

Nearing a dream for the Evans Fund

While **Don Evans**, associate professor of African-American studies, lived, he not only was a role model for black American dramatists, he was an effective teacher, an inspiration among struggling theater people, and a challenging mentor of young men and women, particularly those who needed a financial helping hand.

That's why it was no surprise, when illness overcame him in 2003, that friends, family, and alumni immediately began to raise money in his memory to keep alive that special combination of understanding and respect for black culture and the arts that he made it his mission to give his students.

That December, a small group of his colleagues and friends pledged themselves to collect \$25,000 with which they and The College of New Jersey Foundation would establish a Donald T. Evans Memorial Endowment by December 2006. The fund would underwrite student field trips in the arts and humanities and provide a modest loan fund for students facing serious financial crises while in college.

By early this year, the fund stood at just over \$16,000, and a small committee representing the Evans family, faculty, and administration was working on ways to fulfill the goal this year. Susan Albertine, dean of the School of Culture and Society and a key committee member, says one idea is to organize a major fundraiser around a special performance of an Evans play.

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The spirit of Ryan Fesko



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Thanks to a memorial gift from his family, the tragic death of **Ryan Fesko** in 2003 will help support programs at TCNJ's new Spiritual Center, which was completed in December 2004.

Ryan was preparing for a career as a health and physical education teacher when he was killed along with three close friends while riding on a rain-slicked highway. He had long been interested in religious practices, often wondering why different faiths led so frequently to conflict between groups.

Ryan's parents, Kathleen Brazell, a member of the Class of 1968 and an adjunct professor at the College since 1971, and James Brazell, a recently retired professor of English, contributed \$20,000 to create a Ryan Fesko Memorial Fund Endowment. The fund will support ecumenical programming in the Spiritual Center, a plan for which is expected to be announced soon by Ann DeGennaro, director of the Center for Campus Wellness.

In addition, the gift also involved naming the small meditation chapel in the Spiritual Center for Ryan, who had grown up very near the campus and often visited the Alumni Meditation Chapel as a youth.



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