

ALUMNI CIRCUIT

A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

We have all heard the comment: “*The only thing that is constant is change.*” It would appear this statement was written to describe the NJIT campus. Have you walked through the campus recently? You would be amazed at the changes that have taken place over the years. Do not put off your visit because more changes are on the way. The groundbreaking ceremonies have just taken place for the Life Sciences and Engineering Building and the Wellness and Events Center. You only have to go back a couple of years to have seen the opening of the Albert Dorman Honors College building and residence hall and the Warren Street Village. You can have the opportunity to stay in the Albert Dorman Honors College dorms if you attend Alumni Weekend on May 20-22, 2016. Also, this year the third and fourth floors of the Central King Building opened with new classrooms, lecture halls, study areas and laboratories. The original architecture of the former Central High School was preserved and world-class classrooms and laboratories were integrated into the design. I am confident that there are no alumni who would recognize this building today, inside or out!



Jack Wagner '74

The transformation of the NJIT campus is not just about new buildings. It is about capturing the spirit of NJIT today and seeing it grow on the campus. That spirit is something that you have to see in person to believe. The ever-growing

student population has brought its own level of excitement to the campus. At 7 a.m. you can see the women's soccer team practicing on Lubetkin Field. Later in the day—if you can see through the snowstorm—you might catch a

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view of the men's lacrosse team playing a game on that field during a raging blizzard. If it is too cold, go inside the Athletic Center to see the women's volleyball team compete against conference rivals in the Atlantic Sun Conference. Get your tickets early for the men's basketball games because chances are they will be sold out to see our Highlanders take the court in their new conference! The Highlander spirit has to be seen to be appreciated.

The campus evolution continues in the classrooms also. The School of Management, along with corporate sponsors, host business and innovation competitions. Newark College of Engineering draws a huge crowd of sponsors and alumni participating in the “reverse engineering” competition. Hundreds of companies come to the NJIT Career, Co-op and Internship Fairs. Alumni and business professionals meet on campus for the “Speed Networking” event to help students prepare for the business world. The students across the campus, representing all of the schools, are engaged in project-based learning and applying what they have learned in the classroom to real business, engineering, architecture and IT situations. That is a transformation that far transcends any new building or facility. It is another example of the evolution of the NJIT spirit.

I have the rare opportunity to see all of this activity on a daily basis. I have returned to the NJIT campus as a member of the School of Management team. I walk around the campus and see many things as they were when I graduated in 1974. Everyone still picks up a copy of the *Vector*. Students are still concerned about their classes and internships. The Campus Center is the hub of activity on a daily basis. But one cannot ignore the changes. The new buildings, classrooms, residence halls, parking, and athletic fields are all great additions to the campus. Highlander spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of the new students. The campus is alive with activity during all 12 months, day and night. It has to be seen to be believed.

“*After changes upon changes we are more or less the same.*” We are and always will be NJIT. That is what sets us apart from everyone else. This is our house and we will keep updating it and adding to it. Highlander spirit will continue to grow with our alumni and student population. Take this opportunity to visit the campus and stop in at the Alumni Office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack W. Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

Jack W. Wagner '74

President, NJIT Alumni Association

ANNUAL HONORS FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Newark College of Engineering marked 17 years in March of honoring the accomplishments of notable alumni, industry partners and high-achieving students at the college's annual Salute to Engineering Excellence.

This year, **Theodore Cassera PE, PP, '72** and **Arnold Peskin '65** each received an Outstanding Alumnus Award. The Utility and Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey (UTCA) was the recipient of the Outstanding Industry Partnership Award—an award received on behalf of the group by UTCA President Scott Lattimer.

Cassera, who majored in civil engineering, says that the greatest satisfaction of his career has been seeing site-development projects progress from concept to transformative reality on the landscape. “You have a real sense of making something positive happen.”

He began to make many positive things happen when he joined the engineering firm Schoor DePalma in 1974. During more than three decades with the firm, he progressed in the ranks to become director of the Real Estate Division, retiring in 2008 as senior executive vice president.

Numerous major projects took shape in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania during Cassera's executive watch. They include corporate headquarters and other commercial projects, residential developments, and facilities in the public sector that have greatly contributed to the economic and social vitality of the region. Notable are the New Jersey headquarters for Tiffany, L'Oreal and Chubb, the two-million-square-foot Connell Corporate Park in Berkeley Heights, and the Trenton Thunder Arena.

In addition to his demanding corporate responsibilities, Cassera was a very active advocate for his profession. He has been appointed twice to the New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

In 2010, Cassera had to admit to a significant failure, but one that actually turned out to be quite

fortunate. “As my wife says, I failed at retirement. I wasn't really ready to stay away from work that has been so satisfying.”

In short order, Cassera once again became a professionally engaged civil engineer — offering his considerable skills to Omland Engineering Associates. “I had known and respected Stan Omland, the founder, for many years as a friend and highly capable fellow engineer. When I was looking for a place to land after trying retirement for two years, I was pleased when Stan asked me to join his company.”

Cassera has been quite busy with Omland Engineering. He's even had the satisfaction of moving a project that he helped to initiate in 1985 at Schoor DePalma to the “10-yard line,” as he puts it. It's a major residential and commercial development in Rockaway Township that had to be guided through a challenging permitting process. Omland Engineering is bringing it to the goal line.

During his career with Schoor DePalma, Cassera had a key role in improvements at NJIT that included the current Campus Center. A special highlight of his work with Omland has been the addition of Warren Street Village, formally opened in 2013 to provide new housing for the university's fraternities and sororities and for students enrolled in Albert Dorman Honors College. These are physical manifestations of a connection with his alma mater that has been strong and enduring for Cassera.

As a student, Cassera's engagement with the wider NCE community began with commitments such as serving as class vice president and president of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. He has maintained a close connection with NCE over the years as a member of the Civil and Environ-



Theodore Cassera PE, PP, '72

mental Engineering Advisory Board, which he chaired from 2003 to 2014. Although he stepped down from the chairmanship after he was recently named to the NCE Board of Visitors, he is still a member of the civil and environmental advisory group. Honored in 2005 with an Alumni Achievement Award from the NJIT Alumni Association, Cassera also remains in direct contact with the students studying to follow him into the field of civil and environmental engineering.

Cassera says that his dedication to giving back to the university is rooted in both the benefits that have accrued from his NCE education and his experience working part-time during his student years for the company that today is Hatch Mott MacDonald. He came to appreciate the importance of the supportive relationship that his employer maintained with NCE, which included providing scholarship aid — assistance that Cassera himself received for his final year at the college and which he promoted while he was with Schoor DePalma. As a personal commitment, he established the Cassera Family Scholarship for NJIT students.

Cassera's advocacy for the importance of professional licensure prompted NCE to implement the requirement that all young men and women in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department take preliminary steps toward this certification before they graduate. The seminar program that he helped to initiate introduces first-year students to the great range of specialties and opportunities in the major that they have chosen.

The message that Cassera has for the students is that they have

embarked on a very demanding academic course. But it's one which, if they persist, will lead to a very fulfilling career. He says, “Hang in there, the rewards are worth it.” Cassera's accomplishments in the field of work that he chose, and the satisfaction he has experienced, clearly validate the perspective that he continues to share at his alma mater.



Arnold Peskin '65 with his wife

Peskin is the retired head of the Information Technology Division and senior scientist at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he served from 1967 to 2004. After receiving a B.S. in electrical engineering from NJIT's Newark College of Engineering, Peskin began his career as a development engineer at IBM (1964-67). He later received an M.S. in electrical engineering from Polytechnic University.

“My career thrived based upon what I learned at NCE,” he says. “My education was excellent.”

While at Brookhaven, Peskin took part in early developments in computer networking, computer-aided design of analog and logic circuits, and most recently data visualization. His team developed X-ray computed microtomography and immersive 3D visualization techniques that found application in oil exploration (with GTE and Mobil Oil), brain imaging, high-energy physics simulations

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and protein data structure analysis. Other technical contributions were made in scientific computing, stereographic visualization techniques, associative computer memories, optical mass data storage, and computer-aided design of processor architectures.

Peskin has invested significant efforts in college education, with a focus on underserved and adult populations. Among his achievements in this arena was the development of an accessible, self-perpetuating, “real-world” capstone experience for students in isolated, rural locations, as well as for students who could not complete their studies at a single institution (such as those in the military). He was also one of the developers of an innovative undergraduate nanoscience technology program for adult learners.

At IEEE, he was active in the Educational Activities Board, both as a volunteer member and as a member of the staff. He has represented IEEE for the accreditation agency ABET, Inc. and was named Fellow of ABET for his contributions to the agency as a longtime volunteer. In 2012, he received a Meritorious Achievement Award from IEEE for advancing continuing education through mentoring, leading technology transfer and impacting adult learning.

What advice would he give to students who are planning to pursue a career in electrical engineering?

“The primary thing about technology in the 21st century is that it changes so fast,” Peskin says. “So to best succeed, embrace change and pursue your own radical ideas fearlessly, but be guided by the tried and true engineering principles you learn at NJIT.”

UTCA, the Outstanding Industry Partner for 2015, is a national award-winning, nonprofit trade association headquartered in Wall, N.J. UTCA currently includes approximately 1,100 member firms active in all phases of heavy, highway, site, utility and environmental remediation construction, in the public and private sectors and throughout the state. On behalf of its member firms, UTCA strives to improve working conditions for the construction industry. Over the years, UTCA has provided scholarship support for NJIT students and has actively recruited NJIT graduates.

Among the NCE student honorees, Anthony Calvano was named outstanding senior in his major—Civil and Environmental Engineering—and outstanding senior of the year. Other seniors recognized for their exceptional academic achievements were Jasmine Faldu*, Biomedical Engineering; Steven Greendyk*, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; Kevin Lorenc*, Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering; Lukasz Romaniecki, Engineering Technology; and Joseph Waldinger*, Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Kevin Alvernaz and Mateusz Tchorz, Civil and Environmental Engineering, was recognized with the Saul K. Fenster Innovation in Design Award. Folawiyo Campbell*, Electrical and Computer Engineering, received the Madame Mau Outstanding Female Engineering Student Award; and Zhonghui Huang, Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering, was honored as the outstanding graduate student and Maxx W. Capece, Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering, received the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award.

**Dorman honors scholars*

RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

In what has become an Alumni Weekend tradition, the Alumni Association of NJIT honored six graduates for exceptional achievements in the private and public sectors at a dinner enjoyed by the honorees along with family members and friends.



Paul Dreyer '64

Paul Dreyer is a professional engineer and board-certified environmental engineer with more than 40 years of experience in planning and implementing infrastructure programs in the United States, South Caucasus, Central Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, the Middle East and the Pacific Rim countries. He has served from project manager to regional manager for several international environmental consulting firms and as liaison to many international funding agencies, local governmental agencies, engineering firms and consultants.

Dreyer currently is an elected member of the Falmouth Planning Board and Town Meeting Member, and has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod. He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from NJIT in 1964.

Samer Hanini oversees business development and construction management for his development firm, the Hanini Group, which has been deeply involved in the renaissance of Newark's downtown district. Development projects include the RockPlaza Lofts on Market Street, a multiproperty project that includes nearly 80 rental apartments, convenience and specialty retail: Dinosaur BBQ, Chipotle, Marcato's Pizzeria and



Samer Hanini '99, '03

the Hotel Indigo. Formerly the First National Bank, the 108-room Hotel Indigo has been billed as the first boutique hotel in Newark, with Alva Restaurant on the first floor and the only rooftop lounge in the area. The firm's most notable project to date is the renovation of the former Hahne's department store, a 500,000-square-foot development that includes 180 residential lofts with Whole Foods and Rutgers University as anchor tenants.

Hanini serves as a trustee on the nonprofit Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, Newark Regional Business Partnership, and has served on NJIT's School of Management Board of Visitors. He graduated from NJIT in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in architecture and also received a master's degree in infrastructure planning in 2003.

Kiran Gill was recognized for her many professional achievements in the field of innovative environmental technologies and her leadership in community service organizations that address the social needs of her local Mercer County community. As the president and chief executive officer of Professional Associates in Regulatory Services (PARS) Environmental, Inc., a full-service environmental consulting firm focused on innovative solutions,



Kiran Gill '07

Gill has overseen the company's growth from five employees to more than 50, and has increased revenue from \$500,000 to over \$13 million. She began her career at PARS as an intern, and in 2003 she purchased the company from its previous owners.

In the past three years, Gill has earned awards including: Top Forty Under 40 Business Leader and Best 50 Women in Business (*NJBIZ Magazine*); and New Jersey Small Business Person of the Year (U.S. Small Business Administration). The Society of Indo-American Engineers and Architects also honored her in 2013 for her achievements and leadership of a woman- and minority-owned business. She received a bachelor's degree from New York University and an MBA from NJIT in 2007.

As senior vice president and general manager of the Aviation Division, Infrastructure & Technology Group, Ralph M. Parsons Co., **Robert Gogal** oversaw the design and construction of hundreds of new airports, airport security systems, passenger terminal designs and construction, and runway, taxi and navigational systems in the U.S. and across the globe. Prior to his work in the private sector, he served in the U.S. military for more than 27 years, most prominently in the U.S.



Robert M. Gogal '58

Air Force. In 1971, he attended the Air Force Command and Staff College, becoming base civil engineer commander in Aviano, Italy, in the following year. In 1977, he was promoted to the position of Colonel, and was assigned to the Pentagon and served as chief of the Housing Division, where he directed maintenance and operation of 155,000 Air Force housing units throughout the world, supervised the construction of new housing communities, including improvements and modernization of existing housing, and solar energy applications.

A longtime volunteer, Gogal served as a reunion leader for the class of 1958, a member of the Alumni Association Council, and on the President's Council on Alumni. He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Newark College of Engineering in 1958.

In a career that has spanned management, technology and marketing, **Brian A. Nadzan** currently serves as the chief development officer at Trading Screen, Inc., where he has spearheaded development in electronic trading, front office trading systems, position and risk management, compliance, settlements and clearing and has stayed on the forefront of global markets and financial technology. From 2005 to



Brian A. Nadzan '85

2009, Nadzan served as a director of development at Lava Trading, where he was responsible for the development and product strategy of its global multi-asset EMS, which delivered market access, order management and analytics to the buy-side community.

From 1992 to 2005, Nadzan served as a Managing Director at Bloomberg LP, where he was responsible for all aspects of software development, client support, and product direction for all trading applications. While at Bloomberg, he pioneered development within electronic trading, developed the company's first order-management system and launched numerous innovative applications for the capital markets financial community. He graduated from NJIT in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in computer and information science and currently serves as a member of NJIT's College of Computing Sciences Board of Visitors.

As the chief operating officer of Prudential Fixed Income, which he joined shortly after receiving a bachelor of science in industrial administration from NJIT in 1984, **Steve Saperstein** manages the divisions of Operations and Systems, Securities Lending, Finance and Business Management. Before assuming his current duties, he



Steven B. Saperstein '84

served as controller of Prudential Individual Insurance and Prudential Real Estate Investors after spending several years in corporate tax and other finance functions at Prudential Financial.

In addition to his corporate accomplishments, Saperstein has been an active alumnus since the 1990s. He is a member of the NJIT Board of Overseers where he serves on the Foundation's investment committee and is a former president and vice president of the Alumni Association of NJIT, currently serving on the Association's Board. In 2012, Saperstein received the Edward F. Weston Medal, which is presented to alumni in recognition of outstanding personal, professional and civic achievement and commitment to the development of the university. He also is a member of NJIT's College of Science and Liberal Arts Board of Visitors and also served on the Board of Visitors for the School of Management, the Editorial Board for *NJIT Magazine*, and on several search committees to help improve talent at NJIT. He also holds a master of business administration from Rutgers University.

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: crovetto@njit.edu

First, the latest news from Mal –

Roy Knutsen '62, laird of White Hall Farm in Stillwater, N.J., is shown with his majestic Scottish Highlander steer, Buster, who came to White Hall when he was one week old and weighed 200 pounds. Now 10 years old, Buster weighs 1,000 pounds with horns that are seven feet from tip to tip. Caring for Buster and the farm's other animals and gardens has kept Roy as slim as when he starred for NCE's basketball and soccer teams in the early 60s. Roy has maintained an active interest in NJIT's athletic programs and once again hosted the annual feel and hands golf outing at the Lake Mohawk Golf Club on October 2, 2015.



Buster and Roy Knutsen

Bill Rupp '78, who started playing golf in 1971, shot his first hole-in-one at the Santa Barbara Golf Club in California. He made his ace on the 105-yard 13th hole using a 9 iron. As it was early evening, there was a shadow diagonally across the green so he and his partner only saw the ball land on the green,

take two short bounces, and head toward the hole. The ball went into the shadow and they lost sight of it. When no ball was seen on the green, Bill figured it rolled off. But his friend looked in the hole and there, to Bill's surprise and understandable glee, was the ball.

Hank Krauss '54 and his partner, Betty Wallace, who live in Fort Pierce, Florida, were world travelers extraordinaire. Since Hank's retirement in 1993, they set foot on all seven continents and visited more than 70 countries. Hank and Betty were active square dancers on the local, state, national and international levels, and square danced in New Zealand, Australia, England, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

Our nomads have even traveled to Cuba as part of "People to People" programs sponsored by the U.S. Treasury Department. In 2012, they visited the Cuban cities of Havana, Cienfuegos and Trinidad. The following year they visited Santiago de Cuba and Baracoa, finishing with another visit to Havana. They spent many hours visiting senior citizens, school children, fishermen, artists, dancers and many other Cubans, and found them all to be gracious hosts.

Their first trip was to Australia and New Zealand in 1994. After landing in Australia, they visited Ayres Rock, a famous landmark in the middle of nowhere in Central Australia. Their trip included

Melbourne where they saw the Fairy Penguins come ashore. The Fairy Penguins are small penguins about one foot in height who spend the day in the ocean and come ashore in large groups in the evening to nest. Hank and Betty then flew to Christchurch, New Zealand, where they picked up a motor home and toured the North and South Islands of New Zealand before returning to the U.S. via Fiji and Hawaii.

In the fall of 1996, Hank and Betty spent a month touring the Scandinavian countries, afterwards meeting up with a square-dance group to visit Ireland and England. They flew to Hamburg, Germany, where they began a motor-home trip that took them into Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

In Norway, they traveled from Oslo to Bergen, known as the City of Seven Mountains. They then traveled by ferry back to Denmark and topped off this part of the trip with a stop at an Oktoberfest in Lubbock, Germany. From Germany they flew to Dublin to meet a group of Florida square dancers and spend several days square dancing and touring the Irish countryside, which included a visit to the Guinness brewery. From Dublin they flew to England to dance with several local square-dance clubs before returning home.

In 1998, Hank and Betty flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina. After a few days there, they flew to Ushuaia, the southern-most city in the world where they boarded a cruise ship bound for Antarctica. They enjoyed a number of shore landings via Zodiac boats, rubber craft used for such expeditions, visiting Half Moon Island, Paradise Harbour and the Lemaire Channel. The Lemaire Channel is a strait between the mainland and an island with amazing snow-capped mountains. Prior to entering the channel, a helicopter was sent out to make sure they would not encounter icebergs that can block the channel. At this point, they were about 60 miles from the Antarctic Circle. They returned to Ushuaia and completed their journey with stops in Uruguay and Chile.

1999 found Hank and Betty in China, Tibet, Nepal and Thailand. They started with several days in Hong Kong and enjoyed a side trip

to Macau, once Portuguese territory and now under Chinese rule. Leaving Macau, they flew to Xian to see the Terra Cotta soldiers, the huge collection of sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China. To protect Huang in his afterlife, the sculptures were buried with him in 210 B.C. and were discovered by local farmers in 1974.

After a trip to Beijing and the Great Wall, they boarded a riverboat for a trip on the Yangtze River. Their last stop in China was at Chengdu, where a museum and monument are dedicated to the Flying Tigers, a group of U.S. airmen who supported China against Japanese invaders during World War II. From Chengdu they flew to Lhasa, Tibet, where they boarded buses to cross the country at elevations as high as 17,000 feet. They ended their bus journey in Kathmandu, Nepal, and then flew to Bangkok, Thailand, before returning home.

In 2002, our travelers flew to Europe to begin a multicountry square-dance and sightseeing tour. They took an overnight ferry from England to Denmark, where they danced and took in the sights. After several days in Denmark, they alternated between ferry trips, dancing and sightseeing in Sweden, Finland, Russia and Estonia, highlighted by two days in St. Petersburg. After this, they traveled across the North Sea back to England, ending their whirlwind tour with more dancing and a visit to Cambridge University.

With barely enough time to unpack and repack, Hank and Betty took a trip around Africa on the cruise ship Marco Polo, a voyage that began in Barcelona, Spain. The cruise included a stop at the Atlantic island of St. Helena, where Napoleon had been exiled. Other stops were Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya. They encountered a bit of international conflict when an attempt was made to shoot down an Israeli airliner on the day of their arrival in Mombasa, Kenya. This trip concluded with a three-day safari. An unscheduled part of the safari was witnessing a newborn elephant being helped by its mother to stand. Mother and baby proved to be hams as they posed for pictures.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Off to a square dance in Denmark; City of Seven Mountains in Bergen, Norway; Catherine the Great's Palace in Russia; Lunch with a local dancer in Cuba; Lemaire Channel, Antarctica; On board ship in Antarctic waters; Troops of the great underground terracotta army, Xi'an, China; On the back of a yak in Tibet.

In 2014, they visited Holland and Belgium. It was a great trip until the last night in Antwerp, Belgium. They were packed and ready to fly home the next morning when Hank started experiencing severe stomach pains. A trip to the emergency room revealed a blocked intestine that would require surgery. After a surgeon cleared the blockage, Hank spent eight days recovering. Betty stayed at a local hotel and came each day to the hospital to read comic books to Hank until he was healthy enough to return home.

Following such an experience, a less hardy pair might not be eager to head out again, but not Hank and Betty. During the Christmas week of 2014, they took a seven-day Golden Isle River Boat cruise from Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island in north Florida to Charleston, South Carolina. Their first stop was Jekyll Island and St. Simons Islands in Georgia, followed by the remote coastal Island of Sapelo in the middle of Georgia's coastal marshes. There

are only 37 permanent residents on the island, all descendants of slaves. Access to the island is only by boat. It is a weekend retreat for mainland residents and tourists.

The next stop was the busy port city of Savannah, where they toured Old Town and visited the home of Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America. Moving on, they stopped at Beaufort. This area also has many descendants of slaves who have preserved the Coffin Point Praise House, one of 30 or more such houses of worship where slaves gathered for services melding Christian and African rituals. The trip ended in historic Charleston, where they enjoyed the famous Holiday Festival of Lights.

Following are some photographic highlights from several of their trips. Recently, when I asked Hank which trip was their favorite, he said, "The next one."

Trips planned for the future would have taken Hank and Betty to Panama and Cartagena in Colombia, followed by cruises on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in Oregon, on Puget Sound, and to the San Juan Islands. Sadly, however, their travel plans have ended, as Betty passed away on September 13, 2015. One can certainly say that they made the most of their days together.

Keep the news coming to
mjs@njit.edu

1962

Ronald L. Panitch (Mechanical Eng.) was named a "Best Lawyer" in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, one of the legal profession's oldest and most respected peer-review publications. Panitch, who is a founding partner of Panitch, Schwarze Belisario & Nadel LLP, was recognized with seven other selected attorneys from his firm for their work in the practice areas of patent litigation, intellectual property litigation, patent law, trademark law and copyright law.

Virginia C. Sulzberger (Electrical Eng.), M.S. '66 (Electrical Eng.), a consultant at Electric Power Systems and a member of NJIT's Helen and John J. Hartmann Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Industry Advisory Board, was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in October. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.



Virginia C. Sulzberger was recognized by the Helen and John J. Hartmann Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in July. From left: Moshe Kam, dean of NJIT's Newark College of Engineering, Virginia Sulzberger and Leonid Tsybeskov, chair of the Helen and John J. Hartmann Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

1965

Pierre Ramond (Electrical Eng.), a theoretical physicist and director of the Institute for Fundamental Theory at the University of Florida, has won the 2015 Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics, one of the highest honors for scientific investigators in that field. In recognizing Ramond, the American Physical Society (APS) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP) cited his "pioneering foundational discoveries in supersymmetry and superstring theory, in particular the dual model of fermions and the theory of the Kalb-Ramond field."

1970

Kenneth Schiffner (Mechanical Eng.) has published the *Air Pollution Control Equipment Selection Guide, Second Edition* (CRC Press Taylor and Francis), which covers the technology and hardware that is currently harnessed in the control of solid and gaseous pollutants. Some of the chapters were contributed by colleagues whom he has met and/or worked with over the last nearly five decades in the industry. After graduating high school in 1966 and getting ready to attend NCE, he needed a summer job so he placed an ad in a local newspaper saying he was pursuing an engineering career and was looking for work; only one firm responded. It turned out that they supplied air pollution control equipment. Initially lacking a car, Schiffner rode a bicycle to their nearby offices. When he graduated from NCE in 1970, the focus on air pollution was in its infancy. The Clean Air Act was new. He had worked summers and holidays during the years 1966-1970 to help pay for his NCE education, and

luckily a “new” career opportunity was opening for him and others in the pollution control industry. His good fortune was to work with engineers who were helpful and open in the sharing of information. Later in his career, he worked with various air pollution control companies, including the Otto H. York Company. Four patents were granted over the years for pollution control and mass-transfer type application. Over the last four-plus decades, he has designed or been associated with over 3,000 air pollution control projects. He is now semi-retired and provides consulting services.

1976

John Biancamano (Engineering Science, Electrical Eng. '51) has been elected chairman of Princeton SCORE. He has over 25 years of business experience as a marketing and sales executive with technology companies, and is president of Inbound Digital LLC. Biancamano has been a member, small business mentor and executive board member of Princeton SCORE since 2014, and is a frequent speaker on digital marketing, branding, leadership and social media.

1978

Kevin Gilman (Actuarial Science) has been appointed to the Hunterdon Polytech Board of Education. Gilman is president of Belco Technologies, a company specializing in engineered air pollution control systems for various industries.

Paul D. Kaltenbach (Electrical Engineering Technology) recently received his third Emmy Award for excellence in broadcast engineering. He has worked for the past 25 years in field operations at ABC Television, initially in sports coverage then later moving to the

network news division. He is also a recipient of the DuPont-Columbia Award, the Edward R. Murrow Award, and the George Foster Peabody Award for his work covering major international stories. Before working in the television industry, he worked in aerospace both domestically and abroad.

1979

Robert Cozzarelli (Architecture) was recently named by the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects as a regional representative to the organization's Strategic Council. Cozzarelli will be one of 35 representatives, each of whom will represent different regions across the United States. Previously the AIA-NJ regional director, Cozzarelli will continue his activities as he transitions to the new, similar role of regional representative. Cozzarelli is an award-winning architect and planner with over 30 years of professional experience specializing in educational, recreational, institutional and residential design for federal, state, municipal and private-sector clients. He is a principal of both Rutherford-based Cozzarelli-Cirminiello Architects and Bertone Cozzarelli Healthcare Architects, the latter of which specializes in designing long-term care facilities, such as hospitals and nursing homes.

1980

Michael Chrobak (Mechanical Eng.) has been appointed executive vice president of TexasOne. He will be responsible for spearheading research-based lead generation and strategic partnership activities, including business attraction and expansion of jobs, investment and industry development for the state. Chrobak was recently recognized as one of the Top 50 Economic

Developers in North America by Consultant Connect.

Michael Johnstone (Industrial Administration) was sworn in as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. He has been a foster parent since 1995 and has 10 years of experience working with Foster & Adoptive Family Services (FAFS). He also has adopted two children through the system.

1981

Gary Davenport (Architecture) has joined Ramtech Building Systems as project architect and design project manager. Davenport was previously vice president of design and construction for Spectrum Building Systems, a builder of prefabricated modular and site built projects primarily in the Southeastern U.S.

1985

Susan C. Gieser (Environmental Science) has been appointed to SAGE Eldercare's board of trustees. Gieser is a partner with Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C. in Secaucus and concentrates in the area of environmental law.

1988

Ranjit Pradhan (Electrical Eng.) has joined Frequentz Inc. in the new role of chief product officer and global business development, which was created to meet the increased global traceability demand. Before joining Frequentz in 2013, Pradhan was an executive at Abbott Labs, where he held the senior director, diagnostics informatics position. Pradhan has also held senior positions at several Fortune 100 companies including GE Healthcare and Philips Healthcare.

Clifford M. Samuel (Mechanical Eng.) has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Access Opera-

tions and Emerging Markets in the Corporate & Medical Affairs organization of Gilead Sciences, Inc. Samuel, who serves on the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors and received NJIT's Edward F. Weston Medal for Professional Achievement in 2010, joined Gilead in 1996 as a member of the Vistide sales team.

William Wilson (Computer and Information Science), a partner in the law firm of Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass, co-wrote a book entitled *New Jersey Insurance Coverage Litigation—2015: A Practitioner's Guide*, which has been published by the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, a Division of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Wilson is also the author of NJInsuranceBlog.com.

1989

Eugene DeStefano (Civil Eng.) has joined Gannett Fleming to help deliver innovative solutions to Gannett Fleming's water clients throughout New Jersey and the Northeastern U.S. As the manager of water resources based in South Plainfield, he is responsible for project management, business development and strategic planning in support of Gannett Fleming's expanding water resources business line. DeStefano is a professional engineer in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and a board certified environmental engineer in water supply/wastewater from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists™.

Robbin Dolan (Environmental Eng.), legal administrator at Laddey, Clark & Ryan, has been named president of the New Jersey Association of Legal Administrators (NJALA), a statewide professional organization of legal administrators dedicated to the

continued improvement of law office management. Dolan is one of only seven certified legal managers in the state and has served as legal administrator for Laddey, Clark & Ryan since 2001. She has served NJALA as secretary and vice president of education, as well as on numerous committees, including workshop, equipment survey and salary survey committees. She is currently co-editor of the *Jer-Z-Journal*, the NJALA's award-winning quarterly newsletter, in which she has published many human-resource and legal-management related articles.

Joseph G. Pulicare (Civil Eng.) has been named chief operating officer of the U.S. transportation sector of Parsons Brinckerhoff. In his new position, Pulicare is responsible for a diverse range of activities that support the overall positioning of the company and contribute to achieving annual sales, overhead and profit goals. His operational responsibilities include developing and implementing strategic plans, developing new client relationships, oversight of market/pursuit intelligence gathering, resource deployment and regional profit and loss analysis and management. He will also serve as a principal on major pursuits and projects.

Paresh Shah (Mechanical Eng.) has been appointed operations manager of Schafer Gear Works' Gear Unit in South Bend, Indiana. Shah came to Schafer Gear Works in 1993 as a gear engineer. In 1995, he was promoted to engineering manager where he managed the engineering group in South Bend and also served as a liaison between both domestic and overseas vendors. Before joining Schafer Gear Works, Shah was senior process engineer for International Gear Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio.

1990

Mark W. Kataryniak (Civil Eng.) has been appointed director of planning and engineering of Edison Township. Kataryniak has been senior vice president of French & Parrello Associates in Wall Township since 2010. He was the director of transportation engineering at Medina Consultants in Hackettstown from 2007 to 2010, and a vice president at the Birdsall Services Group, an engineering consulting firm in Eatontown, where he began working in 1997.

1993

Christopher Menchin (Architecture) has been promoted to principal at SOSH Architects. Menchin joined SOSH Architects' Atlantic City office in 1998 as staff architect and has led the firm's design team on several high-profile projects including Resorts World Bimini in the Bahamas, Fantasy Springs Resort Casino in Indio, California, and Parx Casino in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Menchin is a registered architect in the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Nevada, and is a LEED accredited professional.

Tibor Menyhart (Electrical Eng., Minor in STS) has joined STV as vice president and chief information officer. He brings over 21 years of experience in information technology (IT) leadership and support. Before joining STV, Menyhart was the vice president and chief information officer for the Power Group division of a multibillion-dollar engineering, construction contracting and power equipment company. There, he was responsible for the management of the IT group, aligning its strategy to meet the firm's worldwide business requirements. He also directed the planning,

acquisition, development and operation of the firm's computer, telecommunication and information systems.

Justin Mihalik (Architecture) will serve as president-elect of the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects' (AIA-NJ). A principal at Essex Fells-based J.A. Mihalik Architect LLC, Mihalik has been a member of AIA-NJ for over 15 years and an active board member for the last 10 years. Most recently, Mihalik served as first vice president, and he previously served as AIA-NJ's second vice president and membership chairperson. He is also a member of AIA-NJ's Legislative and Government Affairs Committee, which monitors regulatory issues that affect the practice of architecture for the organization and serves as vice chair of the New Jersey Architects Political Action Committee (NJAPAC), an affiliate organization that helps inform AIA-NJ architects how New Jersey legislation affects them and their profession.

His most recent appointment has been to the ArchiPAC Steering Committee, the political action committee of the American Institute of Architects. Mihalik is a member of the Newark and Suburban Architects, one of AIA-NJ's six local sections, for which he has served in several positions, including president, treasurer and membership chair.

Sandip Mohapatra (Computer and Information Science) has been named chief technology officer at PaySpan, an Atlanta-based health care payment automation provider. He is a member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society board of trustees.

Michele Scott (Management), founder of WeEmpower Partnerships LLC and Making A Difference

through Entrepreneurship LLC (M.A.D.E.), an adjunct instructor in NJIT's School of Management, spent the summer teaching a marketing course at the University of Electronic Science Technology of China (UESTC) through the G-MEO Study Abroad Program. "The experience was unforgettable academically, culturally and personally," Scott reported. "I dream nightly about being there."

1994

Rich Calbi (Civil Eng., Environmental Eng. '00) has been hired as director of operations of the Village of Ridgewood. Calbi began his career working for the Army Corps of Engineers, specifically on the Passaic River Flood Tunnel project, which never came to fruition. He spent five-and-a-half years in the private sector doing flood abatement, stormwater management and system design before going to work for local governments. He started in the public sector in Clifton as the assistant township engineer before becoming the engineer in Maplewood Township in Essex County. Most recently, Calbi was the township engineer in Livingston, where he was also in charge of the Division of Public Works and Water Utility.

1995

Kimberly Bunn (Architecture) was installed as 2015 president of the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Owner and principal of Moorestown-based Bunn Architecture, a full-service architectural firm specializing in residential projects with a focus on historic renovations and incorporating environmental principles, Bunn has been a member of AIA for more than 16 years and has served in a leadership capacity for more than a decade.

Katherine Chernishov (Management) has been named vice president of strategic planning and customer analytics at PLM Trailer Leasing. In this role, Chernishov will serve as a key member of the corporate leadership team, spearheading PLM's customer focused and fleet management analytical efforts, strategic and financial planning, as well as optimizing core business support processes. Chernishov has over 20 years of experience in financial and strategic planning, market segmentation and customer analytics at companies such as Natural Markets Food Group, Benjamin Moore & Co., Unilever and Altria.

George Olmo (Architecture) was named to director of construction at Rose Associates, the New York-based real estate firm. Olmo joined Rose's construction management division in 2005, and was named senior project manager in 2009. Since joining Rose, he has worked on dozens of construction projects. Olmo's notable assignments to date include overseeing all aspects of construction during the development of Chelsea Landmark located at 55 West 25th Street and managing the extensive renovation of The Sheffield at 322 West 57th Street. He also led the construction of The Larstrand, a recent development of Friedland Properties on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Before joining Rose, Olmo served as a project manager at Scarsdale, New York-based Kreisler Borg Florman.

Rob Walton (Mechanical Eng.), who has a part-time post as a Hunterdon County Freeholder, is part of the Jersey Central Power & Light external affairs team. He is an area manager for portions of Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union counties and is based in Summit. Before joining JCP&L, Walton was

most recently regional sales manager for Waltron, Bull and Roberts, an industrial manufacturer.

1996

David J. Mairo (Environmental Science) has joined Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC as a member. Mairo has experience in counseling clients on issues of compliance, applicability and adequacy of remediation concerning the Site Remediation Reform Act and the Industrial Site Recovery Act, as well as a variety of other environmental regulatory and enforcement matters. He represents clients in negotiations with the NJDEP, permitting, oversight of investigations and cleanups pursuant to the NJDEP Technical Requirements for Site Remediation. He also advises clients on Natural Resource Damage assessments and the implications of environmental due diligence associated with the purchase and sale of real estate, with a particular emphasis on Brownfields Redevelopment.

1997

Maria Krupin (Management) has been appointed vice president of finance at The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.

1999

Shawn Straka (Management) has joined Cushman & Wakefield's Morristown office as senior director. A corporate tenant representation specialist, he has more than 15 years of experience and expertise in the New Jersey market, and has completed over 6 million square feet in regional transactions. Straka held additional past industry positions with Coldwell Banker Commercial and Citibank Global Asset Management, and he has been recognized multiple

times with in-house and brokerage industry awards from organizations such as CoStar Group and Real Estate New Jersey.

2000

Beth Welmaker (Environmental Science) has joined The WorkingBuildings Group of companies as the Compliance Director EH&S. She brings over 20 years of experience in the safety and compliance industry to WorkingBuildings. Welmaker will work closely with laboratory owners and operators to ensure safety and compliance with regulating authorities. She will also work to optimize laboratory operations and provide guidance on construction and expansion projects from a compliance perspective.

2001

Art Caruso (Management) has been appointed senior vice president of business development at Metro Exhibits, LLC. In this role, Caruso will be primarily responsible for finding new growth channels for the organization through sales and marketing initiatives.

2002

Milan Patel (Computer Science) has joined K2 Intelligence, an industry-leading investigative, compliance and cyber defense services firm, as managing director. Most recently Patel served as the FBI's Cyber Division chief technology officer.

Eric Post (Applied Chemistry) has been appointed to the position of K-FLEX business director, Americas at Emerald Kalama Chemical, a business group of Emerald Performance Materials. Post will be responsible for the optimization and growth of the K-FLEX line of low-VOC, non-phthalate plasticizers and

coalescents in the Americas region, including planning and implementing strategic business plans, building relationships with customers and identifying new market opportunities. Post has more than 20 years of experience in the specialty chemicals industry, serving in technical, sales management and business development roles.

2004

Steve Sharmokh (Architecture) has been appointed house principal at Santa Monica High School by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD). Sharmokh comes to SMMUSD from Green Dot Public Schools in Los Angeles where he served as a district math curriculum specialist since 2012. Previously, he was a math teacher and head teacher at Henry Snyder High School in Jersey City from 2006-2012.

Brian Strout (Engineering Management) has joined HNTB Corporation as New York City office operations manager and vice president. His more than 28 years of experience includes all facets of transportation operations management, including program management, construction management, financial reporting and staffing for rail and transit infrastructure projects. At HNTB, Strout manages the firm's programs in the New York metropolitan region, including operations processes and budgets, project management systems, project reviews, work plans and staffing.

2005

William Bannister (Architecture) has been promoted to associate at Parette Somjen Architects. Bannister has worked with the company for the last 10 years, starting out as an architectural intern and quickly moving up. In his continued role

with PSA, Bannister leads a studio of approximately 17 employees whose clients are within the educational and municipal market sector. He mentors fellow colleagues to develop their expertise, explores new technologies and advocates for strong designs to improve the company's capabilities.

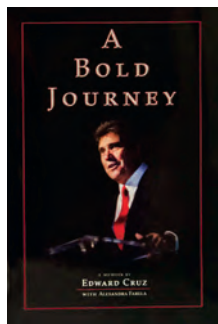
Jian Chen (Structural Engineering) has been named associate principal at NK Architects. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Jersey and Michigan and is an active member of ACI and AISC. His expertise includes advanced design software, complicated building detailing, field problem-solving and team management/leadership.

2009

Cindy Celi (Architecture) has been awarded a Woodrow Wilson New Jersey Teaching Fellowship. The highly competitive program recruits both recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and math—the STEM fields—and prepares them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools.

Daniel Lepek (Chemical Eng.), an associate professor of chemical engineering at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at Graz University of Technology in Austria during the 2015-2016 academic year. Lepek is also the recipient of the 2015 Ray W. Fahien Award, sponsored by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Chemical Engineering Division. The award, which is based on outstanding teaching effectiveness and educational scholarship, is given annually to an educator who has shown evidence of vision and contribution to chemical engineering education. Lepek received this award in June at

A LEGACY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, SOCIAL CONCERN AND THOUGHTFUL REFLECTION



Recently, the NJIT community was deeply saddened by the death of Edward Cruz '63, '13 HON, president and chief executive officer of E.E. Cruz & Company, one of the region's largest engineering and construction firms, which he co-founded with his cousin Evaristo. A four-year soccer star and 1995

Athletics Hall of Fame honoree, Cruz was on the team that went on to become national NAIA champions under Coach Mal Simon. In 1983, he received the NJIT Outstanding Alumnus Award, and in 2013 the university awarded him a Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, in recognition of his outstanding success as a businessman and highly respected community leader.

Cruz was exceptional in his dedication to the well-being of NJIT's students, who benefited from his generous scholarship support, the excellence of the university's academic programs, and the rising national profile of Highlander athletics. He also shared his concern and talents in many other areas — including helping students at Lafayette Street School and the parishioners of St. John's Church in his hometown of Newark, working to improve the health of people in Florida and Portugal, supporting the arts, and participating in the political life of his community.

Prior to his passing, Cruz published his memoir, *A Bold Journey*, in which he described the path that took him from his boyhood in Portugal to becoming an NJIT soccer star, successful businessman and highly respected community leader. Proceeds from sales of the book will benefit St. John's Soup Kitchen. A donation of \$40 (or any additional amount) payable to St. John's Feed The Hungry can be sent either to P.O. Box 200147, Newark, N.J. 07102, Attn: Father Neil; or to Ryan Finnen, Hop Brook Properties, P.O. Box 365, Holmdel, N.J. 07733, for forwarding. For online donations, visit njsoupkitchen.org/donate.htm.

IN MEMORIAM

Ralph Pollara '34

William H. (Bill) Hassall, Jr. '40

Gilbert Glass '41

Irwin Richard Schneider '43

Robert Francis McCarthy '44, '54

Jerome Potash '46, '51

John Stevenson '49

Joseph N. Sanzo '50

Walter M. Sherwood '50

N. Wells Gow Jr. '52, '59

George Keller '55

Elmo Guelph '58

James E. Hoffmann '58, '65

Charles Moskov '58

James A. Lipuma '59

Edward W. Sapp '60

Wallace E. Potts '61

John K. Roth '62

Edward Cruz '63, '13 HON

Lt. Col. Joseph Quinn '63

John Shafto Jr. '63

Robert James Vandergrift '63, '69

Fred Kulhawy '64, '66

Michael Kuzmiak Jr. '64

David George Meyers '64

Edward G. Gruters '65

Christopher William Boschen '66

Richard Carl Loew '66

J. Tad Seaman '66

Paul Skiba III '66

Eugene L. Kachele '67

Richard C. Knight '67

Robert Nedwick '67

Daniel Bandura '68

Emil M. Liloia '68

Leo Dioguardi '70

Warren Dougherty '70

Eric Simone '70, '71

James R. Schleck '71

Thomas Craig Mercadante '73

Kenneth Schlask '73

George McCaughey III '74

Stanley Puciul '78

John F. Bera '79, '87

Robert F. Peters '81

Dale Serventi '81

Frank Walter Drobot '83

Joseph S. Lubertowicz '85

Joseph Petruzzello '90

Jeffrey L. Shirtz '93

Kevin C. Flanagan '94, '11

Theodore Johnson '94

Efrain Antonio Grajeda '97

Vincent DiFrancia '01

Jeffrey Huze '05

the Chemical Engineering Division Banquet of the 2015 ASEE Annual Conference in Seattle.

Donna M. Miller (Architecture), a project architect with Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC in South Plainfield, has successfully completed all sections of the rigorous Architectural Registration Examination administered by the New Jersey State Board of Architects and NCARB. As a newly Registered Architect in the State of New Jersey, Miller now assumes all of the professional responsibilities of a licensed design professional.

She has made many very positive contributions in the management of significant design projects over the past five years, including design projects for SHI International Corp., Chelsea Senior Living, Springfield Township, PTC Therapeutics, Foley Inc. and Environ.

2011

Peter Muller (Biology) was appointed to Croda's personal care sales team, where he will focus on providing expert service and support to customers in the eastern United States. Muller joins Croda

from Salvona Technologies, where he was a senior technology specialist responsible for personal care sales, project management and providing formulation expertise.

2014

Amr Mohamed (Architecture) has joined HAP Investments LLC as a project manager for residential projects.

Ketty Paulino (Civil Eng.) is a civil engineer at the New York City Department of Design and Construction.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

A SEASON TO CELEBRATE

with The Alumni
Association of NJIT!



WINTER ALUMNI EVENT SERIES

**Florida Gulf Coast
Holiday Reception**
Friday, January 15, 2016

**Kennedy Space Center
Tour and Lunch**
Sunday, January 17, 2016

**Florida Gulf Coast
Tampa Bay Downs**
Saturday, January 16, 2016

Alumni Council Meeting
Saturday, January 30, 2016

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2016

May 20–22, 2016

Official registration materials will be sent in early spring. If you would like to volunteer for a reunion committee today, email alumni@njit.edu. We'd love your help and input!

njit.edu/alumni

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: njit.edu/alumni/clubs

REGIONAL CLUBS

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



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