

# STUDENT NEWS

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MAY 2014



## New York City College of Technology NSPE & ETA Student Chapters



Submitted by Prof. Hamid Marandi

The NSPE (National Society of Professional Engineers) and ETA (Electronics Technicians Association) Student Chapters at NYCCT currently collaborate on all activities and are both advised by Professor Hamid Marandi. The NYCCT ETA-International Student Chapter won the outstanding student chapter award among all the ETA chapters in the US in 2012.

This chapter plays an important role for engineering technology students at the New York City College of Technology. They are involved in campus workshops and orientations and speak in public to general

audiences to share the benefits of ETA membership and certification. As the largest ETA Student Chapter, with more than 150 active members, Student Chapter #145 encourages all members to seek ETA certifications from Associate to Master levels.

The NSPE Student Chapter was founded in fall 2013 after successfully competing in its first competition. The NYCCT NSPE Student Chapter was awarded Second Prize in the Engineering Technology Project category of the College Project Exhibit at the 10th Annual Engineering Expo, which was held at White

Plains in New York on April 7, 2013.

The main goal of this student chapter is to benefit all of its members through industry exposure and support in achieving a professional engineer licensure for those who are interested.

This semester we hope to participate once again in the Engineering Technology Project category of the College Project Exhibit at the Engineering Expo on March 30; in addition we will be participating in Milton F. Lunch Engineering Ethics Contest in spring 2014.

**Fernando Hernandez**  
President of NSPE  
Student Chapter

**Altaf Raffik**  
Vice President of NSPE  
Student Chapter

**Blaise Tega**  
President of ETA  
International Student Chapter

**Brian Rojas**  
Vice President of ETA  
International Student Chapter

**Professor Marandi**  
NSPE/ETA Advisor  
ETET Department  
Room: V 724  
Phone: 718.260.5312  
[nspenyct@outlook.com](mailto:nspenyct@outlook.com)

## NSPE & ETA International Chapters Meeting:

## The Latest Developments in Optical Communications

Presented By: Professor Mynbaev



# 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ENGINEERING EXPO

Spring 2014

Engineers are always looking for a way to achieve maximum efficiency in their projects to benefit society. For our project, we used two 9 Volt/1 Watt solar panels to convert sunlight energy to electrical energy, which in turn charged 6 nickel metal hydride (NiMH) rechargeable batteries in series with an maximum output of about 8 volts. The solar panels were posted on a platform made out of ABS material which was 3D

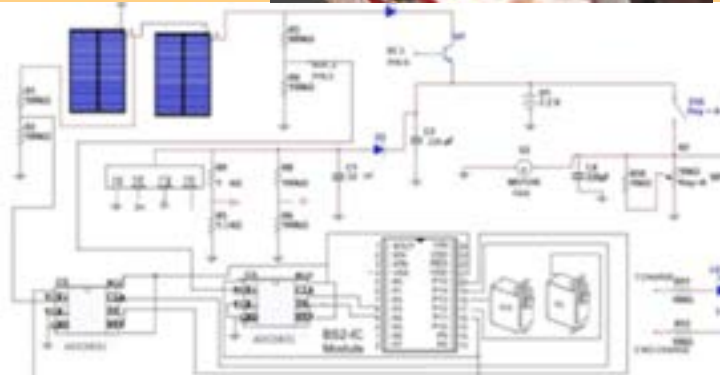


printed. We constructed the project so that the panels can be rotated horizontally as well as vertically using two standard Servo Motors programmed using Basic Stamp 2. The solar panels are connected to Analog/Digital converters. There are two solar panels in series for a maximum output of 18 Volts that detect light and use it to . charge the batteries after finding the

maximum light source . The rechargeable batteries provide sufficient voltage for a USB Hub for charging phones and other devices and power a DC motor, which is attached to a fan. This fan can be switched on and off, and is connected to a potentiometer which varies the fan speed. This is a prototype of a system that can be used in homes for emergency power.



Engineering Expo



VANASSA MEJIA, RICHARD CAZALES, AMREEN AKBAR

*This project is a miniature scale of a large Solar Panel battery bank charger.*



# Not just a smile: a helping hand from SADHA

By Angela Vazquez, SADHA 2015 Class President  
an Prof. Anna Matthews, RDH, MS, SADHA Faculty Advisor

Our City Tech student club, Student American Dental Hygienist Association (SADHA), is the student component of the American Dental Hygienist Association. This association represents dental hygienists on the federal level, and aids dental professionals in all efforts to improve public oral health through promoting education, establishing licensure, and regulating practices and research. All dental hygiene students at NYCCT are members of SADHA. As oral health professionals, we believe that promoting good oral health and providing health education are our main roles in society. As a club, we participate in many local and state events, providing education and aiding in disease prevention.

As many at City Tech know, we frequently organize toothbrush sales, which serve as a fundraising tool to support our many causes and activities. This past October's Halloween toothbrush sale coincided with a devastating typhoon in the Philippines. With the funds we raised that day, and with the organization-

al help of our Senior Class President, Kristen Adams, and our enormously helpful Senior College Lab Tech, Mr. Robert Mahalko, our



student club members volunteered their time to produce 500 oral care packages to send to very grateful families in the Philippines. Traditionally, our club makes a donation to an organization which aims to benefit the global population of those in need of oral health services. One such organization is the Smile Train, an organization which helps children around the world born with

congenital palate and lip defects. Our club has also organized an event where student volunteers arranged oral care packages for our U.S. soldiers serving overseas, as well as a similar event following Hurricane Sandy, to benefit the residents of Brooklyn who suffered during and in the aftermath of the storm.

Volunteers from our student club also participate in local Health Fairs around the city, promoting oral health and distributing donated oral care products. Most recently, a small group of students joined a faculty member and club advisor, Professor Anna Matthews, in the Autism Resource Fair in Staten Island, as well as the Family Resource and Transition Fair conducted by the Staten Island Developmental Disability Council. SADHA has many more upcoming events and volunteer opportunities planned for the coming months. We look forward to sharing our future accomplishments with you, and take pride in representing our home turf, City Tech, in all our endeavors



## From Kitchen to Classroom

Authors: Professor Patrick O'Halloran / Professor Thomas Wilkin

Becoming a certified public school teacher might not be the first career choice in the minds of Culinary

Arts professionals, but it is worthwhile to consider. A unique program collaboration exists at the New York City College of Technology in downtown Brooklyn, NY. Two of the departments in the School of Professional Studies—Hospitality Management and Career and Technology Teacher Education, have been collaborating successfully in recent years in providing culinary arts professionals an achievable path to becoming a licensed New York State teacher of Culinary Arts. In New York City, and State, there are CTE (Career and Technical) High Schools which employ teachers of various trades. Teaching Culinary Arts is a viable option in the Food Service Occupational arena and is a classification that is licensed by New York State.

In the Hospitality Management/CTE partnership, students have a number of options to consider in becoming a certified CTE Teacher of Culinary Arts. Students pursuing

an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) or a four year program leading to a Bachelor of Technology (BTech) degree are eligible for the program. Essentially, students holding an Associates or Baccalaureate Degree with 30 credits in the culinary content area can take 20 credits of Education courses, including internship and student teaching, and become a certified CTE teacher. The Education courses focus on Methods of Teaching and other education related courses. The internship is a 2-days-a-week, 6-hours-a-day assignment in a public school working with a licensed culinary teacher. Following successful completion of the internship, the student enters student teaching, which is a 3-days-a-week, 6-hours-a-day, in-depth experience of teaching under the direction of a cooperating teacher/mentor. Following this, the student need only completed the mandated state licensing exams required of all teachers. The education course work prepares the students for success in the licensing exams.

This unique program has provided a number of Hospitality Management/Culinary Arts students with an interesting career option. The starting salary of a New

York City Public School teacher is currently \$45,320. Teaching positions also have other valuable employee benefits.

Professor Patrick O'Halloran, of the Hospital Management Department, and Professor Tom Wilkin, of the CTTE Department, work cooperatively to ensure that all Hospitality Management Department students are aware of the teaching option and give it full consideration in their career decision-making process.

For further information please email Dr. Wilkin at [twilkin@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:twilkin@citytech.cuny.edu) or Professor O'Halloran at [pohalloran@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:pohalloran@citytech.cuny.edu)

Professor  
Thomas Wilkin



# MONEY MATTERS

From the desk of Prof. Patrick O'Halloran  
Email: pohalloran@citytech.cuny.edu

It's not often that we can gain investment insights from an 18-year-old wunderkind.

Many of us marveled at the performance of American Mikaela Shiffrin at the Sochi Winter Olympics, where she became the youngest Olympic slalom champion. What makes Shiffrin remarkable is not only her success, but also her approach to the sport. Unlike many of her peers, while training she focused more on technique and practice—the discipline of ski racing rather than on competing. When Shiffrin lost footing and became airborne on the course, she was able to regain her position quickly as she had practiced her recovery many times before. Throughout all of her training she took the long-term view.

It can be difficult to take the long-term view in investing, particularly when we are challenged by bumps on the slope. February, for example, proved investors with mixed signals. Colder and snowier than usual weather adversely affected many economic reports, causing uncertainty over the health of the economy to linger. Several high

profile companies also cited the negative impact of weather on future earnings.

Looking at the bigger picture, however, helps us regain our sense of balance. U.S. stock prices appear to be looking past weather disruptions and have rebounded back to near record highs following a soft start to the year. We see underlying strength in most economic indicators including a continued recovery in the housing market, which is supported by easier mortgage availability, limited home inventory, and near record housing affordability. Absent a severe storm in March, we expect more clarity on the health of the overall U.S. economy in April, when March economic data are released, and we still expect economic growth, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP), to reach 3% in 2014, based upon many of the drags of 2013 fading, including U.S. tax increases and spending cuts and the European recession, and growth accelerating from additional hiring and capital spending by businesses.

The bond market also hit some bumps, as Puerto Rico

was downgraded during the month by all three major credit rating agencies as a result of its large debt burden and multi-year recession. But municipal bond market investors have been thinking longer term and appeared to take the downgrades in stride by noting Puerto Rico is not reflective of the overall market. Just a couple of weeks ago the broader bond market appeared to corroborate the move in stock prices by ignoring another batch of weather-impacted data and anticipating better growth. Bond investors also refocused on a Federal Reserve that remains on schedule to reduce bond purchases and eventually raise interest rates in late 2015.

Policymakers in Washington, D.C. appear to be taking the longer view as well by focusing less on partisan differences and more on overall economic health. Congress agreed to a "clean" debt ceiling increase without links to the Affordable Care Act or the Keystone XL pipeline. This "clean" bill acted as a positive for the stock market, which may have rallied on the perception that a more business



friendly legislative environment may be developing. I continue to expect a 10 – 15% gain for U.S. stocks in 2014, as measured by the S&P 500 Index. (Derived from earnings per share for S&P 500 companies growing 5 – 10% and a rise of half a point in the price to earnings [PE] ratio.)

As we look back at the concerns we've had during the past month, we realize just as Mikaela Shiffrin did on her gold medal run that we've been here before. We know we can trust the discipline and practice of sound investing and stay focused on long term goals. Even those of us who are industry veterans can take a lesson from the young champion.

# B.J. Denihan Lecture Series – Spring 2014

On Thursday March 27, 2014, the first ever hospitality industry round table forum titled "Getting Started in the Front of the House" took place at New York City College Of Technology in Namn 225. A capacity audience was present as the industry professionals chronicled their rise from entry level positions to senior management within the industry. The forum, was hosted by Professor Patrick O'Halloran of the hospitality management department and sponsored by The Denihan Hospitality Group (DHG). Guest speakers were Erika Frias Edison NY Times Square, Kevin Mejia (Affinia Dumont), Noel Nelson (Affinia Dumont), Ekland Skifteri (InterContiental Times Square) and Nicole Young (Sheraton NY Times Square). Members of the audience included Su Mui (Bentley Hotel), Dynia Mariano (Double Tree), Fiona Cameron Williams (FCW Consulting), and Carlos Santiago (Bear Dallis Associates). At the conclusion of the presentations an enlightened question-and-answer session took place.

The guest speakers were:



**Erika Frias**  
Edison NY Times Square



**Kevin Mejia**  
Affinia Dumont



**Noel Nelson**  
Affinia Dumont



**Ekland Skifteri**  
InterContiental Times Square



**Nicole Young**  
Sheraton NY Times Square



Denihan Hospitality Group has been owned and operated by members of the Denihan family since 1963, when patriarch and founder Benjamin J. ("Bud") Denihan Sr. entered into the world of hospitality by building New York's first apartment hotel, which is today Affinia Gardens on East 64th Street. Constructed on the former site of the family's exclusive laundry and dry cleaning business which

Bud established in the 1930's, the property was the first development for Denihan. Today, this leader in owning and operating upper upscale and luxury boutique hotels boasts a portfolio of 15 properties in New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Miami.

Bud's legacy continues today under the watchful eyes of two of his children, co-CEOs Benjamin Patrick Denihan and Brooke Denihan Barrett. In early 2006, Patrick and Brooke consolidated ownership and continue to propel Denihan onto the national hospitality scene with continued expansion outside of New York. Today, Denihan owns and/or manages \$1 billion in assets, comprised of The James and Affinia brands, and luxury independents including The Benjamin and The Surrey, both located in Manhattan. The Denihan Family is the sponsor of the B.J. Denihan Scholarship program for Hospitality Management students.



Back Row:

Noel Nelson – Affinia Dumont, Deannie Joseph – B.J.D. Club Sec, Jovany Bravo – B.J.D. Club PRO, Laura Chierchia – B.J.D. Club Pres, Thomas Quinn – B.J.D. Club Tres, Kevin Mejia – Affinia Dumont, Professor Patrick O'Halloran

Front Row:

Su Mui – Bentley Hotel, Dynia Mariano – Double Tree, Nicole Young – Sheraton NY, Erika Frias – Edison NY, Professor Ekland – Skifteri InterContiental, Carlos Santiago – Bear Dallis Associates

# End-of-Semester Research Help @ the Library

Students! Are you working on a research assignment? This May the City Tech Library will offer drop-in help to students in any course who are working on research assignments. Please come prepared with a copy of your assignment and any questions you have about the research process.

Stop by and speak with a librarian to:

- **FINE-TUNE RESEARCH STRATEGIES**
- **USE DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS**
- **NAVIGATE THE LIBRARY CATALOG & DATABASES**
- **FIND AND EVALUATE USEFUL WEB RESOURCES**
- **DISCOVER HELPFUL LIBRARY TOOLS**

Visit room A441 in the library (on the 4th Floor of the Atrium) with questions about your research. Librarians will be standing by!

- **Wednesday, May 7**                      **4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**
- **Thursday, May 8**                        **12:30 pm – 2:30 pm**
- **Monday, May 12**                        **4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, May 13**                        **12:30 pm – 2:30 pm**
- **Wednesday, May 14**                    **4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**
- **Thursday, May 15**                        **12:30 pm – 2:30 pm**