



Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • December 2007



Dr. Susan Davenport



Dr. Joseph Santora

"The curriculum presents an opportunity to combine theory with practice as students apply the knowledge they gain from their courses to their school settings."

- Dr. Susan Davenport
Dean, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences

College Launches New Leadership Degree Programs

From school districts to large businesses, Thomas Edison State College is helping to develop tomorrow's leaders in the public and private sectors with two new, innovative degree programs that focus on leadership.

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences recently launched the first online Master of Arts in Educational Leadership (MAEdL) degree program in New Jersey. The School of Business and Management has established a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership (BSOL) degree program, the latest undergraduate degree offering at the College.

Educating the Educators

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program is designed to prepare teachers and administrators to become educational leaders serving in the complex environment of elementary and secondary education. Like all graduate programs at Thomas Edison State College, the new master's program was built around the unique needs of working adults.

"The curriculum presents an opportunity to combine theory with practice as students apply the knowledge they gain from their courses to their school settings," said **Dr. Susan Davenport**, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, who played a key role in the development of the program. "The use of technology is an integral part of the curriculum and enables students to collaborate on projects, discuss ideas and research, and share best practices, while they create an e-portfolio that will serve as an opportunity for reflection and as a compilation of their learning throughout the program."

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program was built on the standards of the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC), the New Jersey Department of Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) as well as current research focusing on effective leadership practices.

Congratulations!

Katrina Oakes, military base counselor, Virginia Beach, Va, and her husband, Josh, welcomed Amelia Dulcinea into the world on Sept. 4, 2007. Oakes serves the College's military students in Virginia Beach and Hampton Rhodes, Va.

Tanisha Cox, admissions counselor, Office of Admissions, was awarded a \$25 gift certificate for the best costume during the office's Halloween Costume Contest. The celebration also included a pizza party and fun for all.



A breed apart: Information Center staff go icognito.

Updating the Vision

In the February edition of *Capital Campus*, we announced an initiative connecting the Strategic Vision Plan with a professional development curriculum designed to foster and develop leadership among the College's current and future leaders.

This year's Professional Development Workshops concluded in December. Consultants from Keeling and Associates had developed curriculum and created a full educational syllabus with various activities and facilitated half-day workshops for strategy leaders and managers of the College. These workshops included formal presentations, interactive and participatory segments, and "homework."

The series workshops addressed the following topics: Adult Learning Theory as it Pertains to Student Development; Leadership in Business and Academic Contexts; Student-Centeredness; Performance Appraisal and Communication on Feedback; Diversity; Work Processes; Strategy; and Entrepreneurial Practices. Workshop materials for these sessions will be posted on the College Intranet in the new year.

Unity is strength. . .when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.

- Mattie Stepanek

Focus On: Kejo Samuels



If the volume of applause was any gauge, **Kejo Samuels** has many admirers. He collected his award for five years of service from President George A. Pruitt at the State of the College in September, amid an audience outburst that seemed to catch even Samuels off guard. The cheers were a testament to the high level of appreciation his colleagues have for him.

Samuels, who currently works as a program assistant in the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL), began his career at the College in the Office of Test Administration. Prior to working at the College, Samuels served as a principle title clerk for the New Jersey Division of Revenue.

"I currently assist with maintaining booklists and electronic course manuals, set up the semesters and course sections in Datatel, process mentor payments and help to maintain online catalogs for our military population," reported Samuels.

For Samuels and his co-workers, the admiration runs both ways. "I consider the College staff as family, and thoroughly enjoy working here," he noted.

"We are very happy to have Kejo working in our office. His pleasant and fun personality has really livened up the place! He made a smooth transition into the workflow and has become a true asset to our office," said **Debra Terry**, instructional services manager for DIAL.

Samuels holds a New Jersey real estate license and is currently enrolled in business classes at Burlington County College. He resides in Willingboro, N.J., with his wife, Mercia, and two children: son, Marquise (age 10), and daughter, Marica, (age 5). "We love traveling!" enthused Samuels, who has even introduced his children to the adventures of white water rafting.

Familiar also with glory outside of work, Samuels coaches Willingboro Panthers football 9-and 10-year-old division. "We are currently 9 and 0 and in the playoffs! I played back in high school – that, along with my kids' enthusiasm for the sport, has inspired me to coach. We have to win two more games to completely 'take care of business' so we're all extremely psyched!"

Staff Activities

Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning, was selected to be on a panel discussion at the 2007 International Distance Education Advanced Forum, held in October in Beijing, China, where he was joined by distance learning experts from China and Europe to discuss learner support. The conference is a collaborative venture between the Chinese government and the Open University in the United Kingdom.



Dr. Joseph C. Santora, acting dean, School of Business and Management, co-authored the article, "Do leaders learn from near death experiences? Ten years after..." for the *Development and Learning in Organizations* journal published by Emerald Group Publishing Limited.



Dr. David Grossman, vice provost and dean, School of Professional and Continuing Studies, served on the keynote panel at the NJEA ESP Convention Education address on career development partnerships. The program was part of the annual NJEA Convention in Atlantic City on Nov. 8.

Dr. Penelope Brouwer, vice president for Planning and Research, and **Maureen Marcus**, assistant to the vice president, hosted a day-long marketing seminar on Sept. 28 for the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Future Business Leaders Council.

Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, executive vice provost of Thomas Edison State College, was a member of the Final Closing Keynote Panel at Corporate University Week Conference in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 4-8. During the session, "The Next Generation of Corporate Universities: Key Emerging Trends in Learning," corporate university professionals presented a synopsis of their key learnings from the conference, followed by a discussion of what each of these innovative leaders believes is the next evolutionary step for internal training organizations. The College was also an exhibitor and a sponsoring partner. Office of Strategic Partnership staff **Sylvia Hamilton**, vice provost, and **Janet Eickhoff**, account executive, also attended.



The **Office of Military Education** and **School of Applied Science and Technology** developed a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in health services technology and modified the Associate in Applied Science degree so that it can be used by all branches of the military. The office also submitted a Memo of Understanding to the Navy, which included proposed degree plans for all Navy occupations. During the last quarter, the office staff represented the College at the Troops to Teachers Conference in Colorado, the Coast Guard Symposium in Oklahoma, EANGUS (Enlisted Association of National Guard in the US) in Oklahoma, NGAUS (National Guard Association in the US) in Puerto Rico, and Ft. Sam in Houston, Texas; education fairs in Washington, D.C., and Norfolk, Va.; the grand opening of the NTC (National Test Center) in Charleston, S.C.; and the AAACE (American Association for Adult & Continuing Education) Conference.

The **Office of Learning Assessment** conducted an e-poster session at the Fourth Annual NJEDGE Conference on Nov. 2, in Plainsboro, N.J. The session, "Implementing a College-Wide Online Testing System," was presented by **Dr. Bruce Biskin**, director; **Emily Carone**, assistant director; **Dave Schwager**, assessment technology specialist; and **Lori Parker**, test development specialist.

(Staff Activities continued on back cover)

College Launches Two New Leadership Degrees

(continued from Page 1)

The program is open to educators with at least three years of teaching experience and valid New Jersey Teacher's Certification. The program prepares graduates to be school leaders who will be able to promote the achievement of all students by articulating a vision of school and student success.

Graduates of the program who hold a current New Jersey teacher's license will become eligible to earn the Principal's and Supervisor's endorsement in New Jersey.

Filling the Void

The 120-credit Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership degree program was developed to address the educational needs of the corporate, nonprofit and government sectors and provide working adults an excellent opportunity to understand the roles and personal dynamics required to be an effective organizational leader. The program can be completed entirely online.

"Market research demonstrates that there is a significant lack of leadership education among many midlevel managers and supervisors across all sectors," said **Dr. Joseph Santora**, acting dean of the School of Business and Management. "Our new program prepares managers and supervisors as leaders by providing students with a variety of leadership skills that they can use to help fill the leadership void existing in many organizations today."

The College's Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership degree program is the first of its kind offered in New Jersey with a focus on applied organizational leadership for adult learners. The program, which builds on a broad foundation of liberal arts and business topics while focusing specifically on leadership issues, enables students to transition easily into the College's Master of Science in Management program.

New Staff



Seth Aronson has been appointed associate director in the Office of Management Information Systems. Aronson is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2550.



Robert J. Burton has been appointed program advisor in the Office of Learner Services. Burton is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3300.



Dr. Catherine Kotecki has been appointed associate dean in the School of Nursing. Kotecki is located on the 3rd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 3265.



Diane Koye has been appointed director of Budget in the Division of Administration and Finance. Koye is located on the 4th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2315.



Cynthia Ventura has been appointed program advisor in the Office of Learner Services. Ventura is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3345.

College Hosts Second Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing

The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College sponsored its Second Annual Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing on Oct. 12. The one-day event, *Mentoring through Cybergogy: Building a Diverse Workforce*, promoted collaboration and provided networking opportunities for nurse educators and leaders. The lectureship was attended by nearly 70 nurses from various parts of the country.

The College's Minority Nurse Educator program was established in 2005 with a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. To date, 39 experienced minority nurse educators have completed the 32-week Certificate in Distance Education (CDE) courses; and 15 have completed the online mentored teaching component.



Pictured are (l. to r., front row) **Jovita Solomon-Duarte**, **Dr. Susan O'Brien**; (l. to r., middle row) **Dr. Mary Wall**, **Dr. Gloria Kersey-Matusiak**, **Charlotte Stoudmire**, **Dr. Meribeth Reed**; (l. to r., back row) **Robert Lucero**, **Louise Riley**, **Dr. Yvonne Wesley** and **Dr. Ngozi Nkongho**.

Staff Activities (continued from page 3)

Ray Young, vice provost for Learner Services, recently completed his graduate studies with East Carolina University (ECU). Young successfully defended his dissertation last October and was awarded an Educational Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership at ECU's winter commencement ceremony on Dec. 15.

Carla Colburn, senior program advisor, School of Applied Science and Technology, attended the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) National Conference, *Advisors as Navigators: From Orientation to Graduation and Beyond*, in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 18-21. Colburn also served on both the Conference Proposal Review Committee and the Conference Volunteers Committee.

Ying Jiang, staff assistant, Office of Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment, and **Drew Hopkins**, chief information officer, Office of Management Information Systems, attended Educause 2007 Conference in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 22-25. This year's theme was *Information Futures: Aligning Our Missions*.



Dr. Ray Young



Ying Jiang

Capital Campus is produced by the Office of Communications. To submit a story idea for the newsletter or for more information, please contact Linda Soltis at extension 2065.

