



**Connecting today's women to tomorrow's opportunities**

**Murray Center Salutes NJIT's Class of 2011!**



NJIT Commencement 2011



NJIT Commencement 2011

## Murray Center Calendar

**Thursday, May 19th**

**Examining Diversity, Recruitment & Retention at NJIT**

- Speaker: Alfreda Brown, PhD, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Kent State

As the academic year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to review some of our 2010-2011 highlights. In the fall, our Advance Institutional Transformation grant received additional funding from the National Science Foundation, validating our pioneering use of social network mapping technology to support the careers of NJIT women faculty. At our standing-room only April 20 Innovation and Collaboration Research Showcase, women faculty presented dozens of exciting new research projects to a cross-sector audience from business and industry.



Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr,  
Director

The Murray Center continues to be a hub of activity, offering resources for NJIT's women students, faculty and staff. Next fall, NJIT will launch a new 'learning communities' initiative designed to increase student engagement. *Community* and *engagement* are important words in the Murray Center's vocabulary as well, and we look forward to collaborating with Provost Gatley in making learning communities a success, as well as increasing the outreach of our own Ambassadors peer mentoring effort.

May means graduation -- and while I know I will miss the women who have filled the Murray Center with their vitality and laughter during their time here at NJIT, I am confident that they are more than ready to assume their position in the world. And I am looking forward to the new wave of women students who will be embarking on their own NJIT journey in the fall.

To all our wonderful graduates, those of us at the Murray Center wish you every success. We are proud to have been a part of your college experience and urge you to stay connected to us in the future. And if you are one of those students headed our way in the fall, please know that the Murray Center is here to help you make a successful transition to college and to give you the tools to make the most of your time here at NJIT.

Have a great summer,

*Nancy*

PS - The first edition of our e-newsletter proved to be a great success, generating excellent feedback. Keep it coming! Getting a regular flow of information/ideas/impressions from all of you helps us deliver the kind of content that is relevant, informative and interesting.

University

- 12.00PM-1:30PM
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Open to all

## Murray Center Resources

### U.S. Grants & Scholarships for Women

Information for women students about scholarships, grants and financial aid. [Click for more information](#)

## Murray Center Media Picks

Wall Street Journal's special report on the status of women in the workplace, including interviews with high-profile women in science and technology like Google's Marissa Mayer. [Click to read](#)

Microchip Technology interviews 3 female engineers - hear their inspirational stories and advice for women looking to embark on this exciting career path. [Click to watch](#)

Meet Britta Gross, director of Global Energy Systems and Infrastructure Commercialization for General Motors. She's getting the US plug-in ready for the Chevy VOLT. [Click to read](#)

From Scientific American, a look at how far women have come in the sciences, and how far we still have to go. [Click to read](#)

New radio series from Northeast Public Radio, Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ON THE AIR! Original programming featuring interviews and reports about women in STEM-related careers. [Click to connect](#)

American Public Radio's Krista Tippett interviews MIT's Sherry Turkle about her new book, ALONE TOGETHER and the growing role of technology in interpersonal relationships. [Click to connect](#)

## NJIT Women to Watch

### Recent Awards & Scholarships

**Catherine Florio**, doctoral candidate in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, was acknowledged as a Second Year Amelia Earhart Fellow at the Zonta International District 3 Annual Regional Conference and has been invited to speak about her research at the Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer.

**Marquise Hargrove**, a student in NJIT's Law, Technology & Culture Program, was awarded a scholarship for academic excellence from the History Department and the Murray Center for Women in Technology at the annual History Luncheon on May 2.

**Renita Machado and Josiane Nzouonta** were awarded one a grant of \$100K from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a low-cost cell phone application to target the mosquitoes that spread yellow fever and dengue fever. Machado holds both an M.S. and PhD in Electrical Engineering from NJIT. Guiling Wang, PhD, NJIT Department of Computer Sciences was her advisor. Nzouonta received her PhD in Computer Sciences from NJIT in 2009 and is the Principal Investigator on the project.



Talina Knox and Marquise Hargrove

**Priscilla Nelson**, PhD, Newark College of Engineering, won the The Henry L. Michel Award for Industry Advancement of Research. The annual award is presented to leaders of the design and construction industry whose dedication and aggressive vision have provided cornerstones for improving the quality of people's lives through research in the design and construction industry.

**Nancy Steffen-Fluhr**, PhD, director of the Murray Center for Women in Technology and associate professor of humanities, was honored for her work in helping women to succeed in academe by the Soroptimist International of the Greater Westfield Area.



Nancy Steffen-Fluhr (second from left) receives award at the April 14th event

## Recent Events

### Wednesday, April 6

Annual Meeting: Murray Center Advisory Board  
Talina Knox gave Advisory Board members Mary Anne Adjepong, Faith Baum, Jan Bishop, and Haila Hudson a general overview of the 2010-2011 year at the Murray Center, including a power point presentation on the ADVANCE project. New initiatives were discussed, including the NJIT learning communities project that will launch in September.

### [2010-2011 Advisory Board](#)

### Thursday, April 7

Annual Society of Women Engineers Banquet & Awards  
Currents students, faculty and staff, along with alumni, prospective students and representatives from industry attended the gala. Outgoing SWE president, Hanisha Patel, presided over the events, including presentation of awards to NJIT

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faculty and staff, and introducing SWE's newly elected officers for the coming year, including Marina Saint Val, president, Yvesna Blaise, vice president, Tooba Fiaz, secretary, and Hannah Huan, treasurer.

Click [here](#) to view the Year in Review presentation.  
Click [here](#) for more information about NJIT SWE.

### Wednesday, April 20

#### Innovation & Collaboration Research Showcase

An overflow crowd of over 90 participants attended a panel discussion - "The Entrepreneurial Professor - New Opportunities For Women In Academia" - moderated by NJIT's Shanthi Gopalakrishnan, PhD and Associate Dean, School of Management with Tara Alvarez, PhD (NJIT Biomedical Engineering), Vikki Hazelwood, PhD (Stevens Institute of Technology, Biomedical Engineering and CEO, SPOC, Inc.), Kathryn Uhrich, PhD (Rutgers, Dean, Mathematical & Physical Sciences and founder of Polymerix Corporation) and Alice White, PhD (VP-Bell Labs, North America, Alcatel-Lucent). The panel discussion was followed by a research poster showcase featuring work by NJIT women faculty and their graduate students. The event concluded with a lecture by Donald Siegel, PhD, dean of the School of Business at SUNY Albany, on "Academic Entrepreneurship."

The showcase was sponsored by NJIT ADVANCE, the New Jersey Innovation Acceleration Center at NJIT and the New Jersey Technological Council. NJIT ADVANCE will host two more cross-sector research events in 2011-2012. Stay tuned!

Click [here](#) for Dr. Siegel's lecture.

### Just Breathe!

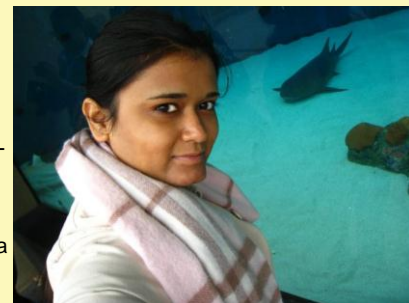
Little things mean a lot -- especially during final exams. In addition to space and computer facilities, the Murray Center has a tradition of offering those little extras with a bit impact. Recognizing the stress that comes with finishing up a semester, once again the Murray Center offered yoga classes and massage sessions to counter trauma-inducing term papers and final exams. These sessions were open to students, faculty and staff -- and were greatly appreciated.



4/27 - Spring stress relief yoga class

## Meet Hanisha Patel

Want something done? Ask Hanisha Patel ('09). While earning her BS in Industrial Engineering and gaining real-life experience in industry, she found time to become the leader of NJIT's award-winning Society of Women Engineers (SWE) student section and a mainstay of the Murray Center staff.



Hanisha joined the Murray Center staff early in her NJIT career as a way to make friends and build her support network. Organized and resourceful, she rapidly rose to the position of staff manager.

Generous as well as competent, Hanisha mentored younger women in the Murray Center's Big Sister/Little Sister program and tutored her friends in subjects where her expertise was greater than theirs. Elected president of NJIT SWE in 2010, she led the section to a national award, presented at last year's SWE annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

As an undergraduate, Hanisha took advantage of an internship program and worked for a semester at Cat Production Systems, Inc. in Illinois, integrating the knowledge she had gained in the classroom with hands-on experience in industry. She is now moving towards her masters degree in Occupational Safety and Health Engineering while working at the Bombardier Transportation facility at JFK International Airport.

Praising Hanisha's integrity and authentic interpersonal style, Murray Center director Nancy Steffen-Fluhr speaks for many when she says, "In my 39 years at NJIT, I have met many wonderful young engineers, but none that I enjoy working with more than Hanisha. She is a treasure."