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## PARTNERS IN TRADITION AND THE FUTURE

“I hope that one day when I’m a professional engineer I can come back as a donor and enrich the lives of future students as current donors have enriched my life and the lives of the other students here today.” These words by scholarship recipient Carol Mendez, who plans to be a chemical engineer, were addressed to those gathered in April for the university’s 21st Annual Scholarship Breakfast.

“Looking back, I am proud to say that I accomplished a lot in my college career. Nevertheless, these accomplishments would not have been possible without your generous contributions and gifts.”

Supporting private scholarships is an NJIT tradition that grows stronger with each passing year. The vitality of this tradition was very much in evidence at the 2009 Scholarship Breakfast. The 150 guests – scholarship donors, students who benefit from their generosity, and university administration and staff – shared a meal and warmly informal conversation in the Campus

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initiation of four such scholarships. George Yohrling ’69, who passed away in 2008, had already endowed a private scholarship, and was instrumental in establishing the Curtiss-Wright Centennial of Flight Scholarship. Curtiss-Wright has now endowed an engineering scholarship in Yohrling’s memory, to

honor their late daughter and support students of international business. Rebecca, who died suddenly in September 2005, was a staff member in NJIT’s Office of International Students and Faculty. In the Kirchhoffs’ words, “We decided to fund this scholarship as a way of giving Rebecca a perpetual home at NJIT. She clearly felt at home among her colleagues and felt rewarded by her work.”

The new memorial scholarship that bears the name of Dana E. Knox, NJIT associate provost at the time of his passing in 2008, will assist first-year chemical engineering majors. The scholarship will be an enduring tribute to Knox, a dedicated administrator and teacher whose legacy continues in the lives of the numerous students he mentored in his 25 years at NJIT.

The memory of Gary Thomas, engineering educator and former provost, is honored by a fellowship that will help graduate students complete their degrees. Among the first recipients is Daniel Boston ’08, a PhD candidate in computer science, who says, “The Gary Thomas Fellowship is quite literally the opportunity of my lifetime. It has enabled me to pursue a degree that otherwise would have been a dream.” ■



PHOTO: A. J. SUNDSTROM PHOTOGRAPHY

Some of the scholarship donors and students at the 2009 breakfast. Student speaker Carol Mendez is second from left.

Mendez was one of two student speakers introduced by NJIT President Robert A. Altenkirch. She was joined by Kess-Ann Grant, who also stressed the transformative importance of their scholarships. Grant, a mechanical engineering major about to graduate, said,

Center. Private scholarship aid now available at NJIT amounts to more than \$2.5 million and helps nearly 750 students.

Individuals and organizations often establish scholarships to honor the memory of a family member or colleague. The past year was notable for the

honor his distinguished career as an engineer and business leader, and his exceptional concern for the well-being of others.

The Rebecca A. Kirchhoff Memorial Scholarship was established by NJIT Distinguished Professor of Management Bruce Kirchhoff and his wife, Judy, to

*For information about establishing and supporting scholarships at NJIT, contact: Colleen Vandervort, Scholarship Coordinator 973-596-8505 or [colleen.m.vandervort@njit.edu](mailto:colleen.m.vandervort@njit.edu)*