



NYIT



NYIT MAGAZINE

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Like what you see? Share your ideas, updates, and feedback at nyit.edu/alumni_notes and connect at [@NYITalumni](https://twitter.com/NYITalumni), facebook.com/mynyt, and nyit.edu/linkedin.

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Faculty at the Front

“Many of our successes stem from NYIT’s emphasis on technology, entrepreneurship, careers, applications-oriented research, and diversity. Drawing on these attributes, NYIT faculty members and administrators work together to anticipate evolving global needs.”

Craig Wallace Dale



GREAT TEACHERS ARE THE HEART OF A GREAT EDUCATION. And every day, I am reminded of the superb faculty we have here at NYIT. “It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge,” Albert Einstein said, and no doubt many others have noted. Our professors do just that. They inspire students with their insights, humanity, and love of their subjects. They also play a vital role in ensuring that the education, training, and career preparation students receive is in line with the needs of 21st-century careers.

In an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*, Frank Mruk, associate dean of the School of Architecture and Design, detailed the gauntlet of requirements that architects must satisfy to earn licensure (the process takes an average of 14.5 years after high school).

This contributes to the fact that the number of first-year architecture students has dropped 20 percent over the past five years, despite the demand for new homes in the United States. Reforming the qualification system, Mruk advises, is necessary to keep up with the demands of the profession.

In *Newsweek*, authors Hallie Zwibel (D.O. '11), director of NYIT Center for Sports Medicine, and Alice Heron-Burke, senior director of counseling and wellness, argue that the NCAA needs a holistic protocol for treating student-athletes with concussions. NYIT Center for Sports Medicine specializes in this critical issue. Another op-ed, this time on *Forbes.com* by Dean John Hyde and Assistant Dean Amy Bravo of the NYIT Office of Career Services, describes a significant gap between what students learn in terms of soft skills, like teamwork and collaboration, and what employers need. Employers want knowledge, but they need problem-solvers. The piece noted that while nationally an average of 55 percent of graduates are employed in their chosen field six months after commencement, the figure is 87 percent at NYIT.

Many of our successes stem from NYIT’s emphasis on technology, entrepreneurship, careers, applications-oriented research, and diversity. Drawing on these attributes, NYIT faculty members and administrators work together to anticipate evolving global needs. For instance, to help address problems in the world’s expanding megacities, we recently co-hosted a conference in Beijing with Peking University (see p. 12). Meanwhile, big data continues to influence everything from the television shows we watch to how we get from one part of a city to another. NYIT increasingly relies on data analytics, and this summer, we started working with Gallup polling service to assess the long-term quality of life of our alumni. We will use the findings to enhance the lifetime satisfaction of our current students.

These are just a few of the ways NYIT provides forward-looking opportunities for students, faculty members, and alumni. With our outstanding faculty at the core, and with our career-centered education, emphasis on digital, and much more, we help everyone in the NYIT community grow and be prepared to explore new solutions to both chronic and emerging issues.

Sincerely,
Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., President



Read the op-eds:
bit.ly/bravo-hyde-forbes
bit.ly/zwibel-burke-newsweek
bit.ly/mruk-wsj (Login may be required.)

Destination 2016: Jonesboro, Ark.



IT'S OFFICIAL: In August 2016, 115 aspiring D.O.s will start classes on the campus of Arkansas State University (A-State) in Jonesboro, Ark., NYIT's second (and newest) location of its College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The newest crop of NYITCOM graduates will be vital for the area and will help address the state's severe health care challenges. Arkansas ranks 49 out of 50 states in its population's health status and 48 out of 50 in the percentage of active physicians per 100,000 people, according to national studies. NYIT's new medical school site is only the second medical school in Arkansas, and the state's first osteopathic medicine college. In addition to recruiting the first class, faculty hiring and renovations to A-State's historic Wilson Hall are underway.

NYIT Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs Barbara Ross-Lee, D.O., will serve as the site dean of NYITCOM at A-State. "The opening of the new location is a testament to the collaboration among NYIT, A-State, and local community healthcare partners to educate physicians in Arkansas for Arkansas," she said.

(above) A rendering of the proposed osteopathic manipulative medicine lab in A-State's Wilson Hall.

Hundreds of prospective students from the South have shown interest in the new site; the first student admitted in December is an Arkansas resident and the second lives in Missouri. Recruiting will continue at colleges and universities in Arkansas and neighboring states.

"We're creating a pipeline, from pre-medical to medical student, to resident, to practitioner with the goal of fortifying medical care in the places where generalist care is most needed," said NYITCOM Dean Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O. "Our medical education model will emphasize a genuine doctor-patient relationship. We will be departing from the traditional one-way care model of 'doctor knows best' to one where we want our patients to feel empowered to become truly engaged in their own health and care. The word 'doctor' means 'teacher'—and that's what we want to do: Practice what we teach."

Most physicians practice where they are trained, so Ross-Lee and others are committed to securing student rotations and residencies for future graduates at health care facilities in Arkansas.

Hundreds of clerkship positions (rotations) for third- and fourth-year students have been approved, and the team is working to develop more than 400 residency slots.

Approximately 80 faculty, staff, and administrative positions will be filled within two years. Shane Speights, D.O., former vice president of medical affairs at St. Bernard Health Care System, is NYITCOM at A-State's new associate dean in the office of clinical affairs and Amanda Deel, D.O., formerly of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, was hired as an assistant professor of medicine.

"NYIT has a long and proven record of success in developing distinctive cooperative agreements to deliver educational programs in areas where there is a demonstrated need," said NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., following December's decision by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation to approve the opening. "By working with valued local partners and by leveraging technology, we will be able to deliver the same NYITCOM medical education offered in Old Westbury, N.Y." ■



Read more: nyit.edu/arkansas

Buzzland

From concussion treatment to giraffe evolution, catch up on the buzz at NYIT. Read more great stories, take advantage of tips and benefits, and stay up to date on the latest news by making nyit.edu/box and [@nyit](https://twitter.com/nyit) part of your daily Internet routine.

Martin Seck



NYIT CENTER FOR SPORTS MEDICINE: A conference on athletic patient care and an open house featuring former Islanders hockey star Bob Nystrom were among the kick off events to launch the new NYIT Center for Sports Medicine. The center provides care for athletes of all levels, with a particular focus on concussion treatment and management.



nyit.edu/sports-medicine



Courtesy of NYIT archives

DIGITAL ROOTS: NYIT's legendary Computer Graphics Lab (CGL) played a key role in the origins of computer-animated film. In November, acclaimed animator Tom Sito spoke to NYIT fine arts students about that history and what's next for digital cinema. Sito along with CGL members and Pixar President Ed Catmull and co-founder Alvy Ray Smith (pictured above at NYIT in 1976) highlight more of NYIT's impact in the exhibition "Silicon City: Computer History Made in New York" at the New-York Historical Society.



bit.ly/CGL-Exhibit



Larry Kangda (M.A. '13)

GOOGLE RECRUITER: NYIT computer science students took the first step toward dream careers when they toured Google's New York City offices this past October. Recruiters also visited NYIT for a special luncheon with female students (women are still underrepresented in the field) and hosted a session with 50 male and female NYIT students, during which they practiced coding with Google software engineers.



nyit.edu/google-trip



Steven Spartana

RETURN ON EDUCATION: NYIT M.B.A. graduates have one of the best salary-to-debt ratios in the country, according to a recent study by startup SoFi. Listing a 2.5 times salary-to-debt ratio (graduates have an average salary of \$126,068 and debt of \$50,308), the rankings put NYIT's program at the top of the list, ahead of those at universities including Stanford and Texas A&M.



bit.ly/MBA-Rankings



NECK AND NECK: How did the modern-day giraffe get its long neck? A new study by NYITCOM Anatomy Professor Nikos Solounias, Ph.D., and medical student Melinda Danowitz reveals the evolution likely occurred in several stages, as one of the animal's neck vertebrae stretched first toward the head and then toward the tail a few million years later.



nyit.edu/giraffe-study



COMBAT CRISIS: To ace Adjunct Instructor Larry Jaffee's crisis communications course, a little drama is required. For their mid-terms, students concocted fictional crises and then played them out. A journalist and public relations professional, Jaffee uses improvisation exercises, draws on news, and brings in guests to give his students a real-world feel for dealing with the unexpected.



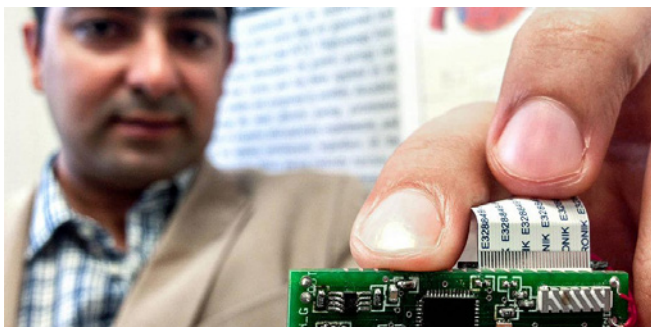
nyit.edu/combat-crisis



SWEET 16: In December, NYIT's M.B.A. program, in partnership with Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (JUFE), welcomed a new cohort of 120 students—its 16th. The program accepted its first cohort in 1998 and is NYIT's oldest academic program in China, with more than 1,000 alumni. NYIT has M.B.A. classes for student groups in Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Beijing.



nyit.edu/JUFE-2015



STOMACH THIS: NYIT Assistant Professor Aydin Farajidavar, Ph.D., plans to use a \$457,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop an implantable wireless system to study the body's gastric system. Problems with gastric movements can lead to issues with digestion, blood sugar levels, and more. He is developing the device in the Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center (ETIC) at NYIT.



nyit.edu/gastric-device



JOB HUNTERS: From a strong handshake to becoming an expert on a topic outside your field of study, Assistant Director of Career Services Larry Kamguia (M.A. '13) shares five tips for standing out in an interview. (Remember, alumni can take advantage of NYIT career services for life.)



nyit.edu/interview-tips

Design That's More Than Ornamental

In the window of NYIT's library at 1855 Broadway, a MakerBot is printing 3-D ornaments nonstop.

It's November, and students from the College of Arts and Sciences and schools of Architecture and Design and Engineering and Computing Sciences have just a few weeks to produce nearly 100 holiday ornaments for the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District's (BID) tree lighting ceremony at Winter's Eve (one of New York City's largest holiday festivals). Though the theme is world peace and holiday cheer, the students are feeling the pressure to produce. At a minimum of 8 inches, the ornaments must be larger than standard decorations so they stand out on the stately 27-foot-tall white fir tree. And that poses technical challenges.

This is the first time NYIT has collaborated with the nonprofit CITYArts to design ornaments for the Lincoln Square BID tree. The partnership was a natural fit.

To create the 2-D and 3-D designs, students used computer modeling software and drew on resources, including 3-D printers, milling machines, die cutters, vinyl cutters, and laser cutters, housed in the Department of Fine Arts' HIVE (Home for Innovation, Visualization, and Exploration), School of Architecture and Design's FabLab, and School of Engineering and Computing Sciences' Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center.

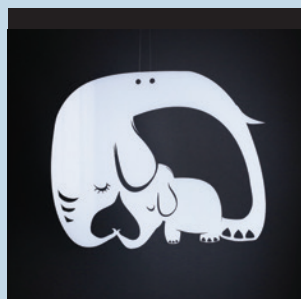


The results? A gorgeous array of colorful ornaments that show off each student's interpretation of world peace and holiday cheer—and their talent for design and technology. An added point of pride for the students: their work was featured on NYIT President Edward Guiliano's video holiday greeting, and several ornaments were selected by the president as holiday gifts for the NYIT Board of Trustees. ■



Watch an ABC7 News video of the project at nyit.edu/abc-ornaments.

Joel Chavez



(facing page) Some ornaments were made with MakerBot 3-D printers. Passersby could see the process in action in the window of the library at the Edward Guiliano Global Center.

(Ornaments, left to right)

“Peace Tree” by Mariella Viola,
Architecture

“Elephant” by Yuxi Yang, Fine Arts

“Lending a Hand to World Peace”
by Steven Patrikis, Engineering

Students from three of NYIT’s schools created ornaments for Winter’s Eve at Lincoln Square. See more at bit.ly/box-ornaments.

Empowered Designs

LEARNING TO COOK or even to drive may seem like relatively average achievements, but for people with disabilities to overcome, they can be daunting obstacles. Now, NYIT students are drawing on their creativity and technical expertise to make those tasks a little easier to manage.

Take wheelchairs: A common problem for people with disabilities is passing the insurance test required to get a power wheelchair, but there are few opportunities to practice and improve their proficiency. NYIT students created a solution by designing a power wheelchair simulation. With the help of virtual technology (care of an Oculus Rift headset), a user sits in the chair and practices driving through a virtual course using a joystick.

The project is just one result of a new collaboration with the Viscardi Center, a

network of nonprofit organizations that offers services for children and adults with disabilities. In the Viscardi Industry Project course, student teams worked with faculty mentors, including Associate Professors Yuko Oda (fine arts), Richard Simpson, Ph.D. (electrical and computer engineering), and Joanne Scillitoe, Ph.D. (management), and presented their final projects to the client in December.

"We had regular visits with Viscardi instructors and talked about what they need and how they need it," says Ryan Geffken, a computer graphics student who worked on the driving simulator. "We showed them drafts of our work, and they suggested tweaks."

The feedback from these meetings informed the NYIT students' work down to the finest details. For example, the driving routes used in the power

wheelchair simulation incorporate the exact dimensions of the Viscardi Center's hallways. Other student projects included Viscardi Cuisinier, a game that teaches children to cook and employs 3-D modeling software Unity, and a wireless remote (produced at NYIT using 3-D printers) that detects infrared sensors and can be used in educational settings.

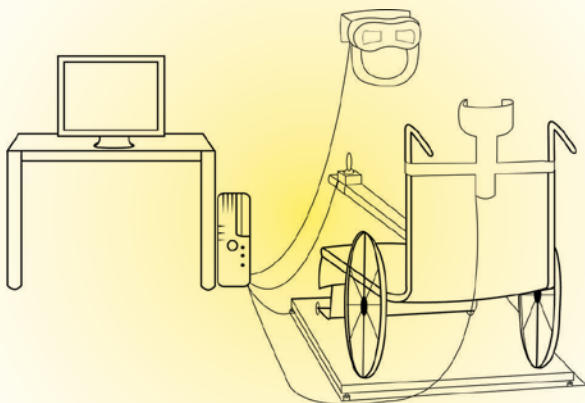
The prototypes for all the projects are in their test phase and the vision doesn't stop there: Each team also drafted business plans for their products. "It's been a fantastic experience," Geffken says. "Knowing that we're helping people makes it even better." ■



View more of the students' work:
nyit.edu/viscardi-project

(right) NYIT students explain the driving simulator to instructors at the Viscardi Center.

(below) NYIT computer graphics student Ryan Geffken made a schematic of the driving simulator.



Yuko Oda



Meet the Dean

THE BACKGROUND and career trajectory of James L. Simon, Ph.D., the recently named dean of NYIT College of Arts and Sciences, serve as the perfect example for today's students eager to find success. "I joke that I am the 'poster child' for the kind of multiple careers our students are going to enjoy throughout their lives," says Simon. "While I am proud of my 20 years as an academic, I have also worked as a journalist, reporter, editor, public relations specialist, and senior-level state government executive."

"Students today are not going to have 4–6 different jobs in their life," continues Simon, whose pre-academic titles included Statehouse political reporter for the Associated Press and assistant secretary of the environment under former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis. "They're going to have 4–6 different careers over 40 to 50 years, and some of those careers may not exist today."

Helping students position themselves for their future is right in the wheelhouse of the College of Arts and Sciences. Five years ago, it spearheaded a forward-thinking core curriculum that gives all undergraduate students a foundation in the liberal arts and sciences.

"At NYIT, students can count on a lot of one-on-one mentoring with great professors," he says.

"Part of my job here is to use the core to make sure all NYIT students can be more flexible and nimble when it comes to moving from job to job or career to career," says Simon. "Students may not appreciate the core on graduation day, but 5–7 years into their career, alumni realize core courses helped them think more broadly and allow them to



more easily move from one pursuit to another."

Simon also thinks NYIT students have the ability to set themselves apart. Career preparation, he says, is in NYIT's DNA. "We need to encourage our students to be entrepreneurial and innovative as they look for openings. Employers want a certain attitude and hunger that I think our students have." Simon advises an aggressive plan of action that starts in freshman year and builds through graduation. By alternating between increasingly more challenging coursework, extracurricular activities, and internships or other field-related jobs, students have a better chance of impressing prospective employers and finding a career they are passionate about.

For Simon, a love of learning (he was a triple major at Rutgers University) and a wish to help students led him to a career in academia. Prior to NYIT, Simon served as dean of Fairfield University's College of Arts and Sciences, where he developed a "classroom to career"

pathway for each department. At NYIT, he hopes to build on the culture of mentoring already in place.

"At NYIT, students can count on a lot of one-on-one mentoring with great professors," he says. "I also plan to start a dean's honors program, where I'll mentor a few dozen students throughout their four years here." That value-added experience distinguishes NYIT from other colleges and universities. Simon also plans to explore adding more minors to the curriculum and is working with NYIT leadership on new programs that build on the college's offerings. As for alumni, he's looking forward to meeting as many of them as possible. "I am amazed by our alumni's desire to give back, whether by letting a student shadow them at work, providing an internship, or guest lecturing in a class," says Simon. "We are excited to hear from alumni who can be role models for our current students." ■



Read more: nyit.edu/dean-simon

Craig Wallace Dale

Life Coach

In December, the NYIT women's volleyball team closed out a historic run by competing in the NCAA National Quarterfinal at the University of Tampa.

It was the team's first appearance in the NCAA Division II Elite 8 and capped a season that included an East Region Championship title and 28 wins.

The trip was especially meaningful to coach **GAIL WASMUS (M.P.S. '80)**. For three decades, Wasmus has mentored NYIT student-athletes and demolished records—and there's no sign of her stopping.

Wasmus got her start in college athletics in 1972, thanks in part to Title IX. After a four-year stint playing basketball and volleyball for Ashland University, she began working with the Bears in 1976. She's been acquiring hats ever since, and today serves as senior woman administrator, head volleyball coach, assistant athletic director, and Title IX coordinator.

"I enjoy coaching as much as I did 30 years ago," says Wasmus. "My passion for coaching the sport has not changed at all." What has changed is the way women in sports are viewed and the way female athletes have come to view

themselves. Wasmus understands the importance of the role she plays in that evolution.

"Women in sports are prideful, hard-working, and dedicated athletes who strive for excellence at all times," she says, adding that NYIT has historically treated male and female athletes equally. Still, she believes it's important to remember the big picture. "Many young female athletes today are not aware of the fight some of us had to undergo to achieve this."

Three decades of coaching has also shown Wasmus how college athletics has changed. "The demands on our student-athletes are greater," she says. "As coaches, we need to make sure athletes are meeting the balance of the academic side as well as the athletic side."

Wasmus' players are typically career focused. Whether they are majoring in engineering or interior design, they understand the need to plan for life after college athletics. This season, Wasmus coached the first-ever NYIT student-



athlete to complete the nursing program and be named an East Coast Conference First Team selection.

Wasmus' drive is also evident in the success of her program. In addition to her administrative roles, she coached volleyball and basketball for nine years before switching solely to volleyball. With more than 550 career wins, and 15 seasons where she achieved 20 or more wins, she currently stands as the 13th winningest coach (by victories) in all of NCAA Division II. Her roster has included two All-American honorable

Andy Meng

Fit In

mentions and 17 All-Region, 12 All-New York Collegiate Athletic Conference, and 24 All-East Coast Conference players. She's also been voted Coach of the Year four times by her peers.

Recently, Wasmus has taken on more of an academic role for the department, and overseeing the Student Development Bear Mentor and Athletic Director Honor Roll program has given her even more opportunities to help student-athletes have positive NYIT experiences.

Katarina Sretenovic (B.S. '14) played under Wasmus for two years. As an international student from Belgrade, Serbia, she appreciated Wasmus' coaching off the court just as much as on the court. "It is very hard to adapt as a international student, but Coach Wasmus made that much easier; she made me feel like I belong here," says Sretenovic. "As a mentor, she taught me how to stay on top of everything, including my school, work, and my personal life. I couldn't have had a better coach." ■



Read more: nyit.edu/wasmus-30

THERE'S A NEW WAY for students and faculty and staff members to stay in shape on the Old Westbury campus. A fitness center, complete with the latest equipment, opened in October in the former Hall of Fame lobby in the Sports Complex. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was co-hosted by President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., Vice President of Student Affairs Patrick Love, Ph.D., and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Duane Bailey.

The space includes a variety of equipment: Cardio buffs can choose from treadmills, spin and stationary bikes, elliptical machines, and a StairMaster, while strength trainers can use weight lifting circuit training equipment, free weights, and workout benches. A separate yoga/stretching/core room is stocked with stability balls, jump ropes, yoga mats, and foam rollers. Yoga and spin classes are slated for the near future.

Gymgoers also get access to extra amenities, including storage cubbies, day-use lockers, and five flat-screen TVs in the main area that distract from the pain and gain.



Brian Bailweg

"I'm proud of the recreational opportunities offered at NYIT," says Bailey. "The new fitness center is a great example of NYIT's investment in building relationships among our vibrant community members."

The center is just one of the new health and wellness opportunities for students. The university also recently announced a partnership with New York Sports Clubs that lets students work out at any of their clubs for a reduced fee. ■



nyitbears.com/campus_recreation/about

Sports Briefs

GET INTO THE GAME

Want the latest intel on your favorite NYIT athletic program? Follow the Bears on social media and get the latest news throughout the season, plus a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like being an NCAA collegiate athlete. Find your team's account at bit.ly/bears-social-hub.

ALUMNI TAKE ON THE BEARS

Join us for the annual NYIT Men's and Women's Soccer Alumni Games on Saturday, April 23 at President's Stadium in Old Westbury, N.Y. Reconnect with classmates and coaches, compete against the current team, and end the day with a post-game meal and celebration. Register to play at bit.ly/register-alumni-day.





FEATURE

Mega

Food. Energy. Water. The DNA of our modern built environment. These three resources make it possible to live in today's metropolises. But as cities grow into megacities, those resources are stretched and spent at increasing rates. How can we ensure megacities, and their growing populations, have a viable future?

cities,

Mega Systems

THE FUTURE STARTS HERE

Nazia Hasan (M.S. '15) steps up to the podium. Before her are some of the world's foremost engineers, urban planners, and policymakers. And while the graduate student in NYIT's urban and regional design program has never presented to so many experts before, she is confident that her material is solid.

Hasan was speaking as part of Sustainable Megacities: Food, Energy, Water, and the Built Environment, a conference and workshop held this past October in Beijing. Co-hosted by NYIT and Peking University, the event convened experts from around the globe to discuss solutions to issues facing megacities. The conference also emphasized the need for a systems-based, coordinated response to those challenges.

"In the urban and regional design program, we have conversations about transportation, water management, affordable housing," says Hasan, whose presentation showed how students are examining sustainability and resilience in cities. "Urban design brings all these factors together."

With 28 megacities already in existence, some reports predict there will be as many as 100 by 2050, with 75 percent of the world's population living in urban areas. "Cities

mega·city (noun):
a metropolitan area
with a population over
10 million.

**Top 10 List:
The world's
largest
urban areas**

RANK	GEOGRAPHY	URBAN AREA	POPULATION (EST. 2015)
1	JAPAN	TOKYO-YOKOHAMA	37,843,000
2	INDONESIA	JAKARTA	30,539,000
3	INDIA	DELHI, DL-UP-HR	24,998,000
4	PHILIPPINES	MANILA	24,123,000
5	SOUTH KOREA	SEOUL-INCHEON	23,480,000
6	CHINA	SHANGHAI, SHG-JS-ZJ	23,416,000
7	PAKISTAN	KARACHI	22,123,000
8	CHINA	BEIJING, BJ	21,009,000
9	UNITED STATES	NEW YORK, NY-NJ-CT	20,630,000
10	CHINA	GUANGZHOU-FOSHAN, GD	20,597,000

(Source: Demographia World Urban Areas. bit.ly/db-worldua-pdf)

(right) Nazia Hasan speaks at Sustainable Megacities.

(far right) Clean water is in short supply in some megacities. Constructed wetlands and finding ways to reuse wastewater may help.



open up so many possibilities,” said NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., in his opening remarks at the conference. “They host the best art and entertainment, and they are the wealth factories of the world. They generate 80 percent of its GDP from 3 percent of its surface. The future starts in cities.”

But as the pace of urbanization increases, cities are under pressure to allocate their resources efficiently. Stakes are high: For example, the earth’s fresh-water reserves are in decline, while demand for energy and food is up. Proper planning is vital, and solutions can affect a huge portion of the global population for generations. That’s where NYIT’s research has the potential to make an impact.

EXPANDING OUTSIDE THE LINES

Many experts consider New York City the first megacity—the first metropolitan area with 10 million people or more. “Political boundaries of cities don’t often capture the actual growth,” says Nicholas Bloom, Ph.D., chair of Interdisciplinary Studies and director of the Urban Administration program at NYIT.

Bloom describes a megacity as “any place that is part of the regional network and running off the main economic engine.” New York City’s original boundaries were set in 1898, but when using the modern definition, those boundaries must be expanded to include places that people commute from, areas where the city imports natural resources and energy

from, and satellite locations that businesses establish “near” the city.

Taking these criteria into account, the population of the New York metropolitan area is more than 20 million. “There are people living in the Poconos who commute for hours,” says Bloom. “Some people consider Philadelphia to be a sixth borough at this point.”

Jeffrey Raven, director of NYIT’s graduate program in urban and regional design and a presenter at the conference, agrees that traditional city limits are becoming outdated. “Operating a megacity requires breaking down the traditional ways that we measure and govern cities, manage resources, and provide services for citizens,” he says.

And more citizens means more infrastructure, including housing. In his co-edited book, *Affordable Housing in New York: The People, Places, and Policies That Transformed a City*, Bloom details New York’s progressive housing policies and shows how diversified neighborhoods have benefited the region. That history, he says, should continue to serve as a lesson as cities grow at exponential rates.

“A megacity requires an enormous service sector,” says Bloom. “The financial elite that generate the high cost of housing also generate enormous service needs.” Affordable housing within megacities allows that service sector to function and increases quality of life.

“Recent reports on public housing in gentrified neighborhoods found that all residents are benefiting significantly,”

Bloom says. “They have higher income levels and shorter commutes, their kids are going to better schools, and the crime rates are lower.” Without affordable housing, people who make up the labor force move further away, and the price for companies to function within the city becomes prohibitive.



Read more: nyit.edu/bloom-housing

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Problems with managing resources (such as food, energy, and water) and environmental impact are also becoming more acute.

“Good transportation, food distribution, air quality, clean water all depend on where you live,” says Cecilia Dong, Ph.D., assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at NYIT. It’s another example of how everything is related in the complex megacity ecosystem.

Clean water is something many of us take for granted, but Sarah Meyland, J.D., director of water resources management at NYIT and another presenter at the conference, says water is one of the biggest challenges facing the megacity.

“People are unable to get water from ‘clean sources’ because many of them are highly contaminated and polluted,” she says. “Industrial waste is often not adequately treated. At the same time, wastewater is a valuable resource, and we are now thinking of ways to reuse it.”

Jin Feng

Water quality and food supply go hand in hand. As a megacity's population grows, it requires more food. "In agricultural areas surrounding megacities, there is a tendency to over fertilize so that crops grow," says Dong, who presented at the Beijing workshop. "When it rains, runoff from over fertilized farmlands pollutes the water sources."

So how can cities maintain the integrity of their water sources? Dong and her students are focusing on "smart sensors," like the ones buildings use to regulate light and temperature, as one possible solution. "There are a lot of things you can learn by putting sensors in the water," Dong explains. "Are there leaks in the pipes that cause water loss? Are the factories following EPA rules in treating wastewater before discharging into the water system? Sensors can help with real-time measurements of water pressures and toxicity in ways that may not be observed in the legacy water management systems."

While Dong is focusing on smart sensors, Meyland is turning to

constructed wetlands to find solutions. Wetlands (such as marshes) are nature's Brita filter. They clean water through a unique system of bacteria and plant life. But the world's wetlands, like many of our natural resources, are quickly disappearing. Constructed wetlands are man-made, designed to mimic the functionality of natural ecosystems while also being flexible enough to work within the constraints of a given location.

In Beijing, Meyland found herself imagining where constructed wetlands might work. Ironically, the open spaces between highway intersections seemed a "natural" fit. "The wetland designs are very compatible with the megacity model," she says. "With space at a premium, you can scatter a lot of small collected wetlands throughout the city." The collected water can also be used for purposes other than drinking, including sewage and agriculture.

While constructed wetlands are only now being explored, Meyland is getting the word out at conferences like Sustainable Megacities. She's also

encouraging her students to pursue the emerging field. "I've had a number of students do their thesis work on the use of wetlands, and right now one student is designing a wetlands facility," she says. Plans are being discussed to develop a constructed wetland treatment center at NYIT-Old Westbury, allowing students to test and monitor the efficacy of this green technology.

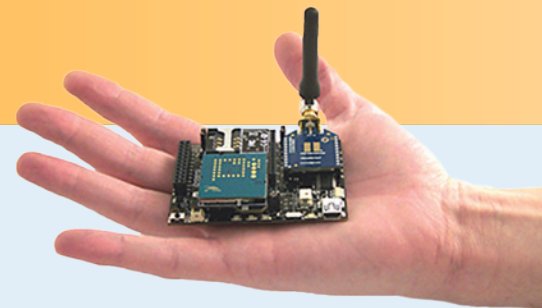
NEW YORK AS A LABORATORY

Raven's NYIT-Manhattan classroom might have million-dollar views of Central Park, but his graduate students are concentrating instead on a large model of downtown Brooklyn, N.Y., with a noticeable gap where the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges meet. This location (a notoriously difficult plot to navigate) is the focus of their Urban Climate Lab project, "Cooling Hot Cities."

Throughout the afternoon, students demonstrate how they would

Driving Our Way to Smarter Cities

BY ROSE SPAZIANI



Fast, cheap, tiny technologies capture billions of pieces of data every day—from submarine Internet cables that carry gossip across oceans to wearable gadgets that track a user's every heartbeat. Cities, with their own industrial-sized heartbeats pounding through the streets, are primed to make use of this data, and experts are rushing to analyze it to make cities smarter and run more efficiently.

"Smart cities are places where information technology is integrated with infrastructure, architecture, everyday objects, and even our bodies to address social, economic, and environmental problems," says Babak Beheshti, Ph.D., professor and associate dean of NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences.

Beheshti led a panel on gathering and analyzing data at the Sustainable Megacities conference. His work focuses on wireless sensor networks (or WSNs), which are comprised of small, often battery-powered autonomous computers rigged with any number of sensors. Sensors can be as small as a fingernail or as large as a shoe box (see image). They're low cost, easy to distribute, and

can be left alone for a long time. "In many cities, sensors allow for dynamic decision-making," says Beheshti. "Technology lets us collect the data and act on the circumstances in an instant."

But the ultimate sensor is equal parts human body and gadget. "Individual citizens are a key part of this fabric of sensors," says Beheshti.



reconfigure the area to reduce energy consumption, strengthen adaptability to climate change, and enhance the quality of the public space. Their research is based on a number of models, including how cities in other parts of the world have had success. The 500-year-old city of Shibam in Yemen, with its close streets and mudbrick buildings, for example, turns out to do a better job at staying naturally cool and energy efficient than its modern counterparts with their tall, heat-absorbing skyscrapers.

“Leaders of cities need to rethink the way cities have been built in the past to confront new challenges,” says Raven, who is an experienced architect, designer, and urbanist. “New York City is a perfect example. You just have to look at how the city has changed in the last 20 years to confront these kinds of challenges.”

Raven’s program trains students to become leaders. It also gets to the heart

Skyscrapers, like those pictured in Dubai, can cause sweltering conditions in an already hot city.

WSNs are already informing decisions on transportation, public health, and safety in cities. Underground sensors track traffic and change signals to reroute drivers out of jams in Songdo, South Korea. Chicago is piloting a 500-node sensor network to measure carbon monoxide levels and roadway temperatures.

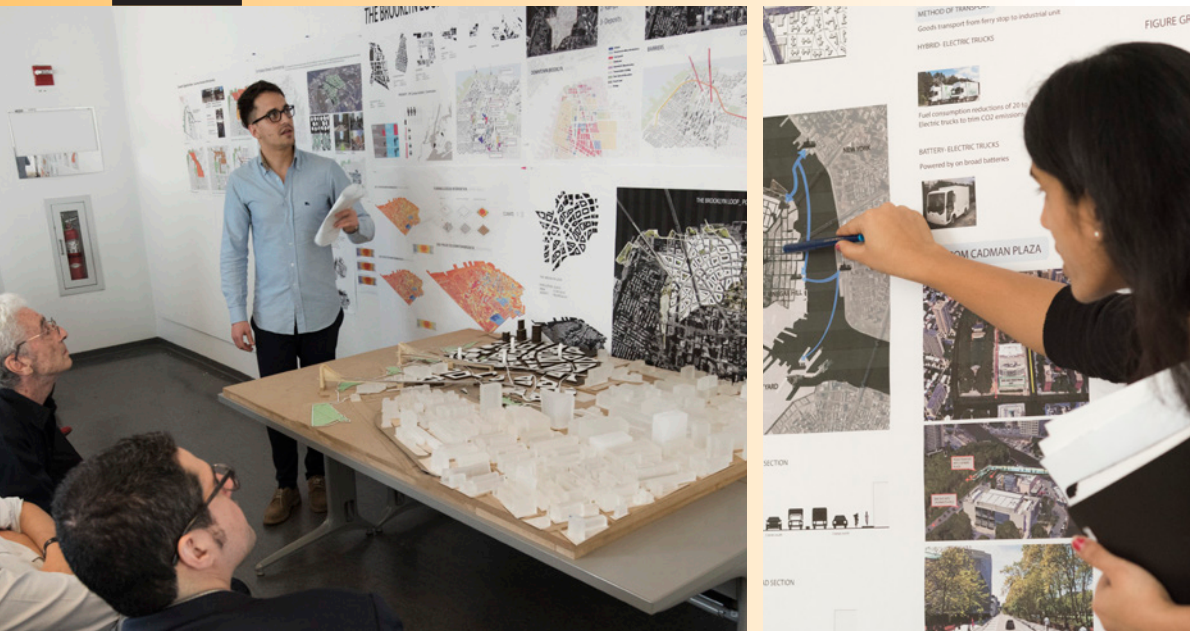
To keep a city moving, a good transportation system is vital. Those systems require robust and comprehensive data to optimize the flow of traffic. But as private and public interests entwine, ensuring data is collected with integrity and honesty becomes more important than ever. NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences Assistant Professors Jonathan Voris, Ph.D., Wenjia Li, Ph.D., and Nabi Sertac Artan, Ph.D., are researching selective driver data modeling with a grant from the University Transportation Research Center.

“We’re focusing on all kinds of new apps and devices in your car that collect data,” says Voris, a computer science and cybersecurity expert. Many of these apps and devices are designed by car insurance companies. For example, some insurers offer customers a device that plugs into a vehicle’s onboard diagnostics port to monitor driving habits. Customers deemed good drivers may qualify for discounted insurance rates.

“Every smartphone has a temperature sensor. People carry them everywhere. You could potentially have a swarm of sensors that give you a temperature map of a city.” – BABAK BEHESHTI, PH.D.

In the NYIT study, participants perform simulated driving tasks tracked by software and hardware. “We’re trying to record data in a way that’s sensitive to drivers,” says Voris, who presented their research at the FEW (Food, Energy, Water) workshop at the Sustainable Megacities conference. “We need to make sure these systems are secure and respect people’s privacy.”

Today’s cars are moving computers, and the roads they traverse are the information network of every city. Inside those vehicles are the people who make cities tick. The intel drawn from this tableau of human bodies and sensory sprawl morphs with every moment. With the right analysis, that data can inform how our cities operate now and transform the way we live in the future. ■



Graduate students in the urban and regional design program examined a section of Brooklyn, N.Y., for their Urban Climate Lab project, “Cooling Hot Cities.” As part of the course, they defended their proposed designs to a panel of experts.

of modern urban planning and design: Using an existing city as a laboratory to find solutions to new problems and going beyond the boundaries of the field.

“Urban designers can be slow to engage with the scientific community,” he says. “The Urban Climate Lab offers students the opportunity to shape urban form with respect to climate science.” And Raven is looking for more ways to challenge his students, not to mention urban design thinking as a whole. “There are opportunities to collaborate with other schools here,” he explains. “It’s what makes working at NYIT interesting.”

The program is also global. In the Global Green Cities Studio, students travel to another city for two weeks to identify problems and brainstorm solutions. “The studio exemplifies NYIT’s commitment to global study and interdisciplinary research,” says Raven. “It is an experience that very much mirrors the profession.”

Hasan exemplifies how an international perspective and big picture thinking can improve the future of megacities. Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, she was inspired to study urban design after getting her undergraduate degree in architecture. “I saw the problems

firsthand in Dhaka,” she says. “I realized that looking at architecture alone is not enough; there is a lot more associated with improving cities. A growing population leads to pollution, overcrowding leads to traffic congestion—this is where design has to come in.”

SMART CITIES, SMARTER CITIZENS

With these and other solutions in development, one of the biggest facilitators for managing resources and creating cleaner, safer megacities is communication.

Global conferences like Sustainable Megacities offer an important opportunity to share ideas across disciplines and borders and grow awareness on a wider level. “We need to take a grassroots approach to drive policy changes,” says Dong. “As educators, we need to make the public aware of problems.”

And it’s not just the what, but the how. “Presenting our research in a clear, graphic way will help communicate these complex ideas not only among ourselves, but also to policymakers and stakeholders,” says Raven.

Conferences are also important reminders that people are at the center of megacities. “Often, we get sucked into a conversation that reduces cities

to an Excel spreadsheet, and they’re much richer than that,” Raven says. “In some cases, the conversation may feel inefficient or messy, but that messiness is also part of what makes cities wonderful places to live and study.”

Only time will tell how today’s ideas and creative thinking will impact megacities in the coming decades, and looking forward always involves a bit of looking back.

“Maybe people will be growing their own vegetables on rooftops and balconies,” says Hasan, imagining the megacity of the future. “Instead of buying it, people will adapt and grow their own food the way we used to years ago.” ■



Watch more: bit.ly/megacities-video

“Leaders of cities need to rethink the way cities have been built in the past to confront new challenges,” says Raven.

Dominick Caccippio (B.S. '01) shows off Luce Ristorante's food truck, the latest addition to his restaurant business.

Careers à La Carte

BY MICHAEL SCHIAVETTA (M.A. '07)

FOR DOMINICK CACCIPPIO (B.S. '01), working nearly 30 years in the telecommunications industry was just an appetizer.

Nestled in a small shopping center in East Norwich, N.Y.—only about a 10-minute drive from NYIT-Old Westbury, Luce Ristorante is where Caccippio has traded telecommunications enterprise solutions for *branzino alla erbe*. He spent decades working for Nynex, Verizon, and other firms managing sales and engineering projects for clients that included the New York Stock Exchange and the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation. Then, in 2011, Caccippio purchased Luce, an Italian eatery, simply because he “wanted to do something different.”

With entrepreneurial spirit and technological savvy, NYIT alumni deliver big in the ever-growing food and beverage industries.



Luce's 30 tables are spread out across salmon-colored tiles connected to walls with paintings that evoke cozy Sicilian cafés. Surrounded by Long Island's Gold Coast neighborhoods, it's a relaxing atmosphere, one where customers can expect friendly service and a full stomach.

Though the Ozone Park, N.Y., native spent his teenage years working with his father, Peter, at their family diner on Rockaway Boulevard, Caccippio is a relative newcomer to an industry where eight out of 10 restaurant owners already possess decades of experience. "I told myself if I'm going to get into this business, I want to get something nice out of it and enjoy coming to work every day," he says. What the former engineer didn't expect, however, was how challenges often spring up without notice.

MANAGING CHALLENGES, SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Everyone has to eat (Luce regular Billy Joel, for example, "prefers simple dishes" and "likes tuna and Chicken Milanese," Caccippio confides), but food culture has boiled over into mainstream conversation. Food networks, apps, and celebrity chef TV shows are more prominent than ever, and with social media and apps like Yelp a swipe away, everyone's a critic.

Caccippio is one of several NYIT alumni who have jumped on careers in the food industry. They face fierce competition. As the restaurant industry continues to grow, so does its demands upon the people working in it. Quick thinking, innovation, and an entrepreneurial drive are essential ingredients for success.

"Being an entrepreneur in this industry takes a lot of dedication and passion," says Robert Koenig, Ed.D., associate dean of NYIT School of Management and chair of its hospitality management program. "You're on the job all the time—long hours, watching everything from training of staff to ensuring consistency of recipes and service—and always trying to exceed all guest expectations."

"Everyone wants to open a restaurant," adds **MICHAEL MANNIELLO (A.O.S. '91, B.P.S. '99)**, regional executive chef for Eurest Dining Services, a subsidiary of the Compass Group PLC that provides food and support services to more than 500,000 clients worldwide. Manniello coordinates corporate dining services that include on-site cafeterias, food procurement, and on-site and off-site catering for brands such as Canon, Mohegan Sun, Liberty Mutual, and

Blue Cross Blue Shield. "People have to be very up-front and honest with themselves in terms of their financial limitations," he says.

When buyers purchase an existing business, they are often also buying the team that's already in place. Manniello suggests that prospective restaurateurs "do their homework" by observing and learning as much as possible from workers, customers, and locals. Most importantly, he adds, "have someone smarter than you look at the financials."

Since purchasing Luce five years ago, Caccippio has learned much about the restaurant business. Beneath his warm smile and friendly handshake is someone who's calculating every step, ready to improvise at a moment's notice—doing whatever it takes to make customers happy. "If you're not always planning in this business," he says, "you're through."

Caccippio's latest venture is a Luce food truck, an idea he came up with while working for Verizon in Manhattan. "People lined up by the dozens during lunchtime at the food trucks downtown," he says. "I wanted to get my restaurant's name out there, and I figured what better way than an 18-foot mobile kitchen?" While the staff serves up meatball heroes,



*10 PERCENT OF THE U.S. WORKFORCE

Source: National Restaurant Association
bit.ly/National-Restaurant-Facts



Heather Dolland (B.Arch. '01, M.S. '03; pictured right) meets with Diana Mastrodimos, owner of Agozar, a Cuban restaurant in New York City's East Village, to go over potential wine and cocktail pairings for an upcoming event.

Craig Wallace Dale

Caesar salad, and other lunch fare at local businesses, the stainless steel truck also functions as a roving billboard for Luce. This leads to additional catering and corporate gigs. The food truck also gives Caccippio the opportunity to boost Luce's visibility while participating in community events throughout Nassau County—during which he gives back a portion of revenue to support local causes.

When starting any new business, it's natural to run into issues. "In engineering, there are clear problems and clear solutions," says **MANAR ALAFANDI (M.B.A. '09)**, another newcomer to the food industry. In the food business, however, it's not always easy to rectify problems. Refrigerators break, food suppliers fail to make deliveries, and

customers bring their problems into the restaurant.

With a background in construction and electrical engineering (and the owner of his own professional sports management firm for FIFA clients), Alafandi is a partner at two popular restaurants in Abu Dhabi. Al Shaderwan Restaurant, located in the Tourist Club neighborhood, serves traditional Arabic cuisine while on Muroor, the C House Lounge Café, one of the area's biggest franchises, dishes up Italian food.

The two restaurants have their own personalities—and distinct clientele. With its large windows and open buffets, Al Shaderwan attracts families and large groups who prefer longer dining experiences. C House Lounge Café is geared toward younger diners and uses

Twitter, Facebook, and other social media to connect with a more tech-savvy customer base.

WINE SOCIETY

For many NYIT alumni, innovation is the pathway to success in the food industry.

HEATHER DOLLAND (B.Arch. '01, M.S. '03) capitalized on her love of food and wine by launching All the Tastes of New York, which organizes themed food crawls throughout the city and harnesses the flavor of neighborhood restaurants to deliver unique dining experiences for parties of eight to 30 guests.

The amuse-bouche on Dolland's path to foodie entrepreneurship was somewhat unsavory. After earning her NYIT master's degree in environmental science,

she landed at Roux Environmental Consulting in Islandia, N.Y., working as a certified microbial consultant (“That’s a fancy way of saying I tested mold,” Dolland explains), then later as a business development manager.

While at Roux, Dolland helped a friend who worked for Southern Wine & Spirits and needed someone to conduct tastings on Long Island. Those experiences sparked an appreciation for how to introduce people to different brands. Dolland began working as a wine and spirit brand ambassador, then earned certification from the American Sommelier Association and graduated from the French Culinary Institute.

In 2012, she started All the Tastes of New York, a company that focuses on experiential dining. Her clients range from private individuals celebrating special events to corporate clients such as Google, MetLife, and Tumblr. During their experiences, clients enjoy appetizer, entrée, and dessert selections from different area restaurants. In most cases, all three locations are within walking distance.

To find the best options available, Dolland fosters relationships with restaurants and bars across all five boroughs of New York. “I mix and match food genres like Mexican, Greek, and Italian,” she says. “It’s important to be mindful of how different cuisines would affect the palate.”

Dolland’s startup is just the beginning of her business plan. In 2015, she authored *Discovering the New York Craft Spirits Boom*. She now works closely with New York craft distillers to help them achieve the desired product placement to build their brands. “Everything has been a stepping-stone to the next phase of my life,” she says. “Now I’m creating a niche space for myself and my business in the craft spirits world, and taking my company forward. It’s a very exciting time.”

A TASTE OF TECHNOLOGY

From OpenTable reviews to Instagram snapshots of plates upon plates of meals, technology’s role in the food industry cannot be overstated. At Luce (which holds a 4.5/5 rating on OpenTable),

“Being an entrepreneur in this industry takes a lot of dedication,” says Robert Koenig, Ed.D., associate dean of NYIT School of Management and chair of its hospitality management program. “You’re on the job all the time—long hours, watching everything from training of staff to ensuring consistency of recipes.”

Caccippio hires an outside company to manage its social media channels, promoting specials, advertising directly to customers, and announcing other news.

“It’s tough to do that on your own,” he says. “Your responses to customers have to be immediate. Reputation management is key online. With social media, you can reach thousands of people instantly.”

At Eures Dining Services, Manniello uses cloud technology to design menus with clients. “We use cloud-based software to get up-to-date product costs and nutritional information on specific



THE FOOD INDUSTRY is a global enterprise. In China, NYIT students are finding ways to use a technology-infused coffee shop to kick-start their post-M.B.A. careers.

In Shenzhen, China, students in NYIT’s M.B.A. program through Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (JUFE) secured franchise rights from Caffebene to launch a coffee shop that serves as a technology incubator space where entrepreneurs can plan startups. Working independently with his classmates, Guohao Li (M.B.A. ’15) uses several resources to market the shop, including WeChat, Baidu (one of China’s largest search engines), and online consumer sites such as Meituan and 55tuan.com. “Inside our incubator, entrepreneurs can communicate and share ideas and technology,” Li says. “But it’s also a place where NYIT graduates can gather in the future, learn, discuss, and continue their friendship.” ■



ingredients,” he says. “That way, we can monitor dietary restrictions and incorporate instant feedback.” Before this solution existed, Manniello adds, it took several days to create menus.

Using technology is one thing, but disrupting how supply chains operate in an industry committed to tradition is another. Yet, to manage inventory and vendors, restaurants have typically relied on complicated Excel spreadsheets, spending hour after hour manually checking vendor prices and the availability of thousands of products. Now, there is a new technology that is rethinking food sourcing.

“It was a very inefficient way of doing things,” says **GUY PRAISLER (M.B.A. '00)** about the notorious spreadsheets, which he first encountered as a consultant. “I couldn’t find a solution, so I created one.” In 2012, Praisler cofounded online purchasing platform Dine Market to seamlessly connect restaurants with suppliers. Using Dine Market, restaurants have a mobile, one-stop solution that allows them to find the best prices from more than 100 vendors.

Praisler’s company is free of charge for restaurants. The company earns revenue from the vendors, who agree to pay a 2 percent commission. The vendors who have joined Dine Market are exposed to a host of potential clients, and the purchasing platform has increased efficiency and decreased costs. Sales have already spiked from \$180,000 in 2012 to an estimated \$700,000 in 2015. Praisler hopes the app, which was



Through Dine Market, Guy Praisler (M.B.A. '00) has convinced restaurants like Sushisamba in New York City’s West Village (pictured) to embrace technology.

recently featured in *The New York Times*, will reach 20,000 restaurants by 2018. Renowned chefs Daniel Boulud and Bobby Flay are among his clients—as are Le Cirque, Le Parker Meridien luxury hotel, 5 Napkin Burger, and Blockheads restaurants.

“We are changing the industry in a positive way, and we hope to build better relationships between vendors and restaurants by reimagining how food sourcing is typically done,” Praisler says. “This is the future of food.”

THAT PERSONAL TOUCH

Regardless of technology, personal experiences are often the deciding factor in whether clients become repeat customers. And how they’re served is often just as important as what they’re being fed.

“Customers bring their personal lives into our restaurant, and we’re here to make their experiences the best,” Caccippio says. “Food is a great way to make everybody feel good. To help people share special moments with family and friends—it’s nice I help make that happen.”

He recalls his days at NYIT-Old Westbury where he learned how to create corporate presentations for the telecommunications industry—skills that, as it turns out, transfer rather well at Luce.

“It’s all about building relationships,” Caccippio says. “I’ve always tried to build stronger relationships with whomever I’m dealing with. NYIT gave me that confidence when I made presentations in class. Now, at Luce, I’m presenting every night.” ■

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Alumni Events at Home and Away

Alumni connected at a number of new, sold-out events during the fall semester. In addition to classic celebrations, like the annual young alumni cocktail reception and a special alumni dinner in China (see p. 26), the NYIT Office of Alumni Relations arranged several smaller outings based on your feedback.

In October, 25 alumni and friends hit the theater district for a performance of *Kinky Boots* on Broadway. Prior to the show, alumni reconnected over shared memories at a happy hour at Iron Bar. Later, in November, 50 alumni and friends took to the field at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The group enjoyed on-field access and watched the teams warm up from the sidelines (pictured) before seeing the New York Jets defeat the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-23.



The NYIT Office of Alumni Relations will offer more exclusive events in 2016 that match your interests and requests. Upcoming highlights include a day at CitiField to watch the New York Mets take on their long-time rival the San Francisco Giants on May 1 as well as the 11th annual NYIT Athletics Golf and Tennis Outing and Hall of Fame Enshrinement Dinner at the Muttontown Club in East Norwich, N.Y., on June 20. ■



Find more great events at nyit.edu/alumni/events and update your contact information by emailing alumni@nyit.edu.

CORRECTION: In the Fall 2015 issue, the article “Bailey Takes the Field” incorrectly stated that alumni have access to the new fitness center on the Old Westbury campus. While the fitness center cannot currently accommodate alumni, the possibility is being explored. For updates, check nyitbears.com.

1960s

DONALD ROSS (A.A.S. '60, B.F.A. '62) and his wife, Helen, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in July. They met at NYIT-Old Westbury in 1966. Ross served as dean of students at the Manhattan campus while Helen worked for NYIT president and founder Alexander Schure, Ph.D., Ed.D. “Alex asked me if I wanted to work in Old Westbury,” he recalls. “Needless to say, it changed my life.” The couple later founded Wilmington College in Delaware, where Ross served as president. He was also president of Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla., for 35 years.

ARTHUR BCHAKJIAN (A.A.S. '67, B.S. '68) has spent more than 25 years developing engines for F-15, F-16, F-22, and F-35 fighters, as well as the C-133 cargo plane and B-52 bomber, at Edwards Air Force Base. He has also worked on the Mars Orion program’s reactive engine control system.

PHILIP FERRARO (B.S. '69) is a controller for Promac Northeast Inc. in Scarsdale, N.Y. He lives in Stamford, Conn., with his wife and two daughters.

JAMES GEOGHAN (B.F.A. '69), co-creator and executive producer of *The Suite Life of Zack and Cody* and *The Suite Life on Deck* for the Disney Channel, wrote the book and lyrics for *B.C. the Musical*, based on the long-running cartoon strip.

SAM PAKRAD (B.S. '69) founded SMP Enterprises after working 25 years at IBM. His company—now celebrating its 23rd anniversary—is a business consulting firm specializing in education development. “I chose to study at NYIT because I wanted an education that would provide the skills to compete in the marketplace,” he says. His favorite memory was attending classes at the Knights of Pythias building in Manhattan. “The building was an ornate 12-story structure with a columned entranceway,” Pakrad recalls. “It was quite the experience.”

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

1970s

Sculptor **ROBERT SHURE (B.F.A. '70)** helped build the “Satterlee, Northrop, and Mote Family Tiger Sculpture” for DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. He has more than three decades of experience in sculpture and design and is president of Skylight Studios in Woburn, Mass.

LYNN SCHEEL MARZOCCO (B.S. '75) is enjoying life in Stuart, Fla., where she lives with her two daughters. She is chief of pediatrics at St. Lucie Medical Center, a clinical assistant professor at Florida State University College of Medicine, and clinical coordinator of pediatrics at Port St. Lucie Children's Health Center.

Attorney **CHRISTOPHER M. NEILSON (B.S. '76)** received the Service to the Community Award from the Broward College Foundation. He runs his own law office in Hollywood, Fla., where he specializes in civil, criminal, family, juvenile law, and accident cases.



Photo courtesy of Juan Villanueva

JUAN VILLANUEVA (B.S. '76) (pictured) served the NYPD as a detective in the police commissioner's office until 1988. He is enjoying retirement in Florida.

ROBERT KOPP (B.S. '77) was designated a national Public Works Leadership Fellow by the American Public Works Association. He serves as the Carrollton (Texas) public works director, overseeing 116 employees as well as infrastructure for water, traffic, and storm operations.

Venus Zhang

(EXECUTIVE M.B.A. '11)

NYIT'S EXECUTIVE M.B.A. PROGRAM changed how **VENUS ZHANG** thought about strategic planning and international economic structure. It also gave her the opportunity to ponder the future of China and how important it is for Chinese entrepreneurs to think big and become leaders.

Zhang started out working in traditional manufacturing and now spends her time at the helm of three companies: Shandong Boshiyuan Biotechnology Co., Ltd.; Boshijie Agricultural Technology Popularization Co., Ltd.; and New York Sino-Time International Tourist and Cultural Media Co. Ltd. “Many people say that I am a workaholic,” she says, “but I never feel tired or lose my mental balance.”

Her mid-career decision to come to New York to get her master's degree opened up new possibilities. While in the program, she learned about Western culture and overcame her difficulty with the English language, and she gained valuable insights by visiting places like Stanford University, the United States Military Academy, and tech companies in Silicon Valley. She also participated in meetings at the United Nations and was a guest at the homes of congressional leaders.

China supports executives who study business overseas and then return to China to focus on industry improvement and development. Zhang says that NYIT's Executive M.B.A. program “made a great contribution to the educational exchange and cooperation between China and America.” She also adds that returning to school after being in the workforce for many years provided enormous benefits. “I have experienced failures,” Zhang recounts. “I've had to reinvent myself and start from scratch.” Learning from those experiences and returning to school have helped her strengthen her positive attitude and develop her business acumen. Now, as the CEO of three companies, she can use her innovative thinking to lead teams in their work in the biotech, agriculture, and ecotourism industries.

When it comes to running a successful business, she says that purpose and prudence are must-have qualities. “It is important to choose a good project and set a good target,” she says. “Choice, both in the type of business you set up and the people you hire and work with, can be more important than effort.”

With industry growing at a rapid rate, China has experienced positives and negatives. “The country has made a huge contribution to the world but at the cost of pollution and damage to the environment,” says Zhang. Her goal is to help reverse some of those damages while contributing to China's economic development, prosperity, and modern eco-agriculture. “With high-tech power, we can turn waste into wealth, recycle, and make changes that will benefit future generations.” ■

Photo courtesy of Venus Zhang

1980s

"I am ridiculously happy in my retirement," says **PETER LEE (M.A. '80)**. He is writing a memoir about his early days in show business called *Leave 'Em Laughing: A Brief History of the Pickle Brothers Comedy Team*.

BOB PLISKIN (M.A. '80) exhibited his photography at "The Geology of Light" in the Ossining (N.Y.) Public Library. He and his wife, Berenice, have been married for 62 years.

JOSEPH SCARPULLA (B.ARCH. '80) is celebrating the 30th anniversary of his architecture firm in Huntington, N.Y. His projects range from high-end residential to commercial and hospitality. A former NYIT adjunct professor, Scarpulla worked in the Suffolk County Planning Department and firms on Long Island and in Boston before starting his own practice. The sailing enthusiast is commodore of the Centerport Yacht Club.

MERYL MANTHEY (B.S. '81) is a realtor for Douglas Elliman Real Estate in New York and Bradley Real Estate in California. She credits NYIT faculty members with providing career-focused education. "Having professors who also have real-world experience gave me a well-rounded learning experience," she says.

JAMES T. POWERS (B.ARCH. '82) is director of operations and business development at Bohler Engineering in New York City and recently received the Suffolk County Council Boy Scouts of America Good Deed Award. When deciding where to earn his architecture degree, Powers didn't hesitate. "NYIT has a great reputation," he recalls. "It was the only school I applied to." He's still connected to his alma mater, teaching classes and participating in alumni events.

Over the past 30 years, **JEFFREY S. MOROSOFF (B.F.A. '83, M.A. '01)** has held public relations and communications positions with Cablevision, Long Island Association, Town of Babylon, and Nassau Community College. In 2015, he received

the Jack Rettaliata Lifetime Achievement Award from the Public Relations Professionals of Long Island. He is director of the graduate program in public relations and an assistant professor at Hofstra University. "My time at NYIT was all about WNYT, the campus radio station, where I spent every spare minute," he says of his student days. "Many of the friends I made at WNYT remain my closest friends today." Morosoff also served as director of alumni relations for NYIT from 1998 to 2006.

ANGELO SCIALFA (B.F.A. '83) is president of Fox Run Group, a sales and marketing firm that works with university alumni associations, athletic departments, and entertainment properties. "NYIT marked the launch of my career," he says. "It gave me the ability to understand the importance of networking and creating opportunity for myself." Scialfa also serves as an advisor to the NYIT School of Management.

VINCENT DELLA DONNA (B.ARCH. '85) was elected to the national board of directors of

ALUMNI DINNER IN SHANGHAI

In October, nearly 200 China-based alumni joined NYIT President Edward Guiliano, Ph.D., and other university officials at an alumni dinner in Shanghai. Yan Zhou, deputy secretary general of the China Education Association for International Exchange and a longtime friend of NYIT, also attended and greeted alumni. NYIT has offered degrees in China since 1998 and now has nearly 3,000 alumni living in China. To serve their career advancement and networking needs, the university recently opened a Shanghai office. ■

See more photos: bit.ly/shanghai-alumni-dinner



ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

the American Institute of Architects Academy of Architecture for Health. He is the director of health care services for Gannett Fleming's office in South Plainfield, N.J.

DANIEL CONTELMO (B.ARCH. '85) won HGTV's Fresh Faces of Design competition in the Kid-Tastic Spaces category. He runs his own architecture firm in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. bit.ly/fresh-faces

ED O'CONNOR (B.S. '85) handles reverse mortgages at FirstBank in West Babylon, N.Y. He has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry.

In November, **TOM CILMI (B.S. '86)** was re-elected as a Suffolk County (N.Y.) legislator for the 10th Legislative District. He says, "As an elected official, overseeing a nearly \$3 billion budget, negotiating and working with people from a multitude of backgrounds, and advocating for and against many different public policies, the whole of my education at NYIT laid the groundwork for my success."

ZANDRA FERNANDEZ BUCHELI (B.ARCH. '86) is a marketing manager for GL Planning & Design, which has offices in San Francisco and Sherman Oaks, Calif.

CARLA GOODKNIGHT (B.ARCH. '86), principal architect and owner of CJ Architects, moved her firm into a space she designed in Portsmouth, N.H.

JEFF LESTER (D.O. '86) has served the Watsonville, Calif., community for nearly three decades as a family physician. He is also director of the town's Guadalupe Pregnancy Crisis Center.

The Real Estate Division of the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation honored **GUILLERMO "BILL" SOTOMAYOR (B.S. '86)** at its Empire Ball in December. For his contributions to the fields of architecture and interior design, as well as his ongoing support of nonprofits, he received the Camillo Ricordi Humanitarian Award. Sotomayor is regional director for the New York City office of design firm Ware Malcomb.

Henry Anhalt

(D.O. '88)

TREATING CHILDREN WITH DIABETES is HENRY ANHALT'S "greatest challenge." His relentless pursuit of that challenge has landed him in a dream job as chief medical officer for T1D Exchange, a nonprofit that focuses on improving the care of people with type 1 diabetes.

From a young age, Anhalt aspired to be a doctor—he was ordering anatomy models when he was a high school freshman. "The head, the brain, the spine, I had a ton of those," he says. An interview with an NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine professor of biochemistry and a tour of the beautiful Old Westbury campus (not too far from his stomping grounds in Brooklyn, N.Y.) clinched the deal. He applied to the medical school and began classes in 1983.

Anhalt knew that pediatrics was where his heart was when he did a pediatric rotation at Brookdale Hospital, an inner-city hospital in Brooklyn. Later, he worked with diabetes patients while taking an endocrinology elective as a resident. But it wasn't until a pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Stanford that he combined his interests and realized that by studying and treating children with type 1 diabetes, he could enact real change. "Diabetes at that time was a frustrating disease because the tools we had at the time were inadequate," he says. "I was filled with the sense of not being able to help these kids."

After working in places that specialized in diabetes treatment, Anhalt was presented with the opportunity at T1D Exchange. In his new position, he can make even more of a difference in the lives of people with type 1 diabetes, which cannot be cured or prevented. "T1D's patient-centric approach has been transformational in driving and informing how diabetes research is moving forward," he says. The organization has a clinical trial network with a registry of more than 26,000 patients; an online community for patients and caregivers; a network of clinics across the country that see more than 150,000 patients; and a blood and serum repository for research.

Anhalt is proud of the improvements T1D Exchange can make to the quality of patients' lives. One of the constant challenges patients face, for example, is the risk of a low blood sugar attack. His team at T1D Exchange developed a new type of emergency rescue kit for patients and caregivers that is simple and easy to use. Then the team worked to fast-track clinical trials of the product. (It was acquired by pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and is awaiting FDA approval.) With so many resources at their disposal, Anhalt believes that the T1D Exchange has "an overarching mission to make life for diabetes patients worry free." He adds: "If I can move the needle one inch forward, then mission accomplished." ■

Photo courtesy of Henry Anhalt

MUSTAPHA AKINKUNMI (B.S. '87, M.S. '89) is commissioner for finance in Lagos state, Nigeria. He has previously worked for Goldman Sachs, World Bank, First Boston, and the Central Bank of Nigeria.

PIERINO PERCIBALLI (B.S. '87) is vice president of server solution sales in North America at IBM, where he has worked more than 25 years. He oversees sales development and execution around mainframe, Unix, and Linux systems.

LUCY MARGARET ROZIER (M.A. '87) published her children's book *Jackrabbit McCabe and the Electric Telegraph*. "My favorite NYIT memory is making a cell animation on the Richardson animation stand," she recalls. "It won honorable mention in a national film competition." bit.ly/Lucy-Rozier

RICHARD SCHWARTZ (D.O. '87) is an interventional cardiologist and director of cardiovascular outreach at Winthrop University Hospital's Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement Clinic in Mineola, N.Y.

SUSAN TAYLOR (M.B.A. '88) is an executive leader in acquisition management with 29 years of experience. Previously, she served as the deputy chief procurement officer at the Veterans Health Administration in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

ROBERT PULITANO (B.S. '89), managing member at Alliance Commercial Property LLC in Greenwich, Conn., is heading the firm's new residential brokerage division.

1990s

Retired forensic detective **DANIEL C. AUSTIN JR. (B.S. '90)** is president and curator of 165-year-old nonprofit Historic Cemetery Corporation in Middle Village, N.Y. He has a son and a daughter who are majoring in mechanical engineering and physical therapy.

For his exemplary philanthropic efforts, **DAVID M. OKORN (B.S. '90, M.S. '96)** received the Gilbert Tilles Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals/Long Island Chapter. He serves as executive director of the Long Island Community Foundation. He and his wife, **MARTINA (B.S. '90)**, have a son, Tyler, who is an NYIT architecture student.

ANDREW CALIENDO (B.S. '91) stepped down as commander of the New York Army National Guard's 501st Ordnance Battalion. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Caliendo lives in Pelham, N.Y.

DIANNE BAUMERT-MOYIK (M.A. '92) is director of communications at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems in Falls Church, Va. "NYIT was one of the best investments I ever made," she says. "I gained a great appreciation for the challenges of producing a broadcast news program each night. That knowledge and experience has stayed with me, especially in how we work to continually communicate our global brand at Northrop Grumman."

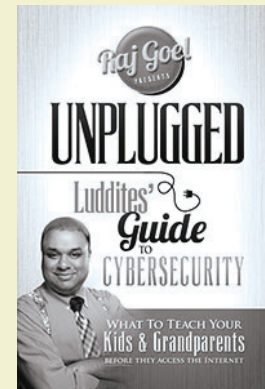
DAVID BUSCH (B.ARCH. '92) is celebrating 20 years as the founder and design principal of Busch Associates in Bay Shore, N.Y. He is also an NYIT adjunct professor.

NYIT Alumni Federation President Emeritus **CAROL HASENSTAB (B.S. '92)** was promoted to vice president, retail market manager, Manhattan East Region, at TD Bank. She oversees 23 stores in the New York City area.

NICHOLAS RADESCA (B.S. '92) is chief financial officer, treasurer, and secretary of American Finance Trust in New York City.

AMIR LEHR (B.S. '93, M.B.A. '96) is finding new ways to extend the battery life of mobile devices as executive vice president for

products and business development mobile lifecycle at Cellebrite.



Cybersecurity expert **RAJ GOEL (B.S. '94)** has published his second book, *Unplugged Luddites' Guide to Cybersecurity: What to Teach Your Kids and Grandparents Before They Access the Internet*. bit.ly/Raj-Goel

As a student, **JAMES MCCUNE (B.S. '94, M.A. '96)** worked with the Carleton Group, a student-run NYIT ad agency that interacted with real clients. After earning his degrees, McCune taught as an adjunct at NYIT and landed a job at a top marketing firm two weeks after graduation. He is currently an executive director at the EGC Group, one of Long Island's largest ad agencies.

KATHY TSAO (M.B.A. '94) joined Brown Harris Stevens as a licensed associate real estate broker in its Park Avenue (N.Y.) office. Previously, she served as a broker at Douglas Elliman Real Estate.

BENJAMIN KNACK (A.O.S. '95) is executive chef of the Omni La Mansión del Rio and Mokara Hotel & Spa in San Antonio, Texas. The Long Island native has worked in restaurants all over the United States and was featured on an episode of *Hell's Kitchen*.

ANTHONY LAURIA (B.S. '95) joined New York City real estate company LCOR as senior project manager. He has more than 20 years' experience in the construction industry.

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ALAN SZCZESNIEWSKI (D.O. '95) or “Dr. Chez” provides general ophthalmology services at Danville, Va.-based Harman Eye Center and postoperative care for cataract surgery patients. He is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

JENNIFER WOJCIESKI (B.ARCH. '95) is a registered architect and practices on Long Island and in New York City. She launched in2ition mercantile, an eco-boutique in Oakdale, N.Y., after becoming a LEED Green Associate and studying aromatherapy.

Writer **K.D. FRIEDRICH (B.S. '96)** published *Sands of Time*, the latest novel in the Heart Falls Heroes series. bit.ly/KD-Friedrich

Sedgwick Claims Management Services named **HENRY LYONS (M.B.A. '96)** as chief financial officer. He has more than 30 years of experience in finance, accounting, corporate development, and executive management. Most recently, Lyons served as CFO of APMEX, one of the world's largest Internet-based retailers of precious metals.

DIANA RIVENBURGH (B.S. '96) published *The New Corporate Facts of Life*. She has more than 25 years of experience in organizational and leadership development, consulting, and strategy creation. bit.ly/Rivenburgh

JACOB H. YAHIAIAN (M.B.A. '96) is a founding member of tech center LMHQ in New York City, where he helps startups to create and collaborate on launching new ventures. He is also a managing member at Continental Advisory Services LLC, a family office that provides financial expertise to companies in various industries.

RAJENDER DICHALLY (M.S. '97) is a senior reports/database developer for Ambac Assurance UK Ltd. in New York City.

U.S. Navy doctor **RICHARD JADICK (D.O. '97)** spoke at the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball on Nov. 6 in celebration of the Corps' 240th birthday. He was awarded the

Stephanie Langdon Black

(B.P.S. '09, M.A. '12)

TWELVE-TO-FOURTEEN HOUR WORKDAYS are the norm for **STEPHANIE LANGDON BLACK**. While some might find that schedule daunting, Black loves what she does—planning parties and charity events for celebrities such as Dr. Oz and Michael J. Fox. She currently works for Gotham Hall, a 17,000-square-foot events space in a landmarked bank building in Midtown Manhattan. Last September, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) held a fundraiser at Gotham Hall. After months of preparation for the 500-plus-person event, Black was rewarded with a handshake and a photo op with the DNC's special guest—President Barack Obama.

Growing up in a farmhouse in a small town outside of Albany, N.Y., Black started planning events at an age when most children only host pretend tea parties. At age 10, she started helping run events at her church. By the time she was 13, she'd planned a family friend's wedding. At 16, Black was working after school and on weekends as a server for a catering company in Albany. “Events were something I always wanted to do,” Black says. The big city beckoned, and a scholarship to NYIT gave her the chance to pursue what she loved in a place where events take place 24/7. In 2009, she was chosen to give the student address at commencement. “It was a great finale to my undergraduate experience,” she says.

At Gotham Hall, where Black works with a “great team,” she produces more than 100 events a year. “It never gets old,” she says. The events are a far cry from the church gatherings she helped plan in Albany. Still, her ability to juggle many kinds of events, details, and unexpected problems stems from her days working for the catering company in high school where she had to serve food and set up events under all types of conditions in all types of locations. “I learned to adapt. I'm a big believer of starting at the bottom and working your way up,” she says. Her experiences as a server helped her learn to examine situations from multiple angles. “I always try to think: How are the decisions I'm making affecting the team around me?” she explains. “How are the servers doing? How is the maitre d' doing?”

Black reads books on leadership, which she finds help her to step back and to assess difficult situations. “When things happen that change your plans, you have to accept them and react by finding a solution, not by focusing on the problem,” she says. Her wise words for current hospitality management students at NYIT: “It's important to get hands-on experience in the career field you've chosen.” ■

Bronze Star for heroic valor in 2006 and is the Iraq war's most decorated physician.

KIMBERLY A. MCGINN (D.O. '97) is a family practitioner and chief of clinical informatics at Touro University Nevada.

CONRAD STOJAK (B.F.A. '98) is turning parking meters into works of art on the streets of New York City. He uses the glass domes as mini-display cases where he installs unique urban dioramas. Stojak hopes to produce about 200 parking meters to distribute throughout the city. He was profiled by WABC-TV *Eyewitness News* and runs a crowdfunding site to support his project. bit.ly/Conrad-Stojak

2000s

Charlestowne Hotels named **MATTHEW BARBA (B.P.S. '00)** its general manager of the historic Deer Path Inn in Lake Forest, Ill. He manages day-to-day operations, marketing and sales, and a team of more than 125 employees for the 57-room property.

CLAUDE IRWIN (M.B.A. '00) is vice principal at Long Beach High School (N.Y.). Previously, he served as secondary assistant principal at middle and high schools in the Hempstead School District.

LUIS ESCOBAR-FERRAND (M.S. '01) is water industry segment manager for Festo Corporation in Hauppauge, N.Y. He has more than 15 years of engineering experience in the water/wastewater industry.

PATRICIA GOMEZ DINGER (D.O. '01) was featured in *Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare*. She is an allergist and immunologist at the Advanced Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Center in San Antonio, Texas.

SHARESSA GARLAND (B.F.A. '02) is owner of free-range sustainable Sugar Roots Farm in New Orleans, La.

JASON MCGRADIE (B.S. '02) is director of physician assistant, cardiovascular, and thoracic surgery in the Northwell Health System (formerly North Shore-LIJ) on Long Island.

ANTHONY RAGANELLA (B.S. '02) is a deputy inspector and decorated 20-year veteran with the New York Police Department. He serves as commanding officer of the Disorder Control Unit.

ROBERT GENTILE (B.F.A. '03) exhibited his graffiti-inspired artwork, "Paradigm Shift," at Shade Gallery in Phoenix, Ariz., in October.

ERIC SIEDEN (B.P.S. '03) serves as director of food and nutrition at Northwell Health System in Plainview, Glen Cove, and Syosset (N.Y.). "My NYIT degree has enhanced my career in that I get to give back to the community," he says.

BRETT R. SMITH (B.S. '03) is senior director for food and beverage product management at Oracle Hospitality in Redwood Shores, Calif. He has nearly 10 years of experience in restaurant management and 20 years in the hospitality technology industry.

VIRGINIA TOLEDO (B.F.A. '03) was named a Rising Star of Design by the New York chapter of the International Furnishings and Design Association. She is a principal for id 810 Design Group in New York City.

FAIRFIELD BAIN (M.B.A. '05) is founder and CEO of The Bain Group LLC, a veterinary consulting group in Virginia. He served as clinical professor of equine internal medicine and equine hospital section head at Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

MELISSA KUEHNLE (M.A. '05) is director of communications and external relations at St. Joseph's College. She is also a board member of Vision Long Island and second vice president of the Greater Patchogue (N.Y.) Chamber of Commerce. "At NYIT, I was able to combine my artistic ability with my writing and communication skills," she says.

TARIC MIRZA (M.B.A. '05) is chief technology officer and co-founder of Thalonet, a cloud-based software solution that helps improve the performance of private Internet networks.

KANTARAMA GAHIGIRI (M.A. '06) won Best Director at the 2015 Chelsea Film Festival in New York City for her movie, *Tapis Rouge*. A Fulbright Scholar, she chose NYIT because it gave her the opportunity to study full time while interning on TV and film sets. "The great thing about NYIT is that I had the freedom to gain hands-on experience as well as a more theoretical background," she says. chelseafilm.org/tapis-rouge

BRIJEN RAJPUT (M.B.A. '06) is senior vice president of online marketing at New York City-based Fareportal Inc. He chose NYIT because of its location. "The Manhattan campus is in the heart of New York City, where students can get easy access and opportunity to jobs and companies," he says.

VISHAL RATHOD (M.B.A. '06) is founder and CEO of VendorFrog, a startup that connects companies to IT vendors in Mumbai, India.

MELISSA ROSE (M.B.A. '06) is events manager at *Long Island Business News* and manages the publication's events, including Top CEO, Top 50 Women in Business, 40 Under 40, Leadership in Law, and others.

ICF International has named **RANDY RUTLEDGE (M.B.A. '06)** vice president and line of business leader for the company's public health systems in Atlanta, Ga.

SANDRA L. APONTE (M.B.A. '07) was recognized as a distinguished professional by *Women of Distinction Magazine*. A physician with specialties in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and cytopathology, she serves as laboratory director for Urology Group of New Jersey.

JIM EDWARDS (M.B.A. '07) is a senior vice president at Altair Global in Shelton, Conn. He oversees all aspects of global move



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

LEIGH CLARK (B.S. '03) and her husband, James, were featured on *The Rachael Ray Show* for their "random acts of kindness." During the holiday season, they surprised strangers with gifts and messages that reinforced positivity and spread holiday cheer. Clark also recently launched an online business, Kindleigh, to sell her inspirational art. All of Kindleigh's profits go back to making people happy. ■

Watch at bit.ly/Leigh-Clark

management, including strategy, pricing and negotiations and issue resolution.



Maureen Ekwu

YARTISH BULLOCK (M.A. '08) (pictured) is a senior account executive at Ethnic Technologies, a leader in multicultural marketing, research, data enhancements, and analysis in South Hackensack, N.J.

MELISSA DUDAS (D.O. '08) joined Health Quest Medical Practice's Division of Behavioral Health and works in Carmel, N.Y.

FRED HARRIS (B.S. '08, M.B.A. '10) joined Bank of America as a senior vice president in its Global End User Computing and Enterprise CTO organization.

JOANNE ILUSTRE (D.O. '08) joined Saint Francis Healthcare CardioVascular Health practice in Wilmington, Del. Ilustre completed an interventional cardiology fellowship at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia and a cardiology

fellowship at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill.

DEVANEY RAE (BAGGETT) BOURQUE (M.S. '09) is founder and director of Countless Joys Inc. in Lake Charles, La. The nonprofit helps fight human trafficking of children and teenagers.

JESSICA GALASSIE (M.B.A. '09) is a technical salesperson for JA Moody responsible for U.S. Navy and commercial accounts in its Norfolk, Va., office.

CRAIG SPERGEL (B.S. '09, D.O. '12) joined Access Health Care LLC as a hospitalist in Largo, Fla. He specializes in internal medicine.

2010s

NEIL BURGESS (B.S. '10) runs New York City-based Sure Measure LLC. The building measurement specialists provide existing condition and as-built drawings for architects, engineers, developers, and more.

MARIE E. DIDARIO (D.O. '10) is a staff psychiatrist at Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center in Toms River, N.J. Previously, she was a research/session assistant in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

THOMAS KENNY (M.A. '10) published *Producing New and Digital Media: Your Guide to Savvy Use of the Web*. He says, "Since graduating, I became an instructor of communications and director of media facilities at Molloy College, was accepted as a faculty fellow for the Television Academy, published my first textbook, and started my journey toward a Ph.D. All of this would not have been possible without NYIT." bit.ly/Thomas-Kenny

MICHAEL T. MARTIN (M.S. '10) is assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Webb Institute in Glen Cove, N.Y. He has more than 23 years of experience as a marine electrical engineer with specializations in electrical propulsion, power generation and distribution, lighting systems, navigation, and internal communications.

VICENTE NJOKU (M.S. '10) is a motivational speaker and author of *Success Plan and Positioning Strategy 7.0: Closing the Gap Between Your Primary Goal and a Successful Outcome*. He is also a co-author of *The Ultimate Success Guide: The World's Leading Experts Reveal Their Secrets for Success in Business and in Life*.

ELIZABETH HUTZLER (B.S. '11) is student life coordinator at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. She says, "At NYIT, I became a founding member of my sorority, an orientation leader, a first-

year experience mentor, co-editor for the newspaper, founding member of Freedom by Design, and a resident advisor. Being able to break out of my shell allowed me to realize that my true passion was to work at a university to help students."



Nicholas Mirnarevic

MIKHAIL VARSHAVSKI (B.S. '11, D.O. '14) (pictured) was recently named "Sexiest Doctor Alive" by *People Magazine*. The second-year resident is using social media to help promote a healthy lifestyle and encourage others to donate to his charity, the Limitless Tomorrow Foundation. Through grants and scholarships, the foundation aims to break the financial barrier for students struggling with financial difficulties. limitlesstomorrow.org

NANA GURGENIDZE (M.S. '12) is director of government relations for Adjaristsqali Georgia LLC, which is developing a \$400 million hydropower station that will produce 187 megawatts for the Georgian population.

STEVEN LAMENSDORF (B.S. '12) is vice president of business development for New York City marketing agency R2Integrated.

XUAN FANG (M.B.A. '13) is an executive director for TCL Multimedia Technology Holdings Limited in Shenzhen, China.

ROMAIN PERSUY (B.F.A. '13) of Lille, France, is a YouTube channel director for accounts that include CoverGirl and Pantene.

ALLEN NIST (B.S. '14) is an engineer for General Atomics Aeronautical Systems in Poway, Calif. "My degree from NYIT has made it an easy transition from the classroom to the engineering profession," he says. "Being an engineer for the leading unmanned aerial vehicle developer has been an amazing opportunity—and it would have never happened if I didn't receive such a great education from NYIT."

Marriages

STEPHANIE LANGDON (B.P.S. '09, M.A. '12) to Taishon S. Black

LAUREN CAMILLE PUESCHEL (D.O. '13) to James Allen Jr.

Passings

RICH TAPPIN (B.S. '73)

LOUIS PIOLI (B.S. '77)

LINDA CALANDRELLO (B.S. '97)

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NYIT Magazine welcomes submissions, story ideas, and feedback. Unsolicited manuscripts, related materials, photography, and artwork will not be returned. Please include your year of graduation, degree completed, and major or program of study.

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SUBMIT
ALUMNI NOTES

NEW JOB? ON THE MOVE?
TELL US AT [NYIT.EDU/ALUMNI_NOTES](mailto:alumni@nyit.edu)
OR MAGAZINE@NYIT.EDU.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Mike Marsico

(B.F.A. '96)

BY DAY: Mike “the Finger” Marsico is in charge of distributing [redacted] content worldwide via fiber or satellite for World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), which can be seen in more than 175 countries.

BY NIGHT: He also travels the country as a freelance program censor or “curse protector.” Yes, Marsico is the guy who bleeps out [redacted] obscenities from all kinds of live television programs. It’s a job that requires quick reflexes and a preternatural sense of anticipation. “I have a two-delay system. One gives me a second to censor, the other gives me five seconds,” he says. As for instinct? “I can certainly sense when a guest on a talk show will be trouble; after all these years, I guess I can tell.”

WHY MARSICO CHOSE NYIT: Marsico was always interested in media and communications, particularly video. NYIT’s Communication Arts program seemed like a great fit.

NYIT PROFESSOR WHO MENTORED MARSICO: “Arthur Boodaghian, a production manager for ABC Sports and a former NYIT professor. He taught a class called Sports Production, and he would roll a satellite production truck into a parking lot and teach us how to run the cables, the audio boards, the cameras, [redacted] how to power it up. I knew right from the start of that class what I wanted to do with my career. And it was Boodaghian who got me my first paying job as a production assistant for the ’96 presidential election. [redacted] I got to work side by side with Cokie Roberts and Peter Jennings.”

THE SHOW WITH MOST PRESSURE: The Super Bowl. With a live audience of more than 100,000 and 100 million-plus viewers watching at home, being [redacted] quick with the bleep button is critical.

CELEBRITY WITH HIGHEST FUN/FOUL-LANGUAGE RATIO: Kathy Griffin.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT NYIT STUDENTS: “Get an internship. It was the most important move of my career. [redacted] I started my career with an internship at the Sports Channel in New York while I was still in school; they ended up hiring me for a full-time job when I graduated.”

FAVORITE SHOWS MARSICO HAS BLEEPED: “Wrestlemania is the highlight of my year, and *The Saturday Night Live 40th Anniversary Special* was a lot of fun.” Also: *The Super Bowl*; *America’s Got Talent*; [redacted] *E! Talk Soup Live*; *Top Chef*; *Grammy Awards* (red carpet); *Faherty Live*; *Andy Cohen’s Watch What Happens Live*; and the WWE Network.

Watch Marsico in action: bit.ly/Marsico-Mike. ■

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SCENE AT NYIT

A macro photo of
integrated circuit chips.
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