

Winter 2018



THOMAS EDISON  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# SIGNALS

S T U D E N T N E W S L E T T E R

## A Defining Chapter

CARLYE LAMARCA, BS'16, MPSL STUDENT

When Carlye Lamarca became a mother at 16, she immediately did what came naturally. She put herself in front of an audience of other young mothers to convince them that their futures were also brimming with possibility.

"It was a defining chapter in my personal journey," said Lamarca, who earned her Bachelor of Science degree with an area of study in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness at the University in 2016, and is now enrolled in the Master of Public Service Leadership (MPSL) program at the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies. "Soon after I had my daughter, I served as a guest speaker at a Princeton, N.J., venue on the subject of teen pregnancy. The whole experience was transformative for me."

While raising her daughter, she remained connected to nonprofit community programs that supported young mothers like herself. That experience would serve as a framework for what came next.

"My dream to earn a college degree was always at the forefront," she said. "I selected the University because online course delivery was more conducive to my lifestyle and didn't take me away from my growing family. I also knew that possessing a college degree would give me the access I needed to help more people in my community."

Lamarca was originally attracted to the field of homeland security and emergency management for personal reasons. In October 2012, the second costliest hurricane in U.S. history, Hurricane Sandy, decimated New Jersey's coast. She said she spent days at her desk searching for ways to mollify the storm's impact on the state's residents, only to wind up feeling frustrated and powerless. She eventually found an outlet by serving on a New Jersey Department of Labor committee devoted to Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. "For me it felt right and it was my first true foray into disaster response as it connected to public policy."

Soon, she was taking close to 100 calls a day from residents and business owners in

conjunction with the state's coordinated hurricane recovery and relief efforts.

Once she became immersed in her course work at the University, positive experiences kept her engaged. What she also discovered in the process was her own resilience. Lamarca

"THE STAFF AT THE UNIVERSITY WAS ALWAYS AMAZING IN HELPING ME PUSH THROUGH MY ONLINE CLASSES WHILE I WAS WORKING FULL TIME AND RAISING MY CHILDREN."

Carlye Lamarca

learned she could indeed conquer midterm assignments, subdue super storms and chase after her children – all at the same time.

"The staff at the University was always amazing in helping me push through my online classes while I was working full time and raising my children," she said. "My dream to return to complete my college education became a reality. As a young mother I never imagined I would accomplish this goal. It also set a positive example for my daughter who just graduated from Rowan University. I really feel as though we did this together."

As a program specialist for the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Lamarca is currently responsible for facilitation of the state's H-2B nonimmigrant program. The program allows U.S. employers to temporarily hire foreign nationals to perform nonagricultural services in the U.S. "Understanding the laws

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*Masters in Public Service Leadership program student and 2017 Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness program graduate, Carlye Lamarca.*





## The Business of Patient Care

MARIE O'DONNELL, BSN '13, MSN '17

Marie O'Donnell's career has transitioned from a grounding in finance to airborne emergency care. It seems that skyward is now her preferred direction.

"My career in healthcare began 20 years ago after more than a dozen years of working in the financial markets and co-owning a small business," said the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing alumna. "Although I enjoyed the field, I became intrigued by the work of emergency responders and became an emergency medical technician (EMT), volunteering on my local first aid squad."

Sooner after, O'Donnell became a registered paramedic and, in 2007, earned her RN license.

Knowing that possessing advanced credentials would give her the tools she needed to be a more valuable member of the healthcare community, she resolved to pursue her bachelor's degree.

"I chose Thomas Edison after careful consideration of the accreditations it has earned and from the accounts of colleagues who spoke very highly of the institution," O'Donnell said. "As an adult learner with multiple jobs, children, family, a husband and pets, I was pleased with the values, process and plans for degree completion set forth by the University."

After enrolling in the University's RN-BSN/MSN degree program in 2011, O'Donnell earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree

in 2013 and her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree in 2017.

"The curriculum for both programs ensured that I had a well-rounded education, exposing me to health concerns, political issues and the importance of advocacy not only here in the United States but worldwide," she explained. "The mentors and advisory staff at Thomas Edison were consistently supportive and caring to my needs."

O'Donnell, who has been working as a certified flight nurse on New Jersey's State Medevac Helicopter, NorthSTAR for the past five years, is not only grateful for the knowledge she's gained, but also for the financial support that helped her throughout her journey.

**"THIS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED ME WITH THE ABILITY TO REDUCE MY TIME-TO-DEGREE COMPLETION, PROPELLING ME FURTHER TOWARD MY GOAL."**

Marie O'Donnell, BSN '13, MSN '17

She was a recipient of the W. Cary Edwards Foundation Nursing Scholarship, which is made available to New Jersey residents who are enrolled in or seeking enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate nursing degree program at the University, and whose tuition is not fully covered by a hospital system or other professional organization.



The scholarship, established in 2013, is funded by an annual grant from the W. Cary Edwards Foundation.

"This financial assistance provided me with the ability to reduce my time-to-degree completion, propelling me further toward my goal," she explained. "As a recipient of these funds, I am thankful to the W. Cary Edwards Foundation for its support, and on behalf of scholarship recipients, I would like to say 'thank you.'"

## New Undergraduate Certificate in Cybersecurity Announced

WORKFORCE-READY 15-CREDIT CYBERSECURITY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OFFERED COMPLETELY ONLINE.

Seeking a cybersecurity certificate that will enhance your resume and is transferrable to your degree program? Thomas Edison State University's new Undergraduate Certificate in Cybersecurity is a 15-credit program, which delivers precisely that while providing you with a solid academic foundation in the field.

This certificate is offered completely online and features emerging trends, technologies and strategies in cybersecurity. The credits you earn in the program are designed to transfer directly into the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity degree program at Thomas Edison State University. What's more, certificate program credits may also satisfy technical or free electives in six other School of Applied Science and Technology bachelor's degree programs.

Upon completion of this certificate program, you will be able to:

- > Assess and apply cybersecurity principles, tools and methods to defend information systems against cyber threats.
- > Apply cybersecurity design best practices and technologies to prevent and mitigate cyberattacks and vulnerabilities.
- > Employ network defense technologies, monitoring tools and measures.
- > Analyze and navigate policy, legal, ethical and compliance aspects of cybersecurity

Email the School of Applied Science and Technology: [appliedsciandtech@tesu.edu](mailto:appliedsciandtech@tesu.edu) to learn more.

## COURSE NEWS

Note: A complete listing of all undergraduate and graduate courses and their availability can be found on our website at [www.tesu.edu/courses](http://www.tesu.edu/courses).

### NEW UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

- AOJ-111 Introduction to Corrections
- CYB-320 Ethical Hacking
- CYB-321 Digital Forensics Techniques and Practices
- CYB-420 Critical Infrastructure Security
- SPA-102 Elementary Spanish II

### NEW GRADUATE ONLINE COURSES:

- CYB-522 Cybersecurity Risk Management in Utility Environments
- HIT-542 Clinical Informatics
- IAS-555 Computer Forensics and Information Systems Auditing
- IBF-504 Corporate and Managerial Financing
- IBF-507 Financial Modeling
- NET-563 Pervasive and Cloud Computing
- NET-564 Large-Scale Network Operations, Administration and Maintenance

## Mentors, Staff and Alums Take Nursing Care on the Road

W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing mentor Lia van Rijswijk, DNP, RN, CWCN, served as the keynote speaker at the New Jersey Consortium of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing's (STTI) Founders Day annual dinner on Oct. 3 at the Rutgers Club in Piscataway, N.J. Her presentation was titled, "Evidence-Based Wound Care Practice Gaps: Addressing Knowledge Deficits among Registered Nurses."

STTI Founders Day program attendees included (pictured from left to right) Thomas Edison State University alum Daniel Marino, BSN '13, MSN, RN, CCRN; Maureen Clark-Gallagher, MS, RN, assistant dean and director of Distance Learning, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing; Lia van Rijswijk, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing mentor and program keynote speaker; alum Ashley Pianko, RN, MSN '16, and W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice student; and Ana Catanzaro, PhD, RN, associate dean of graduate programs, W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing.



## Thomas Edison State University's 2017 Commencement by the Numbers:

The University celebrated its 45th annual Commencement, on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Sun National Bank Center. Here are some statistics from the event:

- > A total of 448 graduates RSVP'd to attend the University's Commencement ceremonies on Sept. 23 at the Sun Bank Arena in Trenton, N.J. (now the CURE Insurance Arena).
- > 3,363 grads, their friends, significant others and family members passed through the arena's turnstiles the day of the event.
- > Graduates came from 27 states including Alaska and California as well as Guam, Malaysia and Italy attended.
- > The class of 2017 included 2,586 total graduates.
- > The University has awarded approximately 59,220 degrees to more than 50,000 graduates since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults in 1972.

Interested in learning more about the Commencement ceremonies? Visit [tesu.edu/commencement](http://tesu.edu/commencement) to see what finish looks like.





# In Transition

MAKING THE JOURNEY FROM NURSING THEORY TO PRACTICE REQUIRES THE RIGHT PARTNER.

In fulfilling his Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program requirements at a local hospital, nursing student Joseph Barton didn't realize he would be paired with someone who walked the same path.

When the 2017 graduate embarked on his transition experience in a clinical setting, a requirement for all nursing students in the accelerated program, he was paired with Lily Boros, BSN '14, who had graduated from the same program three years before. That happenstance brought the student and graduate together during a crucial phase of Barton's education.

As part of the experience, Barton was required to complete 60 hours of collaborative clinical immersion with a RN partner at Capital Health System in Trenton, N.J. The RNs that the students are partnered with, help them complete a wide variety of nursing responsibilities in a clinical setting and give them a solid sense of what a career will be like after graduation.

"Nursing was always a career I knew I would not only enjoy, but become successful at," Barton explained. "I enjoy the interaction and fulfillment of helping others and being a nurse gives me the ability to make an everlasting impact in someone's life."

Since the launch of program in 2011, Boros and Barton were one of the first pairs of RN partners in the transition experience to both complete their BSN degree through the University's Accelerated Program.

Boros' three-year experience in the telemetry unit helped her to quickly engage Barton into



Lily Boros, BSN '14, and Joseph Barton, BSN '17, at Capital Health System in Trenton, N.J.

her daily routine. "I was fortunate enough to fulfill some of my own clinical hours on the telemetry unit at Capital Health while completing my degree, so when a position opened up, I was eager to apply," she explained. "I wanted Joe to feel exactly what it's like to be an RN on my unit, including all of the documentation requirements, critical thinking and prioritization. Doing so within the safety of an RN partnership prepares students, like Joe, for a role as a full-time nurse."

Throughout the experience, Boros and Barton spent their shifts providing care to patients by administering medications, managing intravenous lines, observing and monitoring patients' conditions, maintaining records and communicating with multidisciplinary

teammates. The pair also provided physical and psychological support to patients and their family members.

Barton was gradually given increased responsibility and care for additional patients equivalent to the patient load of many full-time nurses. "Lily is an incredible nurse who is able to build a great rapport with each of her patients in a short period of time," Barton explained. "She does a fantastic job of using her time wisely to provide individualized care to each client and build relationships needed to help create a healing environment. I'll carry the lessons I learned with me when providing my own patient care." At the conclusion of the experience, it was clear that the pair had found the experience and partnership mutually rewarding.

"It was a great feeling to be able to mentor a student and to be able to give back. I really feel I am in this place in my career because of TESU," said Boros.

Boros lives in New Jersey with her husband of 23 years and their two children, ages 12 and 16. Barton lives in southern New Jersey and recently passed the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

To learn more about the programs available in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit [tesu.edu/nursing](http://tesu.edu/nursing). ■

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and subtleties of immigration and homeland security in the current political climate has been key to my success in the position," she noted.

Recently earning her undergraduate degree has prompted her to advance to the graduate level. She anticipates that her MPSL courses in community and economic development will enable her to collaborate more fully with urban leaders in mitigating homelessness and promoting urban renewal.

"My eyes are more open now as to the ways I can better serve the public," she said. "The choice of my master's degree track at the University is self-explanatory — it's what I'm about. Aligning leaders in the community and getting

non-profits, churches and members of the private sector on board; spurring businesses to help the urban community flourish; and making the youth in our cities feel as if they are safe, valued and have a voice, are all central to this mission. I'm particularly interested in helping to bring once-thriving urban centers back to their former glory."

Lamarca lends her success to the bedrock of support she says she's had along the way. From her husband, Michael, who has collaborated in her journey, to her colleagues at the New Jersey Department of Labor who have inspired her to stay the course, especially Assistant Commissioner Dr. Patricia Moran, and her six year-old son, Michael Joseph, and 21 year-old

daughter, Anastacia, as well as the foreign exchange students the family hosts. She said that each has provided her with valuable perspectives and motivation.

"I urge others to continue their education no matter what hand they've been dealt. If you want something badly enough, just go ahead and do it," she said. "I've had the best experience so far and it continues to be both challenging and inspirational."

To learn more about the programs at the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, visit [www.tesu.edu/watson](http://www.tesu.edu/watson). ■

## David Longenbach

David Longenbach knows that the past is prologue, especially when it comes to war.

It was his prowess as a Heavin School of Arts and Sciences mentor for War and American Society and Dialogues on the Experience of War: War and Reintegration courses that placed him front and center during the University's recent "Dialogues on the Experience of War" public workshops.

The "Dialogues" workshops in which Longenbach served as a presenter will provide an oral history archive that emphasizes the role of humanities in helping civilians understand the experiences of U.S. service members. The two-day sessions — the first of which was held in Edison, N.J., and the second sessions, held in Bordentown, N.J. — encouraged U.S. military members, veterans and veteran service providers to share their insights, observations and memories during group discussions and one-on-one interviews.

Throughout the workshops, Longenbach ensured that military history provided a contextual framework for the discussions. The material and videotaped interviews gleaned from session participants will become part of the University's oral history archives and will be shared with local and national libraries and military archivists.

"The courses I mentor attract students from every area of study. Our military students, in particular, bring a focus and discipline to their course work and often have firsthand experience about conflicts in the Middle East, deployments and surviving in danger zones," noted Longenbach. "The University's students as a whole take their education seriously, are very responsive to course timelines and are often more adept at digesting the course material and making use of it than traditional college students."

"We break down into microcosms what 'service' means, and the implications of being sent far from home to a remote military base," he said. "Associated topics such as PTSD and societal reintegration are closely examined. In both courses, an emphasis is placed on addressing war and the trauma associated with it from a historical, literary and philosophical perspective."

Longenbach earned his Master of Arts degree in history from Villanova University, in



The War and American Society (HIS-356) course that Longenbach mentors focuses on the various ways in which our country has dealt with war and the societal changes that have taken place as a result. "The course considers a broad swath of global conflicts, from the Revolutionary War through the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the contemporary War on Terror in a linear progression," said Longenbach who also mentors Liberal Arts Capstone (LIB-495) courses at the University.

According to Longenbach, the Dialogues on the Experience of War: War and Reintegration (HIS-425) course is more thematic in nature, with students focusing on the various ways in which Americans have dealt with war and its enduring effects on society and service members.

According to Longenbach it's impossible to overstate the value of oral history projects like "Dialogues on the Experience of War."

"As a society, we are losing a sense of the personnel experiences that shape us. Soldiers don't keep written diaries as they've done in the past, so oral histories we capture are vital in providing information for insight into issues affecting many of our active-duty military and veteran service members. Doing so will help us evolve and realize the important legacy they provide us." ■

*\*The "Dialogues on the Experience of War" event was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH) a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.*



David Longenbach





Debra Arthur, president and CEO, Camden County Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Michael Williams, dean, Thomas Edison State University's School of Business and Management.

## Dean Moderates 'Business Builders Breakfast' Session

When Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management, moderated the Camden County Regional Chamber of Commerce's 'Business Builders Breakfast' in October, he and expert panelists examined the burning question, "Where's the Money and How Do I Get It?"

Five expert panelists from the banking, commercial lending, small business development and public and private sectors provided tips on where and how to get a loan for small business owners and startups and what you can do to improve your chances for loan approval.

The session is part of an ongoing series of events hosted by the Camden County Regional Chamber of Commerce (N.J.), moderated by Williams. ■

### FIVE TIPS FOR WOULD-BE ENTREPRENEURS LAUNCHING A BUSINESS INCLUDED:

- 1. VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY:** Utilize your local public library to discover the myriad of free small business resources you have at your disposal.
- 2. FIND SOMEONE TO EMULATE:** Seek out an established and successful small business owner that can help mentor or coach you.
- 3. KEEP GOOD COMPANY:** When it comes to financing, banks prefer to see that you're already associated with a reputable accountant and a good source for legal advice.
- 4. PLAN YOUR APPROACH:** If you're meeting with a banker or loan officer, bring a notebook or pad to the appointment. It will indicate that you're serious and you're going to need it.
- 5. HAVE A SOLID BUSINESS PLAN:** Always have a business plan and revenue projections ready when you first meet with a potential lender.

## Event Marks a Rite of Passage for Nursing Students

### ACCELERATED 2ND DEGREE BSN PROGRAM GRADUATION AND PINNING CEREMONY

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing honored graduates of its 2017 Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program with a pinning ceremony and reception for family members on Sept. 26 at Thomas Edison State University's George A. Pruitt Hall.

The class represented 18 students who began the program with non-nursing undergraduate degrees and managed to fulfill their nursing degree requirements within one year. During the ceremony, program graduates Christian Bergstrom and Jennifer Nitzsche received the Dr. Christine M. Rosner Clinical Excellence Award from Gary Rosner, husband of the late Dr. Rosner who served as an associate dean in the School. Members of the graduating class who demonstrated superior academic achievement, integrity and professional leadership potential were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society.

The ceremony signifies a ceremonial entrance into the nursing profession for students who are now eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for registered nurses. To find out more about this and other programs available through the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, visit [www.tesu.edu/nursing](http://www.tesu.edu/nursing). ■



Graduates of Thomas Edison State University's 2017 Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program are: (front row, from left to right) Vivek Patel, Brittany Lynn Rezendes, Nicole Baker, Ana Delacruz, Mary Rant, Rachel Greiff, Ngozi Ubah, Kathryn Houghton, Fallon Shafft and Christian Bergstrom. Back row, left to right: Joseph Barton Jr., Rebecca Garrabrant, Sandrine Clayton, Chitra Baskar, Katherine Bello, Jennifer Nitzsche, Chinemelum Onwumelu and Joseph Levin.

## Distance Learning from a Different Perspective

### TWO STUDENTS SUCCEED WHILE SOLDIERING ON

Thomas Edison State University students Morgan Rutland and Christopher Nester's academic experiences are different than most.

Rutland, an active-duty U.S. Air Force contracting officer, and Nester, a U.S. Air Force veteran, are both stationed in Southwest Asia, in separate locations, for very different reasons. However, both set out to accomplish one common goal: to complete their college degrees.

Rutland, currently on active duty and deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, is working toward her Bachelor of Arts degree with an area of study in psychology while she is employed on base in a contracting role. This role allows Rutland responsibility for all purchases made for the base ranging from simple commodities to service and construction orders.

Prior to enrolling at the University, Rutland had a tentative relationship with higher education before deciding to enlist in the Air Force.

"I had no idea what I wanted to do while I was in school, I just knew I wanted to do it all," she said. "I wanted to save the world. Over time school started to get expensive, so I made the decision to save the world another way and joined the military."

During her second deployment, Rutland decided that she needed to return to complete her degree. After taking time to evaluate her interests, she set her sights on a psychology degree. "While I still have at least eight and a half years left of service in the Air Force, I have narrowed my options to two choices: an elementary school teacher or work in military family advocacy," she explained.

With her physical location in a constant state of flux, Rutland credits her ability to complete her degree with the University online as the reason she is able to maintain her pace.

"Although this is only my second deployment, I have still been able to take classes during our busy end of fiscal year and during numerous temporary duty assignments where I have had to report to other bases for weeks at a time," she said. "With the flexibility the program affords me, I will be able to pick up where I left off when I am soon reassigned and work to complete my two final classes."

U.S. Air Force and National Guard veteran, Nester is also no stranger to military life abroad. Having lived in various locations outside the U.S. since January 2010, Nester's online courses have allowed him to pursue his degree in a manner that otherwise would not be available.

"Being in the Middle East means I have very little downtime and the internet connections are often quite poor," the University student explained. "I'm fortunate enough to have a career that allows me to perform my course work while I'm on the job. As a military information technology contractor, my experience is unique, especially given my specific field. If I have trouble accessing course material at work, I am able to utilize commercial internet to download my course work so I can study and complete assignments."

Nester, who is fulfilling requirements for his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree with an area of study in electronic systems engineering technology, said his ability to begin his courses each month has been a notable driving force in keeping his degree completion at a steady pace.

"I don't have to wait for seasonal terms to begin. Without that kind of flexibility, I know that I would not have been able to make as much progress toward my degree as I have with the University," he said.

While living abroad for the past seven years, Nester has been employed as a satellite communications technician, a military contract position that varies in location and scope of responsibility depending on the job. His current contract has him serving as a subject matter expert on various satellite communications systems that provide internet connections to various agencies, companies and militaries around the world, often in remote locations and unforgiving environments.

On choosing his program of study, Nester was quick to point out that when comparing institutions, his interest was piqued by the University's curriculum.



Morgan Rutland



Christopher Nester

"With the University's degree in electronics systems engineering technology being ABET-accredited, the program really stood out," he said. "Coupled with the University's ease in handling my Veteran's Affairs (VA) and GI Bill benefits, I've found that the institution has been very accommodating and understanding of me as a professional working in remote areas." ■





# Academic Calendar

## March 2018

## April 2018

## May 2018

Registration Dates

Late Registration

Course Transfer Period

**Term Start Date**

Midterm Exam Week \*\*

Final Exam Week\*\*

**Term Ends**

Jan. 19 – Feb. 10, 2018

Feb. 11 – Feb. 25, 2018

March 2, 2018

**Feb. 26, 2018**

April 9 – 15, 2018

May 14 – 20, 2018

**May 20, 2018**

Feb. 16 – March 17, 2018

March 18 – April 1, 2018

April 6, 2018

**April 2, 2018\***

May 14 – 20, 2018

June 18 – 24, 2018

**June 24, 2018**

March 23, 2018 – April 14, 2018

April 15 – April 29, 2018

May 4, 2018

**April 30, 2018**

June 11 – 17, 2018

July 16 – 22, 2018

**July 22, 2018**

\* Term start date applies to both graduate and undergraduate courses.

\*\* Certain courses have midterm examinations or online proctored midterm and final examinations; please refer to your course materials for details.

WINTER 2018

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