

MAY 2016 E-NEWSLETTER

connecting today's women to tomorrow's opportunities

MICROSOFT 2016 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Microsoft 2016 International Women's Day

A big, raucous Murray Center Salute to MICROSOFT for launching this terrific campaign to teach young women about the fabulous fem 'makers' and inventors who - all too often - have been overlooked in history. Launched on International Women's Day, this inaugural video is a potent example of "you've got to see it to be it." Thanks, MICROSOFT - and keep up the good works!

MURRAY CENTER CALENDAR

LOOKING BACK...LOOKING FORWARD

The last half of this semester has gone by at warp speed, with a calendar loaded with programs, events and initiatives. It would be impossible to give a complete recap, and because it's the end of the academic year and we're all swamped with exams, final projects and papers, we've opted to let some photos do the talking!



Nancy Steffen-Fluhr,
Director

The end of an academic year signals new beginnings. Many of you will be heading off to internships, REUs, and summer jobs -- and for our graduates, one chapter closes as a whole new world opens. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Virinder 'Vini' Mann and Diana Hernandez, our 2016 graduating Staff Ambassadors for their many contributions to the Murray Center community. We will miss their energy, ideas and wonderful generosity of spirit. Go forth and do well, ladies -- but remember to stay in touch.

Wishing everyone a splendid summer.

Nancy

Friday, April 1

WOMEN DESIGNING THE FUTURE:

Digital Realities, Today and Tomorrow

The event started at 8:30AM with a CyberCorps®: Scholarships for Service information session. Then as the ballroom filled with attendees, President Joel Bloom took the stage to welcome

Thursday, May 5

CWL Partners for Success Luncheon
Women Faculty & Staff Mentors/Mentees

Friday, May 6

Exams Begin

Thursday, May 12

Exams End

Tuesday, May 17

Grades Due
Commencement

Monday, May 23

First, Middle & Full Summer Sessions
Begin

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day - No Classes

MEDIA PIX

The shocking and sudden death of internationally acclaimed architect **Zaha Hadid** provoked a media tsunami celebrating her visionary talent as well as her impact on a male-dominated profession. Twice awarded the RIBA Stirling Prize and as the first woman to win the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize, Hadid rejected being marginalized by [gender](#), but was a fierce [advocate](#) and mentor to a generation of female architects. She will be missed.

Virtual reality is everywhere, including our recent conference, **WOMEN DESIGNING THE FUTURE: Digital Realities, Today and Tomorrow**, with a smashing demonstration of the merger of VR technology and journalism by the Emblematic Group. However, like all new platforms in this digital age, there are concerns about abuses - including the potential for gender [harassment](#). However, there are some gender-positive signs. At a recent [VR hackathon](#), while only 15% of the participants were female, organizers noted more women taking leadership and

everyone. Click [here](#) to peruse the agenda, [here](#) to meet our outstanding roster of presenters and panelists and [here](#) to learn more about CyberCorps®: Scholarships for Service.



Committee on Women's Leadership/Murray Center Partnerships:

Annual Potluck Scholarship Luncheon

Great food and a record number of exquisite gift baskets resulted in raising funds earmarked for women's scholarship. Attending the gala, Chaitasee Pandya, winner of the Constance A. Murray Graduate Scholarship, and Fariha Tasneem, awarded the Ace-Network Scholarship for Undergraduate Women.

Looking Back, Moving Forward: Listen, Learn & Lunch

CWL pioneers and founders Kelly (Cecilia) Griffin, Jo-Ann Raines, Nancy Dean Conrad (retired) and Dr. Nancy Steffen Fluhr reviewed the history of the Committee on Women's Issues/Leadership and discussed objectives and initiatives for the future.

mentoring roles in the competition, and many of the winning teams included women developers.

Two things you can count on in April: Tax Day and **Equal Pay Day**. The gender-gap in wages is well documented, but a recent [New York Times](#) article examines another aspect. Why do wages drop when women take over a formerly male dominated field?

SWE's Corporate Partnership Council's recent study, *Elephant in the Valley*, shines a light on why women really leave STEM careers. [Read](#) all about it.

The world of gaming presents a vast and varied digital landscape to play out a wide range of scenarios - and it also has become a platform for cyberbullying and sexual harassment. Researchers from Ohio State are taking a close look at cyberharassment and the [impact](#) it has on young woman gamers.

Music is widely acknowledged as an international language; however have you ever considered it might be a bridge to mathematics and science? A recent **Washington Post** [article](#) reports that the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz has developed an innovative website offering teachers resources and apps that use music to teach other academic disciplines.

And now from the NJIT MOJO-Wire, snapshots of some of NJIT's women newsmakers:

[Distinguished Professor Emerita Starr Roxanne Hiltz](#) talks about the many challenges in her long and storied career.

[Professor Eliza Michalopoulou](#)'s research has the potential to impact national defense and the environment.

[Professor Karen Franck](#) shares the two 'preoccupations' that guide her research at the finale of the CoAD Spring Lecture Series.

[Assistant Professor Selina Cai](#) researches the world of carbon captures from a market standpoint.



Open House/NJIT Experience Day

All four MC Information Brunch sessions and NJIT Experience Day yielded over 250 interested and engaged visitors, plus the answer to the age old question: yes, it is possible to run out of quiche. Special kudos to NJIT faculty and students who pitched in to make these events successful.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The Murray Center launched a month-long series of events with a display of influential African American Women in STEM, a social media blitz of NJIT's STEM-sters and a 'dress for success' workshop. During Spring Break, the Murray Center sponsored a delegation from NJIT's GirlUP at the 60th Annual Commission on

[Kimberly Lam](#), ADHC '16, adds the Madame Mau Scholarship to her resume.

[Crystal Seymour](#), NCE '16 and one of our first Murray Scholars, talks about the challenges and rewards of balancing academics with internships.

PAST E-NEWSLETTERS

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

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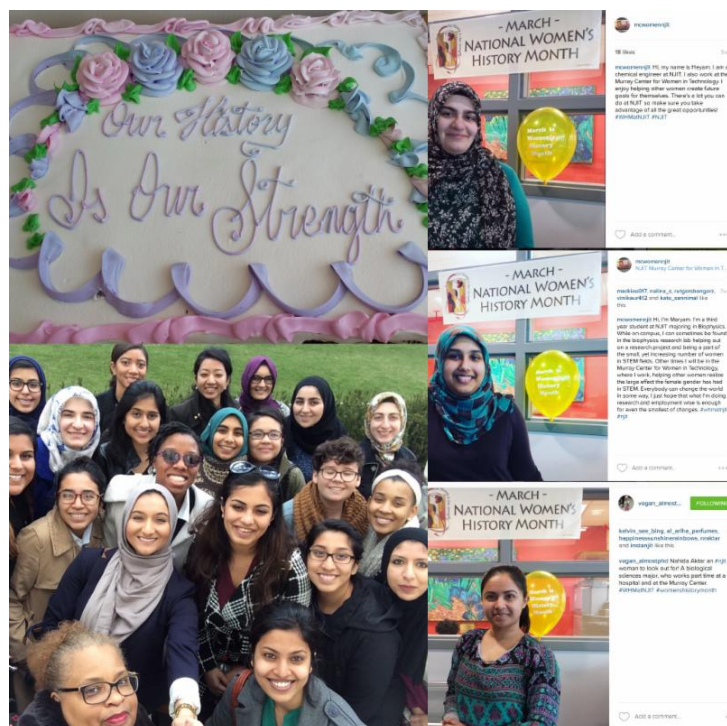
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SWE ANNUAL NETWORKING NIGHT & AWARDS RECEPTION

Eliza Elmo, Manager, Office Engineering and Training, FM Global Insurance, was the keynote speaker and outgoing SWE Undergraduate President, Kimberly Lam, and Graduate Section President, Deepthi Sirvisetty, introduced the incoming e-boards.



EQUAL PAY DAY always provoked spirited dialogue about the gap between men's and women's wages, and this year was no exception. The MC distributed information and candy coins wrapped in red foil - reminding everyone that it's time for gender pay equity.



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH was attended by current scholarship recipients, NJIT's generous donors and university faculty and staff. One participant was Cynthia Pruett '55, a retired chemical engineer, environmental advocate and long-time NJIT benefactor, who traveled from her home in Arizona to attend the event. On Thursday, April 21, Ms. Pruett joined Nancy Steffen-Fluhr and a group of women students for an informal discussion and tea. Smart, savvy and engaging, Ms. Pruett drew the assembled students into a discussion about how to successfully manage a professional career. Note to Ms. Pruett: Please come back!



DENIM DAY creates international awareness about the

devastating impact of sexual violence and offers prevention education. This year the Murray Center teamed up with NJIT's Amnesty International, with assistance from NJIT Public Safety Officers and Highlander Health Educators, to run an information table in the Campus Center Lobby.



Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr's calendar has been jammed with speaking events, including addressing an NJIT-hosted event, "Can We Overcome the Digital Divide" for the New Jersey-Israel Commission. In addition to describing the challenges facing women in technology, Dr. Fluhr presented the Murray Center strategy for finding paths to overcome the gender gap in STEM professions. Recently she joined Regina Collins, Theresa Hunt and Melodi Guilbault for a "Women in the Workplace" panel co-sponsored by the Women in Computing Society and GirlUP, a new NJIT club that increases awareness of issues facing young women across the world-and joined Dr. Sharon Morgan and Dr. Marybeth Boger for a Title IX information/education session.



And last but not least - the Murray Center sends a hearty shout-out to our Advisory Board members for their excellent ideas and support. On Wednesday, April 20 MC board members Susanne Arney, Katherine Kish, Ceu Martinez, Lisa Moving, Elizabeth Strickland, and Robin Tanenbaum braved rush hour traffic for a 9am meeting in the Anne Wiley Conference Room. We reviewed the myriad MC events from this academic year and began laying the foundation for 2016-2017 - with the universal agreement that the Women Designing the Future is on the books for next March. Stay tuned!

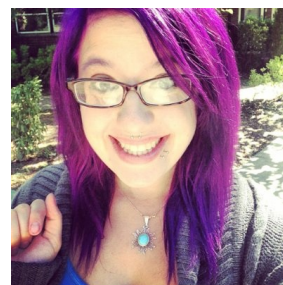
NJIT WOMEN TO WATCH

Diana Hernandez came to NJIT as a shy immigrant from her native Columbia and will leave us this year as a confident, poised young woman ready to forge a career in business information systems at IBM. In



the classroom and in the various organizations she belongs to (SHPE, LASO, Real World Connections), Diana has distinguished herself with her leadership skills and organization. As a Murray Center Ambassador and staff member, she has served as a mentor to many incoming students. Diana has been on the Dean's List since the 2012 Spring semester and she has also interned with at MetLife, TIAA-CREF Financial Services and IBM and is the recipient of the 2016 Murray Center Leadership Award.

Cassie Lebauer loves everything about cybersecurity - finding fun in the challenges and discipline. What brought her into this new, burgeoning world? Well, first there is her love of puzzles and her outright enjoyment of math. Intrigued by foreign languages, Cassie is also a student of American



Sign Language and is an admitted craft-junkie who loves to knit and 'make stuff.' Unraveling problems and finding solutions is part of her DNA, so when she started to put together all of her passions, a career in cybersecurity was the logical choice. Excited by the range of options in the field, especially for women, Cassie has become a passionate advocate dedicated to bringing other students - especially women - into the field.

SCHOLARSHIPS & SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

The Mathematical Association of America has a current list of opportunities for Summer 2016, but hurry up! Deadlines are fast approaching. Click [here](#) for information.

And don't forget, the **National Science Foundation** - a major funder of graduate and undergraduate research programs - keeps a current list of available programs. Click [here](#) to find an open program.

If you need help figuring out how to finance your undergraduate or graduate degree, **New Jersey's Higher Education Student**

Assistance Authority (HESAA) is a valuable resource. Log on [here](#).