

# NYIT

## MAGAZINE

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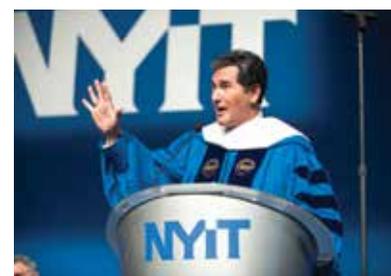
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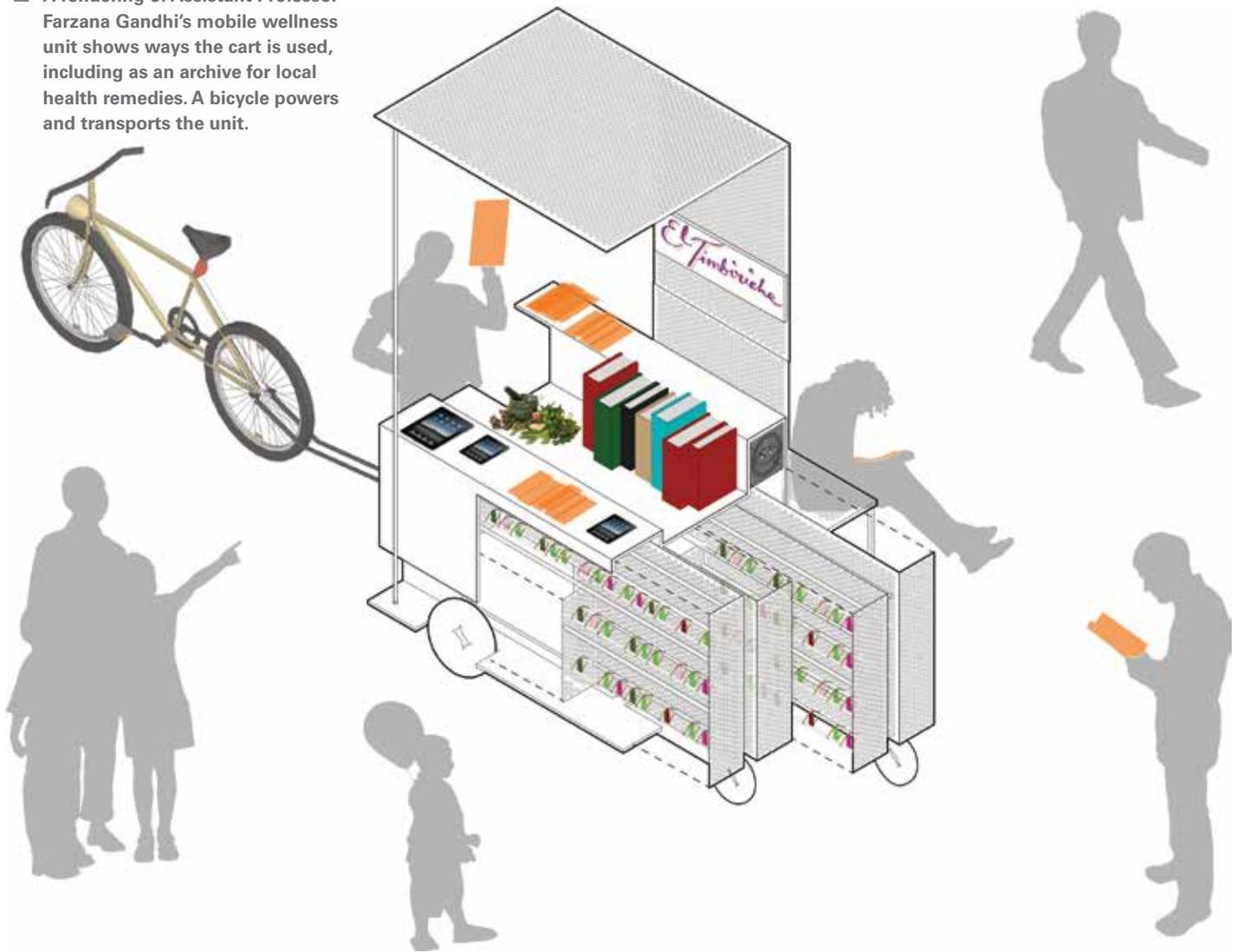
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### SURVEY SAYS...

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# NYIT

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# Preparing Today for the Careers of Tomorrow

CRAIG WALLACE DALE



For the first time, *U.S. News & World Report* has chosen a position in information technology as the top pick in its annual ranking of jobs. Software developer was named the most attractive profession in 2014, with employment expected to swell 23 percent by 2022.

Jobs in the fields of health care and business also fared extremely well, with demand predicted to grow exponentially, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The rankings highlight some of the important choices students must make when selecting a career path today.

While some may be surprised by these findings, we at NYIT are not. NYIT has been living up to its mission and delivering a career-centric approach for nearly 60 years; it seems that today, everyone in higher education wants to follow our lead.

As a university dedicated to graduating profession-ready individuals, our job is to prepare our students for productive, successful career paths—including those in both in-demand and emerging fields. We are also committed to identifying and teaching new, critical skill sets that will help students realize success in these industries. Above all, we are mindful of and guided by the implications of technology in our connected world.

Another NYIT imperative is to educate students to find solutions to real-world problems. Many of our alumni have chosen careers in nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations, and our students, too, show a strong commitment to volunteering and community service. Through internships, study abroad opportunities, partnerships with faculty and alumni, and more, NYIT is working hard to help students transition their interest in others into careers that make a difference in people's lives. Read more about some of these students, alumni, and faculty on p. 14.

We continue to seek prospective students from around the world who are passionate about the kinds of opportunities NYIT offers, and we recently hired a new vice president for enrollment management to lead this charge (see story p. 10). And as much as we are focused on reaching our prospective students, we are also eager to stay connected with you, our alumni. Your dedication and hard work is what inspires students to come to NYIT and achieve success in whatever field they choose. You are the epitome of doing well by doing good. ■

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

# Provocative Perspectives

Unreliable medical screening, health care cost overruns, and the need for a simpler, positive approach to aging were among the topics guest lecturers presented to faculty, staff, and students at NYIT's Provocative Perspectives on Health series. Co-sponsored by NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Health Professions, the series featured speakers with distinctive views on health

Otis Webb Brawley, M.D., the American Cancer Society's chief medical and scientific officer and author of *How We Do Harm: A Doctor Breaks Ranks About Being Sick in America*, urged medical and health professions students to exercise healthy skepticism and rely on scientific evidence for patient care. The United States, said Brawley, spent \$2.6 trillion on health care in 2010—more than any nation—but is ranked No. 49 in “health care outcomes,”

rationing. We should be worrying about (being) rational.”

NYIT First Lady Mireille Guiliano, author of the new book *French Women Don't Get Facelifts: The Secret of Aging with Style & Attitude*, opened the lecture series in January. Aging with attitude, she noted, is a mental approach akin to “painting first from the inside out, not from the outside in” with cosmetic procedures, extreme diets, or fads. Drinking more water, avoiding sugary and salty foods in favor of nutritious “foodlifts,” laughing and loving a lot, and a movement routine are the healthiest path for all, she said. Guiliano is author of several French Women books on healthful lifestyles, careers, and style. She also had a successful career in business and served as CEO of Clicquot Inc. and as a senior executive at LVMH.

Richard “Buz” Cooper, M.D., director of the NYIT Center for the Future of the Health Care Workforce, devoted his lecture to the links among poverty, income inequality, and our nation's need for additional physicians. Policy experts, he said, are “fighting the wrong war” by focusing on what they see as waste and inefficiency in the system and by limiting the number of doctors that can practice in the United States. Cooper's book, *Health Care Through the Lens of Poverty*, will be published later this year.

As *NYIT Magazine* went to press, the final lecture was scheduled to feature Harold Freeman, M.D., CEO and president of the Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute. ■



JIMMY LUTZ

■ Otis Webb Brawley, M.D., speaks about problems with health care at a Provocative Perspectives on Health lecture in March.

care issues. “Some positions are often deemed provocative because they allow us to experience the issues in a way that is new and different from our own,” said Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O. “This is how problems are solved and progress is made.”

just above Romania. He explained that medical care overconsumption, racial and economic disparities, over-prescribed cancer screenings, and pharmaceutical companies' drive for profit are damaging the U.S. health care system. “We are irrationally practicing medicine,” said Brawley. “We keep worrying about

# Ernie Anastos Joins NYIT Board of Trustees

**E**rnie Anastos, the Emmy Award-winning broadcaster for Fox's WNYW-TV in New York City, is the newest member of the NYIT Board of Trustees.

"I have committed much of my life to sharing information and providing perspectives that encourage people to actively participate in the world with open minds," said Anastos. "NYIT is pursuing a similar path through its mission to produce career-ready, globally competent citizens. I look forward to working with the board and administration to continue solidifying its position among the leading institutions of higher education."

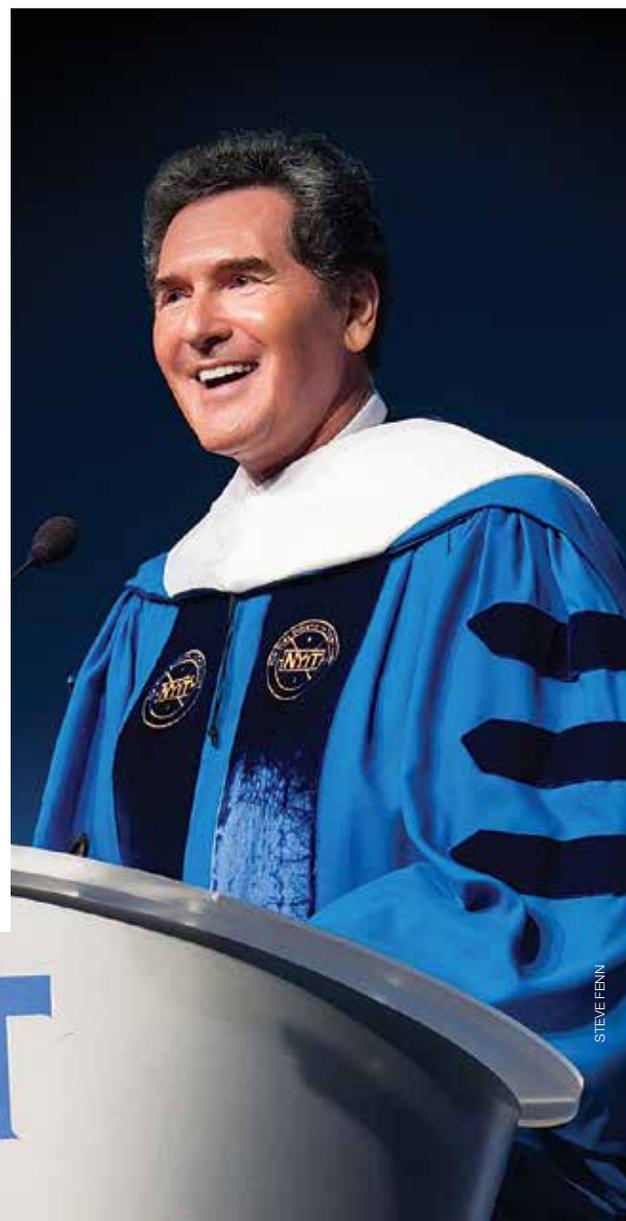
Anastos has earned more than 30 Emmy Awards and nominations and is the only New York TV anchor to receive the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also the creator and host of *Positively Ernie*, a TV show about inspirational people and organizations helping their communities, and the author of *Ernie and the Big Newz*, a children's book with sales benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"Ernie's professional contributions as an influential broadcast journalist and celebrated children's author are significant, second perhaps only to his long-standing record of giving back and helping to make the world a better place," said NYIT Board of Trustees Chairperson Linda Davila (B.S. '78). "He embodies the values and attributes for which NYIT stands as a global university."

As a New York Hall of Fame broadcaster, Anastos has covered major news stories, including the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks. While reporting on the 45th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, he met with Fidel Castro in Cuba to produce a series of special reports. He has interviewed former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton; former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev; and retired South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, among other world leaders.

Anastos graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University. He gained national experience as a news anchor and substitute host for ABC's *Good Morning America* and the *CBS Morning News*. ■

■ Ernie Anastos speaks at NYIT's 2013 commencement, where he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his career achievements and contributions to society.





■ As part of the Year of Turkey, NYIT hosted a screening of one of Turkey's highest grossing films, *Babam ve Oğlum* (*My Father and My Son*).

## Celebrate the Year of Turkey with NYIT

NYIT and the Turkish Cultural Center New York have joined forces to co-host the Year of Turkey 2014, a series of events and activities that explore the country's rich culture and history from multiple perspectives.

Turkey is home to many of the nearly 1,300 international students attending NYIT's New York campuses. NYIT, meanwhile, offers dual-degree and short-term study programs for students wishing to study in Turkey and recently partnered with three universities in Istanbul—Yıldız Technical University, Kadir Has University, and Işık University—to expand its range of educational opportunities.

“As a global university, NYIT provides a holistic education that goes beyond what students learn in their classes, including the chance to learn about different cultures,” said Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic

affairs. “The expansion of our partnerships and dual or combined degrees with Turkish universities means that it is essential to create opportunities for both NYIT students and Turkish students coming to NYIT to appreciate the art and culture of the United States and Turkey.”

The Year of Turkey supports NYIT's partnership efforts. Events in the spring included lectures on Turkey's economy and politics, a film screening, and a discussion of study abroad opportunities in Istanbul. Upcoming events include the conference Sustainability in the Hospitality Industry: A Global Perspective on Dec. 2 at NYIT Auditorium on Broadway.

Members of the NYIT community are welcome to attend all Year of Turkey events. ■

Visit [nyit.edu/academic\\_affairs/turkey](http://nyit.edu/academic_affairs/turkey).

## Online Programs Rise to the Top

NYIT remains one of the best places to get a graduate education—even if you never step foot on campus. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, NYIT's online graduate programs rank among the top in the nation in 2014. The 30-credit Master of Science in Energy Management program, part of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, was named one of the Best Online Graduate Engineering Programs, while several graduate programs offered by NYIT's School of Education were named as Best Online Graduate Education Programs. These include the Master of Science in Childhood Education, in Instructional Technology, and in Adolescence Education: Specialist in Mathematics program and Specialist in Science program.

“It is important that our students can complete courses anywhere, anytime,” said Robert Amundsen, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Master of Science in Energy Management program. He noted students take classes while they work in jobs around the globe.

“By staying flexible and focused on using the most up-to-date technology in all of our programs, students get hands-on experience using online tools,” added Michael Uttendorfer, Ed.D., dean of the School of Education. To reach their results, *U.S. News & World Report* evaluated factors including faculty credentials, graduation rates, and technology. ■

More at [bit.ly/NYIT-Online](http://bit.ly/NYIT-Online).

# Faculty in the Spotlight

**N**YIT faculty members make news in their fields every day. Here is just a taste of their recent accomplishments. Read much more at [bit.ly/NYIT-Faculty-News](http://bit.ly/NYIT-Faculty-News).

## BOOKS AND PAPERS

In the February issue of *Science Scope*, **Shiang-Kwei Wang, Ph.D.**, associate professor of instructional technology, and **Hui-Yin Hsu, Ph.D.**, associate professor of teacher education, co-published “Evolutionary Technology: Using Google Earth, Cyber Databases, and Geotagged Photos to Enhance Students’ Scientific Practices and Understanding of Darwin’s Theory of Evolution.” The article encourages teachers to use new technology to help K-12 students develop key skill sets. The team’s research is supported by a National Science Foundation grant for examining how cyber-enabled learning strategies enhance science education.

U.S. homeland security relies on the systems described in *Video Surveillance Techniques and Technologies*, a book by **Vesna Zeljkovic, Ph.D.**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at NYIT-Nanjing. The book is a primer for engineers in the field of signal and image processing.

**Anthony DiMatteo**, professor of English, explores the bright side of life’s dilemmas in his book of poems *Beautiful Problems*.

Providing physicians with continuing education on genetics could be key in helping patients who may be at high risk of developing colorectal and breast cancers. Co-authors of the study “Impact of Academic Affiliation and Training on Knowledge of Hereditary Colorectal Cancer,” published in *Public Health Genomics*, included **Bhuma Krishnamachari, Ph.D.**, assistant dean of research for the medical school; **William Blazey,**

**D.O.**, assistant professor of family medicine; **David Tegay, D.O.**, chair of the department of medicine; **Brian Harper, M.D.**, medical director of the Academic Health Care Centers; **Sharon Koehler, D.O.**, assistant professor of medicine; **Brookshield Laurent, D.O.**, assistant professor of family medicine; and **Min-Kyung Jung**, biostatistician.

## MILESTONES

**Judith DiMaio**, dean of the School of Architecture and Design, received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the New York Society of Architects.

The New York Area Chapter of the Professional Convention Management Association honored NYIT’s Department of Hospitality Studies with its 2013 Partner of the Year Award for its efforts to provide

■ In an article in *Science Scope*, NYIT faculty members encourage students and teachers to explore the unique ecosystem of the Galápagos Islands (pictured here) by using Google Earth and its collection of 3-D satellite images.



BAO TRAN

■ Robert Koenig, Ed.D., and Alan Fairbairn accept the 2013 PCMA Partner of the Year Award.

students with educational and professional opportunities through the NYIT Global Center for Hospitality Management. The center helps prepare students for careers in every aspect of the hospitality industry: hotel/lodging, event planning, food and beverage services, travel and tourism, and gaming. **Robert Koenig, Ed.D.**, the center's director and associate dean of the School of Management, and **Alan Fairbairn**, associate professor of hospital-ity management, accepted the award.

## NEWS MAKER

Wondering about the implications of the U.S. Affordable Care Act? Look to expert **Lawrence Herman**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Physician Assistant (PA) Studies and president of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Herman gave a keynote presentation on the changing health care marketplace at the winter educational meeting of the Association of Physician Assistants in Cardiovascular Surgery in Orlando, Fla. WBAL radio station in Baltimore also aired an interview with him about the act's impact on the demand for PAs. ■

# NYIT Plans Osteopathic Medical School in Arkansas

**N**YIT is helping address a shortage of primary care physicians in Arkansas with plans to open a second location of its highly regarded College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro (known as A-State). The NYIT Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution in March to establish the site.

"We will work together to develop the human capacity in health care in one of the most underserved regions in the United States," said NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D. Arkansas has one medical school at the University of Arkansas. The nearest osteopathic medical schools are in Kansas, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.

Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., and A-State officials are building relationships with hospitals and clinics in the region to offer clerkship and residency opportunities so graduates can remain in-state. The school is also expected to bring an estimated \$70 million in economic development to northeast Arkansas.

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



■ Wilson Hall at Arkansas State University; site of the proposed medical school.

"All of us—NYIT, A-State, prospective medical students, and future patients in Arkansas—will benefit from this new venture," Guiliano continued.

More than 100 students are expected to enroll in the program as early as August 2016 if the plan is approved by higher education and medical accrediting bodies. Arkansas State has committed to a \$4 million renovation of a campus building to house the new school. NYIT will invest about \$6 million for start-up staffing and operational costs. ■

# NYIT Welcomes Enrollment Expert **Ronald P. Maggiore**

CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT



■ Ronald P. Maggiore, Ph.D.

**R**onald P. Maggiore, Ph.D., is NYIT's newest administrative leader. In his role as vice president for enrollment management, he oversees the university's enrollment services division and works with university administrators and faculty across NYIT's campuses to recruit and retain a talented and diverse student body.

"NYIT is well positioned to capture creative energies at all of its global campuses," said Maggiore. "And because we offer programs that are highly relevant to societal needs, we provide a valuable advantage to students who are serious about finding solutions to future challenges."

Maggiore has led successful recruitment and retention efforts at universities that range in size, mission, and complexity. Prior to NYIT, he was vice provost of students at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in British Columbia.

"Ron is the most experienced enrollment services administrator we have been fortunate to attract to NYIT," said NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D. "His wealth of expertise in institutional research and use of technology aligns perfectly with our focus on data-driven decision making in the rapidly evolving world of admissions, retention, and financial aid."

Maggiore links his career path to a love of reading and building things. He grew up in a working-class family, excelled at science and math, and went to University of Massachusetts-Amherst on a full scholarship. He aspired to be an engineer before deciding to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology.

He earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in psychology from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Walter "Fritz" Mondale, former U.S. vice president, handed Maggiore his doctoral hood, a highlight of his collegiate experiences. Maggiore committed himself to helping people improve their lives through education, first as a psychology professor and later as an administrator. "As a first-generation student who has seen the transformative results of a university education, I am confident that the skills I've gained have prepared me well to lead NYIT in keeping its promise of student success," he said. ■

# NYIT Hosts Cybersecurity Conference in Abu Dhabi

**N**YIT launched its first Global Cybersecurity Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on March 25. Cyberdefense professionals from the information security industry, academia, and the U.S. government came together to discuss the theme “National and Corporate Threats, Protection, and Education.”

His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, the U.A.E.’s minister of culture, youth, and community development, kicked off the conference with a speech celebrating global connectivity. The minister, who holds an honorary doctorate from NYIT, urged participants to find effective solutions to cyber risks. Next, President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., noted NYIT’s leadership in cybersecurity education and said universities must “ensure that organizations have the talent to manage risk and a workforce that can spot the potential for risk.”

The three keynote speakers touched on elements of the conference theme. Daniel R. Ennis of the U.S. National Security Agency advocated information sharing among government, industry, and educational entities; Mohammed Al Ahbabi, Ph.D., an advisor to the U.A.E. military’s Centre of Excellence, talked about cybersecurity as an issue of national security; and Parag Pruthi, Ph.D., the founder of NIKSUN Inc., followed

up with disturbing accounts of attacks on critical national infrastructure.

NYIT’s School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, led by Dean Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D., spearheaded the

and representatives from industry, academia, and government, as well as large cohorts of IT students from the U.A.E., made the event a truly global one,” said Anid. “This event



■ Tayeb Kamali, Ph.D., vice chancellor of the U.A.E.’s Higher Colleges of Technology (left); President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D. (center); and Dean Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D.

daylong event, in partnership with the school’s Executive Advisory Board, with representation from leading technology companies, and the U.A.E.’s Higher Colleges of Technology. Anid led the day’s activities and conducted a panel discussion on emerging practices in cybersecurity education and training.

“Hosting NYIT’s Cybersecurity Conference in Abu Dhabi, with speakers joining us from the United States, England, Sweden, and China and an audience made up of dignitaries

is a living example of how NYIT is a global university, bringing to the world in-depth discourse about issues of global importance and dimensions.”

NYIT-Abu Dhabi students in attendance offered a warm welcome to visiting students from New York, Nicole Gutierrez and Nicole Dunn. “Being here in Abu Dhabi has been amazing,” Dunn said. “We are already planning to return.” ■

*More at [bit.ly/NYIT-Cyber](http://bit.ly/NYIT-Cyber).*

# Alumnus Says Bring Your Game

**B**asketball has shaped the life of two-time NYIT Athletics Hall of Famer Peter Edwards (B.S. '83). At NYIT, he was a member of the NCAA Final Four team in 1980 and remains fourth in all-time NYIT career steals and third in all-time career assists. Since then, he has impacted the lives of countless young men as the organizer of legendary basketball tournament IS-8. The tournament draws top high school basketball players from across the United States. Alumni include NBA stars LeBron James, Stephon Marbury, and Lamar Odom—not to mention several NYIT athletes and assistant coaches.

Edwards took over the organization

in 1984 because he “wanted to give back to the neighborhood that helped raise me.” After returning to South Jamaica, N.Y., he found his hometown drastically altered due to crime and drugs. Basketball had provided a “safe haven” for Edwards as a child, and he was determined to use the sport to help others.

IS-8's slogan is “Bring Your Game, Not Your Name.” It is open to all talented players—from the best in the bunch to those whose grades don't qualify them for school teams. For Edwards, who studied business administration management at NYIT, the definition of success goes beyond basketball. “I want to see young people go to school, graduate from college, and

become functioning human beings in our society,” he says.

Many people are surprised to hear that IS-8 is not Edwards' whole life. He also has a demanding job as borough deputy director of the New York City Housing Authority. In his three decades with the organization, he has managed housing in almost every borough. “I have a passion for it because there are good people who live behind those doors,” he says.

After spending 30 years helping others through basketball, the only thing Edwards asks in return is for tournament alumni to give back. “Show your face and connect with the kids,” he says. ■

*For more, visit [bit.ly/IS-8](http://bit.ly/IS-8).*



■ Players in the IS-8 tournament huddle up.



■ Coach Sal Lagano leads the NYIT men's basketball team in Old Westbury.

## Courting a Legacy

For the past 17 years, dozens of student-athletes have battled it out on the basketball court at NYIT-Old Westbury's Recreation Hall. Through it all, there has been one constant: Sal Lagano, the longest active men's basketball head coach in NYIT history. Under his leadership, the Bears have won one East Coast Conference regular-season title and earned the program's first NCAA Tournament bid in more than 20 years (2003-2004). Several of his student-athletes have gone on to play professionally.

Lagano's coaching career started by chance. With plans to go to law school, Lagano found himself employed as a freshman basketball coach at St. Anthony's High School in South Huntington, N.Y. "I had one basket, 15 players, and no idea how to coach the sport," he says. By working long days and attending seminars and clinics hosted by top coaches, Lagano gained the knowledge he needed to break into the business. The St. Anthony's freshman team did so well in his first season that the school offered him a teaching job. Today, he serves as chair of St. Anthony's athletics department.

Lagano went on to pursue other coaching opportunities. In 1994, he earned his first collegiate head coaching job at Suffolk County Community College. In his third season, the team set the school record for the most wins in a single season—a record that stands today. Shortly thereafter, Lagano was offered a coaching position at NYIT.

"NYIT provides a wonderful environment for personal development," he says. "Students can get a great education here and play a sport they love." In addition to helping students become better athletes, Lagano encourages them to have a positive impact on society.

Outside of the Bears, he coaches daughter Allie's Amateur Athletic Union basketball team. "I have to be honest with you, it's like therapy. I'm handing out lollipops when they make a layup in practice," he says.

Look for coach Lagano when basketball resumes in November. ■

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### BEARS ONLINE

Check out the Bears' new home on the Web. Follow all 12 intercollegiate athletic programs with live game stats, live video streams, revolving headlines, and integrated video and social media.

**More at [nyitbears.com](http://nyitbears.com).**

### HEAD OF THE CLASS

Student-athletes were honored for earning an unprecedented 3.23 department-wide GPA this fall. Women's cross country led with a 3.76 team GPA and received the National Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic team honors. Julian Marcon of men's tennis was one of six student-athletes to earn a 4.0 semester GPA. He is the first student-athlete to graduate with a perfect 4.0 as a mechanical engineering major with an aerospace concentration.

### FREE THROWS AID CAUSE

The NYIT community raised more than \$800 for the Nassau Suffolk Autism Society of America by holding a Free Throw-a-Thon in December and soliciting donations at games this year.

### BASKETBALL PLAYERS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Graduate student Demitra Apergis was honored with the program's first-ever College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District I first team honor for her work in the classroom and on the court. Three NYIT student-athletes were also named to East Coast Conference (ECC) All-Conference teams: senior Markus Moore, from men's basketball, nabbed second team honors, while on the women's side, sophomore Dina Rabab was named to the first team and senior Alex Venuto earned honorable mention. ■

# Beyond the Bottom Line

Alumni and students credit their NYIT education and a rich array of volunteer and community service initiatives with sparking their interest in careers to help others.

By Elaine Landoli

**I**n a dry, dusty playground in a corner of Africa's Republic of Benin, children play a game designed to help prevent them from contracting a killer disease.

One student plays "the virus" while others form a ragtag circle around another group of children who represent "the community." The virus tries to touch as many children inside the circle as possible, while the others thwart his efforts.

Massamba Gningue (M.B.A. '00) observes the school yard scene with satisfaction. Beneath the spirited shouts, he knows the children are learning a deeper lesson about germs and the need for collaboration to protect against a lethal enemy. Gningue's colleagues from the international nonprofit Right to Play have created the "Infection Protectors Game" to teach a serious health lesson: Many viruses spread easily without a strong defense.

*continues* ➤



RIGHT TO PLAY STAFF

■ (above) Right to Play organizers speak to a crowd in northern Mali.

(facing page) Massamba Gningue (M.B.A. '00, shown kicking the ball) takes part in a game organized by Right to Play.



RIGHT TO PLAY STAFF

d





■ Natalie Barnofsky (M.S. '96) talks to students giving blood at a Long Island blood drive for the New York Blood Center.

Later, the group reflects on how difficult it was for the virus to penetrate the circle and how easy it was to protect the community. Exercises like this one can reinforce smart practices—like preventative measures such as frequent hand-washing and maintaining good hygiene to foil deadly diseases.

As Right to Play's regional director in West and Francophone Africa, Gningue travels among six countries where the organization is building a foundation for social transformation and peace through sport and play.

"The children are becoming agents of change in their families and their communities," he says, noting that Right to Play's games and lessons in other countries are tailored to specific issues faced by the population.

"If you want to make a change, you have to start from the beginning with young people. You can have them develop life skills so that later they become citizens who think about what's good for their community and people."

An ocean away, Natalie Barnofsky (M.S. '96) circulates among students and volunteers at a Long Island blood drive for the New York Blood Center, where she is senior manager of volunteer activities. The blood collected at the high school drive, she says, may help save the life of a young person with leukemia or provide the transfusion a car accident victim needs to survive.

"When the recipients tell their stories about getting donated blood, I think: 'This is why I'm in this business,'" says Barnofsky. "I want to help people."

The drive to serve others, foster change, and address society's pressing issues has helped define the careers of Gningue, Barnofsky, and many NYIT alumni who work in the nonprofit arena. The results—whether precipitated by passion, hard work, serendipitous encounters, or a blend of all three—have been extraordinarily rewarding.

Moreover, alumni are also pleased to learn the university is cultivating a volunteer spirit



You can use  
your degree in  
the nonprofit  
sector—and  
we're delivering  
that message  
consistently.”

—John Hyde, dean of  
career services

while increasing opportunities for students to intern or work at organizations dedicated to mission-driven efforts beyond the bottom line.

“Nonprofits are a viable career path,” says Dean of Career Services John Hyde, noting that students majoring in any field can apply their knowledge to jobs within a host of organizations they might not have originally considered. He continues, “You can use your degree in the nonprofit sector—and we’re delivering that message consistently.”

“There are many jobs out there,” agrees David Okorn (B.S. ’90, M.S. ’96), executive director of the Long Island Community Foundation, which has granted more than \$145 million to nonprofits.

Nonprofit employment, in fact, represents the third-largest U.S. industry (behind retail and manufacturing), according to Nonprofit HR. In the company’s annual survey on employment practices, it noted that the nonprofit sector is an “often overlooked and important economic driver.” The survey also reported that employees make up just over 10 percent of the nation’s private workforce and that more nonprofits are hiring new staff and have plans to create new positions.

Okorn originally envisioned a career in business or energy management and spent several years as an analyst and manager at the Long Island Lighting Company (now KeySpan) while pursuing his graduate degree. When the utility merged, the chairman tapped him to administer the company’s philanthropic foundation. The job’s grant administration and community relations duties brought Okorn face to face with dozens of Long Island charities.

A few years later, officials at Abilities (now known as the Viscardi School), offered him a job. While observing a class at the school for developmentally disabled adults and children, he was struck by the knowledge that without the school and the services the group provided, many students had few options for education or future employment.

“These kids were no different than my kids, fooling around and laughing,” Okorn says. “I was so taken by that. It really just felt like a calling.”

Today, Okorn believes that students of all disciplines who remain open to opportunities may find gratifying career paths in the nonprofit arena. “One person may be interested in working with groups dealing with breast cancer; for another, it’s Alzheimer’s disease or early childhood education,” says Okorn. “It’s about trying to find what that inner passion is and helping those organizations achieve their goals.”

## Learning to Do Good

Assistant Dean of Career Services Amy Bravo is the unofficial chief purveyor of NYIT’s “do good” message. For six years, she has led the effort to boost the university’s experiential education profile, specifically its service-learning programs, alternative spring break experiences, volunteer activities, and nonprofit internship opportunities.

Last fall, Bravo helped launch NYIT Consultants for the Public Good, a program that encourages students to perform pro bono work at charities and organizations. Through partnerships with nine nonprofits, students completed projects ranging from market research to social media campaigns.

Service in local and global communities, says Bravo, falls squarely within NYIT’s mission to support applications-oriented research that benefits the larger world. “We want

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■ NYIT student Lesly Peña prepares meals for seniors at the Carter Burden Luncheon Club and Senior Program in New York City as part of her work with NYIT's Community Service Center.

to show that you can apply what you're learning in the classroom to more than what goes in your pocket," says Bravo. "Imagine if every NYIT student was charged with applying their knowledge to a project that serves a public good. Regardless of major, that type of experience is transferable and empowering."

Bravo and other faculty members explore that notion in first-year core curriculum courses and other classes where they urge students to adopt the mindset that "not only does one person have the power to change the world, there is an expectation that you do so."

Toward that end, NYIT's nonprofit connections have grown substantially in recent years. The Office of Career Services recorded 65 nonprofit organizations in its database in 2008; by last year, the number of contacts and conversations with nonprofits had grown to 523. Students working at nonprofits fill about 10 percent of the Federal Work Study jobs available at NYIT—several percentage points higher than federal regulations require.

"It's been intentional," says Bravo, referring to the rise in programs associated with nonprofits. "We meet employers, we have conversations, we network—from there we can partner in so many ways."

Hyde says the nonprofit positions often provide more on-the-job experience—and that students are more likely to be considered for jobs when work study or other internships end. Organizations as varied as the YMCA, the New York Public Library, and the American Red Cross have hired NYIT students who have interned for them. "The skills they've demonstrated make the employers confident that these individuals are the right candidates if and when a job opens up," says Hyde.

## Community Service and Alternative Spring Break

Many students gain their first experiences with nonprofits through NYIT's student-run Community Service Centers (CSCs) in Old Westbury and Manhattan. They are the hub of volunteerism and local outreach, where students research nonprofit groups and match their classmates with specific community projects.

Last year, Lesly Peña, a third-year interdisciplinary studies major, spent several months volunteering at Citizen Schools, which extends the school day and provides exciting



■ (above) Freddy Germosen Jr. (B.S. '13) meets former President Bill Clinton while interning at the Clinton Foundation.

(cover) In Peru, Germosen plants trees as part of NYIT's 2011 Alternative Spring Break.



■ As part of 2014 Alternative Spring Break in Ecuador, NYIT students and staff join staff members from ACJ Ecuador to build an organic garden for a family whose home had been damaged in a recent flood.

STEM-related projects for low-income middle school students. For 10 weeks, she and other NYIT students braved a challenging seventh-grade classroom at East Harlem's Isaac Newton Middle School for Math and Science. One student gave her a particularly hard time. At the end of the project, he approached her. "Thank you for helping us," he said.

His words brought Peña to tears and served as an affirmation of sorts. Her role as a coordinator at the CSC has also helped turn her career aspirations in a new direction: Volunteering with organizations, matching peers with opportunities, and organizing a nonprofit career fair have sparked an interest in advocacy work. "I'm trying to see how I can connect things, and it's all coming together, little by little," she says. "I just want to give back to people."

NYIT's Alternative Spring Break initiative has also inspired students' service-oriented career paths. Each March, students travel abroad to underserved communities to address local needs, learn about global issues, and complete a project.

Fourth-year student Dyesha Durm says her attraction to nonprofit work has roots in her experiences on NYIT's first Alternative Spring Break trip to Peru in 2011. Durm, a former CSC manager, volunteered at an orphanage and worked on a clean water project. "It was my first time out of the country," says Durm. "And it was my first time seeing tons of people without access to water or to proper schools. Seeing how bad it was and how it could get better made me realize what I wanted to do." Durm is headed to graduate school to get a degree in social work and hopes to work at a school.

Her classmate on the trip, Freddy Germosen Jr. (B.S. '13), credits his time in Peru as the central reason he scored an internship with the Clinton Foundation. After doing what he describes as his "first real community service work" during that trip, he enrolled in a student exchange program in France. When he applied to the foundation, his global

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■ Iris Reff Ronen (M.B.A. '93, second from right), director of Unistream, celebrates with organizers and students who won first prize at the Entrepreneur of the Year competition.

experience set him apart. “The trip fell right in line with what they are doing,” he says.

Germosen spent the semester at the foundation using his Web design and computer science skills to advance the organization’s mission. Following graduation, he quickly found a job at a digital media company, where he is currently working on a project for the United Nations. He also still finds time to volunteer in the community.

## Leaders of Change—Near and Afar

“One thing they teach you at NYIT is that life’s not just about you being an architect or an engineer,” says Charles “Chip” Seymour (B.S. '11, M.S. '13), who recently finished his first year at St. Mary’s School of Law. “You’re going to have to talk to people, deal with different types of people.”

Inspired by his parents who advocated service, Chip started his own nonprofit to raise money for brain cancer research after his father died from the disease in 2005. At NYIT, he ran the Manhattan campus’s CSC and interned at the YMCA in a program that sends underserved young people abroad to perform community service.

Seymour’s goal is to practice law in the area of affordable renewable energy technologies—a niche that enables him to combine his interest in energy policy with issues of economic and social justice.

Coach and community organizer Mais Irsqusi (M.B.A. '09) feels a similar drive to support communities and individuals fighting for social change and equity. As co-founder and co-director of Ahel (loosely translated as “family”), Irsqusi has helped support about a dozen social justice campaigns in Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine, including one to enforce Jordanian labor laws requiring nurseries for working women and another to demand accessibility for disabled students at University of Jordan. “Personally, my motivation comes from the small success I see from the power of people organizing together for their daily lives to achieve their rights and dignity,” says Irsqusi.

Both Irsusi and Right to Play's Gningue say their NYIT graduate degrees provided crucial "big picture" lessons about organizational sustainability and success.

"It's not just about leading people—it's about leading people to achieve results," says Gningue. "I feel I'm contributing to make a change. I'm contributing to the process of building new future African leaders. I just wanted to do something for my people."

Iris Reff Ronen (M.B.A. '93), who runs the Israeli-based nonprofit Unistream, says there is particular gratification in working with the younger generation. Her organization, which was founded by a successful entrepreneur with a philanthropic impulse, helps mentor and educate Israeli teens in social and entrepreneurial skills. Ronen, who once envisioned owning a successful business, spent time at two for-profit companies before a headhunter approached her with the opportunity to lead Unistream.

The teens, says Ronen, would not ordinarily be exposed to the business world or see it as an option for their future. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, they brainstorm business ideas, write marketing plans, and learn about entrepreneurship. Alumni of the program have gone on to college or have found jobs in the technology sector.

"I fell in love with the idea, and I feel so fortunate to be able to do something that can help teenagers in Israel," says Ronen, who attended classes in both Old Westbury and Manhattan. "The goal is to narrow the social and economic gaps in Israel. When they end the program, they're ambitious and confident about their current and future successes. It's amazing to see the spark in their eyes, their gratitude, the acknowledgment that you or your team helped them change their future. It's truly magic."

Seymour says students looking for career opportunities can experience the same fulfillment that he and others have had—provided they keep an open mind.

"Students may not be interested in social causes because they don't think it will be a good fit for them," he says. "But you have to seek it out."

Barnofsky, the New York Blood Center senior manager, adds that the exploration can help forge a student's own path in the nonprofit world. "Find something that's important to you and means something to you," Barnofsky says. "That'll make it even sweeter." ■

KOBI KONACAS FOR UNISTREAM



■ As part of Unistream's efforts to encourage entrepreneurship, participants design and market products. Here, Ronen wears a head scarf that incorporates a special hook (rather than the open pins typically used) that prevents the scarf from falling off. The mechanism was designed by the participant (pictured left).

CHINAW TOMEDA



■ Students look out over the Peruvian landscape while taking part in 2012 Alternative Spring Break.

# Faculty in the Field



MARIE-THÉRÈSE DE BELDER

- (1) Farzana Gandhi presents her design to members of the community as part of a participatory workshop for feedback. The center diagram shows how modules can be linked together to create bigger structures. (2) The unit can be driven along its route using a bicycle. Visitors will be able to pedal the bike in place, serving two purposes: to generate power for lighting, sound, and the cart's devices and to promote exercise and wellness. (3) The cart's surface is painted with chalkboard paint, inviting visitors to document herbal remedies.

Three NYIT professors are using their know-how to help improve the lives of others—and shape the career paths of their students.

By Robin D. Schatz

## Wellness on the Move

Farzana Gandhi, assistant professor of architecture and principal of FG Design Studio, is well-known on campus for projects that make “small changes of large social significance.” In 2012, she was part of the NYIT team that patented a roofing system made of water bottles to provide emergency shelter in developing countries. Recently, she launched a student design competition to incorporate plastic water bottles into a combined bus shelter, recycling station, and information kiosk at NYIT’s Old Westbury campus.

Now, Gandhi is focusing on the New York City community with El Timbiriche, a mobile wellness unit that addresses health issues in Brooklyn. “You don’t have to use expensive, high-tech interventions to produce social change,” she says. “Often, smaller projects can make a big impact on the community.”

Through a competition sponsored by DesigNYC that paired architects with non-profits, Gandhi was chosen to work with El Puente, an organization serving Latino communities in south Williamsburg that promotes a holistic approach to health and wellness.

Her challenge was twofold: to design a cart that archives the tradition of “curanderismo,” an approach to healing that uses herbs and other natural remedies, and to disseminate those cures along with other health information throughout the community.



Many members of Brooklyn’s Latino community practice curanderismo. “A lot of this information is not documented; it’s simply passed down from one generation to the next,” Gandhi says. “El Puente charged me to make this tradition visible in the public realm.”

The community’s health problems are also pressing. The population faces high rates of obesity, diabetes, and asthma. According to El Puente, people in its service area lack primary care physicians and nearly a third of young adults are uninsured.

Gandhi needed to come up with a plan that addressed both problems. To help design the mobile unit and conceptualize how it would engage with the community, she hired two of her former architecture students, Daniel Horn (B.Arch. ’13) and Eiman Al Sakha (B.Arch. ’12), as research assistants.

El Timbiriche (which means “a small kiosk” or “shop” in Spanish) is about the size of a city hot dog stand and made of recycled perforated panels. A bicycle provides the means to move it. Community involvement was critical. “To me, it’s important to have a dialogue with the people using this unit,” Gandhi says. “It’s a way to empower them with a creative process that they can use to address future problems and in future arenas.”

The experience helped Horn shape his own career goals. “I’m really interested now in urban design and master planning,” he says. Horn is well on his way—he recently landed a job as a design specialist at Brooklyn-based Perez Architecture, helping to rebuild

homes affected by Hurricane Sandy.

El Puente hopes to deploy the first mobile wellness unit on the streets this summer. For Gandhi, the project has led to new opportunities, including a collaboration to develop a similar system in Africa. “I’ve always been very interested in how we can use our design skills to reach the larger masses,” she says. Based on her work, Gandhi is doing just that.

*Read more at [farzanagandhi.com](http://farzanagandhi.com).*

## Building Blocks

In the fall of 2012, NYIT engineering students faced off against one of their greatest challenges: a classroom full of third graders. The students were at P.S. 241, a science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM)-focused magnet school in Harlem, N.Y., as part of a 10-week service-learning class organized by Jim Martinez, Ph.D., assistant professor of instructional technology in the School of Education.

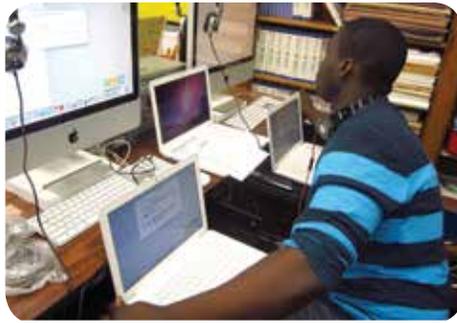
Martinez is passionate about developing “technology-rich,

Working with the elementary school’s teachers, the NYIT students integrated instructional technology with project-based learning. Everyone benefitted from the project. The elementary school children experienced what it takes to think like an engineer—one of the STEM fields they are being encouraged to pursue—while the NYIT students got real-world experience that was often eye-opening.

“Some of them were unaware of the issues of segregation these STEM magnet schools are designed to address. Some of them were unaware that using technology in schools was so difficult. And some were surprised that the teachers found their skills as emerging engineers so valuable,” Martinez says.

Raffael C. Rabelo was one of the students working with the children. He used the game Jenga to demonstrate the concept of stability to second graders. Rabelo even returned to the school on his own the following spring and used a 3-D modeling tool to show second and third graders how to design a variety of projects, such as zoo equipment and bridges.

THEODORE SAVONTE



■ The NYIT team of students at P.S. 241 was divided into three groups: (left) The classroom team worked directly with the children, teaching them engineering concepts through activities; (center) the technology team provided information technology support; (right) the documentary team produced a video chronicling the venture.

collaborative learning environments that employ group-focused teaching and learning.” A former elementary and middle school teacher, entrepreneur, and corporate systems integrator, he has taught numerous workshops that train STEM teachers to incorporate instructional technology into K-12 classrooms.

Many of the participants, however, aren’t always able to incorporate the methods and technology they’ve learned. “You don’t take a workshop and then suddenly think like a technology person,” says Martinez. He found a perfect way to address the problem: NYIT engineering students.

With the help of Amy Bravo, assistant dean of career services, Martinez launched the intervention at P.S. 241. He enlisted Richard Meyers, associate professor in the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences, to co-teach the class. It was so successful they offered it again the following year.

Everyone at the school was thrilled. “It was the perfect example of how to bring in engineering concepts and modeling tools in a way that was beyond the reach of the teacher,” Martinez says.

The service-learning project earned Martinez and Meyers an NYIT presidential award for engaged teaching and learning in 2013. Next on Martinez’s agenda: setting up similar programs for three District 28 magnet schools in Queens, N.Y., that have secured federal funding. This time, Martinez hopes to expand the disciplines involved—which translates to more professional development opportunities, service-learning courses, and internships for NYIT students.

“The scale of this has changed,” says Martinez. “Now we’re in a position to integrate service learning and professional development, and we have to design a whole new program.”

*Learn more at [bit.ly/NYIT-PS241](http://bit.ly/NYIT-PS241).*



■ John Handrakis, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D., works with his two research coordinators, Shou-An Liu (D.P.T. '13) and Megan Krajewski (D.P.T. '13), practicing data collection for the study "Can Cool Ambient Temperature Affect Cognitive Performance in Persons with Tetraplegia?"

## Finding the Right Temperature

People love to complain about being too hot or cold (this winter, #polarvortex even trended on Twitter). But for those with spinal cord injuries, being exposed to less than optimal temperatures—even an air-conditioned office—can lead to a number of serious concerns. That's why the research of John Handrakis, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D., associate professor of physical therapy, has such potential.

Handrakis leads the Thermoregulation Research studies performed at the Center of Excellence for the Medical Consequences of Spinal Cord Injury at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, N.Y. There, he is researching how routine changes in environmental temperature cause an inability to maintain core body temperature and cognitive performance in persons with spinal cord injuries. He explains, "Our mission is to improve quality of life and increase longevity by identifying, preventing, and treating secondary medical complications of spinal cord injuries."

Because of their injuries, his patients—many of whom are veterans—lack the ability to maintain a constant core body temperature, a key component of good health. But the problem is much more troublesome than feeling excessively cold or hot. Their inability to regulate body temperature may also seriously affect cognitive abilities, Handrakis says.

To conduct his research, Handrakis uses a special thermal testing room to create precise environmental conditions. He has also enlisted his students as research assistants on each of his two most recent studies: the first on the responses of persons with spinal

cord injury to cold, and the second on their responses to heat.

The experience is invaluable. Over a period of two years, the students put in extra hours for the opportunity to use state-of-the-art technology, interact with patients with serious injuries, and contribute to research that may one day lead to a cure.

"Their whole career goal is to rehabilitate people who have been injured," Handrakis says. "After they have completed our courses in Neurorehabilitation and Neuroscience, they're aware of the consequences of a spinal cord injury. But it's not until they work with me and these veterans that it all comes together."

Research assistant and current D.P.T. student John Nulty, whose grandfather and father served in the military, has always wanted to work with veterans. For the heat study, he handles the paperwork for each research subject and does a baseline study of their body functions at 80 degrees. Then he and the subject move into a thermal room set at 95 degrees Fahrenheit and he records data. "I'm seeing an area that's just not accessible to the other students," he says. Nulty is considering a career in neurorehabilitation, possibly in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Handrakis recently expanded research opportunities for his students, supervising two of them on their research working with a Center of Excellence neurologist on a neuroplasticity study. He is also applying for grants from the Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development to expand on the heat and cold studies. "I'll be very happy to start these projects so I can progress into areas of intervention and continue to enhance the quality of life for persons with spinal cord injuries," he says.

*For more, visit [bit.ly/Handrakis](http://bit.ly/Handrakis).* ■

Our mission  
is to improve  
quality of life  
and increase  
longevity."

—Associate Professor John Handrakis, PT, D.P.T., Ed.D.

## 1970s

**Sal Bracco (B.S. '70)** retired from his position as vice president of sales for the orthopedic business EBI Medical in Parsippany, N.J., a division of Biomet, a global medical devices manufacturer. He is an EMT in New Jersey and is planning the 50th reunion of NYIT's OSU fraternity for Aug. 9, 2014. OSU was active at NYIT-Old Westbury from 1966 to 1977 and had more than 150 members, including many who served on the Student Government Association. For more information about the reunion, email Sal at sch1447@aol.com.

**David Rockir (B.S. '71)** lives in Prescott, Ariz., with his wife, Paulette, a former Broadway actress and singer. The duo travel their home state entertaining senior communities—she performs and he helps plan the shows. He also occasionally shares the limelight. “I can’t sing a note, but we sometimes close with the opening to *All in the Family* and someone has to sing the Archie Bunker part.” Rockir

worked as a computer programmer and analyst for Texaco for 28 years before retiring in 1999. He also hosted *Take Back America*, a political TV show, from 2001 to 2009.

Security services company ADT named **Richard Daly (B.S. '74)** to its board of directors. Daly serves as chief executive officer and president of Broadridge Financial Solutions.

**Robert Patrick Coombs (B.F.A. '76)** is a painter who has been featured in *Professional Artist Magazine*. The Sharon (Conn.) Historical Society will exhibit his work in May 2014. View his paintings at robertpatrickcoombs.com.

*Raw Visions/Art of Survival*, a documentary by filmmaker **Leslye Abbey (B.S. '79)**, was one of the films screened at the Pocono Mountains Film Festival in October. Her work explores healing through art. Watch a trailer of the film at [bit.ly/Raw-Visions](http://bit.ly/Raw-Visions).

**Gary Prager (B.S. '79)** leads the new senior living practice at H+L Architecture in Denver, Colo.

## 1980s

**Albert P. Ronci (B.S. '83)** is senior vice president for Global Real Estate and Facilities Worldwide for Willis Group, a leading global insurance firm. He is based in the firm's New York City headquarters.

**Sandra Martinez (B.S. '84)**, R.N., is a clinical nurse supervisor for North Shore-LIJ Health System in Holbrook, N.Y. She represents New York nurses in *Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare*, a journal that lists top medical professionals published by the International Association of Healthcare Professionals.

**Laurie Cantileno (B.S. '85)**, a client solutions manager for Cisco Systems, spoke at Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, an event held at NYIT in February to inspire girls to pursue STEM fields. “I love my job,” said Cantileno. “I get to



## NYIT-NANJING HOSTS ALUMNI BANQUET

More than 100 alumni from NYIT and Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT) attended the first NYIT-Nanjing Alumni Banquet. The evening was a chance for alumni to make new connections and meet up with old friends. Current NYIT-Nanjing students were instrumental in making the evening a success by working with the Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations in Nanjing to organize and document the event.

**For information about alumni and career services in China, email [tlei@nyit.edu](mailto:tlei@nyit.edu).**

meet new people and implement crazy technology that runs the Internet.”

Daniel Contelmo Architects, owned by **Daniel Contelmo (B.Arch. '85)**, won two awards in *Westchester Home Magazine's* annual design contest: a Best Architecture award for the firm's design of a 12,000-square-foot home in Chappaqua, N.Y., and an honorable mention in the bathroom design category.

**Vincent Della Donna (B.Arch. '85)** joined Gannett Fleming Architects and Engineers as director of health care services and leads the firm's initiatives related to health care facilities.

Animation instructor **Daniel Hopen (M.A. '86)** teaches at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, N.Y. He previously taught at DeTao Masters Academy in Beijing, China.

**Ammar Krayem (B.Arch. '86)**, his wife Naheda, and their four children moved to Charleston, W.Va., from Aleppo, Syria, this past October due to continuing civil war. Together they opened Grano, a Mediterranean restaurant with decor inspired by Ammar's architectural studies at NYIT. Read more at [bit.ly/Ammar-Krayem](http://bit.ly/Ammar-Krayem).

**Richard Bearak (B.Arch. '87)** serves as land use director for Brooklyn (N.Y.) Borough President Eric Adams.

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world's largest HR association, named **Brian Silva (M.S. '89)** to its board of directors and elected him as chair designate for two years starting in 2015. Silva serves as senior vice president of human resources and administration at Fresenius Medical Care NA in Waltham, Mass. >>

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### YIQUAN YU (M.B.A. '09)

Improving the lives of people in China drives Yiquan Yu's (M.B.A. '09) mission as president and founder of China Union Engineering Co., Ltd., an environmental engineering company with more than 400 employees across 13 branches in China. His business specializes in research and technology used in processing wastewater, water recycling, and eco-restoration.

One of his goals is to tackle China's water pollution problem. "As an entrepreneur, social responsibility is the most important matter," Yu says.

His clients include Xiamen University, a campus known for its mountainous backdrop and nearby beach. After swimmers there reported skin infections from polluted water running off the mountains, engineers at China Union Engineering Co. developed a water-recycling treatment process to resolve the issue. Fujian Province's governor and Xiamen's mayor honored Yu for his company's positive impact on their community.



Yu developed his business acumen in NYIT's M.B.A. program at Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (JUFE). The program allowed him to take advantage of NYIT's worldwide network and career-focused coursework as well as JUFE's local reputation.

"During my studies at NYIT, what impressed me the most were the global perspectives," he says. "They have helped to advance my career and broaden my vision."

In the program, he learned how Fortune 500 companies share innovations, and he began devising ways to apply technological breakthroughs on a local level in China. Yu has put his insights into action by partnering with international firms such as General Electric and with several Chinese universities on research in areas such as biosimulation technology. His next step is to position China Union Engineering Co. as a resource collaborator for the environmental protection industry.

"If I can resolve environmental problems for my people, I will feel better," Yu says. "That's the reason why I'm working hard in this industry."



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### DAVID O. REID (B.S. '84)

As the director of healthy lifestyles for the Atlanta-based Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA), David O. Reid (B.S. '84) is passionate about preventing gang and youth violence and helping children lead healthier lives. His story began in North Amityville, N.Y., where he grew up playing sports and watched some of his high school friends veer off course due to drugs. He says, "I might have been lost to the streets too if it hadn't been for my mentors and coaches."

His NYIT experiences set him on the path to where he is today. "NYIT gave me diverse exposure to behavioral sciences and made me knowledgeable about the full spectrum of criminal justice from prevention to suppression," he says. Reid has worked at the national office of BGCA for the past 18 years. Using what he learned about the causes of criminal behavior and the juvenile detention system, he engages kids in positive activities to give them the confidence to make good choices.

One of those programs is Triple Play, which is focused on nurturing

the fitness, nutrition, and social recreation goals of BGCA members ages 6 to 18. Reid travels to clubs throughout the United States to train employees and track initiatives that "create a culture of wellness for young people who are disproportionately affected by obesity and other diseases."

He also gives back outside of work. He volunteers in the juvenile court system, coaches volleyball and track and field teams in his neighborhood, and is an active alumnus. Reid's lasting friendship with NYIT Director of Athletics Clyde Doughty Jr. (B.S. '81, M.S. '96, M.P.S. '98) and Head Volleyball Coach Gail Wasmus led them to partner on a recent volleyball clinic for local BGCA members. They plan to host more events together this year.

Reid hopes the clinics encourage NYIT student-athletes to pursue careers helping others. "Love what you do," Reid advises. "There's a tremendous need in the human services field for talented people. Keep all doors open."

## 1990s

The American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians awarded **Randi Sperling (D.O. '90)** its 2013 Pediatrician of the Year award. She is the director of medical education at the Palm Beach Consortium for Graduate Medical Education/Palms West Hospital and program director of the consortium's pediatrics residency.

**Paul Ackerman, Esq., (B.S. '91)** is a partner in the intellectual property group at Andrews Kurth, an international law firm with more than 400 lawyers across 10 offices worldwide.

**Nicholas Radesca (B.S. '92)** serves as chief financial officer at American Realty Capital Properties, an investment advisory firm in New York City.

Empire National Bank promoted **Danielle DiGrazia (B.S. '93)** to vice president and operations officer.

Congratulations to **Steve Rubin, Esq., (B.S. '94)** who is now a partner at Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, a law firm with offices in New York City and Long Island, N.Y. As the firm's head of patent practice and co-chair of its cybersecurity practice, he writes useful guides about cybersecurity issues, such as data breaches and legal standards, for the firm's newsletter.

**Robert A. Meinberg (B.S. '96, M.S. '00)** is a fifth-grade teacher at Brookwood Elementary School in Cumming, Ga. He previously received the school's Teacher of the Year Award.

The Staten Island, N.Y., chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) elected longtime member **Jeffrey Geary (B.Arch. '97)** to serve as the group's president. He has held several roles in >>

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### LANA REIMER VOGEL (M.A. '90)

Tensions ran high as the world geared up for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, but Lana Reimer Vogel (M.A. '90) was unfazed by the frenzy. "This is my 10th Olympics," Reimer Vogel says, "so I'm used to it by now."

As manager for commercial operations in NBC's Sports and Olympics group, Reimer Vogel is a bit of a puzzle master—she determines how commercials and promotional vignettes fit into the Olympic telecast. What sounds like a science requires an artful hand. "You have to be sensitive to how everything fits together," she says. "It's more complicated than it looks." The industry agrees. Reimer Vogel has won two Emmys for Outstanding Live Event Turnaround for the 2004 Athens and 2012 London games.

Reimer Vogel recently celebrated her 31st year at NBC. She joined as an intern while still an undergraduate and was hired shortly thereafter by NBC Radio. There she learned the ins and outs of the industry while market-testing songs for an adult contemporary radio station. One year later, she was working full time at NBC Sports and completing her graduate studies at NYIT.

Reimer Vogel credits NYIT's communication arts program's hands-on curriculum for helping her move her career forward. She also attributes her success to something more ingrained: her love of competition and sports. "I have three brothers, so whenever they needed an extra person on their team, they dragged me along," she says. Yet despite her general passion for sports, it took Reimer Vogel years to recognize how her competitive spirit aided her career growth. "My husband asked me once if I was competitive, and my first instinct was to say no," she says. "We laugh about that now."

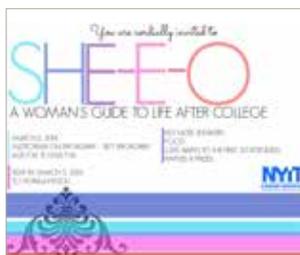
Three decades in, Reimer Vogel is still in awe of where her career has taken her. In addition to the Olympics, she has "worked four Super Bowls, the World Series, and countless football games." She says, "Once you fall in love with sports, that feeling never really leaves you."



MARTIN SECK

## WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS

In March, NYIT Career Services hosted its first event on women in the workplace. SHE-E-O featured a panel of experts speaking about their career paths and working in a job they love. From left to right: event organizer Rosalia Davi, NYIT assistant director of experiential education; moderator Maria Marte, assistant director of the Center for Student Involvement, Passaic County Community College; panelist Melanie Shapiro, Ph.D., director of marketing at Kleverbeast Inc. and adjunct professor of marketing at NYIT; and keynote speaker Pamela Quinlan, federal energy policy advisor at Con Edison. **Attend an upcoming career event. Visit [nyit.edu/cs](http://nyit.edu/cs).**



the chapter, including chairman of the education outreach committee and member of the executive committee.

**Boaz Rahav (M.B.A. '98)** joined investment bank Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. as the New York-based managing director of the firm's new private shares group. He is a veteran Wall Street businessman with more than 20 years of experience in investment banking, portfolio management, and new product development.

### 2000s

As general manager, **William Santoso (B.P.S. '00)** provides adventure to travelers visiting Bali Safari and Marine Park in Indonesia. Santoso has enjoyed a global career and has worked in the hotel industry in Southeast Asia, Europe, the United States, and the Caribbean.

Mathematics teacher **Jeanne (Griffith) Donlick (M.S. '02)** is one of five finalists for the 2014 Harford County Teacher of the Year Award. In addition to making a difference in the classroom

at Harford Technical High School in Bel Air, Md., she is a member of the school's improvement team and faculty social committee and serves as advisor to the National Honor Society. She received both the National Youth Leadership Most Inspirational Teacher Award and the William Sacco Award for exceptional mathematics educators.

*Long Island Business News* named **Michael Grimaldi (B.S. '02)**, Ed.D., one of its 2014 "40 Under 40" rising stars on Long Island, N.Y. He has more than 10 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in public and private schools, and is the founder of Exceptional Children Consultants, LLC, an educational consulting firm that helps parents of children with special needs.

**Anthony Nici (B.S. '03)** is a doctor at Crystal Run Healthcare, a growing multi-specialty medical practice in Middletown, N.Y. He earned an M.D. in 2007 from Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia and later completed an internal medicine residency at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and a fellowship in gastroenterology at New York Hospital Queens. "All of this happened after going to NYIT for a career in physical therapy, but eventually I found that I truly wanted to pursue medicine, and that is what I did!"

**Guiseppe Tulumello (B.Arch. '05)** is a senior associate in the New York City office of Gannett Fleming, a global infrastructure firm that offers planning, design, technology, and construction management services.

*Bloomberg Businessweek* interviewed four-time Olympic speedskater **Allison Baver (M.B.A. '07)** about balancing

college and training. She is currently designing a chic line of activewear. Read more at [bit.ly/Baver](http://bit.ly/Baver).

**Don Manning (M.B.A. '08)** serves as the mission and control integrated product team leader for PMA-268, the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command's Unmanned Carrier Aviation Program Office in Washington, D.C.

**Hassan Abbas (M.S. '09)** is an intermediate SharePoint systems analyst for Brookfield Residential, the fifth-largest land developer and home builder in North America. He lives with his wife, Samia, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. They enjoy traveling and have already explored many major North American cities, Turkey, and Peru. Next on their vacation to-do list is Western Europe. If you're ever in Calgary, Abbas will be happy to show you around. Email him at [hassan.abbas@gmail.com](mailto:hassan.abbas@gmail.com).

"I credit NYIT with providing me a great education and real-world experience that prepared me for this crazy journey," says **Elijah Elizee (B.F.A. '09)**. He owns Act3 Media, a production company in South Florida that films videos with >>

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE: MENTOR

Volunteer with the NYIT Alumni Mentor program and help students negotiate the tricky transition from college to career. The Office of Career Services guides you through the mentorship process and connects you with a current student. Visit [nyit.edu/mentoring](http://nyit.edu/mentoring) or call 516.686.7800.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### LOIS KROPLICK (D.O. '82)

A discussion about career options led Lois Kroplick (D.O. '82) and her sister to discover a common interest in medicine. They both decided to pursue psychiatry, and Kroplick became one of the first women to graduate from NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine.

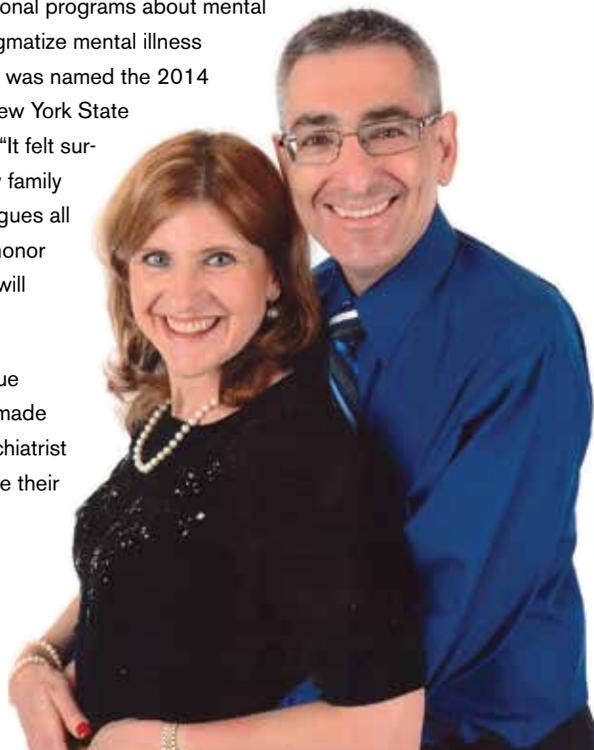
Today, Kroplick is a psychiatrist at the top of her field and has a private practice in Pomona, N.Y. "Going to NYIT was a life-changing experience, and not just academically," she says. While the work was demanding, a fellow student—Bruce Levitt (D.O. '82)—managed to lighten the mood. "He made it fun for me. We married in 1981 and were the first NYCOM couple to tie the knot."

Kroplick's practice takes the foundational osteopathic tenet of treating the whole person—a touchstone of the NYIT curriculum—and applies it on a community-wide scale. "Being involved in community groups and helping others have always been passions of mine," she explains. After graduating and finishing her residency, she worked in hospitals, day programs, and crisis centers—anywhere that mental health services were in great demand. "Anxiety and depression are treatable just like physical illnesses," she says. "Early intervention and treatment are key for recovery." After 9/11, she volunteered her time with Disaster Psychiatry Outreach, working 12-hour days on Pier 94 and providing free psychiatric care to grieving family members and relief workers.

Her commitment to helping the community is also embodied by the Mental Health Coalition of Rockland County, an organization she founded in 1996. Through the coalition, professionals, family members, and patients volunteer their time and participate in educational programs about mental illness. For her efforts to destigmatize mental illness within the community, Kroplick was named the 2014 Physician of the Year by the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society. "It felt surreal," she says. "But seeing my family and closest friends and colleagues all in one room to celebrate this honor was exhilarating. It is a night I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Recalling her decision to pursue medicine, Kroplick thinks she made the right choice. "Being a psychiatrist is about helping people change their lives and giving them hope."

■ **Lois Kroplick (D.O. '82)** pictured with her husband, **Bruce Levitt (D.O. '82)**.





## TEE OFF AND GIVE BACK: SEPT. 22, 2014

Spend a day with friends and fellow alumni while supporting NYIT student-athletes. The NYIT Athletics Golf Outing will take place Monday, Sept. 22. Start your day with a round of golf or golf or tennis lessons, have lunch al-fresco on the course, and finish with dinner, cocktails, and giveaways. You can also sponsor the event. This year's John Smillie Jr. Big Bear Award recipient will be **Patricia Burnside (B.S. '86, M.S. '91; softball and volleyball)**.

Visit [nyitbears.com/alumni/golf\\_outing](http://nyitbears.com/alumni/golf_outing).

RED digital cinema cameras for a range of clients. Elizee got his start working for WTVX, an affiliate of the CW television network serving West Palm Beach, Fla. He worked his way up from an intern to promotions producer. "I've gotten to interview some pretty interesting people like Matt Damon and Paul Stanley of KISS to name a few," he adds.

## 2010s

**Johanne Briere (B.P.S. '10)** collaborated with NYIT School of Management faculty members Robert Koenig, Ed.D., and Jim Murdy, Ph.D., to organize the Boutique Hotel Investment Conference at NYIT Auditorium on Broadway this past November. She is the co-founder and managing director of Trendytripping, a platform that connect brands to influences. Ian Schragar, one of the pioneers of the boutique hotel concept, served as the conference's keynote speaker. "NYIT's hospitality program has given me opportunities to expand and grow beyond myself and my own predilections," Briere says. "I advise students to

keep their options open when choosing their career. Don't be afraid to reach out to leaders in other industries. Be bold!"

Standup comic **Chris Distefano (D.P.T. '10)** is a cast member on the hit MTV2 reality comedy show *Guy Code* and has appeared on the CBS network's *The Late Show with David Letterman*. He occasionally returns to NYIT to perform comedy shows. See more at [chrisdcomedy.com](http://chrisdcomedy.com) and follow him on Twitter @chrisdcomedy.

LaunchPad LI and LISTnet honored **J. Robert Coleman, Ph.D., (M.B.A. '13)** with a Launch Your Stars Award in December 2013. The awards recognize company innovators and entrepreneurs under the age of 35. Coleman is executive vice president, director of research and business development, and co-founder of Codagenix, a biotechnology company in Stony Brook, N.Y.

Park Electrochemical Corporation promoted **Linda Lagnese (M.S. '13)** to director of communications in its

headquarters in Melville, N.Y. She previously served as Park's director of human resources and has also worked as a human resources administrator for Local 1102, a labor union affiliated with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union District Council of the United Food and Commercial Workers in Westbury, N.Y.

**Joyce Owens (M.S. '13)** is a clinical dietitian specialist in pediatric critical care at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She is the first author of ➤

## SAVE THE DATE: ALUMNI EVENT

Alumni ages 35 and under: Join us in New York City on Thursday, Aug. 21 to welcome the Class of 2014 to the Alumni Federation. R.S.V.P. to [alumni@nyit.edu](mailto:alumni@nyit.edu) or 516.686.7800.

## VINCENT SADUSKY (M.B.A. '96)

### CURRENT POSITION

President and CEO of LIN Media, a local multimedia company that operates or services 43 television stations and seven digital channels in 23 U.S. markets, and has a growing portfolio of digital marketing products and solutions. LIN Media recently announced its plans to merge with Media General, and pending approval of the transaction, Sadusky will assume the role of president and CEO of Media General, the second-largest pure-play television broadcasting company in the United States.

### READY FOR PRIME TIME

Sadusky has spent much of his professional life helping companies realize their growth potential. As CFO and treasurer of Telemundo Communications, the world's second largest provider of Spanish-language content, he helped the company's public offering, as well as its sale to NBC in 2001. In 2004, he joined LIN Media as CFO and two years later became president and CEO.

Sadusky looked for an M.B.A. program when he was ready to take his career to the next level. He found everything he needed at NYIT, which offered courses at off-campus locations that allowed him to tailor his education around a hectic work schedule. "It was really a terrific program," he says. "I received a New York-based M.B.A. without being inconvenienced."

### STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

America's love affair with TV is stronger than ever, yet consumers' media-viewing habits are changing quickly. Computers and mobile devices continue to drive up media consumption and present endless choices to keep people entertained. Sadusky embraced changing media habits early on, developed a strategy to transition LIN Media from a television broadcaster to a multimedia company, and recruited talented and forward-thinking digital and technology professionals to transform the company's business model to one that would be viable today.

"TV is everywhere now," Sadusky says. "The trick is now for companies to ensure that they keep their customers 'sticky.'" Local content providers accomplish this by offering peripheral services that keep consumers tethered to their services. LIN Media, for example, offers websites and mobile products that give their



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

audience added convenience and unique content across devices. In his role with Media General, Sadusky will use these methods to help engage 26.5 million households. The merger provides "the scale, breadth, and resources to compete more effectively in the rapidly evolving media landscape," he explains.

### WELL-ROUNDED AND ACCOMPLISHED EXECUTIVE

Sadusky was elected to serve on the National Association of Broadcasters Television Board, beginning in June 2014. He currently serves on the boards of International Game Technology (IGT), a global gaming and Fortune 1000 company, and Hemisphere Media Group, Inc. He is also treasurer of the NBC affiliates board. "I am a perpetual learner and that means getting outside of your comfort zone and learning about new industries and professions in order to constantly grow as a person," he says. When he is not scoping out the future of media, you may find him fishing, scuba diving, or surfing off the coast of Boca Raton, Fla.

the article “The Need for Evidence Based Nutritional Guidelines for Pediatric Lymphoblastic Leukemia Patients: Acute and Long-Term Following Treatment,” published in the November 2013 issue of the journal *Nutrients*.

**David Sepúlveda (B.Arch. '13)** was featured in the article “Using Trash to Keep Out Storm Surges” in *The Hudson Reporter*. Sepúlveda fondly recalled his experiences at NYIT, including the project he designed with classmates **Arianna Armelli (B.Arch. '12)** and **Ishaan Kumar (B.Arch. '12)** for One Prize 2013, an architecture competition seeking ideas to address flooding along the New York and New Jersey coastlines in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Their project “Contained” envisioned a floating landfill of shipping containers designed to store trash and buffer against storm surges. Read more at [bit.ly/David-Sepulveda](http://bit.ly/David-Sepulveda). ■

### PASSINGS

**Michael Sporn (B.F.A. '67)**

**Jeffrey Abravaya (B.S. '74)**

**Joe Greco (B.S. '85)**

**Judy Martin (B.F.A. '87)**

**Davis Seegobin (B.T. '95, M.B.A. '05)**

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Contributors

**KATHLEEN SCHEINER**  
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**MICHAEL VIGGIANO**  
Designer

### CONTACT US

*NYIT Magazine* welcomes submissions and story ideas. Please note unsolicited manuscripts, related materials, photography, and artwork will not be returned. Please include your year of graduation, degree completed, and major or program of study. Visit [nyit.edu/magazine/submissions](http://nyit.edu/magazine/submissions), email [magazine@nyit.edu](mailto:magazine@nyit.edu), or write to:

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## RELAY FOR LIFE

Hundreds of NYIT alumni, students, faculty and staff members join together for Relay for Life, an annual event to raise money for the American Cancer Society. From dusk to dawn, participants wearing everything from Relay for Life hoodies to NYIT team uniforms show their support by walking the track around President's Field on the Old Westbury campus. The event, which includes a survivor lap and dinner, luminary ceremony, and fight back ceremony, has raised more than \$300,000 over the past six years. **Make a donation or participate in next April's event. Learn more at [bit.ly/NYIT-Relay](http://bit.ly/NYIT-Relay) or email [mburnett@nyit.edu](mailto:mburnett@nyit.edu).**



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