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Defining the Teaching Curve

IN TODAY'S WORLD, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT WILL LEAD TO A BETTER TOMORROW. INVESTMENTS IN KEY SECTORS, SUCH AS HIGHER EDUCATION, CONTINUALLY REAP DIVIDENDS. NYIT ALUMNI, MANY OF WHOM ARE FEATURED IN THIS MAGAZINE, ARE PROOF OF THIS CONCEPT, SERVING AS INNOVATORS AND LEADERS IN HEALTH CARE, COMMUNICATIONS, ARCHITECTURE, EDUCATION, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE.

A November 2008 study, *Living and Learning with New Media*, conducted by the MacArthur Foundation, notes that "to stay relevant in the 21st century, educational institutions need to keep pace with the rapid changes introduced by digital media." This technology-fueled world, add the researchers, is creating vast opportunities for young people to explore their interests, develop skills that will prove useful later in life, and invent new ways to express themselves.

Our undergraduates are indeed surrounded by a breadth of technology and information that they incorporate seamlessly into their worlds. The data stream that flows through the consciousness of today's students empowers them to learn and work in ways that were unthinkable even 10 years ago. Digital traffic lanes also afford us quicker, more efficient ways to create new methodologies of teaching. Educational barriers that were once rigid and constrictive are now engaging and boundless.

Clearly, NYIT has always been a leader in recognizing the role that technology plays in our world. Since the 1950s, our students have been taught to incorporate technology into their careers. Today, this is of the utmost importance, especially when you consider that students are preparing for careers that do not even exist today. By learning how to adapt to new technologies, they will define these new vocations with the

skills and knowledge they bring with them. Their careers will be a continuing learning process.

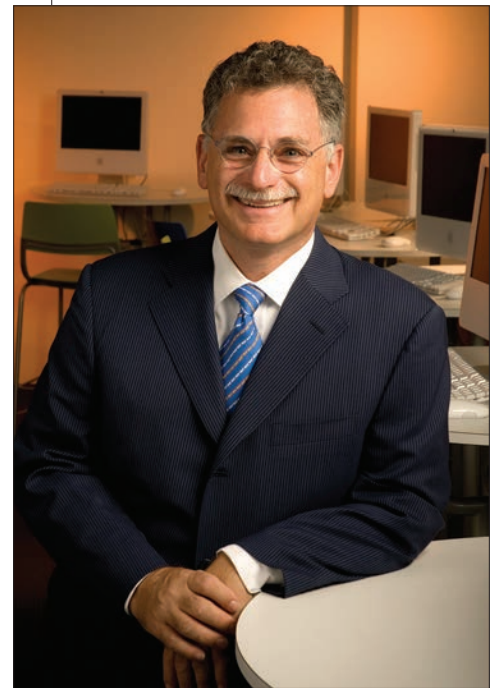
But we do more than emphasize the technology in our name. We embrace it—from our distributed learning centers that link NYIT students around the world, to new degree programs that focus on emerging technologies and industries, to giving our students the latest classroom tools, such as robotic patients and 3-D motion capture studios.

Our technology focus has given us an understanding of how interconnected the world is and how knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultures, methodologies, and approaches are valuable tools in the highly competitive global marketplace. We understand the need to think from a worldly perspective. Employers of the fastest-growing industries put a premium on a skilled workforce with a global mindset, and graduates must keep up with the "brain race."

The good news is that we are attracting a high caliber of students each year, as shown by grade point averages and test scores. Our competitive programs in the health professions, for example, receive more qualified applicants than they can ever accept—our physician assistant's program receives more than 1,000 applications for 52 available seats, and our osteopathic medical school received many more

applications last year than any other year in its history.

All of these elements add up to an NYIT that is on the right track to becoming a model 21st-century university. We will continue to produce global citizens who can compete in today's marketplace, redefine the notion of a classroom without borders, and promote the free-flowing exchange of ideas among our campuses



CRAIG WALLACE DALE

throughout the world. As NYIT students earn their degrees within this platform, our campuses around the world will become idea centers where commerce, culture, intellectualism, and academics congregate and where we meet to work on new ways of improving our society. Truly, a worthy investment.

I encourage you to join us on this journey. ■

Sincerely,

Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.
President

Did You Know?

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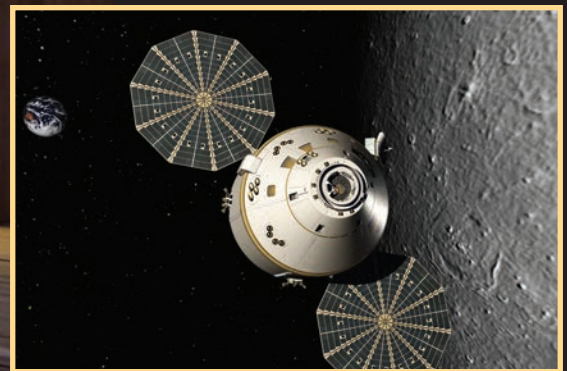
Discoveries in solar power and new forms of sustainable energy



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NYIT

NYIT-Abu Dhabi Welcomes U.S. Secretary of Education

Students, faculty, and staff at NYIT-Abu Dhabi had the chance to interact with one of the leading voices in 21st-century global education when Margaret Spellings, the secretary of education under the George W. Bush Administration, visited the university's United Arab Emirates campus on Nov. 3, 2008.

Speaking to a group of 170 that also included guests from the business, educational, and government sectors, Spellings described how NYIT students “are blessed with enormous opportunities: a world of information at your fingertips; an economy that moves as fast as you can think; a society that increasingly rewards effort and merit, and shuns discrimination and corruption ... and an education that gives you the tools to improve your circumstances and the lives of those around you—a wonderful gift, a treasure.” She encouraged the students to use their education to tackle today's environmental, medical, and economic challenges by “improving what exists and creating what has never existed before.”

NYIT has offered degree programs in Abu Dhabi since 2005 and, in 2007, became the first American university in the U.A.E. licensed by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research.



Secretary Spellings chats with NYIT students in the interior design computer lab (left) as she reviews their projects. During her Nov. 3 visit to NYIT-Abu Dhabi, Secretary Spellings cited NYIT as a “trailblazer” in global higher education.



Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., president of NYIT, and U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings tour the NYIT-Abu Dhabi campus prior to her presentation as part of NYIT's Presidential Lecture Series.

Secretary Spellings is the first speaker in NYIT's ongoing Presidential Lecture Series to present at a venue outside of the United States. She joins a roster of distinguished leaders from the business, government, and academic communities, including Microsoft's Bill Gates and Jonathan Miller, former

chief executive officer of AOL.

During her visit, Secretary Spellings was the guest of honor at a dinner hosted by Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., president of NYIT, and His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the United Arab Emirates.

“The Secretary's plan of action for higher education targets improving educational accessibility, affordability, and accountability throughout the world,” said President Guiliano. “As part of this, she sees global collaboration and the utilization of technology as key to empowering students everywhere.”

“By working together, we can set both a course for the future and an example for today,” Secretary Spellings told attendees. “We have nothing to lose, and a world to gain.” ■





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Students Spend a Day at the Markets

For NYIT graduate business student Yu Ze Ang, “A Day on Wall Street” wasn’t just a field trip; it was a glimpse into the future of his financial career.

Along with 19 other NYIT students (pictured above), Ang gained access to some of the world’s most venerable financial institutions as part of a day-long program organized by NYIT’s Office of Alumni Relations in partnership with the School of Management. Stops during the Nov. 20, 2008, Day on Wall Street event included the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Museum of American Finance, the American Stock Exchange, and lunch with NYIT alumni who work at leading financial firms.

At each location, students had the chance to interact directly with Wall Street executives and learn how an NYIT business education translates into the real world of global finance.

“It is one thing to learn about these places in the classroom but an entirely different experience to meet and talk with those individuals who actually work in the financial district, and who can give us a better idea of how important their jobs and these organizations are to the economy,” said Ang, who plans to graduate this May with a Master of Business Administration in management.

A Day on Government Avenue

Wall Street wasn’t the only place where theory met practice for NYIT students. Finance professors Ali Al Farden, Samy Nathan Garas, and Moade Shoebeita of NYIT-Bahrain took a group to visit the Bahrain Stock Exchange (BSE) on Government Avenue in Manama last fall



As part of their NYIT business education, students in Bahrain (above) interacted with global financial leaders.

to meet Abdul Hamid Abdul Ghaffar, head of financial analysis and research, and Ranya Baqer, administrator of public relations and marketing. The BSE officials presented a detailed history of the exchange and its contribution to the Bahrain economy. Students also visited the trading room and witnessed first-hand how stockbrokers impact the market by getting in touch with their clients to execute real-time trades. ■

NYIT Welcomes New Faces

NYIT has been fortunate to find several experienced executives to fill key roles in its administration. Here are some new members of the NYIT community:

Marc Warner joined NYIT in September 2008 as vice president for communications and marketing. His responsibilities include leading NYIT's global integrated marketing initiatives and guiding the university's award-winning communications, marketing, public relations, and advertising efforts.

"We are delighted that Marc has joined our university during this transformative time," said President Guiliano. "His extensive talent and successful track record, especially with branding and new media, will open up new channels of communication to help us better serve our students and more effectively deliver our key messages."

Warner has more than 15 years of experience in new media, marketing, interactive advertising, and brand management. He most recently served as director of advertising and brand management at Emblem Health (the parent company of HIP Health Plan of New York and Global Health Incorporated), where he spearheaded the development and launch of the company's brand architecture. Earlier, he was a senior producer at a premier New York City interactive advertising agency and a corporate liaison for an independent film and video production company. Warner received a master of fine arts degree in film and television from New York University Tisch Graduate School of the Arts and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, where he received the prestigious Clive Hoffman Media Scholarship in Journalism.

In the fall of 2008, **Laura Schranz** was named director of foundation and corporate relations, responsible for leading NYIT's philanthropic outreach efforts. Schranz brings

to NYIT more than 15 years of experience in fundraising and government, public, and community relations. Most recently, she served as director of grants and government relations at The Resource Group Inc. in Holbrook, N.Y.

"Her diverse experience will be beneficial in helping to advance NYIT's mission through philanthropy,



Vice President for Communications and Marketing Marc Warner will direct NYIT's global integrated marketing efforts.

strategic partnerships, and community engagement," said Cynthia Gorman, NYIT's vice president for development. Schranz earned her bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and interned at Common Cause, a nonpartisan, nonprofit political advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C.

Julie Fratrick joined NYIT in November 2008 as director of the new Center for Global Academic Exchange. In this role, she will develop and implement international programs for students wanting to study at NYIT in New York, as well

as those in New York interested in pursuing their education at NYIT's campuses in China and the Middle East. Her debut efforts included a five-week summer program at NYIT's Manhattan campus in which students can take one or two M.B.A. courses, supplemented by visits to Wall Street and cultural excursions.

"The merits and experiences of a global education are invaluable," said Fratrick, "not only to a student's personal and professional growth, but to the advancement of dialog and mutual understanding around the world." The former coordinator of international programs at the New School for Social Research, she is also a New York Cares volunteer at the Yorkville Common food pantry in her East Harlem, N.Y., neighborhood.

As the first-ever NYIT Director of Alumni Relations for China, **Pei (Peggy) Wu** joined the Office of Development and Alumni Relations just in time to coordinate NYIT's alumni celebrations in China this April. She will be integral in bringing together a substantial base of alumni and will develop special outreach initiatives, including marketing and networking events. Wu will also further define ways in which NYIT alumni can support the university's ongoing undergraduate and graduate programs in China—as mentors, financial supporters, and employers.

A New York graduate of NYIT's M.B.A. program, she received a bachelor's degree in broadcasting from Beijing Communications University. Wu has served in various managerial roles in the import-export industry and as an award-winning news reporter in Guizhou, China.

"I am excited to be able to further NYIT's programs in China," said Wu. "I look forward to meeting many of our Chinese alumni at our events in April 2009, and developing strong relationships with them." ■

Students Collaborate on a 'Shore Thing'

NYIT architecture students, along with peers from Cornell University, Carnegie Mellon University, and Politecnico di Milano (Milan, Italy), worked with the American Institute of Architects Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team in the fall 2008 semester on a comprehensive plan to develop Staten Island's (N.Y.) waterfront. The area comprises one of the largest underutilized waterfronts in the United States and is home to the largest supply of vacant land in New York City.

The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce's survey, *It's a Shore Thing*, provided a framework for the group as they studied the area, met with community members, and prepared designs for the borough. A team of NYIT architecture professors supervised the students' participation in this multidisciplinary project, which included developing strategies to foster sustainable, cultural, economic, and residential development.

"The waterfront seems to have gotten lost in time," said NYIT student Gail Gambarini in an interview with the *Staten Island Advance*. "It has this huge history, but it seems to have gotten disconnected somehow."



NYIT architecture students were called upon to help redevelop Staten Island's underutilized waterfront.

In December, the team presented their designs to community members and architecture professionals, as well as planning officials from the Staten Island Borough President's Office, who will develop a waterfront strategy inspired by the NYIT student designs. ■

GREEN TIDINGS TO ALL

NYIT has updated several of its print communications using eco-friendly materials. In doing so, it made significant inroads to its goal of becoming a sustainable 21st-century university. The 2008-2009 catalogs were printed on a new stock of paper that is 100 percent post-consumer waste. This saved an estimated 117 trees, 106 million BTUs, 50,438 gallons of water, 17,499 pounds of greenhouse gases, and 5,641 pounds of solid waste. The results are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and verify NYIT's responsible use of forest resources.

In addition, the new ink used to print this issue of *NYIT Magazine* contains a minimum of 20 percent, by weight, of renewable resources.

The Office of the Bursar, meanwhile, is no longer issuing paper statements; students may now access their bills, tax forms, and payment plans online.

Read more about NYIT's sustainability initiatives in the Fall 2008 issue of *NYIT Magazine*.

ADDED DEGREE OF SECURITY

NYIT's School of Management has added a Management of Information Systems (M.I.S.) Security concentration to its Master of Business Administration program. The new program benefits from NYIT's longstanding relationship with the Information Systems Audit and Control Association, the premier global M.I.S. security organization.

BABY BOOM, BABY BUST

On Sept. 18, 2008, NYIT's Old Westbury campus provided the forum for a discussion about the challenges and opportunities of suburban aging when it hosted its first annual aging and society conference, "Baby Boom, Baby Bust: Is Suburbia Ready For The Age Wave?" Organized by NYIT's Center for Gerontology and

(continued on page 10)

Funding the Future



NYIT is pleased to announce that Peter J. Romano (B.Arch. '76) and his wife, Jane, have established an endowed scholarship fund to support the School of Architecture and Design. Pictured are (from left): Judith DiMaio, dean of the School of Architecture and Design, Romano, and NYIT students Nisha Prasad, Matt Wasnewsky, and Lukas Argyros. ■

JEFF WEINER

Out of the Blue, NYIT Dean Furthers Staph Treatment

Chukuka S. Enwemeka, Ph.D., dean of the School of Health Professions, Behavioral, and Life Sciences, along with NYIT researchers, has just published findings on a new treatment for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The research showed that exposing MRSA to safe levels of blue light effectively eradicates two common strains of the infection.

MRSA is considered a “superbug” because of its resistance to antibiotic treatments. An important and increasingly public health threat, it is responsible for more than 94,000 serious infections and 19,000 deaths annually around the world, according to an American Medical Association report. At present, fewer than 5 percent of MRSA strains are susceptible to



JEFF WEINER

the laboratory cultures. Longer doses were more effective, although it took about 10 times more exposure to kill off 80 percent of the MRSA in culture dishes. The effectiveness of blue light *in vitro* suggests that it should also be effective in human cases of MRSA infection.

“It is inspiring that an inexpensive, naturally visible wavelength of light can eradicate two common strains of MRSA,” says Enwemeka. “Developing strategies that are capable of destroying MRSA, using mechanisms that would not lead to further antibiotic resistance, is timely and important for us and our patients.” The study follows prior research conducted by Enwemeka’s team, which found that MRSA died when exposed to blue light that included part of the ultraviolet (UV) spectrum. Health professionals prefer not to expose patients to potentially harmful UV rays, underscoring the significance of the new research.

Enwemeka’s study was published in the April 2009 issue of *Photomedicine and Laser Surgery*, and the research was funded by Dynatronics Corp., which manufactures the blue light device used in the study. ■

penicillin, while approximately 40 to 50 percent of these types of staph infections have developed resistance to newer, semisynthetic antibiotics, such as methicillin.

The NYIT research team—which included Deborah Williams, Sombiri K. Enwemeka, Steve Hollosi, and David Yens—tested one strain representative of MRSA found most often in hospitals and another representative of the strains found in the community at large. Approximately 100 seconds’ worth of exposure to blue light using a process called photo-irradiation killed about 30 percent of MRSA in

“IT IS INSPIRING THAT AN INEXPENSIVE, NATURALLY VISIBLE WAVELENGTH OF LIGHT CAN ERADICATE TWO COMMON STRAINS OF MRSA.”

—CHUKUKA S. ENWEMEKA, PH.D.

(continued from page 9)

Geriatrics, the conference brought together national and regional experts from the educational, government, and business sectors to share solutions regarding energy, housing, transportation, health care, and other services for the elderly.

UNDERSTANDING CHINA'S ROLE IN A WORLD ECONOMY

NYIT partnered with Long Island University to address the global economic crisis and its impact on China at a conference held on Feb. 23. More than 200 guests attended the event, during which experts discussed the country’s economic challenges. President Guilliano delivered the opening remarks, and featured speakers included NYIT School of Management professors Paul Kutasovic, Ph.D., and Scott Liu, Ph.D., Professor Ye Weihua from Jiangxi University of Economics and Finance in China, and Professor Yuko Arayama from Nagoya University in Japan.

STUDENTS DESIGN A LEGACY

“Unique,” “experimental,” and “exciting” were some of the words used to describe the winning designs in NYIT’s Legacy Row competition, which challenged students to address architectural, structural, functional, artistic, cultural, and environmental issues in designing the processional leading to NYIT’s de Seversky Center at the Old Westbury campus. Two teams tied for first prize (\$5,000): Adriana Collazo, Anne Marie Porcaro, and Matt Wasnewsky; and Radoslaw Wakulik and Yuriy Vasendin. The third prize (\$1,000) was awarded to Wei Tzu Yu. Former NYIT trustee Michael S. Puntillo, who funded the contest, served as a judge along with NYIT community members Harriet Arnone, Ph.D., vice president for planning and assessment, Francis Coiro, director of design and construction, Trustee Rory Cutaia (B.S. ’82), Roger Smith (B.Arch. ’78), and Robert Rizzuto, director of dining services.



Join Our Circle of Friends!

The NYIT Alumni Federation proudly announces **inCircle**, our new online networking site exclusively for NYIT graduates.

- Stay in touch with friends and reconnect with classmates
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 - Search for career opportunities and post your resumé
 - Upload and share photos
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 - Meet and network with NYIT alumni around the world

nyit.affinitycircles.com



NYIT

Charge 'Er Up

NYIT will unveil the first of its solar carports this April as part of its “One Spot, One Car, One Commute” solar plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (S-PHEV) project. The initiative’s overall goal is to ascertain the technical and economic viability of supplementing fossil fuel with renewable energy in the transportation sector, specifically as it relates to commuters in large metropolitan areas.

“Recognizing that the cheap energy paradigm has waned, we are contributing to the definition of a new energy infrastructure that uses local resources to address local demands,” said Daniel Rapka (M.S. '07), program manager for the S-PHEV project and an



NYIT's first solar carport will be unveiled this April in Central Islip, N.Y.

instructor in NYIT’s Department of Mechanical Engineering.

NYIT’s carport project includes structures outfitted with photovoltaic modules in exterior parking lots, which are ideal for solar power generation, said Rapka. Through these carports, energy is converted to power the PHEVs. The ultimate objective is to transition the public to accepting electric vehicles that run solely on batteries, eliminating the need for fossil fuels altogether.

He estimates that a single 200-square-foot parking space can collect

enough solar energy on an annual basis (3000 to 4000 kWh AC) to enable a PHEV to drive the typical daily New York metro commute of 24 miles roundtrip. NYIT’s PHEV fleet includes two converted Toyota Priuses that are equipped with onboard equipment that transmits GPS and other data to NYIT labs to determine fuel efficiency.

The PHEV’s advantage over standard hybrid vehicles is that they can be charged from an external electrical source. In addition, the vehicles utilize a “blended” travel mode that combines electric and gasoline to produce fuel efficiency of up to 100 miles per gallon. When traveling on pure electrical power, no gasoline is consumed, and, hence, no carbon is emitted.

Even if PHEVs aren’t charging, the solar power generated by the carports can be diverted to a local power grid. In the near future, a process called Vehicle to Grid (V2G) will allow PHEVs to be a resource for the grid.

“During the day, while cars are parked in lots, the vehicle’s batteries can

serve as a large energy storage device linked to the grid,” said Rapka.

NYIT hopes to identify a scalable strategy so that carports can be adapted to parking lots of any size. In addition, researchers will analyze the economic merit of the vehicle-to-grid strategy, as well as propose methods to improve its viability.

All of this adds up to “an eco-friendly trip to work,” said Rapka. “Even if only a quarter of registered vehicles in our test area are PHEV, fuel consumption and emissions can be reduced by 35 percent.” ■

And the Oscar Goes to ...



MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NYIT’s Computer Graphics Pioneer

Ed Catmull, leader of the “digital dream team” at NYIT’s Computer Graphics Laboratory in the 1970s, received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ 2008 Gordon E. Sawyer Award for lifetime technical contributions and leadership in the field of computer graphics in the motion picture industry. Catmull, who is president of Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios, received the award at the academy’s Scientific and Technical Awards Presentations on Feb. 7 and was recognized during the Feb. 22 worldwide live broadcast of the 81st Annual Academy Awards. Catmull received the NYIT President’s Medal for Arts and Technology in August 2001. ■

NYIT Classes Go the Distance

During the fall 2008 semester, the U.S. presidential election was the focus of the first New York-Amman distributed learning course at NYIT. The undergraduate class, American Government and Politics, included 10 students at NYIT's New York campuses taught by NYIT Vice President for Global Academic Programs William Cyrus Reed, Ph.D., and 20 students in Amman taught by Dean of Students Omar Imady, Ph.D. The students and faculty met virtually on five Saturdays (mornings in the United States and evenings in Jordan) through NYIT's distributed learning labs (supplemented by e-mail chats) to enjoy lively discussion and debate while studying the U.S. political system.

"The best class we had was an open and candid discussion about the major issues facing the Obama administration," said Reed. That experience evolved into the creation of five project groups, each comprising members from both campuses. Each group worked together to write a joint paper and deliver a presentation on one particular issue the new administration would face.

"They learned the joys of joint responsibilities," which often were not challenges based on distance but rather on perspectives and individual differ-

ences, Reed says. "Teamwork and partnering were important experiences, and they underscored different perspectives between the two campuses and within each campus."

Greg O'Connor, a fourth-year architecture student at NYIT-Old Westbury, said he particularly benefited from

"TEAMWORK AND PARTNERING
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AND WITHIN EACH CAMPUS."

-WM. CYRUS REED, PH.D.

getting the opinions of Middle East students on the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. "I enjoyed hearing what the students in Amman had to say," he explained, "because I had never clearly heard a point of view from a civilian in the middle of events that were taking place in the Middle East." ■

BY THE NUMBERS

1 IN 20

Approximate number of students accepted into the physician's assistant program each year

7

Number of NYIT academic colleges and schools

27

Average age of graduate students in the fall 2008 semester

200%

Growth in number of faculty and staff who were recognized for their scholarly and creative works at NYIT's 2008 Scholars Reception.

500

Number of career wins for NYIT Lacrosse Head Coach Jack Kaley (as of March 2, 2009)


\$28 MIL

Amount of NYIT scholarships and financial aid offered in 2008

Guerillas in the Midst

Call it thinking outside the box while standing inside one. In an effort to raise awareness about human trafficking, NYIT advertising design students stood in crates they built, while others bound themselves together as they handed out flyers to pedestrians along the perimeter of Central Park West in the fall of 2008. The students adopted the "guerrilla advertising" tactics as an inexpensive and imaginative approach to promoting their cause. ■



A portrait of Nada Marie Assaf-Anid, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a black top and a pearl necklace. The background is a textured blue.

ENGINEERING A VISION

For nearly three decades, Nada Marie Assaf-Anid, Ph.D., has cultivated a reputation for understanding the role of engineering and science in a global society. Her distinguished academic career includes an appointment at John Cabot University, an American liberal arts university in Rome, as well as serving as department chair and graduate program director at Manhattan College in New York. Now she joins NYIT as the dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences.

Born in Lebanon, Anid earned her engineering degree from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1980, after which she lectured at the American University of Beirut. In 1988, she moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., and earned her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. *NYIT Magazine* posed some questions to the dean:

What attracted you to NYIT?

NYIT has a great reputation for promoting forward-thinking ideas and innovative technologies, and I strongly agree with its career- and applications-oriented mission. I also noticed the changes at the Manhattan campus in the past few years and after meeting the academic leadership and faculty of NYIT, I felt that it is a place of new possibilities for me.

As dean, what is your vision for the school, and how do you plan to reach out to NYIT alumni?

I have read NYIT's 2030 strategic plan, which states that "NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences will change the face of engineering education." My own vision is to fulfill the faculty and students' aspirations and to be the face and advocate of the school. My goal is to create a sense of community and of renewed pride through a multi-pronged approach that will include alumni and community outreach, fundraising, research, marketing, global programs, and interdisciplinary activities.

NYIT students have distinguished themselves in sustainable energy initiatives, such as the Solar Decathlon. Are you planning to initiate more green energy programs?

Definitely. We have to think strategically and adapt to the times. Globally, sustainability is a responsibility shared by all nations. Engineering and computer science students need to be part of this collective responsibility. Locally, we must educate a new generation of engineers ready to meet our national needs. My first initiative will be to propose a center for engineering education—highlighting innovative technologies in the areas of energy and sustainability—in partnership with the private sector and government entities. I also plan to create professional development certificate programs in sustainability.

As a woman in a stereotypically male-dominated field, how do you plan to serve as a role model to young women interested in science and engineering programs?

There is nothing more rewarding than when a student or a colleague—male or female—tells me I am a role model and inspiration. Conveying my passion about what I do is the key, whether it is figuring out which microalgae species yields the largest amount of oil, what method produces the highest ethanol yield from glucose fermentation, finding out the best way to capture carbon dioxide from a flue gas stack, or releasing hydrogen gas from a hydride mineral.

Do you have any specific ideas on how to bring more female students into this field?

Having two daughters and having been a professor to waves of female students has taught me a lot about how girls think and learn. I have also read a number of scholarly studies and reports on girls and how they relate to science, math, engineering,

and technology. Some girls are intimidated by these fields; they like people over computer screens and prefer professions that have an impact on people's everyday lives. In addition, they are more responsive to what's alive than what's inert. Girls are responsive to collaborative and experiential teaching methods. When engineering is presented to girls as a field for "cool" people ... where support and mentoring is provided, where most decisions are made by a group of people ... when it is presented as a lucrative profession and its societal impacts are highlighted, girls become interested and may consider it as a career.

How to actually bring more females into engineering starts with educating parents, teachers, high school guidance counselors, and potential female students. Funding to attract more girls into engineering abounds through the National Girls Collaborative Project and numerous other groups. I plan on researching programs applicable to NYIT so that such an initiative can be funded through external grants.

Why did you become a teacher?

Being a teacher is the finest profession there is because of the immeasurable satisfaction that students provide. Teaching also offers endless opportunities for longlasting friendships, creativity, and inspiration.

What motivates you? How do you motivate other people?

Challenge motivates me. The possibility of imparting change motivates me. The ability of leading by example motivates me. I motivate other people by setting a goal, and by engaging them and empowering them to reach it.

What is the biggest myth about engineers?

The biggest myth about engineering is that it's too difficult. Also, sometimes engineers are perceived as loners.

What word best describes you?

Passionate.

What are your hobbies? Favorite movie? Favorite book? Favorite food?

My hobbies are going to museums and the theater, going to classical music concerts and recitals, and traveling in the United States and Europe. My favorite movie is *The English Patient*, my favorite book is *Les Contemplations* by Victor Hugo, and my favorite food is French cuisine. ■

A DEAN'S TO-DO LIST

Dean Anid's plans for the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences are far-reaching and include:

- An outreach initiative to engage alumni and advisory boards in supporting NYIT via jobs, internships, student recruiting, and mentoring.
- Fundraising from alumni, foundations, and corporations in support of specific projects and initiatives, such as scholarships that attract the best students to NYIT campuses worldwide.
- Community outreach through programs and synergies with surrounding institutions and corporations. Examples in Manhattan could be Fordham Law and possible synergies between engineering and law, or Lincoln Center and possible programs between engineering and art. Other examples are the creation of professional programs to suit the demands of the surrounding community and corporations.
- An outreach to high schools and middle schools through workshops for teachers and college counselors, summer camps, and programs that will create a greater awareness about engineering in general, and engineering at NYIT in particular.
- Marketing efforts, as well as increased faculty and student research and scholarship, conference participation, and involvement in leadership positions in prestigious local and national professional organizations.
- A boost in faculty grant activity and non-tuition revenue.
- The creation of a support system that alerts faculty to grant opportunities and assists them in reaching their potential.
- A boost in collaboration and resource sharing between faculty in the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences and other NYIT academic departments, as well as between the university and neighboring institutions.
- A boost in student support systems, as well as more extracurricular activities for resident and commuter students.
- An enhancement of global programs and bridging those with NYIT's New York programs through virtual, experiential learning or group projects performed by students in different locations or through student exchange.



silicon GRADS





NYIT
alumni
talk about
life in the
center of
the tech
universe

By Michael Schiavetta
[M.A. '07]



"IT'S ALL ABOUT TAKING RISKS," says Bill Zerella (B.S. '78). "If you risk and fail, you are still considered a success. In Silicon Valley, you can wear that as a badge of honor."

The NYIT alumnus smiles as he reflects on this unique corner of Earth surrounding California's Santa Clara Valley, whose name is synonymous with all things high-tech. Here, in Silicon Valley, is where the world of tomorrow starts its day.

From William Shockley's invention of the first transistor in 1953 to the Internet boom of the 1990s to Steve Jobs' introduction of the iPhone in 2006, Silicon Valley has always been the launch pad for technologies that define the world we live in today. High-profile companies that call this area home include Google, Apple, Hewlett-Packard, eBay, and Yahoo! How they achieved their fame and fortunes can be traced to one simple fact about life in the valley.

"There is a unique ecosystem here that supports venture capitalism," says Bill. Built within the DNA of Silicon Valley are the strands that support the little startups that could: legal and accounting firms tailored for early-stage businesses; a highly skilled labor force that comprises the world's top engineers and tech visionaries; and, of course, the cavernous pockets of investors looking to fund the next big thing.

"Other places around the world have tried to replicate this environment, but only with limited success," says Bill. In Silicon Valley, your value is not based on where you come from or who you are, but rather on what you've accomplished since your arrival. Entrepreneurship and taking risks are all part of the game. And failure is just another way of saying "try again."

Bill is the chief financial officer of San Jose, Calif.-based Force10 Networks, a global telecommunications provider that recently merged with Turin Networks (where he had served as CFO for nearly three years). The combined entity delivers data center networking equipment, wireless backhaul services, and Carrier Ethernet solutions to more than 1,300 corporate customers worldwide. Its services are also deployed at five of the top wireless network providers in the United States, as well as 11 of the top 17 broadband Internet service providers.

In addition, Force10's merger with Turin resulted in an installed base of \$1.2 billion of company equipment around the world. "Half of the Internet traffic in the United States will flow over our networks," says Bill.

His role as CFO, he says, "keeps him busy." But those who know him best also know that Bill is a man who enjoys a challenge. His father, a hard-working middle-class plumber who worked for the Port Authority of New York, dropped out of school in the eighth grade. It

was a decision he would not let his son make.

"He understood the value of education," says Bill, who holds degrees from NYIT and New York University. "As it turns out, he was right."

Bill's need to improve his worth through education blends well within an industry where information, knowledge, and the willingness to take risks are the catalysts of success.

"Bill was always driven by an entrepreneurial spirit," says childhood friend Joe Ambroso (B.S. '78), who serves as chief financial officer



Bill Zerella (B.S. '78) and his wife, Nancy (along with Clover and Waffle), at their home in Los Gatos, Calif.

of New York-based real estate brokerage Remax Metro and president of executive search firm Lucern Partners Group. He recalls growing up with Bill in Babylon, N.Y., where they took the same classes in high school and even chose to attend NYIT together to earn bachelor's degrees in accounting.

After getting his degree, Bill worked for several firms, including Anorad, a manufacturer of high-precision motion control equipment, which gave him his first exposure to the tech industry. In 1993, he moved to Baltimore, Md., to work for G-Tech, a transaction processing firm that focuses on the lottery and gaming industries. Four years later, amid the dot-com craze of the mid- to late 1990s, Bill headed to Silicon Valley to work for a startup.

From a business standpoint, it was a culture shock for the native Long Islander.

"The business culture in Silicon Valley is much different than New York," says Bill.

THE BUSINESS CULTURE
IN SILICON VALLEY IS
MUCH DIFFERENT THAN
NEW YORK."

-BILL ZERELLA (B.S. '78)

"There is less of a class system, even though the wealth is staggering." And, not surprisingly, professionals in this region are more likely to immerse their careers and personal lives into an increasingly digital culture, and consequently are more attuned to emerging trends. In particular, two sectors of the tech industry are poised for sharp growth.

"The whole world is going wireless," says Bill, noting that this sector is predicted to grow from \$400 million to \$5 billion over the next five years. Another hot segment is green technology. A February 2009 report by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network noted that green tech jobs grew 23 percent from 2005 to 2007. And despite the global economic downturn, venture capital investments in 2008 for the Silicon Valley green tech industry grew 94 percent over the previous year.

Although he works in the heart of the tech universe, Bill is not a lover of all technology. Like many parents, he could live without text messaging and video games. And he has grave concerns about digital security in a world where hackers stole the personal information of nearly 10 million Americans in 2008 alone.

Nevertheless, he remains a strong advocate of the Internet, which he describes as being as important to the modern world as the invention of the first integrated circuit. "It's just incredible how the whole world is so connected."

Sometimes, though, Bill enjoys unplugging himself from work to spend time with his wife of 25 years, Nancy, an interior designer, and their two children, Matthew and Emily. Together, they visit the areas surrounding Silicon Valley, including picturesque Napa Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area.

"The geography is just so beautiful," says Bill.

on a spring day in 1996, the brand new director of business development for Xircom, Anthony Gioeli (B.S. '88), asked his boss for his first assignment.

"You figure it out," said the chief operating officer. Anthony did just that, and in the process, the modem and Ethernet card manufacturer saw its revenues increase by \$200 million.

Five years later, on his first day as CEO of AirPrime, Anthony found himself leading a company that was \$20 million in debt, facing two lawsuits, and had \$2 million in payments

due in two days. Not an easy way to start a new job, but he managed to resolve all three issues in five months, thanks to smart negotiations with creditors and a diligent effort to secure financing.

It seems as if the Brooklyn, N.Y., native has always had a knack for identifying the right recipe for success. Perhaps that was a skill he developed at a young age making pizza in his father's restaurant in Jamaica, Queens, or as a teenager who loved tackling math problems.

After earning a scholarship, Anthony enrolled in the engineering program at NYIT's Manhattan campus and then switched to Old Westbury for its more suburban campus life.

Throughout his education, he took advantage of flexible course schedules—working days at IBM designing power grids with other NYIT students as part of a work-study program and, in his senior year, at Pfizer, where he developed databases that calculated efficiencies in its Brooklyn pill factory.

After earning his bachelor's degree in engineering, Anthony worked for AT&T and Compaq before accepting the role of director of business development at Xircom. He moved to the West Coast in 2000 with his wife, Monica, a general medical practitioner, and their two children, Francesco and Stephanie. Despite his \$200 million "contribution" to Xircom, he left the company to move to Silicon Valley and jump into the startup world.

"I wanted to prove to myself that my success wasn't just a fluke," he says.

That brought him to AirPrime and eventually to Atrua Technologies in Campbell, Calif., where he has served as president and CEO since 2003. The consumer-based company manufactures fingerprint ID technology for use in cell phones and online identification. A secondary product line includes a resistive rubber technology used in miniature joysticks.

Anthony's ultimate goal is to turn the mobile phone into the 21st-century wallet. For many consumers, mobile phones are already an extension of themselves, allowing them to perform tasks such as Web surfing, listening to music, and playing movies and video games (not to mention phone calls once in a while). In the next few years, Anthony says, online banking, financial transactions, and other confidential operations



An avid fan of Italian soccer (his favorite team is Inter Milan), Anthony Gioeli (B.S. '88) has coached boys and girls youth soccer for eight years.



Anthony moved to Silicon Valley in 2000 with his wife, Nancy, and their two children.

through these portable devices will become commonplace.

Naturally, there is the issue of security, especially since people are more likely to lose their cell phones than their laptops. "As these devices become more crucial to our everyday lives, privacy issues are vital," says Anthony. "However, new security methods cannot compromise ease of use. Everyone from soccer moms to scientists needs to understand how to use them."

In Japan, consumers already make purchases at stores by waving their cell phones in front of an electronic reader that scans credit card information. This is not surprising, says Anthony, since the country's large commuter workforce relies much more on mobile technology to perform everyday tasks.

And then there is the business side. In Japan, one carrier—NTT DoCoMo—controls more than half the Japanese cell phone market. Not so in America, where manufacturers, carriers, retailers, and credit card companies would all own a piece of the pie. It's not a situation likely to find a quick solution, but Anthony believes it will ultimately sort itself out.

For now, his company's biggest market is in China, where Anthony opened an office in 2006. Atrua's fingerprint ID technology is the perfect fit in a marketplace that includes more than 100,000 cell phone designers and marketers all looking for ways to differentiate their products.

"We're truly a global company," says Anthony. Which is good for business, because no matter what country you are in today, "people don't forget their cell phones."

MICHAEL KLEIN (M.B.A. '87) recalls a meeting of the American Medical Association in 2000 when government officials were discussing where to allocate funds for medicare payments to new technologies. The problem, Michael notes, was that the room was filled with older men who apportioned significantly more money to prostate cancer than to breast cancer.

"It was an injustice," he says.

That moment inspired Michael to find new ways to help the millions who suffer from breast cancer, the second-leading cause of death for women. Today, as the president and CEO of Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Xoft Inc., he has pioneered a safe and effective radiation therapy that has revolutionized patient care, particularly in the area of women's oncology care.

"We can now deliver radiation therapy anywhere in the world, including the same medical centers where patients get regular treatment," says Michael. Xoft's Axxent Electronic Brachytherapy System irradiates cancerous tissue by using a special balloon that contains "the world's smallest x-ray tube by a factor of 100." After the balloon is inserted into the breast cavity, a curative (non-radioactive) dose of ionizing radiation is deployed.

"One difference between this therapy and conventional techniques is that this takes one week whereas the others take six to eight weeks," he explains. In addition, the Axxent system's concentrated radiation dose rapidly dissipates after hitting the targeted cancer. Therefore, shielded rooms are not required and, in many cases, the spouse can actually be in the treatment room with the clinician and patient. Since the miniaturized x-ray

source stops at pre-planned increments within the breast cavity, radiation is precisely delivered while reducing exposure



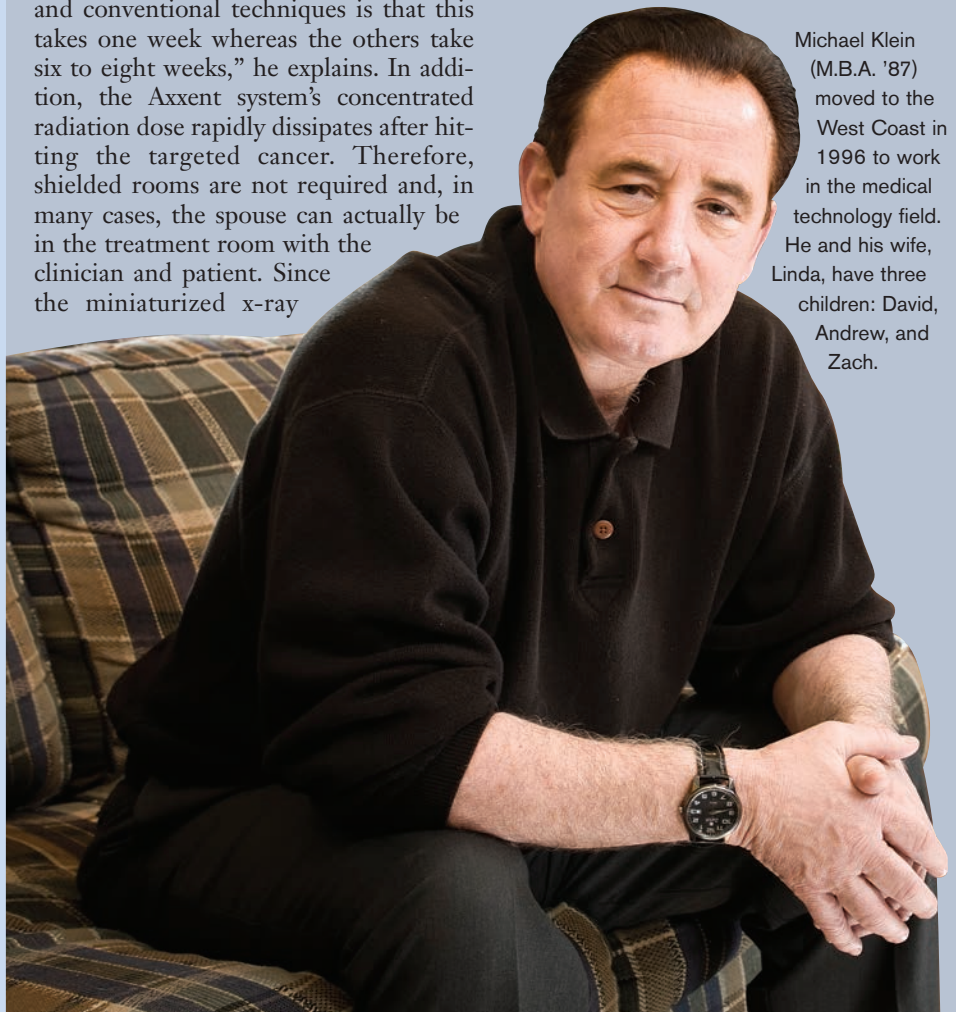
PHOTO COURTESY OF XOFT INC.

The miniaturized x-ray source used in Xoft's Axxent system is the result of a \$100 million investment.

to healthy tissue.

The technology is now used in more than 70 hospitals, says Michael, and the hardware used to perform the treatment can be transported in small vehicles to hundreds of medical treatment facilities. The company expects to triple its installed base in 2009.

Michael's path to success in Silicon Valley started at home in Baldwin, N.Y. The son of Russian-Jewish immigrants, he was taught at a young age to embrace



Michael Klein (M.B.A. '87) moved to the West Coast in 1996 to work in the medical technology field. He and his wife, Linda, have three children: David, Andrew, and Zach.



Michael was joined by his six-week-old son, David, at NYIT's commencement in 1987.

opportunity. His father, a hairdresser, “made sure his son got the entrepreneurial spirit,” says Michael, who knew at 18 that he wanted to be a CEO. “I took on every job I could.”

After teaching high school social studies in his hometown and training executives at General Electric, in the mid-1980s Michael looked to find an industry that had growth potential and limited foreign competition. Health care was an obvious choice, given that the U.S. population is living longer due to improvements in science and medicine. But before he could fulfill his dreams of sitting at the CEO's desk, he attended NYIT to pursue his master's degree in business administration.

“What I liked about NYIT was that the professors were working professionals,” says Michael. “I could tap into them to solve my own real-world business issues.”

After graduation, he worked for medical supplier Beckton-Dickinson and then headed to the West Coast in 1996 to work for Varian, a leading producer of radiation oncology equipment, and then for R2 Technology, a breast cancer detection company. In 2004, he joined Xoft and since then has enjoyed seeing his product help thousands of women.

In fact, the Axxent system has been such a success that it is now used in colon, rectal, and endometrial cancer treatments. In February, it was approved for use in skin cancers. On the horizon: expanding the therapy to lung, brain, prostate, head, and spinal treatments and offering the Axxent technology to a larger international community later this year.

The technology garnered a 2008 *R&D Magazine* R&D 100 Award and took top honors. The accolade recognizes significant technological achievements and products that leapfrog current technology. “It's been hard to keep up with the demand,” says Michael.



AFTER THREE DECADES

of making his mark in the telecommunications industry, Art Klein (B.S. '76) finally decided to follow in his sons' footsteps ... and into show business.

The executive producer's latest movie, *Nobel Son*, was released on DVD in March. Starring Alan Rickman, Mary Steenburgen, and Bill Pullman, the dark comedy tells the story of an arrogant, self-absorbed chemistry professor (Rickman) who wins a Nobel Prize and later learns that his son has been kidnapped and ransomed for the \$2 million in prize money. The father refuses to part with his winnings, setting the stage for betrayal, revenge, and a healthy dose of family dysfunction.

Another film, *Bottle Shock*, starring Alan Rickman, Bill Pullman, Chris Pine, and Eliza Dushku, premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and has received positive reviews from critics. *Rolling Stone* called the film "hugely entertaining" and "a winner." The movie is based on a true story about "The Judgment of Paris," a 1976 competition that marked a turning point in the wine industry as French judges rated California wines better than their French counterparts. "This event," says Art, "is what put Napa Valley on the map."

From his home in Danville, Calif., which overlooks the luxurious Falls Golf Course at Blackhawk, the tech industry veteran explains how he was able to transition from Silicon Valley to independent film.

"The skills I used in the tech industry, especially as it relates to young startup companies and developing exit strategies, is not much different than how I approach independent films," says Art. Due diligence, budgets, scheduling, and knowing



Tech veteran turned independent film producer Art Klein (B.S. '76) and his son, Hal, a Los Angeles film actor, at Art's home in Danville, Calif. Born in New York, Art moved to Silicon Valley in 1989.

your investors are all part of the same business mindset he had while serving in various executive positions at tech companies for three decades.

That career began in 1976. After earning his NYIT bachelor's degree in business administration, the Queens, N.Y., native worked in the sales department at RCA. After several years, he left to handle sales for Cylix Communications, where he helped boost revenues to \$16 million over four years.

In 1985, Art became vice president of sales at Vitalink Communications, which assisted broadcast companies in setting up satellite networks. During his time with Vitalink, he oversaw the satellite provider's transformation into an Ethernet bridge business until his departure in 1993. "I began talking with people about building Ethernet portals using multi-protocol routers," says Art. "We had the ability to extend local area network [LAN] connections over a wide area network using terrestrial circuits. This allowed Ethernet to Ethernet connections to appear on the same network."

Throughout the 1990s, Art worked for more tech companies, including Atlantec and Assured Access Technologies (the latter he founded with a group of engineers). Later, he was recruited by

venture capitalists to serve as president and CEO of ipVerse, a voice over Internet protocol provider.

After retiring in 2001, Art got involved with producing independent movies following a conversation with his son, Hal, a film actor in Los Angeles. This eventually led to his involvement in the production of *The Marilyn Hotchkiss Ballroom Dancing and Charm School*, starring Marisa Tomei, John Goodman, and Robert Carlyse.

Since the debut of *Marilyn Hotchkiss* in 2005, Art has gone on to produce other films, including *Killer Movie*, a spoof of reality TV shows gone bad; *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a live-action TV movie that stars Katey Sagal, Gilbert Gottfried, and Christopher Lloyd; and *Lily's Light*, a children's musical.

It's been an interesting journey for the NYIT graduate turned independent film producer, who still keeps in contact with the tech industry through his investments in several firms. If you ask Art, he'd probably say that working in the movie biz was not on his list of career goals when he started out in the sales department of RCA's New York offices. But with two sons in the motion picture industry, perhaps it was just a matter of time (his other son, Scott, works as a studio executive for Sony Entertainment).

One thing is certain: life is good in Silicon Valley, where he and Sally, his wife of 38 years, have lived since 1989.

"If nothing else, you can't beat the weather," says the native New Yorker. "Though it took me 20 years to find a place that made decent pizza." ■



Art is the executive producer of *Bottle Shock*, which stars Alan Rickman (above). The film premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Teaching the Best of

Both Worlds

NYIT celebrates its legacy in China and continues its transformation into a global player in higher education. By Amy Wu

Amid the electric pulse of Broadway in New York City, NYIT student Lin “Lynn” Yan gets her first taste of the Big Apple while immersing herself in a truly international business education.

On the other side of the world, 325 undergraduates continue their first year at NYIT in Nanjing, China. Also on the continent, in Shenzhen and Nanchang, more than 200 NYIT M.B.A. candidates are earning an NYIT M.B.A. in a program run in conjunction with the Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (JUFE).

In New York, Yan continues her studies as part of NYIT’s double-degree master’s program with Shanghai’s Tongji University. The program includes a master’s degree in business administration or a human resources management from NYIT and a master’s degree in enterprise management from Tongji. She believes that two degrees from two universities—one in the United States and the other in China—will sharpen her competitive edge, especially in this global economic downturn.

“International education is important. It is one thing to read something in a textbook, and another thing to actually experience it,” she says.

To Yan, one of a select number of NYIT students who continue their education in the United States, one of the double-degree program’s biggest perks is learning through cultural immersion. When not in class, she grabs every opportunity to practice English in the big city by visiting museums, malls, and the theater, and

now considers Barnes & Noble one of her favorite hangouts.

“NYIT is located right on Broadway in the most developed area of New York, so I have a lot of opportunity to practice English,” she says.



A China Strategy, A Global Picture

China programs are an important part of the big picture at NYIT as it evolves into a major player in international higher education. “For institutions, you need to identify your strengths and fight for a niche market,” says Scott Liu, Ph.D., professor of management. “International education is also a way to develop NYIT’s competitive edge.”

NYIT’s M.B.A. graduates in China work at some of the country’s top firms and government agencies.





“International education is important. It is one thing to read something in a textbook, and another thing to actually experience it.”

-Lin Yan, NYIT student

NYIT’s foray in bringing high-quality American education and the NYIT degree to China began in 1998 when Liu helped launch the M.B.A. program. NYIT also established an executive management program with Tsinghua University in Beijing in 2007—the same year it opened the first-ever American undergraduate campus in China in collaboration with Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT) to 325 students.

The NYIT-NUPT program in Nanjing is significant in many ways. “There was no physical NYIT campus in China before this, and that symbolizes a very big leap for us,” says Roger Yu, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “Within the Chinese population, there is a high demand for an

American-style education, especially at the undergraduate level. They have the idea that an American degree leads to a better life, a better education,” he says. “The physical presence is very important to Chinese education.”

In addition, NYIT students from New York participate in summer study abroad programs in architecture, interior design, and communication arts—and have worked on projects such as redesigning a waterfront in Shanghai and filming a documentary on preparations for the 2008 Olympics.

“I feel the greatest challenge is to introduce students to a culture that is more than 5,000 years old,” says Michele Bertomen, associate professor of architecture. Because developing nations such as China are playing a greater role in the world’s



JOHN ROLEKE

Tong Lei and Lin Yan (from left) join fellow Chinese students at NYIT-Manhattan. Seated is Professor Sizong Wu, dean of the School of Economics and Management at Tongji University, which partners with NYIT to offer a double-degree program for graduate students in China and New York.

economy, she adds, the need for NYIT students to experience a global education is vital. “We have much to learn from the Chinese, and they from us.”

Trial and Error ... and Adventure

Building a program, let alone a campus, in another country often involves a labyrinth of red tape and complex cultural challenges, and NYIT has braved this with a sense of adventure. Creating global programs in China required blending two curriculums, two cultures, two styles of learning, and two continents, all while adhering to the rules and regulations of the partner schools and their governments.

Yu, a native of China, has a clear understanding of the country’s landscape and how to navigate some of the roadblocks. As early as 2005, for example, he began discussions with several potential partners to develop an undergraduate NYIT campus in China. Two years later, NYIT-Nanjing was born.

Today, more and more students in China are exposed to U.S. education, and “as we open the door to the Chinese population, more students and parents realize the difference between the education systems,” Yu adds.

After getting the green light from the Chinese government to establish NYIT-Nanjing, one of the greatest challenges was finding faculty members willing and able to travel on short notice. For some professors, teaching in China was an education itself in a foreign culture.

Professor Gary Stephens was in that initial group, and has taught English at NYIT-Nanjing for two fall semesters. “The professor is very much a respected figure in China,” says Stephens, who found that Chinese students are much quieter in class and tend to ask fewer questions than their American counterparts.

“Inherent in American education is developing one’s own ideas, sharing them, and becoming involved in analytical and critical thinking,” explains Stephens. “This is a direct contrast to the traditional Chinese path of memorization.” In order to get the NYIT-Nanjing students to sample the U.S. style, he assigned them personal essays that were shared with the class.

“I received several lovely personal essays in that first semester,” he recalls.

Nearly two years into the program, NYIT continues to tweak the curricula. For example, professors must pack their courses into the Chinese semester system of 12 weeks. And even scheduling classes can be a cultural difference. “The Chinese prize a system that is fairly set, while in America we prize flexibility,” says James H. Nolt, dean of NYIT-Nanjing.

A big part of making the program work is communication and compromise. Nolt works closely with his Chinese counterpart at NUPT to ensure programs are run smoothly.

Despite the occasional bumps in the road, Stephens says he is hooked on China and cannot wait until he returns to

teach in Nanjing for the fall 2009 semester. “One of my great pleasures is the friendships I have with students,” he says.

Global Gains

NYIT’s success in China can be attributed to several advantages: arriving early on the scene of this emerging educational market, a longstanding commitment from Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., president and former provost of NYIT, and a select group of full-time faculty members who are native Chinese and have been instrumental in pulling the programs together.

One of them is Liu, who arrived at NYIT in 1997 with a goal of helping to bring American education to China. “I realized there was opportunity in American education, and I developed a program to bring it to the Chinese,” he says.

In 1998, NYIT launched its M.B.A. program at JUFU with some 50 students. The program has since graduated nearly 700 students, many of whom attribute their professional success to their unique American degree. One graduate, Jing Xie (M.B.A. ’06), owner of business management consulting firm Honghao Zhitian Consulting Co., has been ranked as one of the top 10 executives in China by www.execunet.cn. She says, “I went to NYIT because of its educational model. Many courses are taught by professors from NYIT’s New York campuses, and that helps develop a global perspective.”

This initial global expansion paved the



JAMES REYNOLDS

NYIT students in New York travel to China as part of their undergraduate and graduate education.

way for the establishment of NYIT campuses in Vancouver, Canada; Amman, Jordan; Manama, Bahrain; and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. In 2006, the Office of Global Academic Programs was established and a year later, Wm. Cyrus Reed, Ph.D., joined NYIT as its vice president to work with the university's deans on expanding international programs and NYIT's global footprint, as well as ensuring academic quality and integrity.

NYIT's overall 2030 strategic plan calls for it to become a major international player. "As a 21st-century university, we are playing a leading role in the globalization process," says Reed. "We are doing everything we can to ensure all of our students are prepared for this new global marketplace."

In that plan, China is a major focus. "It is the fastest-growing education market in the world, and naturally we should look to China, as we feel there is a lot of room for expansion," says Nolt.

Nolt and Yu are both instrumental in bringing NYIT's undergraduate programs in China to life. Just like at NYIT's other global campuses, the curriculum mirrors the one taught to their counterparts in the United States.

"We take the show on the road and bring education to them," explains Reed.

"I ♥ New York"

Even with programs in Canada, the Middle East, and China, NYIT offers one of the best perks for any global student—a campus in Manhattan. "This is a city that is full of surprises and different cultures," says Tong "Tony" Lei, another student in the double-degree master's program with Tongji University. He was surprised by how open American professors were with their students.

"For many Chinese students, it is very different when they see that, in America, professors want students to challenge them," says Lei.

He is getting a crash course in real-life human resources through his NYIT field trips to companies such as Sesame Street and organizations such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He's also soaking up the sights and sounds of New York, including the museums, the malls, and Central Park. And he is now the proud owner of a New York State driver's license.

"It's another kind of life," says Lei, whose plan is to gain experience through an internship in the United

States and then return to China, where he will build his career at a multinational company.

"NYIT gives me a lot of exposure to the U.S. working environment," says Lei. Every semester, he returns to his hometown in mainland China, where his family and friends continue to support him.

"At first, they thought I might not survive here, but now I'm gaining confidence, and they are very proud."

Looking to the Future

Based on the success of its China programs, NYIT looks at the next 10 years as a time for continued expansion and educational opportunities for its students throughout the world, says Reed.

In April, the university announced the launch of an alumni chapter in China, which boasts 700 graduates from the NYIT China M.B.A. program, many of whom work in senior executive positions at some of the country's top firms and

academic majors offered throughout the country. Plans also include more opportunities for students to study in China and for students from China to study at NYIT's other campuses.

As proof that the latter is already happening, 20 students at NYIT-Manhattan launched the Chinese Student Association in the spring 2009 semester. "It is important for American and Chinese students to recognize the beauty in each other's culture and history," says staff advisor Bruce Baek. The student organization is planning visits to cultural landmarks in New York, including the Statue of Liberty, as well as Boston and Washington, D.C.

And a new wave of students from China will have the benefit and help of pioneers such as Yan. Nearly a year after arriving in America, she can clearly spot the differences and similarities between the two cultures—from the frank and open exchanges between American professors and their students, to the neon



Yang Zhen, NUPT President and Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee (standing, left) and President Guiliano celebrate the official opening of NYIT's Nanjing campus in October 2007.

government agencies. This chapter will strengthen NYIT's ties with its alumni in China, offering them additional networking opportunities and other benefits.

The ultimate goal of the NYIT-Nanjing undergraduate campus is to have roughly 3,000 to 4,000 students over the next several years, says Yu. In addition, the university hopes to open a second undergraduate campus with a partner university in southern China. At the same time, NYIT is looking to expand the number of

shine of Broadway, which rekindles memories of home.

"Times Square is similar to Nanjing Road in Shanghai," she laughs. "It's another Shanghai in America." ■

Amy Wu is a freelance journalist based in New York City. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Time magazine. In addition, she spent five years working as a reporter in Hong Kong.

The BEARS



RON VESELY/MLB PHOTOS



Once a pitcher for the NYIT Bears, Don Cooper has served as a coach in the Chicago White Sox system for more than 20 years. In 2002, he became the major league team's head pitching coach and, in 2005, celebrated with his players when they became the World Series champions.

of Summer

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

Once upon a spring day in 1975, NYIT freshman Don Cooper pitched a complete game to defeat an Adelphi University team of older, more experienced players. It was a victory he will remember for the rest of his life—a moment, he says, when “I knew I was going to play pro ball.”

Thirty years later, Don, now the Chicago White Sox pitching coach, celebrated with his players when they ended an 88-year drought to become the 2005 World Series champions. “I fulfilled my childhood dreams,” he recalls. The next year, the NYIT grad was welcomed back to his alma mater and given an honorary doctorate degree at the university’s 45th annual commencement.

Those lucky enough to have experienced the thrill of staring down a 90-mile per hour fastball will tell you that what you see across nine innings is not all there is in the life of a professional baseball player. But along with the intense pressure, physical training, and mental discipline needed to succeed comes the incredible sense of self-accomplishment and admiration among fans worldwide.

Allen Watson and Ray Giannelli (B.S. '96) join Don as NYIT alumni who have lived and breathed the world of Major League Baseball. As a pitcher for several baseball teams, including the New York Yankees and the New York Mets, Allen has enjoyed his share of memorable moments, including three appearances in the 1999 American League Championship Series.

“It was an incredible time,” says Allen, owner of the sports bar Triple Play, in Queens, N.Y. As a pitcher on the Yanks, he recalls, “Every time we went out there, we thought we were going to win. We didn’t think anyone could beat us.”

Ray’s baseball career spans 10 years across several teams, though he actually rejected his first offer to join the big leagues. “During my junior year [at NYIT], I was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles but did not sign,” he says. “I instead chose to finish my degree.” It was a gutsy move, but one that paid off.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in marketing, Ray signed with the Toronto Blue Jays and posted big numbers in the minor leagues, including a tremendous 1989 season in which he hit .301 with 18 home runs and 85 RBIs for the Myrtle Beach Blue Jays. In that same year, he was ranked in the top five of every offensive category for third basemen in the South Atlantic league.

Ray recalls the moment he got called up to the majors in 1991. “At first, I thought they were talking about a promotional game,” he says. “‘Nope,’ they said, ‘pack your bags.’”



PHOTO COURTESY OF UPPER DECK



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOPPS

SCOREBOARD

He made his major league debut on May 4 and lined a single in his first at-bat against the Kansas City Royals. Though he was sent back to the minors later that season, Ray returned to the majors to play alongside Allen on the 1995 St. Louis Cardinals.

Allen, who was drafted in 1991 by the Cards, is quick to note that getting to the majors is not for the timid. "Everyone around the world plays baseball," he says. "The competition is fierce." One key to success, according to Allen, lies in the mental focus one brings to the game.

in my baseball career [if I hadn't played for the Yankees]," he says. As a pitcher, he got the chance to work for managers Yogi Berra and Billy Martin, as well as play alongside Don Mattingly, Ron Guidry, Willie Randolph, and Dave Winfield. "It ended way too soon," says Don.

Some baseball players have memorable experiences off the field as well—both good and bad. Allen recalls when he flew to Florida to play the Marlins and figured it would be a good opportunity to catch up with family members who lived in the area. When it

Allen eventually got to the mound that day as a reliever, and gave up the winning run to the other team. Then, says Allen, he got lost again driving back to his family's home.

It was an incident, he says, that Torre joked about when the two were reunited on the 1999 Yankees. In addition to Torre, Allen continues to remain in touch with former teammates, including Derek Jeter, who works with the NYIT grad as part of the Yankee shortstop's Turn 2 Foundation to promote programs that teach children and young adults about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Don, too, is active in educating young people and regularly returns to his alma mater to teach baseball clinics with Bob Hirschfield, head coach of the NYIT Bears. He also serves as a mentor to help kids build their confidence and self-esteem.

Growing up, Don says, he knew someday he would become a teacher. Not surprisingly, his favorite subjects at NYIT were sociology and psychology. "That really interested me, learning what motivates people," he says. "That is essential for coaching and managing."

After his final season in 1997, Ray also returned to his alma mater to serve as an NYIT baseball coach from 1999 to 2008. He is grateful to Coach Hirschfield for giving him the discipline and skills he needed as a player to compete in the big leagues.

"He's a tough guy," says Ray. "But I have a lot of respect for him. He makes you grow up real fast, so when I went to pro ball, it was an easy transition."

Ray now handles sales for the Harry Krantz Company, a Long Island, N.Y.-based distributor of electronic components. He still keeps in touch with his former NYIT teammates and visits the Old Westbury campus to impart his wisdom to student-athletes.

In addition to playing alongside Allen on the '95 Cards, Ray recalls a brush with another NYIT grad in the minor leagues, when he played a game against the Sarasota White Sox. The pitching coach for the other team, of course, was Don.

"Everyone knew him and praised him," says Ray. "He's one of the best." ■



Don Cooper and Bob Hirschfield, head coach of the NYIT Bears, inside Recreation Hall at the Old Westbury campus. For nearly 30 years, Don has returned to his alma mater to share his expertise with high school coaches, as well as the next generation of professional ball players.

Don agrees. With a baseball career that spans more than three decades, including more than 20 years as a White Sox coach, he knows what separates the good player from the great. "Baseball is such a wonderful game because you don't need to be the fastest or the tallest," he says. "You need to use your brain. The players who are mentally strongest are the best."

The rewards that come with maintaining a strong mental focus, adds Don, are worth it. The former Yankee recalls the day in 1985 when he first put on the legendary pinstripe uniform. "Something would have been missing

came time for the Cardinals pitcher to drive from their home to the game at Joe Robbie Stadium in Miami Gardens, there was only one problem.

"We drove around in circles," says Allen, who was scheduled to be the starting pitcher that day. After finally figuring out how to get to the stadium, Allen tried to explain to the security guards who he was. They didn't buy it, so Allen sneaked in, made it to the locker room, and got dressed only to run into his manager, Joe Torre, minutes before the first pitch.

"You're not starting," was all that Torre said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lassiter Nets Record

Senior Bryant Lassiter etched his name into the NYIT record books when he became the Bears' all-time leading hoops scorer with 1,923 points, surpassing the previous record of 1,849 points set by Pat Tunstead in 2003-2004. Lassiter also earned ECC Second-Team All-Conference honors.

The men's basketball team finished the 2008-2009 regular season with a 13-15 overall record and an 8-10 record in the East Coast Conference, advancing to the ECC tournament as the seventh seed before losing to Bridgeport in the semifinals. ■

Senior Bryant Lassiter finished his NYIT athletic career with a record-setting 1,923 points.



PARENTS ENJOY A NIGHT OUT ON THE BEARS

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation hosted more than 100 children during the second annual Night Out on the Bears on Dec. 5, 2008, at NYIT-Old Westbury. The event offered parents from the local community an opportunity to enjoy an evening out while NYIT student-athletes and staff cared for their children in a safe, healthy, and fun-filled environment—entirely free of charge.

Awarded an NCAA Division II and National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators Community Engagement Award in 2007, the event expanded in 2008 to include more participants and new activities, including a healthy dinner catered by NYIT's Department of Food Services, light-hearted nutrition lessons, and literature on healthy eating from NYIT's Department of Clinical Nutrition. Also new this year was a creativity session presented by the Student Union of Contemporary Artists.

"The development and continued growth of our engagement initiatives strengthen our relationship with members of the NYIT community," said Director of Athletics Clyde Doughty Jr. (B.S. '81, M.S. '96, M.P.S. '98). "I am very appreciative of the hard work and effort put forth by our student-athletes, coaches, and staff in making this event a success."

CONFERENCE BOUND

NYIT's baseball team has been selected as an associate member of the Great West Conference for the 2009-2010 academic year. The Bears, who have spent the last eight seasons participating in Division I Independent Baseball Tournament, will join a conference for the first time since 2001 when they played as part of the New York State Baseball Conference.

"Being an associate member of the Great West Conference will allow us to once again play for a conference championship," said head coach Bob Hirschfield. "With some new opponents on the way, we look forward to giving our fans and alumni new opportunities to cheer for the Bears." ■

NYIT's Jack Kaley Named FieldTurf Lacrosse Coach of the Year



NYIT men's lacrosse head coach Jack Kaley was named the Division II 2008 FieldTurf Lacrosse Coach of the Year for the second time in his coaching career. Kaley last won the award in 2006 after he led the Bears to their third national championship in 2005. Last season, Kaley was the only coach in all three NCAA divisions to win the FieldTurf Lacrosse Coach of the Year and be named the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Coach of the Year within a division.

Kaley and the Bears captured the 2008 Division II national championship with a 16-11 win over Le Moyne. Under Kaley, the lacrosse program has won four national championships, including three in the past six years, has appeared in the national championship game six times, and has recorded the best winning percentage in Division I and II lacrosse. ■

ALUMNINOTES

| 1960s |

Life keeps getting sweeter for **Jim Geoghan (B.F.A. '69)**. As executive producer and co-creator of the Disney Channel hit show, *The Suite Life of Zack and Cody*, Jim has breathed new life into his creation by putting some of the cast on a boat and renaming the show *The Suite Life on Deck*, now in its second year. Nominated for an

to publish his play, *Two Gentlemen of Corona*, this spring. Jim lives with his wife, Annie, a veteran stage, screen, and television actress who is now a busy acting coach, in Hollywood, Calif. Their daughter, Genevieve, is a freshman at the University of Southern California and is following in her dad's footsteps as a film and creative writing major.



LI NEWS TONIGHT CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Faculty and staff members joined alumni and friends of NYIT's award-winning, student-produced *LI News Tonight* news program at an Oct. 17, 2008, reception to celebrate the program's 25th anniversary. *LI News Tonight*, which airs weeknights at 7 p.m. on Cablevision-Channel 29 (New York), has helped launch the careers of numerous local and national news personalities. Pictured (from left) are: Michael DelGuidice (B.F.A. '84, M.A. '86), WNBC photographer; Patti Ann Browne (M.A. '89), Fox News Channel anchor; Ken Eckhardt, *LI News Tonight* anchor and news director; Carol Pack (B.F.A. '86, M.A. '87), *LI News Tonight* assignment manager and chief correspondent; Brian Kenny (B.F.A. '85), ESPN sportscaster; and Ellen Levy Ryan (M.A. '88), Chyron Corporation product manager. The reception took place at NYIT's de Seversky center at the Old Westbury campus. ■

Emmy in 2006 and 2007 for Best Children's Program, *The Suite Life* is the top-rated scripted show on cable TV and is in the top 10 shows downloaded each week on the Internet. Not to be cast as just a TV guy, Jim has also been busy on the theatrical front. Dramatists Play Service published his comedy, *UG-The Caveman Musical*, and Samuel French Inc. is set

| 1970s |

Steve Zazenski (B.F.A. '71) has been making the world a more colorful place for more than three decades. The award-winning artist is best known for his traditional landscapes, inspired by New England, Bucks County, Pa, and the Caribbean. He has also developed "A Logical Approach to Watercolors," a series of classes and

workshops in which he gives demonstrations to both public and private art associations. Steve lives with his wife of 37 years, Kathy, in Bucks County, Pa.

William Bauman (B.S. '73) has been named senior vice president and general manager of Computer Associate's (CA) India technology center in Hyderabad, India, where he is responsible for expanding the company's engineering, marketing, and business development sectors. Prior to this position, William served as senior vice president and general manager of CA's workload automation business unit.

Nevio Carcich (B.F.A. '75) is a self-employed designer and artist whose work has been exhibited at Stone Junction Station in Warwick, N.Y., and at the Edward Hopper House Art Center in Nyack, N.Y., as well as in Unije, Croatia. Nevio lives with his wife, Ursula, in North Bergen, N.J.

For **Daisy Exposito-Ulla (B.F.A. '75)**, knowing how to reach the Hispanic community has been paramount to her livelihood. As co-owner of D Exposito and Partners, a Hispanic marketing and communications agency in New York City, Daisy brings more than three decades of experience to her firm. She began her career as creative director of Young & Rubicam's The Bravo Group—one of the largest Hispanic ad agencies in the country—and from 1981 to 2004 served as Bravo's chairperson and CEO. She is a past recipient of the International Center's Award of Excellence, the Carvel Immigrant of the Year Award, and the Business Award by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. Daisy was also named 2002 Advertising Executive of the Year by Hispanicad.com.

Joseph Mitrani (B.F.A. '75), owner of Unique Furniture in Green Brook, N.J., has opened a second furniture showroom, Urban Living, in Somerville, N.J. "I come from a long line of retailers," he says. "They understood the psychology of people." Established in 1992, Unique Furniture is a complete design showroom displaying European-inspired

WALK WITH US, AROUND THE GLOBE

Some universities promote their reputations for graduating individuals who make a difference. NYIT alumni choose the challenges and paths that change the world in the same collaborative, entrepreneurial spirit as the university where they earned their degrees.

One of my favorite historic figures, the French philosopher Albert Camus, once said, "Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me, and be my friend." This exemplifies the relationship that NYIT alumni feel for their alma mater, for their fellow graduates, and for the world at large as they deal with the many challenges and opportunities that face us as a global society.

A signature trait of NYIT alumni throughout the years has been their contributions to the development of breakthrough technologies across a wide variety of disciplines, such as architecture, computer science, education, engineering, management, media, health care, and telecommunications. It comes as no surprise that we continue to draw upon our graduates' knowledge to serve as mentors to NYIT students, as well as invite them to help enhance our academic programs to ensure they meet the needs of today's marketplace.



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

I am pleased to announce that April 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of our M.B.A. programs in China. As part of honoring our legacy, we will celebrate with a series of inaugural events that will serve to establish Alumni Federation chapters in Nanchang, Beijing, Shenzhen, and Shanghai. These events represent yet another milestone in NYIT's evolution as a 21st-century global institution.

As always, I encourage you to reconnect with NYIT if you have not done so and to contribute to helping our students in any way you can. In these difficult times, the first impulse might be to turn inward and focus solely on immediate concerns. This has never been the style of NYIT or its alumni. Perhaps Camus said it best: "We refuse to despair of mankind. Without having the unreasonable ambition to save men, we still want to serve them." ■

Joe Fortine
Director of Alumni Relations

furniture, as well as carpeting, area rugs, flooring, lighting, and accessories. Urban Living, which will be managed by Joseph's daughter and nephew, offers contemporary and classic designs.

Curtis Brunson (B.S. '76) is executive vice president for corporate strategy and development at L-3 Communications, the sixth largest defense contractor in the United States.

You probably don't recognize her name, but **Harriet Schapiro Mauro (B.F.A. '77)** has been entertaining you for more than 30 years. She is a talent producer for television shows and live events, including the Tony, Daytime Emmy, Golden Globe, and soap opera awards shows. She is currently involved with *Who Do You Think You Are?* The NBC/BBC series features celebrities who trace and revisit their roots. Harriet lives with her husband of 28 years and their 16-year-old son in Los Angeles.

Bill Zeman (B.S. '77, M.B.A. '82) is now an accredited professional as designated by the United States Green Building Council, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. He provides technical consulting services in the design, evaluation, and construction of building mechanical systems. Bill also volunteers his time and expertise at the Half Hollow Hills School District. He resides in Dix Hills, N.Y., with his wife, Rosemary. Their daughter, Stephanie, is pursuing a career in health sciences.

Joan O'Connor (M.P.S. '79) is a licensed mental health counselor who has worked in NYIT's Office of Counseling and Wellness Services since 1981. She says, "I truly love working with the students and being a part of the NYIT community, as corny as that may sound." Joan is married with two children. "In my free time, I like to play golf, cook, and spend time with my

family and friends." She also bleeds blue as a diehard New York Rangers fan.

| 1980s |

Thomas S. Ricci (B.Arch. '80) is executive vice president with Thomas Properties Group Inc., a real estate company that owns and manages properties throughout the United States. Previously, he served as senior vice president of the company, as well as vice president of planning and entitlements at Maguire Thomas Partners' Playa Capital Company division. Early in his career, Thomas was a captain in the U.S. Air Force, where he participated in the planning, design, and construction of medical facilities in the United States and abroad. He and his wife, Amy, live in Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.

Jerry Romano (B.F.A. '80) is a sales executive for GlobeCast America, ➤



JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

ALLISON BAVER (M.B.A. '07)

GRADUATE ON ICE U.S. champion speed skater Allison Baver is currently training for the XXI Olympic Winter Games to be held in Vancouver. "I always had the goal of being in the Olympics and winning a medal." In 2002 and 2006, she qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team, and, in 2007, she won the U.S. Short Track Championship. Allison currently holds more World Cup championship medals (12) than any other female short track speed skater in U.S. history.

MODEL SKATER Allison signed with Wilhelmina Models' athlete division in the fall of 2008.

CHAMPIONING GOOD CAUSES In 2008, Allison took the advice of her sister, Crystal, and encouraged her teammates to join her in creating an adopt-a-family program to help others in need. She is also establishing a foundation that teaches children about the principles of Olympic competition and how to incorporate athletics into a successful and happy life.

DETERMINED SPIRIT Life for an Olympic athlete isn't all trophies and cereal boxes. One injury left Allison with nearly 50 stitches on her face, and another collision put her in a wheelchair. In both cases, she found the strength to compete again and achieve even greater success. In February 2009, Allison broke her leg when another skater collided with her during the Ladies 1,500-meter A final at the International Skating Union World Cup in Bulgaria. Despite this latest setback, she is determined to train even harder. "I always look forward and never lose faith in believing what's possible."

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "Success is determined not only by whether or not I accomplish my goal, but by what others think of my character in that effort. It's also about knowing I tried my absolute best."

EDUCATION ON THE GO Allison chose NYIT because its online courses were the perfect fit to match the hectic pace of her career.

LAST BOOK READ *The Lance Armstrong Performance Program* by Lance Armstrong and Chris Carmichael

DOWNTIME? WHAT DOWNTIME? When she's not reaching speeds of 35 miles per hour on the ice, Allison enjoys shopping, hiking, movies, yoga, and dancing. However, with her intense training schedule, "I never get to do most of these things!"

>> which serves broadcasters worldwide through its satellite network. He is also chairman of the New York Emmy Awards, as well as executive producer of the program (Jerry also serves on the national committee for the Emmys). He lives in Sea Cliff, N.Y., with his wife of 21 years, Carole, and their two sons, Alex and Jonathan.

After 40 years in the U.S. Army, retired General **Vincent Capasso, Ph.D., (M.P.S. '81)** now serves in the U.S. Department of Defense as part of the Multinational Security Transition Command in Baghdad. He is the recipient of the U.S. Gold Medal for Volunteer Service, the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal with World Trade Center Device, and the NYIT Brett Kaufman Memorial Alumni Award for Volunteerism. One of Vincent's favorite NYIT memories is when he applied for a criminal justice scholarship and was interviewed by the university's former president, Matthew Schure, Ph.D. "As the interview progressed, we realized that we had graduated high school together in New York City. We have remained good friends ever since." Vincent says he is grateful that he has a career that has allowed him to travel around the world and immerse himself in different cultures. He and his wife, Diane, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Architect **Daniel Meehan (B.S. '81)** is now in charge of the New Jersey architectural group at architectural and engineering firm H2M. Daniel has worked there since 1998 and assists the company's New York clients in managing all aspects of architectural and planning projects. Daniel also teaches architecture technology and construction management at Farmingdale State College on Long Island, N.Y. Licensed to practice in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, he is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the Construction Specifications Institute.

Carmen Schuller (B.S. '82) has been named one of America's Top Dentists by the Consumers' Research Council of America in Washington, D.C. The selection process is based on a point system that measures education, years in practice, affiliations with

professional associations, and board certifications.

Stephanie Giorlando (D.O. '83) has been practicing physical medicine and rehabilitation in northern Virginia since 1987 after completing her residency at St. Vincent's Hospital. She has been married to her husband, Bill, since 1989. They are the proud parents of nine-year-old Stephen. "I am amazed at the growth of NYIT, and am really proud to have it as my alma mater," says Stephanie. "I hope all my classmates are doing well in their careers and in their personal lives."

Jo Anne Meekins (B.S. '83) is a procedure writer for Healthfirst, a health insurance company servicing New York City and Long Island. In April 2008, her book, *On Solid Ground: Inspirational Poetry for All Occasions*, was published by Author House.

Evan Goldenberg (B.Arch. '84) is the owner and chief architect of Design Build Consultants Inc., a Connecticut-based architecture and interior design firm that specializes in residential structures and interiors, wine cellars, and restaurants. The firm, founded in 1990, is now a multimillion-dollar enterprise.

Robert M. Manashi (B.T. '84) is president of Flight Vehicles Consulting Inc. and Southridge Steel Inc., both based in California.

Robert Allan Markovits (B.Arch. '84) has been appointed to a three-year term at the Toronto office of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada. Previously, Robert served as a project architect and in-house designer at several firms.

Ronald S. Litman (D.O. '85) has been promoted to professor of anesthesiology and pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Roland Laird (M.S. '86) is the author of *Still I Rise: A Graphic History of African Americans*, as well as the co-founder of Posro Media in Trenton, N.J., a company that produces multimedia materials that promote African American history and culture.

Yunah Hong (M.A. '87) is a New York-based filmmaker whose latest documentary, *Between the Lines: Asian-American Women's Poetry*, was screened in January at the David M. Kennedy >>

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ANDERS COHEN (D.O. '97)

CURRENT POSITION Chief of neurosurgery and spine surgery at Brooklyn Hospital Center, where he specializes in minimally invasive treatments. He is also assistant professor of neurosurgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center and a frequent lecturer at international conferences. Anders was the first New York City physician to perform the extreme lateral interbody fusion and Trans1 procedures to treat the lumbar spine.

BEST PART OF MY DAY "There is no greater satisfaction than the gratitude of a happy patient."

A FRIENDSHIP FORGED During his NYCOM orientation, Anders met another student, Richard Jadick (D.O. '97), who today serves as a surgeon and commander in the U.S. Navy. The two became great friends and were very involved in student government, as well as improving the quality of life for NYIT students.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "Finding a job that doesn't require you to set an alarm clock."

FAVORITE FLICK "*Slumdog Millionaire*, which reminded me of *City of God*, another classic."

LAST BOOK READ *Armageddon in Retrospect* by Kurt Vonnegut

SPINAL CHORDS Anders won't operate without music in the background. "Sometimes I let the patient pick the artist off my iPod."



JEFF WEINER

>> Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Yunah is now working on *Dangerous to Know: Anna May Wong*, a feature-length documentary about the Chinese-American film star and stage actress of the 1920s and 1930s.

Joseph Lancia (D.O. '87), a psychiatrist who runs a private practice in upstate New York, is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Rochester Medical Center's Department of Psychiatry. In addition, he teaches psychotherapy and transpersonal psychiatry and is a distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Joseph also conducts equine-assisted psychotherapy (EAP) at Windhorse Farm LLC in Hilton, N.Y.

Scott Neher (B.S. '87, M.A. '96) has worn many entrepreneurial hats during his career. He began buying

properties in the 1980s and has continued to operate a series of real estate companies over the years, including Earth Investors Group, Worldcom Title Company, and Earth Media Inc., the publishing company for *Elements* magazine. In addition, Scott donates his time to several community organizations on Long Island and is an active member of various local business associations.

Daniel Panessa (B.S. '87, M.S. '01) is vice president of human resources at Slomin's Inc. in Hicksville, N.Y. Daniel thanks NYIT for providing the vision and inspiration for his career.

Leonard Goffe (B.S. '88) is director of advertising and marketing at Realty Advisors International Inc., a full-service real estate firm headquartered in West Palm Beach, Fla. For the past 15 years, Leonard has

been involved in public relations, advertising, and marketing in the New York, Florida, and Washington, D.C., areas.

Michael Edbauer (D.O. '88) is vice president of medical affairs for the Catholic Western New York Independent Practice Association (IPA) in Buffalo, N.Y., a partnership between the Catholic Health System and almost 800 physicians. He is also vice president of medical affairs for the Catholic Health Primary Care Division and McAuley Seton Home Care.

Brad Casiano (B.S. '89) provides electronic trading solutions at Bloomberg L.P., a global provider of financial data, news, and analytics. Previously, Brad served as a fixed income trader and sales manager at J.P. Morgan Chase. In his free time, Brad

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SHENGLAI CHEN (M.B.A. '02)

CURRENT POSITION President of the Center for the Shanghai International Arts Festival, the largest and only statewide event of its type in China.

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- As director and chief editor of Shanghai Oriental Radio, Shenglai created several well-received programs. As a result, he received the Distinguished Contribution Award from the China Radio and Television Association; the Chinese Distinguished People Award from the International Festivals and Events Association (twice); and was named among the top 10 newsmakers by the *China Times*.
- Launched the Association of Asian Performing Arts Festival and served as its vice chairman.
- Member of the Chinese Writer's Association and the author of several books. Shenglai is writing a new book based on his visits to more than 40 countries.

FAVORITE NYIT MEMORY "I really enjoyed the discussions with professors and classmates."

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "When efforts are widely recognized and appreciated by society."

FAVORITE MOVIES *Vita è bella*, *La, On Golden Pond*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, and *Gloomy Sunday*

HOBBIES Writing, photography, travel, and tennis.



coordinates fundraising programs for children with cancer and enjoys playing soccer and golf. He has been married for 14 years and has three children.

Photographer **Carol Hartman (B.F.A. '89)** has had her work exhibited at the Robert Raushenberg Gallery in Fort Meyers, Fla., and has a permanent exhibit of 20 prints owned by Bay Title in Cape Coral, Fla. She notes that much of her photography consists of places and things we pass every day, but never stop to admire for their beauty.

Sunita Holzer (M.S. '89) is an executive with the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. She was recently honored by the National Council for Research on Women and received the Outstanding Making a Difference for Women Award for her substantial contributions toward helping other women. Sunita has held managerial positions at GE Capital, American Express, and American International Group. She is also a member of Chubb's Women of Color Advisory Council and serves on the board for Jersey Battered Women's Service Inc.

| 1990s |

Deanna M. Del Prete (D.O. '90) is an obstetrician with Women's Health-care of New England at Norwalk Hospital, in Norwalk, Conn. She completed an osteopathic internship at the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y., after which she became the chief resident for obstetrics and gynecology at Mount Sinai Hospital in Hartford, Conn. Deanna is board-certified and a contributor to the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Richard Dibble, Ph.D., (M.B.A. '90) is happiest when dealing with "human capital." As the executive director for NYIT's Center for Human Resource Studies, he is a professor of human resource management and serves as faculty advisor to the NYIT chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. In addition, Richard is a member of the Suffolk County (New York) Public Employment Relations Board and chair of the Youth Council at the Town of Hempstead Workforce Investment Board. Richard is married to **Josephine Estrada (M.S. '00)**, and has

two daughters, Cristina and **Diana (B.S. '03)**.

National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO) has selected **Amadou Fall (B.S. '91)** as its chief executive officer. NRCO, a new organization formed by power supply cooperatives located across the United States, facilitates the development and deployment of renewable energy resources. Amadou has nearly two decades of experience in the energy industry.

Anthony Baffo (B.P.S. '92, M.B.A. '03) has come full circle—he serves as general manager of NYIT's de Seversky Center at the Old Westbury campus, the very place he worked as a waiter 21 years ago. His other gigs included managing restaurants at Rockefeller Center for Restaurant Associates and general manager of Papa Razzi restaurant in Westbury, N.Y. In addition, Anthony has assisted in creating the room service programs for patients at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, N.Y., and has served as an adjunct professor in NYIT's hospitality management program. He has been married to his high school >>

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Grads Energize Each Other and Their Industry

By David McKay Wilson

Just out of college, Philip Andreas (B.T. '79, M.B.A. '86), Werner Schweiger (M.S. '87), and Lawrence Gelbein (B.T. '81) began working together at the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO) in the early 1980s. More than a quarter century later, they're still together, as top executives at NSTAR, a publicly regulated utility company that delivers electricity and natural gas to customers in eastern and central Massachusetts.

Werner, the utility company's senior vice president of operations, oversees its gas and electric systems, as well as its engineering, metering, and fleet operations.

Philip is vice president for gas operations and heads up a unit that delivers environmentally friendly natural gas to 300,000 customers.

Lawrence is vice president of electrical engineering, responsible for a high-tech transmission and distribution system for more than one million customers.

"We all started off as entry-level engineers and worked closely together at LILCO," says Lawrence, who now resides in Needham, Mass. He, like Philip, reports to Werner. "Today, we are still working together, and that close bond remains."

During the 1990s, the three engineers collaborated on a groundbreaking research project at LILCO's Hicksville, N.Y., lab developed with General Electric. The invention earned them a joint patent and dramatically improved the utility's response to power outages. Before their system was in place, a downed tree might snap a power line and disrupt service for thousands of homeowners in an area until the bucket truck arrived to find the trouble spot and make the repairs. The system they devised relies on "smart sensors" that relay information about the problem to a central computer system, which analyzes the

damage, opens switches to isolate the outage, and then dispatches repair crews to the damaged line.

"The sensors detect what section is damaged, isolate that faulty connection, and restore electricity to the remaining customers," says Lawrence. "It was an early version of a smart grid—we were ahead of our time."

In early 2002, Werner was recruited by NSTAR, and Lawrence and Philip moved north to Massachusetts later that year. "We've managed to accomplish quite a bit over the years," says Werner, who lives in Franklin, Mass. A New York City native and Mets fan, he now hangs a photo of Fenway Park in his NSTAR office in deference to Beantown's beloved Red Sox.

NSTAR, the largest Massachusetts-based electric and gas utility, was formed in 1999 from the merger of Boston Edison, Commonwealth Electric, Commonwealth Gas, and Cambridge Electric. In the late 1990s, all Massachusetts utilities were ordered to divest themselves of their electric generating plants, leaving companies like NSTAR to transmit and deliver power through their grid. And, with policymakers concerned about conserving energy, engineers are developing smart grids that provide consumers with real-time information about energy usage.

State policies to combat global warming, meanwhile, have utilities looking for alternative sources of energy that rely on renewable resources. Massachusetts wants renewable energy—solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, or fuel cells that use renewable fuels—to comprise 15 percent of a utility's portfolio by 2020. NSTAR's portfolio is already about 5 percent renewable, slightly higher than its 2009 target of 4 percent.

"A standard has been set," says Werner, who earned his master's degree in energy management at NYIT

while working at LILCO and taking classes on the weekends. "The challenge is finding the resources and figuring how those resources become available to us between now and then."

As executives in publicly regulated utilities, they also face a steady stream of rules.

Philip, as head of NSTAR's gas operations, is preparing for new federal regulations aimed at improving the reliability and safety of gas distribution mains that run under neighborhood streets, like the ones NSTAR maintains in dozens of Massachusetts communities. Philip says his team will do an assessment of the gas distribution system as part of collaboration on an industry-wide program.

"We'll work with our peer utilities from the Northeast Gas Association to develop a template, share information, and develop strategies and plans on a lower cost than we could do ourselves," says Philip, who earned his NYIT M.B.A. after taking evening classes for nearly five years. "From there, each company will then customize its plan."

After graduation, Philip maintained a relationship with NYIT, collaborating with Edward Kafrisen, Ph.D., professor of electrical engineering and one of his mentors during his undergraduate days. While at LILCO, the two worked together with truck manufacturer Altec to design a robotic arm. The arms helped electric linemen make repairs when they were working alone with high-voltage wires in a bucket truck. Several prototypes were built and tested in the field.

Kafrisen has seen Philip's development into what he calls "a classic manager," and says, "He's an incredible strategic thinker. He has the ability to think three steps ahead."

Those traits have served Philip well throughout his career and have consistently benefited NSTAR during his nearly seven years there. Having been



Philip Andreas (B.T. '79, M.B.A. '86),
Werner Schweiger (M.S. '87), and
Lawrence Gelbein (B.T. '81)

“There is an ongoing need to adapt to changing environments so it’s critical for managers to accurately assess future challenges and opportunities.”

—Philip Andreas (B.T. '79, M.B.A. '86)

brought onboard as head of the company’s electric division, he helped navigate NSTAR through many of the changes that took place in the early years of the restructured electric industry in Massachusetts.

“Though there are many operational differences between electric and gas distribution companies, each requires effective long-range strategizing for continued success,” says Philip.

“There is an ongoing need to adapt to changing environments so it’s critical for managers to accurately assess future challenges and opportunities.”

The business relationship shared by Philip, Werner, and Lawrence has evolved into a team approach that effectively advances NSTAR’s corporate goals. Having worked closely together for more than 25 years, each is intimately familiar with the strengths that the others bring to the process. Even now, with Lawrence heading the company’s electrical engineering area and Philip in charge of gas operations, there continues to be a sharing of ideas and strategies that contributes to the overall success of the operations unit that is overseen by Werner.

“I’ve come to depend on the cohesion that exists throughout my organization,” says Werner. “Having the combined experience of Phil and Larry as part of that team gives me the kind of confidence that comes from more than 25 years together in the industry.”

Looking ahead, NSTAR will continue to focus on meeting customer needs in the cleanest, most efficient way possible. And, as they have been in the past, these three NYIT grads will be at the forefront of their industry, drawing on their education and experience to design and implement sustainable energy technologies for the future. ■

David McKay Wilson is a New York-based freelance journalist and frequent contributor to the New York Times.



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>> sweetheart, Laura, for 15 years and has three children.

Dianne Baumert-Moyik (M.A. '92) is manager of communications and civic affairs at Northrop Grumman Corporation, Integrated Systems Eastern Region, where she is responsible for developing and executing communications and marketing campaigns to support the company's goals and objectives. Dianne is also the owner of Baumert PR & Design Inc., a firm that represents the Nassau County Detectives Association Inc., as well as the September 11th Families Association and its 9/11 Tribute Center program.

Christopher Bockstael (B.Arch. '94) is associate principal at full-service design and master planning firm Svigals + Partners in New Haven, Conn. He has 15 years of architecture and project management experience, and has overseen more than 50 projects since joining the firm in 2004. Christopher is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the International Interior Design Association, and has won several awards for design excellence. He lives in New Haven, Conn.

Aaron Cohen (B.S. '94) is managing partner at Cohen & Papera, LLC, a full-service law firm with offices in Florida and New York.

From publishing lullaby CDs, to volunteering as a speaker for the Advertising Educational Foundation, to teaching advertising classes at NYIT, **Lisa Colantuono (B.S. '94, M.A. '98)** somehow finds the time for a full-time career as managing partner of AAR Partners, a New York-based search consultant company with offices in nine countries. Her prior experience includes serving as senior media planner for global clients at Young & Rubicam and directing communications for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Metro New York.

Nick Gabriel (D.O. '94) is the director of bariatric surgery and advanced laparoscopic surgery at St. Catherine's of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown, N.Y.

In today's economy, every manager would be wise to read *Right to the Point*

by **Robert Micera (M.S. '94)**. The book discusses the benefits of becoming one's own boss and how to inspire employees. Robert is the director of human resources at Margolin, Winer & Evens, an accounting and business advisory firm based in Garden City, N.Y.

Susan Magyar (B.S. '95) is campus dean at Westwood College-South Campus in Denver, Colo. She is a member of the Project Management Institute, National Business Educators Association, American Management Association, and the Association for Career and Technical Education.

Kidney specialist **Rachel Colvin (D.O. '96)** has joined the Horizon Family Medical Group in Goshen, N.Y. In addition, she serves as medical director of the Regional Kidney Center in Harriman, N.Y., and the Weiss Renal Center in Suffern, N.Y. Rachel is board-certified in nephrology and internal medicine. She performed her residency in internal medicine at North Shore University Hospital in New York and was the assistant chief resident at the post-doctoral level at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Hospital.

Surgeon **Salomon Kramer (D.O. '96)** has joined the medical staff at Rome Memorial Hospital in New York, where he specializes in advanced laparoscopic procedures. He says, "I take a holistic approach to medicine by communicating with patients and taking time to learn about the whole person." Salomon practiced in Texas for four years, was chief intern at Millcreek Community Hospital in Erie, Pa., and completed his residency training at Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital in Ohio.

Christy Lamagna (M.A. '97) lives in New Jersey and is president of Strategic Meetings & Events, a company that hosts corporate programs worldwide. With more than 16 years of industry experience, she has worked on events ranging in size from 250,000 attendees to more intimate business meetings.

Edward Klein (D.O. '98) has been named a 2008 Health Care Hero by *Hudson Valley Life* magazine. He practices family medicine in Orange County, N.Y.

Adam Goldstein (D.O. '98) is the director of minimally invasive surgery for Virtua Health Systems located in Voorhees, N.J.

James-Herve Sabin (B. Arch. '98) is general director of the Rural Haiti Project, a U.S.-based youth leadership organization that runs civic, social, and intellectual development programs for low-income and at-risk children in rural areas of Haiti.

Victor Taranto (D.O. '98) has been recognized in the *Cambridge Who's Who Executive, Professional, and Entrepreneurial Registry* for his dedication to the health care field. He is a specialist in general and laparoscopic surgery and has had his own private practice for 25 years. Victor is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American Medical Association, the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, and the Society for Laparoendoscopic Surgeons.

Peter Barry (D.O. '99) has received the Attending Physician of the Year Award from the New Jersey Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. He runs an internal medicine practice in Clark, N.J., and is board-certified by the American Osteopathic Board of

Internal Medicine. In addition, Peter has served as attending physician at nearby Hometown Hospice.

Rajiv Goswami (D.O. '99) is an assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

David R. Gotham Jr. (D.O. '99) is a board-certified orthopedic trauma surgeon who runs a private practice in Sacramento, Calif. He is an assistant professor at the University of California-Davis Medical Center, where he completed an orthopedic trauma fellowship, and is an active member in the American Osteopathic Association. David and his wife, Rebecca, have two daughters, Jordan and Reagan.

| 2000s |

The season is always in bloom for **Barbara Porter (B.S. '00)**, who is the director of enterprise initiatives at 1800flowers.com. She has also managed application development for the company's e-commerce Web sites for eight years. Barbara is a certified project management professional and serves as the vice president of membership for the Information >>

| Births |

Eric Jonah Sargent to **Jennifer Cline Sargent (B.F.A. '95, M.A. '96)** and Tom Sargent

| Marriages |

John J. Venetucci (B.S. '81) to Siobhan Kearns
Thomas Scotto Jr. (B.Arch. '02) to Marisa Sorrentino
Elizabeth Erin Smith (D.O. '04) to Patrick Benjamin Cassalia
Jenny Morissette (M.A. '07) to Thomas Meyer

| Passings |

Bernard Glickman (B.F.A. '69)
Doug Towey (B.F.A. '72)
Steven Siedenburg (B.S. '73)
James Walker Harris (M.S. '74)
Andrew Casey (B.F.A. '85)
Ken Dubin (B.S. '88)
Marshall Daniel Goldberg (B.S. '92)
Douglas Richman (M.B.A. '06)
Richard G. Griffin Jr., former director of library services (Old Westbury campus)

➤ Technology and Telecommunications Specific Interest Group at the Project Management Institute. In addition, she volunteers for her children's schools, their sports leagues, and her church. Barbara has two children, Katie and P.J.

Atul Kukar (D.O. '00) completed his postgraduate training in internal medicine at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City and was selected as one of the hospital's chief medical residents. He was named Fellow of the Year by St. Luke's in 2004 and was nominated for the Arnold J. Gold Foundation-Resident Teacher Award from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Atul is board-certified in internal medicine, nuclear cardiology, echocardiography, and cardiovascular medicine.

Jill Nicolini (B.F.A. '00, M.A. '03) is the traffic reporter for *The CW11 Morning News*, where she also delivers her "Just Jill" feature reports and fills in as entertainment anchor. She also worked as the arena announcer for

the New York Islanders and a traffic reporter at *News 12 Long Island*. During the 2008 holiday season, she traveled to Iraq to report on New York Governor David Paterson's visit with U.S. troops.

Anne Rex-Torzok (D.O. '01) joined the Cleveland Clinic's Department of Orthopedic Surgery in Ohio as a primary care sports medicine physician. The clinic, one of the top orthopedic programs in the country, serves all of the professional sports teams in Cleveland, including the Indians, Cavaliers, and Browns. Her husband, Thomas, works with her as a chiropractor.

"I smile on the way to work, and I smile on the way home," says **Edwin Robles (D.O. '01)** about his position at Penn State's Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. He returned to his native Lancaster County in Pennsylvania after graduating from NYCOM to establish a private practice in Elizabethtown.

Matthew Gilbert (B.S. '02) is an Apple-certified service technician at the Lenox Square Apple Store in Atlanta, Ga. His far-reaching specialties include server administration,

desktop management, media production, networks, Web design and development, and hardware and software support. Matt has also served as a manager and service technician for Everything Mac in Cape Coral, Fla., and was the co-owner and operator of Crave Computers. At NYIT, he was the graphics lab coordinator at the Manhattan campus.

Engin Yalt (B.S. '02, M.S. '04) is a technology analyst at Goldman Sachs Asset Management (GSAM), where he oversees the sales information management system for mutual funds. Before joining GSAM, Engin was a consultant for IBM Global Business Services. He has also taught at NYIT and lectured at Hofstra University.

Grace Han (B.Arch. '03) is a registered architect in Texas and is employed by Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, an engineering and architectural firm.

Celine Mathew (B.S. '03, D.P.T. '05) has been recognized in the *Cambridge Who's Who Executive, Professional, and Entrepreneurial Registry* for her dedication, leadership, and excellence in healthcare. She is a resident physician at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, N.Y., where she specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Celine's patients include those suffering from occupational and sports injuries, brain injuries, chronic pain, joint diseases, and amputations. She is also a member of the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society, and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Celine plans to specialize in sports or interventional medicine after completing her residency and fellowship.

Sridhar Ganda (D.O. '04) joined Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, N.Y., as attending anesthesiologist and is a member of the American Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association.

Michael F. Coney (B.S. '05) is president and general manager for the Americas at Acronis Inc., a global storage management and disaster recovery software provider. He over-

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sees sales and regional marketing activities for the United States, Canada, and Latin America. Michael has held sales positions at Monster Worldwide, VERITAS Software, and Ingres Software.

Jan-Jilis ("JJ") Van Delsen (M.B.A. '05) continues to prove the value of his NYIT degree. With more than 15 years of experience as a sales and marketing professional, he has been appointed as the United Kingdom sales director for Giunti Labs, a leading online and mobile learning content management solutions provider. Previously, he served as channel development director at Autodesk and senior manager at Thomson NETg.

Shawn Dossie (B.S. '05), an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard, is the owner of DFX Information Technology, an information technology consulting firm for private individuals, small- and medium-sized businesses, and municipalities. Previously, he was a partner at eOverheadDoors LLC, an information technology manager at Christie Overhead Doors, and a U.S. Marine Corps reservist in Iraq. Shawn is now pursuing his M.B.A. from NYIT and expects to graduate this year.

Serkan Ertekin (M.A. '05) is lead animator and artist at Smoke & Mirrors, a visual effects and post-production company in New York City. Serkan got his start in the field as a graduate assistant in NYIT's Department of Communication Arts. After graduation, he worked as an animator at Sony Online Entertainment.

For nearly three years, **Anubhav Jindal (M.S. '05)** has been a technical staff member at Oracle Corporation, one of the world's largest business software companies. As part of a

small, highly focused research and development team, he works on business intelligence and performance management projects. Anubhav also served as a software consultant at Fidelity Investments.

Jamie A. Kofalt (M.B.A. '05) is vice president of central services at UGI Utilities Inc., where she is responsible for support services and customer accounting for its gas and electric divisions.

Dipak Patel (D.O. '06) is the chief resident of family practice at Peninsula Hospital on Long Island, N.Y., and is the recipient of the 2008 Merck Outstanding Resident of the Year award.

Sherina Gonzales (B.S. '07) has been named Short Sales Specialist of the Year by GHH Realty of Melville, N.Y. She is also assistant to the commissioner of the Community Development Association in the Village of Hempstead, N.Y.

Juan Carlos Melgarejo (B.P.S. '07) is café manager for Flik International and works in the New York offices of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. He was featured in the January 2009 issue of *Food Management* in which he discussed how Flik's dining operations work with the Cleary Gottlieb organization.

Manfred L. Ramos (D.O. '07) has been recognized in the *Cambridge Who's Who Executive, Professional, and Entrepreneurial Registry* for his dedication to health care. He is a resident physician specializing in family medicine at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the New York Osteopathic Medical Society.

Kyle Ensminger (M.B.A. '08) is manager of federal and commercial contracts at Goodwill Business Services. Prior to this position, he was an account executive at Geisinger Health Plan in Danville, Penn.

Siriwan Thienthong (M.B.A. '08) is assistant public relations manager for Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. Previously, Siriwan held positions at Hotel Plaza Athéneé and Café Lenorte, which are also located in Bangkok. ■

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Share your news with fellow alumni. Send us information about your work, family, hobbies, accomplishments, and things important to you. E-mail mschiave@nyit.edu or drop us a line at NYIT Magazine, P.O. Box 8000, Old Westbury, NY 11568-8000.

The Path of Opportunity

REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH DIRECTION YOU WANTED TO TAKE? I DO, AND, AS CORNY AS IT SOUNDS, I FOUND IT IN THE NYIT UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, RIGHT UNDER “COMPUTER SCIENCE.” I ENROLLED IN NIGHT CLASSES AT THE OLD WESTBURY CAMPUS WHILE WORKING FULL-TIME IN THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY. AS PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE INTERNET GREW IN THE EARLY 1990S, I SAW FIRSTHAND THE NEED FOR A MORE ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. NYIT, TOO, SAW THE WINDS OF CHANGE, YEARS BEFORE THE PROLIFERATION OF E-MAIL, WEB SURFING, AND BROADBAND. I WAS ONLY TOO HAPPY TO BE STUDYING AT A UNIVERSITY THAT ENVISIONED THE FUTURE AS I DID.

Eventually, I switched majors to telecommunications management after realizing the magnitude of the shift we were about to experience ... in how we spoke, wrote, and even thought. I remember one NYIT class in which we discussed technology and economics as driving forces of the telecommunications industry. During that course, I picked up on the concept of convergence—the merger of voice, video, and data, thanks to the Internet—and how the cable industry of the 1990s was in the best position to challenge the telecommunications juggernaut that had existed for decades at companies such as AT&T.

After earning my NYIT degree, I continued to work in the telecommunications industry. As the world around me became more connected, I found more opportunities. I started at Optimum Lightpath, a division of Long Island, N.Y.-based Cablevision Systems Corporation, in 2000 as a network engineer, moving up to chief engineer. I continued climbing the ladder for the past 11 years until

I reached my most recent position as director of new product develop-

ment. With these new responsibilities, I now have the chance to participate in a creative environment that leverages my talents and my NYIT education.

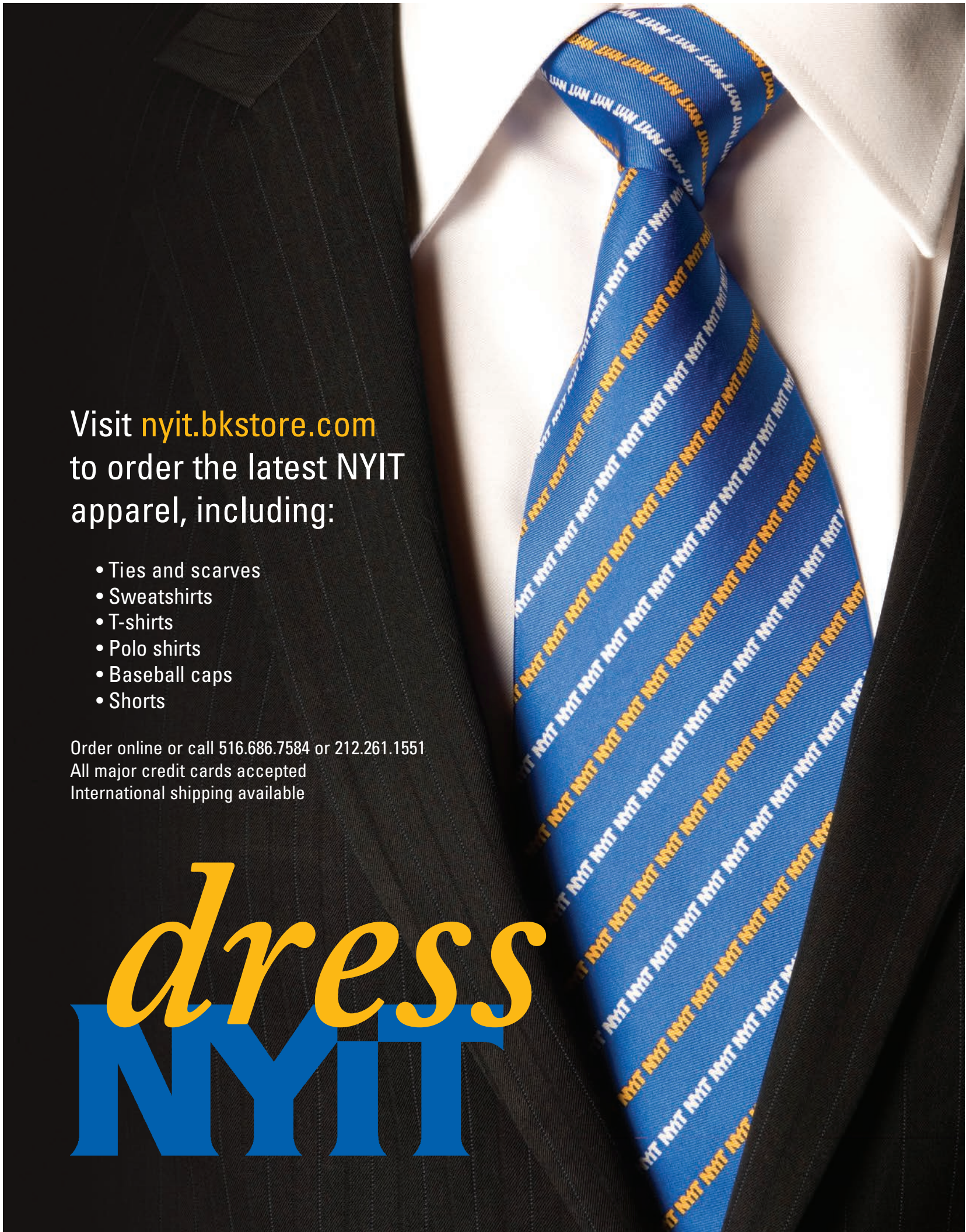
that it usually doesn't go knocking on just anybody's door. Sometimes, you need to place yourself in its path and then knock it over yourself. ■

Glenn Calafati is director of new product development at Optimum Lightpath. He lives with his wife and three children in Kings Park, N.Y.

None of my success would have been possible without NYIT, which set in motion an educational mindset that pointed me toward a career full of opportunities.”

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