

SPRING ISSUE

MARCH 2013

Graduate Column



Welcome to the Spring 2013 Issue of TCNJ's Graduate Column!

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

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In this issue, we are pleased to introduce several outstanding students; plus, we share faculty highlights and information regarding the upcoming registration period, Autism Awareness Week, and Graduate Appreciation Week! On behalf of the Office of Graduate Studies, best wishes for an enjoyable semester.

We look forward to seeing you on campus.

Susan Hydro,

Director—Graduate & Intersession Programs

Autism Awareness Week (April 1-5)



Autism Awareness Week is right around the corner! This event, organized by Alyssa SooHoo, has been occurring on campus every April since 2010. Alyssa is a 5th year Special Education graduate student who is very involved in projects for students with disabilities, especially autism, and faculty research projects. She recently taught abroad at the International School of Paris and is now teaching a self-contained autism class in New Jersey. Alyssa became interested in supporting individuals with autism while in eighth grade and volunteering at a camp for individuals

with special needs. During her freshman year of high school, she began an independent research project focusing on autism, which continued throughout her high school career.

Autism Awareness Week started off as a single event in 2010. Alyssa knew autism was becoming a prevalent disorder and she wanted to spread on-campus awareness about the issue. Planning the event included: finding speakers, creating presentations, and managing the budget. In 2011 she expanded the single event to a weeklong mission, helping individuals with autism by creating awareness. "Society is often quick to judge people who are different; awareness is a key stepping stone to acceptance, which is what is truly needed," explains Alyssa.

Past Autism Awareness Weeks have featured concerts, professional

panels, t-shirt sales, movie screenings, fundraisers, and prominent speakers, such as Ari Ne'eman and David Finch. Last year's Autism Awareness Week was extremely successful and included more than twenty student organizations and was even featured on NBC's The Rock Show with Brian Williams.

The events scheduled for Autism Awareness Week 2013, which will be held on April 1, 2, 3, & 5, are a cupcake giveaway, parent-professional panel, fundraisers, faculty presentations, human puzzle piece demonstration, and a bingo game. Additional information, along with times and locations, are listed below.

Monday, April 1st

-Kickoff Event: Cupcake Giveaway!

11:00 am – 2:00 pm in Student Center Atrium

-Parent - Professional Panel

"Autism MythBusters and Helpful Tips on Transitioning from High School"

8:30 pm in Education Building 212

Tuesday, April 2nd

International Autism Awareness Day!

Wednesday, April 3rd

-Applebee's Fundraiser ALL DAY!

-Dr. Blumberg and Dr. Rao, Associate Professors of Special Education, Language, and Literacy

"Representations of Autism in Films: body, behavior, identity, and presence"

1:00 pm in Education Building 212

Wednesday, April 3rd continued:

-Professor Naples, Associate Professor of Economics and Dr. Genevieve Kumapley, the Oncological Pharmacist at St. Peter's Hospital and founder of My GOAL - Autism, the sponsor of the Haven Project

Project Haven (visit ww.mygoalautism.org for more information)

3:00 pm in Education Building 212

-Just2Moms

"What Does Autism Look Like?"

8:30 pm in Education Building 212

Friday, April 5th

-Human Puzzle Piece

11:15 – 11:30 am at the Football Field

-Blue-Out Bingo!

7:30 pm in Education Building 212

Go Global!



The College of New Jersey's Graduate Global Program provides students with an opportunity to complete a desired program or summer coursework as an international experience. The global programs are offered at various sites and lead to certification or master's degrees in the areas of Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Teaching English as a Second Language, Educational Leadership, certification in Special Education, and coursework towards Substance Abuse Counselor certification.

Certification programs can be completed in two summers with further coursework throughout the year, and a master's degree can be completed with an additional summer. Graduate global sites include Spain, Thailand, South Africa, Egypt, Portugal, and Taiwan, with various courses and academic sessions between the different site locations.

In addition, TCNJ graduate students are able to study abroad and complete individual coursework during the summer sessions in three of the international sites. Summer sessions, offered in June through August, are available to graduate students in Mallorca, Spain; Johannesburg, South Africa; Lisbon, Portugal; and Bangkok, Thailand.

Students visiting Mallorca in the summer encounter beautiful mountains and beaches on this island located off the east coast of Spain, with the ability to take individual courses in Elementary, Secondary, and Special Education, as well as ESL, Educational Administration and Substance Abuse Counseling.

Johannesburg provides the opportunity to take courses in Elementary and Secondary Education, while experiencing the unique culture, talents, and crafts of African artists, and musicians.

Bangkok attracts Elementary, Secondary, and Educational Leadership students interested in catching a glimpse of the elegant styles and architecture of Thailand.

Our new program in Lisbon, Portugal offers Special Education certification to students who are already certified teachers, as well as individual special education courses.

Each global site offers an exceptional learning experience that benefits all graduate students with various academic goals. Students are encouraged to learn more about the unique locations available to them by visiting the Graduate Global website:
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~graduate/global/>.

New Faculty: Dr. Anne Peel



Introducing Dr. Anne Peel!

Dr. Peel is the newest faculty member to join the department of Special Education, Language, and Literacy. Before coming to The College of New Jersey, Dr. Peel worked as a high school English teacher for fourteen years, located first in Philadelphia and then at Burlington Township High School in New Jersey. This past June, she completed her doctoral program in Literary Education at Rutgers University.

Dr. Peel was interested in working at TCNJ because of its great reputation for teacher preparation,

to which she was eager to contribute. She is grateful to be welcomed into a warm and supportive department that is invested in her success. She loves the new Education building and feels spoiled that she is able to start her new career in such a beautiful building and enjoy its innovative literacy classrooms.

Dr. Peel has many exciting projects happening this semester. She was recently awarded a SOSA (Support of Scholarly Activities) grant and is excited to put together a proposal to start an exciting, fresh program. This grant is designed to support faculty and librarian scholarship, creative activity, and professional activity with exceptional merit and/or promise. Dr. Peel is also presenting at conferences in San Antonio and Philadelphia. This semester, she is teaching a writing class and is eager to see how her new class develops.

In her spare time, Dr. Peel loves to camp and hike with her family, most recently making plans to visit Jenny Jump State Forest. Over Spring Break, she and her family traveled to Colorado for some skiing and other snow-related activities. As expected, Dr. Peel also loves to read, and her office is filled with many scholarly texts.

Dr. Peel's advice to graduate students is to prioritize. She knows that balancing family, school, and a full-time job can be difficult. She has been in that position herself and advises students to understand that not everything will get done, so be sure to prioritize what is most important.

We wish Dr. Peel a successful semester!



Don't Forget to Register for Summer Session!

Taking courses in Summer Session is a great way to lighten your course load during the semester. Maymester courses last one week, spanning four days; Session A & B classes are roughly one month long and meet twice a week; and Blended Learning classes include a once weekly, on-campus class and additional online coursework.

Graduate courses available in Summer Session can be found at:

<http://summer.pages.tcnj.edu/courses/>

Spotlight On: Dr. Shri Rao



The Graduate Column would like to congratulate Dr. Shridevi Rao on the upcoming release of her book, “South Asia and Disability Studies: Redefining Boundaries and Extending Horizons (co-edited with Dr. Maya Kalyanpur).” For those of you who do not know Dr. Rao, she is an Associate Professor at the Department of Special Education, Language, and Literacy and has been with The College of New Jersey since 1999. Dr. Rao is the Graduate Coordinator for the Special Education Graduate Programs.

Dr. Rao earned her doctorate in Special Education and master’s from Syracuse University. She enjoys all aspects of teaching, especially interacting with students and being engaged in conversations in the field of disability studies and education. This semester, she is teaching the graduate course “Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Extreme Behaviors,” as well as the undergraduate course “Social and Legal Foundations of Special Education.”

Dr. Rao is looking forward to the release of her upcoming book: “South Asia and Disability Studies: Redefining Boundaries and Extending Horizons.” The idea for the book was formed while on sabbatical two years ago, focusing

her research on disability studies, a rich and interdisciplinary field that examines ways in which disability is socially and culturally constructed. Simultaneously, she was conducting a study that focused on the perspectives of Indian American families of youth with disabilities. Based on the findings of the study, as well as her previous experiences with South Asian families, she found the framework of the “social model” of disability, which has been integral to the field of disability studies, did not capture the families’ experiences of disability or their lived realities. She felt the disability experiences of South Asian families had to be understood within the complex landscape of gender, caste, colonialism, development, globalization, and cultural/indigenous epistemologies. She began looking at the possibility of a conversation between the field of disability studies and South Asia and came across an emerging body of literature that had begun to question the applicability of a universal template for disability and called for the need to draw on other theoretical frameworks and lenses to understand this experience. Dr. Rao wrote a proposal and contacted both established and emerging scholars in the field to invite them to contribute to the book and expand the horizons of the existing discourse in disability studies. Many scholars were receptive to the idea and eager to contribute. She submitted the proposal to Peter Lang’s Disability Studies in Education Series edited by Drs. Susan Gabel and Scott Danforth. Acceptance of the proposal rapidly

set the wheels in motion. Drawing on scholarship that addresses the social, economic, cultural, and historical facets of the experience of disability in South Asia, the book presents a nuanced view of the construction of disability in South Asia. It addresses the interpretations of disability within different South Asian contexts, including policy, family, educational systems, films, and literary narratives. According to Dr. Rao, the most exciting influence of the book is that it challenges the very construct of the term “disability” and its universal application. It argues that constructions of disability in South Asia are complex and have to be interpreted within multiple spaces and not captured through dominant notions of the body or intellect. Dr. Rao is both excited and anxious for the book’s release in May or June of this year.

This summer, Dr. Rao will be teaching a graduate Special Education course in Portugal. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and performing Indian classical dance. Dr. Rao understands the difficulty graduate students face balancing family, school, work, and other aspects of their lives. Her advice to graduate students is to remember to stay present in the moment. She also encourages graduate students to reflect on and challenge the orthodoxies that permeate the field of teaching and education.

We wish Dr. Rao the best of luck with her book!

Meet the Students!



Introducing graduate student Nicole Magno!

Nicole is in the five-year Master of Arts in English program. As an undergraduate at TCNJ, she was the secretary and later the Vice President of Internal Affairs for the Asian American Association. Additionally, she is a Women in Leadership and Learning alumna.

Nicole was introduced to the five-year program as an English secondary education major with a Women and Gender Studies minor. She became interested in the program because she wanted to expand her knowledge for future classroom teaching experiences. She also wanted to explore all options while still

indulging in her love for literature as a scholar.

What Nicole enjoys most about the program is the opportunities and flexibility it provides. Although her classes can be intense, she has been able to participate in other activities, such as working as a graduate assistant, presenting at conferences, teaching and tutoring at Bucks County College, all while juggling personal interests. Nicole adds, "I have also gained valuable friends through my classes who don't look at me funny when I try to analyze masculinity and femininity in a text. They actually understand me!"

Nicole will be graduating this spring. With her degree, she would like to teach in Asia, specifically the Philippines. Her grandparents were both immersed in the education field in the area, and she would like to embody their passion and empowerment. After spending time in Asia, she would like to come back to teach in the United States

and eventually obtain a PhD.

Nicole's favorite class has been Global Shakespeare. As a self-proclaimed "Shakespeare fan girl", she has visited his birthplace and gravesite. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys reading and writing. She even experiments with drawing her own comics. She also contributes to Racegirl Magazine (geared toward woman of color) and writes biweekly for its LGBTQ section.

Nicole's advice for graduate students is to use your time in school to explore. Take any opportunity that pushes you out of your comfort zone. Her mantra is "Why not?" "The greatest regrets in my life are the things I did not do, so even if my 'why not?' attitude resulted in a failure at times, even that failure is a precious learning experience I would not have gained if I had played it safe," she explains.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Nicole!



Introducing TCNJ Nursing student Amy Parker!

Amy is a graduate student in the Master of Science in Nursing: Family Nurse

Practitioner program. As an undergraduate, Amy was a New Jersey Stars scholar and was awarded a scholarship to attend Burlington County Community College. After completing the two year program, she started working full-time and continued her education taking online classes with Thomas Edison College to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Amy has spent six years as a telemetry nurse (a progressive care nurse that provides a level of

care in between intensive care and general medical care), but chose her current program because she always wanted to become a nurse practitioner. She enjoys working with all ages and believes becoming a nurse practitioner will offer many employment opportunities to work as an independent practitioner. What Amy enjoys most about the program is her classmates and instructors. She appreciates that they can all add to the educational

Meet the Students continued...

experience by sharing different backgrounds and ideas. Amy is currently in her third clinical course of primary care. These have been her favorite classes thus far because they offer the chance to practice what she's learning in class. "We'll learn about asthma in class one day, and then I'll see a patient in clinical and get to put together the whole picture and develop a treatment and management plan for that patient," explains Amy.

Amy plans on graduating this August. She would like to use her degree to be a primary care provider and patient advocate, working in a primary care office or urgent care center. Amy enjoys spending time with her family and traveling. She hopes to visit England with her husband after she graduates. Amy's main advice for graduate students is to understand that graduate school is a big

commitment and to make sure it's something you really want to do. "Maintain your confidence and be proud of your accomplishments and your profession," says Amy.

We wish Amy the best of luck as a future nurse practitioner!



Introducing Ashley Vogt! Ashley is a graduate student in the Master of Arts in English program and taking classes for the Genders Studies certificate program. She was introduced to the English graduate program as an undergrad at TCNJ. She had such a positive experience in her initial program and was impressed with many of the English professors' teachings that she decided to join the Master's program. For Ashley, the transition from undergraduate to graduate was a smooth one, and she was even able to take her first MA course as a senior.

What Ashley enjoys most about the program is the sense of community. She has been able to

develop great friendships and enjoys getting to hear about her peers' different theoretical interests. Additionally, she appreciates how understanding and adaptable the professors are. She values the less hierarchical relationship the professors and students share at the graduate level. Her favorite class has been Contemporary and Post Modern Appropriations of Fairy Tales with Dr. Carney.

As part of her teaching practicum, Ashley is a teaching assistant at Bucks County Community College and works at the tutoring center. Even though she is an assistant, she is still able to write assignments, grade papers, and interact with students. Working at the tutoring center has taught her to become more critical of her own writing.

Ashley will be graduating this May. Once she graduates, she would like to become an adjunct professor at institutions in the area. Also, she would like to spend her time writing and submitting personal work to conferences and journals. Next winter, she is considering

applying to PhD programs.

In her spare time, Ashley enjoys reading. In the summer, she loves spending time with her family on the beach at the Jersey shore. Ashley's advice for graduate students is to not be afraid to engage with difficult material. Some of her most rewarding projects have come from having to tackle difficult subjects.

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Ashley!



Meet the Students continued...



Introducing Rocio Brockmeyer! Rocio is a graduate student in the Family Nurse Practitioner program. She earned her Bachelors in Public Health at Rutgers University and her RN degree from Raritan Community College.

Rocio was born in South America and came to the United States when she was twelve years old. Because of her background, she is very passionate about helping the Hispanic population, especially in terms of public healthcare awareness. She believes these individuals are seen as an underserved population and

works to combat this by issuing health screenings and educating others about risk factors.

Rocio's favorite classes have been in her second clinical in the Fall 2012 semester. She enjoys the clinical rotations and getting hands-on experience with patients. She enjoys being able to act in the nurse practitioner role while diagnosing and educating patients. While helping in a women's center recently, she found that half of the women spoke Spanish. Rocio was excited to be able to communicate with these women in their native language and connect on a more personal level. What Rocio enjoys most about the program is learning from the different experiences and specialties of her classmates and having one-on-one time with her professors.

As a recent receiver of the Capstone program (a critical learning experience and opportunity to perform a public service), Rocio is working on a project for St. John's Clinic in New Brunswick. She is working with Catholic Charities to implement flow sheets providing diabetes information as clinical guidelines. Rocio plans to graduate this August and hopes to work for a primary care clinic with the Hispanic population. In her spare time, she enjoys salsa dancing, going to the gym, and spending time with her children. Her advice for graduate students is to not give up. "Keep on going; the end of the road is very rewarding," explains Rocio. We wish Rocio a successful semester!



Introducing graduate student Katie Kim! Katie is in the Educational Technology program and is also completing her Supervisor's Certificate. She is a 7th and 8th grade math teacher for the Gifted and Talented program at Nicholas Oresko School in Bayonne.

What Katie enjoys most about the program is learning and using new technology in her classroom. "There are so many exciting new ways to deliver content and make learning more enjoyable for my students,"

Katie explains. Though she has valued all her classes, her favorites have been Authoring I and II with Craig Kapp. She feels these classes have been beneficial to her work practice, and she has been able to apply and incorporate so much of what she's learned into her own classroom. When Katie graduates, she would like to use her Supervisor's Certificate to become a Director of a Mathematics or Technology Department.

Katie also has a notable and very personal connection to TCNJ. It is where her husband Matt proposed in May 2008! The couple met as undergraduates, both living on the second floor in Travers Hall during their freshman year. After becoming close friends and falling in love, Matt

proposed by getting three pavers installed in front of Eickhoff Dining Hall. The first states "Katie and Matt met and fell in love at TCNJ..." The second says, "Matt proposed right here." And the third asks, "Katie will you marry me?"

In her spare time, Katie enjoys cooking (she has a cooking blog: <http://cookbookmeals.com>) and coaching the girl's basketball team at her school. Katie understands that working full time and going to graduate school can be challenging. She reminds graduate students that the professors are very understanding and will work with you if you are willing to put in the time and effort.

We wish Katie a successful semester!

Graduate Appreciation Week

In 1993, NAGPS (National Association of Graduate Professional Students) established Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSAW) as a mechanism to support and appreciate graduate and professional students.

Specifically, Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week seeks to emphasize the contributions, impact and value of graduate and professional students on campuses throughout the United States.

Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week will be held April 1-5, 2013. Faculty should show their appreciation for graduate students throughout the week.

The Office of Graduate Studies will be holding an exciting event:

Cupcakes and Conversation:

April 3, 2013 from 4-5pm in Education Building 110

Attention
graduate
students

**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT
APPRECIATION WEEK
APRIL 1-5**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Cupcakes and Conversation with
Faculty, plus raffle prizes!
4-5 P.M.
Education Building, Room 110



For more information or to RSVP, see www.tcnj.edu/graduate



Mark Your Calendar!

Spring Break: March 11 - March 15

Maymester Begins: May 13

Fall Registration Begins: April 2

Memorial Day: May 27 (No Classes)

Last Day of Classes: May 10

Session "A": June 3 - July 5

Commencement: May 16-17

Session "B": July 8 - August 8



Graduation Notice:

If you are planning to graduate in May or August, but have not yet applied to do so, please contact Records & Registration at 609-771-2647. A late fee will apply.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2013!