



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.

I've been awed by the careers of alumni I've written about in past columns and this one will be no exception. They are vivid illustrations of a comment made by Jeffrey Boughrum '65, who hosted a reunion of Pi Kappa Phi brothers in Las Vegas, Nevada, in November 2006. Jeff commented, "Engineers are logical, analytical and practical problem solvers. What better foundation is there for any career?"



Pi Kappa Phi Brothers reunited in Las Vegas (from left): Bob Kee, Charles Monachello, Nick Toomer, Jeff Boughrum, Jim Juliano, Bill Muldowney, Tom Carroll, Tom Chalfant, Bob Mason (back), Tony Kaczka (front), Al Christian, Jack Shynne

James Juliano '65 invited me to speak at the reunion because he thought it would be nice to "reminisce with our old professor and coach." Jim played junior varsity basketball as a freshman and is proud of the letter he earned. He was fraternity historian and is active in the fraternity's alumni group. Jim worked at Monsanto for 22 years in manufacturing, sales and marketing in New Jersey before assignments in Belgium, as a process engineer, and in Brazil, as a marketing manager. He then spent 16 years as national sales director for specialty chemicals with the French oil company Elf/Total. After a brief retirement in 2003, he became a sales executive for UCB, a Belgian company, and is sales manager in America for INEOS, a United Kingdom chemical giant that bought UCB. He lives in Medford, New Jersey, with his wife, Jackie, and plans to retire to Naples, Florida.

Jeff Boughrum, whose father is a 1939 Newark Tech (predecessor to NCE) alumnus, believes that his NCE education and membership in Pi Kappa Phi laid the foundation for his career. Jeff says that fraternity involvement taught him team play along with commitment to and support of others. He was president of the Inter-Fraternity Council and was selected to Omicron Delta Kappa and *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. After leaving engineering-marketing and sales in 1972, Jeff began his business management career with A.T. Kearney Management Consultants, advising Fortune 500 companies on product planning, marketing strategies, and business development. Recruited by Holiday Inns as its first venture manager, he became a senior officer responsible for capital and asset management at 180 hotels. Following senior positions with Ramada Inns and Lepercq Capital Partners, Jeff was recruited by Showboat Inc. as senior vice president with responsibility for developing casinos worldwide. In 1999, he obtained a Nevada real estate license and is currently the senior vice president, private client group, for NAI Horizon and vice president for gaming, NAI Global Hotels, a worldwide commercial real estate firm with 340 offices. Jeff and his wife, Judy, live in Las Vegas.

Robert A. Mason '65 participated in IFC sports, ROTC, and was fraternity treasurer and pledge master. Bob currently works for the Thomas Group, a Texas management consulting firm specializing in optimizing processes. His areas of expertise are design/development, inventory reduction, safety and environmental compliance, high-speed packaging, labor negotiations, construction, and facilities start-up. As a consultant to the U.S. Navy, he reduced the time to train aviators by 50% without additional costs or reduction in the quality of aviator performance. Bob has helped states and companies save millions of dollars. In one instance, he negotiated a unique environmental remedial action program that saved the State of California \$4 million. He spent 10 years in supervisory positions with Chevron, Inc. and was vice president of Castrol, a division of British Petroleum, Ltd. Bob resides in Sarasota, Florida, and Denver, Colorado, with his wife, Lee.

Charles "Chuck" Monachello '65, MS '69 spent 25 years in management positions at Singer Company. Chuck was a consultant for 10 years with the Thomas Group and president of the Thor Group for 5 years. Since 2000, he has been president of Tranter Inc., an affiliate of the Swedish company Alfa Laval that manufactures heat exchangers. At NCE, Chuck was a member of Alpha Pi Mu, AIEE, ROTC and the Young Republicans. He served on the Class Council, was secretary of Pi Kappa Phi, and secretary and Corporation Council member when the current fraternity house was purchased. He had a great job through the NCE Job Placement Center as a weekend lecturer on electrical phenomena at the Newark Museum. Chuck and his wife, Joan, live in Plano, Texas.

Thomas E. Carroll '65 held various positions at Johnson & Johnson from 1965 to 1984, the last as vice president of business development for the Cardiovascular Division. From 1984 to 2000, Tom held executive positions as vice president and general manager for MG Industries, an industrial gas company; president of Advacare, specialists in medical diagnosis; and president/CEO at Mediq Inc., the largest medical equipment rental company in the United States. At NCE, he commuted until his senior year, when he committed to living in the fraternity house. Although he needed a student loan to afford this, he says that the move was a tremendous growing experience he will never forget. Tom participated in intramural and fraternity sports. In his senior year, he was the fraternity quarterback, which resulted in several trips to Saint Michael's Hospital. He was president of AIEE and a member of the Professional Societies Council. Now retired, his activities include travel, real estate investments and small-business consulting. Tom lives in Malvern, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Amy.

Jack Shynne '68 was a member of the rifle team, fraternity treasurer, and responsible for supplying speakers and movies at the campus center. His first professional position was as an electrical and industrial engineer for General Electric Ordnance Systems in Massachusetts. In 1973, he moved to California, where he worked in manufacturing and finance for Fairchild Camera and Instruments until 1984. He then moved to LSI Logic, where he served in financial and marketing positions in the U.S., Japan and Canada. Lent for two years to Silterra Malaysia in Kulim, Malaysia, he directed construction of the country's first water fab, a chemical-mechanical production facility where raw silicon wafers are turned into commercial semiconductor products. While there, Jack met a Malaysian national, Sue, who was working for an electrical subcontractor. They married when Sue came to the U.S. to study at Clark College in Washington. Since

2002, Jack has worked as an independent semiconductor consultant. Jack and Sue live on a small farm in Washington.

Thomas W. Chalfant '70 met his future wife, Michele, at a Pi Kappa Phi party. Tom entered NCE in 1962 but had his college career interrupted when he was drafted into the Army in 1966, only a few weeks after marrying Michele. He served in Viet Nam with the 4th Infantry Division until his discharge in 1968. Returning to NCE, Tom received his degree in June 1970. Owner of Midland Pump, Inc., an industrial pump distributor he formed in 1984, Tom lives with Michele in Hillsborough, New Jersey. He was involved with the Hillsborough Soccer Club for a number of years, serving as its president, and was Board Member for the Mid-Jersey Youth Soccer Association, a league with more than 12,000 youngsters. Mike's major volunteer activity for the past eight years has been as a tour guide at the Education Center of the New Jersey Viet Nam Veterans Memorial.

William Muldowney '63 achieved his goal of retiring early in 1990. After working for Engelhard Industries, he spent 21 years at New York Telephone Company managing building construction. An avid skier and sailor, he skied slopes from Stowe in the U.S. to Zermont, Switzerland, and sailed his Rhodes 19 for 25 years on Barnegat Bay. His current interests are bonsai and traveling. Visiting NJIT on NJIT Day 2006, he was impressed with the campus but notes the lack of a plaque at Summit and Warren Streets in memory of the Club Warren. Bill lives in Barnegat Light, New Jersey.

It was an honor to speak at the reunion. My wife and I enjoyed reminiscing with the Pi Kappa Phi brothers and their wives. I am sure most people do not realize how "spiritual" fraternity brothers are but, following my last presentation, the Pi Kappa Phi brothers sang their "Hymn." It was a heartwarming ending to my stay in Las Vegas.

The Pi Kappa Phi alumni will hold their next reunion in Malvern, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia, on October 11-13, 2007. Tom Carroll will host the reunion and will be sending out information in the near future.

Bob Boynton, executive director of alumni relations, would be happy to work with alumni who want to meet in the Eberhardt Hall Alumni Center. He can also help to develop Websites or newsletters for alumni groups. Contact Bob at boynton@njit.edu or 973-596-3441.

My apologies to those who sent me jokes and to those looking forward to reading them, but I did not have room to include them in this issue. Keep sending news and jokes to me either at mal.simon@njit.edu or coach7157@yahoo.com. And be sure to take a look at the news about alumni that follows.

NJIT MOURNS WILBUR J. KUPFRIAN '33, ENTREPRENEUR, PHILANTHROPIST AND 'QUINTESSENTIAL ALUMNUS'



Laura and Wil Kupfrian

Wilbur J. Kupfrian, one of NJIT's most enthusiastic and generous supporters, died December 6, 2006 at the age of 97. A member of the legendary "33rd Engineers" class at Newark College of Engineering, Kupfrian achieved success as a patent attorney and manufacturing entrepreneur. He and his wife, Laura, who passed away in May 2006, were among the largest private donors in the university's history.

The Kupfrians' major gifts to the university total \$3 million. This includes an endowed scholarship for undergraduate computer science majors in memory of their son, Theodore. A gifted computer scientist involved in developing the LRV moon buggy, Theodore succumbed to cancer in 1995. NJIT's Kupfrian Hall, which houses the Jim Wise Theater and the University Learning Center, is named in honor of the couple.

Charles R. Dees Jr., vice president for university advancement and president and COO of the Foundation of NJIT, describes Kupfrian as the quintessential NJIT alumnus. "Wil was the perfect NJIT success story, a demonstration of our role as a university of opportunity where talented people of limited means can transform their lives," Dees says. "At the same time, he had an incredible dedication to his alma mater. Mainly through his efforts, the class of 1933 was one of the closest-knit groups in the university's history and the most generous. Wil's remarkable spirit and energy inspired everyone who knew him."

Kupfrian received a BS in mechanical engineering in 1933 and a Degree of Engineer in 1935. A clerkship at a law firm as part of his undergraduate co-op experience led Kupfrian to Fordham Law School, where he earned a JD in 1940. After practicing patent law for several years, he joined Elliott Manufacturing Co., a Binghamton, New York, company that made flexible shafting. In 1950, he founded the first of several successful businesses, Kupfrian Manufacturing, which eventually became a division of Robinson Technical Products, Inc. He served as a vice president of Robinson Technical until 1973, and as a director of Robintech, Inc. until retiring in 1977. During the last thirty years, he described himself as a securities trader. After retiring in 1978, he was active in the North River Shore Property Owners Association in Stuart, Florida, serving as president and chairman of its Legal Committee.

With Kupfrian coordinating, the 33rd Engineers reunited almost annually for more than two decades. After their 25th anniversary, with class members located across the country, the group decided to target reunions for intervals of five years or more. Kupfrian helped to organize their 60th anniversary gathering in 1993, though with classmates now in their 80s, the turnout was small. So in 1996, Kupfrian once again took the lead, organizing a class "round robin" to share annual class updates by mail. In 2003, he was the impetus for a 70th "virtual reunion" in which the surviving 33rd Engineers shared reminiscences and greetings on tape, on the Web, and in a special reunion yearbook.

Wil and Laura Kupfrian last visited the NJIT campus in 1999, when the university honored them by dedicating Kupfrian Hall in gratitude for their generous support. Wil said that the gifts were his way of saying thanks to the university.

"Newark College of Engineering did a nice job for me," he told the university community. "I'm very proud of the growth that has taken place at NJIT. Back in '33, it was a very different place, with only three buildings. You have done an impressive job of expanding and developing the institution's potential as an important research university. We wanted to encourage and support that growth." ■

For more about the 33rd Engineers, see the spring 2004 NJIT Magazine online at <http://magazine.njit.edu>