Governor Cuomo
Announces $1.5 Billion Nanotech Consortium
Alumni Spotlight: Successful Leaders in Business

Nano Utica Announced

2014 SUNYIT Alumni Events

March
Utica Comets SUNYIT Night

April
Dallas Happy Hour
Washington, D.C. Happy Hour

May
Syracuse Happy Hour

June
Lake Placid Happy Hour
Buffalo Happy Hour

Mark your calendar:
Wildcat Weekend is Sept. 26-28!
More events to be announced.

Make sure you don’t miss these or other great opportunities to reconnect with your former classmates and friends. For details, stay tuned to the alumni events calendar at sunyit.edu/alumni/upcoming_events.

Are you receiving SUNYIT Alumni Event announcement e-mails? If not, be sure to send your e-mail address to alumni@sunyit.edu to join our mailing list!

On the cover: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announcing “Nano Utica,” a $1.5 billion nanotechnology consortium, during an October 2013 presentation in SUNYIT’s Student Center.
Photo by Lynne Browne ’04

Find out more!
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This publication is printed on recycled paper.
SUNYIT Welcomes Robert E. Geer

Acting president begins work

SUNYIT began the 2013-2014 academic year with a new leader at the helm. Robert E. Geer, whose appointment as acting president was approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees June 11, 2013, assumed his new role August 1. Geer, who holds a Ph.D. in Condensed Matter Physics from the University of Minnesota, succeeds SUNYIT’s fifth president, Bjong Wolf Yeigh, who recently accepted the position of chancellor at the University of Washington at Bothell.

Geer is vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) in Albany. He is also professor of nanotechnology and a founding member of the CNSE faculty.

“I look forward to working with SUNYIT students, faculty and staff during this exciting time of institutional growth and development,” Geer said. “SUNYIT is a unique member of the SUNY family, and I am pleased and privileged to have the opportunity to serve as its leader.”

As CNSE’s chief academic officer, Geer leads the development and implementation of academic degree and outreach programs. In his role as a member of the faculty, he leads various research projects in the fields of nanoelectronics, nanomaterials, and nanometrology.

Members of the SUNYIT community had opportunities to meet and greet Dr. Geer at the annual all-campus meeting and other events throughout the fall semester.

$500,000 STEM Scholarship Created

At SUNYIT’s 39th annual commencement on May 1, 2013, Dr. Theodore Max acknowledged the graduates and surprised everyone with the announcement of the largest single donation to support scholarships in SUNYIT’s history. Dr. Max and his wife, Melva, presented a check for $500,000 to President Yeigh, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Foundation, and future generations of students.

“Ted and Melva are staunch supporters of SUNYIT, and their generosity is truly remarkable,” Yeigh said. “This gift is intended to support science, technology, engineering and math programs, the so-called ‘STEM’ programs, recognizing SUNYIT’s need to meet society’s growing demand for professionals in these fields.”

Dr. Max is a longtime member of both the SUNYIT Foundation Board of Trustees and the SUNYIT College Council. A retired surgeon and educator, he earned an M.D. from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and a bachelor of science degree from Hobart College.

“Our gift is meant to recognize and support the opportunities that future SUNYIT students will have here,” Max told graduates. “I am sure those of you graduating today will find success in your chosen field, and someday, when you are at a point in your career where you have the means, I hope that you will remember this day and give back to SUNYIT.”
Many of us go about our banking needs from home or on one of our mobile devices, hopefully making things a little more convenient amid our busy lives. What it takes behind the scenes to manage the technology that makes it all possible for AmeriCU Credit Union is just another day’s work for Michelle Brundage.

A “three-time alum,” Brundage earned a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and went on to pursue a master’s degree in business management; she then earned the MBA in technology management. Her academic career began while she was working at Griffiss Air Force base in Rome, N.Y., and continued when she changed jobs. With its part-time offerings and online courses, Brundage says, SUNYIT was the perfect choice for her while she juggled higher education, working full-time and raising a family.

“The choices SUNYIT gave me allowed me to continue my education even though I was working and raising children. When the base was put on the closure list, I worked for a year at Rome Laboratory as a contractor. With all of the military cuts, I decided to take a programmer position at AmeriCU Credit Union, which was a more stable environment. While employed at the credit union, I worked on both of my master’s degrees and was promoted to my current position, Manager of Application Systems and Service.”

Today, Brundage manages the application systems at AmeriCU, including the banking system, home banking and mobile banking platforms, among others. She manages a group of programmers that provide automation, reporting and project support for many credit union projects and initiatives as well as being the project manager for many wide-scale credit union projects. Brundage also serves as a member of the Alumni Association Advisory Board.

While her computer information systems degree prepared her well for the information technology positions she held while at both Griffiss and at Rome-based AmeriCU, she says it was her MBA in technology management that touched upon all of the areas she is exposed to in her field today, such as project management, marketing and project development.

“What I learned at SUNYIT gave me a better understanding of my role in technology management along with enhancing my skills,” she says.

Although it was an unexpected career path from what she had originally intended, Brundage says it would not have been possible if not for the flexibility of and knowledge gained from her time at SUNYIT, something that will forever keep the school close to her mind and her heart.

“I’ve been a part of SUNYIT since the mid-’80s when I took courses that were offered on the base. I have seen SUNYIT grow into a wonderful institution that has a lot to offer this area. My son attends full-time and is currently a junior and loves it. He’s had a great experience.”
Jeff Monge ’92 G’95

Whether it’s as the Managing Partner at Monge Capital Group in New York City, or working to revitalize Harlem, Jeffrey Monge has been nothing but persistent – a trait that goes back to the time he first set foot on the SUNYIT campus.

With very few computer engineering and technology programs in New York State at the time, Monge said he was considering either the City University of New York (CUNY) or SUNYIT; and he knew he wanted out of the city. The road to SUNYIT, though, called on the strength and persistence that have become a trademark of his personality.

“They didn’t have dorms yet then, those were still a few years away. I was still waiting to get accepted when they had a ‘housing day,’ where students would go through orientation and get a list of available off-campus apartments,” Monge says. “For whatever reason, I still hadn’t gotten my admission approval yet, but that didn’t stop me. I rented a truck with a couple of folks and went up with everything that I had.”

Monge and his friends arrived on campus at 6 a.m. and slept in the U-Haul truck until the admissions office opened. However, once the doors opened, Monge had one more hurdle to clear.

“They said they hadn’t finished processing my admission. I told them that I had everything in a U-Haul in the parking lot and that they had to let me know if I was turning around to go back to the Bronx or not;” he recalls. “They came back five minutes later and said I was accepted. I found an apartment and moved in.”

It was still a rocky road that would try both Monge’s patience and strength, but also inspire him to bring about change on the campus. Landlord problems led Monge and his roommates to call SUNYIT staff member Carol Crooms; she discovered that the landlord had been blacklisted from the approved apartment rental list and registered under a false name. Crooms and her family helped the trio of students move out, and she had found them a new apartment the very next day.

“That was my welcoming party to SUNYIT,” he laughs.

Monge didn’t let it deter him from the reason he came to SUNYIT in the first place – getting the education he wanted. In his first year, he was vice president of the Student Association and president of the Latino Student Association, which won club of the year during his tenure. Monge also won the Dean’s Award for student activism.

It was those types of experiences in and out of the classroom that made Monge want to remain at SUNYIT for a graduate degree. And his involvement in extracurricular activities made him switch gears on his academic path.

“I really enjoyed the student government and everything I was doing, organizing and putting on events and advocating,” he remembers. “I wanted to try and change directions and going to grad school was an opportunity for me to do that. So I applied for grad school for a business management degree, applied for a fellowship and won.”

That involvement in government, events, and advocacy was forging a new career path for Monge, and although he didn’t know it then, it was also creating what became cherished memories of his time at SUNYIT.

“We pushed to have different types of cultural programming,” he says, “and I think it opened the eyes of a lot of students positively.”

In the years that followed, Monge has found success operating Monge Capital Group, providing advisory services and capital solutions for real estate projects with a focus on public/private partnerships. For more than a decade before that, Monge was working on economic development, even being part of a team that helped a startup organization utilize $250 million from the government to revitalize Harlem.

However, he says he would never have been prepared for all of his success and the tasks that lay ahead of him if it hadn’t been for his experiences at SUNYIT.

“Beyond all that I learned in the classroom, what I learned outside the classroom was an even greater lesson for me, because I learned how to organize, how to put together proposals, budgets, execute programming, public speaking and dealing with people from all walks of life,” he says. “It was a really good experience for a kid from the Bronx to spread his wings and experience more than just urban living.”
Before T.J. Allard became an actor, performer and Emmy-award-winning NBC producer, the self-proclaimed ‘tech nerd’ was a SUNYIT student.

“I had seen an article somewhere that SUNYIT was one of the Top Ten ‘most wired’ colleges in the country,” he said.

Seeing that one article soon led to an academic career that developed and encouraged his lifelong desire to create and know what makes things work. And with the Internet in its infancy, it was an exciting time to be studying technology.

“I saw the Internet for the first time at SUNYIT, and it was on a Netscape browser,” he said. “I had no clue at that time what it would turn out to be. I was a tech nerd, always into games, always tinkering with stuff, so it was a natural place for me to go to college.”

Since receiving a bachelor’s degree in business administration, Allard has put the knowledge and skills he gained at SUNYIT to work navigating the wild world of entertainment.

“I keep going back to Professor Kenneth Martin and the idea of keeping things simple,” Allard said of one of the biggest takeaways from his academic days. “There were times throughout my career that would come into my mind where I would picture him saying not to oversell it, don’t over explain. Just be on point, just stay on message.”

After graduation, he went to New York to pursue a career in television, landing on-air roles on several TV series, including “Good Day Live” and “3 Men and a Chick Flick.” A college education focusing on technology prompted him to delve deeper into the production side of entertainment, giving him the chance to create and pull entire projects together.

Today he is a supervising producer for NBC, creating numerous programs throughout the year, including “The Making of Motown: The Musical” and the behind-the-scenes holiday special “Radio City Christmas Spectacular.” And skills that he learned at SUNYIT, especially management organization, come in handy every day.

Allard won an Emmy Award in 2012 as a producer on a home construction show called “George to the Rescue,” in which host George Oliphant and a team of contractors and designers rescue the homes of deserving people. That show aired in NBC’s ten largest markets.

“Winning the Emmy for me wasn’t like what you see on television,” he laughs. “I got a certificate in the mail, and two months later I got the statue. I was in that portion of the program you hear an announcer say each year is ‘cut due to time.’”

Throughout all his success, all of the programs he has worked on both behind and in front of the camera, Allard says he has needed skills in working with others, organizing, budgeting, scheduling and many other administrative traits that he says all go back to his time at SUNYIT, a place he continues to recommend to the students and minds of tomorrow.

“I didn’t have to take out tens of thousands of dollars in loans while still getting a great education,” he said. “The technological aspect of it back then was such an appeal, and nowadays it’s a necessity in business. You have to have a certain set of skills in this line of work, and SUNYIT is the place where you can get those skills.”

“Alumni Spotlight
You have to have a certain set of skills in this line of work, and SUNYIT is the place where you can get those skills.”
On the basketball court, when the Campus Center first opened in the late 1980s, Terrence Buck learned a lot about teamwork. Today, he puts those skills to use assembling the best and brightest at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, where he serves as Principal Human Resources Representative and Diversity Specialist.

“I am responsible for recruiting, interviewing and hiring non-exempt level scientific/professional and administrative staff,” Buck says. “I provide career and job counseling for employees and act as an internal consultant to laboratory staff in providing guidance and interpretation of Human Resources policies and procedures.”

Buck also represents the laboratory at recruitment fairs and professional conferences, actively recruiting college students at both the undergraduate and graduate level for summer internships and Research Associate scientific staff positions.

“I also administer the High School Co-op and Youth on Campus programs and advise and mentor all students in the programs. Just recently I became the manager of AGEP-T FRAME, which stands for Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate – Transformation.” AGEP-T FRAME is a partnership between Stony Brook University, the Center for Inclusive Education, and Brookhaven National Laboratory with the National Science Foundation.

The path to success, Buck says, began with those first steps at SUNYIT and the opportunities it allowed him, including an internship in Utica. It was an experience that he says was key to skill-building for the future.

“Utica was working on their business district and my job was to have the businesses register, learn more about the city and help provide a brochure for the office,” he says. “My internship and my business studies at SUNYIT have helped me in everything I do today. I think it gave me a great foundation.”

Looking back on his time spent at SUNYIT, Buck says he has many fond memories. In the late 1980s, he was a member of one of the first basketball teams to play in what was then the campus’s new home for athletics, the Campus Center. And he also recalls a positive academic experience; small class sizes allowed him and his professors to get to know each other.
Anatoly Bondarchuk ’07

When small and medium-sized businesses need IT consulting for their networking, IP telephony and software support issues, they turn to places like BondarTech in Utica – a business whose founder gained the very foundation of his expertise at SUNYIT.

“I always had a passion for working with computers, ever since I got my first PC, which had 4mb of RAM,” said BondarTech owner Anatoly Bondarchuk. “I loved to break them and fix them.”

After graduating from SUNYIT with a bachelor's degree in computer information systems, Bondarchuk began working for Utica National Insurance as a member of the company’s web team. While taking on the role of Web Support Specialist was admittedly not his first choice – he wanted to be a network administrator at the time – Bondarchuk says he took the position because he needed a job.

“It was just like anyone would do, right out of college,” he says. “I then moved on to Adjusters International, working in their marketing department as an Internet marketing specialist, which went in line with the web support role I had at Utica National. While working full time, I would fix computers on the side for extra money.”

Those “on the side” repair jobs quickly began to grow. As the people Bondarchuk knew growing up made their own way into the professional world, he says they would always call “that computer kid from the neighborhood” when their office computers had a problem.

“Slowly but surely, they were calling me all through the day, more and more, as I was working my main job. I sometimes would even have to have a friend go at the times I couldn’t,” Bondarchuk says. “I started realizing that I had the makings of a business on my hands. I thought if I gave it a go and was available all day long, I’d need only so many assignments to get by at the start. Sure enough, it slowly got to the point where I could start my own business.”

So, Bondarchuk left his position at Adjusters International, a firm that would later become a client of his after he founded BondarTech. Bondarchuk has picked up many skills throughout his career path, but he says it was what he learned while at SUNYIT that laid the foundation of knowledge, dedication and drive that would steer him into the head seat of his own company.

“SUNYIT gave me the basic foundation for everything I do today. When I left SUNYIT, I had all the basic theory of what I would be doing in my career.”
Jeffrey Miller G’13

When Jeffrey Miller was thinking about going back to school for an MBA, he knew right away that traditional classroom learning would not be a viable option. His wife was pregnant with their first child, and they were living in Connecticut while Miller commuted to and from work in New York City. His job in the financial industry demanded long hours.

“I knew that going to classes wasn’t something that was going to work well. I didn’t want to give up weekends with a child on the way. I just knew that wasn’t something that would work out well with my lifestyle, so I went straight to looking at online programs,” Miller says.

Having graduated with a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Albany, he said he felt very comfortable with the idea of taking online courses through another SUNY institution. His choice: SUNYIT.

“For me, the most attractive thing was the fast-track program because I didn’t need to retake classes I had as an undergraduate,” he says. “I just wasn’t interested in retaking all those intro-level classes again.”

Unlike many college students, Miller’s “classroom” was often a commuter train. Each day travelling from home to work and back again, he did the bulk of his online coursework, taking it “slow and steady,” with one class per semester on the path to his goal.

“I would say that about 90 percent of my MBA was done on the train,” Miller says. “My train commute is a little above an hour, so having an hour where you’re forced to do something, it became the perfect time slot – an hour there, an hour home – to do the work. Working in IT, I had the luxury of having an ‘AirCard’ on my laptop, so I could sign in and do all the research, get into the online libraries for research and do most of the work on the train.”

Now the chief technology officer at Serengeti Asset Management in New York, Miller has found that online learning’s unique opportunities – beyond the content of the coursework – were valuable as well.

“Doing it remotely and trying to coordinate everyone’s schedule, it improved my planning, coordinating and communication skills,” he says.

The flexibility of SUNYIT’s online courses allowed Miller to continue his education and advance his career without changing his lifestyle. And these days, with his degree complete, he’s found other ways to pass the time on the train.

“I’ve traded my classes for a Netflix account,” he jokes. “Every TV show and movie that I missed out on when I was doing my MBA, I’ve now caught up on.”
Alumni Spotlight

Frank Mancari ’94 G’06

With $1.2 billion in assets, the Empower Federal Credit Union in Syracuse and its 360 employees are responsible for the financial activities of thousands of members. And with those numbers continuing to rise, Empower Director of Data Analysis Frank Mancari has a lot of data to analyze.

At Empower, Mancari handles statistical accounting, cost accounting, and the operations of the customer information file – tasks and challenges that he says he is able to meet, thanks to what he learned in the classroom. It was the experiences Mancari had as a SUNYIT student, first as an undergraduate, and especially while pursuing his graduate degree, that helped set him on a career path in data analysis.

Originally from North Syracuse, Mancari transferred to SUNYIT in 1993; he says the ease of the transfer process helped draw him here. He enjoyed the undergraduate business program so much that when his employer offered to pay so that he could pursue a graduate degree in business, he returned.

“They offered online classes as well as on campus and they were in the process of getting accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, which I knew would be very beneficial for SUNYIT and myself,” Mancari says. “To say I graduated from a program that’s one of the top five percent in the world is pretty great.”

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Mancari’s current employer is the result of the two largest credit unions in Syracuse (Empire and Power) merging in 2006. Since then Empower has grown in assets, branches, members and employees and is looking forward to continual growth in the years ahead. With that will come the need for more employees, and Mancari says anyone going into his field or others would get a big recommendation from him to give SUNYIT a try.

“I’d tell them this is a very good place. It’s a beautiful campus with some of the best facilities around. It’s got dedicated faculty and when you get out of there, whether you want to start your own business or work as anything from an engineer to a nurse, these are career path programs…that lead to actual jobs,” Mancari says. “If you have a job in mind when you graduate this is the place to be.”
Dennis Elsenbeck ’87

For Dennis Elsenbeck, it’s all about connecting the dots. As Regional Executive for National Grid’s Western Division, Elsenbeck is responsible for representing the company in public affairs, community relations and network alignment, as well as the region’s large commercial and industrial customers in terms of energy sales, reliability, service and strategic planning.

At the root of all his responsibilities and industry knowledge is a fundamental understanding that issues to be overcome are, as he calls them, nothing more than disconnected points of objectives that are just out in space and waiting to be brought together in the correct order. It’s an understanding that flourished while he was a student at SUNYIT.

“The whole curriculum of industrial engineering was connecting the dots,” Elsenbeck says. “I found that was my base experience. My fundamental goal is understanding where the disconnects are and then rallying the individuals and processes so the connect points are seamless.”

When Elsenbeck was a SUNYIT student, the college was located in its temporary quarters, primarily in former mills buildings, but the move to the permanent campus in Marcy remains one of the most vivid of his SUNYIT memories to this day.

“It was just a demonstration to me that it was a right choice and right school to go to because it demonstrated a very progressive view of what was happening in the industry at the time,” he says.

Building on his SUNYIT bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering, Elsenbeck went on to earn a master’s degree in engineering from the University at Buffalo and an MBA from the University of Rochester. On top of all his responsibilities with National Grid, he also chairs the Dean’s Council for the University of Buffalo’s School of Engineering – work that he thinks could see big results locally if applied in the Mohawk Valley.

“Our younger folks are leaving the area because ‘there are no jobs available,’ but if you look to your local business, especially local industrial companies, they’re begging for people. There’s a gap in skill set,” he says, adding that interest in science, math and technology by students needs reinforcement early in the educational pipeline.

Fortunately, Elsenbeck says future opportunities will be plentiful, as many industries will experience a large gap between their work needs and skilled workers available for hire over the next five to ten years, given the age of their current workforce. It’s with reasons like this in mind that he now serves on economic development agencies and UB’s Engineering Council.

“You can clearly see the gap when you look at it from both an economic development perspective and academic perspective,” he says.

That perspective, the cornerstone of which was built at SUNYIT, is allowing Elsenbeck to play a guiding hand in the future of engineering and industry by doing what he does best: connecting the dots.

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Architect’s rendering of the CNSE-SUNYIT Computer Chip Commercialization Center (Quad-C).
**Nano Utica Announced**

SUNYIT faculty, staff and students were among the hundreds of attendees who filled the Student Center multipurpose room to capacity for Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s October 10 announcement of ‘Nano Utica,’ a $1.5 billion public-private investment that will make the Mohawk Valley New York’s next major hub of nanotech research. Those in attendance said the announcement bodes well for SUNYIT and the entire region.

“The spin-off impact of Nano Utica, on both [SUNYIT] and the greater community, will be enormous,” said Steve Schneider, professor of political science. “Building on the work of the Governor’s Regional Economic Development Councils, SUNYIT is poised to play a central role in the economic development of the Mohawk Valley.”

*Read the full text of the Governor’s announcement at: governor.ny.gov/press/10102013-nano-utica*

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**Quad-C**

In support of the leadership and vision of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and in partnership with the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering (CNSE), the $125 million Computer Chip Commercialization Center (Quad-C) at SUNYIT is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014. The 253,000 sq. ft. Quad-C facility, which will include 56,000 sq. ft. of Class 1 capable cleanroom space, will host public-private partnerships through Governor Cuomo’s $1.5 billion ‘Nano Utica’ initiative, a consortium spearheaded by CNSE and SUNYIT that includes leading technology companies such as Advanced Nanotechnology Solutions Incorporated (ANS), SEMATECH, Atotech, and SEMATECH and CNSE partners, including IBM, Lam Research and Tokyo Electron. With an annual operating budget to exceed $500 million, the Quad-C will result in the creation of 1,500 high-tech jobs, groundbreaking academic programs, and cutting-edge workforce training opportunities.
Wildcat Weekend 2013 events & activities!

Save the Date
Wildcat Weekend 2014
September 26 – 28
Kool Fulbright Specialist in India

Psychology of nonviolence in homeland of Mahatma Gandhi

V. K. Kool, professor of psychology, served as a Fulbright Specialist in India during the spring 2013 semester. The Fulbright Specialist Program (FSP) promotes linkages between U.S. academics and professionals and their counterparts at host institutions overseas. The program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals, in select disciplines, to engage in short-term collaborative 2 to 6 week projects at host institutions in over 100 countries worldwide. Kool was hosted by Mysore University, Mysore, India.

“My experience as a Fulbright Specialist in India was very interesting, especially owing to the fact that I was focusing on the psychology of nonviolence in the homeland of Mahatma Gandhi,” Kool said. “While in academic disciplines such as history, political science and others, I have observed a phenomenal growth in issues concerning nonviolence. The field of psychology in India needs a great deal of attention on such issues of peace and nonviolence.”

Kool delivered lectures and spoke at a number of business, professional and academic forums at several colleges and universities, including: Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar; KLE University’s Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum; Rani Channama University, Belagavi; Mahatma Gandhi University, Kotayam; Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati; North Eastern Regional Institute of Management, Guwahati; Harish Chandra Post Graduate College, Varanasi; and Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya College, Varanasi. He is currently serving a five-year term on a roster of Fulbright Specialists.

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100 Seymour Road
Utica, NY 13502

Phone: 315-792-7110
Fax: 315-792-7266
E-Mail: alumni@sunyit.edu
Making SUNYIT better known internationally – that’s the goal of Tze Teck Sim ’99. And since joining the SUNYIT staff as an international admissions counselor in 2013, he has done just that. “As an alum, it’s been especially meaningful for me to travel abroad, representing SUNYIT internationally. I’ve met with many enthusiastic students who truly wanted to be part of the SUNYIT community.” After graduating from SUNYIT with a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems, Tze Teck worked as a database administrator for Special Metals in New Hartford and Hamilton College; prior to joining the SUNYIT admissions team, he served as senior system analyst and director of international programs at Herkimer County Community College.

Share your story: Participate in the Admissions Alumni Ambassador Program

Influence the next generation of SUNYIT students! Help give college-bound students a perspective on the value of a SUNYIT degree. Share your experiences alongside one of our admissions counselors at college fairs across the state and New England.

sunyit.edu/admissions/alumniambassadors
NEAC Championships of one kind or another. In addition, the same three teams also saw their top players take home NEAC Player of the Year honors, and all three coaches received the NEAC Coach of the Year Award.

Men’s Soccer:
A Season to Remember

After winning back-to-back NEAC Championships in 2010 and 2011, the men’s soccer team finished 9-7-2 in 2012 and lost in the first round of the NEAC Tournament in a penalty-kick shootout to Penn St.-Harrisburg.

Before the 2013 season, head coach Peter-son Jerome made a remark regarding the large recruiting class he’d brought in:

“We needed to do that in order to set the tone and let guys know that 9-7-2 (the previous year’s record) is not acceptable. For a lot of programs that’s a successful year; for us it’s a disappointment and I’ve had to live with that for a year . . . it didn’t sit well with me and I let them know every chance I got that 9-7-2 wasn’t acceptable.”

Coach Jerome’s words combined with SUNYIT bringing back two former players of the year for their senior seasons had Wildcat fans expecting a successful 2013 campaign. But even the most optimistic wouldn’t have imagined the year men’s soccer would turn in: with an overall record of 16-2-2, the Wildcats demolished the previous program record for most wins in a season. In recording a 7-1 NEAC record, the team won the NEAC regular season championship along with the conference tournament championship, a weekend that included a thrilling penalty kick victory over Morrisville State College in the championship game.

Coming up huge in the shootout was senior goalkeeper Malick Faye (Bronx, N.Y. / MLK), who had a season that will likely never be matched at SUNYIT. Faye recorded a .908 save percentage and a .40 goals-against-average, placing him 2nd in the nation in both categories. With 11 shutouts, Faye was named the NEAC Goalkeeper of the Year for the 4th-consecutive season, received his second career Player of the Year Award, and was named a 1st-Team All East Region goalkeeper by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

Cross Country Shines at Home

A hidden gem of SUNYIT’s athletic facilities is its outstanding cross country course located opposite Oriskany Residence Hall on Residential Drive. It’s a true cross country course, with a full 8-kilometer route through a heavily wooded area; at no point do runners have to touch any pavement, as is often the case at other courses. Most years the Wildcats will host only one race, the SUNYIT Short Course Invitational at the beginning of the season. In 2013, however, the course was on full display, as the Wildcats hosted three events. Part of it was strategy – one of those races was to be the NEAC championship in November. Come championship time, SUNYIT coach Bill Tylutki wanted to make sure his runners were as familiar with their home course as possible.
And they were. After placing third in each of their two regular season meets at home, the Wildcats blew the competition away in November’s championship meet. All five of SUNYIT’s scoring runners placed in the top 10 overall, with sophomore Derek Struck (Knox, N.Y. / Berne-Knox-Westerlo) winning the race and breaking his own course record (which he had set just a month prior at the Wildcat Weekend Invitational on September 28).

Following Struck were seniors Dylan Parry (Voorheesville, N.Y. / Voorheesville) and Chris Wicks (Baldwinsville, N.Y. / C.W. Baker), who finished their NEAC careers with 4th and 5th place finishes. For their efforts, all three were named to the NEAC All-Conference 1st Team, with Struck taking home Runner of the Year for his record-setting championship performance.

The maestro of SUNYIT’s symphonic race was also honored, as Bill Tylutki received his second NEAC Coach of the Year award. Tylutki gave all credit to his team, saying that due to the tenacity and durability of his 2013 squad, he was able to design workouts that he hadn’t used “since back when I was training for marathons.”

On the women’s side, the team continued to develop in 2013, taking a huge step forward in the form of first-year runner Sarah Murphy (New Hartford, N.Y. / Notre Dame). Murphy led the Wildcats throughout the year, and in particular showed tremendous improvement over SUNYIT’s three home races. After finishing 42nd in the first race at SUNYIT on August 31, Murphy jumped to 20th in the Wildcat Weekend Invitational on September 28, and in the NEAC Championship on November 2 vaulted all the way to 7th place, the highest place ever for a SUNYIT women’s cross country runner and good for a spot on the NEAC All-Conference 1st Team.

Strong Second Half for Women’s Soccer

The 2013 SUNYIT Women’s Soccer season was an exercise in resilience. The Wildcats opened the year with one of the toughest early-season schedules in recent memory, as SUNYIT’s first four opponents would all go on to finish the season with winning records, posting a combined mark of 44-26-4.

To the team’s credit, after a 1-8 start to the year, the team finished the year 7-2-1, winning four straight to close the regular season, including a clutch 5-0 win against Morrisville on Senior Day to clinch a spot in the NEAC Tournament. The Wildcats went on to lose to conference power Lancaster Bible College in the NEAC quarterfinal, but gave the Chargers a run for their money with a Kristina Strang goal in the 85th minute to pull the ‘Cats to pull within one.

Other Highlights

Senior Stephanie Wurz (Whitesboro, N.Y. / Notre Dame) tied the all-time program record by finishing her career with 33 goals; she led the Wildcats with 15 scores in 2013.

Seniors Abbey Hanahan (Stillwater, N.Y. / Stillwater) and Kristina Strang (Rotterdam, N.Y. / Schalmont) finished out their careers as two of SUNYIT’s top-10 all-time scorers. Wurz and Hanahan joined sophomore Erica Maisonet (Defense) in being named to the NEAC All-Conference Second Team.

Women’s Volleyball Wins 24 Consecutive Matches

The success of the SUNYIT men’s soccer team was no surprise for a program that had already won two championships in three years. That wasn’t the case for the 2013 SUNYIT women’s volleyball team, which rebounded from a disappointing 12-22 finish in 2012 to post a school-record mark of 29-5 in 2013. The turnaround included a 24-match winning streak that was the longest active streak in the nation at the time. The Wildcats finished 9-1 in the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) as well, earning a share of the NEAC Regular Season Championship.

For her passionate leadership and outstanding play, senior Kaitlyn Harrington (Central Square, N.Y. / Paul V. Moore) was selected the NEAC Player of the Year, the first SUNYIT player to receive that honor since Juleah Vedder did it for the Wildcats in 2009. Engineering the 17-win improvement from a season ago was head coach Jake Bluhm. Bluhm, in his third season with the Wildcats, was voted NEAC Coach of the Year.

Senior Taviot Jackowski (LaFayette, N.Y. / LaFayette), who co-captained the 2013 squad along with Harrington, was named to the NEAC All-Conference 1st Team as a setter. After suffering a season-ending injury midway through the 2012 season, Jackowski – an excellent student and recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Scholar-Athlete Award – chose to return to SUNYIT to pursue an MBA degree, enabling her to use her final year of eligibility. Sophomore libero Erika Reakes (Central Square, N.Y. / Paul V. Moore) was selected to the All-Conference 2nd Team, and senior Hanne Saarinen (Lempaala, Finland / Tampereen Lyseon Lukio) finished her SUNYIT career by making the All-NEAC 3rd Team, her first selection to an All-NEAC team.
Class Notes and SUNYIT Memories

1970s
George Coman-Lavery ’78 resides in Boston, Mass., and is employed by the Massachusetts Department of Health Systems.

1980s
Paul N. Austin, ’80 CRNA, Ph.D., was awarded the 2013 John F. Garde Researcher of the Year Award by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Foundation at their 2013 Annual Meeting. The award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the practice of anesthesia through clinical research. Paul graduated from the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center School of Nursing in 1978, SUNYIT (BSN) in 1980, the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps Anesthesia Program/George Washington University in 1985, University of Buffalo School of Nursing (M.S.) in 1990 and the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing (Ph.D.) in 2001. Paul retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2005 and currently is a professor at Texas Wesleyan University.

Darryl Burgess ’83 is currently employed as an industrial engineering manager for Triumph Aerospace in Milledgeville, Ga.

2000s
Jon-Paul Kidwell ’01 recently accepted the position of assistant administrator at Rome Center For Rehab & Healthcare – a Long-Term Care facility in Rome, N.Y. J.P. resides in Utica with his wife Christina and sons Ethan and Benjamin.

Marc O’Shea ’01 is a self-employed professional painter living in New Haven, Conn.

Jacob Yerdon ’02 G’04 is a senior web/application developer for Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Mass.

Yuliana Klusmeyer ’04 lives in Remsen, N.Y., and is employed as an accounting technician for Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) in Rome, N.Y.

Robert J. Lyford G’04 recently relocated to Arizona to join Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith in Phoenix as an associate attorney. Lewis Brisbois is a national law firm with 900 attorneys in 31 offices in 16 states.

Elizabeth Crawford ’05 lives in Utica, N.Y., and is employed as a sales executive for Mele Companies, Inc.

Chelagat Misiko ’05, G’12 is the owner of CNM Accounting.

1990s
Pat Newell ’90 is currently a sports reporter for The Evening Sun in Chenango County.

Tony Perugino ’92 was named chief financial officer of Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Glenn Mathews ’94 lives in Lackawanna, N.Y. and works as the senior manager of customer relations for Buffalo Bills Football in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Judith (Bender) Finn ’95 works as a credentialing specialist for the North Shore-LIJ Health System and resides in Manhasset, N.Y.

Michel Joseph ’96 resides in Central Islip, N.Y., and works as an operations manager for the City of New York.

Rachel Bain ’97 was named as Vice President of the New York State Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Inc. (NYSASC) by the Board of Directors. Rachel is also the Director of Nursing at North Country Orthopedic Ambulatory Surgery Center in Watertown, N.Y. She previously worked at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown for 20 years in various nursing positions. She earned an Associate’s Degree of Applied Science in Nursing at Jefferson Community College and a B.S. at SUNYIT. She is currently completing her Master of Science in Nursing Administration. She holds professional accreditations of Certification in Operating Room Nursing (CNOR), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Basic Life Support (BLS). Besides being an active member of the NYSASC since 2002, she is a member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses, American Nurses Association, Order of The Eastern Star and a member of the Redwood Volunteer Fire Department.

Mike Evans ’99 was recently promoted to senior project coordinator for the Fortus Group and will oversee a variety of key accounts nationwide. Mike joined the Fortus Group in November 2012 as a project coordinator and has helped recruit health care professionals across the country.

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Darryl Burgess ’83 is currently employed as an industrial engineering manager for Triumph Aerospace in Milledgeville, Ga.

Patricia (Greenwood) Davis ’83 works at the Norwich Campus of Morrisville State College as a senior staff assistant – Student Services and resides in Earlville, N.Y.

Allen Styno ’84 was recently recognized for his 25 years of service to SUNY System Administration at the 2013 Service Recognition Awards Ceremony.

Dr. Tyrone L. Bennett ‘88 recently celebrated the grand opening of Math-Infusion, LLC, located in Deer Park, N.Y. Math-Infusion, LLC is an educational company that teaches techniques through hands-on experiences and uses those means to increase student performances, team work, and respect for math. Dr. Bennett serves in the role of education consultant for the company.

Yiannos Georgiéades ’88 is the head of physical security of Cyprus Telecommunications. He would like to find and contact his classmates and teammates from the Wildcat Soccer Team for 1987-1988.

Rachel Bain ’97 was named as Vice President of the New York State Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Inc. (NYSASC) by the Board of Directors. Rachel is also the Director of Nursing at North Country Orthopedic Ambulatory Surgery Center in Watertown, N.Y. She previously worked at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown for 20 years in various nursing positions. She earned an Associate’s Degree of Applied Science in Nursing at Jefferson Community College and a B.S. at SUNYIT. She is currently completing her Master of Science in Nursing Administration. She holds professional accreditations of Certification in Operating Room Nursing (CNOR), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Basic Life Support (BLS). Besides being an active member of the NYSASC since 2002, she is a member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses, American Nurses Association, Order of The Eastern Star and a member of the Redwood Volunteer Fire Department.

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Elizabeth Crawford ’05 lives in Utica, N.Y., and is employed as a sales executive for Mele Companies, Inc.

Chelagat Misiko ’05, G’12 is the owner of CNM Accounting.

James Ebersold ’83 of Slingerlands, N.Y., completed his MBA at the University at Albany in August of 2013. James graduated with a 3.9 GPA and was member of the business honor society – Beta Gamma Sigma.
Ryutaro Teraoka ‘05 is working as an associate manager for Toshin Electric Corporation in Osaka, Japan.

Kenneth Daspin ‘07 lives in Syracuse, N.Y., and works for the Department of Defense/New York Army National Guard in human resources.

Jake DiBari ‘08 has been named as the City of Rome’s new Director of Community and Economic Development. He will oversee city projects such as waterfront development and work on regional, state and federal projects such as brownfield opportunities and housing initiatives. Jake is also a board member of Rome Clean & Green and is a member of the Regional Economic Development Council’s energy policy group. He currently resides in Rome with his wife, Lori.

Kieran Burns ‘09 lives in Staten Island, N.Y., and is employed as a program director for United Activities Unlimited and Public School 55.

Chris Dare ‘09 was selected to become a U.S. Naval Officer in July 2013. He will start training to become a Naval Aviator shortly after becoming commissioned.

Gregory Greveling ‘09 is a Naval Officer for the U.S. Navy.

2010s

Michael Blandford G’11 is currently living in Clearwater, Fla.

Tina Bowdish ‘11 lives in Rochester, N.Y., and is employed as a financial administrator at the University of Rochester.

Jonathan Brugger ‘11 lives in New Holland, Pa., and works as a test engineer at CNH Global.

Konstantin Brutsky ‘11 works as a risk manager at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Utica, N.Y.

Melissa Ciaccia ‘11 is employed as an institutional safety officer at the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision in Albany. She resides in Selkirk, N.Y.

Grace Coons ‘11 is a RN shift supervisor at Teresian House in Albany, N.Y.

Matthew Crumb ‘11 works as an identity engineer for Identropy and is living in Chicago, Ill.

David Harrington G’11 is a software engineer at Xerox in Webster, N.Y.

Daniel Hebert ‘11 is a partner/attorney and counselor at law for Morrisroe Hebert LLP located in Utica, N.Y.

Darlene Henry ‘11 is the cosmetics manager at Macy’s in New Hartford, N.Y.

Megan Kosowski ‘11 is employed as a staff RN at Faxton-St. Luke’s Hospital in Utica, N.Y.

Kelley McAfee ‘11 began attending UMass Amherst as a full time Ph.D. student in fall 2013.

Aleksey Panasyuk G’11 is currently attending graduate school at Syracuse University for a Ph.D. in Computer Science. Aleksey is employed as an associate computer scientist at Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in Rome, N.Y.

Paul Piacentink G’11 lives in Utica, N.Y., and is employed as a Commercial Lines Middle Market Underwriter at Utica National Insurance Group.

Timothy Stalnaker ‘11 is attending graduate school at Syracuse University College of Law. He is currently employed as an inventory control specialist at Walmart in Rome, N.Y.

Ashley Wieczerzak ‘11 lives in Port Leyden, N.Y., and works as a contract specialist at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in Rome, N.Y.

LaToya Workman ‘11 is attending graduate school at Utica College in pursuit of a master’s degree in cybersecurity. She works as a telecom specialist at Mohawk Regional Information Center in Verona, N.Y.

Amanda Zionc ‘11 lives in Rome, N.Y., and is employed as a business office manager at Valley View Manor in Norwich, N.Y.

Theodore Ayoub III ‘12 lives in Stafford, Va., and is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Marines Corps in Quantico, Va.

Holly Bacon ‘12 is employed as a senior adjustment researcher at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in Atlanta, Ga.

Alex Baer ‘12 works as a mortgage processor 2 at M&T Bank in Ballston Lake, N.Y.

Tiffany Baye G’12 is a human resources coordinator at Chobani, Inc. in New Berlin, N.Y.

Kristin Betzenhauser ‘12 is a business intelligence developer at Northern Safety & Industrial in Frankfort, N.Y.

Stephanie Bouch G’12 lives in Mohawk, N.Y., and is employed as an instructor of nursing at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Utica, N.Y.

Laura (Fuller) Chrisman ‘12 is employed as a social worker for the State of Vermont and resides in Barre, Vt.

Cassandra Christman ‘12 lives in Gloversville, N.Y., and is employed as a home health aide at Top Quality Home Care.

Renata Conde G’12 lives in Albany, N.Y., and works as a nurse practitioner at Cape Fear Cancer Specialist in Wilmington, N.C.

Josh Duffy ‘12 is employed as an environmental technician at Sienna Environmental in Buffalo, N.Y.

Dorothy ‘Dee’ Facci G’12 is employed as a Lean6 Consultant for Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) in Rome, N.Y.

Peter Faseun ‘12 lives in Albany, N.Y., and works as a senior systems analyst at Albany Medical Center.
Mike Foppes '12 lives in Clinton, N.Y., and is employed as an associate relations manager at Hannaford in Clinton.

Rhiannon Hickox '12 lives in Rome, N.Y. She is attending graduate school at Binghamton University for a master’s degree in social work.

Teresa Huang '12 is employed as a case planner for the Chinese-American Planning Council in New York, N.Y.

Danielle Hurtbert ’12 is the Director of Communications and Development at the Utica Zoo in Utica, N.Y.

Brandon Jones G’12 is employed as an accountant at Fitzgerald, DePietro, and Wojnas CPAs in Utica, N.Y.

Daniel Joslin G’12 lives in Fayetteville, N.Y., and works as a program manager at Ravenglass Technologies in Manlius, N.Y.

Anne Lalonde G’12 is the owner/proprietor of North Country Family Health NP, PLLC in Ogdensburg, N.Y.

George Lorber ’11 lives in Solvay, N.Y., and works as an application engineer 3 at Cisco Systems in Syracuse, N.Y.

Christine Marsden ’12 works as a support investigator for Herkimer County and lives in Little Falls, N.Y.

Cindy Marshall G’12 lives in Munnsville, N.Y., and is employed as a FNP-BC at Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton, N.Y.

Brian Maum ’12 is attending graduate school at SUNYIT for an M.S. in Network and Computer Security. He is employed as an IT Support Specialist at ConMed Corporation in Utica, N.Y.

Daniel Mayer ’12 lives in Scotia, N.Y., and works as an Information Technology Specialist 2: Programming at NYS Department of Education in Albany, N.Y.

William O’Mara G’12 lives in Clinton, N.Y., and works as a project manager at PAR Government Systems Corp. in Rome, N.Y.

Rosalyn Powell '12 is a self-employed photographer in Seattle, Wash.

Audrianna Raciti ’12 lives in Yorkville, N.Y., and is currently attending graduate school at SUNYIT for a master’s degree in Family Nurse Practitioner. She is employed as a RN at Faxton-St. Luke’s in Utica, N.Y.

Stephanie Richard ’12 is employed as a habilitation services specialist at Upstate Cerebral Palsy and resides in Herkimer, N.Y.

Suryeduth Sadhoo ’12 lives in Valley Stream, N.Y. He is currently attending graduate school at St. Scholastica for a master’s degree in Health Information Management. He is employed as a HIM Director at A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility in Uniondale, N.Y.

Joseph Santelli ’12 is employed as a Software Tester at QualiTest in Fairfield, Conn.

Bryan Schur ’12 lives in Gloversville, N.Y., and is employed as a manager’s assistant at Enterprise Holdings, Inc., in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Eric Sedlacek ‘12 lives in Jacksonville, N.C., and works as an assistant resident engineer at North Carolina Department of Transportation in Williamson, N.C.

Chris Specht ‘12 works as an AV specialist at Utica College.

Jeffrey Sperebeck ‘12 works as a financial assistant at the Bank of Richmondville in Cobleskill, N.Y.

Kelly Strine ’12 lives in Canastota, N.Y., and is currently attending graduate school at SUNYIT for a M.S. degree in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner. Kelly is employed as a RN at St. Joseph’s Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, N.Y.

Justiin Thompson ’12 lives in Herkimer, N.Y., and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in criminal justice at Grand Canyon University. He is employed as a visual security officer at Macy’s in New Hartford, N.Y.

Dennis Thoryk G’12 works as a library media specialist at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, N.Y.

A. Carol Towers ’12 lives in Binghamton, N.Y., and is a community services worker for Broome County.

Michelle Tucker G’12 works as a video producer at SUNYIT and lives with her family in Whitesboro, N.Y.

Julieah (Vedder) Wanner ’12 works as a prevention counselor at the Insight House in Utica, N.Y.

Glenda Whittaker ’12 is a RN at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Utica, N.Y.

Jonathan Williams ’12 lives in Schenevus, N.Y., and is employed as a takeoff technician at Jett Industries in Colliersville, N.Y.

Michael Wojtowecz ’12 is employed as a process engineer at GlobalFoundries, Inc., in Malta, NY.

Terry Wormuth ’12 works as a designer/analyst at United Technologies in Syracuse, N.Y.

Stacy Wurz ’12 is pursuing a master’s degree in Information Design and Technology at SUNYIT. She lives in Cold Brook, N.Y., and is employed as a marketing assistant at Utica National Insurance Group.

Yoshiaki Yasuda ’12 lives in Tokyo, Japan and works at the Adirondack Cafe in Tokyo.

Shae Lynn Zelazowski ’12 is a receptionist at Mohawk Glen Imaging in Rome, N.Y.

To submit your Class Notes and SUNYIT Memories, please contact the SUNYIT Alumni Office at alumni@sunyit.edu or call 315-792-7110.
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