

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

After 150 years, pride is justified

I would like to thank all the donors represented here by these stories, and all those who also have made contributions, large and small, to TCNJ. You represent the very core of a growing philanthropy program at The College of New Jersey. As TCNJ journeys along its next 150-year path of distinction, strong voluntary support will become increasingly important as we face future challenges. All gifts are important to us.

Allow me to share with you what I have discovered for myself about The College of New Jersey since my arrival last May. TCNJ has a strong, extremely dedicated group of faculty, deans, and college administrators who believe in this College. They possess a great deal of swelling pride in the College's accomplishments with full appreciation for the fact that this process truly has taken 150 years. The (current) College of New Jersey did not happen overnight, or over a decade, or over a half century. There is a conviction here that TCNJ is the modern manifestation of an evolution that has occurred through the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries; and there is an over-arching sense of responsibility among these people that they must continue this evolution into the future.

The students I have come to know are very, very bright. They "get it," and without the attitude. These young adults and recent grads understand that they are part of one of the more successful collegiate stories in the nation, and they do not seem to take that for granted. In fact, the recruiters I have approached to help me with acquiring scholarship support from their companies tell me that TCNJ grads are as competitive as the grads of any other schools from which they recruit, without exception. But our students do not bring with them the air of entitlement that others sometimes bring. The recruiters like that; they find it attractive.

Alumni: I have met many, many alumni. They, too, are proud, loyal, bright, accomplished, and emotional about their school. They love their college. They like what is happening, but they want me to know that this did not happen overnight. I tell them I know that; the president knows that; we all know that. All I need to do is look at the collective accomplishments of the 60,000 individuals (42,000 still in New Jersey) who have come through this place to know that this has been a good school for a long, long time. Some alumni are still smarting about the name change and have angrily insisted to me that The College of New Jersey is not their school. I understand the root of this



John Marcy stands with an electric-powered toy Mini Cooper car given to him at Christmas 2004 by his daughter, Liz. Two months later he bought an adult model.

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emotion, and I welcome the passion. But I disagree; TCNJ is their school. Call it what you will; this school is the 2006 version of the New Jersey State Normal School on Clinton Avenue in 1855.

Given all this, my hope and task are to channel the positive achievement, passionate feeling, and unshakable pride into sustenance for the College. This is how the truly great schools endure.

Sincerely,

*John F. Marcy
Vice President for Development
and Alumni Affairs*

TCNJ Magazine

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