

Capital Campus

JUNE 2017

University Celebrates 30 Years of Online Course Delivery

So-Called "Fad" Redefined Degree Completion

The U.S. Stock Market was heading toward a plunge, the Iran-Contra affair dominated the headlines and *Platoon* won an Academy Award for Best Picture in 1987. And, in March of that year, Thomas Edison launched its first online course.

In March, Thomas Edison State University celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network, an innovation that enabled students to take courses and access college services via a dial-up computer network.



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A \$1.8 million Challenge Grant awarded by the N.J. Board of Higher Education in 1986 under the Kean administration supported the development of this new type of course delivery. The three-year grant helped create a network that enabled Thomas Edison students to access courses via a dial-up computer conferencing system.

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- Drew Hopkins, chief information officer, Office of Management Information Systems (MIS)

"Other institutions believed the CALL Network to be a fad rather than a long-term alternative to brick-and-mortar course delivery methods," recalled **Drew Hopkins**, chief information officer, who facilitated the 1987 launch of the institution's first network-assisted courses. "The foundation for the internet was still in its infancy, so in order to provide access to CALL from anywhere in the country, we had to provide dial-up access points that provided

Fittingly, the first course offered was "The Adult Years: Continuity and Change," and 15 students were enrolled. By 1991, Guided Study on CALL courses, as they were renamed, became available to the general population of students. By 1995, the increasing ubiquity of personal computers and internet use fueled distance learning opportunities along with the institution's expanding course offerings.

William J. Seaton, provost and vice president, who was director of the Center for Learning through Telecommunications at the time, noted, "It was an invigorating time. We were combining rapidly emerging technologies seeking the most effective combination to support adult learners. There were pedagogical challenges as well as technical ones, but we all shared a sense that this was going to be a game changer, and it has been. I have always admired our pioneering students who were both brave and persistent enough to take this journey with us. They truly embodied the Edison spirit of innovation."

Other current staff instrumental in those early days were **Hope Smith**, education technology specialist, Management Information Systems, and **Noreen O'Donnell**, assistant administrator, Student Fees and Revenues, who provided administrative support for the project.

There is little doubt of the widespread acceptance of online courses today. According to a recent survey performed by the Babson Survey Research Group, *Online Report Card: Tracking Online Education in the United States*, 28 percent of postsecondary students in the U.S. now take at least one distance education course. This population of nearly 6 million students is now growing by an average of 217,275 students per year.

Today, thousands of adults, from active duty military service members to registered nurses, who cannot sacrifice time away from their professional and personal responsibilities, depend on the University's online courses and exams to advance their education.

Focus On: Jaclyn Joworisak

If you have ever attended one of the Thomas Edison State University Foundation events, you know that a great time is had by all. However, what you don't see is all the work that goes into making these events fun-filled successes.

Every year, the Foundation hosts the Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic and the Grande Ball. These two events raise funds and friends, and the driving force behind both is **Jaclyn Joworisak**, donor relations and advancement associate, Office of Development.

"I oversee all aspects of the Foundation's two special events: the Golf Outing in the spring and Grande Ball in the fall," Joworisak explained. "Overseeing these events includes all aspects of planning from the day of execution to post-event follow up. I am always thinking about our attendees' experience and how I can improve our events and include the TESU mission and message, so that attendees know what they are supporting and why it is important."

Behind the scenes event-planning tasks include selecting a venue; working with the event committees; coordinating the vendors; soliciting and tracking the participants; overseeing supporter recognition at the event (signage, ad journal, etc.), managing the volunteers, ensuring the timing and scheduling of the event; stewarding and thanking the donors and much more.

Joworisak also manages the Foundation's donor cultivation and stewardship plan to improve the donor experience and build donor retention.

"I like interacting with our sponsors and donors, and I enjoy getting to know them and making a TESU connection," she said. "But what I like most about my work at the University is the people in my department. They are like family to me, and I feel lucky to have them as colleagues and friends."

Joworisak joined the University as a full-time employee in October 2010, but was already familiar with the institution because she served as an intern in the Office of Marketing and College Relations in 2004 while she was a senior at Rider University.

"I met **Marie Power-Barnes** in the spring of 2004 when she was one of my communications professors at Rider," Joworisak noted. "She introduced me to TESU and afforded me the internship opportunity for which I am forever grateful."

"Jax' was one of my first students at Rider and, in my more than 14 years of teaching, she remains one of my most memorable students," said Power-Barnes, director, Market Research and Assessment, Division of Institutional Planning and Research. "Not only was she bright, but she had an enthusiasm, drive and work ethic coupled with a humility and empathy that I rarely see in undergraduate students. She was my first choice for the TESU internship and did an exceptional job. Little did I know then that in just a few short years she'd be back as a full-time member of the Thomas Edison team, where those same qualities would serve her well in her role here."

Spare time is spent with family.



Jaclyn Joworisak, donor relations and advancement associate, Office of Development

Joworisak and her "wonderful husband," Dan, who have been married for nearly seven years, have two "fun, energetic and lovable little boys," Spencer (5) and Nolan (2).

"The boys keep us very busy," she enthused. "Dan and I both coach Spence; Dan in Tee-ball, and I helped coach basketball last winter. I am also active in Spence's preschool, and I volunteer and participate in many of his class activities."

Recently moving to Holland, Pa., from Yardley, Joworisak noted, "We love the Bucks County area and wanted to move into what we hope will be our forever home before Spence starts kindergarten in the fall." Joworisak and her family also spend as much time as they can at the shore in Ocean City, N.J., at her parents' beach house. "I am the middle child with an older sister and younger brother, and they are my best friends and the best aunt and uncle in the world, so we see them all as often as we can."

Golf Classic 2017



Staff volunteers at the 23rd Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic held at The Ridge at Back Brook in Ringoes, N.J., on May 8. Pictured, from left, are **Jenn Montone**, **Fred Brand**, **Jennifer Guerrero**, **Leanne Kochy**, **Jaclyn Joworisak**, **Erica Spizzirri**, **Meg Frantz**, **Judy Lucas**, **Misty Isak** and **Li-yun Young**. Not pictured are **Linda Soltis** and **Michael Martucci**.

March Lunch and Learn



During the March Lunch and Learn, **Katie Brommer**, assistant director of digital communications, Office of Communications, presented an overview of the University's activities on social media as demonstrated by the internet's favorite content: cats.

Brommer explained how understanding the University's audience and delivering relevant, valuable content they want lends credibility to the TESU brand and generates awareness. Brommer demonstrated how the University grows engagements by sharing thoughtful content ideation with different styles, voices and formulas for each social network, which impacts how and when posts are published, distributed and promoted. She also shared several social media success stories of how students and the general public have been positively affected by the University's activities on Facebook, Twitter and the TESU Blog.

Most notably, Brommer also explained how instrumental the knowledge of TESU staff could be for social media. If you are interested in becoming a blog author or sharing your ideas for social media posts, email Brommer at kbrommer@tesu.edu.

Staff Activities

Marc Singer, vice provost, Center for the Assessment of Learning, presented at the Parchment Summit on Innovating Academic Credentials in Washington, D.C., in March. Singer participated on the panel, "Employers as the New Accreditor," with Judith Eaton, president of CHEA; Cody Cleverly, JetBlue Airways; and Burck Smith, CEO of StraighterLine. Paul Fain of *Inside Higher Education* moderated the discussion.



Marc Singer

Dr. Michael Williams, dean, School of Business and Management, moderated a discussion on Trends and Issues in Higher Education: South Jersey Region, at the Expo Breakfast in Cherry Hill, N.J., in April. The panelists, Dr. Ali Houshmand, president, Rowan University; Dr. Harvey Kesselman, president, Stockton University; and Dr. Phoebe Haddon, chancellor, Rutgers University-Camden, discussed the evolution of higher education South New Jersey.



Dr. Michael Williams

Janet Eickhoff, associate vice president, Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, and **Tom Phillips**, associate director, Strategic Partnership Initiatives, presented to *Study.com's* Mountain View (Calif.) Working Scholars Program students in March.



Misty Isak

Kelli Parlante-Givas, director of Strategic Partnership Management, visited UPS Minneapolis; this was a first for TESU. Parlante-Givas and **Donald Cucuzzella**, assistant director, School Of Applied Science and Technology, exhibited at the Women in Aviation Conference in March.



Frederick S. Brand

Misty Isak, associate vice president, Office of Development; **Frederick S. Brand**, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations; and Nicole Lembo, supervisor of Academic Programs at JetBlue Airways, presented at the 2017 CASE Annual Conference for Corporate and Foundation Officers in Chicago in May.



Dr. Dennis W. Devery

Dr. Dennis W. Devery, vice president for Institutional Planning and Research, was selected to participate in a prestigious, nationally recognized training program designed to strengthen capacity and build leadership in American higher education.

Wendy Lang, director, Operation College Promise (OCP), presented five keynote addresses at the 2017 Spring Regional Workshop Series Scaling Veteran Success Strategies to Your Campus Resources in Michigan highlighting the national work of OCP.



Wendy Lang

Craig R. Smith, director of Veteran Affairs, attended a play at the Two River Theater in Red Bank, N.J. and participated in a post-play discussion in April. The post-play discussion focused on challenges faced by veterans transitioning into civilian life and the help that higher education can provide.



Craig R. Smith

Take Your Child To Work Day 2017



Activities and learning were on the agenda for the Take Your Child to Work Day at Thomas Edison State University on April 27. More than 30 sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren attended the event that included a greeting by Vice President **John Thurber**, a tour of the New Jersey State House, a game of TESU BINGO and a pizza party.

"It was a wonderful experience for my son to see what we do here, and to give him a better understanding of how we aim to assist adults in accomplishing their goals," said **Matthew Brown**, systems coordinator, Management Information Systems. "It was equally rewarding for me to introduce him to my TESU family. As we all tend to share stories of our families with one another, it was nice to finally put faces with names for all of the children I get to hear about."

Welcome New Staff



John Schaible has been appointed controller in the Division of Administration and Finance. Schaible is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2457.

Women's Professional Network at TESU

The Women's Professional Network (WPN) of Thomas Edison State University welcomes employees of the University and New Jersey State Library to gather to network, support and promote the interests of women both on campus and in the community.

Below are the group's upcoming events for the months June, July and August:

> **June 15, Walking Club:** Meet in front of the NJSL at 12:30 p.m.

> **June 20, General Membership Meeting:** Prudence Hall from noon -1 p.m.

> **July 20, Walking Club:** Meet in front of the NJSL at 12:30 p.m.

> **August 1, Book Club:** *Eat That Frog! 21 Great Ways to Stop Procrastinating and Get More Done in Less Time* by Brian Tracy at the NJSL at noon

> **August 17, Walking Club:** Meet in front of the NJSL at 12:30 p.m.

CONGRATS!

Charles Breining, program assistant, Office of Test Administration, and his wife, Erin, welcomed Lucas Charles on May 6. Lucas, who weighed in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches, is the first grandchild of retired long-time colleague, Rose Breining.



April Lunch and Learn



Thomas Edison, which has been fully accredited for more than 37 years, is required to do a self-study report to renew its distinction every 10 years; however, a Periodic Review Report (PRR) is also required in the interim.

During the April Lunch and Learn, Provost **William Seaton**, along with PRR co-chairs Associate Provost **Kathleen Melilli** and Dean **John Woznicki**, presented an overview of the University's activities to prepare for this year's PRR.

A major accreditation event, the PRR occurs five years after the institution's self-study report and its focus is on recommendations made by the visiting self-study team. It is a retrospective, current and prospective look at the condition of the institution. Also, provided to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) at the same time is a report on the Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations, which show evidence of ongoing compliance with Requirements of Affiliation, Standards for Accreditation and accreditation-relevant Federal Regulations. The University was required to submit its PRR to MSCHE by June 1, 2017.

To learn more about the Periodic Review Report or MSCHE, links to both can be found in the myEdison® Staff Portal under Academic Affairs, Provost Office.

Community Involvement Fair



The Community Involvement Fair brought together 45 nonprofit organizations from the Trenton area and more than 120 attendees to the University. The event, held on May 2, informed TESU staff and community participants of the power of networking, collaboration and volunteerism. Pictured, from left, is **Olga Napoleon**, professional services specialist, Office of Facilities and Operations, who visited with Trenton YMCA representative Ayo M. Johnson-Richardson, chief operating officer.