

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



THE MAKERS, a three part PBS series explores the important - and often overlooked - role of women in American society. Check out the website and watch for a special screening in the Murray Center.



MAKERS

Stories From The Women
Who Make America

In 1983, researchers asked elementary students in three countries to draw a picture of a scientist. Of the 5,000 children who participated, only 28 (all girls) pictured the scientist as female. Thirty years later, things are better--but not better enough. Which is why we are so pleased with the theme of this year's Women's History Month (which began last Friday): "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."

There is a lot of female tech innovation, imagination, and inspiration to celebrate. The new PBS documentary "Makers: Women Who Make America" features a number of groundbreaking women scientists and high tech business managers...Nobel Prize-winning molecular biologist [Elizabeth Blackburn](#) whose pioneering work on DNA may one day unlock the secret of aging.... or astrophysicist [France Córdova](#), the youngest person and first woman to serve as chief scientist at NASA...or self-proclaimed "geek" [Marissa Mayer](#), an engineer who served as VP at Google before becoming CEO of Yahoo!.....or molecular biologist [Shirley Tilghman](#), the first woman president of Princeton.



Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, Director

We don't have to go to all the way to Princeton to find innovative women in science and technology, however. There are plenty of them right here at NJIT: for example, neuroscientist [Tara Alvarez](#) whose research on how the brain learns when visually locating objects in three-dimensional space may eventually help victims of stroke and traumatic brain injury.... or mathematician [Eliza Michalopoulou](#) whose research on underwater acoustics helps us track the effects of climate change....or interdisciplinary architect [Martina Decker](#) who uses materials that are engineered at the molecular level to change their size and shape, to store and release water, to repel water, to generate or conduct electricity, or, to change their color.

These and other pioneering NJIT women researchers are part of a tradition that goes back to NJIT's first woman professor, Dr. [Lillian Moeller Gilbreth](#). The world knows Gilbreth primarily as the ingenious mom in *Cheaper by the Dozen*. But at NJIT we know a lot more. A brilliant systems thinker, able to see connections across disparate fields, Gilbreth was the first to integrate psychology and industrial engineering, refocusing the attention of engineers on the human element in work.

Murray Center Calendar

March Common Exams Schedule

March 6

NJIT's Career Fair.

NJIT's Career Development Services is hosting 175 employers with job opportunities for NJIT's students and alums. Fair will be held in several campus locations.

March 6 - 10

Thoroughly Modern Millie.

A production of Rutgers-NJIT Theater Arts. Jim Wise Theater, Kupfrian Hall, NJIT. More information [here](#).

March 7

10 X 10 Presents: GIRL

RISING - One Girl With

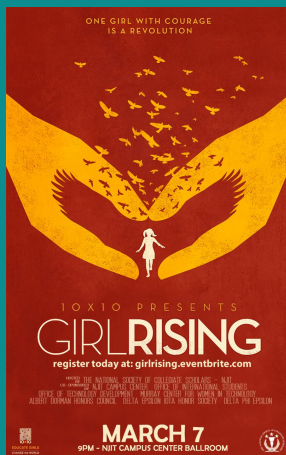
Courage Is A Revolution -

screening, 9PM in Ballroom A, Campus

Center. Admission is

free. Register at

www.girlrising.eventbrite.com



March 8 - 10

SWE Regional Conference.

Members of NJIT's undergraduate and graduate SWE sections will travel to Wilmington, Delaware for information sessions, workshops and professional networking.

On March 13, we honor all the pioneering women of NJIT at the 17th annual Lillian M. Gilbreth Colloquium. Our speaker this year, [Annabelle Bexiga](#), the Chief Information Officer of TIAA-CREF, will trace her path to her success in a field that is too often still seen as male turf. Join us!

Nancy

(Yes, there will be cookies.)

Women's History Month, 2013

A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



For more than two centuries, our Nation has grown under the simple creed that each of us is created equal. It is a notion that makes America unlike any other place on earth -- a country where no matter where you come from or what you look like, you can go as far as your talents will take you.

Women's History Month is a time to remember those who fought to make that freedom as real for our daughters as for our sons. Written out of the promise of the franchise, they were women who reached up to close the gap between what America was and what it could be. They were driven by a faith that our Union could extend true equality to every citizen willing to claim it. Year after year, visionary women met and marched and mobilized to prove what should have been self-evident. They grew a meeting at Seneca Falls into a movement that touched every community and took on our highest institutions. And after decades of slow, steady, extraordinary progress, women have written equal opportunity into the law again and again, giving generations of girls a future worthy of their potential.

That legacy of change is all around us. Women are nearly half of our Nation's workforce and more than half of our college graduates. But even now, too many women feel the weight of discrimination on their shoulders. They face a pay gap at work, or higher premiums for health insurance, or inadequate options for family leave. These issues affect all of us, and failing to address them holds our country back.

That is why my Administration has made the needs of women and girls a priority since day one -- from signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to helping ensure women are represented among tomorrow's top scientists and engineers. It is why we secured stronger protections and more preventive services for women under the Affordable Care Act. It is why we have fought for greater workplace flexibility, access to capital and training for women-owned businesses, and equal pay for equal work. And it is why we have taken action to reduce violence against women at home and abroad, and to empower women around the world with

March 13

Gilbreth

Colloquium/Science & Technology Forum.

Annabelle Bexiga, a self-described "accidental executive," talks about the arc of her career, the challenges she faced as a first-generation American and the growing role of technology in today's business world. Campus Center Ballroom, 2:30 to 4:30.

March 17- 24

Spring Break - no classes.

March 16-24

NJIT's Alternative Spring Break 2013.

An opportunity to use your skills to help rebuild New Jersey communities ravaged by Hurricane Sandy. More information [here](#).

March 29

Good Friday - no classes.

Murray Center Media Picks

The Obama Administration convened a [tech summit at the White House](#) designed to find ways to bring more minority groups into the technology sector.

Women in STEM related industries may be in the minority, but female entrepreneurs are making waves in tech start-ups. [Read all about it.](#)

Karen Swallow Prior, an academic and author, asks the question [does National Women's History Month trivialize and marginalize the very individuals and their accomplishments these events are meant to honor.](#)

full political and economic opportunity.

Meeting those challenges will not be easy. But our history shows that when we couple grit and ingenuity with our basic beliefs, there is no barrier we cannot overcome. We can stay true to our founding creed that in America, all things should be possible for all people. That spirit is what called our mothers and grandmothers to fight for a world where no wall or ceiling could keep their daughters from their dreams. And today, as we take on the defining issues of our time, America looks to the next generation of movers and marchers to lead the way.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2013 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2013, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. I also invite all Americans to visit www.WomensHistoryMonth.gov to learn more about the generations of women who have shaped our history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.



-Barack Obama

NJIT Women to Watch

Snehal Patel is someone who has demonstrated great grace under pressure. Two years ago her father was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer, and Snehal had to find a way to balance her academic life with becoming a primary caregiver for her dad. In November Mr. Patel succumbed to the disease, something that has just reinforced Snehal's determination to pursue a career as a doctor. In the fall, she will begin her studies at St. George's University Medical School in Grenada -- her ultimate goal is to practice community medicine, perhaps with Doctors Without Borders.



Snehal and her father, Dhroov Patel

Fifty years ago Betty Friedan's book, THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE, jump-started a new wave of feminism. This insightful article looks at this groundbreaking work a half century later.

The Learning Network blog from the New York Times offers a simple exercise to explore Women's History and has several links to excellent information resources.

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani school girl shot by a Taliban gunman, gives her first interview since the attack. Always an inspiration, she vows to devote her 'second life' to a worldwide campaign to give equal educational opportunity to all women and girls.

This article explores the notion that some kind of sisterhood can have a definite downside -- like the "Queen Bee" boss and her negative impact on other women in the workplace.

Contact the Murray Center

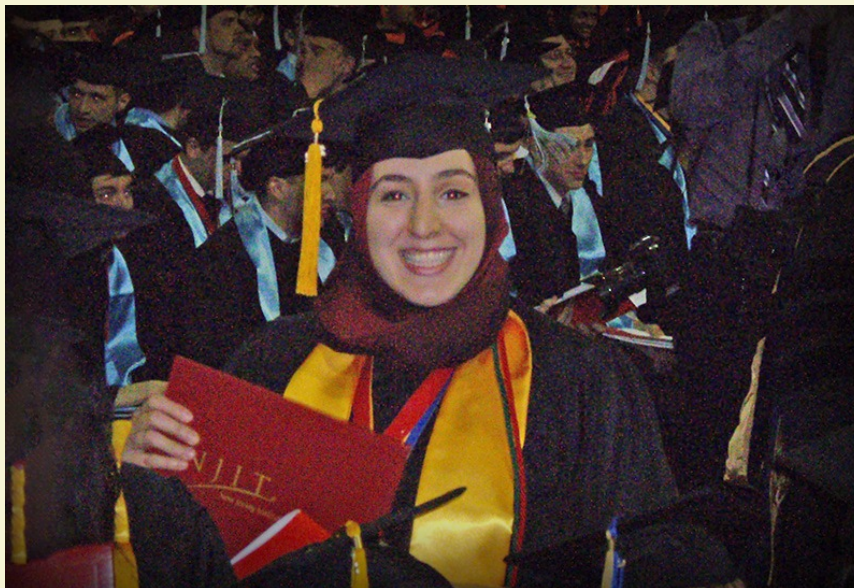
Phone: 973.642.4885

Fax: 973.642.7205

Email: womenscenter@njit.edu

Website: womenscenter.njit.edu

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



Hajere Gatollari

Hajere Gattolari is a 2012 magna cum laude graduate of NJIT's Albert Dorman Honors College, with a major in Biological Sciences and a minor in History. While at NJIT Hajere participated in many campus activities and organization, including serving as a Murray Center Ambassador, working as a member of the Center's staff and being elected to Beta Beta Beta, the Honors Biology Society. She is currently enrolled in the Columbia University School of Public Health, where she is studying for her masters degree, with a concentration in the epidemiology of chronic diseases. Hajere credits the preparation she received at NJIT as an important factor in helping her make a smooth and successful transition to graduate school. As for what's next -- in her spare time, Hajere is studying for her MCAT and looking forward to starting medical school once she completes her current studies.

Jinisha Patel, an NJIT sophomore majoring in computer science, was one of 12 college students selected from a nationwide pool to participate in the recent White House Tech Inclusion Summit. The summit featured speakers and workshops that discussed strategies for ensuring that young people, especially minorities and women and girls, are connected to career opportunities in the tech sector.



Jinisha Patel

A member of the National Center for Women & Information Technology since high school, Jinisha is the project lead in developing TechChicks, a mobile app designed to connect women in the field of technology. This summer she will travel to San Jose, California to work as a software development intern at Cisco Systems.

Staff:

Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, Director
973.596.3295
| steffen@njit.edu

Talina Knox, Assistant Director
973.642.4671
| knoxt@njit.edu

Fran Sears, Special Projects Manager
973.596.5592
| fsears@njit.edu

"Jinisha has already made a mark through her strong passion for computing, with a particular emphasis on helping and encouraging women students to learn from each other," says James Geller, chair of NJIT's Department of Computer Sciences and interim dean of the College of Computing Sciences. "She represents some of the best in our new generation of computing mavens."

Recent Events



The Annual Potluck Networking Luncheon & Scholarship Fundraiser

February 11 - The Annual Potluck Networking Luncheon & Scholarship Fundraiser for NJIT's women students drew an enthusiastic and supportive crowd. In addition to a dazzling array of great food, participants contributed some extraordinary gift baskets for the fundraising raffle. For those unable to attend, it is not too late to make a cash donation to the fund. Contact Fran Sears at fsears@adm.njit.edu.

THE TECH OF SEX

February 11 to 15 - The Tech of Sex, a week-long program of informational events sponsored by the Campus Center, Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Delta Phi Epsilon, Murray Center for Women in Technology, Phi Sigma Kappa, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan New Jersey, Office of Residence Life, Student Health Services, SPECTRUM, and NJIT's Wellness Committee. In addition to excellent information about birth control, safe sex, LGBTQ issues, and providing information about STDs and self-exams for testicular and breast cancer, on V-Day (February 14th) over 300 members of the NJIT signed Valentines to their congressional representatives urging them to support the Violence Against Women Act. And not to be forgotten, dozens of NJIT's women (and several terrific men) participated in NJIT's very first 'flash mob.'



NJIT Flashmob - #njitvday #breakthechain #1billionrising

February 20 - Marsha Coleman-Adebayo, the Director of the National Whistleblowers Center, was the guest lecturer at the Science and Technology Forum. In her lecture, No FEAR: A Whistleblowers Triumph, Coleman-Adebayo spoke of her own experiences of being discriminated against for shining the light on misdeeds and misrepresentations at the Environmental Protection Agency. She filed suit against the agency, winning a historic lawsuit against the EPA for violating her civil rights on the basis of race and gender, and creating a hostile work environment. Subsequently, Coleman-Adebayo was instrumental in bring the landmark Notification of Federal Employees Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR) before congress. The legislation passed both houses of congress and was signed into law by President George W. Bush.



Marsha Coleman-Adebayo

February 24 - Murray Center Information Brunch was well attended by prospective women students and their parents. Murray Center Ambassadors, Murray Center staff and members of NJIT's undergraduate section of SWE were on hand to greet visitors at both the brunch and the Open House. In addition, members of NJIT's faculty were on hand to answer questions and discuss academic programs. As always, a big shout-out to everyone who got up early and came to the Center to make this event a huge success.



Open House

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

SONY Online Entertainment offers a \$10,000 scholarship to girl gamers. Applications are due by March 29, 2013. More information [here](#).

The HENAAC Scholars Program offers excellent scholarship opportunities to Hispanic students enrolled in STEM undergraduate and graduate degree programs. More information [here](#).

The American Council of Independent Laboratories offers scholarships to students enrolled in physics, chemistry, engineering, geology, biology, or environmental science degree programs. More information [here](#).

Merck Company Foundation in partnership with the Merck Institute for Science Education (MISE) focuses on improving Hispanic student access to higher education and degrees in STEM. 125 Hispanic college students nationwide majoring in a STEM field will receive \$2,000 scholarships. Application deadline: March 15, 2013. More information [here](#).

AT&T offers a wide range of internship opportunities, including the fields of business and management as well as communications technologies. Check them out [here](#).

The SanDisk Scholars Program offers scholarship to undergraduate engineering and computer science students. Application deadline in April 30, 2013. More information [here](#).

The National Science Foundation funds REUs (Research Experience for Undergraduates) in a vast array of scientific disciplines at colleges and universities throughout the United States and many are still accepting applications for 2013. [Here](#) is where to get started.

New Jersey's Higher Education and Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) is a valuable source of information about financial assistance for college students and their families.