

Capital Campus

AUGUST 2015

Center for Learning and Technology Launches Innovative Course

Technology is changing the way we learn in the 21st century

As a sequel to its 2013 Lunch and Learn presentation, the Center for Learning and Technology (CLT), recently gave staff a progressive look inside the world of course design and technology and previewed how the College plans to infuse simulation and gamification into a new course focused on critical thinking.

The CLT's **Matthew Cooper**, associate provost, was joined by Dr. Jordan Shapiro, a professor in Temple University's Intellectual Heritage department, who is working with the College to develop the new course, which will be available to students later this year.

fun. Shapiro, whose expertise lies in how video games can teach concrete life skills, noted that this interactive course will allow students to dive into a world of virtual simulation without having to leave their home or office.

"While this course will not be required for a student to complete their degree program, our hope is that they will enroll because they want to and it piques their interest," Cooper explained. "Our intention is that this course will be offered free to enrolled students, provide credit for their successful completion and, most importantly, leave them with a sense of having had a meaningful learning experience."

conductive course. Most importantly, Shapiro noted, was the idea that we can offer courses, and students can learn through any kind of video game platform.

"Through the use of video games in academia, we are able to answer the question of how we are supposed to reach those who may learn differently, take in information differently and process differently. Tetris, for example, is a game universally played and simple to understand no matter where you live or what language you speak," Shapiro explained.

Through the use of "Twitch," a live-streaming video platform where viewers can watch gamers play across the globe in real time, the course will leverage a distance-learning approach without the student having to buy extra equipment or controllers.

The data collected from this course will track the skills students learned. This data is of high value to the group as it helps to further improve and expand on curriculums being offered; assuring that students are learning relevant skills throughout each course they take.

The CLT team members also responsible for the development of this course includes **Dr. Charles Campbell**, instructional designer, Center for Learning and Technology, and **Amanda Piccolini**, former instructional design coordinator, Center for Learning and Technology.



Pictured from the left are Dr. Charles Campbell, Amanda Piccolini, Dr. Jordan Shapiro and Matthew Cooper

This course, Cooper explained, will allow the CLT staff to assess critical thinking, an often difficult to measure institutional outcome. Slated to be a skills-based course, the material will revolve around technology, gamification concepts and

Shapiro then dove into the projected three-part model the team plans to use, weighing high value on critical-thinking skills, intellectual-thinking skills and video games. The intention is to mesh both academic and life skills to form one

Focus On: Robert Vance

As the student data assistant in the Office of the Registrar, **Robert Vance** is tasked with all things information. For the past 14 years, Vance's career at Thomas Edison State College has been dynamic. From Mail Operations to his current position, Vance has seen two of the many sides of the College's daily operations.

When he began his career at TESC in 2002, Vance was still in college and looking for a position that would fit his busy schedule. "Once I began working here, I knew this was the place for me," he explained. During his tenure at the College, Vance has been able to diversify his position.

"What I enjoy most about my job is the ability to create new ways to analyze data. Most people would think being a data assistant isn't a job for a creative person, but creating formulas, charts, graphs and pivot tables from a blank slate takes a bit of imagination."

Along with the creativity associated with his position, Vance also generates reports for various areas of Learner Services, verifies data in DataTel, processes wavier forms, manages archived records and creates any ad hoc reporting that may arise. Most of all, he explains, he finds the greatest joy in the problem-solving aspect of his job. Often the data he is called upon to report on is neither readily available nor easily obtained, which allows Vance to consistently challenge himself with new tasks.

Vance holds a professional certification as an apprentice draftsman and a certification in AutoCAD 13, a software application for 2D and 3D computer-aided design and drafting, both earned at Burlington County Institute of Technology.

Off the clock, Vance takes part in hobbies not just for himself, but for his daughter. "Being a parent of a five year old, my hobbies are mostly taking her to soccer,



Robert Vance, student data assistant, Office of the Registrar

gymnastics or any of the thousand other activities she is involved in," he explained. In addition to his daughter, Vance's family includes a sister, **Larsicena Vance-West**, who also works at the College.

Vance resides in Mount Laurel, N.J., with his wife, Nastassia, and daughter, Hayden.

IT Corner

Phish'ing (n.) The act of sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

people, the "phisher" counts on the email being read by a percentage of people who actually have an account with the legitimate company being spoofed in the email and corresponding Web page.

General Tips on Phishing

- ▶ Never respond to requests for personal information via email.
- ▶ Check to make sure the website is using encryption.
- ▶ Routinely review your credit card and bank statements.
- ▶ Phishing sites typically ask for your credit card or other confidential information directly from the link.
- ▶ Only visit websites by typing the URL into your address bar or by using your favorites.

Why is Phishing Successful for Scammers?

Phishing emails are blindly sent to thousands, if not millions, of recipients. By spamming large groups of

HR Dog Days Brochure



The Office of Human Resources distributes an events brochure regularly to highlight College activities, training sessions, Lunch and Learns, and other happenings. Most recently, HR distributed *The Dog Days of Spring and Summer 2015 Events* brochure that featured some cute pooches wearing sunglasses on the front and back covers. These weren't just any canines; however, the pups featured are members of the 'family' of HR staff. Pictured from the left are Daisy and Chalee (**Tammy Conley**); Noodle (**Heather Brooks**); Knuckles (**Melissa Van Aken**); Baxter (**Michelle Leonard**); Austin (**Tom Phillips**) and Poptart (**Van Aken**).

Staff Activities

David Hoftiezer, director of Admissions, attended AACRAO's 101st Annual Meeting, "Driving Student Success Initiatives in Higher Education," in Baltimore, Md., in April. With more than 200 sessions and a range of full- and half-day workshops, roundtable and special interest gatherings, the meeting brought together more than 2,000 higher education administrators.

Dr. Michael Williams, dean, School of Business and Management, and **Dr. Joseph Youngblood II**, vice provost and dean, John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, presented "Mental Illness and Workplace Productivity: A Case for Organizational Sustainability" at the 2015 New Jersey Organizational Development Society Annual Sharing Day in Newark, N.J., in May.

Dr. John Aje, dean, School of Applied Science and Technology, was a panel member at the UTC Telecom and Technology 2015 conference held in Atlanta, Ga., in May. The panel discussion was, "Addressing the Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Workforce Crisis: Filling the Gap." Aje was invited to be a member of an international on-site peer review team by the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment of the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. The review was conducted in March.

Gillian Wyckoff, director, Learner Support Center, and **Tanisha Hill**, acting senior Learner Support representative, attended the Global Contact Center Conference and Expo in Orlando, Fla., in May. At the conference, the LSC was selected as a finalist in the Global Contact Center Awards in the Small to Medium Contact Center category, for the second time in two years. Wyckoff also attended UBTEch's National Summit on Technology and Success in Higher Education, in Orlando, Fla., in June. Hill also attended the New Jersey Regional Datatel Users' Group technical training in Toms River, N.J., in June.

Loretta K. Perkins, senior graduate admissions specialist, attended NAGAP's 28th annual conference "GEM Defined: A New Kind of Rhythm," in New Orleans, La., in April. The educational sessions provided information on a variety of topics, including admissions policies and processes, career and staff development, recruitment and graduate student support.

Vanessa Meredith, associate director of Admissions, and **Andrew Bugdal**, admissions technical specialist, presented, "Creating Events is Simple and Easy with Ellucian Recruiter!," at Ellucian Live 2015 conference in New Orleans, La., in April.

Shawn Baran, technical education specialist, Learner Support Center, attended Ellucian Live in New Orleans, La., in April. The conference addressed the changing landscape of technology for today and the future. Baran also attended CampusEAI Regional Consortium in Branchburg, N.J., in June. This one-day event brought local institutions together for a day of learning and sharing, panel discussions and presentations on new projects.

Julie Dickerson, San Diego military base counselor, and **Shawn Mann**, director, Military Enrollment Management, attended the 7th Annual Academic Military Recognition Ceremony at Naval Base San Diego, in June. Service members, veterans, DOD civilians and family members who have graduated or will graduate during the 2014/2015 year from an accredited college, were invited to participate. In all, 149 students from the different colleges attended.

Cathy Punchello-Cobos, college registrar, participated for the second time as an invited panelist at Rider University's Annual Sociology Career Panel. As a Rider alum and sociology major, Punchello-Cobos spoke to Rider's current sociology students about the path she took after graduation that resulted in her current position and the relevance of sociology to what she does.

Anna Krum, senior Learner Support representative, attended a customer service conference presented by the Disney Institute, in June, in Hamilton, N.J.

Maria Marte, associate director, Military and Veteran Education, attended the Fort Benning graduation ceremony, in Fort Benning, Ga., hosted by the Army Continuing Education Center, in June. The ceremony was open to students (service members, veterans, family members and civilians with ties to the Fort Benning community) who have graduated or will graduate during the 2014/2015 year from an accredited college. In all, 95 students attended.

Military and Veteran Education staff **Dr. Terri Tallon**, director, Military Student Services; **Ellen Coleman**, associate director; and **Cheryl Jasinski**, military base counselor, attended the 2015 commencement ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, Va., in May.

Jeanine Nagrod, director, Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning, participated in three sessions at this year's National Institute for the Assessment of Adult Learning: lunchtime panel, "Emerging Directions in PLA," session, "Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium: Providing a Pathway to College Credit," and roundtable, "Learning Exchange Roundtable Discussion: A Guide to the Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning." The National Institute took place in Philadelphia, Pa., in June.

Patti Hunt, associate director, Military and Veteran Education, attended the Graduation Recognition Ceremony at Great Lakes Naval Station in Waukegan, Ill., in May. Hosted by the Navy College Office, this ceremony was open to students (service members, veterans, family members and civilians with ties to the Great Lakes Navy community) who have graduated or will graduate during the 2014/2015 year from an accredited college. Thomas Edison State College had nine graduates total, four of whom walked in the ceremony.

Christine Carter, senior evaluator, Office of the Registrar, wrote a chapter titled, "Military Transcripts and Transfer Credit" in *The Transfer Handbook: Promoting Student Success*, published by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).



Loretta Perkins



Maria Marte



David Hoftiezer



Shawn Baran



Dr. John Aje



Gillian Wyckoff



Tanisha Hill



Cathy Punchello-Cobos



Patti Hunt



Christine Carter

Welcome *New Staff*



Dr. Rory Butler has been appointed assistant dean in the School of Applied Science and Technology. Butler is located on the 2nd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at ext. 3248.



Angela Chatman has been appointed confidential assistant in the Division of Community and Government Affairs. Chatman is located on the 3rd floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at ext. 2038.



Leanne Kochy has been appointed major gifts officer in the Office of Development. Kochy is located on the 5th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at ext. 2087.



Wendy Lang has been appointed director of Operation College Promise in the Office of Military and Veteran Education. Lang is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at ext. 2227.



Shawn Mann has been appointed director of Military Enrollment Management in the Office of Military and Veteran Education. Mann is located in Temecula, Calif., and may be reached at (609) 577-9901.



Gary Meder has been appointed program advisor II in the Office of Academic Advising. Meder is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at ext. 3435.



Randi Miller has been appointed associate director in the Office of Human Resources. Miller is located on the 1st floor of the Kuser Mansion and may be reached at ext. 4115.



Jaclyn Morlock-Miller has been appointed instructional technologist in the Center for Learning and Technology. Morlock-Miller is located on the 2nd floor of the CLT Building and may be reached at ext. 2133.



Michelle Robinson has been appointed gift processing and data management associate in the Office of Development. Robinson is located on the 5th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at ext. 2079.



Jessiah Styles has been appointed associate director in the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach. Styles is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at ext. 3462.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jeronica Mensah, graduation auditor, Office of the Registrar, earned a master's degree in education with school counseling certification, in May, from Georgian Court University.

Kristin Gonzalez, associate director, Community and Government Affairs, fiancé Dave Woolston Jr. and daughter Layne, welcomed Harper Leigh to the family on April 27. Harper Leigh weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 18 inches.

SWEET TREATS!



Andrea Johnson, senior clerk typist, Office of Human Resources, served up some sweet treats to **Marie Power-Barnes**, director, Market Research and Assessment, Division of Planning and Research, at the Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Office of Human Resources on May 27. More than 50 people attended the sixth annual event held in the Great Hall of the Kelsey Building.