

SPRING 2009

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



Virtuoso

Dr. Arthur C. Brooks '94

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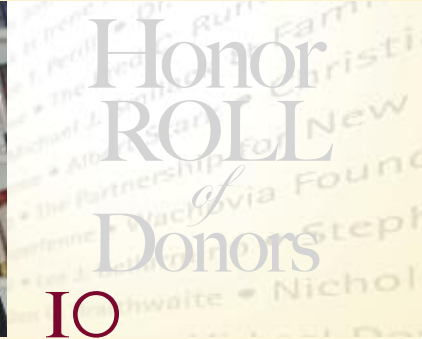
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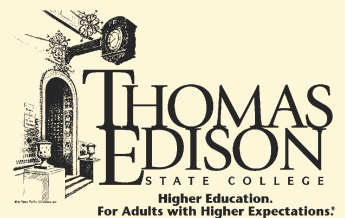
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American Enterprise Institute





Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Barbara Bush said, "Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."

This issue of *Invention* is dedicated to the people and organizations who, through their support of Thomas Edison State College, illustrate what the former first lady is talking about.

We are very fortunate to receive the financial support of many individuals, businesses, corporations and employees of the College, especially in today's challenging economic climate. The annual support we receive helps the College continue to increase enrollment, expand educational programs and maintain our commitment to academic excellence.

I am honored to tell you about two extraordinary graduates who embody the spirit of Thomas Edison State College.

One is Dr. Arthur Brooks '94, president of the American Enterprise Institute. This husband and father of three recalls how the College helped him make a profound career change - from a professional orchestra musician to one of the country's leading social scientists focusing on the relationship between culture, economics and politics.

The other is Col. Dennis Devery '05, who was recently appointed chief of staff of the New Jersey Army National Guard. Col. Devery tells us how the College helped prepare him for positions of greater responsibility at work and sparked his desire to earn a doctoral degree.

These graduates' stories underscore the importance of Thomas Edison State College's mission and the financial support we receive every year from loyal donors, including the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

On behalf of the entire College family, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Foundation for its support of our institution and for its work on behalf of the Annual Fund, our special events and other development initiatives. The Foundation is at the heart of these efforts and we are grateful for its support, just as we are grateful for the generous gifts made by all of our donors.

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

Dr. Pruitt Earns New Jersey State Nurses Association President's Award

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, has been selected by the New Jersey State Nurses Association to receive the association's 2009 President's Award.

The award is given each year by the president of the New Jersey State Nurses Association to an individual who is not a nurse but who has been a champion for the nursing profession. The association elects a new president every two years.

"Dr. Pruitt's unwavering support for nursing's right to determine its future is very important to us at this time," said Dr. Barbara Chamberlain, current president of the New Jersey State Nurses Association. "This is an interesting time for nurses. As we face national nurse shortages and national nurse educator shortages, there are a



Dr. Susan O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing, and Dr. George A. Pruitt.

variety of emerging roles for nurses that are enabling us to break new boundaries in healthcare. Dr. Pruitt has known that all along and has supported nursing tremendously."

At Thomas Edison State College, Dr. Pruitt has provided strong support for more than 25 years for the ongoing development and expansion of the nursing program. During that time, the program has grown to its current enrollment of more than 1,000 RNs from more than 30 states across the country, and has expanded from an RN-BSN degree program to an RN-BSN/MSN degree program.

"Dr. Pruitt has provided the School of Nursing with both the consistent and solid support needed to accomplish its goals," said Dr. Susan O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing. Dr. Pruitt received the award at the New Jersey State Nurses Association reception and awards dinner on March 25 in Atlantic City, N.J.



College and UPS Honored

Thomas Edison State College's partnership with UPS received a Corporate University Xchange Award for Excellence and Innovation in Corporate Learning on Feb. 25 in Philadelphia. The partnership earned the Award for Exemplary Practice in the Corporate/College Partnership category. Pictured at the Corporate University's gala event are (*back row, from left*) Anne Schwartz, vice president of Corporate Learning and Development at UPS; Dr. David Grossman, dean of the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, Sylvia Hamilton, vice provost for Strategic Partnerships; and (*front row, from left*) Pat Myers, corporate compensation manager at UPS; and Executive Vice Provost Dr. Mary Ellen Caro. Corporate University awards recognize corporate and government learning organizations that create programs that demonstrate measurable improvements in employee and business performance.

College Dean Named to Foundation for Child Development Board

Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service, and director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, at Thomas



Edison State College, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Child Development.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Youngblood join the board of the Foundation for Child Development. His commitment to the education of New Jersey's children, especially during their pre-kindergarten through third grade years, will be of great benefit to the children that the Foundation seeks to support," said Foundation President Ruby Takanishi. The Foundation for Child Development is a national, private philanthropy established in 1899 that seeks to understand children, particularly the disadvantaged, and to promote their

Dr. Joseph Youngblood II

well-being. The Foundation believes that families, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses and government at all levels share complementary responsibilities in the critical task of raising new generations.

"I am honored by my selection to the Board of the Foundation of Child Development and excited to serve an organization with its history, mission and values," said Youngblood. "I am equally excited to work with the Foundation's extraordinarily talented and committed group of leaders and board members to promote the well-being and positive development of our children."

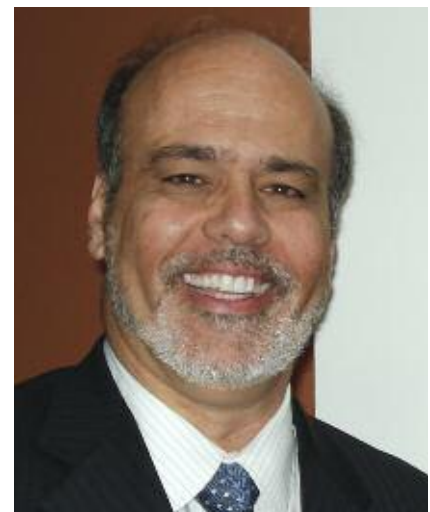
Business Dean Earns 2009 Emerald Award

A published paper on organization leadership co-authored by Dr. Joseph C. Santora, dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College, has been selected as an Outstanding Paper Award winner at the 2009 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence.

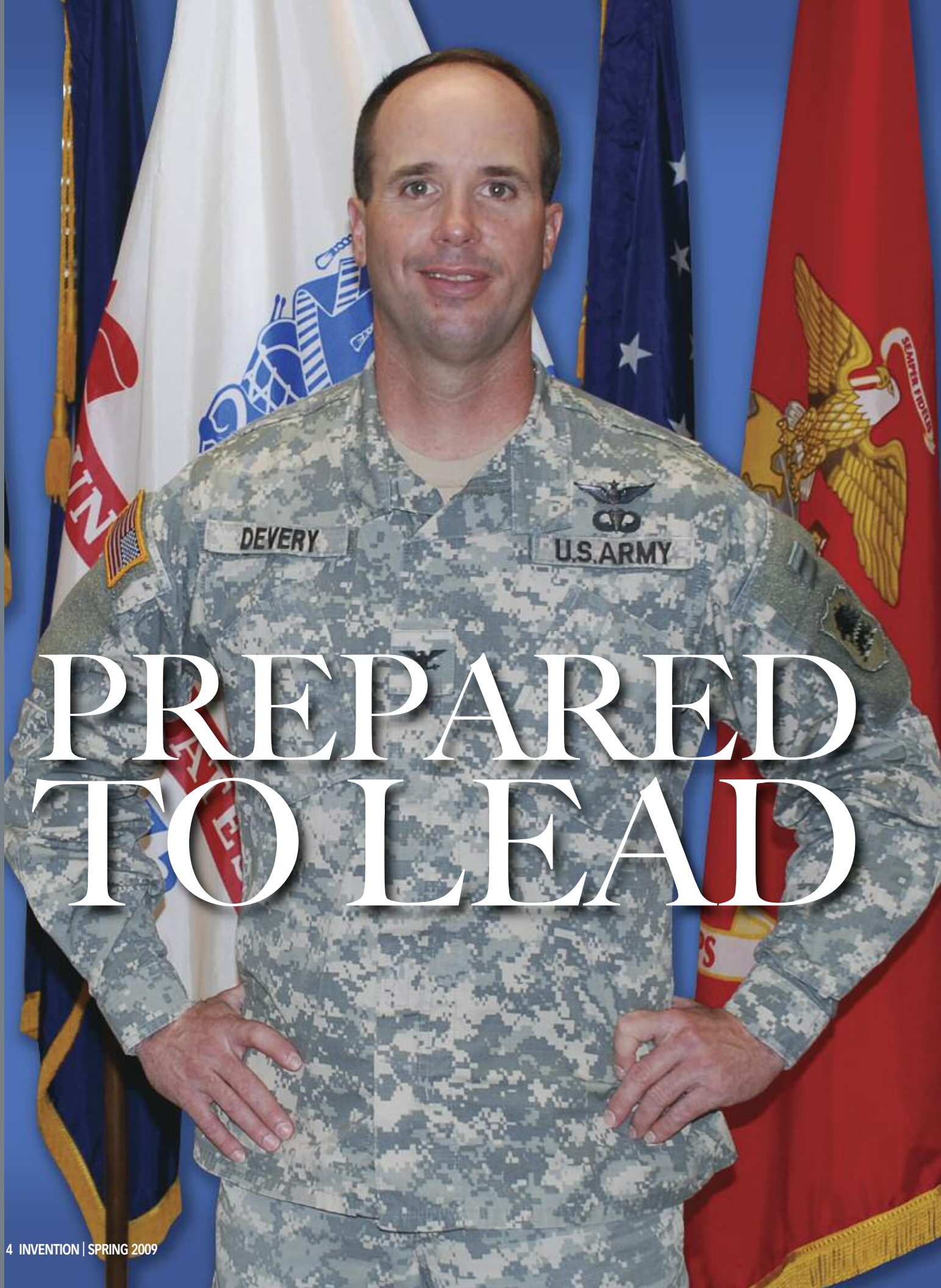
Santora wrote the article, "Founders leaders and organizational life cycles: the choice is easy – learn or fail!" with James Sarros, professor of Management at Monash University in Australia. The paper was published in *Development and Learning in Organizations: An International Journal*.

Every year, Emerald invites each journal's editorial team to nominate what they believe has been that title's outstanding paper and up to three highly commended papers from the previous 12 months. The award-winning papers are chosen following consultation among the journal's editorial team, many of whom are eminent academics or managers.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Emerald and the editorial team from this prestigious journal," Santora said. "There were many outstanding papers considered, and to be recognized by one's peers is very rewarding."



Dr. Joseph C. Santora



PREPARED TO LEAD

HOW THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE PREPARED COL. DENNIS DEVERY TO LEAD THE NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Col. Dennis Devery is responsible for thousands of U.S. soldiers, dozens of military facilities through the state and a budget of more than \$150 million, but he never thought he would go to college.

Today, Devery '05, serves as chief of staff of the New Jersey Army National Guard and may be the perfect role model for the men and women in his command.

"I am excited about taking on the responsibilities of the chief of staff for the New Jersey Army National Guard," said Devery, who was appointed to his new post in November by Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey. "The New Jersey Army National Guard provides critical life-saving services to the citizens of New Jersey and our nation during periods of crisis, and I am excited about leading those efforts."

Working from the New Jersey National Guard Joint Force Headquarters at Fort Dix, N.J., Devery is responsible for the daily operations of the New Jersey Army National Guard, the supervision of all full-time personnel and the management of Army National Guard facilities throughout the state. He said his main goal is to ensure that his units are prepared to respond to natural or man-made disasters in New Jersey and to ready those same units for deployment overseas.

“THE MANAGEMENT OF 6,000 SOLDIERS, A \$153 MILLION ANNUAL BUDGET AND 32 FACILITIES SPREAD ACROSS THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY REQUIRES THE TYPE OF STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP I LEARNED IN THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE’S MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT (MSM) PROGRAM.”

Devery, who has 27 years of military service, added that he "was inspired to join the armed forces by a great sense of patriotism and a desire to serve my state and nation."

Prior to his assignment as chief of staff, Devery served as the director of Military Support at the New Jersey National Guard Homeland Security Center in Lawrenceville, N.J. He has held numerous command and staff assignments that have prepared him for the responsibilities of the chief of staff position. Those assignments include recruiting

commander, state public affairs officer, aviation facility commander, supervisory instructor pilot, cavalry squadron executive officer, aviation company commander and infantry company commander.

"Earning my MSM degree from Thomas Edison State College provided me with the knowledge and self-confidence to seek positions of greater responsibility at work and the desire to attain a doctoral degree," explained Devery, who earned his master's degree from the College in 2005. "My desire to pursue my degree at Thomas Edison State College was based on three factors: a passion for learning leadership and management practices that the MSM program provided; a realization that as a senior officer in the military I needed the knowledge and credentials that such a degree offered; and an awareness that my demanding work schedule required participation in a flexible program. Thomas Edison State College met all three of these requirements and it was an exceptional experience."

Devery has also earned a Bachelor of Science in Management degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the Army War College; and is currently a doctoral student at Rowan University.

Devery gave kudos to a number of individuals whose encouragement helped him realize his personal and professional accomplishments.

"I owe my academic success to my mother, mentors from the National Guard and a few family friends who pushed me toward college because they understood the value of higher education," he said. "Today, I try to mentor young people in the military and at high schools around New Jersey to go to college. I often advise soldiers that Thomas Edison State College is the way to go based on the College's reputation for academic excellence and its flexibility for students with demanding schedules."

In his spare time, Devery runs, cycles, fishes, kayaks and works out, but his favorite pastime is snow skiing. "My family and I have skied all over the world including the Alps in Germany, the Rocky Mountains out west, and the hills of Vermont and Pennsylvania," he said.

Devery and his wife Kelly, an attorney at the law firm of Capehart and Scatchard, reside in Moorestown, N.J., with their two children.

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“Thomas Edison State College’s academic model was unique and useful to me, and it was the only effective way I could have earned my bachelor’s degree.”

Virtuoso

**DR. ARTHUR C. BROOKS GIVES A COMMAND
PERFORMANCE, FROM THE BARCELONA ORCHESTRA
TO THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE**

Arthur C. Brooks can tell you about personal transformation.

In just five years, he went from being the associate principal French hornist for the City Orchestra of Barcelona to become a maestro of a different kind, earning his PhD in policy analysis and becoming a widely-published college professor. Brooks would eventually emerge as one of the country's leading social scientists focusing on the relationship between culture, economics and politics. In 2009, he became the 11th president of the American Enterprise Institute, the independent, conservative think tank founded in 1943.

His journey began in 1993, when Brooks left the orchestra to complete his bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State College.



Dr. Arthur C. Brooks at the White House in 2008 attending a state dinner held in honor of the president of Ghana. Pictured with Brooks are: former Ghana First Lady Theresa Kufuor, former First Lady Laura Bush, former President of Ghana John Agyekum Kufuor, former President George W. Bush and Ester Brooks.

“While I was still performing in the orchestra, I began banking previously earned college credits toward a BA degree in economics at Thomas Edison State College,” recalled Brooks. “It was the most efficient way I could find of pooling my previously earned college credits.”

After earning a few more credits via testing, Brooks received his BA in economics from the College in 1994.

“Thomas Edison State College’s academic model was unique and useful to me, and it was the only effective way I could have earned my bachelor’s degree,” said Brooks. “At the time, sitting in a classroom for me was incompatible with any meaningful existence.”

It was an existence made all the more meaningful by Brooks’ increasing exposure to economics, research and public policy. “After I had taken some economics and statistics courses, I was hooked,” noted Brooks. “I felt right at home with the data and analytics behind social research.”

After graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Brooks went on to earn his a master’s degree in economics from Florida Atlantic University and both a

master’s in philosophy and PhD in policy analysis from the Frederick S. Pardee RAND Graduate School in Santa Monica, Calif.

“My studies at RAND Graduate School further exposed me to think tanks and the role they play in informing public policy and philanthropy,” he noted.

Brooks remains modest about his current post as president of the American Enterprise Institute, where he orchestrates movements vastly different than those from his Barcelona days. Newt Gingrich, Lynn V. Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz are among the institute’s 90 senior fellows and scholars who are Brooks’ colleagues.

“It’s an 80-hour-a-week undertaking with 200 employees to manage and it can be a very complex place. I always intended to get back to working with think tanks; I just didn’t expect to run one,” said Brooks, who is now piloting the institute through the same fiscal environment that is pushing 100,000 other U.S. nonprofits toward collapse. “Our immediate responsibility is adapting the institute to the current economic climate.”

Brooks is never one to choose the task of least resistance.

The opportunity to serve as president of the American Enterprise Institute came in mid-2008 at a time when Brooks was being pulled in many directions.

He was already the Louis A. Bantle Professor of Business and Government Policy at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and a visiting scholar for the American Enterprise Institute. Brooks had also already proven his mettle as a successful editor, columnist, author and social pundit, serving as a frequent contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*.

In addition, several members of his congressional district of Syracuse, N.Y., were pressing him to run for Congress and, at the same time, he was being offered a deanship.

The American Enterprise Institute proved to be the most attractive option for Brooks, who assumed its presidency in January 2009.

Brooks brings a healthy confluence of pragmatism and scholarship to the American Enterprise Institute. He has written nearly 70 magazine articles and columns as well as 60 academic articles on subjects ranging from volunteerism, philanthropy and the public value of controversial art; to religion, nonprofit management and politics.

In addition, Brooks has published seven books,



Dr. Arthur C. Brooks meeting Pope Benedict XVI

including *Gross National Happiness: Why Happiness Matters for America* and *Who Really Cares: The Surprising Truth About Compassionate Conservatism*. He is currently working on his eighth book, *The Virtue of Vice: Why Bad Things are Good for Us*.

“At the root of this was me following my dream along with a firm push from my wife, Ester,” said Brooks, who considers his wife the most positive influence in his life. They were musicians in Barcelona when she urged him to complete his undergraduate studies.

“Everyone should have a career that sings to them, though many people never achieve that,” he said. “Whether it is through retraining or going back to college, the remedy is easier than people realize and the payoff is a huge, wonderful thing. The answer for me was in my single decision to complete my college degree.”

Brooks and his wife reside in Chevy Chase, Md., with their three children.

“Everyone should have a career that sings to them... The answer for me was in my single decision to complete my college degree.”



Honor Roll *of* Donors

Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

It is my privilege to present you with this year's edition of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Honor Roll of Donors.

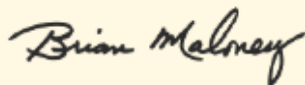
On behalf of the Foundation, we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who provided financial support this year. Your contributions play a critical role in strengthening the unique programs that Thomas Edison State College offers to adult learners throughout the world. We are particularly appreciative of your continuing generous support in the midst of the current economic downturn.

Through your support, this year the Foundation committed nearly \$125,000 to support a variety of projects at Thomas Edison State College, including the College's new Mobile Learning Initiative, a new scholarship program to further the College's partnership with the University of South Africa, and an advocacy program with New Jersey's senior public colleges and universities to strengthen public support for higher education. Also this year, the Foundation provided vital support for the continued development of the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership.

Thanks to you, both the College and the Foundation remain strong. The College's mission to serve adult learners does not ebb and flow with the economy, and enrollment at the College continues to grow rapidly. With your support we will come through the recession even better able to serve the College's students. Together, we are helping to build a stronger future.

Now more than ever, your support secures the future of this outstanding institution and makes the success of Thomas Edison State College possible.

Sincerely,



Brian T. Maloney

Chair, Thomas Edison State College Foundation



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Susan R. Atlas BA '03

Susan R. Atlas study acupuncture at the Tai Sophia Institute in Laurel, Md., where she graduated in 2007 with a master's of acupuncture degree. She noted that Thomas Edison State College's evaluation process made it possible for her to use credits earned at several other accredited colleges to earn her bachelor's degree without retaking courses.

C.J. Batterson BSHS '93

C.J. Batterson is a counselor and the executive director of The Refuge of Southwestern Michigan. A Christian counseling service, The Refuge received not-for-profit status in June 2008, and recently started a mentoring ministry for men, women and children.

Morgan L. Chappell BA '08

Morgan L. Chappell was recently promoted to gang detective at the Watsonville Police Department, in Watsonville, Calif. On Sept. 22, 2008, Chappell celebrated another milestone when he married his wife, Vanessa.



William A. Cole MSM '05

William A. Cole recently retired from the military as a command sergeant major after a 25 year career. During his service, Cole was assigned to the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization & Security (DPTMS), which was responsible for providing operational support for all U.S. Army installations in the southern half of South Korea. Cole noted that his senior civilian supervisor "had the greatest job in the world. It became my dream job and was the primary goal of my second career." Cole, who had already received a bachelor's degree from the College, decided to pursue a master's to realize that goal. "I knew that the education provided through the College would be beneficial. I thought that it would take seven to 10 years, but thanks largely to the education I receive through Thomas Edison State College and my prior military experience, I was hired as a GS-14 DPTMS in Daegu, Korea, last year. Thank you Thomas Edison State College for helping to prepare me for my dream by providing outstanding degree programs and exceptionally helpful mentors."

Theodora Czarnecki BA '02

Theodora Czarnecki, who received a doctorate degree in health administration from Kennedy Western University and a teaching certificate from Temple University, is a medical exams instructor at Penn Foster College in Scranton, Pa. Czarnecki was listed in the 2008 *Cambridge Who's Who* honors edition of empowering executives, professionals and entrepreneurs from around the globe.



Joe Doherty MSM '04

Joe Doherty retired from the New Jersey Department of Labor as a labor relations administrator following a 36-year career "that was rewarding." Doherty is currently serving as the hearing officer for Burlington County, N.J., on a part-time basis.

Glen M. Ewing BSN '06

Glen M. Ewing, RN, recently graduated with a Master's in Nurse Anesthesia from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Ewing is currently employed at the New Jersey State Trauma Center in Newark, N.J.

Judith I. Forney AA '89 BA '93

Judith I. Forney received an MA in anthropology from New Mexico State University in December 2008.

Jonathan M. Lausell Sr. BSHS '06

Jonathan M. Lausell Sr. recently graduated from the Columbia University School of Social Work with a Master of Science in Social Work degree. Lausell, who overcame a trouble youth, gives much of the credit for this recent achievement to Thomas Edison State College. He noted, "Your program and the way in which one can obtain their degree through online and Guided Study was the only way that this would have been possible." Lausell hopes that his story of success will inspire others and make them realize that with determination it is possible to achieve anything in life.

Amie (Strang) McCarthy BSBA '05

Amie (Strang) McCarthy recently left her position as a vice president at Bank of America, based in Charlotte, N.C. She is now the director of Alternative Markets at Freddie Mac, and resides in Washington, D.C. After graduation from Thomas Edison State College, McCarthy earned her MBA in finance from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Dr. Barbara Mitchell AA '79 BA '82

Barbara Mitchell, DCH, just published her first book, *When You Need a Timeout*, about managing stress on a daily basis for a healthier, balanced life. Mitchell is a stress management consultant and Doctor of Clinical Hypnotherapy addressing issues related to anxiety, phobias, smoking and weight.

Gerald Myers BA '04

Gerald Myers has been accepted into the master's of social work program at Syracuse University. Myers goal is to provide clinical services to veterans and their families, focusing on post traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse.

(Continued on back cover)

Connie Nichols BA '05

Prof. Connie Nichols was recently hired by the Palm Beach Community College faculty in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., as an adjunct in English. Nichols noted that in this era of tremendous job losses, she is especially grateful to Thomas Edison State College for helping her consolidate her educational credits and offering excellent online classes to wrap up her undergraduate degree. She added, "There was no way I could have finished the degree I started years ago without Thomas Edison State College and, without my BA, I would not have been an applicant for the MFA Creative Writing Program at the University of New Orleans. Now my MFA has led to an actual entry level position into a university profession. Thanks Thomas Edison State College!"

Charles H. Parker BA '01

Charles H. Parker is a major account executive at Sharp Electronics Corporation. In 2007, he earned his graduate certificate in Foundations of Human Resource Management from University of Maryland University College. Recently, Parker completed the graduation requirements for a Master of Science in Human Resource Management at Thomas Edison State College. He plans to begin his PhD studies in fall 2009.

Andy Rossiter ASAST '02 BSAST '02

Andy Rossiter graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix. He and his wife of 11 years, Susie, reside in Brunswick, Ohio.

Kevin Tanis BA '01

Kevin Tanis was promoted to director of Research & Development from engineering manager at Smith and Nephew Inc. in Memphis, Tenn., in 2008.

Mary E. Tobolski BSN '99

Mary E. Tobolski graduated from Wilmington University with an MSN and became APN-C (Advanced Practical Nurse, Certified) with national certification as Family Nurse Practitioner. Currently, Tobolski is working in gastroenterology practice.

Francisco Vallejo BA '83

Francisco Vallejo, a retiree, teaches drawing and painting to young adults and seniors.

Frank J. Wagner AA '73

Frank J. Wagner is now serving as assistant to the director of the Msgr. Shenrock Library, an unaffiliated resource center located in Manchester Township. Wagner retired in 2005 from the New Jersey Department of Higher Education after nearly 23 years of service at Kean University and Richard Stockton College. In 2008, he began religious studies at Ilem Institute and will eventually receive a master's in theology with a concentration in pastoral formation.

- ▶ New Job
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