

SIGNALS

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

FALL 2007

VOL. 10 NO. 1

New Web Site Unveiled

Thomas Edison State College recently launched a new Web site which features user-friendly architecture, and a completely new design focused on adults, like you, who are interested in finishing their college degree.

We want to know what you think of our site, www.tesc.edu. Please send us your comments at: media@tesc.edu.

Guided Study: From Print to Online *New and improved choices*

Starting with the January 2008 semester, undergraduate Guided Study courses will be changing in two ways. First, the semester length will be shortened from 16 weeks to 12 weeks, bringing Guided Study courses in line with all other current undergraduate credit-bearing courses, such as online, TECEP®, e-Pack® and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) courses.

The second, and most significant change, is that Guided Study courses will now be accessed and administered online via Blackboard.

"The new and improved delivery method for Guided Study courses is really exciting news and another step forward in our educational programs for students," said P. Henry van Zyl, vice provost, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning at the College. "To make the adjustment easier for students and mentors who have not previously participated in online courses, there will be a transition period of six months from Jan. 1 until June 30, 2008. This includes the January, February, March, April, May and June semesters."

During the transition period

(January 2008 semester through June 2008 semester):

► All the course documents that are currently downloadable from the College Web site will be located online in Blackboard, in a similar format as through the College Web site. Course documents are in Acrobat PDF format for easy downloading to personal computers, or for printing at home. Students will require Acrobat reader to read and/or print the course documents. The Acrobat reader can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. A link to the download site is also provided in each course space.

► Students still will be able to download documents from the College Web site and/or order a hard copy of the course documents from MBS Direct, the College's textbook supplier.

► Students who are enrolled in Guided Study courses will be submitting their assignments directly to their mentors via e-mail or online in Blackboard using Blackboard's "view/complete assignment" tool. Due to the shorter semester, students will no longer be mailing assignments to their mentors.

► Limited access to myEdison, Thomas Edison State College's online course management system that utilizes the Blackboard platform, will be required for downloading course documents and submitting assignments. The actual work of the course can be done offline and from paper copies of course documents.

► Basic computer and Internet skills will be required. Familiarity with sending and receiving e-mail with attached documents is also required.

► Access to word-processing software like MS Word is strongly recommended.

continued inside

COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate courses and their availability may be found on the College Web site. Go to www.tesc.edu/listall.php.

NEW ONLINE COURSES:

CIS-301-OL Management Information Systems

HIS-261-OL Introduction to Chinese History and Culture

SOC-242-OL Juvenile Delinquency

SOC-291-OL Criminology

SOC-384-OL Gangs

NEW PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT COURSES:

CDS-212-PA Pre-Kindergarten Methods

ELE-321-PA Control of Industrial Motors

NUC-342-PA Radiological, Reactor and Environmental Safety

PHY-271-PA Nuclear Physics

PYT-396-PA Coaching Theory and Techniques

COMING SOON:

ELE-211-OL DC Circuits

ELE-212-OL AC Circuits



Rev Up Your New Jersey State Library Card

Gain Access to Audio Books and the Hundreds of Titles Available

Did you know as a Thomas Edison State College student you can download bestsellers, the latest nonfiction and classics as audio books using the *ListenNJ* service? Audio books offer you the convenience of taking in a book while commuting to work, vacationing, exercising in the gym or anytime your schedule allows.

Audio books are available in a wide variety of subjects including business, politics or language instruction. Among the more recent business offerings are *Change or Die: Three Keys to Change at Work and in Life*, *Guerrilla Marketing Weapons* and *Charming Your Way to the Top*.

New biographies and autobiographies are available on actor Sidney Poitier, artist Michelangelo and author Kurt Vonnegut. Fiction can be found in a variety of genres to suite an array of tastes including mystery, romance, science fiction, drama, and teen and children's fiction.

To get started, go to www.listennj.com and view the variety of titles available and the software available to download. Select the titles you want and check them out with your New Jersey State Library (NJSL) card. Any Thomas Edison State College student is eligible for a NJSL card. For simple instructions on obtaining yours, visit the Library's Web site at www.njstatelib.org.

Audio books can be played on your computer, or you can use Windows Media Player to burn a CD or transfer them to a portable device such as any MP3 or video player capable of playing protected Windows Media Audio files or Windows Media Video files. Be sure to check the list of compatible devices at www.overdrive.com.

For more information on using the *ListenNJ* service, see the audio book tutorial on the State Library's CyberDesk Web page at www.njstatelib.org/cyberdesk. Click on "How Do I ...?" in the left column, and then click on "Audio Books." Or contact the Reference Desk at (609) 292-6220 or via e-mail refdesk@njstatelib.org. ■

Thomas Edison State College Partners to Expand Educational and Professional Development Opportunities

The Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce in Mercer County, N.J., and the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College are partnering to expand professional development opportunities to chamber members through a new online program designed to develop skills in leadership and management.

Through the partnership, Chamber members can register for the MBA Essentials Professional Certificate Program, an online, 30-week noncredit certificate program, focusing on leadership and management, accounting, finance, economics, marketing and strategic planning at a discounted rate.

"The Chamber is proud to partner with Thomas Edison State College on this program," said Michele Siekerka, president/CEO of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce. "The MBA Essentials Professional Certificate Program is an exciting opportunity for businesspeople to gain valuable knowledge that will not only help them advance in their chosen field, but will make them more valuable to their employers. I encourage Chamber members to take advantage of this worthwhile endeavor."

"Business professionals are often looking for slices of knowledge to improve in specific skill areas identified by themselves or their employers," said David Grossman, PhD, vice provost and dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College.

If you are an employer or working adult interested in finding out more about MBA Essentials Professional Certificate Program or the entire array of high-quality professional certificates, seminars, workshops and programs, visit the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at <http://www.tesc.edu/spcs> or call (888) 442-8372. ■



Guided Study: From Print to Online (continued)

After the transition period

(Beginning with the July 2008 semester):

► Rather than downloading course documents from the College Web site or obtaining them through MBS, students will log on to Blackboard and navigate to their specific course space to gain access to the course documents, including the syllabus, assignments and assignment schedule, and other information.

► Students will submit assignments online via the "view/complete assignment" tool and no longer be using their e-mail accounts to submit assignments after the June 2008 semester.

► Limited access to myEdison will be required for downloading course documents and submitting assignments. The actual work of the course can be done offline and from paper copies of course documents. Access to word-processing software like MSWord, WordPerfect or others is strongly recommended. The Acrobat reader will be required to read and/or print downloaded course documents. The Acrobat reader can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

► Basic computer and Internet skills will be required.

► Guided Study course exams will be administered according to the current online guidelines. There will be a proctored, paper-based exam and an unproctored online final exam. The College is in the process of

transitioning to fully online exams in the coming year. Even after the transition to fully online testing, all students will have the option of taking proctored exams in the pen/paper format.

Please check your specific course site for arrangements that pertain to the courses for which you are enrolled.

For the moment

(Through the June 2008 semester):

► Guided Study course exams will be administered according to current guidelines. There will be a proctored, paper-based midterm exam and a proctored, paper-based final exam. Please check your course syllabus for information specific to your exams.

Special arrangements will be considered on a case-by-case basis for students who do not have access to the Internet. As always, students with verified disabilities may request reasonable accommodation relative to course delivery mode. Please contact the ADA coordinator at (609) 984-1141, ext. 3415. Hearing-impaired individuals may call the TTY phone at (609) 341-3109. Students in a federal, state or military correctional institution may inquire about special accommodations by contacting the College at dial@tesc.edu.

Please remember to check the College Web site at www.tesc.edu for further announcements and updates about the transformation of Guided Study courses from print format to online format.

What are the differences between Guided Study and Online courses?

Here are some of the major differences. Individual courses may differ in other ways, too.

Guided Study Courses

► Students are expected to download course documents from myEdison, and to submit assignments online. Limited access to myEdison is required. The work of the course can still be accomplished offline.

► No online discussion board.

► Internet research is not required, but may be optional in some courses.

► No online quizzes.

► No online contact with other students in the same class.

► At least one written assignment per week, including exams.

► Designed for self-directed independent adult learners who do not desire or require extensive support and/or interaction with mentors and fellow students.

Online Courses

► Students are expected to log in to courses frequently. Course work is often done online, sometimes requiring extended access time to the myEdison portal.

► Participation in the online discussion board is required. Students graded on participation.

► Many online courses contain extensive Internet support, and may require Internet research.

► May contain online quizzes to reinforce and support learning.

► Online contact and interaction with a community of learners.

► May contain multiple assignments per week.

► Designed for self-directed independent adult learners who prefer more support and/or interaction with mentors and fellow students.

School of Nursing Student Finds Her True Calling

In an instant, Jennifer Morrell went from being a single mother on welfare to a lifesaver.

It was during her shift at a local restaurant that she noticed a patron across the room choking violently. The swath that Morrell cut through the busy restaurant in order to administer the Heimlich maneuver on the struggling patron, gave stunned onlookers a glimpse into Morrell's future.

"I worked the weekend shift at the restaurant to support myself and my little girl," said the Thomas Edison State College School of Nursing student. "I was a 19-year-old single mother on welfare with no direction, alone and scared. At the time, I was unsure of the significance in helping that gentleman, but it was a defining moment for me, and one which ignited my inspiration to help others. I confided this to a career counselor at the welfare office, and with his guidance, enrolled in a local program to become a licensed practical nurse."

Morrell soon after entered the Bucks County Technical School in Levittown, Pa., practical nurse program. During her commencement speech to fellow graduates, her attention was again drawn by someone across the room. From the podium, Morrell's gaze caught the jubilant face of her young daughter in the audience beaming back at her. "As I delivered my speech, I surveyed the room and found my daughter's face among the many people seated in the audience, she had this amazing look of pride on her face," said Morrell.

Morrell next completed her AS degree in nursing at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pa., and is now



Jennifer Morrell, BSN student

enrolled at Thomas Edison State College's School of Nursing. Morrell is enjoying the fusion of her career as labor and delivery nurse at Capital Health System's Mercer Campus with her BSN course work.

"The patients inspire me to continue my education and meet the many challenges in our community. I feel compelled to serve the community as an example that education precedes success, and do all I can to educate our patients," said Morrell.

Morrell is looking forward to pursuing her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree next. The aspiring nurse educator's curriculum is one that many of her co-workers share. Thomas Edison State College and Capital Health System recently partnered to maximize Capital Health System's tuition assistance program and offer the opportunity for its registered nurse employees to

advance their education through degree or certificate programs at the College.

Morrell, who lives in Fallsington, Pa., is "married to a wonderful man that ironically, I met at the very restaurant that originally contributed to my career path! We now have three daughters ages 15, 6 and 4-1/2. They inspire me every day to be the best person and advocate I can be. It is a hardship to take the time to advance my career, but my children see me achieving my goals and I feel it is especially important to serve as a role model for them." ■

SIGNALS is published three times per year by Thomas Edison State College. Please direct any inquiries or suggestions for future articles to the editor c/o:

SIGNALS
Thomas Edison State College
101 W. State St
Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
(888) 442-8372
www.tesc.edu

Joe Guzzardo
Director of Communications

Chris Miller
Art Director

Kelly Saccomanno
Office of Communications

Mentor Profile: Dr. Lawrence Knapp

Baiting the Hook for a Variety of Students

What makes Thomas Edison State College students so unique? It takes only a moment for Dr. Lawrence "Larry" Knapp to begin counting the ways.

There was the U.S. Secret Service agent who begged for additional time to complete an assignment because a head of state kept him out on the golf course longer than expected; an ambassador to Cuba from an African nation who wanted to improve his command of the English language; a student living on a remote Caribbean island, so remote that the population numbered less than 50; and the circus performer busily fulfilling course requirements while on a national tour — all with motivations as varied and fascinating as their backgrounds.

"Mentoring at Thomas Edison State College is a very unique experience," said Knapp, who has taught writing and literature courses at the College since 1996. "There is an incredible variety of adults from all walks of life, yet they all share a very real commitment to completing their education."

Knapp teaches English Composition, Technical Writing, Advanced American Literature, Analysis and Interpretation of Literature, and Children's Literature. He also serves on the College's Academic Council, assists in the development of testing materials, course syllabi and Blackboard materials. He teaches classes for eArmyU and is a member of the College's Quality Assurance Team.

"Online instruction is different than teaching in a classroom in many ways. A major difference is the level of trust and closeness that can develop," said Knapp, who logs on every day — sometimes to merely answer questions from students, but more often to spend hours grading papers and responding to discussion board postings.

The connection, Knapp said, is an enduring one.

"Somehow, once that online connection has been made, students maintain it. I'm no longer surprised when I hear from former



Dr. Lawrence Knapp

students who want to share some bit of news with me years after they've concluded their course work."

Knapp has taught at Essex County College in New Jersey since 1969 where he served as chair of the English department, and more recently, an associate dean of liberal arts and chairman of the humanities division. Outside of academia, Knapp serves as a writing consultant for technology and engineering companies.

"Larry is the course instructor that every student should have," enthused fellow mentor and Academic Council colleague Bill Mulkeen, who recommended Knapp for the Council when they worked together at Essex County College. "Larry shows dedication, is sincerely interested in his students and immerses himself in such a positive way into everything he does."

Knapp earned an EdD degree from Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., in 1989; his MA in English from Montclair State University in Montclair, N.J., in 1971; and a BA in English from Montclair State in 1969.

"One of the reasons I've always loved teaching is having summers free to travel with my wife and fishing," said Knapp. "With online instruction, I quickly learned that I could be fishing on any number of beaches or boats in the morning and teaching online from a business center or kiosk by that afternoon."

The flexibility has Knapp so enamored that these days he rarely finds himself in a traditional classroom setting. Knapp resides in Fairfield Harbour, N.C., with his wife Betty, a retired art therapist.

He is currently working on a bibliography, online reference and archive of Fu Manchu creator Sax Rohmer. ■



Between grading assignments, Knapp can be found on his favorite fishing pier.

SIGNALS

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

101 W. State St. • Trenton, NJ 08608-1176

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

TRENTON, NJ

PERMIT NO. 112

Undergraduate Calendar

	October 2007 Term	November 2007 Term	December 2007 Term
Registration Dates	Aug. 11 – Sept. 2, 2007	Sept. 8 – Sept. 30, 2007	Oct. 6 – 28, 2007
Late Registration	Sept. 3 – 7, 2007	Oct. 1 – 5, 2007	Oct. 29 – Nov. 2, 2007
Course Transfer Period	Aug. 11 – Sept. 7, 2007	Sept. 8 – Oct. 5, 2007	Oct. 6 – Nov. 2, 2007
Term Start Date	Sept. 24, 2007	Oct. 22, 2007	Dec. 1, 2007
Midterm Exam Week for 12-Week Term*	Nov. 5 – 10, 2007	Dec. 3 – 8, 2007	Jan. 14 – 19, 2008
Final Exam Week for 12-Week Term	Dec. 10 – 15, 2007	Jan. 7 – 12, 2008	Feb. 18 – 23, 2008
End of 12-Week Term	Dec. 15, 2007	Jan. 12, 2008	Feb. 23, 2008
Midterm Exam Week for 16-Week Term	Nov. 12 – 17, 2007	Dec. 10 – 16, 2007	Jan. 21 – 27, 2008
Final Exam Week for 16-Week Term	Jan. 7 – 12, 2008	Feb. 4 – 9, 2008	March 17 – 22, 2008
End of 16-Week Term	Jan. 12, 2008	Feb. 9, 2008	March 22, 2008

* Select 12-week courses have a midterm examination. Refer to your course materials for details.

Graduate Calendar

	Fall 2007 Term	Winter 2008 Term	Spring 2008 Term
Registration	Aug. 11 – Sept. 2, 2007	Nov. 3 – Dec. 2, 2007	Feb. 16 – March 16, 2008
Classes Begin	Sept. 24, 2007	Jan. 1, 2008	April 1, 2008
Deadline for 75% Refund	Sept. 30, 2007	Jan. 7, 2008	April 7, 2008
Deadline for 50% Refund	Oct. 7, 2007	Jan. 14, 2008	April 14, 2008
Term Ends	Dec. 15, 2007	March 22, 2008	June 21, 2008