



Connecting today's women to tomorrow's opportunities

Murray Center Calendar

Common Exams Start February 6th, so get ready!

The Murray Center Ambassadors and SWE are holding weekly study sessions every Tuesday, from 6pm-10pm in Room 235, Campus Center. Join the group and discover the power of collective learning!

Monday, February 6th:

Annual Networking Luncheon & Scholarship Fundraiser for NJIT Women Staff and Faculty. Time: 12pm-2pm. Where: Campus Center, Ballroom B. For more information, contact: Fran Sears at fsears@njit.edu.

Wednesday, February 22 & Thursday, February 23:

The Murray Center hosts prospective first year women students for You@NJIT Overnight Program - a unique opportunity for accepted students to get an insiders look at the academic and campus culture here at NJIT. If you live in a dorm and would like to host a visiting student, contact Talina Knox at knoxt@njit.edu.

There's been so little snow (*thus far*) that it feels more like April than January. Don't be fooled, however. There's a lot more we all have to get done before we can break out our surfboards.

At the Murray Center, we're focused on helping first year students successfully navigate their second set of common exams. ([See the interview with CAPE director Boger for some tips.](#)) We also have additional resources to offer the entire student body, including a new internet TV hookup. Drop by and take a look at our monthly film showings, starting with a cinematic celebration of Black History Month.



Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr,
Director

In February, the Murray Center will make a special effort to reach out to prospective women students. On February 22-23, we'll give dozens of high school students an insider's look at life on the NJIT campus during our You@NJIT Overnight Program; and on February 26, we'll host an Open House information session and brunch for women students and their parents. (Please help us make them feel welcome.)

The NSF-funded NJIT ADVANCE program is helping to prepare a warm welcome for new faculty as well. In collaboration with the provost, ADVANCE is piloting a formal faculty mentoring program (*Faculty CAN*) using social network data analysis to track the growth of faculty collaboration.

I'll give you more details about upcoming ADVANCE events in our mid-February newsletter. In the meantime, put a Save the Date flag on your calendar for March 7 when we'll host the third annual *Innovation & Collaboration Research Showcase*. Co-sponsored by the NJIT Office of Technology Development and the NJ Tech Council, this year's Showcase focuses on leveraging the innovation potential of social networks.

More anon,

Nancy

Sunday, February 26, NJIT Undergraduate Open House:

The Murray Center hosts a pre-Open House brunch and information session for high school students and their parents. Murray Center Ambassadors will be on hand to greet visitors and answer questions. For more information, contact Talina Knox at knoxt@njit.edu.

Murray Center Media Picks

Joanne McGrath Cohoon, an associate professor at the University of Virginia, writes about [the need for women in the tech sector](#) in U.S. News & World Report

Oprah Winfrey and Sheryl Sandberg -- [The Queen of all Media and Facebook's powerhouse COO sit down for a FACEBOOK interview](#)

A recent report from the U.S. Department of Commerce [underscores the opportunities for women in STEM-related professions](#)

Talk about a trifecta! [The top winners in the Siemens and Intel competitions and the first Google Science Fair are all women](#)

Sandy Jen, co-founder and CTO of Meebo is interviewed by VentureBeat. The subject: [the role of women and technology](#)

Dr. Marybeth Boger: Jump-Starting the Spring '12 Semester



Dr. Marybeth Boger

Getting the right start to a new semester can mean the difference between just squeaking through and racking up some seriously impressive grades. As Spring 2012 kicks off, we decided to go to a pro -- Dr. Marybeth Boger, Director of CAPE (Center for Academic and Personal Enrichment) -- for some advice. She's been helping NJIT's students develop successful learning strategies and guiding them through a myriad of personal crises for the past ten years, and here are her top five tips/insights for success.

First and foremost: learn to self-advocate. College means leaving behind the support structures of adolescence and embarking on the transition to adulthood, which means assuming responsibility for yourself and your actions. Make an honest appraisal of your strengths and weaknesses, then set reasonable goals. But don't stop there: start to develop a strategy for success. And if you hit a snag, seek solutions. Don't wait until a small issue becomes a critical mass. If you have a problem - whether it's academic or personal - find out where to get help.

Second: think of yourself as a scholar. That means don't be intimidated by what you don't know, Dr. Boger advises. The first days/weeks of a new course can be overwhelming -- but remember, if you knew all the answers there would be no reason to write those tuition checks. Don't panic. Realistically appraise the situation. Do you need a tutor? Or a study group? Can your professor provide you with guidance on how to prepare for the course? Focus on what you need to do to get the most from your education.

Third: HELP is not just a four-letter word. According to Dr. Boger, all too many students equate help with failure, but she says not getting help is the real problem. And these days, help comes in a variety of formats -- in addition to study groups and tutoring, there are a variety of tools (like Piazza and Khan Academy). Not to mention the Murray Center Ambassadors Got Game program! Just remember, one size doesn't fit all. Everyone has their own way of learning, and that's where the CAPE office can be an invaluable asset. They can help you evaluate your personal learning style and connect you to the right resources.



Four: The power of critical thinking. Sure, going to class and doing the homework is important, but don't stop there. Be an active participant in your own education. Start by being proactive. During class, pay attention, take notes, and ask questions! After class, review your notes and come up with a list of the things you've learned, and a list of what you need to know. Good critical thinking is a skill-set that is high on every employer's wish list, and developing these skills in the classroom will prove to be a tremendous asset in your career.

Catch Up On Our Past E-Newsletters!

[April 2011](#)

[May 2011](#)

[Summer 2011](#)

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[December 2011](#)

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Five: Enough is enough. Managing classes and assignments is a full-time job and extra-curricular activities are just that -- extra. Until you've established a firm academic footing, don't over-commit to clubs and other campus organizations. Yes, joining some organizations can open up internship and career opportunities. But as Dr. Boger reminds us..."In order to receive your degree from NJIT, you must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0, and when you begin networking, potential employers pay attention to your GPA."

Of course, these five tips are just the beginning. Dr. Boger and the rest of the CAPE staff are there with many more ideas, insights and resources to give you the tools to succeed and to realize your goals. For more information, email Dr. Boger or drop by the CAPE office, 200 Kupfrian. [Click here](#) for CAPE's Spring Semester Tutoring Schedule.

NJIT Women to Watch



Give Back: ADHC Students Wield Hammers and Paint Brushes for an International Community Service Project: Three women students from the Albert Dorman Honors College devoted part of their winter break to a construction project in the Dominican Republic. Melissa Bauer, Asma Jafri and Carmel Pratt -- accompanied by Paul Dine, PhD, ADHC Assistant Dean for Student Programs -- traveled to Lavapie, a small town near the Haitian border. Their goal: to lend their skills and their energy to provide a home for a needy Dominican family.

The NJIT women were joined by students from Rutgers Law School and the Physical Therapy Program at UMDNJ. In addition to their construction work, the group researched community needs, performed water tests and conducted physical therapy sessions. Now back on campus, the students are channeling their enthusiasm into creating an expanded local and international community service initiative here at NJIT. You go, girls!

Vanessa Hernandez: Last fall, an evening stroll almost ended in tragedy for two NJIT students. Vanessa Hernandez, student staff manager of the Murray Center, and fellow student, Benjamin Singleton, were hit by a speeding car. Both sustained major injuries, but fortunately, this is a story with a happy ending.

Ben is back at NJIT for the Spring semester. For Vanessa, the recuperation process is taking a little longer. According to a recent update, she's focusing on building her strength with rigorous physical therapy. It's hard work but she tells us she'll be back on campus for the Fall '12 semester -- without a cane.



Vanessa Hernandez

Recent Events



NJIT's SWE Undergraduate Section launched the Spring semester by welcoming new members to an information session and jewelry-making workshop. The material of choice? Resistors. President Marina Saint Val described a series of events for SWE members, including a resume workshop held in conjunction with First Investors Corporation and an information session with Baantan Software Services. In addition, Saint Val described a dinner and information session for women graduate students hosted by SWE's new Graduate Section on Thursday, January 26th. For more information about upcoming events, click [here](#).



On Friday, January 27, the NJIT ADVANCE Project and the Office of the Provost co-hosted a Best Practices Workshop for faculty mentors in the university's new Faculty Career Advancement Network pilot program (Faculty CAN). The workshop was facilitated by Susan Metz, co-founder of WEPAN (Women in Engineering Proactive Network) and a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from the White House. The goal of the Faculty CAN pilot is to develop a "culture of mentoring" at NJIT to ensure that new faculty hires have the resources they need to succeed.

Scholarships, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) and Other Resources

The NJ Society of Women Environmental Professionals (NJSWEP) is now accepting applications for its 2012 scholarships for students who are pursuing studies related to the environment with an intended commitment to pursue a career in the environmental field. Two scholarships are available: one for undergraduate students and one for graduate students. Application deadline is March 1, 2012. For more information click [here](#).

Research Experience for Undergraduates Program in Estuarine and Coastal Marine Sciences at Duke University Marine Lab - Beaufort, NC

Eight students will participate in a 10-week semi-independent research program with faculty mentors in the following general areas: sensory physiology, ecology, and behavior, environmental toxicology, molecular biology and genetics, coastal and estuarine processes. Application deadline is February 15, 2012. For more information click [here](#).

Project View is IBM's nationally recognized diversity recruitment program for regular university hiring, including interns and co-ops. The program is specifically designed for under-represented minorities, women and persons with disabilities and brings together hiring managers and highly skilled students through **invitation-only** events. These events are held throughout the U.S. and provide IBM managers an opportunity to interview pre-screened candidates, fill openings and make on the spot job offers to meet the needs of the business. Click [here](#) for more information.

Postdoctoral Position Available - Kansas State University

A postdoctoral position is available immediately for studies of ferroelastic and ferroelectric domain switching, crystal growth, crystallography, phase transitions, and molecular recognition phenomena in organic inclusion compounds and related materials. Application review begins February 15, 2012. Click [here](#) for more information.

Cybersecurity Research Experience for Undergraduates in Science and Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park.

A summer 2012 research experience for undergraduates (REU) program is available at the University of Maryland, College Park for students interested in cybersecurity. Application deadline, February 15, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

U.S. News & World Report list of [nine sources of scholarships](#) for women in STEM

