

# MESSAGE FROM THE



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# Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving."

This issue of Invention is dedicated to those who support Thomas Edison State College and continue to value our institution and our unique mission.

Never before has that support been more important as we continue our work to preserve the autonomy of the College. We are especially grateful to our supporters who have advocated on our behalf to state leaders regarding the proposed Rutgers merger. With your continued support, we are confident that we will be able to continue our work serving adult learners, increasing enrollment and expanding our programs.

The annual support we receive from individuals and businesses plays an integral role in helping us serve greater numbers of students and maintaining our commitment to academic excellence.

An example of that excellence is illustrated in our cover story, which profiles Tanvi Kothari, '06, a forensic scientist in the New Jersey State Police Forensic Science Laboratory. Tanvi describes how Thomas Edison State College enabled her to achieve her professional goals and advance her education at the graduate level.

Tanvi's story underscores the importance of Thomas Edison State College and the financial support we receive every year from our loyal donors, including the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

On behalf of the entire College family, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Foundation for its support of our institution and for its work on behalf of the Annual Fund, special events and other development initiatives.

The Foundation is at the heart of these efforts and we are grateful for its support, just as we are grateful for the generous gifts made by all of our donors.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt

President

# College Names New Vice President for Enrollment Management and Learner Services



Dr. Mary Ellen Caro

Dr. Mary Ellen Caro has recently been appointed as vice president for Enrollment Management and Learner Services at Thomas Edison State College and will oversee the newly established Division of Enrollment Management and Learner Services.

The division encompasses the offices of Learner Services, Military & Veteran Education and Strategic Partnerships as

well as the Center for Academic Program Reviews and the College's new recruitment and enrollment

management program.

Caro's appointment was announced on April 20, 2010.

"The creation of this new division will enable the College to better manage our continuing growth, strengthen our focus on expanding student services and academic offerings and better position the College for the successful implementation our new recruitment and enrollment management strategies," said Dr. George Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "We are excited about Mary Ellen's appointment and the leadership she brings to this new position."

Caro joined the College in 2004 after a successful career at AT&T. She served as the College's first dean of the School of Business and Management, where she played a key role in enhancing the

curriculum of the school's undergraduate and graduate programs, increasing enrollment and creating the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership degree program. In 2007, Caro was named executive vice provost responsible for strategic partnerships, corporatehigher education programs, military education, graduate studies and mentor support services. Caro chairs many committees critical to College operations, including the Middle States Self-Study, Web and Recruitment and Enrollment Management committees. Caro has earned a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Elizabeth, master's degrees from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and Stanford University, and a doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

# College Selected to Participate in Coast Guard College Partnership

Thomas Edison State College is one of only 10 institutions in the country selected to participate in a new

program of U.S. Coast Guard that enables

Coast Guard members to earn credit for their training and apply it toward a degree.

Thomas Edison State College is the only New Jersey school selected for the Coast Guard's Maritime

Law Enforcement College Partnership Program and has tailored its Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and Bachelor of Science degree in homeland security and emergency preparedness to maximize credit for Coast Guard training and Maritime

Law Enforcement Academy courses.

"We are honored to be selected for this new initiative and look forward to serving Coast Guard members with degree programs that are tailored to their unique needs," said Louis Martini, director of the College's Office of Military & Veteran Education. "Our programs can prepare Coast Guard members for professional growth within the Coast Guard or for a civilian career after active duty service."

The Coast Guard's Maritime Law Enforcement College Partnership Program is a program of the Coast Guard's Force Readiness Command, the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy and the Coast Guard Institute and is designed to assist Coast Guard law enforcement professionals in maximizing credit for their training.

The College has developed degree roadmaps that detail how specific training and courses transfer into the school's criminal justice and homeland security programs, which can be completed entirely online and work around the schedules of active duty

"Coast Guard members can transfer up to 39 credits for Coast Guard and Maritime Law Enforcement Academy training that can be applied directly to their Thomas Edison State College degree," said Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. "This includes 12 credits for general education requirements and 6 credits toward the area of study or major."

For more information on the program, visit www.tesc.edu/coastguard.

# **Nursing Diversity Program Celebrates** Fifth Year

The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College recently sponsored its fifth annual Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing, which focused on the changing role of nurse educators as mentors who reconcile traditional nursing education with the needs of a new and eclectic generation of students.

The 2010 event attracted more than 40 nurse educators from across the country to the New Jersey Hospital Association's Conference Center in Princeton, N.J. on March 26. The event included a

progress report of the College's Minority Nurse Educator program that was established in 2005 with funding from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

"Our Minority Nurse Educator Program has been thriving since its inception five years ago. The program has educated many highly talented minority nursing educators from a variety of ethnic

backgrounds and geographical locations," said Lisa Whitfield-Harris, MSN, MBA, RN, diversity coordinator for the School of Nursing. "Many of our grant participants have already applied what they have learned in their own institutions and are active participants in the diversity committees at their home institutions."



School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College

Since 2005, the school has provided online pedagogical skill-building to more than 60 minority nurse educators, the majority of whom have introduced and expanded online education programs at their local institutions. In January 2010, the School launched an online database to be utilized by deans and administrators across the U.S. which serves as a pipeline to new, minority faculty.

# COLLEGE **RECOGNIZED** FOR BEING AN **INNOVATOR**

NJBIZ, the statewide weekly business newspaper, named Thomas Edison State College as a finalist in its 2010 Nonprofit Innovations Awards Program.

The program was created to honor New Jersey organizations, executives and volunteers that demonstrate innovations in their daily operations.

The College's Mobile Learning Initiative was recognized by NJBIZ as a finalist in the medium-large organization category. The Mobile Learning Initiative is creating new course formats that give students more flexibility, regardless of Internet connectivity.

# **Educational Leadership Program Earns TEAC Accreditation**

Thomas Edison State College's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program, which is designed to prepare teachers and other professionals in education to become educational leaders, was granted initial accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) for a period of five years, from Dec. 11, 2009, to Dec. 11,

This accreditation certifies that the College's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program has provided evidence that the program adheres to TEAC's quality principles.

"We are extremely proud and excited about our Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program earning TEAC accreditation," said Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. "This important distinction validates the quality and integrity of our educational leadership program and our high standards for academic excellence."

Founded in 1997, TEAC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving academic degree programs for professional educators, those who will teach and lead in schools, pre-K through grade 12.

The College's Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program is offered completely online and is built around the unique needs of working adults. The program is approved by the New Jersey Department of Education as having met the academic requirements for the principal's and supervisor's endorsements. Learn more at www.tesc.edu/edleadership.

# EVERY ARTIST SEEKS INSPIRATION. FOR TODD DONEY, HIGHER EDUCATION WAS A DIFFERENT TYPE OF MUSE. INVENTION | SPRING 2010

# Alumni Profile

native of Chicago, Todd Doney enrolled at the American Academy of Art in Chicago right after he finished high school. He was awarded the academy's Union League Scholarship Award and earned his first commission just after graduating from the academy in 1982. That commission, a football illustration for *Playboy* magazine, would be the first of many posters, advertisements, book covers, CD covers and other artwork Doney would create for international companies, publishers and sporting events.

ATTENDING THOMAS EDISON STATE
COLLEGE WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY SECOND
CAREER. MY ENROLLMENT WAS A COMMITMENT
TO A NEW PATH AND IT SPARKED A NEW
DIRECTION IN MY CREATIVITY.

In addition to creating art, Doney realized he enjoyed teaching art. Several years into his career, he began to think about starting a second career as an art educator, which would require him to complete his bachelor's degree. Doney had already earned associate degrees from William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, III., and the American Academy of Art in Chicago. Initially, he said the prospect of degree completion was overwhelming.

"I enrolled at Kean College and just as I was driving away from the campus, I turned around and got my money back," recalled Doney. "I was working and had two small children and just could not spend the time attending classes. I later heard about Thomas Edison State College from a friend and found it to be a successful alternative."

Topping the list of advantages for Doney was the freedom from a formal class schedule and the need to commute to and from campus.

"Attending Thomas Edison State College was the beginning of my second career," said Doney, who graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art. "My enrollment was a commitment to a new path and it sparked a new direction in my creativity."

Doney said he fulfilled most of his art requirements at previous institutions and took advantage of the College's Prior Learning Assessment program, where he was able to demonstrate college-level knowledge acquired in his 25-year career that features clients such as AT&T, Budweiser, the



Trees, Jan. 14, 7:38 AM

Chicago Bears, the U.S. Open, numerous covers for books and illustrations for national magazines, including *Field & Stream*, *Golf Magazine* and *Reader's Digest*.

Since earning his bachelor's degree from Thomas Edison State College, Doney continued his studies at the graduate level and earned a Master of Fine Arts from New Jersey City University in Jersey City. Today, he maintains a busy schedule as both an artist and an educator.

Since 2006, Doney has participated in 30 personal and group gallery exhibits while maintaining a busy career as a freelance illustrator. Doney's most recent output includes CD covers for Bohemian Productions and collaborating with famed Marvel artist Adam Kubert on a Wolverine comic book cover. Through the summer of 2010, Doney will exhibit his work at Broadfoot & Broadfoot galleries in New York and Boonton, N.J.

In addition, he currently serves as an adjunct professor for New Jersey City University, where he teaches illustration; The College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, N.J., where he teaches color theory; the County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J., where he teaches watercolor; Warren County Community College in Washington, N.J., where he teaches color theory; and the Joe Kubert School in Dover, N.J., where he teaches sketching, layout and illustration.

Doney lives in Gillette, N.J., with his wife, Carol, who is also a visual artist. They have three sons, Jon, Reid and Jesse.

For information on Doney's exhibits this summer at Broadfoot & Broadfoot and to view more of his work, visit: www.todddoney.com.

Todd Doney, or



hen she was growing up in India, Tanvi Kothari loved to sketch portraits, which required a keen eye and attention to the smallest details.

As she got older and started to win sketching competitions, Kothari never imagined using that attention to detail to help solve violent crimes. Today, as a forensic scientist in the New Jersey State Police Forensic Science Laboratory, Kothari does just that.

It is a long way from Indore, the largest city in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, where Kothari grew up. Indore is located in central India, approximately 320 miles north of Mumbai, India's largest city.

"I was always one of those students who would draw doodles in the back of the notebook," recalled Kothari. "I used to sketch portraits and was interested in getting a degree in the field although I am glad my parents talked me out of it and suggested I focus on science."

In 1992, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology from Indore University. In 1994, Kothari got married and moved to the United States a year later, settling in southern New Jersey. In 1996, her son, Om, was born.

"Life in a different country was challenging in the beginning," she said. "I had to adapt to the customs and lifestyle of a very different country than the one I grew up in."

To help make the transition, Kothari volunteered at Virtua Hospital in Marlton, N.J., and worked as a medical technician at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, N.J.

She found her true calling in 2002, after joining the New Jersey State Police Forensic Science Laboratory.

"I've always enjoyed hands-on science, especially lab work," said Kothari. "Forensic science allows me to use science inside the lab as a tool to aid in providing justice to victims, which is something I have become incredibly passionate about."

Kothari realized that to take advantage of potential opportunities for advancement in forensic science, she needed a degree from an accredited U.S. institution. She started to contact colleges and universities, but was surprised and disheartened to learn that they would only accept half of the credits she earned at Indore University.

Then, one of her colleagues suggested she contact Thomas Edison State College.

"I did not believe it when they told me they could accept 87

credits and apply them to a Bachelor of Arts degree," she said. "I was ecstatic! I actually called them twice to make sure I got the information right."



Kothari enrolled and said she was impressed with how knowledgeable her academic advisors were in guiding her toward the bachelor's degree.

It was extremely important for me to earn a bachelor's degree since my promotion to forensic scientist depended on that one factor.

"The best part of attending Thomas Edison State College was that the staff completely understood the obstacles that working adults face while juggling their jobs, children, families and studies," she said.

In 2006, Kothari earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in natural sciences and mathematics, which she said had a direct impact on her professional development.

"It was extremely important for me to earn a bachelor's degree since my promotion to forensic scientist depended on that one factor," said Kothari.

Kothari is responsible for the analysis of biological evidence submitted to the laboratory's Serology Unit from police and law enforcement agencies throughout New Jersey.

"The evidence I analyze varies from a tiny piece of glass to a large vehicle where biological fluids are potentially left by suspects," said Kothari. "My job is to scientifically establish a link between the suspects and victims and the crime scene."

Dr. Howard Baum, director of the Office of Forensic Science, said Kothari has diligently processed numerous cases involving all types of crimes, in which she searches for biological materials that help solve cases such as homicides, sexual and aggravated assaults, burglaries and thefts.

"Tanvi's contributions to the mission of the Office of Forensic Sciences are her conscientious attention to detail and her perseverance on her assigned casework, which produces a quality service for the citizens of our state," he said. "She is always smiling and all who work with her



Kothari (right) with her colleagues Jacki Maneilla, director, Central Laboratory and Dr. Howard Baum, director of the Office of Forensic Sciences for the New Jersey State Police.

cannot help but be affected by her positive outlook."

The Office of Forensic Sciences is part of the New Jersey State Police Investigation Branch and one of only four laboratories in the country working cooperatively with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to analyze evidence for mitochondrial DNA, which is mainly used to identify human remains.

Forensic investigation has been catapulted into the mainstream thanks to programs like CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and its spin-offs, CSI: Miami and CSI: NY.

While these programs have glorified forensic

2

science, Kothari is quick to point out that there is a significant difference between what people see on television and the real forensic work done in laboratories and at crime

scenes throughout the country.

"The CSI shows have certainly played a role in glorifying forensic science, but our real work is not as glamorous or as fast-paced," she said.

Kothari after receiving her college diploma at Thomas Edison State College's 34th Commencement in 2006 with her son, Om, and parents, Rekha and Mahendra Shah. "The cool lighting of the crime labs, forensic scientists wearing stilettos and carrying a gun to crime scenes, and cases being solved in minutes are some of the things exclusive to the television show. We deal with real tragedies that happen to real people where our attention to detail is

our attention to detail is crucial. What is similar is the role that forensic science often plays in many convictions."

Within days of earning her degree from Thomas Edison State College, she enrolled at the University of Florida to pursue a Master of Science in Forensic DNA and Serology, which she completed in 2008.

"Earning my master's degree has made me eligible for higher administrative positions, not only within the Office of Forensic Science, but also in the field of forensics in general," said Kotheri, "It has also

the field of forensics in general," said Kothari. "It has also opened the doors for teaching at the college level, which I have had a real interest in for quite some time."

Kothari lives in Voorhees, N.J. with her son.

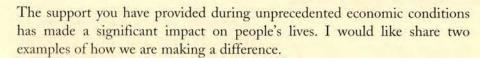


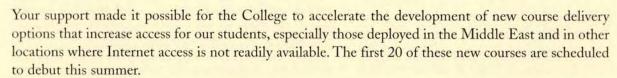
# Honor Roll of Donors

# Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

It is my honor to present you with the 2010 edition of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Honor Roll of Donors.

On behalf of the Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who provided financial support this year. Your contributions are critical in enhancing and expanding the programs that enable Thomas Edison State College to meet the unique needs of adult learners throughout the world.





Your support also expanded a cultural competency program at The John S. Watson Institute of Public Policy that helps educators examine personal bias that may impact the education of children of diverse cultures and create more culturally-aware classrooms, especially for early learners.

The Foundation also played a key role in opening the College's Wounded Warrior Scholarship Program for active duty military students and their spouses. We expect to make our first award from this new scholarship program in the upcoming academic year.

In the midst of the fiscal challenges facing higher education and the growing demand for the educational opportunities provided by the College, there has never been a time when we need you more than we do right now.

Your support helps preserve the mission of the College and enables this extraordinary institution to continue offering high-quality, flexible programs for adult learners throughout the country and around the globe.

Sincerely,

Brian Maloney

Brian T. Maloney

Chair, Thomas Edison State College Foundation

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# APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

#### Gabe Addonizio BSHS'07

Gabe Addonizio noted that along with eight years of police training and experience, his Thomas Edison State College BSHS degree in administration of justice put him at the top of the candidate list of applicants for a Teacher of Law Enforcement position at the Newark, N.J., Public Schools. He added, "Without my degree, which I completed through the Military Degree Completion Program, I would not have made it this far."

#### Bob Beecher BSHS'09

Bob Beecher, who received his BSHS degree in emergency disaster services from the College in December 2009, accepted a position as the first emergency and safety manager for Para Los Niños in Los Angeles, Calif. Para Los Niños (meaning "for the children") is a nonprofit organization that provides education and family services to Los Angeles' neediest families. Beecher manages the emergency management and safety programs for the agency's 26 locations. The position required a bachelor's degree and, although Beecher wouldn't receive his diploma until December, he was offered the position in September. Beecher discovered Thomas Edison State College on a FEMA website list of higher education institutions that offer degree programs in emergency management.

#### Otok Ben-Hvar BA'08

Otok Ben-Hvar is currently a full-time degree seeking candidate in the Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts program at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt. Ben-Hvar noted that it was Thomas Edison State College counsel and uplifting guidance that encouraged him to venture into the world of interdisciplinary arts.

#### Clinton Cottrell ASAST '88

The Rev. Clinton Cottrell, senior pastor of Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers, Fla., received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity School for Ministry in May 2009. His doctoral work centered on leadership development following ethical breaches. Prior to being ordained as a Presbyterian minister,



Cottrell served in the Federal Aviation Administration beginning as an air traffic controller and progressing through positions as a supervisor, tower manager and executive-level staff before taking a deferred retirement. He credits much of his success in the government, ministry and education to the academic foundation that was created by Thomas Edison State College nearly 25 years ago. He noted, "Thank you Thomas Edison State College!"

#### Harold James Cunningham BSAST'97

Harold "Harry" James Cunningham received an MBA degree in finance and international management from Bellevue University in Bellevue, Neb., in June 2009.

## **APPLAUSE** APPLAUSE

#### James Wilbert Fleetwood BSBA 'o6

James Wilbert Fleetwood received a Master of Science in Logistics Management from Florida Institute of Technology with a 4.0 grade point average in July 2009. He is a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi by election of the chapter at Florida Institute of Technology. Fleetwood was promoted in August 2009 to GS14 as the executive officer/chief, Business Operation Office for the Power & Environmental Directorate, Communication Electronic Command (CECOM LCMC), Logistics Readiness Center (LRC), Fort Monmouth, N.J. Fleetwood noted, "My degree from Thomas Edison State College has opened doors for a successful career in the field of logistics."

#### Kathleen A. Gluck BSN '06

Thomas Edison State College was founded in 1972 for the purpose of providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults.

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tall 2009. Knepper has been a communications manager and creative director for more than two decades. She is the co-author, along with Dr. Kirti Celly, of an article, "The California State University: A Case on Branding the Largest Public University System in the U.S.," which was accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the International Journal of Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Marketing. Recently, she was also honored by CSU Dominguez Hills with a 2009 Transformational Leadership Award for Exceptional Personal Community Action for her community service in the areas of gang violence prevention and leading transformational creative arts workshops.

#### Renald Latendorf AA'84

Renald Latendorf, owner/operator of Pastry Chef Cafe, received a BMS from the University of Texas, El Paso, in August 2009. Latendorf is planning to enter graduate school in spring 2010.

#### Eric V. Lindey BA'08

Eric V. Lindey graduated from Seton Hall University with a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication and Leadership in September 2009.

#### Joseph P. Linskey BSHS'86

Joseph P. Linskey, EdD, former associate professor of criminal justice and sociology, accepted the position as dean of International Programs at Centenary College in New Jersey on Sept. 8, 2009.

#### David McCormack AAS'03 BSAST'09

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#### ra Mosher BA '02

Mosher is currently working at Grand Lake Mental Health in Okla. Recently married to William J. Mosher, she and her and are enjoying son Aiden, who was born on July 2, 2009.

#### Christopher Nyerges BA'05

Christopher Nyerges had his ninth book published in September 2009, Self-Sufficient Home: Going Green and Saving Money. The book is a compilation of interviews Nyerges conducted with homeowners who use less energy, produce solar electricity, heat their water with the sun, collect rainwater, grow their own food, produce their own biofuel and more. The book begins with an interview from a man who survived the 1971 Sylmar, Calif., earthquake because he was prepared from both his military and camping experiences. The book has a forward by actor Carel Struycken (known for his role as "Lurch" in Addams Family television series).

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#### Kathleen A. Gluck BSN '06

Kathleen A. Gluck and her husband, Jeffrey, were recently promoted in rank to lady commander and knight commander, respectively, of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, an ancient papal order of knighthood established during the First Crusade in 1099, into which they were initially invested in 2006. The ceremony,



which took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, on Sept 26, 2009, was presided over by His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York, and Grand Prior of the Eastern Lieutenancy of the Order. On Oct. 19, 2009, the couple celebrated the third birthday of their daughter, Francesca Kathryn Mary Elizabeth, adopted from Guatemala in June 2007. Mrs. Gluck is a nursing administrative coordinator at Hoboken University Medical Center, Hoboken, N.J., and her husband is an attorney in private practice in North Bergen and Fair Lawn, N.J.

#### Brenda Knepper BA'04

Brenda Knepper, director of University Communications and Public Affairs at California State University (CSU) Dominguez Hills, has completed an MA in Arts and Humanities at CSU Dominguez Hills in fall 2009. Knepper has been a communications manager and creative director for more than two decades. She is the co-author, along with Dr. Kirti Celly, of an article, "The California State University: A Case on Branding the Largest Public University System in the U.S.," which was accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the International Journal of Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Marketing. Recently, she was also honored by CSU Dominguez Hills with a 2009 Transformational Leadership Award for Exceptional Personal Community Action for her community service in the areas of gang violence prevention and leading transformational creative arts workshops.

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#### Melanie D. Morgan BA'03

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- New Job
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- ▶ 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*.

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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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Class Year Degree
Employer Job Title
Information for Invention:

#### Michele Roemer BSBA'96

Michele Roemer was recently named assistant executive director for the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, a professional association that promotes the highest standards of ethics and efficiency, provides its membership with professional development and support, and collaborates with entities that affect public education.

#### Jani Sblendorio BA'03

Jani Sblendorio left a career in business to obtain an additional degree through Thomas Edison State College when her child, Val-Austin, was experiencing great difficulty in the school system due to autism. She became an ABA therapist, finished her BA in sociology and received her Certificate of Eligibility for grades K-5.



"The strength and support of the team at Thomas Edison State College really got me through a very difficult time and gave me the will to finish my degree. Not only was I able to move into a career to help my son, but I now give hope to others as well!" Sblendorio founded a nonprofit organization called United By Autism, which provides educational materials to families and educators on a journey with autism, and received Autism NJ's "Community Service Provider of the Year Award" for 2009. Sblendorio has been accepted to the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program at Thomas Edison State College, which she began in January. She noted that the College opened doors that were not available to her following the autism diagnosis and allowed her to complete her education while remaining at home to care for her son. "Thank you to the team at Thomas Edison State College for picking me up and carrying me to the finish line!"

#### Patricia Tavis AA'93

Patricia Tavis completed the 200-hour certified yoga instructor course at Blue Moon Yoga in Shrewsbury, N.J., in June 2009. Tavis is a Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT) with the Yoga Alliance.

#### 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."