

THE LETTER BOX

Norsworthy memories

The Autumn 2004 article on Norsworthy Hall, where I spent most of my college days, brought back many memories. When I first entered college in 1942, there was a shortage of rooms in the main dorms, so they placed six of us in a small house by the lake with Miss Mary McDonald as our housemother. The next semester my roommate and I lived on the top floor of Norsworthy.

During freshman week, we had to wear a beanie, pigtails, and a placard that hung from our neck stating our name, hometown, and major.

In my senior year, the war was ending and many servicemen were returning. Three of my classmates and I married while in college. With that, I have to tell you a funny story. Miss Decker, dean of women and director of student life, ruled the campus and was very strict. We couldn't wear slacks; we were required to sign out and in during the evenings by 10 o'clock; when going home for the weekend or a holiday, we had to return with a note from our parents. After I married Jack Farmer, a Navy veteran, in 1945, Miss Decker required that when I returned from a weekend away, my husband had to write the note.

We were served breakfasts and lunches cafeteria style at the Inn, but were assigned to tables of four in the evening, where we took turns as hostess when being served. It was wartime, and we had to turn our ration books in to the College to cover our meals. It was there, in the Inn, that I learned to eat turnips, white margarine, and gray, faux Taylor's ham. Nearly all my close friends had jobs on campus: One worked as a waitress;



Wearing their identity placards during "freshmen week" in 1942 are Verna Riecke Farmer '46 (left) and other housemates: Beatrice "Betty" Lawrence Gibson '46, Nan Smith, Charlotte Dobbs Rader '46, Miriam Doyle Thiel '45 and Jane Maddox, who left during her first year.

two worked in administrative offices; one ran the campus post office; and I co-managed the bookstore, a small room in the basement of Green Hall. My starting salary for a teaching job in 1946 was \$1,750 for the year, which was considered a good contract at the time.

*Verna Riecke Farmer '46
Morristown*

Bray was a beautiful haven

Majestic oaks, maples, and naked birches dotted with gray-green assorted bushes filled my view. I sat in the last seat of the window row enrolled in Symphonic Literature, three credits, 1965. Bray Hall was the music majors' haven with lecture and recital/practice nooks. New brick was in sharp contrast to the older buildings such as Kendall and Green Hall. The neatly structured building was adorned with sparkling clean halls and new Formica desks. A meager stereo was way in front of class and, as Beethoven's Ninth (on records) began, I relaxed and

was immediately attracted to the lacy snowflakes floating freely and topping patches of grass. The hush of the room elicited a sense of security and I felt the tensions of the day flowing like bubbles.

No stairs to climb, no lines, I walked with my head held high three days a week at 4 P.M. Subtle sounds of instruments and soothing tones embraced my senses. No elevators. I was at ground zero, able to coordinate my listening with the glistening view.

My private success carried me all the way home to my room, which I shared with three friends a good mile and a half walk up Ewingville Road to Professor Revere's small home. Bray Hall: I had a stake in it so different from the other buildings.

Jane Perlin Weinstein '68
(mother of Rachael Mallen '05)
Old Bridge

Science and engineering education served him well

President Gitenstein's letter "Most Competitive," in the autumn issue of *TCNJ Magazine* prompts me to say I could not agree more. With a dual degree in mechanical engineering and chemistry, I began my career in the high-

technology fields of aerospace and defense. With core competencies in composites, polymers, and thermoballistic simulations, the College truly prepared me for excellence.

As I look back on my 18-year industrial career in Fortune 500 companies, in areas of manufacturing and research development, I have been responsible for six patents and a number of patent applications while working for Textron Systems and other companies in, for example, the field of polymer technology and emulsion science. I certainly could not have accomplished any of those innovations without the teaching of great professors.

Now, as staff scientist at the Keller Companies in Manchester, NH, I can still remember lectures by pioneers in their fields like Seymour Adler, the late Howard Nechamkin, Jerome Goodkin, and Philip Dumas, who is now chairman of the chemistry department. Having attended an Ivy League school and a management school for my graduate degrees, I would certainly rate the quality education I received at TCNJ as number one in my book.

Sami Daoud '86
Bedford, NH



We'd love to hear from you

If there's something in this issue that pleases or troubles you, why not write a letter to the editor and express your views? Any thoughts about the articles on the TCNJ Foundation or our new state inspector general? Maybe you have an opinion on Edith Hahn or our students doing research for the U.N. (See page 34.) In the next issue we're writing about Armstrong Hall, so if you have a special memory of that building, could you share it? Here's where to write: The Editor, *TCNJ Magazine*, Office of College and Community Relations, The College of New Jersey, PO Box 7718, Ewing, NJ 08628-0718. You may e-mail the editor at magazine@tcnj.edu.