



THE EXPERIMENT THAT KEEPS ON WORKING



AUTHOR:
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A DECADE AGO, NJIT UNDERTOOK A CRITICALLY important experiment. Albert Dorman Honors College was founded to create a technology-rich educational environment where the most talented young people could reach their full intellectual potential. The goal — set out by our benefactor, Albert Dorman '45 — was to foster the abilities of the innovators and entrepreneurs who would lead in shaping 21st-century society.

This past October, gathering with more than 230 alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the college to celebrate our 10th anniversary, we honored Mr. Dorman, along with J. Robert Hillier, Princeton architect and founding chair of the college's Board of Visitors, and NJIT President Emeritus Saul K. Fenster. We also had an opportunity to see the college's success reflected in the achievements of its graduates. For example:

Daniel Kopec had an internship in Australia on his way to a 1999 bachelor's in architecture. Having completed a master's at Yale, he practices at the office of Santiago Calatrava, the famed architect/engineer for the new World Trade Center Path Station. He also owns a furniture design company, DJK Furniture, and teaches architecture at New York Institute of Technology. He credits the Honors College colloquium series with providing "the seeds of inquiry that have led my career down multiple concurrent paths of exploration."



Albert Villatoro spoke little English upon leaving El Salvador to pursue his education. Two years later, he graduated from Essex County College at the top of his class and transferred into Albert Dorman Honors College to complete a BS in management. He says, "I learned to aim high and dream higher." After

graduating in 2002, he earned an MBA at Carnegie Mellon and now works in the Finance Development Program at Black and Decker.

Leena Raut earned a BS in science, technology and society in 1999, and a master's in environmental science in 2001. She was president of the Honors Student Council and an intern on NJIT's Brownfields Redevelopment Project. She then earned a degree at Brooklyn Law School. Today, she is a New Jersey deputy attorney general specializing in environmental issues. She credits the Honors College with "a richer, broader learning experience" that helped her develop "leadership and interpersonal skills."

Remarkable as it may seem, these individuals typify the thousand young men and women who have graduated from Albert Dorman Honors College. Our students are among the nation's most academically accomplished, with SATs in the top ten percent nationally and mathematics proficiency in the top two percent. They come to us creative, motivated and focused, with well-formed career goals.

What we give them are the tools to succeed. In addition to a foundation in technological disciplines, our students learn to think critically and analytically, and to evaluate the social and ethical implications of their work. They develop excellent communications skills and learn to work on multidisciplinary teams, and as team leaders. We offer challenges and competition, as well as the flexibility of individualized education plans enriched by such options as independent study, research, internships and service learning programs. Biren Bhatt '05, who earned the highly competitive Truman and Goldwater national scholarships and is studying medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), says that the college gave him an important start towards a career in public health by providing "significant research experience and exposure to service activities in Newark."

When the 28 students in the first honors class arrived at NJIT in 1985, they were based in one room in Tiernan Hall. Much has changed since then, such as the opening of far more spacious facilities in our new Fenster Hall. Yet one thing has not changed — the essential nature of participating in a very special educational venture. Marie Jackson

'04, now in the dental program at UMDNJ, puts it this way, "The college promotes a sense of community. You are surrounded by people who have similar goals, who aren't afraid to take the difficult courses, who are prepared to excel in all walks of life."

Educating and inspiring such leaders will involve increasing enrollment in Albert Dorman Honors College. Consonant with the vision of the college's Board of Visitors and NJIT's Strategic Plan, our goal is to increase the number of honors students from groups still underrepresented in science and technology, and to foster the same rich diversity of race, gender and ethnicity that characterizes the entire NJIT community. We are now fully engaged in this effort. Not only has the college's enrollment grown to almost 600 students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, but about 30 percent of the class that entered this past fall are women — an exceptionally high percentage at a technological research university.

All students accepted by the college receive a substantial scholarship package. The scholarship endowment campaign now under way is critical to recruiting, retaining and graduating even more students with the same promise as those who have already shared the Albert Dorman experience. The goal of the campaign is \$20 million, and as of fall 2005 we reached the \$15 million mark. But as necessary as it is to speak about campaigns and contributions, the reality of what they make possible is best expressed by students like Krystle Harriman, a 2005 graduate in architecture, who is continuing her education at Harvard Design School. "Albert Dorman Honors College helped me realize my goals through the wide range of experiences and opportunities offered in classes, internships and extracurricular organizations."

Clearly, the students and alumni of Albert Dorman Honors College are the current and future leaders in their professions and in their communities. ■

Albert Dorman Honors College on the Web:
<http://honors.njit.edu>

For more information about the campaign for Albert Dorman Honors College, visit the campaign Website at www.njit.edu/honorscampaign.