

The background of the cover is a satellite image of a hurricane, showing a distinct eye and spiral cloud bands. The colors range from dark blue (cooler temperatures) to bright yellow and red (warmer temperatures), indicating the intensity of the storm.

NYIT
MAGAZINE

nyit.edu

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2

EXTREME MEASURES

**NYIT tackles the alarming
rise in dangerous weather
due to climate change**



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JEFF WEINER



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Embracing Our Strengths, Fulfilling a Vision

THE START OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR ALL OF US AT NYIT. FIRST, MEDICAL STUDENTS ARRIVE IN AUGUST AND THEN FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS ARRIVE FOR ORIENTATION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. NEW AND RETURNING UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS START CLASSES THE WEDNESDAY AFTER LABOR DAY. THERE IS A GREAT SENSE OF OPPORTUNITY IN THE AIR AND A PROVERBIAL “CLEAN SLATE” MENTALITY.

On Aug. 29, I had the privilege of delivering my 14th state-of-the-institution address to NYIT faculty and staff. We have much to celebrate—our university is better than ever, and our recent achievements as well as our plans for the future added to the collective pride and energy that makes starting a new year at NYIT special.

We begin the new academic year in a position of strength. Consider our faculty: we have the highest level of research activity and grants in our history—\$5.5 million in total this year—and dozens of authors at all campuses publishing in their respective arenas. Our faculty members enjoy peer recognition, with many awarded professional distinctions and named to leadership positions in their fields. In addition, we are admitting high-caliber students and attracting top-tier talent to lead us in critical administrative areas. Our ability to harness this level of talent is proof of NYIT's global appeal.

One role of a university is to prepare students for this world. But how does this work in a rapidly changing, technology-fueled global society? The willingness to embrace these digital shifts is the first step. By virtue of definition, preparing for the future is a never-ending task. At NYIT, we teach students the mindset of freely adapting technology into their careers, not locking them into a singular mentality that constricts their growth. And we are now seeing the signposts, if not the actual exit ramps, for futuristic tools once thought to be far down the digital highway. Wearable technology, for example, in the form of smart



CRAIG WALLACE DALE

watches and smart clothing, may bring students even closer to professors and classmates, giving them instant updates to assignments, lab work, and online discussions.

In research, the benefits of new technologies are a given. The introduction of 3-D printing—the ability to fabricate physical objects from a computer (something that we're already doing on our campuses)—offers great possibilities. In fact, our College of Osteopathic Medicine's 3-D printer may help researchers make synthetic body parts as well as customized, affordable prosthetics.

Another role NYIT embraces is our capacity to reach across the globe, enhancing the lives of underprivileged communities.

This is made possible by our footprints already planted in varied corners of the world—from Ghana to Costa Rica to India—coupled with our students and faculty who navigate intercultural barriers and collaborate perspectives that kick-start innovation.

A report by the Institute of International Education noted that as business and culture transcend national borders, our future workforce—even at the local level—needs to think globally. It urged U.S. institutions of higher education to develop a sound “foreign policy,” from recruiting more students to developing strategic partnerships such as dual-degree programs. The report reinforced that international education is vital to the future of U.S. higher education and fundamental to U.S. economic growth and national security.

We at NYIT have differentiated ourselves by getting in front of global education. Our strong ties and programs in China, perhaps the strongest of any American university, date back to the 1990s. We have campuses and joint programs in the Middle East, Canada, and South America. At our New York hub are 1,300 international students, while our American students pursue learning opportunities outside the United States. This experiential education enhances their personal and professional growth. Meanwhile, NYIT professors continue to assess the global competencies of graduating students in every major and share additional ways to improve these skillsets.

In this time of new beginnings, I am proud of all that we have achieved in the realms of global expansion, our use of technology as a learning facilitator, and our ability to attract top talent. All of these factors contribute to producing the world-class innovators and global citizens known as NYIT alumni. ■

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

"I wanted to give back."

Tony Epifane (B.S. '85, M.B.A. '09) knows a good idea when he sees one. And when he heard about NYIT's Alumni Mentor Program, he took the opportunity to contact the university's Office of Career Services and ask what he could do to help. As director of sales and applications engineering for Karl Storz Endoscopy, a major U.S. distributor of medical devices, he felt gratitude to NYIT for his own professional success, which spans nearly three decades.

The Office of Career Services connected him with biomedical majors Kavita Ramdeen and Shanice Doyle, both from Trinidad, who were looking for a mentor. Immediately, the trio bonded as Epifane took them on tours of New York City medical facilities, gave them valuable real-world insight, and answered questions they had about their education and future career planning.

"He is wonderful, so friendly," said Ramdeen, who is interested in pursuing a career in prosthetics. "It's mind-blowing when you find out what you can do with an NYIT degree. You can really do anything."

For Doyle, joining NYIT's Alumni Mentor Program was, in her words, the best decision she ever made. "The opportunities and experiences I have received have been priceless," she says. "Anytime I had questions, Tony would call or email back and talk about his contacts. From day one, he showed interest and made sure we got everything we possibly could out of the experience."



Tony Epifane (B.S. '85, M.B.A. '09) mentored NYIT students Kavita Ramdeen (left) and Shanice Doyle.

Mentor an NYIT Student

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NYIT

NYIT Salutes an International Class of 2013



NYIT students from campuses across the globe were honored at graduation ceremonies in Abu Dhabi (May 27), Bahrain (May 29), Amman (May 31), Vancouver (May 31), and Nanjing (June 10).

In his keynote address to graduates, President Guiliano said their investment in higher education would lead to prosperity both personally and professionally, and emphasized the value of connectedness in the networked 21st century.

“You’ll enjoy opportunities that first appear in the corner of your eye,” he told the newest members of NYIT’s global

Telecommunications (NUPT) conferred an honorary doctoral degree upon President Guiliano in recognition of his academic achievements and outstanding contributions to the collaboration between NUPT and NYIT. Many members of the NYIT-Nanjing Class of 2013 have already landed positions at China Telecom, China Post Bank, China Unicom, China Mobile, IBM, Jiangsu Broadcasting Corporation, and Nanrui Group, among other leading organizations. Others will begin graduate coursework in China and in the United States at institutions including NYIT,

design, computer science, information technology and computer security, and business administration. These students have been engaged in community service, such as their production of *Dead Sands*, a film whose DVD sales are being donated to the Bahrain Red Crescent Society.

NYIT-Amman graduate Ola Khawaja (B.S. ’13) said she “loved every single moment” of her NYIT education and credits it with leading to the first step in her career—a graphic design internship at the American embassy in Jordan. Following the internship, she plans to apply for positions at large companies in the information technology field. Zeina Shafaqoj (B.S. ’13) said her NYIT education “helped me use critical thinking rather than wishful thinking, and it also helped me grow as an individual.”

At NYIT-Vancouver, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rahmat Shoureshi, Ph.D., congratulated the Class of 2013, adding: “The most valuable resource for addressing and solving global challenges is a skilled and educated people with a global perspective and understanding. Our graduating class is a shining example of such a group of intellectuals.”

These ceremonies followed NYIT’s 52nd commencement, which celebrated 3,215 graduates on May 19, 2013, at NYIT-Old Westbury. ■



alumni network, which now includes 95,000 graduates. “You’ll have wonderful experiences, and meet fascinating people. Think of your NYIT degree as your passport to the world—and the future.”

Nanjing University of Posts and

Lehigh University, NYU Polytechnic, Stevens Institute of Technology, and the University of Southern California.

NYIT-Bahrain graduates included those earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in computer graphics, interior



Students Celebrate White Coat Accomplishment

Fitted, personalized, thigh-length white coats were the fashion of the day on July 17 as 287 students from NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine marked their transition from the classroom to the clinic in the annual White Coat Ceremony at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, N.Y.

Keynote speaker and cardiovascular specialist Kevin Klein (D.O. '83, see page 38) urged students to embrace medicine's future revolution, where molecular genomics, personalized, data-driven medicine, and technological advances represent a "metamorphosis" in the health care field.

"Despite all of these changes coming down the road, how successful you are as a physician is still going to be dependent on you," he said. "You need to learn to listen, and you need to learn to listen closely ... Your success will be dependent on you developing that personal bond and trust with patients."

Forty-three students were inducted into Psi Sigma Alpha, the National Osteopathic Honor Society, including Christine Hickey, daughter of Susan (B.S. '82) and Thomas Hickey (B.S. '80). Dean Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., administered the oath of commitment, and President Guiliano praised the students for their accomplishments. ■

New Faces Bring Expertise, Experience, and Vision

NYIT welcomed three new members to its global administration in 2013.

Patrick G. Love, Ph.D. (below left), a veteran leader in student affairs and management, has joined as vice president for student affairs. In his new role, he is responsible for the strategic vision and operation of NYIT's student development and services. Love will work with university administration and faculty members to integrate academic and



co-curricular learning, incorporate a global perspective into the student affairs division, and set goals for student development and campus life throughout NYIT's global community. Among major areas he will address are athletics administration and business development. Love will also measure and assess outcomes of NYIT's student affairs initiatives.

Love earned a bachelor's degree in political science and an M.S./C.A.S. in counseling psychology and student development from SUNY Albany as well as a Ph.D. in higher education and student affairs at Indiana University.

Seasoned communications executive Nancy Donner (above right) has been hired to lead NYIT's Office of Communications and Marketing as vice president, overseeing its global integrated marketing efforts. A native New Yorker with a B.A. from Brown University,

Donner has spent the better part of her 25-year career working to promote education, culture, and organizations devoted to the social good. While at the helm for seven years of The New School's marketing and communications team, she led efforts to amplify that university's brand through bold and creative solutions, improve its reputation, and utilize new digital, broadcast, and social media tools to reach both the widest and the most targeted audiences. Donner also



served as vice president for communications and marketing at The New York Public Library, where she successfully developed its brand and messaging platform, marketed the library to targeted stakeholders, and created comprehensive promotion strategies to increase earned income opportunities, visitor attendance, and public awareness of exhibitions, programs, and services.

Love and Donner are joined by Martin Gerson, Ph.D., who was named dean and executive director of the university's Vancouver campus earlier this year. The Montreal native has nearly four decades of experience in higher education serving in leadership positions at Langara College in British Columbia. He was the recipient of the 2012 Dr. Idahlynn Karre Exemplary Leadership Award. Gerson has a Ph.D. in mathematics from Simon Fraser University in Canada. ■

Science, For the Shell of It

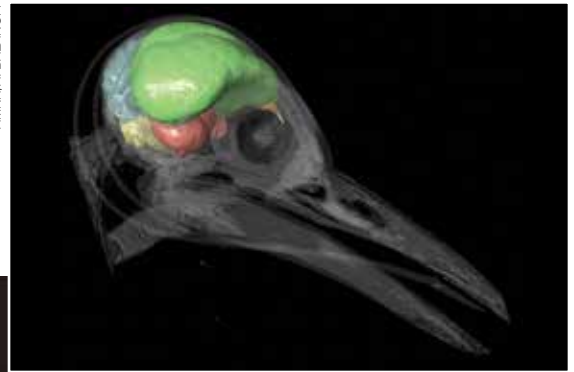
How did the turtle get its shell? Gabriel Bever, Ph.D., assistant professor of anatomy at NYIT's College of Osteopathic Medicine, helps answer this evolutionary curiosity in Volume 23, Issue 12 of *Current Biology*.

"Turtle origins have been a hot topic for a long time," says Bever,

with turtles," says Bever. "And as soon as we did that, it was revealed as closely related to everything currently accepted as a turtle."

Bever's research colleagues included scientists from Yale University, the Smithsonian

AMINHA BALANOFF



Above: A CT scan of a modern woodpecker (*Melanerpes aurifrons*) with its brain cast rendered opaque and the skull transparent.

Left: A fossil of *Eunotosaurus* next to a living turtle.



LUKE NORTON/UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND

part of a scientific team that determined a 260-million-year-old reptile, *Eunotosaurus*, is the earliest known version of a turtle, in part because of its distinctive T-shaped ribs. The ribs, according to Bever, represent an early step in the evolutionary development of the turtle's carapace, the hard, upper part of the shell found in today's turtles.

Prior studies indicated that the earliest known turtle was 220 million years old. Scientists previously overlooked or dismissed the turtle features of *Eunotosaurus*, Bever believes, because the creature did not have skin containing bones, long thought to be a necessary evolutionary step in the development of the turtle shell.

"We were the first to actually include *Eunotosaurus* in an evolutionary analysis

Institute, and the Paleontology Institute and Museum in Zurich, Switzerland. Their study is part of a larger research project on reptile anatomy and evolution. The team has done fieldwork in the Karoo Basin of South Africa and museum research all over the world.

BIRD-BRAINED IDEAS

In the online edition of *Nature*, Bever and another team of colleagues traced the evolutionary origin of the avian brain. They discovered that many dinosaurs—ancestors of modern birds—had flight-ready brains long before some of them flew. The study's conclusions refuted the common notion that the large forebrain of birds evolved as part of a flight system.

"Dinosaurs had these big brains before they could fly," he says. "We're still

working on what factors may have been driving the original enlargement of the bird brain. But it doesn't appear to be flight or the requirements of flight. That brain was in place before flight."

Bever and scientists from the American Museum of Natural History, Columbia University, and the University of Texas at Austin used high-resolution computed tomographic scans and digital software to reconstruct 3-D models of the brains of the 100-million-year-old *Archaeopteryx*, a winged species generally considered to be the earliest bird.

"We used digital data because we can't cut the specimens open," says Bever. "We digitally reconstruct what the brain would have looked like based on the shape of the internal wall of the cranial cavity."

The team also sampled living bird groups and other extinct non-avian dinosaurs.

"The story of brain size is more than its relationship to body size," says Bever. "If we also consider how the different regions of the brain changed relative to each other, we can gain insight into what factors drove brain evolution as well as what developmental mechanisms facilitated those changes." ■

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Hospitality Program Serves Up NYC Learning

Eighteen students from Hallym University in Chuncheon, South Korea, got their first taste of the Big Apple as part of a study abroad program sponsored by NYIT's Global Center for Hospitality Management. The program, which ran from July 11 to Aug. 7 at NYIT-Manhattan, offered hospitality tours to landmark New York City companies, such as Bloomberg, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, the Ritz Carlton-Battery Park, NBC Studios, and Radio City Music Hall; featured guest speakers who serve as leaders in the hospitality industry, including Andrew Rigie, president of the New York City Hospitality Alliance, and Rick Amato, vice president of the New York State Hotel Association; and gave students the opportunity to sample local cuisines from leading New York area restaurants.

"We are excited to have this partnership with Hallym University and look forward to giving more students the chance to experience New York City through NYIT," says Robert Koenig, Ed.D., director of the program and associate dean for NYIT's School of Management. "This enhances our global reputation and gives NYIT new entry points into growing markets." ■



IN BRIEF

MINOR ADDITION, BROAD OUTLOOK

A new minor in health sciences at NYIT's New York campuses includes courses in a range of health-related subjects, including nutrition, aging, the health care industry, and ethics. It is aimed at students who are not enrolled in health-related academic programs but are interested in careers within the broad, growing area of health professions. Course offerings include Life Cycle and Weight Management, Exercise Physiology, Bio-Medical Ethics, and Health and Aging.

INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTION

NYIT is developing a pilot program to promote entrepreneurial spirit in its School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Through a collaboration with NYIT's School of Management, all undergraduate engineering and computer science students will learn how to transition their ideas in robotics, mechatronics, medical devices, e-healthcare, software, and mobile phone applications from design and prototyping to the marketplace. The "Entrepreneurship Path for Undergraduate Students" program is funded through a grant from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. ■

Students Get Supplementary Education

Undergraduates in Deborah Cohn's (M.B.A. '89) marketing strategy and policy class got their first real-world business experience marketing a new dietary supplement, Edox, formulated to improve men's cardiovascular functions. The assistant professor's goal was to give her class a comprehensive look at the steps

necessary to bring a product to market as well as create advertising materials to support their efforts.

"Students had an opportunity to not just create a marketing plan but also to implement their ideas and witness the results," says Cohn. "It was important that they understand the full scale of what

happens when a product is released into the market."

Tasks included creating a Google Adworks campaign, Facebook page, and website (edoxsupplement.com). The students tweeted a stream of news, health tips, and other promotional announcements via @edoxsupplement. ■

Got a Crisis? Good!

Assistant Professor Larry Jaffee has a lot of problems. As the instructor for Crisis Communications at NYIT-Manhattan, he gathers information on the latest headline crises and demonstrates to his class how they are handled (and mishandled) by corporations, politicians, and other entities.

“Every week, we tackle another area of crisis management,” Jaffee says. “A week doesn’t go by where there isn’t major news that is relevant to our class.”

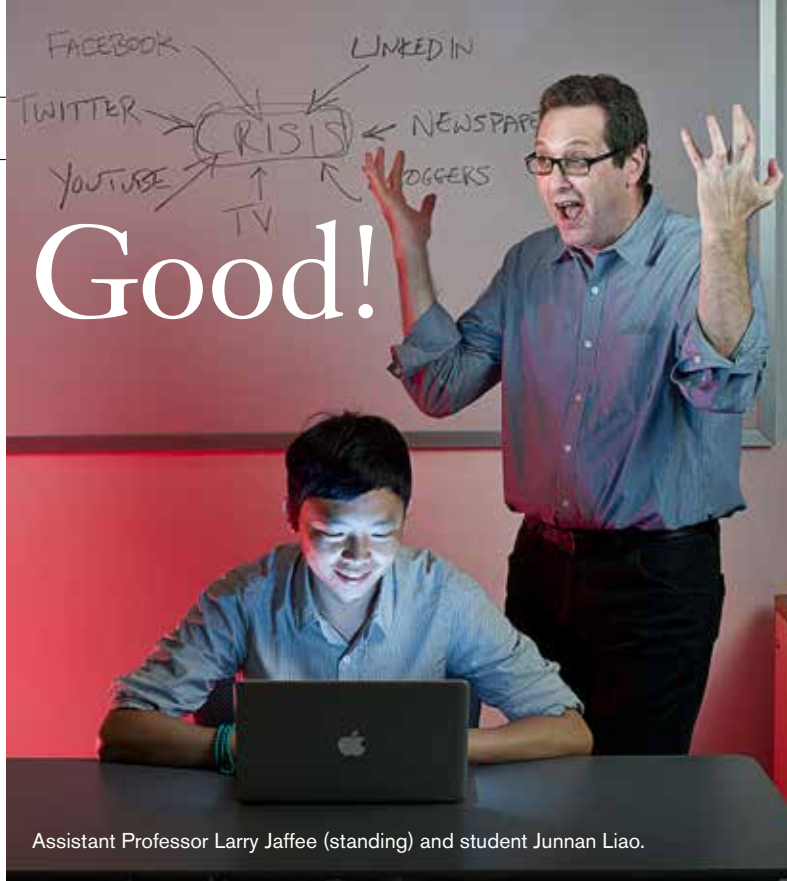
Take, for example, in spring 2013 when Carnival Triumph passengers were stranded for five days at sea without working toilets. “We discussed the cruise line and felt that although they held a press conference or two, they were severely lacking in spreading their message in online and social media,” says student Lisa Giosi. “We discussed what we would say if we were the CEO of Carnival, and how we would say it, as body language is just as important as the actual message.”

Technology plays a role in the class as well. Jaffee discusses how Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube affect 21st-century crises. “Some of the crises selected aimed to train us on social media,” says student Junnan Liao.

Class projects included developing crisis scenarios and creating a communications plan to deal with public outcry. “My group’s scenario was a batch of tainted false eyelashes, so in turn we held a press conference in class and wrote a press release to warn the public,” says Giosi. “The most surprising part was discovering all the different facets that a public relations professional is responsible for in the current workplace.”

Students blogged about their experiences and submitted news stories that included crises at crisisbuzz.wordpress.com.

Jaffee also brought in speakers involved in some of the largest media crises in recent memory, including Errol Cockfield, press secretary to former Gov. Elliot Spitzer, and



Assistant Professor Larry Jaffee (standing) and student Junnan Liao.

NYIT Vice President for Financial Affairs Leonard Aubrey, who served as president and CEO of NYU Downtown Hospital during 9/11.

“Through the guest speakers, I learned the difference between how American and Chinese companies deal with crisis problems,” says Liao, who plans to return to his native China to pursue a career in crisis management.

“All of our speakers were amazing,” says Giosi. “They were so open to discussing their careers and experiences. The class was also given networking opportunities, as each speaker gave us their contact information and welcomed us to stay in touch.”

Dealing with legal situations were the most useful lessons, she adds. “As public relations professionals working in a crisis setting, we are exposed to situations that carry heavy legal burdens. The guest speakers prepared us to handle those situations when they occur and best practices for different scenarios.” ■

Stars in the Spotlight

The NYIT Auditorium on Broadway played host to more than 200 events in 2013, including a Q&A series by the Screen Actors Guild Foundation that featured prominent artists discussing their careers in stage and film. Pictured is Emmy- and Tony-winning actor David Hyde Pierce (right) with Broadway World’s Richard Ridge. Pierce is currently on Broadway in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. He is perhaps best known for his role as Niles Crane on the NBC sitcom *Frasier*, which ran from 1993 to 2004. Other organizations that have held events at the venue include Focus Features, Deutsche Bank, Yahoo, and the New York Philharmonic. ■



Finding the Right Roommate Just Got Easier



When he was a student, Ajay Yadav (B.S. '13) designed Roomi, an app that helps people find new homes and suitable roommates.

Some NYIT students don't wait until graduation to jumpstart their careers. When Ajay Yadav (B.S. '13) was selected for TechCrunch Disrupt's Startup Alley in New York City this past April, he saw it as

the perfect venue to create buzz for Roomi, his new iPhone app. At the event known for presenting innovative startups, he showed a demo video while attendees tested the app.

"Roomi helps you find the right room and the right roommate,"

Yadav says. "It's designed to help you find roommates based on your interests, likes, and lifestyle, and to make appointments to look at prospective rooms."

App users can create profiles noting their tastes, converse with potential roommates using a secure, built-in chat feature, and upload photos of apartment interiors. Yadav is currently beta-testing the app, incorporat-

ing user feedback and fixing bugs before its market release.

It's not the first time Yadav has founded a startup. He learned to code HTML in eighth grade and previously launched HND Technologies, a startup offering multiple tools, such as online classifieds, an URL shortener, and discussion forums. He says 300,000 users had tested the online classifieds website by the end of its second year.

Since unveiling Roomi, Yadav says he's received press inquiries and expects to see the app featured soon in tech media publications as well as on iTunes. Visit roomiapp.com to try it for yourself. ■

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Oh my gosh, the orientation
leaders at my school did an NYIT
rendition of the #Friends theme
song! #bestcollegeever

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so i sang karaoke with one of my
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(me: I am so proud)

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NYIT Magazine is
published by
New York Institute
of Technology
Northern Boulevard
P.O. Box 8000
Old Westbury, NY
11568-8000

The publication is distributed to
alumni, parents, friends, and
faculty and staff members of NYIT
(circulation: 72,000).
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Campus Slate Goes Mobile

Readers of the *Campus Slate*—NYIT’s student-run newspaper—can now receive updates on news and events on their mobile devices, thanks to the new *Campus Slate* app, created by a team of NYIT undergraduate students in computer science, engineering, and graphic design.

“As more people connect with each other through their smartphones, the *Campus Slate* is now keeping up with new trends in journalism and the digital media world,” says John Santamaria, communication arts major and 2012-2013 editor-in-chief of the *Campus Slate*.

The app, available on Windows 8 as well as Android phones and devices, features news articles, staff bios, and the ability to tag articles as favorites. The student team is working to make the app available for iPhones and other iOS devices for the spring 2014 semester, as well as incorporating RSS feeds, social media integration, sharing capabilities, and advertisements for NYIT clubs, organizations, and events.

The development team consisted of team leader Pranav Krishnamurthy, staff writer for the *Campus Slate* and a computer science major; Jeffrey Silva and Luis Umbarila, computer and electrical engineering majors; Elieser Duran, graphic design major; and Nicholas Passaro, computer science major. With varying levels of experience with computer programming and coding, the team taught each other how to work with JavaScript, C#.net, XAML, and Windows 8, Windows Phone 8, and Android platforms to create a successful mobile app. ■

Students Get the Microsoft Experience

Two students enjoyed a West Coast technology trip when they were selected by NYIT’s Office of Career Services for the exclusive “Experience Microsoft” program for promising young engineers.

Students Emmanuel Sanchez and Fabio Casagrande were among 40 peers from 30 universities who met for an intense weekend of seminars, lectures, and hands-on practice with the company’s engineers and innovators.

“This program is designed for intelligent, driven, excellent sophomores and juniors in computer engineering and computer science whom we hope wish to flourish and excel in a software development career,” says Brooke Simpson, a Microsoft university recruiter. “These are the brilliant minds we want to impact.”

Sanchez is president of the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and on the

President’s Honor List. He is an assistant manager at NYIT’s Department of Academic Computing Services. Last year, he was one of 15 students who spent 10 days in Independencia, Peru, on an Alternative Spring Break service project.

Casagrande—a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society, and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—is already the inventor of a computer application for Microsoft’s Windows 8 tablet: “Tuscany in Your Pocket.” The app is a free travel guide for English-speaking tourists visiting the popular Italian region.

Casagrande says the Microsoft trip ignited his academic interests. “I am more fascinated with computer programming than before,” he adds. ■

Racquet Man

By Sabrina Polidoro

When Chris Frusci suffered a shoulder injury in his first season of playing football for Muhlenberg College, he thought his future in athletics was finished. Turns out, it was just the bounce he needed to find a new career in sports.

“Athletics has always been part of my life,” says Frusci. So when playing was no longer an option, he made the move to athletic administration and coaching.

In September 2011, he became NYIT’s head coach of the men’s and women’s tennis teams and has wasted no time serving up success after success. Frusci has steered the programs toward their first-ever East Coast Conference (ECC) titles, NCAA East Region championships, and an NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

The women’s team went from a 10-9 record in Frusci’s first season in fall 2011 to an impressive 23-4 overall mark and ranked 15th nationwide in the NCAA, including a 6-1 ECC record in 2012-2013. The men’s team finished the year 16-10 overall (11-12 in 2011-2012), made a second consecutive trip to the national tournament—earning a coveted Sweet 16 spot—and ranked second in the East Region.

“We made a big leap in both programs last year,” says Frusci. “You always want to aim high, but to win the ECC and make it to nationals was an amazing achievement.”

Having never played tennis at an organized level, Frusci wondered how his players would respond to a coach with limited experience on the court. It was a concern that was quickly smashed once Frusci earned the ECC Coach of the Year award in fall 2012. He was later named NYIT’s Coach of the Year at the 15th Annual Athletic Awards Banquet on April 22, 2013.

“The ECC Coach of the Year Award was special because my peers voted for me,” says Frusci. “I knew then I must be doing a good job.” He’s also committed to ensuring that his players come away with more than match wins on the court.

“I want my student-athletes to be motivated and dedicated, and to get the most out of their collegiate experience,” he says. “They are laying the foundation for a future of success.”

“Coach Frusci is really good at knowing how to motivate us,” says junior Sara Burinato. “We are all excited for the fall 2013 season.” ■





Off the Field, This Goalkeeper Still Saves

Women's soccer goalkeeper Brianna Bollettieri joined nearly 350 other Arthritis Foundation advocates on Capitol Hill in March 2013 for the annual Arthritis Foundation Advocacy Summit. Bollettieri's group is fighting for policies to ensure more research, better treatments, and greater access to care. While there, she was honored with the foundation's Emerging Advocacy Award.

Bollettieri was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis when she was 12. "Thankfully, my orthopedist recognized that something serious was wrong and sent me to a pediatric rheumatologist," she says. Since then, she and her family have been advocates for the Arthritis Foundation, and Bollettieri has been honored as a two-time ambassador and a youth honoree at the Long Island Arthritis Foundation walk.

"I plan on continuing my efforts with the Arthritis Foundation," she says. A health sciences major, Bollettieri intends to pursue a career in physical or occupational therapy. As the starting goalkeeper for the Bears, she ranks seventh all-time at NYIT with 99 saves in a single season. ■

Volleyball Serves Up Veteran Class

With the largest senior class in the program's history, volleyball Head Coach Gail Wasmus is setting her sights on the East Coast Conference (ECC) title and the NCAA Regional Final this year. "The team goal is to get to the Elite Eight," says Wasmus. "We have great leadership and the experience of returning all but one starting player from last year. There should be no reason why we don't have a spot in the regional final." The Bears return 10 letter winners and six starters including All-American Shelby Cable (pictured). Cable led NYIT to a 22-10 overall record and a 12-4 ECC mark. She averaged a team-best 3.46 kills per set with 299 digs and 30 aces. ■



SOCCKER READY TO KICK IT UP

The NYIT women's soccer team is ready to make a run at the East Coast Conference (ECC) title this season. Finishing 2012 with a 6-10-1 overall record, NYIT placed fifth in the ECC (2-5-1), a game shy of advancing to the tournament.

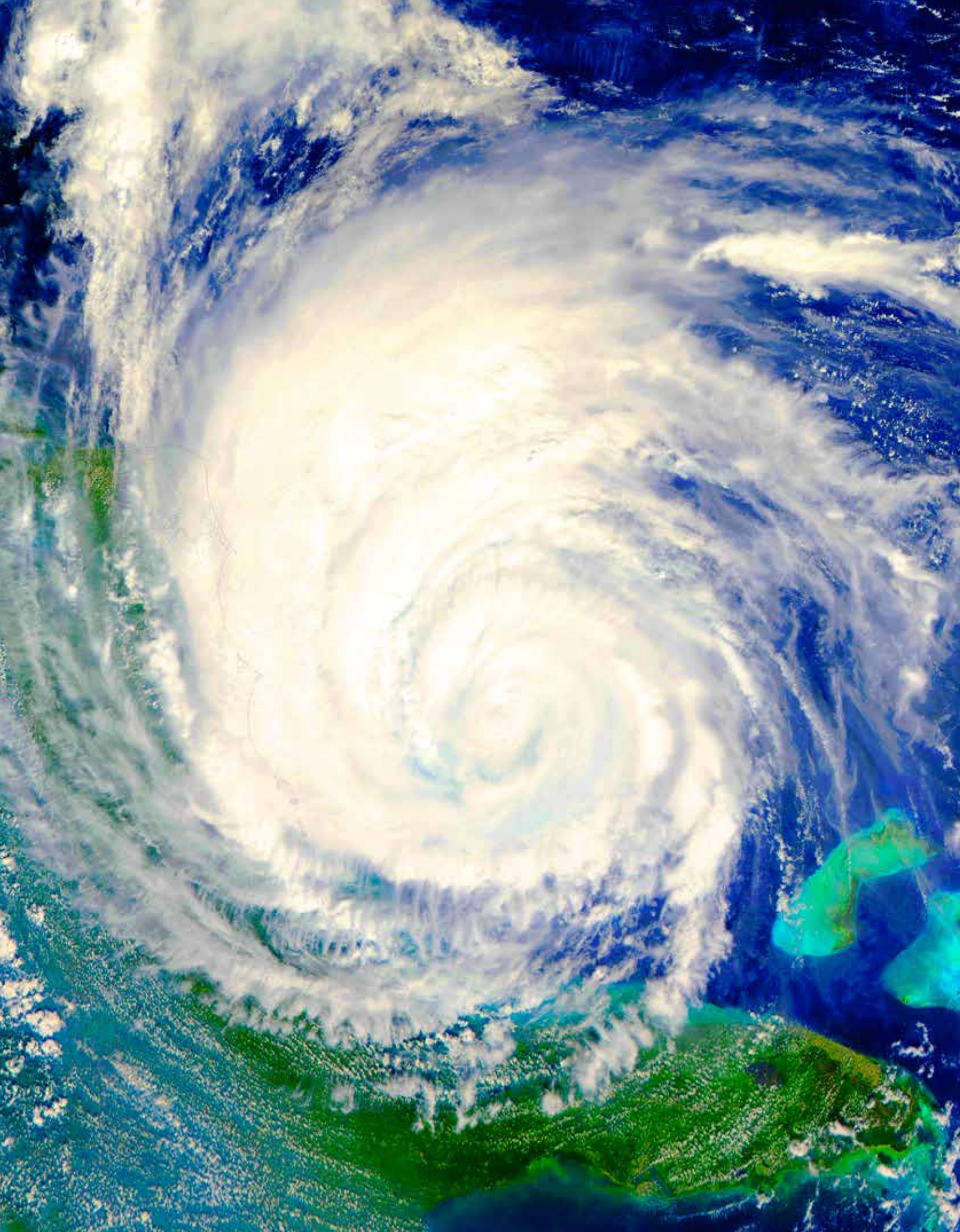
The men's team is poised to snag another ECC championship in 2013. All-American senior captain Vinny Caccavale and All-ECC standout Matt DiDonna led the Bears to a 9-7-3 record last season. Also returning is two-time All-ECC defender senior Javier Gallardo and NYIT's single-season shutouts leader junior goalkeeper Liam Waddy.

NET GAINS

The men's tennis team earned a string of honors in 2013. Tomas Lieb was named first team All-ECC, while Mircea Dimofte and Jaime Salvador were second team recipients. Julian Marcon was named ECC Co-Scholar Men's Tennis Athlete of the Year, an Excellence in Community and Character Award recipient from the ECC, a CoSIDA At-Large Academic All-District, and a Capital One Academic At-Large All-American.

RUNNING ON PLENTY

Second-year Head Coach Thomas Brouillard is beginning to make an impact on the men's and women's cross country programs with his first full recruiting class in 2013. Brouillard returns All-ECC and All-Region standout junior Gladys Kimutai to the women's roster along with senior Shekeila Campbell. Kimutai finished two places shy of earning a bid to the NCAA Nationals in 2012 with a personal-best 22:30 in the women's 6k. Her tally ranks third all-time among NYIT runners. On the men's side, the Bears return six letter winners, including sophomore Nick Mavros, junior Christian Barton, and senior Stephan Owens. ■





EMERGENCY MEASURES

BY JIM H. SMITH

At 11 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 29, 2012, Louis Uccellini, Ph.D., stood inside the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service head-quarters and watched a horror show.

His face was bathed with pale light as he and 40 colleagues stared at an immense video screen flashing high-resolution, real-time satellite images.

It was a startling glimpse into nature's fury.

"Hurricane Sandy was expanding in size right before our eyes," Uccellini recalls. As he and others watched, the huge storm, which was about to become one of the nation's costliest hurricanes, defied early track predictions. Blocked by an atypical ridge of high pressure over the North Atlantic that most meteorological forecast models had not anticipated, the storm made an abrupt left turn and zeroed in on New Jersey, converging with and gaining strength from an arctic front that had also been stalled by the ridge. Blossoming into a ferocious monster, it had picked up speed.

"We could all see that it was going to be a huge storm," says Uccellini.

More than 50 years have passed since another wind-lashed Monday morning, Sept. 12, 1960, but Uccellini, who is now director of the National Weather Service, still has vivid memories. He was a 10-year-old Bethpage, N.Y., youngster then, and the thing about Hurricane Donna that stands out most strikingly for him was how unprepared Long Islanders were for its arrival.

"We woke up that morning," he says, "and found out that school had been canceled. There were no watches or warnings, no forecast to speak of. Residents were mostly surprised." This in spite of the fact that in the nine days leading up to its assault on New York, Donna's status on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale never dropped below category 3, the threshold for "major" hurricanes. Over that time, it rampaged across the Caribbean and churned its way up the East Coast, leaving behind nearly \$1 billion in damage and more than 300 fatalities. Not until 9 p.m. on Sept. 11 were hurricane warnings announced for coastal areas north of New Jersey.

A lot has happened with weather prediction since then, says Uccellini, who was the keynote speaker at NYIT's annual Energy Conference, held at the Old Westbury campus on June 13, 2013. The early 1990s saw major breakthroughs in computer modeling of storms as well as better ways to cross-reference data across radar, satellites, weather balloons, aircrafts, and thousands of volunteers. Such technologies have dramatically improved the capacity of the Weather Service to forecast extreme events earlier and more reliably.

"The Weather Service is making historic strides in predicting extreme events five to eight days in advance, and we're doing it consistently," Uccellini told conference attendees.

It's a good thing. Each year, the United States can expect six Atlantic hurricanes, 1,300 tornadoes, 5,000 floods, 26,000 severe thunderstorms, and a witches'

do to help people better anticipate, plan for, and cope with the kinds of extreme meteorological phenomena that have become commonplace in recent years. It's a question that is, increasingly, on the minds of NYIT faculty, students, and alumni.

REPLACING RELICS

Last winter, while many New York and New Jersey communities were still in the early stages of clean-up from Sandy, NYIT partnered with the Sallan Foundation to co-sponsor a conference called "Not Your Grandma's Infrastructure: The Urban Energy Revolution," which brought together energy experts to pointedly discuss the aging power grid.

In a *Huffington Post* article that Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, co-authored with Nancy Anderson,

antiquated infrastructure evolved to distribute electricity across vast regions from remote production centers—not the most effective power distribution method.

The future of energy production and distribution, they argue, is microgrids—small, local production and distribution systems that are not only more efficient, but also more secure and reliable.

Microgrids have become increasingly practical in recent years as engineers have developed batteries or equivalent technologies, such as hydrogen and electrochemical storage systems, that make it possible to store much of the electricity produced for emergencies when the traditional grid is heavily damaged. Because microgrids are local, operating near the customers that depend upon them, they often present the added value of opportunities to capture "waste" heat produced during power generation and use it to heat or cool buildings.

Exploring the potential of such technological advancements is critical to NYIT's ability to educate "a new generation of engineers ready to meet our national needs," says Anid.

It's a perspective with which Professor Stanley M. Greenwald, Ph.D., concurs. Chairperson and founder of the university's Department of Environmental Technology, he served for several years as executive secretary of the New York State Board for Engineering and Land Surveying, where his responsibilities included licensure of professional engineers.

He calls Hurricane Sandy "a wake-up call" that should inspire the engineering community to explore, with increased urgency, the creation of buildings that are both more durable and more energy-efficient.

"It is imperative that the technical societies and engineering schools develop and move forward with global climate change technology curricula that will meet the needs and requirements of the world's technical, scientific, and financial communities," he wrote in a report presented at a Carbon Management Technology Conference in February 2012. "The ability to meet growing global demand for practitioners in carbon management and climate change technology is dependent on the technical leadership, mentoring, and training received by the students from countries in



Hurricane Sandy's destruction of Long Beach, N.Y., was witnessed firsthand during a visit to the area in December 2012 by faculty and students in the School of Architecture and Design.

brew of drought and large wildfires. More than 600 lives annually are lost to these phenomena, and the string of disasters cost the nation some \$15 billion.

That's an average year. By some estimates, Sandy cost New York City alone nearly \$20 billion in damages and lost economic activity. As Uccellini told attendees at the conference, "Regardless of the cause, the trend shows an increasing number of extreme weather events, and increasing cost to the nation."

The question is what technology can

Ph.D., executive director of the Sallan Foundation, they wrote, "The energy systems a 21st-century megacity needs can't be 20th-century retreats. They won't be reliable, they can't be secured, and they won't be efficient. Recovering from Superstorm Sandy's insurgent devastation means a fundamental rethinking of these relics."

What Anid and Anderson suggest is the replacement of the old electric grid, which had its origins in the 1880s when there were few power plants. The

need of technology transfer to meet their adaptation and mitigation goals.”

At NYIT, Greenwald sees increased student interest in creative ways to respond to climate change. Many have spent their lives with growing awareness of sustainability as an alternative to relentless use of dwindling fuel sources. Whether they are exploring innovative, structural forms better equipped to survive storms or more efficient energy distribution, they are inventing the future in response to meteorological disaster.

VISUALIZING POTENTIAL

Frank Mruk, associate dean of the School of Architecture and Design, was working in his studio in Short Hills, N.J., on the day Hurricane Sandy arrived. At around 4 p.m., the area lost power, and Mruk and his family “hunkered down” for a long night.

In the morning, he went out for a run through his neighborhood to survey the damage. He didn’t have to go far. In fact, he couldn’t go far. Many of the mature trees that had been part of the area’s charm were now casualties of Sandy’s high winds, blocking streets. It would be weeks before power was restored.

The time afforded him an opportunity to contemplate Sandy’s destruction in the context of NYIT architecture and design curricula he’s been involved with for many years. The Bachelor of

CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT



Alex Alaimo (B.Arch. '13, left) and Dan Horn (B.Arch. '13) chaired Operation Resilient Long Island, an NYIT student-led initiative seeking smart design solutions for communities damaged by Sandy.

Architecture program in 2008 focused on rejuvenation of the Coney Island waterfront and featured a strong community engagement component. An American Institute of Architects (AIA) Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) project in 2009, only the second R/UDAT program in New York state, zeroed in on Staten Island’s waterfront, giving students “a great opportunity to work closely with numerous experts from all around the country for two weeks,” Mruk says.

At about the same time, he and other designers from 40 different countries were invited by the Swedish government and the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design to participate in a workshop in Malberget, Sweden, a 6,000-resident community north of the Arctic Circle. To prevent it from sliding into an unstable pit where a mine had collapsed, Malberget and all of its residents were being relocated, house by house, to terra firma. The problem before the designers, Mruk says, was: “How do you move a city?”

It was a question with far deeper implications than physically moving all the buildings in a region where any such effort is complicated by the harsh environment. There was the deeper inquiry into what role designers can play in reinvigorating damaged communities. “I believe that architects, first and foremost, are designers,” he says.

“Architects should be designing much more than just buildings. Architects can help communities damaged by extreme weather not to merely rebuild, but to visualize greater potential.”

That was the perspective with which he challenged his students after Sandy had vented its fury. Mruk mentored architecture and design students in the development of Operation Resilient Long Island (ORLI), an effort to aid recovery efforts by finding long-term resilient building and design solutions.

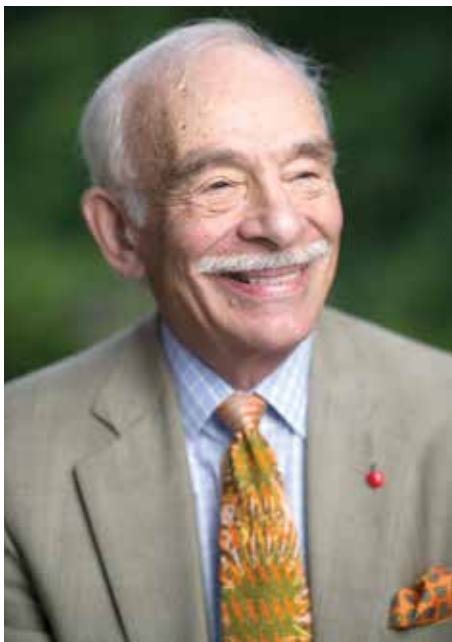
On Dec. 8, 2012, the ORLI students—along with representatives of the NYIT chapters of Freedom By Design, the AIA, and the Construction Management Association of America—toured hard-hit Long Beach, N.Y., on Long Island’s South Shore. And when NYIT students first arrived, residents suffering from post-traumatic stress took them to be gawkers.

“I thought they might start throwing tomatoes at us,” Mruk recalls. “When the residents found out that they were students to help, there was immediate acceptance.”

RETHINKING COMMUNITIES

In fact, many students who took part in the tour were also Long Island residents whose families shared the pain of Long Beach, where “Mount Sandy,” a five-story heap of sand left in the streets by the storm surge, and the skeletal remains

CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT



Professor Stanley Greenwald, Ph.D., guides NYIT students to address climate change.

of eight homes consumed by fire in the Canal District, were sad reminders of the storm's rage.

Dan Horn (B.Arch. '13) was one of them. Like a lot of Lindenhurst, N.Y., residents, his family had stayed in their home to ride out the storm. After all, they'd endured hurricanes before. Irene, in the summer of 2011, hadn't driven them out.

But Irene was no boot camp for Sandy. Only the knoll upon which the Horns' one-story home sits protected them from the seven-foot storm surge that barreled down their street. It rose three feet in 10 minutes at one point, slopping restlessly against their front doorstep, as though gathering energy for further assault. Their basement and cars flooded. Without power, heat, or landlines, their

laboratory for conducting tide cycle and environmental research.

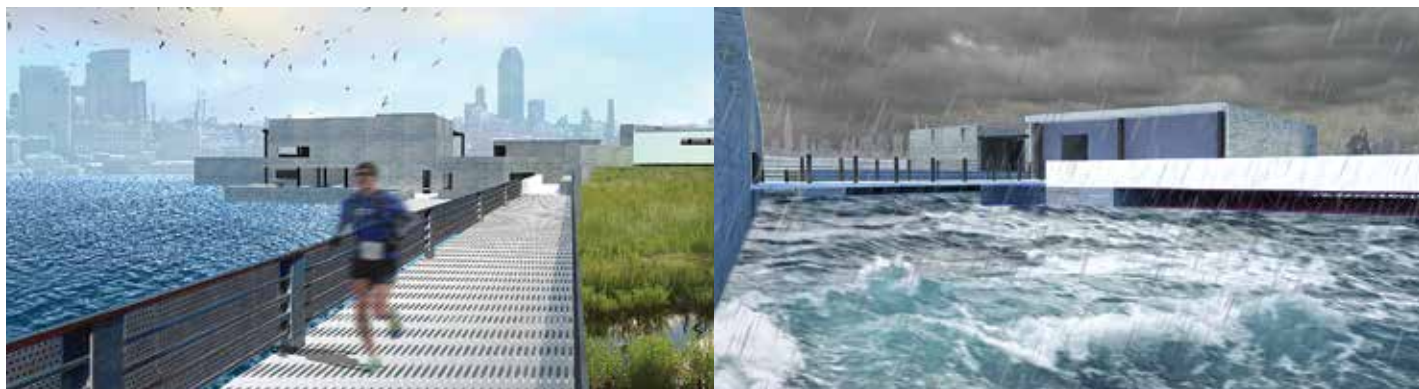
"My proposed building would act to embrace both the regular tide cycles and more severe flooding," he says. "It would implement a series of passive canal locks that control water flow into the spaces within the building during regular tide cycles and storm events. In theory, the design of the building would protect the adjacent community from storm surge and solidify the community's connection with its surrounding environment."

Horn says that, notwithstanding the damage it inflicted, Sandy gave him a gift. Along with Alex Alaimo (B.Arch. '13), who landed a job with Platt Byard Dovell White Architects LLP in New York City right after graduation, he chaired ORLI which, last May, launched a global design

demolished and reconstructed, or raised above the base flood elevation. These codes ensure life safety to citizens in flood plains, but nobody has considered the implications they present for the overall aesthetic of the community. For instance, what will happen to an entire community once some homes are raised and some remain on the ground? Can a comparable community be envisioned or will the unique aesthetic of these communities be lost forever?"

Though 3C was brand new, ORLI received more than 300 registrations within a month after the contest was announced. Following two rounds of reviews, the finalists will submit to a live jury evaluation in October 2013, so that the winners can be announced by the first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy.

DAN HORN (B.ARCH. '13)



only connectivity to the outer world was through wireless devices. The Horns stood on the threshold of the flood at one point and watched as their storm-ridden neighborhood was cast in surreal relief by a fire consuming a nearby home.

"It was terrifying," Horn says.

He had been working on his thesis at the time, a project for the rehabilitation of Newtown Creek, a badly polluted East River tributary that separates Brooklyn from Queens. Sandy had compelled him to rethink his research. "I examined opportunities in this extremely vulnerable zone for a series of building interventions that would work with the land and water in new ways," he says. "New zoning patterns, community-based programs, and natural wetlands had been the primary focus of my research."

By the time his project was ready for presentation last spring, it had evolved into an innovative model for a building that could serve as a community center, especially during extreme storms, and a

For his NYIT architecture thesis project, Dan Horn (B.Arch. '13) used Google Sketchup and Photoshop to render this collage-like 3-D model of a waterfront research facility and community center at the water's edge of Newtown Creek in Brooklyn, N.Y.

competition called 3C: Comprehensive Coastal Communities to elicit the kind of ideas Mruk has been espousing—which is to rethink, rather than merely rebuild, communities like Long Beach.

"Thousands of homeowners in Long Island and the tri-state area faced a critical point in determining their future," says Horn, who works as a field surveyor at New Orleans, La.-based Perez APC. The architecture firm has been commissioned by the City of New York to conduct damage assessments and field surveys in Sandy-affected communities in the Rockaways, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. "The competition seeks creative and innovative designs for comprehensive coastal communities. Existing homes must now comply with new FEMA regulations. Homes that are deemed 50 percent or more damaged must be either

PROGRESS ON MANY FRONTS

NYIT alumni continue to invest their education in rewarding careers developing or enhancing products, programs, and systems that, in one way or another, address a major cause of extreme weather—climate change.

David Schieren (M.S. '06), CEO of EmPower, the Island Park, N.Y., solar power company he co-founded in 2003, was a victim of the storm. Driven from his home, he saw his business, including his entire fleet of vehicles, flooded and all of his inventory destroyed. Half of his 56-person workforce was displaced.

But he's been able to get his business back in operation, and Sandy has made him and his team all the more committed to the work they do. "We want to be part of the solution," he says. "We're helping to

build a more resilient grid. And it's gratifying to see that more people understand the importance of green energy. Sometimes it takes pain to inspire change."

In Ronkonkoma, N.Y., Joe Ambrosio (B.S. '93), co-founder and general manager of ElectroMotive Designs LLC, oversees development of power/control systems for conventional and alternative powered vehicles, especially trucks and buses, that promise to significantly reduce emissions while lowering maintenance costs.

Steven Nadel (M.S. '80), executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, works to promote energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, and behaviors. "What used to be the '100-year storm' has now become commonplace," he says. "We need to make ourselves much more resilient, and clean energy is the way. Not only does it reduce the build-up of greenhouse gases, but to the degree that we use it more, it costs less."

Long Island resident David Nadler (B.S. '99, M.S. '00) is director of environmental health and safety strategic planning for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Review of how the city responded to Sandy, he says, has resulted in dramatic improvements in all major departments—from deployment of first responders to preparation



Louis Uccellini, Ph.D., director of the National Weather Service, was an expert speaker at NYIT's Energy Conference in June.

WATERY SOLUTIONS

In association with China's Peking University (PKU), NYIT is heading up one of six new U.S.-China EcoPartnership projects to address challenges related to clean water. EcoPartnerships are cooperative relationships between Chinese and U.S. entities that jointly demonstrate and share best practices that promote economic growth, energy security, and environmental sustainability.

The two-year collaboration, a strong symbol of NYIT's commitment to sustainability, gets underway in September 2013. Called "EcoPartnership on Groundwater Monitoring, Protection, and Training," it involves a comprehensive approach to developing and monitoring groundwater supplies in China, using the latest technology to aid water pollution control and management training.

The EcoPartnership is expected to strengthen ongoing collaborations between the two universities and also includes Wuhan University, the International Society for Water Solutions of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and industrial partner HDR|HydroQual.

"Our EcoPartnership project is unique because it brings together diverse experts and stakeholders to improve pressing water scarcity issues in China," says Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. "It builds on NYIT's existing relationships and leverages forums on sustainability and water management that we recently led in China. We are proud to have been selected in one of the most competitive application cycles in the history of the EcoPartnership program, and we are ready to get to work."

Members of the core team who will manage the new project met three years ago at the International "Think Green Conference" in Nanjing, China, which was sponsored by NYIT and Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications. They agreed to collaborate on identifying locations in China for training and experiential student learning. A 2012 Beijing conference on "Water Management and Global Issues," co-sponsored by NYIT and the PKU Center for Water Research, deepened and broadened the conversation as attendees pledged to continue their work on critical water scarcity problems.

and management of shelters to efficient removal of debris and assessment of storm-damaged buildings. More and more, he says, enhancements to existing buildings and components of new buildings are making New York a more energy-efficient city.

Meanwhile, the ability to anticipate storms like Hurricane Sandy is improving. Just this summer, the National Weather Service upgraded its supercomputers, making them more than twice as fast as their predecessors that sounded the alarm while the storm was still far out at sea.

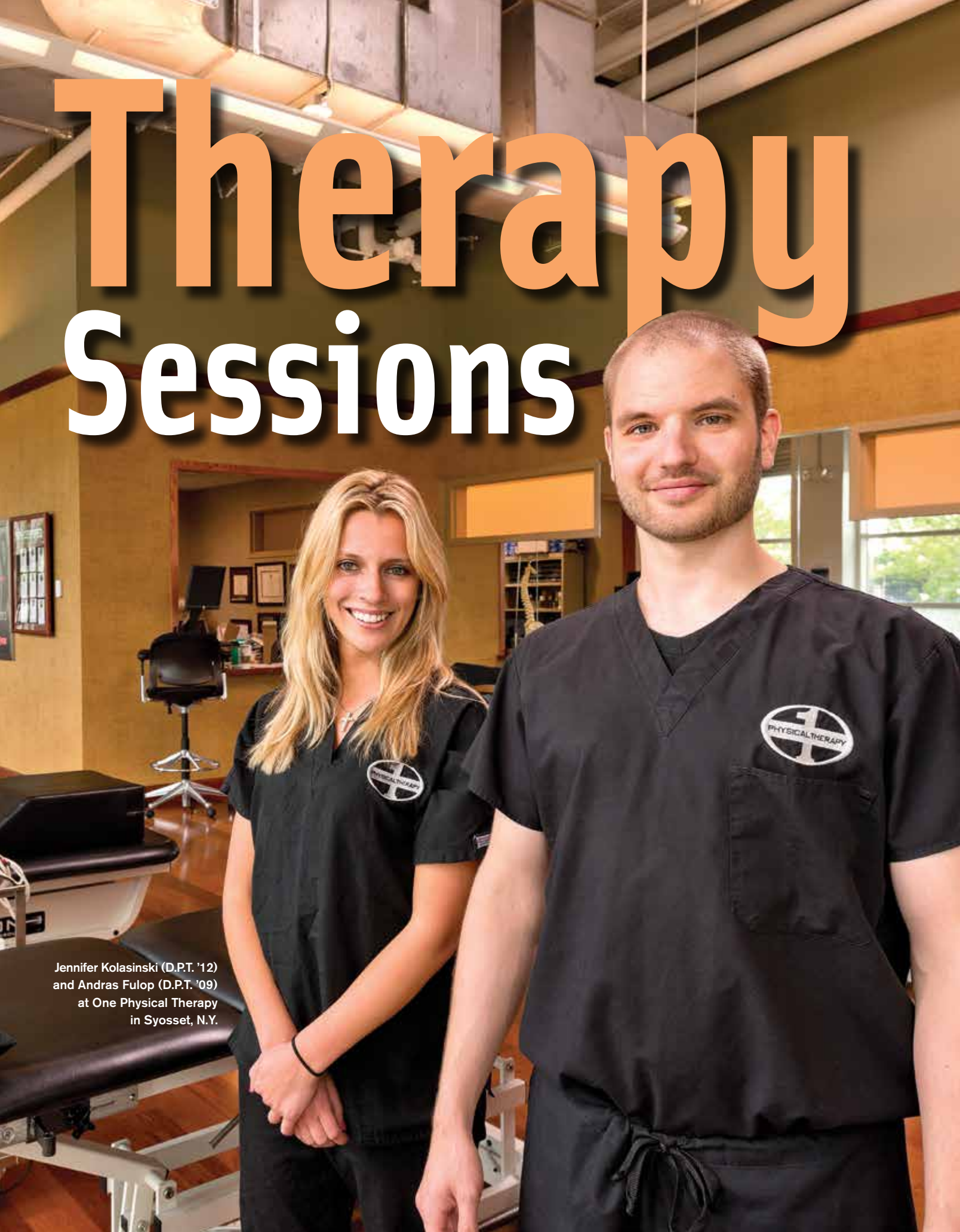
Operating with 213 teraflops of power, the computers can perform a breathtaking 213 trillion calculations per second, making it possible for them to analyze more data and contemplate more factors when analyzing and predicting storm behavior. Tests on

the new computers, says Uccellini, have already shown that they would have anticipated Sandy's aberrant track earlier rather than being stymied by the unexpected Atlantic pressure ridge that baffled last year's forecast tools.

That means the Weather Service will be able to advise residents earlier. But finding ways to increase survivability and reduce storm damage, let alone ways to rein in climate change? Those are challenges that will test the education and creativity of NYIT graduates for years to come. ■

Jim H. Smith is a freelance writer based in Connecticut. He has written about science and technology for colleges and universities throughout the Northeast and is the author of seven books, including Work Well Done, a history of Long Island-based retail chain P. C. Richard & Son.

Therapy Sessions



Jennifer Kolasinski (D.P.T. '12)
and Andras Fulop (D.P.T. '09)
at One Physical Therapy
in Syosset, N.Y.

The demand for occupational and physical therapists continues to grow. NYIT is ready to answer the call.

By Elaine Iandoli

Days before the start of the high school wrestling season in 1996, Christopher Venezia (M.S. '10) broke his thumb—and nearly his heart—in a game of flag football. The thought of spending a season on the sidelines wearing a plaster cast made him miserable.

An occupational therapist provided the ideal solution: a light-weight splint that allowed for mobility and protection. Venezia returned to the mats and wrestled regularly while his bone mended. A year later, as a senior at Holy Trinity High School in Hicksville, N.Y., he placed fifth in the 140-pound weight class in the state championships.

Venezia, who works today as an occupational therapist at NYU Medical Center's Rusk Institute for Rehabilitation, says the incident is a perfect example of his profession's special place in health care. His experiences with injuries, including the broken thumb as well as a traumatic brain injury in 2001, continually remind him of the therapist's significant healing skills.

"It's listening and caring," he says. "People don't work the way cars work—when a car part breaks, you fix it and it's okay. When something goes wrong with people, they are affected on many levels."

Although Venezia's high school experience didn't pave a direct path toward his current vocation, he's happy to have found his way into the therapy field after an unsatisfying stint as a headhunter on Wall Street. A side job working with autistic children helped spark his interest in occupational therapy, and his brother, an NYIT architecture student, encouraged him to apply to the graduate program. An admissions counselor picked up on Venezia's desire and urged him to meet with the then-director of the program.

"She saw that I had more to offer," he recalls. "She listened to my story. She grabbed my forearm firmly, looked me square in the eye and said, 'I know you can do this. You'd better prove me right.'"

By the end of his academic career, Venezia had accumulated impressive grades, earned summa cum laude honors, and was inducted in Pi Theta Epsilon, the national honor society for occupational therapy students. He secured a coveted internship at Rusk, one of the highest-rated rehabilitation centers in the nation, and was hired immediately after graduation.

"Now I contribute something to others and their future, all while being lucky enough to learn from and work with some very gifted and dedicated people," he says.



Christopher Venezia (M.S. '10) is an occupational therapist at NYU Medical Center's Rusk Institute for Rehabilitation.

***"If you want
a job, you
have a job."***

***-Karen Friel, chair of
NYIT's Department of
Physical Therapy***



As chair of NYIT's Department of Physical Therapy, Karen Friel, PT, D.H.S., is not surprised by students' growing interest in her field. "Health and wellness careers are booming," she says.

Healthy Prospects

Venezia's enthusiasm about his profession is shared nationwide by his peers, including physical therapy professionals, as both groups enjoy optimistic employment outlooks. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected that employment of physical therapists will increase 39 percent from 2010 to 2020, while occupational therapy careers will experience a 33 percent growth—nearly 20 percentage points higher than the average for all professions. Partly as a result of the careers' increasing popularity, NYIT's physical therapy and occupational therapy programs have expanded and enjoyed growth in stature, research efforts, technology use, and educational rigor.

"We are building on the strengths of our faculty," says NYIT School of Health Professions Dean Patricia Chute, Ed.D. "We have faculty with very high specialty areas, and because we have an affiliation with our College of Osteopathic Medicine, we have more

inter-professional collaborations. It's a very exciting time."

Record numbers of applicants vied to get into NYIT's programs this year. More than 900 people applied for 29 seats in the physical therapy program—a threefold increase from just five years ago. (An additional 11 seats were filled by students who were part of NYIT's combined seven-year B.S./D.P.T. program.) More than 125 people have already applied for the D.P.T. program that starts in summer 2014. The occupational therapy program had 170 applicants for 45 seats, the largest class in that program's 17-year history.

"If you want a job, you have a job," says Karen Friel, PT, D.H.S., chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and a founding member of the program. "Health and wellness careers are booming. Physical therapy pays reasonably well, and it's very flexible."

The median pay for a physical therapist is about \$76,000 annually, according to BLS. As the profession has developed,

therapists have specialized in certain fields, including geriatrics, neurology, and cardiovascular and pulmonary areas. One of the newest developments at NYIT is a one-year orthopedic residency program for graduates (see sidebar on page 26), one of only 43 such residencies in the country.

Occupational therapists enjoy similar career benefits and specialization opportunities. The median salary is \$72,000, and therapists may concentrate their practice in numerous areas, including mental health, productive aging, or the emerging specialty known as health and wellness.

"The increase in the number of children with autism is one of the reasons for the increased number of occupational therapists in the school system," says Gioia Ciani, OTD, OTR/L, a specialist in motor neuron disease and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Chute adds: "NYIT's occupational therapy department is really coming into its own—we just got reaccredited and we're preparing to offer the occupational therapy doctorate."

Distinctive Approaches

Many patients seeking rehabilitation receive care from both specialties.

Occupational therapy deals mainly with what are known as “activities of daily living,” and include a mental health counseling aspect as well as a closer look at how work or home environments affect a person’s ability to function. In many cases, fine motor coordination is stressed, but occupational therapy is not limited to those skills—a common misconception that therapists are quick to correct.

The current class of occupational therapy students will enter the field as the profession celebrates its centennial. In its early days, occupational therapy focused mainly on working with disabled people and those with mental disorders. Today, the profession treats a variety of people but there is still widespread misunderstanding of therapists’ work, with the word “occupational” the likely culprit of confusion.

“We know what ‘occupation’ is—it’s the activities that people do in everyday life: driving, studying, dressing, shopping,” says Ciani. “We help people get back to their everyday occupations.”

Occupational therapists tailor their treatments for each individual. For a toddler diagnosed with autism, for



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Inside the physical therapy lab of the 500 Building at NYIT-Old Westbury, students learn to incorporate technology into their techniques.

Good Sports Stick Together

On any given day at Bodhizone Physical Therapy and Wellness, Scott Weiss (M.S. '01, D.P.T. '06) or Kosta Kokolis (M.S. '01) treat a host of patients, including athletes looking to naturally boost their performance with intense strength and conditioning programs.

“Studying physical therapy was just another view of the same thing I was doing for my body all my life,” says Weiss, a lifelong athlete who nearly qualified for the 1988 Olympic Tae Kwon Do team.

Weiss was eager to get his doctorate from NYIT and found himself in a student-friendly program with a reputation for camaraderie. He even sat in on some osteopathic manual medicine courses at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. When he discovered that Professor Peter Douris, D.P.T., Ed.D., practiced the same kind of martial arts as he did, the two would throw random kicks at each other in the hallway and exchange tips on perfecting their form.

He and Kokolis connected in one of their first classes when they were told to find a partner for a lab exercise. While they weren't seated next to each other, “we looked to our right and left and we were the only two people left without a partner,” says Kokolis.

They continued through the program as classmates. Shortly after graduation, Weiss returned to start the doctoral training while Kokolis worked for several practices before starting his own.

Along the way, Weiss also was selected as a physical therapist for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, a position he had worked toward as a volunteer in Olympic training centers. He also worked the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and the 2012 games in London for the sailing and fencing teams, handling everything from dehydration and muscle pulls to lower back pain and injured fingers.

In 2005, Weiss and Kokolis joined forces to create a new business, drawing on each other’s strengths to build a practice that today employs 35 people—including chiropractors, yoga specialists, and athletic trainers—at five New York City locations.

“The most rewarding part of the job,” says Kokolis, “is when people come back to me and say, ‘I can’t believe what you did but I can do this, that, or the other thing that I couldn’t do before.’”



JEFF WEINER

Scott Weiss (M.S. '01, D.P.T. '06, left) and Kosta Kokolis (M.S. '01) of Bodhizone Physical Therapy and Wellness.

NYIT Unveils New PT Residency

Andras Fulop (D.P.T. '09) gave back to NYIT in a big way when he launched the school's first post-graduate residency program at One Physical Therapy in Syosset, N.Y.

Fulop was the first NYIT graduate of the physical therapy program to be accepted into a residency. Two years later, he returned to New York, joined the practice, and decided to work with leaders at NYIT's School of Health Professions to start a program specifically available for NYIT graduates with the goal of creating a high-level training and clinical experience for the profession's future leaders.

"The motivation was my passion for education and to contribute to this field," says Fulop. "I felt that if I could help create something like this and make it part of my alma mater, I could contribute to the program I graduated from as well."

Only 43 credentialed orthopedic residencies are available nationwide, including just two in New York. Of the 43, 18 are affiliated with an academic institution. As the program is in its first year, Fulop and others are working on obtaining accreditation from the American Physical Therapy Association. Once accreditation is achieved, the residents can sit for the Orthopedic Certified Specialist exam. The School of Health Professions hopes to launch additional residency programs in pediatrics and neurology.

During the year-long program at One Physical Therapy, residents

receive 150 hours of mentorship, including one-on-one sessions and observations during patient treatments. They also sit for 240 hours of classroom and lab instruction, take 24 five-hour independent study courses from the University of Southern California, and perform 1,200 hours of clinical practice. Finally, they receive education about treating areas of the body outside their particular specialty and must assist with teaching responsibilities at NYIT.

"I always had a passion for orthopedics and I knew that once I graduated, I really wanted to accelerate my knowledge in the field and separate myself from other physical therapists," says Jennifer Kolasinski (D.P.T. '12), the first NYIT graduate to be accepted to the program.

Kolasinski, like many therapists, came to the field through her love of athletics. In her case, dancing and gymnastics sparked an interest in orthopedic treatment.

This past summer, she fulfilled some of the requirements of her residency by helping teach first-year students anatomy. She'll also work in the manual therapy lab during the fall semester. At One Physical Therapy, she works alongside sports medicine specialists and psychiatrists as well as orthopedic experts.

"It's very challenging," says Kolasinski. "You have to put a lot of work into it but it's very rewarding. Each day you come in, you gain more knowledge than the day before. This is such an amazing opportunity."

example, they assist with developing communication, self-help, or perceptual skills. Elderly patients with limited range of motion find a measure of comfort when therapists teach them exercises and modifications such as using adaptive equipment like long-handled shoehorns and extenders. Next year, NYIT's occupational therapy students will work with seniors to ensure they fit correctly and safely in their vehicles as part of the national CarFit initiative.

Christa Pumerantz, an occupational therapy student, discovered a special niche during her internship with the American Occupational Therapy Association. Pumerantz, who expects to receive her master's degree next year, worked closely with pediatric therapists as she developed a two-page tip sheet that provides activities and guidance to help strengthen the head, neck, and upper body muscles of infants.

"I spoke with OTs nationwide who were interested in this topic," says Pumerantz. "It was really exciting, and now [the publication] is a national resource for anybody."

Physical therapists, in contrast, prepare programs of strength training, manual

CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT



Student Christa Pumerantz interned at the American Occupational Therapy Association, where she helped create a guide on strengthening infant development.

therapy, and flexibility exercises to help patients recover from illness, injury, or surgical procedures such as rotator cuff

operations, knee and hip replacements, or reconstruction. They use electrotherapy, laser therapy, virtual reality equipment, and biomechanical analysis to improve gait, range of motion, fitness, balance, and coordination.

"We've emphasized neuroscience, and have a much stronger pharmacology and medicine curriculum," Friel says, referring to recent enhancements. "Our program added an advanced manual therapy course, and we're promoting more critical thinking."

In 2000, NYIT graduated its first class of physical therapists with master's degrees. But by that time, it was already transitioning to a doctoral program. Three years later, NYIT awarded its first 27 doctorates in physical therapy in line with the American Physical Therapists Association's vision statement of elevating the degree and knowledge base of the profession.

"The field of medicine is constantly growing and evolving," says John Handrakis, PT, (D.P.T. '10), Ed.D., a clinician-investigator who leads several students in research projects at the Center of Excellence for the Medical Consequences of Spinal Cord Injury at the James J. Peters

Bronx VA Medical Center. “For the new graduate, knowledge of medicine and its foundation in evidence-based research, as well as competency in the latest clinical skills that are necessary to provide the highest standards of patient care, continue to undergo change for the better.”

Owning Up to Their Potential

Ciani says one of her immediate goals is to increase “student ownership” of learning through online case study videos, greater technology use in and outside of the classroom, and online discussion boards to encourage student interaction.

In a recent grant-funded initiative, Ciani, former chair Ellen Greer, Ph.D., OTR, and Anthony Errichetti, Ph.D., director of NYIT’s Institute for Clinical Competence, combined technology and therapeutic techniques to teach students to improve care for geriatric patients. Students met with standardized patients (actors posing as patients) for face-to-face evaluation and treatment. Their final meeting took place virtually.

“Tele-health and tele-rehabilitation is an emerging practice area for medicine,” says Ciani. “It’s great for getting health care to people living in rural areas or for people with severe mobility issues. We can work with their caregivers, and we can look at environmental adaptations.”

A separate grant funded an interdisciplinary initiative to design home modifications for elderly residents to help them “age in place.” Teams of occupational therapy, interior design, and mental health

counseling students from NYIT worked together on the semester-long project.

Outreach programs are also growing through cross-disciplinary collaboration with Melanie Austin-McCain (B.S. ’00), OTD. A member of NYIT’s Athletic Hall of Fame, the former NCAA All-American track and field scholar focuses her research on women’s leadership and health promotion for underserved populations.

“Community health needs are increasing,” says Austin-McCain, who developed health and wellness programs in local New York communities and at the nonprofit, Henry Street Settlement in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. “We look at how people function in their daily routines and life roles, build on their strengths, and remove barriers for optimal well-being. The context and environment are important. It’s a holistic client-centered therapy.”

In NYIT’s Department of Physical Therapy, faculty members have published research findings on low back pain in college-aged adults, the epidemiology of injuries in high-level female high school lacrosse players, and the effect of fatiguing aerobic exercise on balance.

Friel and colleagues are also focused on enhancing technology use in the physical therapy program, which has used iPads in its curriculum for the past two years. Her latest project, funded with an internal grant,



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Assistant Professor Melanie Austin-McCain (B.S. ’00), OTD, recently led a study concluding that adults have greater test-taking attention while sitting on a therapy ball. “Posture and balance affect concentration,” she says. “A therapy ball seat helps improve attention.”

envisions the development of e-books to integrate course materials on one accessible site. Most recently, Assistant Professor Cheryl Hall, PT, D.H.Sc. published “What’s all the Hype about Skype?” in the *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*. The article described a successful pilot study that required students to participate in video calls during their clinical education experience. Students overwhelmingly preferred video calls over onsite visits or telephone calls, and Hall concluded that video calling was both cost-effective and time-efficient.

The buzz of research activity, enthusiastic students, specialized faculty, and course enhancements—coupled with the rising need for more physical and occupational therapists—provides Chute and others with high optimism about NYIT’s programs.

The therapist’s role drives current students and alumni who have found joy participating in the healing process.

“Whatever has happened to us in our own lives, with our own injuries, disabilities or injuries to family and friends,” says Venezia, “something grows in us that helps to develop empathy and caring about others.” ■



CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT

Gioia Ciani, OTD, OTR/L, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, teaches a class at NYIT-Old Westbury in which students learn how to tailor their treatments for each patient.

NYIT STEMS THE TIDE

Women in science and engineering offer unique perspectives on how to create smarter, more efficient solutions for our world. So why aren't more entering these fields ... ?

By Rose Sumer

Scientist Amy Farrah Fowler, Ph.D., is primed for the art of seduction. Bespectacled and clad in a maroon cable-knit sweater vest, plaid knee-length skirt, grey stockings, and loafers, she tells boyfriend Sheldon Cooper, “I’ve devised an experiment that I believe will increase your feelings for me in an accelerated time frame.”

Cue the romantic dinner music: Nintendo’s *Super Mario Brothers* theme. Amy serves her beau’s favorite meal, a pasta-hot dog casserole and Strawberry Quik. Later, she dons a blue *Star Trek* costume. Sheldon, a physicist, is entranced.

Amy and Sheldon’s antics play out on *The Big Bang Theory*, one of TV’s highest-rated sitcoms. On May 16, 2013, 14.8 million people tuned into an episode that surpassed viewership of every other show in its time slot that evening, including the season finale of *American Idol*.

Trading laughs for gender stereotypes is hardly new in pop culture. On TV and in films, scientists and engineers are often interchangeable as pale, nerdy, mainly Caucasian men. They play *World of Warcraft*, bond over Einstein’s theory of relativity, and co-exist in a world where debating the theoretical physics of warp drive is casual, everyday conversation.

In truth, diversity among minorities and genders in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields is on the rise. The number of bachelor’s and master’s degrees in science and engineering earned by blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans has grown by about 7.5 percent for each degree since 1991, according to a 2013 report by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The organization also found growth among minority women earning bachelor’s degrees in science and engineering fields during the same period, though men overall still earn a

Nada Anid, Ph.D. (left), dean of NYIT's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, and Assistant Professor Cecilia Dong, Ph.D., are drawing a new generation of young women into the science and technology fields.



It takes a lot of courage and determination to be a minority woman and have a career in the STEM fields.”



Joyce Onore (B.S. '10) is an analyst at technology consulting company Accenture in New York City.

BRIAN COPPEDE

higher proportion of STEM degrees, as do Caucasians, over other ethnicities.

NYIT, through its academic and outreach programs as well as the successes of its alumni, is doing its part to attract minorities, particularly women, to its STEM programs. The school's female students and alumnae thriving in these fields defy a single mold. They come from varied homelands and ethnicities, all sharing a common goal—to succeed in an industry that is substantially defined by their male counterparts.

“It takes a lot of courage and determination to be a minority woman and have a career in the STEM fields,” says Haitian native Joyce Onore (B.S. '10), a system integration and technology consulting analyst at Accenture in New York City. “It’s a male-dominated field and can be intimidating at times. I remember being in classes where I was the only female.” Even today, Onore adds, she is often the only woman on team projects.

Not that gender imbalance has hindered this NYIT grad from achieving success. She is equal parts businesswoman and engineer for clients such as Disney, Citigroup, Advance Auto Parts, and the state of Iowa, where she has lived part of each week since February.

Onore credits internships during her time at NYIT for grooming her for success. These included stints at National Grid in Hicksville, N.Y.; School Construction Authority in New York City; and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in Newark, where she met fellow NYIT alumna Denise Berger (B.Arch. '86), deputy director of operations in the engineering department.

LAY OF THE LAND

Today in the United States, women comprise a growing share of the college-educated workforce, but their participation in the STEM workforce has not increased, notes an April 2012 U.S. Joint Economic Committee report. It found that only 14 percent of engineers are women and just 27 percent of women hold positions in computer science and math.

Those numbers have barely moved for 35 years, compared with the rising percentages of women working in law and medicine, according to Patricia Galloway (M.B.A. '84), CEO of Pegasus

Global Holdings. She notes that cultural attitudes may contribute to this trend.

“There is a stereotype of women in STEM,” says Galloway, who earned *Glamour* magazine’s Top Ten Women in Business Award, became the first woman president of the American Society of Civil Engineers in its 152-year history, and was appointed to the National Science Board by President George W. Bush. “Too often, they are portrayed as the geek or the glamorous woman who is still an engineer despite being blonde. I think it’s a good thing that *Glamour* and *Cosmopolitan* magazines are highlighting women in the technical fields.”

Galloway’s view on the ideal engineer is as varied as her experiences in the engineering field. Her Cle Elum, Wash.-based company serves as a risk management and strategic consultant for the energy, infrastructure, and transportation industries. She believes all engineers entering the field must prepare to communicate their ideas in

easily. Women offer an added perspective to solutions. If you take men and women in teams jointly and have both perspectives, the final solution is better.”

Many engineering schools were among the last to admit women, resulting in fewer women in top positions in the STEM fields today, notes Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of NYIT’s School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. “You need a generation of mentors and role models to follow,” she says. “Men have had this over hundreds of years. Women are still building it.”

Anid, who became the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences’ first female dean in 2009 and only the 16th female engineering dean at a U.S. college, finds that cultural factors and personality traits could also be responsible for the STEM gender gap. Disparities begin early in life: traditionally, girls are expected to play with dolls, while boys work with blocks and Legos and move around toy cars. As recently as two

boys and girls. In a 2011 University of Washington study, researchers used a computer-based categorization test to gauge gender stereotypes of math. They found that as early as second grade, American boys associated math with their gender while girls linked math with boys. The boys also self-identified with math more than girls did.

CHARTING THE COURSE

Encouraging a can-do attitude and girls’ assertiveness is crucial, adds Anid, whose efforts in this realm are beginning to show. In the past two years, there has been an increase in the number of women enrolling in the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Central to NYIT’s efforts are projects emphasizing teamwork, communications, and creativity:

- A three-year, \$360,000 NSF grant has funded a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) site at NYIT, which launched this past summer. The program pairs 10 undergraduate students with faculty and graduate students in teams to research the security of mobile devices and wireless networks.
- This fall, junior Michelle Messenger and sophomore Rita Sobhy will co-launch student chapters of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) in Manhattan and Old Westbury, respectively.
- NYIT’s creative competition with partner Astoria Federal Savings recognizes an outstanding female engineering student each semester.
- NYIT is working with community members to raise awareness of STEM careers. In April, the university partnered with volunteer organization ConnectToTech for the second year to showcase engineering and technology projects by Long Island high school students, including members of all-female robotics teams and the Girls Scouts of Nassau County (N.Y.).
- This past summer, NYIT’s Career Discovery Camp, which teaches video game design, electronic music, and robotics to New York area high school students, saw an uptick in the number of girls who enrolled.

CHRISTOPHER APPOLDT



“My passion for engineering started in high school when I took robotics and computer programming classes,” says NYIT student Rita Sobhy. “I knew it wouldn’t be easy, but it’s what I wanted to do.”

the political arena, empathize with the communities they serve, and expand their cultural viewpoint. Diversifying the workforce can help to achieve these goals.

“Now that I have 35 years of ‘empirical evidence,’ I believe that women think very differently than men,” Galloway says. “I don’t think that one is better than the other. But women think more broadly. They think about the social aspects more

decades ago, Mattel programmed Teen Talk Barbie to say, “Math class is tough.” The American Association of University Women pressured the company to remove the phrase within three months of the 1992 launch.

Gender stereotyping has actually become more pronounced with pink aisles in toy stores and pink sports jerseys, and cultural messages continue to split

Women comprise a growing share of the college-educated workforce, but their participation in the STEM workforce has not increased, notes a U.S. Joint Economic Committee report.

- At a March 2013 event in honor of Women's History Month, Anid spoke about the importance of STEM to more than 400 girls and their teachers at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, N.Y. The museum is partnering with NYIT to host events in fall 2013, with the goal of co-launching an all-girls engineering camp next summer.

"If we create programs like this for girls, we create a pipeline to their careers in the STEM fields," says Anid, who serves on STEM advisory committees for the *USS Intrepid* Sea, Air, and Space Museum's Education Department and the Girl Scouts of Nassau County.

Anid says appealing to the nurturing instincts of girls is one way to draw them to STEM subjects. For example, NYIT faculty members in the schools of Engineering and Computing Sciences and Education as well as the College of Osteopathic Medicine are collaborating on a \$134,794 National Science Foundation grant to integrate applications of wireless technology for biology and medicine—fields that attract women due to their emphasis on caring for and improving peoples' lives—into the engineering curriculum.

Junior Nicole Gutierrez is taking advantage of NYIT's latest endeavors. She is an REU fellow using a fingerprinting technique to study indoor localization.

"Let's say that we have picked points A through Z on a floor," she explains. "Just as the characteristics of your fingerprint can be used to identify yourself, different measurements like wifi signal strength could be used to identify your location. So if you are at a particular location, your phone might receive values x, y, and z. The algorithm would then say, 'This looks like location A!'"

The concept is similar to how GPS pinpoints outdoor locations. An IPS, or indoor positioning system, could take form as a smartphone app that sends special deals to people as they walk by shops in a mall, or as a way to trace a child lost in a busy airport.

Overseeing Gutierrez's work is Cecilia Dong, Ph.D., assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, who has traveled with REU fellows to the Rutgers University WinLab and

JEFF WEINER



Among the female NYIT students breaking into the STEM fields is Nicole Gutierrez, who is researching a fingerprinting technique to study indoor localization. Similar to how GPS systems function in cars, indoor positioning systems use environmental data such as wifi signal strength to pinpoint an individual's location.



AT&T Security Research Center. She is leading two NYIT projects funded by mini-grants from NSF's ENGAGE program, an initiative designed to improve the retention of undergraduate engineering students. They include studying the spatial visualization skills of NYIT engineering students and compiling everyday examples of engineering applications that can be used by teachers in lesson plans.

"Spatial skills have been studied and shown to have close correlation with math and the success of some STEM-related majors," Dong says. "These skills can be improved with practice such as by using software to visualize and draw 3-D objects."

She believes that positive encouragement can go a long way. Dong thrived on it as a college student taught by mostly male professors. She aims to do the same for her pupils.

"In the electrical engineering courses that I teach, I have experienced a low percentage of female students," says Dong. "One of the reasons is because many young girls are not exposed to the STEM field at an early stage to give them the perspectives of becoming a professional in IT, engineering, and mathematics. Some students may have insufficient math background to engage in STEM

Michelle Messenger (right) displays the iPad she won in the Creative Astoria Federal Competition for her essay about pursuing a career in the engineering field. It was presented to her by Sharon Phillips (left), vice president at Astoria Federal Savings in Greenvale, N.Y.

majors after they are admitted to colleges and universities."

"I always encourage them to enter competitions, do community service, or find other ways to apply their knowledge and skills," she says. For the past three years, Dong has served as a mentor at Camp GOALS for eighth- and ninth-grade girls at the *USS Intrepid* Sea, Air, and Space Museum. NYIT students accompany her to show their projects to the public.

"Women need role models who can serve as an example of what they can do for this world," says engineering student Messenger. "Marissa Mayer is a perfect example for me. She doesn't fit any stereotype for her career, yet she is one of the most powerful women and became the CEO of Yahoo at age 38."

When Messenger transferred to NYIT from Nassau Community College, she also transferred her interests, swapping a major in accounting for one in electrical and computer engineering. She has since won NYIT's Creative Astoria Federal Competition for undergraduate women and joined NYIT's Integrated Medical Systems Lab, directed by Aydin Farajidavar, Ph.D., assistant professor

of electrical and computer engineering. There, researchers study wearable medical devices such as stomach chips and other aspects of biomedical engineering. In fall 2013, she begins teaching an apprenticeship on Lego robotics at an East Harlem middle school through NYIT's partnership with nonprofit organization Citizens School.

"Even if girls don't pick engineering, knowing that they can do any job they want is enough for me," wrote Messenger in her competition essay about her career aspirations and academic experiences. She reflected on the sense of accomplishment she felt after earning the highest grade on a test in Farajidavar's Fundamentals of Digital Logic course.

Messenger knows that women in STEM have a long way to go. But things are getting better as she pursues a career in bionics. A love of science and technology is fused into her genes—her mother and grandmother were computer programmers for CBS Broadcasting and New York Life Insurance Company, respectively.

"Sticking with engineering was the best decision I made," Messenger says. "Doors have opened up for me." ■

| 1960s |

Fred Budin (B.S. '64) has published the e-book, *The Small Business Primer*, on smashwords.com. "It tells how I have survived and prospered in the world of small business over the past 40 years," shares the aspiring and inspirational writer.

CSI, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., company that produces forensic coding theft deterrents. He's also president of Paladin Global Partners, a business management consulting firm and partner with Dannelly, Monteleone & Associates, a full-service CPA firm.

ALUMNI WELCOME HEOP STUDENTS TO THE NYIT EXPERIENCE



The NYIT community welcomed incoming first-year students in the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at the July 2 HEOP Alumni Panel and Luncheon. The official start to the HEOP summer session, the panel is an intensive five-week program that prepares new students for college. This year's panel (pictured from left) included Juan Alcantara (B.S. '13), Tony Grullon (B.Arch. '11), Philander Herrera (B.S. '10), Nahima Hoque (B.S. '11), and Harpreet Singh (B.S. '09), all of whom attended NYIT through HEOP. The program is a partnership between the state of New York and various institutes to provide opportunities for New York residents who are academically and economically disadvantaged.

The beauty of coastal Suffolk County, N.Y., inspires oil painter **James Dungate (B.F.A. '69)**. View his work online at dungatepaintings.com.

NYIT congratulates **Martin Goldberg (B.F.A. '69)** on his retirement as an associate librarian at Penn State University's Beaver campus, where he has worked since 1990.

Ray Monteleone (B.S. '69) has joined the board of directors of SmartWater

| 1970s |

Lenny Muroff (B.F.A. '70) is president of E-Z Drops, a company that makes eye-drop application strips in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

TV personality and *New York Post* columnist **Linda Stasi (B.F.A. '70)** is the author of *The Sixth Station*, a fictional thriller about a journalist who becomes embroiled in the investigation of a terrorist.

John Milton (B.S. '71) combines his expertise as an attorney and engineer as president of John W. Milton & Associates in Upper Marlboro, Md. His company consults on international trade and investment programs for clients doing business in West Africa and the Caribbean. He is also an adjunct professor at the College of Graduate Studies at Central Michigan University.

Beautiful blooms are the specialty of **Alex Otis (B.S. '73)**, who owns the Manhasset Florist on Long Island's North Shore, a shop with an attached greenhouse.

Michael Bugda (B.T. '75) is director of product management at AES Corporation, a Fortune 200 global electrical power supply company serving customers in 23 countries.

New York Police Department veteran **Joe Lisi (B.S. '77)** has played his real-life role on the big and small screens with 2012 appearances on the CBS series *Blue Bloods* and USA Network's *White Collar* as well as a part in the 2012 thriller *Man on a Ledge*.

The latest trailer by filmmaker **Leslye Abbey (B.S. '79)** is *Buffalo Nation*. NYIT congratulates her on her award from the Long Island International Film Expo! View her work at snowflakevideo.com.

Architect **Ralph Giordano (B.S. '79)** is the author of the book, *The Architectural Ideology of Thomas Jefferson*. See reviews of this book and his other books at ralphggiordano.com.

Career trailblazer **Edna Machirori (B.F.A. '79)** was awarded the 2013 International Women's Media Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award. She traveled to New York from Zimbabwe with her husband to attend NYIT and had her first child while pursuing her degree. Later, they returned to Zimbabwe, where she rose through the ranks to become the first black woman to be named news editor of a newspaper (*Chronicle*) in her country.

| 1980s |

Rev. **Franck Aguilh (B.S. '81, M.B.A. '86)** writes about visiting his homeland after a January 2010 earthquake in the book, *Haiti, Cries from the Heart, Lamentations of a Son*. He has since

founded Haiti Hope House Inc. to help educate Haitian children and provide skills training for young adults.

Ronald Mitchell Stengel (D.O. '82) is a diagnostic radiologist in Delray Beach, Fla. He is affiliated with Delray Medical Center.

Anti-aging medical specialist **Andrea Cole Raub (D.O. '83)** is the founder of the Center for Age Management in Encinitas, Calif. She offers patients a holistic approach to care that integrates conventional and anti-aging medicine personalized to address genetic risks and biochemical needs.

Vivian DeNise (D.O. '84) is a physician with more than 20 years of experience at Patients Medical, a holistic wellness center based in New York City.

Anita Konfederak (B.Arch. '85) is a vice president at Merritt Engineering Consultants, a leading building restoration and structural design firm based in New York City.

Actor **Vithaya Pansringarm (B.F.A. '85)** shared the spotlight with costars Ryan Gosling and Kristen Scott Thomas at the Cannes Film Festival in France for the debut of their film, *Only God Forgives*.

Interventional cardiologist **Joseph Puma (D.O. '85)** is a specialist at Lenox Hill Heart and Vascular Institute of New York and the primary investigator for clinical trials assessing future drug advances as well as new procedural techniques and devices for treating coronary artery disease. He has published research in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, and *American Heart Journal*.

Jose Ramirez (B.Arch. '85) is president of J.L. Ramirez Architect PC in New York City. His employees include architects **Justin Paraiso (B.Arch. '08)**, **Michelle Ballas (B.Arch. '09)**, and **Lianna Napolitan (B.Arch. '09)**. The firm's projects have included million-dollar properties in the Hamptons and Manhattan.

Rich Sorelle (B.S. '86) is corporate vice president of McLean, Va.-based global firm ITT Exelis and president of its Electronic Systems Division. ITT Exelis offers >>

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| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

STEVE WOLK (B.S. '87)

CURRENT POSITION Chief technology officer for Farmingdale, N.Y.-based P.C. Richard & Son, which opened its first store 103 years ago. Today, the retailer is the largest privately owned electronics and appliance retailer in the United States. "My responsibilities include overseeing all technology solutions deployed throughout our organization, including leading our large in-house development teams responsible for building and maintaining our custom software solutions."

THE MOBILE REVOLUTION The proliferation of smartphones adds a new dimension that retailers must be prepared to receive. "Consumers carrying smartphones into retail stores now have more and better access to information than salespeople. This is a fundamental shift that is only just beginning. The winners will be those retailers that embrace this change, giving consumers the ability to leverage their smart phone as a tool to aid their shopping experience in unique and exciting ways. Done well, this can also extend your brand's reach well beyond the store visit."

AN ACCOMPLISHED CAREER Throughout his 27-year tenure at P.C. Richard & Son, Wolk cites his involvement in building a talented, dedicated, and successful IT development team as one of his proudest achievements. "From a systems design perspective, I was tasked with designing a new, state-of-the-art POS system roughly 25 years ago. It's been very gratifying to see that design come to life and support the incredible growth our company has experienced during that time."

LIFE LESSONS Wolk recalls one NYIT professor—Daniel Diner, Ph.D.—who taught computer languages and programming. "The real value in what he taught was not rooted in technology," he says. "Dr. Diner took the time to instill in his students the idea of professionalism." One of his favorite lessons was "Never be afraid to say 'I don't know' but then go find out!" This simple yet profound statement resonated with Wolk, who still quotes Diner frequently to his team. "I've worked to make those lessons a cornerstone of P.C. Richard & Son's IT department, and, in fact, I frequently use them when raising my own two children."

FAVORITE MOVIE "I'm a lifelong Star Trek fan. My favorite of all is *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. I'm also a big fan of *The Princess Bride*."

LAST BOOK READ *Raving Fans* by Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles.

FAVORITE SMARTPHONE APP "*Touchdown* for email and *Business Calendar* for keeping track of my schedule. I'll also admit to an occasional game of *Temple Run 2*."

TO THE HOUSE OF MOUSE "My wife and I are huge fans of all things Disney. We went to Disney World on our first vacation together, got engaged there, and even were married there. Our children have grown up visiting Disney World at least once each year. It's our home away from home."

aerospace, defense, information, and technical services.

Bernard Wheatley (M.B.A. '86) is CEO of the Schneider Regional Medical Center, serving patients in the Virgin Islands and the greater Caribbean community.

Asian studies specialist **Sheau-yueh Chao (M.S. '88)** is a librarian and head of cataloging at the William and Anita Newman Library of Baruch College in New York City. She was a presenter at the Northern California Family History Expo in June and has published three books, including *In Search of Your Asian Roots: Genealogical Research on Chinese Surnames*.

Kevin Guilfoyle (B.S. '88) is a Delta Air Lines 767-300 ER first officer based in Atlanta, Ga. He has worked at Delta since 1997 and served his country in the U.S. Air Force as an A-10 pilot.

Lisa Thomas-Fenton (B.S. '88) is a New York-based project manager at Gensler, an architecture, planning, and consulting firm.

Michael Mandzik (M.S. '89) has 30 years of experience in the field of energy procurement. Today, he directs such advisory services for T&M Associates, a company specializing in engineering, consulting, and environmental services headquartered in Middletown, N.J.

Natalie A. Webb (M.S. '89), a registered dietitian nutritionist, is chair of the department of health, nutrition, and physical education at Prince George's Community College in Largo, Md.

| 1990s |

Businessman **Ramesh Babu (M.S. '90)** is chief technology officer of ProShares, a company in Bethesda, Md., that offers investment alternatives to exchange traded funds.

Veteran Long Island architect **Michael Kralick (B.S. '92)** has opened Impact Architecture in Farmingdale, N.Y., with business partner Laura Coletti. He brings more than 20 years of experience in design and project management to his new venture. >>

| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

DIANE STORGION GOLDSMITH (B.F.A. '84)

CURRENT POSITION Associate at Perkins Eastman, an international architecture and design firm.

DESIGNING WOMAN Goldsmith specializes in designing health care interiors, including surgical suites, inpatient floors, academic offices, emergency departments, and imaging centers. "It feels very good to have a positive impact on patients' lives. We've actually been thanked by patients who have said the design made a difference in their stay. It's very fulfilling."

HEALING ELEMENTS "As health care designers, we bring creative design, humanity, and purpose to our work," says Goldsmith. Her goal is to create interiors that include natural light and exterior views where possible; sustainable, innovative, and durable finishes; and appropriate furnishings. "It's always about creating a positive patient experience."

ON HER DESK Goldsmith is working on several large-scale projects in diverse and multiple disciplines, including academic and conference centers, infusion suites, and research facilities. One long-term project, to be completed in 2018, is an ambulatory care facility for cancer patients.

THINK BEFORE YOU DESIGN Goldsmith says her NYIT education was especially helpful because of its emphasis on the process of design. "As students, we spent a lot of time working on research, schematics, flow charts and diagrams, and design development. As a professional, those are essential parts of the design process."

EARLY INSPIRATIONS While at NYIT, she was inspired by the famous Red and Blue Chair and the Rietveld Schroder House designed by Gerrit Rietveld. "I still have the scaled model of the Red and Blue Chair that I made for our furniture design class."

CHANGES AHEAD "We are designing and planning for five years from now and exploring different ways to make space more efficient as real estate, especially in New York City, will always be at a premium," says Goldsmith. Sustainable finishes, she adds, will play an increasing role in health care design, and furniture manufacturers are integrating and embracing technology more than ever.

JEFF WEINER





| ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT |

KEVIN KLEIN (D.O. '83)

CURRENT POSITION President of Florida Heart and Vascular Associates, a provider of cardiac consultative, diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive services in Tampa, Fla. Klein also serves as president of Advanced Cardiac Management, an 18-physician multi-specialty association of cardiac surgeons, cardiac electrophysiologists, and cardiologists who provide management services and emergency room coverage.

CARDIO FOCUSED "My father and sister are mechanical and electrical engineers, respectively, and I've always had a fascination with motors, engines, and mechanical devices. The study of the heart is very much a study of mechanics and fluid dynamics."

STATE-OF-THE-HEART TECHNOLOGY Klein's office includes such medical devices as ultrasound scanners to evaluate anatomic arterial and venous vascular structures as well as radiation machines with a gamma camera that allows assessment of the physiologic significance of vascular diseases.

THE BUSINESS OF MEDICINE After launching his private practice, Klein realized he needed to know more than osteopathic medicine to thrive. "A lot of on-the-job training ensued, from accounting and managing employees, to negotiating with insurance providers, to continually purchasing equipment as the practice grew. In short, I learned how to operate a small business from soup-to-nuts."

THE SUCCESSFUL DOCTOR ALWAYS ... "Listens! Not only to patients, but colleagues, bosses, employees, aides, techs, everybody you interact with. Show respect for their views whether you agree or not. In the process, you often learn something new."

FAVORITE MOVIE *Chinatown*

LAST BOOK READ *Decision Points* by President George W. Bush.

THE SKIS THE LIMIT Klein is an ardent downhill skier and often travels to the Rocky Mountains. "In my opinion, a skiing vacation is the best family activity," he says. "It provides the opportunity, in this hectic world, to spend true quality time with one's children and spouse."

From busboy to owner, **Steven McCue (A.O.S. '92)** runs Krisch's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlour in Massapequa, N.Y. Since becoming owner of the popular spot two decades ago, he has brought a culinary flair for fresh flavors and preserved the location's nostalgic charm.

Col. **Kevin C. O'Connor (D.O. '92)** has served on the White House medical staff since 2006. He is currently U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden's physician.

Stephanie Singer (D.O. '93) owns Park City (Utah) Gynecology. She is certified in daVinci robotic surgery, a minimally invasive surgical option for treating gynecological conditions.

IT expert **Raj Goel (B.S. '94)** is always on the go as the owner of Brainlink International. On his agenda for September 2013 are speaking engagements and presentations at cyber security conferences and exhibitions in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Curacao, Venezuela.

Executive creative director **James McCune (B.S. '94, M.A. '96)** is the man behind the launch of EGC Group's Craft Beverage Division. Headquartered in Melville, N.Y., the EGC Group is an integrated advertising, marketing, and digital agency.

Kambiz Nassiri (M.S. '95) is vice president in the New York office of engineering company Thornton Tomasetti.

George R. Ruggiero (D.O. '98), health director of medical education at Peconic Bay Medical Center, is president of the Suffolk County (N.Y.) Medical Society.

Joseph Geraghty (B.Arch. '99) has joined TPG Architecture's health care practice. He has more than 15 years of experience in designing projects for health care facilities in New York such as North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, NYU Langone Medical Center, and South Nassau Communities Hospital.

Michael Martins (B.S. '99) has been promoted to detective in the Eastchester (N.Y.) Police Department. He works in the traffic division as well as the drug and alcohol task force.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy (D.O. '99) is senior vice president for medical affairs

and chief medical officer for Catholic Health Services of Long Island. He resides in St. James, N.Y., with his wife, Mia, and daughter, Brooke.

| 2000s |

A fascination with Long Island's famed mansions inspired **Christopher Collora (A.A.S. '00)** to write the book, *Long Island Historic Houses of the South Shore*. His efforts impressed the Oyster Bay Historical Society, which selected him to receive one of its 2013 Outstanding Advocates for Historic Preservation and Education Awards.

At Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, **Pascal Crosley (D.O. '00)** serves as chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine.

Muhammad Al Sharif (D.O. '01) is a cardiologist at Mercy Heart Center and Vascular Institute of the Mason City (Iowa) Clinic, a physician-owned corporation serving 14 counties in the region.

Jonathan Beach (D.O. '01) runs Urgicare of the Northeast, a walk-in medical clinic affiliated with Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital Medical Center in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Timothy Collins (D.O. '01) is a recipient of a 2013 Physician of the Year Award from Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Michael Duckfield (M.S. '01) is a member of the business development team at Viridian Energy and Environmental, a consulting company with expertise in energy efficiency and environmentally responsible design and construction.

Engelbert Morales (B.S. '01, M.S. '01) serves as a data and systems analyst for the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

Robert Yaniro (B.S. '01) is the controller at Park Electrochemical Corp., a global advanced materials company that develops and manufactures high-technology digital and RF/microwave printed circuit materials.

Richard Pagliara (D.O. '02) is serving a one-year term as president of Collier County Medical Society in Naples, Fla., the county's largest physician membership organization. His "day job" includes serv-

A NEW TAKE ON A FUNNY BUSINESS



Gary Licker (M.A. '92, above right) spent time with the legends of comedy while producing and directing his latest work, *The Business of Comedy*. The PBS documentary shines a spotlight on the lives of comedians and how communications technologies have impacted their careers from the days of *The Ed Sullivan Show* to the ubiquitous outreach of Twitter and Facebook. During production, Licker had the opportunity to tour comedy clubs across America and interview comedians such as Robert Klein (above left), Shecky Greene, and Susie Essman.

"Shecky Greene was my favorite interview," recalls Licker. "He and his wife, Maria, were incredibly gracious inviting us into their home in Palm Springs. Shecky shared many personal moments in his life, he sang for us, he did many impersonations, including James Cagney and Ed Sullivan. Shecky told us he was making \$100,000 a week working at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas back in the 70s. Just an incredibly memorable evening."

Licker, who attended NYIT-Old Westbury and participated in the student-produced *LI News Tonight* TV newscast, doesn't joke around about how much his education has shaped his career.

"I owe all of my success to NYIT," he says. "If it weren't for the guidance and training I received from my professors, I don't believe I would have been able to pull this off."

Watch *The Business of Comedy* at hulu.com/watch/505636.

ing as a board member of the Radiology Regional Center and practicing at its Naples location.

George Petrakides (M.B.A. '02) is the country manager for Microsoft in Cyprus.

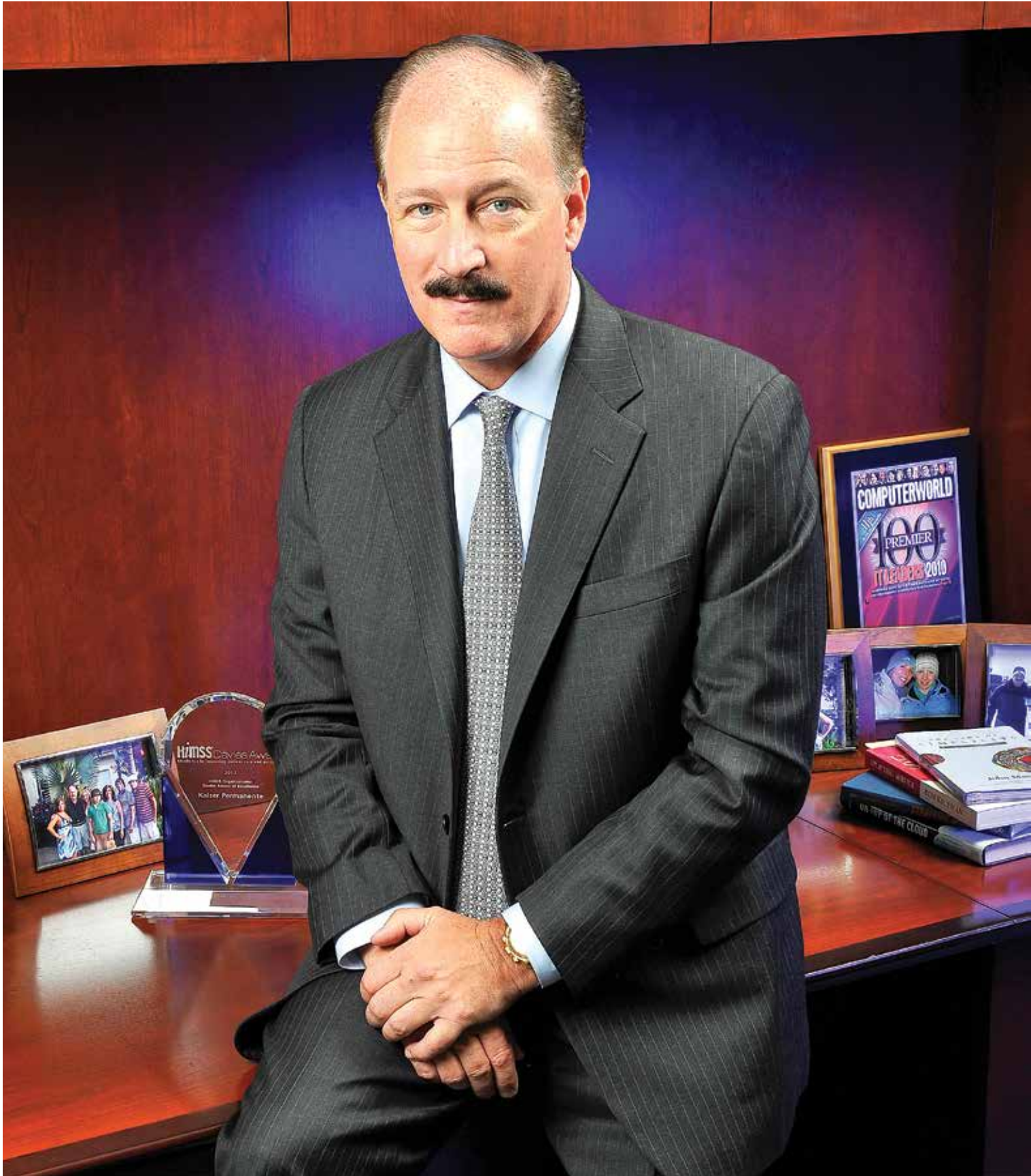
William Scott (D.O. '02) specializes in rehabilitation medicine at Memorial Health University Physicians in Savannah, Ga.

Physician **Emad Aziz (D.O. '04)** is

a member of the medical team at the Al-Sabah Arrhythmia Institute of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City.

Soumitra Datta (D.O. '04) is an emergency medicine physician at Garden City (Mich.) Hospital.

His Guyanese heritage inspires artist **Karr Dyal (M.A. '04)**, an adjunct professor at LIM College in New York City. His work ranges from paintings >>



STEVE JENNINGS/GETTY IMAGES

GRAD GOES ON THE RECORD

By Elaine Landoli

Philip Fasano (B.S. '80) believes there's a \$500 billion question all patients should ask their doctors: Do you have electronic medical records?

As executive vice president and chief information officer of Kaiser Permanente, the country's largest nonprofit health plan and provider, Fasano says those hundreds of billions of dollars represent the amount of money the U.S. health care industry spends on duplicate testing and other inefficiencies when electronic patient records are not shared among providers. Most of that waste is preventable.

"Everyone should have the right in the United States to electronic health records," he says. "People should demand that the health system connect. Every other industry is connected. We can go to any bank in the world and take out money."

But for health care, the result is fragmentation, detachment, and a sub-par system where health and healing are lost in a shuffle of paper records carried from office to office.

Fasano has worked to ensure that's not the case at Oakland, Calif.-based Kaiser Permanente as part of a decades-long effort to connect the system's 17,000 physicians, 37 hospitals, and 600-plus medical offices with its nine million members. In his new book, *Transforming Health Care: The Financial Impact of Technology, Electronic Tools, and Data Mining*, Fasano outlines the revolutionary effect of integrated health care information technology.

"We love to call it 'big data' but the reality is, it's using information more effectively," says Fasano, who notes in his book that he considers electronic health records as important a contribution to public health as penicillin. "A lot of people are really excited about what's going on."

As millions of Americans join the health insurance rolls, Fasano believes primary care physicians will play

a greater role in preventative medicine. Once electronic health records become the norm, the system will work more effectively and efficiently, providing accessible and networked records that allow physicians and other providers to deliver better care to informed and engaged patients. A large part of this success stems from tools that analyze the data in the system to provide more meaningful results.

Drawing on Kaiser Permanente's model, HealthConnect, the largest civilian storehouse of electronic health care records, Fasano's book challenges readers to peek into a future where technology upends the current notion of what it means to practice preventative medicine or receive treatment for an emergency, chronic disease, or serious illness.

A connected system where electronic health records are the norm could help save money and lives as patients avoid adverse drug interactions. Digital records tied to smartphone or computer alerts would remind people to get their annual vaccinations and screenings. And unlike the thousands of records lost in floods or natural disasters, electronic records with patients' scans, medication notes, and X-rays would be available quickly whenever needed.

With health care reform in full swing, Fasano believes the transformation is unavoidable, despite the challenges of financial resources and naysayers who refuse to adapt to technological innovation.

"Change always brings challenges but at the same time, it brings opportunities," says Fasano, who has delivered keynote speeches and traveled domestically and abroad to promote his book and its ideas.

In what looks like a futuristic scenario on the Kaiser Permanente website, a company video depicts the seamless, integrated system of electronic health records that medical professionals use to provide optimal care for a diabetic woman who collapses at a family picnic.

On the way to an emergency room, relatives transfer her health records to a hospital (after they get clear directions to the nearest facility that can treat her, courtesy of a smartphone app). As they approach the hospital, nurses have already received up-to-date information on their smartphones to tailor her treatment. Video monitors allow a doctor to follow up with her. Later, the woman admires the homemade get-well drawings that her grandchildren create as she video-chats with them from the hospital bed.

Fasano says the \$4 billion technological systems at Kaiser Permanente have had a dramatic effect on lives. There have been 50 percent fewer admissions of diabetic patients to emergency rooms and a 70 percent reduction in cardiac-related mortality in first-time heart attack patients.

"We have the data, and we've done the analysis, and we've written the papers because it is so significant," he says.

For cancer patients, the company's special registries help doctors manage treatment and medications.

"These patients are really well cared for when you surround them with technology and information systems and physicians thinking about the best outcomes for each patient," he says.

That's why medical professionals must be among the early adopters of technology to make their patients' lives better. Smartphones, he adds, bridge the digital divide that once hampered technology adoption.

"Over half of our members are capable of using technology—and 25 percent use mobile technology," he says. "They interact with their doctors, have virtual visits, email their doctors, check logs, refill prescriptions, make appointments, and use the app to geo-locate the doctor. These devices are making everybody's lives better and more convenient."

While he champions technology, Fasano firmly believes the age-old physical interaction between a hands-on doctor and a patient will prevail.

"But that isn't the majority of health care," he adds. "For most things we do with our doctors, we can deal with them through video or email and get the right resolution faster, more conveniently, and more simply."

For those concerned about health record security, Fasano acknowledges that the computer scientists at the forefront of a transformed health care system have an obligation to make security a priority. Fear of cyber attacks or hacking is no reason to avoid the adoption of electronic records, he says.

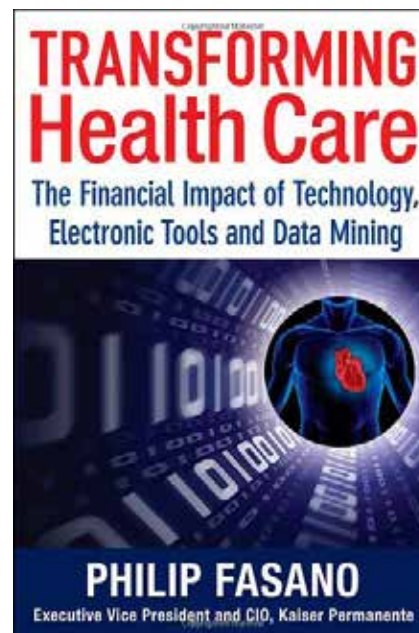
"To that person, I'd ask if they use a credit card to buy things online," he says, noting that carting medical records around from doctor to doctor in a manila envelope has its own security issues.

Fasano always envisioned a career in technology, perhaps working with super-size mainframes as an electro-mechanical engineer. That changed quickly during one of his first NYIT classes. As Fasano recalls, a math professor noticed his aptitude for the subject and immediately sent him to the chair of the department. She, in turn, administered an exam that Fasano promptly aced.

"She looked at me and said: 'You're a computer science major,'" Fasano recalls. "If that professor hadn't sent me down to take that test, I'd probably never have done some of the things I've done in my career."

After graduation, Fasano worked as a programmer and later as the manager of the technology department for a Long Island-based accounting firm.

"I thought I was going to be in a tech company," he says. "The reality is, you just don't know where you're going to end up when you start these programs. Computer science prepares you to be both a technolo-



Philip Fasano's (B.S. '80) latest book outlines the revolutionary effect of integrated health care information technology.

gist and a thought leader. You're well prepared to provide leadership and innovation. Your mind is structured to think in that manner."

Fasano, who took several business courses at NYIT, later decided to pursue an advanced business degree because he was also interested in financial services. After earning his M.B.A., he began working on Wall Street, holding jobs in some major finance companies, including Capital One Financial Group, JP Morgan, and Deutsche Financial Services. He joined Kaiser Permanente in 2007. Three years later, he was named one of *Computerworld's* Top 100 IT Leaders for 2010.

Fasano believes future computer scientists would do well to think about their potential role in the transformation.

"This is the time for technologists in the health care field," he says. "If you value innovation, technology, and career stability, health care offers all of these things and more."

➤ to life-size bronze portraits commissioned by organizations.

Gregory Karasinski (B.S. '04) has been promoted to vice president at Theodore Williams Construction Company in New York City, where he leads the planning and implementation of project management initiatives.

Goshen (N.Y.) Central School District has appointed **Gregory Voloshin (M.S. '04)** as K-12 director of athletics and physical education and assistant principal at its high school.

Alexis Hugelmeyer (D.O. '05) is the director of community outreach education at Peconic Bay Medical Center and founder of The Suah Center for Natural Healthcare in Riverhead, N.Y.

Serving his community is all in a day's work for **Jeffrey Walter (M.B.A. '05)**, who was re-elected as a trustee through 2017 for the Village of Elburn, Ill. He lives there with wife Carrie and their two children.

Triathlete **Jason Frost (D.O. '06)** provides medical care on the pulmonary and critical care team at Mercy Hospital in Portland, Maine.

"It took me almost six years but now I work for the biggest technology company in the world doing what I love," writes **Derek Appel (B.S. '07)**, solutions architect for Hewlett-Packard. As a 12-year-old boy, he built his first computer. His advice to NYIT graduates is to "find an opportunity not because it pays well but will utilize your skills the most effectively. Take the reciprocal of that thought and make sure the company provides career growth and opportunity. Most importantly, be happy."

James Maniscalco (B.T. '07) is a supervisor for communications in the engineering department of the Long Island Rail Road.

Reporting from Arizona: **Dan Spindle (B.S. '07)** anchors ABC15 Mornings.

Information technology expert **Charles Stermer (M.B.A. '07)** founded Stermer Consulting in 2012 to offer computer services and enterprise technologies.

Antony Cestra (B.Arch. '08) traveled to Haiti in May 2013 as a volunteer for the Naturopathic Relief Clinic for Haitian

WEDDING BELLE



Sometimes, all love needs is a chance meeting at NYIT. Zuhair Herzallah (B.A. '09) and wife Sarah (B.A. '13) celebrated their marriage on Feb. 1, 2013. The couple had met on Aug. 18, 2008, on Sarah's first day at NYIT-Abu Dhabi.

"I was sitting alone in class since I was new and didn't exactly know anyone," she recalls. Sitting next to an empty desk, Sarah had noticed Zuhair "staring awkwardly" at her but said nothing. The next class, he had arrived late, and the only desk available was the one next to her. It was all part of a plan, as was his next move.

"I spent a week thinking of what my next step would be," says Zuhair. So he told Sarah that he was having difficulties with his math class. "To my luck, Sarah was a math genius."

Zuhair went on to graduate with the Class of 2009 but kept in touch with Sarah, their friendship developing into a closer bond.

"After about a year of hard work and getting my finances together, I finally brought up the subject of meeting her dad," says Zuhair, "which in any culture is the most terrifying experience one can go through."

Sarah's father approved of Zuhair, and the pair became engaged soon after.

"The girl of my dreams was soon to be Mrs. Zuhair Herzallah," he says. "That thought alone gave me shivers."

At the 2013 NYIT-Abu Dhabi graduation ceremony on May 28, Sarah earned her NYIT degree. "Zuhair watched me walk on stage and receive my diploma as my husband and not a former classmate. How awesome is that?"

Earthquake Survivors. Read about the group's efforts at haiti.citronica.com.

Graphic designer **Alex Duggan (B.F.A. '08)** writes about technology

as a Yahoo! network contributor. He's also the founder of Lex Media Solutions and Terrable Two, a line of T-shirts and hoodies for kids and adults. ➤

Elizabeth Dougherty (B.P.S. '05) was lost in Florence, Italy. In the middle of a market on a cobblestone street, a cornucopia of sights and scents offered myriad detours. She walked inside a small restaurant and found a woman in her 50s sitting at a counter kneading fresh pasta.

Dougherty sat down to eat. Getting lost in Florence in the summer of 1983 had become a habit. She had traveled through Italy and France on a summer credit class through her high school, a rare opportunity for a teenager raised in Florida by hardworking, frugal parents who rarely took vacations.

"I kept separating from the group to eat in hole-in-the-wall restaurants in Italy," she says. "What I ate was like nothing I had ever tasted. That was the moment when I became enamored by food."

She gained a new perspective and a passion that would become a career, first as a freelance food writer and more recently as a radio show host. In her kitchen back home, Dougherty sought to re-create dishes sampled on the trip.

with the rise of artificial tampering of foods.

"Little did I know this would be the biggest concern people have about genetically modified food," Dougherty says.

She transferred to NYIT's hospitality management program from the culinary school at Valencia College in Orlando. NYIT's curriculum afforded her just the right amount of flexibility to balance coursework and raise her then-newborn son, Jonathan.

"My time at NYIT opened my eyes to things I had not considered," says Dougherty, who also discovered how much she enjoyed writing about new topics in her classes. "There's something rewarding about waiting and then going back to college after getting some life experience."

This natural inquisitiveness guides her interviews on topics such as "The Dirty Process of Making a GMO" with Kurt Azevedo, a whistleblower and former employee of the food corporation Monsanto. Other guests have been Joe Cummins, professor emeritus at the University of Western Ontario, who discussed vaccines in food and fluoride in water as well as their

RADIO HOST DISHES ON FOOD AND ETHICS

by Rose Sumer

"I cooked my way through Jacques Pepin's book, *La Technique*," Dougherty recalls.

Years later, she would interview that famous chef and many others as well as nutritionists, politicians, food safety experts, and scientists on *Food Nation Radio Network*. Dougherty has co-hosted the show for more than three years with her husband, Michael Serio.

Food Nation Radio Network is nationally syndicated on the Business TalkRadio Network with at least 100,000 weekly listeners on local radio stations nationwide. It can be streamed online and to mobile phones with the TuneIn app.

Dougherty's recipe for her radio show is a mix of cooking tips, restaurant commentary, and hard news coverage examining food supply issues and ethical concerns such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which are used by corporations in crops to reduce pests and disease while increasing harvest yields. Opponents of GMOs are concerned about the health impact these organisms may have on humans, including respiratory, gastrointestinal, and behavioral problems, sometimes stemming from consumers ingesting ingredients that may give them allergic reactions. Currently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not require companies to list GMOs on their products (with the exception of organic products).

Food ethics began to interest Dougherty at NYIT, especially

potential dangers for pregnant women. Another interview featured Florida House Representative Michelle Vasilinda-Rehwinkle, who introduced the first bill to label GMOs in Florida.

Some of the best advice Dougherty ever received was served off air. In 2002, while working as a freelance writer for *The Tampa Tribune*, she attended Julia Child's 90th birthday dinner in San Francisco and spent 15 minutes with the food luminary.

"She said, 'Watch out what you endorse,'" Dougherty recalls. "Julia never endorsed anything. She said that you have to be careful because a lot of products may not reflect what you're about."

Before flying out to the birthday gala, Dougherty had contacted former Gov. Jeb Bush's office to ask the secretary of state to declare Aug. 15 "Julia Child Day" in Florida. The governor's office agreed and an official proclamation was signed, which she presented as a gift to Child.

Dougherty still has the five-course birthday menu featuring dishes like pecan marjolaine framed on a wall in her home in St. Petersburg, Fla. She's always looking for new angles on cooking and believes that African cuisine is the next big food trend.

In the fall, Dougherty will begin another pursuit—a law degree at Stetson University. She intends to study environmental and public policy law, and apply it to her reporting on food ethics.

"I've always believed more in the journey than the destination," Dougherty says. "It's been a great journey so far."



Ultimate Meatballs

Dougherty says that this recipe from her mother took 15 years to replicate to perfection. More recipes and podcasts of her shows can be found at elizabethdougherty.com.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground chuck beef
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan
- 2 1/4 tps chopped, flat-leaf parsley
- 1/4 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1/4 tsp white pepper
- 1 cup Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 cup warm water
- 2 tbsps olive oil

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350° F.
- In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except for water and olive oil. With very clean hands, mix until combined.
- Add the warm water and mix with hands until the water is absorbed and the mixture is moist throughout.
- Wash hands. Rub olive oil on a sheet pan.
- Grab an amount of the meat mixture that is slightly bigger than a golf ball and form it into a meatball shape. Place each one on the sheet pan and bake for 15 minutes.
- Carefully add the meatballs to your sauce (as they are very tender) and allow them to simmer in the sauce until serving time.

>> **Stacy Glombowski (B.A. '08)** is hard at work at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., where she is a member of the honor roll and dean's list as well as president of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society.

Marshall G. Kent (B.S. '08) and **Donna Sanders (B.A. '09)** contributed to *Twist of Fate*, an anthology of international authors and artists who, through Indies in Action, created the book to raise money for tornado victims in Oklahoma.

Alex Mihajlovic (B.S. '08) is a research assistant at the Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences. He co-authored the paper, "Cloud Computing and Intrusion Detection," with Radomir A. Mihajlovic, Ph.D., adjunct professor of computer science at NYIT.

Ron Reed (M.B.A. '08) is chief financial officer of Giyani Gold Corporation, an international gold exploration company in Canada.

Electrical engineer **Jacklin Guerrier (B.S. '09)** works as a project and business relationship management analyst at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development in Malvern, Penn.

| MARRIAGES |

Cynthia Gitler (D.O. '10)
to Nicholas Ciancio

Christina Spaulding (Cert. '10)
to John Buddenhagen

Ashley Joy Stevens (M.A. '10)
to Suleyman Aydogan

| PASSINGS |

Irving Malinger (B.S. '70)

Carl Jonasch (B.S. '76)

Dominick A. Ferrara (B.S. '82)

Steve Clausell (B.S. '90)

Diana M. Filbry (B.S. '97)

Michele Bertomen,
associate professor of architecture

Aly S. Dadras,
professor of architecture

Braunwyn Miller (B.S. '09) is an administrative assistant at Core Financial in Lamar, Colo.

Stephani Ritter (M.S. '09) is a human resources generalist at Community Partnership for Child Development in Colorado Springs, Colo.

| 2010s |

Jacqueline (Yacenda) Bober (D.O. '10) received the 2013 Special Achievement Award from Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip, N.Y., for her work as chief medical resident.

IT professional **Ekene Daniel (B.S. '10)** is an associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City.

Former student-athlete **Erik-Alden Gray (B.F.A. '10)** scored a game-winning goal in the Glastonbury (Conn.) Lacrosse Tournament this past July. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Glastonbury Lacrosse Club and the Connecticut Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Nutritionist **Vicente Njoku (M.S. '10)** is one of the experts featured in *The Ultimate Success Guide: The World's Leading Experts Reveal Their Secrets for Success in Business and Life*.

Dominique West (B.S. '10) has returned to her alma mater as NYIT Bookstore manager for the Old Westbury and Manhattan campuses.

Courtney Cox (M.S. '11) is a technical implementation consultant for EtQ, a software company for products that identify, mitigate, and prevent high-risk events.

Stephanie Taylor (B.Arch. '11) is employed as a multimedia designer on the graphic design team at New York City-based Blue Telescope.

Ready, set, shoot! **Livia Areas-Holmblad (B.F.A. '12)**, TV reporter for SinoVision English Channel, visited the Old Westbury campus to film an interview with Nada Anid, Ph.D., dean of the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, about NYIT's EcoPartnership to address clean water challenges in China (see page 21). Tune in to her show, *Sinovision Journal*, which covers Chinese culture in the United States.



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Tony Lei Tong (M.S. '09)

Associate Director, Employer and Alumni Relations, NYIT-Amman
Lana Mattar (B.S. '07)

Associate Director, Employer and Alumni Relations, NYIT-Bahrain
Amal Al-Dallal (B.S. '08)

Associate Director, Employer and Alumni Relations, NYIT-Abu Dhabi
Abla Krouma

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Congratulations to **Aaron Kirchhoff (B.S. '12)**, who was one of five finalists in the "Inspire Indian Beach" design competition conceived by Premier Sotheby's International Realty. Entrants designed residences for a five-acre property listed on the real estate market for \$12.9 million in Florida's Indian Beach community.

Itzhak Fisher

(B.S. '82)

Current Position

Executive Vice President, Global Business Development for Nielsen

Starting the Path to Success

Fisher chose to attend NYIT because of the university's reputation in the field of computer science. He graduated with honors, earning a Bachelor of Science in computer programming. He attributes his alma mater with helping him gain acceptance to New York University's graduate program. From there, he got his first job working at IBM. "There is no question that NYIT got my career going," says Fisher. "It gave me the tools, the connections, and my first job offer."

Spirited Entrepreneur

The power of technology and its role in helping companies maximize growth has been one of the defining aspects of Fisher's global career. After IBM, he took a consulting job at Mobil Oil, where he oversaw the installation of PCs into the company's mainframes. In 1984, he moved to Israel, where he helped design one of the first email marketing systems for Aurec. From 1992 to 1994, Fisher served as treasurer of Israel's Likud party. His efforts pulled the party out of debt totaling more than \$10 million.

It was on a first-class flight to watch the 1994 World Cup in the United States when Fisher met Ronald Lauder, son of renowned cosmetics icon Estée Lauder. Eager to start his own telecommunications company, the NYIT graduate pitched the idea to Lauder, who agreed to become his partner. Together, they formed RSL Communications, which after three years became a \$1.4 billion company with 3,500 employees in 21 countries.

Fisher later formed his own private equity firm and has since made numerous investments in companies specializing in innovative technology. Following an acquisition in 2007, he joined Nielsen as Executive Chair of the company's online division and was appointed Executive Vice President for Global Business Development three years later. Throughout his career, his clients have included Procter & Gamble, Coca-Cola,

top Wall Street banks, leading advertising firms, and other global brands. Recently, Fisher launched a new \$50 million fund, with Nielsen as a key investor, focusing on early-stage investments.

Social Momentum

One of Fisher's interests is studying the impact of social media technologies and harnessing the power of these ubiquitous global communications vehicles for his clients.

"Social media today is very interesting," says Fisher. Online sales, he adds, still have a way to go to match retail figures, but the opportunities are tremendous. Online reviews and instantaneous consumer reactions all play their part in shaping product growth, as do Twitter feeds and Facebook postings.

One of his deals involved the acquisition of a social media company that aggregates tweets made during primetime TV shows. "Sixty percent of evening tweets are about television," says Fisher. "This allows us to see what's the most popular discussion at the moment. And it allows networks and advertisers to read these comments in real time as they happen." The result is a heightened ability to understand viewers' thoughts and reactions during specific moments in shows and commercials.

Sporting Chances

To say Fisher is a typical sports fan is like saying the Super Bowl is just another football game. A self-described "sports maniac," he has a goal of attending every major sporting event in the world at least once. So far, that has included seven Super Bowls, the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the Indy 500, NBA All-Star games, the Ice Hockey World Championship, and the World Cup.



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- NYIT Become an ambassador** Represent NYIT at events around the world.

For more information, please contact the Office of
Alumni Relations at 516.686.7800 or alumni@nyit.edu

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