Inaugural festivities encompassed three days of events, beginning on September 12 with the University Convocation and a day of celebration for students. September 13 was a day focused on faculty and included a symposium by three new members of the faculty. The Inauguration took place on September 14, and festivities came to a close with a formal gala for family and special friends of Dr. Bloom.
9.13.12:

Focus on the Faculty

The second day of the Inaugural festivities was a celebration of faculty. The centerpiece was a symposium, “Moving the Edge in Sustainability,” organized and hosted by Fadi Deek, dean of the College of Science and Liberal Arts, featuring three of the new interdisciplinary faculty and highlighting three very different aspects of sustainability.

Martina Decker (below), assistant professor of architecture, spoke on “Material Dynamics/Emergent Materials in Architecture.” A pioneer in smart materials in architecture, she is a partner in Decker Yeadon, the first architecture research office to synthesize “buckypaper,” a thin sheet of carbon nanotubes. She is researching a range of novel, high performance materials for future building projects.

Eric Fortune (above), associate professor of biological sciences, spoke on “From Brain Research to Environmental Monitoring.” He is a neurophysiologist with expertise in electrophysiology, ethology and evolution.

“Emergent materials that have been engineered on a molecular level can be infused with very specific properties. These high performance materials have great potential for giving us the tools to respond to important issues, especially in architecture and sustainable design.”

Michel Boufadel, professor of civil and environmental engineering (below), spoke of “Mitigating the Adverse Effects of Unsustainable Practices.” An expert in hydraulics and numerical modeling of large-scale systems, he is well-known for his work in the investigation of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and BP’s Deepwater Horizon blow-out in the Gulf of Mexico.

Everyone became acquainted at a faculty reception after the symposium.

After the symposium, all 24 new faculty presented poster sessions summarizing their research. Rose and John Federici, who is a distinguished professor of physics, (below center and right) viewed the work of Catalin Turc, (below left) associate professor of mathematics, in the emerging field of mechatronics.

Trustee Elizabeth ("Liz") García, ’73 (right) gathers refreshments for the special screening for faculty and guests of Barrymore starring Christopher Plummer. University friend and movie producer Steve Kalafer hosted the screening.

Students (left) show off their “Moving the Edge” souvenir tee shirts. President Bloom (below) chats with convocation keynote speaker, Sean Duffy ’95, (below right) an Albert Dorman Honors College graduate, and now a project engineer for FMC Corporation, who offered incoming students advice for succeeding in their academic careers.

Stephen Cordes ’72, COO of Clarion Partners and National Co-chair of the NJIT NEXT campaign, served as master of ceremonies for the Inauguration program.
The procession (above) was led by 108 international flags representing the countries of NJIT students.

Dr. Joel S. Bloom receives the Presidential Mace from Kathleen Wielkopolski, chair of the Board of Trustees, (left) marking his formal investiture as the 8th president of NJIT.

Long-time benefactors and friends of the university, Joan and Albert Dorman, ’45 (right), travelled from California, and Vincent Naimoli, ’62 (above), from Florida, to take part in the inaugural festivities.
Thomas H. Kean, former governor of New Jersey, (far left) and Cory A. Booker, mayor of Newark, were among the guest speakers at the installation ceremony. Booker praised Bloom for “his imagination for what NJIT, Newark and the U.S. could be,” while Kean declared “Bloom and NJIT, Perfect Together!”

Rochelle Hendricks, (above), New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education called Bloom “an innovator and a visionary,” and drew a major ovation with her closing, “Move over MIT, here comes NJIT!”

In his inaugural address, President Bloom (left) pledged commitment to the growth and development of the faculty; improvement of the quality of life on campus; and expansion of the university’s partnerships with business and industry.

Inaugural festivities ended with a formal gala for family and friends of President Bloom. At left, the Blooms share a light moment with benefactor Albert Dorman and Mary Jane Pohero, executive assistant to the president.

President Bloom (above, left) spends a pre-inaugural moment with his sister, Renee L. Karp, a religious educator, who gave the invocation.

First Lady Dr. Diane Bloom (above), receives flowers from Stephen DePalma, ’72, chair-elect of the board, while Dr. Bloom and son Ean look on.

Above clockwise: Marybeth Boger, representing staff, Joseph Stanley ’78, ’85, representing alumni, John Schuring, representing faculty, and Johnathan Weiss ’14, representing the student body, all gave enthusiastic endorsements of the Bloom presidency.

Above: President Joel Bloom and First Lady Dr. Diane Bloom lead a folk dance.