

ALUMNI CIRCUIT

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Anastasia, Peter and Elsa Papanicolaou

WESTON HONOR FOR PETER PAPANICOLAOU

When Peter Papanicolaou left his native Cyprus for educational opportunities in the United States, he embarked on a journey that took him to NJIT, a 1987 BS in civil engineering and a 1989 MS in the same field. It also led to entrepreneurial success with JF Contracting Corporation, and to continuing involvement with his alma mater that includes serving on the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors. For his professional achievements

and generous support of NJIT, Peter was honored with the university's 2008 Edward F. Weston Medal.

Peter joined JF Contracting in 1989 and today is president and principal of the firm. Based in Brooklyn, New York, JF Contracting works with city, state and federal agencies, as well as with clients in the private sector. The firm's expertise encompasses interior and exterior renovation of multi-unit residential properties, banks, corporate and government offices, manufacturing and warehousing facilities, theaters and high-end private residences.

Peter's wife, Anastasia, works with him at JF Contracting as vice president of administration. They met in high school in Cyprus and she, too, continued her education in the United States – at NJIT. Anastasia completed her BS in 1985 and MS in 1987, both in civil engineering. And the Papanicolaou's have another educational bond with NJIT – their daughter, Elsa, is enrolled in the School of Management. ■



BUILDING SAFER HOMES WITH STRAW

Martin Hammer (Arch) '80 is working to make life safer and more comfortable for people in a region of Pakistan devastated by a 2005 earthquake. Since its inception in 2006, he has been involved with Pakistan Straw Bale and Appropriate Building (www.paksbab.org). PAKSBAB, founded by mechanical and civil engineer Darcey Donovan, is bringing straw-bale and other



Top: Two room house, Battal, Pakistan. Above: Martin Hammer (left), Hamid Ullah (home owner), Surkhab Kahn (PAKSBAB director).

sustainable building practices to reconstruction in the foothills of the Himalayas. Straw-bale buildings are earthquake-safe, energy and resource efficient, and low cost. Variations of straw bale construction are practiced throughout the United States and in more than 45 countries.

Martin, a practicing architect in California, has been involved in the design, engineering, construction and testing of such buildings since 1995. He has lectured and written widely about the subject, including as a contributing author of *Design of Straw Bale Buildings*. He has also written a proposed Straw Bale Building Code for the State of California. ■

NJIT'S IRON ALUMNUS

Professional Engineer and part-time athlete **Peter Turek '75 (CE)** placed 19th out of 50 in the 55-59 age group in the 2008 Ironman® World Championship triathlon in Hawaii. A swimmer at NJIT, Peter held school records for freestyle and butterfly. A serious runner after gradua-

tion, he twice ran the New York City Marathon before *Ironman Hawaii* on TV sparked equally serious interest in that competition. Peter's first engineering job was with Killiam Associates, from which he moved on to Studer and McEldowney, where he became a vice president and part owner. In 2006, Peter's career went full circle when his company merged with Hatch Mott MacDonald – formerly Killiam Associates. ■



CLASS NOTES

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 as well as 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 get in touch by sending an e-mail to the editor of NJIT Magazine: dean.maskevich@njit.edu

First, the latest news from Mal —

Readers may have noticed the absence of my photo in the last *NJIT Magazine*, replaced by an action shot of Dena Baskous, architecture major and outstanding varsity soccer player. A number of readers wrote that they missed my photo, so I sent autographed copies to both of them.

Yaroslav "Ike" Kostal '65, now retired from a second government career, was commissioned an Air Force second lieutenant upon graduation and piloted KC-135 tankers and C-130 Hercules missions in Southeast Asia. He capped his Air Force career at the Special Operations School as director for Middle East affairs. Ike returned to the Air Force as a civilian to inaugurate a new Special Activities Field Office at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. He then managed a California-based Naval Intelligence office. After 9/11, he became a liaison between the Navy and Coast Guard for programs that included port security.

The 2008 basketball/soccer alumni golf outing was hosted by **Bob Welgos '62** at the Newton Country Club. The winning foursome: **Roger Edwards '63, Ben Gazdowicz '67, Roy Knutsen '62** and **Rich Schroeder '66**.

Other prizes went to Knutsen and Greg McEntee, son of **Bob McEntee '62** for longest drives, and Gary Nelson, friend of **Bill St. Pierre '63**, and Mal Simon (a set-up) for closest to the pin.

Knutsen, who will host the 2009 golf outing at the Lake Mohawk Country Club, is very active in educational and philanthropic organizations. He chairs the Foundation Board for Sussex County Community College and is a board member of Project Self Sufficiency, which assists families in Sussex County. He is also on the board of the 200 Club, which contributes financially to families that have lost a member killed while serving as a police officer, fire fighter or other uniformed public employee.

Tom Ruck '63 is retired from Bristol-Myers Squibb. At NCE, Tom played varsity basketball for two years and varsity tennis for four years. Still playing tennis competitively, he qualified for the National Senior Olympics in San Francisco by taking the gold medal in the New Jersey Senior Olympics in the 65-69 age group.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have news about your career, your family, an avocation? Share it in a class note for *NJIT Magazine*. And be sure to let us know if you have a new address.

On the Web, use the form at www.njit.edu/alumni/classnotes.

By e-mail, send news and photos with graduation year(s) to alumni-classnotes@njit.edu.

Via U.S. mail to: Robert A. Boynton,
Executive Director, Alumni Relations
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Eberhardt Hall NJIT Alumni Center, Room 218
323 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Newark, NJ 07102-1982

Hank Shinol '62, NCE basketball player for four years, is another two-career alumnus. He retired in 1988 from the Air Force as a colonel. In addition to 2000 hours flying B-52s, Hank flew 110 special-operations missions in C-130s out of Thailand. After the Air Force, Hank managed advanced tech business for General Dynamics, Hughes and Raytheon. He now volunteers as a driver for charitable organizations and enjoys gardening, golf and fishing. Most important to Hank is sharing life with his wife of more than four decades, Loretta, their two sons and four grandchildren.

Alex Khowaylo '63 chaired The Barclays at Ridgewood Country Club, a PGA Tour playoff for the FedEx Cup and major charitable event. Ridgewood received some \$500,000 for local charities, and the PGA will distribute the same amount to national and local agencies. Alex received well-deserved recognition, helping to coordinate participation by town officials, police, over 1000 volunteers, sponsors and many others.

Andy Handwerker '63, Alex's NCE soccer teammate and fellow member of the Ridgewood Country Club, are both in the NJIT Athletic Hall of Fame and generous contributors to the NJIT Soccer Field Fund.

John Walsh '66 and **Paul Tubbs '68** recently met for the first time since NCE days. Starting to correspond by chance, they discovered that John and his wife, who live in San Francisco, were traveling to Tennessee and Georgia for family reunions. Paul lives in Englewood, Tennessee, so they arranged to meet at his home.

There's no end of humorous stories that alumni tell about their college days. For example, talking with **Russ Furnari '79** at the NJIT Celebration gala, we recalled my asking how the Sigma Pi brothers got into the Eberhardt Hall parking lot despite an electronic gate. Russ demonstrated that the gate could be opened by simply touching a specific spot on the ground with an aluminum baseball bat. I would really like to collect more such anecdotes. So keep the news coming and send me your favorite stories at mal.simon@njit.edu or coach7157@yahoo.com.

CLASS NOTES

1956

Edmund H. Hecht (ME), president and principal consultant of EHco Services, Inc., has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at Kremenchuk Mykhaylo Ostrogradskiy State Polytechnic University, Ukraine. He will share his expertise in international marketing, entrepreneurship and management.

Paul A. Jarvis (EE), who writes that he celebrated 50 years of marriage to his wife, Paula, retired as director of engineering services from the National Institutes of Health in 1988.

1985

Samuel J. Armijos, AIA (Arch) has published *Fabric Architecture, Creative Resources for Shade, Signage and Shelter* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2008).

1988

Timothy Krulan (ET) has been appointed a member and chairman of the International Code Council, Pre-Engineered Fire Extinguisher System Exam Development Committee.

1995

Michael Rogalski (CE) received the Project Manager of the Year Award from the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers for his work on the Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation, Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

2004

Michael Passaretti (CoE), working for Honeybee Robotics, designed, built and tested the Icy Soil Acquisition Device for the Opportunity and Spirit Mars rovers.

2006

John Hendrix MS (CE) has been named program director, member and vendor relations for SAFE-BioPharma Association, the non-profit organization that created and manages the SAFE-

BioPharma™ digital identity and digital signature standard for the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries.

2007

Rubik Sheth (ME) is working in the Thermal Systems Group at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston on advanced technology that will be needed for returning humans to the moon.

IN MEMORIAM

NJIT notes with sadness the passing of the following alumni:

Mary Alice Keenan '47

Robert E. Shuck '65

ALUMNI CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 16

**Commencement 2009
at The Prudential Center
in Newark**

**Golden Highlanders Alumni
March and Luncheon**

JUNE 12-14

Alumni Reunion Weekend

JUNE 13

**NJIT Alumni Association
presentation of Alumni
Achievement Awards and
Van Houton Award for
Teaching Excellence**

For more information:
www.njit.edu/alumni/events

CORPORATE CLUBS

NJIT's Corporate Clubs provide valuable networking opportunities for alumni in the workplace while also assisting NJIT students and faculty. Current Corporate Clubs include: Eng Wong Taub, Hatch Mott MacDonald, PSE&G, Schering-Plough, Turner Construction and United Parcel Service.

Corporate Club information and events:
www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs

REGIONAL CLUBS

NJIT Regional Clubs are planning events in California, Florida, Massachusetts,

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York City, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.

Check the Alumni Events Calendar and Regional Club pages on the Alumni Relations Website for more information:
www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs

YOUNG ALUMNI CLUB

The Young Alumni Club organizes social gatherings and networking events for alumni who have graduated within the last 20 years.

For information about Young Alumni Club activities, including career-advancement events:
www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Planning for 2009 fifth-year anniversary reunions is under way for the classes of 1939 through 2004.

For information about reunions and Alumni Reunion Committee meetings, visit your class Website at www.njit.edu/alumni/class.

Reunion information is also available from the Alumni Relations Office: 973-596-3441 or by email to alumni@njit.edu.