

# Capital Campus

JUNE 2015

## Using Technology to Enhance Student Services

### *Division of Enrollment Management and Learner Services*

One of the overarching goals of the Division of Enrollment Management and Learner Services is to provide accurate, effective, timely and reliable information and services to assist our students in making 'informed choices' concerning their education.

"Delivering customer service that exceeds our students' expectations is an integral part of the high-quality education we provide," said **Dr. Mary Ellen Caro**, vice president, Division of Enrollment Management and Learner Services. "We are committed to continuous quality improvement."

One way that the Division meets this goal is by proactively identifying and implementing technological tools to engage the College's students through their educational journey.

The Office of the Registrar implemented three processes that benefit Thomas Edison

Clearinghouse to provide online transcript ordering and enrollment verifications electronically 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Transcripts can now be issued through an electronic exchange with other participating institutions, which receive the transcript faster and more efficiently than ever. Finally, students are now able to apply for graduation and pay their fee online ensuring that they are one step closer to completing this academic milestone.

The Office of Test Administration continues to implement technology that provides optimum convenience to the TESC's adult learners when accessing and completing their exams. Working with the Center for Learning and Technology, the team was able to create one online place for students to view all active courses, including tests. Everything students need to know about preparing for a TECEP®, completing a test and getting the score can



**Dr. Mary Ellen Caro**, vice president, Division of Enrollment Management and Learner Services

The Office of Academic Advising continues to progress to meet the increasing expectations of the College's students. The latest evolution includes increasing access to the advising team not only by extending hours, but also through the launching of a video advising option that allows students to see an advisor through a virtual environment. In addition, the team is now offering advising services to the College's applicant population to guide them through the next step of selecting a tuition plan and then, ultimately, identifying and registering for their course work.

"The emergence of new technologies enables the College to continue to improve self-servicing solutions adult learners have come to expect in their daily lives," said **Dr. Ray Young**, associate vice president and dean of Learner Services. "These new initiatives make interacting with the College 24/7 year round more intuitive and student friendly."

*"Delivering customer service that exceeds our students' expectations is an integral part of the high-quality education we provide."*

*- Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, Vice President  
Division of Enrollment Management and Learner Services*

State College (TESC) students throughout their time with the College. First, the Academic Evaluation was customized so that it is easier to read and more tailored to the student's specific degree plan. Next, the office partnered with the National Student

be found in the Moodle course space. Additionally, through a partnership with ProctorU, tests are offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All that is required from the student is access to a webcam, speakers and a high-speed Internet connection.



## Academic Affairs Division Informs Staff

### Changes in Store for Middle States

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) has revised its Standards for Accreditation, which will be put into place beginning with a pilot group for the 2016-2017 academic year, with full implementation beginning for 2017-2018. At January's Lunch and Learn, **William J. Seaton**, provost and vice president for the Division of Academic Affairs, and **Kathy Melilli**, associate provost, Office of the Vice President and Provost, discussed the reasons the accreditation standards have been changed and how these changes will impact the College.

The MSCHE is composed of member institutions from Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other geographic areas in which it conducts accrediting activities, including distance education. Prior to the Commission's revision of its accreditation standards, which began in April 2013, there were 14 standards in place, covering a wide range of topics that peer evaluators used to assess each institution. Some of the concerns regarding the former standards included that the standards needed to be shorter in length, "student centered" and made part of both a regional and national conversation as well as a primary focus on regulation, compliance, institutional improvement and assurance that overall emphasis remains on assessment.

A steering committee representing the MSCHE member institutions, the MSCHE staff and the general public approached these concerns in a number of ways. By creating a cohesive team, the committee listened to experts in higher education and groups who advocate for different approaches to accreditation as well as the opinions of member institutions by way of several "town hall" meetings, held in various locations throughout the region Middle States serves. The revised standards were accepted on Oct. 1, 2014, with an overwhelming vote of approval by membership institution presidents who were each given one vote.

The new set of Commission's Standards for Accreditation to be implemented now stands at just seven. This simplification of standards allows for increased clarity and understanding among member institutions and continues to maintain structure and centrality of MSCHE's overall mission. Requirements for affiliation with MSCHE have also been expanded. Seaton noted that, "The new standards represent a significant step forward in assuring higher education's key stakeholders of the quality educational experiences being offered to

students. This was achieved through a very collegial process that retained the impressive diversity of institutional missions found in the Middle States region." Each of the seven new standards is now accompanied by a two sentence statement that serves as a criteria and basis on which the standard may be understood.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education's new standards are as follows:

Mission and Goals; Ethics and Integrity; Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience; Support of the Student Experience; Educational Effectiveness Assessment; Planning, Resources and Institutional Improvement; and Governance, Leadership and Administration.

So what does this mean for the College? The College will complete its Periodic Review Report (PRR) by way of a self-study using the former standards with a deadline of June 1, 2017. Once completed and accepted by Middle States, the College will then have a decennial review set for the year 2022, where it will be evaluated using the revised standards being put into place. "Over the next two years, 15 member institutions will be part of a pilot cohort that will eventually prepare other institutions to use the revised standards. The College looks forward to working with the Commission and the pilot cohort in preparing to use the revised standards for the 2022 self-study," explained Melilli.

To learn more about the Middle States Commission on Higher Education's new Standards for Accreditation, feel free to visit <http://msche.org/documents/RevisedStandardsFINAL.pdf>. If you have any questions, please contact Melilli at [kmelilli@tesc.edu](mailto:kmelilli@tesc.edu).



Provost **William J. Seaton** and Associate Provost **Kathy Melilli** presented at the January Lunch and Learn.

## Focus On: Rick Barry

From the basketball court to the online classroom, **Richard "Rick" Barry** makes the transition look easy. As the director of course design and technology projects in the Center for Learning and Technology, Barry is tasked with managing a team responsible for a first-rate online course experience for the College's students.

Barry began his career at the College as an instructional designer. Now in his sixth year, he has taken on an even more crucial role, in working with subject matter experts to design, develop and revise graduate and undergraduate online and Guided Study courses.

As part of his job, Barry explained, he has the "opportunity to work on important and challenging projects with talented people day-to-day."

"Rick's leadership style resonates so well with our team because he champions strategic collaboration and results-driven project management. If a process flow isn't working, he's always the first to ask the question 'Why?' and his tenaciousness drives him to identify a solution. These traits resonate at the heart of the Center for Learning and Technology's philosophy and mission, which is to empower our team to be a results-driven organization that leads by

example," noted **Matt Cooper**, associate provost, Center for Learning and Technology.

His attraction to the College and its mission, Barry noted, was one of the primary reasons he was so inclined to become a part of the College community. "I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to work for an institution focused on the adult learner that delivers education online," he expressed.

Barry earned his undergraduate degree in economics from Quinnipiac University and a master's degree in instructional technology from Stockton University. Barry has also earned a Project Management Certification from Northeastern School of Professional and Continuing Studies and has completed an Introduction to W3C's (World Wide Web Consortium) Mobile Web Best Practices certificate program.

Outside of the office, Barry thrives in serving as both a travel and recreation volunteer basketball coach, and has also served as the assistant men's basketball coach at one of his alma maters, Stockton University. He caters, additionally, to his love of the outdoors by spending time fishing.

With years of experience being involved in the sport, Barry has earned an impressive list of accomplishments. "During my time at Quinnipiac University, I attended the



**Rick Barry**, director of course design and technology projects, Center for Learning and Technology

institution on an athletic scholarship, playing basketball all four years," he explained.

In 2009, he was inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame for his time on the men's basketball team. Those inducted to the Hall of Fame are recognized for having made outstanding contributions to Quinnipiac intercollegiate athletics and have helped bring recognition, honor and distinction to the university and its athletic program.

Barry resides in Doylestown, Pa., with his wife, Diane, and their three children, Emily, age 11; Anna, age 8; and Nick, age 5.

## IT Corner – Your Password is the Virtual Key of Your Kingdom

Passwords provide the first line of defense against unauthorized access to your devices. They must be complex even when complexity is not required. It is important to assure that your passwords are long enough and contain uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols.

Follow these password rules to keep yourself and your accounts safe:

### ► Make your password long

At least eight characters in length is recommended. The longer you can make it, the better. Passwords shorter than eight characters are easy to crack.

### ► Avoid common words and proper names

### ► Use both uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols

The odds of someone else remembering yours will be slim to none.

### ► Consider using a passphrase

Phrases like "When I was 7, my dog Dolly went to Heaven" or "cL@\$\$!cS0ng" (classicsong) are easy to remember but hard to crack. These phrases follow all the 'password' rules and are written in plain English. Keep in mind that not every system will accept passphrases, but when in doubt, try it out. The odds against anyone cracking it, even with the help of a supercomputer, are astronomical.

### ► Make your passphrase original

Do not use familiar or famous quotations as your password. Avoid using any real names, especially your own, your family member's or your pet's. Nonsensical passphrases are the hardest to crack.

## Take Your Child to Work Day



The sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren of College staff enjoyed TYCTWD Bingo! at Take Your Child to Work Day (TYCTWD) on April 23. The agenda included a greeting by **Dr. George A. Pruitt**; a presentation by staff from the New Jersey State Library and the Talking Books and Braille Center; a trip to the New Jersey State Museum; and a pizza party.

"The TESC Take Your Child to Work Day is a wonderful experience for both the children and their parents," said **Craig Smith**, director of Veteran Affairs. "My daughter, Isabella, benefited by interacting with other TESC kids, and learned a little more about what I do every day to assist military and veteran students worldwide. As a parent, I found myself re-energized by the experience, realizing that we are given a wonderful opportunity to have a positive influence on our students, helping them accomplish their educational goals. I'm honored to serve those who have sacrificed so much to preserve the freedom we enjoy every day."



## Preserving The College's History

By definition, an archive is a repository of noncurrent institutional records preserved because of their continuing value. If that sounds dull, you haven't talked to Thomas Edison State College's first archivist, **Tom Mullusky**.

Mullusky arrived at the New Jersey State Library last year, after working at the Gilder Lehrman Institute in New York and at the Rutgers University archives. What brought him to Trenton was the opportunity to establish the Thomas Edison State College (TESC) archives. That makes him a collector, an appraiser and, eventually, a connoisseur.

"The first step when I get materials from the office of origin is the appraisal," he explained. "I have two complete collections of *Invention* already, so when I hear that an office has 1,000 copies stored, I can tell them it's unlikely I'll need them."

On the other hand, he heard **Cathy Punchello-Cobos** loud and clear when the registrar told him she worried about the



**Tom Mullusky**, College Archivist

much-used green ledger in her office. The Enrolled Student List master log from 1972-1984 was falling apart and no backup existed. Mullusky is digitizing the book to give the Office of the Registrar easy access, and will then separate the original into archival folders for permanent storage in archival boxes.

He is eager to convince other College staff that records their offices depend on can be preserved for TESC archives, while staff accessibility is maintained. The Archives

Planning Committee, chaired by **Linda Meehan**, chief of staff, has representation from all divisions to help reinforce that message. Any office with a special need or concern can contact **Sally Lane**, the archives project manager.

So far, Mullusky has collected and digitized the records of the Board of Trustees, including the 1973 minutes of the first meeting of what was then the Thomas A. Edison College of New Jersey. He's also acquired a vast collection of photographs, multimedia, press releases and other documents from the Office of Communications. That collection includes yearbooks from the former Trenton Junior College and materials pertaining to the School of Industrial Arts, both part of the history of the Kelsey Building and Trenton.

Along the way, he's finding things few knew the College had, like the charming cartoon of life in the Kelsey Building 65 years ago, from a Trenton Junior College yearbook. Coming soon, to a website you're familiar with...

## Nursing Honor Society Makes Donation to The Children's Home Society of New Jersey

**T**homas Edison State College's Upsilon Rho Chapter of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, recently made a \$500 charitable donation to The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ).

The chapter allocated a portion of its membership dues to fund the group's annual holiday giving effort. The funds donated will help to provide additional programming and services for two of CHSofNJ's Maternal/Child Health, Family and Community Support Services programs: CUNA and Body and Soul. CUNA is a prenatal health education and support program that addresses the unique cultural and linguistic needs of Latina women, predominantly Spanish-speaking recent immigrants. Body and Soul provides a holistic approach to prenatal health for pregnant women and women in their childbearing years through customized programming.

"The Upsilon Rho Chapter's commitment to quality health and preventive care firmly aligns with CHSofNJ's mission of saving children's lives and building healthy families, and we are honored to have been selected as recipient of its holiday donation for our prenatal health education programs," said Maritza I. Raimundi-Petroski, CHSofNJ's director of Maternal/Child Health, Family and Community Support Services.

The Upsilon Rho Chapter is comprised of more than 200 Thomas Edison State College alumni who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, academic integrity and professional leadership potential. These students hold either bachelor's or master's degrees from TESC and must have maintained a minimum 3.0 or 3.5 GPA, respectively, on a 4.0 scale as well as having been ranked in the top 35 percent of their graduating class to be considered for membership.



Pictured are (from left): Donna C. Pressma, LCSW, president and chief executive officer, CHSofNJ; Christine Saltzman, BSN '09, MSN, '13, secretary, Upsilon Rho Chapter; **Holly Leahan**, MSN, RN, nursing program and graduate practicum advisor, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing; Maritza Raimundi-Petroski, director, Maternal/Child Health, Family and Community Support Services, CHSofNJ; and Gary Fassler, BSN '08, MSN '11, treasurer, Upsilon Rho Chapter.

## Staff Rallies to Support the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

**Todd Siben**, assistant director, Office of Portfolio Assessment, started collecting calendars for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) approximately seven years ago.

It began when Siben learned that the TASK had an interest in collecting calendars for its clientele, who needed to manage their schedules. "Calendars," Siben explained, "are something you receive free from charities you support or businesses you frequent."

That year, just before Thanksgiving, Siben requested the calendar donations from Thomas Edison State College co-workers. The response was stunning; Siben collected nearly four large boxes. For the next few years the collections were massive and he eventually added pens, another item often distributed by charities and businesses.

This year, at the invitation of the American Federation of Teachers Local 4277 President **Charlene Martucci**, Siben found a new partner for his project. "AFT showed immediate support and, through Charlene, I was able to send weekly announcements and requests, which made for a very successful collection that is now sponsored and supported by the College's AFT local."

More recently, Siben noted, people have been using hand-held devices as calendars, so fewer companies are printing them for distribution. Siben began to think of what else he could collect.

"Tote bags are something participants frequently receive at a conference or charity event. When I introduced the idea of collecting them to a few TESC staff members, they all immediately reacted about having unused bags from previous conferences. This idea seemed sensible, so I decided to add it to my repertoire."

Furthermore, Siben recalled reading an article about the top 10 items needed by soup kitchens, and he found that pasta was on the list. "Although it isn't free, it's very inexpensive. I added pasta to this year's collection and the TESC community responded generously, as they usually do!"

In total, Siben delivered 10 cases of pasta, two cases of calendars and pens, and the equivalent of a dozen cases of totes to the TASK in January.

"TASK was so grateful, so we plan to continue this endeavor," Siben noted.



**Todd Siben**, assistant director, Office of Portfolio Assessment, stands with the boxes he collected for TASK.

"Something about TASK appeals to me. Perhaps it's because they're local. Perhaps it's because what they do is very noble, serving those in need. Whatever the reason, I recognize that I didn't do this alone. I was just the catalyst. I'm so appreciative of the great support that repeatedly comes from the College community."

## Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach Enlightens Staff

### *Traveling the Country to Develop and Enhance Corporate Partnerships*

A booming round of applause and roars of laughter could be heard from Prudence Hall throughout the course of the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach's Lunch and Learn presentation on March 4. Staff 'traveled along' with **Janet Eickhoff**, associate vice president, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, and her team, learning more about the work they have completed and the initiatives they have yet to tackle.

The team's accomplishments abound since July, including visits to more UPS hubs and instituting a voucher program for eligible part-time UPS employees as well as signing three Corporate Choice® agreements bringing the grand total to 26. The new signings, which include Utilities Telecom Council (UTC), EdAssist and the Flight School Association of North America (FSANA), will allow for increased exposure for the College as well as the ability to offer additional areas of study and degrees to those finishing their education in a wide variety of fields.

The office's work with UPS has been substantial. The voucher program for part-time UPS employees allows UPS to pay the employee's application fee and fees for approved courses up front. Until late last fall, the office was working primarily with full-time UPS employees. With this voucher program in place, Eickhoff reports a visible uptick in part-time UPS enrollments at the College. Not only are employees now able to further their education, but UPS' Hub Supervisor Training School was re-evaluated by the Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning (OAPWL) and, as a result, the credit recommendation was increased. In addition, the OAPWL reviewed UPS' Driver Training School and recommended 6 credits.

The three new Corporate Choice® agreements will offer a variety of students from backgrounds that range from aviation to cybersecurity. In just seven months, all three contracts were complete.



Pictured from the left are **Michele Huntley**, principal clerk transcriber; **Janet Eickhoff**, associate vice president; **Kelli Parlante-Givas**, director, Strategic Partners Management; and **Mildred Akumu-Taylor**, program assistant.

The first was a collaborative effort with **Dr. John Aje**, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology, and his staff to build a partnership with UTC. UTC is a membership organization of approximately 500 telecom companies across the nation that cites Entergy and PSEG among its





# March Lunch and Learn

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members. Aje is continuing to work with UTC to develop a Master of Science in Information Technology degree with a focus on cybersecurity.

The newly signed arrangement with EdAssist was two years in the making, explained Eickhoff. EdAssist manages companies' tuition assistance programs and allows the College to reach out to the organizations managed by EdAssist. Among its clients, EdAssist names companies such as Aetna, MasterCard and PepsiCo.



The third partnership has allowed the College to open new doors in collaboration with FSANA. FSANA is membership-based and represents flight schools, firms who conduct business with the aviation industry and supporting partners. Through this new partnership, FSANA members will be able to pursue a variety of degrees, with new associate and bachelor's degrees in aviation management being made available beginning this spring.



## TESC Works with Lumina Foundation on the Completion Colleges Project

Thomas Edison State College is among a limited, invitation only group of institutions partnering with the Lumina Foundation to advance the goal of helping adults complete their college education through the Completion Colleges Project. Specifically, Thomas Edison State College was cited for "...awarding the most degrees relative to its state population – roughly four degrees per 10,000 working-age adults."

According to the U.S. Census, Current Population Survey, Educational Attainment, an estimated 46 million adults have some college education, but have not completed their degrees. With many adults unable to complete their college education through traditional institutions, the Completion Colleges, many of which have been around for decades, offer an extremely cost-effective route to degrees for students who have substantial amounts of prior credit or experiences that can be translated into credit through prior learning assessment.

The Lumina Foundation report noted, "There clearly is a market nationally for the types of flexible, student-centered, outcomes-based degree programs Completion Colleges deliver."



On March 9, two representatives from the Lumina Foundation visited Thomas Edison State College to meet with a number of College staff. Pictured from the left are William Seaton, provost and vice president; Cathy Punchello-Cobos, registrar; Alli Bell, senior associate, HCM Strategists, LLC; Molly Martin, director of Organizational Learning and Alignment, Lumina Foundation; Donna Ganges Watson, associate registrar; Juliette Punchello, director, Enrollment Operations Management and Strategy; and Jerry Thomas, assistant vice president of Student Affairs.

"Our office's collaboration with Dr. Aje and his team to produce the UTC and FSANA agreements allowed us the ability to partner with even more accomplished organizations," Eickhoff explained. "While our partnership with UTC developed rather quickly, both EdAssist and FSANA took two years to come to fruition. We look forward to our continued work with our colleagues and we are excited about the opportunity to expand our Corporate Choice® portfolio."

Looking ahead, the office has plans to finish out the year strong, while looking even further ahead to the next fiscal year. The group hopes that by July, they are able to onboard and disseminate key information to their three recently signed Corporate Choice® partnerships to begin building firm relationships. Visits to more UPS sites as well as FSANA visits are also on their radar. After July, the group plans to develop dynamic revitalization of the College's current partners, prospect new organizations for potential relationships, increase community college outreach, and expand and continue both UPS and McDonalds site and conference visits.

# Technology Tuesday

Teaching Staff New Tricks

What began as a simple idea during the holiday break for Drew Hopkins, chief information officer, Office of Management Information Systems (MIS), has now become an interactive learning tool for staff to keep them informed and intrigued about the equipment they use every day. Dubbed "Technology Tuesdays," these 30-minute instructional sessions take place the first Tuesday of every month and give helpful hints, tips and tricks for attendees to become better acclimated to the world of technology around them.

Hopkins' idea came to fruition in large part due to the inquiries received by members of MIS staff from colleagues. "They would approach members of our office with questions about the use of various technology and best practices," noted Chip Stoll, associate director, MIS. "Rather than address each individual concern, we found that larger, interactive training sessions were the answer to what appear to be universal questions."

MIS intends to cover topics ranging from securing your iPhone/Android device and safeguarding your home router to checking work voicemails off site and navigating the new myEdison® portal. The overarching goal of these sessions, Stoll explained, is to fill rooms and minds with knowledge to help colleagues better equip themselves to effectively use today's ever-changing technology. "We've been getting nothing but positive feedback," Stoll expressed, "our hope is to continue to deliver informative, helpful material."

Technology Tuesdays will be led by a member of the College staff, not necessarily from MIS, who is an "expert" on the month's topic. If deemed necessary, MIS is open to the idea of repeating a session twice in one month, to allow as many staff members as possible to attend.

"We are certainly open to ideas and welcome any contributions staff can provide," Stoll said. If you are interested in attending Technology Tuesdays, announcements are emailed, pre-registration is not required and seating is on a first come, first served basis. To submit an idea for a future seminar, email Stoll at astoll@tesc.edu.

# Staff Activities

Dennis Devery, vice president for Planning and Research, has been appointed vice chairman, programming, with the Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Devery is also a board member of the Camden County Regional Chamber of Commerce. His unique position with these two boards allows Thomas Edison State College to be engaged with the business community throughout southern New Jersey.



Dennis Devery

Dr. James D. Phillips, associate dean of the School of Business and Management, and Dr. David Schein, JD, MBA, visiting assistant professor at St. Thomas University, Houston, Texas, had their article, "Utilizing Credit Reports for Employment Purposes: A Legal Bait and Switch?", published in the February 2015 edition of the Journal of Law in the Public Interest. This is the second article in a series that discusses how the use of consumers' credit scores has been the focus of federal and state court action in the effort to allow consumers both access to their reports and the ability to correct incorrect information that is the basis of reporting agencies scoring of credit rating. The current article discusses whether each state allows the use of credit reports in employment decisions and how the accuracy of credit reports becomes critical for consumers in employment related decision making.



Dr. James Phillips

Robin Walton, vice president for Community and Government Affairs, was appointed hospital trustee to the Board of Trustees for New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA), Class of 2015. NJHA is a not-for-profit trade organization committed to delivering support and services to the state's hospitals and other healthcare providers. It shares a collective goal of providing quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to the people of the Garden State.



Robin Walton

Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management, and Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and charter dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, presented The Psycho-Dynamics of Leadership for Public Sector Human Resource Management Professionals: Risk, Reaction and Resilience at the 2014 IPMA-HR International Training Forum & Exposition in Philadelphia, Pa.



Dr. Michael Williams

Carla Colburn, acting associate director, Office of Academic Advising, attended the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region 2 conference, "Enriching the Advising Experience: Research, Innovation, and Collaboration in Helping Students Succeed," held in Richmond, Va., March 18-20. In December 2014, Colburn served as a Proposal Reader for this conference and, during the conference, serve as a volunteer. NACADA, with more than 10,000 professional advisors, counselors, faculty, administrators and students, promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students.



Dr. Joseph Youngblood



Carla Colburn



# Welcome New Staff



**Helen Feliciano** has been appointed professional services specialist 4 in the Office of the Controller. Feliciano is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2415.



**David Schumaker** has been appointed security systems coordinator in the Office of Management Information Systems (MIS). Schumaker is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2532.



**Dr. Denise Tate** has been appointed associate dean for Undergraduate Program in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. Tate is located on the 3rd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 3254.

# Congratulations

**Michael Sheridan**, academic evaluator, and wife Leah, are the proud parents of Riley Paige. Born Jan. 19, Riley weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches. She is their first child.

**Jasmine Lynch**, senior admissions counselor, and husband Stephan, welcomed daughter Kaylyn Renée on Jan. 31. Kaylyn, who weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces, is Jasmine and Stephan's first child.

**Heather Brooks**, director of Human Resources, and partner John Lubitsky are the proud parents of Eden Olive Lubitsky. Born March 29, Eden weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces. She joins sisters Rebecca, Sarah and Theresa.

**Jennifer Guerrero**, director of the Annual Fund, and husband Medardo, welcomed son George on April 27. George weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches. He joins big brother Medardo Jr.

## National Institute:

### *Best Practices in Prior Learning Assessment for Professionals in Education*

Thomas Edison State College presented the 27th annual **National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning** at the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, in Philadelphia, Pa., June 2-4. This year's theme, *PLA 20/20: Goals and Visions*, centered on the questions facing this area of higher education in the next five years: What will the assessment of learning look like? What new technologies will be shaping our approach to adult learners? How important will competency-based education be?

The National Institute provides a learning experience focused around best practices in prior learning assessment (PLA) for professionals in education. The main goals of the Institute are to provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences and network as they discuss concepts such as the development and growth of PLA programs, assessment of adult learning, student advising, faculty development, research and quality assurance as well as current issues and trends.

"What's great about the National Institute is that it does two things for the College. One, it gives us the opportunity to interact with our peers at other adult-serving institutions and learn about what is working for them, what challenges and issues we share, and how the College relates to the rest of the educational field. The other thing it does for the College, as the host of the Institute for 27 years,

is demonstrates our leadership in the field. The fact that people come to the National Institute from all over the U.S. and, in fact, several other countries, shows that people look to Thomas Edison State College for leadership in the area of prior learning assessment, competency-based education, expanding access to higher education and more. I'm proud to be associated with this storied program," explained **Marc Singer**, vice provost, Center for the Assessment of Learning, and director of the Institute.

This year's event featured keynote speakers who are nationally recognized leaders in prior learning assessment, including Meg Benke, PhD, professor and mentor, School of Graduate Studies, SUNY Empire State College, who spoke on new frontiers in online learning for adult and nontraditional students; and Rich Roberts, PhD, of Professional Exam Service, who discussed noncognitive assessment. This year's preconference workshop centered on Prior Learning Assessment Theory and Practice: An Overview of Program Essentials for New Practitioners, given by Alan Mandell, PhD, of SUNY Empire State College, and Theresa Hoffman, consultant for PLA Consulting, former director and collegiate associate professor of University of Maryland University College Prior Learning Program and PLA mentor at Thomas Edison State College.