

FALL 2013

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Performance Improvement

Dominic Puggi '11, '13

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**THOMAS EDISON
STATE COLLEGE**
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Ernest Hemingway said, "There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self."

While our students have their own, unique reasons for earning a degree, they are all related to self-improvement.

This issue of *Invention* features two recent graduates whose inspirations for coming back to college are both rooted in self-excellence, and who illustrate how Thomas Edison State College enabled them to achieve their personal and professional goals.

We are honored to introduce you to Dominic Puggi '11, '13, the first graduate of our Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. Puggi describes his experience in the MBA program and how it helped transform his perception and professional performance – before he completed his degree. He also explains how the program stimulated an entrepreneurial spirit in him.

Also in this issue, we meet Victoria Delligatti '12, an alumni ambassador who tells us how Thomas Edison State College helped her set an example for her children and, along the way, discover a talent and passion for human resources.

We are also honored to share stories and photos from our 41st Commencement, which took place on Sept. 28 at the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, N.J. Our annual commencement is the greatest day of the year for Thomas Edison State College. At this year's ceremony, we were honored to hear inspiring speeches from two graduates, including Lisa Jones '13 and Dr. Arthur C. Brooks '94, president of the American Enterprise Institute.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

College Receives Federal Economic Development Grant

U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez recently announced that Thomas Edison State College is receiving a \$320,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to create a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 19 densely populated municipalities in north-central New Jersey.

Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College. "Now, we will work with the New Jersey Urban Mayors' Association and other stakeholders in the targeted cities to create an economic development framework, process and actionable strategy to support private capital and job creation in the region."



Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College.

“We are honored to continue the work we started with the support of EDA to assess and develop strategies to promote economic growth and sustainability in 19 cities within seven contiguous counties in north-central New Jersey.”

> Dr. Joseph Youngblood II

"I'm thrilled this grant was awarded to Thomas Edison State College to support the kind of smart, comprehensive economic development planning we need to create new jobs and strategically attract private investment," said Menendez. "Our urban centers are our most viable engines of economic growth, and I look forward to seeing this plan put into action."

The strategic planning project will be implemented in partnership with the New Jersey Urban Mayors' Association. The following municipalities will be included in the regional plan: Bloomfield, East Orange, Irvington, Newark, Orange, Bayonne, Hoboken, Jersey City, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, New Brunswick, Asbury Park, Neptune City, Lakewood, Passaic, Paterson, Elizabeth, Plainfield

The grant enables The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College to continue its work on economic development that was started through a 2010 federal grant.

"We are honored to continue the work we started with the support of EDA to assess and develop strategies to promote economic growth and sustainability in 19 cities within seven contiguous counties in north-central New Jersey," said Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and

and Roselle. The comprehensive economic development strategy will encompass economic development, job creation and transportation access.

EDA grants are awarded through a competitive process based upon the applicant's eligibility, application's merit and the availability of funds. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.



New Dean Appointed to School of Applied Science and Technology

Dr. John O. Aje has recently been appointed as dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State College.

adult learners at the undergraduate and graduate level with innovative educational opportunities aligned with the needs of the global economy."



Dr. John O. Aje, Dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology

“Thomas Edison State College is dedicated to providing high-quality and customizable degree programs that prepare students for increasingly complex roles in their future endeavors.”

> Dr. John O. Aje

"We are delighted that Dr. Aje has accepted the position of dean and we are eager to move forward to a new era for our applied science and technology school," said William J. Seaton, provost and vice president. "He brings an impressive leadership record, holding top-level administrative positions as well as developing effective academic programs for applied technology students. Dr. Aje will play a critical role in helping us achieve our strategic goals and serving

Prior to joining the College, Aje was the associate dean for Academic Affairs of the Graduate School at the University of Maryland University College, in Adelphi, Md., where he served as chair and collegiate professor for the Technology and Engineering Systems Department.

"This appointment as the dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology is a wonderful opportunity to shape the direction of the school,

enhancing its status as a premier provider of practitioner-focused applied science and technology education for adult learners," said Aje. "Thomas Edison State College is dedicated to providing high-quality and customizable degree programs that prepare students for increasingly complex roles in their future endeavors."

Aje earned a DSc in engineering management and an MS in engineering management from The George Washington University, an MS in textile science/engineering from North Carolina State University and a BS in textile science/technology from Clemson University.

Watson Institute Aids Childhood Educators at Cultural Competency Institute

The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College hosted the 7th New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute in August, which brought childhood educators back to school to increase their cultural and linguistic awareness.

"Studies have shown that culturally responsive classrooms and caregivers have the power to nurture a child's self-concept and provide them with the confidence to succeed," said Ana I. Berdecia, senior fellow and director of the Institute's Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, who oversaw the event.

Since it began in 2007, the event has trained and mentored 134 early childhood educators working in 50 classrooms

throughout New Jersey, enabling them to create environments that affirm and celebrate the cultural diversity of their students. This year's event brought in 14 early childhood educators representing preschools from Elizabeth, Irvington, Jackson, Paterson, Ringoes and Trenton, N.J., to participate in the three-day intensive institute.

The New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute and Mentoring Program is made possible by support from the TD Bank Charitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of TD Bank; the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network, Inc.; and The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College.

Nursing School Hosts Open House for New Simulation Lab

BY THE TIME STUDENTS, STAFF AND SUPPORTERS CONGREGATED TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE'S NEW NURSING SIMULATION LABORATORY IN AUGUST, SOME ATTENDEES HAD ALREADY FORMED AN INDELIBLE BOND.

Students in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) Program were closer to their academic goals thanks to corporate scholarship support from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and three high-fidelity patient simulators made possible by generous donations from several local organizations and individuals including Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Roma Bank Community Foundation.

"The scholarship support from Janssen Pharmaceuticals was a huge help to me and the funding for the simulators helped me learn to deliver life-saving care firsthand," said Stephen R. Fox, who

on a career in nursing. "I'm a divorced father of two small boys and pay most of my tuition and program costs out of

"The funding played a significant role in that I had plenty of access to state-of-the-art equipment and could focus more on why I enrolled in the program, which was to learn how to help and advocate for patients."

> Nursing student Monica Shah

pocket. With the scholarship, I can certainly focus more on my education and care for my boys."

The nursing simulation lab is the

controlled clinical environment. The three high-fidelity human simulators in the lab can be programmed to replicate many healthcare emergencies and medical conditions; and respond physiologically and verbally to care administered by the students.

"Bristol-Myers Squibb is proud to support the nursing simulation laboratory at Thomas Edison State College," said Frederick J. Egenolf, director of Corporate Communications and Community Affairs for the company. "Providing nursing students access to these sophisticated learning tools will hone their critical-thinking skills and ultimately improve healthcare outcomes for patients by ensuring that the students are optimally prepared for their nursing careers."

The Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program is a one-year, intensive academic journey for students who already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree. Outside of the simulation lab, students complete the clinical portion of their training at Capital Health's facilities in Trenton. Graduates are prepared for the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN).

Fox and fellow New Jersey students Lauren Apgar of Pennington, Dennis Malamut of Trenton, Aidel Ozur of Lakewood and Monica Shah of Lawrence, are recipients of the scholarships provided by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Frederick J. Egenolf, director, Corporate Communications and Community Affairs for Bristol-Myers Squibb, talks with Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN students Monica Shah and Aidel Ozur.

worked as a staff supervisor for a daily newspaper, a financial advisor and a PGA club professional before focusing

technological centerpiece of the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program and is used to train the students in a



Foreground, from left to right: Patricia Watts Mitchell and Peg Forrester represent Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's Sim Lab Open House in August. Second row, from left to right: W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN students Lauren Apgar, Dennis Malamut, Monica Shah, Aidel Ozur and Stephen Fox.

"The most attractive aspects of the program are its duration and the high pass rate for the nursing board exams," said Shaw, a North Carolina resident who relocated to the Trenton, N.J., area for the program. "For me, it's devoting 48-weeks to something that will reap a lifetime of rewards."

In Janssen Pharmaceuticals' view, local communities reap the most rewards – while addressing a projected nursing shortage – by nurturing students like Fox and Shah.

"We at Janssen Pharmaceuticals invest in programs that align well with our mission to advance the health of our local community," said Peg Forrester, director of Contributions and Community Affairs at Janssen Pharmaceuticals. "Thomas Edison State College's nursing simulation laboratory and Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Programs complement Johnson & Johnson's Campaign for Nursing's Future by addressing a projected nursing shortage in an innovative, collaborative way. Janssen is proud to play a role in supporting the College's efforts to

prepare and develop competent and adaptive nurses for the workforce."

Shah said the financial support she received has lightened her financial burden and allowed her to focus on the most important aspects of the nursing program.

"The funding played a significant role in that I had plenty of access to state-of-the-art equipment and could focus

more on why I enrolled in the program, which was to learn how to help and advocate for patients," she said.

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation played a key role in supporting the simulation laboratory by raising more than \$270,000 to help purchase the simulators. Supporters include Bristol-Myers Squibb; The Gary & Diane Heavin Community Fund; Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; The Karma Foundation; The James Kerney Insurance Company; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.; The Provident Bank Foundation; The Roma Bank Community Foundation; The Fred C. Rummel Foundation; and numerous individuals.

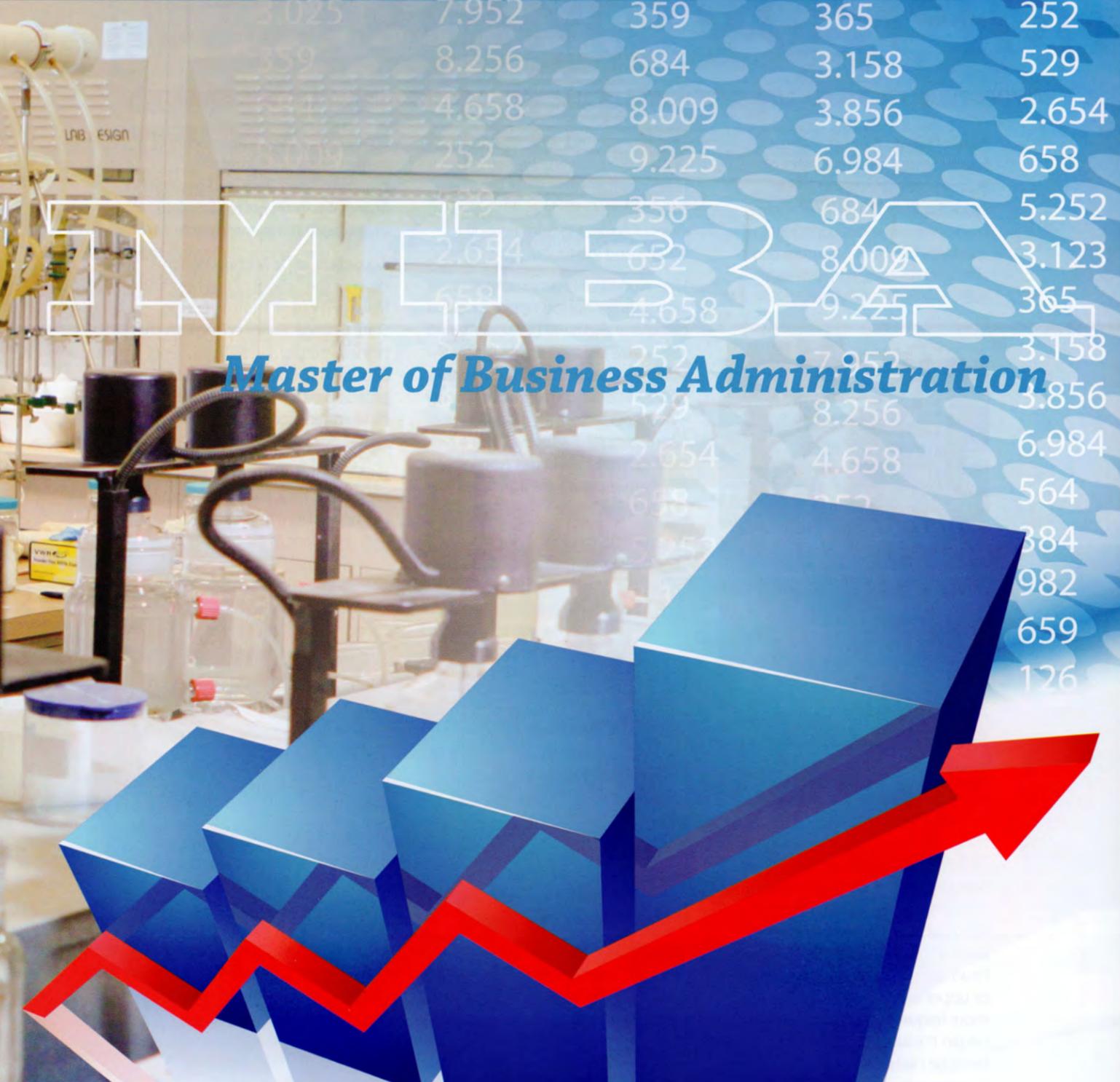
For more information on the Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN and other programs available through the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit www.tesc.edu/nursing.



Thomas Edison State College President George A. Pruitt greets guests at the open house for the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's simulation laboratory.

PERFORMANCE

IMPROVEMENT



Dominic Puggi '11, '13

College's First MBA Graduate

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

DOMINIC PUGGI KNOWS ALL ABOUT THE POWER OF SELF-IMPROVEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION.

As the first graduate of Thomas Edison State College's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, Puggi said the program made him feel more confident and hopeful about his future and changed his perspective at work even before he completed the program.



Dominic Puggi, project manager at EMSL Analytical, Inc. in Cinnaminson, N.J., is Thomas Edison State College's first Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate.

"Shortly after I started the program, questions like, 'If I were the owner of my company, what would I want from the person holding my position?' were popping into my head during interactions with clients or upper-level management with more frequency," recalled Puggi. "I began thinking above my pay grade because I was developing the awareness to do so."

Puggi is a project manager with EMSL Analytical, Inc., a national environmental testing firm based in

Cinnaminson, N.J. Prior to enrolling in the MBA program, he earned his undergraduate degree at Thomas Edison State College in 2011 after years of bouncing from college to college and job to job.

"The workforce is very competitive with appropriate job opportunities being few and far in between," he said. "Once I earned my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, I decided that enhancing my work experience with a master's degree would give me a more credible presence in the workforce and help separate me from the competition."

When Puggi made the decision to continue his studies at the graduate level, he initially concentrated his search on reputable institutions that offered online MBAs. He eliminated out-of-state colleges to save on tuition costs.

"After consulting with my HR director, I decided that a master's at TESC would be a valuable degree to obtain at half the cost of other college programs," he said.

Puggi was six months into his Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree program at the College when he saw an announcement for the new MBA degree program.

"It was exactly what I was searching for. Once I made sure that my credits would transfer, I switched into the MBA degree program in finance," he said. "My entrepreneurship (ENP-732) course was the most useful for me in my field because the topics covered launching, growing and running a company. We were required to develop a business plan for a new

venture, including implementing market research, addressing organizational needs and generating financial statements to stimulate investment in the enterprise."

According to Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College, Puggi epitomizes the highest standard in MBA students and the most desirable type of professional for today's global business environment.

"Dominic is an exemplary leader, professional and student. We are proud that he is the first to complete our newly launched MBA program and confident of his ongoing success," noted Williams. "He is the consummate 21st century business professional and MBA standard-bearer that future students in our program can emulate."

Puggi said it is very gratifying to now see 'MBA' in print next to his signature.

"I was surprised at how many of my colleagues and clients noticed it as well," he said.

The College launched the MBA program in 2012. The Thomas Edison State College Foundation provided a \$100,000 grant in 2011 to support development of the program, which enables students to apply what they learn in their courses directly to their careers and professions. The 39-credit, career-focused program is offered completely online and offers four areas of study, including Data Analytics, Finance, Healthcare Management and Marketing.

Puggi earned his MBA during a formative period in his personal life.

Once I earned my Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, I decided that enhancing my work experience with a master's degree would give me a more credible presence in the workforce and help separate me from the competition.

Motivated to complete the program as quickly as possible, he said he had to plan his course schedule around his wedding, building a house and working full time.

"I was very pleased that the classes were only eight weeks, even though the workload was intense, because I could ramp up or slow down my course selection accordingly to my personal and professional life," he said.

Puggi added that having a hardworking wife employed as a full-time teacher at a local middle school often spread the couple thin, but they managed through mutual support.

"I only took one or two classes per term during the summer because my wife was off from work. During her school year, I would load up on more courses. I spent many late nights and early mornings completing assignments before and after work," he said. "The onset of every term was challenging because a lot of assignments are due within the first week. I realized very quickly that one or two weekends needed to be sacrificed in order to stay ahead of the course load. I would get a jump on my assignments during that time and revert to cruise control between midterms and finals."

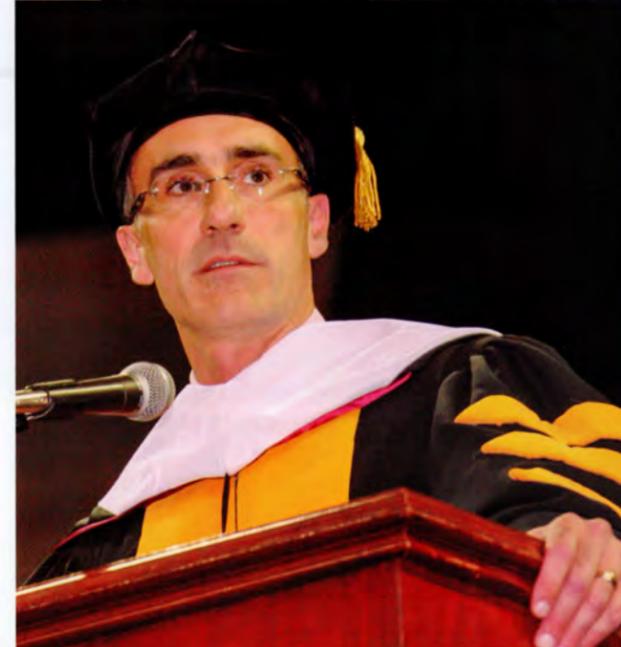
Puggi describes himself as a work-in-progress who always had strong inclinations toward leadership as an athlete and in his personal life. He credits the College's MBA program in helping him become a better leader in his field.

"I have a long way to go professionally, but this program helped build a solid foundation," he said.

Puggi and wife, Beatrice, live in Voorhees, N.J. Outside of the office, Puggi volunteers as an assistant coach of the Lindenwold High School varsity baseball team.



Dominic Puggi confers with a colleague at EMSL Analytical, Inc., where he works as a project manager.



Thomas Edison State College

CELEBRATES ITS

41st

ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Thomas Edison State College celebrated its 41st Commencement on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Sun National Bank Center to accommodate the largest graduating class in the school's 41-year history.

More than 560 graduates from 31 states, including California and Hawaii, attended this year's ceremony. Lisa Jones, of Bordentown, N.J., gave the Response for Graduates and told her classmates about her inspiration for completing her degree, which she called her beacon.

"My beacon was a promise I made to my son. We lost my husband to cancer and as his caregiver, I closed my business. Less than a year after our loss, the company I then worked for closed unexpectedly," she said. "When I told our son, he bravely asked if we were going to be ok. I answered, "Yes. No matter what it takes, we will be fine."

Jones told her classmates that she turned to the College because it was the only college that could keep up with her schedule as a single mom working part time from home while renovating her house.



Lisa Jones '13, of Bordentown, N.J., gave the Response for Graduates. She told her fellow graduates to consider the impact they have made on others.

"We have honed a broad range of computer skills and proven we are not intimidated by technology. Our 2 a.m. battles with the computer have prepared us for what lies ahead," she said. "The technology that will be the driving force in our chosen fields five years from now may not have been invented yet, but we are ready."

Jones earned a 3.92 grade point average while completing her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree and is a member of the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Honor Society, Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society and Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society.

She reminded her fellow graduates to consider the impact they have made on others.

"While we were sleep deprived, searching for answers and struggling to master new skills, others saw us as courageous, determined and unwavering. While our shining lights kept us on our paths, our success has been an example to others," she said. "Today begins a new chapter of our lives. I am confident we will continue to seek our passions, astound ourselves and live the lives we are capable of living."

The College also awarded an honorary degree to Dr. Arthur C. Brooks, president of the American Enterprise Institute. Brooks earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Thomas Edison State College in 1994 before completing a master's degree in economics and a PhD in public policy.

Brooks spoke to the graduates about happiness and how Thomas Edison State College helped him find happiness in his life through education and earned success. His turning point came in his late 20s when he was a successful musician playing with the Barcelona Symphony in Spain.

Dr. Arthur C. Brooks '94, president of the American Enterprise Institute, received an honorary degree. He spoke about happiness and how the College helped him find "earned success."





"I saw my future self in some of the people I worked with and they weren't happy. They didn't like the music. They didn't have a happy home life. I had this vision of myself at 45 and I said 'I want to change,'" recalled Brooks.

Brooks said he was able to change his life and achieve his goals because he found Thomas Edison State College.

"I rebuilt my life. I changed my life, and today, at age 49, I'm really happy because I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing and I wouldn't be doing it if it weren't for this institution, and I know you know exactly what I'm talking about," he said. "I was a 28-year-old musician with very little money and absolutely no demographic characteristics that made me attractive to a conventional university to give me a scholarship. That's the truth. Without this College, I would not have gotten a PhD. Without this College, I would not have taught at Syracuse. I would not be the president of an institution in Washington. Obviously, I would not be standing here speaking to you today. This made the American dream real for me."

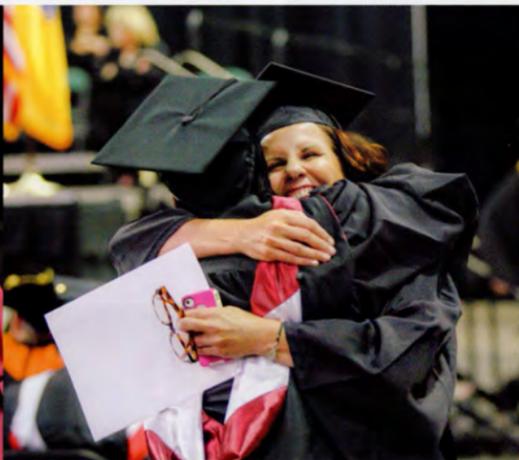
In closing, Brooks told the graduates to share their stories of achieving their goals to inspire others.

"You are a torch who will light the way in the lives of other people by your example," he said. "People are going to look at you and say, 'What did she do? At age 40 went to college? Are you kidding me? Where? How did you do that, and how did it change your life?' By telling your story again and again you're going to bring earned success to more people, you're going to bring the pursuit of happiness to more people, you're going to create a happier country."

This year marked the fourth year that Thomas Edison State College graduates wore gowns made from recycled plastic bottles and the third year where they had the opportunity to return the gowns to be recycled into other products.

The class of 2013 included 3,380 graduates. The College has awarded nearly 44,000 degrees since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults in 1972.

A video of the 2013 Commencement is located at www.tesc.edu/commencement.



Victoria Delligatti thought she was going to be a history teacher when she started college in 2001, but something unexpected happened on the way.

"Two years in college and too many history courses later, I was led to the ultimate realization that I really didn't enjoy history very much," recalled Delligatti. "I certainly didn't enjoy it enough to make a career out of it."

Feeling helpless and heartbroken, Delligatti transferred to a local community college to continue her education and figure out what she wanted to do. One thing she was not thinking about was a career in business.

Then, while working for a temporary employment agency in 2003, Delligatti was placed in the accounting and finance department at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. The temporary assignment turned into a full-time position, where Delligatti occasionally worked in the human resources department to assist with special projects.

"It only took a short time for me to realize that business was something that I was good at and, more surprisingly, it was something I actually enjoyed," she said.

Three years later, Delligatti was offered a human resources position and has focused her career in the field ever since.

As her career developed, Delligatti continued her education and earned an Associate in Science degree in business administration at Bergen Community College in 2007.

She then enrolled at William Paterson University, where she took online and classroom courses.

"It didn't take long before I realized how difficult it was for an adult student to complete a course of study while simultaneously trying to juggle a full-time job and a household which, at the time, had just been blessed with a tiny new family member," she recalled. "It was incredibly frustrating and disheartening that, after all my hard work, it seemed I was going nowhere fast."

Delligatti discovered Thomas Edison State College after searching for online state colleges.

"It really fit the bill in terms of what I wanted and what I needed to reach my educational goals," she said. "I didn't think it was possible that there was an option out there for me that would allow me to still have it all – the career, the husband, the kids – and still be able to complete school. But there was. I applied immediately and have never looked back."

Delligatti said the quality of the education she received, and the contributions from both the mentors and other students, gave her a multifaceted type of learning environment.

"It's ironic that my experiences in the online classrooms were the most collaborative, enlightening and

enriching classroom experiences I had ever had in my 10 years as a student," she said.

Delligatti completed her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in 2012. She said her degree positively impacted her career and gave her tremendous opportunity for advancement within her organization.

Recently, Delligatti was promoted to human resources specialist, and is responsible for a variety of projects, including recruitment, training, compliance and ethics. In addition, she serves as the system administrator for the commission's recently implemented human resources information system.

"In the years that I spent working toward my bachelor's degree, I also maintained a full-time job, got married and had two children," she said. "Despite a very full plate, I placed my education high atop my priority list and graduated with a 3.61 GPA. I knew that the attainment of a degree would not only positively contribute to my professional successes, but it would also set a tremendous example for my children."

Delligatti lives in Elmwood Park, N.J., with her husband, Frank, and their daughter Alexis, 4, and son Lucas, 2. She is currently enrolled in the College's Master of Science in Human Resources Management degree program.

"I did this because I want the best for me, and I want to be able to provide my family with everything I can," noted Delligatti. "Thomas Edison State College allowed me to achieve that dream."

Investing in Human Capital

Victoria Delligatti BSBA '12

Dr. A. Melton "Bud" Black
ASNSM '91 BSBA '95

Dr. A. Melton "Bud" Black and his wife, the former Anne Bonds Ware of Kannapolis, N.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 1, 2013, with a dinner in Raleigh, N.C., at the Angus Barn with their children and grandchildren. They met at Wingate College and have been together ever since; they were married on Nov. 1, 1963. Mrs. Black is retired from high school and community college teaching, and Dr. Black is retired from real estate appraisal and university teaching, but still coaches high school basketball. Their children are A. Melton "Mel" Black Jr. and wife Erin of Raleigh, and Charles Wesley Black of Raleigh. Their grandchildren are Andrew Melton Black and Marion Tracy Black of Raleigh. The Blacks live in Crouse, N.C., and are enjoying retirement.

Bill Bortz BA '08

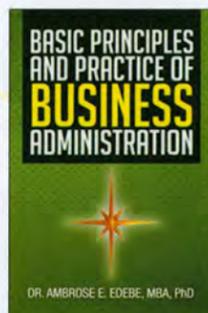
Bill Bortz has been promoted to principal at IRI Worldwide. Bortz is responsible for the market strategy and core retailer relationships within the retail practice at IRI.

Rev. T. Patrick Bradley BA '98

Rev. T. Patrick Bradley recently retired as director of Pastoral Care at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Cheyenne, Wyo. He and his wife then moved to Spokane, Wash., to be near their grandchildren. Bradley now feels drawn back to ministry and is volunteering as a chaplain to the Spokane County Sheriff's Department, where he ministers to the deputies and provides assistance in notifying families when someone dies in a car accident or shooting. He has also joined the local CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) team where he provides support to first responders following critical incidents.

Dr. Ambrose E. Edebe
BSBA '99

Dr. Ambrose E. Edebe recently published *Basic Principles and Practice of Business Administration*. The book provides students and others with a concise, thoroughly up-to-date review and study guide, which will enable them to obtain a sound knowledge of the basic principles and practice of business administration.



Judith Forney AA '89 BA '93

Judith Forney was awarded two master's degrees: an MA in anthropology in December 2008 and an MA in government in May 2013 at New Mexico State University (NMSU). At age 82, Forney was the oldest person graduating in May 2013 at that campus of NMSU.

Tammi Joyner AA '08

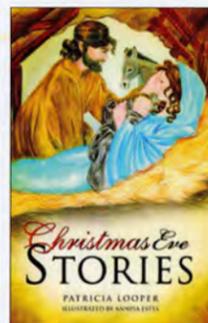
Tammi Joyner and her son, Marquel Green, have completed "One Year of Service" on *Blogtalkradio.com*. They are the creators of an Internet radio show entitled, *A Theory of Parenting (ATP)*; a program created to engage teens and parents to communicate their feelings about teen and family topics. ATP supports many theorems, including rules and principals for reasoning. The constructive patterns and the psychological needs of the listeners are met by using the platform to gain "Mindful Nourishment and Awareness." Joyner noted that mother and son are Team ATP, influenced to impact the "family market." Joyner and Green also collaborated with Diamond Garden Music to create a demonstration CD entitled, "Lord Have Mercy On Me," and with Majestic Records to create a second demonstration CD entitled, "Unconditional Love." The demos are new promos at each company.

Dr. Terry D. Karanen BA '08

Dr. Terry D. Karanen, after receiving his master's degree from Temple University and his license as a social worker, is building his private counseling practice and is the founder and spiritual leader of Center for Spiritual Living Cumberland Valley.

Patricia B. Looper BA '90

Patricia B. Looper authored a book, *Christmas Eve Stories*, a collection of beautifully illustrated stories written for adults and older youth. After graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Looper continued her education, receiving Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. She is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. Her book is available in hardcover or paperback editions through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. For personally autographed copies, people may contact Looper at raydanloop@bellsouth.net.



Dr. Robert W. McGee
AA '80 BA '82 ASM '83 BSBA '83

Dr. Robert W. McGee competed in the Taekwondo National Championships in Orlando, Fla., on Oct. 18-19, 2013. McGee competed in the 60-99 year-old category in all eight events and won eight gold medals.



Keith Moeller BSBA '01

Keith Moeller is a fee-based financial adviser with Northwestern Mutual in Minneapolis. Moeller, who helps clients retire on their own schedules, was featured in an article in *The Wall Street Journal* in May.



Tammie L. Otukwu AA '03 BA '05

Tammie L. Otukwu retired from the U.S. Army on Aug. 1, 2013, following more than 26 years of service. Upon her retirement, she received the meritorious service medal and a certificate of appreciation from President Barack Obama.



Victor Edgar Rivera
BA '05

Victor Edgar Rivera has just completed his second book of poetry, *I'll sing to you next time*. In this concise compilation of 45 quasi-imagist poems, Rivera, who is also a musician, experiments with both the English and Spanish languages to create poems infused with rhythm, symbolism, surreal thoughts, brooding rants and melancholy themes. Born in 1955 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Rivera has been living in Southern New Jersey since 1961. Rivera is also a private art dealer and the owner of *multiculturalart.com*. Information on the poetry of Victor Edgar Rivera can be found at poet-writer.com.



James P. Shaw BA '04

James P. Shaw, after working nearly a decade in the IT industry, found jobs harder and harder to find. Finally, he looked into teaching. Shaw was able to obtain his certificate of eligibility and worked for half a year as a lab assistant. Ultimately, in September, Shaw began working as a classroom teacher at International High School in Paterson, N.J.

Bernard Siben BA '00

Bernard Siben had two articles published in *CE News*, "Go/No Go" evaluation as a risk-reduction tool for businesses" in August 2013 and "Checking all the boxes" in July 2013.

Matthew Warner AA '05 BA '09

Matthew Warner was named to the 2013 Class of Accomplished & Under 40 in the *Vancouver Business Journal*. Honorees are selected each year by a panel of Accomplished & Under 40 alumni after being nominated by members of the community.

Pamela Gilbreth Watkins BA '99

Pamela Gilbreth Watkins, a professional studio artist and art educator living in Buffalo Gap, Texas, recently exhibited her sculptural work at the Enterprise Building in Abilene, Texas. The assemblage, titled *The First Texans Ride Again*, features historical figures from Texas' past. "This free exhibit is designed to cultivate an appreciation for the arts among the general public and to encourage others to create art themselves," said Watkins, who also included her digital imagery for the endeavor. "The sculptures in the display are assemblages using mannequins dressed in period costumes and finished in a bronze-tone coating. I am also offering any of the characters sculpted and cast in actual bronze by special order." To find out more about the artist and to view her work, visit www.pamelagilbrethwatkins.com.



Craig Weber BSHS '12

Craig Weber, upon completion of his Thomas Edison State College bachelor's degree, was promoted to the rank of police sergeant in 2013. Weber noted that it was the completion of the degree made him a viable candidate.

Keep us Posted! Please send your news to invention@tesc.edu and be sure to include your first and last name, your address, your preferred phone, the year you graduated and what degree you earned. Updates can also be sent to: Thomas Edison State College, *Invention Editor*, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176, Fax: (609) 777-1894

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