

New deans named for education and science

William J. Behre, a faculty member at TCNJ since 1997 and former chair of the Department of Special Education and Literacy, was named dean of the School of Education effective March 1. Prior to the appointment he had been serving as interim dean.

In his nine years at TCNJ, Behre has become deeply involved in academic issues, serving several terms as a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Board, the Committee on Planning and Priorities, the General Education Advisory Council, the library program committee, and reaccreditation efforts of both the Middle States and NCATE organizations.

Behre spent his undergraduate years as an economics major at Vassar College and worked first as a financial communications consultant, mostly for Merrill Lynch. Soon, however, he was drawn into education, becoming a middle school social studies teacher in Brooklyn, where he often dealt with students with learning and behavioral difficulties. In subsequent years he earned a master's in special education at Hunter College and a doctorate from the University of Michigan.

His research interests have focused on how teachers reason and cope with difficult situations, most recently the challenges of including students with disabilities in general education classrooms. At TCNJ, he helped organize the Center for Assistive Technology and Inclusive Education Studies (CATIES), which has generated about \$7 million in grants support for research and assistant grants since its inception in 2002.

Recently he has been working to reorganize and expand the School of

Education Clinic, which provides counseling, audiology, and speech pathology services to the local community and valuable educational experience for TCNJ students. In addition, he is working with the school's Department of Health and Exercise Science to expand its research and educational programs into a center for research and community service.

Behre, 50, lives in nearby New Hope, PA, with his wife and two daughters. He keeps his hand in the real world of public education as an elected member of the New Hope-Solebury Board of School Directors.

Jeffrey M. Osborn, chair of the biology department and a strong promoter of undergraduate research programs at Truman State University in Missouri, will become dean of the School of Science on July 1. At Truman, a 5,600-student, coed liberal arts institution where he has taught for 15 years, Osborn directs the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program, and chairs a university-wide undergraduate research committee.

After earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in botany at Texas State University-San Marcos, he went on to earn a doctorate from Ohio State University in plant biology. At Truman, Osborn teaches a full range of courses that routinely incorporate research projects. Many of them focus on evolutionary relationships among seed plants based on the study of pollen development and pollination mechanisms. He has been quite successful in bringing financial support



William J. Behre, dean of the School of Education



Jeffrey M. Osborn, dean of the School of Science

for research to the university, receiving over \$3.65 million from sources such as the National Science Foundation, Fulbright Foundation, and Petroleum Research Fund—American Chemical Society. He has conducted research while on leave from Truman at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, University of Alberta, and in Antarctica.

At the national level, Osborn has served two terms on the executive board of the Botanical Society of America and two consecutive terms as the society's program director. He has served on the Council on Undergraduate Research in a variety of roles, including chair of the biology division and member of the executive board. He is also a member of Project Kaleidoscope, a national alliance devoted to strengthening the nation's undergraduate science and mathematics community.

New VP for student life brings broad experience

James Norfleet, a teacher and administrator at the college level for over 20 years, has been appointed vice president for student life effective August 1. Most recently, Norfleet served as associate vice president for student



James Norfleet, vice president of student life

services at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, CA, a comprehensive university with 20,000 students. He has been responsible for the strategic direction and line management of the university's career center, student health services, disability resource center, counseling and psychological services, Renaissance Scholars, and student support and equity programs.

Earlier, Norfleet served at Cal Poly-Pomona as the executive director of educational equity services from 1999 to 2002 and as director of the Educational Opportunity Program from 1995 to 1999. At Nyack College, a small private institution in Nyack, NY, he served as associate dean of the college from 1990 to 1995.

Norfleet received his BA in business administration from Pace University and completed graduate studies in higher education and developmental studies at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, and Fordham University in Tarrytown, NY. Norfleet will present his oral defense this summer for a doctorate in education leadership at UCLA.

Announcing the appointment, President R. Barbara Gitenstein said, "His extensive background in student affairs and passion for working with students will serve us well in his new leadership position at TCNJ."



TCNJ journalism icon retires

Judging from his April 21 career "roast," one thing is certain: Soon-to-be retired professor of journalism and English Bob Cole is well-loved and well-respected by his former and current students, peers, and the journalism community, who came from across the region to honor the man who surely will become a TCNJ legend.

Few of us can say that we've become who we always dreamed we'd be when we were children, but that's not the case for Cole. "Back before grade school, I'd sit and read newspapers," he said in an interview. "All through my life I was writing."

After editing stints at every school paper from the elementary level to college, Cole took a reporting position with the *Winston-Salem (NC) Journal*. But eventually, his love of literature led him back to school for graduate work in English.

In 1971, Cole received his PhD in American literature from Lehigh University. Unfortunately, just as he graduated, "The whole market for English

professors collapsed," he explained. Then, as the field of journalism exploded post-Watergate, Cole was flooded with offers to teach journalism at a number of schools, which he credits to "lots of practical experience."

Arriving in 1973, Cole was TCNJ's first, and for a time, only journalism professor, running what he described as "a mom and pop operation without a mom." Despite the department's size, Cole said that 28 percent of TCNJ journalism graduates enter the news field, well over the national average of 11 percent.

William Borden '89 credits Cole with getting him his first position in the field—a part-time gig with the *Ocean County Observer*. "That job led to a 12-year stint at the Reuters financial news desk, an MBA, a lot of friendships in the newsroom, and a love for New York City," said Borden. "I have to place a lot of the credit with Dr. Cole for getting me started."

Over the years, Cole has maintained contact with over 400 former TCNJ students. "I will always be available to help with job hunting for all my students," he explained.

Though Cole has certainly earned his retirement, he doesn't plan to rest on his laurels. "I think I'll write, but I think it'll be at home," he said. "If I wanted to work, I'd stay here," adding that he couldn't find a better job than the one he currently holds.

"I've had a very New Jersey-focused career," the Beaver, WV, native said, and he plans to stay active in the TCNJ community.

Graphics professor designs a 'Patriot Act' board game

Michael Kabbash, assistant professor of art, made a stir in the national press in March when the Associated Press distributed an article describing a board game he has designed and is distributing free on the Internet. Called Patriot Act: The Home Version, it is a parody on the famous "Monopoly" game, targeting for ridicule the controversial anti-terrorism law known as The Patriot Act. The object of the game is not to amass money or real estate, but to be the last player not to be sent to jail at Guantanamo Bay and to retain some civil liberties.

Kabbash, a Christian of Syrian heritage, was born in Clifton. His wife, Maha, is a lawyer active with the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. He said he wants the game to be, "not only a parody, but a teaching tool. This is my way of putting my political ideas forward, hoping the people will wake up. There's a lot of apathy, and we have to realize that we're in a democracy, that we're all allowed to say something."

Michael Kabbash with his "Patriot Act" board game.



A man of many talents

Herman M. Ward, a poet and scholar who taught English literature and Greek language for 30 years before retiring in 1976, died February 18 at his home in Belle Mead. He was 91 and was a popular teacher, mentor, and contributor to New Jersey's poetry scene.

Growing up in Jersey City, he fell in love with literature in high school and went on to Montclair State and Princeton University, where he earned a doctorate. During his life he published seven books of his own verse, and formed a small company, Belle Mead Press, to publish the works of aspiring poets.

One of those was Patricia Groth '74, who said Ward would publish only one book for any poetic newcomer, telling them that from then on they would have to seek out another publisher. Groth, who did not come to the College until she was 39, took a number of courses taught by Ward, and observed how well he knew all his students. "He used to sit on a bench in the corridor of Holman Hall and just listen. If one of his students came by, he would pat the seat of the bench and ask them to come sit with him a while. He knew what they were about and knew how to get them to move in the right direction." Groth went on to publish several books of verse herself. Both she and Ward were named Dodge Poets by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Over the years, Ward came to know nearly every avid poet in New Jersey. He was very active with the semi-annual Waterloo Poetry Festival, and in 1986 received the Governor's Award for Service to Poetry from Governor Thomas Kean.

He and his wife, Margery, and their four children lived on a small farm in Belle Mead. There he planted 17



Herman M. Ward

varieties of apple trees and raised sheep, which he sheared and used the wool for homemade clothing. One of his greatest pleasures came from renovating his Dutch Colonial farmstead, a preservation project for which he received an award from the Montgomery Township Landmarks Commission. For more than 30 years, the home was the monthly meeting place of the "Conrad Group," about 18 former Montclair students who spent evenings talking poetry and books.

Ward was a man of many talents: a fine violinist, writer, arborist, and superior teacher. Former faculty colleague Lahna Diskin said he maintained a balance between engagement in his subject and attention to students during class. "He had a perfect knack of being a constructive critic, for his criticism never had barbs in it, never was hurtful," she said.

During the summer, the family enjoyed a home in Woods Hole, MA, where he and the children loved to sail his small Herreshoff Bullseye.

Ward's many former students and friends may want to honor him by contributing books of poetry to supplement the new library's collection. They should be sent to the attention of Lee Harrod, professor of English in TCNJ's Department of English.