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 College of New Jersey in its future. We expect to come together and celebrate our past and to do so as a College of New Jersey in its future. We expect to come together and celebrate our past and to do so as a College of New Jersey in its future.

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 Ginsstein
President

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**THE LETTER BOX**

**Introducing 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 the jurisprudence of the court. I hope that the court will decide the 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, N.J.

**Champion of thrift opposes more borrowing**

I want to respond to President Ginsstein’s “Troubling Trends” comments (from the President’s Desk, Autumn 2003). I am very, very futilely. My late mother, Ida, from 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 the jurisprudence of the court. I hope that the court will decide the 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, N.J.

I also have been so bold as to take (U.S. Representative) Jim Saxton to task on the spending of millions of billions of dollars—regrettably, I must report—very, very futilely. My late mother, Ida, from 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 the jurisprudence of the court. I hope that the court will decide the 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, N.J.

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, N.J.

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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 Presney, formerly dean of the School of Business. President R. Barbara Ginsstein 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.

Presney 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 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 the terrain of 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