

POINT BY POINT

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ALUMNI ATHLETES JOIN PRO RANKS

Mark Leiter, Jr. '13, who completed his four-year college playing career at NJIT this spring, was selected by the Philadelphia Phillies organization in the 22nd round of baseball's annual First-Year Player Draft. Leiter, a right-handed pitcher, is the first NJIT student-athlete to be selected in the Major League Baseball (MLB) Amateur Draft.

Selection in the MLB draft of amateur players caps a stellar year and career for Leiter, the son of former major league pitcher Mark Leiter and nephew of former major league pitcher Al Leiter. His honors as a senior include being named Louisville Slugger National Player of the Week, a distinction earned after striking out a career-high and NJIT record 20 batters against Chicago State on May 3. The 20 strikeouts were the most in a Division I game nationwide for 2013.

Joining Leiter in the pro ranks is **Tripp Davis '13**, signed to a free-agent contract with the Kansas City Royals. Davis, a four-year left-handed ace starting pitcher for the Highlanders from 2010 until the end of the 2013 season, was assigned to one of the Royals' minor league teams for the remainder of the 2013 season. An outstanding student who graduated from NJIT with a cumulative grade point average above 3.7, Davis was a Great West Conference All-Academic honoree in each of his last three seasons with the Highlanders.



Mark Leiter, Jr.



Tripp Davis

PHOTOS: LARRY LEVANTI



Christian Galindo



Rayven Johnson

Christian Galindo '13, who helped NJIT to its most successful Division I soccer season in 2012, is continuing in the sport as a professional in Guatemala's first division. His professional career in Guatemala, where he has family ties, began in July in preseason training for the start of the 2013-14 season. His professional team is C.D. Suchitepequez, which is one of 12 teams in the top tier of Guatemalan soccer, Liga Nacional de Fútbol de Guatemala.

Galindo became a Highlander in the summer of 2011 after attending Stony Brook for two years. He was coached all four years in college by Cesar Markovic, who recruited Galindo to Stony Brook in 2009 and became NJIT's coach in 2011.

Rayven Johnson '13, who led NJIT women's basketball to a Great West Conference championship in her final college game, will continue her career as a professional player with TK Hannover in Germany. Johnson was named Great West Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player following NJIT's title win.

Johnson completed her college career with 1,248 points – second all-time in NJIT's Division I era, which began in 2006, and fourth overall for a program that competed in Division II and Division III before moving to the NCAA's top level. Johnson's 852 career rebounds are tops in the Division I era and second overall. In her senior year, the 5-foot-8 forward led NJIT to the championship of the 2013 Great West Conference tournament and a 16-15 record, with the 16 wins representing the highest total for the program in Division I and the third-highest total in program history. ■