



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



Mary Blair was the first woman to join the fabled Disney animation team (a notorious boys club) and was the Disney Company's first woman Imagineer. Her design sensibility can be seen in the animated classics like Dumbo, Alice In Wonderland, and Lady and the Tramp. In addition, she designed and supervised the construction of It's A Small World at Disneyland. On her 100th birthday (Oct. 21) she was honored with a Google Doodle. Click [here](#) for a mini-doc about Blair and her amazing work.



**Cinderella: The Art & Flair of Mary Blair**

Eighty-three days and counting! The fall semester has streamed past us with unusual speed, leaving a preview of winter in little piles on our lawns. Only thirteen weeks ago, the Murray Center opened its doors to welcome a new class of NJIT women students. And now you're all veterans, having survived three sets of common exams and periodic breakdowns of the vital milkshake machine. (Give yourselves a collective pat on the back!)



Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr,  
Director

The Murray Center Ambassadors have been working as fast as they can to help first year women build their networks and study groups. Although our new Got Game! program is still brand new, it's already clear that working in teams makes homework more effective and a lot less stressful,

Teamwork is the name of the game for faculty, too, as our NSF-funded ADVANCE Project has demonstrated. The ADVANCE team has just completed the construction of an interactive database containing an entire decade of NJIT faculty research collaboration data, and we're off to a conference in Washington, DC, this month to show how statistical modeling and visual mapping of this data can identify predictive models of faculty career success.

Amidst this flurry of exciting activity, there have been moments of sadness and concern, two of which I want to mention briefly: The mother of NJIT faculty member Katia Passerini and Murray Center staff member Vanessa Hernandez and her fellow student Benjamin Singleton were seriously injured recently, in separate incidents, by recklessly speeding drivers...a cruel reminder of how important it is for all of us to slow down and enjoy each minute of our busy busy lives. Please join all of us here at the Murray Center in sending them best wishes for a swift and complete recovery.

*Nancy*

## happy THANKSGIVING

All of us at the Murray Center wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

### Murray Center Calendar

#### NJIT Technology & Society Forum

- Wednesday, November 16th
- 3:00-4:30pm
- Campus Center Ballroom
- The Worldwide Water Crisis
- Upmanu Lall, PhD  
Director of the Columbia Water Center, Columbia University

#### Albert Dorman Honor's College Colloquium

- Wednesday, November 23rd
- 2:30-4:30pm
- GITC 1100
- Glammed-Out, Googley-Eyed & Gangsta. Cultural Sampling in the Age of Media Obsession.  
Presented by Dr. Adeena Karasick, St. John's University  
Sponsored by the College of Science & Liberal Arts

#### Weekly Group Study Session

- Tuesdays
- 6:00-10:00pm
- 235 Campus Center
- There's power in numbers! Participating in group study enhances classroom and test performance. Bring your class notes, textbooks, notebooks, laptops and past exams and join the Murray Center Ambassadors and SWE members for some invaluable academic support.

## NJIT Women to Watch

Meet Carol Siri Johnson, PhD -- academic, writer and the first female chair of NJIT's Humanities Department. Her recent book, *The Language of Work: Technical Communication at Lukens Steel, 1810 to 1925* (Baywood Publishing, is the winner of National Council of Teachers of English Award for the Best Book in Technical or Scientific Communication.



Dr. Carol Siri Johnson

Needless to say, we at the Murray Center are delighted that Dr. Johnson has taken on this leadership position. Recently we were able to ask her a few questions about her new post.

**MC:** What is your vision for the Humanities Dept and what is the importance of this discipline in a STEM-focused university?

**CSJ:** The Humanities often get short shrift in a STEM-focused engineering school so I intend to raise the profile of our department within NJIT. The Humanities are important because reading and writing, design, thought, history, communication, and ethics are the connective tissue between disciplines. Without that common ground we can't communicate. An engineering student without the Humanities is like a computer without a monitor - it can communicate with itself but not the outside world.

**MC:** Your perspective on the opportunities for women in a predominantly male environment like NJIT and the academic tradition in your family.

**CSJ:** I'm glad to be the first female Chair of Humanities at NJIT. The fields that comprise the "Humanities" are majority female, so it's long overdue. Working in a majority male environment is not a problem for me because I'm confident of my abilities. Teaching goes back at least 200 years in my family. My mother was a high-school French teacher, my grandmother attended the University of Florence and her grandfather taught Greek and Latin in the Italian Gymnasium. So it's in the blood.

**MC:** What fuels your passion for your work?

**CSJ:** My scholarship is interdisciplinary. I'm interested in everything. When I begin following a research trail, I go wherever it takes me, even if that means learning a whole new set of disciplinary customs. For my *Language of Work* book, I learned about iron and steelmaking technology, communications technology and local American history. For my next book, the history of shorthand, I will use the study of literature, business, the technology of printing and communications theory. The world is like a banquet for me - there will never be an end to topics that I want to write about. This is the joy of the Humanities that I want to be able to share with all of the students at NJIT.

## Scholarships and Resources

### Attention Prospective Students!

The Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship for First Years is awarded to current high school seniors intending to study computer science. Recipients will receive an academic scholarship as well as be invited to attend the Google FUSE networking retreat the summer following their first year of undergraduate study. Click [here](#) for more information.

And for current students...

## NCE Career Day

- Friday, December 9th
- 9:15am
- Campus Center Gallery
- Over 900 students from 58 schools will be visiting NJIT.

## Murray Center Media Picks

[Facebook's COO, Sheryl Sandberg gives the keynote address](#) at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. Her subject: Why more women engineers are needed. Her question: What would you do if you weren't afraid? A great speech from one of the most powerful and influential women in technology.

[Meet the Nobel Laureate who started an annual \\$100K prize](#) awarded to women who excel in biomedical research.

[Cisco's first woman CTO talks about why opportunities are opening for women in technology.](#)

Since 1998, the L'Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Award in Life Sciences has recognized exceptional women who have helped to "move science forward" with the aim of encouraging women throughout their careers. [Here are this year's winners.](#)

Anna Akbari, PhD, NYU Professor, Media, Culture & Communication and Co-Founder & CEO, Splice consults tech experts such as Jane McGonigal and Robert Putnam for [an overview of how to use technology to make us feel better.](#)

Win a \$10,000 scholarship! Inspire the next generation of engineers by recording and submitting a video about why engineering, and how engineers make an impact on the world. For details, visit the Randstad website [here](#). All entries must be submitted by Dec. 15, 2011.

The Anita Borg Institute for Women & Technology's Systems program offers a variety of scholarships and grants to women in STEM related studies via its Pass-It-On Awards Program. For more information click [here](#).

Microsoft sponsors scholarship specifically for women. Scholarships are granted for one academic year and are awarded to encourage women to engage in computer sciences. For more information click [here](#).

## Recent Events

The Murray Center congratulates Dr. Joel Bloom on his recent appointment as NJIT's Interim President. In addition to this new post, Dr. Bloom will continue his duties as the Dean of the Albert Dorman Honors College and Vice President of Student and Academic Services.

**October 3** - ACE-Network Welcome Breakfast is an annual event hosted by the Murray Center and the Committee for Women's Issues that gives new women colleagues the opportunity to network with women faculty and staff from across the campus. The winners of our 2010-2011 scholarship, ACE-Network Scholarship recipient, Abena Owusu-Banahene, and C.A. Murray Scholarship recipient, Priya Santhanam, attended the breakfast and thanked the group for their support and encouragement.



Yvesna Blaise, Nkemakonam Okoye & Keleghai (KiKi)  
Mentan

## Catch Up On Our Past E-Newsletters!

[April 2011](#)

[May 2011](#)

[Summer 2011](#)

[Fall 2011](#)

[October 2011](#)

## Contact the Murray Center

Phone: 973.642.4885

Fax: 973.642.7205

Email: [womenscenter@njit.edu](mailto:womenscenter@njit.edu)

Website: [womenscenter.njit.edu](http://womenscenter.njit.edu)

Address: 323 Martin Luther King Blvd,  
Newark, NJ 07102



### Staff:

**Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, Director**  
973.596.3295 | [steffen@njit.edu](mailto:steffen@njit.edu)

**Talina Knox, Assistant Director**  
973.642.4671 | [knoxt@njit.edu](mailto:knoxt@njit.edu)

**Fran Sears, Special Projects Manager**  
973.596.5592 | [fsears@njit.edu](mailto:fsears@njit.edu)

**October 13-15** - SWE 11/National Conference. Talina Knox and 14 SWE members attended the annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. Over 5,000 women professionals and students participated in the event, which features a career fair with over 200 corporations, universities and government agencies, professional development sessions and numerous opportunities for networking. At least four job, co-op and internship offers were made to NJIT students following the career fair.



**October 23** - Once again, the Murray Center information brunch for prospective women students held prior to NJIT's Open House drew a capacity crowd. Murray Center staff, Ambassadors and members of Sigma Psi Kappa & Delta Phi Epsilon sororities were on hand to welcome visitors and provide information. Many thanks to Provost Ian Gatley and the representatives from NJIT colleges and departments who dropped came by to provide information and answer questions.

**November 9** - Talina Knox, Assistant Director of the Murray Center, was honored at the 2011 Annual Service Awards Reception for 15 years of service to the NJIT community.

**November 10** - The Murray Center hosted a brown bag luncheon for teaching and professional staff to watch the WEPAN webinar, Stemming the Tide: Why Women Leave Engineering. The webinar was presented by Dr. Nadya Fouad and Dr. Romila Singh and moderated by WEPAN executive director, Diane Mott and Jenna Carpenter, Associate Dean of Louisiana Tech University. If you were not able to attend and would still like to view the webinar, please e-mail [Talina Knox](mailto:Talina.Knox).



Talina Knox with  
Nikki Schreihofer

## Murray Center Ambassadors - A Report by Talina Knox

The Murray Center Ambassadors continue to be busy working to engage first year women students in study groups in preparation for exams and general classwork, or working as a team to complete homework assignments. Weekly study sessions co-sponsored with the Society of Women Engineers have proved to be of great benefit. One first year woman student wrote, "I just wanted to let you know that the study session was really helpful. I didn't have a common, but another Archie and I had homework and I needed to tutor her and we needed a place to go. I found it really helpful because then I wasn't tempted to be on Facebook or whatever and I was able to focus on my homework, but also help her. Thanks!" Another wrote... "Thanks for providing these study sessions. I've been having trouble in physics and I was wondering how I could join a study group or get a tutor."

During the week of November 14th to 16th Ambassador Teams are competing against each other in a campus wide scavenger hunt reporting their "finds" using various forms of social media, including Twitter. Twitter is a great research tool that Ambassadors want to make sure first year students are aware of and know how to use.