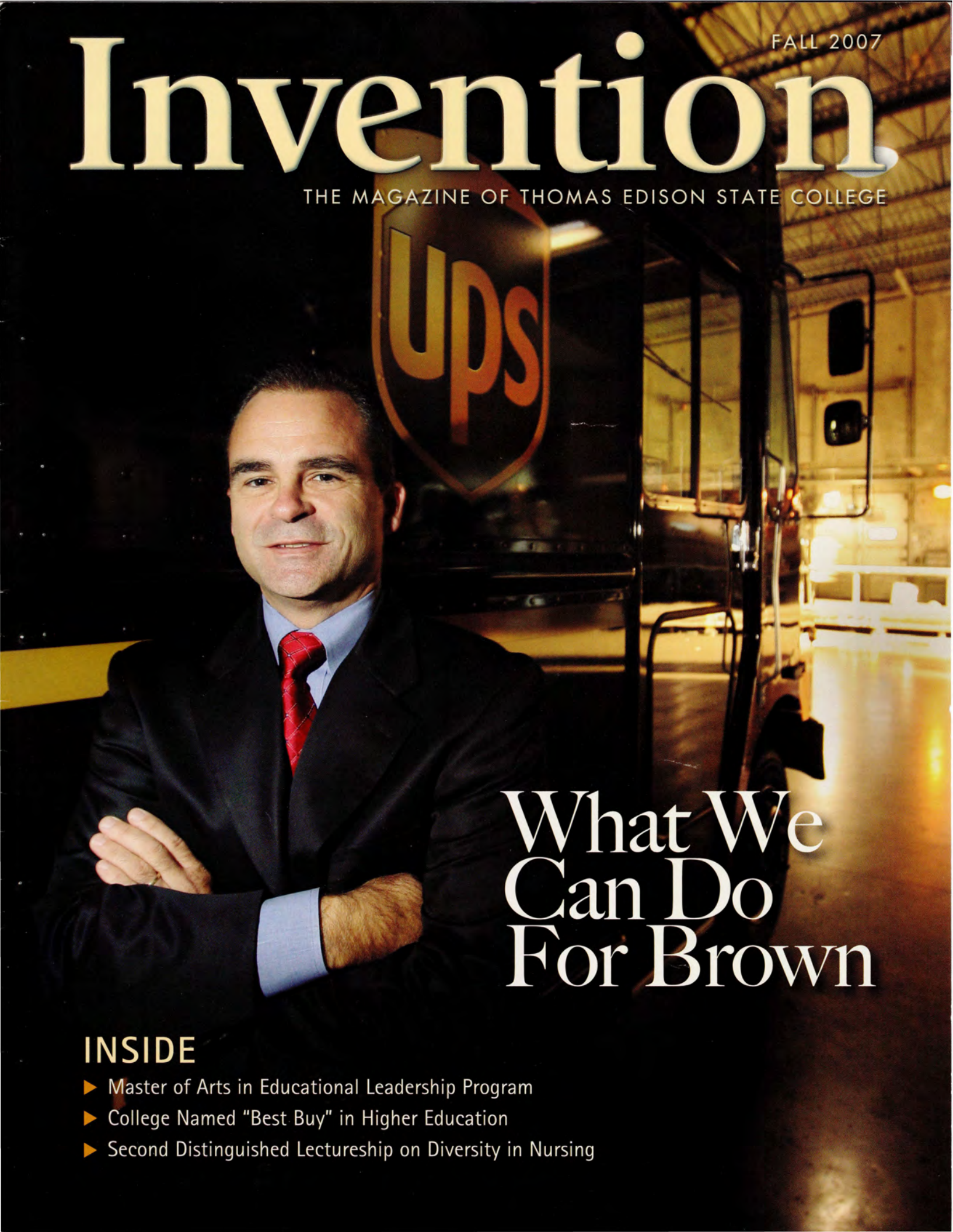


FALL 2007

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

A man in a dark suit, light blue shirt, and red patterned tie stands with his arms crossed. He is positioned in front of a UPS truck at night. The truck's rear door is open, and the interior is visible. The UPS logo is prominent on the side of the truck. The scene is illuminated by the truck's lights, creating a warm, yellowish glow.

What We Can Do For Brown

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- ▶ College Named "Best Buy" in Higher Education
- ▶ Second Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing

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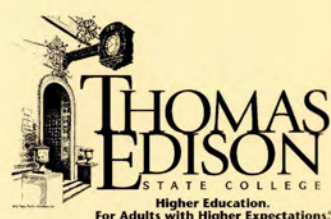
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Thomas Alva Edison once said, "If we all did the things we are really capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."

This issue of *Invention* celebrates that idea on several levels.

In our cover story, you will learn about our new academic partnership with UPS, the world's largest shipping company, and meet Tim Stephenson, the first UPS employee to enroll as a student under that partnership. UPS has selected the College to provide higher education programs to its employees in the United States and Canada. The company is using our Operations Management program as a strategy for developing operations-based staff members who are interested in professional advancement. Tim is an excellent example of the type of self-directed adult learner our College was created to serve.

You will also meet alumnus George R. Stubbs, BA '99, who captained a nuclear submarine during the Cold War and today works to preserve our country's history. His story illustrates how the College provides adults with opportunities to pursue their education at any point in their lives – even after a distinguished naval career.

We are also excited to share the latest news about the expansion of our academic enterprise. In this issue, you will learn about our new Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program, our new Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership degree program, and new fitness and health certificate programs from our School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

Lastly, we are pleased to report on the excellent progress of the Diversity in Nursing initiative being led by the School of Nursing. This important effort is developing a collaborative network of diverse nurse faculty members to enrich nursing programs nationwide and help reduce the national shortage of nurse educators. The school recently hosted its second annual Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing at the College, which attracted nurse educators from throughout the country.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President



Master of Arts in Educational Leadership Program Launched

COLLEGE'S NEWEST GRADUATE PROGRAM PREPARES EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO BE LEADERS

and share best practices while they create an e-portfolio that will serve as an opportunity for reflection and as a compilation of their learning throughout the program.”

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program was built on the standards of the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC), the New Jersey Department of Education

school leaders who will be able to promote the success of all students by articulating a vision of school and student success, identifying themselves as instructional leaders able to collaborate in developing strategies aimed at improving student learning and school performance, and demonstrating performance standards that improve teacher effectiveness and enhance student learning.

Graduates of the program who hold a current New Jersey teacher's license will be eligible to earn the Principal's and Supervisor's endorsement in New Jersey.

For more information on the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, contact the College at edleadership@tesc.edu or (888) 442-8372.

“The curriculum presents an opportunity to combine theory with practice as students apply the knowledge they gain from their courses to their school settings.”

Thomas Edison State College has recently launched the first online Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program in New Jersey.

The program is designed to prepare teachers and administrators to become educational leaders serving in the complex environment of elementary and secondary education. Like all graduate programs at Thomas Edison State College, the new master's program was built around the unique needs of working adults.

“The curriculum presents an opportunity to combine theory with practice as students apply the knowledge they gain from their courses to their school settings,” said Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, who played a key role in the development of the program. “The use of technology is an integral part of the curriculum and enables students to collaborate on projects, discuss ideas and research,

and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) as well as current research focusing on effective leadership practices.

The program is open to educators with at least three years of teaching experience and valid New Jersey Teacher's Certification. The program prepares graduates to be



College Unveils New Web Site

www.tesc.edu
gets a complete overhaul

The College recently launched its new Web site following more than a year of planning and research.

The site, designed by Lipman-Hearne of Chicago, features dynamic user-based navigation, a completely new design and an information-based architecture that provide entry points for prospective students, current students, military students, alumni, donors and potential corporate partners. In addition, the College has implemented a new content management system, which has enhanced the

College's ability to make updates and changes to the site in a more timely and efficient manner. “In developing the site, we leveraged focus-group research and extensive user feedback,” said Marie R. Power-Barnes, associate vice president for Marketing and coordinator of the project. “We also commissioned an independent study on functionality, navigation, usability and site management assessment to ensure we created a resource that best serves the needs of all of the College's key audiences.” The previous College Web site was launched



in 2000. The discovery phase of the project included extensive interviews with executive leadership at the College and two full-day workshops with key College staff that included all deans and vice provosts and key departments from across the institution, such as Learner Services, Admissions and Information Center, Military Affairs, the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning, Strategic Partnerships, Development and Alumni Affairs.

Thomas Edison State College Named “Best Buy” in Higher Education

The Bachelor of Arts degree programs in psychology, social sciences and sociology at Thomas Edison State College were ranked as one of the top best buys in the country for online regionally accredited undergraduate degrees, according to a national survey conducted by *GetEducated.com*.

According to the survey, which examined publicly posted tuition and fee rates at 37 institutions throughout the country, the Bachelor of Arts programs in psychology, social sciences and sociology at Thomas Edison State College were ranked second in the country.

This is the third time that *GetEducated.com* has named undergraduate degree programs at Thomas Edison State College as a best buy. *GetEducated.com* has conducted surveys ranking the top best buys in the country for online regionally accredited undergraduate human resources degrees and business degrees, which both included the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program at Thomas Edison State College.

Founded in 1989, *GetEducated.com*, LLC designed and directed America's first online counseling center for adult learners seeking accredited online college degrees. Today, *GetEducated.com* serves as the only online clearinghouse in the country dedicated exclusively to showcasing accredited online degrees. *GetEducated.com* has been featured in several national publications and news reports about distance learning, including *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *US News & World Report*, *CNN* and *CBS News*.

Three Certificate Programs Offered in Fitness, Exercise and Nutrition

Thomas Edison State College has launched three new Professional Certificate programs to provide continuing professional education programs for fitness and health professionals and for adults interested in starting careers in the emerging fitness and health industry.

The new fitness and health programs offered by the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College include:

- ▶ Professional Certificate in Fitness Management
- ▶ Professional Certificate in Women's Exercise Training and Wellness
- ▶ Professional Certificate in Nutrition for Optimal Health, Wellness and Sports

These online, noncredit programs are designed for anyone interested in the rapidly growing industry of fitness training, including fitness professionals from all fields, individuals seeking a new career as a personal trainer, and allied health and medical professionals, such as physical therapists, athletic trainers, nurses, physicians, chiropractors, public health educators, and nutritionists and wellness consultants, seeking advanced education or new career opportunities.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, fitness trainer is among the fastest growing occupations, expected to grow 44 percent through 2012.

"Our new programs enable students to prepare for a career working with women of all ages at medically-based

fitness facilities, to implement successful business systems in health and wellness settings, or to apply client's health history toward optimal nutritional health and well-being," said Dr. David M. Grossman, vice provost and dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies. "Earning a professional certificate in one of these new areas can provide a significant competitive edge in a field that continues to experience explosive growth."

To register, or for more information about these programs or additional professional certificates offered at Thomas Edison State College, visit www.tesc.edu/spcs or contact us at (888) 442-8372 or spcs@tesc.edu.

Professional Certificate in Fitness Management

*Professional Certificate in Women's
Exercise Training and Wellness*

*Professional Certificate in Nutrition
for Optimal Health, Wellness and Sports*



School of Nursing Hosts Second Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing

The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College hosted the second annual Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing, which attracted nearly 70 nurse educators and leaders from across the country.

The event, which promotes collaboration and provides networking opportunities for nurse educators, featured a progress report of College's Minority Nurse Educator program that was established in 2005 with a \$600,000 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

"In our first two years, the Minority Nurse Educator program has proven to be very successful," said Jovita Solomon-Duarte, MSN, RN, CCRN, diversity coordinator at the School of Nursing. "The program has drawn highly talented minority nursing educators from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and geographical locations, and the number of educators who have expressed interest in participating has increased. Some of our grant participants are already applying what they have learned in their own institutions."

The program provides experienced minority nursing faculty with the opportunity to enhance their skills and

expand their expertise by preparing them for online teaching.

In year one, 15 participants completed the program and represented a diverse cross-section of backgrounds. Of the first-year cohort, 67 percent were African-American, 13 percent were Asian, 13 percent were Hispanic and seven percent were American Indian.

In year two, participation increased by 63 percent to 24 participants, of which 63 percent were African-American, 18 percent were Hispanic, eight percent were Asian, four percent were American Indian and four percent were other ethnic backgrounds.

The school is currently constructing a directory and database of grant participants who have completed the program. Information from this database will be shared with schools of nursing across the United States that are interested in utilizing experienced minority online educators to increase their faculty diversity.

For more information on the Minority Nurse Educator program, contact the School of Nursing at (609) 633-6460, nursing@tesc.edu or visit www.tesc.edu/nursing.

The Distinguished Lectureship on Diversity in Nursing featured a wide variety of presenters. Front row, from left: Jovita Solomon-Duarte and Dr. Susan O'Brien, Thomas Edison State College. Middle row, from left: Dr. Mary Wall, Thomas Edison State College mentor; Dr. Gloria Kersey-Matusiak, Holy Family University; Charlotte L. Stoudmire, grant participant; and Dr. Meribeth Meixner Reed, nurse consultant. Back row, from left: Robert Lucero, University of Pennsylvania; Louise Riley, Thomas Edison State College; Dr. Yvonne Wesley, health consultant; and Dr. Ngozi Nkongbo, grant participant and deputy director of the National League for Nurse Accreditation Commission.



A New Degree of Leadership

COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
DEGREE PROGRAM

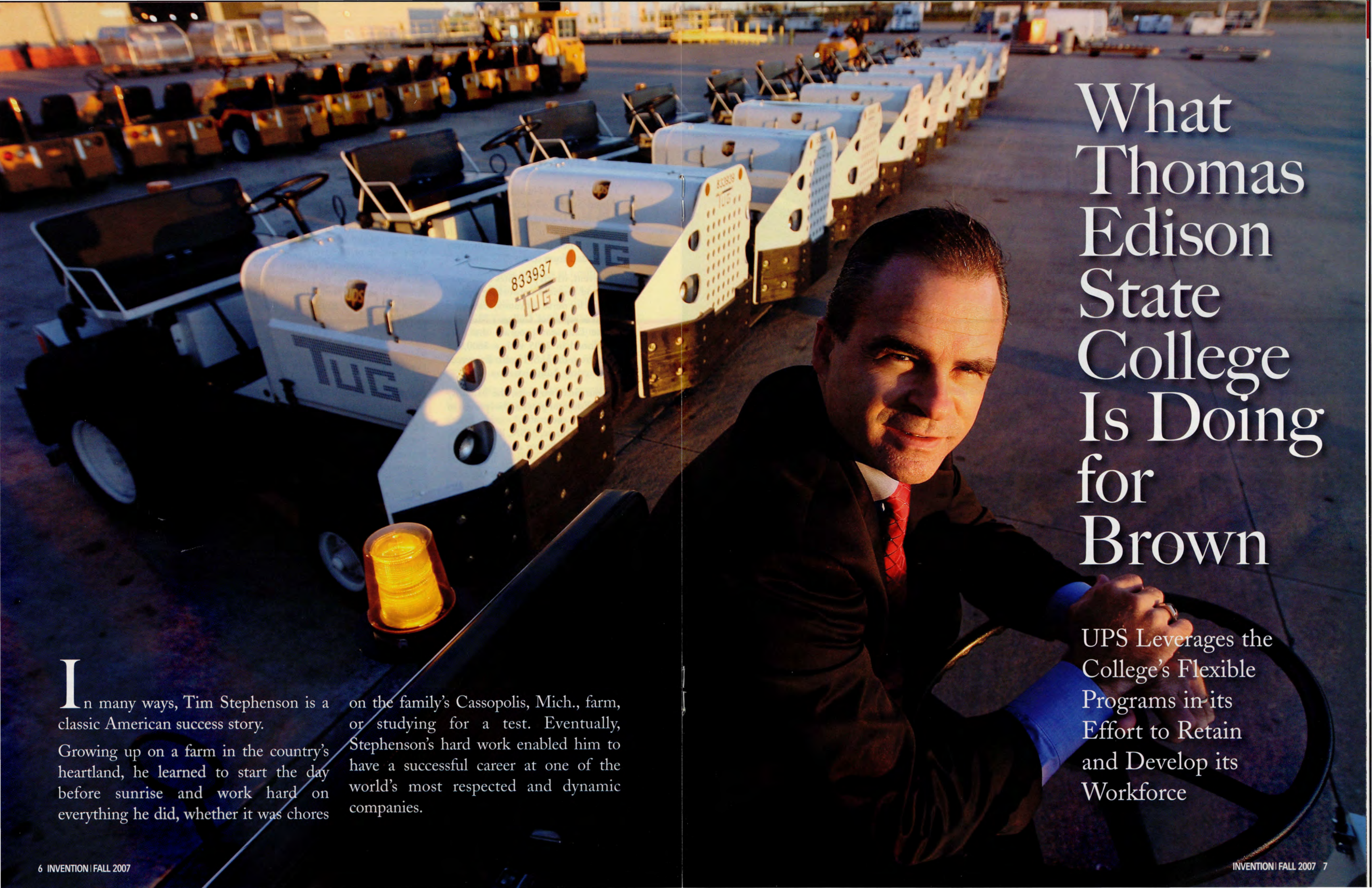
The School of Business and Management has established a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership degree program, the latest undergraduate degree offering at Thomas Edison State College.

The 120-credit program was developed to address the educational needs of the corporate, nonprofit and government sectors and provide working adults an excellent opportunity to understand the roles and personal dynamics required to be an effective organizational leader. The program can be completed entirely online.

"Market research demonstrates that there is a significant lack of leadership education among many midlevel managers and supervisors across all sectors," said Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, executive vice provost at Thomas Edison State College. "Our new program prepares managers and supervisors as leaders by providing students with the understanding and skills required to lead in modern complex organizations."

The College's Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership degree program is the first of its kind offered in New Jersey with a focus on applied organizational leadership for adult learners. The program, which builds on a broad foundation of liberal arts and business topics while focusing specifically on leadership issues, enables students to transition easily into the College's Master of Science in Management degree program.

For more information on the program, visit www.tesc.edu/business or call (888) 442-8372.

A man in a dark suit and red tie is sitting on a white TUG (Tractor Unit) vehicle. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The vehicle has 'TUG' and the number '833937' on its side. In the background, there are many other similar TUG vehicles parked in rows in a large warehouse or industrial setting. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

What Thomas Edison State College Is Doing for Brown

UPS Leverages the College's Flexible Programs in its Effort to Retain and Develop its Workforce

In many ways, Tim Stephenson is a classic American success story.

Growing up on a farm in the country's heartland, he learned to start the day before sunrise and work hard on everything he did, whether it was chores

on the family's Cassopolis, Mich., farm, or studying for a test. Eventually, Stephenson's hard work enabled him to have a successful career at one of the world's most respected and dynamic companies.



Tim Stephenson, automotive manager for the North Texas district at UPS, listens to the pre-communication meeting for delivery drivers at the UPS facility at the Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport.

After graduating high school, Stephenson attended Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., where he earned an Associate in Applied Science degree. Unfortunately, he could not afford to complete his bachelor's degree, so he took a job unloading packages during the graveyard shift at a local UPS facility.

"My plan was to save up enough money and re-enroll to complete my bachelor's degree," said Stephenson. "But I started to get promoted at UPS and took advantage of the opportunities the company gave me."

And, eventually, life happened. Stephenson got married, started a family and eventually relocated as he accepted new positions at UPS. He has steadily risen through the ranks during his 22 years with the company, during which time he has worked as a pre-loader preparing delivery trucks, a driver, an automotive supervisor and a fleet manager.

Today, he serves as the automotive manager for the North Texas district and is responsible for approx-

imately 2,000 vehicles in the UPS fleet and more than 120 mechanics working at numerous locations in the greater Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

Over the years, Stephenson has used the company's tuition assistance program to continue earning his bachelor's degree but said he always felt frustrated with the schools he attended.

In 2007, he became the first UPS employee to enroll at Thomas Edison State College under the Corporate Choice® program. Stephenson was able to transfer all of the credits he earned at other regionally accredited institutions and apply more than 60 credits toward the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree program he is currently completing.

"The reason I like Thomas Edison State College is because of the value and flexible format," said Stephenson. "I can work at my own pace and on my own timeline. It allows me to complete my studies around the time I need to spend at work and with my family. To me, that is the most

important thing."

UPS' unique relationship with Thomas Edison State College is based on a conscious effort to provide a coordinated group of academic programs, starting with a customized six-course Operations Management certificate which fits perfectly into an associate degree and ultimately into a higher-level Bachelor of Business Administration degree program.

"Thomas Edison State College is the type of institution UPS wants from both a quality standpoint and a cost standpoint," said Patrick Myers, corporate compensation manager, responsible for UPS Tuition Programs. "The College's role is to provide our people with broad-based educational services, while maintaining the capability to also craft programs unique to our specific business needs."

UPS is a company that takes its tuition programs seriously. Since 1997, the company has paid out more than \$300 million in tuition assistance helping more than 140,000 employee students attend college.

"The TESC approach allows UPS to address several important company objectives simultaneously: leveraging a significant investment in the Earn and Learn® program designed to recruit and retain qualified part-time package-handlers, while at the same time continuing the ongoing effort to help adult learners who have some college course work from earlier periods in their lives," said Myers. "As a promote-from-within company, UPS tuition programs help create continuity within our organization."

The customized operations management curriculum Thomas Edison State College developed for UPS makes perfect sense.

"As an operations company, we have a vital interest in doing everything possible to develop the best operators," said Thomas Martin, corporate learning and development manager at UPS. "We have an interest in profes-

sionalizing operational jobs at UPS, which is typically associated with hard work and challenging conditions. But the key to professional growth in our organization is in operations, so we wanted to focus first on this area and play to our core competency."

UPS is developing further uses of the model used to develop the operations management curriculum and looks to apply it to other areas of UPS, such as sales, engineering and supply chain management. The ultimate goal is to direct employees toward undergraduate degree completion.

"We are honored to be selected as an educational partner of UPS," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Our goal is to provide UPS employees with programs that fit around their busy lives and to provide UPS with the programs it needs to develop and

retain employees and become a stronger organization."

Tim Stephenson said he would like to remain at UPS until his retirement and that completing his degree gives him an opportunity to complete unfinished business.

"I want to set a good example for my children, to whom I preach the importance of education," he said. "One interesting aspect of my course work at Thomas Edison State College is that I can apply what I am learning to my everyday work. It's not just doing a task. It's making me a better UPSer."

For more information about the Corporate Choice® program and other ways that Thomas Edison State College can help businesses and organizations, contact the College at (888) 442-8372 or corporatechoice@tesc.edu, or visit www.tesc.edu/corporate.



Tim Stephenson (center) talks with mechanic Wes McDuffie (left) and delivery driver Jose Anglada (right) before the start of deliveries. Stephenson is the first UPS employee to enroll at Thomas Edison State College under the new Corporate Choice® program the company has joined with the College.

Committed to Preservation

*From Preserving
Our Nation's Defense
to Its History*

George R. Stubbs



As a teenager, George R. Stubbs collected military stories about submarines. By the time he graduated from Cheyenne Mountain High School in his hometown of Colorado Springs, Colo., his homage had filled several notebooks.

Stubbs' notebooks were not a passing whim. He would later follow his older brother into the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, graduating in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree and embark on a distinguished naval career spanning three decades.

"When I graduated the academy I first served on the USS Shelton, which was deployed to the western Pacific," recalled Stubbs, who weathered perilous typhoons and patrols above water before embarking on a 27-year career as a submariner. "Among my first assignments was serving on Polaris Missile submarines. I believe the missile's power and long-range capability gave the U.S. a tactical advantage during the Cold War."

In 1972, as a naval line officer, Stubbs had the distinction of commanding the USS Skipjack (SSN-585). His submarine was the lead ship in the class of fastest nuclear-powered submarines at the time; and to this day, most submarines employ the same engineering concepts as the Skipjack.

"There is nothing more inspirational than taking in all the lines and heading for open sea," noted Stubbs. By the time Stubbs retired at the rank of captain in 1988, he had served on a destroyer and five submarines.

"Being a naval commander at sea was a definite highlight of my career, but I was also assigned several jobs ashore that were a source of great pride for me, including command of the U.S. Naval Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor. If the law allowed, I would be delighted to still be on active duty."

Alumni Profile



Following a military career that included serving as captain of the USS Skipjack (SSN 585), George R. Stubbs completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at Thomas Edison State College in 1999 to pursue his passion for archaeology. Today, he is active with the Archaeology Society of South Carolina and the Hilton Head Coastal Discovery Museum, where he is currently preparing artifacts from Hilton Head, S.C. for display.

His years of distinctive U.S. naval service would be prologue to a new pursuit on terra firma.

"I had always been interested in archaeology," noted Stubbs. "During tours of duty in Naples, Italy, I had the opportunity to spend hours rummaging through Roman ruins and knew then that I wanted to be more than a casual tourist. I looked at various college programs and Thomas Edison State College seemed the best fit for my circumstances. The College also awarded me a number of credits based on previous experience, training and education."

Stubbs is now active in local and state archeology activities at home in Hilton Head, S.C., and serves on the executive board of the Archeological Society of South Carolina.

Stubbs is also a volunteer at Hilton Head's Coastal Discovery Museum where he is helping to inventory the area's rich store of artifacts. "I am cataloging the thousands of artifacts the museum is currently curating and preparing them for display," said Stubbs.

He lives in Hilton Head with his wife, Jeanne. They have a son, a daughter and seven granddaughters.

Joseph V. Bellino BSBS '96

Joseph V. Bellino, CHPA, HEM, was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety as the vice president – treasurer for the 2007-2009 term. Bellino is currently enrolled at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., in the master's program for human resources development.

Dr. Roger A. Bowles BSAST '98

Dr. Roger A. Bowles recently earned his EdD degree in training and development with a minor in counseling. Bowles attended the University of North Texas after completing his baccalaureate degree at Thomas Edison State College.

Michael Cestero BA '03

Michael Cestero, who has been a transition counselor with Allies, Inc. – a Mercer County-based nonprofit company that supports individuals with disabilities throughout New Jersey – for more than four years, recently won the 2007 Transition Educator of the Year award sponsored by New Jersey APSE, a supportive employment network for people with disabilities throughout New Jersey.

Elizabeth Cook BSBS '01

Elizabeth Cook graduated from Troy University in Alabama with a Master of Science in International Relations in June 2007.

Deborah Cooper BA '03

Deborah Cooper was named 2006-2007 Bay City (Texas) Junior High Teacher of the Year.

Jonathan Ellgen BA '04

Jonathan Ellgen graduated from California State University with an MA in humanities/history. Ellgen's graduate research paper was nominated for the institution's thesis of the year and it is also in the process of being turned into a book. Ellgen noted that because of Thomas Edison State College and its flexible style of education – a style that doesn't compromise the integrity of the learning process – he has been able to achieve his goals.

Richard Gamez BA '02

Richard Gamez earned his Master of Arts in Government (political science) from Texas Woman's University in May 2005, graduating with a grade point average of 4.0. Gamez is an adjunct professor at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas.

Michael A. Giordano BA '00

Michael A. Giordano completed his Master of Arts degree in educational leadership from Fairleigh Dickinson University recently. Furthermore, Giordano passed the New Jersey exam for Principal certification and will obtain certifications for New Jersey Principal and New Jersey Supervisor.

David Harrity BSAST '05

David Harrity recently completed a graduate program from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Harrity earned a master's certificate in information technology project management. Since December 2005, he has served as a lead information technology specialist for policy and planning at the U.S. Department of Education.

Tami Havens BSBA '99

Tami Havens is the founder of Virtual Accounting Haven, which provides remote bookkeeping services to small businesses.

Kazimir Karwowski ASM '03

Army Sgt. 1st Class Kazimir Karwowski has returned to Fort Richardson, Alaska, following an extended tour in Iraq. Karwowski served in Baghdad with the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. He is an infantry platoon leader with 16 years of military service.

Jason M. Kish BA '05

Jason M. Kish has been accepted to graduate school at the University of Maryland University College, pursuing a dual degree program – Master of Science in Management and Master of Business Administration.

Bob Kotowski BA '88

Bob Kotowski authored the book *"Ablaze in Lewes Harbor: the last cruise of the SS Lenape,"* which was published by Cedar Tree Books. The book recounts the history of a local steamship disaster interwoven with personal recollections by passengers.

Dr. Marita Lawler BSBS '98

Dr. Marita Lawler earned her MS in human services in 2000 and her PhD in addiction psychology in 2007, both from Capella University. Lawler also earned a doctoral degree in Chaplaincy from St. Luke Evangelical School of Biblical Studies. Lawler is currently employed by Holy Spirit Ministry of Alaska as a chaplain.

Fred J. Lewis BSBA '90

Fred J. Lewis has published his latest book, *Winning isn't Everything but Losing is Nothing*, in which he shares his knowledge and insights to help business leaders become winners. Lewis developed his expertise and experiences in a successful 30-year career with The Quaker Oats Company where he helped make names like Cap'n Crunch™, Kibbles n' Bits™ and Gatorade™ into household icons.



Richard L. Martin BA '99

Richard L. Martin received a Master of Arts degree in humanities from California State University Dominguez Hills in May 2007. He is currently attending Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash., pursuing a teaching credential to become a high school social studies teacher.

Charles J. McGuigan AA '81, BA '83

Charles J. McGuigan, who now holds two master's degrees in education and a doctrine in special education, recently received the National Poetry's Achievement award and medal. McGuigan, who started pastoral courses in fall 2007, noted, "I always hold Thomas Edison State College close to my heart with each achievement; it's door was opened to me, I took a chance and stepped through, and now look at me."

Jennifer A. Nelson-Loder BSBH '06

Jennifer A. Nelson-Loder married Daniel Loder on the island of Antigua in April 2007. Nelson-Loder is currently employed as a social worker within the Sussex County, N.J., judicial system at a state model domestic violence offender rehabilitation program.

Terri Neuman ASM '93

Terri Neuman graduated Magna Cum Laude in May 2007 from LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Pa., with a Bachelor of Arts in organizational dynamics. Neuman has been accepted into the LaSalle University, Pa., graduate program in information technology leadership.

Tammie L. Otukwu BA '05

Tammie L. Otukwu graduated from the University of Phoenix in November 2006 with a master's degree in management. Otukwu was promoted to sergeant first class in June 2006 and gave birth to her son, Innocent Otukwu, that same month.

Kevin Plaisance BA '03

Kevin Plaisance spent 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and four years in the U.S. Air Force as a meteorological analyst/briefer. When he made the decision to make a career change from the U.S. military to federal law enforcement, he realized that finishing his degree was vital to career progression. After obtaining his Bachelor of Arts from Thomas Edison State College, he was hired by the Drug Enforcement Administration as a diversion investigator, responsible for investigating federal civil and criminal violations involving federally-controlled pharmaceutical drugs and chemicals. After two years with the DEA, he was hired by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent. His current duties involve coordination a regional Violent Gang Task Force, composed of federal agents and local law enforcement officers. Plaisance contributes his current position and career success to the completion of his degree at Thomas Edison State College.

Bernard Siben BA '00

Bernard Siben had an article published in *Marketer*, the bimonthly magazine of the Society for Marketing Professional Services. The article titled "The Care and Feeding of Clients," is about the things that technical and marketing professionals in the 'built environment' (architecture, engineering, planning, etc.) should remember as they scramble to maintain and manage client relationships while getting their technical assignments completed. Siben has also written more than 10 articles for the *Zweig A/E Marketing Letter*, which is another publication for professional services marketing.

Rebecca Robinson BA '04

Rebecca Robinson earned her certification as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) in January 2007. The certification was awarded by the Human Resource Certification Institute and signifies that Robinson possesses the theoretical knowledge and practical experience in human resource management, which is necessary to pass the rigorous examination.

Susan Sodon BA '07

Susan Sodon transferred her credits from her AAS in communication design from Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J., to Thomas Edison State College and finished her career-oriented degree for a BA in art. Sodon has been a senior graphic designer for Solari Creative in Eatontown, N.J., for more than 16 years and supports PEO IEW&S/PM Radars program at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. She was recently accepted into the online MEd degree program for e-Learning Technology and Design with Adult Education at Jones International University in Englewood, Colo.

continued on back cover

Jeffrey Steffin BA '00

Jeffrey Steffin received his Master of Arts degree in German from the Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., on Aug. 17. Steffin is currently working as a freelance translator, living in Lisbon, Portugal, where he recently began work on his second master's in translation and comparative cultures at the Catholic University of Portugal.

Linda Sykes BSHS '01

Linda Sykes, who graduated from Thomas Edison State College in October 2001 after attending and pursuing a degree part time for almost eight years, is now pursuing her master's degree in human services, specializing in mental health counseling, at Capella University. Sykes, who anticipates completing the program in January 2009, is currently a mental health counselor with the Adolescent Eating Disorder Unit with the Princeton Healthcare System.

Karen S. Wiley BSBA '04

Karen S. Wiley has accepted a position as manager of accounts payable at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Philadelphia, Pa.

Michael T. Young BA '06

Michael T. Young received a 2007 fellowship from the Jersey State Council on the Arts. This award is in the field of poetry. A panel of judges considered numerous 10-page manuscripts and chose a handful of poets in the state to receive fellowship money to pursue their art. Young plans to use the money to take a month's leave from work and to concentrate on writing. Young is also proud to announce the birth of his first child. His son Ariel James Young was born on March 19, 2007.

George Zarzycki BA '93

George Zarzycki received the New Jersey Vietnam Service Metal and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal in May 2007 at the Vietnam Era Educational Center in Holmdel, N.J. A Thomas Edison State College mentor and an adjunct professor at Kean University, Zarzycki was also featured in an NJN film presentation called *Reflections of War*. His book, *Thirteen Months, Thirteen Stories, One Tour* tells his story of service during Vietnam era. Zarzycki's future plans include two more books, and lecturing on the war, the sixties and the burden of being American. Whatever little time he has left belongs to his four "handsome" grandsons.

Please tell us about your...

- ▶ New Job
- ▶ Promotion
- ▶ Award
- ▶ Marriage
- ▶ Baby
- ▶ Career Switch

If it's **news** to you, it's **news** to us!

We invite you as a member of our family of Thomas Edison State College Alumni to tell us about the exciting things happening in your life. Let us know what's new with you since you graduated from Thomas Edison State College or how your experience at the College changed your life, and we may include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*.

To contact us, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor, 101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176; fax it to (609) 777-1894; or e-mail your good news to invention@tesc.edu. You may include photos to accompany your news. Items will be published as space permits.

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