

ON COMMON



ABOVE: Members of NJIT's Greek organizations at September's Warren Street Village opening, with a souvenir of the day.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Albert Dorman Honors College building viewed from Warren Street. The addition to NJIT's campus has new dining and other services for the university community as well as residential space for Honors College students.

GROUND



PHOTO: RICKY KHARAWALA

WARREN STREET VILLAGE

BRINGS TOGETHER GREEKS
AND HONORS STUDENTS
IN ONGOING ENGAGEMENT
WITH NJIT'S HOME CITY

Past, present and future coalesced on September 18, 2013 as hundreds of members of the NJIT community celebrated the opening of Warren Street Village, a three-acre mixed-use complex that includes the newest additions to university housing for residential students. The newly developed section of the campus is bounded by Colden Street on the east, Warren Street to the north, and Raymond Boulevard to the southwest. Prominent are the Honors College Residence Hall and separate houses for NJIT's fraternities and sororities.

Looking toward the future, the ceremonial ribbon-cutting marked the culmination of years of planning that involved participation by all university constituent groups and the City of Newark. Among the speakers at the event, along with NJIT President Joel S. Bloom, were Albert A. Dorman '45, New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks, NJIT President Emeritus Saul Fenster, Interim Honors College Dean Katia Passerini and Helena Halasz '15, an Honors College student majoring in biomedical engineering. *[continued]*

Alumni and the NJIT Greek community were represented by Stephen P. DePalma '72, a member of the NJIT Board of Trustees who successfully encouraged support for completion of the new townhouse home for his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. DePalma was joined by Steve Cordes '72, managing director and member of the Executive Board of ING Clarion Partners, chair of the Albert Dorman Honors College Board of Visitors and an NJIT NEXT co-chair. Also present was James A. Krucher '73, a Pi Kappa Phi alumnus and president of the Greek Housing Council.

FOSTERING ACHIEVEMENT

Albert Dorman Honors College students in the main building share Warren Street Village with members of fraternities and sororities in five townhouse-style homes. The new residence for honors students includes 360 beds, computer labs, project studios, a library, recreational areas, student-government offices and more. The project also features dining services, a convenience store and a fitness center serving the NJIT community. The Greek houses provide living, dining and chapter space on the first floor and sleeping quarters on the upper two floors.

"Giving Albert Dorman Honors College a residential home on campus shows how firm we are in our commitment to fostering achievement by our nation's most academically talented young men and women," Bloom said. "The housing for our Greek organizations emphasizes the value we place on the contributions these groups make to life at NJIT and the support they provide for their brothers and sisters, and for so many social-service efforts."

A NEW CHAPTER IN URBAN ENGAGEMENT

The ribbon-cutting represents a very significant component of NJIT's ongoing engagement with the City of Newark through what is known as the Gateway Project. Accelerating the positive momentum imparted by Warren Street Village, planning for the \$100 million



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TOP: On the left at Warren Street Village are townhouse-style homes for NJIT's fraternities and sororities. Across the street is residential, studio, recreational and other space for students in Albert Dorman Honors College.

CENTER: The opening cut for Warren Street Village (from left): NJIT President Emeritus Saul K. Fenster, New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks, Albert A. Dorman '45, NJIT Board of Trustees Emerita Kathleen Wielkopolski, NJIT Trustee Stephen P. DePalma '72, NJIT President Joel S. Bloom, Dean of Students Jack Gentul, and Newark Central Ward Council Member Darrin S. Sharif.

ABOVE: Engaged in Newark: NJIT alumni are helping to repurpose and revitalize the long-empty Hahne's department store building in downtown Newark, the long, low building seen on the left.



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PHOTO: IED MEDINA

Helena Halasz '15 spoke on behalf of the Honors College students who will have the opportunity to live in Warren Street Village.

second phase of this initiative is well underway, with the goal of continuing the transformation of Newark's University Heights neighborhood.

The second phase of the Gateway Project involves renovating and repurposing the original site of NJIT's Enterprise Development Center at 240 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Additionally, a new parking deck will be constructed that NJIT will share with Saint Michael's Medical Center. A special aspect of the project will be the creation of studios and performance space for artists, as well as space that will be available for community events. The renovation and additional construction will also create 240 housing units, with more new housing and retail space to be built across the street.

Like Warren Street Village, these projects have vital economic and social implications. In the near term, they create well-paying jobs in construction and support local businesses. However, they also are integral to the revitalization of an urban hub that will become more attractive to the graduates of NJIT and other schools in the area as a place to work and live.

A LARGER MOSAIC

The Gateway Project is part of a still-larger, evolving urban mosaic in Newark. The city is now the home of Panasonic's North American Headquarters and Prudential Financial's new \$444 million corporate tower. Biotrial, a leading French pharmaceutical research company, recently established its North American headquarters in University Heights Science Park.

NJIT alumni also are applying their talents to Newark's revitalization. They include architect and planner Samer Hanini '99, '04, a principal in the Hanini Group whose architects are working to restore landmark buildings in the city and to revitalize its downtown.

Hanini's firm is currently helping to convert the 417,600-square-foot former Hahne's department store building, which has stood vacant since 1987, into a mixed-use structure that will have retail space on the first floor and residential units on the upper floors. Whole Foods Market, the national natural

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NJIT President Joel S. Bloom, Albert A. Dorman and Joan Dorman at the dedicatory plaque for the new Albert Dorman Honors College building. The plaque recalls how in 1995 Dorman, a 1945 alumnus, initiated the program that has evolved into NJIT's residential honors college, a nationally preeminent institution serving a growing number of exceptionally talented young men and women.

foods retailer, has announced plans to open a 29,000-square-foot store on the building's first floor. It is anticipated that the renovation will be completed in 2016.

Another NJIT graduate with a role in the Hahne's project is Chanda Dawadi, who received her master's in infrastructure planning in 2010. As a senior associate in real estate for the Brick City Development Corporation, she helped Whole Foods find the Hahne's building as a suitable store location.

A group of NJIT architects and engineers at Inglese Architecture and Engineering are involved in the construction of a new five-story, mixed-use building at the vacant corner lot on Halsey and New Streets. This structure, which will be connected to the Hahne's building by way of a shared lobby and atrium, will have ground floor commercial space and 55 residential units above, according to Jak Inglese, the founder of the firm who holds an architecture degree and two civil engineering degrees from NJIT.

Two other principals in the firm, Joaquin Bouzas and Jennifer Palermo, also studied architecture at NJIT. Bouzas graduated in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in architecture and Palermo graduated in 2000 with master's degrees in architecture and management.

"Going to school in Newark left a warm spot in my heart for the city," says Palermo. "If not for NJIT, I would not have my great job doing this great work." ■

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