

WINTER 2010

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



Taking Charge

Lt. Bradley Brezinski '04

ALSO INSIDE:

- ▶ *Student Profile:* John Kurzenberger
Delivering for UPS
- ▶ Commencement 2009
- ▶ The Grande Ball 2009

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Thomas Edison State College

DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT
President

JOE GUZZARDO
Editor

CHRIS MILLER
Art Director

**KELLY SACCOMANNO
LINDA SOLTIS**
Contributors

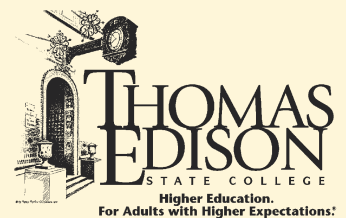
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Lt. Bradley Brezinski '04

Radiation Safety Officer, Naval Submarine Base New London, posing with the propeller of the USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571), the Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine.



Cover Photo courtesy of Electric Boat





Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

The Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner said, “Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Don’t bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.”

This issue of *Invention* focuses on Thomas Edison State College graduate Lt. Brad Brezinski, '04 and Thomas Edison State College student John Kurzenberger, both of whom embody this sentiment.

In our cover story, Brezinski, a radiation health officer stationed at the Naval Submarine Base New London in Connecticut, tells us how Thomas Edison State College helped launch a naval career he could not have imagined as a high school student growing up outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Today, Brezinski oversees more than 500 occupational radiation workers and three squadrons of 17 nuclear powered submarines. He also serves as the Navy’s primary liaison for radiation health matters with Electric Boat, the General Dynamics subsidiary that designs and constructs submarines for the Navy.

Also in this issue, Kurzenberger, a transportation administrator at the UPS Supply Chain Solutions Center in Newark, Del., explains how Thomas Edison State College is allowing him to complete his degree while managing his career and serving his community.

We also see images and stories from the 37th Annual Commencement Ceremony, which was held in October and attracted nearly 400 graduates. Coverage of Commencement begins on Page 4.

In this issue, we also celebrate our annual Grande Ball, one of the signature events sponsored by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Nearly 300 guests attended the event, which honored our 2009 Spirit of Edison Award recipients, Greg Milzcik '94, president and CEO of Barnes Group Inc., and Amy B. Mansue, president and CEO of Children’s Specialized Hospital of New Jersey.

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, written over a white background.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

School of Nursing Launches Online Database of Minority Nurse Educators

The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College has launched an online database of minority nurse educators, who have been certified in online teaching, which is available free to nursing schools across the country interested in increasing diversity at their institutions and hiring these educators as adjunct faculty.

The national database, the only one of its kind currently in the country, includes 52 experienced nurse educators who have each completed the School of Nursing's online Minority Nurse Educator certification program. The program includes a 20-week Certificate in Distance Education Program (CDEP) at Thomas Edison State College and a 12-week mentored online teaching



student populations, but there remains a shortage of minority nursing faculty to serve as role models for students," said Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College. "We hope nursing school

will enhance their overall education and improves the care they provide to society."

The nurse educators currently in the database come from 24 states across the country and represents ethnicities such as African American, Asian American, Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander. Educators in the database have agreed to be shared by various institutions in order to increase diversity at nursing schools nationwide.

The creation of the database is the final requirement of a 2005 grant the School of Nursing received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to recruit and prepare minority nurse educators in online education and develop a collaborative network of diverse nurse faculty members to enhance nursing programs nationwide. In 2008, HRSA renewed the grant to the School of Nursing to expand the minority nurse educator program. Each year, new educators will be added to the database as they complete the program.

The grant was awarded by HRSA's Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention Program, Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions. Eligible nurse educators interested in the program may contact nursingdiversitycoordinator@tesc.edu. The database is accessible at www.tesc.edu/nursingdiversity.



Presenters and participants from the 2009 Diversity in Nursing Lectureship, sponsored by the School of Nursing.

experience at the College under the guidance of an experienced online nurse educator.

"Many nursing schools throughout the country have worked successfully to increase the diversity of their

deans and other administrators find this new database useful in increasing diversity at their institutions and, ultimately, enabling more students to benefit from more culturally diverse educators, which

College Receives \$250,000 Federal Grant to Accelerate Development of Mobile Learning Initiative

Thomas Edison State College has recently received a two-year, \$250,000 federal grant that will be used to accelerate the deployment of a new course delivery system that utilizes cloud computing technologies and is designed to increase access and minimize technical issues for adults earning a college degree.

The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), will enable the College to develop 40 courses over the next two years that will be delivered entirely via flash drives that contain similar structure and functionality of

where broadband Internet access is limited, including remote rural areas in the United States, in the Middle East and on ships at sea," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

The College launched its first generation of flash drive-based courses, known as FlashTrack™ courses, in spring 2009. They are designed for independent learners and prepare students to take a pass or fail examination without an Internet connection. The FIPSE grant will enable the College to develop the second generation of its flash drive-based courses and help the College



Entrepreneurship would have the same content, general structure and materials, regardless of whether a student takes it as an asynchronous online course with discussion boards and class interactions; takes it as an independent study course or examination program, where students have no interaction with other learners; has the course delivered entirely on a flash drive, secure digital (SD) card or other removable storage

“This grant enables us to make our courses and degree programs more readily accessible to students in locations all over the world, even where broadband Internet access is limited, including remote rural areas in the United States, in the Middle East and on ships at sea.”

the College's typical 12-week, asynchronous online courses, but without the need for a constant online connection. For these new courses, students will need an Internet connection only to submit assignments and participate in online discussions. The remainder of course work can be completed offline.

“This grant enables us to make our courses and degree programs more readily accessible to students in locations all over the world, even

begin to develop courses using cloud computing technologies, which utilize servers in a load-sharing fashion that house all course content and materials required to complete the courses. This will change how the College designs its courses and will ultimately lead to a new, platform-independent course delivery system that enables the College to offer entire courses in more formats.

For example, through the new system, a course like *Introduction to*

device; or has the course delivered to a smartphone or other Web-enabled device.

Dr. Henry van Zyl, the College's vice provost of Directed Independent Adult Learning, is directing the effort and said the grant helps the College to take course delivery to a new level.

“I think what we are doing is revolutionizing course delivery methods in higher education,” he said. “We are going to be able to reach

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Thomas Edison State College's 37TH ANNUAL Commencement

When it comes to milestones, Peg Ugolick cornered the market for the month of October in 2009. In the first three weeks of the month, she turned 60, celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary and received her college diploma at Thomas Edison State College's 37th Annual Commencement in Trenton, N.J., after more than 20 years of pursuing her education.

"Attending Commencement fell right between two big events in my life," said Ugolick, a payroll, pension and benefits coordinator for the Moorestown Board of Education. "Just like in my dreams, I finally walked forward to receive my college diploma. What a ride it has been!"

That ride started in 1988, when she first enrolled at Burlington County College. Ugolick juggled going to class while raising four children and working full time. She earned her associate degree in 1995. Even though work and caring for her family kept Ugolick busy, she managed to return to school in 2006 when she enrolled at Thomas Edison State College.

"The College's distance-learning format afforded me the opportunity to continue with my family and work responsibilities while earning college credits," said Ugolick, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies.

She said support from her family helped her finish the online courses, which demanded a different type of focus than classroom-based courses.

"The online program is hard work that requires discipline and determination," she said. "My husband, our children and 10 grandchildren have cheered me on throughout the entire process. I know my husband's heart was pounding as hard as mine on Oct. 10. He has walked beside me and held me up when I was ready to quit. It was quite a ride, but I am glad I did it."

Approximately 375 graduates from 26 states attended the Commencement ceremony at the War Memorial in Trenton.

Peggy Ugolick '09 celebrated a month of milestones in October 2009 when she turned 60, celebrated her 40th wedding anniversary and received her college diploma after more than 20 years.



Sarah Finley, MAEdL '08, of Somerdale, N.J., gave the response to the graduates. She reminded her fellow alumni to have hope for a brighter future in the midst of challenging times.

“Indeed, we are faced with the daunting decisions of how and where to channel our energies as we move forward,” said Finley, a science teacher at Gloucester City Junior Senior High School in Gloucester City, N.J., where she also serves as head of the Science Department. “Thomas Edison State College opened a door to future opportunities and adventures for each of us, and we were fortunate to have made the decision to step through that door. It is now incumbent upon us to continue the always formidable work of continuing to improve ourselves and, therefore, our world. Never doubt that the world needs your experience!”

“ *It is now incumbent upon us to continue the always formidable work of continuing to improve ourselves and, therefore, our world. Never doubt that the world needs your experience!* ”

In addition, the College awarded three honorary degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters.



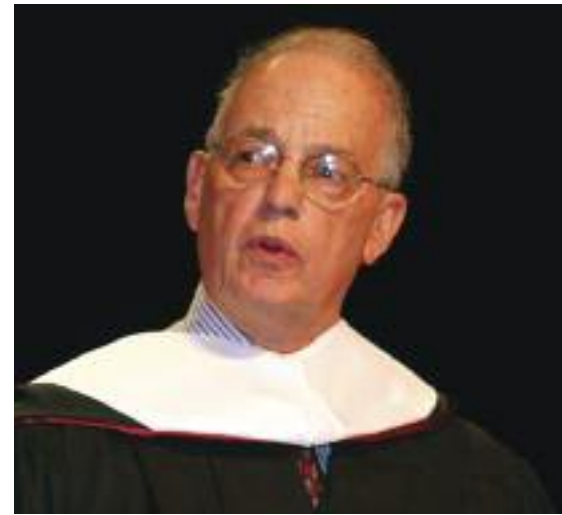
In the Response for Graduates, Sarah Finley MAEdL '09, reminded her fellow classmates that Thomas Edison State College has opened a door to future opportunities.

The first was given to Nicholas L. Carnevale, vice president of Carnevale Consulting Corporation, who has served on the College Board of Trustees since 1995 and on the College Foundation Board of Directors since 1983.

(Continued)



37TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT (CONT'D)



The College gave honorary degrees to (from left) College Trustee Nicholas L. Carnevale, vice president of Carnevale Consulting Corporation; College Trustee George L. Fricke, former managing director of corporate training at New Jersey Bell; and Dr. Harold T. Shapiro, president emeritus of Princeton University and the University of Michigan.

The second was given to George L. Fricke, former managing director of corporate training at New Jersey Bell, who has served on the College Board of Trustees since 1989 and represented the College on the Board of the New Jersey Association of Colleges and Universities.

The third was given to Dr. Harold T. Shapiro, president emeritus of Princeton University and the University of Michigan. Shapiro served as Princeton University's 18th president, from 1988 through 2001, and currently holds a

faculty appointment as a professor of economics and public affairs. Prior to joining Princeton, Shapiro served at the University of Michigan, where he served on the faculty for 24 years as professor of economics and public policy, and as president.

The College awarded more than 2,500 degrees in 2009 and has awarded more than 34,000 degrees since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults in 1972. ■





Completing their Degrees, Together

After 25 years of marriage, Michelle Tompkins blissfully approved of the outfit her husband Gregory chose to wear on Oct. 10. The robe, mortarboard and tassel easily passed her inspection. It should have. She was wearing the same thing.

Amid child-rearing, household responsibilities and serving in the U.S. Navy, the Tompkins have been pursuing their college degrees on and off together for 20 years. Their journey toward finishing their undergraduate degrees concluded this year at Thomas Edison State College's 37th Annual Commencement.

"I am a lifetime learner, but have always wanted to accomplish a goal that was elusive to other members of my family – obtaining a college degree," noted Michelle, who retired from active duty status and now works as a systems analyst with the U.S. Navy. "Being a 48-year-old wife of an ex-Navy man and a mother of two college-age children has made my life very dynamic."

She used the College's Prior Learning Assessment program, Thomas Edison State College courses and transfer credits to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology.

Her husband is quick to credit the College's flexibility in

being able to maintain the tempo of a busy life and earning his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree.

"Since I was assigned to rotating shifts during most of my 12-year Navy enlistment, college courses were few and far between," he said. "Later, I took many classes at a local community college as well as at National University, but, unfortunately, neither had delivery methods that worked for me as I was required to travel extensively in my job."

The Tompkins met when both were ocean systems technicians stationed overseas during the Cold War. As parents, Gregory and Michelle said their determination to complete their degrees served as good examples for their two children. Their daughter, Genevieve, is a 2008 graduate of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., and their son, Garrett, is a junior at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va. Today, the Tompkins work remotely for the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center in San Diego, Calif. ■

Taking Charge

*A pessimist sees the difficulty
in every opportunity;
an optimist sees the opportunity
in every difficulty.*

Winston Churchill

When Brad Brezinski realized he was going to become a father before he graduated high school, playing a key role in the development and operation of the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet was not exactly on his radar screen. In the early 1990s, he was an honors student, an athlete and an active volunteer at Williamsburg High School, located outside of Cincinnati, Ohio. By the time Brezinski graduated in 1995, his perspective on life was completely transformed.

Brezinski's transformation ultimately led him to the U.S. Navy, and today he is a radiation health officer stationed at the Naval Submarine Base New London in Connecticut. At the base, Brezinski is responsible for the Navy's radiation protection program, which encompasses more than 500 occupational radiation workers and three squadrons of 17 nuclear powered submarines. He also serves as the Navy's primary liaison for radiation health matters with Electric Boat,



Lt. Bradley Brezinski '04

Photo courtesy of Electric Boat

the General Dynamics subsidiary that designs and constructs submarines for the Navy.

“There is no margin for error when you work with nuclear power, especially in the Navy,” said Brezinski. “Planning is essential. Our standards are exacting, so there is no such thing as being too prepared.”

The base is a long way from Williamsburg, where he hoped to pursue an engineering degree at the University

of Cincinnati after high school. But Brezinski’s life changed forever just before the start of his senior year. In August of 1994, his daughter, Whitney, was born.

“Just like that, I went from being Brad Brezinski, the scholar/athlete, to being Brad Brezinski, the teenage parent,” he said. “I had such a narrow perspective of the world at that time, but I realized that I had an important choice to make.”



Photo courtesy of Electric Boat

Brezinski reviews glow curves with Electric Boat's Shannon Morence '08, a fellow graduate of Thomas Edison State College. Examining glow curves help Electric Boat and the Navy measure radiation exposure of sailors working on nuclear submarines.

That choice was how to respond to the challenges of being a young parent.

After graduating high school, Brezinski enrolled at the University of Cincinnati and worked two jobs to pay for his tuition and support his family. Working, going to school and being a young father proved to be a lot for Brezinski and he began to consider other options.

It was at this time that a Navy recruiter at the University of Cincinnati approached Brezinski, based on his Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test scores and enthusiasm for the field of science and engineering. The recruiter encouraged Brezinski to apply to the Navy's selective Nuclear Power Program.

Brezinski realized the Navy provided him a better opportunity to support his family while continuing his engineering studies, so he discussed the idea with the one person who always counseled him: his father, Robert.

Brezinski's father agreed that joining the Navy was a good plan, so he set a new course for his future. He enlisted and was accepted into the Nuclear Power Program.

"I realized that you can't change the way your story begins, but you have the ability to change how it ends,"

said Brezinski.

After enlisting, Brezinski married Whitney's mother, Kimberly. The couple had a second child, Clay, who was born in 1998. While his enlistment took him away from his family, it enabled him to provide for his young family. As a junior sailor, Brezinski had multiple deployments that put a significant strain on his marriage. The couple agreed to have an amicable divorce, but to remain close to the children.

Brezinski first learned about Thomas Edison State College when he was stationed aboard the U.S.S.

Dwight D. Eisenhower and befriended Aaron Thomlinson '02. Watching Thomlinson complete his degree inspired Brezinski to enroll.

Brezinski completed his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in nuclear engineering technology in 2004 and earned an Arnold Fletcher Award.

"For any active duty service member, it is almost impossible to sit in a classroom," he said. "Thomas Edison State College makes it possible to manage a military career and global deployments. You do not have to put your life on hold to finish your degree."

Brezinski said a key factor that distinguishes Thomas Edison State College from most other institutions is the value it places on the Navy's Nuclear Power Program.

Most institutions award credit for the Navy's Nuclear Power Program, but require students to apply that credit to electives and lower-level degree requirements. Thomas Edison State College enables students to apply credit awarded for its specialized assessment of the Nuclear Power Program to their area of study, and to the physics and chemistry requirements in the nuclear

engineering technology degree program.

Brezinski said Thomas Edison State College has been invaluable to his career, preparing him for the future and helping him set an example for his children about the importance of education and reaching their potential.

Shortly after completing his degree, he was selected to the Navy's senior enlisted ranks as a chief petty officer in 2005. In 2006, he made the decision to apply to the Navy's radiation health officer program. He received his commission as a lieutenant junior grade in 2007.

Interestingly, approximately 18 of the Navy's 77 radiation health officers are graduates of Thomas Edison State College's Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in nuclear engineering technology.

Brezinski continued his education at the graduate level. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Liberty University as well as an Executive Education



Brezinski's oldest children, Whitney and Clay

Certificate in Strategy and Innovation from Case Western Reserve University and a Graduate Certificate in Project Management from Boston University, where he is currently finishing a Master of Science in Management degree.

Brezinski remarried in 2003. He and his wife, Laura, have two young children, Evan and Ella, and currently live in Colchester, Conn.



Brezinski with his father, Robert E. Brezinski

"I owe a tremendous amount to Laura," said Brezinski. "Her selfless support and encouragement has allowed me to reach for higher levels of personal and professional achievement."

In 2008, Brezinski lost another key supporter in life when his father passed away. He said his father watched him and helped him transform from a teenage parent to a naval officer.

In March 2009, Brezinski established the Robert E. Brezinski Foundation in memory of his father. The foundation provides funding and assistance to the poor, distressed and underprivileged.

When he thinks about his life, Brezinski said he often recalls how one life-changing event in 1994 helped define who he has become.

"One of my favorite quotes from Winston Churchill is, 'A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty,'" he said. ■

Brezinski's wife, Laura, and their two children, Evan and Ella



Delivering for UPS

John Kurzenberger knew he had to sacrifice something from his busy schedule to find time to complete his bachelor's degree, and he was determined to make it work.



As an avid reader, active volunteer, father and husband, his solution would involve trading Steinbeck for Social Gerontology.

“For me, the only available time I had to trade was the little time I was devoting to reading for enjoyment, late at night or on weekends,” recalled Kurzenberger, a transportation administrator at the UPS Supply Chain Solutions Center in Newark, Del. “Eventually, I decided it was worth an attempt at exchanging those precious leisure periods for course work related to completing my BA degree in sociology.”

“Completing an application, obtaining my previous transcript for evaluation of transfer credits and signing up for the educational reimbursement benefit offered by UPS was easy and pain-free.”

Once Kurzenberger made that decision, the rest began to click. As a UPS employee, he said the process of qualifying and investigating the best college was easier than it might have been if he had not been employed by the company.

“Thomas Edison State College was listed as a UPS partner and I believed, correctly, that this relationship would save me the legwork of searching and comparing,” said Kurzenberger. “Completing an application, obtaining my previous transcript for evaluation of transfer credits and signing up for the educational reimbursement benefit offered by UPS was easy and pain-free.”

Kurzenberger said the next step was working with an academic advisor at the College early in the process, who helped him identify the required courses for his degree requirements.

“The flexibility offered by Thomas Edison State College in the various types of class formats as well as the convenient start schedules are a tremendous advantage to me in choosing how to allocate my time and still meet the demands of school, work, family and community involvements,” he said.

Kurzenberger is not alone among UPS employees attending Thomas Edison State College. Since joining the UPS educational network in 2005, Thomas Edison State College has earned the fifth

highest enrollment out of UPS employees who use the company’s tuition programs currently to attend one of approximately 2,000 colleges and universities throughout the country.

Patrick Myers, corporate compensation manager responsible for UPS Tuition Assistance Programs, said the College enables UPS to provide its employees with quality educational programs that work around the needs of a global, 24-hour organization.

“Quality and flexibility are critical to our organization, and that is what Thomas Edison State College provides our people,” he said. “We have been able to customize an operations management curriculum that leverages UPS training and can lead to degree completion for our employees, which can ultimately lead to professional growth within the organization.”

In 2008, the College evaluated the company’s Hub Supervisor Training School for college-level credit. Employees who complete the training program can earn up to 9 credits toward either an undergraduate certificate in Operations Management or an associate or bachelor’s degree from the College.

Kurzenberger said the College has enabled him to manage his professional and personal responsibilities, and continue serving the community.

Kurzenberger, who lives in Newcastle, Del., with his wife, Renée, and their two sons, has been a volunteer for both Delaware Hospice and the nonprofit literacy organization, Read Aloud Delaware, for about 10 years.

“Although I still have a way to go, I am thrilled that I made the decision to find a few hours each week to continue my education,” he said. “It has been one of the best decisions I have made. I feel this experience has made me a more valuable employee of UPS.” ■

The Grande Ball 2009

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION HONORS
GREG MILZCIK '94 AND AMY B. MANSUE

Nearly 300 guests helped the Thomas Edison State College Foundation honor two outstanding individuals and raise money for Thomas Edison State College at its annual Grande Ball, which was held at Marriott Hotel at Forrestal in Princeton, N.J., on Nov. 7.

The black tie gala event raised approximately \$116,000 for Thomas Edison State College and honored two distinguished individuals for their accomplishments at the College and in the community with Spirit of Edison awards, which recognize community leaders and alumni whose spirit reflect the pioneering genius of Thomas Alva Edison.

This year's honorees included:

Greg Milzcik '94, president and CEO of Barnes Group Inc., recipient of the 2009 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Amy B. Mansue, president and CEO of Children's Specialized Hospital of New Jersey, recipient of the 2009 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, said this year's honorees exemplify the commitment to innovation, concern for the public good and spirit associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and the inventor for whom the school is named.

"We are honored to recognize individuals of such tremendous distinction this year," said Pruitt. "Both Greg and Amy embody the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and spirit of excellence associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and its namesake."



Greg Milzcik '94

2009 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award

Milzcik's journey began in the blue collar industrial town of Chicopee, Mass. His parents died when he was young and due to the circumstances this created, he developed an independent and determined nature.

Milzcik's work history began at age 14, when he took a full-time job at night. School work took a back seat to earning money, however, and his grades suffered. As high school graduation approached, he had no concept of a career. Milzcik's guidance counselor discouraged any thoughts of his going to the local community college telling him that "college may not be right for you."

After testing particularly well on the Armed Services Aptitude test, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and benefited greatly from the discipline and focus. After being discharged from initial active duty, Milzcik remained in the reserves and found a job as a machinist.

He knew he would need to make up for his poor high school showing, so he immersed himself in literature and historical nonfiction. Milzcik taught himself algebra at work on the back of discarded blue prints while his machine was running. Soon, he began attending college nights. Initially, jealous of the regular day students, he discovered an advantage to combining work with school. College gave his active mind the challenge he sought, while striving to compete at work provided the incentive.

However, going to college nights was not easy. Canceled courses, course schedule conflicts, transfer credit restrictions and long delays for required courses created significant difficulties in completing a degree.

When Milzcik found Thomas Edison State College, it was a perfect solution for his goals. He banked credits from five different colleges to finish his BSAST. Milzcik's thirst for education pushed him to complete graduate programs at Cambridge College and Harvard University before earning a doctorate from Case Western Reserve University.

He became a firm believer in lifelong learning as the key to success. While pursuing his education at night, he was simultaneously working on a career that was aided by his increasingly broad education and credentials.



Greg Milzcik '94 and Amy B. Mansue with Dr. George Pruitt at the Grande Ball 2009.

(continued on next page)

Amy B. Mansue

2009 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award

Appointed to lead the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in September 2003, Mansue is a highly regarded healthcare executive, a skillful leader and a long-time advocate for quality healthcare.

As president and CEO of Children's Specialized Hospital, she provides leadership to an extremely skilled team of clinicians providing specialized care for children. An affiliate member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, Children's Specialized Hospital operates eight sites throughout New Jersey and served 16,500 patients in 2008. The hospital provides a full range of pediatric rehabilitative services including the PSE&G Children's Specialized Hospital providing inpatient rehabilitation in New Brunswick, and long term care services in their Mountainside and Toms Rivers facilities.

The sites also offer a wide range of services including early intervention, outpatient therapy and physician services, medical day care, a school for children with severe disabilities and have centers of excellence in brain injury, spinal cord dysfunction, educational and rehabilitation technology, respiratory care and ambulatory services.

Under Mansue's leadership, Children's Specialized Hospital was named by *NJ BIZ* as the Number One "Best Place to Work" in 2008 and ranked in the top 100 best healthcare employers in the U.S. by *Modern Healthcare*.

In her public sector career, Mansue oversaw programs for children, people with developmental disabilities, mental health and Medicaid as a deputy commissioner in the New Jersey Department of Human Services. She served as deputy chief of staff to Gov. James McGreevey and a policy advisor to Gov. Jim Florio.

In 1998, *Modern Healthcare* magazine named Mansue as one of its up and coming healthcare executives and *NJ BIZ* named her as one of the top 40 executives under the age of 40. She has been honored by numerous nonprofit organizations for her work on healthcare reform and for helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Mansue presently serves on the boards of the New Jersey Hospital Association, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Children's

(continued on next page)

College Receives \$250,000 Federal Grant to Accelerate Development of Mobile Learning Initiative *(continued from Page 3)*

a level of flexibility and access that is unprecedented, and that goes beyond recreating the online experience in an offline setting.”

Just as important to access, van Zyl said that the platform-independent system is expected to help eliminate most of the technical glitches that students taking online courses experience, such as those caused by upgrades to learning management systems and software compatibility issues.

Van Zyl said the new system will be “operating system agnostic” and will work as well with PCs as it does with Apples, regardless of the computers’ operating systems.

“In addition to delivering the entire course and all materials to our students in the format they prefer, our new platform will provide access to all of the software required to complete the course,” he said. “Using multiple servers with major redundancies, we expect downtime to be greatly reduced.” ■

Greg Milzcik '94 *(continued from Page 15)* 2009 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award

Leveraging his love of aerospace, Milzcik held a progression of technical and management positions at a series of leading aerospace companies. The most recent was vice president and general manager of International Operations for Lockheed Martin Aircraft and Logistics Centers followed by a series of executive positions at Barnes Group Inc. culminating in his ascent to the position of Barnes Group CEO in 2006. ■

Amy B. Mansue *(continued from Page 15)* 2009 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award

Hospitals’ Public Policy Council. She has been widely recognized by organizations for her work to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Mansue received her bachelor’s degree in social welfare and master’s degree in social work, planning and management from the University of Alabama. She lives in Hightstown, N.J. ■

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Keith Ambersley BSBA '95, MSM '04

Keith Ambersley is in the process of publishing his first book, which is a resource to help unemployed Americans to thrive financially during the current economic downturn.

Tsvi Bisk BA '85

Tsvi Bisk is the director of the Center for Strategic Futurist Thinking and is the contributing editor for *Strategic Thinking for the Futurist* magazine, where he has published several articles on energy strategy. His most recent book is entitled *The Optimistic Jew: A Positive Vision for the Jewish People in the 21st Century*.

Brian Bovyn BSHS '08

Brian Bovyn, CEM, emergency services supervisor for the Manchester New Hampshire Police Department, was recently selected to participate as assessor team leader for an onsite pilot Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) assessment of the U.S. Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Bovyn led the seven-member EMAP assessor team on the onsite review of the U.S. VHA in Washington, D.C., in July 2009. EMAP is an independent nongovernmental organization based out of Lexington, Ky., that maintains the industry EMAP Standard. The team reviews the candidate’s policies, procedures and other key documentation, along with conducting key staff interviews and onsite observations, and then writes up their findings in support of EMAP industry standard compliance. There are 103 EMAP standards and sub-standards, which are reviewed by the team. A review by an EMAP assessor team is voluntary and a reviewed program may use the onsite evaluation to seek national EMAP accreditation for its emergency management program. Currently 24 state and local emergency management programs have achieved EMAP accreditation.

Juana Cantador BA '01

Juana Cantador moved from New Jersey to Georgia in 2001 and enrolled at Madison University to pursue a Master of Arts degree and a doctorate degree, both in psychology. In 2006, she graduated from her doctoral program *cum laude*.

Harold Coghlan Montero BSAST '85

Harold Coghlan Montero was selected by the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce as the Small Business Person of the Year (Category 1). Additionally, he was a finalist in the selection of Minority Business of the Year 2009 by the *Birmingham Business Journal*. Coghlan Montero runs a small aviation management and air charter company in Alabama.

Heather DeConde BA '98

Heather DeConde, who has been teaching art for 10 years at Lake Riviera Middle School in Brick, N.J., is the recipient of the Art Educators of New Jersey’s (AENJ) Middle School Art Teacher of the Year award for

2009. Furthermore, DeConde loves inspiring fellow art teachers by teaching art workshops at the AENJ conventions and volunteering her time as a co-chair at this year's Ocean County YAM (Youth Art Month) Art show. In the past, DeConde has been awarded Teacher of the Year by her district and has won many art contests, including her favorite, the Kellogg's Rice Crispy Sculpture Contest, and grants for her school. The money is spent on art supplies for her free after school art enrichment classes. DeConde noted, "Art should be available to everyone who wants the chance to express themselves...especially middle school children. I try to create art assignments that really speak to my students and make them excited to come to class!" DeConde added that she could not have done it without the love and support of her husband, Dave, daughter, Daniella, and son, David.

Silvia Dukes ASM '98, BSBA '01

Silvia Dukes was awarded the designation of Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS) by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR), which recognizes members who have achieved the necessary training and experience to work successfully with international clients and properties. To earn the CIPS designation, REALTORS® (NAR members' designation) complete rigorous course work devoted to learning cultural differences and international business practices as well as prove achievement in international real estate transactions. Dukes joins a distinguished society of more than 1,600 real estate professionals worldwide who have earned this designation. "This is a highly prestigious award in our industry," said Barbara Schmerzler, CIPS, NAR International Operations committee chair. Dukes also is a member of the Transnational Referral Network through the International Consortium of Real Estate Associations and holds the At Home with Diversity Certification. She is a REALTOR® with Tropic Shores Realty in Spring Hill, Fla.

Deborah L. Edmonson BA '07

Deborah L. Edmonson is planning to further her education by becoming a LVN (licensed vocational nurse). She began her next educational journey in November 2009.

Mildred Purcell Fritz BSN '04

Mildred Purcell Fritz, a school nurse, received a Master of Science in Nursing and Health Education degree from St. Joseph's College of Maine.

Delgratia D. Greene-Robinson BA '08

Delgratia D. Greene-Robinson is in the process of completing her doctoral dissertation on humanitarian violence against children. She also began her practicum working with offenders in California. Greene-Robinson anticipates graduating with her doctorate degree in 2012 after completing her internship for the California School of Forensic Psychology at Alliant International University in Irvine California under the direction of Dr. Eric Hickey.

Dr. John T. Hill BSHS '91

Dr. John T. Hill recently published his fourth textbook, *Directed Police Patrol: And Other Service-Driven Policing Strategies* (2nd edition, Pearson Publishing, Boston, Mass.). Hill serves as an associate professor of criminal justice at Salt Lake Community College in Utah.

Jennett Ingrassia AASRT '02, BSAST '05

Jennett Ingrassia received a Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS) degree from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, in December 2008. This is one of only three colleges in the country to offer this type of master's degree. Currently Ingrassia is an assistant professor in the Radiologic Technology and Medical Imaging Department at New York City College of Technology of the City University of New York.

Patricia A. Martinelli MAPS '03

Patricia A. Martinelli is looking forward to the release of her next true crime book, *Rain of Bullets*, in February 2010. On Nov. 17, 1950, a Gloucester County New Jersey man named Ernest Ingenito shot and killed five of his in-laws during a domestic violence dispute. The book, based on court records and Ingenito's personal papers, relates what happened that night and the trials that followed.

Pete Mazzaroni ASPSS '92, BSHS '95

Pete Mazzaroni, the manager of public affairs at Roche Carolina, recently earned a Master of Science in Administration (MSA) degree from Central Michigan University.

Melody McBeth BA '08

Melody McBeth has been named the director of Advancement Services at the Mercersburg Academy, a preparatory boarding school in south-central Pennsylvania. McBeth credits the possession of her Thomas Edison State College BA as the pivotal factor in her appointment. Without the degree, the search for a new director would have quickly become external, noted McBeth, who now directly leads a team of five members, while providing guidance and assistance to the entire alumni and development office as the Mercersburg Academy embarks on a new campaign. McBeth lives with her husband and two children in Scotland, Pa.

Virginia Pendleton BA '08

Virginia (Landow) Pendleton married Joel Blaine Pendleton on July 4, 2009.

Robert Schwenck BSAST '08

Robert Schwenck is the vice president of the company Wired 2 Save, LLC. The company is a tenant of the Burlington County Small Business Incubator and a member of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce.

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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 the 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.

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Michael J. Semones ASAST '89

Michael J. Semones was recently presented with the distinguished 2009 Transportation Safety Professional of the Year Award by the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE). Semones was recognized for his lifelong dedication to the safety profession, his involvement in ASSE affairs, his promotion of the safety profession to local college students and his educational presentations at ASSE Professional Development Conferences. Semones noted, "I am always willing to assist anyone who can benefit from my safety expertise."

Patti Sherlock BA '00

Patti Sherlock's memoir, *A Dog for All Seasons*, will be published in April 2010 by St. Martin's Press, New York. The author's working relationship with her Border Collie, Duncan, got her through the ups and downs of 16 years on a sheep farm in Idaho. Duncan was her unwavering companion through the destruction of her marriage, her children inevitably leaving home one by one and, eventually, her decision to stop raising sheep. The book is a reflection on beginning and endings and the cycle of seasons in all of our lives. The memoir is the author's sixth book. Sherlock has written two other nonfiction books for adults and three novels for young adults.



Rodney Stone AA '07, BSAST '95

Rodney Stone, who recently completed two graduate courses toward a master's degree program at the University of Oklahoma, explained that it was his experience at Thomas Edison State College that made all the difference. He noted, "The mentors were very knowledgeable and current with information in their profession. I am making plans to enroll in additional classes through Thomas Edison State College once I return from deployment. Thomas Edison State College is absolutely the best!"

Lenore Villavecchia AA '03

Lenore Villavecchia obtained a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Dundee, U.K., in 2008.

James Voorhies BSAST '03

James Voorhies recently passed the Board of Certified Safety Professionals examination. Currently employed by SM Stoller Corporation as a health and safety manager, Voorhies noted, "Thank you Thomas Edison State College for helping to set my career in the right direction."

Richard R. Zientek AA '73

Richard R. Zientek, who received a BA degree in public administration from St. Thomas University in Florida in 1984, retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as a chief warrant officer. Currently residing in Lakewood, Colo., he is on a mission to visit every state in the United States.