**Senate Interview, Dr. Kit Murphy, Associate Provost for Liberal Learning and Curriculum**

CC. Please tell me a bit about your scholarly interests.

I'm an animal behaviorist, and I work on sexual selection and acoustic communication in tree frogs, how males and females communicate, how males produce calls that they use to attract females. I'm interested in what information the females gather about those calls and how they combine the information from various parts of the call into a decision about whether to mate with a male or not. And then there's also communication between males that involve aggressive interactions.

CC. What interested you in the position of Associate Provost for Liberal Learning and Curriculum at TCNJ?

There are several parts of this position that are longtime passions of mine. So first Liberal Learning; I've been teaching non-majors Biology since I was a post-doc, so well over 20 years; probably 95 % of all of my teaching has been in that realm. I served at James Madison University as coordinator of the Math and Science portion of general education, and so I think that Liberal Learning is essential for developing good human beings, good citizens, good career paths. Essential for just about everything that somebody does.

There's also involvement in undergraduate research and faculty/student collaboration. That's something that I have a longtime passion in, having had undergraduates working on my research, first as field assistants when I was a graduate student, and then as a faculty member having students working on independent projects.

And then another piece that I'm really passionate about is global engagement. I've had a lot of involvement with international experiences. My wife's from Brazil, so I try to navigate two cultures, and I've helped out in the past on study abroad trips, so I know what kind of powerful experiences those are. So having had the experience of comparing my own culture with that of another culture and thinking really hard about the similarities and differences, I would love to see all students involved in some sort of global travel and study.

And then it's fun for me to work at the big picture level. I like to look at the big picture and solve problems and try to make things work as best as possible.

CC. What is your vision for our Liberal Learning Program?

Right now I see the Liberal Learning Program poised where I think there are some issues that folks are raising that need to be dealt with and some of those are logistical. I see a program that advancing in the future can take on some additional innovations. There are some incredibly innovative parts to the program already. When I talk to people and tell them that we're able to combine learning communities with deep thinking in a seminar approach and intensive writing and community engagement all in the first semester, they are always impressed. There are few places that do that successfully.

But there are some new things on the horizon in terms of thinking about structures for Liberal Learning, ways to combine things, ways to increase interdisciplinarity, and to craft programs that might be less complex but yet achieve more. TCNJ strikes me as a place where innovation is something that people do on a daily basis, not that you innovate everything all the time. But it's a part of the culture, and I can foresee a Liberal Learning Program that is modified to produce new innovations that can serve as a whole program, as a model for other institutions along with those parts that we have that already are catching the eye of other places around the country.

CC. What else would you like faculty to know about you?

Let's see. That's an unstructured question. Well first, if anybody wants to chat about Liberal Learning, I encourage them to come see me. If my door's open, come on in. If I'm not in, you can email me and let me know what your thoughts are. And I'm really enjoying it here. It's a fantastic faculty. I'll be teaching FSP in the fall, so I'll get to know the students even better. It appears they are fantastic students. I'm really glad that I'm here. I feel lucky to be here.