

SHINING BRIGHT

NJIT has a long-established reputation as a leader in solar research. The university's optical telescope at Big Bear Solar Observatory and radio telescope array at Owens Valley, both in California, have greatly expanded our understanding of solar events that periodically impact our home planet, events such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections that can disrupt terrestrial communications and power infrastructure in addition to other effects. Our cover story in this issue describes how NJIT researchers organized an international network of more than 1,300 ham radio operators who participated as "citizen-scientists" during the recent solar eclipse. Also this summer, the university's new solar telescope was renamed to honor Phil Goode, the NJIT scientist who led the mission to build the world's largest, highest-resolution solar telescope.

Our second feature introduces the new dean of NJIT's Albert Dorman Honors College, Louis I. Hamilton, who assumed this position on July 1, 2017. He shares his vision for advancing the Honors program, which continues to provide a uniquely rich and challenging educational experience to the highly motivated students who demonstrate excellence in their academic endeavors and engage in extraordinary learning and research activities.

As identified in *2020 Vision: A Strategic Plan* for NJIT, nationally and internationally recognized scholarly research is a core strategic priority at our university. Twenty new, talented and diverse faculty members were hired this year, bringing the total over the last five years to more than 110. Our third feature in this issue explores the innovative research of Associate Professor Alice Lee, who is developing colonies of cardiac cells, formed into chambers, that pump and contract like a human heart. Derived from stem cells, these primitive organs will help her achieve a research milestone—to observe in microscopic, real-time detail how the heart repairs itself after injury.

Five years ago this fall, Superstorm Sandy took the lives of 34 New Jersey residents, destroyed more than 72,000 homes and businesses, and caused over \$62 billion in damage. "In Conclusion" examines how members of the NJIT community responded to this natural disaster with immediate assistance and farsighted planning for the future.

Our university has recently invested \$300 million in facilities that are transforming NJIT's campus. Project highlights include a massive renovation of the historic Central King Building, construction of a new Life Sciences and Engineering Center and a \$100 million Wellness and Events Center (WEC) that will officially open this fall. You can read more about the WEC grand opening in the Winter 2018 issue of *NJIT Magazine*.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and I welcome your feedback. ■

