

# I·N·V·E·N·T·I·O·N

NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

SUMMER 1998

## Three distinguished leaders selected for 1998 Spirit of Edison Awards

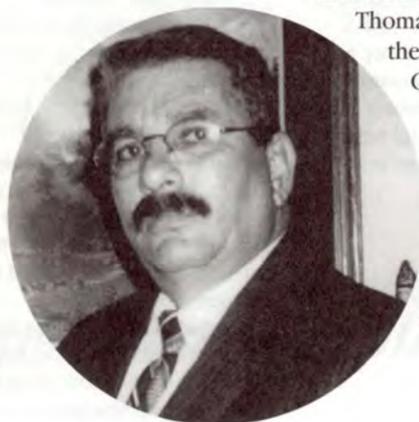


Rita A. Novitt

A research immunologist, a psychologist and a corporate executive (retired) were selected as this year's recipients of the Spirit of Edison awards. The awards were presented during the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's Seventh Annual Gala—themed "Totally Hot"—Sept. 26 at the Princeton Hyatt Regency.

The Spirit of Edison awards recognize those community leaders and graduates of Thomas Edison State College who embody the commitment to innovation, concern for the public good and the spirit of excellence associated with

Thomas Alva Edison and the mission of the College. In addition, the College presented a special third award—the Family of Edison Award—to a member of the Thomas Edison State College "family."



Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir

### This year's recipients are:

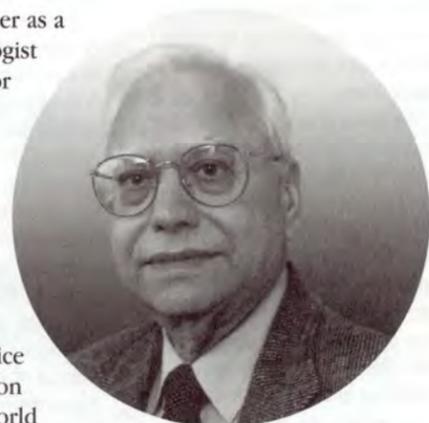
- Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir, Class of '84, of North Richland Hills, Texas. Ben-Meir is a self-employed psychologist and counselor.
- Dr. Suren N. Sehgal of Princeton, is a Distinguished Research Fellow with Wyeth-Ayerst Research.
- Rita A. Novitt of Princeton, is a consultant for W.K. Kellogg Foundation and retired corporate executive with Johnson & Johnson.

### In brief: the Spirit of Edison award winners

Despite learning disabilities that forced him to drop out of high school, Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir has demonstrated perseverance and persistence which has garnered him four college degrees, a number of licenses and certifications and ordination as a rabbi. He turned his knowledge into a distinguished career as a counselor and psychologist serving individuals in need of help, including parolees and battered women and children.

Combining a career as a research pharmacologist and immunologist for one of the world's leading research companies with a record of leadership and commitment to public health and wellness makes Dr. Suren N. Sehgal a natural choice for the Spirit of Edison Award. Sehgal is a world authority on immunosuppression therapy for patients receiving human organ transplants.

Rita A. Novitt was honored with a special Spirit of Edison Award—the Family of Edison Award. A strong supporter of higher education in general, Novitt's unfailing dedication to Thomas Edison State College and her exemplary service to its Boards are the true measure of "spirit" for which the



Dr. Suren N. Sehgal

award was designed. A member of the College "family" for over 17 years, Novitt has served on the College's Foundation Board of Directors since 1990. She also had served for 10 years as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Watch for the fall issue of *Invention* for full coverage of the Totally Hot Gala! ♦

## Thomas Edison State College Develops Two Distance-Learning Precalculus Courses

Thomas Edison State College, a leader in distance education and a pioneer in educational technology and delivery, has developed two precalculus courses which are being offered for the first time to students in the fall of 1998. The courses were the first to be developed by Thomas Edison staff specifically for the College's students.

Precalculus for Business and Precalculus for Technology, two separate courses developed to meet different learner needs, are available to students through the College's Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL). The DIAL program offers more than 100 independent study courses, ranging from College Composition to Physics, which can be taken by students whenever they live and work.

"What is unique in this type of course development is that we have developed Precalculus for Business and Precalculus for Technology as two separate courses, aimed at two separate target audiences," said Henry van Zyl, acting director of Distance Education Programs in DIAL at Thomas Edison. The Precalculus for Business course is designed to prepare students for courses in calculus and higher mathematics. Students are encouraged to explore and solve realistic and relevant applications specifically in areas related to business, computer science, finance and management.

Precalculus for Technology is designed to follow on courses in college algebra, and to prepare students for courses in calculus and higher mathematics. Specific target populations include students taking courses in aviation, electronics, nuclear studies and computer science, as well as other technology-related areas. Both courses are broad based to prepare students for courses in business or technology where a knowledge of precalculus is a prerequisite.

In all of the College's DIAL courses, adult learners interact with their faculty mentors by telephone and mail, and via e-mail for on-line courses. The College's consulting faculty is drawn from quality institutions throughout the United States. While the courses follow a 16-week semester (24 weeks for 9

## Fast-loading video a "plus" for on-line students

### THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE TO USE NEW BANDWIDTH TECHNOLOGY IN COURSE DELIVERY

In the spirit of the inventor whose name it bears, Thomas Edison State College has become the first educational institution to use a new Internet technology for course delivery. The result is Internet-based courses with interactive multimedia selections that are faster, sharper and include full-screen, full-motion video and sound.

Developed by Midi, Inc., a Princeton-based interactive multimedia company, Web-iV technology is the first used by Thomas Edison in multimedia portions of an existing course, Ethics for Managers. The tech-

nology already has been successfully used in the corporate sector.

Web-iV technology is designed to address the Internet chronic bandwidth limitations by connecting a Web site with a locally stored, hybrid CD-ROM to deliver effective, high-impact interactive education over the Internet.

"Until now, it hasn't been possible to provide fast-loading, full-motion video in courseware offered over the Internet because of bandwidth issues," said William Seaton, associate vice president of the College's Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL). "With the Midi technology, students will not only have access to fast-loading video, but also will link quickly with other Web sites and be able to chat with faculty mentors and fellow students."

According to Midi president, Jack Noon, "Most Internet-based education is a throwback to the computer-based training of 10 years ago. Web-iV offers a creative solution that seamlessly combines the advantages of Internet delivery with the rich realism of multimedia."

A team of course development experts led by Esther Paist, the College's former director of Distance Education Programs and current executive assistant to the president, worked with Dr. Dominick Iorio, a Thomas Edison consulting faculty member, and Midi, Inc., to provide instructional design and integration of the multimedia portions into the course. Other courses with multimedia components using Web-iV technology will be developed in the future.

### SUPPORTED BY FOUNDATION GRANT

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is supporting the use of Midi's technology for this program through a \$40,000 grant.

"This grant provides a 'margin of excellence' for the College to fulfill its mission to innovate and provide adults with alternatives to conventional classroom experiences," said Nicholas Carnevale, chairman of the Foundation and a College trustee. "Over the years, the College's investment in innovative technologies has led to its national leadership in the development of high-quality educational opportunities for adults." This leadership caused *Forbes Magazine* to rank Thomas Edison State College "one of the Top 20 Cyber-Universities" last summer.

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## Thomas Edison State College President Receives New Jersey ASPA Achievement Award

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, received the New Jersey Achievement Award from the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) at its Annual Awards Dinner.

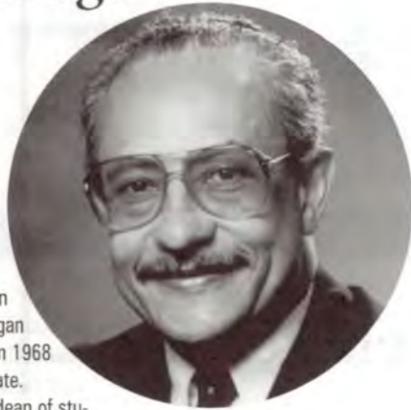
The award is given to a New Jersey individual who, in a relatively recent time period, has enhanced the knowledge, science and art of public administration through outstanding service in federal, state or local government; educational or academic institutions; volunteer service in the public arena; or to the New Jersey Chapter of ASPA. This award may be achieved by contributing to the growth of the field in an imaginative way, or by furthering human rights, equal opportunity and justice in such areas as employment, social services, housing and education.

Under Dr. Pruitt's direction, Thomas Edison State College has emerged as the national leader in higher education for adults. Thomas Edison offers 12 degrees in 120 majors to some 8,500 adults (average age 38) from every state and 86 other countries. A leader in distance learning for adults, the College was named one of the nation's Top 20 Cyber-Universities in 1997 by *Forbes Magazine*.

Dr. Pruitt received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Illinois State University, and the Ph.D. in higher education

administration from the Graduate School of The Union Institute in Cincinnati. He began his higher education career in 1968 as an instructor at Illinois State. Subsequently, he served as dean of students at Towson State University in Towson, Md., and held three vice presidencies—at Morgan State University, Tennessee State University and with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning—before accepting the presidency at Thomas Edison in 1982.

Among his many professional and civic activities, Dr. Pruitt serves as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for the United States Department of Education and on the boards of trustees of The Center for Analysis of Public Issues and The Union Institute. He is a member of three boards of directors: Seedco, New York, N.Y.; Mercer County Chamber of Commerce; and the Trenton Savings Bank. He is an advisor to Group XV of the Kellogg National Fellowship Program, Battle Creek, Mich. As a board member with the Mercer County Chamber, Dr. Pruitt chaired the Chamber's Education Committee, which completed a two-year study of the Trenton public school system. He is a member of the American Association of



Dr. George Pruitt

State Colleges and Universities Committee on Accreditation and has served on and chaired many other boards, councils and committees during his distinguished career.

Dr. Pruitt was named One of the Most Effective College Presidents in the United States by the Exxon Education Foundation in 1986. He received the Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa, in 1990 from Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts and the Doctor of Humane Letters from SUNY Empire State College in 1996. He also has received an honorary doctorate, the Alumni Achievement Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Illinois State University. In 1992, Dr. Pruitt received the Humanitarian Award of the New Jersey region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He has received numerous other awards and citations for service.

He is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Outstanding Educators of America*, *Leaders in Education*, and *Who's Who Among Black Americans*. In 1993, he was named Educator of the Year by *Black New Jersey Magazine*.

## National and Local Awards honor Thomas Edison State College

A first-place Gold Award and two Silver Awards were presented this year by the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) to Thomas Edison State College for public relations activities.

The Gold Award was presented for the best "public relations event" (the College's 25th anniversary celebration in 1997). The Silver Awards were in the categories of "media release or feature story series" (there was no Gold Award presented in this category) and "radio ad, single spot" (for the staff-written commercial, "Where Will You Be in the Year 2000?").

UCEA received a total of 406 entries from 56 of the nation's leading colleges and universities that provide services to continuing education students. Awards were announced at UCEA's 83rd Annual Conference in Chicago, Ill.

Locally, the College received ASTRA Awards from the New Jersey Communications, Advertising & Marketing Association (NJ CAMA) for the Senior College Brochure, as well as the "Where Will You Be in the Year 2000?" radio commercial.

NJ CAMA received more than 400 entries from area ad agencies, corporations, colleges and universities, freelancers and non-profit groups. The awards were presented at the annual ASTRA Awards Banquet held in Jamesburg, N.J.

## Watson Institute for Public Policy Receives \$25,000 PSE&G Company Foundation

Thomas Edison State College has been awarded a grant of \$25,000 from Public Service Electric & Gas Company Foundation in support of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, a nonpartisan, independently funded research office whose mission is to provide policy analysis and other technical assistance to decisionmakers in the

public and private sector. This is the second installment on PSE&G's two-year pledge totaling \$50,000.

PSE&G has established good corporate citizenship as one of its "core values" and an integral part of the way they do business. Through the Public Service Electric & Gas Company Foundation, a strategic contributions program, the company supports a variety of programs that have relevant alignment with PSE&G business strategies and that are of broad interest to New Jersey and its citizens. Contributions made to nonprofit organizations are viewed not as gifts, but as investments that are strategic and which make good business sense to support. The Foundation is designed to address and support three major areas of philanthropic priority—children's issues, economic development and the environment.

"PSE&G continues to recognize our commitment to collaborative community development," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Their support has been vital to the College's leadership in this area."

William A. Watson, executive director of the Watson Institute, added, "This grant is being used to create a Leadership Development Program that targets and develops a new cadre of leaders working in urban areas." This program will draw upon the unique strengths of the College's experience in outcomes-oriented learning coupled with the Watson Institute's understanding of the public policy challenges facing New Jersey's cities to help encourage, inspire and educate these future leaders.

The Watson Institute focuses on building the capacity of local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, associations and community groups throughout the state to make sound policy decisions, and to plan and implement sound solutions to community problems. The Watson Institute provides high-quality and precisely tailored research, policy advice and organizational support.

Midi...from p.1

### ADVANTAGES of Midi's NEW Technology

Web-iV technology is Midi's response to what may be the biggest drawback of using the Internet as a vehicle for the delivery of distance learning courses—insufficient bandwidth (the so-called "bandwidth bottleneck"). At present, interactive multimedia delivery programs used by other educational institutions result in slow-loading graphics and video. The bandwidth bottleneck interferes with the inclusion of rich multimedia elements, such as audio, video and high-resolution graphics in instructional events. This is because the Internet's current "plumbing" is not big enough to sustain the data rates needed to move large multimedia files.

The usual solution to this problem is a technique called "streaming," that reduces the waiting time for downloads of audio/video files. While streaming can reduce waiting time, it cannot deliver reliable high-quality sound and moving pictures and is limited to filling only a small portion of the screen. Midi's Web-iV solution will deliver professionally produced audio and video segments. The Internet's accessibility combined with the dynamic multimedia elements that Web-iV makes possible will result in enhanced educational programs built on sound principles of instructional design.

The use of emerging technologies to provide quality education to adults is nothing new to Thomas Edison State College, which has a charge to innovate embedded in its mission. The College offers associate, bachelor's and master's degrees exclusively to adults wherever they live and work. With 12 degrees and 120 areas of study, the College provides many ways for adults to complete quality degrees at a distance. Working with experienced educators, students earn degrees by documenting college-level knowledge they have acquired through life experience and by completing independent study courses.

Midi, Inc., is a full-service interactive multimedia design and development firm based in Princeton, N.J. The company's mission is to create high-end integrated communication solutions that empower its customers to harness the available technology. The privately owned company has been creating sophisticated multimedia applications since 1984. More information about Midi is available at [www.midicorp.com](http://www.midicorp.com).

## Thomas Edison State College VP Appointed To CLASS Advisory Council

by Debbie Bland

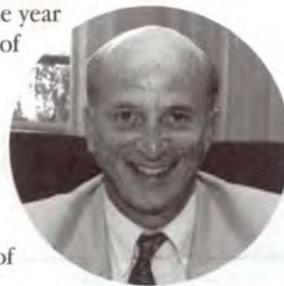
Dr. Jerry Ice of Yardley, Pa., vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College, is one year into his appointment as a member of the CLASS (Communication, Learning, and Assessment in a Student-centered System) Advisory Council, helping to bring secondary education to the distance learning arena.

The CLASS project is the result of the University of Nebraska, Department of Distance Education, receiving a five year Department of Education Star Schools grant to develop and operate a system that provides for on-line, international access to the educational and curriculum resources and support services necessary for the acquisition of a fully accredited secondary school diploma. It will provide individual students with access to interactive, flexible course materials that include data, graphics and video material that incorporates electronic interactivity between student and teacher, student and student, and student and external resources.

Dr. Ice describes his position on the Council as "a mentor and expert, reviewing and evaluating the developmental process for the more than 54 courses planned for the 'Star Schools' project."

In March, Dr. Ice met with the council at the University of Nebraska to review all courses being suggested for the project. This project will meet the needs of high school-age students anywhere in the world with access to the Internet, especially those children of military parents, and students whose parents work for U.S. companies and embassies.

"I am pleased to be a part of this exciting project to bring multimedia-rich courseware on an interactive basis to students wherever they live," said Dr. Ice. "Thomas Edison and the University of Nebraska have had a long educational partnership in delivering courses to students. Thomas Edison will be developing college credit options for a number of the high school level courses."



Dr. Jerry Ice

## Distance Learning and Educational Technology Highlighted at National Conference

Distance learning and educational technology were highlighted as The National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning this year added a second advanced track to its already popular agenda.

"Not only were we able to offer a dynamic and thought-provoking agenda, we had the world's top scholars and practitioners in experiential learning assessment as our faculty," said Dr. Debra A. Dagavarian, director of the National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning. According to Dagavarian, one of the main goals of the yearly Institute was to bring it an "international flavor."

### THE FUTURE IS HERE IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

To meet present and future demand for educators who know how to assess learning gained outside the classroom, Thomas Edison State College, a national leader in higher education for adults, has held its annual National Institute for 10 years.

"Experiential learning assessment is no longer new. It has been around for over 25 years," said Dr. Dagavarian. "Still, many colleges and universities in this country and others, such as Canada, Venezuela, New Zealand, Great Britain and Brazil, are just now starting to develop programs in experiential learning assessment. The National Institute is ideal for these institutions."

### RETURNING THIS YEAR: MODELS IN DIFFERENT PRIOR ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

Dr. Dagavarian, who also is deputy vice provost at Thomas Edison, was pleased to be able to provide several popular programs again at the National Institute, including:

- A session with representatives on student cost and faculty payments with models in different prior assessment programs.

- A session with representatives on the "first time" for faculty who do prior assessment programs (students previously participated in the prior assessment programs).

In 1999, the National Institute will include new research completed in prior learning assessment in Canada, a well-funded, largely conducted study.

"There's nothing like the National Institute anywhere in the United States," noted John Thurber, Thomas Edison's vice president for Public Affairs. "The Institute offers a combination of on-line computer conferencing and real-time encounters with the nation's top educators in the field. The result is a dazzling weekend of creativity and synergy where new ideas impacting the entire field of higher education are forged."

### ELECTRONIC CONFERENCING

Every year, according to Dr. Dagavarian, the National Institute holds an electronic conferencing

session along with their other agendas. Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College, opened the session by discussing Thomas Edison's distance learning and educational technology programs. Computers were set up in a conference room, where a topic of discussion was posted. The National Institute staff regulated the discussion, and will edit it into an article to be published in the journal.

### DISTINGUISHED INSTITUTE FACULTY RETURNS

The National Institute welcomed 32 participants from 18 states throughout the United States and Canada, in addition to such distinguished presenters as Dr. Morris Keeton, founder of the international Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL); Dr. Harriet W. Cabell, senior associate dean emeritus of the University of Alabama; Dr. Barry G. Sheckley of the University of Connecticut; Dr. Alan Mandell of Empire State College; and Dr. Urban Whitaker, formerly of The Learning Center and San Francisco State University. The National Institute is presented in cooperation with CAEL.

For more information about the 1999 institute, contact Dr. Dagavarian at (609) 633-8082. ❖

## Marketing managers spread the word about Thomas Edison State College

The College has announced the appointment of three new marketing managers: Janice Toliver, community marketing manager, Donna M. Wilson, corporate marketing manager, and Louis Martini, military relations & markets manager.

Toliver, of East Orange, N.J., is responsible for outreach to community organizations, underrepresented populations and senior citizens to help them better manage lifelong learning.

Toliver has been with the College for 20 years. She earned her Master of Arts in student personnel services from Montclair University and her Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Va. Prior to this position, Toliver was director of Admission with the College. She is a member of the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admissions, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., and the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

Wilson, of Hamilton Township, N.J., is responsible for developing corporate partnerships and providing education and training solutions to help employees better manage lifelong learning. Wilson will be serving corporate and business related entities, while building relationships with corporate audiences. She accomplishes this by meeting with the businesses, determining their needs, offering solutions, involving them in the College's activities or events that may relate or be of interest to their operation and getting involved in their activities and events to keep the relationship strong. "Cultivation is very important, and it's an ongoing process. It doesn't happen overnight," Wilson stated.

Wilson has also started some new initiatives since her appointment, such as involving any and all levels of internal and external sources in helping to identify viable corporate markets and leads into corporations. According to Wilson, "It's all part of research, but it comes from very reliable sources that already have contacts or valuable knowledge about the company prior to a visit."

Wilson brings over 13 years of project management and administrative experience in corporate and community relations to this position. Prior to this position, Wilson was a corporate services representative with the College. Before coming to Thomas Edison, Wilson held a number of positions at Mercer County Community College, including career counselor specialist and program coordinator. She also has worked with United Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey, United Negro College Fund, the Urban League and the March of Dimes. Wilson earned her MBA from Clark-Atlanta University Graduate School in Atlanta and her B.A. in sociology from The College of New Jersey in Trenton.

Martini, of Doylestown, Pa., brings his 13 years of experience at the College to this new position. He is responsible for working closely with military education officers to provide the highest quality educational opportunities to servicemembers. "The College is popular with the military because of the high quality and flexibility of its programs, which can be completed wherever servicemembers are stationed."

As part of his responsibilities, Martini will work with Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) to develop the SOC Degree Builder Program. This program matches soldiers' military training to one of Thomas Edison State College's associate programs, allowing them to maximize their military training and providing them with a plan to complete their remaining college degree requirements.

Prior to this appointment, Martini was an admissions representative. He joined the College as assistant to the director of Corporate Programs. He helped to develop the Military Degree Completion Program to accommodate the special needs of military personnel. He earned his Associate of Science in Management degree from Thomas Edison State College. ❖



Janice Toliver



Donna Wilson



Louis Martini

## Thomas Edison State College Student Receives Scholarship from BPW/NJ

Evon Grossberg of Jersey City, N.J., a Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate student, received a \$500 scholarship from the Business and Professional Women of New Jersey.

Grossberg, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree, holds a grade point average of 3.5 in her specialization, Counseling Services. She has completed 18 courses through distance education.

"Thomas Edison State College has a lot to offer students who prefer not to sit in a

classroom for whatever reason," said Grossberg. "The College's Guided Study program offers excellent advantages for the distance learner. The courses were difficult but very satisfying. The collective assistance I received from Thomas Edison staff has been wonderful. The advisors, the mentors—everyone I've come in contact with has been very helpful."

Grossberg was inspired to complete her education when her former employer notified her that position she held was being changed to half-time and that she would lose her benefits.

She decided to leave the company, moved back home and return to school. The challenges continued when she found herself needing a major operation, but she continued the course and studied while she was recuperating. Another challenge

is financing her

education the BPW/NJ scholarship came at the right time.

"The people from the Business and Professional Women organization were wonderful," Grossberg explained. "The whole spirit of the organization—to help women with professional careers—came through at the ceremony. And the scholarship will really help me with my educational expenses."

Founded in 1919, the Business and Professional Women of New Jersey is an organization with a proven record of achievement. The BPW/NJ provides an environment that fosters self-development opportunities, leadership growth and support through a women's network that begins locally, expands throughout New Jersey and connects with BPW/USA. It provides collective strength for legislative issues effecting women in the workplace. The primary goal of BPW/NJ is to promote full participation in the workforce, equity and economic self-sufficiency for New Jersey working women. ❖



Evon Grossberg (left) and Helen C. McCue

## Leaders appointed to Thomas Edison State College Boards

Christopher J. Daggett, president of Chadwick Partners, L.L.C., and Heidi Schwab, manager of Planning and Project Administration at Summit Bank, were sworn in as members of the Thomas Edison State College Board of Trustees.

Daggett, of Edison, N.J., and Schwab, of Plainsboro, N.J., join the 11-member board (nine public members and two student representatives) which oversees the planning, development and operations of the College.

"Chris Daggett and Heidi Schwab have made significant contributions both in the business world and in the community," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison. "They will be invaluable additions to the College family."

### CHRISTOPHER J. DAGGETT

Daggett, former Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst,

Mass., with a Doctor of Education degree. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in interdisciplinary studies from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Daggett is a member of the Board of Trustees of The Schumann Fund and Educate America, Inc., and serves on the education advisory panel of New American Schools Development Corporation. He

is an advisor for the State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior Leagues of New Jersey and chair of the Board of Directors of the Somerset Hills YMCA.



Christopher J. Daggett

### Heidi Schwab



Heidi Schwab

Schwab, manager of Planning and Project Administration at Summit Bank, is a graduate of Thomas Edison State College with an associate degree in general management. She is currently pursuing a baccalaureate degree at the College in the same field.

In her current position, Schwab directs the development of strategic, long-range and tactical plans of the Alternative Delivery System Division at Summit Bank. She oversees electronic banking, which includes bankcards and ATM machines, the call center and the in-store banking groups, which provide banking services in grocery stores.

### MARGARET B. HOISINGTON

Margaret B. Hoisington, vice president/director of New Business Development/Human Resources at HACBM Architects Engineers Planners, Inc., in Princeton, N.J., was elected to the Board of Directors of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

Hoisington, of Newtown, Pa., joins the 28-member board of Foundation, a nonprofit corporation affiliated with Thomas Edison State College, which raises funds to support higher education for adults and other initiatives of the College.

Hoisington, in partnership with her husband, Richard, has been largely involved with the growth and development of HACBM from its inception as a small structural engineering firm into its present corporate identity as an architecture, engineering and planning firm with more than 37 professionals on staff. She is a member of the National Association of Female Executives and is on the board of directors of the Princeton Youth Fund. In addition, she has received professional recognition in *Who's Who in Finance & Industry (1994-1997)*, *The World Who's Who of Women (1995-1997)* and *Who's Who in Media & Communications (1997-1998)*.

"Margaret Hoisington brings a wealth of knowledge from both her dealings in business and in the community," said John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison. "She will be an asset to the Foundation Board."

## Thomas Edison State College, advisor receive national human services awards

Thomas Edison State College and Theresa A. Bowman Downing, senior academic advisor at Thomas Edison, were honored with National Organization for Human Services Education (NOHSE) awards.

The College received the Outstanding Contribution by an Organization Award, which recognizes organizations, agencies and companies that have demonstrated support for NOHSE's mission, goals and objective. Bowman Downing received the President's Award, given by the president with Board approval to members and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to NOHSE and Human Services Education.

Bowman Downing recently completed two and one half terms as the national secretary and member of NOHSE's Executive Committee. She is currently completing a strategic planning survey for the organization. This initiative, which was proposed by Bowman Downing, received unanimous approval from the Board.

NOHSE was founded in 1975 out of the perceived need by professional care providers and legislators for improved methods of service delivery. Its focus includes supporting and promoting improvements in direct service, public education, program development, planning and evaluation, administration and public policy. The membership of NOHSE, drawn from diverse educational and professional backgrounds, includes human service organizations and educational programs, and individual practitioners, faculty and students.

"Upon receiving the award, I felt honored to have had the opportunity to serve and to be a part of the human services movement," Bowman Downing stated. "I was also thankful that my institution allowed me to devote part of my time for professional development and service. I am proud of myself and my college."



Theresa A. Bowman Downing



Stanley Van Ness

Stanley Van Ness, who served as New Jersey's first public advocate in the 1970s, has been appointed executive fellow with the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College.

In this position, Van Ness is responsible for an oral history project focusing on the contributions made by the late John S. Watson, the growth of African-American leadership in New Jersey and the development of key public policy initiatives during the past 30 years.

Gov. Brendan Byrne appointed Van Ness as the state's first public advocate in 1974 during an era marked by a crisis of public confidence in government. As public advocate, Van Ness led a state agency empowered to investigate reports of malfunctions in government and to attempt to negotiate solutions on behalf of the people of New Jersey. The Department of the Public Advocate included the Office of Citizen Complaint, the Public Defender, the Division of Public Interest Advocacy, the Division of Rate Counsel and the Division of Mental Health Advocacy. At its height, the agency had a staff which included 225 attorneys employed to advocate on behalf of citizens.

"Our greatest accomplishment was that we showed you could fight City Hall and make a difference in the lives of citizens," said Van Ness. "We established credibility and showed citizens that the government was on their side. We made a lot of enemies, too, but fortunately, we didn't have enough people angry at the same time to keep us from doing the right thing."

In his new role, Van Ness praised the John S. Watson Institute for its vanguard role in bringing practical solutions to the challenges faced by government. "There's a willingness to get hands-on, to help develop solutions to problems," he said. "This is very different from what other 'think tanks' offer. The fact that the College is willing to get involved in mak-

## Stanley Van Ness, New Jersey's First Public Advocate, Named Executive Fellow at Watson Institute, Thomas Edison State College

ing a difference in people's lives is very significant."

Van Ness, who also serves as counsel to the law firm of Herbert, Van Ness, Cayci and Goodell in Princeton, N.J., recently served on the Supreme Court Committee on Efficiency Ethical Standards, The New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns, the Advisory Panel on Regulatory Review, the Sentencing Policy Commission and as chairman of Gov. Jim Florio's Management Review Commission.

He received the Reginald Heber Smith Award of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, The Rutgers University Law School Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Thurgood Marshall Award from Seton Hall University Law School. Other awards include The Governor's Award, The Pride

of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson Public Service Award, The Richard J. Hughes Career Public Services Award of the Legal Service of New Jersey and The New Jersey State Bar Association, and the Urban League of Metropolitan Trenton's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A member of the Board of Directors of The Prudential Insurance Company, Van Ness serves on the Executive Committee, the Audit Committee and as chairman of the Business Ethics Committee. He also served on Prudential's Compensation and Finance Committees. In addition, Van Ness has served as an outside director on the Board of Jersey Central Power and Light Company for the past 12 years. He is a member of the American, New Jersey State, Garden State and Mercer County bar associations.

## Thomas Edison State College Supports Y Board



Michelle Robinson (left), senior evaluator, and Linda Holt, associate vice president for College Relations, serve on the YWCA Board of Trustees in Trenton. Robinson also is the chairperson of the "In Celebration of Women" luncheon, which honors individuals, and organizations who have improved the lives of women in our community. Robinson serves as a Building Strong & Diverse Communities volunteer with the United Way of Greater Mercer County. Earlier in her career, Holt was named an Outstanding Young Woman of America and received a Mt. Zion AME Church (Bordentown, N.J.) Community Service Award.

## Dr. Ann Marie Senior appointed director of Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment

Dr. Ann Marie Senior of Trenton, N.J., has been appointed director of the Office of Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment at Thomas Edison State College.

In this position, Dr. Senior is responsible for initiating and coordinating institutional research and outcomes assessment efforts, and for preparing analyses and reports on key College-wide issues. In addition, she will monitor the implementation of long-range strategic planning goals; annually evaluate progress toward meeting institutional goals; and re-calibrate planning goals as necessary.

Dr. Senior comes to Thomas Edison from Rider University where she was director of the Student

Support Services Program. Prior to that, she spent six years as a research scientist in the Educational Policy Research Division at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. She earned her Ph.D. in education and psychology from the University of Michigan and was involved in a variety of research projects there. Dr. Senior is a member of several regional and national professional organizations including the American Education Research Association, Association of Excellence and Equality in Education, and Northeastern Association of Institutional Researchers. ❖



Dr. Ann Marie Senior

## Holly Appointed Admissions Director

by Debbie Bland



Gordon K. Holly

Gordon K. Holly of Maple Shade, N.J., has been in his new position as director of Admissions for just six months. In this short amount of time, however, Holly has processed 20,000 inquiries from a mention in a "Dear Abby" column, leading him to call the position "somewhat overwhelming at first, but definitely part of an innovative place."

In his current role in the Office of Learner Services, Holly is responsible for the management of the admissions and transcript evaluation/advisement functions. His responsibilities include providing service to inquirers and applicants through to their enrollment.

Holly brings over 17 years of recruitment, marketing and admissions experience to this position. Before joining Thomas Edison, Holly was the director for Admissions & Recruitment at Community College of Philadelphia. Prior to that, he was the assistant director and coordinator of minority student admissions at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He began his career as an admissions counselor at the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting and business administration. Currently, Holly is a Master of Education candidate at Temple University in Philadelphia.

In response to the "Dear Abby" letter, which answered a question about distance learning with the answer "Thomas Edison State College," Holly confirmed that the College

was flooded with inquiries. He said, "this was fantastic for the school. It spread Thomas Edison's name even further, and I think we will be feeling the effects of 'Dear Abby' for a long time." This

happened just as Holly was appointed his new position; but, because of his expertise, he handled the situation without a hitch, and helped potential students get the information they needed. (See story on cover.)

Recently, Holly has been working on a number of projects to increase awareness and to enhance student services. One major project is updating a follow-up system to track the progress of a student from inquiry to enrollment. He is setting up on-going access points for students to improve information flow and provide quick replies. Other student service projects include a new phone system and a full computer conversion to the Datatel information management system. ❖

## N.J. Legislature Taps Thomas Edison Leaders For Policy Advisement Council

Three Thomas Edison State College leaders have been appointed to the newly created Council of Academic Policy Advisors to the New Jersey Legislature. The council was created to provide legislators with academic resources from throughout the state to help them in the decision making process.

According to the Office of Legislative Services, which made the announcement, 57 academicians from 18 universities and colleges were

selected to serve in 51 legislative policy areas. Council members selected from Thomas Edison State College, the nation's leader in quality higher education for adults, are:

- Dr. Jerry T. Ice, vice president and provost, selected for the policy area, Accountability of Higher Education. His expertise is the area of administration of nontraditional and continuing, non-resident education.
- William A. Watson, executive director of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, selected for Local Government Efficiency. His expertise is in the area of organizational development, research, technical and policy analysis for New Jersey cities.
- Elizabeth N. Johnson, director of the Center for the Urban Environment within the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, selected for Open Space Preservation. Her expertise is in open space planning, community gardening and the urban environment.

The Council appointments are for a two-year term coinciding with that of the 208th Legislature (the 1998-1999 legislative session). Council members act as a resource for legislative use in the policy-making process and assist in the evaluation of alternative policy direction. The Council will address current issues and long-range opportunities.

"The College is pleased to make a contribution to this important new council," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison. "Dr. Ice, Mr. Watson and Ms. Johnson have unique expertise in the areas of accountability in higher education, local government efficiency and open space preservation. These Thomas Edison staff leaders will be a valuable resource for legislators charting the future course of our state." ❖



Elizabeth N. Johnson



William Watson

## Thomas Edison State College VP serving the community



John P. Thurber

John P. Thurber of Lawrence, N.J., vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College, has been elected as chairperson of the Board of Managers of the Mercer Unit of the American Cancer Society and was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra (GPYO).

While the appointments may represent a diverse cross-section of Thurber's commitments and interests, both groups are dedicated to improving the lives of their constituents, either through research and health care, or through expanding opportunities to youth.

The American Cancer Society is a nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives from cancer and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. These activities are coordinated by chartered units located in counties across New Jersey. The GPYO provides young musicians with the opportunity to perform in an outstanding orchestra and to enrich the greater Princeton area through public performances of classical music.

"The American Cancer Society is an outstanding organization which serves countless individuals and families in our area," Thurber stated. "It translates the results of cancer research into lifesaving programs and efforts of prevention and detection at the person-to-person level. GPYO also is a remarkable organization which serves our youth and the broader community," he added. "It offers young musicians the opportunity participate in an outstanding musical experience and the community benefits from performances of wonderful music by a distinguished orchestra. I am honored to be able to serve both of these worthy organizations."

Thurber is a summa cum laude graduate of Rutgers Law School and a member of the New Jersey and New York Bars. Thurber, who has been with the College for seven years, was appointed vice president in 1996. Prior to that, he served as executive director of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy and its forerunner, The Trenton Office of Policy Studies. During his tenure with the Watson Institute, Thurber oversaw a number of partnership initiatives, including those with the Urban Mayors Association and the Trenton Enterprise Coalition, as well as numerous projects with the city of Trenton.

Thurber is a member of the Leadership New Jersey Class of 1992, and the recipient of the New Jersey Association of Family Food Centers' Man of the Year award in 1993. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Princeton and serves on the board of Teach for America for New Jersey. ❖

## Precalculus Courses...from p.1

credits), students are not tied to a campus schedule. This gives students with demanding or irregular work schedules the opportunity to continue their studies without major disruption. For all DIAL courses, proctored exams are administered at conveniently located sites.

The College's independent study courses incorporate a detailed week-by-week syllabus, textbooks and usually a study guide which integrates all components of the course. Some courses offer video/audio programs, and self-assessment tests and exercises also are often incorporated into the materials. Course

materials are delivered directly to the student's home.

In each precalculus course, a set of videotapes accompanies the published textbook, and there is a separate lesson for each section of the book. The series of tapes covers all objectives, topics and problem-solving techniques contained in the text.

For more information about DIAL, contact Learner Services at [DIAL@call.tesc.edu](mailto:DIAL@call.tesc.edu), and request a *Registration Bulletin*. This includes class descriptions, registration forms and descriptions of all courses and guidelines. ❖

## Alumna found the right fit at Thomas Edison State College

by Debbie Bland

After searching through many schools' catalogs, Sandra Smith chose Thomas Edison to pursue her Bachelor of Science in Human Services because of the "flexibility and opportunities to be creative in my approach to learning." Working as a Mentally Ill Chemical Abuser Specialist (MICA), Sandra found both her job—and working toward her degree at Thomas Edison—to be rewarding as well as challenging.

Smith "loved" her job so much that she decided to pursue her state certification as an alcohol counselor. After achieving that credential, she realized that it was time to pursue her bachelor's degree. After a lengthy search, she found the right fit at Thomas Edison State College.



Sandra Smith

Sandra used her training and experience as an addictions counselor to put together 13 semester hours through Thomas Edison's Portfolio Assessment program. She also used testing options to complete 18 more credit hours. In total, she was able to earn 24 credit hours "outside" of classroom instruction. As a working mother, she found Thomas Edison to be helpful and convenient.

Today, Smith works at a local hospital close to her home. "Thomas Edison gave me the options which enabled me to complete my degree with a specialization in Counseling Services," she wrote recently in a note to Thomas Edison State College. "The College can do the same for you!"

## Attention Alumni -Bylaws Revisited

The Alumni Association bylaws will be amended on Oct. 3, 1998, at the Annual Meeting. All updates have been posted to the Alumni Web Site. Please visit the site and click on Review the Bylaws. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592.

## Alumni Web Site

<http://www.tesc.edu/newalum/index.htm>

## Senior Citizen Completes 120 College Credits By Portfolio to Earn Thomas Edison Degree

At 65, Leonard Leps of Alexandria, Va., not only is the oldest individual to receive a diploma in the May graduating class of Thomas Edison State College—he also is one of the first graduates to complete all 120 credits for a bachelor's degree through the Portfolio Assessment process, which awards credit for college-level knowledge acquired in life.

"The professors said it would be hard to do, but I did it," beamed Leps, a retired AT&T and Bell Atlantic communications expert. Leps currently is a high-ranking Federal Aviation Administration official specializing in radar and surveillance.

"The depth and breadth of knowledge needed to complete an entire bachelor's degree through the assessment of prior learning is phenomenal," said Dr. Debra Dagavarian, the College's deputy vice provost and director of the National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning. "It is a rare individual who can achieve this."

The College's consulting faculty reviewed and awarded credit for Leps' ability to understand, synthesize and document college-level knowledge acquired over a 30-year career which took him to Turkey, Alaska and Europe.

"I didn't learn about the Mona Lisa and the Sistine Chapel in a textbook," Leps said. "I learned about them in Paris and Rome where I had the opportunity to study art first-hand."

According to Dr. Dagavarian, a portfolio documents much more than "life experience. You have to prove to our faculty consultants that you have college-level understanding of the subject," she said.

Leps is one of 157 adult learners from around the world who were part of the May 15th graduating class. The College graduates six classes (every other month) each year and holds a formal Commencement in the fall, enabling adults to attend the graduations of their children and grandchildren in the spring. With the May 15th graduation, the College reached an important milestone: the award of its 15,000th degree.

"Thomas Edison State College has served adult learners around the world for 26 years, providing the highest quality education wherever they live and work," said Dr. Jerry T. Ice, academic vice president and provost.

Other interesting facts about the May 15th class of adult students include:

Leonard Leps

- Two students completed associate degrees entirely through testing and assessment.
- Three students completed more than half of the credits toward a Bachelor of Arts degree, earning credit from noncollegiate classes offered at work or other schools and evaluated by the American Council on Education.
- Ten students are from Israel. Other locales represented include Canada, Switzerland, Armed Forces Pacific, American Samoa and Germany.
- While most graduates are from New Jersey, other states represented include Hawaii, Utah, Virginia, Florida, Pennsylvania, California, North Carolina, Maryland, Michigan, South Dakota and Louisiana.

"I can't say enough good things about the quality and convenience of Thomas Edison State College, especially for busy adults," said Leps. "As for why I did it at my age, I can only say that it's something I always wanted. Even my wife is impressed with me!"

## Who doesn't need a vacation?

There are travel incentives for being Thomas Edison State College alumni. Trips include Hawaii, Disney World, Caribbean and more! Visit the Alumni Web Site and click on Save on Travel.

### Each One, Reach One

Pass this along to a friend who can benefit from Thomas Edison State College's services for adult learners!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon to: Thomas Edison State College, Office of Admissions  
 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176

Questions? (609) 984-1150

Each One, Reach One Campaign Reaches Out Once Again!

s/198

# One of our best

success profiles

by Debbie Bland

## Dr. William D. Wagoner

Dr. William D. Wagoner of Royal Oak, Mich., is one of Thomas Edison's most remarkable students. Director of Planning and Emergency Management in Livingston County, Mich., Wagoner has achieved much, including numerous awards for writing and four published guide books (with one on the way). Thomas Edison, he said, has provided him with "the opportunity to expand my professional scope of studies, furthering my opportunity to earn a degree in the field of disaster management."

Wagoner, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree at Thomas Edison in 1992, is pursuing a second bachelor's degree in Emergency Disaster Management with hopes of graduating next year.

"The pursuit of the Thomas Edison degree in disaster management has, in part, allowed me to assume new, and higher order, responsibilities in the area of emergency manage-

ment," Wagoner said. "I have assumed, along with being the director of county planning, the duty of county emergency management. Furthermore, the degree has enhanced my teaching opportunities. Currently, I am on the adjunct faculties of the Emergency Management Institute of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Michigan Department of State Police Division of Emergency Management."

Recently, Wagoner received the 1998 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties for his book, *Applied Strategic Thinking*. This is his fourth book in a series of guide books designed to guide planning and management decision making at the local level of government. Other books by Wagoner include: *Open Space Planning*; *Greenways*

*Initiative*; and *Strategic Thinking*. Wagoner is completing work on a fifth book titled *Comprehensive Plan/Hazard Mitigation Interface: Integrating Emergency Management Into The Community Planning Process*, which is scheduled for release this fall.

Thomas Edison has allowed Wagoner to reach many of his goals. He said that the College has "provided me the opportunity to expand my professional scope of studies into the area of disaster management with the further opportunity of translating this area of study into an earned degree. This permitted me the chance to explore the many possibilities of integrating the principles and practices of emergency management with public administration and, most recently, community planning. Indeed, the Thomas Edison degree program has legitimized my most recent research in the integration of hazard mitigation into the community comprehensive planning process."

In 1996, the Michigan Chapter of the American

Planning Association (MAPA) and the Michigan Society of Planning Officials (MSPO) named Wagoner Outstanding Professional Planner.

For Wagoner, Thomas Edison's flexibility and the per-

sonal contacts with the staff is the best part of the program. "Thomas Edison has allowed me to continue to grow as an individual while increasing my abilities to contribute to my profession in the public service." ❖

Job Postings!  
Resumes!

New on-line career capabilities for alumni!



Alumni of Thomas Edison now are able to access a job placement service through the Alumni Web Site. Alumni can post or create a resume, or look for job postings to which they can electronically send their resumes. Visit the Alumni Web Site and click on Career Services for job postings.



## COMMENCEMENT '98

WATCH FOR FULL COVERAGE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE'S ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF INVENTION!

## applause...applause...

**'89** Lea Bayers Rapp (B.A.) of Sayreville, N.J., has received four journalism awards bestowed by the New Jersey Press Women for her work during the 1997 year. She took a first place award for a travel article for *The Knot*, an on-line bridal magazine. A second place award was bestowed for an article about music for the same publication. For business journalism, Rapp received a second place in the area of technology for *Business@Home* magazine. Her profile of an international scholar for *Rutgers Magazine* won third place recognition. Rapp, who is an education writer for *New Jersey Monthly*, and writes about consumer issues for *Good Housekeeping* magazine, is currently writing another book.

**'90** Randall J. Becker (BSAST) of Palm Desert, Calif., recently received his license as a professional engineer in California, passing the Civil P.E. exam on his first try. Becker is a senior project engineer for TIC, a heavy industrial contractor specializing in wastewater treatment, congen and geothermal power plants. He also works as an independent consultant on a part-time basis. As an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Becker has worked as a volunteer to explain to the public the work of civil engineers.

**'91** Vilma Hoge (ASM) of Hillsboro, Ore., was recently awarded the Intel Corporate Finance Achievement Award for her outstanding customer service to the "Ecommerce at Intel" pilot team. Hoge's role in this project included providing accounting, banking and credit expertise to implement this pilot project in July 1997. Hoge is an accountant in the Worldwide Accounting & External Reporting department at Intel Corporation.

**'93** Gary J. Kronenberger (B.A.) of Keansburg, N.J., received his Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree from the University of Alabama in May 1997. Kronenberger writes, "Clearly, it was my association with Thomas Edison that allowed me to discover alternative routes of earning a master's degree. As a Keansburg police officer, it was the structure of both programs that permitted me to earn my degrees."

**'95** John T. Holleran, Jr., (BSAST, ASAST '92) recently was promoted to the position of senior electronic engineer at VLSI Technology in Tempe,

Ariz. He and his wife, Lori, also became parents recently with the birth of their first child, Blake Dylan Holleran.

Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Kendall R. Simmons (BSAST, A.A. '93) is currently completing a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis. Simmons is one of more than 5,000 sailors and marines aboard the ship that departed its homeport of Norfolk, Va., in February to lead the USS John C. Stennis Battle Group. Simmons' ship is supporting Operation Southern Watch, helping to enforce U.N. mandates levied against Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War. A 1980 graduate of Violet Hill High School of Violet Hill, Arks., Simmons joined the Navy in June 1980.

**'96** Navy Ensign Thor Martensen (BSAST) recently received his commission as a naval officer after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Pensacola, Fla. During the 13-week-long training program, Martensen received extensive instruction on a variety of specialized subjects including navigation, ship handling, engineering, naval warfare and management. He joined the Navy in February 1992.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class David C. Jennings (ASAST) recently reported for duty aboard the submarine USS Phoenix, based at Portsmouth, N.H. Jennings' rotation to a new duty station exemplifies the worldwide assignability of marines and sailors. This flexibility allows naval forces to protect U.S. national interest by serving as the principal enforcers of peacetime engagement, deterrence and crisis response around the world. A 1992 graduate of Harrison High School, Jennings joined the Navy in July 1992.

**'98** Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Craig Siefkas (BSAST) was recently promoted to his present rank while serving at Naval Reserve Center, Fort Carson, Colo. Siefkas was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty. A 1980 graduate of Elizabeth High School in Elizabeth, Colo., Siefkas joined the Navy in January 1987. ❖

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Paula Vaughan '90, '98	President, Alumni Association

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

# “Dear Abby: How Do I Handle 3,000+ Inquiries in One Week!”

by Linda Holt

### When it rains, it pours!

When Thomas Edison State College was featured in “Dear Abby” earlier this year, more than 3,000 inquirers contacted the College during the first week after the column appeared. This compares with 600 to 700 inquiries in an average week.

Some 2,000 of these inquiries came on-line, thanks to the inclusion of the College’s Admissions e-mail address in the popular col-

umn, which reaches 95 million readers through 1,400 newspapers around the world. While the large number of initial inquiries—more than 20,000—is now slowing down, direct and indirect responses to the column will continue for years to come.

To add to the swell of inquiries, another syndicated newspaper columnist, Joyce Lain Kennedy, recommended Thomas Edison in a column which ran in late March. The

“Careers” column appears in 100 newspapers throughout the nation.

“Dear Abby,” like the College’s alumni, students and friends, knows the answer to a high-quality college degree is Thomas Edison State College. *Pass it on!* ♦



▲ *Linda Holt, associate vice president of College Relations, gets right in the middle of things as she sorts through the stacks of mail received after information about the College appeared in a letter she wrote to “Dear Abby” in March. The College received more than 15,000 inquiries as a result of the letter. “Dear Abby” appears in 1,400 newspapers.*

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▲ *Dr. George A. Pruitt (center), president of Thomas Edison State College, John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, and Maureen McGuire, director of Development, prepared to visit golfers on the fairway of the Trenton Country Club during the Thomas C. Streckewald Annual Golf Classic. The Golf Classic, sponsored by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, raised nearly \$27,000, with the net proceeds placed into the Thomas C. Streckewald Endowment Fund to support College programs.*

## Golf Classic a hit in '98

A fun-filled day was enjoyed by the nearly 100 participants who teed-off in the Fourth Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic. The event, held at the Trenton Country Club, helped the Thomas Edison State College Foundation raise nearly \$27,000.

The winning foursome, from Sarnoff Corporation, were Vincent J. Boccanfusco, Jr., Ed DePiano,

John J. Daskocaynski and David A. Ellison. John J. Daskoczynski of Sarnoff Corporation won the men’s long drive contest, while Nancy Jennerich from AT&T Solutions won the women’s long drive contest. Curt Blake of Rider University won the closest to the pin contest. The second place team was from Lear & Pannepacker; third place was from Lynch, Jones & Ryan, Inc.; and fourth place was from The Hibbert Group.

The event, co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the Princeton Area (CCPA),

honors the memory of Thomas C. Streckewald, a College administrator and Chamber president who was killed in an automobile collision on March 26, 1994. It was co-chaired by Jim Carnes of Sarnoff Corporation and Eric Lear of Lear & Pannepacker. Catherine Streckewald, for the fourth year, served as the honorary chair of this event that remembers her late husband. ♦