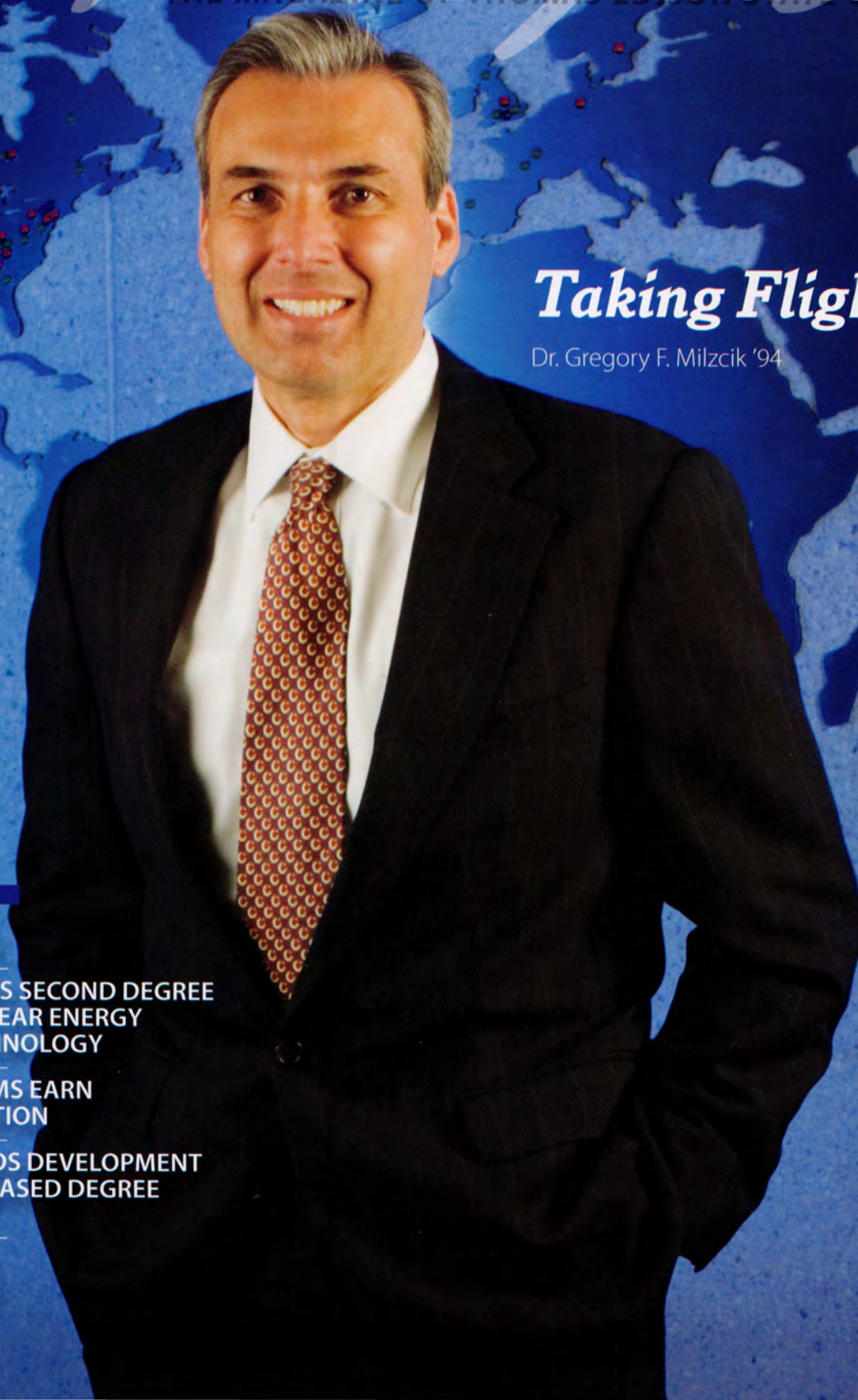


Invention

WINTER 2013

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



Taking Flight

Dr. Gregory F. Milzcik '94

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Taking Flight

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



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Warren Buffett said, "Without passion, you don't have energy. Without energy, you have nothing."

This issue of *Invention* celebrates someone whose passion and energy have elevated him to the highest ranks of corporate leadership and whose story is a classic example of how Thomas Edison State College helps transform the lives of our students.

We are honored to tell the story of Gregory F. Milzcik '94, who serves our institution as a dedicated alum and member of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors. In this issue, Milzcik recalls how the College helped him transform his boyhood fascination with planes into a successful career powering the aerospace industry.

Also in this issue, we meet Cynthia Yard '90, who explains how completing her bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State College enabled her to advance her career while raising two young children and working full time.

We are also pleased to share photos from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 2012 Grande Ball, which raised approximately \$121,000 to benefit the College and honored two extraordinary people: Karen L. Clark, president of Horizon NJ Health and vice president of Medicaid at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, recipient of the 2012 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award; and John J. McCann '90, chairman and CEO (retired) of Bridge Trading, a Reuters Company, recipient of the 2012 Spirit of Edison Family Award. Special thanks go out to all of our sponsors, volunteers and guests who made the 2012 Grande Ball such a success.

We are honored to serve and work with individuals like those featured in this issue.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

College Prepares Move to New Learning Management System

Thomas Edison State College is preparing to launch Moodle, a new learning management system that provides better navigation for students in their course spaces and greater flexibility and efficiency for the development, design and delivery of new courses. Moodle will begin to replace the current Blackboard platform in 2013. In the following Q&A, Matt Cooper, associate provost of Learning and Technology, discusses how the system positions the College to leverage the latest technologies and provides a richer educational experience for students.

> Q: Why is Thomas Edison State College moving to a new learning management system?

A: Thomas Edison State College made the strategic decision to transition to a new learning management system to provide greater flexibility and efficiency for the development, design and delivery of new courses and to better position the institution to leverage the latest technologies in education to deliver courses to our students in a richer, more meaningful way.



> Q: What exactly is Moodle?

A: Moodle, which stands for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, is an open source learning management system that provides educators with the latest tools to manage learning and provides students with a richer, more flexible experience. Some

institutions use Moodle to support fully online courses while others use it to supplement traditional brick-and-mortar classroom experiences.

> Q: What are the main differences between the Moodle platform and the Blackboard platform?

A: For students, the biggest change will probably be in the navigation. We feel that the navigation of a typical course is improved in the Moodle course space and students will not have to click through as many links to find their course elements and complete their assignments. Students should also find the new space familiar as many elements of the courses are being brought over from Blackboard. Another change will be the addition of Google Apps, a suite of programs that use cloud-based technology, which enables students to create spreadsheets, documents, PowerPoint presentations, access multimedia presentations and other programs required for courses. Using Google Apps and Google Docs, students can access and submit their assignment regardless of the computer, tablet or other device they are using or the software installed on that device.



Matt Cooper, associate provost of Learning and Technology

> Q: So, I can compose an Excel spreadsheet for my managerial finance class without having Microsoft Excel loaded on the device I am using?

A: Exactly. When we launch the new system later this year and students access a course in the new space, they will log in to their Google account to access Google Apps along with all the necessary programs required for the course.

To watch a video of Cooper discussing the new learning management system and to take a tour of a new course space, visit www.tesc.edu/moodle.



College Launches Second Degree Program in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology



Graduates of Thomas Edison State College's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology (BSAST) degree program in Nuclear Engineering Technology may now apply for a BSAST degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology, which is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, as a second degree.

The College's Second Degree Program in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology requires candidates to complete at least 24 additional credits through Thomas

Edison State College that fulfill degree requirements of the BSAST degree in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology.

The program is open to graduates of the College's BSAST degree program in Nuclear Engineering Technology who earned the degree after Jan. 1, 2000. Candidates who earned their BSAST degree in Nuclear Engineering Technology before Jan. 1, 2000, may apply and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether additional courses are needed.

Graduates interested in the program should apply now. Applications for the Second Degree Program in Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology are being accepted now through Dec. 31, 2013, and all course work must be completed by Dec. 31, 2016.

For complete program requirements and conditions, visit www.tesc.edu/bsast2 or contact the School of Business and Technology at ApSciTech@tesc.edu.

Nursing Programs Earn NLNAC Accreditation

Nursing programs offered by the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College were recently awarded accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) following a rigorous onsite assessment of the School's programs, which took place this past spring.

said Dr. Phyllis A. Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "We are extremely proud of this distinction, and I thank the nursing team, the College and our students, alumni and stakeholders for their active participation and support throughout the entire accreditation process."

graduate nursing programs, including the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program and graduate nursing certificates. The College's nursing programs are also accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and approved by the New Jersey Board of Nursing.

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing's online program is one of the largest of its kind in the country, and the School is a national leader in the recruitment and preparation of minority nurse educators in online education. The accreditation process provided an opportunity for students and graduates of the program to share their experiences with evaluators, as both nursing students and active practitioners.

The NLNAC is nationally recognized as a specialized accrediting agency for both post-secondary and higher degree programs in nursing education. The commission has authority and accountability for carrying out the responsibilities inherent in the application of standards and criteria, accreditation processes, and the affairs, management, policymaking and general administration of the NLNAC.



Students and alumni of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing participated in the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) accreditation/reaccreditation sessions last spring at Thomas Edison State College.

"Accreditation denotes excellence in educational programming and assures quality and achievement of national standards and benchmarks,"

The NLNAC awarded continuing accreditation of the College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program and initial accreditation of the College's

Library Plays Key Role in Hurricane Sandy Recovery Efforts

The New Jersey State Library, an affiliate of Thomas Edison State College, continues to aid local libraries affected by Hurricane Sandy and promote the important role libraries throughout New Jersey played to assist residents in the aftermath of the storm.

Of the more than 450 public library buildings in New Jersey, about 310 were closed at least one day due to the storm. Once they reopened, 48 libraries served as designated warming centers or shelters and 115 libraries provided special services to residents, including free Internet and fax services and places to charge electronic devices.

"One of the most critical roles a library plays as an anchor institution, is finding ways to help the people and

organizations of its community address information needs and challenges, especially in times of stress," said New Jersey State Librarian Mary Chute.

The New Jersey State Library worked to help restore Internet access to libraries and updated webpages on behalf of libraries affected by the storm. In addition, the New Jersey State Library has made EBSCO Publishing's Home Improvement Reference Center™, a resource providing detailed, user-friendly, "how-to" information about home improvements and repairs, accessible to New Jersey residents and businesses affected by Hurricane Sandy for free through the *JerseyClicks.org* portal.

Building on a long-standing partnership, EBSCO Publishing donated the tool to

the New Jersey State Library.

"This database of do-it-yourself instructions, accompanied by videos and photographs, is a tremendous resource and can have an important impact on the people in our communities as they are faced with natural disaster," said Chute. "We heartily thank EBSCO Publishing for their generosity."

The New Jersey State Library is currently pursuing grant opportunities and partnerships to strengthen infrastructure and networks for libraries across the state. The New Jersey State Library is also coordinating efforts with the New Jersey Library Association and Library Link NJ to support the state's library community as it helps New Jersey recover from the devastation caused by the storm.

JoHendleyPhotography.com

Watson Institute Coordinates Meeting for Municipal Leaders and FEMA

The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College and the New Jersey Urban Mayors' Association organized and hosted a meeting with municipal leaders from throughout New Jersey and officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Officials from FEMA's recovery and support team met with local leaders to discuss recovery efforts, the impact of Hurricane Sandy on their cities and towns and to learn about opportunities and resources available to them as they continue recovery efforts. FEMA officials also discussed strategies for municipal planning in the wake of natural disasters

and how towns can communicate better when normal lines of communication are not available during and after natural disasters.

The meeting also focused on an economic development analysis of the north central region of New Jersey recently completed by Camoin Associates that was funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Data from the analysis will serve as a framework for a comprehensive economic development strategy and planning tool for creating sustainable economic growth in urban communities throughout northern and central New Jersey.



(from left) R. Michael N'dolo, vice president, Camoin Associates, Inc.; Dawn Martinez, confidential aide to Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith; Barbara George Johnson, executive director, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College; Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith, president of NJUMA; Paterson Mayor Jeffery Jones; Jim Damici, senior vice president, Camoin Associates, Inc.; Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and dean, John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College.

Foundation Funds Development of Competency-Based Degree Programs

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation has invested \$100,000 to fund the development of competency-based degree programs that leverage massive open online courses (MOOC) and other open resources and the College's expertise in assessing prior learning to create new pathways for degree completion for adult students.

consortiums that include the leading universities in the U.S., such as Harvard, Princeton and Stanford. Open courses have also proven to be very popular, which makes the potential market for students vast, as the number of people enrolling in MOOCs continues to rapidly grow.



Marc Singer, vice provost of the College's Center for the Assessment of Learning

"We will provide students who complete these open courses the opportunity to earn credit and apply that credit to our degree programs..."

"We are grateful for the Foundation's support and excited to create new opportunities for adult learners that combine our expertise in assessment and the rapid increase of online learning opportunities," said Marc Singer, vice provost of the College's Center for the Assessment of Learning, which will oversee the work. "We are in the midst of another paradigm shift in higher education and look forward to creating new degree completion options that enable adults to take advantage of this shift."

Open courses are typically noncredit and free. Many open courses are offered by

For example, one of the leading consortiums, Coursera, recently reported that it exceeded 2 million students this year. Another leading consortium, edX, reported an enrollment of 370,000 students for this fall.

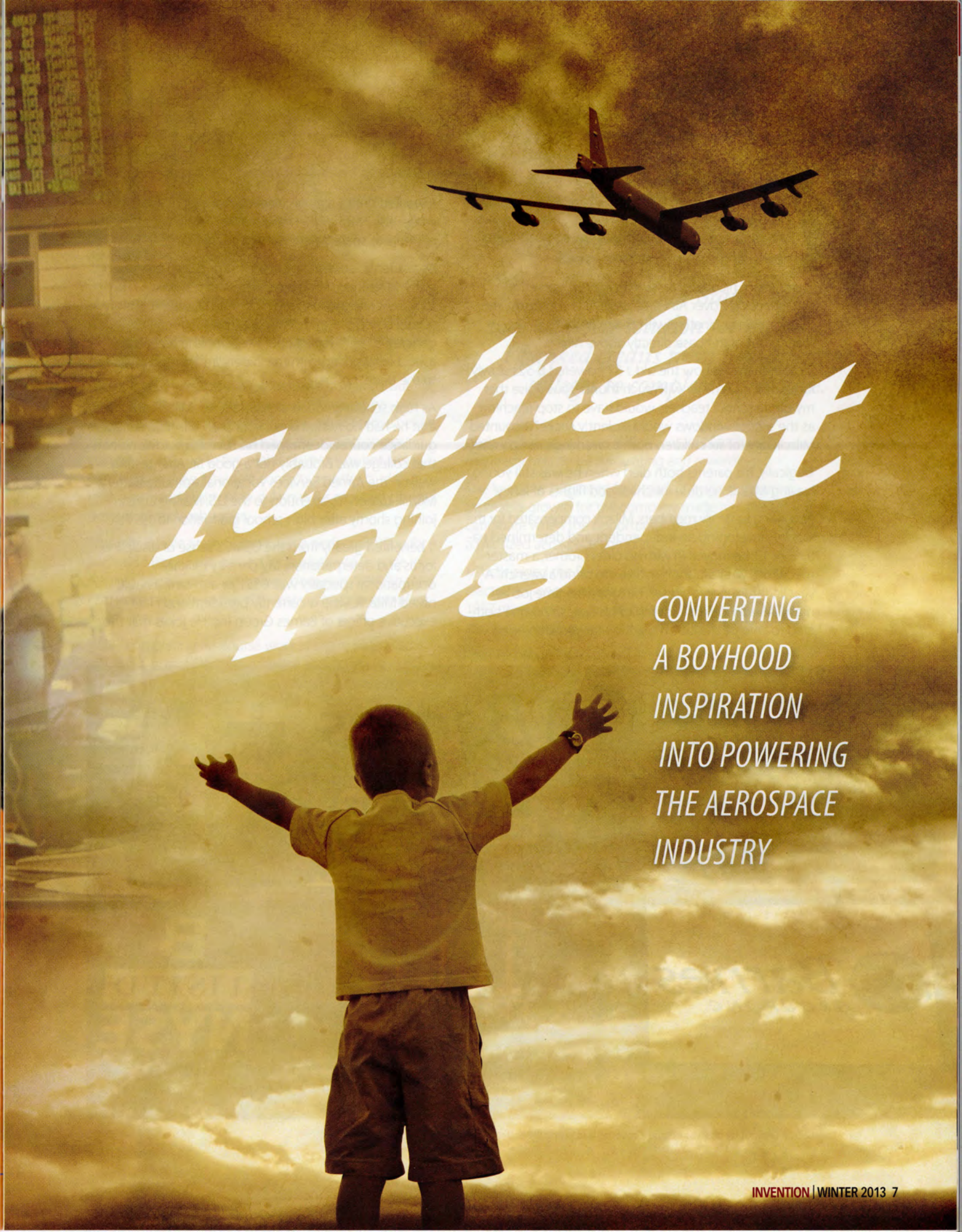
In developing competency-based degree options, Singer said the College will evaluate the state of open resources currently available in the market, including MOOCs, badges and modules, and map those open courses and resources to the College's degree programs. The College will then develop assessments for the open courses and resources, including

exams, portfolio assessments and program reviews, to ensure that students possess the college-level knowledge required to earn credit that can be applied to a degree program.

"We will provide students who complete these open courses the opportunity to earn credit and apply that credit to our degree programs," said Singer. "This creates new pathways that enable students to demonstrate the learning they acquired in open courses while our expertise in assessing learning that occurs outside a college setting enables the College to maintain its standards of academic excellence."



Dr. Gregory F. Milzcik '94



Taking Flight

CONVERTING
A BOYHOOD
INSPIRATION
INTO POWERING
THE AEROSPACE
INDUSTRY

Taking Flight

Most people learn about work-life balance when they become adults. For alumnus Dr. Gregory F. Milzcik, work-life balance is something he has been perfecting since he was 14 years old.

A native of Chicopee, Mass., Milzcik grew up in the shadow of Westover Air Force Base. As a youngster, he developed a fascination with the mammoth B-52s roaring out of the base directly above him.

"I can remember how the old J-57 powered B-52s slowly lumbered into the air with such thunderous noise that my grade school teachers would have to stop teaching as the school windows would violently shake," recounted Milzcik, one of six children born to working class parents.

Tragically, his parents both died when he was still young, leaving Milzcik no time for childhood flights of fancy.

According to family members, Milzcik compensated for the loss by developing an independent and determined nature. At 13, he moved in with his older brother, a master mechanic, who taught him "how to bend a wrench." A year later, to support himself, he took a full-time job at night. Milzcik looked older than his age, so no one bothered to enforce the job's minimum age requirements.

"I worked until 1 a.m. on weekdays and until 3 a.m. on weekends. Frequently, I would arrive home with a couple of hours to spare before my first class," he recalled.

As academic endeavors became supplanted by evening shifts, Milzcik said his grades began to suffer. At 17, he took a second job in a machine shop through his high school co-op program. "Working two full-time jobs generated more money, but I enjoyed the technical aspects of working with machinery and turned my focus to the trade," he said.

As high school graduation approached, Milzcik admitted that he had no notion of a career path. His high school guidance counselor affirmed his doubts by advising him that college was probably not a good fit. After testing well on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, Milzcik turned his attention to the U.S. Marine Corps, joining shortly after high school graduation in 1977.

"I benefited greatly from the USMC's sense of discipline, focus and determination. My primary military occupational specialty was '0351' or anti-tank assault," noted Milzcik, who is currently president and chief executive officer of Barnes Group Inc. He jokes that the

skills he acquired in his military specialty continue to be essential in the contemporary business environment. After being discharged from initial active duty, he remained in the USMC reserves and found a position as a machinist.

To complement his growing mechanical expertise, a new thirst was emerging for Milzcik. He became focused on advancing his education.

"I taught myself algebra while I was at work, on the back of discarded blue prints and was an avid reader of historical nonfiction," he said. "Soon I began attending college nights, weekends and through the summers. It was difficult but rewarding."

Greg earned a degree in business administration, but his passion remained with technical studies. Next, he acquired his FAA airframe and power plant license before zeroing in on engineering studies. Attending onground college courses up to five nights a week was not easy. Canceled courses, schedule conflicts, transfer credit restrictions and registration delays in his required courses presented many obstacles.

"Thomas Edison State College was a perfect solution for me," said Milzcik, who earned his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in 1994. "In total, I banked credits from five different colleges to complete my degree."

While completing his course work at night, he landed a job with General Electric Company and began working on programs involving nuclear reactors, hydro and gas turbines along with servicing a wide range of industrial equipment.

"In 1984, I met my wife, Eileen, who turned out to be a tremendous partner in my life and career," said Milzcik. "She was extremely supportive of my career and long evenings of study, even after our two children, Michael and Erik, arrived in the late 80s. She also held the family together through eight relocations."

When the opportunity arose to work in the aerospace industry, Milzcik found his true calling.

"I'm positive that my professional interest in aviation evolved from a continuous exposure to those aircraft while I was growing up," he noted.

Milzcik thrived in the aerospace industry. Specializing in aircraft engine overhauls, he was rapidly promoted through a succession of positions, from shop foreman to department manager; and later, to the position of program manager. At the age of 27, he was given his first general manager position, assuming overall responsibility for his business unit's revenue and costs. As time progressed, he expanded the size and scope of his

responsibilities, holding a progression of executive positions for leading aerospace companies, including Lockheed Martin.

"My career path included working with airlines and governments around the world, which meant traveling extensively and gaining international exposure that helped me tremendously," he said. "Forming business

“Thomas Edison State College was a perfect solution for me. In total, I banked credits from five different colleges to complete my degree.”

deals in diverse cultures with a mosaic of technical requirements can be stimulating and rewarding."

The knack he cultivated for organizing and generating profitable growth for the company made him the ideal candidate when the opportunity arose to serve as CEO of a mid-sized aerospace company.

Milzcik joined the Barnes Group Inc. in 1999 and was elected to serve as the firm's CEO in 2006. Founded in 1857, the Barnes Group Inc. is an international aerospace and industrial manufacturing and service provider.

"Barnes Group Inc. is the sweet spot for me in terms of both size and complexity," said Milzcik.

Parlaying his expanding managerial experience and educational background, he completed a graduate program at Harvard University before earning a doctorate from Case Western Reserve University.

"In 2010, I was offered a seat on Thomas Edison State College Foundation's Board of Directors, and I jumped at the chance to give back," said Milzcik, who was awarded the 2009 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award. "Nearly 20 years ago, I was a student and can tell you firsthand that it is a quality school that opens opportunities. I think the College's future is extremely bright due to the innovative educational approaches and focus on a flexible, high-quality and affordable education."

In summation, Milzcik remains humbled by his success.

"There are many things that make the United States exceptional," he noted. "In particular, the opportunity to succeed in education, business and life – opportunities denied to a large segment of the world's population. I am proof that with hard work and determination you can accomplish anything in America."



CEO Dr. Greg Milzcik and fellow Barnes Group Inc. leaders ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

The Right Stuff

Cynthia Yard was going to save the world.



After earning her associate degree in education from Keystone Junior College in Pennsylvania, Yard was convinced that she was going to have a transformational effect on the Hunterdon Developmental Center (HDC) in Clinton, N.J.

"Many of us coming of age in the 1970s felt that once we earned our degrees, we could take on anything," recalled Yard, who today serves as county administrator for Hunterdon County, N.J.

When an opening came along at HDC for a coveted administrative slot, Yard discovered a professional quandary. She also realized that her ability to transform the organization might take longer than expected. After 12 years of escalating responsibilities, Yard possessed the most practical experience among other candidates, but also the weakest academic credentials.

"I had every intention of completing my bachelor's degree at one of New Jersey's state colleges, but life got in the way of me becoming a full-time student," she said. "Despite being the most experientially qualified for the opportunity, my resume did not meet the minimum educational requirements for the position."

Reason triumphed over technicalities, however, and Yard was provisionally selected for the administrative position. But the pressure was on.

In 1986, while serving in her new role as an assistant to the CEO, she actively searched for ways to earn her bachelor's degree. By now, Yard and her husband, Don, had two

young children along with mounting responsibilities.

"I heard about Thomas Edison State College's programs through a colleague at another facility who was completing his degree," she said. "It sounded like a perfect program to accommodate both my personal and work schedules."

While balancing her children's extracurricular activities, working full time and maintaining a household, Yard registered for her BA degree.

"Between Guided Study courses at Thomas Edison State College and credits earned onground at local colleges that I transferred to Thomas Edison State College, I completed my degree in four years – almost 20 years to the date after graduating from Hunterdon Central High School," she said. "It was affordable, flexible and the staff was very helpful."

Yard earned her BA degree in social sciences in 1990 and ranks her graduation from Thomas Edison State College among her greatest accomplishments.

"Earning my degree from Thomas Edison State College has opened academic and professional doors for me," she said. "I continued my education by completing my master's degree in public administration from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (with honors) in 1994, and earned a certificate in paralegal studies from Raritan Valley Community College in 2008, which groomed me for my current position. I would not be where I am today had I not taken the first step to complete my bachelor's degree."

Appointed by the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders as county administrator, Yard is the chief administrative official for the county and oversees an \$88 million dollar budget and 540 employees who deliver public services to the county's 130,000 residents. This includes the maintenance of roads, bridges, library facilities and services, emergency services, corrections, land use, human services and transportation services.

"Every county in the state has a county administrator, so there are 21 of us in New Jersey," explained Yard, who has served 15 years at the post. "I am very connected to many of the county's employees and value every one of them."

Yard's son, Jason, graduated from the Somerset County, N.J., Police Academy in November 2006. Following in his mother's footsteps, he earned a BA degree in criminal justice from Thomas Edison State College in 2009. He anticipates completing his master's degree in leadership and public administration at Centenary College in 2013.

Yard's daughter, Jodi, earned her bachelor's degree from University of Delaware in 2002 and completed her master's degree at Towson University in December 2011.

"I believe both of my children were positively influenced by seeing my academic accomplishments," said Yard. "My husband and my children have been a great support system in anything I have pursued, and I am blessed to have such a supportive family."

Alumni Profile



CYNTHIA YARD '90

“Earning my degree from Thomas Edison State College has opened academic and professional doors for me.”

Cynthia Yard

GRANDE BALL 2012

*Thomas Edison State College Foundation
Honors John J. McCann '90 and
Horizon NJ Health President Karen L. Clark*

More than 200 guests helped the Thomas Edison State College Foundation honor two outstanding individuals and raise money for Thomas Edison State College at its annual Grande Ball, which was held at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrence Township, N.J., on Oct. 20.

The black-tie gala event raised more than \$121,000 for Thomas Edison State College. The Foundation honored two distinguished individuals for their accomplishments and support of the College. This year's honorees include:

> **Karen L. Clark**, president of Horizon NJ Health and vice president of Medicaid at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, recipient of the 2012 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.

> **John J. McCann '90**, chairman and CEO (retired) of Bridge Trading, a Reuters Company, recipient of the 2012 Spirit of Edison Family Award.

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, said this year's honorees exemplify the commitment to innovation, concern for the public good and spirit associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and the inventor for whom the school is named.

"We are honored to recognize such extraordinary individuals," said Pruitt. "Karen and John illustrate the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and spirit of excellence associated with Thomas Edison State College and our namesake."

Sponsors of the 2012 Grande Ball include: Horizon NJ Health (Silver Sponsor); PNC Bank (Band Sponsor); Bunker Hill Consultation Center and Capital Health (Silent Auction Sponsors); Bank of America and NJM Insurance Group (Souvenir Journal Sponsors); Children's Specialized Hospital; Lear and Pannepacker, LLP; PSE&G; Mercer County Community College; Roma Bank; Stark and Stark; and UBS (Corporate Sponsors); Mr. and Mrs. John and Eileen Martinson and Mr. and Mrs. Roland and Annie Pott (Corporate Patrons); Burlington County College and St. Francis Medical Center (Valet Parking Sponsors); and The Bank of Princeton and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton (Photo Station Sponsors).



(from left) Karen L. Clark 2012 Spirit of Edison Community Leader, College President Dr. George Pruitt and John J. McCann 2012 Spirit of Edison Family Award.





Karen L. Clark

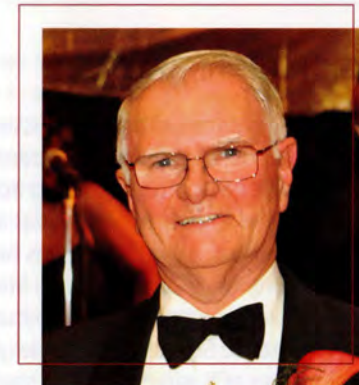
2012 Spirit of Edison Community Leader

At Horizon NJ Health and throughout her career, Karen L. Clark has maintained her focus for ensuring that accessible, affordable quality healthcare is made available for all, especially the uninsured and at risk population. She is a leader and a business person who understands the role of public and private partnerships, which address systematic healthcare issues.

As an advocate, Clark understands the value in working with community groups as important partners in change. She has concentrated on developing "Best Practices" in managed care to impact outcomes, access and quality. Clark explores ways to effectively utilize funding to ensure access for the publicly insured population in New Jersey.

Her participation with local, state and national organizations includes service with faith-based, school and community groups. As a volunteer, Clark has a focus on improving the health behaviors for young people. Clark is a recognized spokesperson whose acquired knowledge and experiences are reflected in her efforts to assist those who have limited access to quality healthcare services.

Clark holds a Master of Business Administration from Columbia Graduate School of Business in New York and a bachelor's degree in English from Rider University. Before joining Horizon NJ Health in 2002, she served as chairperson and CEO of MHS of NY and NJ, a subsidiary of AmeriChoice Corporation. In addition to her executive responsibilities, Clark has implemented programs to address the needs of the underserved and special populations.



John J. McCann '90

2012 Spirit of Edison Family Award

John J. McCann '90 is the retired CEO/chairman of Bridge Trading, a Reuters Company.

McCann's long and distinguished career on Wall Street began in 1959, at the young age of 19. Through hard work, ambition and determination, he worked his way up the professional ladder at Merrill Lynch and other New York Stock Exchange member firms.

McCann held positions of increasing responsibility throughout his career at several financial institutions, including Becker Paribas Inc., where he rose to senior vice president. In 1984, he left New York to run operations at Bankers Trust of South Carolina and returned to New York a year later to join Integrated Resources, Inc. as senior executive.

In the early 1990s, McCann served in a variety of executive management roles at Wall Street firms before joining Lynch, Jones & Ryan in 1994. In 2000, he was appointed chairman and CEO of Bridge Trading, a Reuters Company, and retired from the company in 2003.

In the midst of his busy career, McCann went back to school to honor a long-held desire to earn his degree. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration degree from Thomas Edison State College in 1990. Since then, McCann has stood as an inspiration to his colleagues that education at any stage in life is possible.

McCann's influence went beyond the financial industry as he worked closely with community groups in volunteer positions. He served as a baseball coach with the Stapleton Athletic Club in Staten Island and volunteered with the Children's Aid Society Goodhue Center as a basketball coach for children with physical and mental disabilities.

McCann has been an active supporter of his alma mater, serving as a member of the College's Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors. During his tenure on the Foundation Board, McCann chaired the Foundation's "Investing in Performance" campaign, which raised \$2.5 million to fund academic and technological advancements at the College.

Since his retirement in 2003, McCann and his wife, Valerie, have been active year-round residents of Hilton Head Island, S.C. In November, McCann was elected to Hilton Head Island's Town Council.



Wayne Balfour BSBA '04

Wayne Balfour was recently promoted to assistant supervisor of his department at Burlington County Board of Social Services. Balfour noted that after migrating from Trinidad, the only position that he was able to obtain was as a laborer at a box manufacturing plant. Balfour attributes his success to God and the flexibility that Thomas Edison State College afforded him. He has gone on to earn two master's degrees: a Master of Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and Master of Business Administration with a concentration in finance from Delaware State University.

Margaretha Burr Nyberg BA '12

Margaretha Burr Nyberg, a teacher with more than 20 years of teaching experience in Sweden, realized a 20-year goal by earning her Thomas Edison State College Bachelor of Arts degree. Nyberg noted that the flexibility of the College's program allowed her to use testing, transfer credits and Thomas Edison State College courses to complete degree requirements. A proficient skier and one-time Swedish national competitor, Nyberg has been a coach at both the high school and private school levels for many years, and notes that her BA will allow her more flexibility in education and permit her to take the state education licensure boards. "[I feel a] true sense of accomplishment to achieve this degree and to be able to utilize it on two continents — thanks to Thomas Edison State College."

Daniel Casieri BA '11

Daniel Casieri, who writes under the pen name Daniel Benevento, has had his novel *The Meadows* published by Florida Academic Press. Earning exposure in a number of places, such as *The New York Times* Review of Books, Amazon and Barnes and Noble, *The Meadows* has received positive reviews, including the *Midwest Book Review*, which called it "a strong pick for contemporary literary fiction collections." Casieri noted, "Since being published, I even had the opportunity to travel Europe and visit Benevento, Italy, my pen namesake."



Marlene S. Ceragno BSHS '10

Marlene S. Ceragno, who earned her BSHS in gerontology, went on to earn a master's in gerontology and management of aging services at University of Massachusetts, Boston. While pursuing her degree, Ceragno's 90-year-old aunt, for whom

she is a caregiver, became incontinent and Ceragno found that there were no programs to help seniors afford expensive absorbent products. "For my capstone project I have developed an 'Adult Care Brief Bank.' In this program, I am trying to get organizations to host Adult Care Brief Drives where people donate adult absorbent products, which are then distributed through the Center of Food Action of Bergen County. My first drive was held at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades in Tenaflly, N.J., where nearly 7,000 briefs, pads and other absorbent products were collected." To learn more about the program, visit www.facebook.com/adultcarebrief or read a recent article about Ceragno's efforts at www.jstandard.com/content/item/removing_the_stigma_of_incontinence/24186

Alex Cooper AAS '12

Alex Cooper, while working on his BA degree in communications at Thomas Edison State College, was awarded two 2012 Upper Midwest Emmy® Nominations in August 2012, one for director of "Fox 9 Morning News" (Director - Live or Live-to-Tape Nominee) and another for director of "Fox 9 Buzz" (Daytime Newscast Nominee). Cooper, who hopes to use his newly completed Thomas Edison State College degree to pursue full-time employment in the communications field, noted, "My education at Thomas Edison State College has allowed me to combine my past credits and real world experience into a degree in communications. By utilizing testing programs recognized by ACE and completing a PLA course, I was able to focus my time on courses that would add to my knowledge rather than repeat courses which overlap my experience as most other schools would have had me do. With my experience coming from the technical side of communications, this degree made the written side of communications come to life for me and has changed my career plans." In the future, Cooper explained, he would like to move into a corporate communications job where he can take his education to the next level and better utilize his skill set. Cooper works as a newscast director and ELC operator for FOX 9 KMSP-TV in Eden Prairie, Minn. Cooper also holds an AA degree in mass communication and accounting as well as certificates in management, human resources management and marketing management at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minn. He also holds an Upper Midwest Regional Emmy® for ELC operator of "Fox 9 Buzz" (2011 Daytime Newscast Winner).



Angeline Dean BA '12

Angeline Dean is co-founder and executive member of Dynasty Consulting LLC, a Mt. Laurel, N.J., company that mentors youths as well as conducts training courses for companies. A teacher, community advocate, former radio talk show host and, now, author, Dean is the founder and CEO of Angeline Dean LLC, which supports her ventures in education as well as anything related to her new novel, *Not Just A Slave* (RATHSI Publishing, LLC, Feb. 27, 2012). *Not Just A Slave*, which was written with the aim of teaching that African and African-American history is about more than just slavery, is the basis for a TV program that aired in January on PCTV 21 in Pittsburgh. Dean is planning to trademark her book and is seeking a manufacturer to help her develop a line of clothing based on the novel. Her community involvement includes working with Darren "Freedom" Green and Michelle Thomas to form a community development center with the goal of "transforming lives and revolutionizing communities." Currently, Dean is pursuing a Master of Science in Management degree in community economic development. Dean explained that she is influenced by everyday people who are about truth and making changes and, also, by notables such as Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm, Nelson Mandela and Olympic gymnast Gabrielle "Gabby" Douglas. Her book is available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and angeline dean.com.



Lisa Grim BA '09

Lisa Grim published her first novel, *Singing Silence*, with Amazon in October 2012. It is a fictional account of escape from an abusive cult and finding healing in the Ozark Mountains, and is available in paperback and e-book formats through Amazon.

Mónica Johnson BA '11

Mónica Johnson spent the summer of 2012 participating in a study abroad program sponsored by Richard Stockton State College and International Studies Abroad. Johnson, who earned her Thomas Edison State College degree in Spanish language and cultural studies, is a preschool teacher whose students are predominantly Latino. "In order to communicate with my students and their parents, I have found the knowledge of the Spanish language and culture to be invaluable." But, Johnson explained, in order to meet the needs of her students and their parents, she felt she needed to improve her skills. And, she added, "Since many of the parents are new arrivals to our country, I really wanted to

'walk a mile in their shoes' and needed to see just how it feels to be a foreigner in a new land." Johnson lived in Valencia, the third largest city in Spain, and stayed with a retired grandmother and her 9-year-old grandson, neither of whom spoke English. She took classes at University of Valencia and visited Madrid, Toledo and Barcelona. "The food, people, classes and overall experience were absolutely wonderful and I can now cross this off of my 'bucket list.' I would highly recommend a study abroad experience to anyone who is interested in learning about another culture and connecting with its people." Johnson noted that the experience greatly improved her Spanish speaking ability, gave her a new appreciation of the Spanish culture and greatly aided in her communication skills with her students and their parents.

Luis LaRotta BSAST '06

Luis LaRotta, elected by his congressional district, represented his party at the Republican National Convention. LaRotta was one of 155 Texas delegates.

Tyishia Lewis BA '09

Tyishia Lewis completed a master's degree in forensic science with a concentration in investigations from National University of San Diego, Calif., in 2010. She then took the medical school prerequisites at Mercer County Community College and is currently in Ross University School of Medicine's MERP program (Freeport, Bahamas). She is working toward becoming a forensic pathologist.

David McDonald BA '09

David McDonald, who received an MA in creative writing from Wilkes University in 2012, was a finalist in the screenwriting category at the 2012 Beverly Hills Film Festival. McDonald is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Management degree in project management at Thomas Edison State College.

Rocco Palmer BA '10

Rocco Palmer, who retired in November 2011 as an enlisted status Air Force (USAF) chief master sergeant (CMSGT), held the position of Air Combat Command's command post functional manager. Since retirement, Palmer relocated to Fort Wayne, Ind., where he is currently the director of Operations for Prairie Quest Consulting, an Indiana-based consulting firm that primarily supports federal and state governmental agencies. As a leader in the USAF, Palmer noted that he was able to pursue his degree despite "heavy travel and constant relocation," due to Thomas Edison State College's flexible program. Palmer added, "I have no doubt that the College prepared me for my transition to the private sector."

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Bernard L. "Bernie" Siben BA '00

Bernard L. "Bernie" Siben recently conducted a webinar for a business group in India on the subject of "Go/No Go" analysis – a decision method that architecture, engineering, planning, environmental and related firms can use to evaluate new project opportunities. The "Go/No Go" evaluation allows a firm to make intelligent decisions about whether or not to pursue a particular project. Siben has been a frequent speaker on subjects related to the marketing of professional design and construction services for groups across the United States.

Carey "Bob" Sweeny BA '96

Carey "Bob" Sweeny moved to Staunton, Va., to be close to Virginia's Frontier Culture Museum where he volunteers. Sweeny noted that the museum does not have vaults and glass cases — everything is out in the open, including "old and new world" exhibits that display farms, villages and frontier homesteads.

Patricia L. Walsh BA '97

Patricia L. Walsh is currently serving as director of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. She has been on the board since January 2008. Prior to being elected freeholder, she served 14 years as an elected official in Green Brook, N.J., 11 of those years as mayor. During her tenure, Hurricane Floyd hit and, in the aftermath, Walsh oversaw the building of a new municipal complex and police station. She received the Millicent Fenwick Award for Public Service, the La Tribuna Distinguished Woman of the Year Award, the Somerset County Diversity Award, the Outstanding Woman of the Year in Government Award and, in 2012, was elected to the Plainfield High School Hall of Fame. She is a guest lecturer for Rutgers University's political science graduate program, has hosted a cable TV show and has been published in *Nursing Spectrum*.



Walsh graduated from Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing in Camden, N.J., and then earned her BA from Thomas Edison State College. She currently works in home care with Holy Redeemer Health System. "It was a personal goal of mine to earn my degree, and Thomas Edison State College allowed me to do that while working and raising my family. I am grateful the program was available to me." Walsh is the mother of three sons and has five grandchildren. Her philosophy: "Life is one long learning experience, and each day there is a new path to explore. Each path enriches and enhances who you are and what you can become."

Lael D. Weinberger BA '09

Lael D. Weinberger co-authored a book with Robert Renaud: *A Tale of Two Governments: Church Discipline, the Courts, and the Separation of Church and State* (Dunrobin Publishing), released in October 2012. Interweaving history and theology with current events and the latest court cases, the book explains what is at stake for church-state relations as a growing number of churches are being sued.

According to Weinberger, *A Tale of Two Governments*, with a foreword by John MacArthur, is for every American who cares about religious freedom, for every pastor who wants to wisely navigate the legal minefields and for every Christian who cares about the integrity of the church. For more information, visit www.twogovernments.com.



Walter M. Wess BS '82

Walter M. Wess, after graduating from the College with a BS degree in technical studies, audiologic services, went on to earn a master's degree from Hahnemann University in 1987 and was awarded a doctor of audiology by the Audiology Foundation of America in 1997.