

FALL 2006

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Prime Mover

Steve King '93

INSIDE

- ▶ College Hosts National Diversity in Nursing Event
- ▶ Alumni Ambassador Program Launched
- ▶ New Leadership at Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- ▶ New MBA Essentials Certificate



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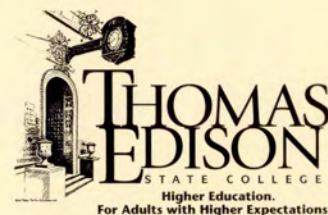
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

The success of virtually any effort usually depends upon leadership. While leadership comes in many different styles, it is always characterized by the responsibility of carrying the burden of an entire organization.

Harry S. Truman, the 33rd president of the United States, said, "Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

In this issue, you will meet some extraordinary leaders who have done just that.

One is Steve King, BSBA '93, who describes his inspiration for earning his baccalaureate degree at Thomas Edison State College and how that degree helped him make the transition from a top IT sales position into a senior management role at a growing company.

Of course, King did not settle into just any management role. He joined a fledgling company called E*Trade in the late 1990s and played key leadership positions during the organization's period of tremendous growth. Today, King is CEO of ZANTAZ, Inc., which is also experiencing extraordinary growth under his leadership.

Like many of our graduates, we at Thomas Edison State College are also exercising dynamic leadership. Two new College programs demonstrating this are featured in the following pages.

The first is based in our School of Nursing, which recently hosted the first distinguished lectureship in diversity in nursing, attracting nurse leaders from across the country. The event focused on building alliances, linking stewardship and diversity through online education and increasing the awareness of the role of the professional nurse in promoting online education as a tool that can help alleviate the nursing faculty shortage facing the country.

The second initiative is our new Alumni Ambassador Program, which provides an opportunity for our graduates to play leadership roles in the College's efforts to increase enrollment, build partnerships and expand development opportunities.

We are committed to offering programs that develop leadership qualities in adult learners, and we are honored by the many excellent accomplishments of our alumni. I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

School of Professional and Continuing Studies MBA Essentials Offers New Online Certificate for Business Professionals

The School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College has recently launched a new online professional certificate: MBA Essentials.

This noncredit certificate is designed for those in the business community who are interested in gaining the expertise that can help them advance their careers. The 30-week program includes five online courses that cover essential skills needed to develop leadership potential.

"Business professionals are often looking for slices of knowledge to improve in specific skill areas identified by themselves or their employers," said David M. Grossman, PhD, vice provost and dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College. "The MBA Essentials certificate program constitutes a mini-MBA, covering key skills needed to develop leadership potential. Courses can be taken individually as well as in a sequence leading to a certificate."

Courses for the MBA Essentials program are lead by experts in each program area. The focus on assessment and outcomes makes each online course directly relevant to an individual's work and professional development. Courses in the MBA Essentials program include:

- ▶ Leadership and Management
- ▶ Principles of Accounting and Finance
- ▶ Principles of Marketing
- ▶ Fundamentals of Strategy
- ▶ Economics for Managers



"The online format for these courses enhances the College's ability to ensure that content, course materials and class discussions remain on the cutting edge, as the business environment changes, almost daily in some cases," said Grossman. "Using real-world examples and case studies means the program has a direct impact on performance."

Professional certificates offered by the College focus on specific skills and knowledge development in many business areas, and enables students to develop advanced skill sets for positions in fast-growing industries in as little time as a traditional college semester.

For more information about the professional certificate in MBA Essentials, or other noncredit programs designed for business professionals, visit www.tesc.edu and click on "Professional Certificates," or call (888) 442-8372.

Dean of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences To Retire in January

Judith S. Krom, PhD, will be retiring in January 2007 after nearly 11 years at Thomas Edison State College.

Krom has served as dean of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences since its inception in 2004 and has led the development of many of the College's degree programs focusing on human services and social sciences. She has also played a key role in developing curriculum and degree programs focused on emergency responders, law enforcement officials and military personnel, including the graduate certificate program in Homeland Security.

"Judy is a dedicated educator and academic leader who has made significant contributions to develop programs for adult learners," said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College. "Her efforts helped the College to expand the depth and scope of its academic programs."

Krom joined the College in 1996 as associate dean for the human services programs. During her tenure, she has participated in several institutional committees and played a key role in the restructuring of the College's Division of Academic Affairs, which included the formation of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

"It has been my delight to serve adult students for the past 35 years and especially during the past 11 years at

Thomas Edison State College," said Krom. "I feel it has been a privilege to help students achieve their lifelong ambition of earning a college degree and to learn to value learning while earning their degree."

In August, the College named Dr. Susan Davenport as interim dean of Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Davenport has been working with Krom on transitional plans at the School for the past several months. She will officially become dean of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences in January 2007.

Davenport joined the College in 1997 as a senior program advisor and was appointed vice provost for Learner Services in 2004. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Drew University in Madison, N.J.; a Master of Science degree from the University of Pennsylvania; and a doctoral degree (PhD) from the University of Nebraska.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Susan as our new dean of the Heavin School," said Seaton. "She brings a deep passion for academic excellence and new program development, as well as a wealth of expertise in working with adult students. I look forward to working with her to enhance and expand programs for adults."



Judith S. Krom, PhD

“It has been my delight to serve adult students for the past 35 years and especially during the past 11 years at Thomas Edison State College.”



Susan Davenport, PhD, was named interim dean of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences in August and will officially become dean in January 2007.

Minority Nurse Educators Identify Online Education as Key Strategy in Increasing Diversity in Nursing and Reaching More Students

The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College recently hosted its first annual distinguished lectureship on diversity, where nurse educators from across the country identified online education as a key strategy to recruit more diverse nurse educators and prepare more students to enter a profession currently facing serious labor shortages.

Approximately 45 nurse educators attended the event, *Stewardship and Diversity in Nursing Through Online Education*, which took place on Oct. 11 in Prudence Hall on the College's Trenton, N.J., campus. Many participants said flexibility and access were important components of online education that can help reduce both the nursing shortage and the nurse educator shortage facing the country.

"I see online education as enabling ethnic minority faculty to make themselves more available nationally and internationally," said Ngozi O. Nkongho, PhD, RN, deputy director, National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. "It opens up the whole world for anyone who wants to teach online. Flexibility and access builds confidence because the student has time to work at his or her own pace."



Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing, discusses the important roles that diversity and online education can play in helping to reduce the national nurse educator shortage at the first annual distinguished lectureship on diversity in nursing held at Thomas Edison State College on Oct. 11.

Leo-Felix Jurado, MSN, RN, president-elect of the Philippine Nurses Association of America and assistant chairperson, Department of Nursing and Allied Health, County College of Morris, said online education empowers talented individuals with a unique opportunity to reach their potential.

"Some minority groups are very shy, and online learning allows those students to pour out every idea because of the anonymity," he said. "We need faculty who are ready to invest their time to help students succeed. Minorities need that support, and the access and flexibility of online education allows those students to pursue their dreams."

The focus of the event was on building alliances, linking stewardship and diversity through online education and increasing the awareness of the role of the professional nurse in promoting online education as a tool that can help alleviate the nursing faculty shortage facing the country.

Online education allows faculty to teach beyond traditional retirement age and enables students from rural areas to access advanced education, according to Susan M. O'Brien, EdD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College.

"The conference was attended by a diverse group of people interested in using online education as a tool to increase access to minority nurse educators thereby reducing the nursing faculty shortage," said O'Brien. "It was a very interesting and thought-provoking day in which

I see online education as enabling ethnic minority faculty to make themselves more available nationally and internationally.

Ngozi O. Nkongho, PhD, RN, deputy director, National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

people were able to share thoughts, ideas and experiences that will promote faculty diversity through the use of online education."

The event was moderated by Gloria Kersey-Matusiak, PhD, RN, diversity coordinator and assistant professor of Nursing at Holy Family University in Philadelphia. Speakers included:

- ▶ Linda Gural, RN, president, New Jersey State Nurses Association
- ▶ Kem Louie, PhD, RN, FAAN, secretary, Asian America/Pacific Islander Nurses Association
- ▶ Hilda Richards, EdD, RN, FAAN, chancellor/president emeritus, Indiana University Northwest; Board Member, National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations; past president, National Black Nurses Association
- ▶ Peter Block, author, *Stewardship: Choosing Service Over Self-Interest*

The event also featured the panel discussion, *Strengthening Diversity in Nursing through Online Education*, which was moderated by

Louise Riley, MS, RN, BC, assistant dean of the School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College. Panelists included Ngozi O. Nkongho, PhD, RN; Leo-Felix Jurado, MSN, RN; Joann Pacis Cummings, MS, RN; and Thomas Edison State College School of Nursing student Carmen Rivera-Ozoria, RN.

The lectureship is part of a three-year, \$600,000 grant the College received in 2005 from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to recruit and prepare minority nurse educators in online education and develop a collaborative network of diverse nurse faculty members to enhance nursing programs nationwide.

In October, the first 15 minority nurse educators to take part in the initiative at Thomas Edison State College completed the program.

"With online education, you are anonymous and it's the quality of your thoughts that are viewed. You are free to express yourself," said Joann Pacis Cummings, MS, RN, a grant participant and panelist. "Online education is great for the English as a Second Language student who perhaps cannot speak English well; however, can write very well."

Linda Gural, RN, president of New Jersey State Nurses Association, said enhancing diversity is a key issue facing the country.

"A diverse nursing population is necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the nation," she said. "The underrepresentation of minorities in the health professions is but one indicator that we fail to recognize and develop the human resources of our diverse population."

George A. Pruitt, PhD, president of Thomas Edison State College, challenged nurse educators to use the college in their efforts to increase diversity in nursing.

"We have to make healthcare accessible to all individuals. Minorities in healthcare are severely underrepresented in this country," he said. "We are trying to change this. We want you to help us and to use this College as a tool to do that."



Minority nurse leader Dr. Hilda Richards, chancellor/president emerita, Indiana University Northwest, engages nurse educators from across the country who attended the first annual distinguished lectureship on diversity in nursing held at Thomas Edison State College on Oct. 11.

Funding for the distinguished lectureship was made possible (in part) by grant award D11HP05199 from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or the Health Resources and Services Administration, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. government.

ERNST & YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR®



PRIME MOVER

AFTER LEADING E*TRADE THROUGH TREMENDOUS GROWTH, STEVE KING, '93, ENJOYS A REMARKABLE SECOND ACT AS CEO OF ZANTAZ, INC.

Steve King's father may not have meant to set an example for his son by attending college while working full time and raising a family, but it was something the boy would never forget.

"My father had originally attended college immediately following high school, but left after one semester to serve in the U.S. Air Force. He later pursued an engineering degree at the same time he had a career and was providing for us," said King, BSBA '93, who would follow in his dad's educational footsteps.

Like his father before him, King balanced a burgeoning career and a growing family while earning his college degree.

"My parents had a huge influence on me," said King, who grew up in Washington State with three brothers and a sister. "My father took a nontraditional career and academic track and spent many hours in night school. I really admired that."

While he is quick to divert any accolades to those around him, King has earned quite a bit of admiration himself.

Based on his distinguished performance as president and CEO of ZANTAZ, Inc., a global provider of enterprise-class software and on-demand solutions for information retention and

discovery management, King earned the 2006 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the Business Services Category in the northern California region.

"I'm really humbled by being selected for the Ernst & Young award," said King. "The award recognizes the contributions of every one of the nearly 500 members of our organization. It also recognizes the close relationships we have built with our customers and partners."

The recognition is typical of the accomplishments made by King, who had already amassed a wealth of professional experience by the time he enrolled at Thomas Edison State College.



(from left) Bradley King, Steve King, Kay King and Karli King enjoy a night out together.

At New York-based Ziff-Davis Technical Information Company, King supervised sales in 11 western states and increased the revenue base in his markets by

270 percent. Later, at KMI Services based in Livermore, Calif., he negotiated and managed multi-million dollar contracts with IBM

“I had professional as well as personal motivations for completing my BSBA degree, and doing so was a very valuable experience that came at a pivotal time in my career. I applied what I was learning almost daily to actual business situations.”

and the federal government. By 1993, King was at Information Access Company, a division of Thomson Corporation, based in Foster City, Calif., where he managed sales of \$60 million.

achieve new goals with regards to his career and family.

"I had professional as well as personal motivations for completing

my BSBA degree, and doing so was a very valuable experience that came at a pivotal time in my career," he said. "I applied what I was learning almost daily to actual business situations."

King surmised that progressing from sales into a senior management role would afford him more flexibility to be with his family. His degree helped him make that transition.

"My job entailed a tremendous amount of traveling and it was impacting me personally," he recalled. "I felt as though I was missing too much of my 2 and-a-half-year-old daughter's life. We also had a son on the way, and I wanted to spend more time at home with my wife and family."

From 1997 through 2000, King held a series of executive-level management positions at E*Trade Financial Corporation. From 1999 to 2000, he served as vice president and general manager of E*Trade's Investment Banking Group, and as interim president and CEO of its investment arm, E*Offering.

During his tenure at E*Trade, the company grew from 200 employees

to more than 4,000, and revenues topped \$1.5 billion.

"It was disruptive to the financial services market and very exciting," said King, who noted that his positions at E*Trade enabled him to combine his affinity for sales and technology with management-level opportunities in the compliance and regulatory industry.

Today, as the chief executive at ZANTAZ, Inc., based in Pleasanton, Calif., he leads the company in its focus on the financial services market.

"By providing the tools to capture, preserve and access instant messages, e-mail and electronic records, our clients can respond to regulatory action or litigation in a more composed and proactive way," explained King.

The company's customers include nine of the 10 top global law firms, 11 of the Fortune 25, and 14 of the top financial securities firms.

ZANTAZ, Inc., which supports a number of charitable activities including many related to educa-



(from left) Steve and Kay King enjoy a golf outing with friends.

tion, is on an impressive trajectory. When King came on board as chief operating officer in 2000, the company reported less than \$1 million in revenue; by 2005, the company was reporting more than \$100 million in revenue.



For King, manning the grill in his backyard, no job is too small when it comes to family.

While he is a dedicated executive, life is not all about work for King.

He and his wife, Kay, and their son, Bradley, a senior in high school, and daughter, Karli, a junior at Pepperdine University, enjoy as much of the outdoors as they can during free time together.

"From the time our kids could travel comfortably, we enjoyed traveling and taking them to interesting places," said King. "They've spent a fair amount of time in other countries, so they're not reticent at all about setting out on their own. My son recently spent two weeks on a youth mission trip to a boys' orphanage in Kenya, Africa; and my daughter just

concluded international study in London, England."

King said his parents did an excellent job of teaching him the importance of family and the importance of education, which he tries to impart to his own children.

For those juggling family and careers who want to complete their college degree, he advises adult learners to stay the course.

"One of the things that kept me going while I attended Thomas Edison State College was the flexibility and the convenience. It was challenging and difficult, but I advise those considering it to just do it," he said. "You can always rationalize putting it off, but don't be lulled into inaction. Once you've built the momentum to get the process started, you've conquered the biggest hurdle."

Thomas Edison State College Launches

Alumni Ambassador Program

THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS HAS A MESSAGE FOR ALL THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE GRADUATES: NO ONE CAN HELP THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE LIKE YOU CAN.

The College is calling on all graduates to consider taking part in the Alumni Ambassador Program, a new initiative that leverages the experience, skills and passion for education of its alumni into the institution's efforts to grow enrollment, build partnerships and expand development initiatives.

"No one can better explain the benefits of attending Thomas Edison State College than our knowledgeable and passionate alumni," said Roxanne L. Globis, alumni director. "By taking part in the Alumni Ambassador Program, our graduates can play a direct, active role to enhance higher education for adult learners throughout the country and the world."

Founded in 1979, the Alumni Association represents more than 27,000 alumni worldwide who have earned their degrees from Thomas Edison State College. The association is committed to helping advance the College's mission to provide flexible,



ALUMNI AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults, wherever they live or work.

Globis noted that the new Alumni Ambassador Program is structured so that alumni can take part in a variety of ways that can help the College, such as:

- ▶ Referring your friends, relatives or co-workers to Thomas Edison State College to complete their degree
- ▶ Helping set up a meeting with their company's human resources department
- ▶ Helping the College identify potential corporate partners
- ▶ Providing a testimonial the College can use in its marketing efforts

- ▶ Talking to the media about their experience at the College
- ▶ Partnering with key College staff to promote academic programs within their industries

"As an Alumni Ambassador, the College will work closely with graduates to provide the resources, training and support to make their efforts successful," said Globis. "This includes program orientation and training, support materials and promotion of ambassador activities in our College publications."

To learn more about the Alumni Ambassador Program, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592, ext. 2090 or alumni@tesc.edu.

AMBASSADOR PROFILE: JIM HARRINGTON, '06

Veteran Broadcaster to Advocate for College

Jim Harrington has had the kind of broadcasting career that many of his peers would envy. It includes stops at WCBS-FM in New York and serving several years as the program director at KDKA radio in Pittsburgh, the nation's first commercial broadcaster.

Harrington ran his own marketing and video production business for 10 years before returning to broadcasting. He is a published novelist, and is preparing to launch a new syndicated morning radio show called "Your Morning with Jim Harrington and Friends."

This year, Harrington also completed his college degree, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications. As a Thomas Edison State College graduate, he was quick to respond to a call to join the new Alumni Ambassador Program.

Harrington said he felt compelled to participate in the new initiative so he could better promote his alma mater to adult learners who may think that their chance to earn a degree has come and gone.



Jim Harrington '06

"People need to know about Thomas Edison State College," he said. "This school offers many people a second chance. I want to help spread the word that Thomas Edison State College provides an opportunity that can change your life forever."

Harrington said earning his degree while juggling his professional and personal responsibilities was a challenge, but one that was well worth it. He advises any adult thinking about finishing their degree to seriously consider the College.

"Trust me, Thomas Edison State College has changed the rules," he said. "I put my two daughters through Penn State and then, in my fifties, I went back. If you are dedicated and focused, you can do this."



No One Can Help Us Like You!

As a graduate of Thomas Edison State College, no one can talk about the importance of finishing your degree and achieving your educational goals while balancing the demands of professional and personal responsibilities better than you.

If you are interested in helping the College advance its work to bring the finest educational programs designed exclusively for busy adults to more adult learners, we hope you will consider joining the Alumni Ambassador Program.

To learn more about the Alumni Ambassador Program, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592, ext. 2090 or alumni@tesc.edu

Joseph A. Ascoli BSBA '01

Joseph A. Ascoli graduated from New York Law School with a juris doctor degree in 2005. Ascoli subsequently passed the New Jersey Bar Exam in February 2006 and was admitted to practice in May of 2006. He now plans to enter into private practice.

Charise B. Balaam BA '05

Charise B. Balaam was accepted into Rutgers University School of Social Work.

Emmanuel Sorel Bourjolly BA '03

Emmanuel Sorel Bourjolly received the Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary at the school's 194th Commencement Exercises on May 13, 2006. The Master of Divinity is a three-year graduate degree that is the basic professional degree for ministry. The Seminary awarded a total of 207 degrees at the Commencement Exercises.

Patrina Clark BA '04

Patrina Clark has been selected as staff director for the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Clark joined the FEC on July 10, 2006, in one of two staff positions mandated by the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). As staff director, Clark is responsible for managing the overall operation of the commission. FEC Chairman Michael Toner noted, "Patrina comes to the commission with an outstanding list of accomplishments and a fresh perspective that has impressed us all."

Joseph R. Cole ASPSS '01

Joseph R. Cole was promoted to police lieutenant of the Aberdeen Township Police Department in April 2006. In addition to this proud accomplishment, Cole also received his Master of Criminal Justice degree from Boston University in 2006.

Jeff Dickerson ASAST '99

Jeff Dickerson has been appointed as senior director of the management consulting and engineering firm R.W. Beck, Inc. in Seattle, Wash. In his new appointment, Dickerson will be responsible for all internal computing and networking systems.

David A. Humbrecht BSAST '03

David A. Humbrecht received a Master of Science degree in engineering management from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Mich., in 2005.

Paul R. Jordan BSAST '05

Paul R. Jordan noted that his degree from Thomas Edison State College has allowed him to apply early to nursing school. He will be graduating with a BSN degree in 2007 from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and plans to re-enter the U.S. Navy as a RN immediately following graduation.

George W. Karacostas BSBA '84

After completing his Thomas Edison State College degree, George W. Karacostas opened his own business, Karacostas Car Repair, which is still successful after 22 years. Karacostas, who specializes in antique Volkswagens, and his son set national records racing Volkswagens in 2000.

Roberta L. Karchner BA '05

In addition to completing her Thomas Edison State College Bachelor of Arts degree in communication in 2005, Roberta L. Karchner completed a master's program at San Francisco Theological Seminary's Southern California Campus in Pasadena, Calif., and received her Master of Divinity degree. Shortly after completing both programs, Karchner and her husband Gary relocated from California to Kansas where she now serves as a solo pastor to a Presbyterian church in Lakin, Kansas.

Jason M. Kish BA '05

Jason M. Kish was honorably discharged from the United States Navy after nearly 10 years of decorated submarine service. He was recently hired by Constellation Energy as a chemistry technician at its Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plan in Lusby, Md.

Raymond G. Klebs AA '03 BA '04

Raymond G. Klebs was awarded a National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers recognition on June 22, 2006, for his work in mathematics at Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, N.J.

Marita A. Lawler BSHS '98

Marita A. Lawler, who received a Doctor of Chaplaincy degree in 2005, holds the position of chaplain for the Chickaloon Fire Service, Inc. in Chickaloon, Alaska. In addition, Lawler noted, she provides pastoral counseling in the community using many of the skills she learned at Thomas Edison State College.

Thomas Maguire BA '94

Thomas Maguire has begun work on his doctoral degree in business. He also had his second child, a daughter, born on Father's Day, June 18, 2006.

Rebecca McCarthy BSHS '98

Rebecca McCarthy is currently the director of Nursing at Princeton Care Center in Princeton, N.J.

Louis Mignone BSHS '05

Louis Mignone earned a Master of Art degree in liberal studies from Excelsior College of Albany, N.Y., in February 2006. He continues in his position as a police detective with the Township of West Orange Police Department of New Jersey and is in his 19 year of law enforcement.

Barbara Mitchell, DCH BA '82

In November 2005, Barbara Mitchell was awarded a Doctor of Clinical Hypnotherapy degree. Her private practice includes hypnotherapy, neuro linguistic programming and stress management.

Melanie Darlyne Morgan BA '03

Melanie Darlyne Morgan, MEd, has accepted a fourth grade teaching position at Krueger Elementary in the Northside Independent School District. Morgan noted that she appreciated the support of her family as she secured the first teaching position of her career in a student-focused district; thanks to their encouragement, her dreams have been fulfilled. Morgan said she is proud to join the faculty and staff of the "destination district" of San Antonio, Texas.

Hans M. Nunemaker MSM '06

Hans M. Nunemaker has been approved to retire from the active United States Army after 20 years of faithful service as a chief paralegal noncommissioned officer in March 2007. Nunemaker recently completed a yearlong deployment to Balad, Iraq, and returned to Texas to teach at the college level.

Kirsten D. Person-Ramey BA '04

Kirsten D. Person-Ramey, along with production company Cool People Entertainment LLC, has recently achieved nationwide distribution of Person-Ramey's first feature film "Mary Proud." The film, previously self distributed, has secured national distribution through Maverick Entertainment. Person-Ramey is in the process of shooting her second feature film.

Ashley L. Pistorio BSAST '99

Ashley L. Pistorio completed her MS degree in biotechnology from John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., in 2003. After working for 10 years in medical research, eight years of which was spent in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at John Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, she finally was able to follow her true calling. She started her first year of

continued on back cover

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.

Name _____

Former/Maiden Name _____

Company _____ Title _____

Street Address _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone () _____

Evening Phone () _____

E-mail Address _____

☐ Check here if this is a new email address.

Student ID# _____

Class Year _____ Degree _____

Information for *Invention*: _____

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medical school at the Pennsylvania State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pa., in August. She expressed her appreciation of Thomas Edison State College by saying "The ability to complete my undergraduate degree while continuing to work full time has opened doors I could not have dreamed of when I first enrolled at the College. It is because of my experience with Thomas Edison State College that I am a huge advocate of distance education for working adults."

Matthew C. Quirk BA '04

Matthew C. Quirk was recently promoted to the position of programmer analyst. He expressed how he could not have achieved this position without his baccalaureate degree from Thomas Edison State College. He noted, "Education is truly the key to my success."

Ivan Reales AAS '06

Ivan Reales was promoted to chief petty officer of the United States Coast Guard on July 1, 2006. The promotion was announced shortly after Reales completing his AAS degree in computer studies at Thomas Edison State College. Reales earned his degree while serving on active duty with the Coast Guard. Reales noted that this was his most honorable and prestigious accomplishment during his 15 years of service. He is currently stationed at Coast Guard Sector Miami, Fla.

Samuel Roberson BA '97

Samuel Roberson graduated from Baruch College in New York City with a master's degree in public administration. Roberson noted, "Thomas Edison State College counselors supported me in my application process to obtain a fellowship for my MPA immediately upon graduation. Since acquiring my BA and MPA my career has excelled." In addition to working as a senior staff member at The Lennard Clinic, Roberson opened Little Lamb's Childcare Center as director and vice president in 2001.

Stacie L. Ryan BA '01

Stacie L. Ryan received her master's degree in elementary education through the University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Ariz. In addition, she completed two years of probationary status. She has recently been given tenure status at the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District as a second grade teacher.

Sana Saud Al-Hajri BSBA '05

Sana Saud Al-Hajri said how attending her commencement ceremony with her fellow classmates was one of the most memorable moments of her life. She hopes that her future will shine bright with many achievements. She noted, "After my bachelor's degree experience, all else seems easy. I've decided that my journey should not end here, and I plan to pursue a master's degree in human resources management, hopefully in 2006."

Show Your Thomas Edison School Spirit!

**THE COLLEGE STORE
OFFERS A VARIETY OF
MERCHANDISE THAT
YOU CAN USE TO SHOW
YOUR SPIRIT AS YOU
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