



2019 national scholarship and fellowship recipients (from left) Jenan Abu-Hakmeh, Samir Peshori, John Antley, Victoria Harbour, Sebastian Fine and Samantha Lomuscio

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS FOR NJIT STUDENTS IN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMPETITIONS

Whether they'll be soaking up cultures abroad in the coming year or advancing research in science, health care and other fields, all of the NJIT students receiving prominent and highly competitive scholarships and fellowships in 2019 are, in a word, impressive. In fact, two university records were achieved: For the first time, an NJIT student earned the David L. Boren Scholarship, which seeks to build a workforce of national security professionals with critical language skills, and two NJIT students were awarded Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships for undergraduate research, in the same year.

"It's exciting to see so many NJIT students receiving national recognition," said Lorna Ronald, associate director of prestigious fellowships and honors advising, Albert Dorman Honors College, who works with students on fellowship applications and led a reception at the college to recognize the recipients. "As a newcomer to the Honors College, I've been blown away by the caliber and motivation of NJIT students. I'm thrilled that our students have earned these

awards, which will open doors and create opportunities for even greater success in the future."

Boren recipient John Antley, an environmental science major and Dorman Scholar, will travel to South Korea for six months in spring 2020. There, he will learn the Korean language, with plans to then apply this new skill toward fostering bilateral partnerships that help address national security issues around pollution in the Pacific Ocean.

"It does feel really good," he remarked about being the first at NJIT to be awarded a Boren Scholarship. "It's going to be a really cool experience."

Applied physics student Samantha Lomuscio, who shares Goldwater honors with biomedical engineering major Sebastian Fine, both Dorman Scholars, commented, "It feels surreal. Before college, I didn't even really know about research too much, so I can't believe the changes that have happened throughout my college career. I never thought I'd be in this position, winning an award like this."

For the past year Lomuscio has studied the spatial and temporal origins of solar flares in NJIT's Center for Solar-Terrestrial Research, "trying to understand the cause of solar flares...why particles are accelerated in the solar atmosphere, [and] to figure out the mechanism behind that." Supported by her scholarship, she plans to pursue a doctorate in astrophysics starting fall 2020.

Samir Peshori, a Dorman Scholar and double major in computer science and information technology, studied at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore thanks to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, which provides grants for American undergraduates to pursue academic studies or internships abroad.

"In Singapore, I'll be taking entrepreneurship classes, exploring, and talking with people," said Peshori, choosing Singapore at the suggestion of his father and for its reputation as a topnotch technology hub. "I think it will be a wonderful time." ■

NJIT Dean Named Fellow of the American Chemical Society



Kevin Belfield, dean of NJIT's College of Science and Liberal Arts, has earned the exclusive honor of being elected Fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's

largest scientific society.

With the ACS's announcement, published in the July 15 issue of *Chemical & Engineering News*, Belfield becomes

the first NJIT faculty member to be named ACS Fellow, a distinction the society established through its fellows program in 2008 to award its members for "outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession and the society." Currently, just over 1,100 of the society's more than 157,000 members have earned the distinction.

Belfield joined 70 other newly named fellows this year, who were formally recognized for diverse accomplishments in education and research across the chemical sciences at the ACS National Meeting and Expo in San Diego, Calif., Aug. 26.

"I am thrilled and humbled, as it represents recognition from the major professional society in my field, which I've been a member of and participated in, in a

variety of capacities, continually throughout my career," said Belfield. "It really is a true honor to be among the fellows."

In the announcement, the society recognized Belfield for standout achievements that span his 30-year career as a researcher, educator and professional mentor, citing his "contributions to organic photonic materials, especially two-photon absorbing materials in 3D optical data storage and bioimaging, and continuous leadership in developing academic programs, departments and student mentorship." The organization also cited his "sustained service to local sections, student affiliates chapters, public outreach, service in a number of roles and offices, and [efforts] as organizer for professional symposia and workshops." ■

NJIT FEATURED IN THE PRINCETON REVIEW'S "BEST 385 COLLEGES" GUIDE FOR 2020

NJIT has been named a top college according to The Princeton Review in the newest edition of its college guide, *The Best 385 Colleges*, a designation only 13% of America's four-year colleges have earned. NJIT also received honors as a top college in the Northeast region and a Best Value college.

"NJIT's recognition by The Princeton Review as one of the country's finest institutions of higher education in their 2020 edition of *The Best 385 Colleges* is a testament to the strong and supportive learning environment we provide for our students," said Fadi Deek, provost and senior executive vice president of NJIT. "We are gratified by the comments of NJIT students surveyed about their campus experiences, as well as their acknowledgment of the work done by our



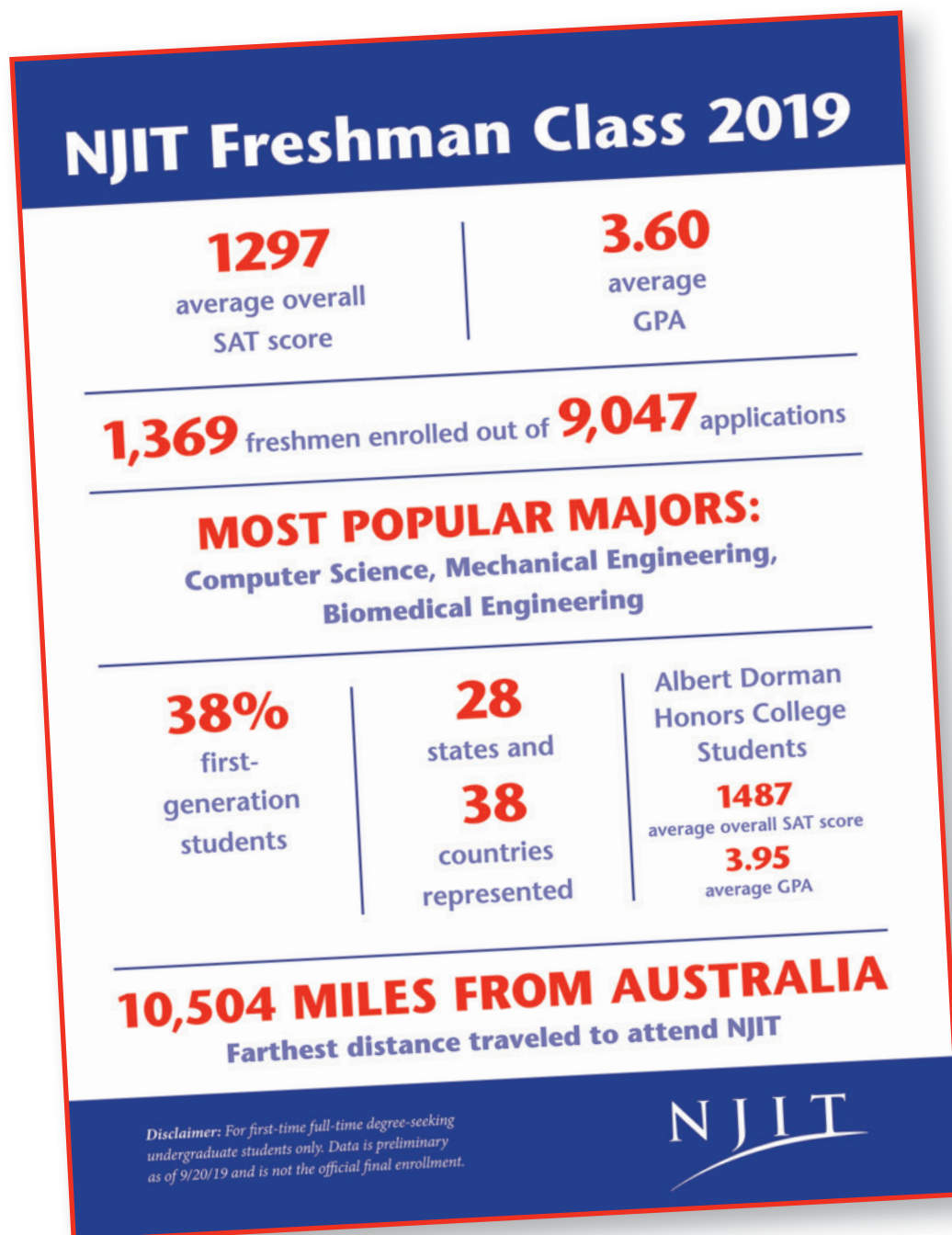
faculty and staff on their behalf."

NJIT also ranked No. 44 in the undergraduate game design ranking, according to The Princeton Review survey based on criteria that cover the quality of faculty, facilities and technology.

"I'm pleased that The Princeton Review has, for the fourth consecutive year, included us in

their list of top undergraduate schools to study game design," said Glenn Goldman, director of NJIT's School of Art + Design.

"It is a recognition of the strong collaborative program we have between digital design in the School of Art + Design and information technology in the Department of Informatics." ■



NJIT BREAKS RECORDS FOR INCOMING FRESHMAN CLASS: A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

This fall semester, NJIT welcomed 1,369 freshmen to campus, an increase of 6% over last year and a university record to boot. NJIT also realized a record in the total number of freshman applications received, up 11% as compared to 2018, with 9,047 students seeking enrollment at the university.

Other best-ever figures include this year's freshman class average SAT score of 1297 and average GPA of 3.60. Thirty-one percent of the students ranked in the top 10% of their high school class, 10 were valedictorians and 6 were salutatorians.

Executive Director of Admissions Stephen Eck noted of the increases at NJIT, "We are excited to welcome the largest freshman class in NJIT's history. With the highest academic caliber in terms of SAT and GPA, these students are truly well qualified to achieve their goals. We attribute the larger class to the demand for NJIT's outstanding academic programs, coupled with the university's proven track record of student success. NJIT provides students with numerous opportunities that open doors, which in turn change lives." ■