

Capital Campus

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Moodle Gets a 'Boost' with Newly Implemented Upgrades

University's Course Management System Gets a Fresh, New Look

As Thomas Edison State University continues proactively to meet the needs of its students, technology is at the top of its to-do list.

TESU's course management system, Moodle, will receive a newly implemented look and feel as part of the Center for Learning and Technology's (CLT) continued efforts to maintain the highest-quality technology and ease of use for students in their course space. Dubbed Moodle 'Boost,' the structure and elements of students' Moodle courses will not change, simply where these features appear and an overall refresh of each section will be employed.

"The bones of the Moodle we've grown with over the years will continue to remain intact," said **Dr. Charles Campbell**, director of Interactive Media and Academic Technology Solutions in the Center for

used elements of the course space in more logical locations."

This Moodle upgrade enhances the same features that could be found previously within the platform. The advancements include a sliding, left-side navigation tray that houses the most important information students need to navigate their courses as well as collapsible topics in the center column that expand and close with greater ease.

Moodle's new theme also boasts the increased ability to allow students to access their courses from all types of devices, making collaboration and accessibility more prominent. Furthermore, better navigation within and between courses has been included.

"The primary modifications being made to the platform are meant to streamline the user experience by placing the most commonly used elements of the course space in more logical locations."

- Dr. Charles Campbell



"Edison Create will continue to be the primary hub that houses all of the University's videos, which provides information and guidance to students and mentors," said **Michael Fagioli**, instructional technologist, Center for Learning and Technology at the University. "Our old and newly created course trailers, how-to, help and tutorial videos as well as videos about EdisonLive! and Kaltura will all continue to have a home in one place. The best element is that it is accessed directly from inside the newly upgraded Moodle platform."

The upgrades to Moodle and the new Edison Create will launch the week of Oct. 23.

For more information about these enhancements, and to see how the new platform can be navigated, staff can visit <https://www.kaltura.com/tiny/s72te>.



Learning and Technology at the University. "The primary modifications being made to the platform are meant to streamline the user experience by placing the most commonly

In addition to these enhancements, the CLT is relaunching its Edison Create platform, which will continue to house videos created by University staff in the Center.

Focus On: Meg Frantz

At Thomas Edison State University, most staff focus on the 16,230 students who are currently pursuing their dreams and goals of completing their education and earning their degrees. For Director of Alumni Affairs **Meg Frantz**, there are more than 52,800 additional individuals on which to focus who make up TESU alumni.

"My position allows me daily contact with our alumni," said Frantz, who recently celebrated her five-year anniversary with the University. "We are expanding our Alumni Ambassador Program with new volunteer opportunities, so we work to match alumni volunteers with those tasks."

Frantz, who joined the University as the assistant director of Marketing and Publications, took over the helm of Alumni Affairs in October 2016. Prior to coming to TESU, she was the director of arts marketing and recruitment with Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

"When I was working at Rutgers, there was a conference for communications professionals and **Joe Guzzardo** (associate vice president for Marketing and Communications) was the speaker," Frantz noted. "He really sparked my interest in Thomas Edison State University. TESU serves such a vital purpose. Traditional four-year education is not right or available for everyone. The University really fills an important niche where our students can round out their resumes by completing their degrees. After working at Rutgers for 10 years, it was time for my next challenge,

and the marketing opportunity here at TESU presented itself.

"I love working with a team of such dedicated professionals around the University," Frantz added. "People here care so much about what we do and the students we work with. It is truly a family environment."

Connecting with alumni and encouraging them to continue their affiliations with their alma mater is at the heart of the Office of Alumni Affairs' mission.

"I presented my first webinar in September and our office greeted graduates at Commencement and handed out Thomas Edison State University pins. We also hosted an Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program reunion in September. I attend trade show events to meet and greet with our alumni."

Whether it is a one-on-one over coffee or an event that brings a group of TESU alumni together, Frantz is honored to serve the University's special audience.

"I feel so privileged to talk with our alumni. They share their stories with me – intimate details about their pasts and what they are doing now. It is a real gift."

John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at TESU, noted, "Meg has a passion for connecting with our alumni and supporting their continuing engagement with the University through advocacy, support and service. Meg's broad experience at TESU helps to ensure that alumni affairs is an important part of advancement activities across the



Meg Frantz, director, Office of Alumni Affairs

institution." Thurber added, "Under Meg's leadership, the role and contributions of our alumni will become even more important to TESU in the coming years."

Frantz lives in Hightstown, N.J., with her husband, Todd. "I met my husband while we were both in college at Susquehanna University," said Frantz, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996. "We just celebrated our 17th wedding anniversary."

In their spare time, Frantz and her husband, "love to travel and most of our travels allow us to bird watch, our favorite hobby." Frantz serves on the Historic Preservation Commission for Hightstown and is on the Susquehanna University New Jersey Alumni Board as the marketing director.

Moreover, in keeping with her mission of helping to grow the alumni base, Frantz is currently pursuing her Master of Public Service Leadership degree in nonprofit management here at TESU.

University Mourns the Loss of Wendy A. O'Hare



Wendy A. O'Hare (center), husband, William, and Barbara Sandstrom, systems specialist, Office of Management Information Systems, worked the registration table at a University Picnic.

Thomas Edison State University mourns the loss of Wendy A. O'Hare, former fiscal administrator, Office of the Controller, who died on Aug. 23, 2017, at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J. She was 67.

A resident of Hamilton, N.J., O'Hare joined the University in August 1996 as a professional services specialist 2 and retired May 2016.

O'Hare is survived by her husband of 48 years, William K. O'Hare Jr.; children, William K. O'Hare III and Faith McGowan; three grandchildren, Hannah, Chaz and Charlotte McGowan; four sisters, Sandra Sary, Evon Berg, Cindy Severs and Renate Gribbin; and two brothers, Augustine Faille Jr. and Mark Faille.

A Total Eclipse of the Sun



Office of the Controller staff, **Rebecca Behrendt**, fiscal administrator, **Michael Kennedy**, fiscal administrator, and **Diane M. Stratton**, secretarial assistant, spent a few minutes checking out the total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 21.

Staff Activities

Marie R. Power-Barnes, director of Market Research and Assessment in the Division of Planning and Research, has been appointed to the newly formed Dean's Leadership Council of the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Sciences at Rider University.



Dr. Elizabeth Gehrig, senior assessment development specialist, Center for Learning and Technology, completed course work and earned a professional certificate with distinction in Assessment of Learning Outcomes from the State University of New York in July.



Maureen Clark-Gallagher, assistant dean/director of Distance Learning, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, represented the School at the Kennedy Health 5th Annual Excellence in Geriatric Care Conference in August. She also spoke to freshman nursing students at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pa., in August. Clark-Gallagher was elected as treasurer of the Upsilon Rho Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.



Maggie Ciocco, nursing program advisor, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, has published her third book "Fast Facts on Combating Nurse Bullying, Incivility, and Workplace Violence" (Springer Publishing).

Barbara George Johnson, executive director, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, was honored by Walker's Legacy, in partnership with the African American Mayors Association, with the Women in Economic Development and Civic Engagement Award at the 2017 Annual Legislative Conference in September. Johnson was one of 11 recipients who were recognized as champions of policy and programs to advance economic development, entrepreneurship ecosystems and job opportunities within their community.



Julie Dickerson, regional military base counselor, California, Office of Military and Veteran Education (OMVE), attended the ninth Annual Academic Military Recognition Ceremony that was held at Naval Base San Diego in June. This ceremony recognizes all local graduates of an associate, bachelor's or master's degree from colleges and universities that are in partnership with the San Diego Education Office. Dickerson attended the ceremony to recognize TESU's three graduates from the 2016-2017 school year that participated: Amos Livingston, BS in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; Alyssa Lucas, BSAST in Respiratory Care; and Pham Nguyen, BSAST in Technical Studies.



TESU Staff Participated in Trenton Y5K Marathon



Pictured, from the left, are **David Hoftiezer**, director, Office of Test Administration, and **Joshua Hoftiezer**, academic program advisor, Office of Academic Advising, who participated in the Trenton Y5K, sponsored by the YMCA of Trenton. Josh Hoftiezer finished 5th overall with a time of 20:21, Dave Hoftiezer came in 30th overall with a time of 24:14 and **Patricia Memminger** (not pictured), grade administrator, Office of the Registrar, came in 1st for women with a time of 22:54. **Robin Walton** (not pictured), vice president, Division of Community and Government Affairs, participated in the one-mile walk. Thomas Edison State University was one of the sponsors of the event, which was held at The College of New Jersey in September.

Welcome *New Staff*



Dr. Lindsey Carfagna has been appointed learning experience and assessment specialist in the Center for the Assessment of Learning. Carfagna is located on the third floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3282.



June Paci has been appointed assistant director in the Office for Assessment of Professional Workplace Learning. Paci is located on the third floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3211.



Brian Shevory has been appointed learning experience and assessment in the Center for the Assessment of Learning. Shevory is located on the third floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3240.



Bianca Taylor-Davis has been appointed program assistant in the Office of the Registrar. Taylor-Davis is located on the first floor of the Hanover Hall and may be reached at extension 3371.



Dr. Christine Webster has been appointed assistant dean in the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. Webster is located on the second floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 3168.

State of the University



William Seaton, provost and vice president, left, presents Dr. George A. Pruitt with his own 35-year service award at the 2017 State of the University.



Drew W. Hopkins, chief information officer, Office of Management Information Systems, left, with Dr. George A. Pruitt after receiving his 40-year service award.

At the Thomas Edison State University State of the University address, held at the Soldiers and Sailors War Memorial on Sept. 6, **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, presented a service award to **Drew W. Hopkins**, chief information officer, Office of Management Information Systems, for 40 years of service. Pruitt was then honored by Provost and Vice President **William Seaton** for 35 years of service. Following the event, a reception was held in the Patriot's Ballroom.