



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NJIT



IN THE EARLY 60'S, THE NCE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FORESAW THE NEED FOR A CAMPUS STRUCTURE TO SERVE ITS GROWING MEMBERSHIP AND MEET THE NEEDS OF ALUMNI ACTIVITIES. THE STRUCTURE THEY ENVISIONED TOOK FORM AS THE AJJA WILSON ALUMNI CENTER. AFTER CLOSE TO 40 YEARS, THE CENTER WAS RAZED TO FACILITATE CAMPUS EXPANSION AND MAINTAIN NJIT'S WORLD-CLASS STATUS. AS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY'S MASTER PLAN, THE "CASTLE" ON CAMPUS WAS RENOVATED AND ON OCTOBER 7, 2005, THE EBERHARDT HALL NJIT ALUMNI CENTER HAD ITS RIBBON CUTTING. THE CEREMONY WAS WELL ATTENDED BY HONORED ALUMNI AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, WITH DIRECT DESCENDENTS OF FREDERICK EBERHARDT PRESENT TO CUT THE RIBBON AND MAKE THE DAY EVEN MORE SPECIAL. THE CEREMONY WAS THE CULMINATION OF THE TRANSFORMATION FROM WELL-WORN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES THAT OCCUPIED A FORMER ORPHANAGE TO THE SPECTACULAR FACILITY NJIT ALUMNI HAVE TODAY.

I would be remiss if I did not give accolades to the many firms that contributed to restoring Eberhardt Hall: Cody Eckert & Associates, architects of record; DF Gibson Architects, consultants to Cody Eckert; Israel Berger & Associates; A&J Consulting Engineering Services; and Harrison-Hamnett. Special thanks are also due to the university's administration for making it all happen in conjunction with Turner Construction, the construction manager.

It is now up to alumni to get reacquainted with NJIT and the many transformations that have taken place on campus. Alumni can start by taking a tour of the Eberhardt Hall NJIT Alumni Center. They can then enjoy the splendor of the facility by visiting the new University Club, day or early evening, for casual dining and refreshments. It is an excellent location for alumni to meet, socialize, or entertain business associates. Information will be forthcoming regarding membership in the University Club for those who have not yet received it. Also, alumni should look for scheduled activities that will be posted on the NJIT Website, through mailings, or in other NJIT publications. Participation and involvement facilitate the growth of the Alumni Association's programs and the stature of our university.

As I mentioned in my last message, every year the Alumni Association of NJIT honors a select number of distinguished graduates. Last year's Alumni Fête was extremely successful, and in keeping with the goal of encouraging greater alumni participation, I am pleased to announce that we will be conducting the second annual NJIT Alumni Fête this spring in the Campus Center. We will keep you informed about the details as our planning for the Fête goes forward. I look forward to greeting you and celebrating our bond as NJIT alumni.

I have included my e-mail at the end of this message and encourage you to contact me and your Alumni Association with your opinions and thoughts.

Sincerely,  
John P. Gross, PE '70  
john.p.gross.1970@njitalumni.org

### WHAT'S NEW?

**Do you have a new job, addition to your family, honor, award or publication to share? We want to hear from you!**

There are three ways to send us a class note at Alumni Relations:

1. On the NJIT Website ([www.njit.edu](http://www.njit.edu)), click on "Alumni Resources" under "Alumni & Friends" and then "Class Notes" to access a form that you can use to share your news.
2. By email, you can send news and photographs to [alumni-classnotes@njit.edu](mailto:alumni-classnotes@njit.edu).
3. Via U.S. mail, send news and photos with your graduation year(s) to:

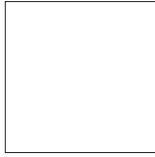
**Robert A. Boynton**

Executive Director, Alumni Relations  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
University Heights  
Newark, NJ 07102-1982

### Editor's Note —

This issue features class notes from the 40th Anniversary Reunion Class of 1966, complementing the updates on fellow grads, reunion classes and events you'll find on the pages dedicated to alumni at the NJIT Website.

# MAL & FRIENDS



**AUTHOR:** MAL SIMON *is professor emeritus of physical education and athletics at NJIT. After joining the faculty in 1955, he served as director of physical education and athletics, and coached the men's soccer team for 30 years. In 1993, Mal was awarded the Cullimore Medal for his many years of dedicated service to the university.*

Andrew Brown '63, who died of prostate cancer in 1987, will be inducted into the 2006 NJIT Athletic Hall of Fame. Andy held the soccer team's career scoring record from 1958 until 1976, scoring 32 goals in 31 games. A member of Sigma Pi fraternity, he served on the Athletic Association and Intramural Council. Andy, who was in the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Fighter Group, was called up in his senior year for the Berlin crisis and sent to Chaumont, France.



Andy Brown in his NCE yearbook, and with Patricia

Returning to NCE, Andy completed a degree in mechanical engineering. I have been communicating with his wife, Patricia, who lives in the Bowie, Maryland, home she and Andy built in 1966 when Andy was transferred to the Washington, DC, area for his job with Worthington Pump. Andy started a soccer program for local youth and was instrumental in developing the Bowie Soccer Association. He coached a select team for eight years, served as the association's president and referee commissioner, and was an official in the Metropolitan Washington Soccer Association. In appreciation of Andy's contributions to his community, the city of Bowie named a soccer field after him and

installed a plaque in his memory at city hall. Andy and Pat have two sons, Andrew, who lives in Sarasota, Florida, and Kevin, who lives in Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

Sigma Pi alumni from the Classes of 1968–75 and their wives, some coming from California, Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia, reunited at the Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, home of Lee '70 and Terri DeAlmeida. Attending were Jim Askew '75, Ed Coll '71, Fred D'Alessio '70, Lino DeAlmeida '70, Steve Fronapfel '73, Phil Hatsis '71, Russell Jockel '70, Joe Kavalus '71, Curt Koeppen '70, Tom Krakow '70, Tom Luciano '70, George Marmo '71, Jim McDonald '71, Mark Piotrowski '68, Raphael Rucco, Bob Slawek '70, Ed Szczepanski '69, and Bill Teresavage '71. Ed Cruz '63 and Mike Mulshine '61, who were in the area playing golf with me, were also invited to join the group.

Fred D'Alessio and Tom Luciano organized the reunion. Fred was president of the NCE Student Union and was responsible for planning concerts, speeches and other social events. He holds BS and MS degrees from NJIT and an MBA from Rutgers. After 30 years with Verizon, he retired as president of the Advanced Services Group and lives in Great Falls, Virginia, with his wife, Joanne.

Tom, who was Sigma Pi's Sage in his senior year, completed a 33-year career at AT&T in 2004 as a vice president managing AT&T's international long-distance service contracts with foreign telephone companies. Tom now owns International Telecom Strategies and Solutions and works with international carriers as a consultant. He and his wife live in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, and have a summer home in Lavalette.

After graduating as a civil engineer, Lino DeAlmeida earned a juris doctor degree from Seton Hall Law School. He practiced as a trial lawyer for five years, specializing in cases related to product liability and construction, before becoming general manager for Al Zeid/Almeida International. Since 1983, Lino has started up and served as president and CEO of four companies in the construction, gas and oil industries. He is currently chairman and president of Consolidated Construction Management Services in Colts Neck, New Jersey, and serves on NJIT's Civil Engineering Department Advisory Board. Lino and Terri have three sons, one a recent NJIT graduate.

Four of the Sigma Pi brothers were teammates for four years on the varsity baseball team. Ed Coll spent his career in the automation industry. He is presently managing director of Metso Automation's Power Automation Systems Unit in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, and lives with his wife, Bonnie, in Ambler. Ed commented that the NJIT baseball program has come a long way from when his teams practiced at Branch Brook Park and had no home field. He hopes today's players have as much fun as they did back then.

Joe Kavalus, another four-year varsity baseball player, participated in intramurals and was a member of the Athletic Association. A resident of Cranford, New Jersey, he spent most of his career with Ciba-Geigy in project engineering and project management. Curt Koeppen was the baseball team's two-time MVP, team captain, and class president in his junior and senior years. Joining Bell Atlantic, now Verizon, he retired after 30 years as Verizon's executive in charge of consumer data services.

Curt has been active in the NJIT Alumni Association and has served as president. He lives with his wife, Sharon, in Lake Forest, Florida. Jim McDonald was co-captain of the baseball team with Joe Kavalus as seniors. Jim was active in student activities, served on the Student Council and was in Tau Beta Pi. He worked for Moore Products as a sales engineer for 28 years, retiring as vice president of sales. He lives with his wife, Eileen, in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

Russell Jockel earned a BS in civil engineering and a master's in management at NJIT. He was a member of Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering society and participated in intramural flag football. Russ wrote, "I am luckier than I had dreamed or deserved. Started off by marrying the best and most beautiful woman in the world (met Carol at Sigma Pi party). Had two terrific children together." Russ and Carol live in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Their twin sons, Chris and Jeff, will graduate from UMDNJ – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School next year.

Tom Krakow began his civil engineering consulting career with Edwards and Kelcey before moving to Abbington Ney Associates, where he was promoted to vice president and manager of their South Brunswick, New Jersey, office. I have benefited from Tom's expertise, as he gave me astute advice when I was purchasing undeveloped land in Vermont. In 1991, he relocated to the San Francisco area and lives in Lafayette, California. Tom is the regional manager, treasurer and a director of DKS Associates.

George Marmo, who was student director of intramurals at NCE, has worked in the health care industry for more than 30 years with Johnson & Johnson, CR Bard, and now at Bayer Health Care in Morristown, New Jersey. While earning an MBA in technology management at Fairleigh Dickinson University, he spent his last semester in Wroxton, England, where he received certification in international business. George was the speaker at last year's annual Sigma Pi Founders Day. The title of his speech was "9-5 Doesn't Matter – It's What You Do Outside Work that Really Counts." George and his wife, Jean, live in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, where George and neighbors have put the theme of his speech into action by raising funds to start a Boys and Girls Club that serves over a thousand children with an after-school homework assistance program and many sports and social activities.



Sigma Pi alumni from across the country were recently hosted by Lee DeAlmeida, who's at left in the first row on the boat.

Mark Piotrowski retired in 2003 as vice president of global operations for Warner Lambert, now Pfizer. He began his career at Proctor & Gamble and moved to Minnesota as vice president of operations for Pillsbury. He has managed more than 50 companies in over 70 countries. George is a sponsor of an orphanage in Puebla, Mexico. While maintaining an apartment in Hoboken, New Jersey, he lives much of the year in Breckenridge, Colorado, where he is an active downhill skier and mountain biker.

Bill Teresavage worked for Terminal Construction in Wood Ridge, New Jersey, for nearly 30 years as a field engineer on various projects, including the Meadowlands Arena and the Tokomak Fusion Reactor in Princeton. He is now the chief estimator and project manager for H&S Construction of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Bill is active in the Knights of Columbus and has served as Grand Knight for two years. He lives with his wife, Betty, in Rutherford.

Hosted by 2005 NJIT Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Bob Welgos '62, the golf outing of soccer and basketball alumni was held on a beautiful September day at the Newton Country Club. The foursome of Andre Ameer '78, Joe Branco '74, Norman Loney '77 and NJIT VP Chuck Dees won low-gross honors. Individual honors went to Roger Edwards '63 and Rich Schroeder '66 for nearest to the hole, and Loney for longest drive.

I would be happy to hear from other fraternities and sororities that hold reunions. Keep the news coming to me at [ma.l.simon@njit.edu](mailto:ma.l.simon@njit.edu) or send information and photos to 51 Gettysburg Way, Lincoln Park, NJ 07035.

More news about NJIT alums follows.

## FIRST MEETING FOR PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

ON OCTOBER 7, 2005, MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL GATHERED FOR THEIR FIRST MEETING WITH NJIT PRESIDENT ROBERT A. ALTENKIRCH. DISCUSSION, WHICH WAS WIDE-RANGING, INCLUDED THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, PROGRAMS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT.

Bringing alumni together from around the country is an important step in strengthening the national sense of NJIT community. Council members represent the Board of Overseers, Young Alumni Club, Highlander Athletic Advisory Board, Equal Opportunity Program – Community Advisory Board, Alumni Association of NJIT Board of Trustees, Financial Management Trustees of the Alumni Association, Honors College Alumni

Association, and NJIT Regional Club volunteers. The presidents of the Graduate Student Association, Student Senate and Senior Class also participate as Council members. As the umbrella for NJIT's alumni programs and organizations, the Council is a forum where alumni can share ideas, best practices, and Highlander pride. ■



ICONS PATRICIA A. MUELLER

## GETTING UNDER THE HOOD

Tricia Mueller really knows what's under the hood — figuratively with respect to architecture and construction, and literally when it comes to the car she drives in the Star Mazda race series. Tricia — the name by which friends, colleagues and race fans know her — is a 1995 NJIT graduate with a bachelor's in architecture. She was also in the first class to earn a degree from Albert Dorman Honors College.



**"THE BROAD TECHNICAL BACKGROUND I ACQUIRED AT NJIT HAS GIVEN ME AN EDGE IN RACING."**

A native of Montville, New Jersey, Mueller says that she has been avid about architecture and cars from a very early age. She loved to help her father with hands-on automotive projects, and her mother encouraged learning to drive with a manual transmission. And as for becoming an architect, Mueller says, "I redesigned our home for show-and-tell in the second grade."

Mueller is a devotee of speed on skis as well as behind the wheel of the race car that she purchased and currently maintains largely out of her own pocket. She competed very successfully as a member of the NJIT ski team, and it was this athletic activity that first took her to Colorado, where she moved after graduation and now works for Larimer Square Management in Denver.

Larimer Square, the city block managed by Mueller's firm, is Denver's oldest and most historic area, dating to the mid-19th century. Today, it is vibrant with shops, restaurants and offices and serves as the venue for a host of events. In 1971, Denver's Landmark Commission designated Larimer Square the first Historic District in the state, and Mueller's responsibilities encompass maintaining the block's historic character while accommodating the 21st-century needs of tenants and visitors.

From the start of her career, Mueller has taken on tasks that include managing construction along with architectural design. She attributes this breadth of ability to the unique nature of her academic program at NJIT. "We learned about the basics of construction in addition to the principles of good design, all that you need to know to be effective in the field," she says. "I also think the broad technical background I acquired at NJIT has given me an edge in racing. It really helps to understand the technology involved."

This knowledge, combined with determination and skill, have made Mueller one of the most successful drivers in the Star Mazda Rocky Mountain Championship Race Series. The only woman on this circuit to date, she is candid about the initial reaction of the majority of her male counterparts. "They don't take you seriously. That is, until you start to win." And win she has. In 2005, Mueller captured first-, second-, third- and fourth-place finishes in the Star Mazda Rocky Mountain races. Mueller also doesn't hesitate to credit this success to her track crew and its chief, Mike Calandra. "They keep me safe and help me win," she says.

"Racing is something I've always wanted to do and I want to move on to the next level," Mueller asserts, her passion for the sport clearly evident. That level would be the Professional Star Mazda Championship Series, where she could become the first woman to compete. To achieve this goal, Mueller will have to secure the necessary sponsorship and additional financial backing as well as win on the race track. "But you have to be eternally positive," she is also quick to say.

ICONS RICHARD L. RUGGE

## BALANCING SKILL AND TECHNOLOGY

Although not a professional golfer, Dick Rugge still makes his living by hitting golf balls.

Actually, Rugge doesn't hit the balls himself. That's done by the specialized equipment he oversees at the United States Golf Association's Research and Test Center in Far Hills, New Jersey, where the 1969 NJIT grad is the association's senior technical director. Each year, Rugge and the six other engineers on his team run thousands of tests on new products, particularly balls and clubs, that manufacturers submit to certify compliance with standards set by the association, familiarly known as the USGA.

"Our job is to balance skill and technology in the sport," Rugge says. "There have been many technological changes and improvements over the 500 years that people have been playing golf. Early on, balls were made of leather and stuffed with feathers, and clubs were wood. But skill should give you the winning edge, not having a ball or club that is radically different and technologically superior compared to what other players bring to the course."

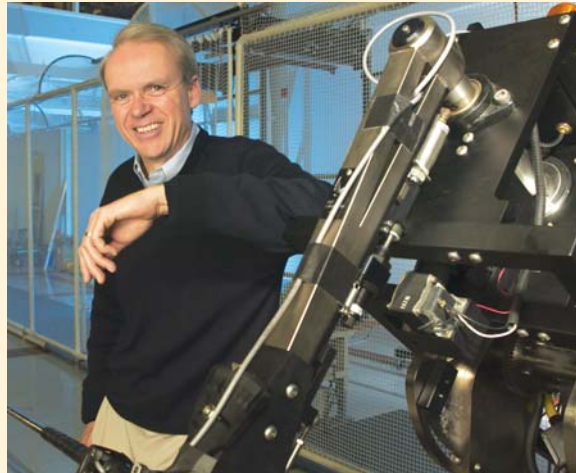
With respect to balls, for example, the test center's "Mechanical Golfer" is used to certify that a ball will not travel more than about 300 yards when hit at a speed of 120 miles per hour by a driver with a titanium head. That speed, Rugge explains, is the swing of a very good golfer.

Rugge, a mechanical engineer, came to the USGA from TaylorMade-adidas Golf. As vice president of product creation, Rugge helped to build the California-based company into one of the world's foremost manufacturers of golf clubs. Yet Rugge, who is an avid golfer, has not spent his entire career advancing and overseeing the game's technology.

After graduation, Rugge spent six years as a tire engineer at Goodyear in Akron, Ohio, before succumbing to the lure of California. "I had never been west of the Mississippi, and maybe listening to the Beach Boys a lot as a teenager had something to do with my heading to California in a Volkswagen van," he says, reminiscing about a very distinctive era in America. "I wound up in Santa

Barbara and did spend some time on the beach before deciding that I had to be a responsible adult and look for a job." That job was with Information Magnetics, where Rugge worked for 13 years and was vice president of quality assurance when he moved on to TaylorMade in 1989.

In addition to seeing significant changes in the technology of golf during his career, Rugge was part of the computer revolution at Information Magnetics. The company was among the pioneer suppliers of components for hard disk drives, and when Rugge came on board the state of the art



Dick Rugge with the Mechanical Golfer at the USGA's Research and Test Center

was a two-megabyte drive the size of a washing machine that cost about \$30,000.

Rugge, who grew up in Bradley Beach, returned to his native state after being recruited from TaylorMade by the USGA in 2000. Saying that this was a great opportunity, Rugge adds wryly, "Fortunately, I was able to convince my wife that New Jersey is really a good place to live. It can be difficult to get people born and raised in California to believe that."

At the USGA test center, Rugge deals daily with scientific principles such as moment of inertia, back spin, lift and drag as they apply to sporting equipment produced by a major industry, and for which the association's approval is financially critical. But Rugge admits that each day he also gets to indulge his own enthusiasm for golf. "I have a job that every amateur golfer dreams about."

"I HAVE A JOB  
THAT EVERY AMATEUR  
GOLFER DREAMS  
ABOUT."

**1966** **\_Alfred R. Amend** (ME), Kendall Park, NJ, retired as a principal engineer for Johnson & Johnson. **\_Peter Apgar** (EE), Paulsboro, WA, is a lead principal engineer for Lockheed Martin Naval Electronics and Surveillance Systems. He was a lieutenant on the *USS Little Rock* from 1967 to 1969 and later employed as a field engineer for Sperry Corporation. **\_William F. Bauer Jr.** (ME), Manasquan, NJ, retired as a supply chain manager for PSEG. **\_Robert Beyer** (CE), Leesburg, FL, has retired as senior project engineer for Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. **\_Horace G. Bischoff**, Rockaway, NJ, is retired. **\_Edward J. Bizub** (EE), Clark, NJ, provides satellite communications equipment and service to the United Nations and worldwide humanitarian organizations. **\_Michael Bogdan** (ME), Manchester, NJ, is a loss control consultant for St. Paul Travelers Company. **\_Stephen Breitkopf** (ME), North Brunswick, NJ, has retired as a principal engineer for Johnson & Johnson. **\_Stephen G. Brothman** (ME), Dallas, TX, is retired. **\_Joseph F. Cascarelli** (ME), Westcliffe, CO, is founder and president of ROI Management Corporation. **\_Leo J. Coakley** (CE), Succasunna, NJ, recently retired as a vice president of Hatch Mott MacDonald, Inc. He remains active in ASDSO-Council for Safe Dams. **\_Charles J. Dettling**, East Hanover, NJ, is retired. **\_Thomas DiFranco** (ME) is a professional poker player at the Taj Mahal and Tropicana casinos in Atlantic City. **\_William J. Ehrhardt** (CE), West Milford, NJ, is a sales engineer with McCloud Enterprises. **\_William J. Fine** (CE), Mantoloking, NJ, retired as deputy director of the Construction Division of the Ocean County Utilities Authority. He is a member of Chi Epsilon Fraternity. **\_Julian L. Freedman** (EM), Hellertown, PA, retired as the director of site management for National Starch and Chemical

Company. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of Management at Baruch College (CUNY). **\_Robert L. Goetze** (ME), Pittsboro, NC, continues to enjoy working full time as a computer engineer at Quest Computer Products, Inc. **\_Michael J. Gogdan** (ME) is a loss control consultant for St. Paul Travelers Company. **\_John David Hajian** (ME), Richmond, VA, works as a software engineer. **\_Louis Hari** (EE), St. Leonard, MD, is a program manager for Booz Allen Hamilton. **\_Richard S. Herman** (EE), Delray Beach, FL, retired as a supervisory nuclear engineer for the Army. **\_Edward Hillis** (EE), Little Egg Harbor, NJ, retired, is a life member of IEEE. **\_Matthew A. Husson** (EE), Poquoson, VA, retired from the Air Force and Newport News Shipbuilding. He currently works part time as a registered nurse in the emergency room at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News. **\_Alan J. Johansen** (EE) is retired from the Air Force. He and his wife, Elinor, are missionaries with OMS International. **\_Wayne O. Jackson** (EM), Parker, CO, retired from Johns Manville Corporation as a vice president and general manager. **\_John F. Karcher, Jr.** (EE), Rockaway, NJ, is retired. **\_Edward J. Klebaur, Jr.** (EE), New Bern, NC, has retired as a manufacturing business manager for Pratt & Whitney. **\_Ralph W. Kirby** (EE), Wilmington, NC, retired after 26 years with IBM. **\_Henry R. Kosakowski** (EE), Bayville, NJ, has retired as a program manager for Honeywell. **\_Henry Kuziomko** (ME), Dover, NH, is an administrator for Solmon Falls Family Physicians. **\_William J. Latona** (EE), North Port, FL, is a retired Rutgers professor. **\_Robert J. Lombardo** (CE), Bradenton, FL, is the founder and president of Lombardo, Foley and Kolarik Inc., a 45 employee consulting firm in civil engineering. He has served as president of the Florida Institute

of Consulting Engineers and vice president of the Florida Engineering Society. **\_Robert Lehrer** (ME), Roswell, GA, is construction manager for Habitat for Humanity. **\_Ronald A. Mancini** (EE), Bushnell, FL, is an engineer at Texas Instruments. Active in IEEE, he is the author of *Op Amps for Everyone*. **\_Charles D. McManus** (CE), Ocean, NJ, works for Vollmer Associates. He is a member of ASCE and ITE. **\_James R. McVey** (ME), Florence, SC, is the president/chief engineer for REAJ Corporation, a consulting and design corporation. He is an adjunct professor and member of the engineering advisory board at Florence-Darlington Technical College. **\_Thomas J. Meany, Jr.** (CE), Fairfax, VA, is the principal of Meany & Associates, an engineering and management company. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, and a member of the Board of Trustees for Professional and Occupational Regulation in the Commonwealth of Virginia. **\_Herbert J. Meyer** (EE), Kill Devil Hills, NC, is retired. **\_Conrad O. Miller** (ChE), Beulah, MI, is retired as an engineering manager from Dow Chemical Company. **\_James R. Pennino** (CE), Kettering, OH, is a civil engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He is the past president of the Society of American Military Engineers and a member of the American Institute of Building Design. **\_Robert Polucki** (CheM), Watchung, NJ, retired corporate counsel and secretary for Ricoh Corporation, was profiled in the fall 2005 *NJIT Magazine*. **\_Mark H. Rackin** (EE), Smyrna, GA, is a staff engineer with Panasonic Automotive Systems of America. He is an active member of IEEE, ARRL and the Consumer Electronics Society. **\_Seymour Reich**, Montville, NJ, is retired from RCA and Rutgers University, and remains active in IEEE. **\_Bruce D. Reinert** (CE), Las

Vegas, NV, is a project manager at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He is a retired lieutenant colonel in the New Mexico Air National Guard. **\_James P. Rutt**, Northville, MI, is the president and COO for BLM Group USA Corporation. **\_Richard E. Schroeder** (ME), Montclair, NJ, is a consultant for Kappa East. **\_Norman Z. Shilling** (ME), Niskayuna, NY, is a product line manager at General Electric. **\_Edward Simin** (ME) is the owner and president of Straval, a valve manufacturing company. **\_Joseph T. Simoniello** (EE) has started a construction firm specializing in bridges and highways. **\_Ronald J. Toole** (EE) is enjoying retirement in Hazelton, PA. **\_Thomas G. Tredinnick** (ME), Ingleside, IL, is president of Radiation Consulting Associates. **\_Steven M. Tiber**, Gilford, NH, and Lake Worth, FL, retired as a systems manager for General Electric. **\_Adrian C. Van Maarseveen** (ME), Horseheads, NY, is a construction project manager for Mitchell-Giurgola Architects. **\_George Vincent** (EE), Galveston, TX, retired as a senior software manager for Dell Computer Corporation. **\_Robert Walczuk** (EE), Manchester, MI, has retired as a senior technical consultant for Lucent Technologies. **\_Arnold I. Waldman** (IE), Rockville, MD, is a financial planner for The Washington Group. **\_Donald J. Wallace** (EM), retired, is a member of the NJIT Endowment Investment Committee, chair of the Financial Management Trustees of the Alumni Association, and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *NJIT Magazine*. He is also active with various groups in the area, including the Newark Public Library and the Newark Museum. **\_Matthew J. Wallasky** (ME), West Milford, NJ, retired as a senior project manager for Foster Wheeler Constructor, Inc. **\_John J. Walsh** (EE), Portola, CA, is a retired CEO of SpotLife Inc., a company that integrates personal video and audio onto Web mes-

sages. **1983** **—Susan Fritzen** (CE) has received an MBA from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

**1988** **—James Spinola** (Arch) has been elected president of the American Institute of Architects, Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter for the 2005 fiscal year. He had served as treasurer and vice president prior to his election as president. Jim is employed at W2A Design Group in Allentown, PA, and serves as vice president and director of

information technology and specifications. In more than 20 years of professional practice, he has worked on many prominent projects throughout the region.

**2005** **—Dimitrios Zarkadas** (ChE), who received his doctorate in 2005 from NJIT, was honored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) for a paper he wrote on process development while a doctoral student. In 2004, he received an AIChE award for a paper on his research in crystallization. Dimitrios now works for Schering-Plough Research Institute.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**Charles R. Bergmann** ~35

**Thomas C. Robinson** ~95

## ALUMNI CALENDAR

For the most current information about all alumni events, visit [www.njit.edu/alumni/events.php](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/events.php). Information is also available from the Alumni Relations Office: 973-596-3411 or [alumni@njit.edu](mailto:alumni@njit.edu)

### CORPORATE CLUBS

Outreach to NJIT graduates working for a wide range of businesses is a primary focus of alumni relations at the university. For employers, a corporate club is an important way to strengthen beneficial ties with NJIT. For alumni, participation in a corporate club fosters networking, mutual support and professional growth rooted in shared workplace experiences. The growing NJIT Corporate Club program is now supported by major corporations that include Hatch Mott MacDonald, PSEG and Schering-Plough, with more considering coming on board, such as Johnson & Johnson.

Corporate Club information: [www.njit.edu/alumni/alum\\_resources/corporateclub.php](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/alum_resources/corporateclub.php)

### REGIONAL CLUBS

Information: Contact the Alumni Relations Office, 973-596-3411 or [alumni@njit.edu](mailto:alumni@njit.edu)

### YOUNG ALUMNI CLUB

The Young Alumni Club is a social and business networking group for those who have graduated from NJIT within the last twenty years.

Upcoming Young Alumni Club activities: wine tasting, scotch tasting, casino/comedy night, barbeque and Newark Bears baseball game, tailgate party at the New Jersey Balloon Festival

Information about these and other club activities:

[http://www.njit.edu/alumni/alum\\_resources/21club.php](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/alum_resources/21club.php)

### ALUMNI REUNIONS Reunions in 2006

Friday – Saturday, May 19-20  
NJIT Campus

Classes of 2005, 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, 1971, 1966, 1961, 1956, 1951, 1946, 1941, 1936

For more information about reunion activities and Alumni Reunion Committee meetings: Contact the Alumni Relations Office, 973-596-3411 or [alumni@njit.edu](mailto:alumni@njit.edu); also visit [www.njit.edu/alumni/alum\\_resources/ClassesandReunions.php](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/alum_resources/ClassesandReunions.php)



ICONS STEVEN J. KOENIG

## BUILDING HOMES AND PROTECTING HERONS

As a builder, Steve Koenig has a slate of awards unique in the industry. Steven J. Koenig Construction, Inc. has been recognized for creating one of the best golf courses in the country and a sanctuary for the birds of coastal South Carolina, as well as garnering many honors for craftsmanship and client service.

Located on some of the nation's most beautiful real estate, the Briar's Creek development near Charleston harmoniously integrates a limited number of home sites and a world-class golf course with a protected habitat for the region's numerous species of birds. Among these are the great blue heron, white ibis, osprey eagles, several species of owls and the endangered woodstork. This environmentally sensitive approach to development, has earned Silver Certification for Briar's Creek under the Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program. This was the first such award given by the society in South Carolina.



"FROM THE START, MY ENGINEERING BACKGROUND HAS BEEN A GREAT ASSET."

In many respects, Briar's Creek is a signature project for Koenig on a career path that began in his native state of Wisconsin and includes the MS in industrial engineering he earned at NJIT. As an undergraduate, Koenig studied industrial engineering at the University of Wisconsin and had started graduate work there when he accepted the job with Union Carbide that would take him and his wife, Sharon, to New Jersey. Sharon agreed to make the move East with an important stipulation — that he enroll in a graduate program in the area. This led to his 1973 MS from NJIT.

Koenig's next corporate assignment was in West Virginia, where he was subsequently offered an



A Koenig creation — Steve Koenig's home at Briar's Creek (Top) Part of the Briar's Creek protected natural habitat

enticing promotion provided that he return to the New York City area. The prospect of relocating to the East Coast did not appeal to Koenig and his family, and he made a life-changing decision. He resigned from Union Carbide in 1978 to start his own construction company, specializing in high-end homes. The time and the place were right, and Koenig Construction was soon recognized for the quality of its work and unique designs.

"From the start, my engineering background has been a great asset, allowing us to stand out by building what might be called 'atypical' designs," Koenig says. "For example, one commission for a sailing enthusiast involved constructing a boat-shaped house on the side of a mountain."

Sensing a softening of the market in West Virginia, Koenig made another key decision in 1985. After careful evaluation of various locations, Koenig Construction moved to South Carolina, where they've built extensively in the Kiawah Island area —and where Koenig initiated the Briar's Creek project with a small group of investors.

Situated on some 900 acres, no more than about a hundred homes will be constructed at Briar's Creek, with Koenig's being one of them. The golf course that is part of the development was designed by the noted architect Rees Jones. *Golf Magazine* listed Briar's Creek among the top 100 courses for 2003 and *Golf Digest* named it the best new private course of 2002.

When asked to reflect on why his company has been so successful in an intensely competitive business, Koenig says that it all comes down to the way he and his team relate to their clients. "Someone who asks us to build a home is placing a great deal of faith in our integrity and abilities, and we work hard to live up to that trust at every stage of a project. As we say on our Website, we build relationships as well as homes."

ICONS MICHAEL J. LUTTATI

## PLAYING IN THE MAJORS

When Mike Luttati became CEO of Photronics in 2005, he took on the responsibility of leading a company that, as he puts it, is competing with very tough major league opponents. The league is comprised of companies that supply the global market for photomasks. Incorporating microscopic images of electronic circuits, photomasks are high-precision quartz plates basic to the manufacture of semiconductors — transistor technology at the heart of the 21st-century economy.

Over four decades, Photronics has become a major player in the semiconductor industry, with research and manufacturing facilities in North America, Europe and Asia. Recently, Photronics has begun to leverage its core expertise in the rapidly growing market for flat-panel display masks. Luttati brings to the Connecticut-based company technical and managerial skills honed through more than two decades in the business. Previously, he served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for Axcelis Technologies. At Axcelis, a producer of semiconductor manufacturing equipment, Luttati was responsible for operations that employed 1,600 people in 16 countries.

Luttati is a 1977 graduate of NJIT, with a BS in engineering technology. He began his career in technical sales at Worthington, a manufacturer of industrial pumps. A Bell Labs internship while at NJIT led Luttati to conclude that basic research didn't appeal to him at that point in his life. "The position with Worthington provided some very important and formative experiences. It was great for developing interpersonal skills," he says. "I learned what was needed to be successful when working with people. It also really helped me understand what makes an effective manager."

Ultimately, Luttati decided that high technology offered better career prospects and he went to work for Teradyne, a supplier of test equipment for industries that included communications and semiconductors. He later joined Eaton Corporation, where that company's evolution presented opportunities that placed him in the top management spot he held with Axcelis once that unit was successfully spun out from Eaton.

Luttati promises that Photronics will continue its tradition of growth and success by being an organizationally agile, technologically savvy competitor. "We have to ship very complex and custom



orders the same day they come in," he says. "There's no backlog in this business. If a customer doesn't get what they need from us when they need it, it can hold up the entire semiconductor fabrication process in a multi-billion-dollar production facility."

But Luttati, who also serves on the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors, is concerned about much more than the competitive moment when it comes to the future of Photronics and the United States. His career has required considerable international travel. Within his first 90 days as the new CEO, he visited Photronics facilities in China, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan in addition to touring sites in Europe and North America. His focus was on meeting staff, major customers and suppliers. This has sharpened Luttati's awareness of the stiff educational competition that the U.S. faces from other countries along with formidable economic challenges.

"The reality is that we're falling behind in educating the engineers, scientists and other technical experts that we need if U.S. companies are to compete successfully in world markets. We must make a greater effort to attract students to careers in science and technology, and to provide world-class instruction from elementary school through college. Corporate leaders must also meet the challenge of weaving the talents of appropriately trained young men and women into the fabric of careers that are both personally rewarding and which build the nation's competitive strength. Yes, it's a long-term commitment, but one that's vital for our future prosperity."

**"WE MUST MAKE A GREATER EFFORT TO ATTRACT STUDENTS TO CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY."**