

# ALUMNI CIRCUIT

*“NJIT is most definitely not standing still, and its leaders have a vision to take it to new and even higher levels.”*

— Jack Wagner '74

PHOTO: CHRISTINA CROVETTO



## STEPPING UP TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PLATE

*John Wagner, who introduces himself as “Jack,” began his tenure as president of the Alumni Association on the first day of September. Today, retired from a very accomplished career in business — 34 years with IBM — Jack shares his real-world experience with students as an adjunct professor in the School of Management. He has also served on the School of Management’s Board of Visitors and in 2005 was recognized for leadership in the school as a University Ambassador by IBM.*

*Jack has now stepped up to the presidential plate to help move the Alumni Association toward a winning future of greater alumni engagement with a growing roster of activities and benefits. He invites all alumni to share their suggestions and concerns, or to just say “hello,” by contacting him at [jww6@njit.edu](mailto:jww6@njit.edu).*

*But to introduce Jack in his own words...*

I am honored to have been chosen to be the next president of the Alumni Association of NJIT. I cannot start my role as president without thanking Joe Stanley for the work he has done over the past several years as president, dedicating himself to the advancement of the association. Through the efforts of Joe and Steve Saperstein, the Alumni Association has reached new levels on all fronts. The Alumni Council is now in its second year and growing in numbers; Alumni Weekend in May had record attendance; and the Young Alumni Club has become an active and viable force within the association. In addition, the Regional Clubs have exciting and creative programs with excellent leadership across the country.

With all of that activity in place, stepping into the leadership role after Joe Stanley is no small task. The good news is that people like Joe, Steve and Anita Rubino are committed to continuing to do the great job that we know they do. Recent elections have brought many other new faces to the team, and we are all excited to work together to advance alumni activities for NJIT.

On a personal level, I graduated in 1974 from NCE with a degree in computer science and a minor in industrial engineering. I then spent 34 years working for IBM, and it was a very fast-paced business experience. NJIT prepared me well to compete within IBM and to reach the executive role that I attained. I held a variety of field and headquarters management positions, and also spearheaded IBM’s transition from a product orientation to a solutions-based model.

Little did I know when I graduated from NJIT that I would find myself in a global business role 34 years later. But I found that my involvement with groups like the Student Activity Council, *The Vector*, and other student organizations gave me a much broader experience than just the knowledge obtained in the classroom. One of my key accomplishments as a student at NJIT was learning to ski — in the gym — on the “historic” ski deck. Skiing became a passion of mine in my freshman year and remains so today. Skiing also gave me the opportunity to meet my wife and for us to have a sport that we enjoyed together and would share with our son for many years. That’s what NJIT is like. It prepares you for life, not just for the business world.

When I retired from IBM in 2008, I started doing some business consulting, and I am still active in that area. Retirement also gave me an opportunity to devote more time to another passion of mine, which is photography. I was also on the Board of Visitors for the NJIT School of Management and had been a guest lecturer when I was asked if I was interested in teaching. So much for a “plan of retirement!”

I am now teaching in the School of Management and have developed new classes that I feel can expand the quality of education and the experience for NJIT students. I am very excited about my “second career.”

My philosophy of teaching is simple: involvement by the students and real-life business examples. Dr. Estrin (“Doc”) was my role model, and I remember how he always got us involved as students. Whether it was in activities or in the classroom, he focused on involvement and core skills. Doc taught us “engineers” to write and speak! Not an easy task, but one that gave me an invaluable skill that I was able to use to advance my career at IBM many times over.

So I am back on the NJIT campus and loving it. It is very different here today in comparison to my time as a student. Diversity has taken on a new dimension. The extent of the curriculum is out of this world, and the advancement of the campus into what it is today would have been simply impossible to imagine! NJIT is most definitely not standing still, and its leaders have a vision to take it to new and even higher levels.

It is for those reasons that I wanted to become president of the Alumni Association. I want to be part of the advancement of the NJIT ecosystem. Our alumni, past and future, are a very important part of the growth of NJIT. I want to work hard to take our alumni involvement to the next level. I want to make sure that our current students understand the value of the Alumni Association and that they make use of the resources that are available.

People have asked me what my goals are for the Alumni

Association. My response is simply to continue to advance the organization and to collaborate with Alumni Relations each step along the way. I feel we need to focus on communications and improve the infrastructure of the team. That includes making better use of advanced communications technologies, like social media, to extend the reach of the team.

I would also like to increase our visibility across our ecosystem, and that includes the current student body. We need to be linked to NJIT each step along the way and I am excited about the focus on innovation and entrepreneurship at the university. I am confident that we can have a key role in the advancement of those efforts. But I also want to hear from you and value your input on what YOU want from the Alumni Association.

In closing, I want to say that I am very proud to be stepping into this role. I view the goal to be a focus on teamwork and communications. Everything I do will be centered around the NJIT vision and the advancement of the Alumni Association. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. ■

## ANNUAL HONORS FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Newark College of Engineering marked 16 years in March of honoring the accomplishments of notable alumni, industry partners and high-achieving students at the college's annual Salute to Engineering Excellence. This year, **Donald Cronin, '75** and **Edward J. Schmeltz, '71** each received an Outstanding Alumnus Award.

**Langan Engineering & Environmental Services** was the recipient of the Outstanding Industry Partnership Award – an award accepted on behalf of the firm by **David Gockel '81**, president and CEO.

Cronin, who majored in civil engineering, is president of Alternative Technologies, Inc. In the course of a career spanning more than three decades, he has been a leader in the analysis, design, integration and implementation of materials-handling, material-flow and inventory-control systems for many of the world's largest and most prestigious companies in a wide variety of industries.



Donald Cronin

Cronin's active involvement in professional organizations has included membership in the Material Handling and Management Society, and serving as president and chairman of the board of the Warehouse Education and Research Council of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and as a board member and past president of the Material Handling Society of New Jersey. He has been the scholarship chairman for the society's Annual Fundraising Scholarship Golf Outing, which benefits NJIT and Rutgers University.

Over the years, Cronin has shared his professional experience as a featured speaker for events hosted by the Association for Operations Management, the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, the Material

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

### Share your news, photos, memories

Do you have news about your career, your family, an avocation? Share it in a class note for *NJIT Magazine*.

We're also interested in photos that show the NJIT campus and students in years past. You can send scanned photos as jpeg files to the editor ([dean.l.maskevich@njit.edu](mailto:dean.l.maskevich@njit.edu)) or prints to the Alumni Relations Office at the address below. We'll take good care of your photos and return them promptly after scanning.

Would you like to share a memory of your NJIT experience that you think might interest the readers of *NJIT Magazine*? Don't hesitate to send a paragraph, or several, to the editor as well. And be sure to let us know if you have a new address.

For Class Notes:

**On the Web**, use the form at [njit.edu/alumni/classnotes](http://njit.edu/alumni/classnotes).

**By e-mail**, send news with graduation year(s) to [alumni-classnotes@njit.edu](mailto:alumni-classnotes@njit.edu).

**Via U.S. mail to:** 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

Handling Society of New Jersey, and the Warehouse Education and Research Council.

An accomplished marine civil engineer, Schmeltz is senior vice president and director of maritime and special projects for AECOM Technology Corporation. The Pier 400 Development at the Port of Los Angeles, one of the largest landfill projects ever undertaken, the breakwater reconstruction for the Port of Sines in Portugal, and a tender design for the third set of locks on the Panama Canal are but three of his outstanding accomplishments.

Schmeltz's work with the United States Navy includes designing berthing and support facilities for the battleships U.S.S. Iowa in New York and the U.S.S. Missouri in Pearl Harbor; entrance-channel improvements for nuclear aircraft



Edward J. Schmeltz

carriers in San Diego, California; berthing and support facilities for Trident nuclear submarines in Kings Bay, Georgia; and

magnetic-silencing facilities in numerous classified locations to improve security for all classes of U.S. naval vessels deployed around the world. His landmark design work on restoring Whiskey Island, one of the barrier islands protecting New Orleans, will help to keep that city safe from Katrina-like disasters.

A Fellow of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Schmeltz is a founding member of ASCE's Coastal, Ocean, Ports and River Institute. He continues to be engaged at NJIT as a member of the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors.

Langan, the Outstanding Industry Partner for 2014, was founded in 1970 and is headquartered in Elmwood Park, New Jersey. The firm provides integrated site engineering and environmental consulting services for private developers, property owners, and public-sector clients. Familiarity with New Jersey, particularly with respect to subsurface conditions, utilities and regulatory policies, has earned Langan the reputation of the "go-to consultant" for

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challenging projects throughout the state.

The more than 800 professionals employed at the firm include nearly 50 NJIT graduates. It has been ranked among the top Green Design Firms by *Engineering News-Record* and among the Best Engineering Firms to Work For by *CE News*.

Langan and NJIT recently strengthened their alliance with a collaborative research agreement. Langan Vice President Stewart Abrams and NJIT Professor of Environmental Engineering Michel Boufadel direct Langan's Remediation Technology Program at NJIT's Center for Natural Resources Development and Protection. Together, Langan and NJIT have been performing joint applied research on clean-up technologies for various Langan Fortune 500 and private site-development clients.

Among the NCE student honorees, Pedro Santos\* was named both outstanding senior in his major – Civil and Environmental Engineering – and outstanding senior of the year. Other seniors recognized for their exceptional academic achievements were David S. Ching\*, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; Margaret Christian\*, Biomedical Engineering; Cindy Manrique\*, Engineering Technology; Victor Razuk\*, Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering; and Jay Vargas\*, Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Pooja Sheth\*, Biomedical Engineering, was recognized with the Saul K. Fenster Innovation in Design Award. Elaine Gomez\*, Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering, received the Madame Mau Outstanding Female Engineering Student Award; and Yasmine Aly, Chemical, Biological

and Pharmaceutical Engineering, was honored as the outstanding graduate student.

*\*Dorman honors scholars*

## ASCE LIFETIME AWARDS

*Nicholas DeNichilo and Edward Schmeltz*

In March, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will formally bestow one of its highest honors, the Outstanding Projects And Leaders (OPAL) Lifetime Achievement award, on two NJIT alumni who have made substantial and lasting contributions to the field of engineering. The awards, given annually, recognize engineering leaders who have made a significant difference in one of five key areas: construction, design, education, government and management.

Nicholas DeNichilo '73, '78, the president and CEO of Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM) is the 2015 OPAL honoree for management for his dynamic leadership of one of the country's largest and most influential engineering firms. Edward J. Schmeltz '71, who also received an Outstanding Alumnus Award at the 2014 NCE Salute to Engineering Excellence, is senior vice president and director of maritime and special projects for AECOM Technology Corp. He won the 2015 OPAL award for design for his marine engineering work around the globe.

Under DeNichilo's leadership, HMM has more than tripled in size, from a staff of 866 in 2002 to 2,700 in 2014, with engineers in 76 offices across the United States and Canada. ASCE noted that the firm now ranks 31st on the 2014 *Engineering News-Record's* list of Top 500 design firms and attributes its success to

*"It is uncommon for a grad student to have his own lab, but some of the greats all started in garages – think of Edison, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs – so I'm just keeping with tradition!"*

*– Vatsal A. Shah '08, '09*

DeNichilo's desire to maintain a "strong culture of providing quality services, safety, ethics, professionalism, and innovative solutions."

Schmeltz was recognized for designing some of what ASCE deems "the finest and most iconic and leading-edge projects," including the Pier 400 Development for the Port of Los Angeles. He has been responsible for projects in a variety of ports and harbors in the U.S. and internationally, including his work with the Navy in designing berth and support facilities for the battleships U.S.S. Iowa in New York and U.S.S. Missouri in Pearl Harbor. His coastal engineering projects include the restoration of Whiskey Island, one of the barrier islands that protect New Orleans.

## RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

*In what has become an Alumni Weekend tradition, the Alumni Association of NJIT honored six graduates for exceptional achievements in the private and public sectors at a dinner enjoyed by the honorees along with family members and friends. New for 2014 was the presentation of the first GeNext Award to Vatsal A. Shah for significant professional accomplishments by a young graduate.*

**VATSAL A. SHAH '08, '09**  
*The New Face of Civil Engineering*

Vatsal Shah is only 27, yet he's already accomplished much in his young life. At age 23, he was one of the youngest persons in New Jersey to be licensed as a Professional



*Vatsal Shah*

Engineer. The American Society of Civil Engineers named him the 2013 "New Face of Civil Engineering." He works as a project engineer for Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM), where he has helped the global engineering firm create a geotechnical sub-practice.

Shah has two NJIT degrees: his 2008 bachelor's and a 2009 master's in civil engineering. Though he works full-time, he's also pursuing a doctorate part-time at NJIT. He studies civil and environmental engineering with a focus on geotechnical engineering – the study of soil behavior.

He has his own laboratory in South Plainfield, where he models landfills and how they behave. Landfills take up valuable urban space and his research could help towns reclaim landfills for other uses. His lab is self-funded.

Sleep? What sleep? He routinely puts in 17-hour days – long hours of work and study.

In 2014, the Alumni Association of NJIT gave Shah the GeNext Award for Alumni Achievement. It's an honor bestowed upon young alumni for significant professional accomplishments. He was the first NJIT grad to receive the award.

Despite these achievements, Shah admits he wasn't always an achiever.



*“We wanted to solve aesthetic issues while also increasing functionality. Much of what I saw was designed for sunny southern California, not the Northeast.”*

—William Kaufman '91

When he was in high school, by his own admission, he was unmotivated, doing just enough work to get by. He was smart, but he lacked focus — often didn't feel challenged. When he took the SATs, he did exceedingly well but his grades remained mediocre. During his senior year, he realized he wanted to study engineering — his father and great-grandfather were engineers — and he found the perfect college for that: Albert Dorman Honors College.

Shah and his father arranged a time to meet with Joel Bloom, then dean of the college and now president of NJIT. Bloom saw Shah's potential, so he gave him a challenge: If Shah was to get all A's during his last year of high school, he'd be admitted into the college. Shah took the challenge and ran with it — acing his last year: He was admitted into the Honors College. Since then, he hasn't stopped running — accumulating honors and accolades along the way. And it was NJIT that put him on the path to professional success and personal fulfillment.

He always possessed a predisposition to engineering. His grandfather was an architect and his father was a civil engineer. His father is known at NJIT for testing the concrete and steel that support buildings throughout the campus, including Laurel Hall, the dorm where Shah lived, as well as the library, where he really “lived,” or spent so much of his time.

Generally, the purpose of his research is to understand and predict landfill settlement, especially rates of gas generation. His work aims to help reclaim landfills and also generate green energy from them. In his lab, he has created and simulated mini-landfills, so he can measure how the organic landfill

material settles and decomposes with time.

His work is important for a combination of environmental and economic reasons. If his tests can document how a landfill decomposes, then he'll also understand how it produces gas and how that can be used as green energy. An operator could capture the biogas and reuse it to power nearby homes, he says. The tests will also show when it's OK to build on landfills. Being able to predict when the sites could be reused and how buildings and structures perform on the sites as they settle would allow for better reclamation. That land can then be reused in valuable ways.

Several methods exist to model landfill settlement, but none consider the rate of gas production and how it decomposes with time. He wants to understand the variations caused by those changes and create a standard that can be used not just in New Jersey but worldwide. Ultimately he wants to create a process others can follow so testing can be performed for landfill settlement, gas production (green energy) and other analyses for engineering performance.

“My aim,” he says, “is to reclaim the land faster and more productively.”

He funds his lab himself. It's essentially a small office with a large attached garage space. He pays for it by living at home, working full time at HMM, saving every penny he can.

“Ask me next about my nonexistent social life,” he says. “It is uncommon for a grad student to have his own lab, but some of the greats all started in garages — think of Edison, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs — so I'm just keeping with tradition!”

## **WILLIAM KAUFMAN '91** *Responding to Cultural Currents*

Becoming a great architect is not simply a matter of conjuring eye-catching designs. Real success in the field requires more fundamental capacities as well, such as the ability to respond resourcefully to major cultural currents rippling through society. William Kaufman's groundbreaking solar installation company, WattLots, is one such story of creative re-invention, born of the recession of 2008.

“During the economic meltdown when New Jersey architecture firms were closing their doors seemingly by the hour and the industry faced a 65-percent unemployment rate, the only market that was growing was the solar industry,” Kaufman recounts. “I had always been interested and involved in renewable and green technology and noticed that the available product line was both industrialized and ugly — Frankenstein-like. It also occurred to me there had to be an alternative, untapped market for a different sort of solar design.”

He first turned his attention to parking lots, “a vast wasteland with an industrial aspect,” accounting for a half-million acres of pavement in New Jersey alone, an area the size of Rhode Island.

“We wanted to solve aesthetic issues while also increasing functionality. Much of what I saw was designed for sunny southern California, not the Northeast,” he says, noting that many of the photovoltaic panels on houses and commercial buildings in the state either didn't face the sun adequately or were installed at angles that made for poor performance during inclement weather. He



William Kaufman

determined to both shape and tilt them differently.

“Having to use the conventional 4 by 6 ft. flat panels that are made is like telling an architect he can only work with rectangular sheets of plywood,” Kaufman remarks. And in the Northeast, he adds, up to 45 days of productivity can be lost in the winter if the panels are snow-covered.

Last year, he debuted a groundbreaking new system at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights called the Power Arbor, which includes a parking-lot canopy composed of thin, elongated, and tilting solar panels that have the look and feel of tree branches. It automatically rotates to follow the sun. The installation saves the hospital \$1.7 million in energy expenses and reduces carbon emissions by 3,300 tons over the life of the system.

“The concept was biomimicry — to emulate nature, not imitate it. There is a big difference between trying to look like something and trying to act like something. For example, the Arbors do not block 100 percent of the light transmission, allowing some dappled shade effects and visual access to the sky. And when the wind blows, the installation shakes a little, and this is psychologically attractive because

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ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, *continued*

it looks and feels natural – like the branches of a tree,” he says, adding, “The entire array follows the sun, like plants do, striving to absorb every possible ounce of sunlight.”

While the initial cost of this new technology is relatively high, Kaufman says the price will come down as sales increase. His company is currently bidding on several projects with power utilities, which continually search for environmentally sustainable ways to meet demand and reduce long-term costs to rate payers. To add value and utility to the installations, he has included features such as Wi-Fi hotspots, built-in advertising, security cameras, high efficiency LED lights and electric vehicle recharging stations.

All of the products are made in the United States. New Jersey aluminum manufacturers fabricate the superstructure, and the panels are made in Texas.

Kaufman’s move into sustainable design began in earnest not at a Superfund site or even a parking lot, but at a staff meeting at WES-Ketch, his own architecture firm.

“It was about 15 years ago and I asked my staff members to say what it was we principally did. When one of the architects said, ‘we build big houses for rich people,’ others at the table started nodding their heads in agreement. It was like a dagger through my heart,” he recounts. “I determined then and there that I wasn’t going to spend 30 years building this as a legacy. There had to be a higher purpose to what we did and so I started to think about what we could do to make a difference.”

In 2000, he became the first LEED-accredited architect in the

state. “The U.S. Green Building Council came along with the LEED program and I was involved with the people writing it, and so when it became available in New Jersey, I took the exam and passed – just one hour before one of my employees,” he recounts. “That made me first.”

In addition to sustainable initiatives in its design and specification practice, the firm itself implemented a wide-ranging sustainability program, reducing consumption and energy, reusing copy paper for note taking, and starting an inter-office recycling program.

“Our goal was zero waste. This also turned out to save us some money on trash removal and got the staff motivated in a competitive sort of way,” Kaufman says. “We essentially became a paperless office at a time when it was not that easy to do.”

Kaufman has received numerous awards over the years, including Architect of the Year in 2001 from the American Institute of Architects. Last year, the NJIT Alumni Association gave him an achievement award for his pioneering career in green building.

Kaufman says he first learned to question his profession’s status quo at his alma mater.

“My architecture career began there with my very first class with Professor Jeff Hannigan. He told us to throw out everything we knew about building and design, to unlearn everything we’d absorbed from marketing and from entrenched notions about economics. None of this was about design,” he recalls. “He was right. With so much of problem-solving, it’s often a race to the quickest solution. Our

job as architects is to do it better.”

Describing himself as “very technology oriented,” Kaufman says he stays connected to NJIT. He was one of the founding members of the New Jersey School of Architecture’s Dean’s Executive Council.

Years later, WattLots found a berth at the university’s Enterprise Development Center after Kaufman met Judith Sheft, the associate vice president for technology development, at a conference.

“She took an interest in my new company. She and Don Sebastian (senior vice president for technology and business development) got us involved with the EDC. From there we engaged professors and students through the Capstone project which Judith also set up,” he says. “Don continues to reference our technology in his many talks and appearances and has brought us in on some other Newark urban-development projects such as Military Park. We hope the university will be a showcase for the product in the near future, hosting installations that represent the campus as a sort of new ‘micro-city.’ The relationship with NJIT is invaluable.”

## **JAMES A. KRUCHER '73**

### *A Partner in the Future*

In his career and continuing connection to NJIT, James Krucher has been at the forefront of very significant trends. At NJIT, he earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering and then signed on in the aerospace industry with Singer-Kearfott. It was still early days in computing’s transformation of the workplace, but when presented with the opportunity to learn programming at the company Krucher did not hesitate.

“Computers were becoming increasingly important in all

industries, and I knew that computing expertise would be valuable in many fields,” Krucher says. “I saw the future.”

For Krucher, the future also meant moving into IT management at companies such as Givaudan, Wella Corporation and RCM Technologies. Krucher’s next career transition was to strike out on his own as a consultant, a move that he says has afforded him an even greater range of opportunities with companies such as AT&T, BT Americas and J&J.



*Practicing batting at Yankee Stadium is among many experiences that have come James Krucher’s way though continuing connection with his fraternity.*

Krucher is candid about the reason for his professional success in IT project consulting. “Quite frankly, a project can easily spin out of control and the in-house talent just isn’t up to getting it back on track. That’s why people hire me. To fix projects that are broken, to get them moving in the right direction again.”

*“You don’t have to be an engineer to be very aware of the state of disrepair. But I don’t think many people realize how this impacts the competitive position of the U.S. in the global economy.”*

– Richard M. Maser '73

Along with embarking on his studies at NJIT, Krucher says that the smartest thing he did during his tenure as a student was to join a national fraternity. Joining Pi Kappa Phi offered a varied social life. Many of his friends met their future wives at NJIT fraternity parties.

Krucher stayed active as an alumnus volunteer for Pi Kappa Phi at the local, regional and national levels and is glad he did. By staying active, his networking opportunities have been incredible, he says. Membership has also offered some very unique lifetime experiences. Two of these many experiences have been a private tour of the Pentagon and the opportunity to take batting practice at Yankee Stadium.

Krucher has also been part of the future at NJIT. During the 10 years that saw Warren Street Village move from concept to construction, and to dedication in September 2013, Krucher served on the Greek Life Housing Committee, Gateway Planning Committee, Greek Village Task Force and Greek Housing Council. This was an effort to enhance the NJIT campus with 10 housing units that are now home for many NJIT fraternities and sororities.

At present, Krucher is a member of the NJIT Alumni Council and president of the Greek Housing Council. He continues to be energetically engaged in promoting the personal benefits of membership in a fraternity or sorority, and in advocating the advantages of relocation to Warren Street Village for more NJIT Greek organizations.

“The fraternities and sororities that take advantage of what Warren Street Village has to offer will be part of a really bright future at NJIT,” Krucher says. “The physical accommodations are certainly nice, but that’s not the most important

thing. Our Greek organizations have a long tradition of social and service activities, and mutual support, that really enhance the college experience. Sharing this tradition at Warren Street Village is a big plus for all Greek brothers and sisters, and for the entire NJIT community.”

### **RICHARD M. MASER '73** *Building From the First Floor Up*

Today, the engineering consulting firm started by Richard Maser in 1984 offers a range of services matched by few in the industry.

The expertise that Maser, CEO and president, helps to provide along with some 450 staff colleagues in areas such as surveying, design, construction, and geotechnical and environmental services benefits clients from New Jersey to Alaska. Contributions by Maser Consulting have been key to building bridges, roads, rail lines and telecommunications facilities, and to a project at a NASA facility that employed advanced laser surveying technology.

Maser says that growing up in Newark with an interest in construction made Newark College of Engineering a natural choice for continuing his education after high school as a civil engineering major. The prospect of obtaining a high-quality education at a very reasonable price also was a very appealing combination, he adds.

Degree in hand, Maser spent several years working for others before he decided to take a personal entrepreneurial step. “I wanted to be independent, to control my own destiny,” he says of a decision that has not been without major challenges over the years.

Maser recounts starting his practice by renting the first floor of a



Richard Maser

house in Marlboro, New Jersey, and then the second floor before business warranted moving to larger quarters in Matawan. Consistently recognized as one of the top firms in the field by publications such as *Engineering News-Record*, Maser Consulting is now headquartered in Red Bank, with 16 offices nationwide.

For Maser, there has been a great deal of satisfaction in building a firm that has successfully weathered cyclical changes in the economy which have adversely affected other companies in the industry. He attributes Maser Consulting’s fiscal health to its judicious expansion of services and geographic presence, and to a mix of clients in the public and private sectors.

“We were rock stars through the first downturn we experienced in the late 1980s because of our corporate approach,” he reflects with a touch of metaphorical color. “We were hiring when everyone else in our business was cutting staff. We were expanding when others were contracting.”

While he emphasizes that no one can know what the future will bring, Maser is proud of the reputation

for client satisfaction that his firm enjoys. When asked about a project especially representative of the expertise that has built this reputation, he cites Maser Consulting’s role at Luxury Point in Sayreville, New Jersey. This entails massive redevelopment of a 440-acre brownfield site formerly the location of a National Lead plant that manufactured pigments for paint.

The \$1.2 billion project along the Raritan Bay and Garden State Parkway calls for a new Parkway ramp and eight million square feet of commercial and residential space, including 2,000 housing units and several hotels. “With the exception of environmental cleanup, we’re closely involved with every phase of the work,” Maser says. “It’s a solid example of our multidisciplinary capabilities.”

In contrast to this addition to New Jersey’s economy, Maser is less positive about the overall state of the nation’s infrastructure. “You don’t have to be an engineer to be very aware of the state of disrepair. But I don’t think many people realize how this impacts the competitive position of the U.S. in the global economy. We’re not funding repairs and upgrades for all aspects of our infrastructure at anywhere near the level necessary to remain competitive.”

It will be up to young men and women now studying at NJIT, where Maser serves on the Board of Overseers, to join those already in the workplace who are aware of this pressing national need, and who are working for constructive change. To succeed in this effort, or on any career path, he advocates integrating internships and co-op positions with the classroom experience, and acquiring what he terms “soft skills” in addition to specific professional knowledge.



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ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, *continued*

Particularly important in our era of increasingly digital interaction, he says, is the ability to share ideas effectively face to face, without electronic intervention.

## GEORGE R. OLSON '77

### *Seeing Things Come Together*

George Olson says that he decided to major in industrial engineering at NJIT because he “likes to see things come together.” Today, Olson can look back on a career of some three decades during which he worked to bring important elements together for technical progress, for the benefit of the people he motivated as a manager, and for the defense of the nation.

In addition to his engineering studies, Olson engaged with the NJIT community as editor of *The Vector* during his junior year and class vice-president in his senior year. Olson’s foray into journalism was encouraged by the legendary English instructor Herman “Doc” Estrin, who spotted his talent during a required composition course and urged him to write for the student newspaper.

Sharpening his oral and written communication skills would be invaluable in later years, Olson says. “You may have the greatest ideas in the world, but if you can’t share them effectively with other people those ideas will never become reality.” He published his first book in November 2012, titled *Never Give Up: Teen Orphan Overcomes the Odds*. It chronicles his trials and tribulations as an orphaned 15-year-old.

Olson was also adept on the baseball diamond, very adept. He came to NJIT having played

baseball during his last two years of high school. As a Highlander, he pitched the team to three conference championships, finishing his collegiate career with a 29-9 record, an ERA of 1.43, and All-State honors his junior and senior years. In 1986, he became the first baseball player to be inducted into the NJIT Athletic Hall of Fame.

Making a commitment that would eventually take him to an intercontinental-missile base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Olson also completed the Air Force ROTC program at NJIT and was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation. When he reported for active duty, he served as a missile launch officer. He was a member of a crew who worked deep underground with responsibility for ten Minuteman missiles, knowing that they could receive the order to retaliate in kind for a nuclear strike on the U.S. Olson says that it was a very sobering and maturing experience to be entrusted with such responsibility as a young man in his early 20s.

After four years in the Air Force, Olson joined IBM as an industrial engineer, earning promotion to a managerial position within a year.



George and Joanne Olson

Over the next 31 years, promotions brought increasing program-management responsibilities at IBM and, after the sale of IBM’s federal government business unit, with Loral Corporation and Lockheed Martin.

Throughout his corporate career, Olson helped to strengthen the nation’s defense by working to develop leading-edge training and weapons systems, especially for the Navy. One program, which he directed several years before retiring, is particularly reflective of the breadth of his responsibility for technical management, as well as reflective of what he says has been both the greatest challenge and the most satisfying aspect of his career.

In 2005, as site director, Olson took on the task of managing the Navy’s Trident ballistic-missile program at Cape Canaveral, Florida. The submarine-launched, multiple-warhead Trident is a cornerstone of U.S. nuclear deterrence. As Olson recounts, he had more than 400 direct reports in a program dedicated to all of the weapon’s operational support systems. It was, he says, a situation that presented significant morale issues, in part due to the geographical separation of previous management and uncertainty about the relocation of various positions.

Cooperatively, Olson brought the program back on track in terms of production and morale, and in the process achieved savings of \$38 million. The turnaround also is an example of what Olson cites as the particularly significant challenge that every manager faces – responsibility for the performance of the people who report to you. At the same time, it’s a responsibility that offers the

potential of great satisfaction.

“In the end, to be successful, you have to be flexible, to really try to understand the diverse needs and abilities of the people who report to you,” Olson says. “To be sure, you have to stay focused on your organization’s goals, but accomplishing that requires doing what you can to support and encourage people to do their best with their many different talents. It’s a challenge that I really enjoyed.”

## JAMES REDEKER '77, '80

### *A Moving Career*

As Transportation Commissioner for the State of Connecticut, responsible for some of the oldest and most traveled highways, bridges and rail lines in the country, James Redeker '77, M.S. '80 (civil engineering) is not so much managing his vital piece of the Northeast transportation network as rethinking and reinventing it.

A longtime executive for New Jersey Transit with a knack for troubleshooting, Redeker was tapped for the position three years ago as budget storms swept the country: bridges and roads had reached a critical point of disrepair as federal dollars to renovate them were falling sharply. With news reports at the time describing him as the 10th person to lead the department in as many years, he set an ambitious course, vowing to not only update the state’s aging infrastructure, but to modernize its management practices as well.

“The federal Highway Trust Fund has dried up and special earmarks for major transportation projects are a thing of the past. But it would be irresponsible for elected officials responsible for our federal transportation assets to go

*“We’re trying to address next-generation bridge and highway needs with new construction innovation and management technology.”*

—James Redeker '77, '80

home and say, ‘we’ll let our bridges fall down,’” he asserts. “And Connecticut is leading by example with significant increases in state funding for highways, bridges, rail and bus systems.”

Indeed, a recent bridge replacement on I-84 in Southington illustrates his can-do approach. In a first-of-its-kind project in the state, construction crews both demolished and replaced two highway bridges over one busy June weekend. They were able to pull off the stunning feat by assembling the new bridges next to the highway and setting them into place with what is known as a self-propelled modular transport system that lifted and moved two 300-ton new bridges into place. Traditional methods would have forced the shutdown of different portions of I-84 while sections of the bridge were constructed – and taken as long as two years to complete. In fact, the entire demolition and replacement project took just 56 hours with no delays for travelers across the region.

“We told New England to take Saturday off, to stay home and have a picnic,” the low-key Redeker joked shortly after, clearly relieved – and pleased – that the project had not only succeeded, but beat its own schedule by six hours.

On a more serious note, he says “We’re trying to address next-generation bridge and highway needs with new construction innovation and management technology. In the end, it’s not just about saving money, which is critical, but about shaving off years of construction-related delays for our customers – the people traveling in and through the State of Connecticut.”

While several large and complex projects await, including the \$460



*James Redeker, Connecticut Transportation Commissioner, at the site of one of the stations in the new CTfastrak bus rapid transit system that will serve travelers in central Connecticut.*

million replacement of a 118-year-old swing bridge in Norwalk used by 275 trains a day, these sorts of major repairs comprise a fraction of his job. His department, with a \$2.5 billion budget and a staff of 3,200, also manages Connecticut’s ports, highways, railroads, buses, ferries, and bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

Initially hired in 2008 to lead the agency’s Bureau of Public Transportation, one of his primary tasks is to reduce congestion on highways and bridges by expanding the state’s mass transit system. CTtransit, the state-owned bus service, and the New Haven Line, the state-owned commuter rail service, now each carry more than 35 million passengers a year. The bureau also oversees Shore Line East, the commuter rail service between New Haven and New London, and coordinates ridesharing programs for Connecticut employers.

“Here, too, our focus is on our customers’ needs and the impact of our decisions,” he says, adding that to better assess them, the department has engaged Connecticut citizens directly in charting the

state’s transportation future.

Last year, the DOT launched its TransformCT initiative to solicit information and opinions on the state’s long-term infrastructure needs from thousands of residents, businesses and other stakeholders. Some of the projects the agency is mulling include new high-speed rail corridors, more highway interchanges, new rail line branches, more dedicated bus rapid transit systems like CTfastrak, improving highway speeds with methods like congestion pricing, and private car-sharing services like Zipcar. The agency expects to have feedback and recommendations prepared by early 2015.

“This is our first-ever strategic plan and it will only work if businesses and citizens trust the DOT,” Redeker says, noting “Transportation departments can be insular organizations. We’re determined, however, to be open-minded and transparent at both the local and political levels and we’re ramping up communications. We’re also marketing our accomplishments. We put the bridge replacement on YouTube,

for example. We want people to get excited about innovation.”

Redeker says he arrived in Connecticut having learned important lessons from NJ Transit, where his many roles included responsibility for strategic planning, customer service and technology. He also managed the ADA (American Disabilities Act) paratransit system, which gives customers with disabilities a specialized service providing essential mobility not afforded by traditional transit services. The fifth person hired by NJ Transit after it was created in 1979, he was the vice president of technology when he left 30 years later.

“I was there from the beginning, helping to build the organization. I was hired fresh out of college, and I learned as I went,” he says. “It gave me an appreciation for operations at all levels, from strategic planning to dealing with the public in our open meetings.”

Redeker has also spent time passing on his wisdom to new generations of transportation engineers as an adjunct faculty member at his alma mater. He got a taste of the classroom by teaching computer programming during the NJIT summer programs for high school students, and found the exchange of knowledge and experience to be completely rewarding.

“I just tried to connect transportation theory to my everyday experiences,” he says, “with the goal of conveying my love for public service and for the impact that a single person can have on millions of people every day through a career in transportation.” ■



# CLASS NOTES

*"I must give well-deserved kudos to Paula Harris, senior associate director of alumni relations, who has the responsibility of organizing the reunions."*

## 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.l.maskevich@njit.edu

First, the latest news from Mal –

I've enjoyed attending the annual alumni reunions because I see and chat with alumni whom I have not seen since they graduated. We have a lot of fun reminiscing about the "good old days." After the 2014 Alumni Weekend, I gave pause to realize the hard work that has been put into bringing about these events. So before I write about some of the alumni at the most recent gathering, I must give well-deserved kudos to Paula Harris, senior associate director of alumni relations, who has the responsibility of organizing the reunions.

Working with alumni volunteers, Paula has performed her magic for the last eight years and is already starting on the 2015 reunion. She also works with the Young Alumni groups, and with the Washington D.C. Metro and Metro New York Alumni Clubs. I won't bore you with all the details involved, but having been personally involved in organizing reunions on a much smaller scale, I can say the work is tedious and time-consuming. Of course, it can be said that this is her "job." But while this is true, it is what she does beyond the normal scope of her "job" that makes her so special.

**Skip Wilkins '64**, a volunteer for the recent reunion, said "There were many changes right up to the last day that Paula did with humor

and warmth that made it fun. Even though we did not meet in person until that weekend, I consider her a friend." **Paul Dreyer '64**, another reunion volunteer, wrote "She was always very pleasant and accommodating even when we tried to rattle her. She was a pleasure to work with and the result was a successful reunion."

**Leona Balkenende Seazholtz '62**, chairperson of her 50th-year class reunion, says "Paula was an enormous help providing information to contact classmates, helping to arrange meetings and phone conferences, and replying to many emails, even late-night ones, and sifting through thousands of photos to send to alumni as mementos of the reunion. She also appeared at the gala looking stunning. NJIT is well-served by her efforts." **Chet Bracuto '75**, co-chair of the Washington, D.C. Metro Club writes "Paula is a wonderful lady who represents NJIT in the best manner and we all enjoy the laughs when she is around us. I consider her a friend."

Diane and I sat with new Class of 1964 Golden Highlanders from Sigma Pi and their wives at the attendance-record-breaking 2014 Alumni Weekend. **Peter Abruzzese, Ben Auletta, Don Burtis, Mike Carolan, Paul Dreyer, Jim Esposito, Jack**



Reunited at Alumni Weekend 2014 (left to right): Don Burtis, Paul Dreyer, Frank Sincaglia, Jim Esposito (in chair), moi, Paul Palmarozza, Skip Wilkins and Mike Carolan.

**Glaser, Frank Sincaglia, Rich Tower and Skip Wilkins** enjoyed the weekend festivities. The group also included **Phil Magaletta**, a good friend of some of the Sigma Pi brothers.

Paul Dreyer and Skip Wilkins have maintained a close relationship, first as teammates on the varsity basketball team and continuing with their active interest in the NJIT basketball program and alumni golf outings. They and their wives have also traveled together to South Africa and planned to travel to Turkey in September.

Skip was starting point guard for the NCE varsity basketball team for four years. In his senior year, he was co-captain with Paul, made First Team All-New Jersey State and received the NCE Outstanding Senior Athlete Award. Skip earned an MBA as a full-time graduate student at the University of Maryland in 1967. His professional career includes being vice president of sales and marketing at Cardex Systems, vice president of employer services at ADP, and computer services manager at RCA. Skip and his wife, Camille, live in Andover, Massachusetts.

Prior to beginning his career, Paul joined the Peace Corps along

with Mike Carolan. Although both were assigned to community development in Chile, they were 2,400 miles apart. Paul was in Iquique, a desert environment in the north, and Mike was in Concepcion in the south, where it was cold and rainy. At the end of their two-year assignment, Paul and Mike traveled home together with stops in Santiago, Chile; Mendoza and Buenos Aires in Argentina; and Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Paul earned a master's in civil engineering at North Carolina State University in 1969 and is a Professional Engineer licensed in New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. He has been an environmental engineer for more than 40 years, experienced in planning and implementing water-resource projects in the United States, Latin America, the Pacific Rim, Central Asia, the South Caucasus and the Middle East. Paul was responsible for implementing a USAID environmental policy and technology project in the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. He was responsible for developing and implementing environmental activities for a USAID regional

water-management program in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the South Caucasus.

Paul's work as manager of the Aral Sea Project, a \$24 million USAID special initiative in the former Soviet Union received critical acclaim from Patricia Buckles, USAID mission director. Reflective of Paul's reputation, Buckles wrote that while she understood the reason he was being transferred by the consulting firm CH2M to China to head a World Bank Project, she wanted to express appreciation for his leadership in implementing the Aral Sea Project over a challenging three years.

Paul has served as chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the American Water Works Association and as a member of the first Board of Directors of Water for the People, an international humanitarian organization focused on safe drinking water and improved sanitation currently operating in more than a dozen countries. Paul and his wife, Marilyn, live in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Mike earned an MBA from Boston University in 1971 and a certificate in environmental engineering in 1972 from Michigan Technological University. He worked for the New York City Transit Authority, Dow Chemical, Getty Oil, Air Products, DTE Energy and Zapco Development before forming a consulting company with several partners.

Mike developed and managed the protocol for the first major international carbon-credit transaction in the U.S. In the late 1990s, when the U.S. was considering a "cap and trade" program to contain greenhouse gases (methane and carbon dioxide), Ontario Power Generation in Canada was setting up a trial program to demonstrate

how it could work.

Under the contract that Mike's company had, Ontario Power would receive "carbon credits" based on projects in the U.S. that captured greenhouse gases emitted by landfills and converted them into energy. The potential greenhouse effect of combined carbon dioxide and methane is some 25 percent greater than carbon dioxide alone. But capturing these gases in the U.S. and "trading" the offsets could compensate for emissions at other locations, such as coal-fueled generating stations operated by Ontario Power. Mike helped to define the protocol for a U.S. land-fill gas-control project that qualified for this exchange, with special focus on measuring the offsets. Today, Mike and his wife, Tess, live in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Frank Sincaglia earned an MBA from New York University in 1972. While working for General Electric, he negotiated the first GE license agreement with the USSR for technology to manufacture high-pressure sodium lamps used primarily in street lighting. Frank transferred to Brussels, Belgium, to join GE's European HQ in the late 70s. From 1984-87 he was vice president for sales and marketing at Cyberex, a company that manufactured uninterruptible power systems for data centers and other critical facilities. He held the same position from 1988-96 for Adalet-PLM, which manufactured explosion-proof electrical enclosures and high-voltage products.

In 1997, Frank was U.S. director of sales for Intellexis, a company based in the United Kingdom that sold and licensed computer-based training software designed to improve understanding of finance management in business. He held that position until 2004 when he

moved to Fire Safety Solutions, where he served as a fire-protection specialist, designing sprinkler and alarm systems. Frank lives in Bluffton, South Carolina, with his wife, Cathleen.

Sometimes you locate a "missing" alumnus in unusual ways, and this is how I found **Manuel (Manny) Garrido '65**, an NCE soccer goalie. In communicating with retired **Brigadier General Tom Taverney**, who played JV basketball at NCE before transferring to the U.S. Air Force Academy, I asked Tom if he would be able to locate Manny, who had been in NCE's AFROTC detachment and commissioned an Air Force officer upon graduation. Tom responded by attaching a publication produced for the 1964 Commissioning Ceremony that showed Manny as the deputy corps commander and Tom the outstanding freshman cadet. He also had located Manuel's current address, which I used to contact him, and the rest of the story follows.

Manny came to NJIT from Barringer High School in Newark, where he made All-State in soccer and was the school's outstanding athlete in his senior year. At NJIT, he played varsity soccer and baseball for four years and was the AFROTC detachment's distinguished graduate. He spent his 28-year Air Force career primarily in F-4 and F-16 flying operations.

As a flying instructor, Manny trained American, German and Iranian fighter pilots. He earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, 13 Air Medals and the Bronze Star. After retiring as a colonel in 1993, he was one of the founding members of Battlespace, Inc., a company dedicated to being a center of excellence for products and services related to unmanned aerial vehicles and systems. Manny

was vice president for advanced systems, working on the joint operations concept for the Medium Altitude Endurance (Predator) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and UAV tactical-control system programs. He supported the U.S. Joint Forces Command of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and interacted daily with government and civilian UAV program officials. Manny retired in 2012 and lives with his wife, Michelle, in Chantilly, Virginia.

Space limitations in this edition prevented me from writing about all of the alumni in the Sigma Pi contingent, but I will get to the others in my next column.

Keep the news coming to [mjs@njit.edu](mailto:mjs@njit.edu).

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## 1967

**Harvey Bernstein** (Civil Eng.), vice president, industry insights and alliances at McGraw Hill Construction, has been elected to the National Academy of Construction. Bernstein's election honors his leadership in engineering and construction research, which has fostered industry innovation, sustainability and global best practices.

## 1974

**James Schak** (Chemical Eng.) has been named product manager of fluid-bed processing equipment for Kason Corp. He will oversee expansion and technical support of the company's line of Vibro-Bed circular vibratory fluid-bed dryers and coolers.

**William Siwek** (Electrical Eng.) has received the International Award of Merit from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The award, which includes the accompanying

# CLASS NOTES

title of ASTM Fellow, is the highest organizational recognition for individual contributions to standards activities.

## 1975

**Honorio J. Padrón** (Electrical Eng.) is a partner at ScottMadden, Inc., a general management consulting firm. Padrón has more than 35 years of experience in information-technology shared services, operations and program management, business transformation, outsourcing and in-sourcing, and customer-experience design for Fortune 500 companies.

**Stephen E. Pirnat** (Electrical Eng.) has been appointed to the board of directors of AZZ Incorporated, a global provider of electrical products and engineering services. He currently serves as the managing director, Europe, the Middle East and Africa for Quest Integrity Group of Team, Inc.

## 1985

**S. Andrew Kamilaris, PE, PP** (Civil Eng.) has received a promotion to vice president in the Bloomfield, New Jersey, office of Dewberry, a professional services firm. Kamilaris has more than 34 years of diversified engineering experience that includes numerous bridge-engineering and project-management assignments.

## 1986

**Jeffrey A. Beck** (Mechanical Eng.) is leading Presstek as president and CEO, focusing on launching print-system solutions that are environmentally responsible and engineered to streamline print-production processes. Prior to joining Presstek, Beck served as chief operating officer for iRobot Corporation and earlier as president of the

Home Robots Division. A member of the Newark College of Engineering Advisory Board, he also serves on the boards of directors of Sun Edison Semiconductor and Fiber Optic Components.

**Myron Petruch** (Chemical Eng.), president of Sun Chemical Performance Pigments, is a recipient of the 2014 Industry Achievement Award from the American Coatings Association (ACA). Presented bi-annually, the award honors an individual or group demonstrating exceptional achievement through support of a particular ACA project that has been completed successfully. Petruch was selected for the award because of his leadership on the PaintPAC Steering Committee and contributions to the ACA's advocacy strategy.

## 1993

**Mario Iannelli, PE** (Civil Eng.), M.S. 2001 (Civil Eng.) has been named an associate in the Parsippany, New Jersey, office of Dewberry. He is applying over two decades of experience to site-development projects at the professional services firm.

## 1994

**Stephen Bersey** (Electrical Eng.) is on a recently formed analytical team at Burke and Quick Partners, LLC, an independent agency-only execution and research broker. Joining the firm as a senior research analyst, he brings experience gained over more than a decade in the technology industry as a member of technical staff at Bellcore and as a design engineer at Allied Signal Aerospace.

## 1995

**Andrew Binosa** (Architecture) is now an inspector at Georgia-based Champia Real Estate Inspections. He recently added certification by the American Society of Home Inspectors to nearly two decades of experience in commercial and residential architecture.

## 1996

**Dermot McLeer** (Mechanical Eng.) has been promoted to vice president of manufacturing at Falcon Safety Products. He joined Falcon in 2002 and was named director of operational services in 2008, with responsibility for purchasing, warehousing and engineering.

## 1998

**Angelo Vecchio** (Electrical Eng.), who has been with the consulting firm Syska Hennessy Group, Inc. for 16 years, is serving as the firm's local information and communication technology practice area leader in Charlotte, North Carolina. Vecchio has been involved with more than 100 projects during his career at Syska Hennessy while based in their New York Office. He is now spearheading the expansion of the firm's technology-sector presence in the Carolinas and helping to support activities in the Southeast.

## 1999

**Hanifa Johnson** (Civil Eng.), a senior project engineer at Maser Consulting in Red Bank, New Jersey, is also the "local champion" in Newark for Engineering Better Readers (EBR). A national program initiated in Maryland by the Engineers' Leadership Foundation, EBR engages industry firms and their employees to take



Dean Moshe Kam and Vikram Singh

## GRAD GRANT PRESENTATION

**Vikram Singh '01**, a chemical engineering graduate and member of ExxonMobil's College Recruitment Team for NJIT, returned to campus recently to present Newark College of Engineering Dean Moshe Kam with the grant that ExxonMobil provides annually for the college. The funding is designated for support of educational programs within NCE's Otto H. York Department of Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering, John A. Reif, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Helen and John C. Hartmann Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering.

volunteer leadership roles in local communities to motivate students in low-performing schools to improve their reading skills and to read more.

## 2001

**Philip Bussey** (Information Systems) has been promoted to captain with the West Orange, New Jersey, Fire Department. He began his firefighting career as a volunteer in the Borough of Kinnelon and became an EMT in 1995, and was hired as a firefighter by the West Orange department in 2005.

## 2005

**Lenah Elaiwat** (Information Technology) is the controller for APF properties, a real estate investment firm with a commercial portfolio of two million square feet valued at more than \$800 million. A CPA, she is responsible for



## ON DECK AND UNDER WAY

*NJIT grads and their guests enjoyed an August sunset sail around Manhattan at the invitation of the Alumni Club of Metro New York aboard the Clipper City, the only tall ship berthed in Manhattan.*



PHOTO: JACK WAGNER '74

oversight of accounting operations and financial reporting.

**Frederick C. Zerilli M.S.** (Management) has joined the growing marketing department at AFR/eLEND. With 14 years of mortgage-marketing experience, he brings expertise in e-commerce, information technology and digital marketing to AFR/eLEND.

### 2008

**Tomas Gregorio EMBA** (Mgmt. of Technology) has joined the New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII), an NJIT Corporation, as senior executive director of Healthcare Systems Innovation, with overall managerial responsibility for program development and execution. He brings a diverse background to the position, having served in various roles as a senior executive in regional hospital systems as well as with allied consulting and software organizations.

### 2013

**Hanaa A. Hamdi Ph.D.** (Urban Systems), an assistant professor at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, has been named the commissioner of health for the City of Newark.

## NATALE NAMED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CONSTRUCTION

**Patrick J. Natale, PE '70** (Civil Eng.), **M.S. '75** (Eng. Mgmt.), executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), has been elected to the National Academy of Construction (NAC). The honor has been accorded for Natale's pioneering leadership of ASCE as well as the movement he launched to promote public understanding of the engineering profession. He has also been instrumental in helping to attract young women to engineering through a project funded by the National Science Foundation. More than 250 industry leaders were considered for the NAC's rigorous nomination and election process.

Natale has served as ASCE executive director since 2002. During his tenure, he has engaged with engineering organizations globally, traveling to more than 40 countries on behalf of the society. He also provided compelling leadership during the release of ASCE's 2005, 2009 and 2013 *Report Cards for America's Infrastructure*, which provide a comprehensive assessment of the nation's major infrastructure sectors. Prior to joining ASCE, Natale held various positions with the National Society of Professional Engineers, culminating with his appointment as executive director in 1999.

## IN MEMORIAM

The NJIT community sadly notes the deaths of the following alumni:

**Sol Goldberg '47**

**Charles Becht III '49, '53**

**Daniel L. Goldberg '49, '51**

**William Francis Heimbuch '50**

**Robert J. Gilman '51**

**Frank P. Valenziano '52**

**John Winnicki '54**

**Martin R. Carbone '56**

**Louisa Frederika Davis '56, '61**

**David Conrad Pool '56**

**Nicholas J. Cifelli '58**

**John Joseph Golembeski '58**

**Thomas J. Heuston '58**

**Michael Disko, Sr. '59, '62**

**Morris Perugini '59**

**Jacqueline Kane '60**

**James C. Johnson '61**

**John L. Samios '63**

**Edward A. Taratko, Jr. '63, '66**

**Edward Matthew Joffe '68**

**Robert W. Kaminsky '69**

**David L. Scull '69**

**William M. Fraser '74**

**Edward David Maceiko '78, '81**

**Joseph N. Caiola '80, '84**

**Bruce Carbrey '80**

**Jeffrey Lawrence Brown '87**

**Joseph Arcoleo '92**

**Barbara Forrester '93**

**Bryan J. Shaw '06**

# ALUMNI CALENDAR

## SAVE THE DATE!

### CELEBRATION 2014

**Friday, November 14**  
**Pleasantdale Chateau**  
**West Orange, New Jersey**

NJIT's annual festive evening in support of endowed scholarships for students, and honoring important friends of the university and accomplished alumni.

Entertainment by Bernadette Peters, music director Marvin Laird, will be a highlight of the evening.

A lucky winner also could take home as much as \$25,000 from the 50/50 raffle drawing for which just 500 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. The winner does not have to be present.

For more information about Celebration, including the purchase of raffle tickets, contact:

Jacque Rhodes  
973-596-3407 or rhodes@njit.edu

Also visit [njit.edu/celebration](http://njit.edu/celebration)

### ALUMNI WEEKEND 2015

**Friday, May 15 - Sunday, May 17**

Alumni Weekend has activities that will appeal to every NJIT grad. Come back 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 featuring receptions, dinners, college and department presentations, exhibits, and the annual presentation of Alumni Achievement Awards by the Alumni Association.

**For the most current information about Alumni Association activities, visit [njit.edu/alumni](http://njit.edu/alumni)**

**Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn too. Go to [njit.edu/alumni/community](http://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: [njit.edu/alumni/clubs](http://njit.edu/alumni/clubs)

### REGIONAL CLUBS

NJIT Regional Clubs are planning events across the country. For more information: [njit.edu/alumni/clubs](http://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: [njit.edu/alumni/clubs](http://njit.edu/alumni/clubs)

### AFTER BUT NOT OVER

*The evening After Party on Saturday, May 17 was one of the many highlights of Alumni Weekend 2014. Alumni, family and friends will be returning to campus again to enjoy this informal gathering and the other events scheduled for Alumni Weekend 2015, May 15-17.*

