

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 email to the editor of **NJIT Magazine**: crovetto@njit.edu

First, the latest news from Mal –

This column is dedicated to Dean Maskevich, senior publications officer with the NJIT Office of Strategic Communications, who retired at the end of December 2017 and with whom I have had the privilege and pleasure of working on *NJIT Magazine* since my first column in the magazine in the fall of 2003. Dean was a colleague and friend who made sure I had all my T's crossed and I's dotted. I know he will not take any credit for what we achieved together, but I am not being facetious when I say "El Deano, I couldn't have done it without you."

The Fall 2017 issue featured six fantastic distaff-side members of the NJIT family and this issue will do likewise with six equally fantastic spear-side members: Manny Del Rio '08, Tarik Rodgers '96, Steven Harvey '72, Fred Maltino '72, Ray Vaccari '72 and Mike Toto '72.

MANNY AND TARIK played on the same volleyball team when Manny was a senior and Tarik a freshman. Manny had to drop out of school in 1993 to work full time to help his father when his mom died of cancer. He promised his mom he would complete his degree, and although it took a "wee" bit longer than expected (22 years in fact), he earned his B.S. in engineering science in 2008. In between, Manny worked for Pecata Enterprises, a family-owned textile manufacturing business, was Dave DeNure's assistant volleyball coach at NJIT from 1994 to 1998 and, when Dave left NJIT, served as head volleyball coach from 1999 to 2001, including one season as head women's volleyball coach in 2000.

Manny was an outstanding player

and coach. He was setter on a number of successful volleyball teams, with achievements that included winning the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (EIVA) Division 111 championship twice and scoring Runner Up in the Division 111 National Championship once. As head coach, his teams reached the EIVA final four in 1999 and 2000 and Manny was selected EIVA Coach of the Year in 1999.



From left: Dan Bocage '96, Harold Nazaire '00, Rudy Romulus '92, Anthony Valbrun '00 and Manny Del Rio '08

He was also very successful in his career with Pecata Enterprises, and was promoted to general manager in 1998. As the company grew from its original 15 employees to 180, Manny saw his role changing so much that in 2001 he had to resign from coaching at NJIT. In addition to his increasing workload at Pecata and earning his B.S. in 2008, he earned a master's in organizational leadership from Northeastern University in 2010.

But Manny could not give up his love for volleyball, and in 2002 he joined

Dave DeNure to help with a girl's junior volleyball program in northern New Jersey called Cut Short Volleyball. In 2008, Dave moved on, so Manny became the director, a position he still holds. However, Manny is proud to say that the most important event of his life became a reality in November 2016 when he and his wife, Inah, had their first child, Lorelai.

Tarik was born on the south side of



Manny Del Rio and his daughter, Lorelai

Chicago. His parents and grandmother provided such a great focus on education that he advanced grades and entered college at the age of 16. Before college, however, the family moved to Newark, New Jersey, due to his father's illness and the concern that local gangs were a dangerous influence, and the desire to provide a stable household for Tarik and his older brother, Douglas, and younger sister, Nadiyah.

Tarik was accepted into one of Newark's magnet programs at Science High School as the youngest freshman, when he was just 12 years old. The physical education classes at Science High School were held at Newark's YM/YWCA, and it was there that Tarik learned to play volleyball. NJIT was Tarik's next stop in educational and athletic development. NJIT Coach Dave DeNure, who was alerted about Tarik's talent by members of his team, invited Tarik to try out for the NJIT team. Despite a concern that athletics would interfere with his focus on education, Tarik accepted DeNure's invitation. He soon found that the diversity and camaraderie on NJIT's volleyball team were something unique and special, and he believes that the

opportunities for leadership, success and failure enriched his life experiences tenfold.

Tarik was obviously a quick learner as he topped the national rankings as third in blocking and eighth in hitting, was voted Most Valuable Player and team captain, was selected to the EIVA/NCAA All Tournament Teams in 1994 and 1995, and made the NCAA All American Third Team in 1995. NJIT honored him further by electing him to the university's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. After graduating from NJIT in 1996 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Tarik returned to his Chicago roots and earned an MBA



Tarik Rodgers with his wife, Tanya, and son, Camden

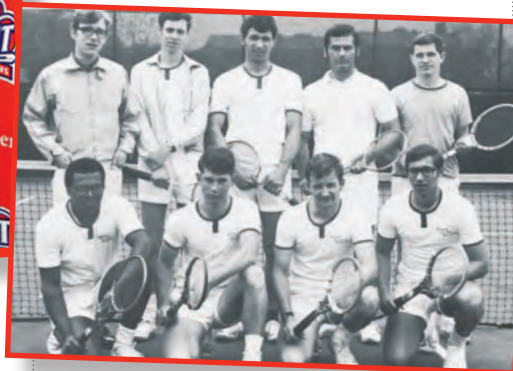
in finance from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. While at Northwestern, he met his wife to be, Tanya Reddick, who was completing her medical degree. They married in 2002 and live in Dallas, Texas, with their sons, Camden and Carter.

Although Tarik has worked for the Ford Motor Company and Price/Waterhouse Coopers, and for multiple medical-device and pharmaceutical companies, he is most excited about his developing entrepreneurial ventures. Tarik also gives

back to society through his philanthropic and community interests, which include his annual scholarship at NJIT in support of four students from Newark's Science High School, serving as a board member and regular donor to City Square, a Dallas-based nonprofit agency fighting the root causes of poverty, serving in leadership roles for the neighborhood school's PTA, and coaching basketball and volleyball youth teams.

Commenting about his experience with NJIT's volleyball program, Tarik says: "We had the most ethnically diverse team I've ever seen. We had players from so many different cultures, but we were a true team. I enjoyed being on the team with people with such different backgrounds, but no ethnic issues. That was special."

STEVE, FRED AND RAY were all members of the NCE tennis team. While Steve was an undergraduate, NCE teams won in NAIA District 31 (New York and New Jersey) and participated in the NAIA National Tennis Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, four years in a row. The



Front row, from left: Gradie Stewart, Steve Harvey, Rich McCann, and Fred Maltino. Back row, from left: Charles Forman, Jay Meyer, Bill Mokoid, Ray Vaccari, and Lee Wexel

1969 NCE team finished with a seven and three season and a second straight District NAIA Championship.

Steve also played ice hockey and was the team captain and leading scorer. They played in the Metropolitan League, which included Columbia, NYU and St. John's. He remembers NCE's first and only league win over Columbia. Even though he had a

three-goal hat trick, Steve, in all humility, says that NCE won because Columbia showed up with a goalie and five players and got tired. He no longer plays ice hockey but is an avid tennis player at the Arlington Players Club in Kearny, New Jersey.

After receiving his B.S. in chemical engineering in 1972, Steve was hired by Hoffmann-La Roche (Roche), where he started in research and development. He became a chemical process design engineer, moved into production support and eventually became the head of engineering for the Roche Vitamins and Fine Chemicals Division. He was responsible for the design and construction of a grassroots plant in Freeport, Texas, that produced synthetic beta carotene from acetylene. While working at Roche, Steve continued his education at night and earned a master's in chemical engineering from NJIT in 1979 and an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson in 1982. He also attended the Tuck Executive Program at Dartmouth College and the International Leadership Program, Institut pour l'Etude des Methodes de Direction de l'Entreprise (IMEDE) in Switzerland, rated by *Forbes* and the *Financial Times* as the premier business school in the world.

During a career with diverse responsibilities at Roche, Steve was an assistant vice president of engineering, vice president of supply chain, head of global planning and vice president of purchasing for the company in Nutley, Belvidere and Parsippany, New Jersey.

He also spent a year in Kaiseraugst, Switzerland. After retiring from Roche, he worked in the health care industry in charge of materials management for the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan and the Liberty Health System in Secaucus and Jersey City, New Jersey. He retired as a full-time employee in 2016. Steve and his wife, Patricia, who he met at an NCE fraternity party, live in Montville, New Jersey.

RAY earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from NCE in 1972, an M.S. in

ALUMNI CIRCUIT



Ray Vaccari '72,'74

applied mathematics from NJIT in 1974 and an MBA from Rutgers in 1978. As an undergraduate, Ray was a member of the tennis team, editor of the *Vector*, president of the Tau Delta Phi fraternity and member of the Student Senate. He started his professional career as a wire and cable manufacturing engineer. He worked for AT&T Bell Laboratories as a systems engineering district manager and did some IT project management consulting with such companies as IBM and General Motors. Ray even served as a substitute mathematics teacher in New Jersey. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and an adjunct professor at NJIT in project management.

An active member of the NJIT Alumni Association for 20 years, Ray has served as treasurer on the Executive Committee, as a member of the Alumni Awards Committee, and the Warren Street Village Development Committee, and as president of the Tau Delta Phi Chapter Housing Corporation. He participates in the Alumni Relations and Career Development Services annual speed interviewing event, where alumni spend five minutes per NJIT student helping them with their interviewing skills.

Ray is Director of New Jersey's Advanced Manufacturing Talent Network, a program funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor and hosted at NJIT. The Network helps manufacturers meet their needs for skilled workers and provides internships for students. Ray plays golf and tennis regularly, and belongs to a senior golf league and two tennis leagues, including a United States Tennis Association Mixed Doubles

League. He believes playing these sports has kept him young, and who am I to dispute this claim.

FRED graduated from NCE in 1972 with a B.S. in engineering science. He started his professional career with responsibilities for aerospace, defense and marine projects at Singer-Kearfott in Little Falls, New Jersey. While working full time, he earned an MBA in finance and marketing from Seton Hall University in 1980. Fred's position as a materials and process engineer afforded him opportunities to participate in notable work involving the F-15 fighter, B-2 bomber, nuclear submarines and navigational gyroscopes for flight vehicles. From 1977 to 1986, Fred worked as a principal metallurgical engineer with Foster Wheeler Corporation in Livingston, New Jersey, and Houston, Texas, where in 1980 he became section head for materials engineering and assistant manager of design technology.

In 1986, Fred moved to AlliedSignal – Bendix Aerospace in Teterboro, New Jersey, as senior staff materials engineer in the Materials and Chemistry Department. The department was responsible for testing materials, developing process controls, and analyzing a variety of special projects, including guidance systems for launch vehicles, the Space Shuttle, the International Space Station and the Hubble Space Telescope.

From 1990 until his retirement in 2013, Fred was director of materials and processes engineering. In this position, he supervised a department of metallurgists, chemists and materials engineers who supported manufacturing engineering, quality assurance and subcontractors. When Allied Signal became part of Honeywell Aerospace, Fred's division was sold to L3 Technologies and relocated to Mount Olive, New Jersey, where, in addition to current responsibilities, Fred became the radiation safety officer, division ethics and compliance officer, and environmental and safety coordinator.

Since his retirement, Fred works occasionally as a consultant to Exel

Laboratory and Consulting Services in Dover, New Jersey. Fred never stopped playing tennis; retirement just gave him more time to play plus get involved in its organizational aspects. He has played in many local indoor and outdoor tournaments and was a founder of the Bloomfield Tennis League, and a player, using the Team Tennis format. He was an active member of the Nutley Tennis Club until 1987, when he joined the United States Tennis Association. Since then he has won league, sectional and regional doubles championships. In 2010, he joined the Arlington Players Club, where he has been a member and captain of the club's traveling team and a member of the club's board of directors. Fred and his wife, Janice, live in Fairfield, New Jersey.

MIKE is another alumnus who took a time-out before completing his degree. The familiar expression, "Long time no see" fits perfectly with Mike and me seeing each other at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new NJIT Wellness and Events Center after more than 50 years, when he was volunteer manager of the soccer team. Mike started at NCE in 1962 as a chemical engineering major, and when the dust had cleared graduated in 1972 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. After two

Mike Toto in the U.S. Army





Mal Simon and Mike Toto at the Wellness and Events Center ribbon-cutting ceremony in November

years at NCE, he dropped out to work full time in a factory that made vacuum tube components. In 1966, he started work with IBM as a service technician until being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1967.

While waiting to hear about his application to Officer Candidate School, Mike was sent to Korea, where he served a tour of duty as an infantry squad leader

until his honorable discharge in 1968. He returned to work at IBM and, thanks to the GI Bill, returned to NCE at night with a curriculum change to mechanical engineering. IBM encouraged him to complete his senior year full time, after which he returned to IBM and trained to debug mainframe operating system software. Mike left IBM in 1977 to seek career growth at several other information technology companies specializing in communications and networks. In 1981, he was inducted into the Order of the Engineer.

In 1985 and 1997, Mike contracted and

fought off two different forms of cancer. He shows his true grit when he says, "If it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger, at least mentally." After 24 years in the information technology world, Mike entered the security industry with ADT and several other security-integration firms, one of which won a \$22 million contract to upgrade security at the World Trade Center in the aftermath of the 1993 bombing.

Currently, Mike is principal consultant for M. Toto Services, LLC, where he applies his many years of experience to providing clients with security packages that include hardware, software, labor, life safety compliance, testing and training. Mike and his wife, Janice, live in Freehold, New Jersey. ■

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Predicting the Next Big Technology Movement: MEHUL PATEL '89

Mehul Patel currently serves as the chief technology officer and vice president of engineering for Honeywell Home and Building Technologies where he directs the Engineering/Technology organization, which has an exciting portfolio advancing cutting-edge research and development, new product introductions, partnerships, and developing “the best team of engineers in the business.” In the following interview, Patel shares his thoughts on his experience as an international student pursuing a B.S. in electrical engineering at NJIT and how engineers play a key role in the Internet of Things (IoT).

NJIT: Do you think your NJIT degree helped you to pursue your career? If yes, how?

MP: Definitely, Yes! The technical knowledge I gained through my bachelor's and master's coursework has been invaluable throughout my career. Early on, as an individual contributor, I relied heavily on my electrical and semiconductor physics knowledge to design products for the auto-identification industry. Further on in my career, as a technology leader, I have drawn from it to understand the technology developed by our global teams.

NJIT: Did you ever envisage doing this while you were at NJIT?

MP: Definitely, absolutely not! I was just hoping I would get a job related to what I had studied, planned to work hard and aspired to manage a group one day. To be the technical leader of a team of over 4,000 engineers responsible for developing products that generate over \$10 billion in revenue at a Fortune 100 company like Honeywell was far beyond anything I could have imagined for myself at that time.

NJIT: Where did you live when you were a student?

MP: I was a commuter. I had recently immigrated from India and lived with my sister and brother-in-law.

NJIT: What is your lasting impression of NJIT?

MP: The environment at NJIT was very friendly and welcoming to foreign students. Everyone, the students, TAs, professors, deans as well as other support staff, everyone who I encountered was friendly and always eager to help. As an international student coming from a very hierarchical society, I vividly remember being surprised to find that even the professors, many of whom were industry experts, were down to earth, accommodating and most importantly, made time for their students. I felt they genuinely cared about our success.

NJIT: How do engineers play a key role in the Internet of Things?

MP: For me, being an engineer and technologist by trade, the real value in IoT lies in real-time actionable insights from the data, to better solve problems. For our customers at Honeywell, mere IoT deployment is no longer a competitive advantage. Their market position can only be maintained and/or advanced if they understand the implications of IoT-generated insights and use them. What does this look like? It could be anything from improving safety, to productivity savings, to operational efficiency and convenience. Here's where engineers come in. Engineers combine their analytical skills,

domain knowledge and insights to deploy information into predictive analytics to improve products and solve customer problems faster – problems that impact people's lives every day ... whether at home, at work, in a plant, in your car or on an airplane.

NJIT: How does this help customers?

MP: IoT-generated insights are at work everywhere. Today, like never before, we can see how our customers are engaging with their products in real-time and key-in to their behavior patterns. What we learn from this behavior is used to enhance their experience in terms of their interactions with devices, to drive prescriptive actions, strengthen long-term profitability, speed up the time to market of products and open new business models.

NJIT: What advice would you give students and alumni who are interested in this field?

MP: As devices around us get connected, the Internet of Things opens several opportunities for a software engineer. My advice is to recognize that we're moving into an era of the Insights of Things. It is no longer enough that the things we create simply connect for convenience; they must solve problems in new ways. Engineers today are expected to have an intense focus on domain knowledge that is both broad and deep, be insanely curious and learn to recognize patterns from the perspective of an intimate understanding of your customers' needs. ■

Author: Christina Crovetto is editor of NJIT Magazine.



It's Onward and Upward for NJIT Engineering Graduate ANGIE FELIZ '13, '17

Angie Feliz '13, '17 is driven to succeed. She taught herself English as a teenager newly relocated from the Dominican Republic to Newark, held down two jobs while going to community college, and simultaneously worked full time for PSE&G and pursued a master's degree in engineering management at NJIT.

The 26-year-old, who already held a bachelor's in civil engineering from the university, is part of a PSE&G team in South Plainfield responsible for upgrading the company's substations' voltage from 26 kV to 69 kV, thereby making its system more reliable. She works alongside a project manager to oversee projects from start to finish — from initiation and authorization through the engineering, procurement, construction, energization (when the team puts the project in service) and closing phases.

"That's one of the things I really enjoy about my job," said Feliz. "I get to see a lot of the engineering work in one project, and I get to be a part of all of it."

As an NJIT student, Feliz interned at PSE&G the summer before her December graduation, opting for the New Jersey public utility over Jacobs Engineering, a professional-services firm in Manhattan that also was interested in her. Her decision proved to be especially beneficial. Not only did she have the opportunity to gain real-world experience and learn from her co-workers, she received a job offer from PSE&G three months before completing her studies at NJIT. She started at PSE&G in January 2014.

FROM CUBA TO NEW JERSEY

Feliz was born in Cuba and moved at age 4 to the Dominican Republic with her parents and younger sister, now an NJIT student as well. Twelve years later, they came to Newark where her mother's

cousin resided. "He was kind of our helping hand when we got here, so we lived with him for a couple of months," Feliz remembered.

She was assigned to Barringer High School, situated in a low-income neighborhood. While she felt that many of her classmates were apathetic about studying and unable to envision their future, and consequently tended to get themselves into trouble, she herself was able to dream big and succeed, thanks largely to her parents.

"Knowing my parents and the way they raised me, it was like you go to school, you do good," said Feliz, whose father is an electrical engineer and her mother an engineer working as a substitute teacher in Newark. "That was my job, and they would provide so in the future I could work and do what I want."

Among her greatest challenges — and triumphs — was learning English. She was placed in an English as a Second Language (ESL) class at Barringer and quickly advanced. Within five months of arriving in the United States, she passed the High School Proficiency Assessment standardized test, and a year later as a senior was enrolled in regular English classes. Much of her progress can be attributed to her determination, dedication and an old dictionary she brought with her from the Dominican Republic. Feliz toted books home from the school library and spent time every day for four months translating them word-by-word, "writing in a notebook so I could make sense of all this reading."

Also helpful was a summer Upward Bound program at NJIT, provided by the university's Center for Pre-College Programs. Through Upward Bound, Feliz attended classes in reading and writing English, went on educational field trips, honed her public-speaking skills and much

more. "It was really good," she commented about the program. "It pushed me a little further...and complemented what I was doing on my own."

COLLEGE AND CAREER

Feliz's hard work paid off, with her graduating as salutatorian from Barringer. She then earned an associate degree at Essex County College while employed at both Rainbow Shops and State Farm to pay for her tuition. Two and a half years later, she transferred to NJIT to study civil engineering.

"NJIT was always the place I wanted to be," remarked Feliz, who participated in the NJIT chapters of Women in Engineering and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers as an undergrad. "It was an engineering school that everybody talked about."

Feliz received her master's from NJIT in May. Ever ambitious, she also earned her PMP certification as a project-management professional.

"Angie is a talented engineer with great enthusiasm for the work we do in constructing a strong, reliable and resilient system for our customers. She has been a terrific addition to our team," said Isabel Goncalves-Rooney '89 (B.S. in engineering), '97 (M.S. in management), director of transmission projects, PSE&G Delivery Projects and Construction. "As a proud alumna of Newark College of Engineering, I know the quality of the education that students receive at NJIT. PSE&G has hired a number of students as intern engineers and then — like Angie — as employees after graduation." ■

Author: Julie Jacobs is a staff writer/editor in NJIT's Office of Strategic Communications.

EMBA Graduate Realizes 'Full Leadership Potential': **FATOUMATA GAKOU '09**



Fatoumata Gakou had a full plate professionally as manager of Banque de l'Habitat du Mali's (Malian Bank of Habitat) New York City branch. Taking into account her minimal spare time, when she decided to pursue an MBA she searched for programs that not only offered a comprehensive education in advanced management, but a course schedule she could tailor to her own calendar. The Executive MBA (EMBA) program at NJIT's Martin Tuchman School of Management fit the bill.

"The content of the program and class flexibility put NJIT at the top of the schools I considered for my EMBA," said Gakou.

Since earning her degree in 2009, Gakou has put her EMBA experience to good use: "The program has helped me develop new frameworks for critically assessing and solving problems."

A few months after graduating from NJIT, she joined Bank of Africa (BOA) headquarters in Bamako; Group BOA has banking affiliates in 17 countries, primarily Africa. In 2012, the headquarters moved from Bamako to Dakar and then, in 2013, participated in the launch of BOA Lome in Togo, where today Gakou serves as both chief financial officer (CFO) and chief risk officer (CRO).

In her role as BOA Lome's CFO, Gakou is responsible for strategic planning,

financial reporting and controls, and regulatory compliance. She also partners with other domains in the bank, including human resources and legal.

"I partner with the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the bank to define long-term vision, medium-term plans and short-term budgets, and track the overall direction the bank is pursuing," she explained. "And I formulate and tactically execute the bank's financial strategy, policies and procedures."

As CRO, she compiles, assesses and reports risk information to the CEO and the board, and ensures that bank activities comply with relevant legislation and regulation. "I develop, manage and refine qualitative and quantitative risk reporting, which meets the needs of the board, in order to support effective decision-making," Gakou added.

"My NJIT EMBA degree has strengthened my managerial skills and helped with the realization of my full leadership potential," said Gakou, whose fondest memory of the program is the study abroad trip to Vienna and Prague. "It has helped broaden my global network and reach." ■

Author: Julie Jacobs is a staff writer/editor in NJIT's Office of Strategic Communications.



NJIT Alum from NASA Returns to Campus: JOHN DECKER '79

Today he is emeritus adviser to the Flight Projects Directorate at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, following a distinguished 32-year career at the federal space exploration and research agency. But nearly four decades ago, John Decker '79 became a master's graduate in civil engineering at NJIT, an educational achievement he credits for a lot of his professional success.

Decker, a recent retiree, served previously as associate director of the directorate and worked on the repair and maintenance of the Hubble Space Telescope. He also spent nearly eight years as deputy project manager of the large, infrared James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), playing a leadership role in its formulation and implementation. JWST is scheduled for launch in spring 2019 as the "premier observatory" for "thousands of astronomers worldwide."

In his free time, Decker has moved from space to stage, applying his undergraduate degree in architecture and fine arts to the design and construction of theater sets.

NJIT welcomed the esteemed alum for a two-day visit, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, during which he toured his old academic stomping grounds, informally networked with students, staff and faculty, and shared his "out of this world" experiences at NASA. Following are some of the highlights of his stay.

Decker spoke with students in the astronomy and astrophysics class of Professor Dale Gary in Faculty Memorial Hall. There he reminisced about his days at NJIT, joking that he used a slide rule back then. He also elaborated on his

professional pathway to and at NASA. "We designed engineering solutions with the astronauts," he said of his time at the agency, adding, "We rewrote the astronomy textbooks for the classes you're probably taking now."

Career Development Services (CDS) coordinated one-on-one informational sessions for Decker to speak with undergraduate students interested in learning about and applying for internships at NASA. Shadae Farquharson, a third-year mechanical engineering (ME) major, was the first student to meet with him in one of CDS' interview rooms. Decker talked to her about ME at the Goddard Space Flight Center and advised her to apply for many opportunities. "I've always had a passion for space exploration," Farquharson remarked. "I believe that interning at NASA would be an adventure and that I would learn so much."

An interest in the dynamic analysis of structures led Decker to enroll at NJIT to study this area. During his return visit to campus, he toured both the Concrete Testing Lab in Colton Hall, where he spent many hours, as well as the new Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure Laboratory in Weston Hall, pictured above in the background. He acknowledged that his structural analysis work at NJIT prepared him well for his job at NASA, which called for analyzing the stress and strain pertaining to satellites. "It's all the same physics," he said.

A late-afternoon reception in Fenster Hall drew faculty and Ph.D. candidates to hear Decker talk about his joining NASA in 1985 and applying his civil engineering background to the construction of a

space station at the federal government's request. He also commented on inventing parts for the Hubble Space Telescope and presented viewgraphs showing Goddard Space Flight Center's divisions in the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate. Decker is hopeful that job opportunities at NASA will increase as a result of the current wave of older employees like him retiring.

Decker's visit culminated with the Albert Dorman Honors College colloquium, "Shooting for the Stars: From NJIT to NASA." A large crowd in the Campus Center Atrium listened as Decker told how he took evening classes at NJIT to earn his Master of Science in civil engineering, went on to do earthquake analysis of safety-related structures at nuclear power plants, and ultimately jumped at the chance to work in structural dynamics analysis at the Goddard Space Flight Center. He also spoke about and shared images from the Hubble Space Telescope, describing it as "perhaps the most productive science device mankind has ever built" and noting its longevity — Hubble was designed to be in space for 15 years and has been there for 27.

Decker's advice to those interested in careers at NASA is to do the requisite research and seek out specific NASA projects and relevant areas. "Patience and persistence are the keywords," he said, "and don't be afraid to leap at an opportunity when you see it." ■

Author: Julie Jacobs is a staff writer/editor in NJIT's Office of Strategic Communications.

CLASS NOTES

1970's

'75 NICHOLAS TSELEPIS (Civil Engineering) has been chosen as a distinguished real estate professional by The Expert Network, an invitation-only service for distinguished professionals. Tselepis has over 40 years' experience in real estate and is founder of Nicholas Real Estate Agency.

1980's

'82 GREGORY WYZYKOWSKI (Industrial Administration) has been named the new coach of the men's and women's tennis teams at Baruch College. Wyzykowski, who has been coaching the game of tennis collegiately since 1997, is a member of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and has also served on the USTA Middle States, BIG EAST Championship and ITA/NCAA Division II rankings committees.

'85 ANTHONY FARINARO (Electrical Engineering) is now serving as vice president and general manager-design services at Microsemi SoC Corp., manufacturer of embedded processors.

'85 KEN GAYER (Chemical Engineering) has been appointed chief executive officer at Gelest, Inc., manufacturer and provider of silane, silicone and metal-organic compounds. Most recently, Gayer served as business president of Honeywell Specialty Products of Honeywell International. Before his latest role, he had a long tenure at Honeywell in a variety of leadership positions.

'89 GLENN DIGIOVANNI (M.S. in Mechanical Engineering) has joined global environmental engineering and consulting firm Greeley and Hansen as co-managing director of the Northeast operating group. DiGiovanni most recently served as senior vice president at Techno Consult, where he was responsible for the firm's water, wastewater and environmental

construction management practice. Before that, he was vice president for the New York City Metro operations of URS.

1990's

'90 BRIAN DUDDY (Architecture) joined DIGroupArchitecture, LLC as director of construction administration. Duddy will play an integral role in pre-design analysis and cost estimating, construction scheduling, quality control and constructability review of documents, and construction support services.

'96 KEITH VREELAND (M.S. in Architecture) has returned to SOSH Architects as project manager and construction administrator. Vreeland worked at SOSH from 2007 to 2011 and was the facilities manager at Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club. He is also a member of the Tuckerton Borough Council and Land Use Board.

2000's

'02 DANIEL BELDOWICZ (Management) has joined strategic marketing and integrated communications firm Creative Marketing Alliance (CMA) as digital marketing specialist. Prior to CMA, Beldowicz worked as the director of digital marketing for the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching (iPEC), one of the largest International Coach Federation-accredited coach training schools in the world.

'04 PAUL SKABICH (M.S. in Civil Engineering) has been promoted to vice president of MAST Construction Services, Inc. Skabich, who has been with MAST since 2005, was formerly a project executive and before that, a senior project manager at the firm.

'05 GIHAN (GIGI) ORABY (M.S. in Engineering Management) has joined DreamGirls Initiative as a board member. Oraby is a civilian with the Department of the Army at the Armament Research,

Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), located at Picatinny Arsenal, and is part of ARDEC's Diversity Advisory Council. She is also president of the Picatinny Chapter of Women in Defense.

'06 LORIANNE JONES (Architecture) has joined DIGroupArchitecture, LLC as a project manager in the health care studio. Jones has been responsible for design through delivery of a variety of health care projects for several key clients including RWJ/Barnabas, Urban Health Plan, Mount Sinai and Nassau University Medical Center. She is expert in building information modeling (BIM) and will be a key person overseeing the studio's integrated design process.

2010's

'12 MADDIEL GONZALEZ (Electrical Engineering) has been appointed engineering manager at MegaPhase, designer and manufacturer of high-performance RF coaxial cables and connectors. Gonzalez's career has involved developing state-of-the-art RF connectors for space, military and commercial applications. He has co-authored several technical publications and also holds two U.S. patents under his name.

'17 JEFFREY THOMAS (Architecture, M.S. in Infrastructure Planning) has joined SOSH Architects and will be working out of the Atlantic City office. Thomas previously interned at MMPF Architects and is affiliated with the American Institute of Architecture Students and Architectural League of New York.

PHOTO: U.S. NAVY



NJIT alumni from the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Lakehurst gathered together for a photo op at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Oct. 25. NAWCAD

Lakehurst is the Navy’s engineering support activity for Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) and Naval Aviation Support Equipment (SE), and is responsible for maintaining fleet support and infusing modern technology across the entire spectrum of equipment needed to launch, land and maintain aircraft from ships at sea. Employees at NAWCAD Lakehurst cover many career fields that include science, engineering, business, program management and more. From left: Adriano Parga ’06, Chintan Patel ’07, Andy Hernandez ’07, Thomas Riccobono ’06, Luis Salinas ’07, Glenn Johnson ’94, Pete Cerasoli ’13, Rob McRae ’89, Pete Worley ’79, Paul Fries ’75, Dave Snow ’94, Tom Donnelly ’84 and Tom Cook ’02.



Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC, celebrated 30 years in business during a reception at the firm’s Hamilton Boulevard office building. The celebration was highlighted by Borough Council President Derryck C. White (right), when he presented and read a proclamation from the Mayor’s office congratulating the partners and staff of Cornerstone on their 30th anniversary. Ranked by *NJ Biz Magazine* as one of New Jersey’s top 50 architectural design firms, Cornerstone Architectural Group is an award-winning design firm that specializes in professional services in architecture, interior design, land planning and construction management. The firm employs a staff of 10 at its South Plainfield office and delivers design excellence in public, civic and commercial buildings. From left: Firm partners Robert M. Longo, AIA ’86; Robert F. Barranger, AIA ’83; and Michael G. Soriano, AIA ’83.

IN MEMORIAM

Hrant Dalalian '50

Edwin Kleissler Jr. '50

Emiliano Mazzarella '52

John Dwyer '57

Robert Weeks '60

Donald Phair '61

James Towey '62

Paul Cafone '64

Richard Nunn '65

William Boswell '66, '74

Henry Grunwald '67

Daniel Koppa '69

Salvatore LoSauro '74

John Francis Wolcott '75

Douglas Fitts '80

Dean Kelly '99

Andrew Salerno '12

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW YORK YANKEES SPRING TRAINING
March 4, 2018

ANNUAL SPEED NETWORKING EVENT
April 4, 2018

NEW YORK METRO SPEAKING OF CAREERS
April 10, 2018

**TOUR THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY WITH THE GOLDEN HIGHLANDERS**
April 12, 2018

SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH
April 27, 2018

NEW YORK YANKEES @ HOUSTON ASTROS
May 3, 2018

ALUMNI WEEKEND
May 18 - 20, 2018

Register Online
alumni.njit.edu/events