

I·N·V·E·N·T·I·O·N

NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Winter 1993

President reaffirms quality

In the face of continuing state reductions in support to higher education, Thomas Edison State College has reaffirmed its commitment to preserve and protect the high quality of its programs. Decreased state funding has resulted in additional cost to students who have been asked to increase their investment in the quality of the education they receive. Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, recently sent the following letter to students explaining the College's determination to maintain quality in the face of reduced state support:

Dear Student:

When you made the decision to enroll in Thomas Edison State College, you were investing in your own personal development. As a Thomas Edison student, you are also investing in your

future. The quality and reputation of the degree you will carry from this institution will stay with you long after the bills for tuition and fees have been paid. Our commitment to you and our covenant with you is to ensure that the quality of academic experience available at this institution remains among the finest in the nation.

While Thomas Edison State College remains among the most cost-effective options in America for achieving a quality education, I am sure you are aware that the cost of this education has been increasing. As a state college, a portion of the resources needed to support the College is provided us by the State of New Jersey, and the difference is made up from the various charges and fees paid by students. Unfortunately, the State of New Jersey

has been systematically reducing its support to higher education over the last five years.

Thomas Edison State College, like all institutions of higher education in this state, has been affected by these reductions in state funds. The tables (on page two) illustrate the impact of this loss of support. Accordingly, to maintain the high quality for which this institution is known and for which you enrolled, we have had to make up the difference by increasing the amount of support that is borne by our students.

While we regret having increased students' costs, we believe it absolutely essential to do so, for to do less would be to compromise the basic quality of your academic experience through Thomas Edison State College. And,

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Thomas Edison's Scheiring returns to vice president's post after two years "on loan" to the state

by Linda Holt

Mike Scheiring has looked at the New Jersey State House from both sides now.

From his office at Thomas Edison State College, the energetic vice president of Administration and Finance can look up the street and admire the golden dome glistening in the early morning sun. But less than three years ago, his vantage point from the 200-year-old capitol building enabled him to look down State Street to the imposing neo-Renaissance architecture of Thomas Edison's main offices where he had served as vice president since 1983.

This change in perspective occurred because Mike Scheiring was the key

player in the largest, no-holds-barred audit of New Jersey government in state history. As part of its program of commitment to public service, the College "lent" its chief financial officer to serve as executive director of the Governor's Management Review Commission (GMRC) from 1990 to 1992. After identifying key ways to increase effectiveness and reduce expenditures by \$253 million in the first year, Scheiring returned to Thomas Edison in September 1992 to resume the fiscal and administrative leadership of the nation's most progressive state college for adults.

"New Jersey's state budget exploded from \$4.5 billion to \$12 billion in less than a decade," Scheiring said recently.

"It was the Commission's challenge to look closely at all 19 state departments and identify where changes could be made to increase effectiveness and productivity while reducing costs." In addition to the \$253 million saved in FY '92, the Commission expects to show savings of \$1.4 billion in FY '93.

The Commission, a blue-ribbon panel of seven prominent New Jersey leaders in business, labor and higher education, was appointed by Gov. Jim Florio as one of his first official acts in 1990, through Executive Order 7. Stanley C. Van Ness, an attorney and former state public advocate, chaired the nonpartisan Commission, which relied on some 250 executives "on loan" from over 40 companies, to carry out the audit in partnership with public service managers.

"We looked at every aspect of state government—compensation, fringe benefits, printing, vehicle usage and so forth—in a total of 43 separate examinations," said Scheiring. "We teamed up with experts in the private sector to review management and spending practices extending over a decade. Our goal was to streamline operations, reduce redundancies and identify investments needed in technology and people."

The Commission achieved these economies by urging the re-evaluation of the pension fund, institution of an early retirement program, management of a planned attrition program and other measures that produced over \$1.6 billion in savings and 700 recommendations for improvement. "These recommendations were implemented and realized," Scheiring said. "The Commission has been delighted with the seriousness with which the gover-

College makes history by awarding Thomas Alva Edison earned degree

Those attending the 20th Anniversary Commencement at Thomas Edison State College bore witness to history when an earned Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree was awarded to inventor Thomas Alva Edison 61 years after his death.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that a regionally accredited college has awarded a degree to an individual based entirely on portfolios assembled and evaluated after his death," said Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president for Academic Affairs at Thomas Edison State College.

Thomas Alva Edison was one of 799 graduates in the Class of '92. More than 180 graduates attended this anniversary Commencement, held in Trenton's War Memorial on Sunday, Oct. 25. Edison's degree was accepted by his great-grandson, Barry Sloane, of Woodbury, N.J., who commented that his great-grandfather "would have been very pleased. It would be a sort of validation of his own prodigious abilities."

"Thomas Alva Edison underwent the same rigorous evaluation that all students receive," said Dr. Ice. "In Edison's case, the staff, faculty and scholars documented his learning against standards expected for the baccalaureate degree."

(continued on page 2)



Linda Solits

nor and legislature have taken our findings."

The governor, in turn, was pleased with the College's participation and with Scheiring's performance. "I promised the citizens of this state a thorough audit of state government, and it has been accomplished," Gov. Florio said in a news release issued at Scheiring's resignation last year. "Mike has done a remarkable job in developing a public/private partnership that has challenged state government to reach for excellence. The audit has provided a solid foundation for my efforts to make government more economical (and) . . . provided a blueprint for change in the next decade. The audit has gained New Jersey national attention in our efforts to 'rightsized' government."

Scheiring believes that the College's willingness to become involved in

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Edison's Scheiring returns to post (continued from page 1)



Linda Solitis

better government is part of a national pattern of greater cooperation between higher education resources and public service agencies. "This is part of the mission of the College, one which is also reflected in our support for the Trenton Office of Policy Studies (TOPS), which provides independent policy analysis to the city," Scheiring said.

Returning to Thomas Edison State College after 2 years of making policy in state government, Scheiring said he enjoyed coming back "to a new institution" last September. "So much has changed—and grown—at Thomas Edison since 1990," he reflected. "National accreditation for our nursing program, a new Academic Center, dramatic increases in enrollments for Guided Study courses, the Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network, the proposed Master of Science in Management degree—these

and many other advances indicate that this is a College on the move, providing leadership into the 21st century."

Serious financial constraints, however, will occupy much of Scheiring's attention in the coming months as the College comes to grips with the reality of diminishing support from the state. "We used to have 70 percent of our funding from the state," he said. "Now that figure is closer to 44 percent. This is not a temporary decrease but an indicator of a permanent change in our relationship with the state. Increasingly, we will look to private sources for funding. Fortunately, as the \$100 million grant to Rowan College demonstrated last year, private donors are recognizing that giving to state colleges is a wise investment."

Scheiring said that what interests him most about his role at Thomas Edison is "serving as a change agent. Thomas Edison is on the cutting edge of change in education for adults. Because we're small, we can see the results very quickly. Across the nation, the perception is growing that the key to our nation's success is having a well-educated population. We are superbly positioned to provide leadership for the kind of high-quality lifelong learning which makes a difference in people's lives and the nation's economy."

As part of his role as change agent, Scheiring always has one eye on the future. The extensive growth of College facilities, including the new Academic Center and occupation of the historic Kuser Mansion on State Street, is part of that future. "But facilities are just part of the picture," he said.

"Changing the infrastructure, the acquisition of lab equipment, test scanners, a satellite downlink, video duplicating equipment, computers . . . these are all part of new directions we taking now as we lead the way for innovative education in the years to come."

Scheiring brought an impressive record of public administration service to his roles as both College vice president and GMRC executive director. He graduated from Kent State University with a B.A. in political science and sociology and a master's in Public Administration. Before joining the College in 1983, he served as director of the Division of Corporate Budget and Economic Analysis with N.J. Transit Corporation and director of the Division of Management and Planning with the state's Department of Community Affairs. Earlier, he served as a policy assistant to the governor in the Office of Policy and Planning.

While he admits he sometimes misses "life at the top" of state government, Scheiring adds that despite the long hours he puts in at Thomas Edison, he now has more time to spend with his wife, Marcia, and daughters Kristy and Lauren, as well as being able to jog, canoe and, during warm spells, enjoy the family's vacation home on Long Beach Island. The down side of leaving the Governor's team? "No more excuses for putting off those chores around the house!" he said with a laugh.

Asked if there is any lesson he learned with the Commission which he can apply to Thomas Edison, Scheiring said it is the importance of soliciting

and listening to feedback from "the people. Many of the recommendations the Commission made were the result of letters received from citizens who identified problems and then offered solutions," he said. "Translating this to the College, we need more feedback from alumni and students. We need to hear their ideas and know how we can be more responsive."

"Public involvement is very healthy and is part of the mechanism for productive change," Scheiring said. "What makes a sound basis for good government also creates a foundation for a successful academic venture. No longer limited to state sponsorship, the College is opening itself up to greater access to private support and the insightful feedback of its most critical constituents, its students and alumni. This expanded partnership makes this an exciting time to be part of one of the greatest success stories in the history of American higher education: Thomas Edison State College."

Michael J. Scheiring, vice president for Administration and Finance, welcomes suggestions, comments and feedback from Thomas Edison State College alumni and students on any topic relating to the College. Please address your comments to:

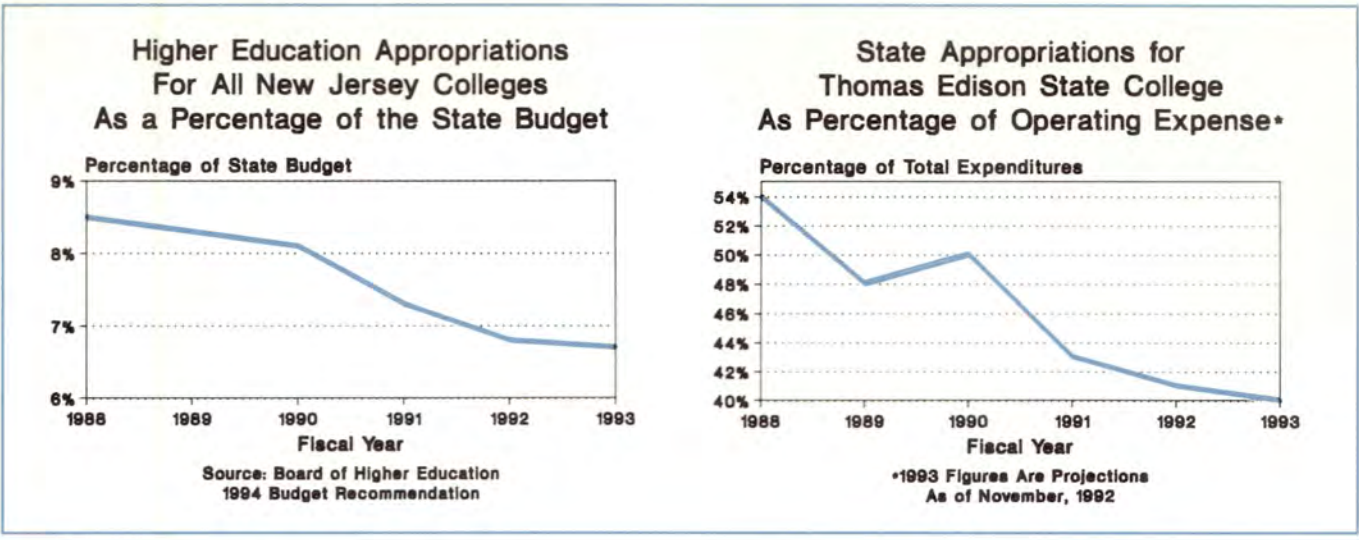
Mr. Michael J. Scheiring
Vice President for Administration and Finance
Thomas Edison State College
101 W. State St.
Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176

President reaffirms quality (continued from page 1)

compromising the quality of our College is something we shall never do.

We will continue to pursue adequate resources from our legislature and governor so as to maintain the reasonableness of the cost borne by our students. But, in the meantime, it is necessary for us to ask that you be prepared to increase your investment in yourself through those fees and charges we find essential to providing the quality of educational experience you deserve and have a right to expect.

Sincerely,
George A. Pruitt
President



College makes history (continued from page 1)

Staff at Thomas Edison State College collaborated with researchers at The Edison Papers project at Rutgers, The State University, to assess the college-level learning which the legendary inventor acquired during his lifetime. Edison Papers scholars, under the direction of Dr. Reese V. Jenkins, assembled portfolios which were submitted to the Office of Testing and Assessment at Thomas Edison State College for faculty review and evaluation. Faculty approval of this documentation confirmed Edison's knowledge and led to the award of the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology with a specialization in Electrical Technology.

During his address at Commencement ceremonies, Dr. Jenkins de-

scribed the effort that went into compiling and documenting the vast amount of work produced by Edison during his lifetime. Edison was



U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Edison Historical Site

awarded 1,093 patents, the most awarded to any one individual in history. He had an insatiable appetite for reading, research and experimentation which led to many of his famous inventions, such as the incandescent light and the phonograph.

Dr. Jenkins began his work at Rutgers in 1978, establishing The Edison Papers project. Since that time, he has supervised the publication of two parts of the microfilm edition consisting of 150,000 pages of documents and two volumes of the book edition. He has also published a book-length bibliography and an oral history, as well as numerous articles and reviews in the history of technology, science and business. While there is a massive amount of information available about Edison's life attainments, Dr. Jenkins noted that Edison was evaluated based on the standards

and knowledge available during his time. For example, Edison could not be evaluated in computer science; however, Jenkins felt that the research showed that Edison would have no doubt excelled in this area, and would have probably been a pioneer in the development of computer technology based on the knowledge he possessed.

There aren't many who can claim a world-renowned inventor as a member of their graduating class. Noted Dr. Jenkins, "... you have in your graduating class one of the most influential people who ever lived, Thomas Alva Edison." The Thomas Edison State College Class of '92 can claim Thomas Alva Edison as one of their own—another "student" whose dreams were fulfilled by this innovative college for adults.

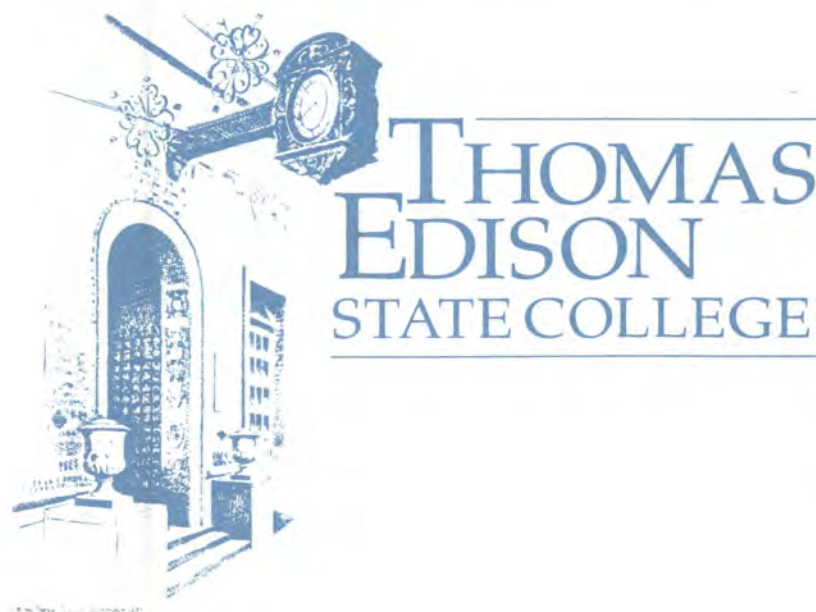
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July 1, 1991-June 30, 1992

1992 HONOR ROLL II

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DREAMS FULFILLED DURING SPECTACULAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Amid breath-taking decorations and gallant attire, more than 260 friends of Thomas Edison State College celebrated "Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled" at the first-ever anniversary Ball held during Commencement weekend.

What started as an idea to recognize the 20 years that the College has been serving adult learners turned into an elegant affair at the Hyatt Regency Princeton, capped off by sumptuous dining and an evening's worth of dancing to the sounds of Hamilton's (N.J.) Trilogy.

"Tonight we celebrate two decades," announced College President George A. Pruitt. "Tomorrow, we begin the third." Guests were also welcomed and thanked by Ball Chair Rita Novitt of Princeton, N.J., a former member of the College's Board of Trustees. Other members of the Ball committee included Foundation Board of Directors Chairman Richard J. Gillespie and members Andrew J. Brown, Nicholas L. Carnevale, J. Robert Hillier and S. John Quattrone; former director Patricia R.F. Danielson; College Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Fred J. Abbate and members George L. Fricke and E. Harvey Myers; Alumni Association Board of Directors President Ida B. Hammond '78 and Treasurer John McCann '90; Dr. Natale S. Caliendo, Jr., vice president for Public Affairs and Linda Holt, director of Communications and College Relations at the College; and friend of the College Priscilla Algava Snow.

Special thanks to individuals, businesses, community groups and others who bought ads in support of the commemorative program book. More than 100 ads were sold in honor of the College's anniversary celebration.

Special thanks to members of the College's extended family who worked on the Ball:

Stacy Bevis
Peg Bodnar
Theresa Bowman
Rose Mary Breining
Martine Christophe-Brown
Gerri Collins
Charlotte Cooney B.S. '91
M. Jane Coult B.A. '86
Adele Ellis ASM '88
Ida B. Hammond B.A. '78
Nadine Hoston
Laurie LaMarra
Eunice Lewis
Nina Malone
Norma Manigan
Willie Mae Nicholson
ASBM '91
Elaine Scheff B.A. '92
Annette Singer
Betty Smith
Linda Soltis
Francine Taylor
Cindy Warrick
Jayne Ulmer
Denise Weber
Leslie Williams

Toliver appointed director of Admissions Services

Janice Toliver of East Orange, N.J., has been appointed director of Admissions Services at Thomas Edison State College. She will be responsible for managing the process of assisting adults who inquire about and apply to

the College. Admissions Services helps adult learners make informed decisions about their education and to explore the unique opportunities offered by Thomas Edison.

Toliver, who has been with the College for 15 years, earned her Master of Arts in Student Personnel Services from Montclair State College in Montclair, N.J., and her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Va. She is a member of the New Jersey Association of College Admissions Counselors' Minority Caucus, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., and the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.



Linda Soltis

two DECADES of DREAMS fulfilled

Anniversary Ball

◆ COLLEGE LEADERS . . .

◆ DREAMS FULFILLED . . .



Rita Novitt (left), chair of Thomas Edison State College's 20th Anniversary Ball, "Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled," accepts flowers and congratulations from College President George A. Pruitt. Novitt worked diligently over the past year with a volunteer committee to make the event a success.

Photos by Katharine Wyland



The College's second president (and the first woman president of a New Jersey state college), Lorraine R. Matusak (left), chats with the College's current president, George A. Pruitt. The College has had three presidents during the past 20 years—James Brown, the College's first president, was unable to attend.

◆ AN ENJOYABLE EVENING . . .



Student Trustee Drunell Levinson and Executive Assistant to the President Gerri Collins enjoy a moment during the anniversary gala. Students are represented on the College Board of Trustees, providing valuable feedback and information about the College's programs and services.

Bicentennial

◆ OFFICIAL VISIT . . .



New Jersey's First Lady Lucinda Florio receives a gift from College President George A. Pruitt during a Prudence Townsend Kelsey Memorial Room tour. Dr. Pruitt personally escorted Mrs. Florio around the Kelsey Room, which was opened to the public for tours during the New Jersey State House Bicentennial Celebration in October.

Nina Malone

◆ THE THOMAS EDISON LEGACY . . .



Many alumni enjoyed "Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled," including Alumni Association Board President Ida B. Hammond '78 (right) and director and co-chair of the Alumni Annual Fund Committee Gail Anne Palatine '91, escorted by husband Richard.

Commencement

◆ IT'S A CELEBRATION . . .



Graduate Debbie Ware, A.A. '92, celebrates with Wilfrid Cennatus. Ware, who is support staff in the Office of Academic Programs, is also scheduled to complete her B.A. in December 1992.

◆ A LITTLE HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS . . .



Soon-to-be alumna Cynthia Warrick (left), secretary in Communications & College Relations, receives help with her gown from alumna Adele Ellis, ASM '88, vice president for Alumni Member Relations of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Many alumni and students volunteered to assist graduates and the College throughout this anniversary weekend.

◆ IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR . . .



New graduate Albert Llanes celebrates his accomplishments with wife, Luann, children Evan and Aubrey (in coach), and brother Armendo.

◆ READY TO GO . . .



Dean Ruth McKeefery (left) holds the mace in preparation for the ceremonial procession that begins Commencement. Accompanying her are (left to right) College President George A. Pruitt and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jerry Ice.

◆ GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION . . .



Former student trustee Theodore E. Kessler (right) receives a gold tassel, identifying him as an Arnold Fletcher Award winner, from Dean of the College Ruth McKeefery.

Distinguished graduates: The Arnold Fletcher Award winners

by Linda Soltis

Thomas Edison State College honored 41 baccalaureate graduates who received the Arnold Fletcher Award during the College's 20th Annual Commencement Ceremony on Oct. 25. The Arnold Fletcher Award recognizes Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in independent learning. Students selected have demonstrated excellence and have earned a large number of credits using one or more of the nontraditional forms of learning recognized by the College: examinations (TECEP—Thomas Edison College Examination Program, CLEP, ACT-PEP), correspondence programs, distance learning through the College's Guided Study program, learning via personal computer through the Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network, evaluation of corporate and military training, assessment of college-level knowledge gained through professional experience and classroom instruction at other accredited colleges and universities. The award is named in honor of Dr. Arnold Fletcher, vice president for Academic Affairs at Thomas Edison State College from 1973 to 1983.

The New Jersey recipients are: Kathryn G. Albert of Newton, David V. Bell of Pennsville, Steven Citron of Lakewood, Carol A. Dick of Mt. Holly, Marcelline M. Eachus of Sewell, Peter A. Fitzgerald

of Roselle Park, Nancy Infante of Perth Amboy, Edwin W. Kaar of Ringwood, Theodore E. Kessler of Burlington, Kenneth E. Kohler of New Brunswick, James A. Long, Jr., of Red Bank, Maureen McMenemie of Leonardo, Cecilia L. Matthews of Mt. Laurel, Glenn O. Parkhurst of Bridgeton, Nancy E. Remer of Mercerville and David A. Vine of Lawrenceville.

Other award recipients are Katherine A. Benson of Olga, Wash.; Jack Chiang of Stanton, Texas; Todd M. Diedrich of Marshfield, Wis.; Sharon L. Eastman of San Diego, Calif.; Marsha G. Farmer of Houston, Texas; Joel D. Goergen of Deep River, Conn.; William M. Hancock of Arlington, Texas; Jeffrey W. Holste of Stansbury Park, Utah; William F. Kane of Levittown, Pa.; Charlene Levy of Langhorne, Pa.; William A. McFriedes of Stow, Maine; James J. McGrath, Jr., of Orlando, Fla.; Jeffrey J. Mickelson of Grand Prairie, Texas; Thomas E. Moyer of Concord, Calif.; Cynthia B. Mrozek of Chicago, Ill.; Robert N. Negley of Summerville, S.C.; Timothy R. Nellenbach of Blair, Neb.; Frederick E. Proffitt, Jr., of Vestal, N.Y.; James F. Small of Fulton, Mont.; Jennifer J. Steinberg of La Mesa, Calif.; Barbara A. Stevens of Harrisburg, Pa.; Laurence M. Stewart of Santa Rosa, Calif.; Odell H. Stevenson of Leisure City, Fla.; Ronald E. Williams of Mobile, Ala.; and Benjamin K. Winkler of Indianapolis, Ind.

◆ NEWSWORTHY NOTE . . .



KYW-TV-3 (Philadelphia) newscaster Dick Sheeran is all smiles as he readies to accept his diploma. Sheeran joined 798 other graduates, including inventor Thomas Alva Edison who received a posthumous, earned degree, in the Class of '92.

◆ SPECIAL PEOPLE . . .



Former College President Lorraine Matusak congratulates James Humphrey, former acting vice president for Administration and Finance, on his retirement and his honor. Humphrey, who retired this year, received a Distinguished Service Award from the College and a special proclamation from the City of Trenton.

Working together toward the future—Digital grant provides computers for student use

by Nina Malone

Enabling students to pursue degrees through flexible, convenient means has been a hallmark of the Thomas Edison State College mission. Through the generosity of Digital Equipment Corporation, some students at the College will now be able to borrow computers to help them complete their degrees.

Digital awarded Thomas Edison State College a \$288,600 grant, which will help the College acquire 100 DECstation 316 computer systems to enable adult learners to complete their education through the College. Noted Jane Hamel, Digital's corporate contributions manager, "We . . . recognize the commitment that your institution makes to education. We are pleased to assist you, in support of the Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) program, enhancing outreach efforts to . . . (adult) students, including people with disabilities."

"This generous grant will enable the College to expand access to its educational programs for adult students," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "We are indebted to John Fischer, Digital's vice president and a member of the Board of Directors of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, Inc., for making computer access a reality for our students."

As part of the College's Reducing Barriers to Access program, the DECstation systems will be lent to adults who have not had access to the electronic technology necessary to complete their degrees. Among adults qualifying for the computer loans will be students whose circumstances preclude conventional classroom attendance. With the equipment, these students will be able to complete the College's electronically delivered Guided Study courses at home, whether they live in a remote rural area, a nursing home or the inner city.

This isn't the first time that Digital has supported the programs at Thomas Edison. In 1991, Digital provided a \$403,000 grant that enabled the College to acquire two VAX4000 computer systems, a MicroVAX II computer system, peripherals, software and hardware to better serve students through CALL. By housing its own mainframe in its Trenton offices, the College is better able to assure immediate access to all CALL Network users.

Partnerships key to the College's success

According to Dr. Natale S. Caliendo, Jr., vice president for Public Affairs, partnerships with forward-thinking corporations like Digital will be the key to successfully providing high-quality educational opportunities to adult students in the future. "In this tough economic climate, it is rewarding to work with a corporation such as Digital that sees the value in assisting the College with our mission to serve all adult students," Dr. Caliendo said.

"Digital has a history of supporting the programs of the CALL Network, thanks to John Fischer," Dr. Caliendo continued. "John wanted to make an impact with our Reducing Barriers to Access initiative. Digital can be proud that the underserved population—those who would not otherwise be able to participate in the College's programs—now will be able to work towards the completion of a college degree because of the corporation's generosity."

Fischer began his career 25 years ago as a systems engineer, progressing through various management positions to vice

president of the U.S. Systems Integration Services Organization. He is responsible for business planning, marketing, sales, service product development, consulting and professional services delivery, as well as support of financial and administrative functions. The Systems Integration Services Organization is comprised of Applications Project Services, Operations

Support Services, Networks, Integration Services, Systems Integration and Digital Service Alliances.

One of the most innovative colleges in the United States, Thomas Edison State College provides opportunities for adults to complete degrees wherever they live. One option available to the self-motivated

adult student is the Guided Study program, administered through the Office of Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL). Guided Study permits adults to take college courses at home under the direction of a faculty mentor, using video or audio cassettes, textbooks and, in the case of many courses, the CALL Network. Guided Study courses available on the CALL Network range from English to sociology to computer literacy.

How adults learn via the computer network

Loans of the DECstation computers will be coordinated by the CALL Personal Computer (CALL-PC) Program. Students interested in a computer loan must show that the availability of a computer and the use of the CALL Network will reduce barriers of access to a college degree. The equipment is on loan to the students while enrolled in specific College programs.

Students currently taking Guided Study courses should have received information and an application. To receive an application, call the CALL Network Technical Support Center at Thomas Edison State College at (609) 777-4140, or write to the CALL Network Technical Support Center, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176.



Thomas Edison State College President George A. Pruitt accepts a generous donation from Digital Equipment Corporation Vice President John Fischer.

Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities —A PONSI Colloquium

by Barbara W. Eklund

The need for creating partnerships and for valuing their diverse perspectives on education and training was addressed by experts from colleges and corporations during the recently held Corporate-Higher Education Colloquium, *Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities*. The Colloquium drew more than 120 representatives from higher education and corporate communities to discuss common issues and concerns.

The Colloquium was sponsored by the PONSI (Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction) offices of Thomas Edison State College and the American Council on Education in cooperation with the Showboat Casino-Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J. It draws its roots from the regional PONSI meetings sponsored by the College each year that were originally intended to bring representatives from PONSI-sponsor organizations together and to provide them with details about PONSI. PONSI evaluates formal training programs offered in the noncollegiate sector and makes college equivalency recommendations that are used by colleges and universities nationwide to award college credit.

"I am pleased that we have moved beyond the informational to the 'formational,'" James A. Ratigan, director of PONSI at Thomas Edison, stated. "Our agenda was designed to demonstrate to colleges and corporations alike that there are many commonalities in what they are doing. The comment I heard over and over again as the day was ending came from participants who felt the sessions only began to explore the many ways we could all work together. Most were anxious to continue the dialog."

Under the Colloquium's diversity theme, Ratigan noted that, although corporations and colleges have different missions, "we need to look at what each other is doing—not simply different languages and steps that are being followed. Often, we have different names for the same thing: a

campus, training department or laboratory—but we have the same high goals and standards. Whether an adult is learning in a semester format or a training module; over a 15-week period or an intensive week-long session; with the help of a faculty mentor or with videotapes and a computer; education is taking place. Instead of being blinded by the means, we need to appreciate each other's high standards and benefit from each other's strengths."

This opinion was echoed by several presenters during the Colloquium. While moderating the session on *Corporate-Collegiate Dialog*, Diane Rhodes, manager, Quality Education at AT&T, stated that "the opportunities for partnering and for utilizing the diverse wealth of talent and skills and knowledge that exists in our two worlds is something we want to take advantage of—it's something that I value very much."

Dr. Charles Nanry, professor of Human Resource Management and director, The Rutgers Center for Management Development, Rutgers University, believes that corporations and colleges working together is a matter of survival. "In a world that is becoming more global, more competitive, more interactive, these bridges (between academia and the business world) are necessary here and internationally."

Dr. Nanry has observed that corporations and colleges often are hampered when attempting to form partnerships because of their diverse styles and languages. "Corporate trainers are hard pressed to quickly respond to needs analysis, hit on target, get the job done. University professors may have more of a conservative bias; they are looking at the long-term, not quick solutions. As a rule, faculty are interested in raising questions and an awareness of the issues; trainers often reduce the information to a series of learning points or skills that can be quickly transmitted. This can create a mismatch as they try to work together."

John Ford, educational consultant, Digital Services Education and Training, Digital Equipment Corporation, agreed with Dr. Nanry that language is a problem as corporations and colleges create partnerships. He added that timing can also be a problem. "The first time I approached a college to discuss a possible collaborative partnership, it was during the month of June. I was told that the people I needed to work with wouldn't be back until September," Ford recalls.

Ford credits Thomas Edison's Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships with helping him "break down the barriers" and locate the educational support he needed. "The bridge is a corporate/collegiate partnership," he told the group. Ford believes that over the years, Digital, like many organizations, has changed its approach to educating employees. "At first, we wanted the quick fix. We hired people with a mechanical aptitude and taught them what we felt they needed to know to do the job. Now, we're coming back to the colleges and asking for help to provide a solid foundation for our employees. In today's environment, training is going to help one get through the next two hours, the next day, the next week. Education is going to help them through a career."

Ratigan was pleased with this year's agenda topics and the high quality of the speakers involved. Sessions included insights shared by four college presidents, four corporate vice presidents and over 40 experts on adult higher education in colleges and corporations. The plenary topic, *Diversity: Its Role in the Curriculum in the Corporation*, was addressed by Janice M. Tomlinson, senior vice president and managing director, Chubb & Son, Inc., and Dr. Reginald Wilson, senior scholar, American Council on Education. Other topics, many dealing with the underlying theme of diversity, included: internationalization, recruiting a diverse student population, how colleges are teaching diversity, PONSI overviews and several case studies on training practices.

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Student help wanted: no experience necessary

The Alumni Association is stepping up efforts to involve students in alumni activities. This gives students the opportunity to meet fellow "classmates," as well as those who have graduated from the College. The next activity in which students can participate is the Alumni Annual Fund Committee.

The Alumni Annual Fund Committee works with the Office of Alumni Affairs to plan the Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon, to recommend goals, to recruit and manage volunteers and to provide helpful insight that will help the Annual Fund improve each year. Thomas Edison students are invited to join alumni on this committee.

"Students are encouraged to become involved with this important College effort," said Director of Alumni Affairs Annette Singer. "It's a great chance to meet some of the Thomas Edison family, have some fun and help the College that helped you." No experience is needed, and the hours are reasonable: four meetings per year plus volunteering to participate in at least one session of the Phonathon. Those interested can contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (201) 877-1450.

Alumna hosts Board meeting/ theater show

The Alumni Association of Thomas Edison State College held a Board meeting followed by a theater party on Sept. 13. Board member Marilyn Peterson, BSHS '91, hosted the meeting. After the meeting, Board members and guests attended a musical production of "Romance, Romance" at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre in Hopewell, N.J. There was an excellent turnout for the event, which passed the muster of the Alumni Association Board "critics." The Board has decided to open the next event to other alumni, College staff and students.

Alumni and students made an impact during anniversary weekend

When Registrar Jack Phillips announced to the graduates that those who helped them gown-up were alumni and student volunteers, the soon-to-be-members of the Alumni Association sent up a round of applause. Through the efforts of volunteers, graduates saw that Commencement isn't the end of their relationship with the College, but a new beginning.

"Commencement day volunteers set an example and demonstrated that alumni have many opportunities to continue their association with Thomas Edison State College," noted Annette Singer, director of Alumni Affairs. Students also volunteered, showing that "the connection with the College is very strong—and growing," Singer added.

Thanks to the following who made the busy weekend flow a bit smoother:

Rita Ackley BSBA '90	Ida B. Hammond B.A. '78	Mildred Koslow BSHS '82
Florence Broadway BSBA '88	Frank Hawrylo BSTS '79	Barbara Lynch, student
Mary Burk, student	and daughter Kathy Berlin	Marilyn Peterson BSHS '91
Charlotte Cooney B.S. '91	Paul Hays BSAST '89	Dorothy Ruvel B.A. '90
M. Jane Coult B.A. '86	Jean Hunt BSBA '91 and	Gilbert Scheetz B.A. '80
Pat Cullen, student	husband William	Joyce Zeisler BSAST '85
Adele Ellis ASM '88	Ondina Jeffers B.A. '82 and	
Nancy Goehrig A.A. '86	husband Wilfred	

Thomas Edison graduates span the globe

A Thomas Edison alumnus recently contacted the Office of Alumni Affairs about starting an Alumni Chapter in the Middle East/Mediterranean. He invites all graduates residing in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel and the Gulf states to contact him: Mr. Tsvi Bisk, Rehov Alterman 15/13, Kfar Saba, Israel 44228.

◆ OUTSTANDING ALUMNI . . .



Photos by Katharine Wyland Photography

Awards were presented to two of Thomas Edison's best during the Annual Alumni PHT (Putting Him/Her Through) Awards Banquet held after Commencement. Frank Hawrylo '79, past president of the Alumni Association, received the award for Outstanding Professional Achievement from Nancy Goehrig '86 (right), secretary of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, while Ondina A. Jeffers '82, vice president for Programs, looks on.



Jane Coult '86, president-elect of the Alumni Association, received her award for Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association from President Ida B. Hammond '78.

One of our best . . . Marcelline Eachus

by Linda Soltis

In the Eachus family, the career of choice has been in the healthcare field. Daughter Barbara is a registered nurse; daughter Karen is a pharmacist; and husband, Paul, is the manager of production for a company that manufactures machines that make pharmaceutical packaging. Marcelline Eachus, the wife and mother of this caring group, has added a new dimension to the mix—not only is she an R.N., but she teaches nursing and she loves it.



Michael Maccho Photography

"I'm looking toward the future," said Eachus who has been teaching licensed practical nursing for six years at the Gloucester County Institute of Technology. "I want to get a masters and go on to teach RNs. I love education for education's sake."

Eachus, of Sewell, N.J., was the speaker who gave the response on behalf of all the graduates at the College's 20th Annual Commencement ceremony. She enrolled in 1990 in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree while working full-time. She accomplished this amazing feat by transferring 42 credits from other institutions and earning 78 credits by examination. It took her only two years to complete her degree at Thomas Edison.

"Thomas Edison State College gave me and the rest of the graduates here today the chance to prove ourselves," Eachus told the audience at the commencement ceremony on Oct 25. "Yes, there were still courses to take and papers to write and lots of studying to do, but there were also chances to prove what we all ready knew, and that our knowledge was at least equal to, if not superior to, the requirements that specific courses demanded. There were channels of education that were adaptable to our lifestyles and talents, but at the same time, demanded a self discipline. We had the option to work independently at our own pace. It would have been very easy to put off what had to be done, but we persevered and here we are today."

What inspires Eachus to persevere now are the challenges of teaching. According to Eachus, who previously worked in the critical care units of Our Lady of Lourdes and Kennedy Memorial hospitals, teaching is very rewarding. She explained that the program at the (Gloucester County) Institute attracts an interesting—almost familiar—group of students. "A lot of the students are older, people changing careers or starting careers late. But, the most interesting group are young women who have had children out of wedlock. They are some of my best students. It's a one-year program and it's a lot of responsibility."

Eachus' commitment to her own education was rewarded by a Thomas Edison State College Arnold Fletcher Award. The award, which is named in honor of Dr. Arnold Fletcher, vice president for Academic Affairs at Thomas Edison from 1973 to 1983, recognizes the College's baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in independent learning.

"It took a lot of motivation," Eachus explained. "It's very difficult to juggle a family, a job and to go to class. Doing the program at Thomas Edison gave me more freedom. It's not an easy way, just a different way."

For Eachus and the other 798 graduates in the Class of '92, that different way made all the difference while they were fulfilling the dream of a college degree.

A revised mission

The mission statement of the Alumni Association was revised in order to more accurately reflect what the Association does and to assist in long-range planning. It was approved by the Alumni Association Board of Directors at its Sept. 13, 1992, meeting.

Mission Statement:

The Alumni Association of Thomas Edison State College

The Alumni Association of Thomas Edison State College was incorporated in 1979 as a private, nonprofit corporation. The Alumni Association was created for the purpose

of providing a vehicle for the College's graduates to promote and advance the well-being of the College in the achievement of its mission and purpose. To this end, the Alumni Association:

- Serves as an advocate for the College in advancing the College's mission, programs and initiatives;
- Conducts a regular campaign to develop financial and tangible resources for the use of Thomas Edison State College to achieve its mission and purpose;
- Provides opportunities for volunteerism on the part of the College's graduates in support of the institution's mission, welfare and the public interest;
- Promotes a sense of community and shared purpose between the College and its alumni; and
- Conducts its affairs consistent with the highest ethical standards and principles.

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

'77

Jordan J. Corwin (B.A.) of Sarasota, Fla., is running for reelection to the Sarasota County Charter Review Board. The function of the board is to observe the operations of county government and make recommendations for improvement of the charter subject to voter referendum.

'83

Melanie Roberson Roy (BSBA) of Savannah, Ga., earned the Education Specialist degree in School Psychology from Georgia Southern University in 1990. She is currently working as a school psychologist for the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools as part of the New Futures Initiative. This program works with middle school students who are at risk of dropping out of school and provides them with an opportunity to increase their motivation and complete their education.

'84

Ruth Olinsky (B.A.) of Lawrenceville, N.J., recently had her art work exhibited in the Trenton City Museum. She has also had her poetry accepted for publication by "The National Library of Poetry" and "The Watermark Press." Olinsky has also received several awards for her poetry from "The World of Poetry."

'90

Nancy Semon (B.A.) of Toms River, N.J., is president and founder of Scholarship Finder/Career Services. Semon's company locates financial aid for students planning to attend college or graduate

school, and offers other options such as mid-life career change services. She is offering \$25 off the \$89 search fee—as well as a money-back guarantee—to Thomas Edison alumni who are looking for graduate school scholarships: 1 (800) 727-2258, ext. 3527.

'91

Ron Daenzer (B.A.) of Schaumburg, Ill., is now attending Roosevelt University in Chicago as a graduate student. After two years of study, he will earn a M.S. degree in computing and information science.

James A. Conway (B.S.) of Trenton, N.J., has been admitted to Central Michigan University's Extended Degree Programs as a graduate student. Conway will be pursuing his M.S. in administration.

Sid Johnson (BSBA) of Newark, N.J., is the vice president of Corporate Planning and Research for the Alliance Insurance Companies of McPherson, Kan. He has been accepted into the MBA program of the College of Insurance in New York City. Johnson writes that he is "excited about continuing his education and is proud to have been accepted into the MBA program."

David Vine (BSBA) of Lawrenceville, N.J., has launched "Everybody's Business," a radio talk show on WTTM in Trenton. The unique radio interview and call-in program airs two nights a week for an hour and focuses on helping people interested in starting a small business and encouraging entrepreneurship. Vine is also a certified management consultant member of the Institute of Management Consultants. He has created marketing programs for clients ranging from start-ups to Fortune 500 corporations.

'92

Brian J. Mogosky (BSHS) of Baltimore, Md., received his A.A. degree in chemical dependency counseling from Dundalk Community College in May and his baccalaureate degree from Thomas Edison in August. In addition, he received his state certification as a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor from the Maryland Addiction Counselors Certification Board and was admitted into a Master of Social Work Program at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Mogosky also is a Certified Relapse Prevention Specialist who is currently working for HART, Inc., an outpatient substance abuse counseling center, where he is the Relapse Prevention specialist, a program he instituted at the center.

If you would like news of your accomplishments included in the *Applause, Applause* section of *Invention*, please send information to: Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898. You may enclose a black-and-white photograph for consideration.

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

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

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NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

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

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