



HELLO ALUMNI!



CAN STILL REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST MOVED INTO THE RESIDENCE HALL. (NOW KNOWN AS REDWOOD HALL, AT THE TIME IT WAS THE ONLY DORMITORY ON CAMPUS.) AFTER A YEAR OF COMMUTING, I SAID GOOD-BYE TO THE THIRTEEN-MINUTE WALK FROM THE ÉRIE LACKAWANNA STATION ON BROAD STREET IN ALL TYPES OF WEATHER. I SAID FAREWELL TO WAKING UP BEFORE THE SUN CAME UP TO CATCH MY TRAIN. I SAID HELLO TO SLEEPING LATER, MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND GETTING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

Of course, living in a dorm was not just fun and games. It was also a major step in personal growth. I learned to budget the money in my wallet for the week. I did my own laundry (or at least kept it organized enough to know what to bring home). And I had to manage relationships.

Roommate: A person who can enhance college life by providing long-lasting friendship; also, someone who can make the experiences a disaster. I was fortunate in the roommates that I had. Some folks were not, but after one semester, one person usually resolved the situation by moving out. Isn't that part of life, though – taking the chance to form a new relationship and taking corrective action as needed?

If an incoming freshman asked my advice, I would strongly recommend living on campus. From a personal perspective, you leapfrog into maturity, and from a career perspective, you make friends (that includes roommates) who stay with you for the rest of your life. The experience is an invaluable part of a college education.

At the Alumni Association of NJIT, we are committed to assisting students (residential and commuter) in any way we can. We are also interested in your feedback. Drop us a line or write us to share your thoughts on campus life. Remember to include your class year. You can phone us: 973.596.3441 or write us: Alumni Association of NJIT, 323 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Newark NJ 07102-1982.

Sincerely,

Colin M. Dino '85
President, NJIT Alumni Association

SOARING EAGLE

Last summer, Nancy Czesak journeyed into the Alaskan wilderness with her husband and her twelve-year-old son to search for grizzly bears, elk and bald eagles soaring overhead on Northern winds — and to hike across a glacier, requiring them to rappel hundreds of feet down icy cliffs.

Was Czesak familiar with mountain climbing? “I’ve only done it in a gym before,” she says. Was she nervous? Yes. So why would a forty-five-year-old urban professional woman want to do this? Her answer: “I like to push myself.”

She was never the traditional sort. The first girl ever enrolled in drafting classes in Columbus Junior High in Clifton, New Jersey, her parents had to beg for special permission from the principal to allow it.

After graduating from NJIT with a degree in civil engineering and a minor in urban studies, Czesak worked for redevelopment agencies in Newark and Jersey City, eventually focusing on low- and middle-income housing. She found the construction end most compelling because it required creativity and nuts-and-bolts problem-solving skills. So she pursued a master’s degree in construction management — not the most popular career choice for a woman.

Czesak even found her current job in a rather unique way. She spent days driving around New York City to see whose name was on the most interesting projects. It was Tishman Construction Corporation. She applied and got a job. Seventeen years later, she is vice president and project executive — one of very few women in her field.

It proved to be a perfect spot for her. She’d always wanted to work in an urban environment, building structures that enriched the social fabric. “Tishman does those kinds of projects,” she says, which is one reason she’s stayed so long. Another is that the company has given her projects that are technically challenging and architecturally interesting. Future projects include the construction of



a performance space for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and a charter school/recreation facility/safe zone for the Harlem Children’s Zone.

A current project, one of her all-time favorites, is Zankel Hall, begun in 1999. Her mission: to build a state-of-the-art performance venue below Carnegie Hall. The Carnegie Cinema was removed, and her team excavated twenty-one feet of bedrock beneath Isaac Stern Auditorium while Carnegie Hall remained open with a full concert schedule — exactly the kind of challenge Czesak thrives on.

—Sharon Guynn

Nancy Czesak '79 is a recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award presented at the University Awards Ceremony in October.

NANCY CZESAK (RIGHT) FOUND THE CONSTRUCTION END MOST COMPELLING BECAUSE IT REQUIRED CREATIVITY AND NUTS-AND-BOLTS PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

ICONS CARL H. ROSNER

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY, SERVICE AND SUCCESS



CARL ROSNER HOLDS SUPERCONDUCTING WIRE USED IN MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING MACHINES

Talking with Carl Rosner, it's hard not to share his enthusiasm for the potential of superconductivity (S.C.) in fields such as medicine and energy technology. Even after a long career developing S.C. applications at General Electric (G.E.) and Intermagnetics General Corporation, he is now doing groundbreaking work as president and CEO of CardioMag Imaging, Inc. (CMI), which produces systems that use S.C. sensors to record the heart's electrical activity in a fast and more accurate non-invasive manner. While Rosner's life has been

one of exceptional accomplishment, he has also survived the worst horrors of World War II. In 1945, American troops liberated the teenaged Rosner and a younger brother from the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. They were reunited with their mother in Sweden, where she had been able to escape the Nazis.

In Sweden, Rosner earned a degree in electrical and telephone engineering. He and his wife, Frieda, emigrated to the United States in 1952, where they joined Frieda's immigrant parents in New Jersey.

Deciding that he needed a U.S. college degree, Rosner chose Newark College of Engineering because it was a good local school whose graduates were hired by top companies. After graduating with a B.S. in electrical engineering in 1955, Rosner joined G.E., embarking on a career that has included distinguished advisory service to industry, education and government.

Rosner has received numerous honors for his work with superconductivity, including election to the National Academy of Engineering. In 2002, he received the Max Swerdlow Award for Sustained Service to the Applied Superconductivity Community from the IEEE. Rosner is now working with the IEEE to establish a scholarship for students who wish to study practical applications of superconductivity, a field he continues to pioneer.

— Dean L. Maskevich

Carl H. Rosner '55 is a recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award presented at the University Awards Ceremony in October.

THINK LIKE AN ENGINEER, SELL LIKE AN ENTREPRE- NEUR, RELAX LIKE A SCOUTMASTER

Jeffrey Milanaik stopped playing golf when his first son was born thirteen years ago, except for an occasional business game. He remembers thinking at the time, "I have sixteen years to help shape his mind and character. This isn't a dress rehearsal." A brother followed three years later, then twin sons the next year. His family is his main spare-time activity. All the boys are in the scouting program, and he is a scoutmaster and cubmaster. Mid-July finds him deep in the Adirondack Mountains with his two oldest sons and twenty-eight other boys at scout camp, tent camping on a lake where cell phones don't work.



JEFFREY MILANAİK'S FAMILY IS HIS MAIN SPARE-TIME ACTIVITY. ALL THE BOYS ARE IN THE SCOUTING PROGRAM, AND HE IS A SCOUTMASTER AND CUBMASTER.

For the president of Heller Industrial Parks, that is quite a different routine from a normal day, which can stretch to twelve hours. Heller Industrial Parks builds, owns and manages fourteen million square feet of warehouse in six states. It is one of the largest privately held industrial real estate owner/investors in the nation. The majority of warehouses are concentrated in New Jersey — one third of the U.S. population lives within a three-hundred-mile radius of New York City. "People consume goods, and goods need to get to consumers," he says.

But twenty-first-century warehouses are no longer defined by a guy with a pallet on a loading dock. These buildings are sophisticated and

often custom-designed to accommodate everything from freezer/coolers to hazardous material spill containment. Some are even explosion-proof. Every building has a computerized warehouse management system that is radio-frequency controlled to track live inventory. "Big companies like Wal-Mart, demand instant information and delivery," says Milanaik. "They don't want to pay inventory costs, but they want goods when they want them." His engineering background comes in handy when planning these smart warehouses.

Milanaik graduated from NJIT in 1980 with a mechanical engineering degree. A new co-op work study program helped him figure out that "design engineering wasn't for me." He wanted to blend technical expertise with business, and that sent him to Carrier Corporation as a sales engineer.

At Carrier, he sold and directed mammoth projects including the installation of air-conditioning and ice-making machines at Continental Arena, and the installation of seven twenty-foot high, sixty-foot long, fifteen-hundred-ton air conditioning centrifugal chiller machines in the seventh basement of Battery Park City.

Seven years later, he was approached by Ike Heller, who was looking for someone to join his industrial real estate business, someone who could both think like an engineer and sell. "It was a big change to go from working at a large corporation to being an entrepreneur," Milanaik says. Within a year, he became a partner. In 1998, they created a new parent company, Heller Industrial Parks, and named Milanaik president.

He credits his education for creating the mindset that built his success. "I can't sing enough praises about NJIT. It really trained me to think. Engineers are problem-solvers," he says. He's hired a bunch of NJIT grads — for the same reason that he's a scoutmaster: "We have an obligation to go out and help younger people reach their potential in life," he says.

— Sharon Guymap

Jeffrey Milanaik '80 is a recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award presented at the University Awards Ceremony in October.

ICONS MY CHUNG

MASTER OF
TRANSFORMATION

My Chung's success is a delicate stew of brilliance, ambition and opportunity. When his parents emigrated to the United States from China, they came to create a better life for their eleven children. Still, they never imagined that one of their sons would grow up to lead a cutting-edge telecommunications test and management company.

So how did Chung turn a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from NJIT into a position as group president and board member at Spirent?

Some of his inspiration came from his upbringing. Chung's parents owned a laundry where he began ironing shirts when he was six; all of his brothers and sisters pitched in there at one time or another. Working together as a family and being a first-generation American "enabled me to keep a lot of my parents' values: accountability, responsibility and drive," he says.

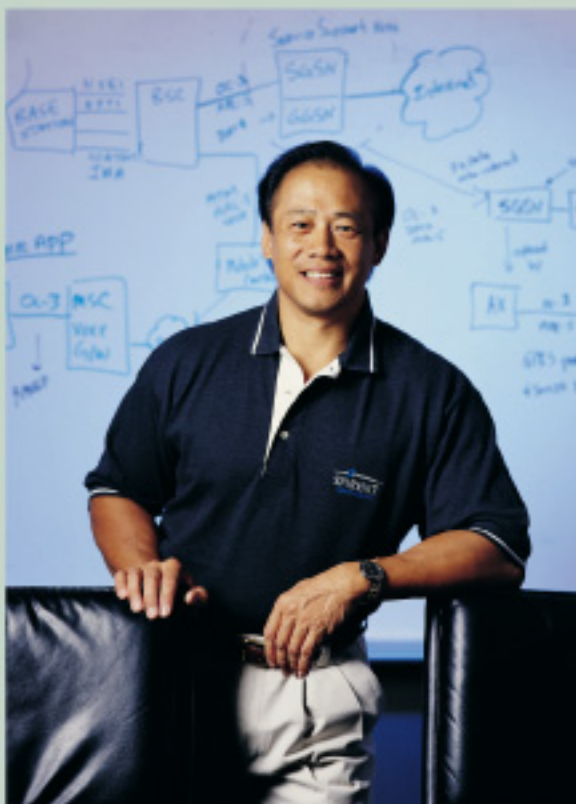
After attending NJIT, Chung started as a design engineer with Burroughs Corporation, creating drivers for display panels.

One day a sales rep from Hewlett-Packard asked him if he wanted a job. Going into sales "was a bit of a risk," Chung admits. But he accepted, and the next eleven years propelled him into management. In 1987, he entered an exploding telecommunications industry with a move to Telecommunications Techniques Corporation, where he rose to become division president for their network services division.

In 1998 he left to start a communications division for Spirent as group president, a position he still holds. His group now produces 80 percent of the company's profits and more than six hundred million dollars in revenues. "We've transformed the company from a diversified conglomerate into a focused communications company," he says with pride.

He now helps customers like Cisco, Lucent and Motorola develop next generation technologies and products. The goal is to bring the communications industry into the twenty-first century. "More and more information and data are being transmitted over phone lines that were originally designed for voice," says Chung. Current circuit switch technology needs to be upgraded to a converged packet network.

The traveling involved in such a high-profile job means he spends about 80 percent of his time away from his home in Rockville, Maryland, missing golf time with his thirteen-year-old son,



Michael. He works at company headquarters in the U.K. and facilities from Scotland to New Jersey to Hawaii, with twice-yearly trips to Beijing, South Korea, Taiwan and Tokyo. "Having the opportunity to build a leading organization in this industry has been a real challenge," he says, "and gives real satisfaction."

He credits his family's ethics and education for creating the strong underpinnings of his career. "My education is the whole foundation for what I do. Technology is continually changing in this business — you need a good, strong background to stay on top of it." And Chung is indeed, on top of it.

— Sharon Guynup

My Chung '74 is a recipient of an AluNnni Achievement Award presented at the University Awards Ceremony in October.

PHOTO CREDIT: BRNO DE WES

AFTER ATTENDING
NJIT, MY CHUNG
STARTED AS A DESIGN
ENGINEER WITH
BURROUGHS
CORPORATION,
CREATING DRIVERS
FOR DISPLAY
PANELS

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

"When we were growing up, my parents were very strong on education," says John Chamberlain. His mother spent fourteen years as an



JOHN CHAMBERLAIN GIVES HIS PARENTS A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR HIS SUCCESS IN SCHOOL, WHICH ULTIMATELY PROVIDED GREAT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

elementary school teacher before marrying. "When I was in grade school, she set up a desk for me in the kitchen. When we got older, we weren't allowed to work during the school year," he remembers. He was, however, a successful entrepreneur in high school, with a thriving neighborhood lawn-mowing and house-painting business.

An aptitude for math and science made engineering school a logical choice. Chamberlain, an honors student, pursued a mechanical engineering degree at NJIT. After his junior year, the university placement office helped him land a summer spot at Pacific Gas and Electric in San Francisco — a dramatic contrast to life in Newark that left him longing to return to California.

As Chamberlain considered his career options, he remembers, "It was kind of a tortured search to find out what I wanted to do. I

didn't want to be sitting in a corner with a slide rule." He took a job at General Electric making airplane parts and fuel cells for NASA's Project Gemini. This was back when data analysis and problem-solving were done without computers. He noticed the decision-making power of his superiors, and decided to return to NJIT to get a master's degree in mechanical engineering.

Afterwards, his career path changed. "Here's the big left turn," Chamberlain says. "I decided I wanted to try selling — where I could use my background." His understanding of technology was invaluable when he took a sales position at IBM in 1966. Later, at Recognition Equipment, Inc., he sold optical scanners for processing airline tickets, then went to Inforex, a manufacturer of data entry equipment.

Chamberlain fulfilled his dream of a life in California when he was offered a job there in 1978 at a company that provided computer consultants to Fortune 1000 companies. He happily relocated his family. A year later, he fulfilled his other dream, starting his own company, Chamberlain Associates, Inc. It provided software developers to Bay Area and Silicon Valley corporations. "I ran CAI out of my house for three years," he remembers. It was a business that thrived during the height of information-technology innovation, ultimately serving over 170 clients. By 1996, when the company merged with Cotelligent Group, it had nearly two hundred employees and was doing a twenty-five-million-dollar yearly business. Chamberlain retired in 1998.

Looking back, Chamberlain gives his parents a great deal of credit for his success in school, which ultimately provided great career opportunities. In 2000, he and his wife established a \$100,000 endowed NJIT scholarship in his parents' memory. "A New Jersey state scholarship helped make it possible for me to get an outstanding college education," Chamberlain says. "We wanted to make that opportunity available to others."

— Sharon Guynup

John Chamberlain '63 is a recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award presented at the University Awards Ceremony in October.

WHEN THE CHEMISTRY IS RIGHT

Amy Pappas leads a demanding life. Her position as chief financial officer of U.S. card operations at Capital One keeps her constantly on the move. She hops the Sunday night train to northern Virginia to work at company headquarters on Monday. Tuesday morning she drives to

M.B.A. at Columbia University completing the program in eighteen months.

Pappas was hired by Morgan Stanley, where she soon pulled a coup, raising twenty-nine billion dollars required to separate the company from Sears, which subsequently merged with Dean Witter. That work made her career. She quickly rose to become senior vice president of planning and capital management.



Richmond to work with the operations division. Friday, she's back in Virginia and catches the late train home to New Jersey. She admits it's hectic. "I have two secretaries. If not for them, I'd be a mess."

Though her career has flourished in the financial world, Pappas began as a chemical engineer. After emigrating from Egypt at seventeen, she graduated from Jersey City's Dickenson High School and entered NJIT on a scholarship. She was overwhelmed by the help offered by professors who tutored her in English and mentored her in other subjects. She still remembers Dr. Menardi, who taught calculus.

Fate stepped in while Pappas was at NJIT and she married and had two children. She took a break from school to raise her two daughters, but returned to NJIT to earn a degree in chemical engineering in 1987. She began as a design engineer with IIT Marlow, creating fluid transfer systems, confronting the challenge of sending various liquids — some corrosive, some dangerous — to top floors of buildings or through industrial plants. But, she remembers, "I was more interested in the financial impact of the work I was doing." So she pursued an

This year, she accepted an offer to become chief financial officer of U.S. card operations at Capital One. With over forty-three million customers last year and forty-five billion dollars in loans, it is one of the top ten credit card companies in the United States.

Pappas spends her spare time with her family, whom she adores. She also loves to entertain, throwing small dinner parties and serving French food. "I love cooking. It's like chemistry," she says. And she still finds time to work with Habitat for Humanity and serve on the Albert Dorman Honors College Board.

Looking ahead, she says, "When I retire, I would like to help out in a meaningful way. I'd like to apply my financial expertise to help nonprofits work more efficiently."

Challenges and changes are welcome in her world. "If you're determined to do something, there's nothing that can stop you."

— Sharon Guymup

Amy Pappas '87 is a recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award presented at the University Awards Ceremony in October.

AMY PAPPAS (LEFT)
BEGAN AS A
DESIGN ENGINEER
WITH IIT MARLOW,
CREATING FLUID
TRANSFER SYSTEMS,
CONFRONTING THE
CHALLENGE OF
SENDING VARIOUS
LIQUIDS

SHARING THE PIE

Newark Bears Stadium, Mountain Creek Ski Resort and Rockaway Square Mall are just a few of the huge, complex projects built by Schoor

quality of life issue," says DePalma. He tries to minimize the inconvenience.

That sense of concern for people's lives includes workers. Schoor DePalma is an employee-owned company. "It's important as



DePalma, an engineering firm based in Manalapan, New Jersey. A one-mile waterfront redevelopment project in Asbury Park, which could take ten years to complete, is in the planning stages. The bigger the challenge, the more president and CEO Stephen DePalma enjoys it.

The Atlantic City Tunnel was one such project. It connects the marina with the city center, cutting through residential neighborhoods. Property owners and environmentalists alike raised concerns over how neighborhoods would be altered amidst great controversy. "So we put it underground," DePalma says, "and put a park above it. It was expensive, but it was also a great solution."

DePalma got interested in civil engineering while at NJIT where he did some surveying and discovered the field dovetailed nicely with government, an area he was so interested in that at one point he had considered a career in law.

There are many small details in construction that impact people's everyday lives and DePalma thrives on finding ways to manage these problems – for instance, where five hundred tunnel workers would park their cars every day. Details also impact smaller projects, like working on a sidewalk or a roadway. "If someone can't get home with their groceries, it's a

part of our growth," says DePalma. "We believe in sharing rewards as well as responsibility. Why not work in a world of abundance and share the whole pie?"

It's a philosophy that has worked. *Civil Engineering News* recently named Schoor DePalma the third best firm to work for nationwide, and they were just ranked seventy-seventh in the U.S. among engineering and design firms. The company has grown exponentially. When DePalma joined the company after graduation in 1972, there were twelve employees. Today nearly six hundred people work in thirteen offices in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

DePalma gives his time and contributes financially in many ways. He serves on the NJIT Board of Overseers helping to raise funds for scholarships and new buildings. And his corporate gift commitment to The Design for the Future Campaign tripled the size of the civil engineering scholarship he established in 1990. "We believe in NJIT, its faculty and administration. Many of our partners and employees are NJIT grads. It's our way to give something back," he says.

— Sharon Guymup

STEPHEN DEPALMA
 (LEFT) GOT
 INTERESTED IN CIVIL
 ENGINEERING WHILE
 AT NJIT WHERE HE
 DID SOME SURVEYING
 AND DISCOVERED THE
 FIELD DOVETAILED
 NICELY WITH
 GOVERNMENT

Stephen DePalma '72 is a recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award presented at the University Awards Ceremony in October.