

New York
Institute of
Technology

NYIT

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2018

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Pictured: Nirma Hasty (B.F.A. '16) shooting on location in Mexico for a story about a mother deported by ICE. Hasty is a video journalist for NBC. Meet more rising stars on p. 20.



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

Images: (FRONT COVER) Barry Sloan (BACK COVER) Andre Kopinski (THIS PAGE) Courtesy Nirma Hasty/Rebecca Davis

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FIRST BYTE

By Hank Foley, Ph.D.
President



Alexander Berg

Whether it's through advanced medical devices, financial blockchain transactions, or social media apps that allow us to share experiences, technology continues to introduce colorful solutions for a healthier, safer, and more connected world. Along with technology comes computational thinking—an important skill for any student or professional to nurture. With its emphasis on formulating problems and introducing logical solutions, the process helps people develop more efficient solutions across a much broader scale of disciplines.

With the rise of video games and eSports, it should come as no surprise that we are seeing technology's impact on how people (younger generations in particular) process information and communicate with their peers. What I've noticed among collegiate eSports athletes is how the games they play help them develop computational thinking skills. Their thought processes encompass a savvy understanding of technology as they frame problems by analyzing data and patterns, then move toward quick and effective solutions on the field of play.

eSports (and the gaming industry in general) is booming, and I look forward to our university becoming a leader on multiple fronts. In addition to our first eSports team (the CyBears), we launched the NYIT Center for eSports Medicine, which will research eSports injuries and ways to improve the physical health of eSports competitors. On the academic side, a new specialty in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program will give students a solid background in computer programming, digital design, and management—essential skills for those wishing to pursue careers in the video game industry. (Read more on p.12.)

Computational thinking is not a new theory, and neither is educating students by using video games, but with eSports, we are seeing new ways in which young adults channel a fluidity of thinking. Understanding how eSports benefits players on a cognitive level, along with NYIT's focus on improving their physical well-being and developing their skill sets to become innovators and inventors, positions us as a pioneer among U.S. universities. ■

School of Architecture and Design Receives \$2 Million Grant

An unprecedented gift will support the school's "culture of making" and fund two new interdisciplinary master's programs, a digital fabrication lab, and NYIT's first endowed chair. With the help of the grant, students across disciplines will draw on design strategies and advanced digital technologies to create bold, integrated solutions for architecture, health, and medical fields.

Dean Maria R. Perbellini with Raymond R. Savino, president of the IDC Foundation.



THE ARCHITECTURE, HEALTH, AND MEDICAL fields are about to get a redesign. Thanks to a grant from the IDC Foundation, NYIT students in the School of Architecture and Design, College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM), and School of Health Professions will have the opportunity to explore connections between architecture and the fields of medicine and the health professions in order to research and create unconventional design solutions for a healthier built environment and a holistic approach to well-being.

"We are honored and thrilled about this partnership with the IDC Foundation and are sincerely grateful for this extraordinary commitment to NYIT," said Maria R. Perbellini, M.Arch., dean of the School of Architecture and Design. "We aspire to transform NYIT as an institution so that the architecture, medical, and health fields can work together on new research and education activities through design and technology."

The grant will provide funding for academic activities, scholarships, and projects, as well as the development of two postgraduate academic programs based on interdisciplinary research.

"Taking care of your health and wellbeing is not reserved for a visit to the doctor's office,

(Facing) Through the grant, the digital design and fabrication curriculum will be expanded. Images show recent projects from the school. Far left: 3-D Patterning, Visualization 3, by student Devora Schwartz. Left: Detail of a 3-D printed model for the workshop “Bionic Stone Pavilion,” led by Giuseppe Fallacara with New Fundamentals Research Group, Zaha Hadid Code, AKT II.

(Below) Architecture thesis student Arkadiusz Chrobak shows a proposed full-scale model of a facade system for a new School of Health Professions project.



but should be incorporated in all aspects of your life—this obviously includes your architectural surroundings,” said Jerry Balentine, D.O., dean of NYITCOM and vice president for health sciences and medical affairs. “NYIT is perfectly positioned to host such a new degree, as we not only have a leading architectural program but also a medical school and a school of health professions.”

The proposed Master of Science program in Design and Health will focus on health care design, environmentally adaptive and intelligent building components, biomedical systems, and parameters affecting health and wellness, while a new Master of Science in Digital Fabrication will leverage the fields of architecture, engineering, interdisciplinary studies, health, and medicine. Students in the latter program, Perbellini explained, will focus on designing on a variety of scales (from nano to micro) and developing high-performing architectural envelopes, integrated material systems for environmentally responsive buildings, and smart material processes and biomaterials. In both programs, research will be guided by larger concerns about our social, cultural, and economic environments.

“Future modes of a sustainable practice demand the expansion of research skills in the architecture, engineering, and construction fields with greater impact to improve lives,” said Perbellini. “Our goal is to immerse students in a transformative learning environment that advances new knowledge

while blurring disciplinary boundaries and imparts a deep understanding of innovation to address globally significant issues.”

In addition, the grant will fund the IDC Foundation Endowed Chair of Digital Technologies in the School of Architecture and Design, the first endowed chair at NYIT. It will also support NYIT’s design and construction of the IDC Foundation Digital Fabrication Lab, which will feature a robotic matter design lab. This robotic lab will strengthen collaborations with NYIT School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Education and the College of Engineering and Computing Sciences as well as involve external academic partners and industry professionals.

“The IDC Foundation is pleased to support New York Institute of Technology, whose mission is closely aligned with the legacy of the Institute of Design and Construction,” said Raymond R. Savino, president of the IDC Foundation. “Both share a commitment to career-oriented professional education, access to opportunity, and applications-oriented research. We are especially pleased to support the commitment of NYIT School of Architecture and Design to explore opportunities at the intersection of the architecture and medical fields to collaborate on unique and unprecedented research and educational activities through design and technology.”

The IDC Foundation is a legacy of the Institute of Design and Construction, the former Brooklyn-based, nonprofit, technical college that educated more than 30,000 students between its founding in 1947 and its closing in 2015.

“We cannot thank the IDC Foundation Board of Directors enough for this extremely generous grant, in particular Raymond Savino, **Frank DarConte, Ph.D., AIA (B.S.A.T. ’77)**, and **Frank Fortino (B.S.A.T. ’87)**, who have worked closely with us, and for believing in the value of our vision for the School of Architecture and Design,” said Perbellini. “My appreciation also goes to NYIT President Hank Foley, Ph.D., for his enthusiastic support. This opportunity propels fruitful intersections between NYIT schools and gives us space to grow, acquire knowledge, and bolster our passion for architecture.” ■

Buzzland

Now playing at NYIT: The first Ph.D. program, an alumnus takes “thoughts” into virtual reality, and life in the DMZ. Read more great stories every day at nyit.edu/box and follow @nyit on social for updates.

Thinkstock



PROTECTING URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE Climate change has the potential to cause devastating impacts on the food-energy-water (FEW) nexus. Now, with the help of a National Science Foundation grant, researchers in the College of Engineering and Computing Sciences and the School of Architecture and Design are working with other organizations to create a 3-D data modeling tool to help cities protect themselves. When IN-SOURCE is completed, officials can use the software to visualize the impact of environmental conditions and stressors on distribution networks and urban infrastructure critical to the FEW nexus.



bit.ly/FEW-research

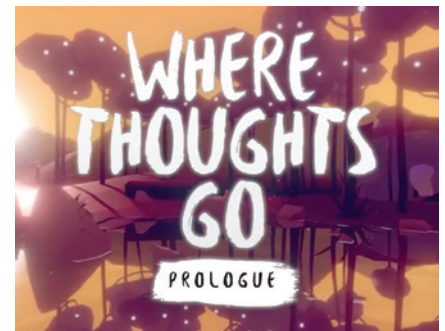
J.J. Juppiter



BIOENGINEERING LAB A \$150,000 grant from the state of New York will help NYIT develop the Research and Technology Innovation Bioengineering Laboratory on the Long Island (Old Westbury, N.Y.) campus. The lab, endorsed by the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, will bring together life scientists and engineers as well as faculty and students to do research ranging from fighting pathogenic bacteria to reducing environmental impacts from stormwater.



bit.ly/bioengineering-lab



Courtesy of Lucas Rizzotto

WHERE THOUGHTS GO As a computer science major, **Lucas Rizzotto (B.S. '18)** began experimenting with virtual reality (VR) early. Now, the recent graduate is blowing the minds of heavy hitters in the VR industry with his Oculus Rift project *Where Thoughts Go: Prologue*. The “intimate social virtual-reality experience” received its world premiere at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival Virtual Arcade on April 18 and won Best in Show: VR at the 2018 Auggie Awards.



Explore: bit.ly/LRizzotto



Courtesy of Dongsei Kim

ARCHITECTURE AND THE DMZ When people think of the Korean DMZ, they often think of a desolate, inhospitable place. Yet Assistant Professor Dongsei Kim, M.Des., of NYIT School of Architecture and Design, wants to disrupt “habitual thinkings” and use architecture to expand possibilities of such areas. “My work on the DMZ is part of my long-term research that examines the nature of spatial borders that define ‘us’ and ‘them,’” he explains.



bit.ly/dongsei-kim



CALL A DOCTORATE There's a new doctor in town. NYIT will launch its first Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program, the highest academic degree that can be conferred by a university, for the 2019–2020 academic year. The inaugural doctoral candidates will pursue a combined Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)/Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Medical and Biological Sciences. "This is a landmark moment for NYIT," said NYIT President Hank Foley, Ph.D. "It is a great opportunity for faculty to train new generations of clinical physicians who are fully invested in research that will advance medical science." Many of today's life-saving medical breakthroughs can be traced to physician-scientists, practitioners of translational medicine who increase the efficiency of therapeutic strategies by bridging the gap between clinical care and biomedical research. With a unique ability to connect insight from their patient interactions to their investigations, these medical professionals can facilitate discoveries to treat and cure human disease.



bit.ly/nyit-doctorate



AWARD-WINNING ALUMNI ADVICE At NYIT's 57th Commencement, President Hank Foley, Ph.D., conferred an honorary degree upon NYIT alumna **Carol Silva, B.F.A.**, who also delivered the keynote address. Silva, who was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, is the Emmy Award-winning anchor at News 12 Long Island. She majored in public relations and graduated magna cum laude from NYIT. In her address, Silva spoke about her journey and how a professor at NYIT helped her jumpstart her career. After asking her class to create a 15-minute radio show that included a newscast, the professor brought Silva's final project to his bosses at the radio station where he worked. "He said, 'I found our part-timer,'" Silva recalled. "My junior year in college, because of NYIT, I was already in the business—I was working." She encouraged the Class of 2018 to create and live their own stories, despite the challenges they will likely face, and to be the kindest version of themselves: "Look for the good in yourself, say the good out loud, and say the good out loud to the people around you."



Watch Silva's speech:
bit.ly/Carol-Silva-Commencement



GREGORY WILLIAM BERNER MEMORIAL

SCHOLARSHIP A family from Arkansas and Michigan is helping fund the dreams of future doctors by creating the first endowed scholarship at NYITCOM at Arkansas State University. The scholarship is named in honor of Detroit native Gregory William Berner, who recently passed away from a rare brain disorder. At this year's white coat ceremony, second-year students Anand Bhagat and Margaret Kell (pictured with the family) became the first students to benefit from the \$50,000 scholarship. "[The Berner family's] generosity cannot be overstated," said Shane Speights, D.O., site dean of NYITCOM at A-State. "It is a privilege to have their support."



bit.ly/berner-scholarship

Kidney Games? Moving Pains? Yes, There's an App for That

Visualizing the kidney and picking up furniture from IKEA may not seem like activities that have much in common, but thanks to some enterprising NYIT students and faculty, both received some serious technological upgrades. Meet Crater and Nephro360—two innovative apps designed to help medical students and everyday renters.



Dost Krutique, Laura Kozlowski



Pick Up or Delivery?

You found a great deal on a couch but discover you can't fit it in the trunk and the shipping costs more than the couch. Suddenly, it's not much of a deal.

Enter Crater—an on-demand transportation service app developed by two NYIT College of Engineering and Computing Sciences students. “Drivers with a pickup truck can sign up on the Crater app and connect with consumers who want to transport their goods within a particular geographic location,” explained Salman Javid Malik, a master's candidate in computer science who created the app with classmate Vignesh Harish, a master's candidate in information, network, and computer security. The duo teamed up through the Student Entrepreneurship Program in the Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center (ETIC) under the guidance of Director Michael Nizich, Ph.D. “[The Student Entrepreneurship Program] provides a gateway towards starting an entrepreneurial journey at NYIT,” said Malik.

The team entered the app in the Long Island Business Plan Competition. They placed third and went on to face more than 100 teams at the New York State Business Plan Competition. While they didn't walk away with a prize, Harish and Malik plan to build a prototype and roll out the application. “People were very welcoming of the idea of an Uber-style pickup truck,” said Harish. “NYIT provided us with a platform to learn and develop our ideas. ... The ETIC is a great development space for any startup project.”

The Kidney Gets in the Game

“Superstars.” That's what Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences Aleksandr Vasilyev calls NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) students Ivan Bandovic and Dylan Carmichael. Together, the trio recently developed Nephro360, a teaching tool that uses virtual reality (VR) and gaming technologies to help students study the kidney.

The software is the brainchild of Vasilyev, who had been working on the idea as a way to teach students about the inner workings of the kidneys as well as a way for educators to track the progress of their students. Bandovic and Carmichael, who are both in the Medicine Scholars program at NYITCOM, came on board in January.

“Nephrology, and in particular the physiology [of the kidneys], is a very difficult field to understand,” said Bandovic. “Our theory is that

learning nephrology in a completely immersive universe will help [the student] conceptualize and memorize more efficiently.”

With Nephro360, students who have a hard time visualizing kidney function or what happens to the organ when a drug is introduced will see it all unfold before their eyes. “This [VR] software will give them the opportunity to see these processes all around them,” said Carmichael. “[Students] can even make them happen themselves. This is another reason why this software is unique. It gives the student the power to control these processes.” ■



bit.ly/nephro360
bit.ly/crater-app

(Left) Pictured from left: Michael Nizich, Salman Javid Malik, and Vignesh Harish at the New York Business Plan Competition in Albany.

(Right) Dylan Carmichael demonstrates Nephro360. Wearing a VR visor, users interact with processes and functions of the kidney (see image above center).

Move Over Dinos, Mammals Are Trending

Eutriconodonts Is a Do

Place: The land now known as China.
Time: The Mesozoic—approximately 260 to 65 million years ago.

A DINOSAUR DANCES out from beneath the foliage, its birdlike head taking in its surroundings. It takes another step. Then, out of nowhere, jaws close over its skull, crushing it. Is the carnivore in question a terrifying predator, like velociraptor? Nope, it's eutriconodonts—the largest Mesozoic mammal known to date (about the size of a medium-to-large dog). NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine Assistant Professor Simone Hoffmann, Ph.D., got to see the fossilized remains of eutriconodonts (and the dinosaur it devoured) up close in a new exhibit of recently discovered fossils at the Beijing Natural History Museum.

Hoffmann was one of only 10 international researchers who specialize in early mammal evolution invited to a private viewing of the fossils at the International Symposium on Mesozoic Mammal Evolution in June. "Fossils from China have turned our views of early mammals upside down," said Hoffmann. "Before the Chinese discoveries, we knew very little about mammals that lived during the time of dinosaurs. ... While teeth can tell us about what these animals ate, they leave many questions about the ecology and behavior of these mammals unanswered. Within the last 20 years, an incredible number of complete skeletons have been discovered in China. About 50 fossils were showcased in Beijing, and that is really only the tip of the iceberg." Hoffmann is currently working on several research projects related to early mammals—including describing a complete skeleton of a Cretaceous mammal found in Madagascar.



Assistant Professor Simone Hoffmann studies one of the fossils on display at the Beijing Natural History Museum.

Photo courtesy of Simone Hoffmann



bit.ly/simone-hoffmann

Perplexing Paleoparadoxia

NETFLIX HAS TAUGHT US that mysteries are meant to be solved—usually one hour at a time—but this cold case spans millennia. Thanks to some expert sleuthing, a team of researchers that included Brian Beatty, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, recently found that a fossil femur believed to belong to a dinosaur was actually that of a mammal—Paleoparadoxia. The large, semiaquatic mammal, which resembled a hippopotamus, lived on the coast of the North Pacific millions of years ago. Fossils of the creature have been found in Japan, Russia, and along the Pacific coast of North America. The femur was recently rediscovered in the geological collection room at the University of Tsukuba in Japan and was properly identified by a team of scientists that included Beatty. Their findings were published in *The Royal Society Open Science* journal. While the discovery of the misclassification caused a buzz, Beatty is primarily interested in how the specimen will help the researchers from a comparative anatomy perspective. "The analysis identifying the features of the limb bones that are distinct to this species in comparison to other related animals is the primary benefit," he explained. "[The femur] is often preserved because of its durability. This isn't as exciting to most people as the description of a new species or some detailed study of the inside of some unusual animal's skull, but this is an example of the kind of careful work that is much needed in our field. This is science, and science is about carefully interpreting reality." ■



bit.ly/brian-beatty

Pictured: An artist's rendering of a Paleoparadoxia.

Photo courtesy of *The Royal Society Open Science* journal.



Entrepreneurs Join NYIT Board of Trustees

Two executives with proven track records in organizational leadership, financial services management, technology, and business innovation are the newest members of the NYIT Board of Trustees.



CATHERINE A. ALLEN

Chairman and CEO of The Santa Fe Group, a strategic consulting company specializing in cybersecurity, risk management, and emerging technologies.

For more than 30 years, Catherine Allen has guided organizations in technology strategy and financial services as a thought leader in business innovation and cybersecurity. In addition to leading The Santa Fe Group, she serves as a board member of Synovus Financial Corporation, El Paso Electric Company, and Analytics Pros and is a member of many nonprofit boards in New Mexico. In 2007, *US Banker Magazine* recognized Allen with a lifetime achievement award for her outstanding contributions to financial services and technology.

“We are delighted to have Catherine join NYIT’s Board of Trustees,” said NYIT President Hank Foley, Ph.D. “A distinguished technology and business leader, she is also a strong supporter of artistic, cultural, and educational organizations. Her remarkable expertise and experience will further shape NYIT’s role as a leader in technology-based education and reinforce that we are the school for makers, doers, innovators, and inventors.”

“We are a country made great by its diversity and hunger to have a better life. Education is one of the most important levers to do that,” said Allen. “I am thrilled to work with President Hank Foley again and to help create more opportunities for students and faculty as we grow this institution to serve the community and nation.”

Allen holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, as well as an honorary doctorate, a master’s degree from the University of Maryland, and an ABD from the George Washington University.

HENRY IERVOLINO, J.D. (B.S. '82)

President and CEO of Triton Capital Management, LLC, an investment management firm he founded.

For more than a decade, Henry Iervolino has led Triton Capital Management, which specializes in providing investment advisory services for institutional and high net worth clients. Prior to founding the company in 2005, he was a senior vice president at Scudder Asset Management. He has also held positions with Merrill Lynch & Co., Dreyfus Asset Management Co., Citigroup, and Kidder, Peabody & Company.

“NYIT has played a major role in shaping the course of my life,” said Iervolino. “The education I received there as well as the lifelong mentoring from [baseball] coach Bob Hirschfield has prepared me to face and conquer all the challenges life has thrown my way.”

After graduating from NYIT, where he served as captain of the men’s varsity baseball team, Iervolino played professional baseball for two years. He was a member of the inaugural class of the NYIT Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999 and regularly returns to campus to mentor current student-athletes. In addition to his bachelor’s degree in finance from NYIT, he earned a J.D. from St. John’s University School of Law.

“[Iervolino is] a highly successful alum of NYIT and its baseball program; I cannot think of someone more befitting of being a trustee,” said Dan Vélez, director of athletics and recreation. “His insight into the student experience, as well as how that influenced him in life, presents a perfect opportunity. ... Henry truly bleeds blue and gold, and having him in this role will be beneficial to everyone at this institution.” ■

Heading Off Concussions for Jockeys

PICTURE racing through a herd of horses at 40 miles per hour, clinging to the back of a 1,000-pound thoroughbred with only a two-pound helmet to protect you. While this danger comes with the territory of being a professional jockey, NYIT concussion experts say more must be done to protect these athletes from head injuries.

“Jockeys have to beat the odds to win the Triple Crown, but unfortunately concussions are commonplace,” said **Hallie Zwibel (D.O. '11)**, director of NYIT Center for Sports Medicine.

A recent study by the *Journal of Athletic Training* shows that more than 25 percent of horse racing injuries result in trauma to the head and neck. Yet, riders may not be aware that their fall has resulted in a concussion since symptoms such as memory loss, headaches, confusion, and dizziness are often short-lived.

This lack of awareness led the Center for Sports Medicine to team up with the Jockeys' Guild, an advocacy organization that assists permanently disabled jockeys. Unlike other professional sports, such as the NFL, U.S. horse racing lacks national concussion protocols. The organization plans to fill this gap by developing “return to ride” rules that will provide instruction on when injured jockeys can safely return to racing.

A protocol is only one half of the equation—prevention and protective gear are also key. Ahead of the Belmont Stakes on June 9, Milan Toma, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering at NYIT College of Engineering and Computing Sciences, was awarded \$15,000 from the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (NYTHA) to help fund a study on jockey helmet safety and concussion.

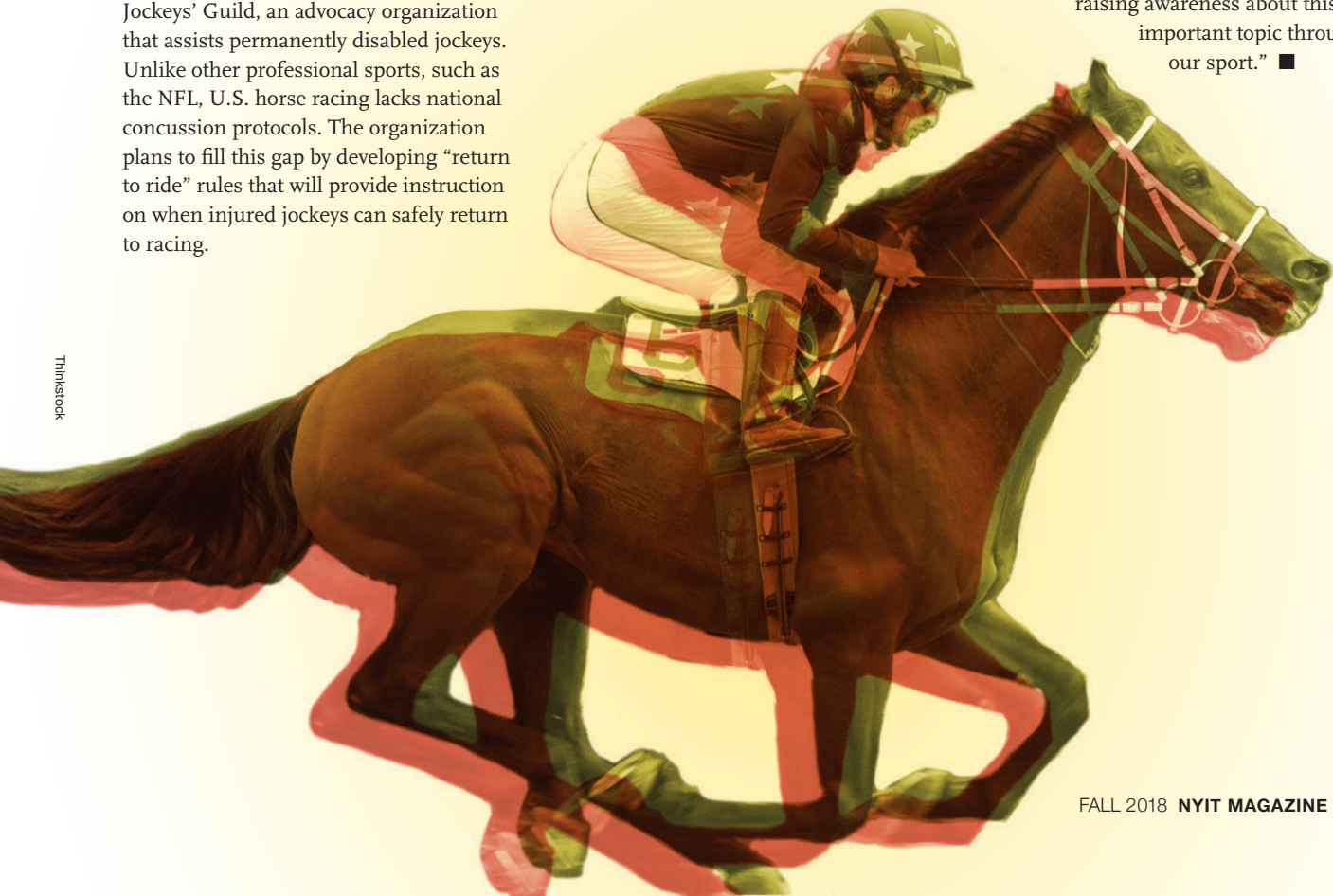
The forthcoming study, “The Computational Assessment of Helmets and Concussion,” will collect data on jockey head protection through simulation testing of various helmet designs. This data will be shared with other researchers studying head trauma in professional sports, with the goal of determining the best head protection under various racing conditions.

“While much of the discussion regarding helmet safety has been focused on other sports, such as football, I am

happy to lend my expertise to help deliver much-needed awareness to horse racing,” said Toma.

Both experts cite former pro jockey Ramon Dominguez as a source of inspiration for their work. Dominguez, who has appeared as a panelist at the annual Head Injury Awareness Sports Forum and has advocated for Toma's work, was forced to retire in 2013 after being thrown from his horse at Aqueduct Racetrack when his steed scraped heels with another horse. After falling, Dominguez was further injured when he was kicked by a trailing horse. The result was weeks of hospitalization and rehabilitation.

“As an athlete who experienced firsthand a career-ending traumatic brain injury, I understand the importance of brain/skull protection,” said Dominguez. “I'm excited to have the support of the NYIT team while working on helmet safety for my fellow riders and simultaneously raising awareness about this important topic throughout our sport.” ■



Thinkstock

Baseball Hits Home Run

Frank Catalanotto spent 14 years as a major leaguer, including with the Mets, before deciding to coach.

NEW NYIT BASEBALL COACH Frank Catalanotto wants to make playing fun, but make no mistake about it: he also wants to win. “I took this job because I’m competitive,” he says. Catalanotto also wants his players to recognize the rich history of NYIT baseball and reach for success. “I want to win championships, and I think that’s very doable.”

This year’s players can look to their new coach for inspiration when they hit the field. A 14-year veteran of the major leagues, Catalanotto was also a standout baseball player at Smithtown East High School on Long Island. He was drafted as a second baseman, but during his turns with the Tigers, Rangers, Blue Jays, Brewers, and Mets, Catalanotto became a reliable utility player. “I went with whatever position could give me more playing time,” he says. “I eventually settled in left field.” He left the game with a .291 career average and a .357 career on-base percentage.

Coaching offers came in after Catalanotto retired from Major League Baseball (MLB) in 2010. In addition

to coaching Italy in the World Baseball Classic in 2013, he served as the lead hitting instructor at Baseball Heaven in Yaphank and assists youth baseball camps in Toronto, Germany, Italy, and Spain. A full-time coaching gig, however, did not appeal to Catalanotto if it meant long stretches away from home. “I have four girls, and I wanted to watch them grow up,” he says.

The Catalanottos settled in Long Island. Then this past spring, the Bears came calling. “I did my research, and I realized a lot of the games would be local. I could sleep in my own bed and still be able to coach. I decided this could be a really good opportunity,” he says.

Catalanotto appreciates the rich history of the program, which produced

Catalanotto has amassed a coaching staff with a combined 40 years of professional baseball experience.

players like former major league pitcher Allen Watson and current Chicago White Sox pitching coach Don Cooper. He also recognizes the importance of baseball for NYIT fans. “I run into people all the time who say, ‘We’re happy to have you here to turn the program around,’” he says.

To accomplish that task, he’s amassed a coaching staff with a combined 40 years

(Above) Coach Frank Catalanotto at NYIT. In addition to coaching, he runs the Frank Catalanotto Foundation, an organization dedicated to raising awareness and aiding with early intervention of vascular birthmarks, a type of anomaly of the skin that, if left untreated, can spread rapidly.

(Facing) Catalanotto during his time as a New York Met.

(Facing, right) A student-athlete competing in the long jump in the 1970s.



of professional baseball experience. “I’m going to lean heavily on my staff,” Catalanotto says. “I’ve surrounded myself with really great guys.” On the team are new pitching coach Chris Rojas; **Jimmy Goelz (B.S. ’98)**, who was hired to oversee position players; and **Ray Giannelli (B.S. ’96)**, who is volunteering as a coach. All three played baseball at NYIT before starting their professional careers. Longtime coach Frank Battaglia also continues to work with the team.

Catalanotto looks forward to a re-energized Bears team next spring and an engaged alumni fan base. “I want them to get involved,” he says of former NYIT baseball student-athletes. “We’d like to have volunteer coaches help current players. We’ll try to have an alumni baseball game and other events. We want them to be proud of the program.” ■



Read more: bit.ly/baseballcoach

Track Is Back!



NYIT’S TRACK PROGRAM, which sent sprinters to five Olympic Games in its heyday, is returning after a 14-year absence. Men’s and women’s track will relaunch and compete in mid- and long-distance events beginning with the 2018–2019 indoor season. Sprint and field events will be phased in over ensuing years as the roster grows and planned enhancements are made to NYIT facilities.

“Our goal is to compete at the highest levels in the East Coast Conference and nationally,” said Dan Vélez, director of athletics and recreation. “We recognize the importance of indoor and outdoor track to NYIT and its alumni. The history of track at NYIT is storied and the future is bright.”

Before being discontinued in 2004, NYIT track produced Olympians Anthony Davis, who competed in the 1980 Olympics; **Howard Burnett (B.S. ’91, M.S. ’94, M.S. ’02)**, who was part of the U.S. team in 1988; **Evan Clarke (B.S. ’96, M.S. ’99)**, who competed in 1992; and Patrick Jarrett, who was part of the team in 2000 and 2004. The program also garnered 27 Division II national champions and more than 300 All-Americans in indoor and outdoor track over three decades.

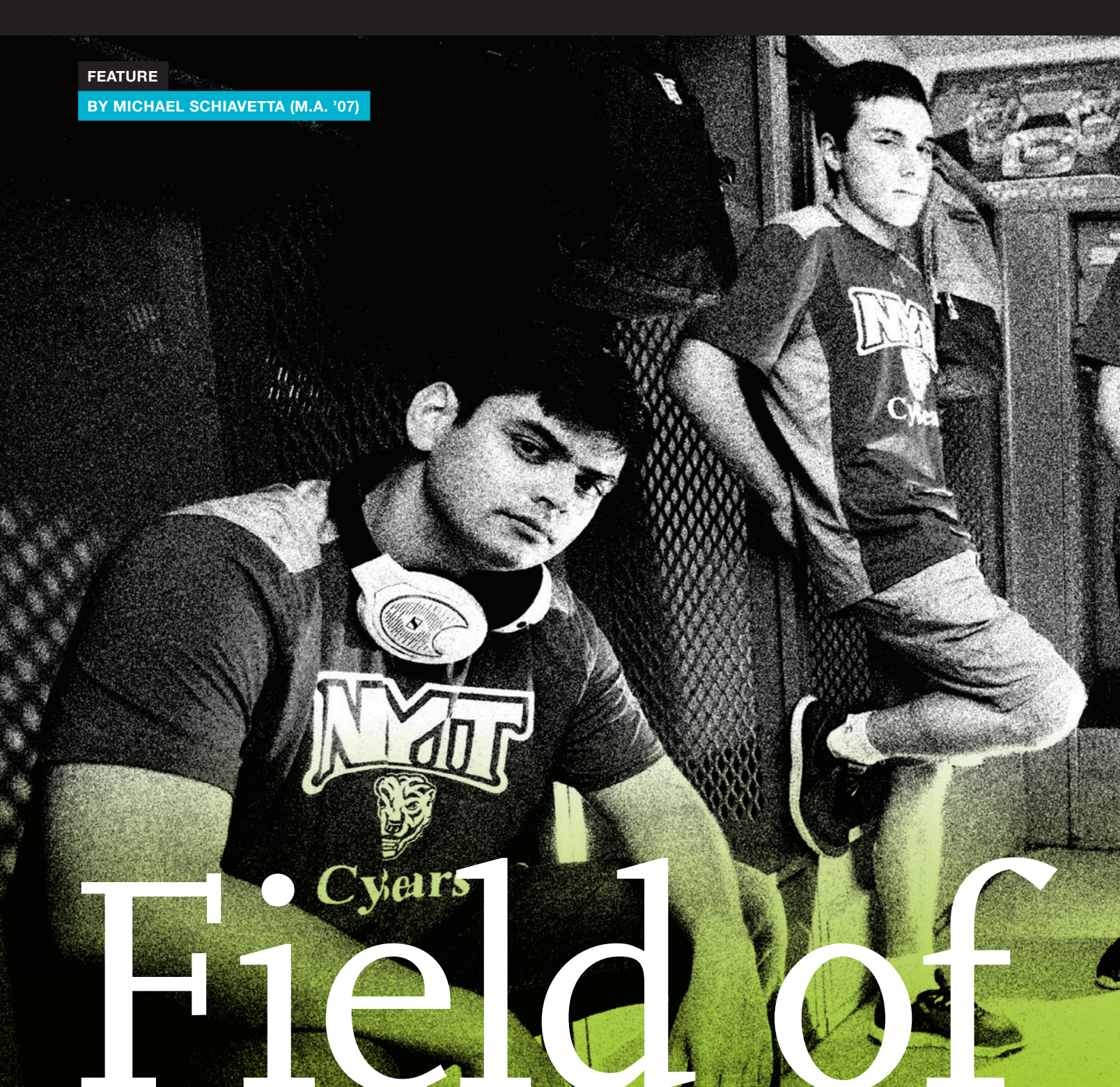
NYIT track will compete in the East Coast Conference (ECC) indoor and outdoor championships in 2018–2019. With the additions of men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track, NYIT’s varsity sports offerings jump from 13 to 17. ■

Sports Brief

MEN’S BASKETBALL HEADS TO HOLLYWOOD

The Bears will open their 2018–2019 season with an exhibition game against UCLA at the 13,800-seat Pauley Pavilion on October 27 at 10 p.m. EST. The game will be televised on the Pac-12 Networks. NYIT will also sponsor a pregame reception for alumni, family, and other supporters near UCLA in Los Angeles.

Learn more: bit.ly/BearsUCLA



Members of the CyBears, from left to right: Daniel Singh, Ryan Harran, Kenneth Ng, Alexander Gusmano, Elieser Duran, and Valiant Abello.

NYIT delivers a combo of eSports activities to expand into new areas of research, athletics, and academics.



Screens

Barry Sloan

IN THEIR FINAL SET, before 20,000 breathless fans, the Spitfires attack with a combo of DPS frenzy, solid tank play, and teamwork on King's Row (naturally, with a few well-placed ults). The crowd roars, and the Spitfires seal their place as champions.

If the preceding sentence made little sense, you're not alone. But to the Barclays Center sellout crowd at the Overwatch League (OWL) Grand Finals on July 28, 2018, it was like hearing a baseball announcer say: "The Yanks clinched another World Series win with great fielding and clutch hitting in the ninth."

(For more eSports jargon, see our handy glossary on p. 17.)

Welcome to eSports, a skyrocketing industry and a new frontier on the collegiate athletics scene, where NYIT is poised to become a major player. In addition to its first-ever eSports team (the CyBears), the university has launched a Center for eSports Medicine to understand the injuries and physical fitness of cyber-athletes, a customized bachelor's degree program tailored for students interested in emerging video game careers, and a new on-campus arena for competitive online gaming.



(Left) The 2018 Overwatch Grand Finals at Barclays Center in New York City.

(Right) CyBear Valiant Abello, a fighting game player, plays *Tekken 7*. The CyBears compete in the East Coast Conference for *League of Legends* and also play games such as *Hearthstone* and *Overwatch*.

(Far right) Elieser Duran, a graphic designer, created the CyBears' logo. The teeth resemble electrical resistors.

Photos: Barry Sloan, Patrick Dodson (Overwatch Grand Finals)

ESports has experienced a tremendous rise in popularity, with professional leagues and teams sprouting up in cities worldwide. In 2015, *ESPN The Magazine* reported that the 2014 League of Legends championship attracted 27 million viewers, exceeding those of the NBA Finals (15.5 million), World Series (13.8 million), and the Stanley Cup finals (5 million). This year, eSports viewership is expected to reach 380 million (according to market intelligence firm Newzoo), and by 2020, this segment of the video game industry is expected to generate \$1.4 billion in advertising, sponsorships, tickets, merchandising, and media rights. In many countries, eSports athletes are worshiped like rock stars and well-compensated. At the Overwatch Grand Finals, the London Spitfire and the Philadelphia Fusion competed for a \$1.4 million prize pool.

"The world of eSports is such a phenomenon," says Dan Vélez, director of athletics and recreation. "It's become more legitimized now that major TV networks like ABC and ESPN are televising matches." Many eSports fans also watch through Twitch, an online streaming platform with 15 million active daily users, which was sold to Amazon in 2014 for \$970 million.

John Rendemonti and Seth Mattox, co-founders of OPSEAT, which manufactures gaming chairs, desks, and more (and is working with NYIT to research eSports player fitness), credit much of eSports' popularity to platforms like Twitch as well as increased access to online games.

"It's easier than ever to get into eSports," says Rendemonti. "All you need is an internet connection capable of connecting at a speed to be able to compete. Just like chess, now everyone can play *Fortnite*."

Higher education has also taken notice: More than 50 collegiate eSports teams have launched in the United States, according to the National Association of Collegiate Esports. In 2012, Blizzard Entertainment, publisher of three of the biggest eSports titles—*Overwatch*, *Starcraft 2*, and *Hearthstone*—founded an organization called Tespa to operate collegiate eSports leagues. They began reaching out to college online gaming clubs to include them in tournaments that would be broadcast worldwide.

One group happened to be located in Old Westbury, N.Y.

Ready Player CyBear

"We'd had some conversations internally within the athletics department about eSports," recalls Vélez. "We were starting to see the traction of eSports across the country as it became more competitive and more popular."

At the same time, a group of NYIT students in the Game Club at the Long Island (Old Westbury, N.Y.) campus decided they wanted to focus more on online gaming. "Many of us were already bringing our laptops to Salten Hall to play

during off-hours," says **Elieser Duran (B.F.A. '17)**, one of the group's founders. "So there was already a gaming culture at NYIT. After a year, we said, 'Why don't we start a team?'"

They approached former Athletic Director Duane Bailey and discovered he was already looking into an NYIT eSports team. In January 2017, the CyBears officially launched with eight players ("a ragtag group of whoever we could find," notes Duran) and, through Tespa, began competing against other colleges.

"I do consider eSports a sport because there is a lot of mental energy required," says Vélez, who is working with Twitch and PC gaming manufacturer Alienware (which is supplying the CyBears' gaming rigs) on co-branding opportunities. "You have to learn to adapt to situations and possess a specialized skill set. The eye-hand coordination of an eSports athlete is through the roof."

Today, the team includes more than 30 players from NYIT's Long Island and New York City campuses, with its main games being *Overwatch*, *Hearthstone*, and *League of Legends*. This fall, the CyBears are competing in the East Coast Conference's (ECC) inaugural eSports season against other colleges that include LIU Post and Mercy College.

Like their traditional sports brethren, the CyBears share a camaraderie on and off the field of play. "Everything is better



with friends,” says computer science major Alexander Gusmano. Being a CyBear, he adds, “fulfills a social interaction I was looking for” at NYIT. As a transfer student new to NYIT, architecture student Ezekiel Cambara appreciated “being able to jump right in and be included in a group doing what we love.”

Like traditional student-athletes, the CyBears not only compete against other colleges but also work to improve by scrimmaging against each other. Duran volunteers as the CyBears coordinator (he also manages the team’s Twitter: @NYIT_eSports), and like any good coach, he runs team tryouts and reviews gameplay footage on Twitch and YouTube to study other teams and look for weaknesses. The overall commitment to their game makes eSports athletes similar to their traditional counterparts where focus, discipline, time management, and dedication are paramount.

To welcome the CyBears to their ECC eSports debut, NYIT is building a new facility for them to practice and compete on the Long Island campus. The Wisser Arena will sport 12 fully loaded PC gaming stations in a 300-square-foot space, as well as several large TV screens for spectators to watch the action and a setup to broadcast games remotely. “We wanted a gathering space where people can watch eSports events,” says **Greg Loeven (B.T. ’07)**, project manager of

the Wisser Arena. “Here, we can host our own tournaments and play championship matches on our own stage. ESports is going to be big at NYIT, and we’re happy to be on the ground floor of it.”

Extra Life Granted

Cyberathletes often play several hours a day using more than 400 body movements per minute with a mouse or keyboard. Although they are less likely to twist an ankle or pull a hamstring than traditional student-athletes, they are still susceptible to injuries. Eye, wrist, and back strain, as well as carpal tunnel syndrome, are among the more common ailments suffered by online gamers.

To better understand and treat these medical conditions, NYIT launched the Center for eSports Medicine. One of the first institutes of its kind, researchers will investigate how gamers can minimize ailments and maintain healthy lifestyles.

“We had the quick realization that what eSports players are doing will give them injuries,” says Jerry Balentine, D.O., dean of NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) and vice president for health sciences and medical affairs. “Because most are young, they won’t realize many of the injuries that may come to pass until a later age. We want to help them stay healthy.”

NYITCOM Assistant Professor **Hallie Zwibel (D.O. ’11)**, who serves as

the team physician for all NYIT athletic teams and is director of the Center for Sports Medicine, notes that working with the CyBears is an opportunity for NYIT to take a leading role in an under-researched area. “There is nothing in the field in terms of the health care needs, problems, and best practices as it relates to what eSports players need,” he says.

“We have an opportunity and responsibility to do this work,” adds NYITCOM Assistant Professor Joanne Donoghue, Ph.D., who was also trained in traditional sports medicine and co-wrote a paper with Balentine for the American College of Sports Medicine that examines the integration of eSports and health professions. (Read the article: bit.ly/collegiate-esport.) “It’s really exciting that we’re at the forefront of this unknown area of medicine.”

There is also research to support that eSports provides some cognitive benefits. In 2014, the American Psychological Association published a review that demonstrated how online gaming (yes, even violent shooting games) may “strengthen a range of cognitive skills such as spatial navigation, reasoning, memory, and perception.” Other studies concluded that video games helped promote problem-solving skills, boosted positive feelings among young people, and helped them recover from failure.

Right now, however, health professionals have little understanding about the nutritional requirements and fitness needs of the typical eSports athlete—and that means there’s an opportunity to get ahead of the pack.

At the Center for eSports Medicine, Zwibel and his colleagues examine how

The Center for eSports Medicine's integrated eHealth team includes primary care and osteopathic manipulative medicine physicians as well as occupational and physical therapists. ESports athletes and other gamers can receive posture assessments to reduce neck, back, and wrist pain; proper body alignment to reduce eye strain; and individualized fitness programs using body composition and nutritional plans.

eSports athletes can improve their game beyond simply gaming. "ESports players rely on gameplay practice as their only form of training, which is the opposite of traditional athletes," says Zwibel. "For example, soccer players don't just practice on the field, they also lift weights and perform other exercises. ... One of the things we're looking at is overtraining. For example, at what point does [playing games] become counterproductive, with many eSports athletes gaming up to eight hours a day?"

A collaboration with the University of California to study melatonin levels in collegiate eSports players may lend new insights into players' productivity. "Melatonin is an important biomarker that affects sleep patterns and can be disrupted by too much exposure to blue lights on computer screens," says Donoghue. "We found abnormal patterns in our eSports athletes."

NYITCOM researchers have also monitored the CyBears' physical activities by providing Fitbits. One of the things Donoghue discovered was that the CyBears were only taking about 4,000 steps per day—half the recommended amount. With data like this, Donoghue and the team can better help the players hone their physical activity levels, even if they think their *Overwatch* fighting skills are at peak performance.

"They know what to do to be good at the game," she says. "I know what they need to do to be healthy."

Well Seated

One unique aspect of the Center for eSports Medicine's research is its partnership with gaming chair manufacturers OPSEAT and Vertagear. "NYIT is the only one that has approached us to discuss the ergonomics of eSports," says OPSEAT co-founder Rendemonti. "To have a medical institution back it up, it doesn't get much better than that."

"With gaming chairs, we're looking at an eSport athlete's posture," says Donoghue. "We want to study the impact on those postural movements using NYIT's broad expertise in osteopathic medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, and other health care specialties."

When CyBear and biology student Daniel Singh participated in one chair

study, NYITCOM researchers assessed his range of body motion and neck movements while he sat in the chair and played games.

Ultimately, NYIT plans to supply OPSEAT and Vertagear with research that will help inform future designs and provide enhanced ergonomic support. In the meantime, both companies are co-sponsors of the CyBears and are donating equipment for the team's new arena.

Gaming a Career

Athletes in every sport face a limited career life span, but for gamers, retirement typically hits by the mid-20s. Even top-earning players, such as NYIT's own Dominique "SonicFox" McLean, who is listed in *Guinness World Records 2018 Gamer's Edition* as the highest-earning fighting video games player, need to plan for a "second" career. But that doesn't mean they need to look outside their industry.

Revenues from worldwide video game sales—which includes eSports titles; Nintendo, Xbox, PlayStation, and PC games; and mobile apps—continue to score big for investors. Newzoo's *Global Games Market Report* estimates that video game fans will spend up to \$138 billion on games in 2018 alone. (By comparison, the global box office revenue for 2017 totaled \$40.6 billion.)

CyBear Ryan Harran at team practice.



IS DPS FRENZY LIKE PAC-MAN FEVER? AN ESPORTS GLOSSARY

Competitive eSports gamers speak their own jargon that may seem like gibberish to the unfamiliar. Here's a quick primer on common gamer slang:

BOSS: An AI-controlled opponent that is more difficult to fight than other enemies.

COMBO: A series of attack moves in rapid succession.

DPS: "Damage per second." A common video game statistic that represents the offensive power of a character or weapon.

DLC: "Downloadable content," which refers to additional game content (maps, characters, weapons, etc.) that can be downloaded for a game.

NERF: To diminish the power of a character or weapon. Designers of eSports titles often "nerf" their games to tweak balance and promote fair gameplay.

NPC: "Non-player character," which is controlled by the game's AI (as opposed to human player characters or "PCs").

OP: "Overpowered," or game effects that are too powerful. OP elements in a game are often "nerfed" by the game's designers.

PVP: "Player vs. player," or gameplay in which two human players compete against each other (as opposed to "PvE," or "player vs. environment," in which a player competes against the game's AI-controlled NPCs).

TANK: A type of character adept at absorbing damage from the enemy to protect teammates.

ULT: A character's "ultimate" move that unleashes an overwhelming offensive or defensive ability that greatly benefits their team.

To help students prepare for careers in the booming eSports industry, NYIT School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Education offers interdisciplinary studies majors a personalized academic learning map called "Game Design and Visualization" to guide them. Students can choose from concentrations including: digital arts, computer science, and management.

"You can begin the interdisciplinary studies bachelor's degree and start with

those three concentrations but later pick the industry sectors where you would like to work," says Christian Pongratz, M.Arch., interim dean of NYIT School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Education. Other concentrations planned include health professions, communication arts, and technical writing. "There are a wide range of skills that can be used in eSports development," adds Pongratz. He also plans to integrate augmented, virtual, and mixed reality technology into the curricu-

lum. "This is an emerging market, and we want creative NYIT students to really spearhead game design in this part of the industry," says Pongratz.

Developing and marketing games are just some of the ways gaming enthusiasts can turn their

So, what makes a good gaming chair?

According to OPSEAT co-founders Rendemonti and Mattox, it's ergonomic design, customization for a variety of body sizes, and an affordable price. (OPSEAT chairs are priced between \$200 to \$250.)



CyBear and architecture student Valiant Abello shows off a new controller in the NYIT fitness center.



passion into their career. "Gaming nutritionist," "eSports agent," and even "Overwatch Grand Finals halftime performer" are on the table as potential careers. With a little ingenuity, networking, and the right skill sets, anyone can find a niche in this evolving field.

Perhaps the biggest question, however, is what do parents think about all this? After all, the Gen Xers who were grounded for playing *Super Mario Bros.* on the original Nintendo while they should have been studying for SATs may not be convinced that eSports as a career "is a thing."

"At first they were a little 'eh,'" remarked CyBear Cambara in a Facebook live conversation with News 12 Long Island in August. "But now they see how big it's gotten—we're getting an arena, we're going to these events—and they've grown accustomed to it."

Added teammate Singh: "I've had no complaints." ■



Watch the CyBears on News 12: bit.ly/cybeards-news12.

FEATURE

BY JULIE GODSOE

What does it take to achieve one's goals? Take a closer look at where NYIT alumni go when they graduate and meet some of the students and recent graduates who are breaking ground on their dream careers.

A Picture of the Future

(This page) A graduate at NYIT's 57th Commencement.

(Facing) Computer science major Constanza Cabrera and master's candidates Nicholas Cariello (B.S. '18), computer science, and Vignesh Harish, information, network, and computer security, spent their summer interning at IBM.

Outcomes:

Hacking Career Success

THIS SUMMER, nearly 400 interns came together to compete in the IBM Hackathon, a three-day event held at IBM's campuses across North America. Teams fought their way through four categories—Cognitive/Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity, BYOT (bring your own technology), and Blockchain—and attempted to prove themselves to the company that has become known for its innovative practices and cutting-edge research and development. Two of the winners in the Cybersecurity category—Vignesh Harish and Constanza Cabrera—hailed from NYIT. Though they weren't allowed to disclose specifics, Harish did offer the following: "The squad put in an insane amount of effort and worked continuously for 60-plus hours. The majority of us slept between zero and five hours during the entirety of the competition!"

Landing a coveted internship at a high-profile company is often the first step on a student's career path—and one that will help him or her decide if their passion is actually a good fit. Other "career initiations" can be as simple as a visit to a company's headquarters or encouragement from a mentor to doing something more intense, such as assisting with an NSF-funded research project or even building a company from scratch. Take Roomi founder Ajay Yadav. The former NYIT student started his roommate finding app in 2013. Since then, he's raised \$17 million and has a customer base of 2.4 million users. (Read an interview with Yadav: bit.ly/yadav-bloomberg.)

Helping students achieve these goals are a team of faculty members, advisors, and staff. "We encourage students to visit us from day one," says John Hyde, executive director of Career Services. "By participating in career development exploration

and events early and often in their tenure at the university, students are ready to work in their chosen field by the time they start interviewing. That preparation stands out to employers and recruiters who search for employees that fit the company's culture and are ready to jump in and make an impact immediately."

In June, NYIT welcomed Junius J. Gonzales, M.D., M.B.A., as provost and vice president for academic affairs. In addition to re-energizing the teaching and scholarship at NYIT, he is, with the encouragement of President Hank Foley, launching a new task force on student success. "This is a priority that is near and dear to my heart," says Gonzales, who led multi-faceted student success initiatives when he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas at El Paso and as senior vice president for the University of North Carolina System. "For us to truly enhance student success at NYIT, it must be a community effort. We can facilitate it by offering 21st-century programs such as our new Ph.D./D.O., M.Arch., data science, and user interface/user experience degrees. The task force will also be taking a multidimensional look at student success to see what we're doing well and what we need to improve."

Part of that effort includes helping underrepresented students get a foothold in their chosen industry. Engineering careers, for example, are still dominated by men, but that is shifting. "Women make up 50 percent of the population and should be encouraged to enter all fields," says Nada Anid, Ph.D., vice president for Strategic Communications and External Affairs and formerly dean of NYIT College of Engineering and Computing Sciences. To help inspire the next generation of women engineers, she and co-editors **Laurie Cantileno-Lillis (B.S. '85)**, Monique J. Morrow, and Rahilla Zafar published *The Internet of Women: Accelerating Culture Change*. Anid adds that "NYIT is doing its part by taking the lead in encouraging women to enter STEM careers by increasing awareness about engineering and changing the stereotypes about what engineers look like and how they speak and think."

As a first-generation American, computer science major Cabrera knows her IBM internship can have a wider effect on her community. "This has definitely impacted my interest in my field," she says. "I want to show the people of my background that it is very possible to become one of the top dogs. All it takes is a little bit of hard work and a lot of dedication. STEAM careers are sadly not always common amongst Latinx females. I want to be part of the revolution that involves other people like me in the field."

On May 22, 2018, 2,734 students graduated from NYIT's seven schools and colleges. These doers, makers, innovators, and inventors have reached a major milestone just by earning their degrees and starting on their paths to success. As for the industries they are entering—the NYIT revolution has just begun.



Watch: What's Next for the Class of 2018
bit.ly/NYIT2018.

Martin Seck, courtesy of subjects



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Outcomes:

Rising Stars

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTING SCIENCES

NICHOLAS CARIELLO
(B.S. '18 AND MASTER'S
CANDIDATE)
IBM

"I would absolutely love to pursue this career path," says Nicholas Cariello, who was one of the NYIT students who interned at IBM this summer. "Cybersecurity is such a new frontier in the world today. We are constantly under fire with new threats and risks. Working at IBM is to be at the forefront of this fight, actively working to protect IBM's sensitive data." He also immersed himself in his studies at NYIT and made a point of getting involved in activities on campus. Cariello may be gaining hands-on experience at a global company, but the graduate student is also excited to return to class. "I am looking forward to honing my skills in computer science and learning more about the fundamentals and theories that go with it," he says. bit.ly/ncariello



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

VICTORIA ROUSE (B.F.A. '18)
Walt Disney Company

Victoria Rouse knows being an interior design intern on the Imagineering team at the Walt Disney Company is a huge honor. "I love the beauty of making a dream a reality while creating memories of a lifetime," she says. Rouse focused on interior design because she felt it allowed her to be more expressive. "I love the fact that I can dive



deep into a person's personality, interests, and needs," Rouse adds. NYIT prepared her for her current position, equipping her with key skills that have served her well. "I had the opportunity to work in group projects and learn how to work with others," she says. bit.ly/vrouse

SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES & EDUCATION

ROSALBA GIARRATANO
(MASTER'S CANDIDATE)
NASA

When Rosalba Giarratano received an email from NASA Glenn Research Center saying she had been nominated for a weeklong professional development course, she thought it was a phishing attack. "[My professor] confirmed the email was legit," she says. Giarratano was accepted into the program. "We learned a lot about implementing STEM hands-on lessons using NASA resources," she says. The experience led to a semester at NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida and another semester at NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia. She later brought what she learned to a school in her New York neighborhood, and she continues to work for Langley remotely. Giarratano offers this advice: "Actively look for opportunities that interest you. Do not be afraid to take risks, talk to people, email people. ... You might as well try for the 'yes.'" bit.ly/rgiarratano



NIRMA HASTY (B.F.A. '16)
NBC

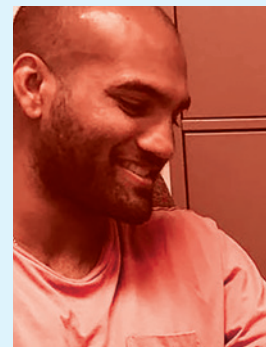
As a video journalist, Nirma Hasty understands the pressures of ensuring accuracy and meeting deadlines—and the fact that there are no breaks between long projects to catch your breath. "News can be demanding, but I feel lucky to be working in a field I love," she says. Hasty travels widely to shoot footage for NBC. "I've enjoyed a lot of my assignments," she says, "but traveling to Puerto Rico with [artist and activist] Ai Weiwei as he witnessed what had occurred on the island after Hurricane Maria and shooting a video about mothers raising their babies while in prison have been two of the most impactful stories that I've worked on this past year." (See also image, inside front cover.) Hasty credits internships with giving her the confidence to pursue her career. "Don't be afraid to reach out to successful people in your field to learn how they got where they are," Hasty advises. She also says to keep your career goals in mind: "The real world is everything you worked hard for in college. It makes all the hard work worth it." bit.ly/nirmahasty

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Photos: Rebecca Davis, Michael Prihque, Diego Rios, Martin Seck, and courtesy of the subjects.

**SANAL CHERIPURAM
(M.B.A. CANDIDATE)
U.S. Marine Corps
Reserves, President
of the Graduate
Student Association**

“The experience made me value life more,” says Sanal Cheripuram of joining the U.S. Marine Reserves. “I think I can apply the discipline, structure, and leadership skills I learned to any type of career.” He decided to pursue his M.B.A. with an eye toward working overseas in marketing. What he didn’t expect was to become involved in NYIT student life. “I was never really into student government before, but then I saw an opportunity to help international students. I thought, why not run for president of the Graduate Student Association?” Cheripuram ran—and won. He is now planning events and even a conference for grad students. And there’s more: “I was invited to join the student success task force and steering committee for the Middle States Commission of Higher Education,” he says. “The fact that I can have an impact on the future of the school is pretty cool.” bit.ly/scheripuram



**DAVID YULDA (D.O. '18)
University of Texas/
Galveston—Anesthesiology**

When David Yulda, D.O., Ph.D., had the chance to leave Siberia and move to the United States, he took it. Already a trained doctor specializing in otolaryngology, he and his wife chose to base themselves in New York City. That’s when

he discovered NYITCOM’s unique Émigré Physicians Program, which invites foreign physicians to become D.O.s in the United States. “The curriculum was completely different from what I trained for in the Soviet Union,” he says. “Still, I loved it.” The experience also gave him a chance to pursue a long-postponed dream of practicing anesthesiology. “It is a privilege for medical professionals to take care of another person,” he says. “Medicine is unique in the way it offers opportunities to work in different areas of medicine with diverse populations. Specializing in anesthesiology puts me on the cutting edge of medical knowledge, as it allows me to utilize the best treatment options in critical situations with fast results.” bit.ly/david-yulda

**BRITTANY MAY (D.O. CANDIDATE)
D.O. Advocate and Ambassador**

“I chose osteopathic medicine because of its focus on patient care,” says Brittany May, a student at NYITCOM’s Arkansas site. “I believe that it is our early exposure to this that make us patient-friendly and compassionate.” Originally from Jackson, Miss., May is a staunch advocate of her field. “In the South, there is a huge lack of education about osteopathic medicine,” she says. Last summer, May helped coordinate and plan Project H.E.A.R.T. (Health Education Advocacy Reflection and Training), which encourages students to explore health-care careers and learn about health-care needs in the Delta region and in their communities.

“I loved interacting with young students from the Arkansas area and educating them on various health professions,” she says. The experience has also opened May up to new possibilities: “Interacting with my instructors, most of whom are either doctors of osteopathic medicine or medical doctors, has introduced the idea of both practicing medicine and working in academia, which I never considered until now.” bit.ly/brittanyam



**AMANDA KAMINARIS
(B.S. '16, M.S. '18)**

**Mercy Hospital and
Good Samaritan
Hospital—Physician
Assistant, Maternal
Fetal Medicine**

Amanda Kaminaris applied for NYIT’s undergraduate advanced research program thinking it would be a good résumé builder. Instead, biomedical research became a major part of her education. Faculty members at NYITCOM even took her on as a part-time research assistant. “The research explored signaling pathways and mitochondrial dysfunction,” she says. Kaminaris was first attracted to the work because of her interest in cardiology and desire to better understand factors underlying heart disease. In 2017, Kaminaris received an award from the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to present research at the Experimental Biology 2017 Conference in Chicago. Now that she has graduated, she is working as a physician assistant at Mercy Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital, but clinical research remains a goal. “There are just so many unanswered questions,” she says. bit.ly/akaminaris

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Outcomes:

The Story in Data

SEE HOW RECENT GRADUATES ARE MAKING THEIR MARK.

Every year, NYIT asks students about their plans following graduation and their experiences at NYIT. Here is a sampling of this data from recent classes. Data is collected by the Offices of Institutional Research, Career Services, and Development and Alumni Relations. Data is also drawn from other resources, including self-reported information on LinkedIn (bit.ly/NYIT-LinkedIn).*

Are you a graduate with a new job or looking to hire NYIT graduates for your employer? Let Career Services know: cs@nyit.edu

*Unless noted, stats shown are from the 2016–2017 Graduate Student Survey conducted by the NYIT Office of Institutional Research (nyit.edu/planning/surveys), the 2017 and 2018 commencement ticketing surveys conducted by the Office of Career Services, and/or 2017 and 2018 self-reported alumni data collected by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

EMPLOYMENT

95.6% of NYIT graduates entering the job market are employed within a year of graduation—with some pursuing an additional degree or course of study.

Members of the Class of 2017 who attended the New York campuses also reported the following:

OVERALL, SATISFIED WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE AT NYIT:

86%

PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNSHIP OR OTHER EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY WHILE AT NYIT:

52%

AGREE THAT THEIR MAJOR COURSEWORK AT NYIT RELATES TO THEIR CURRENT FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT:

89%

PLAN TO PURSUE GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL:

40%

CAREER SERVICES

58% of the Class of 2018 utilized the Office of Career Services to help them find a job.

93% of those students were satisfied with the results.

TOP GRAD SCHOOL CHOICES (CLASSES OF 2017 & 2018)

1. NYIT (Including NYITCOM)
2. New York University (NYU)
3. Columbia University
4. Stony Brook University (SUNY)
5. Adelphi University
6. Pratt Institute
7. Northeastern University
8. Syracuse University
9. St. John's University
10. Long Island University

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME

Percent of Class of 2017 earning

\$60,001+



44%

HIGH MOBILITY

NYIT is ranked **#7** for the highest student mobility rates among four-year private, nonprofit institutions. **37%** of students who come from families with household incomes in the **bottom 20%** jumped to the **top 20%** of earners.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac 2018

TOP EMPLOYERS



ALL GRADUATES

- Apple
- AT&T
- Citi
- General Motors
- IBM
- JPMorgan Chase & Co.
- Morgan Stanley
- Microsoft
- Northwell Health

CLASSES OF 2017 & 2018

- Apple
- Con Edison
- H2M Architects + Engineers
- Lenox Hill Hospital
- Northwell Health
- National Bank of Abu Dhabi
- New York-Presbyterian Hospital
- NYC Department of Education
- NYU Winthrop and Langone Hospitals

Source: LinkedIn as of August 2018

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



AREAS WHERE ALUMNI LIVE/WORK

- Greater New York City (New York City, Long Island, Northern New Jersey, Western Connecticut)
- California (Los Angeles)
- Texas (Houston, Dallas)
- Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
- Massachusetts (Boston area)
- United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi)
- British Columbia, Canada (Vancouver area)
- China (Nanjing)

Source: Alumni Relations data from Classes of 2015–2018

RECENT GRADS: SAMPLE EMPLOYERS/TITLES BY SCHOOL (CLASSES OF 2017 & 2018)



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

- H2M Architects + Engineers | *Staff Architect*
- Richard Meier & Partners Architects | *Entry Level Designer*
- Disney | *Architecture Intern*
- KPF | *Architectural Designer*



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

- SinoVision | *Director Assistant*
- United Nations | *Public Information Intern*
- Viacom | *Project Management Intern*
- NBCUniversal | *Global Media Prep Technician*



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTING SCIENCES

- Amazon | *Software Developer*
- Apple | *Developer*
- Con Edison | *Engineering Supervisor*
- Google | *Developer*



SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Mount Sinai Hospital | *Nurse Assistant*
- Northwell Health | *Physical Therapist*
- New York-Presbyterian Hospital | *Physician Assistant*
- New York Therapy Placement Services | *Occupational Therapist*



SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES & EDUCATION

- NYC Department of Education | *Pre-K Teacher*
- Yeshiva University | *Senior Instructional Technologist*
- Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf | *Technology Teacher/Coordinator*
- The International School of Myanmar | *Middle School Counselor*



SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

- Bank of America Merrill Lynch | *Analyst*
- Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. | *Vice President*
- JetBlue | *Talent Acquisition*
- Microsoft | *Strategic Account Manager*



COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (RESIDENCY AND INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS)

- NYU Langone Hospital | *Family Medicine*
- Duke University Medical Center | *Anesthesiology*
- Penn State Hershey Medical Center | *Emergency Medicine*
- Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine—Beth Israel | *Internal Medicine*

NYIT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

This spring, alumni will gather to build a stronger network of Bears. NYIT in Your Neighborhood events are for all class years and a great way to participate in the NYIT community. NYIT President Hank Foley, Ph.D., will be joining us on the road to share his vision and updates on the campus master plan.

Save the date and learn more at nyit.edu/alumni/events.

January 2019: Phoenix, Ariz.; Washington, D.C.; Stamford, Conn.

February 2019: Naples, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and Tampa, Fla.

March 2019: Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; Northern New Jersey

April 2019: Hartford, Conn.; Boston, Mass.; Southern New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pa.

June 2019: Las Vegas, Nev.

ALUMNI

Alumni Notes

1960s

KENNETH WILEY (B.F.A. '65) was one of the many artists who displayed their paintings at Illuminations I, a July 5 exhibit held at the Corscaden Barn Gallery in Keene Valley, N.Y.

After graduation, **JAMES MARTINEAU (B.S. '66)** served in the U.S. Navy in the Northern Gulf of Tonkin under Adm. Elmo Zumwalt. This past June, he celebrated 52 years of marriage with “the most intelligent and beautiful women in the universe—Arlene (Dunne) Martineau.” They have two children and three grandchildren. Of his NYIT days, he recalls: “I remember Dr. Murray Banks, a psychology professor who wrote the book *What to Do Until the Psychiatrist Comes*. His class became so popular that the room overflowed.”

After 38 years of government service, retired public affairs official **MARK BARAN (B.F.A. '68)** volunteers at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. He recalls the blackout of 1967 that stretched from Ontario to New Jersey and affected his college experience. “Many of my fellow NYIT students were stranded in the city,” he says, “but this was an opportunity to know them better and form a lasting bond.”

1970s

Inventor **PAUL ONISH (A.A.S. '70)** of Princeton, N.J., received a U.S. patent for his flatbed desktop envelope printer designed for small to midsized businesses.

LARRY SALINAS (B.S. '70) is a business development sales engineer for SiteZeus in Tampa, Fla. He has more than 35

years of experience in retail sales forecasting and analysis.

As **RICHARD J. DALY (B.S. '74)** joined NYIT as a speaker for its first blockchain symposium in April, his company, Broadridge Financial Solutions, was at work developing a new patent that uses blockchain technology in proxy voting and other technology. Daly has served as CEO of Broadridge since 2007 and also served as its president from 2014 to 2017. He delivered NYIT’s 56th Commencement keynote address in 2017. bit.ly/broadridge-patent



Courtesy of d expósito & Partners

In April 2018, **DAISY EXPÓSITO-ULLA (B.F.A. '75)** (pictured) was inducted into the 69th Annual Advertising Hall of Fame and received the David Bell Award for Industry Service for her valuable contributions and service to the advertising community and industry. She is the chairman/CEO of d expósito & Partners with clients that include the AARP, FDA, McDonald’s, NBA, U.S. Army, and Choice Hotels.

JEFFREY KLEINBERG (B.ARCH. '77) is a co-partner at MKDA, which has studios in New York City, Miami, and Stamford, Conn. In addition, he is a member of the International Interior Design Association and has volunteered his expertise to projects such as the Young Israel of Scarsdale synagogue, the redesign of the Rosenthal JCC Theatre in Westchester, and the design of a classroom for children with learning disabilities at Westchester Day School. Kleinberg and his wife of 33 years, Ellyn, have three children.

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JEFF THEO (A.A.S. '77), vice president of business development for Vulcan Painters, served as a judge in the Aesthetics category for the D+D Elevation Awards, which is part of the DurabilityandDesign.com news site that covers architectural coatings and materials.

NICK CHRISTIANO JR. (B.S. '78) is president-elect of the New York state chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. He serves as Northeast practice leader, health care, for Tatum and has more than 20 years of experience in C-suite leadership.

The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce named **STEVEN J. GORSS (M.B.A. '79)**, owner of real estate investing firm Incredible CVS, as a recipient of its Distinguished Citizen Award. He was chosen from a list of more than 230 nominees. Gorss joined the chamber in 1989, serves on its board of directors and executive committee, and has served on numerous other committees in his nearly three decades with the organization.

1980s

JOHN COMACK (B.ARCH. '83) is owner of JGM Construction Development in New York City. After graduation, he worked as an architect for the Switzer Group and Gensler, then moved to the construction side, working two decades for Structure Tone as a project executive. "When I was with Structure Tone, I was in charge of the NYIT campus expansion near Columbus Circle," says Comack, who is also a sponsor of this year's Friends of the School of Architecture and Design Alumni and Friends Reception. "My favorite NYIT memory is walking down the corridors of Education Hall, seeing the models, drawings, and different ideas being discussed in an open format."



Patrick M. O'Shaughnessy

(D.O. '99) | Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and Chief Clinical Officer, Catholic Health Services

THE RECENT PARTNERSHIP between NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) and Catholic Health Services (CHS) to advance patient-centered, community-based health care on Long Island is "the perfect marriage," according to Patrick M. O'Shaughnessy, D.O. O'Shaughnessy should know: he not only leads CHS, but he is also a graduate of NYITCOM.

"There is a primary care shortage," says O'Shaughnessy. "This new collaboration will give NYITCOM students much-needed postgraduate primary care training at CHS and enable these young doctors to build their practices and stay in Long Island." Students can also draw on CHS's robust facilities, including six hospitals, three skilled nursing facilities, and a home nursing service and hospice.

Putting down roots in Long Island is important to O'Shaughnessy. He studied emergency medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center and worked at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and hospitals in New Jersey before returning to Long Island, where he served as assistant director of emergency medicine for St. Charles and CMO for St. Catherine of Siena. He landed at CHS in 2013. Despite the pressure of his career, O'Shaughnessy even managed to pick up an M.B.A. in business administration and a master's degree in population health along the way.

O'Shaughnessy is also focused on helping his community beyond CHS. As a member of the Suffolk County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Task Force, he contributed to revamping emergency department protocols for overdose victims and provided recommendations to reduce the overprescribing of opioids at hospitals.

The NYITCOM/CHS partnership fits well into O'Shaughnessy's vision of the future of health care, which he believes relies on how we educate the next generation of health-care providers. "Quality, safety, effective teamwork, change management, and patient-centeredness are all key aspects to medical and nursing education that we will look to support as part of this relationship," says O'Shaughnessy.

Medical students, says O'Shaughnessy, are the future for how health care will be delivered, and the new NYITCOM/CHS program will benefit the students and the community of Long Island and the region. "We're in the business of healing. We're here to ease the suffering." His wise words to medical students are: "Every patient you touch, you have an impact on their lives, their outcomes, on multiple levels." ■

Read more about the NYITCOM/CHS partnership: bit.ly/NYIT-CHS.

WAG magazine profiled architect **JOE FULLER (B.ARCH. '83)** and his love of vintage automobiles. The coffee-table-style book is delivered to more than 132,000 readers in Westchester and Fairfield counties. Fuller is president and managing member of Fuller and D'Angelo, PC, Architects and Planners. bit.ly/joefuller



Courtesy of Tony Jones

TONY JONES (B.F.A. '83) (pictured) was named communications director at St. Mary's County Government in Leonardtown, Md., where he has served as public information officer since 2011. Previously, he was North Carolina's spokesman for the 2010 census and writer/editor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

AZIZ GUEYE ADETIMIRIN (B.T. '84) is publisher of *The Network Journal*, a New York City-based magazine for black professionals and small businesses.

Last May, the New York state Senate presented its 2018 Woman of Distinction Award to **DEB MILONE (B.F.A. '85)**. She serves as the executive director for the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce in Peekskill, N.Y. "Deb has always been about representing and serving our community in a positive way," said state Sen. Terrence Murphy. "She has been a leader in bringing businesses together to work toward the common goal of economic prosperity, which benefits everyone in the 4th Senate District."

Pediatrician **PAMELA BANKS (D.O. '87)** was re-elected to the Merrick (N.Y.) Board of Education in May 2018.

DAVID BRODER (D.O. '87) was re-elected for a sixth term as vice speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Osteopathic Association.

The Hanover Insurance Group appointed **FRANK M. BARON (B.S. '88)** president of a new alternative markets business unit that focuses on specialty programs, excess and surplus, and specialty brokerage businesses.

Bentley University named **DONNA MARIA BLANCERO, PH.D. (M.S. '88)** interim dean of business at the McCallum Graduate School of Business. She has held faculty and research roles at Arizona State University, Cornell University, and Touro University and served as a fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

MICHAEL EDBAUER (D.O. '88) joined HealthNow New York Inc. in Buffalo, N.Y., as senior vice president and chief strategy officer. Previously, the primary care doctor served as chief medical officer, CEO, and president at Catholic Medical Partners.

1990s

ANTHONY BAFFO, D.S.L. (B.P.S. '92, M.B.A. '03), is director of food and nutritional services at St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center in Roslyn, N.Y. His favorite NYIT memory? "MayFest!" he says. "As president of the Hospitality Association and a Student Government Association senator, planning and participating in MayFest was always exciting."

JOHN CAVALLO, PH.D. (M.B.A. '92) joined the Citromax Group of companies as senior

vice president, technology and commercial development. An accomplished food and beverage industry executive, he has held senior management positions at Trilogy Essential Ingredients, Citrus and Allied Essences, Comax Manufacturing, Symrise, Haarmann & Reimer, and Givaudan.

ANDREA CORREALE (B.P.S. '92) and celebrity chef David Burke teamed up to launch the David Burke Off-Premise Catering company for weddings, corporate events, and other social occasions. Correale is president and founder of Elegant Affairs in Glen Cove, N.Y. bit.ly/andrea-correale

Caribbean tourism and hospitality professional **MAY-LING CHUN (B.P.S. '93)** is interim head of the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, where she has worked since 2011. Previously, she served as manager of Commodore Suites in Simpson Bay.

Rear Adm. **FRANCIS PELKOWSKI (M.B.A. '93)** retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after 38 years of service. His duties included serving as deputy commandant for operations and senior reserve officer as well as managing the emergency readiness of 7,000 reservists. In 2017, Pelkowski helped coordinate Coast Guard efforts to help communities impacted by hurricanes that hit the United States and the Caribbean.

JOSEPH AMBROSIO (B.S. '94) is founder and general manager of Unique Technical Services in Smithtown, N.Y. The company focuses on energy storage, control, and power systems, as well as engineering projects that are about "pretty much electrifying anything," he told *InnovateLI*. Ambrosio is also a managing member of company spinoff Unique Electric Solutions, which converts traditional combustion engine vehicles into electric and hybrid versions. bit.ly/josephambrosio

BRUCE CHERNOFSKY (D.O. '94) is an attending neuroradiologist at Maimonides

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Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. He fondly recalls the camaraderie among his fellow students in NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM). “NYITCOM degrees are well known and respected,” he says. “Over the years, I’ve met many colleagues and residents from my alma mater. In fact, I’ve met someone from NYITCOM at every institution [I’ve worked at].”

The Times-News readers in the Burlington, N.C., area now get lifestyle advice from retired professional counselor **CINDY DAVIS (M.P.S. '94)**, who writes a weekly column, “Cindy Suggests.” bit.ly/cindysuggests



Courtesy of Robb Shawe

A former consultant to Fortune 500 companies, **ROBB SHAWE (B.S. '95, M.S. '18)** (pictured) has taught in New York City public schools and junior and four-year colleges as well as in Kuwait (while deployed as part of the U.S. Navy Reserves). His passion for environmental preservation led him to enroll in NYIT’s Master of Science Environmental Technology and Sustainability program.

RAYMOND HOMBURGER (B.S. '96) is chairman of Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk County’s (N.Y.) board of directors. He also manages customer quality assurance at PSEG Long Island and has held various positions at electric and gas utility companies in the region. His other charitable work includes serving as vice president for Moonjumpers Charitable



Kyle Barry

(B.S. '07, M.B.A. '12) | Engineering Manager, Well-being, Instagram

WHEN KYLE BARRY, a self-professed “East Coaster,” got a job at Facebook and moved to California to serve as the company’s lead security engineer, he also decided to volunteer as a career coach for college students at San Jose State University. “I was new out here, and I wanted to get more connected to the community and to learn about people from around the Bay Area,” says Barry. In his leadership accelerators, students learn interviewing skills, how to present their own story, and how to understand their strengths.

As Barry continued to coach, he also drew on his own advice. He moved from Facebook to sister company Instagram and now leads the Well-being team responsible for user security, safety, and anti-abuse. “As a manager, I have to do a lot of mentoring,” says Barry. He also protects the platform’s users—no easy task in this era of cyberattacks and fake news. When he joined Instagram, his team was a small group of only five engineers. Now, two years later, he runs a 30-person team that keeps potentially volatile situations in check by developing better tools to prevent bullying and finding ways to classify bad content.

While Barry’s career and coaching both require excellent communication and leadership skills, Barry clarifies he wasn’t very social when he was a kid. “I stayed inside playing computer games and building websites. During my first couple years at NYIT [where he studied computer science], I didn’t really leave my dorm, but NYIT encouraged me to go out.” Joining a fraternity, he says, helped him become more comfortable with socializing.

Barry also started his career early. As an undergraduate, he interned at a real estate software company in Long Island (which he found through NYIT). What started as a summer internship became a paid, part-time position when the company asked him to continue working in his junior year. The experience helped him develop communication skills he still uses today. “I was doing software programming, and I had to pick up the phones and talk to customers,” he says. After graduating, Barry got a job at Etsy and worked while pursuing his M.B.A. at NYIT at night.

For those looking to develop their management skills, Barry advises empathy. “You have to ask yourself, ‘What do I want and need as an employee, and how can I get that for my team?’” he says. He credits his mother for instilling in him the drive to help others. She encouraged him to volunteer in soup kitchens, and she was an active volunteer herself. “She was engaged and helped others, and I guess that rubbed off on me and my sister.” Now, he’s paying that dedication forward with both his team at Instagram and the college students he mentors. ■

Courtesy of Kyle Barry



ALUMNUS HEADS TO UNIVISION

In May, Univision Communications Inc. (UCI) announced **Vincent Sadusky (M.B.A. '96)** as the media giant's next CEO. UCI operates a variety of media properties, including Univision Network, the most-watched Spanish-language broadcast network in the United States. Sadusky has spent much of his professional life helping companies realize their growth potential. As CFO and treasurer of Telemundo Communications, he helped with its sale to NBC in 2001. In 2004, he joined LIN Media as CFO and two years later became president and CEO. He most recently served as CEO of Media General.



bit.ly/vincentsadusky

Courtesy of Univision

Foundation and as a board member for Leadership Huntington, Hands Together NY, and the Good Fellows.

GUSTAVO PENENGO (B.ARCH. '96) is president of PRDG Architecture + Design in Seattle, Wash., alongside co-owner **PHILIP ROSSILLO (B.ARCH. '97)**, who runs their New York office. In April 2018, the firm completed a 3,800-square-foot residence situated on a hillside of West Seattle. "Descending down a cul-de-sac, the panorama is backdropped by a wooded forest that instantly removes you from the urban environment and transports you into a peaceful oasis," he notes. Penengo fondly recalls his student days at NYIT engaged in summer programs in Italy and France; he still keeps in regular touch with former classmates.

HORACE DAVIS (M.S. '98) serves as general manager of quality assurance engineering and program support at Con Edison of New York. He is a member of the New York Metropolitan Area Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy.

After 18 seasons, **NICK MELITO (B.S. '98)** retired as varsity baseball coach at

Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School in East Elmhurst, N.Y. He still works at the school as assistant to the president and director of admissions.

2000s

BARBARA PORTER (B.S. '00) is chief technology officer (CTO) of Fragrance.com. She will be honored on October 15, 2018, as the Diamond Award Winner for Women in Technology at LISTnet's Long Island Summit Awards. "The bond I had built with many of my NYIT professors was very different than what I had experienced at my prior undergraduate school," Porter recalls. "I was treated more like an equal who brought value to the interchange." Over the years, she has returned to her alma mater to teach classes and present at NYIT's annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.

ROSALINDE FLAMMER CASALINI, J.D., (B.S. '02) joined Rivkin Radler LLP as an associate. She will work in its employment and labor group as well as its insurance

fraud group. Previously, Casalini served as a federal law clerk to the Honorable Anne Y. Shields, U.S. magistrate judge for the Eastern District of New York.

ERIC LOMANDO (A.O.S. '02) is chef/owner of Italian restaurant Orto in Miller Place, N.Y.

SONIA RIVERA-MARTINEZ (D.O. '02) was elected to the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Association. She serves as an associate professor and associate medical director for NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The Chappaqua (N.Y.) Central School District Board of Education named **TONY SINANIS, ED.D. (M.S. '02, P.DIP. '03)**, its assistant superintendent for human resources and leadership development. He is a national speaker and the co-author of *Hacking Leadership: 10 Ways Great Leaders Inspire Learning That Teachers, Students, and Parents Love*.

With more than 30 years working in the health and business sectors, **CHRISTIANA MOJI YAHAYA-KOLADE (D.O. '02)** has served as a nurse, physician, and clinical

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pharmacist, as well as vice president and co-founder of New Era Rehabilitation Center in Connecticut. She continues to devote herself to philanthropic causes and currently serves as CEO and managing director of Irede Farms Nigeria.

Physician-educator **JONAS SOKOLOF (D.O. '03)** joined NYU Langone in New York City as director of its new Division of Oncological Rehabilitation. Previously, he served 10 years as an attending physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in spine, sports, and musculoskeletal medicine at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

OSAYAMEN ASEMOTA-BARTHOLOMEW (M.A. '04) was named among *Real Estate Weekly's* 2018 Rising Stars of Real Estate. As the associate program director for Project REAP (Real Estate Associate Program), which educates and connects minority professionals with commercial real estate companies, she has helped launch new programs in Kansas City, Dallas, and Columbus, in addition to classes in New York City, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.



Courtesy of Christina Clark (Swedberg)

“Since graduating, my life has been pretty busy with amazing career opportunities,” says **CHRISTINA CLARK (SWEDBERG) (M.B.A. '04)** (pictured). These experiences included working for the International Space Station program, United Natural

Leigh McManus Clark

(B.S. '03) | Founder, *Kindleigh and the Kindness Community*;
Retail Account Executive, *Salesforce.com*



WHEN LEIGH MCMANUS CLARK AND HER FIANCÉ sent out invitations for their September 26, 2015 wedding, they included a special request asking their wedding guests to do random acts of kindness and to post on social media using the hashtag #kindleigheverafter. Clark began doing acts of kindness in 2012 and started *Kindleigh* in early 2015 to organize her efforts. Now she had a chance to encourage her friends and family to give back, too.

Enthusiasm for their request spread quickly, with guests doing such good deeds as taking pet supplies to an animal shelter, buying a lunch for a stranger, and baking cookies for the local UPS driver. Heartwarming stories poured in; so did publicity. Clark found herself featured in a variety of magazines, newspapers, and news programs—including *Brides Magazine*, *Woman's Day*, and the *Rachael Ray Show*.

With the national attention *Kindleigh* and Clark's unusual wedding request got, Clark continued to grow her efforts. Other random and not-so-random acts of kindness followed, ranging from toy and school supply drives for foster kids to backpack drives for the homeless to helping pay off other people's layaway debts during the holiday season. Her layaway project led to an appearance on *Megyn Kelly*. Last year, Clark started the *Kindness Ambassadors Program* to foster acts of kindness and generosity.

Clark, who was born on Long Island but moved to Illinois in high school, has always valued kindness and wanted to be a motivational speaker since she was 17. She credits her time at NYIT with helping her discover the type of person she wanted to become. “I got validation from NYIT,” she explains. “It allowed me to cultivate certain character traits and strengths.” Clark, who studied advertising and marketing, jumped right into campus life. “It was a terrific experience from the day I got there,” she says. She planned activities for the Office of Residential Life, and credits Dean Harriet Kulka as her mentor. “She gave me a spot on the presidential advisory board, a team of students that gave feedback and recommendations to [then president] Edward Guiliano.”

After receiving her degree, Clark worked in sales and marketing positions focused on digital advertising. For the past three years, she has worked as a retail account executive for *Salesforce.com*, a cloud computing company headquartered in San Francisco. *Salesforce.com* is a good match for Clark because the CEO is very altruistic: “They give us a week off every year to volunteer, and we as an organization do 1 million hours a year in volunteer work and just gave \$1 million to families at the U.S./Mexico border.”

For Clark, “Kindness is my hobby. It's a joy, not a chore or a drain; it's how I get my momentum.” ■

Watch Clark on *Megyn Kelly*: bit.ly/Clark-Kindness

Photo: Megan DiPiero Photography; Hair and Makeup: Cyndi Welch

Foods, Friendly's Ice Cream, and Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority. Currently, she works at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. She serves on the board for nonprofit organizations Veterans Equine Therapeutic Services (which she also co-founded), Guardians of the Purple Heart, and Women in Defense—New England Shoreline Chapter. She also volunteers widely. "I am very passionate about helping others and doing what I can to enrich their lives," she adds.

SANTO "SONNY" PORPIGLIA (B.S. '04) is the founder of InnerGroup, an app that allows users to send and receive encrypted texts, videos, photos, and audio files. Find the app on iTunes and Google Play.

PAUL RIDGUARD (B.P.S. '04) is general manager of the Moxy NYC Chelsea. He has more than 17 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

PATRICK LYNCH (M.B.A. '06) is vice president of sales for the United States and Canada at Bell Laboratories. He serves on the National Pest Management Association Public Policy Committee as well as the National Pest Management Association Leadership Committee.

Financial advisor **MATTHEW NIEGOCKI (B.S. '06)** was named to the Prudential Advisors President's Council, which recognizes the prestigious achievements of top-performing financial professionals. Niegocki lives in Stony Brook, N.Y., and also works with Family Service League of Long Island. "NYIT had a strong business management/finance program that intrigued me," he says. "Twelve years after meeting Prudential at the NYIT career fair, I am still in the same career with the same employer."

In addition to operating YoungArchitect.com, **MICHAEL RISCICA (B.ARCH. '07)**

launched a corresponding podcast, which features advice from up-and-coming professionals to help young architects become more successful in their careers.

ANSON MARTIN (M.B.A. '08) is chief commercial officer for Power in Camarillo, Calif. He has more than 20 years of global battery technology marketing and business development experience. Previously, he served as vice president of global marketing and business development at Inventus Power.

TIMOTHY J. OSWALD (M.B.A. '08) serves as vice president, corporate human resources, for Regal Beloit Corporation, a manufacturer of electric motors, generators, and controls, and power transmission products.

"In life we do things—some we wish we had never done, and some we wish we could replay a million times in our heads." Those words of wisdom were offered by **LATOYA TROWERS-BELL, ED.D. (M.B.A. '08)**, during her faculty speaker address at Berkeley College's commencement on May 11. Trowers-Bell serves as chair of Health Services Administration at Berkeley College.

"Since graduating from NYIT, my Master of Arts has helped me acquire the job of my dreams as instructor and coordinator of public broadcasting at the Mississippi Valley State University," says **DARWIN CANNON (M.A. '09)**. He and his wife, Ida Hampton-Cannon, have been married for 15 years.

JOE HWANG (B.S. '09) was appointed chief operating officer at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center in Lakewood Ranch, Fla. Previously, he served as associate administrator at the George Washington University Hospital.

MICHAEL TROMBLEE (M.S. '09) is assistant superintendent of curriculum instruction and professional development at Mahopac (N.Y.) Board of Education. He is also a U.S. Air Force veteran and adjunct professor for the graduate program in educational leadership and technology at NYIT School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Education.

Mmmm, doughnuts. ... That's what **CAI ZHANG (B.S. '09)** thought after trying a few cake-style samples of the Las Vegas headquarters of the Dapper Doughnut. He and his wife decided to open their own franchise store at the Natick Mall in Natick, Mass. Zhang plans to get a catering license so he can serve the tasty treats at corporate gatherings, parties, and weddings.

2010s

Boxer **CHRIS ALGIERI (M.S. '10)** worked as a nutritionist to help prepare former World Boxing Association (WBA) middleweight champion Daniel Jacobs for an April 28 bout at Barclays Center. Jacobs ended up defeating opponent Maciej Sulecki by unanimous decision.

Interventional pain and sports medicine physiatrist **GREGORY BURKARD JR. (D.O. '12)** joined Barton Health in Lake Tahoe, Calif. Board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, he treats medical conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord, nerves, bones, muscles, and joints.

JOSÉ R. FEBRES (CERT. '12, M.S. '12) completed his doctorate in engineering management at George Washington University in July 2018. He is a senior facilities officer at the International Monetary Fund, as well as a professional engineer with numerous certifications.

HOMECOMING

It's back! After a 35-year hiatus, the NYIT community celebrated their school spirit on September 22 with Homecoming 2018. The day started with an Open Forum hosted by President Hank Foley, Ph.D., followed by festivities on the Student Activities Center Field. **Andre Doughty (B.F.A. '15, M.A. '16)** served up the tunes as DJ and master of ceremonies as the crowd in NYIT-Long Island (Old Westbury, N.Y.) enjoyed a barbecue, local food carts, a beer garden, and lawn games. To top it off, women's tennis swept LIU Post 7-0, women's soccer blanked Lincoln (Pa.) 9-0, and men's soccer edged UDC 3-2.

(Top) Marc Xu (B.S. '16), Farah Faour, and Samantha Basile (B.S. '16, M.S. '18) get their photo taken.

(Bottom) Attendees play an oversized version of Jenga.



nyit.edu/alumni/events

Barry Sloan

HAZEM MATAR (M.B.A. '12) is a musician who plays the oud, a pear-shaped string instrument, for jazz/Arabic pop band Tarab.

TROY MILLER (M.S. '12) is associate vice provost and director of admissions at the University at Buffalo (SUNY). In addition to serving in enrollment management positions at Bowie State University in Maryland and Coppin State University in Baltimore, he was director of admissions at NYIT.

RAVNEET "RAVI" MUTI (M.B.A. '12) is a founding partner and investor of the Imiloa Institute, a global organization dedicated to the advancement of humanity through sustainability, cultural awareness, health and wellness, and other outreach. Its first location opened in Dominical, Costa Rica.

CHANTEL DIAZ (B.F.A. '13, M.A. '15) is coordinator, global diversity and inclusion, for AEG Worldwide, a sports and entertainment company based in Los Angeles.

GIANNA MCEVOY (D.O. '13) is a physician at Trinity Medical OB/GYN in Lockport, N.Y. She completed her OB-GYN residency at Sisters of Charity Hospital.



Courtesy of Brandon Gilyard

BRANDON GILYARD (B.S. '14) (pictured) is a manufacturing engineer for Eaton Aerospace in Jackson, Mich. "My favorite NYIT memory was when I served as a resident assistant and hall director," he says. "Those roles allowed me to be creative with novel programming ideas, interact with residents and university officials in a dynamic way, and challenge myself with regard to time management. I grew exponentially by learning how to deal with other students' cultures, learning styles, and conflicts."

HANIE ABDEL-MASIH (D.O. '15), joined the FirstHealth Family Medicine team in Rockingham, N.C. A former pediatrician, he now treats patients of all ages and completed his residency at St. Barnabas Medical Center, a division of the Robert Wood Johnson-Barnabas Health System.

HEBA ELGAWISH (M.S. '15) served as a panelist for "Placemaking and Art" at the

Makeover Montgomery 4 event hosted by the Montgomery County (Md.) Planning Department and National Center for Smart Community Growth. She described her community engagement policies and tools to advance the creative economy, and how to define successful partnerships among the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. ElGawish serves as an urban planner for the City of Alexandria (Va.) in its Department of Planning and Zoning.

SHIVA GHOMI (M.S. '15) co-founded architectural firm SPARC in Brooklyn, N.Y. Ghomi worked for numerous design firms in Iran before moving to New York to earn her master's in architecture, urban and regional design.

Former NYIT tennis player **PEDRO PEIXOTO (B.S. '15)** is director of investments for Circle, a management consulting firm based in Brazil.

Family physician **TIFFANY THALAPPILLIL PHILIP (D.O. '15)** moved to the new Bay County location for MidMichigan Health. She completed her residency in family medicine at Peconic Bay Medical Center—Northwell Health in Riverhead, N.Y.

In June 2018, **SOWMYA REDDY (M.S. '17)** was elected to the Legislative Assembly of

the Indian state of Karnataka. She is an advocate for social justice issues, animal rights, environmental protection, and education.

Courtesy of Ion Garcia



Former Bears back/midfielder **ION BARBARIN GARCIA (B.S. '18)** (pictured) signed a contract to play semipro soccer with Club Deportivo Sariñena in Spain (and recently joined in the Running of the Bulls in his native Spanish home of Pamplona). Former teammate (and bull-running mate) **MARCOS ENRIQUEZ VILCHES (B.S. '18)** is pursuing his M.B.A. in North Carolina. bit.ly/garcia-vilches

FRANCISCA WHITE (M.S. '18) is the K-12 instructional technology liaison for Nyack Schools in Rockland County, N.Y. She attributes landing her current position to her master's degree. "While I studied at NYIT, I was motivated to apply what I learned in my school and district," says White. "I got more involved in how technology was used in our district by becoming a more active member of our technology committee."

Marriages

JESSICA CAREN REMSTEIN (M.S. '12) to Evan Michael Wolff

CHANET TISDEL (M.A. '13) to Chauncey Kearney

NELLY CIOLKOWSKI (M.A. '14) to Christopher Frusci

ALYSSA MONET ORMSBY MEDINA (B.S. '15) to **ERICK SATCHELL II (B.S. '14)**

ARIANA PATRICE CANNAVO (D.O. '15) to John Franklin Murphy III

Passings

BEATRICE (RANDAZZO) ORR (B.S. '65)

ANGELO CORVA (B.S. '72)

CAROLYN CONTINO (B.F.A. '75)

MICHAEL J. FLATTERY JR. (B.S. '78)

WILLIAM MARK WARFEL (D.O. '93)

JOHN MATTHEW WHITE (M.S. '03)

NOLE REMAGEN (B.S. '08)



**NEW JOB? ON THE MOVE?
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OR MAGAZINE@NYIT.EDU.**

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ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT



Denise Berger

(B.ARCH. '86) | Chief of Operations, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ)

Denise Berger visits the World Trade Center Memorial. On 9/11, Berger was on the 82nd floor of one of the towers when it was struck. She was able to flee just before it collapsed. Since then, Berger has been instrumental in building and rebuilding the city as part of PANYNJ. (The organization developed both the original and current World Trade Center.) She notes that it can be difficult at times to work at the site, but the personal connections she and other engineers and architects have to the area help them stay dedicated to keeping New York City strong.

Hall of Fame Nominations

CALLING ALL FORMER STUDENT-ATHLETES: Save the date for the 2019 Athletic Hall of Fame and Alumni Reunion! Don't forget to nominate your teammates and coaches for Hall of Fame consideration.

April 12-13

NYIT-Long Island (Old Westbury, N.Y.)

nyitbears.com/hallnomination

ONE DAY WHEN DENISE BERGER'S DAUGHTER WAS 7, they were reading a book when her daughter asked, "Boys are bigger and stronger—can I be smarter than a boy?" Berger, FAIA, answered, "Absolutely!" When Berger, who is chief of operations of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), was invited to speak to a group of NYIT women engineering students, she brought her daughter with her to the lecture and told the audience that story.

Berger didn't always get that type of affirmation when she was growing up. As the first one in her Italian American family to graduate from college, she remembers her grandmother asking why she was wasting money by going to college. But Berger's investment in her education hardly went to waste. Upon graduating from NYIT, Berger hit the ground running and was accepted into a leadership program at PANYNJ. Two years ago, her impressive 30-year trajectory landed her in one of the top spots of that organization. Berger, who is the first woman and architect to achieve this executive leadership position, was also recently named to the prestigious College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and named Woman of the Year by the Professional Women in Construction "Salute to Women of Achievement 2018."

There's never a dull moment in Berger's job. The transportation projects she works on keep the city—and its population of millions—running. For example, she has worked on upgrades to JFK Airport, PATH station renovations, and a PATH extension to Newark Airport. She also recently led an effort to develop guidelines for an expanded design/build contracting strategy and is implementing virtual technology in design and construction efforts. Her next big project is a comprehensive \$32.2 billion, 10-year capital plan focusing on the PANYNJ's core mission to develop and manage critical transportation projects for the region.

"My day is different every single day. There are so many different projects with different needs and different clients. It's never boring. I love it!" says Berger. In 2016, she even found time to start the Port Authority Women's Council. The council has become so popular that men have joined it as well.

Berger, who believes she has the duty to guide and to mentor the next generation, will never forget how an early mentor, Bob Davidson, FAIA, taught her what to value. "He would never relent. He knew that in an agency, the three most important things are: (1) quality, (2) schedule, and (3) dollars. He would never give up on quality." Berger never has either. ■

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SCENE AT NYIT

During Welcome Week, a new crop of students arrives to start classes at the Long Island (Old Westbury, N.Y.) campus.

