

WINTER 2015

# Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

CBS  
CORPORATION



## GEARED UP

David Orozco '14

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**Cover Story: 8**  
Geared Up: David Orozco '14





## *Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,*

General Omar N. Bradley said, "This is as true in everyday life as it is in battle: we are given one life and the decision is ours whether to wait for circumstances to make up our mind, or whether to act, and in acting, to live."

Bradley's quote is especially relevant when you consider the accomplishments of the thousands of active duty service members and veterans served by Thomas Edison State College, including David Orozco '14. David, a military and veteran recruiter at CBS Corporation in New York, shares the story of his military career and how the College helped him successfully transition from an active duty soldier to a veteran. He also shares tips on making the transition from the military to the civilian job market.

Also in this issue, we are delighted to report that Comcast will be airing public service announcements promoting our programs for veterans in most of its broadcast markets across the country. This extraordinary opportunity was made possible in large part by Bill Black '98, vice president and executive director of the Comcast Foundation and director of Community Investment for Comcast Corporation. We are honored to have alumni, like Bill, who are dedicated to helping the College continue to achieve its mission to offer flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities to our veterans.

Inside, we also bring you the story of Rosetta Lattimore '76, '79, a lifelong learner who has been a loyal donor to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's Annual Fund since 1990. Rosetta has dedicated her life to instilling the importance of education in the children and adults she has worked with during her many years as an educator.

Lastly, we are also pleased to share photos from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 2014 Grande Ball, which raised a record \$170,000 to benefit the College and honored two strong supporters of our institution: Bernard M. Flynn, Esq., president and chief executive officer of NJM Insurance Group, who received the 2014 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award; and Eileen M. Horton '00, vice president of Patient Services and chief nursing officer at Capital Health, who received the 2014 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumna Award.

We are grateful for the support of the Foundation and to all of our sponsors, volunteers and guests who made the 2014 Grande Ball such a success.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President

## College Partners with Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing and Camden County College to Offer Four-Year Pathway to BSN Degree

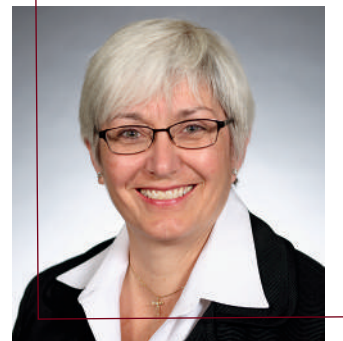
Camden County College and Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing are collaborating with the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College to create a dual admission program that enables students to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in four years.

The “Finish in Four” program will allow graduates of the nursing cooperative program offered by Camden County College and Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing to transfer and apply up to 80 credits to the online RN-BSN program at Thomas Edison State College.

“This partnership answers a key recommendation from the Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing*, which calls for an increase in the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020,” said Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College. “Many

degree level collaborates with diploma/associate degree programs,” said Dr. Anne McGinley, dean of Nursing, Health Sciences and Human Services at Camden County College.

Eligible students enrolled in the cohort-based program will be granted conditional acceptance to the RN-BSN program at Thomas Edison State College and full acceptance once they complete the nursing diploma, associate in science degree and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Students enrolled under the collaboration will receive discounted tuition and a deferred payment option.



*Dr. Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing*

*“This partnership answers a key recommendation from the Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing*, which calls for an increase in the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020.”*

*> Filomela Marshall, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing*

hospitals and healthcare organizations have shown an increase in hiring nurses with a BSN. This trend is driven by the research that demonstrates the educational level of professional nurses is clearly linked to better patient outcomes.”

The program will provide a pipeline of BSN-prepared nurses to provide healthcare services to underserved populations in Camden and throughout the Delaware Valley. The public-private collaboration provides a seamless transition for eligible students enrolled in the nursing cooperative program offered by Camden County College and Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing, where students complete a nursing diploma and an associate in science degree.

“This model is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when nursing education at the baccalaureate

“We are very excited about the opportunity to partner with Thomas Edison. Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing and Camden County College provide a challenging curriculum coupled with 880 clinical hours of practical, hands-on experiences that thoroughly prepare students for nursing in today’s healthcare environment,” said Dr. Lisa Easterby, dean of Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing. “This partnership allows our students to complete their BSN degree in one additional year following graduation from the cooperative program — and at considerable savings in tuition.”

For more information, visit [www.tesc.edu/nursing](http://www.tesc.edu/nursing) or contact Mary Beth Sauter, coordinator of Enrollment Services, Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing, at (856) 757-3726.

## College Joins Lumina Foundation Effort to Advance Degree Completion in U.S.

Thomas Edison State College is partnering with the Lumina Foundation to explore ways to develop and scale a business model that can be offered nationally to help more nontraditional students leverage their prior learning and complete a college degree.

The collaboration is directly aligned with Lumina's Goal 2025, which seeks to increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality college degrees, certificates or other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. In support of this goal, Lumina has committed \$700,000 to begin the collaborative project. In addition to Thomas Edison State College, the collaboration also includes Charter Oak College; Colorado State University - Global Campus;



Lumina's commitment funds the intensive design process and associated market research; it does not fund any individual institution. The goal of the work is to learn from and improve current models building on the unique strengths of the participating institutions, known

*"Our goal is to work together and share our best practices to ultimately create a business model that can better serve many more students than any one institution could serve on its own."*

*> William J. Seaton, provost and vice president of Thomas Edison State College*

SUNY Empire State College; Excelsior College; Governors State University; and Granite State College. The institutions and Lumina are joined in this work by HCM Strategists and Community Wealth Partners.

All seven institutions have a strong focus and core competence in serving adults who have accumulated college credits but did not complete a degree. The goal is to explore how the business model of the institutions can be reimaged, expanded and offered in more states to help more students translate their experiences into a high-quality college degree at a reasonable cost.

"We are honored to participate in this important consortium aimed at improving the quality of our nation's human capital," said William J. Seaton, provost and vice president of Thomas Edison State College. "Our goal is to work together and share our best practices to ultimately create a business model that can better serve many more students than any one institution could serve on its own."

as "completion colleges." The project aims to make the system easier to navigate for adult students, including thousands of returning military members, regardless of where they reside or relocate.

In April 2014, the Lumina Foundation first convened the seven completion colleges to better understand how their unique focus on credit integration, prior learning assessment, degree planning, reasonable transfer policy and flexible, innovative course delivery might be scaled in states across the country to create cost savings to students and the higher education system as a whole. The formal collaboration was launched in November 2014.



## Comcast to Air National College PSA Focusing on Veterans

Thomas Edison State College has produced two public service announcements (PSAs) aimed at helping veterans learn how to earn credit for military training and complete a college degree that are scheduled to air nationally on television networks carried by Comcast and NBCUniversal.

The PSAs feature Brad Brezinski '04, a Navy veteran, as well as footage from the College's 2014 Commencement ceremony. Viewers will be invited to the College's new veteran website, [veterans.tesc.edu](http://veterans.tesc.edu), which provides access to the institution's Military and Veteran Portal as well as other resources for veterans and service members.

*"Our goal is to communicate how Thomas Edison State College can help veterans and active duty service members earn a college degree and prepare for a career as a civilian."*

*> Misty Isak, associate vice president of Development at Thomas Edison State College*

The College is partnering with Vietnam Veterans of America and the National Veteran Business Development Council in the production of the PSAs, which are scheduled to appear in most of Comcast's broadcast markets across the country. The PSAs are scheduled to run during two five-week flights in March and August.

"We are honored to be working with the Comcast Foundation and Comcast Corporation on this incredible opportunity to reach out to veterans," said Misty Isak, associate vice president of Development at Thomas Edison State College. "Our goal is to communicate how Thomas Edison State College can help veterans and active duty service members earn a college degree and prepare for a career as a civilian."

Comcast estimates the broadcast equivalent of the College's national PSA campaign to be a value of approximately \$2 million.

"The College is especially grateful for the support of Bill Black '98, vice president and executive director of the Comcast Foundation and director of Community Investment for Comcast Corporation, who was instrumental in making this in-kind donation possible," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs. "This is an unprecedented opportunity for the College to reach one of our key audiences and raise awareness of Thomas Edison State College at the national level."



*“Our new portal enables military and veterans to affordably complete a college degree in a timeframe that is convenient for them while providing additional support services and counseling from the time they are prospective students, through their postgraduate careers.”*

*> Louis Martini, associate vice president for Military and Veteran Education*

## PSEG Foundation Supports Military and Veteran Portal

The PSEG Foundation recently awarded a \$70,000 grant to support Thomas Edison State College’s online Military and Veteran Portal, which shows active duty service members and veterans how their military training applies as credit toward a degree and helps connect them to a career after graduation.

The grant, which was made to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, also enables PSEG to match many graduates coming through the program with job openings at the company.

“Our new portal enables military and veterans to affordably complete a college degree in a timeframe that is convenient for them while providing additional support services and counseling from the time they are prospective students, through their postgraduate careers,” said Louis Martini, associate vice president for Military and Veteran Education at the College.



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

In addition to showing active duty service members and veterans how their military training can be transferred to the College and applied as credit to a degree program, the portal also enables them to view potential degree programs aligned with their military training, learn about possible career options and estimate their education costs – all before they apply.

“The portal gives our prospective students an opportunity to validate prior learning that will facilitate their transition to the workplace,” said Martini. “We are immensely grateful to PSEG for their support in this endeavor and in helping us to better serve the brave men and women who defend our country.”

Visit the College’s Military and Veteran Portal at: [mvp.tesc.edu](http://mvp.tesc.edu).

## College named “Top School” for Military and Veterans



Thomas Edison State College has been recognized once again as one of the top educational institutions in the country for serving members of the U.S. military and veterans by *Military Advanced Education* magazine.

The publication has awarded the College a designation of “Top School” in its 2015 “Guide to Colleges & Universities.” Data in the guide is a result of questionnaires focused on military-supportive policies enacted at more than 600 institutions of higher education in the country and enables prospective students to target schools that provide the best fit with their degree objectives. The guide also provides a searchable database that allows prospective students to compare how institutions serving active duty military, veterans and their dependents, score on support services, flexibility, financial assistance and military culture.

The guide was featured in the magazine’s December 2014 issue and on its website at [www.mae-kmi.com](http://www.mae-kmi.com).

## College Participating in ACE Alternate Credit Project

Thomas Edison State College has joined an alternative credit consortium led by the American Council on Education (ACE) that is working to create more flexible pathways for nontraditional learners who want to finish a college degree.

The College is one of 25 institutions in the consortium, where schools have agreed to accept all or most of the transfer credit sought by students who successfully complete courses that are part of a selected pool of about 100 low-cost or no-cost lower-division general education online courses. The institutions will also help identify the sources, criteria and quality of the courses.

"We are excited to be a part of this important effort on national attainment,"



*Marc Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning*

increase the number of Americans able to gain a college degree or credential."

As an additional part of the effort, ACE will expand its current work in the area of college credit recommendations by developing a quality framework and guidelines for issuing recommendations for digital micro-credentials, competency-based programs and nondegree certificate programs.

In addition to Thomas Edison State College, participating institutions include: American Public University; Capella University; Central Michigan University; Charter Oak State College; Colorado Community College System; Colorado Technical University; East Carolina University; Fayetteville State

*"We believe this consortium can increase access to higher education for more students around the country who are interested in earning a college degree."*

*> Marc Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning at Thomas Edison State College*

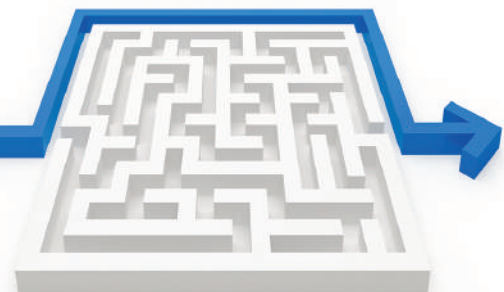
said Marc Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning. "We believe this consortium can increase access to higher education for more students around the country who are interested in earning a college degree."

The initiative is made possible by a \$1.89 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its initial focus will be on the more than 31 million adults in the U.S. who have completed some postsecondary course work but lack a degree or credential.

"The institutions serving in this pilot project will play a valuable role in helping enhance the work we have been doing for many years in developing quality mechanisms for determining the credit worthiness of education, training and life experiences outside of a formal higher education classroom setting," said Molly Corbett Broad, ACE president. "We very much appreciate this generous investment and the commitment it represents to the effort to provide a more flexible and cost-efficient way to

University; Fort Hays State University; Goodwin College; John F. Kennedy University; Kaplan University; Lakeland College; Metropolitan State University of Denver; National Louis University; Northern Arizona University; Northwestern State University; Notre Dame College; SUNY Empire State College; Texas Woman's University; University of Baltimore; University of Maryland University College; University of Memphis; and University of North Carolina.

"This project will yield multiple and long-lasting benefits to the participating institutions, the wider higher education community and potentially millions of nontraditional learners," said Deborah Seymour, assistant vice president for Education Attainment and Innovation at ACE. "It will help lead to the greater acceptance of alternative forms of credit in a way that ensures quality and encourages more people to complete their postsecondary education."





## College President Honored by N.J. League of Municipalities

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, was selected by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM) to receive the association's 14th annual Distinguished Public Service Award.

The award, which honors individuals or organizations that have made substantial contributions to the state of New Jersey through distinguished public service, was presented at the NJLM Annual Delegates Luncheon on Nov. 20 at the Sheraton Convention Center Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J.

"Dr. Pruitt's focus on improving access and retention for scores of adults returning to earn their college degrees has been exemplary," said William G. Dressel Jr., NJLM's executive director. "The League was pleased to honor someone whose commitment to higher education is such an important driver of our state's prosperity."

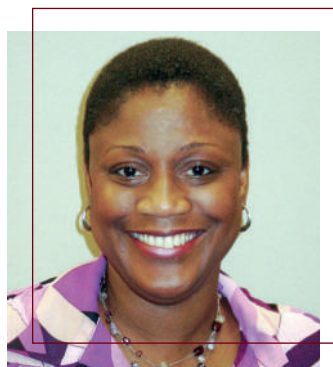


Both Thomas Edison State College President Dr. George A. Pruitt (left) and Dr. James W. Hughes, dean of the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (right), received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the New Jersey League of Municipalities. The awards were presented by league president and Stone Harbor Mayor Suzanne M. Walters (center). Photo: Hal Brown.

## Institute Director Receives Healthy Kids Champion Award

Barbara George Johnson, executive director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College, was one of six recipients to receive the Healthy Kids Champion award this year from the New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids, a statewide program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with technical assistance and direction provided by the New Jersey YMCA State Alliance.

The goal of the program is to convene, connect and empower community partnerships across the state in order to design and implement childhood obesity prevention strategies that support access to affordable healthy foods and increase opportunities for safe



*Barbara George Johnson, executive director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy*

physical activity in the cities of Camden, Newark, New Brunswick, Trenton and Vineland.

"It is an honor to have been selected for this award," said George Johnson,

who received the award at the Equitable Communities Conference on Dec. 3 in Edison, N.J. "New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids and its community partners have made great strides in implementing policy and environmental changes aimed at preventing childhood obesity. Some of the undertakings include assisting with the development of wellness policies, renovating playgrounds, securing commitments from local corner stores to provide healthier choices and co-sponsoring fun and fitness events."





CLEAN

David Orozco '14

GREEN

## How Thomas Edison State College Helped David Orozco '14 Serve His Fellow Veterans

UP



After serving his country in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard, earning a commission as an officer and completing a deployment in Iraq, David Orozco did not expect to find himself unemployed when he left active duty service and became a veteran. >>

# GEARED UP

David Orozco '14



Orozco had earned a scholarship to Rutgers University in 2002, when he graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson, N.J., but, instead, decided to complete military training that he began prior to his senior year of high school in the Army National Guard.

"While my peers were enjoying their summer down the shore or spending time with their friends, I was learning military tactics, learning how to shoot weapons and disciplining my mind and body," recalled Orozco. "I decided

At the time, he was enrolled in the Associate in Applied Science degree in criminal justice and the Bachelor of Science degree in homeland security and emergency preparedness. Orozco said he realized that he wanted to find a position with a Fortune 500 company that offered the potential for professional growth.

But it was not easy, even with his veteran credentials.

"I faced several challenges during my transition. These included not knowing how to market myself to employers,

*"I faced several challenges during my transition. These included not knowing how to market myself to employers, not really networking with civilian counterparts and not being able to accurately convey military experience on my resume."*

> David Orozco '14

to forego my college education at that time so that I could finish my military training. The attacks of Sept. 11 were a big factor in my decision."

Orozco rose through the ranks, eventually earning a commission as a second lieutenant, and served in several specialties, including infantry, recruitment, human resources and military intelligence. He started his college career in 2004 at a community college while stationed at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey and first enrolled at Thomas Edison State College in 2009.

"I realized that in order to fulfill my potential, I had to attend college and immerse myself in the academics," he said. "However, it wasn't until I was in Iraq that I foresaw my military career was reaching an impasse due to my lack of a college education."

Orozco learned firsthand just how large of an impasse he was facing when he transitioned to civilian life in 2013.

"I encountered some difficulties coming out of active duty, specifically because I thought I was prepared but I really wasn't ready for the job market," recalled Orozco. "I was an officer, I had all of this training and I had some college education, but not a degree yet. I did not know where to go or what do to with my life."

not really networking with civilian counterparts and not being able to accurately convey military experience on my resume," said Orozco, who completed both degrees at Thomas Edison State College in 2014.

After a several months, he got his first break with the Department of Defense and secured a position after networking with civilian professionals. Additional



networking a few months later led to an interview at CBS, where Orozco was selected for a position as a military and veteran recruiter. Today, he serves as a primary contact for veterans interested in working at CBS and its subsidiaries.

Orozco said completing a college degree is extremely important, especially for veterans who are interested in building a career at a large corporation in today's highly competitive civilian job market.

"Despite all the training and experience a veteran may have, unless they have a college degree, they are very limited in their career options," he said. "My college education played an enormous role in both my military career and my ability to successfully transition to the civilian sector. Without a college degree, I wouldn't have been able to work for the Department of Defense or at a prestigious organization such as CBS."



David Orozco (fourth from left) with the CBS talent acquisition team on the NFL Today set.

Orozco noted that Thomas Edison State College worked for him because its online program could be completed around his schedule regardless of his location. He also said it was critical to be able to earn credit for military training.

"The best part of the courses for me was the final project. That was the culmination of everything that I had worked for and where I could apply everything I learned into a practical, real-world scenario. The gratification at the end of each course was sublime," said Orozco. "In addition, the professors understood the rigors of military life. That understanding is invaluable to veteran students."

Orozco said the best advice he can give to veterans who are considering earning a degree is to select an area of study that they enjoy and one that is also marketable.

"Veterans should conduct research on what the future job market demands will be," he said. "The last thing you want to do is to spend your hard earned benefits on something that is not going to improve your quality of life."



## TIPS TO PREPARE FOR VETERAN TRANSITION

David Orozco said veterans transitioning to the civilian job market should be able to incorporate themselves into a company's culture, understand what makes a company successful and be able to explain how what they have learned in the military can benefit an organization. Below are tips he shares with active duty military members and veterans.

### > Develop your resume

*(before you leave active duty service)*

Have someone without a military background review your resume so you can see if a civilian can easily determine how your military training translates to a civilian job.

### > Research the job market

Gain an understanding about which fields are expected to grow and where jobs are forecasted to be available.

### > Network

Some are often hesitant to do this, but it is important to make sure people know who you are and what skills you possess.

### > Earn a college degree

It helps an employer see that you can do research, understand certain concepts and apply research and concepts to the job.

"Even with all of the skills and experiences a veteran acquires in the military, they will be limited in their career options without a college degree," he said.



# Inspiring Others to Transform their Lives

*"I believe in the power that education has to transform lives. Working with adults, as an adult, to help them earn their GED was the most gratifying position I've ever held."*

Rosetta Lattimore, AA '76, 'BA 79

# Alumni Profile



Rosetta Norwood Lattimore promised herself she would finish her degree. Little did she know that promise would turn into a lifetime of teaching others to do the same.

Lattimore has spent her life instilling in others the importance of education and her motivation has inspired many students. Having served as a public school teacher, she knew her work educating others would not be over once she retired. Lattimore continued her educational path, working at an adult education center close to her home, assisting adults in the process of earning their high school diploma through the General Educational Development (GED) test.

It was at the center where Lattimore was first introduced to the College.

"A friend of mine there told me about Thomas Edison State College. I looked into the College's programs and saw that I was able to transfer my credits and complete my bachelor's degree," she explained.

The transfer credit option the College offers was a huge convenience for Lattimore who was just one year shy of completing her bachelor's degree at Shaw University in North Carolina. She earned an Associate in Arts degree at Thomas Edison State College in 1976. In 1979, she finished what she had started by earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in natural sciences from the College.

"TESC offers a great opportunity for people who have not completed their education to finish it anyway," she explained. "I encourage my family and friends to go back and complete their education all the time."

Lattimore sees her passion for education and joy of assisting others in their own personal educational journeys as the prime motivation toward earning her degree.

When she started her teaching career, Lattimore worked in the Plainfield School District as a substitute teacher. She knew she needed to bring her career full circle and earn her teaching certification and degree in order to eventually teach in her own classroom.

This would allow her to bring in additional income, benefits and the ability to share her knowledge with the students she was teaching by setting a positive example for them to follow.

During the next 29 years, Lattimore was able to enrich the lives and minds of her students before retiring from the Plainfield School District as a full-time teacher in 1996.

Her experience at the adult learning center offered her the chance to take a glimpse inside the life of an adult making a positive educational change in their life and working hard to turn things around.

"Here are adults who have not finished high school, whatever the reason may be. Whether it was 'the gym teacher made me mad', or 'I got too frustrated with math class', we heard it all. Now they realize they can get their diploma and continue. I meet young people, to this day, that remember me and the learning center. They all have gone on to do remarkable things," she recalled.

She was eager to be a part of their lives and journey, just as much as they were to have her there to help them. "These adults were there to improve their lives, get better jobs, more exposure and take their first steps toward reaching success. I believe in the power that education has to transform lives. Working with adults, as an adult, to help them earn their GED was the most gratifying position I've ever held," explained Lattimore.

With her days in the classroom behind her, Lattimore finds time to do things for herself these days. At 84, she is involved with numerous women's groups, loves to travel and cruise and enjoys reading fictional historical novels.

She also has the support of her widespread family behind her. Lattimore was married to the late Everett C. Lattimore, who was the first African American mayor of Plainfield, N.J. Together, the couple raised seven children. Lattimore now finds herself with 15 grandchildren and six great grandchildren, which makes for prodigious family reunions. "All the more fun having everyone in one place," she expressed. "We're scattered across the country, so we don't see each other regularly, but I am just so very proud of them all."

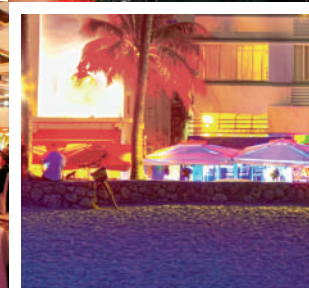
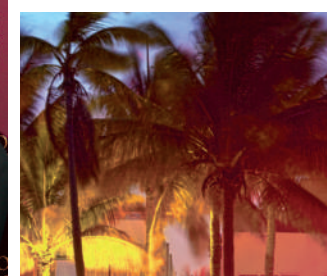
Lattimore currently resides in northeastern New Jersey.

## Rosetta Lattimore, AA '76, BA '79

# Grande Ball 2014

## South Beach Style

THOMAS EDISON  
STATE COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION  
HONORS  
NJM INSURANCE GROUP'S  
**BERNARD FLYNN, ESQ.**  
AND  
CAPITAL HEALTH'S  
**EILEEN HORTON '00**



More than 250 guests helped the Thomas Edison State College Foundation honor two outstanding individuals and support Thomas Edison State College at the annual Grande Ball, held at the Hyatt Regency Princeton in Princeton, N.J., on Oct. 4.

The black tie gala raised more than \$170,000 for the College – setting a new record for the money raised at the annual event. The Foundation honored two distinguished individuals for their accomplishments and support of the College. This year's honorees included:

> **Bernard M. Flynn, Esq.**, *president and chief executive officer of NJM Insurance Group*, who received the 2014 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award

> **Eileen M. Horton '00**, *vice president of Patient Services and chief nursing officer at Capital Health*, who received the 2014 Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumna Award

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

"We are honored to recognize such extraordinary individuals and good friends," said Pruitt. "Bernie and Eileen exemplify the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and spirit of excellence associated with our College and our namesake."

## Sponsors

Sponsors of the 2014 Grande Ball include: NJM Insurance Group (Platinum Sponsor); Prudential and Wells Fargo (Silver Sponsors); Investors Bank (Band Sponsor); PNC Bank (Wine Sponsor); AT&T (Cocktail Reception Sponsor); Bunker Hill Consultation Center (Silent Auction Sponsor); Capital Health and New Jersey Business and Industry Association (Souvenir Journal Sponsors); Dyer and Peterson, PC; IBEW Local 269; Lear & Pannepacker, LLP; Mercer County Community College; St. Francis Medical Center; Stark and Stark; and UBS (Corporate Sponsors); Capital Health and Nexus Properties (Corporate Patrons); Advanced Micro Computer Specialists, Inc. and Wolff, Helies, Spaeth & Lucas (Valet Parking Sponsors); Branning Collision Centers (Photo Station Sponsor); Burlington County College, Camassa & Yuro, P.C. and Children's Specialized Hospital (Raffle Sponsors).





## COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD Bernard M. Flynn, Esq.

*President and Chief Executive Officer, NJM Insurance Group*

Bernard "Bernie" Flynn has served as president and CEO of New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company (NJM) since April 2008 and chairman of the board of NJM Bank FSB, a wholly owned subsidiary of NJM, from 2009 to 2013.

He joined NJM in 1993 as a staff attorney and was named vice president and general counsel in 2001 and senior president and general counsel in 2004. Flynn was elected to the Board of Directors of the insurance company in 2003 and to the board of NJM Bank in 2004.

Before joining NJM, Flynn served as a New Jersey deputy attorney general from 1987 to 1993, serving as counsel for the commissioner of insurance from 1991 to 1993.

Flynn is currently chairman of Choose New Jersey, an independent, privately funded and managed nonprofit corporation inspired by Gov. Chris Christie to promote New Jersey as a place to invest and do business.

In June 2014, Flynn joined the Rutgers Business School's Institute for Ethical Leadership Executive Business Cabinet. He has served as a trustee for Public Media NJ, Inc., since 2011 and as a board member of the New Jersey Network (NJN) Foundation from 2009 – 2011. He has been a member of the New Jersey Chapter/Eastern Division of CEOs Against Cancer since 2011; board member of Junior Achievement of NJ from 2010-2012; and member of the Property Casualty Insurers (PCI) Board of Governors since 2008.

Several committees benefited from Flynn's expertise during a time of great change in the New Jersey personal auto insurance market. He served as a member of the New Jersey Insurance Department's Personal Injury Protection (PIP) Technical Advisory Committee from 1999 to 2002; a member of the New Jersey Insurance Underwriting Association from 2000 to 2001; and co-chaired Governor-Elect McGreevey's Banking and Insurance Transition Team in 2001. Flynn also served as secretary of the Insurance Council of New Jersey (ICNJ) from 1999 to 2001.

He graduated from Rutgers University School of Law in 1986 after obtaining his BS degree from Fordham University in 1982. Flynn earned the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation in 2001.

Flynn and his wife, Ann, live in Delran, N.J. They have two children.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD Eileen M. Horton, MSM '00

*Vice President, Patient Services & Chief Nursing Officer, Capital Health*

As vice president of patient services and chief nursing officer for Capital Health, Eileen Horton is responsible for patient care services, including emergency medical services, adult and pediatric clinics, emergency departments (adult and pediatric), diagnostic and interventional radiology, Capital Health's Heart and Vascular Institute (including Cardiac Catheterization and Center for Wound Management), Center for Oncology (including Radiation Oncology), Center for Digestive Health and orthopedic surgery (Marjorie G. Ernest Joint Replacement Center of Excellence at Capital Health Medical Center – Hopewell).

Horton has a diploma in nursing from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing; a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from Graceland College; a Master of Science in Management degree from Thomas Edison State College; and a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Phoenix.

She began her career as a maternity nurse and has held positions of increasing responsibility including, most recently, vice president of Strategic Transformation at Capital Health, where she was responsible for facilitating the transformation of processes and systems based upon evidence-based best practices. Other previous positions include director of Maternal Child Health and division director of Nursing at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton, N.J.; chief nursing officer at Tenet City Avenue Hospital, Pa.; director of Quality & Risk Management at Virtua Memorial Hospital of Burlington County, N.J.; and director of Maternal-Child Health and Medical-Surgical Nursing at Jersey City Medical Center, N.J.

Horton is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the Association for Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International.



## Ida E. Biddle-Mayer, RN BA '11, BSN '14

Ida E. Biddle-Mayer has recently been confirmed as the College's graduate nursing student liaison to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Graduate Nurse Student Academy. She also became an officer for Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Nurses Network (PADDNN) as an educational coordinator.

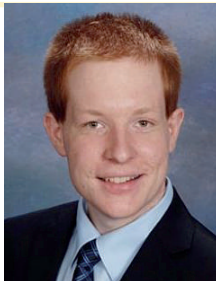
## Dr. Charles W. C. Chan BSBA '96

Dr. Charles W. C. Chan is a professor of Islamic finance and international business at Euclid University, an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Gambia. Chan also serves as an honorary datuk and ambassador of peace and development for the Royal Sultanate of Sulu, Royal House of Maguindano, Royal House of Lanao, Royal House of Buayan and Tribal Council of Central Mindanao in the Philippines.



## Alex M. Cooper AAS '12, BA '12

Alex M. Cooper graduated in December 2014 with a 4.0 GPA from Concordia University in Saint Paul, Minn. where he earned an MA in Strategic Communication Management.



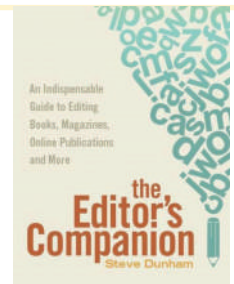
## Dave Dooling BA '99

Dave Dooling earned an MS in space studies at the University of North Dakota, and then went on to earn an MS in science education at Montana State, which he completed in 2014. Dooling was instrumental in the placement of a marker noting the orbit of Pluto on the SunSpot Solar System model at the Cloudcroft (New Mexico) Chamber of Commerce. With the Sun's marker located at the National Solar Observatory, Neptune's indicator passing by the New Mexico Museum of Space History and Pluto's marker passing through Cloudcroft, it forms the largest solar system model in the American West and the sixth largest in the world. Dooling, who attached the sign, is the education director at the Museum of Space History and former education officer at the National Solar Observatory, where he started the project.



## Steve Dunham BA '88

Steve Dunham, whose book *The Editor's Companion* was published in December by Writer's Digest Books, has been working as an editor since 1981. The book draws on decades of editorial and writing experience, introducing the principles of editing, which he presents in a friendly, helpful and, sometimes, humorous way. His book is geared toward journalism students, novice editors and those who have editing thrust upon them. The book is available online at [www.writersdigestshop.com/the-editors-companion](http://www.writersdigestshop.com/the-editors-companion). Dunham also writes the Editor's Companion blog: <https://editorscompanion.wordpress.com>.



## Justin Farnsworth BSAST '07

Justin Farnsworth was elected to serve on his local Dorchester, S.C., District 2 School Board of Trustees on Nov. 4, 2014. The district serves more than 25,000 students, employs more than 3,500 educational staff members and is ranked as one of the highest performing districts in the state of South Carolina. The board consists of seven at-large members that set the policy and vision for a world-class school district. Farnsworth serves as the chair of the board's technology committee and sits on safety and legislative committees. Outside of his school board work, Farnsworth is a financial advisor in his community and is active in several other local organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce and the Tricounty Veterans Support Network. Farnsworth and his wife, Jessica, have two children and reside in Summerville, S.C., just outside of Charleston.



## Brian Fogarty ASAST '98, BSAST '11

Brian Fogarty is a retired Navy chief warrant officer and current senior reactor operator at Limerick Generating Station. Fogarty completed his MS in marine engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., with a 3.81 GPA. He will receive his degree at its June commencement.

## Timothy O. Holcomb, MD, AAFP BA '91

Timothy O. Holcomb has published an article, "...So please tell this panel why you want to be a doctor." After completing his residency and practicing medicine for eight years in Tennessee, Holcomb moved to Florida and worked as a

Medicare/Medicaid fraud investigator and educator. He now resides in the Woodlands area of Houston, Texas, where he has a joint consulting business in medical education with his wife.

### Mkemo London BSBA '14

Mkemo London published his book *Building Wealth with \$50: The 50 Best Dividend Stocks to Buy without a Broker*. London has been investing in stocks and Direct Stock Purchase Plans for more than 17 years and has held several financial positions in a number of companies. He has written many articles on money management, personal finance and investing.

### Dr. Carlos Ranglin MSM '09

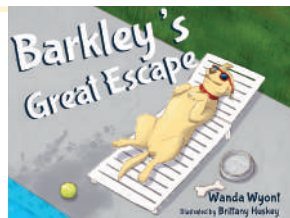
Dr. Carlos Ranglin earned his PhD in business with a specialization in accounting in 2014 with a GPA of 4.0 from Capella University.

### Albert L. Travis BSAST '12

Albert Travis was promoted to radiation technician supervisor effective Jan. 1, 2015, at Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) in Erwin, Tenn. Travis has worked at NFS since 2003 as a radiation technician.

### Wanda G. Wyont BSHS '92

Wanda G. Wyont has written her second children's book, *Barkley's Great Escape*. She holds a Master of Arts degree in education. With more than 25 years of experience in the field of education, Wyont, who uses her expertise to weave an entertaining story, is a children's advocate and blogger. Learn more about Wyont and her book, by visiting her website at [www.wandawyont.com](http://www.wandawyont.com).



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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.**

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## Thank you for your support!

2014 was a record-setting year for the College and the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

# 97%

TESC alumni who would recommend the College to friends and colleagues



# 80%

Alumni who finish a Thomas Edison State College degree without student loan debt

# \$60,000

Scholarships distributed in 2014

# \$1,000,000

Money raised in 2014



More than

# \$500,000

raised for course technology in 2014

# 1

Number of donors it takes to make a difference



# 47,467

Number of Thomas Edison State College alumni



# \$205,000

Funds awarded by the Foundation to support the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program