

GIVING

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THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

Enrolled in the Educational Opportunity Program at NJIT, Vanessa Espinal '14 knew that education would be her gateway to success. As she pursued a double major in history and law, technology and culture, her memorable NJIT experiences included internships at the New Jersey Law Review Commission and in the Superior Court of New Jersey under Passaic County Superior Court Judge and NJIT alumnus Sohail Mohammed '88.

Espinal was one of two student speakers who addressed scholarship donors and many other students who benefit from their generosity at the 26th Annual

Scholarship Brunch. "Words will never be enough to demonstrate the gratitude and appreciation I feel for each and every one of you," she remarked in summarizing the importance of the financial assistance and other support that helped her achieve the goal of an NJIT degree.

Also speaking was David "Nic" Thibodeaux '14, a biomedical engineering major and Albert Dorman Honors College scholar. Thibodeaux, who worked in NJIT's Vision and Neural Engineering Laboratory, said that the opportunity to do independent research as an undergraduate was a key part of his success as a student. He is beginning his doctoral studies at Columbia University this fall.



HOLLANDER PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

Scholarship Brunch student speakers Vanessa Espinal '14 and David "Nic" Thibodeaux '14.

"None of these experiences and opportunities would have been possible without the financial support of the Pappas, PSE&G Endowed, and David Garfield scholarships, which were made possible through Albert Dorman Honors College," Thibodeaux said.

Although students arrive at NJIT with unique backgrounds, they all share the dream of gaining the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in life, and many are able to do so because of the generosity of NJIT's scholarship donors. In 2014, private-scholarship aid available increased to \$2.85 million from

\$2.6 million in 2013. Private scholarships assisted nearly 1,200 students in 2014 compared to 930 the previous year.

Guest speaker Theodore D. Cassera '72, a member of the NCE Board of Visitors and chairman of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department's Industrial Advisory Board, praised the donors' "spirit of generosity" as well as the "empowering, deeply appreciated, and life-changing" significance of their scholarships. ■

To learn more about establishing and supporting scholarships at NJIT, contact: Darlene Lamourt, director of donor engagement, at 973-596-3403 or darlene.lamourt@njit.edu.

CORNERSTONE OF SUPPORT

Ongoing annual support by donors is a solid foundation for NJIT's mission of inclusive education and pioneering research. This spring, at the inaugural Cornerstone Society Recognition Brunch, NJIT honored donors whose consecutive annual gifts help the university move forward with all of its commitments in education and research.

Rodolfo Cilento '54, who could not attend the brunch, was recognized as NJIT's longest consecutive giving donor – for 44 years of continuous giving. Among the honorees in attendance was Bernie Lubetkin '48, '52, who has given back to his alma mater for more than 23 consecutive years. A World

War II Navy veteran, Lubetkin joined his late older brother, Seymour '47, at Newark College of Engineering with the assistance of the G.I. Bill.

At NCE, Lubetkin's academic pursuits were complemented by time on the basketball court and athletic experiences that led to his lifelong support for athletics at NJIT. Lubetkin's name – and that of his wife, Beverly – are linked to NJIT athletics through their endowment of the Bernard and Beverly Lubetkin Athletic Scholarship.

Lubetkin was joined at the brunch by his brother Charles '53, who also was recognized for his years of consecutive giving. All of Lubetkin's brothers have shared his enthusiasm



PHOTO: JED MEDINA

Bernard M. "Bernie" Lubetkin '48, '52 (third from left) with his wife Beverly. He was recognized for more than 23 years of consecutive giving at the inaugural Cornerstone Society Brunch – with appreciation personally expressed by President Joel S. Bloom and Athletics Director Lenny Kaplan.

for athletics at NJIT, and they have generously supported the university in this area. NJIT has honored their commitment in a special way by dedicating the school's athletic field, as the brothers wished, to the memory of their parents – naming it the Dorothy and William Lubetkin Athletic Field.

The goal of the Cornerstone Society is to encourage consecutive years of giving back to NJIT.

Gifts in any amount given for five or more consecutive fiscal years are counted toward Cornerstone Society membership. ■

For more information, contact Monique Moore-Pryor, Esq., assistant vice president for planned giving, at 973-596-8548, mpryor@njit.edu; or Terry McGuckin, director of annual giving, at 973-596-5677, mcguckin@njit.edu.