

WINTER 2007

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



Her Big Break

Kristina Sisco, '06

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DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT
President

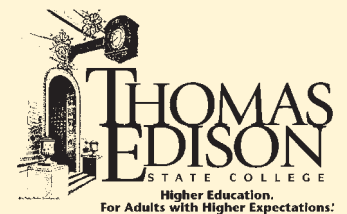
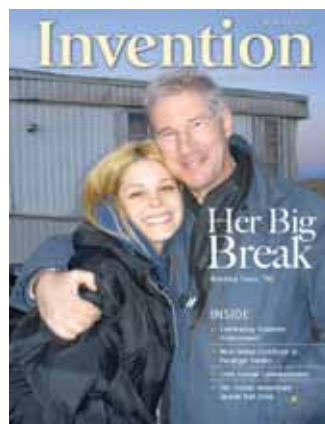
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Cover Story: 6 Her Big Break

Kristina Sisco with Richard Gere on the set of The Flock, which also stars Claire Danes and is scheduled to be released later this year. Photo courtesy of Kristina Sisco.





Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

We all have goals, but many times we struggle to maintain the focus needed to reach them.

Henry Ford said, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal." This edition of *Invention* focuses on people who overcame many obstacles to achieve their goals.

In this issue, you will meet Kristina Sisco, BA '06, and learn how Thomas Edison State College helped this critically acclaimed actress to achieve two of her goals. Thanks to the College's flexible programs, Sisco was able to attend auditions during the day, which led to her getting a part in a major motion picture. However, performing is not her only ambition; she also hopes to become a successful writer.

After earning her BA degree from Thomas Edison State College, Sisco was accepted into a graduate program for writing at the University of Southern California.

The College has helped many other students reach their goals by providing programs designed around the unique needs of busy adults. Each year, we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our students at our annual Commencement ceremony, which is also featured in this issue.

This year, more than 350 graduates participated in Commencement, setting a new record for the number of graduates to attend the ceremony. Their experiences and backgrounds are as diverse as the population of our great country, but the one thing they have in common is the fortitude and focus to complete a college degree.

The accomplishments of Thomas Edison State College and its students would not be possible without the support of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation and those who attend our annual gala. At the Crystal Anniversary event, more than 200 guests honored our 2006 Spirit of Edison Award recipients Lt. Eric J. Petrevich, BSHS '05, and the New Jersey Manufacturers (NJM) Group and its president and CEO, Anthony Dickson. Lt. Petrevich, Mr. Dickson and everyone at NJM embody the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and spirit of excellence associated with the College's mission and its namesake.

We are honored to serve and work with individuals dedicated to accomplishing their goals. 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, written over a white background.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Celebrating Academic Achievement

Arnold Fletcher Award

The Arnold Fletcher Award recognizes Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in nontraditional learning. Students selected for this award have demonstrated excellence and earned a large number of credits using one or more of the innovative learning modes developed and/or recognized by the College. The award is named in honor of Dr. Arnold Fletcher, who served as vice president for Academic Affairs at Thomas Edison State College from 1973 – 1983.



Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society

The Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society was established in 1945 to recognize academic excellence among adult students who pursue their education while managing their personal and professional obligations. The Thomas Edison State College Lambda Tau chapter was founded in 1997. *See photo on Page 9.*

Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing

The second annual induction ceremony for the Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing was held on Saturday, July 22, 2006. Thirty-two new members, including students, alumni, community nurse leaders, mentors and professional staff were named to the society. The Thomas Edison State College Honor Society of Nursing was established in 2005 to recognize superior academic achievement and the development of leadership qualities; to foster high professional standards; to encourage creative work; and to strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the nursing profession. The 2006 Honor Society of Nursing Inductees: Janet Birtwistle, Sharon C. Briggs, Joanna Brzozowski, Maureen Clark-Gallagher, Elizabeth Correnti, Evelyn L. Eggert, Janice Fitzgerald, Janice Fleming, Kenneth M. Fuller, Randy Gelb, Rosyln Heyward, Beverly Kaminski, Michelle Koscelnak, Margaret Larney, Tak-Y. Lau, Regina Ann Ledford, Becky Matlack, Lynnsay A. Megargle, Margret Mukai, Diane Nicolosi, David R. Nordel, Jeannette Oliveras, Mary Ann O'Neill, Janet M. O'Reilly, Christine Realdine-Morton, Patricia A. Prin, Wen-Ing Ren, Richard Ridge, Janice Stewart, Vicky Lee Stewart, Mary Ann Viggiano and Theresa Wurmser.



Regina Sanchez-Porter Award

The Regina Sanchez-Porter Award is given annually by the School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree student who is eligible for that year's Commencement for high academic achievement combined with outstanding service to the nursing profession and the community. (from left) 2006 Regina Sanchez-Porter Award recipient Elizabeth Correnti, RN, CPAN, BSN, with Dr. Susan O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing.



Thomas Edison State College Offers New Online Certificate in Paralegal Studies

THE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING STUDIES AT THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE HAS LAUNCHED A NEW ONLINE PARALEGAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

The College's new Professional Certificate in Paralegal Studies is a noncredit program designed for those in the legal field who are interested in gaining the expertise that can help them advance in the profession, and for adults interested in entering a rapidly growing field. The 45-week program



includes seven online courses that cover essential skills needed to succeed both in the delivery of legal services and mastery the technological advances in the paralegal profession.

"Our Paralegal Studies curriculum offered has been developed by leading



national paralegal educators who worked closely with the college's award winning instructional design team," said David M. Grossman, PhD, vice provost and dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies at Thomas Edison State College. "The online format of the program is convenient and intuitive, with a strong focus on using technology in the legal field."

Students in the program will benefit from the expertise of these leading educators and by using the latest offerings in software programs and legal technology, added Grossman.



Courses for the Professional Certificate Program in Paralegal Studies, which are led by nationally renowned experts, include:

- ▶ Introduction to Paralegalism
- ▶ Contracts
- ▶ Torts
- ▶ Legal Research and Writing
- ▶ Litigation
- ▶ Administrative Law
- ▶ Introduction to Technology in the Law

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



34th Annual Commencement

As a young man, Samuel Taylor's dream of attending the University of Liberia on a scholarship was shattered after his father suddenly died. He sacrificed the scholarship and the chance to attend college in order to care for his younger siblings.

However, Taylor developed a successful career as a computer consultant and, by 1987, became the owner and CEO of one of the country's largest computer firms. But against the backdrop of an unstable Liberian economy and a full-scale civil war, he lost everything – his home, car, business and financial assets.

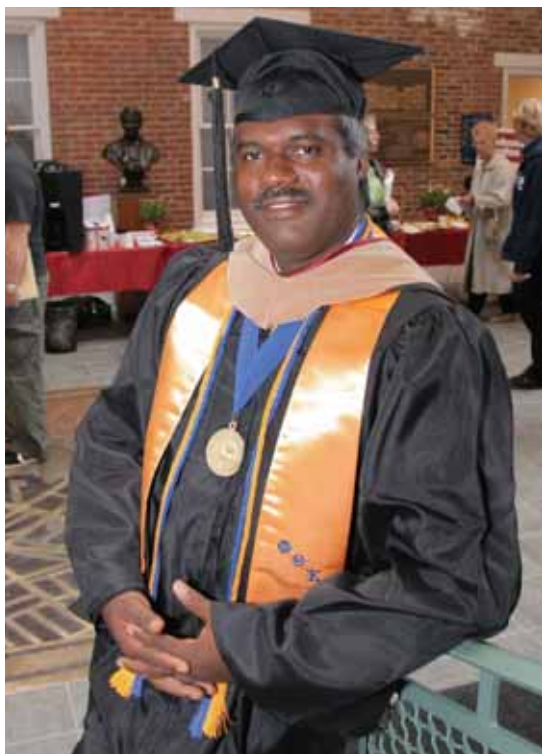
During a ceasefire in 1991, Taylor started to rebuild his company. He also got married and started a family. His company managed to survive during uncertain times, but full scale war again ravaged Liberia in 1996.

"We lost everything again, but this time we were also expecting our second child," he said. "We fled the country with the clothes on our backs."

Taylor and his young family came to New Jersey because his sister lived there.



“ We are extremely proud of all of our graduates and were honored to host the largest number of graduates ever to attend Commencement at Thomas Edison State College. ”



Samuel Taylor, BSBA '06, just before the start of the 34th Commencement ceremony.

"Working and trying to secure a future for our family became paramount to us. I realized that I needed to return to school if we wanted to secure any financial future for my children," he said. "After thorough research, I realized that Thomas Edison State College provided me with the best opportunity to achieve my plan."

That plan is now coming together. After surviving many losses and civil war, Taylor completed his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in 2006 from Thomas Edison State College.

On Oct. 7, he joined approximately 350 of his fellow graduates to

receive his diploma during the 34th Annual Commencement at The War Memorial in Trenton, N.J. The College conferred a total of 1,942 degrees to graduates in 2006.

"We are extremely proud of all of our graduates and were honored to host the largest number of graduates ever to attend Commencement at Thomas Edison State College," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "This event celebrates the excellent work our students do to pursue their education while juggling family and career responsibilities."

Four individuals addressed graduates at the event.



Mary Ann O'Neill, RN, BSN '06, delivered the response for graduates. O'Neill, who divides her time between Queens, N.Y., where she works as a nurse, and Barcelona, Spain, where she teaches English to Spanish physicians and nurses at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, said her dream of earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree almost died before she found Thomas Edison State College.

"This is an exciting moment for me," she told her fellow graduates. "It is pretty hard to fit work, family, community and everything else that we do while pursuing our education. I am grateful that an online education system exists today and that I had access to it!"

Maj. Gen. David "Scott" Gray, commander, U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Warfare Center at Fort Dix, N.J., was one of three special guests to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. He praised the College for providing busy adults with a way to

complete their education, especially those deployed to defend the country.

"It is an amazing thing that we have students in Afghanistan and Iraq earning their degrees right now," he said. "The College is a credit not only to the state, but to our country."

Dr. Ralph Izzo, president and COO of Public Service Enterprise Group, also received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. In April, he is scheduled to become chairman and CEO of the company. He asked the graduates to look for ways to invest in their communities.

"As you continue building your careers and your lives, never stop pursuing your ambitions and never confuse what you do for a living for who you are," he said.

The third honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters was awarded to New Jersey Assembly Majority Leader Bonnie Watson Coleman, '85, who offered hearty congratulations to the graduates.

"I know the tremendous sacrifices you have had to make to complete this goal of earning your degree," she said. "Congratulations on your brand new beginnings!"

The College has awarded more than 27,000 degrees since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults in 1972.



Mary Ann O'Neill, BSN '06, gave the response for graduates.

Dr. Ralph Izzo, president and COO of Public Service Enterprise Group, also received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. In April, he is scheduled to become chairman and CEO of the company.



Graduates of the College's master's degree programs pose outside the War Memorial.





Her Big

AFTER EARNING ACCLAIM ON ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR DAYTIME PROGRAMS, KRISTINA SISCO, '06, IS PURSUING HER DREAMS AS AN ACTRESS AND AN ASPIRING WRITER

Even though she is featured in an upcoming major motion picture, you could say Kristina Sisco's big break came months before she landed the part.

During a hike in California, she fell seven feet and broke her arm. Despite the setback, Sisco turned the unfortunate circumstance into an opportunity to fulfill one of her goals in life: to earn a college degree and become a professional writer.

During her recovery, she became a full-time student and started to earn her baccalaureate degree. Sisco was already a successful actress when she enrolled in Thomas Edison State College.

Kristina Sisco at the 33rd annual Daytime Emmy® Awards. She was nominated for two Emmy® Awards, in the Outstanding Young Actress category in 2001 and 2002, for her work on As the World Turns. Photo courtesy of Steven Bergman.

During a hike in California, she fell seven feet and broke her arm. Despite the setback, Sisco turned the unfortunate circumstance into an opportunity to fulfill one of her goals in life: to earn a college degree and become a professional writer.

Break

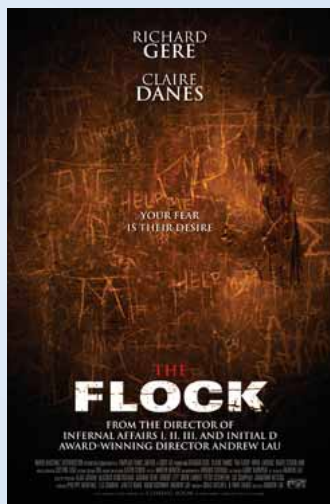
For three years, she portrayed the character Abigail Williams on the legendary CBS soap opera, *As the World Turns*. Her work on the program earned Sisco two Emmy® Award nominations, in 2001 and 2002. A talented singer and songwriter, she also recorded First Kiss, a collection of five songs that she wrote, including the single, “Wedding Day,” which she performed on *As the World Turns*.

In addition to performing, Sisco said her other ambition is writing. To become a successful writer in Hollywood, she knew a college degree would be advantageous, if not essential.

Sisco said she selected Thomas Edison State College because the school’s format and flexible academic program was a perfect fit for her busy lifestyle, which required her to go on auditions during the day. Sisco, who completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology in 2006, said she was also attracted by the wide range of degree programs offered by

Thomas Edison State College, especially in the humanities.

“It was really important for me to move as quickly as possible, so taking CLEP (College-Level Examination



Program) examinations and the utilizing the College’s Prior Learning Assessment program were very helpful,” she said. “I also enjoyed the online courses. By taking online courses, you become part of a learning community. The structure of the

courses helps students get through very challenging material.”

Taking courses online enabled Sisco to spend her days auditioning, which led to a principal role in the film, *The Flock*, a psychological thriller starring Richard Gere and Claire Danes. The film, which is scheduled to be released later this year, is about a hypervigilant agent (Gere) and his protégé (Danes) who must track down a missing girl. Gere’s character suspects that a paroled sex offender he is assigned to is connected to the missing girl. Sisco plays the missing girl.

“The best thing about the role and the character is that it was completely challenging,” she said. “The film takes a hard look at a frightening reality that exists in the country. It really shook me.”

Sisco said it was amazing to work with Gere and Danes, and with director Andrew Lau.

“Richard (Gere) is a wonderful man who really cares about the actors,” she said. “He shows a lot of concern



Her Big Break

Kristina Sisco received her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at Commencement and is currently pursuing her master's degree at the University of Southern California. Photo courtesy of Legacy Photographics.

for everyone and their performances and the film as a whole. It was also great to have lunch with Claire Danes a few times. She is so talented, and it was an honor to get to talk with her.”

Sisco attended the College’s 34th Commencement with her family. “Attending Commencement was great,” she said. “I loved visiting the College’s campus. It is beautiful, and the ceremony was tremendous. I was honored to walk across the stage to receive my diploma with so many other adults who earned their degrees.”

Sisco’s outstanding academic performance at Thomas Edison State College earned her an Arnold Fletcher Award and induction into the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society.

After completing her baccalaureate degree from Thomas Edison State College, Sisco was accepted into



Sisco’s outstanding academic performance at Thomas Edison State College earned her an Arnold Fletcher Award and induction into the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society. She is pictured above with the 2006 Alpha Sigma Lambda inductees.

the Master of Professional Writing program at the University of Southern California, where she is currently enrolled.

“I’ve always wanted to write professionally, so when I was thinking about where to earn my master’s, I thought I should focus on something I’ll always be doing,” she said.

Sisco said she is currently working on a children’s book and some

screenplays. Her goal is to develop a screenplay into a major motion picture.

“I’ve always loved film and storytelling,” she said. “When you are doing the writing and bringing the characters and the story to life, you control everything – the dialogue, the setting. It is very different than performing.”

Sisco said she would recommend

Thomas Edison State College to any adult thinking about earning their college degree, no matter how busy they are.

“The most important thing to remember is that you can do it,” she said. “The work is challenging and you must put your time and talents into it, but Thomas Edison State College can help you do it without giving up your life.”

The Crystal Anniversary
Grande Ball
2006

THOMAS EDISON
STATE COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
HOSTS CRYSTAL
ANNIVERSARY
GALA

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation hosted The Crystal Anniversary Grande Ball – 2006 at the Trenton Country Club in Trenton, N.J., on Saturday, Nov. 11, which attracted more than 200 guests and raised approximately \$80,000.

The black-tie gala event began with a silent auction and cocktails followed by an evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment. Highlighting the evening was the presentation of the 13th Annual Spirit of Edison Awards. Lt. Eric J.

Petrevich, BSBS '05, received the Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award, and New Jersey Manufacturers Group and its president and CEO, Anthony Dickson, received the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.

The Spirit of Edison Award recognizes community leaders and alumni whose creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit reflect the pioneering genius of Thomas Alva Edison.

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, said this year's recipients embody the commitment to innovation, con-



(from left) Anthony Dickson, NJM Group president and CEO, accepts the 2006 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award with Dr. George Pruitt and Lt. Eric J. Petrevich, '05, recipient of the 2006 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award.

cern for public good and the spirit of excellence associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and its namesake.

"Lt. Petrevich's outstanding record of service to our country and our community makes him an outstanding candidate for the Spirit of Edison Award," said Dr. Pruitt. "Under the leadership of Tony Dickson, New Jersey Manufacturers illustrates a firm commitment to the values of stewardship, integrity and service to its policyholders, customers and our community and is a most deserving recipient of the Spirit of Edison Award."



College Trustee Rev. Stanley Justice (left) with Bill Watson.



(from left) Gala Committee member David J. MacKinnon, Honorary Chair Helene Garcia and Foundation Chairman John P. Neary.



Gala Chairperson Maria Imbalzano.



(from left) John J. Heldrich, his wife, Regina, State Sen. Peter A. Inverso, Gala Committee member Rita Novitt, and Geri Inverso.



Lt. Eric J. Petrevich

For U.S. Army Lt. Eric J. Petrevich, the inspiration for joining the armed forces came from his father, Denis, a Vietnam War veteran who served with distinction.

Petrevich, a veteran of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom and member of the Army's Second Battalion 102nd Cavalry, hopes to serve as proudly as his father. When you consider all he has achieved, both in the military and in civilian life, it is clear that Petrevich already has.

Petrevich earned his Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree from Thomas Edison State College in 2005. He leveraged his degree to advance his military career by enrolling in the Army's Officer Candidate School (OCS), which required a baccalaureate degree.

On the civilian side, Petrevich has achieved similar success. He currently serves as a senior notes administrator with TetraTech, Inc., a leading provider of specialized management consulting and technical services in the areas of resource management, infrastructure and communications. In this capacity, Petrevich regularly returns to the Middle East to assist in IT development projects in Iraq.

In addition, Petrevich is a passionate volunteer with a long history of community service. As a volunteer at the Hunterdon County Women's Crisis Center, he performs many duties, including maintaining the safe house, providing translation services for German speaking clients, representing the center at public events, providing security and working with the male clients of the center. He also coordinates training classes for residents and is currently working with staff at Thomas Edison State College to start a program to assist clients in understanding and enrolling in online classes.

Petrevich is also a member of the North Hunterdon Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and an agent with InfraGard, a Federal Bureau of Investigation program that partners with businesses, academic institutions, and state and local law enforcement agencies to share information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against the United States.

When he is not deployed during active military duty, Petrevich lives in Glen Gardner, N.J.



New Jersey Manufacturers Group

The NJM Insurance Group, headquartered on Sullivan Way in West Trenton, N.J., provides more insurance to New Jersey business and personal consumers than any other insurer operating in the state.

It also ranks in the 50 largest insurers in the U.S. In addition to personal and commercial auto insurance, NJM's major products include workers' compensation and homeowners insurance. A federal savings bank, NJM Bank, opened its doors in 1999 and practices NJM's core values while offering individual and business clients an array of deposit and loan products.

New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company traces its roots to 1913, when a group of business owner-members of the Manufacturers Association of New Jersey (today, the New Jersey Business & Industry Association) were concerned about the high cost of insuring against workplace injuries and the absence of meaningful safety programs from existing insurers to help prevent accidents. They capitalized NJM and dedicated the operations of the company to serving the interests of policyholders. Today, NJM is known not only for its service, but also for returning dividends to policyholders. Since the first dividend was declared on 1917 policies, NJM has returned dividends to policyholders in each and every year, for a cumulative total to date of \$4.2 billion.

Anthony Dickson will tell you what a pleasure and privilege it is to work with more than 2,400 NJM employees. Having been NJM's president and CEO since 1991, Dickson credits the entire team's dedication to the values of stewardship, integrity and service with earning NJM's reputation as a service organization rather than "just another insurance company."

Indeed, in March 2006, Consumer Reports ranked New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company as the #1 auto insurance company in the USA, based upon a survey of subscribers' satisfaction. Dickson accepts the 2006 Spirit of Edison Award on behalf of present and past generations of NJM employees.

A. Eugene Baucum Jr. BSBA '81



A. Eugene Baucum Jr. was appointed vice president and business development officer for the Plainfield Neighborhood Health Services Corporation (PNHSC), a Federally Qualified Health Center. Since 1993, Baucum has served in various board, consultant and staff capacities at PNHSC. Baucum offers a wealth of knowledge and experience to PNHSC in management, business development, governmental

relations and executive leadership. Baucum has been involved with numerous professional organizations, including the Healthcare Marketing and Planning Society of N.J., N.J. Primary Care Association Marketing Committee, N.J. Primary Care Association HIPPA Compliance Task Force and the Gateway Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Wendy Rubert Bleike BA '99

Wendy Rubert Bleike recently graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary (Florida Campus) with a Master of Divinity degree. She is a member of First Presbyterian Church-Houston and is active in KAIROS and the prison ministry.

Dr. Roger A. Bowles BSAST '98

Dr. Roger A. Bowles recently earned his Doctorate in Education degree from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Bowles graduated with a major in training and development, and a minor in counseling.

Karen Brundage-Johnson MSM '00

Karen Brundage-Johnson was recently appointed as commissioner on the Atlantic County Commission on Women by the county executive of Atlantic County. Brundage-Johnson was also recently appointed to serve as a judge for the 2006 HR Department of the Year Award sponsored by the Rosen Group. Brundage-Johnson was instrumental in helping her Borgata Talent/HR team win in the 2005 HR Department of the Year Award for large companies and the 2004 Human Resources "Best Practices" Award from the New Jersey State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management.

Daniel V. Chain BA '00

Daniel Chain earned his Master of Science in Management and Systems degree from New York University in New York City in September 2006. Chain also recently accepted a position at New York

Life Insurance Company as a senior systems programming specialist. Regarding his accomplishments, Chain noted, "These are two things that I would have never accomplished without my education and degree from Thomas Edison State College."

Lisa M. Corbi BA '03

Lisa Corbi graduated from American Intercontinental University with a master's degree in education. Currently, Corbi is a dependency drug court counselor for Volusia County in Florida where she works in the court system, in a clinical capacity and with forensics.

Elmer L. Curran BA '75

Elmer L. Curran is the author of his second book titled "Golden Flits and Dusty Roses," a light philosophical view of life and his belief in our next journey. It was published by AuthorHouse and is currently available for purchase. His first work "The Brothers Nine" was self published and is currently sold out. Curran, now retired after more than 50 years as a journalist, is an active fundraiser for Sisters Academy, a middle school for disadvantaged girls. Following his graduation in the first Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate class in 1975, Curran helped form the first Alumni Association Board of Directors. One of his proudest achievements is his brick in the Edison Walk of Honor.

Robert E. Drury BSHS '81

Robert E. Drury has accepted the position as executive director of the Bad Poets Society in New York City. Since taking over as executive director, Drury has launched the "Refused to be Published" membership drive.

Mark E. Ellis BA '01

Mark E. Ellis received a Master of Arts/Liberal Studies degree from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., in May 2006. For his master's thesis, Ellis wrote and recorded a 10-song CD titled "Falling On Deaf Ears" that explores the difficulties deaf people encounter in practicing religion in the Christian church. Ellis wrote the music in a variety of styles, from rock to light jazz to pop, to best complement the theme and tone of each lyric.

Kathleen A. Gluck BSN '06

Kathleen A. Gluck and her husband Jeffrey were each recent recipients of a papal knighthood. The couple was invested as a lady and knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, one of the oldest international orders of chivalry, established in 1099 during the First Crusade. This high Vatican honor was conferred by Archbishop Henry J. Mansell of Hartford, Conn., at a ceremony in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in September 2006.

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Jon E. Goos BA '02

Jon E. Goos graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University in August 2006 with a Master of Education. Goos currently teaches basic skills for the New Jersey Department of Corrections and holds an elementary education and social studies teaching certificate. He is also working toward certification as a Supervisor of Instruction to complement his master's degree. His drive and desire for learning has influenced his wife to pursue her educational goals at Thomas Edison State College as well.

David F. Hayes BSHS '04

David F. Hayes graduated from Seton Hall University with an MA in human resources training & development and a certificate in leadership and management in May 2006. Hayes began teaching criminal justice part time at Bergen Community College in Paramus, N.J., and will also teach criminal justice at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, N.Y., in spring 2007.

Jonathan Russell Heesch BA '06

Jonathan R. Heesch, after having served more than eight years in the United States Marine Corps, will be joining the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Commissioned Officer Corps as an ensign. Heesch noted, "This was only possible through my ability to complete my degree in the flexible nature that Thomas Edison State College allows and I am very appreciative of what Thomas Edison State College does for its students." Heesch will attend the 111th Basic Officer Training Class in February and after completion will be assigned to his first ship for sea duty.

Robin Jaffe BA '81

Robin Jaffe, associate professor / production manager / faculty technical director for the Auburn University Department of Theatre, was selected as one of 25 participants for the pilot National Leadership Workshop on New Advocacy Chapter/State Conference Leadership Training presented by the national offices of American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in Washington, D.C., this past October. Jaffe is a member of the Auburn University AAUP Chapter and serves on the executive committee in the position of webmaster and listserv editor.



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 _____

Check here if this is a new address.

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*: _____

continued from the inside back cover

Regina Ledford BSN '06

Regina Ledford wrote an article which was published in the November 2006 edition of *Sleep Review* magazines titled "Light Therapy Enlightenment." In addition, Ledford has completed her second MSN-FNP (Master of Nursing—Family Nurse Practitioner) course at Graceland University. She greatly appreciates and thanks Thomas Edison State College for helping her achieve her goal of practicing as an FNP in sleep medicine.

Kathryn (Bathgate) Leissler BA '03

Since completing her baccalaureate degree at Thomas Edison State College, Kathryn Leissler has received her Registered Municipal Clerks certification from the State of New Jersey. Leissler is currently the borough clerk for Branchville Borough, N.J. In 2004, Leissler married and, on Oct. 3, 2006, she and her husband welcomed their first child, Kenneth Leissler.

Barbara D. Mitchell AA '79, BA '82

Barbara D. Mitchell completed a Doctorate of Clinical Hypnotherapy recently and is in the process of going into private practice. Mitchell is also a certified practitioner of neurolinguistic programming and a certified stress management consultant.

Michael Mitchell BA '94

Michael Mitchell has recently accepted a position as public services librarian at Houston Community College — Southeast Campus in Houston, Texas.

Casimer J. Smerecki BSHS '85

Casimer J. Smerecki has recently signed a contract with Publish America in Frederick, Md., to have his crime novel "Minus One" published. "Minus One" takes place in central New Jersey and is a fast moving drama, concerning a bank burglary. Smerecki, who wrote the novel in the late 1980's, was accepted for publication in 2006. The novel will be available early 2007.

Pamela Gilbreth Watkins BA '99

Pamela Gilbreth Watkins, an art teacher at Clyde High School and Clyde Junior High in Texas, has been honored in the 2005-2006 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." Teachers selected for this publication are nominated by their students. Watkins was also recognized previously as an educator by the Texas Art Education Association and commended for her work by the Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools. Watkins' influence has extended to her students who have also won a number of awards recognizing their artwork; students have exhibited their works at museums, schools, galleries, libraries and other public venues.

Sheril Williams-Henderson BA '06

Sheril Williams-Henderson is pleased to announce the start of her new home-based business venture specializing in word processing. Some of the services Williams-Henderson provides are typing letters, reports, term papers, resumes, etc.

Richard R. Zientek AA '73

Richard Zientek retired in January from the United States Coast Guard as a chief warrant officer and moved to Colorado where he plans to get married.

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