

# Lion's Roar

The 2001–2002 academic year brought with it another stellar chapter in the achievements of varsity teams at The College of New Jersey. During the year, 13 of The College's 21 varsity teams competed in the NCAA Division III Championships for their sports. At year's end, TCNJ was again ranked third in the nation for its Division III varsity athletic program. Since the Sears Directors' Cup contest began seven years ago, TCNJ has always ranked in the top five among more than 390 eligible institutions.

## Scholar-athletes win honors

While TCNJ's teams were winning on the field, the individual athletes also were excelling in the classroom. In April, at the 15th Annual Scholar-Athlete Brunch, a record 126 students with grade point averages of 3.3 or better were honored. Selected to receive the Outstanding Senior Scholar-Athlete Award (renamed this year for former TCNJ President Harold W. Eickhoff) were track athlete **Eric Makkay**, and basketball player **Lauren Skripko**. Earlier in the year, **Denise Buckley**, a standout senior soccer player, was named to receive a \$5,000 NCAA postgraduate scholarship. Buckley also was joined by senior softball player **Audrey Bowen**, and cross country and track athlete **Chris Ludwig '03** in being named to the Verizon Academic All-America Teams for 2001–2002.

## Citation goes to 1997 alum

**Sunny May Montas '97**, a former All-American and Verizon Academic All-American for the Lions, was honored last spring with the annual Alumni Citation for achievement following graduation. A former player for the AA Majors Fastpitch Twisters team in Decatur, IL, she attended the University of North Carolina Law School at Chapel Hill, NC, and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. At the time of the award she was a first lieutenant assigned to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Quantico, VA.

*Mandy Schenck '02 broke The College record with her 423 career strikeouts.*

## Some new sports stars shine

The wrestling team had an exceptional season last winter, sending six team members to the 2002 NCAA Championships. **Matt Moscatello** was the runner-up in the 157-pound class, with fellow senior **Dan Flounders** taking sixth at 133 pounds. Both attained All-America standing.

At the 2002 NCAA Division III Indoor Track Championships, TCNJ produced three runners-up as senior hurdlers **Erica DiStefano** and **Shawn Levinson**, and junior distance runner **Nick Ricco** all placed second in their events. At the Outdoor Championships, DiStefano picked up two more All-America citations in the high jump and 100-meter hurdles. **Mike Polulak '03** was the runner-up in the javelin and is now a three-time All-American in that event.

TCNJ divers did better than ever in NCAA competition this year. **Andrew Kasney '03** became The College's most decorated male diver in history by taking fourth place in the three-meter competition. **Kristen Simms '04** became a four-time All-American for her precision off the one- and three-meter boards.

On the softball diamond, senior **Mandy Schenck** broke the record by throwing 423 strikeouts in her college career. Senior **Nick Maddalena** did the same with 226 career strikeouts for the baseball



*Shortstop Mike Kohri '02 helped the baseball team to a fourth-place finish nationally.*

team, which made it to the College World Series and came in fourth among 347 teams in Division III. By year's end, seniors **Bob Capaldo** and **Mike Kohri**, at outfield and shortstop, both earned All-America honors.

The powerful women's lacrosse team went undefeated in the regular season and, for the 15th time in the 18 years of Division III Championships, was in the finals match. While the team lost to Middlebury, three players, senior **Megan McCall** and juniors **Whin Brown** and **Liz O'Connor**, were named to the All-America first team. All told, 30 TCNJ student-athletes combined to win 50 All-America citations during the 2001–2002 season.



*Liz O'Connor '03 was named the 2002 National Attack Player of the Year by the International Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association.*

## New Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame members

On Oct. 25, The College inducted two former coaches and two former student-athletes into its Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame. The new members:

### Ilene C. Cohen '88

As an All-American outfielder and aggressive leadoff batter, Ilene Cohen earned four letters in varsity softball and helped The College win the 1987 NCAA Division III Championship. Today she is the assistant director of athletics and head softball coach at Middlesex County College, where she has led her players to the 1997 and 1998 National Junior College Athletic Association Conference Championships.

### Melissa J. Magee Speidel

As the head coach of both field hockey and women's lacrosse from the fall of 1978 to the spring of 1985, Melissa Speidel compiled records of 112-29-8 in field hockey and 76-20-5 in lacrosse. Her teams won two Division III national championships in each sport. After leaving The College, she coached at Old Dominion University, a Division I school, for two years, and then joined the Lawrenceville School as associate athletic director, a position she still holds.

### Max Calehuff '73

Max Calehuff won four varsity letters in wrestling, and captained the team for three of those years. He helped the squad win its first NAIA District 31 Championship and its first Metropolitan Conference Championship, while also leading the team to its first undefeated dual meet season. In 1971 he took fifth in the 158-pound class at the NAIA Championships, becoming The College's first All-American in wrestling.

### Rick McCorkle

For more than 30 years, Rick McCorkle led the men's cross country and track and field programs at The College. During his 32-year tenure, he guided the program to numerous conference and regional honors, while also coaching nine All-Americans in track and field. In addition, a number of his athletes established college records in track and field, many of which still stand. He also served for several seasons as the men's swimming coach.