

# ALUMNI CIRCUIT



## MEETING AT THE FAIR

In October, NJIT's Career Development Services (CDS) held its 21st Annual Fall Career Fair in the Fleisher Athletic Center and the Naimoli Family Athletic Facility. It was the largest held at NJIT to date.

Considered one of the best managed career fairs on the East Coast, the event attracted over 2,100 students and alumni as well as 173 employers from New Jersey and 22 other states. Career fair attendance for 2013 is an indication of an improving job market and the effectiveness of the NJIT event.

May 2013 graduates who reported that they had obtained full-time employment were asked how they found their job. Fifteen percent responded that their employment was the result of a contact made at a CDS-sponsored career fair.

A new feature this year was the Reverse Career Fair, where representatives of 20 student

professional organizations staffed tables during brunch. The goal was to provide opportunities to initiate strategic partnerships between employers and student leaders and their organizations.

As in past years, NJIT alumni were present on both sides of the table, as potential hires and as recruiters. CDS welcomes returning alums who are looking for that next career opportunity or who have positions to fill on behalf of their organizations.

Alumni can join the Campus Champion Network as an advocate within their organizations for recruiting the next generation of Highlander employees to the workplace. Campus Champions can also play a role in college networking forums, provide service to advisory boards, participate in career panels/programs and mentoring, and share information about scholarship programs.

*For more information about the Campus Champion Network, contact Greg Mass at [mass@njit.edu](mailto:mass@njit.edu). [www.njit.edu/cds](http://www.njit.edu/cds)*

*Editor's note: Joe Stanley '78, '85, president of the Alumni Association of NJIT, shared the following about his fall visit to NJIT's Big Bear Solar Observatory.*

## SEEING THE LIGHT AT BIG BEAR

According to the Bruce Springsteen lyrics, "Mama always told me not to look into the sights of the sun. Oh, but Mama, that's where the fun is." That is exactly what forty some alumni and their guests discovered late in September in California at the Big Bear Solar Observatory (BBSO). Among those joining me from New Jersey were NJIT President Joel Bloom and his wife, Dr. Diane Bloom; Chuck Dees, vice president for university advancement; and Alumni Association board members Anita Rubino and Steve Saperstein.

The BBSO, which is operated by NJIT, conducts cutting-edge solar research (see the fall 2013 *NJIT Magazine*). Due to its unique white structures along the glacial lake shoreline and the high security of the facility, it is a source of significant mystery to local residents. The veil of mystery was briefly pulled aside for the alumni attending the presentation by Distinguished Professor of Physics Phil Goode and his staff, followed by a tour of the telescope.

Walking through the observatory and viewing the actual telescope and the unique instrumentation, which the BBSO staff use to study portions of the sun in

amazing detail, was fascinating to all who took the tour. The dedication of Professor Goode and the staff was evident throughout the tour. These people truly love what they do, and they were thrilled to explain how they study the sun and its implications for our everyday lives.

Professor Goode recently retired from being the director of the BBSO, but continues to be involved in his studies of the sun and development of new instrumentation. In appreciation for his hosting three alumni events at the facility over the years, the Alumni Association of NJIT presented Professor Goode with a small token of esteem.

*[continued]*



*NJIT Alumni Association President Joe Stanley (right) presenting Distinguished Professor of Physics Phil Goode, recently retired as director of Big Bear Solar Observatory, with the gift of a Tiffany silver pen.*

## 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

The tour of the BBSO and other locations throughout Southern California represent efforts of the Alumni Association to engage alumni in the region.

If you would like to be notified of future events, or wish to be involved in a Southern California Regional Club, please contact the Alumni Relations Office.



At Big Bear: (from left) Fabio Galati, Anita Rubino '83, Alison Saperstein, Steve Saperstein '84, Joe Stanley '78, '85 and Helen Stanley

## ALUMNI PROFILES

### MICHAEL CHROBAK '80 *Choosing New Jersey*

Geographically, Michael Chrobak's career has come full circle. After completing his bachelor's in mechanical engineering in 1980, he moved from New Jersey to Texas, where his professional experience spanned engineering and statewide economic development. Today, he is back in New Jersey as chief economic development officer for Choose New Jersey, Inc., a public-private partnership based in Princeton that's dedicated to growing the state's economy and the creation of quality, sustainable jobs.

Chrobak, who grew up in Linden, says that his inclination

toward engineering was fostered by learning about the technical acumen his father needed as the city's building inspector, and the satisfaction to be had from "taking things apart to find out how they work." At Newark College of Engineering – New Jersey Institute of Technology by the time he graduated – Chrobak's interest in how things work broadened with appreciation of the planning



Promoting New Jersey at a meeting in Israel

basic to creating products and processes that work in the right way. And the university's cooperative work-study program gave him further real-world insight into the organizational elements underpinning success in business.

For part of his junior and senior years, Chrobak worked at a Staten Island company that produced printing inks and pigments. "I had the opportunity to see the operation first-hand, to see how people bring different knowledge and skills to making an organization successful," he says. "It gave me an overview that would be really valuable in the future."

The future that Chrobak embarked on with his NJIT degree took him to Texas as a project engineer at Texas Instruments. Chrobak's employer, he had learned, was long aware of the talent nurtured by NJIT. The company ultimately known as Texas Instruments was incubated during the 1930s in Newark. It provided pioneering geophysical technology for oil and gas exploration, technology increasingly valuable in states like Texas.

When Chrobak came aboard, Texas Instruments was at the forefront of innovation in electronics, with digital calculators that would become ubiquitous

in education, business and the home being a major product line. Managing product development was the next significant step for Chrobak, and responsibility for a \$45 million calculator line.

While he was with Texas Instruments, Chrobak earned an MBA at Texas Tech University and a master's in economics from Southern Methodist University, focusing on international trade. Adding these academic credentials to his resume was part of Chrobak's transition to increasing responsibility for business development in the international marketplace at Texas Instruments, and subsequently at Compaq Computer and Dell. At Dell, shortly before his career turned in a very different direction, Chrobak was the senior director of Dell Ventures, overseeing how the resources of companies Dell had invested in were strategically integrated into the corporation's overall operations.

Through an interest in economic development activities for the State of Texas, Chrobak was presented with an attractive opportunity in the public sector. He was hired by Tracey McDaniel in 2003 to become the inaugural chief financial officer and director of the Texas Economic Development Division within the governor's office. McDaniel

*"I'm very optimistic. I think we will make progress over the next few decades. I'm very excited for the future of the environmental field."*

*- Kiran Gill*

had managed the transition of the division to the governor's office from its beginning as a state agency. And when New Jersey Governor Chris Christie announced that the board of directors had hired McDaniel to head a new organization – Choose New Jersey – Chrobak's range of expertise and native roots gave him the opportunity to join McDaniel again, this time as chief economic development officer for the new organization.

Choose New Jersey is one initiative of the state's Partnership for Action. Under the direction of Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, the partnership also includes the New Jersey Business Action Center, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and the office of the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education.

In his post with privately-funded, non-profit Choose New Jersey, Chrobak leads a program that makes the case for establishing a presence in the state to companies across the nation as well as from countries around the world. "To be honest, New Jersey is not the least expensive place to do business," Chrobak says. "There are challenges, including tax and regulatory issues, when it comes to sustaining an environment that will attract businesses and their investments to our state. We need to carefully address existing policies with respect to the expectations of business leaders on an ongoing basis, to highlight that New Jersey is more competitive."

Business leaders need to know New Jersey is a complete package

– containing all of the resources that make the state a uniquely cost-effective location, a great place for business to be more productive, where greater employee creativity can produce market-leading innovations." Listing some of what New Jersey offers as an outstanding base for business, Chrobak cites excellent education at every level, a highly skilled workforce, an extensive and mature supply chain for industries of all types, and an exceptional transportation network.

"We have more scientists and engineers per square mile than any location in the world, and it's possible to access a third of the country's population within twenty-four hours," Chrobak says. "I think the Choose New Jersey tagline sums it up. 'Highly educated, perfectly located.' That's New Jersey."

### **KIRAN GILL '07** *Environmental Standout*

The environmental challenges we face are widespread and many. But Kiran Gill and her colleagues at PARS Environmental, Inc., are working hard to meet these challenges on diverse fronts across the country. Gill – PARS owner, president and CEO – heads a growing consulting practice that offers expertise spanning remedial investigation, risk assessment, industrial health and safety, and treatment-system design, construction and maintenance.

Gill has steered PARS to success, garnering accolades for the firm that include a 2010 American Military Engineers Small Business Excellence in Environmental Services Award for



*Kiran Gill, PARS Environmental president and CEO*

remediation in Pennsylvania. In recognition of her managerial achievements, Gill was named the New Jersey Minority Small Business Person of the Year for 2010 by the US Small Business Administration, and she is on the 2013 NJBIZ list of top entrepreneurial "Forty Under 40" residents of the state.

As an undergraduate at New York University, Gill developed a keen interest in environmental science during a college project for which she traveled to Costa Rica. The project focused on preserving ecosystems, and Gill was able to observe the different ways that people live in and yet conserve the environment. She realized that several of the concepts she observed were applicable to industrialized New Jersey and that she could make a difference at home.

While in college, Gill also landed an internship with a company then named PARS Environmental Services, and after the internship ended came on board as a full-time employee. PARS, which was founded in 1984, specialized in helping clients comply with environmental health and safety regulations. A premier offering was proprietary

software the Robbinsville-based company had created to facilitate environmental compliance.

Several years after Gill joined PARS, the husband and wife founders of the company decided to sell the company due to personal reasons. Gill and a number of co-workers wanted to keep PARS going, at first primarily to provide continuing support for clients of PARS' environmental-compliance software. It was a major professional turning point for Gill. She had the opportunity to purchase the company, a decision that put her on the path of company management.

The step from environmental scientist into top management was daunting, Gill admits. But encouraged by her parents and with an expansive vision for the company's future, Gill assumed the responsibilities of leadership. And while still providing assistance essential for their existing client base, the PARS team ventured into new markets.

"It took us a few years, but we did succeed in winning large contracts with the State of New Jersey and the federal government, including the Army Corps of Engineers," Gill says. It's also work that has taken PARS experts beyond New Jersey, as far as New Mexico, California and Alaska.

Gill's new role as manager brought her to NJIT as well, to the School of Management's Executive MBA program. "I knew that being a manager would be very different from my former technical position, and that I would need in-depth knowledge of business," she says. "More specifically, I wanted a degree that

would help me as the head of a technical company." That's what Gill found at NJIT.

"As we expanded from environmental-compliance software to developing proprietary remediation technology, NJIT's focus on management of technology really helped with bringing our innovations to market, and differentiating ourselves from other technical companies. The instructors taught using real-world scenarios, and I met other business owners who were dealing with the same challenges that we had at PARS."

Gill's 2007 MBA provided an important tool for building the success of her company, success that she says is based on encouraging every member of the PARS team to be creative and entrepreneurial. "I want everyone who works with me to always feel free to suggest new and better ways of doing things. That was the culture at PARS when I started, and it is a culture that I want to encourage and perpetuate."

Speaking of recent contracts, Gill expresses special satisfaction with her company's ongoing participation in New Jersey's recovery from Hurricane Sandy. PARS is working with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Parks Service on a range of storm-related projects. "Sandy hit home for all of us. When you go out into the field and talk to the people who are still affected, you get a real sense of how terrible the storm was. We're very glad that we have the expertise needed to help."

As for guiding PARS into the future, Gill says that she and her colleagues must always be looking forward. "Where do we want to be two years from now, five years from now, and how can we get there? That is our focus. We have to make the right decisions, identify the right growth areas, and invest in the right equipment."

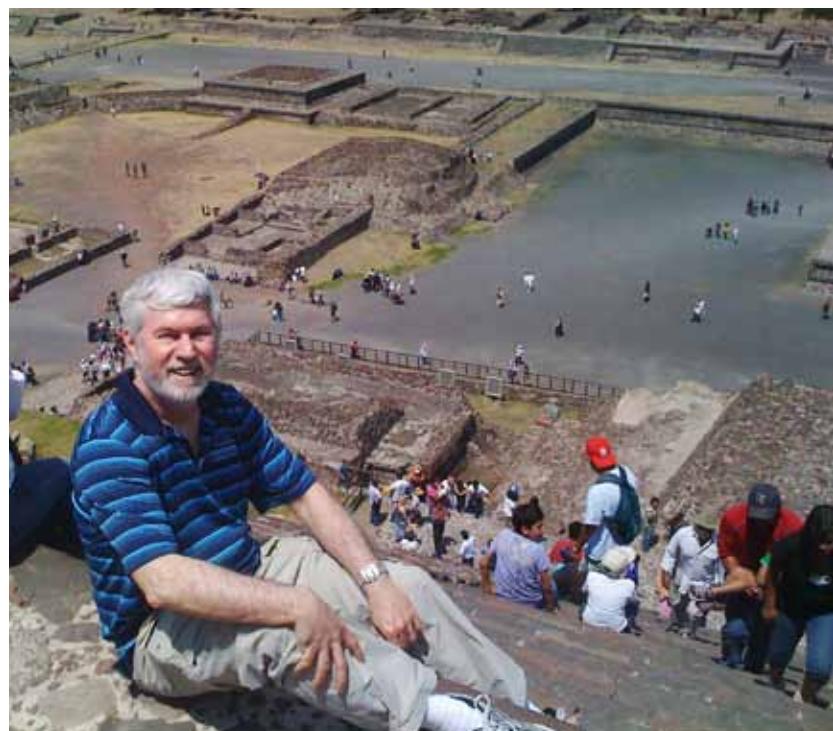
And fostering the talents of her staff, Gill adds, is fundamental to charting the right course. "How can I help everyone to grow with the company and develop the skills and confidence that makes it possible to start in an entry-level position and grow into a project manager? We succeed together. It's something I think about every day."

Gill clearly communicates her enthusiasm for the work she does at PARS, for being a part of positive change. "There's so much that needs to be done, in being a more sustainable society, contending with climate change, and providing clean water. These are just a few critical areas.

"I'm very optimistic. I think we will make progress over the next few decades. I'm very excited for the future of the environmental field."

#### **HOWARD E. MICHEL '75** *Launching Satellites and Careers*

It's hard to imagine a more vivid advertisement for the versatility of an engineering degree than Howard E. Michel. Since graduating nearly 40 years ago, the electrical engineering major has flown B-52 bombers, launched satellites, devised systems software for the US Air Force, and is now training



*Visiting the pre-Columbian city of Teotihuacan in Mexico*

future engineers as an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

Recently elected president of IEEE, the world's largest technical professional association, Michel says it is now his mandate to ensure that the organization's 400,000 members in more than 180 countries navigate just as dexterously through the dynamic and sometimes fitful waters of work life.

"We can't promise job security, but we provide the tools that can guarantee career security," asserts Michel, who took the organization's measure early on as student chapter chair for Newark College of Engineering.

Slated to head the association in 2015, he will spend the next year

as president-elect mulling vehicles for professional development, as well as strategies for raising the IEEE's visibility and clout around the globe. Among other approaches, he plans to expand offerings such as "Smart Tech" workshops, forums on topics ranging from software engineering to Smart Grid systems that encourage members from a variety of disciplines to learn about technologies outside of their expertise, to stay abreast of developments in their fields, and to network with other professionals.

"These workshops showcase the best of IEEE though a partnership of our local volunteers, our technical experts from around the globe, and staff from the Piscataway headquarters," he says.

A firm believer in professional development who went on to earn two master's degrees – in systems management and electrical and computer engineering – and a PhD in computer science and engineering, Michel says he puts a lot of stock, however, in the power of "a good solid engineering degree to prepare you for pretty much anything." In his case, this entailed flying supersonic jets just two years after graduation.

"There is nothing like the thrill of flying a plane with a 200-foot wingspan 400 feet above the ground at 350 knots," he says of the experience, while adding on the skills required to manage complicated instruments and understand complex systems like the weather: "Who better than an engineer?"

Calling the military "a great career" for an engineer, he notes, "You really do have access to the best toys." After his stint as a jet pilot, he moved on to rockets. He devised, among other devices, a distributive instrumentation system of sensors (later patented) to study the impact of the acoustic and seismic waves released by Shuttle launches at Vandenberg Air Force Base on buildings in the vicinity of a launch pad and the equipment stored in them, including satellites.

Much of his work had Cold War security applications, including developing systems to identify low-flying stealth aircraft and instruments to detect whether military trucks were carrying real or fake missiles. "The thinking was to create missile motorcades to prevent our

*"If you're sending ballistic missiles 8,000 miles around the earth, or cruise missiles hundreds of miles along the earth, you need to chart their path with absolute precision. If the earth moves even a little, the precise direction of gravity changes, and this can put them off course."*

– Howard E. Michel

enemies from figuring out which trucks had the actual missiles and so we worked on ways of disguising them," he notes.

He also worked on sensors to measure continental movements known as "earth tides."

"If you're sending ballistic missiles 8,000 miles around the earth, or cruise missiles hundreds of miles along the earth, you need to chart their path with absolute precision. If the earth moves even a little, the precise direction of gravity changes, and this can put them off course," he says.

Later, as satellite launch director and chief of the payloads branch at Vandenberg, he oversaw seven launches, including civilian satellites for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that up until recently were used in tracking storms such as Sandy. And in 1990, he supervised the first US commercial satellite launches in China under a novel cost-cutting initiative urged by Reagan administration officials who decided that US launches were too expensive. The State Department quickly embraced the idea, but the Pentagon was initially aghast, he recalls.

"As a military officer, my task was to ensure a safe and suc-

cessful launch, while at the same time not compromising either country's technologies," he recounts. "There were large meetings with Chinese and American engineers assembled around a table, and one of my jobs was to listen in. Periodically, I'd have to call a time-out."

After his promotion to a policy job developing open-system standards for the mission-critical computer systems embedded in planes, ships, and tanks in order to promote competition and drive down costs, he found the work somewhat less gripping.

"The higher you rise, the further away you are from the interesting toys. I realized I hadn't done much engineering for more than a decade," recounts Michel, whose boyish enthusiasm for all things gadgetry includes fond memories of the indoor ski machine at NCE where he learned to make turns by sinking his edges into a carpet-covered roller.

"You could still fall. I tore a hole in the knee of my pants hitting the carpet," he laughs, recalling the fragility of the era's synthetic fabrics. "Everything back then was polyester – so 70s."

So he earned his PhD and headed back to academia, where

he teaches, among other budding engineers, senior design teams comprised of electrical, computer and mechanical engineers working on "real projects from clients that involve system engineering." One of these teams took first prize at an IEEE student-design competition at Rochester Institute of Technology for creating back lighting for televisions known as "mood lighting."

"They learn to ask the right questions – not about how they're going to start building right off the bat, but what it is exactly that they are building. I get a kick out of watching students make the transition from thinking they know engineering to actually knowing it," he says.

Michel says he encourages his students to join IEEE.

"As an undergraduate at NCE, the branch advisor took me to local meetings, and that allowed me to start networking with professional engineers," he recalls, adding, "As my career varied, I saw different values in my membership. When I was a pilot I stayed connected to engineering through publications like *SPECTRUM* magazine, and as a research engineer at the Geophysics Lab, *IEEE Transactions* had state-of-the-art research. Now teaching engineering design, IEEE standards are key."

Of his ascent over the years from student chapter chair to president, he notes with a chuckle, "Not bad!" ■

Meet Howard on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUYyvSf8yKg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUYyvSf8yKg)

# 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 –*

The student-athletes, coaches and director are generally the most visible members of a university's athletics department, and it's no different at NJIT. However, a quality "behind the scenes" staff is needed to make sure the whole program runs smoothly. Len Kaplan, NJIT athletics director, has told me that he is fortunate to have such a staff, particularly his long-time assistant **Joseph N. Caiola**, who happens to be an NJIT alumnus.



*Joseph N. Caiola '80, '84 with sons Anthony '12 (left) and Joseph A. '10, '11*

After earning an associate's degree at Brookdale Community College, Joe transferred to NJIT, where he graduated with a bachelor's in engineering technology, cum laude, in 1980. He earned a master's in engineering management in 1984. An outstanding basketball player, Joe currently ranks sixth highest in single-game scoring at NJIT. In his last game, played against Concordia College, he scored 40

points. Joe also served as a resident assistant at Redwood Hall, NJIT's first dormitory.

Following graduation, Joe worked as a piping engineer for C F Braun & Company in Murray Hill. When the company moved to the West Coast, Joe worked as a consulting engineer for LJ Gonzer Associates in Newark beginning in 1982. He joined the NJIT Athletics Department in 1987 as a part-time assistant basketball coach and was subsequently appointed to the full-time staff as recruiting coordinator. Joe is currently assistant athletics director for business, facilities and events management. For the past fifteen years, he has coordinated the NJIT Athletics Golf Outing, the department's most successful fund-raiser, which has brought in more than \$750,000.

Joe met his wife, Carol, in his first year at NJIT. They have been married for 29 years and have two sons, **Joseph A.** and **Anthony**, both NJIT graduates. Joe A. earned a bachelor's in mechanical engineering in 2010 and a master's in management in 2011. He works for Turtle & Hughes, an electrical and industrial distribution company whose corporate offices are in Linden, New Jersey. He met his employer while working

as a volunteer at the 2011 NJIT golf outing. Anthony, who played four years of varsity baseball at NJIT, graduated with a bachelor's in management and finance in 2012. He works as a stockbroker with Laidlaw & Co. in New York City. Joe and Carol live in Edison, New Jersey, in the house they have owned since they were married. They recently bought a home in Cape Coral, Florida.

**Shannon Abraham '04**, who majored in management with a



*Shannon Abraham '04*

minor in global studies, is another member of the NJIT Athletics Department. Shannon was born in the Republic of

Trinidad and Tobago and lived there with his parents and brother before coming to the United States and entering NJIT at the age of 18. He played soccer at Belmont High School in Trinidad and Tobago and was recommended to NJIT by a Belmont High School alumnus who was a friend of Rick Hill, the NJIT soccer coach.

Unfortunately, after only two touches with the ball in his first game at NJIT in 2000, Shannon broke his leg – which is why coaches preach the importance of one-touch passing. He missed that season but returned to action in 2001. After graduation, Shannon was employed by the Newark Bears Professional Baseball Club and received successive promotions as group sales manager, production manager and corporate sales manager until 2006, when he left to work full-time at NJIT. He is currently operations manager for

the Athletics Department. His responsibilities include events and ticket-office management, scheduling of facilities and student workers, and sales of athletic merchandise. Shannon lives in Newark with his wife, Shelly, and son, Andrew.

Among the many alumni at this year's Athletics Golf Outing were

**Joe Branco '74, '77** and **Leo Pflug '75**, from EIC Associates

in Springfield, New Jersey. Joe and **Andre Ameri '78**, EIC co-owners, have pledged \$50,000 for soccer scholarships in the name of EIC. In 2012, they were honored for their engineering and entrepreneurial achievements at the Salute to Engineering Excellence sponsored by Newark College of Engineering. (See the fall 2012 issue of *NJIT Magazine*.)

Leo, a licensed Professional Engineer, worked for EE Cruz & Co. for nine years as a project manager before joining EIC as chief engineer in 2002. He was responsible for estimating and engineering on various projects before taking on overall management of the \$82.9 million Glenbrook 115-kV transmission cables project in Norwalk, Connecticut, in 2006.

Leo has more than 35 years of experience in heavy, civil, power, pharmaceutical and pollution-control construction across the US and in two foreign countries. He has been manager and superintendent for numerous major projects, including 22 contracts totaling \$42 million for Merck & Co. Inc., a \$30 million addition to a water-treatment plant at the Wanaque Reservoir in New Jersey, an \$11 million combined sewer and microtunnels installation in Astoria, New York, a \$5 million sewage treatment plant

in Wanaque, and a \$4 million design-build groundwater treatment plant for the Curtiss-Wright groundwater recovery system in Moonachie, New Jersey.

**Zubair Lokhandwala '10** interned at EIC in his junior and senior years and was a field assistant for Leo on the Glenbrook cables project, which helped him learn about managing the business side of construction. He joined EIC full-time after graduation as a project engineer.

Zubair has worked on the foundation for the World Trade Center Transportation Hub and the Eco Park marine preservation project in New York City. Exposure to the architectural side of construction through working with the design team and client taught him how to balance the financial aspects of a project with appropriate goals for completion. He is currently working on a project involving all utility and foundation work for a new performing arts center at Princeton University.

Among the graduates attending the alumni soccer reunion on campus were **Saman Mazahreh '01, '05** and **Brian Nash '08**. Saman has worked at Schering-Plough and is now at Novartis in Parsippany, New Jersey. He is pursuing a PhD at Rutgers-Newark in global affairs, focusing on international law and global governance related to pharmaceutical regulations. Brian was active in the Society for Advanced Management in his junior and senior years at NJIT. He is on a contract assignment for Ajilon Finance as an equity analyst at Bloomberg L.P., and working on a master's in accounting at Seton Hall University.

The story of Joe Caiola and his sons is indicative of a number of NJIT alumni who have had more than one member of their family attend the university. Joining this group are **Horace Malcolm Chase** and his sister, **Shelly**, and brother, **Hastings**. They immigrated to New Jersey from British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1981, and after graduating from East Orange High School entered NJIT in the Engineering Opportunity Program. Horace and Shelly marched together at Commencement in 1988.

Horace was one of two freshmen to start for the NJIT soccer team in my final year as coach, and he continued to play three years for **Efrain Borja '77**. After Commencement, he became a sales consultant for Gallo Wines and has remained with the company for more than 25 years. Horace played in New Jersey and New York with teams that won several championships in the Metropolitan and USL Premier Leagues.

Desiring to give back to society because so much was given to him, Horace is serving with several non-profit organizations that provide support for groups helping homeless children and orphanages in the Caribbean, mostly in Guyana. He was also a volunteer soccer coach at Chad High School, a privately funded school in Newark for underprivileged children.

Shelly, who graduated with a degree in electrical engineering, is working for the US Patent Office in Washington, DC. Hastings spent one year at NJIT with Engineering Opportunity and AFROTC scholarships before transferring to the US Air Force Academy. Horace lives in Mil-

lington, New Jersey, with his daughter, Hollace.

Diane and I have a home in Warren, Vermont, and noticed an obituary in the local weekly about **John (Jack) Cooper Clayton '50**. After graduating from Millburn High School in 1943, Jack volunteered for the Navy during World War II. He entered NCE after completing his service and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering. He also earned an MBA from Rutgers University. Jack founded and managed the Somerville Equipment Company for many years. After skiing in college, Jack started again when he was 50 years old and skied with his family until he was 78 years young at Mad River Glen in Waitsfield, Vermont. He and his wife, Lillian, retired to Placida, Florida.

Hosted by **Roy Knutsen '62**, the annual Feet and Hands golf outing was held on October 5, 2013 at the Lake Mohawk Golf Club. Roy won low-gross honors with an 82; Callaway winners were **Rich Schroeder '66**, **Bob Welgos '62** and **Bill Morris '82** with scores of 74, 75 and 76 respectively. Closest-to-the-pin winners were **Paul Dreyer '64** and **Norm Loney '77**.

Bob, who will host next year's outing at the Newton Country Club, waxed nostalgic about the outing as he toasted his basketball teammates of yore: "Think about it. A group of old men who played basketball together 50 years ago still go out of their way and travel substantial distances to assemble once a year. I received three phone calls prior to the outing from teammates who expressed sadness that they could not attend for health, family or business reasons.

"We gather just to enjoy each other's company, to reminisce about what we were 50 years ago and to play a little golf. We talk about knee replacements and medications but the smiles and laughter tell the story behind the words. I know of no other scenario that does this and so I raise my glass of beer and say, 'Here's to us. May we all stay healthy enough to do this for many years.'"

I say "Amen" to Bob's toast and encourage alumni to keep in touch with their classmates and attend NJIT alumni functions, especially the annual alumni reunion.

Keep the news coming to mjs@njit.edu.

## O'BRIEN TO LEAD MID-ATLANTIC ROBOTICS

The Board of Directors of Mid-Atlantic Robotics has selected Gene R. O'Brien '62 to lead the New Jersey non-profit organization as chairman through June 2014. A graduate of NJIT in electrical engineering, he is a founding member and former secretary of the organization. O'Brien, a licensed Professional Engineer in New Jersey, retired from the former Lucent Technologies after a 36-year career in engineering, operations and marketing.

Mid-Atlantic Robotics is franchised by the US Foundation for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) to conduct robotics events for high school students in Delaware, New Jersey and the eastern half of Pennsylvania. There are more than 350 volunteer members. Over 100 teams of students, along with their teacher/coaches and mentors

from the business sector, participated in the 2013 season.

The students design, construct, program and test their robots, which weigh over 100 pounds, within a six-week period after the announcement of an annual game that changes every year. Each team, ranging from 10 to more than 50 students, receives a standard kit of parts and rules for the game at the kickoff on the first Saturday of January.

Teams in Mid-Atlantic Robotics compete in two local contests (called district events) by which they can qualify for the Region Championship. A limited number of these teams then qualify for the FIRST World Championship conducted in late April. There are more than 2,500 such teams in the United States and many other countries, including Brazil, Canada, Germany, Great Britain and Israel.

In his role as chairman, O'Brien will be responsible for a half-million-dollar budget and numerous committees of volunteers who oversee the events, team support and other operations essential for the success of the program. Most of the budget is raised from donations by businesses, foundations and individuals. Active in FIRST programs for more than 10 years, O'Brien was honored as the New Jersey Volunteer-of-the-Year in 2008.

## 1961

**Stanley Barauskas** (ME) writes that he has returned to work part-time at Boeing Co., to help with a new NASA project, the Space Launch System (SLS). He says, "It is a rocket that is more powerful than the Saturn V that launched astronauts to the moon (lift-off thrust was 7.5 million pounds, the SLS will be 8.6 million pounds). I enjoy being back to work with my fellow Shuttle engineers and it's great to work on rocket engines again."

New York State Bar Association, District of Columbia Bar Association, Essex County Bar Association, Bergen County Bar Association, American Bar Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, Turnaround Management Association, and the Commercial Law League of America.

as a member of the ASME B73 Committee for Chemical Standard Pumps.

## 1967

**Harvey Bernstein** (CE), McGraw Hill Construction's vice president for industry insights and alliances, and a LEED accredited professional, has been appointed to the Corporate Advisory Board of the World Green Building Council. The council is a network of national green building councils in more than 90 countries, making it the largest international organization influencing the green-building marketplace.

**Andrew Litecky** (ME), president of Shupper-Brickle Equipment Company, volunteered to speak about the physics of hoisting, pulleys and mechanical advantage at the Emily Warren Roebling Engineering Summer Camp in Roebling, New Jersey. The camp, sponsored by PSE&G and the Give Back Foundation, invited students ranging in age from eleven to thirteen to explore the mechanics of bridge building and other engineering principles at the Roebling Museum, the historic site of the former Roebling mill and wire rope factory.

## 1972

**Charles Forman** (IE), a founding member of the firm Forman Holt Eliades & Youngman LLC, has been recognized among the best lawyers in America in the 2014 *Best Lawyers* winter business edition. Forman is a widely respected leader in bankruptcy law with more than 30 years of experience as an attorney for debtors and creditors. In addition to his service as a trustee appointed by the United States Justice Department, he is an attorney for numerous other trustees. Forman is also a member of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Bankruptcy Law Foundation, New Jersey State Bar Association,

## 1975

**Gary Jaslovsky** (ChE) has joined the national construction company MC Industrial as project director. With some 40 years of industry experience, Jaslovsky will be responsible for overseeing construction projects nationwide.

**Anthony E. Stavale** PE, (ET), research and development manager for ITT Goulds Pumps in Seneca Falls, New York, has been honored with the 2013 ITT Engineering Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes superior technical achievements and outstanding efforts in the areas of innovation, engineering excellence and productivity. He holds five US patents, three pending patents and has published numerous technical papers both nationally and internationally. Stavale also serves

## 1981

**Paul Sullivan** (CE) is now a senior supervising engineer in the Newark, New Jersey, office of Parsons Brinckerhoff, where he will work with transit agencies in managing the planning and design of major projects in the Northeast. Sullivan has 25 years of experience in transit-project management across a wide range of rail and bus modes. Previously, he was with an international consulting firm, responsible for managing large-scale transit projects. He also served as director of passenger facilities planning and engineering for New Jersey Transit.

## 1983

**Ram Murthy** MS (ME), MS '84 (Computer Science) is the chief information officer for the US Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). As CIO, he heads the RRB's Bureau of Information Services, which has more than 150 staff members. In that capacity, Murthy is responsible for planning, directing and coordinating the agency's Information Resources Management Program. He also serves as a member of the RRB's Executive Committee, which is responsible for day-to-day operations of the agency and for making recommendations to the three-member board on policy issues.

## 1987

**Wilson Orozco** (ME) is putting his engineering skills to work at Primus Green Energy in Hillsborough, New Jersey. His current responsibilities include translating process and

instrumentation diagrams into instructions that facilitate field construction. Primus is focused on the development of alternative “drop-in” fuels produced from readily available domestic resources such as natural gas and biomass that are cost-competitive with petroleum-based products. The company’s proprietary technology produces aromatic chemicals as well as gasoline, jet fuel and diesel that require no engine modifications or changes to the fuel-delivery infrastructure.

## 1993

**Bennet Dunkley** (Arch) has joined New York-based Helpern Architects as vice president. He will be involved with firm-wide management of business operations and client development. For the last two years, Dunkley was responsible for managing a 550,000-square-foot renovation and conversion of a General Services Administration office building in Washington, DC that is expected to achieve both GSA Design Excellence and USGBC LEED Gold status. Previously, he worked in New York for two decades. Career highlights include working on hotels around the world, 20,000 condominium units, commercial interiors projects, and a 125,000-square-foot high school that focuses on law.

## 1994

**Jason Kliwinski** (Arch) has been appointed director of sustainable design at Parette Somjen Architects, working from the firm's Rockaway, New Jersey, headquarters. Kliwinski, AIA and a LEED Fellow, served as director of sustainable design for Spiezle Architectural Group prior to joining Parette Somjen.

## 2000

**Leroy Jones** MS (Mgmt.), a partner at 1868 Public Affairs, a New Jersey government and public affairs consultancy, has been named chair of the Essex County Democratic organization. Jones joined 1868 Public Affairs after a career as a state legislator, county freeholder and municipal-government administrator. His extensive public service includes serving four terms in the New Jersey General Assembly, working on the Appropriations, Regulatory Oversight, Solid Waste and Recycling, Financial Institutions, and Local Government Committees. He also served on the Assembly Task Force on Foreign Banking, the Task Force on Business Retention and Expansion, and the State House Commission.

## 2001

**Mark Boucot** MS (Mgmt.) has been named the president and chief executive officer of Garrett County Memorial Hospital in Maryland. He joins Garrett Memorial with more than 25 years of health care experience. His most recent position was as vice president and chief operating officer of Medstar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland.

**Gwen Ratliff** (EE), an engineer with PSE&G, has been devoting considerable spare time to the public schools in her hometown of New Brunswick, New Jersey. She is giving back to the school system where she was once a student through the New Brunswick Education Foundation (NBEF). Ratliff has chaired the NBEF's scholarship committee and has been involved with an after-school robotics program. She has also participated in designing a new STEM curriculum for the city

and has helped to raise more than \$190,000 for scholarships available to students at New Brunswick High School and New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School. In recognition of her efforts on behalf of students in New Brunswick, Ratliff has been awarded a \$10,000 grant through PSEG's Recognizing Excellence in Volunteerism program. PSEG is the parent company of PSE&G.

## 2002

**Alexis Goldman** (Arch) has been promoted to associate principal at Solutions Architecture. Goldman's professional affiliations include the American Institute of Architects, the US Green Building Council, the vision42 initiative and Transportation Alternatives.

**Colin Sytsma** (actuarial science) has been promoted to vice president—accounting analyst/finance at Lakeland Bank. He joined Lakeland in 2002 and has held positions that include assistant treasurer-accounting.

## 2006

**Mahesh Karwa** PhD (Chem) has received the Luitpold President's Award from Luitpold Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and PharmaForce, Inc. Karwa, a senior analytical development scientist, was cited for accomplishments that include his role in validation transfer of analytical methodologies, in-process release stability testing of registration batches, and technology transfer during development of Injectafer, a treatment for iron deficiency anemia.

## 2007

**Amir Elfar** (Executive MBA) has been named CIO of Omicron. In previous positions, he served as senior vice president for IT at MedAvante and vice president for corporate network services at IDT. Omicron provides the electrical power industry with equipment and services for testing, diagnostics and monitoring worldwide.

## IN MEMORIAM

The NJIT community notes with sadness the deaths of the following alumni:

- Edward Taylor Francis '39**
- Albert R. Tarzy '41**
- John J. McGrath '42**
- William Klitsch '48**
- Edward A. Skettini '48**
- John Cooper Clayton '50**
- Lester Lieberman '51**
- Albert Gloor '52, '60**
- Arthur J. Makris '52**
- William Rose '52**
- Paul Joseph Real '53**
- William F. Hanley '57**
- Fred Bachmann '59**
- Frederick W. Pflum '59**
- John Amann '66**
- Dominic Benjamin Carrino '67, '79**
- Anthony Dellanno '73, '79**
- Michael J. Dries '74, '78**
- James T. Gurski '76**
- Kenneth William Sullivan Sr. '79**
- Diana Lynn Hoenig '85**

# ALUMNI CALENDAR

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 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, visit: [www.njit.edu/alumni/class](http://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: Hatch Mott MacDonald, PSE&G, Schering-Plough, Turner Construction and United Parcel Service.  
For more information:  
[www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/clubs)

## REGIONAL CLUBS

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

**For the most current information about Alumni Association activities, visit [www.njit.edu/alumni](http://www.njit.edu/alumni).**

**Join us on Facebook and LinkedIn too.  
Go to [www.njit.edu/alumni/community](http://www.njit.edu/alumni/community).**



## LOOKING AT THE HIGH LINE

In October, the NJIT Alumni Club of Metro NY invited graduates and guests to enjoy a guided tour of historic and architectural highlights in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood, and to visit High Line Park. The mile-long High Line aerial greenway is atop what was once an elevated section of the New York Central Railroad running along the lower west side of Manhattan.