

ALUMNI CIRCUIT

“Active participation in the Alumni Association of NJIT (AANJIT) offers many opportunities to learn, to make business connections, to mentor today’s students, and to socialize at interesting events.”

– Joseph Stanley

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

A MESSAGE FROM NJIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JOSEPH STANLEY '78, '85

“Why should I care? Tell me why our magazine readers should care?” was the NJIT communications director’s response to my request for an Alumni Association update in *NJIT Magazine*. Taken aback as I was, I realized she was right to a degree. What Alumni Association “news” could be compelling to 55,000 readers, mostly alumni? It forced me to give the matter some serious consideration. In a nutshell, here is why you should care.

■ **Active participation in the Alumni Association of NJIT (AANJIT) offers many opportunities to learn, to make business connections, to mentor today’s students, and to socialize at interesting events.**

AANJIT affinity groups – regional, corporate and young alumni clubs – engage alumni with varied interests in a wide range of activities. I’ve attended a behind-the-scenes tour of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, a Salvador Dali Museum reception in St. Petersburg, Florida, a winery tour in Virginia, a tour of the Big Bear Solar Observatory in California, and presentations for alumni by NJIT faculty.

The AANJIT has also hosted events focused on career development, such as “speed-

networking” receptions where alumni assist students in honing their networking skills, a networking event for recent graduates where accomplished alumni told their stories and offered career advice, and an entrepreneurship seminar with a panel of NJIT alumni who discussed their new, successful businesses.

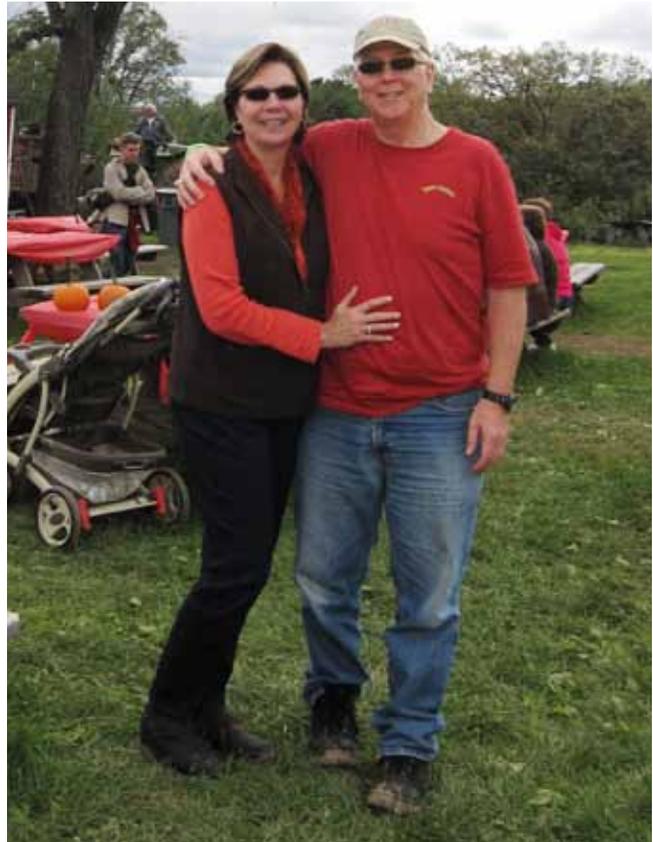
We have participated in the critical Learning Communities initiative to help more freshmen successfully make the transition from high school. This program assembles students in a community of their peers before they start classes and provides mentors to help them throughout the year.

■ **Through the AANJIT, alumni can participate in projects that significantly affect the university’s growth and direction, and ultimately its standing.**

As a result of AANJIT’s success in increasing alumni involvement in recent years, our board members have been invited to serve on a number of high-profile university committees, including the Shared Governance Steering Committee and the Presidential Search Committee.

■ **The more alumni who step forward to share their expertise, the more we will be able to do for our alumni, our students and the entire university community.**

If you feel that your NJIT education has served you well, and if you would like to see more young people enjoy the same benefits, consider joining us and



Alumni Association President Joseph Stanley and his wife, Helen, at the 2011 Fall Harvest Festival sponsored by the Young Alumni Club and the Alumni Club of Morris County.

helping to shape the future of the university.

For a first-hand look at NJIT today and AANJIT’s role, I encourage you to attend Alumni Weekend 2012 (May 18-20), open to all alumni and showcasing the entire university. Class anniversary reunions are prominent features of the weekend, but there are also college and department activities. It’s time well spent in learning, connecting, and just having a good time. As the focal point of AANJIT’s year, we present our Alumni Achievement Awards

during the weekend to some of our most accomplished alumni and the Van Houten Award for Teaching Excellence.

In closing, I ask you to visit the university’s website (www.njit.edu/alumni) for more information about alumni events in your area. Maybe then YOU can answer “Why should I care?” Please share your thoughts and comments with me, or let me know of your willingness to volunteer. You can contact me at joseph.stanley@hatchmott.com or njit.aa.president@njit.edu. ■

ALUMNI PROFILES

HARRY ETTLINGER '50

Dedicated to a Monumental Task

As a young Jewish soldier in the U.S. Army at the end of World War II, Harry Ettlinger was chosen for a unique mission. Sergeant Ettlinger, along with the other members of the Army's Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives (MFA&A) section, were given the assignment of recovering and repatriating innumerable works of art looted by the Nazis as they ravaged Europe during the war. It is a mission that Ettlinger is still committed to today.

But Ettlinger had witnessed Nazi brutality even before he found himself in Germany as an American soldier. Ettlinger, his parents and two younger brothers had fled the country in 1938, severing family roots that extended deep into Germany's history. They also had to give up the affluence earned by a prosperous clothing business.

Coming to the United States, the family settled in Newark and Ettlinger graduated from East-side High School before being drafted into the Army.

Ettlinger's fluency in German led to his being selected as an interpreter for the war crimes trials ultimately held in Nuremberg. Before this assignment was finalized, however, he had the opportunity to volunteer for a very different mission – the one that involved helping to recover and repatriate works of art stolen by the Nazis from historic buildings, museums and individuals.

Ettlinger became a member of the MFA&A section. After four months in their 7th Army office, he spent ten months in charge of underground operations in salt mines at Heilbronn and Kochendorf in southern Germany. His first task was to retrieve the 73 boxes holding the stained glass windows from the cathedral in Strasbourg, France, stored among 40,000 boxes in the mines. These were the first cultural artifacts returned, under direct orders from General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have news about your career, your family, an avocation? Share it in a class note for *NJIT Magazine*. And be sure to let us know if you have a new address.

On the Web, use the form at www.njit.edu/alumni/classnotes.

By e-mail, send news and photos with your graduation year(s) to alumni-classnotes@njit.edu.

Via U.S. mail to: Robert A. Boynton, Executive Director, Alumni Relations, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Eberhardt Hall NJIT Alumni Center, Room 218, 323 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Newark, NJ 07102-1982

Allied Commander in Europe.

More priceless art was recovered and returned, including a self-portrait by Rembrandt and even prints that had belonged to Ettlinger's grandfather, who he says was "a minor patron of the arts." In the course of their service, the MFA&A contingent recovered hundreds of works of art. But as Ettlinger points out, these were just a fraction of the works stolen, many of which are still unaccounted for today.

As he explored the salt mines after the Germans surrendered, Ettlinger was also forcefully struck by the preparations he saw to create underground assembly lines for jet engines – facilities that would have been operated by thousands of slave laborers. The advanced aircraft technology that the Nazis might

have brought to bear against advancing Allied forces could have prolonged the war for a year or more, Ettlinger surmises. "It was very frightening to see."

Upon his discharge in 1946, Ettlinger returned to his home city and enrolled at Newark College of Engineering to study mechanical engineering. Of his days at NCE, he says that comments he heard from several students who had transferred from MIT confirmed the high quality of education on the Newark campus.

"They complained that the work was harder at NCE," he recalls with an amused tone.

Graduating in 1950, Ettlinger had a series of positions, beginning with a job in a bronze foundry and later at firms specializing in radar and sonar equipment. He retired from the Guidance and Navigation Division of Kearfott Corporation in Wayne, New Jersey, where he was a deputy program director responsible for making sure that the company's contracts with the Navy for missile guidance-system components were fulfilled and met the target cost.

Ettlinger retired from Kearfott some twenty years ago. Since

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Sergeant Harry Ettlinger is on the right in the photo for a newspaper story about the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives section. The recent photo at right includes a copy of the Rembrandt self-portrait stolen by the Nazis that he helped to recover at the end of World War II.



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then, he has been an active member of the Jewish War Veterans and the Wallenberg Foundation of New Jersey, named for the Swedish diplomat who inspired others to help him rescue 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust.

Ettlinger has also spoken many times before groups in New Jersey and elsewhere about his wartime experiences and the greater meaning of his wartime MFA&A work. In recent years, the MFA&A section and Ettlinger's role have received wide attention through the efforts of philanthropist Robert Edsel, author of *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* and *Rescuing Da Vinci*.

Edsel also established the Monuments Foundation for the Preservation of Art, dedicated to the legacy of the men and women who served in the MFA&A section. In 2007, this legacy was honored in a special way when President George W. Bush presented the foundation with the National Humanities Medal at a ceremony attended by Ettlinger and three other surviving "Monuments Men."

"It was unprecedented in history," Ettlinger says of the MFA&A effort. "We were part of a victorious army, but we didn't loot or seek revenge against innocent people. We did our best to return priceless works of art to their rightful owners, to individuals, for institutions and for civilization."

While much of the art looted by the Nazis has yet to be found, others have taken up the search. It may be with less frequency than Ettlinger would like to see, but pieces acquired in the chaotic days after the war by museums and individuals are being identified and magnanimously returned to the heirs of those from whom they were stolen. "It's great that this is still happening," Ettlinger says.

CHARLES BECHT III '49, '53 *It's Never Been Dull*

What does Charles Becht like about being an engineer and building a six-decade career in the field? "For one thing," he says, "it's anything but dull if you appreciate the creativity. And speaking both for himself and the family members who have joined him in the profession, he adds, "There's a great deal of satisfaction in seeing the solutions that we propose work well for our clients."

Charles Becht launched Becht Engineering as a consulting engineering firm in 1964. The company was split in 2005 and now operates as separate business units. Today, Becht is still proposing creative solutions as CEO of Becht Engineering Building Technologies, where his daughter Laurie Becht, P.E., a 1982 NJIT honors graduate in mechanical engineering, is a principal and senior vice president. His son Charles Becht IV, P.E., who holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering, is president of Becht Engineering Co., Inc. Charles Becht V, Becht's grandson, has an



Charles Becht III

MS in nuclear engineering and works for Becht Engineering Co.

Each firm has achieved substantial success. The focus of Becht Engineering BT includes structural, civil, mechanical, electrical, and fire-protection engineering, and project management. Becht Engineering's work for the process and power industries spans the globe.

This success, Becht relates, began with his decision not to become a professional trumpet player.

"My father died when I was 13, leaving just me and my mother. But I was fortunate in that I was a talented trumpet player when most older musicians were being drafted because of World War II. So playing at dances and other affairs while I attended Irvington High School, where I helped to teach the trumpet, gave us a pretty good income. Although I could have become a professional, I just wasn't attracted to the lifestyle."

Wryly, he says, "Given the way things have turned out, "I think it was a good decision."

Upon graduating from high school in the spring of 1944, Becht made another significant decision – to enroll at Newark College of Engineering. "In thinking about what to do with my life, engineering struck me as being a respectable profession. I could also just take the bus to NCE and get an outstanding education subsidized by the City of Newark and the State of New Jersey."

Then the war intervened and the draft loomed over Becht's educational plans. However, he learned of a special test offered by the Navy that would allow him to volunteer and enter that service as a Seaman First Class and a radio technician. He says that it was his "great good fortune" to take and pass the test. "In nine months, I got an excellent education in electronics and electrical engineering."

“The growing incidence of obesity in many countries is truly frightening. It impacts longevity, raises the cost of health care, and negatively impacts the overall quality of life.”

– Karl Kramer

Discharged from the Navy after Japan’s surrender, Becht returned to his studies at NCE with the assistance of the G.I. Bill, which made a college education possible for so many veterans. Although he now had a solid background in electronics, he found mechanical engineering more to his liking because of its relevance to a wide range of industries. He completed his bachelor’s in 1949 with an academic record that led to his being asked to teach at the college, which he did for a year. Becht, who also has a 1953 MS in engineering management, would teach at his alma mater again over the years as an adjunct, sharing both theory and his wealth of practical insights into business and engineering.

Looking further afield, Becht next took a job as a safety engineer at General Aniline and Film Corporation, which increased his fund of technical expertise, not only in safety but in process design and engineering as well. Positions with several other companies followed, along with experience in additional fields, such as structural engineering, and his first P.E. license, from New York State. Becht’s credentials would eventually include P.E. licenses from seven other states and the District of Columbia.

By 1964, having seen how things should work – and pitfalls to avoid – on a wide range of projects, Becht struck out on his own, founding Becht Engineering. His first project was process and design engineering for a plant in North Carolina that manufactured

fiberglass used in air filters. He subsequently applied his varied knowledge and skills to work that spanned conventional residential heating and air conditioning, the first-generation of solar heating systems and innovative recovery facilities for the solid waste industry.

Based in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, Becht Engineering and Becht Engineering BT have grown to serve numerous clients with many different needs. Yet as diverse as their work has become, the founder of this very successful enterprise says that they approach every project with the same attitude. “We do our best for each client, and I think that our enthusiasm for what we do tends to rub off. We’ve also never walked away from a job because of budget challenges, and that can be painful at times.”

What advice does Becht offer to young men and women either still studying or just embarking on their careers? “Don’t expect everything to go according to plan,” he says. “Learn how to make the conditions you encounter fit what you want to do in life. Success is a matter of constant learning and adjusting.”

KARL KRAMER '82

Encouraging a Healthy Balance

As president of the Innovation and Commercial Development Division of Tate & Lyle, Karl Kramer is helping to provide key ingredients for food products that consumers enjoy around the world, ingredients such as starches, fibers and sweeteners

that add taste, texture and nutrition to our food. The availability of these products has enhanced the quality of life for millions of people. Yet as a member of the Board of Governors of the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation, Kramer is also helping to contend with a serious 21st-century epidemic caused by abundant food being available to so many – the epidemic of obesity.

“The growing incidence of obesity in many countries is truly frightening,” Kramer says. “It impacts longevity, raises the cost of health care, and negatively impacts the overall quality of life. That’s why a broad coalition of food and beverage manufacturers, insurance companies, trade associations, non-governmental organizations, retailers, educators and other groups have stepped up to the challenge of promoting better food choices and healthier lifestyles.”

The overarching goal of the foundation is to promote awareness of ways to achieve and maintain a healthy weight through energy balance – awareness of the calories we consume and the calories we expend. The foundation will work with manufacturers and retailers to give consumers better information with which to make sound food choices, develop programs for the workplace that encourage healthier choices and increased physical activity, and support comparable, age-appropriate initiatives for schools.

The educational background that Kramer brings to the foundation and Tate & Lyle includes his 1982 bachelor’s in chemical engineering from NJIT. A graduate of Passaic Valley High School, Kramer came to Newark College of Engineering after a year and a half of pre-med study at Johns Hopkins. “I decided that

(continued)



Karl Kramer

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I didn't want to be a doctor and looked for a quality school closer to home," he says. "NJIT provided an exceptional education and was an exceptional value. I also found that chemical engineering was a good match with my interests and skills." Kramer is a strong advocate of the work-study experience as well, an experience that he had at the Exxon Bayway Refinery while studying for his degree.

Kramer's first job after graduation was on the technical side of the food and beverage industry at General Foods, where he worked in research and development. Attracted by broader career horizons, he transitioned to sales and management, with his technical expertise giving him firm footing on this new and promising career path. Subsequent positions with increasing responsibilities took him to a number of other firms – among them Nestle, Quest International and Givaudan – and gave him a valuable international perspective on the food industry through living in South America and Europe.

Kramer joined Tate & Lyle in 2008, returning to the U.S. as president of the Splenda Sucralose Division. Although the company is headquartered in London, Kramer is now based in Illinois, just outside Chicago. In his current post, heading the Innovation and Commercial Development Division, he oversees the identification of new business opportunities and the commercialization of promising new products as quickly as

possible. He will be working to achieve the objectives of the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation with equal dedication and energy.

Kramer offers a nuanced perspective on the obesity epidemic as both a Board member of the foundation and a food-industry executive. "We're facing a complicated situation," he reflects. "A variety of healthy food choices must be available to the consumer, along with the information needed to make the right decisions about what and how much to eat. But the industry also has to make healthy food appealing; it has to taste good. Otherwise people won't buy it."

Then there's the challenge of our "easy way out" attitude. "Too many of us don't want to make the effort to learn about healthy eating, or to be even a bit more physically active. We just want to take a pill.

It's especially important that we get the right message across to children. Promoting positive behavior early on will lead to healthier lifestyles as adults. It's not going to be easy, but we will do our best to change things for the better, to encourage a healthy balance." ■

MAL & FRIENDS

NJIT Magazine invites new correspondents to join Mal Simon in sharing news about class members and alumni organizations. Professor emeritus of physical education and athletics, Mal was director of physical education and athletics, and men's soccer coach, for 30 years. In 1993, he received the Cullimore Medal for his service to the university.

If you would like to be a regular correspondent, don't hesitate to send an e-mail to the editor of NJIT Magazine: dean.maskevich@njit.edu.

First, the latest news from Mal –

A graduate of Montclair High School, **Art Siegel '52** borrowed some money and began his collegiate education at Rutgers. At the end of the first semester and running out of money, Art came to NCE to meet with William Hazell, dean of administration. Dean Hazell listened to Art's tale of woe and, to Art's great relief, accepted him as a freshman. At NCE, he played on the tennis team and was a member of the photography club.

After graduation, Art was drafted into the Army, serving from 1954-56. He worked for 25 years as a senior research engineer for Uniroyal in Wayne, New Jersey, and Middlebury, Connecticut, and for the Farrel Company in New Hartford, Connecticut. In 1963, he received a master's in mechanical engineering from Stevens. He worked for another 15 years as a contract machine designer until his retirement.

Art is currently occupied with his "bucket list," which includes finishing model planes he had started in the past. Art and his wife, Judy, have been married for 55 years and live in New Hartford.

Richard "Dick" Mazik '63 was an outstanding fullback on NCE's National Championship soccer team. An excellent student, he

was elected to the Eta Kappa Nu and Tau Beta Pi honor societies.

Dick made a memorable move during his soccer career that has provided me with "needling" fodder in my long and good-natured relationship with Mel Schmid, former soccer coach at Trenton State College. The games between NCE and TSC were usually close and hard fought, but the 1960 game we won 9-2 was an exception. A highlight was three TSC players trying to take a ball away from Dick, who almost effortlessly dribbled the ball through them while knocking them down like bowling pins.

Dick made a less memorable move during a game with Seton Hall University when a Seton Hall player scored because Dick failed to cover him. When I asked him why he didn't cut the player off, his reason was quite unique. He said that the night before he had met a girl at a fraternity party and invited her to the game. During the game, he kept looking in the stands to see if she was there and it was during one of those moments that he lost sight of the Seton Hall player.

Dick's varied professional career reads like a Who's Who of U.S. companies. At AT&T Bell

While stationed in the Panama Canal Zone, Mason Ford '61 played basketball and softball in U.S. Air Force Leagues and basketball in the Panama Major Leagues.

Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, he was a member of the technical staff working on communications, anti-ballistic missile systems, radar and information technology. He participated in NYU's work-study program on the Bell Labs campus, earning a master's in electrical engineering. He spent his last five years at AT&T in computer systems before moving to Morgan Guaranty Trust as assistant treasurer in 1981. In 1984, Dick was appointed assistant vice president at the American International Group (AIG) in charge of systems and resources planning, and ordering software and hardware for domestic operations.

It was while competing with IBM and Hitachi that he made the transition to sales and sales support. He moved to Dow Jones as manager of technical support for two years and then to the Amdahl Corporation as senior staff marketing systems engineer and marketing support manager, where he directed a technical sales team supporting 42 major accounts. In 1994, Dick moved in another direction as a sales associate in residential and commercial real estate with Century 21 and Weichert New Homes and Land. He then combined his interests and experience as an account executive in consulting services for companies in the New Jersey/New York area.

In 2006, Dick and his wife, Judith, moved to Oregon where they live at the end of the Oregon Trail in Oregon City. After working in commercial sales, he retired fully in 2009 and keeps active fishing, playing the piano, traveling and, as soon as his aching back gets better, returning to his golf game.

Alex Khowaylo '63 hosted 28 alumni and guests at the annual Feet and Hands (Soccer and Basketball) Alumni Golf Outing on September 29 at the Ridgewood Golf Club. In addition to Alex, participating alumni were **Ricky Baptista '85, Ed Cruz '63, Paul Dreyer '64, Roger Edwards '63, Mason Ford '61, Ben Gazdowicz '67, Nelson Gralha '85, Roy Knutsen '62, Norm Loney '77, '85, '91, Bob McEntee '62, Jeff McEntee '90, Bill Morris '82, Gary Mould '88, Mark Naser '89, Rich Schroeder '66, Pete Szabados '61, Bob Welgos '62** and **Skip Wilkins '64**. Special Longest Drive prizes were awarded to Dryer, Wilkins, and Edwards for traveling from Falmouth, Massachusetts, Andover, Massachusetts, and Woodstock, New York, respectively. Welgos will host the 2012 outing at the Newton Golf Club.

Making his debut at the golf outing was **Mason Ford '61**. Mason had to drop out of Belleville High School in his sophomore year. He spent the next two years doing odd jobs and playing basketball on local playground courts before volunteering for the Air Force. In addition to his engineering duties in the service, he earned his high school diploma. His many hours on the playground courts paid off as, while stationed in Panama, he played basketball and softball in Air Force Leagues and was the first and only gringo in the Panama Major Leagues.

Mason entered NCE in 1957 and distinguished himself as an excellent student, outstanding athlete and participant in student activities. Although much of his education was paid for by the G.I. Bill, Mason had to work part-time. His wife, Sonia, who he met



Mason Ford '61 (kneeling, third from left) in Panama.

while stationed at the Albrook Air Force facility in the Panama Canal Zone, also worked. To make things even more challenging, they had three children.

Mason earned his BS in civil engineering summa cum laude and Sonia received a PHT (pushed hubby through) degree in 1961. One has to wonder when Mason slept, as he played varsity basketball for four years and was elected co-captain in his senior year. He was also president of the Student Council, president of Omicron Delta Kappa (leadership honor society), vice president of Chi Epsilon (civil engineering honor society), member of Tau Beta Pi (engineering honor society), archon (president) of Pi Kappa Phi social fraternity, member of the Newman Club, and the only student member on the NCE President's Facility Committee.

After graduation, Mason and his family returned to the Canal Zone, where he worked as a civilian engineer for the Army on field projects and as a bilingual instructor of Latin American students in surveying and mapping. In 1965, the Fords moved to their current home in the Fayson Lakes area of Kinnelon, New Jersey, and Mason opened a business specializing in construction equipment and supplies. Taking night classes at NCE, he earned a master's in management (industrial/mechanical engineering) in 1966.

Mason's fluency in Spanish was helpful when he managed a

business in Puerto Rico and later in Latin America as part of his international marketing responsibilities. Mason has been president/managing partner of several engineering consulting companies. Not letting any grass grow beneath his feet, he has approached several NJIT alumni and staff with respect to planning non-profit and for-profit business start-ups, including leveraging an energy-transfer patent of his own with a concentration in the Caribbean area. Also being discussed is potential cooperation with NJIT and Engineers Without Borders, initially on water-supply and waste-recovery projects.

At the golf outing, **Paul Dreyer** told me a humorous story about meeting an alumnus. I asked him to e-mail the story to me, which he has titled "Encounter:"

"It is interesting how brief encounters can be memorable! I was in Washington, D.C. visiting the Smithsonian museums and had stopped on the Mall for refreshments. It was a beautiful sunny day on a Sunday in early fall and the Mall was crowded due to the Library of Congress Book Sale, the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps and the usual weekend visitors. A guy walked by wearing an NJIT T-shirt, so I asked him where he found the shirt. It turned out he was **Efrain Borja '77**, who coached the NJIT soccer team for a few years. I asked if he knew Mal Simon and began to mention various events such as

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“I’ve been impressed with Jim’s confidence, his vision and his ability to manage the department during a period of great uncertainty due to budget negotiations and union ratification issues.”

— Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy

the alumni soccer game the previous week and the Feet and Hands golf outing the following week, finally asking him about the Borja brothers. Efrain was intrigued that a complete stranger would know so much about his life. Having worked in Ecuador, I then asked if he was from Ecuador, as Borja was a common name there. He was even more intrigued so I proceeded to mention people, places and events in Quito, including the relocation of the airport to an area north of the city and the flooding at the old airport some years ago. By this time, he was completely flummoxed. The moral of this story is that it is indeed a small world and you never know who you may encounter, especially if you wear an NJIT shirt.”

Despite his recent evacuation from Egypt (<http://magazine.njit.edu/hurtado>), **Fabian Hurtado '74** took on a job in Erbil, Kurdistan (northern Iraq) as resident engineer at a new U.S. military facility for the Department of Defense.

Fabian and his wife, Jeanie, lived in the same area where three American hikers were arrested by the Iranians, who claimed the Americans had crossed into their country as spies. The hikers are now back in the U.S. after being jailed in Iran for more than two years.

Fabian and Jeanie never left the Erbil City area for fear of getting too close to Iran. Completing his job without having to be evacuated this time, Fabian says he doesn't plan to go outside the U.S. for at least a year. He is currently working on a bridge project in the Orlando, Florida, area.

Keep the news coming to mjs@njit.edu.

REDEKER APPOINTED CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER

James Redeker '77 (Engineering Science) MS '80 (CE) has been appointed Connecticut's Department of Transportation Commissioner by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. Redeker had been serving as acting commissioner. The department that Redeker heads has six bureaus – Aviation and Ports, Finance and Administration, Highway Operations, Policy and Planning, Engineering and Construction and Public Transportation. They employ some 3,000 people across the state.

Redeker joined the Connecticut Department of Transportation in 2008 after a 30-year career with the New Jersey Department of Transportation and NJ Transit.

“When I appointed Jim to lead the Department of Transportation on an interim basis back in March, I was already in the midst of a nationwide search for top talent who could help us move our state's transportation infrastructure into the 21st century,” said Governor Malloy. “I'm pleased to say that the right person for the job was right in our backyard. Over the last five months, I've been impressed with Jim's confidence, his vision and his ability to manage the department during a period of great uncertainty due to budget negotiations and union ratification issues. This may have been the longest, most intense interview of Jim's career, but he aced

it and I'm pleased to continue working with him in a more permanent capacity.”

Prior to being named acting commissioner, Redeker was chief of the Bureau of Public Transportation, responsible for planning and management of rail and bus programs; CTTransit, the state-owned bus service; and the New Haven Line, the state-owned commuter rail service. The bureau also oversees Shore Line East, the commuter rail service between New Haven and New London; and coordinates ridesharing programs for Connecticut employers.

ENGINEER AND ATTORNEY

Marshall Lerner '62 (EE) writes that he is managing partner of the intellectual property law firm of Kleinberg & Lerner LLP, based in Los Angeles. He received his JD degree with honors in 1965 from George Washington University. A member of the bars of the State of California and the District of Columbia, he was previously a patent examiner in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and a patent advisor in the Office of Naval Research.

Lerner's practice focuses on patent, trademark and copyright enforcement, litigation and procurement in the U.S. and internationally. He has lectured on intellectual property at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Science, UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management, USC Marshall School of Business and Santa Monica College. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Greif Center for Entrepreneurial

Studies at the USC Marshall School of Business.

Lerner is married to Jacqueline Fabe, who practices law in the area of real estate litigation. She is also a mediator for the Superior Court, Los Angeles County. They have two sons, Jonathan and Adam. Jonathan graduated from Harvard in 2004 with a major in applied math and economics, and Adam is a 2007 graduate of UCLA with a major in history and political science.

Seymour "Zoom" Fleisher '51

The NJIT community has been saddened by the death of Seymour "Zoom" Fleisher, who passed away at age 88 on December 18, 2011. A scholar, athlete and humanitarian, Zoom was one of NJIT's most dedicated friends and generous supporters. He earned the nickname Zoom for his skill on the basketball court, and NJIT's main athletic facility bears his name and that of his late wife, Estelle. A memorial will be held on campus on March 13. Visit the special website <http://www.njit.edu/zoomfleisher>.

Also sadly noted are the deaths of:

Robert G. Kaiser '45

Francis X. Hall '52

Julius I. Gnapp '61

William Michael Golias '63

Glenn A. Pulvermuller, Sr. P.E. '73

Karyn Hanselman '85

Marjorie Perry MBA, president and CEO of MZM Construction Management, Inc., has been inducted into the NJBIZ Hall of Fame. MZM was named a Business of the Year Hall of Fame honoree in 2011. A recipient of a 2011 NJIT Alumni Achievement Award, Perry has also been named one of New Jersey's 25 leading women entrepreneurs and business owners by Own It Ventures in association with *New Jersey Monthly* magazine.

2009

Nandini Thosar MS (Computer Science) is now a software engineer at IndiSoft. Prior to IndiSoft, Thosar worked as an engineer for Inform Technologies, Inc.

2011

Ravi Trivedi (Computer Science) is working as an IT and business consultant. His previous experience and positions include: AT&T developer intern, Hess Corporation application developer, Sunag Corporation IT analyst, and Marks Transport Service website developer.

1960

Manny D. Pokotilow (EE) has been named the 2012 Philadelphia Litigation-Patent Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers*, one of the oldest and most respected publications in the legal profession. Recognized as being among the leading intellectual property lawyers in the country, Pokotilow is the managing partner of Caesar, Rivise, Berstein, Cohen and Pokotilow Ltd.

1962

James Towey (EE) says that he's been enjoying retirement since 1996 and hopes to return to campus for reunion activities.

Martin Tuchman (ME) has been named a director of the ocean shipping company Horizon Lines, Inc. Tuchman is CEO of the Tuchman Group, which oversees holdings in real estate, banking and international shipping. He has also headed Kingstone Capital V, a private investment group, since 2007.

1978

John McMahan (EE) has joined the board of directors of Aveksa, Inc., a leading provider of automated enterprise data access solutions. McMahan has held senior management positions at BMC Software, Cisco, Parametric Technology Corporation, Hewlett Packard, Ariba and BladeLogic.

1984

Richard Aquino (CE) is vice president for business development at the civil business unit of Skanska USA, a contractor for the U.S. construction and infrastructure markets.

1985

Robert Hinkle (EE) has been named vice president for product strategy by Billtrust™, a New Jersey-based firm specializing in outsourced billing services.

1989

Anastasia Harrison (Arch), director of sustainability for Gannett Fleming's Northeast Region, has been appointed chair of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's (ISI) Accreditation Committee. ISI is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing and administering a sustainability rating system. Gannett Fleming is a global infrastructure firm focused on planning, design, technology and construction management services for the transportation, environmental, water, power and facilities industries.

1997

Christopher Itterly (Industrial Engineering) has joined the Biggs Gilmore marketing and advertising agency in Kalamazoo, Michigan, as project manager.

1999

Shawn Straka MS (Mgmt) has been promoted to national director at Jones Lang LaSalle. He was previously a senior vice president at the global commercial real estate services firm.

2000

Ahmed M. Soliman (Professional and Technical Communication) is now a licensed attorney and a member of the South Jersey firm of Fleischer, Fleischer and Suglia representing corporations and banks in commercial litigation.

2001

Christopher J. Zehnder (Arch) shares the news that he has passed his P.E. exam, which makes him "duly licensed as an architect and engineer at my self-founded practice, Zen Architecture & Engineering (7 years now!)." He also says that he appeared as a contestant on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" in October 2011.

2002

Robert Friedman MS (Information Systems) has been named director of the Institute of Technology at the University of Washington – Tacoma.

2004

Kamil Olufowobi (Professional and Technical Communication) has been appointed associate vice president of account management for West African business by MasterCard Worldwide in Nigeria. The appointment is among those made to grow MasterCard's operations and presence in Nigeria and across West Africa.

2005

Corina Koca (ME) is an aerospace engineer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. She writes that she is working on the optical calibration system for the James Webb Space Telescope. The Webb Telescope is being designed as a more capable replacement for the Hubble Telescope, now nearing the end of its service life.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

14TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

GALA RECEPTION AND NETWORKING EVENT

Thursday, March 29
NJIT Campus Center

For more information, contact Kathy Dickerson at kathy.dickerson@njit.edu or 973-596-3456, or visit <http://engineering.njit.edu/excellence2012>.

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2012

Friday, May 18 - Sunday, May 20

Alumni Weekend has something for every NJIT grad! Return to campus for Five-Year Anniversary reunions as well as non-anniversary class, college, department and fraternity/sorority events.

Reconnect with NJIT and fellow alumni over a weekend of activities featuring receptions, dinners, college and department presentations, exhibits, and the annual Alumni Achievement Award presentations by the Alumni Association. There's a Saturday evening dinner dance in the Campus Center Ballroom, a piano lounge for those who would prefer to spend some quiet time with friends, and an after-party following the dinner dance.

For more information about Alumni Weekend or to make reservations online: www.njit.edu/alumni/class or contact the Alumni Relations Office at 973-596-3441.

For the most current information about Alumni Association activities, visit www.njit.edu/alumni.

Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn too.
Go to www.njit.edu/alumni/community.

CORPORATE CLUBS

NJIT's Corporate Clubs provide valuable networking opportunities for alumni in the workplace while also assisting NJIT students and faculty. Current Corporate Clubs include: Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates, Hatch Mott MacDonald, PSE&G, Schering-Plough, Turner Construction and United Parcel Service.

For more information:
www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs

REGIONAL CLUBS

NJIT Regional Clubs are planning events across the country. For more information:
www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs

YOUNG ALUMNI CLUB

The Young Alumni Club organizes social, networking, and educational events for alumni and their families. For more information:
www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs



Alumna and Peace Corps volunteer Owen Fitzgerald (standing, left) in Mali.

A WORLD OF SERVICE

As a top graduate in construction engineering, Owen Fitzgerald '08 had great job offers from major companies. But he opted to follow many other NJIT alumni who have spent time serving other people with organizations such as the Peace Corps. Traveling to Mali – one of the poorest countries in the world – as a Peace Corps volunteer, Fitzgerald helped to build latrines, a school, and his host village's first well. It was back-breaking labor at times, but he says "The work I did in Mali was not a sacrifice; it was a privilege."