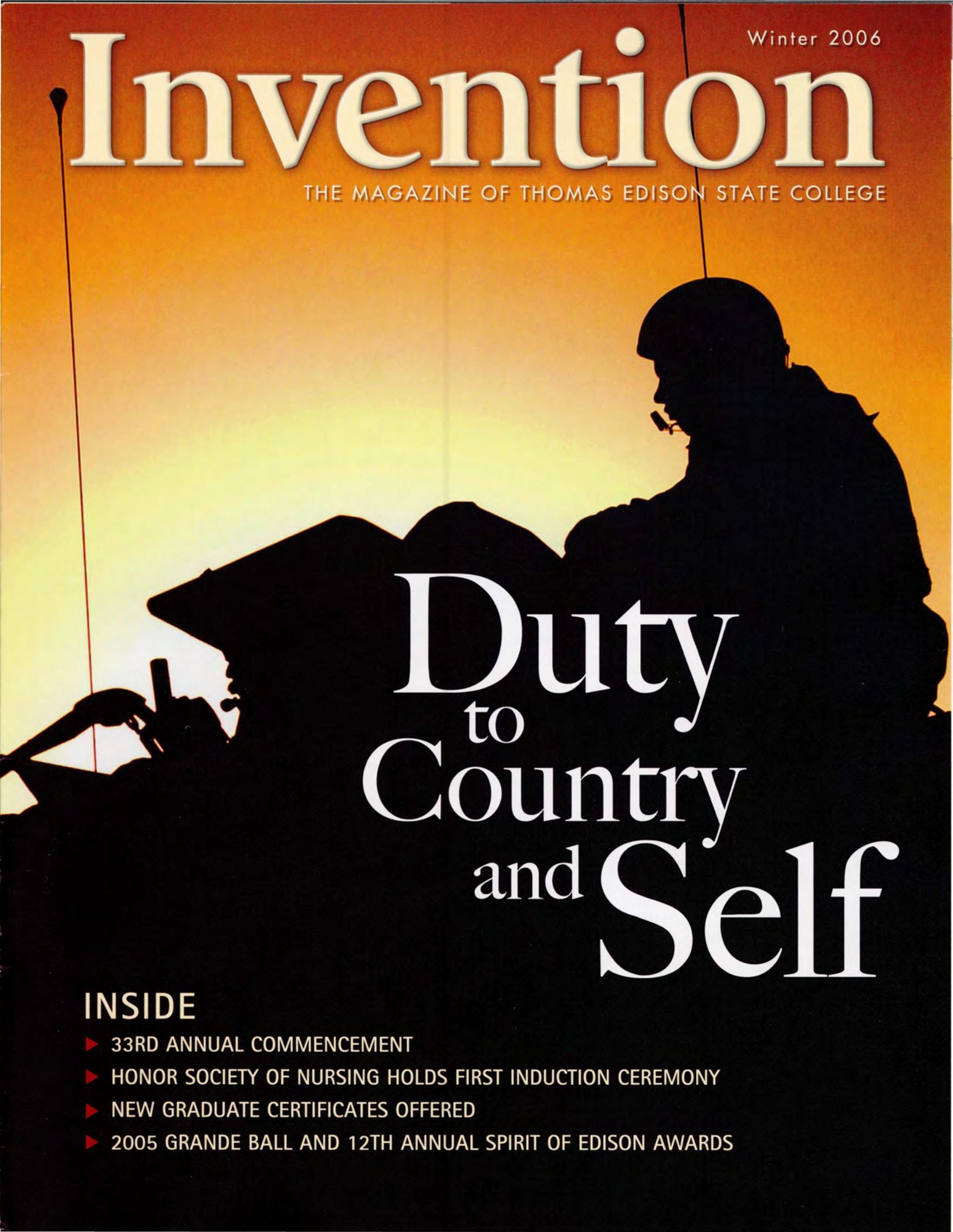


Winter 2006

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



Duty to Country and Self

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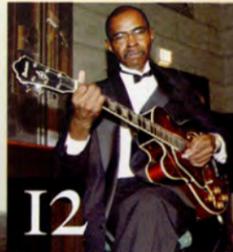
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US Air Force Photo



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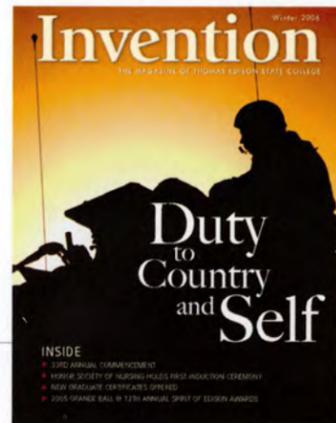


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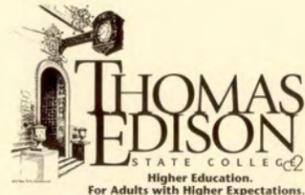
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

To accomplish our goals, we must often look deep inside ourselves to find the drive needed to complete our endeavors.

Thomas Alva Edison said, "The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration." This edition of *Invention* focuses on many people who bring this idea to life.

In this issue, you will learn how the College is helping members of the United States military better serve their country and themselves. U.S. Army Lt. Eric J. Petrevich, BSHS '05, and Senior Airman Vanessa Schuetz, who is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree, explain how the College enables military students to earn collegiate degrees while serving our country in the Middle East. Petrevich, a member of the U.S. Army's Second 102nd Armor Regiment, earned his degree during a tour in Iraq. Schuetz, a member of the Air Force's Air Mobility Command, has been deployed to Kuwait frequently during the past year.

Our civilian students also show unique resolve, often earning a college degree while juggling family and career responsibilities. The culmination of their extraordinary efforts is celebrated at our annual Commencement ceremony, which is also featured in this issue.

At this year's Commencement, more than 2,000 family members and friends watched a record number of 330 graduates receive their diplomas. It was the largest Commencement ceremony in the College's history. Our graduates' determination did not stop with their efforts to earn their degree. They traveled from the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast and as far away as England and Saudi Arabia to walk with their classmates in the ceremony.

The accomplishments of Thomas Edison State College would not be possible without the support of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation and those who support our annual gala. At this year's event, which is highlighted in this edition, more than 260 guests supported the College and celebrated our Spirit of Edison Award recipients Frieda M. Applegate, BSHS '85, and Helene M. Garcia, of Merrill Lynch. These incredible women both embody the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and spirit of excellence associated with the College's mission and its namesake.

We are honored to serve and work with individuals dedicated to accomplishing their goals. I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President



Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing Holds First Induction Ceremony



Thomas Edison State College held the first induction ceremony for its Honor Society of Nursing on Oct. 8, 2005. The induction occurred at the Special Recognition Ceremonies held at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium as part of the College's 33rd Annual Commencement.

Thirty-one founding members were inducted into membership in the society. Student and alumni inductees were: Debra Aikens, Linda Airel-Rivera, MaryAlyce Berkowitz, Nancy Ceci, Deborah Guerrierie, Theresa Harrell, Abigail Hoffman, Lauren Kelton, Lori Kely, Maureen Krane, Ann Marie Leslie, Yekeen Odewale, Candace Olsen, Linda Reasoner, Terese Ricca, Colleen Rossi and Deborah Stabile-Wisnewski. Thirteen mentors and professional nursing staff were also inducted.

The purpose of the honor society is to recognize superior academic achievement and the development of leadership qualities; to foster high professional standards; to encourage creative work; and to strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the nursing profession. The honor society intends to apply for charter as a chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing as soon as it meets the eligibility criteria of existing as an

honor society for one year and having a minimum of 50 members.



Regina Sanchez-Porter Award recipient Terese Ricca (left) and School of Nursing Dean Susan O'Brien.

Terese Ricca, BSN, RN, was also awarded the Regina Sanchez-Porter Award at the Special Recognition Ceremonies. Ricca is a 2005 graduate of Thomas Edison State College School of Nursing.

Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing First Induction Ceremony. School of Nursing graduates (from left) Terese Ricca, Linda Airel-Rivera, Debra Atkins, Colleen Rossi, Linda Reasoner, Kathleen McMullen, Maureen Krane, Filomela Marshall and Nancy Ceci, and Susan Cobb, School of Nursing Program Advisor; (seated from left) Dr. Susan O'Brien, Dean, School of Nursing, and School of Nursing graduates Candace Olsen and Yekeen Odewale.



The Sanchez-Porter Award was developed in memory of Dr. Regina Sanchez-Porter, a member of the Thomas Edison State College Faculty Committee for Nursing (1986-1991) and is given to a BSN graduate who has given outstanding service to the profession and community, combined with high academic achievement.

Ricca is assistant vice president for Women's and Children's Programs of Excellence at Virtua Health in Marlton, N.J. Among Ricca's many accomplishments are her recent receipt of the "Women of Outstanding Achievement Award" given by the Girl Scouts of Camden County and her designation as "One of the people to watch in 2005" by *South Jersey Magazine*.

New Graduate Certificates Offered

The Graduate School is pleased to announce that six new graduate certificates are now being offered. Earning a graduate certificate is an excellent way to gain expertise in a specific area and credits earned through a Certificate Program may be applied 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.

ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP (12 CR)

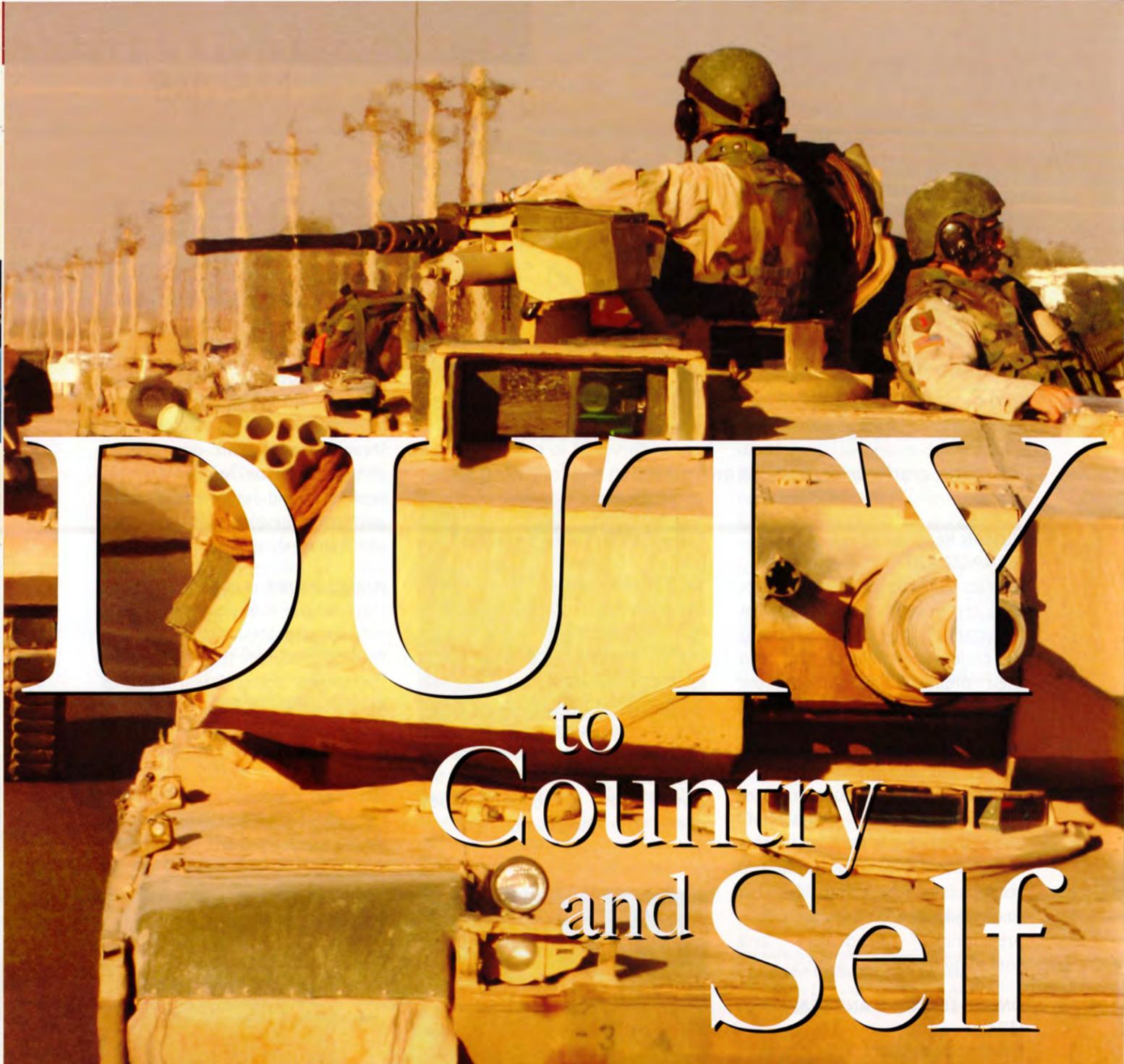
This graduate-level certificate enables students to select the four courses from the core requirements of the Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree that they feel, based on their management experience and future career goals, will further develop their leadership and management skills.

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.

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





DUTY to Country and Self

Helping Members of the United States Military
Better Serve Their Country and Themselves

Tankers from the Army's 2nd Battalion, Armor Regiment, return to Camp Warhorse in their M1 Abrams tanks after assisting Iraqi forces.

For U.S. Army Lt. Eric J. Petrevich, the inspiration for joining the armed forces came from his father, Denis, a Vietnam War veteran who served with distinction.

"I only hope that I can serve as proudly as he did," said Petrevich, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom and member of the Army's Second Battalion 102nd Armor Regiment.

Petrevich, a 2005 graduate of Thomas Edison State College, certainly appears to be heading in the right direction. He has already leveraged his Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree to advance his military career by enrolling in the Army's Officer Candidate School (OCS), which required a baccalaureate degree.

Thomas Edison State College has been providing members of the military with flexible educational opportunities since its inception in 1972. For more than 30 years, the College has played a pioneering role in developing degree programs that optimize military training and experience.

“ I needed to have flexibility in every aspect of my life to assure that I could complete my mission and fulfill my course requirements. **”**

Today, more than 1,400 students currently enrolled at Thomas Edison State College serve in a branch of the United States armed forces. Many say the flexibility offered at Thomas Edison State College is critical to helping them earn a degree while maintaining



U.S. Army Lt. Eric J. Petrevich, BSHS 2005

rigorous and unpredictable schedules that often include deployments.

"The most difficult hurdle in the Army is the constant adjusting and adapting to new situations and circumstances. It's hard to know what your schedule is going to be from

day-to-day, not to mention from one month to the next," said Petrevich, who was deployed to Iraq and bases throughout the United States while he pursued his degree. "I needed to have flexibility in every aspect of my life to assure that I could complete my mission

and fulfill my course requirements."

Senior Airman Vanessa Schuetz, a member of the Air Force's Air Mobility Command and a Thomas Edison State College student, said completing courses during a wartime deployment can be difficult because emergencies arise that require time away from studies.

"I enjoy working online when I am deployed," said Schuetz, who has been deployed to Kuwait frequently in the past year. "It gives me a chance to talk to the people in my class and hear what is going on back home. Sometimes I can even write about what is going on over here if it is related to the class."

Schuetz, who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies, said having the



Lt. Eric J. Petrevich pictured here with his dad, Denis, and his mother, Theresa, after receiving his formal commission from the U.S. Army in September 2005.

ability to select a wide variety of methods to earn credit is important for military personnel who are trying to earn a college degree.

"I absolutely love the different styles of teaching that Thomas Edison State College offers," said Schuetz. "I enjoy blended courses because sometimes I get tired of doing all online classes when I am deployed, and it is nice to have a mix."

Blended courses enable students to combine an online course with classroom sessions where they have face-to-face contact with a mentor and fellow classmates.

Through the Thomas Edison State College/McGuire Air Force Base Blended Program, Air Force personnel, like Schuetz, and their families can complete a variety of online courses in nine weeks with four sessions taking place in a classroom setting on the base where students can interact with mentors and each other. The College plans

to offer blended programs at more locations in the future.

Most military students take advantage of the College's flexible course delivery options, such as Prior Learning Assessment, which enable students to demonstrate college-level knowledge acquired

“Due to my position in the Army, I needed to obtain my degree on a timeline and TECEP® allowed me to make that timeline,” said Petrevich. “It’s a great program that is flexible enough to accommodate a soldier during wartime.”

outside the classroom; and TECEP®, the College's testing program that allows students to demonstrate their proficiency in a subject through an examination.

Both Petrevich and Schuetz said the TECEP® program is especially valuable during a deployment because it enables students to prepare

for an exam at their own pace and take the test when they are ready.

"Due to my position in the Army, I needed to obtain my degree on a timeline and TECEP® allowed me to make that timeline," said Petrevich. "It's a great program that is flexible enough to accommodate a soldier during wartime."

Petrevich added that online courses brought the added benefit of networking and meeting other adult learners.

"Attending online classes at Thomas Edison State College brought me into close contact with people from all types of backgrounds," he said. "This really enriches the learning experience." Like most Thomas Edison State College students, both Petrevich and Schuetz have attended college prior to enrolling at Thomas Edison State College. Petrevich had earned credits from Rutgers, Middlesex Community College and Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey.

Schuetz has attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Boise State University.

"Earning a degree has been a goal of mine for a long time and it is hard with deployments, but I have found that Thomas Edison State College is the best college for me," said Schuetz.

Completing his degree, Petrevich said, made an immediate and measurable impact on his life and enabled him to eradicate what he considered a "black mark" in his own self-assessment.

was activated, which forced me to delay my education plans," recalled Petrevich. "When I returned from active duty, I was offered a position as a police officer. As a result, I never went back to college full time.

“I absolutely love the different styles of teaching that Thomas Edison State College offers,” said Schuetz. “I enjoy blended courses because sometimes I get tired of doing all online classes when I am deployed, and it is nice to have a mix.”

"After high school, I was going to college and I was an active reservist. During Desert Storm, I

I would attend classes as much as I could, but rotating shift work and all the travel I was doing prevented me from finishing my degree."



Air Force personnel who perform a wide range of duties are pursuing their degrees at Thomas Edison State College.



Senior Airman Vanessa Schuetz, a member of the Air Force's Air Mobility Command and a Thomas Edison State College student.

"In the current civilian employment environment, it's comforting to know that if I should need to find a job, I'm not limited in my options," said Petrevich. "If you look at any career postings page, the four-year degree is pretty much mandatory for the majority of listings."

Both Petrevich and Schuetz said having a baccalaureate degree is a valuable asset, especially in their post military careers.

More than 330 Graduates Attend 33rd Annual Commencement

Nothing could prevent Robert Simpson from keeping a promise to his mother - not even a catastrophic natural disaster.

Simpson, of Marrero, La., just outside New Orleans, kept that promise by joining more than 330 of his fellow graduates to receive his diploma at Thomas Edison State College's 33rd Commencement on



Robert Simpson, of Marrero, La., celebrates his graduation with members of his family.

Saturday, October 8. The event, held in Patriots Theater at The War Memorial in Trenton, was the largest Commencement in the College's history and attracted graduates from as far away as Saudi Arabia and England.

Simpson, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree, said he was determined to keep the promise he made to his mother to participate in Commencement with his classmates.

"The whole reason I enrolled was because of my mother," he said. "She always encouraged me to complete my bachelor's degree and wanted to see me march."

Simpson said his family, including his parents, his wife and their two-year-old triplets, were planning to attend Commencement. Then Hurricane Katrina hit. His wife and children relocated to Memphis to stay with his parents. Despite extensive damage to his home, Simpson and several family members, including his mother, made the trip to

“We are extremely proud of all of our graduates and thrilled about the extraordinary turnout at this year's Commencement.”

Trenton to attend the graduation ceremony.

Despite a torrential downpour, a record number of graduates and their families participated in the ceremony. The college conferred more than 2,500 degrees to graduates in 2005.

"We are extremely proud of all of our graduates and thrilled about the extraordinary turnout at this year's Commencement," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "This event celebrates the excellent work our students do to pursue their education while juggling family and career responsibilities."

Three individuals addressed the graduates at the 2005 Commencement:

Eric Anderson, MSM '05, delivered the response for graduates. Anderson, of Rockland, Mass., earned his Master of Science in Management degree while balancing the demands of his family and career. Anderson, a senior examiner and quality control specialist with Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, told his classmates that his experience at Thomas Edison State College challenged him to develop a new view of the world.

"My education has been as much about academics as it has been about

my personal growth," he said. "The fact that we are all sitting here today proves that we can overcome any challenge."

Kurt Landgraf, president and CEO of Educational Testing Service (ETS), received a Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa*. Landgraf, a former top executive with DuPont, is a graduate of Wagner College; Pennsylvania State University; Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; Western Michigan University; and Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

He urged graduates to give back to their community.

"Be compassionate to those less fortunate," said Landgraf. "As college



graduates it is your responsibility to reach out and pull up those less fortunate than you."

Thomas Seessel, project historian with the Ford Foundation, was also awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa*. Seessel, former president and CEO of Seedco and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency,

served as a Thomas Edison State College trustee from 1979 - 1992, and a member of the college's Foundation Board from 1992 - 2004. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Princeton University.

Seessel recognized the work the graduates completed while juggling the responsibilities of their careers and families.

"You did it the hard way," he said. "Your endeavors and sacrifices have put you in the elite one-third of this country's population."

The college has awarded more than 25,000 degrees since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults in 1972.

continued on p.12

Commencement Speaker Profile: 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. He also earned his Master of Science in Management degree in 2005 and delivered the Response for Graduates address at the 33rd annual Commencement in October.

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

As a graduate student at Thomas Edison State College, Anderson pursued 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, Ga. He earned 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.

The Grande Ball 2005

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION HOSTS 14TH ANNUAL GALA

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation hosted The Grande Ball – 2005 at the Doral Forrestal in Princeton, N.J. on Saturday, Nov. 5, which attracted more than 260 guests and raised \$55,000.

The event began with a silent auction and cocktails followed by an evening of dinner and dancing.

Highlighting the evening was the presentation of the 12th Annual Spirit of Edison Awards. Frieda M. Applegate, BSBS '85, received the Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumna Award, and Helene M. Garcia, vice president - Community and Strategic Initiatives at Merrill Lynch, was presented with the

Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.

The Spirit of Edison Award recognizes community leaders and alumni whose creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit reflect the pioneering genius of Thomas Alva Edison.



Foundation and Trustee Board member Nicholas Carnevale, and his wife Marjorie.



Foundation Board member Jack Neary and his wife Irene.



Sen. Peter A. Inverso and his wife Geri.



Dr. George A. Pruitt with Spirit of Edison Award recipients Helene Garcia (left) and Frieda Applegate.



Dr. Beverly Richardson and Mr. Albert of Mercer County Community College.



Helene M. Garcia

Throughout her career, Helene M. Garcia has made an impact in the community.

Her passion and intellect has benefited many outstanding organizations and causes focusing on education, commerce, the arts and teaching the deaf.

As vice president – Community and Strategic Initiatives at Merrill Lynch, Garcia directs community relations activities surrounding the company's New Jersey home office locations, grants, educational programs and employee volunteer programs.

Garcia currently serves on the boards of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the foundation boards of Mercer County Community College and The College of New Jersey. In addition, Garcia has served on the boards of the State Theatre, the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, the Trenton Public Education Foundation, the Mercer County Workforce Investment Board, the Katzenbach School for the Deaf, the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton Foundation and others. She is also 2002 Leadership New Jersey Fellow.

As a result of Garcia's leadership in the community, Merrill Lynch has earned several awards, including the New Jersey Business & Industry "New Good Neighbor Award", the City of Trenton Community Leadership Award, the Ewing Education Foundation Corporate Citizenship Award and the Hopewell Education Foundation Corporate Award.

In addition, Garcia's work played a key role in the company earning the 2004 Corporation of the Year award from Mercer County Community College, the 2005 Corporation of the Year award from the Greater Mercer County Chamber of Commerce and others. In 2004, she was selected as a Tribute to Women Honoree of the YWCA Princeton.

Garcia is a graduate of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and has a certificate from Boston College for Corporate Community Relations. She lives in Lawrenceville.



Frieda M. Applegate, '85

The work accomplished by Frieda M. Applegate has touched people all over the world - from the quiet suburbs of Mercer County to the remote mountains of Brazil.

Her extraordinary efforts have transformed the lives of the underprivileged and physically disabled.

A graduate of Princeton High School and Orange Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Orange, N.J., she began her career as a registered nurse at McGuire Air Force Base in Wrightstown, N.J., and later at Helene Fuld Medical Center in Trenton, N.J. After her appointment as director of the Nottingham Recreation Center for the Physically Limited, the idea was generated to develop housing that would allow physically disabled individuals to live independently.

In 1984, Applegate joined Norman Smith to establish the nonprofit housing organization Project Freedom. The organization was inspired by the belief that people with disabilities have an opportunity to live as independently as possible.

Applegate is also a member of the New Jersey Rotary's District 7510 and its Hamilton/Washington Sunrise Club. Through her Rotary Club efforts, Applegate vigorously advocated for children's rights by promoting the Early Act and Adopt-a-Child/Save a Life programs. Applegate and other Adopt-a-Child supporters joined forces with the Rotary Club of Campinas-Alvorada in Brazil to secure a grant that provided a residential facility with dormitories, a cafeteria, classrooms, a working farm, infirmary and a recreational center.

She has been recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow three times and earned several other awards from Rotary and other organizations for her outstanding record of community service, including The Social Compact Award, which recognizes successful business initiatives in lower-income communities.

Applegate lives in North Crosswicks, N.J., and has been married for 48 years to Vernon Applegate. They have three children, Lisa McGinty, Vernon Applegate and Cara Halleus; and two grandchildren.

Putting Him/Her Through

Thomas Edison State College's Putting Him/Her Through ceremony began 18 years ago at the suggestion of a graduate who wanted a way to thank his wife for the support she provided while he pursued his degree. As part of the 33rd Commencement, several graduates presented certificates to family members and friends who supported them as they earned their degree.

In addition, the Thomas Edison State College Office of Alumni Affairs presented its annual recognition awards to the following alumni:

• **Barry Pilla, MSM '05 and BSHS '02**, was recognized for his service to the College and the Office of Alumni Affairs. Pilla, who is police chief in Northampton Township (Pa.), set up a meeting between academic leaders at the College and the Bucks County Law Enforcement Training Center, where both sides discussed the application of core training requirements for law enforcement officers and the creation of certificate and degree programs. In addition, Pilla advised the College during the development of its new Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security.

• **Tom Kosdemba, BS '97**, was honored as immediate past president of the Alumni Association and an active volunteer as liaison to the Foundation Board, pending further transitional development by the Association. Kosdemba has also been a steadfast leader in efforts to launch and initiate the organizational transition, which reflects more closely the nature and scope of the alumni community throughout the world and across more than 55 industries.

• **Tim Sheffler, BS '05**, received the Alumni Association Service to Society Award, presented each year to the alumnus/a whose service to humankind far exceeds expectation or circumstance. As command master chief of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in New Orleans, Sheffler coordinated the rescue of more than 7,500 stranded and displaced residents of the Gulf Coast region. He was unable to attend Commencement due to the ongoing recovery effort.

The College extends a special thanks to **Joe Steele, BA '00 and AA '97**, who lent his musical talents on guitar during the reception; and **Paul Savage, BA '03**, director of Photography for *The Times* of Trenton, who provided photography of the event.

Additional photos from the 33rd Commencement are located online at www.tesc.edu/alumni/ginfo.php.



Former Director of Alumni Affairs Linda J. Strating with Barry Pilla.



Former Director of Alumni Affairs Linda J. Strating with Tom Kosdemba.



Tim Sheffler



Joe Steele

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Harry A. Clark Jr. AA '79

Harry A. Clark Jr. joined Greyhound Lines, Inc. in April 2004, and, as vice president of Human Resources, manages all human resources and training activities in the United States and Canada. Prior to Greyhound, he was a consultant for Fischer Group International, a human resources, executive search and executive coaching company, and spent more than 20 years with ABB Combustion Engineering, most recently as vice president, worldwide nuclear power human resources. After graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Clark earned his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology with a specialization in communication, interpersonal and organizational development issues from the University of the State of New York in Albany, N.Y. Clark noted, "If I had not gone back to Thomas Edison State College, I would never had the opportunities I have had. I was very similar to a lot of young people just out of high school and not ready for the college world. I worked very hard and traveled with my job, and Thomas Edison State College allowed me to complete my education while I was traveling and while I was helping my wife raise our two daughters."

Randy D. Kearns ASPSS '95 BSHS '00

Randy D. Kearns of Seven Lakes, N.C., attended the commencement exercises for the May 2004 graduation at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Kearns attended the program at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, completing the Master of Science in Administration degree, with a certificate in Health Care Administration. Kearns had previously completed certificate programs in Executive Health Care from Harvard University, the EMS Management Institute from University of North Carolina Charlotte and Non-Profit Management at Duke University. He was accepted into the doctoral program in Health Care Administration in 2004 at the Medical University of South Carolina. The doctoral program at MUSC was recently honored as one of the nation's top 10 graduate programs in health care administration.

Jane Sblendorio BA '03

Jane Sblendorio is an assistant director/program specialist for KinderCare. Sblendorio noted, "Great things have happened for me since working with Thomas Edison State College to achieve my goals. I have left the corporate world — where I felt no rewards for my hard work — and took the Praxis II for Elementary Education." Sblendorio added that her new position affords her the opportunity to "mix many of my favorite job essentials: human resources, marketing and inside sales as well as working with educators and students in a very pleasant atmosphere. Thank you so much to the staff at Thomas Edison State College for not letting me give up when working full time, going to school and loving a special needs child became too much and something had to give... I attribute my happiness to your staff and program."

Keith Nusbaum BA '02

Keith Nusbaum was recently appointed assistant to the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Loudoun County, Va., Thirty-five miles from Washington, D.C., Loudoun County is the fastest-growing county in the United States and has doubled its population every decade since 1980. "My degree, especially the focus on urban geography, played a major part in being selected for this position," he added. "I owe it all to Thomas Edison State College and the belief of all graduates that we can do anything we want if we work hard enough."

Deryl Mitzen BA '05

Deryl Mitzen, who earned his BA degree in psychology, is featured on a new television series on The Learning Channel (TLC). The show, titled "Dead Tenants," is a reality-based show, which follows Mitzen's organization, The Preternatural Research Society, on paranormal investigations. Mitzen has run this group for the past two years, and was scheduled to film 10 episodes for the first season.

Suzanne Stone BA '98

Suzanne Stone awarded an MA in archaeology and heritage from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom in July 2005. She has been active in fieldwork, lab work and teaching since 1999, and plans to continue her research in Egyptian archaeology as well as to continue teaching.

Patrick Coyle BSBA '02

Patrick Coyle recently graduated from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn., with a Master of Science in Information Technology, specializing in information security. Coyle noted, "I would like to thank Thomas Edison State College for opening my eyes to the tremendous value of distance and online learning. Without these nontraditional methods of education, it would have been impossible for me to complete either my bachelor's or master's degree." In addition to his full-time duties as a corporate security and regulatory affairs supervisor with AmerisourceBergen Corporation, Coyle has been teaching college-level courses in business and technology in a traditional classroom setting for

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Please tell us
about your...

- ▶ New Job
- ▶ Promotion
- ▶ Award
- ▶ Marriage
- ▶ Baby
- ▶ Career Switch

If it's **news** to you, it's **news** to us!

We invite you as a member of our family of Thomas Edison State College Alumni to tell us about the exciting things happening in your life. Let us know what's new with you since you graduated from Thomas Edison State College or how your experience at the College changed your life, and we may include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*.

To contact us, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor, 101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176; fax it to (609) 984-1376; or e-mail your good news to invention@tesc.edu. You may include photos to accompany your news. Items will be published as space permits.

Name _____

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Information for *Invention*: _____

more than five years on a part-time basis. "I have become such a proponent of distance and online education that I recently applied for, and was offered an online teaching position at Anthem College in Phoenix, Ariz., which offers associate and bachelor degree programs in a completely online setting. I look forward to my new 'second' career as an online adjunct instructor."

Melanie Darlyne Morgan BA '03

Melanie Darlyne Morgan earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Thomas Edison State College in 2003 while her husband was deployed in Iraq. When he came home critically wounded in 2004, she stayed by his side without losing her focus on her educational goals. Morgan recently earned a Master of Arts degree in education from the University of Phoenix Online with a 3.97 GPA and is planning to pursue her educational doctorate in the online environment. Morgan noted that she is flexible for employment as she eagerly awaits word on whether her husband can remain on active duty or medically retire. She has dedicated her master's degree to her husband, Sgt. Dale S. Morgan II, and her son, Hunter.

Patricia A. Martinelli MAPS '03

Patricia A. Martinelli recently accepted the position of historian with the newly-formed Cumberland County Division of Archives and Records Management. Her primary responsibilities include inventorying, assessing and preserving historic county

government documents that date to the early 18th century. She will also be responsible for researching and creating exhibits and publications based on various aspects of county history. In addition to looking forward to a productive year at work, Martinelli expects her first solo book, "Haunted Delaware: Ghosts and Strange Phenomena of the First State," to be published in August 2006 by Stackpole Books of Mechanicsburg, Pa. The book is a follow-up to the successful "Haunted New Jersey: Ghosts and Strange Phenomena of the Garden State," which she co-authored in 2004 with Dr. Charles A. Stansfield Jr. Martinelli is currently discussing the first book of a new series with her publisher, tentatively titled "True Crime: A Century of Violence in New Jersey." The book will be an overview of some of the Garden State's most famous crimes over the past 100 years.

Dave Dooling BA '99

Dave Dooling finished his interdisciplinary Master of Science in Space Studies at the University of North Dakota in August 2005. "Completing my BA at Thomas Edison State College was instrumental in my getting a job as a project manager on an education and outreach contract for NASA in Huntsville, Ala., in 2000," Dooling wrote, "and that helped lead to my current job as education and public outreach officer for the National Solar Observatory in Sunspot, N.M., and was essential to getting into the MS program." Dooling is assigned to the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope, which will be the world's largest optical solar telescope.

Richard Pelletier AA '75 BA '83

After graduating from the College in 1983, Richard Pelletier was promoted to senior computer specialist and later became a computer scientist on the TRIDENT Submarine program, working for the U.S. Navy as a civilian employee. Following his retirement, Pelletier wrote three mystery novels – two of which have been published: "Tank Farm #6" and "Carly's Angel." Pelletier noted, "I have to say I probably never would have gone this far if it weren't for Thomas Edison State College. Thank you."

Esmin L. Davis-Spence BSBA '01

Esmin L. Davis-Spence is a teacher at Ardenne High School in Kingston, Jamaica, W.I. In 2003, Davis-Spence completed a postgraduate diploma in education and training from the Vocational Training Institute in Gordon Town, Jamaica, W.I., and began teaching in the high school system in September 2003, specializing in business education – teaching students from ages 14 to 19 years. In October 2005, she was awarded the Master of Education (adult education major) from Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Davis-Spence noted, "My resolve is to reflect critically on the meaning of the act of teaching as well as the meaning of learning. Long live Thomas Edison State College, I salute you."

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