



THOMAS EDISON
STATE UNIVERSITY

Winter 2017

SIGNALS

S T U D E N T N E W S L E T T E R

Balancing Act

DEGREE COMPLETION FROM THE FRONT LINES

Matteo Mancini balances two realities familiar to many U.S. service members: an overwhelming urge to defend his country and the consequences of that commitment on those he loves.

"Without the support of my family, any success in my military career would not have been possible," said Mancini, a command sergeant major (CSM) in the U.S. Army. "From my mother, to whom I promised to return after three years in the service – 15 years ago – to my wife, Laura, who was the one keeping it all together through my deployments, training and long hours."

According to Mancini, his daughter Hannah has been a model of resiliency. Attending eight different schools, including three middle schools, has not shaken her resolve or her 4.0 grade point average. "My son, Matteo, is still young enough to be fascinated that his daddy is a soldier, which makes me even more committed to serving my country. Any soldier will tell you that it is the families we leave behind during our deployments, and training, that have the toughest job. They are the reason I work as hard as I do."

Ever since Mancini, now a student in the University's Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership (BSOL) degree program, can remember, he wanted to wear a uniform.

"There was something about wearing a uniform and serving that always appealed to me," he said. "I joined the Army with the intent of serving for a couple of years and using the tuition benefits to help me enter the field of law enforcement." Three years in, he knew it was his calling. "I was jumping out of airplanes as a paratrooper, leading soldiers and having the opportunity to do things that I never imagined I was capable of."

As a noncommissioned officer (NCO), the opportunity to help train and lead soldiers continues to be the aspect of serving he finds most rewarding. Witnessing them succeed, he said, remains the biggest motivator.

Mancini began his career with the U.S. Army 18 years ago as a small arms and towed artillery technician. After his first enlistment, he switched his specialty to air traffic control. By the time he completed two subsequent combat tours and two overseas tours, he had been assigned

"ONCE I EMBARKED ON HIGHER EDUCATION, I REALIZED THAT IT MADE ME A BETTER SOLDIER, FATHER AND LEADER."

Matteo Mancini

to an array of positions from squad leader to command sergeant major. He spent four more years serving as an Army recruiter in Freehold, N.J., and in various air traffic control positions.

"When looking for my next assignment, I never asked for specific duty locations. I always sought out the positions needed in my occupational specialty and tried to excel in those positions," he said. "I have never stayed in any assignment for more than three years, which means I'm always on the move."

Mancini explained that today's Army places a strong emphasis on higher education. Early on, he said it was obvious that education would figure prominently in being considered for the military promotions he wanted. With a transition to civilian life looming, it holds even more significance.

"Earning a degree while you're serving your country shows your senior officers a commitment to self-improvement," said Mancini. "I also want my kids to know that I value education, and its importance to being successful. When I was growing up, I did not like school. It took me about five years into my military career to start taking college courses."

continued on page 3 >



Matteo Mancini



Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program Pinning Ceremony

EVENT MARKS A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR NURSING STUDENTS

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing honored graduates of its 2016 Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program with a pinning ceremony and reception on Sept. 22 at Glen Cairn Hall. The class represented students who came to the program with non-nursing undergraduate degrees and managed to fulfill their nursing degree requirements within one year.

The culminating pinning ceremony signifies a ceremonial entrance into the nursing profession for students who are now eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for registered nurses.

To find out more about this and other programs available through the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit www.tesu.edu/nursing. ■



Graduates of Thomas Edison State University's 2016 Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program pictured are: (first row, from left to right) Shantea Goode, Husham Omer, Hanna Kate Warrington, Kirsten Wenzel, Michelle Porciazio and Cesar Rivera. Second row, from left to right: Nijole Montvilaite, Allison Schulte, Mercy Nnebe and Thomas Scharibone. Third row, from left to right: Victoria Barden, Derya Barc, Stephanie Blazin, Miriam Leon and Zehava Chapler. Top row, from left to right: Laura Beveridge, Tara Cooney and Maribel Alvarez.



NJ State Library
An affiliate of Thomas Edison State University

Need a Reputable Source for Your Next Assignment?

STOP SEARCHING AND JOIN THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

All Thomas Edison State University students, whether in- or out-of-state, have unlimited access to the suite of electronic resources available through the New Jersey State Library (NJSL).

As a NJSL card holder, you will have free access to nearly 200 databases and thousands of full-text online journal and publication articles, career assistance sites, databases, ebooks and downloadable audio books. Most academic databases contain premium collections of scholarly journals and reports, and digital resources can be accessed with a simple search on your computer or device. Begin using NJSL's

suite of electronic resources immediately by registering for a NJSL membership card today.

To register for a NJSL membership card, visit www.njstatelib.org and select "Get a Library Card" from the menu. Your personal barcode will be sent to you by email and you can immediately begin accessing NJSL's resources online. Your NJSL card should arrive in the regular mail a few days later.

If you have questions about library membership or accessing any NJSL database, email the NJSL Reference librarian: refdesk@njstatelib.org or call (609) 278-2640, ext. 103, for assistance. ■

> continued from front cover



Matteo Mancini

He said he chose the University because of its variety of degree programs and the amount of credits he was awarded for his military education and experience. "It was also one of the few colleges that offered an air traffic control degree plan," noted Mancini, who first enrolled in the School of Applied Science and Technology's Associate in Applied Science degree in Air Traffic Control program in order to maximize his military training.

"TESU's online model has enabled me to balance my education with my military responsibilities and family life," he said. "Courses are organized

and structured in such a way that it helps me schedule and prepare for my assignments, and the staff has always worked with me during my military training or deployments. The course extension policy for deployed service members allows me to complete my studies during deployment. Having the ability to apply what I am learning and receive feedback from my course mentors has been invaluable in my leadership growth."

Once he makes the transition to the civilian workforce, Mancini hopes to become a school teacher. "I believe that teaching the next generation is the most important occupation out there," he said. "Having my daughter succeed after attending eight different schools in 12 years has shown me how vital teachers are to the positive development of children."

Mancini now counsels fellow service members to not wait for the "perfect" time to continue their education.

"Once I embarked on higher education, I realized that it made me a better soldier, father and leader," he said. "One of the benefits of serving in the military and making that sacrifice is access to a college education. I am now two classes away from finishing my program requirements, and I can tell you that earning my degree will be one of the most significant accomplishments in my career."

To learn more about programs in the School of Business and Management, visit www.tesu.edu/business. To learn more about programs in the School of Applied Science and Technology, visit www.tesu.edu/ast. ■

New Course is the Cornerstone of Your Academic Experience

TES-100 COURSE HELPS YOU ACCLIMATE, NAVIGATE AND SUCCEED AS A NEW STUDENT

The recently launched 1-credit Cornerstone course: Lifelong Learning Strategies (TES-100), is self-directed, self-paced and designed to help you succeed as a new student.

All newly enrolled students at the University will automatically be registered in the course when they register for their first term. Structured to provide you with the tools that will help you acclimate to your academic experience, the TES-100 course will help you navigate the University's online learning environment, clarify our programs and policies and provide

you with practical tips and strategies to help make you a more successful student.

A reduced tuition cost of \$300 for the course will be added to your first term. If you are enrolled under the Comprehensive Tuition Plan, there will be no additional charge for this course – the cost is included in your plan.

New cohorts begin every month. If you would like to take TES-100 during the March 2017 term, you can register from Jan. 20 through Feb. 18; with late registration from Feb. 19

COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate and graduate courses and their availability may be found on our website at www.tesu.edu/courses.

NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

HIS-379 Historical Methods

ITS-120 Introduction to Cybersecurity

PHI-383 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice

NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

CYB-521 Foundations of Utility Cybersecurity

HIT-541 Foundations in Health Informatics

HCM-500 21st Century Healthcare Systems:
A Continuum of Care

IAS-552 Vulnerabilities, Threats and Attacks

NET-561 Designing Large-Scale Systems:
Routing, Switching and Broadband

SWT-571 Software Design and Architecture

NEW TECEP® EXAMS:

BUS-101 Introduction to Business

ENG-202 Technical Communications

MAN-230 Introduction to Entrepreneurship

MAR-301 Introduction to Marketing

to Feb. 23 (late fees apply). If you would like to register for the course in the April term, registration runs from Feb. 24 through March 18, with late registration from March 19 through March 23 (late fees apply). For specifics on our academic terms and schedules, visit www.tesu.edu/academics and select "Academic Calendars."

If you need more information about the TES-100 course, please email the Learner Support Center at LSC@tesu.edu or call (888) 442-8372. ■

University Pilots CLEP® Prep Program

FREE EIGHT-WEEK PREP COURSES INCLUDE INTERACTION WITH A SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT



CLEP:

Take an exam.
Earn credit.

For those looking for mentor support in preparing for a College-Level Examination Program (CLEP®) exam, the answer may be in a new pilot program.

"The overarching goal of the CLEP Prep Program pilot is to determine if additional preparation, facilitated by a Thomas Edison State University mentor, will assist adult learners in successfully completing their CLEP exams; and, in turn, allow them to earn college credit that can be transferred to TESU or more than 2,000 other institutions," said Marc Singer, vice provost, Center for the Assessment of Learning at the University. "There are other CLEP prep programs out there, but this one has the benefit of a mentor or subject matter expert (SME) who will guide you through the material and answer any questions you might have."

To pilot the free CLEP Prep Program, the University partnered with Modern States Education Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making high quality college education free and accessible to everyone, to offer free eight-week prep courses for two CLEP examinations offered by The College Board:

Principles of Macroeconomics, which can satisfy a Knowledge of Human Cultures general education category requirement (ECO-111: Macroeconomics) for our undergraduate degree programs.

Introductory Business Law, which can satisfy a management core requirement (LAW-201: Business Law) of the Associate in Science in Business Administration or a business core requirement (LAW-201: Business Law) of the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

The pilot program is an open course in which enrolled students as well as the general public can take part. Once their eight-week course is complete, participants will be able to register for their CLEP examination. The test registration fee will be waived for a limited time.

A typical course in the pilot will include interaction with a mentor or SME through online discussion board posts and weekly live sessions to reinforce the concepts covered on the exam. The results of the pilot program will assist the University in evaluating its own Thomas Edison Credit-by-Examination Program (TECEP®) and gauge the efficacy of SME-led credit-by-exam options.

As with CLEP, the University's TECEP exams are pass/fail, equivalent to single comprehensive final exams for college courses and do not affect students' GPAs. By passing these exams, students receive college credit at the University. Each TECEP exam is structured differently in that most have multiple-choice questions, but some include short-answer or essay questions.

The pilot program is underway now. For more information or to register for the program, contact the Center for the Assessment of Learning at CAL@tesu.edu. ■

The Faces of the University's First Doctoral Degree Program

FIRST COHORT EMBARKS ON A JOURNEY TO THEIR DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE

The University's first doctoral program, a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), marked its official start with a September orientation for incoming students.

"Our inaugural DNP degree program will prepare RN students to provide the highest level of professional expertise and serve as leaders in positively transforming the healthcare settings in which they practice," said Dr. Ana Maria Catanzaro, associate dean of Graduate Nursing Programs at the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, who oversees the program. "Focusing on systems-level leadership, the curriculum will enhance their competencies surrounding organizational leadership, economics and finance, healthcare policy and health system technologies."

The 36-credit, 18-month program is designed around the needs of working nurses and is offered online with no physical campus residency requirements. The University's first cohort of students in the program will also complete onground clinical experiences that focus on improvement of patient population outcomes as part of their project requirements.

For more information on this and other programs offered by the School, visit www.tesu.edu/nursing. ■



Thomas Edison State University's first doctoral program students (seated, from left to right) are Kristy Alfano, Vi-Anne Antrum, Gamal Abdelhamid and John Visokey. Standing, from left to right, are Dr. Ana Maria Catanzaro, associate dean of Graduate Programs at the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, Phyllis O'Neill, Lynn Lutwin, Celeste Bethon, Mary Rich and Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, during the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) orientation. Enrolled in the program, but not pictured, are DNP students Ashley Pianko, Barbara Yuhas, Linda Johnson, Melissa Torres, Mindy Stapperferne, Mary Doherty and Patricia Madden, who participated in the orientation session remotely.

Meet a Mentor: Pawel Roszko, BSAST '08

PAWEL ROSZKO TAKES HIS PASSION FOR PLANES, ONLINE.

"For as long as I can remember I've had passion for airplanes and global travel," said Roszko. "I knew I would make it a career when I started taking flight lessons in 1998."

Once he began his flight lessons at Phoenix East Aviation in Daytona Beach, Fla., that passion was confirmed.

Roszko went on to earn his commercial pilot license in 1999, followed by a certified flight instructor license in 2000. He instructed flights for the first three years of his career before moving on to work for regional airlines where he later spent another nine years. For the past four years, he's been serving as an airbus pilot for American Airlines, flying east and west coast trips in the U.S. as well as destinations in the Caribbean and Central America.

Roszko's hope is to transition to a wide-body aircraft and have the opportunity to fly European destinations.

"I still hold all of my certified flight instructor ratings, and I enjoy teaching others to fly – mostly friends and family – in my spare time." With an expansive aviation background and breadth of knowledge in the field, it's no wonder Roszko was chosen to be the first mentor for the University's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree program in Aviation Management.

The program is designed for aviation professionals interested in advancing from a technical position to a management or leadership role and is limited to students who already hold Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certifications. The University will also consider appropriate and applicable military training for those who intend to enroll.

Roszko is collaborating with the University as a subject matter expert to assist in developing courses in conjunction with Thomas Edison's course design team in the Center for Learning and Technology and serves as a mentor for both Airline Management (AVT-301) and Aviation Safety (AVF-303). He assisted in developing these courses by providing his expertise in course content, curriculum and assessment.

Roszko explained that students in the aviation field will benefit from the course content regardless of their specific profession.

"Students pursuing various careers in the aviation field, regardless of the actual profession in which they will be employed, will find them very useful in understanding the overall dynamics of the industry," he said.

Academically, Roszko holds an associate degree in flight technology from Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in Aviation Flight Technology from Thomas Edison in 2008 as well as an MBA degree in aviation management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). He intends to pursue a PhD in aviation management with ERAU in the next few years.

Upon completion of his master's degree at ERAU, Roszko approached Dr. John Aje, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology, and Don Cucuzzella, assistant director of the School, about the prospect of mentoring for the University. With the development of the BSAST degree program in Aviation Management taking shape, his timing could not have been better.

"As a graduate of Thomas Edison, as well as an experienced pilot, Pawel Roszko has a great combination of skills that have really helped us in developing, implementing and executing our Aviation Management program at the University," said Cucuzzella. "He is a believer in our mission here at the University as well as a strong advocate for our school and our students."

Having earned his degrees largely through distance learning, Roszko is well positioned to relate to students in the program.

"Adult learners, particularly those I interact with in my courses, are unique in a way that most of them have some aviation background. As a result, this often leads to very productive discussions throughout the course as they



Mentor Pawel Roszko, BSAST '08

do not mind sharing their work experience and, most importantly, correlating that to the concepts we study," Roszko explained.

In his downtime, Roszko spends time with his family and enjoys watching National Geographic and the Discovery channels on television. Additionally, he finds time to play tennis, volleyball and swim at his local athletic club.

Roszko lives in the northeast with his wife of 10 years and the couple's three children. ■



How Sacrifices and Scholarship Support Helped One Student to Help Many

SONJA "SUNNY" SEMIDEI'S DREAM OF EARNING A COLLEGE DEGREE MAY HAVE REMAINED EXACTLY THAT, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR A FLEXIBLE ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE.

"Returning to school so late in my career was overwhelming," said Semidei, a 2016 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program graduate. "I attended a diploma nursing school more than 30 years ago and have been living in Puerto Rico since 1984. I returned for my degree as a grandmother and soon became aware that this was the beginning of a new chapter in my life."

Semidei admitted that her degree pursuit required personal sacrifices, but said unexpected scholarship support provided the fuel she needed to see it through.

"I felt encouraged to continue my studies when I found out I was awarded the University's Julia Cadiz Negrón Scholarship," she said. "I never thought I would receive a scholarship at my age. It wasn't just the financial support that was significant; it was proof that others believed that I could complete my degree. I was finally able to apply myself in ways I could not as a young adult and feel that I am now a better-prepared nurse."

She recently began her role as a public health educator focusing on teaching pregnant women and their families about the risks, transmission and prevention of the Zika virus in Puerto Rico. Agencies mobilized to curb the spread of the virus include the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Puerto Rico Department of Health. Semidei noted that the WIC program, with which she's affiliated, offers free education to pregnant women as well as their children and serves as a valuable foundation for related healthcare initiatives.

"My experience as a nursing student gave me the opportunity to incorporate critical-thinking skills, evidence-based research and the integration of human diversity – all of which afforded me the chance to positively impact the public health of my beloved island," she said.

She espouses the positive effects scholarship awards have for those receiving them.

will then be directed for review to any of the University's scholarships for which applicants are eligible. To learn more about upcoming scholarship award cycles, visit the website or email scholarship@tesu.edu with questions.



"MY EXPERIENCE AS A NURSING STUDENT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO INCORPORATE CRITICAL-THINKING SKILLS, EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH AND THE INTEGRATION OF HUMAN DIVERSITY – ALL OF WHICH AFFORDED ME THE CHANCE TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF MY BELOVED ISLAND."

Sonja "Sunny" Semidei

"If someone is on the fence about donating to the University, and they have the resources to do so, I would say in giving, we receive so much more," she noted. "Nursing is a lifelong commitment and, to me, that means a lifelong learning process that is supported by scholarships."

Students are encouraged to consider applying for scholarships through the University's online scholarship management system: www.tesu.edu/scholarships. As award cycles open, applicants and students in University programs can create an account in the system, complete an application and upload required documentation. The applications

To learn more about the programs available in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit www.tesu.edu/nursing. To explore the ways you can support applicants, fellow students and the academic programs at the University, or to learn how donor support can make a difference, visit the Thomas Edison State University Foundation page online, www.tesufoundation.org, or contact the Office of Development at development@tesu.edu.

A New Way to Connect with a Nursing Advisor

VIDEO CONFERENCING BRINGS ADVISORS FACE TO FACE WITH STUDENTS

By Maggie Ciocco, Nursing Program Advisor, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing



Maggie Ciocco, MS, RN, BC

Seeking an alternative way to connect with your nursing advisor? Consider video conferencing.

Video conferencing enables you to collaborate face to face with a RN to BSN nursing advisor, review your Academic Evaluation, plan your degree completion and learn about academic resources that may be available to you. The option to schedule this type of advising session has been added to our existing options of phone and in-person appointments.

To utilize the option, you just need a webcam, internet connection and the free Cisco Spark software on your computer or device. Your Cisco Spark download will offer video conference capability from anywhere there is an internet connection. During your appointment, advisors will also be able to also send you written content, online links and screen shots containing useful information.

Video conferencing is a great way for us to meet our students. We look forward to providing yet another way to assist our RN to BSN students as they work toward degree completion. Please note that students are still welcome to utilize phone and in-person appointment options. If you have any questions about this new advising option, please contact the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at nursing@tesu.edu.

Pushing Traditional Boundaries Through Credit-by-Exam

FULFILL ALL YOUR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS WITH TECEP®

It is official; you can now complete all general education requirements – a 60-credit portion of most bachelor's degrees – by taking the University's TECEP® exams.

Like other credit-by-exam options, TECEP exams are a cost-effective option for highly independent learners who possess the ability to study independently without mentor or peer interaction. And there are no time constraints – you can schedule your TECEP exam when you feel you are ready. Once you schedule your exam, traveling to a testing site is not necessary, you can take it online and there are plenty of free resources and test prep materials available to help you prepare.

Technical Communication (ENG-202) is the most recent addition to the TECEP suite of credit-by-exam offerings. With this latest exam,

It is now possible for students to meet all of the University's general education requirements exclusively by taking TECEP exams.

"The exam fulfills an Intellectual and Practical Skills general education elective requirement. Also, the Technical Communication exam – like all TECEP exams – can be completed at any hour of the day thanks to our 24/7 online proctoring service, ProctorU," noted Emily Carone, assistant director in the Center for the Assessment of Learning at the University. "The ENG-202 TECEP exam pushes the traditional boundaries of credit-by-exam practices by including an innovative oral presentation component along with multiple choice and essay question sections," she noted.

Before taking their scheduled exam, students will develop and submit a five-minute

TO SCHEDULE YOUR VIDEO CONFERENCE ADVISING APPOINTMENT:

1. Log into myEdison® Appointment Scheduler.
2. Choose the video conference option from the "Meeting Type" in the dropdown.
3. Once you schedule your appointment, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions for downloading the free software.
4. Advisors ask that you create your Cisco Spark account at least 48 hours prior to your appointment time by accessing www.ciscospark.com and following the prompts to download the software.
5. You will be guided through the testing of your audio and video feeds.
6. It's a good idea to sign on at least 10 minutes prior to your appointment to receive an invitation from your advisor to participate in a video conference. Remember to include your full name and email address in the information.

Tips to prepare for your advising appointment:

- ✓ Make sure that your webcam and microphone are in working order prior to your appointment. Adjust the computer's volume and utilize a headset if necessary.
- ✓ Review your Academic Evaluation and write down any questions you may have.
- ✓ Ensure that your appointment takes place in a quiet environment away from noise and distractions.
- ✓ Be ready for your appointment approximately 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. Video conference appointments are generally scheduled for 30 minute intervals.

presentation that consists of a digital slide show and webcam video narration, using tools in their Moodle course space. As soon as the presentation is submitted, the TECEP test link will be activated.

According to Carone, students can take all the time they need to prepare, practice and polish their presentation in order to submit their best effort. "Better yet, both the oral presentation and online test can be completed at any time during the 12-week term, as long as the presentation is submitted before the online exam date students select," she said.

To explore your credit-by-exam options in more detail, visit www.tesu.edu/testing.

Academic Calendar

February 2017

March 2017

April 2017

Registration Dates

Late Registration

Course Transfer Period

Term Start Date

Midterm Exam Week **

Final Exam Week **

Term Ends

Dec. 16, 2016 – Jan. 14, 2017

Jan. 15 – Jan. 19, 2017

Dec. 16 – Feb. 3, 2017

Jan. 30, 2017

March 13 – March 19, 2017

April 17 – April 23, 2017

April 23, 2017

Jan. 20 – Feb. 18, 2017

Feb. 19 – Feb. 23, 2017

Jan. 27 – March 10, 2017

March 6, 2017

April 17 – April 23, 2017

May 22 – May 28, 2017

May 28, 2017

Feb. 24 – March 18, 2017

March 19 – March 23, 2017

Feb. 24 – April 7, 2017

April 3, 2017*

May 15 – May 21, 2017

June 19 – June 25, 2017

June 25, 2017

* Term start date applies to both graduate and undergraduate courses.

** Certain courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations; please refer to your course materials for details.

WINTER 2017

THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT NEWSLETTER
SIGNALS
111 W. STATE ST. • TRENTON, NJ 08608

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT NO. 112