

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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Best of Class

BECOMING ONLINE EDUCATORS

Jennifer Harrison is making history.

Harrison is the first graduate of Warren County Community College (WCCC) in New Jersey, to return to that college as a full-time professor. She was able to achieve that feat thanks to her persistence and hard work... and Thomas Edison State College.

Harrison, who graduated from WCCC in 2000 with an associate degree in liberal arts, transferred her credits to Thomas Edison State College and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2008. She continued her education and earned her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree in 2009, which included a Graduate Certificate in Online Learning and Teaching.

"I am very glad that I received my Online Teaching and Learning certificate through Thomas Edison State College," said Harrison. "It enabled me to better understand the workings of online teaching forums. Also, the certificate diversified my resume and made me more marketable to employers."

Harrison is one of two recent Thomas Edison State College alums who completed the Graduate Certificate in Online Learning and Teaching and found that it prepared students for the field of online instruction.

Marguerite "Peggy" Auerbacher '10, also incorporated the Online Learning and Teaching certificate program in the electives portion of her MALS degree. She recently landed a freelance position providing online course support for a large college textbook publisher and looks forward to every work day.

"The integration of skills used in my position that I gathered directly from the program is what appeals to me most," noted Auerbacher. "I've worked remotely for more than 10 years, but the Online Learning and Teaching sequence added a fresh skill set to my resume."

The market for online educators appears to be growing.

According to a recent Sloan Consortium survey*, the percentage of students in higher education enrolled in at least one online course has more than tripled, to 5.6 million students, since 2002.

The shifting scholastic demographic leaves educators clamoring to position themselves in a field that provides excellent career prospects, convenience, flexibility and relative freedom from academic time and place restrictions.

Auerbacher said her advanced degree helped her meet the demands of today's work environment.

"The College's graduate degree and certificate programs are a perfect way of merging existing life experience with current job market demands," she said. "My degree brought together everything I've accomplished and gave me the credentials to move forward despite the tough economy."

The Graduate Certificate in Online Learning and Teaching focuses on developing



Jennifer Harrison, '09

Warren County Community College Foundation

online pedagogy for those who want to be well-prepared to teach online. The program leverages the College's deep expertise in the area of delivering quality higher education via online course delivery methods. The 12-credit program is offered completely online and transfers easily into the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies or Master of Science in Management programs at Thomas Edison State College.

To find out more about the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences' programs and course offerings, visit www.tesc.edu/heavin or call (888) 442-8372. ■

*Allen, I.E. and Seaman, J. (2010). *Class Differences: Online Education in the United States*. Babson Survey Research Group for The Sloan Consortium. PP 2 and 21. The College Board and The Sloan Consortium publishers.

COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate courses and their availability may be found on the College website at www.tesc.edu/courses.

NEW ONLINE COURSE:

NUR-614 Professional Writing
(open to all students in graduate programs)

Heavin School of Arts and Sciences Begins New Chapter

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP STUDENTS INITIATED IN INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN EDUCATION

Thomas Edison State College celebrated the induction of students and graduates of the College's Educational Leadership programs into Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education, during a fall ceremony at the College.

Membership in the College's newly established chapter, Alpha Zeta Epsilon, is open to students in either the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program or the post-master's Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership program who have maintained a GPA of 3.5 or better. "The students inducted represent a distinctive segment of professional educators who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and leadership. Many are already significant contributors to educational leadership in their own communities," said Dr. Adrian Zappala, assistant dean of Educational Leadership programs in the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at the College.

Students and alumni who would like more information about the chapter may contact the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences via e-mail: heavin@tesc.edu. ■



Alpha Zeta Epsilon chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education induction attendees pictured first row (from left to right) are: Teresa Herrero-Taylor of West Windsor, N.J., chapter vice president; Jill Green of Manalapan, N.J.; Kadejah Tillery-Davis of Piscataway, N.J.; Jessica McLelland-Ayers of Fords, N.J.; Jennifer Maguire of Roebing, N.J.; and Virginia Bittner of Sewell, N.J. Second row Maryjane Finne of Fanwood, N.J.; Heidi Brache of Manchester, N.J.; Robyn Katz of Elizabeth, N.J.; Kimberly Ash of Willingboro, N.J.; Stacy Slomko of Fords, N.J., chapter secretary; and Jennifer Kaufman of Washington, N.J., chapter president.

Link Up with the *LearningExpress*

REGARDLESS OF YOUR CAREER OR ACADEMIC GOALS, FREE ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE AND THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY CAN GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.

The *LearningExpress* Library, a free, online service accessible via myEdison®, offers a comprehensive selection of test-preparation and skill-building resources to help students prepare for a broad range of academic and career-oriented objectives. The site offers graduate school, TOEFL and CLEP test preparation, licensing and certification exam preparation, resume writing and career advice along with exercises to improve your basic skills in reading, writing and math.

To access the *LearningExpress* Library, simply log into myEdison® on <http://myedison.tesc.edu> and click on the "Services" tab. On the resulting screen, click on "Educational Resources" and then select the "LearningExpress Library" link to view instructions for new users or to log in as an existing user.

New students are encouraged to use the self-assessment tools found on the site pages to determine their readiness for college-level writing and math. Continuing students can begin to prepare for career changes, admission to advanced degree programs or practice for licensing and credentialing exams.

The New Jersey State Library's Job and Career Accelerator site also available through a partnership with *LearningExpress*, features a comprehensive, online job search system for New Jersey residents containing sample resumes, personal interest assessments, occupational information, job listings, job application tracking and job search management tools. Resources also include information on predicted job growth by field and interactive computer training courses. To access the site, visit the New Jersey State Library's (NJSL) homepage: www.njstatelib.org. Click on the "JerseyClicks" icon at the bottom center of the page and the "Job and Career Accelerator" link on the resulting page.

Not yet an NJSL member? All Thomas Edison State College students, whether in- or out-of-state, are eligible for a New Jersey State Library card. Simply visit www.njstatelib.org, click on the library's "Cyberdesk" link and choose "Get a Library Card" from the left menu.

The *LearningExpress* Library and Career Accelerator resources are made possible through a grant from the federal Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. ■

Dr. Susan Gilbert Named Dean of the School of Business and Management

Dr. Susan P. Gilbert has been recently named dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Gilbert has joined the College, and look forward to beginning a new era for our business school," said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost of Thomas Edison State College. "She brings a tremendous track record of growing enrollments and developing effective academic programs and will play a critical role in helping us achieve our strategic goals and serving adult learners interested in business programs at the undergraduate and graduate level."

Prior to joining Thomas Edison State College, Gilbert served as executive director and associate dean of MBA Programs at Rutgers University in Newark, N.J. Before joining Rutgers, she had a distinguished career at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. Under her leadership as associate dean of the evening MBA program, the program earned a national ranking by *Business Week* magazine. At



Dr. Susan Gilbert

Emory, Gilbert also served as executive director of Academic Programs, chair of the President's Commission on the Status of Women and an associate professor of finance.

Gilbert earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Binghamton University, State University of New York, in Binghamton, N.Y., and holds a master's and a PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania. ■

Dean Deemed a "Diva"

The Institute for Nursing of the New Jersey State Nurses Association Foundation recently presented its venerable Diva Award to Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College, during its annual Divas and Dons Gala at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton, N.J., in December.



The New Jersey Institute of Nursing 'Diva' honoree Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, at the Institute's annual gala.

"Dean O'Brien's recognition by her peers is a fitting tribute to her outstanding contributions to the field of nursing education," noted William Seaton, vice president and provost at the College. "We are justifiably proud of all that Susan has accomplished both for Thomas Edison State College and the field of nursing."

Through its annual Divas and Dons gala, the Institute recognizes significant achievements of accomplished New Jersey nurses and nurse educators and their contribution to the advancement of healthcare and the nursing profession. Proceeds from the gala fund scholarships for nurses advancing their education and provide grant funding in the field. ■

John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies to Launch New Specializations for Master of Science in Management

The John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, in partnership with the School of Business and Management, has developed seven new specializations that will be offered under the Master of Science in Management program currently available to students. The new areas of study include:

- ▶ **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- ▶ **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/ ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**
- ▶ **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE**
- ▶ **NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT**
- ▶ **PUBLIC FINANCE**
- ▶ **PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT**
- ▶ **PUBLIC SERVICE ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP**

In addition, the learner designed area of study originally offered through the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, has also been targeted as an area of study for interdisciplinary management and public service studies. To learn more about the new areas of study, visit www.tesc.edu/watsonschool. ■

New Grade Policy Takes Effect in July 2011

As of July 1, 2011, final course grades of F, IF and W awarded for Thomas Edison State College courses that start on or after the July 2011 term will appear on students' Thomas Edison State College transcripts. In addition, the grades of F and IF will be included in the Thomas Edison State College grade point average.

The College is making this change because recording the outcomes of all attempts to earn credit brings the institution in line with current standards and best practices within higher education. Thomas Edison State College students are generally very motivated and successful in the majority of their educational endeavors, including their attempted course work.

This change in policy only applies to F, IF or W grades awarded for Thomas Edison State College graduate and undergraduate online or Guided Study courses that start on or after July 1, 2011. Prior to the July 2011 term, grades of F, IF or W will not appear on transcripts nor will F or IF grades be calculated in the Thomas Edison State College GPA.

Please note that NC (no credit) grades associated with Thomas Edison State College Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), e-Pack®, FlashTrack™ or TECEP® will continue to be excluded from the transcript, even if the course start date is after July 1, 2011. Should a student not earn credit, the PLA, e-Pack®, FlashTrack™ or TECEP® will not appear on the transcript.

To view FAQs about the new policy, visit www.tesc.edu/7171.php. Students who have questions about the new policy should contact the College's Academic Advisement Center at (888) 442-8372.

Student Profile: Kris Kile

Student Discovers Niche in Helping Others

KRIS KILE, R.N., KNEW HER GOAL WAS A CAREER IN THE MEDICAL FIELD. WHAT SHE DID NOT KNOW WAS SHE WOULD BE A 29-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF THREE BEFORE SHE WOULD REACH IT.

W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing student Kris Kile realized that pursuing her bachelor's degree using the traditional route would be a huge undertaking. The Alaskan with four children and a full-time job began investigating nontraditional BSN programs.

"I have been a registered nurse for 10 years, but about four years into my tenure I decided that I didn't want to be passed over for any job promotions or opportunities to make advancements for myself, so I enrolled again at the University of Alaska to pursue my RN-BSN."

What Kile found was that other online programs did not consider the fact that she had years of experience under her belt. "They wanted me to repeat many classes I had already taken," she said. "I thought to myself, 'in what way can this help me to reach my goal?' After much consternation, I called my father and he suggested that I check out Thomas Edison State College."

Kile's father, Dr. William A. Rhodes, BA '82, an osteopathic physician, told her he respected Thomas Edison State College as an institution that values its students and their accomplishments.

"I had my credits evaluated and I immediately knew it was the right fit," noted Kile. "Getting my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Thomas Edison State College will open many doors to my future and allow me to reach my goal of becoming an advanced nurse practitioner."

Working in a clinical setting as a registered nurse, surgical assistant and clinical manager for more than six years, Kile explained that she has been given the autonomy to make sound clinical judgments and evaluate clinical practices that best meet the needs of her patients.

"I think that this autonomy was my encouragement to further my education," said Kile,

who works for Alaska Orthopaedic Specialists in Anchorage. "We are an orthopedic practice, but we see patients with multiple modalities and we assess them for their needs appropriately before we refer them on for other services."



Kris Kile, R.N.

Kile, who was recently accepted into Western College of Sciences' Advanced Nurse Practitioner program, is completing her BSN degree requirements.

"We were able to assist Kris with having several transfer courses accepted to meet our BSN requirements as well as having her complete a course requirement by PLA (Prior Learning Assessment) and another by testing," said Susan Cobb, PhD, RN, program advisor at the School. "These options are helping her to complete her BSN expeditiously, so she can continue her education and meet her goal of becoming an advanced nurse practitioner."

Reaffirming the advantages of pursuing an education at the College, Kile noted, "The College has so many learning options that make it possible to study in an exciting and novel environment."

Kile lives in Anchorage, with her husband, Zach, who is a physician's assistant, and their children, Kaylen, Kelsey, Nathaniel and Chance. ■

Meet a Mentor: **Dr. Nina Haydel**

From the Ends of the Earth, to a Local Restaurant or in an Online Course, Nina J. Haydel, EdD, Embraces Her Connection to Students

Dr. Nina Haydel's stubborn moral code may be to blame for the discomfort she feels when losing touch – even temporarily – with students. As a busy educator, online and off, she speaks for herself and students when she says that a computer screen can suddenly take on an accusatory look when one is not logged into a discussion board or fine-tuning course assignments.

"I am unable to declare holidays or vacations from our online courses and feel that I must take the students everywhere I go," said Haydel, who does not seem to mind a minute of it. "Several summers ago, my husband and I traveled to Antarctica for a vacation. I depended on the Internet cafés in towns throughout Argentina and kept a running travelogue for the students as I worked with them. At one point, while in Tierra del Fuego, also known as 'The End of the World,' the winds were so fierce, that the cable lines were blown to the glaciers, and I was literally left in the cold. That was the only time I was unable to maintain contact with students."

Haydel has been with the College since 2007 working in undergraduate- and graduate-level courses for the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. She mentors English Composition (ENC-102), Cycles of Leadership (EDL-520), Educational Leadership from Theory to Practice (EDL-500), and the Liberal Arts Capstone (LIB-495) courses. "I have a very special spot in my heart for all the students of LIB-495, as I designed and developed the course as a culmination of the undergraduate studies for all majors with the intent to have students reach pedagogic closure for their education," she said.

Building out the course was no small feat. As LIB-495 blankets all the disciplines, Haydel had to customize the Capstones to accommodate scientific, business, educational and creative endeavors.

Haydel applies a rich breadth of academic experience from both the U.S. and abroad to her position at the College.

She is currently an academic advisor and professor in the Master of Art in Education program at Central Michigan University; has taught in the Graduate Department of Education at Rider University, Lawrenceville, N.J.; the Humanities Department of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; Bucks County Community College in Pennsylvania; and DeVry University, where she has served as mentor and professor for numerous English, composition and rhetoric courses.

On the international level, she has taught English composition, American literature, educational strategies and curriculum development in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Ecuador, and served as a full

"I am unable to declare holidays or vacations from our online courses and feel that I must take the students everywhere I go..."

professor for the University of Jordan in Amman and as a consultant and lecturer for the Jordanian Ministry of Education and has served as a United States academic specialist to private academies in that country.

When Haydel is not going to the ends of the earth with laptop in hand, she can be found organizing luncheons for the College's students living in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania areas. "My students can attest to the relationship we all have; in fact, I have had the privilege of meeting many of them in person, as I organize meet and greets in central locations in order to bring us face-to-face."

Master of Art in Liberal Studies student, Joan Martins, commented, "Dr. Haydel is an inspiration to me and my fellow Capstone students and a tremendous asset to the College. I, and the students who come after



Dr. Nina Haydel

me, will benefit richly from her guidance. We represent Thomas Edison State College positively to the community, thanks to the insight and scholarship she has imparted to us."

Haydel's education includes a BS in Education in secondary education from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.; an MA in Education from Arcadia University, Glenside, Pa.; and an EdD in curriculum and instruction from Temple University. She has served as a consultant, lecturer and member for numerous national boards, international workshops, academic testing services and accreditation bodies.

Recently, Haydel has published two children's books, *The Creole Cats Come to Louisiana* and *The Creole Cats Meet Hurricane Katrina*. She has authored numerous professional articles for educational journals and university publications.

Haydel and her husband, Belmont, who is also a mentor at the College as well as a Fulbright Scholar, and has served as a U.S. Diplomat to Latin America appointed by John F. Kennedy, live in Elkins Park, Pa. The couple have seven children: three girls and four boys. Four are biological children, one child was adopted from Ecuador and two foster sons are from Jordan. "We cover multiple religions and cultures in our family," added Haydel. "Judaism, Catholicism and Islamism; therefore, we celebrate all holidays. What fun! We are now grandparents of four delightful children, three dogs and one grand-goat." ■

Academic Calendar

	April 2011 Term	May 2011 Term	June 2011 Term
Registration Dates	Feb. 12 - March 6, 2011	March 12 - April 10, 2011	April 16 - May 8, 2011
Late Registration	March 7 - March 11, 2011	April 11 - April 15, 2011	May 9 - May 13, 2011
Course Transfer Period	Feb. 12 - March 31, 2011	March 12 - April 30, 2011	April 16 - May 31, 2011
Term Start Date	April 1, 2011*	May 1, 2011	June 1, 2011
Midterm Exam Week **	May 16 - 21, 2011	June 13 - 18, 2011	July 18 - 23, 2011
Final Exam Week**	June 20 - 25, 2011	July 18 - 23, 2011	Aug. 22 - Aug. 26, 2011
Term Ends	June 25, 2011*	July 23, 2011	Aug. 26, 2011

* Dates apply to both undergraduate *and* graduate courses.

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

W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Announces New Professional Writing Course

COURSE PREPARES GRADUATE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP WRITING WORTHY OF PUBLICATION

The new course, Professional Writing from Idea to Publication (NUR-614), is designed to help students become effective and published professional writers in their field. The course is open to all graduate-level students interested in developing the level of writing skill necessary to have their work published in professional and lay journals, magazines and newspapers. The course will also help students

refine their writing skills and structure communiqués for the professional workplace. The focus is on effective writing techniques and the process of preparing written work for formal publications.

NUR-614 will be available during the January, April and October 2011 terms. To register, visit www.tesc.edu, click on "Current Students" and "Register for Courses" on the resulting page; or, visit the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing website: www.tesc.edu/nursing to view course details. ■

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