lives after they have been sick or injured."

Charbonneau has never shied away from a challenge. She first heard about NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) in Cornell's career office during her junior year. NYITCOM's holistic approach and its location close to her hometown made it a perfect fit. Charbonneau recalls how hard the program was. "I was a good student at Cornell and majored in biology, but the first two years of medical school—especially the amount of memorization required—were really difficult." By the third year, she could envision the light at the end of the tunnel. "The rotations were wonderful," she says. "I could finally see myself doing this as a career."

Before Charbonneau became chief medical officer in 2015, she saw patients as a clinical physician and worked as an administrator. She was vice president of medical services for HealthSouth Corporation and medical director of New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland (a joint venture of Maine Medical Center and HealthSouth). Charbonneau was named 2012 HealthSouth Medical Director of the Year for her "outstanding clinical knowledge, exemplary performance in the development of quality clinical programs, and overall excellence in leadership."

As chief medical officer of HealthSouth, one of the nation's largest providers of post-acute health care services, she oversees more than 100 inpatient rehabilitation hospitals in 34 states and Puerto Rico. In addition to traveling extensively to meet with the organization's leadership, she attends meetings and conferences relevant to inpatient rehabilitation and works with committees and government agencies that oversee healthcare spending.

To manage such challenging responsibilities, Charbonneau draws on advice she received in medical school: Build strong leadership skills—no matter the role. Once, she was criticized for being shy; an older physician told her, "Don't hide your light under a bushel." Those words stuck with her. Today, Charbonneau advises young doctors that "As the years go by, you will become more self-confident. When you learn from your experiences, you become stronger and better at being a leader." ■

Audra Medunizza Weiton

**LYNDA CHERVIL (B.S. '92)** is merging luxury with sustainability through her company, Luxury Trine Digital Media Group, in Greenwich, Conn. She publishes three magazines covering the auto, home, and travel sectors (available through mobile apps), as well as a newsletter that covers modern art and culture from an eco-friendly angle. [luxurytrine.com](http://luxurytrine.com)

**SPYRIDON BAZIGOS (B.S. '93)** joined H2M architects + engineers as a senior architect in the New York City office. He specializes in the real estate market and oversees the firm's New York City junior architects. He joins **DANNY TANZI (B.S. '93)**, studio director of emergency services and municipalities, **ERIK HEULER (B.ARCH. '06)**, project architect, and other NYIT graduates who work at the firm. In 2013, H2M was recognized as the NYIT Alumni Employer of the Year.

Chef **CHARMAINE STRACHAN (B.P.S. '95)** recently wrote the book *Live Your Best Life*,

which provides food facts, menus, recipes, and suggestions on living a healthy life. She fondly recalls her cooking classes at NYIT de Seversky Mansion. "We would arrive for classes at 7 a.m. and be instructed to prepare an elaborate lunch buffet," she says. "There were no foods barred from the entrées prepared." Her NYIT professors, she adds, "brought their experience in restaurant and hotel management into the classroom. I listened, picked up all practical hints and tidbits, and used them throughout my career." Her other e-books include *Brunch with the Super Foods* and *What's Good with Pulse? Pulse vs. Super Foods*. [bit.ly/Charmaine-Strachan](http://bit.ly/Charmaine-Strachan)

Earlier this year, **SHAZIA SHAH (D.O. '96)** opened her medical practice, Princeton (N.J.) Medical Associates. The new center offers primary care, immunizations, preventive health care, preoperative clearance, and more. [princetonmedical.org](http://princetonmedical.org)

*Continental Who's Who* recognized **KIMBERLY MCGINN (D.O. '97)** as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of medicine. She serves as an assistant professor at Touro University Nevada.

**CYNTHIA (CRISS) SMITH (D.O. '97)** chairs the Pediatric Department at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, N.Y., where she has worked for nearly 15 years.

**RONALD CONNELLY (M.S. '98)** is founder of Connelly Enterprise, located in Gambrills, Md., which specializes in commercial real estate acquisitions and development. "I had many memorable moments at NYIT, but what I enjoyed most was interacting with different students from different backgrounds," he says. [connellyenterprise.com](http://connellyenterprise.com)

The Expert Network named vascular surgeon **JEFFERY DORMU (D.O. '98)** a Distinguished Doctor. The designation is based on peer reviews and ratings, recognitions, and career accomplishments.



**FROM RENT TO DISASTER!**

**ADAM PASCAL (B.F.A. '92)** (pictured left with co-star Kerry Butler) is back on Broadway starring as Chad, a cater-waiter, in *Disaster!* The new musical by Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick spoofs the disaster films from the 1970s and features everything from infernos to earthquakes. Pascal has appeared on Broadway in *Aida*, *Cabaret*, *Memphis*, and more, but is perhaps best known for originating the role of Roger Davis in the groundbreaking musical *Rent*. ■

[disastermusical.com](http://disastermusical.com)

Jeremy Daniel Photography

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Dormu is CEO and founder of Minimally Invasive Vascular Centers in Washington, D.C. In addition, he is a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, the American Osteopathic Association, and the American Medical Association.

**KEVIN LOMBARDI (M.S. '98)** is a teacher at Longwood Central School District in Middle Island, N.Y. "When I went into teaching, technology was being introduced into the classroom," says Lombardi. "Having gained knowledge of computers at NYIT was helpful in landing my first teaching job." He and his husband, Aprikorn, live in Ridge, N.Y.

**LEE ISABELL (D.O. '99)** works as an internal medicine physician at the Health Quest primary care office in Kingston, N.Y. He is also a certified HIV specialist by the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

## 2000s

**MARGARET GRUB (M.S. '01)** is the latest member of the Seaford (N.Y.) Public Library's Board of Trustees. She has also worked for the New York Board of Education, taught elementary school, and served as an assistant principal.

**MANISH SHARMA (D.O. '00, M.B.A. '01)** is the emergency medicine chairman at Forest Hills Hospital in Queens, N.Y. An assistant professor at Weill Cornell Medic, he also serves as an examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine, served as vice chairman of emergency medicine at New-York Presbyterian/Queens, and has been published in peer-reviewed journals that include *Annals of Emergency Medicine* and *Academic Emergency Medicine*.



# Luz Minaya

(M.S. '11)

**ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT MOMENTS** in Luz Minaya's teaching career came when she was in charge of a fourth grade overnight field trip. The district where she was teaching was very poor; when dinner was served (turkey, gravy, and all the fixings) she realized that one of the students wasn't eating. She soon discovered that he did not know how to use a fork and spoon. "He ate the same thing every day at home: a peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich," she says. "That was really a wake-up call for me. We take things for granted."

That moment changed the way Minaya approached her work. Exposing students to new environments and new experiences became one of her primary goals, and she instituted a class on table manners. Her philosophy of teaching changed too. "Put the book aside," she says. "Think outside of the box. Don't do the status quo."

Though Minaya comes from a family of teachers, she initially rebelled against the idea of following the same path. "I was going to go into business, not education," she says. But by the time she started college, she realized that "someone like me could give back to the community." After college, Minaya joined the Department of Education's bilingual teacher preparation program and then landed a job teaching Spanish and classes in "language and culture through technology" at a school in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. NYIT School of Education's graduate program in instructional technology was exactly what Minaya was looking for. With her master's degree in hand, Minaya was hired by NYIT as an adjunct professor in social media and applications in education.

Now, as director of field placement and certification at the School of Education, she connects NYIT graduates with current students. "Opportunity does not come knocking at your door. You have to go out and get it," she says. A firm believer in networking, Minaya is also the president of the School of Education Alumni Chapter, a group that opens doors by providing a platform where former and current students can establish connections and build relationships.

Several times a month, Minaya works as a trainer for the Dignity for All Students workshops that every educator in charter or public schools in New York state is required to take. The six-hour workshop's mission: No child should fear for his or her safety in terms of harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and/or bullying. Her efforts have led to another evolution in her career goals. With a growing interest in how to establish and change policies that will positively impact the school environment, Minaya is applying to doctoral programs in education policy and administration. ■

**JERMAIN HOLLMAN (B.F.A. '02, M.A. '05)** (pictured) co-starred in the pilot episode of the television show *Colony* on the USA network. He has also been featured on *The Mindy Project*, *Castle*, and *Parks and Recreation*, and can be seen in the upcoming film *31*, and *Law and Order: SVU*. Hollman studied communication arts at NYIT and played basketball. [jermainhollman.com](http://jermainhollman.com)



Logan Hill

**KELLY LAVIN (B.S. '02)** earned her clinical doctorate in occupational therapy from Boston University. Her dissertation was titled, "Facilitation of Executive Functioning Skills for Emerging Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder."

**SETH KAUFMAN (D.O. '03)** practices with Heart of Florida Physician Group Interventional Spine & Pain in Davenport, Fla. He is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

**OMUR KEMAL (M.B.A. '03)** works in the petrochemicals, additives, and oil industry as general manager for Troychem DMCC in Istanbul, Turkey.

**FRANCES L. KIPERMAN (M.A. '03)** was recognized by *Continental Who's Who* as a Pinnacle Professional in the retail field. She is CEO of Keep Your Love Strong Inc./DBA Transformations.

**JASON ROBINSON (B.S. '03)** is a network engineer for Google at its Mountain View, Calif., office. In March, he returned to NYIT to speak to current students about his career and working at Google and in the tech industry (see p. 9).

**MICHAEL T. SMITH (M.S. '03)** serves as vice president and program manager at J.P. Morgan in New York City.

**STEVEN VUJEVA (B.ARCH. '03)** is an architect at Mandil Inc., based in Denver, Colo. Previously, he worked at Don Ruggles as a design associate and project manager on luxury residences and mountain homes in the Denver area.

**YEVGENY ZADOV (B.S. '03, D.O. '07)** is a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist at Susquehanna Health in Williamsport, Pa. He recently published "When Brain Injury Goes Beyond Concussion" on NorthcentralPA.com. [bit.ly/Zadov](http://bit.ly/Zadov)

**SANTO PORPIGLIA (B.S. '04)** launched InnerGroup, a social media app that lets users share encrypted texts, images, videos, and audio files. It is available on iTunes and Google Play.

**ADA NWACHUKU (D.O. '05, M.B.A. '09)** is welcoming patients at American Spine's new office in Silver Spring, Md. She specializes in physical medicine, rehabilitation, and pain management.

TD Bank named **CEDRIC PRISO (B.S. '05)** vice president and store manager of his location in Maspeth, N.Y. He has 10 years of retail banking experience and served as vice president, senior branch manager, at HSBC Bank in Manhattan.

**SHAUNACY WEBSTER (M.A. '05)** is chief operating officer for Chabad Columbus-Home to LifeTown in New Albany, Ohio. The program provides life skills development for students with disabilities. "I am

thankful for my NYIT experience. The communications program in Manhattan offered both academic theory and applied experience in the heart of the advertising and public relations capital," she says. [chabadcolumbus.com](http://chabadcolumbus.com)

**RYAN WILSON (M.B.A. '05)** is an electrical and controls superintendent at Grain Processing Corporation in Muscatine, Iowa. He previously worked as a controls engineer, project engineer, and technical supervisor for Muscatine Power and Water.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, named **THANI AL ZEYUDI (M.B.A. '06)** the Minister of Climate Change and Environment in his new cabinet.

*National Mortgage Professional Magazine* recognized **MONIKA B. DEJESUS (B.S. '06)** for her professionalism in its "40 Under 40" feature. She works as a loan originator for United Northern Mortgage Bankers in Levittown, N.Y.

**DALKEITH FACEY (D.O. '06)** is a general surgeon at Massena (N.Y.) Memorial Hospital. He is board certified with the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, as well as a member of the American Osteopathic Association.

Otolaryngologist **JOHN PATRICK HANNA (D.O. '06)** joined Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, N.J. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the American Academy of Otolaryngology, and is board certified in otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery.

**MATTHEW NIEGOCKI (B.S. '06)** is a chartered financial consultant celebrating 10 years as a financial advisor with Prudential in Melville, N.Y. "I came into contact with Prudential at the career fair on the Old Westbury campus," he recalls. "Thanks to that fair, I had seven interviews and six





## ALL MAJORS CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

IN MARCH, NYIT welcomed 70 employers to the annual All Majors Career and Internship Fair; more than 30 of them were NYIT alumni. Nearly 600 alumni and students from NYIT-Old Westbury and NYIT-Manhattan represented undergraduate and graduate programs from nearly all schools and colleges and spoke with recruiters in architecture and design, engineering, telecommunications, hospitality, and more. To participate in upcoming career events, visit [nyit.edu/career\\_services](http://nyit.edu/career_services). ■

Pictured: Alumni employers gather outside the Student Activity Center and show off NYIT Bears pride.

Lorenzo Bevilacqua

job offers.” Last year, Prudential ranked Niegocki among its top 200 financial advisors throughout the entire company. He and his wife, Aimee, live in Stony Brook, N.Y.

**GREG WALKER (B.S. '06)** is chief operating officer of Walker-Miller Energy Services in Detroit, Mich. He has served in leadership roles for several Fortune 500 companies, including Walmart, Home Depot, and Sears.

**JASON KELLY (M.B.A. '07)** is product surveillance manager at GE Healthcare in Waukesha, Wis.

**CHADWICK LEO (D.O. '07)** joined Lee Memorial Health System of Cape Coral, Fla., in its obstetrics and gynecology department. Board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics, he specializes in infertility treatments, gynecologic procedures and surgeries, and birth control management.

As founder and CEO of the Physician Moms Group, **HALA SABRY (D.O. '07, M.B.A. '07)** and her 48,000 members declared Feb. 3 National Women Physicians Day. The date was chosen to honor Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to graduate from a U.S. medical school in 1849. [mypmg.com](http://mypmg.com)

**KLARA GALPERINA (D.O. '08)** is a physician at Ocean Township, N.J.-based

Westpark Pediatrics, part of the Barnabas Health Medical Group. She completed her residency in pediatrics at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson.

**JASON HAMMOCK (M.B.A. '08)** was promoted to global sales leader at Melles Griot, a wholly owned subsidiary of IDEX Corporation, to support the semiconductor market. “NYIT was at the top of my list because of the school’s proximity to one of the top financial centers in the world—New York City,” he says. “In today’s competitive landscape, it is more important than ever to bring value. The knowledge and insights of the M.B.A. program have added substantially more value to my projects.”

## 2010s

**MICHAEL SOUZA (B.S. '10)** is manager of business development with Captain Productions, a brand and design firm in Asbury Park, N.J. He previously worked as manager of premium partnerships with the Prudential Center and New Jersey Devils in Newark. “I oversee the sales and service of premium hospitality such as luxury suites, loge boxes, and platinum club memberships,” he says. Souza and his wife, Tara, married in December 2015.

This fall, **MENA ABRAHIM (D.O. '11)** will join ENT and Allergy Associates LLP in its Bridgewater, N.J., office as a staff clinician. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and the American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

**MELISSA CUDA (D.P.T. '11)** (pictured), a pediatric physical therapist, helped organize an event at NYIT featuring her sister, Valerie Goldstein, a spinal cord injury survivor (see p. 5). Hosted by NYIT School of Health Professions as part of the Dean’s Speaker Series, Goldstein spoke to students about her journey to recovery and how health professionals can better treat spinal cord injury patients. “When you’re a student, it is hard to picture or fully understand how someone’s limitations affect their life,” said Cuda, who was in the same car accident that injured her sister. “But when a student can see it in person, it paints a clearer picture and you really grasp why you are learning the things you are.”



Jennifer Haynie - [inspirebyimages.com](http://inspirebyimages.com)

Physical therapist **RORI ALTER (D.P.T. '12)** joined NYITCOM professors **ANDREA WATSON (D.O. '00)** and **GEORGE CHERIYAN (D.O. '11)** as they discussed women's health at a March 3 lecture presented by NYIT Center for Sports Medicine.

"The time spent at NYIT was the most valuable and memorable time of my life," says applications programmer **HARDEEP SINGH (M.S. '12)**.

Tearing up the track in a Chevrolet Camaro Z/28.R, race car driver **MICHAEL COOPER (B.S. '13)** scored his first career GTS win at the Pirelli World Challenge series in March.

**TING TING MEI (B.P.S. '13, M.B.A. '15)** helps recruit new NYIT students as the assistant director of graduate admissions at the Manhattan campus.

**MICHAEL MORGANELLI (B.S. '15)** was promoted to systems engineer at New York City-based ShoreGroup Solutions after earning his NYIT degree. "I work in a pre-sales capacity supporting our account team by developing IT solutions for Fortune 500 companies throughout the New York metropolitan area and around the country," he says.

Former NYIT-Nanjing and Old Westbury student **TIANYI (TIM) SHEN (B.S. '15)** (pictured top right) is a software engineer at Google. He recently returned to campus to speak with engineering students at a Career Services event hosted at NYIT-Manhattan.



Julie Godsoe

**CODY SOUFFRANT (B.S. '15)** works at Fordham University's Lincoln Center campus as a counselor for its Higher Education Opportunity Program, through which New York colleges and universities help economically and educationally disadvantaged state residents.

## Passings

**DAVID R. MALTZ (B.S. '77)**

**THOMAS O'CONNELL (B.S. '82)**

**BRUCE W. LAND (B.F.A. '84)**



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ALUMNI  
**SPOTLIGHT**



# John Gering

(B.ARCH. '83)

(top right) Gering speaks at the Alumni and Friends Reception at the Union League Club.

(above) The UN Federal Credit Union in Long Island City, N.Y. Credit: HLW International ©. Photo by Elliott Kaufman Photography.

(below) HBO's offices in Hauppauge, NY. Credit: HLW International ©. Photo by Halkin Mason Photography.



**J**OHN GERING WAS SET ON BEING A MUSICIAN until his neighbor and high school chemistry teacher suggested he look into architecture. It wasn't completely out of the blue. Gering helped his father, a part-time builder, and another neighbor, who was a contractor, during the summers. Reflecting back, he thinks the two career paths were even similar in some ways. "You're always looking for the next gig," he says. Gering enrolled in NYIT shortly after the architecture program was established, which he describes as an exciting time. "A lot of the professors were very passionate about what they did. I was so well prepared for the National Council of Architectural Registration Board exam that I passed it in one shot."

Gering's professors instilled in him a similar love of the field. Now, three decades later, he is managing partner of HLW International, a global architecture, engineering, and design firm. With headquarters in New York City, the group also has offices in New Jersey, Los Angeles, London, and Shanghai. The origins of HLW date back to 1885. The firm helped shape New York City's ever-changing skyline—from the first telephone building (the Metropolitan Telephone Building) to one of the very first skyscrapers (The New York Times Building). In recent years, HLW has created studios for CBS, Fox, CNBC, ESPN, HBO and other networks. "We design a lot of media broadcast facilities all over the globe," says Gering, whose goal is to further increase HLW's global broadcast client base.

For his work and commitment to the university, Gering was honored as the spotlight alumnus at the Alumni and Friends Reception at the Union League Club last year, hosted by the Friends of NYIT School of Architecture and Design. Looking back at his time at NYIT, he recalls one of his favorite professors, Dr. Pepper, who taught the "lost art" of rendering (depth of field, color, and perspective). Gering explains that while architects use technology to do those things today, he learned broader skills that remain essential. "Technology can't replace knowledge and

thought processes, but it can enable them," he says. "In architecture if you do it fast, things will go wrong. You must look at the big picture."

His advice to architecture students: "Do the right thing. No matter what it is. Have a conscience and a compassion for others. Architecture is collaborative, and those who can work in teams will succeed. Don't run from big and bold challenges. Be prepared to fail—that's how you learn—then pick yourself up and go on." ■

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