

# NYIT

## MAGAZINE

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SPRING 2011 ■ VOLUME 9 ■ NUMBER 2

Alumni Define the  
E-Learning Curve

Researchers Reveal  
Secrets of Horses  
and Hearts

# "Rock It" Science

**Marc Gallo (B.S. '92)**  
fuses music and technology  
to deliver a timeless sound

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# NYIT





JEFF WEINER

**22 ■ LIVE AND E-LEARN**

Innovations in learning technology by NYIT alumni and faculty members reinvigorate the 21st-century classroom experience for students in classrooms and professionals in offices around the world.

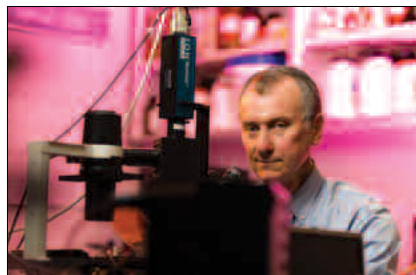
FEATURES



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

**14 ■ A FOUNDATION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT**

John M. Elizandro joins NYIT as vice president for development, bringing more than 35 years of experience in higher education and health care.



**18 ■ OF MICE AND UNGULATES**

Researchers at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine sink their teeth into the evolution of horses as well as reveal pathways to a healthier heart.



RENATA BONTEMPO

ALUMNI NOTES

**28 ■ Grads on the Go**

**32 ■ In Tune With Technology**

Audio engineer Marc Gallo (B.S. '92) has pioneered software for mobile devices and computers to emulate the rich, classic sounds of an electric guitar.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

**4 ■ Memories of the Future**

NYIT redefines the role of a global university as our community unites to face 21st-century challenges.

CAMPUS BUZZ

**6 ■ NYIT Ad Campaign Adorns Manhattan Subway Station**

NYIT's "station domination" campaign kicks off in February with full-color ads and backlit displays at the Columbus Circle station in New York City.



**7 ■ Prolific Speakers Headline Lectures at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway**

A space-traveling entrepreneur, an author and activist, and a film star/musician/producer engage audiences.

**10 ■ Global Exchange in China**

NYIT students from New York gain cross-cultural insights while studying at the university's campus in Nanjing.

**11 ■ Education Without Borders**

Students convene at a global conference to help underserved communities.

SCOREBOARD

**12 ■ Dunn Deal**

Head Coach Bill Dunn has ambitious plans for the men's lacrosse team.

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# Memories of the Future

DECADES AGO, THE WORD “COMMUNITY” MEANT YOUR NEIGHBORS, YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND THE NEWSPAPER DELIVERED TO YOUR FRONT DOOR. TODAY, THOSE NEIGHBORS ARE ENTIRE COUNTRIES, THOSE BUSINESSES ARE GLOBAL ENTERPRISES, AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS IS DOWNLOADED VIA UBIQUITOUS WIFI STREAMING EFFORTLESSLY ONTO A MOBILE DEVICE. TRULY, THE FUTURE THAT MANY OF US THOUGHT WOULD TAKE YEARS TO ARRIVE IS AT OUR FINGERTIPS.

Technology is changing the world, and we watch in awe as innovations such as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter help reshape governments. But as technology fuels our imaginations to find new ways to remake our world and render old notions of the future obsolete, the instant interconnectedness of our planet makes us more aware than ever of the social, political, and economic challenges facing us as a civilization.

As the world's problems grow more complex, it becomes increasingly necessary for global citizens to unite and provide solutions that are equal in scale. Collaboration will require learning about other cultures, languages, and international divides to bridge new paths to prosperity. Practical, effective solutions will come from individuals who bring fresh ideas and knowledge that were cultivated in a 21st-century global institute of higher learning.

The vital role that universities will play in the growth of our civilization is undeniable. As a global knowledge center, NYIT regularly brings together scientists, government officials, business leaders, innovators, and faculty to



CRAIG WALLACE DALE

discuss issues pertaining to energy management, cyber security, instructional technology, health care, global trade and finance, and other critical topics. Through a super-connected network of campuses and sites spread around the world, our students and alumni are using technology to thrive in a competitive global marketplace and forge new careers to address the

challenges of tomorrow. In short, the NYIT community is a diverse collection of cultures, knowledge, and resources, plugged in and responsive to the world's needs—a growing, networked community in the best contemporary sense.

Defining how we address the challenges impacting an entire world also means developing new methods of instruction and access to opportunity for our students. The goal of today's global universities is to not only bring the world to students as they study, but to bring students into the world upon graduation. That means teaching them to become productive members of the global community by using technology as the conduit of knowledge and innovation.

Through distance learning, video-conferencing, and other communications technology, NYIT is able to augment the quality and the accessibility of our global education. Our students are empowered to make connections and nurture relationships with their peers across continents to create a new breed of 21st-century world thinking.

NYIT's New York roots may open doors of opportunity across the world, but today we represent more than one region. We are, thanks to your support, a global university with the power to bring an American-style education—still the gold standard of academic excellence—to qualified students, often without regard to borders, and to support the free flow of ideas, students, and faculty. We are working hard to grow graduates who are prepared for the 21st-century workplace, prepared to be global citizens, and skilled and dedicated to crafting a better future.

In the end, our measure of success is not only what NYIT gives to our students ... but what they give to the world. ■

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

# Visit NYIT Magazine online!

The screenshot shows the NYIT Magazine website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for Prospective Students, Current NYIT Students, Parents and Families, Alumni and Supporters, Business and Community, and Faculty and Staff. The NYIT logo and name are prominently displayed. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation, there are several sections: a sidebar with 'NYIT Magazine' links (Current Issue, Back Issues, Video Gallery, Contact), a 'Follow Us on LinkedIn' button, and a 'News and Events' section with a list of recent news items. The main content area features a large image of a woman in a lab coat looking through a microscope, with the headline 'Crowning Moment: Valencia de la Vega (M.B.A. '05)'. Below this, there are sections for 'Featured Content' and 'Featured Profiles', each with small images and text. A 'NYIT Magazine Video Spotlight' section features a video player showing Patricia Galloway speaking at a podium. At the bottom, there are four columns of 'Useful Links' categorized by Schools and Colleges, Resources, NYIT Worldwide, and Social Media.

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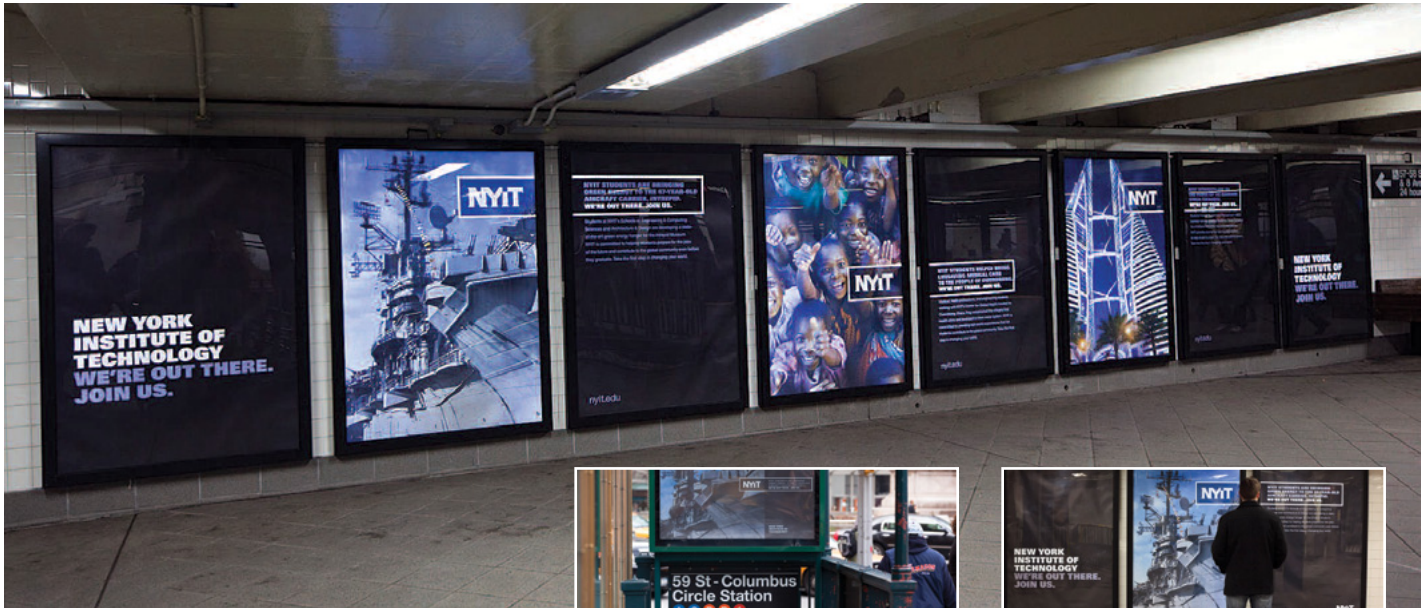
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# NYIT Dominates Columbus Circle



NYIT's "We're Out There, Join Us" campaign in the subway station at Columbus Circle featured ads about the university's programs during February and March 2011.



Call it a little Manhattan makeover. Sixty-six thousand daily commuters in the Columbus Circle area got the chance to come face to face with NYIT as the university's "station domination" campaign kicked off with full-color ads at street entrances and 13

backlit displays along the subway platforms. The ads highlighted NYIT's leadership in the fields of green technology, global education, and finance as well as its scientific and health care endeavors.

Launched in February, the initiative was part of NYIT's "We're Out There,

Join Us" ad campaign, which also includes *New York Times* print ads, sponsorships and presentations with New York City museums and organizations, and ads for the online editions of the *New York Times*, *Newsday*, and *Daily News* as well as Yahoo. ■

## How to Really Move a Career Forward



JOSH GERRITSEN

NYIT's "Career Cab" is designed to prep students for future green jobs.

Students at NYIT-Old Westbury this spring had the chance to put their knowledge of green jobs and career preparation to the test while getting a lift to class, thanks to the new "NYIT Career Cab."

Inspired by the popular trivia show *Cash Cab* on the Discovery Channel, the hybrid cars drove students around campus while members of the Office of Career Services quizzed them on career planning, interviewing skills, and green technology. Students who answered correctly were entered into a raffle to win a laptop and other prizes.

"By teaming up with Career Services, we are able to educate students about green energy, environmental technology, and green jobs in a creative way," says graduate student Steven Maybloom, president of the NYIT Green Careers Network, a group for students and alumni interested in engineering, energy, and environmental technology careers.

Special thanks goes to David Schieren (M.S. '06), CEO of Island Park, N.Y.-based EmPower Solar, who provided funding for the NYIT Career Cab. ■

# Speakers Light Up NYIT Audiences on Broadway

Some topics at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway (AOB) are literally out of this world. Case in point: the March 9 lecture featuring space-traveling scientist and entrepreneur Greg Olsen, Ph.D., whose presentation, “From Entrepreneurship to Spaceship,” described his path to becoming the third private citizen in the world to orbit the Earth.

“The secret to life is three words: don’t give up,” said Olsen, part of NYIT’s 21st-Century Leaders Speaker Series. Following a five-month training program at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Moscow, he joined cosmonaut Valeri Tokarev and astronaut Bill McArthur on the Russian Soyuz rocket TMA-7, which launched on Oct. 1, 2005. Olsen and the crew docked with the International Space Station and returned to Earth 10 days later after 150 orbits and logging nearly four million miles in zero-g gravity. He shared video highlights of his experiences, including drinking water in a weightless environment, using the Internet with his feet, and being strapped to a bed to avoid floating in his sleep.

Following his lecture, which was sponsored by the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, NYIT students asked about today’s high-tech market and business trends.

“If you have drive, you can start a business,” said Olsen, who owned two high-tech companies, EPITAXX, a fiber-optic detector manufacturer, and Sensors Unlimited, a near-infrared camera manufacturer. “Take a good look at the trends, but ultimately, follow your dreams.”

Today, Olsen is founder and president of Princeton, N.J.-based investment firm GHO Ventures. He regularly gives presentations, encouraging students to follow careers in the fields of science and engineering.

When asked about his entrepreneurial achievements, Olsen said his success is tied



Space-traveling scientist and business leader Greg Olsen, Ph.D., presented “From Entrepreneurship to Spaceship” at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway to students, faculty, and community members.

to the tireless efforts of his employees. “Business is not about technology or markets, it is about people,” he said. “People are successful because of perseverance.”

Speaking about issues closer to Earth, African-American author and activist Kevin Powell appeared at the AOB on Feb. 10 in honor of Black History Month and discussed how today’s youth can serve as “change-agents” of society. The former U.S. congressional candidate and cast member of MTV’s *The Real World* urged students to read everything related to their careers and attributed his success to an incredible appetite for learning.

Things got a bit lighter on Feb. 9 when film star, musician, and producer Nick Cannon performed his stand-up comedy act. Named one of the “Top Ten Most Successful Young People in Hollywood” by *People* magazine, Cannon joked about his childhood, his culture, and becoming a parent of twins with wife Mariah Carey. After the event,

students had the chance to meet him and pose for photos.

Cannon was not the only Hollywood star to walk onto NYIT’s stage in the past two semesters. Last fall, the Screen Actors Guild screened the comedy *City Island* and held a Q&A session with stars Andy Garcia, Julianna Margulies, and Raymond De Felitta. Peter Travers of *Rolling Stone* served as moderator. In addition, an interactive panel discussion featuring actor Michael Douglas, writer David Levien, and director Brian Koppelman accompanied a preview of the drama *Solitary Man*. ■

## Attention NYIT Alumni:

NYIT graduates can receive a 20 percent discount when renting the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway for a business, social, or community event. For more information, visit [nyit.edu/aob](http://nyit.edu/aob) or call 646.273.6100.

# Green Eggs and Cinema

Walk down a supermarket aisle or scan a restaurant menu, and buzz words such as organic and natural often come up, linking food production to environmental impacts. This link was explored in “Food for Thought,” a green film festival organized by the School of Management and



The film festival “Food for Thought” at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway featured four documentaries and a panel discussion about farming and sustainability.

the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 24 at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway.

The festival featured four documentaries—*Food Inc.*, *Fresh*, *Flow*, and academy award-nominee *Gasland*—followed by a panel discussion that examined the future of farming technology and delivery as well as food contamination, consumer health issues, and workplace safety.

“These films and the discussion panelists provided insight to the audience members on how they can become proactive in their everyday lives and be able to apply best practices to their working environment,” said Robert Koenig, Ph.D., associate dean of the School of Management’s Student Advancement Programs and the event’s lead organizer.

The panel discussion included Ana Sofia Joanes, director of *Fresh*; Ron Begamini, CEO of The Action Environmental Group; Alberto Gonzalez, founder and CEO of green restaurant GustOrganics; and Alan Someck, project director of the Green Hospitality Initiative of the New York State Restaurant Association Education Foundation.

Panelist Joanes described the process of switching to organic foods and products as “an incredible lifestyle change.

“You cook more and are engaged with food in an entirely different way,” she said. “It is no longer about food. It is about life.”

Koenig and Someck continue to bring together food service professionals for training in eco-friendly practices. They are also working on sustainable restaurant internships for NYIT students, and another film festival is slated for this fall.

“Alan and I are getting NYIT students involved in green and sustainable practices in the hospitality industry and beyond,” said Koenig. ■

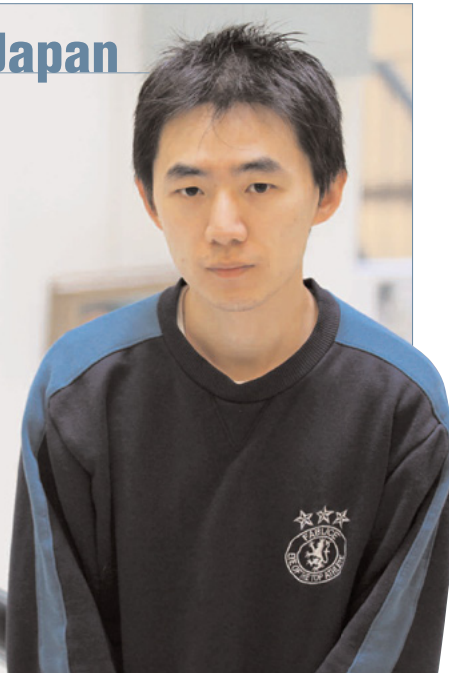
## NYIT Rallies For Relief in Japan

Students, faculty, staff, and other members of NYIT’s global community banded together to help victims of the earthquake that devastated Japan on March 11. In addition to bake sales, raffles, and a walkathon held in conjunction with the Red Cross, NYIT athletic teams showed their support by holding fundraisers during their games. Fine arts professor Yuko Oda, in collaboration with various New York City artists, held an art benefit on April 11 in Gallery 61 at NYIT-Manhattan titled, “We Are One,” which raised more than \$17,000.

One NYIT student, Yoichi Chiba (right), was personally affected by the tragedy. His home in Fukushima Koriyama is only 50 kilometers away from the damaged nuclear power plants. Fortunately, his family was unharmed, although their house was destroyed.

The energy management student remains optimistic about the future of his homeland. “Japan has always had disasters and always gets through,” he says.

“This time, I am sure we will be fine, too.” ■



CHRISTOPHER SEMETIS



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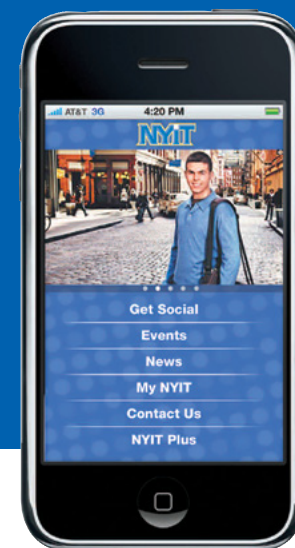


Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, joined other female faculty members from NYIT to mentor young students during Women's History Month.

## NYIT? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Get the latest NYIT news and catch up on campus events from your iPhone or Droid device using the new NYIT mobile application. The app also features alerts from NYIT's Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, and YouTube channels.

For information, check out [nyit.edu/mobileapp](http://nyit.edu/mobileapp).



## NYIT Women Inspire Young Minds

In honor of Women's History Month, female faculty members from NYIT's schools of Engineering and Computing Science and Health Professions as well as the College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) mentored young women from New York area schools at the first "Girls in Science and Engineering Day." Held at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City on March 20, the event included a discussion of topics ranging from how to deal with medical emergencies, to training with

robotic patients, to how an aquifer stores and releases groundwater. Students also observed presentations by other organizations and nearby schools.

Faculty members who participated included Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences; Patricia Chute, Ed.D., dean of the School of Health Professions; Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., vice president for health sciences and medical affairs; and Deborah Lardner, associate professor of emergency medicine at NYCOM. ■

## Students Score Big at Osteopathic Medicine Awards



NYCOM students won awards from the American Academy of Osteopathy at its annual convocation in March.

NYIT students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) nabbed top honors at this year's Annual Convocation of the American Academy of Osteopathy in Colorado Springs, Colo., on March 16-20. Their work was judged by an international panel of osteopathic medical experts on a variety of current and emerging health topics. Student winners included:

- Vivian Siu, Amanda Cooper, and Mostafafa Rezk with professors Michael Terzella, D.O., Sheldon Yao, D.O., and Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., for "The Effect of OMT on Blood Pressure and Heart Rate in Non-Hypertensive Subjects – A Pilot Study" (first place in the Louisa Burns Osteopathic Research Committee National Poster Competition).
- Vivian Siu, who won the Undergraduate Academy of Osteopathy Service Merit Award.
- Cheryl Dinglas, who earned meritorious recognition for "OMT Effectiveness in the Labor and Delivery Department" in the A. Hollis Wolf, D.O., Annual Case Competition. ■

# Students Gain Far East Perspective



Kevin Natividad (above) and 13 other NYIT students from New York exchanged learning locales for the fall 2010 semester by studying at NYIT-Nanjing.

**B**roadening the scope of career objectives, connecting with family roots, and living independently were all good enough reasons for NYIT students to pack their bags and head to China.

Organized by NYIT's Center for Global Academic Exchange, 14 students from New York studied at NYIT-Nanjing during the fall 2010 semester. In addition to attending classes, they participated in cultural exchange events and sightseeing opportunities designed to help them connect with their peers overseas.

"It takes a lot of courage to study abroad for the first time," explains Julie Fratrick, director of the Center for Global Academic Exchange. "I like to plant the seeds in their minds before they've even begun to think about the possibility."

Fratrick works with program applicants to ensure their NYIT degree requirements are met through their coursework in Nanjing. While she encourages the New York students to take a Chinese language course during

their stay in Nanjing, she also prepares Chinese students from NYIT's partnership with Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications to meet students from New York upon their arrival. These "cultural ambassadors" advise the new arrivals on everything from how to order a meal to how to get around campus—becoming familiar faces in an unfamiliar city.

"Since I am an international student, I got to learn about both Chinese and American cultures," says Samprada Shresta, originally from Kathmandu, Nepal. Although she was out of her comfort zone, she notes that the trip to China made her "stronger and more mature."

Students experienced a variety of outcomes from their time in Nanjing. A communication arts major, Kevin Natividad says sharing a classroom with students who grew up with different traditions and beliefs helped him "visually understand" and gain a unique perspective that will make him a better filmmaker.

Brooklyn, N.Y., native Tracy Sit, who has relatives in China, says her trip abroad allowed her to learn more about her background without causing a break in her studies.

"I knew some history and culture about China, but definitely learned a lot more with this experience," she says. "My semester in Nanjing gave me a new view on life."

Calvin Xu, another native New Yorker, says he jumped at the chance to connect with peers from foreign cultures as well as "the ability to live in an economic and political powerhouse whose impact on the world stage has yet to reach its full potential."

Xu enjoyed his time in Nanjing last fall so much that he decided to return for the spring 2011 semester.

"After this global exchange program, students will make friendships that will transcend borders and last well beyond their semester in China," says Fratrick. ■

## Putting the 'E' in Diplomacy

**M**.B.A. student Asif Rahma (B.S. '06) is adding a new position to his resume: U.S. State Department e-diplomat.

As one of only 107 students accepted into the prestigious Virtual Student Foreign Service, he will work with the U.S. Consulate General in Chennai, India, and other U.S. diplomats in that country to create and implement communications through new media tools such as blogs, forums, and other digital vehicles.



Asif Rahma (B.S. '06) will intern as an e-diplomat in India as part of the U.S. State Department's Virtual Student Foreign Service program.

"This internship gives me insight into other cultures and connects me to people of different socio-economic backgrounds," said Rahma. "As an international business major, I am developing a deeper understanding of the ever-changing world and the role of the Internet, which has helped to significantly bridge gaps between nations.

"I have the opportunity to learn first-hand about the challenges that foreign service officers face while they are abroad. It is great to be able to lend a hand from all the way across the world." ■

# NYIT Knows No Borders

Six students from NYIT's global campuses traveled to the United Arab Emirates as delegates to the 2011 Education Without Borders conference with a common goal: helping underserved communities.

The students, chosen as a result of a highly competitive selection process, joined NYIT President Edward Guiliano and First Lady Mireille Guiliano, who served as mentors at the conference. More than 1,000 students and practitioners

less reliance on the latest technology to improve efficiency.

"This was the first conference I participated in. It was very interesting to learn about what other students have achieved so we can share knowledge with one another," he says.

As head instrument engineer at a chemical plant in East Amman, Dhirar Al-Mukhtar discovered a way to transform traditional oil and gas plants into solar energy plants, reducing the cost of power



across 129 countries attended the event, held March 28-31, which focused on networking and collaborations to solve global problems with education and technology.

"If you put a thousand people together who all have good intentions, then good things are going to happen," says Jonathan Pekor, a physical therapy student from NYIT-Old Westbury. He shared his model for a national fundraising program that would provide opportunities for health care students, previously discouraged by the high cost of travel, to volunteer overseas.

Nursing student Margarita Koutsouras, also from NYIT-Old Westbury, developed a toolkit for students preparing for service in world health initiatives. "I am dedicated to global health and collaborative humanitarian efforts," she says. "This opportunity increased my passion to offer service to others abroad."

Elyas Kashfi, a computer science student at NYIT-Bahrain, shared his ideas on how cloud computing can help promote a greener, more sustainable world by reducing infrastructure costs. He also discussed how cloud services can empower developing nations through

transmission. Presenting his findings at the conference, he says "this experience was a great way to learn about new ideas and improve my knowledge outside of the library." He is pursuing his master's degree in engineering and computing sciences at NYIT-Amman.

"I gained an invaluable amount of knowledge and experience," says Valerie Suttenger, a mechanical engineering student at NYIT-Old Westbury. "By meeting so many students and innovators, I made important connections that will surely help me throughout my career."

Perhaps Christopher Jewth, a mechanical engineering student at NYIT-Old Westbury, summed up the global experience best. "It was a great opportunity to travel to one of the richest parts of the world in order to connect with students of different cultures, yet similar educational backgrounds, and learn how they explore issues and solve problems," he says. ■

## SCHOLARS DISCUSS DICKENS

More than 100 literature lovers gathered on April 15 at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway to hear a panel discussion of nine scholars moderated by President Edward Guiliano about Charles Dickens' legacy in the 21st century. The event also explored how emerging digital technologies have impacted interpretations of Dickens' work.

## NYIT-AMMAN ADDRESSES ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

NYIT's Amman campus hosted a panel discussion that focused on the role of Arab women as agents of political and social change in the Middle East. Attendees included Ihsan Barakat, Jordan's first female attorney general; Reem Abu Hassan Obeidat, Jordanian attorney and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the American Center for Oriental Research; and Fida Adely, professor of Arab Studies at Georgetown University, among others. The event was moderated by Jacqueline Taylor Basker, Ph.D., NYIT associate professor of fine arts, and Jordanian Senator Amal El Farhan, Ph.D.

## NEW PROGRAM BRINGS STEM TRAINING TO INSTRUCTORS

NYIT launched a three-year, online program last fall to help K-12 teachers in New York City earn certificates in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The interdisciplinary initiative is being led by professors at NYIT's schools of Education and Engineering and Computing Sciences. It is available to teachers of any subject through a grant from the New York City Department of Education.

## VANCOUVER CAMPUS WELCOMES NEW DEAN

Devon A. Cancilla, Ph.D., joins NYIT-Vancouver as the new executive director and campus dean. He has more than 15 years of experience in higher education and plans to improve academic offerings while collaborating on projects with the university's global campus network. ■

# Dunn Deal



PHOTOS BY JOSH GERRITSEN

By Sabrina Polidoro

**W**hat's the toughest part about taking over for legendary lacrosse coach Jack Kaley? It's not just trying to meet everyone's expectations; it's also about recruiting the best NYIT student-athletes and serving as the head strength and conditioning coach for the university's entire athletic department—all while being a cancer survivor.

"[Cancer] really changes your outlook on life," says Bill Dunn, NYIT's second-year head lacrosse coach, who was diagnosed with multiple myeloma (which affects plasma cells in bone marrow) in 2002. "Sometimes, you get caught up in it. But at the end of the day, I think to myself, 'I am the luckiest guy in the world. I'm doing something I love, and I'm alive.'"

To this day, Dunn and his doctors are surprised at his recovery. Most multiple myeloma patients experience tumors that return within three years of their first diagnosis. Since 2007, he has been tumor free.

"Nine years ago, I didn't think I would be standing here," he says.

A native of Hicksville, N.Y., he began playing lacrosse in high school. At the State University of New York at Cortland, he played for the Red Dragons and helped the team to the 1980 NCAA Division III National Championship game.

Dunn's passion for lacrosse evolved into a career. After graduation, he began coaching at his high school alma mater, and in 1987, he moved to Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale, N.Y., where he founded the lacrosse program with 25 players.

Twelve years later, when he left, that number had grown to 178.

"I was proud of that," says Dunn. "We sent players on to many levels of college lacrosse, and although we never

won the championship, we were in the finals four times."

At Kellenberg, he became friendly with Kaley, who coached for East Meadow High School as well as served as a recruiter for St. John's University and, eventually, NYIT. In 1999, Kaley recruited Dunn to become the Bears' assistant coach and defensive coordinator.

During Dunn's tenure, the Bears compiled a 114-21 record, advanced to the NCAA Division II tournament five times, and won national titles in 2003, 2005, and 2008. Nine of his defensive players have received United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association First Team All-American honors, six have received Second Team honors, and six have received honorable mention. In 2008, Dunn was named the Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association Division II Outstanding Assistant Coach of the Year.

It seemed fitting then that when Kaley announced his retirement in 2009, Dunn took the reigns of the storied NYIT athletic program.

"People expect a lot, and Jack did a tremendous job here," says Dunn. "There is a lot of pressure when you're taking over for such a legend."

It's a challenge he and his staff are more than happy to take on.

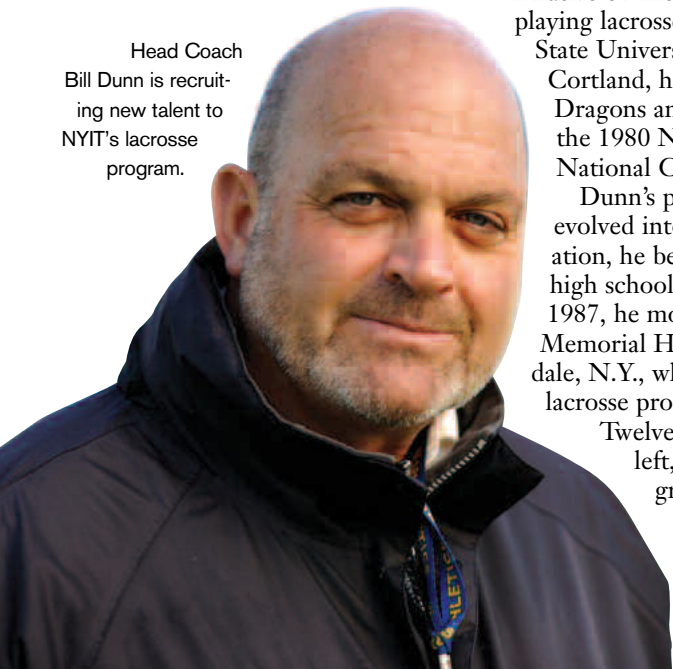
"The game of lacrosse is changing," says Dunn. "It's not the same as it was in 1992, when Jack resurrected this program."

Today, youth lacrosse is the fastest-growing sport in the country. For decades, areas such as Long Island and Maryland have been the traditional lacrosse hotbeds. But now other areas, such as California, are offering club and high school programs with talented players who want to compete at the collegiate level.

"Teams are getting stronger, more experienced, and more confident," says Dunn. "They are all able to bring in talented players."

Dunn has responded by doing the same at NYIT. His first recruiting class boasted 21 rookies. And, in the first two games alone this season, at least eight players were freshmen. For next year, Dunn has 15 commitments signed and is forming a solid nucleus, which he hopes will bring home another national championship for the Bears. ■

Head Coach Bill Dunn is recruiting new talent to NYIT's lacrosse program.



## Bears Make Minor Leagues

Former NYIT outfielder Kraig Binick (B.S. '09) and pitcher Mike Roth (B.S. '10) have signed with the Long Island Ducks and Brockton (Mass.) Rox minor league baseball teams, respectively. Binick spent the 2010 season with the Sussex (N.J.) Skyhawks, where he captured a team-record 45 stolen bases and 25 RBIs and had a career-high 18 doubles, hitting .289. The 25-year-old Hicksville, N.Y., native was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in the 27th round of the 2007 amateur entry draft and spent his first two seasons in the Orioles organization, earning promotions to the AA level. Binick is NYIT's all-time triples (13) leader.

Roth, a native of Rockville Centre, N.Y., made his professional baseball debut in 2010 with the St. George (Utah) Roadrunners in the Golden League, where he pitched in nine games out of the bullpen. In his four years with the Bears, the sidarmer tied the university's all-time record with 14 career saves and ranks second with 71 appearances. In 2010, he was named to the All-Great West Conference Second Team, going 3-3 with a 2.16 ERA and eight saves in 50 innings of work. As a sophomore in 2007, Roth earned Division I Independent First Team honors after putting together a 0.51 ERA in 17 games. ■

Star NYIT pitcher Mike Roth (B.S. '10) launched his professional baseball career with the St. George Roadrunners last year.



## NYIT-Bahrain Wins First Ajjal League Title

The NYIT-Bahrain men's basketball team claimed the first Ajjal Basketball League title in December, defeating rival Bahrain Training Institute 64-51. Students from universities throughout Bahrain participated in the tournament, which began last October under the auspices of Bahrain's minister of labour and the director of the United Nations Information Centre for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries. Batelco, Bahrain's principal telecommunications company, provided free use of the indoor basketball courts at its Hamala headquarters. ■



## MEN'S, WOMEN'S HOOPS EARN ECC HONORS

Sophomore basketball player Kayvon Roberts was named to the All-East Coast Conference (ECC) First Team. A starter in all 25 games played in the 2010-2011 season, he led NYIT in scoring, blocks, and free throw percentage. Roberts finished the season in the ECC's top five in scoring, top 15 in blocked shots and defensive rebounds, and top 20 in rebounding. On Feb. 14, he earned ECC Player of the Week accolades after compiling his first collegiate double-double with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Senior Eric Rodriguez also picked up ECC All-Tournament Team honors. NYIT finished the year 13-15 overall and 10-11 in league play. As for the women's team, junior Cierra Baker and first-year student Demitra Apergis were recognized by the ECC this year. Baker earned All-First Team accolades and led the ECC in rebounding, steals, and double-doubles, and ranked in the top 15 in three other categories: scoring, field goal percentage, and free throw percentage. Apergis, who led the Bears with 79 assists for the season and averaged 7.2 points per game, was named to the All-Rookie Team.

## ECC WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The East Coast Conference (ECC) has expanded to include the University of the District of Columbia in the 2011-2012 academic year. The news was announced by NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., who chairs the ECC President's Council.

## BEARS GET IN THE PINKZONE

More than \$500 was raised at NYIT's fourth annual Women's Basketball Coaches Association PinkZone game on Feb. 16. Donations were accepted in lieu of admission to the game, and PinkZone T-shirts were sold. The men's and women's basketball teams donned pink shoelaces and both teams, along with the cheerleading squad, wore pink tie-dye shirts during warm-up. The efforts benefited the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, named after the former North Carolina State University head women's basketball coach who battled breast cancer for more than two decades. ■

# *Building a Foundation of* Entrepreneurial Spirit

## ■ Meet John M. Elizandro

*NYIT Vice President for Development*

When John Elizandro was a child, his father told him that education was the pathway to future opportunities. This early encouragement inspired a career, as Elizandro's passion for education has led him to contribute to the success of several American universities. With more than 35 years of experience in alumni affairs, development, and public relations in higher education and health care, NYIT's new vice president for development is building a far-reaching program to garner new levels of support for NYIT, its mission, and its campuses.

Elizandro comes to NYIT from Westchester Medical Center, where he was the senior vice president for development. Before that, he spent 18 years at Villanova University as the vice president for development and later, the vice president for institutional advancement. He was responsible for all alumni, development, and public relations initiatives, and served as a senior advisor to the president. Elizandro also has held senior development positions at Pennsylvania State University, University of Missouri, and several other universities. Raised in Arkansas, he earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Here, he shares his plans:

### ■ *Why did you join NYIT?*

I was attracted to NYIT because of the passion that resonates among its leadership. In the first 10 minutes

*By Briana Samuels*

of my initial conversation with President Edward Guiliano, I learned of his vision and passion, and his commitment to creating a successful alumni and development program. This kind of support resurfaced over and over as I met senior administrators, deans, and faculty members. Almost everyone I talk to at NYIT references the goals of the 2030 strategic plan as a guiding force for what NYIT can be and speaks about how they are working collaboratively to meet those goals. People here understand how important alumni, parents, and friends of NYIT are in helping to plan for the future.

### ■ *What projects, resources, and opportunities are available because of external support?*

As budgets are challenged and traditional funding sources are limited, the role of philanthropic and external support for scholarships and capital projects is essential to ensuring that NYIT can meet its mission and strategic goals. Philanthropy is something people around the world can embrace as a culture. By helping people realize their passion for a specific program, we can help them understand how their support might benefit a student, faculty member, or program.

That's what the Office of Development does here at NYIT—we help bridge relationships and help people understand how they can make a difference, not whether they can make a difference. Part of that is helping to articulate the priorities of the institution and understanding what people's interests are. The good thing about NYIT is that it's broad enough and diverse enough for everybody. There are so many >>



My sense is that people want to become involved. They just need to find their niche.”

areas you can support, including alumni programming, advisory councils and boards, or fundraising. While NYIT has enjoyed fundraising success in the past, there is more to be done in order to broaden the university's base for the future.

■ *As you expand the alumni and development program for NYIT, how will you engage alumni in the United States and throughout the world?*

I have reviewed the traditional kinds of alumni and development programming here at NYIT, and an increased presence both domestically and internationally will be important as we reach out to those who have been most affected by NYIT: alumni, parents, and friends of the school.

Recently, NYIT opened three new offices of Career Services and Alumni Affairs at its campuses in Amman, Bahrain, and Nanjing to build connections with alumni, community, and business partners in each region. These offices will engage and foster relationships with the growing network of NYIT graduates, provide career advice for students and alumni, and coordinate special events and online initiatives. But we will not forget the special connection we have with our alumni throughout the New York area.

Many alumni speak passionately about NYIT, representing a broader view of how others feel about the university. As we prepare for new fundraising programs, it is important to build on the

strength of strategic planning to capitalize on projects that are most important to advancing NYIT's mission.

■ *How are you fulfilling fundraising goals in the current economic climate?*

This is the toughest fundraising climate I've seen in my entire career. I have gone through slumps in the real estate market, a hard-hit Wall Street, and the aftermath of 9/11. Those economic environments—as painful and as awful as they were—pale by comparison to the past couple of years. We've seen a reduction in overall contributions over time. People have become paralyzed in their thinking about philanthropic support. And those who are philanthropic are trying to maintain existing levels of support without expanding current levels.

It's important to note that in the beginning of 2011, we've experienced a different market. We're seeing philanthropy rebound, though how robust it will be is still in question. Luckily, for now, we are moving in the right direction. As a result, institutions need to focus on their priorities, be more deliberate in articulating their needs, and be more responsive and understanding of the current economy. Our challenge is to maintain our existing base while understanding how the economy has affected so many people.

■ *How can people support NYIT?*

There is something for everybody. There are opportunities for alumni to actively contribute to NYIT through mentoring students, career counseling, contributing to the annual fund, and much more. There are also different ways to connect, whether you have an interest in education, architecture, business, health care, or communication arts. It is almost impossible not to develop some type of affinity with NYIT because we offer such variety.

My sense is that people want to become involved. They just need to find their niche, and our job is connecting them with the people that run programs related to their interests. Beyond philanthropic contributions, we want to see people involved and contributing to NYIT in a variety of ways based on their experiences.

■ *What is the importance of alumni giving?*

While each institution has a unique character, the common theme among

universities is the affection and backing garnered from its traditional base of support: alumni, parents, and friends. NYIT is no exception. People want to support something that has served them well. The same affinity exists for those who have gone to school here, or those who have sons and daughters who have graduated, and for those who have interacted with our graduates.

NYIT has impacted many lives, so those who can make a contribution at some point in their lifetimes will do so. Sometimes, there is a reluctance to give because people do not believe their gifts are meaningful in terms of amount. But, in fact, every contribution is important. It allows for something at NYIT that would not occur without additional funding. Throughout my career, I've seen generous gifts of \$100 and gifts of \$1 million. Generous is a relative phrase, depending on an individual's personal circumstances.

■ *What is NYIT's role in the future of higher education?*

Higher education has changed so much over the years. The management of higher education has become much more sophisticated and more accountable. Those institutions that rise to higher levels are the ones that will continue to do well over time. NYIT is one of those institutions. The 2030 strategic plan is critically important because it dictates a firm direction and provides a platform that distinguishes NYIT from other colleges and universities. As I become more acclimated to NYIT, I am encouraged that this is a place that will do well, and frankly, I'm enjoying the opportunity to be a part of it.

■ *How did you become interested in the field of higher education development?*

Through early encouragement from my father, I developed a strong passion for education as I realized the importance and amount of opportunities that exist because of an education. If you are going to be successful in the field of development, you need to love it. In this business, your primary responsibility is to build relationships and interact with others all the time. When I graduated from the University of Arkansas, I was placed by a search firm at the American Heart Association without experience in the field of development, but I liked it. And today, I will tell you that I love it. ■





*dress*

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# of Mice and Ungulates

*NYIT researchers reveal secrets of horses and hearts*

By Nikita Japra



**AS A THREE-YEAR-OLD BOY IN SAMOS,** Greece, Nikos Solounias, Ph.D., had a peculiar habit of hiding bones he found under his bed.

Eight thousand miles away and six decades later, in the Riland Academic Health Center at NYIT-Old Westbury, the paleontologist is researching fossils of prehistoric horses with colleague Matthew Muhlbachler, Ph.D., and has concluded that you are, in fact, what you eat.

The two NYIT professors, who can be found in the third-floor anatomy lab of Riland teaching gross anatomy to eager first-year medical students, also travel the world conducting research on the evolution of ungulates, or plant-eating hoofed mammals such as rhinos, camels, giraffes, gazelles, wildebeests, goats, cows, sheep—and horses, of course.

Or, more specifically, horse teeth—which scientists have speculated follow a model of evolution that is linked to the abrasive nature of their grass-based diets. Today's horses have relatively flat, tall molars. As horses age, their teeth wear down though they are still big enough to accommodate the excessive wear, which enables the animals to continue feeding.

Muhlbachler and Solounias determined that horses could help answer questions about the history and evolution of life on Earth because, unlike humans who manufacture their own environments and have only existed for four million years, horses have a 55-million-year history that is documented in fossil collections.

"The zebra, donkey, and horse are the last chapter in the course of this animal's evolution," explains Solounias. "The oldest horse fossils reveal very short, very tiny, pointed teeth."

Paleontologist Nikos Solounias, Ph.D., researches prehistoric horse fossils (pictured below) in the anatomy lab located in the Riland Academic Health Center at NYIT-Old Westbury.

CHRISTOPHER APPOLOTT (RIGHT AND OPPOSITE)



Solounias helped develop a methodology known as dental mesowear analysis to reconstruct the diets of the extinct species by measuring food-related wear and tear on fossil teeth. Working with colleagues in Massachusetts and Spain, he and Mihlbachler examined the teeth of 6,500 fossil horses representing 222 different populations of more than 70 extinct horse species.

Although the numbers sound daunting, Mihlbachler says the collection of data is the easier part of the research. The more time-consuming tasks involved creating a methodology for turning the different molar cusp shapes they encountered into data; it took another several months to determine how to analyze the data statistically. In total, the process took more than five years.

Doing so allowed them to create a seven-point scale for the different-sized molar cusps of horses throughout time. In the end, the study produced a classic example of how the evolution of horse teeth and other ungulates relates to the evolution of ecosystems and vegetation. Their findings were published in the March 4, 2011, issue of *Science*, the prestigious bi-weekly international journal.

“One of the things our study shows is that animals are strongly impacted by how environments change,” says Mihlbachler. He adds that their results indicate a critical lag time between the evolution of horse teeth and dietary changes resulting from climate change. “If we had found, for instance, that the evolutionary changes in teeth preceded the dietary changes, the hypothesis of

examples of the dietary ecology of this once diverse group of mammals.

Both scientists agree that their study highlights the importance of understanding the interrelation of environment and evolution. Moving forward, Mihlbachler will explore “hot spots”—areas that raise more questions than answers in the horse fossil records.

As for his partner, Solounias will continue to collaborate with his colleague but he is also writing a book on giraffes, a subject that brings him back to his boyhood days in Greece.

“The very first bone I found belonged to an extinct giraffe called *Samotherium*,” says Solounias. “But now I keep it in my office.”

**WHEN THEY'RE NOT UNLOCKING** secrets of the past, NYIT researchers at the College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM) are opening new doors to a healthier future.

Growing up along the Gulf Coast in Edna, Texas, cardiovascular scientist A. Martin Gerdes, Ph.D., was no stranger to the therapeutic benefits of swimming, sailing, and snorkeling.

Thanks to his latest research findings, it turns out that ocean life has an additional benefit—heart health.

“We found out that something as safe and inexpensive as fish oil had dramatic effects at inhibiting the scarring of the heart due to hypertension—and that’s a very big, exciting discovery,” says Gerdes, who serves as chair of biomedical sciences at NYCOM. His findings were published in the Feb. 15, 2011, volume of the American Heart Association’s scientific journal, *Circulation*.

Heart failure is the leading cause of death in the United States, and represents an estimated \$316.4 billion in health care costs, which includes services, medications, and lost productivity, reports the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recently, scientists have learned that nearly half of heart failure cases are due to diastolic dysfunction, or the inability of the heart’s left ventricle to relax between each beat. Researchers believe that in patients with high blood pressure, cardiac fibrosis or excessive scar-tissue buildup in the walls of the heart is largely responsible for this phenomenon.

During his grad student days at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Gerdes believed that diseased, contracting muscle cells growing in length but not in width exacerbated the



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

The research team of Nikos Solounias, Ph.D., and Matthew Mihlbachler, Ph.D., has found a strong link between the evolution of horses and changes in their environment.

“The bones speak back to you,” says Solounias. “They help you conceptualize the hidden information that is unknown to mankind.”

The team examined the patterns present in the specimens’ dental wear to see if horse diets were actually changing as their teeth were evolving. They analyzed their data alongside records of North American climate changes that would have shifted the animals’ feeding patterns from rainforest fruits and woody, leafy vegetation to the more abrasive diets found in the grasslands that spread across North America at the start of the Miocene epoch 23 million years ago.

evolution by natural selection would have been nonsensical. But the observation that dental changes followed dietary changes is consistent with evolution due to adaptation.”

Through their extensive survey of available fossil data, Mihlbachler and Solounias also determined that as the number of horse species dwindled in the last few million years, the types of horse diets were also greatly reduced. Modern horses and their relatives today are primarily grass-eaters, which was not necessarily the case for the extinct ancestral horse species. The mesowear data indicate that living horses are anything but typical



stress caused by increased pressure inside the heart chamber. This encouraged him to learn more about cell shape in addition to the molecular mechanisms when researching the causes of heart failure. His peers, however, did not agree with his focus.

Fifteen years later, Gerdes proved this theory of maladaptive growth of contracting muscle cells in heart failure, and researchers are taking note.

“I got involved in this area of research because I want to cure heart failure,” he says. Some pharmaceuticals today, he adds, improve outcomes and the symptoms though heart failure remains the No. 1 killer. New treatments that target the underlying causes of heart disease progression are needed, says Gerdes.

When his lab at Sanford Research/University of South Dakota had the opportunity to run animal trials for world-renowned fish oil expert William Harris, Ph.D., in 2008, Gerdes suggested

Cardiovascular scientist A. Martin Gerdes, Ph.D., recently published a research article that correlates fish oil to inhibiting heart scarring, which can lead to cardiac disease and, ultimately, heart failure.

they study the oil’s impact on protecting against cardiac fibrosis.

A research team recruited by Gerdes measured the development of cardiac scar tissue in mice that were fed diets rich in omega-3 fatty acids derived from fish oil and in those who were fed regular diets. Both the treatment and control groups of mice possessed symptoms modeling the effects of acute injury and high blood pressure in humans. This was important since myocytes in human and mouse hearts are virtually the same size and respond in a similar manner to heart disease.

The two-year investigation became the first definitive animal study showing that fish oil not only prevents pressure-related damage to the heart, but also may be helpful as a preventative supplement against scarring of the heart and resulting failure. Though these results still require human

verification, they are encouraging.

An additional benefit for people, he notes, is that fish oil tablets are in some ways safer than eating fish because mercury is removed during processing. “The next step would be to determine if fish oil can actually reverse scarring that is already established,” says Gerdes.

At NYCOM, Gerdes continues to study different models of heart failure. A five-year National Institutes of Health grant will help fund his next project, which involves using a rat model of heart attacks to investigate the potential protective effects of thyroid treatment. The goal is to identify benefits that can help patients with heart failure.

“I am driven to identify new treatments in animal models that will improve and extend the lives of patients who suffer from this terrible syndrome,” says Gerdes. ■

# Live and E-Learn

*NYIT alumni and faculty harness instructional technology to offer learning experiences beyond the classroom*

**By David McKay Wilson**

**Wen-Hao David Huang (M.B.A. '06)** excels in a fast-paced arena where a typical day finds him immersed in multitasking, gaming, and studying online collaborations that can help teachers improve how their students learn.

Huang, who earned his NYIT degree online, is one of thousands of NYIT alumni who recognize the power and scope of global communications and technology in the world of education. As part of the e-learning revolution, Huang and others are pushing 21st-century digital tools that embrace the ubiquitous nature of the Internet, mobile devices, and social media.

“Learning technology is about more than just teaching,” he says. “Today, it has enabled us to design e-learning environments that not only deliver intended instructional content, but also empower learners with many options to create their own learning experiences.”

Huang, assistant professor in the Department of Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, teaches online graduate-level human resource courses that explore how to design engaging e-learning environments. Huang’s

Wen-Hao David Huang (M.B.A. '06), assistant professor at the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois, is researching e-learning environments.

JASON LINDSEY/GETTY IMAGES

focus is on promoting Web 2.0 technologies that allow users to collaborate on projects and create their own content to share.

Huang's recent study on the use of "wikis"—the technology that promotes collaborative efforts and the collective construction of knowledge—examined how college instructors could improve their interactions with students.

Specifically, Huang found that wikis are more effective than Web-based blogs, where all of the participants' contributions are viewed but rarely consolidated into a succinct document. With wikis, students can develop a shared document with online comments that continually refine their ideas into a final product.

Huang's study also found that the use of wikis promoted engaging interactions between students, although interactions between students and their instructors were minimal.

"The findings suggest that online instructors need to purposefully encourage and sustain learners' wiki activities—writing, reviewing, revising, and editing—throughout the learning process since learners might not be accustomed to wikis' consistent and dynamic collaborations," Huang wrote. "In the meantime, online instructors should be sensitive to not taking away a learner's freedom to be autonomous, as it is vital to sustain the motivation to contribute to wikis."

Huang's other research focuses on the field of online games and how users consciously manage their motivation while playing. He says players of such games are typically highly engaged.

"From the point of view of a trainer or educator, we'd like to harness that motivation," says Huang. "There are competitions, challenges, final scores, all kinds of extrinsic motivation, so we like to design learning activities into the games."

Huang says online gamers develop special skills as they compete against online opponents, rack up points, and unlock new items. These games require that players focus on a single key element and tune out the myriad distractions on screen.

"With gaming, you are always faced with a very rich, very distracting environment," says Huang. "It's cognitively demanding, and some people can become overwhelmed. Once you reach your limit, you can't process anything else."

But there are some players who are able to focus on what's important and discover winning strategies to gain points. "You need to focus on 20 or 30 out of 100 stimuli," he says. "That gives you room for more information to come in."

Designing online learning environments can build on the engaging nature of gaming, although Huang says it's important to avoid overloading students who are trying to learn.

"It's a delicate balancing point—you want to keep them motivated with fancy features, but you have to keep them engaged in the learning task at hand," he says.

Huang says he benefited from the availability of online courses as he earned his NYIT degree while pursuing a doctorate in learning design and technology at Purdue University.

"It was a great opportunity to enhance my credentials," he says. "The scheduling was perfect. It worked for me, as it does for many adults who are autonomous learners and know how to manage time and get things done."

As Huang focuses on his academic career and develops online course material, he hopes one day to launch a business venture that capitalizes on his learning technology background.

He says his M.B.A. provided him with critical business skills in the areas of financial management, operations, and marketing.

"Right now, the idea of starting a business comes up twice a year—during spring vacation and winter break," says Huang, who grew up in Taiwan. "It's always on my long-range to-do list. I plan to get to it one day."

**Tom Downey (M.B.A. '05)** recalls the days when "technology in the classroom" meant sitting in a high school language lab listening to a tape of someone ordering a meatball sandwich in Spanish.

That was the 1960s. Fifty years later, the wide range of mobile devices coming to market are the next frontier in digital, e-focused learning techniques, says Downey, chief academic officer for Embanet LLC, which partners with U.S. universities to develop online courses.

Take smartphones, for example, which transmit and download audio, video, and other data in seconds. Such platforms, says Downey, create the opportunity for all students to experience what he calls "stolen learning moments"—those pockets of time spent waiting for a bus or food order when they can click on a lesson, watch an instructional video, or take a short quiz.

"We are working on how to design material that engages students for 15 minutes, creating small chunks of learning opportunities, and seeing how we put them together into a bigger picture," he says. "It's fun stuff."

Downey, who also holds a doctorate in cognitive psychology,

Tom Downey (M.B.A. '05) is chief academic officer for Embanet LLC, a company that works with educators to enhance online coursework.



has been involved in learning technology since the early 1980s, when he developed training materials for global corporations such as the aviation manufacturer Boeing. And just a few years ago, he was on the receiving end of the e-learning experience while earning his M.B.A. online at NYIT.

“It was an eye-opener, doing it day in and day out, being an online student over three years,” says Downey, who lives in San Antonio, Texas. “It gave me a unique perspective about what makes for a good program.”

While an NYIT student, Downey also served as vice president of technology for Thomson Learning, one of the world’s larg-

est educational publishers. It was a demanding position that required long hours and extensive travel as he developed e-learning products that included best-selling textbooks. NYIT’s online program gave Downey the flexibility to fit professional development into his hectic schedule.

“I’d be traveling all over the place, working until 5 p.m., having business dinners, answering office e-mails, and then sitting down to study at midnight,” he says. “I’d do my reading on the plane, and did what I could to fit it all in.”

Today at Embanet, Downey works with educators to design online courses at 24 universities, including Vanderbilt,

Johns Hopkins, George Washington, Washington State, and Northeastern. Effective online education, says Downey, requires good design, quality content, and professors open to new methods.

“It’s a philosophical changeover for instructors used to being the ‘sage on the stage,’ lecturing on their favorite topic for an hour,” says Downey. “Many are reticent to adopt the technology and have to rethink the way they teach.”

While the presentation of online courses may differ from traditional classwork, students still need to assimilate knowledge through a precise series of steps.

“A well-designed course has a clear set of goals, a clear set of materials, interactions with that material, and practice that helps define the knowledge and skills,” says Downey. “Then there’s an assessment to find out if the students have retained the knowledge.”

Interaction with the material can become quite rich using today’s technological tools. Online forums in an e-learning environment, for example, provide both breadth and depth not always present in classroom discussions.

“Students have time to reflect, and the more introverted students who might not speak up in a classroom now have an equal voice,” says Downey. “You get a richer discussion that can take place over several days, even weeks.”

**Steven Churchill (B.F.A. '73, M.A. '77),**

a vice president/learning and development manager for Wells Fargo, says online lessons, meetings in virtual space, and the use of social networking are now status quo in the field of 21st-century corporate training.

Employee education at Wells Fargo, one of the largest financial services companies in the United States with about 6,600 branches in 40 states, increasingly involves teaching employees how to find the information they need to better do their jobs.

“Today, it doesn’t make sense to create formal classroom-based training,” says Churchill, who lives in Charlotte, N.C. “We provide content that’s easily accessible for employees, so they can look it up on their phone or their computer.”

Churchill says educators in the corporate sector have learned a thing or two from social media such as Facebook and



PETER TAYLOR/GETTY IMAGES

Steven Churchill (B.F.A. '73, M.A. '77) is implementing high-tech training strategies at Wells Fargo, where he is a vice president as well as the company’s learning and development manager.





**“Technology is  
very empowering  
for students.”**

**—Andrew Gallagher (M.S. '07)**

JEFF WEINER

Twitter when it comes to the power of communication among peers. At Wells Fargo, for example, employees can get information by posing a question to their fellow workers through the bank's internal network.

Churchill has also employed technology popularized by the *Second Life* virtual world. Inside the corporation's firewall, employees can create avatars and meet up in real time while participating in role-playing exercises that train them for sales or leadership positions.

“They come into the virtual world and conduct the same role-playing exercises they would if you paid for them to come to a central location,” he says. Training sessions can also be downloaded as podcasts, which allow employees to listen to the information at their convenience.

“It's all about engaging the learner,” says Churchill, who spent four years in the U.S. Air Force after earning his NYIT bachelor's degree. His master's degree in communication arts included a concentration in instructional technology.

Through the years, Churchill witnessed first-hand the sweeping changes in instructional technology, from reel-to-reel tapes, videocassettes, and the first home PCs in the 1970s and 80s to the rise of the Internet, mass storage devices, 3-D technology, and mobile computing. Today's corporate training is also far more dynamic and streamlined in terms of content creation, as software such as *Presenter* or *Articulate* allows educators to create their own interactive presentations without assistance from computer programmers or engineers.

“With all these new tools, we're able to do things that just weren't possible in the past,” says Churchill.

Some instructors who grew up tapping out term papers on manual typewriters feel overwhelmed by new technology. The problem often becomes apparent in grade school classrooms, where students who grew up with computers and the Internet know more about technology than their teachers.

So when **Andrew Gallagher (M.S.**

**'07)** became a founding teacher of the Bronx Writing Academy, he formed the “Mouse Squad”—a team of tech-savvy middle school students who provided support and professional development to teachers in New York City public schools.

“Technology is very empowering for students, and it saved the school a huge amount of time because we didn't have to call the Department of Education's help desk as much,” says Gallagher, who currently serves as director of instructional technology for a network of 23 New York City public schools.

In addition, Gallagher developed a schoolwide program that turned his work area into a collaborative laboratory for instructional technology. As a technology coach, he helped other teachers embed technology into their subject areas, and he enrolled in a master's degree program at NYIT to provide him with the tools to carry out his plan.

“We ended up changing the whole culture of the school,” says Gallagher. “When I started there, nobody was using

# Professors Encourage Students To Get Their Game On

Teens in the 21st century are coming of age in a technology-saturated world as video games, social media, and the Internet compete for their attention. But Hui-Yin Hsu, NYIT assistant professor of instructional technology and winner of the 2010 NYIT Presidential Technology Award for Use of Technology in Research and/or Creative Expression, says that the skills learned using these technologies are part of a new literacy that educators can tap into and develop to help their students thrive.

This 21st-century literacy includes the ability to read and find relevant information online, analyze it, and be able to communicate that information to others.

"It's important for these new technologies to be integrated across the curriculum," says Hsu, who joined NYIT's faculty in 2005.

Hsu and Associate Professor Shiang-Kwei Wang explored these issues in their 2009 paper, "Using Gaming Literacies to Cultivate New Literacies," which was published in the June 2010 issue of *Simulation and Gaming*. They encouraged teachers to integrate computer games into the classroom to stimulate learning through experimentation, developing hypotheses, and testing out those theories. Using games in class allows students to develop problem-solving abilities and cultivate higher levels of thinking. Teachers can help students correlate what they've learned to real-world problems and their course material through a process of debriefing.

Hsu and Wang will use these techniques later this year as they launch a professional development project with 30 middle school teachers throughout the Queens, N.Y., area.

The project, Cyber-Enabled Learning: Digital Natives in Integrated Scientific Inquiry Classrooms, is funded by a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation and will be carried out in conjunction with researchers at Utah State University, who will be working with local teachers in that state.

During the project's first year, researchers will develop four learning modules that meet science standards in New York and Utah and work with teachers who will become academic leaders in their schools.

The Queens teachers, for example, will participate in workshops at NYIT's New York campuses during the summer and winter breaks in 2011 and 2012. Part of their training will involve using mobile technology such as Apple's iPod Touch to help them develop their own digital literacy and access online course materials.

"We want to incorporate these technologies into the classroom to enhance learning," says Hsu. "The teachers have all the content, but they need to reach out to the younger generation. This will help bridge that gap." ■



(From left) Professors Shiang-Kwei Wang and Hui-Yin Hsu are launching a project at NYIT to test e-learning technologies.

technology. By the time I left in 2007, about 85 percent of the teachers were using technology with their students."

Gallagher now works with teachers and administrators on a broad array of technology projects at schools in one of the New York City Department of Education's Children First Networks.

In four of his schools, he has developed programs that use Livescribe technology to help students improve their note-taking skills by using a smartpen that records the teacher's lesson on special paper. If students want to review their notes, they can select a specific part of their notes on the paper, which activates the pen's audio playback at that point in the lecture.

"They can access notes and the lecture anytime, anywhere," he says.

Gallagher also works with teachers to pilot new technologies such as iPads, which are used to help struggling students.

"It's immediately engaging, and the material is up-to-date," he says. "It also provides the platform to allow students to collaborate on projects."

In addition, Gallagher is manager of the Office of Empowerment Schools' Goldie Anna Awards for Excellence in Education, which recognizes teachers who innovate and share successful instructional practices. Projects he helped support include a 21st-century book club that utilized Web 2.0 tools and a digital portfolio model that enabled students to upload assignments and create their own portfolios of work.

As for the future, Gallagher is about to embark on another career milestone. He was recently accepted into a doctoral program at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he will focus on leadership in education—a field in which he will certainly continue to innovate and educate for years to come.

In 2003, filmmaker **Steven Mudrick (M.S. '10)** had the opportunity to fulfill his dream of creating a digital film program in a K-12 setting. But upon his arrival at the Theatre Arts Production Company (TAPCO) School in Bronx, N.Y., he discovered there were no cameras and four broken Macs. So Mudrick

donated cameras he had used with clients in Japan during his years in the television world. And, to his delight, his efforts have been a resounding success.

“They get it, they really get it,” says Mudrick, who teaches math and video production at TAPCO. “The ideas just flow from the kids.”

Mudrick oversees these projects, providing technical guidance as his students plan their films, shoot them, edit footage, and then show them to their schoolmates during assemblies and festivals.

“I keep pushing them, sending them back to the drawing board with suggestions,” says Mudrick, who earned his master’s degree in instructional technology from NYIT and received the John Jay Theobald Graduate Achievement Award. “I’m like the bumper in the bowling alley. I keep them on track.”

Several films from Mudrick’s middle school classes, which show the emotional and social struggles faced by his students, have captured honors from the Chase Multimedia in the Classroom awards program. In one film about bullying, his students portray the collision and emotional fallout between a hulking middle school student and the younger student he humiliates. Another film, *On the Outside Looking In: Reflections of a Teenage Muslim*, explores the cultural tradition involving hair coverings worn by Muslim girls.

One year, Mudrick’s students created a “how-to” training DVD for teachers and students using laptops from Apple. The tech giant was so impressed with the production that the disc was distributed to 20 citywide schools participating in the Apple laptop program.

“It was our first big production,” says Mudrick.

To bolster his teaching approach, he enrolled at NYIT, where he says the coursework provided the opportunity to reflect on what was happening in the classroom.

“Teaching middle school in the Bronx is like driving down a hill at 80 miles an hour without brakes,” he says.

As he found his teaching voice,



JEFF WEINER



Steven Mudrick (M.S. '10) teaches math and video production at the TAPCO School in Bronx, N.Y., where he uses online tutorials and websites to bolster the learning experiences of his students.

Mudrick also discovered how technology could help in his classes by implementing online tutorials and websites such as TeacherTube.com that offer instructional videos to support classroom learning. “I can teach the area of a triangle in class, and it can go over the head of some kids,” says Mudrick. “Then they see it on an online tutorial, and they get it. It’s a very efficient way to learn.”

He warns, however, that technology should not be viewed as a panacea or

dictate curriculum.

“Using technology for the sake of just using it is backwards,” he says. “You need to figure out what you want the students to learn, figure out how to assess them, and teach them the material. Technology can play a great role in both teaching and assessment.” ■

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

## | 1960s |

Although **Peter A. Eckstein (A.A.S. '65, B.S. '67)** is retired from Northrup Grumman, he still keeps busy as an adjunct professor of physics at Suffolk County (N.Y.) Community College, adjunct professor of physics and astronomy at Queensborough Community College, and adjunct professor of physics and engineering at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

**Joseph E. Malandrakis (A.A.S. '66, B.S. '67)** has joined RainDance Technologies in Lexington, Mass., as its senior product development counsel. His 35 years of experience in biotechnology include serving as vice president of global services and solutions at Applied Biosystems (now Invitrogen) and vice president of worldwide operations at Applera Corporation.

## | 1970s |

**Mark Hehl (B.S. '72)** is CEO of Southbury, Conn.-based Hehl & Associates, an international training and consulting organization. He has lectured worldwide about the benefits of diversity and cultural awareness in the business world.

**John R. Sorrenti (B.A. '72, M.B.A. '78)** has been elected to the position of national chair of the American Institute of Architecture's College of Fellows Regional Representatives. He is the founder and principal of JRS Architect P.C. in Mineola, N.Y. Check out his profile in the Spring 2008 issue of *NYIT Magazine* at [nyit.edu/magazine](http://nyit.edu/magazine).

**James "Chip" Cleary (B.F.A. '73)** is president and chief executive of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. In 1978, he launched his career by accepting a position at Adventureland Amusement Park in Farmingdale, N.Y., where he worked his way up to vice president.

NYIT trustee and Broadridge Financial Solutions (New York City) CEO **Richard J. Daly (B.S. '74)** received the Fountain Gallery's 2010 Esther Montanez Leadership Award for his dedication to helping those with mental illness pursue their artistic passions.

The *New York Times* featured **Daisy Expósito-Ulla (B.F.A. '75)** in its Job

## NYIT BOOSTS MIDDLE EAST ALUMNI AND EMPLOYER OUTREACH

Lina Mattar (below left) and Amal Osama Al Dallal (B.S. '08, M.B.A. '10, below right) have joined NYIT as the new associate directors of alumni and employer relations at the university's Amman and Bahrain campuses, respectively. Together, they will build relationships with the growing network of NYIT graduates in the Middle East and offer career advice and opportunities for alumni and students. The pair will coordinate efforts with NYIT's New York campuses through John Hyde, dean of career services, and Joseph Fortine, director of alumni relations.



Market section on Dec. 1, 2010, discussing her career as well as her Cuban-American heritage. After earning her NYIT degree, she began working in television and later moved to advertising before starting her own agency, New York City-based d expósito and Partners, in 2005. For more on Daisy's impressive career, check out the Summer 2010 issue of *NYIT Magazine* at [nyit.edu/magazine](http://nyit.edu/magazine).

**Laurence E. Parisi (B.Arch. '75)**, owner and president of Laurence E. Parisi P.C. Architects in North Bergen, N.J., is president-elect of the American Institute of Architects, New Jersey chapter (AIA-NJ). He is also founder and chairman of the AIA-NJ Homeland Security Committee and state coordinator for the AIA National Disaster Assistance Program.

**Col. Vincent J. Montera (B.S. '76)** is an instructor at Fort Hamilton University in New York City. He is also a military

consultant and advisor to St. Joseph's College, having served in the U.S. Air Force and Army Reserve for more than 38 years. In addition, Vincent is a retired New York City Police officer and the recipient of numerous awards, including the State of New York Conspicuous Service Medal from former New York Governor George Pataki. Vincent and his wife, Carolyn, have two children and five grandchildren.

The Federal Law Enforcement Foundation honored **Henry Borawski (B.S. '79)**, tour commander of the Lincoln Tunnel, with its 2010 Investigator of the Year award in December at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The NYIT alumnus is a 31-year veteran of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

**Allen Lum (M.B.A. '79)** is director of information technology and Internet support at Altran Control Solutions in Nashua, N.H.

| 1980s |

**Joseph P. Dooley (B.S. '80)** is managing director of Stroz Friedberg's business intelligence and investigations division in New York City, where he leads the firm's forensic accounting practice. In addition to spearheading corruption, money laundering, embezzlement, and securities fraud investigations, the former FBI agent is also a frequent speaker on topics related to white collar and cyber crime.

Named one of *Computerworld's* 2010 Premier Information Technology Leaders, **Philip Fasano (B.S. '80)** is executive vice president and chief information officer for Oakland, Calif.-based Kaiser Permanente. A key advocate

for health care technology, he joined Secretary Kathleen Sebelius of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra in announcing his company's implementation of Convergent Medical Technology, a system that improves the readability and interoperability of medical records.

**Patricia Kibler (B.S. '83)** has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in travel coordination. Patricia owns Kibler Travel in Winchester, Va., a full-service travel agency.

**Jeffrey Morosoff (B.F.A. '83, M.A. '01)** is a professor of public relations at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

He is also the former president of the Public Relations Professionals of Long Island, as well as the former director of alumni relations at NYIT.

**Douglas Omstrom (B.S. '83)** is senior vice president for Jones Lang LaSalle in Melville, N.Y. With more than 28 years of experience in the Long Island real estate market, he has successfully negotiated hundreds of sale and lease transactions for local, national, international, and Fortune 500 companies. He is a member and past president of the Commercial Industrial Broker Society and an active member of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

**Wayne R. Biondi (B.F.A. '84)** is assistant director of operations for >>

## FELLOW ALUMNI,

Since becoming president of the Alumni Federation last year, I've witnessed the reconnection of many of our fellow graduates—with one another and with NYIT. I thank the truly dedicated individuals, especially the Federation's leadership team, who have assisted me in fueling a movement that connects our 85,000 graduates with the opportunities, networks, and benefits of being an NYIT alumnus.

Although we are just scratching the surface, the Alumni Federation's objectives are clear, and we will continue to use them as a guide in everything we aim to do, including:

- Increase graduate involvement within the university and with fellow alumni.
- Foster a sense of alumni pride.
- Develop networking and relationship-building opportunities among all disciplines of the university.
- Promote community awareness of NYIT, which enhances the reputation of all alumni.
- Initiate programs, such as the NYIT Alumni Scholarship Fund, to benefit and provide opportunities for qualified alumni family members.
- Celebrate the successes of our fellow alumni via communications, social networking, and events.

Speaking of social networking, I encourage you to visit **InCircle**, our online community that offers terrific networking opportunities and information. Log on at [nyit.affinitycircles.com](http://nyit.affinitycircles.com).

And, so that you can enjoy some in-person networking, we're planning wonderful events in the next several months that will let you reconnect with your fellow graduates. You'll surely enjoy one of the university's many workshops on networking and job searches, its world-class lectures and conferences (such as the annual Energy Conference on June 2 at NYIT-Old Westbury), or even NYIT's 50th commencement ceremony on May 22. Members of the Alumni Federation's leadership team will be present at many of these events, and we look forward to seeing you.

We all know that real change does not come easily or quickly. However, a group of dedicated and talented people can make a difference and initiate a path to change. I urge you to help support the NYIT Alumni Federation and our many initiatives that enhance our ability to make a difference for all graduates.

**Ralph Sepe (B.S. '97)**  
President, NYIT Alumni Federation



## | ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

## MAJOR GENERAL PHILIP VOLPE (D.O. '83)

**CURRENT POSITION** Commanding general of the U.S. Army's Western Regional Medical Command

**A TALL ORDER** Philip's duties include governing and operating all the Army's medical treatment facilities, hospitals, medical centers, and clinics at military installations throughout 20 western U.S. states. He ensures the readiness of U.S. forces for deployment and oversees health care services to family members and retirees who live on and around Army bases. "The biggest challenge is keeping up with all of our services with an army at war. Our soldiers deploy all over the world, and I help make sure they are receiving the best health care possible."

**ACCOMPLISHED VETERAN** Philip's tours of duty sent him to Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. In 1989, he served with the Second Ranger Battalion as part of Operation: Just Cause, and four years later was part of an Army Ranger special ops task force in Somalia.

**AMERICAN IDOLS** Born in Brooklyn and raised in Huntington, N.Y., Philip's childhood heroes were comic book superheroes and later astronauts as he followed NASA's space programs in the 1960s and 1970s. "Looking back, even though I didn't know it at the time, my biggest heroes were my parents, simply because of their dedication and work ethic."

**NOBLE CALLING** Philip joined the Army during his first year at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine. "I joined just to get money for school. After graduation, I was obligated to serve four years." It was then that Philip found his true calling. "The decision to remain in the military didn't happen until I experienced army life, to realize the privilege of serving the greatest patients in the world—the men and women who are sacrificing themselves so we can enjoy our freedoms. I couldn't think of a more noble way to use my medical skills."

**ARTISTIC PRACTICE** Philip's approach to health care combines the science of healing and what he calls the "art of delivering medicine." Health care professionals, he says, are a symbol of compassion and humanity. "How we deliver health care services and interact with patients is just as important as the care we are delivering."

**TRAINED BY THE BEST TO BE THE BEST** Philip attributes his career success to the nurturing lessons of his professors who were "concerned, caring teachers in and out of the classroom. They knew how to inspire students to reach their potential."



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

➤ DHS Customs and Border Protection at the national targeting center in Reston, Va. He and his wife have three daughters.

**Arnold Korotkin (M.B.A. '84)** was honored by the National Air Disaster Alliance and New York University for his efforts in launching the 9/11 listserv, a Google group that emails members links to news stories related to the September 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City. In addition, he is vice president of the Little Falls (N.J.) Alliance for a Better Community and an executive board member of the Little Falls Historical Society.

**Mark B. Berger (M.B.A. '85)** joined SWBC of San Antonio, Texas, as the company's senior vice president and chief information officer. He brings to this position experience in strategic planning, IT management, applications development, and internal and customer-focused technologies.

**C.J. Cornell (M.S. '85)** is the Kauffman Professor of Digital Media Entrepreneurship at Arizona State University and the entrepreneur-in-residence at the Knight Center for Digital Media Entrepreneurship. He has more than 20 years of experience as an executive in cable television, broadband, and other consumer media platforms. C.J. has worked with companies such as Disney, Comcast, Time Warner, Sony, Micro-soft, and Sun, and is the founder of four pioneering ventures in interactive television and video-on-demand. In addition, he is a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, serves as a board member and advisor to six digital media ventures, and has authored numerous articles on business, technology, and media.

**Denise Berger (B.A.R. '86)** is the assistant chief engineer of operations and engineering at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Her husband, **Andrew (B.Arch. '86)**, was featured in the Summer 2010 issue of *NYIT Magazine* along with fellow graduates working at the office of di Domenico + Partners LLP in Long Island City, N.Y.

**Bryan Ehrenfreund (M.A. '86)** is co-founder and chief operating officer for ClipFree, an advertising and market-

ing solutions provider in Boca Raton, Fla. He has more than 25 years of sales, marketing, and management experience with positions at Xerox, AT&T Wireless, and other technology firms. He and his wife live in Delray Beach, Fla., with their children. Outside of work, Bryan enjoys cheering on the Arizona Diamondbacks and Phoenix Suns but stays true to his New York roots as a Jets fan.

**Emilio Noble (A.A.S. '86, B.S. '87)** is director of sales and outreach for Physicians United Plan in Winter Park, Fla. He lives in Florida with his wife and four children.

**Joseph P. Reid (B.S. '86)** is vice president of customer service and support for AFCO Systems in Farmingdale, N.Y. He has more than 20 years of IT experience in a variety of industries.

**Fredric H. Itzkowitz (D.O. '88)**, clinical associate professor of general surgery at Firelands Regional Medical Center at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, won the college's Master Faculty Award for exemplary medical leadership.

**Daniel Morse (M.A. '89)** is associate producer and digital media marketing strategist for *Ugly Americans*, a horror-comedy show on Comedy Central that will begin its second season in June 2011. During his 20-year career, he has served in sales and marketing roles for a number of new media/technology companies.

**David A. Kondrup (B.S. '89)** is vice president of strategic initiatives at Cyber Diligence Inc., a licensed private investigation firm that is comprised of former law enforcement investigators in Syosset, N.Y.

In April 2011, PIX11 TV launched *Dr. Steve*, a 30-minute program about health and wellness featuring **Steven Salvatore (D.O. '89)**, a board certified physician who also serves as the health expert for the station's *PIX11 Morning News*. New York area residents can view *Dr. Steve* on Sundays at 11 a.m.

#### | 1990s |

**Kurt M. Kalafsky (B.Arch. '90)** is chapter secretary for the American Institute of Architects' New Jersey Chapter. He is founding principal and chief technology officer of Aztec Corp. and Aztec Architects in Iselin, N.J.



#### | ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

##### JAMES CHEMP (M.S. '94)

**CURRENT POSITION** Director of engineering and energy management for 7-Eleven Corp. "I manage and direct the design, engineering, and implementation of energy conservation strategies and utility optimization initiatives across the company's 6,600 stores in the United States and Canada to drive bottom-line utility cost savings."

**SAVINGS GRACES** "During the past 20 years, I've developed more than \$600 million in energy conservation projects and helped sell and implement \$123 million of them. The life-cycle savings from those projects is worth about \$250 million."

**WHY NYIT?** "I had received acceptances at four or five universities. I happened to call NYIT and had a long discussion with Robert Amundsen, chair of the energy management department. I was thoroughly impressed and didn't think about going anywhere else after that."

**FAVORITE NYIT MEMORY** "Receiving the John Theobald Graduate Achievement Award."

**OBSTACLE COURSE** "The biggest obstacle facing the energy industry is a lack of awareness of the energy savings potential in corporate America. It is possible for many companies to save tens of millions of dollars in energy costs without much effort. And such programs will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions." These benefits are possible, he adds, if companies employ the right people to run their energy and sustainability programs. "This is where educational institutions such as NYIT can help by graduating qualified professionals and creating awareness."

**FAVORITE MOVIE** "*Gandhi*, the story of one frail man leading hundreds of millions of people in an era when televisions didn't exist. He won independence for one-seventh of the population of the world."

**FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW** *America's Funniest Videos*.

**LAST BOOK READ** *Limited Liability Companies for Dummies* by Jennifer Reuting.

**FAVORITE PASTTIMES** "Skiing with my kids in winter and gardening in summer."

# IN TUNE WITH TECHNOLOGY

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)



If music were to accompany Marc Gallo's (B.S. '92) career, it would probably sound like a vintage '59 Les Paul guitar through a Marshall JCM 800 amp.

As the founder and CEO of Long Island, N.Y.-based Studio Devil, this NYIT grad is pioneering what audio engineers could have never imagined in the early 20th century when designing the first vacuum tubes. Using his custom-designed computer algorithms to replicate the harmonic frequencies of tube amps used by professional guitarists, Gallo is bringing the familiar sounds of rock 'n' roll to computers and mobile devices everywhere.

It's a career that began at NYIT-Manhattan, where the Queens, N.Y., native spent hours in the electronics lab at 1855 Broadway. After winning a New York City competition in grade school in which he designed a version of Pac-Man for the Commodore Pet computer, Gallo's original plan was to design video games. Throughout high school, he enrolled in computer programming courses. And while software design came easy to him, it was the physical world of computer science that caught his curiosity.

"I really wanted to learn what was going on inside the hardware," he says. He looked for a college that would allow him to combine his two passions: computer technology and the sound of electric guitars.

He found it at NYIT. While pursuing a degree in electrical engineering and computer science, he also worked as a lab technician and teacher's aide responsible for maintaining power supplies, oscilloscopes, generators, and voltage meters. The experience provided him with access to technology he could not afford himself, and he began writing code that emulated guitar amplification using a computer sound card.

"I would come in with tube circuits and stay late," says Gallo. "I used the lab equipment to measure circuits I was building at home. It taught me a lot about how tube amps work."

Inside the electronics lab, he met NYIT senior technician Steve Giordano. The two formed a quick friendship that has lasted more than two decades.

"Marc was a brilliant student," recalls Giordano, who is still working with students at NYIT-Manhattan. "He was a musician, and we immediately hit it off."

"The first thing Steve asked me was 'Are you in a band?'" says Gallo. "I guess my long hair at the time was a giveaway." So, too, was Gallo's bone-white Charvel Model 5 guitar that he had on hand to test his audio experiments. >>



If it wasn't for NYIT ... I'm not sure all of this success would have happened."



For decades, guitar amplifiers have fallen into two categories: tube and solid state. Gallo chose to focus on the former, which are known for warm, rich tones that occur when the circuits of the vacuum tubes are overdriven and pushed beyond what a power supply can produce, “clipping” the signal to produce a distorted sound. Solid state amps, by comparison, use transistors to produce a cleaner, “colder” sound at high levels without distortion. The debate over which amp is better is the Coke/Pepsi argument of the professional guitar world.

Today, thanks to audio engineers like Gallo, there are new options—such as your iPhone or computer.

Using algorithms that grew out of those early experiments at 1855 Broadway and a special connector that allows an electric guitar to be plugged directly into a computer or mobile device, Gallo created a new way for musicians to replicate that classic tube sound.

“In 2004, I started coding a lot of ideas,” says Gallo. “I saw a trend in which computers were getting powerful enough, and you could do tube emulation in real time. The algorithms I designed were much better than the others I saw.”

A year later, he launched Studio Devil and presented his technology to Cakewalk, a developer of audio solutions and subsidiary of Roland, a major instrument manufacturer.

“They were floored and immediately licensed it,” says Gallo. In addition to bundling his emulation algorithms with the company’s SONAR software suite, Cakewalk made the software available for download.

“The first week, it had over 15,000 downloads,” says Gallo. “I was overwhelmed.”

Another piece of his software, called Virtual Guitar Amp, was bundled with a computer sound card in 2008. It wasn’t long until Sony Music was calling Gallo

Designed by Marc Gallo (B.S. '92), Guitar Amp is an app that allows guitarists to play through their iPhone and listen over headphones.



to license his software for their ACID Music Studio software suite. To date, more than 100,000 copies of both Cakewalk’s and Sony’s software with his algorithms have been sold.

The best compliment Gallo hears is when guitarists don’t even know they are playing through an emulated tube amp. “When they try it, they’re hooked,” he says. “An amp should sound like an amp, and the discerning player can tell.”

In January 2011, Studio Devil released its own software, Guitar Amp, for Apple iOS devices. Even before he could begin marketing the product, Gallo says users downloaded the app from iTunes dozens of times each day. To date, more than 30,000 musicians have registered at studiodevil.com to get updates and learn about his company’s other products.

“I’ve already made money back on development,” says Gallo. “It has grown way beyond what I envisioned.”

Gallo now holds two patents for his tube amp algorithms and recently completed his doctorate. His dissertation topic was—not surprisingly—on vacuum tube modeling.

Throughout his successes, he still remembers the role his NYIT education, and Steve Giordano, played in his career.

“If it wasn’t for NYIT, and the encouragement of people like Steve, I’m not sure all of this success would have happened,” says Gallo. ■

➤ **Brian T. Ahern (B.S. '92)** is president and co-founder of Obelisk Architectural Consultants, an architectural firm based in New York City.

**Bonnie Habyan (M.A. '92)** is executive vice president of marketing at Arbor Commercial Mortgage in Uniondale, N.Y. In 2008, she was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Business by *Long Island Business News*.

Mechanical engineer **Christian Agulles (B.S. '93)** is managing director of the Washington, D.C., office of WSP Flack + Kurtz.

**Stephan Roker (M.B.A. '93)** is the senior vice president of operations for Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia, Pa. He also serves on the board of Education Works, a non-profit organization offering assistance to students and their families. He and his wife, Rhona, have two children.

**Raj Akula (M.S. '94)** is running for a seat on the Coppell, Texas, city council, with a platform that includes budget issues and property taxes, creating jobs, and lowering crime. Currently the president and CEO of an information technology company in Irving, Texas, Raj has been married for 15 years and has two daughters.

**Robert Micera (M.S. '94)** received the Alfred Sloan Award for Excellence in Workplace Flexibility from the National Association of Mothers’ Center at its Work/Life Conference in November 2010. He serves as the human resources director for Margolin, Winer & Evens in Garden City, N.Y.

**Joseph Solloch (B.S. '94)** is project manager for Stalco Construction in Islandia, N.Y. He currently oversees the \$5.6-million renovation of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center’s food service facilities in Brooklyn, N.Y., as well as Shelter Rock and Patchogue-Medford public libraries on Long Island.

**Ann Jakits (M.B.A. '95)** is principal and founder of Millennial Group LLC in Boca Raton, Fla. Her company assists companies meet their business objectives by developing training solutions that incorporate that latest teaching technology.

**Dina Lima (M.S. '95)** is a social media consultant, speaker, trainer, and CEO of SocialExecs.com in Hurst, Texas. Her company helps businesses implement Internet marketing

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## | ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

LIN TAN (M.A. '10)

**CURRENT POSITION** Chief news anchor, producer, writer, editor, and photographer in New York City for Sinovision, a Chinese television station.

**POINT OF PRIDE** "When I worked in China, I was a fashion/entertainment host and produced programs such as *Fashion Follow Me* and *Entertainment 365 Days*, which were among the highest-rated primetime fashion and entertainment programs in the country. I have abilities and skills in front of and behind the camera, and as a news anchor, I talk about many more things than fashion and entertainment. I'm proud to say that I am a professional media person."

**MORAL TO HER STORY** "I play the role of a news anchor everywhere, not just on TV, and I must consider all aspects in my life that can affect my reputation and authority. I think personality and moral character are equally as important as my work capabilities."

**VIEW MASTER** "News programs in China are much less competitive than in the United States. Chinese video and TV stations are run by the Chinese government, and 90 percent of national or international news is reported by China Central Television. Chinese news programs are not like American news. Due to China's one-party system, it's hard to get different voices about political and institutional criticism."

**FUTURE VISION** "The Internet is the trend of all media. It will weaken the power of television and be the main medium, but TV networks will continue to exist through websites where you can watch programs online."

**BEST TIME OF DAY** "When I host my news program."

**DEFINITION OF SUCCESS** "It's not what you achieve. It's what kind of person you have been."

**FAVORITE NYIT MEMORY** "Every time I learned in the classroom."

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Schindler's List*

**LAST BOOK READ** *Meditation* by Marcus Aurelius



>> strategies such as social media integration and management, search engine-optimized blog and website design, and search engine optimization.

**Marc Ellegaard (M.B.A. '96)** has joined the London office of Houlihan Lokey as director and head of the financial advisory services business in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Marc previously served at Emirates National Bank of Dubai as head of corporate finance and advisory.

**Aliya Browne (D.O. '97)** founded the Central Jersey Heart Group in Ewing, N.J., and is the practice's cardiology physician. She has helped open several outreach centers and also works at the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Brown Mills, N.J., where she also trains fellows.

**Harjiv Singh (B.S. '97, M.B.A. '02)** is an entrepreneur who came up with the

idea for *BrainGain Magazine*, an online publication for students in South Asia seeking educational opportunities abroad.

**Lior Barak (M.B.A. '99)** is the chief financial officer for Skybox Security in San Jose, Calif. Lior has more than 13 years of experience in the areas of global financial management, mergers and acquisitions, strategic planning, and business operations.

**Scott Burger (D.O. '99)** founded Doctors Express, the first national franchise for urgent care. He lives in Towson, Md., with his wife, Kathleen.

**Barbara Walters (M.P.S. '99)** is president of HR Advantage, a human resources firm based in Long Beach, N.Y. She has more than 20 years of experience in corporate human resources as it pertains to benefits, compliance, recruiting, training, and strategic plan-

ning. In addition, Barbara has served as president of the American Society for Training and Development and is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.

| 2000s |

**Joseph Lagano II (B.S. '00)** is a real estate executive at Jones Lang LaSalle in Melville, N.Y. He has more than eight years of experience in the field of commercial real estate and is a member of the Commercial Industrial Brokers Society and the March of Dimes.

**Maxwell Dutton (B.F.A. '01)** is an e-learning instructional designer at Barnes & Noble in the New York City area and an instructor of Flash software at Hofstra University on Long Island. He specializes in developing and inte-

grating Web 2.0 technologies.

Lawyer **Gary Marchalk (B.S. '01)** is running for an open Schuylkill County judge spot in Pennsylvania. The army veteran currently practices law in Tamaqua, Pa., and also operates a title insurance agency and accounting firm.

**Alexander Soto (B.S. '01)** is a technology instructor for Bronxworks, which helps families improve their health and social well-being in Bronx, N.Y., neighborhoods.

From the news desk of NYIT's *LI News Tonight* to the anchor desk of WSYR-TV NewsChannel 9 in Syracuse, N.Y., **James Gaddis (B.F.A. '02)** has covered news for TV stations throughout the United States.

A devoted Yankees and Jets fan, James is happy to add the Syracuse Orange to his list of favorite teams.

**Kyung-Hyan Angie Yoo (M.A. '02)** is an assistant professor at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J. She specializes in digital and integrated communications, social media, public relations, and research methodology.

**Khorsheida Begum Ali (D.O. '03)** has joined the Women's Health Center at Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris, N.Y., which offers gynecological exams, mammography, ultrasound, bone densitometry, and obstetrical care.

**Gregory Hernandez (B.F.A. '03)** is inventory and warehouse manager

for McHenry, Ill.-based Heartland Computers Inc.

**Krina Chavda (D.O. '04)** has joined Bay Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery's six-office practice in Florida. She is affiliated with the American Osteopathic Association, American Osteopathic College of Dermatology, and American College of Osteopathic Family Practice.

**Peter L. Gambacorta (D.O. '04)** is medical director of pediatric and adolescent sports medicine at the Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo (N.Y.) He is a member of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, the Arthroscopy Association of North



## THE RETURN OF ZEUS

Harlem Globetrotter Kirk "Zeus" Stewart (B.S. '08) returned to his alma mater at NYIT-Old Westbury on Feb. 17 to meet with students and faculty as well as perform a few tricks on the court. The following weekend, NYIT alumni, coaches, students, and staff got the chance to watch Kirk and his teammates face off against the Washington Generals at Nassau Coliseum on Feb. 20. For more about Kirk and his globetrotting career, check out the Winter 2011 issue of *NYIT Magazine* at [nyit.edu/magazine](http://nyit.edu/magazine). ■

# PATENTLY IMPRESSIVE

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

Just off exit 49 on the Long Island Expressway, nearly 20 NYIT graduates are designing the future.

Working at Melville, N.Y.-based Leviton, a global electrical and data systems manufacturer founded in 1906, they serve as part of an engineering legacy that is renowned for pioneering safe electrical products found in nearly every home and business. The company itself holds more than 600 patents for revolutionary designs such as the ground fault circuit interrupter and touch dimmer, with NYIT alumni responsible for approximately 100 of these innovations.

from creative people, many of whom are engineers. We encourage them to dream up new ideas and obtain patents. Many of those are engineers because of NYIT, and Leviton has always looked favorably upon engineers."

In addition to making hair dryers safer, Campolo chaired the technical committee for the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, which was responsible for introducing warning tags on extension cords (now one of the safety requirements for Underwriters Laboratories, a global product safety testing and certification organization).

Campolo's story is one of many at Leviton's headquarters. Marc Noest (B.S. '84), senior director of product management, holds seven patents in the areas of lighting and weatherproofing, including one of the first Energy Star products (a compact fluorescent ceiling lampholder) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

With 20 patents to his name, Senior Director of Engineering Alfred J. Lombardi (B.S. '87) recalls how his alma mater provided valuable career guidance. "NYIT prepared me by giving me practical knowledge of engineering and adjusting to the business world," he says.

Commodity Director Satya Bagchee (M.B.A. '83) agrees, noting how his NYIT professors provided a solid foundation of discipline and technical skills, including "marketing, identifying functions, and other business aspects," he says. "I did not have an understanding of this until I received direction when earning my M.B.A. degree."

Leviton and NYIT continue to work together training engineers and employing them to develop new and improved products, obtain patents, and blend electrical safety, energy savings, and technical excellence.

As Leviton's longest-serving NYIT alumnus, Senior Project Engineer Edward Krajci (B.S. '73) is proud of the electrical and engineering contributions Leviton and his fellow alumni have brought to the world.

"We have always been a family-oriented company and give people a feeling that they are part of a common goal," he says. His NYIT education, he adds, provided him with the engineering expertise to develop 10 patents for products that are still being sold today, such as incandescent and fluorescent dimmers as well as full-range motor speed controls for residential consumers and equipment manufacturers.

Krajci also credits NYIT with making his job interview with Leviton go smoothly. "I was sending out resumes after graduating from NYIT," he says. "I was interviewed by Leviton on Friday and started work the following Tuesday."

Check out [nyit.edu/magazine/leviton](http://nyit.edu/magazine/leviton) for more on Leviton's NYIT alumni achievements. ■



Leviton's NYIT alumni: Marc Noest (B.S. '84), Ed Krajci (B.S. '73), Satya Bagchee (M.B.A. '83), Al Lombardi (B.S. '87), Steve Campolo (B.T. '82), Parimal Patel (M.S. '05), Joseph DeConinck (B.S. '87), Paul Endres (B.S. '95), Rony Jacob (B.S. '10), Chris Spano (B.S. '08), George Hatzigeorgiadis (B.T. '02), Rodolfo DeMera (A.A.S. '91), Ben Moadel (B.T. '05), Paul Fischer (B.S. '04), and Paul Soccoli (B.S. '94).

Take Steve Campolo (B.T. '82), who holds 30 patents. One of his first projects in the 1980s was to help improve the design of a commonplace household fixture. "We were called upon by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission to find a way to make hair dryers safer because people were being electrocuted when the devices came in contact with water," says Campolo. The result was an immersion detector that would interrupt the flow of electricity in the hair dryer when submerged in water. For his efforts, Campolo and his team received the Green Cross of Safety Award from the National Safety Council, and company founder Harold Leviton received a personal letter of appreciation from the chair of the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.

"New products are the lifeblood of the company," says Campolo, quoting management's philosophy. "And it comes

# Tell Us a **STORY**

Share your news with alumni in *NYIT Magazine*!

Tell us about your engagement, marriage, children, career, hobbies, and other latest and greatest accomplishments.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ New address?  Yes  No

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Company address: \_\_\_\_\_

News you wish to share: \_\_\_\_\_



>> America, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery, and the American Osteopathic Association of Orthopedics.

**Paula Golding (M.S. '04)** has been recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who* for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in human resources. She serves as the human resources director at Proximo Spirits in Jersey City, N.J. Paula is also an active member of the Pelham Children's Center school board.

**Mark Harland (M.B.A. '04)** serves as marketing manager in Dallas for Chevrolet, where he spearheads the marketing and advertising budget for 14 states in the South.

**Keith Kazmark (M.S. '04)** was selected by the Passaic County Democratic Party to be its candidate for mayor of Woodland Park, N.J. Currently the borough clerk for neighboring Elmwood Park, he served as a town councilman for several years. Among Keith's platforms—which he's taking door to door during his campaign—are creating a special improvement district, increasing shared services, and ensuring tax dollars are spent wisely.

**Radu Apostol (D.O. '05)** has joined the women's health practice at United Community & Family Services, which has several locations throughout Connecticut.

**Anthony Marzuillo (A.O.S. '05, M.S. '08)** is co-owner of Soigne, an American gourmet restaurant in downtown New York City.

**Jitendra Mendiratta (M.B.A. '05)** is CEO and co-founder of the website TutorPundit.com, which provides one-on-one online help with homework, studying, and test preparation for students from kindergarten through high school.

**Artemio Perez (D.O. '05)** has joined the staff of Innovative Orthopedic & Spine Surgery, which has three locations in California. He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the California Academy of Family Physicians, the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society, and the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

**Tolga Tohumcu (M.S. '05)** is a virtualization solutions architect at International Integrated Solutions >>

Please send to: *NYIT Magazine*, New York Institute of Technology, Northern Boulevard, P.O. Box 8000, Old Westbury, NY 11568-8000, Attn: Michael Schiavetta. Email stories and photos to [mschiave@nyit.edu](mailto:mschiave@nyit.edu). Submissions will be edited for clarity and space. Photos should be 300 dpi in JPG or TIF format.

>> Ltd., a technology services company with offices in New York and Connecticut. In this position, he develops server technology strategies and solutions that improve the value of an organization's information technology infrastructure.

**Dana J. Hepler (B.Arch. '06, M.Arch. '07)** co-authored the book *Drafting & Design for Architecture and Construction*. He is an award-winning architect and principal at Hepler Associates, Architects, and Land Planners in Massapequa, N.Y., and an adjunct professor of architecture at NYIT-Old Westbury.

**Stephen Kidwell (M.B.A. '06)** is e-commerce practice director for Metrics Marketing Group, a marketing and interactive services firm based in Westlake, Ohio.

**Joelle Brito (B.F.A. '07)** is a senior designer for World Wrestling Entertainment in Stamford, Conn.

**Patricia Molina (B.F.A. '07)** is a public relations officer for National Income Life Insurance in Rochester, N.Y.

**Eileen Tam (B.F.A. '07)** is a production coordinator for Condé Nast in New York City.

**Seth Valentine (M.B.A. '07)** is program quality manager for North American small and mini cars at Chevrolet.

**Scott Fraleigh (B.S. '08)** is vice president of managed services for Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based Source Right Solutions.

**Allen Lew (B.S. '08)** is a desktop engineer for Omnicom Media in New York City.

### | Marriages |

**Michelle Corrado (B.S. '06)**

to Damien Lucchese

**Chris Ritchie (B.A. '05)** to

**Solimar Jasmin Caban (B.A. '06)**

**Melissa Dudas (D.O. '08)**

to Marc Kanter

### | Passings |

**Charles E. Urgovitch (A.A.S. '66)**

**Basil G. Desiderio (B.S. '69)**

**Kwan-Long Jakobsen (D.O. '93)**

**James Roland (B.S. '08)** is a personal banker for JPMorgan Chase in New York City.

**Sartaj Singh (B.Arch. '08)** is an associate architect for the New York City School Construction Authority.

**Harpreet Khurana (B.S. '09)** is pursuing a graduate degree in accounting at Baruch College in New York City. He has also launched a clothing company called Thread Cutz.

**Tasnim Mansur (B.F.A. '09)** and **Maria Filimon (B.S. '10)**, who wrote the play, *Sisters*, with NYIT English professor and playwright Adam Kraar, had their work published in Applause Books' *The Best American Short Plays 2008-2009*. The play explores the trials of two immigrant women who are making a new home in America while still connected to their cultural past.

**Kenny Yau (B.S. '09)** is a network analyst for the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

**Ayдах Albaba (B.F.A. '10)** is the executive assistant to artist and athlete J. Erving, son of basketball legend Julius "Dr. J" Erving. Ayдах works for Erving's company, 6 Sports, which provides professional athletes with branding, product development, and investment opportunities.

*LI News Tonight* veteran **Dana Arschin (M.A. '10)** recently landed a job as a freelance reporter for News 12 The Bronx.

**Chris Caputo (B.S. '10)** is the owner of MetroMediaWorks, which specializes in online marketing for businesses in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., area.

**Aileen Guo (B.P.S. '10)** is a guest service agent for the Waldorf-Astoria.

**Diane Wasilisian (B.S. '10)** is the founder and president of Designdotcom LLC, a progressive technology firm in Windham, N.H.

**Uzma Usmani (B.S. '10)** is pursuing her medical degree at Saba University School of Medicine in Devens, Mass.

**Mitchell Yass (D.P.T. '10)** has a new radio show, *Stop the Pain, I Want My Life Back*, airing on WBZT Talk Radio in the Palm Beach, Fla., area. He is also the author of *Overpower Pain: The Strength Training Program That Stops Pain Without Drugs or Surgery*. ■



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**Michael Spinelli (B.S. '87)**

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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