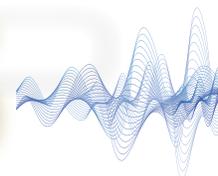


SIGNALS



Higher Education. For Adults with Higher Expectations.®

Now that you have applied, what's next? by Jennifer Stark, Academic Records and Registration Coordinator

A COMMON QUESTION ASKED BY NEWLY APPLIED OR ENROLLED STUDENTS IS: "WHAT DO I DO NOW?"

Stark Notes

Once you have submitted your Application for Admission and arranged to have your official transcripts sent to the College or are newly enrolled, you may need some guidance on the next stages. Just getting started can be the toughest part, but Thomas Edison State College staff is here every step of the way to offer the support and flexibility you need to complete your degree program.

Once you have applied or enrolled, here's what to expect next:

▶ After completing your College Application and submitting your transcripts, an academic evaluation is performed by the College to determine how many credits you need to complete your degree requirements. Many students think that the evaluation process begins from the time their transcripts arrive in the Office of the Registrar, though this is an important step, the evaluation process actually begins after our receipt of your College Application.

▶ The College's benchmark for completion of your Academic Evaluation is within 20 business days. Once your evaluation is completed, you will receive an e-mail from our office directing you to review this document through your Online Student Services (OSS) account.

▶ While you are waiting for your Academic Evaluation, we recommend that you apply for employer tuition assistance, relevant scholarships and financial aid, if applicable. You can also arrange your Annual Enrollment Fee payment with the Office of the Bursar or use the time to familiarize yourself with the enrollment requirements of your degree program.

▶ Once you receive your Academic Evaluation, review it thoroughly to see where

your previous credits have been applied and what remaining credits you will need to take to complete your degree.

▶ If you need guidance in selecting courses that will fulfill your remaining credits, contact the Office of Advisement. In order to keep your advisement consultations as productive as possible, it's best to make this appointment after you have had a chance to review your Academic Evaluation.

▶ To make an appointment with our advising staff, visit the College's homepage: www.tesc.edu click on "Current Students" and choose "Advisement" from the dropdown menu. You may also schedule an appointment through myEdison® once you have officially enrolled by clicking the "Help" icon at the top of the page, the "Submit a Ticket" link on the resulting page and choosing "Academic Advisement" from the departmental drop down menu. You and your academic advisor can then begin selecting courses that best suit your program plan.

▶ You can view the College's various course formats by visiting the College's homepage: www.tesc.edu, clicking on "Academics" and "Taking Courses." Keep in mind when reviewing the online course syllabus that some requirements may change once your course is officially underway.

▶ Once you have selected your courses, you can register for them anytime via Online Student Services, by phone: (609) 633-9242 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. EST or via fax: (609) 292-1657.

The staff at Thomas Edison State College strives to put our students first. We focus our programs, procedures and academic mission on the needs of self-directed adults like you and we are here to provide as much assistance as you need to successfully attain your educational goals. ■

Stark Notes



Jennifer Stark

COURSE NEWS

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

NEW UNDERGRADUATE-LEVEL ONLINE COURSES:

MAT-361-OL

College Geometry

MAT-331-OL

Calculus III

GLB-301-OL

Global Issues and Society

SOS-360-OL

Games People Play: Game Theory in Life, Business and Beyond

NEW GRADUATE COURSES:

ACC-602-OL

Advanced Accounting

ACC-603-OL

Accounting Theory

NUR-732-OL

Nursing Informatics: Seminar and Practicum II

Be a Bachelor's-Prepared RN in One Year

ENROLL NOW IN THE ACCELERATED 2ND DEGREE BSN (BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING) PROGRAM

People from all walks of life are discovering the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program at the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, an intensive one-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program designed for adults who are interested in becoming registered nurses and have completed a non-nursing bachelor's degree prior to admission.

The deadline for applications to the Office of Admissions for the October 2012 term is June 1, 2012.

The 120-credit BSN degree includes 60 general education credits (earned prior to admission) and 60 credits of professional nursing courses completed both online and in classroom-based courses at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J. Clinical experiences will be held at Capital Health facilities in Mercer County, N.J. The program prepares graduates for the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and is designed for full-time study only. Due to the rigorous nature of this program, employment while enrolled is not recommended.

To find out more, visit www.tesc.edu and click on the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing link, e-mail nursinginfo@tesc.edu or call: (609) 633-6460. ■



COLLEGE'S POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROGRAM EARNS ACCREDITATION

DEGREE PROGRAM & CERTIFICATE FOCUSING ON DIAGNOSIS OF SLEEP DISORDERS MEETS NATIONAL STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Thomas Edison State College's associate degree program and undergraduate certificate in polysomnography have been recently awarded initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

A peer review conducted by the commission's Committee on Accreditation for Polysomnographic Technologist Education focused on the College's 60-credit Associate in Applied Science degree in polysomnography as well as the 17-credit Undergraduate Certificate in Polysomnography and found the programs are in compliance with nationally established standards. The initial accreditation status is valid from March 16, 2012, until March 31, 2017.

"We are very pleased and excited that the polysomnography program has earned

its initial accreditation," said Dr. Thomas Devine, acting dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State College. "This accreditation validates that our program meets national standards of excellence and best serves adult learners interested in preparing or advancing in this allied health field."

Polysomnography is an allied health discipline focusing on the diagnosis of sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea, narcolepsy and insomnia. Thomas Edison State College developed its polysomnography program with sleep medicine professionals from Capital Health in Trenton, N.J.

Capital Health's sleep center in Hamilton Township, N.J., which is accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, is the first site where students will fulfill the clinical



Dr. Thomas Devine, acting dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology

component of the program. The College intends to work with other sleep centers that are accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine to offer additional sites where students can fulfill the clinical component of the program.

"Our programs are designed exclusively for adults," said Devine. "The Associate in Applied Science degree in polysomnography is designed for polysomnographic technologists and allied health professionals interested in the study of sleep disorders. The Undergraduate Certificate in Polysomnography is ideal for adults interested in entering the field." ■

New Noncredit Programs

CERTIFICATES FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AND BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

The John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies announces four new noncredit certificates focusing on entrepreneurship, construction management, IT management and building infrastructure developed around the unique needs of adult learners.

► ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This program provides professionals with a practical approach to the entrepreneurial process, whether it is rolling out new inventions and procedures or managing new products and innovation within an organizational context.

► CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

This program is designed to prepare students to gain the skill to lead construction projects in a field increasingly fragmented by subcontractors, subconsultants and multiple owner entities. The ability to coordinate the complex range of highly technical subtrades and their respective design professionals, while understanding the unique perspective of public officials – such as inspectors or building officials – is crucial in today's construction sector. This program enhances the ability to navigate these construction project challenges and find appropriate solutions.

► INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

The IT Management Certificate is designed to prepare students with the skills to lead an organization's people, processes and technology toward optimal IT efficiency, effectiveness and IT-business alignment. The curriculum highlights the nature of, and interaction between, people, processes, and technology across multiple dimensions, including resource management, application life cycle management, data and database management, integration management, network management, enterprise architecture management, procurement and budgeting, and project/program management.

► BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

The John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies has partnered with

with those systems that help to save energy and money for both home and commercial users.



C-Tech, a developer of proven educational programs to create the Building Infrastructure Certificate (120 hours). The program is designed to train high school graduates to become technicians in a variety of fields relating to building infrastructure including telecommunications, network copper-based cabling and energy management systems. In the first two modules, students learn about some of the systems that make a home or commercial building work and then, in the final module, progress to dealing

The Entrepreneurship, Construction Management and IT Management certificates are offered completely online. The Building Infrastructure Certificate is an on-ground classroom format. To learn more about these new certificates or to view all the noncredit programs offered at Thomas Edison State College, visit www.tesc.edu/noncredit. ■

Reconcilable Differences

By Todd Siben, Assistant Director, Prior Learning / Portfolio Assessment

Like a good marriage, successful advisement involves collaboration.

As an advisor, I need to be completely versed on the requirements of your program and mesh those requirements with the course options that best suit your learning style. As a student, you need to reconcile those options to your course load capacity and academic goals. Harmonizing all of this depends on how truly ready you are to commit to working toward your college degree.

Academic advising has its challenges, and throughout my career I have worked with students from across the country and around the world with a wide range of backgrounds and occupations and on virtually every conceivable academic issue.

I have seen it all, or so I thought. You see, my wife is now a student at Thomas Edison State College. It has taken a great deal of determination for my wife to consider returning to school to pursue a degree. So, for better or for worse, I doled out my best advice.

My recommendations included what I tell most students:

- ▶ Slow and steady wins the race.
- ▶ Degree completion, no matter how urgent it might seem, should not be a sprint.
- ▶ Enrollment should not be exclusively about the completion of a degree; it should also be about the educational journey.

Sure enough, with each course, my wife became more invested in the academic discourse and realized how much she had missed as a college student years before. However, tensions began to mount when my

wife began selecting her preferred method of course completion. Before I go any further, I want state for the record that I am extremely proud of my wife's academic efforts and excellent work she is doing.

My wife is comfortable with computers and has successfully completed online courses, but she has not embraced online learning and prefers a face-to-face classroom setting.

My attempts to ease her apprehension, as I have successfully done for many students, were met with indifference. Instead, she found that leveraging the College's option of taking her courses at a community college and transferring those credits back into her degree program here worked much better.

She was also not attracted to the very course delivery methods in which I have the most expertise, Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and earning credits through testing. As an accomplished woman with varied experiences that offer enough substantive knowledge to earn credit through PLA, I thought she was an ideal candidate for the process. Despite my reassurances and support, she decided against this method of earning credit.

She was also resistant to credit-by-examination. Considering how bright she is, how well she studies and her excellent grades, I

thought she would favor this option. After considerable effort, I finally persuaded her to try one exam. She took a DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST) under the subject "Here's To Your Health" and passed, earning 3 credits. But that would be the last credit-by-examination she would take.

Interestingly, the conclusion of my wife's BA degree is now in sight and she is within 15 credits of completion. Now, after a 30-year pursuit, she will finally finish her BA with a sense of accomplishment and she will have done it her way.

Watching her progress did bring me a feeling that I am privileged to experience on a regular basis thanks to my work with adult students. I continue to be awed by their motivation and dedication.

To my wife and all of our students, keep up the great work!

This year marks Todd Siben's 23rd anniversary with Thomas Edison State College. He has served on the staff of Mercer County Community College, the University of Rhode Island, Northern Arizona State University, The University of Buffalo and Columbia University. He earned his Master of Arts degree at the Teachers College of Columbia University in adult and higher education. ■



Todd Siben, Assistant Director, Prior Learning / Portfolio Assessment

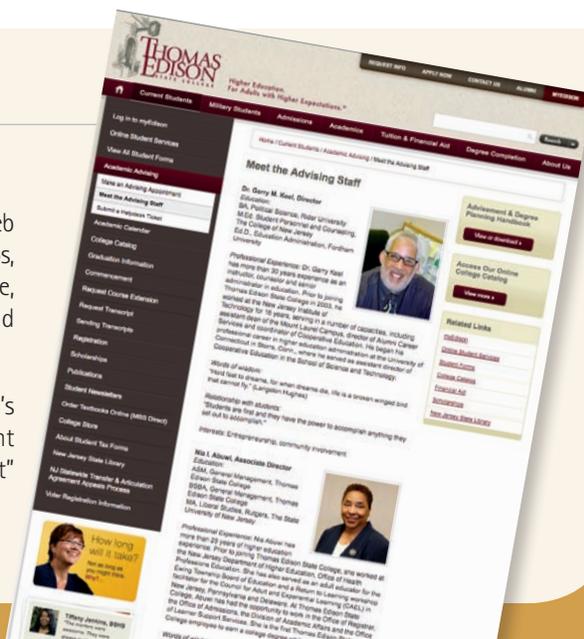
Meet Your Advising Staff

Academic advisors play a vital role for the College's students in reviewing their academic evaluations, assisting in the selection of courses and programs of study, interpreting College policies, preparing them for graduation and helping them take charge of their academic experience. As a student, you may have connected with your academic advisor in a number of ways, but you may not have the opportunity to actually meet them in person. The College has devised a way to bring you one step closer by creating the

"Meet Your Advising Staff" Web page.

Through the "Meet Your Advising Staff" Web page, students can view staff members' photos, academic credentials, professional experience, words of wisdom, personal philosophy and relationship to students.

To locate the page, visit the College's homepage at www.tesc.edu, select "Current Students" and then "Academic Advisement" from the dropdown. ■



Meet a Mentor: Dr. Linda Bucher

DR. LINDA BUCHER PROBABLY VIEWS EMOTICONS DIFFERENTLY THAN MOST OF US 😊

Bucher is an active volunteer for Operation Smile, a charitable organization that provides free maxillofacial surgery for children whose families could not otherwise afford the procedure. She serves as an RN on the organization's medical teams in their pre- and postoperative units all over the world.

"Last May I traveled to Jimma, Ethiopia, where we operated on approximately 75 children to repair cleft lip or cleft palate abnormalities," noted the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing mentor. "More recently, I travelled to Kathmandu, Nepal, where we expanded our services to include the surgical repair of hand and arm deformities in children and adults."

Bucher, who has been with Operation Smile since 2000, said that these experiences are the most rewarding of her nursing career.

At Thomas Edison State College, Bucher mentors the Seminar in Clinical Competence (NUR-500), which is an outcomes-focused, upper-level BSN course. She has also mentored the Nursing Education Seminar and the Onground Practicum (NUR-720), an MSN-level course that prepares the School's students to become nurse educators.

Prior to mentoring at the College, Bucher was instrumental in transitioning the University of Delaware's Master of Science in Nursing Program for clinical nurse specialists from an onground to an online program. She subsequently taught in the program for eight years, most recently, as a professor at the university's School of Nursing, College of Health Sciences. She has served a number of Philadelphia area hospitals and southern New Jersey health systems as a clinical instructor, staff nurse, patient education coordinator and community health nurse.

"I view the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's online structure as being ideal for working nurses. The students are honing the necessary skills to meet the demands of today's profession," she said. "Nurses are typically active with multiple responsibilities – online course delivery makes credit-earning more feasible for them and is often the key to career advancement. I have found the nursing students at the College to be highly motivated and tech savvy. As adult learners, they know what they want in terms of their careers and are ready to make the journey. It's an honor to mentor them as they move toward their goals."

Professionally, Bucher has earned numerous national and local awards and served on a host of scholarly committees and boards. She is currently a member of the Emergency Nurses Association and recently completed service on two boards for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). She has published or copublished numerous texts and articles on critical care and medical-surgical nursing, cardiovascular care, disease assessment and treatment, and nursing pedagogy and has presented to dozens of national forums and scholarly groups on related topics.

Sustaining her connection with direct care nursing, Bucher continues to work as a per diem nurse and maintains her certification in emergency nursing.



Dr. Linda Bucher

Academically, Bucher earned her PhD in Nursing Education from Widener University in Chester, Pa.; an MSN in Adult Health and Illness from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BSN from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pa. She is currently certified as a Nurse Educator.

Outside of her usual sprints between emergency rooms, operating rooms and radiology departments, Bucher enjoys running half marathons and skiing during her leisure time.

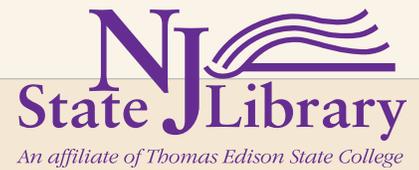
One of six children, Bucher has 13 nieces and nephews – two of which have captured her special attention recently. "Two of my nieces are nurses too and I'm so proud of them. They are just embarking on their careers and I plan to direct them to graduate school very soon."

To find out more about Operation Smile, visit www.operation-smile.org. To find out more about the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit www.tesc.edu/nursing. ■

Meet A Mentor

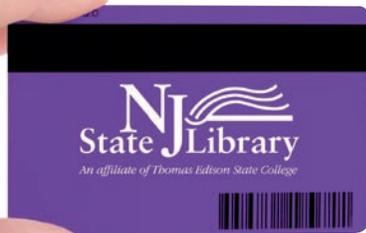
Online Career Services Tools Now Available

EXPLORING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES OR STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS JUST GOT EASIER THROUGH THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY



As a Thomas Edison State College student, your New Jersey State Library (NJSL) membership gives you access to three powerful online career service tools: Career Transitions, Learning Express' Job and Career Accelerator, and the Small Business Resource Center online business guide for entrepreneurs.

► Career Transitions offers a resume builder, career interest assessment guide, interview simulations, career networking tips and access to social services.



► Job and Career Accelerator is an online resource providing information on careers, job opportunities, resume and cover letter preparation, interview guidance, occupational practice tests and a job search tracking dash board to monitor your progress.

► The Small Business Resource Center is a comprehensive resource that covers all major areas of launching and operating a business. From conducting industry research to financial planning to marketing a product and writing a business plan, fledgling entrepreneurs can easily find the information they need to get started. This resource is part of the *NJGrowsBiz@yourlibrary* campaign, which provides business owners 24/7 access to powerful online business and marketing tools and resources.

Career Transitions, Job and Career Accelerator and the Small Business Resource Center are accessible through <http://njworks.org> and are part of NJSL's *NJWorks@yourlibrary*

campaign. The campaign was created to help in the economic recovery of the state by giving libraries the tools they need to expand services to the unemployed and underemployed. The services are made possible through the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Broadband Technology Opportunity Program grant.

Applying for an NJSL card membership is easy and free. All Thomas Edison State College students, whether in- or out-of-state, are eligible for an NJSL card. To obtain a card, complete a Thomas Edison State College Student Borrower Registration Form by visiting www.njstatelib.org. Choose "For the Public" from the menu at the top and "Get a Library Card" from the dropdown or call (609) 278-2640, extension 103. Your NJSL card also gives you access to an array of full text journals and more than 200 online databases, electronic resources, e-books and downloadable audio books. ■

TECEP® (Testing)

NEW POLICY AFFECTS EXAM DEADLINES AND GRADING

As of the July term, students who are registered for a TECEP® will have up to 12 weeks to take their exam.

Students will have the option, however, of officially withdrawing from their TECEP® up until the last day of the term in which they are registered. Students who withdraw during this period will be given a grade of W. The W grade does not affect a student's GPA, but will be recorded on the transcript. Students pursuing this option are urged to review the College's withdrawal and refund policies in the *College Catalog*.

"When students register for a TECEP®, they should arrange to have their exam proctored on a date that is most convenient for them within the 12-week term," said Emily Carone, assistant director, Collegiate Credit Assessment Center. "No extensions will be granted for TECEP® exams. After the end of the 12-week term, students who have not

taken their exam must reregister and pay a new \$33 per credit (\$99 per 3-credit course) fee."

Students who have not taken their TECEP® and who have not officially withdrawn by the end of the term in which they are registered will receive an NC (No Credit) grade. The NC grade does not affect a student's GPA and will not be included on transcripts.

"TECEP® exams remain one of the most efficient and economical ways to earn credit for the College's independent learners," noted Carone. "Students who have prior college-level knowledge or experience in a subject area and are comfortable with test-taking are especially good candidates for this credit-by-examination method of course completion."

Carone added that students can fully prepare for a TECEP® before registering by reviewing the Test Description online. The TECEP®



Emily Carone, assistant director, Collegiate Credit Assessment Center.

Test Descriptions include sample questions and suggested study materials. In this way, students can obtain all the necessary course materials, study for the exam and then register once they feel adequately prepared.

To view the *College Catalog* online, find out more about preparing for a TECEP®, registering for a TECEP® via Online Student Services or to access the College's academic calendars, visit www.tesc.edu and click on the "Current Students" link. ■

College President Honored by African American Chamber of Commerce of N.J.

PRESIDENT DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT HONORED WITH CIRCLE OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HIS WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey presented the award to Dr. Pruitt at its second annual Circle of Achievement Awards Gala in February at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, N.J. The annual event honors a select group of African Americans who have distinguished themselves through accomplishments in business, public service, education, sports and entertainment.



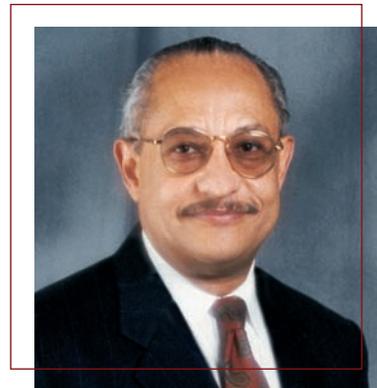
"It is a privilege to be acknowledged by this renowned organization for serving the needs of adult learners in New Jersey and throughout the world," said Pruitt.

Pruitt has served as president of Thomas Edison State College since 1982. Prior to coming to the College, he served in executive leadership positions at Illinois State University, Towson State University, Morgan

State University, Tennessee State University and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. He is active in the formulation of educational policy nationally and within the state of New Jersey.

In addition, Pruitt is consulted widely in business, government and the higher education community and has served in an advisory capacity to four secretaries of education under three presidents of both parties.

Currently, Pruitt serves as chairman, Board of Directors, Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation; chairman, Board of Directors, Capital City Partnership, Inc., Trenton, N.J.; and a member of the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities. In 2011, Pruitt was the only college president from New Jersey named as a vice chair to the national Commission on Higher Education Attainment focusing on improving retention and attainment at institutions of higher learning throughout the country.



Dr. George A. Pruitt

The African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey is dedicated to economically empowering and sustaining African American communities through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activities within the state of New Jersey and via interaction with the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. ■

College Introduces New Payment Procedure for Course Extension Requests

IMPROVED COURSE EXTENSION PROCEDURE FEATURES A SECURE PAYMENT LINK FOR STUDENTS

Thomas Edison State College has revised the process for students using a credit card to pay for course extensions.

Students will complete and process the *Request for Course Extension* form as before, but will receive a secure payment link from the College on which they can submit their credit card payment information. Once the credit card payment has been received, the College will process the request and notify the student of approval. Students who pay by check, financial aid or for whom no payment is required will not receive the link and payments will be processed in the traditional way. ■



Academic Calendar

	May 2012 Term	June 2012 Term	July 2012 Term
Registration Dates	March 22 - April 15, 2012	April 21 - May 16, 2012	May 22 - June 15, 2012
Late Registration	April 16 - April 20, 2012	May 17 - May 21, 2012	June 16 - June 20, 2012
Course Transfer Period (Add/Drop)	March 22 - April 30, 2012	April 21 - May 31, 2012	May 22 - July 6, 2012
Term Start Date	May 1, 2012	June 1, 2012	July 1, 2012*
Midterm Exam Week **	June 11 - June 16, 2012	July 16 - July 21, 2012	Aug. 13 - Aug. 18, 2012
Final Exam Week**	July 16 - July 21, 2012	Aug. 20 - Aug. 25, 2012	Sept. 17 - Sept. 22, 2012
Term Ends	July 21, 2012	Aug. 25, 2012	Sept. 22, 2012

* Dates apply to both Graduate and Undergraduate courses

** Select courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations, please refer to your course materials for details

SPRING 2012 • VOL. 14, NO. 2

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRENTON, NJ
PERMIT NO. 112

