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NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Fall 1994

Thomas Edison State College holds 22nd Annual Commencement

A total of 941 men and women from throughout the nation affirmed that it's never too late to earn a degree when they graduated from Thomas Edison State College, New Jersey's state college for adults, on Sunday, Oct. 23. Some 185 members of the Class of 1994 marched down the aisle at the Crescent Shiner's Auditorium on Clinton Avenue in Trenton during the ceremony. This year's class of adult learners came from 16 states, including California, Florida, Georgia and New Jersey. Many have used the latest techniques in "distance learning" to complete degrees independent of time and place.

Dr. Fred J. Abbate of Moorestown, N.J., chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, greeted the graduates and their spouses, children, grandchildren and other relatives and friends during the Commencement ceremony.

Dr. James Carnes, CEO of the David Sarnoff Research Center and a member of the College's Foundation Board of Directors, presented the Commence-



Receiving his honorary degree is (second from right) Dr. James E. Carnes, president and CEO of the David Sarnoff Research Center, as Registrar Jack Phillips (second from left) and Board Chairman Dr. Fred J. Abbate (right) assist. College President Dr. George A. Pruitt (left) looks on.

ment address. Carnes, who was conferred with a Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa during the ceremony, extolled the graduates telling them, "I am especially pleased to be able to share in the limelight with all of the graduates for whom I have so much admiration and respect. This is your day—a tribute to your resourcefulness, dedication and

hard work. And I heartily congratulate all of you.

"The vast majority of the graduates here today are adult learners—people who have had jobs and families and all kinds of other things tugging in competition for their time and energy," Carnes continued. "And with this competition it takes a special drive, a special dedica-

tion to fight through all the temptations to do it tomorrow! So I really admire you, the graduates, for your accomplishments.... I commend all of you for staying the course, fighting off those temptations to procrastinate, juggling all of those priorities and for sticking with it."

David Partridge of Waldorf, Md., a member of the Class of 1994 and an Arnold Fletcher Award recipient, was the speaker who gave the response on behalf of all the graduates.

The College selected 42 graduates to receive the Arnold Fletcher Award during the ceremony. The award recognizes Thomas Edison baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in independent learning. Students selected have demonstrated excellence and have earned a large number of credits using one or more of the innovative forms of learning recognized by the College. These forms include testing, Guided Study, the On-Line Computer Classroom, portfolio assessment, evaluation of knowledge acquired at work or in the military, approved telecourses and other means.

David S. Partridge: Commencement speaker for the Class of 1994

by Linda Soltis

"The devotion to a working goal accounted for the remarkable success of Thomas A. Edison. His life will stand in history as a monument not only to his genius but also as an inspiration to all people to work for the love of keeping themselves busy at something they consider important and worthwhile."

That was the sentiment David S. Partridge shared with fellow classmates at the Crescent Shiner's Auditorium in Trenton on Oct. 23.

Partridge, of Waldorf, Md., was the speaker who gave the response on behalf of all the graduates at Thomas

Edison State College's 22nd Annual Commencement Ceremony. A criminal intelligence analyst with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), Partridge completed his Thomas Edison degree program in May 1994, earning a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in criminal justice. He used various methods to earn his degree including testing, portfolio assessment, correspondence courses and an advanced-level practicum. Partridge also completed an Associate in Science in Public and Social Services from Thomas Edison in November 1992 and a Certificate in Management of Human Resources from Thomas Edison in July 1993.

"I think we can all relate to some of the many frustrations and sometimes even disappointments that Thomas Edison experienced," Partridge told the audience at the Commencement ceremony on Oct. 23. "But we can also relate to his many successes. Just as Thomas Edison never gave up in his quest for experiments and inventions, we too never gave up on the pursuit of obtaining our degrees."

Partridge's commitment to his education was recognized by a Thomas Edison State College Arnold Fletcher Award. The award, which is named in honor of Dr. Arnold Fletcher, vice

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Always doing business: Deborah Aguiar-Velez is on the move

by Nina Malone

International trips to teach. Travels throughout the United States for client service. Board service near and far to improve the quality of life for others. It's all in a day's work for Deborah Aguiar-Velez, always on the move, always doing business.

This powerful woman has had an interesting and distinguished career, with positions ranging from teacher to CEO/president/owner of Sistemas Corporation in Princeton, N.J., a post she has held since 1983.

Aguiar-Velez first heard about Thomas Edison at a lunchtime presentation. Years later, Foundation Board member Rita Novitt met Aguiar-Velez after watching her receive the Humanitarian Award from The National Conference of Christians and Jews in Princeton, N.J. "The next thing I knew, I was meeting with Dr. Pruitt (president of Thomas Edison) about serving on the Foundation Board," she said.

Aguiar-Velez is a natural for Thomas Edison. Her technologically oriented background and professional career in the computer industry give her an interesting insight into the College's

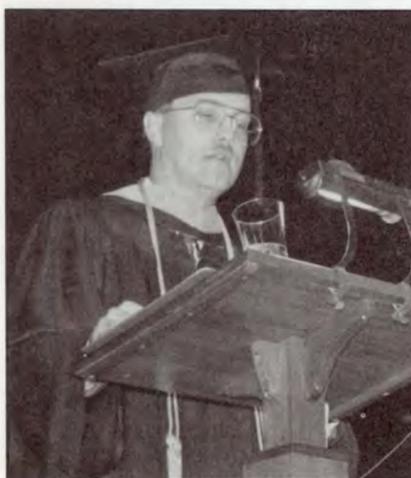


Linda Soltis

high-tech programs, like the CALL (Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning) Network. A decade from now, Aguiar-Velez envisions "no barriers. There will be hook-ups to Puerto Rico, Japan, wherever. We'll be utilizing cable and video networks. Multimedia will allow for two-way interaction with the College—the opportunities are endless."

She sees Thomas Edison progressing beyond the master's program and into doctorate programs. "People don't realize the potential," she emphasized.

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David S. Partridge, Class of 1994

Michael Matcho

Colloquium Defines Strategies For Success in the Workforce of the Future

by Barbara W. Eklund

A lifelong commitment to education and retraining is a "must" to keep the American worker marketable in today's highly volatile workplace. This was the overwhelming conclusion of many speakers, regardless of whether they represented corporate America, higher education, labor or government, who participated in the Corporate-Higher Education Colloquium. The Colloquium, a yearly event sponsored by Thomas Edison State College, was held Oct. 7 at the AT&T School of Business in Somerset, N.J.

This year's theme, "Retooling the Workforce for the Future," generated lively discussion and identified new models and strategies for work in the Year 2000. Key points included the following:

- *Nobody can be assured a job for life.* There is a difference between job security and employment security. An employer may not be able to guarantee an employee a job, but the employee who continues to learn and train will be more likely to continue to be employed. "Be ready to move (to a new job); be prepared and stay marketable," William Keller, senior vice president and general manager of Manchester in Princeton, an outplacement firm, advised. He added that workers should always be looking out for themselves and analyzing their skills. If their job has a narrow focus, it is the employee's responsibility to broaden their experiences, educate themselves and gain transferrable skills.

- "The *quality worker* must move from being the good soldier, to being a problem-solver, creative thinker, planner and conflict solver," stated Thomas M. Murphy, manager, Human Resources, Ingersoll-Dresser Pump Company. Murphy pointed out that in the next five to seven years, he expects that 75 percent of his workforce will retire. The engineers, technicians and machinists who are self-disciplined and have an orientation toward teamwork and customer responsiveness will be in high demand. Murphy added that the market is demanding high productivity, and timing is critical. "If we don't figure out how to deliver the product in less time,

someone else will, and we'll be out of business."

- *Speed and customer service* were emphasized as being the key ingredients in remaining competitive. "AT&T people need to learn more, and they need to learn it faster," Maureen A. Mason, director, AT&T School of Business, stated in her opening remarks. She stated that "working smarter, more efficiently and collaboratively with higher education" was critical.

In a session using AT&T as a case study in workforce issues, Robert DeCarlo, process leader, Education and Training, AT&T Network Education and Training in Bedminster, N.J., and Ken Ingram, district manager, AT&T Network Operations in Atlanta, discussed how AT&T, a major employer and a very strong supporter of education, adjusts its training and education to meet a rapidly changing set of needs. DeCarlo explained that in the past, AT&T was very product-focused, building teams around the product. Today, the trend is toward self-directed teams who are responsible for a customer, not a product. Ingram added that conflict resolution, communication and project management should be added to the list of skills necessary in the workplace today. He noted that there is value to training members of the team at the same time.

- The competitive edge is *customer service*. Since products are often similar, the service aspect is what makes the difference. "How well we serve our customers will make the critical difference," stated Thomas Bracken, president and CEO, CoreStates New Jersey National Bank. "Working smarter means doing only things that add *value* to our customers."

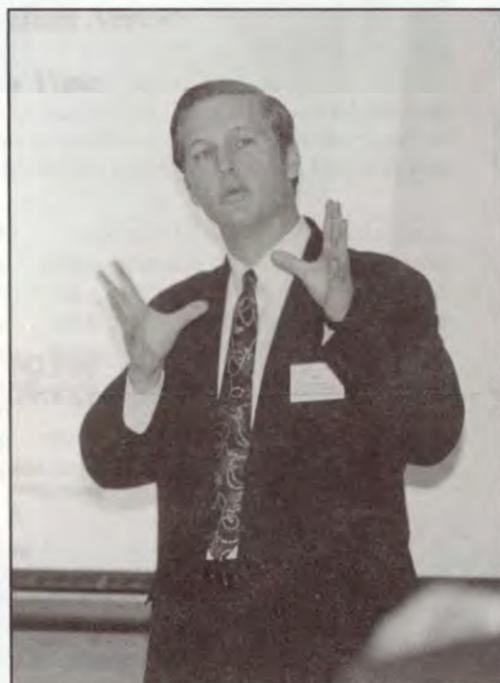
Bracken added that to stay on top in today's marketplace, you must continuously strive to self-evaluate. CoreStates, the 28th largest bank in the U.S., has 14,000 employees. Yet despite its success, Bracken emphasized that they are continuously looking for ways to get better. "This can be disconcerting to employees who often hear 'job loss' when there is talk



Participating in a Colloquium session, "Case Study in Workforce Issues: AT&T—Employer and Educator" were (left) Robert DeCarlo, process leader, Education and Training, AT&T Network Education and Training; and (right) Ken Ingram, district manager, AT&T Network Operations. Facilitating the discussion was John Molner, chair, Panel of Examiners, National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (center).

of re-evaluating; it takes away their comfort level."

- *Empowerment*, a word which has been used quite frequently in recent years in other circles, was mentioned



Richard Adamson, director of Product Development, Learning Tree International, addressed the Colloquium audience on "Corporate Education Needs: A Provider's View."

often by speakers during the Colloquium. Allowing employees to work in semi-autonomous groups with more flexibility than is traditionally included in their specific job titles encourages good work and success. "Job specs limit what can get done" according to William Tracy, former executive director, N.J. Employment and Training Commission. Tracy believes that "innovation doesn't happen in a limited job title." Tracy said that one out of four new jobs being created is for the technician, a person who can develop and carry a process through to completion.

"We can't get away with top-down management anymore; we have developed a flatter, more inclusive organization," Bracken continued. "This often means that people closest to the customer make the decision. If we have trained them properly, they make decisions and take risks within the boundaries we have set. There is a sense of empowerment and delegation."

- *Identifying common ground*

and seeking new partnerships was also emphasized. "We must reconstruct the relationships between business and academia," stated Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "With more training and education occurring off-campus than on-campus, the notion that they can exist separately is illogical." Dr. Pruitt credited the Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships at Thomas Edison with helping to make connections that benefit both academia and the non-collegiate sectors offering education and training.

An example of the extensive investment in training going on off-campus was illustrated by Ronald L. DiOrio, special assistant, Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), AGC, Education and Training Fund, Washington, D.C. LIUNA is one of the largest and most diverse unions of the AFL-CIO and represents 750,000 workers in construction, hazardous waste remediation, environmental clean-up, health care, maintenance, food service, clerical and other occupations. The union spends approximately \$200 million on education and training each year. There are 25 residential training sites and programs offered that range from literacy training to support for advanced degrees.

DiOrio echoed Dr. Pruitt's concept of new partnerships and linkages, and invited colleges and corporations to join him in a special training initiative that LIUNA is piloting with the Philadelphia Housing Authority which is designed to involve the local community in creating a lifelong learning pact. As part of its commitment to urban areas, LIUNA hopes to expand the program to include 50 cities. "Come with us into public housing in Philadelphia," he urged the group. "There is incredible learning and training going on there."

The dialog that began at the Colloquium will continue this year through a special program offered on the Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network developed by Thomas Edison State College. *Colloquium participants* have the opportunity to become part of a special interest group on CALL, and will be able to continue to communicate with one another to further develop ideas and strategies. A special session was held during the day to receive information on participating. Call the PONSI office if you registered for the Colloquium, but were unable to attend the closing session and need more information.



Thomas Bracken, president and CEO, CoreStates New Jersey National Bank, meets Colloquium participants following his participation as a panelist during the plenary session. Also pictured are, (l. to r.) Renee Blank, co-author of *Voices of Diversity*, and Karen McMullen, CEO and executive director, Garden State Chapter, American Institute of Banking.

New Foundation board members support College priorities

Three new members have been added to the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors. A non-profit corporation affiliated with Thomas Edison State College, the Foundation raises funds to support higher education for adults and other initiatives of the College.

"We are pleased to be able to add these outstanding business and community leaders to our roster of volunteer directors," said Dr. Natale S. Caliendo, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College. "Their knowledge and expertise will be a boon to our efforts."



Gaetano T. Falzarano

GAETANO T. FALZARANO, ISELIN, N.J., BELL ATLANTIC—NEW JERSEY, INC.

Gaetano (Guy) T. Falzarano is director, Market Development, Bell Atlantic—New Jersey, Inc. A business management major at Rutgers University College, Falzarano also took effective speaking and human relations courses at Dale Carnegie Institute. In his current capacity, Falzarano directs Bell Atlantic—New Jersey's initiatives in education, health care, economic development and video dial tone. During his career with Bell, which spans 24 years, he has worked in a number of positions, including manager-Strategic Planning, manager-Regulatory and staff manager-Budgets.

Falzarano is a director on the Board of Trustees of the Newark Family Service

Bureau, a certified referee with the United States Soccer Federation and vice president, Baseball Clinic and T-Ball, Iselin Athletic Association. He has garnered a number of awards including the 1993 Bell Atlantic Spirit of Excellence award, the 1993 Chairman's Award and the 1992 Chairman's Award.

Falzarano and his wife, Julia, have three sons, Louis, 17, Guy, 14, and David, 10.

ERIC ROBERT LEAR, CPA, TITUSVILLE, N.J., LEAR & PENNEPACKER

Eric Robert Lear is a principal in Lear & Pennepacker. A graduate of Rider College (now University) in Lawrenceville, N.J., Lear earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce in accounting. He has practiced in public and private accounting for over 15 years and is licensed to practice as a certified public accountant in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York.

Lear is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In addition, Lear is a member of the Chamber of Commerce of the Princeton Area, Rotary International and the Nassau Club of Princeton. He is a trustee and the treasure of the Princeton Historical Society, a committee chairperson for the Medical Center of Princeton and a committee member of the ARC/Mercer Association of Re-



Eric Robert Lear

tarded Citizens. He recently received the "Small Business Person of the Year" award from the Chamber of Commerce of the Princeton Area.

Lear and his wife, Joanna, have two sons, Eric, 10, and Jonathan, 2. They are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their third child in March.

MARGARET A. PYLES, NEWTOWN, PA., BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

Margaret A. Pyles is senior director, training and development at Bristol-Myers Squibb. A graduate of Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., with a baccalaureate degree in language arts, Pyles began her career as a sales representative with Bristol-Myers in 1976.



Margaret A. Pyles

She went on to hold a number of positions over the years in management and training.

Pyles has worked on a number of task forces, including productivity and relocation. She has developed and conducted workshops on an ongoing basis for new and experienced district managers, and has conducted training workshops for representatives and managers for Bristol-Myers Squibb's international divisions in Puerto Rico, Greece, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Pyles is a member of the American Society of Training and Development, and a member of the National Society of Pharmaceutical Sales Trainers, where she was the first woman elected to its Board of Directors.

Gala honors two with Spirit of Edison awards

The first annual Spirit of Edison awards were the highlight of this year's Gala as two of Thomas Edison State College's brightest were honored for dedication to the College. These prestigious awards recognize an alumnus/a and a business leader whose creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit have had a profound effect on the community. The first recipients are alumnus Frank Z. Hawrylo '79 and John P. Neary of CoreStates.

Hawrylo, of Mercerville, N.J., has remained active with the College since his graduation in 1979, is a past president of the Alumni Association and the first recipient of the Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Service. An innovative research scientist, Hawrylo holds 40 patents. His work has been included in over 50 publications. He was a research scientist with RCA for over 30 years and received the RCA Outstanding Achievement Award in 1975 and 1980, and the David Sarnoff Research Center Outstanding Achievement for Research Award in 1987. Hawrylo is currently employed at Laser Diode Products, Inc. in New Brunswick, N.J., as a project engineer leader.

Neary, of Churchville, Pa., is executive vice president in the Retail Banking Division of CoreStates Bank. His commitment to proactive community development and to Thomas Edison State College is being honored. He is responsible for strategic planning, development and information for the retail bank, and for corporate marketing. He joined CoreStates in 1986 and brought over 22 years of banking expertise to his position.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, Neary's other affiliations have included the Trenton Urban League, the education committee of the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, the advisory board of the Trenton Office of Policy Studies, the Capital City Academic Basketball Camp and the Center for Strategic Urban Leadership at Rutgers-Camden.

"Jack Neary and Frank Hawrylo are two of the most outstanding individuals that I've ever had the pleasure to meet," commented Dr. Natale S. Caliendo, vice president for Public Affairs at the College. "While we have many outstanding volunteer leaders and alumni, I am proud to hold up Jack and Frank as individuals to be emulated. They set a fine standard for future Spirit of Edison award winners."

The entire College family of students, alumni, trustees, board directors, faculty mentors, staff and administrators extends its heartiest congratulations to these two outstanding citizens.

A well-planned estate can benefit you, your heirs

Planning your estate now can benefit you and your heirs. A well-planned estate can also benefit a non-profit organization important to you—like Thomas Edison State College.

To find out more, contact the Office of Development, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176; or, call (609) 984-1588. The Office of Development can assist you in your planning for today and tomorrow.



THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Commencement speaker (continued from page 1)

president for Academic Affairs at Thomas Edison from 1973 to 1983, recognizes select baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in independent learning.

"As we all walk across the stage today and receive our diplomas," Partridge told his classmates, "you can be assured that Thomas Edison will surely be smiling,

knowing that we too were also somehow inspired to accomplish something we all felt was important and worthwhile."

For Partridge and the other 940 graduates in the Class of '94, something important and worthwhile was accomplished on Oct. 23 when they received their college degrees.

Staff on the move at Thomas Edison

CATHARINE A. BUNN, YARDLEY, PA.

Catharine A. Bunn has been appointed transcript evaluator. In her new position in the Office of the Registrar, Bunn is responsible for organizing the registration of students, ensuring that the course registrations are complete and appropriate for students, processing student status changes and providing final grades for over 3,500 students annually who take courses through Thomas Edison State College's Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL). In addition to keeping faculty mentors updated on student status in their courses, Bunn provides the approximately 75



Catharine A. Bunn

faculty mentors involved in the DIAL program with accurate course and final grade rosters.

Bunn earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, with dual majors in sociology and elementary education, from Rider College (now University) in Lawrenceville, N.J. Prior to this appointment, Bunn was a program assistant in DIAL at Thomas Edison. She also volunteers her services as a member of the Board of Directors of the Yardley-Makefield Emergency Unit in Yardley.



Dr. Ruth McKeefery

DR. RUTH MCKEEFERY, LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J.

Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of the College, was appointed as a member of the New Jersey Military Education Advisory Council.

Thomas Edison provides degree programs and ways of earning credit to military servicemembers and veterans. The College currently has nearly 700 servicemembers and more than 1,700 veterans enrolled in degree programs.

According to Dr. McKeefery, "Thomas Edison programs provide an excellent opportunity to the military because individuals can complete a degree program while moving from base to base, or from their home state after leaving active military service."

The Council, which has two representatives from the state college system, reaches all branches of the military. There are representatives on the Council from each branch of the service, as well as the National Guard and Reservists. The Council is responsible for insuring statewide coordination of civilian educational services for military personnel, identifying and publicizing educational

resources within the state of New Jersey which would serve the military community, investigating areas of concern and engaging in the research as may be requested by any council member or others involved in providing services to the military, and encouraging access to quality higher educational opportunities offered to military personnel, their dependents and Department of Defense civilians.

MAUREEN O'DOWD, AUDUBON, N.J.

Maureen O'Dowd has been appointed testing administrator. In her new position, O'Dowd is responsible for supervising the registration and administration of all of the College's testing programs, including the Thomas Edison College Examination Program (TECEP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support (DANTES).

O'Dowd earned her Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Stockton State College in Pomona, N.J. Prior to this appoint-



Maureen O'Dowd



Michael E. Wheeler

ment, O'Dowd was an evaluator in the Office of the Registrar at Thomas Edison. She has worked as a writer for the Austin Advertising Agency in Point Pleasant, N.J., and was the assistant editor of the *Times-Beacon Newspapers* in Manahawkin, N.J. O'Dowd is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Dowd of Pleasantville, N.J., and is a graduate of Holy Spirit High School.

MICHAEL E. WHEELER, TRENTON

Michael E. Wheeler has been appointed transcript evaluator. In his new position in the Office of the Registrar, Wheeler is responsible for the evaluation of student credentials including verifying the authenticity of all academic credentials, evaluating academic transcripts and noncollegiate course work, reviewing licenses and certificates, and communicating the results to the student upon completion of the evaluation. He is also responsible for updating students' Thomas Edison transcripts.

Wheeler earned his Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering from Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. Prior to this appointment, Wheeler was an assistant in the Office of the Bursar at Thomas Edison. He has also worked as a test engineer, a carpenter and a roofer.

PONSI programs recognize milestones, future achievements

American Educational Institute, Inc. (AEI)

Thomas Edison State College and American Educational Institute (AEI), who have worked together for more than 10 years, have entered into a new partnership—PONSI sponsorship.

In 1984, AEI began having courses reviewed by a team of college professors and recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education's Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction (PONSI).

As a PONSI sponsor, AEI invites a rigorous review of its courses by higher education experts. Courses which meet the same high standards of colleges and universities are then recommended by PONSI for college credit. ACE/PONSI credit recommendations are accepted by hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide, including Thomas Edison State College, a leader in innovative approaches to learning, which enables adults to complete degrees wherever they live and work.

Undergoing a successful PONSI evaluation means that AEI students can use the PONSI credit recommen-



Thomas Edison State College and American Educational Institute (AEI) officials met recently to discuss a new partnership which will allow students who take AEI's correspondence courses to receive college credit toward a college degree at Thomas Edison. Pictured from left are Fred A. Koernig, president, AEI; Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage, associate vice president for Public Service, Thomas Edison; Robert Smith, senior vice president, AEI; and James A. Ratigan, director of PONSI, Thomas Edison State College.

ation toward a college degree. Having the courses recognized nationally and recommended for college credit was the keystone to the new partnership in which students who take courses with AEI can apply the PONSI credit recommendation directly toward a college degree at Thomas Edison State College.

American Educational Institute, founded in 1969, offers college-level independent study courses in property/casualty and claims laws. AEI's 41 courses are directed primarily to claims adjusters, but a number deal with the legal interpretation of coverage issues and are beneficial to agents and underwrit-

ers. In addition to the PONSI credit recommendations, all courses are approved for continuing education units in those states which require courses for adjuster's license renewal. AEI's coverage-oriented courses are approved in many states for agent's license renewal.

Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G)

A Graduate Recognition Dinner was held to honor 20 PSE&G employees who have earned Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degrees during the last five years through participation in the collaborative program sponsored by the PSE&G Nuclear Training Department and Thomas Edison State College.

Since the inception of the educational partnership between the College and PSE&G in 1987, 30 program participants have earned BSAST degrees. Dr. Sonja Eveslage, associate vice president for Public Service, and Dr. Iris Saltiel, director of Corporate Programs, facilitate the partnership with PSE&G.

Distance & Independent Adult Learning expands offerings

As Thomas Alva Edison pioneered the use of electricity, Thomas Edison State College is pioneering the electronic classroom. Courses are now available via computer through the **On-Line Computer Classroom**.

Students can now take courses on-line using Thomas Edison State College's Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network. College credit can be earned by using a computer and modem to "call" into class, eliminating worries about bad weather or scheduling conflicts. Course discussions with faculty mentors and fellow students are all available over the "cyberwaves" of the computer.

A variety of courses will be offered during the spring 1995 semester, from

Computers & Society to American Cinema to Managing in Organizations and more. Course descriptions are available on-line by dialing (609) 292-7200 (Data-8, Parity-none, Stop-1, Emulation-full, VT-100), or by calling DIAL at (609) 292-6317. Registration information is available by calling (609) 633-9242.

Thomas Edison's DIAL is also **Going the Distance** with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). The College is one of several which has been selected for a pilot program using telecourses and distance learning opportunities for completing college degrees. The PBS program will allow busy adults to use these methods to complete Associate in Arts degrees wherever they live or work.



Although Thomas Edison students have been able to earn credits through telecourses for quite some time now, the new initiative helps adult students package telecourses into a formalized program that will lead to an associate degree. Students who wish to continue their education and complete a baccalaureate program can then use Guided Study, the On-Line Computer Classroom and other options to meet degree requirements. For more information, contact DIAL at (609) 292-6317.

Research takes Guided Study mentor to rain forests of Central America

by Barbara W. Eklund

When Professor Stanley L. Walling, a faculty mentor for Guided Study courses in Anthropology and Archeology, is not in New Jersey working with Thomas Edison or on-campus at Montclair State University, he may be found traveling by four-wheel drive vehicle in Central America, for sometimes up to 24 hours at a stretch, cutting roads to reach a remote area of the Maya Lowlands in the tropical forests of the Yucatan. Dr. Walling serves as associate director of the Maya Lowlands Regional archeology Project, which includes research areas in Guatemala and Belize.

Professor Walling is part of a group of 70-75 archeologists, students and others who work on the "Program for Belize," a cooperative project supported by the National Geographic Society and several federal agencies to help Belize preserve its rain forest for ecotourism. Right now, the group is working to inventory, document and map the area, including the region's ancient Maya cultural remains. In the future, the area will be opened as a tourist attraction for those who agree to preserve the ecology and archeological sites of the area by "only taking pictures with them" when they leave. "Today, more than half of Latin America's tropical forests have areas of scrub growth or wasteland, and

the people of Belize are trying to prevent that from happening in their area," Professor Walling pointed out.

"You never know what you'll find," stated Dr. Walling, who often takes mules into areas where there are no roads. "It is hard, hot work." So far, the group has discovered huge, abandoned, overgrown Pyramid-like temples and palaces sticking out of the forest. Some buildings in the Maya area are over 200 feet tall and "project above the treetops like man-made mountains." Large ancient courtyards, roadways and residential zones have also been uncovered in the area's forests. To date, the Maya Lowlands Regional Archeology Project has found several cities and dozens of towns. A variety of lines of evidence, including the several feet of accumulated soil on top of these ruins, indicate that the buildings are many centuries old. Most of the sites date to between A.D. 200 and 900.

"This year, in addition to discovering towns and villages, we continued mapping out coordinates and cutting lines of exploration," Professor Walling explained. This sophisticated technology of today helps Walling in his work exploring the distant past. In order to check his location and map the areas, he works with "Global Positioning" equipment that is hooked into satellites that determine his location. "Before the in-



Pictured is Professor Stanley L. Walling in front of a recently discovered Mayan nobleman's residence at the archeological site of Sayil on the peninsula of Yucatan (Mexico), which dates to the end of the late classic period, A.D. 800-1000. The star and moon decorative pattern on the structure's facade is indicative of Mayan interest in astronomical cycles and time.

roduction of this system, some sites were discovered and then lost again for decades because people have been unable to relocate their position," Walling pointed out.

Deborah Aguiar-Velez on the move (continued from page 1)

Aguiar-Velez can foresee that future, based on her own experiences. Among her accomplishments at Sistemas, Aguiar-Velez includes developing a Windows-FORTRAN-C-Unix economic processing monitoring system on a R6000 environment, a multi-million dollar system providing MIS reports for phone traffic data analysis, and designing and teaching courses in Europe, North and Central America on the capabilities of technical programs and how to interpret their results. Her clients include Exxon, AT&T, BASF, Colgate-Palmolive, Xerox, Baxter Technologies and law firms in Puerto Rico.

Aguiar-Velez's knowledge was also tapped by the state of New Jersey during the administration of Gov. Thomas Kean, who appointed her director of the Division for Development of Small Business and Women and Minority Businesses, New Jersey Department of

Commerce and Economic Development. On leave from Sistemas from 1988 to 1990, she managed a staff of 33 and a \$2.5 million budget to provide technical, financial and procurement assistance to New Jersey entrepreneurs.

Prior to her tenure at Sistemas, Aguiar-Velez worked as a senior analyst at Exxon Corp. in Florham Park, N.J. from 1978 to 1983. From 1977 to 1978, she was an assistant instructor in computer languages for the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, P.R.

Aguiar-Velez is a firm believer that education never stops. She continues to participate in educational programs on all levels. She completed a one year program in Leadership America, Alexandria, Va., having been chosen as one of 100 women nationwide who were included in 1992. Likewise, she completed a one year program in Leadership New Jersey, New Brunswick, N.J., as

one of 50 leaders selected statewide in 1991. In 1989, she earned a Rutgers University Hispanic Women Leadership Certificate as well as a McIntire School of Commerce Entrepreneurial Executive Institute Certificate from the University of Virginia. She is a graduate of the Business Administration Program from the American Women Economic Development Corporation in New York City. She holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico.

The key to success, according to Aguiar-Velez, is education. "It's said that 'success is where opportunity meets preparedness.' Thomas Edison's students need to persist and finish their degrees. Then, as alumni, they must stay involved to let other people know that the same opportunities are available to them.

"People must be educated," she said emphatically. "If you don't have an education, there are not many open doors."

Convenience of DIAL On-Line Courses hailed by student

"Principles of Management was an unexpected pleasure. It has given me an appreciation for the inner workings of my corporation. Not only do I understand more about what is going on, but I can contribute within my company. The text book is a reference I will keep. . . ."

"... The concept of CALL is really great. I never expected the level of interaction that this system presented."

These were some of the comments from Paul Tempesta, an assistant nuclear operator at Florida Power Corporation. Tempesta found DIAL courses to be an especially convenient way to earn college credits toward his degree. As he explained, he was working a rotating shift at the power company, which often meant he would get home from work around midnight. Still winding down from work, Tempesta would turn on his computer and often work on his course until 2 or 3 a.m.

Professor Walling spends the spring and sometimes the summer out in the field because that is the dry time in Central America. He is the director of the Residential Archeology Program at Montclair State University, as well as a professor, and oversees the work of students in South, Central and North America.

Dr. Walling brings his enthusiasm and experiences to students who take Guided Study courses in Anthropology and Archeology. "I love talking to the students and spend a great deal of time on the telephone with them," he noted. "Students comment on my enthusiasm, and I try to bring my sense of exploration and discovery to the work. All education is a matter of discovery; you have to be creative and want to figure things out. I think students respect professors who are out there doing things; it helps them see what is possible, what they can do. A number of students have remained in touch with me over the years and I enjoy that."

Proud of being a woman entrepreneur, and of her Hispanic heritage, Aguiar-Velez involves herself with organizations to act as a role model. "I came to the United States looking for opportunity, and I've achieved a certain position. I like to go into organizations, meet people and show them how to get access to the same opportunity," she noted.

Her list of memberships and affiliations is long, pointing to a life of service to others. Aguiar-Velez is a director of CoreStates New Jersey National Bank; director of the Center for International Private Enterprise Board, Washington, D.C.; a trustee of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, N.J.; and a member of the board of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

Aguiar-Velez has been honored for her (continued on page 7)

One of our best . . .

by Linda Soltis

...is featuring two of our best. Thomas Edison State College is honored to count among its alumni such talented, dedicated and remarkable individuals as **Ondina A. Jeffers '82** and **Lea Bayers Rapp '89**. The Alumni Association has recognized these two individuals, respectively, for Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association, which is for exceptional service to the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association, and Outstanding Professional Achievement, which recognizes sustained, lifetime career achievement.

Ondina Jeffers loves to learn, and she loves people. It just seemed natural that she should teach. A native New Yorker who is now a content New Jerseyan, Jeffers recently retired as a kindergarten teacher in New York City. Being a people-person accustomed to a lot of hugs and smiles, she misses the little "sugar bushes" who greeted her each morning. "Imagine being addicted to the magic of teaching," she exclaimed when asked how she felt about retiring.

"I stopped my education when I was carrying my son, but I always wanted to continue," Jeffers explained. "I always had the desire to return to school and I loved reading,

wouldn't let go," she explained. Not long after joining the association, she was elected to the Board of Directors as an associate director. Jeffers has also served as a director and vice president of Programs, and will be vice president for Development in 1995. Furthermore, she has served on a number of committees including ring sales chair, commencement, annual fund and awards. Jeffers' idea to form focus groups that would bring alumni together has developed into the successful Regional Meetings Program.

"I'm very comfortable with the Thomas Edison Alumni Association," Jeffers explained. "The College has helped me achieve so very, very much in my life. I love achieving, it's nourishment for me. And the association has achievers. It stimulates me because it's an atmosphere of continuous learning."

In addition to her active involvement with the Thomas Edison alumni, Jeffers has enjoyed a successful career as an educator. She first experienced the "magic of teaching" when she taught reading to a special education student named Marcus while student teaching in 1982. That inspired her to complete a Master of Science degree in special education at Fordham University. In 1988, she became the founder and organizer of the "Reading Buddy Circle Read-Off" for kindergarten children in

P.S. 2, District 2 in Manhattan. The program paired kindergarteners with sixth graders in a reading program that culminated with the presentation of "I Can Read" badges. To demonstrate their high regard and appreciation for her work as a teacher, the Parents Association of P.S. 2 presented Jeffers with a special award upon her retirement.

The award-winning

Jeffers commented on the Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association award that the Alumni Association bestowed upon her, "I feel honored and I'm in awe," she said. "This award isn't mine alone, it belongs to everyone, alumni and family, who have helped me along the way. It belongs to all of them because they contributed to it."

Lea Bayers Rapp's work reflects her desire "to climb mountains to see what's on the other side." Her studies have taken her from Brooklyn College to Rutgers University and ultimately to Thomas Edison State College where she completed her B.A. degree in journal-

ism. Her work has taken her from the White House, to Broadway and surfing on the Internet.

"I stopped going to college when I had my daughter," Rapp explained.

"When she was ready for college, I said 'I'll race you to a degree.' I was a few credits shy of an associate's degree when I returned to college. I'd

been pursuing a business degree but had been working in the communications field so I decided to get serious about journalism. I'd been writing for magazines and newspapers, had written a few books—I didn't want to sit through Journalism 101.

"I had to move faster than a traditional college would permit," she added. "Thomas Edison was phenomenal, I was able to combine career and education to get my degree."

An author of 20 published books and over 150 magazine and newspaper articles, Rapp was also the features editor of *Marketing Insights* magazine, and editor-in-chief of *Women's Interest*, a Wall Street financial magazine. On the theatre front, Rapp co-wrote a musical play for children which was mounted in New York. As the mother of a young Broadway/TV/film actress and a founding member of the Screen Actors Guild children's committee, Rapp had an impact on safety regulations for child actors. Her book on children in show business is considered by many to be the "bible" of the industry. She has lectured around the country, appeared on over 100 television and radio shows and was the subject of several television documentaries regarding the subject.

As a journalist, Rapp has been published in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Japan Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The Star-Ledger*, among others. Her syndicated column ran in *The News Tribune*. In the magazine field, she was a columnist for two national women's magazines and writes for publication such as *New Woman*, *Entrepreneur* and *Playbill*. Her annual education cover stories for *New Jersey Monthly* have made an impact on education in the state.

Rapp taught at the British-American School of Writing, Seton Hall University, Middlesex County College and the Sayreville Adult School. She was a consultant at the New Jersey Writers Conference at NJIT in Newark for many years.

Over the years, Rapp has received numerous journalism awards. This year, her work has won the National Press



Lea Bayers Rapp '89 receives her award from Owen J. Ravino '93, one of last year's winners.



Ondina Jeffers '82 (left) receives her award from newly elected Alumni Association Board of Directors President Adele K. Ellis ASM '88, BA '94, also one of last year's winners.

I could read anything and enjoy it, even the encyclopedia. When I heard about Thomas Edison State College, I knew it was the right thing to do. I felt I had to do it.

"I'd been working for the Board of Education in New York City as a payroll secretary for 21 years, but I knew that I wanted to teach," Jeffers added. "I knew that teaching was the direction I wanted to take."

After earning her baccalaureate degree in 1982, she began her relationship with the Alumni Association. That year, she expressed an interest and "it became like a bug that

Women's and New Jersey Press Women's first place awards for individual achievement in print journalism for real estate work, The Society of Professional Journalists first place award for art criticism and a North Jersey Press Club award for her education writing. She has also won awards this year for her work for *The Star-Ledger*. Now she will add the Thomas Edison Alumni Association's Outstanding Professional Achievement award to that list.

"When I got the letter telling me I won the award, I screamed," Rapp explained. "And I never scream. I'm thrilled and delighted to be honored by the Alumni Association. But I couldn't have done it without my family."

Rapp credits her husband of 28 years, Stanley, as being her anchor in the midst of chaos and deadlines, Thomas Edison State College for the education and credentials to make it work and her two children, Ilana and Justin, with rounding out her life while providing her with enlightenment and laundry.

Alumni . . . your pride is showing

Complete your circle of success by proudly wearing a Thomas Edison State College ring. A symbol of your achievement, your college ring will serve as a constant reminder of the successful completion of your degree.

For more information or to receive an order form, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898, (201) 877-1450.

Highlights

1995 Alumni Association Board of Directors

A hearty congratulations to the officers, directors and associate directors of the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association Board of Directors. The Board was elected during the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association, held on Commencement Weekend at Thomas Edison.

For information on how to get involved with the Alumni Association, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, (201) 877-1450.

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Sharon Santel B.A. '80

Ida B. Hammond Receives Thomas C. Streckewald Alumni Service Award

It was an emotional moment when Ida B. Hammond '78, past president of the Alumni Association, (right) accepted the the first Thomas C. Streckewald Alumni Service Award from Cathie Streckewald at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association. A standing ovation paid tribute to Hammond, who has served the College for two decades. She was part of the B.A. Advisory Council as a student, participated in the Accreditation Team as an alumni leader and has served on the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Gala Committee.

Streckewald initiated the award in the name of, and in the memory of, her late husband, who was director of Institutional Planning, Research, and Outcomes Assessment at Thomas Edison. Because Tom Streckewald was a friend and advocate of the Alumni Association during his 16 years of employment with the College, the award bearing his name will be given to a graduate each year in recognition and appreciation of extraordinary service to the College.



Ida B. Hammond '78 (right) receives the first Thomas C. Streckewald Alumni Service Award from Cathie Streckewald.

Linda Solitis

College officials meet with alumni from coast to coast at Regional Receptions



Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison State College, takes a moment to enjoy Los Angeles with Thomas Edison State College alumni during a Regional Reception held in California.



Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost, Thomas Edison State College, discusses new initiatives at the College with New Jersey alumni at a Regional Reception in East Hanover, N.J.

Deborah Aguiar-Velez on the move (continued from page 5)

accomplishments and achievements, including: Humanitarian Award, The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Princeton, N.J.; Small Business Administration Minority Small Business Advocate for New Jersey, Bridgewater, N.J.; Woman of Achievement Award, Trenton; Hispanic Engineer of the Year Award for Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Rochester, N.Y.; Outstanding Contribution to Women's Economic Development Award, American Women Economic Development, Lincoln Center, N.Y.; honors from the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, New Brunswick, N.J.; Hispanic Engineer of the Year Award for Outstanding Achievement on Affirmative Actions, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; *Who's Who in Business Central New Jersey*; *Quien es Quien (Who's Who) in U.S. Commerce*; *Who's Who Among Hispanic Americans*; *Who's Who in the Computer Industry*; and *Who's Who in American Women*.

She was selected as a judge for Ernst & Young and *Inc. Magazine's* 1993 Entrepreneur of the Year awards; as part of the New Jersey Visiting Fellows Program for The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Princeton, N.J.; as one of the "10 Women to Watch in 1990" by *New Jersey Woman* magazine; as "Business Watch '90" by the *Business Journal of*

New Jersey; and as a Hispanic Woman Role Model for English and Spanish Coca Cola commercials. Aguiar-Velez has been featured in numerous newspaper, magazine and journal articles and stories, and has presented lectures for countless organizations and events.

But Aguiar-Velez relishes helping others. She acted as the mentor to five Hispanic women interested in starting their own businesses. "It was so rewarding," she said. "Two started their own businesses, and the other three have gone on to impressive positions."

Aguiar-Velez may be speeding down the Information Superhighway, but she is concerned about those who may not have access to an entrance ramp. "There is still a long way to go to bring technology to minorities," she stated. In many poorer areas, she sees that economic development has lagged, leaving the residents, often minority residents, with concerns for jobs, housing and security, not computer equipment.

"I am not pessimistic, though," she quickly added. "Education is key—access through schools can interest students and parents. Large companies that get involved in urban areas can make an impact on economic development... technology will follow."

With Aguiar-Velez working toward these lofty goals, whether it's one student, one mentoree or one corporation at a time, there is a good likelihood that they can—and will—happen.

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

'80

Rev. R. Eugene Hill (B.A.) of Morris Township, N.J., recently graduated from Drew University with a Master of Theological Studies. He completed a chaplain residency program at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J., and was ordained into the Christian Ministry in May 1994.

'82

Rev. Gretchen D. Fischer (B.A.) of Bridgewater, N.J., recently graduated, cum laude, from Drew University with a Master's of Divinity degree. On June 5, she was ordained a Deacon in the United Methodist Church as a probationary candidate for Elders Orders. Fischer was appointed, by the Bishop of the New Jersey Area of the United Methodist Church, to the Drakestown United Methodist Church as full-time pastor. Fischer writes, "I am deeply indebted to the wise council of Thomas Edison State College and its degree program.... May God richly bless each of you in your faithful work in Thomas Edison State College."

'83

William John Geary (B.A.) of Margate, N.J., was recently selected for inclusion in the Silver Anniversary 25th Edition of Marquis *Who's Who in the East*. Gear is a researcher with Data Matrix in Atlantic City, N.J.

'86

Joseph P. Linskey (B.S.) of North Brunswick, N.J., recently attended the Programs for Higher Education Summer Institute in Scottsdale, Ariz. The theme of the institute was, "Ethics and Values: From Theory to Practice." By attending the sum-

mer institute, Linskey, a student in the Programs for Higher Education (PHE) of Nova Southeastern University, fulfills one of the requirements in a program that leads to the doctoral degree in education.

'89

Mark Greenia (BSBA) of Sacramento, Calif., obtained his master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix and has recently compiled and edited the electronic textbook, *History of Computing: An Encyclopedia of the People and Machines that Made Computing History*. This is the first fully electronic textbook on computer history. Greenia complements Thomas Edison State College for its excellent program which allowed him to pull together credits from other colleges and universities to help build a strong platform for further educational opportunities. He currently serves as the director of Management Information Systems for the Sacramento Superior and Municipal Courts.

Carla Helen Rockliff, R.N., (BSN) of Cranford, N.J., was recently named the New Jersey Health Occupations Educators Association "Teacher of the Year." She has taught a variety of programs including Practical Nursing, Diabetes Education, Pharmacology, parenting classes and in-service education at local nursing homes. During the past six summers, Rockliff has been the camp nurse for the YM-YWHA in Union, and is the nurses consultant for its day care center. She is responsible for establishing and maintaining a successful state-approved Certified Nursing Assisting Program in the Linden Vocational-Technical School System.

'90

Paula (Soloway) Calcaterra (BSHS) of Wayne, N.J., has recently completed a

Master of Arts degree in Training Administration at Montclair State University. Calcaterra began as regional training coordinator for institutions in the Northern third of New Jersey with the State of New Jersey, Department of Personnel, Human Resource Development Institute (HRDI) at its inception in 1991. She now serves as the HRDI representative for Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. Additionally, Calcaterra served as a Thomas Edison peer counselor from 1991-1993.

John J. McCann (BSBA) of Harmon Cove, N.J., has been named to the newly-created post of senior vice president for Operations and Systems for the brokerage firm Lynch, Jones & Ryan, Inc.

'91

Albert L. Gutierrez (BSAST) of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., earned acceptance into the Executive MBA program at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa. Gutierrez, a registered radiographer, entered Thomas Edison to compile credits from two colleges as well as a hospital-based radiography school. He writes, "My experience with Thomas Edison allowed for the right stepping stone at the right time in my career."

'92

William D. Wagoner (BSHS) of Royal Oak, Mich., was recently elected chair of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute Board of Visitors. Wagoner is director of Planning and Emergency Management, Livingston County, Mich. The function of the Board is to review EMI programs and to make comments and recommendations regarding EMI's curricula and operation. Additionally, Wagoner recently received the Outstanding Service Award from Michigan Department of State Police Divi-

sion of Emergency Management for his many years of service on the adjunct faculty of the State Police Training Academy and for service on the State Board of Registration for Professional Emergency Managers.

'94

Rita Diana Benasutti (B.A.) of Wynnewood, Pa., and Boca Raton, Fla., was accepted and is currently attending the New York Institute of Technology, Center at Lynn University, Boca Raton, Fla. The program is a Master's of Professional Studies in Human Relations. She received a scholarship for her excellent grades at Thomas Edison. Benasutti plans to continue her education by completing a doctorate in clinical psychology.

If you would like news of your accomplishments included in the *Applause, Applause* section of *Invention*, please send information to:

Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898.

You may enclose a black-and-white photograph for consideration.

Please include your daytime phone number, Thomas Edison degree(s) earned and year of graduation. Rest assured that your news will be published as soon as possible; however, due to our quarterly publication schedule, it may not appear in the next issue.

If you have comments about *Invention*, please address them to the managing editor, *Invention*, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176. Suggestions for future articles are welcomed!

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Invention is produced quarterly for the students, alumni and friends of Thomas Edison State College. Please direct any inquiries to the managing editor at (609) 984-4839.

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