

# ALUMNI CIRCUIT

*Doc's passion for literature bolstered his desire to crush the stereotype of "The Engineer Who Can't Write."*

## REMEMBERING DOC ESTRIN

EXCEPTIONAL TEACHER  
AND MENTOR

By Rosemary Culver

When you think of what makes NJIT great, what comes to mind? Innovation. Technical excellence. The willingness to embrace new technology. But poetry, a love of literature, and the ability to put a name with a face? A generous spirit and a gift for communication? Good old Jersey pride?

For alumni who were students of Herman "Doc" Estrin, these things were as much a part of NJIT as applied math, chemical engineering and advanced computer programming. Even now, years after his death in 1999 at the age of 83, Doc remains one of the most fondly recalled professors at NJIT – not surprising for a man who taught thousands of students and could remember all of their names.

From 1946, when he joined what was then Newark College of Engineering as an English instructor, Doc has been a vital part of NJIT. He firmly believed that the school's goal should not simply be the education of well-trained engineers, but of well-rounded, social human beings prepared to be contributing members of society.

His devotion to his students extended outside the classroom – Doc was known to organize activities to help his charges practice their social skills – and has continued beyond his death with the Estrin Scholars Award,



Herman "Doc" Estrin

annually recognizing two students who exemplify leadership and extracurricular involvement.

Doc's passion for literature bolstered his desire to crush the stereotype of "The Engineer Who Can't Write." A good writer lurked inside every engineer and students would write well, Doc felt, if they were encouraged to write about topics that grabbed their interest. He acted as guide and mentor while allowing students a healthy dose of creative freedom, whether within the confines of the classroom or in

his role as advisor to nearly every student publication produced during his time at NJIT, including *The Vector*, *The Nucleus* and, in 1983, *Poetic Engineers*, a book of poetry composed by students.

Never let it be said, however, that Doc disdained the "Technology" component of NJIT. He was an enthusiastic proponent of technical writing, dedicated to bringing more teachers into the field. Doc catalyzed the formation of the Committee on Technical and Scientific Communication within the National Council

of Teachers of English, serving as its first chair, and was a founding member of the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing.

Nor did Doc hesitate to use cutting-edge tools to make better communicators of his engineers. Civil engineer Theodore Cassera '72 recalls Doc using a brand-new gadget, videotape, "to let us see ourselves giving presentations similar to those we'd have to give professionally." The results, Cassera said, "were quite a revelation for most of us."

A true Jersey Boy, Doc was appalled by the lack of knowledge he often found regarding Jersey's homegrown literary talent. To combat this he founded the New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame in 1976; it has since honored authors from Albert Einstein and James Fenimore Cooper to Joyce Carol Oates and Mary Higgins Clark.

Doc's own literary output was extensive. He authored over 400 articles and 14 books on topics ranging from technical writing, grammar and composition to a children's book about the voyage to the moon. His work was honored repeatedly throughout his life, at home and abroad, and the Hall of Fame exists now, in part, as a tribute to his own life and work.

Doc Estrin's legacy lies in his formidable body of work, and in the thousands of engineers who can build the most important kind of bridges – those that stretch between one person and another. ■

# ALUMNI CIRCUIT

## ALUMNI PROFILES

### ABHINAV DHAR

*Engineering the Online  
Marketplace*



A provider of convenience and value – that’s how Abhinav Dhar MS ’95 sees his role as chief technology officer and vice president of the E-Commerce Division at Walgreens. Dhar is at the forefront of a retail revolution that continues to gather momentum daily as millions of consumers shop online for a growing array of products and services.

Dhar came to the United States and, ultimately, to the online marketplace after completing his undergraduate degree at the National Institute of Engineering in Mysore, India. Looking toward this country for graduate programs that would best further his educational and career goals, Dhar chose to work on his master’s in industrial engineering at NJIT. He says that deciding factors included the offer of a research assistantship and the university’s ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*.

Proximity to New York City was a plus as well.

Indicative of how career options for industrial engineers have evolved, Dhar was hired by a New Jersey bank after graduation. Industrial engineers are finely attuned to “systems thinking,” he says. “The discipline’s pragmatic approach to analyzing and improving operations is invaluable in the banking industry and other sectors of the service economy.”

Shortly thereafter, Dhar made the move to a new employer, where his career went in another positive direction. As a business analyst at Bell Laboratories, he was called upon to apply the information-technology (IT) skills he had also acquired in the course of his education. This was an agreeable turn of events, Dhar says, which subsequently took him to the technical consulting division of the company that is now Price Waterhouse Coopers, and then to Cendant Corporation.

At Cendant, he served as director for corporate IT/vice president in the firm’s travel division, and then as chief technology officer for Cendant entities in the United Kingdom and the United States. Dhar’s close involvement with Cendant’s travel subsidiaries led to IT positions with even broader responsibilities at other companies in the industry. “Transportation and the travel business require working with many complex systems,” he says. “That’s why the travel industry is chock full of industrial engineers.”

The call to join Walgreens came while Dhar was working at a travel-technology company in Chicago, responsible for all product development and IT infrastructure. Having been recruited to build a new e-commerce technology structure for Walgreens, he aims to make it a world-class example of retail presence in the online world.

“People are increasingly comfortable with buying a greater variety of products online,” Dhar observes. “Walgreens customers are ordering prints of digital photos, refilling prescriptions, and taking advantage of special coupon discounts on many items. We intend to continue energizing this trend electronically, with a solid e-commerce complement for the company’s ‘bricks and mortar’ success.”

### LOUIS L. RANA

*Three Fulfilling Careers*



“Sometimes it seems as if I started on the job just yesterday,” says Louis Rana MS ’76, reflecting on his four decades at Consolidated Edison Company of New York. Beginning as an

*“NJIT was the only school close to New York City that offered the relevant range of courses in power engineering.”*

*– Louis L. Rana*

assistant engineer in 1969, Rana progressed through posts of increasing responsibility to become the company’s president and chief operating officer. He retired from that position in November, 2009.

“I feel that I’ve actually had three fulfilling careers at Con Edison,” Rana also muses. “I’ve had great experiences in engineering, operations and management. It’s been very rewarding to work in each of these areas, helping to provide the people of New York City and Westchester County with essential utility services.”

Rana connected with Con Edison the same year he completed his undergraduate engineering degree at Stevens Institute of Technology, whose campus was near his home in Hoboken. He learned a great deal about the business of supplying customers with electricity, gas and steam in his first few years at Con Edison. But he eventually felt the need for more in-depth knowledge of power-industry technology and enrolled at NJIT to study for a master’s in electrical engineering. NJIT was the only school close to New York City that offered the relevant range of courses in power engineering, he says.

Rana takes satisfaction in being part of a utility that has long met the needs of its customers with state-of-the-art technology, reliability and efficiency. Moreover, as a manager, he has enjoyed his role in training and motivating people to do their best, both for themselves and the customers they serve. Encouraging talented men and women to achieve their full



## ROASTING IN VERMONT

Dick Sweeney '82, co-inventor of the Keurig single-cup coffee machine, flanked by Joel Bloom, vice president for academic and student services and dean, Albert Dorman Honors College (left) and Charles R. Dees, Jr., vice president for university advancement, recently shared a coffee “cupping” session at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters in Waterbury, Vermont. Green Mountain and its partner Simatelex, the manufacturer of the Keurig coffee maker, have endowed a \$100,000 scholarship at NJIT.

potential has also been a rewarding aspect of his membership on the board of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME).

Invited to join the NACME board when he became president of Con Edison in 2005, Rana sees his participation as complementing the company's commitment to developing a workforce that

mirrors the dynamic diversity of our region. He also congratulates NJIT on its recent NACME Rising University Star Award, which recognizes NJIT's partnership in the mission of inspiring the best and the brightest of all backgrounds to pursue technological careers.

## 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](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/classnotes).

**By e-mail**, send news and photos with your graduation year(s) to [alumni-classnotes@njit.edu](mailto: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

“It’s great to see the talent that we do have in our area, and it’s essential to encourage young people to develop the skills that we’ll need to rebuild our infrastructure and implement new technologies, in power as well as many other fields,” Rana says. “The Obama Administration recently established a multi-billion-dollar program to upgrade the nation’s power grid, the most ambitious such effort in our country’s history. This is the level of commitment that it will take to move us away from dependence on foreign oil through alternate power-generation and plug-in electric vehicles. I’m very optimistic – I’m sure we’ll have the scientists and engineers to make it happen.”

### CLIFFORD M. SAMUEL *Building a Healthier World*

As a young teenager in the Caribbean nation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Clifford Samuel '88 wanted to become a lawyer. But then he emigrated with his parents to the United States, and upon arriving at Kennedy Airport saw the New York area's bridges. “I asked who built these amazing structures and was told that they were the work of engineers,” Samuel says. “That’s when I decided to become an engineer.”

It was a decision that started him on the path to his BS in mechanical engineering from NJIT.

Today, Samuel is helping to build a healthier world rather than bridges. He’s vice president for international access operations at Gilead Sciences –



a California-based biopharmaceutical company whose products include medications for HIV/AIDS, liver disease, and serious cardiovascular and respiratory conditions. Samuel is working to bring Gilead's leading-edge therapeutics to people in some 130 countries. Many of these people live in developing nations, where Gilead seeks to make its products available to those in need at reduced prices.

# ALUMNI CIRCUIT

*Although he lives and works far from New Jersey, Samuel maintains a strong bond with his alma mater.*

ALUMNI PROFILES, *continued*



PHOTO: MEGHAN SULLIVAN

## LEARNING WHAT IT TAKES

Vincent Naimoli MS '62 (ME) and two of the many students to whom he spoke in November about his career path as chairman and CEO of Anchor Industries International and chairman emeritus/founder of the Tampa Bay Rays. Naimoli returned to campus as a speaker in the Sullivan Memorial Lecture Series, which invites alumni to reflect on their careers and share what they have learned about the challenges of achieving success.

Closer to home, Samuel is a member of the Community Advisory Board for the AIDS Health Project organized by the University of California, San Francisco. This effort provides comprehensive medical and social support for individuals in the Bay Area afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

NJIT's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) was the portal to Samuel's career in the pharmaceutical industry. Samuel entered NJIT after attending Newark's Vailsburg High School, his studies there enriched by intensive weekend and summer instruction in math and science at the Stevens Technical Enrichment Program (STEP). Collectively, these experiences gave him the background necessary for successful completion of his degree.

Upon graduating from NJIT, Samuel became an engineering intern at Maxwell House in Hoboken, where he evaluated the efficiency of coffee-roasting equipment. However, when the operation was relocated to Texas, interns were not invited. Samuel moved on to work as an applications engineer for Tecnimat/TDS, a telecommunications reseller, and discovered a strong affinity for sales.

Attracted by a newspaper ad for a sales position with the pharmaceuticals division of ICI, Samuel submitted his resume – and received a positive response. “ICI was looking for people with a technical background and sales experience, though not necessarily in pharmaceuticals,” Samuel

explains. “They were interested in applicants willing to learn about the industry, and how ICI did business.”

Embarking on a career in pharmaceuticals, Samuel's next position was with Glaxo Pharmaceuticals, where he helped to introduce various products, including AZT and 3TC. These were the first widely available antivirals for combating HIV/AIDS. Samuel joined Gilead in 1996, rising to his current position through posts with substantially increasing responsibility in sales, managed care and operations.

Although he lives and works far from New Jersey, Samuel maintains a strong bond with his alma mater. In addition to serving on the Board of Visitors of Albert Dorman Honors College, he supports a scholarship for EOP students who have followed him at NJIT. ■

# CLASS NOTES

## MAL & FRIENDS

*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, and 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 send an e-mail to the editor of *NJIT Magazine*: [dean.maskevich@njit.edu](mailto:dean.maskevich@njit.edu).

*First, the latest news from Mal —*

**Kjell Bjorkman '58, Frank D'Alessio '63, Austin Alvarez '68, and Steve DeSteno '69** attended NCE during my early years at the school. It was a pleasant surprise to see them among the alumni and friends at the dedication dinner for the naming of the J. Malcolm Simon Stadium.

Kjell, who learned to play soccer in Sweden where he was born, came out for the NCE team in his sophomore year and became team captain in his senior year. His first job was at Newport News, Virginia, where he helped design the *Enterprise*, the world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier. He moved to York, Pennsylvania, where he worked on missile test equipment for Bendix, and as a product engineer for York Air Conditioners. In 1976, Kjell opened his own business, The Coolkeepers, which specialized in sales, distribution, installation and service of automobile air conditioners. He retired and closed the company in 2005. Kjell lives in Dover, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Karen.

Frank, who also received an MS from NCE in 1968, earned both degrees the hard way, attending night school while employed at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, New Jersey. He is a member of Eta Kappa Nu, the international honor society for

electrical and computer engineers, and a life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Now retired, Frank and his wife, Marion, who also worked at Bell Labs, live in West Orange, New Jersey. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Austin has worked for General Dynamics Electric Boat (EB) in Groton, Connecticut, for more than 41 years. EB is a 100% defense contractor and primary designer and builder of nuclear submarines for the U.S. Navy. While at EB, Austin earned an MSCE from the University of Connecticut and an MBA from RPI. He currently holds the top technical position as staff engineer and technical leader for shock and structures development. Austin has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from SAVIAC (Shock and Vibration Information Analysis Center) and was inducted into UConn's Academy of Distinguished Engineers in 2009. He resides in Gales Ferry, Connecticut, with his wife, Carol.

Steve played on the junior varsity basketball team that I coached before he moved on to the varsity for his last three years. A few years after graduation, he decided to change careers and went to dental school, earning a DMD and establishing

his practice in Rutherford, New Jersey. Along with former teammate **John Bober '69**, who was also at the dedication dinner, Steve keeps in shape playing basketball each Tuesday on Alumni Night at NJIT. Steve lives with his wife, RoseAnn, in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey.

Another pleasant surprise was a congratulatory e-mail from **Ray Bilott '56**, who was captain of the first soccer team I coached in 1955. Ray joined the Air Force after graduation and served for 24 years all over the world. His service included flying with six H-bombs on a B-52 during the Cuban Missile Crisis and flying 100 combat missions over North Vietnam. Promoted to Lt. Colonel, he served as a program manager in electronic warfare. After retiring from the Air Force in 1980, Ray earned a law degree at the University of Dayton. He was a prosecutor for the city of Dayton, Ohio, where he lives with his wife, Emily, and retired in 2008.

Other alumni at the dinner were **Rudy Sapp '81, Bill Morris '82, Paul Bette '85, and Nelson Gralha '85**. Rudy and his wife, Gissella, live in Baldwinsville, New York, with their sons Gabriel and Rudy, Jr. They decided to make the move from New Jersey after the destruction of the World Trade Center. Shortly after moving, Rudy established his own home inspection company. Rudy had an extensive playing career as an outstanding goalkeeper at NJIT and with professional soccer teams in New York, New Jersey and Italy. He is also a successful soccer coach, having coached the boys' teams at Memorial High School in West New York, New Jersey, and Cato-Meridian High School, New York. He has won Coach of the Year awards at both schools.

Bill, who also earned an MS from NJIT in 1993, worked for a general contractor in New York City before moving to Epic Management in Piscataway, New Jersey, where he has been for 24 years. He has managed construction projects for over 50 school districts and three minor league baseball stadiums in New Jersey. Bill lives in Manalapan, New Jersey, with his wife, Patrizia, and their children Alexandra and Nicholas.

Paul also has a master's from NJIT. He has worked in the telecommunications industry since graduation, with 20 years of service at AT&T. Paul, who is director of finance for worldwide customer service, holds two patents for network service assurance automaton techniques. In 1998 he worked in Frankfurt, Germany, with AT&T's German partner, Mannesmann ARCOR. Paul has kept active in soccer as a player and coach with the German American Kickers in Trenton, New Jersey, and as a referee. He lives in New Egypt, New Jersey, with wife, Ann Marie, and twin sons Michael and Christopher.

Nelson, a licensed architect, is a project manager at Hunterdon Medical Center. He lives in Pittstown, New Jersey, with his wife, Joyce, and sons Trevor and Collin. Nelson holds a United States Soccer Federation coaching license and coaches his sons' soccer teams.

The 2009 soccer/basketball alumni golf outing was held at the Lake Mohawk Golf Club, hosted by **Roy Knutsen '62**. Team competition ended in a tie between the soccer foursome consisting of **Bob McEntee '62** and his sons, **Jeff '90**, Scott and Gregg, and the basketball foursome of Roy,

# CLASS NOTES

**Rich Schroeder '66, Roger Edwards '63** and NJIT coach Jim Engles, who made a noteworthy debut at the outing. Individual awards went to Nelson Gralha for the longest drive, and to Jeff McEntee, Rich Schroeder and NJIT Athletics Director Lenny Kaplan for closest-to-the-pin on three three-par holes. Names were drawn for special prizes. **Paul Dreyer '64** won a putter donated by **Rick Baptista '85**, and **Efrain Borja '77** won an NJIT Highlander golf bag. **Skip Wilkins '64, Henry Shinol '62** and **Gary Mould '88** won NJIT Athletics jackets donated by Lenny. The 2010 outing, to be held at the Newton Golf Club, will be hosted by **Bob Welgos '62**.

Alumni are urged to help complete the NJIT Athletics Department archives.

The all-time team rosters for men's and women's basketball and soccer, baseball, and women's volleyball are up-to-date, and work has started on the rosters for all other teams. Please check your respective sport's Web page ([www.njithighlanders.com](http://www.njithighlanders.com)) and notify Lenny Kaplan to confirm your name and years of participation, and to let him know about teammates who might be missing. Also contact Lenny if you have any information and material (news clippings, box scores, dinner/banquet/awards programs, photos, etc.) related to the history of inter-collegiate athletics at NJIT (NCE). Materials will be copied and returned immediately. Lenny can be contacted at [Kaplan@njit.edu](mailto:Kaplan@njit.edu).

Keep the news coming to [mal.simon@njit.edu](mailto:mal.simon@njit.edu) or [coach7157@yahoo.com](mailto:coach7157@yahoo.com)

## 1956

**Edmund H. Hecht** (ME), president and principal consultant of EHco Services, Inc. of Corpus Christi, Texas, recently returned from Kremenchuk, Ukraine, where he served as a Fulbright Scholar professor of management at Kremenchuk Mykhaylo Ostrogradskiy State Polytechnic University for a semester. He lectured on globalization, entrepreneurship and management. He was also invited to lecture at three other schools in Ukraine – Kherison National Technical University, Poltava University of Consumer Cooperatives and Dnepropetrovsk University of Economics and Law.

## 1975

**Edmond S. Moore** (ME), MS '92 (EnMgmt), an associate at Booz Allen Hamilton, is developing specifications for a new generation of the San Francisco area's BART rapid transit cars. The specifications will apply to some 1,000 new cars that will replace units now up to 35 years old. New features will include on-board energy storage, electronic passenger signage, improved reliability and higher capacity.

## 1984

**Bob Zeiss** (ChE) is working for BASF Catalysts LLC as a business development manager with responsibility for environmental catalyst and adsorbent solutions for the power-generation and industrial markets.

## 1986

**James R. Lesko** (CE), MS '89 (CE) has opened AGH2O Holdings, LLC, a full-service general contracting, construction management and civil engineering firm in Round Rock,

Texas. His firm currently has contracts with the City of Austin Housing Authority and the San Antonio Independent School District.

**Al Tarasiuk** (EE), the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's Chief Information Officer, was named by the Global CIO Executive Summit as one of the Top Ten Leaders and Change Agents in the technology sector for 2009. The award recognizes CIOs whose outstanding leadership has led to innovative responses to organizational needs.

## 1989

**Nelson Colon** (EE) and alumni **Laura Battista '95, '97** and **James L. Zunino '02, '03**, all employed at the U.S. Army's Picatinny Arsenal Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, were honored with a 2009 Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award, presented by the New Jersey Research and Development Council. They were recognized for their patented work on "smart coatings," materials able to sense, analyze and react to their surroundings in real time. Potential uses include warning of deterioration and even self-repair of minor damage.

## 1990

**Michael S. Sarno** (IE), MS '92 (Mgmt) has been appointed global chief executive officer by The Qualicaps® Group. The company is an international manufacturer and supplier of two-piece capsules and pharmaceutical equipment.

## 1991

**Gabriel Shenhar** (ME) is senior engineer with the auto test division of Consumer Reports. Gabriel does much of the planning for the organization's testing program and

participates fully in other aspects. This includes overseeing the purchase of test vehicles, driving, and writing most of the technical reports that are the basis for the auto-test features published in *Consumer Reports* magazine.

## 1995

**Laura Battista** (STS), MS '97 (EPS) and colleagues **Nelson Colon '89** and **James L. Zunino '02, '03** have received a 2009 Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award from the New Jersey Research and Development Council for work at the U.S. Army's Picatinny Arsenal Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center. They were recognized for contributing to the development of "smart coatings" that can sense, analyze and react to their surroundings in real time. In addition to the potential for self-repair of minor damage, such coatings can warn of various types of deterioration.

**Stan Mierzwa** MS (Mgmt) is director of information technology for the Population Council, a non-profit organization with offices in 20 developing countries. Stan writes: "The graduate degree I obtained at NJIT gave me the know-how to succeed in a global organization. I have traveled and worked in over ten developing countries, working to integrate technology solutions in the public-health arena. Finding a place for technology in meeting real-world issues is extremely rewarding."

**Thomas S. McDonough** (IE) has been recognized by *NJBIZ* magazine as one of New Jersey's outstanding "Forty Under 40." He is director, global logistics sourcing and supply management for Bristol-Myers Squibb. The

award honors men and women exceptional in their field who also share a commitment to business growth, professional excellence and to the community.

## 1997

**Erik Rodriguez** (IE), MS '98 (EnMgmt) has been named director of global distribution for Choice Logistics, a mission-critical service parts specialist. He will oversee strategic development for the company's regional distribution centers throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Asia Pacific region.

## 2001

**Syed Anwar Aftab** MS (CS) has been with AT&T labs since 1998, developing a wide range of software applications and platforms.

## 2002

**James L. Zunino** (ChE), MBA '03, along with co-workers Laura Battista '95, '97 and Nelson Colon '89 at the U.S. Army's Picatinny Arsenal Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, has been honored with a 2009 Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award. Presented by the New Jersey Research and Development Council, the award recognizes the significance of their participating in the development of "smart coatings." Able to sense, analyze and react to surroundings in real time, these coatings have uses that include warning of deterioration and even self-repair of minor damage.

## 2004

**Amad Rasool** (Mgmt), former student-athlete on the men's basketball team, is a member of the New Jersey Bar and assistant prosecutor for the City of Newark.

**Desiree (Zega) Savarese** (Arch), now living in Georgia, shares the news that she is a registered architect.

## 2007

**Rubik Sheth** (ME) works for NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. He writes: "My current task is to develop advanced thermal protection systems such as heat exchangers, space radiators, sublimators, and other technologies needed to keep a space vehicle such as the shuttle cool. In particular, our designs are geared toward vehicles being developed to take us back to the moon and eventually to Mars."

## 2008

**Mark Panczyk** (CE), a doctoral student in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware, was recognized by the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Division of Colloid and Surface Chemistry for an outstanding poster contribution at the Fall 2009 ACS national meeting in Washington, D.C. His work has application in areas ranging from paints and coatings to photovoltaic cells and circuit components.

**Jason Peist** (Arch) was named the AIA New Jersey Intern Architect of the Year for 2009. He writes that he has enrolled in the NJIT master's program in professional and technical communication.

## IN MEMORIAM



PHOTO: COURTESY OF NASA

### A Space Pioneer Passes

Thomas J. O'Malley, NCE alumnus and space-industry legend, died at the age of 94 on November 6, 2009 in Cocoa Beach, Florida, shortly after a phone call from former Mercury astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn. In 1962, O'Malley pushed the button that launched Glenn on the first U.S. orbital space mission. He later proudly displayed the button in the den of his Cocoa Beach home.

A mechanical engineer, O'Malley graduated from NCE in 1936. His first position in the aviation field was with Wright Aeronautical Corporation. O'Malley joined NASA's human spaceflight program in 1961, while working for the Convair division of General Dynamics as a test engineer on development of the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile. He played major roles in converting the Atlas missile into a vehicle safe enough for the first astronauts.

*Thomas J. O'Malley '36 with Mercury Astronaut John Glenn*

Upon leaving the Mercury program, O'Malley became chief project engineer for the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Quincy, Massachusetts. In 1967, after a launch pad fire killed three Apollo astronauts, he returned to Cape Canaveral to head Apollo spacecraft checkout and launch operations for North American Aviation.

O'Malley was subsequently named vice president and general manager of launch operations for North American Aviation, which later became Rockwell International. In that position, he led the company's work on Skylab and Apollo-Soyuz missions, as well as for the shuttle program. His efforts led to the first launch of the shuttle Columbia in 1981.

NJIT also notes with sadness the deaths of the following alumni:

Edward Farrell '48, '53  
George J. Prohazka '50, '58  
Raymond E. Werner '55

# ALUMNI CALENDAR

## SAVE THE DATE!

### NEWARK COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING SALUTE TO ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Thursday, March 25

NJIT Campus Center

For more information:

<http://engineering.njit.edu/excellence2010>  
or contact Kathy Dickerson at  
[kathy.dickerson@njit.edu](mailto:kathy.dickerson@njit.edu), 973-596-3456

### COMMENCEMENT 2010

Monday, May 17

Prudential Center, Newark

### GOLDEN HIGHLANDERS COMMENCEMENT MARCH AND SPRING LUNCHEON

Monday, May 17

For all alumni who have celebrated the  
50th anniversary of their graduation.

### ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 2010

All Five-Year Anniversary Classes

Friday, May 21 - Sunday, May 23

Reconnect with NJIT over a weekend that features a  
Saturday evening dinner dance for all reunion classes.  
Enjoy tours, luncheons, lectures and more.

On Saturday, May 22, the Alumni Association will  
present the Alumni Achievement Awards for 2010  
and the Van Houten Award for Teaching Excellence.

Visit [www.njit.edu/alumni/class](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/class) for complete  
information and to make reservations online for  
all or part of Alumni Reunion Weekend, including  
reservations for overnight campus accommodations  
in Laurel Hall, NJIT's newest student residence.  
You can also call the Alumni Relations Office  
at 973-596-3441.

For the most current information about all alumni  
events – including specific dates – visit  
[www.njit.edu/alumni/events](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/events) and the Websites of  
the individual clubs and groups listed.

Information is also available from the Alumni  
Relations Office: 973-596-3441 or [alumni@njit.edu](mailto:alumni@njit.edu).

## 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 & Associates, Hatch Mott  
MacDonald, PSE&G, Schering-  
Plough, Turner Construction  
and United Parcel Service.

Corporate Club information  
and events:

[www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs)

## REGIONAL CLUBS

NJIT Regional Clubs are  
planning events across the  
country for 2010.

*Sunday, April 11:* The Florida  
Regional Club will host alumni  
for a barbecue and game  
between the Tampa Bay Rays  
and the New York Yankees.

Check the Alumni Events  
Calendar and Regional Club  
pages on the Alumni Relations

Website for more information:  
[www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs](http://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](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs)

## ALUMNI REUNIONS

Planning for 2010 and 2011 fifth-  
year anniversary reunions is under  
way for all classes whose graduation  
years end in "0" and "5."

For information about reunions  
and Alumni Reunion Committee  
meetings, visit your class Website  
at [www.njit.edu/alumni/class](http://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](mailto:alumni@njit.edu).

## ADDING FLAVOR TO NJIT DAY



*The Young Alumni Chili  
Cook-Off was once again  
a highlight of NJIT Day  
in October. It was a  
flavorful addition to an  
annual campus event  
that each year is drawing  
larger crowds of students,  
alumni and staff, along  
with family members and  
friends, for a wide range  
of activities as well as  
great food.*