

SUMMER 2011

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



ELEVATION

Robert Wyman '02

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- ▶ 2011 National Institute Draws Record Attendance
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DEEPWATER
HORIZON
RESPONSE



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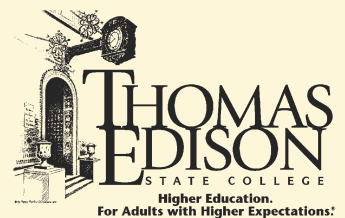
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

William Faulkner said, “Do not bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.”

This issue of *Invention* celebrates three graduates whose lives, careers and accomplishments illustrate this idea.

In this issue, we check in with Robert Wyman '02, who recalls how earning his degree positioned him for professional advancement and took his career to new heights. Wyman served with distinction in the U.S. Coast Guard and now serves as news chief at NASA's Langley Research Center.

Also in this issue, we meet registered nurse Claudette Spencer '10, who discusses how the College is helping her achieve her goal of becoming a nurse educator. Spencer is currently enrolled in our Master of Science in Nursing program.

We also meet Maria Jones '10, who shares her story of overcoming hardships and homelessness and how earning her Master of Science in Management degree is helping her provide assistance to others.

We are honored to be New Jersey's only college dedicated exclusively to adults and to serve 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, with a large initial "G" and "P".

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Thomas Edison State College Graduates Have Highest CPA Exam Pass Rates among New Jersey's Senior Institutions of Higher Education

Thomas Edison State College graduates have the highest pass rates for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examination among all regionally accredited senior institutions of higher education in New Jersey that offer accounting programs, according to the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy's 2010 candidate performance report.

According to the report, 61.5 percent of Thomas Edison State College graduates who took the Uniform CPA Examination in the calendar year 2009 passed the exam, which is more than 10 percentage points above the next highest pass rate for graduates of a regionally accredited, senior institution of higher education in New Jersey that offers an accounting program.

"We are thrilled to see outcomes that demonstrate the rigor of our accounting programs," said Dr. Susan P. Gilbert, dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College. "Our programs ensure competence in financial, managerial and cost accounting, analyzing earnings performance and auditing and meet the unique needs of adult learners who often manage their careers and families while earning a bachelor's or a master's degree."



Dr. Susan P. Gilbert, dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College

Also according to the report, candidates from Thomas Edison State College without an advanced degree had the second highest pass rate (46.6 percent) for the Uniform CPA Exam among all regionally accredited senior institutions of higher education in New Jersey that offer accounting programs.

"I am not a bit surprised at the College's CPA pass rate results," said Abraham Goldenberg, a Certified Public Accountant from Lakewood, N.J., and 2009 graduate of Thomas Edison State College. "As I studied for the CPA exams, I found that I had already covered much of the material through my course work at Thomas Edison State College and felt at home with the topics." Goldenberg, who earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in accounting, is also a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Internal Auditor.

The report includes the results of graduates from more than 20 public and private colleges and universities in New Jersey, including Rutgers University, Rider University, Seton Hall University, The College of New Jersey, Monmouth University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey City University, Berkeley College, Bloomfield College,

Caldwell College, Georgian Court College, Kean University, Montclair State University, Centenary College, Rowan University, Ramapo College, Richard Stockton State College, St. Peter's College, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Beth Medrash Govoha and William Paterson University.

Thomas Edison State College has recently developed a new graduate-level area of study in accounting that is now offered under its Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree, which focuses on organizational leadership and integrates management theory and practice as they apply to the accounting industry.

The College's CPA & Master's Track provides an affordable, flexible method of earning the 30 additional credit hours needed to become a CPA and enables candidates to earn a master's degree at the same time.

"Thomas Edison State College enables busy adults to earn up to 6 credits for passing the CPA exam, which we can apply toward our MSM degree," said Gilbert. "So students can enroll in the MSM program to earn the 30 credits they need for certification, then earn their master's degree once they pass the Uniform CPA Exam."

College Partners with New Jersey Alternate Route Teacher Training Program

Thomas Edison State College is partnering with New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey, an alternate route teacher training program that enables those with a bachelor's degree to earn their teacher certification.

New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey, a collaboration between New Jersey's community colleges and New Jersey City University, is an alternative route program approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. The alternate route program in New Jersey enables individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree (or higher) and a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) issued by the state Department of Education, to become licensed teachers without having to complete a traditional teacher training program.

"This partnership combines the College's expertise in offering high quality, flexible degree completion programs designed exclusively for adults with a state-approved alternate route program offered through New Jersey's community colleges," said Dr. Adrian Zappala, assistant dean for Educational Leadership at Thomas Edison State College.

Students interested in the program must complete four main steps:

- ▶ Complete their bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State College
- ▶ Complete Introduction to the Teaching Profession, the College's state-approved online, noncredit 24-hour preservice course.



- ▶ Take the Praxis Exam and apply for a Certificate of Eligibility
- ▶ Enroll and complete the New Pathways to Teaching Program

For more information on becoming a teacher via the alternate route program, visit www.tesc.edu/hearvin or contact the School at hearvin@tesc.edu.

2011 National Institute Draws Record Attendance

It's been 23 years since Thomas Edison State College established the National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning and this year's event, which took place June 14 – 17 in Atlantic City, was the largest ever, attracting participants from all over the world.

Approximately 110 participants attended the event, which provided an intensive learning experience for professionals in education who are involved in the assessment

of adult learning. This year, sessions focused on assessment as it pertains to distance education, prior learning assessment, assessment methodologies, effective learning outcomes, college-level learning, workforce development and leveraging technology in higher education.

"In addition to assessing experiential learning, several presentations examined the emerging issue of how to harness technology to better serve nontraditional

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



National Institute
on the Assessment of Adult Learning 2011

students and also how to ensure these students get an effective education that will train them for a place in the global economy," said Marc Singer, vice provost of the Collegiate Credit Assessment Center at Thomas Edison State College, and co-chair of the 2011 National Institute.

The event was sponsored by KNEXT, Excelsior College, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, SUNY-Empire State College and the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).

National Institute attendees participate in one of the many sessions during the event.



College Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Kelsey Building Dedication

Thomas Edison State College celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Kelsey Building on June 3.

The Kelsey Building, which has been the home of Thomas Edison State College since 1979, was built by Henry Cooper Kelsey as a memorial to his wife, Prudence, who died in 1904. The landmark building was designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Construction on the building began in 1909 and was completed in 1911. It features an ornate room on the second floor that Kelsey asked Gilbert to design to serve as a special memorial to his wife and to house her fine porcelain collection. The building was originally constructed as the home of The School of Industrial Arts in Trenton.

Members of the College's Board of Trustees, Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors, the Trenton Historical Society and local architects joined College staff members for a brief reception held in Prudence Hall. The College commemorated the anniversary with a cake that looked like the Kelsey Building made by Carlo's Bakery of Hoboken, N.J., which is featured in the popular TLC program, "Cake Boss."



Trenton Historical Society Trustee Sally Lane, College President George A. Pruitt and his wife, Pamela '10, cut the Kelsey Building cake as Thomas Edison State College celebrates the building's 100th anniversary.

Bachelor's to Master's Program Revised

STUDENTS CAN EARN 9 GRADUATE CREDITS AT UNDERGRADUATE TUITION RATE WHILE FINISHING THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Thomas Edison State College has revised its Bachelor's to Master's Program for undergraduate students, who can now earn 9 graduate credits at the undergraduate tuition rate and those credits will apply to both their bachelor's degree and master's degree at the College.

"The revised Bachelor's to Master's Program gives our high-achieving undergraduate students who are serious about earning a master's degree an opportunity to earn 9 credits toward that goal," said William J. Seaton, vice presi-

dent and provost of Thomas Edison State College. "In our globally competitive environment, this will help them achieve their goals more quickly. By offering these 9 graduate credits at the undergraduate rate, students will also experience a considerable savings."

The new Bachelor's to Master's Program took effect on July 1, 2011, and is open to students who have earned at least 60 under-

graduate credits toward a bachelor's degree at the College; have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0; and have at least three years of degree program relevant experience. New undergraduate applicants may also take advantage of this program.

For more information, visit www.tesc.edu/btm.



William J. Seaton, vice president and provost of Thomas Edison State College

College to Receive 2011 Distance Education Innovation Award from National University Technology Network

LAUDED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND GENERATION OF FLASH-BASED COURSES



Thomas Edison State College has been selected by the National University Technology Network (NUTN) to receive its 2011 Distance Education Innovation Award for the development of the FlashTrack® course delivery system, which delivers entire courses to students via a flash drive and does not require a constant Internet connection.

“While so many in distance education are rushing to translate course work for mobile devices, this program makes a great argument for mobile accessible courses via a flash drive,” said Dr. Mel Muchnik, chair of the NUTN 2011 Awards Committee. “The innovation seems easy to use and comprehensive in terms of addressing students’ needs.”

Muchnik noted that this year the distance education innovation category was

the most competitive in NUTN’s history. The award will be presented to the College at NUTN’s 29th annual event, Network 2011, in Fort Worth, Texas, on Sept. 27.

“We are honored to receive national recognition for our efforts to create more flexible course delivery options for adult learners,” said Dr. Henry van Zyl, vice provost of Directed Independent Adult Learning at Thomas Edison State College. “Earning this award from NUTN means a lot to our institution as we continue to develop ways to leverage technology to better serve our students.”



*Dr. Henry van Zyl,
vice provost of Directed
Independent Adult Learning
at Thomas Edison State
College*

The College launched its first generation of flash drive-based courses in spring 2009, which the College named FlashTrack® courses. Later that year, the College received a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) that helped accelerate the deployment of a second generation of FlashTrack® courses. The first of those courses was launched in fall 2010.

“We created FlashTrack® to serve students who needed to access their entire course as well as the computer programs required to complete the course,” said Matthew Cooper, director of Instructional Technology and Instructional Design and Development at Thomas Edison State College and lead developer of FlashTrack®. “Utilizing the flash drive, we are able to deliver the course, all course materials and all the software needed to complete the course via a portable, removable device that is not dependent on having an Internet connection or even owning your own computer.”



*Matthew Cooper, director of
Instructional Technology and
Instructional Design and
Development at Thomas
Edison State College*

The second generation FlashTrack® courses contain a similar structure and functionality of the College’s typical 12-week, asynchronous online courses but without the need for a constant online connection. Students need an Internet connection only to submit assignments. The actual course work can be completed offline.

“I think what we are doing is revolutionizing course delivery methods in higher education,” said Van Zyl. “Our goal is to reach a level of flexibility and access that is unprecedented, and we are excited to continue moving forward in that direction.”

Thomas Edison State College Announces New Noncredit Programs

The John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies has recently launched new online noncredit certificates and courses focusing on family and school nutrition, allied health and nonprofit management that are built around the unique needs of adult learners.

Professional Certificates in Allied Health

MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT SPECIALIST

This one-year certificate teaches students new job skills and refines existing healthcare knowledge and prepares students to sit for the NHA national certification exam to become a Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA).

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION

This one-year certificate provides students with a working knowledge of medical reports and prepares students for the AHDI national certification exam to become Registered Medical Transcriptionists (RMT).

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION EDITOR

This one-year certificate provides knowledge and skills characteristic of high-quality medical transcriptionists and medical transcription editors and prepares students for the AHDI national certification exam to become Registered Medical Transcriptionists (RMT).

MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING SPECIALIST

This certificate provides an overview of CPT and ICD-9-CM coding and prepares students for a challenging career in this critical allied health field and prepares them to gain the knowledge and skills required to pass the national certification exams.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

This certificate is designed for those who want to be a part of a rapidly growing industry and prepares students to earn national certification, such as a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPT), through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

Professional Certificates in Nutrition

FAMILY NUTRITION

This certificate examines the confluence of factors and influences that cause the current epidemic of childhood and adolescent obesity and is designed for parents, teachers, allied health and fitness professionals, school administrators, caregivers and those who work with children.

FUNCTIONAL FAMILY NUTRITION

This certificate examines the latest research on eating attitudes, food and fitness behaviors, food shopping and environmental nutrition issues surrounding organic and genetically modified foods and prepares allied healthcare and fitness professionals, registered dietitians and personal trainers to map their clients' health history and lifestyle toward optimal nutritional health.

SCHOOL NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

This certificate covers effective health and nutrition education and school wellness policies and is appropriate for school administrators, teachers, health educators, nutritionists, nurses, food service providers, caregivers, allied health/medical and fitness professionals and parents.

Courses in Nonprofit Management

THE ABC'S OF NONPROFIT ACCOUNTING

This eight-week course examines the bookkeeping process in the nonprofit sector and explores the internal controls that oversee financial activity and how these controls assist in adhering to government compliance, rules and regulations.

GRANTSMANSHIP FOR NONPROFITS

This eight-week course provides students with a practical foundation they can use when assembling a full grant proposal, regardless of the nature of the proposal or the organization for which it is intended.

To register or to find out more about these and other noncredit programs, visit www.tesc.edu/noncredit.



Streckewald Golf Classic Raises \$38,900

The Seventeenth Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic, held on June 20 at Greenacres Country Club in Lawrenceville, N.J., raised \$38,900 for the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Nearly 90 golfers attended the event.



Tournament sponsors included: Bank of America (Eagle sponsor); Lear & Pannepacker (Golf Cart sponsor); UBS Bank (Flag sponsor); PNC Bank (Corporate sponsor); Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital – Hamilton (Hole-in-One Cash Prize sponsor); Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc. (Boxed Lunch sponsor); Roma Bank (Reception sponsor); Capital Health, NK Architects and The Bank of Princeton (Deuce sponsors); Hoisington Engineers, KPMG LLP, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Mercer County Community College, MBI-Gluck Shaw, Office Furniture Partnership and Princeton Packet, Inc. (Tee sponsors).

The winning foursome was Foundation Vice Chair Michael Toscani, Peter Toscani, Chris Neumann and Lewis Morris, who are pictured with John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs.

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS ITS

Grande Ball 2011

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011

THE WAR MEMORIAL, TRENTON, NJ • 6:30 P.M. - 11:30 P.M.

Save the date for the Gala & Silent Auction Featuring These and Other Exciting Vacation Destinations!

ALASKA'S MAJESTIC FRONTIER

A Cruise Vacation for Two Aboard Royal Caribbean International to Alaska for Seven Nights in a Veranda Stateroom.

DISCOVER NEW ORLEANS' CELEBRATED DOWNTOWN

A Trip for Two to New Orleans, Louisiana for Five Days & Four Nights at the JW Marriott Hotel New Orleans with Economy Class Air, Including a Dinner Jazz Cruise, a Class at the New Orleans School of Cooking and a \$200 Commander's Palace Gift Card.

EAT, DRINK, COOK AND BE MERRY!

A Trip for Two to Napa, California for Four Days & Three Nights at the AVIA Napa in a Lux Tub Suite with Economy Class Air, Including a

Private Winery Tour in a Chauffeured Luxury Sedan and Hands-On Cooking Class.

GO TO ANY GAME IN 50 MARKETS IN THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Any Game in 50 Markets, 122 Teams – A Trip for Two to Your Choice of an Exciting NFL, NHL, NBA or MLB Regular Season Game with Lower Level Tickets for Three Days & Two Nights with Economy Class Air.

TOP GUN

A Top Gun Experience for One Person as a Fighter Pilot for a Day in a Military Aircraft. Available in various cities.

Contact Jennifer Guerrero at (609) 984-1588, ext. 2083, or jguerrero@tesc.edu for sponsorship opportunities and tickets.



Photo courtesy of NASA Langley/Sean Smith.

A blurred background image showing a sign for the Strategic Relationships Office. The sign has the letters 'SRO' in large white font, and 'Strategic Relationships Office' in smaller white font below it. The background is dark and out of focus.

SRO

Strategic Relationships Office

ELEVATION

Robert Wyman has always been a storyteller.

He started his 24-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard as a photographer and ended it as a lieutenant commander and senior public affairs officer. In February, Wyman was named news chief for NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

Wyman said Thomas Edison State College played an important role in his career, especially in positioning him for professional growth and advancement in the Coast Guard, where he spent 20 years in the areas of visual communication and public affairs.



Wyman captures images of the pre-storm evacuation efforts prior to Hurricane Ike in 2004 in New Orleans. Photo courtesy of Robert Wyman/USCG.



Wyman coordinates media visits like this one, where NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Garver (center) discusses Electron Beam Freeform Fabrication, which uses an electron beam gun, a dual wire feed and computer controls to manufacture metallic structures for building parts or tools in hours, rather than days or weeks. Photo courtesy of NASA Langley/Sean Smith.

“**I**n 1999, the Coast Guard promoted me to chief warrant officer. This opened the door to then being able to compete for a direct commission to lieutenant and increased opportunities for greater responsibility,” said Wyman. “There are very few direct commissions in the Coast Guard and even less within the public affairs field, making it highly competitive. I knew that if I had my bachelor’s degree, I would be better positioned for the program.”

Wyman researched a variety of schools and recalled that what stood out about Thomas Edison State College was the accessibility and professionalism of its admission and advising staff.

“The staff was very helpful in evaluating all of my military work and consolidating all of the college-level course work that I had already completed,” he said. “They quickly helped me understand what work remained to be done and how they could help me reach the goal of completing my degree.”

Because of his military and family obligations, which included frequent deployments and an unconventional work schedule, Wyman needed a program that offered both flexibility and affordability. He said he found those needs were best met at Thomas Edison State College.

“I also needed a program that had experience helping people who had accumulated lots of college credits through a variety of nontraditional channels, such as military credit assessments, CLEP (Credit-Level Examination Program) and community college credits,” he said.

In 2002, Wyman completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in communications at the College. In 2003, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. The promotion

quickly lead to his being selected as the Coast Guard’s Eighth District public affairs officer, headquartered in New Orleans, where he was responsible for operations over the entire Midwest and Gulf of Mexico region.

During his tenure, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast forcing the evacuation of his wife and two small children to Houston. The family’s Broadmoor, La., home was completely destroyed in the aftermath. Wyman managed communications for the Coast Guard operations in the region during and after the catastrophe.



There are very few direct commissions in the Coast Guard and even less within the public affairs field, making it highly competitive. I knew that if I had my bachelor’s degree, I would be better positioned for the program.



In 2009, Wyman was promoted to lieutenant commander to oversee public affairs operations spanning from the Rocky Mountains to the Persian Gulf. A year later, he assumed the helm as chief of the joint information center and, later, as the public



Wyman escorted Katie Couric during her visit to New Orleans to cover the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response efforts for CBS News. Photo courtesy of Robert Wyman/USCG.



Wyman served as the chief of the Joint Information Center at the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response and moderated press conferences for the federal on-scene coordinator and British Petroleum at the Unified Area Command in Robert, La., in May and June 2010.

information officer for the Unified Area Command, where he managed response efforts to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

“Moving through the public affairs enlisted ranks to lieutenant commander, offered me the opportunity to sail on almost every kind of U.S. Coast Guard vessel, fly in almost every type of Coast Guard aircraft and either document or participate in every mission in the Coast Guard’s portfolio,” said Wyman. “From search and rescue and homeland security, to drug interdiction, aids to navigation and everything in between, it was a fantastic ride that prepared me for the rest of my life.”

In 2011, Wyman started the next professional chapter of his life when he was named news chief for NASA’s Langley Research Center. As a member of the Langley’s Strategic Relationships Office, Wyman is responsible for print, broadcast, social media management and deployment of information on the center’s key activities.

“Rob’s experience in crisis communications made him a top candidate for the position. In the short time he has been on the job, Rob has validated our decision over and over,” said Marny Skora, communications director at NASA’s Langley Research Center.

Wyman said what excites him about his new position is the variety of stories he gets to tell, which go beyond space travel.

“In addition to our efforts to explore further into space, NASA is committed to advancing technologies and innovations that will help address some of the critical challenges we face here on earth, such as climate change, renewable energy and exploring ways to make the future of flight safer, quieter and more fuel efficient,” said Wyman. “I’m responsible for helping to tell those stories and managing the interactions between the center and the public while working closely with media to communicate the center’s important work across the fields of space exploration, earth science and aeronautics.”

Wyman is also engaged with the next generation of explorative leaders.

“The center conducts an extraordinary amount of outreach and education to engage, inspire and inform students of all ages in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, and our news team works closely with them to promote their educational efforts,” he said.

When it comes to his family, Wyman said that he feels unbelievably blessed.

“I have an amazing wife, Steph, who is a 6th grade math teacher in Virginia Beach, Va. I also have a 19-year-old son, Ben, who lives near Barcelona, Spain, and is on the cusp of starting his own collegiate journey. Luke, my 9-year-old, is an avid baseball player and swimmer. My youngest is Jake, 7, an avid reader, t-ball player and swimmer.”



Wyman and his wife, Stephanie

Keeping Hope Alive

MARIA JONES '10 SPREADS A MESSAGE OF HOPE

Marie Jones knows that the lessons learned in the depths of despair make us stronger.

This is the message of hope that Jones communicates when she counsels her clients or speaks to groups. It's a message Jones has learned through her life.

"We must take everything we experience in life – the good and the bad – and learn at least something from each encounter," explained Jones. "I had my struggles and learned from every one of them, and am stronger for it."

Jones grew up poor in Trenton, N.J., and had big dreams. As a young girl, she would write fictional stories which were actually her depictions of what she wanted life to be. She learned early that in life there would always be obstacles she would need to overcome.

“My degree in management will help me to help others – individuals who cannot navigate the system, perhaps can't afford legal counsel and are in danger of losing their way without help.”

Despite being an honor student, Jones didn't attend college right out of high school because, she noted, "children of color were, in fact, counseled, discouraged, by advisors that they were not going to afford college and should take business or vocational education classes instead."

Making the best of it, Jones pursued business and became the finest secretary she could be. Working during the day and going to classes at night, Jones earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Rutgers University with plans to attend law school.

Her life, however, presented different challenges. She had to overcome abuse, addiction and homelessness. It was during this time that Jones realized it was up to her to face reality and make her dreams come true.

"I have hit the bottom of the circle and made my way back up. I move forward with the hope and belief that I can and will continue to be a role model to so many others," she said.

"Thomas Edison State College has helped me do that."

Jones, who currently works as a program coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), earned a Master of Science in Management degree from the College in 2010.

"With my work at NJDOT, my degree allows me, as lead trainer of its Administrative College, to provide assistance, guidance and to offer a wider catalog of training opportunities for employees, managers and supervisors," she said.

Yet, Jones' true passion is helping others; she started her own company, JEM Associates Consulting Services, which provides training, counseling and motivational speaking services.

JEM was created during her homelessness, which began in 1991, and her quest to resolve an unfair labor practice case that went all the way to the New Jersey Supreme Court. She lost the case because the statute of limitations had passed before she was able to secure legal counsel, but Jones said the experience helped inspire her to create JEM and its mission.

Jones' goal is to nurture JEM into a profit making entity. She expects to generate revenue from employers who hire JEM to assess their workplace, develop policy, and provide training and advice.

"My degree in management will help me to help others – individuals who cannot navigate the system, perhaps can't afford legal counsel and are in danger of losing their way without help. At another level, I will use my education and JEM to assist employers in training, professional assessment and in doing whatever is needed to create a work environment conducive to all."

In the midst of her education at the College, Jones took on another responsibility that she had never before considered: being a single parent. Jones adopted Aniya, the daughter of her younger brother.

"I never wanted children but at age 62, I saw this beautiful 1-year-old darling and fell in love with her instantly," she recalled. "I saw her in February 2008 and on March 19, 2008, she was in my arms. Each day is a learning experience and we now belong to each other."

Jones and 4-year-old Aniya reside in Trenton, N.J.



Maria Jones

Claudette Spencer

Inspiring the Next Generation of Nurses

CLAUDETTE SPENCER '10 CREATES A PASSION FOR PATIENT CARE

Alumni Profile

Once upon a time, it was common for a son or a daughter to follow in their parents' footsteps.

In Claudette Spencer's family, that tradition is alive and well. "I have three sisters who are all registered nurses, and when we get together, our discussions usually center on our careers," said Spencer, RN, a surgical nurse at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital – Hamilton in New Jersey.

Those spirited conversations have not been lost on their children. Three of Spencer's nieces and her daughter are currently enrolled in nursing schools.

"My daughter reflects back on when she accompanied me on 'bring your daughter to work' days," said Spencer. "Following me through my day piqued her interest in healthcare."

I knew after researching prospective schools that the learning experience at Thomas Edison State College could coincide with family responsibilities, a busy career, vacation plans, faith-based activities and important family events.

Spencer earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree at Thomas Edison State College in 2010 after receiving her diploma in nursing from Muhlenberg Regional School of Nursing in Plainfield, N.J.

"I knew that obtaining my BSN would bring me much closer to my goal of becoming a nurse educator," she said. "And I knew after researching prospective schools that the learning experience at Thomas Edison State College could coincide with family responsibilities, a busy career, vacation plans, faith-based activities and important family events."

With her BSN course requirements completed and the College's Alpha Sigma Lambda and Honor Society of Nursing awards to her credit, Spencer is now enrolled in



the School's Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program.

She said the ways in which MSN courses have expanded her competency and prepared her for the next stage of her career are easy to list.

"I am applying what I have learned in my courses to my current clinical practice," said Spencer. "The responses on our online Discussion Boards bring us together with other nursing professionals across an array of clinical settings — from legal nurse consultants, to nurse

managers, school nurses and those who serve in acute care environments. Best of all, lifelong friendships are developed. I recently completed Theoretical Foundations in Nursing Education (NUR-630) and had an absolutely amazing experience. I was able to plan curriculum, lead an online discussion and design a culminating presentation. It was memorable."

Spencer is already flexing her leadership training.

As a surgical nurse, her typical shift is 12 hours long and through most of it she is on her feet. Spencer nonetheless summons the stamina to co-chair RWJ's Shared Governance Committee.

"I meet monthly with department heads, gather data from staff nurses and conduct brainstorm sessions with fellow members in order to assist with the implementation of new processes and procedures at RWJ."

Spencer and her husband of 27 years, Jeffrey, a financial technology specialist, live in Ringoes, N.J. They have two children. Their son, Jeffrey Jr., works in the music production and artist management field, and daughter Tiffany is enrolled at Spencer's alma mater, Muhlenberg Regional School of Nursing. Tiffany is also a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member who was recently selected to participate in the International Scholar Laureate Program Delegation on Nursing in Australia.



Stay Connected With Us!

Thomas Edison State College alumni, students, mentors and supporters are invited to keep up-to-date and informed on the College's latest news and events.

Visit our social network sites to follow, friend or become a fan.

Students and alumni are invited to join our network on



Become our fan on



Follow us on



Check out our latest videos on



www.tesc.edu/getconnected

Bryana Carrea BA '09

Bryana Carrea recently graduated from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., with a Master of Arts in Human Services degree specializing in health and wellness. Carrea, who resides in New Jersey with her husband and five sons, is an addictions counselor at Women of Hope Resource Center, Inc., a Christian nonprofit organization committed to serve all women in the South Jersey area by encouraging them personally, professionally and spiritually. She plans to start a doctorate program this fall. Carrea noted, "With God all things are possible and my studies at Thomas Edison State College were an awesome experience, which gave me the strong foundation and confidence I needed to pursue my master's degree. Thank you Thomas Edison State College for helping me reach my goals while raising a family."

Tara Chalakani BA '07

Tara Chalakani (formerly DiPianta) recently completed a MS in mental health counseling from Capella University. She has also earned the credential of Nationally Certified Counselor. Chalakani will be providing individual, marital, family and group therapy in Spring Lake Heights, N.J. She plans to begin her PhD studies this fall, which focus on holistic health and spiritual care.

Debora Deane BSN '00

Debora Deane, RN, recently received her Master in Science of Nursing from the University of Mary in Kansas City. She is the current clinical supervisor for the emergency room and operating room at St. John Hospital in Kansas City. Deane noted, "I would like to thank Thomas Edison State College for helping me complete my BSN and guiding me toward my future education."

Thomas DeMeo BSHS '00

Thomas DeMeo, and his wife, Betina, have recently had the opportunity to have a book published. *Our Blessing...Multiple Sclerosis* is about turning over a new leaf in life. DeMeo noted that the book is geared toward MS patients, but good reading for everyone, "it can make you laugh and cry, and hopefully be inspirational." DeMeo, who was forced to leave a career as a New Jersey state trooper by MS, said he is proud to have carried what he learned as a trooper into a life with a new perspective.

Scott Doellinger BSHS '08

Scott Doellinger, director, National Workers' Compensation Programs, National Federation of Independent Business, earned his Master of Business Administration from The University of Maryland, after graduating from Thomas Edison State College. Doellinger was recently quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* in the article "Is that insurance claim legit?"

Jennifer M. Montone MSM '10

Jennifer M. Montone was recently re-elected to the City of Burlington Board of Education for an additional 3-year term. Montone was also nominated and elected vice president of the Board of Education by her peers for the 2011 - 2012 year.

Donald M. Peace Jr. BSAST '90

Donald M. Peace Jr. completed his PhD in health services administration at Capella University on April 30. His doctoral dissertation is entitled *Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections in South Carolina: A Correlational Study of Bed Capacity, Surveillance Techniques and Therapeutic Modalities*. He completed his master's in science in administration with a concentration in health services administration in 1994 at Central Michigan University, where he conducted his research and wrote a thesis on hospital acquired infection in patients requiring mechanical ventilation. He serves as a regional director of Public Health Preparedness and Bioterrorism at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Jemarie-Lynn Sahr BA '09

Jemarie-Lynn Sahr graduated with an MBA from Marylhurst University with a 3.9 GPA in June.

Frank Smith BSAST '94

Frank Smith recently completed his second novel *Angels Fallen* for Amazon's Kindle format. The novel was in the U.S. and U.K. top 100 for eight weeks straight. In this fast paced thriller, Hans Dieter is a well-known philanthropist with a dark past. From his deathbed, he has one last story to relay to his son, Jim Dieter and his best friend, Dan Flaherty, about the role he played in a robbery involving top Nazi and Vatican officials. For more than 60 years, the Vatican has killed to keep its secret buried. A deadly cat and mouse game quickly ensued across the European mainland involving Vatican, MI-6 and Interpol, all hot on the trail of Jim and Dan as they search for what his father had secreted during the closing days of WWII. Who will find what Hans had left behind first? The clock is ticking. By day, Smith is a systems analyst for the Department of Defense based in Philadelphia, Pa.

Marlene Wendolowski BA '95

Marlene Wendolowski, a Parsippany-Troy Hills School District Business Administrator (BA), was recently recognized by the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) with a Distinguished Service Award for her long-term, continuous exemplary service.





APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Angela Wright BA '08

Angela Wright completed her Master of Arts degree in theological studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in May. Since graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Wright has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in ministry/bible from Amridge University. Wright credits Thomas Edison State College with giving her a solid educational foundation.



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