

Back to the Classroom at Alumni College

“Our goal,” said Peter Searson, director of Johns Hopkins’ Institute for NanoBioTechnology (INBT), “is to establish Hopkins as the world leader in nanobiotechnology. Or, as I like to say, world domination.” The 40 or so alumni gathered in Hodson Hall appreciated Searson’s humor, especially at the beginning of an intensive, hourlong lecture on the characteristics of the very tiny things the INBT faculty researches.

Searson, who helped launch the INBT in 2006, was one of two Whiting School professors who hosted Alumni College during the Johns Hopkins Homecoming and Reunion in April. He and civil engineering professor Tony Dalrymple, who spoke on “Natural Hazards: Lessons Learned from the Tsunami and the Hurricane,” led independent sessions open to all alumni, during which they explained their research and the latest developments in their fields.

Mac McLeod ’57 and his wife, Lenore Danielson, who were visiting from their home in New Jersey, attended Searson’s morning lecture. “Professor Searson is one of the best lecturers I’ve heard,” McLeod commented. “It’s a fascinating field and he’s a fascinating teacher. It makes you feel like you’d like to go back to school and be in his class. It leaves you with a lot to think about, and it’s amazing to learn that the cost of solving the problems they’re working on is so high.” His wife interjected, “And to realize that the cost of not solving them is equally high.”

Searson’s presentation began with talk of size and scale. He explained that a “bucky ball”—a fundamental building component in the world of nanobiotechnology—is only a nanometer wide. By comparison, a single strand of a human hair is 100,000 nanometers wide. “We can make materials that are smaller than cells, which means that we can build things that can go into cells and deliver drugs,”



JAY T. VAN RENSSLAER (BOTH)

Alumni listen intently during Alumni College, a series of faculty lectures that were offered during Homecoming and Reunion in April.

he noted. He went on to discuss how nanobiotechnology engineers and scientists are searching for new therapies, new diagnostic tools, and a better understanding of the relationship between cells and disease.

While alumni from ages 30 to 90 listened intently, Searson continued on to explain the logistics of shrinking things to the nano scale, such as the discovery that when something gets smaller, a higher percentage of its atoms are on the surface. The result? Everything from fibers for athletic clothing that “wick away” liquid to drug delivery systems that target cancer cells.

Searson’s lecture ended with projections for what the future of nanobiotechnology holds in store for the world. “We will be able to take a ‘smart pill’ that will be programmed to report on its position and status in the body before releasing the correct dose of drugs,” he predicted.

Searson believes Johns Hopkins will be at the forefront of such discoveries, and he predicts we will see this technology hit the marketplace within decades.

—AR



Peter Searson, professor of materials science and engineering and director of the Institute for NanoBioTechnology, presents a lecture to alumni.



A Rewarding Relationship

For John and Mary Zappone, both Whiting School alumni from the Class of '86, Johns Hopkins will always be home.

The two met their freshman year. Mary was then a biomedical engineering major, but John soon lured her, subtly, he says, to his major: chemical engineering. Both excelled in the classroom and found time for extracurricular activities. Mary made the Dean's List and competed on the varsity women's diving team. John earned academic honors, served on Hopkins' chapter of the American Institute for Chemical Engineers, and was house manager of Phi Kappa Psi.

The pair quickly developed a love of Baltimore and all things Hopkins: the Homewood campus, research, and, of course, lacrosse. The lacrosse fire still burns bright for John. He travels to as many Blue Jays games as he can and several years ago he created a national news site for the sport: www.laxnews.com.

After graduation, the couple got married while pursuing MBA degrees at the Columbia Business School. The Zappones then moved to Houston to take positions at Exxon Co.—he as a senior auditor, she as a total quality management team leader. The newlyweds might have been 1,400 miles from Baltimore, but Hopkins was not far from their thoughts.

They both became active in the Houston alumni chapter (John would later become president) and they began to donate to the university an amount tripled by their employer. They also began a nearly annual tradition of traveling back to Baltimore each spring for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.

Says John of their Hopkins connection: "We love the place. We just always feel welcome here. It's our home. It's also a permanent reflection of us. For me, it opened up every door I ever wanted to be opened."

John, who developed a passion for computers at Hopkins, worked his way up the corporate ladder with Exxon and then worked in sales for both Oracle and Siebel Systems. After serving as president of a real estate development company in Connecticut, he took a senior position with a major software firm based in

Atlanta. Earlier this year, he became director of business development for Zensar Technologies, a global IT services provider.

Mary, who is now director of corporate strategic planning and analysis for Alcoa, previously held senior management positions with such heavyweights as McKinsey, General Electric, Exxon, and Tyco.

With a wealth of business knowledge to share, the Zappones are more than happy to pass some on to the next generation.

John has been a board member of the JHU New York Alumni Chapter since 2003. He is currently a member of the Society of Engineering Alumni (SEA) and Mary is a former member. For the past 15 years, Mary has served on the university's National Alumni Schools Committee. In her role, she represents Hopkins at college fairs and receptions, interviews prospective students, and fields phone calls from current students and young alumni looking for advice.

What's her sales pitch to prospective students?

"I tell them it's a great school and a really nice size," she says. "Hopkins is just small enough to be a tight community and a place where you can get to know the professors very well, if you reach out."

She says it's easy to volunteer when you feel so strongly about the university's mission. "We enjoyed our time at Johns Hopkins a lot," she says. "And we appreciate the training and education we received here, and we want to give back."

She says it's also been rewarding to donate money to the School of Engineering and general university fund. Each year, they return to the Homewood campus and marvel at Hopkins' physical growth. "We can see that the money is well spent," she observes. "In our own small way we know we are helping raise the prestige of our alma mater."



WILL KIRK

Alumni John and Mary Zappone have passed their passion for Hopkins down to their progeny: All three kids want to attend JHU.

The Zappones have three daughters, ages 10 to 14, who are all currently enrolled in Hopkins' Center for Talented Youth, a program for academically advanced students. Any talk of where they want to go to college?

"Oh, they all want to go to Johns Hopkins," Mary says with a laugh. "Well, it's a school they know very well now, and they always hear us saying such great things about it, so it's not so surprising."

Mary recalls a moment last year when School of Engineering dean Nick Jones met the Zappones' eldest daughter, Frances, while they were in Philadelphia. Jones later sent Frances a letter telling he looked forward to her enrolling at Johns Hopkins one day.

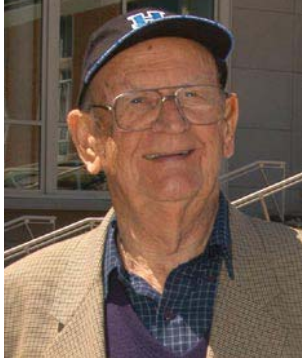
"She saved it," Mary says. "I think she might take him up on it." —GR



Alumni Awards



Michael J. Zinner



Charles W. Einolf



Aristides Melissaratos

The Distinguished Alumnus Award

Established in 1978, this award honors alumni who have typified the Johns Hopkins tradition of excellence and brought credit to the university by their personal accomplishment, professional achievement, or humanitarian service.

Michael J. Zinner, MD

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Michael Zinner is a nationally known leader in surgery, medical education, research, and patient care. He is currently the surgeon-in-chief and chairman at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. The revised edition of his acclaimed text on abdominal surgery, *Maingot's Abdominal Operations*, co-authored with Dr. Stanley Ashley Jr., was released in 2007.

Zinner earned his bachelor in engineering science in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins in 1967 and in 1971 earned his MD from the University of Florida School of Medicine. After completing his internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he served one year as the hospital's assistant chief of service in the Department of Surgery.

Zinner has served as chief of surgery and chairman at UCLA, School of Medicine, vice chairman of surgery, and co-director of the Gastrointestinal Surgery Division at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and chief of general surgery and oncology service and co-director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. Since 1994, he has held an appointment as the Mosely Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

Throughout his career, Zinner has found time to stay connected to Johns Hopkins.

Most recently, he served on the committees of both his 35th and 40th reunions. He received a Johns Hopkins Distinguished Alumnus Award during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend in April 2007.

The Heritage Award

Established in 1973, this award honors alumni and friends of Johns Hopkins who have contributed outstanding service over an extended period to the progress of the university or the activities of the Alumni Association.

Charles W. Einolf

Heritage Award

Charles W. Einolf '56 entered Hopkins' McCoy College of Engineering as a night school student in 1946 following his discharge from the Army. He worked for IBM full time while at Hopkins and continued until he retired in 1984.

He was a member of the Alumni Council and the Society of Engineering Alumni and he attended alumni events on a regular basis when living in Atlanta and then in Baltimore. In 1982, Einolf and his wife, Dorothy, created the Otto and Hilda Einolf Scholarship Fund in memory of his parents. The scholarship, which supports full- or part-time students at the Whiting School, has funded the education of 26 students since its inception.

Sadly, Einolf died on February 23, 2007. With his passing, Johns Hopkins has lost an uncommonly loyal and talented member of the university community. The Johns Hopkins Heritage Award was presented to his wife and son at the Whiting School's Leadership Dinner in June 2007.

The Woodrow Wilson Award

Established in 1990, this award for distinguished government service honors alumni who have brought credit to the university by their current or recently concluded public service as elected or appointed officials.

Aristides Melissaratos

Woodrow Wilson Award

Aristides Melissaratos earned his degree in Electrical Engineering from Johns Hopkins in 1966. In March 2007, he returned to Hopkins to serve as special advisor to the president for enterprise development. In this newly-created position, he oversees the university's relationship with business and forges new connections between the research and corporate communities.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins, Melissaratos earned his master's degree in engineering management from George Washington University and later completed the Harvard School Program for Management Development and the course work for a doctorate (ABD) in international politics at the Catholic University of America.

For 32 years, Melissaratos worked for Westinghouse Electronics Systems (now Northrop Grumman Electronics Systems). In 2003, Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich appointed him Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development. Throughout his career, Melissaratos has held executive positions at many companies and has served as a member of economic development-related associations across the state.

In 1999, he established the Melissaratos Family Scholarship at Johns Hopkins to support undergraduate engineering students, with preference given to those from Baltimore City.

Society of Engineering Alumni (SEA)

Get Connected!

SEA 2007 Events

Sunday, July 22, 1 pm

Atlanta Crab Feast*

University Yacht Club, on Lake Lanier, Georgia

Saturday, September 15, 2 pm

Southeast Florida Crab Feast*

Riggins Crab House, Lantana, Florida

Wednesday, September 19, 6 pm

Career Night

A networking event for alumni and students

Homewood Campus, Baltimore, Maryland

Saturday, October 6, 4 pm

Houston Crab Feast*

The Ginger Man, Houston, Texas

Sunday, October 7, 4 pm

North Texas Crab Feast*

The Ginger Man, Dallas, Texas

Friday, October 26, 4 pm

Annual Fall Student and Alumni Mixer

A social gathering for students and alumni

Homewood Campus, Baltimore, Maryland

Wednesday, November 28, 6 pm

Mock Interview Night

A great opportunity to assist students with their interviewing and networking skills

Homewood Campus, Baltimore, Maryland

**These events are co-sponsored with the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association Regional Chapters.*

To register for any of the above events or for more information, please call the Whiting School's Development and Alumni Relations Office at (410) 516-8723 or e-mail engineering@jhu.edu.

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Society of Engineering Alumni
Johns Hopkins University

The SEA is your connection to a network of 30,000 other Johns Hopkins engineers worldwide.

There are many ways you can become involved with the SEA:

- Attend or sponsor a regional event in your area.
- Mentor a current student.
- Volunteer on an SEA committee.



Visit our Web site at
[engineering.jhu.edu](http://engineering.jhu.edu/alumni-friends)
/alumni-friends



Pictured here is the annual SEA Senior Send-Off Party and Reunion 2007. Congratulations to the Class of 2007 and to all classes who celebrated a reunion this year.