

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 2006

VOL. 9 NO. 1

Slow and Steady Wins the Race

Why do some people succeed while others do not?

To be successful, it is critical to develop and practice "success behavior".

For many Thomas Edison State College graduates, personal satisfaction is at the core of their inspiration for returning to college to complete their degree. This was the case for Helene Loeb and Catherine Haynes.

Loeb is a 2004 graduate who earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in Health Services Administration. Prior to enrolling at Thomas Edison State College, she was pursuing a nursing degree but stopped to start her family. Loeb, however, never lost the desire to complete her education. Today, she serves as director of Quality and Risk Management for Virtua Health System in Marlton, N.J.

Haynes, a 2004 graduate who earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in Emergency Disaster Management, wanted to be a role model for her daughter and to be prepared to advance in her field. She is the oldest of her siblings and the only one in her family to earn a degree. Today, Haynes is deputy director of Charleston County (South Carolina) Emergency Preparedness Division.

FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

Like most adult learners who are returning to college or starting for the first time, Loeb and Haynes had multiple responsibilities. It was important for each woman to be able to work as they earned their degrees and Thomas Edison State College proved a good match. Organization and determination were key traits that helped them make it to graduation.

"I kept my eye on the target by looking at my program plan. Every time I completed

a class, I would write the grade in red ink next to it on the program plan," recalled Loeb, who noted that her husband and her manager supported her decision to return to college. "This helped me visualize my accomplishments. As I came closer to finishing my degree, I began to highlight the courses that I needed to



Helene Loeb, BSHS '04 (left) and her advisor Theresa Bowan Downing

complete in yellow. I feel that the little things that I did to keep myself organized and on course helped me reach my goal, even through the times that I felt that I wanted to bag it."

Haynes echoed that sentiment.

"I just had to keep telling myself to stick with it," she said. "It also helped tremendously to have a very supportive boss who would even let me do my assignments at work."

Loeb added that returning to college created a unique connection between her and her children.

continued on inside center panel

Note: a complete guide to all courses may be found in the *Undergraduate Registration Bulletin*.

AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 2005

ENG-298-OL Jane Austen:
Pride and Prejudice
Note: this is a 1-credit course

AVAILABLE JANUARY 2006

GER-412-OL Biological Aspects
of Aging

AVAILABLE MARCH 2006

COS-451-OL Artificial Intelligence
MAR-479-OL Applied Marketing
Practices

AVAILABLE APRIL 2006

MAR-335-OL New Product
Development and Marketing

**The following course was
cancelled as of October 2005**

HIS-219-GS and HIS-219-OL
Introduction to the History of
Women and the Family in America

New Jersey State Library Offers Online Student Resources

Thomas Edison State College students can utilize free online resources that can assist in completing course work.

The first, www.Jerseyclicks.org, is a free online resource from the New Jersey State Library that provides access to pertinent full-text articles from reliable sources that are ready to be downloaded and printed – exactly what students may need when it's 2 a.m. and they are researching their latest paper.

JerseyClicks enables students to search up to 30 databases at once on topics such as business, education, science, history, health and literature. It also offers full articles from current newspapers, magazines and journals such as the *New York Times*, *Fortune*, *American Fitness*, and *US News and World Report*.

Students looking for a specific answer or help researching a given topic can visit www.QANDANJ.org, where they can chat online with a reference librarian from a participating college or university library to locate the information they need, 24 hours a day.

In most cases, Q and A NJ's librarians will provide an answer online in 15 minutes or less. If a student's question involves lengthy research, the librarian will get them started or refer them to other sources who can better answer the question. And, all the resources or Web sites discussed during the session are e-mailed to a student once they are done.

The New Jersey State Library is an affiliate of Thomas Edison State College. ■

New Graduate Certificates Offered

The Graduate School is pleased to announce that six new Graduate Certificates are now being offered. Earning Graduate Certificates is an excellent way to gain expertise in a specific area that can help advance your career. Students may use this added credential to document expertise, or apply the credits earned during a Certificate Program to a graduate program offered by the Graduate School.

Currently, Graduate Certificates are offered in the following areas:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (12 cr)

Courses available for this graduate-level certificate focus on the most important strategic initiatives that HR professionals face as they lead their organizations through the uncharted waters of constant change.

HOMELAND SECURITY (12 cr)

Courses for this program were developed by a team of professors and practitioners to provide students with a broad view of homeland security issues by going beyond a single discipline to consider policy, preparation, management and continuity throughout a crisis.

ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING (12 cr)

Thomas Edison State College pioneered the use of technology in higher education and students can benefit from its experience. This graduate certificate serves those who want to be well-prepared to teach online.

CLINICAL TRIALS MANAGEMENT (12 cr)

The Clinical Trials Management Certificate was conceived and designed by pharmaceutical, biotechnology and contract research organization experts who work in the clinical research field. It is intended for those who seek entrance to or advancement in the clinical research industry and teaches the fundamentals of the clinical trials environment, study design, and management.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP (12 cr)

This graduate-level certificate enables students to select the four courses from the core requirements of the Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree that they feel, based on their management experience and future career goals, will further develop their leadership and management skills.

PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERSHIP (12 cr)

This graduate-level certificate is open only to graduates of the Executive Potential Program (EPP) offered by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Graduate School and prepares future leaders in federal government.

The application fee for earning a certificate is \$75. Students must have an official transcript forwarded to the Graduate School, directly from the college or university attended, that documents a completed baccalaureate degree.

For more information on Graduate Certificate Programs, call (609) 984-1168 or visit www.tesc.edu/graduate. ■

Commencement Speaker Profile: Eric Anderson

Balance is Secret to Success

The secret to success as an adult student is balance, according to Eric Anderson.

Anderson knows something about balancing responsibilities. He is a senior examiner and quality control specialist with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and a dedicated husband and father.

Last year, he earned his Master of Science in Management degree and delivered the Response for Graduates address at Thomas Edison State College's 33rd annual Commencement last October. Anderson addressed the largest commencement in the College's history, with more than 330 graduates present and more than 2,000 people in attendance.

Anderson, of Rockland, Mass., was selected for the honor because he is a "highly motivated individual with strong work ethic," said Greg Dye, director of Graduate Student Services.

As a graduate student at Thomas Edison State College, Anderson pur-

sued his master's degree first while a claims team manager then, after a promotion, as senior examiner and quality control specialist with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. In 1993, Anderson earned an MLT certificate from Southeastern Technical Institute



in Vidalia Georgia, and a baccalaureate degree from Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Mass., in 1991.

Upon receiving the invitation to address his fellow graduates, Anderson recalled experiencing a mix of emotions.

"I was pleasantly surprised and honored

to have the opportunity to address my friends and peers but also apprehensive thinking about how to address the wealth of experiences, knowledge and successes we've shared over the past two years," he said. "Then I realized, together we've pushed forward, creating a special bond that only those who have shared could understand. This thought brought clarity to the mixed emotions, leaving me with only the excitement of addressing the group, sharing memories and talking about conquering what lies ahead."

Although playing the role of husband, father, business man and student may be a cumbersome task, Anderson's solution to the challenge of juggling these roles is the old-fashioned remedy of pure balance.

In addition, Anderson said his family and close friends have encouraged him along the pathway to higher learning, which resulted in him gaining the strength and confidence to compete in any work environment. ■

Cover Story Continued: **Slow and Steady Wins the Race**

"My children saw me pursuing an education and they were motivated because of me," she said. "When they entered college, it became a commonality that enabled us to communicate on a different level."

PLANNING AHEAD

Both Loeb and Haynes said students today should not let the Advanced Level Practicum intimidate them. Planning, they said, is vital to successfully completing the practicum.

"Give yourself a lot of time to think and plan your paper," said Loeb. "Be able to speak to your information and refer to specific actions or experiences that demonstrate your application of the theories that are in your paper."

Loeb and Haynes each have advice for current students pursuing their degrees at Thomas Edison State College.

"Stay focused and don't give up! Persistence and commitment are the two personality traits that you need the most to get through a degree in this type of program," said Loeb.

Haynes stressed the importance of time management.

"Most adults who are working degrees through distance learning programs need to be good at time management," she said. "It is just like anything else, if you get behind it is hard to catch up."

Author's Note: It has always been my philosophy to meet students wherever I found them in their readiness and understanding of the college experience. This philosophy served the students and me very well throughout my 21-year tenure at Thomas Edison State College. The advisement session was never just about the academics, but the whole person. I learned as much from my students as they learned from me. We enlightened and encouraged each other. Now that I have retired, I wanted to take this opportunity to say goodbye. It has been my pleasure to serve you. I wish continued success to all current students as you blaze new trails for others to follow.

*Theresa A. Bowman Downing
Retired Senior Program Advisor,
Human Services Degree Programs*

Mentor Ronald Long

Assists Hurricane Victims in Mississippi

The waters have receded in Mississippi, but Ronald A. Long, J.D., is still hard at work helping hurricane victims who now find themselves adrift in real estate and legal complications.

Long, an attorney and Thomas Edison State College mentor, provides pro bono legal services through the Mississippi Disaster Legal Assistance Program for hurricane victims who cannot afford the legal advice critical to finding shelter.

In this capacity, he helps flood victims navigate insurance hurdles and assists families in securing funds to rebuild. In addition, Long helps shield families from eviction and from price-gouging landlords who charge exorbitant rents.

For those whose lives were decimated by the one-two punch delivered by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, legal volunteers are a godsend.

Long brings a wealth of expertise to this endeavor. He is a member of the bars of the U.S. Tax Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Federal District Court (Eastern District), the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Long said what attracted him to teach at Thomas Edison State College was flexibility.

"In 1997, when I first became interested in working for Thomas Edison State College, I was firmly involved in completing my own postgraduate work," he recalled. "The educational model

appealed to me because I didn't have the time to commute to, or sit in, a class. I could spend weekends and evenings checking students' work and communicating with them via e-mail, while completing my own course work."

Long, who currently teaches four courses at the College, said he values his inter-



Ronald Long

action with students and the vibrancy of the academic programs. He added that students impress him with the expertise they demonstrate in essay responses on his tests.

"Their insight constantly amazes me," he

said. "I've even told a couple of them that their work is law school quality and absolutely publishable."

One of his students, Brian Bovyn, describes Long as a talented mentor. "Ron is approachable and understanding," said Bovyn. "He gives good feedback and grades assignments in a timely manner – usually within 48 hours. I really enjoy his moderation and facilitation of courses."

Long earned a Bachelor of Arts from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan.; a dual Bachelor of Science in business and management from Spring Garden College in Philadelphia; and a Master of Business Administration from St. Joseph's University, also in Philadelphia. He earned a master's degree in business with a teaching certificate (MAT) from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey), and a Juris Doctor degree from Widener University's School of Law in Wilmington, Del.

Long is listed in a plethora of *Who's Who* publications and has won a number of faculty and business development awards. In addition to serving as a mentor at Thomas Edison State College, he's currently an adjunct faculty member of the graduate college at the Union Institute & University in Washington, D.C. ■

SIGNALS is published three times per year by Thomas Edison State College. Please direct any inquiries or suggestions for future articles to the editor c/o:

SIGNALS

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

Joe Guzzardo
Director of Communications

Karen E. Hume
Director of Publications

Chris Miller
Art Director

Thomas Edison State College is pleased to announce the following new online courses:

Artificial Intelligence COS-451-OL

Artificial Intelligence is a 3-credit course that provides an introduction to how artificial intelligence methods solve problems that are difficult or impractical to solve with other methods. Students considering this course should be familiar with computer hardware and software as provided in an introductory computer science course.

Applied Marketing Practices MAR-479-OL

Applied Marketing Practices is a 3-credit course that brings together marketing theory and practical experience from work-related experiences. Students taking this course are required to purchase the software Marketing Plan Pro.

Biological Aspects of Aging GER-412-OL

Biological Aspects of Aging is a 3-credit course that provides an overview of the normal and abnormal body system changes associated with aging.

Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice ENG-298-OL

Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice is a 1-credit upper-level course that focuses on the novel by Jane Austen and the ways in which she expressed her concerns and preoccupations with the changes that occurred in her time. ■

Thomas Edison State College and ACT Offer Online Testing

Thomas Edison State College, in collaboration with ACT, now offers online testing as an alternative option in 15 selected online courses and in five TECEP® tests. The TECEP® tests with the online testing option are referred to as e-TECEP®.

Students opting to take the online tests can find a test center near them by going to www.act.org and clicking on *Locate an ACT Center* under *Quick Tools*. There is a \$45 fee, payable to ACT, associated with this option.

"We're really excited about offering online testing. Most students are more comfortable utilizing a keyboard than they are putting pen to paper. The ACT option makes writing essay answers infinitely easier. It also provides immediate feedback on answers to multiple choice and true/false questions once the test is completed."

Maureen Woodruff, Director of Test Administration

For more information on taking an online test for an online course, visit www.tesc.edu/catalog/oltesting.php

For more information on taking an online test for a TECEP® course, visit www.tesc.edu/catalog/etecep.php

Students may also call the Office of Test Administration at (609) 984-1181.

The initial online and TECEP® tests that offer online testing are:

ONLINE COURSES

Introduction to Anthropology
(ANT-101-OL)

American History I
(HIS-113-OL)

A World of Art
(ART-100-OL)

African History and Culture
(HIS-301-OL)

Business Policy
(BUS-421-OL)

News Writing
(JOU-352-OL)

Computer Concepts and Applications
(CIS-107-OL)

Introduction to World Religions
(REL-405-OL)

English Composition I
(ENC-101-OL)

Eastern Religions
(REL-406-OL)

Global Environmental Change
(ENS-314-OL)

Western Religions
(REL-407-OL)

Western Civilization I
(HIS-101-OL)

Introduction to Sociology
(SOC-101-OL)

Western Civilization II
(HIS-102-OL)

TECEP® TESTS

Introduction to Marketing
(MAR-301-TE)

Introduction to Social Psychology
(PSY-370-TE)

Psychology of Women
(PSY-270-TE)

Alcohol Abuse: Fundamental Facts
(SOS-301-TE)

Psychology of Personality
(PSY-352-TE)

More courses will be added throughout 2006.

Calendar	April 2006 Semester	May 2006 Semester	June 2006 Semester
Registration Dates	Feb. 11 - March 17, 2006	March 25 - April 14, 2006	April 22 - May 12, 2006
Late Registration	March 18 - 24, 2006	April 15 - 21, 2006	May 13- 19, 2006
Course Transfer Period	Feb. 11 - March 24, 2006	March 25 - April 21, 2006	April 22 - May 19, 2006
Start Date	April 1, 2006	May 1, 2006	June 1, 2006
Proctor Request Forms Due	April 7, 2006	May 5, 2006	June 9, 2006
Final exam week for 12-week term	June 19 - 24, 2006	July 17 - 22, 2006	Aug. 21 - 26, 2006
End of 12-week term	June 24, 2006	July 22, 2006	Aug. 26, 2006
Midterm exam week for 16-week term	May 22 - 27, 2006	June 19 - 24, 2006	July 24 - 29, 2006
Final exam week for 16-week term	July 17 - 22, 2006	Aug. 14 - 19, 2006	Sept. 18 - 23, 2006
End of 16-week term	July 22, 2006	Aug. 19, 2006	Sept. 23, 2006

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

SIGNALS
THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE
101 W. State St. • Trenton, NJ 08608-1176