

The Graduate Column

Welcome to the Fall 2011 issue of TCNJ's Graduate Column Newsletter

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In this issue, we are pleased to share: an overview of the building that's under construction for the School of Education; information regarding the upcoming registration period; interviews with several outstanding graduate students; information regarding textbook rental and the new Physical Enhancement Center; and important upcoming calendar dates and reminders for students!

On behalf of the Office of Graduate Studies, best wishes for an enjoyable semester. We look forward to seeing you on campus.

Susan Hydro, Assistant Dean –Office of Graduate Studies

Coming Soon: New Education Building

Starting in fall of 2012 both current and new graduate students of the School of Education will have a new home, as the new Education Building will finally be complete. The faculty is currently scheduled to move into the building in May and undergraduate/graduate classes are planned to be officially held there in the fall. When finished, the three-story, 72,000-square foot building will contain instructional space and faculty offices for counselor education, educational administration, secondary education, elementary and early childhood education, and special education learning and literacy. It will include an urban education classroom, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education classroom, and counselor training facilities which will consist of observation rooms with recording and live option capabilities.

There is space reserved for some of TCNJ's grant funded centers such as CATIES (Center for Adaptive Technology and Inclusive Education Services), which is affiliated with the special education program.

The building will also have a tiered classroom, a large lecture hall, a multipurpose space, and a computer lab for student use. The building wraps around the existing parking garage, so parking will still remain convenient for the graduate population. Graduate students will also be able to stop for a coffee at the new café, get some work done in the student lounge area, or catch up with classmates as they overlook the campus on the third floor terrace.

A three-sided, aluminum sculpture in the shape of a one room schoolhouse will be placed directly next to the new education building. Each side of the sculpture will have a mosaic of historically American quilt patterns and symbols representing education in New Jersey and around the United States. The form of the sculpture reflects both the architecture of the new education building and that of a historic schoolhouse. The sculpture will be an allegory of the students and staff coming together to form a bond of positive and productive education.

The process of visualizing, designing and ultimately bringing this project to life began about three years ago. When the college reached the point that it was ready to move forward with plans for the building, the campus architect, Lynda Rothermel, met regularly with the former dean, chairs and faculty representatives from the School of Education to consult. The building was ultimately designed to address the needs of the departments and to provide a state of the art facility for the programs representing the School of Education. The Education Building's cornerstone was set in place on June 22nd and the construction has been progressing smoothly ever since. The building was designed by Environetics to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver-level specifications and is being constructed in the Collegiate Georgian architectural style common to other campus buildings.

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Sneak Peek:

Take a look at a picture of the new building on Page 11

Revamped Physical Enhancement Center Attracts Active Graduate Students

The Physical Enhancement Center (PEC) has a new look just in time for the start of the fall semester. The associate athletic director, women's basketball coach and liaison to the gym renovations, Ms. Dawn Henderson, provided a tour of the new facility. Graduate students can now burn off their stress on entirely new fitness equipment which includes eight ellipticals, eight treadmills, five upright bikes and four stair climbers and recumbent bikes. There is also a circuit of old and new fitness machines such as power racks, leg press, steps, fixed weights, kettle bells and bumper plates. A separate area off of the main gym is home to new mats,

exercise bands, medicine and stability balls if you're looking to work your core.

Four television sets are soon to be installed onto the cardio wall, as well as lockers for the entrance hallway. The most important aspect of the change is the maintenance contract that accompanies all the equipment, which will hopefully lend itself to fewer machine breaks and repairs. "I'm happy it's finally open considering it was such a long process," said Dawn Henderson. "We have limited space but made the most of what we had. A well-rounded student is important here at TCNJ, and fitness is ultimately one aspect of that. We tried to provide the

opportunity for students to maintain their health the best we can with this renovation."

Any student with a TCNJ ID (including graduate students) has access to the PEC in Packer Hall. All you have to do is show that valid TCNJ or membership ID and sign in when entering the facility. It is recommended that students call to schedule times for the cardio machines in advance, as that particular equipment is the most popular and contains a thirty-minute maximum time limit for usage. The PEC is open Monday through Thursday from 7am to 8pm, Friday from 7am to 6pm, and Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 5pm.



Check out their website at: (<http://www.tcnj.edu/intramur/pec.php>), read the newsletter for updates (<http://www.tcnj.edu/intramur/downloads/pec-newsletter.pdf>), or call (609-771-2014) for questions or machine reservations.

Now Available: Book Rentals at TCNJ Bookstore

Attention! Attention! Graduate students now have the opportunity to rent textbooks! Over 4,000 books have been rented this fall, which is the first semester the option to rent has been available. Students who opt for the rental system keep the textbook for an entire semester, paying half of the listed price upfront. Students may lightly write or highlight in the book, as long as the book itself does not become damaged. At the end of the semester, the book is simply returned, not sold back. With book rental, the bookstore will automatically take back the book, regardless of its usage, for the next term. When you visit the TCNJ campus bookstore, just look for the books with the RENT ME sticker on them and take them to the rental counter. If you're shopping online, it's even easier. Many books display a RENTAL option, along with NEW and USED options. Just pick the one that's right for you!

There are several key differences between the buy-back program and book rental, Josie Tavarez, Bookstore Manager, said. When a student buys a book, he or she must pay in full and has the option of selling the book back to the store at the end of the semester. However, this buy-back system does not guarantee that the bookstore will take back the book. If the Professors do not use the same title for the following semester, the student will not have the opportunity to sell it back. Also, packaged books (those that contain cds, access codes, etc.) are not eligible to rent. Despite its appeal, renting and buying ultimately comes down to personal preference. "The student has to decide whether or not renting the book is a smart idea for the course they are taking," says Tavarez.

According to Tavarez, 40 percent of textbooks are rentable and the available title selection is based on supply and demand. The more popular the book (in terms of activity level), the more likely a student will be able to rent it. Students must use a credit card in order to secure the rental and then provide personal contact information. Graduate students take note: be sure to return the book on time at the end of the semester because failure to do so will result in assessed fees. Students may ship the book back to the bookstore or return it in person. December 21st is this semester's return due date. Tavarez hopes the rental system will strengthen the on-campus bookstore's appeal, especially since renting has proven successful in Barnes & Noble campus stores nationwide.

Another new way to get books:

An eTextbook is a digital, downloadable version of a physical textbook. Nook Study is a free e-textbook program available for students who want to keep textbooks, class notes and assignments all in one spot. You can save up to 50% of the new text price and the program does not require an actual Nook. All eTextbooks are read using free e-Reader programs that are downloaded to either a PC or Mac. These e-Readers provide great organizational tools to enhance the learning experience. Students can purchase textbooks by using the program and create folders for classes, storing all information, from SOCS notes to assignments, all in one folder. Thousands of eTextbooks are now available.

*Additional Information provided by The Signal and TCNJ bookstore online webpage: <http://tcnj.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=26551&catalogId=10001>

Meet Your Fellow Graduate Students

The College of New Jersey offers many different and interesting degree and certificate programs for which students can apply.

In order to learn more about the exemplary graduate students in these programs, the

Office of Graduate Studies sought recommendations from program coordinators for outstanding students to interview.

Each student graciously volunteered time to provide a peek into the life of a TCNJ graduate student. The Office of Graduate Studies is honored to highlight these four students in our Fall 2011 issue of the Graduate Column.

Courtney Polidori: Master of Arts in English

Introducing Courtney Polidori! Courtney is currently in TCNJ's Master of Arts in English program. Beginning the program as a non-matriculated student, Courtney took Dr. Tarter's "The Witch in Literature" class and fell in love with studying representations of marginalized women. Because of this initial experience, she agreed to conduct archival research at the Peabody Essex Museum Library in Salem, Massachusetts over the Maymester. Courtney's experience in Salem was educationally well-rounded. She stated, "By day we were studying the actual trial documents from 1692 in Salem, dissecting handwriting, attempting to translate Puritan language, and by night we were bonding over witch city brews!" On the train ride home

from the trip, Dr. Tarter asked Courtney what her future plans were and recommended that she apply for matriculated admission into the Master of English Program. Courtney's experience in Salem and on the train was literally and metaphorically the journey which led her to her current status as a matriculated student in the program.

Courtney's experience in the program could only be described as involved, as she participated in Sigma Tau Delta (the English Honor Society), presented a paper at two



"By day we were studying the actual trial documents from 1692 in Salem...by night we were bonding over witch city brews!
- Courtney Polidori

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national conferences and conducted archival research, all while teaching at Bucks County Community College (Bucks) in Pennsylvania. The Sigma Tau Delta membership allowed Courtney to work closely with Dr. Steele and Professor Steinberg, who encouraged her to present her papers at the two conferences. Courtney presented her first paper, "Ecofeminism in Native American Literature," at the National Conference for English in Pittsburgh and her second paper at the Association for the Study of Women in Mythology in Madison, Wisconsin. Both papers were very well received and provided Courtney with an experience to remember.

The most life-changing aspect of being in graduate school for Courtney has been the opportunity to teach at Bucks through her graduate practicum. The practicum permits graduate students to teach one class for one semester at Bucks, through the partnership between TCNJ's English Masters program and the Language and Literature Department at Bucks. Last semester Courtney taught COMP107-

Developmental Writing. Courtney describes her teaching experience as, "fantastic and challenging because the graduate classes I was taking at the time influenced the content I was teaching. For example, I was taking a class on Latin American novels as history, which gave me insight into the essay I was teaching on the Elian Gonzalez controversy in Cuba. Thursday evening, I read a postmodern novel about life in Cuba, and then on Friday morning I shared the insights from my graduate class with my students. There is a very interesting interplay between my graduate classes and the classes that I teach at Bucks."

Courtney is teaching at Bucks again this semester because she wishes to have one year of teaching experience on her resume by the time she graduates. This semester she is teaching freshman composition, which has proven to be even more engaging because she has double the amount of students and their papers are much longer. The students are currently writing essays about feminism and the social construction of gender. Courtney believes that, "writing the per-

sonal essays is a cathartic experience for my students because it allows them to write about and process their own struggles in a healthy way."

Although spring 2013 is Courtney's expected graduation date, she is definitely not in a hurry to leave TCNJ. "I get kind of depressed when I think about graduating. I feel really happy right now because all of the possibilities of where my life could be headed are on the table." Courtney is looking forward to doing more travelling, as she is not currently able to do so with her writing and teaching schedule. She loves to ride her bike and build Legos with her two sons, Kai and Cole, go for hikes in Tyler State Park, and attend a boot camp style exercise class in the mornings. Courtney recommends that graduate students say yes to every opportunity that they are presented with during the course of their graduate programs. "Present at a conference, join an honor society, complete a teaching practicum, study abroad and work closely with your professors. The possibilities can be endless if you allow them to be."

Raouf Srafen: ESL Teaching Certification

Announcing Raouf Srafen!

Raouf is a current TCNJ ESL teaching certification student looking to eventually continue into the master's program. Raouf has had quite a diverse professional background, as he has previously worked as an engineer, real estate agent, security/police officer, and maintenance technician, to name a few. He is currently employed as both a substitute teacher in Princeton's public school system and an Arabic Instructor at Berlitz Language Center. Raouf had heard that ESL and bilingual certifications were two of the most in demand fields for education. Since Raouf is fluent in both Arabic and English, enjoys working with children and longs to consistently continue his education, the ESL teaching certification program was the perfect match for him.

Raouf is currently taking nine credits (three classes) as a full time student and this is his first graduate program in the United States. He is currently tutoring three Egyptian immigrant students at Washington Elementary School in Trenton. Raouf explained that, "These students have difficulty with the school system, the English language and adjusting to the

classroom. From the first five minutes I worked with them I made progress. One of my students was continuously writing her name from right to left, as she would in Arabic. The teacher was having trouble explaining to her that in English, you write from left to right. I ended up explaining this concept to her using both Arabic and English words, then helped her write her name at least ten times in English. She got it and never made a mistake again after that!"

Raouf works in conjunction with the students, teacher, administration and parents to help bridge the language barriers and allow for the student to make the most progress in the classroom. The teacher often makes notes for Raouf about what she is having difficulty explaining to her ESL students and each week he has a different goal to achieve depending on those notes. "One student I worked with was very shy in the beginning. He didn't want to talk because he would often get confused. Once he met with me and realized I could speak in his native language, he became much more comfortable and was willing to open up. I talk about anything and everything with these beginning stu-

dents, simply to raise their comfort level. Then we address the problems and begin working with them."

The graduate work that Raouf is experiencing here at TCNJ is very different than what he experienced in his native country. He explained that, "over in my native country you get one book, you study it, you answer the questions and then you get graded on that. Here we have a variety of learning activities

"These students have difficulty with the school system, the English language and adjusting to the classroom. From the first five minutes I worked with them I made progress." - Raouf Srafen

such as projects, papers, research, and writing. This is all the backbone for graduate studies that are rigorous but wonderful! I very much enjoy the variety of experiences I am getting with my education." Raouf wishes to give back to the graduate community

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by eventually becoming an Arabic teacher for adults. He would love to apply for an adjunct teaching position here at TCNJ as soon as he completes his master's program.

Raouf has had some great experiences travelling throughout Europe and is currently looking to travel within the United States. He has been all up and down the east coast, but would love to go out west and see California, Las Vegas, Texas and Colorado. He enjoys fishing, playing soccer and table tennis, cooking Egyptian food and volunteering at his church. Raouf stresses the importance of education to current and future graduate students. "Never stop educating yourself. Education and learning is forever. It has so many benefits towards adding to your knowledge and personal self. You can never lose if you have a hunger for learning."



Paula Rainey: ESL Teaching Certification

Introducing Paula Rainey! Paula is currently the TCNJ Library's Program Assistant and working towards her ESL teaching certification. While going for her Masters of Arts in Counselor Education, she worked on a special project with the ESL students at Nottingham High School, a population, with which she had not previously interacted. She found those students to be a challenging yet extremely rewarding population to teach, especially because of their eager and hardworking attitude towards learning. Paula said, "It is very interesting how they learn, how they manage coming from Haiti, Mexico, etc, and how they have to immediately adapt to this new language." She knew from that moment on that she wanted to earn her ESL teaching certification and combine teaching and counseling.

Although Paula is presently in her third class of the program, she's already had some amazing experiences working with students. Her favorite experience is the "adopt a tutor" project, in which she tutors students from the Trenton School District one-on-one. There are over one-hundred ESL students in the school district, so the

project has been an enormous benefit for the children. Paula loves to see the students grow and progress every time she works with them. "My current supervisor said that my student is doing much better with his language because of my work with him after school. It's very rewarding!" Paula also works as a teacher's assistant at the English School in Lawrenceville at the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church. The English School is a warm community of students, teachers, and volunteers working together to improve adult lives through English language learning. There are different levels of English language learning in the school and Paula works with the 2B level (lower-level fluency) class. Paula is very dedicated to teaching English as a second language to adults. She says, "In many cases, parents of K-12 ESL students do not speak English. At the same time, their children are learning the English language in school. It is necessary for both parents and students to learn English. In America, much is written and spoken in English. When these adults also learn the language, it opens so many doors for the entire family!"

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Paula's favorite class has been ESLM 525 Second Language Acquisition. In this class they learn about how a student goes about acquiring a second language. Paula explains that, "In a bilingual class, instruction may be in both the students' native language/first language and in English/their second language. In an ESL classroom, instruction is given only in English. Paula found that one of her class homework projects has helped her to relate to her students. "Dr. Wong gave us a language assignment where we were to learn at least fifty words and seven phrases in a different language that we have never before used. Sounds relatively easy, but it really was not. I started learning Polish, and I am still working on that. I come from a large family where my mom, dad and grandmother all spoke Polish. When they all conversed in Polish at the dinner table, I had no idea what they were talking about unless they said someone's name in English. I know that my experience listening to my parents is very similar to what some of these students go through on a daily basis. I am currently learning some French phrases to

communicate with my current student."

Paula loves the TCNJ campus community and feels blessed to work as the library program assistant. "Working in the library, I feel like I hit the jackpot because I am a person who is very passionate about learning and teaching others. Working in the library is wonderful because it is an environment that fosters learning. I interact daily with all members of the campus community. The students are my favorite because I get to see young, curious freshmen develop socially and academically over the four years." Paula adds, "Plus the library is family. We have an awesome great group of faculty and staff here in the library. I'm very appreciative of the support I receive from my department in being able to take advantage of continuing education."

Paula is especially looking forward to getting her certification so she can become an official teacher at the Adult English School. She would love the opportunity to someday teach ESL abroad. In her spare time, Paula enjoys

exercising, reading, educational, counseling, and self-help books, learning polish, and travelling with her husband to college football games. She recommends that future graduate students ask questions about and explore their program offerings before officially enrolling into the program, as it is important to make sure the vision matches the reality. "However, don't be afraid that what you chose isn't exactly what you want, because the education will never be a waste," says Paula. "Also, don't be discouraged by the job markets! Something good always happens to people who really, truly do what they want to do in life. Just have a sincere effort to go out, make connections and do it!"

"In a bilingual class, instruction may be in both the students' native language/first language and in English/their second language. In an ESL classroom, instruction is given only in English." - Paula Rainey

Melanie Kaminski: Master of Arts in English

Presenting Melanie Kaminski! Melanie is currently a seventh grade language arts teacher, a previous TCNJ undergraduate student and a matriculated graduate student in TCNJ's Master of Arts in English program. Melanie both missed being a student and yearned for a new and exciting educational challenge, so she decided to come back to TCNJ for her graduate degree in English. Her favorite classes have been "Literature Theory" and the "Visuality of Race," which describe how the things people see impact their ideas on the racial experience in the country and in the media. This class changed the way Melanie thought about society and the world around her.

Melanie's most exciting experience in the program was this past summer, when she travelled to Cornwall, England with Dr. Tarter. The class studied the persecution of witches and midwives while archiving in the Museum of Witchcraft. Melanie also wrote a book called, "The Magic of Fertility" and created a website with some of the other students she was in a working group with. Although Melanie has now returned to the United States, she

continues to archive for The Museum of Witchcraft from home. Melanie describes how she archives by explaining how "the owner sends me scrapbooks of this person named Doreen Zallente. I go through and read every cutting and note that was made in the scrapbook and then make these notes available through the museum's search engines so they may be available to the public. You don't get the opportunity to work one on one in many settings, but I'm pretty lucky to have the opportunity here."

Melanie has also been discussing the possibility of a second edition of the book she and her classmates wrote with the owner of The Museum of Witchcraft, who is currently attempting to get "The Magic of Fertility" published. The book was about fertility and ancient midwives methods for attaining fertility. Melanie and her fellow students will be looking more into ancient methods of contraception this year for the second edition. When asked about her thoughts becoming a potential author, Melanie said, "I think we have a pretty good shot at getting it to go through. I don't think the book is like anything else that's out there. I mean, I have no ex-



pectations of it being a best seller, but in scholarly circles it has the potential to be quite interesting to readers!"

The professors, the beautiful campus, and the flexibility of the program are just a few of the aspects Melanie enjoys best about being at TCNJ for her graduate degree. She believes that the professors are, "really people you can have a common discussion about common interests. I found that as an undergraduate also, but even more so as a graduate student. Each class feels like you're just sitting down to discuss those common interests. Plus we receive a lot of support, guidance and encouragement—so that's always a plus."

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As Melanie is going through the graduate program class by class, she is not interested in thinking about graduation just yet! She is considering a future that involves a second master's program, studying abroad, or finding more work experience, but for right now she's enjoy-

ing taking the classes as a fun hobby. Melanie advises current and future graduate students to love what they do and to not take classes solely for the credits. "Try to take classes that you'll find personal fulfillment in. For me, that's what this is all about. It can be frustrating

if you're just taking classes for credit because you won't get as much out of it. However, it is beyond rewarding when you find that personal fulfillment and joy from what you're learning. Go for that."

Coming Soon: New Education Building, contd from page 2

Mark Kiselica, the interim dean of the School of Education, is very much looking forward to the opening of this new building. "The faculty is very excited and we are so grateful to the college for providing us with this new space. We feel it will be a wonderful center for education and we look forward to hosting many wonderful events for guests in this building."



Photo Credit: TCNJ Magazine



Above: Pictured above at the cornerstone ceremony are (left to right): Matthew Golden, Vice President for College Relations and Advancement; Trustees Eleanor Horne and Rosie Hymerling '67; and Mark Kiselica, Interim Dean of the School of Education

Right: An artist's rendition of the new Education Building



Graduation Notice

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

Graduation/Program Completion Application Deadlines

September 23: Deadline to apply for December 2011 graduation without a late fee (degree/completion posting)

February 10: Deadline to apply for May 2012 graduation without a late fee (degree/completion posting and commencement)

February 24: Deadline to apply for August 2012 graduation without a late fee (degree/completion posting)

Fall 2011/Spring 2012

November 1st-11th: Spring and summer registration window
(If you are a non-matriculated student applying for Spring matriculation, wait for an admission decision and then register in January if accepted for matriculation.)

December 15th: Late registration fines for spring registration take effect

November 23th-25th: Thanksgiving Break

December 20th: Last day of fall Graduate Classes

January 17th: First day of Spring classes

January 17th-25th: Add/Drop Week

Mark Your Calendar! Visit www.tcnj.edu/recreg/calendars for more details

December Graduation Notes:

Students planning to Graduate December 2011 who have not yet filed an application for graduation and/or certificate completion must do so **immediately**. In addition to the \$100 graduation application fee, the \$35 late fee will apply as well.

May Graduation Notes:

Students planning to Graduate May 2012 **MUST** apply for graduation and/or certificate completion by February 10, 2012.

Contact your program coordinator with any questions regarding your ability to graduate in May 2012. The commencement ceremony takes place once each year in May.

Electronic Billing and Email:

Students are reminded that all billing is completed electronically by using PAWS.

Remember to check for E-mail notifications that are sent to your TCNJ account for any outstanding financial obligations because paper bills will NOT be sent. Students are expected to check their e-mail two times per week.



Pay billing electronically by using your PAWS account. Check for E-mail notifications!