

ALUMNI CIRCUIT

"Civil engineers tell us when our infrastructure needs attention. They are the stewards of our environment."

— Patrick J. Natale

PHOTOS: SCOTT JONES PHOTOGRAPHY



FIFTEEN YEARS OF SALUTING EXCELLENCE

In April, Newark College of Engineering honored outstanding alumni, an exceptional industry partner and high-achieving students at the 15th annual Salute to Engineering Excellence. This year, **Patrick J. Natale PE '70, '75** and **Joseph G. Stanley PE, PP '78, '85** were recipients of Outstanding Alumni Awards. The 2013 Outstanding Industry Partner honor went to the US Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC).

Alumnus Patrick Natale is among the nation's leading advocates of civil engineering. As executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), he represents more than 140,000 civil engineers and directs a staff of 250 employees and 6,000 volunteers. ASCE initiatives include developing codes and standards, providing continuing professional education, and lobbying for infrastructure

maintenance and improvement. Every four years, ASCE publishes its *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*.

Natale is passionate about the role that civil engineers play in sustaining the nation's well-being. "Civil engineers design the buildings and bridges, the roads and reservoirs, the tunnels and airports, the water and sewer systems without which our economy could not function,"



Patrick J. Natale

Natale says. "Civil engineers tell us when our infrastructure needs attention. They are the stewards of our environment."

Before ASCE, Natale was executive director of the National Society of Professional

Engineers. He came to that post after a long career at Public Service Electric and Gas Company in New Jersey. During his 28-year career there, he managed sales, marketing, strategic planning and customer service. He also led the effort to develop the systems required for deregulating New Jersey's energy market.

Joseph Stanley is another alumnus who has built a notable career in civil engineering. He's a vice president at the major engineering consulting and design firm Hatch Mott MacDonald (HMM), and a principal in its Water Supply Group. He also leads the firm's participation in international aid efforts. Working with the United States Agency for International Development, he has helped countries such as Afghanistan, Mali and Tanzania improve their infrastructure.

Stanley is a dedicated mentor to young HMM professionals as

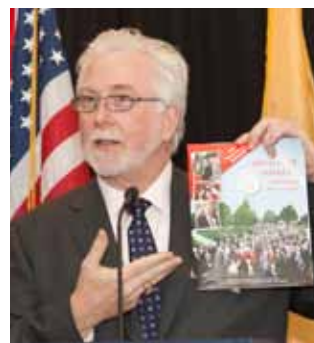
operations of the firm.

Reflective of the close ties he has maintained with his alma mater, Stanley is currently the president of the Alumni Association of NJIT. He gives back to NJIT because it gave him so much, he says. "An NJIT education was then, and is now, a great value and an almost guaranteed significant return on one's investment. I'm forever grateful for the education that I received at NJIT."

The Outstanding Industry Partner Award presented to the US Army Research Development and Engineering Center was accepted on behalf of ARDEC by Barbara J. Machak, executive director of the Enterprise and Systems Integration Center at the facility. Many NJIT alumni are also engaged in the ARDEC mission at the site of the former Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. They are helping to keep the Army strong and the nation secure through efforts that include developing high-quality weapons systems.

Among the NCE seniors recognized was **William H. Pennock III***, who received two of the college's highest honors. He was named Outstanding Senior in his major – civil and environmental engineering – and Outstanding Senior of the Year.

Other students recognized this year as outstanding seniors were **Katlin Davis***, Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering; **Keith Davis**, Engineering Technology; **Jonathan A. Daudelin***, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; **Dung Le-Ulsh**, Biomedical Engineering; and **Anthony F. Moussa**,



Joseph G. Stanley

well, many of whom are NJIT graduates. At HMM, he manages the Young Professionals Committee, which gives talented employees aged 35 and younger the opportunity to do research and provide input into the

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Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The recipient of the Madame Mau Outstanding Female Engineering Student Award was **Margaret Christian***, a biomedical engineering major. **Yazdan Majdi**, a PhD candidate in civil and environmental engineering, received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. ■

**Dorman honors scholars*

MANY PATHS TO ACHIEVEMENT

NJIT alumni have followed many different paths after graduation toward achievements that advance technological and economic progress, benefit society, and improve the quality of life. In 2013, as in past years, a highlight of Alumni Weekend was the NJIT Alumni Association's presentation of Achievement Awards to six graduates whose careers exemplify such positive engagement in diverse fields.

DONALD K. BLACKMAN '76 Staying in Touch With Power

When the power fails in a hospital and lights go out, the situation can quickly become life-threatening. Power must be restored in seconds, not only for lighting but to operate all the equipment that assures the well-being of patients.

For nearly 40 years, Donald Blackman has been supplying technology that can restore power for hospitals and other facilities without a dangerous delay. Blackman is vice president

for marketing and domestic sales at ASCO Power Technologies, a business unit of Emerson Network Power. The systems he helps to provide detect power loss and switch almost instantaneously to a back-up generator or alternate utility circuit.

Blackman joined ASCO – originally known as Automatic Switch Company – as an application and sales engineer less than a year after completing his bachelor's in electrical engineering at NJIT. Given Blackman's hands-on interest in technology and customer service, it was a great match.

Before college, Blackman discovered the satisfaction of wiring his house with additional phone jacks and remote stereo speakers. A model train enthusiast, he installed "miles of wire" under a layout, which foreshadowed his future career in that it involved the complexities of distributing power to run several trains simultaneously. Power was also the focus of his senior NJIT project, a neatly designed and packaged switching and control unit reflecting his model-railroading ingenuity.

Blackman learned that he enjoyed personal contact in a sales setting prior to college as well. "In high school, I had part-time jobs in a butcher shop, a shoe store and an electronics store. I really liked the interaction with customers, and you learn very quickly what serving people with the right attitude means for success in business." This inclination, coupled with an unflagging desire to work in a hands-on technical environment, led to increasingly responsible

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



Donald K. Blackman

positions with ASCO at several different locations across the country. Blackman, who has an MBA in addition to his NJIT degree, also returns to his alma mater to share professional insights gained over the years as a member of advisory boards for the Department of Electrical and Computing Engineering and the Interdisciplinary Design Studio.

Now based in New Jersey, Blackman oversees product and project management, sales, marketing, customer care, applications engineering and new-business development. All of these efforts are centered on the power-transfer switches and power-control systems that are his company's core product lines. Over the past four decades, he has seen these products become increasingly capable through the convergence of

electromechanical, communications, and computing technology.

ASCO's Critical Power Management System displays comprehensive data on a 55-inch, high-resolution monitor, providing information about transfer switches, circuit breakers, generators and power quality – all with one-millisecond time stamps. The system will switch among any of several utility sources or generator feeds, automatically matching the capacity of multiple generators with load demand. The wealth of data pictured is also important for forensics, Blackman says. "Why did the hospital or computer center go offline? You can get an immediate report on the sequence of events from the time the wind started to blow in a storm to when power failed and was switched to a working source."

PHOTO: COURTESY OF EMERSON NETWORK POWER/ASCO POWER TECHNOLOGIES

Demand for the capabilities ASCO offers is increasing with awareness of the need to keep power flowing in the aftermath of natural disasters and possible terrorist activity, including cyber-attacks. Blackman explains that the National Electrical Code now has a section known as COPS in the industry, an acronym for Critical Operations Power Systems.

Any facility in the US that has a significant economic role, such as the New York Stock Exchange, must be able to run the same way under emergency conditions as it does normally. There is also a comparable requirement covering cell-communications towers, and major service providers are working to retrofit some two-hundred thousand towers with transfer switches and generators.

But regardless of the application, Blackman says that it all comes down to one challenge. "We want our power to be on when and where it's needed."

EDITH A. JEFFREY '62

Doing Something Different

Artist, world traveler, engineer – Edith Jeffrey has pursued all of these as vocations or avocations since receiving her NJIT degree in electrical engineering. Now retired, her last position was vice president and senior project manager at Citigroup, capping a career in technology that spanned achievement at the leading edges of military communications and electronic funds transfer in the financial industry.

But Jeffrey had a very different career in mind when she started high school in West New

York, New Jersey, where she became the founding president of her school's National Honor Society chapter. She wanted to be an artist. As it turned out, Jeffrey demonstrated equal talent in science and math, and her parents suggested that she consider engineering as a career. This advice took her to Newark College of Engineering to join the two other women who were among the 636 graduates in the Class of 1962.

After graduation, Jeffrey combined work in engineering with studies at the Art Students League in New York City. In 1966, she accepted a position with Computer Sciences Corporation as a communications design engineer responsible for the design, development and implementation of microwave and tropospheric-scatter communications systems.

While employed at Computer Sciences, Jeffrey was asked to work in Heidelberg, Germany, on a contract the company was awarded to upgrade communications for the US Army. Her responsibilities involved analyzing and evaluating performance data, developing test plans and writing technical-performance specifications. Away from the workplace, she devoted time to learning German, studying stone sculpting in Mannheim, and touring the country on a motorcycle.

The Army contract completed, Jeffrey and several friends embarked on a 19-month drive from Germany to India and back. She says that the trip gave her pause to think about her next steps in life – which were

"When there's something I have to try, when something takes hold of me, I need to do it."

– Edith A. Jeffrey '62



Hiking in Acadia National Park



With great-nephew Ryan

Since retiring in 2011, Jeffrey has been accepted for membership in the Art Students League in recognition of her extensive stud-

ies there during the 1960s and 1970s. In addition, she is taking classical voice lessons, once more studying German, and contemplating volunteer activities. Reflecting on this stage in her life, she advocates giving a lot of thought to what one really wants to do with new-found time that can be very satisfying and productive, not merely busy.

Jeffrey's hope for young people just starting out is that they choose professional commitments offering the same fulfillment she has experienced as an engineer and artist. "And if you're no longer enjoying what you're doing, look for change. Don't be afraid to look for something different. Don't stay locked into something that's making you miserable."

Returning to New Jersey in 1977 meant doing something different again, moving on to technical positions with growing responsibilities and greater accomplishments. However, Jeffrey also continued to enthusiastically experience the wider world by hiking in South America, Europe and our national parks, and driving a dog sled in Norway. She also found time to earn a brown belt in karate.

Editor's note: Edith Jeffrey shared a personal account of her career and often adventurous experiences in a special online feature published with the winter 2013 NJIT Magazine. Read it at <http://magazine.njit.edu/jeffrey>.

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ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, *continued*

JOSEPH T. ROMAN '99 *Accelerating Innovation*

Joseph Roman and his colleagues at Accelerant Sales Group LLC have a wealth of entrepreneurial and managerial acumen, and they're sharing it with clients in fields ranging from healthcare to telecommunications. Their expertise is helping clients bring the benefits of technological innovation to many more people by boosting operational efficiency and building sales.

Roman, Accelerant's founder and president, says this is a role he's aspired to since graduating from Alvernia University



Joseph T. Roman

with a bachelor's in business administration and marketing. Exciting social and technological change was in the offing when he entered the professional workforce. The wedding of computer technology to telecommunications and something called the "Internet" was starting to reshape daily life. He initially engaged with this transformation through sales and management positions at several technology companies, the first being Dialogic.

Enrolling in NJIT's School of Management for graduate work leading to his 1999 master's was also a very logical step for Roman. "The Management School's focus on technology was a strong draw for me," he says. "My NJIT degree gave me the additional tools that I needed in my career. It was a great enhancer."

Roman explains that he always looked toward expanding managerial horizons. He wanted to make the most significant contribution he could to the success of companies focused on energizing the economy with innovative technology. And he felt that one day he would do so as an entrepreneur himself.

"I guess I've always considered myself an entrepreneur in training," Roman says of a career orientation appealing even in high school, when he was in the landscaping business with his brothers. Having gained a solid corporate background and equipped with the knowledge he acquired at NJIT, Roman did eventually strike out on his own by forming Accelerant (www.accelerantsales.com).

Based in Montville, New Jersey, the Accelerant team works primarily with firms offering high-technology services and products, many of them in the software field. Accelerant has helped clients achieve success with sales of solutions such as those for enterprise resource planning, quality assurance and compliance, business intelligence and analytics, security, disaster recovery, and maintenance and repair.

Roman's broad experience also gives him a unique perspective on high-tech innovation and manufacturing in the United States, and it's a cautiously optimistic view. "Virtually all of the major technological breakthroughs of the past hundred years have been made in the US, and I believe our 'thought leadership' can continue. There will always be entrepreneurial opportunities and people with specific skill sets willing to plant their stake and start something new."

The US high-tech manufacturing sector is also in a positive consolidation mode according to Roman. "Private equity firms are out there buying mid-cap companies doing \$10 to \$150 million in business in a particular field. They're consolidating these firms to create larger, more successful organizations. They're bringing together families of products to create stronger, well-managed companies."

Roman also says that having a workforce with the requisite skills and knowledge will be a key factor in assuring the country's economic well-being. He is personally contributing in this area at NJIT as a member of the School of Management's Board of Visitors and as an adjunct professor teaching undergraduate and graduate courses – including a course on the design and development of high-tech products.

And Roman's advice to students in every major? "Stay focused. Even if you have a course you don't do well in, don't let the tactical ups and downs of everyday life deter you from what you want to achieve. Believe in yourself and follow the greater good you have as your goal."

SHIMON SCHWARZSCHILD '50

Deciding to Make a Peaceful Difference

It was in San Francisco, in the late 1970s, that Shimon Schwarzschild made a life-changing decision. Although he was the head of a successful firm representing manufacturers of scientific instruments, his affinity for social and environmental activism had also led to demanding commitments such as serving as the volunteer president of the city's largest neighborhood-improvement organization. Taking stock of his life, he chose a direction very different from his career of some 30 years as an engineer in technical and executive positions.

"I was bothered by the fact that almost all the instruments my company sold, while used in peaceful applications, were funded by the Department of Defense," Schwarzschild says. "I had already spent eight years and two wars in the military, and found myself again being supported by military funds. I decided to look for a more peaceful earning alternative."

"Just then I was offered a job as executive director of American Youth Hostels' San Francisco office, though at a much lower salary. I took it. It felt good to lead the development and operation of hostels in northern California, and to plan a Pacific coast hostel chain stretching more than a thousand miles from Canada to Mexico."

Schwarzschild, who had come to this country from Germany as a child before World War II, served with the US Navy aboard destroyers in the Pacific during



Shimon Schwarzschild

that conflict, taking part in the invasion of Okinawa. Later recalled to duty during the Korean War, he did so with an NCE degree in electrical engineering made possible by the GI Bill and with a naval officer's commission.

Subsequent to his work with the hostels, Schwarzschild became an editor of reports on endangered wildlife and plants for the US Forest Service, executive director of a national whale and ocean protection organization, and associate producer of environmental videos for television. His volunteer activities included serving as a member of the Commission on Education of the World Conservation Union.

Schwarzschild also spearheaded efforts to protect the world's wild yew tree population, promoting a sustainable approach to using this resource to produce a new anti-cancer drug. He described this effort in an online supplement to the fall 2010 *NJIT Magazine*, titled "Liberal Arts, Yew Trees and Combating Cancer" at <http://magazine.njit.edu/2010/fall/yews-extra.pdf>.

The Assisi Bird Campaign in Italy was another initiative led by Schwarzschild. "I launched the campaign after visiting Assisi in 1980 to see the songbirds of Saint Francis. Instead, I discovered hundreds of spent shotgun cartridges and feathers, but no songbirds. I was so angry that hunters had decimated Francis' songbirds that I launched the effort to bring them back." With local and global support, and perhaps the help of Saint Francis, we achieved a permanent moratorium on hunting songbirds on Mount Subasio, and the establishment of an environmental education and ethics center in Assisi."

Schwarzschild says that the knowledge and problem-solving skills he acquired at NJIT have been the foundation of success in all of his pursuits. He emphasizes that engineering can be a force for good. "If this planet is to survive, engineers can and should be at the forefront of developing green energy, mitigating the adverse effects of air and water pollution, climate change, and hunger and disease, just to name a few of our challenges."

"If this planet is to survive, engineers can and should be at the forefront of developing green energy, mitigating the adverse effects of air and water pollution, climate change, and hunger and disease..."

— Shimon Schwarzschild '50

It is also imperative to ensure that young people have access to the education that will enable them to take part in meeting these challenges, Schwarzschild says. "I laud the availability of the GI Bill that helped to transform my life. We need such support for education today more than ever if we want college graduates to start their careers free of a debt burden that can thwart dreams and severely limit their choices in life."

Schwarzschild continues working for conservation and education as founder emeritus of Action for Nature, and as local coordinator for the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) that brings together local host families and foreign high school students interested in a rich cultural-exchange experience. He invites anyone to contact him at shimons@earthlink.net.

MICHAEL E. SMITH '95 *Setting the Digital Pace*

It's a brave new digital world for publishers, and Michael Smith is at work leveraging the full potential of 21st-century technology as chief digital officer for Forbes Media LLC and president of Forbes.com. Forbes Media, publisher of *Forbes* magazine and Forbes.com, is one of the best-known sources of news about business, investing, technology and entrepreneurship. Forbes.com, a leading business website, reaches more than 17 million monthly visitors in the US.

Smith oversees all Forbes IT departments and is responsible for electronic advertising. While

the reader base for *Forbes* magazine in paper continues to grow, complementary digital outreach is building readership as well. "Forbes is an extraordinarily innovative media company," says Smith, who has a bachelor's in electrical engineering. "It's really great for a technical person to be in a position to lead initiatives that optimize the use of evolving technology and develop new sources of revenue."

Interested in computing from the time he enrolled at NJIT, Smith chose to major in electrical engineering because it allowed him to pursue that interest at a time when the university did not have a dedicated program in computer engineering. His first job after graduation was with The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He transitioned to media at HBO and subsequently became vice president and chief technology officer at TheStreet.com.

As for digital challenges Smith contends with today, they've been increasing along with the opportunities. Smith says that when he started at Forbes in 2000, *Business Week*, *Fortune*, and *The Wall Street Journal* were seen as chief competitors. "Today we compete with Google and social media for the same ad dollars. On the audience front, we're competing with them for people's attention."

When it comes to those ad dollars, the digital pace can indeed be fast. Current technology makes it possible for advertisers to bid on electronic placement milliseconds before an ad actually appears. But

"It's really great for a technical person to be in a position to lead initiatives that optimize the use of evolving technology and develop new sources of revenue."

—Michael E. Smith '95



Bennett Varghese with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, *continued*

Smith says there are also opportunities to collaborate for mutual benefit in the spirit of "coopetition," using a term that's gaining traction in the lexicon of business.

Looking back about five years or so, Smith explains, we spent our time online mainly at portal pages like Yahoo, MSN and AOL. Now, we log more hours on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and other social-media sites. A publisher must therefore cultivate symbiotic relationships with these networks to capture our attention.

In contrast to the era when the portals decided which content to highlight, it's the myriad recommendations encountered on social media that have gained greater influence, the voices of friends and others who know how to make themselves heard. Forbes is well ahead of the curve with regard to social media in

Smith's estimation, equipping writers with the techniques and tools needed to build awareness of their individual contributions and the Forbes brand in the digital arena.

Smith does not hesitate to credit his NJIT education for starting him on the path toward his position with Forbes, and he continues to be connected to the university as a member of the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors. He also chairs the advisory board for the Interdisciplinary Design Studio, a program that encourages students' entrepreneurial initiative with the assistance of faculty advisors and industry mentors.

BENNETT VARGHESE '96, '96, '00

Building Where History Happens

Growing up, Bennett Varghese often visited the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan, where his father worked for the office of the UN Secretary-General. In addition to recalling the opportunity to launch paper airplanes toward the East River from the UN's heights, Varghese says that he was greatly influenced by his father's dedication to serving the international community. And even at a young age he was also impressed by the soaring architecture of New York City, which fostered an interest in building at times expressed in structures assembled from toothpicks.

In a middle-school essay, Varghese listed professional basketball player and football player

as attractive career options along with architect. Architecture won, and he enrolled at NJIT's New Jersey School of Architecture after graduating from New Milford High School. "I think I chose the most sensible course for me," he says wryly. It's a course that has led to employment as an architect with the Special Projects Division, Office of Real Property Management, US Department of State.

Subsequent to completing both a BS in Architecture and MS in Management in 1996, Varghese worked in the private sector for New Jersey-based architecture firms. He earned a third NJIT degree as well, a 2000 MBA in Management of Technology.

In 2003, Varghese moved on to the position with the State Department. Since then, he has worked on projects reconnecting him to the UN in New York, including the 26-story Ronald H. Brown United States Mission Building. He has also managed multilateral conferences and VIP events associated with the annual UN General Assembly, such as receptions hosted by Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush for foreign heads of state.

Varghese says that it is especially gratifying to apply his skills as an architect to creating spaces "where history happens." More recent projects involve managing design of the United States Diplomacy Center and restoration of the US Naval Observatory National Landmark. The Diplomacy Center is privately funded public space that will enhance the State Department's campus in Washington, DC. The

center will showcase the State Department's role in building international relationships since the founding of the nation.

Varghese also has a commitment to volunteerism rooted in his upbringing. It encompasses helping people in US communities and other countries. He has been a volunteer teacher for the Harlem Children's Zone Program sponsored by United States Ambassador to the United Nations Susan E. Rice and for the State Department and Miner Elementary School Mentorship Partnering Program endorsed by Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry.

As a member of several church groups, Varghese has participated in social service initiatives with a special focus on meeting the spiritual and physical needs of children in the US, India, and Mexico. Generously offered through Engineering Ministries International, his architectural ability has aided people through the construction of educational and medical facilities in China and Liberia.

Closer to home, Varghese has been an emergency medical technician with the New Milford Volunteer Ambulance Corps. On September 11, 2001, they were among first responders deployed to Jersey City to treat ambulatory injured from the World Trade Center attacks transported across the Hudson River. At present a life exempt permanent member of the corps, Varghese says that this experience strongly motivated him to pursue a career in public service, which he is doing today by building for the State Department and the nation. ■



Michael E. Smith at the May 2012 groundbreaking for NJIT's Warren Street Village, where he wore his class ring and that of his late father, Edward L. Smith '72, in honor of his father's connection to the university.

AFTER SANDY:

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS HELP PRESIDENT BLOOM REBUILD

For NJIT President Joel S. Bloom, the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy had a very personal aspect. The 1968 riverfront house in Monmouth Beach where he and his family lived sustained irreparable damage during the storm.

Reflecting on the process of rebuilding and recovery, Bloom says, “The trauma lives on. It’s not only that you’ve lost your house, but your life is terribly upset, and you have to find time to make key decisions.”

In the days immediately after Sandy, Bloom and his wife, Diane, not only had to find a temporary residence in the area. They had to contend with the stresses of being displaced from their longtime home, dealing with insurance companies and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and building a new house literally from the ground up.

“You need to find a place to establish yourself, to carve out time in a schedule that’s very, very hectic, and to start to fit all of this in,” says Bloom. “It truly is overwhelming. But we’re like the phoenix.”

The Blooms are very grateful for the support they received from family and friends and, as it turned out, for the advice and expertise of NJIT alumni affiliated with firms contracted to provide a wide range of professional services. These supportive alumni and friends from the NJIT community include Brian Berzinskis ’06, Gary Dahms, Stephen P. DePalma ’72, and Richard Maser ’73.

Berzinskis, owner of Grasso Design Group in Manasquan and the practice’s lead designer, is an Albert Dorman honors scholar and graduate of NJIT’s College of Architecture and Design. He says that working on



the design for the Blooms’ new house was especially gratifying in that it was a contribution to rebuilding a part of New Jersey severely hurt by Sandy.

An NJIT Trustee, Dahms is president and CEO of T&M Associates, based in Toms River. He helped the Blooms navigate the process of obtaining the municipal approvals needed to rebuild. Maser, an

Exterior and interior damage to the Blooms’ home required demolition and rebuilding.

NJIT Overseer, is chief executive officer and president of Maser Consulting P.A. in Red Bank.

“Our firm was very happy to help out with surveying and geotechnical services,” says Maser. “Many of our employees and shareholders are alumni of NJIT and were very grateful that we could be of assistance to Dr. Bloom.”

DePalma is an NJIT Trustee and retired chairman and chief executive officer of Schoor DePalma, Inc. He assisted the Blooms with finding a builder in the area who went to work and made it possible for them to move in this summer – Rumson-based Home and Land Development Corp.

See photos of a special day for President Bloom at his homesite online: <http://magazine.njit.edu/rebuilding>

Calm in this photo, the wind-driven water near NJIT President Bloom’s home was a devastating force during Hurricane Sandy.



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.

First, the latest news from Mal –

It is rewarding to write about NJIT alumni as their stories illustrate their dedication to education and success in their careers. The alumni in this column are no exception. The first three stories conclude the update of the *One of These Engineers is an Engineer* booklet started in the spring 2013 magazine.

Antonius Genakos '61 writes: "It was June 12, 1961 when I entered duty as a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Prior to that time, I had served in the military as a microwave radio repairman, installing and maintaining telephone communications between army headquarters in Japan and our troops in South Korea; as an equipment engineer for Western Electric involved in the construction of telephone terminals; and as an associate engineer at Kearfott involved in the design and development of electronic components used in navigational systems.

At Kearfott, I came into contact with sales engineers and decided that sales should be my next career move. But it was the beginning of the space program's technological boom and there was a tremendous shortage of engineers. Every company I contacted seeking a sales position offered me work in either

design and development or field engineering. While one company did offer me a trainee position, I would have had to take too much of a cut in earnings. As a newlywed, I couldn't do it.

I happened to be at NCE visiting my mentor, Professor James Lubin, on a day that an FBI recruiter was making a presentation. After hearing the presentation and discussing it with my wife, I applied to the Bureau, was tested, and then waited four months while my background check was completed. I accepted the special agent position when it was offered, believing I would do it for only two years before transitioning to an engineering sales position.

The two years passed quickly, and realizing that I was happy with the job and liked the people I was working with, I stayed for 24 years and 9 months. I served in Tampa and Orlando, Florida; Monterey, California; Chicago, Illinois; Newark, New Jersey, and at FBI HQ in Washington, DC, retiring in 1986 with the title of deputy assistant director of Congressional and public affairs.

After retiring from the FBI, I accepted a position with *The New York Times*, where I stayed for 15 and a half years. My first four years



A golden opportunity — joining Mal (back row, second from left) for a photo at Reunion Weekend 2013 are Vince DeVincenzo, Roger Edwards, Gary Donninger, Rich Saunders, Jim Cudahy, John Chamberlain and Carl Wesley. Seated (from left) are Andy Handwerker, Joe Krack and Andy Dembicks. All the grads are Golden Highlanders, members of the Class of 1963.

were spent as a member of a team responsible for the construction of a \$750-million state-of-the-art color printing facility in Edison, New Jersey. I was promoted to director of development, covering printing facilities in Edison and in Manhattan and College Point, New York. I was very fortunate to have worked for two organizations that are leaders in their respective fields. Whatever I have personally achieved in life was built on a solid foundation at Newark College of Engineering."

J. Elton Tuohig '38 died in 2009 at the age of 92. Born in East Orange, New Jersey, he served in the US Naval Reserve from 1941-45 and achieved the rank of Lt. Commander. Following his first job with Reichhold Chemical in Elizabeth, New Jersey, he began what would be many years with the McGraw Hill Publishing Company, from which he retired as executive vice president for publications and director of Nikkei – McGraw Hill. Elton is a recipient of NJIT's Weston Medal for Professional Achievement and was a

member of the university's Board of Overseers. He spent many summers as a camper and counselor at the Fairview Lake YMCA camps in Stillwater, New Jersey, and later as a member of the camps' Board of Managers. Elton and his wife, Margaret, lived in Chatham, New Jersey, for 44 years and were active in the Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church as deacons, elders, choir members and Sunday school teachers. They moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1993.

Chester A. Galloway '34 died in 2010. Prior to entering the ministry, Chester worked for Dun & Bradstreet. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Avenel from 1940-49 and pastor emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church in Matawan from 1949-73. Upon his retirement, Chester and his wife, the Reverend Kathryn Terry Galloway, moved to Sun City, Florida.

Tulia Rios '94 made her debut at the 2013 Florida Soccer Alumni

"It is rewarding to write about NJIT alumni as their stories illustrate their dedication to education and success in their careers."

— Mal Simon

Reunion in Miami, Florida. Born in Colombia, Tulia came to the US in 1983. She graduated from Elizabeth High School, where she excelled in athletics and academics and competing on the volleyball and swim teams. She was elected to the National Honor Society and graduated in the top two percent of her class.

At NJIT, Tulia played varsity volleyball and was a member of the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. She moved to Miami in 1995 and is currently sales engineer for the Southeast Florida area at Protec, Inc., specialists in air conditioning and energy conservation. Tulia lives in Miami with her 13-year-old son, David.

Efrain Sergio Borja '77, who will be moving to Bellingham, Washington, was roasted in June at a golf outing by alumni who were soccer teammates or who played for him during his four-year coaching tenure. Born in Quito, Ecuador, Efrain immigrated to the US in 1972 with his family. He received his associate's degree at Essex County College, where he played soccer and made the All-Conference Team.

Continuing his academic and athletic career at NJIT, Efrain's dedication to his studies and soccer was extraordinary. Despite working full time at New Jersey Bell, playing soccer and being married and the father of a son, he graduated in 1977 with a BS in industrial administration. After two years in Hollywood, Florida, he returned to New Jersey in 1981 to begin his coaching career as my assistant, becoming head coach upon my retirement. Efrain's teams won two conference championships and one ECAC regional title.

In 1983, Efrain entered the teaching profession, teaching computer science at Bishop Ahr High School in Edison, New Jersey. Moving on to Elizabeth High School in 1984, he taught computer science until his recent retirement. While at Elizabeth, he coached boys' soccer and established the girls' soccer program. He has coached youth soccer for 20 years, most recently in Newton, New Jersey, where Efrain and his wife, Victoria, and six children moved in 2003. I will miss Efrain and his smiling face and friendly personality, and I wish him and his family Godspeed.

I always enjoy attending the annual NJIT Alumni Weekends because I meet alumni who I have not seen since they graduated. This year **Jim Cudahy '63**, **Vincent DeVincenzo '63** and **Carl Wesley '63** joined fellow classmates as Golden Highlanders.

Jim Cudahy achieved high honors at NCE and was elected to Tau Beta Pi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma, Omega Chi Epsilon, Pi Delta Epsilon and *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. He played junior varsity basketball, was manager of the varsity team, participated in intramural basketball, volleyball and softball, and was a member of the Sigma Pi fraternity. Jim was sports writer for *The Vector*, the student newspaper, and wrote such glowing preseason descriptions about each basketball player that Coach Joe Fitzgerald wondered how we ever lost.

Jim began his professional career at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan, working initially in chemical production. During his years at Dow, he earned a master's in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware and an

MBA at Michigan State University. In 1971, he transferred to Knoxville, Tennessee, with a new consulting group that Dow started to provide incineration-permitting and chemical-engineering services.

In 1989, Jim founded and became president of Focus Environmental, an engineering consulting company specializing in hazardous waste. He left Focus in 2006 and started a one-man consulting company offering expert testimony in the areas of hazardous-waste combustion and soil contamination. His most rewarding experience was serving as an expert witness for the Department of Justice representing the US Army in state and federal trials in Utah and Oregon.

Continuing to be active in sports, Jim developed a love of running and set himself the goal of running around the world (mile-wise). He did make 24,238 miles before he had to stop running due to a back injury that left him 600 miles short of his goal. Jim and his wife, Beanie, live in Shell Point, Florida.

Vince DeVincenzo, whose dream was to play professional soccer in Italy, was destined instead to play soccer at NCE. Born and raised in Molfetta, Italy, he lived there through WWII. After the war, Vince's father, who had served in the Italian navy, was hired by Bethlehem Steel to work in New Jersey on a three-year contract. When the company offered to renew the contract, his father would agree only if his family could come to the US. Vince, in his first year at the Italian marine academy, was going to try out for a professional soccer team when he learned that he would be emigrating. He remembers that the trip to the US took nine days in what he describes as a "Christopher Columbus ship."

Because his family settled in Hoboken and he wanted to study engineering, Vince applied to Stevens, but was not accepted since he did not speak English. He then applied to NCE and was admitted to a special program that required him to learn English. After two years at NCE, Vince joined the soccer team and played in 1961 and 1962, and was a key member of the teams that won all but two games in those years. Stevens' loss was NCE's gain as we beat them in both of the years that he played.

Vince's speedy grasp of English and his fluency in Italian, Spanish, French and Portuguese were instrumental in his career success. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering and went on to earn an MBA in management and finance at CUNY's Baruch College. He first worked for Consolidated Edison where he met his wife, Sandra Rochelle, and for Bristol-Myers Squibb in New York City as their international finance manager. In 1980, he joined Alcon Labs, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas, as international controller. Vince and Sandra and their three sons liked the pleasant weather and friendly people in Texas, and so have been there for over 30 years.

An interesting aside is that Vince's first trip on an airplane was when the NCE soccer team flew to Rochester, New York, for a game. He did not handle the trip well and was kidded about how pale he looked. Since then, he has flown well over a million miles for Alcon, Aviall Ryder System and Vought Aircraft. Currently, he is senior consultant for Shipley Associates in Layton, Utah. Vince and Sandra, who have been married for 47 years, live in Denton, Texas.

CLASS NOTES

Carl Wesley was a member of Sigma Pi fraternity and editor of *The Nucleus* yearbook. He also participated in intramural activities and was elected to numerous honor and leadership societies. Carl spent 35 years with GE in marketing and sales, and early in his GE career he shared a home on the island of Nahant, Massachusetts, with classmates **John Chamberlain '63**, **Jim McDonald '63**, **Bill Zilliox '63** and **Gerry Fehrenbach '63**. He also met his future wife, Madeline, at GE.

Taking an early retirement offer from GE, Carl became involved in city planning and worked as an investment broker with Fidelity, where he was ranked as a national Top 10 broker. Now fully retired, Carl and Madeline live in Durham, New Hampshire. They do serious gardening, hike the Arizona Catalina Mountains each spring, ski New Hampshire and Utah and tour in Europe, most recently the Amalfi coast and central Spain.

Keep the news coming to mjs@njit.edu.

1969

Philip Heitzenroeder (ME), who has contributed to the design and construction of many of the world's major magnetic fusion facilities during a distinguished 40-year career at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), has received the singular honor of the 2013 Fusion Technology Award. Internationally recognized for developing imaginative solutions to engineering challenges, Heitzenroeder's PPPL team works on all aspects of mechanical engineering for fusion facilities.

1978

James Grehl (EE) has been appointed chief executive officer of Insight Financial Services. Prior to joining Insight, he had a 23-year career with AT&T/Avaya as director of international business development and product management with extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions.

Lieutenant General Ellen Pawlikowski (ChE), US Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center commander, is the recipient of the Peter B. Teets Award for exemplary government service presented by the National Defense Industrial Association. The award cites Pawlikowski for her "focus on mission success, integrity, support to the warfighter and taking care of her people."

1984

Frank DeSilva MS (Environmental Eng.), national sales manager for ResinTech, has received the Regent's Award from the Water Quality Association (WQA). The award is given for significant contributions at the state and local level on issues affecting the industry. WQA is a non-profit international trade organization representing the residential, commercial and industrial water-treatment industry.

Doug Kenyon (CE), vice president for business development with Claris Construction of Newtown, Connecticut, has joined the Housatonic Habitat for Humanity's site-selection committee.

Paul Manz (EE) is chief scientist for the US Army's Program Executive Office Ammunition located at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. He was recently inducted into the distinguished Ancient Order of



INVADERS BEWARE!

John Chamberlain '63, MS '67 (ME) is in combat in California – helping to protect the state's native plant population against undesirable invasive species. He's stepped up to the challenge as a member and officer of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). Thwarting the spread of invasive species is one of the organization's stewardship commitments to protecting and caring for open space, farms and parkland in and around Silicon Valley. Learn more about POST at www.openspacetrust.org.

St. Barbara for sustained major career contributions that have had lasting positive impact across the greater US field artillery community.

1994

Leonard J. Spangher (Statistics and Actuarial Science) MS '95 (Management) has been promoted to vice president at Sibson Consulting. Spangher, who joined Sibson's New York office in 2001 as a senior consultant, has more than 17 years of experience in actuarial and benefits consulting. He has earned the designation of Managed Healthcare Professional (MHP) from the Health Insurance Association of America and the designation of Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) from the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

2004

Kristi Butkowski (Earth Science Physics) is a senior environmental scientist at New Jersey-based T&M Associates. Her extensive experience includes providing environmental services to private and public clients focusing on NPDES regulations, compliance with safe drinking water and wastewater programs, and administration of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

2005

Jonathan Ninnis (Arch) has joined L&L Holding Company LLC as vice president for development. L&L Holding is a Manhattan-based, privately-owned commercial real estate investment firm with a portfolio exceeding six million square feet of office space.

2011

John Giraldo (ME) has been selected by *Manufacturing Engineering* magazine as one of the “Top 30 Under 30” for 2013. Giraldo helps Sandvik Coromant clients optimize processes for making aerospace components at the company’s Aerospace Application Center in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

Ronald Manney (CE), a senior staff engineer with Langan Engineering and Environmental Services in Arlington, Virginia, is among the five winners of a Young Professional of the Year Award presented by the American Council of Engineering Companies. Manney’s work as a geotechnical engineer on high-profile projects has taken him to more than ten countries, including Saudi Arabia where he coordinated geotechnical investigation and provided recommendations for the proposed tallest building in the world, the Kingdom Tower.

2012

Aubrey Kelley-Cogdell MS (Biomedical Eng.) joins John Giraldo ’11 as another NJIT graduate who has received 2013 “Top 30 Under 30” recognition from *Manufacturing Engineering* magazine. Also employed at Sandvik Coromant’s Aerospace Application Center in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, she is currently a programmer specializing in computer-assisted machining and manufacturing.

2013

Robert Aitken MS (Arch) is an intern architect in the New York City office of NK Architects. At NJIT, he served as graduate advisor to Alpha Phi Omega, a national community service fraternity, and teacher assistant for the model shop.

IN MEMORIAM

All at NJIT are saddened by the deaths of two distinguished faculty members, **Professor Peter Hrycak** and **Professor Marino Xanthos**.

A member of the Mechanical Engineering Department for nearly 30 years, Hrycak passed away on March 7. In 1966, the year he joined the university, Hrycak became the director of the Jet Engine Research Laboratory and received grants from NASA, the National Science Foundation and the US Air Force for his work on the Super Sonic Transport (SST). He taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses that included heat transfer, fluid dynamics, turbo-machinery and thermodynamics until retiring in 1993. A mentor to many future engineers and scientists, Hrycak published on topics ranging from cryogenic surgery and thermal and applied mechanics to global warming and related environmental problems. Two children are NJIT alumni, Michael ’83 and Orest ’86.

Xanthos, who passed away on June 27, was an internationally recognized expert in polymer science and a member of the Otto H. York Department of Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering since 1995. In 2011, he was appointed associate provost for graduate studies. He also served as director of research at the Polymer Processing Institute, an independent corporation headquartered at NJIT whose research and pilot-testing capabilities are an important real-world link between academia and industry.

A PLASTIC NUMBERS NOTE

Charles M. Gruber ’81 (ChE), presently president and COO of Safe Reflections, Inc., has added an interesting note to “Dealing with Number 5,” the article about plastics and recycling in the spring 2013 *NJIT Magazine*.

Gruber writes that in 1988 he was instrumental in developing the now very familiar Resin Identification Code (RIC) – the numbers in the triangle designating various types of plastic that appear on numerous products we use every day. At the time, Gruber was a marketing manager in the PVC and Engineering Resin Plastics Additives Group at Rohm and Haas. He helped to develop the RIC as one of the three members of a sub-team of the Plastic Bottle Institute, part of the Society of the Plastics Industry.



WINGS FOR IMAGINATION

Stanley Barauskas ’61 (ME) is retired from a long career in the aerospace industry that included working to help US astronauts reach the moon and travel into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle. Barauskas currently shares his knowledge and experiences as a volunteer Air and Space Host at the California Science Center, where visitors can envision the future of space exploration and learn about past aerospace milestones as they get a close-up look at the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Recipient of a 2011 Alumni Achievement Award, Barauskas was profiled in the fall 2011 *NJIT Magazine*, online at <http://magazine.njit.edu>.

He was named a Fellow of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) in 2003. Of some 20,000 SPE members, only about one percent are accorded the distinction of Fellow. An overview of Xanthos’ career, “Dealing with Number 5,” was published in the spring 2013 *NJIT Magazine*, available online at <http://magazine.njit.edu>.

The NJIT community also sadly notes the deaths of the following alumni:

John Joseph Reilly, Jr. ’49, ’55
Paul Evert Johnson ’51
Ernest Tronco ’60
Robert Arthur Busch ’62
Jules Abramovitz ’66
Joseph M. Mazur ’74
Alfredo Teran ’75
Kevin C. Young ’91
Robert M. Vilsack III ’99

ALUMNI CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE!

CELEBRATION 2013

Friday, November 8
Pleasantdale Chateau
West Orange, New Jersey

NJIT's annual festive evening in support of endowed scholarships for students.

Information: Jacquie Rhodes
973-596-3407 or rhodes@njit.edu

Also visit www.njit.edu/celebration

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2014

Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18

Alumni Weekend has activities that will appeal to every NJIT grad. Come back to campus for Five-Year Anniversary reunions as well as non-anniversary class, college, department and fraternity/sorority events.

Reconnect with NJIT and fellow alumni over a weekend featuring receptions, dinners, college and department presentations, exhibits, and the annual presentation of Alumni Achievement Awards by the Alumni Association.

For more information about Alumni Weekend or to make reservations online: www.njit.edu/alumni/class or contact the Alumni Relations Office at 973-596-3441.

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

REGIONAL CLUBS

NJIT Regional Clubs are planning events across the country. For more information: www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs

YOUNG ALUMNI CLUB

The Young Alumni Club organizes social, networking, and educational events for alumni and their families. For more information: www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs

For the most current information about Alumni Association activities, visit www.njit.edu/alumni.

Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn too. Go to www.njit.edu/alumni/community.



CAMPUS RECONNECTION

Some of the alumni and NJIT hosts enjoying the activities of Alumni Weekend 2013 took a few minutes for a group photo. The annual opportunity to reconnect with classmates and NJIT continues to grow in popularity with graduates of all ages. See more of the 2013 weekend on campus at www.flickr.com/photos/njit-alumni/sets