HONORING OUR HEROES

Poly Pays Tribute to U.S. Marines Sixth Communication Battalion of Brooklyn

President Chang presents a plaque to Lt. Col. Mark Ferketish, commanding officer of the Sixth Communication Battalion, in recognition of the battalion’s actions in Iraq.
Poly Salutes Hometown Heroes at Inaugural Sports Day

With boisterous fanfare, speeches and commendations from state and local politicians, Polytechnic honored the marine reserves of the Sixth Communication Battalion of Brooklyn, recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq. The event coincided with the University’s inaugural Sports Day at Floyd Bennett Field, held September 13. The battalion’s base is adjacent to Polytechnic’s soccer fields at Floyd Bennett.

"We are here today to launch our first annual soccer tournament, but also, first and foremost, to celebrate and show our appreciation to America’s heroes," Polytechnic President David C. Chung told the assembled marines, who numbered nearly 300. "We salute you."

Lt. Col. Richard Siracusa, representing Governor George Pataki’s office, said, "I know the sacrifices these soldiers have made in their lives to serve our country. Today we are here to thank the Sixth Communication Battalion for its role in Operation Enduring Freedom. I want to also thank Polytechnic University for recognizing our soldiers and welcoming them home."

Ellen F. Hartigan, vice president for student affairs and alumni development, read a citation from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, who proclaimed Saturday, September 13, 2003, as "Sixth Communication Battalion Day in Brooklyn."

"The energy and love we received from Brooklyn kept us strong. Your marines have done proud by you."

— Lt. Col. Mark Ferletich

New York State Senator Carl Andrews also presented citations to the battalion, expressing gratitude for the marine reserve corps protecting "the well-being and safety of not only Brooklyn."

The Jackie Robinson "Steppers" Marching Band perform during the ceremony.
but the whole United States."

Lt. Col. Mark Ferkenish, commanding officer of the Sixth Communication Battalion, said in response, "These men and women standing before you keep you proud. On January 29, we went on active duty and reported to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, prepared to board. We then went through the breach in Iraq, supporting our mission, as we faced the enemy. The energy and love we received from Brooklyn kept us strong. Your marines have done proud by you."

Although weather reports foretold heavy rain, the skies cleared after the ceremony for a good day for sports as Poly students, staff, faculty and alumni cheered on the Blue Jays as they bested Cooper Union 3-2 on the first of a two-day soccer tournament. The Blue Jays went on to lose, 9-1, the next day to the Lycoming College Warriors of Pennsylvania. The Jackie Robinson "Steppers" Marching Band (featured in the 2001 film "Our Song") gave an inspiring performance during the games and the honoring ceremony.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP 1. Jarrett Huddleston, forward, a freshman electrical engineering student, attacks the Cooper Union goal. 2. The honor guard of the Sixth Communication Battalion marching during the ceremony. 3. Forward Heath Gammon, a freshman mechanical engineering major, dribbles past two Cooper Union Defenders.
A Game-Winning Plan for Poly

First Volleyball, Then Basketball, now soccer. In a few short years, Polytechnic has transformed its athletic program—pairing academic scholarships and the chance to play on brand-new courts and fields into a hard-to-refuse recruitment pitch.

In 2002, while the Blue Jays' men's volleyball team defended its championship title, the men's basketball team captured its first trophy in over 20 years with the help of a new star center—the six-foot-seven French-Canadian, Abou Bamba. This year, the soccer team is hoping to follow in their footsteps, and towards that end it has recruited Jarriot Huddleston, a former All-State midfielder from Kentucky.

“Our goal is to finish 15 and 4 and win the Hudson Valley Championship and the NCAA tournament,” says soccer coach Ernest Barrington.

While Huddleston is not the only new recruit at Polytechnic this year—there are 50 spread among the various teams—Barrington has high hopes for the young player. Among other feats, Huddleston scored 23 goals and 12 assists in his senior year at Oldham County High School, making the Kentucky All-State team and leading his own team through a district championship where he was voted Most Valuable Player. He also managed to keep a 3.75 grade-point average and is studying electrical engineering, suggesting he should be well equipped to handle the rigors of university life. Poly's academic demands present a particular hurdle for recruiters, as the supply of college-level athletes who want to be engineers is limited. Although

The men's basketball team captured its first trophy in over 20 years with the help of a new star center—the six-foot-seven French-Canadian, ABOU BAMBA.

Polytechnic has scored dramatic successes in its sports recruitment, it has also suffered setbacks.

“In the first couple of years of active recruiting, we lost several students to poor grades,” says Athletic Director Maureen Brazil. Since then, the athletics department has become more adept at selecting players likely to succeed academically.

One challenge is that, as a NCAA Division III school, Poly primarily offers a full academic experience rather than an athletic one. “No student comes solely to play basketball or soccer,” explains Brazil, “and athletes must balance competing commitments.” For basketball center Abou Bamba, a sophomore studying computer engineering, this meant many days spent in the tutoring center and meetings with Brazil to review his grades.

“A lot of kids don't realize the academic rigors at Polytechnic,” says Bamba, whose family immigrated from the Ivory Coast to Montreal. “They think it's a joke, but when [Poly] says it's hard, it's hard.”

One of nine new players that formed the cornerstone of the men's basketball team last season, Bamba scored an average of 19 points a game and was instrumental in helping the team turn around a losing season. The team went on to win the 2003 Hudson Valley Conference championship.

Poly's hope now rests on Huddleston to score the same kind of magic for the soccer team. While schoolwork comes first for him, Huddleston wants the Blue Jays soccer team to be the best in its division.

Coach Barrington believes Huddleston can make that happen.

“He's a star.”

— Shawn Kenyon '02 '04
EIGHT PROFESSORS RETIRE

Eight long-time professors—

with 254 combined years of teaching at

Poly—have opted for a faculty severance

incentive plan offered by the University and

retired in summer 2003.

Dr. Wolhee Choe, professor of English, joined Poly in 1982.

During her tenure, she established an annual essay contest for Korean-

American students and oversaw the University’s writing program. She is the

author of three books on Korean history, arts, and literature.

Dr. Anne Eisenberg, professor of humanities and communications,

had been with the University since 1978. She was head of the

Department of Humanities (1993 to 1997) and graduate academic adviser of the

Technical and Professional Communication Program. She is the author of five textbooks

on technical writing and editing and is a regular contributor to Scientific American and

the “Circuits” section of the New York Times.

A 38-year veteran,

Dr. Burton B. Lieberman, professor of mathematics, served as department head of mathematics (1996) and

computer and information science (1996 to 1997). He received a

Distinguished Teacher Award in 1986. An expert in the aerodynamic properties of the

golfball, he is a technical consultant to the U.S. Golf Association and has published

numerous articles on the subject. In 2000, he was appointed by the schools chancellor

to a New York City Board of Education

Commission on Mathematics Education.

Dr. David Mermelstein, professor of economics, joined Polytechnic in 1961 and

served as speaker of the faculty. He has edited

four books on economics, one on apartheid and one on El Salvador, and has

written numerous articles for the New York Times and Los Angeles Times among

other national publications.

Dr. Lesley M. Sibner, professor of mathematics, had been with Poly since

1967. She was department head of mathematics (1990 to 1993) and a visiting

professor at MIT, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania and the Max Planck Institute in

Germany. She is included in Notable Women in Mathematics: A Biographical Dictionary.

Dr. Leonard I. Stiel, associate professor of chemical engineering, joined the University in

1980. He holds four patents, including two for methods to convert heat energy to

mechanical energy.

A 30-year veteran,

Dr. Nancy Tooney, associate professor of biochemistry, held several administrative posts,

including associate dean of engineering and applied sciences, associate dean of arts and sciences, assistant vice

president for academic affairs and assistant vice provost for undergraduate studies. She is a

fellow of the Association for Women in Science and of the New York Academy of

Sciences and former chair of the academy’s section on women in science.

Dr. Erich Zauderer, professor of mathematics, joined Poly in 1964. He is the

author of Partial Differential Equations of

Applied Mathematics, now in its second edition.

DONOR PROFILE:

Carmine Masucci ’56, with his wife, Millie

MS Electrical Engineering

Engineering Manager (Retired)

Cardon Inc.

Consecutive Contributor

for More than 25 Years

“I have been giving to and have been

involved with Polytechnic since at least

1973,” Why? “I realized that although

I came to Poly under the GI Bill, I

owed Poly much more than I could

ever repay. So, in a small way, I am

contributing funds and time to the

stability and growth of an excellent

institution of higher learning.

To other Poly alumni, no gift is

too small and it never too late to say

‘thank you’ to your alma mater.”

To discuss your contribution to

Polytechnic, contact Colleen Jansen,

director of major gifts/Polytechnic Fund,

at 800/765-9929 or cjansen@poly.edu.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR

POLY HONORARY DEGREES

Alumni and friends are invited

to submit nominations for honorary

degrees to be conferred at

Commencement 2004. Candidates

need not be Polytechnic alumni,

but should have demonstrated

extraordinary contributions to

technology, science or society.

Send nomination, including biography

and statement regarding the

nominee’s contributions, to

Dr. Richard S. Thorsen, vice president

for university relations, planning

and assessment, at Six MetroTech Center,

Brooklyn, NY 11201, fax: 718/260-3755.
Cable Turns 30

In June 1973, Polytechnic published the first issue of Cable, first called The Polytechnic Cable and reported to be named after the large steel cables used on the Brooklyn Bridge. The publication replaced earlier alumni magazines, Poly Men and Polygraphs. In its 30 years, Cable has reported on such milestones as the merger with NYU School of Engineering and Science; inaugurations of two presidents; establishment of the Westchester Graduate Center; creation of MetroTech Center; construction of Poly's first on-campus dormitory in Brooklyn; and the name change to the Polytechnic Institute of New York and then to Polytechnic University. Cable has also changed design, switching to full color in 2001, and formats—from letter size and four pages to tabloid size and back again to letter size with 16 pages. But its goal has always remained the same: to keep alumni in touch with each other and their alma mater.

RIGHT: A sample of Cable covers throughout its 30-year history.

POLY WELCOMES CLASS OF 2007

On August 27, President Chang welcomed 481 students at the University's New Student Convocation, held in the Jacobs Gymnasium.

"This is a defining moment for you and Polytechnic," said Chang. "You are joining a University on the eve of its 150th anniversary, with a world-class reputation, outstanding faculty and superior laboratories and classrooms. You will benefit from the unprecedented changes that have occurred on campus, including new programs, new buildings and advanced technological capabilities."

The convocation occurred during student orientation week, which featured social and academic events, including meetings with professors; a barbeque on the MetroTech Commons; a president-hosted reception for parents of new students; and events for the inaugural class of Poly's Honors College, created in 2001 to provide an enriched experience for undergraduates with superior academic records and ability.
Online Traffic for New York City Commuters

When the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) requested proposals for a website to show traffic conditions at New York City's bridges and tunnels, there was no shortage of interest. LiveWave—a security specialist whose clients include MSNBC and AOL Time Warner—submitted a bid, as did Real Networks, the multimedia pioneer that created Real Player. Up against these professional shops were a half-dozen Poly undergrads led by Jim St. Lawrence, the University's Webmaster.

Needless to say, the Poly Web Team won.

"[The Poly team] saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars," says Tariq Habib, director of technical services at the MTA Division of Bridges and Tunnels. While admitting he was hesitant at first about accepting the Web Team's bid, he has nothing but praise for the finished product.

"The job these students have done is impressive," he says.

The product, a Bridges and Tunnels Webcam site—accessible through the MTA homepage www.mta.nyc.ny.us—features video from cameras stationed at eight bridges and two tunnels. The cameras enable commuters to view traffic instantly as streaming video or a series of still pictures. Shortly after its completion in May 2003, the site was registering 72,000 hits a month.

This is not the first such project for the Poly Web Team. Four years ago, with funds from a grant to the University's Urban ITS Center, the team put more than 90 cameras online for New York City's Department of Transportation. St. Lawrence believes the success of that project led the team to win the MTA contract.

"The MTA saw what we had done for the city and invited us to make a proposal," he says. The challenges for both projects were similar: virtual kill switches had to be introduced so, in an emergency, the public's view of a camera could be blocked; video feeds had to be timed to stop so they couldn't continue to eat up bandwidth; slow the system and crash servers; and redundancies and firewalls had to be created to protect the system from fail components and hackers.

While all this created a considerable workload for the students, they found the experience invaluable.

Jia An Chen '03 (CS), an MS candidate in computer science, who joined the team as an undergraduate, credits the project with giving him practical experience in design. Already Chen is involved in the team's newest project: a version of the MTA site for portable devices. In the future, he hopes to be warned of traffic on the Triborough Bridge through his palm pilot or cell phone.

— Shawn Kenyon '02 '04
Restoring Electric Power with Precision

WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRIC POWER blackouts, Dr. Zivan Zabar, an electrical and computer engineering professor at Poly, is beginning to wonder whether he may be jinxed.

In 1980, he created the Coldload Startup Program for Consolidated Edison to help the company recover its power after a blackout. No sooner was it completed than the power failed in Manhattan’s Herald Square. Not a superstitious man, Zabar thought little of it until 20 years later when he was asked to update the program. He finished just in time for the biggest blackout in the nation’s history.

"I’m afraid Con Edison will think I’m creating these blackouts for them to test my software," he says with a laugh.

If so, it’s an inspired idea, since the program again met with great success.

Unlike what happened in 1977, there was no blackout relapse this summer when Con Edison attempted to turn on the juice. One reason was Zabar’s software program, which allowed Con Edison to simulate the recovery process in advance, thus determining how much electricity air conditioners, refrigerators and industrial equipment would need to start up after a blackout. Such devices drain up to seven times more electricity when first turned on. While not a day-to-day concern since only a small fraction of the population flips switches in unison, after a blackout this simultaneous activation may cause another electrical failure. To counteract that, Con Edison creates the electrical grid of New York City into sections and powers each one by one.

While most power companies simply make an educated guess about the startup capability of each grid section, for Con Edison, operating in the largest city in the United States, an educated guess can be disastrous, as demonstrated by the 1977 blackout.

“A section in New York City can use up to 175 mega watts of power," says Zabar. "This by itself is a small city, and New York has 60 of those.”

For his Con Edison program, Zabar surveyed what electrical-drawing devices were in use and where, and then tested those devices in the laboratory for startup performance. Using this information, he then developed a unique dynamic simulation program to determine the factors that would increase the electrical demand in residential, commercial and industrial neighborhoods during startup. His finished computer code predicts how a section will behave during electric power restoration, thus allowing the utility company to pre-determine the necessary startup conditions of the electrical grid following a blackout, without causing a relapse.

Zabar may or may not be jinxed, he is, however, certainly clever.

— Shawn Kenyon ’02 ’04

In Memoriam
Norman P. Auburn

DR. NORMAN P. Auburn, former acting president of Polytechnic who oversaw the 1973 merger with the New York University School of Engineering and Science, died July 21 in Akron, Ohio. He was 98.

Auburn served as acting president from March 1973 until the arrival of Dr. George Bugliarello, Polytechnic’s eighth president, in October 1973. In addition to presiding over the Poly-NYU merger, Auburn also announced the school’s name change to Polytechnic Institute of New York.

When he joined Polytechnic, Auburn had had a long career in higher education administration, including a 20-year tenure as president of the University of Akron. From 1971 to 1988, he was senior vice president of the Academy for Educational Development, where he served as acting president for a succession of institutions, including Polytechnic, Salem College in West Virginia and Lincoln University in Missouri. He also served as adviser to the President’s Committee for the White House Conference on Education and as a volunteer leader in several national higher education and charitable associations and foundations.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia, four children and two step-children, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Facultiy / Staff News

Dr. Henry L. Bertoni ’62 (EE) ’68 (EL), head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was appointed to the National Research Council’s Committee on Army Science and Technology for Homeland Defense.

President David C. Chang received the 2003 Vision in America Award from International Channel Networks as part of its “We the People” celebration, a nationwide community public affairs campaign that recognizes contributions of immigrants to the United States.

Dr. Fletcher H. (Bud) Griffis, vice president and dean of engineering and applied sciences, was elected to the newly established National Academy of Construction.

Dr. Sunil Kumar, professor of mechanical engineering, was appointed associate dean of graduate studies and executive director of Polytechnics Graduate Center for Professional Studies.

Dr. Eli M. Pearl, University research professor, received a Giulio Natta Medal in honor of the 100th Birthday of Nobel Laureate Giulio Natta from La Societa Chimica Italiana.
Katherine Stratakis Boden ’90 Keeps the Lights On

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT “IT IS BETTER TO light one candle than to curse the darkness.” That sentiment is one Katherine Stratakis Boden ’90 (EE) lives by. As chief engineer for Consolidated Edison's distribution engineering department, Boden is responsible for designing and implementing the electrical distribution systems for New York City’s five boroughs and Westchester County. The last thing she wants to do is curse the darkness.

Since 1990, Boden has steadily climbed the rungs of the corporate ladder to become the first woman in Con Ed’s history to oversee its delivery system. In her 13 years with the company, she has held eight positions at 12 different job sites. “It’s been a great learning experience,” says Boden. “As a first-line manager, you have to be efficient and direct. These attributes are important in operations where you are expected to react immediately to changing situations. The key is to remain approachable.”

Working in the male-dominated field of engineering for one of the nation’s largest investor-owned energy companies was not exactly what Boden had in mind as a college freshman at SUNY Albany in 1985. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do,” says Boden. “I enjoyed English and thought I might do something in that field. But English courses weren’t available at SUNY until my junior year, so I ended up taking lots of math and physics.”

Eventually, she returned home to Long Island to study electrical engineering, a more lucrative discipline and transferred to Poly’s Farmingdale campus. “The University has a great reputation, and I wanted that reputation behind my degree,” she says. “Besides, my dad (Nick Stratakis ’70) earned his master’s in economics from Poly, so it was a natural choice for me.” Admittedly, the rigorous curriculum and being one of few women in her class was difficult, but in the end, says Boden, “It was worth it. I had too much invested to give up.” Shortly before graduating in 1990, she went to an on-campus Career Fair and was interviewed by Con Ed. After a second interview, she was offered a position as a management intern.

“The recent blackout on August 14 signaled an occasion where Boden’s expertise and that of her staff of engineers and design technicians were called to the fore. “We immediately mobilized the Corporate Emergency Response Center to fix the problem. It’s a slow and meticulous process,” she notes.” Both the transmission and delivery systems were out. We had to balance both in order to restore power to customers. Given the severity of the problem, I think we handled it well.”

POLYTECHNIC MC SHANE AND SELESNICK WIN JACOBS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

POLYTECHNIC HONORED PROFESSORS

Frank A. Cassara ’68 ’71 (EE), William R. McShane ’66 ’68 (SE) and Ivan W. Selesnick with the 2003 Jacobs Award for Excellence in Education.

Cassara, professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Long Island Graduate Center, was cited for developing a wireless laboratory course, the nation’s first such course, and for creating a summer research intern program for college juniors. Of the students who have completed the internship program, now in its 11th year and funded in part by the National Science Foundation, 17 have published their research results in journals or conference proceedings, and more than 70 have gone on for graduate study. Cassara also conducted numerous wireless communications workshops for faculty from colleges and universities nationwide.

McShane, professor of mechanical and systems engineering and former vice president and dean of engineering and applied sciences, was recognized for designing a manufacturing systems sequence for all undergraduates and an applied data-analysis course, required for management and construction management undergraduates, both of which makes extensive use of the Internet and information technology to engage the students.

Selesnick, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, was honored for developing a set of projects using notebook computers for the computer-based laboratory portion of a signals and systems course to facilitate in-class demonstrations and homework assignments and allow students to work individually and in groups on projects.

The annual Jacobs Award is named for and supported by Dr. Joseph J. Jacobs ’37 ’39 ’42 H’86, lifetime trustee of Polytechnic and founder and chairman of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. Each professor received a $10,000 research grant.
ALUMNI PRESIDENT’S CORNER

This summer, many of us were affected by a power outage. However, we should be proud that as engineers and scientists we can be “fixing the grid” instead of fixing the blame. In fact, the U.S. Senate has authorized the Secretary of Energy to protect and improve the energy infrastructure with an emphasis on research, development and information and technology transfer. Along with Homeland Security and the fast rollout of high-tech products, this means that there is much work to be done.

It is necessary to gather and process information quickly in the midst of rapidly changing technology. In today’s uncertain world and economy, it is also important to ease the resulting anxiety and tension. Part of this involves getting into good routines and, possibly, finding a coach, since personal relationships and attention are important.

During the summer, the Polytechnic Alumni Executive Committee met to explore topics of common interest of the membership. Activities vary geographically and depend on the needs of each section. However, since the only absolute certainty is that there will always be more to know after graduation, the common overwhelming theme was “managing change.” The Big Apple Section will take the lead in organizing discussion forums and leadership meetings to encourage the exchange of ideas. A message will be that since we all need to continually “up-skill” ourselves, we can do it together and help one another along the journey. We will urge forward the success of the programs by approaching them with reasonable expectations and measured objectivity, and by inviting everyone to bring time, talents and tools to the table.

These efforts will bring personal interaction and a greater sense of community, relevance and proportion. From there, dealing with constant change will become more manageable. As alumni, we share a platinum-quality Polytechnic education to draw upon. By focusing on our strengths and experiences, this forward-looking process will unleash positive potential energy.

On campus, the beginning of the school year brings an overall sense of renewal and discovery, and together we will achieve phenomenal results.

James Oussawi Jr. ’77

There Is Still A Hole in the Wall...

where your name should be. To join the many other alumni and friends who have inscriptions on the Alumni Wall and to help Poly celebrate its upcoming 150th anniversary with a special gift, add your name to this vibrant work of art prominently displayed in the lobby of the new Joseph J. and Violet J. Jacobs Building. Others have joined the Alumni Wall as a birthday, Father’s Day, Mother’s Day or wedding anniversary gift or as a gift in honor of any number of other special occasions.

For more information, please contact Thomas Dally, director of development, or Colleen Jansen, director of major gifts, at 800/765-9929.

Poly would like to thank the following alumni and friends for adding their names in 2002-2003:

Michael R. Corey ’70
Rosamund L. Fife ’02
Clifford H. Goldsmit
William E. ’49 ’50 and
Marion Harding
Ronald Horn ’78 ’79
J. Lawrence Katz ’50 ’51 ’57
Edward F. ’67 and
Gayle Labuda
Paul A. Lascari ’81
Insoong Lee ’59
Yu Cho (Joe) Luk ’01

J. Kenneth Lund ’55
Erwin Lubwak ’69 ’72 ’74
Craig G. Matthews ’71
David F. Muller ’54
Stewart G. Nagler ’63
Sebastian V. Nardo ’40 ’42 ’49
Alvin M. Natkin ’52
Leonard I. Slowin ’67 ’71
Tohru Takekoshi ’66
Nicholas P. Tentacoste ’63 ’65 ’70
Chiou-Kun Wu ’98 ’01

NoCal Annual Summer Picnic

On August 3, the Northern California Section of the Polytechnic Alumni gathered for its annual picnic with alumni from CCNY and Brooklyn College. More than 100 people attended, with Polytechnic being the largest group. Pictured from left are Wolfgang Schaechter ’56 (AE) and his wife, Donna; and Martin Perl ’48 (CH) H ’96 and his wife, Judy Finer. More pictures from the picnic are available at www.poly.edu/alumni. “Recent Events.”
MAKE A STATEMENT

One of the factors influencing Polytechnic's position in national rankings is the percentage of alumni who contribute to their alma mater annually. As this year's Polytechnic Fund program switches into high gear, I ask you to bear this simple fact in mind: Poly's rankings are partially tied to the generosity of the alumni—it is the only ranking factor that alumni exclusively control.

The size of the gift doesn't matter, although I urge you to be as generous as you can to help reach the Polytechnic Fund's $1.5 million goal. Currently, a modest 16 percent of our alumni contribute annually. We are grateful if you are one of our loyal donors.

Last year, the Class of 1968 had the highest number of donors. The rest of the classes in the top ranks are:

2) 1962
3) 1963
4) 1958
5) 1957
6) 1956
7) 1967 and 1973 (tied)

When you get a call from a student or receive an appeal letter in the mail, please remember that your gift is a vote of confidence in your alma mater and a way to express your desire to see your Polytechnic degree increase in value.

George Likourezos ’72 ’92 (EE)
Vice President, POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI
Chair, Polytechnic Fund

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES the centennial birthday of noted chemist, inventor and generous benefactor Jasper H. Kane ’28 (CH) H’94, born July 15, 1903.

Kane, a retired vice president and director of Pfizer Inc., was the leader of the research team that, in 1950, discovered Terramycin (oxytetracycline), an antibiotic effective against more than 100 diseases. Kane began his career at Pfizer at the age of 16, as an assistant to Dr. James Currie. In 1919, he helped pioneer the mass production of citric acid by mold fermentation of sugar, an achievement that eventually led Pfizer from dependency on European citrus growers.

Jasper H. Kane
circa 1940s

Kane went on to develop a new deep-tank fermentation method using molasses rather than refined sugar as raw material. He also was the visionary behind the company’s mass production of penicillin using the same deep-tank fermentation methods perfected with citric acid.

Kane received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Polytechnic in 1928 and an honorary degree in 1994. His gifts of more than $4 million to his alma mater propelled the success of the University’s $275 million Campaign for Polytechnic and allowed the creation of two new laboratories for crystallography and organic chemistry. In 2002, Polytechnic named its new dining hall in his honor.

DEFERRED GIFT ANNUITY:
A Smart Choice for Giving

A deferred gift annuity is an efficient way to supplement your retirement income while making a commitment to Polytechnic University. A deferred gift annuity pays a fixed amount to one or two beneficiaries beginning at a future date. The interest rate on a deferred gift annuity, which determines the annual payment, varies according to the age and number of the beneficiary(ies) and the time between the date of gift and the date annuity payments begin. Payments can be made quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

The payout rate for a deferred gift annuity is higher than for a regular gift annuity. For example, if you are 60 years old, you would receive payments of 5.7 percent on a straight gift annuity of which you were sole beneficiary. If you were to defer payments for 10 years, your annuity payments would be in excess of 10.5 percent.

Contributions may be cash or marketable securities. You receive a current income tax charitable deduction, according to IRS established formulas. This depends in part on the length of time between the date of your gift and the date annuity payments begin. You are taxed on a relatively small part of the annuity payments as capital gain. Most of the appreciation on the securities is not taxed. Upon the death of the beneficiary(ies), the principal in the annuity goes to Polytechnic.

Contact Thomas Daly, director of development, at 800/765-9929 or tdaly@poly.edu for more information.

DONOR PROFILE:
James Douglas Graham ’66
BS, Electrical Engineering
Principal Engineer and Manager of Hydraulic Generation (Retired)
Central Vermont Public Service Corporation

$3,000 to the Alumni Wall and $5,500 to the Scholarship Fund

“I received an excellent education at Poly. I am interested in trying to help those third, fourth and fifth generation American students who otherwise might be deprived of a similar education in mechanical or electrical engineering. Many of these potentially good students have most everything they need to succeed except financial assistance and, without it, would fall through the cracks.”

To discuss your contribution to the Alumni Wall or Scholarship Fund, contact Thomas Daly, director of development, at 800/765-9929 or tdaly@poly.edu.

 NOMINATE AN ALUM FOR A POLY AWARD

The Polytechnic Distinguished Alumni Award and the Dedicated Alumni Award are the highest honors conferred by the POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes extraordinary contributions in science, business, public service or academia. The Dedicated Alumni Award recognizes extraordinary service to the POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI.

Alumni may complete a nomination form at www.poly.edu/alumni or request a form from

Frank Namad ’68
Chair, POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI
Awards Committee
Box 51, Polytechnic University
Six MetroTech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Fax: 718/260-3114, E-mail: alumni@poly.edu

Please send as much biographical information as possible on the candidate.
### Major Codes

Refer to the following major codes used in parentheses:

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### Class Notes

**Now You Can Read and Submit Class Notes Online. Visit www.poly.edu/alumni and click on “Class Notes Online.”**

52 **ALVIN M. NATKIN (CE)** is a founder of the Association of Americans Against Terrorism, which has more than 400 members in South Florida.

53 **LOUIS F. MUIJNKE (ME)** retired from IBM in 1984.

55 **ARTHUR I. BIENENSTOCK** ’57 (PhD) H’98 was appointed vice provost and dean of research and graduate policy at Stanford University. He is a professor of applied physics and materials science and engineering at Stanford and previously served as a senior science adviser to former President Clinton.

56 **MARTIN S. ABELOW (EE)** and his wife are visiting Costa Rica this fall. **EUGENE FRANK (EE)** is semi-retired in Northern New Jersey and spends his time sailing, golfing and skiing.

59 **KURT RONIS (CI)** is the engineering mechanics section head for KeySpan Engineering in Hicksville, N.Y.

61 **MICHAEL C. POWER (CI)** married Olga Mejia on April 5 in Palo Alto, Calif. He is a civil engineering specializing in the engineering and inspection of bridges.

### Donor Profile

**John C. Green Jr. ’68 ’72**

BS, MS, Electrical Engineering
Software Programming Manager
Sun Microsystems Inc.

$4,946 to the Polytechnic Fund

“I feel that my Poly experience was vital in obtaining a great first job and provided a strong foundation for a rewarding career. I started donating to Poly on my fifth anniversary of graduation, giving $25. Being an anal retentive engineer, I’ve increased my annual fund donation by 20 percent every year since. The donations are always unrestricted.”

To discuss your contribution to the Polytechnic Fund, contact Colleen Janzen, director of major gifts/Polytechnic Fund, at 800/765-9929 or cjansen@poly.edu.
EMIL T. CHARYSZYN (MT) is a quality control manager for Danko Arlington Inc. in Baltimore, Md.

JOSEPH E. FLAHERTY (AE) ’66 ’69 (AM) is the dean of science and the Amos Eaton Professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he has taught since 1973. In October, RPI hosted a conference in honor of his 60th birthday on adaptive methods for partial differential equations and large-scale computation.

MURRAY BRAVERMAN (EE) invites people to visit his Web site at http://ourworld.cs.com/k2kjc/k2kjc.htm or tune into K2KJC on a ham radio.

JAMES E. REPETSKI (MG) was elected president of the Somerset Hills (N.J.) chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. He retired as an AT&T district manager in 1997.

Christine M. Ferrari ’00
Advancing Technology at ExxonMobil

THE FIRST IN HER FAMILY TO PURSUE a college degree, Christine M. Ferrari ’00 (CH) took advantage of her time at Polytechnic. She was a teaching assistant, served on the Student Council, belonged to several student chapter organizations, received numerous University awards and was inducted into the chemical engineering honor society, Omega Chi Epsilon, and the national engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi. Her summers, however, belonged to ExxonMobil, where she held three internships.

Today, she is an advanced engineer at the ExxonMobil Process Research Lab in Baton Rouge, La. In her three years with the company, she has helped advance the lab’s catalyst technology, visited refineries worldwide to optimize their lube processes and been featured in its annual report and employee magazine for her role in continuing the lab’s success in research and development. She is also actively involved with ExxonMobil’s Ambassador program, visiting schools to increase children’s awareness and interest in science. Even with a demanding career and eventful personal life—next year she marries Gregory Troxclair, a specialized lab technician and process operator at ExxonMobil—she still keeps in contact with her alma mater. In 2002, Christine became a junior member of the Promise Fund Board, which raises money for Polytechnic’s Promise Scholarship, the same scholarship that allowed her to attend the University.

ALAN A. BORNSTEIN (CH) is assistant general counsel for patents at Unilever.

PAUL E. MICHELICH (ME) is vice president of operations for Marley Engineered Products Inc. He lives in Finchurst, N.C.

ROCK KIN KO (SE) wants to hear from other alumni who live and work in Singapore. He can be reached at koeizq@Singnet.com.sg.

GEORGE F. ABRANTES (EE) has returned to New York after 23 years in Michigan. He is the facilities area manager for the General Motors Powertrain plant in Tonawanda, N.Y. VICTOR MOY (EE) is an engineer at IBM in Fishkill, N.Y. He holds a master’s degree from Syracuse University. CHARLES J. SPITERI (EE) is a professor emeritus at the City
University of New York and is in his first term as a member of the New York State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

**JAMES COLOTTI (SE)** recently presented a lecture entitled “Analog, RF and EMC Considerations in Printed Wiring Board Design” to the Electromagnetic Compatibility Society of the IEEE Long Island Section. The presentation material is available on the EMC page of the IEEE Long Island Section Website, www.IEEE.LI.

**CLYDE R. HOSEIN (IE)** is vice president and CFO for Integrated Device Technology (IDT) of Sunnyvale, Calif.

**DONOR PROFILE:**

**Charles D. Lucas ’60**

BS Electrical Engineering
Senior Engineering Manager (Retired)
ITT Industries Inc.

$4,000 to the Polytechnic Fund (including a $2,000 matching contribution by ITT Industries).

“I donate to Poly for two reasons: First, and most important, I received a fine education and would like to give back in some small way so another student might also have the advantage of a fine education. Second, I like the idea that my former company, ITT Industries, equally matches my contribution, up to a maximum of $2,000, even though I am now retired.”

To discuss your contribution to the Polytechnic Fund, contact Thomas Daly, director of development, at 800/765-9929 or tdaly@poly.edu.

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**Marsha Rabinowitz Anderson Bomar ’73 ’75 Recognized by ITE**

Marsha Rabinowitz Anderson Bomar’73 (MA) ’75 (TP) received the 2003 Burton W. Marsh Distinguished Service Award from the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) for her long-time contributions to the international organization. Anderson Bomar is president of Street Smarts, a transportation consulting firm she founded in 1990 in Duluth, Ga. She was also a finalist in the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce’s 2003 Small Business Person of the Year competition and Street Smarts was named a 2003 Pacesetter by the Atlanta Business Chronicle for a second consecutive year.

**George Escowitz (CS)** is director of systems for the Security Industries Automation Corporation (SIAC).

**Robert V. Jones (EE)** was included in the June 2003 issue of The Network Journal: Black Professionals and Small Business Magazine as one of “40 Under Forty Dynamic Achievers.” He is staff director of electronic communications at the IEEE.

**Michael G. Eoga (EE)** was re-elected to the Borough Council, First Ward, of Boonton, NJ. He is a senior manager of information technology at Aventis.

**Ahmad Sukri Man (ME)** is a senior engineer with Grand Banks Yachts in Malaysia. He and his wife have two daughters.

**James W. Gabberty (TM)** is an associate professor in the School of Computer Science and Information Systems at Pace University, where he earned a Doctor of Professional Studies.

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**Nicholas A. Zientarski (ME)** is an ordained priest and associate pastor of Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church in Manhasset, N.Y.

**Carlos O. Culebro (MC)** is a wireless solutions manager in the financial services sector for IBM Corp., in Danbury, Conn. Paul Im (EE) married Nancy Fann, a magazine copy editor, on May 3 in Long Island City, Queens. A second-year law student at Fordham University, Im is a patent agent at Stoock & Stoock & Lavan, a Manhattan law firm.

**Shawn Kenyon (CS)** married Ernie S. Grobler, a business major at Baruch College, on June 8, in York, Maine. Kenyon will earn his MS in Technical Communication from Poly in 2004.

**Levent Sendur (EE)** received Polytechnic's Alexander Hessel Award for his doctoral dissertation, "Non-Gaussian Multivariate Probability Models and Their Application to Wavelet-based Image Denoising," written under the advisement of Professor Ivan W. Selesnick. Sendur is a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Psychiatry at England's University of Cambridge.
IN MEMORIAM Louis J. Pignataro ’51

Louis J. Pignataro ’51 (CE), a transportation expert and former professor and department head at Polytechnic, died July 25 in Brooklyn. He was 79.

At the time of his death from lung cancer, Pignataro was recently retired from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he was a distinguished research professor and executive director of its Institute of Transportation. Recognized as one of the nation’s leading educators and researchers in transportation, Pignataro was the principal author of the 1973 textbook Traffic Engineering: Theory and Practice, considered the definitive text in the field at the time. He also was honored with numerous awards, including the 1999 Wilbur S. Smith Distinguished Transportation Education Award from the Institute for Transportation Engineers and the 1974 Engineer of the Year Award from the New York State Society of Professional Engineers.

Born in Brooklyn, Pignataro earned a bachelor’s in civil engineering summa cum laude from Polytechnic in 1951, a master’s from Columbia University in 1954 and a doctorate in technical science from Austria’s Technische Universität in 1964. He joined the Polytechnic faculty in 1951 and, over the course of 34 years, developed many transportation courses and served as head of the Department of Transportation Planning and Engineering and founder and director of the Transportation Training and Research Center (now called the Transportation Research Institute). From Polytechnic, he received a 1965 Distinguished Alumnus Award, a 1971 Dedicated Alumnus Award, a 1972 Distinguished Teacher Award and a 1975 Distinguished Research Award from the University’s Sigma Xi chapter.

After leaving Poly in 1985, Pignataro was a chaired professor and associate director of the Institute for Transportation Systems at the City College of New York (CCNY). He joined the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1988.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Edith Pignataro ’54 (PhD), and daughter Dr. Thea Pignataro ’78 (PhD), an associate professor of mathematics at CCNY.

Future Engineer or Basketball Player?

Philip H. Shipberg ’97 (ME) and his wife, Sandra, welcomed Jacob Meyer on July 7. Jacob weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz., and, at 20.5 inches, may look forward to a future career with the New York Knicks. The family lives in the Philadelphia area, where Philip, a former Poly student council president, is an MBA candidate at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He recently completed an internship at the Campbell Soup Company’s marketing department.
Here's a chance to test your Polytechnic education. Correctly answer the question and be entered in a drawing to win a Poly sweatshirt.

**QUESTION:** A woman lives in Miami, and her twin sister lives in Tucson. One day on the telephone, the woman mentioned that it was 90 degrees Fahrenheit (26 degrees Celsius) in Miami. Her sister jokingly said that it was "twice as hot" in Tucson. If that was really the case, what temperature would it be in Tucson?

This issue’s question was provided by Robert L. Welke '49 (Chi) from his book, *What Einstein Told His Barber: More Scientific Answers to Everyday Questions.*

Send your answer and sweatshirt size to Therese E. Tillet, E-mail: tillett@poly.edu Fax: 718/260-3864; Mail: Polytechnic University, Six Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201

**LAST ISSUE’S POLY QUIZ**

**WINNERS OF DRAWING FROM SUMMER '03 QUIZ:**
John J. Fortin '81 and Robert Trentacoste '72

More than a 70 people correctly answered the 62.5 minutes to the problem posed by Professor Emeritus Robert Ackerberg: A wealthy man goes to work each morning, driven by his chauffeur to a ferry. When the man returns home in the late afternoon, the chauffeur leaves the house at the right time to meet the ferry as it docks. One day, the man decides to take a ferry that leaves one hour earlier than his usual ferry. When the ferry docks, his chauffeur is not there and he begins to walk home. Eventually, the chauffeur meets him on the road and drives him back home, where they arrive 15 minutes earlier than usual. How many minutes was the man walking along the road?

To view the names of all respondents who submitted correct answers, visit www.poly.edu/alumni/cable/quiz.cfm.

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**SAVE THE DATES**

**Upcoming Alumni Events**

**Saturday, November 15, 2003**
Homecoming and Alumni Open House
Brooklyn Campus

**Monday, November 17, 2003**
Los Angeles Alumni Reception

**Tuesday, December 9, 2003**
Long Island Alumni Holiday Reception

**Wednesday, January 7, 2004**
Big Apple Holiday Reception

**Thursday–Friday, May 27–28, 2004**
Golden Jubilee Reunion–Class of 1954

**Thursday, June 3, 2004**
POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI Annual Meeting
Silver Jubilee Reunion–Class of 1979

For details on these and other upcoming alumni events, please visit www.poly.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 718/260-3865 or alumni@poly.edu.