

# BACCALAUREATE MATTERS



WINTER 2009/2010

## Innovation Proves Successful among Baccalaureate Students

By Dr. Kenneth P. Walker, President



For the first time in the 48 year history of Edison State College we are celebrating our students' success with a Fall graduation ceremony. Our recent student population growth has reached a level that warrants the additional ceremony. We proudly congratulate the nearly 1,500 graduates who will earn a degree this semester.

*Dr. Kenneth P. Walker*

The Fall 2009 commencement ceremony is also historic for our College as it marks a high note in our students' academic success. Among the graduates this semester is our first class to earn a baccalaureate degree in the Supervision and Management program. These eight students represent a new era for Edison State College. As our College continues to grow and to expand we continue to look for new ways to support our area's workforce. Graduates of the Supervision and Management program have studied classical management along with emerging business management strategies and concepts. They are well prepared to enter the business world and become leaders in our community.

As a State College, Edison remains true to our core mission. We are still an open-door organization, accepting any student who earns a high school degree or its equivalent. We will meet that student at his or her



*Bachelor Degree candidates gather for the May 2009 ceremony.*

academic level and provide a pathway to the student's desired degree. The addition of baccalaureate degrees expands our offerings. We are happy to have found the community has embraced the expansion and

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## Getting Down to Business *First Supervision and Management Graduates Take the Stage*



*Garnett Salmon*

"As an international student, being offered the opportunity to continue my bachelor's degree here at Edison State College was a superb opportunity," said Salmon. "I got to take more classes with prior professors whose teaching styles I am acquainted and comfortable with."

Garnett Salmon never expected his journey from Jamaica to Edison State College to lead him to this high point in his life. He's one of eight students in this first graduating class of Supervision and Management BAS students at Edison State College.

Garnett earned both an Associate's in Arts and an Associate's in Science degree at Edison State College before making the decision to stay to work on his bachelor's degree in Supervision and Management.

"Earning this degree is a step towards my future educational endeavors, what better place to do it than where I started off!" said Salmon.

His hard work has been noticed by Edison State faculty and administration. Garnett has been asked to be the featured student speaker at this semester's commencement ceremony.

Fellow student Bonnie Forrester and Salmon say they are impressed by the outstanding faculty members.

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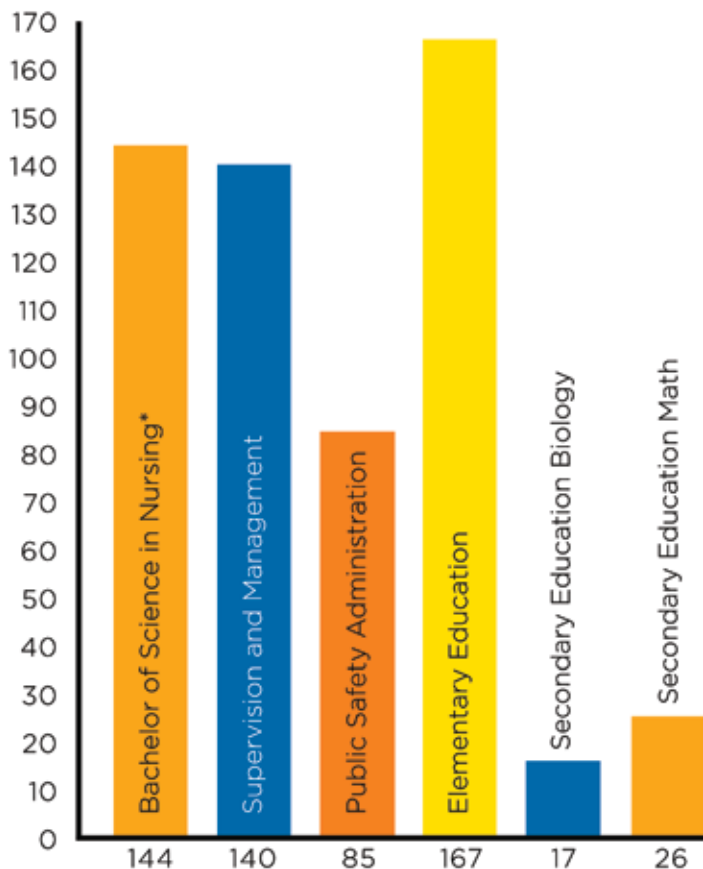
## Innovation Proves Successful

this semester nearly 500 of our 20,000 students are working toward a baccalaureate degree.

Edison State continues to work with our community partners and area employers to identify areas to expand our baccalaureate offerings. We currently offer six baccalaureate degrees and we recently applied to the State of Florida to begin offering three additional baccalaureate programs in middle school education. We hope to share more with you about these programs this spring.

We are proud of all of our hard-working and dedicated graduates taking part in Edison State College's first winter graduation ceremony. We are particularly grateful to the many community members who supported us in this historic endeavor. We look forward to sharing many more success stories with you as we continue to grow and expand our educational offerings.

## Current Enrollment in Edison State Bachelor Degree Programs FALL 2009



\*79 in upper division program

*There is no substitute for hard work.*  
-Thomas A. Edison

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## Getting Down to Business



Bonnie Forrester

“As part of our Capstone each student played a role as a manager in a business simulation with a team using software that is highly technical and in depth. We were also required to participate as a leader in a discussion covering vital business subjects, and another project to assemble an academic portfolio,” said Forrester. “The various projects within Capstone demonstrated the dexterity required to graduate from the Supervision and Management Baccalaureate program and to give us the confidence we need to move forward with our careers.”

“I marvel at the fact that we are learning from professors who not only have the knowledge of the material, but years of experience within the field,” said Salmon. “This is an advantage that I believe Edison students should cherish, as you get a classroom and a real world feedback from the program.”

Dennette Foy, Associate Dean of Professional and Technical Studies, states the BAS in Supervision and Management is all about the people: students, faculty and community partners.

“We want employers and students to think of Edison State first when they think of a high quality Business program,” said Foy. “Graduates of this program have studied classical management skills along with the latest emerging business management strategies and concepts. They are well prepared for the “real world” of business.”



Students in the capstone class for Supervision and Management discuss final projects and how to prepare for finals.

Bonnie and Garnett say anyone considering earning a bachelor's degree in Supervision and Management should be prepared to work hard, but to realize the payoff is worth the investment.

“My overall experience enrolled in the Supervision and Management program here at ESC has been challenging but also incredibly rewarding,” said Forrester. “Although there have been times that the workload was tough, through dedication, persistence, and the ability to manage my time I was able to tackle the copious amounts of work and surpass all of the challenges during this experience.”

“The program has contributed immensely to my current part-time job in many ways ranging from effective customer service skills, to effective leadership, and it greatly sharpens my analytical abilities,” said Salmon. “If supervision and management is your field, then this program will surely alert, equip, and prepare you for your job.”

# Edison State Professors Bring Real World into Classrooms

After retiring from a Fortune 500 organization, Dr. Douglas Nay finished his doctoral work in Management and International Business. He has been teaching at Edison State College for three years. Dr. Nay kindly shares his experience and lends advice to future graduates.

## • Please tell us about the experience you bring to Edison State College.

I started at the bottom of a multilevel Fortune 500 organization (Dun & Bradstreet, a 145 year old business and marketing information provider preparing credit ratings on 65 million businesses worldwide), advanced to first line management, middle management, and senior management. I have had line and staff roles, leadership in smaller and larger organizations.

I had a wonderful career, moved 14 times, lived and worked in 19 countries in Europe, worked in South America, and in the Asia Pacific Region including Hong Kong, Singapore, India, China, Australia, and lots of other places (about 6 years outside of the United States) so I have done business domestically and globally.

I started as a business analyst and finished my career as a Senior Vice President and Global Data Authority.

## • Why did you make the switch to education?

Not to sound too altruistic, but after starting at the bottom and having a great career filled with learning, challenge, excitement and success...and some disappointments...I wanted to share that with students. Helping someone to grow has always been rewarding. To help someone avoid some of the potholes I fell into may let students grow even faster.

## • What do you find most rewarding?

Most rewarding is guiding students toward successful traits. You never know what challenges you may face in work-life and life in general. Using course material to personalize the success traits of integrity, perseverance, communication and humor seems to help them learn and reflect.



Dr. Douglas Nay

## • What advice do you have for students/recent graduates entering today's job market?

No doubt it is a tough market at the moment. It will improve. My advice is to “hang in there.” Remember that every “no” gets you one step closer to a “yes”. Also the more you have to offer an employer in education and skills the better. Yet many employers hire for attitude and they want to teach you the rest. Keep a positive attitude and continually work to improve your resume.

## • Why will graduates of this program stand out to current/future employers?

Our graduates will be ready for the marketplace because the faculty here at Edison State College brings strong, real-world experience to our classes. The knowledge and skills are more transferable to employers because they are enhanced with examples. Concepts are connected with actual situations by our faculty. Also many of our students already have careers underway and are adding knowledge to their experience. Because of their experience, discussions, group projects and learning are richer.

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## First Class of BSN Students Say Work is Challenging but Worthwhile

Nicholas Newbold balances work, school and a busy family life. When he earned his Associate Degree in Nursing at Edison he didn't want to slow down.

“When I heard that Edison was going to have a Bachelor in Nursing program, it sparked my interest and I began to look into the program,” said Newbold. “I already know the faculty and staff is supportive and provides us with a good quality education. Dr. Gail Tracey was one of my instructors in my RN program and I was encouraged that she was involved in the BSN program.”

Newbold is one of 79 who earned a place in Edison State's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Student Patricia Pipkins shares Edison Newbold's feelings about the new BSN.

“For me it was all in the timing,” said Pipkins. “I had been waiting for Edison State College to offer the BSN program, and for me my dream finally came true. I am a native of Fort Myers, and I look forward to giving back to my community.”

The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation finds that by the year 2016 there will be a need for an additional 4,200 BSN nurses in Southwest Florida, based on 2008 employment data. This equates to annual average openings of 676.

“The healthcare industry, especially nursing, is one of the few areas experiencing growth right now,” said Dr. Mary Lewis, Associate Dean of Nursing at Edison State College. “The addition of the BSN at Edison

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## First Class of BSN Students Say Work is Challenging but Worthwhile

State positions our students to become leaders and management level employees in the healthcare arena.”

“Healthcare technology is constantly advancing,” said Dr. Steve Atkins Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. “Students earning a BSN at Edison will have the latest technology and critical thinking skills necessary to care for patients.”

“It is still a lot of work and you have to make a schedule to get your work done, however, the flexibility is necessary to allow me to attend,” said Newbold. “I am learning quite a lot in this program. I am attending one of the online sessions and I like that program.”

“The BSN is an example of what our transition to a State College is all about,” said Dr. Kenneth Walker, Edison State College President. “Edison State is committed to meeting the workforce needs in Southwest Florida.”

For 41 years Edison State has been the area leader in nursing education. The associate degree in the nursing program at ESC enjoys an excellent reputation among local health care providers, offering a solid foundation upon which to develop a successful Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing program.



*Christina Theogene is a recent graduate of Edison State’s ADN program and is now preparing for her first finals as a BSN student.*

Newbold offers this advice to anyone thinking about a career in nursing, “It requires a good deal of work and potential students should examine their situations and see if they are ready for the challenge. I believe that the result will be worth the effort.”

*If we did all the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.*

*-Thomas A. Edison*



## Encourage Someone You Know to Learn More

Edison State College now offers 6 bachelor degree programs:

- BAS in Public Safety Administration**
- BS in Secondary Biology Education**
- BS in Secondary Mathematics Education**
- BS in Elementary Education**
- BS in Nursing**
- BAS in Supervision and Management**

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