

Invention

WINTER 2014

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

SUPERHUMAN RESOURCE

Bette J. Francis '95, '99

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

Thomas Edison said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

This issue of *Invention* celebrates one of our graduates who, like Edison, has never been afraid of the work and achieved great professional success without a formal college education.

We are honored to tell you the story of Bette J. Francis '95, '99, vice president and director of Human Resources at Wilmington Trust Wealth Advisory Services, and a member of our School of Business and Management's Advisory Committee. In this issue, Francis recalls how the College helped her achieve the personal goal of earning her college degree and shares her professional journey from learning a global company's business from the ground up to becoming chair of the Society for Human Resource Management Board of Directors.

Also in this issue, we meet Dorothy Moreno '13, who tells us how earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree has augmented her work as a volunteer nurse in the Medical Reserve Corps and as a licensed medical electrologist with her own practice. She shares how the College removed the barriers that would have otherwise prevented her from completing her goals.

We are also pleased to share photos from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 2013 Grande Ball, which raised a record \$135,000 to benefit the College and honored three extraordinary people: Eileen Martinson, chief executive officer of Sparta Systems, and her husband, John Martinson, general partner and founder of the Edison Venture Fund, who each received the 2013 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award; and Ernest Wooden Jr. '06, '07, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, recipient of the 2013 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Special thanks go out to the Foundation and to all of our sponsors, volunteers and guests that made the 2013 Grande Ball such a success.

We are honored to serve and work with individuals like those featured in this issue.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

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Superhuman Resource Bette J. Francis '95, '99

Partnership with Saylor Foundation Delivers New Pathway for Degree

Thomas Edison State College has developed a new pathway that allows students to complete an Associate in Science in Business Administration degree by taking free, open, online courses from the Saylor Foundation that are aligned with the College's prior learning assessment program.



"In the past two years, there has been much debate about how open, online courses benefit students," said Marc Singer, vice provost of the College's Center for the Assessment of Learning. "Our program enables students to take high-quality open courses at no cost and then apply what they learned in those open courses by taking our assessments. This process allows them to earn credit

that can be applied to a degree program at Thomas Edison State College."

Known as the Open Course option, students earn credit by either passing a TECEP® or other examination program aligned with a Saylor course or successfully completing a portfolio assessment that documents they have gained the college-level knowledge aligned with the degree requirement. More than 20 Saylor courses are part of the Open Course option, as are the College's new online prior learning assessment courses, PLA-100 and PLA-200.

The program is not limited to students interested in earning credits toward the Associate in Science in Business Administration degree, as students can apply credits through the program to most bachelor's degree programs at the College to satisfy general education elective or free elective requirements.



Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College.

"This is an interesting option for adult learners who prefer to work independently, enjoy credit-by-exam programs and are interested in prior learning assessment," said Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management. "This model offers students a more flexible, efficient way of completing their associates degree that has the potential of saving time and tuition dollars."

For more information on the Open Course option, visit www.tesc.edu/opencourse.

College Launches Master of Science in Homeland Security

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences recently launched a Master of Science in Homeland Security degree, which is designed for adults interested in leadership positions in the fields of homeland security and emergency preparedness.

The 36-credit program is offered completely online and focuses on domestic and global issues in security and developing competencies in theory, analysis, practice and policymaking.

"The curriculum examines law enforcement, terrorism, intelligence, legal issues, emergency management, cybersecurity, biosecurity and public administration issues," said Dr. Ann M. Mester, assistant dean of the Heavin

School of Arts and Sciences. "Our graduates will be prepared to guide and supervise day-to-day operations and strategic planning and other operations where decision making is critical."

The program also enables students to gain an in-depth understanding of the roles of technology, intelligence and law in establishing protection policies and procedures and in responding to and mitigating threats and disasters, whether natural or anthropogenic.

The Master of Science in Homeland Security is designed to be completed in less than two years. For more information, contact the College at gradstudies@tesc.edu or visit www.tesc.edu/heavin.

Wells Fargo Selects College as New Home to N.C. Wyeth Painting

Wells Fargo decided to keep a famous N.C. Wyeth mural owned by the bank in Trenton by loaning it to Thomas Edison State College.

The need for Wells Fargo to find a new home for the mural, which depicts George Washington's visit through Trenton on his way to his 1789 New York presidential inauguration, is necessitated by the bank's relocation of its 1 West State Street retail banking store to a new location that cannot accommodate the large painting.

"This mural is an important part of Trenton history and it was always our desire to keep it in the city in a space where people could continue to enjoy it," said Brenda Ross-Dulan, Wells Fargo's Southern New Jersey regional president. "We are delighted that Thomas Edison State College has agreed to prominently

display this mural at its West State Street campus."

The oil on canvas mural, formally titled, "Reception to Washington on April 21, 1789, at Trenton on his way to New York to Assume the Duties of the Presidency of the United States," was commissioned in 1930 by First Mechanics National Bank (a legacy company of Wells Fargo) and, since then, has been on display at 1 West State Street. The mural, which measures approximately 17 feet tall by 12 feet wide, was professionally moved and is now located in the atrium of Thomas Edison State College's main entrance at 101 West State Street and is easily accessible to the general public.

"We are honored to house this historic work of art and continue to make it available to residents and visitors of Trenton and Mercer County," said



Final adjustments are made as N.C. Wyeth's famous mural of George Washington visiting Trenton is lifted into place in the great hall of Thomas Edison State College's Kelsey Building in Trenton.

Photo by John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College.

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "It is fitting that the mural is located so close to the site of the Battle of Trenton, where Washington led the Continental Army to a historic victory that helped turned the tide of the American Revolution."

College Renews Partnership with SHRM to Offer Online SHRM Learning System®

Thomas Edison State College recently renewed its partnership with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and is offering the online SHRM Learning System®, a 12-week course that prepares human resource practitioners to sit for professional certifications in the field.

The noncredit course, which is being offered jointly between the School of Business and Management and the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, prepares students for Human Resource Certificate Institute (HRCI) exams for Professional in Human Resources (PHR®) and Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR®) certification.

"The course is offered in a self-paced,

independent study format and offered completely online, so it is structured around the unique needs of working professionals," said Dr. Joseph Youngblood, dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies. "We also see this as a positive step for students interested in a graduate program."

The College's Master of Science in Human Resources Management degree program is aligned with the SHRM Human Resource Curriculum Guidebook and Templates, which define the minimum HR content areas that HR students should study at the undergraduate and graduate level.

"Both PHR® and SPHR® certifications are critical to HR professionals interested in



professional growth," said Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management. "Offering this program in an online format enables students to hone their skills and prepare for HRCI examinations without sacrificing their personal and professional obligations."

The next course is scheduled for May 5.

To learn more, contact Williams at mwilliams@tesc.edu or (609) 984-1130, ext. 3202.



College Named Top School for Military Students and Veterans

Thomas Edison State College has recently been recognized as one of the top institutions in the country in serving members of the U.S. military and veterans by two publications that rank institutions that serve military students.

“We are proud to have built our academic programs around the unique needs of the brave men and women who protect our freedoms and enable them to achieve their personal and professional goals.”

> Dr. George A. Pruitt

The College was again named to *Military Advanced Education* magazine's "Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities." The 2014 guide appeared in the magazine's December 2013 issue and examines how institutions serve active duty military, veterans, and their

veterans for more than 40 years," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "We are proud to have built our academic programs around the unique needs of the brave men and women who protect our freedoms and enable



them to achieve their personal and professional goals."

The College was also named to *Victory Media's* 2014 "Military Friendly Schools" list, which honors the top 20 percent of institutions that are doing the most to embrace military service members, veterans and spouses and ensuring their success.

Learn more about programs for service members and veterans at www.tesc.edu/military.

College and Dade Moeller® Partner to Develop Online Radiation Safety Training Course

Thomas Edison State College has partnered with the prominent radiation protection firm Dade Moeller to develop an online, noncredit course in radiation safety training.

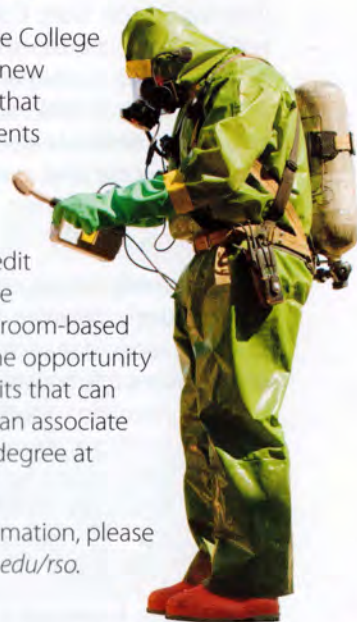
The collaboration marks the first time that the Dade Moeller Training Academy's Radiation Safety Officer classroom-based course, which has been taken by more than 2,500 radiation safety officers over the past 23 years, is being offered online to a national audience of adult learners. The new course is designed to prepare students to meet mandated federal and state training requirements for radiation safety.

"The nexus between Dade Moeller's expertise, experience and reputation in the field of radiation safety and Thomas Edison State College's leadership in the innovative use of online courses for adults has resulted in a course that is both rigorous and accessible, and we are collectively proud to play an integral role in our nation's effort to ensure a well-trained nuclear workforce," said Dr. Richard P. Coe, assistant dean in the School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State College.

The course is being offered jointly by the College's School of Applied Science and Technology and John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies.

In addition, the College has created a new TECEP® exam that provides students who have completed either the online, noncredit course or Dade Moeller's classroom-based course with the opportunity to earn 3 credits that can be applied to an associate or bachelor's degree at the College.

For more information, please visit www.tesc.edu/rso.



Foundation Funds Development of Master's Degree in IT

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation has awarded a grant to the School of Applied Science and Technology to develop a new graduate program in Information Technology.

The \$185,000 grant will fund the creation of an online Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) degree program as well as a new area of study in information technology that will be offered under the Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree program. The program is being designed to prepare students to develop, implement, operate and manage information systems in a variety of organizations.

"The development of the MSIT is consistent with the College's strategic

plan and its call for developing new graduate programs that respond to the needs of the global marketplace," said Brian Maloney, chair of the Foundation Board of Directors. "We are excited about this new program as the demand is growing for graduate programs designed to meet the needs of IT professionals."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the total number of master's degrees in information technology conferred in the United States has grown by 162 percent from 2008 to 2012. While the number of degrees conferred has grown significantly, the number of institutions offering programs has not, which indicates an opportunity in the market.

"I am honored that the Foundation selected this project to be funded," said Dr. John O. Aje, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology. "Our graduates will gain a broad technical understanding of current and emerging technologies in the IT field, a high-level knowledge of systems engineering concepts and a solid foundation in the technological basis of the Internet."

Martinson Family Foundation Grant Funds Investment in New Course Technology

The Martinson Family Foundation recently awarded a three-year, \$450,000 grant to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation that will enable the College to leverage the latest video and multimedia technologies to create more interactive courses.

The award will support the development of a media creation studio within the College's Center for Learning and Technology and be used to acquire video platforms and programs to implement interactive media into online courses. In addition, the funds will be used to create four new courses in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects

and respond to the academic needs of active duty military students and veterans. Those courses are scheduled to be a chemistry lab course, a physics lab course, an industrial electronics course and a course on microprocessors.

"As technology changes, so do the expectations of our students," said Matthew Cooper, associate provost for the Center for Learning and Technology. "This generous grant will enable us to continue to find innovative ways to deliver more interactive courses that infuse cutting-edge video techniques."

The grant is timely and complements the acquisition and renovation of 102

West State Street to house the Center for Learning and Technology and the media creation studio.

"We are honored to receive this grant from the Martinson Family Foundation, which represents a significant investment in instructional technology," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs. "This support makes it possible for the College to respond to the needs of our students and develop the programs and courses that enable them to achieve their potential."



SUPERHUMAN RESOURCE

Bette J. Francis '95, '99





Photo courtesy of the Society of Human Resource Management / Bette Francis

"I was traveling a great deal with my job at the time and was also a single parent, so an online program was the only way I could accomplish it. Thomas Edison State College gave me an opportunity to be successful and achieve a goal."

BETTE J. FRANCIS HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH THOMAS EDISON THAN SHE PROBABLY REALIZES.

Like Edison, Francis gained expertise and knowledge on her own without any formal collegiate training or education. While she is not an engineer or inventor, Francis has become an innovative leader in the human resources (HR) field.

"For HR to be successful, you really have to understand the customer and what they are looking for," said Francis. "Then, you can discover the type of employee the organization needs to be successful."

One of the key milestones that helped Francis acquire her expertise came in 1983, when she joined PENTAX Precision Instrument Corporation a few years after it was established in North America. She learned the business and the corporation's Japanese culture from the ground up.

"While the labor force was in the U.S., the management was in Japan. I needed to understand the Japanese culture in order

to present my ideas in an appropriate way," recalled Francis, who stayed with the company for 14 years. "Subtle differences were critical."

This involved learning Japanese so she was not reliant on a translator for her many trips to Asia, Europe and throughout the United States, and becoming more familiar with Japanese culture.

Francis ultimately designed the company's first human resources program. Assisting her in this endeavor was her membership in the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM),

where she networked with HR professionals and learned how certain strategies performed at various companies.

"One of the things crucial for me was learning the business of the company first, so the HR solutions I positioned to management could determine the impact to the business," she said.

Since then, Francis has remained an active member of SHRM, holding leadership positions in the society's North Jersey-Rockland Chapter, on several committees and serving as executive director of Garden State Council. Recently, she was elected chair of the SHRM Board of Directors.

In her opening remarks at the SHRM Leadership Conference in November, Francis told the more than 600 attendees to be persistent and innovative, and advised them to never be afraid of work – themes commonly seen in Edison's writings and popular quotes.

It is a long way from Pascack Hills High School in Montvale, N.J., where Francis first considered becoming a hospital administrator. After graduating high school, getting married and becoming a mother, she started volunteering and working in hospitals, where she discovered a passion for human resources and the relationship between businesses and their employees.

said Francis. "This is critical because if the organization is not successful, people can lose their jobs."

During her tenure with PENTAX, she enrolled at Thomas Edison State College.

"I was working with people with advanced degrees and I was feeling personal pressure to earn a degree. At the time, I did not feel like not having

"For HR to be successful, you really have to understand the customer and what they are looking for. Then, you can discover the type of employee the organization needs to be successful."

the degree was holding me back, but I wanted it for myself," said Francis. "It felt like something that was unfinished."

Francis, who completed her Associate in Science in Management degree in 1995 and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in 1999, learned about Thomas Edison State College through a contact at SHRM, who was involved with developing the College's first graduate program in human resources.

"I was traveling a great deal with my job at the time and was also a single parent,

Following PENTAX, she took positions of increasing responsibility at a healthcare startup known as Clarity Health Corporation and Strategic Products and Services, a business partner of AVAYA, the global business communications company.

Today, she is vice president and director of Human Resources at Wilmington

Trust Wealth Advisory Services, a position she has held since 2007.

"Wealth management is an industry that fascinates me," noted Francis. "It's a very personal business and it's all about relationships. The organization has a relationship with the employee and the employee has a relationship with the client. We are all deeply involved."

Reflecting on her role as chair of the SHRM board and its goals, Francis said the society and the board have a responsibility to guide the future of the profession.

"We need to help prepare our members to meet the needs of the HR profession, from the time they are students until they ready for retirement," she said. "This involves thinking broadly about where businesses are going and what the needs of businesses are today and what they might be tomorrow."

Francis serves on the Advisory Council of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College and has held adjunct faculty positions at Bergen Community College and New York University's Marketing and Management Institute and has been a guest lecturer at the Howe School of Management Technology at Stevens Institute of Technology and the Fordham University School of Business.



"Regardless of the profession, if people are not aligned with the organization they work for, the business is at risk. There needs to be a way for people to feel good about the organization and for the organization to achieve its goals,"

so an online program was the only way I could accomplish it," recalled Francis. "Thomas Edison State College gave me an opportunity to be successful and achieve a goal."

2013 Grande Ball

An Evening in Tuscany

Thomas Edison State College Foundation Honors Eileen and John Martinson, and Ernest Wooden Jr. '06, '07

More than 220 guests helped the Thomas Edison State College Foundation honor three outstanding individuals and raise money for Thomas Edison State College at its annual Grande Ball, which was held at The War Memorial in Trenton, N.J., on Nov. 2.

The black tie gala event raised more than \$135,000 for Thomas Edison State College – setting a record for the most money raised at the annual event. The Foundation honored three distinguished individuals for their accomplishments and support of the College. This year's honorees included:

> **Eileen Martinson**, chief executive officer of Sparta Systems, and her husband, **John Martinson**, general

partner and founder of the Edison Venture Fund, who each received the 2013 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award



> **Ernest Wooden Jr.** '06, '07, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, recipient of the 2013 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award

"We are honored to recognize such extraordinary individuals and good friends," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

"Eileen, John and Ernie

exemplify the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and spirit of excellence associated with Thomas Edison State College and our namesake."

Sponsors of the 2013 Grande Ball include:

Wells Fargo (Silver Sponsor); Mr. and Mrs. John and Eileen Martinson (Band Sponsor); NJM Insurance Group (Dessert Sponsor); PNC Bank (Wine Sponsor); Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board (Cocktail Reception Sponsor); Bunker Hill Consultation Centers (Silent Auction Sponsor); Capital Health (Décor Sponsor); Bank of America Merrill Lynch and St. Francis Medical Center (Souvenir Journal Sponsors); Investors Bank; Mercer County Community College; Sparta Systems; Stark and Stark; and UBS (Corporate Sponsors); Nexus Properties (Corporate Patrons); Burlington County College and NAI Fennelly (Valet Parking Sponsors); The Bank of Princeton and Children's Specialized Hospital (Raffle Sponsors); Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton (Photo Station Sponsor).



John Martinson and Eileen Martinson, who each received the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award; Dr. George A. Pruitt; and Lauren Wooden, who accepted the Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award on behalf of her father, Ernest Wooden Jr '06, '07.



Eileen Martinson

2013 Spirit of Edison Community Leader



Eileen Martinson is the chief executive officer of Sparta Systems, a leading provider of enterprise quality management software to the life sciences, consumer products and electronics sectors. She is responsible for setting the strategic direction of Sparta and oversees the global operations. The company's flagship product, TrackWise,

has more than 500,000 users with more than a 98 percent customer retention rate. Sparta was named the 2012 Software Company of the Year by the New Jersey Technology Council.

Prior to joining Sparta, Martinson was the chief operating officer of Allscripts, one of the foremost suppliers of clinical software, connectivity and information solutions that physicians and other healthcare stakeholders use to improve quality and reduce the cost of healthcare. She was responsible for more than 4,000 global associates, more than \$1 billion of annual revenue and the development of a 20-plus product portfolio. She also led Professional Services, Customer Support, Offshore Centers, Outsourcing and SAAS Operations. Allscripts completed a \$1.3 billion merger with Eclipsys Corporation, expanding Allscripts' role into the hospital market.

Before joining Allscripts, Martinson served as executive vice president of Global Sales and Services of Misys plc, where she played a key role in its turnaround and return to growth. Formerly, she was senior vice president of Oracle Consulting in North America as well as senior vice president of Global Services at Siebel. Martinson has also held positions of senior vice president - Research at Gartner, an Accenture Partner, and executive vice president of Global Product Solutions and Delivery at Ariba. As the executive vice president of SAP America, Martinson helped grow SAP America revenues to more than \$1 billion in the mid-90s.

Martinson's philanthropic activities include the Martinson Family Foundation that funds and guides more than 25 dedicated programs at major universities to advance K-12 instruction in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). She also supports USO Wounded Warriors, which provides nonmedical care and family assistance to severely injured service members, and serves as a director of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board to further her support of STEM, veterans and online learning. Martinson graduated *summa cum laude* from



Eileen Martinson
2013 Spirit of Edison Community Leader (continued)

Philadelphia University, where she is chair of the Board of Trustees and a 2012 Innovation Medal recipient. She created and funded a Philadelphia University Annuity Trust to help support Capstone Projects in which cross-discipline teams of engineers, designers and business majors come together to solve business cases.

Martinson also serves on the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton Board of Directors and was named a 2013 NJ Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year and one of the 2013 Best 50 Women in Business by *NJBIZ*.

She resides in Newtown, Pa., with her husband, John. They have six adult children and a grandson.

John Martinson
2013 Spirit of Edison Community Leader



John Martinson has been a venture capitalist and software industry leader for 36 years. In 1986, Martinson founded the Edison Venture Fund and currently serves as general partner. He is also an active individual investor and philanthropist.

Edison Ventures invested more than \$1 billion in 195 East Coast companies.

Martinson participated in 160 equity financings and is currently a director of five private companies where Edison is the sole or lead investor. He specializes in software/services for life science and education. Previously, Martinson served on boards of 53 companies and was a director of five trade associations and eight nonprofit organizations. In addition, Martinson has been a primary individual investor in 15 early stage companies. Previously, he invested in 35 private companies and 20 private equity partnerships and has made initial commitments for five first-time venture funds.

Martinson is past chairman of National Venture Capital Association and served as chairman of PACT, a leading venture and technology trade group in the Philadelphia area. He co-founded the New Jersey Technology Council and served as its chairman. In addition, Martinson headed the Mid-Atlantic Venture Fair and co-founded the New Jersey Venture Fair.

Martinson earned a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy. During his service career, he flew more than 500 combat missions and was awarded Distinguished Flying Cross. He was selected as

Martinson Family Donates Edison Collection to College

John and Eileen Martinson have donated their personal collection of Thomas Alva Edison artifacts and memorabilia to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, one of the largest private collections of Edison memorabilia in the country.

The collection contains more than 1,500 pieces and includes framed advertisements and promotional materials, signage, patents, artwork and several products invented by Edison, including phonographs, mimeographs, an Ediphone, light bulbs, fans and several appliances.

The collection will be publically displayed in the school's buildings in Trenton, N.J. More information on the collection will be featured in a future issue of *Invention*.

the 18th Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and serves on the academy's endowment board. Martinson received a Master of Science in Astronautics from Purdue University and a Master of Business Administration (Beta Gamma Sigma) from Southern Illinois University and was elected to the Southern Illinois University Hall of Fame. He has received honorary doctorates from Rider University and Rowan University.

The Martinson Family Foundation makes grants to educational and charitable programs. Currently, the foundation funds and advises innovative dedicated projects at 15 colleges to improve K-12 instruction in mathematics, science, technology and engineering. These grants encompass curriculum development, new teaching methods and continuing education for classroom teachers. He has served on the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors and as a trustee for six universities.

Martinson was inducted into *NJBIZ* Hall of Fame and received the NVCA Service Award for contributions to the venture capital industry on a national level. The Greater Philadelphia Venture Group presented him with the Blair Thompson Award to recognize his lifetime venture capital achievements. The New Jersey Institute of Technology honored Martinson with its first entrepreneur award. He has served as trustee of the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame. The New Jersey Technology Council named its annual Entrepreneur Supporter Award after Martinson. He was also honored by Ernst & Young for earning the New Jersey Entrepreneur of the Year Lifetime Achievement.

Martinson resides in Newtown, Pa., with his wife, Eileen. They have six adult children and a grandson. Martinson's hobbies include golf and collecting Thomas Edison memorabilia.

Ernest Wooden Jr. '06, '07
2013 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus

A veteran hospitality industry executive, Ernest Wooden Jr. took the helm of the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board in January 2013 to oversee the global brand marketing and meetings and convention sales strategy for one of the most visited and most famous destinations in the world – Los Angeles.



Wooden has spent his entire career in the hospitality industry, including more than a decade in senior leadership positions in both global brand management and operations with Hilton Hotels Corporation. As executive vice president of Global Brands for Hilton, based in Beverly Hills, Calif., he led all worldwide branding initiatives for the well-known hotel corporation, working with 3,000 properties in 80

countries. His operations role at Hilton as senior vice president - West included overseeing Hilton's full-service hotels, which included territories in Mexico, the Caribbean and across the western United States. In addition, Wooden has also worked with such top hospitality brands as Sheraton Hotels and Resorts, Omni Hotels & Resorts, Doubletree by Hilton and Promus Hotel Corporation. He has also been involved internationally with hotel valuation, brand selection and investment analysis both as the executive vice president and senior managing director at Alagem Capital Group, a privately owned, diversified investment group that owns the world-famous Beverly Hilton Hotel and other high-profile properties, and as chief executive officer of Creative Consulting, a company he founded in 2010.

Wooden plays a significant role in industry affairs as a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Travel Association (USTA). He is also dedicated to civic and community affairs, sitting on the boards of the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; Hotel Association of Los Angeles; Executive Committee of the Central City Association; Board of Advisors of The Collins College of Hospitality Management at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; The Los Angeles Coalition; and the Thomas Edison State College MBA Advisory Board. With a passion for global business management and understanding diverse cultures, Wooden is currently pursuing a doctorate (DBA) from the International School of Management, Paris, France.

At Thomas Edison State College, Wooden earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in 2006 and his Master of Science in Management degree in 2007. He has studied international business on three continents with immersion experiences in Paris, France, and Shanghai, China.



Top of the Mind

Degree completion was never far from Dorothy Moreno's thoughts.

"I cannot recall a time when I was not thinking about going back to college to complete my degree," noted Moreno, RN, BSN, a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer and a licensed medical electrologist who manages her own practice in Morristown, N.J.

Moreno said that she found the customary barriers to degree completion were removed once she discovered the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program.

"As a busy registered nurse returning for a degree, I would not have had the time or inclination to take courses all over again – which is what many schools I had considered were proposing," said Moreno, who often works 50 to 60 hours a week. "The College validated every credit I had already accumulated, which was very encouraging."

Moreno, who completed her BSN in 2013, said her course work and discussion board assignments provided valuable theoretical exposure to community diversity issues. The exposure, in turn, has mapped to her real-world experience with a common public health dilemma: treatment centers and emergency shelters are not automatic meccas for those affected by a health emergency.

"In the wake of a natural or man-made disaster, experience has taught me that you cannot count on everyone in the affected area to willingly show up at a clinic or temporary treatment center," she said. "There are various levels of acceptance of medical treatment, and these levels often depend on the affected population's conditions and cultural mores."

In order to successfully reach victims of a disaster or a potential pandemic, Moreno said that she puts herself in the place of the individuals affected.

"As MRC volunteers, we have to understand how individuals in the impacted community are viewing what we do," she said. "We found, for instance, that by visiting neighborhood churches to disseminate information and interact with those living nearby, we were more successful at connecting people to prevention or treatment."

In her professional life, Moreno earned her diploma in nursing years earlier, but as time went on, she said that she felt the avenues for her return to higher education closing.

"Traditional classroom-based programs were definitely out. Thomas Edison State College's nursing program was not only addressing who I am and my

"The work in my courses augmented my professional life and I feel like I'm firing on all cylinders."

background, but my goals and professional objectives," she said.

For Moreno, those objectives include one day teaching in the allied health field.

"Much of the substance of my courses was timely and on target, and helped me in planning for a future as a nurse educator," she said.

Moreno admits that the thought of online learning terrified her at first but it forced her to become much more computer literate as well as enhance her time management and retention skills.

"The work in my courses augmented my professional life and I feel like I'm firing on all cylinders," remarked Moreno. "I never thought that I would be able to function in an online program or that it would ever be fulfilling. I was wrong. It has opened up my eyes to limitless opportunities. Fellow online students, who are like-minded, spurred me on. The BSN program prepared me for the next stage – graduate-level nursing."

Dorothy Moreno, RN, BSN '13

Arthur J. Billiu Sr. BSBA '89

Arthur J. Billiu Sr., following nearly 22 years of military service, went on to achieve the Tulane University 1990 Dean's List honor and one year of study for an MBA at Loyola University before ill health halted his studies. Billiu had a minor stroke when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and was evacuated to Mississippi. He returned to work for the Louisiana Office of Public Health as an administrator, building upon previous employment with the City of New Orleans Employees' Retirement System and the DA's office, before leaving due to a heart attack in 2012. Since graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Billiu has written a numerous short stories under the Choctaw pen name, Whimpering Possum, including *North St. Peter Street*, *Lost Keys*, *Horrors of Rue Bourbon* and *Waiting for Katie*.

Dr. Kimberlee Bethany Bonura BA '98

Dr. Kimberlee Bethany Bonura is a registered yoga teacher who traces the start of her career to her mother's poor health. In the late 1980s, Bonura's mother was a U.S. Army major who had chronic pain following surgery and physical training accidents. Advised by an Army physician to try yoga for stress and pain relief, she could find only one book on the subject at the post bookstore; she shared it with her then 12-year-old daughter and they started doing yoga together. By age 19, Bonura was teaching yoga in community centers and gyms and, by her mid-20s, she had completed multiple yoga teacher and fitness instructor training courses and was teaching 20 to 30 yoga classes a week. Bonura went on to earn a master's degree and a PhD in educational psychology, with a research emphasis in sport and exercise psychology, from Florida State University. Her doctoral dissertation, "The Impact of Yoga on Psychological Health in Older Adults," won national awards from the American Psychological Association (Division 47) and the Association for Applied Sport Psychology. Bonura is the author of and featured lecturer in "How to Stay Fit as You Age," a new lecture series from The Great Courses (www.thegreatcourses.com). She is an active researcher, publishing in peer-reviewed journals and presenting at academic conferences. Bonura also serves as a peer reviewer for journals including the *Journal of Aging and Physical Activity*, *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* and the *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*. She currently serves on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Yoga Therapy*. For more information about Bonura, visit www.drkimberleebonura.com.

Manny Buendia AA '82, BA '87

Manny Buendia recently published his first novel, *A Long Way From Havana*, a story of a well-to-do Cuban family forced into exile by Castro's revolution. The family struggles with the sudden change in financial and social status while adapting to the strange environment that awaits them in New York City's Spanish Harlem. It is a tale of obsession, despair and ultimate triumph at a very high moral cost. The storyline encompasses the early 1960s through the present. It will be available in early 2014 from *Amazon.com* or directly from the publisher, Outskirts Press.



Alex Cooper AAS '12, BA '12

Alex Cooper was awarded two 2013 Upper Midwest Emmy® Nominations in August and received credit during the Regional Emmy Gala on Sept. 28, 2013. Nominations included director of "Fox 9 Morning News at 8AM" (Director - Newscast Nominee), and another for a different newscast of "Fox 9 Morning News at 8AM" (Director - APC Operator). This brings his total to four nominations and one win. Cooper works at FOX 9 KMSP-TV in Eden Prairie, Minn., where he also lives. Following the completion of the AAS and BA degrees at Thomas Edison State College, he is now midway through an MA in strategic communication management at Concordia University in Saint Paul, Minn. Thomas Edison State College alumni are welcome to connect with him on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/in/alexcooper.



Nancy Dick BA '05

Nancy Dick recently had her children's book *Santa Claus Clause: The Christmas Story* published through Xlibris Corporation. The book, which is illustrated by Dick, is also available on *Amazon.com* and *barnesandnoble.com*. To learn more about the author and see other books, visit nancydick.com.



Gene J. DiFilippo BA '12

Gene J. DiFilippo was sworn in as chief of police of the Edgewater Park Township Police Department on Jan. 4, 2014. DiFilippo, who has been a police officer for 20 years, noted, "The classes taken during my studies [at the College] provided interesting and useful information in my job as a police officer and supervisor. Having my degree also aided in my promotion. Thank you Thomas Edison State College! (DiFilippo, left, Lt. Brett V. Evans, right)



Michael Dunlea BA '03

Michael Dunlea, a second grade teacher at Ocean Acres Elementary School in Stafford Township, N.J., has been selected as a Hope Street Group 2014 National Teacher Fellow. He is one of only 13 educators nationwide to be invited to participate in this fellowship program and is this year's representative from New Jersey. The National Teacher Fellowship program provides fellows, who are either classroom teachers or instructional coaches, with rigorous training and the opportunity to network with teachers across the country and to participate in national conversations. In addition to his work at Ocean Acres Elementary School, Dunlea is the founder of Stafford Teachers and Residents Together START for Hurricane Cleanup, for which he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation. He was also selected as the Ocean County Teacher of the Year in 2011.

Kathleen A. Gluck BSN '06

Kathleen A. Gluck and her husband, Jeffrey, were recently promoted in rank to Lady Grand Officer and Knight Grand Officer, respectively, of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, an ancient papal nobiliary order of knighthood established during the First Crusade in 1099, into which they were initially invested in 2006. The ceremony took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, on Nov. 23, presided over by His Eminence Timothy Michael Dolan, Cardinal Archbishop of New York and Grand Prior of the Eastern Lieutenancy of the Order. On Oct. 19, the couple



celebrated the 7th birthday of their daughter, Francesca Kathryn Mary Elizabeth, whom they had adopted from Guatemala in June 2007. Gluck is a nursing administrative coordinator at CarePoint Health-Hoboken University Medical Center, Hoboken, N.J., and her husband is an attorney in private practice in North Bergen, N.J.

Amanda Lance BA '11, MALS '12

Amanda Lance has completed her fourth commercial novel, *Endangered Hearts*, which will be published early 2014 and is the first in a series. Lance writes young adult and new adult romances.

David Molaris BA '91

David Molaris, who translated the New Testament into English from The Greek New Testament, noted, "Needing to be in the ministry, I anticipate starting a seminary degree curriculum with Global University in 2014."

Allan E. Smith BSBA '79

Allan E. Smith noted that he received recognition and numerous awards at former employers Campbell Soup Company and ITT before becoming president of his own company, which he eventually sold.

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, NJ 08608-1176; Fax: (609) 777-1894.**



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