

What ever happened to industrial arts?

As a 1978 graduate of TCNJ in industrial arts education, I have many fond memories of Armstrong Hall. Yet, I have a concern that I believe needs to be addressed.

I have been an industrial arts instructor for nearly 28 years. I pride myself that I received my diploma from TCNJ. But my concern is that my alma mater no longer offers the same curriculum it did when I graduated. As a teacher of the trades, I have many students who want to follow my footsteps. As great a compliment as this is, I am dismayed that I can't recommend them for this curriculum to TCNJ. I have spoken personally to one of the professors at the school and once again I am dismayed to find the college no longer offers this degree.

I vividly recall planning to attend Trenton State 30 years ago and I was informed that this would be the place to pursue this career. Have we forgotten that the Industrial Revolution molded us into the country that we are? It is sad that we think as a society that only computer technology runs the world. I myself am a graphic arts instructor and use computers every day for my teaching, but I have never forgotten the roots from which I came—the hammer, the nail—and the true desire to create through my hands. I am concerned that we do not let our most important asset (ourselves as tradesmen and women) fall to the side.

*Rich D'Urso '78
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TCNJ Magazine asked John Karsnitz, professor and chair of the Department of Technological Studies to respond to D'Urso's letter. He writes:

I am pleased Mr. D'Urso found his undergraduate studies and his time in

Armstrong Hall to be a valuable experience. While the teaching of trades is actually in the domain of vocational education, some experiences in wood, metal, and drawing were part of the study of the "arts of industry" throughout the early to middle 20th Century. Industrial arts programs continue to exist as a part of general education in the United States, although most schools are moving programmatically to the broader study of technology. New Jersey has established new core content standards, including a Standard #8, concerning what all students should know and be able to do to gain "technological literacy," and a new teacher certification for "Teacher of Technology Education."

To maintain high standards in education, teachers must continually upgrade their curriculum to reflect the contemporary knowledge base of the discipline. This is especially true in the sciences and technologies. The developed world is no longer in the "industrial age" (measured by greater than one-half of the population working in industry). Beginning in 1956, the United States moved into its "information age." Unlike the industrial age, where capital was power, knowledge is power in the information age. Fortunately, being comfortable with a broad range of tools, materials, and processes, understanding how society designs and makes things, as well as learning to work to high standards, values that Mr. D'Urso feels strongly about, continue to be important. The Department of Technological Studies is committed to providing nationally recognized programs that prepare our students to share their understanding of the technological world with the next generation preparing to enter that world.

The creation of the new "Technology

Education" program in 1985 reflected ongoing changes in the technological world, including a broadening global influence, changing technologies, and concern for the impact of technological activities on communities and the environment. The department is pleased to have been an early contributor to the international movement calling for all students to gain technological literacy. That philosophy continues to provide a contemporary direction for the program as we enter the 21st Century. Students interested in helping others understand their technological world now can pursue undergraduate studies in technology education or M/S/T education (math/science/technology is an approved academic major for education majors in elementary, early childhood, deaf and hard of hearing, and special education). Students also can pursue graduate studies in our new Master of Arts in Teaching in Technology Education program or our Master of Science in Educational Technology. There are now 140 students enrolled in these programs.

In addition to these programs, the School of Engineering at TCNJ offers accredited four-year degree programs in computer, electrical, mechanical, and engineering science (with biomedical engineering, civil engineering and engineering management specializations). Moreover, the school also offers a program that leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree in biomedical engineering. There now are 290 students enrolled in the engineering programs.

For further information contact: Dr. John Karsnitz, Chair of Technological Studies, 609.771.2782, Karsnitz@tcnj.edu or Dr. George N. Facas, Dean of Engineering, 609.771.2529, Facas@tcnj.edu.

Mabel Bray's legacy

Miss Bray, the person my mother referred to so often I had to assume she was mother's college education! The article about her in the spring issue brought smiles and memories to 90-year-old Elizabeth (Satterfield) Staats.

Part of the Class of 1935, my mother is now a 70-year alumna. Known then as "Skippy" to her friends, her family has always called her Betty. For three years after graduation she taught public school vocal music for all grades in the Audubon, NJ, system—apparently one of those successful placements during the Great Depression referred to in the article.

Upon marrying my father, a young Methodist seminarian and beginning minister of a church, she had to relinquish her teaching job. No married women in such positions at that time! From then on she directed church choirs, played church organs, taught piano lessons in our home, and passed on to my sister and me an understanding and love of music, invoking Miss Bray's name concerning the discipline

necessary for mastery. Both of us benefited, my sister as a professional musician and myself as a fairly accomplished amateur. Our children as well distinguish themselves in the music world.

Thus Miss Bray's legacy continues.

Barbara Dale

*Daughter of Elizabeth (Satterfield) Staats '35
Decorah, IA*

Recalling two heroes

I am writing on July 4th in regard to your obituaries of professors Tod Treuting and Joseph Carroll in the spring 2004 issue. I feel it is a fitting date to reflect on the passing of these two gentlemen because they were war heroes.

I had professor Treuting for a science course and can recall his distinguished tweed jackets and his gentle, very effective manner of teaching. My memories of Dr. Joseph Carroll include his explanation of "freedom." He told us, "Yes, we all have freedom, but your freedom ends when you swing your arms in the air and they touch another person."

Looking Back

Out of our photographic archives we offer this scene from memory lane and wonder if any readers can identify who this group of young scholars from yesteryear might be. They appear to be celebrating something, but what? The flowers suggest a formal dance, but who are the girls in white seated on the grass wearing some sort of

headgear? And what about the motley crew at the right in the background? Who could they be looking at? Please let us know the what, where, and when of this picture by e-mailing: magazine@tcnj.edu.



What is remarkable is that neither man ever mentioned how he served in World War II. It is right that today, the 4th of July, I say it was a pleasure having these "unsung" heroes affect my life in school. These men remind me of my mother's brothers (my uncles Stanley, Casey, and Eddie) who also served their country with courage and quiet dignity. I am grateful to all these heroes who were part of my "free" life.

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Drop us a line

Letters from our readers are important to us. We want to know what you think of *TCNJ Magazine*, or what articles you may wonder about, or which may annoy or please you. Perhaps one of the essays on issues in higher education may prompt a reaction. Why not send a Letter to the Editor? Email magazine@tcnj.edu or write to The Editor, *TCNJ Magazine*, Office of College and Community Relations, PO Box 7718, Ewing, NJ 08628-0718.

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 magazine@tcnj.edu. The deadline for the fall issue is April 3, 2006.