Jonathan A. Daudelin
Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Outstanding Senior

When he was a boy, Jonathan spent endless hours building LEGO robots. He and his parents thought his incessant building would one day do him good.

They were right.

At 13, Jonathan led a robotics team that won first place at the FIRST LEGO League World Festival. In high school, he became so well-versed in robotics that a writer asked him to co-author a book about robotics. He agreed and their book became a bestseller on Amazon.com. Jonathan later co-authored three more books on robotics.

As a senior in high school, he scored 1,500 (math and verbal) on the SATs, which earned him a scholarship to the Albert Dorman Honors College, where he’s now a senior majoring in mechanical engineering. He’s never gotten less than an A; he has a 4.0 GPA. On one of his math common exams, he scored so high that his professor said it was the highest score he’d ever seen at NJIT. He also excels on the NJIT men’s track team.

In his free time, Jonathan designed the Creative Design Challenge, a high school robot competition hosted by Panasonic. He designed the obstacles that teams’ robots had to overcome and built a robot to test the challenge. He also did a summer internship at iRobot, one of the nation’s leading robotic companies.

Jonathan is one of 10 children, all of whom were homeschooled. His older brother, David, just graduated from NJIT with a 4.0. His younger brother, Isaac, is a sophomore at NJIT with a 4.0. And another brother, Tim, started at NJIT this year.

“My brothers and I really enjoy NJIT,” says Jonathan, “since it offers a variety of opportunities, both academically and socially. It’s also prepared me well for a career in robotics.” He was recently awarded a full scholarship to attend Cornell University, where in the fall he’ll start on a doctorate in mechanical engineering. After getting his doctorate, he plans to work for a robotics company such as iRobot, or to perhaps start his own robotics company.