

# Capital Campus

AUGUST 2013

## College Lunch and Learns Inform Staff

### *Nursing Simulation Laboratory: Virtual Patients Train Future Caregivers*

**A**t the June Lunch and Learn, the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing staff detailed how Thomas Edison State College's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program students utilize the new Nursing Simulation Laboratory (Sim Lab) to learn their profession.

Thanks to the support of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, high-fidelity simulators, which can be programmed to replicate virtually any healthcare emergency or condition, are part of the course work for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students.

The state-of-the-art simulators, which cost approximately \$139,000 each, offer students the opportunity to learn how to handle a va-

riety of situations in a safe environment and to develop the critical-thinking and decision-making skills required in the nursing profession.

"When a code takes place during a clinical experience involving a live patient, students are typically moved to the side and observe," said **Dr. Christine Rosner**, associate dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "But in the simulation lab, students are the practitioners who can save the life."

Simulation sessions are scripted and the simulators are programmed to exhibit specific symptoms and to respond to the actions of the students. This includes bodily functions, speaking and having any reaction a nurse can



**Nursing Sim Lab Team** (pictured, clockwise, from bottom) are **Dr. Phyllis Marshall**, dean; **Lauren Kirk**, program assistant; **Julie Kulak**, assistant dean; **Mark Spinoso**, Lockheed Martin technician; **Debbie Caniano**, nurse educator, Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program; **Mike Behling**, Lockheed Martin, program manager, constructive simulations; and **Dr. Christine Rosner**, assistant dean.

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## *College's Best Kept Secret: Prior Learning Assessment*

After conducting a market research study in 2012, it was revealed that prior learning assessment (PLA) is Thomas Edison State College's unintentionally best kept secret.

The study revealed that a third of enrolled students were not aware of PLA and, out of that third, 63 percent said that if they had known about the program, they would have pursued that path to earn credits.

So the Center for the Assessment of Learning developed a new approach to make prior learning assessment more accessible and valuable to students. The new PLA program establishes a more efficient and personalized route to obtain credits.

Students interested in PLA enroll in PLA-100: Introduction to Prior Learning Assessment, which is a 1-credit, four-week course that exposes students to methods of earning credit for what they already know through portfolio assessment and examinations. Students who identify multiple courses or subject areas for which they could earn credit continue on in PLA-200: Introduction to Portfolio Assessment. PLA-200 is a 2-credit, eight-week course, which helps students map their prior learning to the requirements of their degree program, and guides students through the process of developing a portfolio that will allow them to earn credit for the college-level knowledge they acquired outside a classroom.



**Staff from the Center for the Assessment of Learning** (pictured, clockwise, from top) **Todd Siben**, assistant director; **Marc Singer**, vice provost; **Antoinette Lewis**, PLA specialist; and **Stephen Phillips**, acting assessment strategist, at the July event.

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# Focus On: Melissa Maszczak

For **Melissa Maszczak**, there is no such thing as a predictable day. In her role as confidential assistant to the president it probably comes as no surprise that her 'typical' day is nothing of the sort.

"You never know what will happen and I learn something new every day," said Maszczak.

While each day might be interesting, it is the group dynamic at Thomas Edison State College that she finds most motivating.

As providence would have it, after applying for three different positions at the College, Maszczak said she found herself working in the Office of the President. "I soon realized that it was the perfect place for me because I love the people I work with and have learned and developed so much, personally and professionally, through their leadership and example," she said.

Maszczak, who has been serving as the confidential assistant for more than five years, will mark her sixth year at the College in November.

In her current role, Maszczak carries out integral activities such as keeping the chief of staff informed of all inquiries and requests from college staff, external constituents, various businesses and students. She also provides administrative support to both the president and chief of staff, which includes event planning, correspondence, scheduling

and daily administrative duties. Maszczak is the central point of contact for ethics forms processing, and she fields questions from College and New Jersey State Library employees on behalf of the ethics liaison officer.

"Melissa is a pleasure to work with and an asset to our office and the College community," said **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, president of Thomas Edison State College. "She is the consummate professional who brings tremendous talents and organizational skills to her role in our office every day."

When asked what attracted her to the position, Maszczak said, "I worked in the restaurant business after college, which is a tough business. Long, late hours are not conducive to starting a family. I was newly married and just bought my first home, so I was eager for the chance to see my management experience help to elevate me in a professional environment. I knew that Thomas Edison State College provided a unique educational experience for adults and it sounded like a rewarding place to work."

Academically, Maszczak graduated from Monmouth University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in psychology. She is also a notary public for the state of New Jersey.

A resident of Bordentown, N.J., Maszczak lives with her husband Ross, who is a certified tax collector for West Windsor Township and Cranbury Township, and their two children,



Melissa Maszczak  
Confidential Assistant to the President

Patrick (age 4) and Olivia (age 1). They also have two cats, Knacks and Lucy and a Shiba Inu named Amber.

In addition to her regular duties, Maszczak volunteers on the Program Committee of the Thomas Edison State College Chapter of the American Council on Education's Women's Professional Network. She also serves on the College's Community Service Committee, which provides opportunities for staff who desire to get involved in the community. "Through this program the committee can demonstrate that Thomas Edison State College and the New Jersey State Library support civic activities that contribute to the economic, social, cultural and health needs of the community in which we work," said Maszczak.

Off the clock, Maszczak enjoys reading, cooking, baking and photography.

## The ABC Program a Formula for Success

Thomas Edison State College has launched a free webinar series for adult learners highlighting an array of topics including time management, free services available through the New Jersey State Library, course selection tips and maintaining academic integrity.

The series is a component of the Adults Back to College at Thomas Edison State College (ABC) Program. The first webinar, *Time Management: Tips, Tricks and Strategies for Reaching Your Goals*, attracted nearly 100 student participants.

The ABC Program is an initiative funded by a New Jersey Disengaged Adults Returning to College grant. The grant targets New Jersey residents who were enrolled in college within the past 10 years and who



ABC Program Team

have completed 50 percent or more of the course work needed for a degree.

The program provides qualified students financial incentives, customized advisement and skill-development opportunities. For more information visit [www.tesc.edu/admissions/picking-up.cfm](http://www.tesc.edu/admissions/picking-up.cfm).

Pictured, from the left, are ABC Program Directors **Dr. Garry Keel**, director of Academic Advising, Office of Learner Services, and **Dr. Ann Mester**, assistant dean, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences; ABC Coordinator, Patrice Coleman-Boatwright; and ABC Coach **Carleen Bailly**, program advisor, Academic Advisement.

## Networking Event: Senator Speaks

### NJ State Sen. Linda Greenstein Reflects on a Career in Government

The Women's Professional Network of Thomas Edison State College Chapter presented, "A Story of Success Event," featuring New Jersey State Sen. Linda Greenstein as the key note speaker in Prudence Hall to 45 attendees on July 17.

The Thomas Edison State College Chapter of the Women's Professional Network focuses on building an educational, social and professional climate for women looking to shape higher education.

Following a welcoming address from **Robin Walton**, vice president for Community and Government Affairs, Greenstein was introduced by **Charlene Martucci**, fiscal administrator in the Office of Military and Veteran Education.

Greenstein represents the 14th legislative district and is the assistant majority leader in the State Senate. She is vice-chair for the Committee of Environment and Energy and the Committee of Law and Public Safety. Additionally, she serves on the Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Joint Committee on Public School.

The senator, who worked in the general assembly for 10 years before her move to the Senate, reflected on her upbringing and its impact on her career in government.



New Jersey State Sen. Linda Greenstein addresses The Women's Professional Network of Thomas Edison State College.

Greenstein stressed the importance of her public school education and experience. She noted that she first became involved in politics when she ran for a school board position; it's what sparked her interest in serving in the political area.

Detailing her own meaning of success, Greenstein said, "Whatever your personal life is, make sure it's stable. Try to be civically active and, whether you are a janitor or a president of a college, you are ex-

tremely important." She ended her speech by telling the audience to "follow what makes you happy."

The event concluded with closing remarks by **Kristin Gonzalez**, associate director, Community and Government Affairs, and **Jaclyn Joworisak**, advancement associate, Office of Development, co-chairs of the Network.

## NJ Department of Corrections undergoes a College Program Review

The College's Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning (OAPWL) recently conducted an on-site academic program review of the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) Basic Course for Corrections Officers.

Located at the National Guard Training Facility in the shore town of Sea Girt, N.J., the NJDOC Office of Training provides corrections professionals with the required skills to work in New Jersey's correctional facilities in the care and custodial treatment and reintegration of adult offenders.

The training programs that are offered to new and seasoned corrections employees are proactive and innovative, and utilize state-of-the-art technology in their ongoing mission to maintain the highest standards of integrity and professional development.

The OAPWL contracted a three-person team of subject matter experts. The review was managed by **Peggy Allan**, administrative specialist. The review

team has expertise in training and education programs and the topics common in criminal justice training to evaluate the



OAPWL Staff and Review Team



## College Program Reviewed

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curriculum, training materials, assessments, etc., on behalf of the College to determine college-level learning.

The College's adult learner-centered mission provides pathways for adults who have completed professional and corporate training programs, licenses or certifications to earn college credit for their prior learning.

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences in coordination with OAPWL plans reviews of specific training that will enhance degree program development, attract enrollments and help fulfill adult learners' needs in meeting degree requirements. Once the results of this review have been approved, students can apply credits for their NJDOC training toward completion of a degree.

What better way for the College to meet its mission and for its adult students, who have completed professional training, to achieve their goal of a college education.

Pictured, from the left on Page 3, are Allan, administrative specialist, Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning; and team members: Wade Farrior, Christopher Drew, Linda Mather, Stan Yeldell and Sgt. Rodriguez, NJDOC.

## Strategic Plan Presented at SCUP

The Division of Planning and Research supported the College's sponsorship of the Society of Planning and Research (SCUP) 2013 Mid-Atlantic Conference. The conference theme, *Building Student Success in the New Learning Environments*, featured Vice President **Dennis Devery** delivering the plenary presentation entitled "Learning Matters: Building and Sustaining a Unique College – A History of Thomas Edison State College."



**Dennis Devery**

Devery's presentation focused on the effective strategies involved in building Thomas Edison State College into one of New Jersey's elite public Colleges with a nontraditional campus environment. Devery discussed how the College serviced its diverse student population in the past, how it services them now and how today's digital and communications revolutions impact the College's strategic plans for the future.

## Military and Veteran Education Staff Meet in Trenton



The Office of Military and Veteran Education hosted its first quarter Associate Director-Military Enrollment Management Working Group to focus on developing the office's 2014-16 Military Enrollment Management Plan. Currently, the College has six associate directors and six part-time base counselors in the field from Hawaii to Connecticut, who serve military, dependent and veteran students. As College ambassadors, they are managers responsible for strategically planning and executing recruitment, marketing, budgeting, base access and student retention strategies for significant geographical areas across the U.S. and overseas. Additionally, they attend education fairs and summits, manage a daily military and veteran support help line, serve as base counselors on key military installations, and participate in regional and national military education forums on behalf of the College. Pictured from left are: (kneeling) **Maria Marte**; (second row) **Ellen Coleman**, **Patti Hunt** and **Alison Hansen**; (third row) **Lee Wofford**, director of Military Enrollment Management, **Alisha Miller** and **Allison Chambers**.

## Admissions Hosts Open House

More than 80 individuals attended the College Open House sponsored by the Office of Admissions on June 1 in Prudence Hall.

Participants from Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business and Management, School of Applied Science and Technology, John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, and W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, along with Financial Aid, Academic Advisement, Center for the Assessment of Learning, Military and Veteran Education, and Alumni Affairs, including Alumni Ambassadors, were on hand to share information.

Those interested in applying were able to do so that day, noted **Vanessa Meredith**, associate director, Office of Admissions, who added, "The Open House was a complete success. Attendees were glad to have the opportunity to speak with a variety of College staff regarding areas such as specific online degree programs, financial aid and prior learning credits. Being able to speak one-on-one with School deans was invaluable to prospective students. Our alumni were warm and engaging, and they made attendees feel welcomed to ask questions."

## College Night at the Thunder



**Carl Carter**, head clerk, Office of the Registrar, and friend **Dina Toth**, enjoyed the Thomas Edison State College Night at the Trenton Thunder. More than 90 staff attended the Aug. 9 game that featured a **Nomar Garciaparra** Bobblehead for the first 2,000 fans and free hot dogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers all night.

## Lunch and Learns

► *Nursing continued from Page 1*

expect when treating a live patient. Students experience a wide variety of scenarios in the simulation lab, including cardiac disease and cardiac arrest, diabetes, acute respiratory issues and patients that exhibit comorbid conditions.

The Sim Lab is in the Kuser Mansion Carriage House on West State Street. The 635 square-foot lab, located on the first floor, includes a technical room where the simulators are controlled and features a one-way glass window so nurse educators can watch students during simulation sessions.

The simulation sessions take place in a patient care area that resembles an emergency room with three beds and three simulators. On the second floor, there is a classroom and a conference room where students review simulation sessions with nurse educators. Every session is videotaped so students and nurse educators can review student actions and continually improve student performance.

► *CAL continued from Page 1*

Other students, who don't need to develop a multicourse portfolio as they would in PLA-200, can instead go from PLA-100 right into a Single-Course Portfolio Assessment. This option is ideal for students who plan to pursue just one 3-credit course through portfolio. The TECEP® program offers students the opportunity to earn credit by successfully completing one or more of the 27 exams available.

Two other advantages of the new PLA process are that it will save most students both time and money. Multiple subjects can be addressed at the same time during the portfolio development process. After completing PLA-100 and PLA-200, students can submit their portfolios for evaluation for a fee of \$350 for the first 12 credits, and \$200 for each additional 6 credits.

"Many adult learners will find that it is likely they possess college-level knowledge – whether it is through their career, technical training, military training, hobbies or volunteer activities – and can apply that knowledge toward their degree program," said **Marc Singer**, vice provost, Center for the Assessment of Learning. "Our goal is to help students understand their options and make good decisions."

# Staff Activities

**David Hoftiezer**, director, Office of Admissions, attended the Higher Education Management Institute offered by Vanderbilt Peabody College in Nashville, Tenn., June 10-14. The Institute offers leaders fresh insights and strategies to help them effectively and creatively lead their organizations.



**David Hoftiezer**

**Dr. Michael Williams**, dean, School of Business and Technology, and College Mentor **Dr. Tami Moser**, had their paper "Considering a Market-Driven Human Resource Development Approach in Small Business: Succession Management Systems for Strategic Continuity and Excellence" accepted by the Society for the Advancement of Management International Business Conference in Las Vegas.



**Michael Williams**

**Todd Siben**, assistant director, Portfolio Assessment, went to Wilmington University's New Castle campus in Wilmington, Del., July 10, to present to the president, vice presidents and deans about prior learning assessment (PLA). Topics included the history and theory of PLA, methods of assessing prior learning, portfolio assessment, and student retention and persistence.



**Todd Siben**

**Dr. Ann Marie Senior**, associate vice president for Planning and Research, recently participated in two conferences, the 2013 World Conference on Quality and Improvement held in Indianapolis, Ind., and the national Association of Institutional Research conference that was held in Long Beach, Calif. Senior also participated in a Measuring Process and Organizational Performance course, which provided an overview of the metrics and tools needed to analyze and measure processes.



**Ann Marie Senior**

**Maria Marte**, associate director, attended the 2013 Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) Conference/Exhibition held in Greenville, S.C., June 17-18. The conference focused on issues ranging from force structure/modernization and homeland security to strategic planning.

**Juliette Punchello**, director of the Learner Support Center, attended the 14th Annual Call Center Week Conference in Las Vegas, June 10-14. The focus was "Driving Business Value: Transforming Culture and Excellence in the Multi-Channel, Socially Interwoven Customer Environment."



**Maria Marte**

**Steven Mazzilli**, senior Learner Support representative, Learner Support Center, attended the Fred Pryor seminar, "Team-Building, Mentoring and Coaching Skills for Supervisors," in Atlantic City, N.J., in May. He also attended Parafest 2013 in Las Vegas, Nev., to enhance his knowledge and skills with Parature.

**Lorilyn Lewis**, Learner Support representative, attended the seminar, "How to Deliver Exception Customer Service," given by Fred Pryor/Career Track, in Princeton, N.J., on June 26.



**Juliette Punchello**



# Welcome New Staff



**Andrew Bugdal** has been appointed admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions. Bugdal is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2092.



**Dr. Deborah Duffy** has been appointed senior research analyst in the Office of Institutional Planning and Research. Duffy is located on the 5th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2028.



**John Lissaris** has been appointed assessment development specialist in the Center for Learning and Technology. Lissaris is located on the 3rd floor in the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 2277.



**Janet McGuire** has been appointed nursing program assistant of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. McGuire is located on the 3rd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 3275.



**Kristen Palkovich** has been appointed confidential assistant in the Office of Community and Government Affairs. Palkovich is located on the 3rd floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2038.



**Donald Stoltz** has been appointed program advisor II in the Office of Academic Advisement. Stoltz is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3327.

## Staff Activities *continued from Page 3*

**Gillian Wyckoff**, associate director, Learner Support Center, attended ICMI's Training Symposium in Chicago, Ill., June 19-22. The symposium's topic was "Advancing Contact Center Quality through Monitoring and Coaching."

**Tanisha McKinnis**, Learner Support representative, attended the Fred Pryor "Women's Conference," in Princeton, N.J., on July 25.

**Dr. Terri A. Tallon**, director, Military Student Services, briefed a group of N.J. high school guidance counselors during a one-day educator tour at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL) on June 27. Some of the topics at the event, hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Battalion in Lakehurst, N.J., included the College's degree offerings, ACE military training reviews and course transferability, and the military tuition assistance program.

*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.

## Golf Classic



College staff members braved the rainy weather to volunteer at the 19th Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Outing on July 1 at TPC Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J. Volunteers greeted and registered golfers, ran the contests on the course, took photos and helped with the Silent Auction. Their time and hard work contributed to the great success of the outing and it would not have been possible without them. Thank you! Pictured from left (front row) are **Misty Isak**, **Jennifer Guerrero**, **Melissa Maszczak**, **Alisha Miller**, **Gillian Wyckoff**, **Kristin Gonzalez** and **Li-yun Young**; (back row) are **Kelly Saccomanno**, **Roxanne Globis**, **Judy Lucas**, **Erica Spizzirri**, **Jaime Helmuth**, **Jeff Clark** and **Jaclyn Joworisak**. Not pictured: **Chris Miller**, **Jennifer Montone** and **Linda Soltis**.

## Congratulations

**Lisa Whitfield-Harris**, MSN, MBA, RN, diversity coordinator and undergraduate advisor, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, is the recipient of a National League for Nursing (NLN) Foundation Scholarship for doctoral students on nursing education tracks. She is also the recipient of a 2013 Sallie Tucker-Allen Student Scholarship for Graduate Students from the Association for Black Nursing Faculty. Whitfield-Harris plans to serve as a doctoral student representative at the 2013 NLN Summit in Washington, D.C., in September.



More than 70 staff from Thomas Edison State College and the New Jersey State Library attended the **Kuser Mansion Open House** on Aug. 6. Attendees were treated to light refreshments and tours of the newly renovated building. Historic photographs of the three-story mansion, which was built in 1905 for businessman Rudolph V. Kuser and his family, were on display.