

WINTER 2003

Invention

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



In This Issue...

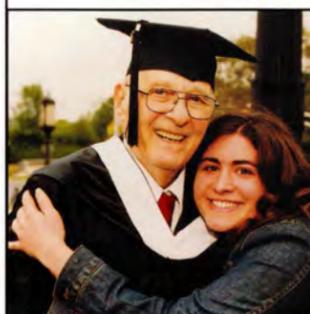
The Grande Ball, Trenton 2002
Thomas Edison State College Foundation
Hosts 11th Annual Gala

Alumna Rises to Upper Echelon

30th Annual Commencement

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Front Cover:
Graduating Class '02

Photo by Kevin Birch

Invention is published by
Thomas Edison State College.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

John P. Thurber
Vice President for Public Affairs

Stephanie R. M. Bray
Director of Development

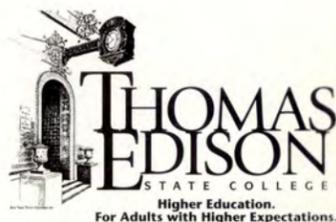
Patricia Memminger
Director of Alumni Affairs

Marie R. Power-Barnes
Director of Marketing &
College Relations

Karen E. Hume
Director of Publications

Echo R. Fling
Director of Communications

Marjorie A. Ellenberger
Designer



A Message from the President

Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

As our 30th anniversary year 2002 drew to a close, our College community participated in a variety of celebrations. We celebrated our graduates' achievements at our annual Commencement in October. We also recognized the achievements and contributions of our alumni and the support of our friends at

benefiting the College, but also society at large. The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association recognized four such individuals in October. The first ever Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ondina A. Jeffers, '82, in recognition of her support, dedication and devotion to the Alumni Association. The other alumni honorees include Dr. Harry R. Carter, '75,

Outstanding Professional Achievement; Elmer R. Curran, '75, Outstanding Service to Society; and Marion E. Elliott, '90, Outstanding Professional Achievement. We celebrate their accomplishments.

One of the celebratory highlights of our fall season is the annual Gala, at which we bestow the Spirit of Edison Awards. This year the Foundation honored Thomas A. Bracken, president and chief executive officer at Sun Bancorp, Inc., with the Spirit of

Edison Community Leadership Award for his leadership in business and community affairs. We were also pleased to present Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, '85, chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, with the Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumna Award. A tireless advocate for civil rights, children and the disadvantaged, Watson Coleman embodies the essence of the Spirit of Edison.

We have had an outstanding 30th anniversary year. Enjoy this issue of *Invention* and "celebrate" with us.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

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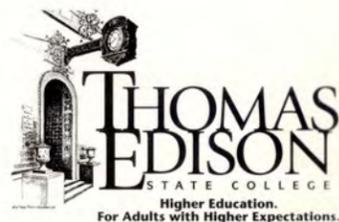
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This year's Commencement was made even more special than usual by the presence of Mr. Sigmund Selowentchich. At age 82, he was by far the oldest graduate to participate in this year's ceremonies. His lifelong thirst for learning brought him to the steps of the Trenton War Memorial with his fellow graduates this past October. His story of perseverance is inspiring to all.

Our alumni are the ambassadors of Thomas Edison State College, and we celebrate their accomplishments, too. One outstanding alumna is Gloria Hancock who is the chief of staff of the New Jersey Department of Education. Her tenacious advocacy efforts on behalf of the children of the state of New Jersey is a shining example to all of us. Gloria is proud to be a graduate of Thomas Edison State College, and we at the College are happy to share the story of her success with you in this issue of *Invention*.

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Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President



The Grande Ball

TRENTON 2002
 THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION
 HOSTS 11TH ANNUAL GALA



With the celebration of the College's 30 years of excellence in higher education as a backdrop, the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors hosted their 11th annual Gala. This year's festivities took place on Nov. 16, 2002, at the Lafayette Yard Marriott Conference Hotel in Trenton, N.J.

The black-tie Gala opened with a silent auction. Among the items donated was a strand of pearls, courtesy of Forest Jewelers of Princeton, N.J. Considered a gem, the pearl is commonly used to commemorate a 30th anniversary and was selected by the jeweler in honor of the College's 30th milestone this year.

Following the silent auction, guests enjoyed a dinner of filet mignon and danced the rest of the evening to the sounds of the "Wayne Gustafson Group", invited back to the Gala again this year by popular demand.

Highlighting the evening was the presentation of the Spirit of Edison Awards. These prestigious awards are given to community leaders and alumni whose creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit reflect the pioneering genius of Thomas Alva Edison.

Selected recipients demonstrate:

- Adherence to a high standard of excellence;
- Innovation and imagination in professional life;
- Dedication to humanitarianism and to serving the public good;
- Devotion to the ideals of self-discipline, hard work and persistence in the pursuit of excellence;
- Enthusiasm for the improvement of quality of life through continued availability of higher education for adults; and
- Distinguished service at the community, national or international level.

2002 Spirit of Edison Award recipients:

Thomas A. Bracken

& Bonnie Watson Coleman



Thomas A. Bracken

Recognized as a leader in the financial community and well known for his involvement in business and community organizations, Thomas A. Bracken was honored by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors with the Spirit of Edison Award for Community Leadership.

Named president and chief executive officer of the Sun Bancorp, Inc. in February 2001, Bracken leads the bank holding company that serves customers throughout the region. Headquartered in Vineland, N.J., Sun Bancorp has 73 community banking centers and six regional banking headquarters located in southern and central New Jersey, New Castle County, Del., and in Philadelphia, Pa.

Actively involved in the community, Bracken was appointed by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman to the Board of Trustees of the College of New Jersey. He is the vice chairman of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and serves on its Executive Committee. Bracken is chairman of both the Keep New Jersey Moving Coalition and the Economic Development Corporation of Trenton and has held the position of president of the northern New Jersey chapter of Robert Morris Associates.

In addition, Bracken currently serves on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Alliance for Action, chairs the Finance Committee for the New Jersey Cancer Institute and serves on the Board of Directors of New Jersey Network (NJN). He is also a member of the Executive Committee of Prosperity New Jersey, serving as the organization's treasurer since June 2001 and co-chair of its Business Ambassadors Program.

Bracken and his wife Suzanne are the parents of two children.

Bonnie Watson Coleman '85

A tireless advocate for civil rights, children and the disadvantaged, Bonnie Watson Coleman was honored as the recipient of the Spirit of Edison Award for Distinguished Alumni. Watson Coleman graduated from Thomas Edison State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985.

Watson Coleman has served in the New Jersey General Assembly for three terms. She was the first African-American woman to lead the state party when she was elected chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee on Feb. 4, 2002. She currently serves as the chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Assembly Budget Committee.

Hailed as one of New Jersey's most effective legislators, Watson Coleman began her career as a field representative for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and quickly rose through the ranks to become chief of the Bureau of Housing and Public Accommodations. During her 30-year career, she has championed the issues of fairness and equity for all Americans, with particular emphasis on access to education, jobs, health care, open space and housing.

In 1974, Watson Coleman established the Office of Civil Rights, Contract Compliance and Affirmative Action in the New Jersey Department of Transportation and remained the director of that office for six years. In 1980, Watson Coleman joined the Department of Community Affairs where she held a number of positions, including assistant commissioner, responsible for Aging, Community Resources, Public Guardian and Women's Divisions.

Watson Coleman resides in Ewing Township, N.J., with her husband, the Rev. William E. Coleman.

Alumna Rises to Upper Echelon of New Jersey's Department of Education

Gloria Hancock celebrates 26 years of public service.

As chief of staff of New Jersey's Department of Education, Gloria Hancock looks back on her extensive career in government and wonders where the time went. Through the years of advocacy efforts on behalf of New Jersey's students, Hancock always remembered that obtaining her college degree, while a rigorous task, was a goal that was attainable. Whenever she had the chance, Hancock made a point of giving encouragement to students who were embarking on their college studies.

A native of Perth Amboy, N.J., Hancock is a 1974 graduate of that city's public schools. Determined to be a self-sustaining college student, Hancock worked as a cashier at a local shopping mall while attending classes at Livingston College and later, Rutgers University. After two years, finances were tight, and she was forced to leave school to work full time.

"I guess you could say that I took the traditional route to my college education," chuckles Hancock. "But after two years, money was still an issue, and I had to find another way."

Concerned about how she would continue her studies, Hancock attended a seminar hosted by Thomas Edison State College at a local library. After hearing about the flexible credit earning options offered at the College, Hancock enrolled. "It was the ideal situation for me," she said. "I could still work full time and not be concerned about racing to classes after work."

While she was working at the Woodbridge Developmental Center, Hancock studied at night, completing her Associate of Arts degree at Thomas Edison State College in 1981.

"At that point in my career, my college degree started to make a difference," said Hancock. After successfully passing the civil service examination in 1982, Hancock was promoted to the position of training officer in the state's Division of Public Welfare.

"Without college credentials, opportunities for advancement were few," said Hancock who again turned to Thomas Edison State College to begin her studies for a baccalaureate degree.

Hancock completed her Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree at Thomas Edison State

College in 1993. Around the same time, she began working in the commissioner's office at the Department of Human Services. There, she became very involved in public policy planning and welfare to work programs. "Public policy has become my true love," said Hancock. As part of her work, Hancock had the opportunity to interact with clients. "It is very important to give back," she said. "I have always stressed to those I teach that it is important to always be working toward achieving your goals, no matter how long it takes."

"You don't often think that you'll end up having the success that comes with a college degree," said Hancock from her office in Trenton, N.J. "The most important thing that I realized was that I was capable."

In October 1999, Hancock was named director of the Division of Student Services within the Office of Educational Support Services and Interagency Initiatives. While there, Hancock was responsible for the design, development and implementation of programs, strategies and best practices to support student development and foster intra-agency collaborative efforts.

During her visits to various schools and in her discussions with students, parents, teachers and staff, Hancock continues to stress the importance of education. "I talk to them about Thomas Edison State College," she said. "I always try to impress upon them how rigorous the class work is."

In June 2002, Hancock was appointed chief of staff at the New Jersey Department of Education where she serves as a special advisor to the commissioner on federal and state education policy and strategic initiatives. "I am very pleased to be working for the commissioner," she said. "I'm so happy to be in a position to be able to make a difference to kids."

An avid reader, Hancock has always loved being able to travel to places she can only imagine through her books. In her spare time, she enjoys working on home improvement projects in her Newtown, Pa., home with her husband George Hancock and a son.

Hancock still relishes the chance to teach. She works as an adjunct professor at a local college on a substitute basis. "I tell my students not to lose sight of their goals. It is possible. You can do it no matter how hard it is."



Alumni & Foundation News

Golf Outing a Success

The Alumni Association held its first Alumni/Student Golf Outing on Thursday, July 25, at the Gambler Ridge Golf Club in Cream Ridge, N.J. The winning team of Carron Albert, MSM '00; Jim Kelly, BSAST '99; Steve Mazzilli, BSBA '97; and John Walsh scored a 66 in the scramble format. Honors for

the contests went to Nancy Jakubowki, women's long drive; Mark Memminger, BSBA '98, men's long drive; and Joyce Tarca and Nicholas Micale, B.A. '00, closest to the pins.

Be on the look out for details about the second annual Golf Outing.



Ondina Jeffers, '82, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient

Alumni Association Presents Lifetime Achievement Award to "One of its Finest"

The first ever Alumni Association Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ondina A. Jeffers, '82, at the Annual PHT (Putting Him or Her Through) Banquet on Oct. 12, 2002. It was presented in recognition of her support and constant dedication and devotion to the Alumni Association.

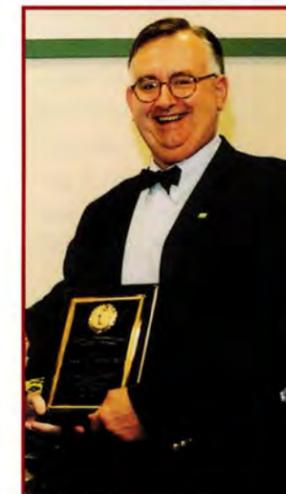
Alumni Association Announces Scholarship Recipient

Ronald Kirk was the recipient of the Alumni Association's 2002 Scholarship. The award covers one year's enrollment tuition to Thomas Edison State College. Kirk accepted his scholarship at the Alumni Association's annual meeting on Oct. 12, 2002.

Joseph McNamara, executive vice president of the Alumni Association (left), presenting the scholarship award to Ronald Kirk.



Alumni Association Honors the Accomplishments of Three Outstanding Alumni



Dr. Harry Carter '75, Outstanding Professional Achievement Award

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association presented the 2002 Alumni Awards during the Association's annual meeting, held Oct. 12, 2002. Three outstanding alumni were honored for their professional achievement and their distinguished service to the Association and the community.

This year's honorees include: Dr. Harry R. Carter, recipient of the Association's Outstanding Professional Achievement Award; Elmer R. Curran, recognized with the Outstanding Service to Society Award; and Marion E. Elliott, recipient of the Association's Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association.

Dr. Harry R. Carter, '75 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Harry R. Carter, Ph.D., received his Bachelor of Arts degree in social sciences from Thomas Edison State College in 1975 and hasn't looked back. He furthered his education, receiving a B.S. in fire safety administration (magna cum laude) in 1976 from New Jersey City University, a master's in

Thomas Edison State College Celebrates 30th Anniversary Commencement

The misty, rainy weather failed to dampen the spirits of the graduates of Thomas Edison State College and their families as they converged at the Trenton War Memorial in Trenton, N.J., to celebrate their educational achievements and the College's 30th anniversary Commencement.

Graduates from as far away as California and the nation of Israel attended the ceremonies on Oct. 12, 2002. The College awarded 1,403 degrees to the class of 2002, representing a 20 percent increase in degrees awarded from last year. More than 250 graduates traveled to Trenton for the festivities—one of the largest groups ever to attend.

As the graduates donned their cap and gowns to march in the opening processional, the standing room only crowd cheered their support, with some wiping away tears of joy in anticipation of their loved one receiving a college degree. Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, along with E. Harvey Myers, chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, presented the graduates with their diplomas. Musical selections were performed by Princeton Pro Musica, a local choral group.

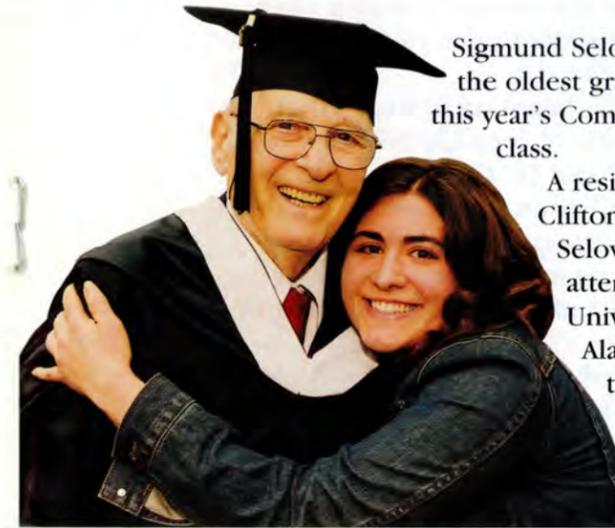
praised the College saying, "It's unique approach to adult learning has earned Thomas Edison State College international recognition for innovation and utilizing technology to create attainable educational opportunities for adults—no matter where they live."

Before he was inaugurated as governor in January 2002, McGreevey served as mayor of Woodbridge, N.J. He served in the New Jersey State Assembly in 1990 and 1991 and in the New Jersey State Senate from 1994 to 1997. McGreevey also served under President Clinton as a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board. Throughout his political career, McGreevey has been a strong advocate of better government, a cleaner environment and quality health care for New Jersey citizens. He holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University, a law degree from Georgetown University and a master's degree in education from Harvard University.

In presenting the governor with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, Dr. Pruitt said, "Your dedication to the state of New Jersey and its citizens is clearly demonstrated by your public accomplishments and contributions. The College is pleased to confer this honorary degree on you."

82-YEAR-OLD GRAD INSPIRES ALL

Perhaps the most inspirational moment in the Commencement ceremony was the awarding of a Bachelor of Arts degree to 82-year-old



Sigmund Selowentchich and granddaughter Sigmund Selowentchich, the oldest graduate in this year's Commencement class. A resident of Clifton, N.J., Selowentchich attended the University of Alabama for two years before being drafted into the military during World War II. He served with distinction in the 34th Division of the United States Army, working as a medic in Italy. He received the Legion of Merit medal for exceptional service, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Upon his return, the octogenarian resumed civilian life, which included marriage and raising a family of three. Selowentchich worked at several jobs, including boiler room operator, stationary fireman and teacher at a Catholic school, before retiring from International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) as a chief engineer 15 years ago. Although he juggled work and family responsibilities, Selowentchich continued to pursue his college education. He attended Long Island University and Passaic County Community College and successfully accumulated numerous college credits.

Selowentchich learned about Thomas Edison State College from a newspaper advertisement and decided to see how many of his credits would transfer toward a bachelor's degree. After undergoing a rigorous evaluation process, Selowentchich was thrilled to learn that he already possessed all the credits required to earn his college degree.

"It's never too late to learn!" exclaimed Selowentchich who, despite severe health problems, said he could not imagine missing his own Commencement ceremonies. "I'm very exhilarated about getting my bachelor's degree."

Selowentchich and his wife Pearl, age 85, have been married 56 years and are the parents of three and grandparents of four granddaughters. The whole extended family was on hand to honor the

graduate. One of the highlights for Selowentchich was recognition during Gov. McGreevey's remarks and a resulting standing ovation from his fellow class members.

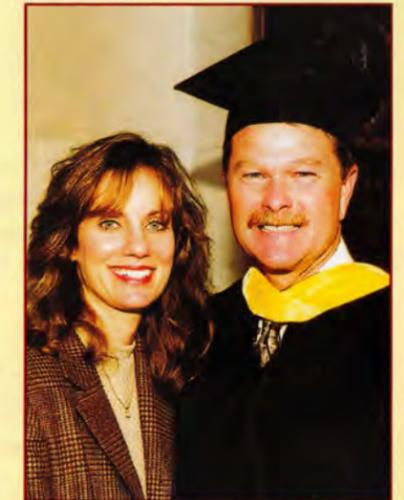
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SUCCESSFUL CEO DELIVERS RESPONSE FOR GRADUATES ADDRESS

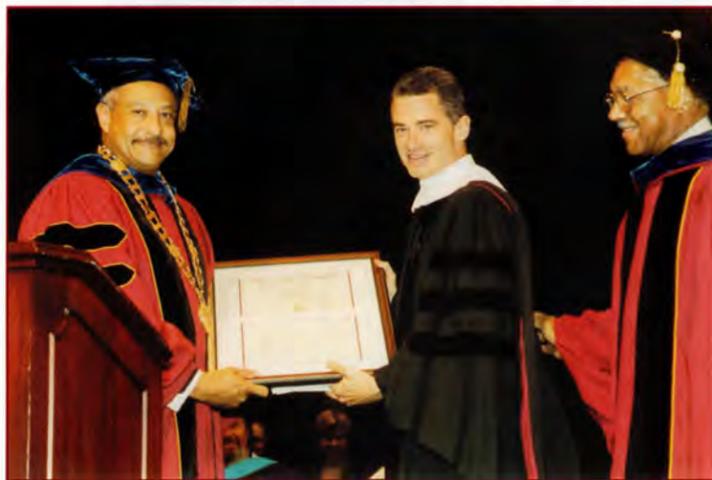
Founder and CEO of Curves International, Inc., H. Gary Heavin delivered the Response for Graduates address. A distinguished entrepreneur who earned his Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree, Heavin spoke about how appreciative he was regarding the College's unique credit earning methods.

"As we change careers or just want to keep up with the one we're in, or we desire to further our expertise, Thomas Edison State College has thought out-of-the-box," said Heavin. "They have caused a paradigm shift in education. They have made quality education accessible to those of us sitting here today. I am grateful to Thomas Edison State College. Their dreams have helped each of us to make our dreams come true."

Heavin opened his first Curves franchise in 1992 with the idea of bringing a quality fitness experience to women. Today, Curves is listed in "Guinness World Records" as the world's largest fitness center franchise. In 2003, *Entrepreneur* magazine listed Curves as the second fastest growing franchise in the country.



Response for Graduates speaker H. Gary Heavin (right) celebrates after the commencement ceremonies with his wife Diane.



Dr. George A. Pruitt (left) presents New Jersey Gov. McGreevey with an honorary doctorate degree. Joining them is E. Harvey Myers, chairman of the College's Board of Trustees.

HONORARY DEGREE CONFERRED

The Honorable James E. McGreevey, New Jersey's 51st governor, presented the Commencement address and received an honorary doctorate during the ceremonies.

In his Commencement remarks, McGreevey



Sigmund Selowentchich (left) receives a proclamation from New Jersey Gov. McGreevey (right) with Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

PUTTING HIM/HER THROUGH BANQUET

The Alumni Association hosted its annual Putting Him/Her Through (PHT) Banquet following the Commencement ceremony. More than 200 people attended the banquet, which was held in the Trenton War Memorial Ballroom.

Graduates presented a PHT certificate to family members and friends who helped and supported them during their studies. This year marked the 14th year that this banquet has taken place. The tradition began at the suggestion of a graduate who wanted a way to thank his wife for her support

while he earned his college degree at Thomas Edison State College.



Carole A. Nerlino-Cerepak

Board of Trustees, who died in June after a courageous battle with cancer. As part of the 30th Anniversary Commencement observances,

HONORING A BELOVED FRIEND

In an emotional ceremony attended by many family and friends, Thomas Edison State College dedicated a board room suite in memory of Carole A. Nerlino-Cerepak, immediate past chairman of the

a group of approximately 30 family and friends of Nerlino-Cerepak gathered at the College's newly renovated Townhouse Complex where a dedication of the board room suite took place the morning of Oct. 12.

"In naming this board room suite in her honor, we are able to keep Carole's memory with us always," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Carole's dedication and support of the College has played a large part in the success we enjoy today, and we are pleased to recognize her in this small way."

During the dedication, a framed copy of a Board of Trustees resolution, identical to one gracing the suite wall, was presented to Nerlino-Cerepak's husband John Cerepak, as the couple's children and grandchildren looked on. The College has commissioned a portrait of Nerlino-Cerepak which will be permanently displayed in the suite.



Family members gather to celebrate the memory of Carole A. Nerlino-Cerepak after the dedication ceremony.

Nerlino-Cerepak graduated from Thomas Edison State College in 1986, was active with the Alumni Association, and had been a trustee for more than a decade, serving as Board chairman in 2000-2002. She was a vice president at Shearson Lehman Hutton in Morristown, N.J., and was a member of its President's Council. Nerlino-Cerepak was a resident of Nokomis, Fla., at the time of her death.

"Applause, Applause"

Mark R. Brown '00, BA Math

Mark R. Brown was awarded a Juris Doctorate degree with honors by Rutgers School of Law - Newark on May 31, 2002. His law school coursework focused on intellectual property and technology law. Brown, who also holds a B.A. in Computer Science and an M.S. in Computer Information and Control Engineering, plans to pursue a career in patent law.

Barbara Elliott '96, BA Art

Barbara Elliott is currently the director of admission for the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pa. She is also currently pursuing a M.S. in Management for Arts and Cultural Organizations at Rosemont College, also located in Pennsylvania.

Norman Hart, Ph.D. '94, BA Humanities

Dr. Norman Hart has been hired as director of musical theater at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va. He will be an assistant professor in the School of Theater and Dance.

Pat Hawkins '89, AA Liberal Arts

Since completing her degree at Thomas Edison State College, Pat Hawkins reports she has been keeping very busy. In 1991, she gave birth to her son Richie and feels this has been her "greatest accomplishment." Hawkins continues to juggle work and family by working part time in various positions, including day care

provider, after-school care provider, independent newspaper distributor, church secretary, bank teller and substitute teacher. Pat recently launched a home-based business as a consultant, teaching scrapbooking and rubber stamping, using Close To My Heart™ products.

"This gets me back to my first love, teaching, and will allow me the flexibility to pursue further education for myself," she said. "I recently attended the Close To My Heart™ annual convention and am very excited about the opportunity to teach and share my love of scrapbooking and stamping with others." Hawkins remains active in the community, serving as a Red Cross instructor, La Leche League leader and is currently the secretary for Boy Scout Troop 416 of Independence Township, N.J. In addition, Hawkins volunteers at the St. James Episcopal Church in Hackettstown, N.J., as the directress of the altar guild and as a regular member of the choir, as well as helping with various functions and activities that require volunteers.

Kathleen Keicher '86, BSBA Data Processing

Kathleen Keicher owns two Thomas Kinkadee art galleries. One is in the Bridgewater Commons Mall and the other is in the Menlo Park Mall, both in New Jersey.



Delicia Dawn Kouzev '01, BA Psychology

Since graduating from Thomas Edison State College in 2001, Kouzev completed a bachelor's degree in human services from the University of Alaska in May 2002. She was married on July 15, 2002, to Ilian K. Kouzev of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Kouzev's son, Jason Mcphail, served as best man at the ceremony before beginning a tour of duty overseas as an AIC firefighter in the Air Force.

Hope A. Lang '94, BA Social Science/History

Hope A. Lang, Esq., is pleased to announce the opening of her new law office in Oradell, N.J. Principal of a full service general practice law firm, Lang provides legal services to clients in the areas of wills and trusts, real estate, matrimonial law, long-term disability, civil rights, employment law, insurance and complex commercial litigation. Lang also gives seminars to both employers and employees on compliance with local and federal laws. Another service she provides is harassment awareness training to employees and counsel to businesses regarding

employee handbooks. Admitted to practice law in the state of New Jersey, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Lang received her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law in 1997. She is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the National Employment Lawyers Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association, The American Bar Association and Rutgers School of Law Alumni Association. Also active in her community, Lang is a member of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Hackensack Riverkeeper, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the Earth Island Institute, the Glen Canyon Institute, Amnesty International, Waterkeeper Alliance and Scenic Hudson.

Elizabeth G. Lindsay '80, BSAST Construction

Elizabeth G. Lindsay has earned an MBA from the University of South Florida. She currently serves as the president of USF's National Alumni Association and is a member of the Florida Board of Regents, where she served as chair from 1996-1997.

Peter J. Mazzaroni '95, BSBS Public Safety

Peter J. Mazzaroni, manager of community affairs with Roche Carolina, Inc. in Florence, S.C., has been selected to participate in the 2003 Class of Leadership South Carolina. The program

was created in 1979 to identify and develop leaders in the state of South Carolina and attracts individuals from all sectors—civic, business, government—who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to their communities and to the state.

Charles A. Morris '02, BA History

Charles A. Morris, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history this past July, was married to Christina M. Hoosier on June 8, 2002. The ceremony was held at Pike Creek Bible Church in Newark, Del., and was followed by a honeymoon to Alaska. Morris is relocating to Middletown, Del., where the couple plans to purchase a home.

Raymond Noonan, Ph.D '81, BA Humanities

After graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Noonan received his master's in health education with a specialization in human sexuality from New York University (NYU) in 1984. In 1998 he received a Ph.D. in human sexuality from NYU, writing his dissertation on sex research issues related to extended spaceflight. In 2001 he became the chairperson of the Health and Physical Education Department of the Fashion Institute of Technology, the Manhattan campus of the State University of New York (FIT-SUNY), where he also teaches health and human sexuality courses. Noonan has been an adjunct instructor at FIT-SUNY since 1995. In 1995 Noonan began SexQuest.com, one of the first educational sexuality sites on the Internet. In 1996, he co-authored and edited the third edition of a book, "Does Anyone Still Remember When Sex Was Fun? Positive

Sexuality in the Age of AIDS," which was first published in 1990. In 2001 he was associate editor of Volume 4 of the "International Encyclopedia of Sexuality," and contributed to the first three volumes of the 1997 edition, hailed as the most comprehensive cross-cultural survey of sexual knowledge in 60 countries. Noonan is currently working as co-editor of the updated "Continuum International Encyclopedia of Sexuality," due out in mid-2003.

Gerri C. Popkin '85, BA Social Science/History

Gerri Popkin has served as director of purchasing for Monmouth County, N.J., for 16 years. She is president of the Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey and was recently named "Qualified Purchasing Agent" by her freeholders. Popkin is also the chairman of the Educational Committee of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.

Steve Randolph '95, BSAST Nuclear Engineering Technology

Steve Randolph completed his BSAST in Nuclear Engineering Technology from Thomas Edison State College in 1995 while on sea duty on the USS Mississippi (CGN 40), a nuclear powered cruiser stationed in Norfolk, Va. Since May 2000, he has been a project engineer in the systems engineering department, Northrop Grumman Newport News (Newport News Shipbuilding). Randolph is currently the team leader for the software engineering process group and also the configuration manager for the advanced surface ship DD(X) electric drive system program. Previously, Randolph has been

involved with the advanced aircraft carrier CVN(X) program, requirements engineering and data management areas. In his spare time, Randolph has been teaching graduate level courses as an adjunct professor in the business and information systems departments for the Chesapeake and Newport News campuses of Strayer University. In August 2002, Randolph received his Professional Master of Business Administration with a specialization in Information Systems from the Hampton Roads, Virginia Graduate Center, Florida Institute of Technology. He is pursuing his doctoral studies and is currently researching various programs in information systems and engineering management. Randolph received his Master of Science in Systems Management, at the Florida Institute of Technology in April, 2001. Randolph retired as an EMCS SW/SS (Senior Chief Electricians Mate - Surface and Submarine Warfare) from the U.S. Navy in April 2000 after 23 years in the Naval Nuclear Power Program.

Dr. Adrian Restivo-Levitt '89, BA Social Science and History

Since earning her undergraduate degree at Thomas Edison State College, Restivo-Levitt has earned her M.A. in Counseling and Personnel Services at The College of New Jersey in 1992 and her doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Seton Hall University in 1999. She was recently appointed to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction. Adrian is currently an assistant professor at Kean University in the Department of Special Education and Counseling.

William Robinson '88, BSBA Data Processing

With Thomas Edison State College as a foundation, William Robinson continued his education and went on to earn three graduate degrees, all with honors. He is now "busily" retired and involved with Montclair TEAM, Inc., a youth mentoring organization based in northern New Jersey.



Mary Stamoulis '97, BA Literature

Since earning her degree at Thomas Edison State College, Mary Stamoulis has become a published author of two books: "Shadow War in Crete" and "Liberated in the Valley of the Kings."



David E. Stow '94, BSBA Management of Human Resources

After attending West Chester College in N.Y., and Mercer County Community College in Mercer County, N.J., David E. Stow had the career goal to become a funeral director. He had become interested in this field after working for the Bradley Funeral Home in Marlton, N.J., during high

school. Along the way, Stow married, started a family and, in 1989, began his college education through Thomas Edison State College. In 1994, Stow became the first in his family to graduate from college, earning his degree in business administration. Stow continued to utilize his knowledge gained over the years to handle the financial operations of the business and his responsibilities as a funeral director. In 1999, Stow found himself faced with a new opportunity that would lead him to expanding the business and opening a funeral home in his home town of Medford, N.J. On Aug. 3, 2001, the Bradley & Stow Funeral Home in Medford, N.J., opened its doors to serve the families of Medford, Medford Lakes, Southampton, Shamong Twp. and surrounding areas. Stow is the manager and partner in this new venture, which allows him to expand upon the management skills learned while at Thomas Edison State College. His wife Lynn will soon finish her associate's degree at the College, and his oldest daughter Danelle plans on attending college after her high school graduation in June 2003. Stow is very active in the community through the Medford-Vincentown Rotary Club, the International Odd Fellows, the Shawnee Band Parents Association and the Shamong Twp. Education Foundation. "I am so thankful for the opportunity that Thomas Edison State College gave me to obtain my college degree while raising a family and working to support us all at the same time," said Stow.

Katherine Kiggins Taylor '91, BA Humanities

Katherine Kiggins Taylor received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Thomas Edison State College in 1991. Since that time she obtained a master's in counseling psychology at New Jersey City University. Subsequently, she did extensive post-graduate psychoanalytic training, working in hospital and private settings. Kiggins wrote a weekly column for three years entitled "Let's Understand," which ran in all six Hudson Reporter newspapers in New Jersey. Blending her psychological skills with her business skills, Kiggins was a business coach with the Education Committee of the Natural Nutritional Foods Association. In addition, she created Workshops-by-Phone, a distance market-research and customer edu-marketing forum. Kiggins continues to teach undergraduate psychology courses as an adjunct at New Jersey City University. Kiggins is pursuing her doctoral studies at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, Calif. "The Depth Psychology program I completed entailed flying out to Santa Barbara once a month for 10 months each year for three consecutive years," said Kiggins. She has chosen "Psychotherapy and Setting as Seen Through a Feng Shui Lens" as the topic for her dissertation. "None of this would have been possible had I not finished my undergraduate degree through Thomas Edison State College," said Kiggins. "I have referred many adult learners to the College who may have otherwise felt the despair being unable for either practical or psychological reasons to pursue their college degree."

"Applause, Applause" Information for *Invention*

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If it's news to you, it's news to us!

As a member of our family of Thomas Edison State College Alumni, we invite you to tell us about the exciting things happening in your life. Let us know what's new with you since you graduated from Thomas Edison State College, and we may include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*. Please tell us how your experience at the College changed your life. To contact us, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor, 101 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608; fax it to (609) 984-1376; or e-mail your good news to akrum@tesc.edu. Feel free to send us photos to accompany your news. We'll publish them as space permits.

Thank you for this opportunity to better serve our valued Thomas Edison State College alumni family.

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City, State, Zip _____

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E-mail Address _____

Class Year _____ Degree _____

Information for *Invention*: _____

Alumni & Foundation News

Alumni & Foundation News *Continued from page 5*

public policy analysis from Rutgers University, Newark in 1979, and a doctor of philosophy in fire service administration from Western States University for Professional Studies in 1984.

A municipal fire protection consultant, Carter is an associate professor in the fire science program at Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, N.J. He is also a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire District No. 2 in Howell Township, N.J.

He serves as a correspondent and weekly columnist for Firehouse.com, an internationally recognized fire service Web site.

Carter retired in 1999 as suppression division battalion commander with the 735-member Newark Fire Department in Newark, N.J. He is also a past fire chief and training officer of the Adelphia Fire Company in Howell Township, N.J.

Carter is a former president of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. He is a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers in Great Britain.

A frequent lecturer at seminars in the United States and Canada, Carter has appeared at the Fire Department Instructors Conference since 1979. He has lectured in 23 states and in three Canadian provinces. He is an honorary citizen of the province of Nova Scotia.

He has authored seven textbooks and written nearly 900 articles that have been published in all of the major fire service trade journals. He also has been published in the *New York Times* and the *Asbury Park Press*. Carter is currently listed in "Who's Who in the World," "Who's Who in America" and "Who's Who in the East."

As a member of the United States Air Force Fire Department, Carter served as a fire protection specialist in Alaska, the Philippines, Vietnam and Arkansas. He also served as state fire marshal for the New Jersey Army National Guard and has received citations from the Air

Force and the National Guard for his services.

He and his wife Jacalyn have two daughters and a son. One daughter, Kathleen, is a firefighter in Adelphia. The Carters reside in Adelphia, N.J.



Elmer Curran, '75, center, displays his Outstanding Service to Society Award. Also pictured are previous recipients of the award, Gilbert Scheetz, '80, 2000 recipient (left); and Joao Crisostomo, '92, 2001 recipient.

Elmer L. Curran, '75 OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO SOCIETY

A journalist since 1949, Elmer L. Curran has a dedication to public service exemplified through his work as well as in his personal life.

As a journalist, he won the *Asbury Park Press* Ernest W. Lass Memorial Award for community service in 1976, a Community Chest Red Feather Award in 1964 for articles written about that agency during his years at the *Perth Amboy Evening News*, a formal resolution from the Newport News City Council in 1962 for community service, and a United Fund award in 1955 for community service articles written in *The Virginian-Pilot*.

In the late 1980s, Curran created the first 50-Plus section at the *Asbury Park Press* and wrote a popular column called "Coping," which advised seniors on personal, financial and agency issues. A companion column,

called "Mostly Coins," won four national awards.

While pursuing his master's degree in sociology at Rutgers University, Curran decided to change direction in his life. He redirected his efforts from classroom study to community service by becoming a soldier in the Salvation Army's Asbury Park Citadel.

More recently, Curran also served as a facilitator with the



Marion E. Elliott, '90 OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

"I can always count on Marion to participate in our alumni functions. I don't even wait for an RSVP from him – I just put him down as a 'yes'."

Those words of sincere appreciation come from Patricia Memminger, director of Alumni Affairs, who has greatly appreciated Elliott's support over the last decade.

Elliott has been on the alumni board for several years and this year joined the executive committee by becoming treasurer of the Thomas Edison Alumni Association.

Always available to help, Elliott served on several committees and was one of two people who put together the Alumni Association's scholarship program and formed the Scholarship Committee. He also has given countless hours to Thomas Edison State College's fundraising Phonathon.

Elliott, like many of Thomas Edison State College's alumni, eventually found Thomas Edison State College to be the perfect way for him to complete his college degree and continue to meet his professional obligations.

A native of Maryland, Elliott left high school to serve in the Navy as an aviation storekeeper on the aircraft carrier *Enterprise*. In time, and after leaving the Navy and completing high school, he began attending a community college in New Jersey while serving in the National Guard, retiring as a staff sergeant.

In 1990, he earned his BSBA degree from Thomas Edison State College with a specialization in accounting.

He is an assistant controller at United Progress International, a non-profit social services agency located in Trenton, N.J.

Thomas Edison State College was founded in 1872 for the purpose of providing diverse and alternative methods of achieving a collegiate education of the highest quality for mature adults.

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son, Mark, died in 1984 from an aneurism.

He recently finished an autobiography, "The Brothers Nine or One for the Road," and hopes to find a publisher.

Curran's quest for learning still burns bright. He is thinking about returning for his master's degree – perhaps in Irish literature.

Alumni & Foundation News

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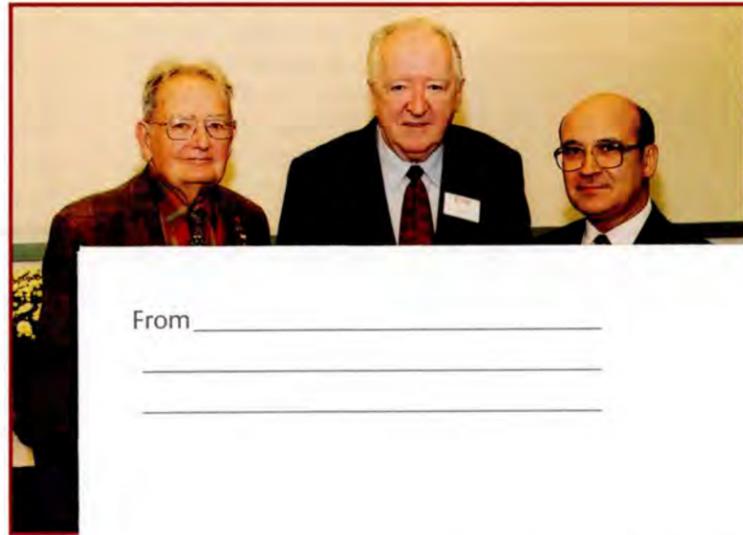
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THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

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More recently, Curran also served as a facilitator with the Stephen Ministry, a nondenominational organization that assists individuals with a range of problems. This ministry unit operates out of St. Catherine's Church, Spring Lake, N.J. where Curran recently ended four years of service on the Parish Council.

Allied to helping those looking for new horizons and purpose in life, Curran has helped make people aware of Thomas Edison State College. Beginning with his graduation in the first Thomas Edison State College class in 1975, Curran helped form the first Alumni Board of Directors, has contributed to the annual fund drive and returned this year, at age 71, to actively work on the alumni board. One of his proudest achievements is his brick in the Thomas Edison State College Walk of Honor.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Curran is married to Edna Curran and the father of three children. A son, Mark, died in 1984 from an aneurism.

He recently finished an autobiography, "The Brothers Nine or One for the Road," and hopes to find a publisher.

Curran's quest for learning still burns bright. He is thinking about returning for his master's degree – perhaps in Irish literature.



Marion Elliott '90 accepts his Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association Award.

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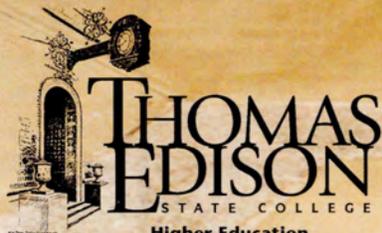
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