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MAKING A VITAL INVESTMENT

Celebration 2010 – once again this festive event filled the Pleasantdale Chateau in West Orange, New Jersey, with NJIT supporters committed to increasing the university's endowed scholarship assistance for exceptionally talented young men and women. Over the past 16 years, Celebration has raised more than \$3.8 million for endowed scholarships.

At the podium as master of ceremonies was Michael A. Wall, executive vice president, Accelerant Sales Group, LLC. In addition to chairing the 2010 Executive Dinner Committee, Wall serves on the NJIT Board of Overseers and the Board of Visitors for the School of Management.



Master of Ceremonies Michael A. Wall



Student Speaker Karen Cilento

ARCHITECT AND ATHLETE

Architecture major Karen Cilento '12 represented the students whose scholarships are helping to make their educational aspirations a reality. Cilento is the recipient of NJIT Honors, Presidential, Faculty, and Women in Science and Engineering scholarships.

Enrolled in Albert Dorman Honors College, Cilento is already applying her talents as a fourth-year architectural student to real-world projects. Working with Habitat for Humanity in a studio course focused on affordable, sustainable housing for Newark residents, she created a townhouse design that has been selected for construction in the near future. It's expected that several units based on Cilento's design will be built in the city after detailed plans are developed and approved.

Cilento excels in athletics as well. A Division I swimmer, she broke NJIT's longest-standing record for the 50-meter freestyle sprint and was named to the Metropolitan Swimming and Diving Conference All-Academic Team for the 2008-2009 season.

NJIT Overseer James J. Coleman, Jr. was honored for lifetime achievement.

PRESIDENTIAL HONOR

Celebration is also an occasion to honor individuals and organizations for singular accomplishments and concern for NJIT. As in past years, presentation of the President's Medal for Lifetime Achievement was a special highlight of the evening.

For 2010, NJIT President Robert A. Altenkirch honored James J. Coleman, Jr. Coleman is chairman of International-Matex Tank Terminals, a family-managed company that has major facilities in the U.S. and Canada for handling, storing and transshipping bulk liquids.

A distinguished attorney, Coleman is also managing partner of the law firm Coleman, Johnson and Artigues in New Orleans. Additionally, he is president of the Coleman Development Company, Inc., a trustee of the Owen-Coleman Foundation and director of the Squaw Valley Corporation.

Long a member of the NJIT Board of Overseers, Coleman will make another important contribution to NJIT as co-chair

of the NJIT NEXT campaign, along with Overseer Vincent J. Naimoli. The goal is to raise more than \$150 million to build on the university's legacy of excellence, providing support to compete successfully for students, faculty, funding and institutional recognition.

PROFESSIONAL PROMINENCE

Clifford M. Samuel '88 was presented with the Edward F. Weston Medal for Professional Achievement. In his position as vice president for international access operations at Gilead Sciences, Inc., Samuel is working to accelerate access to life-saving medical therapy across the developing world. Products offered by California-based Gilead Sciences include medications for HIV/AIDS, liver disease and serious cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

Clifford Samuel '88 is working to accelerate access to life-saving medical therapy across the developing world.

Samuel, who serves on the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors, supports the Clifford M. Samuel Trust Endowed Scholarship at NJIT. He is engaged in promoting community health closer to home as a member of the Community Advisory Board for the AIDS Health Project organized by the University of California, San Francisco.

AN OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIP

Each year, Celebration recognizes an outstanding corporate partner for their uniquely supportive relationship with NJIT. Both the company and the individual accepting the 2010 award have such a relationship. Nicholas M. DeNichilo '73, '78 accepted the award on behalf of Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM), where he's president and chief executive officer. He's worked at HMM and its predecessor, Killam Associates, since 1974. DeNichilo also reserves time in a demanding schedule to participate on the NJIT Board of Overseers.

In his remarks, DeNichilo spoke about the strong ties between the company and NJIT. He touched on the many NJIT graduates employed, endowed scholarship support, the executives serving on NJIT advisory boards and teaching as adjunct instructors, and the NJIT Corporate Club at the firm.

Also attending the event were HMM vice presidents Philip LiVecchi '06, Albert Melini '73 and Joseph G. Stanley '78, '85. Stanley is president of the NJIT Alumni Association, and LiVecchi and Melini serve on the NCE Board of Visitors.

Interviewed after Celebration, DeNichilo advocated for firms such as HMM to increase support for engineering education at all levels. "New talent is the life blood of our business," he says. "Our corporate headquarters is in New Jersey and our relationship with NJIT is especially close. By meeting students before they graduate, by providing internships



PHOTO: GINNY TWERSKY

Celebration 2010 honorees (left to right): Clifford M. Samuel, Edward F. Weston Medal for Professional Achievement; James M. Coleman, Jr., President's Medal for Lifetime Achievement; Nicholas M. DeNichilo, who accepted the Outstanding Corporate Partner Award on behalf of Hatch Mott MacDonald.

and inviting them to see projects first-hand, we have the opportunity to get a sense of their talent as potential employees."

"Interest in engineering careers should also be encouraged in high school, and earlier," asserts DeNichilo, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers Industry Leaders Council. "It has to be a national priority. Our infrastructure for transportation, water, power and other vital services is in serious need of repair and upgrading."

DeNichilo says that decades of growth after World War II have greatly stressed the nation's infrastructure, in some cases to a very dangerous point. It's tragic, he adds, that it takes

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*Nicholas DeNichilo '73, '78,
President and CEO, Hatch Mott MacDonald*

a crisis like the collapse of a bridge to focus public attention on this critical issue.

Rebuilding our nation's infrastructure is also essential for remaining competitive in global markets. "That's why we should be doing even more to encourage young people to

think about careers in engineering, and to help them along the way," DeNichilo says. "It's a vital investment in the continuing success of companies like Hatch Mott MacDonald and the prosperity of the entire country." ■