New Jersey Institute of Technology

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900 TO RECEIVE DEGREES FROM NJIT

NEWARK, N.J. -- The largest graduating class in New Jersey Institute of Technology's 105-year history will receive their diplomas at commencement exercises Thursday, May 23. The ceremony will be held in the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel beginning at 2:30 p.m.

More than 600 bachelor's, 300 master's and seven doctoral degrees will be awarded, as well as 25 certificates to students completing the NJIT Division of Technology three-year program. In addition, the Institute will award honorary doctoral degrees to four distinguished recipients: Edward E. David, president of Exxon Research and Engineering Company; William Nierenberg, head of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Gary Stein, associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey; and Samuel Williamson, a professor at New York University.

Dr. David will also deliver the commencement address. An electrical engineer who holds a doctorate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he served as science advisor to the President of the United States and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology during the Nixon Administration. A strong supporter of cooperation between university and private research, Dr. David recently appealed for funding equity between research to meet civilian and commercial needs and federal priorities in defense and space.

Dr. David is a member of the White House Science Council, United States representative to the science committee of NATO, a member of the Governor's Commission on Science and Technology, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

An honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree will be awarded to Justice Stein, a Newark native who is a member of the Governor's Commission on Science and Technology. Justice Stein is an advocate of using technology for the public good. He was instrumental in resolving the prolonged negotiations involved in creating the Transportation Trust Fund as well as the successful effort to apply the state's Toll Road Authority surplus to financing improvements in highways and bridges.

Justice Stein, who graduated with distinction from Duke University Law School, has also served as borough attorney for Paramus, chairman of the District Ethics Committee for Bergen County, chairman of the New Jersey State Bar Association Committee on State Legislation, and director of the Office of Policy and Planning.

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Dr. Nierenberg, internationally known for his research in physical oceanography and atmospheric physics, will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree. Dr. Nierenberg's early work was in the field of nuclear physics. In recent years he has played a major leadership role in national committees that assess the environmental impacts of acid rain and global carbon dioxide buildup. He has served on the National Science Board and the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere, and as advisor to the U.S. Department of State and Assistant Secretary General to NATO for Scientific Affairs.

His professional affiliations include the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Philosphical Society, and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers; he is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, and the American Physical Society. He holds a Ph.D. degree in physics from Columbia University and has won numerous awards, including the medal of "Officier de l'Ordre National du Merite" from the Government of France, the Compass Award of the Marine Technology Society and the Procter Prize of the Scientific Research Society.

A third honorary Doctor of Science degree will be bestowed upon Samuel Williamson, professor of physics at New York University's School of Arts and Science and professor of physiology and biophysics at NYU's School of Medicine. Dr. Williamson's interdisciplinary research has led to breakthroughs in the study of neuromagnetism, and particularly in experimental methods of detecting the strength of magnetic fields in the brain. This ground-breaking research promises to open up new diagnostic methods for assessing brain conditions.

Dr. Williamson's wide-ranging interests are reflected in his publications, which include more than 90 papers on solid state physics as well as books on biomagnetism, the fundamentals of air pollution, and Light and Color in Nature and Art. His public service included chairmanship of the Ventura County (California) Citizen's Committee for Clean Air, an organization that successfully lobbied for the restriction of emissions from power plants. Dr. Williamson, who holds a doctoral degree in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the Society for Neuroscience, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Federation of American Scientists.

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