Dr. Nakisa Alborz LEED AP BD+C, an assistant professor in Wentworth’s Department of Civil Engineering, was recently named chair of the newly formed Interdisciplinary Engineering Department, heading one of the most versatile programs on campus. Alborz earned a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), and her dissertation was honored with the Technical Excellence Award at the 2015 Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACEI) International’s Annual Meeting. She attributes her career advancement to the co-op experiences and professors at Wentworth and WPI who mentored her in the path she chose to pursue. Nakisa says, “I couldn’t have done it without their guidance.”

Mr. Beachell has more than 20 years of experience in the investment industry. He is a partner with Veritable, an investment consulting firm, where he leads a six person investment team. He is a member of the Board of Drexel University and the Lenfest Foundation. Mr. Beachell completed his co-op at PECO, an electric and natural gas utility, while studying in Drexel’s College of Engineering. After this co-op, he made an important decision to change his major to Economics and then worked for an Economics Professor at Drexel. He also spent four months studying at Oxford University in the fall of his senior year studying history, economics and politics. These decisions were crucial to his career success.

Anthony Borgonzì is a Vice President of Finance at Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Boston, Massachusetts. His work aims to discover, develop and commercialize innovative new medicines so people with serious diseases can lead better lives. He has FP&A responsibility for Vertex’s ~$1 billion in annual operating expenses across the R&D pipeline and G&A. Prior to his current role, Anthony served as Senior Director of Finance, Global Research & Development, Director of Finance, Global Medicines Development & Affairs, and Associate Director, Global G&A Operations for Vertex. In addition, Anthony is a member of the Merrimack College Leadership Council, a group of highly successful alumni and parents who commit their time, expertise and financial support to enhance the student experience.

Chris started his career in the Sales & Marketing team at Ports of Auckland Limited where he began in a Marketing Assistant role before moving to a Marketing Executive position. After four years he joined the Port’s Customer Service team to gain a greater understanding of port operations. In 2015, Chris joined PortConnect, a company providing port community systems, where he is in charge of all Customer Service, Testing and Business Analysis. Chris credits his time at AUT, including an international exchange and his Co-Op internship, for his success.

Mr. Buchert is an entrepreneur and technologist who holds numerous patents and an international reputation as a wireless industry expert. He has been involved in founding three companies: Zonoff, BiLogics and StratIS, which are involved in wireless energy management and automation systems for commercial and residential buildings. These systems provide “smart” devices that can unlock doors and regulate thermostats. Mr. Buchert developed the methodologies and led the technology teams behind the unprecedented and unduplicated 65,000 module installation at The Wynn Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, the largest wireless deployment in the world. He completed co-op jobs at Rodale Press, Boeing Helicopters and UNISEYS Corporation. In 2013, he was named Drexel University’s Entrepreneur of the Year.

Paul Damico is the Executive Vice President and Group President at FOCUS Brands Inc. Early on he was inspired to be a steward for employees. When his younger brother, infected with hepatitis, needed a lifesaving liver transplant, his father’s boss offered a corporate jet to transfer the family to the hospital when a donor appeared on “Undercover Boss,” he gave $280,000 in corporate dollars to five employees of Moe’s Southwest Grill, where “Do the right thing” is a guiding principle. “We teach people they are empowered to take care of employees and customers without going through red tape.”
MELISSA DANIEL

Class of 2003
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Associate of Architectural Engineering Technology

NOMINATED BY
Dr. Zorica Pantic, President
Wentworth Institute of Technology

Melissa Daniel’s dedication to the architecture profession, as well as diversity and inclusivity, led her to develop and manage the annual Women in Architecture Series, the first of its kind in the Washington, D.C. area. A senior designer for Karn Charuhas Chapman & Twohey, Melissa is also the co-chair of the American Institute of Architect’s 2017 Women’s Leadership Summit. She served as office for the D.C. chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects, where she was the Education Committee Chair and spearheaded a session on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. She additionally has been honored with the 2015 Building Design and Construction 40 Under 40 award and as the District of Columbia Council of Engineering & Architectural Societies 2013 Young Architect of the Year.

THOMAS P. FERRAZZI FERRIS

Class of 1992
The College at Brockport
Bachelor’s, Criminal Justice

NOMINATED BY
Mary Ellen Zuckerman, Provost
The College at Brockport

Tom Ferris is a founding partner of Connors & Ferris, LLP, one of New York State’s largest Workers’ Compensation law firms. He has appeared at thousands of workers’ compensation and Social Security disability hearings and represented injured workers before the appellate courts of New York, the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board and Social Security Administration. Tom also has published many articles on workers’ compensation and the rights of injured workers in New York. He served as a counselperson on the Sweden Town Board between 2004 and 2009, and was also a 2012 National co-Chair for SUNY Buffalo Law School’s 120th Anniversary Fund Drive.

WILLIAM FLEMMING

Class of 1977, 1979
University of Cincinnati
AB, Architectural Technology (’77),
BS, Construction Management (’79)

NOMINATED BY
Ketti Cotler-Cotner, Associate Provost and Director ProPEL
University of Cincinnati

William Flemming holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management and Architectural Technology from the University of Cincinnati and an MBA from Golden Gate University. Flemming completed his cooperative education at Dunn and Wendel, an architectural firm in Cincinnati, OH and Allen Mechanical, a mechanical firm in Allentown, PA. Flemming is President of Skanska USA Building, Inc. Skanska USA is one of the largest construction and development companies in the country. Headquartered in New York with 39 offices across the country, Skanska is committed to sustainable construction and development and an injury-free workplace. Under Flemming’s leadership, Skanska has achieved earnings that have exceeded corporate goals and has developed a culture of teamwork, transparency and performance excellence.

JUSTIN FYFE

Class of 2007
Mohawk College
Computer Systems Technology - Co-op Diploma, Software Engineering

NOMINATED BY
Christine Bradaric-Baus, Vice President Academic Mohawk College

Justin Fyfe has made significant contributions to supporting better healthcare in the developing world by creating an open source software solution that makes it easier to track data such as child vaccination schedules. An internationally recognized leader in standards and interoperability, Fyfe is the founder and developer of OpenIZ, an open source immunization platform that will be implemented in Tanzania up to 80 other countries, with plans in place for implementation in Kenya and Philippines.

ROBERT P. GARRETT

Class of 1983
SUNY Oswego
Bachelor of Science, Accounting

NOMINATED BY
President Deborah F. Stanley
SUNY Oswego

Bob Garrett, managing partner for KPMG, oversees the delivery of high-quality client service, drives cross-functional quality growth efforts, attracts and retains key resources, and represents KPMG in the New York marketplace and community. Garrett has been active with the Oswego Alumni Association, hosting an office visit as part of the annual NYC Career Connection event that brings together alumni and current students.

TED GARRISON

Class of 1999
Clarkson University
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering

Ted Garrison is currently the Manager of Product Engineering at The Raymond Corporation in Greene, N.Y. Garrison began as a co-op at Raymond working in the Product Engineering department. Upon graduation, that successful co-op provided him the opportunity to return assuming the role of Product Engineer. Garrison now manages the Product Engineering department which is composed of a mix of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers. He remains a strong proponent of Raymond’s co-op program where he can provide students with real world experience. Garrison encourages all students to take part in a co-op program to enhance their skills prior to graduation.

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NOMINATED BY
Anthony G. Collins, President
Clarkson University

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BS, Construction Management (’79)

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Leadership is about taking with leadership.” People want to her, “a title has nothing to

Jill Guindon-Nassir is the Senior Corporate Director, Global Learning Solutions & Organizational Development at The Ritz-Carlton Leadership Center. According to her, “a title has nothing to with leadership.” People want a leader they can trust. Leadership is about taking risks. She successfully navigated that tightrope after researching the transfer of service excellence best practices from the hospitality to the healthcare industry. She had to convince key stakeholders - some of whom felt The Ritz-Carlton should stick to hotels - that a hotel could impact hospitals. As she created its healthcare services advisory board, she was on the cusp of the healthcare sector boom.

Ms. Hagan has been a leader in the insurance industry for almost 30 years. She is the senior vice president, corporate controller at Chubb Ltd, a global property and casualty insurance provider, and she is responsible for a 180-person group that provides financial analysis and support for a number of business units and provides reports to the Securities & Exchange Commission and other regulatory agencies. Before joining Chubb, she served as president, general manager and COO of the Disability, Life and Dental businesses with WellPoint, a health insurer, and prior to that, she spent over 20 years with CIGNA, another health insurer, where she held a variety of senior positions including EVP and CFO of the enterprise. She began her career at PwC, Marcelw, Mitchell & Co., a top accounting firm now known as KPMG. It was there that she completed co-ops which established the framework for her successful career.

Christine started her career as a quality representative and process engineer in the automotive industry during her co-op at the University of Applied Sciences Joanneum (Austria). A semester abroad in Belgium rounded out her studies in environmental and process engineering. After graduating with highest honors, she joined the Sattler Group, becoming responsible for quality management and organizational development, as well as accompanying change processes for all company subsidiaries. In close collaboration with leadership, she aims to achieve optimal organization structures and expedient business processes for strategic development. In this context, Christine is developing organizational standards within the management system.

Tad Hunt has 20 years of experience orchestrating the creation of software and hardware technology across telecommunications, networking, data storage, operating systems, and cloud platforms. He currently serves as technical lead and manager in the cloud division at Google and advises two startups: Friendly-U and LifForce, co-founded by RIT students. Previously, Hunt was Co-Founder, CTO, and Board Member at Exablox, a venture backed next generation data storage company. Before Exablox, Hunt was Principal Engineer at Entrinsiq (acquired by Ericsson), responsible for core system architecture. Tad had co-op positions at CCI/Nortel and Lawyers Cooperative Publishing – that kickstarted his career and helped with first job at Bell Labs.

Mr. Tawath Intorn undertook his Co-op as an Assistant Process Engineer at PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited (PTTGCo). Upon his graduation, he worked as a Process Engineer at the company. He worked on the Refinery and Aromatics Production Process focused on plant operations and troubleshooting, process optimization and performance improvement, feasibility analysis, as well as project management. With his excellent work performance, he was promoted to the position of Senior Planning and Analyst. He continuously supports the Co-op Program by supervising and mentoring the Co-op students during their placements with the company.

Rob Jacoby's career focused in the energy industry with Health, Safety and Environment (HSE). His 34-year career with Royal Dutch Shell in the US and Europe included a role as Global HSE Manager for Shell Global Solutions International. He led a team of scientists in the US, Netherlands, UK, Malaysia and India to provide HSE technical and R&D solutions. As an RIT co-op, he worked for Metcalf & Eddy, Inc., NYC, where he began his engineering career. “My co-op experience was outstanding as I returned to the same company, with increasing responsibilities. The experience allowed me to confirm that Civil Engineering was what I had passion for.”
NONGNAPHAT JAION  
Class of 2009  
Sripatum University  
Bachelor of Accountancy, Accounting  

NOMINATED BY  
Asst. Prof. Dr. Wirat Lerpaiionpan, Vice President  
Sripatum University  

Miss Nongnaphat Jaion graduated from the Faculty of Accountancy at Sripatum University in 2009. She joined the cooperative education program at Central Pattana Public Company Limited, where she got inspired and became passionate about her career as an internal auditor. She also showed very strong abilities during her first job as an internal auditor at Oishi Group. There, she extended her interests to the field of Information Technology for internal auditing: Looking for bigger challenges, she moved to LH Bank. Currently, she magnificently works at Thai Credit Retail Bank as an Assistant Manager in the Internal Auditing Section.

MABEL LEUNG  
Class of 1985  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  
Diploma, Computer Science  

NOMINATED BY  
Prof. Keith Chan, Dean of Student Office  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University  

Currently VP - China Gas Marketing, Mabel has held various managerial positions in ExxonMobil including international assignments and has worked in Hong Kong, Singapore, Virginia and Texas in the US and most recently Beijing. Her career highlights include business development and start-up of a number of downstream ventures in China, strategic advisory and planning roles in HG, Sales & Marketing roles in AP. Before taking on the latest assignment in Gas Marketing in China, Mabel was the Retail Sales Cluster manager for South East Asia and Hong Kong, managing a network of over 600 petrol stations.
employees at Safe Software. are now continuing and many of those students numerous co-ops since 2002 Software Inc. have hired interoperability challenges to address the complex data technology into their products vendors, integrating FME alliances with leading GIS strategy. He has built strategic Safe and guiding its product been leading the direction of more than 20 years, Don has transformation technology.

Dale Lutz, Don created Safe's Alongside business partner Surrey, BC, Canada. Safe and President of Safe Software Inc., based in Class of 1990 Simon Fraser University MSc, Computing Science.

NOMINATED BY President Andrew Petter Simon Fraser University

Don Murray is the Co-CEO and President of Safe Software Inc., based in Surrey, BC, Canada. Alongside business partner Dale Lutz, Don created Safe’s FME platform, the recognized standard in spatial data transformation technology. For more than 20 years, Don has been leading the direction of Safe and guiding its product strategy. He has built strategic alliances with leading GIS vendors, integrating FME technology into their products to address the complex data interoperability challenges their customers face. Safe Software Inc. has hired numerous co-ops since 2002 and many of those students are now continuing employees at Safe Software.

NOMINATED BY Dr. Zorica Pantić, President Wentworth Institute of Technology

Adam Palmer has been a Project Manager for J.M. Electrical Company since 2009. He first worked at the company as a co-op in 2008. Adam is certified by The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) for Solar PV installations and by the U.S. Green Building Council as LEED AP Building Design + Construction. He is also the President of the Wentworth Alumni Association and serves on the Board of Trustees.

NOMINATED BY President Bill Destler Rochester Institute of Technology

Mr. Plewniak has more than 25 years of institutional money management experience. He is currently Managing Director and Head of Fixed Income for GAMCO Investors Inc. He began his engineering career at General Motors, as a co-op and went on to work with Goldome FSB, Pantas North America and Bell Atlantic Capital. While at Lehman Brothers/Neuberger Berman, he managed Lipper & Company’s high yield business after Neuberger’s acquisition. Mr. Plewniak serves on boards for Greenwich Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business, RIT President’s Roundtable and College of Engineering Dean’s Advisory Council.

NOMINATED BY President John Fry Drexel University

Mr. Pond is a founding and managing partner of the workers’ compensation law firm Pond Lehocky Stern Giordano. It was from his co-op that Mr. Pond first realized the importance of the rule of law in a capitalist democracy. This firsthand experience set the foundation for him on a path to ultimately become an entrepreneur and a litigator in his field for the past 30 years. Mr. Pond is certain that his success would not have occurred without Drexel’s co-op program. He completed co-ops at Tasty Baking, Schmidt’s and a company that made blueprints, which helped him accumulate diverse experience before deciding on a career in law.

NOMINATED BY Cooperative Education Unit Namibia University of Science and Technology

Carva Pop was the Director of the Centre for Cooperative Education at the Namibia University of Science and Technology from July 2010 to April 2016. He is a Board member and is the Treasurer of the Southern African Society for Cooperative Education (SASCE). He is also instrumental in shaping the initiative and providing focus to develop a National Strategy for Internships and is the Vice-Chairperson of the National Working Group tasking the Minister of Education to develop a National Strategy for Internships and is a Board member. He has also been instrumental in providing focus to develop a National Strategy for Internships and is the Vice-Chairperson of the National Working Group tasking the Minister of Education to develop a National Strategy for Internships in Namibia. Mr. Pop presented several reviewed papers internationally on aspects relating to Human Resources Management.

NOMINATED BY President John Fry Drexel University

Ms. Renz is a vice president at Amazon and serves as technical advisor to CEO Jeff Bezos. She was previously CEO of Quicks, an Amazon.com subsidiary with ten unique shopping sites. Her other leadership roles at Amazon have included Vice President of Physical Media & Canada and leading Amazon’s consumables group where she launched popular customer categories such as Beauty, Health & Personal Care and Grocery. In 2011, she launched MYHABIT.com, an online private sale fashion site from Amazon. Prior to joining Amazon, she worked for Kraft Foods, Inc., and Hallmark Cards. Ms. Renz completed two co-ops at Drexel with Main Street Design and Space Design, Inc.
Mr. Salgueiro was born in Havana, Cuba. He immigrated to Miami, Florida in 1961. He received his AA degree from Miami Dade College and a Bachelor’s Degree from Florida International University. He began his career with Burger King in 1970 while working part-time in high school. During his career with Burger King, he held many positions, the most interesting being in International Franchising. In 1981, Mr. Salgueiro relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, to become the Area Manager for the Burger King Corporation in 1986. On June 1, 1986, he moved to Savannah to become a Burger King franchisee.

When Andrea Scoli was a senior at Johnson & Wales University, she bought a copy of Vogue, pulled out the ads for companies she liked and called their headquarters to ask for the personnel department or the CEO. She wound up with a handful of interviews, which yielded three internship offers, and interviews, which yielded three internship offers, and the internship she accepted ultimately turned into her first job. These days, after holding high-level jobs at a number of companies - including a two-year stint as president of the musican and actress Jennifer Lopez’s clothing line, Sweetface - Scoli is the Senior Vice President of Sales at the iconic brand Halston.

Chef Vetri, a James Beard Award-winning chef, completed co-ops at Crown Jewels and Dazzles, a chain of jewelry stores owned by his father. In the evenings, he would work at restaurants. After years of cooking in Italy and the US, Chef Vetri established the Vetri Family of Restaurants. Mr. Vetri also co-founded the Vetri Community Partnership to promote healthy foods and active lifestyles. In 2015, TimeOut America named the Vetri restaurant the best Italian restaurant in the country. That same year, an unprecedented intersection of food and retail was created when Mr. Vetri and his partner sold their restaurant group to Urban Outfitters Inc.

Weickert is a professor at the Macquarie Group Foundation. She holds a Ph.D. in bio-molecular medicine from Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She gives lectures around the world, but still finds time to come back to her alma mater and assists students with hands-on experiments based on her own research.