

A NEW SPIRIT IN THE LAND

A NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO THE VOICE OF NJIT GRADS

It's happening from New Jersey to California — a growing cadre of Young Alumni Clubs, Regional Clubs and Corporate Clubs are bringing NJIT graduates together to share common interests and an enduring bond with their alma mater. Fast-rising participation in these diverse local activities over the past few years has also led to another exciting development in 2008 — formation of the new Alumni Association of NJIT announced by President Robert A. Altenkirch in May.

The new association is a direct response to the Alumni Leadership Summit convened at NJIT in early May to cement recent successes in alumni programming into long-standing traditions. The broadly inclusive summit was attended by more than two dozen active alumni leaders who met to develop a new structure of alumni governance for involvement in the life of the university that will promote ever stronger connections between alumni and their alma mater in the years ahead.

The summit concluded with the formation of a new Alumni Association of NJIT, fully integrated into the university's Office of Alumni Relations, as part of the Division of University Advancement. The new association's mission is to advance the interests of NJIT, expand the national alumni network, and continue developing opportunities for alumni to take leadership roles in university affairs.

Driving this dynamic evolution is the new association's

25-member board of directors. Major goals for the board are nurturing strong and lasting bonds between alumni and NJIT, and energizing association governance. Alumni Association President H. David Gnau '85, '89, senior regional sales consultant at Oracle, comes to the board through his engagement with the Young Alumni Club program. As Gnau sees it, "The 'big thing' is to encourage broader participation by alumni in all activities, including association leadership. We're talking about alumni of all ages. Pierre Asselin, our secretary, graduated in 2002 and has been a very active class-reunion co-chair. Benjamin D'Armiento,

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who's a leader in the Regional Club for Monmouth and Ocean Counties, is a 1948 grad. They're all on board."

Gnau's view is enthusiastically endorsed by board members Steven Saperstein '84 and Michele Scott '93, both associa-

tion vice presidents. Saperstein, who is chief operating officer, Prudential Fixed Income, Prudential Investment Management, says, "The formation of the various clubs over the past few years shows that there are many action-oriented alumni. We want those people to get involved at every level." Scott, vice president, DB Global Processing Services, Deutsche Bank, adds, "We want alumni participation in the association to be as inclusive as possible, to foster leadership rooted in action and open to change that benefits everyone."

There are many benefits to participation in the spectrum of activities sponsored by the new Alumni Association of NJIT — from the enjoyment of Young Alumni and Regional Club social gatherings to the additional dimension offered by Corporate Clubs for fostering interaction between employers and NJIT as well as personal career development. But whatever the activity, Anita Rubino '83, senior vice president, global knowledge and internet marketing service at The Nielsen Company, cites a cogent common denominator. Speaking as an Alumni Council member and vice president of the new Alumni Association, Rubino says, "The essential objective of the new association is to be a uniting force, an open and collaborative organization leading by example."

Become a part of the new Alumni Association of NJIT — your Alumni Association. Learn more at www.njit.edu/alumni or call 973-596-3441. ■

