

# SIGNALS

T H O M A S E D I S O N S T A T E C O L L E G E

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## COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate courses and their availability may be found on the College Web site. Go to [www.tesc.edu/listall.php](http://www.tesc.edu/listall.php).

### NEW ONLINE COURSES:

ACC-401	Advanced Accounting I
HLS-420	Preparedness: Prevention & Deterrence
HLS-429	Protecting the Homeland: Response & Recovery
LDR-345	Theories of Leadership
LDR-422	Leadership in the Global Environment
LIB-495	Liberal Arts Practicum
PHI-370	Philosophy of Religion

### NEW STANDARD PLAs:

Aoj-131	Introduction to Security
COM-108	Fundamentals of Speech
COM-402	Interviewing
PHO-363	Digital Camera I
SPA-378	Advanced Translation I

### COMING SOON:

ACC-402	Advanced Accounting II
CMP-202	Fundamentals of Information Technology
CMP-311	Databases
CMP-354	Networking Technologies
EAS-201	Science and Disasters
HIS-306	African American History
PSG-101	Theoretical Fundamentals of Polysomnography

## Now Appearing: Your GPA

Thomas Edison State College is pleased to announce a new policy on grade point average (GPA). The policy, which became effective Sept. 1, will apply to all Thomas Edison State College students enrolled as degree-seeking or nonmatriculated students on or after July 1, 2008. Students' GPA will now be calculated in accordance with the specifications listed below and will be posted on all official and student copies of Thomas Edison State College transcripts.

The GPA will be based solely on graded credits earned through Thomas Edison State College course work, regardless of when these credits were earned and regardless of whether the course is used to fulfill a degree requirement. Only grades which reflect earned credits (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C- and D) will be used to calculate the official Thomas Edison State College GPA. Courses with grades of F, U, W, I, IF, NC or any other symbol indicating noncredit are not recorded on the transcript, nor will they be calculated into the GPA.

Thomas Edison State College credit-earning

options in which students receive grades of CR, such as TECEP®, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), Practicum courses and e-Pack® courses, will not be calculated into the GPA but will appear on the transcript.

Since the College only evaluates and accepts transfer course work in which the student earned credit, credit earned elsewhere and transferred to the College will be listed on the transcript under the heading "Transfer Credit." These courses will be listed with the

course code, course title and the number of credits earned but will not list the grade earned at the transfer institution. Credit recommended from ACE, DANTES, CLEP, military or corporate training, etc., are listed under the heading of "Assessment Credit" with a grade of CR. No grades from transfer or assessment courses will be calculated into the Thomas Edison State College GPA.



Sharon Smith, Registrar

If you have questions regarding this policy that are not addressed below, please contact us by submitting a Help Desk ticket online via myEdison: <http://myedison.tesc.edu/webapps/login>.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW GPA POLICY:

#### ▶ **Q Who will get the new transcript/academic evaluation format?**

All undergraduate and graduate students who are engaged with Thomas Edison State College as of July 1, 2008, get the new format. This includes students who are engaged with Thomas Edison State College as applicants, currently enrolled or

nonmatriculated students taking courses or using the College's Credit Banking services. If the student is currently engaged with Thomas Edison State College now, they get the new format, even if they were previously inactive, a graduate, on a leave of absence (LOA) or previously nonmatriculating. Students who graduate in September 2008 or later will have the new format.

*continued on the inside middle panel*

# Power and Practice

## *A Nurse Manager with a Renewed Sense of Purpose Found a Lot of Company – In an Online Course*

Mary McDermott, RN, CCM, will tell you that she has learned much since enrolling in Thomas Edison State College's School of Nursing in 2006.

That may come as a surprise since McDermott is anything but a novice.

In spite of her 27 years in the field of nursing and her current role as a national manager in catastrophic injury cases, she is astonished by what she is discovering.

"I cannot believe what I did not know," said McDermott of her online interaction with fellow nursing students. "I was already very familiar with the study of infectious diseases for instance, but the online exchanges with other nursing students helped blend that knowledge with other disciplines across the entire spectrum of nursing. It is exhilarating dialoging with other nurses and mentors. I've gained a heightened sense of pride in my profession."

Once enrolled in the RN-BSN/MSN program, McDermott found that her statistics, information technology, effective leadership and social psychology courses added valuable heft to her clinical experience. She is delighted too that her BSN, once completed, will already contain the necessary components of her master's degree. "Nine credits toward my MSN will already be included in my BSN degree," said McDermott, who considers the dividend an

incentive to continue her studies.

"I always felt strongly that RNs should possess a BSN as a minimum requirement," added McDermott. "Originally, when I earned my own AAS degree in nursing, I wanted to continue my education but I was soon married and had my children early on. Life just happens. Along the way, I earned valuable certifications, but felt I was lacking an important currency in my field – a bachelor's degree."

McDermott's resume chronicles increasing levels of responsibility since her days as a staff nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center in New York.

Evolving into high-risk maternity, pediatric intensive care, maternal child health and, later, a visiting nurse and field case manager, McDermott routinely cared for the most ailing, and often tiniest, of patients. From the beginning, she counted on her ability to effectively communicate, organize, supervise and switch from working independently, to operating as a team – often in a heartbeat.

In her current role as catastrophic case manager at a major healthcare organization, McDermott oversees the company's national catastrophic injury cases. Her work encompasses unusual medical conditions, chronic respiratory injuries, brain injuries,



*Mary McDermott, RN, CCM*

significant burns, multiple trauma, autoimmune diseases and illnesses not ordinarily considered by workers compensation insurance.

"I have a dual role. I look at the cases from the perspective of a case manager; but also as a nurse, I ask myself: 'how would I handle this patient?' It is my objective to insure appropriate medical care and treatment and to do so in a timely and cost effective manner."

McDermott wants to eventually transmit the enthusiasm she has for her field to others. "Ultimately, I'd love to teach new, first-year nurses and spark in them the interest to devote themselves to the profession and feel as empowered and engaged as I do," McDermott concluded.

McDermott and husband Dan, a senior terminal engineer for Tyco industries, reside in Sparta, N.J. They have three children: Daniel, 24, who lives and teaches in China; Christine, 23, currently serving in the AmeriCorps program; and Catie, 19, a freshman at West Virginia University. ■



## New Jersey State Library Director Named “One of the Best” by New Jersey Technology Council



Margot Guinan McDonnell,  
Robert Zangara and Norma E. Blake

As a student of Thomas Edison State College, you may already enjoy the breadth of electronic services the New Jersey State Library has to offer – including databases, the Cyberdesk, electronic journals and eBooks. Now, area organizations are singing its praises too.

Robert Zangara, director of technology at the New Jersey State Library has been named one of the top nonprofit chief information officers by the New Jersey Technology Council. He accepted the award at a presentation which took place during the organization's annual CIO Conference at the Hyatt Regency Princeton earlier this year. Zangara was recognized by the Council for being an outstanding example of a “CIO as Innovator, Marketer and Business Leader.”

Zangara has served as director of technology at the New Jersey State Library since April 2003, and is the founder and director of *JerseyConnect*, the statewide network infrastructure and technology support organization for public libraries. Through *JerseyConnect*, more than 320 public libraries in the state of New Jersey are positioned to take advantage of new and emerging technologies while enjoying reliable core internet

connectivity and related services. In addition to his statewide service responsibilities, Zangara oversees all internal technology-related initiatives and operations at the State Library, and works with vendors on behalf of New Jersey libraries to receive computer hardware at no cost.

“Rob Zangara has taken the State Library's technology offerings to a whole new level, making it possible for Thomas Edison State College students to get quick, reliable access to the best information resources,” said New Jersey State Librarian Norma Blake.

All Thomas Edison State College students, whether in- or out-of-state, are eligible for a NJSL card. Simply visit the library's Cyberdesk page online at [www.njstatelib.org/Cyberdesk](http://www.njstatelib.org/Cyberdesk) and select “Get a Library Card” from the items on the menu. On the resulting page, click on: “Thomas Edison State College student online borrower registration form,” and complete the required fields. From full text journals and nearly 200 online databases, to e-books and downloadable audio books, Thomas Edison State College students who carry an NJSL card know membership has its benefits. ■

## Grad Courses Have a New Look and Richer Content

Select online courses in the School of Business and Management now feature multimedia and streaming video components – an approach which brings practitioners of leadership and management directly into students' online course space.

“The media additions to the graduate courses add richness and depth to the course content,” said Cynthia MacMillan, director of Instructional Design & Development in the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning.



Dr. Joseph C. Santora, dean, School of Business and Management

There are five courses that now incorporate this instructional design and several more currently in development.

This structure in several new courses typically gives students access to both a standard textbook and a popular business text in the subject area. In one example, the popular text for the course Leadership and Management for the Twenty-First Century (ORG-502) is *The Future of Management* by Gary Hamel. Hamel has been called the world's leading expert on business strategy by *Fortune* magazine. The course includes links to the publisher's Web site, giving

students access to a podcast and a video clip of Hamel discussing his ideas. Similarly, the course, Leading Change in Complex Organizations (LCO-610), is built around two recent books by Harvard Business School professor John Kotter, an authority on leadership and change. The course includes several media clips of Kotter presenting course topics. Both of these courses were launched in July 2008.

According to Dr. Joseph C. Santora, dean, School of Business and Management, “Students now have the opportunity to see and hear experts describe real world situations and challenges. The media experience helps students synthesize information and moves them from theory to application.” ■

# GPA FAQs (Cover Story continued)

## ▶ Q Who gets the old transcript/academic evaluation format?

Any undergraduate or graduate student who has a previous relationship that entitles them to a transcript, but not an ongoing one as of July 1, 2008, will receive the old format. These students will not receive an academic evaluation as they are no longer enrolled.

## ▶ Q Why did the College make these changes?

The College recognizes that many Thomas Edison State College students are now choosing to earn their credits by taking courses from Thomas Edison State College. Over the last few years, we have been receiving an increasing number of requests for GPAs to be given to employers, for scholarship applications and entrance to graduate school. We wanted to be able to accommodate these requests. At the current time, the College believes it is appropriate to calculate and issue a GPA for students and graduates.

## ▶ Q How can students view their GPA?

If you are currently enrolled, you can see your Thomas Edison State College GPA by viewing your Academic Evaluation via myEdison: <http://myedison.tesc.edu/webapps/login>.

## ▶ Q What do these new policies mean in terms of my required GPA for graduation?

Grade point averages are based solely on passing, graded credits earned at Thomas Edison State College. Undergraduate students must maintain an overall minimum average of C in their Thomas Edison State College courses in order to graduate. They also must maintain a minimum average of C in their area of study AND in all the credits applied to their degree (Thomas Edison State College and transfer credits) in order to graduate. Students must also meet any minimum required GPA standards established by their school to graduate. If the student has no Thomas Edison State College graded course work on which to calculate the GPA, it will show as N/A.

Students in the College's graduate program must maintain an overall minimum average of B in their Thomas Edison State College courses in order to graduate. Students must also meet any minimum required GPA standards established by their school to graduate.

Another important note about GPA: Effective July 1, 2008, term and cumulative grade point averages (GPAs) will be included on Thomas Edison State College transcripts. Prior to this date, no GPA was included on a Thomas Edison State College transcript.

## ▶ Q How can students raise their GPA under the new policies?

You may improve the Thomas Edison State College GPA in these ways:

- ▶ Take the same course at another institution, earning a higher grade and transferring the course to Thomas Edison State College. If you plan to take the same course from another institution, we suggest you get the course approved by an academic advisor at Thomas Edison State College to ensure it is equivalent. If you do not get the course approved, there is a possibility that it may not be equivalent and will not be able to be used to improve your GPA;
- ▶ Take the same course at Thomas Edison State College and earn at least a C grade or by earning the credits by examination, TECEP®, CLEP, DANTES;
- ▶ Take other Thomas Edison State College graded credit courses and earning a B or better to offset the C- or D grade(s).

Students must have a GPA of 2.0 or above to graduate or any additional standard required by their school. If you have questions regarding this policy, contact an advisor by submitting a Help Desk ticket via myEdison: <http://myedison.tesc.edu/webapps/login/>.

Please select "Academic Advisement Only" option and then select "New GPA Policy" as your topic. Your question will be reviewed and responded to by an academic advisor within three business days. The College is confident that students will be pleased with these changes in administrative policy. ■



## Professional Development is Just a Click Away

With 64 professional certificates now available, adults wishing to develop new skills to enhance their career — or begin a new one — have turned to Thomas Edison State College's School of Professional and Continuing Studies online professional development programs.

This fall, two new online programs, **Workforce Career Coach Facilitator** and **SHRM Learning System®**, are being offered for human resources professionals.

The **Workforce Career Coach Facilitator** program is a professional development program intended for counselors, job coaches, career and life coaches, HR specialists, trainers, job developers, intake workers and interviewers. Successful completion of this certificate satisfies the training component of the international **Global Career Development Facilitator Credential**.

The **SHRM Learning System®** is a program offered in partnership with the **Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)**. The course is designed to prepare HR professionals for certification as a **Professional in Human Resources (PHR®)** or a **Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR®)**.

The **SHRM Learning System®** course provides an in-depth study of key areas in human resources: strategic management; workforce planning and employment; human resources development; employee and labor relations; and risk management. Students who prepare to take the exams with this online preparation program consistently beat the national pass rate. For details and program schedules of these new courses, visit [www.tesc.edu/spcs](http://www.tesc.edu/spcs).

All School of Professional and Continuing Studies' professional development programs are offered online, making it convenient to balance study with work and family responsibilities. Visit [www.tesc.edu/spcs](http://www.tesc.edu/spcs) for more information. ■

# Mentor Profile: Dr. Joseph P. Linskey

## *For Mentor Joseph Linskey, Familiarity Breeds Contentment*

Dr. Joseph P. Linskey has walked at least a mile in adult learners' shoes.

As a member of Thomas Edison State College's Academic Council and Heavin School of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, Linskey offers a view that can only be derived from practical experience and his own 20-year quest for a bachelor's degree.

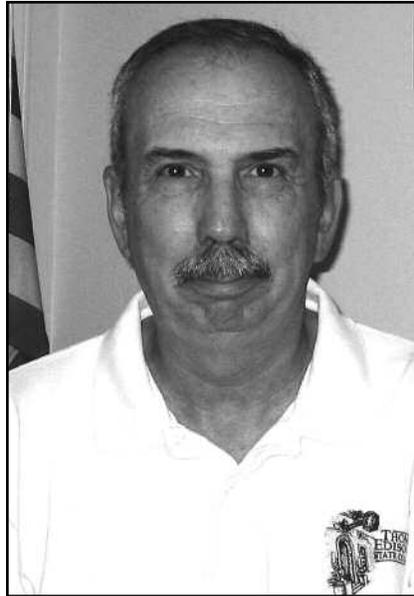
Linskey had completed one year of college when he began serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. He gathered more college credits from the University of Maryland while overseas and attended Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, N.Y., while stationed there.

"Being an adult learner has certainly helped me to understand the perspective of adult students and the difficulties they face. I went to college full time for one year out of high school and was then drafted during the Vietnam War. I spent the next 20 years completing my Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in criminal justice" recounted Linskey, who graduated in 1986 from Thomas Edison State College.

Linskey next tackled his master's in education (MEd) degree at Seton Hall University, in South Orange, N.J.; and his doctorate in education (EdD) at Nova Southeastern in Fort Lauderdale-Davie, Fla. "Throughout, I was working as a police officer and raising two wonderful sons." Linskey added, "And I could never have done it without the support of the greatest wife in the world."

Thomas Edison State College conducted an academic evaluation wherein all of Linskey's past college credits and much of his professional training were applied toward his degree program.

"The College helped me pull together my previous college credits,



*Dr. Joseph P. Linskey*

plus I obtained credits for my police academy training. All told, it put me well on my way to earning my degree," noted Linskey. "Without the College, I would not be where I am today. My motivation in remaining connected comes from the level of appreciation I have for all the people there who helped me along the way. I wanted to give back to the College and help adult students – like me – reach their goals."

Linskey has worked with the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences since 2000 serving as a consultant, Practicum mentor and, more recently, on the curriculum committees where he and other members review new course proposals and curricula changes. "Over the years, I have found fellow committee members working diligently and effectively to see that the School remains progressive and serves students' needs," he noted.

He finds serving on the College's Academic Council equally rewarding.

"Being asked to serve on the Academic Council was an unexpected honor," Linskey enthused, "and it provides another opportunity to serve the College that gave me a start. Through my career as a police officer, my graduate-level work and my present position as chair of the Department of Social Sciences at Centenary College, I'm positioned to assist the Council in identifying new ways to expand and improve programs that serve our students."

Linskey and his wife, Kum C. Linskey, live in North Brunswick, N.J. They have two sons: Tom, and daughter-in-law, Ann, both pharmacists living in Hartford, Conn.; and Ken, their youngest, who is a musician living in Philadelphia, Pa. ■

*“My motivation in remaining connected comes from the level of appreciation I have for all the people there who helped me along the way. I wanted to give back to the College and help adult students – like me – reach their goals.”*

# Academic Calendar

## November 2008 Term

## December 2008 Term

## January 2009 Term

Registration Dates	Sept. 13 - Oct. 12, 2008	Oct. 18 - Nov. 9, 2008	Nov. 15 - Dec. 7, 2008
Late Registration	Oct. 13 - Oct. 17, 2008	Nov. 10 - 14, 2008	Dec. 8 - 12, 2008
Course Transfer Period	Sept. 13 - Oct. 31, 2008	Oct. 18 - Nov. 30, 2008	Nov. 15 - Dec. 31, 2008
Term Start Date	Nov. 1, 2008	Dec. 1, 2008	Jan. 1, 2009*
Midterm Exam Week**	Dec. 14 - 20, 2008	Jan. 11 - 17, 2009	Feb. 15 -21, 2009
Final Exam Week	Jan. 19 - 24, 2009	Feb. 16 - 21, 2009	March 23 - 28, 2009
Term Ends	Jan. 24, 2009	Feb. 21, 2009	March 28, 2009*

\* Dates apply to *both* Graduate and Undergraduate courses

\*\* Select courses have a midterm examination. Refer to your course materials for details

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