

SPRING 2014

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Fostering Innovation

John and Eileen Martinson



INSIDE:

- > STUDY REINFORCES THAT BACHELOR'S-PREPARED NURSES IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES
- > COLLEGE MEETS FEDERAL PRINCIPLES OF EXCELLENCE REQUIREMENTS
- > COLLEGE DEVELOPING NEW BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS
- > COLLEGE PRESIDENT ELECTED CHAIR OF MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
- > ALUMNI PROFILE: RYAN NABORS '13

4



5



9



14



10

What's Inside SPRING 2014

1 Message from the President

College News:

- 2 > International Study Reinforces that Bachelor's-Prepared Nurses Improve Patient Outcomes
- 3 > College Meets Federal Principles of Excellence Requirements with Two New Resources
> College Participating in VA Student Work-Study Program
- 4 > College President Testifies Before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- 5 > College Selected for Federal Scholarship Program for Nuclear Students
> Video of Glen Cairn Arms Demolition Gains International Exposure
- 6 > College Developing New Business and Management Programs
- 7 > College President Elected Chair of Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Foundation News:

- 8 > Nicholson Foundation Supports Expansion of Watson Institute's Cultural Competency Program
- 9 > In Remembrance: Maurice T. Perilli
> Foundation Set to Publish 2013 Report to Donors

10 Cover Story

- > Fostering Innovation: John and Eileen Martinson

14 Alumni Profile

- > Ryan Nabors '13

16 Class Notes

- > Alumni News



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Cover Story: 10

Fostering Innovation: John and Eileen Martinson

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STATE COLLEGE**
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Oprah Winfrey said, "It's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life."

This issue of *Invention* is dedicated to John and Eileen Martinson, whose longtime support of Thomas Edison State College has made an incredible impact on our Institution and, more importantly, on the adult learners we serve.

Through the Martinson Family Foundation, John and Eileen have provided major gifts to the College that have enabled us to leverage the latest technologies to improve our online courses and create new degree programs to meet the needs of the market. In this issue, we learn about their inspiration for supporting the Thomas Edison State College Foundation and about their latest gifts, including a three-year \$450,000 grant and the donation of John's renowned collection of Thomas Alva Edison inventions and memorabilia.

We are extremely grateful for their support and belief in the College's mission and, we were honored when Eileen accepted an invitation to join the Foundation's Board of Directors in 2013.

The Foundation is busy preparing its second report to donors that will be released later this year. The report will include our annual Honor Roll of Donors and outline how Foundation support was invested during the year.

Also in this issue, we meet Ryan Nabors '13, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who has dedicated his life to serving disabled veterans. Nabors shares his perspective on the needs of veterans who have sustained serious injuries during their service and the role the College plays in serving military and veteran students.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

International Study Reinforces that Bachelor's-Prepared Nurses Improve Patient Outcomes

FINDINGS FROM A RECENT INTERNATIONAL STUDY IN *THE LANCET* CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO DR. PHYLLIS MARSHALL.

The study, "Nurse Staffing and Education and Hospital Mortality in Nine European Countries: A Retrospective Observational Study," affirmed what Marshall and the nursing community have known for years: Better educated nurses result in better patient outcomes.

"As nurse educators in an increasingly complex healthcare delivery system, we have known for a long time that the education level of professional nurses is inexorably linked to patient outcomes,"

the area of nurse recruitment at hospitals and healthcare organizations throughout the country that have shown an increasing focus on hiring nurses who possess a BSN degree.

Marshall said many employers are also encouraging their nurses to earn graduate degrees to prepare and qualify for leadership positions in the field.

At Thomas Edison State College, Marshall said the hospitals where many



Dr. Phyllis Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College.

percentages of their nursing staff possess a bachelor's degree or higher.

The Lancet study, which was led by Dr. Linda Aiken of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, found that 420,000 patients across nine European countries experienced significantly lower mortality and failure to rescue rates in hospitals with higher proportions of baccalaureate-prepared nurses. Furthermore, the study's authors found that for every 10 percent increase in nurses with bachelor's degrees in a healthcare setting, the likelihood of patient mortality dropped by 7 percent.

"The study provides further evidence of the explicit relationship between the percentage of BSN-prepared nurses to patient recovery," said Marshall. "Students who entered our program as diploma nurses or who held an associate degree in nursing constantly tell us that their competencies were broadened and that they felt more optimally equipped to handle the demands of their profession once they entered the BSN program."

“The growth of our own Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program reflects emerging mandates in the field that support this study’s findings and many others like it.”

> Dr. Phyllis Marshall

said Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. "The growth of our own Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program reflects emerging mandates in the field that support this study's findings and many others like it."

Results from the study, which appeared in the Feb. 26 issue of *The Lancet*, coincide with trends that Marshall has seen in the field of nursing, especially in

of her students work, are already recognized under the Magnet Recognition Program®. Awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), Magnet designation ensures that an organization is setting rigorous benchmarks in quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovation in professional nursing practice. In pursuit of this designation, many organizations are requiring that increasing

THE LANCET

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Nurse staffing and education and hospital mortality in nine European countries: a retrospective observational study



College Meets Federal Principles of Excellence Requirements with Two New Resources

Thomas Edison State College has created two online resources for current and prospective students that meet the requirements of Executive Order 13607, which was signed by President Barack Obama in 2012 and

options, student debt and educational program plans.

The College has created the **Military and Veteran Portal** that enables current and prospective students to learn how their military training can be



Louis Martini, associate vice president for Military and Veteran Education.

“We think these resources will help prospective and current students better understand the costs of attending college and potential funds available that may assist them in paying for college.”

> *Louis Martini*

establishes principles of excellence for schools serving active duty service members, veterans and their families.

The order requires all colleges and universities to provide information prior to enrollment for active duty service members, veterans and their families about the cost of an education, transfer credit, GI bill benefits, financial aid

accepted as credit at Thomas Edison State College, view potential degree programs, learn about possible career options and estimate their costs – all before they apply.

In addition, the College has developed a **Financial Aid Shopping Sheet**, an interactive online tool designed to help prospective and current students estimate the cost of attending

Thomas Edison State College and identify potential sources of financial aid so they can easily compare the College with other institutions.

“We think these resources will help prospective and current students better understand the costs of attending college and potential funds available that may assist them in paying for college,” said Louis Martini, associate vice president for Military and Veteran Education. “Our goal is to help them make an informed decision.”

Both resources were unveiled in February at the Council of College and Military Educators annual conference in Savannah, Ga., and are available on the College’s website, www.tesc.edu/military.

College Participating in VA Student Work-Study Program

Thomas Edison State College is honored to be participating in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Student Work-Study Allowance Program, which offers an additional allowance to veteran students in return for their performing services in VA-related activities.

Veteran students selected for the program at Thomas Edison State College will work in the College’s Office of Military and Veteran Education.

“We look forward to bringing veteran students to participate in the VA Student Work-Study Allowance Program,” said Craig R. Smith, director of Veteran Affairs at Thomas Edison State College. “This program gives veterans enrolled with us the opportunity to gain practical work experience in the civilian sector, earn money and assist Thomas Edison State College in providing the highest quality service to our military and veteran students.”

The VA selects students for the work-study program based on their ability to complete the contract before their education benefits expire. Job availability within a normal commuting distance to the student is also a consideration.

For more information, contact the Office of Military and Veteran Education at (866) 446-1804 or militaryeducation@tesc.edu.

College President Testifies Before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, shared his concerns about several initiatives proposed by the U.S. Department of Education and the importance of considering nontraditional students

bureaucratize judgments that should be left to the academy, the accreditors and the states.”

Pruitt also warned legislators about making higher education policy based on federal data that only counts first-

“My best advice to you, collectively and individually, is that when you return to your districts, meet with the presidents of your colleges and universities and get their counsel about the issues that concern you,” Pruitt told the committee. “I think you will find that we all share the same objectives. Right now, we are headed in the wrong direction.”

“Such initiatives as credit-hour definition, state authorization and the proposed federal ratings system, while well-intentioned, are ill-conceived and, actually, harmful.”

> Dr. George A. Pruitt



when determining education policies during testimony before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on April 2.

time, full-time freshman and treats transfer students as drop outs. According to the Department of

The hearing, “Keeping College Within Reach: Meeting the Needs of Contemporary Students,” was held at the Rayburn House Office Building. In addition to Pruitt, other witnesses included Kevin Gilligan, chairman and CEO of Capella Education Company; David K. Moldoff, founder and CEO of AcademyOne, Inc.; Dr. Joann A. Broughman, senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs of the University of

Pruitt, who was the only New Jersey college or university president to testify at the hearing, told federal legislators the most significant impediment facing higher education is the current regulatory culture in Washington.

“During my 31-year presidency, I have served in an advisory capacity to five secretaries of education, under three presidents of both parties, and I have never before seen such a predisposition for overreaching, intrusive and, sometimes, destructive use of regulatory authority,” said Pruitt. “Such initiatives as credit-hour definition, state authorization and the proposed federal ratings system, while well-intentioned, are ill-conceived and, actually, harmful. They stifle innovation, undermine sound academic judgment and drive up costs. We need a regulatory framework that supports accountability and innovation. However, what we have now supports compliance over quality, conformity over diversity, and attempts to federalize and

Education, the largest enrollment projections from 2011 through 2022 are among students who are 25 and older and considered nontraditional students.

Maryland system; Stan Jones, president of Complete College America; and Dr. Brooks A. Keel, president of Georgia Southern University.



Dr. George A. Pruitt testifies before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on April 2 in Washington, D.C.

College Selected for Federal Scholarship Program for Nuclear Students

Thomas Edison State College is the only senior institution of higher learning in New Jersey selected to participate in a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) scholarship program for undergraduate students pursuing degrees in the nuclear energy field.

The scholarships are being offered through the department's Nuclear Energy University Programs (NEUP) and

are \$5,000 for one year. To be eligible, applicants must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and enrolled in a NEUP-accepted institution where they are studying nuclear science, engineering or an area of study related to the nuclear industry.

At Thomas Edison State College, students enrolled in the College's undergraduate programs in Energy



Systems Technology, Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology, Nuclear Engineering Technology and Radiation Protection were invited to submit scholarship applications. The College is one of only 62 colleges and universities selected nationally for eligibility in the program.

Video of Glen Cairn Arms Demolition Gains International Exposure

It started with a simple tweet of a 60-second video sent from the College's Twitter account on Feb. 11 to promote Thomas Edison State College's new nursing education center.

The time lapse video featured the demolition of the abandoned Glen Cairn Arms apartments in downtown Trenton, N.J., and ended with an artist's rendering of the nursing center on the cleared site where the new building will stand.

Within 24 hours, the video was picked up by *The Trenton Times*, *Star-Ledger*, *News 12 New Jersey*, *NJ 101.5 FM*, the *Associated Press*, *USA Today* and *Yahoo! News*, where it made the website's UK news feed. It was also picked up by dozens of news affiliates across the United States and blogs and news websites as far away as Greece and Germany.

The College expects to break ground later this spring on the 34,700 square

foot building, which will house the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. More information on the project and additional campus enhancements will be featured in a future issue of *Invention*.

To view the Glen Cairn Arms demolition video, visit www.tesc.edu/youtube.



From left, images from the demolition of the Glen Cairn Arms apartments in Trenton; an artist's rendering of the College's nursing education center.

College Developing New Business and Management Programs

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT AT THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE IS DEVELOPING THREE NEW ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FINANCE, A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT AND A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.

"We are very excited about these new programs, which are being developed to help adult learners at the undergraduate and graduate levels prepare for what is happening in the global marketplace," said Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management. "Today, content relevance in education is the professional currency that empowers the American workforce, enabling it to respond to changes in the global market. Content relevance has never been more important."



Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FINANCE

This 36-credit, online degree program will prepare students with the required skills and knowledge to excel in a global business environment and compete effectively for managerial positions across the business spectrum. The curriculum provides a solid foundation in international business management and enables graduates to gain the competencies required for financial management in diverse business environments.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

This 36-credit, online degree program will develop informed, competent and innovative leaders in the international hospitality industry. Course work focuses on strategic and cultural models of hospitality management, a critical and historical analysis of the leading contemporary debates, challenges and trends in the hotel, gaming and resort markets and provides a solid grounding in relevant academic theory and applied practice.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

This 120-credit, online degree program enables students to transfer most of their previously earned credits completed at regionally accredited institutions and complete their bachelor's degree without sacrificing their professional and personal obligations. The curriculum will provide a solid grounding in relevant academic theory, applied practice and policymaking.

"Each of these programs meets the unique needs of working adults who cannot sacrifice their personal and professional responsibilities to advance their education," said Williams. "Both graduate programs are practitioner-focused and offer an integrative approach to knowledge and skill acquisition, while the new bachelor's program provides students with interdisciplinary knowledge that is designed to help foster success in any vocation."

The new programs are planned to be available in the 2014-15 academic year. For more information, visit www.tesc.edu/business.

College President Elected Chair of Middle States Commission on Higher Education

DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT, PRESIDENT OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE, HAS BEEN ELECTED CHAIR OF THE MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

"It is a great honor to be selected by my peers to chair such an esteemed body that is known for its extraordinary work to ensure quality in higher education," said Pruitt. "I am honored to follow my colleague and friend, Dr. Barbara Gitenstein, president of The College of New Jersey, who did an exceptional job serving as our last chair."

Pruitt, who began his two-year tenure on Jan. 1, said the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act will be a focus for Middle States and other regional accrediting agencies in 2014, especially its relation to quality assurance and keeping the accreditation process consistent and autonomous.

"It goes beyond just updating standards. We are in the midst of a national discourse that is considering what accreditation is and what it should be," he said. "It is critical that we maintain voluntary accreditation to keep the process relevant so quality is assured."

Three new commissioners also joined the commission on Jan. 1, including Dr. F. Javier Cevallos; president of Kutztown University; Dr. Margaret McMenam, president of Union County College; and Mr. Javier Miyares, president of University of Maryland University College.

president of Union County College; and Mr. Javier Miyares, president of University of Maryland University College.

“It is a great honor to be selected by my peers to chair such an esteemed body that is known for its extraordinary work to ensure quality in higher education.”

> Dr. George A Pruitt



Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that is dedicated to quality assurance and improvement through accreditation via peer evaluation. Middle States accreditation instills public confidence in institutional mission, goals, performance and resources through its rigorous accreditation standards and their enforcement.

The commission is recognized by the U.S. secretary of education to conduct accreditation and preaccreditation (candidacy status) activities for institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, including distance education and correspondence education programs offered at those institutions. The commission is also recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to accredit degree-granting institutions that offer one or more post-secondary educational programs of at least one academic year in length in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other geographic areas in which the commission conducts accrediting activities.



Nicholson Foundation Supports Expansion of Watson Institute's Cultural Competency Program

The Nicholson Foundation has awarded a \$150,000 grant to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation that will be used to support expansion of the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners (ELL) Summer Institute and Mentoring Program into new communities.

The program, which is under the direction of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy's Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, helps



Charles Venti, executive director of The Nicholson Foundation.

The program, which is composed of a three-day intensive training institute, incorporates content, theory, practice and simulations coupled with training by experts in second language acquisition and cultural competency. Ongoing

Development of Urban Children, who oversees the program. "These cities contain the largest concentrations of diverse families who need teachers that infuse culture and language into every part of the childhood learning experience. This program gives teachers the tools to help support cultural identity and the academic success of young English language learners."

The ELL Summer Institute helps teachers examine their own biases and impart teaching strategies to improve learning environments for English language learners through discussion, simulations and integration of culture and language into the curriculum. The nine-month mentorship that follows provides coaches who help the teachers make positive connections between the children's home life and the school's environment.

The grant marks the first time the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learning Institute will be offered in North Jersey.

In addition to The Nicholson Foundation, the program is made possible by funding from Family Strength Associates, Inc., the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services – Division of Family Development, TD Bank Charitable Foundation, Bank of America, The Schumann Fund for New Jersey and The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College.

“We’re very pleased to support the English Language Learners Summer Institute, as part of our work to advance evidence-based early childhood practices that enhance family well-being and address the academic achievement gap.”

> Charles Venti, executive director of The Nicholson Foundation

early childhood educators from across New Jersey increase their cultural and linguistic awareness. Since it began in 2007, the program has trained and mentored 140 early childhood educators, better enabling them to create environments that affirm and celebrate the cultural heritage of their students.

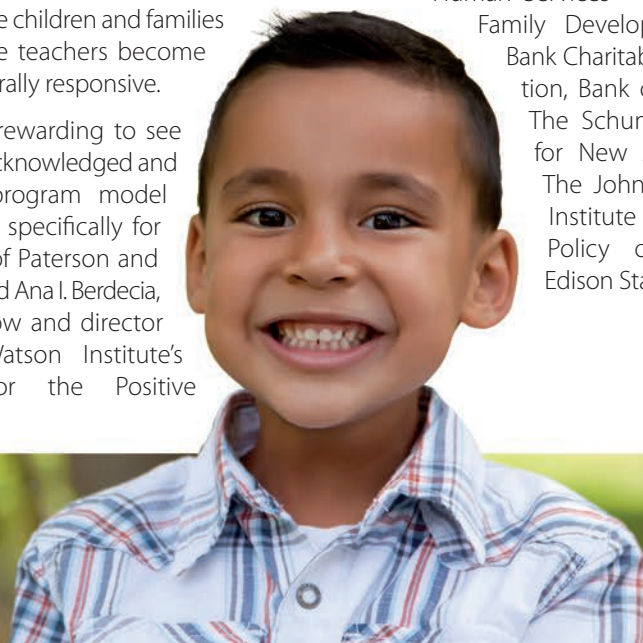
The Nicholson Foundation grant will be used to expand the program into Paterson and Newark, N.J.

"We're very pleased to support the English Language Learners Summer Institute, as part of our work to advance evidence-based early childhood practices that enhance family well-being and address the academic achievement gap," said

training includes additional teacher mentoring, quarterly teleconferences and peer interaction.

The grant will enable the center to recruit up to 32 early childhood educators from Paterson and Newark who work with diverse children and families to help the teachers become more culturally responsive.

"It is very rewarding to see our work acknowledged and the ELL program model duplicated specifically for the cities of Paterson and Newark," said Ana I. Berdecia, senior fellow and director of the Watson Institute's Center for the Positive



IN REMEMBRANCE: MAURICE T. PERILLI

It is with great sadness that Thomas Edison State College and the Thomas Edison State College Foundation acknowledge the loss of Maurice T. Perilli, a longtime supporter of the College and member of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors, who passed away on Nov. 25, 2013.

"Maury was one of the most important business and community leaders in Mercer County," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College. "His service to our community touched many lives and his commitment to our College played an important role in our ability to expand programs and grow enrollments."

Perilli joined the Foundation Board in 1993 and served as a dedicated member until the time of his passing. He established the Perilli Family Endowment benefitting the Foundation and was the 2000 recipient of the Spirit

of Edison Family Award. In 2001, he received an honorary degree from the College.

One of the hallmarks of Perilli's life was his outstanding contributions to business and civic organizations. A World War II Coast Guard veteran, Perilli served as chairman of the board of Roma Federal Savings Bank, where for years he oversaw operations of purchasing, human resources, security and building and property staff. Prior to his service with the bank, he owned his own printing and publishing business.

His civic work includes various activities in Hamilton Township, where he served as mayor, police commissioner and a member of the township's Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board. In addition, Perilli served on numerous boards for hospitals, charities and civic associations.



Foundation Set to Publish 2013 Report to Donors

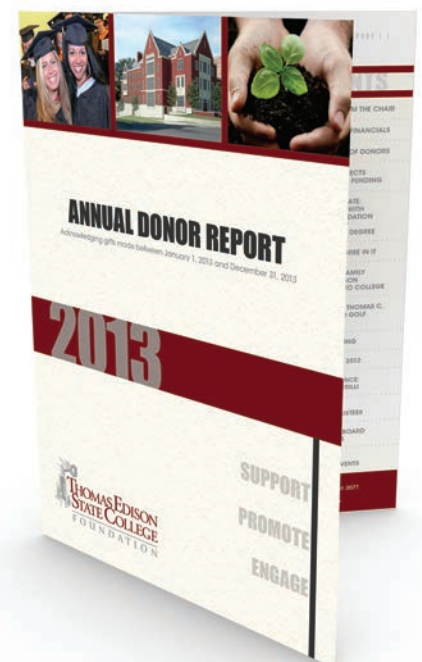
The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is scheduled to publish its 2013 report to donors later this year, which will outline financial information, investments made from Foundation support during the past year and vignettes highlighting donors of the institution.

"We received positive feedback from our inaugural report last year and look forward to informing our donors about how their support in 2013 enabled the Foundation to fund important initiatives at the College," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs. "This year, we

will provide an update to our supporters on a competency-based initiative funded in 2012 and highlight exciting, new programs made possible by Foundation support."

The report will also include expanded information on the Foundation's special events, including the annual Grande Ball and Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic.

The report will be mailed to all donors and made accessible on the Thomas Edison State College Foundation website at www.tescfoundation.org.





John and Eileen Martinson

Fostering Innovation

Innovation has always fascinated John Martinson.

His interest in Thomas Edison developed when he was in the fifth grade and visited the prolific inventor's laboratory in West Orange, N.J. Decades later, he would establish the Edison Venture Fund and the Martinson Family Foundation, which would foster innovations in technology across a wide range of fields. >>>



Fostering Innovation

»» For Martinson and his wife, Eileen, passion for supporting effective innovations that leverage the latest technology led them to become longtime supporters of Thomas Edison State College.

"In 2002, we became interested in Thomas Edison State College and their distance learning program to reach adult learners," recalled John Martinson, general partner and founder of Edison Ventures, a private equity and venture capital firm focused on nurturing

Eileen Martinson, who serves as president and CEO of Sparta Systems, a global firm that provides enterprise quality management solutions, said the College helps adult students build capacities that can make a difference in their careers and in their lives.

"John and I are both intensely interested in technology and are intrigued by what Thomas Edison State College is doing, especially in the area of course development," she said. "It's very next generation, and very necessary. If you

courses and create a media studio.

Matthew Cooper, associate provost of the College's Center for Learning and Technology, said the decision to focus on video and multimedia technology in course design is based on a shift in consumer behavior and learning styles brought on, in large part, by online video.

"As barriers related to bandwidth, software and production are going away, more and more people are now watching videos on their tablets and other mobile devices to get information," he said. "For visual learners and students who prefer the spoken word, video and multimedia can be useful tools in an online course."

Cooper said video will advance the personalization of the College's online courses by enabling students to produce

and upload videos in courses, use videos to respond to discussion board posts

“We admire the College because it effectively delivers college programs to adult learners, including active duty service members and veterans, through a unique education model.”

> John Martinson

invention and investing in technology-based entrepreneurs and companies. "We admire the College because it effectively delivers college programs to adult learners, including active duty service members and veterans, through a unique education model."

The Martinson Family Foundation is one of the largest supporters of the College and has provided more than \$700,000 in grants to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation to fund course development, technology and new degree programs.

think about how most people interact with technology on a daily basis, especially at work, you see it has become inevitable to gain competencies in using technology. What you have to bring into the workplace should be part of your courses."

In 2013, the Martinson Family Foundation awarded a three-year, \$450,000 grant that is enabling the College to leverage the latest video and multimedia technologies to create more interactive



“We feel strongly about innovation and making it available and relevant. For that to happen, you need leadership. Both John and I feel that Dr. George Pruitt is an outstanding leader who has ensured that the school’s focus has remained on serving adults.”

> Eileen Martinson



and collaborate with other students on group projects. The grant has already helped the College create a new hosting platform that makes it easier for students to access videos in their courses.

“We’re looking at specific lessons in our courses where video and multimedia can enhance the student experience and help them learn,” said Cooper. “There are certain areas, like foreign language, history, geography, where video can really bring a course to life. Math courses and lab courses are also good candidates where video can help demonstrate various concepts.”

Cooper estimated that students should begin to see more videos and interactivity in their courses by fall 2014, although enhanced playlists and videos are already embedded in some courses currently offered to students.

The creation of the media studio is scheduled to coincide with the renovation of 102 W. State Street, which began in April and is expected to be completed this fall.

Funding isn’t the only thing the Martinson’s provide to the College. Eileen Martinson is a member of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors. Last year, John Martinson donated most of his personal collection of Thomas Alva Edison artifacts and memorabilia – one of the largest private collections of its kind in the country – to the College.

“I have enjoyed over 50 years of inspiration from learning about America’s greatest inventor,” he said. “I am confident that the College will provide a long-term display of the collection both in Trenton and online. We think the collection is an excellent way to reinforce the College’s brand and innovation image.”

Some of the Martinson’s pieces are displayed at the Sparta Systems offices in Hamilton, N.J., where Eileen Martinson said it helps inspire the Sparta Systems team.

“We understand the innovative work taking place at Thomas Edison State College and think the collection can inspire both College staff and visitors to the campus,” she said.

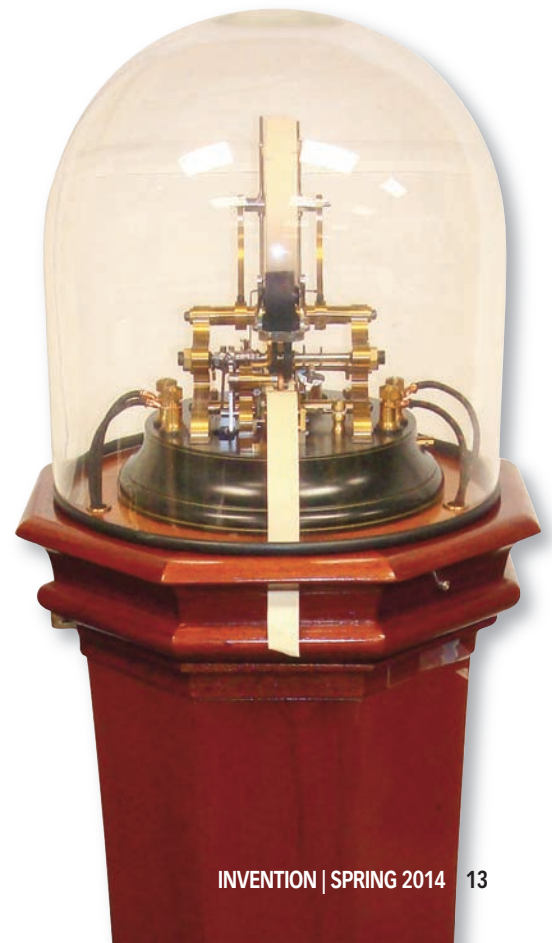
At the Thomas Edison State College Foundation’s Grande Ball last fall, the Martinson’s each received the 2013 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award. At the event, they said leadership was a key reason why the College is one of their favorite institutions to support.

“We feel strongly about innovation and making it available and relevant,” said

Eileen Martinson. “For that to happen, you need leadership. Both John and I feel that Dr. George Pruitt is an outstanding leader who has ensured that the school’s focus has remained on serving adults.”

John Martinson echoed that sentiment.

“The continuity of excellent leadership is critical and so is having an upbeat, supportive team,” he said. “Projects are completed on time, within budget and with the highest quality, which enables us to help celebrate the accomplishments of the College and its students and alumni. This is why we chose to support the College.”



*For U.S. Coast
Guard veteran
Ryan Nabors '13,
advocating for
disabled American
veterans is at
the core of his
personal mission.*



A native of Tumwater, Wash., Nabors served in several leadership positions with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Washington, including legislative chair, service director and commander. His efforts led to his appointment to the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and Disability Issues and Employment Committee under former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire.

"Working with disabled veterans and their evolving needs is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done," said Nabors, who was honored in 2011 by the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans with the organization's Unsung Hero Award. "These men and women, who bravely defended us while we were safe in our homes, deserve a safe haven too. Providing for them should be a national priority."

Currently a veteran estate manager at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs in Olympia, Wash., Nabors oversees the assets of seriously injured veterans who need assistance in supervising their property and possessions.

"I manage the personal assets for more than 100 of our state's veterans and ensure that food, clothing and housing are provided for them," he said. "I'm proud to work for an agency that places such a high value on our U.S. veterans."

Nabors knows first-hand how difficult it can be for disabled veterans to reacclimatize to civilian life. He was serving in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1995 when he sustained critical injuries to his back during a search and rescue mission. DAV representa-

Giving Disabled Veterans a Voice

tives he met during his recovery conveyed to him the value of helping veterans in need.

"I was impressed from the start with how Thomas Edison State College reaches out to veterans," said Nabors. "The College's courses allowed me

tasks can be especially overwhelming for this population. Many of our clients would have no other option without our assistance and we are certain that the population of homeless veterans would increase without our department's intervention."

"These men and women, who bravely defended us while we were safe in our homes, deserve a safe haven too. Providing for them should be a national priority."

> *Ryan Nabors*

to log on from anywhere in the world, and I appreciate that full-time professionals like me can complete their master's degree while holding down a full-time job."

After earning his undergraduate degree from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., Nabors said he heard about Thomas Edison State College while stationed with the U.S. Coast Guard in Cape May, N.J. He completed his Master of Science in Management degree program at the College in 2013 and is content in knowing that his academic experience is being put to positive use.

"Increasingly, our agency has been working with returning service members suffering from traumatic brain injury," he said. "Supervision of personal assets and administrative

U.S. Army Veteran George V. Lester of Lacey, Wash., is one who found his footing with Nabors' help.

Lester served in the Army's Finance Corps from the mid-60s in Europe, Korea and Vietnam and was responsible for a formidable amount of recordkeeping while he served. He felt, nonetheless, overwhelmed when it came time to apply for veterans benefits. Once he met with Nabors, however, his apprehension dissolved.

"He was a bundle of help and put me on the right track," said Lester. "He relates to us – I can't say enough about the ways in which he has supported me."

Nabors credits a supportive family for his personal success, including

his parents, his wife, Huong, his daughter, Sophia, who turned three in April, and his grandfather, Alexander. Like many veterans, he is profoundly influenced by the heroism of fellow military members.

"I would like to recognize my friend, Nathan B. Bruckenthal, who was killed in action during the Iraq War," he noted. "Nathan and I met at the USCG Training Center in Cape May, N.J., when he was a recruit. He died in 2004 while preventing an attack on the Khor Al Amaya Oil Terminal in the Persian Gulf."

For his bravery, U.S. Coast Guardsmen Bruckenthal was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, the Purple Heart and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.



Ryan Nabors '13

William Alsobrook AAS '08, BA '08

William Alsobrook recently took ownership of the Galveston Pirate Soccer Club. Alsobrook has worked closely with Texas Premier Soccer League (TPSL) president and owner of the Houston Hurricanes Football Club Brendan Keyes regarding the direction and strategy of the club and spoke proudly of the new development. "I am extremely proud to join Brendan and the TPSL family, and it is exciting to return home to the Galveston area," Alsobrook said after acquiring the team outright in March 2014. He is also the owner of W&B Photography and Design.

Trevor Ballif BSAST '13

Trevor Ballif, BS, RRT-NPS, was on his way to work as a respiratory therapist at McGuire Veteran's Hospital in Richmond, Va., when a horrific accident took place right in front of him. Ballif went on to save a young man's life without medical supplies and is glad to say that he was able to be there to help. Ballif spoke to a local media outlet the next morning, explaining, "I am usually on the other end at the hospital, wishing someone had been at the scene to administer CPR." Thankful for his quick action, the young man's father spoke to Ballif the next morning, assuring him that his son was doing well and off a ventilator. "My colleagues have been so supportive and are happy respiratory therapists are getting some good attention," he says, "it reminds us how fragile life is, and how blessed we are."

Johnny Cooper BSOL '13

Johnny Cooper, CFRE, joined Happy Hearts Fund (HHF) as director of development. Founded by supermodel Petra Nemcova, HHF rebuilds schools and restores hope in the lives of children impacted by natural disasters around the world. For more information, visit, www.happyheartsfund.org. Cooper also recently earned the credential of Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), the industry's most recognized credential.

David J. Davis BA '12

David J. Davis was appointed as a financial representative/college unit captain with Northwestern Mutual. Noting that financial security is something many strive to achieve, Davis helps his clients to identify goals and needs, and to develop pathways to achieve financial security. For more information, visit davidjdavis.nm.com/professional.htm.

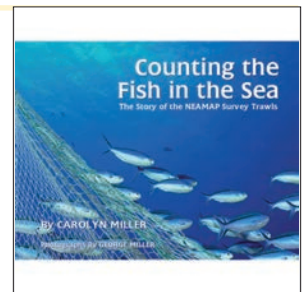


Jared Friesen BSBA '12

Jared Friesen, while serving as the Anchorage supervisor of customer service at Graybar Electric, finished his bachelor's degree in operations management. In spring 2013, Friesen began working on his master of science degree at University of Alaska Anchorage in global supply chain management. In January 2014, he was promoted to manager of customer service at the Spokane, Wash., location. "I feel that earning my degree from TESC proved that I could set a goal and accomplish that goal while working full-time. It also gave me the needed skillset to be accepted to a graduate program and earn my promotion."

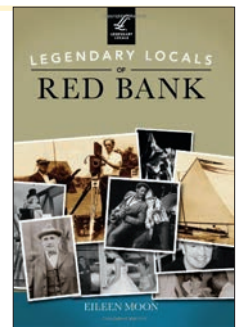
Carolyn T. Miller BA '80

Carolyn T. Miller recently published *Counting the Fish in the Sea: The Story of the NEAMAP Trawls* a nonfiction for children detailing the work of the team from Virginia Institute of Marine Science.



Eileen Moon BA '09

Eileen Moon recently published *Legendary Locals of Red Bank*. The local history book reveals the intriguing characters and everyday citizens who have made Red Bank's history legendary. The book shares the stories of unique individuals and groups, past and present, who have had a lasting impact on the community throughout its history.



Prof. Franco Paoletti MSM '04

Prof. Franco Paoletti, a Thomas Edison State College mentor and alumnus, was instrumental in campaigning for the restart of AGILE, the Italian satellite mission. Funded by the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the AGILE Mission had interrupted operations. Following the success of the "AGILE Must Go On" petition, started by Paoletti, ASI has granted restart of the mission's full operational activities. During its previous seven years of exploration, AGILE produced results on various fronts, thus allowing significant amplification of our understanding of the high energy spectrum of the cosmic radiation, and will continue to unveil the secrets of the cosmos during its current operation. If you would like to know more about AGILE, please follow this link: www.ASI.IT

Wayne Rheaume ASAST '93

Wayne Rheaume has had a distinguished career as a nuclear industry professional recognized for his achievements in leading high reliability organizations to improve human performance; deviation identification and corrective action programs; organizational performance; industrial safety, quality and ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineering) programs; and technical processes with industry leading results. Rheaume has led and participated in numerous initiatives that have impacted the nuclear power industry in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa and Mexico with various corporations and organizations such as INPO, WANO, IAEA and other nuclear operators.

William J. Robinson BSBA '88

William J. Robinson has made numerous gains within the community since retiring from AT&T following a 30-year career. Robinson has written a white paper entitled, *Capitalism for a Cause*, which develops a unique profit center/nonprofit model, where one supports the social/community endeavors of the other. This program's goal is to train minorities so that they can create their own jobs and escape poverty through acquiring education, training and hands-on skills. Since putting this model into place, Robinson has presented this program to a number of government organizations and has seen his concept at work in the federal prison system.

Dr. Ryan A. Robinson BA '00, MSHRM '07

After working full time throughout his post-secondary education at Thomas Edison State College, Dr. Ryan A. Robinson went on to earn his PhD with honors at Capella University, focusing on human services and counseling.

Aronjol Rosenthal BSAST '07

Aronjol Rosenthal recently received his first international patent in regards to the oil sands of Alberta. Through the efforts related to his patent, Rosenthal was able to create a method of recovering tailing ponds. His patent is designed to feed water tailings through a drying apparatus, which then separates different materials that exist in the water, so that a fluid stream yields a concentrated tailing product. The oil sands Rosenthal deals with are deposits of heavy crude oil, located in Canada, that are known for being the largest reservoir of crude oil in the world.

Bernie Siben BA '00

Bernie Siben, CPSM, made a presentation at the Society for Marketing Professional Services Southern Regional Conference in Tulsa on Jan. 30, 2014. The presentation, *Care and Feeding of Clients*, was a reminder of all the things an architecture/engineering industry marketer could be doing for his/her firm's clients during the research, positioning, proposal, project and ongoing phases of the relationship.

Tony Teravainen ASAT '01, BSAST '05

Tony Teravainen received a county proclamation on the deck of the USS Midway Jan. 29, 2014, on behalf of his nonprofit Support The Enlisted Project (STEP). Teravainen serves as the chair for the organization. STEP serves as a resource supporting lower ranking military enlisted and recently honorably discharged veteran families when the family budget cannot be stretched any further and unexpected financial hardship occurs. "I owe so much of my success today to the challenges and rewards Thomas Edison State College presented to me during my pursuit of a bachelor's degree," he said. "I would recommend the school to anyone serious about setting forth a solid foundation upon which to build success in life."

James Yanuzzelli BA '13

James Yanuzzelli, after graduating from Thomas Edison State College, became an adjunct professor at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, N.J.

Keep Us Posted!

Please send your news to invention@tesc.edu and be sure to include your first and last name, your address, your preferred phone, the year you graduated and what degree you earned.

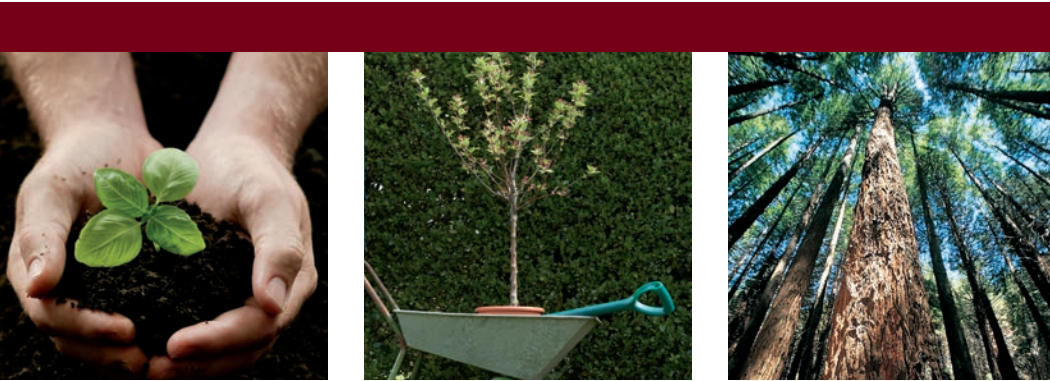
Updates can also be sent to: **Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor, 101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176; Fax: (609) 777-1894.**



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ALUMNI & STUDENT NETWORKING EVENTS

tesc.edu/alumni-events

JUNE

23 > Society for Human Resource Management, Orlando, Fla.

SEPTEMBER

17 > King of Prussia, Pa.

20 > Commencement and Alumni Dinner, Trenton, N.J.

SAVE THE DATE

Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 23rd Annual Grande Ball

> Saturday, October 4
The Hyatt Regency,
Princeton, N.J.

For more information about these events or having an event near you, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592 or alumni@tesc.edu.

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