

SPRING 2013

# Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



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### Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Henry David Thoreau said, "Philanthropy is almost the only virtue which is sufficiently appreciated by mankind."

This issue of *Invention* is dedicated to those whose support of Thomas Edison State College has earned our collective appreciation and gratefulness. The annual support we receive from individuals, foundations and corporations plays a critical role enabling us to continue our ongoing commitment to academic excellence and integrity.

An example of this support is illustrated in our cover story, which focuses on our new nursing simulation laboratory. This state-of-the-art lab supports our Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program and was made possible in part by more than \$270,000 in donations made to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

The Foundation is busy preparing its inaugural donor report that will be released later this spring. The report will include our annual Honor Roll of Donors and outline how Foundation support was invested this year.

Also in this issue, we check in with Paula Vaughan '90, '98, a longtime supporter of the College who has established the Paula Vaughan Scholarship Endowment Fund to help adult learners achieve their goals. Paula talks about her successful career with Prudential International Insurance and her inspiration for supporting the College.

On behalf of the entire College family, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our supporters and to the Foundation for the extraordinary work it does every year.

We are grateful for your generous support.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President



## College Earns National Press

Thomas Edison State College received national press this February in *The New York Times*, where it was praised for its flexible degree programs for adults.

The College was profiled in the story "Adults Are Flocking to College That Paved Way for Flexibility," which appeared in the Feb. 25, 2013 edition and was written by Tamar Lewin, a *New York Times* higher education reporter. The story featured an interview with College president George A. Pruitt and several College alumni who earned all or most of their credit using external credit sources, including Dr. Arthur C. Brooks '94, Jennifer Hunt '12, Pilar Mercedes Foy '12 and David Esterson '11.

To read the article, visit: [www.nytimes.com/2013/02/25/education/25degree.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/25/education/25degree.html).

In addition, Brooks, president of the American Enterprise Institute, wrote an opinion piece published in the Feb. 1, 2013, edition of *The New York Times*. In the column, Brooks praises his alma mater and its nontraditional model of higher education and recalls that when he was in his late 20s, he was ready to return to school, but had no desire to burden himself with debt.

"Fortunately, there was a solution – an institution called Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J.," he writes.

To read the column, visit: [www.nytimes.com/2013/02/01/opinion/my-valuable-cheap-college-degree.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/01/opinion/my-valuable-cheap-college-degree.html).

## Leadership Trenton Alumni Meet With Trenton Public Schools Superintendent Francisco Durán

Trenton Public Schools Superintendent Francisco Durán met with graduates of Leadership Trenton and other civic leaders on Jan. 17 and shared his vision for improving schools in the city.

During the meeting, sponsored by The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College, Durán made the distinction between what many call the achievement gap and what he described as an opportunity

gap and the need to expose students to positive learning experiences that can lead to greater academic achievements.

"We have to think outside the box if we are going to create a community of learners where academics are valued along with nonacademics that support the whole child," said Durán, who took over as superintendent in July. "Children need to see people in their community coming together and investing in them, and then they see the world in a different way and see themselves differently, too."

Barbara George Johnson, executive director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, said she thought the exchange was beneficial to Durán and the community.

"There was a positive energy about the superintendent, the community leaders and Leadership Trenton alumni who attended the event," she said. "People respectively passed their issues on the table and solutions that could help this newcomer to Trenton trailblaze a path for future success for Trenton's children."

(from left) Calvin B. Thomas Jr., Leadership Trenton Fellow '06, Barbara George Johnson, executive director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy and Trenton Public Schools Superintendent Francisco Durán.



Dr. Arthur Brooks '94, president of the American Enterprise Institute

## Foundation to Publish Inaugural Donor Report

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation will publish its inaugural donor report this spring as a stand-alone publication that outlines financial information, investments made from Foundation support during the past year and vignettes highlighting donors of the institution.

"We look forward to developing this targeted report for our donors to demonstrate how their support enables the Foundation to fund important initiatives at the College," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs. "This year, we are excited to share

*This year, we are excited to share information with our donors about important investments their donations made possible, such as our new nursing simulation laboratory.*

> John P. Thurber,  
vice president for Public Affairs

information with our donors about important investments their donations made possible, such as our new nursing simulation laboratory."

The report will also include expanded information about the Foundation's

special events and the new 1972 Society.

The report will be mailed to all donors and made accessible on the Thomas Edison State College Foundation website at [www.tescfoundation.org](http://www.tescfoundation.org)

## College Names Robin Walton Vice President for Community and Government Affairs

Thomas Edison State College has appointed Robin Walton as vice president for Community and Government Affairs.

Walton, who has served as director of Community and Government Affairs at Thomas Edison State College since joining the institution in 2005, will continue her work to support the College's commitment to working with civic leaders and organizations throughout the state of New Jersey and in the Trenton community, and serving as the College's primary liaison with local, state and federal officials.

"Robin has done tremendous work during her tenure with the College," said George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "We look forward to her continued leadership working with community groups to help improve our city and with elected officials here in Trenton and in Washington."

Walton is responsible for community affairs efforts and initiatives at the city, county and state level and directs the

College's government affairs programs at the local, state and federal levels.

"I have always been passionate about supporting the city of Trenton and advocating the mission of Thomas Edison State College. I believe the work we do every day to create opportunities for self-directed adult learners changes their lives," said Walton. "Higher education plays an important role in community relations and is an important policy issue in New Jersey and around the country. I look forward to continuing my work to serve the College locally and at the state and federal level."

Walton earned a bachelor's degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in New Brunswick, and a Master of Science in Management degree from Thomas Edison State College. Walton is also a graduate of HERS Wellesley Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration. Prior to joining the College, she served as community relations coordinator at Capital Health in Trenton.



Robin Walton, vice president for Community and Government Affairs at Thomas Edison State College

Walton currently serves as chair for the Board of Trustees for Children's Specialized Hospital and represents the hospital on the Board of Robert Wood Johnson Healthcare Corporation. She is the vice chair of the New Jersey Multiple Sclerosis Task Force and serves on the Community Advisory Boards for both the Trenton Health Team and the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership.



## College's Accelerated BSN Graduates Earn 100 Percent Pass Rate on National Nursing Licensure Exam

The New Jersey Board of Nursing recently reported that the first graduates of Thomas Edison State College's accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), based on the graduates who took the exam in 2012.

The College's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program, launched in 2011, is a one-year program designed for those who already possess a non-nursing bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming a registered nurse. The program's first graduating class included 16 graduates, of which 14 took the NCLEX-RN exam in 2012. All of the graduates who took the exam in 2012 passed.

"We are extremely pleased about this outcome and the performance of our graduates," said Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "They have invested a great effort and were fully committed to putting their lives on hold for the program."

The information reported to the College by the New Jersey Board of Nursing was provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and reflects the results of all first-time NCLEX test takers from the College who took the exam in 2012.

(From left) Brittany Arrington, Gerald Bertekap, Carl Coleman, Rachel Boka and Lisa Dellon, members of the first graduating class of Thomas Edison State College's accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, which achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), based on the graduates who took the exam in 2012.



### THE THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES The 19th Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic

Save the  
Date

Monday, June 10, 2013

TPC Jasna Polana  
Princeton, NJ



For a chance to win a foursome of golf at Jasna Polana, register by May 10, 2013. For more information, tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.tescfoundation.org/golf](http://www.tescfoundation.org/golf), call (609) 984-1588, ext. 2083, or e-mail [development@tesc.edu](mailto:development@tesc.edu).

## College and Saylor Foundation Announce Open Course Collaboration

Thomas Edison State College and the Saylor Foundation have announced an agreement to enhance access for adults to earn college credit through Saylor's high-quality, free, open courses and the College's nationally renowned expertise in assessment.



According to the agreement, the Saylor Foundation will identify its most popular courses for which learners have expressed an interest in earning college credit and Thomas Edison State College will create examinations and other assessments for those courses. In addition, the College will map Saylor courses that already align with existing College examinations, including the Thomas Edison State College Examination Program (TECEP®). With this agreement, the College became the first senior public institution of higher education in New Jersey to partner with a major provider of online open courses.

*"We are in the midst of the latest paradigm shift in higher education and look forward to leveraging our expertise in assessment to help our students to take advantage of it."*

> Marc Singer, vice provost,  
Center for the Assessment of Learning

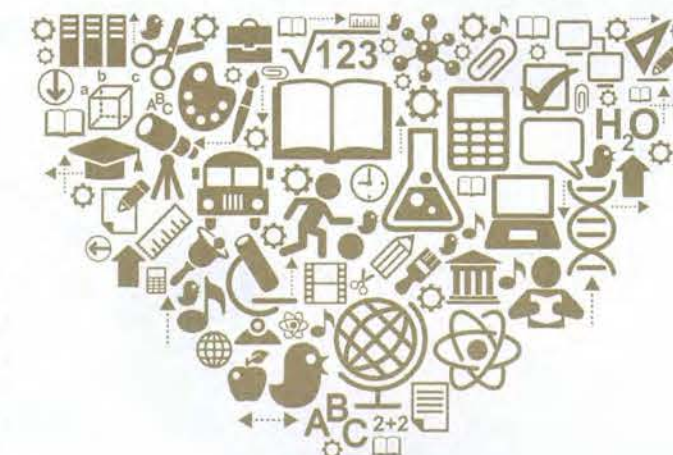
"We are excited to work with the Saylor Foundation to provide students the opportunity to earn college credit for successfully completing Saylor's open, online courses," said Marc Singer, vice provost of the College's Center for the Assessment of Learning. "We are in the midst of the latest paradigm shift in higher education and look forward to leveraging our expertise in assessment to help our students to take advantage of it."

The first six Saylor courses that the College will create assessments for include:

- > Introduction to Comparative Politics;
- > World History in the Early Modern and Modern Eras (1600-Present);
- > Management Information Systems;
- > Negotiations and Conflict Management;
- > Introduction to Mechanical Engineering; and
- > Thermodynamics.

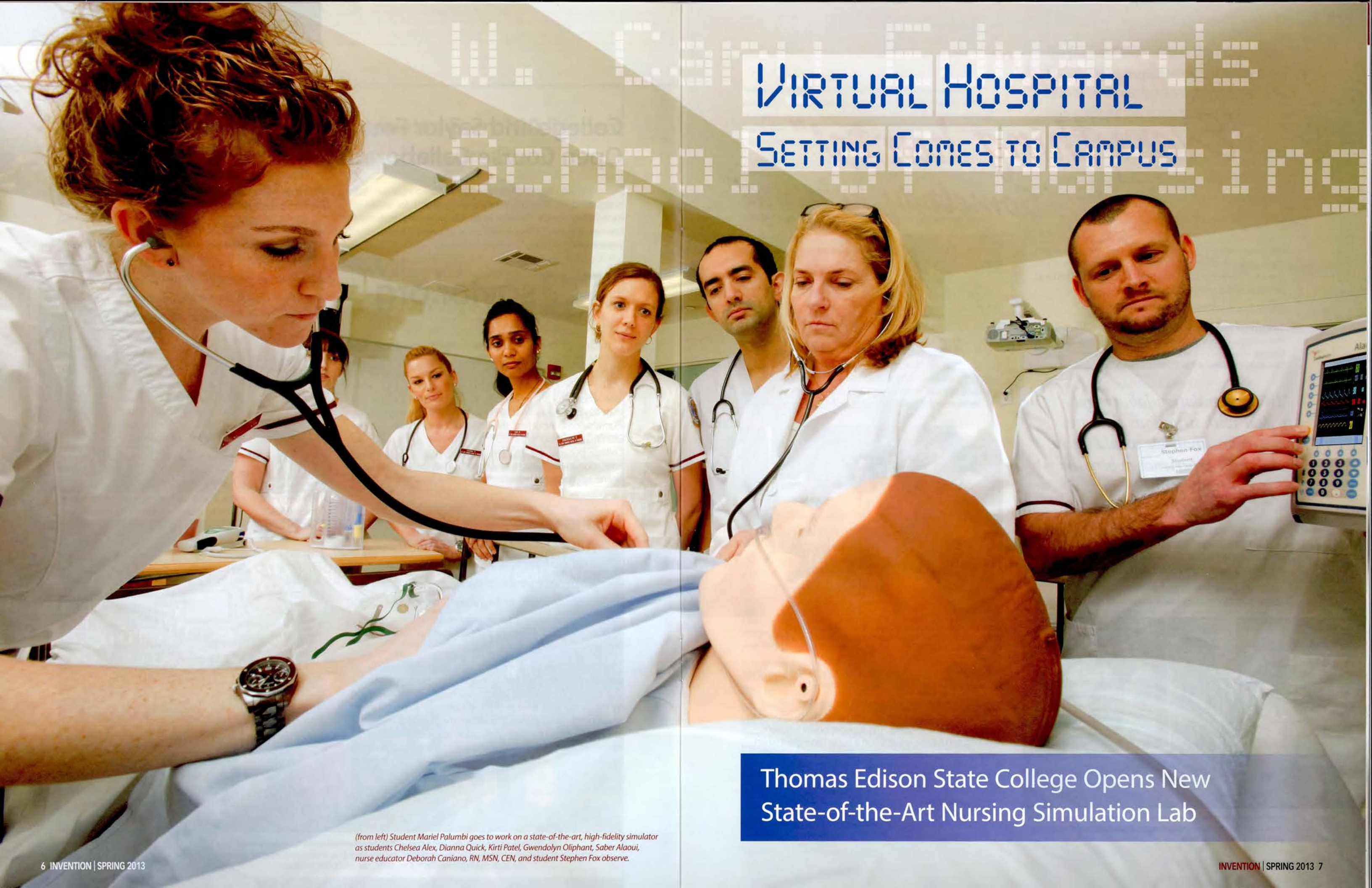
"We're pleased to see more of our courses take shape as pathways to affordable college credit and equally pleased to see Thomas Edison State College embracing open educational resources as a basis for a credentialed education," said Devon Ritter, special projects administrator for the Saylor Foundation. "We're grateful to be able to translate cooperation into meaningful opportunity for our students."

The agreement with Saylor comes on the heels of Thomas Edison State College Foundation's decision in December to invest \$100,000 to fund the development of competency-based degree programs that leverage massive open online courses (MOOC) and other open resources to create new pathways for degree completion for adult students.





# VIRTUAL HOSPITAL SETTING COMES TO CAMPUS



Thomas Edison State College Opens New  
State-of-the-Art Nursing Simulation Lab

*(from left) Student Mariel Palumbi goes to work on a state-of-the-art, high-fidelity simulator as students Chelsea Alex, Dianna Quick, Kirti Patel, Gwendolyn Oliphant, Saber Alaoui, nurse educator Deborah Caniano, RN, MSN, CEN, and student Stephen Fox observe.*



# "I can't breathe!" "Everything hurts!" "Somebody help me!"

The nurse hears screams for help and darts into the room to find a patient half out of bed and having difficulty breathing. She attempts to position the patient back onto the bed and begins to check vital statistics.

"Ouch! That hurts," the patient responds.

This type of scenario plays out daily in hospitals throughout the country. Thanks to the support of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, it also takes place in the new Nursing Simulation Laboratory at Thomas Edison State College as part

“In the simulation lab, we get to deal with situations that are more extreme than we would see in our clinical experience, where the patients are mostly stable.”

> Kate Lawrence, student

of the course work for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students. Only the patients in the lab are high-fidelity simulators and the caregivers are students in the College's Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program.

"It's as close to real life as you can possibly get," said accelerated BSN student Mariel Palumbi, of Blackwood, N.J.

"It makes you think on your feet and teaches skills that we can apply in our clinical experiences."

The state-of-the-art simulators, which cost around \$139,000 each, can be programmed to simulate virtually any healthcare emergency or condition.

"Nursing students cannot experience all there is to experience in a hospital when they go through their clinical training," said Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "The new simulation lab gives our students the opportunity to learn how to handle a variety of situations in a safe environment and develop critical-thinking and decision-making skills required in our profession. We are



(from right) Nurse educator Lynne Capik, MSN, RN, APN, C, works with students Marie Cadet and Monica Shah during a simulation session with a high fidelity simulator.

grateful to all of the businesses, organizations and individuals whose generous donations made our new lab a reality."

Simulation sessions are scripted and the simulators are programmed to exhibit specific symptoms and to respond to the actions of the students. This includes bodily functions, speaking and having any reaction a nurse can expect when treating a live patient.

Students will be experiencing a wide variety of scenarios in the simulation lab, including cardiac disease and cardiac arrest, diabetes, acute respiratory issues and patients that exhibit comorbid conditions.

"When a code takes place during a clinical experience involving a live patient, students are typically moved to the side and observe," said Dr. Christine Rosner, associate dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "But in the simulation lab, students are the practitioners who can save the life."

Student Kate Lawrence of Jackson, N.J., said the simulation sessions help tie together everything she is learning in the program.

"It's nice to see all the dots connect what we learn in the clinical experiences," said Lawrence. "In the simulation lab, we



Students debrief with nurse educators following each simulation session to review what takes place during the sessions and how to improve student performance.

get to deal with situations that are more extreme than we would see in our clinical experience, where the patients are mostly stable."

Every simulation session is videotaped so students and nurse educators can review student actions and continually improve student performance.

"Working with the simulators is very interesting," said student Kirti Patel, of Franklin Park, N.J. "It helps us understand the symptoms we need to look for when we get on the patient floor."

Patel said she selected Thomas Edison State College over other programs in New Jersey because the College offered a one-year BSN program and accepted all of her credits.

"I liked that it was a one-year program, and it was helpful that I did not have to retake any of the general education courses," she said.

The simulation lab is located in the Kuser Mansion Carriage House, which is located behind the mansion on West State Street in Trenton. The Carriage House was renovated as part of the College's extensive improvements to Kuser Mansion.

The 635 square-foot lab is located on the first floor of the building and includes a technical room where the simulators are controlled and features a one-way glass window so nurse educators can watch students during simulation sessions.

The simulation sessions take place in a patient care area that resembles an emergency room with three beds and three

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation played a key role supporting the simulation laboratory by raising more than \$270,000 to help purchase the simulators.

## SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- > BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB
- > JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
- > THE ROMA BANK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
- > THE JAMES KERNEY FOUNDATION
- > THE KARMA FOUNDATION
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- > THE GARY AND DIANE HEAVIN COMMUNITY FUND
- > NOVARTIS PHARMACEUTICALS
- > THE FRED C. RUMMEL FOUNDATION
- > PNC FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP, INC.
- > THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION
- > NUMEROUS INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

simulators. On the second floor of the building, there is a classroom and a conference room where students review simulation sessions with nurse educators.

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation played a key role supporting the simulation laboratory by raising more than \$270,000 to help purchase the simulators.

"We are honored to support the development of this cutting edge simulation laboratory," said Brian T. Maloney, chair of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. "The lab adds a critical element that enriches our accelerated BSN program."

The College's accelerated BSN program was launched in 2011. The New Jersey Board of Nursing recently reported that the first graduates of the program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), based on the graduates who took the exam in 2012.

The current cohort is the first to use the new simulation lab. Patel said she looks forward to continuing the simulation sessions as part of her course work.

"During my first session, I was the primary care nurse. It was talking to me and I was talking back to it. It had a pulse and was breathing," she said. "If I see the symptoms that the simulator is showing, I will know what to do when I am in a hospital caring for real patients."

To learn more, visit [www.tesc.edu/2degreeBSN](http://www.tesc.edu/2degreeBSN).



Nurse educators bring the simulators to life in the Simulation Laboratory's control room, where they also observe students responding to a variety of scenarios they will experience with live patients.



## Paying It Forward

"From things as simple as donating blood to involvement in community and devoting myself to a cause, philanthropy has always been an undercurrent in my life," said Paula Vaughan, whose personal drive fueled her career in the insurance industry. "It is a sense of responsibility I have shared with my family for as long as I can remember."

By the time she retired in 2007, Vaughan was a vice president of operations for Prudential International Insurance, where she was responsible for the implementation of a new company in Poland and developing process and systems improvements in large existing operations in Japan.

"When I found TESC, as a potential student, I was grateful for the recognition that working adults needed a different approach to fulfill their educational goals," said Vaughan. "I understand how difficult it is for people to work while managing family and continuing their studies."

Vaughan, who completed a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1990 and a Master of Science in Management in 1998, said she always felt a lingering need to finish college to satisfy her own sense of accomplishment and to honor the courage it took her father to finish his own education. Vaughan recalls her father as a self-directed, nontraditional learner who passed five licensing

Vaughan also contributes to several of her local charities through volunteering and donations. Among them, the United Way for Greater Austin, Texas, where she brings her experience in staff development, process improvement and project management to the organization. She also serves on the chapter's IT Committee and President's Cabinet. Additionally, Vaughan serves on the board for Ascend Center for Learning, which helps adults earn a GED.

Giving back is not just the 'rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth,' but it should be built into our spirit to move us from self to community," noted Vaughan. "There is a quote that I particularly like by Rabbi Hillel: 'If I am



For Paula Vaughan, giving back is an ingrained behavior.

Her connection to her employer, however, extended beyond projects and processes.

Vaughan said Prudential shared a strong commitment to social responsibility. Today, a scholarship endowment at Thomas Edison State College bears her name with a portion of the contributions she makes matched by Prudential.

"During my career with Prudential, I was proud to be associated with a company that maintained such a strong sense of corporate citizenship, charitable giving and volunteerism," said Vaughan.

Vaughan said that she had been donating to the College for a number of years, and, fortunately, was able to utilize Prudential's matching gift program to supplement her giving. Since her retirement from the company, she has continued to support the institution.

exams to practice as a professional architect at the age of 48.

"For me, earning the bachelor's degree was a personal milestone," said Vaughan. "By the time I completed my master's degree, it was clearly to help address the changing work environment and to have credentials that would serve me in any future position. My gratitude to the College continuously evolved to my participation in the Alumni Association and becoming a donor."

Vaughan has also completed a number of executive management courses through MIT's Sloan School of Management, Hammer and Company and George Washington University.

She said that retirement has been a great opportunity to continue her learning through travels, studying new languages, taking piano lessons and horseback riding.

not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And, if not now, when?"

Vaughan said that she has been fortunate to see the growth and new directions of the College's academic programs under Dr. Pruitt's leadership.

"When I was approached about considering a scholarship endowment, it just felt right to move to donating through the institution to deserving individuals who qualify for the [Paula Vaughan Scholarship] Endowment Fund to help adult learners achieve their goals. I give to the College because it was the most viable solution for completion of my education, and I want Thomas Edison State College to continue to be accessible for other adults like me.

This is my "paying it forward."

Giving back is not just the 'rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth,' but it should be built into our spirit to move us from self to community.

Paula Vaughan BSBA '90, MSM '98



# Making the Grade

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program at Thomas Edison State College is helping educational leaders like Steven Gregor '09 and Jill Green '11 empower their school districts to achieve their goals.

Steven Gregor, who serves as principal of Orchard Valley Middle School in Washington Township, N.J., said he developed a midcareer desire for an educational leadership position and began hunting for a flexible program that matched those objectives.

"I chose Thomas Edison State College because of the versatility of the program's online format," he said. "I also knew that research has found that distance education students spend more time studying and have access to more instructional resources than their brick-and-mortar counterparts. I decided I would rather spend my time immersed in course work than driving to and from classes."

Gregor, whose appointment as principal became effective in February 2013, said that all of his courses were aligned with Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) standards.

*"I particularly credit my current success with the action research techniques learned at Thomas Edison State College and the emphasis on scholarly writing and research."*

> Steven Gregor '09

"The syllabi correlated all learning activities with the appropriate standards, ensuring comprehensive preparation for the standardized state tests," he said.

Gregor passed his Principal's Praxis and School Leader's Licensure Assessment exams on his first attempt, due in large part, he said, to his course work.

For Jill Green, finding a flexible educational leadership program was also critical because it would have to fit her demanding schedule. Green, who earned her undergraduate degree at Rutgers University, said obtaining her master's degree had been in the back of her mind for years, but holding down a career while piloting her own children through school and onto college preempted those plans.

"Once I was able to enroll in the program, I completed my assignments whenever I could fit them in," said Green, who has served as vice principal of the Frank Defino Central Elementary School in Marlboro, N.J., since August 2012.

"I enjoyed every moment of the course work experience," she said. "What especially drew me in were exchanges with fellow students who were also professional peers. Our discussion boards allowed us to share experiences across different academic models, philosophies and challenges."

As a seasoned teacher, reading specialist and literacy coach, Green was especially struck by other districts' variations in human resources management.

Steven Gregor, principal of Orchard Valley Middle School in Washington Township, N.J.



"As an educator in a large school district containing many specialized positions, it was a real eye-opener," she said. "Fellow students in the program hailed from different districts in the state or country where one person might serve as both principal and superintendent, so there was plenty of diversity on HR-related issues."

Green noted that the program's components, encompassing curriculum design and development, public school law, human resources administration, technology administration, budget planning, community partnering along with a field-based practicum in which she was mentored by another principal, further enhanced her practical experience.

"The material we covered was super-relevant to my role with the school district and has served me well," she said. "I am constantly going back and looking at my course work files because so much of what we covered bridges to my current position."

Like Green, Gregor brought a rich breadth of competencies to his educational leadership courses.

He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville, Pa., a master's degree in social studies from Temple University in Philadelphia and a Supervisor's Certificate in graduate studies from Rowan University in New Jersey.

*"I enjoyed every moment of the course work experience. What especially drew me in were exchanges with fellow students who were also professional peers."*

> Jill Green '11

Earlier in his career, he served as a social studies program supervisor and technology trainer for the Washington Township Public School System, developing and coordinating curriculum, managing departmental budgets and helping a staff of 300 infuse technology into their curriculum.

Gregor also taught geography, world history, U.S. history, civics and German while designing lessons and syllabi. In 1995, he was voted as 'Teacher of the Year' at Washington Township High School. In 2009, he earned a three-year \$500,000 Liberty



Jill Green, vice principal of the Frank Defino Central Elementary School in Marlboro, N.J.

Fellowship Teaching American History Grant for the school system and served as the grant's director.

"It is encouraging to see our educational leadership program having such a positive impact on the personal and professional objectives of our students," said Dr. Susan Davenport, dean of the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences and associate provost of Graduate Programs. "The program enables alums like Steven and Jill to earn credentials leading directly to career advancement in a mode that complemented their existing professional lives."

Gregor, who serves as an adjunct professor of history and technology courses at Camden County College and Rowan University, is now enrolled in a doctoral program at Nova Southeastern University.

"I have completed the preliminary course work and a large segment of my dissertation," he noted. "I particularly credit my current success with the action research techniques learned at Thomas Edison State College and the emphasis on scholarly writing and research."

To learn more, visit [www.tesc.edu/heavin/maedl](http://www.tesc.edu/heavin/maedl).





## Tina Carkhuff AA '97, BSHS '98, MSM '04

Tina Carkhuff, who has had a "robust career" in IT, started a nonprofit organization called Cerebral Folate Deficiency Research with Dr. Richard Frye of the University of Arkansas/Arkansas Children's Hospital in January 2012. The Cerebral Folate Deficiency Research organization is dedicated to exploring the connection between cerebral folate deficiency and autism in the hope of finding a cure. The organization was formed to raise funds for research into the effects of the deficiency on autism and to find treatment options available so that affected children can reach their full potential. Cerebral folate treatment can result in fewer autistic symptoms and even their disappearance.



## Gerald R. "Rob" Carter BA '07

Gerald R. "Rob" Carter completed a Master of Arts degree in clinical mental health counseling from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton Texas, in December 2012.

## Harold A. Coghlan-Montero BS '85

Harold A. Coghlan-Montero recently received two major awards from the U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Timothy Edens presented Coghlan-Montero with the U.S. Army Safety Achievement Award for successfully completing "20,000 flight hours without an accident" from 1979 to 2012, a feat few military or civilian aviators ever achieve. In December, he was presented the "Knight of the Order of Saint Michael (Bronze)" award by the commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Ala., Maj. Gen. Kevin Mangum. The Knight award is received by less than 1/10 of 1 percent of military aviators. Coghlan-Montero noted that both of these significant awards recognize a lifetime devoted to aviation and, specifically, military aviation service. He added, "I completed my BS degree in 1985 and it has served me well during my many years of service."

## Albert G. "Al" Curving ASM '96, BSBA '96, BA '97

Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) Retired Albert G. "Al" Curving, of Flemington, N.J., is the recipient of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) "CW4 Albert M. Holcombe Warrant Officer of the Year Award" for 2012. The presentation was made at a ceremony during the



annual meeting of members in Harrisburg Pa, on Nov. 3, 2012. The USAWOA consists of nearly 6,000 members representing some 15,000 U.S. Army warrant officers presently serving in the active component, reserves and National Guard as well as some 45,000 retired and former Army warrant officers. The Association promotes: professionalism, representation and recognition of Army warrant officers as part of The Military Coalition (TMC), which lobbies Congress in support of the members and families of all branches of military service. Curving, the father of three adult children, now writes country and gospel music with a partner Dan Laurie of North Haledon, N.J., under the name [www.StoryInSong.com](http://www.StoryInSong.com).

## John J. Deltuvia Jr. BA '91, MAPS '06

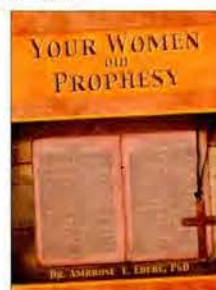
John J. Deltuvia Jr. was awarded the degree of Master of Science in computer information systems with a subconcentration in information technology management by Boston University on Sept. 25, 2012.

## Robert K. Denton Jr. BA '88

Robert K. Denton Jr. was recently appointed to the Virginia Cave Board for a four-year term by Gov. Bob McDonnell. Denton, a senior geologist at GeoConcepts Engineering Inc., in Ashburn, Va., is a certified professional geologist and a state-certified soil scientist. Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1979, the Cave Board is an advisory body with functions that include cave management, rescue operations, cave ownership laws, enforcement of the Cave Protection Act and a potential cave recreation plan. The board is charged with protecting caves' minerals, archeology, life, groundwater flow and unique characteristics. "I always have had a strong interest from childhood in geology, paleontology, and have been a caver since I was a teenager," noted Denton. "I'm excited about it."

## Dr. Ambrose E. Edebe BSBA '99

Dr. Ambrose E. Edebe, ordained as a minister, has written a book, *Your Women Did Prophecy*, which documents evidence for biblical and historical precedent for women's participation in preaching and prophesying ministries. It cites specific activities of women as recorded in the New Testament, apocryphal writings and a selection of early church fathers that refer to the first two centuries. The focus of this book is on the activity of women rather than on opinions expressed about the role of women. For more information, please visit [www.ambroseedebe.com](http://www.ambroseedebe.com).



## Lee Doric-Henry BA '92

Lee Doric-Henry graduated with a doctorate in clinical psychology (PsyD) from the Adler School of Professional Psychology in December 2012, 20 years after graduating with a BA degree from Thomas Edison State College. Her doctorate was on Inter-generational Eating Disorders among Holocaust victims. On Jan. 15, 2013, Doric-Henry started work as a post-doctoral fellow at the Cambridge Eating Disorders Center.



## Andrew Elliott BA '06

Andrew Elliott had his first book published in January, *Miracle at the Garage*, which has already climbed to No. 8 on the best sellers list and has been selected as a book of the month. *Miracle at the Garage* tells a present-day tale of hope, wonder, amazement, grace, love and faith. This memoir offers a look into the lives of a few individuals with two common bonds — their religious faith and their connection through the Garage, a men's ministry. To read more about the book, visit <http://bookstore.crossbooks.com> or the author's website at [www.miracleatthegarage.com](http://www.miracleatthegarage.com). Elliott, who recently retired from the U.S. Coast Guard following 23 years of service, noted that he was thankful for the education at Thomas Edison State College, which helped him reach his goals and pursue other options for a career.



## Justin Farnsworth BSAST '07

Justin Farnsworth was promoted to vice president in the trade operations group at Citigroup in January. His group manages 15 to 20 percent of the overall stock and option volume traded on all major U.S. exchanges. Farnsworth noted, "Had it not been for the higher education opportunities at Thomas Edison State College, I would not be in the position I am in today. Thank you for providing such a great launching pad!"

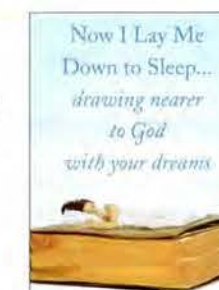
## Andrew Finley BA '11

Andrew Finley received a graduate certificate in instructional systems design from Trident University International in June 2012 and completed a master's degree in education with a concentration in training and instruction from Trident University International in December 2012. He is a recent award-winning graduate

from the New York Institute of Professional Photography, and during his time with Thomas Edison State College from 2009 through 2011, while working on his BA degree in photography, he graduated from the USDA Graduate School New Leader Program. Finley is the co-founder of Gratitude Path Books Publishing with his wife Cindy. The Finleys have published two children's books of a planned series of six books designed to teach children and adults about using gratitude in their daily lives. The project includes t-shirts, gratitude coins and other items based on the main character — Rudy the Rhino, and his jungle friends. Finley has been a Master Training Specialist at the Coast Guard Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia since 2002.

## Gloria Fisher BA '07

Gloria Fisher has had her new book, *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep...drawing nearer to God with your dreams*, released by Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC in December 2012. It is available on Facebook, the Tate Publishing website, [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [Barnes & Noble.com](http://Barnes & Noble.com). Fisher noted, "My education at Thomas Edison State College was invaluable in having the confidence I needed to make my dream come true," said Fisher.



## Ronald M. Graham ASAST '87

Ronald M. Graham, who went on to earn a JD degree from Widener Law in 1991, is a senior partner at Graham & Mauer, P.C., a personal injury law firm with offices in the Valley Forge and Harrisburg, Pa., areas. Graham earned his master's degree with a concentration in environmental issues from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012.



## Laurel Hoffmann BA '92

Laurel Hoffmann became involved in the fashion industry the 1990s when she taught an introductory fashion course at Philadelphia University. Following her graduation from Thomas Edison State College, she developed a capstone fashion degree course using couture techniques and wrote a series of textbooks about the fashion industry. Her efforts evolved





into a fashion technology program with supporting textbooks, which are currently being used by several college fashion programs and are marketed on Amazon.com. After teaching at Philadelphia University for 18 years and Drexel University for two years, Hoffmann now has her own school in Oreland, Pa. "Thomas Edison State College has helped to make all of this possible; it was the perfect and only solution for my situation," she said. "For more information on Hoffmann's program, school and books, please visit [www.laurelhoffmann.com](http://www.laurelhoffmann.com) or [www.contemporaryfashioneducation.com](http://www.contemporaryfashioneducation.com).

## Nora L. Ishibashi BA '80

Nora L. Ishibashi, who went on to complete two master's degrees and a doctorate, notes, "Thomas Edison made it possible to finish my undergraduate degree in spite of having three small children and moving every two or three years."

## Tammi Joyner AA '08

Tammi Joyner has gained notice from *International Who's Who in Poetry*, an organization that reviews the poetic accomplishments of people whose work has recently been discovered in major poetry archives, poetry websites, and in print editions released by various publishers in America and around the world. "My Very Own Kin," a poem written by Joyner, has been selected for publication in the 2012 historic edition of *International Who's Who in Poetry*. The poem is dedicated to her son, Marquel Green, and is available at [Blurb.com](http://Blurb.com) in a booklet entitled, *A Theory of Maternity and Togetherness - The Book*.

## Jessica Kubel BA '12

Jessica Kubel is the volunteer coordinator for the Volunteer Center of San Gabriel Valley in California. In October 2012, she helped organize the 22nd Annual Make A Difference Day in the city of Monrovia, Calif. There were more than 450 volunteers that participated in the event and completed more than 25 community improvement projects as well as a blood drive, canned food drive, e-waste recycling, "Warm for Winter" collection for the homeless and more. Some of the projects included house painting, fence repair, yard waste cleanup, landscaping, school vegetable gardens and tree planting. A 1994 graduate of Duarte High School, Kubel also participated at the Duarte Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.



## Lonnie Lane BA '90

Lane, who went on to Palmer Theological Seminary after earning her Thomas Edison State College degree, is now a pastor at The River in Jacksonville, Fla. She has written extensively and travels as a speaker and teacher on the subject of the Jewish roots of Christianity. Lane co-authored her most recent book, *Heaven Is Beyond Your Wildest Expectations*, a collection of 10 testimonies of people who have died and returned to life after experiencing heaven. The book is available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Lane noted, "Obtaining my Bachelor's degree from Thomas Edison State College was the step up that made all the rest possible."



## Marita A. Lawler BSHS '98

Marita A. Lawler, PhD, M-RAS, CSC, is an addiction counselor as well as a mentor and clinical supervisor to alcohol and drug counselors and has been in the field for more than 30 years. In addition to earning the Master's Level - Registered Addiction Specialist (M-RAS) and Clinical Supervisor Credential (CSC) professional certifications from Breining Institute as well as a number of other addiction counseling certifications, Lawler earned her PhD in addiction psychology from Capella University, and is an ordained nondenominational Christian minister who provides crisis counseling in rural Alaska. In 1998, Lawler moved from California to Chickaloon, Alaska, (pop. 272) in order to provide services for clients in rural Alaska where substance abuse disorders and addiction are a major problem. Recently, Breining Institute presented Lawler with the Excellence in Supervision Award for 2012.

## Krystal Lopez BA '10

Krystal Lopez, who currently teaches at a community college and works as an academic advisor, is in the process of finishing her MA degree in English. The writer of a series of children's books, Lopez recently gave birth to her own child - a baby girl named Krystabella Grace Lopez-Salyer.

## Patricia A. "Patt" Martinelli MAPS '03

Vineland, N.J., native Patricia A. Martinelli, author of eight nonfiction books on true crime and the supernatural, announced that her first novel, *Rim Road, Book I: The Lost and Found*, has been released by Solstice Publishing. Available as an e-book through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), the book will soon appear as a paperback. She is already at work on the second book in the trilogy. To learn more about Martinelli's writing, visit her website at [www.patriciamartinelli.com](http://www.patriciamartinelli.com).



## Frank Minnella BSAST '87

Frank Minnella has recently obtained a new position as teacher of Industrial Technology at Manasquan High School. Minnella, who holds multiple professional certifications and licenses, has more than 30 years of experience in architectural, interior design, facility management and construction. He held senior facilities design and construction positions at companies like AAA and Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Minnella is a professional member of the American Design Drafting Association. He has more than seven years teaching experience at the secondary and post-secondary level and is an adjunct professor at Kean University. He is a lifelong resident of New Jersey.

## Keith Moeller BSBA '01

Keith Moeller, who is affiliated with Northwestern Mutual-Minneapolis, was honored by Northwestern Mutual with its 2013 Central Region Top Producer award. This honor recognizes Moeller for an outstanding year of performance with Northwestern Mutual, serving the financial security needs of others throughout the region. Moeller and a network of Northwestern Mutual specialists offer a holistic approach to planning with financial security solutions including life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, annuities, investment products and advisory products and services.

## Claudia A. Newton BSBA '01

Claudia A. Newton published *Career Wonders and Blunders: If I Knew Then, What I Know Now* - the first in a trilogy of career development books. The book is a holistic career guide created for entry-level workers including college students and graduates entering the workforce. It is also a great refresher for more seasoned workers. It is filled with the raw, untouched experiences of hundreds in the workforce along with the author's insights. The book is available on [www.careerwondersandblunders.com](http://www.careerwondersandblunders.com) as well as on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Newton is a manager for BlueChoice HealthPlan, a wholly owned subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina. She is also an adjunct professor for the University of Phoenix online and the principal of Rewarding Resume Services.



## Allan E. Smith BSBA '79

Allan E. Smith, who serves as the president of nonprofits, wrote "Thomas Edison State College was one of the best things that happened to me in my life! Finding a college that would allow me to transfer all my credits from four or five other colleges is beyond measure. Because of this, it allowed me to get an MBA from a great school: Babson College."

## Rev. Dr. Marlene Walters AA '74, BA '78

Rev. Dr. Marlene Walters, who went on to earn a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Theological Seminary), noted, "I continued to serve as an ordained minister for 40 years and, in fact, I'm still serving at IRCC Chapel Services in Melbourne, Fla."

## Jason Willis BSAST '07

Jason Willis received a Senior Reactor Operator License from The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in March 2012. He is currently a unit supervisor for PPL at The Susquehanna Steam Electric Station in Berwick, Pa.



# ALUMNI & STUDENT NETWORKING EVENTS

[tesc.edu/alumni-events](http://tesc.edu/alumni-events)

## MAY

30 > Virginia Beach, VA

## JUNE

17 > Society of Human Resource  
Management conference (SHRM)  
Chicago, IL

25 > Police Security Expo  
Atlantic City, NJ

## JULY

17 > San Francisco, CA



## SAVE THE DATE

19th Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic

> Monday, June 10  
TPC Jasna Polana  
Princeton, NJ

CONNECT WITH US!



For more information about these events or having an event near you,  
contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592 or [alumni@tesc.edu](mailto:alumni@tesc.edu).