



Made with Code - Miral

What happens when you cross a software engineer with a dancer? Miral Kotb is one very talented performer who also happens to code--with dynamic, innovative results.

MURRAY CENTER CALENDAR

October:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and LGBTQ Awareness Month

Tuesday, October 14

[Ada Lovelace Day](#)

Take a moment to get to know the "Enchantress of Numbers" or as she's known in the Murray Center, the Mother of all Motherboards.

The Murray Center first opened its doors nearly twenty years ago by celebrating the achievements of NJIT alumnae--and celebrating the life of the extraordinary woman for whom the Center was named, Dr.

Constance A. Murray, NJIT Dean of students from 1978 until her death in 1994. Connie was an intrinsically shy person and didn't think of herself as especially powerful or brave, but she was--in precisely the same way that Eleanor Roosevelt (one of her political heroes) was brave. At the 1995 Murray Center dedication ceremony, Eleanor Roosevelt biographer Blanche Wiesen Cook reminded us how difficult it was for Mrs. Roosevelt to overcome her own shyness. She was courageous because of her fear, not in spite of it. "You must do the thing you think you cannot do," Mrs. Roosevelt said; and that is the way she lived her life. And so did Connie Murray. Connie didn't like conflict, but she disliked injustice even more; so she stood up and spoke up whenever she saw women being marginalized or their achievements being made invisible. Connie lit a fire in all of us who worked with her, and the residual light of that fire still guides us as we struggle to find the courage to stand up and speak up for equality today--at NJIT and around the world.



Nancy Steffen Fluhr, Director

There is no shortage of opportunities to do so, as the stories in this issue's Media Picks section illustrate. And no shortage of new role models either. In 2009 [Malala Yousafzai](#), a 12-year-old Pakistani girl from the Swat Valley, began speaking out against the Taliban-imposed ban on female education. Passionate, articulate, she drew many supporters to her cause. Three years later, in an effort to silence her, Taliban gunmen shot her in the head as she sat in her school bus. Miraculously, Malala survived, her commitment to girls' education undiminished by her injuries. Last week, Malala Yousafzai was named co-winner of the [2014 Nobel Peace Prize](#). "This award is for all those children who are voiceless, whose voices need to be heard," she said. "I speak for them, and I stand up with them."

In late September, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson announced a new UN-sponsored "[HeForShe](#)" campaign, encouraging men throughout the world to join with women in speaking up against gender inequality and discrimination. In asking "one half of humanity [to join] in support of the other half of humanity, for the entirety of humanity" - HeForShe organizers note that men, as well as women, are "imprisoned by gender stereotypes." The HeForShe Campaign asks us to "take action." Throughout this, our 20th anniversary year,

Wednesday, October 15

Committee on Women's Leadership's Financial Planning Workshop

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Participation limited to 60.

Registration deadline, October 13.

Register [here](#).

Wednesday, October 15

2:30pm - 5pm

Murray Center Ambassadors host a post-commons R & R session for MC Scholars and fall 2104 women transfer students - DYO sundaes, manicures, movies, and conversation. RSVP by 10/14 to fsears@njit.edu.

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Wednesday, October 22

Second Common Exams begin

Click [here](#) for full schedule

Thursday, October 23 -

Saturday, October 25

SWE Annual Conference, Los Angeles, California.

Sunday, October 26

9am - 9:45am

Murray Center hosts Pre-Open House 'Meet & Greet' for perspective women students

Friday, October 31

The Murray Center celebrates Halloween with a Movie Marathon and special treats. Details TBA.

Wednesday, November 5

11:30am - 1:30pm

Murray Center Advisory Board Planning Luncheon

Save the Date! Friday, March 27, 2015

BASH 20! The Murray Center for Women in Technology celebrates two decades of service and innovative programming for NJIT's women students, staff and faculty. Details TBA.

the Murray Center will join with others in exploring how we can respond creatively to this challenge at NJIT.

Our anniversary year culminates on **27 March 2015** when the Murray Center will host a conference to celebrate 20 more years of innovative work by women at NJIT and elsewhere--especially work that integrates the domains of technology, science, art, and design. I'll tell you more about the event, and how you can participate, in our next newsletter. In the meantime, please **SAVE THE DATE!**

Nancy Steffen-Fluhr

Director, Murray Center for Women in Technology

RECENT EVENTS

September 5 - Murray Center Ambassadors held a "Pizza and Pointers" Moodle/Pipeline/Blackboard workshop for Murray Scholars and incoming women transfer students. NJIT staff members also attended, including **Maureen O'Rourke**, NJIT's History Program and Academic Coordinator.



September 10 - Convocation 2014 featured keynote speaker **Indira Hernandez**, a 2008 NJIT civil engineering graduate and currently a Senior Project Engineer at GACE Consulting Engineers. Drawing from her own experiences as a Cuban immigrant with limited English language skills, Hernandez urged the Class of 2018 to "Take the different negatives and turn them into positives" and to remember that "... studying on your own is fantastic, but find a group and interchange ideas."

MEDIA PICKS & HELPFUL LINKS

Just in time for Ada Lovelace Day (October 14), NPR takes a look at some of our founding 'mothers of invention.' [Tune in](#) and get acquainted with some of these extraordinary (and often forgotten) women who blazed the trail for today's techies.

The image of Emma Sulkowicz, the Columbia University student who is carrying her mattress to protest the university's failure to censure the student she alleges raped her, has become an international symbol of inadequate campus policies about sexual violence. A recent *NY Magazine* [article](#) profiles Silkowitz and other women who are demanding more stringent campus policies regarding sexual assault, and [The Economist](#) looks at the problem and dissects the recent "Yes Means Yes" legislation in California.

Women scientists are no strangers to sexual assault according to a [study](#) released by PloS One. On the [Opinion Page](#) of the *New York Times*, A. Hope Jahren, a professor of geobiology at the University of Hawaii, discusses her personal experience and how it impacted on her career choice.

In 1990, *Fortune Magazine* counselled women to "look like a lady, act like a man and work like a dog." However, things are changing—even in the testosterone-charged world of Silicon Valley. Read all about it [here](#).

Why girls are underrepresented in STEM classrooms and careers is hardly a new question. Tech education proponents cite online learning as a way to create a level playing field for female students; however, author Annie Murphy Paul poses some questions and looks at some interesting alternatives in a [recent article](#) in the



Indira Hernandez at the 2014 Convocation



Dr. Bruce Bukiet, Mathematical Science, Excellence in Teaching Committee [EIT] Co-Chair; Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, Humanities, EIT Chair; Caroline DeVan, Biological Sciences, winner of the 2014 award for Excellence in Instruction by a Teaching Assistant; Dr. Fadi Deek, Provost and Senior Executive Vice President.

Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, chair of the university's Excellence in Teaching Committee, presented the 2014 award winners, including Biological Sciences Teaching Assistant **Caroline DeVan** and **Diana Walsh** from the School of Management. **Rose Federici**, Assistant to the Provost, was honored with the Constance Murray Diversity Award for her commitment to the sustainable advancement of women staff and faculty at NJIT. Presidential Leadership Awards were presented to **Kathleen Uske**, a 2014 NJIT graduate with a degree in biomedical engineering, and **Yasmine Aly**, a 2014 doctoral candidate in chemical, biological and pharmaceutical engineering.

Washington Post.

Who says scientists aren't a fun group? It was recently [revealed](#) that Swedish scientists have spent the last 17 years finding ways to incorporate Bob Dylan's lyrics in their research papers. Okay, girl geeks -- how about working Beyoncé and Lady Gaga into some scholarly treatises?

Keeping up with INTEL's resident social scientist, Dr. Genevieve Bell, is always a pleasure. Check out her recent comings and goings, including her thoughts about the impact of technology and social media on modern society, in a recent *NYTimes* [profile](#).

Cole-Haan is producing more than shoes. The fashion house is making some waves on the internet with [HISTORY BEGINS HERE](#), a series of profiles spotlighting young women who are challenging the status quo and "empowering us all to think differently about the way business is done."

Nominations for the National Book Awards include only one woman author in the non-fiction category and *GAWKER* wants to know: *what's up with that!?* Find out [here](#).

PAST E-NEWSLETTERS

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

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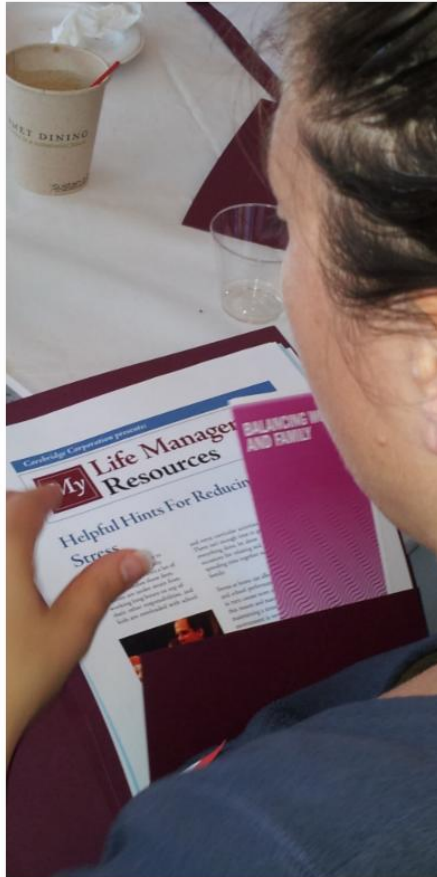


September 12 - Murray Center Scholars, Ambassadors and new women transfer students gathered to discuss the challenges of adjusting to NJIT, over lunch in the Campus Center. The subject on everyone's mind? The upcoming common exams. Concerns were voiced, advice was given and all-important study groups were formed on the spot.

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September 24 - Committee on Women's Leadership Annual Welcome and Networking Breakfast drew the largest crowd in the committee's history. Co-chairs **Dominique Clarke** and **Karen Quackenbush** announced the agenda for 2014-2015. **Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr** presented five 2014 women scholarship/award winners: **Smruti Ragunath**, awarded the Constance A. Murray Graduate Scholarship; **Diana Hernandez**, ACE Network Scholarship winner; **Stephanie Maruca**, recipient of the Anne Wiley Scholarship; **Elaine Gomez**, recipient of the Madame Mau Outstanding Engineer Award; and **Masroor Khan**, the Murray Center Outstanding Female Leadership Award winner. A representative from Carebridge, NJIT's new Employee Assistance Provider, introduced CWL members to their services along with a presentation featuring creating a manageable, positive life/work balance.

NJIT WOMEN TO WATCH

If you think a tattoo and a fondness for Arrowsmith (the band, not the book) run counter to the image of a Senior University Lecturer in the School of Management, then you haven't met **Dr. Melodi Guilbault**. Dr. Guilbault joined NJIT in the fall of 2013, moving herself and her two children to Jersey City from Florida. Her decision to head north was fueled by the famous Gandhi quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world"--something Guilbault has tattooed on her wrist.



Dr. Melodi Guilbault at Fashion Week

On October 18 - 19 Guilbault will join as many as 5000 participants for the AVON WALK FOR BREAST CANCER, a 39.3 mile trek through New York City with an overnight stay in a pink tent village on Randall's Island. The AVON-sponsored event is notable because an unusually large percentage of the budget goes directly to research and aid to cancer victims, not administrative costs. Getting ready for a two-day trek (39.3 miles equals a marathon and a half) requires months of training. Although Guilbault was benched from regular workouts when she fractured in her foot during the summer, she's back on track now--literally and figuratively. If you'd like to find out more about the AVON WALK, contact Dr. Guilbault at drmellow@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS & MORE

International Radio and Television Society (IRTS) 2015 Media Internships:

Travel expenses to NYC, housing and a stipend are all provided along with many professional and networking opportunities. College juniors, seniors and graduate students majoring in computer sciences, mathematics, business, communications and marketing are urged to apply by November 2, 2014. Click [here](#) for more information.

Brooklyn College NSF REU Program in Neuroscience is currently seeking undergraduate applicants for the upcoming spring 2015 Program - a 15 week mentored research opportunity. Participants receive a stipend. Application deadline, October 30, 2014, and early applications encouraged. For more information, click [here](#).

Graduate Research Internship Program: The National Science Foundation recently announced expanded opportunities for NSF Graduate Fellows to enhance their professional development by engaging in mission related research experiences with partner agencies across the federal government. Contact grip@nsf.gov for more information.

O. H. Ammann Research Fellowship in Structural Engineering is awarded annually for the purpose of encouraging the creation of new knowledge in the field of structural design and construction. All ASCE /SEI members or applicants for membership are eligible. Student membership in ASCE is free. Application

deadline, November 1, 2014. For more information click [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:

<http://www.asee.org/fellowship-programs/undergraduate>

<http://www.asee.org/fellowship-programs/graduate>

<http://www.asee.org/fellowship-programs/post-doctoral>

<http://www.asee.org/fellowship-programs/summer-faculty>

<http://www.asee.org/fellowship-programs/other-programs>

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, there are still some positions open. For more information:

<http://www.ams.org/programs/students/undergrad/emp-internships>

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 at <http://www.hesaa.org>