

LIBER AMICORUM

May 2012



Fond memories of TCNJ's Communication Studies
Department from faculty and students.

Presented to the Communication Studies Department by
the 2011-2012 Lambda Pi Eta Executive Board.

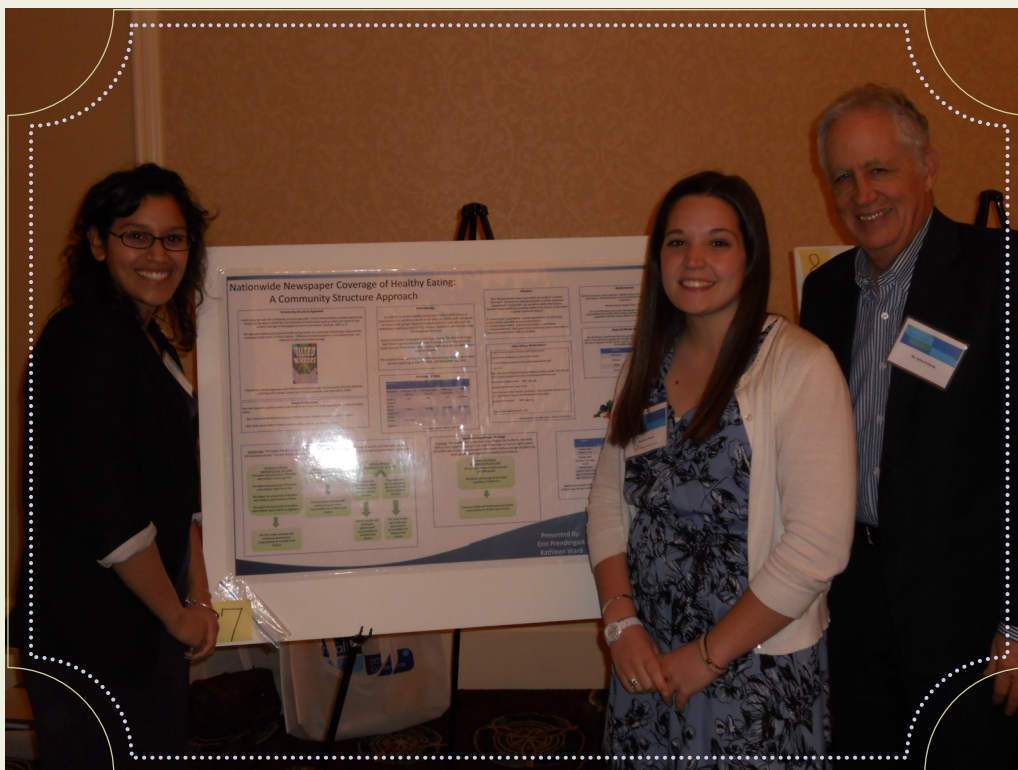


“The Communication Studies Department at TCNJ is unlike anything I expected when I first entered college. The professors here care so deeply about their students and are always available to help their students succeed. They treat us more like colleagues instead of students. It has been such a great experience working with my professors on multiple research projects. They have inspired me to continue onto graduate school where I know I will apply everything they have taught me.”

—Katie Ward, LPH President 2011-2012



“A National Leader in Student-Faculty Engagement.”



Communication Studies Department Professors Reflect on Their Time at The College of New Jersey



“My favorite part of the Communication Studies Department is the wide variety of students that enter the program and having the opportunity to teach and mentor those students over their four years here.” —Prof. Terry Byrne



“My favorite part of the Communications Department at TCNJ would be the congenial atmosphere, the fact that people get to know each other over the course of their four years here, and the same goes for the faculty members; other departments just aren’t as close as we are. We used to have department graduation ceremonies that were my favorite part of the year: seeing seniors who were in the department all four years, meeting their parents for the first time. It was a meaningful experience that still exists in the Senior Luncheon, even though the parents aren’t at this event. A fond memory that comes with being part of this department is walking down 57th Street and running into a former student, in the city, on the way to her job at NBC. One of the most fulfilling things about being a professor here is seeing how far our students go. Especially here, where you feel as though you helped them get where they need to be and reach their full potentials.” —Dr. Susan Ryan

“What I like most about teaching in the Communication Studies dept. is the interaction with students during class discussion and on independent projects. I feel like I can really get to know students, to help them understand who they are, and help them shape their future after TCNJ. I always think that my job is to help "launch lives"--and that is very gratifying to me.” —Dr. Paul D’Angelo



“An important strength of this program is how well it works with so many students and faculty pursuing different interests and subjects. We've been able to find common objectives and sympathies while working on very different types of subjects. It's one of the effects of my years at TCNJ that I consider film, interpersonal communication and many other subjects as all of a piece rather than competing program segments. That's somewhat unique at this level. And I'm glad for it.” —Dr. Gary C. Woodward

“There are many things about the Communications Department that I like. I love the collegiate atmosphere. When I seek advice, people are very happy and very willing to help me. I am the newest and youngest faculty member, and I’ve always felt supported by the rest of the department. I truly feel that I am in a comfortable environment. I moved from Pennsylvania to New Jersey knowing no one here. Without this group of people I didn’t have any other friends. Almost every professor in the department attended my TCNJ waterfront wedding, and it was very appreciated. I feel lucky that I came to this gracious department. My most salient, fond memory of the Communications Department would be from before my baby was delivered. The department threw a baby shower for me. It was very warm! I didn’t expect something like that would happen to me. And three days later my baby was born!” —Dr.

Yifeng Hu



“I came to TCNJ about 10 years ago, and it was a great opportunity to teach. First of all, I learned so much from my colleagues. I was always appreciative to those who have come before me and blazed the trail. Previously, the Radio/TV/Film track was a theatre concentration, I am grateful Susan and Terry paved the way for me to do what I do. My colleagues were my mentors. Secondly, it’s the most amazing thing to see young people develop. I remember one student as a sophomore who would slump over in my class. By senior year he got stronger and stronger, and now he is now working at CNN. To see students four or five years after their graduations is like watching a flower bloom.” —Prof. Lorna A. Johnson



“Because I spent several years away from the academic world doing public opinion and market research, I experienced a sense of renewal and excitement when I returned to teaching at TCNJ. I adore every minute in the classroom, and I feel fortunate to be able to practice my craft. One of the things I love about the department and TCNJ is our emphasis on student-faculty engagement. I have wonderful memories of generating enthusiasm in the classroom for writing papers (after careful line by line editing of multiple drafts!) that attain professional standards. Over 100 of our students’ co-authored papers have been accepted for presentations at (mostly) international, national, and regional scholarly communication conferences. Over almost twenty years I have warm memories of accompanying many of our student teams to conferences, witnessing their high levels of excellence, introducing them to colleagues at graduate schools. As their advisor, I am so pleased that our honor society students received recognition from the National Communication Association, in fall, 2011, as the “leading” students in the nation, for winning more national presidencies, vice presidencies, and top paper in the nation awards than have students from any other college or university since 1995. It gives me great joy to witness the superb successes our students have achieved in gaining repeated admission to several of the leading graduate and professional programs in the nation, including Johns Hopkins, Annenberg at Penn, Penn State, Maxwell and Newhouse Schools at Syracuse, Emerson, Delaware, Maryland, George Washington, George Mason, as well as law schools at Penn, NYU and Columbia. It is gratifying to see our hard-working students rewarded for their efforts, in particular in an area of great interest to me personally, health communication. Perhaps the most rewarding part of teaching for me, however, is the transformation of our graduates from students to friends. I am deeply touched by opportunities to continue interacting with alumni throughout their lives, whether at gatherings for earning advanced degrees or weddings or other celebrations, as well as continuing communication through mediated channels such as Facebook or LinkedIn. I believe our department empowers the growth of faculty and students alike, and I am fortunate to belong to such a vibrant endeavor.” —Dr. John C. Pollock



“During my 27 years at TCNJ my fondest memories are of the relationships I have developed with my students and often their parents. It touches my heart to know that I have made a difference in some of their lives. I have always tried to empower students and help them to be, and do, their best.

I have encouraged them to find their true selves, identify their passions in life, and to enjoy the journey along the way!

I am touched that many of my students still remember and cherish what I have shared with them. I have assisted several in obtaining Masters and Ph.D.s, others on to their career paths, still others into more healthy relationships. I am pleased to still be connected with students I've taught from Michigan, Texas, Ohio and NJ. It warms my heart to know they appreciated the "life lessons". Many boast that my words have stayed with them and guided them through their life choices. I am reassured with the knowledge that my time in the classroom, and in this department, has not been in vain. Therefore, my relationships with students, who have become friends, over my years as an educator are what I will remember most about my time at TCNJ!”

—Dr. Anntarie L. Sims

“For the past eleven years, the highlight of each professional work week for me has been Wednesday nights when I get to come to TCNJ and interact with our outstanding students. The students are what make this department what it is. In addition, I’m honored and privileged to work alongside nationally renowned and respected faculty members.”

—Prof. Jacob C. Farbman



“The students are fabulous here. I believe TCNJ is the ivy league of state schools. It is really refreshing when you have students who want to learn, they bring an energy to the room that can not be found at any other state school. In addition, the students are overall nice people, they are very respectful and bring a pleasant vibe to the classroom. Lastly, students here actually appreciate my efforts as a professor. It is so rewarding to feel like I have made a difference in students’ lives.”

—Prof. Susan McManimon

Students Reflect on the Rewarding Time They Have Spent with Professors in the Communication Studies Department at The College of New Jersey





Professor Terry Byrne

“Having Professor Byrne for Television Production has been one of my favorite parts of studying Communications thus far. Through his class and from his own experiences, he taught us what it’s really like working in a studio environment. He is enthusiastic and approachable, and I will always remember how much fun I had in his class.”

—Rachel Chlebowski



“I have really enjoyed working with Professor Byrne in class and as the advisor for LTV. He is full of life and extremely experienced, yet humble. Every time I would have a question about how to make the lighting work to more complex issues, Professor Byrne has always been someone with answers. He is very down to earth and is passionate about sharing his knowledge with others.”

—Natalie Steele

“Professor Byrne is a truly unique professor, with a passion for cinema. He introduced me to different, lesser-known films and directors that I wouldn’t have discovered outside of his classes, and he always has an interesting story about the industry. I feel truly honored to have had him as both a professor and an advisor.”

—Matt Maerten



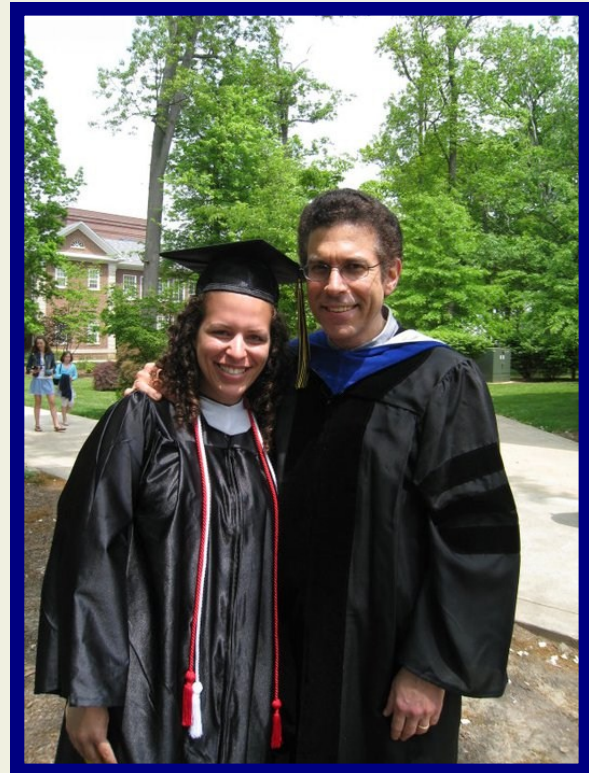
“Professor Byrne is truthfully a one-of-a-kind professor and advisor. I have been lucky to have had Professor Byrne as a teacher and as an advisor. His passion for this industry has opened my mind to things I never would have experienced within this field. His enthusiasm and excitement for the field are two of the reasons I can look to him as a mentor throughout my college career.” —Victoria Falcone

Dr. Paul D'Angelo

“I finally took a class with Dr. D'Angelo in my final semester at TCNJ, and I'm glad I did. He's enthusiastic about the class content and encourages students to state their opinions and beliefs in general. This creates an open learning environment, and not only causes me to analyze what we're learning about, but also to analyze what I believe.” —Julie Buxbaum



“I’ve taken a number of Dr. D’Angelo’s classes for a simple reason-- he is one of the best professors I’ve had at TCNJ. His enthusiasm for mass media is contagious and actually inspired me toward my career path. His friendly demeanor and interesting lectures made class something I always looked forward to. I can honestly say that almost all of what I’ve learned about mass comm. has come from Dr.D!” —Michelle Futerfas



“I always got excited to go to Dr. D’Angelo’s class because he always made us laugh. He’s one of those professors who can project the academic material in a way that relates to both his life and ours. He’s honest and straightforward about the Communication industry, and he encourages his students to think out of the box in regards to ever-changing communication technologies.” —Carly Koziol

Dr. Yifeng Hu



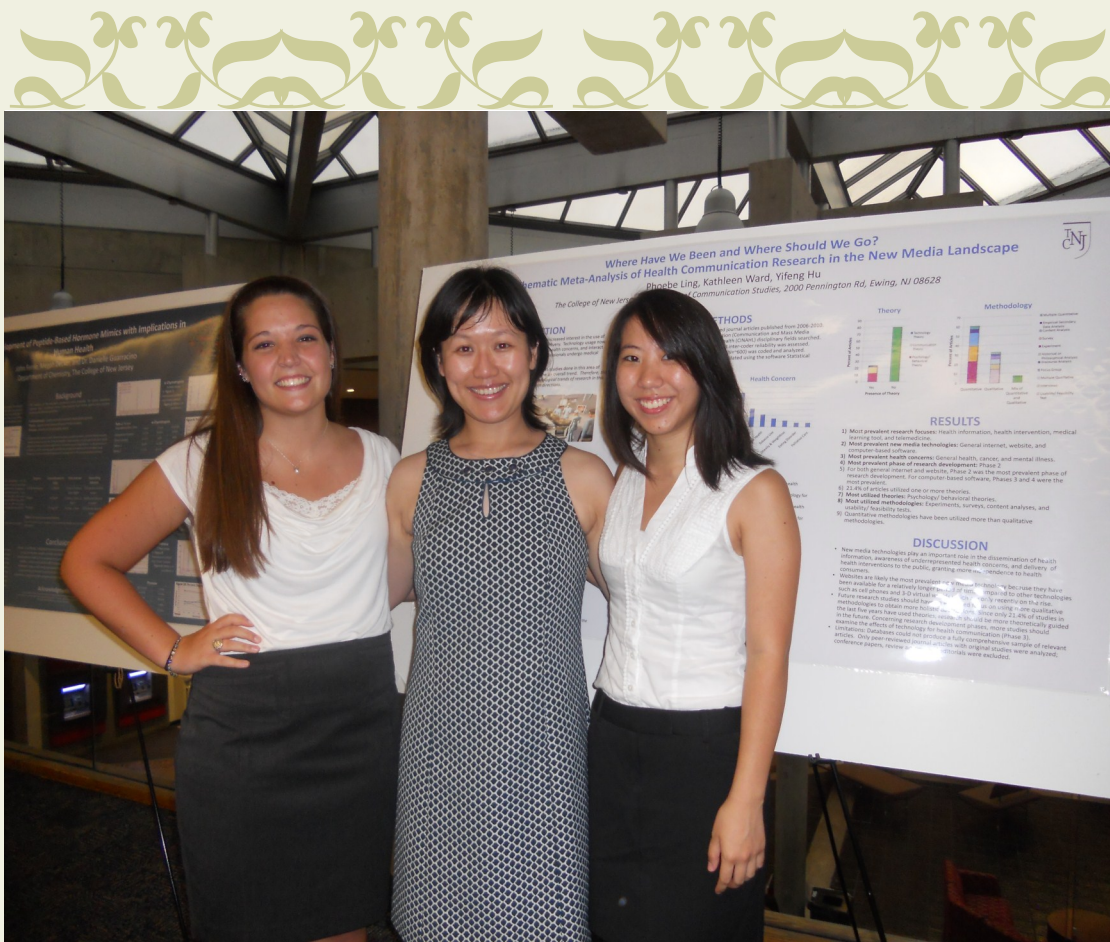
“Dr. Hu is a delight to the Communication Studies Department! She is always finding new and innovative ways to teach communication theories or health communication topics to her students. It was in her Introduction to Communication Theory course that I decided to declare a Communication Studies minor. I really enjoyed being in two of her classes and getting to know her throughout the years.”

—Alison Sotolongo



“Dr. Hu is so fantastic because she manages to put her own unique spin on class while still really reaching the heart of the issues. She is extremely knowledgeable about new media and health communication, and I learned a lot from taking her class. I will also always remember communication theories thanks to TIPS! On top of all that, she is such a warm person who, as my advisor, has provided me so much support outside of the classroom throughout the years. I cannot thank her enough!”

—Dom Wissel



Professor Lorna A. Johnson

“Professor Johnson is creative, open, and honest. She is not a professor who teaches blindly from a textbook. She is passionate about her craft and actually cares about her students. I remember my first class was her SENIOR directing course that I took my FRESHMAN year. I was terrified. Too ambitious, perhaps. Yet with her guidance, not only did I make the Dean’s list, but I also gained huge confidence in my career as a filmmaker. I was sure to take a class with her every semester since. I have learned so much inside and outside of her classroom - wisdom that will support me for the rest of my life. She has the unique ability to help you look inside yourself and discover strengths you never thought you had. Professors like Johnson are rare. She truly is one in a million.” —Karachi Ukaegbu



“Professor Johnson is the kind of person whose enthusiasm and love for their concentration rubs off on others. I have personally had two classes with her and by the end of our Documentary class, I had learned more about myself, my crew, and this industry to feel confident in my decision to be in this major and to pursue a career in this field. I learned so much in the classroom and outside the classroom for our projects that I was able to see my true strengths within this field, and it brought the best out in me.” —Victoria Falcone



“Professor Johnson is a true artist and someone who not only captures beauty around her, but also inspires beauty within others. In her editing class, I found myself very challenged yet inspired. The experience taught me a lot, and I can look back on it and see that it was a defining moment in my experience becoming a mature student. Professor Johnson showed me that hard work is the key to attaining what you want, whether an editing piece or life itself.”
—Natalie Steele

Dr. John C. Pollock

"Dr. Pollock is more than a professor to me. He has become a mentor who has really helped guide me throughout my time at TCNJ. I am so thankful for everything he has done for me, and I have grown so much as a student and person. When I attended a conference in Kentucky, many people came up to me asking about Dr. Pollock and looking to see him. This is a testament to how influential and important he is in the communication studies community." —Dom Wissel



"I really admire Dr. Pollock for his ability to always get students to think about their futures. I myself have been inspired to look into graduate school, and I know throughout our department many students can say the same. In addition, Dr. Pollock enables students to be able to attain the bright futures that he inspires by motivating students to do their best in the current moment. I know that I have matured and developed a lot through Dr. Pollock's class and advice. In addition, Dr. Pollock really stands out to me as an exemplar of how faculty members at TCNJ differ from those at other schools. For example, at a recent induction I attended along with other Communication Studies Majors, Dr. Pollock was the only faculty member from any school in the audience. That really touched me because it showed me how dedicated and supportive he is of all our endeavors as Communication Studies Majors." —Natalie Steele

“Dr. Pollock is the kind of person who I can turn to for anything and I know that he’ll always have the answer. If he doesn’t he’ll find someone who will. He inspires students to reach beyond their perceived goals and always push for more. The department is lucky to have such a wonderful leader whose life is dedicated to seeing his students succeed.” —Carly Koziol



“Throughout my college career, Dr. Pollock has become my most trusted mentor. He has helped me attend conferences, plan LPH events and perfect research projects. Without his aid, I would not be where I am today in the Communication Studies field. He has inspired me to continue on with my education at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, something I would have never dreamed of achieving four years ago. I know I could not have done it without Dr. Pollock’s guidance and unwavering dedication.”
—Katie Ward

Dr. Susan Ryan

“Dr. Ryan was one of the first professors I had at TCNJ. I was also extremely fortunate to have her as my advisor. She has definitely inspired me to create change in the world through a camera lens. I owe her many thanks for my success at TCNJ. I thank her for seeing my potential and always believing in me. I take great pride in being a Communication Studies major because I know that the department is filled with wonderful, intelligent, and inspiring professors such as Dr. Ryan.” —Carolina Chica

“Dr. Ryan was one of the first professors I had here at TCNJ. Her warm demeanor and supportive teaching style really encouraged me to apply myself and be creative. She really made me feel that I had chosen the right course of study for myself and opened my eyes to the world of Communication Studies. I am very thankful to have her as an advisor and have always walked away from our meetings feeling motivated thanks to her great advice.”

—Natalie Steele

“I had Dr. Ryan for Languages of Film and Television, and it was one of the most engaging Intro-level courses I have taken at TCNJ. Dr. Ryan provided thought-provoking questions and lessons that encouraged numerous members of the class to discuss various issues surrounding film, television, news media, and their effects on society. Moving beyond simple tests of knowledge, Dr Ryan provided a mature and open atmosphere to allow for differing opinions and incorporated current events to make material more relevant and interesting” —Tyler Fugazzie



“Dr. Ryan’s background in film truly enhanced Languages of Film and Television. When I entered the class I did not know any film or television vocabulary or techniques. But, after taking the class, I can confidently say that I would never trade the amazing and interesting content I learned for anything. I am so happy I decided to enroll in Dr. Ryan’s class and would love to take another class with her if I had the opportunity.” —Jessica Phan

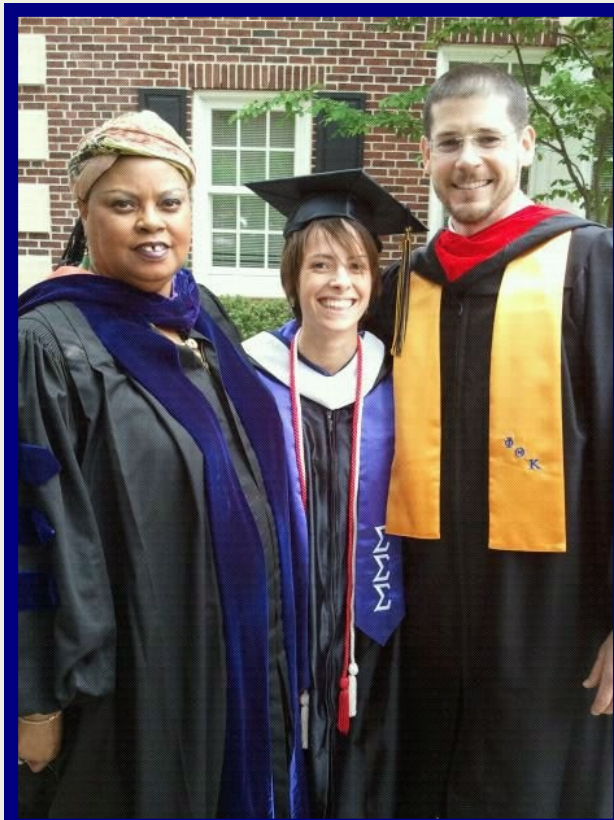
Dr. Anntarie L. Sims

“Dr. Sims opened me up to a side of myself that I did not know existed. Though her activities were challenging at times, I will be forever thankful for the influence they had on my life. I will always remember Dr. Sims and the ways in which she helped me grow to be the person that I am today.”
—Alexis Hankh



“Dr. Sims is unlike any professor I’ve had before. She really takes a special interest in her students and wants to make sure they develop strong interpersonal skills that they can use in whatever job they may end up in. I’ve personally learned more about myself in her classes than in any other class. Dr. Sims made my transfer experience enjoyable and made me feel as if I had been at TCNJ since my freshman year!” —Victoria Vales

“Dr. Sims has really pushed me to be everything I can be, both academically and as a person. She knows exactly what each of her students is capable of and cares so much about making sure they get there.” —Grace Flynn



“I transferred to TCNJ halfway through my sophomore year due to the health of my father. I had no idea what to expect when signing up for classes. Somehow I ended up in two of Dr. Sims’ classes: Small Group Communication and Interpersonal Communication. My dad later died, and Dr. Sims was so supportive, making sure that the department sent a sympathy card to my family. I learned not only about communication, but also about myself in her classes. The growth that I experienced that first semester excites me about learning and about succeeding. I had the potential to fall into my grief, but I didn’t have time because she pushes students to reach that potential that she sees in us. I can confidently say that my best and most challenging times as a TCNJ student were in Dr. Sims’ classes. I know that she cares about her students, and that caring always encouraged me to persevere.” —Julie Buxbaum

Dr. Gary C. Woodward

“Dr. Woodward, you inspired me to figure out who I am and what I want to do with my life. I thoroughly enjoyed taking your class and recommend it to anyone who is a communication studies major/minor. Now, I am on my way to graduate school. I want to truly thank you for your letter of recommendation and all your help.” —Tara Spector



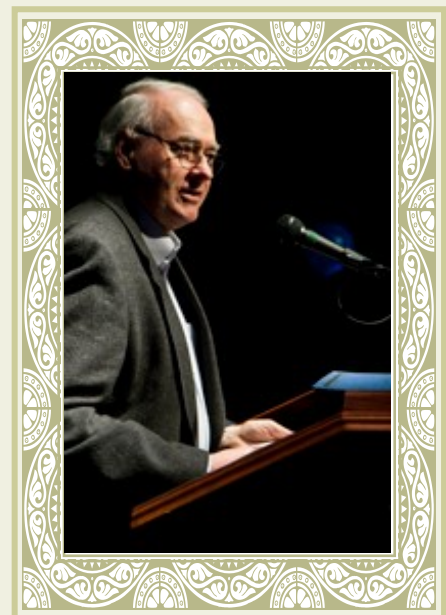
“I’ve had Dr. Woodward as a professor for two classes and can honestly say that he is one of the most devoted professors I’ve had throughout my time here at TCNJ. I just finished taking Philosophy of Communication with him, and it was easy to see that he dedicated a lot of time to this class and always made me feel engaged in the seminar. He thoroughly comments on papers that students have written and provides very valuable feedback. I’ve recommended this class to many of my fellow Communication Studies friends, not just because of the course’s interesting content, but because I think that everyone should have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Woodward.”
—Paige Aiello

“Dr. Woodward’s class truly changed the way I see the world. There have been many situations in which many of the principles I have learned in class have immensely benefited me in daily life. Recently, I was on an interview and one of the questions dealt with aspects of advertising. Right away the concepts of peripheral and central processing came to mind (two of the many applicable concepts I learned in Dr. Woodward’s class). Today, I just found out that I got the position, and I really attribute part of that to the knowledge that I learned in Dr. Woodward’s class. His teaching style and motivational techniques really helped me not only learn but also retain the information very well. Dr. Woodward also brings a very multidisciplinary approach to information yet maintains a foundation of Communications Studies. He also is very approachable and really encourages students to be creative and to pursue topics of their interests.”

—Natalie Steele

“I had Dr. Woodward for Theories of Persuasion, and I absolutely loved that class. Dr. Woodward’s passion for what he teaches was evident everyday in the classroom. I can honestly say his class is what made me decide to pursue a Communication Studies Minor.”

—Jessica Phan



Professor Jacob C. Farbman



“Professor Farbman’s enthusiasm for his subject is obvious. His support and willingness to help students out makes him stand out. Professor

Farbman’s class was my favorite, most memorable class during my entire college career, and I have already applied the skills I developed to the real world.” —Audrey Hix

“Being in Professor Farbman’s class is like being in real world job training. I’ve learned so much that I will actually use in the real world, which makes it all so much more interesting. He is so willing to help any student that shows enthusiasm for the subject.” —Grace Flynn



“You made me see my strengths and made me realize that I can pursue my dreams if I work for them. Thank you for this. Also, thank you for writing multiple letters of recommendation for me. These letters are allowing me to further pursue my dreams; because now I will be at a graduate program school next year. Thank you for all your help.” —Tara Spector

Professor Matthew Lawrence

“Matt’s passion and enthusiasm for filmmaking is contagious. He always encouraged us to do our best.”
—Kirsten Anderson



“Matt Lawrence is a professor I really respect in the Communication Studies Department. He’s always eager to pass on his knowledge of filmmaking whether it be through his TV classes or screenwriting. He makes you want to excel, not for a grade, but for the sake of learning everything there is to learn about the subject.” —Melissa Virzi

Professor Susan McManimon



“Professor McManimon provides us with the tools and advice we needed to perfect our presentation giving skills!

Her guidelines are very helpful and relevant, unlike much advice out there, and I’ve definitely used her advice in interview situations.”

—Audrey Hix

“I will never forget Prof. McManimon’s class because I learned so much about myself and others. She was the type of Professor who challenged me to think past the status quo and to question the face value of many things in our society and media. One of my favorite aspects of class was that Professor McManimon gave us all an opportunity to really put our best foot forward and teach a section of the material to the class. I really liked this because it helped me understand the material more by putting it in a perspective to teach the class. It also really gave me a deeper respect for what professors do every day in class! The presentation I gave to my class actually ended up being my best presentation that I think I have delivered in my college career so far. I really attribute that to her motivational attitude and the opportunity she gave me to make the information my own.” —Natalie Steele

Kevin R. Potucek



“Kevin Potucek may not technically be a professor in the Communication Studies Department, but he certainly puts in just as much work and truly cares about the progress of the department. He’s always putting in extra hours, thinking of new ways our department can expand across campus, and working on projects that benefit everyone. Not to mention he’s one hell of a General Manager for WTSR!” —Melissa Virzi



“KP is someone who has always been very helpful and kind to me. Although I have not ever closely worked with him, he has always been really responsive to any questions I have about equipment or reservations. Sometimes, I have entered room 30 on a really busy or hard day and left feeling a lot better just because of his positive and supportive attitude.” —Natalie Steele



Mary Adamson-King

Office Manger

“Mary is an amazing individual. Her sweet disposition is incredible, and she is the type of person who would go out of her way for anyone. I have gotten to know her throughout the three years I have been here, and I truly look at her as someone who inspires me to be as giving with my time as she is for all of us. I couldn’t imagine my experience at TCNJ or the Communications Department without her!” —Natalie Steele



“I can always count on Mary to be sitting in the Comm Department with a smile and a willingness to help you in whatever way she can. Whether it’s making sure Dr. Pollock gets important paperwork or helping to un-jam the copier, she’s always there for us!” —Melissa Virzi

“The Communication Studies department would be lost without Mary Adamson-King!” —Katie Ward

