



photo by Tyler Small

Jeanne Walsh-Fisher, pictured above, is one of the many adult learners who have returned back to school to complete their education. Walsh-Fisher is currently working toward a certificate in human services at CCCC.

## Back to school, back to school

by Tyler Small

The movie "Billy Madison" is about an adult who goes back to school in order to show his father he has what it takes to run a business. "Back to school, back to school, to prove to dad that I'm not a fool." The difference between the movie and real life is that adults who are going back to school now want a higher education in order to enhance their minds more.

While walking around the campus, it is obvious that Cape Cod Community College isn't just for those fresh out of high school. Lately, many people have decided to come back to school to further their education.

Jeanne Walsh-Fischer is just one example. For 31 years, she has worked as a real estate agent at Kinlin Grover, along with being an associate at Shaws Supermarkets for the past five years. In the late 70's, Walsh attended CCCC but didn't graduate due to marriage and pursuing real estate.

"For years, one of my goals has been to return to my education, and this past August I decided to check out CCCC and the adult learner program. Currently, I am on track to earn a certificate in human services, which will take roughly a year, due to budget and time constraints."

Like every other student, she strives for that 4.0 GPA. While only taking two classes a semester, she is able to focus her attention to those while also balancing work on the side. It doesn't take much to go back, just some dedication and to know what you want.

"The best part about being back in the classroom is that I am able to learn new things, interact with fellow students, and have the sense of satisfaction of doing well," said Walsh-Fischer. "My least favorite part is driving at night! Sometimes I have difficulty seeing then. I also hate having a hot flash in the middle of class."

CCCC is a school that is made accessible to anyone of any age. It's a way for many adults to enter an environment where they can learn and earn degrees in a field, and they don't necessarily have to give up the life they're used to.

## January Intersession at CCCC

by Bill Rock

As the fall semester comes to a close, students are preparing for the Spring semester ahead by meeting with advisors and registering for new classes. Cape Cod Community College is offering a January Intersession program in which students receive full credit for courses in a matter of three weeks. These classes will take place during the winter break, from Jan. 3 until Jan. 20.

This opportunity is perfect for students looking to gain an advantage in their studies. Those who may be looking to graduate quicker, complete course prerequisites, or fulfill a general education requirement have the opportunity to do so in a short period of time.

Mike Parker, a CCCC student, used a previous intersession to receive credits towards his Associate's degree. "I took English and sociology courses and got credit for both courses," said Parker. "After the holidays there really isn't a lot going on during the winter break, so I thought it would be a good idea to take a couple of

the intersession courses."

The January Intersession courses include classes from a wide variety of departments at Cape Cod Community College. Students may take courses in subjects such as communications, English, mathematics, art, economics, psychology, sociology, and many more. Students also have the opportunity to complete some of the intersession courses online.

"In the end it was really worth doing," said Parker. "I took the classes in the morning and had the rest of the day to myself. It was a lot easier to get the course credits in three weeks rather than three months."

Current students may register for January Intersession courses online via Campus Web by logging in with their username and password. New students interested in taking classes this January must contact the Registration Office, either by phone at (508) 362-2131 x4711 or by visiting the Registration Office in the Nickerson Administration Building.

## Honors classes available for Spring 2012 semester

by Beau Morrison

The Honors Program at Cape Cod Community College is offering five honors courses for the Spring 2012 semester.

Currently enrolled students who have established a GPA of 3.2 or higher are qualified to take the following honors-level courses: English Composition I, English Composition II, Human Communication, Principles of Sociology, and Elementary Statistics.

According to Professor Delores Bird, coordinator of CCCC's Honors Program, honors courses offer more enriching coursework, smaller class sizes, and honors recognition on student transcripts. Bird is in her fifth year with the Honors Program at CCCC, which became accredited by the state in 2009.

In addition to the courses offered, students can also receive honors credit in regular courses through honors contracts. Honors contracts must be independent, supplementary research projects done in addition to the standard curriculum. All honors contracts must be proposed by the student in advance and approved both by the student in advance and approved both by the professor of the course and Bird.

Participation in the Honors Program offers students the opportunity to graduate as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar.

Benefits of graduating with this distinction include guaranteed transfer of credits into honors programs at Massachusetts colleges and universities, enhanced opportunities for scholarships and college admissions, and recognition at graduation.

In order to graduate as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar, a student must complete three honors courses (nine credits) with a grade of B or higher. Three of these credits may be obtained through an honors contract. A cumulative GPA of 3.2 is required for a student to graduate as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar.

Students must also complete the three-credit Honors Colloquium. The Colloquium is a team-taught, collaborative seminar in which students investigate a specific topic of global concern. Colloquium members are required to conduct independent, original research projects and present them to an audience at the Annual Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference at UMass Amherst.

Bird encourages students interested in the Honors Program to visit [www.cape-cod.edu/honors](http://www.cape-cod.edu/honors) for more information. Students with additional questions should email Bird at [dbird@capecod.edu](mailto:dbird@capecod.edu).

## CCCC successes stories

by Scott Carroll

"Start here and take your life anywhere" is more than just Cape Cod Community College's motto; it really applies to those who have attended the school.

There sometimes is a stigma attached to going to a community college. Some people say it's not a real college, or it's for people who can't get into a good school, but that's just not the case. There are many degree and certificate programs offered at the school, as well as a 2+2 program that allows students to get an Associates in Arts degree at CCCC then continue their education with another school on the CCCC campus. Students can also transfer to another college to continue their education. There are many people on Cape Cod and surrounding areas that would not be able to get a secondary education without CCCC.

"After I got out of the Army in 1989, I moved back in with my grandparents on the Cape. I figured I'd do two years at CCCC before going on to a four-year college," said former student and graduate Dean Maki. "I wanted to go into banking, but it was only offered at night. I had hospitality experience in the Army, as I was in charge of the base pool, so I decided to go into the hotel and restaurant program." As a part of the program he not only took classes, but was also worked at a Hyannis hotel as part of his work study and participated in dinner functions put on by the program.

"I graduated with high honors and went to UMass Amherst for Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Administration. All three of my instructors have worked in the industry for most of their lives," said Maki. "I actually used what they taught me in my UMass classes and did very well." After college, he worked his way to general manager of a Howard Johnson Hotel in Amherst. Later, as a general manager, he opened a Best Western Hotel in Boston. Maki currently runs a luxury All Suits hotel in Newport, Rhode Island. "I still use much of what I was taught at CCCC, like hospitality law, accounting, hotel marketing, and more."

Cape Cod Community College makes school possible for those who can't afford larger schools, can't travel great distances, and have children that they can't be away from for long periods. CCCC has programs in place to help those who have not been in school for a long time and need help with such things as financial aid, class placement, assessment testing, study skills and more. There are smaller classes that allow students to be more involved and get individual assistance that is hard to get in the big colleges and universities. It's easy to move around campus to find classrooms, offices and other places such as the library, theater and dining area.

Valerie J. Smith lived on Cape Cod, but was attending a four-year state college off Cape until she became ill and had to take a medical leave. "Once I started feeling better, I started at CCCC by taking two summer courses to get back into the swing of things," she said. "As a new student, I was nervous, but upon arrival, I found the campus easy to maneuver and saw many of my classmates from Barnstable. Some went right out of school, and others went there because their college of choice turned out to be a bad academic fit for them."

"I had a communications professor who was wonderful. I was not a big fan of getting up in front of people I did not know," Smith said. "She structured the class so well, that in the end, we were begging to be the first to give a speech. My thought on all my CCCC professors is they were better than the ones at the four-year colleges I attended and on par with my graduate program professors."

Smith tells of how her experience at CCCC has transferred into the real world. "I have a very strong career in the world of finance. I have spoken publically often. Even in front of crowds over a thousand people, I don't even flinch. It all goes back to that speech professor who gave me the tools to be comfortable, demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter, and present my-self well."