

SIGNALS

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

SPRING 2011

VOL 13, NO. 2

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dent and dean of Learner Services. "This gives students more time to plan their academic schedule and pay for courses."

According to staff in the Office of the Registrar, the extended deadlines will also benefit students entering graduate-level programs. The extra days allow students more time to ensure their graduate application package is processed before starting their courses. Both graduate and undergraduate students are advised, however – that although they will be able to register closer to the start of the term – to order their course materials as soon as their registration is confirmed so that they are prepared to begin their course work on the first day of the new term. ■

COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate courses and their availability may be found on the College website at www.tesc.edu/courses.

NEW ONLINE COURSES:

EAS-131
Introduction to Meteorology

FIN-334
International Finance

GOG-230
World Geography

LIT-460
Non-Western Literature

POS-315
International Relations I

POS-420
Conflict in International
Relations

Revised Program Gives Students 9-Credit Head Start Toward Their Master's Degree

**STUDENTS CAN EARN 9 GRADUATE CREDITS
AT UNDERGRADUATE TUITION RATE WHILE
FINISHING THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

Thomas Edison State College has revised its Bachelor's to Master's Program for undergraduate students, who can now earn 9 graduate credits at the undergraduate tuition rate and those credits will apply to both their bachelor's degree and a master's degree at the College.

"The revised Bachelor's to Master's Program gives our high-achieving undergraduate students who are serious about earning a master's degree an opportunity to earn 9 credits toward that goal," said William J. Seaton, provost and vice president of Thomas Edison State

College. "In our globally competitive environment, this will help them achieve their goals more quickly. By offering these 9 graduate credits at the undergraduate rate, students will also experience a considerable savings."

The new Bachelor's to Master's Program takes effect on July 1, 2011, and is open to students who have earned at least 60 undergraduate credits toward a bachelor's degree at the College; have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0; and have at least three years of degree program relevant experience. New undergraduate applicants may also take advantage of this program.

For more information, visit www.tesc.edu/btm. ■

Thomas Edison State College's W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Hosts Sixth Annual Distinguished Lectureship

On March 18, the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing sponsored its Sixth Annual Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing. The national event focused on mentoring opportunities for minority nurse leaders to guide future minority nurse educators in their career. Also discussed was the significance of increasing the number and diversity of nurses, nurse leaders and educators to meet the changing national demographic landscape. Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN, and CEO of the National League for Nurses in New York, was among the presenters. The lectureship is supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

Those interested in finding out more about the program, may contact the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at nursingdiversitycoordinator@tesc.edu or (609) 633-6460 or visit www.tesc.edu/nursingdiversity online. ■



First row from left to right: Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN – CEO, National League for Nurses, New York, N.Y.; Susan M. O'Brien, EdD, RN – dean, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing; Minerva Guttman, EdD, RN, NP – director and associate professor, Henry P. Becton School of Nursing and Allied Health, Fairleigh Dickinson; and Lisa Whitfield-Harris, MSN, MBA, RN – diversity coordinator, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. Second row from left to right: Kenya Beard, PhD, RN – assistant professor, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, New York, N.Y.; Louise Riley, MS, RN, BC – assistant dean for Distance Learning, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing; Prisca Anuforo, MSN, RN – assistant professor, Essex County College, Newark, N.J.; Seon Lewis-Holman, MSN, RN – director, Education and Clinical Development, Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Olufunke (Lola) L. Oyedele, MSN, RN – assistant professor, Essex County College, Newark, N.J.



John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies ANNOUNCES NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

THREE NEW ONLINE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS UNVEILED

► PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY NUTRITION

This program examines the confluence of factors and influences that cause the current epidemic of childhood and adolescent obesity. Parents, teachers, allied health/medical and fitness professionals, school administrators, caregivers and those who work with children in school, daycare or in after-school programs can benefit from this program.

► PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN FUNCTIONAL FAMILY NUTRITION

This program examines contemporary nutrition topics designed to inform individuals about the latest research on eating attitudes, food and fitness behaviors, food shopping and environmental nutrition issues surrounding organic and genetically modified foods. Content and curriculum in each course also prepares allied healthcare and fitness professionals, registered dietitians and personal trainers to map their clients' health history and lifestyle toward optimal nutritional health.

► PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN SCHOOL NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

This program covers effective health and nutrition education and school wellness policies. The program is appropriate for school administrators, teachers (both physical education and classroom teachers), health educators, nutritionists, nurses, food service providers, caregivers, PTA members, allied health/medical and fitness professionals, and parents.

To find out more about these and other noncredit certificate programs, visit www.tesc.edu/noncredit. ■

Is Prior Learning Assessment for You?

By Todd Siben
Senior Program Advisor



Todd Siben,
Senior Program Director

IF YOU ARE LIKE MANY ADULTS, A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF YOUR LIFE KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN ACQUIRED THROUGH LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT OCCURRED OUTSIDE OF A CLASSROOM. THROUGH THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE'S PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PLA) COURSES, YOU CAN USE YOUR COLLEGE-LEVEL KNOWLEDGE TO EARN THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE.

Because PLAs are such a unique method of earning credit, students often find the concept somewhat difficult to grasp. I'm going to simplify it for you and help you over the next hurdle!

WHAT IS PLA?:

The PLA process allows you to earn credit for knowledge gained through learning experiences that can be equated to what would have been learned in an accredited college course. This method of course completion provides you with the opportunity to work with a mentor to demonstrate that you already possess college-level knowledge in a subject. Our students have reported that it is one of the most rewarding ways to earn credit because it acknowledges and validates the learning they have acquired outside of a traditional classroom setting.

Students often ask if course credit can be awarded merely for life experience. The answer to this question is no. For example, we would not give you the credit equivalent for our Principles of Management (MAN-301) course because you have a business card that lists your title as 'manager'. We would, however, award credit for the same course once you articulate the knowledge you have of management theory and concepts, substantiate your associated professional accomplishments and demonstrate how those accomplishments equate with the College's MAN-301 course objectives.

I also explain to students that PLA is not necessarily about book knowledge. Being well read on a topic may not be enough for you to earn credit via this method of course completion as PLA typically focuses on "experiential" learning.

WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE MAY BE APPLICABLE?

Did you grow up in an ethnically diverse culture? Are you proficient at playing a musical instrument? Do you have an interesting hobby in which you have an in-depth knowledge? Do you serve as the 'go-to' person for your employer in Microsoft Excel solutions? If so, you may be a candidate for PLA completion.

HOW IS A PLA STRUCTURED?

A PLA course has four significant components, they include:

- A course description that you have selected
- A set of course objectives provided by the course mentor
- A narrative that you write, which is fine-tuned to address the course objectives
- A body of appropriate evidence that will prove your college-level knowledge in the subject you selected

The course description can be selected from the PLA database on the College's website. If you can't find a match there, locate a course description from the catalog of another regionally accredited college and submit the course description for approval to a Thomas Edison State College academic advisor.

The course objectives are determined by the PLA mentor and they will serve as your roadmap for satisfying the PLA requirements. Through these, the mentor conveys what capabilities/competencies someone would have if they had taken this course.

The narrative is a student statement that discusses your knowledge of the topics in the course description and correlates these to the course objectives. In the process of completing the narrative portion and tying your narrative to the course objectives, you may even uncover some new learning opportunities. In the narrative, you should also address how, when, where and why you gained this knowledge. You would then provide information on how the knowledge was applied through supporting evidence.

This evidence may include letters of reference or support, transcripts or certificates of completed training, licenses, performance appraisals from the supervisors or samples of your work. If you have targeted the performing arts, for instance, you will want to submit a video/ Web video or DVD of one of your performances. If you are a PLA candidate for Public Speaking (COM-209), you would need similar evidence. A photo of you giving a speech probably will not suffice, for instance, unless it is accompanied by a newspaper article that details your speaking engagement.

Still not sure PLA is for you? Perhaps this is a good time to speak with an academic advisor, determine what subject area your knowledge corresponds to and whether or not this potential credit can help you toward degree completion.

To learn more, click "Earning Credit for What You Already Know" on the College's homepage, or visit www.tesc.edu/4774.php to view all of the College's methods of earning credit.

Isn't it time you got the credit you deserve? ■

This year marks Todd Siben's 22nd anniversary with Thomas Edison State College. Previously, he served on the staff of Mercer County Community College, the University of Rhode Island, Northern Arizona State University, The University of Buffalo and Columbia University. He earned his Master of Arts degree at the Teachers College of Columbia University in adult and higher education. Siben has also been known to take courses at the College just to experience things from a student's perspective.

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Meet a Mentor: Dr. Bahaudin Mujtaba

Bahaudin Mujtaba's birthplace was as close to ideal as it gets; that is, until the bombs started to fall

International Management mentor, Dr. Bahaudin Mujtaba's childhood village of Khoshi in the Logar Province of Afghanistan, was set in a lush, pastoral valley surrounded by a dramatic mountain range. For the young Mujtaba, the village represented both the beauty and insulation of his youth. "It was like the town of Mayberry on the *Andy Griffith Show*," he recounted. "There were gardens, farmland, beautiful trees, animals grazing and good-hearted people everywhere. The mayor knew everyone by their first name."

By 1983, however, at the height of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the 16-year-old was forced to make a harrowing escape with his mother and younger siblings across the mountain ranges into Pakistan.

But his odyssey had just begun.

Immigrating to southern Florida with his family in 1984, Mujtaba was a stranger in a new country that he found alternately perplexing and captivating. After graduating from Fort Myers High School, he enrolled at Edison Community College in Ft. Myers where he earned an associate degree in engineering. A succession of degrees quickly followed, beginning with a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Central Florida, and a master's degree in business administration and a doctorate degree in management, along with postdoctoral work in human resources and international management, at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale-Davie.

As a professional, Mujtaba's career ascent was swift, and fitting 10-hour workdays into a formidable academic schedule was something he took in stride. Within three years of landing an entry-level job as a dishwasher for the Publix Supermarket chain, he had moved into a managerial position in the chain's baked goods division – all while completing his course work at night and on weekends. Mujtaba spent a total of 16 years

with Publix, culminating in a management position as a human resources senior trainer and executive coach. More recently, he spearheaded an international leadership consulting and publishing association and orchestrates a number of management development programs.

In an academic capacity, Mujtaba has served on the teaching staff and as a faculty administrator at Nova Southeastern University's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship since 1996, most recently as a professor of management. He has co-authored 20 books on the subjects of management development, international management, diversity and ethics and has published nearly 200 academic journal articles on related topics. He also serves



Dr. Bahaudin Mujtaba

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as a keynote speaker at national and international academic conferences and in scholarly forums.

At Thomas Edison State College, Mujtaba serves as a mentor for International Management (MAN-372) courses where he puts his expertise in organizational management, online instruction, cultural diversity and international protocol to work. "We live in an increasingly interdependent world, and the aim is to have our School of Business and Management students develop a rich understanding of the ways in which global forces can impact their businesses," he said. "The online learning model provides an effective way to gain the competencies

necessary in an increasingly global business environment."

Mujtaba's recent endeavors in helping to rebuild the Afghanistan economy prove that you can go home again.

"Since 2002, I have been working to enhance the rebuilding process in Afghanistan," he noted. "I have collaborated with the Society of Afghan Engineers in conducting three international conferences here in the

United States and in Kabul, Afghanistan, to strategize on the development of education and capacity building for the new generation of Afghans. Their economy is improving, but there is still much work to be done."

Mujtaba and his wife, Lisa, recently celebrated 24 years of marriage. The couple lives in Davie, Fla. In his spare time, he likes to jog and play racquetball, chess and tennis. He has played small parts in a Fox Television series and served as a cultural consultant for the 2008 movie *The Kite Runner* based on the best-selling book by Dr. Khaled Hosseini. ■

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Academic Calendar

June 2011 Term

July 2011 Term

August 2011 Term

Registration Dates

April 16 - May 8, 2011

May 14 - June 15, 2011***

June 21 - July 16, 2011***

Late Registration

May 9 - May 13, 2011

June 16 - June 20, 2011***

July 17 - July 21, 2011***

Course Transfer Period

April 16 - May 31, 2011

May 14 - June 30, 2011

June 21 - July 31, 2011

Term Start Date

June 1, 2011

July 1, 2011*

Aug. 1, 2011

Midterm Exam Week **

July 18 - July 23, 2011

Aug. 15 - Aug. 20, 2011

Sept. 12 - Sept. 17, 2011

Final Exam Week**

Aug. 22 - Aug. 26, 2011

Sept. 19 - Sept. 24, 2011

Oct. 17 - Oct. 22, 2011

Term Ends

Aug. 26, 2011

Sept. 24, 2011*

Oct. 22, 2011

* Dates apply to both Graduate and Undergraduate courses

** Select courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations, please refer to your course materials for details

*** The College has extended periods for registration dates and deadlines, please see cover article for details

Thomas Edison State College Partnering with Teach for America to Help Bring Educational Leaders to Underserved School Districts

Thomas Edison State College has recently formed a partnership with Teach For America, a national organization that recruits outstanding college graduates from a variety of backgrounds to teach for two years in traditionally underserved urban and rural public schools. The College is one of only three graduate schools in the state, and the only senior public institution in New Jersey, to enter into an agreement of this kind with Teach For America.

"The collaboration allows Teach For America alumni to enter seamlessly into the College's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program and provides a valuable opportunity for the organization's alumni from across the U.S. to earn a graduate degree and certification completely online," said Dr. Adrian

Zappala, assistant dean of Educational Leadership programs in the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at Thomas Edison State College.

"Our partnership provides an opportunity for Teach for America alumni to complete our nationally accredited educational leadership program and make an immediate impact on the success of their schools at the leadership level," added Zappala.

In 2009, the College's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program was granted initial accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) through December 2014. To find out more about the programs at the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, visit www.tesc.edu/1479.php. ■