



SUMMER 2016

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY

**ALL
RISE**

Lauren Hart, BA '96

WATSON SCHOOL DEAN HONORED BY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS | JETBLUE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$25,000 GRANT FOR DEGREE DEVELOPMENT

THOMAS C. STRECKEWALD MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC RAISES MORE THAN \$100,000 | BEHIND THE BADGE: SEAN FLANNELLY, BA '14

WORDSMITH: DANIEL SANABRIA-MORALES, BA '13 | RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: ALLISON RILEY, BSN '11

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DEAR ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS,

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."

The alumni you'll meet in this issue of *Invention* exude strength through each of their respective stories.

We are fortunate to tell you the story of Lauren Hart '96, recording artist and patriotic voice of the Philadelphia Flyers. Hart shares her journey as a national figure in the music industry as well as a survivor and advocate of those battling cancer. Her love of family, hockey and philanthropy has been her fuel throughout her life.

Also in this issue, we are pleased to introduce Sean Flannelly '14, a patrolman with the Englewood Cliffs Police Department in Englewood Cliffs, N.J. As part of a family with a deep-rooted background in civil service, Flannelly has paved his own way to the career he aspired to all his life.

We also meet Allison Riley '11, a flight nurse with the U.S. Air Force. Riley serves on the front lines of patient care in both the air and on the ground, providing both combat and humanitarian aid to military personnel.

Additionally, we are thrilled to share the story of Daniel Sanabria-Morales '13, a Marine Corps veteran and multilingual translator who runs his own business aiding others in the art of communication.

Finally, we are excited to share news from across the University, including updates about recent Operation College Promise initiatives, the results of this year's Golf Classic, and honors and awards recently granted to Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies at the University.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Watson School Dean Honored by Local Organizations

Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies, has recently been recognized by several local organizations for his leadership in higher education as well as his commitment to public service.

keynote address at the Civic Summit of the Citizens Campaign of New Jersey at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J., in early May.

"I am incredibly thankful to work at a University that shares my values and commitment to stewardship and public



Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies

"THESE GROUPS REPRESENT AN ARRAY OF THE GOOD BEING DONE LOCALLY TO DISTINGUISH LEADERS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES."

Dr. Joseph Youngblood II

Youngblood has been awarded the Reverend Theodore Sedgwick Wright Excellence Award from Princeton Theological Seminary for his pioneering work with the New Jersey Faith-Based Capacity Building Initiative and his commitment to public service. He was also chosen to deliver the

service, and I am humbled to have been recognized by such outstanding organizations for my work in both public service and higher education," said Youngblood. "These groups represent an array of the good being done locally to distinguish leaders who are making a difference in our communities."

Most recently, Youngblood was also honored by having received the Higher Education Leadership Award from the Institute for Wonderful Women Working for Empowerment (IW3E) at its 10th Annual Spring Gala in Princeton, N.J., on May 15.

University's Operation College Promise Holds Professional Development Training in Georgia

Operation College Promise (OCP) at Thomas Edison State University hosted its Certificate for Veterans' Service Providers (CVSP) professional development training at Armstrong State University in Savannah, Ga. More than 70 veterans' service professionals representing 51 different colleges and universities from 16 states and the District of Columbia participated.

The signature training program designed by OCP educates and empowers higher educators and veterans' service providers to support veterans as they reintegrate to civilian life and achieve their academic goals. Participants at the March event heard from some of the nation's most prominent experts on veteran reintegration, featuring presentations from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the U.S. Army Soldier for Life program, The American Council on Education, the Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The VA reports that more than one million veterans and service members

are taking advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill®. This growth of the veteran population on college and university campuses is expected to continue as more than one million service members are slated to transition to civilian life within the next five years.

"The CVSP is the most comprehensive training program available to professionals who work with veterans in higher education," said Phil Gore, Armstrong State University's military education coordinator and member of OCP's Advisory Board. "We are proud to partner with OCP to host a conference that gives professionals the tools they need to ensure student

veterans achieve their academic, professional and life goals."

According to OCP Director Wendy Lang, there is no population that deserves this support more than our nation's military. "There is no population that we as a nation are more indebted to than those brave men and women who have sacrificed so much on our behalf," said Lang. "Our mission was to provide the attendees with a comprehensive framework to construct environments that will optimize the success of veterans through their attainment of a college degree and beyond."

To learn more about the work of Operation College Promise at Thomas Edison State University, visit www.OperationCollegePromise.org.

Operation College Promise Welcomes New Members to its Advisory Board

Operation College Promise (OCP) at Thomas Edison State University, a national policy, research and education program that supports the transition and educational advancement of U.S. military veterans, has welcomed six new members to its Advisory Board.

New to OCP's Advisory Board are Colonel Jack H. Jacobs, (U.S. Army, ret.) a Medal of Honor recipient and military analyst for NBC News and MSNBC; Greg T. Kupniewski, JD, of the law firm Starfield & Smith; Nelson Gonzalez, military veteran and a caseworker for Catholic Charities; Jonathan Wei, founder and president of The Telling Project; Adam Martinez, deputy director, Northeastern Region for the Soldier for Life Program, Office of the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, and Phil Gore, Military Education coordinator at Armstrong State University.

"Operation College Promise's support of veterans utilizing the Post-9/11 GI Bill® provides an important gateway to their civilian life," said Jacobs. "The program helps them gain connections, skills, friendships and a leg up on this new phase of their lives."

OCP was established in 2008 and became part of Thomas Edison State University's Office of Military and Veteran Education in 2015. The program complements the University's distinction of being the largest provider of collegiate programs for active duty members and military veterans in New Jersey.



Pictured are Wendy Lang, director of Operation College Promise, Office of Military and Veteran Education at Thomas Edison State University (left) with new OCP Advisory Board member and Medal of Honor Recipient Col. Jack H. Jacobs (U.S. Army, ret.).

"The professional diversity of our new Advisory Board members will be invaluable in our efforts to support military veterans as they pursue their higher education goals and transition to the civilian workforce," said Wendy Lang, director of Operation College Promise at the University.

University Participates in Aviation Panel at FSANA Conference

Two members of Thomas Edison State University's staff served on the panel, "Post-Secondary Education Distance Learning" at this year's Flight School Association of North America (FSANA) annual conference in Orlando, Fla.



Pictured at the FSANA annual conference (from left to right) are Brad Sims, chancellor of ERAU Worldwide; Kelli Parlante-Givas, director, Strategic Partnership Management, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, Thomas Edison State University; Bob Rockmaker, president of FSANA; and Donald Cucuzzella, assistant director, School of Applied Science and Technology, Thomas Edison State University. (Photo courtesy of FSANA).

As part of the panel, Kelli Parlante-Givas, director, Strategic Partnership Management, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach at Thomas Edison State University, and Donald Cucuzzella, assistant director, School of Applied Science and Technology at the University, spoke about the ongoing partnership the University has established with FSANA, which includes a generous transfer credit policy and overwhelming acceptance of flight licenses and training offered to students looking to complete their degrees.

"We were the first school to be approached by FSANA to become a Corporate Choice® partner more than three years ago," said Parlante-Givas. "They believed in our program offerings and wanted to assist their pilots in obtaining their degrees as cost effectively as possible. Our award of credits for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licenses and certificates is very attractive in the aviation industry."

As part of the panel discussion, Parlante-Givas and Cucuzzella also highlighted the University's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology (BSAST) degree in Aviation Management created as part of the partnership.

"The University's newest aviation area of study was created thanks to our partnership with FSANA. They discussed a real need for a degree that had an Aviation Management area of study for those in the field who want to move away from the technical side of the industry and into a management or leadership role. Our BSAST degree in Aviation Management is the University's first degree program where online aviation courses are offered," said Cucuzzella.

The pair was also presented with partner award recognition by FSANA president Bob Rockmaker.

To learn more about the University's Corporate Choice® partnership with FSANA, visit www.tesu.edu/FSANA.

JetBlue Foundation Awards \$25,000 Grant for Further Degree Program Development

The JetBlue Foundation has awarded the Thomas Edison State University Foundation a \$25,000 grant as part of its effort to encourage aviation programs that support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives. The grant will be used for curriculum development for the School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State University's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology (BSAST) degree program in Aviation Management. Members of the University's staff as well as current aviation management degree program students attended the JetBlue Foundation's third annual grant check presentation at a special event at JetBlue University, the airline's state-of-the-art training facility in Orlando, Fla.



Pictured (from left to right) are Dr. John Aje, dean, School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State University; Marcus Austin, current BSAST in Aviation Management student; Janet Eickhoff, associate vice president, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach at Thomas Edison State University; Stephanie Hood-Irwin, current BSAST in Aviation Management student; Cody Cleverly, senior analyst, Academic Programs at JetBlue Airways; and Donald Cucuzzella, assistant director, School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State University.



THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
PRESENTS ITS

25th Anniversary Grande Ball

Saturday, October 8, 2016
Trenton War Memorial | 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

tesufoundation.org/gala

Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic Raises More Than \$100,000

The 22nd annual Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic, which took place at The Ridge at Back Brook in Ringoes, N.J., on May 9, helped raise more than \$100,000 for the Thomas Edison State University Foundation. This year, nearly 150 golfers and guests attended and supported the event.

"We were incredibly fortunate to enjoy a beautiful spring day on the course and we are grateful to our sponsors and our golfers for their generous support of the Foundation that allows us to advance the mission of the University. Each year seems better than the last and that's only possible because of the wonderful group of people who attend," said Misty Isak, associate vice president of Development at Thomas Edison State University.

This year's tournament raised more money than any other in the event's 22-year history. The tournament offered two format options with winning foursomes from each format. The first place "Play Your Own Ball" foursome was made up of Mike Coyle, Frank Lucchesi, Brian McIlhenny and Mike Mocer. The first place "Scramble" foursome included Sean Fox, Craig Goldstein, Colin Hayes and Dave Skarbek.



Golf Committee Honorary Chair Cathie Streckewald is flanked by "Team Streck," from left to right: Tim Trey, Kevin Streckewald, Dan Streckewald and Chris Thude.



Patrick Reilly, Morris Lewis, Thomas Edison State University Foundation Board Chair Dr. Michael Toscani and Derek Peterson ready to tee off at Hole 10.



Non-golfers participated in the day with a painting and wine experience where they created their own original pieces of art.

A beautiful spring day for golf on one of New Jersey's most exclusive courses.



Three of the members of the 1st Place Scramble Team, from left to right: Sean Fox, Dave Skarbek and Craig Goldstein.



Golfers and guests enjoy the Reception and Awards Dinner at The Ridge's beautiful Clubhouse.



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BEHIND THE BADGE

Enforcing a Family Tradition

❖ Sean Flannelly, BA '14

It wasn't the moment he entered the police academy that Sean Flannelly realized his niche might be civil service; he discovered that passion much earlier.

By the time Flannelly graduated from the Cape May County, N.J., Police Academy's Alternate Route program in 2011 and received his Police Training Commission certificate, law enforcement was already in his DNA.

"I come from a family of civil servants, primarily police officers and firefighters," Flannelly explained. "Being surrounded by police officers throughout my upbringing affected me significantly. I wanted a career in law enforcement since before grammar school and I worked my entire life to achieve it."

Flannelly has since fought long and hard with paper, pencil and tactical gear to earn his place as a patrolman with the Englewood Cliffs Police Department in Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

Since his swearing in to the department in May 2011, Flannelly has amassed an unprecedented and downright impressive cache of awards and accolades. In 2014 alone, Flannelly received the Englewood Cliffs Police Department Life Saving Award for helping to revive a 73-year-old man and the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Award for the most department driving while impaired (DWI) arrests and convictions for the year. He has also received both a lifesaving award from the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association and the 200 Club of Bergen County's Meritorious Service Award for smashing the window of an overturned, inflamed vehicle surrounded by live wires and fluid to save the life of a 20-year-old woman in 2015.

But this is just another day on the job for Flannelly.

In a family brimming with ranking law enforcement professionals and firefighters across the state, from grandfathers, to uncles and cousins, on both sides of his family, he never lost sight of the importance of obtaining his degree.

"I first heard about Thomas Edison after I began my employment with the Englewood Cliffs Police Department. Fellow officers in my department, as well as my father's, recommended the institution," he said.

Flannelly took their advice and enrolled in Thomas Edison's Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, completing his BA in 2014 using transfer credits, prior learning assessments and online courses.

Having a thirst for knowledge and looking to take his education one step further, Flannelly decided to pursue his master's degree. "Given my past experience with the institution, I didn't hesitate when I chose Thomas Edison for graduate school. Following completion of my bachelor's degree, I immediately applied for acceptance into the Master of Science in Homeland Security (MSHS) degree program," Flannelly said. "The value of education cannot be understated, and I saw numerous benefits to having a master's degree."

Already seven courses into his master's degree, Flannelly has outlined a number of goals he plans to achieve upon completion.

"I wanted to earn an MSHS degree to further my education and to help promote my law enforcement career. A master's degree will increase my yearly earnings, increase promotional testing points and also help with a postretirement career."

One short-term goal is to use the knowledge obtained through the pursuit of his graduate-level degree to become a member of his department's Counter Terrorism Intelligence Bureau and become a certified Municipal Counter Terrorism Coordinator.

Without the flexibility of distance learning, he admits, his degree pursuits and time-to-goal completion would be much further out of reach.

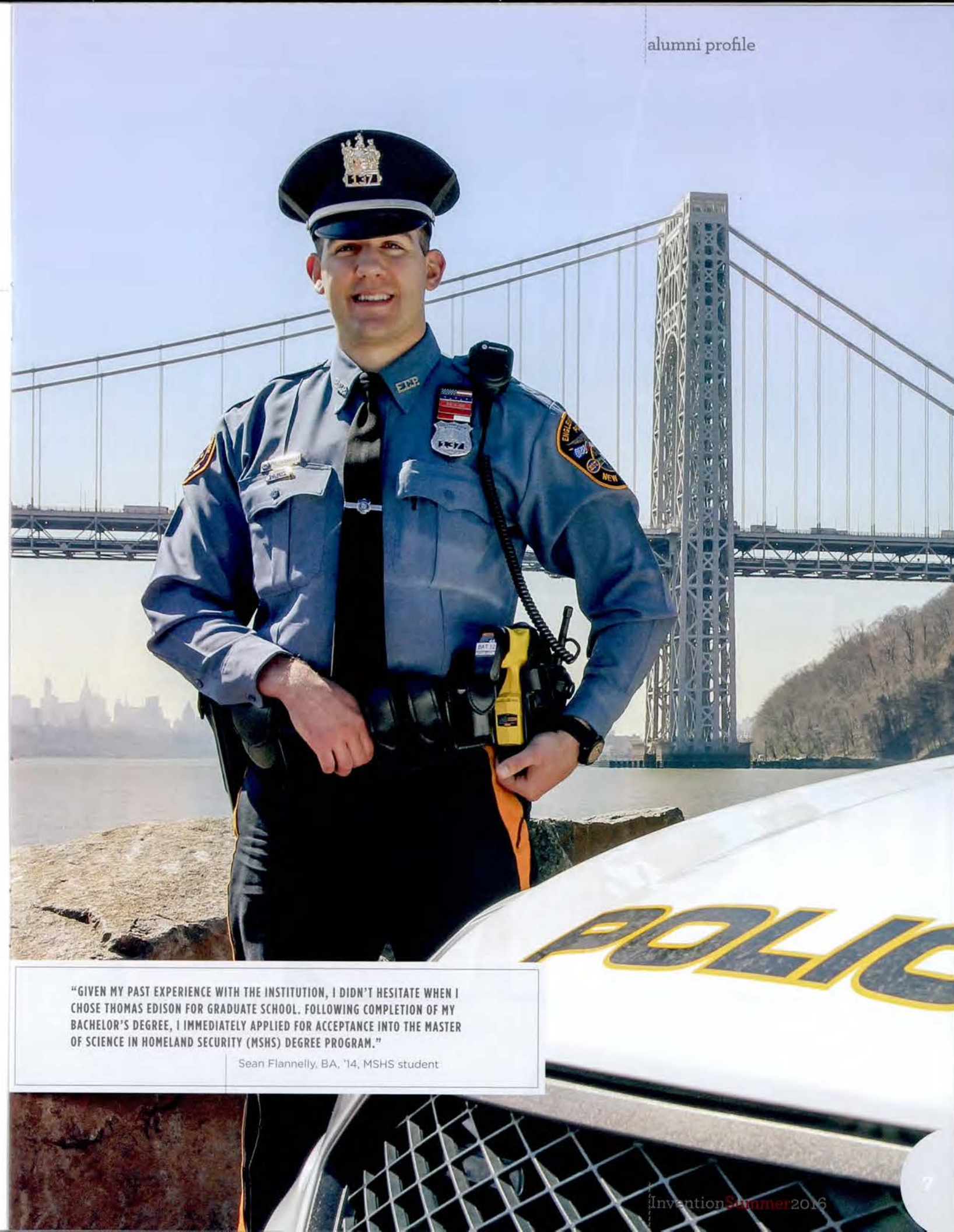
"Being able to complete a degree without going to a set location at a set time was one of the biggest advantages for me," Flannelly explained. "I work shift work on a rotating schedule, so going to a physical classroom would not be a possibility. I wouldn't have been able to complete a degree without the flexibility of distance learning."

At the end of the day, it's his positive interactions with people and impactful work that provide the fuel Flannelly uses to reinforce the devotion he has for his career.

"My favorite part of the profession is being able to have a positive impact on people's lives through my interactions with them," he said. "This can come in countless forms, such as medical calls, youth programs, community policing, investigations or any basic calls for service."

Off the clock, Flannelly finds gratification in activities ranging from martial arts to hunting, fishing, archery and swimming.

His immediate family comes packed with an expansive array of careers ranging from educators to a current mechanical engineering student. Not to be outdone, Flannelly also has an "8-year-old pet beagle named Heidi that loves to eat and sleep all day and night."



"GIVEN MY PAST EXPERIENCE WITH THE INSTITUTION, I DIDN'T HESITATE WHEN I CHOSE THOMAS EDISON FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF MY BACHELOR'S DEGREE, I IMMEDIATELY APPLIED FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOMELAND SECURITY (MSHS) DEGREE PROGRAM."

Sean Flannelly, BA '14, MSHS student

ALL RISE

Lauren Hart, BA '96

*Lauren Hart turns the
singing of the national
anthem into an event
worth standing for.*



ALLRISE

Lauren Hart, BA '96

Since the late 1990s, she has performed at Philadelphia Flyers home games and leveraged the familiar octave-busting crescendos into a roar from the crowd that carries on until the puck drops. The voice of her late father, the legendary announcer Gene Hart, is usually a part of those moments.

"My dad had witnessed the Star-Spangled Banner sung many different ways by many vocalists during his career," said Hart. "His advice to me was 'just sing it straight.' For this reason, I am always careful to not let my personality get in the way of the song."

It is Hart's personality, however, that has elicited the staunch devotion of hockey fans throughout North America. Her unalloyed interpretation of the song has been praised by national publications as well as a former *Hockey News* poll that voted her the best anthem singer in NHL history. It is also Hart's rendition that you hear in the 2004 Disney film, *Miracle*, which retells the improbable victory of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team over the Soviet Union.

Hart knows all about unlikely victories. She has shared the stage with Frank Sinatra, performed at President Bill Clinton's inauguration and earned record deals with Columbia and Red Ant/BMG. Hart has also toured with Tori Amos, Fiona Apple and Train, and wrote original music for the television shows *Joan of Arcadia*, *Dawson's Creek* and *Party of Five*.

But in the late 1990s, life delivered her a particularly vicious one-two punch. She lost her beloved father to cancer and received her own diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma shortly after. The subsequent loss of her major recording contract resulting from the diagnosis did not dim her resolve. In spite of her heartbreak, cancer prognosis and the exhausting treatments that followed, Hart stood strong. In the midst of her illness, she powered through public performances to her eventual remission, doubly focused on making a difference.

"There was a shift happening at the time," said Hart. "I'd lost my father the year before, so Philadelphia fans seemed to take me under their wing as a tribute to him. When I became sick, I just performed through it and was embraced by fans on a different level. At different stages of my life, my career has taken me all over the world, but circumstance kept me coming back, and I'm so glad I did."

"THOUGH I CHOSE A CAREER THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A COLLEGE DEGREE, IT IS SOMETHING I ALWAYS VALUED. I LOVE LEARNING AND STILL DO. MY RESPECT FOR EDUCATION COMES FROM MY PARENTS, BOTH OF WHOM WERE TEACHERS BEFORE MY DAD EMBARKED ON HIS BROADCAST CAREER."

Lauren Hart, BA '96

In a career that has included major record deals, national tours, producing music for network television programs and co-hosting a morning news program for NBC's Philadelphia affiliate, one may wonder why a college degree would matter.

Hart deemed it a necessary part of her progression. "Though I chose a career that does not require a college degree, it is something I always valued. I love learning and still do," said Hart, who attended Temple University after high school, but left to focus on her music career. "My respect for education comes from my parents, both of whom were teachers before my dad embarked on his broadcast career."

Hart said their response to her impressive career was, "that's great, but what is your fallback plan?"

When Hart began piecing together that plan, she assumed she would never be able to balance her life as a professional recording artist with college course work. Once she investigated Thomas Edison's programs and structure, however, she realized it was achievable.

"I had already fulfilled my area of study requirements for my BA degree in music, so I basically had general education and elective requirements remaining when I began searching for a way to complete my degree," said Hart, who completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 1996. "In a search for colleges, I heard about the institution and enrolled. Doing my Guided Study course work – often on the road – gave me a solid sense of

myself in a profession known for its unpredictability. It was a very fulfilling and grounding experience for me."

Hart's recent focus on home and family does not make for days that are more predictable or languid. On the contrary, her pace has increased with the size of a growing family and a number of ever-expanding projects with entrepreneur husband Todd Carmichael. Carmichael, co-founder of the renowned La Colombe Torrefaction craft coffee chain and star of the Travel Channel's *Dangerous Grounds*, shares a love of philanthropy and adventure with his wife.

"Todd and I have traveled to Africa and are passionate about the plight of orphans in the countries we've visited. We've both become devoted to the idea of making sure that these children have access to clean drinking water, a

roof over their heads and education," noted Hart, who successfully pitched the idea for *Dangerous Grounds* to the Travel Channel. "Unlike in the U.S., providing a public school education is not mandatory, so supporting a private institution is a real way to provide these children a future. Through our support work, we also connected with four amazing Ethiopian children: Bek, Yordi, Selah and Yemi, ages 3, 6, 9 and 12, respectively, whom we recently adopted. Bringing them into our family has added an entirely new and wonderful level of energy to our household."

Hart's cancer survival continues to fuel her work as a peer counselor for cancer patients as well as a board member for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and Pennsylvania Hospital Cancer Center. She was recently named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Friends of the American Cancer Society. Her support work also includes the Gene Hart Memorial Fund, Echoes Foundation in Uganda and Wide Horizons for Children, and she is also a proud supporter of her alma mater, Thomas Edison State University.

Hart also has an overarching passion about children's exposure to music in schools.

"It's a crucial educational component that is not valued the way it should be, and the kids who need it the most as an avenue in their lives are not getting it," she said. "On its most basic level, exposure to music, instruments and musical performance provides a valuable outlet and inspiration."

To learn more about Hart's charity work and latest projects, visit www.laurenhart.com.

"IN A SEARCH FOR COLLEGES, I HEARD ABOUT THE INSTITUTION AND ENROLLED. DOING MY GUIDED STUDY COURSE WORK – OFTEN ON THE ROAD – GAVE ME A SOLID SENSE OF MYSELF IN A PROFESSION KNOWN FOR ITS UNPREDICTABILITY. IT WAS A VERY FULFILLING AND GROUNDING EXPERIENCE FOR ME."

Lauren Hart, BA '96



Wordsmith

Daniel Sanabria-Morales, BA '13



As a youth growing up in Colombia, Daniel Sanabria-Morales dreamed of exploring the world. Today, his career in language translation and interpretation has made that desire a reality.

"I often think that I am simply pursuing the things I wanted to do when I was a kid," explained Sanabria-Morales, founder, owner and operator of Transmith T&I Services. "Many of us dreamed of being sports celebrities or famous actors growing up. But, I vividly remember wanting to know more about the rest of the world outside Colombia, what people out there thought, felt and cherished, or how cool it would be to hop from country to country."

He embarked on the journey to realizing his vision when he arrived in the United States as a teen. Sanabria-Morales, whose native language is Spanish, learned English in junior high and moved right into French in high school. A naturalized U.S. citizen with dual Colombian/American citizenship, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps, which fulfilled another desire – to see the world.

Thomas Edison played a major role in helping Sanabria-Morales achieve yet another goal, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Humanities.

"A dear friend of mine recommended Thomas Edison after I explained that the degree I wanted to pursue would be difficult in a conventional

of least resistance, the best languages would be Portuguese and Italian, given that they're fundamentally so close to Spanish – one big Romance language family, and they're so melodic. But I wanted a tougher challenge, so picked a language that is completely outside the Romance linguistic family; hence, Korean."

Looking back on his aspiration of wanting to explore the world during his childhood, Sanabria-Morales recalled, "Learning English was the first step in that direction; learning French made me experience the delight of expressing my thoughts in foreign languages. And joining the Marines gave me the travel experience I longed for. So my current field of work is, to be perfectly honest, a way of getting paid for something that enriches my own life."

Sanabria-Morales noted that Transmith T&I Services, previously known as Delta Sierra Translations, started in 2009 following a four-year period of active duty service in the Marine Corps. "My years of residence in the Far East and my travel experiences allowed me to gain a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of global cultures and languages, and the vital role translators play in creating intercultural bridges."

Sanabria-Morales, however, takes translation a step further than most. His analogy of his work is that it is similar to a blacksmith that forges metal into a sword; Sanabria-Morales uses the deliberate manipulation of words to convey the same meaning into a "target" language, which involves a multilayered type of work that requires several operations or techniques.

"My mission is to learn and understand my clients' needs thoroughly so that I can convey their ideas in their target language, keeping close in mind the unique morphology, syntax and semantical features that distinguish each language."

A member of the American Translators Association and the National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators, Sanabria-Morales recently completed a Community Business Academy (CBA) course to improve his business skills.

"Given that I had resigned from my full-time job in order to launch my own company, I needed help in understanding basic concepts required to run a business. Fortunately, a nonprofit company in Jersey City (N.J.) teaches a course in that discipline, and it was an honor to have been chosen as the class speaker at my CBA graduation in May 2015."

Sanabria-Morales splits his time between his home in North Bergen, N.J., and a home in Nutley, N.J., where his fiancée lives. He has two sons, Liam, 5, and Balian, 4.

"MY MISSION IS TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND MY CLIENTS' NEEDS THOROUGHLY SO THAT I CAN CONVEY THEIR IDEAS IN THEIR TARGET LANGUAGE, KEEPING CLOSE IN MIND THE UNIQUE MORPHOLOGY, SYNTAX AND SEMANTICAL FEATURES THAT DISTINGUISH EACH LANGUAGE."

Daniel Sanabria-Morales, BA '13

university setting. I was juggling a full-time job, plus I was a brand-new dad, so if I could find a distance learning university or college, it would be great. I looked up Thomas Edison, saw its course offerings plus its availability to work with my Post-9/11 GI Bill®, and felt that I found the right educational venue for me."

It was Thomas Edison's self-directed, self-paced approach that allowed Sanabria-Morales to take Spanish translation courses at a different New Jersey-based institution and transfer them. He explained that these courses set the foundation for his career and, the 2013 graduate added, "I don't think I could have done it without Thomas Edison's approval of my study plan."

His pursuit of knowledge hasn't stopped there. Currently teaching himself Korean, Sanabria-Morales explained the challenge of mastering a new language.

"It all depends on which language," he noted of the learning process. "If I wanted to take the path

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

❖ Allison Riley, BSN '11 *U.S. Air Force Flight Nurse*

Delivering patient care at 30,000 feet while traveling 400 miles an hour, takes a certain type.

As a U.S. Air Force flight nurse, Allison Riley, RN, considers it her calling. "Medical evacuations of personnel can take place in the U.S. or overseas, during active combat or humanitarian missions, in peacetime settings or in the midst of a natural disaster," said the 2011 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program graduate.

She and fellow aeromedical crewmembers can be responsible for as many as 70 patients during a single mission and must be prepared to handle multiple threats while responding to inflight aircraft emergencies – including fire, rapid decompression or crash landing situations – all while caring for their patients. Precious cargo can include wounded military personnel, their family members and U.S. government contractors.

"Patients can range from those who are stabilized and ambulatory to those requiring psychiatric and medical-surgical nursing care. We also have to be prepared to work on pediatric, post-operative and trauma patients including those suffering from severe burns," said Riley. The military transports she serves on include C-130, C-17 and KC-135 aircraft.

After graduating with her BSN degree from Thomas Edison's W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, Riley commissioned as a U.S. Air Force officer and soon began training to become a military flight nurse.

"I began applying for nursing jobs in the military as soon as I completed my BSN degree requirements," said Riley. "The course work helped me to expand my overall understanding of nursing as a profession, especially in the areas of research and evidence-based practice. As my career moved forward, a bachelor's degree was

becoming a requirement for nearly all of the preferred nursing positions available. So I continued to work full time while enrolled in the online RN to BSN program. The structure afforded me the freedom to complete my studies from home on my own schedule and my degree made me eligible to commission as an officer in the Air Force Nurse Corps. My BSN has also allowed me to advance to graduate-level education."

According to Riley, military flight nursing is a competitive field with a rigorous application process that involves background checks, physical examinations and face-to-face interviews with military commanders. Once she commissioned as an officer, Riley attended the Commissioned Officer Training (COT) program, which focused on her physical, academic and leadership skills.

After COT program completion, Riley attended Air Force Flight School where she was introduced to aerospace medicine and the concepts behind the human body's physiological responses to alterations in altitude and cabin pressure and how those changes affect patient care. "This phase of training taught us how to think outside the box and function with limited resources," said Riley. "We learned how to perform critical assessments without the customary diagnostic and lab resources or radiological equipment." Riley then completed the Formal Training Unit phase in which she learned aircraft systems and how to perform specific nursing duties in flight.

Because all Air Force flight personnel are considered to be at risk for enemy capture, she and fellow officers completed survival training in the event their aircraft crashed or was shot down in enemy territory. "It took about two years from start to finish, but eventually

I was offered a position in the 514th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey."

Riley is clear about what continues to fuel her enthusiasm.

"Every day members of our armed forces make great personal sacrifices to protect our country and defend our freedom. If they are injured in the line of duty, it is gratifying to know that I have the ability to assist in providing them with the medical care they need to return home to their loved ones," she said. "I consider it an honor to be able to serve my country and fellow military members in this capacity. I've worked in the emergency nursing field for eight years and each patient brings a valuable opportunity to learn something new. I like the critical thinking that is involved in doing the initial assessments on my patients, where there may only be a modicum of their personal information immediately available and you have to piece together the puzzle to figure out a treatment plan."

Recently, Riley began her graduate studies in the nurse practitioner program at an area health sciences university where she is focusing on the field of family practice. She begins her clinical rotations next year and said she is on schedule for a 2017 graduation. After graduation, she hopes to continue to work in the area of emergency medicine and serve as a clinical instructor for the next generation of BSN students.

A penchant for patriotism and patient care spans generations in the Riley household.

"I am very blessed to have had positive role models in my career," said Riley. "My father served in the U.S. Air Force and Army in various roles and my mother worked in healthcare as both an RN and a nurse educator. I could not have come so far without their continued support and encouragement."



"EVERY DAY MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES MAKE GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICES TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY AND DEFEND OUR FREEDOM. IF THEY ARE INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, IT IS GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT I HAVE THE ABILITY TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING THEM WITH THE MEDICAL CARE THEY NEED TO RETURN HOME TO THEIR LOVED ONES."

Allison Riley, BSN '11

❖ Ryan Brancheau BSBA '06, MSHRM '14

Ryan Brancheau was promoted to national key account brand manager as part of the Valvoline Digital and Equity team. In his new role, Brancheau will be responsible for partnering with national and regional account managers on marketing platform development and execution across key top 20 accounts. Additionally, he will be responsible for the development of new service creation and valuation projects, along with motorsports activities within the Valvoline Installer Channel network.



❖ David Harrity BSAST '05

David Harrity has completed the executive Master of Science in the Management of Information Technology (MS in MIT) degree program at the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce. Following the completion of his degree, Harrity obtained the Information Systems Audit and Control Association's (ISACA) Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) honor as well as the Certified Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT) honor.



❖ Gena Cagle MSHRM '12

Gena Cagle was promoted to recruitment manager for both Meridian At Home and JFK At Home healthcare services.



❖ Michael Havlik BSBA '08

Michael Havlik joined the board of Mile High Youth Corps as a director. Mile High Youth Corps' mission is to address the employment and educational needs of youth by putting them to work on projects that benefit the community. His term on the board runs through 2019. Havlik is an associate at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck law firm based in Denver, Colo.

❖ N. Thomas Johnson-Medland BA '95

N. Thomas Johnson-Medland has released his latest volume of poetry, *In the Same Place: Poems of Place*. The volume features both poems of Pennsylvania as well as poems written to Walt Whitman from his grave in Camden, N.J. Johnson-Medland is also opening a hospice center in the Pocono Mountain area of Pennsylvania for BAYADA and has been providing hospice leadership since 1997.



❖ Dr. Gabriele Chorney BA '99

Dr. Gabriele Chorney has earned her Doctorate of Psychoanalysis degree from the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis.



❖ Scott F. Frame BA '10

Scott F. Frame graduated from Widener University Delaware Law School with a JD and Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law with a LLM in Trial Advocacy. Frame has since been employed with the Montgomery County (Pa.) Office of the District Attorney as an assistant district attorney in its Economic Crimes Unit, Trials Division.

❖ Clement Joseph BA '04

Clement Joseph earned his master's degree in law from Florida Coastal School of Law after spending a number of years serving as state prosecutor in both Dominica (the Commonwealth of Dominica) and the Turks and Caicos Islands.



❖ Dr. Steve Gregor MAEdL '09

Dr. Steve Gregor has been named district director of Secondary Education within the Washington Township School District (Gloucester County, N.J.). In his new role, Gregor will assist in curriculum development and implementation in grades 6-12. Previously, Gregor served as the principal of Orchard Valley Middle School in Sewell, N.J.



❖ Andrew Maristch BSBA '15

Andrew Maristch earned his professional real estate license in Pennsylvania. He has since joined Wolf Commercial Real Estate (WCRE) a New Jersey-based commercial real estate company.



❖ Patricia Martinelli MAPS '03

Patricia Martinelli has been honored as a "Hometown Hero" by *SNJ Today Media* for her work as curator at the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society. She has made improvements in collections management techniques at the Society's museum and created a partnership program with regional colleges that has brought in new interns for training in museum practices. With more than 20 years of experience in the museum field, Martinelli is also the author of nine nonfiction books on regional history. She is currently researching the subject of her next book on the New Jersey Spiritualist Association, which started in Vineland in 1866.

❖ Dorothy Moreno BSN '13

Dorothy Moreno, RN, was selected to serve on the Electrologists Advisory Committee of New Jersey, which is a direct appointment of Gov. Chris Christie. The committee to which she was appointed falls under the supervision of the N.J. State Board of Medical Examiners and is charged with licensing electrologists and electrology offices, approving electrology education programs, adopting standards for courses in continuing professional education and conducting inspections of electrology offices in New Jersey.



❖ Gregory Orme BA '94

Gregory Orme has been awarded the 2016 Secretary of the Army Award for Publications Improvements and was recognized in a ceremony at the Pentagon on May 25. Orme is the chief of the Media Production Division at the U.S. Army Special Operations Center of Excellence. He is the current vice president of the Georgia-Carolina College English Association and also spoke at the Distance Learning Administration Conference in Jekyll Island, Ga., in June on the topic, "Considerations of Online University English Composition Courses."

❖ Amelia Roberts BSN '14

Amelia Roberts has started her own business, Solutions by Amelia, as a social media coach, teaching professionals how to use social media strategically to demonstrate expertise, thought leadership and to enhance the lives of their target audiences.



❖ Dina Silbernagel-Krohne BSBA '15

Dina Silbernagel-Krohne recently began a position with Amazon as an area manager at their Robbinsville, N.J., location.



❖ Alan Smit BSAST '13

Alan Smit has received his Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license for Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) at the Quad Cities nuclear power plant in Illinois.

❖ Craig Weber BSHS '12

Craig Weber has retired from the Ramsey Police Department in Ramsey, N.J., following 26 years of service. Weber became a patrolman in 1995 and graduated from the Bergen County Police Academy. He was promoted to sergeant in 2013 and, during his career, was a field training officer, radar instructor and Traffic Bureau supervisor.

❖ Lt. Col. Robert Yenchka MSM '14

Lt. Col. Robert Yenchka has assumed command of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 254th Regiment based in New Jersey.



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