



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Doing New Things... Time and Again



*The principal goal of education should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done; men and women who are creative, inventive and discoverers.*

– Jean Piaget

For more than a hundred years, the school now bearing the name New Jersey Institute of Technology has prepared students for opportunities and challenges unique to their times. Our graduates have achieved success in every field that has been a technological hallmark of the 20th century, and they are on comparable paths in the 21st. They have also risen to the tests of global conflict and far-reaching social change.

The achievements of past generations are reflected in the article about the 33rd Engineers, the NCE Class of 1933, who have maintained a close bond over seven decades. The generosity of alumni who include the 33rd Engineers has also helped to make higher education a reality for succeeding classes — for students like Karisa Solt, an intercollegiate athlete who in January, 2004 received a degree with honors in biomedical engineering as the youngest graduate in NJIT's history.

The Class of 2004 is connected to earlier generations in sharing the excitement of discoveries that promise significant technological, economic and social progress. This issue describes student participation in microgravity experiments on the frontier of materials science, and the School of Architecture involving students in community redevelopment and a product design initiative to bolster the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers. The overview of our Enterprise Development Center relates how NJIT assists technological entrepreneurs like alumnus Bob Tarantino launch new businesses. And just as previous generations faced threats to peace, the story on the High Altitude Stratospheric Airship program covers efforts at NJIT to strengthen national security.

Past and current accomplishments must be viewed as a prologue to even greater success. Ensuring such success is the overarching goal of the strategic plan that sets NJIT's course through 2010 in education, research, economic development, and service to Newark, truly a city in renaissance, and to New Jersey and the nation. Our plan builds on NJIT's strengths to achieve national prominence in selected academic areas, and to foster a welcoming, student-centered campus environment imbued with the additional core values of excellence, integrity, civility and diversity.

We are sending a summary of the strategic plan to all alumni. If you haven't received your copy, you will shortly. Also, visit [www.njit.edu/publicinfo/planning.php](http://www.njit.edu/publicinfo/planning.php) for more detail. As we achieve our objectives and priorities, new ones will come into play, and we will continue to evolve. As in the past, as we are confident the 33rd Engineers will attest, NJIT will always inspire graduates to be, in the words of noted psychologist and educator Jean Piaget, "creative, inventive and discoverers." ■

*Robert A. Attenbuhl*