



Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • February 2008

New Tuition Pilot Program Launched

Making it more convenient than ever for community college students and law enforcement professionals to earn a bachelor's degree

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Thomas Edison State College Home Go!

Why Thomas Edison State College? Degree Programs How to Get Started Costs & Tuition

Your College Degree

Through a special tuition program for select county college students, it is now more convenient than ever to earn your bachelor's degree. **Find out how...**

Questions?
Thomas Edison State College
Office of Admissions
101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608
osinfo@tesc.edu
(609) 426-9223

This program is open to students from:
• Burlington County College
• Camden County College
• Mercer County Community College
• Middlesex County College

In an effort to increase enrollment and test a potential new tuition plan, the College has launched a new pilot program aimed at select New Jersey community college students and law enforcement professionals.

The program enables eligible participants to pay a \$75 application fee and register for courses at \$300 per credit without the requirement of paying the College's annual enrollment tuition.

The new program is open to students from Burlington County College, Camden County College, Mercer County Community College, Middlesex County College and Ocean County College.

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In addition, New Jersey law enforcement professionals, including police officers, New Jersey State Troopers, sheriff's officers from all of New Jersey's 21 counties, corrections officers and employees of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security who live in New Jersey, can participate.

Eligible participants may register in the following undergraduate degree programs at Thomas Edison State College through this new pilot program:

- **Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice**
- **Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in Administration of Justice**
- **Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Accounting**

For more information about this initiative, visit www.tesc.edu/justice or www.tesc.edu/burlington, www.tesc.edu/camden, www.tesc.edu/middlesex, www.tesc.edu/mercer, or www.tesc.edu/ocean.

A Coordinated Team Effort

Multiple departments throughout the College worked together to coordinate the pilot program, develop the targeted outreach plan and determine the programs involved with this effort. The Working Committee includes Mary Ellen Caro, Susan Davenport, Joseph Santora, Ray Young, Sylvia Hamilton, James McCarty, Philip Sanders, David Hoftiezer, Sharon Smith, Juliette Punchello, Marie Power-Barnes, Hope Smith, Karen Hume and Joe Guzzardo. The committee will track the impact of the pilot program and report its results to President's Council.

Thomas Edison State College Staff Receive Special Rate for Health and Wellness Membership



Thomas Edison State College employees may take advantage of Robert Wood Johnson Hamilton Center For Health & Wellness special corporate rate. RWJ's 86,000 square foot facility located at 3100 Quakerbridge Rd. in Mercerville, promotes a positive atmosphere for all levels of fitness. Its membership offers the best services, programs and professional instruction to meet current fitness needs. Membership at the RWJ offers access to trainers and exercise physiologists, medical staff, seminars and workshops, and state of the art exercise equipment. The center features an aquatic center and access to 250 different group fitness classes a week. These classes include martial arts, boxing, yoga, Pilates, step, dance and toning. There's even an onsite full-service spa and cafe! Thomas Edison State College employees may access the special corporate rates by contacting Bryan at (609) 584-7600 to schedule a tour of the facility.

Staff Succeeding By Degrees



Three College staff members who recently earned their degrees encourage their colleagues to do the same. **Estelle Reeves**, administrative assistant in the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, who received her Associate in Applied Science degree during the College's October Commencement, urges staff who have been considering enrolling, to take action. "Don't hesitate. I was lucky to have the full support of my family, advisors, supervisors and colleagues while I completed my courses."

Monica Post, administrative assistant in DIAL and **Linda Vasbinder**, assistant to the president, who also lined up with fellow Associate in Arts degree recipients in October, concur that they were enthusiastically supported by their colleagues while earning their degrees. Post elaborated, "I feel that I got a top-notch education at Thomas Edison State College. The mentors were all specialists in their fields and devoted to helping students learn. I really can't say enough positive things about the entire process. I am so fortunate and blessed to have been able to get an education here, and I will cherish it forever."

Vasbinder who, like Reeves, is continuing course work toward a BA in psychology, said, "Working on my degree at the College has been extremely rewarding. I feel my experience has given me the ability to better relate to our students. I too encourage staff to take advantage of this wonderful benefit."

History never looks like history when you are living through it.
—John W. Gardner

Focus On: A Rich History of Staff Recognition



A recent "Focus On" column marked the 100th staff spotlight in a Thomas Edison State College employee newsletter. Originally called **Inside Edison**, later **The News**, and most recently, **Capital Campus**, the newsletter has a rich history of reporting staff successes, College milestones and welcoming new employees. Since College Relations Specialist **Linda Soltis** took over editing the newsletter in 1989, articles have chronicled not only staff accomplishments but the College's evolution as well.

A 1990 article in **Inside Edison** featured the employee pictured on the left. If you are having trouble figuring out who he is, here's an excerpt from that article that might help:

"I still vividly remember the first computer the College acquired. It was an Apple PC with 16K RAM single disk drive which was promptly stolen!" Hint: His son, Mike, was 12 years old when the column appeared.

Chief Information Officer Drew Hopkins
Answer: He is the 14th "Focus On" subject and

President Nominated to the AASCU Board of Directors

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, has accepted a nomination to serve on the Board of Directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) for a three-year term beginning in 2008.

AASCU represents more than 400 public colleges, universities and systems of higher education throughout the United States. AASCU schools enroll more than three million students, or 55 percent of the enrollment at all public four-year institutions.



Members of the AASCU work to extend higher education to all citizens. Access is a hallmark of those AASCU institutions, colleges and universities that seek to serve traditionally underrepresented students in higher education as well as those who are first generation college students.

"I am honored to be nominated to serve on the AASCU Board and by so doing to contribute to its work on quality assurance in American postsecondary education," said Pruitt. "I look forward to being an advocate for public higher education and the students we serve and to influence public policy and regulations on behalf of the work of our member colleges and universities."

Pruitt also serves as a director of Sun National Bank; member of the Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation (SEEDCO), New York; member of the Board of Trustees, Rider University; and member of the Board Trustees of The Union Institute & University, Cincinnati, Ohio. Pruitt has been president of Thomas Edison State College since 1982 and is the past chairman of the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, Trenton, N.J.; a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, United States Department of Education. He has consulted widely in business and government, as well as within the higher education community and has served in an advisory capacity to four U.S. secretaries of education under three presidents of both parties.

Student Outreach



Admissions Counselor **Iris Lewin** visited Thomas Edison State College student **Bernard E. "Bernie" Brown** and his wife at their home in rural Middleburgh, N.Y., recently. Bernie had served in the Air Force during the Korean War, and was building his own helicopter because he got bored flying "regular propelled machines." While many students are embarking on their first college degree, soon-to-be octogenarian Brown is completing his eighth — a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in aviation maintenance technology.

Staff Activities

Sylvia Hamilton, vice provost, Office of Strategic Partnerships; **Janet Eickhoff**, account executive, Office of Strategic Partnerships; **David Hoftiezer**, acting director of Admissions; **John P. Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs; and **Dr. Mary Ellen Caro**, executive vice provost, attended the



David Hoftiezer, acting director of Admissions; **Kim Scartelli**, Curves franchise owner; **Janet Eickhoff**, account executive.

Curves Convention in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 7-9. Approximately 3,200 people attended the annual Curves convention for Curves franchise owners and managers, held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. Those in attendance learned about exciting new ventures including a new advertising campaign, new Curves products and ways to recruit new members to their clubs. Thomas Edison State College, a vendor at the convention, was the only education provider in attendance.

Todd Siben, senior program advisor, was recently published, twice. Siben's article entitled "Advising from Experience" was in the fall issue of the *Journal of Adult Continuing Higher Education*. The article is about his experience in returning to college to take an online course so that he could better understand what his students' experience. Siben was also a contributor to a chapter in a recently published NACADA Monograph series on *Advising Special Student Populations*. He contributed information about math anxiety and some thoughts on how colleges award credit for experiential learning. **Dr. Joseph C. Santora**, EdD, dean, School of Business and Management; **Dr. Mary Ellen Caro**, executive vice provost; and **Dr. James Sarros** (Monash University, Australia), were recently published in the autumn issue of *SAM® Advanced Management Journal*. The title of the piece is "Succession in Nonprofit Organizations: An insider/outsider perspective."

Dr. Susan O'Brien, dean, and **Susan Cobb**, program advisor in the School of Nursing, attended the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma



Dr. Susan O'Brien and Susan Cobb

Theta Tau International biennial convention held in Baltimore, Md., on Nov. 7, 2007, to petition the house of delegates for a chapter charter. Approval was given and the Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing is now a chapter designate, Upsilon Rho. **Dr. Catherine Kotecki**, associate dean, and **Marian Stone**, part-time assistant dean, were also in attendance at the convention. The chapter charter ceremony will be held at the College on April 16, 2008.

New Staff



Emily Du has been appointed program assistant in the Office of the Registrar. Du is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3327.



Mary Garrison has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of the Bursar. Garrison is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2331.



Melissa Maszczak has been appointed confidential assistant in the Office of the President. Maszczak is located on the 3rd floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2017.



Michele Evanchik has been appointed assistant controller in the Office of the Controller. Evanchik is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2457.

Microsoft Office Training Available for Staff

The Office of Management Information Systems (MIS) would like to remind staff of the availability of online training courses for Microsoft Office 2003 applications.

The courses are available through Blackboard. Login to myEdison at <http://myedison.tesc.edu/webapps/login/>. Using your network login and password, select the "Community" tab, click on the "TESC Employees" link and click on "Microsoft Training" in the left column.

Courses can be used in a variety of ways. You may



want to access a certain topic and just complete that section or you may want to work through the entire course. Time estimates are given for each course and section. Work cannot be saved, so please make a note of what you have completed for the next time you return to the courses.

A handout that can guide staff through accessing the courses the first time is available on the Helpdesk. Select the "Download" link from the Home Page and then click on "MS Office 2003 handout." From here, the file can either be opened or saved.

Congratulations

Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, associate vice president for Public Affairs; dean, The John S. Watson School of Public Service, and director, The Watson Institute for Public Policy, and his wife, Allyson, welcomed Norah Celeste Youngblood to their family on Nov. 21, 2007. Norah Celeste, who weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, joins big brother Joseph Youngblood III.

Christine Carter, academic evaluator, Office of the Registrar, and **Jared Carter**, systems coordinator, Office of Management Information Systems, are the proud parents of William John Carter born Nov. 23, 2007. William John weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 21 inches.

Richard Strauss, graduation auditor, Office of the Registrar, and his wife, Carrie, announce the arrival of Dylan Henry Strauss. Born on Jan. 4, 2008, Dylan Henry weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 21½ inches.



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.