

FALL
2017



TCNJ THE COLLEGE OF
NEW JERSEY

GRADUATE COLUMN

A MESSAGE FROM

THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE AND
ADVANCING EDUCATION

In this issue, we highlight some exceptional students and alumni, along with a discussion with Dr. Mawhinney regarding her latest book. Other features include information on the new iSTEM program, news concerning the College and its programs, and important upcoming dates.

On behalf of the Office of Graduate and Advancing Education, we wish you the best for the rest of this semester!

Susan Hydro

Director, Office of Graduate and Advancing Education



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STUDENT FEATURE

Jenna Burke, 5 Year MA in English



Jenna Burke recently graduated from TCNJ with her undergraduate degree in English Secondary Education—and now she’s back, pursuing her M.A. in English. The 5-Year M.A. in English program allows students to transition seamlessly from their senior year to graduate school, and they receive their master’s degree in just one calendar year.

On being an English major at TCNJ:

“My favorite part about being an English major is that I’ve been given this awesome lens for looking at all different types of media. If you’re ever in class with me, you’ll find that I bring up podcasts, nonfiction books, and journalism often, and it manages to never feel out of place in discussion with literature.”

On her favorite graduate-level class so far:

“My favorite class thus far has been The Politics of Standard English, because I just love linguistics, and it is so refreshing to make theoretical conversations about the power of language manifest. Literary theory is fun but invokes this awe, and, I would say, fear, in regards to language’s discursive power. This course bridged my suspicion of language to concrete examples of why it is nefarious but, also, what I can do about it.”

How her MA in English will impact her teaching career:

“Many of my courses will have direct implications on my teaching, such as The Politics of Standard English and LGBTQ Young Adult Literature. But all of my classes, in addition to fostering a depth of understanding in my content area, have helped me grow as a writer. I intend for writing to play a significant role in my classroom, and I want my students to feel driven to pursue ideas and topics that are important to them. Graduate-level writing has asked me to push my ideas past what I supposed to be their limits, and to pursue topics I never imagined a professor would consider to warrant academic investigation. This experience will be an asset when guiding my own classroom of writers.

A fun fact:

“Some of my more unconventional projects alluded to earlier include a 19-page theoretical defense of the 2001 film, *A Knight’s Tale*, and an exploration of how language ideology is at play in location-based real time dating apps such as Tinder.”

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lindsay Frevert

- ⇒ a second grade teacher at Van Derveer Elementary School in Somerville, NJ
- ⇒ received her M.Ed. from TCNJ in 2010

Awarded the 2016 Milken Educators Award

Learn more on the [TCNJ Website!](#)

Vincent Angeline

- ⇒ a music teacher at North Hunterdon High School in the North Hunterdon Voorhees Regional High School District
- ⇒ completed the M.A. in Music Performance in Summer 1991

Listed as one of NJEA's 2017-2018 New Jersey County Teachers of the Year

Diane Kasharian

- ⇒ a special education teacher at Great Meadows Middle School in the Warren County Special Services School District
- ⇒ enrolled in graduate coursework through the Regional Training Center with TCNJ in 2002

Listed as one of NJEA's 2017-2018 New Jersey County Teachers of the Year

Kelli Wiggins

- ⇒ a teacher at Full-Day Self-Contained Preschool at Yardville Elementary in Hamilton Township, NJ
- ⇒ current student in the Post-Masters LDTC program

Nominated for the First Day of School Foundation's Special Classroom Sponsorship Program and received a grant towards the purchase of OT equipment, sensory tools, and learning materials

FACULTY FEATURE

A Conversation with Dr. Lynnette Mawhinney

Dr. Mawhinney is an Associate Professor of Urban Education.

She received her Ph.D and M.Ed at Temple University, and taught at Lincoln College prior to coming to TCNJ. In 2013-2014, Dr. Mawhinney was selected as a Fulbright Scholar award. Her research centers on urban education, specifically focusing on the experiences of teachers and students and how that can be applied in the classroom. Her most recent published work (co-edited with Emery Petchauer) came out in March 2017 and is titled *Teacher Education across Minority-Serving Institutions: Programs, Policies, and Social Justice* .

I had the chance to sit down with her and chat about it!

Here are some highlights:



On what inspired her to compile *Teacher Education across Minority-Serving Institutions: Programs, Policies, and Social Justice* and the challenges of teacher recruitment in minority-serving institutions:

"[My colleague and I] saw at our [previous] institution that [...] due to a lot of the systemic issues with assessments and getting into teacher programs (because it's the only major you actually have to test into), [the challenges in enrollment] actually ended up closing our program. We're seeing that nationwide. [...] We really wanted to highlight the fact that there are these [minority-serving] institutions all over the country (HBCU [Historically Black Colleges and Universities] is just one of four different kinds) and the great things that they're doing."

On her next book, *There Has To Be A Better Way: Lessons from Former Urban Teachers*:

"We were able to [talk to] 25 teachers over 14 different states, and so, the book is kind of highlighting what they're sharing about their decisions to leave [the profession] but also how does this inform having teacher retention and having teachers stay? The book talks specifically to administrators and teacher educators [on issues like]: how do we bring in and retain teachers from the programmatic side, and then how do we do that from the administrators' side once we have them as teachers, to keep them happy and sustained within a profession that's pretty hard."

FACULTY FEATURE

A Conversation with Dr. Lynnette Mawhinney

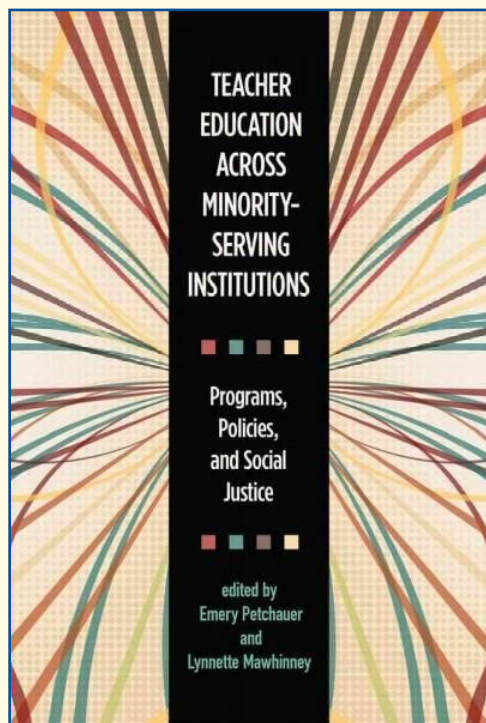
On editing books:

“Edited books [a compilation of multiple authors’ work] are interesting because they’re a little bit like herding cats!”

On working with the Off-site Graduate Programs:

“[Students are] bringing in all these different perspectives of what learning means in Uzbekistan, versus what does learning mean in Spain, versus in China, and that enriches the class so much. I just really love it and I learn just as much. [...] I can literally be in South Africa and they know exactly [that I’m] talking about [TCNJ], so I think that the program and what TCNJ has done for 30+ years with this graduate program has been pretty miraculous.”

For more on TCNJ’s Off-site Graduate Programs, see offsitegrad.tcnj.edu!



“Only 18% of teachers nationwide are teachers of color when we have students who are at 52% students of color nationwide.”

Teacher Education across Minority-Serving Institutions: Programs, Policies, and Social Justice was published in March 2017 through Rutgers University Press. *There Has To Be A Better Way: Lessons from Former Urban Teachers* is expected to be released in late 2018 through Rutgers University Press.

PROGRAM FEATURE

M.Ed. in Integrative-STEM

Launched in Summer 2016, TCNJ's M.Ed program in Integrative-STEM is relatively new. However, TCNJ has a long history in K-12 Integrative-STEM education. For example, TCNJ likely started the first i-STEM Ed. certification program for elementary education majors in the country (1998). Our Integrative-STEM Education department, located in the School of Engineering has a long history of leading the nation in design-centric and integrative approaches for both Elementary and Secondary teacher preparation programs. By example, in the 1952 national yearbook for the field, TCNJ noted purposeful efforts for integrating math and science into the curriculum. The new M. Ed. program currently has 29 students, and is only 16 months old. The goal is to double enrollment in the near future, especially as the possibilities for blended and online courses are explored.

**“iSTEM is essentially
Design-centric
problem-based
learning”
- Dr. O’Brien**

Certainly, the i-STEM program applies directly to the four STEM components. However, teachers in all content areas can benefit greatly from the program since design-centric and integrative learning is broadly applicable across content domains.



**The Center for Excellence in STEM Education in Armstrong Hall
also offers professional development for teachers!**

Visit centerforstem.tcnj.edu for more information!

NEWS

TCNJ remains in the top of *U.S. News and World Report's* 2017 Best Colleges rankings, tying for fourth overall and placing first for the region!

Live in PA? We are now offering in-state tuition for anyone living within a ~40 mile radius of Ewing, NJ!

See details at

<https://graduate.tcnj.edu/2017/08/03/do-you-live-in-pa/>

TCNJ's new Master of Public Health (MPH) program is currently accepting applications for a Fall 2018 start!

For more information, visit <https://mph.tcnj.edu/>

JUST FOR FUN

How to Play Sudoku

Enter a digit 1-9 in each box.

The goal is to include each number only once per row, per column, *and* per 3x3 square.

Sudoku puzzles are known to help develop logic skills and critical thinking.

Best of luck!

6	2		7	4			5	
		3	6			1		2
	8				2		4	
	3	7	4	1	5	6		8
		8				5		
2		6			8	4	3	
	9		2		1		6	
		5				2		
	7			6	4		8	3

IMPORTANT DATES

Spring and Summer 2018 registration window 11/7—11/17

Thanksgiving Break 11/22—11/24

Online Student Feedback on Teaching period 12/4—12/15

Last day of Fall Classes 12/19

Fall Degree Conferral 12/22

Winter Term 1/2—1/19*

Winter Degree Conferral 1/22

Spring Term begins 1/22

Last day to apply for May, August, and December 2018 graduation without late fee 2/15

*Blended and online classes may begin 12/20

For the full calendar, visit <https://tcnj.pages.tcnj.edu/academics/academic-calendars/academic-calendar-2017-2018/>

Interested in Continuing and Professional Education?

Fundamentals of Engineering Exam Review Course—begins January 24th

Mobile Applications Development: Build Your Own APPS! —March 2018

TCNJ Dyslexia Initiative —multiple offerings, see website to select the best workshop for you!

For more information, visit cpe.tcnj.edu or contact George Hefelle at hefelleg@tcnj.edu

Contact us with questions, comments, or concerns!

Office of Graduate and Advancing Education

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