Cool customers

Their first week at TCNJ, freshmen are asked to share an interesting fact about themselves. There was no better “icebreaker” for Adrienne Koob-Doddy and Robert Antonelli, considering their hidden talent: The two are ice dancers with national and international medals and Olympic dreams.

Koob-Doddy, from Clinton, and Antonelli, from Matawan, have been a dancing duo and best friends since 1999, when she was 11 and he was 12. They’ve shared the ice with figure skating favorites Michelle Kwan and Sasha Cohen at the U.S. Nationals, where they finished fifth at their level in both 2002 and 2003. As high school sophomores, they captured the silver at their first international competition in Vienna.

Now rising sophomores at TCNJ, the two train for titles of a different sort: for Koob-Doddy, a degree in psychology, and for Antonelli, one in business marketing. Here, they are students first, skaters second.

“When skating is a part of me,” Koob-Doddy said, “but I never wanted it to be all of me.” She’d one day like to be a sports psychologist, helping athletes improve their game.

Antonelli had other reasons for their choice. “When we finish college, we will still be young enough and old enough to compete at the senior level,” he said. “Plus, we will be making money from our occupations.”

At TCNJ, they pursue different interests. Koob-Doddy discovered she enjoys acting with All College Theatre. She’s also a college ambassador and community adviser. Antonelli plays guitar for his band, Zanzibar, and writes, records, and produces his own music. Still, they are no strangers to the rink. They continue practicing and coaching skating in their free time. As to what fuels their passion, Antonelli simply said, “You know that feeling when you’re going 100 on 1-95? Imagine that, all the time!”

FBI’s first ever student intern

Think writing cover letters and resumes for internships is tough? Try being fingerprinted and taking a polygraph test.

After months of interviews and background checks, Lauren Leonardis ‘07, a computer science and psychology double-major, was selected as the first student intern in the nation to work at one of the FBI’s Regional Computer Forensic Laboratories (RCFL).

As a junior from Union, she successfully completed the application process, which included a required top-secret clearance. She will be interning at the Hamilton office, one of 12 labs nationwide.

The full-service forensics laboratory and training center is devoted entirely to the examination of digital evidence in support of criminal investigations into terrorism, child pornography, theft or destruction of intellectual property.

Internet crime, and fraud. The staff is trained in using a variety of instruments to recover digital evidence from crime scenes, such as computer hard drives, software programs and operating systems, PDAs, cell phones, and video cameras.

Leonardis became interested in forensics when representatives from the RCFL visited campus in 2004 to educate students about work done at the lab.

“It didn’t even occur to me that digital forensics was an option,” said Leonardis. “I knew it was out there, but I didn’t know how I could get involved until I learned about the internship.”

Last summer she learned more while taking part in the College’s Summer Undergraduate Research Program. Leonardis focused on a digital forensics project on secure file deletion.

Although her specific duties have yet to be determined, Leonardis thinks the internship will fill her summer and could lead to a career. She is a member of the psychology, computer science, and Golden Key Honor Societies, as well as several computer science clubs on campus.

“I didn’t even occur to me that digital forensics was an option.”

One prize leads to another

In October 2005, Matt Richman ’06 delivered his prize-winning essay, “From Niagara to Oakland: An International History of W.E.B. DuBois and the Black Panther Party” at the Association of the Study of African-American Life and History in Buffalo, NY. Although his prize of $500 was certainly appreciated, the award has given Richman much more than monetary gain.

In February 2006, the Courier-Post, a daily paper covering South Jersey, recognized this “white kid from suburbia” for stepping outside of the norm.

The Courier-Post
recognized this “white kid from suburbia” for stepping outside of the norm. Richman, a history and women’s and gender studies major from Voorhees, has atypically spent much of his college career focused on gender issues and African-American history.

When Richman delivered his paper in October, graduate school was only a thought in the back of his mind. “At that point, I wasn’t planning to go to graduate school just yet, but during and after the conference, my thinking shifted,” he admitted. “Afterwards, I decided to go all out and apply.”

Applying to graduate school can be a rigorous endeavor, but the energy Richman gained from the conference led him to apply to PhD programs at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, the University of Maryland, Rutgers University, and New York University.

In March, Richman’s enthusiasm paid off. He was accepted to the University of Pennsylvania doctoral program in history on a five-year Benjamin Franklin fellowship.

He will teach undergraduate courses as a second- and third-year graduate student, in exchange for his tuition-free education.

Nicole Kukowski ’06

Interning with a founding mother

Miriam Nazmy ’07 may be a rising senior biology major, but she has much more than organic chemistry on her plate. With her passion for feminism, she’s championing women’s rights as far away as Cairo, Egypt.

The 21-year-old Egyptian American spent the fall of 2005 at the University of Cairo, interning with 73-year-old Nawal El Saadawi, a world-famous feminist and author who fights the oppression of Arab women and has just founded the Egyptian Women’s Union.

Then, in spring semester, a paper Nazmy wrote, which in part discusses Arab-American women’s poetry as a tool of resistance, won the New Jersey Project Award. Her essay, “Homeland (In)security: The Poetry of Suheir Hammad,” was one of 10 recognized for achievement in feminist and multicultural scholarship.

“I feel so lucky,” Nazmy said. “Everything kind of came together—I met this amazing woman in 2004, then I got to witness the way she works.”

At times, she hesitated when describing her experience. She didn’t want to sound “cheesetastic,” she said with a laugh. But there was no way around the truth. “It was just so awe-inspiring,” Nazmy said.

In Cairo, Nazmy attended formative meetings of the Egyptian Women’s Union, which were conducted in formal Arabic. She now serves as the group’s American representative and, from the States, will try to secure grants that can be lent to Egyptian women who want to start their own businesses.

Mary Lynn Hopps, director of the College’s Women in Learning and Leadership program, introduced Nazmy to El Saadawi in 2004. “I think (Nazmy) really recognizes the plight of women in a transnational sense,” Hopps said. “She’s committed to making a difference in women’s positions in the world.”

Nazmy plans to pursue a doctorate in public health and has visions of opening a clinic in Egypt someday.

Sammy Taboosi ’07

“Shes committed to making a difference in women’s positions in the world.”

Miriam Nazmy ’07