

SIGNALS

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

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New Options Available for Online Midterms and Guided Study Finals

The Office of Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL) announces an online proctoring option for midterms and a new delivery format for Guided Study finals

Online Midterms

Thomas Edison State College is piloting a new technology that offers students taking online (OL) courses a more convenient way of taking midterms. As of the August 2009 term, students registered in 15 online courses (see list on right hand side of this page) will have the option of taking their proctored midterm exams online – in the convenience of their own home or office.

To do this, the College will utilize identity authentication software, keystroke analytics and certified proctors who can observe and communicate from a remote location with

students taking midterms on their home computers. Students possessing a high-speed Internet connection and a stand-alone webcam with an audio component can immediately take advantage of this new option.



Maureen Woodruff, director of Test Administration

"We are constantly seeking innovative ways to improve our students' testing options," said Maureen Woodruff, director of Test Administration at Thomas Edison State College. "The flexibility of the new online proctored midterms and Guided Study finals will provide students with even more options – whatever their testing style."

Students who do not have a webcam or who are not interested in the online proctoring option can submit a **Proctor Request Form** at the beginning of the term in order to take a standard pen and paper midterm. It should also be noted that the finals for the courses remain online and unproctored.

Students considering online proctoring can follow the directions on myEdison® during the first week of the term to ensure their computer has the system capabilities to support this type of testing administration and to register for their midterms. Students can then schedule an appointment with an online proctor to take their

exam. Testing appointments are available Monday - Friday (12 p.m. - 12 a.m. ET) and Saturday - Sunday (5 p.m. - 11 p.m. ET).

Courses offering online proctored midterms beginning August 2009:

ANT-101-OL	Intro. to Anthropology
ART-100-OL	A World of Art
BUS-421-OL	Business Policy
CIS-107-OL	Computer Concepts & Applications
ENC-101-OL	English Composition I
ENS-314-OL	Global Environmental Change
HIS-101-OL	Western Civilization I
HIS-102-OL	Western Civilization II
HIS-113-OL	American History I
HIS-301-OL	African History & Culture
JOU-352-OL	News Writing
REL-405-OL	Intro. to World Religions
REL-406-OL	Eastern Religions
REL-407-OL	Western Religions
SOC-101-OL	Intro. to Sociology

TECEP® EXAMS

PSY-270-TE	Psychology of Women
PSY-370-TE	Intro. To Social Psychology

Continued inside

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate courses and their availability may be found on the College Web site. Go to www.tesc.edu/listall.php.

NEW ONLINE COURSES:

FCMP-202	Foundations of Information Technology
EUT-309	Gas Distribution
PSG-101	Theoretical Fundamentals of Polysomnography

The School of Nursing Earns CCNE Accreditation

The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College was recently awarded full accreditation for its bachelor's and master's degree programs by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The five year accreditation resulted from an onsite evaluation of the School's curriculum conducted in November 2008.

"Earning the CCNE accreditation is especially validating," said Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing. "We are pleased to have the full support of President George A. Pruitt and the College community for our nursing program and are particularly proud to offer such a quality program to a nationwide community of more than 1,000 RNs. We look forward to further contributing to the profession and the advancement of nursing education."

The accreditation process, which involved a rigorous self-study, provided a chance for students and graduates of the program to share their experiences – as both nursing students and active practitioners – with CCNE evaluators.

"The School of Nursing offered everything that would make my life bearable," said 2009 graduate Geri Sanfillippo, RN, BSN, a nurse at Capital Health System in Trenton, N.J.

Yekeen Odewale, RNC, BSN, said the College provides nurses with the type of program they are looking for. "The school emphasizes evidence-based nursing, which is what we all clamor for as learners," said Odewale, a 2004 graduate who works at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Morris Plains, N.J.

Recognized by the U.S. secretary of education, the CCNE is a specialized, professional accrediting agency that ensures the quality and integrity of bachelor's and graduate nursing programs. During the three days spent at the College, the CCNE team met with key personnel, advisors, students, alumni, partner hospital staff and interested parties from the community that served to substantiate the accreditation. O'Brien praised mentors and staff for the time and effort devoted to the self-study and preparing for the accreditation.



School of Nursing Students and Alumni Meet CCNE Accreditors. Front row (from left): Valerie Sine, Sharon M. Winn, Nichelle Hodges, Alice A. Chen, Joan Vetter, Yvonne Richardson (holding sign), Yekeen Odewale, MaryAnn Kaufmann, Beverly Hale and Geri Sanfillippo. Back Row (left to right): Ritamarie Giosa, Catherine Vieira, Susan Devrous, Valerie Sampson, Mary Ann O'Neill, Elizabeth Correnti, Ulrike Luccarelli, Marie Feiter, Abiola Oyetunde, Susan St. Peter, Patricia Saitta, Theresa Covello and Deborah Guerrierie.

"A large and enthusiastic group of 32 nursing students and alumni met with the accreditors during their site visit," said O'Brien. "This is noteworthy for an online learning-based program with a student population comprised primarily of working nurses. Equally supportive were those members of the community including a number of chief nursing officers who have either derived the benefits of the program personally or have encouraged others to complete their BSN through Thomas Edison State College."

The College's RN-BSN degree program is also accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and has been continuously accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission since 1990. Thomas Edison State College is regionally accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

For more information about CCNE, visit: www.aacn.nche.edu/Accreditation. ■

New Options Available for Online Midterms and Guided Study Finals (continued from cover)

Guided Study Finals

Guided Study (GS) courses will now have either an online final or final project in place of the traditional pen and paper exam. Guided Study students wishing to view the format of their exams should visit the "Course Manual" tab in their myEdison® course space. From there, students can download their Course Syllabus to determine the frequency and format of their exams.

Students experiencing technical problems can send an e-mail to testing@tesc.edu.

For details on system requirements and what to expect for your first online midterm, visit: http://myedison.tesc.edu/tescdocs/Web_Courses/Kryterion_Information.htm. ■

Learner-Designed Areas of Study Introduced

Enabling students to tailor their own unique area of study

Thomas Edison State College has introduced a concept designed to give new and existing students the opportunity to create their own Learner-Designed Area of Study (LDAS) in select bachelor's degree programs. Students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology may apply for this new program.

"The Learner Designed Area of Study program enables learners to customize study within a single discipline or across an entire blend of disciplines," noted Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. "It prepares students

with diversified knowledge to tailor their area of study to complement and strengthen their degree objectives based on their own expertise, academic preferences and the unique needs of their chosen fields."

Students are responsible for choosing or creating areas of interest by submitting a proposal to the school in which the degree will be earned. This is accomplished by completing the application form available on the college Web site. With approval from the deans of the respective schools, students pursuing a

Bachelor of Science degree can combine courses from disciplines in multiple schools. Areas of interest can be interdisciplinary and draw on disciplines not offered currently as areas of study at the College. A Learner-Designed Area of Study may not duplicate existing areas of study offered at the college.

The student is responsible to develop a coherent plan of study to meet the unique learning outcomes of the LDAS and must

select specific course work that will apply to the area of study.

For more information, contact information center at (888) 442-8372. ■



Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences

School of Business and Management Students Inducted into NJCBAA Honor Society

Inductees represent New Jersey college business students who rank in the top 1 percent of their class

Eileen M. McBride, of Ridgewood, N.J., and Joseph R. Laurenzano, of Chatham, N.J., Thomas Edison State College students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree program specializing in accounting, were recently inducted into the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association (NJCBAA) Honor Society.

The NJCBAA Honor Society was formed in October 2003 by the deans of the two- and four-year New Jersey colleges with business programs. The goal of NJCBAA is to recognize undergraduate students who have excelled in their studies in business education. Those inducted are in the top 1 percent of their class in their college or school. McBride and Laurenzano were inducted into the 'epsilon' class of the honor society at a New Jersey State House ceremony on May 1, 2009.

"Eileen and Joseph exemplify the spirit, determination and dedication that it takes to excel in higher education and are role models for fellow students," said Dr. Joseph Santora, dean of the School of Business and Management. ■



Thomas Edison State College School of Business and Management's Terri Tallon Hammill (left), assistant dean, and Dr. Joseph C. Santora (middle), dean, join student Eileen M. McBride in the College's Great Hall as she prepares for induction into the NJCBAA Honor Society at a New Jersey State House ceremony. Not pictured: Joseph R. Laurenzano

Crossroads

VICTORIA BALL HAS CHANGED HUNDREDS OF LIVES.
NOW SHE IS CHANGING HER OWN.

Victoria Ball is familiar with the crossroads of life. In fact, when she developed a training program to address poverty, welfare and unemployment, the Bachelor of Arts student found herself standing at the junction of a defining moment.

"I formed CrossRoads in 2007 almost as an experiment," said Ball. "Traditional approaches seemed to perpetuate the cycle of poverty and reliance on the system. However, I take an 'investment driven' approach. Investing in someone's personal development is permanent and can yield sustainable results."

Ball, who taught the program nationally and, now, internationally, explained her philosophical approach, "I demonstrate to the students and clients how valuable healthy relationships are and the need for education."

With the support of the United States Embassy, eastern Slovakia in Central Europe became the first international site for CrossRoads. Through the program, Ball trained approximately 20 social field workers in eastern Slovakia, who were then charged with delivering the CrossRoads program to individuals in their own communities.

Katharine M. R. Beamer a political officer

with the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, noted "I personally attended the workshop, which was both inspiring and practical. Vicki is a charismatic presenter who is able to establish remarkable rapport and trust with her students. I look forward to seeing how her graduates put CrossRoads into action. Vicki's CrossRoads program teaches people the value of healthy relationships and long term planning, and promotes investing in education. This is a message that is incredibly valuable, as most external messages do little to break the confining circle of welfare dependency and lack of education that currently exists."

A founding partner of Dovetail Consulting, which was developed 18 months ago as a means of distributing CrossRoads and other community services, Ball has not only changed the lives of more than 800 clients, she has embarked on a course to improve her own as well – through education.

"Earning my degree will impact me on many levels," she explained. "From a personal level, I take great pride in the whole personal investment approach to human development. Expanding my mind was and continues to be a very important part of my life. On a professional level, the sky is the limit. Academic standards and credibility are vital when working with social policy and social changes. I feel that



Victoria Ball, BA student.

Thomas Edison State College provides both and much more"

Ball finds online learning both revolutionary and worthwhile.

"My degree is in social sciences but I am carefully choosing classes which complement my day-to-day work. I have been able to pull something great from every class. I am using online courses which I can access wherever I happen to be at whatever time of day or night I wish. I love this way of learning. In the morning I learn a new principal in leadership or social psychology and by that afternoon, I am already applying the theories I have learned – fantastic!

Ball noted that while a prevailing way of thinking may suggest and even argue that college isn't for everyone, she would argue that education is! "There are many ways to expand your mind and to become educated," she enthused. "The point is that when we 'invest' in ourselves, the product doesn't end with us, it benefits others as well."

Ball and her family live on five acres just outside of Colorado Springs, Colo., at the foot of Pikes Peak. ■

Mentor Profile: Brandi Scollins-Mantha

Brandi Scollins-Mantha rarely encounters a target that is beyond her range.

By the time U.S. Archery Team hopeful, Brandi Scollins-Mantha began collaborating with the School of Nursing in 2000, she was already an English and literature mentor and had served as a consultant for the College's Department of Instructional Design. Currently, Scollins-Mantha monitors online nursing courses and helps students navigate the technology they encounter. She is also a member of the School of Nursing's Curriculum Committee.

"What keeps me attracted to the College is my love of online learning and Dr. O'Brien's willingness to tackle new challenges," said Scollins-Mantha, referring to Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing. "It is wonderful to work in a place that wants and expects the best for students. The push toward the use of technology and Nursing Informatics reflects the reality of the healthcare industry. As more and more of our healthcare is tracked electronically – from handheld devices to electronic charting – our nursing students benefit from this exposure by staying ahead professionally."

In spite of her skill in the technical support side of nursing education, Scollins-Mantha's formative training was neither technical nor medical. The South Brunswick, N.J., native possesses an MFA in fiction from Sarah Lawrence College, a MEd in Adult Education from Pennsylvania State University and a BA in English from the University of Florida, Gainesville.

"The online course space is an invaluable method of instruction," she noted. "The best part of online learning is that it brings the 'academy' to your home. No longer are people hemmed in by time and location restrictions. People can learn anything they choose, in their own community, in their own home and in their pajamas if they wish! The online nursing student dialogue is amazing. When you gather a group of students together that share so many professional experiences, you gain truly insightful and dynamic conversations. Online discussion benefits all students. When students share the same field of interest,



Brandi Scollins-Mantha

the engagement and dialogue simply multiply."

A marvel of versatility, Scollins-Mantha has also taught English Composition, American Literature and Introduction to Children's Literature at the College.

"I like to call myself an 'itinerant teacher.' I work with a variety of schools and programs – from the Graduate Fiction Writing Program at National University, to Gender and Text Studies at Southern New Hampshire University," she said. "My first story was published in the third grade, and I look forward to maintaining the tradition of publication until I am 95 years old!" Her most recent publishing credits include *Floaters*, a novel published by Blast Press; *My Intended*,

published by EagleBrook/Morrow and *Toll Plaza's and Truck Stops*, published by *Pebble Lake Review* magazine.

Of all the arrows in her quiver, however, the real ones may be the sharpest. Scollins-Mantha is recognized on the national archery circuit.

"I have been shooting archery for only three years. Last year was my first competitive outdoor season," she said. "Coming in 10th in the nation was an amazing accomplishment made sweeter by the fact that my daughter, Megan, age 9, also competed and came in 4th in her division. She was the youngest person shooting in the tournament."

“My first story was published in the third grade, and I look forward to maintaining the tradition of publication until I am 95-years old!”

Scollins-Mantha now hopes to accrue enough points to earn a position on the United States Archery Team – an organization from which the U.S. Olympic Team recruits its members.

"Brandi's influence can be felt across an entire range of College programs," noted O'Brien. "She has worked with nursing since the inception of our online program and has been invaluable to us ever since."

Scollins-Mantha resides in Plainsboro, N.J., with husband, Mahesh, with whom she homeschools their daughter. ■

Catalog and Registration Bulletin Now Available Paperless

Thomas Edison State College is pleased to announce its online *College Catalog* and *Registration Bulletin* are now viewable at: <http://catalog.tesc.edu/>. The online versions will contain all of the information listed in the paper-based versions of these publications in a searchable, online format. Students who would still like to receive a paper-based *Catalog* or *Registration Bulletin* may request one via the Help Desk feature in myEdison® by selecting the "Publications Request" option.

We want to know what you think! Please e-mail your feedback to: media@tesc.edu. ■

New Proctor Request Forms for Military Students

Proctor Request Forms for military students can now be submitted electronically so faxing or mailing are no longer necessary. You can view the new form and military proctor guidelines by visiting www.tesc.edu/5076.php. ■



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Academic Calendar

	November 2009 Term	December 2009 Term	January 2010 Term
Registration Dates	Sept. 12 - Oct. 11, 2009	Oct. 17 - Nov. 8, 2009	Nov. 14 - Dec. 6, 2009
Late Registration	Oct. 12 -16, 2009	Nov. 9 - 13, 2009	Dec. 7 - 11, 2009
Course Transfer Period	Sept. 12 - Oct. 31, 2009	Oct. 17 - Nov. 30, 2009	Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2009
Term Start Date	Nov. 1, 2009	Dec. 1, 2009	Jan. 1, 2010*
Midterm Exam Week**	Dec. 14 - 20, 2009	Jan. 11 - 17, 2010	Feb. 15 - 21, 2010
Final Exam Week	Jan. 18 - 23, 2010	Feb. 15 - 20, 2010	March 22 - 27, 2010
Term Ends	Jan. 23, 2010	Feb. 20, 2010	March 27, 2010*

* Dates apply to *both* graduate and undergraduate courses.

** Select courses have a midterm examination. Refer to your course materials for details.