

SIGNALS

T H O M A S E D I S O N S T A T E C O L L E G E

Spring 2005

VOL. 8 NO. 1

Course News

New Courses as of January 2005

Note: A complete guide to courses may be found in the *Undergraduate Registration Bulletin*.

New Online Courses as of January 2005

BIO-101-OL	Introductory Biology
LIT-301-OL	Advanced American Literature I
LIT-302-OL	Advanced American Literature II

The Following Courses were Revised in January 2005

COS-213-GS	C++ Programming
COS-213-OL	C++ Programming

**LIT-291 is not a revision –
it is a replacement course for
LIT-130 – LIT-130 is canceled.**

LIT-291-OL	Analysis & Interpretation of Literature
LIT-291-GS	Analysis & Interpretation of Literature

New Course as of March 2005

SOS-440-OL	Terrorism
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**CHE-240-GS Organic Chemistry –
canceled until further notice.**

NEW BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Effective July 2005, the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences will offer a new Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice at Thomas Edison State College. According to Dr. Judith Krom, dean of the Heavin School, "Previously, human services degrees in administration of justice required that students be employed in the field in order to complete the practicum requirement. Students who were not currently working in the field were ineligible for this degree. The BA degree in criminal justice is a response to requests from students for a program that served students not currently working in the field. It provides a unique opportunity for students to complete the degree whether or not they are currently employed in administration of justice."

Criminal justice is an interdisciplinary study of crime and the functioning of the criminal justice system. It includes study in the professional and theoretical areas, as well as the development of critical analytical skills, and knowledge of the research findings and methods used in this field.

REQUIRED COURSES:

Introduction to criminal justice, Research Methods in the Social Sciences, Terrorism, White Collar Crime, Public Policy and criminal justice, Criminal Behavior and Victimology, Intercultural Communications or Race and Ethnic Relations, and 18 credits of electives in criminal justice.

HOW STUDENTS EARN CREDIT IN THE AREA OF STUDY:

Students may transfer credits from accredited colleges, earn credit for New Jersey basic course for Police Officers training, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), examinations, military training and American Council on Education (ACE) evaluated training.

Smilack Scholarship Recipient Announced

Robert R. Bearden of Orlando, Fla., is the recipient of the 2004 Edith and Oscar Smilack Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student at Thomas Edison State College who is pursuing a degree in the arts, human services, political science or a related field of study with the purpose of enabling the student to contribute to the improvement of society.

After a successful 20-year career in retail banking, Bearden made the decision to shift to elementary education. After adopting two sons from the Ukraine, his interest focused on teaching at the primary school level. He is currently a substitute teacher for the Orange County Public School System in Florida. His goal is to complete his certification and teach at the second- and third- grade level.

"This scholarship has been a godsend to me," said Bearden. "As you know the hurricane season we've had here in Florida has made this past semester most incredibly challenging."

While Bearden fared better than many homeowners in the Sunshine State, he reports that his home suffered some damage, and the scholarship allowed him to continue his education at a time that he had considerable home repair expenses. "The money sure came in handy," he said.

Bearden has already taken his subject-area teaching examination and hopes to complete his degree in 2005. "My goal is to become one of those rare individuals who somehow manages to create a welcoming, nurturing environment that challenges students to open their minds to new ideas, to think and function both inside and outside 'the box,' and to articulate their thoughts."

Nursing Mentor Receives Prestigious Teaching Award

Dr. Kathleen McMullen, a mentor for the School of Nursing since 2001, has been awarded the Lindback Teaching Award at Holy Family University.

This award honors superior teaching skills of a tenure-track faculty member from colleges and universities within New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. McMullen is a full professor at Holy Family University in Philadelphia, Pa., and began her association with Thomas Edison State College by enrolling in the Certificate in Distance Education program offered to mentors who desire to learn about online education and who are willing to serve as a mentor for the College's nursing students.

McMullen holds a PhD in educational psychology, and has taught and conducted nursing research for more than 20 years. Her years of teaching and research expertise make her an excellent choice as a Thomas Edison State College mentor. In this role, she has consistently received outstanding nursing research course evaluations from the nursing students at Thomas Edison State College. Congratulations to McMullen on receiving the very prestigious Lindback Teaching Award. This recognition is indicative of the quality of mentors that the School of Nursing students enjoy.



Dr. Kathleen McMullen

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SIGNALS

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JERSEYCLICKS

RESEARCH HELP IS JUST A CLICK AWAY AT JERSEYCLICKS

Your research paper for the Thomas Edison State College course you are taking is due in two days. You need quick, accurate research on the subject. Where do you turn? JerseyClicks at www.jerseyclicks.org offers easy searching of 27 databases in subjects such as health, history, business, education, science, current events, literature and popular fiction, and is available 24/7.

JerseyClicks is brought to you by the New Jersey State Library and its four Regional Library Cooperatives. Any Thomas Edison State College student may use this site to research information in magazines, encyclopedias and other resources through one user-friendly Web site from home, office, school or public library. JerseyClicks is unique because an individual can search up to 15 databases simultaneously when looking for information. In addition, one of the searchable databases is Informé, a Spanish language database for those who speak and read Spanish.

Here is how it works. A researcher is looking for information on natural disasters. Visit www.jerseyclicks.org;

type in "natural disasters" in the Quick Search box and then click on the Go button. Enter your New Jersey State Library card barcode number at the prompt and click on Go. A screen with many sources of information on the subject of natural disasters will come up. The researcher can then click on the source to check. For example, clicking on Magazine Article Summaries will lead to many articles in magazines such as *Science Now*, which offer information on natural disasters.

Anyone with Internet access and a New Jersey State Library card may use this great new service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

JerseyClicks is funded by the New Jersey State Library, the New Jersey Library Network, and the federal Library Services and Technology Act. For information on this new service, contact Scherelene Schatz, New Jersey State Library, at (609) 777-2059 or via e-mail at sschatz@njstatelib.org.

HOT TOPICS in Academic Advising



Would you like to speak with other students, like yourself, about their student experiences?

Are you curious about specific course content or particular mentors assigned?

Are you looking for tips on how to prepare for an examination?

Would you like to share your experiences with other students?

If you answered "yes" to at least one of these questions, you should go to <http://www.tesc.edu/phorum/list.php?f=7> where you'll find ongoing discussions about these and other topics. You may join in,

view old threads, introduce a new topic for discussion or simply observe. Consider this site the Student Center where you can go and mingle online with other students.

Please note that if you have specific concerns that need answers from College staff, the quickest way to get an answer to your question is to e-mail directly the department you need using the Contacts page on the College Web site.

Kern Selected Student Representative to Board of Trustees

Arthur Kern was sworn in as a student representative to the Thomas Edison State College Board of Trustees at its meeting on Sept. 17, 2004. Kern was elected to a two-year term as one of two student trustees. The 11-member Board of Trustees holds the College and its affiliate, the New Jersey State Library, in trust for the public, representing the public interest in governance, policies, and development of the College and Library. Members of the Board include business, civic, nonprofit and community leaders.



Arthur Kern

Kern, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree at Thomas Edison State College, is the retired CEO of Kern Foam Products Corp., a custom molder of flexible urethane foams. Founded by Kern in 1974, the corporation grew to a multimillion dollar company with sales to a diverse national market. Kern sold the company to a larger competitor in 1998 and stayed on as a consultant in 1999. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Kern is past president of the East Amwell, N.J., Township Board of Education.

1098-T TAX FORMS ISSUED

Every student who paid tuition and fees to the College should have received a 1098-T tax form in the mail. The College is required by law to send out 1098-T forms to all students who paid qualifying tuition and fees in 2004.

Students may be eligible to claim an educational tax credit and may use this form as documentation. While the College will not counsel students on individual tax matters, it does recommend that students visit the IRS Web site for information—the best source of information on educational tax credits.

Visit www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p970.pdf to see the IRS publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education.

If you would like the College to send a statement of tuition and fees paid to the College in 2004, you may send your request by e-mail with your home mailing address to bursar@tesc.edu or call (609) 984-4099 ext. 2335.

PROCTOR APPROVAL PROCESS STREAMLINED

In an effort to streamline the proctor approval process, the Office of Test Administration (OTA) no longer requires that students call to confirm receipt of faxed proctor forms. The OTA will process all Proctor Request Forms within 10 days of receipt (or 10 days from the start of the semester if you are submitting your forms early). The OTA will then send a letter to each student to confirm the proctor, the proctor's mailing address and the courses in which the student is registered. Please take a minute to read the information contained in this letter and verify that you have received one letter per course and that your proctor is listed correctly. If you do not receive written verification of your proctor within 10 days of submitting your Proctor Request Form, please call the Office of Test Administration at (609) 984-1181 or send an e-mail to testing@tesc.edu. The rationale for this new process is to allow the OTA to focus its efforts on proctor approvals and, in the process, eliminate the need for students to call. Your cooperation is appreciated.

COLLEGE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS TELLY AWARD



Thomas Edison State College, a pioneer in the use of technology to deliver high-quality collegiate learning opportunities to self-directed adults, was recently recognized with a Bronze Telly Award. The prestigious award, which honors outstanding achievement in video and film production, was given to the College and its collaborative partner, Midi, Inc., of Princeton, N.J., for a component of the Electronic Communications Systems course. The course was developed with a grant from the Martinson Family Foundation, a generous supporter of the College.

The course employs the use of Flash technology to present a lecture on the basic concepts

of amplitude modulation and also covers the origins of radio. The lecture outlines the dispute over who deserves credit for "inventing" radio, and offers a brief history on the work of inventors Guglielmo Marconi and Nicola Tesla. Students can also benefit from an interactive demonstration of AM wave modulation. In the Amplitude Wave Modulation simulator section of the course, students can manipulate a sliding scale in one of five areas to see the effect on the modulated wave in the time domain. The component of the course illustrating amplification modulation was selected to receive the award.

"This is the first time the College has used Flash technology in course development," said Dr. P. Henry van Zyl, vice provost for the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL) at the College. "Typically you will have a voice, or talking head, over graphics in an online course. This technology allows the student to be more interactive."

According to van Zyl, Thomas Edison State College is only one of a handful of higher education institutions in the world using Flash technology in course development. "Very, very few schools are doing this kind of thing," he said.



Aaron Appelstein, course developer (left), celebrates receipt of a bronze Telly Award with Dr. P. Henry van Zyl (center), vice provost for Directed Independent Adult Learning and Cynthia MacMillan, director of Instructional Design & Development. The prestigious award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in film and video production, was awarded to Thomas Edison State College for excellence in a portion of its online Electronic Communications Systems course.

The College collaborated with Midi, Inc., to produce the video component of the course. Dr. J.C. Kinnamon, Midi's senior director of product development, was the project manager. "It's always nice to be recognized by Telly," he said. "This is all certainly exciting."

According to van Zyl and Kinnamon, there are similar projects in the works. "We are working on video components for a software engineering course for Thomas Edison State College," said Kinnamon.

"The Martinson Family Foundation made this project possible," said van Zyl. "They provided the \$40,000 grant for the initial project and have committed to produce three additional courses. Through their generosity, Thomas Edison State College is able to do what few schools are able to accomplish in the production of technologically advanced online course offerings."

Visitors may preview the award-winning course by visiting the Thomas Edison State College Web site at <http://www.tesc.edu/catalog/listallc.php?type=OL>. Scroll down the page and click on the course name Electronic Communication Systems (ELC-201) and then click on the Preview the Online Course link at the bottom of the page. Simply use your student login or click on the Visitors link to gain access to the preview.

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New Graduate Degree Planned for School of Nursing

The Thomas Edison State College School of Nursing is pleased to announce that approval has been granted by the Board of Trustees to expand the current RN-BSN degree program into a master's degree program.

Based on the continued growth of the program to a current enrollment of 350 students, requests from both students and graduates to make an online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree available, and analysis of the results of a needs assessment, the School of Nursing plans to offer a new master's degree program specifically designed to prepare nurse educators.

Currently licensed registered nurses (RNs) will be able to pursue either the RN-BSN degree or the RN-BSN/MSN degree. RNs with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree will be able to pursue the 36-credit MSN degree. RNs with a previously earned MSN degree in another nursing specialty may earn a Nurse Educator certificate by taking the graduate education courses offered in the MSN degree program. The RN-BSN/MSN degree will become available in July 2006; the certificate program is planned to open in October 2005.

A planned revision of the current RN-BSN degree program will be implemented in July 2005 for applicants and students enrolling July 1, and after. The current Health Support requirement will be replaced by a 3-credit online course in Health Policy. Content from the Health Support requirement will be integrated into a revised 7-credit Community Health course. Based on student requests, all upper division nursing requirements will then be available through the College as 12-week online courses. The number of requirements and number of credits in upper division nursing will remain the same.

Information on these nursing degree program changes will be provided to all applicants and enrolled students in writing and posted on the College Web site. Degree planning questions should be directed to the nursing advisor through an advisement appointment or via e-mail to enrolled@tesc.edu. Currently enrolled students interested in pursuing the MSN degree after completing the RN-BSN degree program should indicate their interest by providing their name to the nursing advisor via e-mail. The School of Nursing will provide additional information as it becomes available.

