

ALUMNI CIRCUIT

Straw-bale buildings are earthquake-safe, energy and resource efficient, and low cost.



Anastasia, Peter and Elsa Papanicolaou

WESTON HONOR FOR PETER PAPANICOLAOU

When Peter Papanicolaou left his native Cyprus for educational opportunities in the United States, he embarked on a journey that took him to NJIT, a 1987 BS in civil engineering and a 1989 MS in the same field. It also led to entrepreneurial success with JF Contracting Corporation, and to continuing involvement with his alma mater that includes serving on the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors. For his professional achievements

and generous support of NJIT, Peter was honored with the university's 2008 Edward F. Weston Medal.

Peter joined JF Contracting in 1989 and today is president and principal of the firm. Based in Brooklyn, New York, JF Contracting works with city, state and federal agencies, as well as with clients in the private sector. The firm's expertise encompasses interior and exterior renovation of multi-unit residential properties, banks, corporate and government offices, manufacturing and warehousing facilities, theaters and high-end private residences.

Peter's wife, Anastasia, works with him at JF Contracting as vice president of administration. They met in high school in Cyprus and she, too, continued her education in the United States – at NJIT. Anastasia completed her BS in 1985 and MS in 1987, both in civil engineering. And the Papanicolaou's have another educational bond with NJIT – their daughter, Elsa, is enrolled in the School of Management. ■



BUILDING SAFER HOMES WITH STRAW

Martin Hammer (Arch) '80 is working to make life safer and more comfortable for people in a region of Pakistan devastated by a 2005 earthquake. Since its inception in 2006, he has been involved with Pakistan Straw Bale and Appropriate Building (www.paksbab.org). PAKSBAB, founded by mechanical and civil engineer Darcey Donovan, is bringing straw-bale and other



Top: Two room house, Battal, Pakistan. Above: Martin Hammer (left), Hamid Ullah (home owner), Surkhab Kahn (PAKSBAB director).

sustainable building practices to reconstruction in the foothills of the Himalayas. Straw-bale buildings are earthquake-safe, energy and resource efficient, and low cost. Variations of straw bale construction are practiced throughout the United States and in more than 45 countries.

Martin, a practicing architect in California, has been involved in the design, engineering, construction and testing of such buildings since 1995. He has lectured and written widely about the subject, including as a contributing author of *Design of Straw Bale Buildings*. He has also written a proposed Straw Bale Building Code for the State of California. ■

NJIT'S IRON ALUMNUS

Professional Engineer and part-time athlete **Peter Turek '75 (CE)** placed 19th out of 50 in the 55-59 age group in the 2008 Ironman® World Championship triathlon in Hawaii. A swimmer at NJIT, Peter held school records for freestyle and butterfly. A serious runner after gradua-

tion, he twice ran the New York City Marathon before *Ironman Hawaii* on TV sparked equally serious interest in that competition. Peter's first engineering job was with Killiam Associates, from which he moved on to Studer and McEldowney, where he became a vice president and part owner. In 2006, Peter's career went full circle when his company merged with Hatch Mott MacDonald – formerly Killiam Associates. ■

