Poly Celebrates Its 148th Commencement

On the plaza at Lincoln Center, from left, graduates Tyler Long, Sherry Li, Yonesy Nunez and Thomas Withus.
U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer Urges Poly Grads to Follow Dreams

Telling the Class of 2006 that they have reached a turning point in their lives, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer urged the graduates to aspire to their dreams. “We live in a world where everything is changing,” Schumer said. “It’s your world and my advice is simple: Go for it.”

Schumer delivered his address at Polytechnic’s 148th Commencement, held June 1 at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

“We live in a world where everything is changing. It’s your world and my advice is simple: Go for it.”
— U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer

President David C. Chang congratulated the graduates on their hard work and perseverance. “Continue to learn and continue to be intellectually challenged,” he encouraged the graduates. “Aspire to excellence. Don’t settle for the mediocre or second rate.”

Oksana Voskoboynik, a graduate of the BS/MS Honors Programs, delivered the valedictory address. She earned dual degrees in computer science with an undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.980 and a graduate GPA of 3.853.

Peter D’Albenzio, who started his college career on the Long Island campus, was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Award by the POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI. A computer engineering major, D’Albenzio earned a 3.492 GPA.

Polytechnic awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Edward T. Lewis, chairman and CEO of Essence Communications Partners and publisher of Essence magazine, and an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree to Dr. Sheila E. Widnall, institute professor at MIT and former Secretary of the Air Force in the Clinton Administration. The Distinguished Teacher Award was given to Dr. Vikram Kapila, associate professor of mechanical engineering, and the President’s Medal for Service to Dr. Ivan T. Frisch, who retired July 1 as Poly’s executive vice president and provost.

The ceremony culminated with the conferring of 410 bachelor’s, 466 master’s and 36 PhD degrees.

Valedictorian Oksana Voskoboynik calls on graduates to “follow their dreams.”

Honorary degree recipients Edward T. Lewis and Dr. Sheila E. Widnall with President Chang.

From left, James Dussani Jr. ’77, president of the POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI, presents Outstanding Graduate Award to Peter D’Albenzio.
SCENES FROM THE 148TH COMMENCEMENT
PROMISE FUND HOSTS LARGEST EVER EVENT; RAISES RECORD $1.3M FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Promise Fund, Polytechnic’s leading scholarship and pre-college outreach program, raised a record $1.3 million at its 15th annual dinner gala in June. The event, held at Manhattan’s Waldorf-Astoria, attracted 650 guests, another record-breaking number, and honored Glenn A. Britt, chairman and CEO of Time Warner Cable. Britt received Polytechnic’s Distinguished Service Award for Technology and the Arts. During the black-tie dinner, Audra McDonald, a three-time Tony Award-winning actress and singer, performed.

Since its inception in 1988, the Promise Fund has raised more than $12 million to provide scholarships for more than 1,000 students and to support Poly’s Center for Youth in Engineering and Science (YES), which develops programs to encourage middle- and high-school students, especially minorities and women, to study science and engineering.

Clockwise from top: 1. President Chang and his wife, Cecilia; AOL Time Warner chairman and CEO Richard D. Parsons and his wife, Polytechnic Trustee Laura Parsons; and Glenn A. Britt and his wife, Barbara. 2. Three-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald sang a selection of Broadway classics at the dinner. 3. From left, President Chang; Promise Scholar Naimah Ali-Uqdat ’03; Glenn A. Britt; Promise Scholar Ferdie Lynn Villanueva-Alcantara ’03; Stewart G. Nagler ’63, chairman of the Polytechnic Board of Trustees and vice chairman and CFO of MetLife; and dinner emcee and WCBS Radio news anchor Pat Carroll. 4. Promise Scholar Elda Bruno ’05 describes her life in war-torn Albania. 5. Trustees R. William Murray, retired chairman, Philip Morris, left, and Clifford H. Goldsmith, principal, The Prendel Company.
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
WINS CHAMPIONSHIP
TITLE FOR SECOND YEAR

The Blue Jays Men's Volleyball Team, the defending Hudson Valley Conference champions, continued its reign, once again taking home the championship on April 5 with wins against Webb Institute and SUNY Purchase. James Zeng '99 was named Coach of the Year, also for a second consecutive year. Freshman outside hitter Peter Drys was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

During the championship, the Blue Jays dominated play. It swept Webb Institute in a best-three-out-of-five match. The scores for the three Webb games were 30-11, 30-10 and 30-10. Senior middle hitter Ilya Alper contributed with a career-high 10 kills. Drys and freshman middle blocker Mike Kelly each accounted for five kills. Senior co-captain Eugene Lange added 22 assists to the team.

In the championship game, the Blue Jays faced the SUNY Purchase Panthers. Purchase won the first game of the match by a score of 30-26. The Blue Jays rallied in the next three games and beat the Panthers 30-23, 30-21 and 30-18. Drys led the Jays to victory with 22 kills. Kelly had 14 kills and six block shots, and Lange had 34 assists. The final games were played on the Panther's home court.

With two Hudson Valley wins under its belt, the Blue Jays hope to advance next season to the Northeast Conference Volleyball Championship, and improve upon its overall record for the season. This year, the Blue Jays finished overall with a 14-12 record.

Senior Steven So, a back-row specialist, summed up the season: "I've seen so much improvement in the program that I believe volleyball at Poly has a chance to be a championship program year in and year out."

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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT PROFILE:
Anthony Trotta '03
BS, Computer Engineering

Poly 100 Scholarship

"When I was deciding what college to attend, the major factor in my decision was financial aid, as it is for many students. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend Polytechnic, but mostly, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet the many amazing people who work at and attend Polytechnic. It is scholarships like the Poly 100 that free students from financial concerns and allow them to explore their full potential."

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

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*Co-captains
Members of Poly 100 Celebrated at Annual Reception

In May, Polytechnic toasted its Poly 100 members and special contributors at the Lotus Club in Manhattan. Fifty-five trustees, contributors and guests joined to hear keynote speaker Dr. Nasir Memon, associate professor of computer science, describe his research on “Tracking Crimes on the Internet.” Poly 100 Scholar Anthony Trotta ‘03 also gave a talk, thanking donors for their scholarship support. Members of the Poly 100 contribute $10,000 per year for five consecutive years for unrestricted scholarship support. Each member's name is inscribed on a bead on a six-foot abacus, located in the lobby of the Dibner/CATT Building. For more information on the Poly 100, contact Thomas Daly, director of development, at 800/765-9929 or tdaly@poly.edu.

NEW POLY EXHIBIT TAKES ENGINEERING SPIN ON ART

A prison toilet, PVC piping. A box of crushed stones. A rusting steel bar from a 1909 skyscraper. To most people, these items are ugly and unnoticeable. But a new exhibit, now on permanent loan at Polytechnic, showcases them as art. The exhibit, “i on Infrastructure,” was first mounted at the New York Public Library to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Today, it can be viewed on the fourth floor of the Jacobs Academic Building.

“i on Infrastructure” explores 12 themes that shape people's views of infrastructure: nature, nostalgia, personality, gender, function, invisibility, information, beauty, nationalism, permanence, size and representation. The theme nostalgia, with a display of the heads of New York City street lamps from today and yesterday, depicts how people yearn for the past yet still want modern conveniences. The theme personality, accompanied by portraits of several civil engineers, questions the stereotype of a typical civil engineer in a field with so many specialties.

A toilet is just a toilet, the exhibit reveals, until you take a closer look and realize that this unsightly object is one of America's greatest inventions in plumbing, and in the view of many—including artist Marcel Duchamp, who unsuccessfully tried to display a urinal in a 1917 New York exhibition—should be a source of U.S. nationalism.

The exhibit was initiated by Dr. Fletcher H. (Bud) Griffiths, vice president and dean of engineering and applied sciences, and coordinated by the late Nick Russo '73 (see page 15), general engineering instructor. “There's art and beauty in what engineers do,” Russo said at the time of the mounting. “With this exhibit, we want to give students the feel of art in their work.”

Michael Primegga '75 '77, deputy commissioner for traffic operations at the Department of Transportation, donated three pieces to the exhibit—an exit sign from a Staten Island highway and the two street lamp heads pictured above.

POLYTECHNIC ESTABLISHES HONORS COLLEGE

Polytechnic has announced the creation of an Honors College with the inaugural class to enter the University in September 2003.

The Honors College was developed by faculty under the auspices of the recently established Othmer Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies and comprises an enriched intellectual and social experience for undergraduates with superior academic records and ability. For students, the Honors College will provide close relationships with faculty who will act as mentors, high-level individualized attention and support, study-abroad opportunities and the prospect of earning BS/MS degrees in as few as four years.

The Honors College is overseen by a Faculty Governing Board with representatives from all disciplines at the University, and is headed by the first Honors College faculty director, Dr. Stephen Arnold, University professor and the Thomas Potts Professor of Physics.

“Having already had the great pleasure of offering honors physics sections for several years, it will be all the more fun and exciting to implement a University-wide Honors College,” says Arnold. “We fully expect that this effort will attract the very best students in the New York City/Tri-State Region and from beyond New York as well, especially now with our new residence hall.”
Othmer Residence Hall Receives Award

The Donald E. and Mildred Topp Othmer Residence Hall has received a 2003 Building Brooklyn Award from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. The 20-story, 400-bed facility opened in summer 2002 and is the University's first on-campus residence hall in Brooklyn.

The Building Brooklyn Awards are annual design and construction awards, which honor one individual and 11 recent construction projects that enhance the economic and community development of Brooklyn. An independent committee of architects, planners and public officials selected the Othmer Residence Hall as the winning project within the Educational/Residential category.

Special Services Celebrates 25 Years at Poly

In 1978, Polytechnic received its first grant from the TRIO Student Support Services, a federal program for first-generation, low-income and disabled students. Since then, more than 2,000 students who have walked through the doors of the Office of Special Services have graduated from Polytechnic. A special 25th anniversary celebration on campus in May brought students, alumni, staff and former staff together to reminisce and honor active participants, including, pictured, student tutor Kenneth Guandique '03, who received the 2003 Raytheon Award from Nicole L. Peck '02, director of special services.

Chang Makes Crain's "Most Powerful" List

President David C. Chang was named one of New York's "100 Most Powerful Minority Business Leaders" in a special report in the April 28th issue of Crain's New York Business. The article highlighted his accomplishments during his nine-year tenure as president, including increasing undergraduate enrollment, initiating a $130-million capital improvement plan for the campus and "reshaping Brooklyn's MetroTech area by creating a 24/7 community where students study, live and socialize." To read the article, visit http://www.poly.edu/polypress.

POLYMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE DESIGNATED AS NATIONAL HISTORIC CHEMICAL LANDMARK

The American Chemical Society (ACS) has designated Polytechnic's Herman F. Mark Polymer Research Institute (PRI) as a National Historic Chemical Landmark. The PRI will be honored for its notable achievements in polymer science in conjunction with an ACS national meeting in September in New York City.

Established by Professor Mark in 1945, the PRI was the first academic research institute in the nation for the study of polymers. Through the PRI, Polytechnic developed the nation's first academic curriculum for master's and doctoral degrees in polymer chemistry. Many individuals associated with the PRI later went on to notable careers, including the late Dr. Charles G. Overberger, former PRI director who became chair of the Chemistry Department at the University of Michigan and helped found the Macromolecular Research Institute; and Dr. Norbert M. Bikales '56 '61, former editor of the Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Technology and former head of the National Science Foundation's European office.

Today, the PRI, under Director Kalle M. Levon, continues to be a leader in the synthesis, characterization, structure, processing, properties and application of polymeric materials, and has expanded its research in macromolecular technology to health-related areas.
BUGLIARELLO NAMED POLY PRESIDENT EMERITUS AND NAE FOREIGN SECRETARY

In May, Dr. George Bugliarello, former president and chancellor of Polytechnic, was named president emeritus by the University's Board of Trustees. In addition, he was elected to a four-year term as foreign secretary for the National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

During his 21-year tenure as president of Polytechnic, from 1973 to 1994, Bugliarello spearheaded the development of Metro Tech Center in downtown Brooklyn, today, one of the largest urban university-corporate parks in the world and the largest in the United States. He is also credited with the raising of over $100 million in gifts to the University, the construction of Polytechnic's Bern Dibner Library of Science and Technology and the establishment of several prestigious research centers, including the New York State Center for Advanced Technology in Telecommunications. As chancellor from 1994 to June 2003, Bugliarello launched Polytechnic's Urban Security Initiative, the Center for Finance and Technology and the Center for Supply Chains and Merchandising.

He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the NAE, and served as chairman and member of numerous committees for the U.S. National Academies, the National Science Foundation and the National Research Council. He was recently appointed co-chair of a joint Russian-American Task Force on Urban Security, created by the U.S. National Academies and the Russian Academy of Science. In his new role at NAE, he will oversee the organization's international activities and coordinate its contacts with engineering academies in other countries. His term began July 1.

Outstanding Polymer Science Students Recognized

For the past 15 years, Ticona, the technical polymers group of Hoechst AG, has presented annual awards to outstanding Polytechnic graduate students in polymer science. The 2003 recipients are, holding plaques, Ferras Abuazin, left, and Hua Zhang. Both students earned 4.0 grade-point averages, have given talks at international conferences and published papers in prestigious journals. Standing with the winners are, from left, Professor Jovan Mijovic, Zhang's adviser; Professor Kalle M. Leovig, director of Poly's Polymer Research Institute; Dr. Gerald S. Kirshenbaum '70 '71, global manager of product safety, environmental health and safety affairs for Ticona; University Professor Eli Pearson '58; and Professor Christos Georgakis, head of the Othmer Department of Chemical and Biological Sciences and Engineering.

FACULTY / STAFF NEWS

Kathy Brock, director of the Counseling Center, was selected to work for the Human Rights Clinic, sponsored by the Doctors of the World. As a volunteer, she will provide psychological evaluations and forensic testimony for torture survivors seeking political asylum in the United States.

Dr. H. Jonathan Chao, professor of electrical and computer engineering, was selected as Speaker of the Year by the IEEE New Jersey Coast Section.

Dr. Lorcan M. Folan, head of the Department of Introductory Design and Science, and Dr. Vladimir I. Tisfinovich, lecturer of physics, wrote Modern Physics and Technology for Undergraduates (with Dr. Gennady P. Berman), published in June 2003 by World Scientific Publishing Company.

Dr. Jean Gallagher, associate professor of English, received the Faculty Member of the Year Award from the Polytechnic Student Council.

Ellen F. Hartigan, vice president of student affairs and alumni development, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Explorers Club, an international multidisciplinary, professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and scientific exploration.

Tonya Holmes, administrative aide in the Office of Career Services, received the Staff Member of the Year Award from the Polytechnic Student Council.

Beverly Johnson, executive director of the YES Center, received the Adviser of the Year Award from the Polytechnic Student Council for her work with the National Society of Black Engineers student chapter.

Dr. Vikram Kapila, associate professor of mechanical engineering, received the Distinguished Teacher Award, presented at the 2003 Polytechnic Commencement ceremony. He was nominated for the award by colleagues, students and alumni.
Selesnick's Research
Earmarks Noise Reduction

If Dr. Ivan W. Selesnick has his way, the world will become a much quieter place.

For the past six years, Selesnick, a newly tenured associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Othmer Junior Faculty Fellow, has been researching ways to reduce "noise" in signal and image acquisition systems using wavelet transforms. In the technology industry, "noise" refers to the occurrence of random errors in data of any kind resulting in diminished clarity.

"It's a very basic problem in signal processing," says Selesnick, "one that I thought might be interesting to investigate. The research uses fast data-driven algorithms for noise reduction."

The research is supported by a National Science Foundation Career Award and has practical application in medicine and naval defense. AFP Inc., a manufacturer of dental x-ray machines, is using Selesnick's noise reduction research to improve the images produced by its digital sensor. When the sensor is placed in the patient's mouth, the image is displayed on the dentist's computer for diagnosis. Although this new method is environmentally sound, uses less radiation and is faster and more cost-effective, the images suffered from noise, which made it less desirable for widespread use. Selesnick's wavelet transforms have rectified the problem.

"Wavelet transforms decompose data into more elementary pieces," says Selesnick. "The decomposition makes it easier to reduce the noise and improve the clarity."

This technology is also being applied to positron emission tomography (PET) scans to enhance clarity and diagnostic accuracy.

Selesnick is also working with Professor S. Unnikrishna Pillai on an underwater sonar project for the Office of Naval Research. The team is investigating signal processing techniques to enhance performance of underwater sonar systems in increasing the range and the quality of submarine detection.

In addition to his research, Selesnick, with the assistance of his students, designed a Web site permitting individuals who are working on wavelet research, interested in wavelet applications or the implementation of wavelet transforms to access the latest software. Users can locate the site at http://taco.poly.edu/WaveletSoftware.

Associate Professor Ivan W. Selesnick displays images before and after noise reduction using wavelet transforms.

GROSS RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL GREEN CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE AWARD

Dr. Richard A. Gross '86, the Herman F. Mark Professor of Polymer Science, has received a Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for developing a simple energy-efficient enzymatic method to make and modify plastics. The plastics are made using an enzyme from yeast and can be built from all-natural materials such as sugars.

"I see a revolution underway," says Gross, "where enzymes will be custom designed in collaboration with protein engineers for the efficient synthesis of a wide range of commodity and specialty polymers." He envisions the polymers from his work being used in applications ranging from coatings to soft biodegradable film wrappings. He is also finding that his new functional polymers from sugars can be used for medical implants and for controlled-drug release.

"I see a revolution underway where enzymes will be custom designed...for the efficient synthesis of a wide range of commodity and specialty polymers."

— Richard A. Gross

Gross is the director of the nation's first Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing of Macromolecules, established at Polytechnic in 2000. Funded by the National Science Foundation and private industry, the center conducts research to develop new ways of producing environmentally friendly polymers using natural systems such as yeasts, fungi, bacteria and plants. For more information on the center and other research activities by Gross, visit http://chem.poly.edu/gross.

The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge awards have been presented annually since 1996 to recognize businesses and individuals who have discovered innovative ways to significantly reduce pollution at its sources and have used chemistry to improve the environment. Nominations for the awards are judged by an independent panel of technical experts convened by the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, on behalf of representatives from government, industry, academia and the nonprofit sector.
ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI PRESIDENT’S CORNER

It is interesting how a goal focuses our attention on the job at hand, and this is a good thing. On campus, the ending of the school year finds students completing projects, turning in reports and, in general, getting things in order. None are more motivated than the members of the graduating class, who have been working toward their degrees. In June, the alumni association officially welcomed the Class of 2003 into the ranks of POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI. We also honored members of the Silver Jubilee (Class of ’78) and held special receptions and ceremonies for the Golden Jubilee celebrants.

In fact, the 50th anniversary class was excited to be on campus for the festivities. Some out-of-towners played “student” and stayed at the Othmer Residence Hall. However, everyone asked to visit the labs. The largest contingent came because of memories of Professor Donald Othmer, a famed chemical engineer who taught at Poly for many decades and was revered by his students.

These memories are important, because in the transition from students to alumni, it is these fond remembrances of faculty that characterize the Polytechnic community throughout the years. Today’s students and alumni will remember Nick Russo ’73 as just such a caring and sharing Poly instructor. He parlayed his talents as a professional actor to bring to life his lectures and presentations. He was an established engineer with several patents, and his clarity and compactness of message motivated everyone to unleash their creative capability to solve problems.

Wishing to recommend the Poly experience to talented high school students, many alumni have asked how they can help. Recruiting material is being prepared for distribution to alumni sections. Meanwhile on campus, the Big Apple Section will offer assistance for the conference of the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology (NCSSMST), which takes place in October. The consortium is dedicated to improving high school math, science and technology education, and we will interact with and sponsor programs for the visiting students and faculty from around the country.

Along the way, we will work together to exchange ideas and create more networking experiences for the members of POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI. Have a wonderful summer!

James Oussani Jr. ’77

POTOMAC SECTION HONORS KATZ

With Potomac Alumni Section President Ed T. Barron ’56 looking on, far left, Ellen F. Hartigan, vice president of student affairs and alumni development, presented the section’s Alumnius of the Year Award to Lawrence W. Katz ’58. The event took place at the McLean, Va., home of William L. Friend ’56 and his wife, Mary Kay, as nearly 60 alumni and guests from the Washington, D.C., area reunited to reminisce and honor Katz, first vice president at PaineWebber. Alumni interested in knowing about upcoming Potomac events should contact Barron at edtb@aol.com.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

In June, 30 members of the Class of ’53 celebrated their Golden Jubilee at a reunion at Polytechnic. Those attending included chemical engineering majors, standing from left, John Curtin; Arthur Kelly and his wife, Linda; Frank Gallagher; and Anton Komarek. Seated from left: Gisela Schaefer and her husband, Andrew; and Kenneth Kesting ’55 and his wife, Constance. More photos are available on www.poly.edu/alumni. Click on “Recent Events.”

SILVER JUBILEE FOR CLASS OF ’78

Members of the Class of ’78 gathered in June at the annual meeting of the POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI to celebrate their Silver Jubilee. From left: Robert Vitullo (ME), Joachim Voss (IE), Stanley Kopman (EE), Sally Ann Alice Giuffrida (MO), John Kociemeyer (EE), Peter Dooling (SE), John Uzamere (ME), Sylvester Giuffrida (EE), William Koetas (EE), Robert Chambers (EE) ’81 (CS) and President Chang. A dinner following the annual meeting also recognized the classes of ’63, ’73 and ’93.
URSULA BURNS: Driving Xerox into the Digital Age

It’s 9 a.m. on a Monday morning and Ursula Burns ’80 is on the road again. As president of Xerox Corporation’s Business Group Operations, Burns logs up to 100,000 miles a year traveling to the company’s far-flung operations in Japan, India, Brazil and Europe and throughout the United States. On this morning, she headed for a week-long trip to Japan. “It’s hectic,” Burns concedes, “but it comes with the territory. I handle the travel well.”

The territory for Burns expanded significantly last December when she was named president of the Business Group Operations at the world’s largest document systems and services company. She is now responsible for the businesses that provide more than 80 percent of Xerox’s sales, as well as the engineering, manufacturing and other logistical functions that are the engine behind the company’s new products and services.

Xerox’s impressive turnaround from a challenging position in the marketplace after graduation, following the internship, Burns was offered a GEM Fellowship, administered by the Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minority Scientists in Engineering and Science Inc. The fellowship paid for her master’s degree at Columbia and sent her back to Xerox for another summer. In 1982, having earned an MS in Mechanical Engineering, Burns officially joined Xerox and moved to Rochester, N.Y., home to the largest population of Xerox employees. In her two decades with the company, she has moved through engineering, manufacturing and various product divisions. She was named a corporate senior vice president of Xerox in 2000.

Burns, and her husband, Lloyd F. Bean, a retired Xerox scientist, and their two children continue to live in the Rochester area. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Polytechnic and the University of Rochester and is a board member of the Rochester Business Alliance.

Looking back over her career, Burns fondly recalls a piece of advice her mother gave her: “Focus on the things you can control and make sure you are great at those things and what you can control is twice as big as what you think it is.”

NEW OFFICERS OF THE POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI 2003/04

President: James Ouassani Jr. ’77
Executive Vice President: Thomas A. Mauro ’67
Vice President: George Likourezos ’92 ’92
Treasurer: Luther L. White ’87
Secretary: Stephen Garone ’73
Leopold B. Felsen Receives IEEE Electromagnetics Award

Leopold B. Felsen '48 '49 '50 received IEEE's 2003 Electromagnetics Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of electromagnetic theory, methodology and phenomenology. Felsen is professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering and electrical and computer engineering at Boston University and professor emeritus at Polytechnic.

Felsen's work with Nathan Marcuvitz '35 '41 '47 was pivotal in establishing the school of spectral analysis in electromagnetics by demonstrating the importance of the systematic classification of spectral contributions and their spatial and physical manifestations. His research has been applied to modeling design and performance of antennas, guided and leaky wave structures and practical communication systems. His work bridged the gap between electromagnetics and other wave-based disciplines resulting in the emergence of a common methodological basis for dissimilar wave scenarios. A prolific author, his book Radiation and Scattering of Waves, co-authored with Marcuvitz, presents a unified spectral methodology for electromagnetics analysis that is considered a classic by scientists and engineers worldwide.

William Hackemann (ME) and his wife, Iris, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in July. Arthur Sarkissian (CE) '59 (CE) is the proud grandparent of eight. Stanley M. Schreiner (EE) and his wife, Malvina, have traveled this year to Spain, England, and Mexico. Robert E. Vessiny (CH) is retired and lives in Alameda, Calif.

51 Stewart H. Ross (ME) published the book Strategic Bombing by the United States in World War II: The Myths and the Facts in 2002. Erwin Sheppard (CH) wants to hear from fellow chemists who graduated Poly in 1950 and 1951. He can be reached at 708/386-0748.

52 Arnold Winters (EE) is retired and lives in Grass Valley, Calif., and Honolulu, Hawaii.

53 William P. Holsten (CE) is a deacon of the Lutheran church, Atlantic district, and has 15 grandchildren. Raymond Viola (PH) divides his time between Long Island and Naples, Fla. Helen Zera (CH) '56 (CH) supports a cancer hospital for children in Krakow, Poland. As a chemist, she researches leukemia-fighting drugs.

54 Volunteers are needed to help make the Golden Jubilee of the Class of '54 a special event. If you would like to help us contact classmates and organize special receptions, please contact Donald Ivanoff, director of alumni relations, at 718/260-3885 or alumni@poly.edu. Robert Bernert (CE) was the oldest participant, at age 70, in the annual Stowe, Vermont, Cross.
Country Ski Race in the Classic Style Division and finished in the middle of the over 60 age group.

60 RONALD G. SABBAGH (ME) '70 (NE) is vice president for software development and special projects at L-3 Communications in New York.

62 SHIH-CHUNG MA (CI)'69 (AM) is recovering from recent surgery.

63 MICHAEL FRIEDMAN (CH) has retired from Auburn University.

64 JOSEPH FLAHERTY (AE) '66 (AM)'69 (AM) is dean of the School of Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

65 LUIGI ARENA (EE) is director of radiology at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers, N.Y.

66 cable

67 LARRY KARAS (CI) '77 (CI) retired as an environmental health and safety officer from Hoechst Celanese Corp.

68 FRANK CASSARA (EE) '71 (EE) is director of Polytechnic's Long Island Graduate Center in Melville, Long Island.

69 WILLIAM A. FIFE (MG) was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration Eastern Division for his pioneering work in developing the peer review initiative for the aviation industry. He is vice president and aviation business line manager for DMJM+HARRIS. ROBERT J. FRANCO (MT) moved to Bellaire, Tex. He has worked for ExxonMobil for 34 years.

69 Help make the Silver Jubilee of the Class of '79 a special event. If you

72 PETER AGRAPIDES (MB) is senior program manager for General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems. CALVIN F. CURINGTON (CI) retired as superfund program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

73 MARSHA ANDERSON BOMAR (MA) '75 (TP) is the founder and owner of Street Smarts, a Duluth-based transportation engineering firm. For the second consecutive year, the company was honored by the Atlanta Business Chronicle with its 2003 Pacesetter Award for being one of the fastest growing, privately-held companies in Atlanta. DAVID R. KILANOWSKI (CE) is director of process development for the Scots Company in Marysville, Ohio. CHARLES F. NAUSS (TP) retired as chief transportation planner from the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, Transportation Division.

74 Help make the Silver Jubilee of the Class of '79 a special event. If you

75 ALBERT SENIOR (EE) '81 (MG) is the principal engineer in the electrical division of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

76 BARRY SALKA (CH) is director of technical sales for the Cognixa Corp.

77 Help make the Silver Jubilee of the Class of '79 a special event. If you

79 Help make the Silver Jubilee of the Class of '79 a special event. If you

Vincent A. Calarco
Awarded International Palladium Medal

Vincent A. Calarco '63
(Ch), chairman, president and CEO of the Crompton Corporation, received the 2003 International Palladium Medal from the Société de Chimie Industrielle, American Section, in recognition of his contributions to the chemical industry.

Calarco has more than three decades in the specialty chemicals industry. He began his career at NL Industries Inc. and served as president of Uniroyal Chemical Company and vice president of parent company Unipro Inc. He joined Crompton and Knowles Inc. as president and CEO in 1985 and helmed its 1999 merger with Wtico Corporation to become the current company. Active in numerous professional, educational and service organizations, he is an advisory trustee of Polytechnic and vice chairman and trustee of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. He earned a BS in Chemical Engineering from Poly in 1963 and an MBA from Harvard in 1970.

DONOR PROFILE:

Henry L. Bachman '51 '54
BS, Electrical Engineering; MS, Electrophysics
Vice President (Retired), BAE SYSTEMS CNIR

Consecutive Contributor for More than 25 Years

"The quality of my educational experience at Brooklyn Poly was a significant factor in contributing to a gratifying and successful career in engineering for over 50 years. By my giving to Polytechnic, I seek to sustain the quality of that experience and to contribute to the success of those whose careers will span the next 50 years."

To discuss your contribution to Polytechnic, contact Colleen Jansen, director of major gifts/Polytechnic Fund, at 800/765-9929 or cjansen@poly.edu.
would like to volunteer to contact classmates or help organize this reunion, please contact Donald Ivanoff, director of alumni relations, at 718/260-3885 or alumni@poly.edu. MICHAEL PHILLIPS (ME) works in the Leon-Six Sigma Department at Boeing Satellite Systems in El Segundo, Calif.

80 JOHN COMPARETTO (EE) '88 (EE) is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and is deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

81 KIRBY KING (ME) is deputy director of the PATH rapid transit system. He lives in West Orange, N.J.

83 JEFFREY D. MAINES (CE) '88 (IE) is recovering from a subdural hematoma. QUANG D. TRAN (EE) '90 (MT) is purchasing director for Philips Mobile Display Systems and is based primarily in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

84 LAWRENCE P. MARK is chief technology officer for SER Solutions Inc.

88 DAVID H. LAPPING (TP) is director of the RBA Group's Long Island office in Melville.

89 GEOFFREY J. GIORDANO (CS) is executive director of emerging technologies for SER Solutions Inc. ALAN P. MARCHAN (CI) '00 (CI) is an associate in the New York office of Harlesey & Hanover.

92 DEBRA MACK (OB) is the barcar at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. STEVE WEISS (AE) is an equipment engineer for FuelCell Energy in Danbury, Conn.

93 CARL GAUNTELL (EE) is senior manager of sustaining engineering for multi-service switch products at Lucent Technologies in Westford, Mass.

95 KEVIN J. MCKENNA (CI) and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed their third child, Caitlin Rose, in February. Siblings Casey and Kevin James are thrilled.

96 MARIA GUERRERO-CARABALLO (EE) received a Master's in Information Systems from Stevens Institute of Technology in 2002 and moved to Orlando, Fla., with husband Tito and 3-year-old daughter Maya. She is a senior network specialist at Central Florida Educator's Credit Union. BRIAN MUELLERS is vice president of technology at the Pall Corporation in Port Washington, N.Y. ELENA STOICHEVA (HUT) '97 (OB) married Patrick Egan in March and lives in Nanaet, N.Y.

97 MEG LAYTON (TM) is a security analyst and software developer for Symantec and the proud mother of a new son, George.

99 ALTHEA TAYLOR (MC) is an associate pastor for administration and youth at the Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene.

00 KATHRYN COOPERMAN (MC) works in the global markets group at Sprint, developing global voice and data solutions for mid- to large-size businesses. She received a master's degree in marketing from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 2001. She became a grandmother in 2002. LEONARD T. JORDAN JR. (OB) received the 2003 Black Achiever in Industry Award from the Harlem YMCA. He is manager of KeySpan's New York Customer Assistance Center.

02 ANNA BENSON (CY) is a systems engineer at Northrop Grumman. CAMILO BONILLA (ME) is an associate field engineer for KeySpan Energy Delivery. FREDDY SANTIAGO (ME) is a design engineer for Flack & Kurtz Consulting Engineers Inc.

**Bishnu S. Atal Awarded Benjamin Franklin Medal**

The Franklin Institute has awarded Dr. Bishnu S. Atal '68 (EE) with the 2003 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Electrical Engineering for his work on voice coding, including the concept of speech analysis-by-synthesis coding, leading to the CELP (Code- excited Linear Predictive) Coder. Atal developed Linear Predictive Coding (LPC) methods to analyze and synthesize speech signals, which provided not only higher quality digital speech, but also expanded the benefits of cellular phone technology to millions of users. His invention reduced the bandwidth required to send high-quality speech signals on narrow-band channels. By reducing the bandwidth size, Atal expanded the carrying capacity of the limited area of the electromagnetic spectrum used by cellular users.

Atal, now retired as a director from AT&T Labs Research, holds 16 U.S. and numerous international patents in speech processing. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences, and is a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America.
IN MEMORIAM

Heinz Hermann Focke H'97

Heinz Hermann Focke H'97 died June 7, of a heart attack in Verden, Germany. He was 81.

A mechanical engineer and entrepreneur, Focke helped design the first automatic tobacco-weighing and pouch-packing system. He went on to found and serve as chief executive of what is now Focke & Co. GmbH & Co.), a German-based company that manufactures packaging machinery, with operations in Europe, Asia and North and South America. Focke also is the sole or participating holder of 487 patents, both German and international.

For the past decade, Focke supported a summer internship program for Polytechnic students at his company's headquarters in Verden. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Hildegard, and children Jürgen and Doris.

Onofrio (Nick) Russo '73

Alumnus and general engineering instructor, Onofrio (Nick) Russo '73 died April 29 of an apparent heart attack. He was 51.

For more than 30 years, Russo wore many hats at Poly. In addition to serving as instructor, he was former sports information director, assistant cross country coach, adviser to numerous student organizations and coordinator of the Exec21 and Construction Management programs. He was former president of the Big Apple Alumni Section and received that section's Alumnus of the Year Award in 2002. He also received a 1995 Polytechnic Dedicated Alumnus Award and two Extra Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

"He did it all—student, alumnus, instructor, colleague and friend—a man with a cause," says Cheryl A. McNear '92, director of student development and vice president of the Big Apple Alumni Section. "Nick Russo was the personification of Poly pride."

In June, Polytechnic held a special ceremony on the site of the University's permanent art exhibit coordinated by Russo (see article on page 6), where students presented to Russo's mother, Helen, a photo album and autograph book containing photos and handwritten memories of Russo donated by the Polytechnic community. The University also unveiled a plaque inscribed with Russo's name and a favorite saying of his: "There's art and beauty in what engineers do."

The University has established a fund in Russo's honor to support awards, scholarships and activities during National Engineers Week. Checks made payable to Polytechnic University (please note "Nick Russo Poly Pride Memorial Fund" on check) can be sent to Donald Ivanoff, director of alumni relations, Polytechnic University, Six MetroTech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

"I never met anyone who had more sincere love for Poly and its students."

— Ed T. Barron '56
(former president of the Polytechnic Alumni Step Awards, a University program that recognizes contributions by faculty and staff to make Poly a better place to work, teach or learn.

As a student studying mechanical engineering in the early 1970s, Russo was founder and president of the Rapid Transit Club and the Polytechnic Railroad and Subway Club; he also managed the varsity basketball team and managed and played on the baseball team.

"I don't have to tell you about his energy and enthusiasm for Poly—it's been there for as long as I have known him," says Steve Garone '73, a former classmate.

Ed T. Barron '56, former president of the Polytechnic Alumni, agrees: "Never met anyone who had more sincere love for Poly and its students."

Before becoming a full-time instructor at Polytechnic in 1996, Russo worked as an engineer for Gas Energy Inc., a subsidiary of Brooklyn Union Gas (now KeySpan Energy) and for KIAC Partners, partially owned by Gas Energy. He held four patents for utility product-related items. He also acted and was a member of the Screen Actors Guild, Actor's Equity Association and the American

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Kooperman '27 • Jerome Freedland '35 • Albert W. Bicknell '37 • Frank Taffel '38 • Walter O. Shwert '40 • John J. Steinke '43 '46 • George Fedorko '48 • Norman G. Sonntag '48 • Richard A. Arzapano '49 • Francis J. Oliva '50 • Frank P. Vultaggio '50 • Saul Krasner '51 '70 • George Mayurnik '51 '51 • Salvatore Ammirati '51 '57 • William M. Honig '52 • John F. Olivo '54 '66 • Peter Paladini '54 • Paul Zapryluk '55 • Oskar L. Eichna Jr. '65 • Andrew G. Dingwall '70 • Robert G. Ruhle '71 • Gregory R. Kutz '72 • Richard Grefe '73 • Onofrio (Nick) Russo '73
**LONDON SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING!**

Join members of the Polytechnic community for the annual Thanksgiving weekend trip to London, England.

**WHEN:**
November 26 to 30

**AMENITIES:**
Round-trip airfare from New York City on Virgin Atlantic; three nights in a tourist-class hotel in Kensington; sightseeing trips led by Donald Ivanoff, director of alumni relations; daily continental breakfast; airport-to-hotel transfers and more.

**COST:**
- Before September 10: $699 per person
- After September 10: $749 per person (single and double occupancy available)

For more details and a sample itinerary, contact Donald Ivanoff at 718/260-3885 or alumni@poly.edu. Space is limited and all deposits must be made by October 7 to reserve this special price.

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**THIS ISSUE'S POLY QUIZ**

Here’s a chance to test your Polytechnic education. Correctly answer the question below and be entered in a drawing to win a Poly sweatshirt.

**QUESTION:** A wealthy man goes to work each morning, driven by his chauffeur to a ferry. When the man returns from work 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 home, where they arrive 15 minutes earlier than usual. The question is: How many minutes was the man walking along the road?

This issue’s question was provided by Dr. Robert Ackerman, professor emeritus of chemical engineering.

Send your answer and sweatshirt size to Therese E. Tillet
E-mail:ttillet@poly.edu;
Fax: 718/260-3084; Mail: Polytechnic University; Six MetroTech Center; Brooklyn, NY 11201

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**LAST ISSUE'S POLY QUIZ**

**WINNERS OF DRAWING FROM SPRING ’03 QUIZ:**
Lawrence L. Brecker ’62, Peter Lau ’93, and David Santee ’81

Nearly 100 people correctly answered the question posed by Howard Beroff ’59:
What do you do if an airline has a rule that it will not accept luggage measuring more than 100 cm in any one dimension, and you want to check a fishing rod that measures 170 cm in length?
(And, no, you cannot fold the rod.)

**THE ANSWER:**
Get a cubic box measuring 100 cm and place the fishing rod into it diagonally. A box 100 cm per side has a diagonal of 170 cm, more than enough to accommodate a 170 cm fishing rod (and maybe some bait!).

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

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**UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!**

E-mail is one of the most cost-effective and timely methods for the University to distribute information to alumni. But e-mail addresses change often, and we have no way of knowing about these changes if you don’t tell us.

To report a new e-mail address, e-mail us at alumni@poly.edu. You may also enroll in Polytechnic’s monthly e-mail newsletter by visiting www.poly.edu/alumni and clicking on “Services to Alumni” to sign up for the mailing list.