

ESTHER PETERSON



The Murray Center salutes Esther Peterson (1906-1997), for devoting her life to ensuring economic opportunity for women in the workplace. A reformer and early consumer advocate, Peterson was the first woman lobbyist for the AFL-CIO and was appointed Assistant Secretary of Labor in the Kennedy administration, charged with heading up the Women's Bureau. Learn [more](#) about this true pioneer in the ongoing fight for equal pay or equal work.

On April 9, you may have noticed that dozens of signs suddenly appeared on the Murray Center's windows. Each one said the same thing: "23%." They should have said **-23%**, of course--that's how much *less* a US woman gets paid for doing the *same* job as a US man.

A lot of you probably thought that we had fixed this kind of inequity decades ago. And we have made progress: In 1963, women made 59 cents for every dollar a man made. In 2013, it's all the way up to 77 cents. 18 cents of progress in 50 years.

Somehow, that seems a little slow to us. Which is why the Murray Center joined millions of people across the country on April 9 in marking Equal Pay Day. (It's set on April 9 because it takes from January 1 to April 9 for the average woman in the U.S. to catch up to what the average man earned during the previous year--99 days of extra work.)

In February, we flash-danced for V-Day and sent 400 "Valentines" to congress, urging our representatives to renew the Violence Against Women Act. And they listened. VAWA is the law of the land. We're doing the same thing now: asking everybody on the NJIT campus to urge congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. While we're waiting for that long-delayed event, we're circulating a petition to President Obama asking him to sign an executive order requiring all government contractors to abide by equal pay/ equal work standards. (Bet you thought they already had to do that!)

Many of you have already signed the petition. There are a few blank lines left for those who haven't. Drop by the Murray Center front desk and give us a bit of your cursive.

Maybe we're whistling in the wind. But maybe not.

Nancy



Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, Director

MURRAY CENTER CALENDAR

April 17:

Murray Center Advisory Board Meeting

9:30AM, Anne Wiley Conference Room, 290 Campus Center.

Dana Knox Student Research Posters

1PM, Campus Center Gallery, 2nd Floor.

Equal Pay for Women Webinar

sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the U.S. Department of Labor.

[Information and registration.](#)

April 18:

SWE Annual Networking Night and Awards Reception

Campus Center Atrium, 6PM-9PM

April 19:

NJIT's RenFaire

11:30AM-3:30PM

April 24:

Denim Day

presented by SAVE (Sexual Assault & Violence Education), 11AM-4PM, Campus Center Lobby.

WEPAN Webinar: \$tart \$mart

Salary Negotiation: Educate and Empower College Women Entering the Job Market to Negotiate Their First Salary.

[Information and registration.](#)

April 30:

Art of Negotiation Workshop & Luncheon.

12PM-1:30PM, 112 Eberhardt Hall. Open to all NJIT women faculty and staff. RSVP to fsears@adm.njit.edu

ON THE ROAD

NJIT's Dr. Carol Siri Johnson Reports On Her Trip To Saudi Arabia

In the US and Europe, almost all institutions are coeducational. Consequently, when I went to Saudi Arabia to present a paper on educational assessment, I was surprised to see that there were two conference rooms, one labeled "Male" and one "Female." I should make an immediate disclaimer - I went to a women's college, Mount Holyoke, and I loved it. It gave me confidence and enabled me to identify discrimination when I see it. So the concept of single-sex education was not new to me.

Nevertheless, I was navigating new waters, wearing an abaya and a headscarf that slides off non-Muslim heads. I didn't know the customs so I generally imitated the people around me. Looking for the "Female" room, I saw a woman in the distance and followed her. We went down corridors and around corners and finally she turned back in frustration - she was lost too. Eventually we found a man to give us directions. [Click to continue reading.](#)



NJIT's Dr. Carol Siri Johnson with Dr. Sheila Lallmamode,

Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics at King Saud University

APRIL MEDIA PICKS

Check it out! The venerable NEW YORKER has just launched a new ["online hub for science, technology and all things that make up our world."](#)

Last year Stanford undergrads Ellora Israni and Ayna Agarwa, "good girls gone geek," founded [She++](#), to inspire women to pursue studies in computer science. This year they are hosting their second annual conference and have produced a documentary. Take a look at the [trailer](#) and watch for a screening here at NJIT.

American Women in Science CEO, Janet Bandos Koster, and AWIS public policy fellow, Erin Cadwalader, take on the subject of the [systemic problems](#) that inhibit women in STEM careers and offer ideas for innovation.

Garance Franke-Ruta, political reporter for ATLANTIC magazine takes a look at women in the workplace and asks, [Why Isn't Better Education Giving Women More Power?](#)

[Do women find bias in the workplace?](#) A new poll reveals the same old story.

But before you get discouraged, check in with the [video recap](#) from the recent WOMEN IN THE WORLD SUMMIT 2013. Famous faces mingle with a global cross-section of amazing women and girls who are changing the course of history in ways big and small.

PAST E-NEWSLETTERS

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

NJIT WOMEN TO WATCH



NJIT women work to rebuild NJ communities in an alternative spring break

A giant shout out to all the NJIT women (and men) who conceived, planned and signed on for the Alternative Spring Break 2013. From March 16th to March 24th, in weather that was far from fabulous and often was downright unpleasant, over 600 volunteers fanned out to 20 New Jersey communities that were hard hit by Hurricane Sandy. The initiative was planned by the Center for Resilient Design at NJIT's College of Architecture and Design, led by Thomas G. Dallessio, in conjunction with NJIT's Career Development Services, led by Gregory Mass, and Donna Minnich-Spuhler and Humby Baquerizo from the Campus Center. In addition to NJIT participating students, faculty, staff and alumni, 22 local colleges and universities signed on to be part of this endeavor.

On April 10th, Dr. Fadi P. Deek, Dean of the College of Science & Liberal Arts and Interim Provost, hosted the annual CSLA Awards Reception and once again, the women of NJIT were cited for excellence. Congratulations to Dr. Doris Zames Fleisher, Senior University Lecturer of Humanities, recipient of the Excellence in Teaching by Instructional Staff award; and Ms. Caroline DeVan who was named Outstanding Graduate Student in Biology. Undergraduate Awards went to Angelica Fila (Biology), Marina Saint-Val (Chemistry) and Taquesha Owens (History). Dr. Na Deng (NJIT '07) received the Outstanding Alumni Award in recognition for her research in solar physics.

Special recognition goes to Murray Center Ambassadors Nikita Patel, Diana Hernandez, Reem Saleem, Victoria Leybova, Katherine Saboya, Madonnina Suresh and Andrea Roeser who have all worked to keep the study session mojo going for

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our 2012-2013 Murray Scholars, with help and encouragement from Ambassador Manager Kristen Roque. Thanks ladies! You've been an important part of helping NJIT's first year women students make a positive adjustment to college life.

RECENT EVENTS

March 8-10: SWE Region E Conference, Wilmington, Delaware. Members of NJIT's SWE Undergraduate and Graduate Sections attended the conference with Advisor, Raquel Castillejos-Perez. Priya Radhi Santhanam, Graduate Section President, and Yasmine Aly, Graduate Section Outreach Coordinator, presented a workshop, "Best Practices for Graduate Student Involvement of SWE." NJIT's Undergraduate Section was honored to receive the Second Place Outstanding Collegiate Section Award at the event.



Lauren Go accepting an award on behalf of NJIT SWE at the SWE Region E Conference

March 13: The annual Gilbreth Colloquium, established by the Murray Center in 1997, honors a pioneer in systems theory and Newark College of Engineering's first female professor, Dr. Lillian Moller Gilbreth (1878-1972). Gilbreth's book *The Psychology of Management* was the foundation for modern industrial management and practice. The 2013 Gilbreth Colloquium speaker was Annabelle Bexiga, TIAA CREF's Chief Information Officer and Senior Managing Director. Bexiga took the audience through a thirty years retrospective of innovation in information technology, identifying new career opportunities in the field and enlivening her talk with instructive personal anecdotes. The daughter of Portuguese immigrants, at an early age she became the family translator and bookkeeper, teaching her skills that she later found useful in her career. (To hear Bexiga's talk on YouTube, click [here](#).) In addition to the Murray Center, the 2013 Gilbreth Colloquium was sponsored by NJIT Technology and Society Forum Committee, Albert Dorman Honors College, College of Computing Sciences, NJIT Office of Technology Development, New Jersey Innovation Acceleration Center, and Sigma Xi.



Annabelle Bexiga

March 14: NJ SIM University Day at NJIT attracted a capacity crowd that included university faculty, graduate students, New Jersey CIOs and entrepreneurs from the information technology industry. Starting with a plenary session that featured presentations on "Research & Practice at the Edge of Digital Transformation," the event featured an array of hot topics in information technology research and entrepreneurship. The day was packed with presentations, poster sessions, interactive demonstrations, as well as round table and moderated discussions. The event reflected the wide diversity of NJIT's scholarship and research and included opportunities for networking.



SIM NJ University Day at NJIT

March 19: The Committee on Women's Issues and the Murray Center sponsored a speed networking workshop and brown bag luncheon. CWI's co-chairs, Karen Quackenbush and Dominique Clark, hosted an enthusiastic gathering of NJIT women faculty and staff in Eberhardt Hall. This workshop was the latest in a series of CWI and Murray Center co-sponsored events geared specifically to the needs and concerns of NJIT's female staff and faculty.

April 12: Wow! That's Engineering! NJIT's SWE undergraduate and graduate sections hosted "Innovation Through Imagination," an outreach event for middle school students. The program, designed to expose youngsters to wide range of careers in STEM, was led by Marina Saint-Val, undergraduate section president, Rimmy Garg, undergraduate outreach coordinator, and Yasmine Aly, graduate section outreach coordinator and was funded by a grant from SWE national and ExxonMobile.



Participants in the Wow! That's Engineering! program

SCHOLARSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

Attention Incoming Women Students:

If physics is your passion and your prospective major, the **Jean Gordon Thomas Memorial Fund** will fully fund a summer research experience, including the opportunity to work with faculty and advanced undergraduate mentors. The Fund awards an incoming student for use in the summer after her first year at NJIT. [Details here.](#)

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) is a non-profit organization which brings together engineering educators from all of the engineering and engineering technology fields to collaborate on solutions to promote excellence in instruction, research, public service, and practice. Part of their mission is to connect students on all academic levels with fellowship programs. For more information for:

[Undergraduate](#)
[Graduate](#)
[Post-Doctoral](#)
[Summer Faculty](#)
[International Fellowships](#)

The American Mathematical Society has an impressive roster of corporations and organizations that offer internships and co-op opportunities. While they counsel that most require fall or winter applications for summer positions, this is a list well-worth exploring. More information [here.](#)

And remember...**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](#).