



Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • June 2009



Rowing For a Cure

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE STAFF PADDLE FOR BREAST CANCER RESOURCE CENTER

Fifteen Thomas Edison State College staff and eight of their spouses and friends participated in the 3rd Annual Paddle for Pink Dragon Boat Festival held on Lake Mercer at the Mercer County Park Marina in West Windsor, N.J., on June 7. The Paddle for Pink festival was conceived to raise money for the Breast Cancer Resource Center (BCRC), a nonprofit program of the YWCA of Princeton. It is dedicated to providing information and support to those who are affected by breast cancer and their families. Last year's race raised \$10,000 for the program.

Dragon Boat Festivals, which have been held in China for more than 2,000 years, began as a tribute to a statesman and poet who lived more than 2,300 years ago. It has only been in the last 15 years that the sport of dragon boat racing has gone worldwide. A Canadian physician began to use racing as part of the therapy for breast cancer survivors and today many of the festivals are held to promote breast cancer awareness.

A dragon boat is a Chinese canoe approximately 40 feet long with a dragon head on the front and a tail on the back. There are 10 bench seats, with two paddlers per seat. An individual steers from the back and another sits elevated in the front of the boat beating on a drum

to help keep the crew in rhythm. Races, which are 250 or 500 meters long, typically only last three minutes.

The Thomas Edison State College team came from the offices

of Admissions, Human Resources, Learner Services, Communications and Management Information Systems. The crew was created to promote team spirit and to help raise money for the BCRC.

The crew included: **Lorilyn Lewis**, admissions counselor; **Iris Lewin**, admissions counselor; **Linda Rosner**, admissions counselor; **Christine Carter**, Learner Services evaluator; **Jared Carter**, systems coordinator; **Doray Burns**, Learner Services evaluator; **Loretta Perkins**, senior Learner Support representative; **Karen Hume**, director of Creative Services;

"Dragon boat racing is a fun, exhilarating and challenging sport. This was the first year the team participated, and we hope it will become an annual event for Thomas Edison State College."

- Lorilyn Lewis, Admissions Counselor & Dragon Boat Team Captain



Dragon Boat Race

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Carla-Maria Ratice, Learner Services evaluator; **Heather Brooks**, associate director of Human Resources; **Maisha Howard**, admissions counselor; and **Nykea Ali**, Learner Services evaluator.

"The team participated in the mixed races – men and women – and the educational team competed against other local schools," said Lewis, Dragon Boat team captain. "Dragon boat racing is a fun, exhilarating and challenging sport. This was the first year the team participated and we hope it will become an annual event for Thomas Edison State College."

The Legend of Dragon Boat Racing

At the end of the Zhou Dynasty, the area now known as China had fallen into a state of fragmentation and conflict. While the Zhou Dynasty had ruled for centuries, several other states, originally feudal domains, tried to carve out their own kingdoms. The state of Qin eventually emerged the victor, unifying all of China under one rule for the first time in history.

Qu Yuan served as minister to the Zhou emperor. A wise and articulate man, he was loved by the common people. He did much to fight against the corruption that plagued the court, thereby earning the envy and fear of other officials. Later, when he urged the emperor to avoid conflict with the Qin Kingdom, the officials pressured the emperor to have him removed from service. In exile, Qu Yuan traveled, taught and wrote for several years. Hearing that the Zhou had been defeated by the Qin, he fell into despair and threw himself into the Milou River.

Fishermen along the river are said to have jumped into their boats and paddled out to rescue Qu Yuan. The search for his body has evolved into present day dragon boat racing. Every year on the anniversary of Qu Yuan's death, there are Dragon Boat Festivals in China.

Focus On: Cynthia Mooney

Instructional Designer - Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL)

Collaboration is the College's stock-in-trade, and nowhere is it more palpable than in the area of Instructional Design and Course Development. In tandem with academic staff and mentors, DIAL's instructional designers piece together the structure of the College's courses while keeping the perspectives of the learner, the instructor and the technician always in mind.

For **Cynthia Mooney**, this means that two workdays are rarely alike.

"My days vary quite a bit, and that's something I enjoy," noted June's Focus On subject, Instructional Designer Cynthia E. Mooney. "On any given day, we are all working with a number of courses in various stages of development. Some of each day is spent on the phone or in e-mail with the subject matter experts — our mentors — as we collaborate in shaping the courses. Our goal is to make the best use of their pedagogical and subject matter expertise while injecting our own technical and design knowledge. Part of each day I'm editing the material sent to me and designing it for the course space along with making revisions to existing courses."

Prior to coming to the College in July 2000, Mooney was a project director with Visual Educational Corporation in Princeton. "We did editorial and production work for large textbook publishers. I worked on a lot of interesting books and I really liked my job, which I did for more than 15 years. When I heard about an opening here, it seemed the position would employ many of my existing skills and be a great progression for me."

The synergy Mooney now enjoys goes both ways.

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies and Master of Science in Management Mentor Dr. William Howe, who assists in designing undergraduate and graduate courses, is quick to point out her strengths: "Cindy demonstrates unqualified professionalism and com-

mitment in her work and is a brilliant, talented and caring person."

The hours she spends with fellow Instructional Design and Course Development staff is the most enjoyable part of her work week.

"We're a small group but we draw from a variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise," she enthused. "It's always stimulating to talk to my colleagues and hear their ideas on

how to do things a better way. I'm constantly learning new things. For example, a couple of the designers have found a way to add a bookmarking and sharing button to our Course Essentials documents (syllabi). This will make it simple for students to share course information on their favorite social networking sites. It also makes it easy for them to e-mail a syllabus to friends who may be interested in enrolling."

Mooney, who currently lives in Pennington, N.J., earned her BA in English from Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa. "Yes, that really is the town's name," laughed Mooney. "Those years provided me with a solid foundation in communications and writing, but I've learned a great deal more since then as I've worked in publishing and academia."

When Mooney isn't deep in the constructs of course space, she enjoys cycling, reading, films and other pursuits tied to her early interests in literature and writing.

Mooney also volunteers weekly for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic in Princeton. "There, I read all kinds of things, some of them pretty deadly, such as the New Jersey Administrative Code, and others that are really fascinating, such as current novels. If anyone is looking for a place to volunteer, I definitely recommend RFBD's Princeton Studio!"

Those interested, can visit www.rfbdnj.org to find out more.



Cynthia Mooney

Brightest Light



Larsicena Vance-West, program assistant, Office of the Registrar, was honored as the "Brightest Lights" employee of the month in March. Vance-West was recognized by the committee recently with the acknowledgement that her ability to "continually create a pleasant environment for co-workers and all who encounter her as well as her willingness to go above and beyond the duties of her job, make her a Bright Light at Thomas Edison State College."

Congratulations

Richard Strauss, graduation auditor, Office of the Registrar, and his wife, Carrie, welcomed their third son, Ryan Patrick Strauss on April 8, 2009. Ryan Patrick, who weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 19½ inches long, joins big brothers Dylan and Connor.

Patricia Certo, senior admissions counselor, Office of Admissions, and Robert Bates are the proud parents of Jonathan Robert Bates. Born on April 11, 2009, Jonathan Robert weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20 inches long.

Staff Activities



Susan C. Cobb, PhD, RN, program advisor, School of Nursing, gave a presentation entitled "Bridging the Gap in Online Education through Social Presence" at the 27th Annual International Nursing Technology Conference sponsored by Rutgers College of Nursing Center for Professional Development and held in Crystal City, Va., April 24 - 26, 2009.

Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, executive vice provost, and **Sylvia G. Hamilton**, vice provost for Strategic Partnerships, recently had an article titled "Strengthen Your Enterprise Learning Through Strategic Academic Partnerships" published in *Human Resources IQ.com* (April 2009).

Todd Siben, senior program advisor, Office of Advisement, participated in a panel discussion at Mercer County Community College titled *New Pathways to Teaching in NJ* on April 14. The program, which Siben has been connected with for a number of years, offers an "alternate route" to teacher certification. Siben answered questions on Credit Banking and degree completion. On April 17, Siben co-presented sessions at the *Cumberland County Career and Education Resources Expo* at Cumberland County College on the subject of "Advancing Your Degree," with Steven Stolar, director of Advising at CCC.



Dr. Joseph C. Santora, dean of the School of Business and Management, was recently notified that his article "Founders, leaders, and organizational life cycles: the choice is easy - learn or fail," which was published in *Development and Learning in Organizations: An International Journal*, has been chosen as an Outstanding Paper Award Winner at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2009.

School of Nursing Holds Fourth Annual Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing

The School of Nursing's Fourth Annual Distinguished Lectureship attracted a potent mix of health professionals to the College on May 15. During *Diversity in a Virtual World: The Transformation of Nursing Education*, nurse leaders, students, educators and clinicians shared a day of exploring the transformations in both the demographic and technological landscapes influencing nursing education today.

"Our efforts to recruit minority nursing faculty have been successful during the first phase of this program; thus far, we have educated more than 50 minority nurse educators who will be shared nationally through a Thomas Edison State College Web site database," said **Dr. Susan McMullen O'Brien**, dean of the School. "However, there is still much to be accomplished." Developed in 2005, the Online Minority Nurse Educator Program prepares minority nurse educators with online pedagogical skills and uses online methodology to teach minority faculty



The School of Nursing participants assembled following the Diversity in Nursing Keynote address

New Staff



Catriesha Atkins has been appointed clerk in the Office of the Registrar. Atkins is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3140.



Darryl Battle has been appointed clerk in the Office of the Registrar. Battle is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3145.



Tanisha McKinnis has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of the Registrar. McKinnis is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3075.



Michael Opalski has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of Test Administration. Opalski is located on the basement level of the Townhouse and may be reached at extension 2270.



Pam Tenaglia has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of Test Administration. Tenaglia is located on the 3rd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2185.

Coping @ the Speed of Light



Mind, body and spirit were the focus during mental health advocate Kimme Carlos' presentation on May 6.

The program manager for the African Studies Association at Rutgers University, community program coordinator for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Mercer, and mental health ministry leader at Galilee Baptist Church in Trenton shared her experiences with staff from the offices of Learner Services, Strategic Partnerships and Communications in a group discussion titled "How Do We Stay Mentally Healthy in a Fast-Paced World?"

Staff Bring Their Children to Work



The sons and daughters of Thomas Edison State College staff got the opportunity to walk in their parents' shoes on April 23. The Office of Human Resources, with the help of staff volunteers, led the children through 'Take Your Child to Work Day' activities which included a State House tour, presentations and a pizza party.

According to participant **Jennifer Montone**, assistant director of Purchasing in the Office of Administrative Services, "It was a great experience for our children. I would also like to thank the Human Resources team, all of the helpers and the presenters who did a wonderful job of keeping the kids engaged. According to my son [Travis], they learned a lot and had a ball doing it!"



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.