

Spring Issue
March 2009



THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Graduate Column



The College of New Jersey

*Welcome to the Spring 2009 issue of TCNJ's
Graduate Column Newsletter!*

In this issue, we are pleased to share information regarding: the new PAWS system; Career Services resources; financial assistance information and resources; outstanding graduate students within various programs; a glimpse into the MA English program; and important dates and reminders for students!

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

Susan Hydro, Assistant Dean –Office of Graduate Studies



PAWS



The College of New Jersey is in the process of switching online systems in order for students to utilize more capabilities through a faster system for ALL of their TCNJ academic and financial business.

PAWS stands for the Primary Academic Web Services and will be used to replace TESS beginning with the Fall 2009 semester. PAWS has new capabilities that allow students to complete most of their tasks from one site location. PAWS will have an online “shopping cart” for registration, where students will be able to store intended classes before the upcoming registration. Once their registration opens, students can submit their “shopping cart” of courses for the upcoming semester. Another feature is the financial aid “to do” list, where students are able to access incomplete portions of their loans or financial payment forms without having to call campus offices. Students will be able to use self service to attend to their financial to do list. Students will also be able to view their academic advisor’s information online. PAWS is capable of determining if a student is on track to graduate on time by running a “degree audit” to make sure the required courses have been fulfilled. Finally, PAWS, will have a “what if” function that will tell a student the courses needed if he or she is intending to switch majors or concentration tracks. All of these capabilities will be readily available 24/7 for Fall 2009!

PAWS will be the location for the registration window beginning March 31st. With the Self

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PAWS...cont.

Service capabilities that became available beginning February 23rd students are able to view:

- *Personal information
- *Course catalogue
- *Advisor's information
- *Financial Aid Fall 2009 "to do's"
- *Course history and grades

Beginning in March, PAWS will release the Fall 2009 course schedule for the March 31st registration window.

Where might you find PAWS? A new **myTCNJ** Portal has been created, and serves as a gateway into most of the online systems. **myTCNJ** can be found on the home page, and a URL link will be emailed to students. It is strongly suggested that students add this new page to their Favorites. By using the **myTCNJ** page, students can access all of the online systems for TCNJ matters. With one login, username and password, students are able to access Zimbra email and calendar system, SOCS, Career Services, and

PAWS. Students will be able to use drag and drop features to make this page look however they would like! Also featured on this **myTCNJ** page will be a link to the PAWS project website, connecting students to "How To" documents, tutorials, as well as most commonly asked questions. All of these options became available at the end of February so that students could become acclimated to the new system.

Tess will still be used for billing and financial processes, academic transcript requests, and add/ drop classes throughout the Spring and Summer sessions. Beginning July 1st, PAWS will be the primary online system for students to obtain and view all of their academic and financial information all in one place!



THINGS TO REMEMBER:

To log into PAWS and **myTCNJ**, you will use your same username and password as you currently use for email. **NO NEED FOR A NEW LOGIN!**

Find the link to **myTCNJ** on the top right of the TCNJ homepage.

March 31st Registration window using PAWS.



Drop in to Career Services!



Planning on interning or applying for a job? Career Services offers a variety of resources to help you prepare and market yourself through your resume and the interview process. Career Services is located on the first floor of Forcina Hall, room 158. Inside you will find many helpful counselors and resources to assist you with resumes, interviewing skills, career counseling, and job searches!

Workshops are held every fall and spring semester to help students with cover letter writing, resume critiques, interviewing skills, and other useful tips for job searching!

Stop in the Career Library with over 450 resources located in Forcina 155. Resources include career and employer information, job searching assistance, interviewing preparation materials, and much more! Also visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~career/guidance/library.html> for online sources and the TCNJ Career Handbook.

Educational Interview Days! By registering throughout the year, beginning in the fall, workshops for resume review and interview preparation are held for those obtaining a degree in an educational field. By registering for the EID orientation days students are able to have their job

searching skills sharpened, their best qualities marketed, and participate in on campus interview days with prospective school districts in the surrounding areas. For more information visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~career/eid/index.html>, and keep a look out for orientation sign up days beginning in Fall 2009!

Career counseling services are available as one-on-one sessions to discuss career options, construct and edit resumes, and prepare and practice interviewing skills.

Drop in hours are available:

- *Monday and Thursday 1:30-3:30
- *Tuesday 3:30-5:30
- *Friday 10:00-12:00

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TCNJ Makes CENTS!

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The cost of graduate school is always an essential consideration when pursuing continuing studies. Affordability, loan information, and payment options are important factors that matter to students seeking ways to cover the costs of their degree. Whether you are a full-time student, part-time student while working, or simply continuing your education and furthering your knowledge, The College of New Jersey provides information and possibilities for alternative payment options to help ease the angst students experience with their expenses.

One possibility that eligible graduate students may consider is to apply for a Graduate Assistantship position through the Office of Graduate Studies. Matriculated students who are enrolled full time can apply to be considered for placement as a Graduate Assistant. Positions are located within various departments and offices on campus. Graduate Assistants are hired for a

full academic year and work 15 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters. They are credited a \$5,000 tuition waiver* in each of the two semesters. Assistantship applications must be filed by April 15th for consideration for the next academic year. The process is a competitive one as more students apply than there are positions available. The assistantships are also a great way for graduate students to gain more learning experiences outside of the classroom and to integrate themselves into campus life. *subject to change

For more information regarding graduate assistantships, students can visit www.tcnj.edu/~graduate/assistantships.html.

The College of New Jersey offers several resources for graduate students to obtain information to assist with financial concerns. Students are encouraged to visit the Student Financial Assistance websites for information regarding federal loans, summer aid appli-

cations, and state loans. Student Financial Assistance offers online information as well as published newsletters that serve as a financial aid source for inquiries pertaining to graduate cost and funding. For more information regarding loans and the online newsletters, students can visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/aid/>.

All TCNJ billing and financial responsibilities are managed online and students are reminded to frequently access their billing statements and check their email to ensure all deadlines and application requirements are met. For more graduate financial aid information, students should visit <http://www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/aid/index.html>.



Meet the Students



The College of New Jersey offers degree and certificate programs that challenge the graduate students to learn, apply, and excel in the career field of their choice. With the help of a very friendly and supportive faculty, graduate students experience the high caliber courses that will prepare them for their field. All of The College's students exhibit dedication within the various departments and in order to get a closer look at their experiences, the Office of Graduate Studies sought recommendations from program coordinators to highlight several outstanding students. These students were gracious enough to volunteer their time to allow

an interview that highlights their work, achievements, and a glimpse of each of their programs. It was a privilege meeting these students, and the Office of Graduate Studies is honored to feature them in this Spring 2009 issue.

Lauren Carver, Special Education Certificate



Meet Lauren Carver! Lauren graduated from the undergraduate education program here at TCNJ in 2001 and was immediately hired in a teaching position. After several years of teaching, Lauren knew there was no other school where she wanted to complete a certificate program and she came back to TCNJ to earn her Special Education certification. Lauren has been enrolled in the MEd Special Education program for three and a half years and has valued the time she spent in both undergraduate and graduate programs at TCNJ.

Lauren is currently a second grade teacher at Appleby

Meet the Students...cont.

School in Spotswood, where she has been teaching for eight years. The experience of working with 20 students, seven who require IEPs, can be challenging at times for Lauren, but she loves the age group of her students. Lauren came to TCNJ to better the learning environment of her students so she dedicated herself to her studies in order to do so. Because she had her own classroom and had been involved in the education system, Lauren was able to contribute to classes by drawing on her personal work experiences, giving a new perspective to her learning. She attributes her graduate experiences to the knowledgeable professors she's studied with while enrolled in the program. The intimate size of the department enabled her to take multiple classes with a small group of dedicated professors, utilizing all the resources they had to offer her, and allowing her to develop strong professional relationships. Lauren plans to keep in touch with the professors as career mentors and inspirational people who she knows will continue to provide her with support even after her certificate program is completed.

Coming to TCNJ for a graduate program provided Lauren with a completely different point of view towards learning and educating. She absorbed all that the program had to offer by taking everything she learned and bringing it to her own classroom. Lectures, articles, and presentations provided Lauren with material to make her classroom better for her students and school. After reading a particular article in class, Lauren was inspired to make a valued change in her school. She read about a program, Circle of Friends, that helped integrate children with social difficulties and problems making friends by creating a circle of peers and mentors to gradually help the child work towards participation in activities and groups. Lauren proposed this program to her principal after learning about it at TCNJ, and this September, her school

was able to successfully implement the program. Lauren continues to apply what she has learned in order to make a difference for her students. As she finishes her program, Lauren's advice to graduate students is to "take this opportunity and use it." She feels there is always more knowledge to gain and it is extremely beneficial to learn through new eyes.

Lauren has been married for three years and enjoys the opportunities to relax by reading, watching TV, and even skiing at her family house in Vermont. In the future, she plans to continue to work in her school district, setting her goal as working towards change. She hopes to one day pursue a job as head of Special Services or even obtain a Principal degree. Whether she is teaching or working to achieve more degrees, Lauren wants to continue to love what she does and dedicate herself to making a difference for her students. TCNJ wishes Lauren the best of luck after her studies!

John Silver, English



Introducing John Silver! John and his wife are parents of seven and grandparents of 13, and John is currently a second year student in the MA English program working this spring on his thesis, "The Genesis and Development of the Shakespearean Woman". He works very closely with the faculty on this intensive research and writing project and he will continue to complete his thesis through the fall semester.

Before coming to TCNJ, John engaged in several different careers and numerous life adventures that contribute

to the wisdom, intellect, and unique spirit he brings with him to the English department. John originally began work as a teacher at The Lawrenceville School, teaching English, from 1953-1957. He always had an interest in literature so he spent several years at the all boys prep school teaching the subject. After a detour throughout Europe, John went to NYC "to seek his fortune" and had several careers before starting his own financial consulting business in 1976. After working in the financial field for twenty eight years, John agreed to merge with a business partner, expanding his company to Hong Kong. While working to develop his new business relationship, John who at the time was previously divorced, proposed to an old and dear friend, several years a widow, on the ferry from Hong Kong to Kowloon. They were married shortly thereafter. John's financial consulting company flourished continuing to do business in the United States, Hong Kong, and throughout Europe. In 2003, the New York native sold his company and moved to Pennington, freeing up time to travel the country. As he experienced adventures from Vermont to Alaska, he always carried Shakespeare in his hand. Shortly following, John did fundraising work for The Lawrenceville School for three years, but realized there was still more for him to experience and know. So he traveled from New England across the country to the West Coast, reading Hamlet numerous times along the way. He was inspired by Shakespeare because he always found something new that he did not previously uncover. It was in 2006, that his interest in English and Shakespeare led him back to school.

John took two courses at Princeton to see if he was able to enjoy classroom work again. It was there that a Princeton professor highly recommended The College of New Jersey and the great faculty to John in order to obtain a

Meet the Students...cont.

master's degree in English. John spoke to several fascinating and helpful faculty members here and soon became acclimated to his new academic surroundings. John enrolled in a Shakespeare undergraduate course and was astounded by the wonderful professor, Dr. David Ventura, and the enthusiastic students. John admired his professor's dedication to the subject and students, and he wanted to continue learning at The College of New Jersey in the MA English program.

John has loved his experiences back in the classroom and is basking in the opportunity to continue to learn. John speaks very highly of the faculty in the English department who have helped him with his goal of writing a thesis as well as an essay he composed, which is waiting for publishing approval. He is very thankful for the time and talents the faculty has contributed to helping him through his coursework and composition goals. In addition to his professors, from whom he has learned a great deal, John is impressed with all of his classmates who have contributed to his learning experience at TCNJ.

After completing his thesis next year, John hopes to continue through the program, earning his master's degree. While he studies, he spends time with his wife, children, and grandchildren and hopes to one day earn more degrees in areas of film, history, and music. John's charisma, intellect, and genuine spirit are wonderful and inspirational characteristics that he brings to his studies in the English department, and TCNJ wishes him the best of luck in his continuing work and education.

Matt Leibowitz, Counselor Education



Meet Matt Leibowitz! Matt is in the Community Agency track of the MA Counselor Education Program with a concentration in Substance Abuse Counseling. Matt previously completed his undergraduate degree in Psychology here at TCNJ and after several years of different experiences, it was the convenient location and love for the school and faculty that brought him back to TCNJ for his graduate degree. Currently in his last semester of the program, Matt will be graduating with a MA in Counselor Education and a Substance Awareness Coordinator Certificate.

Before enrolling in the Counselor Education program, Matt delved into related experiences throughout his time as an undergraduate. He was a substitute teacher and always enjoyed the interactions with his students. Matt also volunteered at a senior center and took great pleasure in having the opportunity to listen and help the people he encountered to make it through their rough patches. But after graduation, he followed his love for music and was the manager of a local music venue for two years until it closed down. This occurrence led Matt back to school and to a program where he heard so many positive things from others who graduated from the Counselor Education Program.

While studying in the program, Matt works a number of jobs including tutoring and teaching guitar lessons. He is currently in his internship, completing hours at two sites. Because Matt has an interest in working as a Student Assistance Counselor and is getting his Sub-

stance Awareness Coordinator Certificate, Matt is working at two different locations; Hightstown High School two days a week and the Alcohol and Drug Education twice a week. Matt is finding that he has been able to apply what he has learned regarding counseling clients and education and prevention programs directly to his site experiences. The broad field of what he has learned through the program translates into Matt's everyday experiences as well; helping to mediate conflicts, establish open communication in relationships, and relate to everyday situations.

Matt has appreciated and enjoyed his time in the program and the opportunity to come back to TCNJ. The best advice Matt gives to incoming graduate students would be to schedule time wisely. Matt began the program with a full-time job and a full course load and found it extremely beneficial to write everything down, have an agenda, and stay focused. He also found it productive and helpful that his classes relate directly to his area of interest, which helps students from feeling overwhelmed with extra unrelated courses. His favorite thing about TCNJ has been the "top-notch" faculty, which he feels is critical to the success of a Counselor Education program. The faculty have helped Matt learn the nuances involved with counseling clients and will leave a lasting impression on him as a counselor and an individual.

Matt plays the guitar and performs locally on a semi-regular basis and he has plans of taking a few months off after graduation to pursue music and traveling. Following expanding his music interests, he hopes to work as a Student Assistance Counselor in a New Jersey school district. In the future, Matt would love to return to his work in the music industry in some capacity. Matt is hoping

to intertwine counseling and music by working with musicians who are struggling with addictions. TCNJ congratulates Matt on his upcoming graduation, and wishes him luck with his music and counseling career!

Bobby Gueh, Marriage and Family Therapy Program

(Photo not available)

Introducing Bobby Gueh! Bobby is returning to TCNJ as a student enrolled in the EdS Marriage and Family Therapy program. Bobby originally completed his Master of Arts in School Counseling at TCNJ in the Counselor Education program. After working for several years, he enrolled in the Marriage and Family Therapy program and is now in his last semester, finishing this May.

Bobby originally completed his undergraduate degree in History Education and taught for several years at a charter school. With thoughts of furthering his education, Bobby planned to enroll in the Counselor Education program after hearing of the great reputation associated with TCNJ. Bobby took a break from teaching and enrolled full time into the School Counseling program, completing his degree in two years. While fully immersed in the program Bobby was a substitute teacher part time and also a mentor for juveniles and at risk men. Bobby graduated from the program in 2004 and has been working as a counselor at Fisher Middle School for 6th-8th graders for almost six years. He finds the experience challenging but enjoys his job immensely, feeling it is more a mission rather than work. Bobby became elated when talking about his work as a school counselor and part of the reason Bobby is so passionate about his job is due to the fact it is a different experience each and every day. Even though it often gets emotional, Bobby feels he is helping plant seeds for students' later growth, making all the experiences meaningful.

While working in the school and becoming exposed to situations his students encountered, Bobby realized more than ever the need to get family processes together. He saw the importance of a healthy family system and established a goal for himself to help these systems in the future. Information from faculty at TCNJ regarding enrollment in the EdS Marriage and Family program came to Bobby at the right time and he has been part of the program for a year and half now. Bobby attends class in the evenings after his day of counseling in the school, and he is also in his internship semester of the program. Bobby has evening meetings in the TCNJ clinic where he is completing his hours, seeing three families every Thursday. After completing the program in May, Bobby will be an educational specialist in marriage and family therapy and will continue to complete his hours towards licensure in this area. In the future, Bobby hopes to establish his own part-time private practice to counsel couples and families.

Throughout both graduate experiences, Bobby found that the faculty contributed greatly to his learning by helping him develop as a professional. They helped him bring out his own attributes that enabled him to learn more about himself as a counselor. Bobby's classmates brought different life and field experiences to class that helped each student learn from one another. He learned how to use his own occurrences, and those of his classmates, to integrate with the theory in order to be the very best professional he could be. The wide variety of students in his cohort provided the opportunity to expand his ways of learning, making the graduate experience powerful, fun, and worthwhile.

As Bobby approaches completion of his program, his advice to incoming graduate students is to be open minded to the process. It can be one of self discovery, which is beneficial as a student develops into his or her. Bobby suggests that the theoretical knowledge is the foundation and a student will learn how it helps them find

their stance in the counseling process. In order to gain the most experience, it is important to infuse what is learned with one's life experiences. Bobby found that the faculty help the students draw on their experiences and skills to help bring them into their profession, and he stresses the importance of being aware and taking advantage of the opportunity to really develop your best professional characteristics.

Currently, Bobby is married with two children and is expecting his third in July. Family is something very important to Bobby and he dedicates himself to his wife and children. In the future Bobby hopes to open his own private practice while still remaining in the school setting. Bobby has appreciated the experience of being a school counselor and hopes to be able to continue in his career as he embarks on other type of work in marriage and family therapy. Moreover, Bobby is originally from Liberia and aspires to take what he has learned and experienced back to Liberia to help people and families there. TCNJ wishes Bobby the best of luck as he continues to make a difference through his profession!

SPOTLIGHT ON:

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH



The Master of Arts in English program is composed of an array of students threaded together by a common interest in the written language, specializing in literature and the studies of research and writing. The English department focuses on contemporary literary theories and engages students in the exploration of figurative language. The subject matter of the department consists of a wide range of topics from Shakespearean literature to electives in Young Adult Literature. The English department infuses analysis, research, and appreciation of an array of these early writings, literary traditions, and contemporary works to supplement the coursework of the master's students. This eclectic course of study over

the two to six year master's program attracts a diverse student population which displays creativity, intelligence, and a variety of previous exposure and experiences that contribute to the high caliber of learning in the MA English program.

One of the students in the department comes to TCNJ after years in several fields, finally returning to the pursuit of her first love: language and communication. Growing up, Lisa Yacomelli was always passionate about what she read, and she engrossed herself in the meditation and themes of writings and books. Before she pursued a career in language, Lisa followed the footsteps of her older sister and became a dance instructor in the studio her sister opened. While practicing the art of movement, Lisa majored in Modern Languages in college. Because of the scarcity of jobs for language teachers, Lisa continued her studies at NYU law school. She practiced merger and acquisition law in New York for eight years until the birth of her son. Residing more in family life, Lisa continued to further her knowledge at the time by enrolling in the London's Royal Academy where she obtained her teaching certification. But before entering the classroom, Lisa opened her own dance studio for 10 years. She was later hired by The Hun School of Princeton to choreograph their musicals and create and coach a dance company in their athletic department. It was at The Hun School that Lisa joined the English department and was able to enroll in TCNJ's MA English program in order to give her students "the best insight into literature."

Lisa still currently coaches and choreographs at the Hun School where she teaches sophomore and senior English. Lisa brings a rich and varied background to her master's classes, and she has been able to apply articles, class material, and discussions from the master's program into her everyday teaching. Because of TCNJ, Lisa says she feels comfortable teaching many types of literary theory to her students and is providing them with a plethora of knowledge from various literary works and analytical lenses. In the future, Lisa has consid-

ered pursuing a doctorate, but until then she continues to enjoy her time at home with her dogs and her frequent visits with her son at the University of San Francisco. Lisa continues to absorb the insight her professors have to offer and is thankful for the constant source of inspiration and support TCNJ has been for her.

Another student, Samantha Atzeni, returns to TCNJ after a year of work following her TCNJ undergraduate degree in journalism and professional writing. Before enrolling in the MA English program, Samantha spent time in the film and journalism industry. Samantha worked on a pilot for HBO and gained the knowledge and experience to form her own film company while she was still in college, working on four short films and two feature films. Following the completion of her undergraduate degree and the time spent in film, Samantha obtained a job with the New Jersey Press Association and freelanced for a few magazines in her spare time.

While studying and completing her coursework, Samantha is the graduate assistant for the English and Women and Gender Studies departments, and she also works part time at a hair salon in Pennington. She is currently completing her practicum where she teaches a composition class at Bucks County Community College. Though very busy leading up to her May 2009 graduation, Samantha is so thankful she came back to the English department at TCNJ. She has valued the scholarship of her brilliant professors for exposing her to literature she would never have formally known. The program has helped her encompass an understanding of literature and writing structure and it has given her the appetite to want to continue writing for a living. Samantha hopes to continue the path of teaching after completing the program, and she may one day venture into publishing. Samantha has considered TCNJ her home and is grateful for the experiences it has provided her and the opportunities she'll seek with her master's degree.

Donna Green, another student enrolled in the English department, graduated from TCNJ in 2005 with an English major and Creative Writing minor. After graduation, Donna spent several years focusing on her writing before returning to TCNJ in the spring of 2007 to start her Master of Arts in English. She loved the College so much as an undergraduate that it seemed natural for her to come back to the place she enjoyed in order to pursue another degree. The knowledge, coursework, and classes in her graduate program have been wonderful for Donna, and she has learned so much from her professors in the English department. Donna is currently in her practicum for her program, so she is teaching classes at Bucks County. In addition to her studies, practicum, and upcoming internship, Donna works full time on campus in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. Donna also teaches a creative writing class to adults at a local school, plays in a women's field hockey league, and is working on sewing her first quilt.

Donna is extremely proud to be a returning student and have the ability to utilize the opportunities that TCNJ and the faculty have to offer. The skills learned in an English class have helped her advance not only in her program, but in life outside of the classroom. By sharpening her skills in interpretation, close reading, effective writing and communication Donna has been able to expand her writing, publishing a short story in addition to presenting her compositions at the Thornton Wilder Conference last fall. With her creative interests, acclaimed accomplishments, and continuation of curiosity in the English subject, Donna is a valued member of the MA English family.

This spotlight provides a small illustration of the unique collection of students enrolled in the MA English program. The theoretical study of language within the department continuously appeals to a wide range of students who contribute their varied fields, education, and life experiences to their shared pursuit of a Master of Arts in English.



Mark Your Calendar



The Graduation/ Program Completion Application Deadlines Have Passed

January 29th- Deadline to apply for May 2009 graduation (degree/completion posting and commencement)

February 23rd –Deadline to apply for August 2009 graduation (degree/ completion posting)

Graduation Notice

If you are planning to graduate in May or August, but have not yet applied to do so, please contact Records and Registration at: 609-771-2647.

A \$35 late fee will apply!

Visit www.tcnj.edu/recreg/calendars for more details



Spring 2009

MARCH

2nd: course catalogue released on PAWS

9-13: Spring Break

16th: financial holds, transfer and test credit, and academic advising for Fall 2009 available on PAWS

31st: Fall registration window on PAWS open until April 10th

MAY

8th: Last day of Graduate class

15th: Commencement

JULY

PAWS fully available for all Fall 2009 transactions

Note: Summer 2009 registration is still available through TESS.



Important Reminders



May and August Graduation Notes



Students planning on graduating in May or August of 2009 must have already applied by the designated deadlines. Students who have not yet applied are advised to immediately call Records and Registration and apply online, and students will be assessed a \$35 late fee. Students who are unsure of their eligibility should contact their program coordinator.

Students who, at the end of the Spring 2009 semester, will have 7 or fewer credits to complete their program over the summer may participate in the commencement ceremony on May 15th and will graduate in August. (Please note there is no August ceremony on campus.) Students with more than 7 credits to complete following the end of the spring semester may participate in the May 2010 ceremony.

Electronic Billing



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

PAWS



Remember to use PAWS for the Fall 2009 registration beginning March 31st. Capabilities available on PAWS will continue to be released throughout the spring semester. Beginning in July, PAWS will be the location of most financial and academic transactions for the Fall 2009 semester.