

SIGNALS

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

FALL 2004

VOL. 7 NO. 4

Course News

Courses Available for the 2004-2005 Academic Year

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

The Following New Online Course Became Available in October 2004

HUM-102 Humanities II

The Following New Online Course Became Available in December 2004

ACC-421 Federal Income
Taxation

The Following Course Has Been Revised and Will Be Available in January 2005

COS-213 C++ Programming

The Following Online Course Will Be Available in January 2005

BIO-101 Introductory Biology

LIT-301 Advanced American
Literature I

LIT-302 Advanced American
Literature II

Beginning January 2005

Note: LIT-130 has been
canceled and replaced with:

LIT-291 Analysis and
Interpretation of
Literature

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES ACADEMIC RESTRUCTURING



Mary Ellen Caro



Dr. Susan McMullen
O'Brien



Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage



Dr. Lois C. Richardson



Dr. David Michael
Grossman



Dr. Marcus D. Tillery



Dr. Judith S. Krom

If you have read the *College Catalog* you should have noticed that each degree has been organized under new areas. This is a result of a major academic restructuring of the Division of Academic Affairs that occurred during the summer.

The academic programs have been replaced by schools. Previously, all undergraduate academic programs were under the leadership of a single academic dean. Each of the new schools is under the leadership of a dean. A new Office of Academic Partnerships & Outreach has been established as well as a new School of Professional and Continuing Studies. The development of all the College's credit bearing products will be consolidated within the Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL), and the Office of the Registrar will now fall under the auspices of the Office of Learner Services.

The College initiated the changes as a result of the profound growth experienced in many areas. "Both the growth and the diversification of our student body required a thoughtful response," said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College. The College, with more than 11,000 students and approximately 4,400 active duty military students participating in special partnerships with the armed forces, has achieved its five-year enrollment growth plan two years ahead of schedule.

The College experienced growth in enrollment numbers, and students are taking advantage of more learning opportunities while they are enrolled in the College. "We have seen annual double-digit increases in the number of course enrollments in the College," said Seaton. "This means that more students are taking more classes than in the past."

According to Seaton, the number of course delivery methods has also increased. "We've had historic diversification in the kind of e-learning methods offered by the College," he said. The College was one of the first to offer e-Pack® courses and is currently developing state-of-the-art portable

Continued on page 2.

electronic courses for sailors studying through the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE). This partnership program allows sailors to experience a challenging education while on sea duty assignments.

The academic restructuring will allow Thomas Edison State College to refine and refocus its efforts on providing quality educational opportunities for adult students. "This restructuring will allow us to focus on continued growth in course development while maintaining a quality academic experience," said Seaton. "Our long-range plan is to expand our degree offerings in the graduate area and to continue to improve our historic role in the assessment of adult learning."

The vice provost and dean of the newly created School of Professional and Continuing Studies is Dr. David Michael Grossman, who assumed his duties in September. He comes to Thomas Edison State College from Florida International University, Miami, Fla., where he was dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

"As the College has expanded partnerships with the military and corporate America, it revealed a need for educational offerings that fall outside the traditional degree structure," said Seaton. "To address this need, the School of Professional and Continuing Studies was formed." Under Grossman's leadership, the College is establishing noncredit educational offerings to meet the needs of the emerging 21st century workforce. These include certificate programs, noncredit courses and professional training.

New Deans Announced

Dr. Marcus D. Tillery has been named dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology. Tillery, who assumed his duties in August, comes to Thomas Edison State College from North Carolina Agricultural and

Technical University, Greensboro, N.C., where he was associate professor in the Department of Manufacturing Systems.

Dr. Lois C. Richardson has been named dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Richardson, who assumed her duties in September, comes to the College from Kean University, Union, N.J., where she was assistant vice president of Academic Affairs.

Mary Ellen Caro has been named dean of the School of Business and Management. Caro, who assumed duties in August, comes to the College after a 25-year career with AT&T where she was vice president of AT&T's Business Services unit.

Dr. Susan McMullen O'Brien has been named dean of the School of Nursing. O'Brien joined the staff at Thomas Edison State College in 2001 as the associate dean and director of nursing programs.

Dr. Judith S. Krom has been named dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Krom joined the staff at Thomas Edison State College in 1996 and had served as associate dean for the human services programs.

Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage has been named dean of the Graduate School. Eveslage joined the staff of the College in 1982 and previously served as dean of the graduate studies program.

According to Seaton, students should see no difference operationally as a result of the academic restructuring. "They should perceive no difference in student services," he said. "The transition has been seamless." What Seaton anticipates students will experience as a result of the restructuring are broader choices in course and degree curriculum. "The quality of the overall educational experience will be enhanced as we make more options available to our students."

Register Early to Avoid Closed Courses

Students registering for courses toward the end of a registration period sometimes may be surprised to find that the courses they want have been closed because all the sections are full.

Although there are not limited "seats" in Thomas Edison State College courses, there is a limit to the number of students that one mentor can accommodate during a semester. The College decides on the number of sections to offer in each course well in advance. These decisions are based on previous trends and current expectations. Once registration has begun for courses, it is not possible for the College to open new sections.

Two years ago, the College began offering undergraduate courses beginning every month in part so that students finding full sections at the end of one registration period could register at the beginning of the next, and have only one month's delay before beginning their course work. If you need to begin a course in a particular month, be sure to check the *Undergraduate Registration Bulletin* or the Web for registration dates. Your best strategy is to register early.

Academic Advising *Hot Topic*: Degree Completion Program Planning

The degree completion program planning process allows students to work with academic advisors and explore options for meeting degree requirements. Academic advisors assist students in integrating their learning style, background and educational goals with the credit earning methods and programs available through Thomas Edison State College. Academic advisement is offered by the College's Advisement Center, and is available to students who have received a degree audit and have enrolled in the College.

The personalized degree audit is a detailed outline of the courses/credits you have already completed and indicates what credits may be used toward a Thomas Edison State College degree. The audit also indicates what courses and credits remain to be completed to satisfy the requirements of your chosen degree program. Its purpose is to assist you and the advisors in planning for your remaining credits.

The degree audit identifies:

- ◆ requirements for degree program;
- ◆ transfer course work and Thomas Edison State College equivalencies (if applicable);
- ◆ Thomas Edison State College course work (currently enrolled and/or in progress);
- ◆ planned courses;
- ◆ GPA for courses applied toward degree; and
- ◆ notes from Thomas Edison State College staff, which appear at the end of the report (if applicable).

Once your audit is complete and you are enrolled, you are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an academic advisor who will help you identify the best overall methods for satisfying degree requirements and will suggest the specific courses or examinations you need. Program planning ensures quality in the degree planning process by providing the advisement staff with the means to monitor your progress in completing degree requirements.

Advisors are available on weekdays, Wednesday nights and on one Saturday each month. Advisement sessions may be conducted in person or by telephone. You may make an appointment by contacting the Academic Advisement staff.

- ◆ Academic Advisement Center, 101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
- ◆ Fax: (609) 777-2956
- ◆ E-Mail: enrolled@tesc.edu
- ◆ Individual appointments may be scheduled by calling (609) 292-2803.

As you work with the Advisement Center, be sure to become familiar with the *Program Planning Handbook*. This handbook is a major source of information designed to assist students in completing their degree plans. It outlines the specific policies, procedures and academic requirements of each degree. The handbook explains the methods of earning credit, the guidelines for selecting a specific method, the evaluation and advisement services available, and the program planning process. The *Program Planning Handbook* is available, along with other informative publications, on the College Web site at www.tesc.edu. Or you may request a copy of the *Program Planning Handbook* by calling the Information Center at (888) 442-8372 (weekdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., with extended hours on Wednesdays until 6 p.m.).

What You Need to Know Before Registering for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

Is Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) right for you? Valuable information is available on the College Web site that will help you determine your readiness for PLA. Knowing the requirements before registering will save you time and enhance your success. To learn all you need to know, start at www.tesc.edu/students; click on the "Ways to Earn Credit" link and find the link to Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

- While reading about PLA, be sure to follow the link to the easy self-assessment tool that will help you determine if PLA is right for you.
- Also, while visiting the Prior Learning Assessment Web page, click on the "PLA Process" link where you will find a tutorial on how to develop a PLA portfolio and get a good overview of what to expect after you enroll.
- Finally, the "PLA Course Database" link will provide you with an overview of all the policies and procedures for PLA.
- A list of standard PLA courses may be found at www.tesc.edu/catalog.
- The PLA Proposal Form for Individualized PLA courses is available at www.tesc.edu/students/support.

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DR. KENNETH A. SHAW 32nd Annual Commencement Speaker



Dr. Kenneth A. Shaw

The 32nd Annual Commencement of Thomas Edison State College was held Saturday, Oct. 16, 2004, in the Patriots Theater of the historic Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial in Trenton, N.J. During the ceremony, Kenneth A. Shaw, chancellor emeritus of Syracuse University, presented the Commencement address and received a Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa*.

As chancellor of Syracuse University, Shaw served more than 11,000 undergraduate and 4,000 graduate students. During his tenure at Syracuse, Shaw led the university through a comprehensive restructuring, which resulted in its emergence as the nation's leading student-centered research university. Prior to his service at Syracuse, Shaw was president of the University of Wisconsin System. In addition, Shaw was chancellor of the Southern Illinois University System from 1979 to 1986. Currently, he teaches seminars at Syracuse University in leadership, and serves as a consultant to business and higher education.

Shaw is past chair of the Commissioner's Advisory Council on Higher Education for the New York State Education Department. He is a member of the board of directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association and of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. He served on the New York State Governor's Commission on Education Reform and on the boards of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the American Council on Education.

Shaw earned a baccalaureate degree from Illinois State University, a master of education degree from the University of Illinois-Urbana and a doctoral degree from Purdue University.

Response for the Graduates speaker at Commencement was Charles W. Schulz of Fredricksburg, Va. Schulz, a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology recipient, is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He is an explosives demolition specialist and counterterrorism expert. He is employed by the U.S. Secret Service.

PREVIEW ONLINE COURSES ON THE COLLEGE WEB SITE

Not sure if a course is right for you? You may preview online courses before you register. To consider whether a particular course is right for you:

1. Go the College Web site at www.tesc.edu.
2. Click "Course Offerings" at the top of the navigation bar.
3. Click "View Courses by Semester" and find the semester you are planning to register for.
4. Click the Area of Study you are interested in.
5. Click the course you want.
6. Read the general course description and then scroll down the page to find links to the extended previews.
7. If the course is offered online, you will see the link "Preview the Online Course." You may view the syllabus, the textbook and materials list, the course calendar and other aspects of the course that will help you decide if it is right for you.

If the course is also offered as Guided Study, you will also see a link that will allow you to view the Guided Study syllabus.

When previewing courses, be sure to choose the correct semester, as courses are sometimes revised from one semester to the next. In most cases, textbooks and course materials are the same for Online and Guided Study courses, but occasionally different texts are used. When you order from MBS Direct—the College's textbook distributor—be certain you are ordering for the correct delivery mode.

New DANTES Fees

DANTES has increased the test fee from \$45 to \$60. Students wishing to take the test at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J., will also pay an administrative fee of \$15 for enrolled students per test date or \$45 for nonenrolled students per test date.

To obtain a copy of the registration form, contact testing@tesc.edu or call (609) 984-1181 ext. 2235.

iTESC® is a suite of electronic services available to Thomas Edison State College students via the College Web site. iTESC® enables online access to course registration, class schedules, testing schedules, tuition and fees payments, course grades, update student address information and other student-related services.

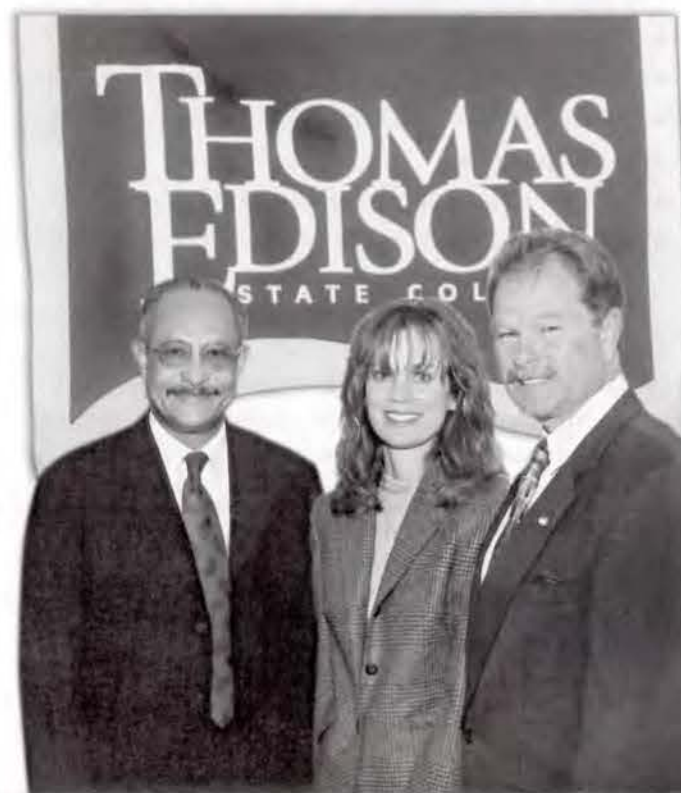
Thomas Edison State College Receives \$2 Million Endowment

Thomas Edison State College has received a gift of \$2 million from Gary and Diane Heavin, founders of Curves International, Inc., to support the development of new programs and courses, and foster overall excellence. The gift, which will create the Gary and Diane Heavin Family Endowed Fund, is the largest in the College's history.

"As an innovator who has influenced the lives of millions of women, I appreciate the educational innovations achieved by Thomas Edison State College. The College made a quality education available to me and thousands of others who wanted to further their professions," Heavin said.

The Gary and Diane Heavin Family Endowed Fund will provide funding for the development of programs and courses to be offered at a distance. Thomas Edison State College enjoys a national reputation for excellence in distance education, the assessment of prior learning and adult higher education. The College is a leader in the use of educational technologies to provide flexible, high-quality learning opportunities to self-directed adult students. The endowment will provide a continuing stream of income to facilitate the development of new degree programs and online courses.

The contribution is the second made to the College by the Heavins. An academic partnership agreement between Curves International, Inc., and the College was established in 2002. The partnership, funded at a cost of \$237,500, established certificate and degree programs in Fitness and Wellness Services. Curves franchise owners have taken



From left: Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, with Diane and Gary Heavin, founders of Curves International, Inc. The Heavins gave a \$2 million gift to the College.

advantage of these programs in conjunction with scholarships offered by Curves to further their training and enhance the quality of service they offer to their members.

"We are truly grateful for the Heavins' gift," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Their generous financial support is significant to our mission and will substantially increase educational opportunities for our students. The Heavins' gift will provide a margin of excellence for the benefit of our students."

The Heavins are internationally known in the health and fitness community, having taken Curves from one facility to the world's largest fitness center franchise in just eight short years. Headquartered in Waco, Texas, Curves is the fastest growing franchise in history, with more than 8,000

locations worldwide serving more than 3 million members. Gary Heavin received a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree from Thomas Edison State College in 2002.

"Gary and Diane's investment in the future of the College is a remarkable reflection of their vision and values, enabling the College to add depth to existing degree programs and to develop new degree programs that will give adult students more options for areas of study," said John P. Neary, chair of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. "This gift represents their commitment to the development of educational opportunities for adult students throughout New Jersey, across the country and around the world."

Dr. George A. Pruitt ELECTED TO STATE BOARD

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, was recently elected to a two-year term as president of the New Jersey Presidents' Council. The 50-member Council consists of representatives of the state's public and private universities, colleges and community colleges. The Council makes recommendations to state government on such higher education issues as new programs, regional alliances, budget and student aid levels, licensure and the statewide higher education master plan.

Pruitt, elected to the new post by peers on the Council's 15-member executive board, assumed his duties on July 1. Serving with Pruitt on the board are Dr. Edward J. Yaw, president, County College of Morris, who was elected vice chair; Sister Rosemary Jeffries, president, Georgian Court College, who will serve as board secretary; and Richard L. McCormick, president, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, who will serve as board treasurer.

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FREE ONLINE TUTORIAL SERVICE AVAILABLE

Thomas Edison State College now offers students access to the SMARTHINKING online tutorial service. If you are taking mathematics, writing, statistics, accounting, economics (macro and micro) or chemistry, we hope you will take advantage of this service. If you are taking other subjects but need help with writing, you may also access SMARTHINKING to get the help you need. Tutoring is free for our students.



Online students: You will find a link to the service on the announcements page in MyEdison for each course you are taking. This link will describe the steps you need to take to set up a personal account. You need set up an account only once, even if you use it for more than one course.



Guided Study students: Send a request to *dial@tesc.edu*, and you will be provided with the username and password you need to gain access to SMARTHINKING. Once you have the login information, go to *www.smarthinking.com* and follow the instructions to set up a personal account.