

**Spring 2017**



# The Graduate Column

## *Table of Contents*

Page 2:

An Interview with Elizabeth Elko

Page 3:

An Interview with David Sanchez

Page 4:

Textbook Release by Dr. Jill Schwarz

Page 5:

TESL Program Tuition Incentive

Page 6:

Graduate and Professional Student  
Appreciation Week

Page 7:

MEd Literacy programs and Reading  
Specialist Certification

Page 8:

Important Dates

## **A Message from the Office of Graduate and Advancing Education**

In this issue, we highlight Elizabeth Elko, a graduate of our MEd: Instruction program and David Sanchez our new Program Specialist in summer and winter programs. Other features include the upcoming Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, TESL Program Tuition Incentive, and information on the MEd Literacy programs and Reading Specialist Certification.

On behalf of the Office of Graduate and Advancing Education, best wishes for an enjoyable semester.

We look forward to seeing you on campus!

*Susan Hydro*

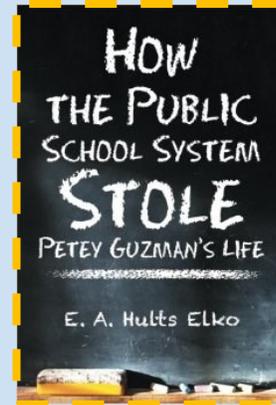
Director, Graduate and Advancing Education



# An interview with...



## Elizabeth Elko



A story about how the public school system is failing its students today, told through the eyes of a student named Petey Guzman.

Published by AuthorHouse.

Elizabeth Elko graduated from TCNJ's Master of Education: Instruction program (offered in conjunction with the Regional Training Center/ RTC) in 2012. She is currently working as a high school English teacher and recently published her own novel, How the Public School System Stole Petey Guzman's Life.

She speaks highly of the graduate program stating it was, "So incredibly valuable. I would recommend anyone and everyone (who currently works in education) do it." Elizabeth notes that the courses she took during her graduate study were a great balance of theory and application--both of which she still finds herself using daily in her classroom. Of the professors in her program, she states: "You could tell they were very passionate and really wanted you to 'get it'." Still today, Elizabeth notes that her former professors help her with networking opportunities.

The biggest piece of advice Elizabeth has for students considering the graduate program is to, "Just do it--trust the program." She raves about its benefits and added that friends who have completed the program agree it honors your time and the work you put into it, while still considering that those enrolled have to maintain demanding full-time jobs.

As for the students already in the program, Elizabeth suggests they schedule classes based on the calendar of their school district. Elizabeth says that since the courses compress a lot of material into a short amount of time, scheduling her classes so that they were at "lighter" times during her regular school year allowed her to avoid getting too overwhelmed. Elizabeth highlights the many benefits the degree she obtained through The College of New Jersey has provided for her career, one of the most monumental being getting published and even collaborating with two other working teachers to draft a screenplay for a television pilot she hopes one day will be seen on the big screen. In addition, she is honored to be a part of the adjunct faculty here at TCNJ for graduate courses in the Department of Educational Administration and Secondary Education.

# An interview with...



## David Sanchez



David Sanchez is the Office of Graduate and Advancing Education's new Program Specialist for summer and winter programs. David attended TCNJ as an undergraduate student, majoring in both English and Women & Gender Studies. He was very involved with campus life, having been an ambassador, a Bonner student, a member of Greek Life, and the President of PRISM. After graduating he was the Enrichment Coordinator at HomeFront where he oversaw 120 students who were either homeless or in transitional housing. He developed the STEAM (Science, Technology, English, Arts, Mathematics) curriculum during his time there.

David had such a positive experience as a student here at TCNJ and wanted to rejoin the community as an employee. He attributes much of his personal growth to the faculty and staff that he encountered during his four years on this campus. He values the personal experience that students encounter at TCNJ and wanted to give back by being a part of that force, noting that he tries to be as helpful as possible in all his interactions with students and their families. Welcome back, David!

### *Ten Fun Facts*

*about*

*David Sanchez*

\*He has traveled to Israel, Mexico and Italy and has his eyes on Brazil next!

\*An expert Netflix binge watcher, he saw six seasons of *Shameless* in one week and eight seasons of *Lost* in ten days.

\*He has driven across the country twice.

\*In the Negev Desert he rode a camel named Latoya.

\*David has read over 40 *Star Wars* books.

\*During his sophomore year at TCNJ, he participated in a project where over 300 balloons with sentiments about gender written on them were collected and attached to a mannequin in the (old) student center.

\*David's favorite pastime is riding the ferry to Ellis Island.

\*Members of his family fought in the Mexican Revolution.

\*Every year he goes on a road trip with his father and sister to a Weird NJ location.

\*David was one of four undergrads who had the honor of presenting at the National Women's Studies Association conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico with TCNJ in 2015.

# *Counseling Women Across the Life Span: Empowerment, Advocacy, and Intervention*

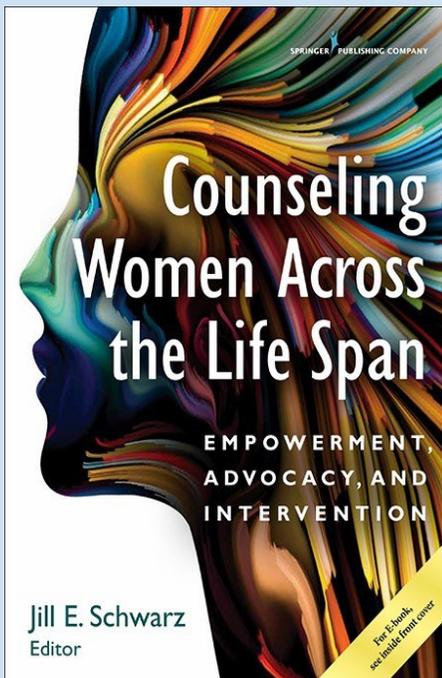
## A Textbook by Dr. Jill Schwarz

Dr. Jill Schwarz has been with the Counselor Education Department for the past twelve years, transitioning from an adjunct professor to a full-time faculty member. Throughout her career she has made an effort to improve the lives of both girls and women. As a school counselor she created and led an adolescent girls' empowerment and leadership program for students. Presently she is a Research Consultant for *Womanspace*, working closely with them on projects aimed to explore different therapeutic treatments for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

On campus Dr. Schwarz teaches *Counseling Girls and Women*, a course that she created and has taught over the last decade. She has also worked closely with The Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department to provide students in the Counselor Education program with the opportunity to earn their Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies.



Dr. Jill Schwarz



In keeping with her passion for supporting women, Dr. Schwarz has written a textbook entitled *Counseling Women Across the Lifespan: Empowerment, Advocacy and Intervention*. The book is the first of its kind to focus exclusively on counseling with girls and women through all stages of life. Counseling needs and issues that arise for women across the lifespan are addressed while also providing insight on how to best serve this population through advocacy and relevant forms of intervention. The oppressive nature of society and its implications for girls and women, diversity amongst women, and the importance of social justice, advocacy, and empowerment for female clients are also explored in depth. How men can aid in helping to create a healthier society for women and girls as both advocates and allies is highlighted, which is a perspective that is often overlooked. There are interactive components, as well, which include self-reflection prompts, discussion questions, and resources that are helpful in working with girls and women. This textbook aims to provide future mental health professionals or those already working in the field with a resource for prevention, advocacy, and intervention specific to the female population.

*Counseling Women Across the Lifespan: Empowerment, Advocacy and Intervention* made its in-print debut this year at The American Counseling Association Conference (March 2017).

For more information on *Counseling Women Across the Lifespan: Empowerment, Advocacy and Intervention*, please visit :  
<http://www.springerpub.com/counseling-women-across-the-life-span.html>.  
For more information on the Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies, please visit:  
<https://graduate.tcnj.edu/2016/10/20/counselor-education-and-gender-studies-agree-to-plan/>.  
For more information on counseling Girls and Women (COUN 560), please visit:  
<https://graduate.tcnj.edu/files/2011/05/Graduate-Course-Descriptions.pdf>.



# TESL Program Tuition Incentive



**Through a grant with the United States Department of Education, the TESL program at The College of New Jersey is offering tuition incentives to students accepted for matriculation to certain TESL programs after December 31, 2016. Students completing a TESL (Initial or endorsement) or Bilingual certification program on the Ewing, NJ campus (does not apply to off-site locations) by August 1, 2021 while remaining in good academic standing (min. 3.0 cumulative GPA), will qualify for tuition reimbursement upon program completion of up to:**

**TESL Initial Certification = max \$4,000**

**TESL Endorsement = max \$2,500**

**Bilingual Certification = max \$2,000**

**Apply today!**

**The application can be found at [graduate.tcnj.edu](http://graduate.tcnj.edu).**

**If you have any questions regarding this incentive opportunity, please contact the Office of Graduate and Advancing Education at**

**[graduate@tcnj.edu](mailto:graduate@tcnj.edu) or 609-771-3121.**



The Office of Graduate and Advancing Education is pleased to share the following activities as part of a weeklong celebration in honor of Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week.

### *The Week of April 3, 2017*

#### **Tuesday, April 4th: Lounge and a Latte**



Join us in the School of Education, room 110, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for complimentary coffee and a chance to interact with graduate students from the various programs offered on campus.

#### **Wednesday, April 5th: Cupcakes and Conversation**



An opportunity for free cupcakes, Kindle raffles, and conversation with graduate faculty. Located in the School of Education, room 110, from 4:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m.

#### **Thursday, April 6th: Resume Review Drop-In**



Drop into the Career Center between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to get assistance in tweaking your resume.

# Literacy Programs and Reading Specialist Certification

The MEd Literacy programs at The College of New Jersey are designed for candidates who possess an initial teaching license and want to expand their knowledge base, skills and dispositions for teaching literacy. At TCNJ, course work focuses on best practices for supporting struggling readers and writers, thinking about new and digital literacies, as well as enhancing classroom instruction for all learners. In our program you can find ways to enhance the literacy instruction you provide students, earn your reading specialist certification, and become involved in cutting-edge research with our faculty.



<https://specialeducation.tcnj.edu/programs/literacy/>



	M.Ed in Literacy	M.Ed in Literacy with Reading Specialist Certification	Post Master's Reading Specialist Certification
	(READ_MED01)	(READ_MED01)	(READ_SCT01)
Who's this program for?	People who have an initial teaching license and are looking to enhance their ability to teach reading and writing to meet the needs of all learners.	People who have an initial teaching license and are looking to take on a leadership role. Candidates will be prepared to support struggling readers and writers as well as work with classroom teachers to enhance their reading and writing instruction as a Literacy Coach.	People who have an initial teaching license and have already earned a master's degree. Candidates will be prepared to support struggling readers and writers as well as work with classroom teachers to enhance their reading and writing instruction as a Literacy Coach.
Master's Degree	✓	✓	
Reading Specialist Certification		✓	✓
Total Number of Credits	33	33	30



# Calendar



## **Spring break**

Monday, 3/12 – Friday, 3/16

## **Last day to withdraw from a full semester course with a W (undergrad & grad)**

Friday, 3/23

## **Fall and Winter 2018 registration windows**

Tuesday, 4/3 – Friday, 4/13

## **Late Registration Fine Assessed (Fall)**

Monday, 4/16

## **Online Student Feedback on Teaching period (graduate classes)**

Monday, 4/30 – Friday, 5/11

## **Reading days - Saturday to Monday**

Saturday, 5/5 – Monday, 5/7

## **Exam period begins Tuesday at 5 PM**

Tuesday, 5/8 – Friday, 5/11

## **Last day of class (graduate)**

Friday, 5/11

## **Spring Commencement**

Thursday, 5/17 – Friday, 5/18

## **Spring Grades Due**

Monday, 5/21

## **Summer Term**

Monday, 5/22 – Thursday, 8/16

## **Summer Session 1 Classes Begin**

Monday, 5/22

## **Memorial Day -- No Classes**

Monday, 5/28

## **Summer Session 1 Classes End**

Friday, 6/8

## **Summer Session 2 Classes Begin**

Monday, 6/11

## **July 4th observed - No Classes**

Wednesday, 7/4

## **Make-up day for 4th of**

## **July holiday**

Friday, 7/6

## **Summer Session 2 ends**

Thursday, 7/12

## **Summer Session 3 Classes Begin**

Monday, 7/16

## **Summer Session 3 ends**

Thursday, 8/16

## **Summer Degree Conferral Date**

Sunday, 8/19

\* If you expect to complete your program in May, August, or December 2017, the last day to apply for graduation without a late fee was February 6th. As a reminder, there is a \$100 fee to apply for graduation from a degree program; there is no fee to apply for completion of a certificate program.