

FALL 2010

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



Into the Fire

David Neuman '10

INSIDE:

- ▶ College Launches Online Proctoring
- ▶ College Earns Federal Economic Development Grant
- ▶ The 38th Annual Commencement



3



6



10



14

Contents

FALL 2010



1 Message from the President

College News:

- 2 ► Dr. Susan Gilbert Named Dean of the School of Business and Management
- New Graduate Specializations in Nursing Launched

- 3 ► College Launches Online Proctoring
- College Named One of the Country's Top Institutions for U.S. Military and Veterans

- 4 ► College Earns Federal Economic Development Grant

- 5 ► College Selected as Partner in U.S. Army's Respiratory Therapy Training Program
- Join the Thomas Edison State College Group on LinkedIn

6 Cover story:

- David Neuman '10: Into the Fire — How Thomas Edison State College Helped Rescue a Life Saver

Feature story:

- 10 ► The 38th Annual Commencement
- 13 ► IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Scholarship Winners Attend 38th Annual Commencement

14 Student Profile:

- Todd Lange: On the Road to Recovery

16 Applause, Applause:

- Alumni News

Cover Story: **6**
David Neuman '10



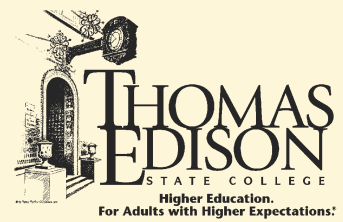
Invention is published by
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

The legendary author C.S. Lewis said, “You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

This issue of *Invention* focuses on people who have brought this idea to life.

In our cover story, David Neuman '10, an insurance investigator and firefighter, tells us how earning his degree with Thomas Edison State College empowered him and helped him to recover from an injury that ended one career, but enabled him to start a new one. Neuman expresses his appreciation for the opportunity to earn credit by demonstrating his college-level knowledge acquired through years of serving as a professional firefighter.

Also in this issue, we meet student Todd Lange, who is attending the College on a scholarship from the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation. Lange was permanently injured after being hit by a vehicle while working on a highway. He explains how the College has been able to meet his unique needs.

We are also pleased to share images and stories from our 38th Commencement ceremony, which was held in October and attracted more than 400 graduates, all of whom were brave enough to set another goal and dream a new dream.

We are honored to serve and work with individuals like those featured in this issue. I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Dr. Susan Gilbert Named Dean of the School of Business and Management



Susan P. Gilbert, PhD

Dr. Susan P. Gilbert has been recently named dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Gilbert has joined the College and look forward to beginning a new era for our business school,” said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost of Thomas Edison State College. “She brings a tremendous

track record of growing enrollments and developing effective academic programs and will play a critical role in helping us achieve our strategic goals and serving adult learners interested in business programs at the undergraduate and graduate level.”

Prior to joining Thomas Edison State College, Gilbert served as executive director and associate dean of MBA Programs at Rutgers University in Newark. Before joining Rutgers, she had a distinguished career at Emory University in Atlanta. Under her leadership as associate dean of the evening MBA program, the program earned a national ranking by *Business Week* magazine and enrollment grew by 90 percent. At Emory, Gilbert also served as executive director of Academic Programs, chair of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women and an associate professor of finance.

Gilbert earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Binghamton University, State University of New York, in Binghamton, N.Y. and holds a master’s and a PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

New Graduate Specializations in Nursing Launched

The W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College is launching two new areas of specialization under the Master of Science in Nursing program: Nursing Administration and Nursing Informatics.

These new specializations will be available to students in the January 2011 term.

The Nursing Administration specialization is designed to prepare nurses to assume roles in leadership and management of care in selected and emerging healthcare settings. The program is designed for online learners who

desire clinical learning experiences that relate to today’s administrative challenges and opportunities.

The Nursing Informatics specialization provides nurses with the skills required to serve as nursing informatics specialists trained to leverage information structures, processes and technology to design and implement information systems that support nursing and interdisciplinary healthcare teams.

For more information, please visit www.tesc.edu/nursing or call (888) 442-8372.



College Launches Online Proctoring

Thomas Edison State College has recently launched an Online Proctor Service for course exams that enable students using almost any webcam, computer with microphone and speakers and a reliable high-speed Internet connection to take examinations at the location of their choice.

“Students will no longer have to travel to approved proctor sites to take their tests,” said Esther Paist, associate vice provost of the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning at Thomas Edison State College. “We are excited about this important step toward providing students with added convenience for taking exams.”

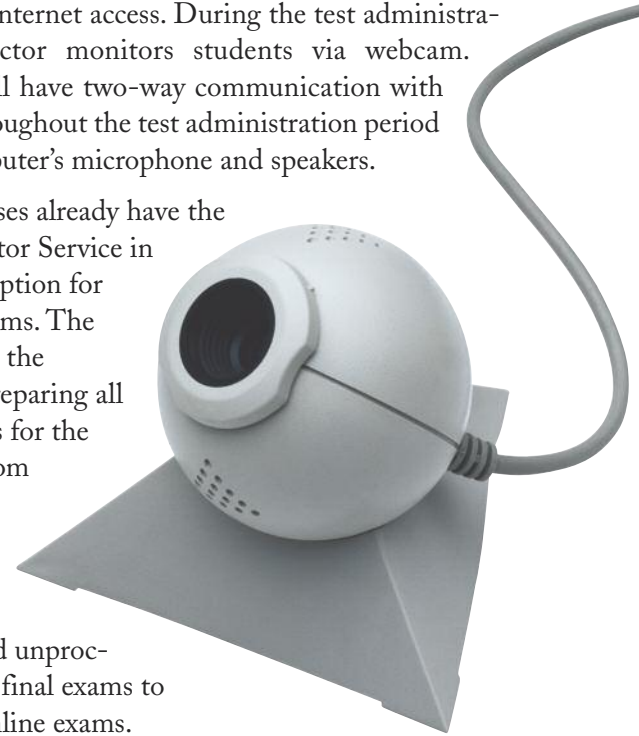
Online proctoring enhances academic integrity at the College and will result in students receiving their non-essay exam scores much faster than with site-based, pen/paper exams.

To use the Online Proctor Service, students must have a webcam, a computer with microphone and speakers and

high speed Internet access. During the test administration, a proctor monitors students via webcam. Students will have two-way communication with proctors throughout the test administration period via the computer’s microphone and speakers.

Several courses already have the Online Proctor Service in place as an option for midterm exams. The College is in the process of preparing all of its courses for the transition from pen/paper exams administered in site-based locations and unproctored online final exams to proctored online exams.

For more information about online proctoring, visit www.tesc.edu/onlinetesting.



College Named One of the Country's Top Institutions for U.S. Military and Veterans

Once again, Thomas Edison State College has been nationally recognized as one of the top institutions in the country serving members of the U.S. military and veterans.

For a fourth consecutive year, *Military Advanced Education* magazine has named Thomas Edison State College as one of the top 10 schools in the country for service members. The College, along with other institutions on the list, will be featured in the magazine’s December 2010 issue.

“We have a long history of serving the educational needs of the United States military,” said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. “We are proud to leverage our

unique format and core competencies to support the brave men and women serving our country by providing flexible, high-quality academic programs that enable them to achieve their personal and professional goals.”

Thomas Edison State College received additional accolades this year from two other national publications. *Military TimesEDGE* magazine ranked the College as one of the “Best for Vets Colleges” in its October 2010 issue. The College was also selected, for the second consecutive year, to appear in the *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*, published by Victory Media and G.I. Jobs.

College Earns Federal Economic Development Grant

Thomas Edison State College was recently awarded a federal grant to conduct an economic analysis of a region that comprises 19 urban municipalities in northern and central New Jersey that will be used to help create sustainable economic growth.

The \$240,000 grant, provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, supports the North-Central New Jersey Urban Economic Analysis Project, a collaborative effort of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College, The New Jersey Urban Mayors Association, state agencies, local businesses and nonprofit and civic organizations.

“This grant enables us to create opportunities for economic growth, training and educational programs and to help local leaders throughout New Jersey develop regional plans that leverage the strengths of existing industries and businesses in their communities,” said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. “We are honored to lead this collaborative project that will help strengthen our state.”

U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, who helped secure the federal funding for Thomas Edison State College, applauded the project and announced the grant at a press conference in Irvington, N.J., on Oct. 20.

“This critical federal funding is seed money to help grow more jobs and sprout stronger urban economies in New Jersey,” said Lautenberg, a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds this program. “This grant opens the door for future investment and signals a strong commitment to help revitalize our communities and create sustained economic growth.”



U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg announces the economic development \$240,000 grant to Thomas Edison State College at a press conference on Oct. 20 in Irvington, N.J., with members of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association.

The two-year project will assess strengths, weaknesses and challenges in developing strong, viable economic development plans in northern and central New Jersey, including Asbury Park, Bayonne, Bloomfield,

East Orange, Elizabeth, Hoboken, Irvington, Jersey City, Lakewood, Neptune, Newark, New Brunswick, Orange, Passaic, Paterson, Perth Amboy, Plainfield, Roselle and Woodbridge.

Total funding for the project is \$400,000, which includes \$160,000 in funding provided by Thomas Edison State College.

Data from the project will serve as a framework for a comprehensive economic development strategy and planning tool for creating sustainable economic growth in urban communities throughout northern and central New Jersey.

The analysis will also enable leaders in government, business, higher education and the community to track job creation, infrastructure stability, innovations in biotech and communication technology, entrepreneurial opportunities and vocational and college-based training initiatives in the region.

“This project will provide the opportunity for the higher education community to create programs that enable students to prepare for careers – not just jobs,” said Pruitt. “This could create a career pipeline for urban residents who require suitable skills to take advantage of the opportunities of economic development.”

College Selected as Partner in U.S. Army's Respiratory Therapy Training Program

Thomas Edison State College has been selected to partner with the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School's Respiratory Therapy Specialists Program, which will award enlisted personnel with an Associate in Applied Science degree in respiratory therapy from the College as part of their training.

Thomas Edison State College is the sole educational institution to be affiliated with the Army's Respiratory Therapy Specialists Program, which is based at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas – the largest military medical training facility in the world.

The arrangement marks the first time enlisted personnel in the U.S. military will receive a college degree as part of their training. The partnership will enable the Army's Respiratory Therapy Specialists Program to meet a new requirement of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care that mandates all respiratory therapy programs award a minimum of an associate degree.

The program, which launched in August, will initially be open to enlisted service members from the

Army and Navy who have completed some general education requirements for the Associate in Applied Science degree. As part of the 44-week program, service members will complete three classroom-based general education courses offered by Thomas Edison State College at Fort Sam Houston.

"This is our first foray into offering classroom-based courses and it represents how uniquely positioned we are to meet the needs of complex, global organizations," said Louis Martini, director of Military and Veteran Education at Thomas Edison State College. "The decision to offer classroom-based courses was based on needs of our students and this important partnership."

In addition, the College conducted an academic program review of the Army's Respiratory Therapy Specialists Program, which will enable students to earn 21 additional credits toward the Associate in Applied Science degree.

Remaining credits will come from transfer credits and credits awarded from the students' military transcripts. Students must also pass

the National Board of Respiratory Care certification test for respiratory therapy technicians (NBRC-CRTT) in order to graduate. Once service members complete the program, they will have earned an Associate in Applied Science degree from Thomas Edison State College and Respiratory Therapy Technician certification (NBRC-CRTT).

Graduates are scheduled to work in clinical settings throughout the Army and Navy. After three years of working in a clinical setting, graduates will qualify to sit for the National Board of Respiratory Care certification test for Respiratory Therapists (NBRC-RTT).

"We are developing pathways that will enable service members to complete course work for their bachelor's degree while they prepare for the respiratory therapy certification exam," said Martini. "This will enable them to earn their bachelor's degree once they obtain NBRC-RTT certification, which can prepare them for advancement within the military or for a civilian career once active duty has ended."

Join the Thomas Edison State College Group on 

Network with more than 35,000 alumni and more than 75 million other professionals, promote your services and company and gain access to career services. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592, ext. 2089, or alumni@tesc.edu. Join today www.tesc.edu/careerservices.



into the Fire

How Thomas Edison State College
Helped Rescue a Life Saver

RES 98 CUE



David Neuman, BA '10

into the Fire

For years, David Neuman did not see the need to earn a college degree.

Shortly after graduating high school in 1984, he transformed his passion for firefighting into a full-time job with the U.S. Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in New Jersey. During Neuman's 19-year career there, he developed a successful career, rising to the rank of emergency services captain.

"I had a great career. I was making great money, had a great schedule and an excellent pension plan," recalled Neuman. "I got married, purchased a home and started a family. Earn a college degree? For what?"

Then, in 2006, reality set in. Neuman sustained a serious knee injury at work. He had injured his knee before, and each time was able to return to work after rehabilitation

"Of course, it was easier to do that at 30 than it was at 40, which was my age at the time," said Neuman. "Unfortunately, surgery and an aggressive rehabilitation didn't work this time. So there I was, with no job and physically unable to perform the job I loved. For the first time in my life, I was wishing I had done what I thought I didn't need to do 20 years earlier: get a college degree."

Online learning was desirable for me due to mobility limitation... and the major point for me was that I could earn credit for the training and expertise I had gained in my career as a firefighter.



After being placed on long-term disability, Neuman started to research his best options for earning a college degree and returning to the workforce in a new career.

“Thomas Edison State College was on my radar screen from the beginning,” said Neuman. “Online learning was desirable for me due to mobility limitations; the campus and offices were close to my home and the major point for me was that I could earn credit for the training and expertise I had gained in my career as a firefighter.”

Like many professional emergency responders, Neuman has completed extensive and strenuous training. He said the College’s various methods that enable students to earn credit for professional training and by demonstrating college-level knowledge earned outside a traditional classroom were a perfect fit for him.

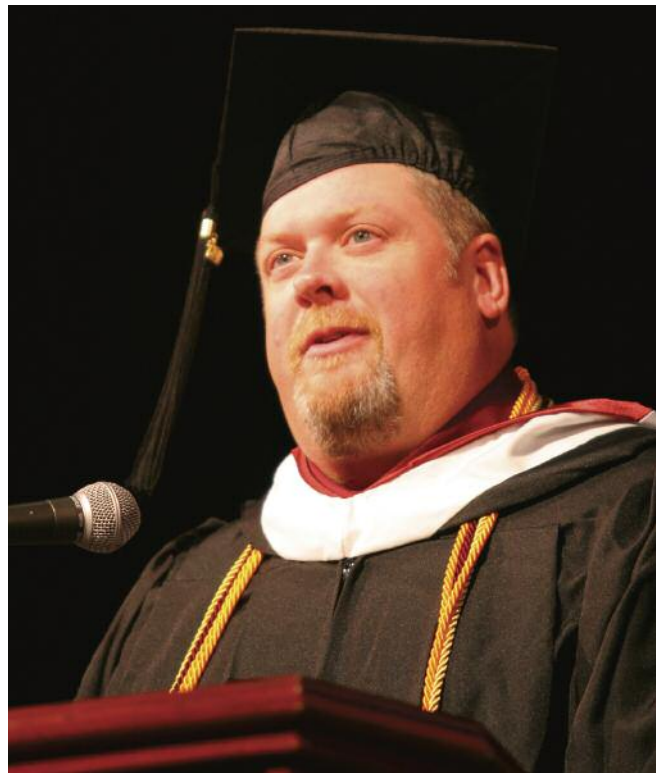
“In all, I was able to earn 39 credits – almost a third of the credits I needed to complete my bachelor’s degree – based on what I learned on the job and throughout my career in firefighting and emergency response,” said Neuman, who currently works as an investigator with Atlantic Security International Investigations.

He had earned New Jersey State Fire Inspector and Fire Official certifications, New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification and completed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) self-study classes, which were accepted as credit toward his Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice.

In addition, Neuman earned credits through the College’s Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program, online courses, Guided Study courses and through examination programs.

“My first semester was an eye-opener,” he said. “After being away from an educational environment for almost 25 years, I was pleasantly surprised that it didn’t take me long to settle into my new role as a 42-year-old college student. I particularly enjoyed the discussion boards. Traditional learning is typically one sided: teacher to student. But in the realm of online learning, particularly with students and mentors who’ve been exposed to life and all it has to offer, that’s where I learned quite a bit. Hearing differing viewpoints and positions enriched my learning experience.”

Neuman completed his degree in 2010 and was selected to give the Response for Graduates at the College’s



David Neuman gave the Response for Graduates at the College’s 38th Commencement on Oct. 9, 2010

38th Commencement on Oct. 9, 2010, at the War Memorial in Trenton, N.J.

He told a capacity crowd of his fellow graduates and their families that they are all inspiring people who have the power to inspire others to achieve their goals.

“Inspiration is a strong motivator. Realize it or not, our actions are always viewed and - most importantly - remembered by others,” he said during his speech. “You all have received your degrees for a variety of reasons. But the common thread here is that we have the opportunity to spread the word. I was home all day and night, plugging away at my full course load. But it was my fellow students who had full-time jobs; some working more than one job; some who were serving in the military; some who were managing a household; single parents raising kids. You are an inspiration in your own right.”

Neuman is also a 31-year life member of the Morrisville (Pa.) Fire Company, where he served as chief from 1993 – 1997. He lives in Fairless Hills, Pa., with his wife, Penny, and their two children, David and Alyssa.



The 38th Annual Commencement

Standing on the Patriots Theater stage at Thomas Edison State College's 38th Annual Commencement, Raymond Mentor was a long way from Port-au-Prince.

He grew up in one of the Haitian capital's most hard-scrabble neighborhoods and considered himself lucky just to graduate high school.

Mentor served his country in the National Police for six years and pursued his college degree but had to stop due to being transferred to the countryside, which made attending his university impossible. He came to the United States in 2001 to create a brighter future for his family, but quickly realized that a different type of challenge waited.

"When I arrived in this country, I had absolutely nothing but a couple of hundred dollars in my wallet," recalled Mentor, a Ewing resident who works as a lineman for Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G). "Without a

doubt, the biggest challenge for me was learning the English language. But I did not let that stop me from completing my education."

Since arriving in the U.S., Mentor has completed two associate in applied science degrees from Mercer County Community College as well as technical certificates in telecommunications, network cabling, fiber optics, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

In 2008, Mentor enrolled at Thomas Edison State College through PSE&G's corporate partnership with the College and completed his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree this year.

Today, he said the future has never been brighter.





Raymond Mentor, BSAST '10

"I work for one of the greatest companies in this country. Also, I have recently become a U.S. citizen so, now I can vote," said Mentor.

Mentor noted that his primary inspiration for continuing his education was to set a good example for his three children, ages 13, 5 and 3, and to teach them if they want to work hard, they can accomplish their dreams.

"They will know that it all depends on how they set themselves up for success and that education is a big part of that," he said.

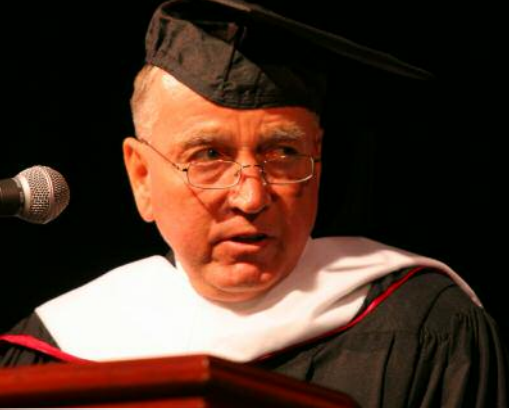
Approximately 440 graduates from 30 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, attended the Commencement ceremony on Oct. 9 at the War Memorial in Trenton, N.J.

David Neuman, of Fairless Hills, Pa., delivered the response for graduates.

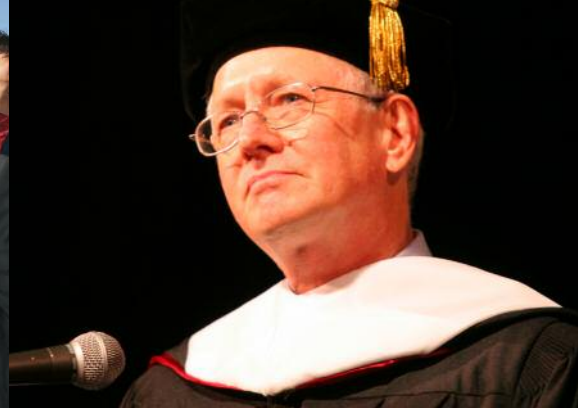
Neuman, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice, is an insurance investigator and an active member of the Morrisville (Pa.) Fire Company.

"We entered the discussion boards as strangers, entered the room here today as graduates, and we leave as friends," Neuman told his fellow graduates. "Congratulations! Enjoy your day and good luck to you all!"





Dr. Edward H. Salmon



Dr. Richard P. Mills

The college also awarded two honorary degrees during the ceremony. One was awarded to Dr. Richard P. Mills, former president of the University of the State of New York and commissioner of education for the state of New York. Mills was appointed commissioner by the Board of Regents in 1995 and served until 2009. He also served as the commissioner of education for the state of Vermont and as a special assistant to

New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean. The other was awarded to Dr. Edward H. Salmon, founder and chairman of Salmon Ventures, Ltd., a national consulting firm serving the utilities, government and education sectors. Salmon is a noted philanthropist and New Jersey public servant who has served as a member of the New Jersey Assembly and president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

The College will award more than 2,700 degrees in 2010 and has awarded more than 35,000 degrees since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self directed adults in 1972.

The 38th Annual Commencement was streamed live over the Internet. An archive of the event can be seen at www.tesc.edu/commencement.

Arnold Fletcher Award recipients are bachelor's degree graduates recognized for exceptional achievement in nontraditional learning.





(from left) Violet Valentin, Aurelia Rodriguez, Todd Siben, the College's academic advisor who worked with the librarians, Sandra Jones and Elias Vazquez.

IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Scholarship Winners Attend 38th Annual Commencement

Elias Vazquez knows all about not giving up on education.

He describes when he dropped out of high school during his senior year as the lowest point in his life. Fortunately, Vazquez eventually earned his high school diploma and started working at the Ocean County Library. He enrolled at Ocean County College and was awarded a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Scholarship, offered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The scholarship enabled him to complete both his Associate in Arts degree and Bachelor of Arts degree from Thomas Edison State College.

Today, Vazquez, a resident of Brick, N.J., is a senior library assistant at the Ocean County Library's Lakewood branch who helps students in

first grade through high school as part of the library's Homework Help program.

"This accomplishment helped me prove to myself that no matter how low I have felt in the past, there is always another way to achieve your goals," he said.

Vazquez, an Arnold Fletcher Award recipient, is one of four librarians from New Jersey who earned IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Scholarships and completed their Bachelor of Arts degrees at Thomas Edison State College this year.

The scholarship program focuses, in part, on the development of faculty and library leaders, the recruitment and education of the next generation of librarians and the professional development of librarians and library staff.

Joining Vazquez at the 38th Annual Commencement to receive their diplomas were Sandra Jones, of Atlantic City, N.J., a library associate at the Atlantic County Library's Pleasantville branch; Aurelia Rodriguez, of Newark, N.J., a library assistant at the Newark Public Library; and Violet Valentin, of Paulsboro, N.J., library director at the Gill Memorial Library in Paulsboro.

"These students, along with others who have graduated from the program, will continue to serve their urban libraries, enriching the experiences of their patrons with their newly acquired knowledge and the life experience they bring as diverse New Jerseyans," said New Jersey State Librarian Norma Blake.

On the Road to Recovery

Todd Lange has experienced two life-altering events — the first was a horrific automobile accident that left him severely injured and permanently disabled; the second was finding hope through education at Thomas Edison State College.

Both events changed his life in ways he could never have imaged.

In 2001, Lange was working as an engineer for the Federal Highway Administration on the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway supervising a project to redirect mountain water runoff that had become a drainage problem. He was on the side of the curvy historic roadway when a tourist viewing autumn foliage struck him.

“I have not gotten back all of my motor skills and never will,” Lange explained.

The left side of Lange’s body was crushed and his brain stem was damaged, leaving him with ataxia, a condition that affects the nervous system and results in problems with coordination and balance. He has also suffered problems with vision.

Lange spent years recuperating, including stays in a hospital and a rehabilitation facility, where he had to relearn walking and talking, and many other physical and cognitive functions.

“Today, I live alone on the top of a mountain in rural North Carolina. The nearest general store is four or five miles away and I cannot drive,” he said. “Getting my education at Thomas Edison State College is my only opportunity to do something with my life.”

Lange, who heard about Thomas Edison State College more than 15 years ago while he was serving in the U.S. Navy, recently completed his first courses at the College.

He is a recipient of scholarship provided by The Sam Schmidt Paralysis Foundation, which helps individuals overcome spinal cord injuries and other neurolog-

ical disorders by funding scientific research, medical treatment, rehabilitation and technological advances. The Foundation also provides college scholarships for people with spinal cord injuries and paralysis as part of its efforts on behalf of the disabled.

“Earning my degree will give me self-satisfaction and hope, and I would not have been able to do it without Thomas Edison State College’s online program and the scholarship,” said Lange, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies.

Dr. Paul Boyer, Lange’s mentor for an English composition course, said Lange has quickly become an eager learner.

“Todd is writing with confidence and talks enthusiastically about his course work,” he said. “It’s clear that he is taking charge of his own education, which is the real goal of distance learning.”

One of the challenges that Lange faces has been related to his vision, which was impaired after the accident. He pointed out that the College’s Office of Special Student Services staff has been working diligently to get him the special computer equipment that will make it easier for him to complete his course work online.

“Working with the people in the College’s ADA office has been wonderful,” he said. “Whenever I need help, they are there for me. I think they do a lot more than they have to.”

On his long and arduous journey to move forward and realize his goal, Lange has had a strong support system — parents Richard and Sue, and big brothers Richard and Eric.

Student Profile: Todd Lange



Lt. Will Anderson BA '05

Lt. Will Anderson completed his bachelor degree in philosophy at the College while enlisted on active duty as a hospital corps man in the United States Navy and qualified for the Naval Health Professionals Scholarship Program. Anderson continued his education and graduated from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2010. Furthermore, Anderson became a commissioned lieutenant in the United States Navy Medical Corps and began his internal medicine residency at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego in June.



Stanley Beverly BSBA '08

Stanley Beverly, who received a promotion to accounting analyst for Everest Reinsurance after two years on the job, strongly believes that it would not have been possible without his degree from Thomas Edison State College.

Nancy J. Cabral AA '08, BA '10

Nancy Cabral, who noted that it took her more than 40 years to earn her bachelor's degree, graduated from Thomas Edison State College July 2010. Now, age 60, Cabral is starting a master's degree program in counseling psychology. She encourages anyone who wants to get their degree to go for it, "it's never too late" She noted, adding that she is happy to be reinventing herself and starting a whole new life.

Susan Cavanaugh BA '02

Susan Cavanaugh has received the Member of the Year award from the National Association of Insurance Women (NAIW), the Association for Insurance Professionals of Atlantic County. Cavanaugh, who serves as the group's parliamentarian and editor of its newsletter, has been a member of the NAIW for two years and has been in the insurance business for nearly two decades. Also a poet whose work has appeared in several magazines and literary journals, Cavanaugh has had a collection of her poems, *The Good Sense of a Bird*, published by Still Water Press. Currently Cavanaugh is working on a manuscript for a book which will contain essays, poems and other literary works.



John Chando AAS '01

John Chando was one of eight people who received a 2009 Outstanding Employee Award at the University of Memphis for his role as maintenance manager. In 2010, he was one of three who received a Distinguished Employee of the Year award, chosen from among 2,500 employees at the university.

Elizabeth Cook BSHS '01

Elizabeth Cook, since graduating from Thomas Edison State College, has received a MS degree in international relations from Troy University in 2007 and is pursuing a PhD in homeland security policy and coordination from Walden University. She is also working full time as an instructor for American Military University and part time as a consultant for ESC, Inc. Cook noted, "I couldn't have done any of these things without your online program! You gave me the opportunity I was missing out on locally. Thank you so much!"

Rev. Roshan Dinshah AA '84

Rev. Roshan Dinshah retired in 1988 and began service as a volunteer chaplain at Southern State Correctional Facility in Delmont, N.J., in 1989. Dinshah, who celebrated the completion of 20 years of service in November 2009, received the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2007.

Dara K. Fulton BA '08

Dara K. Fulton became an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher following graduation from Thomas Edison State College. She noted, "I've had opportunities to expand my knowledge in adult education by attending several ESL/literacy conferences and completing a family development workshop. It was such a great experience that I'm going back to school to pursue a second associate degree in human services. My hope is to use what I've learned to help my students with issues such as immigration, unemployment and the cultural barriers they face by being in a new country. Helping people is my main priority, and I'm happy I am able to do so much more because of my BA degree from Thomas Edison State College."

Jose Garcia BSAST '89

Jose Garcia, following graduating from Thomas Edison State College, completed his graduate studies at Rutgers University and pursued a career in music. Garcia has had a successful career as a songwriter in the Latin music industry; his songs have been recorded by major artists such as Enrique Iglesias, Rocio Jared, Frankie Ruiz and Santana.

Janine Gregor MSM '01

Janine Gregor, a public relations and internet marketing virtual assistant of Your Virtual Wizard, recently celebrated four years of successfully helping small business owners gain a broader Internet presence through social networking, blogging, article and e-mail marketing, and creating e-newsletters. Gregor credits her success to having completed the Master of Science in Management program at Thomas Edison State College in 2001. Gregor noted, "I learned so much as a virtual learner at Thomas Edison State College. My human resources management studies and organizational behavioral classes were instrumental in my decision to start my own virtual business. If I could communicate effectively online with my professors and fellow students, I could apply the same skills with my own clients, and do so within a virtual environment."

Harrold K. Henck BA '06

Harrold K. Henck, a sailor from Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Houston, Texas, was recently congratulated by former President George H. W. Bush for being selected as Navy Region Southeast Reserve Component Command's Reserve Sailor of the Year (SOY). Bush, a World War II veteran who was at one point the youngest naval aviator in the U.S. Navy, was on hand for the dedication of the Navy and Marine Corps wing of the Joint Forces Reserve Center at Ellington Field. The wing was named in honor of Bush. The former president also set aside time to personally recognize Legalman 1st Class Henck for the milestone achievement in his career. "You're a true example of the citizen sailor who gives freely of his time to serve our great nation," Bush told Henck. "This award really shows your dedication. Keep up the good work." Henck, leading petty officer of Operational Support Unit 0823, was named NOSC SOY in a command of 1,100 selected reservists before being selected as SOY in the U.S. Navy's largest reserve region. The region encompasses seven states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. He will now compete with four other regional SOYs for the title of Commander, Navy Reserve Force SOY. "It was an honor to meet the president... but I felt like I should be thanking him... He's a real war hero," Henck said.



Jason D. Hout BSAST '04

Jason Hout is a radiation protection specialist for Xcel Energy and is working in the ALARA planning group at Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. Since his graduation in 2004, Hout has received a Master of Science degree in engineering management from Southern Methodist University. Presently, Hout is completing a Master of Science degree in radiation health physics from Oregon State University. He left the Navy in 2008 to focus on his career in nuclear engineering.

Elaine R. Keckeissen BSBA '08

Elaine Keckeissen is pursuing her Master of Science degree in nonprofit management from Eastern University and expects to graduate in December 2010.

Arthur H. Kern BSBA '06

Arthur Kern received a Master of Administrative Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in October 2009, at age 75, with a 3.97 GPA. Retired and living happily with his wife, Sybil, in Watchung, N.J., Kern noted, "Getting my degree at Thomas Edison State College completed unfinished business that started at Georgia Tech 57 years ago." Kern is now considering the pursuit of a doctorate.

Toby King BSAST '10

Toby King recently began working at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico as a particle accelerator operator.

Daniel Langford BSAST '09

Daniel Langford has been named a 2010 fellow with the Woodrow Wilson Indiana Teaching Fellows. This program selects outstanding candidates to teach and transform teacher preparation in the Indiana school districts. Langford will receive \$30,000 stipend and enroll in a master's degree program that provides intensive clinical preparation for teaching math and science. In return, Langford will commit to teaching for three years in urban and rural Indiana school districts. Langford, who has been stationed on a U.S. Navy nuclear submarine, will be doing his master's degree work at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and returning home to Indiana to teach.

Aaron Larson BSAST '94

Aaron Larson graduated from City University of Seattle in March 2010 with a Master of Business Administration degree. Larson is the operations and maintenance manager at the Fibrominn Power Plant in Benson, Minnesota, the only plant in America that burns poultry litter as its primary fuel source.



Deirdre Levine BA '09

Deirdre Levine recently started her own business – Employee Self Care. With her Thomas Edison State College degree and her background in human services and healthcare, Levine is an independent facilitator who describes her business as "...services for the facilitation of employee group forums regarding their job duties and challenges through peer support."

Mark Locken AA '93, BA '95

Mark Locken, a retired Army officer and avid swimmer, has joined Team Marathon Bar to promote the brand of active lifestyle products. Locken was recruited from thousands of swimmers, cyclists and other endurance athletes from across the county. Locken's sports resume includes winning his age group at the Salem Sound 1500m ocean race and a third place age group finish at the Madison Mile (Conn.) last summer. Locken says, "Joining Team Marathon gives me an opportunity to promote a product I believe in."

Ashlee McGrew BA '08

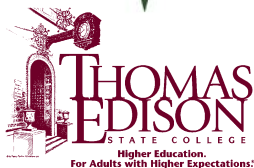
Ashlee McGrew graduated from Liberty University with a Master of Arts in Human Services degree with a specialization in business management in May 2010. McGrew recently began working with the Child Support Enforcement Agency as a case manager.

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APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Jennifer Monaco BSBA '09

Jennifer (Whittle) Monaco married Chris Monaco on March 3, 2010, in Barnegat, N.J. A student at Thomas Edison State College for seven years, Monaco completed her entire degree with the College. She noted that during those years she worked her way up to sous/assistant chef at the Manasquan River Golf Club near the New Jersey Shore. Monaco also became a Certified Executive Chef through the American Culinary Federation.



Anthony Monteiro BA '08

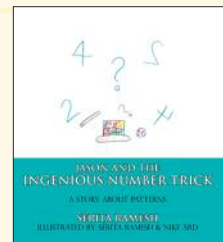
Anthony Monteiro received his MBA from Valdosta State University in July 2010. Monteiro noted, "I credit Thomas Edison State College as the stepping stone for me to obtain my master's degree from an AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) program."

Ryan J. O'Neil BSAST '05

Ryan J. O'Neil has received a Master of Science degree in operations research from George Mason University. O'Neil currently works as a database developer for the *Washington Post*.

Serita Ramesh BA '09

Serita Ramesh recently had her first book published. *Jason and the Ingenious Number Trick*, a children's story aimed for ages three to six years old, is about a young student who cannot remember his bus number and how he overcomes this challenge.



Valerie Serrano BA '07

Valerie Serrano, currently enrolled in a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program at National University, is working on a novel. Serrano noted, "I also recently became a grandmother!"

Natasha Sharubina BA '01

Natasha Sharubina was named a Pro Bono Legal Champion by the center for Children Advocacy (CCA) in Connecticut for her pro bono case support and help with immigrant children and family clients.

Donna Volpe BSN '07, MSN '09

Donna Volpe, following the completion of her MSN degree, was approached by Penn State University to teach as a clinical instructor in the obstetrical rotation for the Worthington/Scranton, Pa., campus, which she has done for the last three years. In addition, last year she became the director of Maternal-Child Services for a community hospital in New Jersey, and in October 2009 was promoted to the director of Surgical Services as well. Volpe noted, "The education I received while a student at Thomas Edison State College enabled me to become the professional I am today."