

NYIT MAGAZINE

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WINTER 2010
VOLUME 8 ■ NUMBER 2



Success by Design

NYIT architecture grads
craft a world for the
21st century

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Moving in Front of the 21st Century

A FEW MONTHS AGO, I CAUGHT A *60 MINUTES* REPORT ON THE IMPENDING THREAT OF CYBER ATTACKERS ON NATIONAL SECURITY. I FOUND MYSELF DOING A DOUBLE-TAKE WHEN STEVE KROFT'S OPENING LINES MIRRORED THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE EARLIER *NYIT MAGAZINE'S* FALL 2009 COVER STORY ABOUT OUR ALUMNI IN THAT VERY FIELD. BOTH REPORTS SHARED THE SAME STARTLING FACTS AND ENDED WITH THE SAME CONCLUSION—THAT A VIGILANT COUNTERATTACK ON CYBER CRIME BY HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS IS NEEDED TO PREVENT CALAMITY. A COINCIDENCE? PERHAPS. BUT FOR ME, AND I HOPE FOR YOU, IT IS A POSITIVE AFFIRMATION OF THE GOOD WORK OUR ALUMNI ARE DOING IN THIS FIELD, AS WELL AS MANY OTHERS, AS WE FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

On the heels of this story, NYIT will host an important conference on cyber security at the Manhattan campus this fall. This provides an opportunity to showcase our new state-of-the-art theater, the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway, as we welcome some of the preeminent experts in the field.

Rest assured, your alma mater continues to fulfill its goal of preparing its students for the careers of tomorrow, including those we cannot even imagine today. And with that, the value of your degree increases. You and your fellow alumni demonstrate the power of an NYIT education by pioneering and conquering new challenges every day in a variety of forward-thinking, vital capacities.

Look no further than the pages of this magazine to see how NYIT alumni are altering the cityscapes of the world with breathtaking architectural designs (including the recently opened Burj-Dubai, now the tallest building in the world); how our alumni, faculty, and students are playing a role on the front lines of medical care and the potential health care reform; or how NYIT graduates have made compelling contributions to the world



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

of video games, one of the highest grossing segments of the entertainment industry.

These are but a few of the areas in which NYIT and its community are using technology to define our 21st-century global world. Another example is our Center for Metropolitan Sustainability, which continues its mission by exploring alternative energy sources. Recent developments

include solar carports at our Long Island sites and continued work in biodiesel research. No doubt, we will see widespread use of both in the coming years.

We also look forward to co-hosting the Think Green Forum with Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT) this April in Nanjing, China, home to the newest NYIT undergraduate campus. The corporate, government, and academic leaders who will gather there promise to forge

new ideas and solutions in the field of sustainable energy.

As we enter this bright but challenging second decade of the 21st century, may you continue to join us on our forward-thinking path and help us create solutions for ourselves and our communities. ■

*Wishing you continued success,
Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.
President*



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The NYIT Alumni Federation invites you to join **inCircle**, our online networking site exclusively for NYIT graduates.

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NYIT

NYIT Energizes U.N. Conference

Carbon capture, advanced batteries, G-20, climate change, solar, wind, and water ... How do world leaders tackle 21st-century energy issues? By coming together to discuss opportunities at the World Energy Forum's (WEF) International Energy Conference, held at the United Nations on Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 2009.

As a leading sponsor and participant, NYIT welcomed more than 600 attendees, including energy secretaries, policy makers, and executives from multinational companies. NYIT President Edward Guiliano opened the keynote session by discussing the role universities can take to educate and innovate in the areas of sustainable energy. He also highlighted NYIT's accomplishments in the green sector, such as solar carports and the new campus-wide bike share program.



JUPITER IMAGES

NYIT sponsored the World Energy Forum's International Energy Conference at the United Nations on Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 2009. President Guiliano opened the keynote session by discussing the role of higher education in developing new forms of sustainable technology to be used worldwide.

“NYIT’S PARTICIPATION IN THESE FORUMS COINCIDES WITH ITS MISSION AS A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY. ENERGY IS AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR WITH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE.”

—HAROLD OH
NYIT DEAN FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

“As a New York and global university, we are the heartland of innovation. We constantly grow new ideas, and it is just part of our DNA,” President Guiliano said. “Whether it is in sustainable practices, conservation, medicine, engineering, green buildings, or clean energy, we have interdisciplinary labs that bring together new approaches,

new remedies, and new solutions.”

Other speakers included William Ngeleja, minister of energy and minerals from the United Republic of Tanzania; George Pataki, the former governor of New York; and Ambassador Waheed Wahedullah, deputy chairman of the WEF. In addition, more than 20 NYIT faculty and staff as well as 15 students from NYIT-Nanjing attended the global forum.

This was NYIT's second appearance at the United Nations. In July 2008, NYIT and its Center for Water Resources Management brought together representatives from non-governmental organizations, international corporations, and universities to discuss the issues surrounding the impending water crisis at NYIT's first annual International Water Conference (see the Fall 2008 issue of *NYIT Magazine* at nyit.edu/magazine for details).

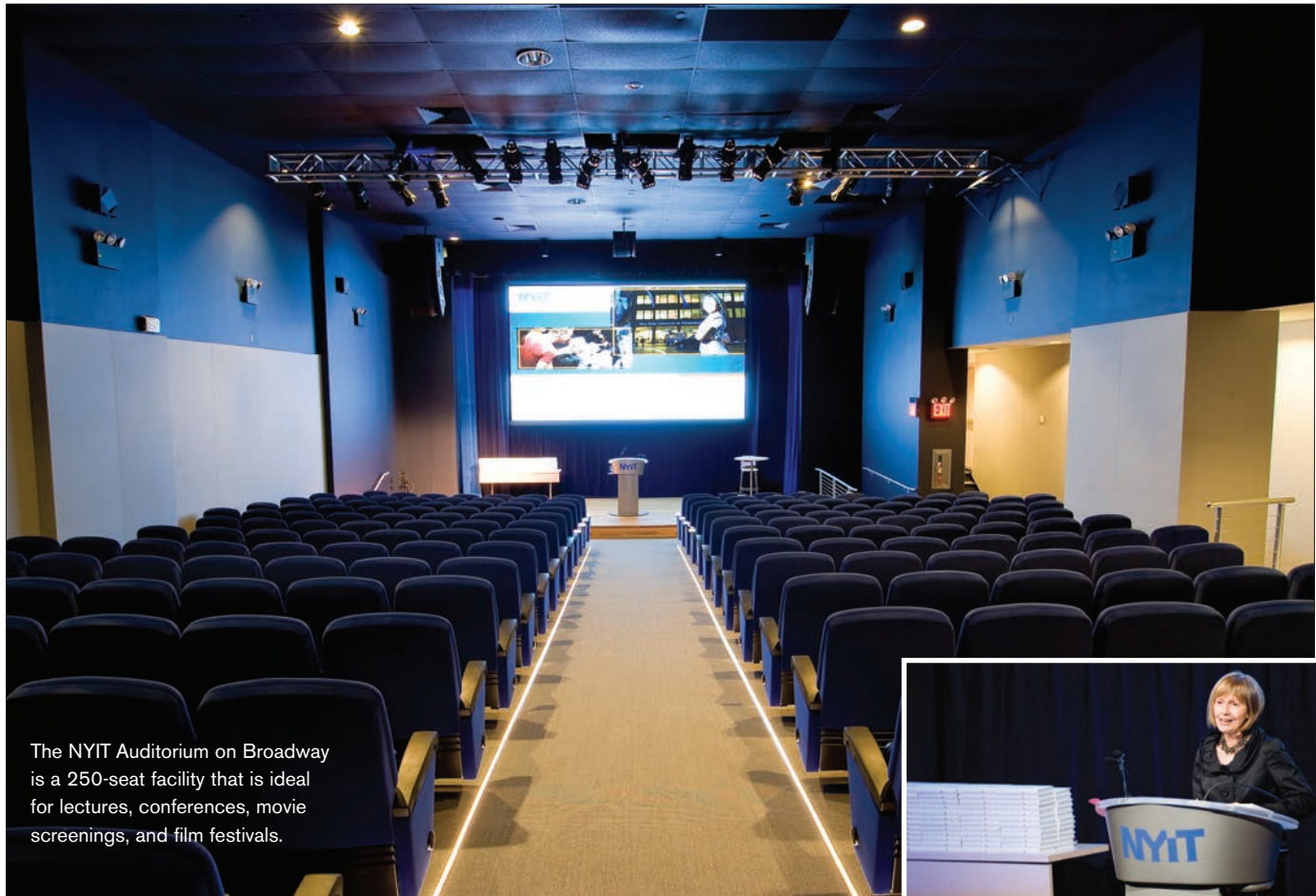
Harold Oh, NYIT's dean for university advancement, who spearheaded the 2008 event, also helped organize the

2009 U.N. energy conference.

“For NYIT, this was significant,” says Oh, who serves as chairman of the WEF's executive board. “NYIT is an institutional learning center that conducts research applicable in the real world. NYIT's participation in these forums coincides with its mission as a global university. Energy is an international affair with social and economic significance. Without energy security, no nation can find peace and development, which affects peoples' daily lives.”

In April 2010, NYIT and Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT) will co-host a forum titled “Think Green: Energy, Education, and Environmental Initiatives” in Nanjing, China. The two-day global conference will also tackle challenges, opportunities, and innovations in the energy sector.

Visit www.nyit.edu/thinkgreen or www.thinkgreen2010.org for more information. ■



The NYIT Auditorium on Broadway is a 250-seat facility that is ideal for lectures, conferences, movie screenings, and film festivals.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT



Top: Best-selling author Mireille Guiliano speaks to attendees about her latest book. Bottom: Wang Wenjing (middle) takes questions from the audience on business strategy.

A Stunning Debut

The premiere event at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway was held on Oct. 15, 2009, as the university welcomed NYIT First Lady and international best-selling author Mireille Guiliano, who discussed her new book, *Women, Work & the Art of Savoir Faire: Business Sense & Sensibility*. With chapters that include lessons on how readers can identify their passions, improve their communication skills, and balance workload with personal life, the book provides helpful advice on how men and women of all ages can enjoy success and happiness.

After her presentation, Ms. Guiliano signed books for members of the audience, which included students, alumni, community leaders, and business leaders. The event, which was hosted by

NYIT's School of Management, also included a ribbon-cutting ceremony during which President Guiliano and Board of Trustees Chairperson Linda Davila (B.S. '78) welcomed attendees.

Another event on Oct. 27 featured Wang Wenjing, founder and chairman of UFIDA, China's largest management software supplier, who spoke to a group of students, faculty, executives, and media. During his presentation, which was co-hosted by NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences and IBM, Wang shared his story of rising from poverty to becoming one of China's richest individuals and provided insights on how to thrive in turbulent economic times.

"This event, which brings together UFIDA and IBM—two global tech-

nology giants—has a natural home at NYIT," said Nada Anid, dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Mark Hanny, IBM's vice president for global alliances, spoke about the transformational power of education and urged NYIT students to innovate and seek new adventures. ■



Field Trip Meet\$ Finance

Students met with NYIT alumni working at some of the top financial firms in New York City for the second annual “Day on Wall Street” on Nov. 5, 2009. Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and the School of Management, the event began at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, where Roseann Stichnoth (M.B.A. ’82), senior vice president of operations, gave students a special presentation on the world of finance, followed by a tour of the Federal Reserve’s gold vault.

Later, the group visited the Museum of American Finance and took the subway back to the Manhattan campus for lunch with

NYIT faculty, staff, and alumni. Richard Pizer, provost and vice president for academic affairs, delivered opening remarks, and NYIT graduates Chris Erickson (B.S. ’85), managing director, global chief operating officer of prime services, UBS; Boaz Rahar (M.B.A. ’98), managing director, Northeast Securities; Solomon Samson (M.B.A. ’79), managing director of corporate ratings, Standard & Poor’s New York; and Martin Feuer (B.S. ’72), chief compliance officer, Zurich Financial Services, shared insights regarding their businesses and held Q&A sessions with students following their presentations. ■



Students (from left) Paolo Pironi, Joseph Oldorff, Sajid Mohammed, Sheila Zabala, Fariha Azad, and Michael Cavalli earned Certified Student Leader credentials at the National Conference on Student Leadership held in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 20-24, 2009. The annual conference equips student leaders and their advisors with tools to achieve their leadership potential and positively impact their campuses and communities. ■



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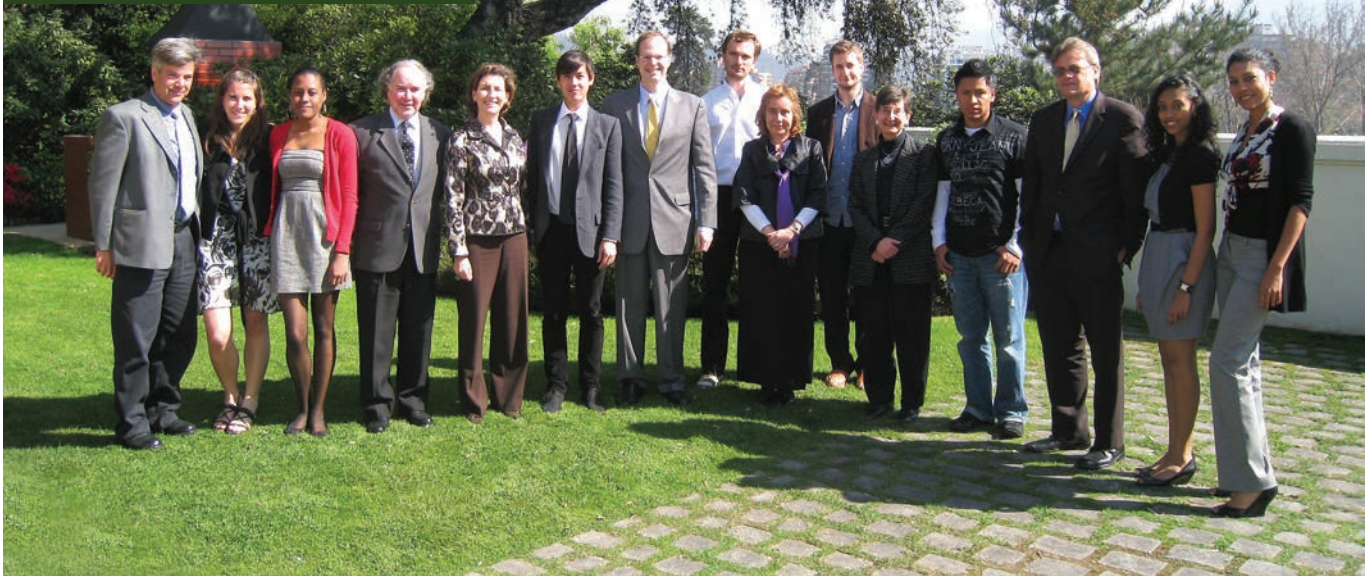
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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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U.S. Ambassador to Chile Paul Simons (center, gray suit) hosted a breakfast for students and faculty from NYIT and the University of Chile at his residence in Santiago.



Students Enjoy a Chile Reception

Architecture students underwent a crash course in global architecture last September when they traveled to Santiago, Chile, to participate in the School of Architecture and Design's new student exchange program with the University of Chile.

Professors Frank Mruk and Andrew Heid from New York led a group of 12 NYIT undergraduates on a two-week design charrette with 12 architecture students from the University of Chile, who hosted their American peers.

The program involved design studio work taught by professors from both universities, including University of Chile professors Andrés Weil and Marcela Pizzi, as well as a trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the city of Valparaíso, where the students worked on a joint urban redesign project. In addition, participants attended a breakfast hosted by U.S. Ambassador to Chile Paul Simons at his home in Santiago.

Although they are back in New York, the NYIT students and their classmates

in Chile stay connected through e-mail and video conferences. The program continues this spring when NYIT students host their South American counterparts.

"By having NYIT students stay in the residences of Chilean teammates, both sides quickly acquired a dynamic, higher-level point of view," says Mruk, who also serves as associate dean of NYIT's School of Architecture and Design. "When it works, this meta-view produces some of the strongest bonds you'll ever have." ■

Building Excellence

The December 2009 issue of *Architect* magazine ranked NYIT's School of Architecture and Design among the top four U.S. schools that excel in building technology and construction.

Its "Architecture Schools Guide 2009" noted that NYIT is "a school that's dedicated to producing career-ready graduates." In addition, the university's entries in the 2005 and 2007 international Solar Decathlon competitions were cited as examples that "technology is taught at NYIT as the path to both a sustainable-built environment and an efficient practice." ■



International Conference Addresses Top Technology Issues

NYIT and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) hosted the three-day International Conference on Information & Communication Systems on Dec. 20-22 in Irbid, Jordan. It brought together more than 200 technology experts to explore topics such as artificial intelligence, Web content mining, mobile computing, information security and cryptography, intrusion detection, and computer forensics.

In his welcoming remarks delivered via video, President Guiliano said, "NYIT and its partner, JUST, are proud to support research on cutting-edge technologies" and emphasized the importance of such scientific gatherings to "solve the collective challenges we face in the 21st century."

Through its partnership with JUST, NYIT has provided students in Jordan access to opportunity since 2001 through its undergraduate and graduate degree programs, which include business administration, computer science, and information technology.

For the past two years, NYIT and JUST have also hosted joint medical conferences in the United States and Jordan to discuss vital issues in the medical field, including problem-based learning, physician shortages, and virtual medicine. Last year's conference, held at NYIT-Old Westbury, gave academic and medical experts the chance to witness NYIT's contributions to medical education as they toured campus facilities, research labs, and classrooms.

Later this year, NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences will host a cyber security conference at NYIT-Manhattan to bring together government officials and experts to discuss computer vulnerabilities as well as new developments in the protection of individuals and organizations against cyber attacks. ■



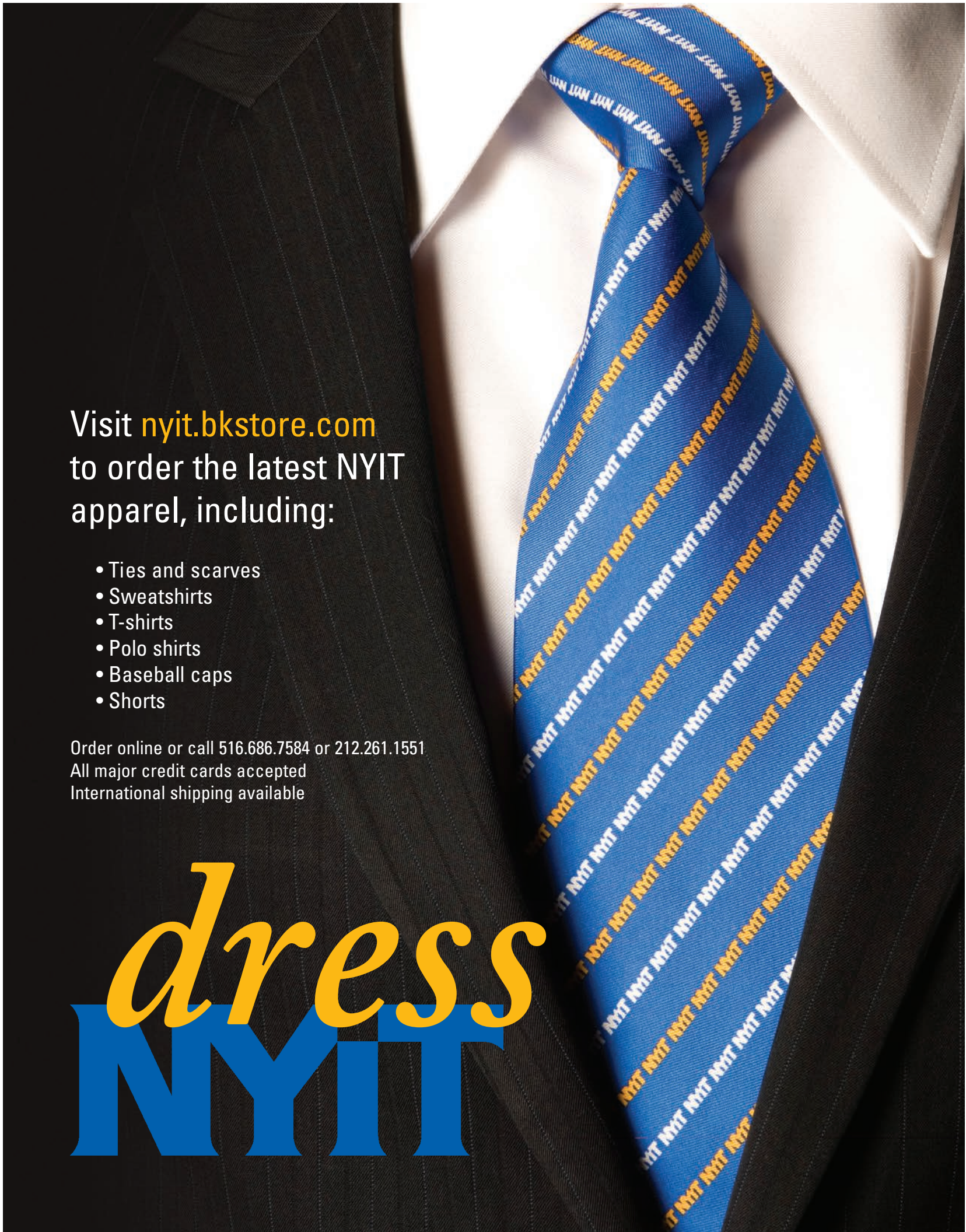
NYIT-Amman faculty and staff members at the International Conference on Information & Communication Systems: Dania Alshahed, Linda Smail, Mahmoud Al Ramahi, and Anwar Sunoallah.

NUPT President, Faculty Visit NY

NYIT's New York campuses hosted visits in September 2009 by Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT) President Yang Zhen; Wu Meng, dean of the College of Overseas Education and director of the foreign affairs office; Sheng Li, vice director of the university development office and president's office; and NUPT faculty members, who attended a special study group.



Presidents Yang and Guiliano discussed ways to further develop the NYIT-Nanjing relationship with initiatives that include research projects as well as additional faculty and student exchanges. The NUPT guests toured NYIT's Manhattan and Old Westbury campuses, and attended a series of meetings and events with deans, faculty, and staff. At a special luncheon, President Yang also greeted 80 NYIT-Nanjing students as they started their academic year at NYIT's New York campuses. ■



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Students Learn Real-World Research Practices

In November, students from NYIT-Amman visited Ipsos, a top global research organization, as a part of their experiential learning program through the School of Management. Ragheed Masri, operations manager for Ipsos, welcomed the group and explained how his company uses market research to give industries insight into consumer behavior as well as the need for research firms to abide by ethical standards. Students also met with

Basem Ashour, administrative and human resources manager, Tamara Ma'ani, senior research analyst, and the statisticians in the Ipsos qualitative and quantitative analysis department.

The field trip underscores NYIT's mission to provide career-oriented, professional education, as students gained a better understanding of how the statistical tools and methods learned in the classroom are applied in real-life situations. ■

Partnership Supports Students

NYIT and ESNAAD, a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi National Oil (one of the world's largest oil companies), signed an agreement to jointly pursue research projects and support student scholarships. Three undergraduate students in the business administration program—Khalifa Al Shehhi, Ibrahim Al Shehhi, and Ali Al Manea—were named scholarship recipients, and ESNAAD plans to sponsor more NYIT students in the future.

President Guiliano and ESNAAD General Manager Darwish Al Qubaisi signed the agreement at a ceremony at NYIT's Abu Dhabi campus.

"As educators, our noblest role is to create the knowledge and human capital that will serve the local and global communities now and in the future," said President Guiliano. "We are proud to be part of the important work and development of the Abu Dhabi business community and to work with ESNAAD. This type of collaboration is representative of how higher education and the corporate world can work together to educate future generations."

NYIT's program in business administration is the first American undergraduate degree program licensed and accredited in Abu Dhabi. ■

NYIT-Bahrain Helps Families in Need

Students, faculty, and staff at NYIT-Bahrain launched the Third Annual Ramadan Charity Campaign in conjunction with the Islah Society, a Middle East charitable organization, to distribute food parcels to needy families throughout the country.

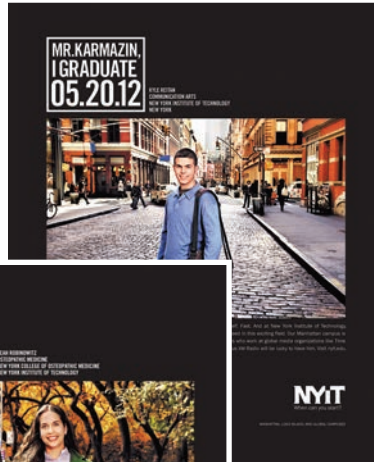
"Through the charity campaign, we seek to encourage students to help the underprivileged brackets of society and to engage in real-life activities and volunteer work," said Mohamed Hussein, executive director for NYIT's Middle East Programs. ■



New Ads Connect Students With Top Execs

NYIT unveiled its latest “I Graduate” print ads that will run in several national newspapers and magazines, including the *New York Times*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Newsday*, the *New York Daily News*, and *U.S. News and World Report*. The ads emphasize NYIT’s commitment to forward-thinking, professional education and how NYIT graduates are equipped with the knowledge and technological skills to succeed in their careers.

NYIT received approval from several top business leaders, including Michael Bloomberg, Bill Gates, Mel Karmazin, Sanjay Gupta, and Frank Gehry, to use their names in the ads, which feature real NYIT students representing a variety of academic majors, including communication arts, health care, management, engineering, computer science, and architecture. ■



Students Show Their Support

On Oct. 17, 2009, 25 NYIT-Manhattan students participated in the annual New York Cares Day, painting murals and lending a hand to help a public school in Brooklyn, N.Y. ■

A CASE FOR EXCELLENCE

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) awarded NYIT with two awards for excellence in planning and executing its April 12, 2009, alumni reception in Shenzhen, China: the CASE District II Gold Award for “Best Practices in Alumni Relations” and the Silver Award in the “Special Events” category. President Guiliano, Director of Alumni Relations Joe Fortine, and Professor Scott Liu were among those who joined members of the NYIT Guangdong alumni chapter. The reception, which included speeches, video presentations, alumni awards, performances by the East Lily Troup, and a traditional Sichuan opera, was held in conjunction with other celebrations that commemorated NYIT’s legacy in China.

LI NEWS TONIGHT UNVEILS NEW MEDIA TOOLS

Students in NYIT’s *LI News Tonight* program have launched blogs at linewstonight.wordpress.com, a Twitter feed at twitter.com/NYITLInews, and a new Web site at www.linewstonight.com. You can also find them on Facebook and YouTube, and if you’re in the New York area, you can watch the student-produced, nightly news show on Verizon FiOS1 at 10:45 p.m. or on Cablevision channel 18 at 7 p.m.

ELDER HEALTH CARE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT NYIT

International experts on aging, health care, and education convened at the Old Westbury campus on Oct. 7 for the second annual Conference on Aging and Society. Organized by the NYIT Center for Gerontology and Geriatrics, experts addressed the social and political challenges of long-term care.

NYIT HOSTS ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS EVENT

NYIT hosted an Engineers Without Borders (EWB) lecture on Oct. 16 at the Manhattan campus to discuss how engineers can help disadvantaged communities improve their quality of life through the implementation of sustainable engineering projects. ■

ICE Dreams

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

Many athletes who train for the Olympics can't wait for their big break. For speed skater Allison Bayer (M.B.A. '07), the moment was not what she expected.

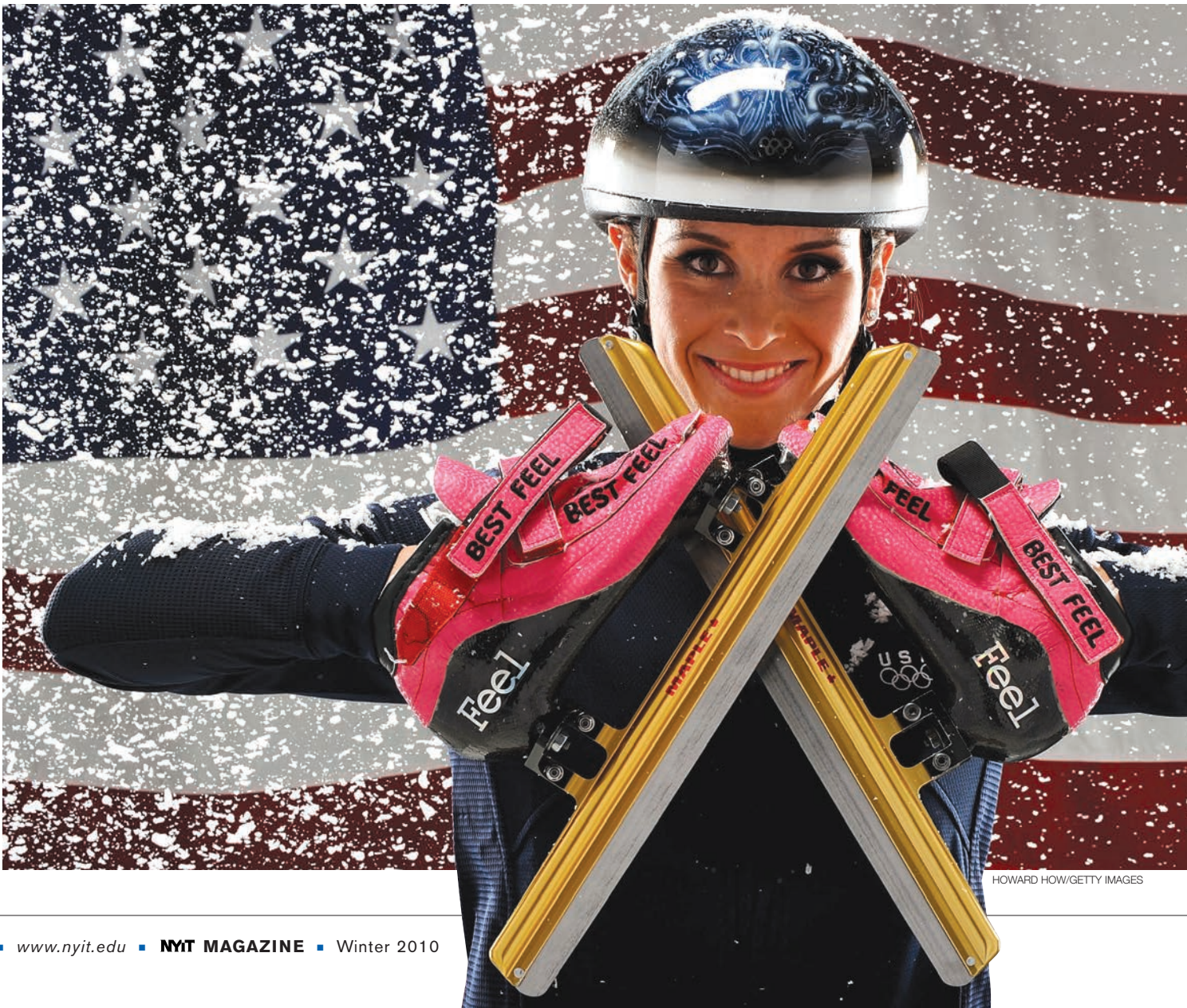
On Feb. 8, 2009, in the third lap of the short-track Ladies 1,500-meter A final in Sofia, Bulgaria, the two-time Olympian slammed into the boards

and fractured her right leg when a teammate collided with her. Her dreams of skating in the 2010 Winter Olympics seemingly gone, she remained motionless on the ice.

"I tried to get up and couldn't," says Bayer. As the other skaters sped by, her mind raced through a harrowing set of questions. Why can't I

get up? Can I race in the Olympics? What about the trials? "This all happens in a split second," she says. "I kept saying, 'I'm going to be OK, I'm going to be OK.'"

Though she had suffered injuries before, including one that resulted in 50 stitches to her face, the skater had never fractured a bone. "I asked my



HOWARD HOW/GETTY IMAGES



REUTERS IMAGES

Above: Olympian speed skater Allison Baver (M.B.A. '07) deals with a potentially career-ending injury. Just 12 months later, she is ready to skate for Team USA in the 2010 Winter Olympics.

trainer if it's bad," says Baver. "She didn't say a thing, and it was obvious."

Her right leg suffered not one but multiple fractures—a potentially career-ending injury for an Olympic speed skater. Along with a tibia broken in four places, Baver suffered cartilage damage. During surgery, doctors also inserted screws to straighten her ankle, damaged by a spiral fracture.

After the shock and disbelief wore off, Baver channeled her emotions and her strength into making a full recovery. "I told myself, 'This can't happen. My goal is to win a medal at the Olympics.'"

From that moment, every aspect of Baver's life focused on maximizing her time and setting small goals that would gradually allow her to return to Olympic ice. But for a speed skater whose career is literally defined by being on the move, waiting around months for her leg to heal was its own torment.

"It was horrendous," says Baver, who spent those long days in her hometown of Reading, Pa., where, as a child, she got her start on Fisher-Price roller skates. "Everyone is gearing up for the Olympics and here I am—I can't move my leg."

Whenever she did try to move, waves of pain shot through her. "I couldn't even put my toe on the ground for two months."

Months of rehabilitation passed, and Baver found that just lacing up her skate was an excruciating experience. Her doctors said it could take a year to recover. She refused to let that

get in the way of her one goal: skating in the 2010 Winter Olympics.

But in a sport where Baver was once considered the one to beat, she found herself battling to just qualify for a chance to be on the 2010 U.S. Olympic team. In her first competition after her leg fracture, she finished fifth in a nine-lap trial and ninth in a four-lap trial. The skater kept things in perspective and knew it was just another step to achieving her goal.

Today that goal is nearly complete. In December 2009, nearly 10 months to the day she broke her leg in Bulgaria, Baver officially qualified for the U.S. team, and she is now set to skate in the women's short-track events at the Olympics in Vancouver.

The speed skater now finds herself the veteran among a U.S. team filled with young hopefuls. "I'm the role model now," she says, having skated in the 2002 and 2006 Winter Olympics. In addition, the athlete signed a four-year international contract with Procter & Gamble for its line of beauty products.

Her incredible comeback is no surprise to fans—at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, she suffered a debilitating bone bruise only to return months later and win the 2007 Short Track U.S. Championship. For Baver, it's always about remaining positive, whether it's flat on the ice dealing with injury or racing alongside the world's top speed skaters.

In Vancouver, she'll have another shot at her dreams, simply because "I never thought I wouldn't be able to." ■

To read more about Allison Baver, check out the Spring 2009 issue of NYIT Magazine at www.nyit.edu/magazine.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BEARS WIN ECC CROSS COUNTRY TITLE

The women's cross country team shared the East Coast Conference title with Queens College as both schools accumulated 50 points in the championships. The top five runners for the Bears included Jeptui Cherutich, Jackline Toek, Yvonne Boinett, Priscah Kiprop, and Leslie Walker. In addition, Head Coach Valmore Holt received ECC Women's Cross Country Co-



The women's cross-country team wins the East Coast Conference championship.

Coach of the Year honors. Though the men's team came in third place, Nicholas Koiyet was named the ECC Player of the Year and Daniel Rono earned Rookie of the Year honors.

NYIT WELCOMES NEW COACHES

William Dunn has been named the new head coach of the men's lacrosse team. For the past eight years, he has served as assistant coach, defensive coordinator, and strength and conditioning coach under Jack Kaley, who led the Bears to four NCAA championships and 185 wins during a 17-year period. During Dunn's assistantship, the Bears compiled a 94-15 record and advanced to the NCAA Division II tournament five times and won national titles in 2003 and 2008.

In addition, Anthony Crocitto has joined NYIT as the head coach of the women's basketball team. Previously, he spent two seasons as the top assistant coach for women's basketball at Longwood University in Farmville, Va. He brings 13 years of collegiate coaching experience, with stints at the University of Central Florida, Hofstra University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Mount Ida, and Dowling College. ■

Slice

Thomas Vecchione (B.Arch. '88) is never too far from his passport. As design director for Gensler, a San Francisco-based architectural firm with 32 offices worldwide, the native New Yorker has worked on projects in Cairo, Dubai, Tokyo, Seoul, Zurich, and London—and that's just in the past five years. The NYIT graduate—who estimates he travels 150 days out of the year, with 20 percent of that time spent overseas—works out of the company's Manhattan offices in Rockefeller Center.



STEVE BENISNY

“I started working with global companies right here in New York,” says Vecchione, who landed a job at Gensler soon after earning his degree. For him and thousands of other NYIT alumni who possess a passion for design, architecture is, perhaps, the ultimate interdisciplinary art, combining beauty with function, intelligence with passion, and global awareness with local reflection.

His recent international projects include an office complex for HC Securities & Investment in Cairo and a Bank of America office building in Costa Rica (both set to open in 2010). His ideas for workplace design in particular focus on how lifestyle impacts functionality. In a 2009 interview with *Whitewall*

magazine, he says, “Most offices have been designed for sitting at your desk, focusing. Collaborative spaces are the spaces that people really need to start paying attention to.” Conference rooms, he notes, are one area in which designers can address the needs of workers by achieving a level of functionality that balances technological, situational, and other office-related concerns.

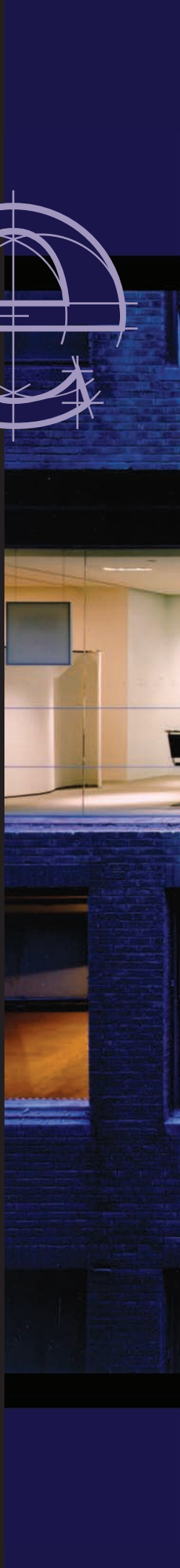
Projects such as the EFG Hermes Bank building in the “Smart Village” in Cairo—an information technology and business park that includes more than 120 companies grouped across 600 acres—introduced him to new architectural methods and elements that reflect global understanding. “When you’re working in the Middle East, you want to make sure you design enough space for Islamic people to wash their hands before prayer,” says Vecchione. Likewise, most architectural blueprints in that region of the world require Muslim prayer rooms.

Forming close ties with local business associates is crucial to success as well. In Cairo, as Vecchione and his team created the schematic designs and technical drawings, their partners worked on ensuring that the structure met the appropriate building codes.

Certain forms of communication, however, only go so far. While working on a project in Tokyo, Vecchione learned that translated PowerPoint presentations would not convey everything he wanted. “Certain things translate well and certain things don’t,” he says. The helpful solution, he concluded, was “to use fewer words and more images.”

In Gensler’s New York office, where Vecchione just celebrated his 23rd year, the global designer is hard at work on his next project. And although the basic skills for an architect have not changed since his NYIT graduation, he does note that as client relationships continue to take him around the world, he has never stopped learning.

BY Design



From New York to Dubai to China, meet five NYIT alumni who are crafting a new world for the 21st century



By Amy Wu



Thomas Vecchione (B.Arch. '88, left) serves as design director for San Francisco-based Gensler. His work includes the Macklowe Properties 750,000-square-foot glass office tower (above) in midtown Manhattan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENSLER

You could say Arkar Latt's (B.Arch. '89) architectural career began in Shakespearean theater. As a high school student, the Bellport, N.Y., native was charged with building stage sets for a performance of *Macbeth*. It was a defining moment for the future NYIT alumnus, not full of sound and fury, but of promise and fulfillment.

On the advice of a family friend, Latt pursued a degree in architecture at NYIT and, after graduation, worked for fellow graduate Angelo Corva (B.S. '72), principal and founder of Angelo Francis Corva & Associates in Hempstead, N.Y. After gaining several years of experience on commercial, single-family, and multi-family properties, Latt joined Turner Construction in New York City.

Almost immediately, he was thrust into his first major international project—renovating Kuwait's historic Sief Palace, which had been damaged during the first Gulf War. Latt spent 18 months in the Middle East, an experience that taught him some valuable lessons.

"It's important to be humble when you're working in another country," he says. Respect for foreign cultures, he notes, is paramount, especially when you're involved in projects such as national landmarks.

He returned to New York City and spent the next eight years at Turner fulfilling various roles: project engineer, superintendent, purchasing agent, and senior project manager. During this time, Latt's work included hospitals, airports, and public arenas, such as the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens, N.Y., home of the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

In 2002, his company tapped him to serve as the



Arkar Latt (B.Arch. '89), operations manager of Turner International, oversaw the construction of the Burj-Dubai, the world's tallest building.

JEFF WEINER

operations manager of Turner International, overseeing emerging markets in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

"Overnight, our division went from being one of the smallest to one of the largest," says Latt. Today, he oversees construction operations in 20 countries across five continents with eight permanent offices overseas.

With a staff of more than 900 professionals, he tackles projects throughout

the world. One of the most recent: the \$4.1 billion, 160-floor Burj-Dubai, which at 2,684 feet, is now the world's tallest manmade structure. The project, which opened in January 2010, required Latt (whose company served as construction manager) to hire local staff as well as local and international subcontractors. In the process, he gained an appreciation of regional politics and culture.

"When you show humility, professionalism, and respect before you show technical prowess, people in their native countries will almost always welcome you and help you more," he says.

Some worthwhile advice for all global professionals.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TURNER INTERNATIONAL

Though he makes his living in the Windy City, global architect Peter Ruggiero (B.Arch. '81) still calls the Big Apple home. After all, it was a hometown project in the 1960s that set him on his career path.

"As a little kid, I'd go to the Bay Ridge shoreline in Brooklyn with my parents and watch the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge being built," says Ruggiero. "I knew at an early age I wanted to be an architect." At NYIT, he studied under professors Aly Dadras, Robert Jensen, and John di Domenico, among others, and particularly enjoyed their courses on building systems, architectural theory, and studio work.

After earning his degree at NYIT, Ruggiero landed his first job as an archi-

tect at Bentel & Bentel on Long Island. He later earned a Master of Architecture and Urban Design at Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1984 and soon returned to New York to join the global architecture firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) LLP, where he still works today as a design partner.

"That is what I ultimately wanted to be involved in—a large architecture firm," says Ruggiero. "I was attracted to the scale of the work, as well as the ability to design big projects and to influence cities."

Among his architectural inspirations are forms that evoke simplicity, efficiency, and logic—elements he finds in both manmade and natural environments.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKIDMORE OWINGS & MERRILL

Many of Ruggiero's designs focus on environmental sustainability while maintaining a unique architectural profile that meets the needs of his clients.

For 18 years, he worked out of SOM's New York City office on projects ranging from city hospitals to major transportation hubs such as Newark International Airport and John F. Kennedy International Airport. Of all his New York City projects, however, Ruggiero considers the new 7 World Trade Center, a 52-story Manhattan skyscraper completed in 2006, a career milestone. The original building, constructed in 1987, was destroyed by debris following the collapse of the Twin Towers on 9/11.

"This was the first building built since Sept. 11, and a project that influenced the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan," he says proudly. As a senior designer on the project, he contributed to the new building's design, which includes 1.7 million square feet of office space.

In 2003, Ruggiero relocated to SOM's Chicago office to work on projects in China, Russia, and the Middle East—including the Wenzhou Lucheng Plaza Landmark Tower, Plot 16 in Moscow, and the Rolex Tower in Dubai. He also led the design team for the new International Treaty Organization Headquarters in Belgium and the Dawangjing Master Plan in Beijing.

Ruggiero notes that projects in newly developing cities such as Tianjin and Wenzhou in China are also rewarding experiences. "It's amazing when you really think about where these cities are now, and how they can be global centers of the 21st century," he says.



Peter Ruggiero (B.Arch. '81) serves as design partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. His projects include the 75-story Wenzhou Lucheng Plaza Landmark Tower in China (top right), which is slated for completion in 2012.

TIM KLEIN/GETTY IMAGES

Ted Moudis (B.S. '80) has much to celebrate as founder and senior principal of Ted Moudis Associates (TMA). For two decades, the NYIT graduate has watched his firm grow from a 20-person group to an 100-employee firm with offices in three cities. TMA is ranked as one of the top design firms in New York and a top 50 Design Giant by *Interior Design* magazine.

Moudis oversees the day-to-day operations of his company, designing spaces for multinational companies such as Deutsche Bank, Morgan Stanley, Tiffany & Co., Rolex, Coty, *Newsweek*, the NFL and

MLB, and Société Générale.

Born and raised in Queens, N.Y., Moudis got his first taste of architecture in a high school mechanical drawing class. When it came time to choose a college, NYIT's architecture program appealed to him because of its emphasis on professional training.

"Even though the classwork was grueling, the instructors were professionals, and what they taught us was related to real-life examples on the job," he says. "The practicum was more facts than theory."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TED MOUDIS ASSOCIATES

Ted Moudis (B.S. '80), founder and senior principal of Ted Moudis Associates, has designed several corporate offices, including the four-level, 150,000-square-foot headquarters for Knight Capital Group (top), a financial services firm in Jersey City, N.J., and the Park Avenue offices of Coty (bottom), the New York City-based beauty products manufacturer.

Today, the facts are that Moudis has seen his firm grow steadily over the past two decades. Nine years ago, he opened a Chicago office to cover the firm's projects on both coasts, and in 2009, Moudis Associates partnered with MCM Architecture, a London-based firm, to handle additional projects in Europe.

And when he's not designing, Moudis remains actively involved with his alma mater. Over the years, he has hired several NYIT alumni, sits on the university's architecture advisory board, and holds annual seminars for students at his office, where he shares career advice and other professional experiences.

One of the first lessons Moudis teaches them is patience. "For someone to become successful, you need to climb the ladder one rung at a time," he says. And he stresses how important it is for graduates to enjoy what they do for a living.

For Moudis, it's a lesson he puts into practice each day. "Every morning, I can't wait to come to work and see what new challenges and opportunities lie ahead."

JEFF WEINER



They say diamonds are forever. And when combined with an NYIT degree, they can be the gateway to a brilliant architectural career.

For Phil Bottega (B.S. '84), working at world-renowned jeweler Tiffany & Co. meant thinking outside the box. "I took a chance and said, 'I'm going to try something different and see what it's like,'" says the NYIT graduate, who practiced architecture alongside two other NYIT alumni before joining the global jeweler in 1988.

At Tiffany, Bottega worked his way up from manager of store planning and director of facilities to managing real estate, design, construction, and property management at all of Tiffany's buildings as vice president of real estate worldwide.

"I had the good fortune of traveling around the world," says the Brooklyn, N.Y., native. His responsibilities took him to the United Kingdom, Europe, the Middle East, South America, and Asia. He says his favorite projects were the ones that taught him how local geography and culture influence everything from materials to design to construction.

In the city of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, for example, Bottega and his staff were charged with designing and building a 15,000-square-foot diamond-polishing facility. They found themselves wrestling with temperatures of 40 degrees below freezing, which posed many challenges when it came to transporting building materials. Arrangements had to be made for the steel and other elements to be trucked in from warmer regions, which included transporting them over frozen lakes and rivers. And on a personal level, Bottega had to make sure the car he drove was equipped with special equipment to prevent the engine block from freezing and cracking.

On the other side of the world, Bottega found himself at odds with the heat and humidity of Hanoi, Vietnam, when it came to building a diamond-cutting facility.

"The temperatures in this area were very hot, and the building had to be air-conditioned, which was not something the local employees were used to," he says. His team also worked with local authorities and development companies to build the 75,000-square-foot building with an adjacent dining facility and management housing.

"We learned a great deal from this project—how to build in this part of the world, how to get materials into the coun-



For 20 years, Phil Bottega (B.S. '84) designed projects for Tiffany & Co., including its prominent location at 37 Wall Street in New York City (left).



JOSH GERITSEN

MICHAEL WEBER

try, and how to work in a design-build capacity while respecting the local codes and rules in what was basically a communist, government-controlled city."

Before leaving Tiffany in 2008, Bottega's responsibilities had grown to include more than 200 locations in 20 countries around the world. Today, he works as deputy head of facilities at Société Générale in Manhattan, where

he oversees facilities operations and construction for the French bank's locations across the United States. And while his globetrotting days may be fewer in number, Bottega's dedication to his craft has never faltered.

"I've had a passion for architecture since I was a little boy," he says. At NYIT, that passion transformed into practical knowledge and expertise, and now, more than 25 years later, he continues to reap the rewards of his education.

"My career is much more than what I expected," he says. His global projects at Tiffany and his national work through Société Générale have provided him with opportunities to interact with other cultures, foster business relationships with local partners, and fulfill a lifelong dream that he shares with thousands of other NYIT architects—that is, to build a better world for the 21st century. ■



In Sickness and In Health

NYIT graduates
speak out
on the future
of medicine

By David McKay Wilson

KENDRICK BRINSON/GETTY IMAGES

As an emergency room physician, Gina Piazza (D.O. '99) serves on the front lines of America's health care delivery. Day after day, uninsured citizens show up seeking her care at the MCGHealth Medical Center in Augusta, Ga.

"There are so many heart-breaking situations," says Piazza. "There may be someone with a job, but no insurance, or someone with a job who can't afford the premiums. Then there are people without jobs, or those who are disabled and can't get on Social Security. I see everybody who falls through the cracks."

Those cracks have widened so much that an estimated 47 million Americans—roughly 20 percent of the population under age 65—lack health care coverage. At the same time, health care costs—at more than \$2.2 trillion a year—continue their inexorable rise, now comprising 16 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product. Federal officials, meanwhile, have been struggling to find consensus on a reform bill to provide access to quality, affordable health care.


Piazza began her medical career with a firm grounding in health care issues after earning a certificate at NYIT's Training in Policy Studies (TIPS) program while a medical resident in 2002-2003. Since then, she has traveled annually to Washington, D.C., to lobby for health care reform.



Emergency room physician Gina Piazza (D.O. '99) is among the thousands of NYIT alumni who have dedicated their lives to providing health care solutions to patients around the world.

"Over the years I've gone to Capitol Hill, I've come to learn that the voices of physicians really do matter," says Piazza, who serves on the Emergency Medical Services Committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians. "It's important to provide education to members of Congress. We go speak for our patients, and if they can help our patients, that's what matters most."

Piazza is among the thousands of NYIT alumni who earn their living in the sprawling U.S. health care system as doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, physical and occupational therapists, researchers, policy makers, and others. Each brings his or her own perspective to the unfolding saga of health care reform in a nation struggling to care for all its citizens in a time of economic stress and high unemployment.

A photograph of Bette Coppola and Norman Gevitz standing in a museum or gallery. Bette Coppola, on the left, is a woman with short curly hair, wearing a dark blue suit and a white shirt. She has her arms crossed and is smiling. Norman Gevitz, on the right, is a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark pinstriped suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is leaning on a white railing and is also smiling. The background features glass display cases filled with various artifacts, including anatomical models and historical documents. A sign above them reads "Office of Research Planning and Operations".

Bette Coppola, NYIT coordinator of health policy programs, and Professor Norman Gevitz of the Center for the Culture and Humanism in Medicine help ensure that medical students understand the intricacies of health care legislation.

“I am optimistic that they’ll come up with a compromise in Washington,” says Sonia Rivera-Martinez (D.O. ’02), who practices family medicine at the Medisys East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. “It’s not all going to be favorable for physicians, but you need to look at these issues from a higher ground and a wider perspective, not just one that will hit our pocket-book. If you are looking at creating a system that provides access and improved quality while still being cost-efficient, you have to take into account many things.”

But Yevgeny Zadov (D.O. ’07) is concerned that lawmakers may move too quickly, resulting in legislation that creates more problems than it resolves.

“Going too fast could lead to errors and unforeseen circumstances,” says Zadov, a third-year resident working at Long Beach Medical Center in Long Beach, N.Y.

Norman Gevitz, professor of the history and sociology of medicine at NYIT’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) and director of the university’s Center for the Culture and Humanism in Medicine, says legislation under review in Washington could go a long way toward reaching the goal of universal coverage in the United States. The compromise bill under consideration as of mid-January would cover an estimated 94 percent of Americans, still leaving 23 million without coverage. Gevitz reports this would be the biggest expansion of coverage in the nation since the 1960s, when the Medicare program for the elderly and Medicaid program for the indigent were established.

“When Medicare was adopted, the elderly who didn’t have insurance suddenly had it, and they came to doctors’ offices in droves,” says Gevitz, author of *The DOs: Osteopathic Medicine in America*. “They were hospitalized in greater num-

bers as well, and the great beneficiaries, along with the patients, were physicians and health care providers. The trick now is, what will be done to decrease unnecessary utilization? People need to be seen when they really need to be seen in order to control costs.”

These are among the issues that Gevitz discusses in the TIPS program, which helps second- and third-year residents improve their understanding of health policy. That understanding provides a foundation for leadership roles in professional organizations involved in health policy and offers students additional expertise so they speak with broad-based authority to government officials.

“More than ever, it’s important for physicians to learn the background and mechanics of our health care system,” says Bette Coppola, coordinator of health policy programs at NYIT. “With all the confusion about health care in America, these physicians will be the

people who will educate policy makers and the public, and be advocates for their patients.”

Bernadette Riley (D.O. '05), chief resident for family practice at Long Beach (N.Y.) Medical Center, says TIPS has opened up her eyes to the intricacies of the health care system, which she has experienced first-hand in treating low-income patients served by Medicaid.

“In the TIPS program, we have learned to look at both sides of the issue,” Riley says. “It’s important to realize as a physician, it’s not always about reimbursement and tort reform.”

It is tort reform, however, that could help expand access, says Vijay Sidhwani (B.S. '01, D.O. '04), who participated in TIPS in 2008. As he enters private practice, he is faced with potential malpractice insurance rates that range from \$5,000 to \$200,000 a year, depending on what specialty he decides to pursue. Lawsuits against physicians have driven up rates and encouraged them to practice “defensive medicine,” leading to unnecessary medical tests just to make sure that

their bases are covered in case a diagnosis proves inaccurate.

“Practicing defensive medicine contributes to the way health care costs have skyrocketed,” says Sidhwani. “The threat of lawsuits can be a huge stress on physicians.”

RESIDENT SHORTAGE

As Congress debates health care reform, the system itself faces projected shortages in personnel to care for the nation’s growing population, including those to be served by expanded coverage. A November 2009 report by the Association of American Medical Colleges predicted a shortfall of 124,000 physicians by 2025.

While medical schools have seen a growth in enrollments in recent years, the number of residency positions to train physicians after they graduate is capped by a 1997 federal law.

Joseph DeGaetano (B.S. '88, D.O. '92), assistant dean for clinical and graduate medical education at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., says the limitation on residency

slots has hampered medical education.

One bill under consideration in Washington, D.C., would raise the cap on residencies. A proposal in spring 2009 would have boosted residency slots by 10 percent, adding 15,000 residency positions, at a cost of \$15 billion over the next decade. That has since been dramatically scaled back, according to Christiane Mitchell, director of federal affairs for the Association of American Medical Colleges. House and Senate versions of the health reform legislation would redistribute the estimated 1,500 residency slots that are currently vacant. The House version would allocate them to programs training primary care physicians. The Senate version would redistribute up to 900 slots for primary care or general surgery programs.

“Residency programs are typically located in urban hospital centers that care for the poor,” says DeGaetano, whose wife, Hilda DeGaetano (B.S. '88, D.O. '92), is an associate professor of pediatrics at Nova Southeastern. “They are medical care to the indigent.”

JOSH GERITSEN

Joseph DeGaetano (B.S. '88, D.O. '92) serves as assistant dean for clinical and graduate medical education at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



A PREMIUM ISSUE

The complexities of the health care debate also underscore the role of insurance companies, which form the backbone of the employer-sponsored system that provides coverage as a job-related benefit.

In Philadelphia, Stephan Roker (M.B.A. '93) serves as senior vice president of operations for Independence Blue Cross, a nonprofit insurance company with 3.3 million subscribers. It's one of 39 Blue Cross plans across the country that serve about one third of all Americans.

At Independence, Roker works on programs that leverage technology and informatics to help health care providers and support healthy lifestyles for its members. The insurance company recently struck an agreement with WebMD to provide reliable online health information through its interactive portal, including a personal health risk profile, a program that estimates treatment costs for hundreds of common conditions, and data about medical diagnoses, prescription drugs, and medical research.

"We want to empower our members with as much information as possible," says Roker. "Now, when they go to a doctor, they'll have their questions ready."

Roker is also working with providers in Philadelphia to encourage them to create electronic medical records to improve efficiency as well as cut health care costs. And while the federal government has kicked off a \$19 billion incentive program to entice physicians and hospitals—hoping to save an estimated \$100 billion a

DAVID HERING/INDEPENDENCE BLUE CROSS



Above: As senior vice president of operations for Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia, Stephan Roker (M.B.A. '93) uses technology to help 3.3 million subscribers find paths to healthier lifestyles.

Right: John Mack (M.A. '88), publisher of *Pharma Marketing Network*, says the drug companies need to add more value to justify the high cost of medications.



MIKE PILLA/GETTY IMAGES

year—Independence is offering its own incentives to go digital.

Roker's department has developed a Web-based system for providers, with data storage provided off-site on secure servers supported by Independence. The company also encourages physicians to write their prescriptions electronically, which cuts down on errors by pharmacists who might misread a doctor's handwritten scrawl.

"There's nothing they need to purchase, as long as they have a PC and a modem," says Roker.

AN EYE ON BIG PHARMA

As the insurance industry braces for the federal reform agenda, pharmaceutical manufacturers and their marketing teams are preparing for pressures to cut costs. John Mack (M.A. '88) monitors the pharmaceutical industry in his online publication, *Pharma Marketing Network*. One of his articles from an October 2009 issue predicted turmoil in the U.S. market, where the push for expanded coverage will bring the need to restrain pharmaceutical costs.

The industry, the author noted, needs to demonstrate value in order to maintain relatively high prices and benefit from the expanded coverage. One way would be to provide medical services that are related to the drug. For example, if a patient is prescribed a drug to help him stop smoking, then the physician could also make sure the patient signs up for a counseling program to provide support.

By late November, Mack had posted an article on his blog, noting how a study of Medicaid programs in 27 states showed a link between direct-to-consumer advertising and rising drug prices. That followed a report by the AARP showing how wholesale drug costs rose 9 percent in the past year, which could wipe out the projected savings lawmakers had targeted to pay for expanded coverage.

Drug company officials say price increases are needed to fund research and development in the face of an uncertain future, with increasing competition from generic drug manufacturers.

"These rising prices have bollixed up the health care debate," says Mack. "We're keeping on top of it." ■

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

A World of Difference

In the 1990s, Erik Fleischman (D.O. '86) had it all. A physician to the stars of Hollywood, he had among his patients such Hollywood names as Steven Seagal, Sylvester Stallone, and Mickey Rourke.

But then, he decided it was time for a change.

"I had the perfect practice, but on my street, you couldn't throw a rock without hitting a doctor," says Fleischman, now a senior clinical advisor in Thailand for the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation's HIV/AIDS Initiative. "There were so many doctors in one place. I felt extraneous. I wanted to go somewhere, to make a bigger impact."



Erik Fleischman (D.O. '86) left the Hollywood lifestyle to help treat citizens of underdeveloped regions by establishing HIV/AIDS clinics, working with drug companies to reduce the cost of medications, and providing delivery systems in places with poor medical care.



In doing so, he witnessed first-hand the realities of life in developing countries, where curable diseases go untreated and the sick have no hospitals to treat them. Today, Fleischman works on improving health care in Indonesia, Ukraine, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand.

"Thailand has a pretty good system, but there's not the training or level of care we have in the United States," says Fleischman, who lives in Bangkok with his wife and three-year-old son. "It's not like somebody who gets really sick can be transferred to an institution for higher treatment. They die out there. And in Africa, it's even worse."

With the Clinton Foundation, he has served in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe, helping nations set up self-sufficient systems to provide free treatment to people infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. The foundation also brings countries together to work with international drug companies to lower the price of medications.

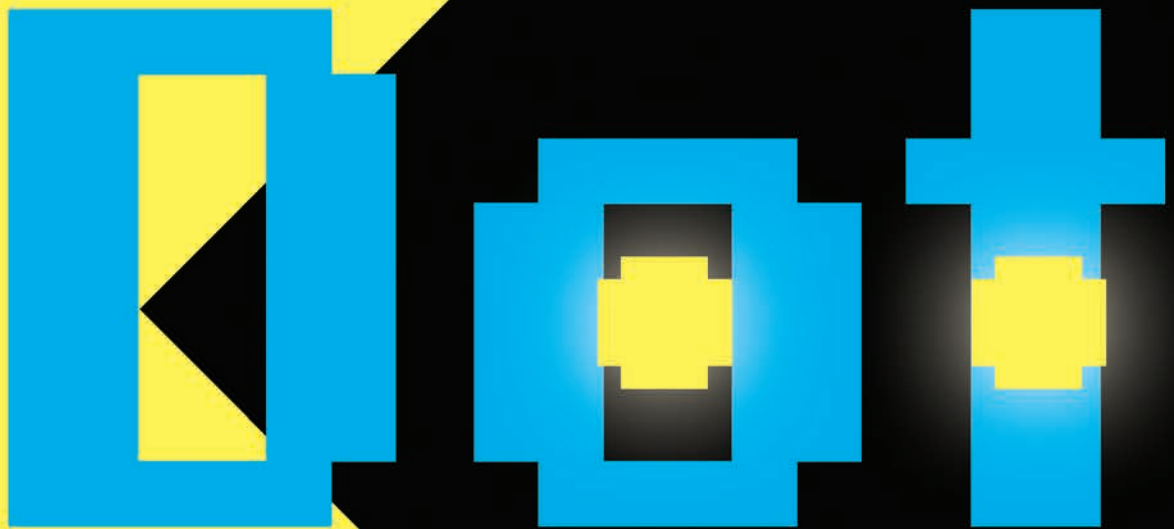
Now Fleischman is coordinating with national health officials and physicians to develop the technical capacity to distribute medication through strict protocols. He's also working to establish delivery systems in places with little health care infrastructure and poor medical training.

"If the treatment isn't done properly, it fails right away and ends up creating a resistant strain of the virus," he says. "If the protocol isn't followed, you end up wasting what little money you have."

Working in the developing world has connected him with what he calls "pure medicine."

"It's a chance to practice without the insurance company or a practice manager looking over your shoulder," says Fleischman. "It's a rare opportunity to do the right thing. Life is short, and I want to do this while I can."

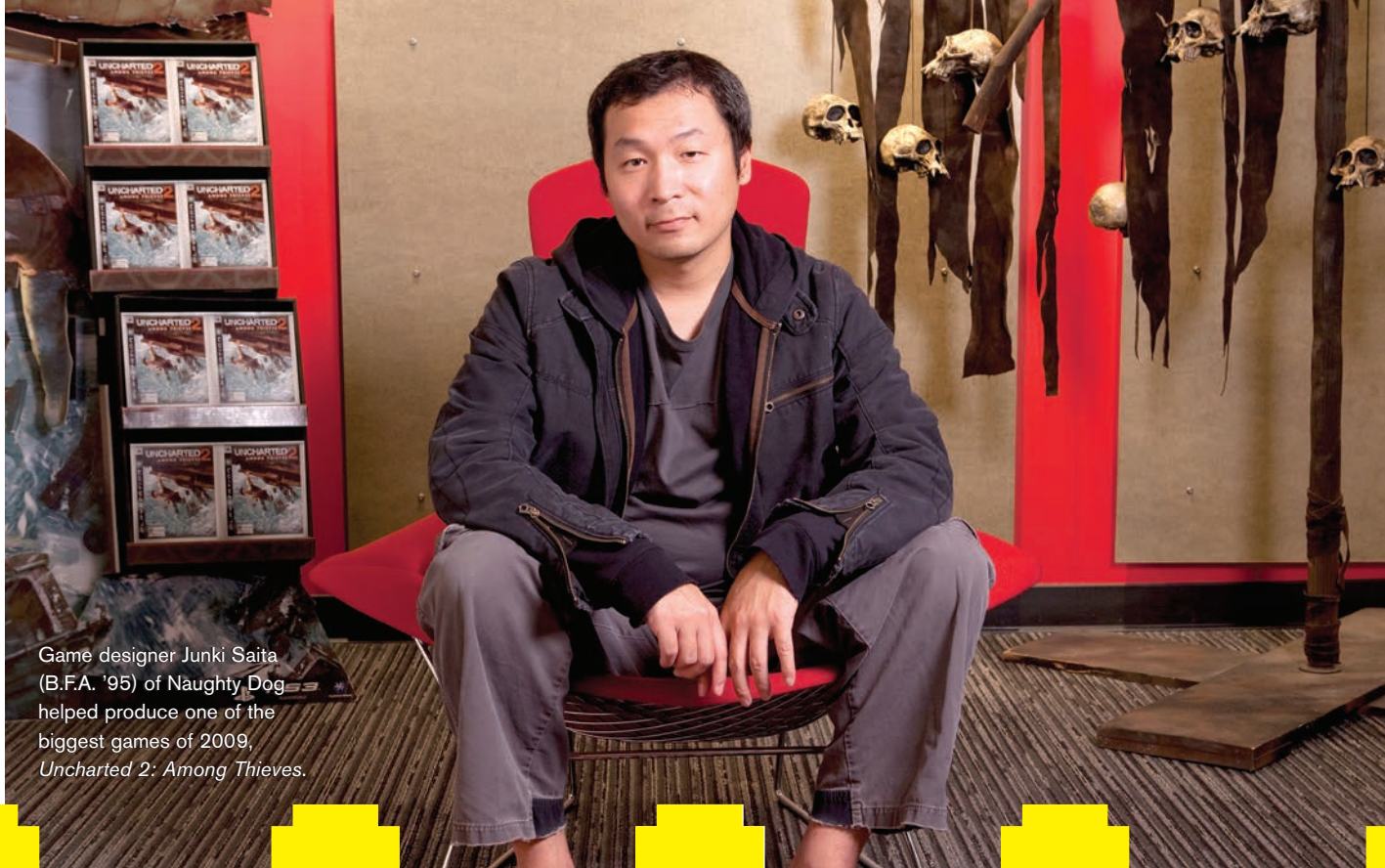
Once
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As video games
grow in popularity,
NYIT alumni play their
role in creating the next
wave of interactive
entertainment

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

UNCHARTED 2 AMONG THIEVES



GILLES MINGASSON/GETTY IMAGES

Game designer Junki Saita (B.F.A. '95) of Naughty Dog helped produce one of the biggest games of 2009, *Uncharted 2: Among Thieves*.

e

ngineer Ralph Baer was not even 30 years old in 1951 when he was asked to build TV sets that his company could sell to consumers. To calibrate each unit, he manipulated horizontal and vertical lines across the screen. The process gave him an idea—why not build a TV device that would allow viewers to move objects and create a simple game out of it? Baer brought the idea to his boss, who told him to forget it. They were already behind schedule.

Several years later, the engineer returned to his TV game idea while working for another company. This time, his boss saw its potential, and Baer began designing what would ultimately become the first home video game console—the Magnavox Odyssey, which went on sale in May 1972 for \$100.

Jump ahead to November 2009, nearly six decades since Baer envisioned dots chasing each other on a black-and-white screen. Video game publisher Activision Blizzard announces that first-day sales of *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2* reach \$310 million in North America and the United Kingdom. It is not the biggest video game launch in history—it is the biggest entertainment launch. By comparison, it took *The Dark Knight* an entire weekend in 2008 to sell \$158.3 million in movie tickets. *Modern Warfare 2* would go on to earn \$550 million in its first week, and Pricewaterhouse Coopers estimates that the global video game market will grow to \$68 billion by 2012.

In short, video games have arrived as a primary source of entertainment for millions of people around the world. The Entertainment Software Association (ESA) reports that today's

average gamer is 35 years old, with 25 percent of Americans over the age of 50 enjoying their share of video games as well. In addition, an estimated 73 percent of American households play video games on consoles such as the Playstation 3 and Xbox 360, or on Windows- or Mac-based computers.

The belief that video games were only the realm of children and young adults has changed as new technologies make games more accessible to older generations and others who might not have ever picked up a game controller. One of the most popular devices to reach those populations has been Nintendo's Wii console, which features a sensory controller that simulates real-life movements such as swinging a bat or serving a tennis ball.

"In the past, companies made video games for 'core' gamers, or those who had the ability to skillfully operate video game controllers," says Karl Hsu (M.S. '94), chief information officer for Gamania, a Taiwan-based digital entertainment company with popular gaming titles that include *Lineage*, *Maple Story*, and *CounterStrikeOnline*. "Mobile and casual gaming now occupy a fast-growing segment of the industry."

Though "casual" games—with basic controller commands and simple play mechanics—have been around since the earliest video games (as anyone who has played *Pong* or *Space Invaders* can attest), the increasing complexity of some modern games can intimidate potential new gamers. The Wii, as well as the ubiquity of cell phones that can play *Solitaire* to the latest 3-D games, has created a new market for video game developers to explore.

Hsu grew up playing video games and today enjoys the latest games for the current generation of consoles. "I was amazed that



MARTIN KLIMEK/GETTY IMAGES

As a student, I was involved in a computer group on Long Island that focused on the Commodore Amiga. A sales rep from Electronic Arts would come in twice a year and show off the latest games.”

— Peter Traugot (B.F.A. '92)

so many pieces of computer code could bring so much joy,” he says. Now, Hsu realizes, it’s not just the code that makes a connection with gamers. “It’s the spirit of the game. Not the way it appears, but the way you interact with it.”

And that interaction is what attracts people. Both Microsoft and Sony, makers of the Xbox and Playstation consoles, respectively, plan to release motion-controlled technology later this year in an effort to piggyback off the Wii’s success.

“Whether or not these other manufacturers develop a unique interface as opposed to a ‘me too’ device, we’ll have to wait and see,” says Peter Traugot (B.F.A. ’92), executive producer of iWin Inc., a developer and publisher of casual games for the PC, Mac, Nintendo DS, iPhone, and other platforms. “Sony and Microsoft are looking at motion control as more than just throwing a bowling ball. They are looking for a more full-featured experience expanding outside of games, using it as a method to virtually interact with other people and activities on the Web.”

For Traugot, working in the video game industry was not what he pictured while a student at NYIT. After graduation, he had planned to use his degree to enter the world of advertising, which in 1992 had just begun to adopt 3-D graphics in TV commercials. “As a student, I was involved in a computer group on Long Island that focused on the Commodore Amiga. A sales rep from Electronic Arts would come in twice a year and show off the latest games.”

During his last semester at NYIT, Traugot sent a demo reel with his resumé to the video game publisher and got a call for an interview 48 hours later. And even though “they offered me a job on the spot,” he wanted to attend his NYIT graduation before leaving home.

“They offered to fly me out after graduation, and I left that same day!” Through the next several years, Traugot helped develop several popular titles, including *Road Rash* and the *Strike* series. Working at video game developer 3DO brought him face to face with R.J. Mical, one of the lead software engineers for the Commodore Amiga. “I was working with my geek idol,” he says.

At iWin today, Traugot is responsible for the development of all first-party titles, including the popular *Jewel Quest* series, one of the most popular casual games on the market. Over the past three years, he has produced 25 titles and launched iWin’s iPhone gaming division.

Regarding the current video game mar-

ketplace, Traugot notes that consumer expectations have grown considerably in recent years. Many gamers are not satisfied with simply consuming dots on a screen, jumping over barrels, or shooting rocks in space. They now demand photorealistic graphics, innovative storylines, orchestral soundtracks, and other stimuli that help immerse them into virtual worlds.

“Everything got deeper and higher in production value,” says Traugot. “And what happens is that customer expectations start to exceed development’s production expectations.”

But all of the digital bells and whistles in today’s games, along with R&D, rigorous testing, and advertising, come at a cost, one that is usually passed along to the consumer. New video game releases often fetch close to \$60 at retail, and that doesn’t take into account the cost of the console, controllers, and other hardware.

“Games are more expensive to make than ever before because of the next-generation technology requirements,” says Junki Saita (B.F.A. ’95), game designer at Santa Monica, Calif.-based Naughty Dog, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sony Computer Entertainment. His

latest game, *Uncharted 2: Among Thieves* for the PlayStation 3, was one of the highest-rated and best-selling games of the 2009 holiday season.

“Game studios are always looking for ways to provide more value for their audience,” he says. “Today’s audience is very discerning, and \$60 can be a lot to ask of a player.”

A quick glance at the names of the hottest video games—*Modern Warfare 2*, *Uncharted 2*, *Street Fighter IV*, and *The Sims 3*—shows that the industry, like its Hollywood brethren, is fond of sequels. “It’s the obvious choice to stick with the perceived money makers, but the audience continues to want something new,” says Saita. “If the industry chooses to only rehash the things that we perceive as having been profitable in the past, eventually it may come back around to bite us. There’s a balance to be had.”

Saita’s first gaming job was as a digital artist at Activision. His gaming credits include *Pitfall 3-D*, *Star Trek: Armada*, and the *Tony Hawk Pro Skater* and *Medal of Honor* series. “As time goes by, I continue to grow and improve as a game designer, so each new game is my next favorite.”

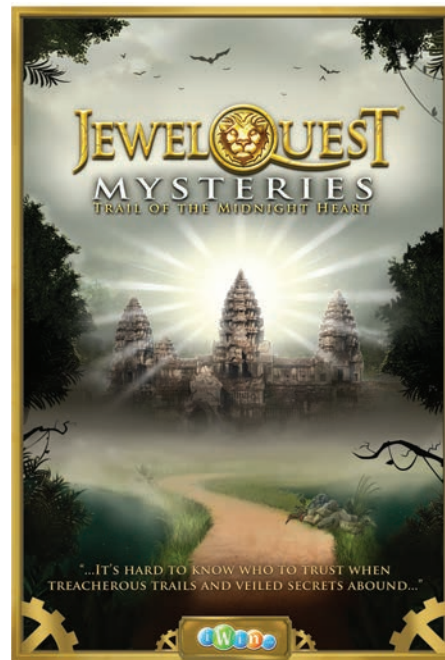


PHOTO COURTESY OF IWIN

The *Jewel Quest* series by Peter Traugot’s company, iWin, represent some of the most popular casual games in the world.

Saita chose NYIT because of its broad range of programs. “At first, I didn’t really know what I wanted to focus on,” he says. Then he learned about the school’s computer graphics lab, and he got hooked.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMANIA

Karl Hsu (M.S. ’94), chief information officer for Gamania, says games that offer unique interactive experiences are among the most successful.



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

“I think I was always meant to be a game designer. Even though, as a child, I did not have access to a lot of games, looking back I have come to realize that my childhood drawings were essentially designs for games and game consoles.”

BYTES OF KNOWLEDGE

Though video games that teach math, spelling, and foreign languages have existed for several years, many companies have shied away from developing them because of their limited market. Moreover, many question the value of video games as anything other than a mindless, button-mashing diversion. This perception may change, however, as the children playing video games today become the CEOs and political leaders of tomorrow.


Already in some areas, the shift is taking place: the ESA reported in 2008 that 70 percent of major employers are using interactive software and video games to train employees. And more than 75 percent of companies not using such technology are expected to do so in the next few years. The advantages of game-based education, notes the report, are cost reduction, more efficient and faster training, consistent training across departments, easier tracking of employee participation, and better information retention.

Two NYIT alumni who are doing their part to boost the educational value of video games are Sally Rosenberg (M.A. '86) and Michael Pugliese (B.F.A. '07), co-founders of Westbury, N.Y.-based Game Builders Academy (GBA). Their

organization works with Long Island school districts and summer camps, and uses specialized software to teach math, technology, literacy, and other classroom lessons using a unique twist.

“We take academic subjects and weave them into fun and enriching experiences,” says Rosenberg, GBA’s chief operating officer. “For example, learning about coordinate geometry may be tedious to some students, but once they realize that an understanding of the Cartesian coordinate plane is vital to making a video game character move in different directions, they become very attentive.”

For Rosenberg, there is nothing more exciting than seeing students’ eyes light up as they realize connections between what they are learning in school and the games



Sally Rosenberg (M.A. '86) and Michael Pugliese (B.F.A. '07) of Game Builders Academy use video games to teach children new ways of learning.

rehabilitation centers, physical education, music classes, and so on, and that idea will continue to grow," says Pugliese. "I would expect to see a Wii or similar console in every elementary and high school fairly soon."

And, it would seem, retirement homes. In November 2009, *Guinness World Records* reported the world's largest senior citizen Wii bowling tournament took place in Houston, Texas. The event drew more than 1,500 supporters and 600 bowlers. For many retirees, using a Wii controller to mimic actual movements can help to improve motor control and keep their bodies active.

"More people are playing video games than ever before," says Pugliese. "The industry has definitely changed and continues to change, but I think this new appreciation will only strengthen the idea that video games can do more than just pass the time."

Learning about coordinate geometry may be tedious to some students, but once they realize that an understanding of the Cartesian coordinate plane is vital to making a video game character move in different directions, they become very attentive."

—Sally Rosenberg (M.A.'86)

All Work and Maybe Some Play

Although they surround themselves with the latest games, software development kits, and 3-D technology, NYIT alumni who work in the video game industry acknowledge that those who don't often share the same misconception about how they spend their day.

"Many people think we play games for a living," says Hsu. "They're totally wrong." He describes his role as serving customers who enjoy playing video games. "It's like working in an expensive restaurant. You serve the best food, but get no time for a free bite."

"The reality is far from it," says Traugot about playing games on the job, though he never considered himself much of a gamer. "I preferred computer graphics—that was my main interest." Like Saita, he chose to attend NYIT because of its computer graphics lab, among the first of its kind in higher education. For Traugot, it was an experience he describes as "like nirvana."

Saita notes that working on triple-A titles like *Uncharted 2* can diminish the time he has to enjoy games on his own. "Also, when I do play a game, it can sometimes be more like work," he says. "As a game developer, you often tend to look at things more critically than a normal player might."

In many ways, Saita says that working on video games is not much different than working in other industries. "We still have meetings, office work, deadlines, and stress," he says. "All the normal stuff. But at the end of the day, you do it because you love it."

they are creating. "The students feel empowered and their self-confidence soars," she says. "I love being part of that."

Pugliese, who is GBA's director of video game development and graphic design, says that as more people realize the versatility of video games as an educational medium, more employers and teachers will begin to incorporate them into learning situations. His goal is to have students gain a genuine interest in academic subjects. Through real-world applications that are designed to be fun and engaging, Pugliese says his company helps students answer the question, "When am I ever going to use this stuff?"

But using video games as an educational tool is not limited to academic subjects. "Games are also being used in

The definition of a video game, he notes, is expanding as quickly as its audience. "Whether they're used for playing, cooking, designing, composing, relaxing, animating, exercising, or teaching, video games really are for everybody now." ■

In Memoriam

Alexander Schure

1920-2009



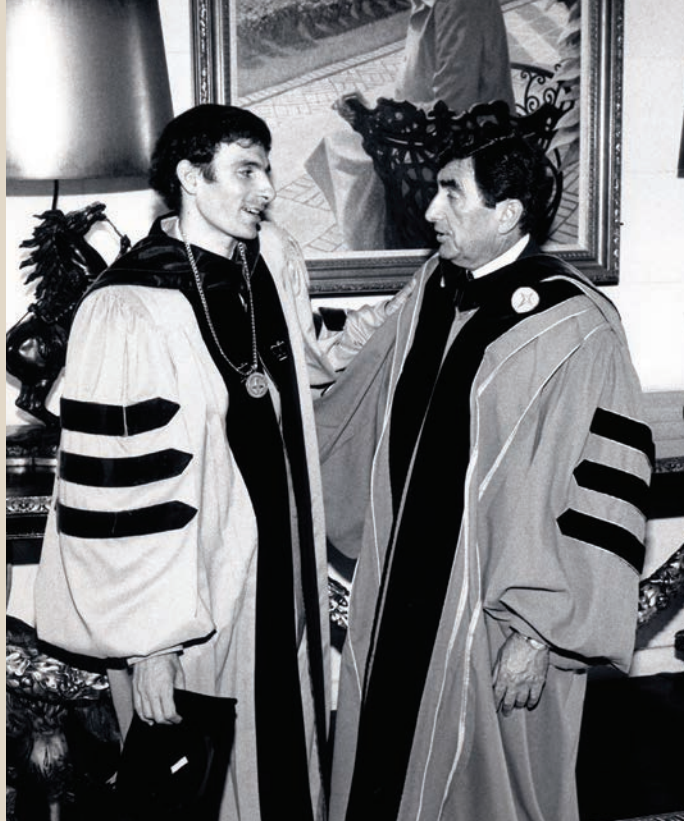
NYIT founder Alexander Schure died on Oct. 28, 2009, at the age of 89. An educational technology visionary, he served as the university's first president from 1955 to 1982. Among his achievements were the establishment of NYIT's campuses in Manhattan at Columbus Circle and in Old Westbury along Long Island's Gold Coast. In 1974, he created NYIT's Computer Graphics Laboratory, which produced some of the first breakthroughs in the field of computer graphics. Schure also helped launch NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1977, the first osteopathic medical school in New York.

NYIT Magazine shares some memories from those whose lives he impacted the most—family, friends, and graduates of NYIT.



“Dad was a visionary educator with a forceful personality. Because he refused to take no for an answer, and because he believed passionately in the capacity of all students to learn, he pioneered the introduction of instructional technology in college classrooms. He also pioneered external doctoral education, which is now commonplace, as well as the computer graphics industry. There are thousands of individuals who owe their higher education to Alexander Schure.”

*-Matthew Schure,
NYIT President (1982-2000)*



“Alex was a true pioneer and visionary educator, and his legacy continues to grow daily at NYIT. Fifty years ago, he showed the creation of human capital as the 21st-century answer to a strong and prosperous nation and people, and set about establishing a university that prepared students for careers of the future. This university and all of us have lost a great champion.”

-Edward Guiliano, NYIT President

“Dr. Alexander Schure, or ‘Uncle Alex’ as we called him, was one of the most colorful people in my career and played a fundamental role in the development of computer animation by providing us—the group that became Pixar—our first home. In the list of patrons who finally



made Pixar possible, he was the first (the other two being George Lucas, then Steve Jobs, with a tip of the hat to Roy Disney as well), and therefore took the biggest gamble, based on nothing more than his intuition. Thus began the Computer Graphics Lab at NYIT.”

-Alvy Ray Smith, co-founder of Pixar

“I met Alexander Schure in 1964. He became my best friend and professional mentor. He taught me that the future begins by envisioning it. It is better to dream big and accomplish only a few of your hopes than never to have dreamed at all. He taught me to abandon tradition if it did not serve me well and to explore new ways to teach and learn. As I stood on his shoulders, I saw the world with a sharper eye and richer spirit. He is indeed immortal because his influence will never cease.”

-Professor King V. Cheek

“More than anything, Dr. Schure believed that everyone had the ability to learn. If students were not experiencing success, he would conclude that the structure of their instruction was not adequate. As a result of these core beliefs, Dr. Schure introduced alternate modes of instruction, including teaching machines that presented curricular content to students one small unit at a time and which progressed when students showed mastery of the content. He was also a pioneering

advocate for integrating computers in the classroom.”

-Professor Maryse Prezeau

“As one of the first NYIT students, I had the stimulating experience of having Alex Schure as an instructor for some of my classes. He was a truly inspiring person.”

-Joe Hillen (A.A.S. '58)

“He showed a kid from Brooklyn that there was another world out there and that the only limits we had were the ones we set for ourselves.”

Fred Budin (B.S. '64)

“As a graduate of NYIT’s School of Architecture and Design, I owe my enjoyment of this wonderful profession to Dr. Schure.”

Leigh Overland (B.Arch. '76)

“Alex was convinced that computers would play a major role in education. And this was in 1958! Everyone did not have the foresight or understanding of computers. In those days, the hardware filled two classrooms. Not many people would have envisioned that students would one day be walking around with laptops. He was a genius.”

-Donald Ross (A.A.S. '60, B.F.A. '62)

For more on Alexander Schure’s legacy and additional memories, please visit www.nyit.edu/alexschure. ■

| 1960s |

Joseph P. Maccaro (B.S. '62) is a retired electronics engineer who worked for the U.S. Department of Defense as chief of the quality assurance engineering branch for Long Island. He recalls providing engineering support to NASA for the development and procurement of the 16mm motion picture camera used on the Apollo and Skylab space missions and having the privilege of working with hundreds of dedicated U.S. military men and women. Joe has been married for 46 years, has two sons (an attorney and a physician), and two granddaughters.

Larry Brett (B.F.A. '68) has been rockin' Vermont for the past 41 years. Since graduating from NYIT, he's been living his boyhood dream—entertaining people on the radio, in night clubs, and at parties. In addition to running his company, LBJ (Larry Brett's Jukebox), he has been a radio DJ, sports announcer, and radio advertising salesman. For the past 11 years, his day job has been as a sales rep for Business People-Vermont. Larry credits NYIT's hands-on radio and television education for his many successes. Some of his best memories of the college include transferring from a windowless West 70th Street building to the spacious Old Westbury campus; beating New York University in basketball on their home court after being down by 20 points in the second half; and working at WNYT. Larry has been married for 27 years and has two children. At 65, Larry says he'll "never grow too old to rock and roll!"

| 1970s |

James Van Nostrand (B.S. '70) has retired as Southampton (N.Y.) village administrator, a position he held for 13 years. Before that, he worked as employee relations manager at Citicorp (then First National City Bank), director of employee relations at Union Pacific Corporation, and vice president for human resources at Chase Manhattan Bank. James has been busy outside the office as well, serving as chairman of the building

committee at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Manorville (N.Y.), chairman of the Holistic Learning Center of New Jersey, and performing magic shows as "The Amazing Jimmy Van."

David Baumgarten (B.S. '72, M.B.A. '76) has been promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Civil Guard Police, District of Jerusalem (Israel).

Joseph T. Farnitano (B.S. '76) is enjoying retirement in Wilmington, N.C., with his wife of 50 years, Patricia. He retired in 1986 from the Suffolk County (N.Y.) Police Department, where he began his 22-year career as a foot patrolman and left as deputy inspector, as well as holding the title of commanding officer of the Major Crimes Bureau. After his police career, Joe worked in Georgia as a staff writer for the *Hartwell Sun* newspaper and as solid waste manager for Hartwell County. He is proud to note his greatest accomplishments—five children and 13 grandchildren. His oldest son, Michael, serves as a senior inspector with the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and shared a 2005 Nobel Peace Prize with the IAEA staff; his daughter, Patricia, worked as a brain trauma nurse for Emory University Hospital before raising a family; son Thomas is a sales executive for a computer software developer; son Christopher is a Duke University Medical School graduate and operates family, HIV, and sigmoidoscopy clinics; and daughter Theresa is an emergency room nurse. It's no wonder that Joe is so proud!

Tom Kosonen (B.Arch. '76) has joined CB Richard Ellis Group, a global leader in real estate services, as managing director of its new Assessment and Consulting Services Group, based in New York City. Tom, a registered architect with 30 years of construction and real estate experience, previously held positions as managing director at Bear Stearns & Co. and vice president at Chase Manhattan Bank.

Robert Pernick (M.B.A. '76), a faculty member in the Carey Business School at the Johns Hopkins Uni-



FORE A GOOD CAUSE

NYIT alumni, faculty, staff, and friends took to the links at the Hamlet Golf and Country Club in Commack, N.Y., for NYIT's Fifth Annual Athletics Golf Outing. The event raised nearly \$82,000 to support NYIT programs and facilities. Pictured are (from left): Pat O'Leary, Bill Hempel, Mike Clifford (B.S. '81), John Sullivan (B.S. '82), and Kevin Hennessy.

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

DAVID HICKEY (B.S. '85)

CURRENT POSITION Chairman and CEO of Lumeta Corporation, a Somerset, N.J.-based company that provides its clients with solutions to address network trends, risk management, and compliance issues. As chairman, David sets his board's agenda and ensures that fiduciary responsibilities to all investors are being addressed. As CEO, he works with the senior management team to implement strategic plans that meet investment goals.

GROWING ACCOMPLISHMENTS In the 1990s, David helped grow revenues of an international startup company to \$30 million in just five years and participated in its sale to a Swedish corporation. In 2002, he served as COO and CEO of a credit card service company that was in drastic need of a turnaround. "In 10 months, we got the company back to positive cash flow, invested in the development of new products, and sold the firm at a profit two years later.

VALUABLE LESSON

"I was working and paying for college myself, so affordability was key. NYIT represented great value for the money."

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS

"Be happy with who you are and what you're doing."

NOTHING WRONG WITH HORSING AROUND

Family comes first for David, who enjoys spending time with his wife, Geralyn, and their two daughters, Sarah and Anna. They all participate in equestrian sports, though David is also an avid golfer and runner.



JEFF WEINER

versity, recently co-authored *The Varieties of Leadership at Novarum Pharmaceuticals*, a novel about a U.S. company's struggles in launching a joint venture with a Middle Eastern firm. Robert says that because the story is grounded in leadership and organizational behavior theories, it can also be used by professors and students to analyze the characters' actions, including their ethical behavior and leadership abilities.

E. Harold Schiffer (B.S. '77) just retired as acting chief of police at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. One highlight of his career was organizing the security detail for a 2006 visit by President George W. Bush. Harold was invited to take a photo with the president, which he says "is now prominently and honorably displayed at my home alongside my NYIT diploma." He

previously served as a detective in the New York Police Department and worked in the private sector.

James Fallon (B.F.A. '78) is director of sales and marketing at Allegria Hotel & Spa in Long Beach, N.Y., where he helps manage revenue, business development, and marketing opportunities for several areas of the resort property. With more than 20 years of hospitality experience, James has worked for the Marriott Corporation, Hyatt Hotels, Concorde Hotels, Raffles International Hotels, and The Pierre. He is on the advisory board of American Express Centurion and Fine Hotel Resorts and is a member of the Association of Corporate Travel Executives.

Architect **Vince MacDermot (B.S. '79)** has given up plans and blueprints to pursue his other love, the trombone. After juggling between careers in

architecture and music for more than 30 years, Vince has decided to simplify his life. He was hired to play trombone in the Broadway production of *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical* at the Hirschfeld Theatre in New York City. (Incidentally, his father, composer Galt MacDermot, wrote the original score.) Says Vince: "I've been doing architecture and music all my life, but I don't recommend doing two things professionally." He and wife Marianne have two sons, whom he has advised to pick only one career.

Ronald D. Victorio (B.S. '79) was installed as president of the Rotary Club of Staten Island (N.Y.) in September 2009, marking his second term. Ronald's architecture practice, Victorio Associates, is located in West Brighton. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Alzheimer's Foundation of Staten >>



JOSH GERPITSEN

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

MARY FROST DISTLER (A.CERT. '09)

CURRENT POSITION Founder and CEO of The Power to Change US, an East Williston, N.Y.-based management consulting company. "I offer solutions for conservation, efficiency, and sustainable energy as well as strategic planning to companies, municipalities, and schools. "

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED In addition to providing clients energy savings that range from 20 to 50 percent year over year, Mary cites customer satisfaction as a guiding principle throughout her career, which also includes serving as CEO of GlobeCast America, president of New Media Technology, president and CEO of ChoiceSeat, and the first female Disney/ABC vice president of operations and engineering. Her other accomplishments include the 2009 Society of Satellite Professionals Hall of Fame Award, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North American Broadcasters Association, and chair of the Inter-Union Satellite Operations Group of the World Broadcasting Association. Despite all of her success, Mary says her greatest pleasure is watching individuals move beyond what they thought they were capable of achieving.

BEST PART OF MY DAY "I love sunrise, the sunset, and everything in between."

AN EDUCATION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE Mary chose NYIT to further her education because of the university's international presence and its commitment to researching new technologies in the areas of energy management and sustainability.

FAVORITE NYIT MEMORY "Meeting Dean Nada Anid of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. She's a world citizen with vision and extraordinary passion, creativity, and innovation in education. Also, Professor Robert Amundsen provides students with an impressive amount of renewable, sustainable energy content and fun projects, such as designing an 'off-grid' home."

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "Extraordinary accomplishments resulting from learning."

LAST BOOK READ *The Clean Tech Revolution: Discover the Top Trends, Technologies, and Companies to Watch* by Ron Pernick and Clint Wilder.

>> Island and of the Staten Island chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Ronald and his wife, Linda, have six children.

| 1980s |

Architect **Richard Bearak (B.S. '80, B.Arch. '87)** is director of land use for the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Borough President's Office.

For the past 20 years, architect **Robert Murphy (B.S. '80)** has been employed with the New York City Housing Authority in the architecture and design department, servicing approximately 320 housing developments (more than 3,000 buildings). His department provides general infrastructure repairs and updates, designs new community centers, renovates apartments and offices, and improves grounds and landscapes.

Samuel Abbate (B.T. '81) has been appointed Northrop Grumman Corporation's vice president for the Virginia Information Technology Infrastructure (VITI) program. He will manage the 10-year, \$1.9 billion partnership between Northrop Grumman and VITI to modernize the state executive branch's information technology infrastructure as well as provide expertise and resources to support improved delivery of government services. Sam's experience includes more than 27 years in program and enterprise leadership of large-scale IT infrastructure programs. Prior to his appointment, Sam served as Northrop Grumman's vice president and program manager for the New York City wireless network program as well as director and deputy integrated product team leader for electronic support and attack systems.

Paul DiCarlo (B.T. '81) is the director of technology assessment for Bridgemedica LLC, a complete concept-to-supply partner for medical device companies in Walpole, Mass. Paul wrote *Enhancing Business Through Technology Assessment*, a book about how technology assessment helps medical device companies enhance their businesses and intellectual property portfolios. He has 34 issued patents and 54 pending, and has spent the past eight

years conducting technology assessments and new business development for Boston Scientific and Bridgemedica.

International development consultant **Patricia Hill Williams (M.A. '81)** is spending her time these days “communicating across the hemisphere.” She is chairman of the board for Partners of the Americas, a private organization of volunteers from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. The group focuses on improving the lives of people throughout the world. Patricia previously served as vice president of external affairs at Farmingdale (N.Y.) State College.

Attorney **Gerard Romski (B.S. '82)** has been appointed to the board of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. He is counsel and project executive for Arvene by the Sea, a mixed-use development on 127 acres of oceanfront property in Queens, N.Y., and is also counsel at the New York City firm of Bauman, Katz and Grill LLP.

Tony Jones (B.F.A. '83) is a media specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau's Charlotte Regional Census Center. In this role, he coordinates media relations activities across North Carolina.

Gary N. Lombardi (B.S. '83) is senior vice president in the commercial lending department at Gold Coast Bank in Islandia, N.Y. His previous experience includes senior positions at financial institutions such as First Trade Union Bank, where he served as senior vice president and marketing manager for the New York division, and Washington Mutual Bank, where he was vice president and team leader in charge of small business lending for Nassau and Suffolk counties (N.Y.).

Lisa Brett Hodes-Pignataro (B.F.A. '85), an adjunct professor and field supervisor at Centenary College in Hackettstown, N.J., is also director of marketing for jerseyhappenings.com, a free calendar service. During her spare time, Lisa coaches figure skating and hockey—which she has been doing for the past 22 years—and is writing a book about her son's journey through brain surgery and creating a non-profit organization in his honor. Lisa says she made lifelong friends at NYIT and

credits the person she is today to her NYIT education. She has three girls and one boy.

Laura Jewell (M.B.A. '85) has been appointed director of communications at Berkeley College, where she will manage internal and external communications. In 2001, Laura founded Jewell Marketing Associates, a firm specializing in an integrated approach to branding, marketing, communications, public relations, online initiatives, and event management. Prior to that, she served as

habits to improve their heart health. “Brisk walking for 30 minutes a day can reduce the risk of stroke, bad cholesterol levels, and high blood pressure,” says Michael. He specializes in heart disease and preventive cardiology and is an attending physician at several New Jersey hospitals. Michael is board certified in internal medical and cardiovascular disease and is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and diplomat of Nuclear Cardiology.

Robert J. Coni (D.O. '86) has been named chief of neurology at St.



An Evening With Friends

Friends of NYIT's School of Architecture and Design along with Milrose Consultants hosted a networking reception on Oct. 1, 2009, at Tiro a Segno in New York City. Alumni had the opportunity to catch up with colleagues and former classmates as well as listen to news about NYIT's architectural programs. Pictured are Martin Depasquale (B.S. '86) and Nancy Magrini (B.F.A. '80).

global marketing director for Lucent Technologies and as a professional speaker, guest lecturer, mentor, and workshop instructor to business associations, colleges, and universities.

Michael R. Aaron (D.O. '86), medical director of preventative and nuclear cardiology at Shore Heart Group in New Jersey, is this year's chair of an American Heart Association initiative to encourage Americans to take up walking and other healthy

Luke's Hospital and Health Network in Bethlehem, Pa. A member of St. Luke's medical staff since 1995, Robert also serves as medical director of the Headache Center and the Acute Rehabilitation Center. His expertise includes electrodiagnostic testing.

Raymond Izen (M.S. '86) lives in Las Vegas, where he works for Palm Mortuaries and Cemeteries doing advanced planning. Previously, he was a New York City schoolteacher. ➤



JOSH GERPITSEN

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

BOB GLUCK (B.S. '70)

CURRENT POSITION Vice chairman and chief operating officer of Smart Balance, Inc., a Paramus, N.J.-based health food company, where he is in charge of day-to-day and strategic operations of the business.

HEALTHY CAREER Bob has more than 25 years of experience as a senior financial executive in the consumer packaged goods industry. "I've spent the majority of my career in the business development arena, and I'm proud of the major acquisitions I've led, including Smart Balance in May 2007 for a half-billion dollars."

EVERYONE LOVES A WINNER Bob firmly believes that win-win outcomes are entirely possible when negotiating the purchase or sale of businesses. "As a function of my work in mergers and acquisitions, I've had to negotiate a lot of transactions—some more difficult than others—but all of them embodied the win-win principle. It takes creativity on both sides to do that, but I feel that's been a major factor in my professional success."

FOLLOW THY BROTHER Bob's decision to attend NYIT was based on his brother, Greg, who appreciated the school's academic programs. "I thought I'd also give it a try—the rest is history!"

BEST NYIT MEMORY "Having a class in Old Westbury that met evenings under the shade of big oak trees on campus. It was a relaxing setting that stimulated much class interaction."

LAST BOOK READ *Super Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "Being happy with yourself and gaining the respect and appreciation of your family, friends, and peers."

RECIPE FOR FUN? JUST ADD WATER Bob has a home on the Jersey Shore, where he enjoys fishing, boating, and water sports. He is also a big fan of football, baseball, and hockey.

>> Author **Frank Sheehan (M.B.A. '86)** has had his fourth book of poetry, *Salvation*, published. A writer for 15 years, he says the best part of his career is making his own schedule every day. Previously, Frank served as a practicing attorney for 10 years. He chose NYIT because it had an excellent M.B.A. program; his favorite memories of the university are the friendships he made. Frank lives in Mineola, N.Y., with his wife—a social studies teacher—and seven-year-old son, who he says "is the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

At American Hydrotech Inc., **Adam M. Kraujales (B.S. '87)** serves as district sales manager for the greater New York metropolitan market. He has more than 25 years of sales and marketing experience in the construction industry and previously served in technical services and architectural sales roles for Allied Building Products Corp.

Allison T. Levinson (M.S. '87) has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in health care. A registered and certified dietician and nutritionist, Allison is the nutrition administrator for Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center in Dix Hills, N.Y., where she is responsible for ordering food, overseeing preparation of modified diets, menu development, and the food requirements menu. She also supervises clinical dietitians, reviews children's assessments, and manages adherence to compliance and safety regulations.

Engineer **Robert A. Perless (B.T. '87, M.S. '93)** has joined In Order To Succeed, a full-service project and time management consulting firm serving New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Robert has more than 15 years of project management experience within the energy industry and previously served as project engineer at Southern Connecticut Gas Company. He is licensed in Connecticut as a professional engineer as well as recognized as a project management professional by the Project Management Institute and a certified energy manager by the Association of Energy Engineers.

Dante Ramos (B.S. '88) is a project manager/engineer at Industrial Acoustics Company Inc. in the Bronx, N.Y., where he manages multiple projects from design and approval to manufacturing and final installation. He is proud of the successful launch of two audiometric acoustical enclosures that he designed and engineered. Dante's previous experience includes working as a manufacturing engineer for several companies in the New York metro area. He credits NYIT with providing him with the educational tools to escape an earlier life of personal hardship in his native Honduras. Says Dante: "The fortunate combination of affordable tuition, small class sizes, and excellent instructors provided me with the pathway to my career."

| 1990s |

Cambridge Who's Who has recognized **Gina C. Greco (D.O. '90)** for her dedication, leadership, and excellence in family medicine for the past 14 years. A physician with East Meadow (N.Y.) Family Practice, she provides diagnoses, treatment plans, and counseling in conjunction with diet, hygiene, and preventive health care. Gina has also served as assistant professor of family practice at NYCOM.

Actor/producer **Alfonso A. Meneses (B.S. '90)**—known in the biz as Antonio Saillant—has appeared in several TV shows, including *The Sopranos* and *Important Things with Dimitri Martin*, soap operas *All My Children* and *As the World Turns*, and in such feature films as *The Interpreter*, *Jersey Girl*, and *Just My Luck*. He is also the owner of Angel Light Pictures, an independent film production company in New York City that just completed production on *The Ascension*, a thriller starring Corbin Bernsen. Upcoming Angel Light film projects include *Heterosexuals*, *The Expendables*, *Blood Cauldron*, and *1066*.

Humayun (Hank) J. Chaudhry (D.O. '91) has been named president and chief executive officer of the Federation of State Medical Boards, a Dallas-based non-profit organization that represents all 70 U.S. medical >>



| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

AMUL GOSWAMY (B.S. '99, M.S. '00)

CURRENT POSITION Software project manager at Energy Solutions, an Oakland, Calif.-based energy efficiency consulting firm. "I write software for most of our clients, developed our software quality team, and serve as project manager for one client that is a major Southwestern power utility."

BEST PART OF MY DAY "Hearing from clients how our work helps them save more energy."

A CAREER IN THE BALANCE Amul's professional accomplishments demonstrate his ability to blend technology and art. He contributed to the first four major releases of Apple's Mac OS X; was invited to present ideas at San Jose's Climate Clock Colloquium alongside renowned engineers, scientists, and artists; and exhibited works of art at the SF Camerawork gallery in San Francisco, Calif.

BUSTING STEREOTYPES The popular misconception that software engineers write computer code in dark, isolated rooms is far from the truth, says Amul. "Software development is a team effort and more creative than people would expect because it involves solving a series of different problems of varying size using a very strict set of tools."

LAST BOOK READ *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature* by Janine M. Benyus

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS "Balancing your life to be able to enjoy the things and moments you provide yourself."

A NATURAL NEIGHBOR Amul's dedication to energy conservation and sustainable living is not limited to his company's engineering projects. "I live on an 'urban micro-farm' with laying hens, vegetable gardens, and fruit trees situated on a small plot in a residential neighborhood. I make time to brew beer, grow and cook food, play with the animals, and work on other projects." Amul also enjoys films, performance art, and live music as well as hiking at mountain parks.

► boards in developing and promoting high standards for physician licensure and practice. Prior to this appointment, Hank was commissioner and CEO of the Suffolk County (N.Y.) Department of Health Services as well as a clinical professor of preventive medicine at Stony Brook University School of Medicine and an adjunct clinical associate professor of medicine at NYCOM. He is the current president of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

Emanuel Lichtinshtein (B.S. '91) is national fleet sales manager for Volvo Cars of Canada. He lives in Toronto, is married, and has two sons.

Richard Jantz (B.S. '92) has joined project management and consulting firm VVA LLC of New York City as director. For 15 years, he has led project teams and analyzed business requirements for his clients' real estate projects. Richard says one of his most notable endeavors was managing Time-Warner's equity interest during the development of the Time-Warner Center.

Donald Malloy (M.B.A. '92) is director of business development for NagraID Security, the U.S. division of a Swiss company that provides secure authentication credentials for smart cards. He and his wife live in San Jose, Calif., and have three grown daughters.

Gastroenterologist **Steven Kessler (D.O. '94)** is moving south to join Chattanooga, Tenn.-based Erlanger Health System in its new academic gastroenterology center, which focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the digestive tract. Steven says his main focus will be on colorectal

cancer screenings to help combat the 148,000 new cases of colorectal cancer diagnosed in the United States each year. Before joining Erlanger, he practiced at Sound Gastroenterology in Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.

Therapist **Diane Langfelder (B.S. '94, M.P.S. '97)** has made a name for herself as an expert on balancing motherhood and a career. Her first book, *Baby Steps: The Path from Motherhood to Career*, discusses returning to the workforce and emphasizes the need for balance, health, and happiness instead of trying to "have it all." She has had to practice what she preaches—in addition to being a therapist at the Universal Institute in Livingston, N.J., where she counsels patients with traumatic brain injury and substance abuse issues, Diane is an adjunct professor of psychology at Montclair State University and Centenary College. She also presents her workshop, "The Mom Series," in the New York metro area and is a regular contributor to working mother parenthood blogs. Diane has also served as a therapist for a reality-based Internet show and appeared in educational videos. She has a six-year-old daughter, Lauren.

Andre D. Pierre (B.T. '94) was elected mayor of North Miami in May 2009. Only the second person of Haitian descent to hold this office, Andre says that "throughout the campaign, many told me that I wouldn't win because I had no name recognition. They advised me to wait a couple of years." Prior to his election, Andre ran his own private criminal and immigration law practice.

Patrick Buckley (M.S. '95) has been promoted to engineering services manager at Foley Power Systems in Piscataway, N.J., where he is responsible for project management, order administration, and engineering support in the electric power, marine, and industrial engine markets. Before joining Foley in 2005, Patrick worked at Consolidated Edison of New York as general manager of substation operations.

Architect **Carlos R. Castro (B.S. '95)** was named the 2009 Small Business Person of the Year by the Latin American Economic Development

Association. The award recognized his passion for his work and commitment to giving back to the community. Carlos runs his own architecture firm, Architecto Studios LLC. The groundbreaking for his current project—a \$3.1 million, 9,000-square-foot Puerto Rican Unity for Progress community center in Camden, N.J., featuring touches of his native Puerto Rico in the design—took place in July 2009. Carlos and his wife of 10 years, Minerva, have an eight-year-old son, Jared.

Chris Sciacca (B.S. '96) has traveled the world as part of IBM's communications division since 2001 and is now stationed at the company's Nobel Prize-winning research lab just outside of Zurich, Switzerland. Past posts have included the Czech Republic and Austria. He also received citizenship in Cyprus and is engaged to be married.

Basit Ali (D.O. '96) has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for his dedication, leadership, and excellence in health care. He is a physician with DFW Wound & Hyperbarics in Texas and specializes in wound treatment and hyperbaric medicine. He also consults with home health agencies, educating and mentoring their nurses on wound care. Basit credits his surgical training as key to providing exceptional wound care and advanced limb salvaging via state-of-the-art technology. Basit says his job's most rewarding aspect is "improving the quality of patients' lives."

Physician **Juan F. Acosta (D.O. '97)** received his Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation from Weill Cornell Medical College in June 2009. This program, which accepts only 10 to 12 students per year, trains highly motivated individuals to become independent clinical investigators. Juan, who is board certified in emergency and neuromusculoskeletal medicine, is also program director of the emergency medicine residency at Yakima (Wash.) Regional Medical and Cardiac Center. He is also an associate professor at Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences' College of Osteopathic Medicine. In addition, Juan was elected president of the Foundation for Osteopathic Emergency Medicine. ►►

TKE TO CELEBRATE FOUR DECADES AT NYIT

NYIT's Tau Kappa Epsilon chapter is making plans for its 40th anniversary in 2011 and would like to hear from all members, including those alumni who were members of the Mu Delta Lambda chapter in Manhattan and the Alpha Lambda Omega chapter in Old Westbury. Contact alumni@nyit.edu or tkenyit@gmail.com for details.

Nursing a Career in Combat

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

In 2006, NYIT student **Jason Rodriguez (B.S. '08)** stood in front of his classmates and announced, "Next semester, when you are finishing your senior year, I will be deployed to Iraq. I just wanted to say goodbye and hope we stay in touch."

Some of his classmates cried as the U.S. Navy reservist exchanged handshakes and hugs, bidding them farewell until his return. As the unofficial spokesman of his class (or "designated big mouth" as he puts it), Jason and his friendly smile would be missed by the teachers and students of NYIT's nursing program.

But for Jason, it was a necessary call to duty. Originally an Air Force reservist, he transferred to the Navy in 2004 and knew it was only a matter of time before he would be called upon to serve his country. In January 2006, he was shipped to Iraq attached to the Third Civil Affairs Group.

"My first tour was an eye-opener," says Jason. "I can recall several times at night sleeping in tents and waking up to the sound of enemy fire, then watching tracers fire over our tent. I'd roll off my cot, grab my gear and a weapon, and see if the enemy was out there."

Once, while patrolling the streets of Ar Rutbah in western Iraq, an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle. There were no deaths, although "a couple people were injured, and I had to go through tests to check for memory loss." His actions earned him the Combat Action Ribbon.

Jason returned to the United States and his NYIT studies in late 2006. The Bronx, N.Y., native had no problems re-acclimating himself, having studied on his own while in the Middle East. "I'd been studying nursing for so long that it wasn't difficult to refocus."

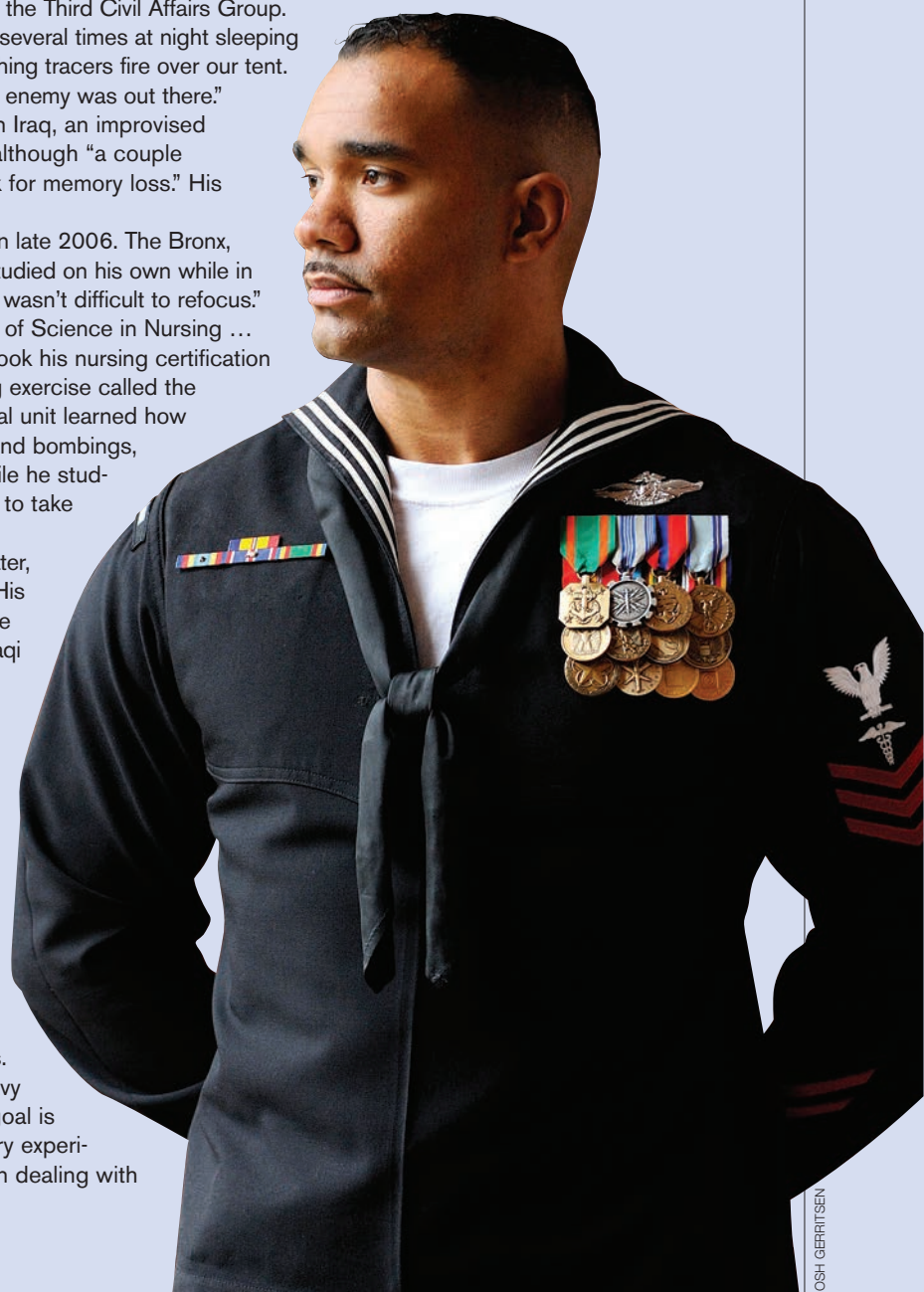
And, in May 2008, Jason finally earned his NYIT Bachelor of Science in Nursing ... only to be called back into active service 12 days later. He took his nursing certification exam three months later during a month-long military training exercise called the "Mojave Viper" in the Western United States. Jason's medical unit learned how to deal with different combat situations, including firefights and bombings, as well as transporting casualties and setting up triages, while he studied every chance he got. "I was a mess and took the day off to take the exam," he says.

Jason passed, of course, and left for Iraq again one week later, this time with the Second Battalion, 25th Marines Regiment. His second tour was "less stressful," despite being deployed to the same region. While there, he used his nursing skills to treat Iraqi soldiers who were injured during a Thanksgiving firefight with local insurgents. Jason returned home safely in April 2009.

He attributes much of his success—on the battlefield and off—to his NYIT education and the multicultural focus of the nursing program. "My classes took into account the way you deal with patients based on their ethnic background, including foods, religious beliefs, and health issues related to those groups," says Jason. "It's not just about what you see on the paper or charts ... it's much more personal." His experiences during hospital rotations and community-based activities—where he could see ethnic environments and their effect on people's lives—have helped him whenever he treats patients.

As for the future, Jason is considering a few career paths. He contemplates returning to duty again in 2010 so the Navy can "put me somewhere where I can be useful." His other goal is to pursue a career in emergency medicine, where his military experiences treating injured Marines will be a tremendous asset in dealing with situations that require quick thinking.

"I love the fast pace, the rush." ■



JOSH GERRITSEN

>> **Andrew W. Slavinsky (B.S. '97)** is an account manager for Cisco Systems, where he provides technology solutions to schools and local governments in northern California via video conference from North Carolina, his home state. Previously, Andrew spent 10 successful years at Nortel, receiving an operational excellence award given to the top 1 percent of the company. He is also a certified project manager and is completing his Master of Business Administration with a finance specialization at NYIT. After graduating, he'd like to teach online courses. Andrew and wife Chrissy enjoy traveling, trying new foods and wines, volunteering, and spending time with their dog.

Jeffrey Dormu (D.O. '98) has joined Good Samaritan Cardiovascular Surgical Associates in Lebanon, Pa., where he performs both open-vascular and endo-vascular procedures.

Father **Richard Frechette (D.O. '98)**, director of medical services for Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) International and director of NPH in Haiti, has devoted his life to the medical

needs of children around the world. He's the founder of Compassion Weavers, a not-for-profit organization that "invests in humanity" in Haiti by providing food for poor schoolchildren as well as offering medical and educational services, fresh water delivery, and burials for the deceased of the indigent population. Richard sends his thanks to all NYIT alumni and friends who contribute to causes in Haiti.

David Nadler (B.S. '98, M.S. '00) is director of quality assurance at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, where he measures the effectiveness of the agency's health and safety programs. He joined the department in 2003 as an auditor and then served as director of environmental compliance. David is married and has two daughters.

Former emergency room physician **Scott Burger (D.O. '99)** and his partners at Doctors Express—an urgent care center in Towson, Md.—are trying to launch the nation's first urgent care franchise to deliver affordable, expeditious, non-emergency treatment during evenings and weekends to patients with-

out appointments. Scott says his goal is to have at least 3,000 Doctors Express franchises nationwide—complete with digital x-ray equipment, a lab, and a pharmacy. He and his wife, Kathleen, have one son, Jack.

Sadiya (Sarij) Cheshty (B.S. '99) has joined Lancaster Gastroenterology in East Hempfield Township, Pa., as director of the Center for Women's Digestive Health. The first female physician to join the practice, Sadiya is certified in endoscopic ultrasound, an advanced procedure to detect and biopsy lesions.

Steven A. Coleman (M.S. '99) is manager of the Radiological Control Division for the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Lab in Upton, N.Y. He oversees the group that is responsible for controlling, preventing, and limiting exposure to radiation on the laboratory's 5,300-acre site. "I'm currently identifying the most efficient ways to deploy our division's resources to make sure that we comply with all radiological requirements while supporting the laboratory's world-class research." Steven served in the

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Northern Boulevard, P.O. Box 8000, Old Westbury, NY 11568-8000, Attn: Michael Schiavetta
E-mail stories and photos to mschiave@nyit.edu. Submissions will be edited for clarity and space.
Photos should be 300 dpi in JPG or TIF format.

U.S. Navy from 1984 to 1990, and was a nuclear reactor operator aboard the submarine *U.S.S. Atlanta*. He is also a doctoral candidate at the University of Phoenix, where he expects to earn a Ph.D. in organizational leadership later this year.

| 2000s |

Pastry chef **Idalee A. Cathcart (B.A. '00)** is in the process of starting her own company. With a signature truffle called Idalee's of Texas, she already has a tagline: "Candies too beautiful to eat ... too delicious to resist."

Rakesh N. Martin (M.B.A. '00) joined Universal Health Care Group in St. Petersburg, Fla., as director of special needs plans. He held a similar position at Wellcare Health Plans in Tampa and also served as senior project manager at MetLife Insurance. In addition, Rakesh is an adjunct professor at Monroe College in the Bronx, N.Y., where he teaches project management and information systems.

Thomas G. Zimmerman (D.O. '00), adjunct clinical assistant professor of family medicine at NYCOM, testified at the U.S. House of Representatives' Small Business Committee hearing on "Increasing Access to Capital for Small Businesses" on Oct. 14. He addressed the committee on behalf of the American Osteopathic Association and in support of the Small Business Health Information Technology Financing Act.

Jeffrey L. Brown (D.O. '02) has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in osteopathic medicine. He is a physician with Optimal Health Primary Care in Henderson, Nev., and specializes in neuromusculoskeletal disorders as well as treating patients with chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia, diabetes, and hormone imbalance.

Christopher Eldredge (M.A. '02) is the executive vice president of alternate channels and carrier sales for Broadview Networks, an integrated communications provider in Rye Brook, N.Y. He is responsible for day-to-day management of the agent sales channel and wholesale organizations, and focuses

on recruiting and training new partners as Broadview expands its presence in the alternate channel area. Prior to joining Broadview, Christopher served as vice president of carrier sales and service for Frontier Communications and has held sales, marketing, and operational leadership roles at such telecommunications providers as Cablevision Lightpath.

Stanislav Avshalumov (D.O. '03) has joined Nassau University (N.Y.) Medical Center's Total Orthopedics and Sports Medicine as director of joint replacement and hip preservation surgery. He has extensive experience in orthopedic trauma, especially trauma of the hip, has authored numerous papers, and is an active researcher.

Andrew Faskowitz (D.O. '03) is part of the Crystal Run Healthcare practice in Middletown, N.Y. He is board certified in neurology, having completed his residency at Albert Einstein/North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center and a fellowship in pain management, hospice, and palliative care at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

David M. Spiro (D.O. '03) has joined the department of neurosurgery at the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain. David completed a general surgery internship at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, Calif., and a neurosurgery residency at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y.

Thalia Anthony (M.S. '04) is director of human resources at Long Island Head Start, a federally funded program that serves more than 1,675 families throughout Suffolk County and employs more than 350 people. Thalia, a certified senior professional in human resources, is the proud mother of two daughters.

San Diego-based advertising company L7 Creative Communications has hired **Scott Blair (M.A. '04)** as interactive art director. Scott has more than eight years of experience in high-end Web design, programming, and development, and was previously senior Web designer for the DXAP Group, where he managed strategies and

online marketing campaigns.

Hasan Bazerbashi (B.S. '05) is an information technology systems developer for a publishing, advertising, and marketing company in Damascus, Syria. He credits his NYIT degree in computer science for making him marketable in a competitive job environment and for permitting him to pursue his passion for technology.

Michael F. Coney (B.S. '05) has been appointed president and CEO of Unitrends, a leading producer of data protection appliances for backup and recovery solutions in Columbia, S.C. Michael previously served as president and general manager of Acronis Americas and also held executive and management positions at Veritas, Sun Microsystems, Ingres, and Monster.com.

Tolga Tohumcu (M.S. '05) landed a job as a software unit test engineer with FalconStor Software—which specializes in data protection and disaster recovery for enterprise-level companies—shortly after receiving his NYIT degree. In February 2009, he became director of education and training for the company. Tolga is also an adjunct professor at SUNY Farmingdale in the computer programming and information systems department and previously taught at Katharine Gibbs College in Melville, N.Y. He and his wife are the proud parents of their son, Adam.

Jin Bai (M.B.A. '06) is director of Camex Energy Corp., an oil and natural gas exploration, development, production, and marketing company headquartered in Calgary, Canada. Jin served as the assistant architect >>

| Marriages |

Nicholas Selvaggio (B.S. '07)
to Nicole Gorin

| Passings |

James L. Lotito Jr. (B.S. '70)
William G. Wallace (B.S. '79)
Richard P. Grasso (B.Arch. '85)
David DePasquale (D.O. '93)
Michael J. Conroy (B.Arch. '95)
James E. Cheek (trustee emeritus)

>> and project leader at the China Northwest Building Design Research Institution from 1991 to 1996. From 1997 until his appointment at Camex in October 2009, he was the vice president and marketing director of Canadian Overseas Immigration and Business Services Inc. Jin is a trustee of the Burnaby (Canada) Board of Education, president of Northwest Benevolent of Canada, an advisor to the Canada Community Service Association, and a member of the Vancouver and Burnaby Boards of Trade.

Joyce Guirand (D.O. '06) is on staff at Middletown (N.Y.) Medical. While completing her residency at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine at Jamaica Hospital, she participated in research concerning hypertension control in black and Latino populations while focusing on preventative medicine for all age groups and populations.

Clickbook.com, a performance-based advertising network in Sarasota, Fla., has named **Nick Shwaery (M.A. '06)** creative director, responsible for front-end development and managing the company's designers, developers, video editors, and market researchers. Nick has more than nine years of experience in creating interactive Web content. Before joining Clickbook.com, he worked for Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts Online and held positions for Starwood Vacation Ownership, Deep Focus, Avenue A: Razorfish, *The Washington Examiner*, and Avatar New

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York. Nick has also produced creative work for Ford Automobiles, HBO, DIRECTV, Court TV, TBS, Comedy Central, Citigroup, and L'Oreal.

Omar Al Helalat (M.S. '07), listed in the 2009 edition of *Who's Who in the World*, is pursuing a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J. Omar's research interests include artificial neural networks and pattern recognition.

Robert F. Nawroth (B.S. '07) serves as a junior engineer at Sub One Technology, which manufactures advanced coatings for internal surfaces.

Shital Kayastha (B.S. '08) is a first-year medical student at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Bartosz Rutkowski (B.P.S. '08) is a shift manager with Avis Budget Group at JFK International Airport. He says he's "a very happy husband" and continues to stay in touch with NYIT faculty and students.

Certified Physician Assistant **Jennifer Acrich (M.S. '09)** has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Mich. Jennifer also practices at Personal Health Care, P.C., in Livonia, Mich.

Abeer Al-Ghawi (B.S. '09) has been working part-time as a customer service adviser for the British Council, an international not-for-profit organization, where he counsels candidates who wish to study in the United Kingdom. Abeer speaks English, Arabic, and Spanish and aspires to work for the United Nations as a translator. He says that his favorite NYIT moment was attending commencement at the Old Westbury campus. "What a feeling to be surrounded by hundreds of students from different backgrounds and nationalities from different campuses all across the globe who share with you one thing ... the NYIT experience."

Krista M. Southworth (M.S. '09) is a physician assistant at Hoosick Falls (N.Y.) Health Center.

Peter Zuong (M.B.A. '09) is the chief information officer at Genesis Capital in Texas. ■



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