

TCI ACHIEVES MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

If you haven't been back to visit your alma mater lately, you may be one of the few who has yet to hear that TCI College of Technology achieved regional accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (www.msche.org) this past June. The Commission, headquartered in Philadelphia, is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as one of eight regional accreditation organizations for degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States. According to the organization's Web site, the Commission promotes and ensures quality assurance and improvement in higher education by examining "the institution as a whole, rather than specific programs within the institution."

Although TCI's Middle States accreditation is recent news, the effort TCI employees have contributed to achieve this great success has been ongoing since the College began pursuing accreditation in the late 1990's. TCI was aware of the fact that once accredited its students could more easily transfer their credits to almost any college within the U.S., explained Dr. Harvey Hoffman, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "Most of the colleges around New York City have long accepted TCI transfer credits," Dr. Hoffman says, "but the College knew Middle States would bring this advantage to students



Registration takes on new meaning now that all TCI classes are Middle States accredited. Admissions Representative Jonathon Toppin (left) trains Student Employee Masika Matthew to help during registration.

wishing to pursue a bachelor's degree in a different city or state." Fourteen different subcommittees, represented by all members of the College, focused on the specific standards set forth by the Middle States Commission to analyze colleges. They assessed TCI's strengths and weaknesses, then combined their findings in an exhaustive self-study edited by Dr. Phyllis Conn, the former Dean of Arts and Sciences. In addition to evaluating the self-study, the Middle States Commission spent four days at TCI observing the College's operations and meeting with everyone from board members to students. In the end, the College's effort paid off.

Students' reactions to the announcement have been positive. "I think it's a good thing [TCI] did for their students," says Sherreka Bailey, a Medical Office Technology student in her fourth semester,

who hopes to continue on to an RN program after TCI.

"It's great that [the accreditation] gives me more choices about which school to go to," Business Administration and Accounting student Kalimah Abdur-Razzaq states.

Delcia Ishmael, an Office Technology student, is also happy about the Middle States Accreditation. "If I go to a four-year college, I want to go closer to home," she explains. "With Middle States [accreditation] I will have the opportunity to go to different schools that will accept my TCI credits."

"Alumni can take pleasure in recognizing that TCI is a college that's moving forward and meeting the highest standards in the country by achieving Middle States accreditation," says Dr. Hoffman. TCI faculty and staff will continue to maintain this level of excellence for its students.

"I go home every night and think about going to a four-year college," Kalimah exclaims, "and I can't wait!" Students' excitement, like that of Kalimah's, is what makes the College's effort worthwhile.

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EVCI CAREER COLLEGES ACQUIRES TCI

On September 15, 2005, EVCI Career Colleges Holding Corp., a publicly traded company, completed its acquisition of TCI. "We are extremely excited," says Dr. John McGrath, President and Chief Executive Officer of EVCI. "We believe TCI's curriculum is highly complementary to that of our existing offerings and provides EVCI with a tremendous opportunity to expand its student population in New York."

EVCI also owns Interboro Institute — with three locations in New York City and one in Yonkers, New York — and the Pennsylvania School of Business. "TCI will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of EVCI," explains Dr. McGrath. "During the past 96 years TCI has established tremendous name recognition and we will continue to build upon its brand equity," he adds.

Notable numbers

- 9** Number of years TCI has held its graduation ceremony at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
- 37** The percentage of TCI's administration that received a degree from TCI
- 22** Professional certifications Roy Lau, Chairperson of the IET and NET Departments, has earned. His most challenging – and recent – one to obtain: Project Management Professional (PMP)
- 670** Pentium-class computers maintained at TCI in **24** internet-ready classrooms exclusively for student use
- 24 Trillion** bytes: the combined hard drive capacity of student-use computers
- 222 Billion** bytes of RAM: the combined memory of the aforementioned computers
- 93** Number of periodicals TCI's library subscribes to, including *Poptronics*, *Black Enterprise*, *People*, *Consumer Reports*, *OfficePRO...* and 88 others
- 96** Number of years TCI has been educating students

FROM THE DIVISION OF CLIMATE CONTROL: AN AFTERNOON WITH ROBERT DENSON

If you graduated from the Division of Climate Control or were a member of the Building Maintenance and Management Student Association (BMMSA), chances are you know Robert Denson very well. You know he's the Deputy Chairperson of Climate Control Technology; he graduated from the College of New Rochelle with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Special Education, but received most of his technical training from the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion; and he's been a faculty member of TCI for over 12 years.

You may know that Mr. Denson spends his semester breaks swimming with porpoises or utilizing his scuba-diving certification in exotic places like the Bahamas, Peru (where his daughter lives), Brazil, and the Dominican Republic. You may have heard him jamming along to Latin beats on his drums or even caught him curled up with a mystery adventure novel by Joseph Conrad. But

are you aware that if you ask Mr. Denson to share with you some memories of TCI alumni, many fun stories are sure to begin?

Mr. Denson fondly remembers TCI alumni: "There's a graduate who's always remembered my birthday. He's opening up a building, construction, and maintenance school in Virginia, and recently asked me to help him."

"One of my former students is a president of ASHRAE, [the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.] He saw me at an industry event and began leaping up and down shouting, 'There's my teacher! There's my teacher!' The interesting thing is that standing next to him was one of my former teachers, and alongside me was a current student."

Mr. Denson explains that his favorite part of the job is being Faculty Advisor of BMMSA. "I have seen a lot of students grow in terms of personal achievements and self

esteem. They leave TCI with confidence," he says. The student members of BMMSA basically run the organization, explains Mr. Denson, developing their own mission statement and determining what they would like to learn about while "functioning with dignity and integrity." He helps them carry out their mission and incorporate some aspect of community service into BMMSA's activities, like repairing air conditioners for the disabled. (They have partnered with TCI's Dare to Repair program on many occasions.)

Evidently, Mr. Denson has made an impact on his students' education, and TCI



students have taught him much in return. "They have taught me patience, humility, and dedication to purpose," he explains. "As I try to lead them, I find myself wanting more as well," he adds.

Mr. Denson hopes to continue to have a strong relationship with TCI alumni. He would like them to come back and talk to TCI faculty, and to know that former instructors are available to alumni even after graduation. "They can still get information from us relating to their current job or profession," he comments. He encourages alumni to continue to gain information about both themselves and their profession, and to seek new experiences. "Make three- and five-year plans," he advises, "to give you a sense of direction."

So if you're looking for that direction, or want to stay current in your industry, whatever it may be, seek out your former TCI instructors — they may even be able to loan you some flippers.

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ALUMNI ROUNDUP: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Name: **Denise Andino**

Major: Office Technology – Medical Track (OTM)

Grad Date: December, 2004

Favorite Class: OTM 208-Medical Terminology

Favorite Teacher: Ms. Leticia Hernandez (“She teaches thoroughly,” says Denise, “and makes sure you really know it. She also gives extra info, like research from the Internet.”)

Free-Time Activities: Read horror and science fiction, shop, and hang out with friends

Mentor: “It would be my mother because she always did everything herself.”

Current Employer: Digital Products, Inc. (DPI)

Title: Dispatcher/Customer Service Manager (“Although my current job is not directly in my field of study, TCI provided me the general skills to land this job -- which, with Career Services’ help, I started the first Monday after school was out.”)

Advice to Alumni: “Don’t take anything for granted.”

Additional Comments: “TCI opened my eyes to make me realize I can want more than what I already have. The best thing TCI taught me is that I can continue my education.” (Denise is planning on starting an RN degree in January.) “Lot’s of people said college is a waste of time; I like to prove a lot of people wrong!”



Name: **Mark Rigoglioso**

Major: Electronics Engineering Technology (EET)

Grad Date: December, 2002

Favorite Class: EET 212-Introduction to Telecommunications

Favorite Teacher: Mr. Jerry Zornesky (“He taught with a one-on-one style that was very effective.”)

Free-Time Activities: Photography, spend time with family, sing in church choir, rollerblade, run, play Frisbee, and read historical novels

Mentor: Dr. Bertram Pariser (“He had interesting work experience to share with us and was a good role model.”)

Current Employer: MTA – Metro North Railroad

Title: Electronics Specialist (“In my position I maintain and troubleshoot our supervisory control system, and design and build test equipment, among other things.”)

Advice to Alumni: “Make good use of your time every day. Always try to improve. Find a need within your company, and help to fill that need.”

Additional Education: “I continued my education online — I was able to transfer all my TCI credits. In one year I earned a Bachelor’s of Science Engineering degree in Technical Management.”

Additional Comments: “As a member of the fraternity, Tau Alpha Pi, we hosted intriguing speakers and worked in project groups. For one project, my group built a mini robot.”

TCI GENERALS MEN’S BASKETBAL

11-9-05	7:00 p.m.	BMCC
11-10	7:00 p.m.	FIT
11-11	5:00 p.m.	Frederick CC Tourney
11-12	TBA	Frederick CC Tourney
11-15	7:00 p.m.	Naussau CC
11-17	7:00 p.m.	Ulster CC
11-19	7:00 p.m.	Monroe
12-1	7:00 p.m.	Kingsboro CC
12-6	7:00 p.m.	Hostos CC
12-8	7:00 p.m.	Globe
12-10	TBA	Brookdale CC Tourney
12-11	TBA	Brookdale CC Tourney
12-13	7:00 p.m.	Bronx CC
12-15	7:00 p.m.	Suffolk CC
12-17	1:00 p.m.	Suffolk Grant
12-20	7:00 p.m.	Orange CC
1-5-06	7:00 p.m.	BMCC
1-7	5:00 p.m.	Queensboro CC
1-12	7:00 p.m.	FIT
1-17	7:00 p.m.	Bergen CC
1-18	6:00 p.m.	Army Prep
1-27	7:00 p.m.	Bronx CC
2-2	7:00 p.m.	Rockland CC
2-7	7:00 p.m.	Hostos CC
2-9	7:00 p.m.	Sullivan CC
2-16	7:00 p.m.	Dutchess CC
2-21	7:00 p.m.	Westchester CC

Red indicates Game at Home

Real World Knowledge to Share

To keep you connected with fellow alumni at TCI and up-to-date on the technology work place, here's a message from two recent additions to your alumni network. Both graduated this past August and took part in the Cooperative Education/Internship program offered at TCI before heading out into the "real world."

From a Novice to an Expert by Bouchra Zouhairi, NET Graduate

I started my internship in May of 2005 at Palladia, Inc, the second largest nonprofit organization in New York City [that provides services to individuals and families that suffer from substance abuse, homelessness, HIV, mental illness, and domestic violence]. From my first day on, I was kindly integrated into the Information Technology Department team and shown their different activities. During this period, I learned that our team provides on- and off-site computer support for more than 500 users at 25 sites. My daily tasks mainly focused around help desk and computer technician services.

As a Computer Service Technician Intern I had a chance to learn how to troubleshoot computers, upgrade systems, and install different types of software, such as *eTrust*, *Office Suites* and *Service Packs*. In addition to these main tasks, I assisted with server-related support such as installing an NIC card on a server, demoting and reinstalling *Active Directory* on a domain controller, and changing a range of subnets. My academic background prepared me for such experiences; however, the patience of the IT team – and their willingness to help – motivated me to learn more. When I felt unsure about certain tasks that I was given, they encouraged me to go on and cope with it.

One challenge I encountered during my internship was trying to communicate with users over the phone to understand the different types of problems presented. Through my experiences I was able to find the easiest way to walk them through the steps necessary to solve their problem.

Interning with an organization as large and as varied as Palladia allowed me not only to investigate a variety of career-path options within the IT

field, but also helped me learn a lot about myself – like identifying the strengths that I had after completing my regular courses at TCI. I was also able to detect the weaknesses that I needed to address before successfully applying for a full-time job.

I would like to give a special thanks to Jannah-Abdus Salaam and Rousseline Victor, two TCI graduates



Ms. Abbey (left) guides internship participant Bouchra Zouhairi through creating a winning resume.

and members of Palladia's IT team, for their assistance and help. I would also like to thank Ms. [Danella] Abbey, the Co-op Manager who has a wonderful sense of humor, for her support before and during the internship period.

Interning at NYC Transit by Mohamed Kattaria, NET Graduate

Often people fresh out of college are intimidated when looking for employment in their field of study. I had great grades; however, I did not know if I had what employers looked for in an employee.

I participated in the internship program during summer of 2005 and it was probably the best thing that happened to me at TCI. I obtained a position at NYC Transit in the security messaging group within the Vice President's office. I worked with a fan-

tastic group of people who never hesitated to let me know what was going on. If I had a question, I knew I could count on them for an answer.

At my internship, my group handled most of the e-mail and active directory servers within the transit system. We worked with trouble tickets, login issues, and e-mail and Blackberry problems. They were a very important group. During my time there I was not given scenarios; I was given real world objectives. It gave me the opportunity to see what the real work place is like.

In working with such a diverse group, you tend to pick up a lot of habits — thankfully I picked up mostly good ones. Dealing with so many people over the phone and through e-mail, I found that writing things down is extremely important. (My supervisor wrote down everything. With every correspondence she made sure that she wrote down names, times, and events.) Leaving voice mails and updating my trouble tickets

was also very important in order to show that I was working and not slacking off. At first I would look at the tickets, make a phone call, and if the person did not pick up, then I would hang up and move on to the next one. I came to realize that there was no proof that I tried to make contact with the user. I developed the habit of getting a name and leaving a record of trying to make contact.

The Career Services staff at TCI was a great help to me. Ms. Abbey and Jay Francisco (a Corporate Liaison) answered my questions and made me feel supported. Plus, I cannot forget the professors that I had, Mr. [Humberto] Morales, Mr. [Miguel] Bustamante, Mr. [Silvio] Reyes, and everyone else who did not give me the answer when I asked for it, but told me that I can figure it out.

I did not secure a job at my internship; however, I did obtain a full-time position at Vonage America as a Teir-2 Tech Support. My internship made me confident enough to take that first step.

FROM THE HALLS OF TCI: PHOTO ESSAYS

TCI's offices are constantly collaborating to better serve their students and alumni. This August, TCI's office of Admissions teamed up with the Department of Career Services with the idea of better serving the community. Together representatives from both departments facilitated workshops at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) - Department of Community Operations' Career and Education Fair.

NYCHA's Department of Community Operations' mission is to coordinate "the delivery of essential social, cultural, educational, and recreational services to the residents of NYCHA and neighboring communities," according to their Web site. This is where TCI stepped in. At the Career and Education Fair, Admissions Representative Steve Whyte (pictured at right, in middle) spoke to the attendees about the importance of finishing high school and going on to college, as well as the different opportunities at TCI that could help them make a better future.

Morland Matthews (far right) and Jay Francisco (left), Corporate Liaisons for Career Services, also spoke with the young adults – about 200 in total – aged 14 to 21 who attended the event. "I asked the students to think about things that may become obstacles or hurdles in their future when applying for jobs," Mr. Matthews explains. He also asked the students to think of ways they could "prepare themselves to jump over those hurdles when they encounter them." Jay Francisco spoke with the attendees about their career aspirations and encouraged them to do more research to find a specific niche of interest in which they could excel at.



Chinese Club Members



The Latino Club

Chances are you made a few trips to see a Student Affairs Counselor when you were at TCI. Whether it was changing majors, receiving counseling for a personal problem, or finding the answer to a general TCI question, the counselors were there to help. "The most rewarding thing about my job," says Counselor Dawn Zhang, "is seeing the students graduate – to know they have made it through their journey."

Anny Garcia, another Student Counselor who's been with TCI just over a year, feels the same satisfaction when students make it through each semester. "We're here to make it easier for the students to go through college," she exclaims, "and each of us are involved with the school in other ways, too." From guiding students with learning disabilities and alcohol dependency, to assisting the international students, to being Faculty Advisors of the Chinese and Latino Clubs (as are Ms. Zhang and Ms. Garcia, respectively), room 155 is always bustling.



"Be careful of arrogance," Felipe Luciano, community activist and the first Puerto Rican news anchor for WNBC, told TCI's newest alumni class when he addressed them on June 16th, 2005, as the graduation ceremony's keynote speaker. "The fact that you've made it only gives you the responsibility of moving on and giving that gift to someone else. Each one of you must be a beacon of light."

FROM THE HALLS (CONTINUED)



Data Conversion Laboratory (DCL), based out of Fresh Meadows, Queens, attended TCI's Career Fair on June 15th in hopes of filling their Associate Electronic Editor positions. (DCL is a high-tech com-

pany that prepares other companies' content for electronic distribution and the Web by converting it to structured formats like XML, SGML, OeB, and HTML (www.dclab.com).) Less than one month later, Chief Operating Officer Amy Williams had hired four TCI graduates – two from the Digital Media Arts (DMA) degree program and two from Networking Technology (NET).

Business continued to be good for DCL. Late in August, they returned to TCI to present information to recent grads about their company and get to know more qualified candidates. This time, however, their group had grown. Accompanying Ms. Williams was two TCI alumni, Jeniffer Jahorie (a 2003 DMA graduate) and Eric Muniz (a 2004 NET graduate). Both Ms. Jahorie and Mr. Muniz (pictured above, at right) spoke with their fellow alumni about their new job and responsibilities, and how TCI had prepared them for this exciting technical career.

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