

FALL 2009

# Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

## Head of the Class

Michael Mendes '09

### INSIDE:

- ▶ Alumni Profile: Jackie Williams and Abraham Goldenberg
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FALL 2009



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President

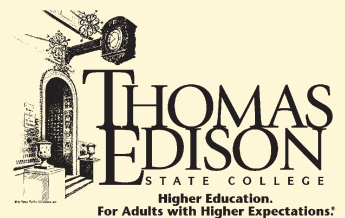
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Cover Story: **6**

First Graduates of the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership Are Ready to Lead





## Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

John Adams said, “Laws for the liberal education of youth...are so extremely wise and useful that to a humane and generous mind, no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant.”

This issue of *Invention* celebrates that idea and focuses on three recent graduates who have dedicated their lives to educating children.

Michael Mendes, Sarah Finley and Cheryl Chadderton are among the first graduates to complete the College’s Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program. They are all educators in New Jersey who pursued their graduate degrees to better prepare themselves to help more students and fellow educators. I hope you enjoy reading about their experiences in this issue.

The Master in Arts in Educational Leadership, the College’s newest graduate degree program, was made possible with the support of the Martinson Family Foundation and the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

This issue also celebrates the achievements of two additional graduates who achieved their personal and professional goals after completing their degrees at Thomas Edison State College.

One is Jackie Williams ’86, a resource management consultant working for the United States Army headquarters staff at the Pentagon. She credits the College for helping to make her career, which has taken her around the world, possible.

The other is Abraham Goldenberg ’08, who has already passed his CPA exams and is well on his way to becoming a certified fraud examiner. He tells us how the College enabled him to leverage his analytical skills and offered the type of courses that best match his learning style.

We are honored to serve individuals like these people, who constantly seek to advance their knowledge in pursuit of their personal and professional goals.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President

# Latest Phase of Mobile Learning Initiative Launched

Thomas Edison State College has launched the latest phase of its Mobile Learning Initiative with a new course delivery system that enables students to access 20 online courses with any Web-enabled cell phone or other mobile device.

The courses, known as Mobile Option *e-Pack*® courses, enable students to use smartphones to download and complete diagnostic quizzes in preparation for a final

“This is the ideal option for students on the go who need access to quiz modules when they are not physically at a desk, or when they are unable to use a wireless network for laptop

Hot Lava Mobile platform to help mobilize their courseware because the platform could be easily integrated with Blackboard and works with any Web-enabled cell phone. OutStart Hot Lava created a conversion tool for the college that enabled them to flow quizzes instantly into mobile-compatible language, he said.

“This is the ideal option for students on the go who need access to quiz modules when they are not physically at a desk, or when they are unable to use a wireless network for laptop connectivity.”

exam. The courses utilize the OutStart Hot Lava Mobile platform, distributed by OHE Associates, which gives students access to the quizzes using a Web-enabled cell phone or mobile device.

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

Dr. Van Zyl said the College selected OHE Associates and the OutStart

The College’s Mobile Learning Initiative was initially launched last spring with the release of its FlashTrack courses, which are delivered to students on a single two gigabyte (2GB) flash drive. Students who registered for the initial FlashTrack courses did not need an Internet connection to complete the course and prepare for pass or fail final examinations.

The initial phase of the Mobile Learning Initiative was made possible with funding from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

The next generation of FlashTrack courses will have a similar structure as the College’s online courses, but will enable students to complete course work in an offline setting without the need for a constant Internet connection.



## The School of Nursing Earns CCNE Accreditation

The School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College was recently awarded accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The initial, five-year accreditation resulted from a rigorous onsite evaluation and assessment of the School's curriculum conducted in November 2008.

"Earning the CCNE accreditation

The accreditation process provided a chance for students and graduates of the program to share their experiences – as both nursing students and active practitioners – with CCNE evaluators.

"The School of Nursing offered everything that would make my life bearable," said 2009 graduate Geri Sanfillippo, RN, BSN, a nurse at

Recognized by the U.S. secretary of education, CCNE is the principal accrediting body for nursing schools and the only national accrediting agency devoted exclusively to evaluating bachelor's and graduate nursing education programs. The CCNE accreditation includes the RN to BSN/MSN program offered by Thomas Edison State College.



**School of Nursing Students and Alumni Meet CCNE Accreditors**

*Front row (from left): Valerie Sine, Sharon M. Winn, Nichelle Hodges, Alice A. Chen, Joan Vetter, Yvonne Richardson (holding sign), Yekeen Odewale, MaryAnn Kaufmann, Beverly Hale and Geri Sanfillippo. Back Row (left to right): Ritamarie Giosa, Catherine Vieira, Susan Devrous, Valerie Sampson, Mary Ann O'Neill, Elizabeth Correnti, Ulrike Luccarelli, Marie Feiter, Abiola Oyetunde, Susan St. Peter, Patricia Saitta, Theresa Corello and Deborah Guerrierie.*

is exceptionally gratifying," said Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing. "The distinction validates the quality, integrity and comprehensiveness of our programs and our adherence to the highest standards of nursing education. We laud our staff, mentors and students for influencing the positive outcome of this evaluation."

Capital Health System in Trenton, N.J. Yekeen Odewale, RN, BC, MSN, said the College provides nurses with the type of program they are looking for.

"The school emphasizes evidence-based nursing, which is what we all clamor for as learners," said Odewale, a 2004 graduate who works at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital in Morris Plains, N.J.

The College's RN-BSN degree program is also accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and has been continuously accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission since 1990. Thomas Edison State College is regionally accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

For more information about CCNE, visit:

[www.aacn.nche.edu/accreditation](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/accreditation).

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# ALWAYS

HOW JACKIE WILLIAMS

# ON

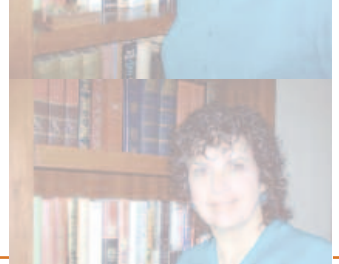
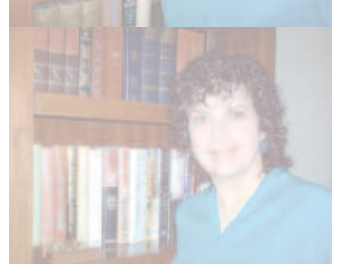
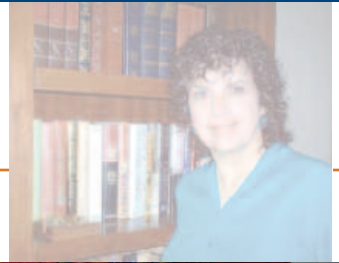
EARNED HER DEGREE WHILE

# THE

TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD

# MOVE

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# Alumni Profile

Jackie Williams can tell you about the advantages of constantly being on the move for your career. She can also tell you how the demands of a civil service job make it difficult for an adult student to complete a college degree.

Fortunately, Williams had the fortitude to stay focused on her studies as she moved around the country – and the world – while advancing her career and raising her family.

“I have worked for the federal government since 1980, and entered civil service while working on my associate degree,” said Williams, who earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1986. “During that time, I moved repeatedly while advancing my career in accounting and finance. Thomas Edison State College suited my needs perfectly at a time when no other college could.”

Williams said Thomas Edison State College enabled her to transfer credits earned at her community college and through the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).

“The College’s counselors were caring and provided information in writing and by phone,” she said. “After receiving my associate degree in 1980, I was so thrilled with the experience that I continued toward my BA, while working and raising a family.”

During her years at Thomas Edison State College, Williams said she maintained a belief that perseverance would produce great results.

“No challenge was greater than the one I overcame to find the right school to start the journey from: Thomas Edison State College,” she said. “I believe in continually expanding our knowledge and exposure to serious thinking.”

“

*I moved repeatedly while advancing my career in accounting and finance. Thomas Edison State College suited my needs perfectly at a time when no other college could.*

”

Throughout her career, Williams has lived all across the country, from her childhood home of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, to New Jersey, Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, Florida and Taiwan.

Since leaving the civil service in 1997, Williams has developed a consulting career supporting the government. She currently works at the Pentagon, where she focuses on resource management for United States Army headquarters staff.

She credits Thomas Edison State College with making her career possible.

“I don’t know that I would have had the career I had without my Thomas Edison State College degree,” said Williams. “When I graduated from high school in 1969, there weren’t the opportunities that exist today. I worked during the day in New York City and attended community college at night on a part-time basis, while living with my parents and brother. Colleges were structured for traditional students and I’ve never been a traditional student.”

After graduation, Williams went on to earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in financial management at Webster University in Colorado. She also earned Certified Government Financial Management certification (CGFM) while working for the federal government in Ohio, and earned a Certified Fraud Examiner certification (CFE) while living in northern Virginia and working as a consultant to federal agencies. She has also taught International Finance and English as a Second Language as an adjunct.

“Thomas Edison State College has so much to be proud of,” said Williams. “I can never begin to thank the men and women of the College, during their years of assistance and presently, as I recommend the College’s programs to friends who I hope will enjoy it as much as I have.”

Williams and her husband, Steve, currently live in Fredericksburg, Va.

## Jackie Williams

# MAEd II

## Head of the Class

### First Graduates of the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership Are Ready to Lead



Michael Mendes '09, Assistant Principal of New Egypt (N.J.) High School

**Michael Mendes** did not need a salary. He just wanted to help kids.

For Mendes, it started when he worked part time as an assistant football coach at Monsignor Donovan High School in Toms River, N.J.

“I found out that what we were doing on the field was helping the kids in their lives,” recalled Mendes. “It went beyond sports. I loved doing it so much that I did not need a paycheck. It was just an awesome feeling and I decided that I needed to make it my career.”

“*If it was not for Thomas Edison State College, I do not know if I would be here in my new position at this time.*”

So he did. About a year after Mendes earned a bachelor's degree from Monmouth University, he left the field of sports marketing to become a teacher. In 2002, Mendes joined New Egypt High School in New Egypt, N.J., as a business and technology teacher. He continued coaching in the district, and also took on administrative tasks, including public relations coordinator and student information systems coordinator.

“I started to realize that as an administrator, I could actually help students and teachers,” said Mendes.

Mendes started to pursue a master's degree at Kean



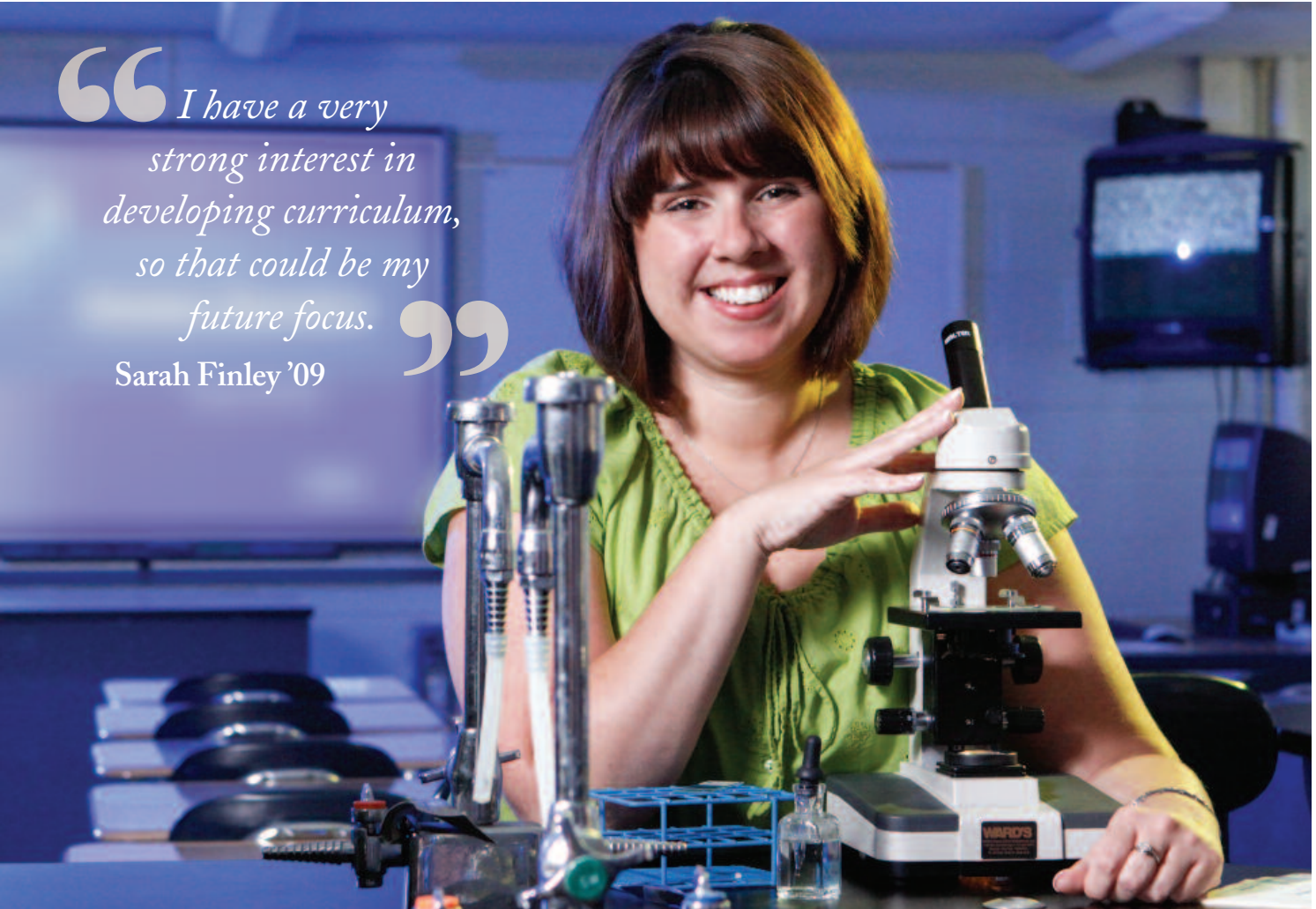
University, but his hectic schedule made it difficult to manage his graduate work. At the same time, the school district was experiencing administrative changes and Mendes knew timing was critical to positioning himself for a potential opening.

“I was teaching full time, coaching three seasons of the year and running out of time to pursue my master’s degree,” he said.

Mendes was a member of the first group of students to complete the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree in May 2009. On July 1, he started his new position as assistant principal of New Egypt High School.

“If it was not for Thomas Edison State College, I do not know if I would be here in my new position at this time,” he said.

“ I have a very strong interest in developing curriculum, so that could be my future focus. ”  
Sarah Finley '09



It was at this point that Mendes learned about the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program at Thomas Edison State College. Mendes was able to transfer the graduate credits he earned at Kean University and complete his master’s degree at Thomas Edison State College without sacrificing his professional responsibilities.

“At Thomas Edison State College, there was much more interaction with classmates in our online courses than with classroom-based courses,” he said. “There was also more one-on-one interaction with the professors.”

Professional growth is a key inspiration for many students in the Educational Leadership program.

Major funding for the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program came from a \$180,000 grant from the Martinson Family Foundation, which supported course development and creation of a program director position. The Martinson Family Foundation supports educational initiatives that strengthen the effectiveness of K-12 schools, particularly in the areas of math and science. The foundation was founded and is

# College Hosts TEAC Accreditation Site Visit

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at Thomas Edison State College hosted a site visit for accreditation of the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) on May 10-12.

TEAC is dedicated to helping educator-preparation programs improve and be accountable for the quality of their curriculum. As part of the accreditation process, students and mentors of the Educational Leadership program provided feedback to the team regarding their experiences with the program.

The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree program serves adults who wish to prepare for roles as school leaders. The program is offered completely

led by John Martinson, managing director of the Edison Venture Fund, who is a national leader in the venture capital industry and an information technology expert.

John Thurber, executive vice president of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, noted the importance of this grant. “The Martinson Family Foundation provided the support that enabled the College to prepare the next generation of leaders for our K-12 schools.”

Additional funding for the program came from a \$75,000 grant from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

**Sarah Finley**, a biology and chemistry teacher and head of the Science Department at Gloucester City Junior-Senior High School in Gloucester City, N.J., said she enrolled in the program to position herself for a move to administration when the time is right.

“I’m not ready to leave the classroom yet, but getting into administration is now an avenue that is available to me,” she said. “I have a very strong interest in developing curriculum, so that could be my future focus.”

Finley, who earned her bachelor’s degree from LaSalle University, has been a teacher for 12 years. She selected Thomas Edison State College’s master’s program after a thorough search and on the recommendation of her mother, who is also an educator and Thomas Edison State College graduate.

“After a long day in the classroom, I liked that I did not have to drive across town and sit in another classroom for hours,” she said. “It was nice to wake up on a Sunday morning and be able to do a paper.”

Graduates of the program said the online interaction enabled them to share common experiences as educators that enhanced the program itself and provided a dynamic that most classroom-based programs built around lectures do not offer.



*TEAC accreditation team members considered the viewpoints of students currently enrolled in the MAEdL program during a conference call on May 11. From left: Dr. Mark LaCelle-Peterson, professor and chair of education at Houghton College, N.Y.; Dr. Allyson Taub, special assistant to the dean and professor of health education at New York University; Christopher Campisano, coordinator of higher education programs, New Jersey Department of Education, and Dr. Judith Gray former superintendent for the Hunterdon Regional School District.*

online and aims to promote an understanding of educational leadership and administration through a process which is based upon the national Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium standards.

More information on TEAC can be found by visiting [www.teac.org](http://www.teac.org).

“Many of our underlying circumstances and experiences were common, regardless of the differences in our ages or where we work,” noted **Cheryl Chadderton**, who has served as a kindergarten teacher and literacy coach in New Jersey’s Paterson school district for 12 years. “I was able to ask my classmates about things they were doing with their students and share what we are doing in Paterson. We got to know each other as teachers and as students.”

Chadderton, who earned her bachelor’s degree from

Kean University, started a new position in September at the district’s 14th Avenue Early Learning Center. As an academic support teacher, she will support teachers in the district with literacy training and professional development and also work with students.

“I would like to eventually get into administration, especially in the area of literacy,” she said. “My new credentials will also be helpful in my new position this school year, both in the classroom as well as with teachers and parents.”



“ I was able to ask my classmates about things they were doing with their students and share what we are doing in Paterson. We got to know each other as teachers and as students. ”

Cheryl Chadderton '09

From  
the **TALMUD** ...



to

**TAXES**

# Alumni Profile

**B**efore taking his first exam at Thomas Edison State College, Abraham Goldenberg already knew that he had the capacity for intensive study.

While studying the Talmud, a 36-volume set of ancient rabbinical writings, he mastered the demanding, analytical skills required to grasp the complexity and breadth of the early Jewish texts.

In 2008, Goldenberg decided to focus his analytical skills in a different direction and set his sights on becoming a certified public accountant.

“I had some prior education, but nothing in the field of accounting,” he recalled. “To get a CPA license, I needed a bachelor’s degree and an in-depth knowledge of accounting to pass the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exams.”

Goldenberg wanted to complete his degree in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

“I wanted to earn my degree as quickly as possible without breaking the bank and I wanted to get right to the core area of study by clearing everything else out of the way as quickly as possible,” he said. “I knew it would have to be online, as I don’t like sitting in class, and I would rather learn independently. I shopped around at about a dozen colleges before I heard about Thomas Edison State College. I knew right away that the College was the place for me. There are so many ways to earn college credit, including transferring credits, Prior Learning Assessment and testing.”

After Goldenberg applied and received an academic evaluation, he realized that he needed 66 credits to satisfy his accounting degree requirements. He was pleased to discover that he could complete 45 of those credits via examination programs, such as the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support

(DANTES) and the College’s TECEP® program.

Through testing, Goldenberg earned his bachelor’s degree in about seven months.

“I gained a very in-depth knowledge of accounting by taking those courses online, which is exactly what I wanted,” he said. “As I studied for the CPA exams, I found that I had already covered much of the material through the courses I had taken at Thomas Edison State College.”

“*As I studied for the CPA exams, I found that I had already covered much of the material through the courses I had taken at Thomas Edison State College.*”

Goldenberg passed the final section of the CPA exam in early June. In early July, the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) informed him that he had met the criteria to become a Certified Internal Auditor.

Goldenberg is now keenly interested in the investigative aspects of the field.

“I have spent years sharpening my analytical skills, and I think I have an affinity for this particular area,” he said. “I took the CFE exams (Certified Fraud Examiner) in February, and I just need accounting experience to become fully certified. I don’t know any other place that would have made it possible to fulfill my dream in so short a time. I am extremely thankful to Thomas Edison State College for giving me the opportunity to get where I wanted to go.”

## Abraham Goldenberg

# Attention All Alumni & Students:

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Thomas Edison State College is seeking essays from our graduates and students about what it is like earning your degree through the various methods of earning credit available at the College. Articles selected by the College will be published in its electronic and print publications and Web site.

### SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR PERSPECTIVES ON:

- ▶ Taking an online course
- ▶ Prior Learning Assessment
- ▶ Taking a TECEP® or other examination program
- ▶ Taking an e-Pack®
- ▶ Taking a Guided Study course
- ▶ Taking an online final or midterm
- ▶ Time management
- ▶ Balancing work and family while earning your degree

Articles should be between 300-500 words. Longer articles may be submitted, and all submissions are subject to editing. If you are interested, please submit your articles to [media@tesc.edu](mailto:media@tesc.edu).

### Claire Baney BA '99

Claire Baney was awarded an MA in health advocacy from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y.

### Randy J. Becker BSAST '90

Randy J. Becker is employed by PDS Engineering & Construction, Inc., in Bloomfield, Conn., as the construction manager for the Mary M. Hooker Environmental Studies Magnet School project in Hartford, Conn. He recently received LEED® Accredited Professional designation from the Green Building Certification Institute. Becker noted, "My degree from Thomas Edison State College has opened doors for a successful career in the construction industry."

### Michael Cantine BSAST '90

Michael Cantine attained the certification of Asthma Educator AE-C by the Association of Asthma Educators. Cantine joins a distinguished group of only 2,800 certified Asthma Educators nationwide.

### Bernice P. Carr BSHS '01

Bernice P. Carr is currently an executive officer with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and an online professor for Jacksonville State University (JSU) where she is the sole professor for three online emergency management courses. In addition to her Thomas Edison State College degree, Carr holds a Board of Regents Bachelor of Arts degree from Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, W.Va., and a master's degree in public administration/emergency management from JSU. She has 39 years of experience in public administration and emergency management, and plans to retire from federal government service in September 2009.

### Stefano-Alfredo A. Ciccone BSBA '03

Stefano-Alfredo A. Ciccone was promoted to a marketing manager for B2B Systems at Verizon Wireless in Basking Ridge, N.J., in April 2008, after successfully managing its Government Call Center in Laurel, Md. Ciccone's focus was on B2B Systems, specifically, the B2B Point of Sale system.

### Rachel Conte BA '08

Rachel Conte was accepted into Widener University School of Law in Chester, Pa. Conte is currently working full time in the healthcare field while studying for her law degree part time.

### Michael Dunlea BA '09

Michael Dunlea currently resides in Manahawkin, N.J., where he is a tenured elementary school teacher with the Stafford Township School District. After he earned his BA in history from Thomas Edison State College, Dunlea completed the NJ Pathways Alternate Route Certification. He then continued his educational experience by earning a master degree in educational technology at New Jersey City University. Dunlea noted, "Thank you Thomas Edison State College for unlocking my future."

## Tammy Figueroa BA '07

Tammy Figueroa completed a master's of military history at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., in June 2009. An office manager in the construction department of Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., Figueroa hopes to one day teach history at the college level and plans to pursue a PhD at the University of Arkansas in 2010.

## Charlene Finley BA '99

Charlene Finley went on to complete her teaching certification requirements after graduating from Thomas Edison State College and has worked in public education since 2002.

## Sarah K. Finley MAEdL '09

Sarah K. Finley was one of the first Master of Arts in Education Leadership graduates of Thomas Edison State College. Finley worked full time as a teacher while completing her MAEdL requirements. Finley is the daughter of Charlene Finley, BA '99, who noted, "She worked extremely hard, and finished with a 4.0 – I couldn't be more proud of Sarah's achievement!"

## Kathleen A. Gluck BSN '06

Kathleen A. Gluck and her husband, Jeffrey, welcomed their daughter, Francesca, from Guatemala in June 2007; she is now a lively 2½-year-old. This year the couple was nominated for promotion in rank to lady commander and knight commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, one of the oldest orders of chivalry established in 1099 during the First Crusade, of which the pope is the order's sovereign. They were initially invested as a lady and knight in September 2006.



## Rev. Dr. Eliezer Gonzalez AA '76

Rev. Dr. Eliezer Gonzalez is an international speaker and teacher with Leadership Resources International. He received a doctor of ministry degree *honoris causa* from the Jerusalem University of Chennai, India, in 2008.

## Rev. Penelope A. Hamilton BA '92

Rev. Penelope A. Hamilton obtained a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa., and was ordained in 1995. Hamilton works in the healthcare industry as a chaplain.

## Justin Hopkins BA '04

Justin Hopkins, who graduated from law school in two and a half years, is now studying for the Florida and New Jersey bar exams.

## Riccardo D. Jenkins Jr. BSBA '97

Riccardo D. Jenkins Jr. recently graduated from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's Religious Studies Division, receiving a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry to African-American Catholics.

## Elizabeth LeBlanc BA '09

Elizabeth LeBlanc was recently appointed as a program specialist at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, supporting the Extravehicular Activities System Project Office in the Constellation Program. She is the management systems lead over the configuration movement, data management, information management and data architecture that supports the development of suits and tools that will ultimately fly to the moon and, eventually, to Mars. LeBlanc, who graduated from Penn State in 2004 with a JD, resides in Houston with her husband, Joe, and 9-year-old daughter, Abbie.

## Michele Lowenstein AA '78, BA '78

Michele Lowenstein has been recognized with the "Top Attorney" designation by the *San Diego Daily Transcript* for 2009 in the family law category. One of 10 awarded each year in this category, the recognition is based on a peer voting process. Lowenstein also received this designation in 2008, 2006 and 2005.

## Richard L. Martin BA '99

Richard L. Martin recently completed his teaching credential, specializing in social studies and English as a Second Language curriculum for grades 6-12 at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash.

## Kate McLaughlin BA '08

Kate McLaughlin recently graduated from University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. McLaughlin noted, "Thomas Edison State College gave me the degree and tools that I needed for this accomplishment, which was my dream and goal."

## Deborah Donnelly-McLay ASAST '94, BSAST '95

Deborah Donnelly-McLay, an airline pilot for the United Parcel Service, is currently pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and a Doctorate of Education at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. After graduating from Thomas Edison State College in 1995, Donnelly-McLay earned a Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Currently, she is mentoring various programs to promote youth education in science and technology, including Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences' Molecular Frontiers and FIRST Robotics (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). Donnelly-McLay is a member of Women in Aviation International.

*continued on back cover*

## Marc Rosamilia BSHS '09

Marc Rosamilia, who received his Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in health and nutrition counseling from the College in June 2009, noted, "Thomas Edison State College was a great experience...thank you for helping my dream of completing my degree come true."

## Nicholas Ruiz BA '06

Nicholas Ruiz, who is plant manager with Fluoro-Seal International, credits Thomas Edison State College and his bachelor's degree for making him eligible to apply for that position. Ruiz noted, "Thank you Thomas Edison State College for your support."

## Susan Sodon BA '07

Susan Sodon recently received a MEd in e-Learning Technology and Design from Jones International University in Centennial, Colo. Sodon is a senior graphic designer/proposal editor at Telcordia Technologies, Inc.

## Jeffery T. Steward BSAST '97

Jeffery T. Steward retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves as a chief warrant officer four (W4) with a combined 31 years of regular Navy and Navy Reserve service and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service to his country in January 2009. His service included a tour of duty as a joint watch officer assigned to Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of the detainee security mission there. Currently employed as an energy industry analyst for a federal agency in Washington, D.C., Steward resides in Waldorf, Md. After graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Steward went on to complete an MSM degree in 2003, primarily through online course work, at Troy University.

## James M. Tucker BA '01

James M. Tucker, who recently received his doctorate in addiction counseling, is the director of out patient services and intervention at Road to Recovery, a counseling organization in northern New Jersey. Tucker credits Thomas Edison State College for helping him learn the skills he needed to be able to balance home, family and work.

## Edward Yanowski BA '84

Edward Yanowski accepted a new position and promotion as a senior quality engineer with Tyco Electronics, Global Application Tooling Division. In this new position, Yanowski will be responsible for evaluation, qualification and auditing suppliers to Tyco Electronics. Yanowski recently sat for and passed the exam for the ASQ Certified Quality Auditor designation. In addition, he holds a Certificate in Project Management from Penn State University. Yanowski's prior assignment was with Tyco Electronics Telecom Outside Plant division, serving as a product/manufacturing engineer for Tyco's Building Entrance Terminal Equipment line.

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

## Please tell us about your...

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Check here if this is a new address.

Preferred Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Day  Evening

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

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

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

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

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