

# Connections



The College of New Jersey

Connecting TCNJ to Our Neighbors

Volume 3 Number 2

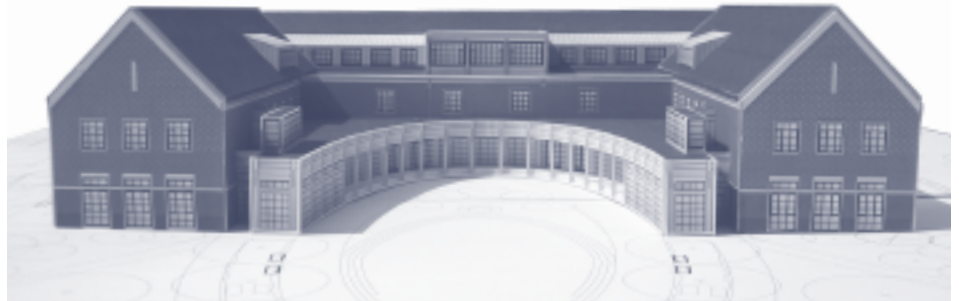
Spring 2008

## TCNJ Outlines Proposed Campus Construction To Ewing Planning Council

In 2000, The College of New Jersey completed the planning process for the Conceptual Campus Facilities Master Plan Framework for Fiscal Years 2002–11. At that time, a new TCNJ mission statement had been developed, the campus governance system had been completely revised, and a comprehensive review of the academic program was underway. The Framework Plan was developed to address the evolving physical needs of the campus community. As noted in the Framework Plan, “This plan will necessarily evolve in succeeding years as individual projects are brought forward for approval and funding and in conjunction with ongoing planning efforts related to the educational programs of the College.”

In 2005, TCNJ began the process of re-examining the Framework Plan. The residential needs were reviewed by one team, while the academic and administrative needs were reviewed by a second team. Each team consisted of a consultant, a working group representing a broad cross section of the campus population, and a steering committee.

Over the next two years, these teams worked collaboratively to examine the College’s goals and determine how the master plans could best meet the College’s mission.



A model of the planned Art and Interactive Multimedia Building.

In February and March 2007, the College shared the plans with both the campus and Ewing communities through various presentations. The presentations were concluded with two open-forum sessions. The College received several comments at the presentations and via e-mail.

Over the past year, the College has been addressing the issues that were raised by the campus and Ewing communities, and developing the funding plan. In February 2008, the plan was presented at the open session of TCNJ’s Board of Trustees, and the board passed a resolution approving the plan in March 2008. A presentation was made to Town and College Together (TACT) in March 2008 and to the Ewing Planning Council in April 2008.

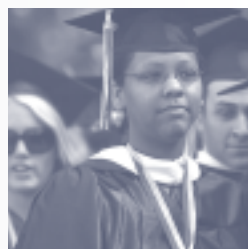
The residential plan confirms the College’s commitment to guaranteeing housing for first-year and second-year students, and provides an additional 257 on-campus beds by 2017. The plan includes the construction of new residential facilities, the renovation of existing residential facilities, and the demolition of those residential facilities that are cost prohibitive to renovate.

The academic and administrative facilities plan will include new buildings for the School of the Arts and Communication; School of Education; School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science; as well as an Academic Building. Existing buildings will be renovated for admissions, development and alumni, the College Art Gallery, executive administration, sciences, and a one-stop-shop of student services. Forcina Hall, Holman Hall, and the 1969 wing of the former library will be demolished to allow the creation of a green lawn surrounded by buildings, as is typical of much of the campus.

More information about the master plans will soon be available on the campus planning Web site at [www.tcnj.edu/~campplan/](http://www.tcnj.edu/~campplan/).

### Commencement Set for May 16

The main ceremony will be held at 11 A.M. Department ceremonies will be held during the morning and afternoon. An influx of traffic is expected around campus that day. The College apologizes for any inconvenience this might cause.



## 2 Connections

### Township and College Together

#### **A Message from the TACT Chair, Marita Sciarrotta**

On Tuesday, April 1, TACT invited John Mastro Simone and Barry Sussman from Simone Realty to speak with the group about the developer's proposed project, "University Woods." This is a private student residence Simone Realty hopes to build on Park Avenue, a land parcel adjacent to Fountain Lawn Memorial Park just off of Eggert Crossing Road in Ewing Township.

The project is still in the earliest stages and was scheduled to be presented to the Ewing Township Zoning Board on April 17. Simone Realty's presentation to TACT provoked lively conversation about the practical (parking, tax rates, police services) and speculative (traffic, impact on rental housing) concerns.

Private residence halls are not managed or administered by a college or university. Instead, they are built and facilitated by independent land developers and investors. These student-housing communities are becoming a fixture in many towns with colleges throughout the United States and around the world. Simone Realty would market this residence to students attending Rider University and The College of New Jersey.

TCNJ is not an endorser, partner, or supporter of this project. Rider University and Ewing Township are still considering and investigating this proposal. See page 4 for TCNJ's official position on the "University Woods" project.

### Honoring a Fallen Hero

Family, friends, and former teammates joined current Lions baseball players and coaches to honor the late Sgt. Eric Snell prior to the baseball team's home opener in April. Snell, formerly of Hamilton, died

### Police Chief Appointed



*John Collins, Police Chief/  
Director of Campus Security.*

John Collins, former captain of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department, became TCNJ's director of campus police in January. Over the past several months, he has met with TACT members to discuss issues of concern to Ewing residents.

"I would like to thank the committee members of TACT for welcoming me so warmly. I am pleased to have the opportunity to play a role in improving the quality of life for on-campus residents and the College's neighbors," Collins said.

Prior to coming to TCNJ, Collins was the police captain/commanding officer for the Lincoln Tunnel, where he led a patrol force of 64 sworn and civilian personnel; represented the Port Authority Police at state, local, and community levels; was the primary point of contact for the facility risk assessment process; and was the leading member of a joint police-civilian management team for emergency and business continuity planning. During his tenure with the Port Authority, Collins held leadership roles in the Police Academy, the Counter Terrorism Unit, Police Planning and Research, and the World Trade Center Disaster Rescue and Recovery Team. He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Kean University for his services subsequent to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

June 18, 2007, in Baghdad shortly after a gun battle with insurgents. A standout in baseball, basketball, and track at nearby Hamilton High West, Snell was drafted by the Cleveland Indians, but gave up a professional baseball career to focus on college. A monument now stands in his honor in George Ackerman Park on TCNJ's campus.

### Classes for High School Students Available through TCNJ's Summer Sessions Programs

Academically talented high school students can get a taste of what college classes are like thanks to a new initiative at TCNJ. Rising juniors and seniors are now able to enroll in 100- and 200-level courses during the College's Summer Sessions Experience. Classes are available in the arts, literature, philosophy, math, gender studies, Spanish, and religion. The courses are taught by TCNJ faculty members—teacher-scholars who are experts in their fields. TCNJ's Summer Session Experience runs through mid August. However, space is limited so you must register soon. For more information, visit [www.tcnj.edu/~summer](http://www.tcnj.edu/~summer) and follow the "High School Students" link.

### Staying Connected

The College of New Jersey

[www.tcnj.edu](http://www.tcnj.edu)

Main Switchboard: 609.771.1855

Office of Community Affairs: 609.771.2368

President R. Barbara Gitenstein, PhD:

[rbgit@tcnj.edu](mailto:rbgit@tcnj.edu)

Associate Vice President for Community Relations and Special Events

Patrice Coleman-Boatwright:

[coleboat@tcnj.edu](mailto:coleboat@tcnj.edu)

Office of Community Affairs Web site:

[www.tcnj.edu/advancement/  
community.html](http://www.tcnj.edu/advancement/community.html)

Campus News:

[www.tcnj.edu/~pa/news/index.html](http://www.tcnj.edu/~pa/news/index.html)

Department of Athletics:

[www.tcnjathletics.com](http://www.tcnjathletics.com)

Campus Calendars:

[www.tcnj.edu/~pa/calendars](http://www.tcnj.edu/~pa/calendars)

Community Information:

[www.tcnj.edu/visitors.html](http://www.tcnj.edu/visitors.html)

On-Campus Parking Information:

[www.tcnj.edu/~parking](http://www.tcnj.edu/~parking)

## Commitment to Community

### Ben Mitchell, EHS FIRST Adviser

TCNJ student Ben Mitchell '08 has been involved in student robotics programs since his days at Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School. As a freshman, his teacher introduced him to FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics competitions. These days, Mitchell volunteers as a co-adviser to Ewing High School's FIRST team.

Mitchell completed his student teaching at EHS last fall. "I taught courses in digital photography, multimedia, and robotics, the latter being a course that I developed," said Mitchell. "Although my student teaching course ended in late December, I stayed on and taught my robotics class to the conclusion of Ewing High's semester schedule."

**"I enjoy working with the students at Ewing High. Particularly in my robotics class and the robotics after-school program, I have the good fortune to work with very talented, highly motivated, and overall outstanding students."**

He also served as co-adviser (along with his cooperating teacher, Chris Heywood) to the school's FIRST team, something he continues to do even now that his student teaching assignment is over.

Ewing High's team competed in the NJ FIRST competition in March, making it to the semi-final round. It then went on to win the Chesapeake Regionals, earning a trip to Atlanta, where it competed in the FIRST Championship last month. Mitchell has been with the group for each of the trips, and also accompanied the students on an educational trip to a Johnson and Johnson facility in Montreal.

"I enjoy working with the students at Ewing High. Particularly in my robotics class and the robotics after-school program, I have the good fortune to work with very talented, highly motivated, and overall outstanding students," said Mitchell.

In addition to his work with EHS's FIRST team, Mitchell is on the state planning committee with FIRST Technology Challenge, where he helps organize and run events in New Jersey. He has also set up a student organization called SERVO (Support of Educational Robotics

Volunteer Organization), which is designed to allow college mentors of all disciplines to connect with local robotics programs.

After graduating from TCNJ, Mitchell plans to continue his education and eventually earn his doctorate.

### Counseling Help Available through TCNJ

TCNJ Clinic provides outpatient individual and group counseling, as well as marriage and family therapy, on a sliding-scale fee basis. Services, which are provided by master's- and post-master's-level student clinicians under the careful supervision of licensed therapists, are available to the general public.

The clinic offers quality, state-of-the-art services to assist clients in resolving disruptions and conflicts in their lives, including school- or work-related problems affecting the family; problems with child and adolescent behavior; substance abuse and its effects on the family; abusive behavior in the family; and death or loss of family members. Counseling for couples is available to help with issues with communication, substance abuse, sexual dysfunction, infidelity, and more.

The clinic recently opened an interactive therapy room for children and adolescents. The room, which contains a variety of games, puzzles, crafts, and tools for expression, allows clinic staff to provide creative and play therapy with individuals and groups, as well as provide daycare while family parents are meeting with counselors.



TCNJ Clinic offers individual and group counseling.

"We're very excited by the opportunity we have with our clinic to link graduate and undergraduate students in serving the greater community, which fits with our educational mission as an institution," said William Behre, dean of the School of Education.

For more information, visit [www.tcnj.edu/~clinic](http://www.tcnj.edu/~clinic).

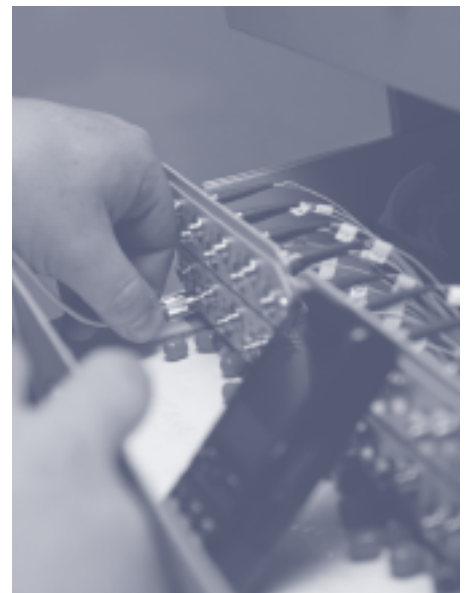
## Turning Area Youth on to Careers in Science and Technology

Colleges and universities in the United States are graduating fewer individuals with science, technology, and engineering degrees. Of the small percentage of students who do choose these career paths, only a tiny fraction emerge from the inner cities. Now, with the help of a generous grant from the Martinson Family Foundation, TCNJ will help to cultivate the future engineers of New Jersey.

Trenton's Future Engineers (TFE) is the newest installment of after-school and summer camp programs designed for Trenton's middle school students. In this partnership between TCNJ and the Boys & Girls Club of Trenton and Mercer County, TFE will provide an exploration of science, math, and technology concepts as they relate to an understanding of careers.

Participants will explore these concepts in the field of engineering, such as mechanical, electrical, civil, environmental, and chemical, and related careers such as solar designer, urban planner, theme park designer, and waste water manager.

TFE will also place a major emphasis on professional development for Trenton School District teachers, who play a significant role in getting their students excited about engineering and its related career fields.



A generous grant from the Martinson Family Foundation will help turn Trenton's youth on to careers in science and technology.

## Construction-Related News

### Carlton Avenue Study Group

In the next few months, the College hopes to begin exploring use options for the parcel of land on Carlton Avenue. The site, directly across from the main campus entrance on Rt. 31 at the corner of Carlton Avenue, is owned by the College, managed by the Trenton State College Corporation, and is currently undeveloped. In the months ahead, the College will work in partnership with the Ewing community, a development consultant, local developers, and the township, and convene a study group to examine the feasibility of developing the land. The study group will brainstorm how the property might be used to

enhance the township and the College's presence, and create a stronger sense of connection between the local community and the living-learning community of TCNJ.

### Simone Realty Apartment Project

TCNJ has been made aware of a student apartment project off campus, proposed by Simone Realty. TCNJ is not involved in the planning, management, or promotion of the facility and, therefore, cannot accurately assess whether it will be beneficial to the local community or TCNJ students. Based on preliminary conversations with the developer, it was determined that TCNJ could not participate in or endorse this project.

## Host Your Next Event on TCNJ's Campus

Whether you are planning a bar mitzvah or a birthday party, a business meeting or a wedding, TCNJ's campus has a facility to suit your needs. The College can accommodate groups ranging in size from three to 3,000. Staff in the

Office of Conference and Meeting Services will help you plan all aspects of your event, from determining the best locations on campus, to ordering food and beverages through the College's catering service, to ensuring all of your guests' needs are met on the day of the event. For more information, visit [www.tcnj.edu/~cms](http://www.tcnj.edu/~cms).



The Spiritual Center on TCNJ's campus is just one of the many venues available to host your next event.

## Summer Dining on Campus

Enjoy great food and live music when you dine in the 1855 Room in Eickhoff Hall.

It will be open to the public for lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays:

June 24, 25; July 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30; and August 5, 6.

## 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](http://www.tcnj.edu) often for up-to-the-moment details on what's going on. For athletics events schedules, visit [www.tcnjathletics.com](http://www.tcnjathletics.com). Listed below is a sampling of coming attractions:

### April 30–May 11

BFA Thesis Exhibition

College Art Gallery

Diverse works of the senior fine art and digital art majors

For hours, visit [www.tcnj.edu/~tcag](http://www.tcnj.edu/~tcag)/or call 609.771.2198.

### May 9

Last day of classes, spring semester

### May 16

Commencement

### June 6–8

Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games

More than 2,500 special Olympians from across the state will be on campus to compete

### July

Summer Outdoor Noontime Events on Green Hall Lawn

Thursdays—July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

### August 26

First day of classes, fall semester

### October 18

Homecoming

### October 25

Community Fest