



distance & independent

adult learning

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

TRENTON, N.J.

# SIGNALS

FALL 1997

VOLUME 3 NO. 2



## STUDENT PROFILE:

### Heidi Troy

For Heidi Troy, a vice president at Summit Bank, the opportunity to earn college credits through Guided Study courses provided the flexibility she needed to pursue a degree while working full-time. To date, she has taken 13 Guided Study courses on the way to

College is offering.

Like many Thomas Edison students, Troy pointed out that she could not have completed a degree without the flexibility that the College's programs offer. When she started to think seriously of pursuing a degree, Troy was working in North Jersey (where she had been transferred to several different bank branch locations in a short time) and living in Central Jersey. The idea of staying "up north" until late in the evening to attend classes and the fact that she was being transferred often made it difficult to select a college.

"I needed the flexibility that Guided Study offers, but that flexibility *does not* translate into ease," she quickly added. "I think earning a degree through independent study is one of the most difficult ways. You must be very disciplined. You are on your own and



▲ Heidi Troy

***"I need the flexibility that Guided Study offers, but that flexibility does not translate into ease"***

earning her Associate in Science in Management degree last March. She plans to continue taking Guided Study courses to reach her next goal — the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. Troy just purchased a modem for her personal computer and hopes to take advantage of the growing number of on-line courses the

must set a schedule and stick to it to succeed."

Troy credits the faculty who mentor Guided Study courses with helping her to stay motivated and to succeed. "The faculty are terrific," she stated. "The majority of them were absolutely fantastic. They were only a phone call away when I needed help; and they gave me good feedback."

In addition to the 39 credits Troy earned through Guided Study, she also was able to earn credits for courses she had taken earlier in her career at the Stonier School of Banking.

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Register early!

**WINTER '98  
GUIDED STUDY AND  
ON-LINE COMPUTER  
CLASSROOM REGISTRATION:**  
Oct. 27 - Dec. 5, 1997

**LATE REGISTRATION:**  
December 8 - 12,  
1997

**WINTER SEMESTER  
Begins:**  
January 5, 1998

## Letter from the Director

As a distance learning student, you are one of a rapidly growing number of students who are taking advantage of distance and independent learning to earn a degree. The University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) reports that research conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics shows enrollment trends for nontraditional students increasing to comprise nearly one-third of total college enrollment.

As Thomas Edison State College celebrates its 25th anniversary year, we continue to work hard to meet your needs by offering flexible, convenient options to help you fulfill your degree requirements. For many of our students, like banker Heidi Troy who is featured on the cover of this newsletter, we provide the only feasible route to degree completion.

DIAL offers over 120 courses and more than 100 TECEP and DANES examinations that can be applied to your degree program. During the past academic year, approximately 16 percent of credits earned by students to complete degree requirements were earned through DIAL courses or TECEP examinations. A majority of the courses and exams were taken by students who were awarded the Associate in Arts degree and the Bachelor of Arts degree. Close on the heels of those two degrees were the Associate in Science in Management, the Associate in Applied Science in Radiologic Technology, the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology.

You may not realize that you can complete all of the requirements for several degrees though courses and exams offered by the College. They include:

- Associate in Arts
- Bachelor of Arts—Social Science/History Concentration
- Bachelor of Arts—Humanities Concentration
- Bachelor of Arts—History Specialization
- Bachelor of Arts—Psychology Specialization
- Bachelor of Arts—Liberal Studies

We will continue to design programs to meet the needs of you — the busy adult student. You bring a unique breadth of knowledge and perspective to learning that challenges us to continue to improve, refine and expand. Please let us know what you would like to see in our program to help us better serve you.

*Charlene M. Glascock*

Director

## SPOTLIGHT ON: College Staff Member Cheryl Dienes

Your children are sick, your boss is demanding the impossible, and you're supposed to take a Guided Study final exam in three days. Oh, yes, and you're already on an extension from the last time your life went crazy. What to do, what to do? The answer is really quite simple, unlike your life. Call Cheryl. She will cheerfully and calmly guide you through your options...at least as far as DIAL exams go. In fact, you'll probably want to hire her to help solve your real problems, but sorry, she's not available unless they're test-related.



▲ Cheryl Dienes

Cheryl, who has been with Thomas Edison for five years, works in the Office of Test Administration, making sure that all your mid-terms and finals are copied and mailed to the right people and the right places at the right time. As the font of all knowledge regarding DIAL testing schedules and proctors, her phone rings

constantly. Despite near constant interruptions, she efficiently manages to prepare and send out anywhere from 950 to 1,300 exams every other month, resting during the off months with a mere 150

or 200. Of course, during the "off" months she's also logging in and mailing out to faculty mentors for grading all those exams she sent out the month before.

And she does it all with unflagging patience, cheerfulness and efficiency. So if you're new to the world of DIAL courses, and wonder if your best friend's elderly aunt, who works so conveniently near your home, is the right person for a proctor, just call (609) 633-6353 and ask for Cheryl. She'll tell you, "No, definitely not; but maybe you can try calling..."

And for those of you who are experienced DIALees, you probably already know to call Cheryl. ■

### Test Preparation Workshop

Thomas Edison State College  
Academic Center, 167 W. Hanover St., Trenton  
Saturday, October 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The workshop is for anyone who would like to improve his or her ability to study for and successfully take tests. The workshop has limited registration, in order to provide the opportunity for round table discussion with the presenters and other students. ■

## COURSE PROFILE: Introduction to Chinese History and Culture

Guided Study students have the opportunity to take an intimate and rare glimpse into everyday life in the world's most populous nation by enrolling in a new DIAL course — Introduction to Chinese History and Culture.

The video programs for this course were produced during a period of unprecedented access for Western journalists — access that disappeared in the wake of the Tiananmen Square revolt. Hosted by Mike



Chinoy, CNN correspondent in China, who witnessed the Tiananmen massacre, the course covers many aspects of the Chinese culture, including the legacy of Mao Zedong;

food; traditional beliefs and medicines; science; social, economic and political structure; industrial reform; arts and literature; and technical advances. Up-to-date appraisals by several

experts examine the prospects for this country with a 5000 year old history.

China's youth are pulled by two forces: the Maoist legacy and the



path to reform. The student-led democracy movement of 1989 gave hope for a free future, but government gunfire killed hundreds of people and

untold dreams. This Guided Study course will take students from the countryside where ancient customs and beliefs survive, to the

massacre at Tiananmen Square. The 3 credit course includes 26 half-hour video programs and has no prerequisites. ■

### Course Revisions

Two courses have undergone major revisions for the Winter '98 semester: Introduction to Business and Introductory Biology. The revisions for Introduction to Business were included in the new, 1997-1998 Registration Bulletin.

Revisions for Introductory Biology occurred after the publication of the Bulletin and include new videos and textbook materials. ■



▲ DIAL Faculty Consultants (front l. to r.) Celeste Gipson, Godwin Ohiwerei, and U. Samuel Vukceвич, participate in Orientation Training in the College's State-of-the-Art Interactive Television (ITV) Classroom. DIAL staff pictured are Don Trucksess, Barbara Aikins and Charlene Glascock.

### Welcome New Faculty

- Dr. Louise Mayo, Ph. D., *City College of New York* (American History I and II)
- Dr. Susan Ko, Ph. D., *Yale University* (Asian Studies I and Introduction to Chinese History and Culture)
- Juan Jimenez, M.A., *Seton Hall University and St. Peter's College* (Introduction to Psychology)
- U. Samuel Vukceвич, M.A., *Temple University* (Introduction to Sociology)
- Dr. Godwin Ohiwerei, Ph. D., *Louisiana State University* (Dealing with Diversity)
- Celeste Gipson, M. A., *Rutgers University* (The Adult Years and Social Gerontology)
- Ronald Long, JD Law, *Widner University School of Law* (Business Law)

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## Student Profile.....FROM P. 1

"Stonier had made it a point to let us know that we could receive college credit for our work there because the program had been evaluated by the American Council on Education, but at the time, I was not that motivated to pursue college. I was not convinced that the degree would make much difference in my career as long I continued to learn on the job and get promoted."

That was several years ago, and when a colleague was let go during a banking merger, Troy reconsidered the idea of pursuing a degree and began looking into her options. That is when

she first heard of Thomas Edison through a newspaper article. (Coincidentally, Troy's success was recently the focus of a front page article in *U.S. 1*, a business newspaper in the Princeton; N.J. area, that featured adults earning college degrees.)

Flexibility, alternative delivery systems, "non-traditional" — these are words often used to describe Thomas Edison's programs. Ironically, Troy uses them in her work at the bank too. As vice president of Planning and Project Administration for the Alternative Delivery System Division at Summit Bank, she is involved in projects

related to the non-traditional delivery of banking services to the public. Troy looks at branches, in-store branches, supermarkets and self-service type models. "We work to bring banking to our customers, *anytime, anyplace.*" (Anytime, anyplace—sound familiar?) ■



## TECEP® Program News

The 1997-98 **Test Description Book** is available. It includes two separate volumes: one containing all TECEP® test descriptions and one containing all DANTES test descriptions. It may be ordered from the Office of the Bursar, by calling (609) 984-4099; or by mail by using the order form in the Test Registration Form or the DIAL Registration Bulletin. The cost is \$20. ■