

# Grant to aid TCNJ prof's research project

EWING — The College of New Jersey has received a grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. that will support the work of Tim Clydesdale of Ewing, associate professor of sociology.

The \$511,929 for the "Life and Vocation of American Youth Project" will allow Clydesdale and student researchers to study how college students and recent alumni form vocational plans, and how these are shaped by their educational and religious engagements.

"This is an intriguing project, as many college and universities are

actively seeking a way past dualistic notions of religious faith and liberal education, so that they might effectively support the holistic development of students," said Clydesdale.

Surveys suggest most students come to college hoping to identify a deeper purpose for their lives, and student development officers are grappling with ways to support students in this process.

"Into this context," said Clydesdale, "Lilly Endowment invested \$220 million into programs that encouraged colleges students at 88 religious colleges . . . to reflect on

the relationship between their religious ethics and practices and their future life plans."

Specifically, Clydesdale's "Life and Vocation of American Youth Project" involves directing a four-year national evaluation of the Lilly Endowment initiative called Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (PTEV).

Clydesdale expects the project to ultimately produce two books: one about the short- and long-term impact of programmatic vocational reflection on students and their mentors at religious universities; the second, an examination of

young adults during their first year post-college, which Clydesdale predicts will be "the perfect follow-up" to his forthcoming book, "The First Year Out: Understanding American Teens after High School."

TCNJ students participating in the project include Lindsey Aloia '07 (Hillsdale), Joanna De Leon '08 (Jersey City), Matthew Keating '07 (Sergeantsville), Matthew Warren '08 (Northfield), Mena Gawargi '07 (Lyndhurst), and Frank Janks '07 (Glen Gardner). TCNJ alumnus Keith Brown '99 (Philadelphia/Mount Laurel) is a co-evaluator on the project.