

FALL 2012

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

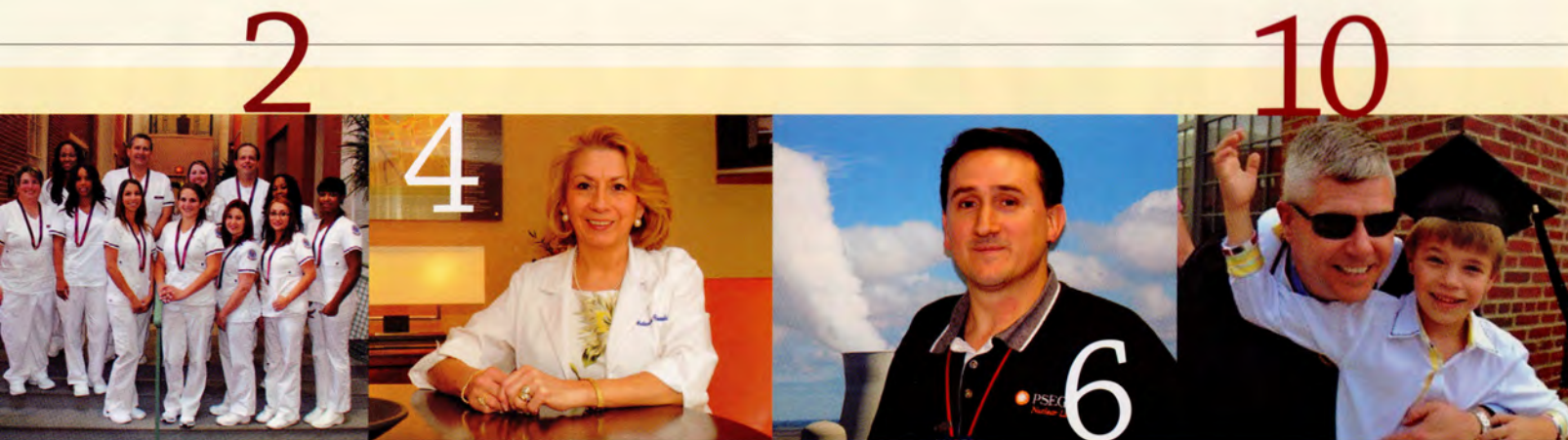
ENERGIZED TO THE CORE

Matthew Hayes '10

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Cover Story: **6**
Energized to the Core

**THOMAS EDISON
STATE COLLEGE**
Higher Education. For Adults with Higher Expectations.
40th ANNIVERSARY



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

In this issue of *Invention*, we meet three graduates who illustrate what Franklin is talking about and demonstrate how Thomas Edison State College has helped them advance in their professions and achieve their personal goals.

In our cover story, we meet Matthew Hayes '10 and Paul Breidenbach '02, who earned their Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degrees in Nuclear Engineering Technology and who today help bring power to millions of people. The story also focuses on the important role the College plays supplying the nuclear industry with highly trained workers needed at power plants throughout the country.

Also in this issue, we hear the incredible story of Yolanda Golebiowski '90, who helped raise her six younger siblings as a teenager in Ecuador after the tragic loss of her parents and eventually brought her family to the United States. She discusses how the College gave her the foundation to strengthen her nursing career while juggling her family responsibilities and her job.

Lastly, we are excited to share images and stories from our 40th Commencement. This year, we moved the event to the Sun National Bank Center to accommodate the largest graduating class in the history of our institution. It was a spectacular ceremony.

We are honored to serve self-directed adults with high-quality, flexible collegiate learning opportunities wherever they live or work.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

College Launches Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Online Learning

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences recently launched a Master of Arts in Educational Technology and Online Learning, which will prepare graduates to become leaders and practitioners in educational technology and to develop and administer online programs for all learners, from preschool to higher education, including adult learners.

The 36-credit program is offered completely online and infuses a well-grounded series of applied professional studies in educational technology,

online learning, educational leadership and curriculum development.

"The curriculum provides a solid grounding in both relevant academic theory and applied practice," said Dr. Adrian Zappala, assistant dean for Educational Leadership. "As part of their course work, students complete a research-based capstone project and applied practicum experience in the field."

The program also provides ample opportunities for the personalization of curriculum sequence to meet individual

needs with regard to career goals.

"Graduates will be prepared as educational technology leaders who are able to articulate and apply best practices in the creation and delivery of online courses for a variety of students, from pre-K and college through corporate training and continuing education," said Zappala.

The first class for the new program is scheduled to begin in the January 2013 term. For more information, contact the College at gradstudies@tesc.edu or visit www.tesc.edu/heavin.

First Graduates of Accelerated BSN Program Attend Inaugural Pinning Ceremony

THEY CAME FROM MANY WALKS OF LIFE AND ACADEMIC PATHS TO FULFILL A COMMON GOAL – TO BECOME A REGISTERED NURSE.

On Sept. 21, the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College held a pinning ceremony for the graduates of its inaugural Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program to celebrate their success.

The program is a demanding, one-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program designed for adult learners who already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree and who are interested in becoming registered nurses.

"For me, the patient interaction and promotion of family healthcare in an urban setting would be the most rewarding," said graduate Sarah Rose, who relocated from Maryland to enroll in the program.

The intense, one-year program is designed for people who are serious about becoming a BSN-prepared registered nurse.

"The students put forth

an extraordinary effort and had to be fully committed to putting their lives on hold for the program," said Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "The program's pace and rigorously demanded that they exclude most other activities from their lives, including work, while they fulfilled their BSN course requirements."

The 16 graduates are now preparing to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) exams which are nationally-mandated for the licensing of registered nurses.

"Our first Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN class is a remarkable group," added Marshall. "They will bring a wealth of knowledge, compassion, adaptability and professionalism to the field of nursing."

To find out more about the program, visit www.tesc.edu/nursing.



The first graduates of the College's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program attend Inaugural Pinning Ceremony (first row, left to right): Janel Mest, Sarah Rose, Amanda Pinnelli, Rachel Boka, Lisa Dellon, Carla Guijarro, and Khadija Jean-Mary; (second row, left to right): Brittany Arrington, Gerald Bertekap, Elizabeth Hart, Carl Coleman and Sandra Desinor.

Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology Program Earns ABET Accreditation



The Thomas Edison State College bachelor's degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology was recently awarded initial accreditation by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET.

This accreditation status is retroactive to October 2010.

"We are extremely pleased that our Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology program has earned this distinction," said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost of Thomas Edison State College. "This international accreditation confirms that our program meets the rigorous benchmarks set forth by the Engineering

Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET and will benefit adult learners who are interested in advancing in the nuclear energy engineering field."

The bachelor's degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology emphasizes the practical application of engineering principles as they relate to nuclear power generation. The program is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to perform in nuclear reactor operations, quality assurance, instrumentation and control technology and related areas.

"The degree program has been popular for more than two decades with the College's U.S. Navy student population

transitioning to civilian positions and adult learners already employed in the field by giving them access to increasing levels of leadership in the nuclear power industry," said Seaton.

The College recently launched a Second Degree Program in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology that enables graduates of the Nuclear Engineering Technology program to earn a second degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology. Visit www.tesc.edu/bsast2 for more information on the program.

Watson Institute Hosts Sixth N.J. Cultural Competency Institute Ceremony

The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College hosted the sixth annual New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute, bringing nearly 30 early childhood educators back to school to increase their cultural and linguistic awareness.

"Experts have found that children who perceive their learning environment as supporting their cultural identities are much more engaged learners," said Ana I. Berdecia, senior fellow and director of the institute's Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children.

Since it began in 2007, the program has trained and mentored 100 early childhood educators working in 45 classrooms throughout New Jersey, better enabling them to create environments that affirm and celebrate the cultural heritage of their students.

The workshops incorporate content, theory, practice and simulations coupled with intensive training by experts in second language acquisition and cultural competency. Ongoing training includes additional teacher mentoring, quarterly teleconferences and peer interaction.

This year's event took place Aug. 15 – 17 and included 28 early childhood educators representing nine centers from Bloomfield, East Windsor, Elizabeth, Irvington, Jersey City, Montclair, Perth Amboy and Trenton, N.J., who participated in the three-day workshop.

Funding for the program is provided by Family Strength Associates, Inc., the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Family Develop-

ment, TD Bank Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey and The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College.



Participants of the sixth annual New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute returned to Thomas Edison State College for the 2012 event. Since 2007, 100 early childhood educators have completed the program.

Quality of Life



Yolanda Golebiowski, RN, BSN '90, wants to change the perception of aging

Like the best nurse managers, Yolanda Golebiowski is a change agent.

During her incredible life, she has seen a lot of changes. As a teen, Golebiowski overcame the premature loss of her parents and raised her six younger siblings.

Later, she worked to bring them to the United States from Ecuador. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree working as a nurse and caring for two children and her husband. As a nurse, she has achieved statewide recognition for excellence in patient care.

Being selected as the 2012 Assistant Director of Nursing of the Year by the New Jersey Association Directors of Nursing Administration underscored Golebiowski's dedication to her patients, her contribution to the field and her skill as a nurse leader.

Alumni Profile

The honor also recognized her innovative approach to the field of continuing care.

"We are pioneers for the 'I' care plan," said Golebiowski, who serves as the assistant director of nursing at The Atrium at Navesink Harbor, a full-service retirement community located in Red Bank, N.J. "With our guidance, Atrium's residents formulate their own care plans and identify personal care goals and interventions to support their plans. This level of patient involvement and customized focus has created a shift in the culture of geriatric healthcare and is at the heart of what we do."

This divergence from traditional care models unlocks a powerful human potential Golebiowski knows well – self-directedness.

Thomas Edison State College's W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing gave me the foundation to bolster my nursing career," noted Golebiowski, a 1990 graduate and board certified gerontological nurse. "In earning my BSN degree in a self-paced fashion, I learned to be disciplined and committed. In my career, I chose my area of specialty because the demand for geriatric nurses is greater than ever."

Of the institutions she considered in her return to college, Golebiowski said Thomas Edison State College accepted the most credits from the community college she attended.

"The flexibility of the program was important to me," she noted. "Studying at home was the best solution for me as I was raising

small children at the time."

Golebiowski is considering returning to earn her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree because she wants to teach geriatric nursing and promote

grandparents that I missed the opportunity to grow old with. They have enriched our lives in so many ways that we have an obligation to empower them to live theirs to the fullest," she said.

“Thomas Edison State College’s School of Nursing gave me the foundation to bolster my nursing career,” noted Golebiowski, RN, BSN ’90 graduate and board certified gerontological nurse. “In earning my BSN degree in a self-paced fashion, I learned to be disciplined and committed.”

a positive perception of long term care.

The oldest of seven children, Golebiowski has always been accustomed to caring for others. As a 13-year-old growing up in Quito, Ecuador, she lost her father to a cerebral hemorrhage and her mother, a scant two years later, to ovarian cancer.

"My culture mandated that as the oldest female, I replace my mother as the maternal figure. The responsibility weighed heavily on me, but I am grateful for my extended family of aunts, uncles and grandparents that helped me through. I left Quito immediately after high school to come to the U.S. because I knew our futures were here. As soon as I was granted citizenship I began bringing my siblings over. My empathy for our elderly stems from my feeling that they are the parents, aunts, uncles and

Golebiowski met husband Jack, a Polish émigré, when both were taking an English class at Union County Community College in New Jersey. A chemist by profession, he works as a senior food technologist for Unilever USA. The couple lives in Middletown, N.J., and has been married for 34 years. They have two children: Melissa, 25, currently living in Soho, N.Y., a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and New York Film Academy; and, son Patrick, 19, a sophomore at DeSales University majoring in acting and directing.

When Golebiowski unwinds, it is on the dance floor.

"My outlet is ballroom dancing," she said. "I am one of the original board members of the USA Dance chapter of New Jersey. Among my favorites are the rumba, merengue, cha-cha, Argentine tango, Viennese waltz and pasodoble."

Yolanda Golebiowski



Matthew Hayes '10

ENERGIZED TO THE CORE

MATTHEW HAYES AND PAUL BREIDENBACH KNOW HOW TO LIGHT UP A ROOM.

*YOU WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS
FROM MEN WHO HELP TO SAFELY
GENERATE THOUSANDS OF MEGAWATTS
OF POWER EVERY DAY.*

Paul Breidenbach '02



Matthew Hayes is the maintenance and technical training manager at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station near San Clemente, Calif., where he is responsible for all engineering, radiation health physics, chemistry and maintenance training programs. Paul Breidenbach is an instructor at Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) Nuclear in Lower Alloways Creek, N.J., where he trains reactor operators.

"It is a technically challenging industry, but it is also incredibly rewarding," said Hayes. "I like working in the nuclear industry because of the people. The nuclear industry has some of the brightest people in the world."

Paul Breidenbach also lauded the talented people he works with who help keep the lights on.

"The industry prides itself on professionalism and integrity," he said. "You really have to be both technically and mentally sharp. The best part of the nuclear industry is the people that I work with."

Dr. Thomas Devine, associate dean of the School of Business and Technology, said Hayes and Breidenbach are part of a unique group of Thomas Edison State College graduates who play a critical role bringing nuclear power plants to life throughout the United States.

"The College is one of the largest degree providers for nuclear professionals working in America today," said Devine. "Our program serves the needs of professionals in the nuclear industry like no other program in the world."

In addition to the Navy's Nuclear Power Program, the College has completed a specialized assessment of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), which enables students to earn credit for nuclear utility training that has been accredited by INPO for several nuclear utility occupational tracks.

"Our specialized assessments enable students to earn credit for their nuclear training that can be applied to general education and area of study requirements in our nuclear programs," said Devine. "This makes Thomas Edison State College a great fit for nuclear professionals interested in advancing their education."

What also attracts nuclear professionals interested in earning a degree to Thomas Edison State College is accreditation. The College's bachelor's degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology was recently awarded initial accreditation by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET.

Education is critical to the industry.

Both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the American National Standards Institute have established education requirements for several occupations in the nuclear power field. Some, including reactor operator and senior reactor operator, now require a bachelor's degree to sit for the exam to earn licensures needed for those occupations.

"Thomas Edison State College recognizes the importance of expertise developed in the field and the challenges adults face pursuing their education with family and work responsibilities," said Breidenbach. "Earning my bachelor's degree was a personal goal that has opened many other opportunities for me here at PSEG Nuclear."

The College is also partnering with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to create degree templates that are aligned with the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program, an industry-led partnership involving community colleges designed to prepare students to enter the nuclear workforce.

The Nuclear Energy Institute estimates that nearly 38 percent of the nuclear industry workforce will be eligible



Thomas Edison provides the type of student that employers are looking for. Graduates have work experience in the nuclear field and they have demonstrated the ability to go back and finish a college degree while working full time. This separates the kids from the adults.

Matthew Hayes '10

to retire within the next five years, and to maintain the current workforce the industry will need to hire approximately 25,000 highly trained workers by 2015.

In addition, approximately 19 new nuclear plants are planned to be built in the next several years, including some that are already under construction.

The College has developed articulation agreements for 35 community colleges throughout the country that are participating in the effort. The College finalized its first partnership with Salem Community College in New Jersey. It currently has several other agreements in place with other two-year institutions and hopes to finalize agreements with all community colleges currently in the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program.

"It's an exciting time in the nuclear field and Thomas Edison State College is playing an important role helping the industry meet labor challenges," said Dr. Richard Coe, assistant dean of the School of Business

and Technology, who oversees nuclear programs at Thomas Edison State College. "The industry has a need to develop workers today for our existing plants and new workers for the new facilities that are being developed."

One of the key differences about today's landscape is the requirements for bachelor's degrees in technical fields for several occupations, which were not in place during the nuclear industry's initial boom years of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

"Thomas Edison State College provides the type of student that employers are looking for," said Hayes. "Graduates have work experience in the nuclear field and they have demonstrated the ability to go back and finish a college degree while working full time. This separates the kids from the adults."

The College is one of the largest degree providers for nuclear professionals working in America today. Our program serves the needs of professionals in the nuclear industry like no other program in the world.

Dr. Thomas Devine, associate dean of the School of Business and Technology

Hayes grew up in Adrian, Mich. After high school, Hayes enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he was accepted into the prestigious Nuclear Power Program. He served six years as a Navy nuclear engineer and earned his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in Nuclear Engineering Technology in 2010.

"Thomas Edison State College works because it has evaluated the Navy's power program and accepts this comprehensive training as credit toward the degree," said Hayes. "This is critical, because working adults who have completed this specialized training do not have to start at a freshmen level."

Breidenbach grew up in Tiffin, Ohio. After high school, he was awarded a scholarship to Terra Community College in Fremont, Ohio, and earned an associate degree in nuclear technology before joining the Navy. Breidenbach also graduated from the Nuclear Power Program. He joined PSEG Nuclear after six years of service and completed his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in Nuclear Engineering Technology in 2002.

Earning my bachelor's degree was a personal goal that has opened many other opportunities for me here at PSEG Nuclear.

Paul Breidenbach '02

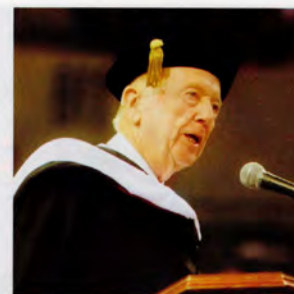




COLLEGE CELEBRATES 40th COMMENCEMENT

In 1973, Thomas Edison State College held its first Commencement at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium in Trenton, N.J.

There was no choir to sing the alma mater and graduates did not wear gowns or mortar boards, but the historic event marked the first celebration of the first graduates of the nation's first state college designed to award degrees based entirely on knowledge acquired outside the classroom.



Robert E. Campbell

On Sept. 22, 2012, the College celebrated its 40th Commencement and moved the event from the War Memorial to the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton to accommodate the largest graduating class in the school's history.

While there are many differences between the events, what links the two historic ceremonies is the pride and emotion displayed by the graduates, their families and friends and College staff.

"Coming to Thomas Edison State College was the only way I could complete my degree," said John Kurzenberger, a UPS employee who traveled from Delaware to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree at Commencement. "For someone who works long hours or has commitments with family and community, I don't know how else a person could do it."



John Kurzenberger '12



Michele DeNoia '12

Approximately 500 graduates and 4,000 guests attended the 40th Commencement, including the first graduates of the College's public service areas of study offered under the Master of Science in Management.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Michele DeNoia, RN, assistant vice president of Operations at Southern

Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin, N.J. who earned a Master of Science in Management degree in Public Health/Public Policy. "The online program does give you some flexibility as I work full time as a hospital administrator and I'm also a single mom. It provided me with the flexibility to keep my full-time job and complete this in 17 months."

Cheryl Jefferson, director of Civil Rights, Partnerships, Freedom of Information Act and Youth Programs for the USDA Forest Service's Southern Research Station in Asheville, N.C., lauded the program's focus on developing leadership skills.



Cheryl Jefferson '12

"The experience developed my leadership skills much more than I already had," said Jefferson, who earned a Master of Science in Management degree in Environmental Policy/Environmental Justice. "You can always build on success and

“For someone who works long hours or has commitments with family and community, I don't know how else a person could do it.” — John Kurzenberger '12

skills that you have, and each class was like a stepping stone to build on the next one.”

John J. Peruggia, assistant chief and continuity program manager of the Fire Department of New York who earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services in 2008 and a Master of Science in Management in 2012, gave the response for graduates.

He challenged graduates to ask themselves how they can change the world.

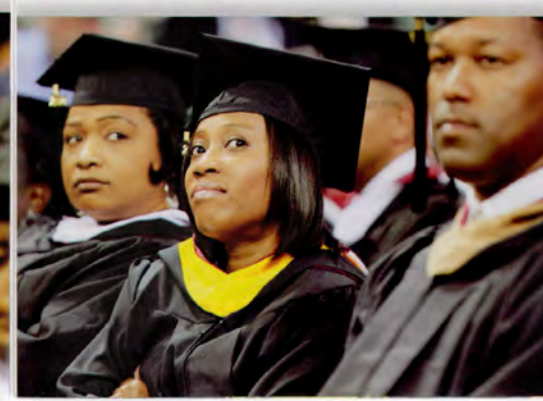
"All of our life lessons as well as those learned during our enrollment at Thomas Edison are important and must be remembered and used," said Peruggia, of Old Bridge, N.J. "It is those lessons that give us the power to make change."

Peruggia told his fellow graduates that dreams and goals are important to have but determination and discipline are necessary to achieve them.

"Set your expectations high, and your ethical and moral behavior higher. Do not be afraid of failure,"



John J. Peruggia '08, '12





Norma Blake

he said. "Only you have the power to accept personal change. However, we all have the power to change the world."

The College awarded an honorary degree to Robert E. Campbell, former vice chairman of Johnson & Johnson.

The College also presented distinguished service awards to former New Jersey State Librarian Norma Blake, who retired as New Jersey State Librarian in July; and Dr. Susan McMullen O'Brien, who retired as dean of the

66 *Set your expectations high, and your ethical and moral behavior higher. Do not be afraid of failure. Only you have the power to accept personal change. However, we all have the power to change the world.*

John J. Peruggia '08, '12, who gave the Response for Graduates



Dr. Susan McMullen O'Brien

College's W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing in July and now serves as associate provost of Special Projects.

The College has awarded more than 40,000 degrees since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults in 1972.

To view a video of the 2012 Commencement, visit www.tesc.edu/commencement.

Looking Back: 1973 The First Commencement

Thomas Edison State College's first Commencement took place on June 15, 1973, in the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium in Trenton, N.J.

The College's inaugural class included 70 graduates who earned Associate in Arts degrees and 21 of those graduates attended the first Commencement ceremony, which was led by Dr. James D. Brown, the College's first president.

"The most effective way of learning is not always in a traditional classroom. As much higher education goes on outside college as within," Brown told the first graduating class, according to a June 17, 1973, *Associated Press* story on the ceremony that appeared in newspapers across New Jersey.

The first Response for Graduates was given by Anna Marie Gentile, of Rumson, N.J., who told her fellow 1973 graduates that she had lost hope for earning credit for her past college work until she learned about Edison College.

"I don't think any of us thought 1973 was anything special at the time," recalled Paul Sniffen, who received his Associate in Arts at the first Commencement and later earned a bachelor's degree from the College in 1976. "My AA and BA from TAESC helped me for decades at AT&T and the U.S. Army."

The June 23, 1973 edition of the *Burlington County Times* described the scene following the ceremony:

"After the ceremonies, the graduates and their families and friends joined the college's staff and guests at a buffet in the lobby, and in the midst of all of the congratulations and best wishes among new-found friends and classmates, there was even talk of a class reunion."



Thomas Edison State College celebrated its 40th Commencement by moving the event to the Sun National Bank Center in Trenton, N.J. to accommodate the largest graduating class in the school's history.



APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Tamika Bowman-Williams

BA '04, MSHRM '07

Tamika Bowman-Williams has a new invention that may keep scores of motorists more organized. Her U.S. patent pending invention, Purse Baby, secures purses and medium-size articles via a mesh and strap apparatus that attaches to the passenger-side seat. To learn more, visit www.mypursebaby.com.

Huguette Castaneda AA '91, BA '92

Huguette Castaneda is a ceremonial master and universal minister. She recently published *Autumn Leaves Dancing in the Wind* and *Mariella's Gifts from the Sea*, which teaches young readers the importance of caring for the world around them and letting their imagination run free. She loves to honor the sea, sky, nature and the Earth. After raising her two sons in Princeton, N.J., Castaneda now lives in Naples, Fla.



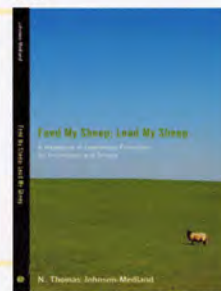
Barbara Dan BA '86

Barbara Dan, who earned her degree from the College in theatre arts in 1986, went on to earn an MA in humanities from California State University-Dominguez Hills in 1988. After working as an editor, book publisher and adjunct professor at George Fox University, Dan retired and focused on writing fiction. In 2011, six of her historical novels were released as e-books in 31 countries and this year three additional e-books were made available. Dan's three most recent novels are *Silent Angel*, a western romance; *The Outcast: The Long Road Back*, an early 20th century historical novel; and *Lady in Pink Tights*, a historical western comedy romance.



N. Tom Johnson-Medland BA '95

N. Tom Johnson-Medland has recently had his book, *Feed My Sheep; Lead My Sheep: A Handbook of Leadership Formation for Individuals and Groups*, published by Resource Publications.



James Monroe BA '04

James Monroe recently completed a Master of Science in Defense Analysis degree from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Karen S. Wiley BSBA '04

Karen S. Wiley earned a Master of Accounting and Finance Management (MAFM) degree from Keller Graduate School of Management in June 2012.

Robert Zielinski AA '81, BA '84

Robert Zielinski and his wife, Barbara, are executive directors of Marriage Management Consultants (MMC). MCC received the 2010 "Newman's Own" award at the Newman's Own Award Ceremony at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes on Sept. 1, 2010. The award was presented to MCC for its Military Marriage Enrichment programs, which strengthen military marriages and enable couples to better cope with the unique marital stresses caused by combat, wounds or multiple deployments.

