The biggest campus news this year continues to be the construction program, highlighted on these pages by the Spiritual Center (left and center below, and far right opposite) and the new library (below and right).

The 4,000-square-foot brick Spiritual Center echoes the Georgian feeling of other new buildings on campus and was dedicated in December 2004. Designed by Kitchen and Associates of Collingswood, NJ, the estimated total cost of the project was $2.25 million. In addition to the 150-seat main room pictured, it offers a small chapel, two smaller meeting rooms, office space, and a small kitchen. The small chapel utilizes stone and stained-glass (right) from the former Alumni Meditation Chapel.

The library also was designed by Kitchen and Associates and is on schedule for student use at the opening of the fall semester. It is expected to become a high-traffic focus of the College's intellectual life, both because of its location closer to student residence halls and because it is designed for 24-hour use, with many areas set aside for individual and group study. A 100-seat auditorium is included.

Construction of the four-story building fascinated campus residents all year as huge cranes swung the steel framework into place, and then lifted pre-laid brick wall sections into position to be hung on the metal skeleton. In the picture above, construction workers take a break after maneuvering sections of wall behind them that appear to hold up the building with their cast stone quoins.

The 135,000-square-foot building (50 percent larger than the existing library), is estimated to cost $34.9 million.
Major roles for new vice presidents

The appointments in recent months of two key administrators have brought to campus men with long experience in their fields and an understanding that major challenges lie ahead for each of them.

Last November, Curt Heuring was named vice president of facilities management, construction, and campus security. He is a man with broad experience in what many see as a College’s most urgent need: planning for the facilities needed to support our academic mission.

In April, a national search resulted in the appointment of John F. Marcy, a professional with more than 30 years’ experience in fundraising for both institutions of higher education and major healthcare systems.

Heuring has spent the past 22 years planning, designing, overseeing construction of, and helping to raise money for a number of the country’s major universities. His dozens of projects include laboratories at M.I.T., a chemistry building at Johns Hopkins, a gymnasium and an addition to the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard, and a new Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago.

His professional background includes 11 years as an architect and project manager with Eilenberg Associates, an architectural firm in Cambridge, MA; six years as director of project management and design services at Harvard; and six years as university architect and director of planning at the University of Chicago.

What will be different about the TCNJ position is the added responsibility for the maintenance and operation of all the College’s properties, as well as the campus security force. All told, he will supervise some 245 employees. Heuring is enthusiastic about what he calls “the great talent and mutually supportive attitude” of College leaders and is impressed with the high degree of “community consensus about what the College needs to do.” For the most part, the physical plant is in excellent shape, the utility system is modern and efficient, and the grounds are exceptionally attractive, he says.

But he does see several challenges. Looking at the need for additional residence halls and the uncertainties about some of those now in use, he said “We’ve got to have a firm understanding of what we really want to accomplish.”

He expects to devote a lot of attention to planning on that front so that “our vision does not get too far ahead of our financial reach.” Also, he believes the College “must forge good relationships so the community of Ewing and Princeton and all of us go ahead with what’s needed.”

Referring to delays in the construction of the three student apartment buildings along Metzger Drive, he expects to be working on “process improvements” that “will help us steer clear of that sort of problem.” And noting that TCNJ, unlike most of the institutions he has worked for in the past, is a public institution, he said he will be looking for ways, within the state system, to have the state procurement laws “benefit rather than hamper us.”

John Marcy comes to the College from the University of Maryland Medical System, where he was vice president for development and the executive vice president and CEO of the system’s fundraising arm, the UMMS Foundation. This nonprofit regional healthcare system includes a 700-bed teaching hospital, two other community hospitals and three specialty healthcare facilities. During his tenure, from 2002 to 2005, he directed a major campaign that netted $24 million and helped increase cash gifts to the system by 35 percent.

A graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, he did fundraising work there and at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga before returning to Pennsylvania to be director of development for Chestnut Hill Academy for seven years. In 1985 he began work in the healthcare field, first at Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia and the Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, and later at the St. Barnabas Health Care System in Lakewood, NJ. During this period, he earned a master’s in marketing at Temple University.

At TCNJ, Marcy will guide both development and alumni operations and will serve as a member of the president’s cabinet. He will automatically become secretary of TCNJ Foundation’s Board of Directors. (See a related article on page 19.)

At the time of his appointment, Marcy said he was “extremely pleased to be joining TCNJ at this time. The institution has accomplished a great deal and become a national leader in public higher education. I believe my experience and abilities will help bolster the College’s development efforts and contribute to an even brighter future for the school. This is an exciting opportunity.”

Two new trustees join board

Two new members of TCNJ’s Board of Trustees attended their first board meeting December 2, 2004, having been appointed by former Gov. James McGreevey and confirmed by the New Jersey Senate last fall.

Patricia A. Mueller ’86, an English major whose minors in political science and women’s studies stirred an interest in social activism, has connections to the College through her mother, Paula Bezt Muller ’73, and an aunt, JoAnn Bezt Rell ’78. “Tricia,” as she is known, is political director and lobbyist for the 18,000-member New Jersey Regional Council of Carpenters, with offices in Edison.

While in college, Mueller spent seven months studying women’s issues in Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, an experience she said “really opened my eyes and changed my life.” It confirmed her interest in activist causes and led her to support union organizing at the General Meany Center for Labor Studies and to accept a political education position with the AFL-CIO in southern New Jersey.

From 1998 to 2000, she worked for several Democratic state lawmakers and for the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders, helping research issues and shape public policy. Along the way, she was named to the Camden County Commission on Women, a platform from which she organized the Camden County Women’s Health Conference, now an annual one-day event drawing 1,200 local residents to its health education programs. She has held her present position with the carpenters’ union since October 2000.

Mueller expects to bring her “youthful perspective” to work on the student life committee of the board and says the board should maintain close contact with the faculty. “They are the ones who really know what’s going on with the students,” she says. She also wants to encourage more students to study abroad.

And she and her husband, Nicholas Henderson, an illustrator and graphic designer, live in Haddonfield.

In the four and one-half years Darrell L. Armstrong has been pastor of Trenton’s 1,400-member Shiloh Baptist Church, he has taken on significant leadership roles, not only in church circles, but in local and state affairs.

Born into a troubled family in Los Angeles, CA, he was raised in three foster homes from ages 5 to 8. It was an experience that prompted him to found, after the death of his mother in 1998, the National Association of Foster Children. With 10 chapters across the country, the association seeks to raise public awareness about the difficulties such children suffer.

Following his 1991 graduation from Stanford University, he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, graduating in 1999. While in seminary, he served two years as assistant to Rev. Dr. S. Howard Woodson Jr., pastor of Shiloh Baptist. After graduation, he was called to be the congregation’s third pastor in 95 years.

When the state Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) fell under criticism two years ago, then-Governor James McGreevey appointed Armstrong to a “Governor’s Cabinet for Children” to oversee DYFS reform. He now serves as chairman of the Social Action Commission of the General Baptist Convention of New Jersey and has taken leadership positions with the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns, the NAACP, and the Capital Health System. He also helps direct a non-profit community development corporation, the Trenton Parking Authority; and Angélu Wim’s, a volunteer organization that helps young people in need of care and counseling.

In recognition of these and other activities, last fall Armstrong was named the third winner of the Harrington Prize, a major award that honors individuals still in their early years of Christian ministry who have demonstrated exemplary preaching, evangelism, and community service.

Armstrong serves on TCNJ trustee committees dealing with fundraising and community relations. He hopes to help the College obtain a stronger financial foundation and to encourage a more diverse and vital dialogue on matters of race, ethnicity, and religious values.

He is married to the former Melanie Pinkney, a 1996 TCNJ graduate who majored in law and justice. They live in Trenton and have a daughter, Amaris. He will be 1 in November.

Curt Heuring

John F. Marcy

Darrell L. Armstrong
Whitman symposium set for Sept. 22–24

A three-day symposium celebrating the 150th anniversary of Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass will be held on campus Sept. 22–24 and will feature some of the nation’s most prominent poets, scholars, and intellectuals. It is expected to attract teachers and scholars from around the region.

Whitman Quarterly Review; Kenneth Price, professor at the university of Nebraska-Lincoln; and David Lehman, poetry coordinator at the New School’s graduate writing program and a recipient of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award. In addition to panel discussions and readings, a series of roundtable discussions will focus on the teaching of Leaves of Grass in secondary school. The College Art Gallery exhibition during the symposium period will be devoted to TCNJ art faculty works inspired by passages from Whitman’s classic poem.

Alumni awards highlight Founders’ Day

A full day of festivities on February 9 concluded with a celebration of education and leadership at the first Founders’ Day Leadership Convocation. Keynote speaker Eleanor Horne, a former trustee of the College and current vice president and corporate secretary of Educational Testing Service, paid tribute to TCNJ’s School of Education. Following her remarks, TCNJ Alumni Association President Greg Bellotti ’92 presented awards to three distinguished alumni who, he said, “have all given back to society in significant ways.”

Leonard Tharney ‘54 received the Distinguished Service Award for dedicating over 50 years to the College and his country. Tharney, who served in the Army National Guard from 1947–1981 and rose to the rank of colonel, taught at the Lanning and Anthiel laboratory schools in Ewing Township and also chaired the College’s Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education from 1988 to 1992. He was one of the founding faculty members of the College’s International Studies Program.

Nancy Cashel Faherty ’89, a public relations specialist and community advocate, received the Humanitarian Award for her outstanding service to the Babe Ruth League Inc., Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, Our Lady of Sorrows Church parish in Mercerville, and Roma Bank in Hamilton. Faherty is a past president and a current board member of Angel’s Wings, which provides abused and neglected children with emergency care.

Anthony J. Pascazio ’72, a business leader, children’s healthcare advocate, and devoted alumnus, received the Alumni Citation Award. He was honored for his involvement with the College and its Alumni Annual Fund and his success as founder and vice chairman of International Planning Alliance, a privately owned, multidisciplinary financial service organization. Named by Business New Jersey as one of the state’s key business leaders, Pascazio chairs the Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders and is involved with many community and charitable groups.

Michael Robertson, professor of English, and David Blake, associate professor of English, have designed and are coordinating the program, which is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs, School of Culture and Society, Department of English, TCNJ Sesquicentennial Committee, and New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Scheduled to participate in panel discussions, read poetry, or address the assemblies are 15 scholars and writers including Benjamin Barber, professor at the University of Maryland and director of the Democracy Collaborative; Betsy Erkkila, professor at Northwestern University; Ed Folsom, professor at the University of Iowa and editor of the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review; Kenneth Price, professor at the university of Nebraska-Lincoln; and David Lehman, poetry coordinator at the New School’s graduate writing program and a recipient of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award. In addition to panel discussions and readings, a series of roundtable discussions will focus on the teaching of Leaves of Grass in secondary school. The College Art Gallery exhibition during the symposium period will be devoted to TCNJ art faculty works inspired by passages from Whitman’s classic poem.