



NYIT



NYIT MAGAZINE

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2016

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



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Reputation Rising

“We are all partners in how the world perceives NYIT as an incubator of big ideas, smart solutions, and globally minded citizenry.”

IN MY CONVOCATION ADDRESS to faculty and staff members in September, I posed a simple question: “Why NYIT?”

It is a fair query and one that leads to others. Why should students choose us? Why should new faculty and staff members join our community?

And furthermore, how do we define NYIT? What is our reputation? What distinguishes us? And what should we say about NYIT collectively?

Among other things, the question and its answers provoke a discussion about our university’s signature strengths: technology, entrepreneurship, career-oriented education, applied research, and diversity. These key threads have defined NYIT since its inception more than six decades ago and have also evolved over the decades to help us serve as a model 21st-century global university.

In *NYIT Magazine*, we’ve covered our remarkable faculty and staff members’ and students’ successes in fields such as cybersecurity, health sciences, engineering, architectural design, and 3-D technology, among other disciplines. These achievements elevate our reputation to a global audience, equating NYIT with positive societal impact.

Our reputation is also rooted in how effectively we’ve taught students to adapt to new technologies related to their professions. It is incumbent upon us as educators to ensure our students have the tools to unlock solutions for tomorrow—solutions that, in turn, further reinforce the value of an NYIT degree. This is more than embracing change; this is about becoming an agent of positive disruption. We want NYIT students, faculty members, and alumni on the front lines of their industries as technology breaks boundaries and creates new opportunities. We are all partners in how the world perceives NYIT as an incubator of big ideas, smart solutions, and globally minded citizenry.

This year, NYIT’s reputation has also helped steer us toward a remarkable achievement in our enrollment efforts. For the first time in NYIT’s history, we received more than 10,000 applications from first-year students entering in fall 2016. NYIT’s student population now represents all 50 states and 125 countries. This fall, we also welcomed the first 120 students at NYITCOM at Arkansas State University. We look forward to reading great stories about this new program as these future osteopathic physicians serve the delta region while calling NYIT their alma mater.

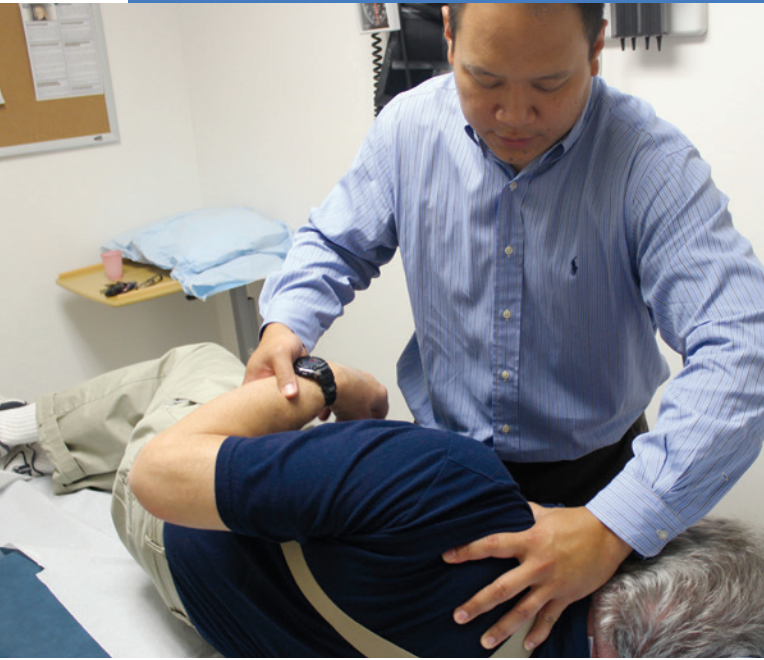
As for our graduates, the question “Why NYIT?” elicits perhaps as many different answers as there are NYIT alumni. Each of you chose this university because of your distinct personal and professional goals. Every time you advance in your careers, lead notable breakthroughs, or otherwise generate headlines in your industry, we like to hear about and promote it through *NYIT Magazine*, our website, and our social media channels. Your successes ensure that an NYIT degree is equated with proven value and that our reputation remains ever on the rise.

Sincerely,
Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., President

Craig Wallace Dale



Finding a Balance: NYITCOM Research on Parkinson's Earns Accolades and Awards



For patients with Parkinson's disease, research led by NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine experts may result in better balance, motor skills, and quality of life.



IN THE ADELE SMITHERS Parkinson's Disease Treatment Center on NYIT's Old Westbury campus, more than 500 Parkinson's patients are treated annually. There, Sheldon Yao (D.O. '02), chair of the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and his colleagues are conducting numerous studies to prove OMM's effects on alleviating symptoms and improving quality of life. In June, Yao along with faculty members Jayme Mancini, D.O., Ph.D.; Joanne Donoghue, Ph.D.; and Adena Leder (D.O. '99), presented their research at the 20th International Congress of Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders in Berlin, Germany.

Less than a week before they left, they learned they had been awarded a \$140,000 grant from the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to conduct additional research based on preliminary results of one of their studies.

"It shows the progress we've made with our research," said Yao, referring to the combination of the international conference and the grant award. "With the funding, we'll hopefully be able to find even more about how OMM can help with Parkinson's symptoms." The initial study has been accepted for publication this fall in the journal *Neurorehabilitation*.

"Our findings suggest that our OMM protocol may be a complementary approach to improving balance and motor function in individuals with Parkinson's disease," the researchers noted on their poster outlining the study. "To date, this is one of the first studies investigating the long-term effects of OMM on motor function and balance in Parkinson's disease."

The other studies presented at the conference included research on OMM's positive effects on posture, gait, and pain management.

The AOA-funded study was one of only nine projects funded nationally. As part of the study, the researchers will investigate how OMM impacts biological markers that indicate the severity or presence of Parkinson's disease. Patients with Parkinson's disease have a decreased ability to fight certain substances that damage normal cells. Yao noted that changes in biomarkers through OMM treatment could help promote the use of OMM to help alleviate symptoms and improve quality of life.

Many patients take drugs for symptoms, but medications often come with side effects. Donoghue said that NYITCOM's work may already have the potential to make a positive impact on how patients feel and move without those side effects. "At the conference, the clinical neurologists were asking us how to implement some of our findings in their practices and about the next stages of our research," said Donoghue. ■

(Above) Sheldon Yao, D.O., performs OMM on a patient at NYITCOM.

Courtesy of Sheldon Yao

Buzzland

NYIT scientists name a new fossil species of whale, a zoetrope gets a high-tech update, and a war hero speaks to the next generation of doctors. Read up on the latest news below and find more stories at nyit.edu/box.



A. Gennari/2016

MEET ECHO HUNTER: NYIT scientists (Postdoctoral Fellow Morgan Churchill and Associate Professor Jonathan Geisler, both of NYITCOM) recently named *Echovenator sandersi*, a new fossil whale species with superior high-frequency hearing ability. The two, along with colleagues from the National Museum of Natural History in France, described the new species in *Current Biology*.



bit.ly/Echo-Hunter



bit.ly/2016-convocation

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ANIMATION: Hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences, this year's Animation and Film Festival featured more than 60 projects by NYIT students from Manhattan, Old Westbury, and Beijing. James Rockford, a communication arts student, won Best of Show (Film) for *Pool Boy*, while Jia Wang, a graduate animation student in the Department of Digital Art and Design, won Best of Show (Animation) for her 3-D printed zoetrope, *Zoedream* (pictured).



bit.ly/Film-Animation-2016

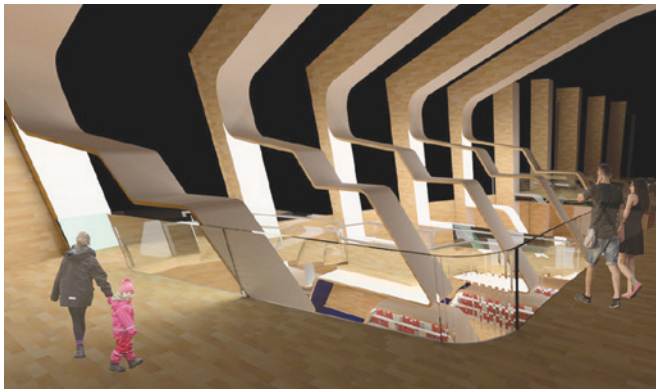


Jia Wang



Martin Seck

CAMPUS TRANSFORMATIONS: As the university evolves, so does the campus. For example, new innovation labs will be installed in the Manhattan and Old Westbury libraries, and new spaces at 33 W. 60th Street (Manhattan) and the third floor of the Student Activities Center (Old Westbury) will house offices including Counseling and Wellness. Also in Old Westbury, Interior Design joins Architecture in Education Hall, while Communication Arts joins Digital Art and Design in Midge Karr, and the Sculpture Barn will transform into an advanced research lab for emerging research centers and grant-supported projects.



John Sanchez

WINNER, WINNER: Two interior design students from NYIT School of Architecture and Design have been awarded the prestigious Angelo Donghia Foundation Scholarship for 2016. John Sanchez (project pictured) and Lana Kravtchenko, both entering their fourth year, will each receive up to \$30,000 to use toward tuition and living expenses during their final year of studies. This is the fifth time in six years that an NYIT student has earned the highly coveted scholarship and the first time that both of NYIT's nominees have won.



bit.ly/Donghia-2016



Jenny Cheng

MOBILE DEVSING: NYIT's fourth Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program welcomed students from eight universities to work with faculty mentors on research on mobile device and wireless network security. The program gives undergraduates the opportunity to work in state-of-the-art research facilities, conduct research, and present projects.



bit.ly/REU-2016



Michael Schiavetta

GENERAL ADVICE: In July, retired Army Maj. Gen. Philip Volpe (D.O. '83) visited NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Career Day to share his experiences with NYIT medical students serving in the U.S. Army. Class of 2018 medical students Cherry Huang, Ronak Patel, and Harkaran Rana—recipients of the Health Professions Scholarship Program offered through the U.S. military—spoke with Volpe about his experiences and professional insights (see also inside back cover).



bit.ly/Philip-Volpe



Dost Khalique

METH USE AND IMMUNE RESPONSE: The National Institutes of Health awarded Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences Luis Martinez, Ph.D., a \$431,700 three-year grant to investigate, in mice, methamphetamine's effects on the underlying biological mechanisms that cause inflammation and impair wound healing.



bit.ly/Luis-Martinez



Karen Marie Behnap

TOP OF THE CLASS: MBACHina named NYIT's M.B.A. program in partnership with Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (JUFE) one of its "Top Ten Most Popular Business Schools of 2016." MBACHina ranks and covers M.B.A. programs and works closely with business school candidates and schools to create good matches between students and programs.



bit.ly/JUFE-MBA

Opinion Noted

THROUGH A SERIES of op-eds in major publications, NYIT faculty and staff members are demonstrating their expertise to a global audience. Catch up on recent op-eds below and read more online.

GREEN BUILDINGS: HELPING THE PLANET, HELPING OUR POCKETS

GREEN BUILDINGS can save energy and cut operating costs. But while the expansion of green buildings is happening all around us, many are still unaware of the growth and benefits. **President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D.**, discussed this phenomenon in *The Huffington Post*. By 2018, companies that expect 60 percent or more of their projects to be “green-certified” will more than double. Much of the growth will occur in developing nations. Guiliano says, “We think of developing countries as being poor in wealth, but they’re poor in energy too. One out of every six people on Earth lives without electricity, but as green technology gets affordable, they may put solar devices on their rooftops and leapfrog the grid.” Universities, Guiliano writes, help ensure that the workforce is properly trained to join the ranks of energy management elite across all fields. bit.ly/Guiliano-Huff-Post

TRAINING DOCTORS TO TALK ABOUT DEATH

DEATH IS A PART OF LIFE, but not when it comes to conversations with terminally ill patients. In an op-ed in *Newsweek*, Vice President for Medical

Clockwise, from top: Hui-Yin Hsu, Ph.D., Babak Beheshti, Ph.D., President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., and Jerry Balentine, D.O.

Affairs and Global Health **Jerry Balentine, D.O.**, says doctors, nurses, and caregivers can be reluctant to discuss end-of-life plans. “Death is considered a taboo topic, until after a patient has passed,” he writes. “This lack of patient-provider communication frequently leads to degraded care and needless suffering.” Medical and health professions schools, he says, can evolve their curricula to help new doctors and health workers have difficult conversations with their patients and understand end-of-life treatments. “If properly informed, many patients with incurable illnesses may want to forgo painful and expensive treatment, choosing quality over quantity for their remaining days.” bit.ly/Balentine-Newsweek

SMART DEVICES, DUMB SECURITY

IN *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*, **Babak Beheshti, Ph.D.**, associate dean of NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, warns that, when it comes to smart devices, security needs to be taken seriously. “...Companies that make Internet-connected devices need to anticipate potential security threats and work to neutralize them,” Beheshti writes. “Tech companies have stepped up security measures for smartphones, computers, and tablets, but other web-connected devices, such as thermostats, smart refrigerators, and wearables, have received less attention.” He proposes that manufacturers, designers, and cloud

providers launch a global campaign to educate the public. Academia also plays a role. “Our faculty researchers are working on promising new data-protection technologies—such as continuous authentication, a non-intrusive alternative to the traditional biometrics such as fingerprints.” bit.ly/Beheshti-WSJ

E-LEARNING: IMPROVING THE PUBLIC TEACHER CORPS

THERE’S REAL NEED for new blood when it comes to K–12 teachers. Older educators are retiring and many young teachers are not equipped with the knowledge to effectively educate students. In an op-ed on *Forbes.com*, **Hui-Yin Hsu, Ph.D.**, associate professor and chair of NYIT’s Teacher Education Program, says E-learning represents the best way to grow and improve the American teaching core and that more universities should offer online teacher training. “E-learning portals empower people from less traditional career tracks to join the teaching profession, bringing their unique perspective, skills, and backgrounds into the classroom,” she writes. And they can do so without having to leave their current jobs. bit.ly/Hsu-Forbes

Read more op-eds: bit.ly/NYIT-Thought-Leadership

Forbes



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THE HUFFINGTON POST
INFORM • INSPIRE • ENTERTAIN • EMPOWER

Newsweek

Family Ties: A Medical School Rite of Passage

EVERY YEAR, NYIT'S MEDICAL students receive their white coats at a ceremony that is a joyful occasion for families and friends. For more than a decade, the ceremony marked the students' journey from classroom to clinic, occurring in their third year as they prepared to begin rotations. The rite is changing, however. This year, NYITCOM began coating first-year students, including the inaugural class from NYITCOM at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro (A-State).

"The white coat ceremony is an induction into the family of physicians," said Vice President for Medical Affairs and Global Health Jerry Balentine, D.O. "Adding the Arkansas site gave us the opportunity to begin the transition to coating in the first year, as the majority of schools do, in part to reflect our excitement for our new students and the new location."

More than 800 people packed A-State's Riceland Hall for the August 5 event, which capped a week of orientation activities for new students. First-year medical students at Old Westbury received their coats in late August.

Family ties were part of the occasion. More than 30 students were coated by parents, grandparents, and siblings who are also physicians. Among them was Jake Rosenblum, a third-year medical student, who was coated by his father, Gary Rosenblum (D.O. '87), in July.

For the Rosenblums, the coating was a tangible reminder of the hard work and passion required for a medical career. "It put the icing on the cake for the whole experience, for [my father] and for me," said Jake, who started an obstetrics-gynecology rotation at Nassau University Medical Center a week after the ceremony.

"It was a special moment for both of us." His father, a rheumatologist, added, "It was certainly a proud moment to see him moving up in the next stage of his training and education."

Jake was inspired to become a doctor by his father (who Jake recalls often spoke with patients after hours), and after he shadowed another physician as an undergraduate. "We were in the cardiac catheterization lab in surgery, and an emergency patient came in, and this doctor said he would take care of that situation," Jake said. "He completed the surgery on the first patient, and then he saved the second one; he wanted to be the one with that other patient."

Less than two weeks into his rotation, Jake said his NYITCOM education had given him the tools and knowledge to be confident. "I've definitely been asked some things on the spot, but it hasn't been as frightful as I thought it would be," he said. "I'm happy to be here and onto my third year. I'm thrilled with the white coat and that my father could bestow that honor on me." ■

"The white coat ceremony is an induction into the family of physicians."
—Jerry Balentine, D.O.

Dosti Khalique



Top: Gary Rosenblum (D.O. '87) coats his son, Jake, at a ceremony in July.

Below: Students attend the annual White Coat Ceremony at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, N.Y.



Maria R. Perbellini: New Dean of the School of Architecture and Design

MARIA R. PERBELLINI has joined NYIT as the new dean of the School of Architecture and Design. A practicing architect skilled in digital design and an experienced administrator, educator, and researcher, she will report to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., and be responsible for strategic planning and administrative oversight, including the development of new graduate programs.

Perbellini comes to NYIT from Texas Tech University (TTU), where she was a professor and served as the associate dean for graduate programs in the College of Architecture. While there, she developed a Master of Architecture curriculum with four graduate certificates, as well as a post-professional Master of Science in Architecture program with specializations in digital design and fabrication, urban and community design, and design and health. She also coordinated the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Land-Use Planning, Management, and Design. Previously, she taught at the School of Architecture, University of Texas in Austin, and at Yeungjin Junior College in Daegu, South Korea.

“Applications-oriented research and technological innovation provide the underpinnings of an NYIT education,” said Shoureshi. “Maria’s expertise in computational design, emergent material-based processes, and fabrication technologies align perfectly with our career-focused mission and no doubt will lead to even greater opportunities for faculty to engage our students in interdisciplinary research, national and international projects, competitions, and other solutions-oriented endeavors.”

“I look forward to working with NYIT’s exceptional teaching and research

community, which is highly regarded and at the forefront of design practices,” said Perbellini. “NYIT offers a vibrant learning environment with a clear focus on pedagogical excellence.”

She is particularly excited by how the School of Architecture and Design combines entrepreneurial direction with cutting-edge technology to promote student learning and to prepare graduates for responsible careers. “In this privileged position as dean, I am committed to carrying out an innovative and transformative vision that will build on our programs’ existing strengths, inspire new strategies for growth, and enhance NYIT’s distinctive profile and national and international pre-eminence,” she added.



Courtesy of Maria R. Perbellini

“NYIT offers a vibrant learning environment with a clear focus on pedagogical excellence.”

Born in Italy, Perbellini holds degrees from Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia and the Pratt Institute. She succeeds Judith DiMaio, who will remain at NYIT and share her expertise as professor and dean emeritus. ■



(Above) Maria R. Perbellini

(Right) NYIT School of Architecture and Design students work on projects.



Martin Seack

Mark Hampton Joins NYIT as Vice President for Planning, Analytics, and Decision Support

THIS FALL, **MARK C. HAMPTON, PH.D.**, joined the university as vice president for Planning, Analytics, and Decision Support. Hampton brings strong credentials and experience to NYIT, including nearly 20 years of benchmarking strategic plans and promoting effective use of data analytics. In this newly cast position, he will oversee planning, assessment, accreditation, data governance, and institutional data reporting and effectiveness.

Hampton joins NYIT from Washington College in Chestertown, Md., where he served as vice president for finance and administration. Prior to that, he spent seven years in

administration at the University of Virginia, where he led the development of new internal modeling and oversaw the academic division's performance data. He holds three degrees from the University of Utah, two in math and one in educational administration.

"Hampton's efforts will boost our culture of data-informed decision-making and governance as we develop analytical and statistical models to help us achieve our 2030 strategic goals," said President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D. "We welcome Mark's strategic vision and leadership as he helps us further define NYIT as a university with global impact and as a leader in educating profession-ready, forward-thinking students." ■



Andrie Kopinski

NYIT WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Why did the Fulbright scholar from Turkey, the data scientist from China, and a decorated NYPD veteran walk into the Gold Coast mansion?

No, that isn't the setup for an overly elaborate joke. The answer is that they are three of NYIT's newest full-time faculty members who were welcomed at a wine and cheese reception on August 30 at NYIT de Seversky Mansion. "This year we have another group of great, wonderful faculty joining NYIT," said Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs (pictured left at the event).

The 16 full-time faculty members and seven visiting professors have a diverse range of experiences and backgrounds and further enhance the university's distinguished pool of faculty. They include a global expert in digital architectural design and fabrication, a D.P.T. who specializes in sports injuries, an engineer whose research includes micro-biomedical devices and nanofabrication, and a former National Security Council advisor under President George H. W. Bush—plus many more.

The new professors were excited to have this opportunity to meet colleagues and start reaching out to the university's global community. "I am thrilled to be part of the NYIT faculty," said Andrew Costello, Ph.D., one of the new faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences—and someone who's eager to begin the process of interdisciplinary work in the field of criminal justice and forensic science. "I intend to actively engage with all of the schools and faculty." ■



Andrie Kopinski



Learn more: bit.ly/2016-new-faculty.



“Dean” of the Training Room

NEED A BAND-AID? Go to the athletic training room. Need post-practice ice? Go to the athletic training room. When Head Athletic Trainer Dean Kamvakis began working at NYIT in 1993, the athletic training “room” was two offices with basic equipment. Since then, he has helped it grow into a robust facility with several treatment and taping tables, whirlpools, an ice machine, staff offices, and more.

Kamvakis always wanted to work as a college athletic trainer. As the son of a volunteer firefighter and fire chief, he was inspired to help others at an early age. Later, mentors like Ron Waske, athletic trainer for St. Lawrence University and the New York Islanders, and Mike Matheny, head athletic trainer at Ithaca College, helped him get his start.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in physical education, he began working at a sports medicine clinic in Syracuse, N.Y. When he received the offer to join NYIT as head athletic trainer, he looked at it as a good opportunity to develop a career. And as a native of Long Island he felt it was a good fit. That early job offer turned into a multidecade career.

In the 23 years since Kamvakis has donned the blue and gold, there have been significant improvements to the resources that benefit the student-athletes. “We are doing more for our student-athletes and providing improved care, particularly with assistance from NYITCOM and the new Center for Sports Medicine,” he says. “Having on-campus access to our team physician [Assistant Professor and Director of Sports Medicine Hallie Zwibel (D.O. ’11)] is also a tremendous resource.”

Working in conjunction with the assistant athletic trainers and the team physician, Kamvakis oversees the athletic health of nearly 250 student-athletes at NYIT. “We work closely with the athletes on a daily basis and are on the sidelines prepared to deal with emergency situations as well,” says Kamvakis. “Quite often we will travel with athletic teams to away contests to be able to provide these same services on the road.”

Kamvakis is an integral part of the athletic department. “His even temperament when interacting with all the student-athletes and prioritizing their injuries and rehabilitation has been a big part of our success over the years,” notes Head Lacrosse Coach Bill Dunn, who has

worked with NYIT athletics for the past 17 years. Alumni also frequently check in with Kamvakis when they visit campus and ask about the progress of athletic training and sports medicine at NYIT.

When Kamvakis isn’t in the training room, he spends time in his garden, hunts, and fishes—activities he considers “much more relaxing than the front lines of NYIT athletics.” Kamvakis has even competed in bass club tournaments, though he has no plans to go pro: “I’ll stick to being head athletic trainer.”

So, after 20-plus years in the training room, what does he enjoy most? “The daily interactions with our student-athletes and the relationships that develop through the time we spend working together,” he says. “We have very talented student-athletes at NYIT. They excel not only athletically, but also in the classroom. To play a role in their development and success is extremely satisfying.” ■

(Above) Kamvakis helps a student-athlete in the athletic training room.

(Above right) Kamvakis holds the 2003 NCAA National Champion Trophy after NYIT men’s lacrosse defeats Limestone.



For more than two decades, Head Athletic Trainer Dean Kamvakis has helped student-athletes realize their full potential.



Team Up: Women's Lacrosse

THIS FALL, a new team joins the Bears: Women's lacrosse has officially been added to NYIT's intercollegiate athletics department, bringing the total number to 13 (six men's and seven women's programs plus cheerleading). The Bears begin competition as an NCAA Division II member of the East Coast Conference on February 25, 2017, on the road against Georgian Court. Their home field debut takes place February 28 against Merrimack College in non-conference action. East Coast Conference play begins March 4, with the regular season finish scheduled for April 29 at LIU Post. The majority of NYIT's players hail from Dowling College and continue their athletic careers following Dowling's closure this year. Former Dowling Head Coach Kerri Handras (pictured) also joins NYIT as the team's leader. "I am very excited and fortunate to have been given the opportunity to start the women's lacrosse program here at NYIT," said Handras, who brought in three more recruits and welcomed three NYIT women's soccer players to the team. "We are in a unique situation in the sense that we have 13 transfers from Dowling College that will help jump-start the brand-new program. We are eager to start practicing and begin our new journey. These players have a new home, a new name, but the game remains the same—and so does the expectation to win." ■



Diego Flores

Sports Briefs

GET INTO THE GAME

Want the latest intel on your favorite NYIT athletic program? Follow the Bears on social media and get the latest news throughout the season, plus a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like being an NCAA collegiate athlete. Find your team's account at bit.ly/bears-social-hub.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE FACTS*


- 12 players on the field (vs. 10 in men's lacrosse).
- Two 30-minute halves. If a team leads by 10 or more goals, the clock will run after goals.
- A 90-second possession clock will be implemented for the 2018 playing season.
- 107 teams (and growing) compete at the NCAA Division II level.
- "Crosses" are inspected before each game. Women's lacrosse sticks have a tight net to move, pass, or hit the ball. By contrast, men's lacrosse sticks have a pocket to catch the ball and carry it.
- While female players can stick check one another, they are not allowed to bodycheck. (Men's teams are allowed a significant amount of body contact during the game.)

* Information from laxworld.com (bit.ly/lax-differences).

FEATURE

BY KATHRIN HAVRILLA

HUĀNYÍNG GUĀNGLÍN! MARHABAN BIKOM! WELCOME!



(Above, facing page) NYIT staff members and student ambassadors went to John F. Kennedy International Airport to greet international students living in residence halls, including those from China, Brazil, India, the Netherlands, and Lebanon.

NYIT's emphasis on internationalization provides transformative experiences inside and outside the classroom for all students—no matter where they come from or where they choose to study.

A Small World: Creating a Global Mindset

A student from China is nearing the end of a 20-hour journey. She's leaving her family, her hometown, and all her friends. With just an hour left in the flight, she's starting to get nervous: What will this experience be like? What if she gets lost? What if she doesn't make any friends or no one can understand her?

Checked luggage in tow, tired and a little disoriented, she makes her way out of baggage claim and toward whatever is going to come next. Then, she turns a corner and sees them: NYIT T-shirts, signs, and big grins.

A woman holds out her right hand. "Welcome to New York!" she exclaims. "We're here to help you get settled into your new dorm. Come on, let's go meet everyone else."

This past year, NYIT became one of a select group of universities to receive the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. It's an honor that reaffirms the university's commitment to providing a globally integrated learning environment and recognizes NYIT's excellence in promoting study abroad programs, cross-cultural exchange, and strategic partnerships on the international stage. And it has wider implications. NAFSA's soon-to-be-released study of NYIT will guide other institutions interested in bringing the world into their campuses

The award is only one part of the story. Internationalization at NYIT is

a holistic endeavor—it encompasses experiential education for domestic and international students, scholarships to study abroad, research projects with partners in other countries, and more.

"American higher education is the gold standard," says Peter Kinney, NYIT chief of staff and a retired U.S. Army infantry colonel. "There's a definitive link between the education of a population and economic success, both personally and as a society. There are three ways in which a country can improve the higher educational levels of its citizens: establish public, government-funded universities; invite American institutions into your country and team up with a local university; or invite American institutions in to establish



a stand-alone school. NYIT has a role in the last two models.”

At the core of this are students, who now represent all 50 states and 125 countries. Around 20 percent of NYIT’s student body is from outside the United States. And whether they come from a town six miles or 6,000 miles from their NYIT campus, it is the NYIT experience that makes them ready to engage, socially or professionally, wherever they may be.

Huānyíng Guānglín! Marhaban bikom! Welcome!

Leaving one’s home country to study in the United States is hard. Students must negotiate language barriers, cultural barriers, and jet lag—and that’s before they even step into a classroom. NYIT works to make sure that international students arriving in New York (where more than 2,500 NYIT students come from outside the United States) feel welcomed and ready to get involved. Staff members in the Center for Global Academic Exchange serve students from NYIT’s non-U.S. campuses and partner programs, walking them

through the visa process, coordinating housing, and even picking them up from the airport. Throughout the year, they help with language and networking skills and navigating life in America. New York students studying at global campuses receive similar services there.

Alleviating some of the stress that comes with moving to a new country means students can focus on more important aspects of their education—like being a student. Marketing major **En Li (B.S. ’16)** transferred to NYIT-Manhattan from Foshan University in southern China two years ago. “During the first semester, I was just a normal student, hanging out with friends and studying,” she says. “The second semester, I became an international student ambassador and an orientation leader in Manhattan and vice president of the Global Exchange Organization.”

Li and a dozen other ambassadors organize activities to encourage face-to-face interactions among domestic and international students. She has helped her classmates go through the same

transition she did. “Sometimes we will feel lonely because our families are not here,” she says. “However, that is not an excuse to stay friends only with students from the same country. Once you adjust to life in New York and make friends from different countries, you will find out you are not alone.”

Global Careers: Activated

When it comes to pursuing a career path, “think globally” is pretty common advice. It’s not always easy to follow, however, particularly when trying to network and grow a career abroad. “We prepare students to be global citizens and secure jobs, but international students are limited in the amount and type of paid work they can do because of visa restrictions,” says Ann Marie Klotz, dean for campus life at NYIT-Manhattan. To address this, NYIT for looks for service-learning and other job-related opportunities on campus or with partner agencies.

All NYIT students are encouraged to utilize NYIT Career Services early and often. “Each member of the Career Services staff meets with domestic and



NYIT Magazine put out a request for students to participate in a photo shoot for this feature; these dynamic, globally minded powerhouses answered the call.

TARIQ JAMAL

Studying: Interdisciplinary Studies. **Hails from:** Saudi Arabia. **Good to Know:** Speaks five languages, is a student ambassador, and is president of the South Asian Student Association.



JIA WANG Pursuing: a master’s in Animation. **Hails from:** China. **Good to Know:** Wang’s *Zoedream* won Best of Show (Animation) at the 2016 NYIT Animation and Film Festival and was exhibited at the Governors Island Art Fair (see p. 4).



JONELL JOSEPH Studying: Marketing. **Hometown:** Brooklyn, N.Y. **Good to Know:** Awarded the Gilman Scholarship for study abroad and spending the fall 2016 semester at NYIT-Nanjing.



international students,” says Executive Director of Career Services and Alumni Relations John M. Hyde. “By coming into our office, they can find opportunities they may not have known about, like career fairs, workshops, mock interviews, networking, and alumni mentorship.”

“I help students find ‘smart’ volunteering opportunities,” adds James Huang, NYIT’s international student support specialist for the Office of Career Services. “They contribute their skills to a place like a nonprofit, rather than through casual volunteering, where students do not necessarily use their specific skills.”

For example, through NYIT programs like Consultants for the Public Good, business students from Nanjing performed neighborhood and market research for a chamber of commerce; communication arts students from Beijing produced videos for an international organization; and marketing students from Vancouver taught branding at a Bronx middle school. “They all made high-impact contributions while adding value to their résumés,” says Huang. “Even if their intent is to return home, having such experiences helps

them stand out among others who may have also studied abroad.”

Networking is another challenge. “It’s so important; you have to stay in touch with everyone,” says **Faisal Khan (M.B.A. ’16)**, an NYIT-Vancouver graduate who is originally from India. “NYIT-Vancouver is a fertile ground for cultivating your professional network in both Canada and the U.S.A.”

In China, the closest word to networking is *guanxi*, which means relationship. But the idea of networking in China is different than in America, explains Huang. “A lot of students will ask, ‘What if I don’t know anyone?’ So we’ll schedule informational interviews with their professors, set them up on LinkedIn, and help them connect with people.” Professional connections in both the United States and the student’s home country become a formidable foundation for career development.

“I went to Career Services because I wanted information about what to do to stay in the U.S. after graduation,” says Li, who now lives in New York and is studying for the GMAT. “Through them,

I got many interviewing tips, applied to jobs, and went on interviews.”

The Trip

Students who wish to travel abroad can do so in a variety of ways, from shorter research trips sponsored by their school or funded through programs like the Presidential Global Fellowship to longer study abroad opportunities at another NYIT campus or partner institution.

The Center for Global Academic Exchange is one resource that helps students find a good fit among the study abroad options available. Last year, it awarded more than \$20,000 to students attending programs in China, France, Greece, Germany, Italy, and more. This year, **Jonell Joseph**, winner of the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship administered by the Institute of International Education, is studying in NYIT-Nanjing. The first in her family to study abroad, she says the seamless integration between NYIT-Manhattan and the Nanjing campus is critical to her ability to go abroad. “I won’t



DEVIN ZACCHINO
Studying: Communication Arts. **Hometown:** Mount Sinai, N.Y. **Good to Know:** Wrote down that he wanted to be an orientation leader at his own orientation; became one this year.

XIAOYUE (MOON) CHE **Studying:** Electrical and Computer Engineering. **Hometown:** Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. **Good to Know:** Holds two patents for an earthquake detection device that she hopes will save lives.

DIXA SONI **Studying:** Architecture. **Hails From:** Ghana. **Good to Know:** While she was born in India, Soni spent 13 years in Ghana and considers that her home. Speaks five languages. Loves Manhattan!

have to transfer credits, which would otherwise be difficult,” she says.

Hospitality management major **Suhail Iqbal** decided that rather than go to one country, he'd go to more than a dozen. In 2014 and 2016, he took part in Semester at Sea, an on-ship experiential learning opportunity in which students travel the world and visit up to 15 countries (see below, cover). “By being able to participate in my study abroad program, I was given the chance to travel the world and learn from its people,” he says. “Along the way I learned a great deal about different cultures, customs, and different ways people conduct business. As a result, I chose an entrepreneurial route for myself ... I hope to open my own restaurant one day.”

Many students who can't fit a semester abroad into their academic plans can still experience a new culture. **Anthony Holloway**, an interdisciplinary studies major, had never traveled outside the United States when he applied to NYIT's Alternative Spring Break. “I always wanted to travel and do something beneficial,” he says. Holloway took part in Alternative Spring Break in 2015 and 2016. Both years, the team traveled to Nicaragua, where they worked with

communities with limited access to water and ran a camp for children.

At Home with Internationalization

To gain a global perspective at NYIT, students don't need to travel far. But they do need to possess an open mind and some natural curiosity.

Sophomore and Long Island native **Devin Zacchino** knows this firsthand. While many of his friends went to state schools, he decided to attend NYIT-Manhattan. “My experience is so different from theirs,” he says. “I'll tell them that my friends here are from Japan and other countries, and they're always surprised. It's so awesome.”

“Many of our New York-based students are from the surrounding area,” says Klotz, “and they start out thinking that being from New York City, they don't need to know about internationalization. But once they start to engage with students who are so different from them, they learn about cultures and experiences that can really change them.”

The drive to encourage and develop a global perspective is embedded in NYIT's DNA. That perspective, in turn, has benefited and influenced alumni long after they've graduated. And when it comes

to careers and the global marketplace, Huang believes NYIT graduates have an advantage. “I advised **Xinyi Dai (B.S. '16)**, an NYIT-Nanjing student, during her final year in Manhattan. She wanted to go back to China” he says, “and ended up getting a job with a French digital marketing and consulting agency in Shanghai.” He notes that Dai had several advantages: “One, she applied in English since it was an international company, and two, the company wanted someone who had studied abroad and experience working in New York. Ultimately, though it was an entry-level position, she ended up earning more than many of her peers.”

“Everything we do now that brings us positive attention and recognition, such as receiving the Simon Award, is a win for NYIT and all students and brings additional clout to the degree our alumni have already worked hard to earn,” says Klotz. “When they apply for a job, there's recognition of excellence there; when they negotiate for a job, they can get more money. The value of their degree goes up exponentially.” ■



Read more about the Simon award: bit.ly/Simon-NYIT

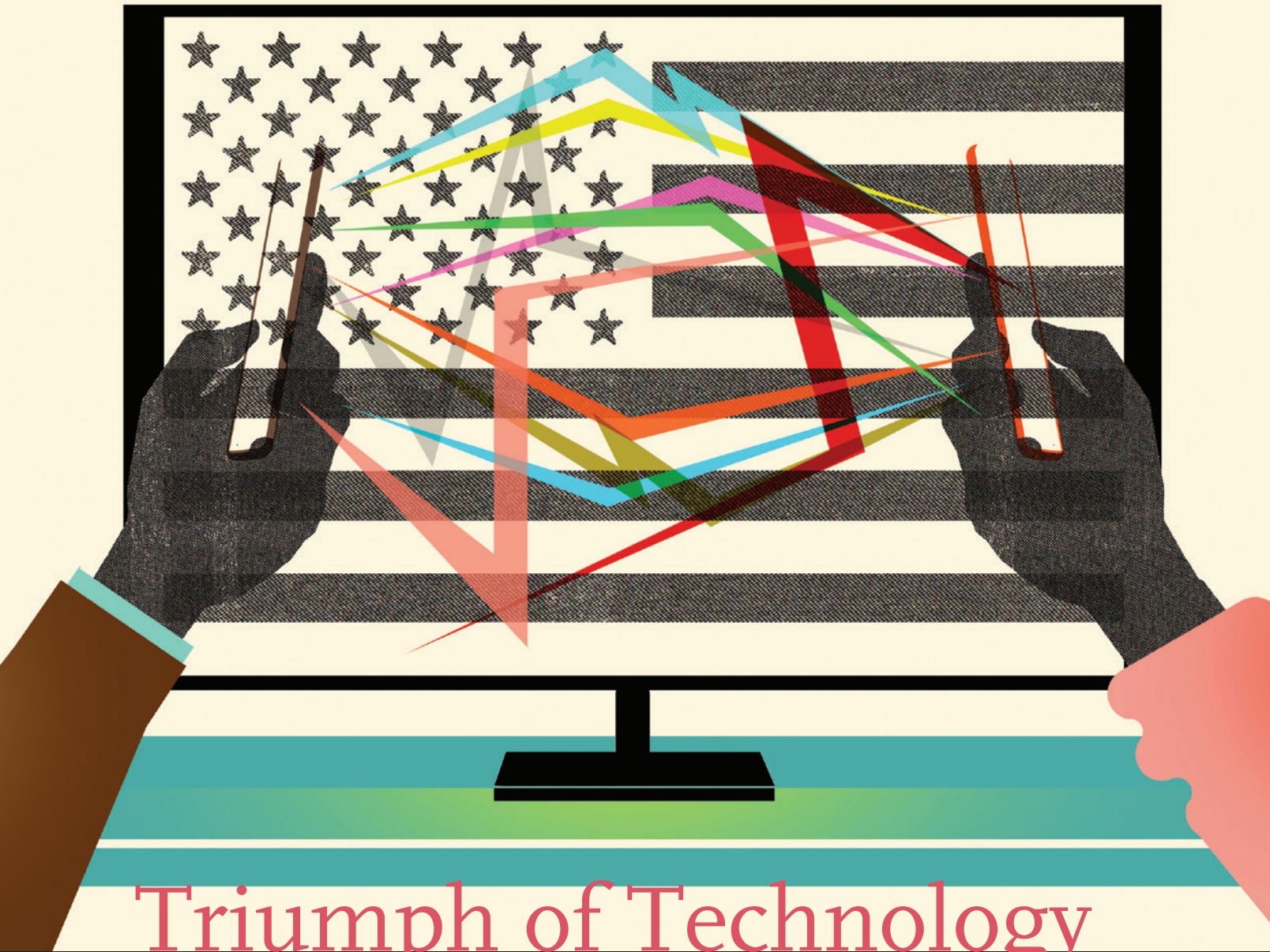


Myanmar was a highlight of **Suhail Iqbal's** trip abroad. (Above) Iqbal watches the sunrise over the town of Bagan as hot air balloons float in the distance. (Cover) Iqbal sits in front of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar.

Global Study and Service Opportunities at NYIT

Students participate on the global stage in many ways. Here are some recent examples:

- NYIT Presidential Global Fellowships helped support dozens of experiential learning opportunities outside students' communities and comfort zones.
- Faculty members and students participated in NYIT Center for Global Health missions, performing health screenings, medical procedures, and educational outreach abroad.
- School of Management students from New York, Abu Dhabi, and Vancouver did summer programs in India, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Germany.
- 13 students traveled to Paris to study documentary filmmaking and marketing.
- Nine New York students spent a semester at NYIT-Nanjing, while 200-plus students from NYIT's campuses in Beijing and Nanjing spent a year in Manhattan and Old Westbury.
- NYIT-Abu Dhabi students and alumni traveled to New York and met with international student ambassadors and faculty members in their subject areas.
- 27 medical students carried out clinical rotations in countries including Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam.



Triumph of Technology

BY JAMES SIMON,
DEAN, NYIT COLLEGE
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

With new technology, new candidates, and new ways to consume media, the 2016 election season has provided no shortage of topics to discuss.

OVERWHELMED by the Twitter posts that are released every minute of the 2016 presidential campaign? Confused by cable TV hosts who breathlessly shout out new, often contradictory poll results every time you flip through the stations?

You're not alone.

Whether you are a voter, a campaign strategist, or an NYIT student or professor, the old lessons of political campaigns have not been very useful in this new, amped-up era of politics and the media.

Call it a Triumph of Technology: There is more campaign information (stories, blogs, tweets, Facebook postings, Instagrams, and conventional political ads) bombarding you than ever before. Cell phones give you instant access. Information on the presidential candidates is now a commodity, available anywhere, anytime. On the surface, one story may not look much different than another.

But voters who try to slow down the pace and make the kind of thoughtful, reasoned judgment that we stress in our classes at NYIT may feel like the proverbial generals who rely on the same plan they used to fight the last war, and then quickly find themselves steamrolled by a changed technological environment.

You no longer need to own a printing press to publish your own views. Just in

the last four years, newer forms of social media like Instagram, Twitter, and Vine have leveled the playing field and reduced the cost of entry for being heard.

You can pick your preferred technology—print or broadcast, online or social media—and then avoid cognitive dissonance by also picking the political flavor of the news you prefer: *Mother Jones* is available on the far left, *National Review* on the far right. Fox News will give you a predictably conservative viewpoint, while CNN is preferred by those who want to watch a news organization struggle to be nonpartisan in its approach.

I am an eyewitness—and sometime participant—in the changes that have turned campaigns upside down since the 1970s. Before becoming dean of NYIT College of Arts and Sciences, I spent a

decade as a political campaign reporter for the Associated Press, filing 4,000 news stories in the pre-Internet era.

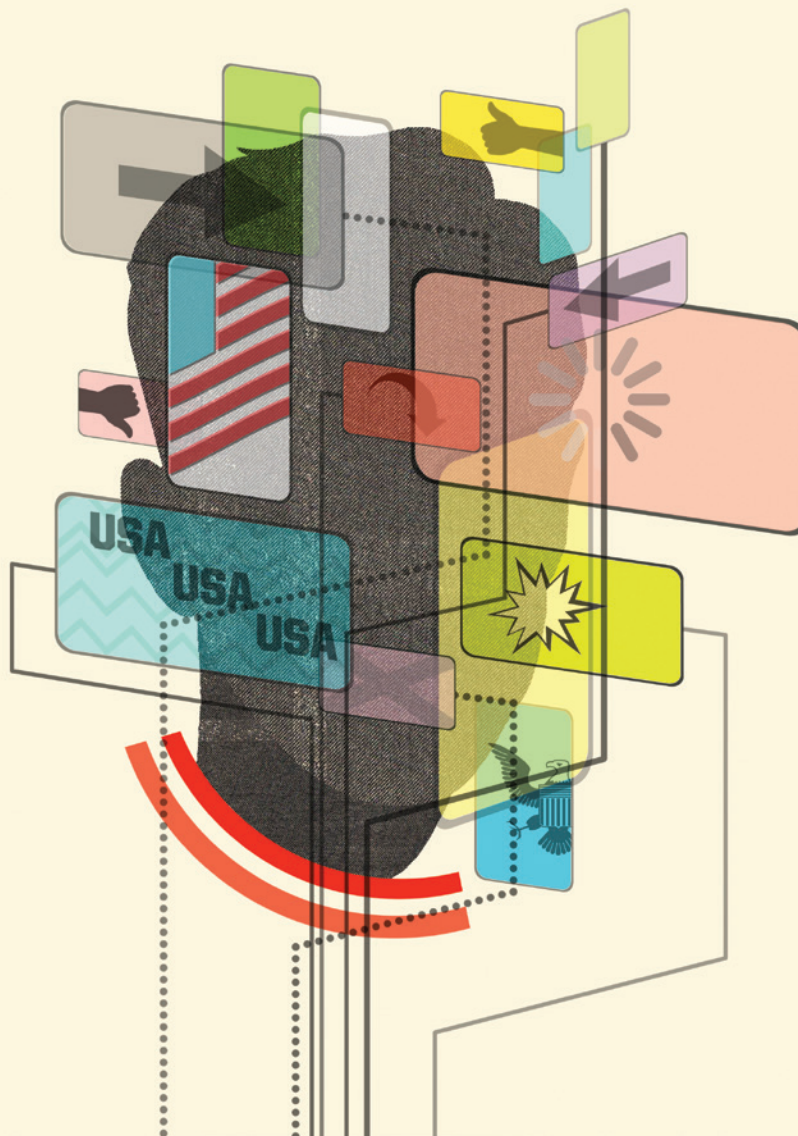
Back in the day, journalists were still bound by now-quaint traditions of seeking a second source to verify news stories and waiting to get the other side of a story before releasing it. We were taught to “get it right and get it first”—in that order.

The pace of presidential campaigns started to change when I went to work for Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis in 1988. I was part of the fast-response team on environmental issues, needed because reporters were no longer waiting several hours to file complete, verified stories. Complaints started to mount that “speed kills” and that accuracy was being sacrificed for the sake of getting the story first and cleaning up errors later.

With the arrival of around-the-clock cable TV news in the 1990s, endless information sources online, and social media advances, this continuing Triumph of Technology gives each candidate a chance to gain an edge if they can be the first to use a new means of communication in an effective manner.

Republican candidate Donald Trump will be remembered in election history as the candidate who peered into the near future and saw the technological advantages of writing 140-character campaign messages and having them carried instantly via Twitter. He then reinforced the messages by appearing on an endless number of cable TV news shows that were eager to have him elaborate. Who needs paid campaign ads when you can get all the coverage you want for free?

Meanwhile, Democrat Hillary Clinton uses technology to scour the broadcast news landscape, looking for Trump statements that might be used to her advantage. She immediately creates campaign ads reacting to Trump statements and misstatements, getting them out via cable TV for targeted audiences in battleground states. But her misuse of government emails also shows technology is politically neutral—it can help or hurt whatever candidate uses it effectively.





TECHNOLOGY HAS TURNED TRADITIONAL CAMPAIGNING UPSIDE DOWN, AND WHETHER YOU ARE AN NYIT STUDENT, A PROFESSOR TRYING TO KEEP LESSON PLANS CURRENT, OR A VOTER, THE PACE OF CHANGE WILL ONLY QUICKEN.

More reporters are using technology like Google to fact-check candidate claims, often in real time and just seconds after the claim is made. By mid-August, journalists were pushing back at unsubstantiated candidate claims like “the election is rigged” and “FBI Director Comey said my answers were truthful...,” and noting in stories when “there is no evidence that a candidate’s claim is accurate.” Fact-checking services like PolitiFact have applied their “Pants on Fire” designation to both candidates (albeit more to Trump) in an effort to draw attention to misstatements.

As you watch the debates, look to see if the moderators try to hold candidates accountable for any unsubstantiated claims, consistent with the old journalism maxim that “extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.” Technology has allowed instant access to more sophisticated polling than ever, but pay attention to whether the survey is of voters nationally (which is of limited value since there are 50 separate state contests) and whether the pollster surveyed residents, voters, or likely voters, each of which will usually give you a different result.

So, how do NYIT professors cope with this tidal wave of information while

trying to teach students how to analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and the other elements of critical thinking? How does a school with “technology” in its name help guide students through the intersection of politics, journalism, and media; show them the impact of technological change; and help them become more informed, active citizens?

It’s no easy task. This past summer, our professors had to plan out their fall courses while facing the most unpredictable presidential campaign in U.S. history. Take the following examples:

In Manhattan, Communications Professor Larry Jaffee is having his Journalism 101 students examine how social media allows false campaign information to spread much faster than verified news. While in Old Westbury, Criminal Justice Professor Andrew Costello’s students are studying laws regarding email and how public servants are bound by legal and ethical guidelines to retain it and maintain separate public and private accounts.

Political Science Professor Michael Izady is looking at the rise of political violence locally and drawing parallels with the rise and spread of fascism in Europe and America. And Philosophy Professor

Ellen Katz is taking her students all the way back to Socrates to examine how often or how infrequently critical thinking and support of the facts occur on the campaign trail.

They all hope their grand plans are still relevant when the country staggers to Election Day in this unusual political year, one in which most pundits, including me, start off any new prediction by saying: “Well, I have been wrong about every element of the campaign so far, but I think...”

Four years from now, the technological breakthroughs of 2016 are likely to be as outdated as candidate signs on a voter’s lawn. Technology has turned traditional campaigning upside down, and whether you are an NYIT student, a professor trying to keep lesson plans current, or a voter, the pace of change will only quicken. Get ready for more disruption ahead. ■

A world-class journalist, expert on environmental issues, and seasoned academic, James Simon, Ph.D., joined NYIT as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2015. Learn more: nyit.edu/bio/James.Simon.

After joining NYIT's chapters of the National Society of Black Engineers, students find unexpected opportunities in both their careers and their lives.



Vanessa Newman (B.S. '16), former president of NYIT-Manhattan's NSBE chapter, pictured in NYIT Career Services.

Engineering

Barry Sloan

IN OUR CURRENT ECONOMY, there's good news and bad news for engineering students. The good news is that, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for engineers is more than double the median annual wage for all occupations, but the not-so-good news is that the growth rate for engineering jobs is slower than average. With such a competitive job market, colleges and universities have a major challenge helping engineering students find jobs and internships. Add to that the fact that engineering has historically been a profession largely comprised of white males, and an even bigger challenge presents itself.

Enter the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), a nonprofit with the mission "to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community." Since its founding in 1971, NSBE has grown to include more than 30,000 members in precollege, college, and professional/alumni chapters in the United States and abroad.

Two of those chapters are on NYIT's Manhattan and Old Westbury campuses. "NSBE helps the students develop professionally," says Amy Bravo, senior director of international and experiential education at NYIT. Bravo sees firsthand the benefits of participating in NSBE.

"They take their meetings very seriously, setting goals for themselves on campus and in their careers."

When **Dolu Obatusin (B.S. '12)** transferred to NYIT to study biomedical engineering, he and several other NYIT students relaunched Manhattan's NSBE chapter. "It's a very good pipeline for creating opportunities for students," says Obatusin, who was an NSBE member before transferring to NYIT. "It can provide internships and create a community for students to get academic help and professional exposure."

Mentoring Up

Part of NSBE's founding ideology is that the members give back to the community. Obatusin was an assistant site director in Houston for NSBE's SEEK (Summer Engineering Experience for Kids) program. "It was an eye-opening experience. I helped expose students to STEM in the way I was when I was in high school and did programs at Cooper Union. I felt like I had come full circle." After graduating from NYIT and getting a master's degree at Cornell, Obatusin worked at the War Related Illness and Injury Study Center at the Veterans Affairs Hospital. Now he's pursuing a Ph.D. at Georgia Tech. And in the spirit of NSBE, he still gives back. "Any time I can, I try to contribute somehow."

Bravo notes that the NSBE programs inspire students to get involved in STEM

at a young age. "It brings out the playful aspect of engineering early on so it's not intimidating," she says. "They start to feel comfortable with the language and the field of engineering."

Vanessa Newman (B.S. '16) served as president of NYIT-Manhattan's NSBE chapter last year. She says NSBE has made her "more outspoken and likely to take risks." As a student, she taught children in NSBE programs and developed a STEM after school program for three elementary schools in Jamaica, Queens. Then, after graduating, she launched a similar program in Harlem. As part of the initiative, Newman has taken on the responsibility of training NYIT students to deliver STEM programming in the schools five days a week. "Her work engages NYIT students in service to the community while inspiring future STEM professionals," says Bravo.

Mentorship within the club is a big part of the NSBE experience. Newman, who has since become a mentor to others, credits fellow engineering student **Omari Adams** with getting her involved in her freshman year. Adams discovered NSBE in high school through an outreach program at Brooklyn Tech. As a freshman at NYIT-Manhattan, he volunteered for NSBE activities, including at STEM Day, where kids from New York do activities in conjunction with the School of Education's Kids for College program. Adams

a Way to Success

also works part time at Sikorsky Aircraft (a job he got through an NYIT alumni connection) and commutes to campus twice a week for classes. “It has pushed off my graduation date,” he says, “but the experience is worth it.”

Breaking Barriers

As NSBE has grown over the past decades, its doors have widened. “Although in name it says ‘black engineers,’ you don’t have to be black to join,” says Bravo. “NSBE encourages diversity on all levels.”

“The basic understanding is that minorities need help in this field,” adds Newman. Last year, members of Newman’s chapter were 40 percent black, 40 percent Caribbean, 15 percent white, and 5 percent Asian.

When **Will Udoh (B.S. '14, M.S. '16)** was president of the Old Westbury NSBE chapter, one of his goals was to diversify the organization. “When I gave my opening speech, I challenged the room full of engineering students to join,” says Udoh. “It’s not the color of your skin that gets you into our organization.” Udoh partnered with campus organizations such as the Society of Women Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers to broaden his chapter’s reach. “Anyone can push the mission,” he says. “There was an awesome response from the Caucasian, African American, Hispanic, and Asian communities.”

Udoh worked in NSBE after-school programs for high school and middle school students. And while he was interning for Northrop Grumman in Virginia, he taught at a SEEK program nearby. “Kids learn programming and teamwork; they brainstorm; they create solutions to problems. At such a young age, they learn faster and develop skills.”



A student-athlete who played basketball, Udoh is used to being a team player. He even established a postgraduate professional chapter of NSBE when he was getting his master’s degree. After interning for Boeing, Udoh won a place in the company’s prestigious Engineering Career Foundation Program. He’ll work in four locations over the next two years. Round one: the Space and Intelligence Systems group in El Segundo, Calif.



(Facing page, top to bottom) Will Udoh, Joyce Onore, Steavian Sampson (in his office at Florida Power and Light Company), and Ariana Rennie (at the New England Air Museum while she interned at United Technologies Aerospace Systems).

Beyond Conventional

Every year, NSBE holds a nationwide convention to bring chapter members together to network, attend seminars, and meet with potential employers. The 2016 convention, held in Boston, Mass., saw record-breaking attendance of more than 13,000 members. “It goes beyond networking and has the feeling of a family reunion for black engineers,” says NSBE National Chair Matthew Nelson.

Steavian Sampson (B.S. '14)

helped re-establish the Manhattan chapter and started taking students to NSBE's annual convention. “The first time we went, we weren't expecting to get pulled in for interviews,” he says. To their surprise, many of the students ended up meeting with Fortune 500 companies. “Now, if you go, by the time you are a junior, you've gotten a lot of exposure and maybe internships.”

As an undergraduate, Sampson participated in SEEK programs in different cities. First he was a mentor, then an assistant site director, and finally a site director. Being an NSBE member also directly impacted Sampson's education: He received four NSBE scholarships that helped him pay for college. He now works as a resource assessment and planning engineer at Florida Power & Light Company.

Joyce Onore (B.S. '10), a senior associate at Pricewaterhouse Coopers, credits NSBE's annual convention with helping her get her full-time job after graduation. Onore majored in engineering management and served as secretary, president, and president emeritus of the Old Westbury chapter. During her junior year she interviewed at the conference with Accenture. When she didn't get a position, she followed up with her interviewer for advice about what she could have done better. She contacted

him again before the next conference and he told her of a system analyst position. She got the job. “NSBE members help each other with job opportunities, academic excellence, and professional success,” Onore says. “As a woman, my opinions were always welcomed and valued. I was never intimidated.”

“Student involvement in NSBE brings out their critical thinking,” says Felix Fischman, visiting professor of engineering and computing sciences and faculty advisor to the Manhattan chapter. “They get to work together outside of the classroom. They learn teamwork, how to get along, and how to communicate without a professor.”

Leaders At the Ready

Ariana Rennie and **Scott Paillant** are the new generation of NSBE leaders: the 2016–2017 presidents for the Old Westbury and Manhattan chapters, respectively.

Rennie joined NSBE her freshman year because she knew the organization valued diversity and would provide opportunities for scholarships, networking, and internships. “As a female, ethnic minority and a mechanical engineering student, NSBE provided the perfect platform for my future career goals,” she says. Through NSBE, Rennie received the Executive Leadership Council (ELC) and Praxair Inc. scholarships. “I feel very

“When I gave my opening speech, I challenged the room full of engineering students to join ... Anyone can push the mission.” —Will Udoh

John Katt (B.S. '16) agrees.

“NSBE is very instrumental in fostering education and networking outside of education,” he says. At NYIT, Katt coordinated NSBE events outside of the campus with other NSBE chapters. One of them, the UJAMMATHON, was dedicated to improving communities through technology, finance, and collaboration. “It was filled with tech people, legal people, finance people, community activists,” says Katt. “Everyone at the table was trying to find solutions for disadvantaged communities.” At the convention, Katt interviewed with companies like Cisco and Google; he ultimately accepted a position as technology and development coordinator at the New York City Office of the Public Advocate, an office he worked with throughout college.

fortunate to experience firsthand the benefits of this organization.”

Paillant says that joining NSBE has broadened his perspective and made him realize the extent of the community he is part of. When he interned in San Francisco for a startup, he met West Coast members of NSBE. “It really brings home that we are all in this together,” he says. “I just didn't realize how helpful NSBE could be with academics, fitting in, leadership, and expression. It makes you grow as a person.” But Paillant, like the other NSBE members at NYIT, is not only thinking about what NSBE can do for him. As the organizer of several NSBE events, he is very involved in educational programs for elementary and high school students. “The NSBE community is important. But helping people is even more important.” ■

Your Story IS NYIT'S Story

LET US GUESS—the first place you look when you receive *NYIT Magazine* is this section. It makes sense: *NYIT Magazine* is all about helping alumni stay connected to the university and one another. And that's why we're asking you to connect with us. **Your stories are our stories. Share them.** No news is too small (or too big!). Got a new job or promotion? Let us know. Volunteered or made a difference? You may inspire others to do the same. Went on a spectacular trip or had a life-affirming experience? Tell us about it—and send the pics.

SUBMIT YOUR STORY:
nyit.edu/alumni_notes_or_magazine@nyit.edu.

...And while you're at it, update your contact information. Our recent magazine survey showed that many of you want your magazine in print and online, so make sure we have your snail and email details, and encourage your fellow grads to do the same.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO:
nyit.edu/alumni, alumni@nyit.edu, or 516.686.7800.

ALUMNI

Alumni Notes

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Boost Your Career and Help Others Grow Theirs

AS ONE OF NYIT'S 100,000 ALUMNI, you are part of a powerful, worldwide network of professionals. NYIT Career Services offers alumni the same benefits that students receive—and more. Alumni can request appointments with an advisor, participate in on-campus recruiting, attend job fairs, and utilize online resources. You can also take advantage of resources geared specifically to graduates, like job postings, networking events, and career exploration opportunities. Explore nyit.edu/cs to learn more.

Alumni can also help others. First, tell us where you work (bit.ly/report-hire-2016). The more we know about where you are employed, the stronger your network grows. Then, get involved. Career Services works with a diverse group of employers; alumni within these organizations have hired thousands of NYIT students for full-time and part-time positions and for internship and volunteer opportunities. You can participate in a career fair representing your employer, or offer advice, encouragement, and mentorship to current students who are eager to learn the tools of your trade.

Career Services can match you with the opportunity that works with your specialized skill sets. Email cs@nyit.edu or visit nyit.edu/alumni, click on "Alumni Directory," and indicate you are interested in career mentoring.

1960s

BERNARD RASHES (B.S. '67) and wife Sylvia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. "I made many friends while attending NYIT," he says. "We all had a common goal of getting the best jobs after we graduated." After earning his degree, Rashes landed a job with the U.S. General Accounting Office. Later he worked for the MTA Inspector General's office as a financial investigative manager. "NYIT was relatively new when I began my studies," he recalls. "I thought they would hire the best teachers to get the school on the map. I was not wrong."

1970s

KAMAL CHACHRA (M.B.A. '73) is a real estate associate broker with Houlihan Lawrence in Westchester County, N.Y. She and her husband have two sons and four grandchildren.

In May, alumni and undergraduate members of the Xi-Gamma Chapter of TKE at NYIT celebrated the 45th anniversary of the chapter's founding. "The time we spent together as undergrads at NYIT formed a bond, and it is still there 45 years later," says **STEVE COOPER (B.F.A. '74)**, a founding member of the chapter and past president. He is owner of SCA Communications, a B2B public relations firm.

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

Photography by **GERARD GILIBERTI (B.F.A. '74)** taken at Zabriskie Point, Death Valley, will be on display at the Heckscher Museum of Art Long Island Biennial through December 4. He credits NYIT with giving him the problem-solving skills to succeed in his career. "NYIT had a great communications program, so it all fell into place for me." ggiliberti.com

BERTRAM LANGER (B.S. '75) is senior systems designer in Gannett Fleming Transit & Rail Systems' Los Angeles office.

FRANK RELF (B.S. '76) is principal of Frank G. Relf Architect P.C. in Melville, N.Y. Since 1982, the architectural and interior design firm has worked on more than 2,000 construction projects worth more than \$1 billion.

TOM COX (B.S. '77) and his wife, Evelyn, launched the Cox Arboretum and Gardens in Canton, Ga., in 1990. A frequent lecturer on conifers and woody plants, he is a member of the International Dendrology Society and Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

DOUG LE CLAIRE (B.S. '77) started film exhibition Asbury Shorts 35 years ago. In addition to serving as director of the annual event, he works as a commercial producer for TV and cable networks. Asburyshortconcerts.com

The New Jersey Chapter of the American Institute of Architects elevated **DEAN MARCHETTO (B.ARCH. '77)** (pictured) to its prestigious College of Fellows. Marchetto is founder of Marchetto Higgins Stieve Architects PC, which specializes in mixed-use multifamily residential projects.



Peter Freed



Paul Griffin
(B.S. '84)

Courtesy of Paul Griffin

YOU'RE PROBABLY already familiar with **Paul Griffin's** work. The animator has worked on television, video games, and movies like *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, *Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace*, and *King Kong*. *NYIT Magazine* spoke to Griffin to learn what keeps him animated.

Wow! Moment: The first time I saw something I had drawn moving across the tiny screen of a Moviola [a film-editing machine]—I was hooked.

The CGL: I studied classical cartoon animation at Sheridan College in Ontario. NYIT wanted animators to help facilitate the Computer Graphics Laboratory (CGL), so I signed up. It was the pre-eminent place to be at that time. We had interactive 3-D technology, which wasn't even commercially available back then. Alexander Schure [NYIT's first president] was a visionary who embraced animation. He would come to the lab at 3 a.m. in his pajamas to see what was going on.

Career Firsts: My first job after college was with a division of Sythavision, the computer graphics company that contributed to *Tron*. In 1985, I directed animation for *Captain Power and the Soldiers of the Future*, which featured the first computer-animated characters ever produced for a syndicated weekly television show. In 1994, I was hired by George Lucas' company, Industrial Light & Magic.

A-List Anecdote: When I was doing *King Kong* in New Zealand with Peter Jackson, I showed him a shot I'd been working on: Kong has died and is falling from the top of the Empire State Building. The camera corkscrews up from the top of the building to follow Kong as he tumbles just out of view to the pavement below, and then two of the biplanes that contributed to Kong's death loop through the bottom of the frame. Peter asked, "Why is everything moving so slowly?" I said, "It's like a nightmare. These two planes are like angels of death coming to collect Kong's soul." I saw Peter's eyes get wide, but he didn't say much more. A week or so later, I walked by Peter in an edit bay and heard him say, in his Kiwi accent, "...Angels of death coming to collect Kong's soul." That shot of Kong in the final movie is pretty much identical to what I showed him. I was really proud to contribute to the movie that won the 2005 Academy Award for visual effects. ■

Discover more about Griffin and his work: griffins.ocatch.com/griff.

MICHAEL L. VALLETTA (B.S. '78) is director of project delivery for the New York City office of WSP—Parsons Brinckerhoff. Previously, he worked at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for 31 years.

GARY PRAGER (B.S. '79) is a principal at Hord Coplan Macht in Denver, Colo. He has nearly four decades of experience as an architect, including more than 35 years of expertise in the senior living market.

1980s

WARREN SAWICKI (B.S. '80) received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mississippi Concrete Industries Association. He serves as senior salesman for chemicals company W.R. Grace. His industry accomplishments include getting the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to approve the usage of superplasticizers, which later became an MDOT requirement in all state bridges. For more than 20 years, he was a volunteer instructor and supplemental examiner for concrete technician certification programs.

KATIE DEVLIN (B.ARCH. '81) joined TLM Group as project manager to expand and develop its portfolio of projects. Last year, she was named one of New York's Innovative Design Professionals by Professional Women in Construction. Devlin appreciated the camaraderie among students and faculty members during her time at NYIT. She recalls Judy Bralver, an office worker in the architecture department. "She treated students and professors the same," Devlin says. "Mrs. B didn't suffer fools lightly and challenged us all to be the best we could be."

MERYL MANTHEY (B.S. '81) wants to "disrupt aging" as an active volunteer for the AARP. She was featured in a

commercial for the organization that ran on News 12. "We filmed at the Nautical Mile in Freeport [Long Island] on a cold, windy day, but it was a great experience."

DANIEL HAMMOND (B.S. '82) is a consultant at Business Finance LLC of Denver, Colo. "Thanks to NYIT, I have had a 25-year career in business and international banking," he says.

TONY JONES (B.F.A. '83) is public information officer for St. Mary's County Government in Maryland. In May, he completed Leadership Southern Maryland, a nine-month program offered through the College of Southern Maryland.

JEFF MOROSOFF (B.F.A. '83, M.A. '01) received the 2016 Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award from Hofstra University Lawrence Herbert School of Communication. He teaches public relations and serves as director of the graduate program in public relations, and is faculty adviser to the award-winning Hofstra chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Col. **DAVID MUKAI (D.O. '83)** (pictured) retired in 2015 after serving nearly 31 years in the U.S. Army. His assignments included serving as command surgeon at the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command and national medical advisor to the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. Later, Mukai was an occupational



Graham Snodgrass, Official Photographer, Visual Information Division, U.S. Army Public Health Command

medicine physician consultant at the Army's Public Health Command. "My D.O. was indispensable in allowing me to obtain my license to practice medicine in New York and the federal government, and it opened even more doors to graduate work at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health," he says.

ARNOLD KOROTKIN (M.B.A. '84) was named the 2016 American Federation of Teachers Everyday Hero in the Higher Education Division at the association's 100th anniversary convention in Minneapolis. While earning his NYIT degree, he worked as a senior consultant with the NYC Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Service. He currently works as an adjunct professor of sociology at Montclair State University.

ED WOOD (B.ARCH. '84) is design director, principal, at Gensler. His work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Architecture*, *Interior Design*, and *Metropolis* magazines; and more.

GEORGE JEHN'S (B.S. '85) book, *Final Destination: Disaster—What Really Happened to Eastern Airlines*, was optioned to be turned into a film. He decided to earn his bachelor's degree following a serious car crash. "I had a newly developed and otherwise inexplicable internal yearning to further my college education," he says. At the time, he was working as a pilot for Eastern Airlines. "One time after returning from a flight, I stopped at the NYIT-Old Westbury campus and treated myself to a brief tour. I was impressed by everything I witnessed, so I immediately registered for the next term."

Forget "win-loss records," "fielding errors," and "batting titles," advises MLB Network host and commentator **BRIAN KENNY (B.F.A. '85)**. In his new book, *Ahead of the Curve: Inside the Baseball Revolution*, published by Simon & Schuster, he debunks

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old ways of studying baseball by focusing on critical analysis and data-driven thinking.

MERCEDES (B.S. '86) and **WILLIAM GUNST (B.S. '86)** celebrated 30 years of marriage on July 5. They met during their freshman year at NYIT and have two children. The couple lives in Jacksonville, Fla.

STEPHEN A. JENKINS (B.S. '86) is a founder and partner at Sterling Major Financial LLC of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. He has more than 20 years of experience in the financial industry. Jenkins lives in Rhinebeck, N.Y., with his wife, Kathy, and their two children, Madison and Shae.

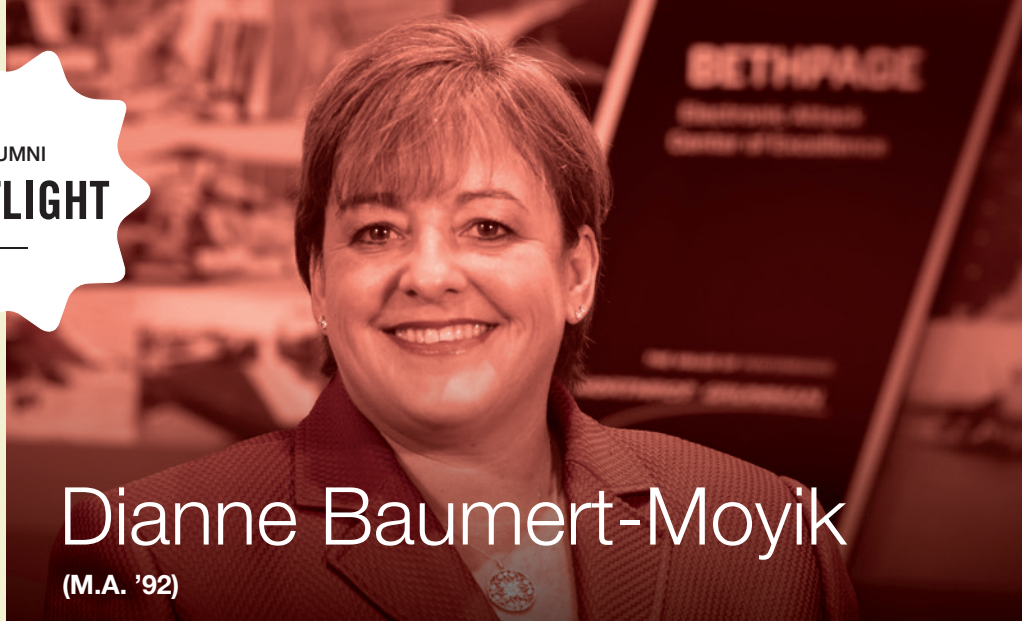
JOSEPH J. LACOVARA (B.S. '86) is chief technology officer at Perella Weinberg Partners, a global financial services firm that offers advisory and asset management services.

GREGORY CALLISTE (M.B.A. '87) is CEO of Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in New York City.

In July, **SUSAN RUBENSTEIN DEMASI'S (M.A. '87)** first book, *Henry Alsberg: The Driving Force of the New Deal Federal Writers' Project*, was published by McFarland and Co. The book chronicles the life of Alsberg, a journalist who directed the New Deal program that hired thousands of unemployed writers, produced more than 1,000 publications, and recorded more than 10,000 oral histories from ex-slaves and immigrants. HenryAlsberg.com

CARL ESPOSITO (M.B.A. '87) is director of information technology at the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board.

JEFFREY ROSENKING (M.S. '87) is a technology program management consultant at DealerTrack Technologies of Lake Success, N.Y. He serves on the board of directors of the Community Association of Stewart Avenue and Honor



Dianne Baumert-Moyik

(M.A. '92)

ON ANY GIVEN MONTH, **DIANNE BAUMERT-MOYIK** may be found crisscrossing the United States. All that travel is understandable considering she is a senior manager of program communications at Northrop Grumman Corporation, the fifth-largest defense contractor in the world, which develops aerospace and defense technology. Baumert-Moyik splits her time between Long Island, where she manages strategic community affairs for the company's environmental remediation program, and Northern Virginia and, soon, Melbourne, Fla., where she provides strategic support for the its Military Aircraft Systems division. Last year, she was part of the communications advocacy team that successfully won a major contract from the U.S. Air Force to design and build the next generation of stealth bomber (known as the B-21 Raider).

She joined Northrop Grumman in 2006 after working as assistant vice president and senior manager of public relations at Astoria Federal Savings (now Astoria Bank). "I was looking to move to a larger public company," she says. Having grown up in Long Island, she felt a kinship with Northrop Grumman (its legacy company, Grumman, was founded on Long Island). "Aviation and Grumman are so much who we are as Long Islanders," she says. Although Baumert-Moyik already has undergraduate degrees in political science and journalism, and earned her M.A. and M.B.A. while working full time, she is still pursuing her education by working towards a Doctorate in Business Administration. "I call myself a scholar-practitioner," she says. "The challenge of getting good grades and becoming a researcher again keeps me on my game."

When Baumert-Moyik was a graduate student at NYIT, she got hands-on experience at NYIT LI News Tonight, a student-run news program. "You got your story assignment in the morning, went out, covered the story, then came back, wrote, taped and edited the segment, and put it on air," she says. Many of her NYIT classmates went on to careers with major networks across the country.

In 2001, when she was running her own public relations firm, she was asked by the Uniformed Firefighters Association Local 94 to volunteer and provide media relations support to 9/11 widows and families "It was a significant moment," says Baumert-Moyik, whose husband, Paul, has been a firefighter with the FDNY for 25 years. "If it had been a different day, I could have been a widow, like so many." Still in touch with many 9/11 families, Baumert-Moyik is often reminded at Northrop Grumman of what's at stake when it comes to protecting the nation: "Our people are defined by the mission of protecting our national and global security and supporting our troops. Every day we get up and go to work to serve our country." ■

Flight Long Island, which takes World War II veterans to Washington, D.C.

HELENE ZEMEL (M.B.A. '87) debuted her first novel, *Beyond Ice*. bit.ly/Helene-Zemel

Tandem Diabetes Care of San Diego, Calif., appointed **HENRY ANHALT (D.O. '88)**, an independent member of its board of directors. Anhalt is a pediatric endocrinologist and chief medical officer at T1D Exchange, a nonprofit organization that works to develop therapies for type 1 diabetes. bit.ly/Henry-Anhalt

JOSEPH VALLIERE (B.F.A. '88) is an administrator at Piedmont Correctional Institution in Salisbury, N.C.

Hunter Roberts Construction Group named **MICHAEL BEIRNE (B.S. '89)** vice president and general manager of interiors.

JAMES GRIPPI (B.S. '89) serves as managing director, U.S. real estate, for the Carlyle Group, a global private equity firm. His favorite NYIT memory? "Meeting my wife and sitting next to her through four years," Grippi says. "I made her laugh and she made me focus. It's been the same way for close to 30 years now."

1990s

ANTONIO SAILLANT (B.S. '90) is founder of Angel Light Pictures Entertainment Group and Planet Greenfest, a festival featuring short films produced using green technology.

JOHN WONG (B.ARCH. '90) is transportation facilities group lead in the Washington, D.C., office of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff. He has more than 25 years of experience managing structural and civil engineering for transportation facilities.

HUMAYUN CHAUDHRY (D.O. '91) was ranked 28 on a list of the Most Influential Physician Executives and Leaders of 2016 by *Modern Healthcare*. He is president and CEO of Federation of State Medical Boards.

KOUROSH T. ASGARIAN (D.O. '93) joined Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, N.J., as a cardiac surgeon. Previously, he served as chief of cardiothoracic surgery at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, N.J.

MAY-LING CHUN (B.P.S. '93) represented the United People's Party in the Sept. 26 Parliamentary elections in the Caribbean island of St. Maarten. She also works as general manager for Commodore Suites in Simpson Bay and is co-founder of the St. Maarten/St. Martin Annual Regional Trade Show as well as the annual SHTA Crystal Pineapple Awards.

DAVID KUTHER (B.F.A. '93) is senior editor/producer at CBS News Marketing. While taking classes at NYIT-Manhattan, he worked at *Good Morning America*. "I chose NYIT because of the school's reputation within the television industry, as well as the school's commitment to career-oriented education," he says.

Laurie Lozada (B.S. '93) serves as project manager for Racanelli Construction Company of Melville, N.Y.

Biometric baseball is the name of the game for **KEITH ROBINSON (B.S. '93)** and **JOE NOLAN (B.A. '06)**. As founders of Motus Global in Massapequa, N.Y., they work with major league pitchers to help them reduce injuries using a multi-sensor system that monitors valgus torque or "newton meters" (stress on the elbow). Nolan and Robinson also founded Perspective Studios, which worked with leading video game publishers Electronic Arts, Sony Computer Entertainment, and Microsoft Game Studio, and was sold to Rockstar Games in 2009.

HCA Holdings named **ROBERT LEE (M.B.A. '94)** CEO of Plantation General Hospital in Plantation, Fla. The facility hosts about 10,000 admitted patients and 66,000 emergency room visits a year.

ROBERT TUDISCO (A.A.S. '94, B.T. '95) is vice president of technical care and training at Laundrylux, a distributor of laundry equipment in Inwood, N.Y. He has 15 years of experience in service industries.

RAY CALIENDO (B.S. '95) is principal at Art of Form Architects, with offices in Amityville, N.Y., and New York City. He fondly recalls rushing to reach class in time without breaking his architectural models in the backseat of his car. "I've always thought that NYIT's architecture program turned out hardworking, ambitious, and unpretentious graduates, which is important when entering the job market," he says. "Our firm has done work for the school, so I love the fact that I was able to practice at the school I learned so much from."

MICHAEL COLGROVE (M.S. '98) joined Energy Trust of Oregon as executive director. He served as director of energy programs for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

KIMBERLY MUDGE (D.O. '98) was selected by students of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, Wash., as a recipient of this year's Outstanding Preceptor Award. She practices at Chena Obstetrics and Gynecology in Fairbanks, Alaska.

OTTO SABANDO (D.O. '98) is president-elect for the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. He serves as chief of the Adult Emergency Department and osteopathic director of medical education at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, N.J.



A BOLD REUNION

ON AUGUST 5, alumni representing the classes of 2006 through 2016 reunited for the fourth annual Bears of the Last Decade (BOLD) Alumni Reception at the Sky Room Rooftop Lounge in New York City. The evening served as an official welcome to the Class of 2016 to the NYIT Alumni Federation. ■

Find more alumni events online:
bit.ly/NYIT-Alumni-Events.

Chris Appodi

TOM SCERBO (B.ARCH. '98) is vice president, NYC Metro Business Unit Leader | Buildings + Places at AECOM.

FREYA DITTRICH (D.O. '99) (pictured) flexed her muscles and skills on *Spartan Ultimate Team Challenge* on NBC in June. Her team, Freya's Slayers, competed against two other teams on an obstacle course. She was recently appointed adjunct associate professor of emergency medicine at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Photo courtesy of Freya Ditrlich

BARI KOTOFISKY (M.S. '99) is a technology integration specialist at the Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District in New Jersey. She teaches children how to become "digital citizens" by giving them tools to stretch their creativity and communication skills.

2000s

JOSEPH LAGANO (B.S. '00) is a senior director at commercial real estate firm Avison Young in Long Island, N.Y.

AUDREY SARACCO (A.A.S. '00) (née Palmisano) and **KERRI HAACK (B.S. '00)** (née Davidson) wrote mommy humor book *Bleeping Motherhood's Would You Rather*, which poses amusing questions and choices for mothers. The pair also runs a blog for moms seeking comic relief. bleepingmotherhood.com

Writer, director, and actor **BILL SORICE (B.F.A. '00)** co-starred in the sci-fi action thriller *Beta Test*, which opened in theaters nationwide in July. "I knew that I wanted to go into the entertainment business, but wasn't sure exactly in what capacity," he says. "Receiving my B.F.A. from NYIT helped me figure that out." BillSORICE.com

JOHN ZAROU (B.ARCH. '00) is a real estate agent and business broker for Transworld Business Advisors in Jacksonville, Fla.

MICHAEL DUCKFIELD (M.S. '01) is principal of business development at Cerami & Associates in New York City. "My NYIT alumni connections have helped me get introductions each time my client base shifted," he says.

OWEN MCANUFF (B.ARCH. '02) serves as project superintendent at Napp-Grecco, a pipeline construction company based in Newark, N.J. He has a background in construction and architecture and serves as a commissioner on the Hoboken Zoning Board of Adjustment. Owen and his wife, Jessica, redesigned their home, which was featured on a 2015 house tour hosted by the Hoboken Historical Museum.

ADAM WANASELJA (B.ARCH. '02) and **PATRICK WINBERRY (B.ARCH. '06)** are founders of UP Studio, a boutique architecture, interior, and design firm.

CHRISTINE BRAGAN (B.F.A. '03) was the keynote speaker at the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Latina Hat Luncheon on May 20. Bragan is vice president, marketing and communications, at AMC Networks. **AMANDA RAMIREZ (M.A. '03)** organized the event, which had several NYIT students and alumni in attendance, including **GINA DORSO (B.A. '16)** and **ANNA MARTINEZ (B.A. '16)**. bit.ly/Latina-Hat-Luncheon

Physician Assistant **CHRIS BYRNE (B.S. '03)** is manager of Advanced Dermatology's Eldercare program in Albertson, N.Y.

Oak Hill Hospital in Spring Hill, Fla., awarded **ASHISH PATEL (B.S. '03)** its Nurses' Choice Award for Physician of the Year.

RONNY REYES (B.S. '04) is manager of Port St. Lucie operations for the New York Mets in Florida. “I have oversight over all of the baseball activities at our complex, including spring training and the Gulf Coast League,” he says. Reyes also oversees an ESL program for minor league players born outside the United States to help them learn English and American culture. His favorite NYIT memory is playing baseball and winning the NCAA Division I independent tournament on his last day as a senior.

MICHAEL LALANDE (M.B.A. '05) serves as automotive industry business director at 3-D software company Dassault Systèmes. He lives in Detroit, Mich.

LAWRENCE W. LOBB (M.B.A. '05) is president of the Kane County (Illinois) Bar Association and is an attorney at Drendel & Jansons Law Group.

CM Finance of New York City appointed **ROCCO DELGUERCIO (M.B.A. '06)** chief financial officer and treasurer. He has nearly three decades of experience in finance, accounting, and asset management.

STACEY HARTMANN (M.B.A. '07) launched a travel agency to help people find memorable vacations while reducing stress. “My NYIT degree provided me with growth opportunities in my career, including rising to assistant vice president at a major global insurance company,” she says, “but it also gave me the confidence to delve into entrepreneurship.” EnjoyVacationing.com

TESHINA WILSON (D.O. '07) serves on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry. She was nominated by the American Osteopathic Association to strengthen the representation of osteopathic medicine.

Bahrain’s Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan presented an Award for Secretarial Excellence in the Private Sector to **TAGREED AL-MAHMEED (B.S. '08)**. She works for Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company.

NOOR AL NOAIMI (B.S. '08) wrote “The Pearl Thief,” a short story about a man who escapes poverty by joining pearl divers in Bahrain. bit.ly/Noor-Al-Noaimi

JOHN J. W. ASHELD III (D.O. '08) and brother **WILBUR J. ASHELD (D.O. '10)** joined St Francis Hospital—South Bay Cardiovascular in West Islip, N.Y.

Hearts Unlocked, a romance/paranormal novel by Claire Gem—also known as **FRANCES BROWN (B.A. '08)**—was chosen as runner-up in the romance category of the 2016 New York Book Festival competition. Emotionalcontemporaryromance.com



WHO'S THAT GIRL?

IF YOU VISITED NYIT-MANHATTAN this fall, you may have noticed **LINA ZHU (B.S. '16)**, one of the students and alumni featured in NYIT’s latest advertisements. In addition to being in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Zhu’s ad appeared on bus shelter kiosks and newsstands around the Manhattan campus as well as on a double-decker bus that traveled in the Wall Street, Midtown, Museum Mile, and Lincoln Center areas. Zhu currently works as a project management officer for Neusoft, an IT solutions provider based in China with 20,000 employees worldwide. ■

Phil Reuter

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2010s

THEA BORDENAVE-SANDE (D.O. '10) is founder of Saratoga Osteopathy, located in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. She is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Osteopathy, the New York Osteopathic Medical Society, and the Osteopathic Cranial Academy.

SHERMAN CHU (D.O. '10) joined UMass Memorial Group in Worcester, Mass. She specializes in pediatrics and neonatology.

LAURA LIEVANO (B.ARCH. '11) works for Spector Group of Woodbury, N.Y., as an intermediate architect.

JONATHAN MENESES (B.S. '11) is IT manager for Bliss Integrated Communication in New York City. "When I was studying at NYIT, I used the career services website [CareerNet] to get an internship," he recalls. "That opened many doors for me and allowed me to make professional connections I still rely on."

PAUL ULEZKO (B.S. '11) is an electrical engineer for Diamond WTG Engineering and Services Inc. in Irvine, Calif. He works on wind turbine electric power systems.

BRITTANNY JO KEELER (D.O. '12) is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center in Buffalo, N.Y. She was the recipient of the 2015 Shashikant Lele Excellence in Gynecologic Oncology Award.

NITI AJMERI (B.ARCH. '14) is a designer at CallisonRTKL, where she uses her architectural skills to help luxury retailers keep up with their branding and continue to inspire their customers.

REBECCA ROMEO (B.A. '14) is home in Australia playing professional basketball for the Hume City Broncos. In the inaugural

Wafa Bengra

(M.S. '07)

ONE OF THE BIGGEST misconceptions people have about Wafa Bengra's role as a digital communications specialist is that she is an expert in all areas of communications. "What's really true is that we work as a team in harmony," Bengra explains. "Communications is a mix of art and science, and this is where I find the beauty of it all. Everyone has his or her own specialty, in addition to being able to work together to deliver the final art piece."

Bengra is part of the digital communication team at Mubadala, an investment and development company in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., where she oversees digital platforms, specifically the intranet for employees. "One strategic initiative that I am currently working on is the launch of an enterprise social platform that ties Mubadala to its business and assets, facilitating collaboration and business interactions," she says. In addition, Bengra is also the business partner for Mubadala's IT unit.

The alumna credits her NYIT education with getting her where she is today. "It definitely shaped my career and allowed me to see the big picture, interacting with students from various backgrounds, and working in diverse industries," she explains. Her time at NYIT-Abu Dhabi also gave her advanced insight into her field, which ultimately allowed her to perform better in a professional environment. "Studying at NYIT taught me to find a solution for any obstacle and never give up. It also boosted my confidence level, which I think was the key for my significantly higher performance at work."

That confidence was necessary when it came time for her to make a career change. "The brave jump I made from working more than 10 years in a pure IT industry to become a communications specialist at Mubadala—it took a lot of courage, hard work, the willingness to learn new subjects, and long hours of dedication," she says. "My best achievement is that my career path is progressing year after year."

While her days may be filled with overseeing Mubadala's intranet, Bengra does take time out for herself. "I like spending time with my family. I work long hours and having the opportunity to be with my loved ones is very valuable," she says. Bengra has also volunteered as a den leader with the Boy Scouts and taught fourth- and fifth-graders how to create websites. "I love learning and expanding my horizons. It makes me feel alive," says Bengra, who recently received a diploma in social media marketing. Looking back, Wafa Bengra has fond memories of her time at NYIT-Abu Dhabi, a campus she learned about from her brother, Sofian, who also studied here. "He was excited to be admitted and encouraged me to join. It was the best decision I made." ■

Courtesy of Wafa Bengra

Big V Origin All-Star Game, she led the Metro team to a win, scoring 20 points.

KATHRYN BOEHMER (B.S. '15, M.S. '16) is using her newly acquired occupational therapy degree at Infinity Rehab in Bellingham, Wash. Her caseload includes helping patients suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's, strokes, hip and knee replacements, and traumatic brain injuries.

ANTRI PAPANIKOLAOU (M.S. '15) was profiled by the *Huffington Post* for her commitment to cancer awareness after losing her mother to the disease at the age of 16. In 2014, she founded Maria's Love Foundation to help patients dealing with serious illnesses. bit.ly/Antri-Papanikolaou

RAJENDRA "RAJ" RAO (B.S. '15) is a lead clinical research associate at Chiltern International. He helps ensure the company's pharmaceutical research meets good clinical practices, FDA standards, and Canadian health regulations.

SUNITHA VIJAYKUMAR (M.B.A. '15) is a supply chain specialist at Creation Technologies in Vancouver. She attributes her NYIT degree with giving her the confidence to work effectively with customers in the aerospace, defense, security, medical, and transportation industries.

Entrepreneur **DANIEL YUABOV (B.S. '15)** combined his two passions, cars and technology, to launch carvoy.com. The startup helps consumers lease automobiles from their desktop computer or smartphone and have the vehicle delivered to their desired location.

SABRINA SOBHAN (B.S.A.T. '16) is a designer at Lane Office in New York City.

And finally... **CHRISTOPHER NUÑEZ (B.S. '16)** didn't wait until after graduation to begin his future: he proposed to his girlfriend, Jessica McCarthy, at NYIT

commencement on May 22. Likewise, **HAO DING (M.S. '15)** proposed to **CONGYUN LI (M.S. '16)** just minutes after she earned her master's degree in human resources and labor relations. Both women, *NYIT Magazine* is happy to report, said "yes."

Marriages

A.J. ROCHE (M.S. '14) and Julia Karlin **LAURA GUZMAN (M.S. '16)** and **JAMES FALESTO (B.S. '12, D.P.T. '14)**

Passings

DAVID A. MCELWEE (A.A.S. '68)
THOMAS C. KRUMPTER (B.S. '77)
BERNARD JAMES ARSENEAU (D.O. '85)
WENDELYN JENNINGS (B.S. '96)

Faculty Obituary

NYIT Magazine is saddened to report the passing of **FREDERICK R. BENTEL, FAIA**, a faculty member in the School of Architecture and Design and highly respected architect. Bentel began teaching at NYIT in 1973 at the Old Westbury campus. In 1999, he and his wife, Maria, received the Archi Lifetime Achievement Award from the Long Island Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The couple founded Bentel & Bentel Architects/Planners in 1957. Over the decades, the firm has earned dozens of architecture and design awards. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and members of the NYIT community whose lives he touched.



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ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT



Kevin O'Connor

(D.O. '92)

AS PHYSICIAN TO VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN, KEVIN O'CONNOR, D.O., provides primary care to the second family while at the White House; he's also in charge of medical and emergency planning for every trip the vice president and his family take. That means no matter where the vice president is, O'Connor is there, too. It's a huge responsibility—but O'Connor is used to that.

For the past 18 years, O'Connor has traveled to more than 74 countries as an army physician. He's served numerous tours of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, 75th Ranger Regiment, and U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and deployed on combat rotations to support classified missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Bosnia. As a charter member of the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, O'Connor helped rewrite the book on battlefield trauma care, with an emphasis on "point of wounding" care. When asked which of his numerous awards and decorations means the most to him, he points simply to the Combat Medic Badge, which is given to a medic or doctor for doing his or her job while sharing the peril of the infantryman under enemy fire.

At the White House, physicians are not part of the staff, but part of the military. O'Connor came on board in 2006 during the Bush-Cheney administration and expected to finish his three-year military assignment within a few months after President Obama was sworn in, but Vice President Biden asked O'Connor to stay on. "We are apolitical," O'Connor says. "He's never asked me if I am a Republican or a Democrat, and I've never asked him," he adds, joking, "though I think he's a Democrat." Still, although O'Connor "serves the office, not the man," he says, "I have never had a better commander than Joe Biden. All politics aside, he approaches his craft with such honor. He's 100 percent 'family first.' He's 'genuinely genuine.'"

O'Connor enrolled in NYITCOM after attending college on an Army ROTC scholarship. It was at NYIT that he had a life-changing encounter with Army Maj. Gen. **PHILIP VOLPE (D.O. '83)** (see p. 5). Volpe, who served as a military physician for three decades, including as command surgeon in the Battle of Mogadishu, before retiring, was on campus to speak to other medical students serving in the military. "To me, he was bigger than life—a superhero with medals, a Purple Heart. A warhero doctor sitting down with a handful of army students," O'Connor says. It was a meeting that shaped O'Connor's aspirations and career path. "[Volpe's] been a lifelong mentor, and I've been trying to serve as he has ever since," he says. "I answered similar calls and now count him as a good friend. Today, I consciously give my time to students. If there's even a small chance of inspiring someone the way he inspired me, I'll take the time." ■



Dozi Khalique, David Llenemann

(Top, right) Kevin O'Connor, D.O., with Vice President Joe Biden.

(Below) O'Connor speaks at NYITCOM's 2016 White Coat Ceremony for first-year students in Old Westbury.

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An NYIT student from China lands at JFK airport in New York City, where she is greeted by NYIT staff members and student ambassadors. See story p. 12.