



Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • February 2010

## Commitment to Excellence

*Institutional Lunch and Learn Demystifies the MSCHE's Self-Study Accreditation Process and Purpose*

**F**or colleges and universities, regional accreditation is an acknowledgment of the highest standard for excellence in education in the U.S. It is the process by which higher learning institutions demonstrate a dedication to providing the best practices in the industry.

At Thomas Edison State College, those qualities are at the very core of its mission and the upcoming Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Self-Study offers the perfect forum to demonstrate the College's commitment to those ideals.

Accredited in 1977, the College has participated in the Self-Study evaluation for reaccreditation every 10 years, a process that Provost and Vice President **William J. Seaton** and Executive Vice Provost **Mary Ellen Caro** clarified during the Jan. 20 Lunch and Learn in Prudence Hall.

"The Self-Study is aligned with our institutional commitment to assessment and ongoing quality improvement," said Caro, chair of the MSCHE Self-Study Steering Committee, which oversees the process. "The Self-Study provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate compliance

with the MSCHE Standards of Excellence and our culture of assessment."

The MSCHE is the unit of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools that accredits degree-granting colleges and universities in the Middle States region. It is a voluntary, nongovernmental, membership association that defines, maintains and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations and resources.

"The Middle States Commission on Higher Education accrediting team will be focusing on its number one priority, student learning outcomes," said Seaton. "The review team will want to see concrete results of our learning outcomes efforts and how the College plans to maintain its commitment to continuous quality by demonstrating compliance with the Standards of Excellence. The Self-Study is an opportunity for the College to showcase its achievements."

The charge to the more than 90 attendees and the College community as a whole is to "get and stay involved." Suggestions for staff are to provide the committee with input during the process, to participate in community meeting such as the Lunch and Learn and the March 23 MSCHE visit, and to stay connected with the progress of the Self-Study.



Provost and Vice President **William J. Seaton** addresses the audience during the Institutional Lunch and Learn highlighting the MSCHE Self-Study Accreditation process.

*"The Self-Study is aligned with our institution's commitment to assessment and ongoing quality improvement."*

~ Dr. Mary Ellen Caro  
Executive Vice Provost



## College Staff Gives Back

More than 50 College staff gathered to work two-hour shifts during Community Give Back Day on Nov. 23. Co-chairs **Robin Walton**, director of Community Affairs & Government Relations, and **Heather Brooks**, associate director, Human Resources, used the Academic Center as a staging area for staff volunteers who helped residents tidy up Hanover Street. "We were delighted that we had such a large response from staff," said Walton. "It was a very successful first step toward what will soon be an ongoing effort for us in giving back to our community." The College joined forces with the Residents of West Hanover Street Association, the N.J. State Library and the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection in the effort.

Pictured below (top row from left to right) are neighbors Mike Keitt Jr. and Mike Keitt Sr. of Camden Street and Thomas Edison State College staff **Susan Fischer**; (bottom row) **Tammy Conley**, **Jessica Dougherty** and **Yolanda Hernandez**.



## Holiday Spirit

In keeping with the holiday spirit, **AFT Local 4277** spearheaded a College-wide drive to collect items for infants and mothers that were donated to the Children's Home Society of New Jersey. In lieu of gift-giving for the holidays the **Office of the President** staff donated to the *The Times of Trenton* Holiday Appeal. In the spirit of the season, College staff that attended the annual **Holiday Party** at KatManDu, participated in the donation drive giving generously to the Mercer Hospital Pediatric Unit.

## Focus On: Louise Riley

For School of Nursing's **Louise Riley**, the seven-year itch is not part of the plan. Someone so dedicated rarely experiences such apathy.

Content to be approaching her seventh anniversary with the School of Nursing, what the assistant dean of Distance Learning enjoys most when comparing her years in healthcare with the ones now spent in academia, is the lack of constraint.

"What I like best about working for the College are the regular hours, no beepers on my nightstand, no weekend shifts and the wonderful people in the School of Nursing," noted Riley. "I am also impressed with the barriers the School and the College have removed for adult learners."

The path to her current position wound its way through surgical intensive care nursing, electronic medical records systems management and nursing informatics.

"I worked at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) for 30 years, 23 of those years were spent in the surgical intensive care unit as a staff nurse, caring for patients immediately after major surgeries such as transplants, neurosurgery and open heart surgery," she said. "In 1995, I was asked to be on a task force to help deploy HUP's new electronic medical records system and later, I was given a position as an analyst in their IT department."

When she saw an ad for the position she would eventually fill at Thomas Edison State College, her interest was immediately piqued. The dean was looking for someone experienced in informatics and online education. The expectations, though challenging, would offer Riley an invigorating change.

"We are very pleased that Louise chose Thomas Edison State College," said **Dr. Susan M. O'Brien**, dean of the School of Nursing. "She brought knowledge of online education and technology to the School at a time when it was desperately needed. Since that time, Louise has displayed tremendous flexibility and the abil-

ity to expand her role to meet the School's ever-changing needs."

Her workdays now involve identification, recruitment, initial approval, orientation and clarification on policy issues for the School's approximately 80 nursing mentors. She handles mentor contracts, payments and course assignments; oversees the School's registration process; handles student grievances; co-authors articles for publications; and acts as a liaison with the New Jersey State Library in ensuring that appropriate resources are available for the College's nursing students. Additionally, she assists with grant writing; administration of the current Health Resources and Services Administration grant; serves on College committees; and manages the course evaluation process as well as serving as a resource in technology-related matters.



Louise Riley, assistant dean of Distance Learning in the School of Nursing

Outside of the College, she serves as an adjunct instructor for Excelsior College and sits on that college's Curriculum Committee. Previously, she has also taught at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa., the University of Colorado's Health Sciences Center and the University of Indianapolis.

As a student, Riley had the distinction of being the first online graduate from the University of Colorado's Health Sciences Center nursing program through which she now holds an MS degree in nursing informatics. Her board certification in that field places her among an elite group of only 500 nurses nationwide who claim the distinction. She received her bachelor of science in nursing degree from Villanova University in Villanova, Pa.

Riley lives in Bucks County, Pa., with husband Jerry an employee assistance program counselor with the U.S. Postal Service. The couple – both only children – has two daughters: Allison, a second career nurse currently earning her BSN at the College, and Jennifer, a gymnastics instructor and new mother. Jennifer, who also worked at Thomas Edison State College, was Rider University's first female pole vaulter, and still holds competitive records there. The Rileys also have a new grandson, Lucas.

## Congratulations

**Donald S. Cucuzzella**, student data analyst, Office of the Registrar, and his wife, Holly, welcomed their second child, Elizabeth Mary Cucuzzella, on Nov. 12. Elizabeth Mary, who weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces, joins 2-year-old big brother, Donald.

**Michael J. Scheiring**, vice president and treasurer, and his wife, Marcia, became grandparents for the second time when daughter, Lauren, and her husband, Michael Wexler, welcomed their first son, Julian James Wexler, who was born on Jan. 4 and weighed 8 pounds, joins grandson Benjamin, son of Kristy Scheiring and Manuel Jimenez, who turned three on Jan. 2.

**Steve Mazzilli**, assistant director/academic evaluator, and his wife, Lisa, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Giada Mazzilli, who was born on Jan. 21, weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches.

**Robert Vance**, postal clerk, and his wife, Nastassia, welcomed daughter Hayden Vance who was born on Jan. 21. Hayden weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches.

The **Heavin School of Arts and Sciences's** Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program, which is designed to prepare teachers and other professionals in education to become educational leaders, has been granted initial accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) for a period of five years. "We are extremely proud and excited about our Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program earning TEAC accreditation," said **Dean Dr. Susan Davenport**. "This program's national accreditation from an organization such as TEAC recognizes the College's efforts as a whole in providing quality services for our educational leadership students."

## Staff Activities

**John P. Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs, has been elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, which is committed to advancing the general welfare and prosperity of the greater Princeton area. Thurber has also recently been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Foundation of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce.



**Dr. Marcus D. Tillery**, dean, School of Applied Science and Technology, recently received the University Division Outstanding Industrial Technology Professor Award for Region II at the 2009



Dr. Marcus Tillery (center) with presenters John Flanagan (left), president of award sponsor Goodheart-Willcox Publisher, and Ivan Mosley, ATMAE executive board chair and University Division president.

Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) Conference in Louisville, Ky. The ATMAE is a professional association for technology and technology management professionals as well as educators and students associated with the industry. The Outstanding Industrial Technology Professor Award is presented to a nominee from each ATMAE region in the University Division after a review of nominations by a selection committee. The selection is based upon a nominee's record for excellence in teaching, scholarship and service.

Senior Program Advisors **Carla Colburn** and **Todd Siben** attended a planning meeting for the Regional NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) conference recently at the Tropicana in Atlantic City. Colburn serves as a conference committee member involved in planning the regional conference. Siben attended as the New Jersey state representative, a position he acquired in April 2009. The Regional NACADA conference will be held in Atlantic City in April 2010.

**Dan Negrón**, director, Center for Academic Program Reviews, and **Peggy Allan**, program assistant, gave a presentation, *Awarding College Credits for Licenses, Certificates and Courses*, at a round-table discussion of 30 people at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) 2009 International Conference, "Working Together to Make Learning Lifelong," in Chicago on Nov. 20. This interactive presentation included discussion of key elements needed to review licenses, certificates and courses for colleges; criteria for organizations to qualify; internal buy-in and challenges within colleges; selecting evaluators; acceptance of noncollege transcripts from a variety of organizations; as well as surprises, i.e., unforeseen events in the process. The goal of the discussion was to give participants an understanding of the value of evaluating licenses, certificates and courses; and the impact and benefits to the organizations, colleges and adult learners involved. Thomas Edison State College served as of the CAEL conference sponsors.



## Welcome New Staff



**April Butler** has been appointed program assistant in the Office of Test Administration. Butler is located on the 3rd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2265.



**Gary Campbell** has been appointed military base manager, South-eastern Region, Office of Military & Veteran Education. Campbell is located in Charleston, S.C., and may be reached at (843) 764-7531



**Ellen Coleman**, has been appointed military base manager, Mid-Atlantic Region, Office of Military & Veteran Education. Coleman is located in Virginia Beach, Va., and may be reached at (757) 377-4129.



**Peter Gallagher** has been appointed assistant controller-revenues in the Office of the Controller. Gallagher is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2395.



**Shennel Georges** has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of the Controller. Georges is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2335.



**Alison Hansen** has been appointed military base manager, New England/Europe, Office of Military & Veteran Education. Hansen is located in Groton, Conn., and may be reached at (860) 326-6413.



**Steve Krecicki** has been appointed as the graduation clerk in the Office of the Registrar. Krecicki is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3140.



**Holly Leahan** has been appointed graduate practicum advisor in the School of Nursing. Leahan is located on the 3rd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 3279.



**Maria Marte** has been appointed military base manager, Hawaii and Asia Region, Office of Military & Veteran Education. Marte is located in Mililani, Hawaii, and may be reached at (808) 384-7328.



**Gerard Walsh** has been appointed associate director in the Office of Military & Veteran Education. Walsh is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 2193.

## Graduate! Philadelphia



The **Office of Admissions** hosted *Graduate! Philadelphia* (G!P) staff at the College in November. The partnership has brought 27 new enrollments to Thomas Edison State College since its inception in 2008. G!P is a joint initiative of the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board and the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania with a mission to increase the number of adults with college degrees in the Greater Philadelphia region. Pictured at left (from left to right) bottom row: Caroline Tomkins, former admissions counselor; **Andrea O. Mirsky**, program advisor; Laticia Booker, program advisor-G!P; and Monique Gilchrist, program manager-G!P. Top row left to right are: **Nia Abuwi**, associate director, Academic Advising; **Gillian B. Wyckoff**, associate director of Admissions; **Dave Anderson**, assistant vice provost for Learner Services; Sarah Byker James, program advisor-G!P; Kimberly Stephens, director of Higher Education Partnerships and Services-G!P; **Rhonda Beckett**, program advisor, Learner Services; and **Ray Young**, vice provost of Learner Services.



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