



NYIT

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NYIT

MAGAZINE

WINTER
2017

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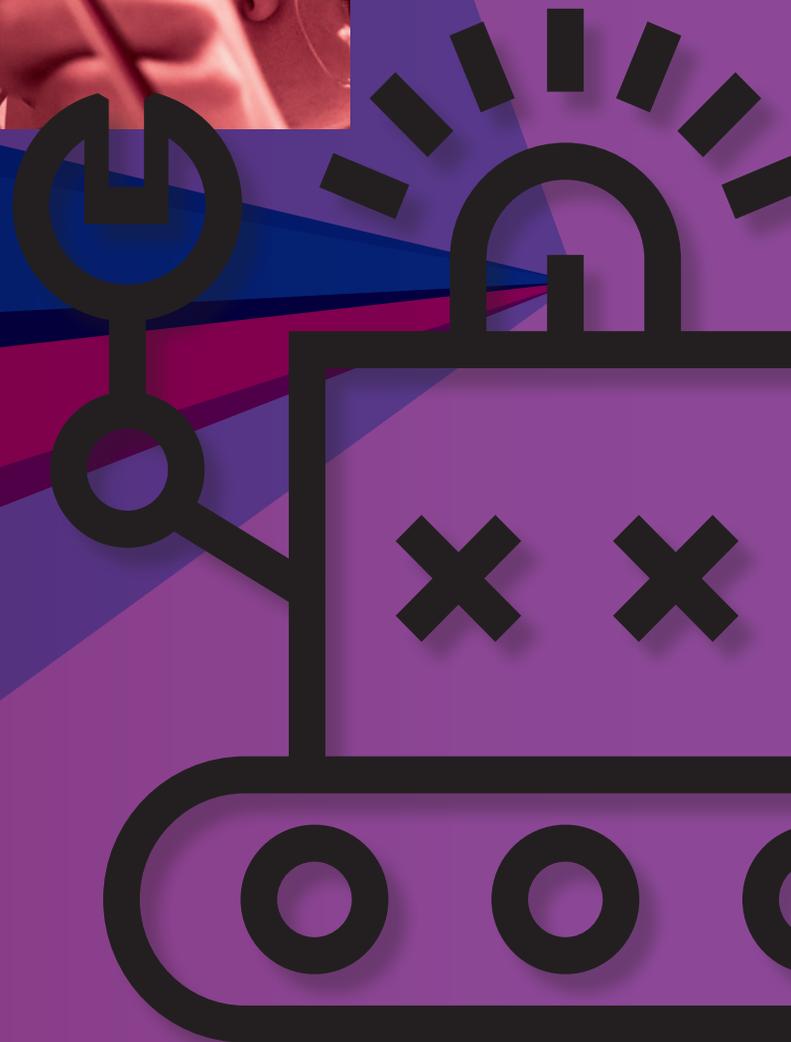
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Like what you see? Share your ideas, updates, and feedback at nyit.edu/alumni_notes and connect at [@NYITalumni](https://twitter.com/NYITalumni), facebook.com/mynyt, and nyit.edu/linkedin.



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Moving Our Mission Forward

“Building robust faculty, student, and alumni engagement across our global communities is vital, as is ensuring that NYIT students graduate with meaningful, real-world experiences that benefit them in a competitive job market.”

Alexander Berg



THIS YEAR PROMISES NEW OPPORTUNITIES for all of us at NYIT to collaborate and innovate. I am honored to serve as the university’s interim president and would like to thank the NYIT Board of Trustees and Chair Kevin Silva for entrusting me with this great responsibility as NYIT searches for its next president.

On behalf of our diverse community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni, I would also like to thank Dr. Edward Guiliano for his more than four decades of dedication and service, including 17 years as president of NYIT, where he established new standards of academic excellence and distinction. As Dr. Guiliano has said, NYIT is well positioned to meet the demands of the future; Our DNA is in tune with the times, and our depth and breadth of programs, as well as our diversity of talent, continue to grow.

As interim president, I plan to focus on alumni engagement, establish and facilitate more opportunities for our faculty and students’ scholarship, and expand on the quality of education we provide at NYIT. Establishing a strong and robust faculty, student, and alumni network across our global communities is vital, as is ensuring that NYIT students graduate with meaningful, real-world experiences that benefit them in a competitive job market.

Likewise, I remain committed to forwarding NYIT’s mission and building our reputation, which continues to grow with each new incoming and graduating class. I will establish new communications channels so that I can share information with you and others about what is happening in our classrooms, labs, playing fields, and event spaces, as well as updates on the successes and achievements of our alumni around the world.

Also on my list of priorities are improving our recruitment and retention initiatives, enhancing our ability to respond to student needs, and refining our customer service models. In addition, I will work with the Office of Development to boost fundraising initiatives that benefit NYIT’s students, faculty members, and campus facilities.

I am very excited to carry on NYIT’s legacy of empowering students around the globe. And I welcome ideas from you, our distinguished alumni, on ways we can ensure that NYIT continues to offer a world-class education, build upon our collective strengths, and give students every opportunity to fulfill their professional and academic goals. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and having the opportunity to meet with you.

Best regards,
Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D.
NYIT Interim President

Winning By a Thread



FOLLOWING A DAY of intense action, NYIT students edged out tough competition and emerged as champions. It sounds like the set up for a hackathon or a sports victory, but the students are interior designers and the competition was the prestigious Imagining Textiles 2016 Student Design Challenge.

Sponsored by home furnishings manufacturer Kravet and the American Society of Interior Designers, the competition paired each team, comprising students from the New York metropolitan area, with a design mentor. The teams were challenged to create a textile based on an assigned country and its culture (in this case Armenia, Bali, France, Ghana, India, and Uzbekistan).

The winning team, which included NYIT interior design students Victoria Rouse, Destiny Bates, and John Sanchez (who also received a 2016 Angelo Donghia

Foundation scholarship), was assigned India. "India's textiles are largely based on embroidery, which is a hand-stitched embellishment. My teammates and I were fascinated by this and used it to inspire our design," said Bates. Their goal was to create an abstract version of stitches and thread.

The teams had just one day to complete the challenge. "Within a day, we went from creating a sketch to turning it into an AutoCAD (computer-aided design software) line drawing, developing it into a Photoshop version, and presenting our final design," said Bates.

Following the competition, the winning design was reproduced by Kravet and upholstered on a chair. The winner was revealed at a special event two weeks later. The NYIT students were thrilled with the result of the final piece of furniture and even more excited

that their design won first place. "When the chair was revealed, we were shocked and amazed that we won," said Rouse. "We worked extremely hard during such an intense competition ... Everybody did an amazing job."

The chair will be on display in the Kravet showroom at the New York Design Center (one of the interior design industry's premier resources) until spring when it will be auctioned off for charity to benefit the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club. "Knowing that is even more rewarding than winning the competition," said Rouse.

"The Kravet textile challenge provided a wonderful opportunity for students on so many levels," said Martha Siegel, associate professor and chair of Interior Design. "It reinforced their understanding of textiles and their use as upholstery fabric, how concept drives a design, and the importance of pattern repeat and scale. It gave them the opportunity to work in teams, network with students from other schools, and meet professionals who served as mentors." ■



See more images:
bit.ly/Kravet-2016

Above left: Students Victoria Rouse and Destiny Bates in front of the team's design board.

Above right: A chair upholstered with the textile.

Buzzland

The ETIC becomes a certified incubator for startups, NYIT-Vancouver welcomes a new dean, and print is far from dead at NYIT-Manhattan. Read up on the latest news below and find more great stories at nyit.edu/box.

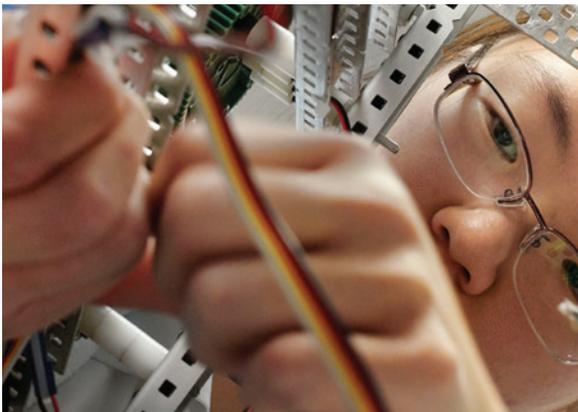
Wu Ming Hong



AN ART INSTALLATION TAKES FLIGHT: Yuko Oda (pictured), associate professor at NYIT College of Arts and Sciences, presented her digital sculptural installation, “The Unbearable Lightness and Heaviness of Being,” at SIGGRAPH Asia 2016, an annual conference on computer graphics and interactive techniques.

bit.ly/Oda-Siggraph

Martin Seck



BUSINESS INCUBATION: NYIT’s Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center received New York state designation as a certified incubator, which includes a \$625,000 award by the Empire State Development Corp. The \$125,000-per-year grant will provide support over the next five years for startup businesses.

bit.ly/ETIC-Grant



Bailey Wolff

CABINET SECRETARY VISITS SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT: In October, Maria Contreras-Sweet, at the time cabinet secretary and administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), visited the School of Management Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. The visit was coordinated in partnership with Vanguard Consulting Group, a venture-in-residence firm at the school’s small business incubator on the Manhattan campus that supports activities at the center by mentoring students, offering internships, and working with faculty members.

bit.ly/Maria-Contreras-Sweet



Randall Lee

NEW MEDICAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM: NYITCOM at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro (A-State) has received a \$200,000 grant from the Delta Regional Authority to extend medical education in northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri Delta regions. The program will create approximately 30 new residency slots and 10 new generalist physicians in the region annually.

bit.ly/Ark-Consortium

FACULTY FORWARD: NYIT faculty members are always in pursuit of the next major breakthrough in their fields of expertise. Read up on recent news and accomplishments, including how faculty members are examining affordable housing in New York City, teaching professors to be better teachers, helping people with Parkinson's, creating food gardens in iconic urban locations, using technology in online health education, examining investor psychological ownership, and more.



bit.ly/faculty-news-2016



WEARABLES FOR ELDER CARE: Today's 20-something tech wizards may not be thinking about getting old—but they might want to start, or so advises Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., NYIT interim president, provost, and vice president for Academic Affairs. In an article in *TechCrunch*, he notes that seniors represent a huge untapped market for tech companies and that wearable devices that foster healthy aging and independent living will soon fill seniors' wardrobes.



bit.ly/TechCrunch-Wearables



START THE PRESSES: In this digital age, it's rare to hear about a newspaper startup, but that's just what a group of NYIT students launched in the fall. The *Manhattan Globe* debuted on October 17, 2016, and serves NYIT-Manhattan. (The previous paper, *The Chronicle*, ceased publication in 2010.) The paper is produced in Adjunct Assistant Professor Larry Jaffee's Newspaper Lab course, and is co-edited by students Nicole Pereira and Marita Williams.



bit.ly/ManhattanGlobe



VANCOUVER LEADERSHIP: NYIT welcomed Irene Young as the new dean and executive director of NYIT-Vancouver. A longtime administrator in educational institutions in the Vancouver area, Young comes to NYIT from Vancouver Community College (VCC), where she served as vice president for strategic partnerships and vice president for administration/chief financial officer.



bit.ly/Irene-Young

NYIT Recognized for Worldwide Engagement

ACCORDING TO NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 1,043,839 international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities contributed \$32.8 billion and supported more than 400,000 jobs to the U.S. economy during the 2015–2016 academic year. Only 1.5 percent of all U.S. college students earn academic credit abroad. Those numbers have real impact.

At NYIT, internationalization is part of our DNA: At least 20 percent of the total student body is from outside the U.S., and the university offers numerous opportunities to explore the unfamiliar and develop a global perspective. And when it comes to the economic impact of international students, NYIT's New York campuses rank among the top 10 in the state, with a contribution of \$122 million supporting 765 jobs.

Last November, NAFSA hosted Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., then president of NYIT; Amy Bravo, senior director of International and Experiential Education; Emily Zyko Rukobo, executive director of NYIT Global Engagement; Maria R. Perbellini, dean of NYIT School of Architecture and Design; and Julie Fratrick, director of the Center for Global Exchange, along with representatives of other winning institutions, at a ceremony honoring the 2016 Senator Paul Simon Award winners. The event marked the culmination of several months of awareness-building about the values represented by NAFSA, a nonprofit devoted to student and scholar exchange across nations and global perspectives in higher education.

NAFSA's Simon Award highlights NYIT as a model of comprehensive internationalization, which reflects university stakeholders' commitment to educating students for an increasingly integrated world economy. An annual report from NAFSA features NYIT and the other 2016 Simon Award winners. The report will serve as a

blueprint of sorts for other institutions to follow.

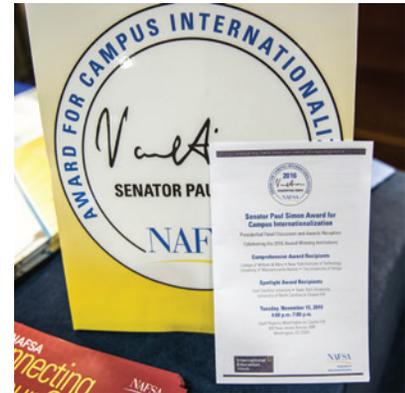
Even among Simon Award winners, NYIT is unique for the broad interest in international engagement shown by faculty and staff members and students throughout the last decade. Faculty members such as Scott Liu and Babak Beheshti have traveled abroad to teach NYIT students in countries outside the U.S. Others take students with them: For example, Matthias Altwicker, Carol Dahir, Zehra Ahmed, Raed El Zenaty, and Alan Fairbairn—to name just a few—have undertaken demanding educational trips to locales as diverse as El Salvador, Turkey, and Germany (not to mention New York, for students from non-U.S. campuses). NYIT administrators like Patricia Burlaud, Nichole Paris, Barbara Multari, and Taha Al-Douri overcome jet lag and occasional culture gaps to keep our New York campuses closely linked to international students and to partners around the world. And then there are the intrepid students who travel on their own, with a little help from NYIT, such

as **CALVIN XU (B.S. '12)**. These global citizens attend international conferences, carry out clinical rotations, conduct research, or spend a semester abroad.

Interim President Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., notes that the effect of internationalization is powerful. "All you need is one faculty member or one class, and it will change their minds completely, on both sides," he said. ■



Read the NAFSA report:
bit.ly/NAFSA-2016



Len Spoden



Martin Seck

Familiar Faces Show Off NYIT



Courtesy of C&M

AS NEW YORK CITY RETAILERS revealed their traditional holiday window displays, NYIT unveiled its own window treatments at the Edward Guiliano Global Center on the Manhattan campus in early December. The brightly colored advertisements adorning the library windows feature images of NYIT students representing the university's academic and research strengths.

"Where better to share our students' success stories than on one of the world's most heavily trafficked streets in a city that welcomes some 60 million visitors a year?" said Vice President for Communications and Marketing Nancy Donner. "We're leveraging the space our own real estate gives us—for free!—to build awareness, reputation, and engagement."

The window displays are just part of NYIT's new integrated advertising campaign, created by the New York City-based Oberland agency.

Incorporating the tagline "The Future Is Ours," the campaign highlights members of the NYIT community who are coding, designing, prototyping, diagnosing, treating, and shaping the future of humanity. The window, print, bus, and other "static" advertisements are punctuated by clever headlines focusing on the energy and purpose exemplified by NYIT's student body.

As the displays went up in Manhattan, NYIT shuttle buses were "wrapped" to feature similar ads in Old Westbury. New Yorkers may have also seen ads in bus shelters and newsstands around campus, as well as on a double-decker bus that traveled around town.

In addition, six new videos delve into the NYIT story by showcasing members of the community who embrace the power of technology in the 21st century.

- **"Designed for Humans: Resilient Architecture"** focuses on students and faculty members' green solutions to the challenges of climate change.
- **"Defenders of Data: Cybersecurity for Smartphones"** explores how cybersecurity research at NYIT is breaking ground in the authentication of smartphone users.
- **"The Stomach Whisperers: Bioengineering Innovation"** showcases bioengineers at NYIT who are developing an implantable wireless system to study the body's gastric system.
- **"Movement of the People: Parkinson's Research"** gives an insider's look at how Parkinson's research at NYIT focuses on improving quality of life.
- **"Not Science Fiction: High-Tech Entrepreneurship"** reveals the most

important qualities an entrepreneur needs to succeed.

- **"Game Changing: Digital Design Meets Medicine"** shows how digital artists and medical students are using motion capture technology to improve athletes' performance.

More videos are in the works, along with related traditional, digital, and social media advertising.

"I'm blown away by the talent, focus, and determination of NYIT students," said Oberland co-founder Bill Oberlander, who spent two weeks on both New York campuses as students were filmed and photographed for the campaign. "The tagline of this campaign is 'The Future Is Ours,' and NYIT students reassure me that the future is in good hands." ■



Watch the Videos:
bit.ly/future-is-ours

Above: The window treatments at 1855 Broadway feature students and headlines that showcase NYIT's DNA.

In Health Professions, It's All About Teamwork



IT'S A SCENARIO that plays out every day: A student-athlete suffers a concussion during practice. After weeks of tests and therapy, she seems to be on the road to recovery. Then, some symptoms return. She wants to return to her sport, but when will she be allowed to—if at all? And what factors will impact the ultimate decision?

Students debated this topic at Consequences of the Unseen, an Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) case simulation. Representing every discipline within NYIT School of Health Professions and NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine, students played the parts of likely participants in the scenario, including student-athlete patient, nurse, physician, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and physician assistant. Together, they evaluated and came to a decision about the hypothetical patient's case.

"This year we were very pleased that students from all our undergraduate, graduate, medical, and online programs, as well as the athletic department participated," said Assistant Professor Lorraine Mongiello, who co-chaired the event with Assistant Professor Melanie Austin-McCain (B.S. '00). Now in its fourth year, the event, she added, "is designed to help students learn to communicate with patients, families, communities, and professionals in health care and other fields in a responsive and responsible manner."

The organizers upped the ante this year by incorporating video re-enactments, live improvisation, and audience polling into the event. The case study began with a video of a female soccer player sustaining a head injury at practice and her evaluation by an athletic trainer and coach, who recommended she go to

the hospital. The scene transitioned to the stage in Riland Auditorium where the students assumed their roles.

First, a simulated examination took place between the student-athlete and a nurse, then a physician assistant and osteopathic physician. Meanwhile, an intern (who knows the patient) was shown sending a text message to the patient's boyfriend, informing him that she is in the hospital; the act unknowingly breaches the patient's confidentiality. This added twist to the case study brought an ethical dilemma into question: Should the intern be terminated from her position? From her academic program? Both? Or would a verbal reprimand be enough?

After deciding that she should be terminated from both the clinical internship and academic program, the players resumed discussion about the student-athlete's condition and whether or not she was well enough to return to play.

Each discipline approached the case from their respective fields. After hearing arguments both for and against, the players decided the student-athlete should not return to play. The audience, pulled into the decision through a live poll, differed: They said she could return to her sport. (The audience also believed the intern should only be terminated from her internship.)

Exploring these kinds of scenarios and learning to work together is crucial for the future medical professionals. "We need to collaborate," said Jerry Balentine, D.O., vice president for medical affairs and global health, stressing that it is important that all of the health professions gain respect and an understanding for one another. "We all have one job. And that is to heal the patient. We can only do it together. We can't do it alone." ■



Students onstage in their various roles as part of Consequences of the Unseen, an Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) case simulation.

Courtesy of C&M

Faculty Spotlight: The Women of NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences

Encouraging women to pursue STEM-related fields is a priority for many institutes of higher learning. Through their research, work, and expertise, NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences' leadership and faculty members are setting an example for girls wishing to follow in their footsteps. Read about a few of them below and meet more online: nyit.edu/SoECS-Women.

① **Nada Anid, Ph.D.**, dean, along with co-editors Laurie Cantileno (B.S. '85), Monique J. Morrow, and Rahilla Zafar, published *The Internet of Women: Accelerating Culture Change*. In the book, they examine the important role women play in traditionally male-dominated STEM fields, as well as what it will take to change the culture and close the gender gap. Anid focuses on academia and says that colleges like NYIT are taking the lead by increasing awareness about engineering and changing perceptions of how engineers should look, speak, and think. bit.ly/InternetOfWomen

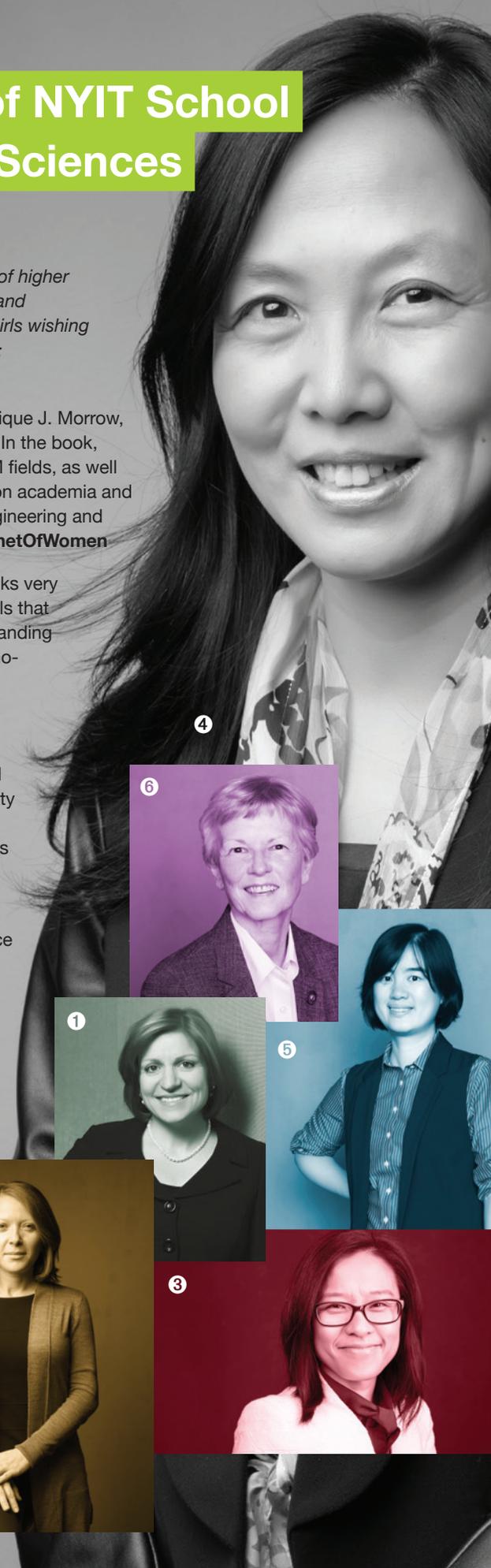
② **Dorinamaria Carka, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, thinks very small to get big results. She develops code to study smart, multifunctional materials that combine electric, magnetic, and mechanical properties on the nanoscale. Understanding the different ways these materials function is key when it comes to developing nano-engineered devices (or ultrasmall smart devices). bit.ly/D-Carka

③ **Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong, Ph.D.**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, will lead NYIT's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program for the fifth consecutive summer. Dong secured funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the program, which focuses on mobile device security and wireless networks, through 2019. The program also provides students with research opportunities they may not have at their current institutions and welcomes participants from under-represented groups. bit.ly/Z-Dong

Medical terminologies leave most of us hopelessly lost, but expert ④ **Huanying (Helen) Gu, Ph.D.**, associate professor of computer science, finds ways to enhance the usefulness of terminologies. In her current study, supported by the National Institutes of Health, Gu is researching biomedical terminologies to facilitate the usability, comprehensibility, visualization, and quality assurance of terminologies in the field. bit.ly/H-Gu

⑤ **Fang Li, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, has a way with sensors. Her research includes using cell-based biosensors to detect water toxicity, creating a device that harvests energy in wireless body area networks, and developing acoustic wave sensors for use in harsh environments. She also concluded a study, funded by the Department of Energy, on a self-powered, wireless sensor system for remotely monitoring the internal conditions of nuclear waste casks. bit.ly/F-Li

⑥ **Sarah Meyland, J.D.**, associate professor of environmental technology and sustainability, wants our water clean. The specialist in groundwater protection, water resources management, and environmental law researches innovative solutions, such as constructed wetlands, which mimic the functionality of natural ecosystems, but are flexible enough to work in urban areas. Meyland presented at NYIT's 2015 Sustainable Megacities conference in Beijing. bit.ly/S-Meyland ■



Women's Basketball Adds More Than Just Another Teammate

The NYIT women's basketball team added a new member at the start of its 2016-2017 campaign. With help from Team Impact—a Boston-based nonprofit organization with a mission to improve the quality of life for children facing chronic illnesses—Giovanna Veteri (pictured), or Gigi, as she likes to be called, joined the team at a special “Draft Day” held by the athletic department in November. At the event, she signed a National Letter of Intent and was officially added to the team's roster.



Veteri was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 4, and managing the disorder is never easy. Veteri and her family continue to work with medical professionals to find the right combination of diet and medication to limit the number of seizures she experiences. But despite some setbacks in recent months, the 14-year-old isn't letting epilepsy stop her from living out her dreams, or having fun.

“This very exceptional young lady is going to be a very important part of our team,” said Head Coach Ken Parham. And with all that Veteri has been through and continues to fight, she is an enormous inspiration to her new teammates.

Kristen Kelly, a junior on the women's squad and team ambassador of the program, says Gigi has already made a huge impact on the team. “Her positive energy and outlook on life has

made me really appreciate my health and being a college athlete,” Kelly said. “This has been a rewarding experience that we will always remember and be thankful for.”

NYIT women's hoops is the first team on campus that has been “matched” with a child through Team Impact, but likely not the last. To ensure the best possible outcomes, Team Impact puts tremendous effort into matching children with the right organizations and managing those relationships going forward.

“Talking to her parents and hearing about how much she looks forward to coming down to practices and games is awesome,” said Assistant Coach Dana Carney. “Not only are you helping out a kid who is going through some difficult times, but you're also teaching them about what it's like to be a part of a team. In return, they end up teaching you how

to get through difficult times and still live life with a smile.”

As an official member of the roster, Veteri warms up with the team on game days and often has inspiring words for them during halftime. She was also given her own personal locker, NYIT backpack, practice suit, and travel gear.

“She gives us a lot of advice and always tells us to get tough and just win—and she's right,” said senior captain Shannon Duer. “Seeing her passion and love for the game reminds us how blessed we are to have the opportunity to play on a college team.” ■



Learn more about Team Impact:
goteamimpact.org

Checking in with Duane Bailey

IN ONLY A LITTLE more than a year, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Duane Bailey has helped lead the way for 10 NYIT student-athletes being named player of the year (in their respective sports), four East Coast Conference Championship titles, seven NCAA Tournament appearances, and the addition of the first women's lacrosse program. *NYIT Magazine* caught up with Bailey to learn what else is underway.

Plans in the works: For year two, we are focusing on long-term growth and building the foundation so we can achieve our goal of being a perennial top 50 athletic program. We have added 18 fitness classes for our students on campus and through our partnership with New York Sports Club have continued to expand the fitness center in Old Westbury.

On increasing interest in athletics: Student groups are excited about the success of our varsity teams and have approached us about starting club sport teams (golf, e-sports, pingpong, rugby, etc.). There is still more work to be done, but we are definitely experiencing more and more interest from students.

Alumni impact: I have been meeting with numerous alumni and donors; it has significantly benefited our student-athletes—both from a financial standpoint as well as the mentoring aspect.

On being named the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Division II Administrator of the Year: This was absolutely attributable not just to the success of our programs on and off the field, but also to the overall growth of our department. It was an honor to be recognized by my



Duane Bailey at the 11th Annual Golf and Tennis Outing with Dina Simonian (women's soccer), Andrew Pereira (men's soccer), Erin Iankowicz (women's soccer), and Becky Syers (volleyball, B.S. '16).

peers for the hard work and success of our coaches, athletes, and administrators.

About that Red Bull addiction: I've actually moved away from caffeine altogether! Other than an occasional Pepsi, I haven't had any caffeine in 11 months. ■

Island Photography

Sports Briefs

IT'S A MATCH!

Women's volleyball won their first East Coast Conference (ECC) championship since 1990. In what was a nail-biter of a match, the Bears defeated the top-seeded Daemen College Wildcats in four sets (25-23, 25-21, 24-26, 25-20) on the Wildcat's home turf in November. bit.ly/volleyball-2016

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

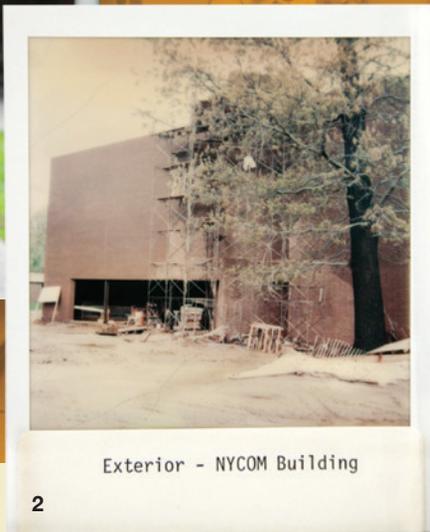
Save the date for the 12th Annual NYIT Athletics Golf Outing: July 10, 2017, at the Woodside Club in Muttontown, N.Y. Join us to celebrate the 2016-2017 athletic year and induct notable athletes into the NYIT Athletic Hall of Fame.

Courtesy of NYIT Athletics



Celebrating its 40th anniversary year, NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) has established itself as one of the nation's most respected schools of osteopathic medicine.

Four Decades Forward



1. Rockefeller Hall today... and 2. under construction in the 1970s.

3. & 4. Through osteopathic manual manipulation (OMM), D.O.s diagnose, treat, and prevent illness within the context of the whole body. Students and faculty members diagnose patients in the '80s and today.

5. Vintage medical equipment.

AS LOUISA SETHI traverses the country interviewing for pediatric residency programs, she has no trouble selling herself. The fourth-year medical student has packed as many experiences as possible into her education. She completed NYITCOM's Global Health Certificate program and traveled to Ghana to gain firsthand experience in third-world medicine through fieldwork and research. She also earned a master's degree in neuromusculoskeletal sciences through NYITCOM's unique Academic Medicine Scholars program—an additional year of academics, teaching, and research, which Sethi spent studying BRCA1 gene mutations.

Sethi (NYITCOM's 2016 Student D.O. of the Year) is clearly an exemplar, yet she insists she has only taken advantage of all that NYITCOM has to offer. "The school has so many opportunities that have enabled me to pursue my passions and dreams," she says.

The exceptional medical education Sethi has experienced, along with nearly

7,000-plus other NYITCOM alumni, has been four decades in the making, beginning with efforts in 1976 to bring osteopathic medical education and care to New York state and beyond. Since welcoming its first medical students in 1977, it has grown into a leader in medical education; it is one of the nation's largest and most competitive osteopathic medical schools, enrolling more than 400 students on two campuses. The school's alumni have become standouts in specialties including primary care, neurosurgery, neurology, pediatrics, orthopedic surgery, and health policy.

Test Subjects

In 1981, just over 30 students earned their D.O.s as part of the college's inaugural class. In 2016, the graduating class comprised nearly 300 members.

SCOTT FRIED (D.O. '81) was president of the inaugural class. He recalls the message being clear from the start: "The school was totally unproven so we had to be better than students from other places

because we would be establishing its reputation," he says. "It was exciting, but we were also guinea pigs a little bit."

To be sure, NYITCOM was evolving as the students progressed. That inaugural group attended basic science courses in off-campus classrooms and labs because the NYITCOM campus wasn't yet ready. The initial anatomy lab was outfitted in an empty barn structure on the Old Westbury campus.

"They were so worried about us being prepared that we didn't start clinical rotations until March," recalls **MAUD NERMAN (D.O. '81)** one of nine women in the first class. "The school was in the process of establishing clinical affiliations, and we had to find some of our own rotations."

"We had to do our own marketing," adds **JEFFREY GOLDBERG (D.O. '81)**.

"I remember hearing through back channels that there were places that D.O. students need not apply." Despite those challenges, or perhaps because of them, the students thrived. "People in

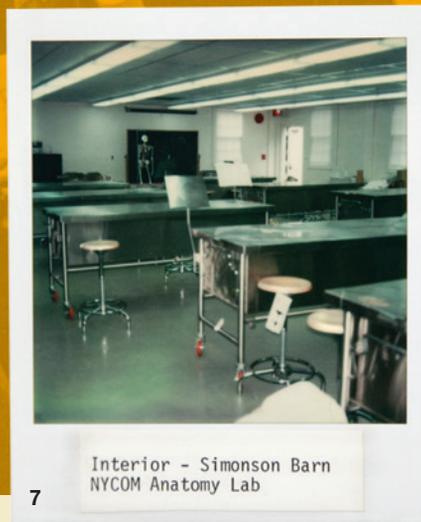
6. Abraham Jeger, Ph.D., with Claire Bryant, Ph.D., then assistant dean for Preclinical Education, serving as the Faculty Marshals at the 2007 NYITCOM hooding ceremony.

7. The original anatomy lab housed in Simonson on the Old Westbury campus.

8. Current Dean Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., with students.

9. New equipment in the Center for Sports Medicine.

10. The inaugural class at commencement.



Interior - Simonson Barn
NYITCOM Anatomy Lab



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the class were very bright and hard-working,” says Nerman, who earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford. “I got offered an internship everywhere I rotated.”

Nerman and Goldberg, who earned his undergraduate degree at Columbia, had both decided to apply only to osteopathic medical schools, which emphasize the importance of diagnosing, treating, and preventing illness within the context of the whole body, as well as the connection of the musculoskeletal system to disease through the use of osteopathic manual manipulation (OMM). At the time, osteopathic medicine was not well understood and sometimes viewed as “lesser” than M.D. programs. Still, that first class of graduates would go on to forge extraordinarily successful careers across a wide range of medical specialties. Nerman, who refers to herself as a “10-fingered osteopath,” is known for her work in manual medicine and expertise in cranial osteopathy. She lives and practices in California. Goldberg, a psychiatrist, is

chairman of behavioral health at Coney Island Hospital in New York City, and has served as chair of psychiatry and behavioral health at NYITCOM since 1997. Fried is an orthopedic surgeon in suburban Philadelphia who specializes in hand surgery and is one of only 20 surgeons nationally trained in brachial plexus injury. “I found coming out with an osteopathic education an advantage,” says Fried. “I felt very prepared and much more well-rounded than many of the people I was competing against.”

Case Study

NYITCOM is now such an established fixture in the tristate medical community and in medical education nationwide that it’s hard to believe how much the institution has grown in only 40 years.

The school’s contribution to medical education has been no less than “transformative,” says current Dean Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O. “We had a mission to provide outstanding physicians to the community. In 40 years, we’ve graduated more than 7,000 doctors; half

of them have remained in New York, and half of them provide needed primary care.”

NYITCOM was originally established through the efforts of the American Osteopathic Association and the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society—which wanted to open an osteopathic medical school in New York to increase opportunity for medical students, as well as increase the number of providers in the state. NYIT sought a medical school as part of its campus, an effort supported by prominent New York City-area osteopathic physicians, including W. Kenneth Riland, D.O.

Riland was personal physician to then-New York state Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and had also treated Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. Through Riland’s efforts, Gov. Rockefeller and his brother, Laurence, became major supporters of the school.

NYITCOM officially dedicated the Nelson A. Rockefeller Academic Center in 1979 and opened the W. Kenneth Riland Academic Health Care Center

11. A rendering of what would become Riland Academic Health Care Center.

12. & 13. Jeffrey Goldberg in his hospital office...and at his own commencement.

14. *The Campus Slate* reports on NYITCOM’s inaugural convocation.



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in 1983, establishing a robust presence on the Old Westbury campus. In 1999, the campus broke ground on the Serota Academic Center. Over the years, the school has developed widely regarded centers, including the Adele Smithers Parkinson's Disease Treatment Center, the NYIT Center for Sports Medicine, and a Family Health Care Center in Central Islip, N.Y., that serves the community while training students.

"Our growth was mostly incremental and evolutionary," says Abraham Jeger, Ph.D., assistant dean for academic outreach and site development, who has been with NYIT since 1977. "We had to develop facilities, we had to be current with curricula and broaden technological innovations, we had to create hospital and clerkship opportunities, and we had to establish internship and residency programs to maximize our students' opportunities. Without these opportunities, our graduates would have to go out of state to train and practice, and we would not have fulfilled our mission."

NYITCOM now has clinical affiliations with more than 40 hospitals and ambulatory centers; third- and fourth-year medical students rotate in areas from rural to suburban to the most densely populated urban centers. Gilliar considers the school's location one of its greatest attributes. "We have access to the most varied care you can think of—the most modern research facilities, as well as outreach to rural and underserved areas," he says.

Another unique aspect of NYITCOM is the integration of technology in the curricula. It was among the first medical schools to pioneer computer-enhanced learning into medical curriculum. In 1983, Jeger set up NYITCOM's first microcomputer-learning center and created an eight-hour course for second-year students that included simulations and medical scenarios. "While primitive by today's standards, it was novel for the time," he says.

Today's students receive iPads when they arrive on campus. All classes are video recorded, streamed live, and are

available for later access. Students also hone their interprofessional skills at NYITCOM's Institute for Clinical Competence, a suite of virtual patient exam rooms and simulation labs. "We have a totally different technology learning environment than many schools," says Jerry Balentine, D.O., NYIT vice president for medical affairs and global health. "There's been little hesitation about implementing technology into the educational programs."

Expanding Practice

In August, NYITCOM welcomed its first 115 medical students to its new site at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

In 2013, Arkansas State reached out to NYITCOM about bringing its medical program to the state, which only had one medical school and ranks 49th out of 50 states in population health status and 48th in percentage of active physicians per 100,000 people. "We've distinguished ourselves in producing primary care physicians who stay and practice in the areas they train," says

15. A picture of Maud Nerman from the yearbook for the first class.

16. Louisa Sethi at the Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in Seattle.

17. & 18. Scott Fried's yearbook photo and Fried today piloting his Cirrus aircraft.

19. Students in a lecture on physiology in the teaching auditorium in the early '80s.



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Gilliar. “They wanted us to help do the same there.”

“The unique public-private partnership between NYITCOM and Arkansas State provided for the rapid infrastructure needed to get going relatively quickly,” says Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., vice president for health sciences and medical affairs at NYIT since 2001 and the first site dean of the Jonesboro campus.

Forty-eight percent of students at the new campus are from Arkansas and more than 90 percent hail from the Delta region. “Our motto is to educate physicians in Arkansas to stay and serve Arkansas and the Delta region,” says Ross-Lee. The Jonesboro campus is accredited as an additional site of NYITCOM. The two sites use the same curriculum with faculty members in both locations providing synchronous teaching to students, some from Jonesboro and some from Old Westbury.

As it did in New York 40 years ago, NYITCOM has been working to affiliate with medical institutions around

the state to establish clinical rotations and residency programs for students. According to Ross-Lee, more than 200 new residency slots have been created thus far, with another 200-plus in progress.

Balentine sees the additional campus as a great step forward for NYITCOM, both for educating students as well as improving public health. While major medical issues are much the same across the country, the social issues that impact health can be very different. “In New York, there’s a high density of physicians but people may not have access because of lack of insurance, while in Arkansas there’s a real shortage of practitioners, so people may have to travel a long distance and not have money to fill their gas tank,” he says. “Combining faculty and medical students in one of the most populated urban areas in the United States with one of the most rural broadens perspectives for all of us.”

Over the past four decades, NYITCOM has stayed remarkably true to its core mission to train medical

professionals for its home region and to further the osteopathic profession. There were only a few hundred D.O.s in New York state in 1977; now there are more than 5,000, the majority of them NYITCOM graduates. NYITCOM hopes to see the same kind of impact across the Delta region.

Although its leaders are clearly proud of the college’s ever-rising popularity and competitiveness—more than 9,000 students applied for 420 spots this year and those admitted had credentials equal to M.D. schools across the country—the greatest point of pride is undoubtedly the school’s alumni.

“Certainly what’s most notable about the school is our product,” says Ross-Lee. “Our alumni have been very productive and visible in the communities where they work.” Adds Balentine, “This is a powerful group that can work with us to provide guidance and leadership and opportunities for our students. That’s what will continue to propel us forward.” ■

20. A class at NYITCOM's newest location at Arkansas State.

21. & 22. The iconic stairs in Rockefeller Hall then...and now.

23. A member of NYITCOM's class of 2016.



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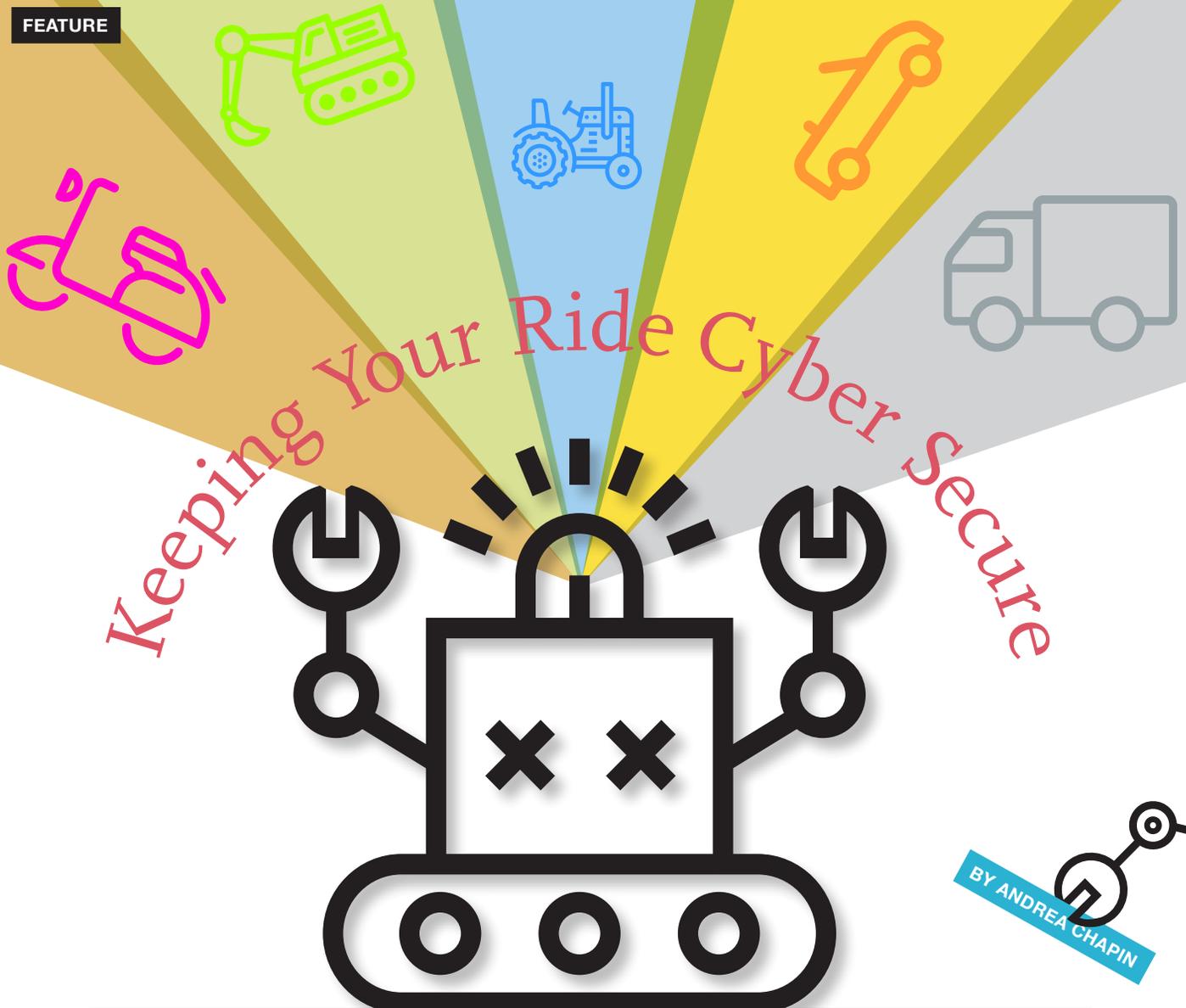
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In an era where even cars are connected to the Internet, NYIT faculty members, students, and alumni are working hard to keep transportation buckled up and hacker-free.

“CYBERATTACK.” “CYBERINTRUSION.” “CYBERWARFARE.” These words pop up far too frequently in the news. With hackers and stolen data compromising everything from baby monitors to banks to elections, the cyberworld we live in is not secure, nor is it necessarily safe.

And there are more cyber-worries that hit close to home: The potential now exists for hackers to invade cars. Think about it: With the right access, someone

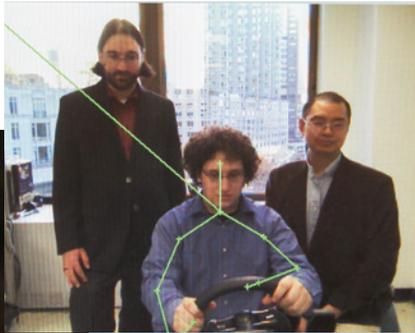
could cut your vehicle’s brakes, kill the engine, even take over the steering.

But before you resort to walking (no, not that!) or call for the return of the horse and buggy (hold that whip!), rest assured the NYIT community is hard at work creating technology to safeguard your ride from cyber hitchhikers.

LAVERN RHABURN SULA (B.S. '88) is the president of the North American division of Argus Cyber Security, Ltd.,

the largest, independent automotive cybersecurity company in the world, providing services and solutions that protect vehicles from cyber attacks.

“As the telematics revolution evolved, more and more vehicles included internet connectivity,” explains Sula. “Then we started playing with telematics.” Telematics involve the integration of telecommunications, information processing, computers, and mobile communications



Barry Shean

Left: Student Matthew Warshaw behind the wheel of the driving simulator. Above: Jonathan Voris, Warshaw, and Wenjia Li as seen by the computer. The green line shows how the simulator tracks the driver's movements.

we have an entire floor with 60 people and additional offices in Detroit, Silicon Valley, Stuttgart, and Tokyo.”

Together, she and the rest of Argus’ team defend against vehicle cyberattacks. It’s an ever-shifting battle. “Today’s cars are computers on wheels and are just as vulnerable to cyber attacks,” cautions Sula. “We’re in a marathon, not a sprint.”

Winning that kind of race requires constant innovation. To stay ahead of the bad guys, three assistant professors from NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences—Jonathan Voris, Ph.D.; Wenjia Li, Ph.D.; and Nabi Sertartan, Ph.D.—are working on research that may give drivers an edge.

In their study on selective driver data modeling—which investigates techniques for improving the security and privacy of vehicular networks, sensors, and associated devices—participants perform simulated driving tasks tracked by software and hardware. “We collect data without accessing the critical systems of the vehicle that control braking and steering,” says Voris.

The professors have invented a device with a steering wheel and pedals that simulates how a vehicle functions and how a driver operates. “We are trying to see if the data we record is sufficient to identify who is driving the vehicle in order to improve safety and security,” says Voris.

When a volunteer sits behind the wheel and starts driving down the road, data is tracked and logged to record how the driver responds to different conditions. For example, the simulator notes how long it takes a driver to switch on a blinker before turning, where the driver positions a car within the lane, how close he or she gets to cars when passing them, whether he or she tends to follow the speed limit, and more.

“The data shows how you drive,” says Voris. “By analyzing it, we can detect deviations of that behavior to

technology in vehicles for use in systems such as GPS navigation, hands-free integrated mobile phones, wireless safety communications, and automatic driving assistance.

Sula is a bit of an automotive expert. For 30 years, she climbed the corporate ladder at General Motors Co. She started as a paid intern (while she was at NYIT) and eventually became vice president of engineering, overseeing 2,200 employees at GM’s technical center in Bangalore, India. While working in India in 2012, Sula received one of the most important phone calls of her life: GM wanted her to run their newly created cybersecurity team. She moved her family to Detroit and started work as global engineering director for vehicle cybersecurity.

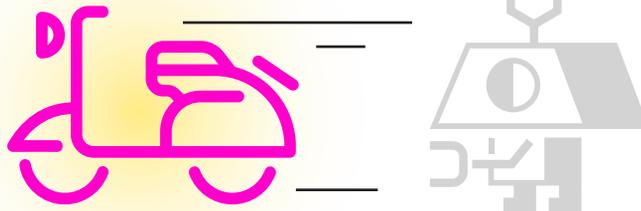
The industry was recognizing the importance of cybersecurity in cars. “Our team started small, with ambitious growth plans,” says Sula. Cybersecurity protects every part of the vehicle, and Sula and GM strategically understood this.

Research began to show how easy it was to hack cars. In 2015, two cybersecurity researchers, Charlie Miller and Chris Valasek, demonstrated that hundreds of thousands of cars could be hacked remotely and wirelessly. They were able to track down cars from miles away, control windshield wipers, disrupt

the brakes, even tighten a seat belt. Those results helped galvanize the industry.

Sula and GM had established a leadership position in advance of the widely publicized hacker attacks. But by 2014, Sula was ready for a change. “Once the cybersecurity team got up and going, I was ready to close that chapter and do something different.”

Sula left the car industry behind—or so she thought. When the founders



of Argus Cyber Security tapped her to run their North American operations, she was “enjoying the quiet” of her new life. Still, joining the Argus team was a decision she says she will never regret. “The company had already been up and running since 2013, which meant that they had been addressing the problem before most had started talking about it,” she says. “When I started in 2015, there was already a wealth of automotive cybersecurity knowledge within the company headquarters in Tel-Aviv. Today,

determine whether it's you driving or someone masquerading as you." In other words, the data can show whether your hatchback has been hijacked. So far, the driver authentication study has been able to identify who is driving in under two and half minutes and with 95 percent accuracy.

Ultimately, the goal is for the data to be incorporated into a driver's vehicle, so that the car itself can alert a driver that it's been stolen. The car could also use the data in other scenarios—like alerting an automobile insurance company that the policyholder is not a very good driver...

NYIT electrical and computer engineer student Matthew Warshaw, who has worked with Voris, Li, and Artan on their research since fall 2016, is in charge of getting students to be the simulator's drivers. "I put up fliers. I grab students in the hall," he says. "Watching my friends drive and flip over, sometimes four or five times, gives me a good idea if I should ever be a passenger in their car!"

Finding student drivers isn't his only job at the lab. "I collect the data and then look for patterns by using algorithms and building statistical models to make sense of the data," says Warshaw, whose work on driver modeling is preparing him for a graduate degree in machine learning.

Warshaw calls what they are doing behavioral biometrics. "That means recording our habits and using that data as a means to profile a person—the way

we play a game, for example, or the way we drive," he explains. Working on this project has given Warshaw an inside view of how a research study works. "I get to apply things I've learned, go to conferences and present the research. It's taught me things like how to get funding. That's huge. Without it, we wouldn't have been able to do the project."

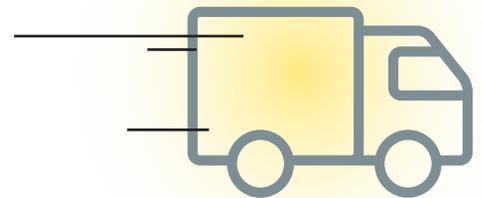
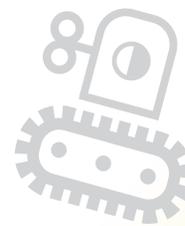
For their current driver modeling study, the faculty members received a grant from the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC), an organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1987 to support research, education, and the transfer of technology in the field of transportation. The professors have been approved for a second round of funding from the UTRC. "For the new study, we will investigate how to transmit information between vehicles, while ensuring the information is accurate and correct and the transfer of this information is efficient and safe," says Li.

The new study is right on the cutting edge of their field. In December, the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., announced proposed rules that require all new cars and small trucks to contain wireless communications technology to broadcast data to one another about their speed, location, and direction. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communications technology is

a promising way to combat vehicular deaths, ease traffic, and improve the environment.

And V2V technology may soon be put to the ultimate test. While consumers have grown more accustomed to "smart" cars, companies like Tesla, Google, and Uber are working on removing the driver entirely. "Figuring out how we can apply V2V technology to autonomous vehicles is in the back of our minds," says Voris.

The race for the self-driving car is on, and that means more work for Sula's team at Argus Cyber Security and for researchers and students at NYIT. ■



LaVern Rhaburn Sula (B.S. '88), president of the North American division of Argus Cyber Security, Ltd., in her office in Detroit.

©Joe Vaughn



WHEN TV REPORTER **DANA ARSCHIN (M.A. '10)** filed her first story in front of a camera, she interviewed a grade school gym teacher about preparing for the New York City Marathon. Arschin was just 10 years old. The segment (watch at bit.ly/Dana-Arschin) was part of *Spotlight on Jackson*, a TV news program created by teachers at George A. Jackson Elementary School in Jericho, N.Y. “Early on I was bitten by the news bug,” says Arschin. She has come a long way since then, and is now a reporter for Fox 5 News in New York.

Years after her first story, while she was working as an intern at WNBC at 30 Rockefeller Plaza in Midtown Manhattan, Arschin discovered *LI News Tonight*, NYIT’s student-run nightly news show that aired evenings on Long Island cable TV. She decided to enroll, and after earning her master’s degree in broadcast journalism, Arschin reached out to NYIT’s alumni network to look for ways to begin her career as an on-camera reporter. She connected with **CHARLIE MALICKI (B.F.A. '09)**, a cameraman at News 12 Long Island. “He helped me get an internship at News 12. This eventually led to my first on-air reporting job at News 12 The Bronx/Brooklyn,” she says. “NYIT taught me how

Broadcasting

to shoot, write, and edit, which were the exact skills I needed to land that job.” Arschin went on to earn a New York Emmy at News 12 for reporting on New York City’s cleanup efforts in the wake of several major snowstorms in 2014.

She joined Fox 5 in August 2016 and covers the New York Tristate area. To find story ideas, Arschin often relies on technology. “I’ll get dozens of emails a week from viewers,” she says. “My professional Facebook page is especially useful for them to contact me about potential stories that are impacting local communities.” A normal day goes like this: Dana is assigned a story and camera operator then heads out into the field. She writes the segment either back in the studio or remotely on location after reviewing all of the footage. Then, the story (usually around a minute and a half long) airs during Fox 5 evening broadcasts. “I learned to be efficient and make great use of my time, thanks to my NYIT experience,” she adds. “I don’t know where I’d be without it.”

CHANNELS OF DISRUPTION

Arschin’s NYIT experiences are a strong testament to the university’s ability to connect students with rewarding careers in the broadcasting industry. But just as these markets continued to evolve, so, too, does NYIT. Case in point: Globesville (globesville.com), NYIT’s student-run web channel that launched in 2015 and broadcasts live news, student films, music, sports, and gaming content.

“Globesville is the heir apparent to *LI News Tonight*,” says Professor Don Fizzinoglia (M.A. '83), chair of the communication arts program in NYIT College of Arts and

Whether in front of the cameras or behind the scenes, NYIT alumni serve on the front lines of a rapidly changing media industry.

Success



Top to bottom: Christine Bragan (B.F.A. '03) is vice president of marketing and communications for AMC Networks; Dana Arschin (M.A. '11) is a reporter for Fox 5; and Nick Pacchiano (B.F.A. '10) is technical director of multimedia at Broadway Video in New York City.





An NYIT student operates a studio camera equipped with a teleprompter for Globesville.

Sciences. “It’s a great showcase for student work.” To complement these experiential endeavors, NYIT also launched new bachelor’s degree programs in communications and media production; digital film and television production; advertising, public relations, and technology; and global and electronic journalism. “The very nature of communication has changed thanks to the Internet,” says Fizzinoglia. “We wanted to offer more specialized learning to match what students want and need to learn to be competitive in today’s job market.”

Through the programs, NYIT students will learn to adapt to a rapidly changing media marketplace—something that **CHRISTINE BRAGAN (B.F.A. ’03)**, vice president of marketing and communications for AMC Networks, is very familiar with.

The convergence of mobile technology and faster Internet speeds has led to dramatic shifts in TV viewing habits in the past few years. In 2015, Flurry Analytics announced that U.S. consumers spent 198 minutes on mobile apps per day compared to 168 minutes watching television. That’s nearly an hour more compared to 2014. “A decade ago, people in the TV industry would wonder what’s going to happen in the next five to 10 years,” Bragan says. “Now, it’s how do we plan for the next 24 months?”

For providers like AMC Networks (which also owns and operates IFC, Sundance Channel, WE tv, and IFC Films), adapting to the opportunities afforded by the proliferation of media technology is essential. “But at the end of the day,” Bragan says, “it’s really about the strength of the programming.”

It helps to have some of the best content on television. AMC’s *The Walking Dead* is the number one show on television. More than 20 million viewers tuned in for the season seven premiere that aired this past October. “That a season seven show has been the number one show in all of television for five consecutive years among adults 18 to 49 is a testament to its strength and viewer loyalty,” Bragan says.

The Walking Dead also demonstrates that TV shows are doing more than relying on ratings to succeed. Now, everything is about creating viewing experiences across multiple platforms. For example, each episode of *The Walking Dead* is followed by *The Talking Dead*, a show in which fans, cast, and crew discuss the episode. There are also apps, video games, toys, and a spinoff show. AMC uses these platforms to connect with viewers. “We think of it as a partnership between AMC and the viewer,” Bragan says. But when it comes to watching *The Walking Dead* and her other favorite shows, Bragan prefers what insiders call “event television”—that is, watching a show when it is first broadcast (as opposed to viewing it later via DVR or online). It’s an opportunity for families and friends in their living rooms around the world to experience the drama as it unfolds in real time. “I’m a fan girl,” Bragan says. “While I can get screener episodes ahead of time, I like to watch it with the rest of the world.”

SPORTING CHANCES

“Anyone can tell you a score,” says **BRANDON KLEIN (B.F.A. ’07)**. “I like to brainstorm ideas, take the footage, and cut teasers and long-form shows to figure out the best story.”

In his role as a video editor at NBC Sports, Klein works with his colleagues to humanize professional athletes and show the work and sacrifices needed to be the best. Klein is a big soccer fan, and one of his favorite storylines he helped craft was last year’s astonishing championship win by the Leicester City Football Club in the English Premier League. “Casino sites gave them 5,000 to 1 odds to win the league,” he says. “We got to tell the story of a team that came out of nowhere. It was lots of fun.” (Watch at bit.ly/Brandon-Klein.)

Broadcast sports continue to generate big ratings and big revenues. In 2015, *Advertising Age* reported that sports accounted for 37 percent of TV ad spending, totaling \$8.47 billion in sales for ABC, CBS, NBC, and Fox. That same year, NBC agreed to a six-year deal for \$1 billion to broadcast Premier League games. And Klein’s editing isn’t

“A decade ago, people in the TV industry would wonder what’s going to happen in the next five to 10 years. Now, it’s how do we plan for the next 24 months?”

—Christine Bragan

Brandon Klein (B.F.A. '07) is a video editor for NBC Sports.



limited to English football clubs. During the Summer Olympics in London in 2012, he worked on the official games website and produced analysis videos that featured announcer commentaries. He also coordinates live replays during the Tour de France.

Klein credits his NYIT education with giving him insight into the editing process. “I learned that there is a difference between knowing how to use editing software and knowing how to edit,” he says. “Editing is a craft that you refine. It’s more than just knowing the technical specs.”

LIVE FROM NEW YORK

NICHOLAS PACCHIANO (B.F.A. '10) chose to attend NYIT for, as he puts it, “nerdy reasons.” Growing up in Brightwaters, N.Y., he read about NYIT’s legacy during the early days of computer animation, including the Computer Graphics Lab, home to industry pioneers like Ed Catmull and Alvy Ray Smith, the co-founders of Pixar. “The quality of NYIT’s work attracted the attention of George Lucas, who was interested in developing a CGI special effects facility at Lucasfilm. I wanted to be part of where those guys came from,” says Pacchiano.

Today, he works with top names in the world of entertainment and broadcasting as technical director of multimedia at Broadway Video in New York City.

Pacchiano describes the production company, which was founded by Lorne Michaels in 1979, as a “hotel for creativity.” Broadway Video develops programming for TV shows including *Saturday Night Live* (where Pacchiano helps produce its famed digital shorts), *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *Portlandia*, and *Documentary Now!*

For *Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee*, a series created and hosted by Jerry Seinfeld, Pacchiano worked for seven years as a technical editor alongside the comedy legend.

“Jerry comes in to view all of the footage, and we relive the six-hour day he spends with each guest star,” he says. “After he decides what jokes are funny, we cut it down to four hours. Then we watch it again and cut it down to 60–90 minutes.” The team eventually cuts the episode down to 30 minutes or less. “That dissection process with Jerry Seinfeld is amazing,” Pacchiano adds. “He’s created an educational language for understanding comedy.”

Pacchiano also oversees the color and audio restoration on older sketch comedy shows like *The Kids in the Hall* and *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*. “Part of the comedy from these shows are the low production values, so you have to find that fine line in restoring old comedy shows without compromising the comedy itself,” Pacchiano says.

His latest venture is archiving metadata for TV shows going to over-the-top content (OTT) marketplaces. (OTT content refers to media delivered via the Internet that does not require traditional cable subscriptions or pay TV services.) This ensures that each piece of content on the streaming service has accurate titles, cast and crew credits, even wardrobe details attached to it. The information is essential for producing second screen experiences where a mobile device displays interactive content while a show airs.

“Second screen experiences are becoming more important for marketers,” says Pacchiano. “If I’m watching a show like *Man Seeking Woman*, I can view second screen content on my smartphone. So if I like the jacket that a character is wearing, I’ll already have that info at my fingertips.”

It’s another step in how technology continues to disrupt how broadcasters generate content and how viewers consume it.

“It’s so crazy to see where the industry is going right now,” says Pacchiano. “There is such an open playing field. As long as you’re surrounded by good people and good ideas, there is nothing to hold you back.” ■

Photos: Matt Ohnemus, FOX 5; Ric Kallaher; Barry Sloan; Lorenzo Bevilaqua; courtesy of Globesville.com

ARE YOU AN EMPLOYER TRYING TO RECRUIT TOP TALENT?

Or perhaps you're looking to make a career change? If so, join NYIT Office of Career Services for two job fairs this spring:

- The All Majors Job and Internship Fair, March 7, 2017, NYIT-Old Westbury
- The Summer Opportunities Fair, April 20, 2017, NYIT-Old Westbury, or April 27, 2017, NYIT-Manhattan.

Alumni employers wishing to recruit should register at nyit.edu/careernet by February 24. Alumni looking for new opportunities are welcome to attend both fairs for free. See the employers attending by downloading the NYIT Career Fair app on the App Store and Google Play store.

SUBMIT YOUR STORY:

Your stories are our stories. Share them. No news is too small (or too big!). Tell us your story—and send the pics.

nyit.edu/alumni_notes or magazine@nyit.edu

ALUMNI

Alumni Notes

1960s

“Following my graduation, I spent my life in broadcasting,” says **BRUCE CYNAR (B.F.A. '69)**, who remembers the early years of NYIT-Old Westbury. “I grew up on the South Shore of Long Island...The campus’s geography, forestation, and buildings really impressed me.” Cynar’s career included roles at CBS TV, Park Broadcasting, LIN Broadcasting, and WKJG in Fort Wayne, Ind. “NYIT was more than just a feather on my early résumé; it taught me solid fundamentals that have served me well.”

WALTER POGGI (B.S. '69) is president of Retlif Testing Laboratories in Ronkonkoma, N.Y. He also serves on the Dean’s Executive Advisory Board for NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences.

1970s

STEVE ZAZENSKI (B.F.A. '71) is a landscape painter who works with oil paints, watercolors, and gouache. He is a member of the American Watercolor Society and has been a professional artist for nearly four decades.

JOHN THEOBALD (B.S. '72) is a veteran of the New York Police Department, where he was trained in anti-terrorist procedures as well as forensic science and investigative techniques. He is currently a licensed private investigator and co-author of an article on the positive effects of transcendental meditation to reduce stress among law enforcement and military personnel.

JOE RAIMONDO (B.S. '73) and his Glen Rock, N.J.-based company, Artiste, are celebrating 15 years of supplying

ingredients, flavors, and fragrances to domestic and global clientele.

Integrity Applications Inc. named attorney **REVAN R. SCHWARTZ (B.S. '77)** to its board of directors. The company produces GlucoTrack, a noninvasive device for measuring glucose levels.

1980s

ANTHONY CRACCHIOLO (M.S. '80) is chairman of the board for the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association. The industry veteran also serves as president and CEO of U.S. Bank Equipment Finance in Minneapolis.

HEIDI NORWICK (B.S. '80) is president of Alamance County United Way in North Carolina. She served as executive director of the Women’s Resource Center in Alamance County for 16 years.

CHERYL DOMATO (B.S. '81) is diabetes institutional account manager at BD, a medical technology company. She lives in Loxahatchee, Fla.

“The NYIT apple does not fall far from the tree,” says **MICHAEL LOMBARDI (B.S. '81)**. His daughter, Andrea, is currently a medical student at NYITCOM at Arkansas State. Lombardi is vice president of business development and project management at DataSavers Inc., an information management company in Jacksonville, Fla. He chose NYIT because of its public administration degree program, great campus, and the opportunity to play for an NCAA Division II team. “Go Bears and hello to football alums!” adds Lombardi.

The Queens (N.Y.) Chamber of Commerce inducted **MONTE REDMAN (B.S. '81)** into its Hall of Fame in November for his

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contributions to the borough. In addition to serving as president and CEO of Astoria Bank, he is a member of the NYIT Board of Trustees and former chair of the Tourette Association of America.

JERRY SCANLON (B.ARCH. '81) co-founded Archetype Consultants in 2003. The New York City firm counts among its clientele Vornado Realty Trust and Silverstein Properties, which developed three World Trade Center buildings. In September, Scanlon was profiled by *Crain's New York Business* for his ability to navigate New York's complex building regulations.

THOMAS HICKEY (B.F.A. '82) celebrated 25 years with Ernst & Young, where he serves as the Americas operations lead for the company's global brand, marketing, and communications group. He has worked through iterations of the brand from the original logo to the current global "EY" brand. Previously, Hickey worked in publishing and advertising. He maintains his Project Management Professional certification and serves as president of EY Toastmasters in their New Jersey office. He and his family live in Kendall Park, N.J.

COL. TERRANCE C. HOLLIDAY (M.B.A. '82) is former commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs in New York City. In November, he presented "The Importance of Higher Education for Veterans" at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, N.Y. He is a 40-year veteran of the Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

GEORGE ARCOS (D.O. '83) joined Spine Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, which has locations in Florida. He attended NYITCOM on a U.S. Air Force (USAF) scholarship and specializes in anesthesiology. While in the military, he was deployed to Panama, Grenada, and Desert Storm. As chief of anesthesiology at Homestead Air Reserve



Cindy Bredefeld

(D.O. '04)

THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM, which controls our hormones, can affect all aspects of our health; similarly, endocrinology intersects with practically all other fields of medicine. **Cindy Bredefeld, D.O.**, knows that better than anyone. As attending physician in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism, as well as director of diabetes clinical trials at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, N.Y., she is exploring the boundaries of the field and finding ways to treat patients with endocrine disorders.

Bredefeld's interest in science led to her becoming a doctor—but what led her to becoming an endocrinologist? Choosing endocrinology was one of the easiest decisions of my life. In my pre-clinical years, I took a class with endocrinologist Cheryl Rosenfeld (D.O. '91); I was immediately attracted to the complex pathophysiology of endocrinology. I thought it was so interesting how a defect in one aspect of a pathway could lead to downstream hormonal abnormalities and ultimately disease.

Many titles, many hats: What I love about my career is that I am a clinician, a clinical researcher, and a clinical educator: I teach trainees of all levels—internal medicine residents as well as endocrinology fellows.

And her career is still progressing: I recently received board certification in lipidology. [Lipidologists specialize in cholesterol and other lipid disorders along with related metabolic diseases like diabetes.] I currently work in the Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute at Winthrop-University Hospital, and I recently became the director of the diabetes clinical trials at Winthrop. Ultimately, I want to develop a specific niche in endocrine focusing on the management of diabetes and lipidology. Given the prevalence of cardiovascular disease, the relevance of the field is massive. My most pressing goal is to develop a lipid curriculum within the endocrinology fellowship that elevates the management of lipid disorders.

Making a difference: I think the primary reason I can make an impact in my patients' lives is because I am part of the diabetes team. My work as an endocrinologist can reach much further because of our team's comprehensive approach.

Wise words for current osteopathic students: Choose a discipline that aligns with what you like to read about and explore. Medicine is constantly evolving and fields change. Finding what you like is crucial. ■

Base, Arcos launched the first pain clinic for the Air Force and helped establish the service's first two-year training program in pain management, which earned him the USAF Commendation Medal.



Photo courtesy of William Faris

WILLIAM FARIS (M.B.A. '84) (pictured) is principal at W.A. Faris Consulting in Oklahoma City. "I applaud NYIT and the instructors for all they have taught me, and for being a major force in my life," he says.

RICHARD FAMA (B.S. '87) is vice chair of Cozen O'Connor's general litigation practice in its New York office.

MAX GROSS (B.S. '87) works as director of engineering and technology at Composite Prototyping Center (CPC) in Plainview, N.Y. He is also a principal at SciMax Technologies, housed within CPC.

ANNE MOTTA (D.O. '87) is celebrating 20 years with the New York Harbor Healthcare VA System, serving as a hospice/palliative care physician. She lives in Great Neck, N.Y., with her husband and daughter.

RINAH SHOPNICK (D.O. '87) is chief of hematology and oncology at Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center and associate professor at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C.

WAYNE MEYERS (B.S. '88) self-published *Visitor*, a science fiction novel that is available on Amazon. He fondly recalls his days at the former Central Islip campus, where he and his classmates traveled the

underground passages that connected buildings. They later published an underground newspaper called *The Tunnel*. "One of my greatest memories is the day we distributed the first issue, printed on a dot matrix printer missing one pin," Meyers says. waynemeyers.com

MOSES OLADOSU (B.S. '88) is a pastor at Resurrection and Life Pentecostal Church of America Inc.

EDWARD VALLEJO (B.S. '88) is vice president of financial planning and investor relations at American Water Works Company, Inc. in Voorhees, N.J.

GREG MASON (B.S. '89) is vice president of construction for Generali Global Corporate & Commercial, a leading provider of multinational property, casualty, and specialty insurance in New York City. He previously served as executive underwriter at Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty.

1990s

Worldwide Branding recognized **LISA BEVILAQUA (D.O. '91)** for Excellence in Health Care. She specializes in family medicine at Albany, N.Y.-based CapitalCare Medical Group.

HUMAYUN CHAUDHRY (D.O. '91) was named chair of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities at the 12th International Conference on Medical Regulation in Melbourne, Australia.

FRANCISCO DULZAIDES (B.S. '91) has been a press photographer for Univision for more than 25 years. He has won numerous industry awards, including Emmy and Edward R. Murrow honors. Dulzaides takes pride in how many NYIT alumni he encounters in news. "While I was working

the Bridgegate scandal in New Jersey, I was speaking with a fellow colleague from CBS television, **DON COLLINS (B.F.A. '85)**," he says. "We spoke about the many other alumni who work in our field, such as **MICHAEL DELGIUDICE (M.A. '86)** at WNBC and **TOM CASSIDY (M.A. '91)**, chief photographer over at WPIX."

WILSON MILIAN (B.S. '92) received the 2016 Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers Region 1 Managerial Excellence in an Engineering Organization Award. He is a design manager for the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)-New York City Transportation, an agency that transports nearly six million passengers each weekday in New York City. "In my second year at NYIT, I applied for an internship arranged by the student services office with the MTA," Milian recalls. "I worked part time as a paid intern until I graduated, then was immediately hired as a full-time field engineer thereafter. So you could say that NYIT was literally the start of my career."

Original *Rent* star **ADAM PASCAL (B.F.A. '92)** played Shakespeare in *Something Rotten*, during the musical's final run on Broadway.

MATTHEW AMARA (D.O. '93) opened Beyond Urgent Care in Bethel, Conn. The site offers X-rays, diagnostic testing, corporate wellness, genetic testing, and occupational medicine.

DAVID KUTHER (B.F.A. '93) received the Louis F. Wolf Jr. Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. He is a senior editor/producer at CBS News Marketing.

JOSEPH S. SALADINO (B.S. '93, M.A. '95) represents New York's District 9 on Long Island's South Shore. He has 28 years of experience in government, including the past 13 as a New York state assemblyman.

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PAUL VASTOLA (B.S. '93, M.B.A. '95) is senior vice president at U.S. Bank, where he oversees more than \$17 billion in bank commitments and 10 portfolio managers. He spent 14 years as a director in Standard & Poor's Corporate Ratings Group. "NYIT is a key reason for my success," he says. "I also loved the fact that NYIT had multiple campuses as I lived in Long Island but worked in New York City."

DAVID W. PFISTER (B.S. '94) is director of global distributed infrastructure and client services for Russell Reynolds Associates in New York City, where he is responsible for technology operations in 29 countries. Pfister is also a member of the Longwood Central School District Board of Education in the town of Brookhaven, N.Y. "The experiences I had as editor-in-chief of *The Campus Slate* helped me forge friendships and relationships with students, faculty, and administration," he says. "We had a core team of people who worked together and had fun while creating something we were proud of."

STEVEN RUBIN (B.S. '94), author, lecturer, and partner in the Long Island office of law firm Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, was appointed chair of the IP Transactions and Licensing Committee of the Intellectual Property Law Section of the American Bar Association.

MARY JANE (CYR) BOUGHTON (B.S. '95) is a project architect at KCMH Architects in Lakeland, Fla. "I loved working on my NYIT class projects and seeing everyone else's designs," she says. "One professor said that for every assignment, there could be 30 'right' answers. I learned a lot from seeing those other designs."

ARUN MANANSINGH (B.S. '95) is chief information officer at World Trade Centers Association in New York City.



Rana ElKassem

(M.S. '17)

RANA ELKASSEM became acquainted with NYIT-Abu Dhabi as a graduate student in 2015. Now she is the associate director of Employer and Alumni Relations there. Approximately 800 students have graduated from NYIT-Abu Dhabi, and another 6,000-plus alumni reside in the Middle East. The school's status originally prompted ElKassem to apply as a student. "NYIT has a good reputation as the first American university in Abu Dhabi, and it has achieved success in a short time," she says. Her firsthand knowledge of NYIT means she is uniquely poised to help other students and graduates pursue their chosen careers. "Being a student and now an alumna has helped me grow a strong network," says ElKassem. "It helps me view my job from both perspectives."

ElKassem began her master's program in instructional technology already knowing that she wanted to work in education. "I had experience in human resources and recruitment. Part of my experience was to place fresh graduates in different sectors and highlight their strengths." When the position at NYIT opened up, she jumped at the chance. "With my degree in education and my experience in career guidance and recruitment, I found this role very suitable for me," she explains. "The alumni side came as a plus, and I really like this part of my job because it's based on communication and maintaining a network."

As associate director, ElKassem provides career guidance to current NYIT-Abu Dhabi students, critiquing their résumés, training them in workplace ethics, and matching them with potential internships. "Fresh graduates face a lot of competition in the job market, but our alumni are involved with the students and are willing to support them in internships and job placements," she says. ElKassem's goal is to create a strong, loyal network "where alumni feel connected to NYIT and know they are always welcome." A major accomplishment in building this network is organizing and hosting NYIT-Abu Dhabi's annual alumni dinner. U.A.E. alumni, who often work in sectors such as banking, energy, construction, and retail, use the occasion to reconnect with former classmates and instructors. She also launched an Alumni of the Month initiative, and she always encourages alumni to come back to volunteer or share their experiences with current students.

Above all, ElKassem is inspired by the students and alumni she works with and the promise that getting an education at NYIT holds. "Those who are always hungry for knowledge keep me motivated to educate them and myself along the way," she says. "Education is limitless."

Are you a graduate living in the Middle East? Connect with Rana ElKassem at relkasse@nyit.edu. ■

Courtesy of Rana ElKassem



FRIENDS OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

In September, alumni and friends of the School of Architecture and Design gathered for their annual event at the Union League Club in New York City. This year's gathering marked the first time alumni heard from the new dean, Maria R. Perbellini (pictured). The reception serves as a fundraising event that underwrites academic scholarships and leadership development opportunities for students in the School of Architecture and Design. For more information about how to get involved, contact the dean's office at 516.686.1229. ■

JAYE JACKSON



courtesy of Indera Rampal-Harrod

INDERA RAMPAL-HARROD (B.S. '95, M.S. '97, M.S. '00) (pictured) was named chief human resources officer for Tift Regional Health System in Tifton, Ga.

DAVID JOHNSTON (D.O. '96) is a practitioner at Osteopathic Wellness Center LLC in Ridgefield, Conn. In October, he was a panelist during a discussion on holistic and integrative health initiatives hosted by the Western Connecticut State University Institute for Holistic Health Studies.

HARJIV SINGH (B.S. '97, M.B.A. '02) is founder and CEO of Gutenberg Communications in New Delhi, India. The entrepreneur advises global clients across the technology, real estate, government, investment management, academic, and nonprofit sectors. He is also the founder of Salwan Media

Ventures, which runs a portfolio of education-focused businesses.

STEPHEN TEMPONE (B.S. '97) is the first lacrosse coach for the Palm Beach Atlantic University varsity men's lacrosse program. As offensive coordinator at NYIT, he helped lead the Bears to a 13-5 record, including an NCAA tournament appearance. Tempone set an NCAA record for the most goals scored in a championship game (6) when NYIT captured its first NCAA Division II championship in 1997.

NATHANAEL DESIRE (D.O. '98) specializes in internal medicine and pediatrics at NAD Medical Services in Shelter Island, N.Y. He also has a private practice in Bellport, N.Y.

REV. RICHARD FRECHETTE (D.O. '98) has helped the citizens of Haiti for 27 years as director of medical services at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) St. Damien's Hospital and NPH regional director in the Caribbean. He also helps coordinate medical needs of children living in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Mexico.

Family physician **EDWARD F. KLEIN (D.O. '98)** is enjoying retirement in Middletown,

N.Y., with his wife, Amy. In 1994, he retired from the U.S. Air Force after achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel.

2000s

Great Hera! In 2008, Israeli real estate developer **YARON VARSANO (B.S. '00)** married longtime sweetheart Gal Gadot, who played Wonder Woman in 2016's *Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice* and will play the character again later this year. In 2015, Varsano and his brother sold their Tel Aviv hotel for nearly \$260 million.

MARIA CLIRONOMOS (B.ARCH. '01) is an associate at interior design firm CetraRuddy in New York City. Since joining the company, she has worked on major residential projects, including a 250-unit building in Brooklyn, a 298-unit complex in Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan, and a large Upper West Side multifamily conversion.

RICHARD GERBE (B.S. '01) is co-founder of HIGHMARK NY LLC in New York City. The company helps engineers, contractors, and building owners and operators boost efficiency and sustainability using

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technology. “My career goal has always been to help realize a more sustainable world by enabling wasteful commercial buildings to operate more efficiently,” he says. “I needed a program that would provide me with the forward-looking and robust tools to be successful in disrupting an industry resistant to change. That’s why I chose NYIT.”

The Alzheimer’s Association of New York City appointed **LICET VALOIS (B.S. ’01)** care and support program manager. She is a bilingual social worker who has been practicing in the field of dementia care for 14 years.

courtesy of Charlie Vazquez



“All is well in sunny Florida!” says **CHARLIE VAZQUEZ (M.B.A. ’01)** (pictured). He is enjoying life in the Sunshine State with his two children while working as senior vice president of client services at Centauri Health Solutions.

DENISE DEL PINO (B.S. ’02) joined Hawthorne Global Aviation Services of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., as director of human resources. She oversees organizational performance and culture, compensation and benefits, staffing, training, and employee relations.

PETER NICOLOSI (B.S. ’02) is an associate at Stonehill & Taylor, an architecture firm based in New York City. His 17 years of experience includes serving as project manager of the Crowne Plaza Hotel on West 36th Street, the Moxy hotel on 28th Street, and the Bryant Park Hotel.

John V. Sullivan

(B.S. ’82)

A S EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT and co-owner of global IT solutions provider Delta Computer Group (ranked among KPMG Long Island’s 25 Fastest Growing Private Companies and the Deloitte & Touche Fast 50 list of Fastest Growing Technology Companies), **John Sullivan** helps clients find hardware and software solutions that address customer resource management, enterprise maintenance, and data security. Sullivan, who joined Delta in 1997, has earned numerous information technology awards and honors, and is co-author of *In IT to Win It: Strategies for Winning in Business & Life*. He serves on the Brookhaven Hospital (N.Y.) board of directors.

JUST DO IT

Originally from Hempstead, N.Y., Sullivan attended NYIT on a football scholarship. He played defensive end under Head Coach Pete Pizzorelli and was named captain during his junior and senior years. “I was picked because my leadership skills were not about ‘rah rah,’ but about leading by example,” says Sullivan. “When you’re playing football, you’re relying on other players, and they’re counting on you.” Serving as team captain also helped Sullivan learn how to deal with different personalities and get them to work together as a team. “When you show someone there is a way to accomplish things that seem insurmountable, they see there’s no reason why they can’t do it,” he says. “That’s something I do now with my sales team.”

CUSTOMER CONTACT

Sullivan notes how sales is enhanced by today’s communications technology. “People email all day and all night,” he says, “but that’s good because it makes it easier to satisfy customer questions.” He also strongly believes that face-to-face contact is key for a sales team to shine. “If you’re not in front of customers, belly to belly, it doesn’t work,” he says. “Customers want to see congruity. You need to let them talk.”

BIG BEAR, BIG HEART

At the 2016 NYIT Athletics Golf and Tennis Outing at the Muttontown Club in East Norwich, N.Y., Sullivan received the “Big Bear” Award for his legacy of giving to his alma mater. It’s not the first time he’s been recognized for his contributions; in 1999, Sullivan was inducted into the NYIT Athletics Hall of Fame for his football achievements. “Through NYIT, I’ve been blessed to have a career and do well financially,” he says. “I’m happy to give back to places that were good to me so I can also make a difference.” ■

Christopher Appoldt



Left: "I Am America" Photo by Ridwan Adhami. Right: "We The People" Collaboration by Shepard Fairey and Ridwan Adhami for The Amplifier Foundation.

You may have seen Shepard Fairey's striking illustration showing a woman wearing an American flag as a hijab. But did you know the photograph it is based on has connections to NYIT? "I Am America" was taken ten years ago by photographer and creative director **RIDWAN ADHAMI (B.F.A. '03)** (ridwanadhami.com) and features former NYIT student Munira Ahmed. In an article in the *Guardian*, the two talk about the origin of the photograph (which has "gone viral" before, although not to this extent) and what the image means to them. bit.ly/IAmAmerica

The International Association of HealthCare Professionals named **KAREN AVANESOV (D.O. '04)**, **ELENA V. BEZOFF (D.O. '04)**, **SHANNON GAFFNEY (D.O. '06)**, and **VADIM LERMAN (D.O. '06)** among its Leading Physicians of the World. Avanesov is an orthopedic surgeon at Advanced Orthopedic in Brooklyn, N.Y., and director of spine surgery at Total Orthopedics Sports and Spine PLLC in Long Island; Bezoff is a cardiovascular physician in Brooklyn, N.Y., who is affiliated with New York Methodist Hospital; Gaffney works at the U.S. Air Force-operated Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital in Clark County, Nev.; and Lerman serves patients at the Mount Sinai/Beth Israel Spine Institute of New York, Nassau University Medical Center (N.Y.), and Total Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

MICHAEL BATTAGLIA (B.S. '04) appreciates how his NYIT degree opened doors for him after graduation, but his favorite college memory is when his wife (then his girlfriend) brought him food between his evening classes. Today, he is a software engineer manager at Multi Data Services Inc. in Hauppauge, N.Y. "I started off 12 years ago as a junior programmer," Battaglia says. "Now I'm the manager of an entire software engineering team." He still enjoys dinners with his wife.

JIM DALY (M.B.A. '05) is vice president at Smithers-Oasis Floralife in Walterboro, S.C., where he oversees research and leads global operations for postharvest care and handling under the Floralife division. In September, he presented "Innovations Ensuring the Future of Flowers" at Texas A&M University.

The National Institutes of Health awarded **BRIANNA NORTON (D.O. '05)** of Albert Einstein College of Medicine a five-year, \$922,215 grant to help patients with hepatitis C through a primary-care-based group evaluation and treatment intervention.

Ismael Leyva Architects in New York City promoted **GENNA WEINER (B.ARCH. '05)** to director of interior design. She has more than 12 years of experience at NYC-based firms, with a portfolio that includes high-profile hospitality, mixed-use, and residential projects.

Director **KURT WRIGHT (B.F.A. '05)** completed his latest work, *Origins*, a short film that features an all-Jamaican cast and crew. The supernatural fantasy story is steeped in Jamaican folklore. In addition to feature films, Wright has worked on commercials and music videos.

General surgeon **IGOR GARY ELYASH (B.S. '06, D.O. '09)** serves patients at Horizon Family Medical Group in Goshen, N.Y. Previously, he was an attending surgeon at Princeton Healthcare in Plainsboro, N.J.

ABE FRIDMAN (D.O. '06) is director of bariatric surgery at Fairfield County Bariatrics & Surgical Specialists P.C. in New Haven, Conn., as well as bariatric director at Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn. He is the first surgeon in Connecticut to perform the Orbera Gastric Balloon nonsurgical weight loss procedure.

PATRICIA HANNON (M.B.A. '06) is president and CEO of New England Baptist Hospital in Roxbury Crossing, Mass.

Psychiatrist **SCOTT KRAKOWER (D.O. '06)** of Zucker Hillside Hospital at Northwell Health in Queens, N.Y., was featured in *Newsday* following the presidential election. He offered suggestions on how to fight anxiety, discomfort, and stress in the wake of the political season. "It's good to be informed and to know what's happening," Krakower said. "But if you find yourself obsessing or ruminating, you may need to get away from that topic."

DAVID SCHIEREN (M.S. '06) presented "The Solar Industry Landscape on Long Island" at NYIT-Old Westbury on November 28. He is CEO of SunPower by EmPower Solar, which he founded in 2003.

Last summer, **MOHAMED ALKATHLAN (B.S. '07)** enjoyed a trip to Windsor Castle and Legoland Windsor in the United Kingdom. He is a senior media specialist for the Ministry of Housing in Bahrain.

BRIAN MCMURRAY (M.B.A. '07) is vice president of engineering and operations at GM Technical Centre India. He has worked for GM for nearly 20 years in England, China, the United States, and Australia.

MARK GIACONIA (B.A. '08) is the author of *Quest For War: And One Green Beret's Subsequent Evolution*, available on Amazon. The book tells the story of war and its impact, military valor and heroism, passion, and success. bit.ly/Mark-Giaconia

KEN JENIE (M.A. '09) is the founder of Jirapah, an indie rock band based in Indonesia whose latest release, *Bits*, is available as a limited edition tape by U.K. boutique label Luau Records.

ELAINE NOLAND-SEPKO (B.S. '09) is a licensed professional counselor at Youth Dynamics in Missoula, Mont. The organization provides behavioral health services for children and families throughout Montana.

TONY WHELAN (B.S. '10) serves as director of international business and national accounts for Schiller Grounds Care in Southampton, Penn. The company engineers, manufactures, and markets lawn and garden care equipment.

2010s

Orthopedic surgeon **ADAM BITTERMAN (D.O. '10)** joined Huntington Hospital

(N.Y.). He specializes in foot and ankle surgery as well as general orthopedic surgery.

MELANIE CHRISTMAS (M.B.A. '10) is human resource director at Consolidated Shoe Company Inc. in Lynchburg, Va. She is also a children's book author and member of Delta Sigma Theta, a nonprofit organization of college-educated women committed to public service. "I love giving back to the community through volunteer work," Christmas says.

CHRIS DISTEFANO (D.P.T. '10) was chosen as one of Comedy Central's "Comics to Watch." In addition to the standup circuit, you can find Distefano on MTV's *GuyCode*, *GirlCode*, *Failosophy*, and *Money From Strangers*. chriscomedy.com

Abu Dhabi National Energy Company appointed **MOHAMMED AL AHBABI (M.B.A. '11)** acting chief financial officer. The international energy and water company operates in 11 countries across four continents.

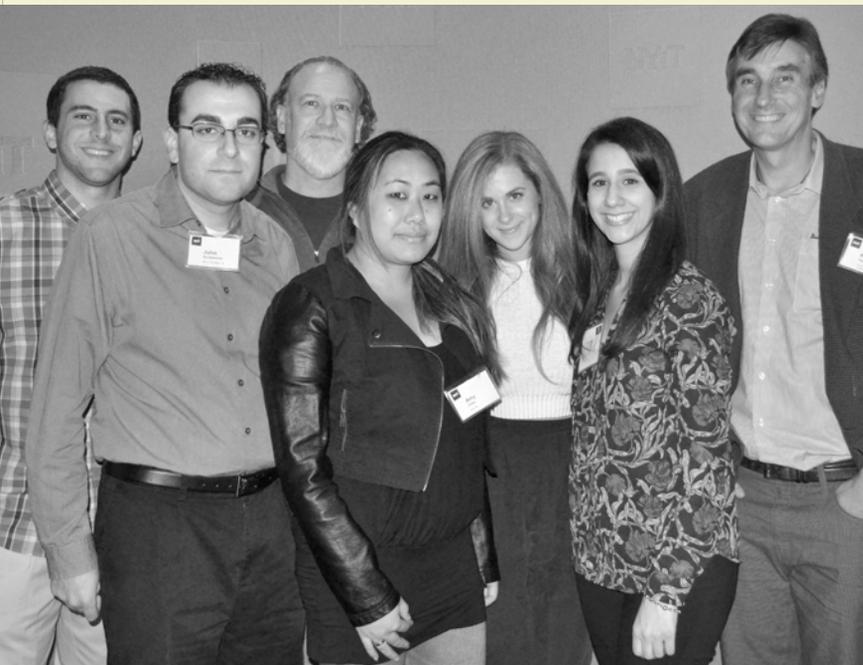
Neurologist **AMANDA DOW (D.O. '12)** joined Saratoga Hospital and Saratoga Hospital Medical Group-Neurology in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

LYDIA LORMAND (D.O. '12) joined Women's Health Associates, a specialized women's health care practice providing obstetrical and gynecological care in Springfield and Westfield, Mass.

DAVID LUGASSY (B.S. '12) is a technology strategy consultant at Accenture in New York City. "My degree and experiences helped develop my team-building and problem-solving skills," he says.

CLAIRE KIM (D.O. '13) provides acute care services and specializes in treating diabetes and hypertension at Memorial Hermann Medical Group Summer Creek Convenient Care Center in Kingwood, Texas.

PEREL SCHNEID (D.O. '13) specializes in family medicine at Crystal Run Healthcare, where she sees patients in its West Nyack, N.Y., office.



CAMPUS SLATE REUNION

The Campus Slate, NYIT-Old Westbury's student newspaper, celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Students, faculty members, and alumni—including past *Slate* editors-in-chief—gathered on November 4 at Revel restaurant in Garden City to mark the milestone.

Pictured from left to right are former and current editors-in-chief: Matthew Santamaria (current editor-in-chief), John Santamaria, John Colquhoun, Amy Chan, Erica Brandt, Marisa Musto, and Kevin Horton (faculty advisor).



Read more about the event:
bit.ly/Slate-50

ANASTASIA BERESTOVA (B.F.A. '14) is an interior designer at Stonehill & Taylor Architects PC in New York City. Last November, she designed a booth for Ooh-La-La! at BDNY in the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan. Her work was also featured in *Boutique Design* magazine.

DANIELLE CINONE (M.A. '14) is a digital copy editor for *New York Daily News* and an ice girl for the New York Islanders.

Delta Mu Delta member **EUGENE GOLD (M.B.A. '14)** is a managing partner at Argus Merchant Services in New York City. His company was ranked no. 106 by *Entrepreneur* magazine in its Entrepreneur 360 roundup that recognizes companies for their culture, impact, innovation, growth, and leadership. features.entrepreneur.com/entrepreneur-360

LEENA NOMAN (B.F.A. '15) received the ARCC King Student Medal for Excellence in Architectural and Environmental Design Research. She works in Abu Dhabi for KEO International Consultants. "Designing buildings is a very powerful tool that shapes cultures and impacts people's lives in so many different ways," she says. In August, Noman presented "A Path to Immortality: Through The Civilization of Mesopotamia" at the 28th International Conference on Systems Research, Informatics and Cybernetics in Baden-Baden, Germany. She wrote the paper with supervision from Taha Al-Douri, NYIT Strategic Advisor, Development/Alumni for Middle East Region. "Dr. Taha has been a constant

support to me ever since I joined the program at NYIT."

BISHARA ABDUL-HAMID (M.S. '16) joined the University of West Georgia's Distance & Distributed Education Center as an academic instructional support specialist. He is also pursuing a Doctor of Education to further his research and expertise in instructional design and technology. "With my NYIT degree, I have designed innovative 21st-century training courses for both public and private organizations," he says.

JUSTIN SEVERANCE (M.S. '16) joined Sanford Broadway Clinic in Fargo, N.D., as a physician's assistant.

YIANNOS VROUSGOS (B.ARCH. '16) is co-founder of Input Creative Studio, an architectural and interior design firm based in New York City. His company has worked on projects in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, as well as in Florida and Europe.

Marriages

ASHLEY CAROL UHUAD (M.S. '12) to Alexandre Charles Roy.

Passings

HOWARD R. COHEN (B.S. '69)
RODNEY ALBERT BRYNILDSEN (B.S. '70)
PAUL A. SEATON (B.S. '91)
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SUBMIT

ALUMNI NOTES

**NEW JOB? ON THE MOVE?
 TELL US AT NYIT.EDU/ALUMNI_NOTES
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Gonzalo Cruz

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT



Tom Scerbo

(B. ARCH. '98)

Right: Tom Scerbo shows a model of East Midtown and the design of the MetLife Tower to colleague and NYIT graduate Roxana Kariyannis (B.Arch. '00).

“YOU DRAW LIKE AN ARCHITECT.” That single observation by Tom Scerbo’s high school art teacher ultimately led Scerbo to his chosen career in architecture and design. And that wasn’t the only time a teacher would have a profound effect on Scerbo’s life. Later, when he was pursuing a degree in architecture at NYIT, a faculty member pushed him to question his assumptions. “Professor [Rodolfo] Imas encouraged me to think beyond the boundaries of an architectural site and to think how it can have a greater impact on the city as a whole,” he says. Under Imas’ guidance, Scerbo’s work at NYIT became focused on the city and exploring creative ways to improve the public realm. “I gravitated toward infrastructure and transportation and how design can have more of an impact on the daily lives of people and their city,” he says.

Barry Sloan

That thinking led Scerbo, who grew up in the Bronx, to work for a small firm that did projects for the New York City Transit Authority and then for HNTB, a major infrastructure development company. Scerbo worked at HNTB for 14 years; he led the design and delivery of subway stations, intermodal facilities, and airport terminals. “I grew up at HNTB working on some large complex projects,” he says.

Two years ago, Scerbo assumed a new role as vice president and managing principal for the New York Metro Building & Places division of AECOM, a multinational Fortune 500 integrated design and construction company. He now heads a multi-disciplinary group of more than 200 employees, including architects, building engineers, strategists, landscape architects, urban designers, and interior designers. Scerbo has also transitioned his focus from transportation hubs to commercial and corporate buildings.

One of his group’s recent successes combined both of his fields of expertise: They won the “Reimagine a New York City Icon” competition for the repositioning (or “reskinning”) of Manhattan’s famous MetLife Tower (formerly the Pan Am Building), which sits atop Grand Central Terminal. Though the design was only created for the competition, that could change in the future. The evaluation of the MetLife Tower is part of an ongoing plan to rezone and capture more air rights for an area of Manhattan called East Midtown. In the old days, new development meant tearing down old buildings—sometimes the city’s most beautiful ones. Not so now. With the MetLife design, Scerbo’s team was faced with taking a 50-year-old building, doubling its size, making it more eco-friendly, and making sure the new design stayed true to the icon. “Now we think critically about the challenges that face our city,” he explains. Even with decades of experience, Scerbo is still pushing the boundaries of architecture, just like his professor encouraged him to do. ■

GET CERTIFIED WITH CISCO

NYIT has teamed up with Cisco to offer the CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) certification, a coveted information technology designation. NYIT alumni with degrees in electrical and computer engineering, computer science, and information technology can benefit from this certification. The first six-day course will be held March 20-25 on the Manhattan campus. Register at nyit.edu/cisco.



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SCENE AT NYIT

The prototype of a rib cage, used in College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Health Professions classes, is ready for its close-up on the Old Westbury campus

