

The background of the magazine cover features a collage of various medical and scientific illustrations. At the top left is a blue 'NYIT' logo. To its right is a red brain with a green DNA helix and a magnifying glass. Below that is a red heart with a pulse line. In the center, a doctor in a white coat and stethoscope holds a clipboard. Behind the doctor is a map of New York State with numbered callouts (1 through 9) pointing to different elements: a yellow circle with a blue microscope, a green hexagon, a red book, a blue capsule, and a red syringe. There are also pie charts, a DNA helix, and a small inset showing a human torso with a red line. The overall theme is healthcare and science.

NYIT

# NYIT MAGAZINE

FALL  
2015

Inside

P. 06  
**WEARABLES**

From Fitbit to Oculus Rift, see how wearable technologies are changing the classroom and daily life.

↑ P. 12  
**MAKING PRIMARY CARE PRIMARY**  
NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine is fighting the primary care physician shortage one white coat at a time.

P. 17  
**A GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP**  
Students travel beyond borders and put their knowledge into practice with the help of new Presidential Global Fellowships.

NYIT.EDU

## President's Note

02

**Playing It Forward** NYIT's world-class conferences address the issues that shape our global society.

## News

03

**Global Roundup** Learn about new exhibitions, programs, and conferences at NYIT's global campuses.

04

**Buzzland** What's the latest buzz? Catch up on NYIT news and events.

06

**Wearable Technologies** From the practical to the fantastical, NYIT alumni, faculty, and students explore the latest in wearables.

08

**Turtle Time** A 260-million-year-old fossil provides a glimpse into the origin of turtles.

09

**Student Spotlight:**  
**Rabihah Huda** One NYIT sophomore advises new students how to make the most of their first year.

## Scoreboard

10

**Bailey Takes the Field** Meet NYIT's director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation.

## Features

12

**Making Primary Care** **Primary** NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine alumni take on the primary care physician shortage in New York and beyond.

17

**Growing the Global Citizen** Students test their academic and personal mettle abroad thanks to new Presidential Global Fellowships.

22

**The Shape of Things to Come** See how some of NYIT's newest graduates are choosing to pursue their careers.

## Alumni Notes

24

**Alumni Notes** Discover what your classmates are up to and submit your news at [nyit.edu/alumni\\_notes](http://nyit.edu/alumni_notes).

24

**Alumni Connections** Support the large variety of businesses owned by NYIT alumni in the United States and around the world.

25

**Spotlights** Meet Mikah Sellers (M.B.A. '05, M.A. '07), Frank Fortino (B.S. '87), Indera Rampal-Harrod (B.S. '95, M.S. '97, M.S. '00), and Jill Wruble (D.O. '87).



**Like what you see?** Share your ideas, updates, and feedback at [nyit.edu/alumni\\_notes](http://nyit.edu/alumni_notes) and connect at [@NYITalumni](#), [facebook.com/mynyit](#), and [nyit.edu/linkedin](#).



08 ▾



17 ▾



28 ▾



12 ▾



10 ▾



29 ▾



22 ▾

## Playing It Forward

To understand the present, we must anticipate the future and how our society will change and respond.

Here at NYIT, we have always striven to foresee the needs of our world and to equip our students with tools to stay future focused.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first phone call. Nearly 40 years later, the first transcontinental call was made. Those moments eventually led to the iPhone's debut, just eight years ago, and soon a majority of people on earth will have smartphones.

Left unmonitored, our present can result in future problems as well. Fresh water is scarce in some regions. Thieves who once robbed banks to steal cash now steal data. Cybercrime is a huge and growing business.

NYIT has long held world-class conferences to address the issues that shape our world—both the good and the bad. With our campuses in New York, Nanjing, Beijing, Abu Dhabi, and Vancouver, we feel the impact of, say, water shortage in China as most universities do not. NYIT conferences are bracing; they bring together experts, officials, and cutting-edge thinkers (including our own faculty members, students, and alumni) to share insights and craft solutions.

In May, NYIT and Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT) jointly hosted a conference in Nanjing addressing a major challenge faced by universities around the world: MOOCs, or Massive Open Online Courses, allow anyone with a smartphone to take a college course anywhere. MOOCs have the potential to be the greatest delivery system for higher education the world has ever seen. In theory, a professor can teach a class of billions, and by one estimate, half of all college courses will be online in part or whole by 2019. Our event on the topic brought together experts in the fields of educational technology, online learning, and online information mapping from New York University, Stanford, and Peking University (PKU), among others.

Last month, NYIT hosted its annual Cybersecurity Conference as well as a new sports medicine conference, and this month, NYIT and EcoPartner PKU will present a conference on resource sustainability in the world's largest cities (see p. 3).

Of course, students are important to all of this. They work with leading thinkers, hear their ideas, and see how they approach problems. You can't put a price on this experience, and it's just one of the ways NYIT helps students, faculty members, and alumni collaborate on urgent issues. Others include our many hands-on projects and fellowships, all rooted in future-centric education.

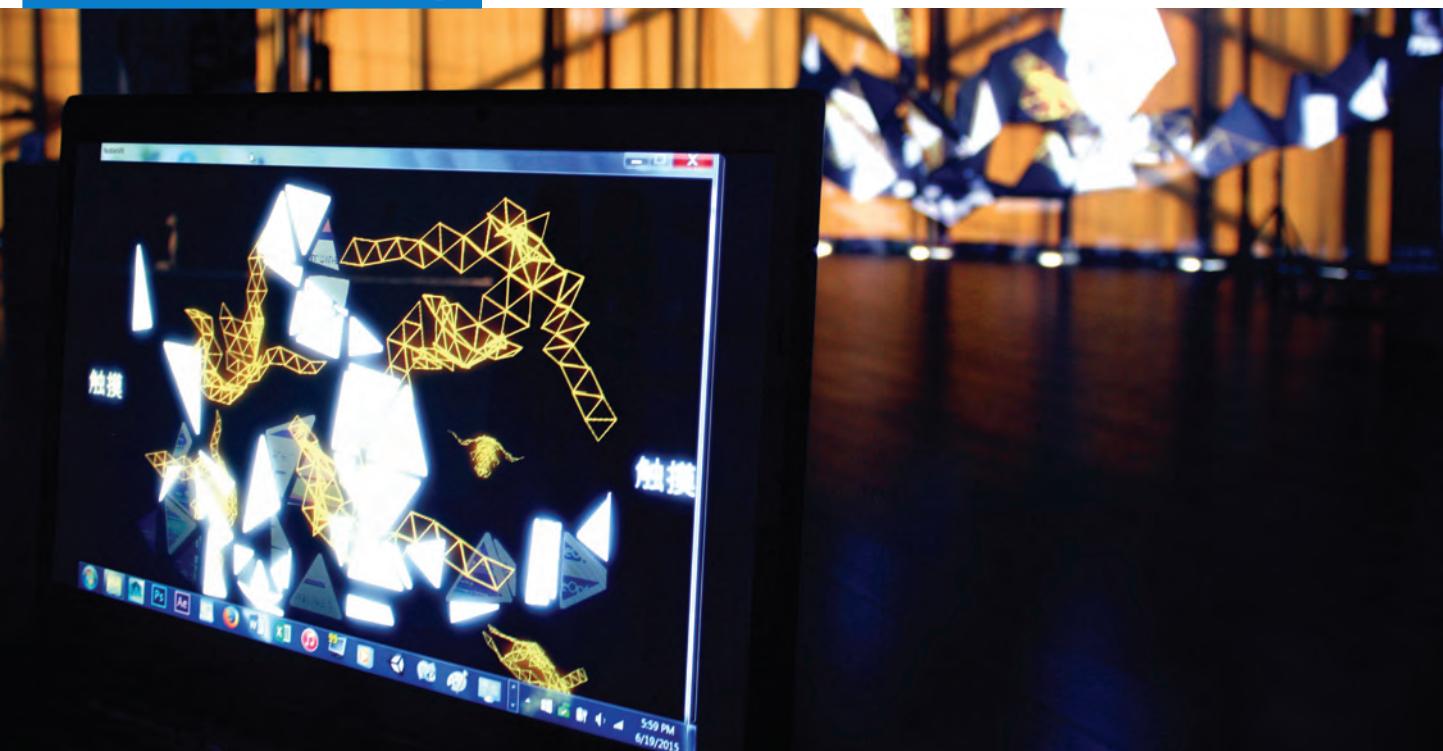
As always, our esteemed faculty members support and guide us in our efforts. At our faculty scholars reception earlier this year, we acknowledged 23 grant award winners in 2014, including 78 authors of 137 works, 108 faculty members involved in grants, and four patent awardees.

The dreams of our students are more interesting and possible than ever before, thanks in no small part to the dedication of our alumni, whose ambitions and successes remain a constant source of inspiration. Because our graduates are focused on tomorrow, they understand today better. That is a win for our alumni, our community, and our global society. ■

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



# Global Roundup



## NYIT-CUC Exhibits

### Faculty and Student Art

NYIT COMPUTER GRAPHICS/animation students and faculty members participated in solo and group art exhibitions in mid-June at NYIT-Beijing's International Media Arts Gallery. Assistant Professor Benjamin Poynter, who teaches in NYIT's M.F.A. program offered with the prestigious Communication University of China (CUC), organized the show with his first-year graduate students.

Poynter's passion for digital arts informed his solo show, "Experimental Computer Games." Along with video games and other digital works, the exhibition showcased "Resurrect from Digital," a mixed-media sculpture crafted from traditional Chinese materials as well as electronic sensors, lights, and software (pictured above). Poynter's students presented "Fabrication of Data," a group exhibition of animations and 3-D printed works.

NYIT has launched a Ministry of Education in China-approved media technology center with the prestigious Communication University of China

(CUC) in Beijing. The collaboration, at the heart of the first China-foreign, cooperatively run institution in media approved by the Ministry of Education, is called the Faculty of International Media of Communication University of China, or the ICUC.

### World-Class Conferences

NYIT and EcoPartner Peking University have co-organized "Sustainable Megacities: Food, Energy, Water, and the Built Environment," a conference and workshop on Oct. 20 and 21 in Beijing. Leading researchers, scientists, and other experts will come together to address global challenges, with special attention to resource sustainability in large urban centers.

In support of the fight against environmental challenges, the U.S. National Science Foundation awarded NYIT a grant to organize the Oct. 21 workshop, which will also address food, energy, and water (FEW). Key members of the global research and education community are already in the process of laying groundwork for U.S.-China

FEW partnerships. Their continuing efforts encourage engagement and data sharing among experts from various institutions and entities.



[NYIT.EDU/MEGACITIES](http://NYIT.EDU/MEGACITIES)

### NYIT-Abu Dhabi Offers First Engineering Degree

The United Arab Emirates is a world center of building and engineering activities, and would-be engineering students in the region can now earn a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at NYIT-Abu Dhabi. The degree is valid in both the United Arab Emirates and the United States. NYIT Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., said, "The U.A.E. will continue to need mechanical engineers across various sectors, including the construction and petroleum industries, and NYIT graduates will be prepared to accept those roles. We are delighted to be part of building prosperous economies and high-tech industries." ■

# Buzzland

What's the buzz at NYIT? From cybersecurity to Throwback Thursday, here's what's happening. Read more great stories and stay up to date on the latest news by making [nyit.edu/box](http://nyit.edu/box) and @nyit part of your daily Internet routine.



**INTERIOR EXCELLENCE:** Interior design student Nesma Galal received the prestigious \$30K Donghia Foundation Scholarship for "Urban Sidewalk Sanctuary" (above). Galal is the fourth student from the Furniture Studio course, taught by Interior Design Professor Robert Allen, to receive this coveted award. Her work comes out of a 10-year initiative, in which students have explored furniture "micro-environments" and "exterior interiors."



[NYIT.EDU/INTERIORDESIGN](http://NYIT.EDU/INTERIORDESIGN)

**HEAD OF THE CLASS:** In its 2016 rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* named NYIT a top regional university for the 18th consecutive year and among the top 50 universities in the North for the fourth year in a row. Additionally, NYIT was included in the *U.S. News* ranking of 2016 Best Colleges for Veterans.



[NYIT.EDU/RANKINGS-2015](http://NYIT.EDU/RANKINGS-2015)



Martin Seck



President Schurz, Vice President Lyndon Johnson, and Trustee Michael Grace display "Proclamation issued by Mayor Robert Wagner, in honor of NYIT: Day in New York City."

**60 YEARS/60 DAYS:** NYIT kicked off its 60th anniversary with an online series celebrating our community's favorite places, experiences, moments, and traditions. Share your memories for Throwback Thursday @nyit (use #NYITDidThat) or email [box@nyit.edu](mailto:box@nyit.edu).



[NYIT.EDU/60-IN-60](http://NYIT.EDU/60-IN-60)



**CYBER TALK:** NYIT held its annual Cybersecurity Conference on Sept. 24 at NYIT Auditorium on Broadway. Participants included cyber experts and intelligence analysts from Cisco, IBM, New York Power Authority, and more. Since NYIT held its first conference in 2010, it has introduced and increased its cybersecurity course offerings for undergraduate and graduate students.



[NYIT.EDU/CYBERSECURITY](http://NYIT.EDU/CYBERSECURITY)



**GLOBAL HEALTH:** As part of NYIT Center for Global Health trips, 22 students and six faculty members from NYITCOM and NYIT School of Health Professions conducted health screenings and educational outreach for more than 550 people in Haiti and Ghana.



[NYIT.EDU/GLOBAL-2015](http://NYIT.EDU/GLOBAL-2015)



**PUBLIC HOUSING:** Nicholas Bloom, Ph.D., associate professor of social sciences and chair of NYIT's Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, co-edited *Affordable Housing in New York* (Princeton University Press, 2015). The new collection was named a Top 50 book this fall by *Metropolis Magazine*. The book includes images of models by NYIT architecture students and essays by faculty members Matthias Altwicker and Nader Vossoughian.



[NYIT.EDU/BLOOM](http://NYIT.EDU/BLOOM)

**FROM THE SOURCE:** Now in its 12th year, 2015 SOURCE (Symposium on University Research and Creative Expression) featured projects from nearly all of NYIT's schools and campuses. Cross-disciplinary exploration, and the research it can inspire, was a constant theme. Projects mixed the social and hard sciences and painted a broad picture of student research and interests at NYIT. Presentations included a mathematical approach to understanding the spread of Ebola, a documentary on Rio de Janeiro, and a study of the relationship between text messaging and impulsive behavior.



[NYIT.EDU/MORE-SOURCE](http://NYIT.EDU/MORE-SOURCE)



Barry Sloan



[ATTEND AN EVENT: NYIT.EDU/AOB](http://NYIT.EDU/AOB)



**HOTELS GO GREEN:** School of Management hospitality students are helping hotels go green through a new partnership. Acting as a consulting team, the students developed a strategy for improvements for the Benjamin (one of New York City's first environmentally friendly hotels), which ultimately led to the hotel achieving a prestigious Four Key Eco-Rating.



[NYIT.EDU/FOUR-KEY](http://NYIT.EDU/FOUR-KEY)

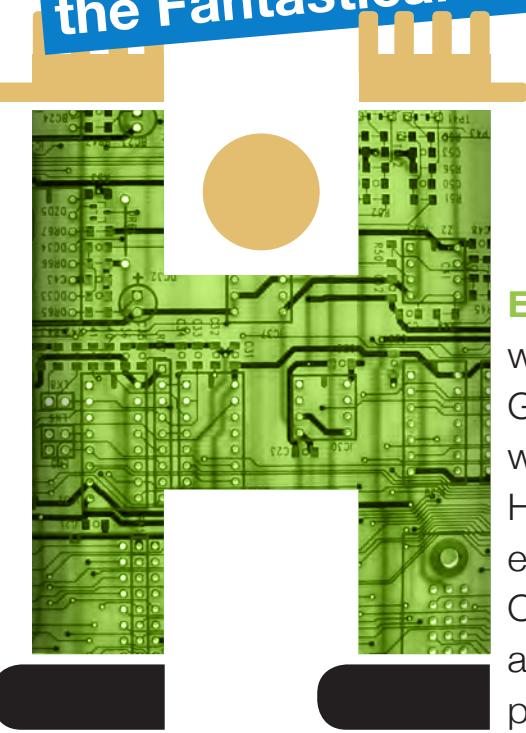


**HEART BEAT:** Approximately 60 percent of the deaths of diabetic patients are caused by heart disease. NYIT instructor Satoru Kobayashi, Ph.D., aims to understand why with the help of a \$308,000 grant from the American Heart Association for his studies on how cellular processes contribute to cardiac failure.



[NYIT.EDU/HEART-BEAT](http://NYIT.EDU/HEART-BEAT)

# Wearable Technologies: From the Practical to the Fantastical and Everything in Between



**EAD GEAR**, looking like something out of Darth Vader's wardrobe, drops a wearer into a world that rivals the Galactic Empire, thanks to Oculus. Jewelry loaded with UV sensors lets an athlete track sun exposure. A Harry Potter-esque invisibility cloak makes avoiding an ex easier than ever—if you can find it on store shelves. Okay, that last one isn't real, but the first two products are coming to brick-and-mortar and digital market-places soon.

Wearable technologies, smart devices, or simply “wearables” are a catchall for clothing and accessories designed with miniature computer circuitry and sensors. And due to new technology, they’re more practical—and popular—than ever.

The concept is not a new one. One of the earliest wearable computers was made in 1961 by Edward O. Thorp and Claude Shannon to give them an edge over casinos. By wiring a device the size of a cigarette pack with 12 transistors and syncing them to microswitches in their shoes, they were able to predict outcomes in roulette.

Wearables have come a long way from their “beating-the-house” roots and now comprise a coveted market sector. The UK-based firm Juniper Research forecasts wearables will generate \$53.2 billion in sales by 2019. Look to wearables like Fitbit products and Apple Watch to lead that surge.

“The global market is an area that presents opportunity for growth,” says Bill Zerella (B.S. ’78), chief financial officer at Fitbit, a company known for fashionable wristbands that track human steps, calories, heart rates, and more. Zerella was part of the team that took Fitbit public this year. It debuted on the New York Stock Exchange on June 18 with an initial public offering (IPO) of \$20 per share, a price that leapt to \$29.68 by day’s end; five days later, it climbed to \$37.80, or a \$7.6 billion company valuation, making Fitbit one of the top 10 IPOs of 2015 as of publication.

Besides being a sensation with consumers, wearables have captured the attention of educators and researchers interested in exploring new ways to teach and spark creativity. Matt Cornelius, director of NYIT’s Art Media Lab and HIVE (Home for Innovation, Visualization, and Exploration), has tested

a few wearables to find how they can be used in his coursework, from an inertial bodysuit to the earliest version of the Oculus headset, which he's working to rig as a wireless device.

"Down the line we're going to see wearables that extrapolate more data from ourselves and our environments, like what's already being done in gaming," says Cornelius. Every semester, he demos the inertial suit in his motion capture course. The suit has 15 sensors and uses similar technology to smartphones, notably their tilt sensors and accelerometers. The sensors are so sharp they capture and record motion anywhere, anytime. From an artist or designer's perspective, this wearable is a tool for creating better traditional products.

"Imagine you're designing cleats," says Cornelius. "You can wear the inertial suit to calculate the torque and tension on the knee through calculations of rotations through the sensors."

Another application of wearables is found in NYIT's Master of Science in Instructional Technology program offered by the School of Education. Associate Dean Shiang-Kwei Wang, Ph.D., and Teacher Education Chair Hui-Yin Hsu, Ph.D., use the Oculus Rift in two courses: Gaming and Virtual Reality and Gaming Literacy and Learning, a massive open online course (MOOC) that launched this past spring.

"The Oculus offers a glimpse of the possible future of virtual reality in learning, especially for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics," says Wang. "There are Oculus apps that take students back in time to experience the history of the Earth or explore the solar system. It's like being inside of a 3-D printer, but instead you're in the virtual world. You see objects from perspectives impossible to see in every-day life."

Oculus is coming out with a new virtual reality headset in early 2016. While previous versions were sold as prototypes and mainly attracted developers, educators, and technology enthusiasts, this one will be marketed to general consumers. Wang and Hsu also eagerly await the launch of the Microsoft HoloLens, a wireless headset that allows users to pin holograms in their

and what was once unimaginable may become reality as the billion-dollar sector swells. As Zerella notes, better sensors, microcontrollers, and Bluetooth technologies helped pave the way for wearables to gain market dominance, as has the ubiquity of smartphones synced with apps that collect data. He believes Fitbit has the potential to make an even bigger difference, such as to help reduce health care costs.

"This year, specifically, we're looking to triple our research and development," says Zerella. "It's great to provide people data, but how do we help them to apply it to achieve their goals? This is the question Fitbit is seeking to answer in the future." ■



NYIT.EDU/FITBIT-CFO

**"This year...we're looking to triple our research and development." —Bill Zerella (B.S. '78), chief financial officer, Fitbit**

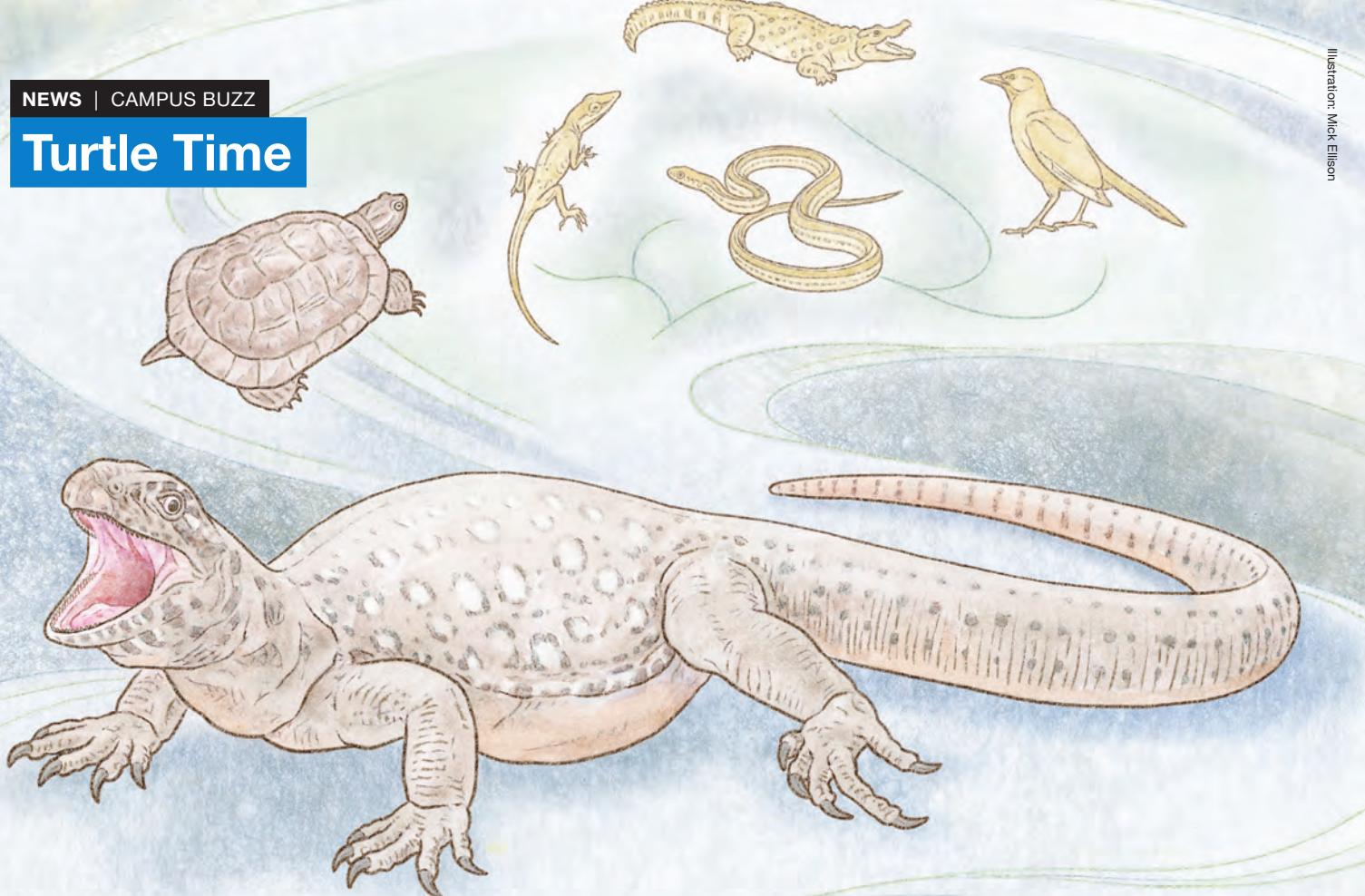
environment. "It will push learning to the next level by integrating virtual reality into physical places," says Wang.

The many ways people use their wearables will only continue to grow,

**Teacher Education Chair Hui-Yin Hsu, Ph.D., walks a student through using Oculus Rift in class.**



# Turtle Time



**WHAT'S A TURTLE WITHOUT ITS SHELL?** In the case of *Eunotosaurus africanus*, a 260-million-year-old fossil species found in South Africa's Karoo Basin, it's the root of the turtle tree of life.

"*Eunotosaurus* is a critical link connecting modern turtles to their evolutionary past," said NYIT scientist Gabriel Bever, Ph.D., assistant professor of anatomy in NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In a new study published in *Nature*, Bever and his colleagues from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Yale University, and the University of Chicago show that while *Eunotosaurus* lacks the iconic turtle shell, its extremely wide ribs and distinctively circular torso indicate that it represents an important glimpse into the murky origin of turtles.

"This is the fossil for which science has been searching for more than 150 years," said Bever, who was the first author of the paper. "You can think of it as a turtle before turtles had a shell."

The team focused their attention on the *Eunotosaurus* skull, spending nearly four years doing detailed analysis with imaging technology. The results were well worth the effort. "What we found not only illuminates the close relationship of *Eunotosaurus* to turtles, but also how turtles are related to other modern reptiles," said Bever.

One of the study's key findings is that the skull of *Eunotosaurus* has a pair of openings set behind the eyes that allowed the jaw muscles to lengthen and flex during chewing. Known as the diapsid condition, this pair of openings is also found in lizards, snakes, crocodilians, and birds. The skull of modern turtles is anapsid—without openings—with the chamber housing the jaw muscles fully enclosed by bone. The anapsid-diapsid distinction strongly influenced the long-held notion that turtles are the remnants of an ancient reptile lineage and not closely related to modern lizards, crocodiles, and birds. The new data from *Eunotosaurus* rejects this hypothesis.

Although the new study represents a major step toward understanding the reptile tree of life, Bever emphasizes that it will not be the final chapter in the science of turtle origins.

"The beauty of scientific discoveries is that they tend to reveal more questions than they answer," said Bever, "and there is still much we don't know about the origin of turtles. Which of the other diapsid groups form their closest cousin? What were the ecological conditions that led to the evolution of the turtle's shell and anapsid skull? And how much of the deep history of turtle evolution can be discovered by studying the genes and developmental pathways of modern turtles?" ■



NYIT.EDU/TURTLE-TIME

(above) *Eunotosaurus* as it may have looked 260 million years ago. By analyzing the extinct reptile's skull, researchers discovered that turtles share a common ancestor with birds, lizards, and crocodilians.

# Student Spotlight: Rabihah Huda

As a fresh crop of students take on the challenges, excitement, and all-nighters of a new academic year, *NYIT Magazine* spoke with Rabihah Huda to see how she made the most of her first year at NYIT.

"I CAME TO NYIT because there's a medical school on campus," says Huda, who capped her first year at NYIT in the B.S./D.O. program by winning a scholarship from Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, the oldest and largest U.S. honor society for freshman college students. "There are many opportunities to do things here like volunteer for Relay for Life or work on research projects with NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine."

Huda's love of medicine started to form at age 15, when she joined the Wantagh-Levittown Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Long Island, N.Y. As a volunteer, she learned to give first aid and trained in emergency medical treatment procedures.

"When I'm under stress and treating a patient one-on-one, I feel confident in what the next step is because I know the right protocol to follow," says Huda.

Since her first day on NYIT's Old Westbury campus, Huda has focused on preparing for her future as a doctor. She often lunches with graduate medical students in Riland Café and asks for their advice. She also attends monthly meetings for students hosted by her B.S./D.O. program advisor Halina Diener, associate professor of life sciences, who tailors the sessions to medical topics such as the new MCAT.

Beyond medicine, Huda has discovered an interest in community service work. Her favorite class in freshman year was Foundations of Inquiry, a core course taught by Laurie Hollister (B.S. '89, 'M.S. '92).

"Hollister is so hands-on and told us about all the services provided by NYIT," Huda says. "I had no idea NYIT has so many internships available on CareerNet."

will inspire her younger sister, Senya, to pursue a career in medicine, too. The sisters were raised by parents who earned their college degrees in Pakistan and later moved to East Meadow, N.Y., where they started a family. Huda says she will be the first person in her family to earn an American college degree and adds: "I hope to play a vital role in bridging the health care gap found in our society today." ■



The class worked on a community service project for this past spring's Relay for Life, an American Cancer Society (ACS) initiative. Hollister, who is a cancer survivor, has chaired NYIT's annual event since 2008. Students formed teams, and Huda led her group in planning two fundraisers that generated more than \$500 for ACS. She also attended Relay for Life.

Huda hopes her efforts to make the most of her college experiences



MEET MORE OUTSTANDING NYIT STUDENTS ON [NYIT.EDU/BOX](http://NYIT.EDU/BOX)

Rose Spaziani

# Bailey Takes the Field

Duane Bailey has hit the ground running since joining NYIT. As director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation, he recruits and oversees coaches, builds Bears pride, ensures students have outstanding recreational experiences outside the classroom, and more. *NYIT Magazine* spoke to the man who “runs on good stuff and Red Bull” about what he has planned in his first season at NYIT.

## **So about the Red Bull...**

I'm definitely not a coffee guy [*laughs*]. I guess some people might say my pace can get a little crazy, although I don't stress about many things. I'm always going, always operating on a level where I put my best foot forward. For me, every day is like I'm reinterviewing for my job. As long as I keep that idea in my mind, I keep churning—I'm not sure if that's inspiration, passion, a little craziness—but that's my approach.

## **How will you use that energy at NYIT?**

My goal is to charge people up and get people behind athletics and recreational activities in order to draw in the community from across our campuses. We are in the business of creating transformative experiences

Duane Bailey tours President's Stadium with student-athletes.



and memories for both students and student-athletes. I want to create a culture and atmosphere for them to feel connected. Everything I'm doing right now is aimed toward that purpose. Students should feel their experiences here are equal to anywhere else.

## **That's true. What else do you want people to know about NYIT Athletics?**

The history. The success of the programs. The successes of the athletes. There have been some very successful coaches that have passed through here, too. For example, Coach [Jack] Kaley—it's amazing what he accomplished in such a short time while he was here. I want younger people to understand there's a lot of history here and this is a great place to pursue their athletic careers.



## **What are some of the recreational changes in the works?**

Recreation is about health, wellness, and fun—whether through club sports, intramural sports, or other activities. This fall, we are opening a new fitness center in the Student Activities Center in Old

# Sports Briefs

## SAVE THE DATE: NYIT BEARS ALUMNI DAYS

Reunite with your classmates and coaches, watch the Bears in action, and see all the changes being made in athletics:

**Men's/Women's Soccer:** Sunday, Oct. 25.

**Men's/Women's Basketball:** Saturday, Feb. 13.

Contact [alumni@nyit.edu](mailto:alumni@nyit.edu) for more information and to register for these events. For all your Bears news, visit [nyit.edu/athletics](http://nyit.edu/athletics).

## NOTHING BUT NET

The NYIT women's volleyball team started the fall season in high gear. Going 7-0 in their first seven games with five three-set victories, the Bears are setting themselves up for success. In October, the team celebrated their alumni day with a special brunch prior to their home game versus Roberts Wesleyan. The day also recognized the team's 40th anniversary and three decades of coaching by Gail Wasmus (M.P.S. '80).

Women's tennis players Alessia Rossetti and Justyna Krol played their way through the United States Tennis Association (USTA)/Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) East Regional Tournament to doubles victory. They qualified for the USTA/ITA Small College Championships held in Sumter, S.C., on Oct. 15-18.

Westbury. It's open to the entire NYIT community, including alumni. We're also launching a partnership with New York Sports Clubs so students can use any of their gyms. It's a terrific benefit since many of our students do not live close to campus. And we're investigating more ways to get students involved, such as potentially starting a golf club in Manhattan and virtual 5K and bike programs, which students from all of our global campuses could participate in.

### What about alumni? How will you bring them back to campus?

I prefer meeting people one-on-one. Building relationships with alumni is like building friendships. So it will take a while, but if you want it to be meaningful, that's the way you have to do it.



### What else are you looking forward to?

Since I arrived, everyone has been supportive, welcoming, and willing to try new things. I've worked with a lot of great mentors, and I'm most excited about being able to put into practice the things I've learned. This is a chance to chart my own course and implement new ideas and thoughts.

### About your background—you spent 10 years at the NFL and worked with teams like the Kansas City Chiefs and New York Mets. What made you switch from pro to collegiate sports?

Working in professional sports, it's a different atmosphere: great, fun, but intense. You have a cool job. But as I moved further along in my career, I wanted to make more of an impact;

someone suggested college athletics. I got involved on the conference level and loved it. I got onto a campus, loved that too. The interaction with the student-athletes and the impact I had solidified my path to becoming an athletic director.

### You mentioned your mentors—who helped you make the jump in your career?

I've had a number of great mentors, most recently Pat Lyons at Seton Hall [where Bailey served as deputy director of athletics] and John Currie at Kansas State. They both helped me shape my vision from an internal and external perspective. I've loved everything John's done to transform K-State's experience and athletic program. He's someone who's been tremendous for me.

In fact, I always tell students: Make time to build lasting relationships while you're in college. I know a ton of graduates who say, "I don't know anyone." To me, that's a shame because the cultural diversity and exchanges you have in college are so important. You have to make the time to get to know the people you have the opportunity to meet.

### What other advice would you give to student-athletes?

Enjoy the experience and get as much out of it as you can. You don't realize that the fun and games end when your four years are done and you hang up those cleats and step off the field for the last time—you need to begin to think about real life. That said, athletics teaches you how to structure your life, how to be focused, and it teaches you how to lose. For the most part, I think athletes are very prepared for the real world because they understand adversity and competition. Even though you didn't win today, tomorrow is another day. Your competitive nature drives you. ■

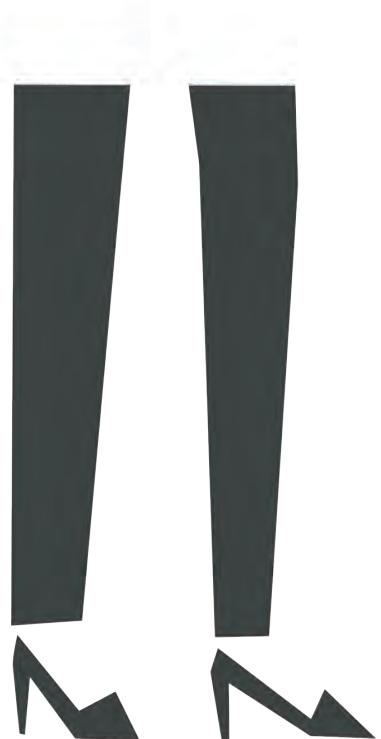


LEARN MORE AND FOLLOW  
THE 2015-2016 BEARS SEASON:  
[NYIT.EDU/ATHLETICS](http://nyit.edu/athletics)



BY RENEE G. LEVY

# Making Primary Care



**Improving access to health care means increasing the number of primary care physicians. For nearly 40 years, that's been a big part of the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine mission.**



# Primary

A SKIN EXAM AND BIOPSY. An annual gynecological exam and pap smear. A patient suffering intermittent chest pain. A checkup to manage a patient's diabetes. This is an average morning for Anne-Marie Moukala-Cadet (D.O. '02), a family practitioner with the Veteran's Administration Health System in Binghamton, N.Y.

Binghamton is within a "physician shortage area" in New York state. The outpatient clinic where Moukala-Cadet is the lead physician in women's health prevents the need for veterans and their families to travel 1.5 hours to the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Syracuse.

"I wanted to be a physician to help patients get the best care possible, to educate them about their health and chronic conditions, and to help them prevent illness," she says. "And that is what I do every day."

Until the advent of managed care in the late 1980s, that type of patient care was considered the norm for anyone pursuing a career in medicine. Getting to know patients and their families and providing continuity of care over generations was commonplace. But in today's medical environment, primary care physicians (including family practitioners, internists, and pediatricians) like Moukala-Cadet are becoming more rare.

Despite the importance primary care physicians play in the general health of the communities they serve, the overall number of them is dropping. Low insurance and Medicaid reimbursement rates have made the solo practitioner model nearly impossible and have spurred many internists to leave private practice for hospital-based positions. At the same time rising student debt loads lead new

medical school graduates to pursue higher-paying specialties.

On the patient side, researchers project the United States will need more than 50,000 primary care doctors by 2025, a situation exacerbated by population growth, an aging population, and increased demand for services fueled by health insurance expansion through the Affordable Care Act. The problem is getting attention at the highest levels, from national medical organizations to Congress.

While Moukala-Cadet might be considered an anomaly at some medical schools, among NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine's nearly 7,000 alumni, she's not unusual. Since its founding in 1977, NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) has been a major provider of primary care physicians. Many graduates, like Moukala-Cadet, also decide to remain in New York state to practice medicine. "We're not reacting to any fad or clamor about physician shortage," says Jerry Balentine, D.O., vice president for medical affairs and global health at NYIT. "We've been interested in training and graduating primary care physicians before 'primary care' became a household phrase. This is what we've done all along. It's part of our philosophy."

Osteopathic medicine emphasizes the importance of diagnosing, treating, and preventing illness within the context of the whole body, stressing wellness of the body, mind, and spirit. While that's a big reason so many D.O.s



practice in the primary care fields, the NYITCOM experience is also structured to encourage primary care.

"If you really follow the approach that we teach, there's a much greater chance you're going to want to be the kind of physician who can do everything instead of a specialist who only focuses on one small part," says Balentine.

"We like to recruit students who indicate to us they anticipate practicing in primary care positions," adds Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., dean of NYITCOM.

From day one of the curriculum, NYITCOM students are introduced to a refined physical examination using their hands both diagnostically and therapeutically for evaluation of the

musculoskeletal system. Then they move on to learning techniques for osteopathic manipulative treatment. "It gives you a richer way of evaluating and treating the patient," says Gilliar. "You become a better diagnostician."

Many of those involved in teaching the basic science curriculum and mentoring students during the first two years are primary care practitioners and NYITCOM alumni. During their third and fourth years, students choose from rotations in an array of locations—including urban and rural areas of New York—with many primary care opportunities.

Those experiences influenced fourth-year NYITCOM student Rebecca Domalski to pursue a career in pediatrics. "I've been fortunate to meet some incredible mentors and role models in primary care throughout my academic and clinical experiences who helped solidify my desire to go into primary care," she says.

# NYITCOM

IS ONE OF THE LARGEST  
MEDICAL SCHOOLS IN THE  
UNITED STATES.

# QB1: Connecting With Patients in Urgent Care

**A**S A PRIMARY CARE DOCTOR, Daniel J. Cavallo (D.O. '09) helps patients navigate what can be a complex and confusing medical system. "In a time when most of my patients have a specialist for every ailment or issue, I envision myself as the quarterback of their health care, ensuring they understand the 'what, the why, and what comes next,'" he says. "I also make sure that nothing is missed because many times the specialists are only focused on what involves their area of expertise."

Board certified in both family medicine and primary care sports medicine, Cavallo was attracted to primary care by the notion of preventative as opposed to reactionary medicine. He also recognized many patients developed everyday injuries that mirrored those of athletes. That realization, along with his love of sports, prompted him to do additional training in sports medicine.

Unlike many primary care physicians with traditional office practices, Cavallo works for CityMD, an urgent care facility in New York City. The practice requires no appointments so he never knows who will walk through the door. He treats

patients from all walks of life, including many foreign tourists. In addition, Cavallo is one of the team doctors for the USA Men's National Water Polo team, and he has performed medical services at the New York City Marathon.

Cavallo says he draws on his NYITCOM training every day. "Being an osteopathic physician gives me an incredible advantage when treating my athletes and any patient with musculoskeletal injuries," he says. And though he works in an urgent care office, Cavallo says it's the connection to his patients that motivates him. "There is nothing more rewarding than establishing a relationship with a patient and their family," he says. "I couldn't imagine myself doing anything other than what I do now." ■



READ MORE AT [NYIT.EDU/CAVALLO](http://NYIT.EDU/CAVALLO).

"One osteopathic tenet in particular inspires me: 'The body is a unit; the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.' I feel my training has embodied this tenet and prepared me well for a career in pediatrics focused on treating each patient as a whole," says Domalski, who hopes to practice in an underserved community after her residency.

## HOME GROWN

Physicians are most likely to practice medicine in the state where they attend medical school or near the communities where they do their residency training. It's one of the reasons NYITCOM has had such a major impact on primary care in New York state. Every year, nearly 50 percent of NYITCOM graduates go on to pursue primary care. As of June 2015, 3,465 of NYITCOM's 6,700 graduates were practicing in New York. Although New York fares better overall than many other states in terms of the number of primary care providers, many areas

within the state face acute shortages, principally low-income urban areas and rural areas.

"The ideal we strive for is to recruit locally, train locally, and place graduates in residencies locally so we can try to keep them in the state," says Balentine.

Moukala-Cadet, who is originally from Cameroon, first experienced upstate New York as a fourth-year medical student at NYITCOM, coming from the Old Westbury campus to complete most of her electives at Samaritan Hospital in Watertown. "At the time my husband was in active duty with the U.S. Army, stationed nearby at Fort Drum,"

she says. "We fell in love with upstate New York and thought it would be a great area to raise our two daughters."

After completing her residency in Pennsylvania, she and her family



EVERY YEAR,  
NEARLY **50** PERCENT OF NYITCOM  
GRADUATES  
GO ON TO PURSUE  
PRIMARY CARE.

AS OF JUNE 2015,

**3,377** OF NYITCOM'S  
**6,758** GRADUATES  
WERE PRACTICING  
IN NEW YORK.

settled in Binghamton. As a women's health provider, Moukala-Cadet provides "complete care" to her patients. "Most of my female patients feel comfortable getting comprehensive care from me rather than having a separate physician for their gynecological needs," she says. Moukala-Cadet is taking her commitment to comprehensive health care one step further. As the founder of nonprofit organization Village to Village Care Inc., she works with leaders and hospitals to establish clinics in developing countries and train villagers to become health care providers.

Elsewhere in the state, John M. Petrillo (D.O. '03), practices family medicine at the Ellis Family Health Center in Schenectady, N.Y., where

he completed his residency in family medicine. He found himself in New York after his wife, Melissa Foye-Petrillo, (D.O. '02), matched with a pediatrics residency in Albany. The couple now lives in Schenectady and both practice within the Ellis system.

"One of the things that attracted me to NYITCOM was the broad range of clinical exposure," says Petrillo. "The ability to see specialties in different settings helped solidify my decision to go

into primary care. I came to NYIT with the intention of being an osteopathic physician. What developed over time was this union of osteopathic principles and practice with prevention and long-term patient care that just made sense."

Petrillo, who treats patients from infants to seniors, is now director of the residency program he trained in, recruiting graduates from NYITCOM as well as other medical schools. He appreciates that NYITCOM understands the importance of the role primary care providers play in the American health care system now and going forward. "We are in the midst of shaping what the next-generation care model will be, and the excitement is unreal," he says. "Primary care physicians are being asked to take a seat at the table at the local, state, and national level, and for our input on what communities need—on what patients need."

Gilliar also feels a deep obligation to provide medical education that meets societal needs. He is hopeful that within 10 years the field will undergo a paradigm shift, with primary care doctors no longer gatekeepers to specialty care but reverting back to being the most significant patient contact in the medical system. "I personally believe that primary care should be primary," Gilliar says. "We, as a society, need to make it a priority to provide care to all Americans." ■



WATCH MORE:  
[NYIT.EDU/NYITCOM-PRIMARY](http://NYIT.EDU/NYITCOM-PRIMARY)

FEATURE

BY JULIE GODSOE



Children wait with their parents for eye exams in the clinic in Trujillo, Peru, where Megan Flynn (above left) volunteered as part of her fellowship.

# Growing the Global Citizen

**Develop a global perspective. Experience cultures outside of your own. Find ways to connect across language barriers and time zones.**

WHAT WAS ONCE an optional part of a college experience is now de rigueur for anyone wishing to succeed in today's marketplace. NYIT has always emphasized the importance of being a global citizen. Now, with the launch of the Presidential Global Fellowships, more NYIT students have the opportunity to travel to unfamiliar places to broaden

their perspectives and test their academic mettle.

When NYIT President Edward Giuliano, Ph.D., established the fellowship program this past winter, he did so with a purpose. "In order for our NYIT students to graduate with wide cultural competency," he says, "they need to explore the world in creative ways. I



*"I encourage anyone to apply for the fellowship ... It's the only way you'll begin to understand the world and other cultures."* —Chanelle Sears (B.S. '15)

(above) Jingqing Zhang and Jiyuan Liu explored the famed Grand Bazaar in Istanbul.

(above right) Zhang (pictured left) learned about Turkish culture by staying with a family in Kocaeli Province.

funded this fellowship to help our students find a path to new academic, cultural, and global experiences, and I am amazed and energized by their curiosity."

Unlike organized semester-abroad programs, the Presidential Global Fellowships encourage short, focused projects that may last weeks or even a few days. Perhaps most importantly, applicants develop their proposals themselves, regardless of their course of study. "This is the first time many students are being exposed to project-based funding where they're not given a specific directive but are instead given the freedom to investigate research topics," says Peter C. Kinney III, NYIT chief of staff and a member of the committee that reviews the applications. It's an unusual opportunity in the context of an academic institution, where most students are tied to their class

schedule. "These fellowships are intended to support students seeking new educational experiences with the broader world. Students execute their own ideas and have a lot of flexibility," adds Kinney.

Requirements are simple: The applicant must be enrolled in NYIT full-time at any campus, the project must take place at least 200 miles (322 kilometers) from the applicant's home or home campus, and the award must be used for research or a creative or academic pursuit, whether self-guided or part of a sponsored program through NYIT or another university or organization. Awards in the amounts of \$500, \$2,500, and \$5,000 are given out several times a year.

This flexibility leads to a diverse, adventurous, and sophisticated array of proposals. In all, 37 fellowships, funded

through a philanthropic gift, were awarded in year one. Projects ranged from clinical care in Peru to textile research in Turkey.

**Jingqing Zhang (B.S. '15) and Jiyuan Liu (B.S. '15)** traveled the farthest from their home base to pursue their project. The NYIT-Nanjing students paired up for their proposal, "The Future of the Textile Industry in Turkey," while completing their final year in the business administration program at NYIT-Manhattan.

The team was particularly interested in how e-commerce impacts the wholesale textile industry. "Textiles play a pivotal role in the Turkish economy," says Zhang. "However, with globalization and changes to the labor force, the textile and apparel industry faces lots of difficulties."

After traveling from New York to Istanbul, they jumped right into the vibrant Turkish lifestyle, conducting research on textiles and bartering in Istanbul's famed Grand Bazaar. They also learned about Turkish culture and how the Turks perceive e-commerce by staying with a family in Kocaeli Province and surveying students at Kadir Has University.

While conducting their research, the team fell in love with the country. Perhaps the most predictable outcome was their desire to return. "Next time, I'd love to go with a team of five or six students and a professor," says Zhang.

More than 7,500 miles away, **Megan Flynn (D.O. '15)** faced a much different kind of challenge in Trujillo, Peru. The medical student completed a four-week rotation with the organization Medical Electives Peru.

"I chose Peru because I wanted to go to a Spanish-speaking country, and I knew that the country has been trying to advance its health care, but has been struggling to break through their local government and funding issues," she



Chanelle Sears

Campers identify countries on a map as part of a geography exercise. NYIT students ran the camp in Nicaragua as part of 2015 Alternative Spring Break.

says. "The fellowship was key to my trip—expense-wise. It almost completely covered all my costs, and I did not need to do any other fundraising."

Once there, Flynn treated illnesses and diseases that are rare or completely absent from the exam rooms in North Shore University Hospital on Long Island, N.Y., where she works as an emergency medicine resident.

"Tuberculosis is endemic throughout Peru, and there were multiple patients who had a history of the disease or active disease," she says. Flynn also had to contend with larger issues, including general hospital conditions and the fact that the government can deny treatment to patients unable to afford it. "The project was quite eye-opening. I knew to expect conditions at a lower standard than the United States, but I was really taken aback by the lack of resources in some of the hospitals that serve the poorest of the poor."

Despite challenges, or perhaps because of them, Flynn says she plans to participate in more international rotations in underserved areas and advises others to do the same. "If you have the desire to travel and experience other health care systems, go for it—especially while you're in medical school, since being a student gives more freedom to learn in the environment and help in different ways."

While approximately half of the spring fellowships were self-guided, several

students used funds to participate in sponsored programs (like Flynn) or attend conferences.

Others used the fellowship to help fund their participation in Alternative Spring Break. One of NYIT's most popular initiatives, this weeklong, experiential program brings students to areas around the world to help communities find solutions to real problems. This year, students traveled to western Nicaragua, where they hosted an overnight camp for children and worked with communities facing major water sanitation issues.

"All people want is water and education," says **Chanelle Sears (B.S. '15)**, a behavioral sciences major. Water sanitation turned out to be so endemic in the places they visited that the team refocused efforts from trying to solve the problem to raising awareness. "Many people in the communities don't know why the water is contaminated, they just know not to drink it," says Sears. "Sewage is a huge problem. People use bottled water if they can afford it or travel to wells in communities miles away."

Hosting an overnight camp for children in Campo Alegria also tested the group; just eight members of the NYIT team looked after 40 campers. The camp ultimately proved rewarding and a success. Still, the team left Nicaragua with a sobering perspective: Because of crime, lack of health care, and other factors, the group knows their bright,



(left) The Alternative Spring Break team researched and documented the lack of clean drinking water in local communities.

(below) At Campo Alegria, children played on the shores of Lake Nicaragua.



Yvette Canales

cheerful campers face uncertain futures. “The camp counselor said that maybe two out of the 40 kids will make it into adulthood,” says **Brittany Stamoulis (B.A. ’15)**, who would like to return to check back in with some of the campers and work more with water sanitation. “I can’t get over the kids. They don’t know anything about life outside of Nicaragua.”



[WATCH MORE AT BIT.LY/NYIT-THIRST](http://bit.ly/nyit-thirst)

In total, four of the 10 2015 Alternative Spring Break participants won Presidential Global Fellowships. Sears hopes others will do the same next year. “I encourage anyone to apply for the fellowship and go outside the country,” she says. “It’s the only way you’ll begin to understand the world and other cultures.”

In late April, the inaugural group of fellows was invited to the annual President’s Forum Dinner to meet with President Giuliano and other NYIT donors who make NYIT scholarships and fellowships possible.

“I was kind of nervous to at first,” says **Paula Inacio (B.Arch. ’15)**, a fellow who traveled to Fatima, Portugal, to

do research for her architecture thesis on an interfaith prayer center. “But everyone was super-friendly, and it was cool to meet the other global fellows from around the school.” Inacio, who commuted to NYIT-Old Westbury as a student, said the experience helped her feel more a part of an academic community. Doing the project also enhanced her thesis. “My idea was always to put my building onsite in Fatima. Going there made the project feel more like a real thing, which was awesome.”

This summer, as Zhang prepared to start a master’s degree in communication arts at NYIT-Manhattan, she reflected on her experience in Turkey. “I learned that you must be brave and that you really can surprise yourself,” she says. As for other students who wish to follow her team’s lead, she advises: “Make a detailed plan, but remember that when you do research in a foreign country, your planning might not always be enough. If that time comes, don’t worry. Take full advantage of your wisdom and you will find a solution.” ■



[LEARN MORE  
NYIT.EDU/GLOBAL-FELLOWSHIPS](http://nyit.edu/global-fellowships)



Courtesy of Paula Inacio



(above) In Fatima, Portugal, Paula Inacio visualized where her thesis project (an interfaith prayer center) would actually be constructed.

(left) A rendering of her project.

"Going [to Fatima] made the project feel more like a real thing, which was awesome." —Paula Inacio (B.Arch. '15)



BY KATE MCCORMICK

## What will the future look like? We may have found some answers. From computing to commuting, meet five young alumni who are modeling our future.

"Do you know *Dragon Ball Z*?" asks **Theerawat Khajornkhanphet (M.F.A. '14, Computer Graphics and Animation)**, who is affectionately known as TK. The answer is that it's the manga that sparked his interest in animation. TK spent hours copying animated characters to refine his drawing skills. He's still drawing, but now it's in his role as a junior designer at UVPHACTORY, an award-winning motion design and visual effects company in New York City. He's worked on projects from the American Pavilion at the 2015 World Expo in Milan, Italy, to animations at festivals around the world.

TK's career began in his native Thailand, where he earned awards for copywriting and art direction. He wanted new opportunities to work in 2-D and 3-D art and animation, so he moved to New York City and enrolled at NYIT. There, he impressed faculty member and UVPH cofounder Scott Sindorf and UVPH co-founder Damijan Saccio. An internship at UVPH grew into a full-time position. While he further refines his skills at UVPH, TK's long-term goal is to create his own animated series. He's developed characters and storylines, but like any savvy artist, is keeping details quiet ... at least until it premieres.

Photos: Ed Sanders and courtesy of Marie Christie, Theerawat Khajornkhanphet, Pranav Krishnamurthy, Moriel Schottlender, and Ryana Yin.

As a software engineer at the Wikimedia Foundation, the open source organization that brought the world Wikipedia, **Moriel Schottlender (M.S. '14, Computer Science)** has plenty of room to test herself. She began working at Wikimedia after applying to Google Summer of Code. Even as an intern, she developed code that impacted the user's experience. "The magic of open source is that it's very welcoming. If I was an intern anywhere else, I might not have been given the opportunity to touch live code," she says.

Growing up in Israel, Schottlender quickly realized that the left-to-right conventions of the web were at odds with her right-to-left world view. "When you're reading right to left, your mental model shifts. What you're expecting to see on screen is different." At NYIT, she found that worldview could be a competitive advantage. "It's easy to see what is wrong with a program when you read it from right to left," explains Schottlender. She is putting that perspective to good use as she works on a tool that improves collaborative editing on Wikipedia. Going forward, she hopes to do even more by adapting the conventions of the web for non-native English speakers.



JUNIOR DESIGNER,  
CORGAN



JUNIOR SOFTWARE  
DEVELOPER, SANEF ITS



GRADUATE STUDENT,  
UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG

# Things to Come

**Marie Christie (B.F.A. '15, Interior Design)** always knew she'd end up in design—she just didn't know what kind. After earning a liberal arts degree, she enrolled in NYIT's interior design program. "They throw you right in with the architecture kids, and I realized I didn't need to be intimidated," she says. "I could do this work. It was hard, but I loved it."

Today, she's an interior designer at Corgan, a renowned architecture firm with offices in the Empire State Building that specializes in office remodels and aviation projects. Christie can't say what project she's working on—it's confidential—but she loves the fast pace of designing commercial interiors. Her approach—considering spaces from the inside out—blurs the boundaries between architecture and interior design and blends interior and exterior spaces. "It's important for me to play with those lines," she says. "In our environment, where we have different seasons, I want people to experience both inside and outside at once."

Someday she may strike out on her own, but for now Christie's taking in everything from inside one of the world's most iconic buildings. "Every project is exciting to me—it's all brand new."

"The way technology is advancing rapidly, you do a lot of self-teaching," says **Pranav Krishnamurthy (B.S. '14, M.S. '15, Computer Science)**. As a software developer at Sanef ITS Technologies America Inc., a leading mobile toll technology company, he's learning all the time.

"When you drive through a toll and see 'E-ZPass Paid-Go'—there's a whole process behind that," he says. Krishnamurthy began working on his current project—developing proprietary technology to turn your phone into an E-ZPass tag—as an intern in 2010. At that time, he was an undergraduate student and always tinkering. "I was part of the robotics team and a member of the team that developed an IOS and Android app for *The Campus Slate*," he says.

Those projects have helped him succeed. "You're able to show that you can take what you learn in the classroom and make something," he says. "It puts you that much closer to an offer letter."

While he continues to figure out how to increase accessibility and adaptability of technology at Sanef, Krishnamurthy's also already helping aspiring developers. "I mentor my high school robotics team every year," he says. "It's awesome to see all those future innovators."

"I wanted to do so many things when I was a child," says **Ryana Yin (B.S. '14, Electrical and Computer Engineering)**. "I didn't even know what a product manager was." Today, that's the goal. Yin, who is originally from China, is pursuing a graduate degree in economics in Germany because "it will prepare me for analytical, economic positions," she says. "In combination with my NYIT bachelor's degree, I can also go for product manager positions in high-tech or finance companies."

Yin originally planned to attend graduate school in the United States, but a recruiter made the case for the emerging technology community in Germany, which dovetailed with her interest in startups, learning about new cultures, and getting a strong business foundation. Yin's adventurous spirit is apparent in her career plans, too. As a product manager, she will have one foot in engineering and one foot in business, but that's not where it ends. "I want to work on products that use technology to change people's mindsets and lives," she says. And while Hamburg isn't Silicon Valley, Yin isn't concerned as long as she's "working with a passionate team to do something revolutionary."



ARE YOU A RECENT NYIT GRADUATE? TELL CAREER SERVICES ABOUT YOUR JOB OR INTERNSHIP AT [BIT.LY/REPORT\\_HIRE](http://BIT.LY/REPORT_HIRE).

# Alumni Notes

## ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

### Stay “In Network”: Support Alumni-Owned Businesses

WITH 100,000 GRADUATES WORLDWIDE, NYIT alumni work in nearly every industry and many more of our graduates are proud owners of a variety of businesses across the United States and around the world.

This past summer, Office of Alumni Relations staff members toured businesses owned by alumni on Long Island and Manhattan. Did you know there are seven alumni-owned businesses in just a one-mile-long stretch on Main Street in Bay Shore, N.Y.? They are Milk and Sugar Café, the Victorian Room, the Penny Pub, T.J. Finley's, Local Burger Co., BuschAssociates, and Bouler Pfluger Architects, P.C.

Regardless of your career path, you all share a common connection: your alma mater. As alumni, you can make your network stronger by supporting one another. So the next time you're looking for a restaurant, store, or other small business, support one created, owned, and operated by your fellow Bears, whether it's a privately owned company, sole proprietorship, or home-based business. ■

The Penny Pub in Bay Shore, N.Y., is owned by Mike McElwee (B.P.S. '97).



## NYIT BEARS BUSINESS OWNERS DIRECTORY

DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS? Or do you know a fellow graduate who does? Help us build an alumni business owners directory by sharing the name, location, industry, and URL of your business with the Office of Alumni Relations. [ALUMNI@NYIT.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@NYIT.EDU) ■

## 1960s

**KEN JONES (B.S. '69)** is senior vice president at Computer Marketing Associates in McLean, Va. “Back in 1965, NYIT was one of the first colleges to offer students a B.S. in Management with a number of hands-on computer programming courses,” he recalls. “The combination of these two disciplines was in high demand. The decision to focus my studies in management with a strong technical emphasis served me well over the years.”

## 1970s

**MICHAEL YAZURLO (B.S. '71)** is superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools, where he works to improve the quality of educational resources for a population of 27,000 students who speak more than 100 languages.

**MARK HEHL (M.S. '72)** is retiring as an engineer, executive, trainer, and consultant. He plans to teach international business courses at a Connecticut university while continuing to travel around the world.

After serving in the Vietnam War with the U.S. Air Force, **KAZYS SHUKIS (B.T. '75)** attended NYIT on the GI Bill and enjoyed a long career in engineering before retiring from IBM in 2003. He is currently involved in contract quality assurance work in California’s Bay Area. His favorite NYIT memory? Building an electric car out of a Chevy Corvair with his classmates.

**LEIGH OVERLAND (B.ARCH. '76)** is the owner of Leigh Overland Architect LLC in Danbury, Conn. [ldoverland.com](http://ldoverland.com)

After 38 years of service, **PASQUALE “PAT” TAMBURRINO (B.S. '77)** retired from the U.S. Department of Defense. Most recently, he served as the agency’s chief human capital

ALUMNI

## SPOTLIGHT

officer. For his service, Pat was recognized by President Barack Obama and President George W. Bush. He now works for non-profit strategic consulting firm the Logistics Management Institute as vice president for health policy and analysis.

**STUART NAROFSKY (B.ARCH. '78)** is principal of Narofsky Architecture in Long Island City, N.Y. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at NYIT.

**WILLIAM ROONEY (B.S. '78)** is a software architect working in IBM's z/OS development organization. Rooney is also a member of the IBM Academy of Technology and was named an IBM Master Inventor. His favorite NYIT memory involves serving in the student chapter for the Association for Computing Machinery. "The chapter organized a bus trip to the IBM Poughkeepsie site where we viewed their manufacturing line and had an opportunity to speak to some of the people working there," he recalls. "It had never occurred to me that a couple of years later, I would be working for IBM at that very site."



Photo courtesy of Bill Zarella

**BILL ZARELLA (B.S. '78)** (pictured) is chief financial officer for Fitbit, a health and fitness tech company. "NYIT is where it all started," he says. "My degree in accounting gave me a solid foundation to launch my business career and has served me well over the years." He and his wife, Nancy, have two sons and enjoy life in California, taking the occasional weekend excursion to Napa Valley (see p. 6).

A color photograph of Mikah Sellers, a man with short brown hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt with the words "TOWNSEND" and "RS" printed on it. The background is a wooden wall with the word "Grafik" partially visible in large letters.

## Mikah Sellers

(M.B.A. '05, M.A. '07)

Courtesy of Mikah Sellers

**I** AM RELIGIOUS ABOUT KEEPING UP WITH TRENDS IN THE INDUSTRY," says **Mikah Sellers**. As chief digital officer at Grafik, one of Washington, D.C.'s premier marketing and advertising firms, he needs to be. Since 2013, Sellers has been responsible for creating innovative digital marketing for Grafik's wide range of clients, including Honda and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Thinking creatively and problem-solving for wildly different needs means he needs to be on top of his game at all times. Sellers participates in professional development workshops and stays current on industry trends. "I probably dedicate at least six to eight hours to industry reading on a weekly basis," he says.

His dedication to learning is nothing new. He has four graduate degrees and plans to start on a fifth. Two of those degrees, an M.A. in Communication Arts and an M.B.A., were earned at NYIT. There, Sellers developed left and right brain thinking, thanks in part to the differences between the two programs. "I came out a much more well-rounded thinker," he says. "I gained a lot of the analytical skills I needed through the M.B.A. program. As I transitioned in the M.A. program, I rounded skills like my creative writing and my ability to look at the problems through a human-centered lens."

Sellers's years in the military also fostered his commitment to discipline, integrity, and training. "One of my old chiefs in the Navy used to say, 'If you don't sharpen the sword daily, it gets dull and it will no longer be valuable.'" In his industry—one that is evolving at an exponential rate—a strong foundation and the right degrees are just as essential as staying flexible and learning new things. "Being a comprehensive marketer and thinking like a product developer is more important than ever," he says. "We've seen an explosion of marketing technology in the past five years ... With the emergence of social networks, what used to be a one-way conversation has become a two-way conversation."

In addition to finding new ways to engage consumers at Grafik, Sellers also serves as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, mentoring the next generation of digital marketers. "If I do a great job as an educator, I can have a huge impact on that student, and downstream, that student can have a huge impact on others." Sellers further maximizes his sphere of influence by assisting new businesses, and startups. To choose his projects, he follows a simple formula. "Fundamentally I am a geek. I love technology and I love solving complicated problems. For me it comes down to this: Am I solving a problem that has scale? I want to make a positive impact for the largest possible number of people." ■



**KATHIE MCHUGH PIELOCH (B.F.A. '79)** is a producer for Cablevision on Long Island and has worked as a freelance voice actor for over 30 years.

## 1980s

**JOHN TONNESEN (B.S. '81)** was inducted into the 25-Year Club at *Staten Island Advance*, where he works as an account executive for the paper's advertising department.

**RAYMOND P. VANVOORHIS (B.ARCH. '81)** is a partner with Liscum McCormack VanVoorhis LLP, an architectural firm in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Last June, he served as co-chair of the Annual Golf Classic for Orange Regional Medical Center to help improve cancer care services and finance the construction of a comprehensive cancer center.

**ROY GOTTLIEB (D.O. '82)** co-authored the article "Sinus Venosus ASD With Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return" in the June 2015 issue of *Diagnostic Imaging* with his son, Joshua (a third-year student at NYITCOM). "I am grateful to [NYITCOM] for giving me the opportunity to practice medicine and can truly say I have enjoyed

my career as a practicing physician," he says. Gottlieb works as medical director at Rolling Oaks Radiology in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

**CHARLES SCHAFER (B.S. '82)** retired from Revolution Lighting Technologies as its president and chief financial officer. His previous positions included serving as president and executive vice president for Loral Defense Systems, president of Tactical Defense Systems for Lockheed Martin, and president of the Products Group at L-3 Communications.

**JOHN V. SULLIVAN (B.S. '82)** is included in *Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide Edition* for his work in the field of information technology.

**JAMES CLOUDMAN (B.S. '83)** was promoted to senior vice president-special assets at Suffolk County National Bank.

**KENNETH STEIER (D.O. '83)** joined the board of directors for the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation. He serves as dean of the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine-Middletown Campus. "My NYIT degree was a great steppingstone to my residency in internal medicine and fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine," Steier says. As a proud alumnus, he regularly participates in NYITCOM events, including the white coat ceremony, commencement, and career fairs.

## YOUNG ALUMNI REUNITE IN THE SKY

ON AUG. 21, alumni representing the Classes of 2005–2015 reunited for the annual Young Alumni Reception at the Sky Room Rooftop Lounge in New York City. The evening celebrated the Bears of the Last Decade (BOLD) and welcomed the Class of 2015 to the NYIT Alumni Federation. Fine more alumni events online. ■

[nyit.edu/alumni/events](http://nyit.edu/alumni/events)

(pictured left to right) Larry Kamguia Kenmogne (M.A.'13), Siddhant Kulkarni (B.S. '15), Christopher Frumusa (B.S. '14), Calvin Xu (B.S. '12), Parisa Ooriel (B.F.A. '15), and Ashley Cuoco (B.F. A. '15).

**KAREN SMITH PAVONE (B.F.A. '84, M.A. '86)** and husband **RICHARD (B.S. '83)** celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary in 2015. They, as well as their two adult children, live near Denver.

**ALLAN ALTHOLZ (M.B.A. '85)** is director of marketing and communications at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

**ANITA KONFEDERAK (B.ARCH. '85)** is a vice president of Merritt Engineering Consultants PC in New York City. In 2013, Sokol Media named her among the Top Women in Real Estate.

**MATT SCZESNY (B.F.A. '85)** joined KMOV Channel 4 as co-anchor of *News 4 St. Louis Weekends*. During the week, you can find him on *News 4* as a general assignment reporter.

**DENISE BERGER (B.ARCH. '86)** is assistant chief engineer of engineering operations for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Engineering Department. In May 2015, the Architecture Construction Engineering Mentor Program of Greater New York honored her with a Public Sector Leadership and Professional Achievement Award. Berger also earned the 2015 Women of Achievement Leadership Award from the National Association of Professional Women in Construction.

ALUMNI  
**SPOTLIGHT**

Aria Health, a health care provider in Pennsylvania, promoted **DAVID SIRKEN (D.O. '87)** to stroke program director of the Aria Institute for Neurosciences.

**LISA CHARBONNEAU (D.O. '88)** is chief medical officer for HealthSouth Corporation in Birmingham, Ala., where she oversees the company's 109 inpatient rehabilitation hospitals throughout the U.S.

In April 2015, **PAUL DOHERTY (B.S. '89)** was chosen as a delegate for the U.S. Presidential Trade Mission on Smart Cities to China. Joined by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Sue Pritzker, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, and U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus, he met with top Chinese government officials in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

**DENNIS DOWLING (D.O. '89)** received the Andrew Taylor Still Medallion of Honor, the highest honor awarded by the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO). Dowling is also a fellow of AAO. Dowling studied alongside one of the founders of NYITCOM: the late Stanley Schiowitz, D.O. "Dr. Schiowitz always took time to show us something new," Dowling says. "He was my mentor and professor, later my boss and a colleague, and was one of the dearest friends and confidantes that I could ever have." Dowling is director of osteopathic manipulative services in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Nassau University Medical Center and director of osteopathic manipulative medicine assessment at the Clinical Skills Testing Center of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

Cybersecurity expert **THEODORE HENDERSON (M.B.A. '89)** launched a website to show how hackers infiltrate network systems and steal intellectual



## Frank Fortino (B.S. '87)

Ric Kallaher

**F**RANK FORTINO is founder and president of Metropolis Group, a building and construction company with offices in New York City. He is also a longtime supporter of NYIT and recently established the Fortino Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. Fortino spoke to *NYIT Magazine* about his path to success.

**BUILD YOURSELF A BETTER LIFE** My dad, an immigrant, came here to live a better life—to achieve. From the start, he believed in owning real estate; he bought property, but he also worked as a mason in construction. He was a very wise, hardworking man who expected nothing from anyone when he was making his way in society. He said, "You can have everything in life but that doesn't mean anything if you don't have your name. Your name is a bond, like a handshake. If you give your word and hold to it, people can trust you, a relationship develops."

**HARD WORK PAYS OFF** When I enrolled in NYIT School of Architecture and Design, I was working for architecture firm Emery Roth & Sons. I started as a draftsperson, and by the time I was 24, I was the head of code and zoning, coordinating all the approvals and permits for new constructions and renovations. During that time, I put myself through school and attended class at night. I had a wonderful experience at NYIT, and I earned my degree while working for a job that allowed me to shape the New York City skyline. When the market crashed in 1987/1988, I started my own company. My wife had an excellent job, and she gave me a year to build my business. Now, 28 years later, Metropolis Group has 84 employees and fills a niche in construction, architecture, and engineering. Our offices are across from the World Trade Center. With my background in architecture and construction management, it has been wonderful to watch the birth of such an iconic site.

**STAY CREATIVE; STAY POSITIVE** You can influence the outcome of everything with positivity and creativity and by holding on to the idea that nothing is impossible. One of my favorite projects was combining the tall modern Palace Hotel (which my former employer Roth created) with the landmarked Villard Houses on Madison Avenue to develop a new building. It took nearly five years to complete all the phases of the project—but we did it.

**GIVE BACK** I have three children, all college graduates with great jobs. My wife and I are very proud. Our philosophy is: The most important thing you can do is to give back to kids. I wouldn't be here if I hadn't had an education at NYIT. My wife and I established our NYIT scholarship and joined the Friends of the NYIT School of Architecture and Design to express our gratitude and help others. ■

property, customer data, employee info, and financial resources. He is also the author of *30 Smart Ways to Protect Yourself from Cyber Criminals* and *9 Simple Strategies to Becoming a Strong Leader*.

[SocialMediaAndCyberSecurity.com](http://SocialMediaAndCyberSecurity.com)

**CLAUDIA MCCARTY (D.O. '89)** was re-elected to the Board of Governors of the American Academy of Osteopathy. Now retired, she chairs the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and was a professor at NYITCOM.

## 1990s

At the New York ASIS 25th New York Security Conference and Expo, **GEORGE W. ANDERSON (M.S. '90)** received the ASIS New York City chapter's Eugene J. Casey Award for Service. He serves as vice

president of operations for AlliedBarton Security Services.

**ANTHONY DUPREE (B.F.A. '90)** joined Novitex, a cloud-based solutions provider, as chief information security officer. Previously, he served as senior director of technical security standards and risk assessment at McGraw-Hill Education.

Earlier this year, **CHARLES GASSLER (B.S. '91)** and **JOHN O'ROURKE (B.S. '91)** celebrated 17 years of Gassler & O'Rourke PC in Great Neck, N.Y., a firm specializing in personal injury law. Gassler played baseball for the Bears under Coach Bob Hirschfield and was a sports reporter for *The Campus Slate*. "At NYIT, I learned the value of hard work and was mentally prepared for the commitment necessary to succeed in law school," he says.

[gasslerorourke.com](http://gasslerorourke.com)



Russ Knights

**CHRISTINE L. KNIGHTS (M.S. '91)** (pictured) is a freelance copy editor for Baen Books in Wake Forest, N.C.

**ANDREW LABETTI (B.P.S. '91)** is general manager of the Embassy Suites Baltimore-Inner Harbor.

A member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, **HEMANT VORA (M.S. '92)** works with the Smart Village program in India. He coordinates volunteers, students, and nonprofits to improve energy production in rural areas,



### SCALA GALA

NYIT SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN held its second Scala Gala at the famed Knoll Showroom in Midtown Manhattan (pictured left). The reception celebrated the Class of 2015 and welcomed them into the alumni community. The new graduates join a strong network: Alumni work in prestigious architecture and design firms around the world, and NYIT alumni comprise the largest network of licensed architects in New York. The event was hosted by Dean Judith DiMaio, the Alumni Relations Committee, and the Friends of the School of Architecture and Design. ■

**For more events, visit [nyit.edu/architecture/events](http://nyit.edu/architecture/events).**

ALUMNI

## SPOTLIGHT

which helps facilitate access to clean water, improved sanitation, and better nutrition.

**WILLIAM MANDARA (B.S. '94)** was promoted to principal at Mancini Duffy, an architecture and design firm in New York City.

Haitian native and attorney **ANDRE PIERRE (B.T. '94)** is mayor of North Miami, Fla. He co-chairs the U.S. Conference of Mayors Immigration Task Force Committee.

**WING YU (B.T. '94)** was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the New York Army National Guard.

**MARC SCHECHTER (D.O. '96)** is director of the Department of Family Medicine at Plainview Hospital (N.Y.) and chief of the Division of Family Medicine for ProHealth Care Associates LLP in Lake Success, N.Y. Schechter is also an adjunct clinical assistant professor at NYITCOM.

**ELDON W. SMITH (B.S. '96)** was promoted to partner at WFC Architects in Setauket, N.Y. He joined the firm in 1999.



Courtesy of Kraig Kalashian

**KRAIG KALASHIAN (B.ARCH. '97)** (pictured) is the principal at Kraig Kalashian Architecture & Design in Chester, N.J. His firm's renovation of the historic Q+C Hotel/Bar in New Orleans earned recognition from *Hospitality Magazine*, *Boutique Design*, and *The Times-Picayune*. Kalashian credits NYIT for laying the foundations of his success. "I liked the idea that I could get different experiences on different campuses," he says, adding that



## Indera Rampal-Harrod

(B.S. '95, M.S. '97, M.S. '00)

Christopher Appold

**A**T AN NYIT ALUMNI EVENT this past spring, **Indera Rampal-Harrod** joined her mentor and former NYIT professor Richard E. Dibble, Ph.D., onstage to receive a leadership award for her support of NYIT's Center for Human Resource Studies and her dedication to the profession. The evening celebrated all that Rampal-Harrod has contributed to the school—with degrees in computer science, human resource management, and instructional technology, she is an NYIT triple threat. It also marked a transition in her own career.

After holding high-level positions at several Fortune 500 companies, including as director of Human Resources Global Business Partner at American Express, Rampal-Harrod chose to leave the corporate world to work as the chief human resources officer for Gersh Academy, a company that runs schools for students with autism.

Moving from a company with 80,000 employees to one with 200 employees allowed Rampal-Harrod "to be the chief architect in building an HR agenda" for the Gersh brand. Large companies already have their practices in place, says Rampal-Harrod, but with smaller businesses like Gersh, "I can demonstrate my operational skills, be practical and effective and that's exciting." In many ways, the move was a natural one. Throughout her career, Rampal-Harrod has been a champion of education. She explains, "My mother used to say, 'You don't need a boyfriend. Everything can be taken away from you except your education.'"

Rampal-Harrod followed her mother's advice and earned three degrees at NYIT. She also followed her heart: During her freshman year, she met her future husband, **Leon Harrod (A.O.S. '98, B.S. '01, M.S. '12)**. After graduating with a degree in computer science, Rampal-Harrod stayed on at NYIT and worked full-time as an assistant athletic director. While pursuing two master's degrees, she guaranteed her younger sister's undergraduate education so her parents could help her save for medical school, and managed to earn a Ph.D. in Organization and Management, specializing in Human Resources, at Capella University. Rampal-Harrod says NYIT's human resources program is different from others because "the instructors have an affinity to the program and to Dr. Dibble. They come back and teach, and that makes the quality and the approach more holistic."

Dibble is chairman of NYIT's School of Management Center for Human Resource Studies and the director of the Center for Labor and Industrial Relations. When he asked her to teach at the graduate level at NYIT, it was a sweet homecoming. "Going through Dr. Dibble's program, learning the importance of HR, and seeing how passionate Dr. Dibble was about his work made me want to become an expert." ■

long nights in the NYIT architecture studio “definitely solidified my work ethic and passion for the profession.” [kalashian.com](http://kalashian.com)

## 2000s

**ROBERT AGNELLO (D.O. '01)** is primary care advisor for the Interdisciplinary Pain Management Center at Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C. He is also a board member of the North Carolina Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. He and wife **KERRY (D.O. '02)** have a daughter, Claire, and serve as adjunct professors at the Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

**GEORGE PETRAKIDES (M.B.A. '02)** oversees Microsoft's mobile and cloud computing initiatives in Cyprus and Malta as country manager.

**BRIAN McDERMOTT (D.O. '04)** was appointed to senior vice president, clinical integration, at Glens Falls Hospital in New York.

**DENZIE STEPHENSON MILLER (M.A. '04)** is general manager of Business Access TV in Kingston, Jamaica.

**VIRGINIA GREEN (M.B.A. '05)** serves as director of the Claremont Core at Claremont Lincoln University, overseeing changes to the curriculum in an effort to promote collaboration and open dialogue.

**KURT WRIGHT (B.F.A. '05)** conducted a seminar on screenwriting at the Greater August Town Film Festival in his home country of Jamaica.

For his contributions to the field of mobile workforce optimization, **DAVID COSTA (M.B.A. '06)** was named a Professional of the Year Member by the National Association of Distinguished Professionals. He serves as regional vice president of business development for Boston-based Motus LLC.

Select Energy Services LLC, a water management solutions provider to the oil and gas industry, appointed **GARY GILLETTE (M.B.A. '06)** to senior vice president and chief financial officer in its Gainesville, Texas, headquarters. He brings more than 30 years of experience and previously fulfilled the same roles for Allied Oil and Gas Services LLC.

**JENNIFER L. ROMAN (D.O. '06)** serves as medical examiner for Orange County, N.Y. She has worked for the county since 2012 and completed her fellowship in 2011 at the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

**SCOTT TREIBER (M.B.A. '06)** joined Theorem Clinical Research, a global provider of clinical services, as executive vice president and general manager.

**JOSH ALLEN (M.B.A. '07)** was named a 2014 top regional business manager in the United States by California-based Raptor Pharmaceuticals.

**WAFA-AOUICHA BENGRA (M.S. '07)** is webmaster for digital communications and infrastructure at Mubadala, an investment and development company established by the Abu Dhabi government. She credits NYIT with opening her eyes to new perspectives and helping her understand how the digital world interacts and integrates with the business world. “The great professors at NYIT gave me confidence in my skills, future opportunities, and a rigorous knowledge base,” says Bengra.

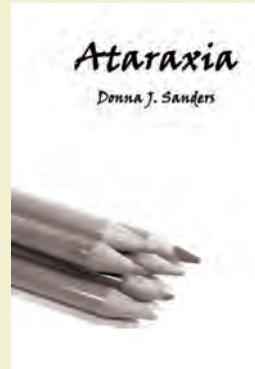
**ADAM J. DANN (D.O. '07)** of Scott Orthopedic Center in Huntington, W.Va., earned an American Osteopathic Association certification from the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery.

**CELESTE ROMAN (B.S. '07)** is a sales service executive for New York City-based Screenvision, a leader in cinema advertising with theatrical partners across the U.S.

**FRANK GRECO (M.S. '08)**, corporate chef for George Martin Restaurants, was profiled by *Long Island Pulse* in May and discussed his career, his NYIT education, and his recipe for creating high-end burger dishes. [bit.ly/Frank-Greco](http://bit.ly/Frank-Greco)

Rheumatologist **FARRAH GUTWEIN (D.O. '08)** joined Phelps Medical Associates of Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.

**ROB DALTON (M.A. '09)** is a real-time technology developer for CNBC's Digital Technology Division.



Courtesy of Donna J. Sanders

In March 2015, **DONNA J. SANDERS (B.A. '09)** published her first collection of poems, *Ataraxia*. [bit.ly/Donna-Sanders](http://bit.ly/Donna-Sanders)

## 2010s

**MEHERANGIZ TOHIMA BHUIYAN (B.F.A. '10)** joined AFD Contract Furniture in New York City where she designs corporate office spaces.

Shoe designer **CHARLINE (CARLOTTA) DE LUCA (B.ARCH. '10)** was ranked among the 100 Most Influential Players in the footwear industry by *Footwear News*. Her designs have been featured in *The New York Times* and are sold worldwide at high-end fashion stores and boutiques. [charlinedeluca.com](http://charlinedeluca.com)

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Courtesy of Allen Moy

You may see the work of **ALLEN MOY (B.F.A. '10)** (pictured) the next time you watch televised baseball. As graphics operator and technical director at Major League Baseball (MLB), he helps create the visuals for regular and post-season games, the MLB draft, and the All-Star Game pre-and post-game shows. He started his career at NYIT by handling web streams for the university's NCAA teams, interning at *LI News Tonight*, and writing for *The Campus Slate*. "Going to NYIT was the best decision I ever made," says Moy.

**MARISELA G. NUNEZ (B.S. '11)** works as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, where she teaches English in the community of Boca de Arenal.

Architect **PETER PITZER (B.ARCH. '11)** was named one of the Top 20 Under 40 by the International Council of Shopping Centers. He currently works as a designer at Street-Works Studio in Port Chester, N.Y. His clients have included Nike, Express, Adidas, Reebok, Kenneth Cole, Brooks Brothers, Kay Jewelers, and more. "I also just got engaged to the greatest little lady a man could ask for," he adds.

**TYLER ALTEN (M.S. '12)** joined the Viking Group as vice president of Viking Developers, the real estate development and management arm of the Hastings, Mich.-based company.

After more than eight years helping students at NYIT's Office of Career Services, **CAREN SOBIER (M.S. '12)** moved to Washington, D.C., where she serves as associate director of student employment at Georgetown University.

Architecture and design firm Rice Fergus Miller of Bremerton, Wash., hired **SEAN MOYANO (B.ARCH. '13)** as a designer in its hospitality and community studios.

**JOHN SANTAMARIA (B.F.A. '13, M.A. '14)** joined Major League Baseball Advanced Media as associate production assistant. "My NYIT degree was a steppingstone to where I am now," he says. "I wouldn't be working in the field without all the guidance I received in and out of the classroom."

## Passings

**SALVATORE ACCARDI (B.S. '78)**

**RICHARD O'NEILL (B.S. '79)**

**VINCENT SOROKO (B.T. '84)**

**WILLIAM HANNAN (B.S. '86)**

**SOL GOLDSTEIN (M.S. '91)**

**STEPHEN BLANK** (professor of electrical engineering)



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NYIT Magazine welcomes submissions, story ideas, and feedback. 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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ALUMNI NOTES

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OR [MAGAZINE@NYIT.EDU](mailto:MAGAZINE@NYIT.EDU).





ALUMNI

## SPOTLIGHT

# Jill Wruble

(D.O. '87)

**J**ILL WRUBLE, D.O., has many stories to tell. She is a radiologist, a former U.S. Army major, a faculty member at two medical schools, a mother, an endurance athlete, and a guitarist. Three years ago, Wruble started a new story. She became concerned with the explosion of “incidentalomas”—abnormalities that appear on tests ordered for a different purpose and which trigger a cascade of additional medical testing. “This phenomenon yields not only unnecessary patient anxiety but also extraordinary and disproportionate expense,” Wruble explains. “Less than 1 percent of these abnormalities are significant, but overall, pursuing them is harmful and very costly.” Those costs add up: to more than \$200 billion a year.

Wruble examined her files and realized she had “amazing examples of pathology and over-intervention.” She started reading everything she could on the subject and then enrolled in courses in related topics such as bioethics, probability and statistics, critical thinking, and philosophy. While the subjects were fascinating, finding a way to educate physicians and the public about the problem proved to be a challenge. “Lectures at radiology conferences can be extremely dry,” she says. “So among other things, I set out to study the art of storytelling.”

After moderating a panel on incidentalomas in Washington D.C., she gave a TEDx talk at the University of Pennsylvania. Her goal was to “open minds and change instinctive responses when patients and physicians are confronted with incidental test findings.” The 14.5-minute presentation took enormous effort to prepare. “Distilling it into something that succinct was so hard,” she says. “The challenge was figuring out how to weave difficult content into an engrossing narrative.”

Wruble’s own mind was set on medicine from an early age. Her father is a D.O., and she was drawn to osteopathic medicine’s holistic approach. “In high school, I became interested in nutrition, wellness, and fitness,” she says. After graduating from Williams College, she attended NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine. Like her father, Wruble served in the U.S. Army Medical Corp and had a hardship deployment in Korea. “I have a huge regard for the military,” she says. “I worked with extraordinary, selfless, brave people who wanted to help others. It shaped me.”

Today, Wruble is a radiologist at the Veterans Medical Center in West Haven, Conn., and a faculty member at Yale Medical School and University of Connecticut Medical School. She continues to study incidentalomas and how best to develop standards for additional testing. Equally important to her is writing memorial biographies for Williams College classmates who have passed away. She says, “No matter how great or small their résumés might seem, everyone has a story.”

Watch Wruble’s TEDx talk at [bit.ly/Jill-Wruble](http://bit.ly/Jill-Wruble). ■

(above left) A still from Wruble's talk. Image source: TEDxPenn. 2015. (above right) Courtesy of Jill Wruble

### WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Want more great news between issues of *NYIT Magazine*? *The Box*, NYIT’s blog, features all the latest campus news. Find out about events for alumni; view photo galleries and watch videos; and read feature content about students,

alumni, and NYIT initiatives.  
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