



Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • June 2010



Dr. Mary Ellen Caro

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~ Dr. Mary Ellen Caro
Vice President for
Enrollment Management
and Learner Services

Caro Heads New Division

College Strengthens Focus on Student Services and Market Driven Academic Offerings

Dr. Mary Ellen Caro was recently appointed vice president for Enrollment Management and Learner Services at Thomas Edison State College.

Serving in this position, Caro now oversees the newly established Division of Enrollment Management and Learner Services, which encompasses the offices of Learner Services, Military & Veteran Education, Strategic Partnerships and the College's new recruitment and enrollment management program.

While making the announcement, **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, president of the College, said, "The creation of this new division will enable the College to better manage our continuing growth, strengthen our focus on expanding student services and develop market driven academic offerings, and better position the College for the successful implementation of our new recruitment and enrollment management strategies."

Caro joined Thomas Edison State College in 2004 after a successful career at AT&T, where she held a variety of senior executive leadership roles in operations, sales, marketing and advertising. She served as the College's first dean of the School of Business and Management, where she played a key role in enhancing the curriculum of the

School's undergraduate and graduate programs, increasing enrollment and creating the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership degree program.

In 2007, Caro was named executive vice provost responsible for strategic partnerships, corporate-higher education programs, military education, graduate studies and mentor support services. Caro has chaired many committees critical to College operations, including the Middle States Self-Study, Web, Student Conduct, and Recruitment and Enrollment Management committees.

"I am delighted to lead these critical focus areas for the College," said Caro. "Our approach to growth requires a cross functional team effort that is grounded in understanding the evolving needs of our adult learners."

Caro received a doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pa., in higher education management. As an AT&T Sloan Fellow, Caro also received a Master of Science degree in management from Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. Other educational achievements include a Master of Science in applied statistics from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and sociology from the College of St. Elizabeth, Morristown, N.J.

Speaking Up!



Elaine Scheff, president, The State Street Speakers, Toastmasters International club.

Are you the type of person who would rather walk on hot coals than stand before a group and speak? Do you find yourself uncomfortable when having to give a quick response at a meeting or wish you could present your ideas better to your team or boss? Toastmasters International is a program designed to help you improve your ability to speak before groups, at meetings and even in one-on-one situations.

Since its inception in 1924, Toastmasters has grown to become a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience.

Two years ago, employees of Thomas Edison State College and the New Jersey State Library started a Toastmaster group, **The State Street Speakers**, which meets monthly. Participants practice and learn skills ranging from giving a prepared or impromptu speech, to serving as timer, evaluator or grammarian. There is no instructor; instead, each speech and meeting is critiqued by a fellow member in a positive manner, focusing on what was done right and what could be improved.

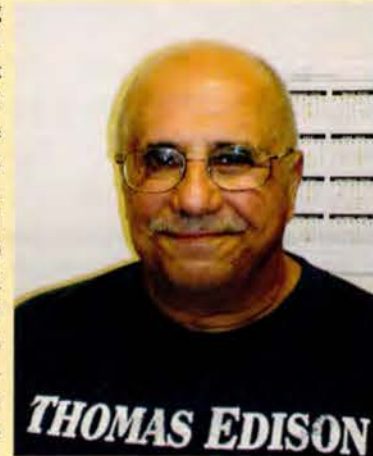
The State Street Speakers would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join. The cost is \$27 for six months. Meetings are held at noon on the third Thursday of each month in the College's Townhouse room 103. Please stop by to see first hand if this is the right group for you. For more information contact Nancy Dowd, director of Marketing, NJ State Library, at ndowd@njstatelib.org.

Focus On: Frank Tulli

The word "I" never enters the conversation when **Frank Tulli** describes his position in Mail Operations in the Office of Administrative Services.

For him, success is a shared endeavor.

"It takes a collective effort by all members of the Mail Operations staff," noted Tulli, when asked about the details of his position. "The day begins for us by picking up the College's mail from the local post office, sorting it and then delivering it to the respective departments in three buildings. There are two mail deliveries: one at 10 a.m. and another at 2 p.m. The outgoing mail is then collected from the College departments, sorted, metered and delivered to the post office by 4 p.m."



Frank Tulli
Clerk Drive in Mail Operations
Office of Administrative Services

Though mail operations is the underlying objective, Tulli, a clerk driver employed at the College for 12 years, points out that many of his duties defy category.

"Our staff set up the College's various conference spaces on a daily basis and assist the College's guests and staff with technical equipment and facility issues," he explained. "We also provide support to the Office of Admissions in the Fulfillment Center; packing the materials needed for delivery to prospective and admitted students." In addition to day-to-day facilities management and logistic needs, he and his colleagues serve as an integral resource during Commencement and the College's special events.

Tulli has firsthand knowledge of the difference between adult learners and traditional students, as his 25 years of experience in a residential campus setting can attest.

During his tenure as a campus police officer at a nearby residential state college, he was responsible for the safety and security of the campus while protecting students, visitors, faculty, administrative

staff, dormitories and property. The three months of training with the New Jersey State Policy Academy in Sea Girt prepared him in crime scene protocol, coordination of emergency services and as a first responder for criminal complaints, assaults, injuries, vehicular violations and dispute mediation while working in tandem with college administrators, local law enforcement and the court systems. The position culminated in Tulli being promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

Prior to his role as a campus police officer, Tulli served six years with the New Jersey National Guard and completed advanced training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. "My training at Jackson consisted mostly of learning to be a supply clerk the 'army way,'" he added.

As a lifelong learner, Tulli spent two years at Mercer County Community College (MCCC). Ironically, one of his courses was taken on the Kelsey Building's 5th floor during MCCC's occupation of 101 West State Street. He has also held a N.J. real estate license.

Tulli has worked under many conditions with an array of personalities leading up to his present position; but to him, Thomas Edison State College remains unique.

"What I like most about working here are the people! I spend my days with the best group of co-workers I have encountered anywhere," he added.

"Frank Tulli is a genuine team player who is an asset to the Office of Administrative Services and the entire College," said **Mary Hack**, director of Administrative Services. "He is our 'go to' guy, but it is his reliability during the crunch times that I admire the most."

Tulli and wife Kathleen (soon to be empty-nesters) have spent 40 years in Hamilton Township, Mercer County, where they have raised their four children.

Congratulations

Matthew K. Brown, administrative assistant, Office of the Vice Provost, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL), and his wife, Jesenia, welcomed son, Jace Ryland Brown, to their family on March 26. Jace Ryland weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches.

College Staff Give Back



College staff prepare for the second clean-up effort in ongoing commitment to community

College staff gathered for Community Give Back Day on April 30. Co-chairs **Robin Walton**, director, Office of Community Affairs & Government Relations, and **Heather Brooks**, associate director, Office of Human Resources, used the Academic Center as a staging area to distribute volunteer assignments, gloves, bags, brooms and dust pans to staff who were dispersed to help neighborhood residents tidy up the West Hanover Street area.

"This, our second clean-up activity, was a very successful effort in an ongoing commitment to give back to our community," said Brooks. "We were delighted that we had such a great turnout from more than 30 of our staff members. The endeavor resulted in the collection of more than 40 large bags of trash from the neighborhood streets."

The College joined forces with the Residents of West Hanover Street Association, the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in the effort.

Staff Activities

Dr. Susan C. Cobb, senior program advisor, School of Nursing, did a presentation, "Social Presence, Satisfaction and Perceived Learning in Web-based Nursing Courses," at the New Jersey Nursing Convention held in Atlantic City, N.J., March 24-26.

Dr. Catherine Kotecki, associate dean, School of Nursing, gave two presentations, "Career Development in Critical Care Nursing" and "Differentiating Research from Evidence Based Practice," at Trends in Critical Care Nursing conference sponsored by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, held in Atlantic City, April 5-8.

Dr. Penelope Brouwer, vice president for Planning and Research, and **Dr. Ann Marie Senior**, director of Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment, attended a working group session at the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education in March to implement the New Jersey College Student & Parent Consumer Information Act. Recently, Senior attended the NJ ACE Network Women of Color in Higher Education Conference at Rider University. The theme was "Servant Leadership." In April, Senior and **Robert Bamfo**, senior research analyst, attended the NJ Association for Institutional Research 16th Annual Conference at Hudson County Community College in Jersey City, N.J. The conference theme was "Navigating the Higher Education Act: New Accountability Requirements." At that conference, Senior was selected to serve as a public college representative on the Association's Steering Committee for the upcoming year.



Penelope Brouwer



Dr. Michael Toscani
presenting award to
John Thurber

John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, received the "Shining Star" award from the American Cancer Society Mercer County Unit at its 23rd Annual Celebration of Life Gala on April 10. Dr. Michael Toscani, vice president of the Mercer County Board of Advisors of the American Cancer Society, presented the award. Toscani is also vice chairman of the College's Foundation Board of Directors.

Senior Program Advisors **Todd Siben**, Liberal Arts and Sciences Programs, and **Carla Colburn**, School of Applied Science and Technology, were members of the regional conference planning committee for the NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) Mid-Atlantic Region 2 Conference, "Shifting Sands: Advising in a Changing World," which was held in Atlantic City, April 14-16. Colburn served as the chairperson of the evaluation committee, and Siben as NACADA NJ representative. Other attendees were Program Advisors **Donna Keebler**, **Doris Simmons**, **Alicia Malone** and **Rhonda Beckett**; Assistant Director **Robert Burton**, Office of Military & Veteran Education; and School of Nursing Senior Program Advisor **Dr. Susan Cobb**, and Nursing Program and Graduate Student Advisor **Holly Leahan**. Siben also attended the New Jersey Library Association's annual conference in Long Branch, N.J., on April 27. He was one of several panel members to talk to the attendees about the success of the IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Studies) grant that the College has been part of since 2003.

Welcome New Staff



Dr. Richard Coe has been appointed assistant dean in the School of Applied Science and Technology. Coe is located on the 3rd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2210.



Camilla King-Lewis has been appointed acting assistant dean, School of Business and Management. King-Lewis is located on the 3rd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3220.

Oh Pioneers!



The atmosphere in Townhouse 103 – a space usually reserved for midterms and finals – droned with a different kind of intensity on April 22 as the sons, daughters, nieces and nephews of Thomas Edison State College staff converged for "Take Your Child to Work Day."

A welcome and discussion with President **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, Career Bingo, prizes, a panel discussion, a planetarium show and a pizza party were a definite hit with Assistant Director of Accounts Payable **Heidi Hanuschik**'s two children, Jon and Amy.

"Human Resources does such a great job every year in entertaining and educating the kids during Take Your Child to Work Day," said Hanuschik, whose children were among the nearly 50 in attendance. "My son, Jon, has been coming since he was 8 years old and my daughter, Amy, who began attending last year, love it." Hanuschik's children are impressed with their mother's colleagues and have expressed interest in working at the College themselves someday (though mom, Heidi, is quick to point out that her workdays usually do not involve stargazing and pizza parties).

Timeline New Jersey



During the **New Jersey State Library Lunchtime Lecture** recently, Walter Choroszewski, a photographer, author and advocate of state pride, presented colorful images and a lecture that focused on the history of the Garden State.

Choroszewski's presentation took the 35 attendees through time and introduced them to New Jersey's first residents and explorers. It encouraged the audience to take pride in the state's Revolutionary past and to celebrate the events and "firsts" that make New Jersey special.

Choroszewski's photos were the inspiration for the popular New Jersey state tourism campaign: "New Jersey & You... Perfect Together."

Golf Classic's 16th Year

The **16th Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic** will be held on June 21, 2010, at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrenceville, N. J. All net proceeds from the outing will be placed in the Thomas C. Streckewald Endowment Fund, a fund created to commemorate the life and memory of our beloved staff member.

If you would like to attend the Golf Classic as either a participant or volunteer, please contact **Jennifer Guerrero**, associate director, Office of Annual Fund & Donor Relations, at jguerrero@tesc.edu or extension 2083.

College's Strategic Vision Plan Revised

The vice presidents and goal leaders have finalized the revisions of the **Strategic Vision Plan** comprising FY2010-2012. Goal leaders assembled teams to develop strategies for each of the 12 goals. A Senior Staff Retreat was held on Feb. 26 as a working session to present and discuss strategies related to the goals. The inclement weather on that day did not deter the team. Goal leaders facilitated discussions on their respective goals and created a stimulating and productive session. The retreat was facilitated by Susan Valentine, an independent consultant.

In March, the vice presidents worked with the goal leaders regarding key issues, follow-up and action items that are vital to finalize strategies. Strategies comprise timelines, specified resources and cost. Exciting work is ongoing.



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.