

Students

A major journalism award

Tammy Tibbetts '07, a journalism/professional writing major and women's and gender studies/Spanish minor, is well on her way to attaining her dream job at a women's magazine in New York City. After joining New York Women in Communications Inc. (NYWICI) last fall, she was one of 15 students selected for a NYWICI scholarship in March. Tammy won *Glamour* magazine's Ruth Whitney Scholarship, worth \$10,000



Tammy Tibbetts '07

toward her tuition. To be considered for the scholarship, she wrote an essay about an inspiring interview she did in high school. However, she feels her work founding *NYWICInext*, a newsletter for student members, is what gave her the winning edge. The second half of her prize included an invitation to attend the Matrix Awards event in April, which honors extraordinary women in communications, along with presenters Oprah Winfrey and Sen. Hillary Clinton. "I owe everything to NYWICI," she said.

Introduced to journalism in high school, where she was co-editor-in-chief of the school paper, Tammy has written for *The Home News Tribune*, *Jerseypolitics.com*, and *Thecollegepress.com*. She also edits the College's Circle K newsletter, is copy editor of *The Signal*, and handles world news for *The Journal*, the student-produced TV news show. She's setting up a College chapter of Ed2010, which helps students network with alumni in journalism.

"If you surround yourself with people that are successful, it has to rub off on

you," Tammy said. This summer, she plans on doing just that as an intern for *Seventeen* magazine in New York before studying at the University of Salamanca in Spain next fall.

Dancing with the deaf

Nick Terzulli '05, a mechanical engineering major and a community coordinator in Townhouses South, went beyond the expected task of developing activities for the residents when he organized a dance called "Feel the Beat" in November. Nick, who has played guitar for eight years, incorporated his love of music into a program designed to entertain and educate students about hearing loss, including those invited from the nearby Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf. So these deaf students could enjoy the music, he rented two mixers, an amplifier, lights that synchronized with the bass, and played low-frequency music with strong drum and bass vibrations. Nick prepared extensively, posting flyers at local colleges, advertising on Internet music message boards, and preparing hearing loss pamphlets for hearing attendees. "Feel the Beat" turned out to be a night of fun and food that raised about \$100 for the Katzenbach School. Upon graduation, Nick hopes to work for a branch of the military designing aircraft and new defense mechanisms.

A serious setback

David Schlossberg, a music performance major from East Brunswick, is one of the best-known students on campus, familiar to all as "Piano Dave." As a freshman he often played popular tunes during the dinner hour at Eickhoff Hall, and for years this self-described "cocktail pianist/entrepreneur" has been earning money performing at weddings, bat

mitzvahs, TCNJ gatherings, and corporate events. About three-quarters of the music he plays, which ranges from religious and classical to jazz and show tunes, he learned by ear. "I



David Schlossberg '05

have enough repertoire [in my head] for at least six hours of music," he said. After graduation he hopes to continue performing, make his own CDs, record for other artists, open a private studio, or teach.

However, in January the campus community was stunned to learn that while driving back to College after performing at his temple, Dave was rear-ended by a drunk driver. His injuries were severe, producing paralysis from below his heart down. In April, Dave was still in much pain from broken ribs, but gaining strength and gradually regaining the use of his legs at the Kessler Rehabilitation Institute of West Orange. Even after four or five hours of rehabilitation a day, Dave still manages to live up to his name, playing piano for hospital patients and staff. He plans to be back for the fall semester to finish his senior year just a little late.

Wolof spoken here

Maren Cummings '06 is one of the first students to participate in the new Languages Across the Curriculum (LAC) program this spring. As a junior philosophy and women's and gender



Maren Cummings '06

studies major who also minors in French and African-American studies, Maren spent the fall semester in Senegal, West Africa. There she studied French and Wolof, the national language of Senegal, and learned about Senegalese culture, society, and history from classes and day trips. She interned at Cohrtec, a center for technology and education. During her stay, she lived with three hosts: a Catholic family in Drakar, the fast-paced capital city; a family in Faoune, a mostly Muslim Senegalese village; and a third household in The Gambia, a small, English-speaking West African country.

Moussa Sow, assistant professor of modern languages and a Senegal native, has Maren in two classes: one on Francophone African cinema and one on Francophone African literature. "Her story was strikingly different from the rest of the students who went to France," says Sow. "She understands the dialectal differences between the French spoken in France and that spoken in French-speaking countries such as Senegal." As part of the LAC Program, she converses with Sow in Wolof outside of class and writes responses to African films in French. Still keeping in touch with her Seneglese friends and host families, Maren hopes to return to Senegal, but meanwhile would like to travel to new countries including Nigeria, Ghana, and Brazil.

Time on her hands?

Laura Forti '05, an English major from Manhattan, thought she'd have a little time on her hands during her senior year. So with her boyfriend, a budding writer, and three other friends, she made a movie. None of the five had much money and none of them was an actor, but they did it anyway. They formed a production company called Seventh Art



Laura Forti '05

Productions, maxed out their credit cards to raise \$20,000 for film and lights and cameras, signed up a cast of actors who worked in the hope of getting some reward someday, and started shooting in August. Laura, as production manager and co-producer, created call sheets for each day, broke down the script for the cast, and managed the budget and other details.

Filming took place in North Jersey and Boston with the crew working from 4 A.M. to 10 P.M. nearly every weekend for five months. That schedule made it possible for Laura to work at her fall semester internship with Court TV's business office, and for other members of the company to keep their full-time jobs. The result was a full-length feature film called *The End*, an aptly named drama about two young lovers whose relationship blossoms and dies. What's different is that the film begins with the dying and ends with the blossoming; that is, the tale is told in reverse. Students at a campus screening in April gave it strong applause.

This spring Laura submitted *The End* to a number of film festivals in hopes it may be the group's ticket into the industry. In case that plan fails, she hopes to continue working with Court TV's business affairs department handling international distribution.

Leading Circle K

Circle K is an international college student organization whose members enjoy doing community service work. Most Circle K students at TCNJ tend to be headed for teaching or social work careers, but **Maureen Tort '06** is an exception; she's a finance major whose goal lies somewhere in the world of business. Maureen heads the College Circle K Chapter and also is one of five students selected as a 2004-05 Rummel Community Service Scholar. That means she's been awarded \$1,500 off her tuition for agreeing to give 300 hours (at least 10 hours a week) to service work during the school year.

Each officer of Circle K is in charge of a project that requires a weekly commitment. Maureen's project (beyond supervising the whole Circle K operation) includes taking a group of students to the Trenton food pantry, where they bag groceries for needy families. One of her favorite service activities is Circle K's Welcome Week project, designed to get incoming freshmen involved in one of eight service activities. Another that's special for her is tutoring a Mongolian couple at the Lawrenceville English School. Keeping one eye on business, Maureen will participate in a Johnson & Johnson co-op program, working in its Ortho Biotech Products division, from June through December. She'll continue her Circle K work on weekends and the district governor of Circle K has asked her to coordinate the annual weekend conference of all 15 Circle K Chapters in the state.

Maureen Tort '06



Faculty

The College was saddened to learn of the recent deaths of several faculty.

▲ **Joseph V. Ellis**, professor emeritus of history, who taught at the College for 38 years, died October 5, 2004, in Hudson, FL, where he and his wife, Joyce, lived following his retirement in 2003. After graduating from West Chester State Teachers College and earning a master's at Temple University, he took a position here teaching history and supervising student teachers.

Joe's academic interests were broad, but his specialty was the Holocaust and he was wont to lard what he called his "dialogues" with students with obscure but fascinating facts about historical figures that never made it to the textbooks. He was particularly popular with his large contingent of apprentice teachers of history and social studies. Over the years he developed a reputation as an excellent, witty, off-the-cuff speaker who was both open-minded and a strong advocate for conservative causes. A voracious reader, he enjoyed copying and passing along materials he knew would appeal to his many faculty friends. Faculty colleagues recall his long service as secretary of the Faculty Senate and as an outspoken advocate for student and faculty concerns. He and his wife took frequent trips to Europe aboard the Queen Elizabeth II, offered in return for giving lectures to the guests on topics of current and historical interest.

▲ **Laurence Taylor**, who retired as an associate professor of music in 2002, died of cancer August 25, 2004 at the Hospice Center of New Jersey in Wayne. He was 66 years old and left a rich legacy as a teacher, lecturer, violinist, composer, and musicologist.

A native of Michigan, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Michigan State University and, when only 25, a doctorate at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. In the 1960s he lived in Europe, studying composition in Paris and playing violin in London's New Philharmonia Orchestra under Otto Klemperer. Taylor went on to develop close associations with many composers and conductors of the 20th century, including Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten, Aaron Copland, and Pierre Boulez.

After teaching musicology at Columbia University's Teacher College, Taylor came to the College in 1971 to create a program that would qualify graduate students for a master's in music history. When the program was phased out in the 1990s, he taught undergraduate courses in music history and literature of the Baroque period, music of the stage, and others.

For 20 years Taylor played the violin in the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. He often gave pre-concert lectures, and wrote program notes for its performances that gained a wide reputation for their encyclopedic knowledge and wit.

▲ **Robert J. McCormack**, 73, died January 13 at Thomas Jefferson Methodist Hospital in Philadelphia. He had come to the College in 1983 as an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. He served as chairman of the Department of Law and Justice from 1992 through 2001, retiring in June 2003. McCormack was a United Nations NGO representative of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and a representative to the Alliance of NGOs in crime prevention and criminal justice.

During the Korean War, he served in the Marine Corps and later joined the

New York City Police Department, retiring in 1976 as a lieutenant. He went on to earn a bachelor's of business administration from City University of New York-Baruch College, a master's in criminology from the University of California-Berkeley, and a doctorate in sociology from Fordham University. He taught as a visiting assistant professor at Temple University, and later became executive director of the Criminal Justice Center at John Jay College in New York City. He is survived by his wife, Inge Ann, six children, and seven grandchildren.

▲ **Irene Gersten**, 59, a former adjunct professor of English, died January 14 at St. Francis Medical Center. She taught rhetoric and American literature, served as interim director of writing in 2002-03, and was highly regarded by both students and professional colleagues. She also was an adjunct professor of English at Mercer County Community College and Rider University. Irene held a doctorate in modern literature from SUNY-Binghamton, and volunteered at the Edna Mahan Correctional Institution for Women, teaching prisoners autobiographical writing. She is survived by her husband, Michael Gersten, MD; her children, Ari Benjamin and Bianca Sarah; her mother, Adele Ludin; a sister, Michelle Schreier; and her step family, Marcia Fandel and Lynne Levine. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fox Chase Cancer Center at St. Francis Medical Center, Trenton, NJ, or the New York Public Library.

Bound for duty in Iraq

Leslie Rice, assistant professor of nursing, has been teaching classes in medical and surgical nursing since joining the faculty in 1986. And for even

longer—25 years—she has been a member of the Army Nurse Corps Reserves. She now holds the rank of Colonel and serves as Chief of Nursing Services in the 344th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) based in Fort Totten, New York. On March 18, her unit was formally mobilized for 554 days, orders that in today's military mean duty in Iraq. In preparation for her departure, she spent two months undergoing intensive training at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

The mission of the 344th CSH, Col. Rice explained, is to provide resuscitation, initial wound surgery, and post-operative treatment to those soldiers in the combat zone who fall within the corps evacuation policy and/or stabilize patients for further evacuation. However, as this issue was going to the printer, Rice said she has been told her unit "will be running a specially developed facility that will be taking care of the detainees" in Iraq. Rice was unsure of the precise location of her



Leslie Rice

next duty station or her expected date of arrival there. A resident of Newtown, PA, she is also taking leave of her position as a part-time nurse practitioner at the Trenton Adult Health Clinic.

Working with the UN

The 2004-05 school year brought an unusual new research opportunity to the Department of Communication Studies, as TCNJ undergraduates helped the United Nations Department of Public Information determine what effect its



Professor John Pollock with several of his communications studies students at lunch in the United Nations staff cafeteria on February 23, when they discussed their Asian tsunami news media research project. From left are: Stephanie Gratale '06, Pamela Braddock '07, Allison Montgomery, '05, Maria Bolognese '06, Samantha Griffith '06, and Pollock. To the right of him are: Carmel Kooros, a staff member of the UN's evaluation department; Toni Peterson '05; and Raquel Cohen-Orantes, chief of the evaluations unit in the UN Department of Public Information.

own information initiatives are having worldwide.

For many years Professor John Pollock has had his students study newspaper coverage of major public issues to learn how the structure of a given community may relate to the coverage an issue received from the local media. By making detailed studies of newspaper stories and relating the coverage to the area's personal income, productivity, rate of employment, literacy, etc., students come to understand the impact of communication on public attitudes and government activity. The results of Pollock's students' research often have been shared in presentations before the International Communication Association (ICA), a large academic professional society.

In early 2004, Pollock was chosen as one of three scholars to conduct research on behalf of the ICA and the UN to see what effect a UN information blitz mounted in November-December 2003 to promote World AIDS Day had on

newspaper coverage. In particular, UN officials wanted to know how its financial support, announcements, and speeches were being reported in cities around the world.

Last fall, Pollock's International Communications class of 13 students made the study a major part of its work. Four teams of students each pored over 10 or 12 foreign newspapers to see how their coverage supported the UN's mission of providing global AIDS awareness. Using a methodology Pollock calls a "community structure approach," they rated each article as to its "direction" (that is, favorable, unfavorable, balanced, or neutral) and then studied how the community's structural characteristics could be linked to the direction of newspaper coverage.

The four teams' reports were edited and combined by Pollock for the UN public information office and for presentation at the annual ICA convention in May. Stefanie Gratale '06, a communications

studies major and coordinator of the class project, will present the results to the convention, a rare opportunity for an undergraduate student.

Based on that experience, the UN asked Pollock to do a second study, this one focused on UN communications about its tsunami relief effort. Pollock had several independent study students take that on during the spring semester, some working at the UN headquarters in New York, using its databases and those of ECHO Research, a content analysis firm doing pro bono work for the UN.

So far, the work being done at TCNJ has not involved significant costs to either partner in the project. Pollock and his students will be reimbursed by the College for trips to New York, but are more interested in responding to UN officials' evident desire to develop stronger relationships with scholars worldwide.

Waiting in the wings, for example, is another study the UN information officials may elect to do: an evaluation of women's rights in the decade following the 1995 conference on that topic in Beijing, China. Analyzing media coverage of that issue would be basic to such a sweeping study. Pollock sees a number of possibilities there for TCNJ students and faculty—in history and political science as well as communication studies—to put their research skills to work on matters of international significance.

Busy in Pittsburgh

Allan Gotthelf, emeritus professor of philosophy, took early retirement in 2002, but has been working at the University of Pittsburgh on a renewable Fellowship for the Study of Objectivism as a visiting professor in Pitt's Department of History and Philosophy of Science. He's been doing occasional lectures,

organizing workshops for graduate students and visiting academics, continuing his work on both Aristotle for Cambridge University Press and Ayn Rand for philosophical journals. The folks at Pitt seem to be pleased to have him around, for last October they organized a two-and-one-half-day event they termed "AllanFest." Formally, it was "Being, Nature, and Life: A Conference Celebrating Allan Gotthelf's Contributions to the Study of Classical Philosophy and Science" and featured speakers from major universities, including Brown, Princeton, UC-Berkeley, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Oxford, and Cambridge. Allan says he enjoys Pittsburgh, but returns as often as he can for some of his medical care, to see friends and the music scene in New York City.

Hanging up her apron

Since she came to work in 1989 as a cashier in the Student Center Food Court, at least 12,000 students have come and gone from the College, and it's probable that most of them remember Edith Hahn. For most of those years, she was the 4-foot, 10-inch, gray-haired little woman with a twinkle in her eye and a smile that never quit who sold coffee and snacks at a kiosk known as "Edith's Place."

Well, Edith, who turns 90 later this year, finally has hung up her apron. She's retired to her home in Trenton, where she lives with "Buddy," an aging Shih Tsu; "Pepper," her elderly black cat; and a crop of African violets that responds eagerly to her care. She is one of five children, all of whom are still living. Her husband, Russell, died in 1966, leaving her with a candy store on Broad Street they had started together. She relocated the shop to a home on Liberty Street, where she

managed it alone for 22 years before closing it down, renting out the space, and coming to work at the College.

Looking back on her years in Edith's Place, she exhibits her genuine love of people with a glow of nostalgic talk about the students she has served and counseled. Scores of them came to her for restorative coffee after a long night and heard her caution them, grandmother-like, or lift their spirits. Others were as diligent and happy and chatty as she, and continue to stop to see her years after graduating. She also recalls two girlfriends who were "really quite unpleasant to me," but who returned years later to proudly show her their babies.

Edith has been profiled by a succession of *Signal* reporters, has had a yearbook dedicated to her, and regularly gets letters from alumni recalling their friendship; but her most memorable encounter with students took place on Homecoming Weekend in 2003. David Gabauer '04, a business management major and a candidate for Homecoming king, sweet-talked Edith into escorting him to the final judging. When introduced, she gave a playful (and prearranged) wiggle of her hips, which brought the stadium crowd to its feet with raucous applause. In the contest, David came in second.

Edith, as they say, will be missed.

Edith Hahn

