

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 –

The 1966/1967 NCE basketball team who played in the first home game on campus in the new Franklin Entwisle Gymnasium was honored at the final home game of the NJIT men's basketball team in the current Estelle and Zoom Fleisher Athletic Center. Fittingly, both games were wins. Even more notable is that the first game was coached by **LOU TORCICOLLO '56, '61**, the first alumnus to coach varsity basketball at NCE. Lou came to NCE after five years in the U.S. Navy and played three years for Professor (Coach) Fred Bauder. Lou was appointed varsity basketball coach when Professor Joe Fitzgerald had to resign due to the cancer that claimed his life a year later.

Coaching was not a full-time position, so Lou maintained a professional engineering career. His first job was at Light Electric in Newark, where he worked for five years followed by 22 years with Neel Tran, a transformer manufacturing company in Brewster, New York, and Brookfield, Connecticut. Becoming the owner, he sold this company in 1992 and spent the next 10 years as a consultant before retiring to his current home in Beach Haven, New Jersey.

He has kept in touch with his players, some of whom attended the game at the Fleisher Athletic Center.

I've previously featured six of the alumni who attended and in this column will tell you more about Galvao, Olsen and Mulder.

In his freshman year, **JOE GALVAO** played JV basketball followed by three years on the varsity team. He remembers his first three years practicing in the Weston Hall gym and playing home games at Clifford Scott High School in East Orange, and how great it felt in his senior year to have a home court in a brand-new facility on campus.

Joe holds the NCE/NJIT records for single season rebounds (402) and rebounds per game (22.3) in the 68/69 season. Joe's professional career was in the information technology field. He worked for 15 years for several manufacturing firms and then decided to go out on his own for the next 25 years as an independent computer consultant. He was a subcontractor for several large consulting firms in the New Jersey/New York/Pennsylvania area. The work involved system and database design and development, and software testing. Joe and his wife, Kathy, live in Long Valley, New Jersey.

Members of the '66/'67 basketball team reunited for a closing game at the Estelle and Zoom Fleisher Athletic Center: (standing, left to right) Rich Schroeder '66, Bob Mulder '69, Ben Gazdowicz '67, John Bober '69, Joe Galvao '70, '79, and Rich Olsen '69; (seated, left to right): Walt Cullen '71, Coach Lou Torricollo '56, '61, Jack Heath '08 and Steve DeSteno '69.

BOB MULDER played four years and was selected to the New Jersey All State team in his last two years. He won the intramural tennis tournament in his junior year and modestly said he lost in his senior year because he had an opponent who could play tennis. After graduation, Joe worked briefly for Gannett Fleming before being drafted and serving in the U.S. Army for two years, including one year in Vietnam. He then worked 10 years as principal engineer for the Passaic County Department of Public Works followed by 20 years as assistant county engineer for the Bergen County Department of Public Works. He semi-retired as a consultant before taking full retirement. Bob and his wife, Ruth, live in Midland Park, New Jersey.

RICH OLSEN also played basketball for four years. Rich is the NCE/NJIT All Time records holder with 1191 rebounds and is among the top scorers with 1118 points. He received the Outstanding Senior Athlete Award in 1968 and was inducted into the NJIT Athletics Hall of Fame in 1988. After graduating, Rich joined the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, where he worked 40 years until retiring in 2009. He spent his career in the Research and Development organization, mostly in management positions involving tire development and testing.

Rich and his wife, Pat, live in College Station, Texas, but are in the midst of moving to Mequon, Wisconsin, to be near their daughter and grandchildren. He said that his "many fond experiences at NCE made me realize that the 'science' of technology teaches you how to think logically and sequentially, while being involved in sports and fraternity life (Tau Epsilon Phi) teaches you how to get along with others and achieve common objectives — good preparation for both professional and personal life."

When I learned that **GREG LIVELLI '92** made a contribution to my scholarship fund, I wrote to thank him and ask that he send his bio so I could include it in this column. Greg was a member of the ski team and Tau Lambda Chi Fraternity.



After completing a degree in mechanical engineering at NJIT, Greg earned an MBA at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. He is currently senior vice president and head of product management for the measurement and analytical business of the ABB Group, one of the largest engineering companies in the world. In this position, he is responsible for a \$1.5 billion product portfolio. Based in Zurich, Switzerland, ABB is a leader in robotic, power and automation technology.

Before joining ABB, Greg worked for Emerson Process Management's Rosemount Division in Boulder, Colorado. In his career, he has traveled extensively around the world (over 100 countries) and lived with his family in Hanover, Germany, from 2012 to 2015. Widely recognized as an expert in flow-measurement technology, Greg has written extensively about his field and has given numerous presentations at professional conferences. He is an avid hockey fan (Colorado Avalanche) and still loves to ski. After living in Colorado for 13 years, Greg and his wife, Cheryl, now live in Ewing, New Jersey.

Diane and I attended a reception of the NJIT Southwest Alumni Club held prior to the NJIT men's and women's basketball games at Florida Gulf Coast University.



At a reception sponsored by the Southwest Alumni Club, I had the pleasure of greeting (left to right) Daniel Carroll '62, Ralph Maddalena '75, Tulia Rios '94, Walt Mainberger '69, and Drew Dodenhoff '65. For those who might not know, that's me second from the right.

It was nice to greet so many alumni I had not seen in quite a while, including **PAUL KLEIN '64, '68, RALPH MADDALENA '75, '78** and **WALT MAINBERGER '69**.

Prior to starting in NCE's evening division in 1958, Paul had attended Cooper Union as a freshman. Having grown up in Newark and attended Weequahic High School, well-known for excellent basketball, Paul had been to numerous games at Central High School and so was familiar with NCE, located next door. As a member of Cooper Union's basketball team, he had actually played against the NCE team, which was coached by Professor/Coach Bauder.

In addition to his NCE degrees, Paul completed an executive program at Dartmouth College's Amos Tuck Graduate School of Business. His entire professional career was with Sun Chemical Corporation, where he progressed from plant engineer at facilities in New Jersey, New York and Ohio, to manager and vice president of Sun's international colorants business in 1982, general manager in 1983, corporate vice president in 1984, senior vice president in 1990 and executive vice president in 1997. He retired in 2001. Paul is an alumni association officer and co-chair of the Florida Gulf Coast Club. He lives with his partner, Betty Perlmutter, in University Park, Florida, on the Sarasota and Manatee county line.

Ralph Maddalena '75, '77 was born and raised in Newark and enrolled at NCE as a civil engineering major. He was active in fraternity life (Tau Delta Phi), student government, and played basketball for three years. Ralph was elected to several honor societies — Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership), Tau Beta Pi (Engineering), Chi Epsilon (Civil Engineering) — and graduated cum laude in 1975. While studying for a master's at NJIT, he was a teaching assistant and assistant basketball coach under Coach Remsen Becker.

Ralph joined Mobil Oil Corporation in 1976 and worked for Mobil his entire

professional career, retiring in 2009 as an executive responsible for exploration and production. His career allowed him to travel extensively to South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East. A runner since his high school days, Ralph has competed in numerous races, marathons and ultramarathons over the years. He is sharing his interest and experience by coaching successful cross country and track and field teams at Frassati Catholic High School in Spring, Texas.

After retiring, Ralph took up cycling and is an active member of the local cycling club. Ralph and his wife, Pam, who live in The Woodlands, Texas, attend the NCAA Final Four basketball tournament every year and try to catch some NJIT basketball games each season. They reconnected with NJIT through Athletic Director Len Kaplan in 2010 and have hosted the NJIT basketball team, coaches and staff, and alumni at their home when the team's travels bring them to the Houston area.

Walt Mainberger '69 was on a five-year plan at NCE. He worked his way through college by working in the cafeteria and several other jobs. After a year of carpooling from Glen Rock, Walt moved on campus into the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity for the years remaining until graduation. He recalls enjoying many "double hot dog" sandwiches at Ralph and Lucy's on Warren Street, just beyond the Club Warren bar where faculty could often be found at lunchtime.

Walt was a member of the rifle team who competed in the Metropolitan Rifle League against such teams as Cooper Union, NYU and Rutgers. NCE had its own rifle range in the basement of the Specht Maintenance Building and was very successful but had to disband when the range and funding were eliminated. Walt hauled a lot of rifles and ammunition in his 1937 Chevy on road trips. He was stopped once by NCE security during the Newark riots while carrying his rifle from his car to the practice range. Informed that it was not a very good idea to do this

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under the circumstances, he agreed and was smart enough to not do it again.

Walt's career was mainly in the packaging machinery field and included working in engineering management for Mahaffy and Hardison, American Can and Hayssen Manufacturing. Walt, who obtained his PE license in 1975, holds several patents in machinery and package design. He still does consulting work through his own company, the Eventide Group LLC. Walt lives in Sarasota, Florida, with his wife, Jeannie. His hobbies include British cars, motorcycles, fishing and sailing. He is mindful of a terrific and affordable technical education he received at NCE and the lifelong friends he made there.

I'm sure you all have had one or more "small world experiences" which were astounding. I recently had one such experience on a golf course in Florida with **JAMES MORENO '73**, my daughter, Melanie, and her husband, Mark. As we were standing by the golf shop, we heard someone call, "Mal Simon" and looked up to see this big guy coming toward me with a huge smile on his face. He said, "I can't believe it. I was just talking about you" and went on to tell me he had spoken at a conference only two weeks earlier about people who had an impact on his life. The mystery person was **SRINIVAS KRISHNASWARMY '90**, who had been my graduate assistant from 1988 to 1990.

To make a long story short, I had seen him playing basketball in the gym and the next day playing tennis with some of the varsity team members. I needed help in our intramural program and asked him if he had a graduate assistantship, to which he replied "no." The next day we completed the paper work and the rest is history — setting up our "small world experience" nearly 30 years later.

While I am certainly happy that I helped Sрни, I am much happier to learn about the impact he has made in his professional career. Sрни is currently senior vice president and general manager in Florida for AECOM, an American international



engineering firm with 95,000 employees. He began his ascent up the corporate ladder when he joined Jacobs-Mott-ACG in 1995 after five years in California working on projects like Caesar's Palace Casino, several railway and hospital projects, and capital programs for UCLA. For the next 13 years Sрни was principal-in-charge for United Research Services (URS) on numerous projects, including a Disneyland expansion and a \$19.2 billion program in Los Angeles to build 80 new schools and additions.

From 2006 to 2009, Sрни managed the most successful and profitable operations for URS and in 2011 received a URS award for Outstanding Dedication, Leadership and Commitment. After spending the next two years as the head of URS for the Western United States and the Pacific, he was named managing director and senior vice president of URS South Asia with a focus on programs in Saudi Arabia and India. AECOM bought URS in 2014 and Sрни is now back in the United States in his current position with AECOM. Sрни and his wife, Rini, who holds a Ph.D. in genetic toxicology, live in Tampa, Florida.

After a one-year hiatus, the 17th annual NJIT Florida Soccer Alumni gathering took place at Cape Canaveral, hosted by **FABIAN '74** and Jeanie Hurtado. Highlights of the reunion were the opening night dinner at Milligan's Reef on the Cape Canaveral inlet, a tour of the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral



In addition to Diane and me, the Florida Soccer Alumni group that toured the historic launch facilities at Cape Canaveral included Malcom Clement, Libby Hamilton '77, Dona and Carlos Restrepo '82, Valeria Clement, Tulia Rios '94, Len Kaplan, Alex Bonilla (grandson of Joe Alves), Luis Clement '78, Joe Dias '86, Joe Alves '77, Henry Krauss '54, Barbara and Andy Handwerker '63, Gisella and Rudy Sapp '81, and Walter Starkey, tour guide.

and a fantastic reception and dinner dance at the Hurtados' Solana on the River Condominium clubhouse overlooking the two-mile-wide Banana River.

The NCE/NJIT connections were more than helpful in arranging the special Cape Canaveral tour. Helping arrange the tour was Brigadier General Tom Taverney, who attended NCE for one year before transferring to the U.S. Air Force Academy. Tav, who had played junior varsity basketball at NCE, contacted the commander of Patrick Air Force Base to set up the tour.

It should also be noted that one of the original astronauts, Wally Schirra, attended NCE and was a member of the Sigma Pi fraternity before his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. I was particularly pleased that **LUIS CLEMENT '78** traveled from Colombia with his son (my godson), Malcom, and his daughter, Valeria. Luis has issued an invitation with an international flair that the 2018 reunion be held in Colombia. He is joined in the invitation by **JOE DIAS '86**, whose future plans include spending six months in Portugal as well as in the United States. Anyone interested please let me know. ■

Keep the news coming, folks, to mjs@njit.edu.

Jeanie and Fabian '74 Hurtado, gracious hosts for the 17th annual Florida Soccer Alumni gathering.

AN UPDATE FROM JIM ROMANSKI '85

Jim Romanski recently contacted Mal Simon of "Mal & Friends" renown with a few sentences about where life has taken him from the soccer field after completing his bachelor's in engineering technology with a concentration in environmental engineering. It was Mal's suggestion that Jim might want to share even more about his path in life with the *NJIT Magazine* audience, and at our invitation he sent the following letter and photos.

NJIT Magazine invites all alumni – and alumnae – to write and share your experiences after graduation. So send your updates to the editor at crovetto@njit.edu. We really want to hear from you.

Jim writes –

I played soccer for Mal Simon at NJIT and graduated in 1985 with a BSET in environmental engineering. My father **FRANK D. ROMANSKI** graduated from NCE in 1958, B.S. in mechanical engineering, and my older brother **FRANK T. ROMANSKI** in 1978, B.S. in electrical engineering.

I met my girlfriend Patti while working one summer for the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado and decided to follow her to Connecticut, where she attended Yale for her master's degree in music. Eventually, we married and decided to stay in the area and settled in Guilford. We've been at our home in Guilford for 20 years now. In fact, my son Nicholas was born in a bedroom of our house (not planned). Coincidentally, Guilford is a real hotbed for soccer in Connecticut and a classic New England shoreline town with a splendid Town Green and charming small shops.

I started out working in environmental consulting for several years and decided to get my master's in environmental engineering from the University of New Haven. Afterward, I took a position at Pratt & Whitney managing their air-pollution compliance programs across all their plants and worked there for about 12 years. In 2008, an opportunity came along for a similar position at Yale University. Yale has three power plants and, prior to their big expansion involving the construction of five new residential colleges, they planned major upgrades and expansions at the power plants, which would require lots of permitting and environmental work. This sounded like

an interesting position, and because it was much closer to my home in Guilford, I took the position. It turned out to be a great move. In addition to my day job, for the past 10 years one semester each year I teach a graduate course in air-pollution engineering at the University of Hartford, which is required for their master's program.

I've played soccer in the same league as **TASHIN KARASAY** (NJIT 1975) for the past 27 years. I'm currently playing for the North Branford Over 50 Team. The Over 50 Team isn't quite as good as the Over 30 Team, which I started out playing on many years ago. But North Branford has a rich tradition in the Shoreline Adult Soccer League with teams in the O30, O40 and O50 Leagues. Some of the O50 guys have sons playing on the O30 team, which is really gratifying to see. My knees and ankles are finally showing their soccer mileage, so I don't think I'll make it to an O60 League.

Patti continues to play cello for the

A team picture taken in my last year with the Over 30 League. I'm in the upper right corner.



New Haven Symphony. She also plays in a couple of part-time opera companies — the Salt Marsh Opera Company and the Clinton Opera Company. They each play only one opera a year, but I get to go and I have found out that I like opera. She also teaches part-time at Choate Rosemary Hall and gives private cello lessons at home.



Patti continues to play the cello.

Patti and I have two children — Sydney, 21 years old, and Nicky, 19 years old.

Sydney was an All-State Goalie for Guilford during her junior year, 2011. The summer after her junior year she broke a vertebra in her back going for a save in a summer tournament. She had back surgery to repair it but was unable to play her senior year. She was co-captain with another player who tore her ACL, who also could not play her senior year. Sydney decided not to risk injuring her back again and hung up her goal-keeper gloves and decided not to play in college. She still loves soccer and plays some pickup ball

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with her dorm-mates, beating up on the guys.

Sydney decided to go to UConn for a five-year program in biomedical engineering and German Studies. She chose to go to Heidelberg for an entire year and study at the world-renowned University of Heidelberg. The first half of the year they study German language and culture. Then the students have to find an internship with a German biomedical company. Sydney is also an accomplished violinist. She auditioned for, and made it, into the University of Heidelberg Symphony Orchestra. So she gets to play in an orchestra in Europe, the birthplace of classical music.

Sydney is having a great time traveling around Germany and so far France and Belgium. We plan to go to Germany in the summer when she's done with her

formal program and spend several weeks traveling with her.

Our son Nicky was diagnosed with autism at age three. Nicky has been in special schools for children with autism and has done pretty well. He has a large vocabulary when it comes to reading but he still can only ask for basic things. We remain hopeful that he will start to blossom. Meanwhile he participates in many activities. Guilford is very involved with the Special Olympics Unified Sports Program. I try to attend most of the events and do photography for them.

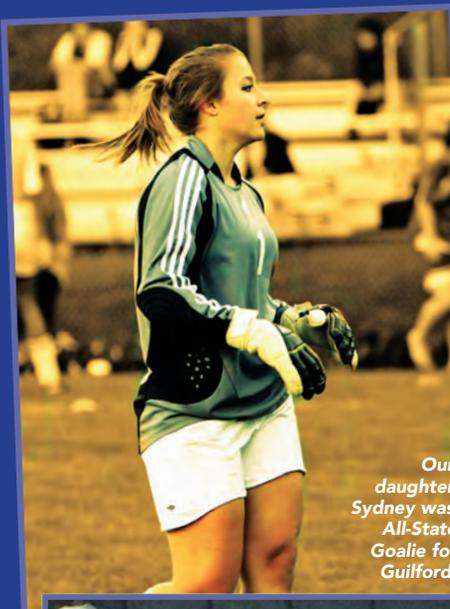
Patti has taught Nicky to play the piano and cello. Last year, we moved Patti's mom Marilyn, a career violist and violin teacher, up from Long Island to a retirement community about three miles from our home. Patti, Nicky and Marilyn all play in the Community Music Orchestra, based

in Essex, Connecticut. They do not have auditions and will accept anyone who can play. So they get three generations of players from our family. Patti does some of the orchestra's musical arrangements for them as well.

Nicky has also been in an assisted dance program and last year was the Prince in their *Nutcracker* production.

You never know where life will take you. Patti and I are truly grateful for our lovely children and rich life here in Guilford. I think back to my undergraduate years at NJIT with gratitude for the excellent education and life experiences that I received there. I look forward to attending more of the annual NJIT alumni soccer get-togethers. ■

All the Best!
Jim Romanski
Class of 1985



Our daughter Sydney was All-State Goalie for Guilford.



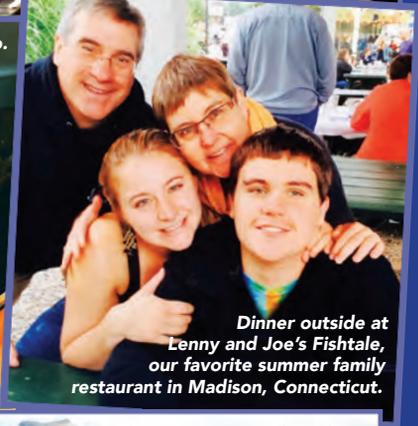
Our son Nicky in action at a Unified Sports Basketball Tournament.



Nicky on stage in the Nutcracker.



Nicky also plays the cello.



Dinner outside at Lenny and Joe's Fishtale, our favorite summer family restaurant in Madison, Connecticut.



Sydney is also an accomplished violinist.



Music is a family affair — Patti, Nicky and Marilyn playing together.



On the Logan Pass trail at Glacier National Park in Montana.

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.

TOM BURY '02 is the CEO of Division 9 Design + Construction, a general contractor offering additional services resulting in convenient and cost-efficient outcomes for clients. After graduating from NJIT's College of Architecture and Design, Bury realized that his knowledge of architecture and understanding of space, paired with an ability to execute effectively and efficiently, allowed him to partner with fellow classmates to open their own company, Division 9 Design and Construction. His success skyrocketed when a new series on the Food Network opened casting for restaurant designers and builders. Bury and Division 9 were enlisted by fellow designers to do the build. That series, "Restaurant Impossible," quickly took off and Bury's character as the "Tom the Builder" was secured. Marc Summers, the show's executive producer, called Bury "the best [casting] find ever" and crucial to the program's success. In addition to his reputation as an expert restaurant designer and builder, Bury added a proven ability to successfully build a restaurant in under two days and \$10,000. "Restaurant Impossible" wrapped after 13 seasons and over 150 restaurants, all of which Bury and his team built. The show gave the company a great deal of exposure and today Division 9 Design and Construction has expanded to cover New York City, New Jersey and Philadelphia.

COLETTE L. SANTASIERI '89, '12 lives in Bloomfield, New Jersey, and is the executive director, policy and planning innovation for civil infrastructure environment at NJIT. In addition to her degrees from NJIT, she also has a bachelor of science in environmental planning and design from Rutgers University. Dr. Santasieri has been a leader in the fields of civil infrastructure and the environment for over 30 years. She has

served as the first and only chief engineer at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority; member of the New Jersey Innovation Institute Core Leadership Team; editor of the Access to the Region's Core Supplemental Draft and Final Environmental Impact statements; and recently as director of strategic initiatives at NJIT. In her current role, she secured over \$10 million in grants and contracts, creating a portfolio of infrastructure and environmental research, projects and technical assistance programs, and leads multidisciplinary teams of scientists, engineers, planners, architects, economists, social scientists and NJIT students. Dr. Santasieri has helped to position NJIT on the national stage for brownfields cleanup, including securing \$6 million in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and with that created and directs the NJIT Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program. She secured NJIT's position on two teams that won millions in EPA funding for brownfields grants that provide technical assistance throughout the entire United States and in every tribal nation.

TOMMASO F. SCARFONE '67 retired as a manager of air conditioner plants from Carrier United Technologies. Scarfone's family emigrated from Italy to Canada in 1953, during which he worked to support his family. When they were able to enter the United States in 1960, Scarfone launched his career as a cabinetmaker, quickly picking up English from co-workers. He credits his mother for convincing him to continue his schooling, and he entered NJIT in 1963 at the age of 25. In addition to his professional success, Scarfone also is honoring his parents by funding a scholarship in their names: The Antonio and Ida Scarfone Memorial Fund.

RICHARD R. SCHATZBERG '93 is the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of NeST Technologies, Inc., a global software services and business/knowledge process outsourcing (BPO/KPO) firm. In his capacity as CCO, Schatzberg leads North American operations and provides sales and business development leadership in other global markets, including Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He is a technology entrepreneur, having founded various businesses that leverage technology to create positive social, economic and business impact, including the National Cloud Technologists Association (NCTA) that provides training, certification and services in the area of cloud computing, network security and business continuity services. Schatzberg serves on various boards, including as treasurer of the Abilities Fund, a nonprofit organization providing seed capital to entrepreneurs with disabilities. He also is a Board member of Abilities, Inc., a part of the Henry Viscardi Center, the National Business and Disability Center. In addition to these roles, Schatzberg serves on the Albert Dorman Honors College Advisory Board.

KARISA C. SCHRECK '04 is a fellow of Neuro-Oncology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Medicine. Dr. Schreck grew up in Newark, New Jersey, and was homeschooled throughout her elementary and high school education. She is NJIT's youngest graduate, having enrolled at age 15, completing her degree at NJIT three years later. After graduating, she completed her M.D. and Ph.D. in neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She then completed a residency in neurology under a joint program between Johns Hopkins and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Schreck is married to a fellow graduate, **THOMAS SCHRECK '03**, who is a software engineer for a company in Maryland. In addition to her professional success, she also served as the keynote speaker at the first "Women With STEAM" program, hosted by Albert Dorman Honors College,

where she supported its mission of attracting the next generation of female leaders to the STEM and architecture fields.

JOSEPH G. STANLEY '78,'85 is a vice president at Mott MacDonald (MM). He is a recipient of the Newark College of Engineering Outstanding Alumnus Award and serves on the Advisory Board for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at NJIT. Stanley has been an adjunct professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and has served on various university committees. Some of Stanley's most notable projects include designing a water supply facility that is cited by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for its strategic importance to the water supply of the northeast portion of the state. ■

This fear drove me to work harder than I had ever worked in my life. I quickly discovered that this attitude would be my key to success, not just at IBM, but for the rest of my life. I left NJIT not just with a degree in electrical engineering — for the first time, I really learned to believe in myself and how I could accomplish anything I set my mind to if I committed to working hard.”

Carswell is vice president of worldwide sales for Solid State Cooling Systems (SSCS), a small, growing technology company specializing in thermoelectric recirculating chillers for precise temperature control of high-speed lasers, analytical equipment, medical equipment, semiconductor processing systems and a variety of other scientific and industrial applications. He joined SSCS in 2012, after retiring from a 33-year career at IBM.

He started at IBM in 1979 as a high performance integrated circuit designer, after earning his bachelor of science in electrical engineering from NJIT. After taking his first management role in 1983, Carswell continued to broaden his impact through various management roles within IBM's Microelectronics, before moving over to IBM Systems development in 1999 as vice president of IBM Mainframe development. This role was expanded in 2000 when he was asked to lead development for all of IBM high-end servers.

In 2001, Carswell was asked to lead the development of IBM's hard disk drive division, where he transformed IBM's approach to HDD development. In 2002, he returned to IBM Microelectronics to run all of IBM's integrated circuit development as vice president of product development. In addition to the development of all ICs used by IBM during this period, his team was responsible for developing advanced processors for the Apple G5 system, Sony's Playstation 3, Microsoft's Xbox 360 and Nintendo's Wii game systems. Four years later, he took on the role of establishing and managing a large, global engineering team for IBM's Engineering

ANNUAL HONORS FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Newark College of Engineering marked 19 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.



Kevin Carswell '79 and Robert Cohen '83, '84, '87

This year, **KEVIN CARSWELL '79** and **ROCCO PALMIERI '72, '77** each received an Outstanding Alumnus Award. The NCE Spirit Award was presented to **JEROME F. GALLAGHER, JR. ESQ. '80,**

a member of Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, PA and current co-chair of the firm's Creditors and Debtor Rights Practice Group. PSEG was the recipient of the Outstanding Industry Partnership Award—an award received on behalf of the company by **JOHN A. BRIDGES '87,** vice president of Electrical Operations.

One of Kevin Carswell's most memorable moments as an NJIT engineering student was his first physics test.

“Even though I paid close attention in class, took a lot of notes and studied hard, I did not do very well on this first test,” he recalled. I thought this was going to be the end of my time at NCE. I then found out that I had scored higher than anyone else in the class. The test had been designed to assess the relative capabilities of the

class and frankly to weed out the weaker students. Although I felt better about having the top score, I was not happy that I did not do better, so I committed to study even harder. This certainly paid off throughout my time at NJIT.”

For Carswell, his BSEE degree and his success as an NJIT student laid a solid foundation for everything else he accomplished in his career.

“Although I really enjoyed learning the fundamental theories of science and engineering, what really energized me was the application of these theories to solve real-world problems and develop new technology which can have a far-reaching impact on the world,” he recalled. “It is the focus on real-world applied knowledge which I believe makes NJIT stand out as a top public university.”

His undergraduate years were an extremely pivotal time as, like many young people before attending NJIT, he did not have a very clear direction in his life.

“I was not a very good high school student, but NJIT saw my potential and accepted me into the BSEE program,” he said. “I had taken two years off to work after graduating high school, which actually helped prepare me to really roll up my sleeves and get to work. Frankly, when I started my freshman year I was very afraid that I would quickly flunk out.



Rocco Palmieri '72, '77 and Ted Cassera '72, a member of the NCE Board of Visitors.

and Technology Services Division, responsible for leveraging IBM's research and development skills and intellectual property to help other companies develop and commercialize a wide variety of high-tech solutions, many of which were early implementations of today's internet of things technology. Carswell's final role at IBM was as vice president of alliance and licensing transactions, where he was responsible for technology licensing and joint development alliances for IBM's Systems and Technology Group and portions of IBM Research.

Throughout his career, Carswell has been an active volunteer, helping many different community organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, the New York Blood Center and Family Services of Poughkeepsie. Since 1999, he has been an active volunteer at NJIT, serving on the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Industry Advisory Board and the initial advisory board for the Albert Dorman Honors College Interdisciplinary Design Studio program. He is an annual guest lecturer in the ECE department's ECE 101 class and actively participates in the ECE capstone project showcases. In addition to his BSEE from NJIT, he holds a master of science degree in electrical engineering from Syracuse University.

What advice would he give to students who are planning to pursue a similar career path?

"I often tell students that the most important thing to do at NJIT is to learn the fundamentals and work harder than you have ever worked in your life," he said. "This investment in time and mental energy will pay back countless times over for the rest of your life."

Carswell said he is "certainly honored" by being recognized as a 2017 NCE Outstanding Alumnus.

"I am not sure I am the most deserving given the number of very accomplished NJIT graduates out in the world who feel a lifelong connection to the university and strong commitment to give back and help the university produce more successful

graduates," he said. "I am hopeful that recognizing alums in this way encourages more NJIT graduates to volunteer time or provide funding to the university."

During the years that Rocco Palmieri '72, '77 was an undergraduate student at NJIT, the first man walked on the moon, the Mets won their first World Series, the Jets won their first — and only — Super Bowl and there were demonstrations on campus concerning the Vietnam War.

"These were important events," recalled Palmieri, who was recognized at the 2017 NCE Salute to Engineering Excellence for his achievements since graduation. "My fellow students and I participated in them and became closer because of them. My professors were also great teachers and mentors. They were available for guidance and had a great impact on my life. The campus was not as developed as it is today, but the Student Center was the gathering place for students and a focal point of my college life at NJIT. I truly enjoyed my years at NJIT and I am very happy to have a continuing association with the college today as an alumnus."

There were many other memorable moments that Palmieri associates with his time at NJIT.

"There are two that stand out for me," Palmieri said. "The first, a somewhat comical one, was as a sophomore in surveying class. Our midterm survey test was a field assignment in Branch Brook Park just before the Christmas break. It was extremely cold and we used whatever 'resources' we had to stay warm. As the day wore on, panic set in on our crew members as it got darker and our 'warming resources' began to kick in. But somehow we completed the assignment just before dark. As we made our way back by bus to the college, we had a good laugh as we realized we shouldn't have started to celebrate the holiday break so soon."

The other memorable moment was a more serious one as it related to Palmieri's role as an officer of Chi Epsilon Fraternity in his senior year.

"Our guest speaker and award recipient for our annual dinner was Newark Mayor

Kenneth Gibson," Palmieri noted. "The mayor was also a professional engineer. It was my responsibility to meet and escort Mayor Gibson to our dinner and introduce him to the membership. I was so impressed to meet him, not only a mayor, but a professional engineer as well. Little did he know that I would be a mayor someday."

Born and raised in Newark, Palmieri attended grammar school and high school in the city before attending NCE in 1968. He earned his B.S. in civil engineering in 1972 (cum laude) and an M.S. in environmental engineering in 1977. As an undergraduate student at NCE, Palmieri participated as an intern in community affairs working as a student volunteer for the city of Newark evaluating the city's public transportation system. This first challenge would lead to a rewarding career in civil engineering. He says that his NJIT degrees "most definitely" have helped him in his career.

"I received a great education at NJIT. I was taught by very learned and dedicated professors who helped me develop a basic understanding of engineering principles and who also taught me how to apply them to real world problems. Most of all, I came to understand that my role as an engineer would not only apply to my professional endeavors but to my role in society as a citizen. NJIT had a tremendous impact on my career and my life."

During his 45-year career, Palmieri has worked in both the public and private sectors. Upon graduation from NCE, he began his professional career with the consulting firm of Edwards and Kelcey in their Newark office. In 1973, he accepted a position with the township of Fairfield as assistant to the municipal engineer. Over the next 15 years, Palmieri advanced to become municipal engineer and director of Public Works. Some of his more fulfilling accomplishments were the completion of the township's \$20 million wastewater management system, the development and implementation of one of New Jersey's earliest municipal recycling programs and the design and construction of the Beverly Road

ALUMNI CIRCUIT



PSEG was the recipient of the Outstanding Industry Partnership Award, received on behalf of the company by John A. Bridges '87.

Recreation Facility, which received a first-place award from the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers.

In 1988, Palmieri left Fairfield to form the firm of Harper and Palmieri, Engineers and Surveyors, where he was the managing partner in charge of site development projects throughout New Jersey. In 1995, he joined the firm of Schoor DePalma, where he spent the next 16 years as a principal and managing partner of offices in Parsippany, New Jersey, and White Plains, New York. Palmieri cites the Cranbury Business Park Development Project in Middlesex County and the Hilltop Redevelopment Project in Essex County as a few of the more challenging projects he successfully completed at Schoor DePalma. Through his years at Schoor DePalma, and its successor, CMX, he rose to become a senior VP, a principal of the firm and eventually served as a member of the board of directors in 2009-2010. In 2010, Palmieri joined Birdsall Services Group, Inc. and was the manager of Birdsall's Cranford office. He remained with Birdsall until 2013 when he retired from his full-time position due to health limitations. Palmieri is currently a senior project manager with Partner Engineering and Science in Eatontown.

What advice would he give to students who are planning to pursue a similar career path?

"Work hard, learn all that you can and do your best in all you undertake," he said. "I am a member of the NJIT Civil and Environmental Engineering Industrial Advisory Board. Each semester, board members make a presentation to undergraduate students in the FED 101 class. Each board member discusses their particular area of civil engineering. We

also discuss our careers and the experiences we've had through the years. I've always tried to stress the importance of working hard to earn their degree. I also stress that a formal college education is only the foundation for a career in engineering. Real-life education through actual work is the best teacher. My first job was not my last. It only got me started. As a civil engineer, earning my professional license was a critical goal for me. Developing strong and lasting relationships with colleagues and clients based on mutual respect and trust is very important. Completing work in an ethical, honest and professional manner defines who we are. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, try to have a balance between work, family and recreation. This last one is not always easy."

SPIRIT OF NCE

Gallagher engages in civil trial and appellate practice and concentrates in the areas of commercial banking, creditors' rights, auto finance defense litigation, construction contract litigation and title insurance matters. He has served as New Jersey counsel to several national companies, including AT&T Corp., Intercos Europe, SPA, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., K. Hovnanian Companies, Premium Financing Specialists Corp., Stewart Title Guaranty Co. and Valley National Bank, N.A. Since 1999, Gallagher has been a member of the NCE Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Industry Advisory Board, and its chair since 2015. He has established the Frank Gallagher Memorial Scholarship to benefit NJIT students, and has taken the lead in creating an Annual Scholarship Fund. Aside from his efforts for NJIT, Gallagher is also a trustee of the Passaic Optimist Foundation, which raises funds for scholarships for inner-city students to pursue college and post-high school technical training degrees.

STELLAR STUDENTS

Outstanding students from every department of NCE were among the



Jerome F. Gallagher, Jr. Esq. '80 and Robert Cohen '83, '84, '87.

stellar performers honored at an awards ceremony. Brody Frees, Joseph Geise and Thomas Reardon, students in the Otto H. York Department of Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering, received the Saul K. Fenster Innovation in Design Award for their leadership of the Chem-E Car Team, which designed, fabricated and built a unique auto system for entry into the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' annual competition. The Helen and John C. Hartmann Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering's Xueqing Huang was recognized with the NCE Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Mina Taheri '16, whose dissertation work was focused on greening the broadband access networks and who is currently working as a senior software engineer in a high-tech company, Advanced Rotorcraft Technology in Silicon Valley, was acknowledged with the NCE Outstanding Doctoral Student Dissertation Award for her excellence in both teaching and research in the Helen and John C. Hartmann Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Other students receiving recognition include Andrea Cano, who was named the recipient of the Madame Mau Outstanding Female Engineering Student Award and Outstanding Senior from the John A. Reif, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Sahitya Allam*, who was named Outstanding Senior Overall and Outstanding Senior in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, along with Christopher P. Donovan from the Department of Engineering Technology; Stefani Kocavska* from the Otto H. York Department of Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering; Andrew Pennock* from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; and Shahar Sarfati* from the Helen and John C. Hartmann Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. ■

**Dorman honors scholars*



Offering a Real Meal Deal: SATISH CHAMYVELUMANI '01

Six different cuisines with 30 combos all served hot within 90 seconds, and patrons need only pick, swipe and eat. That's what Frshly, a fully automated "vend-café" and the brainchild of Satish ChamyVelumani '01, provides to a growing number of hungry consumers on the move through India's railway system and airports. It's an offer the tech startup, established in 2013, calls "plated happiness."

Here's how Frshly works: Customers desiring fresh, hot food from popular local restaurants choose from a selection of stocked menu items at a Frshly state-of-the-art dispensing machine. The company's proprietary technology, a "recipe" of robotics and algorithms, then enables the quick procurement, takeaway-friendly wrapping and prompt delivery of the order. To ensure that the food is always fresh, Frshly restocks the dispensing machine regularly.

The meals "are packed according to the given specifications for every mealtime at the participating restaurant kitchens and then are transported to the Frshly outlets where they are stacked," explained ChamyVelumani. "This is as good as any convenience store where products are pre-stacked based on predictive demand analysis."

Customers also can place an order, as well as specify a pickup location and time, via the free Frshly app, available from the Apple and Google Play stores. The app secures their meal until they collect it, at which time the dispenser reheats and serves it. The cost for Frshly meals ranges from Rs 59-159 in Indian currency (approximately \$1-\$2.50).

ChamyVelumani has introduced Frshly in three cities in India: Bengaluru, Chennai and Secunderabad. Each market features different cuisine.

"The idea is to serve the brands from the cities in which we operate,"

ChamyVelumani noted. "Frshly is an ecosystem for multiple restaurants to get on board and reach out to new customers. Even though Frshly is an aggregation platform, the brands that participate are curated based on the market demand."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Frshly journey, from "back of the napkin" concept sketches to the first customer making a selection, took ChamyVelumani two-and-a-half years to complete. He faced some challenges along the way, particularly with building the interface between the ordering app, the dispenser and the enterprise resource planning system.

"With Frshly, every single thing had to be developed from scratch," he said. "There were a lot of dependencies. We are talking about an entire ecosystem here, including hardware."

Fortunately, pitching Frshly to the Indian Railways Network and airport authorities proved much easier. Indian Railways had been searching for an innovation in the food and beverage space and Frshly fit the bill. A successful pilot in Chennai Central Railway Station followed and since then Frshly has opened two more stores in India, with a third and possibly more poised to launch this year.

FIRST-GEN ENTREPRENEUR

"First" is certainly a recurring theme of the Frshly story. The business is a first of its kind and the first commercial venture for ChamyVelumani, who is the first in his family to become an entrepreneur. All in all, he said, it "has been a great ride so far."

Before returning to his home country to start Frshly, he worked in the manufacturing industry in the U.S. for 11 years in a variety of engineering roles at 3M Purification Inc. (formerly CUNO Incorporated). And just before joining 3M, he earned his M.S. in manufacturing

systems engineering at NJIT; he also holds an MBA in global enterprise management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

"I was working in India as a mechanical engineer for about two years, mostly doing 2-D drafting and 3-D modeling. I became bored of that work and I didn't think those jobs were paving the way for me to achieve my future dreams. I wanted to get a broader exposure to manufacturing and through my friends I heard about the manufacturing systems engineering course that was offered at NJIT," offered ChamyVelumani, who arrived at the university in 2000. "Overall, the course work was an eye opener. I particularly enjoyed my design-for-manufacturing classes with [Professor Sanchoy] Das."

FEEDBACK AND FUTURE

To further improve service, ChamyVelumani and his Frshly staff — about 60 people including store owners — are fielding recommendations for new cuisines and meal quantities from customers, who on the whole have appreciated the convenience of getting their favorite food brands at the touch of a button.

Looking ahead, Frshly is expanding its operations into Singapore this March and also working to set up stand-alone dispensers for several large food brands. ChamyVelumani's vision for his company includes moves into other Asia Pacific countries, the Middle East and ultimately North America. He encourages aspiring entrepreneurs to dream big and work hard and credits his NJIT education with helping shape him into who he is today.

"My master's program put an entire business sense of things in my head," he reflected. "I always say this: 'It is not the subjects that we study, but it is the application that makes the difference.' NJIT helped me with learning the application."

For more information on Frshly, visit gofrshly.com. ■

Julie Jacobs is a staff writer/editor in the Office of Strategic Communications at NJIT.



Teaching English to the World: LUIS CLEMENT '77

The day he set foot at NJIT, Luis Clement '77 knew that life was going to be different. He arrived in the United States from Colombia in 1971 and enrolled at Essex County College, where he played soccer and was the team's highest scorer. He transferred to NJIT in 1975 and made his presence known immediately on the soccer field as a "fast and tricky" forward, according to coach, J. Malcolm Simon. While at NJIT, Clement shared two years of "unforgettable happenings" with a group of players from all over the world.

"We had a dream team," he recalled. "Hernan 'Chico' Borja, a former U.S. National Soccer Team member and a member of the NJIT Athletics Hall of Fame, was our fellow player. I lived my best two years of life at NJIT."

After earning a bachelor's degree in engineering technology, Clement worked

at Weston Instruments as a quality control engineer from 1978 to 1979, returning to Colombia when his father passed away. "It was very difficult to live far from my family," he said.

Once back in Colombia, Clement worked for 10 years as a sales field engineer for three different companies: a Swiss-Colombian firm named Walter Rothlisberger selling electric power measuring devices; Baxter Labs as a quality control engineer, and Microcom Corporation, a computer company. He followed this up by working in Italy doing marketing research for a local branch of Goodyear, the car-service products company. After three months, he returned to Colombia and opened a sales office in Bogota for the same company. Two years later, he teamed up with former NJIT soccer teammate Alfonso Cardenas '80 in a water- and waste-treatment venture.

Cardenas served as project director for design and construction of the local wastewater treatment plant.

In 2002, Clement embarked on a career change as a technical translator and English instructor at Icesi and Autonoma, both universities in Cali, Colombia. At the same time, he launched a startup in electronic waste with his brother, a chemical engineer. However, he decided that his true passion was teaching, and in 2008 founded a private language school, World English Language Center. Clement's school now has 150 students and he is moving forward with his dream of developing a school specializing in conversational English and English for specific purposes.

He still keeps in touch with his former soccer coach. "Malcolm Simon was like my father," he said. "I named my son after him."

What is his lasting impression of NJIT?

"I dream of my school every time I have the chance to dream," Clement said. "I love it to my bones, probably because there I met my best friends ever." ■

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From Industrial Engineer to Career Coach: CARLA G. JONES '94

Carla G. Jones '94 did not always envision herself in the career-coaching profession per se, but as an NJIT student she was continually involved in activities where she was helping someone or improving something. And looking back on her decision to study industrial engineering, she even chose a major closely connected to working with people to improve systems or processes.

Originally from Newark and now based in Maryland, Jones most recently managed a career-coaching program for a nonprofit organization in the DC metro area and currently teaches career planning as an adjunct professor at a local university. Her new book, *I S.E.E. Me*, is a collection of stories, quotes and poems on topics such as consistency, persistence, procrastination and letting go of fear that can help to inspire those facing doubt, fear or obstacles.

“From working professionals, to graduating high school or college students, to those in between jobs, this book is a great pick-me-up for anyone who loses or needs motivation to accomplish their goals,” Jones explained. “S.E.E. is an acronym for ‘Strength, Empower and Encourage,’ which is what readers will gain from reading this book. My motivation for writing it comes from working with so many people who get discouraged while working on their goals and need additional reminders from time to time — myself included. The book serves as a portable companion to remind you to keep moving forward, one step at a time.”

Jones said that her NJIT degree provided her with the opportunity to build a solid foundation that can be applied to many different professions — including career coaching.

“As a career coach, when I tell people that I have an engineering degree, the first thing they say is, ‘I would have never guessed that.’ As you can imagine, career coaching is very different from engineering. People tend to view engineers as very methodical, and seeing things as either black or white. In career coaching, there is a lot of ‘gray.’ The answers aren’t always obvious, or may not make perfect sense.”

According to Jones, the critical thinking, analytical skills, systems-development and process-improvement strategies she learned at NJIT helped to build her foundation as a coach.

“It is because of this foundation that I am able to combine ‘head’ and ‘heart’ into my practice as a career coach,” she said.

As an NJIT student, Jones opted to stay on campus and lived in Redwood, Cypress and Oak Residence Halls. During those years, she also was a residence adviser (RA) at Cypress and Oak Halls.

“Although the classes were tough, I was able to take advantage of several other programs and activities on campus — becoming a peer counselor and RA, being a note-taker for students with disabilities, being involved in the Educational Opportunity Program, National Society for Black Engineers, and the Black Association of Student Engineers, and participating

in a co-op opportunity through the Career Services office. I was grateful and humbled to have received the Peter Small Scholarship Award for Service during my time at NJIT. These experiences were both academically and socially enriching.”

Her most memorable moment as an NJIT student was walking across the stage to receive her degree at commencement.

“You see, I had lost my dad during my second year at NJIT and I was devastated. My mom passed away when I was much younger, so he had basically raised me. We were very close. I was on probation a couple of semesters following his death and almost flunked out. But through the support of family, friends and NJIT’s Counseling Center, I was able to get back on solid footing and complete my degree. So, in that moment of receiving my degree I was proudly walking across that stage for both me and my dad.”

In the year immediately following graduation, Jones worked as an industrial engineer for United Parcel Service. In that role, she was responsible for projecting volume, monitoring package routes and reporting operating results. The second year into this job, she returned to school to pursue an MBA at Rutgers University.

What is her lasting impression of NJIT?

“It is the place that helped to develop the foundation upon which I stand today. From the classes, to the staff, to long-lasting friendships that were made, it is a place that I will never forget.”

To learn more about *I S.E.E. Me*, Carla, or how to purchase copies, please visit: iseemebook.com/. Copies are also available directly at Authorhouse, Amazon or Barnes and Noble. ■

1970's

'78 MARC GIETTER

(Chemical Engineering, M.S. in Management '81) recently received the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award. He began his federal career in 1981 as an industrial engineer with the Tactical Shelters Branch of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) when it was located at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. His career highlights include earning the U.S. Army Materiel Command Weapon Systems Manager of the Quarter Award in 1991. He was also part of the team that won the AMC Integrated Product Team of the Year Award in 2002. Gietter culminated his federal career as an electronics engineer with the CERDEC Command, Power and Integration Directorate. He officially retired Jan. 3 with more than 35 years of government service.

1980's

'81, '83 BRYAN HALL (B.S. in Industrial Administration, M.S. in Engineering Management) has joined Optelian, an optical networking solution provider, as senior vice president of sales. In his new role, Hall will lead worldwide sales and business development.

'81 CHETLUR RAGAVAN

(M.S. in Computer and Information Science) has been named a board member of the Council for Economic Education (CEE), a leading nonprofit organization in the U.S. that focuses on the economic and financial education of K-12 students. Ragavan serves as executive vice president and chief risk officer for Voya Financial. He is responsible for overseeing the enterprise-wide and business-level risk monitoring and management program for the organization.

'84 PETER MONTE

(Architecture) joined Hudson Meridian Construction Group, LLC as president/

chief operating officer. As chief operating officer at Hudson Meridian, Monte oversees the ongoing operations and procedures of the firm setting comprehensive goals for performance and growth.

'86 MYRON PETRUCH

(Chemical Engineering) has been named the 15th recipient of the Anthony Mauriello Man of the Year award by The Metro New York Printing Ink Association (MNYPIA). Petruch is the president of Sun Chemical Performance Pigments and an executive officer of DIC Corporation. He joined Sun Chemical in 2008 as president of its Performance Pigments division. He has also been named chairman of Sun China in 2011, president of Sun Chemical's Electronic Materials division in 2013, and an executive officer of DIC Corporation, Sun Chemical's parent company, in 2017.

'87 ANTHONY DEL VESCOVO (Civil Engineering) has joined The Walsh Group, a 119-year-old family-owned company providing design, build, finance, operation and activation services, as East Coast tunnel leader. Del Vescovo will be responsible for overseeing the firm's tunnel and underground construction operations on the East Coast, as well as helping to expand the company's presence in the New York market. Del Vescovo brings over 30 years of experience to Walsh, having had prominent roles in major tunneling projects in New York, including New York City Water Tunnel, East Side Access, #7 Line Subway and the Second Avenue Subway.

'87 JIM GAZZALE

(Construction Engineering Technology, M.S. in Civil Engineering '94) has been promoted to associate at Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm. Gazzale is assistant department head for the geotechnical division and has more than 35 years of experience in public- and private-sector projects. His experience includes the determination of appropriate methods and procedures for subsurface

investigations, soil and rock testing, slope stability, foundation design and analysis and construction engineering.

'89, '93 FORTUNE MHLANGA

(M.S. in Computer and Information Sciences, Ph.D.), dean of Lipscomb University's College of Computing and Technology, has been awarded a fellowship by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program. A native of Zimbabwe, Mhlanga will travel to Nigeria to work with Ebonyi State University on capacity building in the areas of algorithms and theory of computation.

1990's

'90 MARK KATARYNIAK

(Civil Engineering) has been hired as the new director of community development for Hopewell Township. In this role, Kataryniak will also serve as the township's zoning officer, planning board secretary and stormwater program coordinator. Kataryniak previously worked for Edison Township as its engineer and director of engineering and planning.

'91 GREGORY KELLY

(Civil Engineering) president and CEO of the U.S. and Latin America region of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, has received the 2017 Foundation Award from the Beverly Willis Architectural Foundation (BAAF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to "advancing the knowledge and recognition of women's contributions to architecture." The award is given annually to "a transformational firm for influencing and expanding opportunities for the careers of women in the building industry."

'91 RAJENDRA NAVALURKAR

(M.S. in Civil Engineering, Ph.D. '96) has joined the engineering services firm Parsons as vice president and program director for complex bridge and tunnel design. Navalurkar has more than 24 years of design and infrastructure management experience, with a focus

on major bridge projects. He has worked extensively with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, MTA Bridges and Tunnels, New York City Department of Transportation and New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Navalurkar also has more than 22 years of teaching experience. Navalurkar, an adjunct professor at NJIT, teaches a variety of structural engineering graduate and undergraduate courses, including stability of structures, fracture mechanics, earthquake engineering, steel design (load resistance factor design) and pre-stressed concrete design.

'93 KERRI TYERMAN

(Civil Engineering, M.S. in Transportation Engineering '95) joined HNTB Corporation as the transportation department manager working in the firm's New Jersey operations. Tyerman also serves as client service team leader and participates in key sales initiatives. She has more than 22 years of experience as a project manager for highway and public transportation projects, including work with the New Jersey Department of Transportation providing congestion relief, safety and interchange improvements. Her background also includes work with New Jersey Transit such as early stage engineering support for the new Hudson River tunnel projects, also known as the Gateway program.

'94 SCOTT BLEEKER

(Civil Engineering) has been promoted to associate at professional services firm, Dewberry. With more than 25 years of experience in the surveying industry, Bleeker's expertise includes land, boundary and topographic surveys, geodetic control networks, robotic total stations, land development, site planning and engineering, stormwater and grading design, drainage construction and local and state permit processes. Bleeker has worked on numerous surveying projects throughout New Jersey, including the Garden State Parkway Interchange 163 improvements, the Rebuild by Design Hudson River

project and master services agreements for Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Norfolk Southern and Conrail.

'94 RAJA MAHARAJH

(Industrial Engineering) has been elected to the board of directors of Pro Bono Partnership, a provider of free transactional legal services to nonprofits. Maharajh serves as vice president and general counsel at Pratt & Whitney, where he leads the legal services team and has overall responsibility for the company's legal matters as well as responsibility for contracts, corporate ethics, government compliance and government security.

'97 ANDREW ALICANDRI

(M.Arch, M.S. in Management) has joined architecture firm LS3P as a project architect. Alicandri has 15 years of experience in planning, design and project management.

'97 JUDITH DONNELLY

(M.Arch.) principal owner of Donnelly Architecture, LLC, has been elected as the 2017 first vice president of the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA-NJ). Donnelly, who has been an active member of AIA-NJ for over a decade, previously served as the organization's second vice president and secretary. She has also been a member of several AIA-NJ committees and has had numerous leadership roles at the Newark and Suburban Architects local section, including 2010 president.

'98 HIMANSHU BHATIA

(M.S. in Environmental Engineering) has been elected treasurer of the Federation of Indian Association, Tristate area (FIA). Bhatia worked for Oracle Global Health, Pfizer, Merck and Glaxo Smith-Klein before going into business for himself.

'98 CHRISTINA SEO

(Biomedical Engineering) was recently selected as Top Doctor of the Year for 2017 by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP). Seo, a colon and

rectal surgeon for Barash-White M.D., PA, has over 12 years of professional experience in the health care industry. In 2014 she was chosen as VIP Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women, Top Female Executive, selected as an Elite Worldwide Professional and Professional of the Year in Healthcare by Worldwide Branding. In 2015 she was named Best Colon and Rectal Surgeon in Englewood, NJ. In 2016 she had a chapter dedicated to her in "Top 101 Industry Expert Publication."

'99 KIM VIERHEILIG

(Architecture, M.S. in Management '00) has been elected 2017 second vice president of the New Jersey chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA-NJ). Vierheilig serves as vice president and marketing director at LAN Associates, an architectural and engineering firm that focuses on educational facilities. Vierheilig also serves as the current Women in Architecture Chair for AIA-NJ and was a past president and current trustee of the Architect's League of Northern New Jersey.

'00 PROSHANTO MUKHERJI

(Computer and Information Science) has been named principal with the Intellectual Property (IP) Litigation Group at Fish & Richardson. Mukherji's focus is on trial and appellate litigation, representing high technology companies in cases involving cellular telephone systems, internet technologies and cardiac defibrillators.

'02 JEFFREY INGERSON

(Architecture) has joined DMR Architects as project architect. Ingerson gained his nearly 15 years of experience at firms in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, working on residential, corporate interiors, retail and fitness and wellness center projects. In his new role, he is supporting the firm's growing residential pipeline of more than 600 units at projects across northern New Jersey.

'04 KEITH FORST

(Chemical Engineering) has been elected partner of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP. Forst, who is based in the firm's Washington, D.C. office, is a trial lawyer that represents clients across a wide range of complex commercial matters, including intellectual property, energy and class action litigation and international arbitration.

'04 KEITH LUDWIG

(Surveying Engineering Technology) has been promoted to associate at Dewberry, a privately held professional services firm. Ludwig, the operations manager for the surveying department at the firm, has more than 30 years of surveying experience, including boundary and property line analysis, aerial control networks, geographic information system mapping and static global positioning systems.

'06 DAVID ASFOUR

(Architecture) was promoted to vice president in CallisonRTKL's New York retail practice group, where he works on managing luxury and specialty retail projects. His project experience also includes workplace and residential architecture. As an account manager for several prestigious global retail brands, Asfour manages design teams and is instrumental in helping the firm attract new clients.

'09 PAULA A. GUTIERREZ

(Biology) recently received the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Early Careerist Award. The Early Careerist Award recognizes ACHE affiliates who have significantly contributed toward the advancement of healthcare management excellence. Gutierrez, transplant coordinator at NJ Sharing Network, works with families of organ and tissue donors, assembles clinical teams for surgery and facilitates the allocation of these organs for transplant. Gutierrez, who is also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, has been active in the New Jersey Chapter since 2010 and

was appointed to the board of ACHENJ in 2016 where she currently serves as the First Member at Large. In this role, Gutierrez oversees the scholarship committee and aspires to continue ACHE's program "Wishes Come True," an initiative that involves ACHE members approaching child life areas of hospitals and health care settings and encouraging them to nominate a child who will have a wish granted.

2010's

'10 RICHARD UNIACKE

(MBA in Management of Technology) has been named one of *Atlantic City Weekly's* Top 40 Under 40. Uniacke is the vice president of the Southern branch at the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and has been with the organization for nearly 16 years. In 2010 Uniacke was a fellow of LeadNJ and served as co-chair of the recruitment and selection committee last year.

'11 SYED HAQ

(MBA in Business Administration) has been named a senior engineering manager in the New York City office of WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, a global engineering and professional services organization. In his new position, Haq is responsible for providing project management and technical expertise for major tunneling and infrastructure projects.

'11 MELISSA SALSANO

(Civil Engineering) has joined the national construction law firm Peckar & Abramson, P.C. (P&A) as associate. Salsano focuses her practice on construction litigation, complex commercial litigation and securities litigation. Before joining P&A, Salsano was an associate with Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti, LLP. She is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey.

'12 MUHAMMAD ELGAMMAL

(Civil Engineering, M.S. '15) has been

named one of 10 2017 New Faces of Civil Engineering by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Elgammal, an associate civil engineer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, was recently appointed to be an agreement project manager for the civil engineering department, coordinating smoothness testing for 22 miles of runway baselines. He has worked on the rehabilitation of runways at Newark Liberty International Airport as both a design engineer and a construction inspector.

'12 DARIO LOBOZZO

(Information Systems) has joined Guidepost Solutions, a global leader in compliance, investigations and security and technology consulting, as senior program manager in the Chicago office for its Security and Technology Consulting group. LoboZZo is a consultant in cyber, physical and technical security design and will support the firm's continued physical and cyber security growth in the Chicago region. He previously served as director of technical solutions with Radiflow, a cyber security solutions firm, and is an expert in North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection compliance standards.

'13 MICHAEL THOMAS

(M.S. in Civil Engineering) group manager in the Site Development Department of T&M Associates, has been named an award recipient in the Top 20 Under 40 program sponsored by *ENR-New York*. The award is given to up-and-coming leaders in the construction and design industries. Thomas joined T&M in 2012 and has headed several key projects with regional significance, such as West Windsor's Carnegie Center Office Park. Thomas is also the first professional in New Jersey to obtain the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® AP in Neighborhood Development certification, currently one of just 10 New Jersey professionals with this certification. ■

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017!



Left: From left: Class Crier Dorothy Chau '17, NJIT President Joel S. Bloom, and Student Speaker Michael Bebawy '17. Above: Steven B. Saperstein '84, chief operating officer of PGIM Fixed Income and a member of the NJIT Board of Overseers, and NJIT President Joel S. Bloom presented the award for "most senior alumnus" to Herman Blackman '38, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.



New Jersey Institute of Technology conferred more than 2,300 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at the 101st commencement ceremony May 16 at the Prudential Center in Newark — the largest graduating class in the university's history.

Rochelle Hendricks, New Jersey's first Secretary of Higher Education, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and delivered the commencement address in which she encouraged graduates to "dream big" and to "pay it forward" by becoming involved in the community.

"I confess that I am expecting great things from you and for you," she said.

"We are all meant to shine, and I am confident that the NJIT experience releases you from your fears."

The university also awarded honorary degrees to J. Robert Hillier, architect, principal and co-founder of Studio Hillier, and Philip L. Rinaldi, founder of Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES), who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and an honorary Doctor of Science, respectively.

NJIT President Joel S. Bloom urged the graduates to embrace the opportunity to follow alumni who throughout the

university's history have established a legacy of making significant contributions

that improve the quality of life for people around the globe.

"By virtue of earning a degree from NJIT, you have demonstrated the capacity to make significant contributions to your communities and to society as a whole," he said. "In your chosen fields and professions, endeavor to create and innovate in ways that enhance the greater good, not simply the profit margin."

A highlight of the ceremony included the presentation of the award for "most senior alumnus" to Herman Blackman, Class of 1938, who had recently celebrated his 100th birthday. In another first, Sina Nassim, who received his bachelor's degree in biology, proposed to his girlfriend, Zainoishi, on the arena's Jumbotron moments before the ceremony concluded.

"Judging by her gesture, I think she said 'yes,'" said NJIT Provost and Senior Executive Vice President Fadi P. Deek. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Irving Reingold '42, '48
 Warren Reysen '42
 Rudolph Rinderer '43
 Adolf Attermann '50
 Murray Sklar '50, '59
 Joseph Cummins '55
 Robert Klein '59
 John R. Schwind '59
 Joseph Begasse '60, '75
 David W. H. Roth Jr. '61, '85
 Bruce Conley '62
 James Liaci '62
 William Lewis '63

Leroy Schellhardt '63
 Robert Zwack '64
 Clifford Johnson '65
 John W. Mansfield '66
 Jack Garrett '68
 John Novellino '69
 John Renavitz Jr. '71
 Douglas Spencer '73
 David Ward '74, '91
 Ralph Confessore '75
 Leopoldo Mansueto Jr. '76, '07
 Timothy Doyle '77
 Howard Wingard '78

Thomas Bonner '79
 William Fennimore '80
 Robert Bower '81
 Joseph Daniel Milora '81, '84
 George Urbanneck '86, '90
 Edward Kruger '87
 Karen Pereira '87
 Ntjatji Gosebo '88
 Nancy Meadows '90
 Daniel McMillan '91
 Barbara Kagan Littman '94
 Edward Harmon '96
 Jason Lafortune '11
 Gregory Gilhooly '15