

Capital Campus

Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • April 2007



Vice Provost P. Henry van Zyl presented "An eLearning Organization for Adults Only: A Case Study," for staff in February.

"Adults are results oriented and we must be as well. If we are seeking to serve adult learners in the best possible way, we should consider structuring learning experiences that are consistent with a selected model that recognizes the fact that adults may learn differently, and for different reasons, than do youthful learners."

P. Henry van Zyl, PhD
Vice Provost

Responding to the Needs of Adult Learners

Adults have unique styles of learning and more and more of them are turning to eLearning organizations to acquire the academic credentials and the comfort with the information society that they need to function effectively in today's world. Thomas Edison State College, committed to providing collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults, responds to the needs of adult students by using a special mix of technologies to offer customized development and delivery of academic programs and courses.

This was the premise that Vice Provost **P. Henry van Zyl**, PhD, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning, presented to more than 30 College and New Jersey State Library staff members on Feb. 26. The presentation was the same one van Zyl and **Esther H. Paist**, executive assistant to the president and secretary to the Board of Trustees, presented to the International Association for Development of the Information Society in Dublin, Ireland, in July 2006. The presentation is based on the paper "An eLearning Organization for Adults Only: A Case Study" and provides a brief overview of adult learning styles and Thomas Edison State College's learning options. It also reviews the organizational and management issues the College faces as it seeks to bring its students into the information society in ways that align on institutionally identified learning outcomes.

"When we made this presentation in Dublin, we first gave a brief overview of what is happening in higher education and then let the audience know what we are doing at Thomas Edison State College," explained van Zyl. "We pointed out that adults are results oriented and we must be as well. If we are seeking to serve adult learners in the best possible way, we should consider structuring learning experiences that are consistent with a selected model that recognizes the fact that adults may learn differently, and for different reasons, than do youthful learners.

"A cafeteria-style approach, where courses are offered in a variety of delivery modes, based upon perceived or demonstrated preferred learning styles, seems to have worked well for the College over the last three decades when serving a self-directed adult learner population," he added.

Van Zyl explained that adults seek education which relates to their needs and is timely and appropriate. With that in mind, he said, the College has had to undertake the careful development

BSBA Program at Thomas Edison State College Ranked "Best Buy" in Higher Education

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree program at Thomas Edison State College was recently named one of the nation's top five "best buys" for online regionally accredited undergraduate business degrees, according to a national survey conducted by *GetEducated.com*.

According to the survey, which examined publicly posted tuition and fee rates at 89 regionally accredited institutions throughout the country, the undergraduate business degree program at Thomas Edison State College ranks fifth in the nation in terms of quality and affordability. To view the complete rankings, visit www.geteducated.com.

"Thomas Edison State College is very unique," said Vicky Phillips, founder of *GetEducated.com*. "The cost for an online undergraduate business degree at Thomas Edison is very reasonable. What our rankings and survey says to people is that they have many choices among regionally accredited institutions."



Mary Ellen Caro, associate provost and dean of the School of Business and Management, said the ranking is a result of a collective effort.

"We are honored to be recognized as an intelligent investment in education," said Caro. "For more than 30 years, we've been providing adults with high-quality educational programs designed around their needs. Today, maintaining that focus in our efforts, particularly with our Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program, remains at the core of our mission."

In 2004, *GetEducated.com* named the BSBA degree in human resources at Thomas Edison State College as one of the top 10 best buys in the country for online regionally accredited undergraduate human resources degree programs.

To view the complete rankings, visit www.geteducated.com.

"Fix your eyes on perfection and you make almost everything speed towards it."
- William Ellery Channing

Focus on: Anna Krum



Ask anyone that has worked with **Anna Krum** and they will tell you, there's very little that stands in her way when she's on a mission. Even the burden she shoulders during Commencement, which would make a lesser person wilt, has Krum doing stand-up comedy in the basement of the War Memorial Building on event day and regaling colleagues with her charm. She is a sunny reminder to those who volunteered that they have shown up for something bigger than the free box lunch.

The former secretarial assistant for the New Jersey Department of Higher Education celebrates her 13th anniversary with the College in May. Associate Registrar **Cathy Punchello** said of Krum, "We are proud to have Anna as part of the Office of the Registrar. Her positive attitude and great organizational skills make the College's Commencement ceremony a wonderful day for the graduates and their families. Anna gives everything her full attention: her family and friends; her work; her social organizations; and her education."

Along with Commencement detail, Krum added, "I issue the N.J. Professional Librarian certificates and student ID cards; handle student demographic changes along with assisting the records management section, registration section and graduation section. I basically do whatever is in front of me!"

Being an adult student herself, Krum understands well the perspective of the students she serves. After receiving an ASM degree from Thomas Edison State College in December 2003, she is now tackling her own BA degree in liberal studies. "I am the first person in my immediate family who graduated from an institution of higher learning," noted Krum. "I'm grateful to my friend and co-worker **Patricia Memminger** for giving me the gentle push I needed to pursue a degree and grateful to the College for presenting the opportunity."

Krum was born and raised in New Egypt, N.J., where she still lives with husband Billy, son Derek (8), and their golden retriever, Winston. "Billy and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary in October. As a family, we enjoy auto racing and are extremely proud of our little racer Derek." Derek was crowned 2006 points champion in both Junior Honda and Junior Stock categories at Garden State Quarter Midget Racing Club in Wall, N.J.

"A racing enthusiast myself, I've participated in a demolition derby, mud hop and powder puff at the New Egypt Speedway. I'm my son's number one fan, and also enjoy crafts, my weekly Bible study classes, volleyball, bowling and karaoke – even though I can't carry a tune in a bucket!"

Currently the Sunday school superintendent for the New Egypt Methodist Church, Krum also sits on the Church's Council and has formerly served as Sunday school teacher and nursery assistant. In November, she was elected as a board of trustee to her son's racing club as well as head of the club's special activities committee. Krum also offers support to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.

Krum can always give you the time, and may even give you a greeting card. "I send cards for every occasion imaginable, and I enjoy making others happy," she said. "I also have a different watch for every day of the month!"



Mary Ellen Caro, associate provost and dean of the School of Business and Management, and Rabbi Yerachmiel Barash, director of the COPE Institute.

COPE Institute Partners with Thomas Edison State College

COPE Institute and Thomas Edison State College recently signed an academic partnership agreement that provides for the transfer of COPE courses into the College's Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) degree program. COPE Institute completed a review of its accounting and computer courses by the American Council on Education's (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service.

"Clearly, we value our relationship with Thomas Edison State College, because our students will be able to start working on their college degrees," said Jack Gelbard, assistant director of Marketing and Development at the COPE Institute, a New York State registered business school that provides business and technical training.

Diversity Program Committee Kick-Off



The Thomas Edison State College Diversity Program Committee sponsored a continental breakfast on March 2 to culminate Black History Month in February and celebrate trivia contest winners **P. Henry van Zyl** and **Estelle Reeves**. Director of the N.J. Division on Women Janice Kovach (third from left) joined Chair **DeAnna Minus-Vincent** and committee members **Elisabeth Dey** and **Mindi Shalita**. Kovach (BSBA '01) served as guest speaker and helped the College kick off Women's History Month.

eLearning Organizations Respond

continued from Page 1

and assessment of program and course objectives aligned on larger mission-driven, institutional ones.

Van Zyl said the result is that, ideally, all program and course development and delivery "products" will be aligned on a common, overarching set of outcomes where the goal is to provide educational opportunities that are academically credible and rigorous, grounded in stated demand on the part of students and their employers (or others with vested interests), and designed in ways that empower adults to be active participants in their own education choices. "Serving the students is the best way possible to serve ourselves," van Zyl concluded. "Adults learn in unique ways, and the traditional, campus-based approach often results in their failure to achieve their educational goals. With the advent of eLearning, responding to their needs is not only easier; it also may offer many adults their last, best hope of a collegiate education."



P. Henry van Zyl, PhD

Jeopardy! Jeopardy! Jeopardy! Jeopardy!

In celebration of Women's History Month, Irish-American History Month and Greek-American History Month, the Diversity Program Committee hosted a Team Jeopardy tournament on March 26. The event mobilized teams from throughout the College and attracted a flock of lively spectators to cheer them on!

In 1997, she was the first woman sworn in as the U.S. Secretary of State.



Fans cheer on their favorite teams in Prudence Hall.



The Jeopardy team from the Academic Center.



The Jeopardy team from Kelsey/Townhouse, and tournament winners!

New Staff



Ray Young has been appointed vice provost for Learner Services. He is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3280.



Nykea Ali has been appointed as a Learner Services representative. She is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3432.

Staff Activities

Janet Eickhoff and **Juliette Punchello**, account executives, Office of Strategic Partnerships, attended the Dale Carnegie seminar "How to Sell Like a Pro" in February 2007 in Allentown, Pa. They received certificates of achievement for completion of the three-day course.

Susan Cobb, nursing program advisor, School of Nursing, presented a roundtable session "Creating a Virtual Chapter of an International Honor Society" at the National Association of Academic Advising (NACADA) Region 2 Conference in McLean, Va., on March 30.

Susan O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing, **Susan Cobb**, nursing program advisor, and **Louise Riley**, assistant dean, School of Nursing, presented a poster session "Building Relationships to Develop a Better Educated 21st Century Workforce through Online Education," at the AONE (Association of Nurse Executives) Conference in Washington, D.C., April 12-16.

Staff Alert

The College recently migrated all staff e-mail to the new server, Exchange Server 2003. In early February, the Office of Management Information Systems (MIS) completely shut down the old server: *mail.tesc.edu*. The new server is located at the following Internet address: <https://exchange.tesc.edu>.

When connecting from a remote location, MIS noted that it is imperative to point the browser to the correct location. Desktop links that point to the old server will not work. MIS suggested that staff bookmark the new location or make a new desktop shortcut.

Congratulations

Narissa Downey, clerk typist, Office of Financial Aid & Veterans' Affairs, and Djery Verlus are the parents of a baby girl, Myara Amaya Verlus. Born on Feb. 13, Myara Amaya weighed 3 pounds, 2 ounces.

Teresa Figueroa, clerk typist, Office of Test Administration, and Hector Santiago are the parents of a baby daughter, Iliana Noalani Santiago, who was born on Feb. 15, weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches.

Iris Lewin, admissions counselor, Office of Admission, and husband Mark welcomed baby daughter Amelia Faye Lewin to their family on Oct. 1, 2006. Amelia Faye weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches.

Wendy O'Hare, fiscal administrator, Office of the Controller, and husband Bill are the grandparents of a baby girl. Born March 5, Hannah Rose McGowan weighed 5 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 inches. Hannah Rose is the first child of Wendy and Bill's daughter Faith and her husband, Chaz McGowan.

Dave Schwager, assessment technology specialist, Office of Learning Assessment, and his wife, Christy, welcomed baby son Dylan Michael Schwager to their family on Feb. 21. Dylan Michael weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches. Big sister Kelly and big brother Ryan have nicknamed him Peanut.