

NEWSLETTER

Fall | 2001



**Albert Dorman
Honors College**

Honors Lab Goes High-Tech

by Usama Elmalak, Lisa M. Kardos, and Daniel Perez

Many honors students had concerns about the status of the Kennedy Computer lab on the second floor of Tiernan Hall. The lab is dedicated to honors scholars, a privilege that allows the students to do their schoolwork and to study in a setting with minimal distractions. This setting in turn encourages cooperative group efforts for projects and learning. Though the current equipment is quite appreciated, many scholars expressed that their needs for classes and complex projects/presentations are ever increasing. As such, last Spring, the Honors College, along with various other academic departments, submitted proposals to the New Jersey Commission of Higher Education, and it was approved. This proposal essentially suggested the Honors College receive a technology upgrade for the computer center

The Equipment Leasing Fund therefore is being used to install a new scanner, a laser printer, a color printer, a digital camera, and top of the line Dell Pentium IV computers. All the new equipment, with the exception of the color printer and the digital camera will be available for use in the computer lab. The color printer will be available for use in the honors office. Additionally, the digital camera will be lent out to honors students for legitimate use.

Furthermore, the Honors College is acquiring the latest versions of various software packages including, but not limited to, Pro Engineer, Matlab, MS Office, Turbo C++, and Microsoft Visual Studio. Moreover, the existing computers in the lab will be upgraded to current standards.

In order to safeguard the new equipment, the honors college has implemented new security systems in the Honors Lab, especially due to the new \$24,000 upgrade. A new security camera tapes activities in the lab and broadcasts to a monitor in the honors office.

Therefore, the Albert Dorman Honors College continues to offer resources to its scholars, enabling availability of state-of-the-art technology. Students may anticipate such changes in the near future.



Computer Committee

by Vivek Gangiredla

The Honors Computer committee is mainly concerned with the maintenance of the computer equipment in the Honors lounge and the Honors resource center. The committee looks after the existing equipment, making sure that all the systems are working efficiently, and help in troubleshooting any hardware problems the users may have. The installation of new printers in the resource center was one of their latest accomplishments, and the committee is always looking to provide the students with the best equipment possible. The deployment of any new systems or other hardware is taken care of by the committee, as is the installation of new software. Committee Chair Mark Mellini stated that they will be "doubling the computer power at the lab," and therefore their latest project involves the upgrade most of the systems in the Honors center.



Recruitment Committee by Jonathon Salazar

The Recruitment Committee, under guidance of the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT, serves several purposes for both the NJIT community and prospective students. In fact, this committee serves another crucial role, for both Albert Dorman Honors College (ADHC) and for the school as a whole. This committee engages in various activities that attract talented and intellectual students to NJIT. This semester the committee is being led by one of NJIT's finest, John Pershouse.

So far, John and the committee have planned numerous activities that will take place in the coming months. Currently, they are engaged in mailing prospective students information regarding the ADHC. They are not only contacting prospective students through mail, but also calling them weekdays after 4PM and answering any possible questions they may have regarding the ADHC. Furthermore, the Recruitment Committee plans to talk to individuals personally by making appointments, holding campus tours, and attending open houses at NJIT. The purpose of these encounters is to familiarize prospective students with the school, the people, and the way of life here at ADHC and NJIT.

Honors College in Perspective

by Lisa M. Kardos and Uma R. Phatak

The Albert Dorman Honors College, like many other colleges in NJIT, is undergoing numerous changes. These changes and transitions pertain to a variety of areas including enrollment, requirements, and events.

This semester, 110 freshmen entered the Honors College. There were additionally 40 non-freshmen who entered, including both NJIT and transfer students. In fact, according to Dr. David Reibstein, Associate Dean of the Honors College, "Statistically this is the best group that is entering the college. The average SAT in the group is 1316. Many were leaders in high school, so we look forward to them being campus leaders." In addition to their test scores and leadership abilities, they are all quite focused on school, for two-thirds of the freshmen were in the top ten percent of their high school class. Most interesting to Dr. Reibstein is the percentage of females in the freshman class. Thirty percent of the class is female, a percentage higher than the overall enrollment of NJIT.

Once admitted the Honors College, one cannot simply just stop working. In fact, one must work even harder to maintain status and several requirements must be followed. To help outline these requirements, Dr. Reibstein wrote a handbook this year, to aid having rules in one place for students to find them. Also, the Honors College website, honors.njit.edu, is constantly being updated to make it informative for both prospective students and current students. "Previously," Dr. Reibstein explains, "the website was looked at by prospective students mostly. Now, though, it will be used for current students much more, especially to show them available opportunities for employment, study abroad, and various other events." This form of communication, in addition to email, will help keep the students in touch with the administrators. In fact, students are required to check their NJIT email address or at least have their NJIT mail forwarded to the account they use. Dr. Reibstein states that, "These students can have so many research, colloquia, and study abroad opportunities, especially if they checked their email. It's almost impossible to keep in touch with 500 students simultaneously, but the technology of email can allow us that opportunity."

On a final note, the staff always encourages students to stay in contact with them. Among those on staff are Dr. Joel Bloom, Dean of ADHC, Dr. David Reibstein, Associate Dean, Dr. Dennis Donahue, Director of Academics, Ms. Lois Chipepo, Assistant to the Dean, and Ms. Harlette Massey, the Honors Secretary. The Albert Dorman Honors College also welcomes new Assistant Dean of Enrollment, Maria Kihiczak.



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The Balancing Act

by Jeremy Pon

The New Jersey Institute of Technology offers a variety of different sports for students to participate in, both on an NCAA level and an intramural level. Since 1997, NJIT has had the school team participate in many NCAA Division II sports such as men's and women's soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, swimming, tennis, cross country, and others. For intramurals, NJIT offers students the opportunity to play flag football, Frisbee and a variety of other sports.

Many students play team sports here at NJIT. Since NJIT joined the NCAA Division II status in 1997, the school has been able to reward sports scholarships to students to help them pay for college. Architecture major Katie Leibel, an athlete on the women's soccer team, tackles the question of study and sports. In terms of her study habits, she states, "I do some of my homework in math while I take notes, and the rest of it the same day I get it." Being an architecture major is not easy with the workload demanded, but Katie shows that it is very possible to play sports while keeping up with her studies

Bob Scott, who plays for the men's volleyball team, also has views concerning schoolwork and sports. Bob Scott is fairly confident about this year's team. When asked about how he manages his work, he said, "My school work usually doesn't get balanced too well." On campus, however, he pointed out that many resources offer assistance to keep up with college life. Such resources include friends, the University Learning Center, and other tutoring programs on campus. Moreover, teams themselves offer help and support to athletes so that grades and sports enjoyment can be in balance.

Swimmer Lara Garnant, Albert Dorman Honors Scholar, is an architecture major. For her, practice has just begun about a month ago. However, she stated that, "my school work is my priority." Many times she has missed practice or arrived late because of the workload in her classes. These were just a few of the many athletes we have here at NJIT. All together, the student body is strong with athletes this year. These students portray great prowess as well as high intelligence. Many are confident that the Highlanders will excel in this year's season as well as in their academic pursuits.

Website Committee

by Vivek Gangiredla

The Website Committee has recently undertaken a tough project involving a comprehensive re-design of the Honors College website. Though a new website was implemented last year, it was plagued with technical difficulties, and it had to be taken down. The website redesign has two main functions. According to John Brown, these functions include a focus "to keep current students informed and to attract future students" Hence, the committee plans to focus on the organization of the website, so that navigating through it to find information will become easier. It also intends to make the site more aesthetically pleasing, in order to catch the attention of prospective students. In the future, John also foresees the introduction of a more interactive site with online forms and an expedient way of contacting people.





Social Committee

by Sreelatha Akkapeddi

The Honors College Social Committee provides NJIT students with an escape from the typical student routine, allowing the students in the Honors College to interact and socialize. Headed by the ever-enthusiastic Rasha Batarseh, the members of this committee are eager to pour excitement into the family here at the Albert Dorman Honors College.

This semester promises to be quite exciting. The Social Committee has planned a trip to NJPAC to watch *Guys and Dolls* on November 7th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$19.00, and all students are invited to accompany the honors students. On November 28th at 4:00 p.m., the same committee is sponsoring "Win A Date and Help Kids with Aids." Those from this auction are invited to bring their dates to a party that evening. A "Stuffed Shells Sale" is scheduled for this semester; the date and time will be posted when they are confirmed.

In the past, the committee was quite active, even from its inception. During the Wednesday of Spring Week 2001, several faculty members and students of NJIT put aside their books and picked up a volleyball together in the Social Committee's Faculty and Student Volleyball Game. Participants in this game included esteemed professors such as Dr. Jim Grow and Dr. Joseph Bozzelli from the Departments of Chemical Engineering and Chemistry and Environmental Science. Dr. Gordon Thomas of the Physics Department also took part in this event, as well as honors students such as George Youssef, Rana Loutfy and Shamooun Soudhi.

Also in the past Spring, the committee organized a trip to Broadway to see *Aida*; transportation to and from the show was provided. On May 11th, to conclude the semester, this group arranged a "Cruise Around New York." Dinner and complete enjoyment was provided aboard a boat that sailed around New York for a few hours that evening.

Community Service Committee

by Lisa M. Kardos

One of the most charitable organizations at NJIT is indeed the Community Service Committee of the Albert Dorman Honors College. Guided by Chair Rana Loutfy, this committee requires time and unyielding dedication from its members, yet the benefits are more than rewarding. The seriousness that these committee members present, which is directed towards the caring for others, is quite evident throughout their activities.

This semester the committee is taking a slightly different turn in its approach. In the past the committee has served such organizations as NJIT and Habitat for Humanity, but currently plans are going in the direction of serving the Newark community as a whole. After well thought-out discussions regarding this year's plans, the committee decided that the two major events for the Fall semester include volunteering at a soup kitchen in Newark as well as student tutoring." According to Rana Loutfy, "The tutoring program will be in conjunction with elementary schools in Newark. Students will come to the NJIT campus and be paired with an NJIT student who can help them with any difficulties they may have regarding schoolwork." Currently the tutoring program is still in its planning stages, but the committee can look forward to the soup kitchen efforts coming up in November.



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The Fall 2001 Colloquium Series

by Sriram P. Sivaprasadu

The Colloquium Series arranged by the Albert Dorman Honors College every semester is a remarkable opportunity for all NJIT students, as well as honors students to broaden their perspectives and be acquainted with the latest trends in our world. It offers an opportunity to learn about more than the one narrow discipline that most students in other universities are exposed to in their collegiate careers. Every one of the speakers is an authority in their respective field. These colloquia are truly a gift to the University by the Honors College, and make one more than a just student, they make one a knowledgeable citizen of this global village.

This semester's colloquia include discussions on such broad-ranging topics as: Entrepreneurism, Intellectual Property and Law for Engineers, Women Senior Executives, Stem Cell Research, New Directions in Technology, and a tour of the Ballantine House in the Newark Museum. In addition, NJIT and Honors College-Specific Events are the Annual ADHC Advisory Board Round Table, the College of Computing Sciences' presentation on its latest Programs, and the Annual Honors Feedback Session.

Many honors students have already taken advantage of the Colloquium offerings this semester, and have been exposed to many enlightening and provocative issues. Most, if not all, of the Colloquium Venues have been filled to seating capacity, and at times have been standing room only. Many more such events are lined up in the coming weeks.

On Monday, November 12th, Professor Julian Scher and others from the Newly formed College of Computing Services will speak on the *New Programs in the College of Computing Sciences*. This is a must attend event to be aware of the range of options available to you as an NJIT Student.

Two Important Honors College Events are the *Annual ADHC Advisory Board Round Table*, on Friday, November 2, from 8:30-10 AM, in GITC and the *Annual Honors Feedback Session* on Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 2:30 - 4:00 PM, in Hazell Ballroom A. This is an opportunity to interact with the Honors College Administration, to find out the latest policies, and give feedback.

On Monday, November 5th, there will be an exciting talk on *New Directions in Technology* by Mr. Kevin Carswell,

VP Worldwide Development Transformation, IBM, organized by Jasraj Kohli.

The highlight of the Colloquium Schedule each Semester is December 5th's Tour of the Ballantine House in the Newark Museum. For this you must sign up in the ADHC office by November 15th.

The Colloquium Series is designed to put on exhibit the most diversified and broad-ranging subjects in order to expand the viewpoints of all those participating in the Events. The audiences as well as the speakers gain through their interaction during and after the events. The Colloquium Series is the showcase of NJIT's Event Calendar.

Honors Lounge Committee

by Vivek Gangiredla

The Honors Lounge Committee, as is evident from its name, is responsible for the maintenance of the Honors lounge, which is the recreational facility of the Kennedy Honors center. The committee is also concerned with ensuring that the students comply with the rules relating to the use of the lounge, attaching the utmost importance to the preservation of the lounge equipment. The committee, which is chaired by Luke Helsel, is also always trying to improve the Honors Lounge, and to this extent, work extensively with the administration of the Honors College and is continually suggesting enhancements.

For example, it was influential in the installation of the new satellite television system last semester, and is currently working with the Computer committee to replace the existing computers in the lounge with better models. The committee also managed the quick repair of the lounge heating system last semester. Overall, the committee does its best to ensure the smooth functioning of the Honors Lounge.



2001 Honors Freshman Retreat

by Christopher J. Hodac

The Honors Freshman Retreat was a success this year, with nearly all of the new members of the Honors College in attendance. Held at a campground near Stickles Pond in Newton, New Jersey, the retreat allowed the newly inducted students a chance to get to know each other, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The weekend started on Friday, August 24, 2001 at NJIT, where registration and assigning of teams took place. Events for that night included a party in the Cypress Hall game room and a bus trip to a nearby movie theater.

Saturday morning marked the departure for the campground, and upon arrival, the retreat began immediately. Events at the campground included multiple teamwork exercises, as well as relay races against other teams. Leading the teams of freshman were upper-class students of the Honors College, who were there to answer any questions the new students had about college life. These upper-class students were also there to help the new students make the transition more comfortably into their new environment. After the busy and tiring day of activities, the freshmen used free time in many ways. Some decided to play volleyball or basketball at the campground's courts, while others decided to sleep or listen to music. However, the most favored of all of the activities was a large slide aptly named "the mud slide." This slide consisted of a large sheet of heavy plastic tacked down to a large hill, while one person kept the slide wet with a hose.

Saturday evening, the freshmen had their first official meeting in which they were addressed by the Director of Academics, Dr. Donahue, and the newest member of the Honors College administration, Dr. Reibstein, the Associate Dean. This meeting consisted of welcoming the students to the Honors College and to NJIT, as well as to inform the students of their obligations as Honors Students. After this meeting, the students had another period of free time, which they used to walk around the camp, or to watch a movie.

Sunday marked the end of weekend retreat. After the morning meal, those students running for the freshman class representative position of the Albert Dorman Honors College Council were nominated. Concluding the day's events, students prepared for the trip home. The retreat ultimately enabled the incoming students to meet each other, and to start building friendships before school started, and through this retreat, the members of the freshman class learned much about each other, as well as themselves.

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