

SUMMER 2014 E-NEWSLETTER

connecting today's women to tomorrow's opportunities



Why Do I Study Physics? (2013)

Cross an artist with a girl geek and you get Xiangium Shi, a talented animator with a science jones. Check out her short animated film *Why Do I Study Physics?*--a 2013 graduation project at the Rhode Island School of Design, done in conjunction with Brown University's Physics Department.

MURRAY CENTER CALENDAR

Monday, June 30

End of Summer Session I

Wednesday, July 2

Grades due in Registrar's Office

Friday, July 4

University Closed

Monday, July 7

Start of Summer Session II

Thursday, August 7

End of Summer Session II

Wednesday, August 13

Grades Due in Registrar's Office

Monday, September 1

Labor Day

The campus may be a little quiet now, but there's action here in the Murray Center. Welcoming the women of the class of 2018 is a big priority, and we have several other initiatives cooking as well. We are making plans our 20th anniversary celebration in 2015 and putting a blueprint in place for the next twenty years. Before we leap into the future, however, I want to take a moment to mention some transitions.



Nancy Steffen Fluhr, Director

This May, the largest class in NJIT's history crowded into the Prudential Center for graduation. Among the newly-minted college grads are three valued members of the Murray Center staff -- Madonnina Suresh, Lara Spinelli and Masroor Khan. We wish all three great things in the future and remind them not to be strangers!

Talina Knox is now working with Dr. Atom Dhawan in the Undergraduate Research and Innovation Center in Fenster Hall. Big thanks to Talina from all of us at the Murray Center for the many contributions she made over the years.

And sadly, the Murray Center marks the passing of Dr. Diana Klimek. A university lecturer in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Klimek was enormously helpful to the Murray Center in its efforts to increase the success of first year women students in math.

Hope you all are having a wonderful summer --and keep an eye out for a preview of our plans for 2014-2015 in our next newsletter.

Nancy Steffen-Fluhr

Director, Murray Center for Women in Technology

Tuesday, September 2
Fall Semester Begins

MEDIA PICKS & HELPFUL LINKS

As reported in our March newsletter, on International Women's Day, Google posted a terrific Doodle along with the recognition that women were woefully underrepresented in the Doodle canon and a pledge to do better in the future. Now the info giant is stepping up its game, taking steps to increase corporate diversity and pledging \$50 million to an [initiative](#) to recruit more girls into computer science. Go Google!

More progress to report! LEGO, a long-time producer of smart toys, just got smarter. Responding to criticism that its toys promote gender stereotypes, the venerable toy manufacturer recently announced that it will be [releasing](#) a series featuring female scientists.

The news media has been awash with stories commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day; however, do [check out](#) this excellent article about the truly heroic and fascinating women journalists who busted through the newsroom's glass ceiling and reported from the front-lines of World War II.

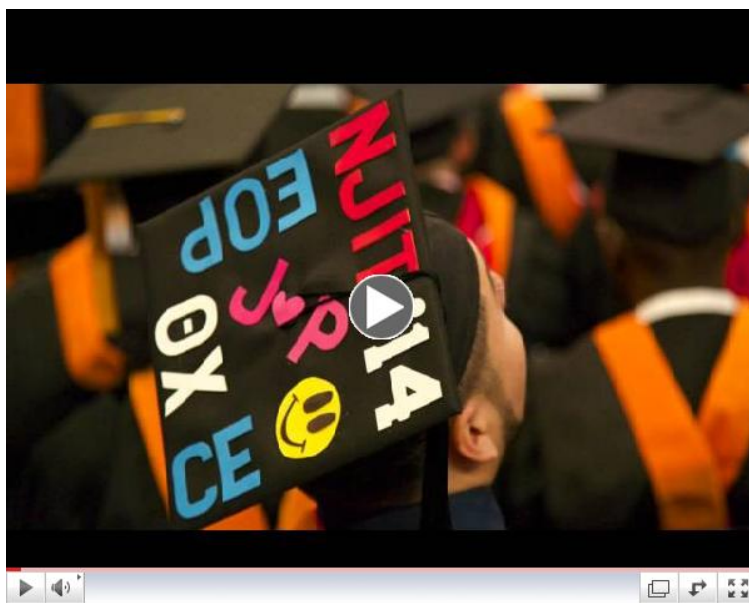
The under-representation of women writers in science journalism was the focus of the first Solutions Summit for Women in Science Writing, held recently at MIT. [Read](#) all about it in the Columbia Journalism Review.

Women like Sheryl Sandberg and Marissa Mayer are corporate rock stars with the kind of compensation packages that are the equal of any of their male counterparts. But as the *New York Times* reports in this comprehensive, the road to the top of the corporate food chain is still tough for women executives.

The growth of small businesses has helped stabilize the U.S. economy, and an increasing number of these enterprises are women-owned and operated. Senator Cory Booker and designer Tory Burch [weigh in](#) on the impact of women and entrepreneurship in the Huffington Post.

[Forbes Top 100 Women 2014](#) offers a global panorama of the female 'movers and shakers' who are shaping the political, scientific, business and information landscape. Closer to home, [Crain's](#) profiles 16 women who are blazing a trail in New York's tech scene.

NJIT COMMENCEMENT MOMENTS 2014



NJIT Commencement Moments 2014

NJIT WOMEN TO WATCH

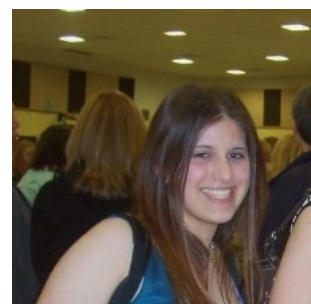
Meet the 2013-2014 Winners of Women's Scholarships and Awards:



Constance A. Murray Graduate Scholarship: Awarded to **Smruti Ragunath**, a doctoral candidate in Environmental Science in NJIT's Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences. Smruti discovered her passion for finding solutions to real-time environmental issues impacting the earth and its inhabitants while doing research for her Master's thesis with Dr. Somenath Mitra. In addition to her academic achievements, Smruti is an active member of NJIT's SWE graduate student club, serving as president for the 2013-2014

academic year.

Anne Wiley Scholarship: Awarded to **Stephanie Maruca**, a 2014 graduate with a degree in Applied Physics. An Albert Dorman Honors College student, Stephanie has participated in research programs in NJIT's Biophysics Lab, the Provost's Summer Undergraduate Research Program and the Dana Knox Research Showcase. In addition, she was a Murray Center Ambassador,



Check out these two provocative articles from *Science*. The [first](#) shows that both men and women believe that women are math-challenged--even when they are presented with testing data demonstrating that both genders are equally able in math! The second examines why female academics are more likely to collaborate with their male colleagues rather than other women.

Each year, the Alan Alda Center for Science Communication poses its Flame Challenge--a contest that asks participants to explain a scientific concept to a hypothetical 11-year-old audience. This year's challenge: What is color? [Check out](#) the written and visual winners, especially the [video](#) from Dianna Cowren - a/k/a 'Physics Girl'.

And just for fun....Alex Bellos, author of *The Grapes Of Math* and *Here's Looking At Euclid* and major math nerd, rediscovers a method for [cutting a cake](#) that was designed by Francis Galton, the British mathematician over 100 years ago.

PAST E-NEWSLETTERS

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

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served as president of NJIT's Society of Physics Students, and is a sister in Sigma Psi Kappa. She will begin her doctoral studies in physics at Stevens Institute this fall.



ACE-Network Scholarship: Awarded to **Diana Hernandez**, a rising senior with a dual major in Science, Technology and Society and Business Information Systems. In addition to her academic interests, Diana has mentored first year students in her role as a Murray Center Ambassador and as a Resident Assistant. Proud of her Latina heritage, Diana co-founded the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) and currently serves as its president.

Madame Mau Outstanding Female Engineering Award:

Awarded to **Elaine Gomez**, a member of the Albert Dorman Honors College and a 2014 NCE graduate with a degree in Chemical Engineering. As a high school senior, Elaine was awarded third place in the prestigious INTEL competition and was selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar. At NJIT she has continued to excel, participating in internships, research projects and the Provost's Summer Undergraduate Research Program. Awarded a Presidential Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, she will begin her PhD studies at Columbia University in the fall.



Murray Center Outstanding Female Leadership Award:

Awarded to **Masroor Khan**, a 2014 NCE graduate with a degree in civil engineering. As 2013-2014 president of NJIT's SWE undergraduate section, Masroor spearheaded a variety of initiatives for women engineering students, and she was recently elected SWE Region E collegiate senator - one of ten collegiate senators for SWE nationally. As an undergraduate, she



worked as a peer mentor, a research assistant under the advisement of Dr. Jay Meegoda, and served as student office manager at the Murray Center for Women in Technology.

SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The University of Michigan, in collaboration with the University of California, is offering post-doctoral opportunities in an effort to attract new, diverse faculty. The application deadline is November 1, 2014. Click [here](#) for more information.

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>