

Connections



The College of New Jersey

Connecting TCNJ to Our Neighbors

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March 2006

Meet the Newest Campus Additions

Though not always apparent from the outside, the campus grounds within Metzger Drive have undergone significant transformations in recent years.

The latest and most awe-inspiring facility on campus is the new library, which officially opened on August 29, 2005. The 134,000 square-foot library consists of four floors and one subterranean level, complete with an intimate 105-seat auditorium that plays host to a variety of lectures and performances. Internet access is provided throughout the building, and an in-house café is planned to open for the fall 2006 semester. For information on obtaining guest access to the library, visit www.tcnj.edu/~library and click on "Visitors" in the "User Guides" section.

Opened in December 2004, the campus Spiritual Center is a 4,000 square-foot facility that is home to many of the activities of the spiritual organizations at the College. The facility provides a multipurpose room, small meeting rooms, offices, and a meditation room. The Spiritual Center is available for weddings and other gatherings. For more information, contact the Office of Conference and Meeting Services at 609.771.2264 or visit www.tcnj.edu/~cms.

Currently under construction are new athletic fields, including a new softball field and a new multi-use playing surface for soccer and field hockey. The new facilities will include grandstands, press boxes, a concession stand, restrooms, and a ticket booth, as well as new sidewalks, landscaping,

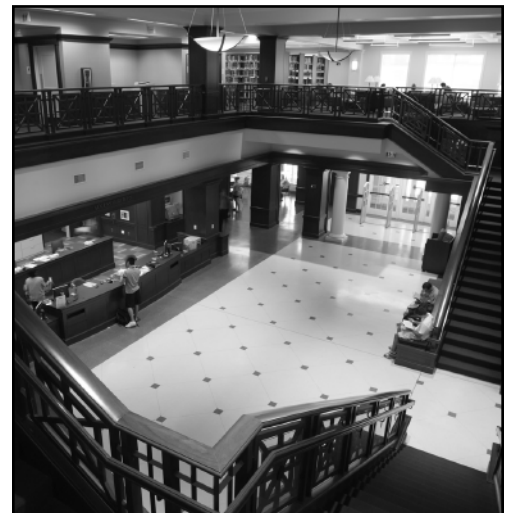
and site lighting. Interested in attending a game? Schedules can be found at www.tcnjathletics.com.



Spiritual Center



TCNJ Library



Library Lobby

Township And College Together

TCNJ has made it a priority to address the historical challenges of creating and maintaining positive town-gown relationships. While casually conceived relations had driven most of the past interaction, opportunities for positive interaction are no longer being left to chance. Issues are therefore being dealt with proactively. The critical need to address ways of interacting became most apparent during the 2002–03 academic year. At that time, the College expressed a desire to move forward with its Master Plan and build a parking garage on the interior perimeter of campus in close proximity to the neighbors' backyards on Pennington Road. Negotiations and on-going dialogue with the leadership of Ewing and TCNJ leaders eventually resolved the issue.

In fall 2002, President R. Barbara Gitenstein created a Task Force on Interactive Communications. One of the charges of the task force was to examine the impact the College has on the surrounding community. During the same period, the Ewing Planning Board passed a resolution to improve communications between Ewing Township and TCNJ.

As an outgrowth of the resolution, the mayor of Ewing contacted the president of the College, and together they commissioned a joint committee, the members of which represent Ewing residents, Ewing Township Council, and TCNJ. The purpose of the committee, Township and College Together (TACT), is to identify ways to improve communication and interaction.

Topics for discussion have included the impact of students on the community, becoming good neighbors, and actively sharing information on resources and services. To date, three public forums have been held. The first forum, entitled "Community Dialogue," was held in December 2002 and covered topics such as outreach opportunities, economic interaction, being a good neighbor, and access to campus events. The second forum was held in June 2004 and focused on landlord/tenant relationships, and students living in rental properties near campus. The most recent forum, "Strengthening Community Relations," was held in December 2005 and offered community members an opportunity to further explore the realities of town-gown issues. The forum encouraged

constructive, lively interaction between local landlords, community members, Township Council leaders, TCNJ students, and college staff.

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The formation of TACT has created a positive platform for managing community relations. Membership is now expanding to include students, landlords and civic association representatives. For more information about TACT, contact the Office of Public Affairs, 609.771.2368.

Commitment to Community

TCNJ Sesquicentennial

The College's Sesquicentennial celebration last year made strengthening community ties a priority. Exciting programming and new traditions were developed, placing significant emphasis on all aspects of community involvement.

"Thanks for Giving" Dinner

In November, the College hosted members of the Hollowbrook Senior Citizen's Center at the annual campuswide "Thanks for Giving" Dinner. Joined by members of the College's daycare center, students, faculty, staff, families, and friends all gathered together to share a meal of thanks. From

Community Fest, which is now in its 16th year, to the new summer concert series, there is something for everyone at The College of New Jersey.

Service Learning

For the past 10 years, the College's service learning program has had a significant impact on student learning and has increased the campuswide interest and involvement in community service, providing local non-profits with a valued resource. Each semester, undergraduate students participate in a variety of area programs, including Ewing Head Start, Mercer Child Care Center, Ewing Township Senior Citizens, NJ Lions Eyeglass Recycling Program, Special Olympics New Jersey, and

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"Thanks For Giving" Dinner



Alumni Recognized for Leadership Leadership Convocation Award Winners

In addition to being ranked one of the nation's most competitive schools by *Barrons' Profiles of American Colleges*, The College of New Jersey once again topped *U.S. News & World Report's* list of public colleges in the Best Universities—Master's category for the northern region of the country. The College held on to its number five overall (public and private) ranking in the Best Universities—Master's category for the north, where 165 schools were ranked. The College has ranked as the best public college in its region in the *U.S. News* survey since 1993.

With over 60,000 alumni, TCNJ has some of the most distinguished alumni in the state. In fact, over half of our alumni live and work in central New Jersey, giving back to their communities each and every day.

On February 9, the College paid tribute to its roots, celebrating Founders' Day, when the College became the state's first teacher training school in 1855. The cornerstone of the event was the Alumni Association's Leadership Convocation, honoring three of our most distinguished alumni. Selected by The College of New Jersey Alumni Association, this year's winners included U.S. Representative Chris Smith '75, Robert Parrish '72, and Ernest Rydell '60.

Entering his 25th year as a member of Congress, Rep. Smith received the Humanitarian Award for his continued work in the areas of veterans affairs, human rights, international relations, and health-care issues. He holds a BS in business administration from the College. Parrish was presented with the Alumni Citation Award in honor of his 37 years of service to the College and the local community. The retired professor of music served as director of the College's Opera Theatre, and in several artistic capacities at the Trinity Episcopal Church and the Mercer Musical Theater Association, both in Trenton.



Taking center stage at the February 9 Alumni Leadership Convocation ceremony are, from left: retired professor of music Robert Parrish '72; TCNJ President R. Barbara Gitenstein; U.S. Congressman Chris Smith '75; and longtime College administrator Ernest Rydell '60.

Rydell was given the Distinguished Service Award. He joined the administration only one year out of college and went on to serve in a number of capacities for 26 years, first as an assistant director in the Bliss Residence Hall and coordinator of the College's emerging Public Information Office. Over the years he held positions as assistant director of admissions, director of annual giving, and assistant to the president.

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The Alumni Association is currently seeking nominations for its 2007 awards. If you would like to nominate an alum who has made a significant contribution to the College and/or local community, please forward his or her name to alumni@tcnj.edu.

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. Listed below is a sampling of coming attractions:

Now through March 29,

C. McVicker, A Retrospective,
College Art Gallery

March 30, TCNJ Jazz Ensemble

April 12–26, Art Student Exhibition,
College Art Gallery

April 22, TCNJ Orchestra

April 28–May 12, BFA Thesis
Exhibition, College Art Gallery

May 12, Commencement,
Lions' Stadium

***July,** Summer Concert Series

***August,** TCNJ JazzFest

Commitment to Community

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more. Several student organizations, such as Circle K and Habitat for Humanity, are solely dedicated to service, and many other cultural, social, and academic groups embrace service activities as an integral part of their mission. This past holiday season, more than 20 student organizations crafted and donated holiday decorations to local centers.

College athletes also spend time working with the community. Most recently, TCNJ's softball team helped local youths celebrate the 2005 holiday season as the team "adopted" Hamilton Head Start program participants. The team and coaching staff spent an afternoon with 19 four- and five-year-old children from the Hamilton Head Start program and had a holiday party as each player "adopted" a child from the program, providing the child with clothes and toys for the holiday season. "It was such a wonderful time to share the afternoon with the children and was as fulfilling for TCNJ's players as it was for the children in the program," said Sally Miller, head coach of the team.

Go to <http://www.tcnj.edu/~magazine/05Fall/documents/studentnews.pdf> to read about these students in TCNJ's online magazine.



A Student Participates

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Community Outreach

The College's commitment to community extended beyond Ewing and even beyond the state borders as the campus community banded together to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina this past fall. Students organized donation drop-offs, participated in a fundraising 5K walk/run, and welcomed several students whose college plans in Louisiana were interrupted by the disaster.

TCNJ Clinic

The College of New Jersey Clinic is located on campus in Forcina Hall. The Clinic is an outpatient center that offers a wide range of services to clients with communication disorders, hearing problems, and family/marriage counseling needs. Part of the School of Education, the clinic provides comprehensive, research-based diagnostic evaluation services and individual therapy, when it is warranted, to people of all ages. The Clinic is staffed by a combination of faculty members, interns, and graduate students completing master's degrees or clinical hours for licensure. Sessions are inexpensive and fees are determined on a case-by-case basis. For more information, visit www.tcnj.edu/~clinic or call 609.771.2700.



Community Fest 2006

Save the date for Community Fest 2006, "Building a Community Tradition," scheduled to take place Saturday, October 7, 2006, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. on TCNJ's campus.

The Community Fest planning committee meets monthly beginning in March and you are invited to participate! For more information on the committee and how you can be a part of the fun, call the Community Fest hotline at 609.771.3262.

Visit the Community Fest Web site at www.tcnj.edu/~comfest for an overview and photo album of last year's event. Stay tuned to the site for more details on the 2006 Fest, including applications and ways you can get involved.

Staying Connected

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For comments regarding this issue, please contact the Office of Public Affairs or e-mail Patrice Coleman-Boatwright.