

SIGNALS

T H O M A S E D I S O N S T A T E C O L L E G E

SPRING 2007

VOL. 9 NO. 3

A Course for Every Taste

Alumna Elizabeth A. Quinn found good reason to utilize almost every form of course completion Thomas Edison State College has to offer. From online courses, to exam-focused e-Pack® and TECEP®s, to Prior Learning Assessments that capitalized on her college-level knowledge — she explained why one, or all, may be exactly what you are looking for.

"I found e-Packs® useful when I was looking for a self-paced, accelerated method of course completion," said Quinn, who earned her BA in psychology from Thomas Edison State College in 2006 and is an Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society member. "I found myself concentrating more on exam content than the breadth of subject matter, but this method alleviated written assignments and could be a boon for someone who is disciplined and looking toward completing degree requirements in a shorter period of time."

Courses in an e-Pack® are structured around delineated content and online diagnostic quizzes that prepare students for a comprehensive proctored final exam. Students will soon be able to take the exams online at ACT testing centers. A typical term lasts 12 weeks, but many students take advantage of the option of scheduling their comprehensive final examination before the end of that period.

"I also enjoyed the TECEP® and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) courses," noted Quinn. "I took Introduction to Counseling as a TECEP® and it was a breeze for me because I was very interested and already somewhat familiar with the subject matter. I had previously taken a course in writing for children, so I used PLA to gain credit for what I had learned. Putting the PLA portfolio together for this class was really stimulating and I also had a great mentor to work with who guided me through the evaluation."

Quinn also enjoyed the camaraderie she found in taking online courses. "In my last semester, I took four courses online that were a real joy because of the large number of articulate, well-informed people enrolled that shared discussion boards with me. The ability to discuss course topics with fellow students really stimulated learning and solidified the experience."



Alumna Elizabeth A. Quinn, BA '06

A large number of students like Quinn navigate among the variety of course methods with relative ease.

According to Dr. Garry Keel, assistant director, Office of Learner Services, "Many of our students take advantage of our entire complement of credit-earning options. Having multiple options is what many of our adult students tell us is the most significant benefit in attending Thomas Edison State College."

Quinn contends that there is a degree completion method to suit every style, and added, "I would encourage people to take a look at all of the methods of credit available at Thomas Edison State College."

To explore the methods of course completion the College has to offer, visit www.tesc.edu on the "Current Students" drop-down menu choose "Ways to Earn Credit." ■

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate courses and their availability may be found on the College Web site. Go to www.tesc.edu and click on the link for "Course Offerings."

NEW ONLINE COURSES:

AOJ-102-OL Introduction to Criminal Justice

EUT-404-OL Programmable Logic Controllers

MAN-376-OL Leadership Communication

MAT-119-OL Quantitative Business Analysis

PSY-352-OL Psychology of Personality



A Key Research Tool: A Library Card from the New Jersey State Library *Provides access to nearly 200 databases and more!*

Thomas Edison State College students now have the option of ordering a New Jersey State Library (NJSL) borrower's card online. Students with a borrower's card have access to the library's valuable research resources and nearly 200 databases. The card can be ordered by visiting <http://www.njstatelib.org> and typing "register as a borrower" in the search window at the upper right side of the screen.

Students can also visit the New Jersey State Library Information Center's homepage at <http://www.njstatelib.org/CyberDesk/>. By clicking on the link for "Services To Thomas Edison State College," students can find help in a range of areas specifically tailored to their needs.

Search for full-text articles in the NJSL databases; or, if the library has the print journal article you need, NJSL staff will make a copy and mail it to your address. Even more valuable to students, is the professional research help available from the staff librarians in the NJSL Information Center, who can be reached by dialing (609) 292-6220. They can assist you in locating articles and resources appropriate for your research topic.

Librarian Norma E. Blake noted, "The New Jersey State Library is pleased to provide students of Thomas Edison State College with an easy way to get a library card that affords them access to the abundance of services we offer at the library and online. I encourage all students to take advantage of these premier services." ■

Thomas Edison State College Diversity Coordinator Leads the Charge in Recruiting and Training Minority Nurse Educators

When Jovita Solomon-Duarte was 22 years old, she migrated to the United States from the Philippines to fulfill her dream – to become a nurse leader and educator. Transitioning to the mainstream American culture and learning American healthcare practices were not easy; however, Solomon-Duarte sees it as an advantage in her career, noting, "I can relate to the stories of minority nurses because I am one."



Solomon-Duarte, MSN, RN, CCRN, joined Thomas Edison State College in October 2006 as diversity coordinator for the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration grant, which was awarded to the School of Nursing. The \$600,000 federal grant is being used to recruit and prepare minority nurse educators in online education and to develop a collaborative network of diverse nurse faculty members to enhance nursing programs nationwide. Her responsibilities include recruitment and selection of minority educators to be trained in online pedagogy; preparation and coordination of the annual distinguished lectureship; and development of an online minority nurse educator database.

"The potential impact of the grant project that I coordinate for Thomas Edison State College School of Nursing can vastly change nursing education and the healthcare landscape," Solomon-Duarte explained.

For the past 16 years, Solomon-Duarte has held positions in nursing management, staff development and education. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (cum laude) from University of Pangasinan, Philippines; and Master of Science in Nursing, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner focus (with honors) from Seton Hall University's online program. She is nationally certified in Pediatric Critical Care Nursing by American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), and a certified Pediatric Advanced Life Support Instructor by American Heart Association (AHA).

Solomon-Duarte is an active community nurse leader and educator. She is a member of the adjunct faculty at Trinitas School of Nursing evening and weekend division; an executive board member of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey and vice president of Communications, Region 4, New Jersey State Nurse Associations.

She is also a past recipient of numerous academic and clinical awards, and a past scholar and mentee of the National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations.

"Solomon-Duarte's skill and commitment will be the cornerstone in coordinating the grant," said School of Nursing Dean Susan O'Brien, "Jovita has the kind of nursing experiences that we need to promote diversity in nursing – we are delighted to have her with us." ■

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING STUDIES

Three new professional certificate programs recently have been added to the offerings available from the School of Professional and Continuing Studies. They are: Certificate in Paralegal Studies, MBA Essentials and Personal Fitness Training (with an Advanced Training option).

CERTIFICATE IN PARALEGAL STUDIES

The online Certificate in Paralegal Studies is a comprehensive, 45-week program led by the nation's leading paralegal educators and authors. The curriculum was created to provide a quality paralegal educational experience and to insure that students completing the program possess the knowledge and skills demanded by today's paralegal employers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, employment for paralegals is projected to grow at a rate of more than 27 percent from 2004-2014 (much faster than average).

The program has a strong focus on the core subjects of paralegal studies and is designed to prepare future paralegals to work in law firms, corporate legal departments and government agencies. There is a strong emphasis on the role of technology in the legal field and how today's paralegals must understand its impact and how to best utilize it.

Courses include: Introduction to Paralegalism; Contracts; Torts; Legal Research and Writing; Litigation; Administrative Law; and Introduction to Technology in the Law. New cohorts will begin each spring, winter and fall.

"The Paralegal Studies certificate curriculum has been developed by leading national paralegal educators working closely with the College's award winning instructional design team," said David M. Grossman, PhD, vice provost and dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies. "It has been exciting to work with these professionals in developing this cutting edge program. Students in the program will benefit from the expertise of these leading educators using the latest offerings in software programs and legal technology. Completing this program will give students a competitive edge in this challenging and ever expanding profession."

MBA ESSENTIALS CERTIFICATE

Professionals in the business community and nonbusiness majors alike can advance their careers by earning a Professional Certificate in MBA Essentials. This 30-week certificate program includes five online courses that cover essential skills needed to develop leadership potential. Registration is open and students can begin this program any time throughout the year.

Courses include: Leadership and Management; Principles of Accounting

and Finance; Principles of Marketing; Fundamentals of Strategy; and Economics For Managers.

"Working professionals are often looking for slices of knowledge to improve in specific skill areas identified by themselves or their employers," Grossman continued. "The MBA Essentials certificate program constitutes a mini-MBA, covering key skills needed to develop leadership potential. Courses can be taken individually as well as in a sequence leading to a certificate."

PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINING CERTIFICATE

From weight training to nutrition planning to cardiovascular exercise, today's personal fitness trainers are experts in their field and are committed to assisting others achieve the level of physical fitness they aspire to reach.

The online Professional Certificates in Personal Fitness Training and Advanced Personal Fitness Training provide continuing professional education for current fitness/health/medical professionals as well as for the development and education of students seeking careers as personal trainers in the emerging fitness and health industry.



Mentor Profile

Dr. Sandra "Sandi" Harris

"knowledge is power"

According to the U.S. Department of Labor*, fitness trainer was listed among the fastest growing occupations, expected to grow 44 percent through 2012. Earning a Professional Certificate in Personal Fitness Training can provide a significant competitive edge in a field that continues to experience explosive growth.

The School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College offers a broad array of high-quality professional certificates, seminars, workshops and other non-credit programs specifically designed for the working adult to develop and enhance knowledge, skills and competencies in the workplace. The programs are designed by a team of professionals from respective industries to provide the most effective, high-quality online learning experience.

To register, review program specifics, or to check announcements on new certificate programs, visit www.tesc.edu and click on "Professional Certificates." For more information about the School of Professional and Continuing Studies' Professional Certificate programs, contact Thomas Edison State College at (888) 442-8372 or via e-mail at spcs@tesc.edu. ■

*Source: www.bls.gov/oco

Dr. Sandra "Sandi" Harris' own personal philosophy is that once you earn an education, no one can ever take it away from you. Her adage is "knowledge is power."

Harris noted that being a mentor at Thomas Edison State College is very rewarding. "I have had contact with people from all over



Dr. Sandra Harris

the United States as well as military personnel in all parts of the world."

Initially, mentoring Guided Study courses for the College, Harris now mentors online courses and likes the personal contact associated with the latter method. Harris currently mentors Principles of Management, Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Managerial Communications and Business Policy.

Her advice to students who are thinking about taking an online course is to start with one course to acclimate to the online environment. "I do advise them that it is necessary to get into the 'classroom' several times a week and they must be prepared to spend four to six hours per week on the course. I also stress that as long as they are active in the course, they will 'feel' that they are in a classroom."

For the past 15 years, Harris has taught full time at Florida Metropolitan University (FMU). She began by teaching paralegal and computer courses and later, with a doctoral degree under her belt, began teaching human resources, ethics, human relations, and organizational behavior courses. More recently, she served as FMU's distance education coordinator.

In addition to her 15 year tenure at FMU, Harris also taught graduate courses at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale-Davie, Fla., and paralegal courses at Broward Community College in Fort Lauderdale. "I also was the administrator for Dowling College, based in Long Island, and I was in charge of their South Florida cluster sites at FedEx for four years," she added. "At these sites, I also taught courses in management and human resources."

Harris has an associate degree in medical assisting from Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, N.Y.; a Bachelor of Science in Management from FMU; and a Master of Business Administration and a Doctor of Business Administration with a concentration in human resources from Nova Southeastern University.

Residing in Boynton Beach, Fla., with husband, Roger, Harris remarked, "Between the two of us, we have seven children and seven grandchildren. Harris has been involved with the local chapters of the Special Olympics and the Make a Wish Foundation, and attends local meetings of the Society of Human Resource Management. ■

SIGNALS is published three times per year by Thomas Edison State College. Please direct any inquiries or suggestions for future articles to the editor c/o:

SIGNALS

Thomas Edison State College
101 W. State St. • Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
or call: (888) 442-8372 • www.tesc.edu

Joe Guzzardo
Director of Communications

Chris Miller
Art Director

Kelly Saccomanno
Office of Communications

Midterms: The New Essential

Students accustomed to taking Thomas Edison State College courses online (OL) may notice a change to the examination component of their courses. Previously, OL courses were structured with one comprehensive final exam, which was a pen and paper test. Director of the Office of Test Administration Maureen Woodruff reports that OL courses are transitioning from one test to two: a proctored midterm and an unproctored online final. The midterm, taken during the seventh week is completed with a proctor; the final, taken during week 12, can be taken at home without the need of a proctor.

Woodruff recommends that students visit the Course Essentials section of their myEdison course space at the start of each term to verify the details of exam completion and to carefully check the particular requirements of each of their courses.

"The exciting news," said Woodruff, "is that Thomas Edison State College is now an official ACT Center. Students who wish to take advantage of the online testing option can do so at the new testing location in the College's Academic Center at 167 West Hanover Street in Trenton."

In addition to our new facility, there are more than 200 ACT

Centers across the country. To locate a computer-based testing center nearest you, visit: <http://www.act.org/actcenters/locate/index.html>.

"Students in one of the newly developed OL courses with an ACT option can take both the midterm and final online – one in a proctored setting and one at home," noted Woodruff.

Students registered in one of the 15 online courses listed below receive an e-mail at the start of the semester with a username and password for the ACT Scheduling site. This information is to be used only if the student has found an ACT Center close to them and wishes to take the proctored midterm online. If an ACT Center is not convenient, the student simply submits his or her proctor form as usual to the Office of Test Administration which in turn will mail the pen and paper midterm to an approved proctor.

"In the future, taking the proctored midterm at an ACT Center will be an option for all online courses," noted Woodruff.

For additional assistance, students can contact an advisor at (888)442-8372 or enrolled@tesc.edu.

ONLINE TESTS

THE FOLLOWING EXAMS IN THESE COURSES ARE OFFERED AT ACT CENTERS:

Introduction to Anthropology
(ANT-101-OL)

A World of Art
(ART-100-OL)

Business Policy
(BUS-421-OL)

Computer Concepts and Applications
(CIS-107-OL)

English Composition I
(ENC-101-OL)

Global Environmental Change
(ENS-314-OL)

Western Civilization I
(HIS-101-OL)

Western Civilization II
(HIS-102-OL)

American History I
(HIS-113-OL)

African History and Culture
(HIS-301-OL)

News Writing
(JOU-352-OL)

Introduction to World Religions
(REL-405-OL)

Eastern Religions
(REL-406-OL)

Western Religions
(REL-407-OL)

Introduction to Sociology
(SOC-101-OL)

TECEP® EXAMS WITH AN ONLINE OPTION ARE CALLED "e-TECEP®"

THE FOLLOWING EXAMS IN THESE COURSES ARE OFFERED AT ACT CENTERS:

Introduction to Marketing
(MAR-301-TE)

Psychology of Women
(PSY-270-TE)

Psychology of Personality
(PSY-352-TE)

Introduction to Social Psychology
(PSY-370-TE)

Alcohol Abuse: Fundamental Facts
(SOS-301-TE)

For more information, visit the College Web site at www.tesc.edu, contact the Office of Test Administration at (609) 984-1181 or e-mail the office at testing@tesc.edu.

Undergraduate Calendar

| | March 2007 Term | April 2007 Term | May 2007 Term |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Registration Dates | Jan. 13 – Feb. 2, 2007 | Feb. 10 – March 16, 2007 | March 24 – April 13, 2007 |
| Late Registration | Feb. 3 – 9, 2007 | March 17 – 23, 2007 | April 14 – 20, 2007 |
| Course Transfer Period | Jan. 13 – Feb. 9, 2007 | Feb. 10 – March 23, 2007 | March 24 – April 20, 2007 |
| Start Date | March 1, 2007 | April 1, 2007 | May 1, 2007 |
| Proctor Request forms due | March 9, 2007 | April 6, 2007 | May 4, 2007 |
| Midterm exam week for *12-week term | April 16 – 21, 2007 | May 14 – 19, 2007 | June 11 – 16, 2007 |
| Final exam week for 12-week term | May 21 – 26, 2007 | June 18 – 23, 2007 | July 16 – 21, 2007 |
| End of 12-week term | May 26, 2007 | June 23, 2007 | July 21, 2007 |
| Midterm exam week for 16-week term | April 23 – 28, 2007 | May 21 – 26, 2007 | June 18 – 23, 2007 |
| Final exam week for 16-week term | June 18 – 23, 2007 | July 16 – 21, 2007 | Aug. 13 – 18, 2007 |
| End of 16-week term | June 23, 2007 | July 21, 2007 | Aug. 18, 2007 |

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

Graduate Calendar

| | Summer 2007 Term | Fall 2007 Term | Winter 2008 Term |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Registration | May 19 – June 15, 2007 | Aug. 11 – Sept. 7, 2007 | Nov. 3 – Dec. 7, 2007 |
| Classes Begin | July 1, 2007 | Sept. 24, 2007 | Jan. 1, 2008 |
| Deadline for 90% Refund | July 15, 2007 | Oct. 7, 2007 | Jan. 13, 2008 |
| Deadline for 50% Refund | July 29, 2007 | Oct. 21, 2007 | Jan. 27, 2008 |
| Classes End | Sept. 15, 2007 | Dec. 8, 2007 | March 15, 2008 |
| Term Ends | Sept. 22, 2007 | Dec. 15, 2007 | March 22, 2008 |

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT NO. 112

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE
101 W. State St. • Trenton, NJ 08608-1176

SIGNALS