

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

WINTER 2008

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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.

THE FOLLOWING COURSES NOW HAVE NEW TITLES:

ART-166 The History of Western Art I
(was Art History I)

ART-167 The History of Western Art II
(was Art History II)

SOC-322 Cultural Diversity in the
United States
(was Dealing with Diversity)

NEW ONLINE COURSES:

EGM-211 Statics

ELE-211 DC Circuits

ELE-212 AC Circuits

EUT-302 Gas Combustion

HLS-355 Critical Thinking for
Homeland Security

HLS-410 Counter-Terrorism:
Constitutional and
Legislative Issues

LDR-305 Foundations of Leadership

LDR-419 Nonprofit Leadership

MAN-415 Change Management

MAN-425 Advanced Organizational
Management

MAN-435 Project Management

NUC-412 Radiation Biophysics

COMING SOON:

HLS-420 Preparedness: Prevention &
Deterrence

HLS-429 Protecting the Homeland:
Response & Recovery

LDR-345 Theories of Leadership

LDR-422 Leadership in the
Global Environment

A Masterful Plan: College Unveils Educational Leadership Program

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences recently launched the first online Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program in New Jersey. The program is designed to prepare teachers and administrators to become educational leaders serving in the increasingly complex environment of elementary and secondary education.

Like all graduate programs at Thomas Edison State College, the new program is structured around the unique needs of working adults.

"The curriculum presents an opportunity to combine theory with practice as students apply the knowledge they gain from their courses to their school settings," said Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, who played a key role in the development of the program. "The use of technology is an integral part of the curriculum and enables students to collaborate on projects, discuss ideas and research, and share best practices, while they create an e-portfolio that will serve as an opportunity for reflection and as a compilation of their learning throughout the program."

The 36-credit program includes courses in effective leadership theories and practice; group problem solving; instructional leadership; educational program assessment; professional and bureaucratic conflict resolution; school law; human resources administration; instructional technology; budget forecasting and fiscal planning; developing school and community partnerships; and a field-based practicum.

Requirements include at least three years of teaching experience and a valid teacher's certification, a letter of recommendation from a building-level administrator, and having an onsite mentor to conduct site-based fieldwork and inquiry projects successful for each course. The program is designed to be completed in 18-months, and students can begin the program at four different times during the year.

To find out more, visit www.tesc.edu, click on "Heavin School of Arts and Sciences" on the lower right side of the screen, then "Master's Degree Programs" or call (888) 442-8372. ■



*Dr. Susan Davenport, dean
Heavin School of Arts and Sciences*

Coming in From the Cold

Former South Pole Inhabitant and Reluctant Student Now Aims for a Higher Degree

There are many reasons why Thomas Edison State College students delay pursuing their college degrees; for Bernard Brown it was the limited educational opportunities at the South Pole.

"After graduating from Gwynn Park High School in Brandywine, Md., I joined the U.S. Navy to establish a career path," said Brown. "I was assigned to McMurdo Station in Antarctica, which consists of 98 percent thick continental ice sheet and has no indigenous inhabitants. Due to extremely limited educational opportunities in Antarctica and prior to the Internet, I was not provided the prospect to continue my education."

Upon completion of his four-year enlistment, Brown returned home to Southern Maryland and resumed his previous career in the arboriculture field, which he continued through 2006, when the family-owned company closed.

"After my enlistment and 20 years as a certified arborist and tree expert for the state of Maryland, I realized that I wanted to explore my other interests," Brown explained. "Without a degree, many employers were not interested in my knowledge or skills, thereby unwilling to provide me even an interview opportunity. After researching universities and colleges, I determined that Thomas



Edison State College would best meet my needs as an adult learner and enabled me to complete courses at my desired pace. I chose to pursue both an associate degree and a bachelor's degree with a concentration in criminal justice."

Within weeks of completing the requirements for his Associate in Arts degree in 2006, Brown obtained a criminal justice position working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Washington, D.C. As a security analyst, Brown is responsible for the protection of the secretary of the DHS and for the validation all nongovernmental personnel seeking visitation to the Nebraska Area Complex (NAC). He is responsible for obtaining, analyzing and managing critical information acquired from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, National Crime Information Center computer system, and, after analysis, for determining if personnel are authorized to access the NAC.

"Pursuing my criminal justice degree with Thomas Edison State College was a primary factor in securing a security analyst position at DHS," Brown noted. "The program is highly respected by the criminal justice community and pursuing it has enabled me to qualify for such a desired position, even though at the time I had limited criminal justice experience."

Having served in the military, Brown said he appreciates that the College has a dedicated military education office providing specialized educational support and advisement to students.

"That kind of support helps since it is often intimidating to attend college as an adult. As an adult learner, I was especially impressed with the ability to gain college credit for my knowledge already obtained. I completed three Prior Learning Assessments pertaining to arboriculture, which I was able to apply toward my free electives in the program. And I obtained college credits for my U.S. Navy military training," noted Brown, who also completed several courses at the Bolling Air Force Base Central Texas College extension campus.

Residing in Waldorf, Md., Brown, and his new wife, Theresa Elliott-Brown, spend their leisure time "exploring new areas of the country together." Brown also enjoys riding his Harley Davidson FDXL Lowrider Motorcycle and playing golf.

Like many Thomas Edison State College graduates, Brown extolled the support of family. "After graduating high school and not pursuing school for 26 years, I was quite reluctant to return as an adult learner. My wife and in-laws, Linda and John Elliott, were instrumental in encouraging me to pursue higher education. I would not have been able to achieve my degree without their support."

With unlimited educational opportunities allowing for the pursuit of his next goal, Brown continues his studies with hopes of complete his Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate degree in criminal justice. ■

Escape Online Subscription Fees

With Your New Jersey State Library Card

You are working feverishly on a written assignment and searching for specific articles to support your topic. To your relief, you find a reputable resource and zero in on the site. Your initial joy dissolves to dismay, however, when you discover that a summary is all that is provided.

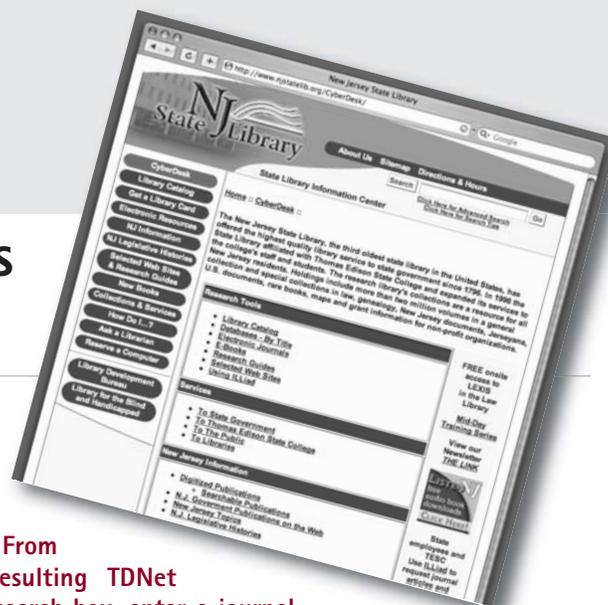
Access to the full article is going to cost you – either in a trial subscription or an immediate fee.

If this sounds like a familiar scenario, the New Jersey State Library (NJSL) is here to help. As a Thomas Edison State College student, you can leverage your NJSL membership to access free, full text articles on a myriad of subjects.

Not a current NJSL library card holder?

Simply visit the library's Cyberdesk page online at <http://www.njstatelib.org/Cyberdesk> and select "Get a Library Card" from the items on the menu on the left side of the page. On the resulting page, click on: "Thomas Edison State College student online borrower registration form," and complete the required fields. Any Thomas Edison State College student, in or out of state is eligible for membership.

Your NJSL membership will give you access to many electronic journals and databases, among them, TDNet which can be used as a search tool to locate full text journals. To access TDNet, click on "Search E-Journals" on the Cyberdesk



page. From the resulting TDNet page search box, enter a journal title or browse through an alphabetical list. Click "Go" to view search results. If TDNet finds the title, the name of the databases containing the desired articles are listed. Electronic databases can also be accessed separately either by subject or title from the "Electronic Resources" link on the NJSL Cyberdesk page.

Need more help?

A reference librarian can help you choose a database, find out if full text is available or request an article from another library. Contact the Reference Desk at (609) 278-2640 ext. 103, or via e-mail: refdesk@njstatelib.org.

"I encourage Thomas Edison State College students to explore the wealth of online resources available via Cyberdesk," said Margaret Nizolek, assistant director of the State Library Information Center. "From full text journals and online databases, to e-books and downloadable audio books, there's something of interest for everyone!" ■

School of Nursing Announces New Associate Dean



*Dr. Catherine Kotecki
Associate Dean, Thomas Edison State College
School of Nursing*

Dr. Catherine Kotecki has recently joined Thomas Edison State College as the associate dean of the School of Nursing.

Kotecki comes to the College with a wealth of experience in educational leadership, teaching and research. She holds a bachelor of science degree in nursing from William Paterson University; a master's degree in adult health nursing from the University of Arizona; and a doctorate in nursing science with a concentration on curriculum development from Widener University in Chester, Pa.

Most recently, Kotecki was the director of

Clinical Education and Research at Virtua Health System in southern N.J. In this role, she was responsible for the education of 2,000 nurses and allied health professionals. As an educator, Catherine has been a member of the Master Educator's Guild at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey. She has also published many professional articles, and is an award winning graduate-level instructor.

Kotecki and her husband, Rich, reside in Marlton, N.J. She has two sons (Peter, age 24 and Steven, age 28) and a cat named Felix. She can be reached at (609) 633-6460. ■

College Hosts Second Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing



The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College sponsored its Second Annual Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing in October. The one-day event, *Mentoring Through Cybergogy: Building a Diverse Workforce*, promoted collaboration and provided networking opportunities for nurse educators and leaders. The lectureship was attended by nearly 70 nurses from various parts of the country. The College's Minority Nurse Educator program was established in 2005 with a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. To date, 39 experienced minority nurse educators have completed the 32-week Certificate in Distance Education (CDE) course work; and 15 have completed the online mentored teaching component. ■



Pictured are (l. to r., front row) Jovita Solomon-Duarte, Dr. Susan O'Brien, dean, School of Nursing; (l. to r., middle row) Dr. Mary Wall, Dr. Gloria Kersey-Matusiak, Charlotte Stoudmire, Dr. Meribeth Reed; (l. to r., back row) Robert Lucero, Louise Riley, Dr. Yvonne Wesley and Dr. Ngozi Nkongho.

For Thomas Edison State College Student, Reality Exceeds Expectation

There are many things about U.S. culture that differ from Setsuko Tsuchiya's own — none more obvious as the dining habits of the Americans she wrote about in her award-winning essay.

"Americans know how to enjoy a meal," said the Thomas Edison State College BA in liberal studies student. "Japanese care more about etiquette and attitude. Enjoying dinner is often secondary."

Japanese-born Tsuchiya received third place in the 2006 East Coast Writer's Awards for her essay about her first experience in an American restaurant.

"Nowadays having fun is an American custom that I have adopted in my own life," noted the contest winner.

Tsuchiya entered her essay while a student at Intercultural Communications College (ICC) in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she still resides. She is a homemaker and a licensed medical massage therapist as well as an award-winning dance sport competitor.

"It was my dream to go to college. Now, I'm living my dream by attending

Setsuko Tsuchiya with husband (and competition dance partner) Daniel S. Janik



Mentor Profile: **Nora Carrol**

Exposing Students to the Business of Communication

Nora Carrol's students do not wonder what it is like in the post-degree business world, they are already in it.

They defend their theories on organizational development and interpersonal communications on their Blackboard course space and communicate in the online Discussion Boards, which serve as a managerial incubator. They also know that constructive change – the type that infuses an organization with purpose and vitality – begins on a personal level.

Carrol, a Managerial Communications mentor, came to the College in 1998 bringing with her an impressive stash of expertise. Already familiar in the ways of course development, adult education, distance learning vehicles and experiential portfolio review, she has contributed to numerous conferences, publications and journals on the subject. She is also a member of the College's Academic Council.

"I already had experience in course development and serving adult learners as a course facilitator and Web course author," said Carrol. As principal of CarrolCreative in Phoenix, Ariz., she provides creative writing services, training, interactive learning guidance and marketing advice for a number of individuals, businesses and start ups.

As learning environments go, Carrol sees real advantages to teaching and learning in an online course space. "The online environment tends to level the participation field, especially if an individual is shy of physical communication and it may actually give a 'voice' to learners who normally wouldn't be contributors in a physical classroom setting."

For students who assume that online course completion may be the path of lesser resistance, Carrol offers a cautionary note. "Online learning does not lessen responsibility; on the contrary, it can require more time and better time management than face-to-face learning. Also, students should expect to do a fair amount of peripheral research using virtual libraries and other online tools. A challenge too is timing, as physical classmates are together, but virtual classmates may be scattered worldwide, all juggling multiple activities in different time zones."

Carrol is also an adjunct professor at Colorado Technical University where she has been teaching business management courses since 2004. She holds a Master of Science degree in adult education/innovation management and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. She has also served on the faculty of the University of Maryland University College in Adelphia, Md.; George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.; and as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada.

"When I came to the College eight years ago, Nora was among the first mentors with whom I worked. I've always been impressed by her dedication, creativity and responsiveness, and have learned a great deal from her through our collaboration on projects," noted Thomas Edison State College Instructional Designer Aaron Appelstein.

An accomplished visual artist, Carrol's work is represented by the Agora Gallery in New York City and the Caladan Gallery in Beverly, Ma. ■

Reality Exceeds Expectation (continued)

Thomas Edison State College," enthused Tsuchiya. "I was one of the first students at ICC to participate in their Fast Start program for international students interested in studying in the U.S. In the program, students complete 15 credits of required courses toward their major. Upon completion, many ICC students are accepted in U.S. colleges and universities – often on scholarships. My English courses not only prepared me for college success, but also opened the door for me as a professional writer – in English!"

Tsuchiya is now waltzing toward her full potential.

"My ultimate goal is to be a dance therapist using partnered social dance as a medium for treatment. To me, winning the award and living here is a demonstration of the American dream that is held so tightly by many people throughout the world. Women have a privileged place in America that allows them to discover their true potential. In America, expectation is commonly exceeded by reality." ■

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Thomas Edison State College
101 W. State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
(888) 442-8372
www.tesc.edu

Joe Guzzardo
Director of Communications

Chris Miller
Art Director

Kelly Saccomanno
Office of Communications

Academic Calendar

	February 2008 Term (In Progress)	March 2008 Term	April 2008 Term*
Registration Dates	Dec. 8, 2007 - Jan. 6, 2008	Jan. 12 - Feb. 10, 2008	Feb. 16 - March 16, 2008
Late Registration	Jan. 7 - 11, 2008	Feb. 11 - 15, 2008	March 17 - 21, 2008
Course Transfer Period	Dec. 8, 2007 - Jan.11, 2008	Jan. 12 - Feb. 15, 2008	Feb. 16 - March 21, 2008
Term Start Date	Feb. 1, 2008	March 1, 2008	April 1, 2008
Midterm Exam Week**	March 17 - 22, 2008	April 14 - 19, 2008	May 12 - 17, 2008
Final Exam Week	April 21 - 26, 2008	May 19 - 24, 2008	June 16 - June 21, 2008
Term Ends	April 26, 2008	May 24, 2008	June 21, 2008

* 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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