Doctoral student Amin Jamali collaborates with Ala Saadeghvaziri, professor of civil engineering, to study an improved design for concrete bridges that will lessen stresses as the concrete shrinks and eliminate cracking on the decks of the bridges.
Based on the growing need for design professionals in fields like web design, product packaging, video game design, and interior design, NJIT retooled its design programs in 2008-2009, creating the College of Architecture and Design encompassing the New Jersey School of Architecture and a new School of Art + Design.

The new school offers degree programs in industrial design, interior design, and digital design, as well as a fine arts program in planning, drawing upon the School of Architecture’s decades of experience as a national leader in computer-assisted design in architecture.

The university also launched undergraduate degree programs in pre-law, and business and computing specialties, as well as master’s degrees in business, computing, biomedicine, energy and power systems and critical infrastructure. Each new program was based on projected workforce needs, and each has a unique 21st century focus that draws on the university’s rich technological expertise.

One concept that hasn’t changed over the years at NJIT is the philosophy that a great education should lead to a great career. In 2008-2009, university graduates were still ahead of the curve:

- While the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) estimated that fewer than 20 percent of those awarded bachelor’s degrees in 2009 had a job at the time of graduation, 36 percent of NJIT’s grads were employed full time. Another 42 percent are attending graduate school.
- In their 2009 survey of graduates’ salaries at more than 600 top U.S. colleges, PayScale.com ranked NJIT 42nd in starting salaries for recent graduates and 38th in mid-career median salaries.
- The PayScale survey ranked NJIT 15th nationally among engineering and technology universities.
The top 25 best-paid undergraduate majors nationally include all the engineering disciplines, architecture, math, physics, chemistry, computing specialties, and business majors including finance and marketing.

NJIT’s strong emphasis on experiential learning is a major factor in employment statistics for graduates. According to NACE, 74 percent of those who found jobs in 2009 had participated in a co-op or internship at some point in their college career. NJIT offers an array of opportunities for hands-on research, co-op jobs, internships and capstone courses that provide students with real-world experience.

NJIT also encourages its students to be entrepreneurs, as demonstrated by several new educational programs in 2008-2009:

- **Entrepreneurial Strategy** is a new graduate course developed by the School of Management and offered jointly with the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Teams of three or four students representing both management and biomedical engineering were assigned to serve as consultants to a client company in the Enterprise Development Center and provided a final report describing their findings and recommendations for future actions to resolve the firm’s needs.

- NJIT was one of the first universities in the nation to offer a course in developing iPhone applications. Offered through the university’s Continuing Professional Education program, the non-credit course is open to adult learners as well as undergraduates.

- **Michael Ehrlich**, assistant professor of finance, and **Judith Sheft**, assistant vice president for technology development, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration to train New Jersey entrepreneurs on how to create financial models of their business plan. In collaboration with Globecon Group, a leading provider of professional development for corporate and investment banking institutions, they created the Entrepreneurial Training Academy Financial Modeling Program. Participants are prepared to apply for funding from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, Angel Investors, and Venture Capital Funds.
Manageme nt student Quaison Carter led the NJIT team that took third place — behind Cornell and Duke — in the East Coast Venture Challenge sponsored by Draper Fisher Jurvetson and DFJ Gotham at Columbia University. The team won for its business plan for fetchFire, a web-based business created by Carter two years ago.

Babatunde Busari won the 2009 Randal Pinkett Campus CEO Challenge for his award-winning online business. Contest Designs is a global online design marketplace where individuals, companies, organizations or start-ups can launch a design project — logo, stationery, website design — as a contest.

Michael Amegashie ’09, a business major and an Educational Opportunity Program graduate, won the 2008 Randal Pinkett Campus CEO Challenge for University Storage, a business that provides safe, inexpensive and convenient storage space to help college students store their belongings during summer break. The Newark-based business is marketing via Facebook.

Tyler Auten, (left, with classmate John Bellone) an information technology major, designed two iPhone applications (apps) that Apple approved and released for sale on its online app store. He was in the first class of students of an NJIT course in developing iPhone applications in 2009.