

ALUMNI CIRCUIT

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY— THERE'S AN ALUMNI STORY BEHIND THE NAME

2015 marks 40 years since Newark College of Engineering was renamed New Jersey Institute of Technology, a change creatively suggested by 1925 graduate Joseph M. Anderson. *NJIT Magazine* would like to thank his son, David, for letting us know the details of Joseph's role in the renaming and of his father's many professional accomplishments. David's older brother, John, graduated from NCE in 1958.

YEARS OF CHANGE

The 1970s were years of transformative change at Newark College of Engineering. A growing student body had expanding educational opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate levels in new classrooms and laboratories. NCE's administration, led by President William Hazell, Jr., felt that the name of the school should clearly communicate this dynamic evolution.

After much discussion, it was decided to solicit the broadest possible range of suggestions for a new name. Alumni were invited to participate in a contest that could give an NCE graduate the honor of renaming their alma mater. The winning suggestion came from Joseph M. Anderson, who received his degree with the Class of 1925 in mechanical engineering.

All at NCE agreed that the name Anderson had suggested – New Jersey Institute of Technology – cogently emphasized the increasing scope of educational and research initiatives at a preeminent New Jersey university. The Board of Trustees approved the transition to the new name in September 1974, and Newark College of

Engineering officially became New Jersey Institute of Technology on January 1, 1975. Anderson received the personal congratulations of President Hazell with an honorarium of \$50 for his thoughtful and very appropriate suggestion.

The son of Scottish immigrants, Anderson was born and raised in Newark and began studying for his engineering degree at the institution still known as Newark Technical School. He attended class five nights a week while working during the day. He was able to attend class full-time for his last year, allowing him to complete his degree in 1925 at the school by then awarding diplomas bearing the name Newark College of Technology. In 1930, Newark College of Technology was renamed Newark College of Engineering.

The academically prominent and memorable instructors who shared their knowledge with Anderson included Dr. Charles A. Colton, a nationally known educator and the first director of Newark Technical School. He was a prime mover in the founding of the school in 1881 when its first students were welcomed. Colton was still a presence on campus when Anderson



Joseph M. Anderson '25

as marvels of technological innovation.

The breadth of Anderson's expertise led to his managing large engineering staffs and overseeing all aspects of constructing and commissioning major chemical production plants and other facilities. He became a licensed Professional Engineer (PE), Land Surveyor (LS) and a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

enrolled as a student.

Anderson was among a select group of students to receive their bachelor's degree from Newark College of Technology not long after the State Board of Education recommended that Newark Technical School be given the authority to grant degrees under the new name. It was in 1923, just two years before he graduated, that the college awarded its first degrees – three in chemical engineering, three in electrical engineering, and four in mechanical engineering.

THE PATH FORWARD

After graduation, Anderson gained broad professional experience in positions of increasing responsibility. He became an expert in the processes of manufacturing a wide range of products at companies such as Chemical Construction Corporation, United Color and Pigment Company and DuPont. He was at the forefront of introducing many of the materials that improved daily life in the 20th century, including plastics that were hailed

SERVICE TO THE NATION

Anderson was working as head of engineering for Barber Asphalt in Perth Amboy, N.J., when the company's business was disrupted by the start of World War II. Attacks on shipping by German submarines along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. had interrupted supplies of crude oil and gasoline vital for industry and the nation's war effort.

Through an industry contact, Anderson was called to a high-level position with M.W. Kellogg, a major engineering firm known worldwide for designing and building refineries and petrochemical plants. He was assigned to project management for a Cities Service Oil Company project in Lake Charles, La., employing some 1,500 engineers and designers. He supervised the work on many of the process units at the facility, which was comprised of more than 15 separate units, each virtually a complete refinery in itself.

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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, Christina Crovetto (crovetto@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 – we promise.

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 www.njit.edu/alumni/classnotes; by e-mail, send news with graduation year(s) to 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

Association with M. W. Kellogg led to an even more critical assignment – on the top-secret “Project X” in Oak Ridge, Tenn., that was part of the Manhattan Project. This was the monumental scientific and engineering effort that produced the two atomic bombs which ended the war in the Pacific when they were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Anderson was a project coordinator and area engineer for the production of enriched weapons-grade uranium by gaseous-diffusion processing of uranium hexafluoride. Referred to as “hex” in the nuclear industry, UF₆ is a compound used in the uranium-enrichment process that produces fuel for nuclear reactors as well as weapons.

Periodically traveling to M. W. Kellogg headquarters in New York City, Anderson had meetings with Lieutenant General Leslie Groves, director of the Manhattan Project, and his staff on the progress at Oak Ridge. After the war, he received a plaque signed by Secretary of War Henry Stimson, a commemorative pin, and signed letters from superiors expressing appreciation for his service.

MORE FULFILLING YEARS

Anderson, PE, LS and AIA member, in later years was the engineer for several communities at the New Jersey Shore near Toms River. Reflective of his continuing interest in education, he won a seat on the Toms River Board of Education and was elected its vice president.

Always a generous supporter of his alma mater, Anderson passed away in 1986. His broad expertise in engineering and related areas contributed to economic progress in the 20th century and to the defense of the nation at a critical time in our country's history. His legacy also includes the name of the great university that he was so proud to attend.

RAMOND RECEIVES TOP PHYSICS PRIZE

Pierre Ramond, who completed his bachelor's in electrical engineering in 1965 at Newark College of Engineering, has received the 2015 Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics for his work on supersymmetry and superstring theory. Ramond, who went on to

earn his Ph.D. at Syracuse University, is director of the Institute for Fundamental Theory at the University of Florida.

Ramond did postdoctoral work at the National Accelerator Laboratory, now the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. There he wrote the 7th theory publication to come out of Fermilab. Published in 1971, “Dual Theory for Free Fermions” formed the basis of supersymmetry and superstring theory. He continued his work at Yale, where he was an instructor and assistant professor.

A fellow of the American Physical Society, Ramond has received numerous other awards, among them the Oskar Klein Medal from the Swedish Royal Academy. His seminal papers and books on mathematical physics include *Field Theory*, *Journeys Beyond the Standard Model*, and *Group Theory*.

One of the top awards in the field, the Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics was established in 1959 by the Heineman Foundation for Research, Educational, Charitable, and Scientific Purposes, Inc. to recognize outstanding publications in the field of mathematical physics. The Heineman Foundation was started by Dannie Heineman, an engineer and business executive who greatly admired the accomplishments of physicists and astrophysicists. The prize, an award of \$10,000, is administered jointly by the American Physical Society and the American Institute of Physics.

ALUMNI PROFILES

STEPHEN DEPALMA '72 *Board of Trustees Chairman... Engaged with NJIT's Future*

Stephen DePalma graduated from Newark College of Engineering in 1972 with a bachelor's in civil engineering, and the years since graduation have been highlighted by both professional success and service to the NJIT community. As an engineer, he helped to transform a small New Jersey-based company that had about a dozen employees into a firm with over 1200 staff members, more than 25 offices across the country, and a diverse portfolio of major infrastructure projects.

In parallel, over the decades, DePalma also has maintained a connection with NJIT through his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, and service on the university's Board of Overseers and Board of Trustees. Today, DePalma is a partner in charting the future of NJIT as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

SEEING THE RESULTS

DePalma, who grew up in Weehawken, N.J., says that he always wanted to be an engineer. The reasons he gives for enrolling at NCE still hold true for the current generation of NJIT students, “an outstanding, affordable education.” Although DePalma first came to campus as a mechanical engineering major, he discovered that he was more inclined toward civil engineering. It was an affinity confirmed when fellow 1972 alumnus and lifetime business partner, Ted Cassera, helped him get part-time work on a surveying crew.

“Make decisions and commit to goals, but don’t be afraid to change direction if a decision doesn’t work out.”

— Stephen DePalma '72



LEFT: Stephen DePalma speaking at Convocation in 2013.

ABOVE: DePalma and NJIT President Joel S. Bloom at the ribbon-cutting ceremony that formally opened Warren Street Village in September 2013.

“I really enjoyed the surveying job, and the more I learned about civil engineering the more it appealed to me as a practical and hands-on field,” DePalma says. “You can see the results of what civil engineers do around us every day. From turning on the water faucet at home to driving on any road or crossing any bridge, we’re benefitting from what civil engineers help to build.”

Concentrating on his studies after changing majors in his junior year, DePalma worked hard to get in all the courses he needed to graduate in four years. Yet, his academic determination was complemented by enthusiastic involvement with student government and membership in Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

DePalma relates that even at a young age engaging with the broader NJIT community, including serving as a member of the Student Senate, was very important to him. Since NJIT was still largely a commuter school when he attended,

joining a fraternity offered the only opportunity to live on campus and become even more active in the life of the university.

A strong advocate of how membership in a fraternity or sorority can enhance the NJIT experience, DePalma says that being a Pi Kappa Phi brother has had enduring significance for him. “As a student, NCE gave me an exceptional technical education. Engagement with my fraternity expanded my education in other important ways. It helped me develop leadership and communication skills with a great group of people, many of whom continue to be close friends.”

DePalma’s participation in Pi Kappa Phi included serving as an undergraduate chapter officer and a student representative at the national level on the fraternity’s main governing board. Maintaining a close tie with Pi Kappa Phi after graduation, he served as national president from 1989 to

1992. It was especially gratifying for him to take part in the 2013 dedication of the housing for NJIT’s Greek organizations built as part of Warren Street Village – the realization of a vision he had urged for many years.

MAKING A DEAL

DePalma recounts that the path leading to the post of chairman of the board and CEO at the engineering firm Schoor DePalma, from which he retired in 2007, began with an introduction to Howard Schoor facilitated by an NCE alumnus and Pi Kappa Phi brother. The founder of what was then a small land-development and municipal-services firm, Schoor asked DePalma “where he saw himself in five years.” DePalma answered that he wanted to have his Professional Engineer’s license and to be in Schoor’s position – at the head of his own competing company.

Schoor offered the young engineer a deal. If DePalma did obtain his Professional Engineer’s license

and proved that he could become a formidable competitor, Schoor would make him a partner rather than face another rival in the marketplace. “I took on the challenge,” DePalma says.

The first recent college graduate the firm had ever hired, DePalma did become a Professional Engineer, licensed in New Jersey, Florida and Delaware. He also demonstrated to Schoor capabilities that clearly merited a partnership, as DePalma helped grow the business to offer a comprehensive spectrum of civil engineering services to clients in the public and private sectors.

A CLOSER NJIT CONNECTION

DePalma stayed informed about developments at his alma mater and was inclined to give back as the firm recruited NJIT graduates and established several undergraduate scholarships. He felt that the organizational perspective he had gained at the executive level with Schoor

DePalma and Pi Kappa Phi could be of value in the evolution of the educational and social experience of the young men and women who choose to study at NJIT.

In the late 1980's, the opportunity for a closer NJIT connection came DePalma's way through his friendship with actively engaged civil engineering alumnus Edward Cruz '63, who recommended him for membership on the Board of Overseers to then President Saul K. Fenster. DePalma accepted Fenster's invitation to become an overseer and served on that board for some 15 years. In this capacity, he helped to oversee the Foundation at NJIT and to bring the professional experiences he had gained since graduation to the discussion of how the university can best serve its student body, prospective employers and society in general.

CHARTING THE VISION

Named a trustee in 2003 and elected chairman in 2012, DePalma is continuing this engagement on the board that has special legal responsibility for governance in consultation with the university's administration. When asked about the significance of the work entrusted to NJIT's overseers and trustees, he answers succinctly: "It's critically important to watch over NJIT's investments and to help drive constructive change."

Chairman DePalma is a strong advocate of "advancing academics and faculty, promoting interdisciplinary research, and improving student and campus life." DePalma is confident that "these investments will continue to enhance and promote NJIT as a preeminent world-class technological university."

DePalma elaborates that the importance of both boards is

rooted in the responsibility to make recommendations about the future direction of NJIT based on very conscientiously soliciting input from all of the university's constituents: administration, faculty, government leaders, staff, students, alumni, donors and concerned friends of the university. "As an overseer and trustee, I have been privileged to work with very caring individuals who know that we must make recommendations and decisions based on diversity of views, by considering the widest possible range of relevant information."

These efforts, he adds, are all focused on advancing NJIT's mission of making it possible for highly talented young people to realize their educational aspirations at an acceptable cost, and increasing the university's research presence at the frontiers of science and technology.

As for some personal advice for current students and young graduates, DePalma says, "Make decisions and commit to goals, but don't be afraid to change direction if a decision doesn't work out." It's advice that echoes his own experience, from starting as a mechanical engineering major and then deciding on the course that took him to becoming a civil engineer, a top industry executive, and chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Reflecting on his long-held views, DePalma advises students to be involved on campus in more than academics, and to think seriously about how they can give back to NJIT after graduation. "There are many opportunities for engagement and involvement. The NJIT tent is very big and everyone is welcome."



Elisa Charters with husband Brian and children Lucian and Remy

ELISA A. CHARTERS '92, '93 *Advocate for Opportunity*

"Passionate" is the word that Elisa Charters uses to characterize her commitment to greater economic opportunities for women and minorities, and to the welfare of children. Her challenges to the status quo for the sake of positive change have garnered wide recognition since she completed a master's in environmental science at NJIT, including appointment by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to the governing board of the state's Health Care Facilities Financing Authority.

In the years since receiving her master's, Charters has also held key positions with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She made her way to safety from the 21st floor of World Trade Center Tower 1 on September 11, 2001, and subsequently assisted with the massive rebuilding effort.

The path to significant achievement took Charters from Lacordaire

Academy in Upper Montclair to enrollment as a chemical engineering major at NJIT through the university's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which she credits for opening many doors in life for students such as herself. For Charters, the opportunities that the program presented included becoming a member of the Society of Women Engineers and a founding sister of the NJIT chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority.

The first in her family to earn a college degree, Charters says that attending an all-female secondary school helped to give her the confidence to pursue a STEM career, and to do so at a university where the student body was predominantly male. Charters adds that her daughter attends the all-girls Kent Place School, which offers comprehensive programs balancing the sciences, ethics and diversity that she is sure will foster the same confidence for gender leadership for every student at the school.

A NEW DIRECTION

Charters also had the confidence to reevaluate her academic direction in her junior year. “I had an ‘Aha’ moment and realized that the program I was pursuing was not the best fit for me, that I wanted to study in an area which was more personally meaningful.”

She found that meaning in the Science, Technology and Society (STS) program with its focus on the larger social and ethical context of environmental science. Then, after completing an STS bachelor’s in 1992, she went on to her environmental science master’s, offered under the auspices of the Chemical Engineering Department.

Participation in athletics throughout her undergraduate years at NJIT was another aspect of college that Charters says was very valuable. She competed on the tennis, basketball and softball teams, and was captain of the “unofficial” team fielded by the Ski Club, which did meet in contests with regional schools such as Princeton and Lehigh. She says that these experiences strengthened her awareness of the importance of team effort and cooperative work, awareness that would serve her well in later life.

In 1993, Charters recounts, an opportunity to interview at the Port Authority came “out of the blue” after she had filed her qualifications with NJIT’s Office of Career Development Services. Her association with the Port Authority, spanning some 13 years, began with responsibility for the environmental aspects of capital projects, specifically projects involving tunnels, bridges and terminals. This work encompassed environmental audits, permitting, and safe

disposal of hazardous waste.

The competence that Charters demonstrated led to a special invitation – to apply for the Port Authority’s very competitive Management Associates Program. Of 600 candidates, she was one of seven finalists chosen for this high-profile career track. Adding graduate credentials in real estate and finance to her resume as well, Charters had major roles in policy analysis, strategic planning, and management of waterfront properties representing an estimated \$3.5 billion in public and private investment.

In reflecting on her success at the Port Authority, Charters cites the importance of the mentoring she received from other women who were high-ranking executives at the agency. They included Sandra McCullough, Lillian Borrone, Cherri Nanninga and Peggy Zoch, whose daughter, NJIT alumna Jennifer Van Blarcom ’91, was a founding Delta Phi Epsilon sister with Charters.

REBUILDING AFTER SEPTEMBER 11

But Charters also arrived at another decision point in her life while working for the Port Authority. She had married in 1995, and with two small children at home decided that she wanted to step back from the demands of her position with the agency for a time. After a year, she returned to work with a promotion. It was not long before the tragic events of September 11.

Charters speaks movingly of how the Port Authority’s close-knit professional community was impacted on that day, which she survived, unlike more than 80 colleagues and

“What is right, what ultimately benefits people of every background, must take precedence over partisan politics. Diversity has to be understood, valued and embraced, absent of bias.”

— *Elisa A. Charters '92, '93*

friends. And in her estimation, she emphasizes, only the Port Authority could marshal the human and material resources to rebuild better and stronger than before.

The colleagues who have risen to this challenge, she adds, include many NJIT graduates. “I have the highest regard for all the public servants who work at the Port Authority, who give their all, she says.” For her part, Charters served as manager of site acquisitions and operations for the reconstruction effort.

With redevelopment of the World Trade Center site well under way, Charters found herself again evaluating her course in life. Her husband, Brian, a 1993 NJIT graduate with a master’s in civil engineering, had entered the financial world and was well-established in a career with JPMorgan Chase. Her children were growing up and she sought a different professional and personal balance.

Finding that balance after the Port Authority entailed starting a company that imported children’s apparel from South America. Although the recent economic downturn led to winding down the company’s operations, her comprehensive business expertise resulted in requests for assistance from other start-ups, especially women- and minority-owned businesses. Charters now provides such assistance through her own consulting practice. And she

gives back to NJIT by sharing her business insights on the School of Management’s Board of Visitors.

DEFINING VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS

In assessing her way forward, Charters also made a commitment to volunteer social engagement that she says, without reservation, is a defining passion in her life. Not that such engagement was unfamiliar to her previously.

While at the Port Authority, Charters represented the agency on NJIT’s EOP advisory committee. She also was voted president of the agency’s Hispanic Society and became an advocate for the professional advancement of talented Latinas and Latinos. It was a delicate balance, she admits, to challenge management on behalf of a minority group while seeking to advance in the same managerial structure.

Subsequent to the Port Authority, Charters entered the arena of social activism through the Junior League of Montclair-Newark, which named her Volunteer of the Year in 2010. This recognition reflected service with organizations that include the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey (LLANJ), the Essex County Planning Board, and the Minority and Women Business Development Advisory Council, to which she was appointed by Former New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine.

Charters is an engaged supporter of the Family Search and Connect (FSC) initiative of CASA for Children of Essex County (casaessex.org). Children in the foster care system would fare even better if they could grow up in the home of a loving, responsible family member who would welcome the child, she says. Specially trained FSC staff and volunteers closely reexamine case files for family information that may have been overlooked and use the Internet and other resources with the goal of contacting a related adult who may even consider adoption.

Charters strongly maintains that more must be done regarding the disparity of opportunity that still confronts women and minorities. To this end, as chair of the LLANJ Appointments Committee, she has challenged the positions of political candidates seeking the group's endorsement. "The governance of key public institutions and agencies needs to reflect the true demographics of our state, including the presence of qualified Latinas and Latinos."

On behalf of the LLANJ, Charters advocated implementation of the Statewide Strategic Plan for Diversity and Inclusion endorsed by Governor Christie prior to his re-election, and she led a coalition representing the state's Latino community that successfully promoted the appointment of Martin Perez to the Rutgers Board of Governors. Charters says that taking on such a leadership role requires tactful determination – a role in which what she learned as a graduate student at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs has been quite helpful. Working with the National Coalition of Latino Officers, she is

applying her diplomatic acumen as an advocate for the appointment of Julio Morejon, Esq., as Hudson County Prosecutor and Maria Teresa Feliciano to the Civil Service Commission.

Recently, Charters has started two organizations to further inclusion: Latina Surge (latinasurge.org) and Surge the Brown-out (surgethebrownout.org). Latina Surge will recognize employers for practical implementation of measures leading to the promotion of women and Latinas within executive management and to positions on governing boards. Surge the Brown-out will encourage appointed and elected public officials to be proactive in addressing representation of Latinos on judiciary commissions, and state and municipal agencies and boards.

What is right, what ultimately benefits people of every background, must take precedence over partisan politics, Charters asserts. "Diversity has to be understood, valued and embraced, absent of bias."

The commitments that are her focus today, Charters says, affirm what she gained as an EOP student at NJIT, where the problem-solving skills she developed "radiated far beyond math and science" as equally essential for social improvement. "I will always pay forward the opportunity given to me to make a difference."



Attending elementary school in Germany was among the life experiences that Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Vitali Mostovoj shared with the cadets of AFROTC Detachment 490.

VITALI MOSTOVOJ '65 *Protecting the Nation and Nature*

Retired from eventful service as a U.S. Air Force officer, Vitali Mostovoj is today an energetic champion of forest preservation and environmental protection living in Ventura County, Calif. It's a setting very far from where he was born, in the former Soviet Union, and in a very turbulent time, during World War II.

Mostovoj credits the U.S. Army with helping his family leave Soviet-controlled territory at the end of hostilities and relocate to a free part of Germany, where he attended elementary school for several years. Further good fortune followed when Mostovoj, his parents and an older brother were able to immigrate to the United States under the Displaced Persons Act during the administration of President Harry Truman, and with sponsorship by the Society of Friends. It was a narrow window

of opportunity, as the Displaced Persons Act was in effect for only a few years, from 1948 to 1952.

NEW JERSEY AND NCE

The Friends helped Mostovoj and his family settle in New Jersey, and he says that they formed lifelong relationships with members of the humanitarian Quaker group. Mostovoj grew up in Passaic and was inspired by his father to become an engineer. Mostovoj's father had been a mechanical engineer in Europe, but was unable to pursue this profession in the family's adoptive country.

As with so many prospective students over the years, Mostovoj found the financial accessibility and educational quality of Newark College of Engineering to be a very attractive combination. Enrolling and studying electrical engineering with the help of a New Jersey State Scholarship, he also joined the college's Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFROTC) detachment.

"I felt that I wanted to give something back to the country

“We protected this country from harm abroad during our active service, and it is just as appropriate to be concerned about protecting our nation’s natural environment in our later years.” — *Vitali Mostovoj '65*

that had benefitted my family so greatly, although I really didn’t intend to make the Air Force my career,” Mostovoj says of his decision to become an AFROTC cadet. “I thought that I would fulfill my four-year service obligation after graduation and then go on to a civilian career.”

The 1960s saw Mostovoj begin to chart a very different course in life.

TO GERMANY AND INTO SPACE

After receiving his bachelor’s and a commission as a second lieutenant in 1965, Mostovoj reported for duty at a U.S. Air Force base in Germany, where he took on his first responsibilities as a communications engineering officer. The Soviet Union and the United States and our allies were very much in Cold War contention, and the resulting assignments that came to Mostovoj were increasingly interesting.

“Each of my jobs was more interesting than the one before it. I was at the forefront of technological innovation and the unfolding of critical world events, and I found that I really liked the Air Force. I couldn’t think of a better, more interesting career in civilian life that would be open to me.”

Mostovoj contributed his technical skills to successfully retrieving images acquired by the first generation of military reconnaissance satellites. The pictures were on film ejected from orbit in capsules that were snared in mid-air as they descended to Earth. Later, as technology advanced, image acquisition and return became entirely digital.

Working on military satellite programs for some 13 years, Mostovoj remained at the leading-

edge of communications technology and contended with challenges such as systems survivability. While stationed at the Air Force Satellite Test Center in California, he was responsible for some of the most complex circuits in the world linking satellite communications centers as distant from each other as Greenland and the Indian Ocean. For example, he recalls, “We had to figure out what could be done to maintain communications when a Soviet fishing boat cut the undersea cable to Thule in the Arctic just before the open water froze over.”

The next phase of Mostovoj’s Air Force career took him to Belgium, to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), where he was responsible for the design and implementation of all communications systems for the new SHAPE war command center. Being in the military had definite advantages with respect to this assignment, Mostovoj recounts.

When research failed to yield published data on how various types of cable would withstand a bombing attack, Mostovoj had an experimental solution – he was able to call on the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct live bombing tests. Incidentally, Mostovoj adds, the knowledge he gained in his NCE courses in civil and mechanical engineering, as well as electrical engineering, was put to good use during the tests.

RETURNING TO THE SOVIET UNION

Mostovoj capped his 25-year Air Force career before retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel by returning to the country where he was born. He returned as an

emissary of the effort to wind down the Cold War and reduce the threat posed by the world’s stockpile of nuclear weapons. As an Inspection Team Chief with the On-site Inspection Agency, he led teams of U.S. weapons inspectors to monitor Soviet compliance with the terms of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

Every aspect of the experience was positive, Mostovoj says. The U.S. personnel were greeted as respected colleagues engaged in a mission critically important not only for America and the Soviet Union, but also for millions of people in other countries. Working closely with the U.S. teams, Mostovoj relates, the Soviet technical experts assigned to the task competently complied with all relevant provisions of the arms-reduction agreement.

In retirement, Mostovoj’s advocacy for wilderness preservation is rooted in a lifelong affinity for the natural world. Camping and enjoying nature are fond childhood memories, and activities he and his family shared whenever possible throughout his military career.

In addition to working with the California Wilderness Coalition, he speaks out on vital conservation issues with the Vet Voice Foundation. “We protected this country from harm abroad during our active service, and it is just as appropriate to be concerned about protecting our nation’s natural environment in our later years,” he says.

Mostovoj is also a concerned voice for veterans. In association with Veterans United for Truth, he has helped call attention to pressing needs in areas such as better assessment and treatment of traumatic brain injury – a signature wound of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RETURNING TO CAMPUS

In 1969, Mostovoj returned to campus as a member of the Air Force Systems Command Junior Officers Speakers Bureau to address the cadets about his experiences as a young lieutenant recently embarked on a military career. In the fall of 2014, he once again visited the campus, where much had changed over more than four decades.

Meeting with the men and women of NJIT’s AFROTC Detachment 490, Mostovoj shared the story of his life and fulfilling Air Force career. As in 1969, he enthusiastically endorsed the choice he had made as a result of the professional opportunities the Air Force had given him to be a technological innovator and participant in major world events of the 20th century.

When asked to reflect on highlights of his NCE experience, Mostovoj cited the excellence of the technical education he had received. But equally important, he added, were required courses that encouraged students to become more broadly educated in the social sciences and the humanities.

Mostovoj, who earned a master’s in international relations while in the Air Force, emphasizes the importance of such educational breadth for students at NJIT today. “Become scientifically and technically proficient, but also acquire the broader knowledge and understanding essential for becoming responsible citizens.” ■

CLASS NOTES

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 NJIT Magazine contributing writer Dean Maskevich at dean.i.maskevich@njit.edu.

First, the latest news from Mal –

In my last column, I wrote about the Sigma Pi brothers who became Golden Highlanders at the 2014 Alumni Reunion, with 50 years having passed since they started their careers after NJIT. I did not have room for all of them, so here are the rest of the stories.

Peter A. Abruzzese worked for Lockheed as an electronics engineer from 1964 to 1969. After earning his J.D. degree from Seton Hall University in 1970, Peter changed careers to become a patent counsel at RCA for five years before moving to ITT as intellectual property counsel until 1999. During his ITT tenure, he was appointed department manager and vice president of ITT companies that included Sheraton, Caesars Palace, Westin and Madison Square Garden.

Since 1999, Peter has worked as chairman of the Intellectual Property Department for Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, focusing primarily on counseling, litigation, and prosecution related to patents, trademarks, copyrights, technology, software, e-commerce, and other intellectual rights and licensing. In 2003 he received an Alumni Achievement Award. Peter lives in Summit, N.J., with his wife, Andrea.

Ben Auletta has an interesting academic history. After his freshman year at NCE in 1958, he received an appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. He spent the first three years at the academy's campus in Denver and, when the academy moved to Colorado Springs, he was part of the first graduating class from that campus. While serving his commitment in the Air Force Reserves, he returned to NCE, where he earned his B.S. in industrial engineering in 1964.

Ben worked in technical sales for ENJAY, as a plant engineer with Mobile Chemical Co., as an industrial engineer with the Interchemical Co., and as stores supervisor with National Starch. Along the way he earned an MBA at Rutgers, and for 40 years he has been a self-employed accountant and certified financial planner. Ben lives in Bound Brook, N.J., with his wife, Carole, and celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary and 50th NCE reunion in the same year.

Don Burtis was a varsity fencer at NCE for four years. He earned an MBA from Seton Hall University in 1974. Following 11 years with General Electric and 12 years with Credex International and Baitinger Electric, he completed

his professional career working 26 years at Turtle & Hughes, a family-owned independent electrical distributor with annual sales of \$500 million.

At Turtle & Hughes, Don developed a department selling power transformers, switchgear and unit substations. He was manager of a team that grew in size from three to twenty members and in sales to \$58 million upon his retirement in 2013. In 1978, on the advice of a close friend and business associate, he became part owner of two pistachio nut farms in the San Joaquin Valley, Calif. Don and his wife, Daryl, live in Wayside, N.J.

James C. Esposito, a member of the NCE soccer team, says he was blessed with two great careers, first with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and then at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). In 1969, after working at Allis Chalmers in Wis., Jim applied to the FBI, was accepted and assigned to the Bureau's Detroit office. While there, he attended the Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University and received his J.D. in 1977. In Detroit, Jim handled organized-crime cases, including the disappearance of the infamous Jimmy Hoffa. Jim was later appointed special agent in charge at the Newark, N.J. office, where he retired after 25 years of service.

Jim's second career was as senior vice president for security at the NYSE. In his 10 years there, he was responsible for physical and fire safety, and internal investigations. His greatest challenge was supervising the protection of all NYSE employees during the 9/11 attack. Jim lives with his wife, Mary Ellen, in Point Pleasant, N.J.

Jack Glaser received his Air Force ROTC commission at graduation and served for four years,

leaving with the rank of captain. He spent three years at Kingsley AFB in Klamath Falls, Ore., where he was responsible for the maintenance and repair of all base facilities. His final year was served in Thailand, with responsibility for the construction of a new base.

After leaving the Air Force, Jack joined PSEG and spent a 37-year career in the Natural Gas Department as district engineer, district manager, labor relations manager, division operations manager, and planning and design manager. Jack lives in Kinnelon, N.J., with his wife, Sally. Currently chairman of the Kinnelon Board of Health, his volunteer activities have included being a scoutmaster and soccer and tennis coach for Special Olympics athletes in regional and state competitions.

Paul Palmarozza, aka "Henry Higgins," and his wife, Judica, traveled "across the pond" from their home in London, England for the reunion. Paul played four years of baseball and was captain of the team in his senior year. He earned an MBA at Drexel University in 1968 and a Diploma in Educational Studies from Oxford University in 1981.

Paul spent 16 years (eight in Philadelphia, eight in Brussels, Belgium) for Control Data Corp. In Philadelphia, he became sales manager, and in Brussels was European manager for computer services and then general manager of the computer-based-training business unit. Paul then moved out on his own as a self-employed consultant and founded Intellegis Plc, which specializes in e-learning products and services. He is currently a partner in Principled Business, a company that sells drama-based ethics training products and services.

Paul is co-author of *From Principles to Profit*, a book about the application of philosophy to business. He writes that his career-long dedication to integrating philosophy with business began when he took philosophy electives at NCE and Rutgers-Newark. This early interest has been reinforced over the years by courses he has taken and the organizations he has joined. He tutors students and heads a group of business people dedicated to applying philosophic principles that embrace justice, fairness and service in business. He fervently believes that unless business reverts back to these principles, it will not regain the trust it once had.

Paul says that the culmination of his efforts is the formation of the charity, If I Can, which he recently launched. For more information about the new organization, visit ificanapp.com, and to learn more about Paul's efforts to promote values in business and schools, please contact him at paul.pallmarozza@principled-business.co.uk.

Richard Tower retired from the Air Force with the rank of captain. Following his military service, he went to work for Northeastern Utilities and its operating companies, retiring after 32 years as vice president of operations for Connecticut Light and Power. Dick and his wife, Kathleen, are now snow birds who spend the winter at their home in Naples, Fla. and the rest of their year at their home in Simsbury, Conn.

Also attending the reunion was **Phil Magaletta M.S. '68**. While not a member of Sigma Pi at NCE, Phil was a good friend of some of the brothers and was visiting at their tables. Talking with him, I learned that he was the uncle of

Phil Mascari, a Rutgers alumnus and staff member at the YMCA camp that I directed during the summer. His nephew was a U.S. Army fighter pilot and, sadly, was killed in action during the Vietnam War. Phil has had a 50-plus year career in research and engineering with ExxonMobil. He retired in 2002 and joined Becht Engineering as a control-system project advisor. Most of his projects for Becht were as a consultant for Exxon in locations that included Japan and Sicily. Phil and his wife, Judy, live in Basking Ridge, N.J.

While visiting family in New Jersey, **Nick Spiridakis '69** and his wife, Helen, came to NJIT for the first time since his graduation. It was my pleasure to give them the grand tour, after which we enjoyed dinner at the Warren Street Café followed by an exciting soccer game won by NJIT over LIU.

Originally a civil engineering major, Nick switched to chemical engineering after his sophomore year, which resulted in his graduating in five years. He was active in the Central High School tutoring program, played JV soccer, and was on two intramural basketball championship teams. After graduation Nick worked for five years as a research engineer for Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he also coached youth soccer.

After receiving a master's at the University of Colorado, Nick began a 30-year career with Chevron in Richmond, Calif. His first responsibilities were in process engineering, manufacturing, and quality control for the Ag Chem Division. He moved to environmental engineering and was appointed technical team manager for water and waste

technology. Also a member of the company's oil-spill-response team, Nick worked with the EPA on development and implementation of regulations for hazardous air emissions. This led to seven years of part-time employment with Brown & Caldwell, advising clients and conducting compliance audits for chemical plants and oil refineries. Now retired, Nick and Helen live in Sebastopol, Calif. He keeps active with recreational activities that include swimming, usually meeting his goal of 25 miles per month.

Efran Sergio Borja '77



Paul Dreyer and Skip Wilkins in Ephesus, Turkey

Richard D. "Skip" Wilkins '64 and **Paul Dreyer '64** and their wives, Camille and Marilyn, recently traveled to Turkey on vacation. The trip began in Istanbul and ended cruising on the Aegean Sea near Bodrum. A highlight of their vacation was a visit to Ephesus and the incredible ruins in the ancient city dating back to the ninth century B.C. The accompanying photograph shows Skip and Paul seated in the second-century theater in Ephesus discussing how to add a basketball court so that Len Kaplan and Jim Engles, NJIT athletics director and basketball coach, can schedule an NJIT basketball game in Ephesus next year.

When **Efrain Sergio Borja '77** retired and moved to Blaine, Wash., this past summer, I knew it would not be long before he got involved in local soccer activities. He proved me prophetic, as he is now a USSA licensed soccer official and volunteer assistant coach of the girls' and boys' soccer teams at Blaine High School. Wearing his official's uniform in the photo, Efrain is demonstrating his technique of flashing a pink card. After one year of officiating, he will be qualified to flash yellow and red cards.

Basketball, soccer and other alumni enjoyed a relaxing day of scramble golf followed by lunch and reminiscing at the annual "hands and feet" golf outing

hosted by **Bob Welgos '62** at the Newton Golf Club. The winning team was the incredible soccer foursome of **Norm Loney '77**, **William A. "Bill" Morris '82**, **Arvind Tikku '85** and myself.

Special prize winners were **Roy Knutsen '62** for closest to the pin, and **Andy Hippolit '90** for longest drive. Other alumni attending were **Paul Dreyer**, **Roger Edwards '63**, **Ben Gazdowicz '67**, **Rich Schroeder '66**, **Pete Szabados '61** and **Skip Wilkins**. Pete brought his son, Joe, and two guests. The outing, which was held in August, will return to its usual fall date in 2015, hosted by Roy at the Lake Mohawk Country Club.

I regret ending this column on a sad note, but I share the news that **Ed Monahan '58**, professor emeritus of civil engineering, died in October after a long illness. Ed believed it was important to get to know his students outside the classroom and served as volunteer coach of the NCE swimming and diving team. He also enjoyed participating in recreational activities and was a member of the faculty/staff intramural teams in flag football, softball, volleyball and basketball, where he amazed his opponents with his archaic two-hand set shot from half court.

Ed was also famous for his Pocono Bash, where he hosted faculty and staff at an annual winter weekend of poker and fun at his hideaway in Lake Naomi, Pa. Not one to keep idle after retirement, Ed was well known for regaling audiences as a story teller at nursing homes and churches.

Keep the news coming to mjs@njit.edu.

1970

Patrick Natale (Civil Eng.), M.S. '75 (Engineering Mgmt.) has joined Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM) as vice president – business strategies. He will support HMM's marketing and business development initiatives, and the firm's employee recruitment and retention programs. Natale brings more than four decades of engineering, management and business experience to HMM. He was executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers from 2002 to 2014 and served in the same role at the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). Before NSPE, he held numerous top-level management positions with Public Service Electric and Gas Company of New Jersey. In 2013, he received an outstanding alumnus award at NJIT's annual Salute to Engineering Excellence.

1974

Paul Menichelli (Electrical Eng.), an intelligent-transportation-systems (ITS) engineer with the professional-services firm Dewberry, received an award for his professional accomplishments at the 2014 annual meeting of the Intelligent Transportation Society of New Jersey. He was recognized for the advancement and integration of ITS technologies, particularly those that improve surface-transportation efficiency, safety and mobility throughout the state.

1978

John McMahon (Electrical Eng.) is a member of the board of directors of Yottaa, Inc. He will contribute 25-plus years of senior-level management experience to helping the company meet the growing demand for its automated application-optimization solutions.

1980

Michael H. Armr (Civil Eng.), M.S. '84 (Civil Eng.) writes that he is now with Facebook as data center site selection manager, living in Culpeper, Va., but working out of the Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters.

Jonathan Drogin (Electrical Eng.) writes that he is retiring after 24 years with Chevron Corporation. For the first 19 years, he was a project engineer at the Richmond, Calif., refinery. He spent the next five years at the world's 7th largest oil field as rated by daily production, working as existing field facilities lead project manager in Tengiz, Kazakhstan.

Jeffrey Milanaik (Mechanical Eng.) is helping Chicago-based Bridge Development Partners, L.L.C. to expand along the East Coast at its new office in Parsippany, N.J. It is the third office for Bridge Development, a privately owned firm founded in 2000 that develops and acquires industrial and office real estate. Joining Milanaik as a principal to head the new office is another NJIT alumnus, **John Porcek '84** (Civil Eng.)

1981

August (Gus) F. Manz Jr. (Electrical Eng.) has left Wyndham Worldwide and is now at Cushman & Wakefield as a facilities sourcing manager supporting more than 15,000 Verizon facilities in the northeastern U.S. He is responsible for sourcing interior building services such as fire protection, elevator maintenance, janitorial services, preventative maintenance for uninterruptible power supplies, and electrical switchgear maintenance for a wide range of Verizon administrative buildings, central offices, garage work centers, call centers and data centers in N.J., N.Y., Pa. and all of New England.

1984

Satish Menon (Mechanical Eng.), M.S. '85 (Computer Science) is senior vice president and chief technology officer at Shutterfly, Inc. Most recently in the course of his career, he was chief executive officer of the technology incubator UV Labs and chief technology officer of University Ventures.

John Porcek (Civil Eng.) has joined alumnus **Jeffrey Milanaik '80** (Mechanical Eng.) as a principal with Bridge Development Partners, L.L.C. to head a new office in Parsippany, N.J. The Chicago-based, privately owned firm, which was founded in 2000, develops and acquires industrial and office real estate, and is expanding along the East Coast.

1987

Andrew Schueller PE, CFM (Civil Eng.), M.S. '91 (Civil Eng.) is the assistant Transportation Department manager at the New York City office of Dewberry, professional-services consultants in architecture, engineering and management. He is responsible for managing transportation projects, mentoring junior staff, and overseeing business opportunities in the New York area for both private- and public-sector clients. Schueller has more than 26 years of engineering and construction experience related to transportation and infrastructure.

1988

Edward Stojakovic (Electrical Eng.) is heading the User Experience team at FCB as a vice president and director of planning. With more than 140 years of communications experience, FCB has 150 offices in 90 countries, with over 8,000 employees.

Harold Weinberg '40
John K. Kaufman '50
Louis G. Boch '51, '60
Glenn R. Hershey '52
Eric F. Ruzicka '54
Louise F. Davis '56, '61
William P. Doran Jr. '57
Arthur G. Angrisani '58
Donald W. Smith '59
Glenn E. Marihugh '61
Patricia L. Minnella '61
Thomas Charles McNulty Sr. '66
Robert Hoyer '69
Casimir Sikorski '69
Richard W. Dudley '71
Robert Bruce Rager '72
Louis R. Thibault '74
Roger Manner '75
Daniel D. Berlinrut '77, '78, '80
Stephen R. Napolitano '80, '88
Paul Bernstein '84
Michael Salek '89

Col. Thomas Perison M.S. (Engineering Mgmt.) has assumed command of the U.S. Army's Joint Maneuver Training Center at Camp Grayling in Mich. Perison's service includes a deployment in 2005 to Tikrit, Iraq, as the chief of operations for the 42nd Infantry Division and a 2007 deployment to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, as a counter improvised explosive device officer.

2011

George Smidhum Jr. (Civil Eng.) has joined Pennsylvania American Water as field operations supervisor for the company's Yardley and Norristown area water systems. His responsibilities include overseeing the Yardley system's field operations and managing meter reading and customer service for the Norristown system.

2013

S. Vincent Grasso M.S. (Information Systems) is the chief medical information officer for ADM Tronics, Unlimited, Inc. Grasso is a surgeon, software architect, information specialist and business strategist who has been providing professional services in the international healthcare marketplace for more than 20 years.

William "Bill" Wilson (Computer Science), a partner in the law firm of Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass, is the co-author of a book entitled *New Jersey Insurance Coverage Litigation – 2015: A Practitioner's Guide*, which has been published by the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, a Division of the New Jersey State Bar Association. He is also the author of NJInsuranceBlog.com

1989

Donald P. Dinella M.S. (Computer and Information Science), attorney, is now a member of the Intellectual Property Group at Wolff and Samson PC in West Orange, N.J. His extensive experience includes patent prosecution across a broad range of technological fields, patent portfolio management, licensing, IP commercialization and strategy, and transactional services.

F. Eduardo Villalobos M.S. (Civil Eng.) is a supervising engineer at the Houston Office of Parsons Brinckerhoff. He is supporting the office's structural department, with responsibility for planning, management, and development and design of bridges, highways, railway viaducts and pedestrian structures.

1991

Joseph M. Sheairs Sr. M.S. (Computer and Information Science) has been appointed executive director of the Stockton Aviation Research and Technology Park (ARTP) by the board of Trustees of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. A graduate of West Point, his background includes over 35 years of experience in aviation, engineering, technology and business. Previously, he served as interim executive director and then deputy executive director of the Next Generation Aviation and Technology Park, a precursor of the Stockton ARTP.

1994

Sean McMenamin (Mechanical Eng.) is the recently appointed director of environmental systems at Nationwide Boiler Inc. Previously vice president of environmental systems at Peerless Manufacturing Company, he signs on at Nationwide Boiler with an extensive background in selective catalytic reduction systems, air pollution control, and utility steam generators.

1995

Evie Sproviero M.S. (Electrical Eng.) has been named senior supervising engineer by Parsons Brinckerhoff, based at the firm's Newark, N.J., office. She is responsible for planning and designing power stations and equipment in support of power, transportation infrastructure and transit projects. Sproviero has more than 24 years of experience in electrical engineering design, procurement, construction and management.

1997

Judith Brown M.S. (Management) has been appointed vice president of human resources for ShoreGroup, a managed-services company that helps clients align IT operations with their strategic goals. Brown has held the position of human resources manager at the company since 2007.

2001

Manuel Pereiras (Architecture) has been named one of New Jersey's most accomplished young professionals by *NJBIZ* magazine. He owns Pereiras Architects Ubiquitous, based in Union City, whose diverse portfolio encompasses multi-family residential buildings, early childhood education facilities, medical offices, restaurants and churches. In placing the Albert

Dorman Honors College alumnus on its notable Forty Under 40 list, *NJBIZ* praised Pereiras for his civic achievements, among them "serving with professional, community and academic organizations, including the Academy of Architectural and Contemporary Themes in Hudson County and the Union City Urban Enterprise Zone."

2002

Moses K. Mingle M.S. (Electrical Eng.) has received a Louis Dellamonica Award presented by the U.S. Army's Material Command. Mingle is employed by the Army's Research, Development and Engineering Command's Communications-Electronics Center (CERDEC), where he is a branch chief for the Electronic Warfare Systems Ground Branch in CERDEC's Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate. The award recognizes his work in the design, development, testing, evaluation, fielding and support of radio-frequency countermeasure sensors and systems for defeating improvised explosive devices.

Christopher O'Hara PE (Electrical Eng.) is an associate at TLC Engineering for Architecture, Inc., where he is an electrical-project engineer in TLC's Healthcare Operating Group, based in Orlando, Fla. TLC has been ranked by *Engineering News Record* as one of the largest consulting engineering firms in the South.

2003

Akin Adewole M.S. (Information Systems) brings more than 20 years of experience to his most recent position as a sales engineer at Verrex. Founded in 1947, Verrex designs, integrates, services and supports video conferencing and other advanced AV/IT technologies for the global business community.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

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.

Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn too. Go to 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 Hatch Mott MacDonald, PSE&G, Schering-Plough, Turner Construction and United Parcel Service. For more information: njit.edu/alumni/clubs

REGIONAL CLUBS

NJIT Regional Clubs are planning events across the country. For more information: 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



IT ALL HAPPENED AT THE ZOO

In December, the Young Alumni Club and the Atlantic Federal Credit Union co-sponsored a Zoo Lights Holiday Party at Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, N.J. The family-friendly event was an opportunity to interact with many of the zoo's residents – both real-life and illuminated.