

# Capital Campus

JUNE 2018

## Getting to Know Michael Mancini

*Mancini appointed new Chief of Staff of Thomas Edison State University*

**T**homas Edison State University President **Merodie A. Hancock**, PhD, has named **Michael Mancini** as chief of staff of the institution.

"I am extremely pleased that Michael has joined the University's leadership team as my chief of staff," said Hancock. "His track record of working across divisions, setting strategy and, most importantly, driving student success will make him a valuable addition to this special institution."

Prior to joining Thomas Edison State University on May 21, Mancini served as chief of staff at SUNY Empire State College. In his new position, he serves as the primary advisor to Hancock and works across divisions to help set and implement the institution's strategic direction. "I am excited to be a part of Thomas Edison State University, New Jersey's flagship institution for adults, as it enters a new era," said Mancini. "The University is a national leader in higher education, and I believe strongly in its mission. I am appreciative to President Hancock for putting her faith in me, and I am enjoying my new role of serving the students, staff, alumni and mentors of TESU."

As a member of SUNY Empire State College's cabinet, Mancini was an integral part of the leadership and operations of the college. He joined SUNY in 2008 and served as director of community and government relations before his appointment as chief of staff in 2014. Among his key initiatives, Mancini co-led the college's strategic planning process, which was completed in January 2018.

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*- Michael Mancini*



Prior to joining SUNY Empire State College, he served as the chief judicial officer at SUNY Fredonia.

Mancini earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from SUNY Purchase and a Master of Education from the University at Buffalo. He is a Balanced Scorecard Professional, obtaining his certification through the Balanced Scorecard Institute, in conjunction with The George Washington University College of Professional Studies.

Active in SUNY, state and national higher education organizations, Mancini is a former member of the board of directors for the State University of New York Council on University Advancement (SUNYCUAD). He received the Excellence in Professional Service Award at SUNY Empire State College in 2012 and SUNYCUAD's "Best in Category" award for his congressional lobbying efforts.

Mancini reflected on the bright future of adult higher education at the University.

"TESU is at a very exciting time. Adult education is changing dramatically and no institution is better situated to embrace this period of innovation than Thomas Edison" said Mancini. "I know that through the leadership of President Hancock and the University's dedicated employees, we will build on our past successes and be an even greater University for our current and future students."

Mancini, who grew up on Long Island, and his husband, David Mancini, who is originally from Buffalo, share their home with three pets: two dogs, Huck, a Husky mix and Lila Mae, a Yorkie; and a cat named Zoe.

When off the clock, Mancini and his husband, who is a senior account manager for StatStaff Professionals, a nursing staffing firm based out of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., enjoy travelling and live theater.



# Focus On: Judy Lucas

Family is very important to **Judy Lucas**, assistant to the Chief of Staff and the General Counsel, and she has found that 'family' can be a very broad term.

Lucas, who began her career at Thomas Edison State University in 1994 as a secretary in the Office of Administrative Services, left in 2000 to have her second child and returned three years later to serve as confidential assistant to the vice president for Administration and Finance, before moving to her current position in 2016.

"I truly enjoy the people here at the University," Lucas explained. "I have worked here for many years and I feel like I am part of a family."

"I was not familiar with the University when I applied here for a position that was advertised in the newspaper, but I am so glad I did," she added. "I enjoy working here. I am devoted to our mission: helping adult learners obtain their degrees. I have made many friends and enjoy working with my co-workers and learning so much from them."

Lucas' various duties include keeping the chief of staff informed of all inquiries and requests from University staff, external constituents, various businesses and students.

"I provide administrative support to the chief of staff, which includes preparing materials for our Board of Trustees' meetings, correspondence, scheduling and daily administrative duties," she noted. "I also provide administrative support to the general counsel, and I am the central point of contact for processing ethics forms. And, I provide support to the president's assistant."

Family life outside of work is equally rewarding.

Lucas has been married to husband Rich, a finance manager at Haldeman Ford/Subaru, for nearly 26 years. They have two daughters, Jessica (23) and Jenna (18). Jessica is working on

her master's degree in occupational therapy. Jenna is graduating from high school this year and will go to a New Jersey community college for two years before continuing at a state school to get her bachelor's degree in nutrition. The family also shares its Bordentown, N.J., home with a 14-year-old Yorkshire terrier named Jazmine.

On the home front, family also includes the community.

"Bordentown is a great town, and I have great neighbors. There are only 25 homes in my development, and we get together very often for social events – dinners, parties and picnics."

In her spare time, Lucas enjoys being outdoors, taking long walks, going to the beach, hanging out at her swimming pool and gardening. She added, "I love to travel. I took my girls to Iceland last year for spring break. I have taken them to the Bahamas and Punta Cuna as well as on a few cruises."



Judy Lucas, assistant to the Chief of Staff and the General Counsel, Office of the President

In addition to all her other relationships, Lucas is one of seven siblings and, she noted, that their families are very close. "We get together for most holidays. I love having a big family and spending time with them."

## Take Your Child to Work Day



Activities and learning were on the agenda for the Take Your Child to Work Day at Thomas Edison State University on April 26. More than 30 sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandchildren attended the event that included a greeting by President **Merodie A. Hancock**, PhD, an activity presented by the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services, a visit to the N.J. Planetarium and a pizza party.

**Debbie Lutz**, confidential assistant, Office of the Provost, and long-time event volunteer, said, "Oh, those incredibly awesome kids! I have had the great joy of volunteering for Take a Child to Work Day for many years." In typical Lutz style, she added, "'Corrupting,' I mean acting up with my co-workers children each year has been a fantastic experience. The staff of the University should be very proud of them all."

## Chamber Luncheon



**Dr. Dennis Devery**, vice president for Enrollment Management, and **Dr. Phyllis Marshall**, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, met with Dennis W. Pullin, the new CEO of Virtua Health System, during a recent Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

## Golf Classic 2018



Pictured, from left, are Jenn Montone, Fred Brand, Michelle Leonard, Li-yun Young, Jaclyn Jaworsak, Leanne Kochy, Misty Isak, Judy Lucas, Meg Frantz and Erica Spizziri. Not pictured are Kelly Saccomanno and Linda Soltis.

Staff volunteers at the 24th Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic held at The Ridge at Back Brook in Ringoes, N.J., on May 14.

## Staff Activities

**Dr. Michael Williams**, dean, School of Business and Management, and **Dr. Joseph Youngblood II**, vice provost and dean, John S. School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, presented Workplace Culture in Transition Anomie in Academe: Rage, Resistance and Reform at the 2018 American Association of State College and Universities Academic Affairs Winter Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in February.

**Carla Colburn**, associate director, Office of Academic Advising, attended the National Association of Academic Advising (NACADA) Region 2 Conference held in Dover, Del., in March. Colburn served as a volunteer during the conference.

**Wendy Lang**, director of Operation College Promise (OCP), attended a Civic Leader Tour with the 514th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) – "The Freedom Wing" – based at McGuire AFB in March. The 514th AMW is comprised of approximately 2,200 people including refueling, medical, maintenance, civil engineering and security forces personnel.

**Barbara George Johnson**, executive director, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, hosted the Land Tenure and Building Neighborhood: A Community Land Trust Model for Trenton's Capital City Farm reception at the Conservatory Mansion in Trenton, N.J., in April. **Ishiya A. Hayes**, fellow, Health Policy Center, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, collaborated with partners and panelists to organize and plan this event, which included representatives from D&R Greenway Land Trust, Designing the WE and the city of Trenton.

Division of Planning and Research staff members **Marie R. Power-Barnes**, director of Market Research and Assessment, and **Dr. Ann Marie Senior**, associate vice president for Planning and Research; and **Janet Eickhoff**, associate vice president for Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, attended the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Spring 2018 Workshop, "Using a Balanced Scorecard Approach to Strategic Planning" in Philadelphia, Pa., in April. The Balanced Scorecard is a model for strategic planning that helps align activities and initiatives to the vision and strategy of the University, helps improve communication of the plan to internal and external stakeholders and gives a dashboard to monitor key performance indicators.

**Maggie Ciocco** MS, RN, BC, undergraduate nursing program advisor, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, was chosen by the American Nurses Association (ANA) to serve on the Advisory Committee "End Nurse Abuse."



Dr. Michael Williams



Dr. Joseph Youngblood II



Barbara George Johnson



Ishiya A. Hayes



Marie R. Power-Barnes



Dr. Ann Marie Senior



Janet Eickhoff



## Women's Professional Network



*Pictured, from the left, are WPN board members Michelle Leonard, Julia Herman, Juliette Punchello, Emily Hopkins, speaker Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, Cathy Punchello, Jennifer Stark, Janet Eickhoff, Tiffany McClary, Jaclyn Joworisk and Melissa Maszczak.*

The Women's Professional Network of Thomas Edison State University presented a "Story of Success" event featuring President **Merodie A. Hancock**, PhD, on May 16. Hancock spoke of how her journey from a young MBA candidate to a professor, whose students were older and brought a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for learning to her class, chartered the course that resulted in her career in education and the attainment of her current role as the president of the University. The advice that Hancock stressed during her presentation is to know your comfort zone and set your course with that as your base, but not to be afraid to challenge yourself.

## University Vice President Honored with Empowerment Award



*Pictured are Robin Walton, center, with Chairwoman Pamela Rosen Lampitt, left, N.J. 6th Legislative District, and Assemblywoman Patricia Egan Jones, right, N.J. 5th Legislative District.*

**Robin Walton**, vice president for Community and Government Affairs, was honored with the Empowerment Award from Maria's Women United at its Third Annual Awards and Membership Gala at the home of Alice Paul, suffragette and author of the Equal Rights Amendment, in May.

The organization honored women throughout the region whose commitment to serving others best exemplifies the legacy of Maria Barnaby Greenwald, for whom the organization was named. Maria's Women United was established in 2016 to honor the legacy of Greenwald, a trailblazing public servant.

## Staff Promote Aviation Programs at Women in Aviation Conference

**Kelli Parlante-Givas**, director, Strategic Partnerships Management, and **Donald Cucuzzella**, assistant dean, School of Applied Science and Technology, attended the Women in Aviation Conference in Reno, Nev., to promote the University's aviation programs in March. They met with many prospective students and talked about partnering with some airlines. The team also met with current TESU partners at ALPA (Airline Pilots Association of America), and the University was promoted during its breakout session.

