

NTID alumni honored

May 1, 1999

Philip J. Jacob, vice president/systems administrator of DataLife in Verona, N.J., has been named 1999 Distinguished Alumni for NTID. Each year, the college honors a deaf or hard-of-hearing alumnus who is highly commended in their chosen field, actively involved with and contributing to the deaf community, and promotes spirit among NTID/RIT alumni. It is the highest alumni honor bestowed on a graduate of the university. Jacob, who graduated in 1981 from NTID's data processing program, is president of New Jersey Deaf Awareness Week (NJDAW), an organization that promotes awareness of deaf culture and American Sign Language through events and programs. He is also vice president of New York/New Jersey Phone-TTY, Inc.; president of the Mercer County Deaf Investment Club; board member of Deaf Golf Association and New Jersey Relay Advisory Board; and a member of NTID's Alumni Campaign Leadership Committee.

Dr. Robert S. Menchel, assistant professor of science, physics, and optical physics at NTID and 1983 MBA graduate, was recently awarded the President's Distinguished Alumni Recognition Award from Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y. Menchel received the honor for demonstrating academic excellence and commitment to advocating for people with disabilities. He recently developed an outreach project to encourage deaf female and minority middle school students to continue their science and mathematics studies and prepare for careers in science and engineering, and has published several articles dealing with deaf students in mainstream postsecondary education. He was a loaned executive from Xerox Corporation when he first began teaching at the college and has been affiliated with NTID in various capacities since the institute opened in 1968.