RISE
OF THE
RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

‘ASÍ SE HACE’ (THIS IS HOW YOU DO IT)
AN ENGAGED FORCE
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS BREAK RECORDS IN SERVICE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A MESSAGE FROM NJIT PRESIDENT TEIK C. LIM

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

My first six-plus months as NJIT’s president have been an amazing experience, and our university has exceeded my expectations time and again. I have attended hundreds of events and meetings where I have had the opportunity to meet NJIT students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends, as well as corporate and government partners. In doing so, I have enjoyed the opportunity to hear their individual and collective NJIT stories, learn about their experiences and better understand their passion for NJIT.

In this issue of NJIT Magazine, you will join me in learning the NJIT stories of several community members. Our Abstracts section highlights research advancements, a record-setting Career Fair and the dedication of the Lenda and Vince Naimoli Turf Room. Our features spotlight the first recipients of the Hispanic and Latinx Leadership Council Scholarships, as well as the incredible work of our students. We also chronicle the rise of NJIT to its current status as a premier research university. This issue also introduces the winners of our Overseers Excellence in Research awards, profiles the work of a faculty member who garnered an Edison Patent Award and marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Hillier Engineering Center.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be leading our great university. “NJIT Makes” is a phrase we frequently use to describe the soul of this institution, because we are a community of individuals who make things happen, make things better and make opportunities possible. The NJIT stories in this issue, as well as the thousands I have heard in recent months, are those of makers and innovators. I hope you enjoy reading them!

Sincerely,

Teik C. Lim
President
A NEW METHOD TO TEST PROTEIN-BASED DRUGS

Conventional methods for testing protein-based drugs are time-consuming and costly. NJIT researchers have unveiled a new technique that could be done more rapidly and at a lower cost. The technique involves the use of a new type of protein, which can be used as an internal standard to measure total protein concentrations in a sample. Researchers have also developed a software tool that can quantify drug product and process impurities much more quickly and accurately than current methods. The technique was developed by NJIT chemists Yongling Ai and Hao Chen.

CAREER FAIR DRAWS A RECORD CROWD

NJIT’s fall Career Fair — its first in-person fair since the start of the pandemic — set dual records for attendance, with more than 2,500 students and 233 companies participating. The companies spanned a broad array of sectors and included Verizon, Pfizer, Turner Construction, Accenture, Merck, Marsh McLennan, D’Orsino and Johnson & Johnson. Collectively, they offered 445 jobs, internships and cooperative educational experiences, according to NJIT's Career Development Services, which organized the event.

The appeal for students was clear, with hundreds of opportunities to apply their talents in the real world. “There was so much much this event has grown, and how much the student interest has increased.” Yancy Adham of Getime, a supplier of medical products and services, said that she “loved having the reverse recruiting event the same day,” where students set up tables to pitch themselves to employers. “It was a wonderful way for us to connect with them, especially with our initiatives rolling out next year.”

AR COULD HELP TRAIN CARETAKERS FOR THE ELDERLY

With the world’s population of geriatric patients growing faster than the number of people trained to care for them, NJIT Assistant Professor of Informatics Salam Daher thinks that augmented reality technology may help close the gap.

Daher and her students are prototyping a digital model of a virtual patient simulator that is aware of its feelings and environment. Existing models only cover physical aspects, so they’re breaking new ground with a patient simulator that teaches caretakers about the emotional and psychological aspects of their daily work.

“We want to do training that improves communications, empathy and perceptions,” Daher said. “We want to create a proof of concept for this type of training and use it to investigate if it makes a difference.”

The project will also be significant for pushing the limits of augmented reality. Daher said the software that the team is developing will enable the virtual patient to remember conversations or take actions such as turning off a television when a nursing student enters the room.

“It’s a new class of virtual agents,” she added. “They may make comments that give the illusion that they’re aware of you or the environment around them.”

Daher is a specialist in healthcare simulation who previously developed mock patients using digital assistants, interactive video and physical models. Her latest work is funded by a $110,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

AR could help train caretakers for the elderly

ABSTRACTS

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CONFERECE RECOGNIZES SOCCER STANDOUTS

The America East Conference selected midfielder Maximus Barboto as Rookie of the Year and named six Highlanders to all-conference teams.

Barboto, from Wayne, N.J., played in every match, tallying four assists. His play also earned him two Rookie of the Week awards and a place on the All-Rookie Team, along with fellow first-year players Andrea Campoli and Hugo Tavares.

Tavares, a midfielder from Porto, Portugal, started all 16 matches, totaling three goals and six points. Campoli, a defender from Rome, appeared in nine matches, including eight starts.

The other conference honorees were goalkeeper Samuel Reisgys, who made the All-Academic Team, women’s soccer team defender Siani Magruder, who made the All-Conference Second Team, and women’s soccer team defender Riley Jones, who made the All-Rookie Team.

Reisgys, a senior from Rimbach, Germany, posted a 1.59 goals-against average, a saves percentage of .701 and 235 career saves — the most of any NJIT keeper since soccer joined Division I. At the same time, he maintained a 4.0 GPA as a business major and made the Dean’s List six times.

Magruder, a graduate student from Egg Harbor Township, N.J., helped hold opponents to a scoring average of 1.11 (third in the America East) and just 20 total goals (also third best) while shutting out opponents six times.

Jones, a first-year student from Clinton, N.J., played in eight matches, starting the last five and increasing her minutes in each contest until she played a full 90 minutes in each of the last four, tallying two goals and an assist. The strong finish earned her Rookie of the Week twice.

PLAYS BIG ON YouTube, TOO

Women’s Basketball sophomore forward Trinity Williams parlayed a fun interview during her first season into a video series on YouTube.

“T’ed Up with Trinity Williams,” which debuted in November, showcases her quick wit and infectious smile as she goes behind the scenes of the Highlander program. The first episode, for example, revealed the go-to snacks and pre-game rituals of teammates like Kennedy Cash and Kandie Daklympe, Williams, who’s from Upper Black Eddy, PA, is majoring in cyberpsychology.

To learn more about the legacies created at NJIT by Emil and other members of the 1881 Society, please visit “Donor Stories” at njit.giftpplans.org.

For further information on the 1881 Society or about how to include NJIT in your estate plans, please contact:

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Your legacy begins today.
Roberto Saenz’s dream to work at NASA and build his own spacecraft started when he watched the “Discovery Channel” as a child. Now, the first-generation Mexican American from Union City, N.J. is turning those dreams into a reality.

This past fall, the mechanical engineering major was supported through a first-ever scholarship awarded by NJIT’s Hispanic and Latinx Leadership Council (HLLC). The group also seeks to deepen relationships with Hispanic and Latinx alumni, businesses and organizations.

The HLLC held its first Café y Conexiones event to kick off this year’s Hispanic Heritage Month at NJIT. Launched in January 2022, Café y Conexiones brings together NJIT’s Hispanic and Latinx students with HLLC members, alumni, and business and civic leaders during the academic year.

The first event of 2022 included New Jersey Senator Teresa Ruiz and a conversation with President Teik C. Lim and alumnus Ruben Esquivel ’71. During the event, the HLLC scholarships were awarded to Saenz and Giovanni Martinez-Gonzalez, a second-year student studying communication and media.

“This award is incredibly important to me as I have learned and felt the struggle that my parents, and their parents before them, felt in order to give us a brighter future,” noted Martinez-Gonzalez. “Apart from this scholarship, there have been others that I’ve been awarded.”

Angelica Ogando ’02, MBA ’11, HLLC co-chair, said the HLLC board wants to help make NJIT a Hispanic-serving institution. She’s happy that enrollment numbers for incoming Hispanic students have grown to 30% in NJIT’s largest-ever first-year cohort. For Ogando, the scholarship event was a “full circle moment.” As a student she was thrilled to receive a scholarship, but at the time there was no group like the HLLC to help her make connections.

“I was able to give back to the students through the HLLC. For me, right there, the work has been done making sure that Latino students are receiving the funding and resources they need to be successful at NJIT,” Ogando said.

Saenz is currently in his second year at NJIT, after transferring from Passaic County Community College. Although he had the opportunity to study out of state, he elected to remain in New Jersey to be close to friends and family and because NJIT offers a rigorous engineering program ranked in the top 100 nationally.

As the eldest of his siblings, he’s one of his family’s anchors. “I didn’t want to go out of state for university because I wanted to be there for my family. I am one of the financial pillars at home, so I want to make sure that they have the support they deserve,” said Saenz.

Once he graduates, Saenz wants to enter the space industry after obtaining a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering with a focus in space exploration and earth monitoring.

“I still remember those early days when his uncle first showed him the “Discovery Channel,” Saenz recalled. “He would come to our apartment, and he introduced us to the channel. And from there, I saw a bunch of documentaries with him and my family, which are some of the best moments growing up because it was like, ‘Hey, we can do this!’”

One of the documentaries that impacted him most showed how NASA builds space shuttles, and in 2019 he interned at NASA with eight other students from Passaic County Community College.

To experience that internship further motivated Saenz to become an example for other young Hispanics who can look up to him and feel confident that landing a job at NASA is possible.

“I want to be able to shift that perspective and encourage and motivate other Hispanics and show them, así se hace (this is how you do it) and le ríe chus genio (if you put in the work) anything is possible,” he said.

Saenz is especially interested in community outreach and pre-college efforts, and it’s part of the reason why he’s the director of Community Outreach for NJIT’s Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Saenz said he always saw his mother giving back. “It’s something I developed growing up because I saw my mom constantly trying to help out others, especially from an early age,” he said.

“David is ideally suited for this role, given his 15 years of experience as an administrator, educator and consultant in diversity, equity and inclusion,” said President Teik C. Lim. “I’m particularly struck by his energy and enthusiasm for creating an inclusive campus climate here in Newark, in which every individual can thrive.”

The university’s DEI initiatives encompass surveying, research, training and recruitment, with everything from college prep for New Jersey high school students to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives for faculty and staff.

Saenz holds an Ed.D. in organizational leadership and communication from Northeastern University and a master of education from the University of South Florida. He worked closely with students at the Robert C. Smith Cultural Center and earlier, as director of residence life and student conduct at the City University of New York. Indeed, his career is rooted in student experience.

“My lived experiences have informed my career and life’s work,” Jones said. “I’ve had the opportunity to blend those experiences as the chief diversity officer at NJIT.”
Department of Public Safety Launches New Era of Programming & Outreach

By Theta Pavis

Chief Kevin Kesselman has a lot of plans for changing the way NJIT Public Safety officers engage with the community. In fact, the whiteboard in his office — nicknamed the “think tank” — barely has any space left for his team’s latest ideas.

Kesselman, a friendly, energetic man who’s been with the department for 21 years, takes a positive approach to community engagement. Since being named chief last year, he’s instituted a wide range of initiatives all aimed at building their relationship with the community.

At the weekly command meetings with his deputy chief and lieutenants, Kesselman said the team asks each other what they can do better. “It needs to be a holistic approach. I can’t come up with all the answers,” he said. “That’s real engagement.”

Kesselman aims to produce more programs with faculty and staff but wants to build them slowly so people can get used to the idea of collaborating. “What we’re building is a culture of more open communication,” he said. In his short time at the helm, Kesselman has created a first-ever Diversity and Inclusion Division, plus numerous other committees to get more buy-in from the entire community.

Additionally, Kesselman wants to create a Police cruiser and games such as cornhole to offer expanded 911 services, such as text messaging. “We were able to hear great feedback and give good responses,” Kesselman said. “Based on that kind of interaction, eventually we want to hold a town hall meeting.”

Building other committees, including Community, 30 x 30 (a national effort to have 30% women officers in all ranks, by 2030), Mental Health/Physical Wellness and a Retention committee.

“Talking to the community about theft prevention hasn’t been moved outside of the Campus Center and onto the streets, so officers can reach more people.” The One Up Program aims to increase retention among the 89-member staff. This program lets an officer spend a week as a sergeant, or a sergeant as a lieutenant, so that they can understand “what the next level up brings you in the field.”

A Lateral Transfer Program will allow officers from other departments to come to NJIT.

Accreditation through the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators is underway. This goes beyond the department’s current accreditation with the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Junior Police Academy: A week-long summer program that introduces Newark middle schoolers to public safety and features drills, swimming and field trips, such as to the American Dream Mall. Additionally, Kesselman wants to create an ambitious six-week summer program for high school students. “Engagement to me isn’t just engaging with NJIT but with the surrounding community — we have to build partnerships.”

Rape Aggression Defense Systems (RAD) self-defense classes, offered twice a year for students, will potentially be expanded to faculty and staff.

Upgrading 911 services, in the next year and a half, Kesselman plans for NJIT to be one of the first in the state to offer expanded 911 services, such as text messaging.

Going green — with 30% of its patrol cars electric by 2025. E-bikes will also be added to the mix.

Working closely with NJIT’s Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, to ensure that the mental health and well-being of the entire community is a top priority.

“Through all of our engagement, we reduce crime without having to use the old ways of policing where you are out there stopping people who you think are committing crime.”

Policing doesn’t need reform, it needs transformation,” he said.
A Community of SCHOLARS
Engineer Michel Boufadel, one of the world’s chief experts on oil spills and a frequent consultant to cleanups, won the Board of Overseers Excellence in Research Award for 2022. Denis Blackmore, a mathematician who specialized in measuring and modeling changes in a range of dynamic systems, was honored posthumously with the Board of Overseers Excellence in Research Lifetime Achievement Award.

Atam Dhawan, NJIT’s interim provost, called the two esteemed and influential researchers “path-breaking researchers,” enthusiastic collaborators who figured out early on that the best way to solve complex problems was to join with peers in other disciplines.

Blackmore, he noted, collaborated with engineers to take on challenges in industry, such as particle compaction, to give one example. Boufadel works regularly with computer scientists, statisticians, emergency response specialists, biologists and other engineers on research projects and on prominent scientific committees focused on spills and remediation methods.

A distinguished professor of civil and environmental engineering at NJIT who focuses on environmental fluid mechanics and hydrology, Boufadel tackles unanswered questions about the mechanics of spills and the effectiveness of remedial methods. He has played a central role in determining new ways to track and measure major oil spills, including releases from the Exxon Valdez, a tanker that ran aground in Prince William Sound, the Deepwater Horizon, a burst well in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Enbridge pipeline in Michigan in 2010, which spewed more than a million gallons in the Kalamazoo River.

In a 600-foot-long saltwater wave tank on the coast of New Jersey, he and a team of NJIT researchers conducted the largest-ever simulation of the Deepwater Horizon spill. His team determined that the use of dispersants had a substantial impact on oil quantities in the region of the spill by reducing the amount of toxic compounds such as benzene that reached the surface of the ocean, thus protecting emergency workers on the scene from the full brunt of the pollution.

Boufadel’s interest in fluid mechanics is not restricted to spills. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, he and a team of environmental engineers and modelers studied the virus’s pathways inside supermarkets. He and colleagues at NJIT, Princeton and Duke later developed a model that predicts where the disease will spread from an outbreak, in what patterns and how quickly. That paper was published in Proceedings in the National Academy of Sciences.

Boufadel has served on six National Academy of Sciences committees on oil spills, as well as a committee of the Royal Society of Canada, and has so far obtained $13 million in funding from national and international agencies to pursue his research. In remembering Blackmore, it was noted that he was a founding member of the university’s Center for Applied Mathematics and Statistics. Blackmore, who was widely admired as a “romantic mathematician,” taught for a remarkable 50 years at NJIT and played a significant role in helping the Department of Mathematical Sciences become one of the best-recognized applied mathematics departments in the U.S. He passed away in April of 2022.

While his focus was on dynamical systems, he also made significant contributions to a number of other fields, including differential equations, differential geometry and topology, as well as more applied areas, such as fluid dynamics and granular media.

In a paper published in Chemical Engineering Science in 2002, Blackmore and his collaborators provided one of the first clearly formulated, quantitative explanations of the role that vibrations have on size segregation and compaction of granular matter, which is useful in many industries.

Blackmore authored or co-authored 130 refereed journal articles and more than 86 refereed conference papers and wrote six books and 10 book chapters. Recently, he served as the president of the Faculty Senate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Blackmore supervised 16 Ph.D. students and more than 20 master’s students for their dissertations and served on over 50 Ph.D. committees. He developed or co-developed over a dozen new courses and played a pivotal role in the development of bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. degree programs in his department.

In remembering Boufadel, it was noted that he was an influential faculty member and a long-time colleague who accepted Blackmore’s award for him, recalled one of his Ph.D. students saying, “Denis knew how to balance guidance and independence for each student. If a student was stuck on a problem, Denis would work round the clock to help them solve it. On the other hand, if the same student wanted to cope up with their own projects or solutions he would give them time and space to figure it out.”

In daily battles with pathogens, legacy chemicals from long-discontinued factories and a growing array of micropollutants, water treatment systems are often handicapped by clogged membrane filters.

Replacing them regularly is both laborious and expensive. “Membrane filters are easily clogged when bacteria, natural organic matter and inorganic solids block their pores, aging and damaging them. They must be cleaned by intensive backwashing, sometimes involving strong chemicals,” said Wen Zhang, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at NJIT who designs novel reactive membrane systems that degrade contaminants not captured or removed by standard filtration.

Zhang recently won a Thomas A. Edison Patent Award from the R&D Council of New Jersey for a novel technology that combats membrane fouling. His revolutionary technology uses microwave irradiation to catalyze reactions on the membrane surfaces, producing high-temperature hot spots and reactive radicals that rapidly degrade pollutants, kill microbes and mitigate membrane clogging.

His technology is the first to use microwaves to enhance catalytic reactions during membrane filtration. It has proved capable of destroying refractory micropollutants and viruses in both water and in airborne droplets.

His device is a microwave chamber with filtration membranes placed inside, which have embedded metal oxides as catalysts that facilitate chemical reactions with the water being treated when they are irradiated. The whole device can be as small as a kitchen microwave oven or as large as a trailer, depending on the treatment capacity and other factors.

Zhang’s Sustainable Environmental Nanotechnology and Nanointerfaces Laboratory creates devices that employ filters with functionalized membranes, where membrane surfaces are coated with contaminant-degrading nanoparticles or nanomaterials as catalysts that are activated by microwaves or electrophotocatalysis. Once activated, the membranes serve as a highly reactive barrier to destruct water pollutants on contact, providing a self-cleaning filtration system that also mitigates membrane fouling issues.

In addition to microwave-activated membranes, he has also developed reactive electro-chemical membrane systems that are activated by DC power sent to the membrane surface and photocatalytic reactive membranes activated by external UV or visible light irradiation.

“The micropollutants he treats, including chemicals in organophosphate flame retardants, pesticides, herbicides, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, don’t degrade naturally,” said Friday Zhang. “With our new technologies, we aim to reduce the burden downstream at water treatment plants, while providing individual users access to safe drinking water.”

An Engineer and a Mathematician Win Honors at NJIT’s 2022 Excellence in Research Ceremony

By Tracey L. Regan

Wen Zhang is recognized for a novel technology that combats membrane fouling.
One of NJIT’s most venerated traditions, the First-Year Day of Service, came roaring back to life in 2022 after a hiatus due to COVID. Nearly 1,330 of NJIT’s newest Highlanders, the largest cohort ever in the history of the event, fanned out to volunteer at schools, parks and nonprofits.

New partners this year, including the Michelle Obama Elementary School, the Newark School of Fashion and Design, and Arts High School, matched students with particular needs. For the first time, for example, students majoring in interior design styled mannequins and decorated bulletin boards at the School of Fashion and Design. For many students, these experiences strike a chord that will resonate throughout their time at NJIT: the call to community service.

The vast majority this year helped Newark public schools ready their classrooms for students returning after the summer break. Teachers noted the difficulty of organizing their rooms, while fitting in meetings and professional development training, forcing many to stay late or come in over the Labor Day weekend.

“The partnership definitely helped. A LOT!” said one elementary teacher in feedback provided to NJIT’s Career Development Services, adding, “We also shared information with the scholars about our school, our students and the students’ needs. We talked to them about mentoring and tutoring during the school year if that is something they would be interested in and could balance with the rigorous program of NJIT. The students were fantastic!”

For one new foreign student, this year’s outing provided the chance to “listen and see what art in the U.S. looks like and the way that the students present their art in the street. It was a really nice opportunity to get involved in the culture and the friendliness of people in the U.S. in general and in New Jersey particularly.”

Indeed, despite the logistical constraints caused by the pandemic, NJIT students managed to pack in thousands of hours of service over the course of the 2021-2022 academic year, some of it online, including work on websites. Together, 1,214 student athletes, Albert Dorman Honors College scholars, fraternity and sorority members, as well as others volunteered for about 37,000 hours at 186 community-based organizations.

“It’s so important that students know that we have an office of community service,” said Vivian Lanzot, director of civic engagement for NJIT’s Career Development Services. “The First-Year Day of Service introduces students to the community they’ll be part of for the next four years, connects them to nonprofits where they may want to work and shows them the university’s commitment to Newark. While they’re here, we’re able to match them with needs in the community. This became critical over the pandemic, which created a shortfall for so many nonprofits.”

For many NJIT students, and future veterinarians in particular, opportunities to volunteer at New Jersey’s Turtle Back Zoo are a building block of their career. Staff at the zoo say they appreciate the way college level volunteer events expand both the host and the students.

In March, NJIT will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) launched in 2013 to help devastated New Jersey communities clean up, rebuild and preserve their heritage following Hurricane Sandy. Leading the charge in the metropolitan region, NJIT assembled a crew that spring of nearly 570 student volunteers who assessed damages, swept beaches and public parks, demolished and reconstructed wrecked homes and buildings, such as the 60-year-old SurfLight Theater in Beach Haven. About 1,700 students have participated in ASB since then.

The celebration will also generate important feedback from the professional and personal value of significant community service, Lanzot said. NJIT plans to invite students who were influential in establishing the program back to campus to hear from them how the experience influenced their lives after NJIT.

“The Alternative Spring Break continues to be a staple event and allows students that may not be traveling to spring break destinations, or even home for that matter, to stay engaged. Helping others is what we do as Highlanders and the ASB is an event that provides an avenue to do that.”

By Tracey L. Regan
NJIT has long been recognized as a polytechnic powerhouse, but in the past year its reputation has soared. How does an institution that’s more than 140 years old keep innovating? It’s a rare combination of groundbreaking research, engaged professors and a diverse and dedicated student body. Now ranked No. 14 in the nation on Money’s Best Colleges list, NJIT has experienced remarkable success.

RISE OF THE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

NJIT’S REMARKABLE PROGRESS

BY THETA PAVIS
The fall 2022 first-year cohort saw nearly 1,600 enrollees, a 30% increase from last year’s class. First-year enrollment totals for both men (close to 1,100) and women (almost 500) are the highest in NJIT’s history.

NJIT is also redoubling its efforts to enroll women and underrepresented minority students and attract and retain diverse faculty. A catalyst for applied research and innovation, the faculty at NJIT are known for their creativity and excellence. That’s highlighted by the number of significant grants, awards and citations that professors bring home each year.

Highlanders also give back. A record number of alumni donors have made gifts. In fact, the percentage of NJIT alumni who made gifts last year is more than double the national median for public universities.

EXPLORATIONS & RESEARCH
Highlanders have access to programs ranging from STEM disciplines to architecture and design, as well as management and humanities. The bedrock of it all is the faculty who continue to do cutting-edge research and the staff who support them.

NJIT began 2022 with a reaffirmation of its status among the nation’s most elite and productive research institutions — the highest designation, R1, under the Carnegie Classification® — following a triennial review. Individual faculty members followed suit by winning numerous accolades for their ingenious applied research.

A force for change

A device that scans staged crime scenes included a point-of-care device for the detection of diseases that spread between animals and people, such as SARS-CoV-2, a system that can objectively capture, visualize, measure and track skin abnormalities, including wounds and pressure injuries; a rapid-screening point-of-care microbiosensor to detect complex disease biomarkers for cancer and infectious diseases; and a device to deactivate airborne viruses using a microwave-enabled air filtration system.

Four young professors, all hired within the past six years, received multi-year Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) grants from the National Science Foundation to further their research on solar flair, novel infrastructure materials, high-performance computing and the evolution and ecology of social insects. Described by the agency as one of its most prestigious and selective awards, these grants support early-career researchers with “the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.”

Veteran researchers won some of the highest awards in academia, including induction as fellows into eminent societies, such as the Association for Computing Machinery, the Royal Society of Chemistry and American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Rajesh Davé, a distinguished professor of chemical and materials engineering, won AIChE’s PD2M Award for his outstanding contributions to pharmaceutical research. With the election of Tara Alvarez, distinguished professor of biomedical engineering, to the National Academy of Engineering, to the National Academy of Engineering, to the National Academy of Engineering, to the National Academy of Engineering.
Above: Opened in Fall 2022, Maple Hall offers apartment-style living.

Left: Students cheer the women’s basketball team at a home game.

Right: Record-setting attendance at the Career Fair.

Left: Students volunteer at NJIT’s Rooftop Therapy Garden on campus.

njit.edu

NEW SPACES, GREEN PLACES

NJIT takes sustainability seriously and it’s captured the imagination of students, faculty and staff. Students at the Albert Dorman Honors College, for example, were inspired to work toward a greener, more sustainable urban environment when they researched the types of plants that could be used to create a Rooftop Therapy Garden at the Campus Center. Working with faculty, students proposed new plantings to heighten biodiversity and make the garden more appealing to birds, bees and the campus community as a whole. Not only is this work in keeping with the core values of the university’s strategic plan (“Building on a Strong Foundation – NJIT 2025”) it also helped NJIT win national accolades from The Princeton Review, named a “Top 50 Green College.” NJIT earned a score of 90/99 for its Green Rating, which provides a comprehensive measure of the university’s performance as an environmentally aware and prepared institution—a more than 45% increase over the past five years.

The garden bloomed this past year with more than a dozen flowers, fruit and herbs, including black-eyed Susan, hawthorn blueberries, lavender, wild bergamot, basil and mint. Not far away, a new landscaped plaza with benches and walkways took root in the northeast portion of the University Heights neighborhood when NJIT created a new green space. A place to stroll or relax, the plaza has two entrances, at the intersection of Bleeker and Summit Streets, and at the intersection of Central Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. At NJIT, students become part of an exciting community and there are more options than ever to live on campus. The recently opened, apartment-style dorm Maple Hall is an eight-story, 500-bed residence, which emphasizes single-occupancy bedrooms and was constructed with environmentally friendly methods. Its award-winning design, which has Manhattan-skyline views, offers bicycle storage, parking, a game room, creative spaces, lounge areas, an inviting grass terrace, indoor/outdoor cafes and a makerspace.

Also new in 2022, the Lends and Vincent Naïmíl’s ’62, ’69 HON Turf Room is located on the third floor of the Wellness and Events Center (see page 3). The university has also expanded both locally and internationally. NJIT and Israel’s Ben-Gurion University of the Negev recently celebrated their joint research center: the Institute for Future Technologies in Jersey City. The Institute is a gamechanger, with a study space for exchange students, joint graduate degrees, ideation-stage startups and even combined faculty appointments in fields such as artificial intelligence, civil engineering and cybersecurity. The Institute receives funding from the National Science Foundation and from the joint U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation.

GIVING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Many Highlanders stay engaged with the school after graduation, including giving generously. In fact, a record number of alumni donors made a gift in fiscal year 2022. The university has also added $29.3 million in gifts to the endowment since 2019. With its regional and national profile increasing, NJIT is attracting donors from a wide range of people. In the fall, the pioneering venture capitalist John Martinson donated to the Albert Dorman Honors College to broaden and deepen the curriculum and real world experiences for top scholars. “What impresses me is that NJIT is growing in size and growing in national stature,” said Martinson, the chairman of Martinson Ventures, “I’m enthusiastic about the university’s progress, transformation and vision.”

From national recognition to its expanding research and opportunities, it’s clear that NJIT is committed to making a superior education available to more students. The increasing acknowledgement of the university as a leader in the nation is proof that its vision is transformative.

STRIDING INTO THE FUTURE

Strapped into an exoskeleton in Sakat Pal’s Life Sciences Motion Capture Laboratory, Damyané Evely strode heavily back and forth across a 15-foot platform, taking an occasional peek at a monitor on the wall to survey his progress—and to silently marvel. It had been more than 15 years since his spinal cord was compressed in a motorcycle accident, landing him in a wheelchair. He was relishing his verticality. Evely was the first person in the U.S. with a spinal cord injury to test the next generation exoskeleton WanderCraft Atalante, a third-generation exoskeleton with 12 degrees of freedom that is designed to more closely approximate human gaits than current models. He took 1,100 steps with engineers, physical therapists, exoskeleton trainers and robot designers looking on. They wanted to know not just whether he could walk in it, but how naturally and safely.

“We were measuring the movement of the human and the robot, both together and independently, to see how the two interact and to get a deeper sense of the physics behind how a human walks in the robot,” says Pal, a biomedical engineer. “With the Wandercraft and other models, we also want to know how the device improves a host of health measures in different patient populations.”
Save the Date for NJIT Day of Giving, March 7-8!

Come together with fellow NJIT alumni, parents, students and friends in a 24-hour event to advance the student experience.

#NJITDayOfGiving
Dora Gomez walked the cozy, private dining room of Seasons 52 in Morristown, N.J. to meet the professors. Every semester I virtually delivered, I always tried to tell the students about my passion for technology and society. It is also a rapidly changing area with increased focus from corporate boards and regulators. Understanding technology better can help governments. "I want to see more of this," Gomez said. "I want to see more companies that are really taking technology seriously and leveraging it to drive innovation and growth."
suraj Ghumwala will be the first cadet from NJIT's ROTC detachment commissioned into the U.S. Space Force.

Now a second lieutenant in the Air Force, the computer engineering major from Rochelle Park, N.J., said his childhood dream was to be an astronaut. As the first person in his family born in the U.S., he felt a sense of service to the community, influenced by friends who also joined the military.

Ghumwala chose NJIT because of its strong academics, affordability, commuting distance and diversity, and said he truly felt a sense of belonging in his second semester when he switched from computer science to computer engineering and joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). “That was definitely a difficult conversation. I talked with my parents about exactly what I’m getting into … I have to serve four years,” he explained. “I like being a little hands-on. In computer science, I’m more interested in seeing stuff move. “I felt a sense of service to the community, influenced by friends who also joined the Air Force, “he joked.

Ghumwala proudly of simply completing the ROTC program. He said it was challenging to get into shape for the military fitness assessment while studying for his fitness assessment while studying for his electrical and computer engineering classes. His senior project was to design a robotic car for evaluating fires, while his most influential professor was Okana Manahara, who taught him the principles of circuit design.

“I definitely enjoyed my time at NJIT. ROTC made a major impact for me as a student. The first thing you learn when you go to college is you try to figure out where you fit in. ROTC was a good outlet,” he said. “He is extremely capable, extremely well spoken, organized and he will absolutely do well in the military,” said Air Force Maj. Eric Laake, who teaches in the unit command team. “His ability to use technology, and his technical expertise that he’s gotten here at New Jersey Institute of Technology, have all prepared him well to succeed in the Space Force,” he said. “There are defensive along with offensive weapons, he noted.

Laake also acknowledged the military’s deep history of developing leaders from first-generation American families. “That is something that’s always made NJIT stronger,” he said, “and it continues to make our country stronger.”

Computer Engineer

SURAJ GHUMWALA ‘22

To Join U.S. Space Force

industry, semiconductors manufacturers, medical and pharmaceutical companies, and the military.

ADNAN M. PASHA M.S. ’95 was promoted to senior associate at Langan Engineering & Environmental Services.

DANIEL G. (DAN) SWAYZE M.S. ’95 was appointed executive vice president of Energy Services at Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. He will lead the continued expansion of the company’s renewable energy business.

WIWAT KAMOLPORNWIJIT M.S. ’06, PH.D. was one of 120 top-tier artists selected to be part of the Smithsonian Craft Show, an annual event that recognizes the new pursuits of contemporary craft artists in their mastery of innovative design, fabrication and use of unusual materials. He transforms mixed materials into wearable art.

DEVENDRA K. MEHTA ’96 was recently appointed chief information officer at People First Federal Credit Union. Most recently, he served as chief information officer/chief security officer at Stone Clinical Laboratories and head of information technology at New York eHealth Collaborative.

ANDREW R. ALICANDRI M.Arch. ’97, M.S. ’97 was promoted to principal from project manager at LS3P Associates Ltd.

KALPESH G. KAPADIA M.S. ’97 is chief executive officer and co-founder of Deserve, which is part of a group of angel investors in Zero Hash. Zero Hash is a crypto services startup that recently raised $105 million. Deserve also recently launched the Deserve Commercial Credit Card Platform, designed to help companies create credit and charge cards for their customers.

MARTIN PIETRUCHA PH.D., PE, F.ASCE, FITE. ’97 retired as professor emeritus of civil engineering from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University after 31 years. While at Penn State, Pietrucha was director of the Science, Technology, and Society Program. He also directed the university’s Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute.

ALBERT W. ROUGHGARDEN ’97 received the Civil Engineer of the Year Award from the North Jersey Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He serves as senior principal/New Jersey transportation practice leader at Stantec.

PHILLIP SCOTT ’98 was interviewed about his career by The Victor. He was named director of urban engineering and development at Matrix New World Engineering.

NIRMALA SISTLA M.S. ’98 joined JPMorgan Chase & Co. as the managing director/head of Data Foundations in September 2022.

ABHISHEK VERMA ’98 joined Intercell–Virtual Mentor Network’s leadership team as chief marketing officer. He has two decades of industry experience and has led marketing teams at Star TV, Sony Entertainment Television and Discovery Channel. Intercell is an ed-tech startup changing the way students experience professional mentoring services. The company is backed by marquee investors, including actor Sonu Sood.

MICHAEL E. STALHAMER M.S. ’99 was appointed president of Plico Therapeutics. Plico is a specialty biopharmaceutical company developing novel treatments designed to detect and stop the cancer promoting cellular micro-environment. Previously, he was vice president, Regulatory Affairs & Product Development at STI Pharma.

VERONICA M. VANTERPOOL M.S. ’99 was appointed deputy administrator of the Federal Transit Administration. She has served as senior advisor in the FTA Office of the Administrator since August 2021.

KIM V. VIERHEILIG ’99H, M.S. ’00 was appointed president of Buildings and Facilities at STI, a leader in engineering, architectural, planning and programming, and construction management services. She is also a member of the NJIT Board of Overseers.

ABU BAKAR M.S. ’00 spoke at the National Incubation Center Lahore’s 10th Cohort session, sharing his thoughts on technology being an enabler in health care worldwide and how developing counties can be creative in using technology to solve local problems. Bakar is the chief information and digital officer at Summit Health.

LEROY J. JONES M.S. ’00 was featured on the ROI-Influencers Consultant list (2022). He is the principal founder of 1886 Public Affairs.

SAMUEL J. LAMONTANARO ’00 was named director of engineering at Aufgang Architects LLC.

ERIC WANG M.S. ’00 joined Hill International, Inc. as vice president, Underground Practice Lead in August 2022.

NASEED GIFTED ’01 recently launched a Kickstarter fundraiser, “Bringing Wakanda to Newark,” which will help expand the STREAM programs as part of Khem Fest. Founded by Gifted, Khem Fest is an annual gathering that...
seeks to put the spotlight on Black comic book creators. Gifted is the vice principal at Science Park High School in Newark.

LISA J. MOVING ’01, M.S. ’04 was named a Notable Woman in Construction, Design & Architecture by Crain’s New York in May 2022. She serves as vice president, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Turner Construction.

PUNEET TANDON M.S. ’01 is the co-founder and chief operating officer at Arrivatic, a global risk and decision-making platform that automates human decisions in insurance and healthcare sectors, empowering them through artificial intelligence. The company is based in Bengaluru, India and Rehoboth Beach, Del.

SATISH CHAMYVELUMANI M.S. ’02 was named as chief executive officer of the Compostable Division at Yash Pakka. He brings more than 20 years of experience in the product, packaging and food industry. Based in India, Yash Pakka aims to contribute toward a cleaner planet by providing compostable packaging solutions.

TIMOTHY W. MAY ’02, M.S. ’05 wrote an article for enterprisealk.com on “Five Ways to Harness Technology for Optimal Project Efficiency.” He is the chief technology officer and co-founder at Sitetracker.

JOSEPH MELE ’03 has joined Midatlantic Engineering Partners as part of the company’s growth initiative for northern New Jersey and an expansion of its services in New York. He will be opening and managing a new office.

BHARATH (RAM) RAMAMOURTHY M.Arch ’03, MSCE ’04 was elected as the 2022 president of the American Institute of Architects - Central New Jersey Section. He is a registered architect in New Jersey with over 20 years of experience. He is currently an associate vice president and senior program manager at AECOM.

HIRAL R. SHAH ’03 was interviewed for westfaironline.com on “Blending Family and Finance.” He is a private client adviser at J.P. Morgan Wealth Management in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

SWATHEE SINGH PH.D., ’03H was a panelist at a new conference hosted by CDO Magazine by IDM Council. She is CEO of Enterprise Data Platforms at Barclays.

CHRISTIAN G. HOOVER PH.D., ’04H, M.S. ’07, an assistant professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University, will expand his research into glassy metallic organic frameworks in the next five years with funding from a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

ALAN W. LOTHIAN M.S. ’04 was promoted to program Engineering & Environmental Services.

EDWARD J. MUSA ’04, M.S. ’06 started a new position as account manager, Strategic ISVs at Amazon Web Services. Prior to his new role, he served as Senior Customer Solutions Manager at AWS.

NEXUS U. SEA ’04H joined O’Melveny & Myers LLP’s product liability and mass torts practice group in New York. He was previously a partner at McDermott Will & Emery LLP.

KELLII C. GLASGOW M.Arch ’05 was appointed an associate at DGroup Architecture. She joined the company in 2014 and has developed a diversified body of work, leading projects in the academic, civic and corporate market sectors.

DIGroupArchitecture is a minority-owned business specializing in architecture, interior design and environmental graphics.

DOLORES I. MARTINEZ-WOODEN ’05, M.S. ’07 was appointed acting director of engineering for the City of Newark. She previously spent 12 years at Turner Construction Company, where she was recently a project engineer. Martinez-Wooden is an NJIT Alumni Association board member.

MARJORIE A. PERRY MBA ’05 was featured on the ROI-Influencers Executives: New Jersey list (2022). She is the chief executive officer at MMM Construction. Perry is chair emerita of the NJIT Board of Overseers.

JESSICA R. HARRIS ’04 is founder of Harris Energy Solutions, a woman-owned company headquartered in Austin, Texas specializing in solar design. Harris Energy is partnering with Shoreline Energy Advisors. The Montclair Township Council members awarded a contract to Shoreline Energy Advisors for Phase 2 of the Town Center Distributed Energy Resources Microgrid Design Incentive Program, a clean-energy program.

ANTHONY R. COSCA ’07 HON was featured on the ROI-Influencers Economic Development list (2022). He is a partner at Wundell Marx Lane & Mittendorf.

KIRAN GILL MBMA ’07 was appointed executive director of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund in August 2022.

SCOTT O. GRAHAM M.Arch ’07 was appointed by the City of Reading Building and Fire Board of Appeals to serve as chairman. He is the president/principal at Muhlenberg Greene Architects.

SAKINAH HOFLER ’07, M.S. ’11 started a new position as lecturer at Princeton University.

DIANA MARTINEZ ’07H started a position at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University as an assistant professor in the department of biomedical sciences. Her research program focuses on determining the central mechanisms of cardioprotective dysfunction due to sleep disorders.

DAVID D. RUCHMAN ’07, M.S. ’09 was appointed chief executive officer at powersolution.com, a leading New Jersey-based managed IT services provider.

KEITH C. SILVERMAN ’07 PH.D. joins Axalta Coating Systems Ltd. as senior vice president and chief operations and supply chain officer. Silverman was most recently an external advisor with Bain & Company lending expertise to Bain consultants and clients across operations, supply chain, manufacturing, EHS and quality. Axalta is a global leader in the coatings industry.

STEVEN S. BURGOS ’08 joined HOK as regional leader of Workplace based in Miami. He is the immediate past president and current vice president of sponsorship for the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) South Florida chapter.

VATSAL A. SHAH ’08H, M.S., ’09, ’15 PH.D. is a member of the 2022 National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Fellows. The NSPE Fellows is a national program that recognizes deserving professional engineers who have demonstrated long-term professional service at the chapter, state and national levels of NSPE. Shah is president of the Alumni Association of NJIT.

AKSHAR SIDANA ’08 won his third term on the Woodrow Board of Education. He owns Indianica Academy, an Indian dance school in Woodrow, N.J.


CHRISTOPHER M. HANNA ’09, M.S. ’14 is a project manager for T.Y. Lin International in the Rockaway, N.J. office. Previously, he served as the construction services department manager at Pennoni.

RALPH IZZO ’10 HON, executive chair, president and chief executive officer of PSEG, retired on December 31, 2022. Izzo was recently featured on the ROI-Influencers Top 50 and National/Global Executive lists (2022).

MAYUR B. MUNDADA ’10 was promoted to process lead at PSEG.

JOSEPH KARDOS, IV ’11H joins the Capaligo Group as design team leader, Civil Engineering.

KELLI L. SULLIVAN ’11 was appointed senior director of annual giving at Boston University.

DAVID C. DAUDELIN ’12H was promoted to director of engineering at EarlyBird. He previously served as the director of Front End Engineering.

HALA A. TAHIA ’12, MBA ’16 was the keynote speaker at Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s 2022 Gathering of Titans Conference, an annual conference that brings together a group of CEOs to share world-advancing ideas and business insights.

DANIELLE VILLEGAS M.S. ’12 was invested at the end of April 2022 as director for the Society for Technical Communications Board of directors. Previously, she had been president of the Philadelphia Metro Chapter, as well as chair of several committees. In 2021 she received the board’s Distinguished Community Service Award. She is a senior knowledge management specialist for Cox Automotive.

WILLIAM T. BARRY ’13H joined Deloitte as a senior consultant. He was formerly a lead associate at Booz Allen Hamilton.

MANPREET K. KOHLI PH.D., M.S. ’13 is a currently a postdoctoral fellow at the American Museum of Natural History where he is pursuing research in insect systematics, evolution and phylogenetic methodology.

JOSEPH A. PALERMO ’13 participated in the GI Go SEAL Swim 2020. He is promoted to associate at Booz Allen and joined by fellow veterans and military supporters in a swim across the Hudson River to honor military veterans, their families and all those who died during 9/11 and the wars that followed. Palermo is a resident engineer with Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

ZHE HE ‘14 Ph.D. is the recipient of the 2022 Lois Lunin Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the practice of Information Science and Technology through leadership, mentoring and innovation. He is an associate professor at the Florida State University School of Information.

MASROOR KHAN ‘14, M.S. ‘16 has been announced as the recipient of the Society of Women Engineers 2022-SWE Distinguished New Engineer Award. This award honors a SWE member who has demonstrated outstanding technical performance, contributions in their local community, as well as leadership in SWE.

JEFFREY M. SENATORE ‘14 joined SV Design as an architect. Previously, he was a project architect at STG Design.

JOSHUA A. COLLASO ‘15 launched an NFT (non-fungible token) is a program manager at Microsoft and an Forbes named to the 30 Under 30. In 2019, he acquired InstaMed, a medical payments technology firm, in 2019.


LENA M. BUCK ‘16 was named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. She is a program manager at Microsoft and an adjunct professor in the Helen and John C. Hartmann Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at NJIT. This year she also ran for Miss New Jersey.

ASHLEY J. MONTJOHNSON M.S. ‘15 graduated from the Department of Computer Science at NJIT. Previously, she was a substitute teacher in the Academic Advising and Planning Center.

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DANA R. SCHULES ‘17 joined Taka Sogo as a food technologist. Taka Sogo is a Japanese food production company.

MIGUEL MOLEDO ‘18 and KATHRYN NYBY ‘18 are engaged. Moledo is a mechanical design engineer at OHS Associates. Nyby is an intelligent process automation senior analyst at Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products.

LENERSON (LENNY) PYRRHUSS ‘18 was featured on CNBC in a segment titled “This 26-Year-Old Fled Violence in Haiti as a Child — Now He Makes $130,000 Working for JP Morgan.” He is a senior associate at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Philadelphia.

AKASH U. SEWANI ‘18H was promoted to vice president, product manager at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

TOMISLAV ANTOLOJKH ‘19H is the founder of Hangoo, a social and networking app that recently launched and is backed by billionaire activist Bill Ackman. He played tennis at NJIT.

SEDA MONERHOM ‘17H is the campaign manager at The Trevor Project. He previously served as the digital program manager at Avalon Consulting Group.

RASHMI B. KETHA ‘17H, M.S. ‘18 is the first woman of color and South Asian to co-lead the Women’s Association of Verizon Employees, Verizon’s largest global employee resource group with more than 12,000 members from 32 countries. Ketha was interviewed for Advin Krishnai’s StandoutViceOn LinkedIn. Ketha is the product manager, 5G Disruption (New Business Incubation, Corporate Strategy) at Verizon.

MOHAMMED N. SALEH ‘17 was appointed assistant chief technology and management information systems for the Paterson, N.J. school district in August 2022.

JULIO C. MARCANO ‘21 was appointed mechanical engineer at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Research Laboratories in its Research and Exploratory Development Department (REEDD) in June 2022. In REEDD, he will be in the Mechanical Engineering Systems Analysis & Design section supporting the Concept Design and Realization Branch.

VICTORIA Q. NGUYEN ‘21 was accepted to Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Law. Most recently she served as a legal support assistant at Alston & Bird.

MONICA C. WEGLARZ ‘21 won the Best Early Stage Startup award at the UpPitch Competition. Currently, she is a part-time private client paralegal at Hanse Anderson LLP and is a JD candidate for fall 2023.

JAMES V. BRONICO, JR. ‘22 joined Van Cleef Engineering Associates as a senior survey technician in June 2022. He was a survey intern for the firm from May 2021 to June 2022.

SREYA DAS ‘22 joined the cybersecurity team at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

PRADNYA N. DESAI ‘22 won the Audience Choice Award for Best Pitch at the 2022 University Pitch Competition of the IndUS Entrepreneurs (TIE-NJ) for her startup idea called Ad-Connect. Ad-Connect aims to help children with ADHD develop social skills. In August of 2022, she became a software engineer at Microsoft in Seattle, Wash.

SARAH L. GARCION ‘19 is a mechanical engineering mentor for The Gearing Towards Engineering Foundation. Garcion serves as a research and development engineer at Tioga Cardiovascular.

MARINA ARRESE ‘21, M.S. ‘22 was named as a First-Team selection on the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District 2 Women’s At-Large Team. She is a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-District First-Team selection. She was the president of the NJIT Investment Fund and served on the women’s fencing team.

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1990s
1980s
1970s
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1920s
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1900s

IN MEMORIAM
Bernard N. Lubetkin ’49, M.S. ’52
Arnold C. Petersen ’49
Frederick H. Abernethy ’51
Hans A. Bock ’51
Robert A. (Bob) Garlach ’51
Clement A. Hule ’51, M.S. ’54
John E. Sten ’52
William L. Taetsch ’52
Paul O. Kizer ’52
Daniel H. Rucki M.S. ’54
John W. Baker ’54
Michael S. Palenack ’54
Ruth S. Barnes ’55
James M. Cameron ’55
Edward M. Irving ’55
Robert A. (Bob) Gerlach ’51
Frederick H. Abernathy ’51
Arnold C. Peterson ’49
Bernard M. Lubetkin ’49, M.S. ’52

Thursday, April 20, 2023

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- Evan Koblentz

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the technology, he noted.

Winners in the community
category were Cass Severe, whose concept
emphasizes societal reentry services
for women released from prison, and
Dawn Niles, who is building a mobile
application to assist New Jersey residents
participating in certified apprenticeship
programs. Severe’s plan stood out for not
trying to turn a profit.

“There is a bigger question, why are
you interested in innovation? The reason
for that is that innovation is the driver of
everything,” added Interim Provost Atam
Ahwan, who noted that many famous
companies began on college campuses.

He invited several contestants to pitch at
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Dawn Niles, who is building a mobile
application to assist New Jersey residents
participating in certified apprenticeship
programs. Severe’s plan stood out for not
trying to turn a profit.

“There is a bigger question, why are
you interested in innovation? The reason
for that is that innovation is the driver of
everything,” added Interim Provost Atam
Ahwan, who noted that many famous
companies began on college campuses.

He invited several contestants to pitch at
He invited several contestants to pitch at
VentureLink. One of the first presentations
he heard was Cass Severe, whose concept
emphasizes societal reentry services
for women released from prison. He is
working with the University’s Office of Management,
said innovation is vital to our mission. “We are a business
school where innovation and entrepreneurship are in our DNA.
We are working to turn a profit.

Student winners, NJIT officials enjoyed the
successful event.

BUSINESS MODEL COMPETITION
ADDRESSES SOCIETAL IMPACT

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Inauguration of Dr. Teik C. Lim
9th President of New Jersey Institute of Technology

The official investiture ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023, on the NJIT campus.

A full program of inaugural events will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact the Inauguration Committee Co-Chairs:
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