

BROOKLYN TECH DIAMOND CLUB

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR BROOKLYN TECH ALUMNI WHO GRADUATED 50 YEARS AGO OR MORE
JULY 2023



Welcome to the second issue of the Diamond Club Newsletter, exclusively for Technites who graduated 50 years ago or more. At Centennial Homecoming 2023 this spring, we were thrilled to induct the newest members of our cohort: the 50th Anniversary Class of 1973, led by Tomas Hernandez, a Foundation board member and '73 lead class rep. More than forty alumni followed up the Homecoming event with a late-afternoon Diamond Club reunion and reception at Fancy Free, a restaurant down the block from Tech. We will be planning a similar Diamond Club event in conjunction with Homecoming next spring. Mark your calendars for April 12-13, 2024!

Our newsletter aims to provide news from the Alumni Foundation and Tech, via a column from Matt Mandery '61, Chief Educational Officer of the Foundation, and to encourage Diamond Club alumni to connect, get engaged, and give back. We currently have informal regional Diamond Club groups in Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Washington, DC, independently organized by alumni living in these areas.

Alumni from other areas have expressed interest in starting up local gatherings, too, including in the Delmar Peninsula and New England. If you'd like to lead or participate in an informal regional Diamond Club group, please contact Frank Luszczyk '61, leader of the Diamond Club Steering Committee, 860-798-2961. Other members of the Diamond Club Steering Committee include Alumni Foundation founders Matt Mandery '61, Achilles Perry '58, and Mike Weiss '57; Tony Schirippa '67; and Myron (Mike) Levy '59. Achilles, Mike Weiss and Tony are all longtime Foundation board members.

Local Diamond Club gatherings are relaxed opportunities to reconnect with fellow Technites and reminisce about everything from slop cops to the S.O.S. and slide rules.

Frank Luszczyk '61 is the Chairperson of the Diamond Club Steering Committee, co-lead rep of the Class of 1961, founder of the Connecticut Alumni Group, and former president of Highway Safety Corp.

Washington, DC Alumni Gatherings

By Myron (Mike) Levy '59

Four '59 alums – Mario Fiori, Joe Scheibeler, William Davis, and me – reconnected at our 50th reunion 14 years ago and have been lunching regularly in the D.C area ever since. I am pleased to report that our original group of four is growing! Sixteen alumni from '57-'61 met for lunch in late spring and 10 of us met a few months back at Tavira Restaurant in Chevy Chase, MD. Several other DC-area alumni plan to join the next gathering and we are looking forward with connecting with them soon.

Myron (Mike) Levy '59 was a member of the founding Board of Directors of the Alumni Foundation and is a member of the Diamond Club Steering Committee.

Where Are They Now?

We love catching up with our Diamond Club alumni to see where life has taken them during the past half century and more! Please check out our [latest Diamond Club Alumni Notes](#) and be sure to submit your own to Frank Luszcz at FLuszcz@comcast.net.

Here you will find recent updates from **Luther Allman '57, Martin Brooks '68, Victor Huggard '54, John Johnson '59, Myron (Mike) Levy '59, Sheldon Rappaport '55, William (Bill) Stern, EdD '53, and Howard Strassner '54.**

Shaping the Future of STEM Education Matt Mandery '61

As Diamond Club members we have all benefited from the education that we received at Brooklyn Tech. We are grateful to Tech's founding principal, Dr. Albert Colston, for having the vision to create Brooklyn Tech as a pioneering STEM high school. His leadership from the school's inception in 1922 through the early 1940s established Brooklyn Tech's prominence nationally and internationally. William Pabst, who followed Dr. Colston, sustained Tech's reputation and further positioned our alma mater as a leading STEM school. Most Diamond Club members had Mr. Pabst as their principal during his over-two-decade tenure at Tech.

Between them, principals Colston and Pabst served Tech for more than four decades, anchoring Tech's preeminence. We can feel proud that our Alumni Foundation has worked, since our founding in 1983, with Tech's leadership to continue to build upon Brooklyn Tech's transformational learning opportunities. Our launch of the CARETech Initiative in 1998 established the Foundation as a strategic partner with Brooklyn Tech, with the common goal of shaping the future of STEM education.


We carry forth this plan by collaborating with the school to develop innovative programs and initiatives, providing added resources, and giving Tech's teachers professional development opportunities they otherwise would not have. One key to making all this possible is developing partnerships with corporations, businesses, colleges, and universities. The Brooklyn Tech/Con Edison Internship Program, founded with the help of the late Jack Feinstein '60, a former Con Edison Vice President, is an excellent example of the remarkable things that can happen through such partnerships. Con Edison extends its support far beyond the internship program, as well, helping to create our Environmental Science and Engineering Lab, our Hydroponic Greenhouse, and supporting our robotics team.

The Con Edison internship program, launched in 1999, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2024. Tech juniors are invited to apply for paid internships that enable them to work with Con Edison managers on projects during the summer before their senior year. The first cohort of eight students began the program in the summer of 2000. The program was an instant, resounding success and has grown ever since!

A brief overview:

- Application process is coordinated the by the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation, Brooklyn Technical High School, and Con Edison.
- Initial screening is handled by the Alumni Foundation and Brooklyn Tech and final interviews are conducted by Con Edison mentors.
- Each intern is assigned a project and a mentor.
- Interns attend seminar meetings held by Con Edison Public Affairs professionals and the program coordinator.
- The interns are taken on field trips and attend meetings to improve their understanding of Con Edison's distribution systems and corporate culture.
- Each intern is required to do a final presentation, held at Con Edison, and attended by Con Edison executives and mentors as well as representatives of the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Foundation.
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Isaac Honor and I helped develop the program and continue to lead it for the Foundation. Leon Bukhman '01, an alumnus of the first cohort and currently a Con Edison Project Manager, has led the program for over a decade. Under Leon's leadership the program has thrived.



The program benefits Technites by enabling them to apply what they have learned at school while gaining corporate work experience. Our program alums comment that the experience is transformative and an extraordinary opportunity for personal and professional growth. Con Edison benefits from students' high-quality work and builds their future workforce. Con Edison managers working with our students always comment on their preparedness, capacity to contribute to projects, and work ethic.

This spring we completed the selection process for this summer's cohort. It is our largest yet – 27 students selected from applicants from our Mechatronics and Robotics, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, and Software Engineering majors.

When I speak at the concluding gathering each year at Con Ed headquarters, where students make their final presentations, I point out how this program is an exemplar for other corporations. I also note that the students' summer accomplishments at Con Edison validate Brooklyn Tech's educational programs and its distinctive majors system, which clearly prepare them to professional industry standards while still in high school.

Diamond Club co-founder Matt Mandery'61 is the only alum to have served as principal of Brooklyn Tech, is a co-founder of the Alumni Foundation, and serves as the Alumni Foundation's Chief Educational Officer.

