

Invention

Newsletter of Thomas A. Edison State College

Fall 1988

Alumni support at all-time high

Over 70 percent of the Edison alumni who were called during the 1988 phonathon pledged to send a contribution, an unusually high percentage given that the average giving rate at colleges nationwide is 17 percent. David Puddington, Director of Development at Edison State College, believes that "this high rate of support is a tribute to Edison and the meaning the College has had in the personal and professional lives of its adult students."

Over \$50,000 in pledges were received during the phonathon—an all-time high for the College. Under the leadership of Norma L. Horton, '83, the Alumni Board launched the Phonathon this year with a pledge commitment of over \$3,000, representing 100 percent participation from all board members.

This group, known as the Leadership Circle, is comprised of officers, directors, and associate directors of the Alumni Association including Horton, Leona Bothwell, Robert Botwin, Cecile Caruso, Patricia Clayton, Ida Hammond, Ondina Jeffers, Walter Keller, Jr., Nancyanne Kopp, Mildred Koslow, Paul Lancia, Richard Reigle, and Adela E. Rescigno.

A significant amount of the total money pledged, approximately one-third, comes from corporations, foundations, and associations through the Matching Gift Program, whereby employers agree to match the contributions of their employees. Alumni working for companies with a matching gift program are reminded to be sure to take advantage of this opportunity for further support for Edison.

Volunteer participation in the Phonathon was at an all-time high this year, with 133 volunteers assisting with various aspects of the program. It was the first time students were invited to participate and the response was remarkable—especially given the nature of Edison's adult students and the other commitments in their lives. Many of the volunteers live quite a distance from the College's offices and helped out after putting in a full day's work or on the weekends. Phonathon co-chairs Jeanne R. Rush and Hammond recruited and managed the volunteers.

Alumni who have not sent in their contribution yet, or who were not contacted during the Phonathon but want to participate, may do so by sending their check to the Thomas A. Edison State College Foundation, 101 W. State Street, CN545, Trenton, N.J. 08625.



Phonathon Co-Chair Jeanne Rush '83 making calls during the Phonathon.



Frederick A. Wang (left), President of Wang Laboratories, Inc. in Massachusetts, recently visited Dr. George A. Pruitt, President of Edison State College, to discuss possible collaborative ventures. Wang data processing equipment is used to handle all of the College's data processing requirements and is also part of the design of the electronic university network. Through this network, students will be assisted toward earning a college degree using the computer for learning, corresponding with faculty and other students, and administrative details.

Edison's Sixteenth Commencement

The sixteenth annual commencement ceremony of Thomas A. Edison State College will be held Sunday, October 16, 2:30 p.m., at the War Memorial Building in Trenton, New Jersey. At that time all those who have completed the requirements for graduation since the commencement ceremony last October will be honored. Graduates will be notified by mail of the special events planned for the day.

PSE&G honors employees who earned Edison degrees

Public Service Electric and Gas recently honored seven employees of its nuclear department who have earned college degrees through a unique program administered by Edison State College's Center for Corporate Partnerships.

Speaking to the graduates at a recent dinner, Steven Miltenberger, Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer at PSE&G, congratulated them for being pioneers in an educational partnership which will benefit them as well as the company. "For us in the nuclear industry, there is a lot of emphasis and pressure to get degrees. It is in our best interest, both for the utility and as individuals, to get degrees. It adds to our credibility and enhances our operation," Miltenberger stated.

Miltenberger also recognized the sacrifices each graduate made to earn college degrees while at the same time working full-time, continuing the special training necessary in their jobs, and fulfilling various roles as family members.

Forty-six employees are currently participating in the project, which brings degree completion services to employees at the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Plants. Students have the opportunity to earn college credits through classes brought on-site by local colleges, equivalency examinations, and evaluation of knowledge acquired through training and licensure requirements.

Edison State College began delivering services on-site to PSE&G one and one-half years ago. Since then, seven employees have earned Bachelor of Science degrees. They are: Mark Cirelly, Dennis Kabachinski, Gregory Mecchi, Douglas Stoxen, Randal Thorson, Robert Hovey, and Joe Zambuto.



Steven Miltenberger (left), Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer at Public Service Electric and Gas, pictured at a recent dinner congratulating employees who have earned degrees from Edison State College. Left to right are Miltenberger, Joe Zambuto, Gregory Mecchi, Robert Hovey, Dennis Kabachinski, Douglas Stoxen, and Randall Thorson. Dr. Richard S. Hansen, Vice President for Public Affairs at Edison State College, also attended the dinner to honor the graduates.

Businesses/colleges meet to discuss benefits of partnerships

Editor's Note: PONSI, the Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction, is a national program administered by the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of evaluating training that is conducted outside the college setting. By evaluating these programs and determining whether they merit recommendation for college credit, PONSI provides colleges and universities with reliable information to award credits for this education. Approximately 1,500 colleges and universities nationwide award credits for training programs recommended by PONSI. Edison State College administers the PONSI program in the New Jersey area and each year invites representatives who have participated in PONSI, or who want more information on how the program works, to attend the annual meeting.

Networking was clearly evident at the New Jersey area 5th Annual PONSI Sponsors' meeting as nearly 100 PONSI sponsors from the business community and representatives from colleges exchanged views on adult students. In welcoming participants, Jim Ratigan, Director of the PONSI Program at Edison State College, described Edison as a networking institute that assists adult students in getting a degree through learning gathered from a variety of sources.

Three speakers talked about the value of PONSI evaluations to their organizations: George Fricke, former Director of Training, New Jersey Bell; Alma Joseph, Coordinator of the Certified Public Manager Program for the New Jersey Department of Personnel; and Robert Burger,



George Fricke, former Director of Training, New Jersey Bell

Director of College Relations, Insurance Institute of America.

Degrees definitely make a difference in hiring, Fricke told the group. He called Edison State College's involvement in college credit evaluation "a hidden gold mine that not enough people know about." "Of all of Bell's operating companies, New Jersey Bell is one of the most active in having its courses evaluated by PONSI. "The potential is unlimited," Fricke believes, "and if we recruit and do a lot of PR, the program will grow even more. It's a great program, a wonderful impetus for employees to go back to college."

The "spirit of lifelong learning" was addressed by Alma Joseph, who said PONSI evaluation of the Certified Public Manager Program has given students the opportunity to earn college credits for their participation in CPM.

Improved learning opportunities insures against "having people moving into positions of authority who do not have the ability," Joseph said.

The CPM program is standardized throughout the nation, according to Joseph, and is available to state,



Alma Joseph, Coordinator of CPM Program, New Jersey Department of Personnel

county, and local government officials. To date, 5,000 people have completed the program and other countries are interested in it.

Robert Burger has seen similar educational growth in the insurance industry. One of the first organizations to go through a PONSI evaluation, the Insurance Institute of America has had more than 40 courses evaluated and annually serves about 85,000 candidates nationwide.

Courses cover economics, accounting, and financing in addition



Robert Burger, Director of College Relations, Insurance Institute of America

to insurance, according to Burger, and experts in these fields do the evaluations, increasing the credibility of the program.

All panelists agreed on the increasing need for a college degree in the work place, and credited PONSI for making it possible for more adult learners to get a degree while working full time.

Training Instructors

All three panelists on the topic of "Instructors" agreed that good presentation skills are of the utmost importance when addressing adult learners, and that most adult students come with an interest in learning that surpasses their younger classmates.

Panelists included Joseph Dumbra, Dean, College of General Studies, Pace University; Linda Shatzer, Supervisor, AT&T Corporate Education and Training; and Richard Skinner, Assistant Dean, Bucks County Community College. Iris Saltiel, Corporate Education Administrator at Edison State College, served as facilitator.

"Adults bring motivation and enthusiasm to the classroom," noted Dumbra. "They're not taking classes because their parents want them to have a degree, and they're more consumer oriented. They want their

money's worth, and will complain if a professor comes to class late or rushes out after class without permitting questions." Dumbra pointed out that sometimes professors have to make adjustments for adult learners who have other priorities like jobs and families.

Linda Shatzer provided a look into the corporate classroom. Her job at AT&T is "to train the trainers," and she pays careful attention to their abilities.

While noting that a person cannot become an instructor without a certain level of development, whether it's job experience or college training, one of the first things Shatzer asks about a potential teacher is, "Can they communicate?"

"I want to know if they have good verbal and writing skills," she said. What teachers want to learn, according to Shatzer, is "how to be more motivating, how to improve their presentation." Shatzer hopes her students leave with an improved level of self-confidence.

At Bucks County Community College, Richard Skinner focuses on developing associate degree programs for the banking industry, health professions, and fire and paramedic experts. When searching for a professor, Skinner says he looks "for expertise in a particular field."

"We want someone with outstanding, hands-on experience in their field. Then we'll train them to be faculty members."

Hopeful professors have to provide a sample classroom presentation as part of their interview, Skinner said, "and the people doing the evaluations are very tough."

Panelists generally agreed that there is no magic way to give someone else insight into how to teach a class, but that support may come from a brief methodology course.

Two books recommended by the panelists for teachers of adults were *Service America* and *Understanding and Facilitating the Adult Learner*.

Recruiting Students

Identification, recruitment, and service of adult students in corporate and campus classrooms was the topic addressed by Ed Schwartz, Vice President, American Institute for Paralegal Studies in Mahwah, and Alicia Savage, Director of the Second Careers Program at Montclair State College. The workshop was facilitated by Lanse Davis, Corporate Education Administrator at Edison State College.

Who are the students? "If they're enrolled as potential paralegals, they're most likely teachers, displaced workers, or people with



Jim Ratigan, Director of PONSI Program, Edison State College

some corporate background," according to Schwartz.

This differs from the student paralegal profile of five years ago when most of them were women working in law offices. One thing that has remained the same: age. Schwartz said the average student age is between 26 and 42. "Twenty-five percent of today's paralegal students have already earned a bachelor's degree, while 25 percent return to school after being away from education for five years," Schwartz noted.

The paralegal school seeks students through direct mail to law offices, banks, and police stations; media advertising; and work with colleges and universities, Schwartz said.

Alicia Savage, on the other hand, gets most of the students for Montclair's Second Careers Program "by word of mouth."

"I'm a one-woman agency with no budget," Savage told workshop participants, "and I look for someone with new goals, someone who is going through a transition period like divorce, widowhood, or having their children leave home."

Savage's program has two primary thrusts: outreach and on-campus. Outreach includes speaking engagements, visits to corporate personnel offices within a 20-mile radius of the campus, and shopping center visits. On-campus recruitment is through mini-seminars and Saturday CLEP (College Level Examination Program) presentations.

Montclair's Second Careers Program began in 1971. Savage's statistics show that of the students who have started college in the Second Careers Program, more than 60 percent have graduated with honors, and 54 percent have gone on to graduate work.

"Most colleges are very youth oriented," Savage said, "but we foresee that there will no longer be a lot of 17-year-olds entering college because of changing demographics. Colleges have to provide services and resources to meet the goals of adult learners."

Savage encouraged workshop participants to share success stories as one of the strategies to bring students to adult classes, and said she often uses herself as an example. "People can identify with a woman who has 8 children and 12 grandchildren," she said, sharing how she had gone back to college herself as an adult.

"We are not the same person at age 40 as at age 18 or 25," she said. "The skills of corporate people will be obsolete if they don't go back to school. You have to change with the times."



Alicia Savage, Director of Second Careers Program, Montclair State College

Edison People

The Foundation Board

George L. Fricke, former Director of Training for New Jersey Bell, and Richard E. Ingram, Attorney At Law in private practice in New Brunswick, have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Thomas A. Edison State College Foundation. A nonprofit corporation affiliated with Edison State College, the Foundation raises funds to support special programs and initiatives of the College.

Fricke held various management positions in the Traffic, Operator Services, Engineering, Switching, Network, Personnel, and Training and Development departments in New Jersey Bell, AT&T, and Bell Atlantic. He was responsible for all corporate training and development for New Jersey Bell. Fricke graduated from Rutgers University with a B.S. in Business Administration. He served four and one-half years as an officer in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

Fricke is currently Chairperson of the New Jersey State Commission on Technology Education in New Jersey, a member of the Coop-Education Business Advisory Council of Montclair State College, and a member of the International Technology Education Advisory Council. He also serves as an Elder in The Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge.

Ingram earned a Juris Doctor from the American University, Washington College of Law, and a Master of Laws degree in Taxation, New York University School of Law. He is a member of the New Jersey, New York, and Virginia Bars. Ingram is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Foundation.

Staff

David G. Puddington has been appointed to the position of Director of Development at Edison State College. In his new position, Puddington will be responsible for the fund raising activities of the College and its tax-exempt Foundation, a nonprofit corporation which raises funds to support special programs and initiatives of the College. Outreach activities for the Annual Giving Fund, solicitations and foundation solicitations, seeking major gifts, and the planned giving program will be the major thrusts of his efforts.

Puddington has had significant experience in the development field in higher education as well as in adult education. Most recently, he served as Vice President for The Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, an organization formed to combine fund raising efforts for 35 independent colleges in the State of Ohio. Puddington also served as Vice



David G. Puddington

President for Development and Alumni Activities at Morrisville College/State University of New York for four years and was Vice President for College Advancement at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Adult education positions have included serving as the Associate Executive Director of the National Association for Public Continuing and Adult Education in Washington, D.C. and an assignment as Associate Executive Director and Acting Executive Director for the Adult Education Association/USA.

Puddington earned his baccalaureate degree at Ohio Wesleyan University and did graduate work at The Ohio State University.

Dr. Samone Louise Jolly of Ewing Township has been appointed to the position of Coordinator of Liberal Arts Degree Programs at Edison. Dr. Jolly will be responsible for the implementation of all Liberal Arts programs at the associate and baccalaureate levels.

Jolly earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Kansas State University where she also earned an M.S. in Educational Administration and a B.S. in Elementary Education. Prior to coming to Edison, Dr. Jolly was a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Office of Educational Improvement at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Three new Senior Program Advisors have been appointed and will be working with many of Edison's adult students, providing academic guidance for them to meet degree requirements.

Howard A. Bueschel of Trenton will be working with students in the Applied Science and Technology Degree Programs. Bueschel earned his M.Ed. degree in Administration from Rutgers University and his B.S. degree from Trenton State College. Additional seminars and courses include Astrophysics and Chemistry at Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania and RADAR with the U.S. Army. Prior to coming to Edison, Bueschel was an Administrative Director with Skystar International Inc. in Flemington. He continues to work as an adjunct teacher in the Aviation program at Mercer County Community College and is the former Director of Aerospace Education for the State of New Jersey.

Bueschel is a 20-year member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a recipient of AIAA's Engstrom Award. He is also a member of the International Association of Technical Education, Epsilon Pi Tau, and the Phi Delta Kappa professional education organization.

Rosa Lee Eickhoff of Pennington will be working with many of Edison's adult students in the Liberal Arts Degrees. Eickhoff earned her M.S. degree from Fort Hays State University in Kansas and her B.S. in Education from the University of Missouri. Prior to the appointment, Eickhoff was an Evaluator at Edison State College in the Office of the Registrar.

Patricia A. Jackson of Marlton will be providing academic guidance in the Applied Science and Technology Degrees. Jackson earned an M.S. from the University of Michigan and a B.S. from Temple University. Prior to coming to Edison, Jackson was the director of the Bachelor of Health Science Program at Gwynedd-Mercy College in Pennsylvania.

New book explores how to improve thinking skills



Dr. Paul I. Jacobs

Dr. Paul I. Jacobs, Director of Test Development and Research at Edison State College, and Marco Meirovitz, an alumnus of Edison, have developed the Muscles of the Mind Program (MMP). Consisting of three books and a game kit, the program is designed to improve the thinking skills most important in everyday life.

"Most of what we teach in our rapidly-changing technological world quickly becomes out of date," Dr. Jacobs said. "Yet our schools must prepare students for jobs that we can't even imagine today. That is why perceptive educators realize that we should provide students with tools for effective thinking, not just give them more knowledge."

The MMP utilizes games as its main teaching tool, because games are fun to play, provide the motivations for learning, and involve all the basic skills needed in everyday life. Because of its active, social, and dynamic nature, the playing of games is the best way to improve thinking skills, acquire new knowledge, and simulate real-life situations.

An interdisciplinary program for children and adults, the MMP assumes no prior knowledge and requires only ordinary, simple materials. Logic, strategy, memory, creativity, problem solving, planning, and communication are stimulated by using games, puzzles, and other activities designed to reflect life situations. The purpose is to exercise all important intellectual functions; develop organized, efficient, and productive thinking habits; and help the individual acquire new knowledge more easily.

"We don't know what tomorrow's occupations will be so it is important that people learn how to discover facts; how to think creatively; how to gather, classify, analyze, and evaluate information; and how to make decisions and solve problems rather than just accumulate knowledge," Dr. Jacobs believes.

The first book, *BRAIN MUSCLE BUILDERS: Games to Increase Your Natural Intelligence*, deals with the major skills of logic, strategy, memory, and creativity within the context of abstract thinking. It has been published in French, German, Spanish, and Hebrew as well as English. *VISUAL THINKING: Entertaining Activities to Increase Intelligence*, provides activities to improve visual thinking skills. *THE MUSCLES OF THE MIND PROGRAM: A Practical Method to Improve Thinking*, provides a course to teach and improve thinking, and can serve as a guide to teachers using the program in classrooms and to parents using it with their children.

Dr. Jacobs, a psychologist who has conducted research for many years on the improvement of thinking skills, has also written *UP THE IQ! How to raise your child's intelligence*.

Meirovitz, a well-known educator and game inventor (more than 40 million copies of his *MASTERMIND* game have been sold around the world), received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Edison. Residing in Paris, France, Meirovitz is active in promoting the program in European school systems.



In November the voters of New Jersey will be asked to approve a \$350 million bond issue providing for construction of new facilities at New Jersey's public and independent colleges and universities. The proposed higher education facilities bond is essential if New Jersey is to remain competitive with neighboring states in developing new learning and employment opportunities, especially in scientific and technological areas.

Since the money is earmarked for campus-based projects, Edison State College would not benefit directly from this bond issue. However, our students, many of whom earn credits toward their Edison degrees at other New Jersey colleges, would benefit. At any given time, approximately 1,500 Edison students are enrolled in courses at other New Jersey colleges.

Additionally, all New Jerseyans will benefit from the advanced technology centers that will be supported from the bond issue. These centers will conduct research in various areas which will improve our lives, such as pollution control, wetlands preservation, and medical research. Edison State College encourages all its students, alumni, and friends in New Jersey to support the bond issue.

Law enforcement professionals able to earn college credits for on-the-job experience

Bill Beachell and Glenn Tabasko have something in common. They both found a way to further their education and earn a baccalaureate degree while continuing to work in the demanding field of law enforcement.

Beachell was a patrol officer with two years of college credit when he decided to enroll at Edison State College. After juggling full-time work and evening classes, Beachell—who had advanced to the position of lieutenant—needed only 18 credits to obtain his degree. By providing evidence of the knowledge and skill he had developed over his 12-year career as a police officer, Beachell was able to earn the remaining credits in criminal justice and law enforcement through Edison's Portfolio Assessment Program. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1986 and is now the Chief of Police at the Montgomery Township Police Department.

Attributing his promotion to the Portfolio Assessment Program and his subsequent degree, Beachell said "a college education has become more and more important to policework. As cultural and social activities change, a college education helps police officers better understand people; it gives them a system to solve problems and provide assistance."

"A college education doesn't make a good cop," Beachell added, "a college education makes a good cop better."

Through the portfolio assessment process, students demonstrate their college-level knowledge by presenting documentation or evidence of their learning. Contents of a portfolio vary depending on the subject, but a portfolio may include licenses, transcripts, art work, correspondence, letters of validation, special projects accomplished, or tapes of a performance. The portfolios are reviewed for credit by faculty consultants who are presently teaching similar courses at other colleges and universities. Many municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers have successfully earned credit towards a degree using this program.

To complete his portfolios, Beachell gathered evidence to demonstrate his knowledge from both his formal training at the police academy and his on-the-job experience. Documents from his police academy classes and other training seminars provided information on the content and duration of his formal training. He further strengthened his evidence by including copies of the notes he had taken during these classes. Beachell also included reports, interview transcripts, memoranda, and correspondence from his files at work. He received credit for Interview and Report Writing, Criminal Investigation, Traffic Planning and Management, Police Supervision, Criminal Law of New Jersey, and Introduction to Criminal Justice.

Beachell said he was surprised with the amount of college-level knowledge he had acquired over the years but added that putting a portfolio together is not an easy task. "Although the portfolio assessment process was very demanding," he said, "it allowed me the flexibility to earn credit while juggling work, school, and personal responsibilities. Both the Portfolio Assessment Program and the advisors and staff

who specialize in the area are exceptional."

Tabasko, a detective with the Raritan Township Police Department, received 30 credits through the Portfolio Assessment Program and earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a specialization in Criminal Justice in 1987.

Calling upon his experience and knowledge from 11 years of police work, Tabasko received credit for seven of his portfolio courses based upon the evidence submitted in the portfolios. He received credit for two additional courses after producing further evidence and successfully completed a follow-up test for the remaining courses.

"Portfolio Assessment is an excellent process," said Tabasko, "without it I would have had to sit through a number of classes even though I already had the knowledge. Since I was living the experience and rotating three shifts for my job, doing portfolios saved me a lot of time. And, although it is not always an easy process, it is rewarding."

By documenting knowledge developed on the job, through classes at the police academy, and other formal training, Tabasko was able to earn credit for Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Police in the Community, Investigative Function, Police Work with Juveniles, Juvenile Delinquency, Traffic Control Function, Police Patrol Operations, Drug Use and Abuse in America, and Real Estate Principles. As evidence, he submitted documents from his police academy classes and other training seminars which detailed the content and duration of his formal training. He also included certificates, extensive class notes, class handouts, transcripts, and reports to strengthen his evidence.

Tabasko said Edison State College is excellent for someone like himself. He attended college for two years right out of high school and then, for financial reasons, didn't continue. His career in law enforcement, with its irregular hours, made returning to a traditional college and attending classes difficult. But, he explained, once enrolled at Edison he found the flexibility of the program was great for scheduling. It took Tabasko six months to complete his program and he wants other people interested in advancing their careers in law enforcement to know that it can be done.



Participants at a recent portfolio assessment workshop discuss how to translate their college-level knowledge into college credit.



Pictured above is Dan Negrón, Senior Portfolio Advisor in the Office of Prior Learning Assessment, speaking to a group of adults who are exploring the possibility of earning college credits through portfolio assessment.

Library of students' portfolios available for guidance

Edison State College's Portfolio Assessment Program, which is helping adult students document college-level knowledge for credit, now offers a library of completed portfolios that can be examined and referred to for guidance.

"The library provides students, who are unsure about how to prepare a portfolio, with a model," said Dan Negrón, Senior Portfolio Adviser at Edison. "The portfolio library really gives students an opportunity to view the diversity in portfolios and what kind of evidence is appropriate in order to receive college credit."

The 128 portfolios available for review were successfully completed by students who received credit for demonstrating their college-level knowledge. Spanning a wide range of areas in business, science, and liberal arts, each portfolio includes forms, the course description, a narrative, and the evidence.

Some of the portfolios available for review include areas such as journalism, technical writing, marketing, human resources, nuclear technology, drafting, and graphics.

The evidence, which is evaluated by a college faculty member who is teaching in that field, is the documentation or physical material that justifies a claim for credit. Depending upon the nature of the subject, evidence may include notarized copies of licenses, examination scores, certificates, newspaper clippings, transcripts, art

work, patents obtained, programs from performances, outlines of training programs, projects, books read, or letters from employers or associates.

Once completed, the portfolio is reviewed by an Edison State College faculty assessor and a college credit recommendation is made. There is no limit to the number of credits a student can earn through portfolio assessment.

Using portfolio assessment to earn college credit has many advantages for the adult student. The process can be started any day of the year and students can proceed at their own pace. Credits earned through portfolio assessment can be used toward an Edison State College degree or at many other colleges in New Jersey.

Edison State College advisers, trained specifically in the portfolio assessment area, are available to guide students through the process. A free self-instructional information package in portfolio assessment is also available and describes each step.

Once students determine that the portfolio assessment method is their best choice for earning college credit, they would use the following process:

- **Identify knowledge and skills.** College-level knowledge may be acquired through training programs, vocational/technical programs, hobbies, self-study, or any other learning experience that can be assessed for college credit.

- **Conduct a catalog search.** This involves searching through regionally accredited college catalogs to find descriptions of courses that best match the area(s) of knowledge.

- **Determine the best way to verify knowledge.** An Edison portfolio adviser is available to assist the student in deciding the best way to demonstrate knowledge for each course selected.

As with any time-flexible method of earning credit, the length of time it takes to complete the work is determined by the student. Portfolio assessment is a flexible way of earning credit, but not necessarily an easier one.

The Portfolio Assessment Office is open Monday through Friday and one Saturday a month. Anyone interested in visiting the portfolio library should call in advance at (609) 984-1141.

1988-89 Portfolio Orientation Workshop Schedule

Attendance is limited to the first 35 students who register. Call 609/984-1141 for further information.

Date	Location
September 10, 1988	Trenton Edison State College
October 15, 1988	Newark Rutgers University at Newark
November 12, 1988	Trenton Edison State College
December 17, 1988	Trenton Edison State College
January 28, 1989	Somerville Raritan Valley Community College
February 25, 1989	Trenton Edison State College
March 18, 1989	Sewell Gloucester County College
April 22, 1989	Lincroft Brookdale Community College
May 20, 1989	Wayne William Paterson College
June 10, 1989	Mays Landing Atlantic Community College
July 15, 1989	Trenton Edison State College

\$15,000 grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supports nursing program

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently awarded \$15,000 to the Thomas A. Edison State College Foundation in support of the College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The funds will be used to establish a test site in Central New Jersey for students taking examinations to complete the requirements of the B.S.N. degree.

Edison State College's Nursing Program began in 1983 to offer registered nurses the opportunity to earn bachelor's degrees in a self-paced program outside the traditional classroom structure. Students study independently or in peer study groups near their home or

place of employment and take written and performance examinations to meet the degree requirements of the professional nursing component.

Like all of Edison's degree programs, the B.S.N. program attracts adults who need to balance work and family commitments with earning a college degree. The grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will greatly assist the College in establishing a test site in Central New Jersey, making the program accessible to more registered nurses. In previous years, New Jersey nurses had to travel out of state for examinations to complete the B.S.N. degree requirements.



Above, Dr. Richard S. Hansen, Vice President for Public Affairs at Edison, presents a \$3,100 check to Alumni Association President Norma Horton at the beginning of this year's Phonathon. The check represents 10 percent of the net proceeds of the previous year's Phonathon and is given to the Alumni Association to support its programs. Below, alumni volunteers at the Phonathon are pictured making phone calls.



Edison Foundation approves new fundraising program

A new fund raising initiative, the Return of Gifts Program, was recently approved by the Board of Directors of the Edison State College Foundation. The program allows donors to contribute \$100 or more each year (to a maximum of \$3,000) and have this money accumulate and be returned to a designated beneficiary at the time of the donor's death.

Although the program is a new one for colleges and universities, it has been used successfully by other nonprofit organizations such as the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross, and many hospitals and churches. "The Return of Gifts Program is one of the most exciting concepts in philanthropic giving to come along. Not only does a Return of Gifts' investment enrich and support the mission of Edison State College today, but it also allows for a full return of the donors' gifts to their heirs at some time in the future," according to David Puddington, Edison's Director of Development.

Edison State College alumni, students, and friends are eligible to participate in this program, providing they contribute at least \$100 each year and are under 60 years of age.

The beneficiaries are predetermined by the program and are, in this order, the surviving spouse, equally among all surviving children, surviving parents, and the Thomas A. Edison State College Foundation. Neither the Foundation nor the donor has the option to change the progression of beneficiaries.

The Edison Foundation benefits from the program in two ways: the program encourages larger and more consistent gifts which means more enrichment dollars; and the College is the beneficiary when the donor is not survived by relatives.

Alumni, students, and friends of the College who would like to find out more about the program may call Dave Puddington at 609/292-6379.

PSE&G awards grant for scholarship, program development

Public Service Electric and Gas recently awarded the Thomas A. Edison State College Foundation a grant of \$6,000. Of the total, \$1,000 of the gift has been designated for scholarships and the additional \$5,000 for program development and special projects.

PSE&G has been an avid supporter of Edison State College, making awards for the last 5 years. This year's award was the highest amount ever given to the College from PSE&G. Through collaborative arrangements with Edison's Center for Corporate Partnerships, PSE&G employees have been assisted in earning baccalaureate degrees on the work site.

Edison participates in pilot program offering federal employees opportunities to earn college degrees

Edison State College has been selected by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) in Columbia, Maryland, to participate in Project LIFE (Learning Imparted from Experience), a learning opportunity for government employees.

Project LIFE, an eighteen-month pilot program, is offering Food and Drug Administration (FDA) employees in the Washington/Baltimore metropolitan area the opportunity to obtain college-level credit for learning acquired on the job.

The pilot project, which will be completed in October 1988, is serving as a model for other federal agencies interested in expanding educational and career benefits for their employees. After completion of this initial phase, Project LIFE will be evaluated by the FDA and if the agency decides to expand it, the program will allow many working adults the opportunity to earn credit for college-level knowledge acquired on the job.

Edison State College, one of the eight colleges and universities invited by CAEL to participate in the program, was chosen because of its national reputation in prior learning assessment. "Edison State College is the only out-of-state institution involved and the only external degree college," said Dan Negron, a Senior Portfolio Advisor at Edison and the College's representative in the program. "I think it is very

significant that we were selected to participate because all the other institutions are clustered around the Washington/Baltimore area."

Thirty-three members of the pilot group participated in a four-part Returning to Learning Workshop which included topics such as choosing and planning your career, choosing a school, a consumer's guide to prior learning assessment, and surviving and thriving in school. The workshop also included a half-day College Fair.

Representatives from all eight institutions—Edison State College, The American University, Dundalk Community College, Hood College, Montgomery College, Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George's Community College, and University of Maryland (University College)—were available to provide an overview of the credit opportunities for prior learning and to meet one-on-one with individuals to discuss concerns and answer questions.

Project LIFE participants were aided in completing an educational and career plan and they are now in the process of meeting with educational advisors to select the institution which will most closely meet their individual needs.

"It is very encouraging that about half of the participants have expressed an initial interest in Edison State College," said Negron, who recently held an on-site portfolio orientation for enrolled and potential students at the FDA.

The Edison Weekend: networking,



Carole Nerlino '86, Second Vice President at Shearson Lehman Hutton in Morristown, speaking to participants about "Financial Planning in Today's Investment Climate."



Ken Radziwanowski, Trainer/Consultant at AT&T Corporate Education Center, captured the group's attention during his Team Building workshop.



Alumni, staff, and friends participating in the workshops during Alumni Weekend.



Sol Koslow, spouse of alumna Mildred '82, is pictured selling raffle tickets for an afghan which was made by Joyce Wiley, a security guard at the College. Joyce donated the afghan to be raffled off to benefit the Alumni Association.

Although they never had the experience of going to classes together, cheering for the home team, or other activities commonly associated with college life, the alumni and students of Edison State College found they still had much in common recently when they attended the Edison Weekend.

Sponsored by the Edison State College Alumni Association, the Edison Weekend was a two-day program designed to bring alumni and students together. The weekend, which was held at the Scanticon Hotel and Conference Center in Princeton, was a phenomenal success, according to Annette Singer, Director of Alumni Affairs. Participants realized that their common denominator is the Edison experience and the unique way the College meets the needs of adult students. Many of these adults would not have had the opportunity to earn a college degree otherwise, Singer added, so the opportunity Edison State College affords them is a common bond.

Daytime activities included seminars highlighting nutrition, financial planning, and team building and were followed by a President's reception in the evening. Sponsored by Edison State College, the reception offered alumni and students the opportunity to meet Dr. and Mrs. George Pruitt and other College staff.

Alumna Jane Coult, who received a Bachelor of Science degree from Edison State College in 1986, said she was amazed at how, even though most in the group had never met before, it was like getting together with family. The friendship and comradery, she explained, were fostered by the knowledge that everyone at the weekend had worked or is working hard to get their degree.

Coult, an executive assistant for the Bureau of Risk Management, Department of Treasury of the State of New Jersey, said she was impressed with the high quality of the three seminars, adding that the presentation on team building was

especially helpful in her present position.

Norma Horton, a 1983 graduate and the President of the Edison State College Alumni Association, focused on the theme of the conference—Beginning and Continuing Conversations. It was a process of meeting new people, becoming acquainted, and becoming friends. Dialogue, according to Horton, was the central theme—getting to know one another. A lot of new friendships were created and grew as the weekend progressed.

Horton felt the weekend was especially helpful for students who participated. One student told her that the opportunity to network was what sparked his interest in attending. Another student, who only needs to complete his pregraduation conference to get his Edison degree, told Horton the encouragement he got during the weekend gave him the confidence and motivation to finish the process.

J.C. Morrison, who is currently an Edison student, traveled from College Park, Maryland, with his wife Anne to attend the weekend. Morrison, a systems analyst with Control Data Corporation, is working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree. He said that discussions during the weekend gave him an insight into what happens at the College on a day-to-day basis. Praising the entire affair, Morrison said it was especially enjoyable to meet the president and his wife and that he found the seminar on financial planning, presented by Alumna Carole Nerlino (BSBA '86) CFP, second vice president at Shearson Lehman Hutton, very interesting.

Echoing the sentiments of Coult and Horton, Morrison agreed that it was easy to identify with other students and alumni who have also had to juggle family and career with obtaining a college education. Everyone that attended had common goals and interests, he added, and the weekend gave them a chance to share their experiences and aspirations.

learning . . . and a lot of fun!



Poco the Clown has some fun with Alumna Nancyanne Kopp '76 and Alumnus Walt Keller '78. Poco gave special attention to Nancyanne who was celebrating her birthday that day. Balloon hats were created by Poco.



Chrisita Milligan BSBA '83, visiting from St. Croix, VI, draws the winning raffle ticket. Winner Barbara Chimente (guest of alum Tim Barry '81) received a handmade afghan donated by Joyce Wiley, a security guard at the College.



They were still wearing their hats at the President's Reception. Left to right: Ondina Jeffers BA '82; Annette Singer, Director of Alumni Affairs; and Lester Roberts, a BA student.

Alumni Association schedules annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Edison State College Alumni Association will take place on Sunday, October 16, 1988 at 9:30 a.m. at the Masonic Temple in Trenton. Immediately following the meeting, the Association will host the reception for new graduates. Commencement ceremonies follow the reception.

At this year's annual meeting, alumni will consider the proposed by-laws revisions approved by the Board of Directors at the June meeting.

These revisions focus on expanding the Board of Directors from 9 to 17 members and setting up a governing structure to enable better management of Board activities.

Hosts are needed for the reception for new graduates. Alumni who would like to help greet and congratulate the graduates and their families are urged to call or write the Alumni Office: 201/266-1951; Alumni Office, Edison State College, 20 Evergreen Place, East Orange, N.J. 07018.



Weekend participants had many opportunities to meet during the weekend, including a luncheon in Tivoli Gardens at the Scanticon.

RING INFORMATION

In recognition of your important achievement and for a lifetime of memories, order your Thomas A. Edison State college ring now!

Write to:

Ondina A. Jeffers '82
Ring Sales Chairperson
682 Ithaca Place
East Windsor, N.J. 08520

Alumni Notes

Jeffrey Baker (BA '83) Fair Haven, received a Master of Arts in Resource Management from Vermont College. While a captain in the U.S. Army, Jeffrey received recognition as an Outstanding Young Man of America.

Anne M. Bazzell (AA '80; BA '84) Aiea, HI has completed her Master of Arts degree from California State University, Dominguez Hills. This was an externally directed degree program.

Anthony M. Chibbaro (BSBA '87) New Brunswick, recently married Evelyn Louise Gilstrap in Sherman, TX. Anthony has been promoted to Accountant II with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Selene Z. Christian (AA '88) Irvington. The American Association

of Poetry has announced that Ms. Christian's poetry has been published in the *American Poetry Anthology*.

Russell H. Farr (BA '76) Blytheville, AK was appointed to the Arkansas Manufactured Home Commission and the Arkansas L-P Gas Advisory Board. Russell was elected Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mississippi County College and re-elected Vice Chairman of the Mississippi County Facilities Board.

Martin E. Hill (BSAST '85) Fort Worth, TX completed a Master of Science in Instructional Systems Technology from North Texas University. Martin began a new position as consultant in media with Pelton Marsh Kinsella, Inc., consultants in acoustics in Dallas, TX.

Gerald Isaacson (BA '85) Shrewsbury, MA has opened a computer security consulting practice-Information Security Services. Gerry teaches and has co-authored books on computer security and disaster recovery. His work takes him across the U.S. and Europe.

Richard Jefferys (BA '86) Philadelphia, PA received a Master of Science Degree in Counseling and Human Relations from Villanova University in May, 1988. He has accepted a psychotherapy position serving adolescents in residential care in Philadelphia.

Armelee Lewis (AA '83) Newark, is a cafeteria supervisor for public schools in Newark. Armelee is also a Literacy Volunteer Tutor at the Boys and Girls Club in Newark.

Suzanne McMahon (BSBA '84) Stamford, CN has been accepted into Notre Dame Law School in Notre Dame, Indiana, and will begin classes in August. Suzanne applied to three law schools and was accepted at all of them.

Ruth Olinsky (BA '84) Lawrenceville, has received a certificate of merit for her poetry. Ruth is also an accomplished artist and has exhibited in three shows: oils, pastels, and mixed media and with Tri County Art Association. All the exhibits were juried shows.

Gerri Chappell Popkin (BA '85) Neptune City, has completed her second term as a Neptune City councilwoman. She is currently Director of Purchasing in Monmouth County.

Paul R. Reece (AA '87) Galion, OH received his B.S. from the University of the State of New York in September 1987 and recently was accepted into the Master of Arts in Humanities External Degree Program from California State

University, Dominguez Hills, Carson, California. Paul is currently employed at the U.S. Postal Service. He received his Vocational Education Teaching Certificate from the Department of Education in Ohio, in December 1987.

Gregory J. Reinert (BA '84) Antrim, NH completed his MBA at New Hampshire College. Greg works at the Monadnock Paper Mills as a Data Processing Manager and is applying for a doctoral program in computer science.

Louis Rivera (BSBA '84) stationed in Grafenwoehr, Germany, received a Master of Science degree from Central Michigan University. Louis is a career civil service employee. He was promoted to a GS-12 supervisory position at HQ Seventh Army Training Command in Grafenwoehr.

Diane Anita Sheppard (BA '81) Freehold, received a BSW from Kean College and an MSW from Rutgers University. Diane is currently employed as a social worker specialist by the Monmouth County Board of Social Services. She coordinates a program that helps mentally ill chemical abusers.

Rupnath Shivdhan (BSBA '84) Queens, NY has become an IRS agent. He was formerly an Accountant II in the Judiciary Division of the State of New Jersey.

Susan H. Synder (BA '85) Chicago, IL is an instructor and degree coordinator at the Illinois Medical Training Center.

Colleen McDonnell-Wieczorek (BSBA '86) Kearny, has received an MBA from Rutgers University Graduate School of Management. Colleen gave birth to a son, Frank, in March 1988 and received her Masters in May, 1988. Ms. Wieczorek has been named as an Outstanding Young Woman of America.

Alumni Notes

If you would like news of your accomplishments included in the Alumni Notes section of *Invention*, please return the form below to: Office of Alumni Affairs, Edison State College, 20 Evergreen Place, West Orange, NJ 07018.

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone Number _____

Degree Earned _____

Year of Graduation _____

Information _____



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Invention is a newsletter of Thomas A. Edison State College. It is distributed to students, alumni, and friends of the College.

Dr. George A. Pruitt, President of the College
Barbara J. Waters, Director of Public Relations,
Editor, *Invention*
Annette Singer, Director of Alumni Affairs;
Contributor, Alumni News Section

Thomas A. Edison State College
101 West State Street
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