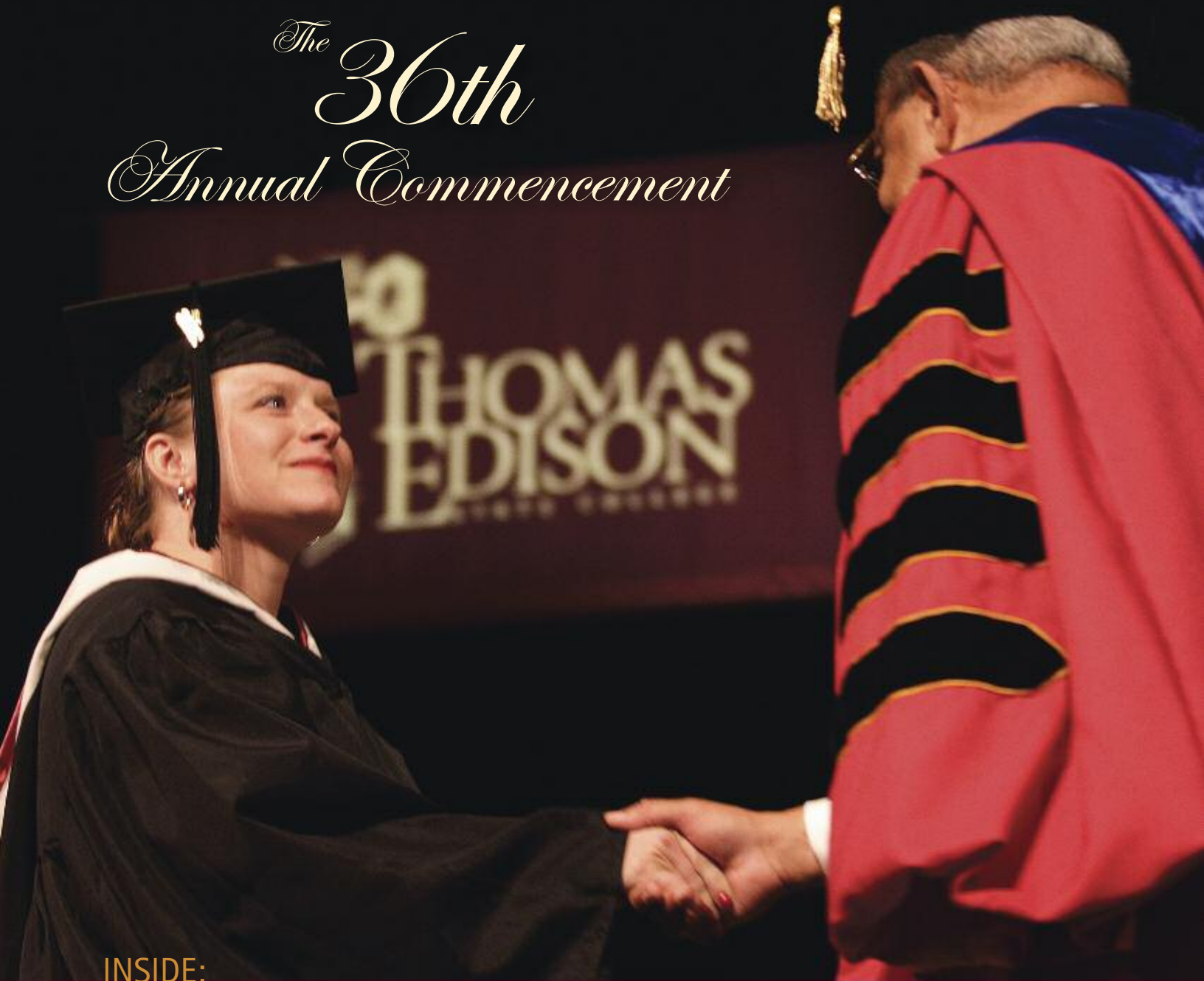


WINTER 2009

# Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

## *The 36th Annual Commencement*



### INSIDE:

- ▶ New Bachelor of Science degree in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- ▶ Your Courses... in a Flash
- ▶ New Certificates in Law Office Technology & Law and Procedure

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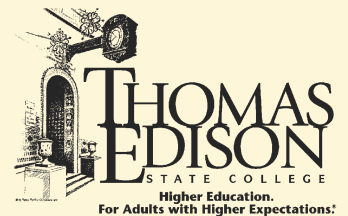
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Contributors

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The 36th Annual Commencement





## Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

The great author and activist Helen Keller said, “Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it.”

In this issue of *Invention*, we meet two graduates whose accomplishments illustrate Keller’s point. Thomas B. Lewis III was born blind and with cerebral palsy, but that did not stop him from becoming a musician and a college graduate. Amber Kreuter’s responsibilities include a full-time job and caring for her children and her husband, who is disabled. Even so, she was able to become the first member of her family to earn a college degree. Lewis and Kreuter joined nearly 400 fellow graduates at Thomas Edison State College’s 36th annual Commencement. Coverage of Commencement begins on page 6.

This issue also presents information on our Mobile Learning Initiative, which is creating new course delivery formats that give our students more flexibility and more course options designed around their needs. Mobile learning is the latest example of the College’s dedication to providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities to self-directed adults.

This new initiative was made possible through the support of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. One of the Foundation’s signature events is our Grande Ball, which is featured in this edition. Nearly 300 guests honored our 2008 Spirit of Edison Award recipients, which include former NFL Pro Bowl player Troy Vincent ’07, Joan Verplanck, president of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and Foundation Director Eric Lear, whose support and leadership are among our most valuable assets.

We are honored to serve and work with individuals like these.

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



# New Certificates in Law Office Technology & Law and Procedure Unveiled

The School of Professional and Continuing Studies has unveiled three new online professional certificates that are being offered through the *New York Times* Knowledge Network.

The New York Times  
**Knowledge Network**

The new certificates include:

- ▶ **Contemporary Law Office Technology**, which offers a comprehensive examination of technology and computer functions in the contemporary law office, including an understanding of the use of legal specific software programs and the impact of court rules and procedures concerning electronic filings and discovery procedures.
- ▶ **Understanding Debtor/Creditor Law and Procedure**, which provides a comprehensive examination of debtor/creditor law and procedure and non-bankruptcy debt management, and an overview of the principles of bankruptcy law and procedure.
- ▶ **Bankruptcy Law and Procedure**, which focuses on the nature, creation and management of debt, including credit arrangements, credit reporting practices, sureties, guarantors, mortgages, security interests, statutory and equitable liens, debt collection, judgment collection and alternatives to bankruptcy.

For more information, visit [www.nytimesknownow.com](http://www.nytimesknownow.com).

## College Expands Partnership with Energy Providers Coalition

Thomas Edison State College has expanded its partnership with the Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE) to include an undergraduate certificate in Gas Distribution.

The 15-credit certificate is offered completely online and can be applied toward the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree program, including students who select the energy utility technology or technical studies area of study.

Course work combines an overview of gas utility construction, operations and maintenance with regulatory and economic impact, incident investigation and the principles of management to provide a well-rounded understanding of gas distribution.

"This anticipated utility workforce shortage will create incredible demand on the energy workforce," said Dr. Thomas Devine, associate dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology. "We designed this program with a panel of industry experts from EPCE's membership to directly address industry requirements and are excited to be able to provide this program at a time when workforce development is so crucial."

The gas distribution certificate is available to all students. For more information, visit [www.tesc.edu/technology](http://www.tesc.edu/technology) or call (888) 442-8372.



YOUR COURSES... IN A

# FLASH

## New Course Format for Students Coming Soon

**T**homas Edison State College is preparing to launch its latest format for course delivery, a new mobile learning platform that enables students to complete courses with little or no Internet connection.

Beginning in spring 2009, the first courses of Thomas Edison State College's *Mobile Learning Initiative* will be made available to students. These new courses will be called FlashTrack courses, and will take their place alongside of the College's other offerings, such as online courses, e-Pack® courses and Prior Learning Assessment. These courses will be delivered to students on a single 2 gigabyte (GB) flash drive – a device smaller than a pack of gum – and contain the same structure and functionality of typical online Thomas Edison State College course.

"Our mobile learning platform will give students more flexibility to do their course work while commuting, on military deployment, sitting on the beach or in any instance where Web connectivity is not convenient or immediately available," said Dr. P. Henry van Zyl, vice provost, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning at Thomas Edison State College. "It recreates the online experience in an offline setting."

The *Mobile Learning Initiative* is being made possible with funding from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

"Through the generous contributions of our alumni, students and friends, the Foundation is able to provide funding for programs like the Mobile Learning Initiative that leverage the latest educational technologies to provide more options for our students," said John Thurber, executive vice president of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

### PHASE ONE

The first FlashTrack courses will enable students to complete the course without an Internet connection. These initial 14 FlashTrack courses will prepare students to take a pass or fail final exam, which will determine whether they earn credit for the course.

Roll-out for students is scheduled for April 2009.

Flash drives that contain the first FlashTrack courses will come to students with everything preloaded to complete the course, including all course materials as well as the software necessary for word processing and spreadsheets, media players, PDF and photo-viewing programs, and e-mail and Web utilities for students with access to the Internet.

"The flash drive acts in much the same way a computer hard drive does, but it is portable, secure, reusable and completely self-contained," noted van Zyl.



## PHASE TWO

The second phase of FlashTrack courses involves converting additional College courses to be made available through a flash drive.

Van Zyl said the portability and integrity of the flash drives will be an attractive option to deployed military personnel, mass transit riders and busy adults who are mobile more often than they are at a stationary location.

"The flash drives are completely secure," he said. "There's nothing left behind on the host computer – all personal and course information is isolated on the flash drive, which students take away with them."

The devices are compatible with both PCs and MACs, so students using the new format can go from computer-to-computer, or device-to-device, completing and saving their course work each time without leaving a digital footprint.

## LEVERAGING THE SMARTPHONE

In addition to FlashTrack courses, the College's *Mobile Learning Initiative* includes courses that can be accessed through smartphones, such as the Blackberry, the Palm and the iPhone, that can access the Internet.

These courses will enable students to use their smartphones to download multiple choice quizzes and submit their answers directly to the College. The College anticipates that *e-Pack*® courses will be the first to leverage this technology.

Initially, the College expects to offer 10 new courses that leverage smartphones by spring 2009.

"From an outreach standpoint, the College will also be able to transmit term calendar reminders, surveys, alerts, course news and updates to targeted student audiences instantly," said van Zyl.



The new mobile learning

platform will give students

more flexibility to complete

their course work.



# The 36th Annual Commencement

## TWO GRADS FROM '08 OVERCOME ADVERSITIES TO REACH THEIR GOALS

Thomas B. Lewis III and Amber Kreuter can tell you about challenges and fate. Both valiantly rose to the former and refused to accept the latter.

Lewis, BA '08, of Mt. Laurel, N.J., did not let blindness stand in the way of achieving his personal vision.

"I was born with cerebral palsy 34 years ago and am legally blind, and it looked like the path in my life was set," he recalled. "But when I visited my sister's music teacher, he must have seen something in me. Since I didn't have the dexterity for trombone, sax and guitar, he put a set of drumsticks into my hands – and I was home."

Later, Lewis took up the keyboard and with the help of local musician John Rivera, he learned to combine his

keyboard with a home computer software program. The pair eventually produced a disc that is raising funds to help families with disabilities.

After Lewis earned his associate degree from Burlington County College, he was encouraged to enroll in Thomas Edison State College by a mentor at the New Jersey Commission for the Blind.

"My sole purpose with my music is to enlighten the listeners and let them know that dreams are possible – and not just for children," he said. "The College gave me







*Amber Kreuter '08 became the first member of her family to earn a college degree. She completed her studies while caring for her family and managing her career.*

the flexibility to achieve more. I learned the discipline and patience that sustains me in my work.”

Like Lewis, Amber Kreuter, BSBS '08, of Pennsauken, N.J., also completed her degree while managing extraordinary challenges.

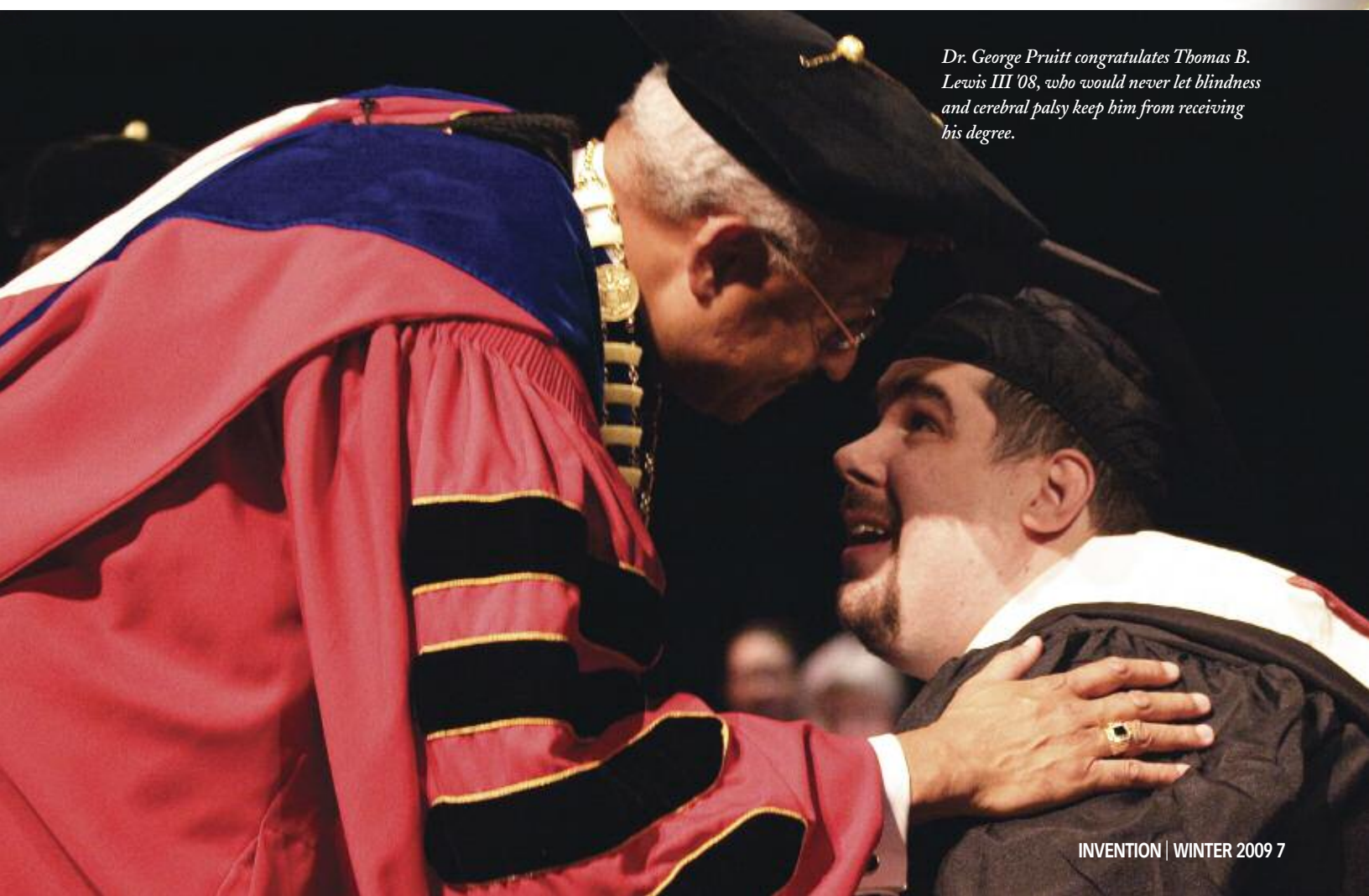
“While I had always hoped to complete my degree, tough times and family responsibilities forced me to

put my education on the back burner,” recounted Kreuter.

“Later, when I obtained my position as a director at Over the Rainbow preschool in Philadelphia, I realized that state regulations would demand that I obtain a college degree. Also, as a child from a family where no one had even graduated high school, earning a degree became a personal goal.”

That goal would not be simple. Kreuter was faced with overwhelming obligations and earning her degree seemed hopelessly out of reach.

“With two children, a disabled husband and a job that required 60-plus hours of my time per week, I needed a program with a lot of flexibility,” she said. “Thomas Edison State College met, and exceeded, all my expectations.”



*Dr. George Pruitt congratulates Thomas B. Lewis III '08, who would never let blindness and cerebral palsy keep him from receiving his degree.*



Lewis and Kreuter joined nearly 400 graduates from 28 U.S. states, including Alaska, who received their diplomas at the College's 36th Annual Commencement ceremony, which took place on Oct. 11 at The War Memorial in Trenton, N.J.

Two individuals addressed the graduates at the event.

Robert Boccolini, BA '08, of Marlton, N.J., gave the response for the

graduates. Boccolini, who is a court reporter, said members of the Class of 2008 have all overcome challenges to achieve their goals.

"We stand before you today as individual men and women who have decided that they would not allow their circumstances, their fears or their situations to stop them from fulfilling their dreams," he said.

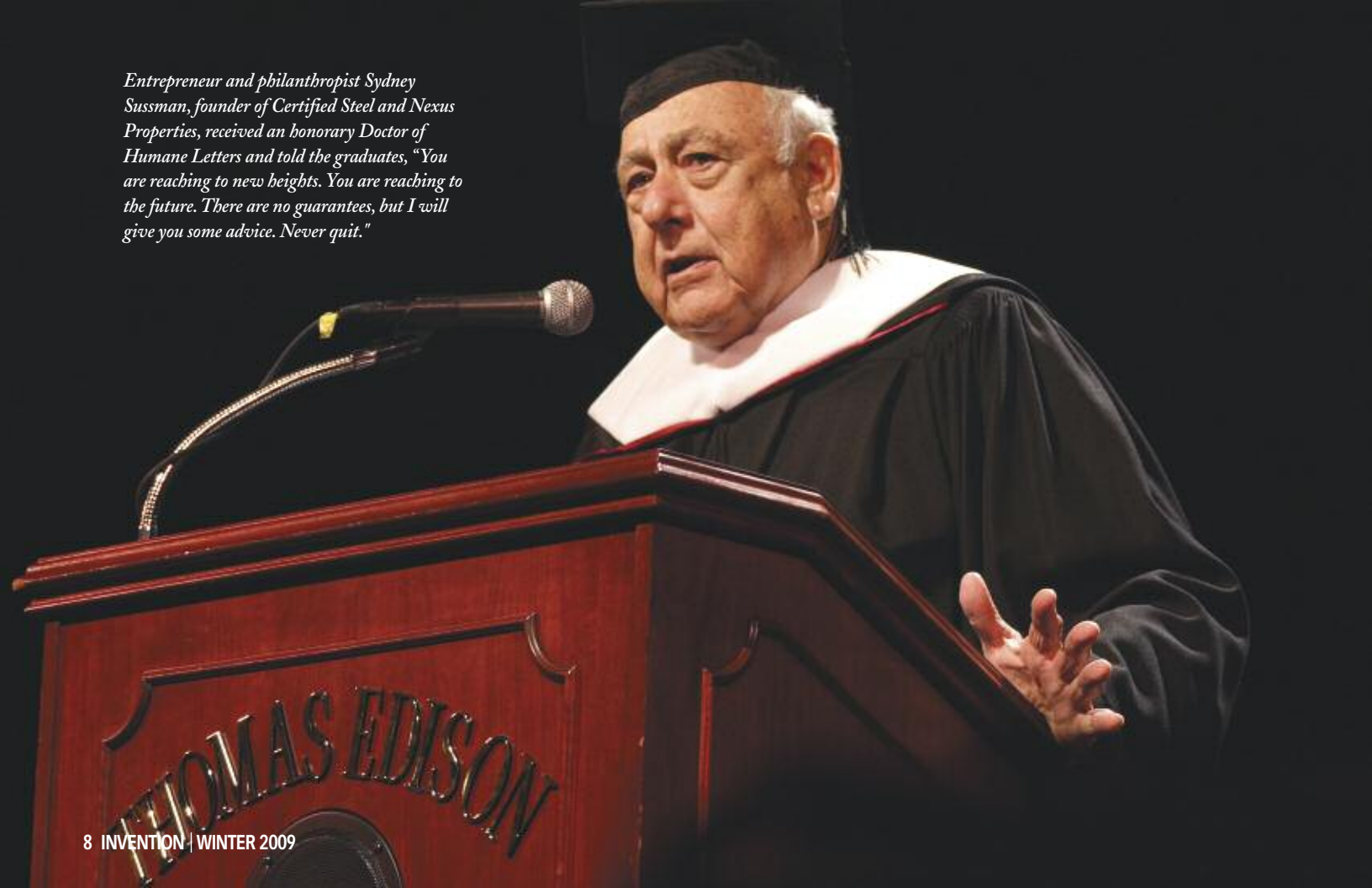
Boccolini quoted Mark Twain to

conclude his remarks.

"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed in the things you didn't do than with the things you did do. Throw off the bow lines, sail away from the safe harbor, and catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Sydney Sussman, founder of Certified Steel and Nexus Properties,

*Entrepreneur and philanthropist Sydney Sussman, founder of Certified Steel and Nexus Properties, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters and told the graduates, "You are reaching to new heights. You are reaching to the future. There are no guarantees, but I will give you some advice. Never quit."*





*In his response for the graduates, Robert Boccolini, '08, of Marlton, N.J., said the Class of 2008 is filled with extraordinary people that "would not allow their circumstances, their fears or their situations to stop them from fulfilling their dreams."*

received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and gave a heartfelt message to the graduates.

"I think there are about 400 people here who should be up on stage beside me, receiving the degree I am receiving," he said. "You are reaching to new heights. You are reaching to the future. There are no guarantees, but I will give you some advice. Never quit. There is no such thing as a problem. There is only the absence of a solution."

The College awarded more than 2,400 degrees in 2008 and has awarded more than 32,000 degrees since it began providing flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self directed adults in 1972.



## Like Father, Like Son

Russell MacArthur did not have to search the audience to see his father when he accepted his college degree. His dad, Glen, was right by his side.

Both men, of Washington, N.J., received their Bachelor of Arts degrees during Thomas Edison State College's 36th Annual Commencement in October. For Russell MacArthur, a Hunterdon County Post Office employee who aims to become a federal postal inspector, the jubilation of earning his college degree is two-fold.

"I'm very proud of my dad because of where he came from," said MacArthur. "Odds were against him. He went directly into the Army at a very young age and earned his GED while serving his country. He provided the support system to me that he never had, and what he has accomplished is amazing."

The elder MacArthur is now a vice president at Telcordia Technologies and holds two U.S. patents for voice over internet protocol.

If it was tricky for his father to navigate up the ranks of telecommunication industry in the 1980s without a degree, it was impossible for the younger MacArthur, who entered the workforce years later – without a bachelor's degree.

Not surprisingly, MacArthur said it was his father who provided an inspiration to work harder at completing his degree.

"At Thomas Edison State College, I really began to pick up the pace with course completion after my dad enrolled after me and started earning such high grades," he said.



# THE GRANDE BALL 2008

## Starry Night

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2008

### THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION HONORS TROY VINCENT '07, JOAN VERPLANCK AND ERIC LEAR

**N**early 300 guests helped the Thomas Edison State College Foundation honor three outstanding individuals and raise money for Thomas Edison State College at its annual Grande Ball, which was held at The Hyatt Regency in Princeton, N.J., on Oct. 25.

The black tie gala event raised approximately \$113,000 for Thomas Edison State College and honored three 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:

**Troy Vincent, BA '07**, former NFL Pro Bowl player and Trenton native, recipient of the 2008 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award.

**Joan Verplanck**, president of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, recipient of the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.

**Eric Lear**, managing partner at Lear & Pannepacker, LLP, in Princeton, recipient of the Spirit of Edison Family Award. Lear is only the sixth person to ever receive the Spirit of Edison Family Award, which recognizes an individual's extraordinary

contributions to Thomas Edison State College.

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. "Troy, Joan and Eric have each made extraordinary contributions to their communities and in their respective fields. They are an inspiration to us all."

*Top row, from left: Marilyn Pearson, chair of the College Board of Trustees, with Dr. George Pruitt; Foundation Director Dr. Michael Toscani and his wife, Lauren Murphy, examine silent auction items; newly elected Foundation Director Gil Medina with Bonnie Pfeleiderer. Below, from left: The horn section of L.A. Starz entertains the crowd; Gala Committee Co-chairs Maria Imbalzano and Peggy Hoisington make remarks; The Hyatt Regency's dance floor awaits its guests.*





*Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College with this year's honorees, Troy Vincent '07, Joan Verplanck and Eric Lear.*

## TROY VINCENT, BA '07

A 15-year NFL veteran, Troy Vincent, BA '07, was an All-Pro defensive back who has made powerful contributions and leadership on and off the field for the Miami Dolphins, Philadelphia Eagles, Buffalo Bills and Washington Redskins. As one of the most respected players in the NFL, he has served as the president-elect of the National Football League Players Association. Vincent was the only athlete to receive the NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year, the *Sporting News* #1 Good Guy, the NFL Players Association Byron "Whizzer" White Award and the NFL Athletes in Action Bart Starr Award. He has been recognized for his lifetime achievements from several organizations, including the New Jersey General Assembly and Pop Warner. In addition, Vincent was recently inducted into the University of Wisconsin Hall of Fame.

Vincent takes pride in his successes not only as a former professional athlete, but also in his civic and business leadership endeavors. He has ownership in several companies, including Eltekon and Pro Athletes Only, and founded the Love Thy Neighbor Community Development and Opportunity Corporation with his family. Vincent serves on the Board of Directors for the University of Wisconsin Foundation, and the New Jersey After 3 program.

In addition to earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from Thomas Edison State College, he studied Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin and has completed executive education and business management programs at Stanford University, the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, the Kellogg School of Management and Harvard Business School.

He resides in Virginia with his wife and five children.

## JOAN VERPLANCK

Joan Verplanck is president of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, a 97-year-old Trenton-based business advocacy organization. Since her election in 1995 as the chamber's first female president, she has represented the business community on a wide range of critical issues.

Verplanck was instrumental creating the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which was established to build a highly qualified workforce through innovative collaborations with K-12 education and the workforce training and preparation system.

An officer of the foundation, she provides guidance and resources that enable programs that motivate students to be better prepared for college and life and improve employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities. Several programs of the foundation are nationally acclaimed and are being used or replicated by organizations around the country.

Verplanck is widely considered one of the state's most influential business leaders and the recipient of numerous honors, including the Alan Daniels Civic Responsibility Award from the Center for Civic Responsibility; the Lewis R. Applegate Outstanding Business Leader Award by the New Jersey Society for Environmental, Economic Development; the Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award for Women of Vision; and the Virginia Appgar Award.

She was appointed by Acting Gov. Richard Codey to the New Jersey Employment Security Council and serves on the executive committee of the U.S. Chamber Foundation and Nation'sPort. Prior to accepting her position with the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, Joan spent eight years as the first female president of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce and 10 years managing chambers of commerce in Rhode Island.

## ERIC LEAR

Eric Robert Lear is a managing partner at Lear & Pannepacker, LLP, a regional public accounting firm which he founded in 1984.

A 1979 graduate of Rider College, Lear has more than 30 years experience in accounting and specializes in strategic planning for small and family owned businesses to multimillion dollar corporations, customized personal financial planning and reporting for goal assessment; real estate transactions; and tax planning and tax compliance for all entities. He is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, and serves the tax interests of an international clientele as well.

His professional affiliations include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Public Accountants. Lear was awarded a certificate of educational achievement in personal financial planning as well as a certified specialist in management consulting.

Lear has always believed in serving the community that supported him throughout his career. He currently is active as a board member, finance and investment committee chair and treasurer with the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. He is also a board member of Rotary International, Princeton Senior Resource Center and Jacobs Creek Homeowner's Association. Lear is also a member and trustee of the Nassau Club of Princeton and a founding member, trustee and treasurer of RomAsia Bank.

He was awarded the "Small Business Person of the Year - 1994" award by the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and the "Good Guy Award - Accountant" in 2002 by the Boy Scouts of America - Central Jersey.

Lear resides with his wife and two children in Titusville, N.J.

# Thank You For Taking Action!

## Alumni Join the Charge to Help Fight Funding Cuts for Higher Education in New Jersey

Thomas Edison State College alumni have joined the charge to support New Jersey's state colleges and universities through their participation in the New Jersey College Promise Action Network.



The recent call to action resulted in more than 2,800 messages being sent to state leaders urging them not to reduce funding for higher education. In the past three years, New Jersey has divested hundreds of millions of dollars from higher education.

At Thomas Edison State College, the cuts in funding have brought its state support to the level it was 10 years ago.

"We thank all of our alumni who joined this effort and contacted their legislators here in Trenton to let them know that they support funding of public higher education," said John Thurber, executive vice president of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, which supported the initiative with a grant. "These efforts illustrate how your collective voices can be heard and have the potential to be a strategic influence in New Jersey."

Alumni who have not yet participated in the New Jersey College Promise Action Network but who are interested in taking action can still participate by visiting [www.tesc.edu/alumni](http://www.tesc.edu/alumni).

### Margaret Baker-Cummings BA '02

Margaret Baker-Cummings, a teacher of freshman English at Atlantic Cape Community College, received a Master of Arts degree from California State University in 2007.

### Alan Bruzzi BA '02

Alan Bruzzi recently completed the Professional Bridal Consultant online course at Penn Foster Career School. Bruzzi has since advised a few brides-to-be in wedding planning.

### Evelyn A. DeFeis BA '05

Evelyn A. DeFeis, assistant to the president of Passaic County Community College, was named 2008 National Professional Board Staff Member by the Association of Community College Trustees, a national organization that represents the trustees of 1,200 community colleges.

### Dennis Devery MSM '05

Dennis Devery was appointed as New Jersey National Guard Chief of Staff. Working from the N.J. National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Fort Dix, N.J., Devery is responsible for the daily operations of the N.J. Army National Guard, the supervision of all full-time personnel and the management of the National Guard facilities throughout the state.



### Adele K. Ellis ASM '88, BA '94

Adele K. Ellis recently completed her EdD in educational leadership, management and policy from Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. Ellis, who also received a master's degree in educational leadership from Seton Hall University in 2002, is an assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Metuchen, Piscataway, N.J. She will be speaking on professional development using technology tools at the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) conference in Orlando in March 2009.

### Keith Jonathon Endres BA '05

Keith Jonathon Endres recently accepted membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society while working toward a master's degree in national security studies with the American Public University System.

### Frank Guastafarro BSHS '08

Frank Guastafarro has recently taken a position at Resources for Human Development with the residential intensive support team dedicated to reintegrating the chronic mental health population back into the community. Guastafarro noted that his position as an RHD caseworker has been a rewarding experience.

## **Dr. Monair J. Hamilton** AA '95

Dr. Monair J. Hamilton was recently appointed director of training and technical assistance at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill campus. She serves as a liaison between faculty, researchers and partner organizations statewide, and assists in the development and implementation of community engagement strategies. Hamilton earned her MPH from Hunter College-CUNY and her PhD at Kent State University, Ohio.

## **Dr. John Hill** BSHS '91

Dr. John Hill recently published his third textbook, "Exploring the Police: a Book of Readings" 2nd edition, Pearson Publishing in Boston, Mass. Hill serves as an associate professor of criminal justice at Salt Lake Community College in Utah.

## **Gary Kronenberger** BA '93

Gary Kronenberger was promoted to the position of lieutenant with the Keansburg Police Department in December 2008 and assigned as a patrol division supervisor.

## **Norma Lewis** BSHS '81

Norma Lewis, who recently contacted the College to confirm her e-mail address, wrote, "This 86-year-old woman is no longer an analog woman in a digital world. I had no choice but to give in and get a computer. You see, my National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and the Kentucky state Registry of Interpreters no longer send out notices of seminars, conferences or workshops; everything is online. For maintenance of national certification and state licensure, we have to keep our continuing education units up to date and we cannot keep track of them unless we're online. It is rumored I am the oldest freelance interpreter in the United States and Canada still working actively, mainly in the courts as well as medical and mental health, you'd think they would cut me some slack and let me plod along by phone and snail mail as in days of yore. This is my first notification of having e-mail."

## **Jeffrey Mason** BSHS '04

Jeffrey Mason, a police officer with the Strongsville Police Department in Strongsville, Ohio, earned his Master of Science degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati. Mason noted, "This master's degree was the key to my recent promotion to lieutenant. Thomas Edison State College provided a strong foundation for my continuing education, and was the key to my career success."



## **Thomas Masters** AA '07, BA '07

Thomas Masters has enrolled at American Military University where he will be pursuing his master's degree in intelligence studies.

## **Kraig M. Morris** BA '08

Kraig M. Morris is a retired staff sergeant (E-6) from the U.S. Army Reserve with more than 21 total years of military service. During his military career, Morris served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, U.S. Air Force Active Duty, U.S. Army Regular and U.S. Army National Guard (Pennsylvania Guard) as well as the U.S. Army Reserve. He is a veteran of the Cold War, Operation Southern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his retirement, Morris will be presented with the Meritorious Service Medal, an American Flag and a certificate; and his wife, Linda, will also receive a certificate.

## **Lori Navalny** BSBA '90

Lori Navalny took over the family accounting firm and just opened a new division, The Back Office – full service payroll at extreme savings.

## **Jennifer Nelson-Loder** BSHS '06

Jennifer Nelson-Loder was recently appointed the director of Victim Advocacy at the New Jersey Crime Victim's Law Center. The NJCVLC is dedicated to assisting victims/surviving family members of violent crime through the criminal justice system. Prior to joining the NJCVLC, Nelson-Loder was employed as a case manager for a state-model domestic violence offender rehabilitation program and, most recently, was a crime victim/witness advocate with the Office of Sussex County Prosecutor. In addition to her BSHS in Administration of Justice, from Thomas Edison State College, she holds an associate degree in paralegal studies and is currently pursuing a master's degree in forensic psychology.

## **Ida M. Pintye Gajate** BA '04

Ida M. Pintye Gajate received a Master of Science in Human Services degree in counseling specialization from Capella University on Sept. 30, 2008, with a GPA of 4.0.

## **Gerri Popkin** BA '85

Gerri Popkin was elected vice chair of the LES Education Foundation of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing in June. She was also named director of Operations for the Monmouth County Republican Party in June. Both are volunteer positions.

## **Tamarra Causley Robinson** MSM '05

Tamarra Causley Robinson married Keith Robinson on Oct. 4, 2008, in Ewing, N.J.

## Victoria M. Robinson BA '98

Victoria M. Robinson, a social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs, recently achieved higher licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). She continues to work with veterans of all ages, addressing issues related to chronic progressive diseases; dementia; brain and spinal cord injury; death and bereavement; and changes over the lifespan.

## Katherine Sainz BA '03

Katherine Sainz is currently on the Psychology Practice Research Network Task Force of the Fielding University engaging in direct research design, data collection and presentation regarding Behavioral Health Labs, Inc. Treatment Outcome Package (diagnostic screening tool), which is scheduled for presentation at the National Rural Health Association conference on Critical Issues in Autism Detection and Intervention. Sainz, who has a master's degree in psychology from Walden University, is currently working as a third year doctoral student in clinical psychology at Fielding Graduate University.

## Pamela (Jackson) Tafili BSAST '04

Pamela Tafili graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Utah in December 2008. Tafili noted that she is recently married and looking forward to starting a family.



## Thomas H. van Arsdale AA '82

Thomas H. van Arsdale was recently designated a Knight of Grace in a Royal Order of Chivalry, The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John's of Jerusalem. The Order's Sovereign Head, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, made the appointment. Van Arsdale, who was one of six individuals worldwide to be appointed, was invested at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The Order of Saint John, established by monks more than 900 years ago as a hospice in Jerusalem for Christian pilgrims, is now a major international charity with a wide range of caring activities.



## Please tell us about your...

- ▶ New Job
- ▶ Promotion
- ▶ Award
- ▶ Marriage
- ▶ Baby
- ▶ Career Switch

**If it's news to you, it's news to us!**

We invite you as a member of our family of Thomas Edison State College alumni to tell us about the exciting things happening in your life. Let us know what's new with you since you graduated from 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](mailto:invention@tesc.edu). You may include photos to accompany your news. Items will be published as space permits.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Former/Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if this is a new address.

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if this is a new e-mail address.

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Information for *Invention*: \_\_\_\_\_

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