



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, faculty and alumni. Other features include information on the new Business Masters program, information on Winter and Summer programs, and important upcoming dates.

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

Susan Hydro

Director, Office of Graduate and Advancing Education

FALL 2018

Student Spotlight

Brett Ratner, Integrative STEM Education program

Brett Ratner, previously graduated from TCNJ with his undergraduate degree in Interactive Multi-media and minor in Computer Science and now he's back at TCNJ, pursuing the M.Ed in TCNJ's Integrative STEM Education program. Launched in Summer 2016, this program allows students to explore design-centric and integrative approaches to problem-based learning.



On what it's like to be back at TCNJ:

"While I was attending TCNJ as an undergrad, it quickly felt like a second home to me. I had a big circle of friends and dedicated faculty who believed and supported in me. So to be back and take graduate courses here has been an incredible experience. I feel that same amazing support from my new friends and professors, all playing a part in the success of this next chapter in my life."

On his favorite graduate-level class so far:

"Throughout my time in grad school I have enjoyed many of my classes so far. All of these classes offer me new and exciting ways of thinking that have really [...]allow[ed] me to grow in becoming an educator. The STEM curriculum writing course stands out as my favorite course thus far. This course focused on creating our own STEM curriculum from start to finish. This was an area that I did not have a detailed knowledge base in at first but that just meant I had a lot of room to learn and grow."

On advice for future graduates:

"The advice I would give to future graduates is just go for it. You may be nervous about it being too difficult or are not sure if you can do it, don't let that stand in your way of pursuing an education in something you love. My undergrad degree does not directly translate to the knowledge I need for my masters, however; I am passionate about pursuing this masters program and am prepared to do what it takes to be successful."

A fun fact:

"Since high school, I knew TCNJ was where I wanted to go and since then it has been the only school I have ever applied to for both undergraduate and graduate school."

Notable Alum

Nicole Dittmer, MA English '16

Nicole Dittmer is a recent graduate from TCNJ's MA English program in 2016. Since then she has published numerous articles pertaining to class identity and social construct, as well as the Salem Witch Trials. Now, she's back at TCNJ as an adjunct ready to inspire future writers and journalists.



How has TCNJ, particularly the MA English program, enriched your career?:

"From the moment I was accepted into the program, I was given support and constructive criticism from every source possible. I was provided with various perspectives of, and approaches to, literature, and was introduced to studies that I never knew existed. Through the program I developed a new understanding and passion for my subject matter and was granted the ability to share my knowledge with others. While the structure and program courses enhanced my skillset, the ultimate enrichment came from the professors. The faculty and staff of the English Department were the predominant influencers to my career. They were the people who guided me and told me when my theories should be expounded upon, or when I should just throw them in the bin; their support was, and remains, invaluable."

Do you have any advice for current graduate students, either in the MA English program or in general?:

"The best advice I can give students, both in the MA English program and in general is: Do not give up! There may be times when you are struggling and feel like the world is against you; whether there are personal hardships you are facing or have an overwhelming sensation that you are not good enough to continue: Keep pushing forward, it will be worth it. I also highly recommend reaching out to your professors and building up relationships during your college career. These connections will provide the necessary self-strength to succeed and the ability to focus on the positivity of all your hard work."

On her recent publications:

"I just completed two articles for publication: The first entitled, "I Will be With You on Your Wedding Night" The Infertile Frankenstein: Eugenics and the Sterilization of Victor Frankenstein, and the second article, Malignancy of Goneril: Nature's Powerful Warrior."

As an adjunct within the English department, what is it like to be back?:

"Honestly, it feels like I have never left! I have been a member of the TCNJ community since 2012 when I transferred in to the English/Secondary Education undergraduate program. When I graduated in 2014, I immediately enrolled in the English MA program, graduated again in 2016, and then started teaching my own courses in 2017. The only time I have been away from the campus was from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017, and I must say that I missed TCNJ during that time. So, to answer your question, I feel like I am home."

Faculty Feature

Dr. Tabitha Dell'Angelo, Professor Urban Education

Dr. Tabitha Dell'Angelo is a professor of Urban Education within the School of Education. Her research centers on urban education, specifically focusing on the experiences of teachers and social justice in the classroom. Her most recent study involves working with Urban Education alumni to highlight and communicate key findings of teaching experiences within urban settings. The findings have since been personified through two plays and two comics, brought to life by the assistance of Maria DeGenova, a Fine Arts undergraduate. I had a chance to chat with Dr. Dell'Angelo to find out more.



What inspired you to communicate your findings of urban education alumni through mediums such as plays and comic illustrations?

"First, I love to express myself artistically. My fondest memories from childhood are drawing and writing plays and acting. In my current position, my research is focused on finding ways to support teachers and the students and communities they serve. But, traditional publishing outlets for faculty are academic journals that teachers don't often read. I wanted to find ways to communicate the ideas from my research in ways that reach a wider audience and spark discussion not only among academics but also in communities of teachers, parents, and community members. I thought that staging a play and having the audience experience the data in that way could be really powerful. And, it was. So many audience members approached me after the shows to say how much what they saw on stage resonated with them. Then again, staging a play is not always practical. Finding space and actors can be a challenge. That led me to think about other creative ways that I could share these data. I met a cartoonist at a conference a few years ago and was immediately drawn to that medium. However, I don't have the illustration skills needed to do the work well. At around the same time I was leading an FSP (Freshman Seminar Program) that had several visual artists. One in particular, Maria DeGenova, stood out to me as someone who would "get it". Luckily for me, she agreed to illustrate two of the plays and we have turned them into comics that tell the story of new teachers in high needs contexts."

Based on your study, what have been some key findings in your research?

"A few key findings from my study are that the graduates of our urban education program know and expect that they will face challenges in their practice. The teachers coming out of our program reject deficit model thinking and are willing and open to devising and implementing creative solutions to support their students.

Continued on pg. 5

Faculty Feature

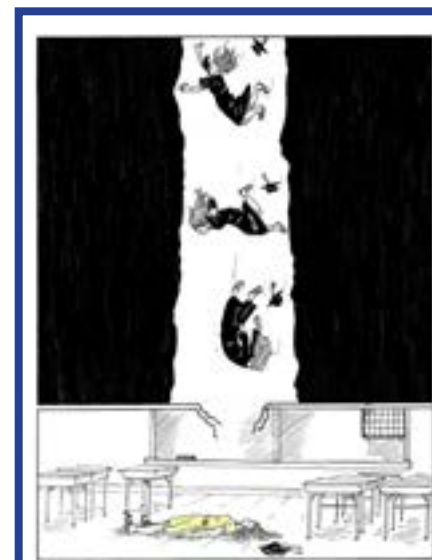
Dr. Tabitha Dell'Angelo, Professor Urban Education (*continued*)

They are not caught off guard by the realities of historically underperforming schools and they approach these contexts with an asset lens -- meaning they don't enter their positions thinking about what is wrong with the school or the children. Instead, they look for and use the strengths of the community as a way to support student learning. The teachers from our program, overwhelmingly fall into a category that a respected scholar in our field calls "[Ridas](#)". Our graduates are militant about social justice and demonstrate a radical love for their students. They have also built strong habits of mind like constantly engaging in critical self-reflection as well as thinking like a researcher in their classrooms. They try new methods, look closely at what is working and with whom and adjust as needed."

You mention that two plays and several comics were composed based on your study, can you please elaborate on them and the message they capture?

"The two plays were both interpreted as comics. The first, "[I Am A Teacher](#)" tells the story of a new teachers' critical self-reflections. Four teachers are portrayed in the play and comic, but they represent more than a dozen teachers who were interviewed. That work is about the internal dialogue that new teachers experience and how they make sense of their experiences by reflecting on their own identity. It also attempts to communicate the sense of family and humor that the students and graduates feel toward one another. The second work, "Down the Rabbit Hole: A fantastical first year of teaching" is about the transition from a teacher education program to the classroom. This work reflects the surreal nature of that transition as well as presenting many of the challenges that our graduates expressed having to confront in their first few years. These challenges include standardized curriculum, pressure from administration, teacher performance standards, and the tension between following directives and doing what you feel is right for your students."

Featured Artwork



Artwork by: Maria DeGenova

Program Feature

School of Business MBA Program



Starting in Fall 2019, TCNJ will be offering a Master of Business-Administration (MBA) program with specializations in Data Analytics, Finance, and Strategy, Innovation and Leadership. With great anticipation, the new MBA program seeks to cater to the ever-growing global market, prepping our students for the future of business. The three track program looks to assess social and global markets, critically analyze big data and market implications, develop analytical strategies, and seize strategic investment opportunities.

TCNJ's Business faculty are highly-skilled, highly-trained, and highly-passionate. Their expertise covers many fields, including quantitative analysis, corporate finance, international markets, hedging, banking, derivatives securities, financial policy, and strategic investing. As experienced teacher-scholars, the faculty offers invaluable insight into the specifics behind how assets are invested, people are managed, and products are developed.

The program consists of a three track option:

~Data Analytics

~Finance

~Strategy, Innovation, and Leadership (*In development*)

Classes will be offered in a T-Style hybrid format that can be completed in two years.

Year 1: Students complete seven course sequence in chosen specialization

Year 2: Students complete seven core courses to learn how to navigate broad executive decisions

The priority deadline to apply for Fall 2019 matriculation is December 1, 2018

The final deadline to apply for Fall 2019 matriculation is August 1, 2019.

For further program information contact mba@tcnj.edu

News & Accomplishments

Highlights and accomplishments of current students, alum, and departments.

TCNJ awarded \$500,000 competitive grant for collaborative project led by the Division of Information Technology and School of Science

Joana Matilde Almeida Couto
current student in the MA Counselor Education Clinical Mental Health program

Awarded an \$8,000 Counseling Fellowship from [NBCC](#) and Affiliates to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations, with a specific focus on transition-age youth (ages 16–25)

Luz Rios

graduate of the School of Education and current teacher at Grant Elementary in Trenton, NJ

Published her first children's book, "[The Nightingale's Song](#)"

Elizabeth Elko

graduate of the School of Education and current high school teacher at Barneget High School

Participated in a study, *Reach Before You Teach*, a program designed to interact and connect with students across curriculum content. She has since been nominated for an EMMY by [Classroom Close-Up](#).

Winter & Summer Programs

Office of Graduate and Advancing Education
Green Hall, Room 111

Enroll in Classes Today!!
*Winter Session January 7th-25th**

Many schools and departments offer a variety of courses during summer and winter sessions. These courses are offered in various formats:

Blended learning (BL): a combination of online and in-class learning; gives students the opportunity to have face-to-face time with their professors and fellow classmates, but also allows them more flexibility to take the courses at their own pace

Online (OL): courses taken completely online for students who may be unable to travel to campus or who are looking for a more convenient option


On-campus (P): courses for students who prefer to complete courses in a traditional setting and format with full face-to-face time with professors

Travel: courses allow for face-to-face classes, while simultaneously broadening geographical horizons and earning credit

*Some blended or online learning courses may run the full length of the winter term (12/24/2018 – Sunday, 1/27/2019). Check PAWS for the most up-to-date information.


Questions? Connect with us!

 TCNJSummer

 tcnjgradadvancing

 TCNJ Summer



 609-771-2369

 summer@tcnj.edu

For more information, visit summer.tcnj.edu and winter.tcnj.edu

Roscoe's Corner

R. Barbara Gitenstein Library
Utilize your Library Resources!!

*Inter-Library Loan

*Research Journals

*Scholarly Articles

*Reference Desk Assistance

*Perfect for Finals resources



Just for Fun!

How to Play Sudoku

Enter a digit 1-9 in each box.

The goal is to include each number only once per row, per column, and per 3x3 square.

Sudoku puzzles are known to help develop logical skills and critical thinking.

Best of Luck!

7	9					3		
					6	9		
8				3			7	6
					5			2
		5	4	1	8	7		
4			7					
6	1			9				8
		2	3					
		9					5	4

Important Dates

Spring and Summer 2019 Registration Window Tuesday 11/6-Friday, 11/16

Online Student Feedback on Teaching Period (Graduate Classes)

Monday, 12/3-Friday 12/14

Last day Fall classes (Graduate) Tuesday 12/18

Fall Degree Conferral Date Friday 12/21

Winter Term Monday 12/24/2018- Sunday 1/27/2019

Winter Session Classes Begin Monday 1/7*

Online Student Feedback on Teaching Period (Graduate Classes)

Monday 1/21-Wednesday 1/23

Winter Session Classes End Friday 1/25*

First Day of Spring Term Monday 1/28

Last Day to Apply for May, August and December 2019 graduation without late fee

Thursday 2/21

*Blended and online dates can vary. Please check PAWS for most up-to-date information.

For the full calendar, visit <https://tcnj.pages.tcnj.edu/academics/academic-calendars/academic-calendar-2018-2019/>

Interested in Continuing and Professional Education?

For more information, visit cpe.tcnj.edu or contact George Hefelle, hefelleg@tcnj.edu

Contact us with questions, comments, or concerns!

Office of Graduate and Advancing Education

graduate@tcnj.edu



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