

# The Graduate Column

W E L C O M E T O T H E F A L L 2 0 1 4 I S S U E  
O F T C N J ' S G R A D U A T E C O L U M N !



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In this issue, we are pleased to introduce several outstanding students and alumni, plus, we highlight: new roles for faculty and information regarding the upcoming registration period; Campus Town apartments; an English Symposium opportunity; and graduate grants through the Educational Opportunity Fund!

On behalf of the Office of Graduate Studies, best wishes for an enjoyable semester.

We look forward to seeing you on campus.

*Susan Hydro,*  
*Director—Graduate & Intersession Programs*

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# ALUMNI NEWS

Meet Erika Schultes! Erika graduated from the MA English 5-year program in May 2014. She also earned a Bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education during her time at TCNJ. Going into her undergraduate experience, Erika knew she wanted to eventually obtain a graduate degree. The 5-year program was an attractive option to her because it cohesively joined the two degrees and allowed her to finish in a relatively short amount of time.

In the beginning of this year, Erika applied for a Fulbright grant to work as an English Teaching Assis-

tant in Europe. The English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program places Fulbright recipients in classrooms around the world to provide assistance to the local English teachers. ETAs help teach the English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the U.S. Erika received the good news in July that she was selected for this highly competitive grant. Serving as an ETA in Romania from October 2014 - June 2015, Erika will be working at Stefan cel Mare University this fall and V. Alecsandri University in the spring. She is looking forward to experiencing a different culture

and tradition of education. Erika explains, "I am interested in seeing the differences in U.S. and Romanian classrooms."

Erika's advice to future graduate students is to "explore every opportunity that's available. If you step out of your comfort zone, you may be surprised at what other opportunities you are capable of taking advantage of." Before she leaves, Erika will be spending the last of her free time reading and trying to learn the Romanian language.

Congratulations, Erika! We wish you the best of luck in your new role!



Introducing Dana Tsvikis-Kurilew! A three time alumna, Dana is a 2004 graduate of the Master of Arts in Counselor Education program. She also holds a post-master's certificate in Educational Leadership and an undergraduate degree in Business Management from TCNJ. Towards the end of her undergraduate program, Dana realized that her "true calling was not in business, but in education."

Since graduating from the Counselor Education program, Dana has worked as a school counselor at Pine-lands Regional High School, East Brunswick High School, and Hunterdon Central High School. This past summer Dana was promoted to Supervisor of Counseling Services

at Hunterdon Central. Additionally, she received both the Hunterdon County School Counselor of the Year Award and the New Jersey State Counselor of the Year Award. She states, "This year really has been a dream come true."

"Looking back, I would never be where I am today without the guidance and assistance of the extraordinary Counselor Education Department," she explains. She noted that something she learned in the classroom but did not fully understand until she was in the field was how much of a difference and impact a counselor can make in the lives of others. Her advice to current graduate students is to make the most of your internship, get to know as many people as

you can, be positive, and always have a smile on your face.

When she's not supervising a busy counseling office, or helping her students, Dana spends her free time with her two daughters and her husband. An avid runner as well, Dana will be completing her third half marathon in April.

In her work and in life, Dana reflects on this quote by Dr. Felice Leonardo Buscaglia, "Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

Congratulations, Dana, on all of your success this year and in the future!

## MEET YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS

Introducing Marissa Rogers! Marissa is in the Marriage, Couples, and Family Counseling and Therapy master's program. Having completed her BA in Psychology from TCNJ in 2005, Marissa expects to graduate with her MA in the spring of 2015. Her decision to pursue her master's degree in MCFCT came out of her work and experience in the field of autism intervention. She realized that beyond her enjoyment of working with individuals with autism, she also enjoyed and saw the benefit of working with the families of the individuals with autism. "Autism affects the whole family," she explains. Marissa chose to return to her alma mater to pursue her master's degree be-

cause of how much she enjoyed her undergraduate experience and because of TCNJ's great reputation.

Marissa currently works at the Princeton Child Development Institute as a Behavior Analyst and Life Skills Coach. Her main responsibilities include working with adults with autism and providing them with job training and job coaching, as well as helping them find jobs. Marissa is also interning at the TCNJ Clinic for her second semester. She has her own caseload of clients including families, couples, and individuals. She has really enjoyed her practicum and internship classes because of how close her cohort has become. "You become a

little family and you support each other through the process," she explains.

Marissa's dream job is to work with families who have a child with a disability such as autism or other cognitive diagnosis. She explained that this would allow her to combine all of her working and school experiences. Eventually, Marissa would also love to have her own private practice.

With working full-time and attending school full-time, Marissa finds that her biggest challenge in graduate school is time management. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys boating with her boyfriend.



Marissa's advice to other graduate students is to "take graduate school as an opportunity to not only learn about your subject, but to learn about yourself." She explained that it is a chance to grow personally, professionally, and academically.

Good luck this semester, Marissa!



Introducing Edwige "Eddie" Paul! Eddie is in the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling program and will be graduating this spring. Prior to attending TCNJ, Eddie completed her Bachelor's degree in Counseling Psychology at Rutgers University. She wanted to continue her education so she can eventually obtain her counseling license. She

explains, "At this point in my career, getting my license is crucial." Eddie chose to pursue her master's degree at TCNJ because it was highly recommended to her by co-workers and friends. Additionally, she found that TCNJ's counseling students had high graduation rates, high scores on the NCE, and many successful licensure applications. She also noted that the affordability of the program was very attractive.

For the last 10 years, Eddie has been working as a therapist at a community child welfare agency located in Trenton. She is currently working full-time while also

maintaining a full-time course load. This semester, Eddie is also completing her internship at her place of work. In her free time, Eddie likes to run, do Crossfit, garden, and read. She also teaches yoga classes.

Eddie's favorite class has been a Maymester course on Mindfulness and Well-being. She describes, "Taking that class opened my mind to the research which exists out there about trauma and the incorporation of various skills like mindfulness and yoga to help them."

Eventually, Eddie would like to open a private practice that focuses on all aspects of well-being, such as coun-

seling, nutrition, yoga, and exercise. Ideally, she would like to work with inner-city kids who have suffered from trauma. "I want to help them want better for themselves," she explains.

Eddie's advice to other graduate students is to try to enjoy the process as much as you can. She mentions, "Find ways to manage your stress, laugh, meditate, appreciate what you have, and learn from others." The biggest challenge for Eddie was making the decision to go back to school as an adult. There were a lot of sacrifices she had to make to do so. However, it has all been worth it.

Good luck this year, Eddie!

## **EOF GRADUATE GRANTS**

The Educational Opportunity Fund Program provides financial assistance and support to former EOF students that are now enrolled in a graduate program at The College of New Jersey. The objective is to increase participation of underrepresented populations in graduate and professional study. Eligible students can receive up to \$2,300.00 annually towards their graduate education at TCNJ. These grants are renewable based upon continued eligibility.

### ***Graduate Eligibility***

1. Must have received EOF funding as an undergraduate student at a NJ institution.
2. Must be accepted to a graduate program at TCNJ.
3. Must be a full-time graduate student as defined by TCNJ (registered in 9 or more credits per semester).
4. Must be in a degree/certificate program with a minimum requirement of 24 equivalent semester hours and be at least one academic year in duration.
5. Must be a New Jersey resident 12 consecutive months prior to receiving the award.

The deadline for this year has passed (October 1). However, if you or someone you know will be enrolled in a graduate program at The College of New Jersey and received an EOF grant as an undergraduate student at a NJ institution, feel free to contact the Educational Opportunity Fund program for questions about applications for next year. They can be reached at (609) 771-2280 or via e-mail at

[eofp@tcnj.edu](mailto:eofp@tcnj.edu).

## CAMPUS TOWN APARTMENTS

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Campus Town Apartments are a private new luxury, state of the art apartment community, specifically developed for upper classmen and graduate students attending The College of New Jersey. They will be move-in ready by the fall of 2015. While many of the one and two bedroom apartments are already leased, there are still rooms available for rent in the four bedroom apartments. The apartments are fully furnished and include a refrigerator, microwave, washer, dryer, and garbage disposal. Utilities, cable TV, and wireless internet are all included in the price.

The student leasing office is open and can be found on-campus across Metzger Drive by Bliss Hall. If you would like to contact their office by phone, please call 609-273-7925. You can also apply online at [https://webform.propertyboss.net/?form=Happ&AcctDBkey=CAPTCNJ\\_141370](https://webform.propertyboss.net/?form=Happ&AcctDBkey=CAPTCNJ_141370).

The apartments are overseen by Capstone On-Campus Management. They can be contacted at 732-222-2000 with any questions regarding the Campus Town Apartments.

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### Campus Town FAQs

1. *Can I live with my friends?*  
⇒ You may request a roommate by listing him or her as a preferred roommate on the application.
2. *Can I have a pet if I live at Campus Town?*  
⇒ Unfortunately, pets are not allowed in Campus Town apartments, including visiting pets.
3. *Where can I park if I live at Campus Town?*  
⇒ Campus Town has parking available but it is not guaranteed. Residents interested in parking will pay an additional \$150 per semester. Applications for parking will be sent to residents after they have completed their lease paperwork.
4. *Can I use my financial aid to pay my rent at Campus Town?*  
⇒ If a resident has documentation of an overage in their financial aid, they may defer some or all of their rent in anticipation of that refund. Details about deferring part of the rent payment in anticipation of a financial aid refund will be provided prior to your move in.

For more information regarding pricing and other matters, please visit

<http://campustowntcnj.net/faqs/>.

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR, EXCITING NEW ROLES FOR FACULTY

Introducing Dr. Atsuko Seto! Atsuko began her new role in the Counselor Education Department as Department Chair in July 2014. She began working at TCNJ in August 2003. She was initially drawn to the College by the Counselor Education faculty who were genuinely focused on the personal and professional success of the students and expressed their strong commitment to promoting diversity, multiculturalism, and human rights. "The faculty spoke very highly of their students which gave me the impression that they truly value a student-centered approach to preparing future counselors," she explains.

Atsuko earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education from a CACREP-accredited program at the University of Wyoming. Her areas of concentration were Multi-

cultural Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy.

As the new chair, Atsuko is looking forward to keeping traditions, but also strengthening programs in ways that are responsive to the needs of an ever-changing society. At the moment, the role of Department Chair can feel a bit overwhelming. She has found a renewed appreciation for people who serve in leadership positions. She mentions how it is not easy, but she is up for the challenge because she knows she can rely on her colleagues and work with them to succeed.

Atsuko believes the main opportunity she has as chair is to "support efforts of faculty to create a variety of learning opportunities for students." She also feels it is important for her to "actively pro-

mote counselor professional identity ranging from helping each student find her or his own voice as a counselor to ensuring that our programs continue to meet CACREP standards."

Since taking on her new role, Atsuko is focusing on being truly present in all aspects of her life. "It is important to me that I am truly present with my family at home regardless of how busy my work may be. I don't focus so much on 'balancing' family and work anymore. What I try to do instead is be fully present with people whether it is my family, students, friends, or colleagues," she explains. Atsuko also acknowledges that this is an ongoing learning experience for her.

Atsuko is honored to be in a position of serving stu-



dents, colleagues and staff in the Department of Counselor Education. "The profession is dear to my heart," she states.

Best of luck in your new role, Atsuko!

Introducing Dr. Maureen Connolly! Maureen is the Interim Coordinator for the MAT Secondary Education (Social Studies and English) program this fall. She began working at TCNJ in the fall of 2013. She was initially drawn to the beauty of the campus, the department, and the students. "During my demo lesson, I knew this is the place I wanted to be because the students were eager and responsive," she explains.

Prior to working at TCNJ, Maureen was an English

Teacher at Mineola High School. She has also taught in the graduate education programs at Molloy College, Queens College, and Adelphi University. Maureen completed her Bachelor's degree in English, Master's degree in Reading, and Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership. All three of her degrees were completed at St. John's University.

As the Interim Coordinator, Maureen is looking forward to supporting current and incoming students in any way she can.

She mentions, "I am impressed with the commitment the students have to learning and becoming impactful teachers."

The main challenges she sees in her new role are time management, maintaining a work-life balance, learning new skills, and refining skills to best fit the demands of the role. She mentions that she views these challenges as very similar to those of the MAT students, as well.

Overall, Maureen is happy that this new role has giv-



en her the opportunity to meet more students and new people in the TCNJ community.

Good luck in your interim position, Maureen!

Introducing Dr. Barbara Strassman! Barbara became co-chair of the Department of Special Education, Language, and Literacy in July 2014. She began working at the College while it was still under the name Trenton State College. After working here for a while, she realized how much she enjoyed working for a smaller institution and one that is primarily undergraduate.

Prior to working at TCNJ, Barbara completed her Master's degree in Education of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from Teachers College, Columbia University. She then went on to complete her Ed.D. at the same institution. Additionally, she holds three certifications: Teacher of Read-

ing, Reading Specialist, Principal/Supervisor.

Barbara began her career in an auditory/oral program for deaf and hard of hearing students in Bergen County, NJ. During her time there, she taught a wide age range of students. "It was working with these children that made me realize I needed to go back to school for a doctorate as I just did not know enough to be able to effectively teach them," she explains.

There are three areas Barbara is looking forward to working on in her new role. First, she is looking forward to working with several new faculty members in the SELL department. "I am eager to see their careers blossom and

look forward to doing what I can to facilitate that," she explains. Additionally, she aims to mentor students and alumni and help them recognize the value of classroom experience and of advanced study leading to a doctorate degree. Lastly, she is looking forward to working with students in a different way. Barbara has been a program coordinator for many years and has loved working with students as an adviser, but being chair will broaden the ways in which she can work with students.

"The greatest opportunity that being co-chair has given me is the ability to collaborate with Dr. Rao," Barbara mentions. As a professor, she enforces the importance of collabo-



ration in most classes. Barbara is glad to now have the opportunity to model collegiality and collaboration on a regular basis. "I think co-chairing has the potential of making me/us more effective in our role as department chair," she adds.

Congratulations on your new role, Barbara!

Introducing Dr. Shridevi Rao! Shri became co-chair of the Department of Special Education, Language, and Literacy in July 2014. She began working at TCNJ in 1997. "I was drawn to TCNJ's strong commitment to teaching, its tradition of shared governance, and the atmosphere of collegiality, collaboration, and inclusivity that permeates the campus," she describes.

Shri completed both her Master's degree and Ph.D. in Special Education at Syracuse University. She also completed two Bachelor's degrees at Calcutta University: Psychology and Education.

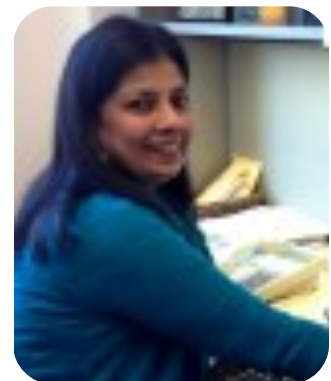
Prior to working at TCNJ,

Shri was an assistant professor in the Department of Special Education at William Paterson University. She was teaching preparation courses in special education.

In her new role, Shri is looking forward to working with colleagues in the SELL department, School of Education, and across campus. She is also looking forward to co-chairing the program with Dr. Strassman. "I believe it is truly a privilege to have the opportunity to co-chair such a distinguished and intellectually vibrant department with outstanding students and faculty members," Shri explains. She also mentions, "I am excited at the prospect of continuing to showcase and

support the wonderful work of our faculty and students, strengthening our programs, and reaching out to our community partners."

Shri finds an early challenge in the new role is continuing to grow the programs and expand the department. Additionally, it will be important for both co-chairs to understand the nuances of each program. Shri notes that there are many opportunities that come along with this new role. "I am excited at the prospect of expanding opportunities for faculty-student collaboration in scholarship, strengthening our intellectual community and presence in both the School of Education as well as the larger TCNJ campus, and encouraging new



initiatives and programs that build on this talent," she explains.

Good luck in your new role, Dr. Rao!

Introducing Dr. Arti Joshi! Arti began her new role as Graduate Coordinator for the Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department in July 2014. However, she has worked at the College since 2002. She was drawn to TCNJ because of its “strong focus and investment in quality teaching, small class sizes, and freedom to conduct research that was meaningful and community-focused,” she explains.

Arti earned her undergraduate and Master’s degrees in India. After earning these degrees, she worked in India for six years. During this time, Arti taught at the University of Mumbai for about four years. She taught undergraduate and gradu-

ate programs that included courses such as Child Development, Marriage and Family, Communications, etc. Then, she came to the United States to work towards her doctorate degree at Syracuse University. Arti completed her Ph.D. in Child and Family Studies in 2002, shortly before starting her first job at TCNJ.

Arti has been the coordinator for the undergraduate elementary program for a few years now. She was excited to take on the responsibility of coordinating the graduate elementary program, as well. “This opportunity gives me the ability to think about the elementary program as a whole to help make it more cohesive, rigorous, and meaningful for the

future teacher candidates,” she explains. She is looking forward to mentoring graduate students as they enter the teaching field.

Arti acknowledges that with any new responsibility, there is a learning curve. “I look forward to learning the system and processes in place for the potential teacher educators,” she mentions. She is also looking forward to “coordinating and disseminating information and working to help make the experience of the teacher candidates meaningful and enriching, while enhancing the program coursework.”

Good luck in your new role, Arti!



Introducing Dr. Amy Dell! Amy began her new role as Graduate Coordinator of the Special Education Department in June 2014. However, she is no stranger to the role. Amy was the Graduate Coordinator for many years starting in the late 1990s. She has been working at TCNJ for thirty years.

Amy received her Ph.D. in Psycholinguistics from the University of Rochester. “I studied with a professor who applied the principles of behavior analysis to children who didn’t speak. That’s what got me interested in Special Education,” she explains.

Amy’s first position in

higher education was at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. There, she was an assistant professor of Early Childhood/Special Education. While there, she founded and directed a preschool at the university for children with and without disabilities.

In her new role, Amy is most looking forward to “interacting with students and helping them develop into wonderful teachers.” The biggest challenge she has found so far is time. She explains, “It can be challenging to give everyone the personal attention they need and manage my time so I am not overly

stressed out.” Amy finds her biggest opportunities in the new role are getting to know more students and interacting with other graduate coordinators around campus.

Amy’s area of expertise is in Assistive Technology, which focuses on applications of computer technology that help children and adults with disabilities. “The field keeps changing so I am always learning new things and trying to educate my students about the possibilities,” she mentions. Amy co-authored a textbook published by Pearson called “Assistive Technology in the Classroom: Enhancing the School Experiences of



Students with Disabilities”. She and her co-author are currently working on a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

Best of luck in your new role, Amy!



## ***ENGLISH MA GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM: POETIC JUSTICE***

**Saturday, February 21, 2015 8:30AM-6:30PM**

Sponsored by: Office of the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of English,  
Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate Program

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The principal aim of this event is to engender a community of research and pedagogical exchange in language and literature. The symposium will feature panel presentations and a workshop entitled, "Writing and Publishing Academic Journal Articles," facilitated by members of the TCNJ English Department. The workshop and panels are intended to offer students relevant feedback on their research while encouraging them take their seminar and/or symposium papers to the next level and ready them for publication.

In tandem with the yearly campus theme sponsored by the Cultural and Intellectual Community Program Council (CICPC), the call for papers will invite MA students and alumni to submit 300-word abstracts for 15-20 minute presentations on the topic of *Poetic Justice*.

Potential areas of inquiry may include any of the following suggestions:

- ◆ Poetic justice *proper*
- ◆ Literary conventions of social, emotional, ethical, and moral justice
- ◆ Representations of legal justice; language and the law; censorship
- ◆ Life writing; confession, testimony and questions of truth
- ◆ Racism; forms of oppression and forms of redress
- ◆ Freedom, tyranny, dictatorship, and human rights
- ◆ Historical perspectives on justice across periods and movements
- ◆ Gender (in)equity in culture, society, and the classroom
- ◆ LGBTQ literature and theories of justice, representations of pre & post-marriage equality
- ◆ Literature of captivity, incarceration, and other forms of (un)lawful confinement
- ◆ Close reading panels featuring poetry in relationship to forms of justice (original poems welcome)
- ◆ Social media, gaming, the internet, etc.
- ◆ Visual arts/cultural representations



To submit an abstract for presentation or to register to attend, please visit <http://poeticjusticeatcnj.blogspot.com/>. All those who plan on attending the symposium, if they are presenting or not, should register for the event.

Please email all inquiries to [PoeticJusticeAtTCNJ@gmail.com](mailto:PoeticJusticeAtTCNJ@gmail.com). Inquiries are due by November 1, 2014. Decisions will be made by December 1, 2014.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Deadlines for Applying for Graduation:

May 2015 Graduation:  
Thursday, February 19

August 2015 Graduation:  
Thursday, March 5



*If you are planning to graduate in December but have not yet applied, please do so immediately via PAWS. If you have questions, please contact Records & Registration at 609-771-2141. A \$35 late fee will apply.*



### Spring & Summer Registration Begins:

Tuesday, November 4

Thanksgiving Break:  
Wednesday, November 26 -  
Friday, November 28

Last Day of Fall Classes:  
Tuesday, December 16

Winter Session\*:  
Monday, January 5 -  
Friday, January 23

*\*Dates for travel and blended courses may vary and begin sooner.*

First Day of Spring Classes:  
Monday, January 26

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