

Connections



The College of New Jersey

Connecting TCNJ to Our Neighbors

Volume 3 Number 1

Fall 2007

Ewing Residents Savor Community Fest 2007

Thousands flocked to The College of New Jersey's campus on October 6 for "Community Fest 2007: A Taste of the World." This year's event celebrated the diverse cultures that weave the dynamic fabric of the College and Ewing communities together. The day featured delicious food, great music, children's rides, and much more.

Performances by the Ewing High School marching band and step team, and the Fisher Middle School cheerleaders, kicked off the event. Attendees were also treated to performances by The Lore School Fifth Grade Orchestra, the Thursday Night Jazz Band, and Ewing Talent Show winners Desiree Clark and Yasmin and Serena Carden.

TCNJ's Synergy Dance Company and

Gospel Choir also lent their talents to the festivities. The Sensational Soul Cruisers, Miss Amy & Her Big Kids Band, and The Tone Rangers were also on hand to entertain.

As in previous years, The Fun Zone featured children's activities and rides such as a moonwalk bounce inflatable, a rock-climbing inflatable, and a SpongeBob play space.

Jugglers-Are-Us and Captain Rich's Pirate Magic Show thrilled audiences both young and old with their acts.

The day also featured several sporting events. Ewing High's varsity field hockey

team dropped a tough match to Lawrence, while its boy's varsity soccer team was shutout by New Brunswick. TCNJ's men's soccer team held on for two overtime periods before losing to No. 2-ranked Messiah College. The College's women's soccer team was the only club to emerge victorious from the day, posting a 4-0 shutout over University of Redlands.

The day's event also featured local food and craft vendors as well as non-profit and TCNJ student organizations.



Community Fest 2007 featured music performances, crafts, and more.

TACT F.A.Q.

What Is TACT?

TACT stands for Township And College Together. TACT was formed in 2002, and is a group composed of Ewing residents; representatives of Ewing's Police Department and government; and faculty, staff, students, and police officers of The College of New Jersey.

What Does TACT Do?

TACT meets on a monthly basis in an effort to promote dialogue and share information between the communities of our township. Its members address some of the most pressing matters that concern a college town, such as rental issues and good neighbor concerns.

When Does TACT Meet, and How Can I Get Involved?

The next TACT meeting is scheduled for November 6 at 6 P.M. in Paul Loser Hall, Room 120, on TCNJ's campus. The next TACT Landlord's forum is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 28. The forum location is yet to be determined, but will be announced ahead of time. People who are interested in joining the group should call TACT Chairperson Marita Sciarrotta at 609.620.0010 for further information.

New Program for Fisher Middle School Students

A cohort of rising 8th-grade students from Fisher Middle School will have the chance to participate in a weeklong summer Interactive Journalism Institute at TCNJ in 2008 and 2009. The program is intended to increase the participation of members of underrepresented groups in the computing sciences by exposing middle school-aged students to interactive journalism. It is part of a \$600,000, three-year competitive grant awarded to the College by the National Science Foundation.

The summer institute curriculum will impart basic computer science, reporting, and writing skills. This session will focus particularly on database design and access. It will exploit the potential of a new programming language, Scratch, that supports young people as they create their own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art on the Web. The Fisher students will learn and practice basic reporting and programming skills, and produce a small prototype news publication.

Summer learning will be reinforced and cultivated during the school year through workshops and enrichment activities. The students will also continue to produce the news publication as well as receive visits from professionals working in the field.

Parents can contact their child's guidance counselor for more information.



Participants in the 2007 Urban Teacher Academy.

Training Tomorrow's Urban Educators

For the second year in a row, students from local high schools spent two weeks of the summer on TCNJ's campus learning about the the benefits—and hardships—of teaching in urban schools.

The College's Urban Teacher Academy (UTA) was established to address animmigrant teacher-shortage problem: the nation will need more than two million teachers within the next 10 years, but has only one million prospective teachers as of now.

Participants in the College's program learned how to craft a lesson plan and teach elementary school students. They also read books about other people's experiences in urban teaching, wrote reaction papers, delivered speeches about why they want to teach, and listened to many teachers talk about their own experiences with urban teaching.

Economic Impact Report Details TCNJ's Contributions to the State and County

A recent report shows that TCNJ and its four sister institutions in Mercer County have directly generated "hundreds of millions of dollars in wages and thousands of jobs" in the county and state.

TCNJ, along with Rider University, Princeton University, Mercer County Community College, and Thomas Edison State College, contributed over \$1.2 billion in direct spending to the state's economy

during Fiscal Year (FY) 2005. Nearly \$2 billion in total spending was generated in the state as a result of those initial institutional expenditures, the report indicates.

As a group, the five schools rank as one of Mercer's leading employers, counting for 5.7 percent of all non-governmental jobs in the county. In FY 2005 the group generated almost 13,000 jobs—more than 7,700 of them right here in Mercer County.

The report points out that most of the institutions' funding comes from tuition, professional fees, private donations, and grants—not taxpayer money. "On average, only 6.5 cents of every dollar spent by the five institutions was provided by the State of New Jersey in Fiscal Year 2005...

[However, for] each dollar in financial support by the state... the five Mercer institutions generated \$24 in total spending (economic activity) and \$10 in wages throughout the state's economy," the report states.

Also highlighted were the community outreach efforts that benefit the area. For instance, TCNJ's Small Business Development Center works with area businesses to foster economic development in the area. The College also houses a Municipal Land Use Center that assists towns and government agencies.

Through its service-learning requirement, TCNJ contributes roughly 20,000 hours of community service per year. In addition, the College offers cultural programming for area residents.

Staying Connected

The College of New Jersey

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www.tcnj.edu/~ccr

Campus News:

www.tcnj.edu/~ccr/news

Department of Athletics:

www.tcnjathletics.com

Community Information:

www.tcnj.edu/visitors.html

On-campus parking information:

www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/parking

Commitment to Community

Habitat for Humanity

New Jersey is one of the least affordable states in the country according to data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), making it nearly impossible for many families to have a place called “home.” However, a group of TCNJ students is building hope and homes in the Trenton area.

TCNJ’s student organization of Habitat for Humanity is working collaboratively with Trenton-area office of Habitat, sending TCNJ students into the city to help construct housing for low-income families.

Students from the College get involved in most aspects of the construction process,



TCNJ’s Habitat for Humanity at work in Trenton

engaging in a full day’s work every other Wednesday and every other Saturday, said TCNJ Habitat for Humanity Co-President Arun Gurunathan ’09. TCNJ usually brings about 10 students to each site visit.

“Students usually are very keen on taking part in site visits, and many times once they complete one site visit they enjoy the experience so much they continue to go on a lot more,” said Gurunathan.

TCNJ students typically set up insulation, place sheetrock, paint, position framework, lay cement for basements, and demolish outdated structures. “You really get a chance to take part in a lot of different activities since so much goes into constructing a home,” said Gurunathan.

“You learn valuable skills and make a tangible difference in someone’s life. Sometimes you actually get to work side by side with the future homeowners and you can see how grateful they are to have a chance to have their own home. It is a wonderful feeling,” Gurunathan added.

Trenton Research Project

Over the summer, seven research teams made up of TCNJ faculty and students examined how the city of Trenton has responded to social, cultural, and environmental challenges. The interdisciplinary program yielded some interesting results.

Possibly the most topical project studied the impact on Trenton of the relocation of Capital Health System (CHS) Hospital—Mercer Campus to Hopewell. That research team found that while the relocation will likely have deleterious effects on the neighborhood, CHS based its decision to move on concerns about future insolvency linked to the cost of providing charity care. The team’s research suggests that the city can learn from plans developed by the Princeton Medical Center for their own relocation from Princeton Borough to Lawrence.

Another team worked with Trenton’s Project TEACH (Teen Education and Child Health), and determined that sensitivity to clients’ personal and cultural backgrounds strengthens the ability of programs like Project TEACH to promote prenatal care.

Other research teams examined environmental issues in the city. One conducted field sampling of freshwater invertebrates (mussels) and researched the Assumpink Creek watershed, which bisects the City of Trenton. That research found a biologically distressed stream that has virtually no riparian zone within the city limits, despite previous efforts to restore the creek and provide habitat and recreational facilities.

Another team sought to explain the social and institutional context behind the stalled construction of the Jefferson School annex in North Trenton. Using interviews of residents and institutional actors, historical census data, and contemporary parcel-level data, the team’s research explores how the contaminated soil brought onto the site galvanized residents to action, and reflects longstanding educational, social, and economic challenges in this African-American neighborhood.

In a continuation of an ongoing, multi-year research project, another team examined ethnic transitions in Chambersburg. The project used ethnographic and life-history methods to document how this neighborhood has changed from a traditionally Italian American one to a new home for immigrants from South and Central America.

The project was funded by the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and the Alice and Leslie E. Lancy Foundation. Full results of the each team’s research can be found at www.tcnj.edu/~trenton.

Watch a video of TCNJ students discussing their Trenton research projects online at www.tcnj.edu/~ccr/video/trenton/index.html

Campus Construction Update

For more information on these projects, contact William Rudeau, director of campus construction, at 609.771-3234.

Lake Ceva Dam

This project is complete. The water level in Lake Ceva is back to its original level and the lake has been restocked. The weeds that took hold while the lake was lowered to accomplish the replacement of the old dam will die off after the first frost.

Student Apartments

Groundbreaking for the two new student apartment buildings is scheduled for December. The buildings were designed by Fletcher Thompson, and are scheduled to open their doors to upperclassmen in fall 2009. They will be located along Metzger Drive across from Lions’ Stadium and the Soccer Stadium.

Green Farmhouse Stabilization

This project, which is in progress, will stabilize the farmhouse’s existing structure, and will include a general cleanup of the exterior. The project is scheduled to be complete by December.

Art and Interactive Multimedia Building

Construction is scheduled to begin on this new building in April 2008. The three-story building, designed by Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, will feature studios, classrooms, computer laboratories, a recording studio, and faculty offices. It will be located directly across from the Music Building.

Free Events at TCNJ Highlight Religion, Culture, and Identity

Join us for a series of free on-campus programs that will investigate the beliefs and institutions of major religions and their profound impact on human culture and individual identity.

For more information, visit www.tcnj.edu/~philos/religion/community.html and follow the links under "Program of Extracurricular Events," or contact Professor Celia Chazelle at chazelle@tcnj.edu. Parking information can be found online at www.tcnj.edu/~sfs/parking.

October 30–December 5, 2007▲

Assumed Identities

College Art Gallery

Curated by Sarah Cunningham

Opening Reception: Tuesday, October 30, 6–8 P.M.

The exhibit explores assumptions and assumed roles.

▲Note: The gallery is closed for Thanksgiving break, 11/21–25.

November 14, 2007, 2 P.M.

Artist Lecture by Oksana Chepelyk

TCNJ Library Auditorium

Oksana Chepelyk will discuss and show her sculptural fashion designs, performance documentation, and films.

November 14, 2007, 5–6:30 P.M.

Public Lecture: Zhihua Yao, University of Hong Kong, "Reincarnation and Eternal Resurrection in Buddhism"

TCNJ Library Auditorium

December 1–2, 2007

Film Weekend: Spirituality and Film, Two Films of 1997

TCNJ Library Auditorium

December 1, 2007:

2:30–4 P.M.

Film: *Taste of Cherry* by Abbas Kiarostami

4:30–6 P.M.

Film: *A Walk with Kiarostami* by Jamsheed Akrami

5–6 P.M.

Public Lecture: Jamsheed Akrami, "Iranian Cinema: Reflections of Humanity"

December 2, 2007:

2–4 P.M.

Film: *The Apostle* by Robert Duvall

January 16–February 13, 2008†

Between Heaven and Earth: Transformations and Sacred Spaces

College Art Gallery

Juried by Eleanor Heartney

Curator's talk in the gallery: Wednesday,

January 23, 4:30–5:30 P.M.

Reception: Wednesday, January 23, 6–8 P.M.

This exhibit will examine sacred spaces in both their physical and conceptual realizations.

†Note: reduced hours 1/16–1/22: Tu, We, Th, NOON–3 P.M. only

February 9, 2008, 10 A.M.–5 P.M.

Symposium: Sacred Spaces

TCNJ Library Auditorium

February 9–16, 2008

Tibetan Sand Mandala Ceremony

Holman Hall

February 20–March 30, 2008△

Parable of the Garden: New Media Art from Iran and Central Asia

College Art Gallery

Curated by Leeza Ahmady, Sarah

Cunningham, and Deborah Hutton

Gallery Talk with the Curators: Wednesday,

February 20, 5 P.M.

Opening Reception: Wednesday,

February 20, 6–8 P.M.

This exhibit will present recent media works by artists from Iran and Central Asia.

△Note: The gallery is closed for Spring

Break, 3/8–16.

February 27, 2008, 5–6:30 P.M.

Reading from Anthony Hecht, *The Hard*

Hours, and discussion led by President

R. Barbara Gitenstein

March 22–23, 2008

Film Weekend: Contested Sacred Spaces

TCNJ Library Auditorium

March 22, 2008:

2:30–4 P.M.

Roses in December by Bernard Stone

4–4:30 P.M.

Coffee break

4:30–5:30 P.M.

Lecture by Bernard Stone

March 23, 2008:

2–4 P.M.

In the Name of the Father starring

Daniel Day-Lewis

April 1, 2008, 5–6:30 P.M.

Lecture by Rebecca Alpert, Temple

University: "Jewish Views of Solitary Sex."

TCNJ Library Auditorium

Upcoming Events

The College hosts a wide variety of events, speakers, concerts, and workshops each month, many of which are free and open to the local community. The College's homepage lists the events of the day, previews upcoming events for the week, and also hosts a monthly calendar. Visit www.tcnj.edu often for up-to-the-moment details on what's going on. For athletics events schedules, visit www.tcnjathletics.com. Listed below is a sampling of coming attractions:

October 31; November 7, 28; December 5

Wednesday Afternoon Recital Series

Mildred and Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall

12:30–1:30 P.M.

Performances by TCNJ music majors;

recitals are free and open to the public.

Call 609.771.2762 or e-mail

music@tcnj.edu for more information.

November 2–4, 9–11

Dido and Aeneas

Don Evans Black Box Theater

Times vary

Presented by TCNJ's Lyric Theatre. Tickets

required. Contact music@tcnj.edu or call

609.771.2552 for more information.

November 4

Saxophone Studio Recital

Mildred and Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall

8 P.M. This event is free and open to the

public.

November 29

TCNJ Jazz Ensemble

Kendall Hall Main Stage

8 P.M. Tickets required. Call 609.771.2552

or e-mail music@tcnj.edu for more infor-

mation.

December 1

TCNJ Choir and Women's Ensemble

Mildred and Ernest E. Mayo Concert Hall

8 P.M. Tickets required.

Call 609.771.2552 or e-mail

music@tcnj.edu for more information.

December 18

Last day of classes, fall semester

January 22

First day of classes, spring semester