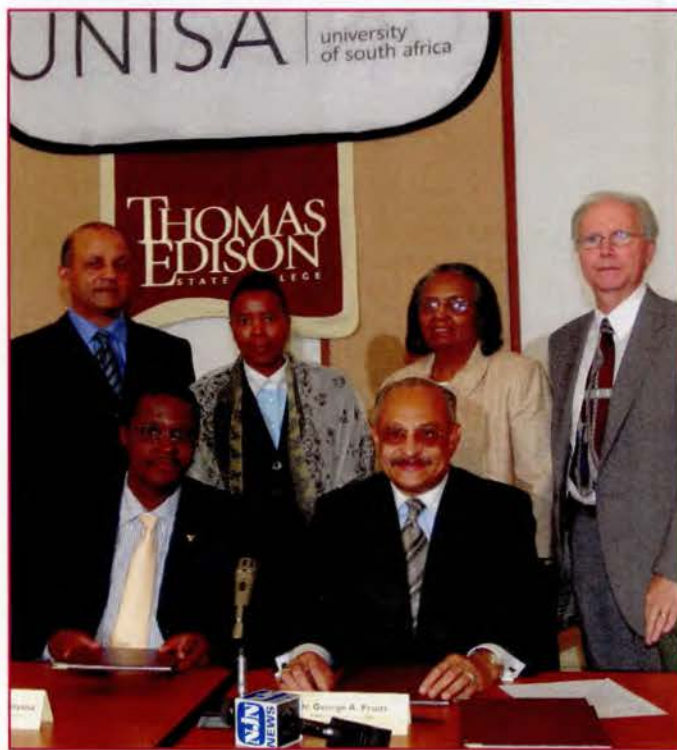


Capital Campus

Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • July 2006



Pictured from left are UNISA delegates: Prof. Narend Bajinath, vice principal for Planning, Strategy, and Partnerships; Prof. Barney Pityana, principal and vice chancellor of UNISA; and Siza Magubane, director of International Relations; and Thomas Edison State College participants: Dr. George Pruitt, president; Ida Hammond, chair, College Board of Trustees; and Bill Seaton, vice president and provost.

"I was also so impressed with our own Thomas Edison State College staff and the way everyone worked so hard and so well to make the signing ceremony and other official events a great success."

Esther Paist

Executive Assistant to the President

International Partnership Ceremony is a College-Wide Effort

Thomas Edison State College and the University of South Africa (UNISA), one of the largest distance learning universities in the world, are partnering to develop two joint degree programs and other college-level learning opportunities for adult students throughout the world.

The formal signing ceremony, which took place in Thomas Edison State College's Prudence Hall on May 16, was the culmination of a coordinated effort by staff from across the College community. **P. Henry van Zyl, PhD**, vice provost of the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning, along with **Lois Richardson, PhD**, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, and **Marcus Tillery, PhD**, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology, played a key role in developing the new partnership with UNISA.

The Office of the President, under the supervision of **Esther H. Paist**, executive assistant to the president and secretary to the Board of Trustees, coordinated arrangements from the delegation's arrival on Sunday, May 14 through Wednesday, May 17, and developed the overall agenda for the delegation's visit to the College. **Linda Vasbinder** and **Beverly Dash** played a key role assisting Paist in these efforts. **John P. Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs, also graciously provided transportation for the delegation to and from the College and other events.

"It was great to meet and work with the members of the UNISA delegation as we put together the agenda for the time they were here in Trenton," said Paist. "They are wonderful people! I was also so impressed with our own Thomas Edison State College staff and the way everyone worked so hard and so well to make the signing ceremony and other official events a great success."

The Office of Administrative Services, under the direction of **Mary Hack**, director of Administrative Services, coordinated room arrangements and the placement of banners, and insured that the overall look of the College campus was exceptional. The Office of Communications coordinated photography of the visit, media coverage of the signing and production of the bound Memorandum of Understanding highlighted in the signing event.

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2006 Staff Picnic @ Rosedale Park

More than 200 employees and their family members attended the 2006 Staff Picnic at Rosedale Park in Hopewell Township. Many thanks go out to the College Picnic Committee: Rebecca Behrendt, Heather Broadhurst, Nancy Broglie, Jeff Clark, Carla Colburn, Beth Dey, Gregg Dye, Janet Eickhoff, Mary Hack, David Hofstetzer, Debbie Lutz, Chris Miller, Mary Ann Morrone, Jennifer Montone, Tracy Novack, Estelle Reeves, Kim Rinz, Todd Siben, Linda Soltis (chair), Kelly Saccomanno, Nicole Smith and Denise Weber.



(Above) Debbie Lutz did an excellent job at the face painting station, which was a popular children's attraction.



(Above, from left) Saul Kremer, James Watson and Byron Wright enjoy sunshine and cool refreshments.



(Above) Gregg Dye and Mary Hack share a fun moment at the grill.

Focus on: Michelle Robinson



"The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live."
- Ethel Percy Andrus

For Senior Learner Services Representative Michelle Robinson, charity may begin at home, but it journeys far and wide.

This coming December, Robinson will mark her ninth year with Thomas Edison State College. During that time, she has fostered collaborative relationships that extend beyond the College to the surrounding community. In addition to her work in the Office of Learner Services, Robinson donates her time and talents to many College events and community outreach projects. She has assisted with Commencement since 1999, coordinated the College's school supply drive from 2003 to 2005 and continues to coordinate the AFT toy and charity drives and scholarship awards. Robinson also volunteers her skill in wrapping eye-popping gift baskets for Alumni and Foundation events and plays a fundamental role with the College Foundation Gala's Silent Auction.

"I believe that it's extremely important to cultivate positive relationships with our neighbors," she said. "Projects like the toy drive and the school supply drive promote a positive, caring relationship between the College and our community. I enjoy reaching across our College community to collaborate in special events. It's inspiring to get to know my co-workers and accomplish something significant for both the College and the community."

Robinson's enthusiasm for her work with students is nothing short of infectious. Her experience as an adult learner also helps her relate to students. She earned a certificate in management in May 2004 from Rutgers University Center for Management Development, where Robinson also completed her undergraduate degree. In May 2001, she received her Master of Arts degree in counseling from The College of New Jersey. Robinson has also completed graduate course work in counseling at Johns Hopkins University. She is a member of several national counseling and advising associations and has represented the College in a passel of national advisement and financial aid conferences.

"While Michelle strives for excellence in her work with students, she also finds time to foster a sense of community throughout Learner Services by helping to create a positive work environment," said Dr. Susan C. Davenport, vice provost for Learner Services. "I admire her willingness to take on projects outside of her day-to-day responsibilities and highly value her contributions to our team."

Robinson is a member of the Chi Sigma Iota Honor Society, the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and has served on the Board of Directors for the YWCA of Trenton. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Martin House Community for Justice Foundation in Trenton, N.J.

"I've worked diligently in developing myself professionally and try always to offer the students the best service possible" said Robinson. "It is my philosophy that our priority is to deliver high-quality and efficient service to our students and my education in counseling has provided a solid foundation in that endeavor."

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The delegation also had the opportunity to meet with staff from all areas of the College, including: **William J. Seaton**, vice president and provost; **John P. Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs; **Michael Scheiring**, vice president and treasurer; **Penelope S. Brouwer**, EDM, vice president for Planning and Research; **Susan C. Davenport**, PhD, vice provost for Learner Services; **David A. Miller Jr.**, associate vice president for Development; **Farouk A. Hassieb**, associate vice president and treasurer; **Joseph Youngblood II**, JD, PhD, associate vice president and director, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy; **Carron M. Albert**, associate vice president for Administration & Finance; **Drew W. Hopkins**, chief information officer; **Ann Marie Senior**, PhD, director, Office of Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment; **Robin Smith**, director of Community Affairs & Government Relations; **Garry M. Keel**, EdD, assistant director for Academic Advising; **Joe Guzzardo**, director of Communications; **Cynthia MacMillan**, director of Instructional Design and Development; **Sharon C. Smith**, registrar; **Sylvia G. Hamilton**, director of Marketing Outreach; **Juliette Punchello**, community college relationship manager; **Janet L. Eickhoff**, corporate relationship manager; **Maureen O. Woodruff**, director, Office of Test Administration; **James M. Owens**, director, Office of Financial Aid & Veterans' Affairs; **M. Jay Williams**, director of Budget & Analysis; **Christopher Stringer**, controller; **Emily J. Carone**, assistant director, Office of Learning Assessment; and Board of Trustees Chair **Ida Hammond**. Staff members from all divisions were also present at certain large-group meetings.

The new partnership focuses on the joint establishment of two baccalaureate programs: a Bachelor of Science in Energy Utility Technology degree, which is being developed and coordinated by Dr. Tillery; and a Bachelor of Environment degree, which is being developed and coordinated by Dr. Richardson. Through the partnership, the institutions will also share resources and expertise in the development of online courses and assessment models as well as collaborate on joint research programs on pedagogy and using communication technologies in distance learning.

"We're from different hemispheres and different cultures, but we share a commitment to providing high-quality programs for adult learners," said **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, president of Thomas Edison State College. "This partnership will give our students access to some of the finest course materials in the world and will enable UNISA students to take advantage of new degree programs relevant to both South Africa, and the entire African continent."

UNISA is a comprehensive, open learning and distance education institution with a student body of more than 250,000 students. Dr. Pruitt noted that continuing the College's relationship with UNISA is important as the university positions itself as an international leader in distance education programs.

"As post-apartheid South Africa continues to rebuild, we want to ensure our partnership can assist the development of the new South Africa," he said.



Esther Paist (left) with UNISA's Siza Magubane at the signing ceremony.



(From left) Dr. Lois Richardson, Dr. P. Henry van Zyl and Dr. Marcus Tillery following the signing ceremony.



(From left) David Miller, Dr. David Grossman and Michael Scheiring at the post-signing ceremony.

Staff Activities

Marie R. Power-Barnes, associate vice president of Marketing at Thomas Edison State College, was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award in recognition of professional excellence by the Rider University chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the communication honor society, and gave the keynote address at the group's annual induction ceremony in May.



Marie R. Power-Barnes



Dr. Judith Krom

Dr. Judith Krom, dean of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and **Dr. Esther Taitsman**, associate dean and director of the Graduate School, were panelists at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Higher Education Conference in Emmitsburg, Md., which took place in June. Dr. Krom and Dr. Taitsman presented on nontraditional undergraduate and graduate programs in homeland security and emergency disaster services.

Congratulations!

William Anders, Learner Services representative, and his wife, Ingrid, are the proud parents of a new baby boy.

William Elijah Anders was born on May 3 and weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21½ inches.

Farewell

As most of my colleagues now know, I have retired from Thomas Edison State College as of July 1, 2006. My husband and I have relocated to another part of the country.

After 22 years of service at the College, and a collective 30 years with the state of New Jersey, I wanted to take a moment to bid farewell to my College family. It has been an honor to work with all of you and to have been a part of something so meaningful. I will take with me many fond memories of my days here, and I am looking forward to seeing the Thomas Edison State College name and logo making new headlines in the future.

Please keep in touch. I can still be reached at my Thomas Edison State College e-mail address: calbert@tesc.edu.

Sincerely,

Carron M. Albert,
Associate Vice President, Administration & Finance
Director of Human Resources



New Staff



Craig Wilson has been appointed as an admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions. Wilson is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Building and may be reached at extension 3010.



Dr. Bruce Biskin has been appointed director of Learning Assessment. Biskin is located on the 3rd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 2283.



Susan Fischer has been appointed as a program assistant in the Graduate School. Fischer is located on the 2nd floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 4330.



Roslyn Heyward has been appointed nursing diversity coordinator in the School of Nursing. Heyward is located on the 3rd floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 3267.



DeAnna Minus-Vincent has been appointed director corporate relations in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. Minus-Vincent is located on the 5th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2093.



Roxanne Globis has been appointed director of Alumni Affairs. Globis is located on the 5th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2090.

Capital Campus is produced by the Office of Communications.
To submit a story idea for the newsletter or for more information,
please contact Linda Soltis at extension 2065.