

SIGNALS

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Fall 2006

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COURSE NEWS

Note: a complete guide to all courses may be found in the College's *Registration Bulletin*.

AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 2006

ACC-201-OL	Intermediate Accounting I
MAT-105-OL	Applied Liberal Arts Mathematics

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 2006

EUT-401-OL	Regulatory Policies & Procedures
EUT-403-OL	Safety Management

AVAILABLE DECEMBER 2006

ACC-202-OL	Intermediate Accounting II
EUT-402-OL	Applied Economic Analysis

VIDEO/AUDIO CANCELLATIONS

The following courses will no longer require the use of video/audiotapes:

Course ID	Course Title
ARC-101	Introduction to Western Archaeology
AST-101	Introductory Astronomy
BUS-161	Business Mathematics
CHE-101	Survey of Chemistry
COM-120	Introduction to Mass Communications I
COM-121	Introduction to Mass Communications II
COS-116	C Programming
ECO-490	International Economics
ENC-101	English Composition I
ENC-102	English Composition II
HIS-101	Western Civilization I
HIS-102	Western Civilization II
HIS-302	The Renaissance: Origins of the Modern West

(continued inside)

Family Practice

Very little escapes diagnosis in the Cybulski and Mack households.

Sisters Donna Cybulski and Debbie Mack are both registered nurses (RNs) at Virtua Health who are pursuing their nursing degrees through the School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College. Their husbands, Ed and John, respectively, are also RNs at Virtua.

Cybulski is a registered nurse and staff development specialist for Virtua Health. In addition, she teaches in Burlington County College's nursing lab and is also enrolled in the RN/BSN-MSN program at Thomas Edison State College. For the Laurel Springs, N.J., resident, Thomas Edison State College stood out almost immediately.

"I had done some investigating, and liked what I saw," said Cybulski. "I wanted to advance my career. Once I started accumulating credits, it became personal. I was reminded of how good it felt to set a goal for myself and achieve it. The biggest advantage is the ability to do course work at my own pace."

Mack, who is enrolled in the RN/BSN program, said her education has provided her with the flexibility she craved and more opportunities within the profession.

"My nursing education has taken me in many directions other than a traditional nursing career," she said. "Through my course work, I've been able to create my own pathway – and it's been a diverse one at that! I'm also an instructor at Camden County College and am now thinking of pursuing my MSN – especially since I truly love teaching."



Thomas Edison State College School of Nursing Students Debbie Mack and Donna Cybulski.

Mack is a manager of employee health and safety at Virtua Health's Camden, N.J., division. Her department provides tuberculosis, respiratory and fitness testing and flu vaccines to Virtua Health's 7,400 employees.

"We also handle Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) record-keeping for Virtua's facilities," she said.

Virtua Health, the largest healthcare provider in South Jersey, recently signed agreements with Thomas Edison State College, which enable their staff and nurses to maximize the hospital's tuition assistance program and enroll in the Thomas Edison State College's undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

continued on inside

A Wealth of Information at Your Fingertips When You Need It

As a Thomas Edison State College student, you've made the commitment to finish your education and the New Jersey State Library is committed to giving you the online resources that will help you to achieve your goal.

Through [QandANJ.org](http://www.QandANJ.org), students can find answers to specific questions or obtain assistance in researching a specific topic any hour of the day or night. By visiting www.QandANJ.org, the user interacts with a librarian who responds with relevant Web sites, articles from specialized databases, multimedia files and other pertinent information directly to the user via e-mail. If your question involves lengthy research, they will get you started and provide a referral for you.

Another valuable resource: www.JerseyClicks.org can help you when you need to reference a newspaper, magazine or journal article for an assignment. JerseyClicks allows an individual to search up to 30 online resources at one time on any topic such as business, education, science, history, health and literature. You will get a selection of full-text articles from current newspapers, magazines and journals including *The New York Times*, *Fortune*, *American Fitness* and *U.S. News & World Report*, all free with your library card.

If you do not yet have a New Jersey State Library card, visit: http://www.njstatelib.org/Collections_and_Services/How_to_Borrow/tesc_reg_form.php and complete the online registration form. Once your account has been created, you will be contacted via e-mail and a card will be mailed to you. You may also register for a card by calling (609) 292-6277.

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What's New in Instructional Design



Aaron Appelstein, course developer, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL)

Aaron Appelstein, course developer in the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning, has developed a tutorial on the WebEQ equation editor, Blackboard Learning System's Math and Science Notation Tool. The WebEQ equation editor allows students and mentors to write mathematical expressions for display in discussion threads and on assessments directly in MyEdison's Blackboard without having to use file attachments.

Students enrolled in online courses currently use WebEQ in all their mathematics courses.

"Students in math and science courses are typically required to post answers to exercises and problems on the class Discussion Board showing their work and solutions. Others in the class are then asked to comment on or correct the proposed solutions. WebEQ promotes more immediate interactions among students and mentors by eliminating the need for using software applications outside the Blackboard learning environment and provides a convenient alternative to file attachments," said Appelstein.

According to Director of Instructional Design & Development Cynthia MacMillan, "A secondary purpose in trying to encourage students to use WebEQ is that as we move to online testing, students will need to use WebEQ to show their work in exams. Having them use WebEQ during discussion threads helps students feel more confident when it comes time to apply it to exam responses."

To launch the equation editor from within a discussion thread or through an essay question on an assessment, click the WebEQ icon (\sqrt{x}). This opens the Math and Science Notation Tool in a new window. Use the equation templates and symbols available in the toolbar to create equations.

To view the brief tutorial, visit:

http://myedison.tesc.edu/tescdocs/Web_Courses/scripts/WebEQ2.swf

COVER STORY (Continued)

Registered nurses at Virtua Health may enroll in the College's School of Nursing to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. The School of Nursing also offers a Nurse Educator Certificate program to registered nurses who have a MSN.

Cybulski, in her role as staff development specialist for student affiliation, is the liaison between Virtua Health applicants and the College's School of Nursing.

"The course materials, structure and mentors at Thomas Edison State College are great, but communicating with fellow nursing students is probably the most beneficial part for me. It helps me to see things from a host of perspectives," said Cybulski. "In our field, this kind of interaction is not only enriching, it's crucial." ■

COURSE NEWS (Continued)

LIT-101	Introduction to Modern English and American Literature I
LIT-102	Introduction to Modern English and American Literature II
LIT-202	Literary Roots of Western Culture
MAN-230	Introduction to Entrepreneurship
MAN-432	Small Business Management
MAT-121	College Algebra
MAT-231	Calculus I
PHY-111	Physics I
PHY-112	Physics II
PSY-300	Thanatology: An Understanding of Death and Dying
PSY-350	Abnormal Psychology
SOC-210	Marriage and the Family
SOS-150	Self Assessment and Career Exploration
STA-201	Principles of Statistics

DVDs and CDs will be available by early 2007 for courses requiring video and audio components.

News from the School of Nursing

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program officially opened July 1, 2006. To date, there are 29 students representing six states including New Jersey enrolled in the MSN degree program, and 75 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program who have indicated their intent to continue onto the MSN degree at Thomas Edison State College. To accommodate students who wished to begin their program with the July term, the Office of Admissions began accepting applications for the MSN degree in May. Three graduate nursing courses required for both the BSN and MSN degrees were offered in the July term.

Additional required courses for the MSN degree program are ready to be added to the schedule as warranted by registrations. Visit www.tesc.edu/nursing/ for more information.

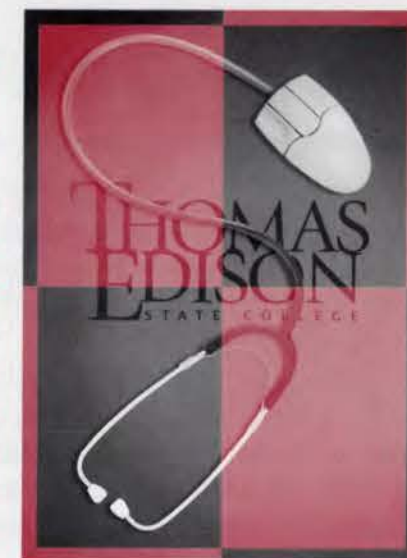


photo courtesy of Lynsay Megargle

The Second Annual Induction Ceremony for Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing admitted 32 new members during a July ceremony. Students, alumni, community nurse leaders, mentors and professional staff were among those inducted. Students and graduates must have completed one-half of the nursing curriculum and have no more than 9 credits remaining in general education requirements, have at least a 3.0 grade point average and rank at the top 35 percent of the graduating class to qualify for the society.

The purpose of the society is to recognize superior academic achievement and the development of leadership qualities, to foster high professional standards, to encourage creative work, and to strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the nursing profession. ■

Mentor Profile: Prof. Charles "Bill" Kenny

When it comes to understanding education at a distance, Prof. Charles "Bill" Kenny knows the subject well — from both sides.

Kenny has been a mentor at Thomas Edison State College for four years and, as someone who earned his degree as a nontraditional student, wanted to use his experiences and skills to help other adult learners.

"I wanted to take the experiences I had and help others trying to complete their degrees in the same way," he said. "I especially like what Thomas Edison State College has to offer because, as a retired career Air Force officer, I can relate to what the distance learning students are facing, especially those in the armed forces. I have been there!"

Kenny has taught at the college and university level for more than 25 years. He started teaching as a full-time instructor in the U.S. Air Force Professional Military Education program in 1979 and as adjunct instructor in traditional course work in 1980. His current job as an international business consultant takes him all over the world, so he needed to find a way to keep teaching while traveling.

"It's not unusual for me to be signing on from the Czech Republic or South Korea," said Kenny. "I also split my time between homes in Florida and Maine, so online mentoring fits my life-style perfectly."

Kenny, who found Thomas Edison State College while doing an Internet search of distance learning colleges for teaching opportunities, mentors online courses in American Government, Business Ethics,

International Economics and Personal Finance for the College. In addition to the general student population at Thomas Edison State College, Kenny teaches online courses to military students who are enrolled through the eArmyU and Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) programs.



Prof. Charles "Bill" Kenny

Kenny, who frequently advises students about which type of learning may be better for them, noted that online learning is not easier than traditional face-to-face classes, but it is more convenient.

"I tell students that there are many benefits to an online course; for example, you can take your time to form your answers before discussing them in the discussion boards and you can learn so much from the myriad of experiences that students have," he said. "I find that you have much more diversity represented in online classes, and that can only be a good thing, especially in my classes in international economics and business ethics."

Kenny said adult learners considering an online course must be self-disciplined and willing to actively and frequently take part in the online discussions.

"It's almost like checking your e-mail daily. If you do this, you will soon be in a routine, and it won't take as much time in one block and you will not feel overwhelmed," he said. I believe the real learning takes place in the discussions where we all learn from 'real-world' experiences. I think that is one of the biggest selling points of distance learning."

Kenny earned his associate degree in personnel (now called human resources) from the Community College of Air Force, a baccalaureate degree in management from Western New England College in Springfield, Mass., and his Master in Public Administration in urban management from University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. He also holds a Certificate in Management from the International City Managers Association and is Level III Certified in Program Management and Acquisition Logistics.

Kenny also teaches courses in business and technology, and critical thinking for DeVry University Online, and teaches for Southern New Hampshire University online and at its Brunswick Maine Center as a professor of leadership studies in its graduate program.

He lives in Freeport, Maine, and Ocala, Fla., with his wife of nearly 40 years, Kathy. They have one adult son, Tim. ■

PLA: The Credit You Deserve

It's likely that a significant amount of knowledge you've amassed wasn't acquired in the classroom, but did you know that type of learning can often translate to college-level credit?

With the proper guidance and documentation, you may be sitting on an academic storehouse you never realized you possessed. But first, you'll need to be prepared to document your experience in a structured way.

"As a Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) candidate, you should definitely be prepared to bring legitimate experience to the table and be able to substantiate it in an orderly way," stressed Thomas Edison State College student Brian Bovyn.

A Bachelor of Science in Human Services major, Bovyn has completed three PLA courses that complement his focus in emergency disaster services: Police Instructor Development; Public Speaking; and Interpersonal Communications. Bovyn is a supervisor for the Manchester, New Hampshire, police department and has just completed his Certified Emergency Manager® credentialing.

Once Bovyn identified a Standard PLA course on which to match his expertise, he set about organizing the material. "I was very mindful about breaking out and matching my submissions to specific course objectives for my PLA mentor," said Bovyn. "I completed each of my three courses within a four-week period, which I'm very elated about."

Documented learning from full- or part-time jobs; independent reading or study; training programs; in-service courses; volunteer work; cultural and artistic pursuits; community or church activities and service; military service; or organizational membership are all fair game.

A course mentor will help you through the process of documenting your mastery of the course objectives through the development of an electronic portfolio.

Bovyn has seen plenty of mention of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) in Thomas Edison State College's publications and online, but suspects the method of course completion is largely underutilized by fellow students.

According to Bovyn, "Once you understand the mechanism, you'll be much less intimidated. Many students that I've spoken to seem to lack the confidence to take on this method of course completion, but they shouldn't be, there's a high success rate among those that attempt PLA, and turning the expertise you've already acquired into credits toward a degree is a very gratifying experience."

"Online PLA courses are 12 weeks, but as Brian Bovyn experienced, if the course mentor determines that you are able to demonstrate college-level mastery in a shorter period, you may be permitted to do that," said retired PLA Specialist Dr. Maureen Keller. "There are more than 120 Standard PLA courses listed under 'Course Offerings' at www.tesc.edu. If you do not see a Standard PLA course listed that matches your college-level learning, don't let that stop you because you can always propose an Individualized PLA course that does. To explore



BSHS in emergency disaster services student Brian Bovyn is familiar with learning outside of a classroom. A supervisor with the Manchester, N.H., Police Department, Bovyn was recently approved as a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®) by the International Association of Emergency Managers, is a certified trainer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and a certified assessor with the Emergency Management Assessment Program (EMAP). Bovyn encourages those with the experiential chops to strongly consider Thomas Edison State College Prior Learning Assessment courses.

possible Individualized PLA courses, visit www.tesc.edu/plasearch. The choice of college courses you could pursue through the PLA option is almost boundless — they need only be offered by any regionally accredited college in the United States."

To learn more about the PLA process, visit <http://www.tesc.edu/prospective/undergraduate/credit/pla.php>. ■

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SIGNALS

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Undergraduate Calendar	November 2006 Semester	December 2006 Semester	January 2007 Semester
Registration Dates	Sept. 9 – 29, 2006	Oct. 7 – 27, 2006	Nov. 4 – Dec. 1, 2006
Late Registration	Sept. 30 – Oct. 6, 2006	Oct. 28 – Nov. 3, 2006	Dec. 2 – 8, 2006
Course Transfer Period	Sept. 9 – Oct. 6, 2006	Oct. 7 – Nov. 3, 2006	Nov. 4 – Dec. 8, 2006
Start Date	Oct. 23, 2006	Nov. 30, 2006	Jan. 1, 2007
Proctor Request forms due	Nov. 3, 2006	Dec. 8, 2006	Jan 5, 2007
Midterm exam week for *12-week term	Dec. 4 – 9, 2006	Jan. 15 – 20, 2007	Feb. 12 – 17, 2007
Final exam week for 12-week term	Jan. 8 – 13, 2007	Feb. 19 – 24, 2007	March 19 – 24, 2007
End of 12-week term	Jan. 13, 2007	Feb. 24, 2007	March 24, 2007
Midterm exam week for 16-week term	Dec. 11 – 16, 2006	Jan. 22 – 27, 2007	Feb. 19 – 24, 2007
Final exam week for 16-week term	Feb. 5 – 10, 2007	March 19 – 24, 2007	April 16 – 21, 2007
End of 16-week term	Feb. 10, 2007	March 24, 2007	April 21, 2007

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

Graduate Calendar	Winter 2007	Spring 2007
Registration	December 2006	March 2007
Classes Begin	Jan. 1, 2007	April 2, 2007
Weekend Residency	Weekend of January 5	Weekend of March 30
Deadline for 90% Refund	Jan. 14, 2007	April 15, 2007
Deadline for 50% Refund	Jan. 28, 2007	April 29, 2007
Classes End	March 17, 2007	June 16, 2007
Term Ends	March 24, 2007	June 23, 2007

Applying to the Graduate School:

Applications are reviewed throughout the year, and students who are accepted are placed into the next available cohort. Cohorts begin four times a year:

TO BEGIN IN	APPLY BY
October	Aug. 15
January	Nov. 15
April	Feb. 15
July	May 15