

**FEBRUARY 2016 E-
NEWSLETTER**

connecting today's women to tomorrow's opportunities

GIRL GEEKS WE LOVE



Valentine for Seneca Lake - Martha Ferger

Meet Dr. Martha Ferger, 91 years old. She has a PhD in Biochemistry (1949) from Cornell University, a distinguished career, and a rap sheet. A 2014 protest against a proposal to turn New York's Finger Lakes Region into a storage and transportation for fracked gas resulted in her [arrest](#). More recently, she braved the February cold to register to send very special Valentine. Regardless of what side you come down on this issue, it's activists like Dr. Martha that remind us that 'democracy is not a spectator sport.' You go girl!

SAVE THE DATE!

Imagine. You're walking down a street in Aleppo, Syria. People are going about their business, talking, shopping. A little girl attracts your attention. She is singing a charming song. Suddenly, there is a violent explosion. Dust and debris fly everywhere. There are bodies on the ground. This is not happening in some remote place. You are there. Inside the most brutal news story of the year.



Nancy Steffen Fluhr, Director

You take off your Virtual Reality headset. Now you are here. At NJIT. Attending the Murray Center's April 1 conference--*Women Designing the Future: Digital Realities, Today and Tomorrow*. And you've just had a glimpse of the next new thing: immersive journalism.

Starting in April, Samsung, LG, Oculus and dozens of other major companies will begin selling relatively affordable Virtual Reality headsets, with a flood of VR content on its way. We're excited to be riding the crest of that wave. The world-wide leader in VR and immersive journalism--The Emblematic Group--creators of the "Project Syria" VR experience I just described and another piece, "Kyia," that got raves at Sundance 2016, are featured speakers at our April conference. And there will be a VR demo booth you can try out.

President Bloom is giving the conference welcome, and the White House is sending its US Digital Service designer, Mollie Ruskin, to talk about the future of digital government. Tai Cooper, Chief Policy Advisor to Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, is also going to participate...along with fourteen other presenters who will explore the impact of women on emerging digital technologies--and the impact of emerging technologies on women. Conference topics include social media trends and social media data-

Friday, April 1, 2016

WOMEN DESIGNING THE FUTURE - Digital Realities, Today and Tomorrow

This all-day conference explores the impact of women on emerging digital technologies--and the impact of emerging technologies on women---including new social media trends, social media data-mining, virtual reality and digital story-telling; digital government, cybersecurity and online privacy; and wearable technology! Continental breakfast and buffet lunch. [Register here now!](#)

MURRAY CENTER CALENDAR

March is Women's History Month - be prepared for a series of spontaneous events to pop-up in your email, but just to get you started.....

Monday, February 29

Annual Potluck Networking Luncheon & Scholarship Fundraiser

12:00PM - 1:30PM - Campus Center

Ballroom B

Great food, fabulous gift baskets, and an important source of funds for women's scholarships

Sponsored by the Committee on Women's Leadership and the Murray Center for Women in Technology.

Tuesday, March 1

SWE Mentoring Night

6PM - 8PM - Campus Center Ballroom B

Join NJIT alums and representatives from industry for a speed networking and roundtable event.

Wednesday, March 2

KICK-OFF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH @ THE MURRAY CENTER

11AM - 3PM - Murray Center for Women in Technology, 265 Campus Center

mining; digital story-telling; digital government, cybersecurity and online privacy; computational fashion and wearable technology, among others. [For a complete list of conference speakers, [click here.](#)]

Over 375 people attended our 2015 *Women Designing the Future* conference; and we anticipate at least that many this year, including NJIT students, faculty, alumnae, high school girls, entrepreneurs, and representatives of local government and industry.

We invite you to join us.

The conference, which runs from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in the Campus Center ballrooms and Gallery, includes a continental breakfast and buffet luncheon. More importantly, it includes an opportunity to talk directly with young women innovators who are creating the digital realities in which we will live in the near future. You'll be able to explore new digital careers at the intersection of technology and design and learn how to leverage new digital technologies to advance your commercial ideas. And much more.

Please register for the conference

at: <http://womendesigningthefuture16.eventbrite.com>

REGISTER NOW!

Murray Center For Women In Technology Conference

WOMEN DESIGNING THE FUTURE
Digital Realities, Today and Tomorrow
APRIL 1, 2016

LIVE VIRTUAL REALITY DEMOS

Co-sponsored by The New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII), The College of Computing Sciences, NJIT's CyberCorps® Scholarship for Service grant, the Albert Dorman Honors College, the Technology & Society Forum, and Sigma Xi.

TECHNOLOGY VISION INNOVATION SCIENCE
FUTURE CONNECT STRATEGY ART SYNERGY DESIGN LEADERS
COMMUNICATE MURRAY CENTER FOR WOMEN

Let Virtual Reality take you inside today's top news stories

REGISTER AT: <http://womendesigningthefuture16.eventbrite.com>

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

MOLLIE RUSKIN
United States Digital Service, The White House

THE EMBLEMATIC GROUP
Leaders in Virtual Reality/Immersive Journalism

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
FSEARS@NJIT.EDU

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND BUFFET LUNCHEON

INTERACTIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH WOMEN EXPERTS ON...
Digital Government
Virtual Reality and Immersive Journalism
Digital Careers, Today And Tomorrow
Digital Data and Entrepreneurship

REGISTER HERE NOW!

Learn how to leverage new digital technologies to advance your commercial ideas

TECHNOLOGY VISION INNOVATION SCIENCE
FUTURE CONNECT STRATEGY ART SYNERGY DESIGN LEADERS
COMMUNICATE MURRAY CENTER FOR WOMEN

Download this postcard [here.](#)

Students can attend for free, but we're charging \$35 to the general public

Information, giveaways and snacks

Monday, March 7

PowHERful LATINAS

5PM - 6:30PM - Campus Center 225
SHPE sponsored presentation from
Cynthia Santiago, empowerment coach.

Wednesday, March 9

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

4PM - 5PM - Campus Center 235
Wardrobe and grooming tips that win
points in the professional world.
Sponsored by Career Development
Services and the Murray Center



Sunday, March 13

SPRING BREAK BEGINS

Monday, March 20

SPRING BREAK ENDS

Friday, March 25

GOOD FRIDAY - CAMPUS CLOSED

MEDIA PIX

Just in case you haven't heard, the Murray Center for Women in Technology is presenting a second annual **WOMEN DESIGNING THE FUTURE** conference on Friday, April 1, 2016. This year's theme - **DIGITAL REALITIES, TODAY AND**

to help cover some of the costs. NJIT faculty and staff will receive a discount code via email, reducing the fee to \$5.

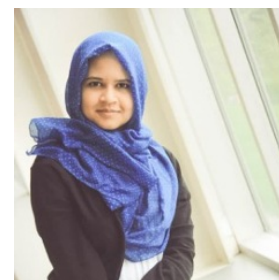
See you on April 1st! (No fooling...)

Nancy

NJIT WOMEN TO WATCH

The Murray Center is happy to announce the winner of the 2015-16 Ace-Network Scholarship for Undergraduate Women:

Fariha Tasneem, a junior majoring in Communication and Media. Fariha is a Resident Assistant for Reslife and has served as a leadership trainer for the Office of Leadership and Diversity, an ambassador for the Admissions Office, and a facilitator for the first year student orientation program. She is also a web content designer at the Career Development Services' Civic Engagement Computer Center, helping to make free websites for nonprofit organizations; and she helps out at Code for Kids in her spare time! A talented professional photographer, Fariha regularly contributes a "Humans of NJIT" photo feature to the Vector and serves as a consultant to the NJIT Photography Club. [Check out Fariha's portfolio of images [here](#).]



Congratulations as well to Computer Science major **Chaitasee Pandya**, winner of the 2015-16 Constance A. Murray Scholarship for women graduate students. The scholarship honors former Dean of Students, the late Connie Murray--a passionate advocate for women and minorities for whom our Women in Technology Center is named. Like Dean Murray, Chaitasee has been proactive in her support of women, especially in STEM. She is the treasurer of NJIT's Women in Computing Society and the graduate representative of the university's Society of Women Engineers student section. A Google Student Ambassador, she functions as a outreach coordinator for the computer science department, contacting high school principals and arranging for visits of the Women in Computing team who encourage young women not to let stereotypes stand in the way of their career dreams.



The Ace-Network and Constance A. Murray Scholarships are funded primarily by donations from NJIT faculty and staff. To make a secure online contribution, please visit: <https://njit-connect.njit.edu/Murray-women-center-donation-form>

TOMORROW - will explore the impact of digital technology in government, entrepreneurship, emerging careers and the exciting world of immersive journalism and virtual reality. Think this virtual reality business is merely a fad? Check [this](#) out.

It's Academy Awards season, and the lack of [racial diversity](#) in this year's nominees has made headlines, and now a recent report reveals that most male box-office powerhouses have yet to star in a motion picture [directed](#) by a woman. Geena Davis, Oscar winning actress and feminist activist, knows a thing or two about this -- check out her recent [initiative](#) to increase and broaden the role of women in media -- both in front and in back of the camera.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#) was celebrated on Thursday, February 25 on Capitol Hill. Members of congress joined women leaders in STEM to draw focus about the importance of [mentorship](#) for young women looking to challenge the gender barriers in STEM-related professions.

Women are still a mere 26.5% of the tech workforce and earn, on average 15% less than their male counterparts. But there are tech hubs that offer women a crack at more opportunity and equitable pay. Check out this [article](#) from the folks at **FASTCOMPANY**.

One year ago, Adrienne LaFrance, a tech journalist for **THE ATLANTIC**, did an analysis of gender-bias in her reporting and found out she scored an average 'meh.' A year later she did another analysis and [discovered](#) she'd done even worse than the year before.

WICKED - It's not just a musical. According to McGill Professor Elena Bennett, the [lack of women](#) in science is wicked indeed. Read her provocative interview and check out the excellent compilation of articles on science and gender that accompanies her interview.

RECENT EVENTS

Kimberly Lam and Masroor Khan, current and former presidents of NJIT's SWE undergraduate section, attended Region E's conference in Newport News, Virginia, on February 19. On February 26 - 28, members of both the graduate and undergraduate sections attended the Region F conference in West Point, NY. SWE's undergraduate section just received notification that they are the recipients of another outreach grant. This is the fourth year in a row that NJIT's SWE has been awarded this grant.



Breaking down gender barriers is a particular [passion](#) for the founders of NJIT's Women in Computing Society. On Saturday, January 30, the organization held a workshop for girls enrolled in 2016 ProjectCSGIRLS, an initiative to engage more girls in computer science. For more information about WiCS contact [Jinisha Patel](#) or [Katy Nyby](#).

The Murray Center is pleased to announce support for two more women-focused groups here at NJIT. First, the launch of the NJIT chapter of [GirlUP](#) - a project of the United Nations Foundation with the mission of 'uniting girls to change to world.' For more information contact [Anna Vallejo](#) or [Jenan Abu-Hakmeh](#).



Until recently the NJIT chapter of [Amnesty International](#) has been inactive; however thanks to a student-driven reboot, AI is back on the scene. As a special project during Women's History Month, members will be tabling with information about the myriad medical and wellness services provided by Planned Parenthood. For more information contact [Nithisha Prasad](#).

On Friday, February 12, the Murray Center hosted our Second Annual Galentine's Day Bash. The gala featured copious quantities of treats, including cupcakes and mocktails, manicures and movies plus a chance to enter the 'craft zone' to decompress with some glue and glitter -- all while enjoying some R & R with other Sisters in STEM.

PAST E-NEWSLETTERS

Check out our past e-newsletters filled with valuable information, past events, and scholarships [here!](#)

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Galentine's Day at the Murray Center

February 15 kicked off Student Appreciation Week, and the Murray Center's display of influential African American women in STEM brought a steady stream of visitors and participants in our 'do you know...' quiz. Kudos to NJIT student Meraj Nasir for successfully completing the quiz and for winning the drawing for a \$25 gift card.



An event highlighting African American women in STEM. Download the PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

Sunday, February 21 was the third Open House of the 2015-2016 academic year, and the Murray Center hosted an information brunch for

prospective students and their families. Special thanks to Alev Erdi, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, BME, and Professor Martina Decker of CoAD for their excellent presentations; and kudos to student representatives from SWE, GirlUP, the Women in Computing Society and, of course, to the Murray Center's ever-terrific student staff for making the event a success.



Highlights from the February 21st Open House

SCHOLARSHIPS & SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

University of Michigan: Summer 2016 REU - Interdisciplinary research in BioPhysics. Application deadline: March 4, 2016. Click [here](#) for information.

DePaul University and the University of Chicago are offering a joint REU opportunity for undergraduate students interested medical informatics. Application deadline: March 3, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

Lehigh University: Summer 2016 REU Program - Multiple programs for Physics majors. Application deadline: March 7, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information.

Purdue University is offering a Summer 2016 REU in Collaborative Data Visualization Applications. Application deadline: March 30, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information.

University of Alabama and NASA Marshall Space Flight Center - Summer 2016 REU in Heliophysics. Application Deadline: March 11,

2016. Click [here](#) for more information.

Florida A & M University: Summer 2016 REU programs includes research in Molecular and Cell Biology, Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics. Application deadline: March 15, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information.

The **Mathematical Association of America** has a current list of REU opportunities for Summer 2016 -- but hurry up! Many of the deadlines are fast approaching. Click [here](#) for more information.

And don't forget, the **National Science Foundation** - a major funder of many undergraduate and graduate research opportunities - keeps a current list of current programs. Click [here](#) for more information.

Need help figuring out how to finance your undergraduate or graduate degree? **New Jersey's Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)** is a valuable source of information about financial assistance for college students and their families. Log on [here](#).