

NYIT MAGAZINE

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VOLUME 11 ■ NUMBER 1

A World to Design
Architects and Interior
Designers Craft Beauty
and Structure

**Entrepreneurs and
Enterprising Ideas**
How to Build a
21st-Century Business

KEEPING IT Together

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safeguards the most powerful
telecommunications hub on the planet

JEFF WEINER



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ENTERPRISING MOVES

NYIT alumni such as Jennifer Ulzheimer (M.B.A. '04) are adopting an entrepreneurial spirit as they apply their degrees to launch innovative business ventures.



Incubating the Future of Learning

MY WIFE AND I WERE FORTUNATE TO ATTEND VARIOUS EVENTS MARKING THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IN JANUARY. IT WAS A POWERFUL EXPERIENCE, AND REGARDLESS OF ONE'S POLITICAL PERSUASION, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO FEEL TREMENDOUS PRIDE IN AMERICA THAT DAY. ON INAUGURATION DAY, U.S. CITIZENS—AS WELL AS MANY PEOPLE AND NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD—CAME TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE THE LAUNCH OF A NEW PRESIDENTIAL TERM AS WELL AS TO CELEBRATE AND REAFFIRM LEADERSHIP.

A ceremony at which an established leader heralds a new beginning brings to mind NYIT's annual convocation, the traditional launch of our academic year, and the state-of-the-institution address I deliver to faculty and staff across our global campuses.

In my last address, I noted how some bright minds contend that the university as we know it today is an anachronism, dating from a time when information, knowledge, and even literacy itself were hard to obtain. Universities were founded on the idea that knowledge resided in books and the minds of great thinkers, and that the purpose of an educational institution was to connect students to those resources.

Today, scarcity of information is hardly an issue. In the decades since its development, the Internet has been adopted by roughly a third of the world, representing the fastest acceptance of new technology in history. But if education can largely be gathered online or via information sharing, I asked, "What is the role of the university?"

To be sure, NYIT and universities will be here for many lifetimes to come, but they will evolve. Institutions of higher learning perform the vitally important work of bringing knowledgeable and creative graduates into the workforce, but we must acknowledge and adapt to the ongoing paradigm shift in the educational process.

Research has shown repeatedly that certain practices improve motivation and learning: internships and clinical experiences; practicum; international exchanges;

and hands-on learning inside and outside of the classroom. We also must reach out to students across global borders; it is a practical extension of what students and societies already demand.

NYIT has differentiated itself by getting out in front of global education. By being entrepreneurial and forward-thinking, we have learned more than most of our peers over the past decade. NYIT continues to bring that accumulated knowledge and experience to each new opportunity, such as the dual-degree programs in engineering and management that we will deliver with Centro Universitário da FEI, a private nonprofit institution accredited by the Brazilian Ministry of Education.

In a knowledge-based economy, education is our greatest natural resource. As information sharing becomes more pervasive and the world shrinks, centers of higher learning assume roles that no government, K-12 education, industry, think tank, or even life experience can fill. We must become the unique idea incubators that enable students to fully engage and learn how to leverage new technologies as well as formulate timely solutions, approaches, and visions.

For our part, NYIT's colleges and schools continue to expand ways for disciplines to work together. This collaboration comes to life in many forms, such as NYIT graduate students undertaking research with faculty members to make breakthroughs in validating

identities in the cyber world. The College of Osteopathic Medicine encourages students to develop knowledge in addition to the standard medical curriculum, whether in business, information technology, or nutrition, to help apply it to specific areas of expertise—that is where the world is moving.

Like all good communities, our alumni, faculty, students, and others come together to reflect and reaffirm, to gain strength



CRAIG WALLACE DALE

from our shared purpose and common values, and to stimulate discourse and the exchange of ideas as we boldly forge ahead. I encourage you to share your personal stories and professional successes with *NYIT Magazine*. Our 95,000 graduates worldwide remain the best examples of how NYIT circulates knowledge and solutions worldwide. ■

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

Read President Guiliano's article published on the Huffington Post at nyit.edu/president.

"I wanted to give back."

Tony Epifane (B.S. '85, M.B.A. '09) knows a good idea when he sees one. And when he heard about NYIT's Alumni Mentor Program, he took the opportunity to contact the university's Office of Career Services and ask what he could do to help. As director of sales and applications engineering for Karl Storz Endoscopy, a major U.S. distributor of medical devices, he felt gratitude to NYIT for his own professional success, which spans nearly three decades.

The Office of Career Services connected him with biomedical majors Kavita Ramdeen and Shanice Doyle, both from Trinidad, who were looking for a mentor. Immediately, the trio bonded as Epifane took them on tours of New York City medical facilities, gave them valuable real-world insight, and answered questions they had about their education and future career planning.

"He is wonderful, so friendly," said Ramdeen, who is interested in pursuing a career in prosthetics. "It's mind-blowing when you find out what you can do with an NYIT degree. You can really do anything."

For Doyle, joining NYIT's Alumni Mentor Program was, in her words, the best decision she ever made. "The opportunities and experiences I have received have been priceless," she says. "Anytime I had questions, Tony would call or email back and talk about his contacts. From day one, he showed interest and made sure we got everything we possibly could out of the experience."



Tony Epifane (B.S. '85, M.B.A. '09) mentors NYIT students Kavita Ramdeen (left) and Shanice Doyle.

Mentor an NYIT Student

**Interested in participating?
Contact the Office of Career Services:
516.686.7527/212.261.1537 • nyit.edu/mentoring**

NYIT

HELLO, CLASS OF 2013!



Before an audience of 7,500 gathered at the Old Westbury campus, NYIT saluted 3,215 graduates of the Class of 2013 at its 52nd annual commencement on May 19. The university's latest alumni include degree holders from throughout the United States and more than 75 countries. Fifty-two percent of students earned undergraduate degrees; 48 percent earned graduate, medical, professional, or post-graduate degrees.

In his keynote speech, President Guiliano stressed that an investment in higher education leads to prosperity on many fronts, and emphasized the value of connectedness in the networked 21st century. "No one moves in a straight line in a network," he said. "You move from one node to the next. You turn corners and often find surprises. Wrong turns can lead to the right endings. The more connections you have, the more paths open up and the richer your life becomes. NYIT has given you a wealth of these connections."

Students from NYIT campuses in Old Westbury, Manhattan, Bahrain, Canada, China, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and online attended the ceremony, which was webcast live around the world.

Honorary degrees were conferred upon WNYW FOX 5 News Anchor Ernie Anastos; Otis Webb Brawley, M.D., the chief medical/scientific officer and executive vice president of the American Cancer Society and professor at Emory University; Peter A. Ferentinos, CEO of Qualco and the

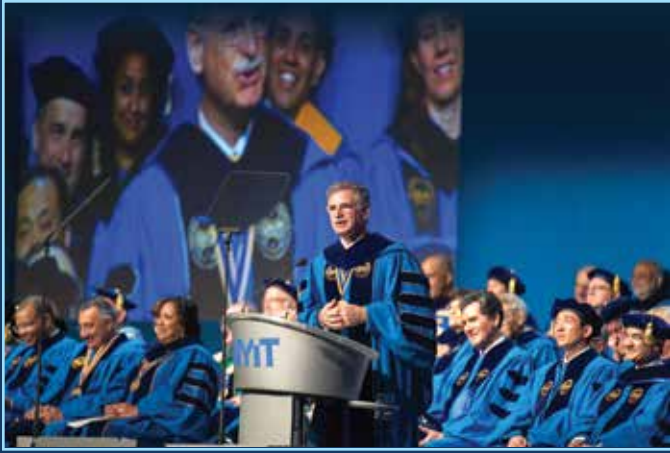
longest-standing member of NYIT's board of trustees; and Yang Zhen, Ph.D., president of an NYIT partner institution in China, Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, which has been instrumental in the success of the NYIT-Nanjing campus since it opened in 2007.

Thulani Ngazimbi (B.S. '11, M.S. '13), Class of 2013 student orator, urged his fellow graduates to "have the vision to see beyond what is right before you, and have the willingness to engage in what you see every day." Originally from Zimbabwe, Ngazimbi served as graduate director of the Community Service Center at NYIT-Old Westbury and was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers. He concluded by noting, "NYIT has helped us to think critically and to engage and learn. NYIT has helped us to view the world through eyes willing to accept difference and change."

Following the main commencement ceremony, students were individually recognized at ceremonies held by each of NYIT's schools and colleges. On May 20, 284 medical students were honored at the 32nd hooding ceremony of NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine. With the Class of 2013, NYIT's alumni network includes 95,000 graduates around the world.

Visit nyit.edu/commencement for additional photos, videos, President Guiliano's keynote address, and more. ■

Check out the next issue of NYIT Magazine for photos from our commencements in China, the Middle East, and Vancouver!



B15 Studios Launched to Serve Commercial Clients

NYIT's motion capture lab is about to capture something else ... business partners.

Housed inside the Midge Karr Fine Arts Center at NYIT-Old Westbury, the facility has been renamed B15 Studios

before," says Voci. "What's really special about our lab is not only the investment in our technology, but also the investment in people."

Those people include NYIT graduate students and alumni, who are eager to

interdisciplinary efforts and real-world outreach, including the crew module for NASA's next-generation space shuttle, a motorized walker for Parkinson's patients designed in conjunction with NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, a virtual reality training simulation for the Department of Homeland Security, and a series of training videos made with the NBA to teach children in China about basketball.

In addition, a group from the Discovery Channel's *Daily Planet* visited the studio in 2012 to film an in-depth segment on B15's work. Reporter Lucas Cochran and a Portuguese Water Dog named Ozzie donned spandex suits dotted with reflective markers and performed a series of exercises and movements to generate computerized images that could



Above: The staff at B15 Studios includes (from left): Peter Collazo (B.F.A. '12), Luis Mendez (B.F.A. '10), Director David Voci (B.F.A. '07), Bryan Martinez (B.F.A. '12), and Aziz Almahr (B.F.A. '11).

Right: Motion capture animation recorded by B15's 32-camera lab is rendered into a lifelike re-creation of NBA basketball players.



and is now available to provide services for animation studios, visual effects companies, video game developers, and other organizations.

Director David Voci (B.F.A. '07) leads the venture, overseeing a creative team that specializes in 3-D motion capture, modeling, animations, and environmental design. To "capture" and then animate the motions of actors dressed in special suits, the lab uses 32 cameras and 12 computers with 48 GB RAM each, as well as a "render farm" that includes more than 10 terabytes of storage.

"We've never done anything like this

begin their new commercial projects, including partnerships with government and corporate agencies, and offering professional certification in computer graphics.

"Everyone is so passionate," says environmental designer and student Bryan Martinez. "I have completely fallen in love with this place."

Since its launch in 2007 under the direction of Professor Peter Voci (M.F.A. '76), chair of the Department of Fine Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences, the motion capture lab has played a significant role in NYIT's

be converted into digital animations.

"As an institution with a strong emphasis on technology, NYIT has a tradition of incubating new ideas and transforming them into successful businesses," says Rahmat A. Shoureshi, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs. "B15 Studios is an example of this expansion and NYIT's movement in the direction of technology commercialization."

For more on NYIT's entrepreneurial ventures, see page 28. You can also follow @B15studios on Twitter to monitor their latest projects. ■



NYIT's new virtual tours give people worldwide the chance to visit the university's New York campuses.

Take a Walk on Campus, Virtually

Visiting NYIT's New York campuses has never been easier.

In April 2013, NYIT launched an interactive, virtual tour of its campuses in Manhattan and Old Westbury for students, families, and alumni to visit the university without ever stepping foot on campus. Visit nyit.edu/tour or [facebook.com/mynyt](https://www.facebook.com/mynyt) to begin your journey, or download the NYIT-Manhattan and NYIT-Old Westbury YouVisit mobile apps, which are available on the iTunes and Android app stores.

The virtual tours—led by an NYIT guide in English, Mandarin, and Spanish—feature audio, video, and 360-degree panoramic views. Users can jump from the Office of Career Services to the Academic Quad, or scroll around a panoramic view of the baseball diamond at President's Field. They can also explore the university's science labs, walk to Columbus Circle, stop by the residence halls, and check out the architecture studios.

"The virtual tours bring the experience of visiting NYIT to where our community already is—on their smartphones, Facebook, and the Internet," says Troy A. Miller, associate dean of admissions. He also encourages NYIT alumni to serve as ambassadors through the Office of Admissions during events and other recruitment initiatives. For more information, please nyit.edu/alumni/ambassadors or email alumniambassador@nyit.edu. ■

Trading Spaces

NYIT bring the real-world buzz of global finance onto its Manhattan campus with the introduction of a new classroom complete with tickers and boards summarizing current activity in financial markets around the world.

"The purpose of the trading floor room is to give School of Management students exposure to real-world databases and technology in a variety of business disciplines," says Steven Shapiro, Ph.D., professor of finance and director of NYIT's Center for Risk Management. "Students who master technology that is in the room will definitely have stronger resumés. Employers are looking for people who can demonstrate that they can adapt to the use of new technology."



A new classroom at NYIT-Manhattan offers students the latest tools in global finance.

A ticker that runs along the wall provides information on large-cap stocks and major indexes, and 30 work stations are equipped with financial databases, analytic software, and accounting software. An overflow room, equipped with a Bloomberg terminal, contains eight additional workstations and serves as a place where students can work independently when the main room is in use.

The new trading room serves as another example of NYIT's practice of integrating technology into its curriculum. "The redesigned undergraduate business and M.B.A. curricula were developed with master syllabi that incorporate the technology included in the room," adds Shapiro. ■

Professor Receives Grant to Research Digital Security



Assistant Professor Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong, Ph.D., has received a \$360,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to establish a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) site at NYIT to study the security of mobile devices and wireless networks. The award is the first NSF REU grant that NYIT has received and will last from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2016.

The new REU site at NYIT provides the opportunity for 10 undergraduates each summer to collaborate with NYIT faculty and graduate students in researching methods to secure smartphones and their networks. Undergraduates will participate in research on simulating mal-

ware spread; implementing authentication schemes; studying topology control of wireless networks to enable the transmission of data; identifying the geographic location of smartphones; detecting physical attacks on a network of smartphones; and developing privacy-protected medical sensing methods to enable mobile devices to collect information such as heart rate and body temperature while preserving privacy.

“Ultimately, we hope to raise awareness about the security of mobile devices, motivate students to pursue cyber security research careers, and gain a better understanding of how to protect information on mobile devices,” says Dong. ■

A Winning Idea for Endangered Animals

Adjunct Professor Lynn Rogoff, fellow professors, and students are harnessing the power of video games to teach children about saving endangered animals. Through a partnership with AMERIKIDS USA, a New York City-based media production company, they have created the GreenKids game, an interactive learning experience that gives players the chance to understand environmental science and how human interaction with ecosystems impacts animal populations worldwide.

Players begin by choosing a country and selecting the animal they wish to save. For instance, you can opt to save a panda in the mountains of China or a condor in California. “The reasons why the animals are endangered are first researched by players,” says Rogoff.

In the case of the panda, they learn about how logging and farming impact their habitat. For condors, they learn how power poles restrict their movements and that food laden with pesticides causes their eggs to grow too thin to hatch.

To give children a chance to make a virtual difference, Rogoff and her team include challenges and puzzles in which players have to reassemble a broken egg or find suitable terrain to plant the bamboo sheets that pandas eat.

In addition to the 2-D version of the game, which is playable



in beta stage at gkm.amerikids.com and features more than 36 different animals, the team is also working on another version that incorporates 3-D graphics and can be played on mobile devices. The game's target audience is families and children ages 9 and up.

The GreenKids Media project includes NYIT students and faculty from the departments of fine arts, computer science, business, and communication arts to design, program, market, and incorporate video and audio. Their efforts were recognized at last year's New York State Business Plan Competition in which GreenKids Media won the “People's Choice Award.”



From left: Linda Davila (B.S. '78), Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., and President Guiliano show off the new scrubs for the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine.

NYIT Renames Osteopathic Medical School

As blue draperies adorning the facade of Rockefeller Hall parted on Dec. 5, 2012, President Guiliano officially unveiled the university's new name for its medical school: the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"NYIT is privileged to be one of the few universities in the country with an osteopathic medical school, especially one so highly regarded for its continuum of medical education," Guiliano told a crowd gathered for the renaming ceremony. "And the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine is equally privileged to be part of a university with 'Technology' as its last name. More opportunities to offer a leading-edge, cross-disciplinary curriculum, a greater research capacity, greater visibility in the world at large, and access to more channels for enhanced partnerships and support are just a few of the mutual benefits. We all draw strength from each other in the NYIT community."

The name replaces the 36-year-old school's former identification as New

York College of Osteopathic Medicine, which was frequently shortened to NYCOM.

"We want to proudly and clearly spell out our full name as a College of Osteopathic Medicine," said Vice President for Medical Affairs and Health Sciences Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., who presented scrub tops with the new name to Guiliano and NYIT Board of Trustees Chair Linda Davila (B.S. '78).

Students gathered for a brunch before the ceremony and received their new scrub tops as well. In addition, clerks and residents received new patches for their white coats.

Ross-Lee praised the NYIT Board of Trustees for encouraging "collaboration and community" within the university, and noted that the medical school will maintain its leadership in interdisciplinary research and osteopathic medical education.

"Part of this future includes connecting more effectively with all of our alumni around the state, the country, and the world," Ross-Lee added. ■

IN BRIEF

NYIT WINS TOP RECOGNITION

NYIT students receive a top-tier education, according to *U.S. News and World Report's* 2013 "Best Colleges" edition. For the 15th consecutive year, NYIT is ranked a top regional university and, for the first time, is among the top 50 universities in the North. The distinction highlights NYIT's strengths in student selectivity, freshman retention rates, and graduation rates. The School of Engineering and Computing Sciences achieved a top ranking among engineering schools that offer bachelor's or master's degrees, while the School of Education was ranked among the best online education programs.

HEALTH CARE HEROES HONORED

NYIT's medical care centers and health care professionals have earned the title of "Health Care Heroes" from *Long Island Business News (LIBN)*: the Adele Smithers Parkinson's Disease Treatment Center at NYIT-Old Westbury was recognized for its comprehensive programs; *LIBN* lauded the university's Family Health Care Center in Central Islip, N.Y., in the community outreach category; Associate Professor William Werner, P.T., Ed.D., won a "Health Care Professional" award; and Assistant Professor William Blazey (D.O. '05) was named a "Physician Hero."

ENGINEERS ON THE RISE

New York State's Empire State Development Corp. has awarded NYIT \$250,000 to help reduce the shortage of engineers on Long Island. The School of Engineering and Computing Sciences was awarded funding for Project EngINE (Engineering: Increase Enrollments) through the Regional Economic Development Council established by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo. ■

International Expert Discusses Nuclear Energy



At the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway, Lady Barbara Judge, CBE, chairman of the Pension Protection Fund in the United Kingdom and chairman emeritus of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, shared insights on the potential of nuclear energy. As part of NYIT's 21st-Century Leaders Speaker Series, her presentation, "Nuclear Energy after Fukushima: Policies, Practices, and Problems," focused on her belief that the debate surrounding nuclear energy is more of a political issue than a safety issue.

"Nothing changed after Fukushima, statistically speaking," said Judge, who is also a member of NYIT's Board of Trustees and daughter of former NYIT Associate Dean of Students Marcia Singer. "Twenty-five thousand people died due to the tsunami and none due to nuclear issues." She went on to note that as the world's population continues to grow, countries will need to find new sources of power as they focus on energy security, energy independence, and climate change. "Nuclear energy addresses all three," she added.

The NYIT Auditorium on Broadway has played host to several events in 2013, including the Independent Spirit Film Award screenings as well as movie screenings that included actors Matt Damon (*Promised Land*), Emily Blunt (*Looper*), and Laura Linney and Bill Murray (*Hyde Park on Hudson*), and a Q&A with Ellen Burstyn. ■

NYIT trustee Lady Barbara Judge, CBE, visited NYIT's Auditorium on Broadway to discuss the global potential of nuclear energy.

Professor Stages Global Exhibition

When the fine arts exhibition, "Through My Window," returns to Europe this summer, the architecture, media production, and project management will be in the hands NYIT's own Charles Matz, assistant professor of interior design and architecture. The groundbreaking display of digital C-prints and watercolor photographs by the artist Ahae—who spent three years capturing nature from a single window in his atelier in South Korea—will open in conjunction with the Année le Nôtre celebrations from June 25 to Sept. 9 at the Orangerie in the Chateau de

Versailles, France. The event marks the 400th anniversary of the birth of Louis XIV's architect, landscape planner, and gardener, André Le Nôtre.

The exhibition debuted last summer at the Musée du Louvre, where Matz designed the 12,000-square-foot, four-story Bespoke Exhibition Pavilion as a haven for visitors to ponder Ahae's work in the Jardin des Tuileries. More than 60,000 people streamed through the skylit granite pavilion to see the first solo photography exhibition at the famed French museum.



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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Doctors from NYIT's Center for Global Health traveled to Montaña, Mexico, to assist the RFK Foundation as they helped to build a school in Buena Vista and offered medical services to local villagers.

NYIT Partners with RFK Foundation in Mexico

Doctors from NYIT's Center for Global Health joined the RFK Foundation in Mexico to assist with humanitarian activities, which included supporting Abel Barrera Hernández, founder of the Center for Human Rights of the Mountain of Tlachinollan in Guerrero, an organization that fights for the freedom of populations in the region of Montaña, Mexico.

"We were able to create a makeshift clinic at the community center in Tlapa conducting cursory physical screening exams," says Assistant Professor Deb Lardner, D.O. "There

are still many abuses toward indigenous groups as manifested here by the lack of educational opportunities."

In addition to their medical support, Lardner and Assistant Professor Mike Passafaro, D.O., of the Center for Global Health helped construct a school in nearby Buena Vista.

"When there is such a scarcity of medical expertise, any doctor who was able to spend a little extra time with them was greatly appreciated," adds Lardner.

For more on NYIT's Center for Global Health, visit nyit.edu/global_health. ■

Night of the Learning Dead

Zeeshan Shah has all the brains he needs. Together with students, faculty, and staff, the fine arts and computer graphics instructor is setting his sights on the release of *Dead Sands*, the fourth film produced, directed, and filmed by NYIT Film Projects at the Bahrain campus.

"Inspired by the films of George A. Romero, Sam Raimi, and other horror directors, *Dead Sands* aims to be a love letter to the horror films of yesteryear," says Shah. The film follows seven characters in the wake of a zombie outbreak in Bahrain. In addition to fending off bloodthirsty enemies, they must learn how to overcome their own differences.

Shah, founder of NYIT Film Projects, enlisted the help of Assistant Professor Dina Fakhrawi, who served as project chair, and students Ameera Qaed (director), Noor Al Ibrahim (co-producer), and Ahmed Zayani (writer and co-producer), as well as more than two dozen NYIT student actors and film crew members in addition to more than 100 extras who play zombies.

Dead Sands is scheduled for release this summer. DVD sales will benefit the Bahrain Red Crescent Society, a branch of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Follow their progress on deadsands.com and @DeadSandsFilm on Twitter. ■



BEARS COURT SUCCESS

It was a season to remember for NYIT women's basketball as the team finished with its best performance in the program's 30-year history, recording more than 20 wins and earning unprecedented recognition nationwide.

In their fourth season under Head Coach Anthony Crocitto, the Bears completed the regular season with a 23-6 overall record, including a 14-4 mark against conference rivals.

"We had a wonderful mix of veteran leadership and younger players," says Crocitto. "We have more depth, more weapons."

The Bears remained undefeated through late December, winning their first 10 games. During this best-ever start, the team defeated opponents by more than 20 points in six games.

The team scored another first for NYIT when the Women's Basketball Coaches Association recognized the Bears

in the weekly *USA Today* Sports Coaches Poll. By Feb. 19, the team had earned its highest ranking ever at No. 17.


"As a coach, I am flattered that we made it," says Crocitto after the Bears cracked the Top 25 on Feb. 5. "We appreciate the votes, and it is great to see our athletes get noticed. We need to continue on with the successes of this season."

That's exactly what the Bears did. After a hard-fought 68-58 loss to then-No. 24 Dowling, NYIT rebounded with seven straight wins to clinch the No. 2 seed in the East Coast Conference Basketball Tournament. The Bears also earned the program's first regional ranking, which translated to another program first: a trip to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Tournament. While the Bears fell in the first round to rival Dowling, they fought hard and rallied back from a 35-19 deficit to make

it a seven-point game at halftime, 35-28. However, the Golden Lions led the Bears in the second half to win 62-51.

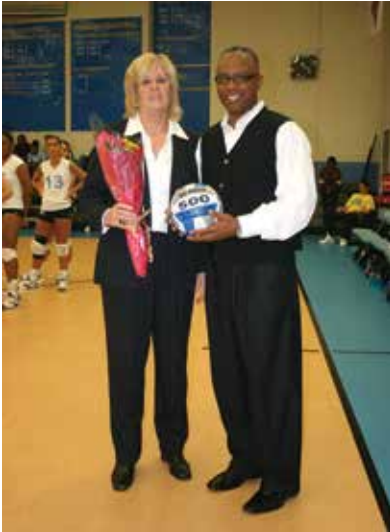
Juniors Demitra Apergis and Nikki Jo Rotolo were among the standout performers during the season. In a Feb. 13 victory over Bridgeport—the first time in team history the Bears swept the Purple Knights—Apergis reached 269 career assists to become NYIT's all-time assists leader in women's basketball. Rotolo broke her own record of assists in a single season (100 in 2011-2012), finishing with 126.

"This has been an amazing year," says Crocitto. Since he began his tenure as head coach, the team's record has consistently improved—from 4-23 in 2009-2010 to 8-18 in 2010-2011 to 16-13 in 2011-2012. "I am so proud of these student-athletes and this program. We have come so far with so much more room to grow." ■



Best ... start ... ever. The women's basketball team began with a 10-0 record, and continued to outplay their opponents throughout the season.

Wasmus Earns 500th Win



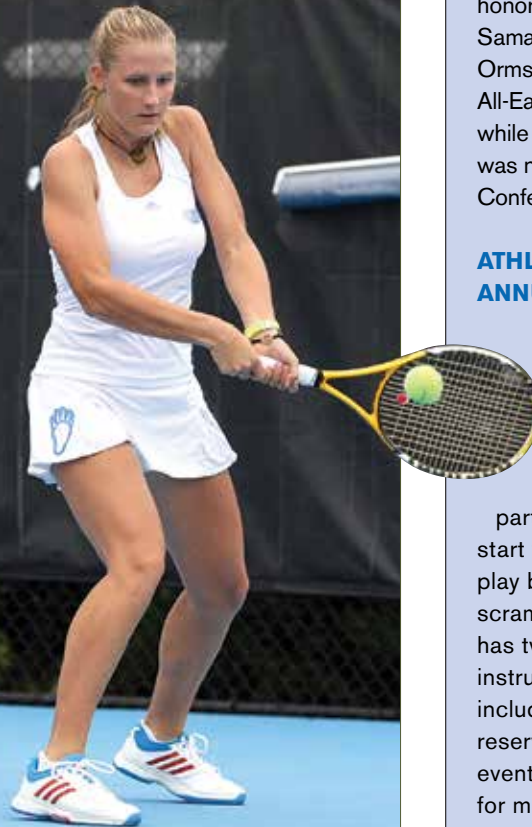
Following a win over Southern Connecticut State, Women's Volleyball Head Coach Gail Wasmus became the second NYIT coach in history to earn 500 wins. She follows former baseball coach Bob Hirschfield, who holds the all-time NYIT record with 668 wins. The volleyball team finished the season with a 22-10 overall mark and a 12-4 East Coast Conference record. The Bears earned the program's eighth bid to the NCAA Regional and, for the first time since 2004, advanced to the regional semifinal. ■

Clyde Doughty Jr. (B.S. '81, M.S. '96, M.P.S. '98), NYIT director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation, presents the honorary game ball to Wasmus to celebrate her 500th win.

Women's Tennis Nets First ECC Title

Graduate student Madalina Florea took home a three-set victory (3-6, 6-3, 6-2) to break a four-match tiebreaker and clinch NYIT's first East Coast Conference (ECC) Women's Tennis Championship against Queens College. Graduate student Nelly Ciolkowski earned ECC Player of the Year honors after going 15-0 in singles play and 14-0 in doubles action, making her the No. 1 player in the East Region and No. 10 in NCAA Division I play. Sophomore Sara Burinato joined her on the All-ECC First Team and is ranked second in the East Region and No. 43 nationwide. In addition, Head Coach Chris Frusci was named ECC Coach of the Year. The women's team is now ranked No. 15 nationwide in the NCAA Division II. ■

Nelly Ciolkowski earned ECC Player of the Year honors for the Bears after going 15-0 in singles play and 14-0 in doubles action.



LAX RETURNS TO NCAA TOURNEY WITH ALL-AMERICAN PLAY

The nationally-ranked NYIT lacrosse team made its return to the NCAA Division II Tournament in 2013 after a four-year hiatus. Unfortunately, the Bears' run was short-lived as they fell to the region's top-seeded Panthers of Adelphi in the opening round. NYIT finished the year 12-3 overall and 6-1 in the East Coast Conference (ECC). Sophomore Luke Miller was named ECC Offensive Player of the Year and junior Danny McDermott earned ECC Defensive Player of the Year honors. Both, along with sophomore Ryan Brunet, received USILA All-America accolades. Rounding out the top ECC honors were Goalkeeper of the Year Joe Fallon and Coach of the Year Bill Dunn.

SOFTBALL, BASEBALL RECEIVE ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS

The NYIT softball and baseball teams wrapped up their seasons with a total of three Bears earning all-conference honors in their respective leagues. Senior Samantha Gallagher and junior Monet Ormsby of softball were named to the All-East Coast Conference Second Team, while senior Ali Rodriguez of baseball was named to the All-Great West Conference First Team.

ATHLETICS TO HOST NINTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

NYIT will hold its ninth annual golf outing on Monday, Sept. 16, 2013 at the Cold Spring Country Club in Huntington, N.Y. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be included for participants. The day's festivities will start with registration at 10 a.m. and play beginning at noon in a shotgun scramble format. This year's outing has two new features: golf and tennis instruction. Cocktails and dinner are included. Space is still available to reserve your foursome or become an event sponsor. Visit nyit.edu/athletics for more information. ■



On the job at Gensler, Laura Zanghi (B.F.A. '11) applies a collaborative approach to designing office spaces for clients, a direct outcome of NYIT's studio culture.

A World to Design

By Rose Sumer and Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

When NYIT student Mike Tobin explores a famous architectural landmark, he remembers to put down the camera.

After landing in Paris as part of one of NYIT's architecture summer programs, he stood in front of several landmarks—the Eiffel Tower, Palais-Royal, the Arc De Triomphe—great works of architecture that he had studied and idolized for years.

But as he lifted his digital camera and looked through the lens, he stopped.

“I realized then that I had spent years looking at them on a computer screen,” says Tobin. “The designer’s idea behind these buildings was to create an experience. When you’re just looking through a camera lens, you’re not learning. I had to walk through these sites.”

It’s that awareness and appreciation that define many NYIT students who study architecture and interior design. Experiencing the works of great designers is just one piece of a curriculum rooted in the social, economic, political, and ecological aspects of their chosen professions. At NYIT’s School of Architecture and Design, studio courses modeled on building workshops introduce students from both disciplines to real-world design problems and embed a

global mindset in their approach to solving them.

Tobin’s five-week trip last summer included more than a dozen of his classmates and professors. They visited Paris, Marseille, Nice, Lyon, and even spent a couple of nights at Sainte Marie de La Tourette monastery. They analyzed the urban fabric of Paris, including its history and architectural development, spanning the third century to the modern era, and kept sketch journals as they explored several monuments to understand their physical topography.



A visit to the Eiffel Tower was one of the highlights of NYIT's summer 2012 program in France for architecture students.

Like their architecture counterparts, interior design students, too, have embarked on trips to historic locales, including Paris, Venice, and London, where they toured Sotheby's to see how antique collections are assembled and sold. They also traveled to Italy with faculty members in April 2012 for the Milan Furniture Fair. There, NYIT was one of only two U.S. universities invited to display work at the SaloneSatellite exhibition, the premier event for emerging designers. Though still in its early planning stages, an exchange program for interior design students with the Musée du Louvre in France is in the works.

Associate Professor David Diamond, who has directed several travel programs for NYIT architecture students in Europe, notes that this type of experiential education, gained through direct experience with architectural artifacts, offers unique value to students. "You can show them an image of a building in a slide or a textbook, and they may or may not remember it, but when they visit it in person, the lesson becomes indelible."

Entwined Professions

For many people, architectural images are synonymous with names like Frank Lloyd Wright and his iconic buildings, including a spiral-shaped design for the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, or the Adrian Smith-designed 2,723-foot Burj Khalifa in Abu Dhabi, the world's tallest building (and scaled by Tom Cruise in *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*).

These powerful reminders of how the human imagination captures beauty in form and structure are only the surface of deeper reasons for how and why spaces are made. NYIT architects and interior designers are attuned to the aesthetic value of a space as much as to understanding how it fits within a community and fosters interaction among people inside and outside of its walls.

"Architecture is something everyone has an investment in," says Nader Vossoughian, Ph.D., associate professor of architecture.

Students learn this quickly in the NYIT international design-build studios known as "sLABs," short for Student-Led Architecture Build initiatives. They spend a semester on a project that brings them in contact with community stakeholders such as government officials, business leaders, and nonprofit organizers. The first university-wide interdisciplinary sLAB project challenged students to design a solar-powered house with fuel cells. It was an entrant in the 2005 Solar Decathlon and is now displayed on the grounds of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

Studio culture is equally vital to the education of NYIT interior design students who might spend months on a corporate design assignment.

"Interior design deals with things closest to the human body," says Diamond. "Architecture mediates between this most intimate scale of habitation and the

larger world. Interior design nests within architecture, as architecture nests within urban design."

Though they are separate, the commonalities between each discipline are explored early in the curriculum. The basic skills for both majors are taught in a five-course sequence that focuses on design fundamentals, two- and three-dimensional problems, visualization courses that use AutoCAD software as well as manual drawing and model building, and architectural history and theory.

Vossoughian's course on critical perspectives in architecture is shared by architecture and interior design students. He is also the author of the book, *Otto Neurath: The Language of the Global Polis*, written with the support of NYIT Institutional Support for Research and Creativity (ISRC) grants.

"My research into Neurath looks at architecture in conversation with politics," says Vossoughian. Neurath [1882-1945], an Austrian sociologist, pioneered a participatory language of urban planning by developing universal graphic symbols used on everything from restroom doors to airport signs. "He believed the design of a city is inseparably linked to the design of citizenship and asked, 'How does a city engage the population it serves?'"

Building the Future

As populations boom in developing nations, policy makers are turning to architects and interior designers to answer Neurath's question in the context of 21st-century challenges. Among the most pressing issues are carving spaces in dense urban areas, rethinking fragile waterfront communities at risk of infrastructure damage due to hurricanes and other extreme weather, and planning cities that give residents opportunities for social engagement and pleasure.

"There's an enormous need for expertise in the design of cities and urban form," says Jeffrey Raven, associate professor and director of the NYIT Master of Architecture in Urban and Regional Design. "The U.S. government and industry leaders are trying to push forward climate- and energy-efficient communities. Newly emerging federal policy could drive a paradigm shift."

NYIT's SodaBIB project offers a solution for sustainable communities,



Mike Tobin had the experience of a lifetime studying famous landmarks in Paris on an NYIT summer immersion program for architecture students.

CHRISTOPHER SEMETIS



OUT OF INDIA

From June 7 to July 10, 2012, Assistant Professor Farzana Gandhi led eight architecture students through various cities in India, including New Delhi, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai. The first weeks involved sketching structures, including the Taj Mahal. During the final weeks in Mumbai, the students had the opportunity to explore their design concepts in a studio workshop at the Sir J.J. College of Architecture. They were joined by the dean of the School of Architecture and Design, Judith DiMaio, for their final presentation.

The scope of the India excursion had two key goals, notes Gandhi. "India is a hotspot and is experiencing a building boom," she says. "There is an incredible amount of building and development in the outskirts of major cities that is in desperate need of critical analysis. The autonomous residential super-blocks are devoid of the socially and environmentally sustain-

able forms of living specific to local conditions. The premise of the students' trip was to study modernist and traditional architecture and come up with new ideas for low-rise/high-density housing."

"The biggest benefit for me was learning about different cultures, talking to the people, and getting a sense of where the country is going," says student Alexander MacVicar. The India experience, he notes, made him look at his NYIT classes in a new light. "India has much more history than we do in the United States," he adds. "Their tradition in architecture and construction plays a larger role."

"It was an amazing experience," says student Almir Abdulovski. "Seeing people in India live their everyday lives really opens your eyes. It affects how you view design. If you don't apply the principles you see, your designs won't work."

thanks to the work of students and architecture professors Jason Van Nest, Michele Bertomen, and Farzana Gandhi. They have created a technique to use plastic water bottles to form the shingles of a roof for shelters in disaster-stricken or developing nations (see page 30).

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in October 2012, the second-costliest storm

in U.S. history, NYIT architecture and interior design students began Operation Resilient Long Island (ORLI), a grassroots committee working on design strategies to aid the recovering Northeast region. In March, they launched the 3C: Comprehensive Coastal Communities competition. *Newsday*, a Long Island newspaper, has named @NYITORLI

"One to Watch on Twitter." Their latest updates are found at 3ccompetition.org.

In Nosara, Costa Rica, a team of NYIT students led by Tobias Holler, assistant professor of architecture, is building a recycling and education center made of recycled wood. Since its inception, this sLAB project has raised more than \$30,000 on Kickstarter.com.

Holler and Matthias Altwicker, associate professor of architecture, are also designing a cost-effective prototype of a single-family house for the town of Babylon, N.Y. It will be the first house on Long Island that meets the German Passivhaus energy efficiency standard, the most stringent in the world.

“A holistic approach is essential for urban design to look at natural and manmade spaces, as well as economic and social factors, as part of a complex urban ecology,” says Giovanni Santamaria, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of architecture, who teaches NYIT’s design studios. He guides students on how to investigate and critically design spaces as systems that integrate several dimensional scales as well as teaches them landscape to building issues while using digital mapping and design programs.

“There are new ways of mapping natural and social phenomena, and proactively integrating these into the evolution of a design,” Santamaria says. “Students learn to think about how to analyze a floating process or the reaction of a building to an environmental disaster.”

Architects and interior designers have a number of efficient, cost-saving technologies at their disposal to respond

to the growth in urban design. AutoCAD is one such computer software program for designing accurate building models. BIM (Building Information Modeling) is another that serves as a collaborative tool for working on digital drawings of the physical and functional aspects of a space. The making of a building typically involves a multi-faceted team of architects, interior designers, engineers, and construction builders; BIM enables them to work together simultaneously on the same design drawings.

“It’s key to use technology that is both sophisticated and sustainable,” Santamaria adds.

During the fall 2012 semester, he and Adjunct Professor Janet Fink worked with NYIT students to redesign a boxing gym in Freeport, N.Y. They created a proposal that included sustainable elements such as daylighting, radiant heating, solar thermal water heating, permeable paving, and recycled materials as well as outdoor gardens and a nutrition education lab.

“My goal in class is to keep the energy alive in terms of critically thinking and experimenting,” Santamaria says. “This can be hard to do in the real world when you work on a deadline.”

Interior Focus

When pharmaceutical clients call upon Laura Zanghi (B.F.A. ’11) to design office spaces that promote collaboration, she sketches ideas using AutoCAD skills developed in NYIT studios shared by architecture and interior design students.

“The work space is going more toward open plan and no more offices or cubicles,” says Zanghi, an interior designer for Morristown, N.J.-based Gensler, where she works with three other NYIT alumni. “Our clients want spaces filled with natural daylight

Jeffrey Raven, associate professor of architecture, foresees a growing demand for architects specializing in urban planning and design.



JEFF WEINER

Giovanni Santamaria, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of architecture, teaches NYIT students to consider the economic, financial, and social aspects of designing for a community.

where people feel comfortable.”

At NYIT, Zanghi was the recipient of a scholarship from the Friends of NYIT’s School of Architecture and Design, a group of alumni that offers financial support to outstanding students. She spent much time in the wood shop studio, where students pooled creative inspiration.

“We learned laser cutting and how to build models using different materials in the wood shop,” she says. “When I was doing work in there, sometimes an architecture student would see what I was doing and offer an opinion.”

Imbuing interior design students with problem-solving skills and sensitivity to clients is a recurring thread of the program. During the fall 2012 semester, an interdisciplinary group developed proposals to help elderly residents feel comfortable and safe in their homes. The project was funded by a \$6,000 NYIT ISRC grant and entailed interviewing residents and using their feedback to suggest new design elements. Their ideas included kitchen cabinets that can be raised and lowered, safety devices,



JEFF WEINER

and modified home layouts to offer easy access and mobility.

“There is a professional responsibility for interior designers,” says Martha Siegel, associate professor and chair of the Department of Interior Design. “They are accountable for the health, safety, and welfare of occupants. If they are specifying a finish to go into a doctor’s office, for example, interior designers must ensure it meets fire safety regulations. You can’t just put up pretty wallpaper.”

A Model Career

Inside his studio, Gary Lawrance (B.Arch. '82) keeps an array of tools within arm’s reach: paper, mat board, cork, foam, X-Acto knives, metal rulers and T-squares, Elmer’s glue, and paint. He uses them to craft architectural models in much the same way he did more than 30 years ago at NYIT.

“In those days, every design course required us to make paper models for presentations,” says Lawrance, whose latest creations depict stone facades, latticed pavilions, columned porches, and landscaped gardens. They can scale up to a couple of feet in width and height, selling anywhere from \$2,000 to \$20,000 depending on the level of detail.



Gary Lawrance (B.Arch. '82) is pictured with a model that he made for a residential home designed by architect John Laffey (B.S. '89).

Ninety-percent of the business of Lawrance Architectural Presentations in Stony Brook, N.Y., is designs of residential

DESIGNING WOMAN

Johanna (Han) Schroder [1918-1992] had smashed the glass ceiling before the term made its way into public discourse. The founder and intellectual force behind NYIT’s interior design program was one of two independent female architects among nearly 3,000 registered male architects in the Netherlands in 1954.

Schroder grew up in what is now a historical site and museum, the Rietveld Schroder House, in Utrecht. In 1924, when it was built on the fringe of a grass field, it was a model for the active lifestyle desired by Schroder’s mother, Truus, who collaborated on the bi-level structure with architect Gerrit Rietveld, a member of the artistic movement De Stijl (Dutch for “The Style”).

The house symbolizes the movement’s utopian ideals of spiritual harmony and order. It is an open-plan space with floor-to-ceiling windows and walls meant to slide out by day and divide rooms at night. Its design diverged from the European homes of the early 20th century that featured narrow hallways and compartment-like rooms. Schroder’s living space was malleable, offering her widowed mother the flexibility and independence to raise and educate her children.

“An interior should allow for behavior of various kinds,” noted Schroder in her personal writings. “The strength and beauty of this background will affect the user and gradually make him see, think, and behave differently.”

Schroder would apply this philosophy to a teaching career in the United States, drawn by a restless urge to start over and a curiosity for American life. After a stint for an architect in Los Angeles, she sought academic positions on the East Coast. She taught at NYIT from 1967 to 1979 and overhauled the interior design curriculum to compete with New York’s best design schools.

“She was a gifted individual, so enthusiastic in both her classes and work,” says Janet DeCecilia (B.F.A. '70), who studied with Schroder at NYIT and later served as coordinator of the department when her mentor left to teach at Virginia Commonwealth University.

“Han grew up in an experiment, and it influenced her whole life,” says Martha Siegel, chair of the Department of Interior Design. “She shaped NYIT’s program to train students to think of an interior environment as a 3-D space that is transformable and relates to other spaces.”



The Rietveld Schroder House in Utrecht, Netherlands, helped to shape the ideals of Johanna (Han) Schroder, founder of NYIT’s interior design program.

homes, but his first model to attract attention was a master plan for a City University of New York campus. Michael Spector, a prominent architect, happened to be giving a lecture at NYIT’s Old Westbury campus in the late 1970s, when he glimpsed the precision and craftsmanship of Lawrance’s model on display and offered him an internship.

“Architecture requires you to be good in math and design,” says Lawrance. “It’s like two different sides of a person in one. You

have to be both an artist and engineer.”

Lawrance has parlayed yet another interest nurtured at NYIT into a side career—architectural history. His bachelor’s thesis was “Long Island’s Gold Coast of the Gatsby Era.” He writes two blogs: “Mansions of the Gilded Age” and “Houses of the Hamptons,” and is the co-author of *Houses of the Hamptons, 1880-1930*.

“To succeed in this field, architecture has got to be your passion,” adds Lawrance. “It’s a labor of love.” ■

NYIT FACULTY AND STUDENTS
EMBRACE A MULTIDISCIPLINARY
MINDSET AMID A GROWING
CULTURE OF SCHOLARSHIP AND
GRANT SUPPORT

RESEARCH GRANTED



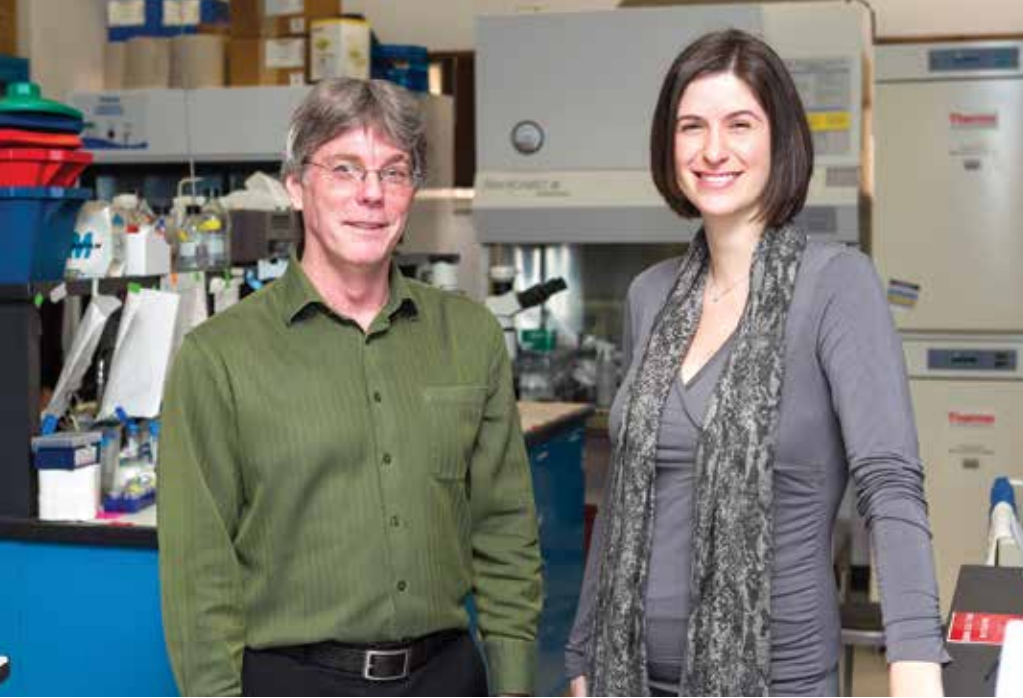
BY ELAINE IANDOLI

AS HE SCANS TWIN WIDESCREEN monitors in his computer lab at NYIT-Old Westbury, Kiran Balagani's eyes dart back and forth between lines of data. Floating among the ocean of information is something that Balagani believes can help researchers develop new ways to thwart cyber attacks.

The numbers on the monitors represent the unique typing patterns of hundreds of computer users. Balagani, who holds a doctorate in computational analysis and is an assistant professor in the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, generated the evaluation results by developing complex algorithms that transform users' typing speeds, rhythms, and keystroke pauses into numerical values. With further deciphering and analysis, he and his team hope that their research, made possible by a \$494,000 grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), can add a new layer of protection for computer users beyond the typical—and often predictable—passwords they create.

“We’re organizing and extracting behavioral features to determine whether they authenticate someone’s identification,” says Balagani, who is leading a team of NYIT graduate students and colleagues from two other universities. “We’re using the natural patterns to authenticate people. That’s the key.”

Balagani’s work, important to the growing body of cyber security studies, is also part of NYIT’s increased focus on research and scholarship activities. Fueled in part by external funding and faculty committed to deeper inquiry, NYIT’s research activity and grant awards are at their highest levels in the institution’s 58-year history. In the most recent fiscal year, NYIT received 20 grant awards totaling \$5.5 million, an 18 percent increase from 2011 and more than double the amount awarded in 2010. Much of this growth mirrors grant submission efforts; faculty and staff submitted 67 proposals for external funding during the last fiscal year, an increase of 20 percent from the previous year.



Kurt Amsler, Ph.D., associate dean of research for the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and **Lisa Runco, Ph.D.,** assistant professor of life sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, work together to offer NYIT students more research opportunities.

Balagani's grant for cyber security studies was the largest research award in 2012, followed by a \$486,000 grant for kidney research from the National Institutes of Health to Associate Dean of Research Kurt Amsler, Ph.D., in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. NYIT also received grants from the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the U.S. State Department, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, which has awarded multiyear seven-figure grants to the School of Health Professions and the College of Osteopathic Medicine in past years, awarded \$500,000 to the Department of Nursing in 2012 to create a curriculum focused on educating health professionals in geriatric care.

In the first six months of the current academic year, NYIT submitted more than 50 grant proposals, and administrators expect the number to climb as more faculty members explore external funding opportunities to support their work. The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently approved a three-year grant for \$360,000 to Ziqian Dong, Ph.D., of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, which will help NYIT establish a Research Experience for Undergraduates site in Manhattan to study the security of mobile devices and wireless networks (see page 10).

"It's more mission-driven now, and

all of NYIT's schools are engaged in research activities and seeking outside funding sources," says Carlton Mitchell, director of grants management. "Grants are seed money to grow ideas."

One novel project funded by a recent grant is the robotics and ethics research conducted by Associate Professor Kevin LaGrandeur, Ph.D. His studies, supported by a \$25,000 grant from the European Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, will explore whether human traits, such as benevolence or empathy, can be replicated in machines.

At NYIT-Nanjing's Center for Humanities and Culture, students and professors are using a \$25,000 U.S. State Department grant to produce public service announcements on intellectual property rights. Their initiative addresses film piracy and includes a contest for students to showcase their anti-piracy video messages.

"It is exciting for us to be at the center of creativity and discussion around such

Michael Hadjiargyrou, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Life Sciences, believes research is the key to a thriving university.



an important topic," says Monique Taylor, Ph.D., NYIT-Nanjing dean and executive director.

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP

The university's enthusiasm for research is most visible at the annual Faculty Scholars Reception. Observers of the springtime event at NYIT de Seversky Mansion agree that attendance and accolades have risen considerably in the past decade. Scores of attendees mingle and wander through the Gold Coast mansion to examine displays of colleagues' academic posters, books, awards, and abstract descriptions.

"At NYIT, we promote the concept of the teacher-scholar, that you have to be a great teacher, and a top-quality scholar," says Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rahmat A. Shoureshi, Ph.D., whose commitment to research, interdisciplinary projects, and grant proposals to support them have helped transform the university's faculty scholarship. "By doing research, you're able to provide a more contemporary quality of education that your students need."

The heightened institution-wide activity benefits faculty and students, leading to what many agree is a more dynamic educational environment.

CHRISTOPHER SEMETIS

CHRISTOPHER SEMETIS

“Actively participating in research provides a sense of excitement and inspirational energy, creativity, and critical thinking,” says Assistant Professor Ana Petrovic, Ph.D., who is studying molecular forms and structures. “I always tell my students that it is important to learn about an already established paradigm of knowledge, but it is even more relevant to engage in research where you are uncovering new knowledge. It is the new knowledge base that we are developing with research, and that is exciting.”

Associate Professor of English Daniel Quigley, Ph.D., says NYIT professors embrace their responsibility to stay current on ideas and thought. New professors and seasoned faculty members are excited about exploring research prospects and opportunities. Their efforts, he adds, “expand the scope of what students are exposed to” when new information or perspectives influence curriculum changes or receive well-deserved attention in the classroom.

“We are looking at how to create leaders, how to create strategic plans, how to motivate employers, how to improve innovation, create more efficient designs, and deal with people better,” adds School of Management Assistant Professor Mohammad Ali, Ph.D. “All the research that management scholars do is very easily translated when they teach inside the classroom.”

NYIT students from campuses worldwide have their own version of the Faculty Scholars Reception, showcasing their research each spring at the Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression, or SOURCE. Other students, such as those from the School of Health Professions and College of Osteopathic Medicine, regularly collaborate with faculty on papers that are accepted for publication in academic journals, including the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants* and the *Journal of Primary Care and Community Health*. School of Architecture and Design students conduct fieldwork for projects, including their recent construction of a recycling center in Costa Rica and designs for community planning in New York City neighborhoods. Their counterparts from the School of Management conduct in-depth studies as part of business plan competitions.

The growth in research and published studies by faculty and students often

GETTING TO THE CORE OF THINGS

Call it a scientific model for future success.

NYIT’s Advanced Research Core, launched in fall 2012, bridges research activities by matching students in NYIT’s College of Arts and Sciences with researchers in the university’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. In its inaugural semester, 20 students enrolled in the program, quickly discovering elements that transcended pure scientific inquiry.

“In the beginning, I thought, ‘I can’t do that,’ ” says Nancy Singh, a biology major in the program launched by Associate Dean of Research Kurt Amsler, Ph.D., of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Assistant Professor Lisa Runco, Ph.D., of the College of Arts and Sciences.



CHRISTOPHER SEMETIS

NYIT student Nancy Singh is majoring in biology and gaining lab experience as part of the college’s Advanced Research Core.

After working in Amsler’s lab, however, Singh’s confidence and passion grew as she analyzed the effects of chemical processes on kidney function. Her experiments revealed that certain concentrations of hydrogen and peroxide lead to the activation of proteins that contribute to renal failure. Stopping the activation process may yield clues on how to protect against kidney failure. The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

“It’s a good feeling that I’m able to be a part of this research,” says Singh, who plans to attend medical school after earning her NYIT degree.

Eugene Bogatyryov and two other undergraduate students worked with Assistant Professor Eduard Dedkov, Ph.D., of the College of Osteopathic Medicine to study the effects of a particular drug on scar tissue after a heart attack. As part of the research, Bogatyryov sliced thin layers of cardiac scar tissue, analyzed its components, and performed statistical analyses.

Both Singh and Bogatyryov were among several NYIT presenters at the Experimental Biology 2012 conference in Boston, an annual meeting of 14,000 scientists and exhibitors spanning the fields of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, nutrition, and pharmacology.

“At first, I got involved with the program out of curiosity,” Bogatyryov says. “Now I really like the process and I find joy whenever I discover the answer to the questions set in the beginning.”

provides the extra boost that helps new grant applications succeed. The effect can be transformational for a university, leading to more studies and driving a cycle of improvements in financial health, student learning opportunities, academic quality, and faculty and student recruitment.

“When a grant is awarded, we increase research activity and student training,” says Michael Hadjiargyrou, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Life Sciences. “Clearly, there is additional revenue and we enhance NYIT’s reputation.”

In some cases, research may also lead to

income students. Silverman and his group recently received a \$750,000 five-year award to work on a U.S. Department of Education initiative aimed at helping states improve student achievement. In recent months, Verizon awarded a grant to TBLS for efforts to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) initiatives at Long Island’s Cradle of Aviation Museum. Google and Intel have also provided grants to TBLS.

“What I’m seeing is that all NYIT faculty members are involved in the pursuit of grant activity,” says Silverman. “The transforma-

“We plan on expanding our offerings, giving students an experiential education, bringing employers to the classroom, and making our students more marketable and employable,” says Anid. “This space is going to be more like a technology solutions center where students will be building their prototypes and coming up with new apps, software, and devices. We’ll become a place that the wider community will seek for high-tech talent and expertise.”

The center will focus on information technology and cyber security, energy and green technologies, and bioengineering and health technology. Lab workstations will be equipped with energy telemetry equipment, and testing areas will be stocked with oscilloscopes and capable of microcontroller programming.

Shoureshi’s neuro-cognitive research, initiated while he worked at University of Denver and now continued at NYIT, found a new home at the Intelligent Systems Lab in the ETIC. Funded in part by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and DARPA, Shoureshi and a team of students are exploring the human brain’s ability to make decisions while analyzing large amounts of sensory information with complex uncertainties.

“We are investigating future aircrafts with high levels of intelligence that can compensate for any unexpected events and continue flying,” says Shoureshi. “The more we understand how the human brain functions, the better we will be at designing engineering systems.”

In nearby Theobald Hall at NYIT–Old Westbury, a new laboratory will serve faculty and student researchers from the Department of Life Sciences. Hadjiargyrou says the lab is essential as faculty members will be able to conduct research, train students, publish results, and apply for more grants.

Amsler says that within the next decade, he’d like to see NYIT’s medical school obtain up to \$10 million each year in research funding.

“It’s a matter of promoting our credibility and building research programs,” he says. “All of that takes time.”

REACHING ACROSS ACADEMIC AISLES

NYIT’s internal grant program, which the university awards for faculty projects, is



Kiran Balagani, Ph.D. (left), assistant professor of computer science, is the recipient of a grant from DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

new business opportunities, including commercialization, partnerships, and patents.

“We’re trying to build that foundation and experience to leverage, promote, and grow the college’s efforts,” says Director of Business Development Greg Banhazl, who is investigating the potential commercialization of Associate Professor Claude Gagna’s DNA work (see sidebar on page 27).

In the case of NYIT’s Technology Based–Learning Systems (TBLS), millions of dollars in grant funds have helped develop and support education initiatives throughout New York state.

“Everything we do is focused on changing teacher practices and impacting student achievement with the goal of making every student ready for college and a career,” says TBLS Director Stan Silverman.

The program has used public and private grants to integrate technology into K–12 classrooms and assist low-

tion within the institution is beginning to move from an aspiration to a reality.”

RESEARCH LABS ON THE HORIZON

Much of Balagani’s cyber security work takes place in a small room in a quiet first-floor wing of Harry Schure Hall on NYIT’s Old Westbury campus. By early 2014, the corridor will have a suite of new labs known as the ETIC, or Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center, thanks to a \$400,000 state economic development grant.

Once operational, School of Engineering and Computing Sciences Dean Nada Anid, Ph.D., envisions a bustling space where faculty, students, and industry professionals develop and test new products together, generate ideas, and forge entrepreneurial partnerships that support regional economic growth.

also playing a role in supporting research. Since his arrival in 2011, Shoureshi has emphasized the need for more interdisciplinary collaboration in an effort to break the “academic silos” often prevalent in higher education. As a result, faculty members have connected with colleagues in different schools to combine their research approaches and expertise.

Carol Dahir, Ed.D., chair of the School of Education’s masters-level program in school counseling, collaborated on a research study with her colleague, Kate O’Hara, Ph.D., assistant professor of instructional technology, and Youjeong Kim, Ph.D., an assistant professor from the College of Arts and Sciences. The project, funded with a 2012 internal grant, is exploring the use of avatars to combat bullying in elementary, middle, and high schools. The research includes work provided by NYIT students in the school counseling and instructional technology programs.

“We’re looking at alternative methods of getting kids to talk about bullying prevention,” says Dahir. “Right now, we’re testing whether this technology works and how it is going to help kids problem-solve with their virtual selves if they are insecure about other students’ reactions.”

As part of the project, graduate students from the School of Education worked with teachers and counselors at Long Island and New York City schools, instructing them on a web-based platform that allows students to create avatars and bullying scenarios.

AN ARRAY OF POSSIBILITIES

Finding the cure for a disease resembles the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack. But Associate Professor Claude Gagna, Ph.D., may know the secret to helping scientists illuminate their search.

For 25 years, Gagna has studied DNA, hereditary material contained in living cells. He holds U.S. and Japanese patents for a technique to immobilize intact DNA molecules on a single slide known as a microarray. He believes the application of the technique could make it easier for scientists to search for cures to diseases and may help accelerate basic biomedical research.

“Microarrays have revolutionized the way scientists can do research,” says Gagna, whose desk displays models of DNA’s ladder-shaped double helix. “You can study 150,000 genes on one slide at a time.”

Conventional microarrays, however, are limited because they do not include many variations of DNA. Gagna’s bonding technique immobilizes conventional and “exotic” forms, including triple- and four-stranded DNA, “cruciform” DNA, and a left-winding helical form known as Z-DNA. He hopes to commercialize his patent and outsource mass production of the microarrays so they are readily available to scientists who are testing drugs and studying DNA structure and function.

“These are the next generation of DNA microarrays,” says Gagna. “The big advantage is that they more closely duplicate the natural structure of non-denatured DNA as it exists in living cells.”

He also welcomes NYIT students into his research projects, which currently include explorations of DNA in normal and cataract eye tissue as well as alternative types of DNA that may be connected with human melanoma. Gagna believes these studies can yield more accurate targets for drug treatments.

“The more approaches a scientist has to look at potential new drugs, the better it is,” he says. “One day, we will help pharmaceutical companies develop personalized drugs.”



Carol Dahir, Ed.D., professor and chair of NYIT’s masters-level school counseling program (second from left), is using virtual avatars to help young students cope with bullying.

“I think we’re on the cutting-edge of something,” says Dahir. “The avatar technology allows kids to use their voices but without a spotlight on them. It is an alternative to role playing. Teachers involved are also utilizing the avatar technology as it pertains to helping students with decision-making and peer pressure. This could be a fabulous interdisciplinary project among educators, engineers, and communicators.”

As the research culture grows, faculty members say that additional grants will help propel their work and continue building NYIT’s reputation in applied research. Yet, most agree that even a handsome grant approval letter isn’t the greatest reward.

“What excites me is when you can create through discoveries something that no one else has thought about,” Shoureshi says. “It’s creating the next thing—I really see that as an exciting challenge.” ■

Enterprising *Moves*

NYIT alumni take charge of their destiny and embrace an entrepreneurial spirit


By Robin D. Schatz

Starting a business isn't for wimps. It takes moxie, passion, and perseverance—maybe even a touch of insanity.

Entrepreneurship is more like an art, says Professor William Lawrence, Ph.D., of NYIT's School of Management and founder of its Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. "You need to have that gift or desire or skill within you," he says. "As an educator, if it's there, I can make it so the risk you take will be minimized."

Consider Lawrence's former student, Russell Makofsky (M.B.A. '09), who has never had what he calls a "proper job." He has been starting businesses since he was a boy growing up on Long Island, first selling candy and soda he bought at the local grocery store to his school chums for a handy profit and later organizing other kids to pick up and refurbish abandoned golf balls for resale. During a corporate internship, he became bored and frustrated, stuck in a cubicle where no one seemed interested in his ideas to improve the business.



A man with short dark hair and a light beard is sitting at a wooden chessboard. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a black t-shirt that features a white silhouette of a city skyline and the text "CHESS NYC". The chessboard is set up with pieces, and he is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a dark grey wall framed by red velvet curtains that form a triangular shape around him.

As a student, Russell Makofsky (M.B.A. '09) launched New York City Chess, which today has more than \$1 million in annual revenue.



From left: Associate Professor Joanne Scillitoe, Ph.D., director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies; entrepreneur-in-residence Roy Arad (B.S. '07); Faheem Jackson, graduate assistant at the center; Corretta Johnson (B.S. '09), owner of Coretta's Tropical Delights and inventor of the Trache-Time Pillow; and Nelly Yusupova, founder of DigitalWoman.com and chief technology officer for Webgrlls.

that's the spirit

NYIT's mandate to prepare students for the workforce leads naturally to entrepreneurship for the university.

"To the extent that we're preparing students to be multi-task-capable in an information and social media age, NYIT also has to be adaptable on a moment's notice," says Greg Banhazl, director of business development. "The entrepreneurial spirit captures that."

In his eight years at NYIT, Banhazl has been promoting ventures that create interdisciplinary groups drawing from the strengths of NYIT's various schools and programs.

At the School of Architecture and Design, Banhazl is working with a group of students and professors who have developed a unique roofing system (see photo, right) that employs discarded soda and water bottles. It can be erected quickly into temporary structures after a natural disaster, such as the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

There's a patent pending on the SodaBIB, which attaches plastic bottles to supports and forms a sort of thatched roof. In the next

iteration, the team will create a system that allows the bottles to be attached without using nails or tools. "We're taking academic design work and creating a concept that has potential for commercialization," Banhazl says.

Undergraduate students have developed a business plan to manufacture and market the SodaBIB as part of a complete shipping-pallet system called Home20. This summer, they'll create a prototype structure on the Old Westbury campus.

"We intend to open up the project to a variety of students that can bring a diverse set of backgrounds," Banhazl says. He will help connect them to investors and network with industry players.

On another front, NYIT launched B15 Studios at the Old Westbury campus to capitalize on its sophisticated motion-capture animation program. The plan is to create a revenue-producing entity that will run summer programs for high school students, for-credit college courses for other schools' art majors, and a professional certificate program,

"I was better suited to putting my time and efforts into something entrepreneurial," says Makofsky, one of three alumni who spoke in March 2013 at the NYIT-Manhattan event, "An Evening with the Entrepreneurs: A Networking and Learning Opportunity."

While studying for his M.B.A., Makofsky worked part-time as a youth basketball coach. He realized he could apply some of the same principles that teach athletics to kids to the cerebral sport of chess, which he learned to play at age 6 from his grandmother. Makofsky's company, which he runs with partner Michael Propper, is called New York City Chess Inc., a for-profit venture that has grown to more than \$1 million a year in revenue.

Makofsky launched the business during his student days at NYIT with a nudge from Lawrence, who helped him craft a business plan and refine his concept. Today, New York City Chess teaches the game of kings to more than 5,000 kids a week and employs nearly 20 chess coaches, some of them world champions, who are dispatched to schools and community centers. The company runs chess camps during school vacations and offers private lessons.

"I decided the chess community was underserved, and there was a chance to brand chess in New York City," Makofsky says. "It is the greatest, oldest game, and has endless benefits. It's important and a dream to market."

Entrepreneurship that leads to businesses like Makofsky's is encouraged and nurtured at NYIT in many ways: undergraduates in the School of Management can major in entrepreneurship or just take a class or two; they can also intern with companies via NYIT-Manhattan's small business incubator and attend special programs, such as the entrepreneur's night. M.B.A. students are often enlisted to work on entrepreneurial projects, too, in some cases helping to commercialize academic research.

Second-year student Arjun Rai, a student who works out of NYIT's incubator, has been starting tech businesses since high school. He recently raised an undisclosed round of seed funding from an angel investor for his company, Canvs.co, which is building touch-based project management software with artificial intelligence for tablet computers.

"The year I came in, we launched the incubator at the Manhattan campus," says Rai. "That was really helpful."

Besides launching Canvs.co, which will soon be seeking the next round of funding, Rai runs two other ventures at NYIT: a social media marketing business, FuelBrite, and a student networking organization, TheBizDen, which helps aspiring entrepreneurs connect with professionals in the startup and business community.

"I decided the chess community was underserved, and there was a chance to brand chess in New York City,"

*—Russell Makofsky
(M.B.A. '09)"*



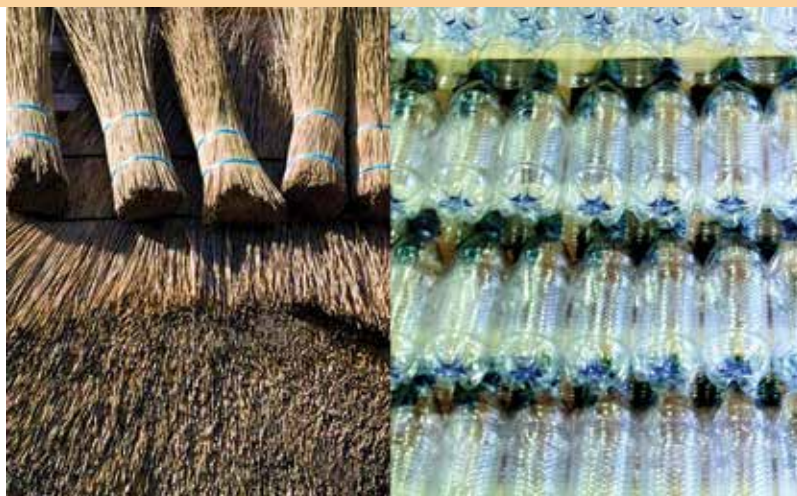
"I'm an entrepreneur because, besides the market need I see for my ventures, there is a need to innovate and bring the next wave of innovation in the most beautiful, easy-to-use fashion possible," says Rai.

as well as offer professional services to the industry (see page 6).

A third project is to commercialize the invention of Claude Gagna, Ph.D., associate professor and director of NYIT biology laboratories. He developed a patented technique for using microarrays that enable scientists to research upwards of 150,000 DNA strands simultaneously. The team plans to demonstrate its applicability to the pharmaceutical and biotech industries for DNA research (see page 27).

Like the other NYIT ventures, Gagna's microarray project unites students and faculty who bring together different strengths.

"Whether it's arts, sciences, architecture, or medicine, we'll see if the project has some merit and if it has a commercial value," Banhazl says.



Undergraduate students have developed a business plan to manufacture and market the SodaBIB, a unique roofing system created by NYIT architecture professors and students, as part of a complete shipping-pallet system called Home20.

But not everyone who dabbles in entrepreneurship at NYIT will go out and start a business, explains Joanne Scillitoe, Ph.D., associate professor and director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies, which—in addition to the small business incubator—provides students with academic support in the form of special lecturers and mentors, experiential learning projects, and other educational initiatives.

Entrepreneurship is “an alternative opportunity for students,” she says. “They can start businesses if they want, but there are also many opportunities in the job market with entrepreneurial firms. They’re getting exposure and experience to broaden their job prospects when they graduate.”

Startups are the perfect laboratory for learning strong business skills, Scillitoe

a smartphone app used in Israel that lets people easily pay for parking meters and garages, and has enlisted the assistance of NYIT students to help the company expand. Pango expects to be operational in 110 New York City parking garages by the end of 2013, enabling people to pay for parking and order their cars to be retrieved, just by clicking on the app.

Scillitoe says graduate and undergraduate students are gaining valuable entrepreneurial experiences at the incubator. “It’s an opportunity for our students to work with an entrepreneurial firm firsthand,” she says. “What I’m finding is that students are very engaged.”

To be sure, 21st-century technology is making it easier than ever to start a business, even if you’re a student on a

challenges of using technology effectively in new businesses.

Entrepreneurs must be able to communicate with developers and know how to minimize mistakes and maximize profits, Yusupova told a roomful of NYIT students.

“They were really excited about entrepreneurship,” she says. “For me personally, it was great to be there because I could share some of the best practices of being an entrepreneur.”

Yusupova’s decision to start TechSpeak came after hearing horror stories from entrepreneurs about their tech people and projects getting out of control. One example is a female business owner who had paid a developer more than \$60,000 and had nothing to show for it after a year. The developer then asked for another \$20,000 to finish the project.

“She didn’t understand the process and perform the due diligence, and she wasn’t able to recoup her money,” Yusupova adds. “By the time she recovered, the idea was not as viable because she was late to market.”

Even entrepreneurs who aren’t starting technology businesses need to establish websites that are constantly updated and—if appropriate—a mobile app to extend their reach, Yusupova says. Recently, a yoga instructor registered for her boot camp to learn the process of building a mobile app effectively to offer tips and resources for a more global audience. “Those are the kinds of things entrepreneurs need to think about, what they need to do to reach into the market,” she says.



Lin Zhen Wei (M.B.A. '10) used his NYIT degree to launch his online business, Daishu Life, which enables people in Nanchang, China, to buy groceries and household products online.

adds. “They have limited resources and are moving much quicker; students see the growth dynamics and the challenges these firms deal with.”

Even in the corporate world, there is a new emphasis on entrepreneurial behavior, stripping away bureaucracy so innovation can take place, she says.

NYIT’s incubator lets students work with startup companies and nurtures businesses such as Rai’s. Roy Arad (B.S. '07) one of NYIT’s two entrepreneurs-in-residence, runs Arocon Consulting with his father. The firm invests in Israeli and U.S. companies and helps the former enter the U.S. market. Arad is working with software developer Pango, which has developed

shoestring budget. Information is readily available on the Internet, social media can inexpensively power a strategic marketing plan, and almost anyone can launch a basic website or a Wordpress blog at minimal cost.

But using technology well—and communicating with your software programmers—is another story.

Nelly Yusupova, founder of Internet consulting company DigitalWoman.com and chief technology officer of Webgrrls International, a community of professional women in technology, teaches how to talk to techies in two-day boot camps called “TechSpeak for Entrepreneurs.” She guest-lectures at NYIT about the

Ramzi Ghurani (M.B.A. '05) knows

all about the vital importance of market reach and branding. He applied to the M.B.A. program at NYIT-Amman to establish his marketing credentials while working full-time in the regional marketing department for Jordan’s Nuquo Group, a large private conglomerate in the Middle East that produces and markets consumer goods for domestic and industrial use.

“NYIT gave me the opportunity to put some theory and practical knowledge into what I’m doing,” he says. In 2011, Ghurani founded a branding company, Pique. In one year, he amassed \$100,000 in sales serving Jordanian startups such as Jamalon.com, the biggest online bookseller in the Middle East, and TasmeemMe.com, a portal for hiring freelancers.

“My idea with Pique was to start right with your brand, to understand your philosophy and the soul of your brand, and then communicate what it’s all about,” Ghurani says.

Ghurani’s father was so impressed with Pique’s business strategy that he asked his son to implement those same ideas to improve his company, Petra Insurance Brokers of Dubai. The younger Ghurani joined the 47-year-old family-run business in 2012 as general manager and took what he considers his scariest entrepreneurial leap so far—moving his wife and children to Dubai.

For now, Pique is on the back burner. “My father wants to retire this year,” Ghurani says. “He’s giving me the power slowly. By the end of this year, I’ll be taking over completely.”

He hasn’t forgotten his entrepreneurial roots, however. Ghurani is already using that expertise to transform the Petra brand. Net income has grown by 30 percent since he joined the company, and sales for the first quarter of 2013 are up by nearly 30 percent, he says.

“Now I can make my own decisions, I can make my mistakes, and it’s OK because that’s how you grow,” says Ghurani.

Vision is a common theme in entrepreneurial success stories. Lin Zhen Wei (M.B.A. ’10), a graduate of NYIT’s business program at Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics in Nanchang, China, says his education inspired him to invest in his own business, Daishu Life, which enables people in Nanchang to purchase groceries and household items, both online for delivery from daishu001.com and in brick-and-mortar stores. In two years, his company has grown to 60 employees and an annual revenue exceeding \$1 million. He envisions expanding the business to other Chinese cities and eventually taking the company public.

While some alumni entrepreneurs aim for high growth, Corretta Johnson (B.S. ’09) is on the slow-and-steady path toward her goal of opening a West Indies-style restaurant. Right now, she’s balancing a home-based catering business in Brooklyn, Corretta’s Tropical Delights, while caring for her 6-year-old daughter, Thea.

“I’ve been cooking since I was nine,” explains the Antigua native, who started



Horticulturist Jennifer Ulsheimer (M.B.A. ’04) is implementing a business plan she created as an NYIT student to construct a community botanical garden for the Town of Babylon on Long Island.

catering before she attended NYIT to study hospitality management. “After I went to school, I learned what business is all about, how you find a target market and do a demographic study.”

In addition to her dream of being a full-fledged restaurateur, Johnson has another goal: to support the parents of children who have undergone a tracheostomy, a surgical procedure in which a breathing tube is inserted into the trachea. Her daughter underwent the procedure after she was born premature at 26 weeks, weighing just 2.2 pounds with severe respiratory distress that led to chronic lung disease. Finding a paucity of useful information for parents in her situation, Johnson wrote the book, *Helpful Tips for Tracheostomy Care*, to help others. She also invented a special foam product—the Trache-Time Pillow—that makes it easier to comfort children as well as clean or change the tracheal tube. Johnson is working with Scillitoe and NYIT students for the commercialization of the pillow.

“This is an exciting opportunity for students to develop and launch a venture with the inventor,” adds Scillitoe.

Entrepreneurs may survive with a sound business plan, but they can’t thrive without passion. Jennifer Ulsheimer’s (M.B.A. ’04) passion is in full bloom, thanks to her NYIT education. In 2004, she wrote a business plan for Lawrence’s class to build a community botanical garden. Now she’s doing just that—as a

horticulturist for the Town of Babylon on Long Island.

“It’s not my business,” says Ulsheimer. “I don’t own it, but I feel like people have put enough faith in me to run it. They handed me this opportunity and said, ‘Show me what you’ve got.’”

The first phase is under way to build a fanciful “spray park” for children, with sculptures of native animals and towering synthetic oak trees that conceal water jets.

“I’ve used my M.B.A. 10 times over,” says Ulsheimer. Her education has enabled her to market the new botanical garden and handle operations management, coming up with plans on how many people to hire, and what programs to offer. Now, she’s trying to involve the community through volunteerism and encouraging membership. “Everything I’ve learned at NYIT, I’ve brought to this project,” Ulsheimer says. “I’m taking a passion I’ve had for many years and creating something that will put smiles on people’s faces for the next 100 years.”

Speaking to NYIT students at the March entrepreneurial event at the Manhattan campus, she told them to never to pass up any opportunity to realize their dreams.

“Have faith and believe in yourself and never let it go,” says Ulsheimer. “Just keep fighting for it.” ■

Robin D. Schatz, a New York-based freelance writer and editor, teaches journalism at Fordham University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

| 1970s |

Louis Fortunato (B.S. '70) has celebrated 25 years as professor of accounting at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y. He also holds an M.B.A. from Pace University and a C.P.A. license. In addition to teaching, he manages an accounting practice where his students earn academic credit and gain experience. He fondly remembers his Zeta Epsilon Pi brothers from NYIT.

George Kuchek (B.S. '75) has transferred from Long Island to the New York City office of the Spector Group, a leading architecture, interior design, and planning firm.

Properties on Long Island's Gold Coast are the specialty of **Edward D'Ambrosio (B.S. '79)**, executive sales director at Douglas Elliman Real Estate. He has more than 30 years of experience in sales, marketing, and advertising.

| 1980s |

Jeffrey Goldberg (D.O. '81) is chair of behavioral health at Coney Island (N.Y.) Hospital and a board member of the Physician Affiliate Group of New York, a partnership among doctors within the New York City public hospital system.

CEO **Glenn Goulet (B.F.A. '81)** leads Table Trac, a developer and provider of casino management and table game management systems for the global gaming industry. The company is based in Minnetonka, Minn.

Read **Daniel McVey's (B.S. '81)** self-published memoir, *Breath of Life: The Life of a Volunteer Firefighter*.

Itzhak Fisher (B.S. '82) is executive vice president of global business development for Nielsen, an international information and measurement company, and serves as chairman and partner of Pereg Ventures, an entrepreneur-led venture capital firm in New York City.

Elizabeth Pierce (M.B.A. '81) is a 23-year resident of Oakland, N.J., where she is one of four trustees on the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School Board of Education.

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?



JAMES LUTZ

Graduates of NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine gathered at New York City's Tribeca Grill for a reunion honoring the classes of 1982 and 1987. More than 60 people attended the event, which also featured a video slideshow of their student days. Osteopathic doctors from the Class of 1988 are encouraged to mark their calendars for their 25th anniversary reunion scheduled for Sept. 21, 2013. Email ehvia@nyit.edu or call 516.686.3801 for details on upcoming events.

Charles Schafer (B.S. '82) is president and chief financial officer for Revolution Lighting Technologies in Charlotte, N.C.

Roseann Stichnoth (M.B.A. '82) is head of the Financial Services Group at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Lucette Nadle (D.O. '83) is a board-certified physician in neuromusculoskeletal medicine in Westborough, Mass.

Barry Zimmerman (D.O. '83), medical director of the stroke center at Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood, N.J., was honored at his employer's gala for his outstanding humanitarian efforts and leadership at the hospital and in the surrounding community.

Kyriacos Athanasiou (B.S. '84) accepted the 2012 Nemitsas Prize from the president of the Republic of Cyprus at the presidential palace in Nicosia, the country's capital. He is also the Child

Family Endowed Chair in Engineering at the University of California-Davis and the co-inventor of the EZ-IO kit, a piece of emergency medical equipment used as an alternative intravenous system for people in need of fluids and drug treatment.

Patricia D. Galloway (M.B.A. '84), Ph.D., P.E., chief executive officer of Pegasus-Global Holdings Inc., has joined the governing board of the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash. The center's goal is to inspire a lifelong interest in science, math, and technology through interactive and innovative exhibits and programs.

Christine Keihm (B.S. '84) is vice president at Sundial Brands, an Amityville, N.Y.-based natural skin care company. She has more than 15 years of experience in brand management, sales,

product and packaging development, and operations and strategic business planning.

Andrew Borg (M.A. '85) is senior research analyst for wireless and mobility at Aberdeen Group in Boston.

Cyber security is on the radar of **Walter Curti (B.S. '85)**, vice president for data protection engineering at Syncsort, a technology company in

Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

Mark Dresner (M.S. '85) is CEO and director at Resource Exchange of America Corp., a company based in Sarasota, Fla.

Kevin Falvey (B.F.A. '85) is editor in chief of *Boating* magazine. He is a boat builder and the author of *Falvey's Guide to Fishing Long Island*.

"After more than 30 years as an airline pilot, I embarked upon my second

calling—writing," says **George Jehn (B.S. '85)**, who has published his mystery novel, *Flying Too Close to the Sun*.

Bill McCleary (B.S. '85) is an executive director at UBS Investment Bank and the inventor of the rolladryer, an eco-friendly device to dry and store paint rollers and brushes.

Personal trainer **Larry Wasserman (M.A. '85)** helps clients get in shape as >>

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF NYIT,

I am delighted to report that NYIT is in the process of building an alumni program that will reflect the diversity of the institution's graduates as well as its global identity. During a series of focus groups, alumni expressed interest in having more opportunities to connect with fellow graduates, faculty, and students. A schedule of upcoming events and programs will offer just that. You can view the schedule at nyit.edu/alumni. As an NYIT alumnus, you have many choices:

- Attend an alumni reception
- Participate in the Alumni Federation
- Establish an Alumni Federation chapter in your city
- Become an alumni mentor
- Serve as an alumni admissions ambassador
- Recruit employees and interns through the Office of Career Services
- Join a Relay for Life team and help in the fight against cancer
- Demonstrate your professional expertise as a member of the alumni speaker's bureau
- Contribute your industry knowledge to an academic or student affairs advisory board
- Attend a sports event and support the Bear's Den
- Start a scholarship fund to honor a loved one
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- Connect with us on LinkedIn

Of course, we always welcome hearing from alumni who want to share their stories with *NYIT Magazine*. I encourage you, and every NYIT graduate, to share accomplishments. This issue of *NYIT Magazine* contains several of those stories. Please take a minute to learn about Dirk (B.S. '04) and Denise Anderson (B.S. '04) and their connection to NYIT, and to read about Shaun Mooney (B.S. '95, M.S. '04), who reached out with his inspiring story after reading an earlier edition of *NYIT Magazine*.

Since NYIT's commencement on May 19, we have welcomed thousands of new graduates into the NYIT Alumni Federation's global network, which now has 95,000 members. Now, how about you? Whether you graduated last year or in the past 50 years, we want to connect with you and meet up next time one of our staff is in your area. Update your contact information by calling 516.686.7800, writing to alumni@nyit.edu, or filling out the form on page 48 and mailing it to NYIT. Also find us on [facebook.com/nyitalumni](https://www.facebook.com/nyitalumni) and follow us on Twitter @NYITAlumni. It is easier—and more fun—than ever to get involved as an NYIT graduate.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kelly (M.S. '99)

Director of Alumni Relations



| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

TESHINA WILSON (D.O. '07)

CURRENT POSITION Chief medical officer at Henrietta Johnson Medical Center in Wilmington, Del.

AWARDING ACHIEVEMENT In January, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFPP) named Wilson its 2013 Young Osteopathic Family Physician of the Year for her leadership skills—only five years into her profession. In addition to her work as chief medical officer, she serves on the ACOFP's Women's Initiative Task Force Committee and Leadership Oversight Committee.

NOBLE CALLING "We help those uninsured or homeless with grants from the federal government," Wilson says. The center specializes in general family practice, OB/GYN, dentistry, pediatrics, and social services. Wilson herself sees approximately 20 to 25 patients per day. "Many of them don't qualify for Medicaid," she adds. Instead, the physician enrolls them in Screening for Life, a program offered through the Delaware Division of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide pap tests, mammograms, colonoscopies, and other vital services. Wilson made it her calling to help the uninsured. "In recent years, many people have had so many changes in their financial status that cause lapses in their medical coverage," she says. "That's where I knew the greatest need was going to be. We are expanding the program the best we can."

FROM THE COURT ROOM TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM "I always thought I was going to law school because I like to read," Wilson says. Science, however, still held her interest, and she took a job working in a microbiology lab for the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J. "One of the infectious disease physicians was looking for an assistant on a research project," she says. "He really encouraged me to look at medicine as a career."

OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE When her patients see the "D.O." on her name badge, it sparks a conversation about osteopathic manipulative medicine and her profession's mindset, Wilson says. "Once I get them that opening statement, they are the ones who want to know more."

➤ the owner and fitness director of Body Basics Fitness in Warren, N.J. He is also a corrective exercise specialist through the National Academy of Sports Medicine.

Donna Carucci-Krumm (B.F.A. '86) serves as marketing director of Kassoy, a worldwide jewelry supplier headquartered in Plainview, N.Y.

Daniel R. Ferrara (D.O. '86) is president and chief executive officer of Island Medical Physicians in Hauppauge, N.Y.

Kevin Hymys (M.B.A. '86) is a self-employed safety and environmental engineer at KLH Associates in Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Audrey Paulssen-Sorrano (D.O. '86) was a featured doctor in the article, "Five-Star Primary Medical Care: Wantagh Resident Extols Expert Care at South Nassau Primary Medical Care," published in *Healthy Outlook* by South Nassau Communities Hospital in Long Island, N.Y. She has 25 years of experience in internal medicine and joined the staff of South Nassau Primary Medical Care in 2008.

Gerard Richter (B.S. '86) is an electrical engineer in New York. He also speaks German, Japanese, and Chinese.

Christopher Stress (B.S. '86) is deputy director of the Berks County (Pa.) Parks and Recreation Department.

Proud grandfather **Michael Walvick (D.O. '86)** has retired. His son earned a D.O. and has started an internal medicine practice.

Robert Weinberg (D.O. '86) is investigating mechanisms of beta-amyloid peptide in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he teaches second-year medical students the ins and outs of differential diagnosis.

Andrea Klemes (D.O. '87) is medical director of MDVIP, a personalized, member-based health care program that empowers people to reach their health and wellness goals through in-depth knowledge, expertise, and one-on-one coaching with doctors.

John Massaro (B.S. '87), C.P.A., is an audit manager at Armao, Costa, and Ricciardi CPAs in Garden City, N.Y., and



president of the Chaminade Long Island Businessmen's Association.

Nicholas Turansky (B.S. '87) is vice president and branch manager at Community National Bank in Garden City, N.Y.

Gastroenterologist **John Ahn (D.O. '88)** has more than two decades of experience in the field. He runs the private practice, Digestive Disease Associates, in Safety Harbor, Fla.

Rev. **Dwayne Jackson (B.S. '88)** is the minister at The First Reformed Church of Astoria (N.Y.), which celebrates its 178th anniversary this year.

John Keville (B.S. '88), J.D., is a partner based in the Houston legal office of Winston and Strawn, where he practices intellectual property litigation for patents, trade secrets, copyrights, and trademarks.

The *Philadelphia Business Journal* awarded **Ed Vallejo (B.S. '88)** its 2012 Minority Business Leader Award. He is vice president of investor relations for American Water, the largest U.S. publicly traded water and wastewater utility company.

Lizardos Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in New York is the company of choice for **Christopher Abruzzo (B.S. '89)**, senior plumbing and fire protection designer, and **Dirk Anderson (B.S. '04, see page 46)**, senior electrical engineer.

Helaine Bocker (B.F.A. '89) is director of the creative services division at Lloyd Staffing in New York City.

Sylvia Naggingda Luswata (M.A. '89), queen of Buganda Kingdom in Uganda, spoke on education at TEDxEuston 2012. The London conference convened African leaders and thinkers to "challenge conventional wisdom" for engaging people on their home continent.

Hilda Rothstein De Gaetano (B.S. '89, D.O. '92) teaches pediatrics and serves as assistant dean of pre-clinical education at Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

| 1990s |

Kurt Kalafsky (B.Arch. '90) is the 2013 president-elect of the American >>

CHRISTOPHER APPOLOTT



| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

CARLOTTA DE LUCA (B.ARCH. '10)

CURRENT POSITION Shoe architect and owner of Charline De Luca, a luxury women's footwear line custom made in Italy. Her "Zaha" shoe is sold exclusively at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City and is inspired by Zaha Hadid, an award-winning Iraqi-British architect known for her elegant futuristic designs.

THE SHOE MUST GO ON The Italian-born De Luca traveled to New York City in February 2013 for Fashion Week, when the Zaha shoe from her spring/summer 2013 collection was displayed with 150 others in the "Shoe Obsession" exhibit at the Museum of the Fashion Institute of Technology through April.

LUCKY BREAK After a brief stint creating boutiques for Italian designer Fendi in the Middle East, De Luca decided to focus on her shoe line. Last year, she was named one of the top three emerging designers in *Vogue Italia's* international competition, "Who's on Next?"

FROM ROME WITH LOVE De Luca lives in Rome, where she finds "hidden surprises that inspire my creativity. Sometimes I walk out of a narrow street and there's a beautiful church façade or a view of St. Peter's River."

TICKET TO LEARN De Luca transferred to NYIT from University of Rome La Sapienza so that she could study architecture in the ultimate creative environment. "Elaborating a building project is a lot like elaborating a shoe design. I calculate the weight, pitch, and height of a shoe heel and translate modernist architecture into the geometry and proportions of my shoes." She uses a computer-aided design program learned in class to print a 3-D sample of the heel in ABS plastic.

MATERIAL WOMAN From raffia straps and her signature metal accents to heels made in a Venetian factory, De Luca sources the materials for her shoes from at least 20 suppliers throughout Italy. Her designs often start as impromptu sketches on paper. "I might be in a café or a park and an idea comes that I jot down on a receipt."

WHAT'S ON NEXT? "I'd love to design shoes for fashion shows by designers like Vera Wang and expand to the Japanese market. I want more people to know Charline De Luca."

KEEPING IT TOGETHER

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

In 1984, Shaun Mooney (B.S. '95, M.S. '04) enlisted in the U.S. Marines out of a desire to emulate John Wayne.

After serving a four-year tour, he was reactivated in 1991 to support U.S. troops during Operation: Desert Storm.

Today, Mooney is helping safeguard something that impacts every person with a smartphone, laptop, or other communications device in the entire northeast United States. As property manager for Colliers International, he oversees the energy management processes and operations at 60 Hudson Street in downtown Manhattan. Once known as the Western Union Building and home to that company's vast underground telegraph network from 1930 to 1973, this fiber-optic anchorage houses the infrastructure that helps fuel the digital lines of communication among financial centers, government agencies, and individuals worldwide.

More than 100 telecom companies are housed within the carrier hotel, including Level 3 Communications, Sirius Telecom, Verizon, Sprint, Global Crossing, and many other carriers. If the Internet had a home address in the Northeast, this would be the place.

"This is the biggest telecommunications hub in the entire world," says Mooney. He estimates that the facilities at 60 Hudson process an estimated two billion text messages, emails, phone calls, and other communications per hour, an exponential increase over the two million messages sent daily during the Western Union days. Back then, pneumatic tubes connecting parts of New York City carried written messages inside capsules propelled by compressed air, traveling as fast as 35 miles per hour. (Text messaging, one could say, in its earliest days.)

The current telecommunications powerhouse at 60 Hudson is

one of four in the United States, joining similar hubs in Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles. "These four sites are really the core of the entire country," Mooney says, referring to the digital communications backbone of the United States. "There are companies within a mile of Manhattan that have tried to re-create this but failed financially."

Managing the building's infrastructure and energy systems is a key component to ensuring that 60 Hudson runs smoothly. Mooney's day-to-day operations include conducting energy and telecom audits, tenant relations, and managing capital projects for building modifications, security upgrades, and cooling tower and generator installations, among other tasks.

"Typical commercial offices are often built and do not change for five years," Mooney says. "In the telecom industry, technology moves at such a fast pace, so companies are constantly making modifications to their equipment."

In the 13 years he has served as property manager at 60 Hudson, Mooney has seen hardware that once filled the building's 60,000-square-foot floors reduced to a corner space. "Things have become so compact and more communications run through them" he says. As a result, one of his biggest dilemmas—and something NYIT especially trained him for—is dealing with engineers who "over-engineer" their hardware and consequently consume more power from the building's electrical grid.

"Shaun has done a phenomenal job in bringing energy management concepts from the classroom and into the facility," says Peter Curtis (B.S. '83, M.S. '94), one of Mooney's professors in NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences.

COLIN MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY & ELLE ESSE GROUP



Designated a historic landmark in 1992 by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, the iconic 60 Hudson Street boasts an Art Deco exterior and Guavastino tile ceiling in the main lobby.



Though Mooney attended classes at NYIT's Old Westbury and Manhattan campuses, he also enrolled in courses online. Today, the requirements for the master's degree in energy management can be fulfilled entirely over the Internet. Such capability allows faculty to teach students located in New York as well as those in Russia, Greece, and France, for example. "With online education," Curtis says, "you get different viewpoints from all over the world."

Mooney gets his own share of global experience on the job. Representatives from companies in Japan, China, and England visit 60 Hudson regularly to explore business ventures as well as view installations of equipment to compare them to their own operations back home.

Hearing Mooney talk about 60 Hudson's crucial role in the global communications network begs the inevitable "So, what would happen ... ?" series of questions. He is understandably cagey regarding specifics.

"There are a thousand scenarios," he says. "And I think about them all the time."

Because only a small team is required to oversee building operations, one of the most pragmatic concerns during a crisis is ensuring that his colleagues can physically get to the office. During the Hurricane Sandy gas shortage that impacted the New York metro area, the Department of Homeland Security assisted in obtaining fuel and other needed supplies for 60 Hudson.

And the big "What If?"

"I don't think anyone who oversees the networks has done a single-point failure analysis on all of them combined," says Mooney. "There are lots of rumors and speculations. I'm not sure anyone really knows the full impact of possible incidents." *continues* >>

JEFF WEINER



In its earlier days, 60 Hudson Street utilized pneumatic tubes to deliver messages, packages, and money across New York City.

During the 9/11 attacks, 60 Hudson's strategic importance came to the forefront. Since the New York Department of Buildings and Department of Corrections were already anchor tenants, Mayor Rudolph Guiliani designated 60 Hudson as one of the city's recovery control facilities after the Office of Emergency Management's original offices located inside the World Trade Center were destroyed.

"We assisted in restoring the phone circuits, provided back-up power for operations, and acted as a liaison with telecom companies to expand their Internet service," says Mooney. "We also helped restore the city's 911 circuits using wireless dishes from the roof connected to tenants in the building."

Afterward, 60 Hudson was deemed so strategic that the U.S. National Guard surrounded the building for three months.

The event served as a learning experience, as does every disaster—natural or otherwise.

"After each storm or emergency, we learn something new," Mooney says. "We have it under control."

➤ Institute of Architects' (AIA) New Jersey chapter. The AIA has also appointed him to its national resolutions committee.

Bold, abstract paintings by **Carrie Moyer (M.A. '90)** headlined a 2013 exhibition at the Tang Museum at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The show featured paintings and prints created in the past six years.

Lt. Col. **Andrew Caliendo (B.S. '91)** is commander of the 501st Ordnance Battalion, a National Guard explosives ordnance disposal unit based near Schenectady, N.Y.

Roger Fremgen (B.T. '91) is senior director of engineering in the Plainview, N.Y., office of Veeco Instruments, a technology company specializing in process equipment solutions that enable the manufacture of LEDs, power electronics, hard drives, MEMS, and wireless chips.

Thomas Jan (B.S. '91, D.O. '94) received a medical professional award from the Caron Foundation, a leading nonprofit provider of drug and alcohol addiction treatment.

Andrew Labetti (B.P.S. '91) was appointed general manager of the Omni Berkshire Place, a luxury hotel in New York City.

Juliette McKenna (M.S. '91) is director of development and community relations for the nonprofit organization, Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities Inc., in Bethpage, N.Y.

Angelo Arzano (B.S. '92) is technical principal for HOK, a global architecture firm in St. Louis. He previously served as senior project architect for One World Trade Center, the first commercial high-rise building to be constructed on the former World Trade Center site in New York City.

Nenad Grlic (B.S. '92, D.O. '97) has been appointed director of the department of emergency medicine at Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Long Island Business News has named **Christine Hodyl (D.O. '92)** a physician hero for her work as a breast cancer surgeon at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, N.Y.

As a lifelong resident of the Town of Islip, N.Y., there is no better person to serve as its councilwoman than **Trish Bergin Weichbrodt (B.F.A. '93)**, who transitioned to public service after a career as an award-winning journalist for News 12 Long Island, CBS, *Inside Edition*, and Fox News' *Strategy Room*.

Ann Lombardo (B.F.A. '93) is director and executive board president at the Water Mill (N.Y.) Museum.

For 23 years, New York state assemblyman **Joseph Saladino (B.S. '93, M.A. '95)** has championed small businesses and jobs creation, voiced concerns about property taxes on Long Island, and advocated for protection of the environment.

Leslie W. Smith (D.O. '93) has joined Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa as the medical director for its Advanced Wound Center.

The Town of Islip (N.Y.) Economic Development Commission presented ElectroMotive Designs, co-founded by **Joseph M. Ambrosio (B.S. '94)**, with its 2012 Small Business Award. The Ronkonkoma, N.Y.-based firm provides engineering services and manufactures hybrid electric conversion systems for cars.

The Dutch government asked **Raj Goel (B.S. '94)** to speak about cyber security at The Hague, an invitation he says "would not have happened without NYIT." His presentation at the 2013 National Cyber Security Centre Conference in the Netherlands came after meeting the cyber security director for the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice at NYIT's Cyber Security Conference last year.

Carl Goodman (D.O. '94) is a financial partner at Emergency Medicine Physicians (EMP) at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center in Patchogue, N.Y., and an attending physician in emergency medicine at Brookhaven Hospital. He also serves as EMS director for EMP of Suffolk (N.Y.) and as medical director for other EMS agencies. He is married to Melissa Goodman, a musician, and they have two children, Joshua and Matthew.

Jeff Pavell (D.O. '94) is chief of the Department of Physical Medicine and

Rehabilitation at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in New Jersey.

Robert Tudisco (A.A.S. '94, B.T. '95) is a senior data center engineer at mindSHIFT Technologies, a company in Commack, N.Y.

Kristen Kastrinos (B.F.A. '97), a former NYIT student-athlete on the women's soccer team, completed her first Ironman triathlon in 15 hours, 15 minutes, and six seconds in November 2012 in Tempe, Ariz. "It was a very humbling experience," she says.

MS Family Medicine, a New York-based medical practice run by **Michele C. Reed (D.O. '97)**, received national attention when it was featured on the *Rachael Ray Show* in January.

Philanthropist **Elisabeth Thieriot (M.A. '97)** reveals the secrets of achieving longevity, health, and well being through seasonal living in her book, *Be Fabulous At Any Age*.

Salvador Guerrero (D.O. '98) serves

on the medical staff of Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, Pa.

Hillary Beberman (D.O. '99) is a physician based in Oyster Bay, N.Y., and is affiliated with Glen Cove Hospital, part of the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

Michael Macrina (B.Arch. '99) has moved from his home office to Main Street in Stony Brook, N.Y. He reconfigured a 650-square-foot office space designed for his growing architectural practice.

| 2000s |

Shelley Carolan (D.O. '00) is a pediatrician on the medical staff at Nyack (N.Y.) Hospital.

Shanyun He (M.S. '00) is the controller at Port Royal Sales, an importer and distributor of canned food products in Woodbury, N.Y.

Timothy Collins (D.O. '01) serves on the medical staff of Health Quest Medical Practice's division of pulmonary medicine

in Hyde Park, N.Y.

Sergey Koyfman (D.O. '01) is medical director of the head and neck cancers program at Orange Regional Medical Center's Spagnoli Family Cancer Center in Middletown, N.Y.

Robert Nelson (B.S. '01) serves as product marketing manager at ESP/SurgeX, an energy intelligence firm in Knightdale, N.C.

Addressing a future shortage of generalist physicians is the goal of **Laurie Kilbury-Taylor (D.O. '02)**. As program director for United Memorial Medical Center's residency program, she is guiding the center's transition into a teaching hospital in partnership with Lake Erie (N.Y.) College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Jamaal McLeod (D.O. '02) is medical director in the Orlando, Fla., office of PhysioAge Medical Group, a leading provider of bio-identical hormone therapy.

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JEFF WEINER

Ben Finley (M.A. '03) ate dinner with newsman Peter Jennings every night in Streetsboro, Ohio.

Finley's mother made sure of it—she turned on the TV each evening to watch the renowned newscaster on ABC's *World News Tonight*, serving the teenage Finley a full plate of network news as the family settled into their meal.

Two decades later and a world away from Streetsboro (population: 16,000), Finley is an energetic New York City-based journalist, with an Emmy and three Peabody awards recognizing his work as an editorial producer of breaking news, political campaign stories, and in-depth journalism.

Finley's childhood exposure to television journalism inspired his career.

"My parents were always into current events," he says. "That and politics were always topics of discussion."

At Kent State University, Finley enrolled in a few radio and

been on the receiving end or have been the bully. Sometimes they're both. We wanted to go behind the headlines to look at why bullying really happens."

The program included a Town Hall broadcast at Rutgers University, the scene of a high-profile suicide of a gay student who had been secretly videotaped in his room by another student. The show also commissioned a study on bullying patterns and included interviews with students from a high school that prohibited its teachers and counselors from acknowledging threats to gay students.

"You send your kid off to school not to be bullied but to be educated," says Finley. "I'd like to think we're becoming more aware of it because of media attention. It's something that's never going to be cured overnight. When you do shows like we did or hear continuous stories, we hope it maybe helps educators to be more proactive and parents to know what their kids are doing."

From Behind the Scenes and Into Your Screens

By ELAINE IANDOLI

television courses, but he didn't decide to pursue his passion in earnest until after graduation.

"I did a lot of self-reflection in terms of what I wanted to do with my life, and I came to the conclusion that I really enjoyed media," says Finley, who chose NYIT's graduate degree program in communication arts because of its small classes and technology-based learning. "The professors had hands-on experience and gave us the nuts and bolts of what we really needed to know in terms of walking into a newsroom or a PR firm. I felt prepared and competitive."

Through NYIT's Office of Career Services, Finley secured internships, including one at PBS' *In the Life*, where he was hired following graduation. Three years later, he began working as an editorial producer for the *Nancy Grace Show* and later, for shows with CNN's Anderson Cooper and Campbell Brown.

Finley takes particular pride in the Emmy award-winning "Bullying: It Stops Here," a 2011 special episode on *Anderson Cooper 360*.

"It's an issue that I take very seriously," says Finley, who acknowledges that he was bullied in middle school. "Every kid has experienced bullying to some degree—whether they've

Another memorable project involved in-depth reporting on the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The coverage earned CNN a Peabody Award for broadcasting excellence.

"It wasn't a matter of booking anybody, it was a matter of news-gathering, talking to lots of sources and getting information on what was happening, why it was happening, and trying to hold people accountable," says Finley.

The work was nothing like it was depicted on the premiere of Aaron Sorkin's *The Newsroom*, the HBO drama about a fictional network news show.

"They solved the BP oil crisis in one episode," he says. "I got a good laugh about that. We spent months on that story."

Finley left CNN last fall to become a booking producer for MSNBC's *Politics Nation* with Rev. Al Sharpton. Each day, he lines up guests for six blocks of news segments focused on breaking stories and politics.

"We're brainstorming with the show's staff, coming up with ideas, deciding what we're going to do on each block and what guests are going to talk about," says Finley. "As the day progresses, I'm gathering sound bites, news sources, quotes. You go, go, go all day!"

continues >>



Part of the job involves pre-interviewing guests who might appear on the show, including legislators debating the latest gun control ideas or ordinary people thrust into the news by luck or tragedy.

Recently, he spoke with two mothers whose daughters were shot and killed in Chicago. One of the victims, Hadiya Pendleton, had just performed at President Barack Obama's inauguration and the other, Janay Mcfarlane, was shot hours after her younger sister attended his speech on gun violence.

"They were both extremely brave women, strong women," he said. "It was courageous of them to come on. I think it gives people some peace to talk about their loved ones. It helps to keep their memory alive."

A year after the bullying special aired, Finley's hometown newspaper in Streetsboro featured a photograph of him kissing his golden Emmy statue. Despite the joy he felt after earning one of his industry's top accolades, Finley notes that winning awards is not what motivates him to pursue greater success.

"It really is about the work," says Finley, who considers himself a journalist first and TV producer second. "It's just about doing what makes you happy and what your passion is—and making sure it's fulfilled."

>> tions scholar **Taha Ozhan (B.S. '02)** was a speaker at the 2012 Istanbul World Forum in Turkey.

Gail Schuman (D.O. '02) has moved from New York to New Hampshire, where she practices at the Hospital for Children, Elliot Pediatric Neurology, in Manchester.

Dwight-Kenyatta Bartley (M.A. '03) is director of talent acquisition for Gust, a company based in New York City that connects entrepreneurial startups with investors.

Igor Beneditskiy (D.O. '03) is a physician who specializes in pain treatment and medicine in New York City.

The International Association of Health Care Professionals has chosen **Marios Gagos (D.O. '03)** as its cardiology expert in the group's publication, *The Leading Physicians of the World*. He is an award-winning cardiac physician and faculty member at New York Hospital Queens, where he uses non-invasive imaging techniques to diagnose heart problems.

Kristen E. Cardamone (D.O. '04) has opened a private practice, Sports and Spine Integrative Center, in Red Bank, N.J.

Sara Fusco (M.A. '04) is director of community relations for Fusco, Brandenstein & Rada, P.C., a firm specializing in workers' compensation and social security disability law in Woodbury, N.Y.

Michael Hill (D.O. '04) leads the endovascular neurosurgery team at Essential Health 32nd Avenue Clinic in Fargo, N.D.

Tejpreet Nakai (B.S. '04, D.O. '07) applies her expertise in internal medicine as a physician at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates in Medford, Mass.

Integrated communications are the specialty of **Alana Sorrentino (M.A. '04)**, an account supervisor in the New York City office of the Kellen Company, an employee-owned professional services company.

Hospitality industry pro **Tonia Brownell (B.P.S. '05)** is innkeeper at the Glen Sanders Mansion, built in 1658 in Scotia, N.Y.

Elizabeth Dougherty (B.P.S. '05) is the voice of Food Nation Radio Network. As a cook and food writer, she is the fourth generation of chefs and gourmet grocers in her family. Learn more at elizabethdougherty.com.

Rich Meyer (M.B.A. '05) is a direct-to-consumer marketing executive with more than a decade of experience in the field, including work at the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly.

Mikah Sellers (M.B.A. '05, M.A. '07) is a vice president at Levick, a communications agency in Washington, D.C.

Aiysha Balbosa (D.O. '06) is a doctor at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas. As a pediatric otolaryngologist, she specializes in diseases of the ear, nose, and throat.

Dalkeith Facey (D.O. '06) is a general surgeon at Wythe County (Va.) Community Hospital.

Shaikh Hafeza (D.O. '06) is a cardiologist at South Jersey Heart Group. She lives in Mount Laurel, N.J., with her husband and children.

Richard J. Margaitis (D.O. '06) has joined Premier Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Gwendoline Menga (D.O. '06) is a physician at Northwest Diagnostic Clinic-Cypress Station in Houston, Texas.

Regina Nisita (M.A. '06) is human resources and operations manager at Affect Inc., a public relations and social media firm in New York City. She helps coordinate the New York Job Project, a contest to find one qualified employee to fill a full-time position at the firm.

George Poulos (D.O. '06) practices at the Astoria and Wall Street, N.Y., medical offices of ENT and Allergy Associates, which specializes in ear, nose, throat, allergy, and audiology medical services.

Jana Vondran (M.B.A. '06) is head of supply chain management services at Siemens Global Shared Services in Orlando, Fla.

Billy Wing (M.B.A. '06) is a sales engineer based in Houston, Texas, for Haws Corporation, a company that makes water delivery and emergency equipment products.

Derek Appel (B.S. '07) is a solutions architect at Hewlett-Packard Networking in New York.

Olympic speed skater **Allison Baver (M.B.A. '07)** starred on *The Millionaire Matchmaker*, a Bravo TV show.

Physical medicine and rehabilitation are the specialties of **Sean Butler (D.O. '07)**, a doctor on staff at Doylestown (Pa.) Hospital.

Adam J. Dann (D.O. '07) completed an orthopedic surgical residency at Des Peres Hospital in Saint Louis, Mo., and now serves as a hand surgery fellow at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. His wife, who is also a D.O., is completing an anesthesia pain management fellowship at the University of Iowa. They have two daughters, Madeline and Elsa.

Erika Horning (M.A. '07) is an environmentally conscious painter and graphic designer.

As chef de cuisine at the NYIT de Seversky Mansion, **Robert Neumann (A.O.S. '07)** says his proudest career achievement is “growing in my position through mentoring and learning new things each day.” His culinary training includes working at French restaurants in New York City, such as Michelin-starred Daniel and Bar Boulud.

Mallory Pichardo (B.F.A. '07) is project coordinator of diversity and inclusion for the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

Allison Rathmann (D.O. '07) will begin a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in July 2013.

Charles Stermer (M.B.A. '07) is president and CEO of ECO-IT Networking, a provider of IT and computer services.

Stephanie Webb (D.O. '07) has joined NYC Chiropractic and Spinal Decompression Center in Manhattan, where she specializes in treating neck and back pain.

Rawa Araim (D.O. '08) is a brain injury fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas.

John Asheld (D.O. '08) is a chief resident at the department of internal medicine at Stony Brook (N.Y.)

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ALUMNI VOICE THEIR PRIDE



Sean McAll (B.F.A. '85, left), on-air promotions producer and editor for Voice of America (VOA), and Steven Friedman (M.A. '84), VOA brand manager, were on hand to celebrate VOA's 70th anniversary in Washington, D.C.

Launched in February 1942, two months after the United States' entry into World War II, VOA has continually served as a news source for people living in countries beset by war or oppressive regimes. The institution, funded by the U.S. government, delivers its content across television, radio, Internet, and mobile platforms to more than 1,200 affiliates around the world.

Among the world leaders who praised the institution's legacy were President Barack Obama, who noted its “accurate and objective” news and stated how VOA's mission has helped make the United States a stronger nation and the world itself more just, as well as the Dalai Lama of Tibet and Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Special thanks to Steven for this update. We encourage all NYIT alumni to share their photos by submitting them to magazine@nyit.edu.

1,600 MILES TO LOVE

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

The Anderson family (from left):
Jaiden, Denise (B.S. '04), Allaire,
Amelia, and Dirk (B.S. '04).



Dirk Anderson (B.S. '04) is a man who doesn't like to wait. So it is hardly shocking, to those who know him, to learn that when he first saw Denise Narine (B.S. '04) sitting in the back of their communications theory class in NYIT-Old Westbury's Harry Schure Hall, he casually regarded her from the front row and said, "You can't be my girlfriend if you sit in the back."

As it turned out, Denise couldn't sit in the back; it was the first day of class in the fall 2003 semester, and she didn't have the required textbook. So she was told to share with someone: Dirk.

It was a moment Denise remembers as "funny and weird," an awkward, forward greeting from a stranger flashing a huge smile. "Who talks like that?" she mused.

Someone who doesn't like to wait. Like Dirk, who recalls their first encounter much differently.

"It was one of those moments when you see someone for the first time and it was just love at first sight," he says. "I said it and I meant it."

After class, Dirk walked Denise to her car, not wasting any time.

"You know if this was our first date, I would give you a kiss," he told her. "Would you like to go out this weekend?"

Denise took his phone number and said she'd call him. There was just one problem; Dirk had given her the wrong number. So she emailed him as well, with no luck.

Dirk, of course, didn't realize he had provided the wrong number and hadn't checked his email; as a resident assistant at NYIT's Central Islip site, he thought he had given her his office number.

At their next class, Denise let him have it.

"I said I was sorry," says Dirk. "I wanted to make up for it." So he asked her out again, "just to show her I was serious."

Denise cautiously agreed. They went to Dave & Busters for their first date, ate lunch, and played air hockey ("I won," notes Denise).

It was then that the two seniors began to realize that perhaps their first meeting was no accident. Both were raised in Jamaica (Dirk from West Moreland, Denise from St. Catherine), both were graduates of the University of Technology in Kingston, and each had traveled nearly 1,600 miles to New York, only to meet by chance in their senior year in Old Westbury (Denise's only class at that campus).

A few months later, the couple agreed to travel home to

Jamaica for the holidays and meet each other's parents.

"After Denise met my dad, he turned to me and said, 'That's a good woman,'" says Dirk. "That resonated with me."

On Valentine's Day, five months after Denise first tried sitting in the back of class, he proposed. "I was honest and open," recalls Dirk. There was no sense in delaying the inevitable, he explained. They had found each other, met



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

each other's parents, and were already spending every minute together.

"Of course, I said yes without hesitation," Denise says.

Two months after earning their NYIT degrees in May 2004—Dirk in mechanical engineering and Denise in computer science—the couple tied the knot. Then Dirk wasted no time landing a job as an electrical engineer at Keyspan Energy Delivery on Long Island. He attributes NYIT's Office of Career Services with helping him understand how to approach employers, interview, and carry himself as a professional engineer. Today, Dirk is an engineer at Lizardos Engineering Associates in Mineola, N.Y., where he designs electrical systems for health care facilities, senior housing, commercial buildings, schools, recreational sites, and civic centers. Denise works for Cablevision in its Optimum Voice department.

Not surprisingly, Dirk and Denise wasted no time in starting a family. In 2006, they welcomed their first child, Jaiden, followed by Amelia in 2010. In early 2013, their newest family member, Allaire, was born.

"We both went to the same university in Jamaica, then both came to NYIT," Dirk says. "It was destiny."

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ALUMNINOTES

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

Name: _____

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Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

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>> University Medical Center, where he will stay on staff for a cardiology fellowship. His brother, **Wilbur Asheld (D.O. '10)**, is an internal medicine resident at Winthrop University Medical Center in Long Island, N.Y., and will stay on for a cardiology fellowship.

Grigoriy Grenader (D.O. '08) has joined Columbia Health in New York City after completing a residency in family practice medicine at Plainview Hospital in the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

Justin Karush (D.O. '08) is a general surgery resident and research fellow in the department of thoracic surgery at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. He will spend his last two years of general surgery at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and eventually pursue a cardiothoracic clinical fellowship.

“My career really hit new heights after earning an M.B.A. at NYIT,” says **Joseph Kascmar (M.B.A. '08)**. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and director of technical services for 21st Century Oncology in Fort Myers, Fla. “In my current role, I am responsible for the clinical operations management of more than 90 radiation oncology centers throughout 16 states nationwide.”

Frank Landino (D.O. '08) is in the final year of his radiology residency at Hartford (Conn.) Hospital, where he was appointed chief resident for the 2012-2013 year.

Jennifer Maertz (M.B.A. '08) is a litigation attorney and resident of Rocky Point, N.Y.

A medical career is a family tradition for **Andrea Mow (D.O. '08)**, director of St. Peter's Behavioral Health Unit in Helena, Mont., and the daughter of a retired urologist. She oversees a geriatric psychiatric program for patients with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and late-life depression.

Kathryn E. Pascucci (D.O. '08) practices obstetrics and gynecology at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Conn.

Molly Shipman (D.O. '08) has joined



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. Submissions will be edited for clarity and space. Photos should be 300 dpi in JPG or TIF format.

the Center for Women's Health in Connecticut, where she is an OB/GYN physician.

Brian Thomas (D.O. '08) is a member of the anesthesiology department at Highland Hospital in Rochester, N.Y.

Marathon runner **Tracey Viola (D.O. '08)** is applying her fitness knowledge as a family physician at Lake Placid (N.Y.) Health Center. She regularly volunteers as a medical staffer at high school, college, and amateur athletic events as well as marathons.

Antoinette DelBel (M.A. '09) is a reporter for the Buffalo, N.Y.-based YNN news network on Time Warner Cable.

Chris Dittus (D.O. '09) has completed an internal medicine residency at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, where he also served as chief resident. His next step is a three-year hematology and oncology fellowship at Boston University Medical Center.

Julia Garcia (B.F.A. '09) is the creator and co-founder of truality.org, a website featuring motivational speakers with the goal of raising self, social, and cultural awareness in students at U.S. schools and college campuses.

Sylvia Jo Glaz (B.P.S. '09, Cert. '10) is a human resources associate at Precipart, an engineering firm in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Bradford Landry (D.O./M.S. '09) is an intern and resident representative to the American Osteopathic Association's board of trustees. He serves as chair of its Council of Interns and Residents.

Creativity abounds in **Meagan Meehan (B.A. '09)**, a writer, poet, cartoonist, and modern artist.

An editorial campaign for an upscale fashion brand is one of the latest freelance projects by photographer **Diego Rios (M.A. '09)**. "I shot an old-fashioned tea party on a frozen lake in upstate New York. There were 10 of us working in low temperatures. It was freezing and fun, and the contrast of a high-culture tea party on ice worked really well." His full-time job is art director in the NYIT Office of Communications and Marketing.

Physician Benjamin Sommer (D.O. '09) is a member of Camden (N.Y.)

Family Care.

Cutting-edge technology is the forte of **Adam Bitterman (D.O. '10)**, who has co-developed the SREMS Protocol iPhone app that relays critical information to emergency medical personnel caring for patients in the field. He is an orthopedic surgical resident at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System and a co-founder of JAMB Innovations, a company that creates mobile apps for medical uses.

Pro lacrosse athlete **Josh Kacprzak (B.S. '10)** plays for the Rochester (N.Y.) Knighthawks. At NYIT, he was a leading defenseman for the Bears

and earned All East Coast Conference Honorable Mention recognition.

Awais Mahmood (B.Arch. '10) is a project designer for the hospitality group at Baskerville, an international architectural, engineering, and interior design firm with offices in Richmond and Tysons Corner, Va.

George Martignetti (B.S. '10) is an architect at Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners in New York City. He recalls one NYIT experience: "I attended a career fair in 2009 and from that day my life has been changed. I was given an opportunity by a major contracting company and subsequently networked ➤

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➤ myself to a rewarding architectural career. I am proud of my education and the doors it has opened.”

Safwa Zafar (B.S. '10) was one of 20 aspiring doctors selected to receive a medical school scholarship from the CityDoctors program, a partnership between St. George's University in Grenada and affiliated New York hospitals. The program aims to address a looming national shortage of primary care physicians and expand opportunities for doctors in New York City.

James Capobianco (B.P.S. '11) man-

| MARRIAGES |

Michelle W. Hyde (B.S. '90)

to Carlene Jadusingh

Dean Olsen (B.S. '94, D.O. '99)

to **Laura Fil (D.O. '09)**

Roger Aldridge (B.S. '96)

to Nardia Henry

Beth Silverstein (D.O. '07)

to Evan Vieira

Frederick Davis (D.O. '08)

to **Danielle Turrin (D.O. '12)**

Francesca Spinelli (M.S. '08)

to Matthew Walker

Christopher Nowlin (B.S. '09)

to Erica Dalton

Adam Bitterman (D.O. '10)

to Jennifer Ladman

Gilberto A. Diaz (D.P.T. '11)

to Cara Forte

Emmanuel Pena (D.O. '11)

to **Leah Robinowitz (D.O. '12)**

| PASSINGS |

Christopher Amenita (B.S. '81)

Randall Giles (D.O. '98)

Norma Goldberg (M.A. '92)

Kelvin Hicks

Raymond McBride (B.S. '76)

Charles McCarthy (B.S. '77)

Carmen Villegas (M.A. '92)

Andrew Weiss (B.S. '71)

ages front desk operations at the historic Garden City (N.Y.) Hotel. He shared his career experiences with NYIT hospitality students who participated in an educational tour of the luxury property in February.

Regina Maldonado (M.S. '11) is a certified physician assistant at RX MedSpa in Sarasota, Fla.

Comics, anime, video games, and science fiction are a few of the interests of **Jamila Rowser (M.A. '11)**, who blogs about them at GirlGoneGeekBlog.com. The social media and communications whiz is also the community manager at VaynerMedia, a brand consulting agency in New York City.

As a board member of the Secaucus Housing Authority, **Rachel Andre-Tomlinson (M.A. '12)** is the first African-American woman to serve on any municipal board in the New Jersey town's history.

Rahmat Balogun (D.O. '12) is an internal medicine resident in the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

Ian Borneman (B.F.A. '12) is one of five entrepreneurs under age 23 to launch PassengerProject.org, a New York-based organization whose motto is “Look Good, Do Good.” The group designs and screen-prints apparel that is sold to benefit charities from the American Heart Association to the American Red Cross. One of its latest causes is raising money for Hurricane Sandy victims.

Renny Pacheco (M.S. '12) is a member of the client relations team at Seamless.com, an online food delivery company that services more than two million people in 40 cities around the world. While at NYIT, he participated in the Alternative Spring Break project in Peru, an experience that inspired him to pursue an internship at the Clinton Global Initiative, where he supported humanitarian causes and met former president Bill Clinton.

The Firemen's Association of the State of New York honored **Kyle Reitan (B.F.A. '12)** as the 2012 EMS Provider of the Year for saving the life of an injured motorcyclist. He is a lieutenant for the

Miller Place (N.Y.) Fire Department EMS Corps and a full-time production assistant at WCBS News Radio 880.

Nikki Jo Rotolo (B.S. '12) is pursuing a master's degree in early childhood education and history.



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Monte Redman

(B.S. '81)

Current Position

President and CEO of Astoria Financial Corporation and Astoria Federal Savings in Lake Success, N.Y.

Accomplished Executive

Redman joined Astoria in 1977 as assistant to the comptroller. Since then, the Queens, N.Y., native has ascended through the ranks, serving in accounting, investment, and treasury positions until he was named president and CEO in July 2011. His decision-making and leadership skills, coupled with his ability to identify growth opportunities, have helped keep Astoria profitable even through difficult economic periods. Redman is also a member of Astoria Financial Corporation's board of directors. He is a board member of the New York Bankers Association and sits on the American Bankers Association's Government Relations Council. In addition, he is the former chairman and current director of the Tourette Syndrome Association, a nationwide organization dedicated to supporting legislation, increased education, and research to assist families impacted by the neurological disorder.

Double the Opportunity

While an NYIT student, Redman took advantage of the university's multi-campus network, attending weekday classes in Manhattan on the corner of Broadway and West 61st Street near Lincoln Center and weekend classes in Old Westbury, N.Y. The flexible schedule was the perfect learning environment for Redman, who was working at Astoria Federal Savings at the time, married, and raising two children. "I was able to do what I wanted and graduated with honors," he says. "The professors at both campuses were very informed. The curriculum allowed me to earn my degree in a way that made sense for a working parent."

At the Forefront of a Tech Revolution

For more than three decades, Redman has witnessed the impact of technology in the financial industry and in the personal and professional lives of customers worldwide. "I remember when we didn't have ATMs," he says. "And look how fast we went from ATMs to Internet banking to mobile banking." From protective firewalls to enhanced customer service to 24/7 mobile access, Redman notes that it's his job as president and CEO of Astoria Financial Corporation to determine what people want and ensure their needs are met, in keeping with the bank's "putting people first" philosophy. "The banking world is changing so fast because of technology," he says. "It's not just young kids—it's everybody. Today, technology has everything to do with all businesses."

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