



distance & independent

adult • learning

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

TRENTON, N.J.

SIGNALS

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Thomas Edison State College: Silver Anniversary 1997 Inventing the Future of Higher Education

To celebrate the most unique success story in higher education, Thomas Edison State College is observing its 25th anniversary in 1997 with a year-long series of events. From brochures and banners to stationery and even the College's postage meter, everything the College produces will announce this milestone celebration.

"This year's theme, 'Inventing the Future of Higher Education,' certainly characterizes Thomas Edison State College since its beginnings," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president. "In the past few years, other colleges have begun to discover the adult learners we have been designed to serve exclusively since our founding 25 years ago. The work we pioneered in meeting the special needs of adult learners has been imitated but not replicated in colleges and universities around the world. I can say with absolute conviction that no educational institution is better suited to today's busy adult than Thomas Edison State College."

The year's celebration is beginning in January with a ceremony recog-

nizing the College's John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, which provides impartial policy analysis and review to local and state governments. Other events will include a series of academic presentations, a birthday party with cake and candles, a spectacular Foundation Gala in the fall and an extraordinary

Commencement in the Princeton University Chapel honoring College alumni from the first graduating class.

The year also will include the publication of two milestone volumes: a 25-year history of Thomas Edison State College and the first Alumni Directory.

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Staff Profile: Kenneth W. Lightfoot, Instructional Designer

The tremendous growth of DIAL has led to the creation of a new position that will take DIAL into the area of Course Development. Until now, courses offered through DIAL have been leased by Thomas Edison State College, many developed by consortia of colleges and universities and offered through PBS (Public Broadcasting System) or other national programs. With the addition of an instructional designer, Thomas Edison has begun to create its own courses. "This adds a new dimension for our students," stated Associate Vice President William J. Seaton. "It moves us beyond acquisition and leasing and enables us to develop courses that have been difficult for our students to find. It will further assist students with completing degree requirements at a distance." One of

the first courses targeted to be developed will be Pre-Calculus, which is needed by business and applied science and technology students.



▲ Kenneth W. Lightfoot

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**REGISTER EARLY
SUMMER '97
REGISTRATION:**

Feb. 24-March 28, 1997

LATE REGISTRATION:

March 29-April 4, 1997

SUMMER SEMESTER

Begins:

May 5, 1997

Letter from the Director

As we begin 1997, many of us make, and soon break, New Year's resolutions. Instead of suggesting that you put education at the top of your resolutions list, I'd like to offer an alternative idea - develop a personal mission statement. This idea originated with Dr. Stephen R. Covey, the world-renowned author on leadership. As Dr. Covey has noted, "Each of us has to take responsibility for the question of how to balance our work and personal lives. You can't transfer it to your environment and say, 'I can't do it, I've got too much to do, I have this kind of boss, I have these demands, I'm juggling all these different balls.' You literally have to say, 'This is my life, it is my stewardship, and I am responsible and accountable for it.'"

While many of us are familiar with organizational mission statements, we often don't think of them in a personal light. A personal mission statement functions as a compass; while we can certainly expect to go off course as we travel through life, it can help us redirect ourselves so that we arrive at our desired destination. Such a personal mission statement is a clear vision from inside ourselves which articulates our personal values and principles. It takes time to develop a thoughtful and authentic statement. How long? Dr. Covey spent eight months on his. And, he notes that it needs to be revisited and revised on a regular basis.

What goes into a personal mission statement? If you think about our nature as humans, we have a physical, a mental, a social and a spiritual area. Our mission statements should deal with all four. Again, Dr. Covey, "...you want to be a product more of the spirit of things, not the letter of things, more of principles and less of being addicted to a schedule. You want to have flexibility and adaptability. Then you have to exercise great integrity by listening to your heart, in the moment of choice, and deciding: What is the most important thing to do now?"

William J. Seaton
Associate Vice President

Registration Up for Winter '97

Registration for the Winter 1997 semester was brisk, with nine courses filled and several close to the limit. A record total of 1,959 registrations were received for Guided Study and On-Line Computer Classroom™ courses, an increase of nearly 13 percent over the Winter 1996 semester. DIAL will strive to continue to expand to meet the ever-growing demand for courses while maintaining a rigorous and high-quality program. ■

Profile.....FROM P. 1

It seems especially appropriate that Ken Lightfoot, recently appointed by Thomas Edison State College as an instructional designer in the College's Office of Distance & Independent Adult Learning program, found out about the position early one morning while surfing the 'net from his office in Germany. Because of the time difference, he was often on the 'net early.

The work at Thomas Edison seemed the next logical step for Ken. Although he was born and educated in America, he had spent most of the last 20 years working in Germany and the United Kingdom, where he gained increasing knowledge about adult learners, course development and distance education.

He trained as a teacher at the University of Wales in the prestigious Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) program and went on to design and teach courses for the Institution's Department of Adult and Continuing Education in a part-time capacity while serving as the curator of Neath Museum in South Wales on a full-time basis. As part of Ken's work at the Museum, he developed educational programs in conjunction with local schools, colleges and community groups, and appeared on BBC Radio and TV.

After several years of developing educational programs in a museum environment, Ken entered education full-

time as a member of the faculty at the University of Luneburg in Germany, where, in addition to teaching, he was responsible for curriculum development for the faculty of Cultural Sciences and the Teacher Training Program.

Ken's knowledge of distance learning includes personal experience, as well. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in the Department of History, University of Wales, as a distance learner. "As a student myself, I understand what it is like to work at a distance and often in isolation," he pointed out. His dissertation topic, 13th-Century research on the Knights of Henry III, has included much correspondence, travel to London and research. "This topic may seem alien at first, but in fact much of the knights' involvement in government in the 13th Century was the precursor to how the U.S. government operates today. Examples include our jury system, taxation and the diplomatic corps."

Ken's interest in history and archaeology has taken him beyond the campus setting to work on many interesting projects. He served as an advisor to the Swansea City Council in Wales for Oystermouth Castle and compiled detailed architectural and archaeological surveys while digging. "Even when I was involved in digging, I always went beyond that to look at the learning and research aspects to

C O N T I N U E D P. 4

DIAL Offers 12 Courses on the World Wide Web

There is a new "face-lift" on the College's Web page that now includes 12 courses:

- ❑ Computers and Society
- ❑ International Economics
- ❑ Global Environmental Change

- ❑ American Cinema
- ❑ Principles of Management
- ❑ Managing in Organizations
- ❑ Introduction to Marketing
- ❑ Contemporary Ethics
- ❑ Major Philosophers
- ❑ Social Psychology
- ❑ The Religious Quest
- ❑ Marriage and the Family

course of choice, and are then presented with a list of four items of immediate interest: (1) a letter from the course faculty mentor; (2) the course syllabus; (3) the course manual; and (4) forms. Clicking on any one of the items on this list brings the student immediately to that item.

These new features became standard with the start of the Winter 1997 semester, on Jan. 6, 1997. The DIAL staff hopes that more and more students will take advantage of courses presented on the World Wide Web. ■

Courses may only run with sufficient enrollment.

With the newly redesigned format and access features, registered students simply click on the name of the

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▲ Attending the recent workshop for faculty mentors were (l. to r.) Professors Henry MacAdam (*Myth and Culture*); Mary Wall (*Intro to Computers*), Pamela Straker (*Psychology*), Elaine Foster (*American Cinema*) and Michael Schwartz (*College Composition*).

Welcome New Mentors

The following faculty mentors are new to the DIAL program at Thomas Edison and will mentor their first class beginning with the Winter 1997 semester:

- ❑ **Mary Wall**, Ph.D., Nova University (Computer Literacy)
- ❑ **Elaine Foster**, M.A., Middlebury (American Cinema)
- ❑ **Henry MacAdam**, Ph. D., University of Manchester (*Myth and Culture*)
- ❑ **Chet Zimolzak**, M.S., Pennsylvania State University; M.A. Madison University of Wisconsin, (Geography)

Silver.....FROM P. 1

Details will be provided to alumni and students in future issues of *Invention*.

But the birthday observances will really take up only a small part of the College's calendar in 1997. "We'll be spending most of our time doing what we do best," said Dr. Pruitt, "inventing an even brighter future for higher education and the adult learners we serve." ■



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Archaeological Field Project Open to TESC Students

So how are you spending your summer vacation? DIAL students have the opportunity to participate in two 1997 Summer Archaeology Field School projects for college credit.

The Department of Anthropology and the Center for Archaeological Studies at Montclair State University (MSU) are offering an optional 3 credit (two week) or 6 credit (four week) Archaeology Field School at either of two archaeological sites: one a Native American quarry site that dates to the archaic period (ca. 8000 B.C.); the other, an historic site that dates to the 18th and 19th centuries. The field school is overseen by Dr. Stanley Walling, director of MSU's

Center for Archaeological Studies and a faculty mentor for Thomas Edison.

Possible schedules run from May 27 through June 20. Students are given basic instruction in archaeological surveying, excavation and artifact processing techniques as they map and excavate one of the two sites.

Profile.....FROM P.2

coordinate learning projects," he added.

Other projects include an ongoing 14-year study of the Archives of Bermuda, which he hopes to publish, and work on the translation of German Air Force Records in connection with a book that was singled out for merit in Britain. He has published many articles and delivered papers about his archeological projects.

Ken has been enjoying rediscovering living in the U.S., where, after being gone for so long, he feels almost like a foreigner. Like many of his Thomas Edison colleagues, Ken now finds himself "acting as an agent" for the College. "People abroad have heard of Thomas Edison and are keen about finding out more. I have been sending friends and colleagues out information regularly since I started here."

With such a broad and rich background, Ken's impact on the distance learning programs of the College is already being felt and is expected to continue to be significant. ■

Participating Thomas Edison students can register as visiting students at MSU for the summer and will receive MSU credit for Anthropology 470. Graduate credit also is available.

The Field School attracts students from all over the U.S. and other nations. Enrollment is

limited to 20 students per site. For information, contact Dr. Stanley Walling at (201) 655-5164 or at Walling@Saturn.Montclair.edu. ■

