

Spring Issue

March 2015

# The Graduate Column



Welcome to the Spring 2015 Issue of The Graduate Column!



## Inside this issue:

<b>New Faculty Roles &amp; Staff Members</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Men in Nursing</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Meet the Students</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Alumni Update</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>New Faculty</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Spotlight On: Dr. Rao</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Library Services</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Follow Up: English Symposium</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Mark Your Calendar</b>	<b>15</b>

## A Message from The Office of Graduate Studies

In this issue, we are pleased to: introduce new faculty and those in new roles; highlight outstanding students and alumni; provide news on faculty publications and sponsored events; share information regarding library services; provide important dates for the upcoming registration period; and highlight a Graduate Student Appreciation event! 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

*Articles written by:  
Jennifer D. Dawson,  
Graduate Assistant*



## NEW FACULTY ROLES & STAFF MEMBERS



### **Dr. Amy Dell—Graduate Coordinator of Special Education**

Amy Dell received her Ph.D. from the University of Rochester and taught at the University of North Dakota before joining the faculty of TCNJ in 1983. Her teaching and scholarship interests are in 1) assistive technology for children and adults with disabilities, and 2) effective strategies for teaching teachers how to inte-

grate assistive technology into their classrooms. She has directed several state and federally-funded programs focused on assistive technology including the Central New Jersey Assistive Technology Program for Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired (funded by the NJ Commission on the Blind and Visually Im-

paired) and the Adaptive Technology Center for NJ Colleges (funded by the NJ Commission on Higher Education). In addition to her teaching and coordinating responsibilities, she is the director of TCNJ's Center on Assistive Technology and Inclusive Education Studies (CATIES).



### **Dr. Matt Hall—Graduate Coordinator of Reading**

Dr. Hall is an Assistant Professor of Literacy in the Department of Special Education, Language and Literacy. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses focused on literacy instruction with a particular emphasis on elementary and middle school. Dr. Hall received

his Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning from New York University in 2013. His major area of emphasis was Literacy Studies. Prior to pursuing his doctorate, Dr. Hall worked as a literacy coach and a public school teacher in New Jersey. He holds certifications in General Educa-

tion, Special Education and Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Dr. Hall's current research interests include multi-modal composing practices, creativity in literacy practices, as well as New and Digital Literacies in K-12 classrooms.

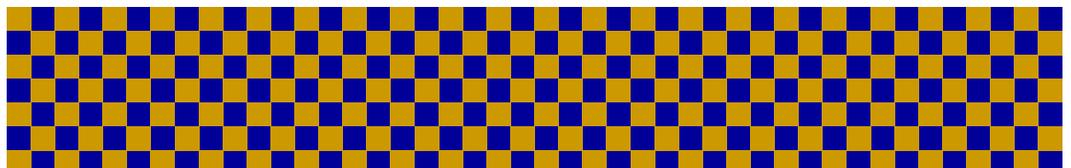


### **Dr. Karen Prince—Interim Graduate Coordinator of Elementary Education**

Dr. Karen Prince teaches in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She has taught graduate- and undergraduate-level courses

to prepare future educators to enlighten and inspire their students. Dr. Prince holds a doctoral degree from Temple University in Curriculum and

Instruction. She is coordinating the MAT program for graduate elementary education majors in the Spring of 2015.



## Dr. Connie Kartoz—Graduate Coordinator of Nursing

Dr. Connie Kartoz is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing. She holds a Master's degree in Nursing from Old Dominion University and a Ph.D. from Seton Hall University. She teaches in the both the graduate and undergraduate nursing programs. This year she is teaching Advanced Pathophysiology, Undergraduate Pharmacology and Primary Care of Women and Adolescents.

Her research interests include: simulation activities, especially in the area of communication for both graduate and undergraduate students; families with older adults; and reproductive health concerns for women with systemic lupus erythematosus. She is currently engaged in a qualitative phenomenological study exploring the lived experience of adult children who have aging parents.

Dr. Kartoz is a certified family nurse practitioner and currently practices as an APN at The Rheumatology Center of Princeton. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the Gerontological Society of America, Eastern Nursing Research Society, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American Nurses Association. She is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/New Jersey Nurse Initiative Scholar.



## Kate McKinley—Program Assistant, Off-Site Graduate Programs

Kate is new to the TCNJ professional family this spring. She earned her B.S. in Business Administration from TCNJ in 2011 and will finish her M.B.A. in Finance and Marketing from Rider University in May 2015. She studied abroad in Frankfurt am Main, Germany

for 6 months as an undergraduate and is an avid language learner. Her passion is fusing her business skills with international education initiatives.

She lives in Ewing and spends her spare time running, cooking, learning

Polish, and trying to remember the names of works by Rodin and de Kooning. She loves half-marathons, hiking, chocolate, dogs, BBQ's, reading, and planning her next travel destination. Her weaknesses include guacamole, bacon, and blueberry pancakes.



## WELCOME

Dr. Chandru Rajam, Vice Provost, Graduate, Professional & Continuing Education (left) - and - George Hefelle, External Program Specialist (right). Both Chandru and George will be featured in the Fall 2015 issue.



# MEN IN NURSING

## MEET THE STUDENTS SPECIAL EDITION



Introducing Brian Weil! Brian is in his second semester of the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner program and expects to graduate in the spring of 2016. Prior to attending TCNJ, Brian obtained his BSN from Florida Southern College in 2014. Brian always knew he wanted to be a Nurse Practitioner and decided to pursue his Master's degree after a mentor recommended it to him. He chose to apply and attend the College, because he is from New Jersey and also was impressed with the program structure. He adds, "I like the small class sizes and that the program is face-to-face and not virtual. I did not want to take any hybrid or online courses."

Brian previously interned in a Cardiac ICU at Lakeland Regional Hospital in Lakeland, FL. He was also a Student Laboratory Assistant during his senior year of his undergraduate program. He is looking forward to getting back to work and starting his graduate-level clinical experience this spring. In the future, Brian hopes to become a Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and then specialize in Cardiology.

Brian's favorite class thus far has been Pathophysiology. "I like the in-depth knowledge you get on the body and disease processes. It is very interesting and practical," he explains.

While Brian is attending

school full-time, he still finds time to coach a competitive high school travel lacrosse team in Wall, NJ. Additionally, he enjoys playing lacrosse, surfing, and fishing.

Brian's advice for future graduate students in the Nursing programs is to work on time management skills. "There is a lot of reading, but it is meaningful and necessary to really understand and have a grasp of the profession," he explains. Brian describes his program as "challenging, yet rewarding" and looks forward to the semesters to come.

Best of luck this semester, Brian!



Introducing Jeremy Pykel! Jeremy is currently a part-time student in his second semester of the MSN Family Nurse Practitioner program and expects to graduate by the summer of 2017. Before beginning his master's program, Jeremy received his B.S. in Nursing from Rutgers University and his A.A. in Nursing from Montgomery College.

Jeremy decided to pursue his master's degree in nursing for a few reasons. He explains, "The perspective that nursing takes on healthcare is very different than the medical perspective. Nurses have a different, yet important, role from doctors." Jeremy also mentioned that he enjoys the nursing field because of the autonomy that comes along with it, such as being able to

care for patients independently.

The main reasons Jeremy chose to attend TCNJ for his graduate work were the reputation of the nursing program and the on-site, in-person instruction format of the courses. He mentions, "I think the quality of education is threatened when you move to online programs." Jeremy's most enjoyed class has been Pathophysiology because of the "level of detail, higher-level thinking, and focus on the broader scheme of disease".

Currently, Jeremy works as a Clinical Coordinator at Robert Wood Johnson in Hamilton, NJ. Prior to this role, he worked in an ICU at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, NJ and in a telemetry unit at Holy Cross Hospital

in Maryland. After graduating with his MSN, Jeremy hopes to work within an interdisciplinary functional medicine practice.

Jeremy grew up in Washington State and moved to New Jersey in 2010. In his spare time, he enjoys sailing in the Raritan Bay, spending time on the beach, and being out in nature.

The biggest challenge for Jeremy when preparing for graduate school was preparing for the commitment. "I needed to know I was ready for it before I started the program," he explains. Although he feels the program is "tough," he believes that the "level of intensity facilitates success afterwards."

Good luck this semester, Jeremy!

## MEET THE STUDENTS



Introducing Jocelyn Cooper! Jocelyn is in her final semester of the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, with a specialization in Addictions. Before attending TCNJ, she received her BA in Psychology with a minor in Children's Studies from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2012. Jocelyn decided to pursue her master's degree, because she always knew she wanted to be a counselor with an advanced degree.

Jocelyn decided to pursue her master's degree at TCNJ for many reasons. Not only was she impressed with the opportunities in the program, she was impressed by the faculty. "They were helpful, available, and informative. It felt like a friendly environment," she explains. Jocelyn also received guidance

from a mentor who strongly encouraged her to apply.

Jocelyn's favorite class in the program has been Differential Diagnosis and Treatment Planning. "I was able to get a better understanding of the disorders in the DSM," she mentions.

While pursuing her master's degree, Jocelyn is working as an Assistant to the Executive Director at the Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction—a non-profit that specializes in prevention. Additionally, she is interning at Catholic Charities New Choices Program—an intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment center. Previously, she interned at Day Top—a residential adolescent rehabilitation center in Mendham, NJ. After completing her degree, Jocelyn hopes to work in pri-

vate practice or in a counseling role that works with people from underserved populations.

When she finds the time in her busy schedule, Jocelyn enjoys being with her family and dogs and working on mindfulness. She believes making time for herself has been a challenge. However, she advises future counseling students, "Do as many things as you can while in the program. If there is an opportunity, take it. It will open so many doors for you." She would recommend this program to anyone interested in the field, because of the hands-on work, practicality, and faculty. "You won't find faculty that care more about the development of their students," she explains.

Best of luck in your last semester, Jocelyn!



Introducing Katelyn Hoobler! Katelyn is currently pursuing an MA in School Counseling and SAC certification. She is in her last semester and will be graduating this May. Prior to attending TCNJ, Katelyn received her BA in French from Rutgers University in 2010. She took some education courses while at Rutgers, because she always wanted to be a

teacher. However, after her practicum experience, she realized teaching was not the right path for her. She still wanted to work with children and began running a children's program at a local library. During this experience, she realized that she wanted to pursue working with children's social and emotional needs in a school setting.

After doing extensive research, Katelyn decided to pursue her graduate degree at TCNJ because of its reputation and the faculty. "I came to the open house, and the faculty sold me on the program. They seemed like genuine people who cared about their students and their profession," she explains.

Katelyn has already com-

## MEET THE STUDENTS continued...

pleted her practicum and Internship I at Yardville Elementary School in Hamilton, NJ. She enjoyed working there because of the variety of issues and experiences to which she was exposed. She is completing her Internship II this spring in order to complete her SAC requirements. Along with her internship experience, Katelyn has been working as a Graduate Assistant in the Off-site Graduate Programs Office. Additionally, she serves as the Graduate Student Representative on the Executive Board of the New Jersey Counselor Association.

Although she has been

very busy, Katelyn likes to find time to bake, read and travel. She spent this past summer abroad in Portugal taking a course toward her SAC certification. She has also traveled to 9 other countries including Finland, France and Germany.

Katelyn's favorite classes so far have been Counseling Theories and Techniques and Human Growth and Development. "The content was fascinating and very applicable to what I will be doing in my actual work as a school counselor," she mentions. Katelyn also enjoyed a project she recently worked on for National Drug Facts

Week along with Jocelyn Cooper and Dr. Sandy Gibson.

Katelyn's biggest challenge in pursuing her master's degree has been time. She explains, "There is so much more I want to learn about, but there's not enough time." Her advice for future graduate students is to make time for self-care and meet with your adviser to plan out your whole program as soon as possible.

Upon graduation, Katelyn hopes to enter into a career as a school counselor or SAC.

Best of luck in your future career, Katelyn!



Introducing Thomas Callahan! Thomas is in his final semester of the School Counseling master's program and the SAC certification program. Thomas also graduated from TCNJ in 2012 with his B.S. in Health and Physical Education - Teacher Education. He always wanted to pursue an advanced degree and work with adolescents in a school setting. "I thought counseling best fit my personality, because it is an opportunity to be a positive influence

and impact lives," he explains.

Thomas ultimately decided to pursue his master's degree at TCNJ because of the accredited counseling program, new education building and small class sizes. Additionally, he felt comfortable returning to the campus and community that he had already made a connection with during his undergraduate experience.

While he is attending TCNJ full-time, he is com-

pleting his school counseling and SAC internship experiences at Rancocas Valley Regional High School in Mt. Holly, NJ. There, he is an adviser for the Varsity Club and Making Eight Graders Aware (Team MEGA). Additionally, he is an assistant wrestling coach for the high school and youth program. He also finds time to tutor and volunteer at Special Olympics events and Kids Bridge Tolerance. Outside of school and volunteer work, Thomas enjoys

spending time with his family and friends, working out, playing backyard games, going to the beach, and coaching.

Thomas's favorite class so far has been Counseling Theories and Techniques. "I was able to learn about the different types of counseling modalities and was given the opportunity to practice different techniques that went along with each theory," he explains.

Thomas's biggest challenge in pursuing his degree has been trying to manage his personal,

professional, academic, and social responsibilities. He mentions, "It is a very challenging, yet rewarding experience. You have to be fully committed in your studies and what you want to do once you graduate."

After graduation, Thomas hopes to find a job as a school counselor at the secondary level or as a student assistance counselor at the high school level.

Best of luck in your last semester, Thomas!



## ALUMNI UPDATE

### Dana Tsivikis-Kurilew



On January 30, 2015, Dana Tsivikis-Kurilew, a TCNJ School Counseling program graduate, was honored in a White House ceremony hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama and actress Connie Britton. The ceremony was honoring the American School Counseling Association's School Counselor of the Year finalists and semi-finalists.

To view the ceremony, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdAjywdqhNk&feature=youtu.be>

We are so proud of you, Dana!



# NEW FACULTY

## Dr. Jill Schwarz



Introducing, Dr. Jill Schwarz, the newest faculty member in the Department of Counselor Education at TCNJ! Dr. Schwarz has worked as an adjunct professor at TCNJ since 2005. She worked in the Psychology Department, Counselor Education Department and in Graduate Global Programs in Taiwan and Mallorca. Before her time as a full-time TCNJ faculty member, Dr. Schwarz was a School Counselor at Fisher Middle School in Ewing, NJ for 6 years, Doctoral Fellow at Montclair State University for 3 years and an Assistant Professor at Rowan University for 1 year.

At this time, Dr. Schwarz is working on writing a textbook on the topic of counseling women. The textbook will have an empowerment and advocacy perspective that focuses on global issues. Another achievement of hers was working as a research consultant and program evaluator at Women's Space for a program focused on Equine Assisted Psychotherapy.

Dr. Schwarz is currently professionally affiliated with several associations and networks, including: American Counseling Association, American School Counselor Association and Animal Assisted Therapy in Mental Health Interest Network.

Dr. Schwarz was attracted to the TCNJ Counselor Education Department because of its student-centered approach, caliber of the students, faculty that are invested in students' success, and international opportunities. She also mentioned a "culture of excellence" that she feels has been established by the school. She explains, "The students here are very dedicated to their school work and seek opportunities to collaborate with faculty outside of the classroom."

Since becoming a full-time faculty member, Dr. Schwarz has enjoyed the relationships she has built with her colleagues and students. "It is exciting to teach the Introduction to Counseling class and intro-

duce our students to the profession," she explains. Additionally, she likes interacting with other faculty and staff across campus through task forces. She is currently working on a task force focused on preventing sexual assault on campus.

In her spare time, Dr. Schwarz enjoys doing volunteer work with her dog who is a certified pet therapy dog. She also enjoys traveling, sporting events, the New York Yankees, dancing, and hiking.

Dr. Schwarz's advice for graduate students is to "embrace the opportunities to learn outside of the classroom." She adds, "These can be the most valuable experiences." While graduate students face many challenges, she believes the most pressing is balancing all of their life roles, such as family, work, education, social, etc. While it is a lot to manage, she mentions, "Never underestimate yourself."

Welcome to TCNJ, Dr. Schwarz!

# SPOTLIGHT ON:

## Dr. Shridevi Rao



The Graduate Column would like to congratulate Dr. Shridevi Rao on the release of her book, "South Asia and Disability Studies: Redefining Boundaries and Extending Horizons (co-edited with Dr. Maya Kalyanpur)." For those of you who do not know Dr. Rao, she is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education, Language, and Literacy and has been with The College of New Jersey since 1999. Dr. Rao is a Co-Chair of the Department of Special Education, Language, and Literacy.

Dr. Rao earned her doctorate in Special Education and master's from Syracuse University. She enjoys all aspects of teaching, especially interacting with students and being engaged in conversations in the field of disability studies and education. This semester, she is teaching the graduate course "Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Extreme Behaviors," as well as the undergraduate course "Social and Legal Foundations of Special Education."

Dr. Rao is excited about the release of her book: "South Asia and Disability Studies: Redefining Boundaries and Extending Horizons." The idea for the book was formed while on sabbatical a few years ago. Her work during this sabbatical focused on disability studies, a rich and interdisciplinary field that examines ways in which disability is socially and culturally constructed. Simultaneously, she was also conducting a study that focused on the perspectives of Indian Ameri-

can families of youth with disabilities. Based on the findings of the study, as well as her previous experiences with South Asian families, she found that the framework of the "social model" of disability, which has been integral to the field of disability studies, did not capture the families' experiences of disability or their lived realities. She felt the disability experiences of South Asian families had to be understood within the complex landscape of gender, caste, colonialism, development, globalization, and cultural/indigenous epistemologies. She began looking at the possibility of a conversation between the field of disability studies and South Asia and came across an emerging body of literature that had begun to question the applicability of a universal template for disability and called for the need to draw on other theoretical frameworks and lenses to understand this experience. Dr. Rao wrote a proposal and contacted both established and emerging scholars in the field to invite them to contribute to the book and expand the horizons of the existing discourse in disability studies. Many scholars were receptive to the idea and eager to contribute. She submitted the proposal to Peter Lang's Disability Studies in Education Series edited by Drs. Susan Gabel and Scott Danforth. Acceptance of the proposal rapidly set the wheels in motion.

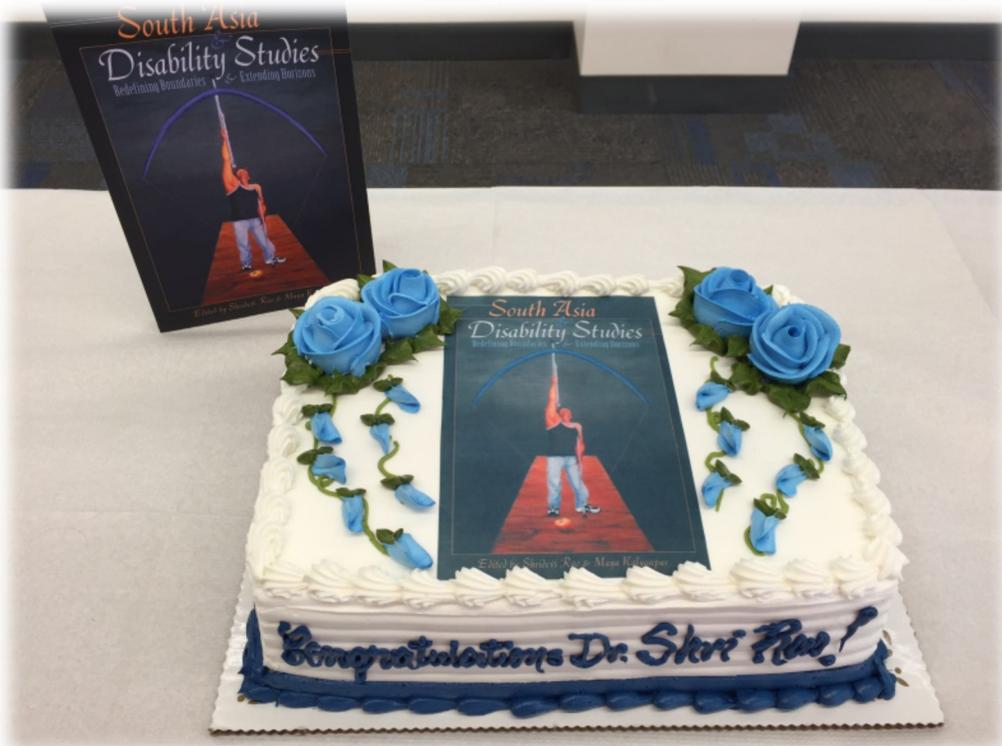
Drawing on scholarship that addresses the social, economic, cultural, and historical fac-

ets of the experience of disability in South Asia, the book presents a nuanced view of the construction of disability in South Asia. It addresses the interpretations of disability within different South Asian contexts, including policy, family, educational systems, films, and literary narratives. According to Dr. Rao, the most exciting impact of the book is that it challenges the very construct of the term "disability" and its universal application. It argues that constructions of disability in South Asia are complex and have to be interpreted within multiple spaces and not captured through dominant notions of the body or intellect.

This summer, Dr. Rao will be teaching a graduate Special Education course in Portugal. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and performing Indian classical dance. Dr. Rao understands the difficulty graduate students face balancing family, school, work, and other aspects of their lives. Her advice to graduate students is to remember to stay present in the moment. She also encourages graduate students to reflect on and challenge the orthodoxies that permeate the field of teaching and education.

We wish Dr. Rao the best of luck with her book!

## DR. RAO'S BOOK LAUNCH



# LIBRARY SERVICES

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

TCNJ Library is a five-story, 135,000 square-foot facility, situated on the quad just east of Green Hall, directly between Roscoe West Hall and Eickhoff Hall. In addition to housing traditional library collections and services in an atmosphere that is elegant yet friendly and inviting throughout, the building provides a café, a late-night study area, a 105-seat multi-purpose auditorium, and 26 group study rooms. One of the larger group study rooms on Level 4 is designated as the Graduate Group Study Room, where graduate students will have preference for the use of the room (Rm. 413). The late night study area is open during fall and spring semesters until 2AM and 24 hrs/day during finals week. In addition to seating, the late night area provides access to more than 60 computers and several networked printers. A valid TCNJ ID is needed to gain entry to the late night study area. For the hours of operations of the various areas in the library, please see: <http://library.pages.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/hours-of-operation/>

The **Access Services Desk** in the library's main lobby is where most material can be checked out of the library. A valid TCNJ ID card serves as a student's library card. Circulating books can be borrowed by graduate students for a full semester. If a professor has placed books on reserve for a course, they are available for pick-up at this desk. This is also the pick-up point for books requested through Interlibrary Loan services. The Media Services desk, located on Level 4, is the circulation point for videos, sound recordings, and CD-ROMs. The loan periods for media are more limited. For more information about borrowing from TCNJ, please see: <http://library.pages.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/borrowing-from-tcnj-other-libraries/>

The **Reference Desk** is off the main lobby on Level 1 of the library and is staffed by professional librarians for most hours the library is open. The reference librarians will assist with finding facts, devising a search strategy, selecting a database, etc. Questions may be asked by visiting the library's Reference Desk in person, by telephone (609) 771-2417, by text message (609) 482-3981, or via chat or email using our Ask A Librarian service. For more information about our Ask A Librarian services, please see: <http://library.pages.tcnj.edu/research-help/ask-a-librarian/> Students are also welcome to schedule an appointment with one of the Subject Librarians for in-depth consultations. The Subject Librarians for graduate programs are Marci Zane (Education and Counseling); John Oliver (acting liaison for English); and Maureen Gorman (Nursing).

In addition to books, journals, and other media physically housed in the library, *TCNJ provides access to over 90 databases, over 30,000 online journals, and growing collections of e-books and streaming audio and videos.* Most of these resources are readily available to TCNJ students when they are off campus. Upon trying to connect from the library's website to an electronic resource, students who are not on campus will be prompted to login to a proxy server using their TCNJ username and password.

To complement the collections available at TCNJ, the library provides **Interlibrary Loan** services to request periodical articles, books, chapters, conference proceedings, patents, theses, dissertations, videos, DVDs, and CDs not owned by TCNJ Library. Turnaround time may be as short as a few hours for articles. Books and some articles may take up to two weeks depending on availability. For more information about Interlibrary Loan services, please see: <http://library.pages.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/interlibrary-loan-requests/>

The TCNJ IT Department provides public self-service photocopy machines in the library. Copiers operate using the TCNJ GetIt Card (ID card) at a cost per copy of 5 cents. TCNJ students may add value to their ID cards at the Value Transfer Machines located at the library Access Services desk and in the Student Center, or online at: <https://services.jsatech.com/index.php?cid=102> (Please note that there are no coin-operated photocopy machines in the library.) Printing is available from most desktop computers in the library; any computer that does not allow printing is clearly marked. In addition, microfilm/microfiche reader-printers are available for use on Level 4. Prints are 5 cents for each page printed (i.e., a double-sided print costs 10 cents). The TCNJ GetIt Card (ID card) is used to pay for printing, just as for photocopying. For more information, please see: <http://library.pages.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/copying-printing-scanning/>

TCNJ Library's mission is to provide "high-quality information resources, expertise and a learning environment that enhance the search for knowledge and understanding." The librarians and staff wish you well as you pursue your Graduate Studies goals and hope you will take advantage of the collections and services we provide to help you reach those goals. Please visit us at <http://library.pages.tcnj.edu/>

# FOLLOW-UP

## English MA Graduate Symposium: Poetic Justice

On February 21, 2015, the English Graduate Program hosted the first annual Scholarly Symposium: *Poetic Justice*. Inspired by the yearly campus theme sponsored by the Cultural and Intellectual Community Program Council (CICPC), this event presented a forum to explore topics related to the theme of justice and construct inquiries across movements, genres, media, methods, and literary fields.

The four panel presentations—"The Culture Games: Reframing Canons in Contemporary Spaces," "Black Like Me: Defining African American Literature," "The Memoir and the Movement: Perspectives on Female Imprisonment in *Orange Is the New Black*," "Crouching Authors; Hidden Meanings: Literature of Dictatorship in the Latin American Diaspora"—highlighted the individual and collaborative ideas that were born in the program's seminars, prison literacy programs, and supervised research projects. These panels featured five current graduate students and five alumni and the event was attended by dozens of students, faculty, alumni, and guests who represent the strong Graduate English community on the TCNJ campus. The presentations examined justice in numerous spaces—from a women's maximum security prison, to a Latin American dictatorship, to the gaming industry, to African American literature—engendering a forum for diverse research interests.

Dr. Lisa Ortiz, Coordinator of the English Graduate Program, worked for several months with student coordinators and panelists to pull off this momentous event, as it was the first time the English Graduate Program hosted a scholarly symposium. She explains how rewarding the experience was for all involved, "It was immensely gratifying for me to witness the outcome of months of planning with our panelists, student coordinators, and student volunteers. They learned a great deal about what goes into creating and participating in a forum for scholarly research. This was a truly valuable professional development experience for them and I'm so proud of each and every one of them."

The English Graduate Program is currently the only graduate-level program in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and requires 30 credit hours to complete the degree. Because the program offers evening as well as summer courses, it provides flexibility for its students to further their literary interests in a nationally recognized program. Alumni extend their English work as Ph.D. candidates, scholars, and teachers. Graduates engage in professional activities—such as scholarly journals and this symposium—to showcase their work and academic achievements developed from TCNJ English seminars and research. Dr. Ortiz added how the symposium showcased these student and alumni achievements, "A highlight of our event was that our student and alumni panelists were able to share great news of future conference presentations, forthcoming publications, and pending Ph.D. applications. This, I think, is a sure sign that our MA program is preparing its students to excel at developing and sharing their gifts."

With the success of this first symposium, the English Graduate Program hopes to hold more in the future. Glenn Steinberg, Department Chair and Professor, commented on the importance of symposia for students and alumni, "Graduate school is about more than credits or grades; it's about being part of an intellectual community and ever pushing the boundaries of that community to make it stronger. Our classes, I hope, do that for our students, but participating in something like this symposium only increases the feeling of community and intellectual engagement." The *Poetic Justice* symposium provided a platform for students and alumni to discuss topics of justice in their respective fields and in a forum specific to the TCNJ English community. Dr. Lincoln Konkle, English Professor, added, "I hope this becomes an annual event...I was very impressed by the quality of the presentations."

Next spring, the English Graduate Program will be hosting another scholarly symposium on the theme of "Change." We are excited to sponsor another forum for sharing our student and alumni research from the English Graduate program. The program would not have been possible without the support of The Office of the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, The Department of English, and The Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate Program as well as the participation of the distinguished graduate students, faculty, and alumni. The English Graduate Program is excited to celebrate future scholarly work in the program's symposium and we hope to make this event a tradition within The College and The Department of English.



**Our Panelists:** Angela Hontau (current student), Courtney McLaughlin-Polidori (alumna 2013), Nick Bellino (current student), Sarah Scholz (current student), Kerry Fiallo (alumna 2012), Lindsay Rogers (current student), and Melanie Frances (current student)

*Not pictured: Katie Ryan (alumna 2014), Chris Hornyak (alumnus 2014), and Cara DiMeglio (current student)*



Michael Zaks, current graduate student, greets Dr. Glenn Steinberg, English Department chair, and Diane Steinberg, Assistant Professor, to the symposium.



## April 5-11 is National Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week!

The Office of Graduate Studies invites you to join us in celebrating the contributions of our graduate students to the intellectual vitality of The College of New Jersey.

Our 4th annual "Cupcakes and Conversation" event with faculty, plus raffle prizes for students (including Kindles!), is scheduled on April 8th!

We look forward to seeing you!

# GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK APRIL 5–11



**TCNJ** THE COLLEGE OF  
NEW JERSEY

Attention  
graduate  
students

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Cupcakes and Conversation with Faculty, plus raffle prizes!

4–5 p.m.

Education Building, Room 208



For more information or to RSVP, see [www.tcnj.edu/tcnjgrad](http://www.tcnj.edu/tcnjgrad)



## *Mark Your Calendar*

### Fall & Winter Registration Begins:

Tuesday, April 7

### Memorial Day:

Monday, May 25

### Last Day of Spring Classes:

Friday, May 15

### Maymester Session:

Tuesday, May 26 - Friday, June 12

### Spring Commencement:

Thursday, May 21 & Friday, May 22

### Summer Session A:

Monday, June 15 - Thursday, July 16

*It's not too late to register for  
summer, too!*

### Summer Session B:

Monday, July 20 - Thursday, August 20

### Graduation Notice

*If you are planning to graduate in May or August, 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.*

*Students who, at the end of the spring 2015 semester, will have 7 or fewer credits remaining to complete their program over the summer may participate in the Spring Commencement Ceremony and will graduate in August.*

*Students with more than 7 credits remaining to complete following the end of the spring semester may participate in the May 2016 ceremony.*

*\*Please note: Commencement ceremonies are only held in the month of May.*