



Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • October 2009

A Credit to the College

The School of Nursing Earns CCNE Accreditation



Dr. Susan M. O'Brien
dean of the School of Nursing

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- Dr. Susan M. O'Brien
Dean of the School of Nursing

In an increasingly competitive higher education landscape, accreditation can mean the difference between a cursory glance from a prospective student and an enrollment.

"The College's regional and programmatic accreditations confirm quality and excellence for our current students and alumni," said **William J. Seaton**, vice president and provost. "Additionally, it can be one of the most significant benchmarks in our potential students' admissions search."

The School of Nursing was recently awarded accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) as a result of an onsite evaluation and assessment of the School's curriculum conducted in November.

"Earning the CCNE accreditation is especially validating," said **Dr. Susan M. O'Brien** dean of the School of Nursing. "The distinction confirms the quality, integrity and comprehensiveness of our programs. We are pleased to have the full support of Dr. 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 congratulate our staff, mentors, students

and members of the nursing community for influencing the positive outcome of the evaluation."

O'Brien went on to note that while their BSN program has been continuously accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) since 1990, many prospective graduate students and their employers, have been anxiously waiting to hear that the College's MSN program is accredited. "Particularly in a time when there is a shortage of nurses largely resulting from a scarcity of nurse educators, having the online RN to MSN degree program receive full accreditation through CCNE, opens the door to more nurses pursuing the masters level nurse educator degree."

Recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, CCNE is the principal accrediting body for nursing schools and the only national accrediting agency devoted exclusively to evaluating baccalaureate and graduate nursing education programs. The College's RN-BSN degree program is also accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing.

To find out more about CCNE accreditation, visit www.tesc.edu/nursing

Team Building 101

Staff from the offices of Admissions and Advisement followed presenter Marge Smith's lead during her *How to Build and Maintain a Successful Work Team* professional development workshop. Participants honed their communications skills while learning about motivating and building successful work teams during the Sept. 30 session.

Smith, a consultant and facilitator with 25 years' experience in the non-profit sector, is the former director of the Princeton YWCA, the founder of Community Works, the former chair of the Human Services Commission of Princeton, and serves on the boards of the Foundation for Thomas Edison State College, Childcare Connection and Hands on Helpers.



Workshop presenter Marge Smith



Admissions staff participate in team-building activities

Focus On: Seth Aronson

Seth Aronson was immediately attracted to the College during his first job interview and readily admits that the appeal has not faded. What makes his attraction significant, is the associate director of MIS – whose past includes serving as an IT director for an international company and supporting an entire computer network during the Olympic Games – is well equipped to draw comparisons.

"Thomas Edison State College appealed to me because of the technical projects and challenges that were presented by [Chief Information Officer] Drew Hopkins during my interviews," noted Aronson. "I saw that working here would provide a great professional growth opportunity. Equally fulfilling was that I would be contributing to higher learning."

Prior to landing at Thomas Edison State College, Aronson worked for Berlitz Languages, Inc., in Princeton, N.J., for 14 years where he held a variety of technical positions, including a director of information technology supporting the company's U.S. offices. In an earlier position, he provided computer network support for the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

Aronson has worked for the College for only two years, but he and co-workers have already had their hand in as many pivotal projects as the most seasoned members of their field.



Seth Aronson
associate director of MIS

"My days at the College are varied, demanding and never dull," noted Aronson. "MIS is a very busy place where we are working on many projects and initiatives simultaneously. One day I may be working with staff in planning a new network implementation; the next day, I might be working on a new server, storage architecture or troubleshooting an institution-wide e-mail problem. Scheduling daily work can be difficult as we have to react quickly to critical IT situations, such as hardware failures, the moment they occur. Many days start out well-planned but don't remain so. I am very fortunate to work with a group of very talented and dedicated people."

"Seth has had a positive impact on the College's IT infrastructure," commented **Drew Hopkins**. "Many significant improvements have been accomplished during his tenure, and I look forward to his, and the College's, continued momentum."

Aronson holds a BS degree in engineering science from Penn State University - University Park, and has accrued numerous technical certifications via Microsoft and Cisco in his positions as an IT professional.

Aronson and his family reside in Newtown, Pa. "My two young sons love participating in the College's *Bring Your Child to Work Day* and I am always busy with their sporting events and activities – they keep me constantly running." What time he has left is spent enjoying friends and family, reading, cooking and playing his guitar.

Congratulations

Melissa Brown, clerk, Office of the Registrar, and **Scott Phillips**, are happy to announce that their daughter, **Ashley Brown**, was awarded a scholarship from CWA. Ashley will be attending Stockton State College in Pomona, N.J., pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance and arts administration.

Jared Chase Coleman, mail clerk, Office of Administrative Services, recently received his Associate in Applied Science degree from Mercer County Community College.



Jared C. Coleman

Gregg Dye, former assistant director of Academic Advising, had his photography displayed at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch Library in Lawrenceville, which hosted an artist's reception on Aug. 8. Dye is a Lawrenceville-based amateur photographer whose majestic, naturalistic exhibition, "National Parks of the American West," was on display in the library's East Lobby throughout the month of August. Gregg retired from Thomas Edison State College on Sept. 18.



Gregg and Evelyn Dye

Jennifer Stark, acting academic records and registration coordinator, and her husband, John, welcomed their son, Grayson David Stark, on Aug. 19. Grayson David weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

Staff Activities



Dr. P. Henry van Zyl

Dr. P. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for DIAL, and **Esther H. Paist**, executive assistant to the president, presented a paper entitled "A Pocket-Sized Cloud: Delivering Untethered Learning" at the 25th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning, held in Madison, Wis., between Aug. 4-7. The paper described Thomas Edison State College's efforts to create mobile learning opportunities for its students.

Robin A. Walton, director, Community Affairs and Government Relations, was recently appointed treasurer of the Board of Trustees for Children's Specialized Hospital. Walton was also appointed vice president of the Board of Trustees for Trenton Public Education Foundation.



Robin Walton

State Street Speakers

Join Today!

Public speaking may not be something that comes naturally to most, but with the support of colleagues in a nurturing environment, you can begin building your confidence and skills right away.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization which operates clubs worldwide for the purpose of helping members develop their communication, public speaking and leadership skills. The College's club, State Street Speakers, is currently holding open enrollment for new members.

Membership in State Street Speakers can benefit you in the following ways:

- Interact with other members from various departments throughout Thomas Edison State College and the NJ State Library system.
- Be challenged to learn, grow and develop in a relaxed and friendly environment.
- membership is a cost-effective way for professionals to meet with other professionals and learn how to speak, listen and think professionally.

The fee is \$27 for six months or, \$4.50 a month. The State Street Speakers club meets on the third Thursday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. The next meeting is **Nov. 19, 2009**, in Townhouse 103. For more information please contact **Dosiree Mims** at (609) 984-1155, ext. 2045, or via e-mail at dmims@tesc.edu.

New Staff



Matthew Brown has been appointed as administrative assistant to the vice provost of DIAL (Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning). Brown is located on the 2nd floor of Townhouses and may be reached at extension 2120.



Dr. Adrian Zappala has been appointed assistant dean, Educational Leadership in the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. Zappala is on the 2nd floor of the Townhouse complex and may be reached at extension 3183.



Lawrence Burke has been appointed director of Advancement Services in the Office of Development. Burk is located on the 5th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2078.



Sean Wunderlich has been appointed desktop support specialist in the Office of Management Information Systems. Sean is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2003.

State of the College



Staff **Nettie Youngblood**, **Bill Thompkins** and **Charlotte MacCulloch-Petroff** were recognized for 20 years of service at the State of the College address.

Taking an Oath



Dr. P. Henry van Zyl, vice provost, Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL), and his wife, **Lorraine**, became United States citizens at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Philadelphia, Pa., on July 23, 2009.

The couple celebrated with Academic Affairs staff in Prudence Hall.



College Staff Support Leadership Trenton Alumni School Supply Drive

Leadership Trenton alumna **Janet Eickhoff** (LT '09), account executive, Office of Strategic Partnerships; **Sylvia Hamilton** (LT '06), vice provost, Office of Strategic Partnerships; and **Sharon Smith** (LT '09), registrar, Office of the Registrar, spearheaded a school supply drive to support the Monument Elementary School. Through the generosity of Thomas Edison State College administration and staff, the drive resulted in an abundance of supplies and backpacks for deserving students.



Capital Campus is produced by the Office of Communications at Thomas Edison State College. To submit a story idea for the newsletter or for more information, please contact Linda Soltis at extension 2065.