

## MAL &amp; 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.

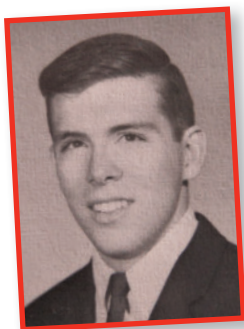
If you would like to be a regular correspondent, don't hesitate to send an email to the editor of *NJIT Magazine*: [crovetto@njit.edu](mailto:crovetto@njit.edu)

First, the latest news from Mal –

Featured in this column are a group of alumni, some whom I have not heard from in 50 years. Three of these “lost and found” alumni are **BOB ROSENCRANCE** '67, **JOHN RAPSOMANIKIS** '68, and **PAUL KOEBEL** '60. And now, thanks to Paul, I can say almost 120 years as his story includes his grandfather, **CHARLES LEROY FENNIMORE**, who graduated from the Newark Technical School in 1910. Others included in the column are **FRED STICKLE** '54, **GARY HAMILTON** '73, **JACK HEATH** '78, **ROY KNUTSEN** '62, **BOB WELGOS** '62 and **JIM ENGLES**, our former NJIT men's basketball coach.

It is always nice to hear from NCE alumni who remember the good old days. So it was a pleasant surprise to hear from **BOB ROSENCRANCE**, who remembered being in my physical education class. Alumni from those

*Bob Rosencrance  
in his NCE  
graduation photo*



early days will recall the small gymnasium on the third floor of Campbell Hall and the locker room in the basement where the students changed into their required uniform of a red T-shirt and shorts and then ran up four flights to the gym. Bob writes that he remembers his first physical education class and my polite lecture about learning sports other than

basketball. He said that the class waited patiently while I described some of these activities and as soon as I finished, everyone raced to play basketball.

Bob attended Paterson Eastside High School and graduated from Hawthorne High School. Not having to study to get good grades in high school, he was shocked in his freshman year at NCE to learn he would have to really study just to get by. He joined Sigma Pi fraternity and says having his fraternity brothers help with his schoolwork was a Godsend. To help pay his school costs, Bob was a lifeguard at the NCE pool. After graduation, he took a job with Combustion Engineering in Windsor, Connecticut, designing boilers. It was there that he met his wife-to-be, Sandy. Bob says, “It was love at first sight,” and they have been married ever since.

Two years later, he decided sales was more to his liking and began this venture in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, California. He moved to selling but after a few years, he and Sandy decided to take a break of 18 months traveling around the west in their tent trailer. They rented their home in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Bob and Sandy stayed with friends during the winter at Lake Tahoe where they were on the ski patrol. They returned to southern California where Bob got a job with General Electric as Western Regional

*Bob Rosencrance and his  
wife, Sandy, in Seoul.*

Sales Manager for cogeneration sales. Cogeneration or ‘cogen’ is a term used for producing two products from one fuel, namely electricity and steam, that is used for many purposes. A company would install a cogen plant and sell the electric power to the local utility at a lower price than the utility itself could produce. They used the steam from a waste heat boiler for whatever their steam need was. When Bob worked in San Francisco for Combustion Engineering, he primarily called on Bechtel and Kaiser Engineers. At General Electric, it was Ebasco Services, later bought by Raytheon and Fluor Global. At the age of 50, when given the choice of moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, with GE or become a GE consultant, he decided he could make more money as a consultant. A few years later, Sandy and Bob moved to Bend, Oregon, where they still live.

Out of the blue, I received a nice letter from **PAUL KOEBEL** and even more surprising, his letter included a picture of his grandfather, **CHARLES LEROY FENNIMORE**, and other graduates of the 1910 class from Newark Technical School. Prior to NCE, Paul decided not to wait



## ALUMNI CIRCUIT



Paul Koebel '60  
and family

to be drafted, so he volunteered for the United States Army where he served as a Medical Corpsman stationed mostly at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado. Coincidentally, President Eisenhower was fishing at Granby, Colorado, when he suffered a heart attack and spent 1-2 months recuperating at Fitzsimmons. Paul just happened to be at the front door when "Ike" was discharged as a patient and he shook the hands of Paul and another sergeant and thanked them for his care as he left the hospital. A benefit from his military service was the GI Bill, which enabled him to attend NCE. At NCE, Paul was a member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and president of the Ski Club. After graduation, Paul went to work doing design work for Combustion Engineering in Windsor, Connecticut.

In 1963, he took a job with General Electric Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Niskayuna, New York. In 1965, Paul transferred to the GE large Steam Turbine Generator Department in Schenectady, New York, where he worked with utility customers installing and integrating GE generators into the utility customers' power plants. Ten years later, he changed jobs and went into the Large Steam Turbine Product Service Department working with customers trying to resolve turbine generator design and outage-related problems.

Paul's grandfather lived with his

went to work for Elliott Steam Turbine where he designed turbine generators. He also worked in manufacturing building turbine generators. When his company moved to Pennsylvania, Roy went to work for Otis Elevator Company in Yonkers until he retired.

Now for **JOHN RAPSOMANIKIS '68**, the third of our "lost and found" alumni. John was on the 1960-63 soccer teams that had a 32-5-4 record including the 1960 NAIA National Championship and the 1961 NAIA National Runner-up. He was captain of the 1963 team and selected to the All N.J.-Del.-Pa. teams in 1961 and 1963, and All-American team in 1963. John scored 21 goals, placing him tied for 10th place on NJIT's All Time career scorers' list.

The last time I had seen John was the semester after the 1963 soccer season. He was drafted into the United States Army and served in the 1st Armored Division 82nd Airborne. When he returned to NCE to earn a degree in electrical engineering, my family and I were in the Peace Corps, so I was unaware of his return. By the time I returned to NCE, John had graduated and

was working for Lockheed in Germany. Unfortunately, we lost contact with each other until recently, thanks in part to good old "Google." This winter, the 20th reunion of the Florida Soccer Alumni was held in Coral Springs, Florida, and a special effort to locate missing alumni was being made. One who finally replied was John, who lives part of the year in Merritt Island, Florida.

John attended the 20th annual reunion where he was welcomed with open arms into our group. Originally claiming to be a reserved, private individual, he was soon as gabby as everyone. We learned that, after 30 years of marriage, his wife had died and he was grieving and lonely. It was good that he finally decided to meet with his former college classmates. It turned out to be a win-win occasion for everyone. We got to know John as a friendly, intelligent, sensitive, world-traveled person who brought a different perspective to our group. And, not only did John come out of his self-made shell to enjoy himself, but he continues his new relationship by meeting on Sundays for church and lunch with Fabian '74 and Jeanie Hurtado, who live in nearby Cape Canaveral, Florida.

John worked for Lockheed, which took him to Germany and other locations in the U.S. until his retirement. He was hesitant to talk about his projects, but did hint at some "cloak-and-dagger" operations for the U.S. Armed Services and a "black ops" company working



John Rapsomanikis '68,  
Mal Simon and  
Joe Alves '77



primarily for the Pentagon. In addition to Lockheed in Munich, Germany, Burbank and Sunnyvale, California, his short-term consulting was for Litton Industries in Chatsworth, Rockwell International in Los Angeles and Hughes Aircraft in Anaheim, California, Unisys in Salt Lake City, Utah, Raytheon in Waltham, Massachusetts, Northrup Grummond in Melbourne, Florida, General Dynamics in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Detroit, Michigan, and the U.S. Navy in New Orleans, Louisiana.

John also lives part of the year in Sandpoint, Idaho. When I asked him why, he tells me that "Sandpoint men are as handsome and ferocious as the Vikings, the women are as beautiful and strong as the Amazons, the children are as intelligent and angelic as the cupids." However, it may be just coincidental that Sandpoint sits on the north edge of a lake said to be as large as the island of Oahu. The lake is so deep that it has been a U.S. naval research station since WWII. This naval station had developed and tested the first-ever U.S. stealth submarine.

Finding John was a lucky and perhaps fated occasion. I look forward to getting to know him better.

**FRED STICKLE '54** was a classmate of mine at Leonia High School. He notes that the last time he saw me was on the soccer field in the fall of 1963. Fred was playing for NCE and I was playing for Panzer College, now Montclair State University. Shortly after graduation from NCE in 1954, Fred married Doris Kopp, another Leonia classmate. Fred was in the NCE Air Force Reserve Officers Corps, was commissioned a pilot and flew in the United States Air Force for three years. After leaving the Air Force, Fred went to work for American Cyanamid in New Jersey, was transferred to Cleveland and Cincinnati in Ohio, then back to New Jersey and finally ended his career in Chicago, Illinois, where he now lives.

**GARY HAMILTON '73**, who is my

*Jack Heath at Oxford*

cousin, retired in September 2016 after 43 years working for Lummus in Bloomfield, New Jersey. He finished up working for Chevron Lummus Global, a joint venture between Chevron and Lummus technical divisions, designing refinery facilities and licensing clean fuels technologies worldwide. He spends his retirement years spiffing up his 1966 Ford Mustang for car shows, taking art classes, singing in the church choir and as a volunteer cook at the Keansburg, New Jersey, soup kitchen.

**JACK HEATH '78** is a rare politician; he actually paid his own way when traveling to another country to represent his constituents. As City Council President of Salisbury, Maryland, he paid his own way to sister cities Salisbury, England, and Tartu, Estonia. Along with the city mayor and administrator, they were invited to visit their sister cities. Not wanting to miss this opportunity, they each paid out of pocket and made the trip. They participated in the "Mayor Making" (swearing in) in Tartu and meetings concerning common interests in Salisbury, England. Jack commented that even though we were on different continents, the issues facing our communities were very similar. Jack has been an active member of the Salisbury community for many years as a



Volunteer Fire Officer, member of the Rotary Club Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Mayor's Council in Support of Individuals with Disabilities and member of Salisbury University Varsity Club Board of Directors. Jack played varsity basketball at NJIT and is an active supporter of NJIT athletics.

I will end this column with the good news that **ROY KNUTSEN '62** and I, after six years of consecutive losses, the seventh proved lucky for us as we defeated **BOB WELGOS '62** and Jim Engles, NJIT's former basketball coach, by one stroke in our annual golf match. The match went down to the wire with Roy's creative score keeping on the last hole proving the win. I must say that Bob and Jim took the loss like true gentlemen.

It was fun hearing from the "old timers," so let's hear from more of you. ■

*The 20th reunion of the Florida Soccer Alumni was held in Coral Springs, Florida.*





ALUMNI CIRCUIT

# A WEEKEND



# TO REMEMBER





LEFT: 2019 marked the 30th year that awards were given to deserving graduates by the NJIT Alumni Association. From left: NJIT President Joel S. Bloom; Samir Saini '97H; Michael Donnelly MMBA '02; Áine O'Dwyer '08H, '08 M.S.; Philip Rinaldi '68, '77 M.S., '17 HON; Kenneth Colao '77; and Anita M. Rubino '83, NJIT Alumni Association board member.

LEFT: The gala dinner was held in the Wellness and Events Center, which was fully transformed and decorated for the occasion. BELOW: NJIT President Joel S. Bloom addressed alumni gathered at Alumni Weekend. RIGHT: Dr. Junmin Shih, associate professor of the Martin Tuchman School of Management, received the prestigious Robert W. Van Houten Award for Teaching Excellence.



are amazing," said Áine O'Dwyer '08H, '08 M.S., CEO of Enovate Engineering. "Coming back to campus, standing in the Central King Building, it's wonderful to see the transformation at NJIT."

Also honored were Samir Saini '97H, former IT Commissioner for the City of New York, and Philip Rinaldi '68, '77 M.S., '17 HON, Dr. Junmin Shih, associate professor of the Martin Tuchman School of Management, received the prestigious Robert W. Van Houten Award for Teaching Excellence.

The Weekend concluded with a gala dinner in the Wellness and Events Center, fully transformed and decorated for the occasion. In addition to the usual dinner and dancing, the evening also celebrated the 100th anniversary of Newark College of Engineering. Both NJIT's President, Dr. Joel Bloom, and Alumni Association President Dennis Ciemniecki '82 offered remarks in celebration of more than 300 alumni and guests in attendance.

**Save the date for Alumni Weekend 2020: May 29-31, 2020!**

**O**n June 1, 2019, more than 600 alumni and guests trekked to campus to make this Alumni Weekend the most successful in NJIT's history.

The Weekend played host to traditional events, like campus tours, President Bloom's Address to Alumni, the third annual Greek Reunion, the Lunch and Wine Festival, and the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards Ceremony.

2019 marked the 30th year that awards were given to deserving graduates by the Alumni Association, and this class of awardees was more inspiring than ever.

"Don't ever stop investing in what excites you," said Michael Donnelly,

MMBA '02, former Senior Vice President at MasterCard, as he accepted his award. "And make the best of every day that you can."

Speaking about their professional and personal success, the awardees credited parents, friends, and teachers, and made a point of recognizing the quality of education they received at NJIT.

"NJIT represented the opportunity of a lifetime for me," said Ken Colao '77, President of CNY Group. "It was important that I made the most of it throughout my life and career."

"The steps that the university is taking, especially in innovation and technology,

## The Making of “Mr. NJIT”: STEPHEN DePALMA '72



**O**n his first day of college, Stephen DePalma '72 and his classmates received blunt words about their daunting engineering curriculum from then-President Robert Van Houten, clearly intended as a form of “no nonsense” motivation: “Look to your left and look to your right – one of those people will not be there at graduation.”

“Sink or swim – that was the standard then,” recounts DePalma. He decidedly swam, going on after graduation to help build Schoor DePalma Inc., an engineering firm that reshaped – yes, literally – the New Jersey landscape. He attributes his success in navigating those turbulent waters as a green 18-year-old to his own determination, the organizational skills he quickly acquired and the support so readily offered by his fraternity brothers at Pi Kappa Phi.

There was Ted Cassera '72, for example, who introduced him to civil engineering. He jokes that he was glad he met him on “the second day of college.”

“Ted did surveying on the weekends to make extra money and invited me along. It was interesting work – and outdoors – and I related to many aspects of it, from the physical to the structural. I was a mechanical engineering major at the time, which was more abstract, but I switched to civil my junior year, doubled up on courses and managed to still graduate in four years.”

And his first year out of college, another fraternity brother introduced him to Howard Schoor, who asked him: “Where do you want to be in five years?”

“I want to be at your desk, interviewing people like me,” was the bold response that helped secure the job. He spent the next five years “learning everything from management, to marketing, to finance, to solving technical problems.” The firm’s primary work was, as he puts it, “local infrastructure, the projects that affect quality of life: land development,

environmental studies, water and sewer systems, traffic and transportation.”

But there were also the landscape-changing megaprojects, from the creation of a new interchange on the New Jersey Turnpike to connect shoppers to the Jersey Gardens Mall to what became known as the Atlantic City-Brigantine Connector, a 2.5-mile expressway, including a tunnel, from the Atlantic City Expressway to Steve Wynn’s Borgata casino.

The latter project brought them up against a fierce competitor who tried to stop it – Donald J. Trump. The expressway builders prevailed, however, “and I think everyone benefited,” DePalma recounts.

He clearly made a dent at the firm, as it was renamed “Schoor DePalma Inc.” just a few years after he arrived. As CEO for 15 years, revenue grew tenfold and the firm was recognized by *Engineering News-Record* as among the “Top 40 Largest USA Engineering Design Firms.” By the time he retired as chairman and CEO in 2007, the firm employed more than 1,250 employees in 25 multi-state offices. He now runs his own engineering consulting group.

DePalma was such an adept manager that he was recruited by about a dozen state and national civic organizations for his diverse skills and willingness to plunge into high-profile projects. They include the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Alliance for Action, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity (where he served as national president and was the recipient of the Mr. Pi Kappa Phi award, the organization’s most prestigious, Ronald McDonald House, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National and New Jersey Association of Home Builders, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Utility and Transportation Contractors Association, the Young Presidents Organization/World Presidents Organization (New Jersey chapter), and NJIT, where he has served

*Stephen DePalma '72, chair of the NJIT Board of Trustees (center), receives the NCE Outstanding Alumnus Award from Newark College of Engineering Dean Moshe Kam (left) and Patrick J. Natale (right), chair of NCE's Board of Visitors.*

on the Board of Overseers, from 1989 until 2003, and the Board of Trustees, since 2003. He is currently the chairman of the board.

DePalma’s school days clearly still resonate, as he singles out a project he took part in for the Chamber of Commerce, conducting surveys to determine what makes some schools successful at teaching STEM skills and others less so. “It comes down to the passion of the people – who are your teachers and principals,” he notes.

And he is informally known as “Mr. NJIT” for his longstanding involvement with his alma mater, which began shortly after he graduated at the behest of Herman “Doc” Estrin, a renowned professor of English, who persuaded him to come back to campus to talk to students about the real world. In April, he was honored as an NCE Outstanding Alumnus by his NJIT college, Newark College of Engineering, at its annual Salute to Engineering Excellence.

“I really enjoy creative, college-age students,” notes DePalma, of his years on the Board of Trustees, where he has once again found himself part of a hard-working, mutually supportive NJIT group. “This is such a great board that is so dedicated to the school for all the right reasons. It has been nice to see so many transformations on campus over the past 10 years, but also in the city of Newark. It has been very rewarding to be a part of it.” ■

*Author: Tracey L. Regan is an NJIT Magazine contributing writer.*





## Playing His Cards Right: KALPESH G. KAPADIA M.S. '97

**W**hen he was 22 years old, Kalpesh G. Kapadia immigrated to the United States from Bombay, India. A commuter student who lived in Kearny, Kapadia attended NJIT on a full scholarship, with cooperative work at the pharmaceutical company Schering-Plough. His scholarship also entailed teaching students at Eastside High in Tenafly about computers. However, like many other international students, he struggled to establish his credit profile. Thus, the inspiration to offer a means by which international students can obtain and build credit was derived from his own personal experience with the credit system in the U.S.

"I came here to study in 1995 fresh from India and I had trouble getting access to loans and credit in the U.S., and many of my family members and friends over the years have come and they have faced similar problems," Kapadia recalled. "The population has gone up tenfold of students coming from overseas, particularly at a university like NJIT, and they all faced the same problem. There were three regulations that were passed over the years that made it increasingly harder for people to get access. I thought the system was broken and was leaving out a lot of good people as it was designed and I wanted to change that, so that's why I started the company."

### GATEWAY TO CREDIT

That company is Deserve, Inc., of which Kapadia is the founder, chief executive officer and director. Between 50,000 and 100,000 Deserve MasterCards have been issued to date by the company, with almost 500 students at NJIT who now

own a card. International students must be 18 years or older; neither a prior credit history nor a Social Security number are required.

Deserve offers two products that it is launching for NJIT: The Edu credit card for students and the Pro credit card for alumni. Both the Edu and Pro cards have no annual fee. The Edu card provides a sign-on bonus for a one-year subscription to Amazon Prime Student and the credit limit rate is \$500-\$5,000. The Pro card has no foreign transactions fee and offers 1% cash back on all purchases, 2% cash back on restaurant and food delivery such as Uber Eats or DoorDash, and 3% cash back on travel and entertainment that includes subscriptions to Netflix, Spotify and Fandango. And, with a \$1,000 spend on the Pro card in the first 90 days, cardholders will receive a one-year membership to the Priority Pass Global Airport Lounge Network.

Alumni and students can show their NJIT pride (while building their credit histories) with the NJIT Deserve Card. The university and Alumni Association will benefit from each NJIT Deserve credit card issued.

### EMPOWERMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

Kapadia's career spans 20+ years in the U.S. and Asia, primarily in technology and finance. Prior to co-founding Deserve Inc., he was one of the foremost analysts/investors in Wall Street's tech sector. In 2004, he was ranked the No. 1 analyst in the U.S. across all sectors by *The Wall Street Journal*. One year later, he founded Equanum Capital and successfully managed it through 2012. In 2007 and

*Kalpesh G. Kapadia M.S. '97 is the founder, chief executive officer and director of Deserve, Inc.*

2009, Equanum Funds were one of the best-managed global equity funds in Barrons.com and Asiahedge rankings. In addition to his M.S. in industrial engineering and operations research from NJIT, Kapadia earned an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University, where he is a member of its Alumni Board and a proud member of the W.L. Mellon Society.

His personal and charitable interests focus on empowerment and upliftment through higher education. He is a member and supporter of organizations such as the Cato Institute, Santa Fe Institute, Foundation for Excellence and the American Himalayan Foundation. He also is a member of the Bay Area chapters of the Commonwealth Club and the Churchill Club.

Has his NJIT degree helped him in his career?

"Tremendously. It gave me a full scholarship when I came here for a master's in engineering, which was at the time \$10,000 a semester: \$5,000 in tuition and \$5,000 in living expenses," Kapadia said. "I got three job offers: one was from Schering-Plough Corporation, one was from Lucent, and one was from Sara Lee Corporation. I had my full-time job, and I saved up and I went to business school after that. So it gave me a great launching pad."

For more information about the NJIT Pro and Edu Credit Cards, visit [deserve.com/NJIT](https://deserve.com/NJIT). ■

*Author: Christina Crovetto is editor of NJIT Magazine.*

## 1950's

### '54 **FREDERICK JOHNSON**

(Mechanical Engineering) received a certificate from Stevens Institute of Technology in May 2018 in computational fluid mechanics and heat transfer.

## 1970's

### '74 **HARRY ROMAN**

(Electrical Engineering, M.S. in Environmental Engineering '74) published an e-book entitled *Transitioning from Student to Engineer*. Roman, who recently finished a three-year term serving on NJIT's department of physics advisory board, wrote about that experience in the book's foreword.

### '74 **GLENN MCGUILL**

(Industrial Engineering) was awarded the Morris County Distinguished Military Service Medal in recognition of his service in the U.S. Army. McGill served from August 1967 to July 1970 and in the New Jersey National Guard in 1984-85. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Two Overseas Bars, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and awards as Expert M14 and Marksman M16.

### '76 **JOSEPH FLEMING**

(Civil Engineering) was promoted to first executive vice president of PS&S. Fleming also serves as the principal-in-charge of all land services at PS&S which includes environmental permitting and remediation, utility services, surveying, landscape architecture and civil engineering.

### '78 General (Ret.) **ELLEN**

**PAWLIKOWSKI** (Chemical Engineering, Honorary Degree '13) was appointed Judge Widney Professor at the University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering. Pawlikowski, who is currently a member of the Raytheon

Company board of directors, served for over 40 years in the military, reaching the rank of four-star general, only the third woman to achieve the highest rank in the Air Force.

## 1980's

### '81 **KENNETH FOX**

(Architecture) was chosen by The Boy Scouts of America, Patriots' Path Council to receive the Morris County Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019. Fox was also honored by the Metropolitan Builders and Contractors Association of NJ to receive the 2018 NJBA Ironman Award.

### '83 **BRIAN FUCHS**

(Mechanical Engineering, M.S. '87, Ph.D. '97) was appointed senior research scientist for insensitive munitions with the U.S. Army. Fuchs is also an adjunct professor at the Stevens Institute of Technology and a faculty member of the Armament Graduate School at Picatinny Arsenal.

### '83 **WILLIAM KILLEEN**

(Construction & Construction Engineering Technology) was recently reappointed to the 2019-2021 term of the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA) by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. Killeen has been CEO of Acrow Bridge since 2017.

### '84 **SATISH MENON**

(M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, M.S. in Computer Science '85) was named SVP, chief technology officer of product platforms at Pearson. Most recently he was accountable for product platform technology at Shutterfly and previously held roles at UV Labs and Apollo Education.

### '85 **STAVROS KAMILARIS**

(Civil Engineering) was promoted to vice president at Dewberry. He is a professional engineer in New Jersey and New York and a professional planner in New Jersey.

### '86 **JEFFREY BECK**

(Mechanical Engineering) was elected to the inTEST Corporation board of directors and will be serving on the audit and compensation committees. Beck also currently serves as an operating advisor with Artemis Capital Partners.

### '86 **DEBORAH VENTZ-MIGNECO**

(Industrial Administration) joined New Hanover Regional Medical Center in North Carolina as the hospital's first director of organizational excellence and patient experience.

### '87 **ROBERT FOLEY**

(Civil Engineering) was promoted to senior associate at Dewberry. Foley is a professional engineer in Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York and Ohio. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and 7X24 Exchange.

## 1990's

### '90 **MATTHEW JARMELE**

(Architecture) recently became one of six new board of directors of the Metropolitan YMCA of the Oranges. Jarmel, an owner and principal of Jarmel Kizel Architects and Engineers, Inc., has extensive expertise in building child care centers.

### '90 **KEVIN NESBITT**

(M.S. in Environmental Science) joined Unitemp Dry Kilns and Player Design Inc. as national sales manager. Nesbitt has over 24 years of capital equipment sales in air pollution control and dryers.

### '91 **MICHAEL PASSARO**

(M.S. in Environmental Science) joined Unitemp Dry Kilns and Player Design Inc. as national sales manager.

### '91 **DAVID SLAGEN**

(Architecture) joined D&B Engineers and Architects, P.C. as an architect. He was previously a project manager for DF Gibson Architects in New York City.



**'92 KENNETH SPAHN** (M.S. in Engineering Management) was promoted to senior associate at Dewberry. Spahn is a licensed project management professional and a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI) and North Atlantic Ports Association (NAPA).

**'93 MANUEL DA SILVA** (Civil Engineering, Minor in Management) was named acting chief executive officer of the Schools Development Authority (SDA) by Gov. Phil Murphy. Da Silva joined the SDA in 2010 as a senior manager in the engineering section. He went on to serve as program director of program operations and in 2017, he was named vice president of construction operations.

**'94 VENKAT KRISHNAMOORTHY** (M.S. in Computer & Information Science) has been appointed CTO at Hamilton Insurance Group Ltd. Previously, he was CTO at Coleman Research.

**'94 QUOVELLA SPRUILL** (Engineering Science) was appointed police leadership mentor in the Highland Park Police Department. Spruill recently retired from the Essex County Prosecutor's Office where she served as the first female chief of detectives.

**'96 BRIAN LAROCHE** (M.S. in Computer & Information Science) was appointed vice president and chief operating officer of Cubic Corporation's Cubic Mission Solutions business division. Before joining Cubic, he held leadership positions at Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems, Inc.

**'96 ERIC VAN DER SLUYS** (Architecture) was promoted to associate at FXCollaborative. He joined the firm in 2001 and is a designer and project manager working primarily on educational, cultural and institutional projects.

**'97 JOHN PELESKO** (Ph.D. in Mathematics) was appointed dean of

University of Delaware's College of Arts and Sciences. Pelesko previously served as associate dean for the natural sciences of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2016-18, after being interim associate dean for a year.

**'98 GUNJAN DOSHI** (M.S. in Computer Engineering) was appointed chair of the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology by Gov. Phil Murphy. Doshi is the founder and CEO of technology consulting firm InRhythm and sits on the boards of several companies including Booker.com and Yodle, Inc.

**'98 RICHARD SCHAEFER** (Civil Engineering) has joined New Jersey Transit as chief engineer in the capital planning and program department. Previously Schaefer worked at HNTB Corp., where he spent more than 18 years in various roles, most recently serving as associate vice president and chief bridge engineer.

**'98 CHRISTINA SEO** (M.S. in Management) was selected for the Empowered Woman of the Year Award for 2019 by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP). Seo is the director of colorectal surgery for Holy Name Medical Center.

**'99 JEFF ASHACHIK** (Electrical Engineering) joined HireSparks AV Recruiting as vice president of recruiting. Previously Ashachik was director of training and technology at Crestron Electronics, as well as a certified Crestron master platinum programmer.

**'99 AVINASH PRASAD** (M.S. in Civil Engineering, M.S. in Engineering Management '02) was named Fellow of The American Society of Civil Engineers. Prasad is an engineer and land surveyor with more than 25 years of professional experience in civil engineering and management.

# 2000's

**'00 DAVID HARDING** (Industrial Engineering) was appointed director of facilities for the Princeton Public Schools. Previously, Harding was director of facilities for the Bernards Township public school district.

**'00 TODD YANOFF** (Civil Engineering, Surveying Engineering Technology in '06) joined Dewberry as a vice president and department manager of the water/wastewater construction services group in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. Yanoff is a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) and New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA).

**'01 AMY PATEL** (Master's in Architecture) is a senior associate at FXCollaborative. She joined the firm in 2018 and is working on 3 Hudson Boulevard – one of the firm's largest projects.

**'03 ALEXANDRA POLLOCK** (Architecture) was promoted to principal at FXCollaborative. She has been with the firm since 2013.

**'04 KEITH LUDWIG** (Surveying Engineering Technology) was promoted to senior associate at Dewberry. Ludwig is a member of the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors, National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), where he serves as the board president of the SAME, Philadelphia post.

**'08 IKEMEFUNA AGBANUSI** (Mathematical Sciences) was appointed assistant professor of mathematics and computer science at Colorado College. Previously he was a visiting assistant professor of mathematics at Colgate University.

**'08 RADEK TRAVNICEK** (M.S. in Civil Engineering) was appointed senior associate at Gannett Fleming. Travnick has a long history working with Metro-North Railroad, Long Island Rail Road, Amtrak and other transit-oriented agencies.

## 2010's

**'10 BILAL KHAN** (Information Technology) was hired as New Jersey Transit's chief technology officer for infrastructure and operation. He most recently served as the technology executive of SHI International.

**'10 LISA PETERSON** (Surveying Engineering Technology) was promoted to business unit manager at Dewberry. Peterson is a member of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors. She was named a 2018 Top Young Professional by *Engineering News-Record* New York and a Woman to Watch by *South Jersey Biz* in its February 2019 issue.

## NJIT Mourns Passing of Alumnus Vincent Naimoli '62, '09 HON



Vincent and Lenda Naimoli pictured at the Naimoli recreational facility naming ceremony in 2011.

The NJIT community mourned the passing of Vincent Naimoli, a 1962 graduate of Newark College of Engineering and namesake of the Naimoli Family Athletic and Recreational Facility. He was 81.

Naimoli attended Notre Dame as an undergraduate on a Navy ROTC scholarship before earning double master's degrees at NJIT and Fairleigh Dickinson University. He later launched a successful career as CEO of Anchor Glass and served other Fortune 500 corporations in various capacities. Naimoli became a turnaround specialist transforming struggling organizations into successful entities. He is most often recognized for his success in bringing to fruition Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays as the original owner of the expansion team in 1995. Naimoli also served as chairman or participant on several financial, athletic and academic committees, was named Florida Entrepreneur of the Year in 1995, received a "Bridging the Bay" Award in 1996, was named a Champion of Higher Independent Education in Florida, was the recipient of NJIT's outstanding alumnus award, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from NJIT, among other recognitions.

## IN MEMORIAM

Herman Rich '49, '61  
Leon Eggers '51  
Vincent Palmo '52  
Edward Pohlmann, Jr. '53  
Lewis Jacobus '57  
Charles Maguire '57  
Harold Sarvetnick '57  
Martin Dvorin '58  
William Grabler '58  
Dudley Smythe '58, '66  
Joseph Daly '59  
John Hudak '59  
Frank Chillemi '61  
Theodore Berger, Sr. '62  
Vincent Naimoli '62, '09 HON

Thomas Grygotis '63  
Warren Jessop '63  
Ihor Senyk '64  
Donald Freeman '65  
Robert Mielnik '65  
George Simonson '65  
Ronald Stang '65  
Ronald Bromirski '69  
Anthony Babula '70  
Frederick Burbank '70  
Joseph Garfall, Jr. '70, '82  
Russell Jockel '70, '78  
John Parsons '70, '86  
Michael Iskra '71  
Raymond Barbiere '72  
Robert Keymetian '72

John Conrad '73  
Luis Tavares '76, '85  
Susan Borg '77  
John Tosco '77  
John Oshust '81  
Frank Rice '81  
Michael Sheehan '81  
Steven Buckner '85  
Susan Gieser '85  
Joseph Meehan '88  
Joanne Pepe '88  
James Wallace '94  
Manuel De Brito '97, '01  
Alex Peña '97  
Alexander Babia '18