

Capital Campus

OCTOBER 2014

Staff Graduates, Class of 2014

Thomas Edison State College awarded degrees to nearly 3,300 graduates this year and more than 580 attended the Commencement ceremony at the Sun National Bank Center on Sept. 20. Among those graduates were a number of the College's staff members who were recognized and awarded for their accomplishments. This is what they said about their experience:

Thomas Gittins, Clerk, Facilities and Operations: While working toward my degree, music I wrote was played by professional musicians a few times a year at showcase concerts. In addition to this notable feat, I learned to be more pragmatic when it came to fostering a balance between school and work. Originally, I was at a four-year university, and, after trial and error, I decided to focus on music composition. I built up credits by taking miscellaneous courses. Eventually, I got a full-time job at the College and transferred my credits here because the degree requirements were realistic. This degree means that I finally have something to show for my effort, and I can afford making the investment.

Camilla King-Lewis, Assistant Dean, School of Business and Management: Working Monday through Friday at the College left me busy; however, I set a solid routine on weekends to allow myself to finish my school work. This gave me the chance to focus and resulted in the celebration of completing my work every Saturday afternoon. Of all the work I produced, being able to work on my Capstone project was the most notable experience throughout my journey. My project capitalized on the



Pictured from the left are staff graduates, Debbie Lutz (BA), secretarial assistant, Office of the Vice President, Academic Affairs; Regina Roberts (BA), program assistant, Office of the Registrar; Larsicena Vance-West (AA), graduations records specialist, Office of the Registrar; and Estelle Reeves (MSM), administrative assistant, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences. Not pictured are Thomas Gittins (BA), clerk, Facilities and Operations; Kristin Gonzalez (AA), associate director, Community and Government Affairs; Camilla King-Lewis (MSHRM), assistant dean, School of Business and Management; Graham MacRitchie (AA), educational technology specialist, Management Information Systems; Bryan Mazzilli (BA), Learner Services representative, Office of the Registrar; and Robert Vance (AAS), student data assistant, Office of the Registrar.

skills, experience and knowledge gained throughout my career in human resources management. Above all, it is wonderful to be able to remain competent throughout one's career. I did so by complementing my 25 plus years as a corporate practitioner with human resources management academic theories.

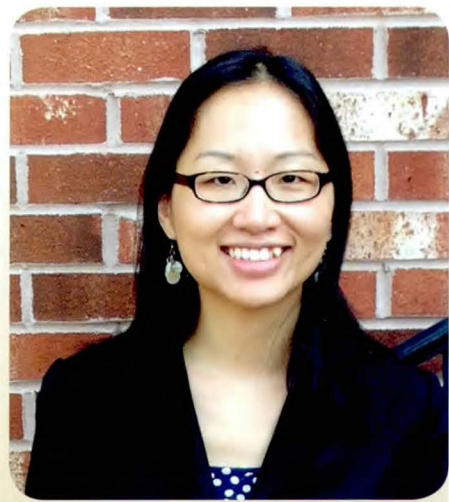
Debbie Lutz, Secretarial Assistant, Office of the Vice President, Academic Affairs:

There are no words. I truly understand just what we give to our students and I am so proud to be an employee and alumni of the College. This has been one of the most important journeys of my life. I wouldn't have made it through this without much cursing, complaining, hysterical laughter, screaming and crying. My boyfriend was actually ordained a saint for putting up with me during this process. My most memorable moments were both adrenaline-charged and fulfilling. The first

was when I not only passed my evil nemesis math, but got an A; I was psychotically happy! The other was the online discussions in my courses. I did not expect them to be as eye-opening and challenging, and as unbelievably fun as they were.

Graham MacRitchie, Educational Technology Specialist, Management Information Systems:

Balancing work and studies is a struggle that I think all adult students are challenged with. I was fortunate to have a very supportive home life as well as many advocates within the College to ensure I was meeting the goals I had set for myself. I am glad for the relationships I have established that will bolster my chances of success toward my bachelor's degree. The completion of my associate degree was an important milestone. I utilized my past experience in the military and prior college credits, and proactively identified alternative methods



Li-yun Young, Program Assistant,
Office of Alumni Affairs

For **Li-yun Young** it has always been about what she can do for others. As the program assistant in the Office of Alumni Affairs, Young treasures the sense of purpose she acquires because of her position.

Having been with the College for almost six years, Young finds joy in being able to encourage alumni engagement so that they are able to help current students pursue their academic and career goals. "Alumni success stories give prospective and current students the hope to be able to achieve their dreams and aspirations," she said.

Prior to her position with the College, Young was a social worker for a nonprofit organization. Making the transition to higher education has allowed her to further her ability to help others and interact with people.

Focus On: Li-yun Young

"I help to serve alumni by connecting them with the College and each other, posting jobs on our alumni and student LinkedIn group, assisting with alumni and student networking events throughout the country, connecting prospective and current students with our Alumni Ambassadors, and by maintaining and updating alumni data from numerous sources, among many other tasks. We aim to continually help alumni stay connected with the College, and to help them expand their networks and connections with one another," Young explained.

"Next year, the College will have more than 50,000 alumni in 59 countries; we are so very privileged to have Li-yun to be on the front lines engaging our large and diverse alumni population," said **Roxanne Globis**, director of Alumni Affairs. "Her high-touch approach with each alumnus/alumna elevates the engagement of our alumni."

In addition to the work she arranges with both alumni and students, Young enjoys the team work and collaboration that continues to develop between her office and the Office of Development, with whom they work closely.

"Roxanne is very supportive of me and we work well together. The Office of Development is a great team to work with

as well. We work hard, but we also have a lot of fun" she noted.

Young earned an undergraduate degree in psychology from Rutgers University and a master's degree in counseling from Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, Pa.

In her spare time, Young fills every moment creating memories with her family, which includes her husband of nine years, Josh, as well as son Luke, 4, and daughter Joelle, 3. The family, who recently moved to Lawrenceville, N.J., enjoys taking day trips to locations all across the tri-state area.

"Since our kids are young, we enjoy taking them outside. We love parks, the aquarium and the Please Touch Museum. Day trips to New York City and Philadelphia are also good options in the summertime," she said.

When the fall rolls around, orchards are where you can most likely find the Young family enjoying the autumn air. "The kids love going seasonal picking at Terhune Orchards in Princeton. Last time we went picking as a family was for blueberries over the Fourth of July weekend. The kids actually lost interest within 15 minutes, but Josh and I had a great time picking for almost an hour! We can't wait for apple picking in the fall," she proclaimed.

College Mourns the Loss of Dr. Christine Rosner



Dr. Christine Rosner

Thomas Edison State College mourns the loss of **Christine M. Rosner**, RN, PhD, associate dean for Undergraduate Programs in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing, who died suddenly in her sleep on Monday, Aug. 11. She was 57.

A resident of Dresher, Pa., Rosner joined the College in October 2012. She was responsible for the School's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs, including the RN-BSN and Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN programs, and played an integral role in designing the new nursing simulation laboratory. Prior to joining the College, Rosner served as dean of the School of Nursing and Allied Health Professions at Holy Family University, where she also served as a professor.

"Christine loved working at the College," recalled **Dr. Filomela Marshall**, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "She was an extraordinary talent and a wonderful part of the College's nursing family. She truly had a passion for undergraduate nursing education. This is a tremendous and devastating loss. We will miss her dearly."

Rosner received her BSN from Gwynedd-Mercy College, a master's degree in nursing of children from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in nursing research and theory development from New York University.

She is survived by her husband, Gary, and their children, Sarah and Andrew.

Staff Activities

Janet Eickhoff, associate vice president, Office of Strategic Partnerships, **Thomas Phillips**, human resources manager, Office of Human Resources; and **Dr. Michael Williams**, dean of the School of Business and Management, represented the School of Business and Management at the Society for Human Resource Management's SHRM 2014 Annual Conference & Exposition in Orlando, Fla. This industry conference with more than 15,000 attendees is the premier professional forum for human resources management professionals worldwide.

Janet Eickhoff, associate vice president, Strategic Partnerships, and **Kelli Parlante-Givas**, associate director, Strategic Partnerships, visited UPS HUBs and participated in conferences in a variety of locations. Parlante-Givas attended the Operation College Promise (OCP) training program in Providence, R.I., where she served as an advisory board member on the Best Practices panel. She also visited UPS HUBs in Providence and Norwood, Mass. On two separate occasions Eickhoff and Parlante-Givas visited Maryland to present to part-time UPS supervisors during their Career Education days. Eickhoff presented to UPS part-time supervisors in Chantilly, Va., and Brockton, Mass., and also conducted a webinar for full-time supervisors in the southern California region. Parlante-Givas and **Jeanine Nagrod**, director, Office for Assessment of Professional and Workplace Learning, exhibited and provided a College information presentation to the executive board for the NJ Building and Construction Trades Council in Atlantic City, N.J.

Patti Hunt, associate director, Office of Military and Veteran Education, participated in the Fort Campbell (Kentucky) graduation ceremony on Aug. 22, welcoming six Thomas Edison State College graduates to the Alumni rolls. Hunt also represented the College at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) in Phoenix, Ariz., attended mostly by senior enlisted members of the Army and Air National Guard, and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) in Chicago, Ill., attended by senior officers from across the nation. These two events are extremely important in maintaining and growing the College's relationships with National Guard units at all levels.



Janet Eickhoff



Thomas Phillips



Dr. Michael Williams



Kelli Parlante-Givas



Jeanine Nagrod



Patti Hunt

Respiratory Therapy Program Graduates Also Earn Thomas Edison State College Associate Degree

Thomas Edison State College's **Dr. Terri Tallon**, director of Military Student Services, and **Cathy Punchello**, registrar, attended the Interservice Respiratory Therapy Program (IRTP) graduation ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Aug. 22.

Graduates of the IRTP receive an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in respiratory care from Thomas Edison State College. Students endure a challenging didactic curriculum that includes 640 hours of intense respiratory anatomy and physiology, medical gas therapy, airway management, pulmonary function studies, mechanical ventilation and pulmonary pathophysiology.

Upon completion of the academic portion, students are immersed in an intense clinical setting at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, the Institute of Surgical Research and other local medical facilities, where they perform respiratory therapy procedures in all facets of adult and neonatal intensive care units, medical and surgical wards, and pulmonary function testing.

Tallon and Punchello also spent an intense two days touring the medical facilities, meeting with the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) registrar, and visiting students and instructors of the program.



Pictured, from the left, are Thomas Edison State College staff **Dr. Terri Tallon**, director of Military Student Services, and **Cathy Punchello**, registrar, with **Harry Román**, program director for the IRTP at the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) and the Navy graduates.

SWEET TREATS!



Melissa Van Aken, principle clerk typist, **Debbie Lutz**, secretarial assistant, **Michelle Leonard**, human resources specialist, and **Andrea Johnson**, senior clerk typist, served up some sweet treats to **Diane Koye**, director of Environmental Research, at the Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social sponsored the Office of Human Resources on May 21. More than 60 people attended the fifth annual event held in the Great Hall of the Kelsey Building.

Welcome New Staff



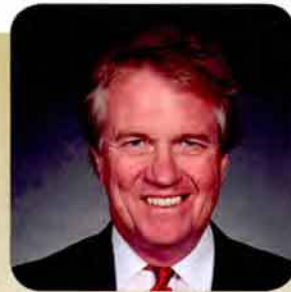
Shawn Baran has been appointed technical support specialist in the Learner Support Center. Baran is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3067.



Gregory Biele has been appointed Learner Support representative in the in the Learner Support Center. Biele is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3425.



Christopher Kamps has been appointed assessment development specialist in the Center for Learning and Technology. Kamps is located on the 2nd floor of the Center for Learning and Technology and may be reached at extension 2302.



Dr. James D. Phillips has been appointed associate dean in the School of Business and Management. Phillips is located on the 2nd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 4333.



Heather Russino has been appointed instructional designer in the Center for Learning and Technology. Russino is located on the 3rd floor of the Center for Learning and Technology and may be reached at extension 2282.



Carly Statz has been appointed instructional designer in the Center for Learning and Technology. Statz is located on the 3rd floor of the Center for Learning and Technology and may be reached at extension 2272.



Greg Stobb has been appointed director of Digital Advertising and Data Analytics in the Office of Institutional Marketing and Publications. Stobb is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 4017.



Sharon Torpila has been appointed confidential assistant in the Division of Community and Government Affairs. Torpila is located on the 3rd floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2038.

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of earning new credits that fit with my learning style. One moment that will stay with me was when I was able to successfully leverage credit-by-exams for 21 of the credits I needed to complete my associate degree.

Estelle Reeves, Administrative Assistant, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences: I never had any intention of pursuing a graduate degree. After soaking up the advice of former dean Susan Davenport, I took the dive into the MSM program. It's a rewarding feeling and none greater than the proudness my father figure displayed as I went through the program. To lose him just before the start of my last course was a devastating blow that nearly derailed me. The very last requirement for my MSM Capstone course will remain my most memorable experience. I can't say enough about the love I have for my family for adjusting so quickly once I entered the graduate program. They didn't contact me unless I sounded the alarm that it was ok to call.

Regina Roberts, Program Assistant, Office of the Registrar: When I started taking college courses more than 30 years ago, I wanted to ensure I would be qualified to find an interesting job. Completing the degree was something I did for myself and my family. Upon taking my first course, I read classmates' postings on the discussion board and was shocked at how opinionated some were. I emailed the mentor, told him I was new to online courses and asked if the postings were appropriate. He replied that it would be a lively class and ended by saying, "Jump right in." I did. I made school work with my schedule. Often I was sitting down with my textbook and laptop at 9 p.m. to get started, but I could be found doing course work anywhere. I like to think I shared the wealth with co-workers as I occasionally read them a fact or two while they ate, hunched over my notebook in the break room.

Capital Campus is produced by the Office of Communications and the Office of Institutional Marketing and Publications at Thomas Edison State College. To submit a story idea for the newsletter or for more information, please contact Linda Soltis at extension 2065.