

Board adds two new trustees

Since graduating in 1979 as a marketing and management major, **Suzanne Svizeny** (pronounced sviz-ANY) has not let much grass grow under her feet. For 25 years she's been a banker, taking on more and more responsibility as the firm with which she started, New Jersey National Bank, was purchased twice and then merged into Wachovia, the major East Coast institution headquartered in Charlotte, NC.

Today she is executive vice president for regional banking in central and southern New Jersey, where Wachovia now has 1,700 employees and 165 branches. Since 1999, she has been supervising the business Wachovia does with firms that have up to \$500 million in annual sales.

After 40 years in New Jersey, two years ago she and her family—husband John and three sons, ages 11, 13 and 17—moved across the Delaware to nearby New Hope. Her profession, however, keeps her deeply involved in the state. She now serves on the board of the New Brunswick Economic Development Council, the Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey, the Bishop's Finance Committee of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton, Trenton Economic Development Council, and the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton.

She also has been recognized for her leadership and achievements with awards from *New Jersey Business* magazine, the

New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, Executive Women of New Jersey, Princeton YWCA, Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, and others.

Being named to TCNJ's Board of Trustees is the most recent evidence of Svizeny's long devotion to the College, having most recently served as chair of The College of New Jersey Foundation during a period of substantial change in its governance structure. Over the years her many acts of support have won her the Alumni Citation Award in 1999 and designation as the Presidential Honoree in 2002.

Svizeny is proud of the progress her alma mater has made in recent years and is determined to help build on its strengths to be the "national exemplar" so often stated as its goal. She insists the trustees must be fully committed to that vision, and be prepared to press the case for greater financial support to corporate, individual, and alumni donors.

Bradley S. Brewster probably knows his way around the New Jersey State House as well as any member of the College's Board of Trustees—or any lobbyist, which he is. At 52, he is a partner in the Princeton Public Affairs Group, arguably New Jersey's premier lobbying organization. In 1989 he joined the firm, which has offices in Newark, Trenton, and Washington, DC, and counts among its clients several of the major health care, pharmaceutical, insurance, and public employee retirement organizations in the state.

A 1974 graduate of Ursinus College in Pennsylvania, where he played football, and, in 1978, of Vermont Law School, he briefly practiced law. Soon Brewster became involved in Republican politics, serving five years as counsel to the General Assembly committees on

the judiciary and on law and public safety. From 1984 to 1989 he was general counsel to the General Assembly's Majority Office, managing the legislative operations and staff of that office as well as providing legal and policy advice to the legislature. He also helped former Governor Christie Whitman as chair of her Department of Environmental Protection and Energy Transition Team.

A self-described "sports nut," Brewster closely follows local sports; his three children all have been athletes at Hopewell Valley Central High School. He and his wife, Missy, took the family to Greece for the summer Olympics. He has served on the board of the New Jersey Garden State Games, and the Governor's Olympic Development and Recognition Committee.

Brewster recently served two years on the Board of Trustees of Montclair State University, but volunteered to fill a vacancy when it occurred at TCNJ, saying he was anxious to serve on a board closer to his Hopewell Township residence. He also said he strongly supports state Sen. Shirley Turner's efforts to keep TCNJ's tuition in line with that of other state institutions. He expects to serve on a board committee that will work on improving the College's fundraising efforts.



Suzanne Svizeny



Bradley S. Brewster

Letters Policy. We encourage, welcome, and hope for brief letters from readers on topics in the magazine. All letters are subject to editing to fit available space and to ensure clarity and civility. They must include the name and address of the writer, and provide a phone number for confirmation. **Submit letters to:** The Editor, *TCNJ Magazine*, Green Hall 202, The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ 08628-0718, or by e-mail to magtoed@tcnj.edu. The deadline for the spring issue is March 10, 2005.

'TACT' seems to work in our town/gown world

It certainly will not come as news that colleges and universities often have had strained relations with their local communities. TCNJ has not been immune from this difficulty, and in the past it was fair to say that casual relations between the College and the Ewing Township community left many opportunities for positive interaction to chance, while troublesome issues went unresolved.

This became painfully evident during the 2002-03 academic year, when the College sought to move ahead with its master development plan and build a parking garage—on campus property but very close to the neighbors' backyards on Pennington Road. Negotiations and dialogue finally resolved what became high-profile issues; however, the negative impact and public mistrust of the College remained.

Both college and Ewing officials at the time recognized the need for more sensitivity and better communications. President Gitenstein and Ewing Mayor Wendell Pribilia commissioned a new joint committee to represent Ewing residents, the 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 to date have included the impact of TCNJ students on the community, becoming good neighbors, and actively sharing information on resources and services. In December 2002, it sponsored a forum on "community dialogue" that covered opportunities for community service by faculty and students, being a

good neighbor, and more welcome access to campus events. In June 2004 a second forum focused on landlord/tenant relationships and students living in nearby rental properties. Last March, the College also hosted TACT's audioconference, "On the Edge—The Dynamics of Town/Gown Relations," which was presented by the National Society for College and Community Planning.

TACT's present chair, Marita Sciarrotta '89, who is both a Ewing resident and an alumna, said the group provides "a place where people can get beyond fingerpointing to a dialogue about specifics." She is anxious to bring together people with a stake in the economy of the community—including town and college leaders, landlords, and tenants—to find practical solutions to longstanding problems.

Languages across the curriculum

So you are pretty good at Spanish, are you? Or think you have an "intermediate" level talent in French or Italian?

Well if you're enrolled at TCNJ this year, Deborah Compte, associate professor of modern languages, has an offer for you! Show that you can use your second language in a course that doesn't usually call for such a skill, and gain extra academic credit toward graduation.

Professor Compte makes the offer with a new course, "Languages Across the Curriculum 391." She describes it as an opportunity for students to use their foreign language skills in other disciplines. "LAC is not a language-instruction program," she says, "but rather, a language-use program." Last spring she tried it out with 10 students in five different courses, and worked closely with both the students and their

instructors to make sure the enrichment potential was as solid as other academic institutions had reported.

She found the students could use their language skills to:

- ▲ enhance their own research by reading materials in other languages that could be incorporated in their papers or projects,
- ▲ supplement course readings in the original language,
- ▲ make oral reports in English based on foreign language sources,
- ▲ submit written work in the foreign language (when the instructor can evaluate the work), and
- ▲ accomplish community-based academic work with foreign language populations.

Once a student expresses interest in the program, and a professor and Compte agree on appropriate special assignments, Professor Compte helps the student locate the appropriate materials, monitors student progress with biweekly reports, and makes sure the academic integrity of the program is maintained. The instructor need not know the particular language involved, but will be in a position to direct the selection of foreign sources for projects that will deepen the student's mastery of the course.

This fall, 11 students took up the LAC challenge, which will give them a pass/fail opportunity to earn an added one-quarter course unit toward graduation. Compte is optimistic that in time serious language students will see the LAC program as a way to build their language skills and complement their other course work. Her work on the project is supported by a two-year U.S. Department of Education grant to expand international experiences in the TCNJ curriculum.



TCNJ joins the ranks of the 'most competitive'

The College of New Jersey has been named one of the nation's top schools, according to rankings published in the 2005 edition of Barron's *Profiles of American Colleges*. TCNJ joins the likes of Duke University, Stanford University, Harvard University, Princeton University, and the six other Ivy League institutions among the 75 schools that Barron's lists in its "Most Competitive" category.

This is the first year in which TCNJ has achieved such status, having previously been considered a "Highly Competitive" college by the publication. "This recognition of the tremendous progress we have made and of the unique educational opportunities available at The College of New Jersey is a great honor," TCNJ President R. Barbara Gitenstein said. "To receive this news as we embark upon a yearlong celebration of the College's 150th anniversary is an added bonus that further enhances the rich tradition as well as public perception of our institution."

Of the ranking, Barron's states: "Even superior students will encounter a great deal of competition for admission to the colleges in this category...these colleges require high school rank in the top 10 percent to 20 percent and grade averages of A to B+. Median freshman test scores at these colleges are generally between 655 and 800 on the SAT I and 29 and above on the ACT."

Stephen Briggs, TCNJ's provost, explained "By offering dynamic academic programs and hiring extremely talented faculty and staff members, the College has created a supportive and challenging learning environment. What we offer is appealing to prospective students, and that is reflected in the number and quality of the applications for admission that we receive each year."

The College of New Jersey and Princeton University are the only New Jersey schools to garner this distinction from Barron's, and TCNJ is the one public institution from the Northeast,

TCNJ Magazine wins major award

The staff of *TCNJ Magazine* is pleased to report our summer 2003 issue (pictured below with a dove on the cover) has been honored with a 2004 American Graphic Design Award "for excellence in communication and graphic design." The award was made by *Graphic Design: USA*, a leading professional magazine that has been sponsoring this important competition for 25 years, and is being shared by the College and the magazine's design firm, t.a. design, of Burlington.

T. A. Hahn, principal of the studio that performed a major redesign of the magazine in 2003, said he was especially pleased because the annual contest is among the most prestigious of all such events in the country. He also noted that the magazine was entered in the "publication overall" category, so that judges evaluated both editorial content as well as design format and that issue's entire layout.



including New England, to be classified as "Most Competitive." Just seven public institutions nationally—TCNJ, the University of North Carolina, the University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the University of Florida—made the publication's top tier.