



P o l y t e c h n i c   I n s t i t u t e

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**Annual Meeting and Elections of the Members of the  
Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association and Polytechnic Alumni Association**

Meeting Minutes for the Annual Meeting and Elections held on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.  
Meeting was held in The Penn Club and on-line via a Zoom Connection

**Attendance:**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:** Robert V. Jones, Gus Maimis, Ravi Islam

**INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Kevin Bishop, Richard Day, Mohammed Ghouri, Don Trotta, Frank Robertazzi, Martin Green, Purva Gujarathi, Daniel O'Sullivan, Kapil Ramharack, Iryna Zenyuk

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Frank Namad, Anthony Concolino, Charles Hinkaty

**STAFF:** Valerie Cabral, Alexandra Serret

**Executive Summary:**

Robert V. Jones, President of the Polytechnic Alumni Association, called the Annual Meeting to order at 6:30pm, reporting that quorum had been established. He welcomed fellow alumni, alumni relations staff members, and other guests.

Robert opened the meeting by noting this is as the first in-person event since June 2019 at the Penn Club. A special welcome was given to the honored guests, NYU Tandon Dedicated Alumni Awards recipients, Gabriel Avgerinos ('73, Stern '77) and Anthony Concolino '82.

Prior to entering the discussions associated with the meeting, the Association observed a moment of silence to remember the 253 alumni who passed away since the last annual meeting of the Association. our alma mater's friends, colleagues, faculty and staff. Every loss is a heartfelt one and their names were noted on the In Memoriam slides shown. There are a few who we loss this past year that were mentioned by name:

- Professor Robert J. Flynn, PhD '66 '73
- Robert Wolke '49 who was a retired professor in the University of Pittsburgh, who went onto earn his PhD in nuclear chemistry from Cornell University
- Michel M. Britritto PhD '72, a builder of business, a force for political and social change

- Anthony Cavanna '66, who was one of the four original executives who formed Trex. He was responsible for the financial plan which led to the company's initial listing on the New York Stock Exchange.
- Virginia M. Findeis '59, who was the first female to graduate with a masters in Industrial Engineering. Virginia was a public educator and was intensely proud of her degree and the space she made for women in math and science.
- Joseph W. Glaser, PhD '75, who was proud of his efforts in the Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Transparency Program in dismantling Russian nuclear weapons for peaceful energy production.

Ravi Islam '16 '19 (Secretary) requested a motion to dispense with the reading of last year's minutes (June 24, 2021). The motion was made and seconded. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

### **President's Report Robert V. Jones – President, PAA**

Robert opened up his report by stating that early on in the year, the association demonstrated their commitment to collaboration across the NYU community by teaming up with NYU Alumni Entrepreneurship Network and the NYU Entrepreneurial Institute to present Tandon Alumni Entrepreneurship Week event. There, topics such as cybersecurity and sustainability were discussed alongside success stories of several NYU Tandon Made entrepreneurs including John Viega, Daniella Blanco, Ramon Parchment, and PAA board member Bertha Jimenez. Later on in the year, Tandon collaborated with alumni from College of Art & Sciences and Steinhart separately to deliver informative and thought-provoking events.

Robert spoke about the privilege of moderating with Dean Jelena during the Dean's Luncheon. The message conveyed to alumni and parents about NYU Tandon's progress was clear and impressive. That progress was underscored by another 3-position rise to #33 on the US News and World Report rankings for NYU Tandon. During this year, we also had the opportunity to hear first-hand from our student council leadership as well as our passionate students pursuing advice and support with club activities. Supporting alma mater and students is an important part of the PAA.

Spring was filled with several important, festive, and celebratory events. This past NYU One Day was the most successful NYU One Day ever. Robert was pleased and honored to acknowledge receipt of a wonderful letter from NYU President Andrew Hamilton, on behalf of PAA, recognizing the association's participation in the World of Thanks dinner hosted by NYU Trustee Chair, William Berkley. The dinner celebrates scholarship benefactors and inspiring scholars. In April, NYU recognized and celebrated the achievements of alumni throughout the NYU community at the 2022 NYU Alumni Awards held at Gotham Hall in New York City.

Lastly Robert mentions the celebration of classes 2022, 2021, and 2020 at the commencement ceremony held at Barclays Center. Nearly 2,700 graduates were welcomed to the NYU Tandon Polytechnic Alumni Association. Together they join over 65,000 NYU Tandon Made Alumni around the world.

Robert was pleased to report that Tandon representation on the NYUAA board is expanding. PAA board member, Amy Batallones, and past PAA board member, Pauline Madriz, will join PAA past president, Tony Concolino, and Robert as NYUAA board members this fall. Nikolai Wolf '09 '11, past PAA Board member and chair of our Bylaws Committee will serve as President NYUAA this fall as well.

Robert closed his report by emphasizing the importance of engagement among alumni members and students. He encourages more collaboration across the NYU community, more gift giving, more alumni recognition, and more of those things that make NYU Tandon Polytechnic Alumni Association the best that it can be.

### **Fundraising Committee Report**

Charlie Hinkaty provided the NYU Tandon's One Day efforts. Charlie encourages alumni to write to him over the summer to share their reasons for why they contribute or why they don't. He is open to suggestions on how we can improve our annual fund effort going forward and even invite interested alumni to join him on the Fundraising Committee.

NYU One Day was on March 24, 2022 and NYU Tandon in 2022 contributed \$181,623 to the university wide total of over \$7.1 million reached. Tandon board members, Ravi Sajwan and Charlie Hinkaty contributed their match of \$75,000 this year. Dean Jelena joined with a generous match of \$10,000 which received a corporate match of an additional \$10,000.

A motion was requested to accept the Fundraising report. The motion was made and seconded.

### **Legacy/Awards Committee Report**

Frank Namad '68, chair of the Tandon/Poly Legacy and Awards Committee presented the committee report and the 2022 Dedicated Alumni Awards recipients.

The mission and goal of the Tandon Legacy/Awards Committee is to serve the PAA in integrating Polytechnic's impressive history into the Tandon brand and foster greater awareness among all its stakeholders – past, present and future while unify engineering alumni across many generations, thus increase their loyalties and pride in their alma mater. In the coming year, this committee will continue to work with Alumni Relations to identify worthy Tandon alumni for honors such as the NYU Changemakers, the NYU Distinguished Alumni, the NYU Tandon Polytechnic Distinguished Alumni Award and the NYU Dedicated Alumni Award.

In the fall, we look forward to presenting the 2022 NYU Tandon Distinguished Alumni Award to two outstanding Tandon alumni - Ursula Burns and Peter Gnoffo. Presentation will take place during our University-wide NYU Alumni & Parents Weekend held on our Washington Square Campus. Nick is working with Valerie to notify both recipients this prestigious recognition and coordinate logistics for the presentation during the annual Tandon Dean's Luncheon hosted by Dean Jelena Kovacevic.

Frank thanked the current Legacy/Awards Committee Members Gerry Dawes, Philip Furgang, Charlie Hinkaty, and Richard Thorsen. Recommendations for potential alumni award candidates can be sent to [engineering.alumni@nyu.edu](mailto:engineering.alumni@nyu.edu).

A motion was requested to accept the Legacy Committee report. The motion was made and seconded.

**President's Report (cont.) Robert V. Jones – President, PAA**

Robert took the time to recognize the dedication of all of our volunteer leadership and committee members who have served to the PAA to the best of their ability. Their support to our alma mater, our fellow alumni and its current students is greatly appreciated. He thanked our outgoing IBOD members, whose terms are ending on August 31, 2022.

- Valentina D'Costa '17
- Richard Day '15
- Bertha Jimenez, PhD '16
- James Taylor '71 '75
- Johnny Lai '85 '86 ;'97

Additionally, these Tandon PAA Standing Committee members were recognized for their continued dedicated service:

- Bylaws Committee Chair Nikolai Wolfe '09 '11 and committee members Neil Weiser '73
- Nominating Committee Chair and Immediate Past President Anthony Concolino '82 and fellow committee members Reema Abhari'15, John Catuogno'91, Gloria Duque'20 and Sederick Dawkins'17. We thank all who worked diligently with their fellow committee members to select the 2022 Slate of Candidates for the International Board of Director members.

Robert also thanked the members of Ad Hoc Engagement Committee; Ravi Islam'19 and Neo Monese for their passionate efforts in support of NYU One Day 2022 and their overall dedication to NYU Tandon and Redwan Hussain'14 '20 for joining faculty and administrators again this year as Tandon's alumni representative for the Jacobs Award for Teaching Excellence committee.

Robert encourages all attendees to join as the PAA collectively continues to be active as they aim to focus on increasing alumni engagements in all corners of the globe where are alumni call home and as they look to be of greater service to their alma mater and its current students – the future alumni.

A motion was requested to accept the President's report. The motion was made and seconded.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Valerie Cabral started her report by giving a special welcome to the newly-minted alumni tonight from the Class of 2020, Class of 2021 and Class of 2022. They were congratulated on achieving their well-earned NYU Tandon degrees and their place with us as valued alumni members of the NYU Tandon Polytechnic Alumni Association.

Valerie joined Robert in thanking the many alumni volunteers who have served as panelists and class room presenters and event speakers; as alumni/student event hosts, career fair recruiters and acted as overall champions and cheerleaders for their beloved alma mater.

Fundraising numbers as of Fiscal Year 2021 year-to-date are as following:

FY22 (Sept. 1, 2021 - June 1, 2022)

Number of donors: 1,582

Number of gifts: 1,866

Actual: \$657,240

LYTD: \$984,914

YoY: -33.26

Goal: \$900,000

Progress to Goal:73%

Since the onset of the pandemic Tandon Alumni Relations pivoted and re-imagined our calendar of alumni events entirely. Executed remotely through Zoom, these newly rethought events resulted exciting programming that engage alumni beyond our normal reach. Though challenging, our “new normal” for programming during the pandemic has allowed Tandon to expand its reach, engage with alumni and heighten engagement from alumni who might not otherwise participate in alumni events due to scheduling, location, and/or cost. Valerie thanked all alumni who helped to make these alumni events and meetings a success by participating virtually during what continues to be challenging times for all of us around the globe. The PAA has maintained a full calendar of engaging and well-attended events many which were already highlighted by Robert in his president’s report.

Future events with include:

- Professor Damon McCoy – Understanding and Undermining the Business of Cybercrime on July 28 at 12pm
- Laura Edelson – Defending against Disinformation on August 3 at 12pm.

### **Election**

Anthony Concolino '82, Chair of the Nominating Committee introduced the approved 2022 Slate of Candidates for the International Board of Director members. Voting was completed virtually due to the pandemic. That committee is present today and confirms that all of the proxies counted were received by the June 28 – noon deadline. At that time, voting was official closed. The Election Committee has overseen the electronic counting the votes

**FOR FIVE POSITIONS, EACH WITH A THREE-YEAR TERM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 2022. THE WINNERS ARE:**

**RAVI S. BHATIA, P.E. '85 '01**

**RICHARD DAY '15**

**ROOPRAM RAMHARACK, PhD '84**

**DOMINIC ANTHONY TROTTA '88**

**IRYNA ZENYUK, PhD '08**

Congratulations to the newly elected International Board of Director members!

### **2022 NYU Tandon Dedicated Alumni Award**

Frank Namad presented the award for the 2022 NYU Tandon Dedicated Alumni Award which is given to an individual or, this year, individuals in recognition of significant contributions and tireless dedication to the NYU Tandon Polytechnic Alumni Association, their fellow and future alumni and their alumna mater. Awards were presented to:

- Gabriel Avgerinos '73 '77
- Anthony Concolino '82

### **Closing Remarks**

Robert congratulated all of the newly elected leaders and thanked all attendees. A special thanks were given to to Valerie, Alexandra, our colleagues from UDAR, and the amazing staff at the Penn Club.

As there is no further business, Robert requested to adjourn the meeting. Wished everyone a good night and a safe and healthy summer.

The motion to adjourn was seconded. Annual Meeting was adjourned.