



**TCNJ** THE COLLEGE OF  
NEW JERSEY

# GRADUATE COLUMN



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## A MESSAGE FROM

### THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE AND ADVANCING EDUCATION

In this edition, we highlight some exceptional students and alumni. Other features include information on the new Master of Public Health program, information on summer professional development, and important upcoming dates.

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

*Susan Hydro*

*Director, Office of Graduate and Advancing Education*

# SPRING 2018

# Student Features

Patrick Thane is currently in TCNJ's M.Ed. program for Teaching English as a Second Language with an anticipated graduation date of May 2018. As an undergraduate here, he self-designed the Language Acquisition major, and his continued passion for the Spanish language, language acquisition, and education led him to a natural transition – the TESL program at TCNJ. He is passionate about immigrant rights, and had the opportunity to run an English program for adult immigrants at LALDEF, a non profit in Trenton. In his final semester, he is student teaching in Trenton.



## **On his favorite class in the graduate program:**

“I can’t decide between ESLM 525 and ESLM 587. ESLM 525 is Second Language Acquisition, and Dr. Jean Wong is a fabulous professor who incorporated very unique methods into teaching the class. She really helped us to comb through the material, and as someone interested in the theory behind language learning, she fed my curiosity. ESLM 587 is Curriculum Methods of teaching ESL and I took that in Mallorca with Dr. Jim Lattanzi, who graduated from this program. He gave us several invaluable methods for teaching literacy and critical thinking to English language learners, and the class had both American and international students teaching all over the world. Their perspectives were invaluable, and I met one of my closest friends through this course, as well.”

## **On TCNJ, graduate school, and his future:**

“I came into the Master’s program with the aspiration of using it as a platform to begin doctoral work. Dr. Linda Mayger really pushed me to go through with applying to schools, and Dr. Jean Wong has helped me so much to look for the right opportunities and seek out the right people. So, the people in this program have been what has set it apart from other places. I do think I’ve learned a lot about incorporating content area literacy and theory into my teaching practices, and I felt quite prepared to do well in the field. I have loved working in Trenton schools. I have found the work there to complement my interest in language acquisition, and ultimately I have felt the experience of working to put theory into practice has led me away from pursuing the doctorate right away and into the classroom to get more experience. So not only has TCNJ opened opportunities for me, it has changed my perspective and motivated me to teach before going straight for a career in academia, and I am now prepared for both.”

## **On his hobbies outside of school:**

“I am passionate about travel and language, although I tend to combine that with school! I did study in Mallorca last summer, which I loved, and studied twice in Spain during my undergraduate experience. I am moving to Madrid to teach English next year. I also am an avid tennis fan, and love to play during my free time on TCNJ’s Club Tennis team.”

# Student Features

Brielle Urciuoli graduated from TCNJ with a degree in Journalism in winter 2016, but she wasn't done learning yet. She promptly enrolled in the Public Health certificate program. In addition to being a part-time student, Brielle works as a full-time editor for [curetoday.com](http://curetoday.com) (the website for CURE Magazine), coaches the Mercer Sailfish Special Olympics swim team, does CrossFit at Pennington CrossFit, *and* is planning her wedding for this upcoming November!

## **On attending graduate school at TCNJ:**

"I went to TCNJ for my undergraduate degree, and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. During my senior year, I knew I wanted to continue on with my education, but was unsure what to do. I toyed with the idea of going into public health since health in general is really important to me. I do CrossFit up the road at Pennington CrossFit, coach Special Olympics swimming (go Sailfish!) and generally love to read and learn about health, nutrition and how people, regulations and institutions can affect health on both an individual and population level.

It was really crunch time regarding decision making for what I was going to do after I graduated in the winter of 2016. But when I received a TCNJ email about their newly-launched Public Health graduate program, it was like the answer I was looking for just fell into my lap. I know it sounds cheesy, but at the time it felt like fate, and I'm definitely happy with the decision I made."

## **On how the Public Health program has changed her way of thinking:**

"Coming from a Journalism undergraduate program, I am really proficient at writing a news story. But when it came to finding, reading and understanding scientific work, my skills weren't quite as refined. The Public Health graduate program really helped me in that. Now, not only can I actually understand a study and all the variables that went into it, but I can also determine whether or not it is biased (or bogus!). Currently, I'm working as an editor at a cancer publication ([CURE Magazine/curetoday.com](http://CURE Magazine/curetoday.com)), so scientific studies come up in my job almost every single day, and the deep understanding of the scientific process has made me a better writer and editor.

On a much broader level, this program is helping me to think about things that I have never thought about before, and taking things that I do think about or encounter, and flip them on their heads, making me see them in a whole new light. Just the other day in my environmental and occupational health class, we were talking about agricultural food systems. Many argue that buying local produce is better for the environment because they don't have to ship the food so far (usually from California to New Jersey, in our case). Not to mention, it is better for the local economy to support your local farmer. However, in class we counted the large number of people involved in manufacturing food. If everyone shopped locally, not only would we have a much more limited choice of food options, but you'd also be eliminating so many jobs required to package the food and get it from one place or another. There is no right or wrong answer here, but it made me acknowledge that there are two sides to every coin, and I think that it's crucial to understand that not just academically, but in any situation you find yourself in. "

# Notable Alum

Jennifer Meagher-DiEllo, class of 2016

Jennifer Meagher-DiEllo had been teaching for over twenty years at Middlesex County Vocational Technical School when she decided to pursue her Master's degree in English. She graduated from the English MA program at TCNJ in 2016 with her certification in Women's and Gender Studies, and since then has implemented a new elective at her school that introduces high school students to gender studies.



## **On how TCNJ enriched her career:**

“The graduate program enriched my content knowledge, gave more dimension to the way I approach texts. For example, when I got my bachelor's degree [...] (class of 90!) we did not use lenses to explore texts. Exploring a text with a lens was an entirely new and fascinating concept for me.”

## **On her gender studies course:**

“While I graduated with my English master's, I also received my certificate in Women's and Gender Studies. When I graduated from TCNJ, I wanted to find a way to stay involved in the field. I am fortunate to teach in a very progressive, forward-thinking school district. My principal at the time, now assistant superintendent of the district, Mr. Jeffrey Bicsko, was very supportive when I proposed the elective. Teenagers today are so aware of the social and political implications of gender; I felt that they would be ready for a course like this. It has been a great year. We are using *The Gendered Society sixth edition* by Michael Kimmel as our primary text and *The Gendered Society Reader* as a companion text. We also pay close attention to gender in the media, discussing current events and relating them to the text and personal experiences.”

## **Her advice to graduate students:**

“Do ALL the assigned reading. (Sorry, English teacher talking!)”

# Program Feature

## Master of Public Health



Starting in Fall 2018, TCNJ will be offering a Master of Public Health in addition to the certificate program. Public health, often called population health, shifts its focus from the individual to the larger population, thus requiring hospitals, government agencies, healthcare systems, and employers to work cohesively to create safe, healthy environments. The program looks to assess social and political determinants of health, critically analyze big data and policy implications, develop health risk communication strategies, and make recommendations for improvement of current health practices!

Our faculty is highly skilled, highly trained, and highly passionate. Their expertise covers many fields, including the natural sciences, the social sciences, health and risk communication, social media, computer science, nursing, health and exercise science, public health, and community health.

***The program consists of:***

- ⇒ Five core courses
- ⇒ A capstone in research methods, internship, health analytics, or health informatics
- ⇒ A specialization consisting of five courses
- ⇒ Three electives

***All are welcome to apply, but this program is especially well-suited for:***

- ⇒ School and community health nurses
- ⇒ Other health professionals
- ⇒ Healthcare managers

*Classes will be offered in the evening as to allow working adults to successfully complete the program.*

**The final deadline to apply for Fall 2018 matriculation is August 1.  
For further program information contact Dr. Brenda Seals, [sealsb@tcnj.edu](mailto:sealsb@tcnj.edu).**

# News from the College



Dr. Kathryn A. Foster has been named the 16th president of the College. The Board of Trustees voted unanimously on March 27th to appoint Dr. Foster. Dr. Foster has been serving as the president at the University of Maine at Farmington since 2012, and previously spent eighteen years at the University of Buffalo as the director of the school's Regional Institute, chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and associate chair for undergraduate education and director of undergraduate studies. She officially begins in the position on July 1st. Congratulations, Dr. Foster!

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In January, TCNJ was listed by the 2018 Kiplinger's Top 300 Colleges as one of the "best value" colleges in the nation!

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Rachel Lynn Atkins and Jenna Burke, two students currently enrolled in the English Department's 5-Year MA, received awards for their work at the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honors Society Convention!

# Continuing and Professional Education

**Interested in Continuing and Professional Education?**

**Go online to register for one of our summer programs, workshops, or professional development courses!**

**Website Design Mini Bootcamp**

On Campus: May 3 – 5, 2018

**Project Management Essentials**

On Campus: May 16, 2018

**Introduction to Artificial Intelligence with R**

On Campus: June 5 – 6, 2018

Live Online Remote: June 19 – 20, 2018

**The Art and Science of Sound Decision Making**

On Campus: June 6, 2018

**Data and Business Analytics with R**

On Campus: July 10 – 11, 2018

Live Online Remote: July 24 – 25, 2018

**The 2018 TCNJ Summer Institute for English Language Arts Educators: Teaching Drama (Without Fear)**

On Campus: July 9-12, 2018

*For more information, visit [cpe.tcnj.edu](http://cpe.tcnj.edu) or contact*

*George Hefelle at [hefelleg@tcnj.edu](mailto:hefelleg@tcnj.edu)*

# Important Dates

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

Monday 4/30 – 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 5/21 – Thursday 8/16

**Summer Session 1 Classes Begin** Monday 5/21

**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

**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** Monday 8/20

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

*\* Late registration fees no longer apply for graduate students!*

**Contact us with questions, comments, or concerns!**

Office of Graduate and Advancing Education

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