

NYIT MAGAZINE

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WINTER 2012 ■ VOLUME 10 ■ NUMBER 1

Mission in a Bottle
NYIT's Gold Coast Classic
Celebrates 15 Years

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Alumni in Global Hospitality



Loose Threads

**Alumni and faculty discuss
how to plug the security hole
in your pocket**

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CHRIS APPOLDT

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JEFF WEINER

COVER IMAGE COURTESY OF AT&T'S SECURITY RESEARCH CENTER

A New Game Plan For Learning

AT LAST YEAR'S COMMENCEMENT, I GLIBLY WONDERED IF—AS THE OWNER OF AN iPad 2—I WOULD JOIN THE LEGIONS WHO PLAY THE POPULAR VIDEO GAME, *ANGRY BIRDS*. I DID, IN FACT. AND AS I REACHED HIGHER LEVELS, I HAD AN EPIPHANY. THIS GAME, WHICH WAS DOWNLOADED A RECORD 6.5 MILLION TIMES THIS PAST CHRISTMAS, HAS SEVERAL CRUCIAL LESSONS FOR EDUCATORS AND LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS AND NONPROFIT SECTORS.

I again began to think about these oft-posed questions: How do we reach the most computer-literate generation? How do we teach them? And this: How can all of us reach ever-higher levels at work, no matter what our job?

To start with, consider teaching. I like to say that our students arrive in our classrooms hard-wired for technology. It is our job to embrace these learners, to teach them in ways they can connect to. *Angry Birds* gives us three guiding principles:

- Never assume students cannot concentrate. They will focus intensely on something that appeals to them, passing up sleep and meals to attain the next level of success.
- Design makes a difference. Successful games have defined levels of attainment and built-in outcomes and rewards for each higher level.
- The game reminds us that feedback is a powerful motivator. The constant, real-time feedback encourages players to stay engaged.

We need to design courses with increasingly difficult assignments, so students initially gain confidence and then push themselves to do better. We want students to have opportunities to make new discoveries and to think strategically—looking several moves ahead, like the best gamers.

I realized these lessons apply to the overall university, too. We need to be focused on doing better by the students and alumni we serve. We need to seek more feedback, then act on it.

In that vein, I am proud to tell you



CRAIG WALLACE DALE

about several encouraging developments. For one, the profile of NYIT is rising around the world—and that increasingly higher profile should be good news for NYIT alumni. A few months ago, I was the only American college president invited to an international forum on higher education that attracted more than 160 college and university presidents to Shenzhen, China. I had the chance to

tout our accomplishments and found that in these trying economic times, the message about a career-oriented university resonates more than usual.

Second, we are redoubling our efforts to engage in applied research that can make a difference in the world at large. In NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine, two federal grants totaling more than \$2 million are empowering us to address the shortage of medical professionals as well as the call for more training in geriatrics care. Working with a National Science Foundation grant, our professors are also harnessing wireless technology to help medical professionals do their jobs more efficiently.

Meanwhile, our School of Architecture and Design is piloting an exciting project that reuses plastic water bottles as roofing material, saving money and avoiding increases in landfills. And, a grant from the Verizon Foundation will help our School of Education train teachers to more effectively use online lesson plans, games, and materials for today's students.

We are increasingly joining corporate partners in taking on projects. In November, I opened a two-day conference at our Old Westbury campus that explored the possibilities for a wireless headset made by Motorola Solutions. Called the Golden-i, the headset has the potential to help scientists and commercial customers advance discoveries, check inventories in vast warehouses, or scan buildings during construction.

As an NYIT graduate, you also have the opportunity to strengthen your alma mater. I encourage you to give students the chance to learn from your experiences. The global NYIT family grows stronger and more connected because of our collective ability to share ideas, listen well, empower ourselves and others, and harness the power of 21st-century technology. ■

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

Visit NYIT Magazine online!

The screenshot displays the NYIT Magazine website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS', 'CURRENT NYIT STUDENTS', 'PARENTS AND FAMILIES', 'ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS', 'BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY', and 'FACULTY AND STAFF'. Below this is the NYIT logo and a search bar. The main content area features a large image of a woman in a lab coat looking through a microscope, with the headline 'Valencia de la Vega (M.B.A. '05)' under the 'Crowning Moment' section. Other sections include 'Featured Content' with a 'NYIT Magazine' article and 'Join Our Magazine Community', and 'Featured Profiles' with profiles for 'Rosanne Strachwitz' and 'Jason Rodriguez'. A video spotlight for 'NYIT Magazine Alumni Spotlight: Patricia Galloway' is also visible. The footer contains 'Useful Links', 'Schools and Colleges', 'Resources', 'NYIT Worldwide', and 'Social Media' sections.

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New Provost Gets Down to Business

By Rose Sumer

When NYIT's new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rahmat A. Shoureshi, Ph.D., moved to New York in August, his arrival had the hallmark of a homecoming.

"New York was the first place in the United States that my wife, Azar, and I landed in 35 years ago," says Shoureshi. He recalls his move from Iran in 1976 as a young mechanical engineering student about to start a Ph.D. program at MIT. "From that first week, we always had this interest in New York. Since both of us like Broadway and appreciate art, music, and museums, it has always been a draw for us."

This time, Shoureshi was drawn to New York because of NYIT. He sees a trove of prospects for cross-disciplinary education, research, and business collaborations, as well as opportunities for expanding alumni outreach.

"Many challenges this job faces are different from experiences I've had," he says. "That's what makes it exciting. Who wants to do the same thing all the time?"

The allure of the unknown has guided Shoureshi and his academic career for more than 30 years. He previously served as dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Denver, where he developed five new interdisciplinary degree programs and partnered with universities abroad and leading companies.



"When you look beyond your area of expertise, you realize how much you don't know," he says. "I look at this positively as an opportunity to learn."

Shoureshi credits his MIT advisor and mentor, the late professor Hank Paynter, for encouraging him to explore unknown subjects—leading him to take marketing and industrial dynamics classes to fulfill his Ph.D. program's requirements.

"This was another eye-opening experience," says Shoureshi, who holds a dozen

patents based on his research. "That's why I always feel comfortable interacting with business folks."

He has hosted events for NYIT faculty members to talk about interdisciplinary research—gatherings meant to introduce his ideas, hear those of others, and share another side of his personality.

"I'm trying to show I have a sense of humor," Shoureshi says. "If you don't have humor, the challenges of the job make you too rigid." ■

New General Counsel Joins NYIT

NYIT's new general counsel, Catherine Flickinger, J.D., brings a flair for negotiating joint ventures and developing intellectual property. She joins NYIT from Hachette Filipacchi Media, a leading magazine publisher, where she led the legal and human resources departments for more than 20 years. Blending journalism and law has enabled Flickinger to fulfill her civic duties and pursue dual passions. "I started my legal career in a large corporate law firm thinking I would get training as a litigator that I could later use in the public-interest sphere," she says. "As it happened, I got to work on a number of media

cases, which reminded me of my first love—journalism."

Flickinger has worked on and won high-profile cases, such as a lawsuit by *Sports Illustrated* magazine against Major League Baseball to force the latter to admit women journalists into locker rooms for post-game interviews.

A graduate of Columbia University School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania, Flickinger says her transition to higher education comes as universities and media share goals of structuring global operations as well as maximizing research and patents. ■

NYITeachings

“Remember, there are only two ways to succeed: the first time, or again.”

Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour, the first African-American female combat pilot in the U.S. military, to students at NYIT-Manhattan.

“Don’t want to mix business and personal lives? Nice dream, but it is not going to happen. We need to educate users about what the risks are.”

Jeff Crume, engineer and security architect at IBM to attendees of NYIT’s Cyber Security Conference in New York City.

“Find some pastime that can be worked into an afternoon of doing meaningful work.”

Dan Quigley, associate professor of English at NYIT, in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

“We need to harness technology to be as productive and efficient as possible so that our students are successful in problem-solving and critical thinking.”

President Guiliano at NYIT’s annual convocation at NYIT-Old Westbury.

“We are all different. Our differences make us similar. Normal is how we view it.”

Joel Haber, Ph.D., clinical psychologist and nationally recognized parenting expert, at “The Addams Family: No Snap Judgments” event at NYIT-Manhattan.

NYIT

NYIT Honors Excellence in Learning Tech

President Guiliano recognized faculty and staff members for their creative and effective use of technology in the service of NYIT at the university’s 2011 convocation. All five of this year’s Presidential Technology Award Winners echoed the president’s call to “use technology to refine and improve our communications and to improve our presentation of material.”

Pictured with President Guiliano (center) and Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs (far right), are this year’s Presidential Technology Award Winners (from left): Tobias Holler, assistant professor of architecture (winner for using technology in research and/or creative expression); Monika Schueren, director of the advising and enrichment program (winner for using technology in the service of students); David Hogsette, associate professor of English (winner for technology in the teaching and learning process for full-time faculty); Dave Voci, adjunct instructor of fine arts (winner for using technology in the teaching and learning process for part-time faculty); and Ranja Roy, associate professor of mathematics (winner for first-time use of online or other technological resources in the teaching and learning process). ■



Students Demonstrate an “i” for Creativity

Never ones to pass up a challenge, a multidisciplinary team of NYIT students in New York teamed up with peers at NYIT-Nanjing to enter a competition to develop applications for Golden-i, the world's first hands-free, wireless headset computer.

The project, “a sci-fi dream come true,”

idea Competition and Partner Conference at NYIT-Old Westbury on Nov. 16-17.

The NYIT team won third place in the competition for its project, Third Eye, which connects Golden-i to a drone to perform reconnaissance work in sensitive areas, such as helping police officers and other security



Members of the Golden-i team with NYIT faculty (from left): Hu Xiaohu; Hua Yumin; Hossein Kashani, Ph.D., associate professor of telecommunications and electrical engineering technology; Zhuang Wenjie; team leader Robert Pinkerton; Nicole Tricoukes, senior maverick at Motorola Solutions; Ziqian Dong, Ph.D., assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering; Sandra Kopecky (B.S. '88); and Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences.

according to electrical and computer engineering student Robert Pinkerton (B.S. '11), is part of a technology partnership between NYIT and Motorola Solutions. Developed by Motorola and Kopin Corporation, the Golden-i device gives users the ability to multitask, communicate, and access data in the field with full voice, audio, and PC networking capabilities.

The students worked with professors in the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences to develop apps for the headset and presented their ideas at Motorola's Golden-

personnel assess safety risks in dangerous neighborhoods.

Sandra Kopecky (B.S. '88), a graduate student pursuing a degree in computer science, came up with her own idea of a two-dimensional bar code scanner fitted into Golden-i to help workers navigate warehouses or allow police officers to scan driver's licenses.

“Working with Golden-i has shown me that I have the ability, skills, and confidence for work outside of the classroom,” says Kopecky. ■



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From NY Learner to Far East Educator

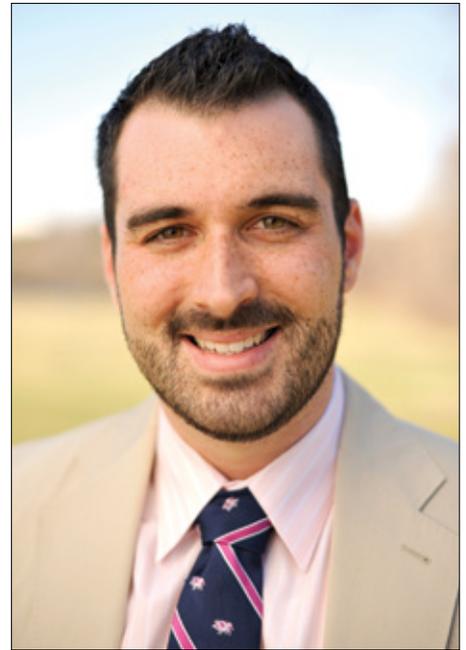
When Luke Ferland (B.S. '11) began his undergraduate studies at NYIT, he planned to make technology education his career. But his interest in biofuels, energy, and the environment led him to spend increasing amounts of time at the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. He began researching and producing biodiesel as part of the Department of Energy Green Print Grant received by NYIT in 2008—not too challenging a task, considering he'd been producing and using his own biodiesel for years.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Ferland enrolled in NYIT's graduate program in energy management. Before he began classes, he flew to China to work as a consultant for an energy management company he had discovered at an NYIT meeting with the Association of Energy Engineers. He found an opportunity to fuse his expertise in education with his newfound passion—by teaching energy management to people interested in expanding their businesses with a greener mindset.

His experience was not without challenges. The English vocabulary of the 30 students in the class did not include many energy management topics, so Ferland compared ideas to objects or events related to the subject matter, enabling the students to associate what they were learning with something they already knew.

“China is a dynamic country,” he says, adding that he visited Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Shaoxing. “Having the chance to work in China just days after my 26th birthday was an absolute dream. I learned a lot about international business, energy consumption in China, and, of course, myself.”

Ferland enjoyed several walkthroughs and site studies of textile printing and dye facilities, where he was charged with identifying areas of energy inefficiency. “All the equipment was large, usually very dirty, and consumed lots of energy,” he says. “These conditions added a definite layer of complexity to the project and a nice challenge to the day.”



Now back in the United States continuing his graduate studies, Ferland is working as a consultant conducting energy audits on large multifamily buildings in New York City.

He adds: “Many of the opportunities that NYIT has given me—winning a design competition for the USS Intrepid, founding the Sustainability Club, and exposing me to new ideas—also helped me in this position.” ■



Hamad Mohamed at CMS facilities in Cessy, France.

The Education of a Lifetime

A rare opportunity to conduct summer research at the birthplace of the Internet brought student Hamad Mohamed (B.S. '11) to Geneva's European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) last summer.

“I felt a great responsibility on my shoulders, as such an opportunity doesn't come along often,” says Mohamed. “Apart from the great responsibility, it simply felt like a dream come true.”

While in Geneva, Mohamed worked to create a system that monitors the performance of approximately 35,000 optical links installed on CERN's Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment. The CMS is a general-purpose detector used to observe a wide range of particles from high-energy collisions.

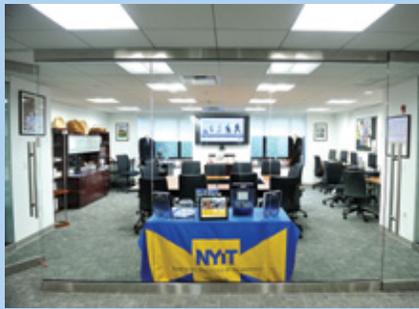
Mohamed's system, which scans billions of entries, then manipulates and graphs them in seconds, will allow researchers to predict the evolution of link performance with increasing radiation. His work can be applied to any monitoring process that contains a significant number of entries that need to be processed in a short period of time.

Now working as a data center engineer for Gulf Air, Mohamed credits the CERN summer program for launching his career. “This experience gave me a clear perspective of my goals and the enthusiasm to chase them,” he says. ■

New York State of Growth

NYIT's Manhattan campus has opened a new five-floor facility at 26 W. 61st St. The building houses the new areas for the Office of Career Services, the School of Management, NYIT administrative offices, and additional smart classrooms and computer labs containing the latest learning technology.

At NYIT-Old Westbury, the Student Activities Center is getting a facelift in the form of added space and new facilities for students, offices for campus life staff, and technology upgrades. ■



NYIT's Office of Career Services is now housed within the university's new facility at 26. W. 61st St.



GO GREEN, SAVE \$65K

NYIT alumni Matthew Mathosian (B.S. '11) of EmPower Solar and John Eff (B.S. '73) recently led two projects to install energy-efficient technologies and save nearly \$65K annually on the Old Westbury campus. Projects included the installation of 65 solar panels on the roof of the Green Lodge and the replacement of more than 3,000 light bulbs with energy-efficient lighting in three buildings at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYCOM). Grants from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority funded both projects.

WIRELESS HEALTH CARE COMING SOON

NYIT professors are applying wireless technology to health care, education, and engineering with the help of a federal grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant will enhance electrical and computer engineering curricula as professors integrate the theoretical and practical aspects of wireless technology into their courses. Students will then explore the potential of wireless technology in biomedical applications.

MEDICAL MAKEOVER BOOSTS FAMILY MEDICINE, GERIATRICS

Two federal grants for NYCOM totaling more than \$2 million are helping NYIT's medical experts tackle a pair of pressing issues: the nation's looming shortage of family physicians and the need for more geriatrics training in medical education. NYCOM will accelerate its undergraduate family medicine program from four to three years in an effort to reduce student debt as well as train faculty members and roughly 200 attending physicians and residents at area hospitals in geriatric medicine.

(continued on page 13)

NYIT Events Cover Technology, Television, and Twitter

Thanks to the power of social media, what happens in Vegas doesn't always (unfortunately) stay in Vegas. It gets posted on Facebook, re-tweeted on Twitter, and shared with thousands on YouTube, according to social media expert Patrick Schwerdtfeger, who spoke to a group of business professionals at a School of Management event at the NYIT Auditorium on Broadway on Oct. 18.

The author of *Marketing Shortcuts for the Self-Employed* was among stars, celebrities, and business leaders to visit the venue during the fall semester for lectures, conferences, and film festivals.



Social media guru Patrick Schwerdtfeger visits NYIT.

On Oct. 13, stars of the Broadway musical *The Addams Family* led a live Internet broadcast to middle school classrooms across the country. Cast members brought the themes of the

show to life to promote tolerance and understanding.

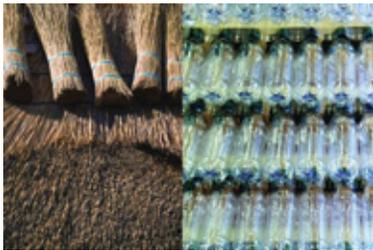
Encouraging students to take on leadership roles in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math was the message of Eleanor Baum, Ph.D., the first female dean of a school of engineering in the United States. She asked students on Nov. 30 to take the lead in "solving societal problems, in creating and innovating, and doing wonderful and exciting things for society's good and for your own."

NYIT also welcomed celebrities at events organized by the Screen Actors Guild Foundation, including Gary Oldman, Dan Rather, Michael Shannon, Glenn Close, and Sissy Spacek. ■

Inspiration in a Bottle

Two NYIT architecture professors and their students are putting a new-age spin on an age-old construction technique. Using discarded plastic water bottles, the team has created an environmentally friendly roofing design that they hope will be adopted in developing nations or for shelters in disaster-stricken areas around the world.

Professors Jason Van Nest and Farzana Gandhi of NYIT's School of Architecture and Design presented their roofing project last fall at NYIT Gallery 61. With a title reflecting the typical roofing materials used in many areas around the



Professors Farzana Gandhi and Jason Van Nest are "upcycling" with water bottle roofs.

world, their "Thatch for a New Century" presentation included prototype roofs constructed from water bottles rather than leaves or straw.

"We looked for material that was plentiful and able to be discarded," says Gandhi.

With an estimated 40 million empty water bottles disposed of annually in American landfills alone, Gandhi and Van Nest struck gold in plastic. In fact, building roofs from water bottles is a form of "upcycling," a term indicating improvements in a material's second life.

The professors and 20 students working under the direction of Associate Professor Michele Bertomen received a provisional patent for a bracket that connects water bottles and allows them to be arranged in roof sections.

In a student-led architecture and

design/build exercise, students from NYIT's Old Westbury and Manhattan campuses tested roof designs with sophisticated computer software, researched roofing issues, and built models to demonstrate their project's feasibility. They also perfected cutting the bottles to ensure they nested together. Their dry run to test their work resulted in just that: a dry, leak-proof, and well-ventilated roof.

The team's next steps are to build larger prototypes with the help of grants, construct a life-size shelter with a water bottle roof, and brainstorm manufacturing ideas for the crucial plastic bracket, known as the Soda Bottle Interface Bracket or SodaBIB (sodabib.com). The professors are seeking



NYIT alumni interested in exploring new ways to help the project grow.

Beyond those tasks, the team is aiming to partner with relief organizations that deploy shelters in disaster areas or developing nations. As the professors envision it, the large pallets of water that are delivered to areas in need can be used to construct a roof. The empty bottles can be cut and positioned on sections of a broken-down pallet, while other pallet sections are used to reinforce the roof structure.

Says Van Nest: "If this can raise the bar and contribute to an expectation that consumer goods are supposed to have at least two lifecycles, we'd have quite a victory on our hands." ■

Showdown in Costa Rica

Three teams of NYIT architecture students had the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity in Costa Rica as part of a competition to develop a recycling and education center.



The students developed solutions for a growing waste removal problem in Nosara, a community on the Pacific coast. They presented their work there in January, then used the feedback to refine their projects.

A group of professors from NYIT's School of Architecture and Design selected designs of two teams—Duality and MCD Costa Rica—while a third team, Poroso, won via a Facebook poll.

Duality's design addressed the dry and wet seasons by developing a process to collect rainwater and reduce heat build-up in the facility. MCD Costa Rica's design minimized impact on the environment by placing an elongated building along the landscape. They proposed using previously cut-down trees and recycled plastic bottles to construct the building. Poroso's design drew upon characteristics of tropical architecture, such as high ceilings, large overhangs, natural lighting and ventilation, and local materials.

"It was an invaluable experience," says project leader Tobias Holler, assistant professor of architecture. "They'll learn about building in a tropical environment, and experience the powerful role that design can play in improving life in a rural community." ■

Alumni and Faculty Design for Italian City

One week after earning their NYIT bachelor of architecture degrees in May 2011, three grads pursued an international design opportunity with a group of former professors and an NYIT student.

Nickolas Batis, David Flecha, and James Yankopoulos teamed up with Adjunct Professor Giovanni Santamaria to collaborate on a project that invited 10 teams of young architects to create a proposal for Nuoro, a city in Sardinia, Italy. The initiative, "Progetto Urbanu: 10 Design Projects for Nuoro," challenged each team to propose a design for urban areas.

Team NYIT, the only team representing the United States, also included Beyhan Karahan, professor of architecture, who provided insights on sustainable building, and senior architecture student Peter Cecora.



NYIT alumni and faculty developed an architecture proposal to design urban areas in Nuoro, Italy.

"The competition was a great experience for us to work together with professors as a designer-designer team, instead of the typical student-teacher team," says Flecha.

In their design, the NYIT team emphasized sustainability through a self-controlled environmental system. The team's proposal uses an artificial fault in the center of the city to divide areas of commercial and residential buildings. ■

From Classroom to Cuba



Architecture students studied historic buildings in Cuba last spring.

some of the promenade's buildings while demolishing others. The Old Havana planning office provided the NYIT group with its most recent building codes and regulations, giving students an opportunity to collaborate and develop proposals for new buildings.

"The importance of this particular endeavor was to open the students' eyes to the fact that hardship is the mother of invention and that the Cubans have had to innovate in all sorts of ways," says NYIT's Brian Brace Taylor, Ph.D., an architectural historian who led the trip with Adjunct Professor Jason Hwang. ■

A two-year dialogue between the Office of City Planning in Old Havana and the School of Architecture and Design led 10 NYIT architecture students to Cuba last spring.

As part of their third-year housing studio, the students spent a week studying renovation sites along the Prado, a promenade dating back to the 18th century. Because Old Havana was declared part of UNESCO's World Heritage in the 1980s, it has received money to preserve

VIRTUAL MUSEUMS GRANTED

A federal grant partnering NYIT with U.S. cultural institutions will bring museum collections into the classrooms of elementary school students via the Internet. NYIT's Technology-Based Learning Systems is working with the Albany Institute of History and Art to train teachers and museum educators in technology-driven ways to teach about and present museum resources.

NEW CULTURAL CENTER OPENS IN CHINA

NYIT received a grant from the U.S. Department of State and the American Embassy in Beijing, China, to establish and operate a Center for Humanities and Culture in Nanjing. President Guiliano opened the new center, which offers educational and cultural enrichment, including monthly speakers, movie nights, English-language resources, and conferences on film, language, and literature. One such offering, the NYIT-Nanjing International Film Festival and Symposium, will be held April 21-22, 2012.

NYIT ENGINEERING IS ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Innovative programs and a dedication to preparing future leaders earned the NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences the World Congress Asia Award for Best Educational Institute in Engineering. Universities from more than 20 nations were in the running for the award.

NYIT AWARDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The School of Engineering and Computing Sciences will use an economic development grant from the New York state government to create a new Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center to promote collaboration among industry, academia, professional organizations, and government. ■

Men's Soccer Nets ECC Championship

Senior Danilo Hernandez scored the game-winning goal for NYIT men's soccer at the 2011 East Coast Conference (ECC) Tournament Championship on Nov. 4 at C.W. Post.

The Bears defeated the No. 6 Pioneers 1-0 to win their first ECC title and fourth overall conference championship. It was their 11th shutout of the season—two games shy of the school record of 13 held by the 1985 NYIT squad.

"Danilo's goal was key," says Head Coach Carlos Del Cid (B.S. '97). "It set the momentum for the game. The wind was a huge factor for us, even though we didn't play well in the second half. But our defense did a great job keeping C.W. Post at bay."

Junior goalkeeper Joe Caccavale earned the win with two saves.

And while NYIT's postseason run came to an early end six days later, falling 4-1 to ECC foe St. Thomas Aquinas in the first round of the 2011 NCAA Division II Tournament, the Bears scored some notable successes:

- Pierre Sy, Javier Gallardo, and Guillermo Fuentes were named to the second team All-ECC after anchoring a defense that shut out 11 opponents. They helped the Bears achieve a perfect home record and limited opponents to just 17 goals. Sy also tied for first in the league with two

game-winning goals, while Gallardo was named the ECC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

- Co-captains Matthew DiDonna and Vinny Caccavale earned first team All-ECC accolades, combining for 17 goals and nine assists. Six of DiDonna's team-leading 10 goals were game-winners.
- In addition to its undefeated home record (11-0-0), the men's soccer team produced one of the best seasons in program history, with a 14-4-2 overall mark and a 5-1-1 ECC record.

This year's bid to the NCAA Tournament was NYIT's fifth, with the 1985 team making the Bears' first-ever trip and advancing all the way to the Final Four. Since then, NYIT men's soccer has earned four NCAA berths—2003, 2005, 2007, and 2011—all under Del Cid's direction.

"Coach Del Cid and his team worked extremely hard this year and it paid off," says Director of Athletics Clyde Doughty Jr. (B.S. '81, M.S. '96, M.P.S. '98). "While our two seniors played a major role in the ECC tournament championship, we're looking forward to continued success next year as most of our starters will remain with the team." ■



The NYIT men's soccer team played one of the best seasons in program history, with a 14-4-2 overall record.



Cross country runner Elphas Kimutai is planning a community health center in his hometown of Chuchuniat, Kenya.

Running Between Two Worlds

By Rose Sumner

When distance runner and nursing student Elphas Kimutai attains “nitaishinda”—Swahili for a swift running pace—he knows he’s going to win. As captain of NYIT’s cross country team and ECC Preseason Male Runner of the Year, he seldom fails to pace himself on the valleys and hills of a cross country course. Hitting his stride off-trail is another story.

“I believe that being a responsible leader is important,” says Kimutai, who came to NYIT on an athletic scholarship from Chuchuniat village in Kenya. He admits that adjusting to New York posed challenges, causing him to decline the captain title first offered in his sophomore year.

Kimutai, the only person in his village to attend a U.S. university, struggled during his first months at NYIT. His professors talked too fast, the roads were too congested with traffic for running, and the only food he could stomach was milk, rice, and bread.

He eventually sought help with making the transition.

“I went to the NYIT Learning Center for tutoring,” Kimutai says. “I was really helped by my cross country team. My coach helped me to understand how people communicate here and move from one place to another.”

He went to the Office of International Students every day to talk about his diet. “Running and not eating well were hard,” he says.

His cross country training benefited from these efforts. Kimutai finished first in the 2010 ECC Championship by outpacing the rest of the field by more than 10 seconds. He is consistently the top Bear finisher in the men’s races.

This tenacity to find his pace on campus is bigger than Kimutai’s cross country aspirations. He plans to return to Kenya after graduation to open a community health center in Chuchuniat, where a family tragedy shaped this plan.

In 2007, his younger brother Josiah died at 14 of a misdiagnosed heart condition. It was Kimutai’s 17th birthday and he was returning from a ritual 6 a.m. run to find a crowd of people outside his family home.

It was harvest season and roads were muddy from the rain. His family could not reach the nearest hospital 12 kilometers away in time to save his brother.

“His death made me change my mind about everything,” he says.

Kimutai has already started planning the community health center in memory of his sibling. Kenya’s Ministry of Health approved land and construction materials for the building site in early 2011. Fundraising comes next.

“I have no option but to take my medical knowledge back to Kenya,” he says. “Through the hospital, I will be able to fulfill my dream in life to help others.” ■

MILLER NAMED COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Goalkeeper Kathryn Miller is the first NYIT women’s soccer player named to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District I Second Team. A four-year starter for NYIT, Miller holds the single-season record for goals-against-average and shutouts. She also aced her first semester of graduate school in the fall with a 4.0 GPA. Additionally, Jenna D’Alessandro and Natasha Arana were named to the All-ECC Second Team.

NYIT TENNIS ADVANCES TO NATIONAL STAGE

In her first semester at NYIT, ECC Rookie of the Year and tennis star Sara Burinato achieved a 19-3 record, No. 19 national ranking, and was named the top player in the East by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). She won the Singles “A” Championship at the U.S. Tennis Association’s ITA Regional in October and advanced to the Small College Nationals, where she placed fifth in singles and seventh in doubles with teammate Gaby Rodriguez. Overall, the women’s tennis team excelled, improving from a 1-10 record in 2010 to 9-4 in 2011.

On the men’s side, Dustin Wenchel ranked No. 10 in the region in singles play and No. 4 in doubles paired with Pedro Peixoto. The men’s tennis program earned its first regional ranking at No. 10.

VOLLEYBALL MAKES SEVENTH TRIP TO NCAA PLAYOFFS

The women’s volleyball team made its seventh trip to the NCAA Tournament this year with a 19-8 overall record and a second-place, regular-season finish in the ECC. This season, the Bears produced one of the best unbeaten streaks—10 matches—in program history. All-ECC First Team selection and Daktronics All-Region honoree Shelby Cable averaged 4.5 kills per set, and Lisa Peacock, another Daktronics All-Region selection, was named the ECC Libero of the Year. ■

la paire unique

NYIT's Gold Coast Classic celebrates a 15-year legacy of scholarship support, culinary excellence, and the best wine you'll ever taste.

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

in the world of food and wine, inspiration is perhaps the most important ingredient. Likewise, NYIT's Gold Coast Classic is its own inspired and unexpected pairing—a global university coupled with a culinary marvel that honors the finest leaders in the food and wine industry, all in the name of supporting thousands of NYIT students worldwide. Since 1997, the annual event has raised more than \$5 million to sustain student scholarships while giving attendees the chance to meet some of the world's greatest chefs and winemakers.

“It's a great privilege to give NYIT students the support they need at such an exceptional event,” says Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., president of NYIT. “Gold Coast gives us a way to give the NYIT community the opportunity to donate while experiencing the finest wines and dishes prepared by top vintners and chefs.”

In addition to fabulous, multi-course meals, the Gold Coast Classic features silent and live auctions as well as the presentation of the Professional Excellence Awards by Richard Elia, publisher of *Quarterly Review of Wines (QRW)*, a leading wine magazine that co-hosts the event each year.

“The gathering of New York's ‘best and brightest’ for a worthy cause tied to education is simply too irresistible a combination to ignore,” says Gina Gallo, winemaker for Gallo Family Vineyards Sonoma Reserve and winner of the Professional Excellence in Oenology award in 2006. “It became obvious that to be a part of an event which provides assistance to deserving students would be most worthwhile.”

Named in honor of Long Island's famous Gold Coast that stretches across the North Shore, the event and its history can be traced back to when President Guiliano and his wife, Mireille (a *New York Times* best-selling author of food and lifestyle books), met Elia in the mid-1980s.





Publisher Richard Elia (left) and President Guiliano (right) present an NYT/QRW Professional Excellence in Culinary Award to Drew Nieporent in 2004.



Lidia Bastianich (center), an honoree at the 2006 Gold Coast Classic, with Robert Rizzuto (right), director of dining services, and culinary staff at NYIT.



“Richard knew my wife through the wine world,” says President Guiliano. “He ran a televised wine auction fundraiser on WGBH in Boston and invited us to be co-presenters with him live on the air.”

The event raised substantial dollars for charity and led to a rapport that has lasted nearly 30 years.

“Richard has been a true friend and supporter of NYIT,” says Linda Davila (B.S. ’78), chair of the NYIT Board of Trustees.

The creation of the Gold Coast Classic itself, however, came about when then-provost Edward Guiliano and Mireille attended the Sun Valley Wine Auction in Idaho, where they met celebrated auctioneer David Reynolds. And quickly, the idea of a food-and-wine auction/fundraiser to provide financial support for students made perfect sense.

“Later, I met with David near his home in San Francisco and he helped organize our thinking,” says President Guiliano. “After reaching out to Richard and getting help from faculty in our culinary arts program, we were off and running.”

The first year’s event, held at the NYIT de Seversky Mansion, set the tone for others to follow when restaurateur Sirio Maccioni from Le Cirque got into a friendly bidding war with another attendee for a bottle of 1864 Bouchard Montrachet.

“Everyone there was wondering what this Civil War era wine might taste like,” recalls President Guiliano. The wine ultimately sold to the other guest for more than \$11,000.

“Sirio next offered to host a dinner for up to 20 people, so long as that wine was served and he got a sip,” says President Guiliano. “The winner of the bottle, who just wanted a taste himself, donated the bottle back to NYIT, and we resold it as part of a \$1,000-a-plate dinner at Le Cirque. We raised another \$15,000.”

MISSION IN A BOTTLE

Since that inaugural success, NYIT’s Gold Coast Classic has been synonymous with global education and academic success for many in the food and wine industry.

Drew Nieporent of Myriad Restaurant Group, winner of the 2004 Professional Excellence in Culinary Award, is no stranger to supporting worthy causes, as demonstrated by his involvement with



At the 2007 Gold Coast Classic, NYIT and QRW bestowed Professional Excellence Awards upon (from left) Michael Aaron, John Shafer, and Miguel Torres Jr.



Honorees in 2009 included (from left) Thomas Keller, Mary Ewing-Mulligan, and Randy Ullom. The event was held at the Mandarin Oriental in New York City.



For 15 years, Gold Coast Classic attendees have enjoyed food and wine, dancing, and the thrill of bidding on one-of-a-kind auction lots.



going once, going twice ...

Renowned auctioneer David Reynolds, who serves as master of ceremonies, has been part of the Gold Coast Classic since its inception. The key to the event's success, he notes, is being familiar with its history, the personalities in play, and how they like to bid on auction lots.

"Auctioneers are really good at connecting with audiences," says Reynolds. "At any moment, you're talking to five people at the same time. But those five people change with each lot. You need to identify who the potential bidders are quickly."

Born in London, Reynolds began his auctioneering career by spending three days at a Los Angeles library studying wine to land a sales position at The Wine Merchant of Beverly Hills.

"That effort, combined with my British accent, landed me the job," he says. Reynolds has since become one of the most sought after auctioneers for art, travel, and culinary fundraisers.

A big part of fundraising is finding something that resonates with people, says Reynolds. "Connecting people who have money with the people who need it is a very good thing. With food and wine at the Gold Coast Classic, that's a very easy connection."



lots of interest

The silent and live auctions at NYIT's Gold Coast Classic offer something for everybody. In addition to exclusive wine and dining experiences from some of the world's most renowned vineyards and chefs, there are also auctions for fans of sports, entertainment, travel, and fashion, among others. Below are just a few highlights of Gold Coast auction lots from past years.

A SUITE DEAL. NYIT graduate Jim Geoghan (B.F.A. '69), executive producer of the top-rated Disney shows, *The Suite Life of Zach and Cody* and *The Suite Life on Deck*, offered bidders a chance to visit a live taping as well as enjoy dinner with the crew.

DINNER WITH NYIT'S FIRST COUPLE. In 2011, President Guiliano and his wife, Mireille, invited guests into their home for a six-course dinner prepared by renowned chef Michael Lomonaco.

A TUSCAN ADVENTURE. This seven-night vacation package in Cortona, Italy, offered bidders a chance to stay at Casa Della Nonna, a gorgeous home tucked away in the heart of the Tuscan hills and the setting of Frances Mayes' book, *Under the Tuscan Sun*. The lot also included "white glove" concierge service, a tour of the local countryside, and meals prepared by a local Cortona chef.



THAT'S A BIG BOTTLE. One of the traditions of the Gold Coast Classic is opening the live auction with the Methuselah six-liter, pre-chilled bottle of Veuve Clicquot champagne (above). With a wave of her numbered paddle, Board of Trustees Chair Linda Davila (B.S. '78) jumpstarts the action as bids come pouring in. "I particularly enjoy this as I immediately share it and toast the honored guests of the evening," she says. "Plus, it sets the tone for bidding."

PINSTRIPED DREAMS. One auction lot gave two lucky sports fans the opportunity to tour the new Yankee Stadium, including a walk on the field, a visit to Monument Park and the locker room, and spectacular seats to a game. Another lot offered seats to Opening Day at the first game held in the new stadium as well as tickets to the 2009 Yankees Homecoming Dinner and a signed Derek Jeter jersey.

FASHIONABLY GREAT. Naeem Khan, one of the biggest names in fashion whose designer dresses are worn by First Lady Michelle Obama, Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, and Kim Cattrall, offered to create a handmade, one-of-a-kind dress to the winner of this auction lot.

organizations such as Citymeals-on-Wheels, Share Our Strength for ending childhood hunger in America, and City Harvest. "I don't care if times are good or bad, we're always going to get behind the right charities, and the Gold Coast Classic is a spectacular event," he says. "We're happy to be involved and raise money for students."

Mary Ewing-Mulligan, author of several wine books and the 2009 winner of the Professional Excellence in Oenology Award, notes that the Gold Coast Classic is not only unique but entirely appropriate in the 21st century.

"Education is critical to our society's success," she says. "NYIT's broad reach—not only in the United States but also abroad—makes the university and its students ideal recipients for the largesse of those who participate in the event."

It is often NYIT students themselves who serve as the best ambassadors when it comes to demonstrating the value of an NYIT education. Many are invited to attend the event and speak to attendees directly.

"It's important to put real faces out there to donors," says President Guiliano. Students, he adds, can describe the power of giving better than anybody.

"Whether it's building the next great skyscraper, transforming space travel, or becoming doctors to save lives, we are the students of the future," said osteopathic medical student Maggie Landgrebe (D.O. '11) to attendees of the 2009 Gold Coast Classic.

Mechanical engineering student Christopher Jewth (B.S. '11), who spoke at last year's event, noted how proud he was to take part in so many of NYIT's amazing opportunities that allowed him "to explore my intellectual interests and understand the world. All of this was made possible by scholarships."

Prince Robert of Luxembourg, vice president and managing director of Domaine Clarence Dillon and winner of the 2006 Professional Excellence in Oenology Award, sums up the spirit of the Gold Coast Classic by noting the role of NYIT's mission in guiding students through the 21st century:

"Higher education goes beyond grades and includes developing one's ideas, aspirations, and defining a future role in society." ■

fruits of knowledge

Celebrated restaurateur Drew Nieporent calls him “an expert crackerjack wine person.”

But to cultivate his own palette, President Guiliano underwent an “on-the-job” training when he was an undergraduate student at Brown University.

“During my junior year, a friend and I decided we’d go out to dinner once a week and try as many different wines as we could,” he says. “By the time I graduated, I was collecting wine by the case.”

For the true oenophile, however, a knowledge of wine goes beyond food pairings, tannins, and aromas—something President Guiliano discovered the hard way.

“One of the other things I quickly learned was not to leave wine out in the heat,” he says. His first case exploded in the garage on a hot summer day.

“You might say it was a trial-by-error education,” he adds.



Christopher Jewth, student speaker at the 2011 Gold Coast Classic, speaks to attendees about his NYIT educational opportunities at home and abroad.



Prince Robert of Luxembourg (right) participates in the live auction alongside renowned auctioneer David Reynolds at the 2006 Gold Coast Classic.



Interested in attending this year's Gold Coast Classic? Do you have a special item or service you're willing to auction in the name of student scholarships?

Call 516.686.7880 or email giving@nyit.edu for details.

This year's event will be held on May 3 at the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park in New York City.



LOOSE THREADS

Alumni and faculty discuss how to plug the security hole in your pocket as mobile devices become the newest battleground in the fight against cyber criminals.

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)



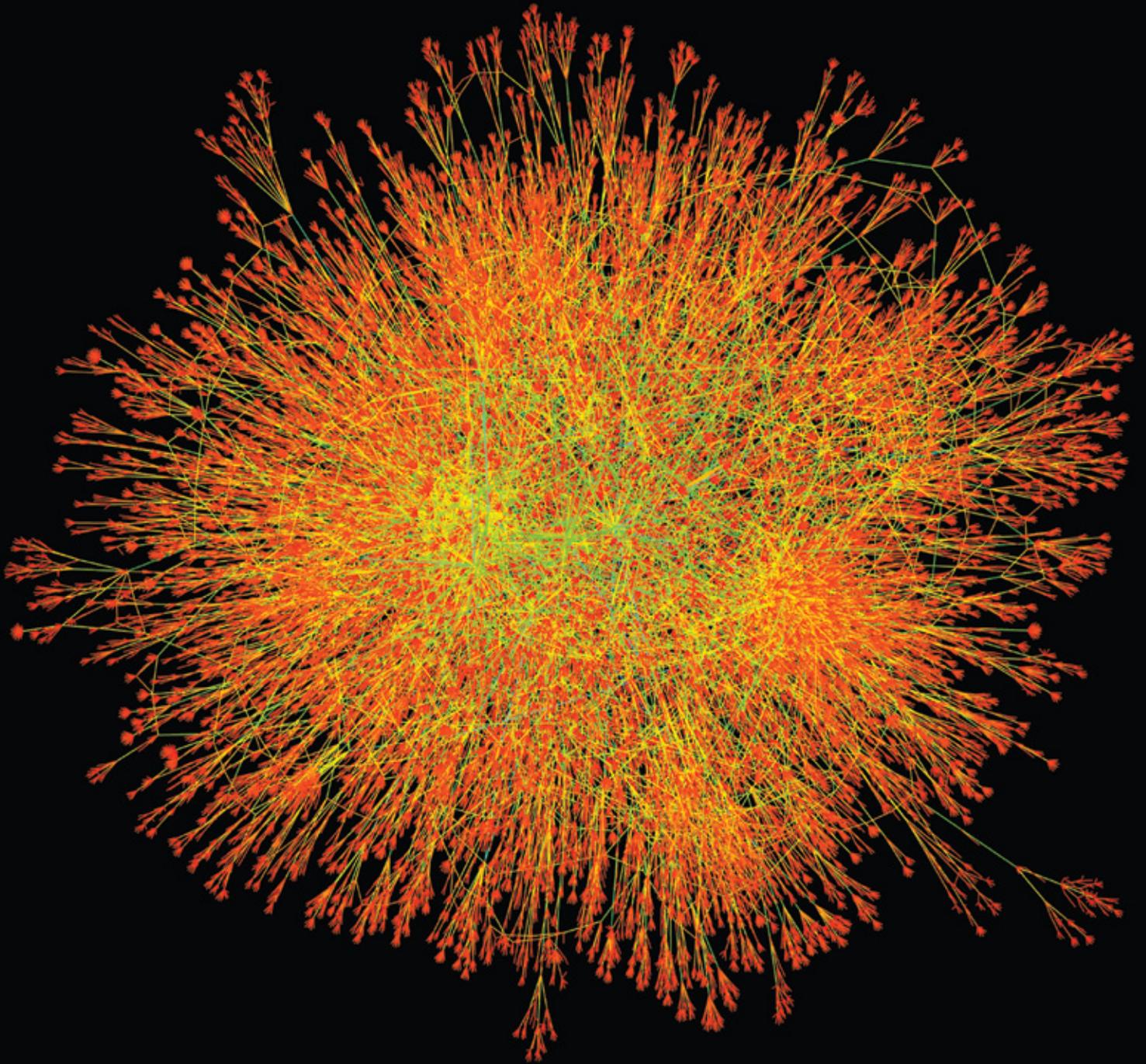
Assistant Professor Farshid Delgosha is among many NYIT professors studying ways to thwart mobile cyber attacks.

Sitting in his engineering lab at NYIT-Old Westbury, Assistant Professor Farshid Delgosha describes just how simple it is to hack into a smartphone using a method known as the “side channel attack.”

With just an antenna linked to his or her own smartphone, the intruder monitors encrypted signals from a target device. “A side channel attack allows a hacker to understand and analyze the power output and radiation coming from a smartphone,” says Delgosha. This data provides clues that help criminals break into a secured network. “And there’s no way to stop it unless the target is carrying the proper hardware.”

This type of digital ambush is just another tool in the 21st-century hacker’s arsenal. In years past, the big targets for cyber intruders were government mainframes and corporate networks. Today, their prey is much more accessible, thanks to the explosion in popularity of mobile devices—from iPhones to iPads to compact laptops, all of which dwarf the power of advanced computers from just a decade ago.

“At first, there was not much interest in hacking cell phones,” says Ziqian Dong, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at NYIT-Manhattan. “But as more people began to use them for online banking, the crooks took note.”



Who do you really know?

This illustration depicts the interconnectedness of mobile users across a cell phone network. Lines along the outer perimeter depict individual users sending text messages and other forms of communication to other users, who in turn send messages to their own separate groups. The center represents how the convergence of today's mobile communications ties together users in ways never imagined. With each text and email we send through mobile technology, we become linked to others across a global network. The rewards of such interconnectedness are great ... as are the hazards, many security experts say.



JOSH GERRITSEN

Assistant Professor Ziqian Dong explains that hackers' interest in smartphones is due to the consumer data stored in them, thanks to online banking and apps downloaded by their users.

Another reason she cites for the increase in smartphone hacking is the trend of companies to become mobile as they compete in a global economy. "When you shift to a more mobile business," says Dong, "lots of critical information will be transmitted through wireless networks."

Mobile security, though practiced by corporations, national agencies, and individual users worldwide, is still a relatively young field when it comes to the field of cyber intrusions. But it's wasted no time in making headlines. Take, for example, the high-profile phone hacking

scandal perpetrated by News Corporation in which the media conglomerate was accused of breaking into voice mailboxes to obtain private information.

According to Symantec Corporation, the Cupertino, Calif.-based maker of Norton AntiVirus security software, more than 286 million unique variants of malware were detected in 2010. This is just one of many alarming statistics from the company's 2010 Internet Security Threat Report, which also cited a 42 percent increase over the previous year in vulnerabilities to mobile operating systems.

Thankfully, NYIT serves as a research leader in the field of mobile security.

Delgosha is among an interdisciplinary team of professors researching new security-enabled network architecture for monitoring patients and the elderly in hospitals or nursing homes. Dong's current research delves into ways to secure smartphones and mobile networks.

NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences is also using a National Science Foundation Grant to enhance its electrical and computer engineering curriculum to integrate wireless technology applications.

"It's really important to educate students so they are tech savvy and understand the challenges in mobile security," says Dong. "We get them involved as early as possible in learning how attacks happen and how to prevent them and safeguard systems."

Dong says much of the consumer confusion regarding the vulnerability of smartphones comes from the lack of transparency when it comes to revealing background computing processes.

"It's harder to locate malware," says Dong. "There are more backdoors. There needs to be more research, especially for open source operating systems such as Android."

Unlike Apple's iTunes store, which requires developers to submit their apps for approval before they can be downloaded, Android apps are not checked for malicious code and can be downloaded by any user running that operating system. (Those iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch users who "jailbreak" their devices put themselves at risk by forgoing the Apple/iTunes security blanket.)

In November 2011, software developer Trevor Eckhart discovered a hidden process embedded in one Android app, Carrier IQ, which secretly tracks a user's location and keystrokes. The application is built into many Blackberry, Android, and Nokia mobile devices. The company that designed the app claims this information helps mobile carriers and device manufacturers improve products and services for customers.

Many apps, however, already do this after being granted permission by users, who are happy to swap what they believe is a shred of privacy in exchange for a great convenience—without realizing the

security hole they've just opened.

"Users love to say 'OK,'" says Timothy Brown, senior vice president and chief security architect for Islandia, N.Y.-based CA Technologies, who spoke at NYIT's Cyber Security Conference on Sept. 15 at the Manhattan campus (see page 10 for details). "A chess application may ask for consumer information, and you don't know if it's a loyalty program or phishing attempt."

In many cases, the mobile hacker's ultimate goal is money—obtained either through gaining access to accounts or blackmailing.

"Bad guys always go to where the money is, and increasingly that's corporations," says Brown, emphasizing that this drives the more sophisticated attacks.

"It's a cat-and-mouse game," says John McCluskey (B.S. '98), deputy director for corporate security and investigations at TD Bank. He oversees teams within the United States that investigate internal and external check fraud and internal compromise. "Every time we build a bigger mousetrap, they look for ways to defeat it."

The weakest link in any mobile security chain, he adds, is the customer. For such a 21st-century problem, it seems an old adage still holds true.

"The more people know, the better they're equipped to handle hackers," McCluskey says. "Education is key."

Another way of improving defenses against mobile security leaks—particularly in the corporate arena where trade secrets and other intellectual property (IP) may be compromised by employees sharing secrets via smartphones—is by focusing on procedures.

"Protecting IP is the biggest thing," says Gerard Wissing (B.S. '85), an IP attorney and chief operating officer for SAP Global IP Group, a world leader in enterprise applications with approximately \$15 billion in annual revenues. "Employees need to understand what they can and cannot do with their mobile devices."

This becomes vital in the global marketplace, where hackers stealing corporate secrets can prove difficult to prosecute because of incongruent international laws.

"A person has direct accountability and consequence for doing something on a mobile device," says Brown. "It's

"A chess application may ask for consumer information, and you don't know if it's a loyalty program or phishing attempt."

— Timothy Brown, senior VP and chief security architect for CA Technologies



JOSH GERITSEN

not always about solving problems with technology but rather establishing the right policies.”

He cites the use of cameras in sensitive areas within a corporation or agency. But as such devices are now found on every smartphone, Brown says it’s clear that the policy of restrictive camera use is antiquated.

“It really then becomes all about the human behind it,” he says. “Human-centric security” that puts people first will allow employers to create better policies to thwart unwanted security leaks. “You need to trust the person and not the device.”

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If there is an El Dorado of information for cyber criminals, it can be found within the daily updates, photo albums, and personal data submitted to social media hubs such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. And with mobile apps available for each of these sites, the potential for giving up more personal data than you should has never been greater.

For hackers, the beauty of social media is that almost nothing needs to be hacked. All you have to do, in many cases, is be “friends” with your victim.

“Social engineering attacks are the easiest,” says Brown. Such digital threats occur when victims are manipulated into providing personal information.

Some of this data includes answers to questions that financial sites use to verify who you are, says McCluskey. This includes your mother’s maiden name, pet’s name, your high school sweetheart, and other personal data. “People are giving everything up freely,” he adds.

“In the past, people looked on corporate calendars to see when others were going on vacation,” says Brown. “Now it’s just a lot easier to know when someone is not going to be home because they directly tell you and hundreds or thousands of others.”



CHRIS APPOLDT



JOSH GERITSEN

At left: Gerard Wissing (B.S. '85), an IP attorney and chief operating officer for SAP Global IP Group, says educating employees can prevent leaks of intellectual property via mobile devices. At top: Security experts gather for NYIT's Cyber Security Conference at the Manhattan campus.

Cyber attacks through social engineering are the hardest to predict and resolve, he adds, because they are not a technical issue but, again, something that can be remedied through better consumer education, particularly as it pertains to privacy concerns on several social media sites.

These attacks, however, are not the only areas where criminals can achieve devastating results with minimal effort. Delgosha cites the need for medical applications to be properly secured, especially in an age when doctors are performing “telemedicine” and running patient checkups over iPads and laptop webcams that can be monitored by digital intruders.



John McCluskey (B.S. '98) is deputy director for corporate security and investigations at TD Bank, where he battles cyber crime in the financial services sector.

“Hackers can target a person’s smartphone and alter the medical record,” says Delgosha. “And a doctor who is not physically there will not know the difference. A hacker could prescribe the wrong medication and cause a lethal outcome.”

All of this demonstrates the severity of mobile exploits, which were on track to double by the end of 2011, according to IBM’s X-Force 2011 Mid-Year Trend and Risk Report.

“Every day, people are finding vulnerabilities,” says Delgosha. “Thankfully, there are companies taking it very seriously.”

But the war against cyber hackers is far from over. Even if an intruder is physically located outside the United States, Delgosha adds, there is little that law enforcement officials can do to apprehend them.

“It is a battlefield,” he says. “But this enemy cannot be shot. We will be permanently on the defensive until there is a coordinated global movement to stop such attacks.” ■

Seven Deadly PINs

If you lock your smartphone using a passcode that happens to be “1234” ... then you might as well not use a passcode.

Unfortunately, many people don’t consider their personal identification number (PIN) to be a threat to their own personal security. But for hackers, an easily decipherable PIN can mean instant access to your smartphone, bank accounts, voicemails, and other private information.

In 2011, iOS developer Daniel Amitay created an app on the iTunes App Store called Big Brother Camera Security that was ostensibly designed to take photos of anyone using an iPhone or iPod Touch without the owner’s permission. Amitay later included an update that recorded passcodes users typed to

access the app. Upon learning of this, Apple yanked the app from iTunes, citing that Amitay was “surreptitiously harvesting user passwords.”

Despite having his app removed for controversial reasons, Amitay posted his findings online (based on 204,508 recorded passcodes) to highlight the most common PINs recorded. The top seven were:

- [1] 1234
- [2] 0000
- [3] 2580
- [4] 1111
- [5] 5555
- [6] 5683
- [7] 0852

In the realm of alphanumeric passwords, Los Gatos, Calif.-based SplashData, a

password management and security application provider, released its annual list of the worst passwords in November 2011. If you use one of these passwords, you may want to think about changing it:

- password
- 123456
- 12345678
- qwerty
- abc123
- monkey
- 1234567
- letmein
- trustno1
- dragon

SplashData created the list based on millions of stolen passwords posted online by hackers.

At NYIT’s School of Engineering and Computing

Sciences, Assistant Professor Farshid Delgosha predicts a future when passwords may one day be replaced by fingerprint ID, retina scans, and other biometric data.

Another possibility is advanced keystroke detection. “People have different ways of typing,” he says. “They can be identified properly by the way they type a phrase.”

Whatever sophisticated protocols are embedded in future security networks, users will need to know that hackers will always be waiting for them to make a mistake.

“Consumers expect technology to take care of everything,” says Delgosha. “To a good degree, it does. But sometimes users do things they are not supposed to.”

be their Guest

*Alumni serve up hospitality and more
at hotels and resorts around the world.*

By Elaine Iandoli

When **Andrew Labetti (B.S. '91)** vacationed with his family 30 years ago at a Scottsdale resort in Arizona, ice machine treks and game room adventures were highlights of the trip.

“It was almost like summer camp,” says Labetti, describing all of the free time he had to roam the grounds with siblings and friends. “The memories were great.”

A passion for all things hotel took root during frequent vacations made possible because of his father’s job in the airline industry. Childhood trips to Italy, Spain, and other European destinations stoked his desire to work in the hospitality field.

“You want to do things that make you happy, that bring up great memories,” Labetti says. “Hotels are one of the things that did that in my childhood.”

Decades later, Labetti manages The Benjamin, a four-star, 209-room luxury boutique hotel in New York City, where even details like ice machines remain on his radar screen.

“Every guest experience is so important,” says Labetti. “You emotionally touch every guest who comes through your door. It can make or break you.”

Attention to detail, awareness of new technology, marketing prowess, and a customer-oriented mindset are among the attributes today’s hospitality experts must have, according to Labetti and several NYIT graduates who have leading

roles in the industry. The NYIT School of Management’s hospitality management courses and emphasis on connecting with professionals in the field helped build a foundation for their success, they say.

With experience at the Loews New York Hotel, the Omni Berkshire, Hotel Wales, and the Four Seasons New York, Labetti also credits much of his success to paying attention to the people he believes are the “backbone” of the hotel: the housekeeping staff.

In his early days as a housekeeping manager, Labetti says he learned a key lesson: Listen to your employees and give them a voice. One room attendant, in particular, had a lasting impact. He hired the woman, who had no experience in the field, after hearing her story of emigrating from Romania, raising two children alone in America, and needing a job.

“Some general managers couldn’t live a day in her shoes,” he recalls thinking at the time. “I said to myself, ‘That’s who I want to learn from.’ That’s what this industry is all about. The secret is treating everybody the same, regardless of whether they play for the New York Yankees or they escaped communist Romania.”

In fact, a course on leadership and employee relations is among the newest requirements in NYIT’s hospitality management curriculum. Robert Koenig, Ed.D., associate dean of the school’s Student Advancement Programs and



Andrew Labetti
(B.S. '91) manages
The Benjamin in
New York City, a four-
star, 209-room luxury
boutique hotel.



Robert Koenig, Ed.D., associate dean of the School of Management's Student Advancement Programs and Department of Hospitality Studies, is transforming NYIT's hospitality program to keep up with industry changes.

and seek out hotels that are environmentally aware and use methods that help the environment," he says.

Tabbah oversaw the installation of solar panels used to heat the water at his family-owned hotel. He's also researching a new solar technology that could replace the hotel's glass windows and potentially generate larger amounts of electricity.

"Not only would this generate free power but it would aid in green marketing, surpluses could be sold to our neighboring buildings, and we would get tax incentives from the government," Tabbah says.

He's also enhancing the hotel's online marketing efforts, completing a new website showcasing its distinctive features.

"I bring a lot of the youth and knowledge of technology," Tabbah says. "I'm taking the hotel into the present, making it more connected."

Tabbah is also conversing with guests, directly and online, responding to customer ratings, and emphasizing improvements in service and staff training.

"Nothing makes my day more than a positive review online or with our internal quality control sheets," he says. "It's a positive reinforcement that what we are doing is right."

Tabbah graduated from NYIT's Amman campus. With a deep interest in humanities, he's a self-taught photography enthusiast with a book project in the works and a travelogue that includes visits to Morocco, Poland, Thailand, Germany, and Turkey.

Department of Hospitality Studies, worked with colleagues to transform the program in response to changes in the industry. Courses in facilities, purchasing, and conventions/meetings will also provide information and experience in current industry technologies. Among other new offerings are electives in Old and New World wines, culinary techniques that focus on international cuisine, and casino and gaming management. Additional required courses will cover service excellence, entrepreneurship, and franchising.

"We're in the process of reinventing ourselves," says Koenig. "Our industry has changed a lot. By offering these courses, we are providing the things that students need to learn more than ever before. There are many lucrative jobs with a lot of growth potential."

Koenig says the program will continue to emphasize opportunities that introduce students to industry leaders in classrooms and on field trips.

Within a few years, he also hopes to implement a green restaurant certificate program. The training will boost the knowledge of a new corps of hospitality experts coming of age at a time when many hotels are transforming themselves into environmentally responsible businesses, from the materials they use, including bamboo flooring and wallpaper made from recycled clothing, to "smart" heating, cooling, and lighting systems that self-adjust when guests are out of their rooms.

"That's what we want to prepare our

students for," says Koenig. "Many will design kitchens, open restaurants, and service hotels. When customers know you're doing things that are green and sustainable, and you incorporate and practice these things, it's a win-win for everybody."

As assistant owner of the 85-room Amman (Jordan) International Hotel, **Bashar Tabbah (M.B.A. '08)** has made it a point to merge the best of "old-school" business practices with an emphasis on technology, marketing, and improved energy management.

"There is a huge market for people who are aware of their green footprints



Assistant hotel owner Bashar Tabbah (M.B.A. '08) taps into the growing market for eco-friendly hotels by installing solar panels at his family's Amman International Hotel in Jordan.

“I was heavily influenced by Indiana Jones movies and the golden age of travel and discovery,” Tabbah says. “I love rediscovering places through my lens and trying to get those shots that look like you are the only person there. With photography and travel, I get to see different standards of hotels around the world and bring back what I like to my own property. An intricate knowledge of my home country helps when guiding guests here.”

His NYIT degree, along with lessons learned from watching his father develop the hotel and work effectively with the 65-member staff, have helped shape his management approach. The biggest challenge, he says, is the difficulty in implementing changes in a traditional system.

Future hospitality graduates who want to work abroad should study local business culture and government regulations that affect a hotel’s operation, he says.

“You can read books as much as you want but when it comes down to it, experience is the most important thing,” says Tabbah.

Technology eliminated the job that launched **Brian Kramer’s** successful 23-year career with the Hyatt hotel chain. But it’s opening up many new possibilities for the 43-year-old general manager of the 250-room Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa in Florida.

Kramer’s first job—an overnight folio runner at New York City’s Grand Hyatt—had him starting his day at midnight, printing bills for up to 800 guests checking out the next morning, and then scurrying around the massive hotel, slipping bills underneath their doors. He’d spend the final few hours of his shift at the front desk.

“Then I would drive straight to NYIT and go to my classes,” says Kramer.

The days of folio runners ended years ago; today’s guests can check out with a smartphone. Gone are mailed or faxed profit-and-loss statements and the audible pagers and beepers that once summoned hotel employees to their next task.

“I think it means better experiences for the guests,” Kramer says of new technologies in the industry. “In order to

stay cutting-edge in hospitality, you have to continue to adapt to the technologies that are out there.”

Future hotel guests can expect to order room service directly through television touch-screen setups and to check in by simply scanning their smartphones to enter a room.

“The app sends a code to the phone, it plays a tone, and the lock recognizes the specific tone,” says Kramer.

In hotel restaurants, guests will be able to peruse a menu on tablets handed to them by waiters, and they’ll be

able to look at the calorie counts, key ingredients, and preparation tips for the recipes the hotel chefs are creating in the kitchen.

“In the industry, we’re always looking for the next best thing to enhance the guest experience and to make things unique,” he says. “A lot of times, that comes from the younger generation.”

Kramer, like many of his peers, felt a pull toward the hospitality industry as a child. A family member worked for Hyatt, and his sister was an administrative assistant for a Hyatt general manager.



In order to stay cutting-edge in hospitality, you have to continue to adapt to the technologies that are out there.”

Brian Kramer uses technology to enhance guest services as general manager of the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa in Florida.

BOB CROSLING/GETTY IMAGES

When it came time to select his college, the Astoria, Queens, native was already working for the Grand Hyatt in New York City and chose NYIT because its location and courses fit well with his schedule. Soon after, he was hired as a housekeeping supervisor at the hotel.

“I had to supervise a group of women four times my age who were doing their jobs for more than 20 years,” he says. Eighteen months later, he was promoted to an assistant management position and has continually moved up within the chain, including stints in Greenwich, Conn.; Boston and Cambridge, Mass.; and Bethesda and

Chesapeake Bay, Md. At the new Clearwater property, he was responsible for hiring 250 employees.

Kramer counts his experience studying abroad for a semester in Lausanne, Switzerland, as one of the highlights of his NYIT education.

“In the hospitality industry, one thing that’s critically important is to understand different cultures and what’s important to people in different parts of the world,” he says. “A significant portion of our tourists come out of the United Kingdom and Germany—it helps having a bit of [international] background. It serves me well today.”

Cuneyt Dalcan (B.P.S. ’87) was fortunate to finish his degree at the same time his native country’s tourism industry began growing.

“In 1983, everyone was investing in the country, and the government opened the possibilities for foreign investors,” says Dalcan, who serves as the general manager of the 172-room Barcelo Hotel in Ankara, Turkey. The country is known for its stunning shorelines (the word “turquoise” derives from a French word for Turkish, referring to the colored waters of the Mediterranean Sea off the country’s southern coast) and rich history.

He arrived in New York in 1981 to study for a degree in the hospitality industry. After finishing an associate’s degree, he transferred to NYIT because of its reputation in the field. In between his favorite courses of cost control, management, and hospitality law, he worked as a waiter at Howard Johnson’s and a restaurant manager at Bob’s Big Boy. After graduating, he hoped to stay in the United States but returned to Turkey because of the opportunities to follow his dream of becoming a hotelier.

“That was what I wanted to be since I was a child,” he says.

Dalcan began as a junior assistant food and beverage manager for the Hilton Hotel Group in Ankara. He followed with positions at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel Antalya, the Sheraton Ankara Hotel & Towers, and management jobs in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

“In each country, you have to adapt yourself to their system and the way they work,” he says. “You have to mix your qualifications and philosophy, and then you can be more helpful.”

Dalcan says his middle-management experience was formative, forcing him to learn quickly and get a taste for all aspects of hospitality, from guest relations and facilities to accounting and business law.

“Then I understood it was not such an easy job,” he says. “I had to hustle and fight to learn more. I invested a lot of hours into the hotel to learn quicker.”

Among the challenges were training candidates—many with no hospitality background—for positions within the hotel.

“Later on, you are becoming not only a manager but their coach,” he says. “You have to teach everything from scratch.”

He advises up-and-coming hoteliers to



As general manager of the Barcelo Hotel in Ankara, Turkey, Cuneyt Dalcan (B.P.S. ’87) offers stellar customer service, trains employees, and forecasts hospitality trends.

have a strong mathematical sense, with particular skills in analyzing statistics, budgeting, and forecasting. Yet none of the technical skills can replace the need to meet with guests at the hotel restaurant, bar, or lobby check-in. Some days, those guests may include celebrities, athletes, and politicians.

“We always keep in touch with the guests,” says Dalcan. “If the guest is happy, I’m happy.” And if they’re not, he adds, their feedback “helps us develop ourselves and get better.”

An emphasis on customer service, along with a roll-up-the-sleeves work ethic, remains at the heart of **Andrea Correale’s (B.P.S. ’92)** career success.

She got her start as a Long Island country club waitress and also put some mileage on her car in pursuit of her career goals, specifically finding clients for her Rent-a-Waitress business, which she ran throughout her college years. An admitted overachiever, Correale launched a catering business, *Elegant Affairs*, immediately after graduating.

“I used to drive around in all the wealthy areas, copy down the addresses, and do direct mail,” says Correale.

Today, *Elegant Affairs* operates out of a 7,000-square-foot building in Glen Cove, N.Y., and has a staff of 20 full-time workers and 100 part-timers. The company handles about 600 events each year.

“My whole family laughs because they always say my favorite thing to play when I was a kid was waitress,” she says. “I wouldn’t take off an apron, I had my little cash register, I would set the table with my grandmother, serve drinks, and wash dishes.”

Her enthusiasm came from family holidays made memorable by decorative touches her parents created.

“Regardless of what was going on, my mom and dad would always go out of their way and make it special,” she says. “It was always very inspiring and very exciting.”

Correale has fully embraced social media and online marketing. Her blog includes enticing photos and recipes, and she tweets regularly, driving followers to her company’s website and blog or just providing updates of her latest culinary and celebrity catering adventures. She has moved easily between the Hamptons and



Andrea Correale (B.P.S. '92), owner of the successful catering company, *Elegant Affairs*, started her first business as an NYIT student.

CHRIS APPOLDT

Hollywood, making appearances on multiple shows, including *The Real Housewives of New York City*, *Millionaire Matchmaker*, *Fabulous Life in the Hamptons*, and Martha Stewart’s radio show.

Like hotels, catering businesses are recognizing the need to incorporate sustainability initiatives. Many customers demand recycling practices and prefer biodegradable utensils. Consumer taste has even changed, moving away from heavy foods and pastas to healthier options with vegetables and whole grains. The abundance of cooking shows featuring accomplished chefs and their culinary creations has also led customers to demand a higher level of expertise.

“Now the client is so much more educated because of all the information available to them,” she says. “When they see all of these shows, they have an expectation of what they want.”

Correale’s expectations for her business and future are similarly demanding. While she once could only afford to rent a kitchen in the back of a Long Island deli from midnight to 6 a.m., she now takes control of celebrity parties and may soon star in her own reality show.

“Take as many different jobs as necessary to find out what in the industry you like,” she advises those interested in hospitality careers. “The most important thing is to know what you want to do.” ■

| 1960s |

Ron Flaum (B.F.A. '66) has produced and directed shows at CBS television for 45 years, including *Sunday Morning* and *48 Hours*.

Poestory, an animated film of Edgar Allan Poe's life that's voiced by an all-star cast (actors Hugh Dancy, Alfred Molina, and Dianne Wiest) is slated for release in 2012, courtesy of **Michael Sporn (B.F.A. '67)**. His New York-based animation studio is behind the production. Read about it at poestory.net.

Fusing jazz and classical melodies is the forte of Los Angeles-based musician **Vinny Golia (B.F.A. '68)**. His sextet performed in October 2011 at the Kerrytown Concert House in Ann Arbor, Mich., as part of EdgeFest, an annual event for creative jazz musicians.

Engineer **Robert Accomando (B.S. '69)** is vice president of asset operations at the corporate headquarters of Arden Realty Inc. in Los Angeles.

At the tip of Long Island's North Fork, artist **Richard Fiedler (B.A. '69)** operates his namesake gallery in Greenport, N.Y. He paints ships, lighthouses, harbors, barns, and beaches around town. View his art at fiedlergallery.com.

Rosina Wachtel (B.S. '69) is assistant professor of fashion merchandising management at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

| 1970s |

There are three secrets to success for **Michael Ingbar (B.S. '70)**: his NYIT degree and the practical accounting knowledge it gave him; his immersion in management technology strategies; and never giving up. "Through a few recessions, scraping the bottom, I held on through the hard times and learned to find other sources of income within my own business," he says. Michael just celebrated 33 years as founder and president of MFI Art Co. Inc., a corporate art consulting company, as well as 25 years as owner of Soho Picture Framing in New York City.

Robert Shure (B.F.A. '70), who won the Gold Medal in Sculpture award while at NYIT, is a figurative sculptor and the founder of Skylight Studios in Woburn, Mass. "The high quality of my NYIT teachers gave me a strong foundation in

John Sorrenti (B.A. '72, M.B.A. '78), founder and president of JRS Architect P.C. in Mineola, N.Y., has been named to the board of directors for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



JOSH GERATSEN

NYIT Alumni Federation board members (from left) Lisa Colantuono (B.S. '94, M.A. '98) and Fred Harris (B.S. '08, M.B.A. '10), Vice President for Development John M. Elizandro, and President Ralph Sepe (B.S. '97) gathered at the Manhattan campus on Nov. 29 to discuss a new round of alumni events for the 2011-2012 year. Currently there are more than 89,000 NYIT graduates worldwide with chapters spread across the United States, Middle East, and China. Keep reading *NYIT Magazine* for more updates and email alumni@nyit.edu if you would like to take a greater role in the Alumni Federation.

studio art, art history, and aesthetics," he says. "Since they were all practicing artists as well as teachers, I was able to help a few of them as an assistant in their studios. This opportunity compounded my learning experience and helped establish my career path in fine art and sculpture."

Richard Ackerman (B.F.A. '72) knows the recipe for entrepreneurial success—making a good truffle. Chocolate lovers should check out sunflowerchocolates.com, the online business he runs with his wife, Elizabeth, offering made-to-order chocolates in crème de rum, mocha, and more.

Former New Yorkers **Larry Reoch (B.S. '73)** and his wife, Barbara, live in Westerville, Ohio, where they attended the town's 10th Anniversary Memorial Remembrance of 9/11. They were special guests at the two-hour ceremony, where they carried an American flag and presented it to young people of the next generation. The Reochs lost their beloved niece, Arlene Babakitis, who worked for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department, on Sept. 11, 2001.

Larry Parisi (B.Arch. '75), an architect who became president of the New

Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects in January, is a man of many talents. He moonlights in his band, Pocket Rockets, and enjoys gourmet cooking and sailing at the Nyack Boat Club in Nyack, N.Y.

Diane Ketcham (M.A. '78) is an award-winning former *New York Times* columnist and author of the crime thriller *The Vanishing A-List* (tidelowpress.com). She got her start working as a graduate assistant for retired NYIT professor Adrienne O'Brien, who was featured in the summer 2011 issue of *NYIT Magazine*. Diane says: "Adrienne has meant so much to me personally and

professionally. She was my mentor."

Karen Stehlin (B.S. '78) is the interim director of the North Country Small Business Development Center in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

William Zerella (B.S. '78) is chief financial officer of Vocera Communications Inc., headquartered in San Jose, Calif. The firm provides mobile communication solutions for hospitals.

| 1980s |

Onofrio "Noff" Colabella (B.S. '80), principal and co-founder of BNC Insurance Agency in Rye Brook, N.Y., was recognized by *Cambridge Who's Who*

for dedication, leadership, and excellence in insurance services.

Thomas Tiefenwerth (B.S. '81), Ph.D., is a forensic consultant at Forensic Mental Health Services in Temple, Texas.

Mark Grossman (M.A. '83) is the commissioner's Long Island regional representative for the New York State Department of Labor.

Tony Jones (B.F.A. '83) serves as public information officer for St. Mary's County, Md. He's also a sports fan and enjoys traveling.

NYIT sweethearts **Bob Marcinka (B.F.A. '84)** and **Barbara Genova-Marcinka (B.F.A. '84)** celebrated >>

FELLOW ALUMNI



As we look forward to 2012, I and the other members of the NYIT Alumni Federation leadership team are excited about the many changes, events, and initiatives we have accomplished over the past year.

During the spring of 2011, at academic honors events and galas, student presentations, and, of course, commencement, we had the pleasure of meeting some of our most successful and accomplished future alumni. In the summer, many of us attended new student orientations at our New York campuses, welcoming students to our university while aiming to inspire them with an overview of our time at NYIT and our respective successes since graduation. I must say, they inspired us as well!

In 2012, we will be working very closely with NYIT Vice President of Development John M. Elizandro to continue our mission to:

- increase graduate involvement within the university and with fellow alumni;
- foster a sense of alumni pride early on at all student levels;
- develop networking and relationship-building opportunities among all areas of NYIT;
- promote community awareness, thus enhancing the reputation of NYIT alumni;
- initiate programs that support alumni, such as the NYIT Alumni Scholarship Fund, as well as celebrate and communicate the successes of our fellow alumni.

I cannot emphasize enough what a great opportunity it is to meet our future and fellow graduates. It's a chance to make new friends, rekindle old friendships, forge new business relationships, and network among alumni and faculty—all of which can lead to exciting opportunities for us as individuals and for our alma mater. I urge all of you to attend one of the many events, workshops, and gatherings we will be planning for 2012. Until then, best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful year.

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

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

DEE-DEE SHILLER (D.O. '02)

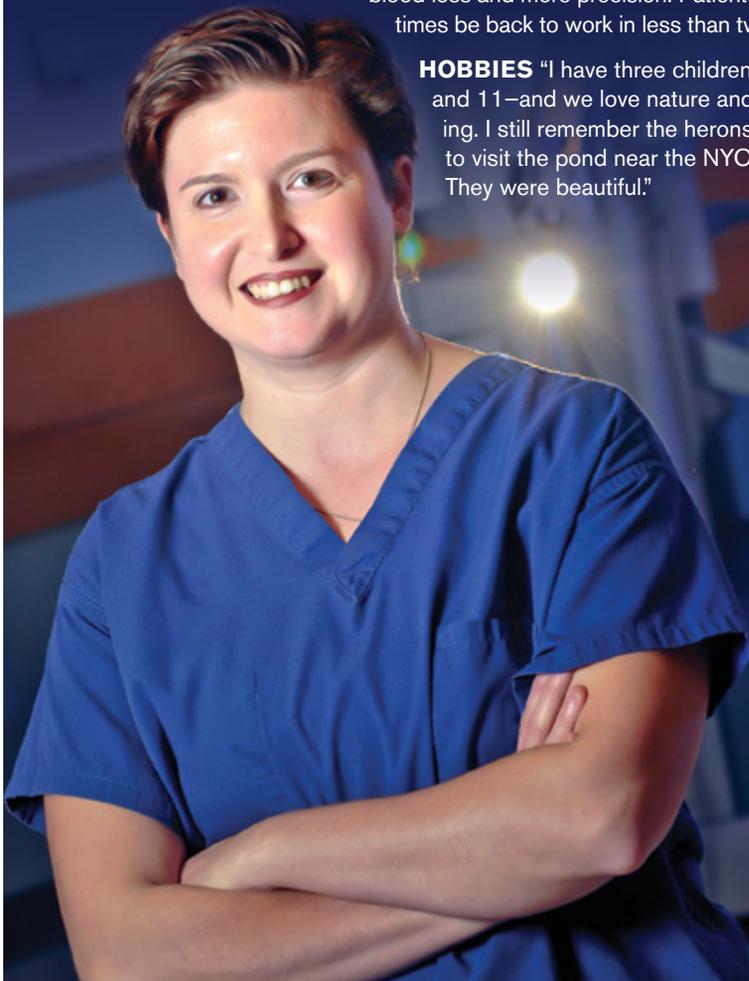
CURRENT POSITION Director of the Women's Wellness Center at Northwest Hospital in Baltimore, Md., a holistic health care center geared to middle-age and menopausal women. "I specialize in pelvic pain, menopausal symptoms, endometriosis, and bladder conditions, as well as minimally invasive surgery. My clinic also offers weight loss, acupuncture, and massage therapy."

WHY OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE? "I wanted to be a doctor ever since I was 10. I always had a good capacity for memorization and understanding how things work, and was really enamored by science and anatomy. When I was 17, I met some physical therapists experimenting with cranial manipulation. Later, I researched the difference between D.O.s and M.D.s., which led to learning about how structure and function are interrelated and the idea that the body has its own healing capacity. That solidified it. I knew I wanted to be a D.O., and NYIT—because of its reputation—was my first choice."

FAVORITE MEMORY "In our gross anatomy class, I was part of a group of five women. We all had different religious and ethnic backgrounds. The day we dissected a human heart led to a discussion about God and the philosophy of belief and faith. Our questions surrounded where the soul resides and whether we have one. It was an amazing experience."

PAGING DR. ROBOT "I'm a robotic surgeon, which means I can perform hysterectomies and lathroscopic procedures while sitting at a computer console that lets me use my hands and feet to activate the robot inside a patient. This allows me to perform complicated procedures that would have otherwise been done with a large incision and prolonged recovery. These procedures use small incisions with less blood loss and more precision. Patients can sometimes be back to work in less than two weeks."

HOBBIES "I have three children—ages 6, 9, and 11—and we love nature and bird watching. I still remember the herons that used to visit the pond near the NYCOM Circle. They were beautiful."



JOHN SPAULDING/GETTY IMAGES

>> their 25th wedding anniversary. Bob has been a 3-D computer graphic artist manager for 22 years at Schawk Inc., in Stamford, Conn. The company provides global imaging resources for clients such as Unilever, Pepsico, Kellogg's, Proctor & Gamble, and Nestle. Right now, he is "enjoying family, set design with building large-scale props, and fishing in the Florida Keys."

Andrew Nuzzi (B.S. '84) owns Andrew Nuzzi Architects LLC in Stamford, Conn.

C.J. Cornell (M.B.A. '85) is the Kauffman Professor of Digital Media and Entrepreneurship at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

Wade Faerber (D.O. '86) is a team physician for Cypress College in Cypress, Calif., and chairperson and director of the orthopedic department of Riverside Community Hospital's Orthopedic Residency Program.

Steven Nadel (M.S. '86) is executive director of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, a nonprofit research organization.

Former NYIT fine arts professor **Martin Clements (B.F.A. '87, M.A. '03)** has spent the past 10 years traveling the world to study the arts of many cultures and civilizations. He is currently working in his studio to produce a series of paintings and photographs for exhibition. Track his progress at martinclements.weebly.com or follow him on Facebook at Martin Art.

Cheryl Davidson (M.P.S. '87) is executive director of LI Works, a nonprofit organization that collaborates with educators and local businesses to prepare students for Long Island's professional workforce.

Joseph Carcione (D.O. '88), a Yonkers, N.Y.-based physician, specializes in neurophysiology and neurology.

Edward Gray (B.T. '88, D.O. '99) is medical director for critical care at Grand View Hospital in Sellersville, Penn.

If you are looking for ways to reach your full potential, financial and motivational coach **Darryl Wortham** >>

KEEPING HIS EYE ON THE BALL

By Michael Schiavetta (M.A. '07)

When you watch the NCAA Final Four this March, you'll see much of it through the lens of **Sal Augugliaro (B.F.A. '78)**.

The CBS Sports cameraman has helped shaped countless memories of professional sports during a career spanning three decades and multiple continents. In his world, where anything and anyone can instantly be the center of attention, a steady hand and cool head are often the best talents when

Jackson's infamous "wardrobe malfunction" during the 2004 halftime show), and has spent the past 13 years covering NCAA Final Four men's and women's basketball and nearly 30 years covering PGA tournaments and U.S. Open tennis.

He has earned numerous Emmy awards, including a technical award for his camerawork at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, and for his coverage of the PGA tour in 2010.



working in front of a live audience of millions.

"You can't get nervous or think about it too much," says Augugliaro. "Instead, you have to be 100 percent focused while listening to the broadcasters and directors at the same time."

Bringing home the excitement of live sports has provided thrilling and unexpected experiences for the NYIT graduate. He has shot five Super Bowls for CBS Sports (including Janet

The most recent Emmy was the George Wensel Technical Achievement Award for his 3-D camerawork at the 2010 U.S. Open in Flushing, N.Y., the first worldwide broadcast of its type in professional tennis.

"We shot the foreground and the background at the same time," says Augugliaro. The process, he adds, is similar to how our right and left eyes focus and process objects in our line of sight to provide depth. This was accomplished by attaching additional cameras to his main one, so whenever he panned left or right, or zoomed in and out, the extra cameras captured the same object. When combined, the images provided an optical sense of depth.

The award recognizes his work in live sports' next great frontier, but Augugliaro's start in television began in the hectic and more two-dimensional world of daytime soap operas at ABC and CBS. Filming the dramatized tribulations of soap opera characters is somewhat different than the unpredictable world of live sports, he says, but there is common ground.

"You need to have a good eye and be able to handle a camera and pedestal," says Augugliaro. For him, shadowing actors is no different than tracking the quarterback before he makes the big pass.

His work in daytime soaps has had its own share of memorable episodes behind the scenes and in front of the camera. In 1980, during his second year as a TV cameraman, he won his first Emmy—Outstanding Achievement in Technical Excellence for a Daytime Drama Series—for *All My Children*. Augugliaro also

filmed Meg Ryan and Marisa Tomei as the young actresses made their debuts on *As the World Turns*.

But he claims to have been present for another, more momentous occasion in the annals of daytime television history—this one involving legendary soap opera star Susan Lucci: "I was there when Erica Kane got married for the first time."



THE
NOBLE
BATTLE

JEFF WEINER

By Elaine landoli

Ancient Chinese military general Sun Tzu once noted that opponents cannot be defeated without taking the offensive. National Commander of the American Legion Fang A. Wong (B.S. '78) follows this wisdom as he fights for the rights and protection of U.S. veterans. In his case, the enemy is multifaceted: joblessness, health concerns, and societal apathy for the sacrifices of soldiers.

Driven by diplomacy, perseverance, and steadfast reverence, Wong is crisscrossing America and making trips abroad with this message: America must stand with its veterans and provide proper health care, jobs, and gratitude for their service.

"I consider this generation the 'next greatest generation,'" Wong said in September 2011, shortly after his first appearance before a joint session of the U.S. House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "Each and every one of them are volunteers. They're willing to do the dirty work that a lot of people don't even want to consider."

Born in Canton, China, Wong is the first Asian-American to lead the American Legion, the nation's largest veterans service organization with 2.5 million members and 14,000 posts across the nation and five abroad. His one-year position demands constant travel to meet legislators and veterans of all ages.

Sobering statistics about joblessness and veterans' health issues provide fodder for Wong's testimony and public speeches. The unemployment rate for veterans who have left the armed forces since the 9/11 terrorist attacks stood at 12.1 percent in November 2011, and recent reports say veterans aged 18 to 24 had a 30.4 percent jobless rate in October. Unemployment rates are expected to rise as more troops return home and enter the job market.

"I would like to see the Department of Labor, the government, and the private sector get together and have some job training programs or hire more veterans," says Wong. "We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to train each man and woman to be a soldier and go to war ... These folks are ready and can be trained, and we need to give them an opportunity."

For other soldiers, physical and psychological injuries plague their lives. A recent U.S. Army study showed that up to 31 percent of soldiers returning from Iraq experience debilitating post-traumatic stress disorder or depression, mainly caused by traumatic brain injuries from blasts and explosions. In 2008, the Rand Center for Military Health Policy Research reported that 320,000 vets experienced a traumatic brain injury during deployment in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"Fortunately, we're able to save more and more lives in the battlefield," says Wong. "We're able to get the wounded warriors

back home. But a lot of them are not the same anymore. We're facing a different problem: how to take care of them for the rest of their lives."

Wong considers his current tour of duty an honor, with roots nurtured by a memorable encounter five decades ago, after he emigrated at age 12 from Hong Kong to Harlem, N.Y. He recalls a visit by an American Legion representative who rewarded top students at his Chinese language school in New York City.

"This gentleman walked up and handed me a check and medal," Wong says. "He was wearing a color guard uniform. That left a very deep impression in my mind ... that someone I didn't even know would take the time to reward and honor us. I wanted to be associated with that group."

In 1969, when Wong received his draft notice, he volunteered for the U.S. Army. He served 25 months in Vietnam, working in a Saigon combat support position and as a Chinese language interpreter.

When he returned to the United States, Wong learned that a processing error meant he didn't qualify for an early discharge.

He attempted to re-enlist for service in Vietnam but was unable to return since the United States was reducing its troop levels. Instead, he was stationed in Fort Monmouth, N.J., where NYIT offered extension courses. Later, he took more courses at Starrett City in the Bronx and NYIT's Manhattan campus, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Following his Army career, Wong joined the American Legion in New York and worked for 21 years at L3 Communications, a defense contractor. He retired from L3 in 2011, just months before his appointment as national commander.

Wong's goals as national commander also include fundraising for two other American Legion programs: the Child Welfare Foundation, which supports projects benefiting children, and the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to children of veterans killed in the line of duty.

"A veteran is a veteran," says Wong. "If you're talking about the service to the country, the love of the country, there is no difference—only age." He recalls an event in Montana last October, where he met a veteran who joined the Legion 64 years ago. "I had to go up to congratulate him and thank him for his service."

Wong has recounted his personal story to local media around the country. Inevitably, he talks about his childhood encounter with a member of the American Legion as a turning point. He rarely speaks about his own awards and medals except for the one handed to him when he was a boy.

"You never know how many hearts or minds or people you touch," he says. "I still have that medal today. I carry it with me."



| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

ELIZABETH MELILLO (M.B.A. '07)

CURRENT POSITION Chief financial officer for the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW). In this position, she is responsible for financial control and planning, including credit control, preparing budgets and financial statements, coordinating financing and fundraising, monitoring expenditures and liquidity, managing investment and taxation issues, and reporting financial performance to the CEO.

THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA "Social media inspired the creation of NAPW, which is the largest and most recognized network of female executives, professionals, and entrepreneurs in the United States." With Elizabeth's help, the organization provides a forum for professional women at all career stages to share business ideas and make connections using the latest technology.

GLOBAL EDGE "I chose NYIT because I could customize my academic courses. I took classes at different locations and online. And now that I have spent the majority of my career in the international banking sector, I am grateful for my classmates who provided truly global perspectives."

BEYOND NUMBER CRUNCHING "The biggest myth about accounting is that you need to be good at math. Accounting is research and storytelling. It tells the owner of a business, shareholder, bank, or manager what the numbers mean, how they can use them, and what to expect in the future."

PROUDEST NYIT MOMENT "My favorite memory about NYIT was graduation day. You gain additional respect and business opportunities with an M.B.A. I am proud of this accomplishment and consider it a major milestone in my life."



CHRIS APPOLOTT

>> **(B.T. '88)** offers ideas in his book, *Transforming from Consumer to Producer in 90 Days: Saving Money, Energy, and Time Equals More Money to Invest*. He is also program manager at Cisco Systems in San Jose, Calif.

| 1990s |

Lawyer **Stephen J. Gobbo (M.S. '90)** is chair of the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly for 2011-2012.

Tony Lanni (B.F.A. '90) is a senior producer for IMG Media, a global sports, fashion, and media company in New York City. In this role, he produces the U.S. Open Tennis Championships for USA Network's sports division.

Andrew Marcus (D.O. '90) is an orthopedic sports medicine surgeon at University Orthopedics Center's office in State College, Penn.

Carrie Moyer (M.A. '90) exhibited

her art in "Canonical," an art show at CANADA Gallery, Sept. 14-Oct. 16, 2011, in New York City.

NYIT alumni are collaborating at Plainview (N.Y.) Hospital. **Gary Rachlin (D.O. '90)** is director of medical education at the hospital, and **Gus Katsigiorgis (D.O. '00)** is program director for the new orthopedic surgery residency.

For **Michael Schwartz (D.O. '90)**, *The Fighter* is more than an Oscar-winning film; it is something he actually experienced. Schwartz served as the ringside physician for the first fight between Micky Ward and Arturo Gatti, an event depicted in the film. On Oct. 29, the NYIT grad was inducted into the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame, an honor recognizing his 20-year career, during which he has worked as a ringside physician and internal medicine specialist at hundreds of boxing matches.

John Swanteson (B.S. '90) is owner of Mirage Software Services, which he launched 19 years ago. The Charlotte, N.C.-based company specializes in custom software solutions and products for medium and large corporations. "Graduating from NYIT at the beginning of the computer revolution, at the dawn of the Internet providers, gave me the technical expertise and skills required to be one of the few technology leaders in a newly growing industry," he says.

Catherine Bennett (B.S. '91) is an insurance advisor at Southwest Professional Insurance Consultants in Scottsdale, Ariz.

David Charash (D.O. '91) is medical director of the Robert J. and Pamela Morganti Center for Wound Care at Danbury (Conn.) Hospital.

Jamie Cooper (B.S. '91, D.O. '95) is a physician at Associates for Women's Health in Greenwood, Ind.

Andrew Frohn's (B.S. '91) next big initiative is the Honolulu Rail Transit Project, a 20-mile, 21-station elevated rail system linking West Oahu to Honolulu, Hawaii. Frohn will apply his expertise as design quality assurance manager in the Honolulu office of engineering firm Parsons Brinckerhoff.

James Liguori (B.S. '91, D.O. '92) is a physician specializing in neurology

vision in Bethpage, N.Y. In his spare time, he coaches an all-girls robotics team of eight Girl Scouts in ninth and tenth grades. This year, they are planning to design and build a robot rigged to do specific tasks.

Christopher Rivielle (B.Arch. '92, M.B.A. '02) is first vice president responsible for developing new business for Tishman Interiors Corporation, part

knows that good restaurant design and delicious food go hand-in-hand. He is a New York City-based architect who has managed designing stores for Starbucks and currently serves as regional design manager for Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Kenneth R. Gehringer (B.S. '93), senior project architect for engineering and architecture firm H2M's private sector studio in Melville, N.Y., was elected to a two-year term as Northeast region president of the Construction Specifications Institute.

Michael Oliveri (B.S. '93) is vice president and general manager of Suntron Corporation's Open Systems Solutions business unit in Methuen, Mass. Suntron provides integrated electronics manufacturing solutions and commercial off-the-shelf technology.

Nora Tapp Franzese (B.F.A. '94), a New York-based artist and teacher, illustrated the children's book, *Miss Sugar Crumb's Cooking Lesson*.

David Quintyne (D.O. '94) is medical director at Phillips Medical Center in Orlando, Fla.

Steven Rubin (B.S. '94), a patent attorney at law firm Dilworth & Barrese, served on the advisory panel of the IEEE Innovation Forum at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Laura Gray Schoenberg (D.O. '94) is a neurologist affiliated with Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, N.Y.

Stephen T. Cestari (D.O. '95), a board-certified gynecologist with Women's Medical Care of Hudson Valley PC, is now part of Crystal Run Healthcare's group medical practice in Newburgh, N.Y.

Jenny Lynn Cook (D.O. '95) specializes in family medicine and practices at Cape Regional Physicians Associates in Stone Harbor, N.J.

Go green with **Dina Lima (M.S. '95)**, founder and CEO of the Living Green Institute in Hurst, Texas, a training firm that helps builders improve their eco-leadership and attract green buyers.

Roberto Palmerini (B.Arch. '95) is a principal at the Congers, N.Y.-based ROAM Design LLC, which he founded >>

ALUMNI TEE OFF FOR A WORTHY CAUSE



NYIT's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation held its annual Athletics Golf Outing at the Hamlet Golf and Country Club in Commack, N.Y., on Sept. 12, 2011. More than 150 alumni and guests raised \$49,000 for the Bears Den Athletic Fund, which supports athletic programs, facility upgrades, recruitment efforts, and more. Pictured (from left) demonstrating a new form of golf swing are former Bears baseball players Mike Salvemini (B.S. '83), Don Moscatelli (B.S. '84), Alan Ashkinazy (B.F.A. '84), and Joseph LaCugna.

and osteopathic manipulative medicine at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, N.Y.

Jacqueline Watson (D.O. '91) is a family practice physician with an M.B.A. in health management and policy. She serves as director of the District of Columbia's Department of Health Board of Medicine.

Encouraging girls to pursue careers in science is a priority for **Steve Kitchener (B.T. '92)**, a facilities manager at Cable-

of the construction company of the same name in New York City.

James Carlson (D.O. '93) is chairman of the medical advisory board of PharmStar Pharmaceuticals in Wilson, N.C., the company that manufactures liquid pain reliever Aquaprin.

Eric Cole (B.S. '93, M.S. '94) is now chief technology officer of InZero Systems Inc., a producer of cyber security technology in Herndon, Va.

Vincent Dell'Aquila (B.Arch. '93)

DRIVE-THROUGH DESIGN

By Bobbie Dell'Aquilo

When architect **Paul Dillon (B.S. '92)** developed the design for a drive-through restaurant in his native Galway, Ireland, he didn't use the everyday menu of branded design elements that most food franchises serve up. Instead, he created a unique, modernist structure that attracted national attention—and the 2011 Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland award for best commercial/retail building.

"This is a simple, robust, and local architectural response to an ordinary, everyday public building," explains Dillon, who hopes his approach to design will help set a new standard for this type of commercial structure.

"We've considered how this building might be used in 20, even 50 years from now, and we try to create buildings that are suitable for reuse," he says, explaining his team's approach to the project. "We try not to overdesign for one particular use. It could easily be fitted out as a more conventional restaurant or a retail unit."

Since roads surround the drive-through, there is no real front or back to the stone, concrete, and glass structure. Hints of influence by Dillon's favorite architect, Rudolph Schindler, are apparent in the angular two-story structure, which includes a first floor with a small shop and seating area, kitchen, and storage. The second floor contains most of the seating as well as a terrace and play area.

"Simple" and "robust" are the mantras he also used in his design of the 160,000-square-foot Briarhill Shopping Centre, which acts as a modern and imposing gateway to Galway from the east, and of Briarhill Business Park. The latter won Paul Dillon Architects one of five awards presented by the Architectural Association of Ireland in 2008—the first ever awarded to a Galway practice.

Dillon attributes some of his flexible approach to design to his days at NYIT's Manhattan campus. He humorously recalls one project that tested his limits.

"I had to design and build a timber structure about 3 x 3 x 5 feet high and take it to the 10th floor of the Manhattan campus building, make a presentation, and then take it with me on the subway," he says. "It was like carrying a large filing cabinet home."

On a more serious note, Dillon says that early on at NYIT, he learned that architecture is a public and practical art. Design, his professors noted, needed to function in a real world while serving the needs of each client. "Today, I approach each project with a

completely open mind and listen very, very carefully to my clients," he says.

At NYIT, Dillon says he was inspired and encouraged by his design studio instructor, professor Victor Dadras, and remembers the late Stewart Furman's incredible understanding of the architecture of New York.

After he graduated, Dillon went on to graduate school in California and worked with Sigrid Miller Pollin at Siteworks in Los Angeles, eventually returning to Ireland to work for a small architecture firm. He opened Paul Dillon Architects in 1999 in an industry and country that saw a steep downturn over the next decade, particularly after the property bubble burst in 2008 when housing prices and property loan approvals dropped dramatically. "About 60 percent of all architects working in Ireland were made redundant in the space of a year or two, and in my own office, we went from a growing office of 10 employees to three," he notes.



Paul Dillon's (B.S. '92) flexible approach to commercial design has earned him two awards.

Dillon and his team have persevered, and are able to be selective about the projects they take on, experimenting with new designs. He also spends time with his wife, Connie, and their three young children in their Maam Valley home, where they rear sheep, go fishing, and grow their own fruits and vegetables.

And, despite his youthful eagerness to leave Ireland to pursue his dreams, returning home and establishing his practice has been more than Dillon could have envisioned 25 years ago.

"I left Ireland the day after finishing secondary school with a fearless sense of adventure and a childhood dream of becoming an architect," he recalls. "After my first week at NYIT-Manhattan, I felt sure I would be an architect with my own practice ... I didn't know where, I didn't know when. I would never have dreamt that it would be back here in the Maam Valley, one of the most beautiful, tranquil places on Earth."

“I left Ireland the day after finishing secondary school with a fearless sense of adventure and a childhood dream of becoming an architect.”



NYIT WELCOMES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation welcomed new honorees into its Hall of Fame on Oct. 6, 2011: Kerri Lapkowski (B.F.A. '02, volleyball); Paul Bruno (baseball); Monique Houston (B.S. '92, women's track and field); Bennie Harper (men's track and field); Adam Hopkins (B.S. '00, lacrosse); Martin Clements (B.F.A. '87, M.A. '03, men's soccer); and the 1998 National Champion Men's 4x1 relay team of Paston Coke (B.T. '99, M.S. '03), Patrick Brown (B.P.S. '00), Patrick Jarrett, and Kesrick Fraser (B.T. '99). In addition, Director of Athletics Clyde Doughty Jr. (B.S. '81, M.S. '96, M.P.S. '98, right) bestowed the Dr. William T. "Buck" Lai Wonderful Life Achievement Award to legendary sports broadcaster Bob Wolff (left).

>> to provide architecture, design, and planning services to commercial and residential clients.

If you're hunting for a home in Manhattan, **Monica Luque (B.S. '96)** can help. She is a licensed real estate broker with Prudential Douglas Elliman in New York City. Monica also volunteers for an orphanage that is home to 200 children in her native Colombia. Learn more at hogarelenajuan.org.

Dan Smith (B.S. '96) is a resident of Holtsville, N.Y., and served as a New York City police officer for 25 years.

Community service motivates **Juan Acosta (D.O. '97)**, who teaches emergency medicine and cardiac care certification at Pacific Northwest University (PNWU) and volunteers at an urgent care clinic supervising PNWU students.

Food and beverage industry veteran **Ed Byrne (A.O.S. '97, B.P.S. '98)** has more than 20 years of experience in his field and is catering operations manager at the New Yorker Hotel in Manhattan.

Carrie Rikon (B.S. '97) is the founder of Rikon Associates LLC, a professional recruiting agency in New York City with clients that include Fortune 500 companies.

Courtney Stephenson (D.O. '97) is a trailblazer in fetoscopic laser ablation, a procedure used to save identical-twin babies who share a placenta but don't receive blood supply equally. She is the director of the Charlotte Fetal Care Center in Charlotte, N.C., the only center doing fetoscopy in the Baltimore-Miami region.

Bellamy Brook (D.O. '98), a specialist in geriatrics and urgent care medicine, is medical director at Peconic Landing in Greenport, N.Y., and has offices in Cutchogue and Riverhead.

Harry Rivera Jr. (B.S. '99), project manager of Brooklyn Health Information Exchange in Brooklyn, N.Y., was noted by *Cambridge Who's Who* for excellence in information technology.

| 2000s |

Steve Flinkenstein (D.O. '00), a board-certified physician in internal medicine and rheumatology, leads the specialty practice at Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Jayson Vitta (B.S. '00) has more than 10 years of experience in the advertising/marketing/PR field, has consulted for the

likes of the global agency Euro RSCG in New York City, and credits his NYIT education for preparing him to succeed in his chosen career.

Ripal Parikh (B.S. '01), D.O., is a board-certified physician specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Pain Management Center at Galion Community Hospital in Findlay, Ohio.

Get fit with **Susan Scharr (M.P.S. '01)**, a personal trainer at Lighthouse Fitness Center in Lighthouse Point, Fla.

Michael Schmid (B.S. '00, M.S. '01) is experienced in orthopedic outpatient settings and works as a physical therapist at Orlin & Cohen Orthopedic Group in New York City.

Nicole Solomos (D.O. '01) is a family practice and sports medicine physician on

| MARRIAGES |

Stephen Mastrianni (D.O. '89)
to Una Fridriksson

Joseph Vasquez (B.S. '89)
to Courtland Passant

Stephen Gallagher (A.O.S. '00)
to Jessica Hautsch

Adam Zdrilic (B.Arch. '04)
to Pamela Effling

Charles S. Feinstein (M.B.A. '06)
to Yiskah Katzenmaier

Megan Smith (B.S. '07)
to Nicholas Giordano

Brendan Cunningham (D.O. '08)
to Erin Miller

James Scott Farrell (D.O. '09)
to Lindsey Neal

Antonio Lasorsa (D.O. '09)
to Rachel Palermo

Mary Cabaluna (M.A. '10)
to Brian Trimboli

Michael Suprenant (M.S. '11)
to Danielle Barone

| DEATHS |

Michael Mancini (B.S. '77)

Adeline M. Almeida (B.S. '84)

Lawrence A. Stempel (D.O. '88)

Omer Fettahlioglu (professor, School of Engineering and Computing Sciences)

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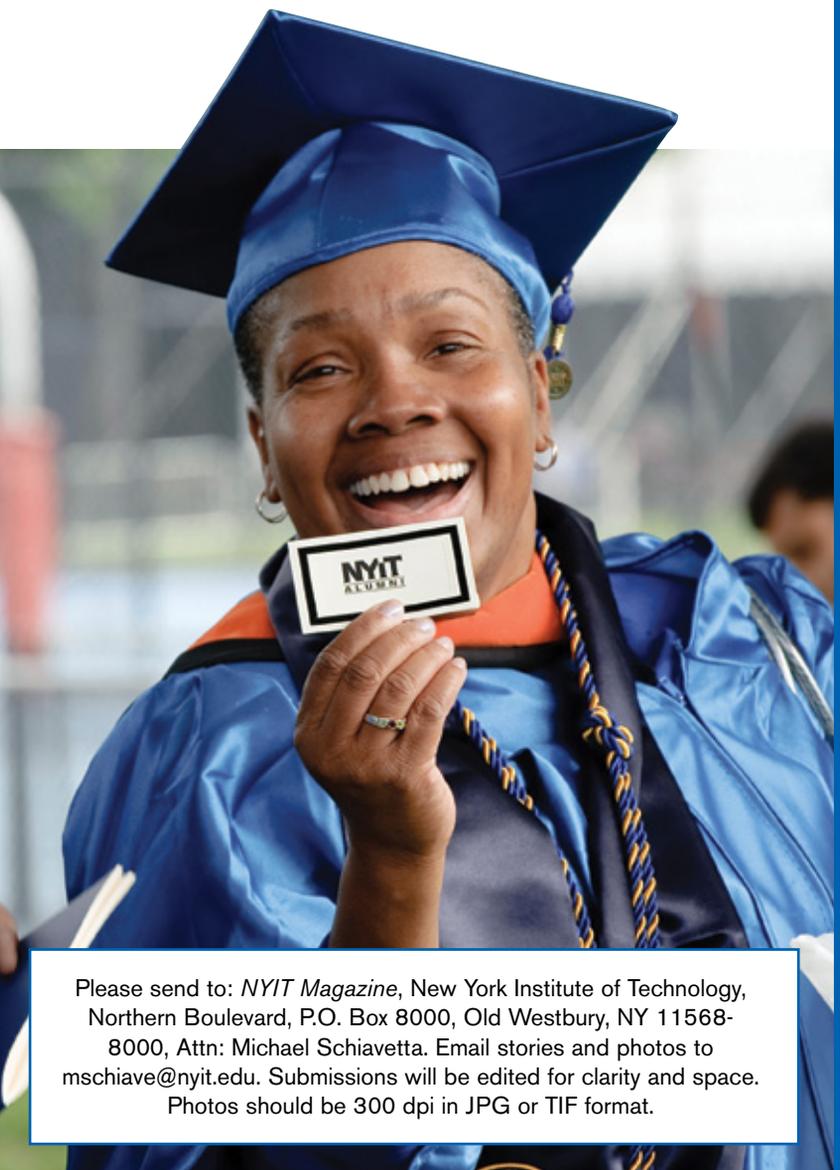
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the staff of Saratoga Hospital in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Khorsheda Begum Ali (D.O. '03), a board-certified OB/GYN physician at Catskill Regional Medical Center in Monticello, N.Y., has been named a fellow of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

After an eight-month reporting stint in Ghana, **Erica Ayisi (B.F.A. '03, M.A. '10)** began the prestigious NBC Page Program in January 2012. She was one of 50 applicants selected from a pool of about 8,000 and joins the ranks of past Page Program participants turned media personalities such as Regis Philbin, Ted Koppel, and Sara Haines.

The NYIT career network is a useful resource for **Michael Benjamin (B.F.A. '03, M.A. '04)** and **Joseph Castillo (B.Arch. '11)**, who used it to find their jobs at Certified Site Safety in Purchase, N.Y., a company of trained safety professionals who service construction sites. Benjamin is the company's controller, and Castillo is a project engineer.

Elisa Bocchieri-Bustros (D.O. '03) is clinical instructor of endocrinology, diabetes, and bone disease at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

Lisa Preston (D.O. '03), a Yonkers, N.Y.-based physician, is an internist who specializes in emergency medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine.

Rahul Walawalkar (M.S. '03), Ph.D., brought his energy management expertise to Dalian, China, where he chaired an energy storage session at the Low Carbon Earth Summit. Walawalkar, who was profiled in the "Green Grads" feature of the Summer 2011 issue of *NYIT Magazine*, is vice president of emerging technologies and markets for Customized Energy Solutions.

Christian Brickner (B.S. '04, D.P.T. '06) treats orthopedic disorders using manual and mobilization skills in the Massapequa, N.Y., office of Orlin & Cohen Orthopedic Group.

Chris Bondy (B.S. '04) is the Gannett Distinguished Professor and interim administrative chair of the Rochester >>

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

>> Institute of Technology's School of Print Media in Rochester, N.Y.

Brooke Davidson (D.O. '04) is a physician specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, and basic infertility at Women's Healthcare in New Milford, Conn.

NYIT is all in the family for **Johanna Decal (M.A. '04)** and her sisters, twins **Janese Pfeiffer (M.S. '06)** and **Ingrid Archaga (B.S. '01)**. Johanna is a sales executive at Axis Promotions in New York City; her sisters are both teachers.

Keith Kazmark (M.S. '04) was elected mayor of Woodland Park, N.J., in November 2011 and took office in January 2012. Previously, he was the municipal clerk of Elmwood Park, N.J.

Brand architect **Ramzi Ghurani (M.B.A. '05)** has launched the strategic marketing business, PIQUE, in Amman, Jordan. The trilingual entrepreneur (he speaks English, Arabic, and some Spanish) brings a wealth of marketing experience to his start-up, including past work for the Jordanian telecom company, Orange, and one of the country's top real estate developers, Saraya.

Karryn Lepley (M.B.A. '05) knows the business side of the pharmaceutical industry. She is process manager in the Abbott Park, Ill., corporate headquarters of Abbott Laboratories, a leading global health care company.

Varuni Rao (D.O. '05) is board certified in internal medicine and is a clinical assistant professor of medicine at New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y.

Shawn Ryan (M.B.A. '05) was promoted to vice president of operations at Atlas Oil Company in Taylor, Mich.

Jose Acevedo (M.B.A. '06), M.D., is the first physician to serve as president and CEO of Finger Lakes Health in Geneva, N.Y.

What better way to celebrate Gergaon Night than to bring together NYIT alumni and students? That's what **Yousif Lori (B.S. '06)** did when he hosted the celebration on Aug. 15 in Manama, Bahrain, to mark the 14th night of Ramadan. Children dressed in traditional costumes and collected

sweets from neighbors after singing the Gergaon song.

Applying renewable energy solutions for the greater good of his community is the goal of **David Schieren (M.S. '06)**, CEO of EmPower Solar. He was honored as an extraordinary Long Island leader in November 2011 by the National Foundation for Human Potential. The award recognized his collaboration with the Family Residences and Essential Enterprises Inc. on the largest solar power installation for residential and commercial properties on Long Island, saving the organization 27 percent annually for reinvesting in social and educational programs.

When **Seema Dhimmer (B.S. '07, D.P.T. '09)** scratched her "Make Me Rich" ticket in September, she couldn't believe her eyes—she had won \$3 million from New York Lottery. The lucky ticket came from her parents' store, the Corner News Deli on Main Street in Nanuet, N.Y.

Matt Holler (B.Arch. '07) is an architectural associate at Mark P. Finlay Architects in Southport, Conn.

Golf historian and collector **Wu Linqi (M.B.A. '07)** made history in Shenzhen, China, where he founded China Golf Museum, the first museum for the sport in Asia. The museum's collection covers nearly 2,000 years of Chinese golf history.

Emily Bolling (B.S. '08) is communications coordinator for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization in Anchorage, Alaska.

Nigel Chiwaya (B.F.A. '08), a reporter and photographer covering the Highbridge section of Bronx, N.Y., for BronxInk.org, is a digital media student in Columbia University's School of Journalism.

Nicholas Amato (B.P.S. '09) enjoys the sand and surf in Hawaii, where he is the guest relations manager at Westin Princeville Ocean Resort and Villas.

Multimedia journalist **Kate Mosso (M.A. '10)** honed her skills at *LI News Tonight* and now reports for WVA News in Bluefield, W.V. ■



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