

SUMMER 2010

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

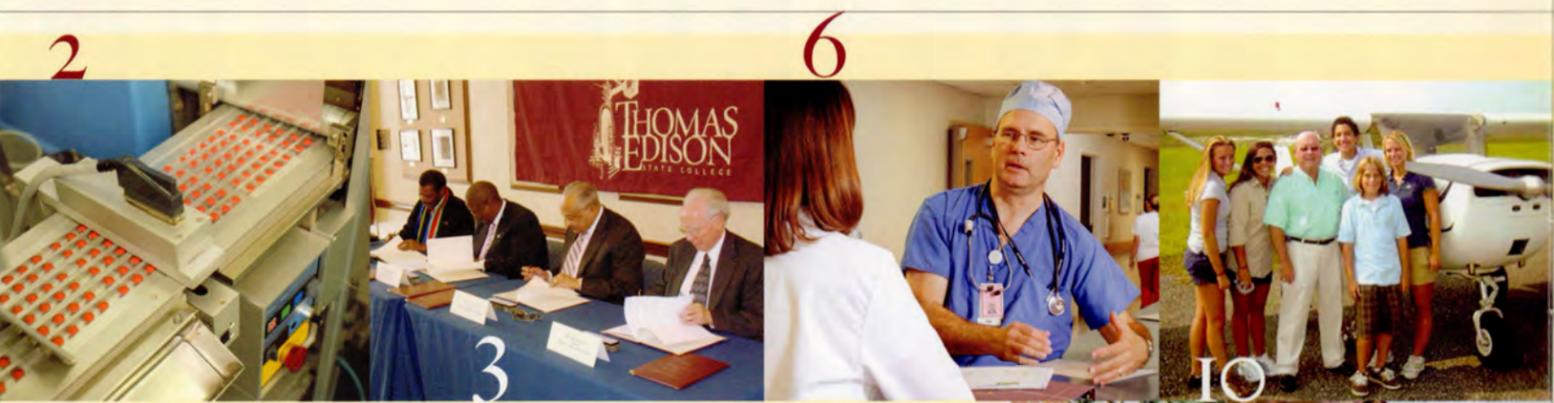
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Learning for Life:

Gary Fassler, '08





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Gary Fassler, RN, BSN '08,
of Capital Health in Trenton, N.J.



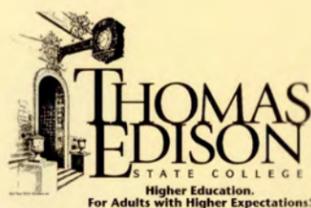
Invention is published by
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DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT
President

JOE GUZZARDO
Editor

CHRIS MILLER
Art Director

KELLY SACCOMANNO
LINDA SOLTIS
Contributors



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Henry Ford asserted, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

This issue of *Invention* celebrates the spirit of lifelong learning that Ford is talking about.

In our cover story, you will meet Gary Fassler, '08, and Theresa Rawlings, '07, nurses who work for Capital Health here in Trenton, N.J. I hope you enjoy reading about how the College helped them achieve their professional goals and prepare for the future. The story illustrates the strategic role the College plays in preparing the next generation of leaders and educators in nursing.

Also in this issue, you will meet mentor Jack Howell, a retired colonel in the U.S. Marines. Dr. Howell established a nonprofit foundation to assist children of service members killed or seriously wounded in action by teaching them to fly and earn a pilot's license.

We are excited about the launch of our new graduate programs also featured in this edition, including the Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree program and seven new areas of study for our Master of Science in Management degree.

Finally, we are pleased to report the proposed merger with Rutgers University is not moving forward. As part of our update on this, we celebrate some of the students and alumni who shared their stories with New Jersey leaders about how Thomas Edison State College has impacted their lives.

In the spirit of Henry Ford, we are honored to serve lifelong learners who constantly seek to advance their knowledge in pursuit of their personal and professional goals.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Barbara Kleva Named General Counsel



Barbara M. Kleva

Barbara M. Kleva has been recently named as Thomas Edison State College's general counsel and will advise the institution on all legal and ethical matters.

"We are honored that Barbara has decided to join the College and look forward to benefiting from her expertise and perspective," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "She brings a wealth of experience to our institution and will play a critical role in advising me, the Board of Trustees and the College's leadership team as

we continue serving adult learners in New Jersey and throughout the world."

In addition, Kleva will serve as the College's ethics officer, manage any engagements of outside counsel and serve as the College's liaison to the State Attorney General's Office.

Prior to joining Thomas Edison State College, Kleva served as general counsel at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J., where she served the university in a wide range of areas, including employment, contracting, public bidding, and discrimination law and student rights.

Before joining Rowan University, she had a distinguished career as a deputy attorney general in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. During her tenure, she supervised the representation of the nine state colleges and universities. She also served as assistant section chief for education, higher education, labor and personnel.

Kleva is a graduate of Boston University and the Seton Hall University School of Law.

College Launches Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology

This summer, Thomas Edison State College launched its latest graduate program, the Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree.

The program is designed to meet the advanced, multidisciplinary educational requirements of students interested in obtaining leadership positions in their chosen professions.

"This new graduate program provides advanced learning in the modern tools

of business management, leadership, applied science and technology," said Dr. Marcus Tillery, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology. "The degree focuses on developing the research analysis and critical evaluation skills necessary to support decision-making and problem-solving required to lead today's technical enterprises."

The 36-credit Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology

degree is available completely online and includes two areas of concentration for students to select: The Clinical Trials Management Track or The Technical Studies Track. Additional tracks are being developed and will be made available in the future.

To learn more, visit www.tesc.edu/technology.



College Expands its Partnership with University of South Africa



(from left) Professor Joseph Diescho, director and head of International Relations and Partnerships at UNISA; Professor Barney Pityana, principal and vice chancellor of UNISA; Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College; and William J. Seaton, provost and vice president of Thomas Edison State College, at the signing held on May 13 at the College.

Thomas Edison State College and the University of South Africa (UNISA), one of the largest distance learning universities in the world, have renewed and expanded an international partnership agreement.

The partnership creates provisions for credit transfer between the two institutions and enables graduates of UNISA, who typically earn a three-year undergraduate degree, to enroll at Thomas Edison State College to complete a four-year bachelor's degree. The agreement also calls for international collaborations

designed to address the public policy and public service needs of both institutions.

"Even though we are from different parts of the world, we share a commitment to providing high-quality programs for adult learners," said Dr. George A.

Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "This agreement continues to give our students access to some of the finest course materials in the world and builds the course development capacity of both our institutions."

John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies Launches New Specializations for Master of Science in Management

The John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, in partnership with the School of Business and Management, has developed seven new specializations that will be offered under the Master of Science in Management to students this fall.

The new areas of study include:

- ▶ Community and Economic Development
- ▶ Environmental Policy/Environmental Justice
- ▶ Information & Technology Management for Public Service
- ▶ Nonprofit Management
- ▶ Public Finance
- ▶ Public Health Management
- ▶ Public Service Administration and Leadership

"These new areas of study position the College to enable students to prepare for several rapidly evolving fields or for students in these fields to advance professionally," said

Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies. "With the launch of these new concentrations within our Master of Science in Management program, we will strengthen the capacity of those who provide services in the public interest."

Curricula in the new areas of study focus on an evidence-based, inquiry-based approach to problem solving that will enable students to address and identify solutions to real-world challenges and work with leaders in their respective fields.

Youngblood also noted that the Learner-Designed Area of Study, originally in the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, has also been targeted as an area of study for interdisciplinary management and public service studies.

The Master of Science of Management is a 36-credit program that is available completely online. To learn more about the new areas of study, visit www.tesc.edu/watsonschool.

College to Remain Independent

A proposal to merge Thomas Edison State College into Rutgers University is not moving forward and both institutions will remain independent.

The College vigorously opposed the merger proposal because we believe that the unique mission of the institution to serve self-directed adults would not have survived. The College is pleased that after thoughtful consideration and reflection by the governor and the legislature, a consensus has been reached that the merger proposal will not go forward.

"We are grateful that the governor, the legislative leadership in both houses, and of both parties, concurred with our view that the public interest was best served by maintaining the autonomy and special mission of both Rutgers and Thomas Edison State College," said College President Dr. George A.

Pruitt. "We also thank all of our students and alumni who contacted New Jersey officials and shared their stories of how the College helped them achieve their goals. Their support played a critical role in this process by reminding everyone of the unique mission of the College and the vital opportunities it creates for adults."

Here are some examples of students and alumni who shared their stories with state leaders:

I am a serving Brigadier General and a full-time Wing Commander in today's Air National Guard. The 113th Wing is comprised of almost 1,300 people, on 104 acres with 50 buildings. We operate 22 F-16 aircraft worth \$550 million, three C-40 aircraft worth \$300 million and 2 C-38 aircraft worth \$10 million. Our annual budget is \$109 million and we are responsible for the air defense of our nation's capital, as well as airlifting U.S. leaders around the globe.

As you can imagine, my service carries weighty responsibility. Having the ability to complete my degree through Thomas Edison State College while serving as a junior member of this unit was a pivotal point in my career. By allowing me to pursue my degree in a flexible manner, I was able to continue my leadership development in the military, while simultaneously continuing my formal education. I was also able to participate in deployments without disrupting my education.

In short, without Edison, I would not be where I am today in my career.

Jeff Johnson, '91
Washington, D.C.

My husband and I own a small business in the City of Trenton. We are raising our young family here in downtown Trenton. We're enjoying every moment. As you can imagine, my schedule as a full time mother leads to a somewhat erratic study schedule. I recently completed my bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State College and will be getting my diploma in a few months. Thomas Edison State College is the only college that I could imagine would have supported me in getting my degree while dealing with a wonderful three-year-old boy and a girl who turned one today.

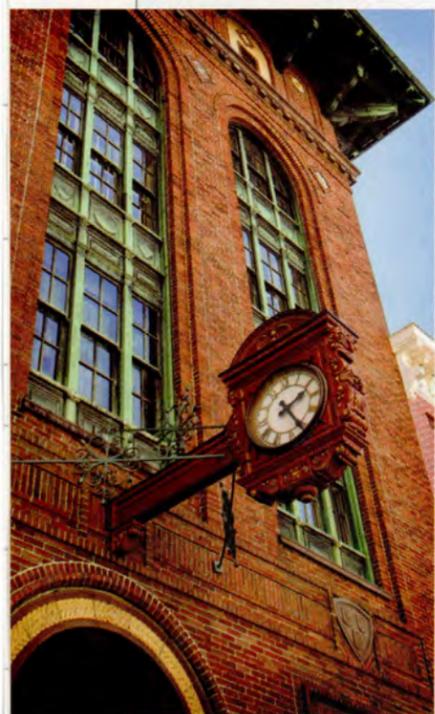
It is the only place I could have done this.

Annie Pott, '10
Trenton, N.J.

As a middle-aged person living overseas, I could have chosen any institution on the planet for my studies; I chose Edison because of its excellent history of leadership in both online and adult education. New Jersey enjoys it as an institutional treasure that has built up one of the most excellent resources via the State Library and New Jersey Learning Initiative - access to databases that are truly an amazing resource for students considering upgrading and improving their education and careers in this information age.

Edison changes lives. I, for one, thank God for it.

Robert St. Denis, student
Tainan, Taiwan
Republic of China



College Receives \$5.1 Million Grant for New Jersey State Library's Broadband Program

Thomas Edison State College recently received a \$5.1 million federal grant to support the New Jersey State Library's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP), a project designed to add computer workstations, upgrade Internet connectivity and provide job search assistance and workforce development programs at hundreds of libraries throughout New Jersey.

The award, along with a \$1.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation made to the New Jersey State Library, will be used to add computers at 124 libraries, upgrade connectivity at 79 libraries, and provide job search assistance, employment skills, workforce development programs and other online resources at 365 libraries across New Jersey.

"This grant will help to pave a road to economic recovery for our state," said New Jersey State Librarian Norma

Blake. "With this award, New Jersey libraries will provide the access to the Internet and free training to help get New Jersey residents back to work and stimulate the economic growth our state needs. We are pleased to partner with the New Jersey Library Association, New Jersey Network, the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Council of County Colleges."

The grant, provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was announced on July 2 and was the only award made to a New Jersey institution in round two of funding.

"New Jersey libraries are uniquely positioned to play a key role in our state's economic recovery by greatly enhancing the accessibility of broadband Internet to New Jersey residents," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of

Thomas Edison State College. "The New Jersey State Library has an extraordinary record of developing and leveraging online resources for the citizens of New Jersey, including thousands of Thomas Edison State College students."

Jill Nishi, deputy director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's U.S. Libraries program, said federal investments that connect libraries to high-quality Internet services are critical to realizing the universal broadband access the country needs.

"When libraries provide broadband to communities, they can deliver valuable online opportunities that help people find jobs, further their education and access important government information," she said. "We hope that this BTOP award will help other public and private funders understand the importance of investing in public technology access at New Jersey's libraries."

Streckewald Golf Classic Raises \$30,000

The Sixteenth Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic, held on June 21 at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrenceville, N.J., raised \$30,510 for the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Nearly 70 golfers attended the event.

The winning foursome was Chris Thude, Chad Pulaski, Eric Holt and Stuart Kaplan, who are pictured with John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs.

Tournament sponsors included: Bank of America and Merrill Lynch (Eagle sponsors); Lear & Pannepacker (Golf Cart sponsor); Children's Specialized Hospital (Corporate sponsor); Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc. (Beverage Cart sponsor); TB Bank (Boxed Lunch sponsor); Roma Bank (Reception sponsor); Capital Health and Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman (Deuce sponsors); and Hoisington Engineers, KPMG, Mercer County Community College, Office Furniture Partnership, Princeton Packet, Inc. and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (Tee sponsors).



A Capital Plan: Learning for Life

*How Thomas Edison State College Helps
Nurses Achieve their Professional Goals*

Capital Health nurses (from left to right) Tina D'Armiento, RN, BSN; Gary Fassler, RN, BSN; and Theresa Rawlings, RN, BSN, completed degree requirements at Thomas Edison State College through the Capital Health partnership. D'Armiento and Fassler are now enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program at the College.

Even though he is 56, Gary Fassler will tell you that his best years are still to come.

That may seem like an outrageous statement, especially when you discover how passionate Fassler is about his current position as a labor and delivery nurse at Capital Health's Mercer Campus in Trenton, N.J.

"I decided to become a nurse after the birth of my son 14 years ago," he said. "When people come back to the hospital for the birth of their child and say, 'I had you last time and would like to have you again because you helped me,' that is special. The birth of a child is one of the moments a mother and father are always going to remember and I get to be part of that."

Fassler, who became a nurse at Capital Health shortly after earning his nursing diploma in 2004, said the role of the labor and delivery nurse is also critical when tragedy strikes.

decided to return to academia after recognizing the national nursing shortage facing the country was compounded by a national shortage of nurse educators. This shortage is the leading reason that thousands of qualified candidates are turned away from nursing schools every year.

"While I was working on my bachelor's degree, Thomas Edison State College earned accreditation for the master's program," recalled Fassler, who earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in theater design from Memphis State University and worked as a lighting designer in theater and as a furniture maker prior to his nursing career. "My ultimate goal is to earn the master's degree, so I can teach nursing."

Today, Fassler is enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing program, which includes a Nurse Educator track. He is among more than 170 other nurses from



Maureen Clark-Gallagher

“Professionally, BSN and MSN-bound nurses often emerge as leaders in their field, serving on our hospital committees, research councils and as healthcare advocates in their own communities.”

Maureen Clark-Gallagher
Divisional Director of Clinical Education/
School of Nursing
Capital Health

"The flipside is when I have to take care of woman who has lost a baby," he said. "Whether it's 20 weeks or near-term, we have to be there to support her at a very critical part of her life. And also, as a man, being there for the dads is important because it affects them, too. People sometimes forget how much the loss of a child before they are born affects a dad who has thought about throwing the ball with his son, or playing with his little girl and how that has been taken away."

Fassler completed his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Thomas Edison State College in 2008. He

Capital Health enrolled in nursing programs at the College through a partnership agreement.

The collaboration maximizes Capital Health's tuition assistance program for RNs and offers their registered nurse employees the opportunity to advance their education while taking advantage of Thomas Edison State College's flexible nursing programs.

It is one of several nursing partnerships Thomas Edison State College has developed with New Jersey hospitals and healthcare systems, including St. Francis Medical Center, Virtua Health and Meridian Health.



Theresa Rawlings, '07

“The program has enhanced my ability to develop evidenced-based policies that improve patient care in my own unit.”
Theresa Rawlings, '07

Maureen Clark-Gallagher, divisional director of Clinical Education/School of Nursing for Capital Health, said the accessibility and integrity of the College's programs will help open the pipeline for new nurses and fits with Capital Health's strategic plans.

"It gives our nurses an academic grounding that informs their practical experience," she said. "Professionally, BSN- and MSN-bound nurses often emerge as leaders in their field, serving on our hospital committees, research councils and as healthcare advocates in their own communities."

Theresa Rawlings, a nurse who works in Capital Health's Newborn Nursery, earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College in 2007. She lauded the portability of the program and its evidence-based curriculum.

"It was far less stressful to be able to log onto my courses via laptop from wherever I was," she said. "The program has enhanced my ability to develop evidenced-based policies that improve patient care in my own unit."

Clark-Gallagher said she anticipates that Capital Health's Career Path program and the related partnership with Thomas Edison State College will fill expected vacancies on the clinical side and produce the next generation of nurse educators, managers and master's-prepared nurses.

"Nursing is a 24/7 enterprise and so is the College. This

accessibility is especially important to nurses like Gary and Theresa, who work long hours while shouldering other responsibilities," she said. "The curriculum provides information to our RNs that opens their eyes and extends their awareness beyond their own unit and hospital, to their entire state, country and, often, the global nursing community. These RNs are expanding their core competencies, enhancing their communication skills, embracing innovation and thinking like leaders."

Looking forward, Fassler said he is interested in teaching nursing clinical situations, specifically the obstetric rotation, and helping to make a difference to relieve the national nursing shortage.

"As a male nurse, and a male labor and delivery nurse, I am kind of a rarity among rarities. But I am also hoping to be a kind of inspiration to other people who will see that you don't have to be a kid to be a nurse. We need nurses today and this is a great way to go. You're never too old to learn, and I think I am a good example of that."



Gary Fassler, '08

Learning to Fly

LIFTING UP TEENAGERS STRUGGLING WITH GRIEF



Ret. Col. Jack Howell explains a Piper Cheyenne's instrument panel to Teens-In-Flight students Anastasia Pagello, at the controls, and Bonita Davis.

Thomas Edison State College Mentor Jack Howell knew about the pain and grief experienced by the families of fallen U.S. service members all too well, so he did something about it.

Howell, a retired colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, founded Teens-In-Flight, a nonprofit foundation that provides flight training and aviation maintenance scholarships to teens who have lost a parent in the global war on terrorism or whose parents were wounded in action and are disabled. He formed the foundation after serving as a casualty assistance officer from time to time throughout his military career.

Casualty assistance officers are responsible for informing the families of service members who are severely injured or killed in the line of duty and assisting them with the administrative work surrounding the tragedy.

“ I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE WORD 'NO', ...SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE MARINE CORPS, I REMOVED ALL NEGATIVE WORDS FROM MY PERSONAL DICTIONARY. ”

“When the administrative side of informing a military family of their loss is completed, the family is left with their grief,” said Howell, who mentors criminal justice/terrorism courses at Thomas Edison State College. “These events can have a crushing effect on teenage family members, who often suffer

(from left) Ret. Col. Jack Howell performs a preflight check with Teens-In-Flight students Bonita Davis and Anastasia Pagello.



Pictured is Ret. Col. Jack Howell, (left), Teens-In-Flight president with students Juan Rodriguez and Gloria King with their congressional nomination to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

from post traumatic stress disorder and become withdrawn and distrustful and exhibit negative behavior.”

Howell established the Teens-In-Flight foundation in 2004 to help teenage children struggling with loss and grief by providing an opportunity for free flight lessons with the goal of earning a private pilot license. The value of the instruction is estimated at \$9,000 per student.

“In many cases, post traumatic stress disorder is overlooked in teens dealing with the loss of a parent who was killed or seriously injured in action,” said Howell, who donates monetary compensation he receives from mentoring at Thomas Edison State College to the program. “We believe that providing a positive and fun experience helps teens heal and diminishes some of their grief.”

(from left) Ret. Col. Jack Howell tests aviation fuel with Teens-In-Flight students Bonita Davis, Anastasia Pagello and Ivan Ramos.



Mentor Profile

Ret. Col. Jack Howell explains the importance of weight and balance to aircraft performance to Teens-in-Flight students (from left) Ivan Ramos, Bonita Davis and Anastasia Pagello.

“ IN MANY CASES, POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IS OVERLOOKED IN TEENS DEALING WITH THE LOSS OF A PARENT WHO WAS KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED IN ACTION, WE BELIEVE THAT PROVIDING A POSITIVE AND FUN EXPERIENCE HELPS TEENS HEAL AND DIMINISHES SOME OF THEIR GRIEF.” ”

Teens-In-Flight currently has established programs located in Jacksonville and Palm Coast, Fla.; Fort Carson, Colo.; and Fort Hood, Texas. Howell said the foundation hopes to expand the program nationwide. Teens-In-Flight also helps teens that are considered at-risk or under privileged.

Students also learn that Howell is an eternal optimist.

“I don’t believe in the word ‘no,’” he said. “Several years ago, while on active duty in the Marine Corps, I removed all negative words from my personal dictionary. Bottom line, don’t give me a thousand excuses why it can’t be done, give me the reason it will be done.”

And while “doing” is a philosophy that permeates Howell’s being; it is obvious that educating is how he facilitates it.

More than 30 teens are currently participating in the program. Since its inception, more than 90 teenagers have completed the program, including Victoria Emerson, a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

“I didn’t realize all of the benefits until I fully got into the program. There are so many career opportunities that open up,” she said. “When I applied to West Point, Teens-In-Flight was the one of the first things I put on my list and I think it had an impact on my admittance.”

Both Howell’s military career and his work as a high school and college educator give him a unique perspective as a mentor at Thomas Edison State College, where he works with adult learners.

“Mentoring at Thomas Edison State College has been a wonderful experience for me. The students have shown great intellectual curiosity and determination,” said Howell. “I enjoy the online format because I think it is important that emphasis be placed on the freedom it gives a student.”

Howell earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Monmouth College in West Long Branch, N.J.; a Master of Arts degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.; a PhD from Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and attended the Naval War College.

Originally from Lakewood, N.J., Howell now resides in Palm Coast, Fla., with his wife, Samantha, who is a co-director at Teens-In-Flight. To learn more about the foundation, visit: www.teens-in-flight.com.

Jack Howell

Staying the Course



COPING WITH THE LARGEST ACCIDENTAL OIL
SPILL IN HISTORY AND EARNING HER DEGREE

Like many coastal Louisianans, Michelle Rebstock is accustomed to natural disasters like raging tropical storms and vicious hurricanes.

But more recently, she and her family are facing a silent but terrifying threat. Their community of Houma rests on tributaries that have been impacted since April 20, when British Petroleum's Deepwater Horizon rig exploded, killing 11 workers and causing the largest accidental maritime oil spill in history.

"I have to say that the oil spill is a horrific event," said Rebstock, who is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree at Thomas Edison State College. "We watched Louisiana Congressman Charlie Melancon on the news as he openly wept during a House subcommittee meeting addressing the topic. We cried right along with him. It is an emotional issue in our area

to be sure, and the spill could have a potentially devastating effect on our environment and economy."

Rebstock's husband, Dwayne, who owns Allport Services, LLC, in Port Fourchon, La., has been away from his family and working around the clock to provide housing for employees of BP and U.S. agencies who are assisting in the clean up effort.

"Obviously, this is more pressure on us, but we have been eager to play a part in the efforts to contain and clean up the spill," noted Rebstock.

The effort has left Rebstock temporarily alone in juggling her courses and raising her six children, who range in ages from four through 19.

"The best way to describe it is a balancing act of controlled chaos," she said. "I try to fit my course work in while my



"They may not understand it all now, but I'm hoping they will look back and say 'my mom taught me that through hard work and determination, anything is possible.'"

children are in school. This summer was even more complicated. I stay up later, get up earlier and divide the work into smaller chunks in order to maintain a balance between the kids and my course work."

Though Rebstock never wants her children to feel that their needs are overshadowed by her academic pursuits, she said there is rarely any doubt about what obtaining a degree means to her. She initially considered local institutions near her home, but realized their academic models did not fit her lifestyle.

Then, Rebstock found Thomas Edison State College and enrolled. Her father, Glen Fishman, a 1981 alum, was thrilled with her decision to attend his alma matter.

She said the variety of course methods each has their own challenges, but all are effective tools in her degree pursuit.

Rebstock was also pleased to learn Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) examinations she had completed could also be applied as general education credits toward her degree.

Rebstock said she feels that the example she sets for her children will go a long way in helping them to see the power of education.

"Every day, I tell my kids that college is not an option, but a natural progression, and I have to support this advice with credibility," she said. "My kids witness me taking care of the house, helping with their homework, doing my own course work, being a realtor and contributing to my husband's and father's businesses part time. They may not understand it all now, but I'm hoping they will look back and say 'my mom taught me that through hard work and determination, anything is possible.'"

Keith A. Ambersley BSBA '95

Keith A. Ambersley has self published a book that is available on Createspace, Amazon.com and Google Books. The book, entitled *911-Common Sense Money*, is a resource to help more than 4 million Gen X American consumers that have been displaced by the current economic crisis. The book provides tips, practical examples and a recovery plan to build financial security and manage debt more effectively.

Dr. Ron Anjard BA '79

Dr. Ron Anjard recently earned his 10th degree – a master's in finance from Ireland's Warnborough College.

Joseph V. Bellino BSHS '96

Joseph V. Bellino, CHPA, HEM, has been named system executive, security for Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston, Texas. Bellino, who also received his Master of Science in Human Resources Development degree from McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., in May 2010, noted, "I attribute my personal and professional successes in large part to my educational experiences and accomplishments. Thank you Thomas Edison State College for that start on my educational journey."

Brian Bovyn BSHS '08

Brian V. Bovyn, CEM, has been hired as an adjunct faculty member for Frederick Community College (FCC) in Maryland. Bovyn is teaching emergency management online courses and instructional design work for a new professional development college internship program at FCC. Bovyn was also selected as a subject matter expert in emergency management for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Higher Education Conference in Emmitsburg, Md., in June 2010.

Caroline Capone BA '90

Caroline Capone found employment in a social rehabilitation program at a mental health center upon graduating from Thomas Edison State College with a BA in social sciences in 1990; a position she held and enjoyed for many years. Today she works for the Gloucester County Probation Department. She noted that the College's Guided Study program "honed my writing skills [and] now, at midlife, I began to write short stories. This past year, three of my holiday stories appeared in the *Sentinel*, a Gloucester County weekly newspaper."



Harry Chadwick AA '78 BSBA '81

Harry Chadwick, who was recently named a senior VP of the Chubb Group following graduation from the College, retired from Chubb and currently is the chairman of Equinox Management Group, Inc, in Oradell, N.J., and Meridian Management LLC, in Oradell. He has also recently assumed the chair of Combined Benefit Plan, LLC, of Clearwater, Fla. Chadwick noted "I am proud of Thomas Edison State College and its fine work."

Lincoln Cory BA '80

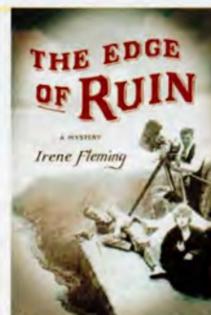
Lincoln Cory just completed six courses on the graduate level at The Evening School of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. Graduation was January 2010 and Cory continues his work in the lay ministry. Cory is married to Carol (Fields) and they live in Vienna, Va.

Albert G. Curving ASM '96 BSBA '96 BA '97

Al Curving, following his retirement with nearly 37 years in the military, has launched a new career as a song writer on the STORYinSONG™ team with partner and friend Dan Laurie. They presently have 80 songs registered with the United States Copyright Office and more in the works. Twelve demo samples were published on You-Tube last year.

Kathleen Dunn BA '79

Kathleen Dunn has published eight mystery novels under the name of Kate Gallison (maiden name) since 1985. Under the nom de plume of Irene Fleming, Dunn has started a new series. The first book, *The Edge of Ruin*, was released by St. Martin's Minotaur in April 2010. Set in Fort Lee, N.J., in 1909, the plot hinges on Thomas Edison's struggle to keep control of the early motion picture industry.



Robert Foti MSM '07

Robert Foti has been named director of Management Information Services for Greater Trenton Behavioral Healthcare, a private, nonprofit organization licensed by the state of New Jersey to provide mental health and substance abuse services. Foti also serves as the president of RMF Technologies, LLC, a nationwide website design and business IT solution firm, and is a member of Mercer County Chamber of Commerce.

Tequila Zoe Hill BA '04

Tequila Zoe Hill continued her education after graduating from Thomas Edison State College and became a paralegal, graduating from Edison Community College (now Edison State College) in Fort Myers, Fla.,



with an associate degree. She is currently the manager of a community dance team in Port St. Lucie, Fla., which she founded in November 2009. "I wanted to help young high school girls believe in themselves and to increase their self esteem by becoming involved in something positive in the community. These girls are all talented dancers, but some of them have not used their talent because of the lack of opportunity. I have helped these girls fulfill their dreams to dance and encouraged them to go after their passion by creating the Dynasty Dance Team, and by mentoring them along the way."

Patrick R. Hughley AA '03 BA '06

Patrick R. Hughley recently graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Master of Administration degree with a leadership emphasis. Hughley gives much of the credit for his accomplishments to Thomas Edison State College as well as the many years of classes during his military career. He noted that the College really sparked his desire for continued and advanced education. Hughley currently works in the oil and gas industry in Houston, Texas, where he resides with his wife of 21 years and two children.

Daniel L. Loss BA '00

Daniel Loss recently received his Master of Science in Quality Assurance/Regulatory Affairs from the Temple University School of Pharmacy. He is also the author of *Jacob Looss of the Edinburgh*, a genealogical work initially published in 2006.

Mary McDermott BSN '09

Mary McDermott, who is currently an MSN student at Thomas Edison State College, had a brief story she wrote about herself as a young nurse published in the Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International's book *Reflections on Nursing Leadership*. The story was included in the recent publication "You'll Know You're a Nurse When..."

James J. McGrath BSAST '92

James J. McGrath recently accepted a position as senior project manager with Arizona Public Service at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

Michael W. Mitchell BA '94

Michael W. Mitchell is currently working on his doctoral degree (Doctor of Literature and Philosophy in History) at the University of South Africa, which he hopes to complete by December 2012.

Kraig M. Morris BA '08

Kraig M. Morris has been accepted in the Liberty University Theological Seminary to work on his Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in chaplaincy. Morris is working to be a chaplain for the Veterans Administration and Civil Air Patrol. He noted, "I wouldn't be able to be where I am without my savior Jesus Christ and the outstanding people at Thomas Edison State College that helped put me on a solid foundation."

Iris Perez BSBA '08

Iris Perez won the Civilian Marine Logistician of the Year award from the Marine Corps for 2009. Perez noted, "I'm really thankful to Thomas Edison State College for giving me the opportunity and flexibility of completing my education goals."

Geraldine C. Popkin BA '85

Geraldine "Gerri" Popkin, director of purchasing for Monmouth County, received the 2009 Anne Deatherage Meritorious Service Award from the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing based in Herndon, Va. The award honors career excellence in volunteerism to the public procurement profession. Popkin has been Monmouth County's purchasing agent for 22 years.

Aronjol (A.J.) Rosenthal BSAST '07

Aronjol (A.J.) Rosenthal has taken a promotion within the Nalco Corporation to be sent to the Oil Sands in Alberta, Canada. He was selected for this prestigious role based upon his knowledge and qualifications that he attained through the Thomas Edison State College BSAST degree program and Navy Nuclear Power training. Rosenthal graduated with his MBA in finance from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa, in July 2010.

Eric Zebedies ASAST '93 BSAST '95

Eric Zebedies noted that he had credits from several community colleges; however, every time he put a dent in his education he had to move. "Thomas Edison State College was the answer; I was able to use all my college credits and finish my degree through distance education with a good percentage through [Prior Learning Assessment] portfolios. With the BSAST, I now work in aerospace for the Navy. Thank you Thomas Edison State College."

Michael J. Semones ASAST '89

Michael J. Semones was presented with the distinguished 2009 Transportation Practice Specialty Safety Professional of the Year Award by the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). In recognition for Semones' dedication to the safety profession, the Transportation Practice Specialty SPY Award recognizes his valuable contributions to the TPS Advisory Committee and his involvement in ASSE affairs. He was a featured speaker at two ASSE professional development conferences and has had several articles published in professional safety journals and magazines. The Practice Specialty SPY Awards are presented to candidates for their contributions to an ASSE practice specialty, and by a committee of peers. These specialties include academics, construction, consultants, engineering, environmental, fire protection, healthcare, industrial hygiene, international, management, manufacturing, mining, oil, gas, public sector, risk management and transportation. Founded in 1911, the ASSE is the largest and oldest safety organization. The ASSE is dedicated to protecting, people, property and the environment. ASSE has more than 32,000 occupational safety, health and environmental professional members working together on safety, health, transporta-

(continued on back cover)

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 the 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) 777-1894; 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.

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tion and environmental issues. Semones has been a regional safety manager with Brink's, Inc. since 2002, providing safety leadership and guidance for dozens of locations and thousands of employees. He is a recognized expert in crash investigations and transportation safety developments and enhancements.

Larry A. Stephenson BSAST '95

Larry A. Stephenson, currently an unemployed captain/pilot due to the economic times, noted that earning his degree from Thomas Edison State College was a great experience and will, undoubtedly, open many doors once the aviation industry gets back on its feet.

Ralph "Steve" E. Stevenson BA '06

Ralph "Steve" E. Stevenson is a candidate for a Juris Doctorate at the Charlotte School of Law.

Stacy V. Tappeiner ASPSS '03 BSBS '06

Stacy V. Tappeiner completed his master's degree in criminal justice at Boston University in spring 2009. Tappeiner was promoted to chief of police with the Township of Hamilton (N.J.) Police Department on Jan. 1, 2010.

Timothy S. Turk BSAST '05

Timothy S. Turk recently retired from the U.S. Navy after 25 years service. Turk, who served 13 years enlisted as an electronics technician and attained the rank of chief petty officer, served 12 years as an officer and retired as a lieutenant commander. He completed an MS in space systems management from Webster University in December 2009, and is currently enrolled in the Webster University MBA program. Turk also completed the Satellite Tool Kit (STK) certification in March 2010.

Joseph Walat BSBA '08

Joseph Walat was recently promoted to the position of field industry segment manager at UPS in the Philadelphia area. Currently working on his Master of Arts degree in legal studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Walat noted, "This opportunity would not have been possible if not for the ability to earn my BSBA at Thomas Edison State College, while working full time and dealing with family responsibilities. Thank you Thomas Edison State College."

Richard Wilke BSAST '09

Richard Wilke completed his Thomas Edison State College degree four months prior to the end of a 26-year Navy career. He noted that the degree was instrumental in his employment as a health physicist.