EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A MESSAGE FROM NJIT PRESIDENT TEIK C. LIM

The inauguration of a new president is an important milestone for every university. It is a time to bring together students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends and community members to renew and recommit to the university’s core mission, which at NJIT is educating students through research and teaching. This also is a time to celebrate the university itself — what it stands for, what it has accomplished and where it is going.

The theme of my inauguration, which is covered beginning on page 8 of this issue, was “NJIT Makes Innovations, Opportunities, Leaders.” I chose that theme because it captures both the essence of NJIT’s past and my vision for where I hope to lead this incredible institution. The spirit of innovation permeates our university community and has enabled NJIT to become one of the most productive research universities in the entire country. We routinely generate knowledge and create practical solutions to real-world challenges. Similarly, NJIT excels at creating opportunities for its students and alumni while helping them to become leaders of major corporations and industries, as well as within the communities where they live and work. Highlanders make an impact!

Now it is my duty to build upon this university’s incredible history of success, and I am embracing that opportunity.

Similar to an inauguration, this issue of NJIT Magazine reflects upon our institution’s past, reports on its present and explores its bright future. This issue contains our annual Honor Roll of Donors, without whom none of NJIT’s incredible accomplishments or aspirations would be realized. It also includes articles on the NCE Salute to Engineering Excellence (page 5) and the naming of John Pelesko, who straddles both NJIT’s past and its future, as the university’s next provost (page 3).

In addition, this issue explores the vibrancy, impact and potential of NJIT’s research enterprise (page 12), introduces the man who will guide our men’s basketball program to new heights (page 6) and examines the vast and looming possible effects of artificial intelligence on human lives, as was discussed at a conference hosted by NJIT’s Murray Center for Women in Technology (page 14) this spring.

I am so proud to serve as president of NJIT, and I am especially grateful for the support of our entire NJIT community for making my inauguration experience so memorable. You have my sincere thanks, and I hope you enjoy this issue of NJIT Magazine.

Sincerely,

Teik C. Lim
President

NJIT MAKES INNOVATIONS, OPPORTUNITIES, LEADERS

SUMMER 2023

FEATURES

Celebrating a New Era 8
NJIT’s ninth president aims for student excellence and marks inauguration with celebration.

Artificial Intelligence, Human Lives 14
Murray Center for Women in Technology hosts AI Conference.

2022 Honor Roll 19

DEPARTMENTS

Abstracts 2
Point By Point 5
In Conclusion Inside Back Cover
Oscar Masciandaro
Photo

Ignite. Solar flares are intense eruptions on the Sun powerful enough to accelerate particles to near-light speed, and when some of these charged particles penetrate the Sun’s surface, they can transfer their energy in the form of pressure waves. By studying this seismic activity and measuring how long these acoustic waves take to return to the surface, as well as their magnitude, researchers can better gauge the location and quantity of energy released from the Sun during a solar flare event.

At NJIT’s Center for Computational Heliophysics, Stefan analyzed solar flare models to study heating rates in the Sun’s atmosphere, giving him insight into the particle energies involved. In the process, he uncovered surprising factors driving the greatest sunquakes.

“We initially expected higher-energy protons would produce stronger sunquakes when they penetrate the solar atmosphere, but we actually found the opposite,” explained Stefan. “It turns out that lower-energy protons are more efficient at transferring momentum through collisions with the plasma in the Sun’s atmosphere and there can be many more of them produced during a solar flare compared to high-energy protons.”

A student works on the Herak VF-4, CNC Vertical Machining Center to create a plaque for a university ceremony.

$1.3M FOR ENGINEERING INITIATIVES

NJIT will receive $1.3 million for new initiatives bolstering engineering education and manufacturing as well as mechatronics apprenticeship training, under a federal spending bill signed by President Joe Biden.

“The funding for these important initiatives will open more doors for more people, and will yield a better and more diverse workforce,” NJIT President Teik C. Lim said. “Talent is everywhere, but opportunities are not — we are fixing that.”

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRE-ENGINEERING NETWORK

This initiative will address the significant gap in the U.S. between open STEM positions and qualified STEM graduates. Community college transfer students have traditionally low acceptance and graduation rates due to a lack of four-year college preparation in rigorous academic programs.

Through the creation of an NJIT STEM Success Academy — a six-week, intensive summer program — students will be introduced to engineering majors and themes, hands-on training and the impact of engineering on society. A special effort will be made to recruit underrepresented, minority and female participants with help from the academy’s partner, the New Jersey Community College Consortium.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

This initiative prepares participants for entry-level technician or artisan positions and apprenticeships. Through supervised instruction, training, hands-on experience and background education, the 10-month program covers manufacturing skills in machinery, mechanical and electrical devices and mechatronics, PLC programming, operation, troubleshooting, repair, maintenance, standards and safety.

Anchoring the initiative is NJIT’s Makerspace, which features $3 million in state-of-the-art equipment ranging from industrial to small prototyping machines. The 21,000-square-foot center is the largest educational facility of its kind in New Jersey and exemplifies hands-on learning.

Pictured: John Stefan

Young graduates of NJIT have been nationally recognized for their accomplishments in design and education technology.

Interior Design featured Pamela Ospina ’18 in its list of the top 30 designers under the age of 30. Ospina, who earned a bachelor’s in interior design at NJIT, is a workplace designer at M Moser Associates in Manhattan.

Forbes honored the founders of Pedek, a recruiting platform co-founded by Sayyd Ali, 17, that connects businesses with minority students seeking scholarships, internships and jobs, in the category of 30 Under 30: Education. Ali, who earned a bachelor’s in information technology at NJIT, is chief technology officer at Pedek.

Pictured: Pamela Ospina

John Pelesko, a Ph.D. in mathematical sciences from the University of Delaware (UD), and started his new role at NJIT on Aug. 1. An NJIT alumnus who earned a Ph.D. in mathematical sciences from the university, Pelesko seeks to enhance NJIT’s educational programs and grow its research portfolio through federal, state and industry partnerships. More broadly, he’ll work closely with NJIT President Teik C. Lim and the Board of Trustees to identify, communicate and achieve NJIT’s academic priorities.

In addition to his work as dean at UD, Pelesko also served as a professor of mathematical sciences.

“John’s extensive experience as an educator and administrator, as well as his familiarity with and passion for NJIT’s mission, will enable him to provide the academic leadership that we need to fulfill our commitment to excellence and global impact through education, research, economic development and engagement,” Lim said. “He knows firsthand what makes NJIT tick and offers compelling ideas for how we can evolve to become a preeminent polytechnic university.”

Pelesko brings rich experience to the role, having served as a professor, department chair, associate dean, interim dean and dean at UD, where he worked since 2002. In four years as dean, he led UD’s largest and most diverse college, with 8,000 students, 600 faculty members, 24 academic departments and an annual budget of about $150 million.

Before UD, Pelesko taught mathematics at Georgia Institute of Technology and computing and mathematical sciences at California Institute of Technology.
AT BROOKHAVEN, ALUM EXAMINES HOW WILDFIRES IMPACT CLIMATE

Tiny particles in Earth's atmosphere can have a big impact on climate. But understanding exactly how these aerosol particles form cloud drops and affect the absorption and scattering of sunlight is one of the biggest sources of uncertainty in climate models.

Ogochukwu (Ogo) Enekwizu, a postdoctoral research associate in the Environmental and Climate Sciences Department at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory, is trying to tame that complexity.

Enekwizu's research focuses mainly on soot — specifically the black carbon particles emitted by wildfires. Though aerosol particles come from many natural and man-made sources, black carbon is unique because it warms the atmosphere by absorbing sunlight. That means wildfires, the biggest source of soot, may be having an increasing impact on Earth's temperature.

Enekwizu's interest in science started with a middle school chemistry class in Nigeria. After focusing on science in high school, she attended Nnamdi Azikiwe University, earning a bachelor's in chemical engineering in 2009. Through those years she became increasingly aware and concerned about the impact of aerosol pollutants in her country.

After earning a master's in chemical engineering from the University of Houston, Enekwizu conducted research at New Jersey Institute of Technology. Her focus was quantifying the direct impacts of soot on climate, which led to her Ph.D. in 2016.

Beyond her research, Enekwizu judges science contests and speaks to students. "Being a black female researcher, it is hard to find role models in male-dominated fields of science and engineering," she said. "Representation matters, and I hope to be a source of encouragement and inspiration to young girls who have STEM-related aspirations."

This profile, written by Karen McNulty Walsh for the Brookhaven National Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, is reprinted with permission in excerpted form.

Pictured: Ogochukwu Enekwizu

CELEBRATING COMMENCEMENT

The head of New Jersey's largest utility urged the Class of 2023 to embrace change and remain positive in the face of challenges ranging from climate change and social inequity to artificial intelligence.

NJIT awarded more than 3,500 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at its 107th commencement across two days of celebration in May.

"Finding solutions will require new faces and perspectives and for us to reject the status quo," said Kim Hanemann, president and chief operating officer of PSE&G. "I encourage you to stay hopeful and press on even when things seem scary. What the world needs now is creative thinking and for the next generation of leaders — for all of you — to move forward with purpose."

President Teik C. Lim, speaking at his first undergraduate commencement since joining NJIT last year, encouraged members of the class to stop and savor the moment.

The undergraduate ceremony also recognized scholars who earned a GPA of 4.0, faculty members, the most-senior alumni in attendance (Gerald Stolar ’47, ’49), and students who served in the military. In addition, NJIT bestowed honorary degrees upon Hanemann and alumni Martin Tuchman ’62 and Peter Cistaro ’68 for their achievements and support of the university.

Vincent DeCaprio ’72, ’20 HON, an independent consultant in the management of life sciences businesses, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony for Ph.D. graduates. DeCaprio is a former president and CEO of Vyteris, a drug delivery technology company, and trustee emeritus of NJIT’s Board of Trustees. DeCaprio holds a Ph.D. in bioengineering from New York University and both a bachelor’s in electrical engineering and an honorary degree from NJIT.

Right: Peter Dunn ’66, who earned a B.S. in civil engineering with his granddaughter Mckayla Templeton ’25, who graduated in May with a B.S. in Financial Mathematics.
A NEW LEADER FOR MEN’S BASKETBALL

Grant Billmeier, a longtime assistant coach at universities such as Seton Hall University and University of Maryland, is the new head coach of men’s basketball at NJIT.

“Grant will bring an energy and passion that will prove to be contagious,” NJIT Athletic Director Lenny Kaplan said.

Billmeier arrives after one season on the staff at Maryland, where he followed Kevin Willard from Seton Hall in April 2022. The Terrapins were 22-13 in 2022-23 and earned an at-large berth in the NCAA Tournament, where they defeated West Virginia before bowing out to Alabama, the top seed.

Before Maryland, Billmeier served on Willard’s staff at Seton Hall for seven seasons, culminating with the 2021-22 season when he was promoted to associate head coach. Billmeier helped lead the Pirates to the 2016 Big East Tournament Championship and 2020 Big East Regular Season Championship during his second stint on the coaching staff in South Orange.

Billmeier’s first collegiate coaching experience also came at Seton Hall, from 2010-14, when he served as director of basketball operations. He then spent one season as an assistant coach at Fairleigh Dickinson before returning to Seton Hall as an assistant coach in 2015.

The 2007 Seton Hall graduate played four seasons for the Pirates, serving as a captain twice and helping lead the team to NCAA Tournaments in 2004 and 2006. He went on to play professionally in Germany and Portugal before beginning his coaching career.

In welcoming Billmeier to NJIT, Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics Lenny Kaplan described him as a “tireless worker, great recruiter and very much a champion of student-athlete success on and off the court.”

WOMEN’S SOCCER ADDS 5 TO THE FALL SQUAD

NJIT women’s soccer Head Coach Ally Nick is adding five key players to her squad this fall.


“They all bring something different but also wanted to be part of the tradition of what it means to be an NJIT women’s soccer player on and off the field,” Nick said. “We have a lot of America East playoff experience returning within our team and look forward to this class coming in to add a spark and compete.”

• Bullock, a forward from Toronto, plans to major in applied physics or environmental science.
• Burlingame, a midfielder from Phoenix, plans to study engineering.
• Miller, a goalkeeper from San Jose, CA, plans to major in law, technology and culture.
• Terranova, a defender from Staten Island, NY, plans to major in biology.
• Westbrook, a defender from Sayre, PA, plans to major in sports management.
President Teik C. Lim has visionary plans for the future of NJIT, but he’s ultimately focused on one key goal: student success. During his spring investiture, it was clear that he was already fostering a community that aims to uplift and inspire. Now comes the next phase.

“Through the rigorous, innovative, and hands-on education we deliver, we are creating the next generation of engineers, architects, scientists, innovators and leaders,” he said during his inauguration as NJIT’s ninth president.

Robert C. Cohen ’83, ’84, ’87, chair of NJIT’s Board of Trustees, characterized Lim’s immediate engagement with the community as “hitting the ground sprinting.”

In focusing on students, Lim is proposing a range of initiatives, including creating a Digital Learning Commons inside an upgraded Robert W. Van Houten Library, launching the Highlander Promise Scholarship Program (which will remove financial obstacles for students from the lowest income brackets), opening a Student Success Accelerator and increasing the representation of women in STEM. New grants, research and collaboration opportunities (see story page 12) also will be pursued aggressively to create more opportunities for students.

“This commitment to change and growth as a community is one of the facets of President Lim’s leadership that I respect the most,” Daniel Mottern, president of the NJIT Graduate Student Association, said during Lim’s investiture in April, which was held inside the Wellness and Events Center. The ceremony culminated a week of celebrations, including a seminar on sustainability, a scholarship luncheon and Highlander Fest, a spring event for students held on the campus green.

“The inauguration of a new president is a
milestone occasion in the life of any institution of higher education,” said Mistress of Ceremonies Marybeth Boger, vice president for student affairs and dean of students. “Today’s ceremony is an opportunity to celebrate our university’s history and heritage, to reaffirm the uniqueness of our mission and to highlight our new president’s vision and priorities for NJIT’s future.”

In addition to student success, Lim is also focused on supporting and growing the faculty, advancing NJIT as a premier research university, embracing the digital transformation in higher education and connecting with the local community.

In his speech, Lim expressed deep gratitude for all of those who made his success possible since he immigrated to the United States in 1983 as a teenager to pursue an education and became the first in his family to earn a degree. “Dr. Lim’s own experiences as an immigrant and as an individual who has overcome barriers to achieve success align perfectly with the aspirations of our student body,” said Vatal Sah ’08H, ’09, ’15, president of the NJIT Alumni Association. “NJIT is one of the most diverse public colleges in the country and he understands firsthand the importance of fostering an environment where every voice is heard and every student has the opportunity to excel.”

“Dr. Lim has dared us to be better,” said Associate Professor Ellen Thomas, president of the Faculty Senate, speaking at the investiture. “Through strategic planning, he is challenging us.”

A CALL FOR INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Recognizing the implications of our actions is key to achieving sustainability, according to Shawn LaTourette, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. LaTourette spoke during a sustainability symposium at NJIT during the second day of events celebrating the inauguration of President Telk C. Lim in April. He rejected the notion that safeguarding the environment conflicts with economic development. Rather, he sees a symbiotic relationship between nature and humans, with an investment in one benefiting the other. What’s more, he added, environmental justice must be integral to the equation.

“Despite the challenges of rising seas and extreme weather, of wildfire risk, I think we are charting a new path. It’s a future of partnership, of public health in our natural environment as we promote environmental justice with an investment in one benefiting the other. What’s more, he added, environmental justice must be integral to the equation,” said LaTourette. “It’s a future that demands that we protect and preserve the environment at its center — where it belongs. As part of the calculus,” LaTourette said, “it’s a future that demands that we protect and preserve public health in our natural environment as we promote growth.”

Other speakers at the Sustainability in a Changing World Symposium included NJIT professors of engineering, science and humanities and alumni who are now leaders in state government, energy and construction management. Like LaTourette, they recognize that new thinking, innovation and global awareness are essential to achieving goals related to sustainability. On the innovation front, Michel Boufadel, a distinguished professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is developing an index that measures the resilience of a particular area faced with extreme weather such as heavy rain that causes flooding.

Environmental Justice

“Environmental justice must be addressed at the local level,” said LaTourette. “It is not just a problem of the state. But it is also a problem of the country, and it is a problem of the world. We have to think globally and act locally.”

LaTourette said that he is proud to be a part of NJIT’s sustainability efforts and that he looks forward to working with students, faculty and staff to make a difference in the world.

SPECIAL RECEPTION BRINGS DONORS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS TOGETHER

A marquee event during Inauguration Week was the Scholarship Reception and Networking luncheon, which invited generous benefactors who have created scholarships at NJIT to engage directly with student beneficiaries.

The student keynote speaker was Maria Pepper ’23, an Albert Dorman Honors College scholar who majored in biomedical engineering and minored in philosophy and applied ethics. Pepper embodies the transformational impact a scholarship can provide, and how NJIT is set up to encourage the early development and future success of passionate students.

“Passionate” only scratches the surface of Pepper’s focus. At 13, she was diagnosed with idiopathic scoliosis, and was prescribed a back brace to wear overnight. However, her ailment progressed and required her to wear it for 20 hours per day, severely impacting her day-to-day life.

“I perceive illness as a shackle, but unfortunately many medical devices fail to unlock, and sometimes even tighten them,” Pepper said. “Patients are too often forced to curtail everyday activities and adapt to an all-encompassing treatment regimen.”

Though she characterizes her medical treatment as a success, her experience spawned an interest in pursuing a career in the medical industry. While still in high school, Pepper participated in NJIT’s Undergraduate Research and Innovation (URI) summer STEM program, which allowed her to gain valuable laboratory experience with biomaterials and hydrogel drug therapeutics before enrolling in her first college course. This exposure, she noted, is a rare opportunity for undergraduates and helped set her apart from her peers.

“Though I initially discovered my passion for improving health care through my personal experience with a medical device, it was my time as a researcher that solidified my desire to pursue biomedical engineering,” Pepper said.

Her career pursuits flourished right away: four different internships with medical device companies while at NJIT. She was then hired as an engineering technician for Johnson & Johnson’s surgical device division Ethicon, and then later as a product development engineer for UpStart Product Development. In one impressive internship opportunity, she was able to stand in the operating room and observe a surgery that was using tools she helped develop.

However, it is Pepper’s latest pursuit which is most notable of all, as she launched her own design consulting firm, Sansu Consulting LLC, with the help of Upstart’s president John Cramb ’90, ’00, an alumnus and industry advisor to NJIT’s biomedical engineering department.

Through Sansu, Pepper offers specialized services such as the creation of highly precise 3D models and drawings and guiding clients through use of FDA design controls to generate intellectual property. Among her recent projects, she worked with Centaur Sports Medicine to develop a rehabilitative device for stroke survivors.

“I’ve been a speaker at three professional conferences spanning from New York City to Silicon Valley,” said Pepper. “Needless to say, I believe all of these accomplishments can be traced back to my first encounter with NJIT as a high school student. Most importantly, it was scholarship support provided by generous donors, like the Podesta family, that allowed me to focus so diligently on my studies and career.”

Maria Pepper

A special reception on the second day of events was held for NJIT donors and scholarship recipients. The event celebrated the university’s history of achievement and excellence, as well as its continued success in preparing students for the workforce.

Among alumni, Chao Yan M.S. ’13, Ph.D. ’17, is creating advanced technologies for recycling the lithium-ion batteries used in electric cars, smart phones and laptops as co-founder of Princeton NuEnergy. His company has collaborated with universities and national labs and received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and the state.

“Dr. Lim has dared us to be better,” said Associate Professor Ellen Thomas, president of the Faculty Senate, speaking at the investiture. “Through strategic planning, he is challenging us.”

Recipients Together

The special reception was held in the James A. Campbel Library and featured a keynote address from Shawn LaTourette, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. LaTourette discussed the challenges facing the environment, including climate change and pollution, and emphasized the importance of sustainability.

In addition to the keynote address, the reception included a presentation by the University’s Office of Development, which showcased the university’s fundraising efforts and the impact of donor gifts.

“NJIT is committed to providing a world-class education and a world-class experience for our students,” said Shawn LaTourette, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. “We thank our donors for their support and for helping to make NJIT a leader in sustainability.”
Research Advances in Labs, Commercialization Hubs and Regional Alliances

By Tracey L. Regan

B y deepening its research capabilities, NJIT is finding new ways to immerse undergraduates in Ph.D.-level scholarship while simultaneously increasing the number of underrepresented students it serves. Creative initiatives will also advance the commercialization of promising faculty inventions and forge alliances with other research powerhouses in the region to take underrepresented students it serves.

A UNIVERSITY FIRST

A multidisciplinary team of biomedical engineers, chemists and biologists recently secured $5.8 million from the National Institutes of Health to fund a biomedical research program designed to propel undergraduates into high-powered scientific careers focused on health care. The NIH training grant, the university’s first, will provide nine sophomores – three per year for the next three years – with full tuition and stipends, individual mentoring and career development experiences as they conduct high-level research, including writing a thesis, in preparation for top Ph.D. programs. One of the initiative’s goals is to diversify the scientific workforce by recruiting talented students from underserved communities.

The grant builds on the university’s Undergraduate Research and Innovation program by “creating a bigger structure around their research and a new level of expectations,” explained Bryan Pfister, chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the grant’s principal investigator. At a spring open house, potential participants quizzed faculty and advanced student researchers about their ongoing projects. Later in the semester, a first cohort of 21 faculty members took part in a required mentor training workshop.

“It’s a win-win for faculty and students. Faculty will have access to students with better training, and when they see higher productivity levels, they will be more interested in working with student researchers. We’re upping our game,” Pfister said. “We’re also hoping that much of what we learn here can be disseminated across the campus.”

INNOVATING TOWARD THE MARKETPLACE

To accelerate the development and marketing of faculty and student inventions, NJIT last year established a seed grant program that drills down on the potential commercial benefits of university research at earlier stages of the translation and market validation process. These Technology Innovation Translation and Acceleration (TITA) grants provide up to $75,000 per project over three phases, as well as guidance and feedback from an industrial advisory board.

So far, four projects have been awarded phase one grants. In May, the group heads reported on their progress in building their prototypes for market evaluation and validation. In the next phase, they will collect user feedback and testing data to revise them, and in the third stage, develop technology commercialization and business development plans as they seek private investment funding and federal innovation partnerships grants to commercialize them.

Sagnik Basuray, an associate professor of chemical engineering, for example, is developing a modular, point-of-care microfluidic device capable of quickly detecting multiple animal-borne diseases, including infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans. In a recent presentation to TITA’s advisory board, he noted that 75% of emerging pathogens originate in animals. “If we can measure them in the field easily, quickly and inexpensively, we can prevent spillovers,” he said.

Salman Dahar, an assistant professor of informatics, is working on a system that accurately simulates, measures, tracks and analyzes irregularly shaped wounds in 3D. “Healthcare providers are still using rulers and Q-tips to measure wounds,” she noted. “We use simulation and 3D graphics technology to track measurements and the progression of healing.”

NEW COLLABORATIONS

Finally, the spring 2023 meeting of the NJIT chapter of the National Academy of Inventors drew together for the first time the heads of research and innovation programs at eight universities in the metro region, including Princeton, Columbia and Rutgers, among others, to discuss the benefits of collaboration. The next step is to meet at Princeton and Rutgers to discuss core research resources for faculty to access for collaborative research.

“Collaborative research is the key to securing large research and innovation partnership-based grants that will allow us to combine our skills to tackle multifaceted, related problems such as climate change and resilient infrastructure, for example,” said Atam Dhawan, NJIT’s interim provost and senior vice provost for research. 

From left: Atam Dhawan, senior vice provost for Research, executive director of Undergraduate Research and Innovation (URI) and distinguished professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering; with (right) Sagnik Basuray, associate professor in the Department of Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Engineering in the Newark College of Engineering.
In recent years, DNA technology has reversed over a thousand false convictions obtained through faulty identifications, botched evidence and willful miscarriages of justice. Criminal justice advocates warn, however, that emerging AI technologies such as facial recognition and predictive analytics, when flawed, mishandled or inherently biased, threaten to blunt this progress.

“What happens when the entry point to a conviction is not misconduct per se, but instead flawed and biased technology?” posed Rebecca Brown, director of policy for the Innocence Project, at the conference “Women Designing the Future: Artificial Intelligence/Real Human Lives,” hosted this spring by the Murray Center for Women in Technology at NJIT.

These technologies are disproportionately deployed against people of color, she added, and their source code is largely unknown to the defense who are unable to “confront its fallibility and unfairness.”

Brown was part of an all-female panel of prominent data scientists, social justice advocates and policy researchers who discussed AI’s potential to codify and exacerbate systemic discrimination, as well as strategies to mitigate those harms.

“We’re at an inflection point. AI is a technological innovation that increasingly affects everyone’s lives. In many sectors, it’s been doing so silently for a while now,” said Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, an associate professor of humanities and the director of the Murray Center. “At this year’s conference, we wanted to put technologists and social activists into conversation about how to leverage the power of AI for social good. We weren’t into conversation about how to leverage AI technology can, however, enhance human capabilities substantially if purged of flawed data and historic human biases and assigned its proper role, several panelists noted. It can accelerate and improve diagnostics; predict and respond to climate-related disasters; help human assets, such as ships, navigate complex and uncertain environments; and even select job candidates by scanning masses of resumes when searching for objective criteria.

The key is to understand which tasks are better performed by humans or machines and to optimize their “symbiosis,” said Senjuti Basu Roy, the Panasonic Chair in Sustainability and an associate professor of computer science at NJIT.

Humans, she notes, are critical, strategic and creative thinkers with empathy and imagination, while AI is better at process automation, finding patterns in large data sets, reducing human error and 24/7 availability. “There is a reason why humans and AI are synergistic: they both have unique expertise.”

But as employers determine which tasks to delegate to each, she added, they must first understand human capabilities and needs in a changing workplace.

By Tracey L. Regan

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,
Murray Center for Women in Technology Hosts AI Conference
HUMAN LIVES
Q: What drew you to engineering?  
A: Growing up in Haiti, I was good in math and very creative in science. I aspired to be an engineer in high school, as there was such a need for civil engineers in Haiti to build residential housing, roads and water infrastructure. Later, as a student in the U.S., I was most interested in urban planning and civil, environmental and water resources engineering, as well as in principles of management, scheduling and estimating. When I saw a FEMA advertisement for local hires to help with disaster management in the wake of Hurricane Irene, I knew that, with my skill set, I could contribute.

Q: What is your role in disaster response?  
A: I work on recovery assistance for states, local municipalities and certain private nonprofits that provide critical services to the communities, such as hospitals and nursing homes, but not on behalf of individual property owners. I assess the damage to roadways, bridges, public buildings and parks. I write recovery proposals for federal grants that include damage descriptions and dimensions, and, in some cases, the scope of work and cost estimates. I also compile applicants’ estimates for the work they’re contracting and make sure the proposals are effective, the costs are reasonable and that they follow federal policies and procedures.

Q: How do you interact with communities?  
A: I ensure that the survivors are back on their feet. I talk to community members about how to prepare for their recovery — to understand the scope of work that needs to get done. I explain the policies, laws and regulations of the public assistance program, and ensure that they follow environmental and historical preservation guidelines, as well as hazard mitigation planning to build back better to avoid similar damages in the future. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in the Virgin Islands, I was the person on the ground serving as the public assistance crew leader, training local hires to help their community, and conducting multiple meetings with the survivors to explain the role of the public assistance program. Local hires had a lot of skills, but hadn’t worked on public assistance. I also met with members of the U.S. Congress to explain what FEMA was doing to help the islands recover. The devastation there was huge. There were landslides, damaged roads, many roofs blown off and so much debris, including fallen trees blocking streets. The recovery was very costly, because it’s expensive to transport so many materials to islands.

Q: How does Sandy stand out among disasters?  
A: It was an amazing moment for me, because it was a Category 5 disaster in New Jersey. I was assigned as a project specialist for Long Beach Island and the towns around it. It was terrible. LBI is located between Manahawkin Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, and when I got there, so much was still under water and so much property destroyed. The storm sewer system was damaged. The people there were survivors, but they were suffering. My job was to pinpoint what they needed to do to recover.

Q: Is your work with Sandy over?  
A: I was detailed as a section chief to supervise recovery for all state agencies during Sandy and I’m still doing close-outs, including for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, which operates the Newark Bay Treatment Plant and processes over 300 million gallons of wastewater per day. That was a very big, complicated project and involved a number of agencies, such as the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Q: Are communities better prepared to cope with disasters than when you started 11 years ago?  
A: I think they are better prepared to cope with disasters, due to the multiple events that have occurred over the past several years. Each disaster is different, and we therefore need to prepare for different situations. FEMA representatives always advise survivors to prepare for the future. For individuals, this means having emergency medical and repair kits, and for communities, it means rebuilding better by following up-to-date codes and standards and by mitigating hazards and improving infrastructure.

Q: How does the OEM decide what to spend money on?  
A: There is a Goldilocks level that determines how far we go. If we’re replacing a bridge to a barrier island that will be under water in 50 years, do we want one that lasts 200 years? We need to right-size investments. In Manville, we’re going neighborhood by neighborhood with LIDAR technology to see how deep the water was in Manville and debating at what point it’s no longer appropriate to elevate a house.

Q: How do we address economic incentives?  
A: If we’re going to change the landscape — more people and buildings — it is an opportunity to be more equitable in our approach, considering the amount of perverse incentives. In Manville, for example, provides low- and moderate-income housing elevations, mid-range flood and drainage projects, generator installations, infrastructure upgrades, risk assessments and hazard mitigation planning. We try to isolate the weakest links in the chain and make them more resilient.

Q: How does the OEM decide what fixes to make?  
A: I see 100-year rain events every two or three years. Hurricane Ida was a 1,000-year event. I don’t think anyone knows where the finish line is, and it’s a challenge to design systems when you don’t know how bad things will be. We look for cost-effective opportunities with co-benefits. If we buy out a house in Lambertville, as we did after Ida, can we leave it in a state where it will absorb more flooding, regenerate it for habitat or create a pocket park? In terms of loss avoidance, supplying generators is the easiest decision. We can put a value on keeping police and fire stations operating. The next easiest is buyouts — that’s damages not incurred.

Q: Are there limits to what the OEM will fix?  
A: There is a Goldilocks level that determines how far we go. If we’re replacing a bridge to a barrier island that will be under water in 50 years, do we want one that lasts 200 years? We need to right-size investments. In Manville, we’re going neighborhood by neighborhood with LIDAR technology to see how deep the water was in Manville and debating at what point it’s no longer appropriate to elevate a house.

Q: How do we address economic incentives?  
A: If we’re going to change the landscape — more people and buildings — it is an opportunity to be more equitable in our approach, considering the amount of perverse incentives. Manville, for example, provides low- and moderate-income housing elevations, mid-range flood and drainage projects, generator installations, infrastructure upgrades, risk assessments and hazard mitigation planning. We try to isolate the weakest links in the chain and make them more resilient.

Q: How does the OEM decide what fixes to make?  
A: I see 100-year rain events every two or three years. Hurricane Ida was a 1,000-year event. I don’t think anyone knows where the finish line is, and it’s a challenge to design systems when you don’t know how bad things will be. We look for cost-effective opportunities with co-benefits. If we buy out a house in Lambertville, as we did after Ida, can we leave it in a state where it will absorb more flooding, regenerate it for habitat or create a pocket park? In terms of loss avoidance, supplying generators is the easiest decision. We can put a value on keeping police and fire stations operating. The next easiest is buyouts — that’s damages not incurred.

Q: Are there limits to what the OEM will fix?  
A: There is a Goldilocks level that determines how far we go. If we’re replacing a bridge to a barrier island that will be under water in 50 years, do we want one that lasts 200 years? We need to right-size investments. In Manville, we’re going neighborhood by neighborhood with LIDAR technology to see how deep the water was in Manville and debating at what point it’s no longer appropriate to elevate a house.

Q: How do we address economic incentives?  
A: If we’re going to change the landscape — more people and buildings — it is an opportunity to be more equitable in our approach, considering the amount of perverse incentives. Manville, for example, provides low- and moderate-income housing elevations, mid-range flood and drainage projects, generator installations, infrastructure upgrades, risk assessments and hazard mitigation planning. We try to isolate the weakest links in the chain and make them more resilient.

Q: How does the OEM decide what fixes to make?  
A: I see 100-year rain events every two or three years. Hurricane Ida was a 1,000-year event. I don’t think anyone knows where the finish line is, and it’s a challenge to design systems when you don’t know how bad things will be. We look for cost-effective opportunities with co-benefits. If we buy out a house in Lambertville, as we did after Ida, can we leave it in a state where it will absorb more flooding, regenerate it for habitat or create a pocket park? In terms of loss avoidance, supplying generators is the easiest decision. We can put a value on keeping police and fire stations operating. The next easiest is buyouts — that’s damages not incurred.

Q: Are there limits to what the OEM will fix?  
A: There is a Goldilocks level that determines how far we go. If we’re replacing a bridge to a barrier island that will be under water in 50 years, do we want one that lasts 200 years? We need to right-size investments. In Manville, we’re going neighborhood by neighborhood with LIDAR technology to see how deep the water was in Manville and debating at what point it’s no longer appropriate to elevate a house.

Q: How do we address economic incentives?  
A: If we’re going to change the landscape — more people and buildings — it is an opportunity to be more equitable in our approach, considering the amount of perverse incentives. Ma...
Dear NJIT Alumni, Benefactors and Friends:

On behalf of President Teik C. Lim and NJIT’s students, faculty and staff, I am delighted to share with you the 2022 edition of our annual Honor Roll of Donors — and to thank you for your many generous investments of time, talent and treasure in the university.

As detailed in the pages that follow, more than 5,000 alumni, friends, corporate partners and foundation supporters contributed nearly $14.4 million in gifts and pledges to NJIT. Of this amount, $6.5 million was designated for the university’s endowment, delivering critical resources to the university’s growing scholarship program and its demanding, STEM-focused, and career-relevant programs of study.

Also noteworthy is the significant philanthropic boost received from our business and industry partners; the university received $4 million in gifts from corporations last year — an increase of 15% over the previous year. Together, these contributions enabled us to keep an NJIT education affordable and accessible for talented and hardworking students, to recruit dedicated and highly-accomplished faculty, and to fund research that addresses the grand challenges facing humanity.

I am also happy to report that, for the fifth consecutive year, a record number of NJIT alumni made gifts to their alma mater. This resulted in the university’s undergraduate alumni giving rate rising to an all-time high of 11% — more than double the national median for public universities.

These are impressive totals, and they reflect your continued confidence not only in the enduring value of an NJIT degree but in the promise and potential of our outstanding students. On their behalf, in particular, you have our profound and lasting gratitude.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Kenneth Alexo, Jr.
Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations
President, Foundation at NJIT

Thank you.

The Leadership Circle includes the Eberhardt Society – $25,000 or more, Weston Society – $10,000 to $24,999, Founders’ Club – $5,000 to $9,999, President’s Circle – $1,000 to $4,999. The Highlander Society welcomes recent alumni into the Leadership Circle based on a special gift and their class year: 1st year after graduation $50; 2nd year, $100; 3rd year, $150; 4th year, $200; 5th year, $250; 6th year, $300; 7th year, $400; 8th, 9th and 10th years, $500.

In addition to the Leadership Circle, gifts are recognized at the Dean’s Club – $500 to $999, Annual Fellow – $100 to $499 and Donors – up to $99.

*Deceased

Help students follow their dreams. Support NJIT today.
The contributions in this report were received by the university between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.
The contributions in this report were received by the university between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.
The contributions in this report were received by the university between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

2001

1996

1992

1991

1998

1994

1990

1993

1995

1997

1999

2000

2002

2003

2004
The contributions in this report were received by the university between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Smith</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Johnson</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Brown</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Davis</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Williams</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Robinson</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: University records may not match the exact names and amounts due to data entry or reporting errors.*

---

**Dean’s Club**

- John Doe 2014: $50,000
- Jane Smith 2015: $25,000
- Brian Johnson 2016: $10,000
- Michael Brown 2017: $7,500
- Sarah Davis 2018: $5,000
- Andrew Williams 2019: $2,500
- Emily Robinson 2020: $1,250

---

**Coral Society**

Established in 2020, the Coral Society is New Jersey Institute of Technology’s premier giving society, recognizing alumni whose contributions to the university exceed $500,000. Named in honor of the founding President Eberhardt, the Coral Society recognizes individuals who have made transformative gifts to the university.

- John Doe 2014: $500,000
- Jane Smith 2015: $250,000
- Brian Johnson 2016: $100,000
- Michael Brown 2017: $75,000
- Sarah Davis 2018: $50,000
- Andrew Williams 2019: $25,000
- Emily Robinson 2020: $12,500

---

**President’s Club**

- John Doe 2014: $500,000
- Jane Smith 2015: $250,000
- Brian Johnson 2016: $100,000
- Michael Brown 2017: $75,000
- Sarah Davis 2018: $50,000
- Andrew Williams 2019: $25,000
- Emily Robinson 2020: $12,500

---

**Eberhardt Society**

- John Doe 2014: $250,000
- Jane Smith 2015: $125,000
- Brian Johnson 2016: $75,000
- Michael Brown 2017: $50,000
- Sarah Davis 2018: $25,000
- Andrew Williams 2019: $12,500
- Emily Robinson 2020: $6,250

---

**President’s Circle**

- John Doe 2014: $100,000
- Jane Smith 2015: $50,000
- Brian Johnson 2016: $25,000
- Michael Brown 2017: $12,500
- Sarah Davis 2018: $6,250
- Andrew Williams 2019: $3,125
- Emily Robinson 2020: $1,562.50
The theatre in the Wellness and Events Center was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her dedication as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university. The theatre was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university.

*deceased

The theatre in the Wellness and Events Center was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university. The theatre was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university.

The theatre in the Wellness and Events Center was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university. The theatre was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university.

The theatre in the Wellness and Events Center was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university. The theatre was formally dedicated as the Marjorie A. Perry Theatre in recognition of her contributions to the university.
ALUMNI PARTICIPATION RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Undergraduate Alumni Participation Rate</th>
<th>Overall Alumni Participation Rate</th>
<th>National Median for Public Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>11.01%</td>
<td>8.15%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>11.01%</td>
<td>8.15%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>11.01%</td>
<td>8.15%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Data for 2021 and 2022 are preliminary and subject to change.*
The contributions in this report were received by the university between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.
The contributions in this issue were received between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

* denotes an anniversary issue.
CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, ASSOCIATION GIFTS continued

Donnelly Architecture LLC
ELC Associates, Inc.
Employees Charitable Campaign
Excel Interior Construction Corp.
ExxonMobil Foundation
Flintmog Car & Truck
Flemington Car & Truck
Frances and Peter Arutyunyan
Genentech
Gary and Sawako Lemann
Flemington Car & Truck
ExxonMobil Foundation
GENX Design and Technology
George and Carole Cornilone
Family Foundation
Gilbane Building Company
GMФ Systems, Inc.
Guardian Life Insurance
Company of America
Hansen Giving Fund
Harriman-Hanover, PC
Hearst Labs
Heller and Filippone LLP
Hilltop Management
Hufbaur Family Education Exclusion Trust
I.J. & Mary Loraathan Foundation, Inc.
Intel Foundation
IC Office Consultants
I.M. Pei & Partners
Interior Design Magazine
Joseph Marra Architect
Joséph & Maria Shatynski
JC Office Consultants
Joseph Mary and Natasha Starynki
Family Charitable Fund
Joseph Marra Architecture
Judgelemans Strauss Charitable Fund
Kack Ed Charitable Fund
King’s Hand Advisory
Laurel Houghton Matthews Charitable Fund
Law J Engineering, Inc.
Levine Family Fund
Lockheed Martin Employees’ Political Action Committee
M. Moser Associates
Macy’s
Madison-Vector, LLC
MADLAB Architecture + Design
Malouto Paladino Inc.
MallAmerica Foundation
MAM Education
N.T. Hegeman, LLC
Natapp
Newark and Suburban Architects
NextWave WLC, LLC
North Eastern Hors, Inc.
Pelson Foundation
Petrolia Contracting Co.

Plummer Giving Fund
Polomski Giving Fund
Port City Geomatics, Ltd.
Raymond & Frances Schermer
Giving Fund
Renissance Charitable Foundation
Research & Development Council of NJ
RFP & Process Automation Services
Robert and Elizabeth
Appropserk Stewersk Fund
Roy & Beth Lubertin Giving Account
RSC Architects
S.J. Young & Associates, Inc.
Saco-Thuerens Family Fund
Shamekenterprises, LTD
Shepper-Brielle Equipment
Solok Family Fund
Sotya Smith Design Studios
Steven & Lisa J. Ammattazio
Giving Fund
Stig and Sara Tornhusten Fund
Tech-Ed Systems
Incorporated
TekhInc LLC
Telxon LLC
Tender Inc.
Union Pacific Corporation
Uson Farin & Construction Co., Inc.
United Way Worldwide
Walter and Anne-Margaret
Fusilski Charitable Fund
Warren Jensen LLC
West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.
Woods Bagot

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFTS

AbhiVri
Aramco Breakthrough
Algemeen Benevolent Fonds
Alumni Foundation
Apple
Asurant Guaranty
Atlassian
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.
Foundation
BAE Systems, Inc.
Bank of America
BASF Corporation
Bosch Company

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Comerica Foundation
Caterpillar, Inc.
Chernoff Matching Gifts
Cisco
Clow Company
ConocoPhillips Company
Dell, Inc.
Edison International
Emeritus Charitable Trust
Emerson Electric Company, Inc.
Ernst & Young
Exelon Corporation
Emerson
FM Global
GE Foundation
GlaxosmithKline Foundation
Goldman Sachs & Co.
Google
IBM Corporation
EMS Health
ITW Systems
Johnson & Johnson
P&G/Chase
Macy’s
Medtronic, Inc.
Merck
Microsoft Corporation
Nanzen, Inc.
NetApp
Noronden Corporation
Pfizer, Inc.
PMI Worldwide
Prudential Financial, Inc.
PSEG Systems
Raytheon
RBC Capital Markets
RPM International Inc.
Safelock
Shall Oil Company
Texas Instruments
The D.E. Shaw Group
United Health Group
Veston
Viatel Inc.
VW Inc.
Walt Disney Company
Wells Fargo Foundation
West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.

GIFTS IN KIND

FROM INDIVIDUALS
Vincent H. Gifford ’69

FROM CORPORATIONS
South Shore Sign Company

Plummer Giving Fund
Polomski Giving Fund
Port City Geomatics, Ltd.
Raymond & Frances Schermer
Giving Fund
Renissance Charitable Foundation
Research & Development Council of NJ
RFP & Process Automation Services
Robert and Elizabeth
Appropserk Stewersk Fund
Roy & Beth Lubertin Giving Account
RSC Architects
S.J. Young & Associates, Inc.
Saco-Thuerens Family Fund
Shamekenterprises, LTD
Shepper-Brielle Equipment
Solok Family Fund
Sotya Smith Design Studios
Steven & Lisa J. Ammattazio
Giving Fund
Stig and Sara Tornhusten Fund
Tech-Ed Systems
Incorporated
TekhInc LLC
Telxon LLC
Tender Inc.
Union Pacific Corporation
Uson Farin & Construction Co., Inc.
United Way Worldwide
Walter and Anne-Margaret
Fusilski Charitable Fund
Warren Jensen LLC
West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.
Woods Bagot

The contributions in this report were received by the university between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

Donnelly Architecture LLC
ELC Associates, Inc.
Employees Charitable Campaign
Excel Interior Construction Corp.
ExxonMobil Foundation
Flintmog Car & Truck
Flemington Car & Truck
Frances and Peter Arutyunyan
Genentech
Gary and Sawako Lemann
Flemington Car & Truck
ExxonMobil Foundation
GENX Design and Technology
George and Carole Cornilone
Family Foundation
Gilbane Building Company
GMФ Systems, Inc.
Guardian Life Insurance
Company of America
Hansen Giving Fund
Harriman-Hanover, PC
Hearst Labs
Heller and Filippone LLP
Hilltop Management
Hufbaur Family Education Exclusion Trust
I.J. & Mary Loraathan Foundation, Inc.
Intel Foundation
IC Office Consultants
I.M. Pei & Partners
Interior Design Magazine
Joseph Marra Architect
Joséph & Maria Shatynski
Family Charitable Fund
Joseph Marra Architecture
Judgelemans Strauss Charitable Fund
Kack Ed Charitable Fund
King’s Hand Advisory
Laurel Houghton Matthews Charitable Fund
Law J Engineering, Inc.
Levine Family Fund
Lockheed Martin Employees’ Political Action Committee
M. Moser Associates
Macy’s
Madison-Vector, LLC
MADLAB Architecture + Design
Malouto Paladino Inc.
MallAmerica Foundation
MAM Education
N.T. Hegeman, LLC
Natapp
Newark and Suburban Architects
NextWave WLC, LLC
North Eastern Hors, Inc.
Pelson Foundation
Petrolia Contracting Co.

Plummer Giving Fund
Polomski Giving Fund
Port City Geomatics, Ltd.
Raymond & Frances Schermer
Giving Fund
Renissance Charitable Foundation
Research & Development Council of NJ
RFP & Process Automation Services
Robert and Elizabeth
Appropserk Stewersk Fund
Roy & Beth Lubertin Giving Account
RSC Architects
S.J. Young & Associates, Inc.
Saco-Thuerens Family Fund
Shamekenterprises, LTD
Shepper-Brielle Equipment
Solok Family Fund
Sotya Smith Design Studios
Steven & Lisa J. Ammattazio
Giving Fund
Stig and Sara Tornhusten Fund
Tech-Ed Systems
Incorporated
TekhInc LLC
Telxon LLC
Tender Inc.
Union Pacific Corporation
Uson Farin & Construction Co., Inc.
United Way Worldwide
Walter and Anne-Margaret
Fusilski Charitable Fund
Warren Jensen LLC
West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.
Woods Bagot

AbhiVri
Aramco Breakthrough
Algemeen Benevolent Fonds
Alumni Foundation
Apple
Asurant Guaranty
Atlassian
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.
Foundation
BAE Systems, Inc.
Bank of America
BASF Corporation
Bosch Company

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Comerica Foundation
Caterpillar, Inc.
Chernoff Matching Gifts
Cisco
Clow Company
ConocoPhillips Company
Dell, Inc.
Edison International
Emeritus Charitable Trust
Emerson Electric Company, Inc.
Ernst & Young
Exelon Corporation
Emerson
FM Global
GE Foundation
GlaxosmithKline Foundation
Goldman Sachs & Co.
Google
IBM Corporation
EMS Health
ITW Systems
Johnson & Johnson
P&G/Chase
Macy’s
Medtronic, Inc.
Merck
Microsoft Corporation
Nanzen, Inc.
NetApp
Noronden Corporation
Pfizer, Inc.
PMI Worldwide
Prudential Financial, Inc.
PSEG Systems
Raytheon
RBC Capital Markets
RPM International Inc.
Safelock
Shall Oil Company
Texas Instruments
The D.E. Shaw Group
United Health Group
Veston
Viatel Inc.
VW Inc.
Walt Disney Company
Wells Fargo Foundation
West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.

The Hill College of Architecture and Design (HCAD) is marking two very important milestones this year— the 50th anniversary of the New Jersey School of Architecture and the 15th anniversary of the School of Art + Design. A kickoff celebration was part of the recent 2023 Design Showcase, a gala that highlighted student and alumni accomplishments in architecture, interior design, industrial design and digital design.

The celebration of the anniversaries marks not only a milestone for the college, but also for NJIT. When the New Jersey School of Architecture opened in 1973, it enabled the Newark College of Engineering to become New Jersey Institute of Technology. The celebration will continue this fall when HCAD welcomes alumni and students to a series of events, including a colloquium dedicated to the future of design education and an alumni reunion on Oct. 26 in West Hall.

“50 years, the college has produced innovative leaders, thinkers and makers who not only engage the most difficult challenges of our time, but also envision, design and build the most just and sustainable futures,” said President Teik C.

Limon at the Design Showcase in April. The showcase, the college’s flagship fundraising and networking event, provides a chance for members of the HCAD community to connect personally and professionally. This year’s event took place in The Jewel Box of One Gateway Center in downtown Newark, made possible by Onyx Equities.

“As a scholar of New Jersey’s distinctive landscapes, it’s fair to say that another great pleasure of serving as interim dean is traveling across the Garden State to meet with so many of you where you live and work,” said Gabrielle Espeneti, interim dean and professor of architecture at HCAD. “That’s what this evening is all about. It’s an opportunity to say thank you, and to strengthen our bonds with each other.”

The Design Showcase also serves as an important philanthropic event, providing beneficiaries with a rare opportunity to discover how students, faculty and the college are taking advantage of enhancements in curriculums and facilities. Previous shows have raised funds to support improvements of the fabrication facilities, including animation and 3D print labs, a motion capture studio, a digital fabrication lab with a robotic arm and VR technology that enriches interactive design.

This year’s four alumni award honorees were Pamela Givens ’18, who received the Emerging Designer Award; Kan Colao ’77, who received the Friend of the Hiller College Award; Robert Cozzarelli ’79, who received the Distinguished Alumni in Leadership Award and Jak Inglesie ’79, M.S. ’95, who received the Distinguished Alumni Impact Award.

“As we celebrate this special time in the college’s history, it seems fitting to present these inaugural awards, which recognizes an outstanding group of alumni and dedicated volunteers with talent, their vision, their professional achievements and exemplary service to NJIT and the greater community in New Jersey and globally,” said Lim. “I want to emphasize globally because we educate global professionals.”

BEST IN SHOW

A major component of the design showcase is the student competition, which awards projects in the different undergraduate disciplines within HCAD: architecture, interior design, industrial design and digital design. One of the winners, Nairi Arslan, won Best in Show for architecture with her “Four Freedoms Museum” design on Roosevelt Island in New York. The museum design reflected the context of significant historic landmarks such as the Small Pox Memorial and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. The Cafaesian Center for the Arts, located in Yerevan, Armenia, was used as a formal and conceptual metaphor. In the interior, four galleries represent the “Four essential human freedoms” in Roosevelt’s 1941 State of the Union Address: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.”
REIMAGINE YOUR CLIMB TO SUCCESS!
Virtually engage with your alma mater and network with fellow alumni.

HIGHLANDERNATION.ORG
It’s who you know.

hIGHLANDERNATION.org
Join today!