NJIT Athletics Mission Statement

NJIT is a public research university committed to the pursuit of excellence. As a public university, it is the mission of the Division of Physical Education and Athletics to provide quality programs and facilities which, as integral parts of the total educational program, both enhance the physical and moral welfare of its participants commensurate with their education goals and support the university’s ideals.

Quality in fitness, health, intramurals and intercollegiate athletics have a special impact of campus life, the development of campus spirit, the attraction and retention of students, and the promotion of the university’s reputation.

NJIT is committed to be in full compliance with Title IX regulations, as well as maintaining and supporting gender equity in athletics. Specifically, the intercollegiate athletics program is to be a source of pride for the University, its students, alumni, the Newark community, and the State of New Jersey.

NJIT Highlanders Athletics Advisory Board

Rick Baptista ’85, ’97
David Beesley ’76
James Boyle ’58
Joseph Branco ’74
Tony Donofrio ’76
Bernard Lubetkin ’49, ’52
King Moy, P.E. ’74, 77
Mal Simon
Henry “Hank” P. Dobbelaar ’66

Ex-Officio Members of the Board

Dr. Charles J. Fey
*Vice President for Academic and Student Services*

Dr. Charles R. Dees, Jr.
*Vice President, University Advancement*

Lenny Kaplan
*Director of Athletics*

Darlene Lamourt
*Campaign Director, University Advancement*

Alexis Schug
*Associate Athletic Director/Senior Women’s Administrator*

Michael Siegel
*NCAA Faculty Representative*
Dear Friends of Highlanders Athletics

Welcome to the 2011-12 Annual Report for Athletics. Enclosed in this report you will take note of our continued growth and success both on the field of play and in the classroom. Some of these highlights include:

- Women’s Tennis Great West Conference Championship - 2nd Consecutive Year in a Row
- Men’s Fencing MACFA Championship - Sabre Division
- Men’s Volleyball - Brady Smith, NCAA Statistical Champion – Digs/ Set
- Men’s Basketball - Isaiah Wilkerson, All American Honorable Mention
- NJIT Student Athletes - 8th straight semester of the 3.0 GPA or Higher
- NJIT Student Athletes - 51 student-athletes named to their All Conference Teams

with your continued support, we were able to accomplish many goals. Some of those accomplishments include; increasing our ability to award scholarships to qualified student-athletes, the construction of a new study lounge for the student athletes and renovation of the press box at J. Malcolm Simon Stadium.

Our involvement in the local community remains strong. Our staff and student athletes completed over 1000 hours of community service and assisted in a multitude of causes.

On behalf of our student-athletes, coaches and staff, I want to say THANK YOU for your continued support. Your support and your interest in our program make it possible for us to fulfill our mission as a part of the NJIT and Newark communities.

I hope you enjoy reading about the great strides we have taken.

We are looking forward to an even better year next year.

Thank you and GO HIGHLANDERS!!

Lenny Kaplan
Director of Athletics

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Isaiah Wilkerson

Isaiah Wilkerson was named honorable mention All-America by the Associated Press, thus becoming the first NJIT student-athlete named to an AP All-America team in the Division I era (since 2006-07). He was the only player among the eight Division I schools in New Jersey named to the AP team, which is the most widely-recognized of the various All-America teams.

Voted Player of the Year in the Great West Conference and was a first team all-conference pick for a second straight year.

NJIT Women’s Tennis Repeats as Great West Conference Champions

The NJIT women’s tennis team captured its second straight Great West Conference title topping second-seeded Seattle, 4-1, at the 2012 Great West Conference Women’s Tennis Championships at the HEB Center hosted by Texas-Pan American.

NJIT, who finished with a school-record 21 wins, becomes the first team to win back-to-back conference championships in the program’s sixth season competing at the Division I level under head coach Mike Sowter.

The team’s record was the best ever for a program that has had winning records in Division I competition and qualified for the NCAA tournament when NJIT competed at the Division II level in 2005.

Sophomore Ksenia Kuzmenko and junior Monika Graff were named to the GWC first team while rookie Carolina Zanotta was recognized on the GWC second team and named GWC Newcomer of the Year.
STUDENT-ATHLETE PROFILE

- Avg. CUM GPA of Student-Athletes – 3.075
- 56% of the student-athletes were Dean’s list for the Spring 2012 Semester
- Fall 2011 Student-Athlete enrollment by College
  - Architecture – 11%
  - Computer Science – 4%
  - Engineering – 39%
  - Management – 28%
  - Science and Liberal Arts – 18%
- Percentage of Student-Athletes in the Honors College – 31%
- Student-Athlete represent 20 states and 21 countries
- Graduation Rate – 71%
- Avg. SAT Score of the Fall 2012 Freshman Student-Athletes – 1118

Left to right: Iulia Doci, Cosmin Chiujdea, Gustav Warfving, Sabrina Baby, Erica Schultz
The 2012 team won 25 games, a new high for NJIT in Division I (DI competition began in 2007).

Four Highlanders were honored as part of the New Jersey College Baseball Association All-State Division I Team, chosen from among eight schools in NJ:

- Bryan Bleakley - 2nd team
- Ed Charlton – Rookie of the Year
- Bill VanMeerbeke – All-Rookie Team
- Mike Rampone – All-Rookie Team
YEAR IN REVIEW

• Isaiah Wilkerson was named honorable mention All-America by Associated Press, thus becoming the first NJIT student-athlete named to an AP All-America team in the Division I era (since 2006-07). He was the only player among the eight Division I schools in New Jersey named to the AP team, which is the most widely-recognized of the various All-America teams.

• Wilkerson was voted Player of the Year in the Great West Conference and was a first-team All-conference pick for a second straight year.

• Wilkerson became the top career scorer and rebounder in NJIT’s Division I era with over 1,500 points and 600 rebounds.

• Junior Chris Flores, went over 1,000 points this season, and was named second-team All-Great West at the end of the season.

• The team’s 15 wins this season tied the program Division I high, set in 2010-11.

• Freshman Denisa Domiterova was voted Great West Conference Newcomer of the Year for NJIT.

• Freshman Nicole Maticka’s 2.77 blocked shots ranked her 15th Nationally in Division I, second among freshman.
The NJIT men’s fencing sabre squad captured the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association title – the first-ever Men’s Sabre Squad Conference Championship (MACFA Conference Championships).

Fourteen NJIT fencers (seven men/seven women) represented NJIT at the 2012 Mid-Atlantic/South Regional Fencing Championships.

Coach Mike Lawson (BS, magna cum laude, Architecture, NJIT, 2010; MS, Management, NJIT 2011; candidate for Master of City and Regional Planning, Rutgers’ Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy) was recognized as the youngest swim head coach in Division I and was featured on the Swimming World Magazine on-line program, Morning Swim.
In its first season under Cesar Markovic, NJIT has tied its program record for wins in a season at the Division I level (began D1 competition in 2004 and went 5-14-1 in 2009). Signed seven to National Letter of Intent for the 2012 season.

Franco Gamero, a junior who led NJIT in scoring in 2011, played in three international games as a member of the full Men’s National Team of Puerto Rico.

Greg Kaye, a freshman, played on Puerto Rico’s Under-20 National Team in the 33rd Annual Dallas Cup (Apr. 1-8).

First-year head coach Sergio Gonzalez recruited seven freshmen from varied backgrounds, including three from Europe, a new source of recruits for NJIT women’s soccer, which has relied mostly on players from the United States and Canada in the past.
YEAR IN REVIEW

- Repeated as Great West Conference Champions in 2012
- Completed the 2011-12 season with a 21-3 record, including 14 straight wins (Feb. 12 to Apr. 1). Included victories over Pitt, Rhode Island, Villanova, LaSalle, Seton Hall and Army
- Sophomore Ksenia Kuzmenko and junior Monika Graff were named to the GWC first team while rookie Carolina Zanotta was recognized on the GWC second team and named GWC Newcomer of the Year.
- Graff was named Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Northeast Regional winner of the Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportmanship. There are 12 regional winners nationwide.
- Finished with a 13-9 record in match play, with six straight wins (Feb. 18- Mar. 4). Wins included victories over Villanova and LaSalle.
NJIT sophomore Josh Ugwuneri captured the Men’s Javelin Title at the 2012 Great West Conference Outdoor Championships.

NJIT freshman John Porteous captured the Men’s 400 Meter Hurdles title at the 2012 Great West Conference Outdoor Championships.

Brian Mendez, Christian Baumbach and Daniel Rondon received All-CTC First-Team recognition.

Mendez received IC4A/All-East honors for the second straight year.

The men and women indoor and outdoor track & field teams broke 32 indoor school records and 18 outdoor school records. The men tied their best team finish at the indoor CTC while the women obtained a new best team finish in the Spring CTC.
MEN’S VOLLEYBALL

- NJIT faced seven nationally ranked teams; highlighted by a 3-1 win over #15 Harvard on April 13
- Junior Brady Smith was the NCAA Division I Men’s Volleyball Statistical Champion in Digs Per Set.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

- Finished with an 11-18 overall record; improving from 2011 when the team went 4-22. Head Coach JR Martins brought in 10 freshman for the 2012 season.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

GREAT WEST ACADEMIC HONORS

BASEBALL
Bryan Bleakley
James D’Aloia
Tripp Davis
John Bouck

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Sammy Schickel
Teddy Schickel
Ryan Woods

MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
Kyle O’Brien
Daniel Rondon
Moheb Thomas
Adam Morgan
Jonathan Daudelin
(Mechanical Engineering, Junior)
– 4.0 GPA
Joseph Ju

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
Anna Kornmuller
Meryl Hershfield
Erin Morris

WOMEN’S SOCCER
Nina Mayevska
Monika Graff
Ksenia Kuzmenko
Jana Luste
Martina Tripcovici
Carolina Zanotta

WOMEN’S TENNIS
Catherine Cohen
Ybrahina Cohen
Breanne Hollenbach
Vincia Jackson
Ewelina Marut
Megan Higgins
Kelsey Johnson

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Cathy Leung
Gretchen VonKoenig
Anna Mercado

WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD
Megan Higgins
Lauren Dupuis
Catherine Karnas
Ewelina Marut
Ybrahina Cohen
Breanne Hollenbach
Vincia Jackson

MEN’S TRACK & FIELD
Jonathan Daudelin
(Mechanical Engineering, Junior)
– 4.0 GPA
Joseph Ju
Kunnath Kuriakose
Brian Mendez
Adam Morgan
Kyle O’Brien
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

• An overall department wide GPA of over 3.0 for an eighth straight semester
• 47 NJIT student-athletes were named to the Great West Conference All-Academic teams, with a minimum requirement of participation in 50 percent of their respective team’s contests and a cumulative GPA of 3.2 (freshman are not eligible for this award)
• The College Swimming Coaches Association honored NJIT as a Scholar All-America Team (minimum 3.0 team GPA), an honor the Highlanders have now earned four consecutive years
• The U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Associations (USTFCCA) honored the NJIT men’s and women’s cross country teams as an All-Academic team for the 2011 season. This is the third recognition for the women’s team and second for the men since becoming a full Division I championship eligible programs (Summer 2009). For the team to be considered for the USTFCCA All-Academic Team Award, they must have competed and compiled a team score at an NCAA Regional Championship and also have a minimum 3.0 team cumulative GPA.
• Men’s Volleyball players Brady Smith, Adam Gustafson and Herman Kantushov were named to the Eastern Intercollege Volleyball Association All-Academic team.
Our teams and student-athletes put in over 1000 hours of community service.

- Jersey Cares
- Community Food Bank of New Jersey
- Branch Brook Clean-Up Day
- Celebrity Reads
- Race marshals for events benefiting Habitat for Humanity and the Hackensack University Medical Center
- Halloween kids events at Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium (home of the NJIT Baseball Team)
- Sport Clinics in baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s tennis (some in-state, some out-state)
- College Awareness Day
- St. Episcopal Church Renovation
- Foster and Adoptive Children Services
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Blow Bubbles for Autism

Men’s & Women’s Tennis Sports Clinic
COMMUNITY SERVICE

NJIT Supported the following causes:

- Bubbles for Autism – Program Wide
- Go 4 The Goal – Pediatric Cancer (Men’s and Women’s Soccer)
- Shots from the Hearts – Heart Disease (Men’s Basketball)
- Horizon 5k Run for Cerebral Palsy (Men’s & Women’s Track & Field)
- Breast Cancer Awareness (Women’s Basketball)
- Go Red for Women - Heart Disease (Men’s Volleyball)
- Dig for a Cure (Women’s Volleyball)
- Theresa Pont Benefit Fund – Brain Cancer (Women’s Soccer)

2011-12

STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Caitlyn Ragni, Soccer
Vice-President: Monika Graff, Tennis
Secretary: Anna Mercado, Volleyball
Treasurer: Jonathon Gustafson, Volleyball
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Academic Support
Student-Athlete Lounge

The NJIT student-athlete study lounge received a brand new look with new furniture, cabinets and countertop, smart board and flat screen television. The room is used for staff/athletic team meetings and study hall.

Press Box

Phase 1 of the Press Box renovations which is located on Lubetkin Field at Mal Simon Stadium received major upgrades – painting to the inside and outside of the press box with new signage, reinforced walls, new ceiling, flooring, new countertop and windows.
The 2011-12 year represented the first full-year of use of The Naimoli Family Athletic and Recreational Facility, hosting events such as Fall & Winter Open House, Career Fairs, and Freshman Convocation. The facility is approximately 25,000 square feet, housing courts for tennis and made available for other recreational and school activities. The facility is heated and air conditioned, and utilizes flooring appropriate for the various athletics and recreational activities. It is intended to meet the growing demand by our students, faculty and staff for such facilities, particularly, as our student population continues to increase.
BRANDING AND VISIBILITY

- Athletic Department currently maintains over 18 social media website accounts – 16 Facebook, 2 Twitter
- We continue to get visibility from local media outlets MSG, YES, SNY networks, as well as national coverage by the ESPN family of networks. This year we had basketball games broadcasted on ESPN360, ESPN 3 and FoxSportNet
- All basketball game scores are distributed nationally by the Associated Press
- NJIT streamed live audio for 42 basketball events – 25 men’s games and 17 women’s games.
- Attendance at athletic events was at an all-time high – over 20,000 people compared to 7,200 in 2005-06
- Licensing venue is up to over $13,900 – highest ever
- Promoted and marketed over 50 Special Event Days
- Collaborated with different groups campus wide – Center for First-Year Students, Campus Center, Greek Life, Student Senate and RHA
PROMOTIONS

Brownie Troop cheered on the NJIT women’s soccer team against Rider on September 2, 2011.

The Highlander Hoolies gathered at the NJIT Men’s Soccer match vs. Virginia Tech on October 8, 2011.

NJIT fans at the women’s soccer game on October 20 during 2011 Spirit Week.

PACK THE HOUSE CHALLENGE
Women’s Basketball vs. Texas-Pan American – February 16, 2012
2013 NCAA Pack the House Challenge Winner in the Great West Conference

The Highlander Hoolies gathered at the NJIT Men’s Soccer match vs. Rider on September 2, 2011.
• Pre-game Basketball Reception for Alumni in Maryland, Massachusetts, and Newark, NJ
• Successful re-launch of the Highlander Athletic Fund
• Support the Annual “Hands vs. Feet” Golf Event
• Individual Alumni visits in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Indiana, North Carolina and Illinois
• Hosted Alumni/Development reception in Baton Rouge, La.

• Men’s Basketball student-athletes and staff attended an alumni reception at the home of Ralph Maddalena ‘75 while in Texas
• Participated and supported the Florida Soccer Reunion [hosted by Ed Cruz ’62]
• Student-Athlete supported the Celebration Dinner and Scholarship Brunch
• Multiple teams hosted Alumni Event Activities
• Men’s Ice Hockey Alumni & Golf Event

President Joel Bloom and Director of Athletics Lenny Kaplan and NJIT Student-Athletes at Celebration Dinner
Mal Simon, Cielanna Pasiciel and Alex Brito at NJIT Scholarship Brunch
NJIT Athletic Director Lenny Kaplan and Ken Daneyko

2012 Highlanders Athletic Golf Classic Committee
Rick Baptista ’85, ’97
Leon K. Baptiste ’91
David Beesley ’76
Jim Boyle ’58
Joe Caioia ’80, ’84
Brian F. Callahan
William A. Morris ’82
Charles R. Dees, Jr., PhD
Henry “Hank” P. Dobbelaar ’66
Briana Guillauna
Lenny Kaplan
Darlene Lamourt
Bernard Lubetkin ’49, ’52
Louis Mezzina ’93
King Moy, P.E. ’74, ’77
Joseph W. Strode, III

Highlander Athletics Golf Outing
Men’s Basketball student-athletes and staff attended an alumni reception at the home of Ralph Maddalena ’75 while in Texas.

Pre-game Basketball Reception for Alumni at the Prudential Center in downtown Newark.
Cesar Markovic, who, since 2003, has led programs at two schools into the NCAA Division I College Cup, 15-year career record at three colleges is 151-125-34, has reached the Division I tournament three times, beginning in 2003, when he led Saint Peter’s to its first-ever NCAA bid in soccer. Moving on to Stony Brook in 2004, he led the Seawolves to their first-ever NCAA men’s soccer bid in 2005 and returned to the College Cup field in 2009.

He completed his seven seasons at Stony Brook in 2010, posting a 10-7-3 overall record in his final campaign.

His Saint Peter’s team in 2003 and his Stony Brook team in 2005 each won their first round NCAA games. Unranked Saint Peter’s defeated Brown, ranked 11th in the nation, and that win remains the only NCAA Tournament win for Saint Peter’s in any sport. The 2005 Stony Brook team won its first round NCAA game against Yale for the Seawolves’ first NCAA win in any sport.

Sergio Gonzalez is the new head women’s soccer coach at New Jersey Institute of Technology after assisting multiple championship seasons, including teams at the University of Dayton that advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division I Tournament following both the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

Gonzalez spent five seasons at Dayton, which finished 16-1-6 in 2009 and 19-3-1 in 2010 to cap off a total record of 71-21-15 in his time with the Flyers, who were Atlantic 10 Conference champions each of the last two years.

The Dayton class that completed its career in 2010 was ranked 15th in the nation for wins in the players’ four-year careers. The 2009 Flyers also ranked 25th in the final national poll.

Under Gonzalez’s tutelage, two Flyer goalkeepers earned Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Year honors; Niki Reed in 2007 and Katherine Boone in 2009. Lisa Rodgers, who had played youth soccer for Gonzalez in Pennsylvania, earned First Team A-10 honors in 2010, while Reed and Boone also raked in First Team honors.

In 2009, Dayton ranked second nationally in goals against average, while posting a school-record 15 shutouts. In 2010, the Flyers were 10th in goals against average and fifth in shutout percentage.

In Sergio’s last three seasons at Dayton, he was the top assistant for Coach Tucker, the four-time Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year and 2009 NSCAA Region Coach of the Year.
ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTORY

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION
Lenny Kaplan Director of Athletics
Alexis Schug Associate Athletic Director/
Senior Women Administrator
Joe Caiola Assistant Athletic Director of Business/Facilities
Tim Camp Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information
Marian Johnson Assistant Athletic Director for Athletics – Compliance
Wenda Noel-Lane Administrative Assistant for the Director of Athletics
Mike Siegel NCAA Facility Athletic Representative
Brian Callahan Assistant Director of Physical Education

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
Sandra Taylor Associate Director CAPE – Athlete Academic Advisor
Elizabeth Bookwalter Academic Advisor for Student-Athlete & Eligibility Certification Officer

ATHLETIC TRAINING
Matt Koscs Head Athletic Trainer
Paul Grayner Assistant Athletic Trainer
Brittany Vorndran Assistant Athletic Trainer

COMPLIANCE
Alexis Schug Associate Athletic Director/
Senior Women Administrator
Marian Johnson Assistant Athletic Director for Athletics – Compliance

DEVELOPMENT
Darlene Lamourt Development Officer for Athletics

FLEISHER ATHLETIC CENTER
Shannon Abraham Operations Manager/Tickets
Jonathan Walker Front Desk
Courtney Caden Receptionist

SPORTS INFORMATION
Tim Camp Assistant Athletic Director of Sports Information
Stephanie Pillari Assistant Sports Information Director

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING
Dan Huff Head Strength and Conditioning Coach
COACHING STAFF

BASEBALL
Head Coach: Brian Guiliana
Assistant Coach: Robbie McClellan

MEN’S & WOMEN’S FENCING
Head Coach: Yefim Litvan
Assistant Coach: Jason Henderson

MEN’S & WOMEN’S TENNIS
Head Coach: Mike Sowter
Assistant Coach: Danielle Viola
Assistant Coach: Bernie Jones

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Head Coach: Jim Engles
Assistant Coach: Mike Spisto
Assistant Coach: Brian Kennedy
Assistant Coach: Michael Brown
Director of Operations: Matt Healing

MEN’S SOCCER
Head Coach: Cesar Markovic
Assistant Coach: Didier Orellana
Assistant Coach: John Ciano

MEN’S & WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD
Head Coach: Al Alonso
Assistant Coach: Savatheda Fynes Coke
Volunteer Coach: John Crawford

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Head Coach: Steve Lanpher
Assistant Coach: Mark McCaleb
Assistant Coach: LaKea Jones
Assistant Coach: Epiphany Smith

MEN’S & WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY
Head Coach: Al Alonso

WOMEN’S SOCCER
Head Coach: Sergio Gonzalez
Assistant Coach: Mandi Risden
Assistant Coach: Erwin van Bennekom

MEN’S SWIMMING
Head Coach: Michael Lawson
Assistant Coach: Teresa Higgins
Assistant Coach: Mark Albright

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Head Coach: Ryan McNeil
Assistant Coach: Christianssen Siddayo
Graduate Assistant Coach: Francesca Garay

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Head Coach: JR Martins
Graduate Assistant Coach: Francesca Garay
Volunteer Coach: Pauline Mackeiwicz

2011-12 New Jersey Institute of Technology Athletics Annual Report
Seymour “Zoom” Fleisher ’51

When Zoom passed away at the age of 88 last December, NJIT and its students, including its student-athletes, lost a great friend and benefactor. Zoom was born and raised in Newark.

After service during World War II, he returned home to attend college, enrolling in NCE, where, in 1951, he earned a BS in mechanical Engineering. He also earned the nickname “Zoom” for his speed on the court as captain of the NCE basketball team in the late 1940’s through to 1951.

For more than 60 years after his graduation Zoom Fleisher stayed close to his alma mater and its athletics program, lending broad-based support over those six-plus decades.

Zoom Fleisher and his wife of 52 years, Estelle, who predeceased him, helped create and endow numerous scholarships at NJIT, including many to benefit student-athletes. NJIT’s indoor athletics and recreation facility was re-dedicated in 1999 as the “Estelle and Zoom Fleisher Athletic Center”. Later, he supported the renovation of the gym Portion of the building that was named “Fleisher Family Court”.

Founder and leader of Pilot Technologies Corp., a manufacturing firm of precision components and assemblies during his business career, Zoom was a philanthropist, who supported numerous charities in the United States and Israel in addition to his lifetime support of his alma mater.