

PRESIDENT'S DESK

continued from page one

American education into the 20th Century.

Today we remain in very much the same position, among the very best public undergraduate colleges in the nation. Thanks to the enlightened and imaginative work of educators in every generation over these 150 years, we have weathered the Great Depression, world wars, and racial divisions. At the beginning of this new century, I could not be more proud to help lead The College of New Jersey in its sesquicentennial year.

In this coming year we expect to recall and celebrate our past and to do so as a platform for the extraordinary promise of our future. We expect to come together as a mature, vibrant, and visionary college community to prepare for a new period of challenge and response.

In 1855, our school was a bold, experimental idea. Since then, our college leaders, our alumni, New Jersey officials, and taxpayers have helped make that dream into reality. In our 150th year and beyond, I know we will prove worthy of our heritage and continue to merit the dedication of our supporters.

Sincerely,



R. Barbara Gitenstein



TCNJ Magazine

Send address changes to:

Office of Alumni Affairs

The College of New Jersey
P.O. Box 7718, Ewing, NJ 08628-0718
800.347.9621, alumni@tcnj.edu

R. Barbara Gitenstein
President

Patrice Coleman-Boatwright
Director of College and Community Relations

David M. Tiffany
Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs

Bruce B. VanDusen
Editor

Cindy Friedman '89
Director of Marketing and Publications

Rebecca P. Goetz
Design Director

Tony Marchetti '96
Production Coordinator

Aimee Rogers
Interim Alumni Affairs Officer

Contributors: Terence W. O'Connor, Jessica Dietz '05, Carly Reichert '05, Aimee Rogers, Peter Manetas, Eve Astore, Patricia Beaber, Ann King

Designed by **t.a. design**

Produced by the **Office of College and Community Relations**

The opinions expressed in these pages are those of the contributing writers and not necessarily those of The College of New Jersey.

Photo submissions. *TCNJ Magazine* is pleased to consider photographs submitted for publication, but we require that they meet certain standards to ensure quality reproduction. We cannot use photos taken with digital cameras unless they come to us in a form that will produce at least 250 dots per square inch at the size intended for publication. We much prefer slides or prints in color film, but will accept black and white.

Alumni News submissions. Contributions to the Alumni News section of *TCNJ Magazine* will appear in the print version of the publication and, unless we are specifically requested not to do so, will be published on the College's public Web site as well.

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 next issue is August 20, 2004.

THE LETTER BOX

Interpreting legal penumbras takes us down a slippery slope

In his article "Genuine or Illusory Progress for Gay Rights" (Autumn 2003), Professor Henry F. Fradella refers to *Griswold v. Connecticut* and *Eisenstadt v. Baird* in support of his "penumbras" of privacy guarantees in the Bill of Rights and as a "function of Fourteenth Amendment substantive due process."

Reliance upon one's opinions that "penumbras" exist in the First Amendment that justify one's interpretation of an issue begs further discussion. Justice William O. Douglas, one of the court's most liberal "interpreters" ever, made the following statement in his delivery of the majority opinion in *Griswold*: "In other words, the First Amendment has a penumbra where privacy is protected from government intrusion." I find no such concept in my copy of the First Amendment. That some very liberal jurists can somehow find "penumbras" in their interpretations very obviously has brought us to the slippery slope of despotism so feared by George Mason and Patrick Henry as they developed our Bill of Rights.

The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition to the Government for a redress of grievances." Perhaps Justice Douglas was referring to the Fourth Amendment, where privacy is a bit more visible since "privacy" is not even inferred in the First Amendment.

Let me jump to this U.S. Supreme Court's "interpretation" of the Fourteenth Amendment, which was relied upon in both *Griswold* and *Eisenstadt*. More recently, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor delivered another majority "opinion" in which it suited her to put the Fourteenth Amendment on hold—at least for 25 years or so—by which time "racial preferences might no longer be needed." That is not the way I read the Fourteenth Amendment but, it appears, that lawyers and judges can "interpret" our laws just about any way they want, which brings us back to *Lawrence v. Texas*, gay marriages, abortion "rights," and just about anything else you all decide is hidden in the "penumbras" of our Constitution.
Robert B. Hallett '60
Ewing, NJ

Champion of thrift opposes more borrowing

I want to respond to President Gitenstein's "Troubling Trends" comments (From the President's Desk, Autumn 2003) in which she urged greater borrowing by the state to support higher education.

I also have been so bold as to take (U.S. Representative) Jim Saxton to task on the spending of millions or billions of dollars—regrettably, I must report—very, very futilely. My late mother, Ida Mary (Hoffman) Wyckoff, taught my brother and me one invaluable lesson: "Neither a borrower nor a lender be."

Where is all this money to come from? Ultimately, aren't state and local bonds paid for by public tax dollars? Like my father also, I remain a champion of thrift anywhere and everywhere.

Evelyn W. Baldwin '60
Toms River, NJ

CAMPUS NEWS

In the 'Time of the Centers,' TCNJ is on the move

In the last 18 months, no fewer than seven new offices have opened on campus. Their missions differ, but have important features in common. Each represents a new investment of financial resources—public, private, local, state, and national—to advance a specific educational goal. And each adds a new dimension to the College's effort to share its physical and educational resources, even as it strengthens its own academic programs.

Bonner Center will focus on community engagement by students and faculty

A major initiative, designed to coordinate and expand TCNJ's community service and leadership programs, was announced by the College administration in March. It will be directed by a new umbrella organization, the Bonner Center for Civic and Community Engagement, to be headed by David Prenskey, formerly dean of the School of Business.

President R. Barbara Gitenstein and Provost Stephen Briggs said the center will bring together a number of existing efforts, such as the service learning requirement for first-year students, community-based research in our seven academic schools, and dozens of student-led organizations that do community service. It is time, they have concluded, to develop TCNJ's community service programs into a national model of quality and effectiveness.

A new program of community leader scholarships will begin this fall and will involve 10–12 recipients each year,

recruited and selected by the admissions staff. It is being designed after the highly successful Bonner Scholars, a service leadership scholarship plan now operating in 25 private colleges nationwide. That plan is supported by the Bonner Foundation of Princeton, which contributes to a number of leadership service programs at TCNJ.

Prenskey said the new leadership scholars will be students whose strong interest in civic activity is evident and who will commit to four years of leadership training and 300 hours of service activity each year, in return for full tuition support from College sources. It is expected these students will provide a modest but steady stream of leadership talent to strengthen a wide variety of campus programs.

The Bonner Center will have three basic elements: the leadership scholars, the long-established service learning program, and the growing community-based research work of the academic departments.

Of particular interest to Prenskey is the new center's role in providing ways for local nonprofit organizations and civic groups to benefit from the professional skills of the TCNJ faculty and their students. Several professors have guided students in projects such as evaluating an agency's programs, mapping community demographic patterns, and surveying a neighborhood's attitudes toward proposed development. They are eager to expand their work to include more community organizations and students. One of the center's goals will be to deepen the College's ties to the many community organizations in the area.

The service learning element has been a part of the general education program for many years. Until now all