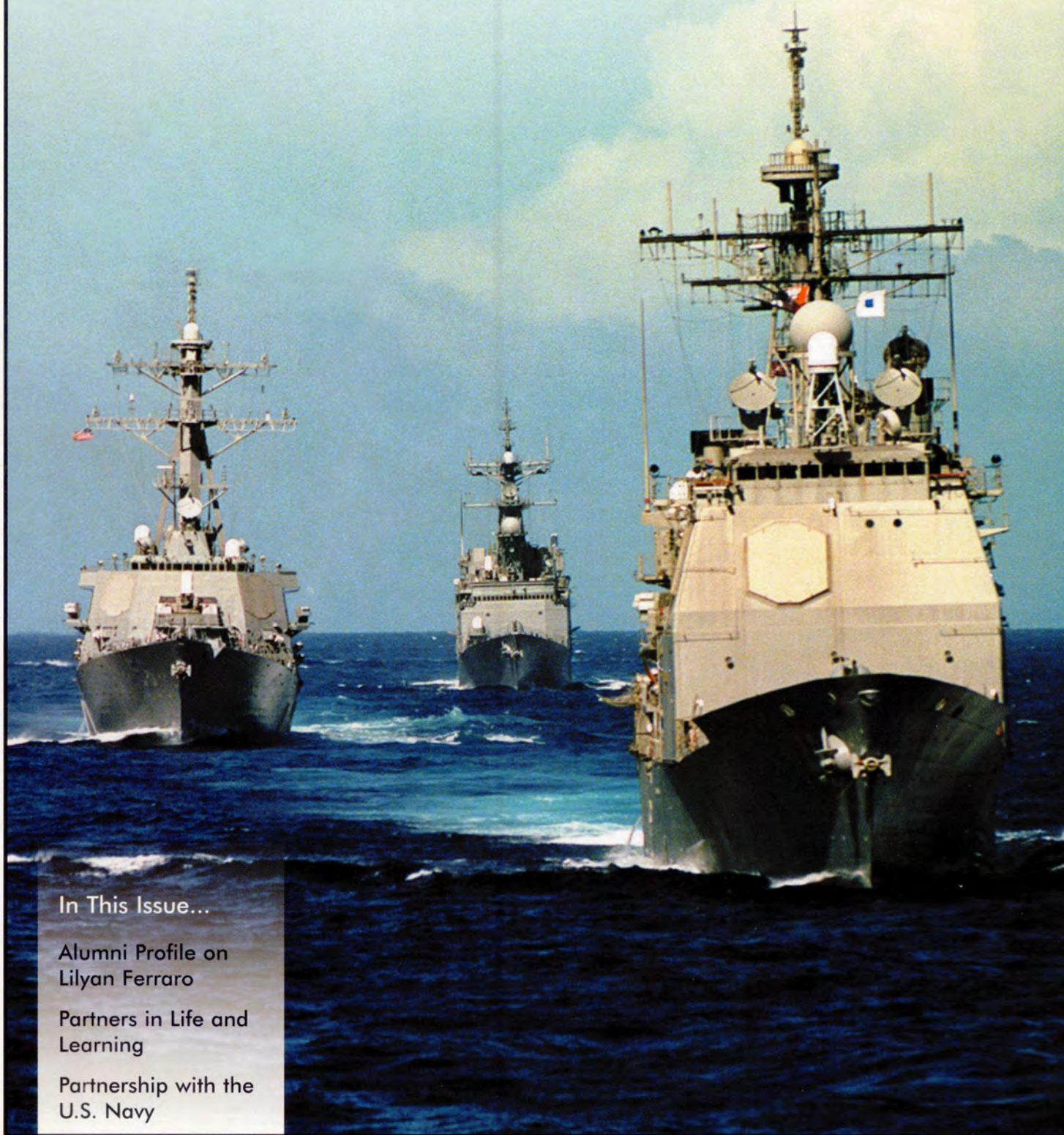


Summer 2001

# Invention

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE



## In This Issue...

Alumni Profile on  
Lilyan Ferraro

Partners in Life and  
Learning

Partnership with the  
U.S. Navy

# Table of Contents

Message from the President	1
ACE Partnership is a Win-Win Relationship	2
"Portable" Graduate Program Just the Right Fit for Capital Health Systems Director Lilyan Ferraro	3
Partners in Life and Learning	4
From Ship to Shore: Partnership with U.S. Navy Benefits Sailors Around the World	6
"Applause, Applause" (Alumni Updates)	8
Alumni Updates	10
Award Nominations	
Alumni Association Annual Meeting	
Another Successful Phonathon	
Alumni Association Offers Scholarship	
Show Your Thomas Edison State College Pride	
Hole In One!	11
Save the Date	
The Grande Ball—Trenton 2001	11



On the cover: Photo  
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

Middle photo on the  
Table of Contents, photo on  
page one and all photos  
on pages six and seven are  
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

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

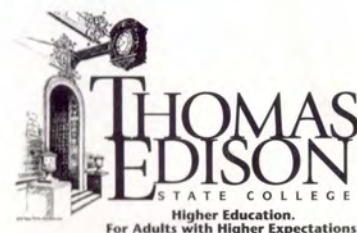
Patricia Memminger  
Director of Alumni Affairs

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

Kristine A. Brown  
Director of Communications

Karen E. Hume  
Director of Publications

Christina M. Yuncza  
Designer



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

In this issue of Invention, you will read about Thomas Edison State College's exciting partnership program with the U.S. Navy, the Navy College Rating Partnership Program (NCRPP). This program was created by the U.S. Navy in response to Sailors' needs for greater access to higher education. Thomas Edison State College was chosen as one of the premier partners of this program because of the pioneering role it has played for nearly three decades in developing military educational degree maps as well as career-related degrees with academic content grounded in military training and experience.

Throughout its history, Thomas Edison State College has been providing Navy service members with flexible educational opportunities, serving Navy personnel worldwide. The College is a long-standing member of the Servicemembers' Opportunities College (SOC) and is a SOC Network member institution. The College also holds a Memorandum of Understanding with Defense Activity for Nontraditional Educators (DANTES) as an external degree provider.

On a different note you can also read about some very unique married couples, who are Thomas Edison State College alumni. All four profiled couples share a common bond—the proud experience of earning a Thomas Edison State College degree. To read more about these couples, their interesting lives and how Thomas Edison State College made their dreams of a college degree a reality, turn to page eight.

Thomas Edison State College takes great pride in helping so many adult learners achieve their educational goals. As the College continues to evolve and grow, we will continuously seek new and unprecedented ways to provide the highest quality educational opportunities for our adult students—wherever they may be located.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President



# ACE Partnership is a Win-Win Relationship



Dan Negron, Janet Eickboff and Jim Ratigan make up the Corporate team of evaluators and contacts for Thomas Edison State College.

In the past decades of mergers and acquisitions, bull and bear markets, downsizing, rightsizing and a growing global marketplace, one thing has remained constant: the need for an educated workforce.

Thomas Edison State College has assisted corporations and other noncollegiate organizations with their education and training needs for more than 20 years. Despite a volatile corporate climate that has meant that change is constant, the College continues to offer a wide range of services that help support the educational needs of workers.

U.S. organizations spent \$38.75 billion in 1998 on formal training for professionals and managers, according to research reported in *Training* magazine. Thomas Edison State College helps organizations get the most benefit for this training by evaluating courses for potential college credit through the College Credit Recommendation Services (CCRS) program.

As the regional representative for the American Council on Education (ACE) program, Thomas Edison State College provides the leadership for ACE reviews, advising Human Resources Development (HRD) personnel, organizing teams of faculty consultants, supervising the evaluations, and reporting the results to ACE. ACE, in turn, publishes the results in its *National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs*, which is used nationwide by colleges and universities to determine credit awards. ACE is the nation's coordinating higher education association, with a membership of approximately 1,800 college and universities.

The CCRS program, formerly called PONS, has reviewed thousands of training courses for Fortune 500 corporations, associations, labor unions, government agencies, schools and training suppliers. Successful course reviews mean that employees can earn college credit for the education they receive on-the-job. This program not only adds value to corporate education, but can save an organization money by reducing its tuition reimbursement costs. In fact, Delta Air Lines, a new ACE sponsor, calculated that it saved about 20 percent of its tuition reimbursement costs in a recent 18-month period, according to a story on the ACE Web site.

Thomas Edison State College has administered this program in the New Jersey region for ACE for the last 20 years. Reviews have been conducted for approximately 100 organizations, including AT&T, the American Institute of Banking of New Jersey (now called the Center for Financial Training), Chubb Institute, DPT Consulting Group, Kepner-Tregoe, Inc., Lucent Technologies, New Jersey Department of Personnel, Showboat Casino Hotel, Technical Training Project, Inc. and the University Affiliated Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (now called the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities).

Jo Ann Robinson, director of corporate programs for ACE, believes the partnership between ACE and Thomas Edison State College is a "win-win" for everyone. "Long before learning alliances and partnerships were 'in style,' ACE and Thomas Edison State College formed a partnership to serve adult learners, business and industry, and colleges and universities. As one of the first affiliate offices of the ACE College Credit Recommendation Service, it serves as a model for the network of other affiliate offices throughout the country."

"Jim (James A. Ratigan, director of the corporate-higher education office at Thomas Edison State College) has been formally recognized for his valuable leadership contributions with the only 'permanent' appointment to the College Credit Recommendation Service Advisory Council. Through the years Jim and Dan Negron, (assistant director of the corporate-higher education office), have worked closely with ACE to help make earning a college degree possible for working adults. Both Jim and Dan have served as national coordinators on numerous ACE review teams."

Over the years, Ratigan has seen a shift in the focus of the organizations he has worked with on ACE reviews. "When the College first began working with ACE," Ratigan recalled, "organizations were only interested in having a specific course evaluated. They felt a successful recommendation lent credibility to their training program. As the College began working more closely with companies, and began a dialog of their interests and needs, more of a partnership was formed. This led to exploring other services the College could

# "Portable" Graduate Program Just the Right Fit for Capital Health Systems Director Lilyan Ferraro



When Lilyan Ferraro discovered Thomas Edison State College's online Master of Science in Management (MSM) program, it was "have laptop, will travel." Ferraro, director of organizational development with Capital Health Systems in Trenton, N.J., knew she'd found the program that would easily fit into her busy schedule.

"During the time I was in the program, my husband and I each had elderly parents living some hours away, and it was possible for me to make the visits and keep up with the school work and submit it on time," explained Ferraro, an R.N. who received her MSM from Thomas Edison State College in September 2000. "The portable online program offered me the opportunity to work at any time during the day or evening, and not be locked into having to attend set classes at times that might be inconvenient."

"I'm an organized person, and this program has helped further hone those skills, because to accomplish what one must in a day requires planning and commitment to follow through. The fact that the program is eighteen months—if one takes two courses at a time—was a time frame to which I could commit."

Ferraro knows a lot about commitment. In addition to her family responsibilities, her position at Capital Health System (CHS) is engrossing. CHS is a merged acute health care provider comprised of two former community hospitals. Ferraro's role has been to develop organizational change processes, monitor and assist in change, focusing on the employee population. This might be in the form of management development, leadership development, survey processes or team building. In ways that CHS can develop its employees, its commitment to the com-

munity and its customers, there are several aspects that include organizational development. This health system is the only one in the Mercer County area to have this role in-house. It is a function Ferraro had fulfilled within one of the two campuses prior to the merger, through sev-

eral change initiatives, including reengineering and the proposed consolidation of services post merger.

That's why the MSM degree program at Thomas Edison State College was so perfect for Ferraro. Designed to meet the needs of busy, working adults who hold management positions, the competency-based MSM degree program builds management proficiencies, develops analytical, problem-solving and decision-making abilities, and helps students apply these skills to simulated and actual management situations. Admission criteria

allows cohorts to be composed of a mix of students with diverse academic backgrounds, undergraduate majors and work experiences.

Ferraro praised that structural design, saying, "This program has offered me the opportunity to work with people from various professions both as students and faculty who live in different parts of the country, enhancing my own learning process. It has also helped me develop my computer skills, sometimes stretching what I already knew and learning from fellow students so that I could extrapolate this learning into my every day work world along with the knowledge gained in the courses."

Designed to meet the needs of busy, working adults who hold management positions, the competency-based MSM degree program builds management proficiencies, develops analytical, problem-solving and decision-making abilities, and helps students apply these skills to simulated and actual management situations.

# Partners in Life & Learning



Ronald Secrest '90, Associate in Science in Management; '91, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; and Susan Secrest '96, Bachelor of Arts

For Ron and Susan Secrest, flexible programs were the key to pursuing their degrees at Thomas Edison State College. "Flexibility in balancing work, family and college requirements was the main advantage for me," said Ron, manager of systems engineering & data center operations at George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Va. "I found Thomas Edison State College's programs to be innovative and forward-thinking when compared to traditional degree programs at local schools."

Susan, a sales associate for Angel's Hallmark in Stafford, Va., added, "For me, flexibility was the greatest advantage of the Thomas Edison State College program. "Ron, who

learned about Thomas Edison State College from an Extended Studies counselor at GMU, began his education with the College in 1988. Susan's pursuit of her Thomas Edison State College degree began three years after Ron had graduated. She credits his enthusiasm with inspiring her. "Ron's love of his studies definitely rubbed off on me," she noted. "When I reached a point in my life where I knew I was ready to expand my horizons, Ron's knowledge of the college education process made it very easy for me to slide right into school myself."

The pursuit of education for Ron was a combination of personal accomplishment, career advancement and to satisfy his scholarly interests. Since graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Ron has gone on to receive a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree from Mary Washington College (1995), a graduate certificate in Technology Management from Capitol College (1997) and a

Master of Science degree in Systems Management from Capitol College (2000).

"My degree has helped me in that everything I learned has become a part of who I am," Susan explained. "My knowledge acquired in school is now incorporated into my personality. In that way, my degree will always help me in everything I do."

Both Ron and Susan value their Thomas Edison State College degrees. Ron noted, "My degree has helped my career through the knowledge I've gained from the various management and information technology courses."

The Secrests, who live in Stafford, Va., have two adult children. Kevin, the oldest, holds a BS degree in Accounting Information Systems from Virginia Tech and is currently employed as an Information Systems Analyst with the US General Accounting Office in Washington, DC. His younger brother Mark works for Weis Markets in Pa.



Lorri Cefalone '96, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and Ron Cefalone '99, Bachelor of Arts

An education at Thomas Edison State College is becoming a family tradition for Lorri and Ron Cefalone. In fact it was Lorri's brother Robert Stemmer and his wife Lisa, both Thomas Edison State College graduates, who first told her about the College and its programs. Lorri enrolled shortly thereafter.

At the time, Ron was pursuing an associate degree at Mercer County Community College (MCCC) and was looking to further his education. Lorri gave him information about Thomas Edison State College and Ron decided to enroll in the College to pursue a bachelor's degree.



Patricia Tavis '93, Associate in Arts, and Richard Tavis '95, Associate in Science in Management

Patricia Tavis first learned about Thomas Edison State College when she was employed by GPU Nuclear Corporation at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in the early 1980s. It was the cooperative effort between GPU Nuclear and Thomas Edison State College, which encourages GPU employees to earn their degrees, that sparked her interest. She enrolled in 1987.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for us to take courses at our own pace and in our own time," said Lorri, a data coordinator in clinical research for Covance, Inc. "We both attended MCCC for associate degrees and were looking to pursue baccalaureate degrees. We felt Thomas Edison State College was a great way to go—both for personal accomplishment as well as career advancement."

Ron, who works for the State of New Jersey, Juvenile Justice Commission as a senior youth worker in aftercare/parole services, added, "We enjoyed attending Thomas Edison State College together. We worked together and by doing so we each accomplished our goals—a bachelor's degree."

Richard, who enrolled in 1991, noted, "The main advantages Thomas Edison State College offered were flexibility and credit for past courses taken. It would have been very difficult for us to complete a degree through a conventional college with the work and family demands we have."

The Tavis family returned to college for a number of reasons. Richard, who is employed by Pepperidge Farm, Inc., as manager of retail operations for the New York Metro area, returned for career advancement. After receiving his degree, Richard was promoted to sales training manager, the position he held before his current position. Patricia, who graduated from the Liberal Arts/Executive Secretarial Program at the Katharine Gibbs School in 1976, went back to college to expand her career options. "We both also wanted the satisfaction and achievement of earning a college degree," Patricia noted. "We also strongly believe in education for education's sake."

Ron also operates a small business, Sports Official Supplies which provides umpire and referee apparel and embroidery/screen printing items for promotional needs, earned his degree in social science/history. Lorri, who has been with Covance, Inc., for more than 10 years, explained that her bachelor degree with a specialization in marketing "has definitely helped me grow within this company and has provided a world of opportunity."

The Cefalones live in Ewing Township, N.J., with their new baby daughter, Peyton Carmela, who was born on March 15.

The Tavis family includes Richard, 23, of Lincoln Park, N.J. (Richard's son), a recent graduate of Rider University with a degree in economics and finance. Richard is employed as a financial planner. Shaun, 23, of Woodbridge, N.J. (Patricia's son), is a graduate of The Cittone Institute with a diploma in computer programming. Shaun is employed by Comcast Online. Still living at home in Howell, N.J., are their children Ryan, 9, Christian, 5, and Samantha, 4. Samantha was adopted from India in September 2000.

Patricia, who is central regional associate with New Jersey Statewide Parent to Parent, holds memberships on Executive Board of the Parent Advisory Council for Special Education in Howell school district, the Autism Society of America and Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (two of the Tavis children are affected by autism). She noted, "I believe my college degree has helped me cope with the challenges of raising children with autism and has set me on a rewarding career path where I am able to help others and advocate more effectively for my children and others with disabilities."

"We are grateful to Thomas Edison State College for the opportunity it afforded us to be able to earn our degrees despite the demands of work and our family. Without Thomas Edison State College, we doubt we would have been able to do it," said Richard.

# From Ship to Shore:

## Partnership with U.S. Navy Benefits Sailors Around the World

For nearly three decades, Thomas Edison State College has served armed forces personnel worldwide by providing flexible educational opportunities. As a result of its long-standing commitment of providing access to educational options for military personnel, Thomas Edison State College has been chosen as a partner college for the U.S. Navy's new Navy College Rating Partnership Program. The program offers associate and baccalaureate degrees related to a Sailor's occupational rating. The College will deliver courses to Sailors wherever they are stationed using various

distance learning options.

The Navy College Rating Partnership Program was created by the U.S. Navy in response to Sailors' needs for greater access to higher education. Thomas Edison State College was chosen as one of the premier partners of this program because of the pioneering role it has played in developing military educational degree maps as well as career-related degrees with academic content grounded in military training and experience.

There are 15 other institutions of higher learning that were selected as Navy partners from among hun-

dreds nationwide. The announcement of the partnership program was made at "Presidents' Day," held at Atlantic Fleet Command in Norfolk, Va. Thomas Edison State College President Dr. George A. Pruitt attended the event, along with presidents from the other partner institutions.

Dr. Pruitt said, "Throughout its history, Thomas Edison State College has maintained its strong commitment to military personnel. As a premier partner in the Navy College Rating Partnership Program, we will supply Sailors around the world with high quality educational opportunities especially tailored to meet their degree completion needs."

To support students earning degrees at a distance, Thomas Edison State College provides a complete network of resources to serve military students worldwide. Through the Navy College Rating Partnership Program, courses are delivered in four ways: Guided Study, Guided Study with E-mail, online courses and e-Pack courses.

With Guided Study and Guided Study with E-mail courses, students work on



their own, at their own location, using texts, study guides and other course materials. Students complete specific lesson assignments, and take mid-term and final exams. A faculty mentor is assigned to each student enrolled in Guided Study courses to answer course-related questions, grade assignments and exams.

Online courses are similar to Guided Study courses, but they are electronically delivered. Students use a computer and modem to connect to instructional sessions where they participate in group discussions and receive instruction from a faculty mentor. E-mail is utilized to send and respond to course assignments.

e-Pack courses allow students to take diagnostic chapter quizzes online, as they study their assigned textbook. The quizzes provide real-time feedback that tells which topics need additional study, and are available 24 hours a day. When the student has passed all of the quizzes, he or she schedules a proctored comprehensive examination, which is written. Because the student prepares for the examination with no faculty mentor or written assignments, the quizzes provide preparation guidance for learners who are not comfort-

able studying completely on their own.

All of these credit-earning options are beneficial to Sailors participating in the Navy College Rating Partnership Program because they allow for flexibility. Sailors can study when and where it is convenient for them, whether they are on a military base in the U.S. or on an aircraft carrier stationed halfway around the world.

Dr. Pruitt added, "At Thomas Edison State College, we want to help Sailors make the goal of a college education a reality. Because of this unique partnership with the Navy, Sailors can complete a degree at their own pace from anywhere in the world. I am convinced that once Sailors have completed their degrees, they'll agree with other Thomas Edison State College graduates that the investment was indeed worthwhile."

To learn more about Thomas Edison State College and its association with the Navy College Rating Partnership Program, visit [http://www.tesc.edu/prospective/military/navy\\_college](http://www.tesc.edu/prospective/military/navy_college), call (888) 442-8372 or e-mail [info@tesc.edu](mailto:info@tesc.edu). Sailors may even apply online to Thomas Edison State College utilizing the special Navy College Rating Partnership Program Application on the Web site cited above.



**Above:** Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, sits at the helm of the USS Enterprise during the President's Day kickoff of the Navy College Rating Partnership Program held in Norfolk, VA in November, 2000.

**Right:** Photos courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

# "Applause, Applause"

## Thomas Edison State College Graduate Offers Respite to Caregivers

**John McNamara**  
1981, ASM

Alumnus John McNamara and his wife, Rosemary, have found their niche in life and our touching the lives of their neighbors.

John and Rosemary moved to Cary, North Carolina in 1993, leaving their immediate family behind. Rosemary's mother had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and could no longer care for herself so she made the move to Cary with her daughter and son-in-law. For the next three years John and Rosemary cared for his mother-in-law in their home, finding it difficult to obtain help with the daily care of Rosemary's mother. Eventually they found a companion to stay with Rosemary's mother while they went out for an evening.

After Rosemary's mother passed away in 1996, John and Rosemary knew they wanted to make a difference in someone else's life, the way the companion did for them. With personal experience behind them, the McNamara's knew there was a need for this type of caregiving and knew this was their calling.

Now John and Rosemary volunteer their time as a team, providing respite to the same family two to three times a month. Each time they visit the family they allow the caregivers to leave the home without worrying about their loved one. This enables the caregivers to do the simplest things, such as go shopping, go to the doctor or just to spend some time alone.

John says, "this program is very rewarding for us. We receive more than we give. It is a joy for use to give a caregiver some time when they do not have to worry about caring for their loved one." By volunteering their time John and Rosemary are able to reflect upon the wonderful memories they have of his mother-in-law and feel great about what they are doing for others. They highly recommend volunteering so you too can help someone and receive more than you give.

## Thomas Edison State College Alumnus Excels With His Degree

**David Triggs**  
1989, BS

David has recently written a book entitled, *Watertown*. Triggs graduated with a degree in environmental science and has been an investigator for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the past 12 years. He also serves as chairman of the Franklin Township Environmental Commission and is a frequent guest speaker at Rutgers University. David attributes the success of earning his degree to the flexibility afforded him by Thomas Edison State College.

**David J. Archibald**  
1985, BA  
David attended seminary at the University of the South, Sewanee and earned his MDiv in 1989. He is currently a priest in the Diocese of Tennessee.

**Susan M. Archibald**  
1994, BSHS  
Susan received her MS in Community Health Administration and Wellness Promotion from California College for Health Sciences in 1999 and is currently working on a PhD in Human Services from Capella University.

**Lori Bannach**  
1999, MSM  
Lori and her husband, Keith, welcomed a bouncing baby boy on October 16, 2000. Michael Joseph entered the world weighing 6 lbs., 8 ozs. and was 18" long.

**David Bengtson**  
1994, ASM  
1996, BSBA  
David accepted a position as general manager of Commercial Tire Network, LLC, located in Norwalk, CA, in December, 2000 completing his degrees at Thomas Edison State College had given David the desire and discipline to pursue his MBA from the University of Phoenix which he completed in March, 2001.

**Roxanne J. Cintron**  
1995, BA  
After 24 years, Roxanne earned her bachelor's degree from Thomas Edison State College while living in Long Beach, California. She earned her masters degree at St. Peter's College and is currently working as a Reading Specialist for the West New York Board of Education while writing a children's book.

**Mark E. Ellis**  
2001, BA  
In addition to graduating Thomas Edison State College in January, Mark welcomed his first grandchild, Margaret Eden Richards to the world on January 8, 2001. Mark is currently pursuing a master's degree in religion at Excelsior College in Albany, NY.

**Ken Hansen**  
1987, AA  
1998, BA  
Ken recently completed a master's program in Internet Engineering at The Graduate Center of Marlboro College in Brattleboro, Vt. He completed the program by attending classes in Vermont on alternate weekends over a 12-month period. Professionally, Ken has just been promoted to the position of group leader in the Validation Department at Interactive Clinical Technologies, Inc. in Lambertville, N.J.

**Mark Meara**  
1998, BA  
Mark Meara has been featured as one of New Jersey's up and comers in *Business News* "40 under 40". He is currently co-CEO of the Princeton Internet Group, (PlnG) an Internet consulting and Web solutions firm in Princeton.

**Marcyanna Millet**  
1983, AA  
In November 2000, Marcyanna achieved the rank of Shodan, first degree black belt in Kobayashi Shorin-Ryu. The test consisted of various demonstrations including such things as kicks and punches, a creativity Kata (forms) of 24 moves which must be defended and explained, a question and answer session, jujitsu and self-defense, shadow boxing, a written paper essay, sparring, and breaking a cinder block using a hand technique. Marcyanna is very proud of her accomplishment as well as her five grandchildren, age 4 to 19.

**Donna Taylor**  
1999, BA  
In January 2000, Donna began her life long dream of owning her own business. She has an online store ([www.figurinesandthings.com](http://www.figurinesandthings.com)) which sells gifts, collectibles and both home and office decorations. She is also planning on taking some certificate courses at the College.

**James Tucker**  
2001, BA  
After graduating from Thomas Edison State College in March 2001 with a BA degree, James Tucker was promoted to supervisor of environmental services at the Sands Casino in Atlantic City. James is currently seeking a degree in vocational rehabilitation at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ (UMDNJ).

## "Applause, Applause" Information for *Invention*

**New Job? Promotion?  
Award? Marriage? Baby?**  
*If it's news to you, it's news to us!*

To better serve 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 and we'll include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*. Please tell us how your experience at Thomas Edison State College changed your life. To make it easy for you to contact us, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor, 101 W. State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608; fax it to (609) 984-1376; or e-mail your good news to [akrum@tesc.edu](mailto: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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Former Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Information for *Invention*:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Alumni Update

## Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the three annual alumni awards. The awards will be presented at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2001. If you need more information call the Alumni Office at (609) 633-8592 for an application or visit the "Alumni and Friends" section of the College's Web site at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu).

- *Outstanding Professional Achievement*
- *Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association*
- *Outstanding Service to Society*

## Speaker's Bureau

The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs is in the process of forming a Speaker's Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau will consist of alumni who are interested in speaking to various audiences, including potential students, on the College's behalf. An orientation and materials will be provided to interested alumni.

If you are a confident speaker and enjoy talking about your college experience, please call the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 609-984-1588.

## Alumni Association Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. in the College's Townhouses. All students and alumni are welcome to attend.

## Another Successful Phonathon

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association Phonathon was a huge success, closing in on the goal of \$105,000. If you still haven't contributed to the College, there is still time. You can visit the College's Web site at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu) and make a pledge or donation online.

## Alumni Association Offers Scholarship

The Alumni Association will award a scholarship to a current student equivalent to one year's enrollment tuition (not to be confused with comprehensive tuition) for either an in-state or out-of-state student. For more information, visit the "Alumni & Friends" section of our Web site at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu) or call the Alumni Office at 609-633-8592. The scholarship will be presented at the Alumni Association's Annual Meeting on October 13, 2001. Applications must be postmarked by August 31, 2001.

## Show Your Thomas Edison State College Pride

Don't forget there are a variety of Thomas Edison State College customized products available in our online Gift Shop. Why not check out the selection of mugs, tee shirts, hats, key chains, sweat-shirts and more all available for purchase online? To access the Gift Shop, visit the "Alumni & Friends" section of our Web site at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu).



## A Hole in One!

The Thomas C. Streckewald Seventh Annual Golf Classic was held on Monday, June 18th at the Cherry Valley Country Club in Skillman.

The winner of the Alumni Association raffle was Gregory Bird, MSM 1991, and the alternate name picked was Ron Roma (student), BSBA 2002.

Please look for more highlights in the next issue of Invention.



From left to right: Dr. George Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison State College and John Thurber, vice president of public affairs.

# SAVE THE DATE!

# The Grande Ball

## TRENTON 2001

Tenth Annual  
Thomas Edison State College Foundation Gala

**Saturday,  
November 17, 2001**

The War Memorial Building  
Trenton, N.J.

Maria Imbalzano & Margaret Hoisington  
Gala Co-Chairs

Students are admitted to Thomas Edison State College's MSM program three times a year and go through the program as a cohort, meaning students move through the program as a group. Nearly all the course work in this 36 semester-hour program is completed using the College's online courses. Two residency experiences are required—a weekend orientation at the beginning of the program and a weekend residency at the end. These residencies are held in the vicinity of Trenton, N.J.

Learning in the MSM program occurs via online classes where students have the opportunity to apply theory to practice. Students have a chance to examine the knowledge they have acquired in the workplace and exchange ideas with fellow students and faculty via online discussions. These discussions are asynchronous, thus allowing students to participate any time, day or night, so as not to interfere with work or personal schedules.

"I feel that even though our cohort did not see each other in person except at the residencies, long lasting relationships were formed, and we supported each other throughout the entire process," Ferraro explained. "One person's expertise would help another student, and each person added to the whole. I believe the fact that the cohorts are relatively small enhances that feeling. I certainly did not feel isolated from the others because we did not meet face-to-face each week. Four of us worked on our thesis together, one from New Jersey, myself from Pennsylvania, one from Florida, and our fourth person, although based in New Jersey would travel for months at a time all over the United States and Canada. And it worked!"

The MSM degree program was developed to prepare adults for change by building the competencies needed in today's fast-paced technologically changing work environment. "Students are attracted to our program to prepare for the future," noted Dr. Sonja Eveslage, associate vice president for new programs and dean of Graduate Studies at Thomas Edison State College. "Many accomplished individuals are coming back to school to expand their skills while earning an advanced degree. Many seasoned managers and executives with years of experience prefer the versatility of the MSM degree, which has broad applicability and is not industry specific."

Ferraro stressed that the Thomas Edison State College MSM program is a "doable" one. "It is definitely a commitment of time and energy, but the various courses have all been ones that have been value added in my work place. I think my cohort members would agree with me from all that I have seen. Because the program is asynchronous, it far better

meets the needs of the students who do not want to be tied to set class times."

Although her background is in nursing, Ferraro wasn't working in the profession when she pursued her undergraduate degree and felt that a baccalaureate degree in healthcare administration would be more applicable to her needs. She received her Bachelor of Science in Professional Arts degree in 1997 from St. Joseph's College in Maine, through its distance education program.

She had always planned to have at least a master's degree, and soon out of nursing school she attended classes at the University of Pennsylvania toward her undergraduate degree. She later graduated from the clinical school of the Family Institute of Philadelphia, specializing in family therapy, because her specialty was in psychiatry. Ferraro was one of the first students admitted to the clinical school without the prerequisite master's degree because of the theoretical knowledge and clinical experience she had gained prior to entry. This was something, she revealed, she was—and continues to be—quite proud of. Ferraro knew, however, that she needed to finally have the MSM degree to further document her knowledge. "This would make me more marketable; both in my present organization and if I ever chose to look elsewhere."

"I absolutely believe this degree will continue to help me in my career growth," she added. "I enjoyed the undergraduate work, but wanted to develop my critical thinking skills that were more focused to my career. The MSM has certainly provided that opportunity. Each course was designed to dovetail with others, so that they became pieces of a whole picture. This was most helpful to me. Each course, although quite distinct, was a stretch in learning, but the theme of management and all the facets of it have been a tremendous growth process. I have taught management and supervisory development courses in continuing education in my work, and this program has just moved what was a solo performance into an orchestra!"

At home in Levittown, Pa., with husband Ron, who is an assistant director at Resources for Human Development in Philadelphia, a mental health provider organization, Ferraro enjoys reading, walking and cross-stitch. "Now that I might have more free time," said Ferraro, who has two grown daughters, "I am looking forward to developing more choices for hobbies, and my interest in travel and music." She'll begin that new resolve by celebrating her commencement from Thomas Edison State College with a trip to Europe this spring.



Sue Wasnesky, '00, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and Tom Wasnesky, student, Bachelor of Arts

Sue Wasnesky, the first in her family to learn about Thomas Edison State College, decided to return to college because her unfinished degree was 'hanging' over her. "I do not like to have unfinished things in my life, so personal accomplishment was my motivation to return to college." Tom, a graduate of Brookdale Community College (BCC) with an associate in computer science, was at Monmouth University at the time. "After seeing the diversity offered by Thomas Edison State College, not to mention the reduction in cost, I transferred."

Each found different reasons for pursuing their education through Thomas Edison State College.

"The College's Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning gave me the ability to take classes that were not offered anywhere else," explained Sue, who works in the mailing list services department at Access Publishing in Ocean, N.J. "I was able to take part of my management requirements as a 'whole unit' (three 3-credit courses). Not only did it make more sense because of the subject overlapping, but it was a great feeling of accomplishment when nine credits were completed."

Until two years ago, Sue worked on Wall Street for 25-plus years in investment and finance. She noted, "When I started in 1974, a college degree was not that important, and as I moved up the ranks just the fact I was attending school seemed to be enough. At my current job, having a degree was an incentive for them to pay me more money even though I was not fully trained in the position for which I was hired."

Tom's story is quite different. "I was in the construction field when the economy turned down, and the state offered me the chance to start a new career. In 1993, I chose computers and began attending Brookdale. I'd never been to college before, but adjusted easily, making personal achievement my goal. Not long after, the Department of Defense hired me, and my schooling has played, and will continue to play a huge roll in my career advancement."

Tom, a computer scientist at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., is currently taking a Thomas Edison State College course as well as a class at BCC. "I'm on schedule to graduate in July. My education and the degree are very important to my job and my career. Upon completion of my Thomas Edison State College bachelor's degree, I will receive a promotion and a bonus."

The Wasneskys live in Matawan, N.J. Tom has two daughters—Jo Ann, a public relations manager, and husband Paul, a schoolteacher, have a 15-month-old son, Pauly, making Tom and Sue grandparents. Jennifer, a student with a knack for computers like her father, is taking courses for the Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) certification.

Coming from families with many siblings, Sue extolled, "Between both of our families, Tommy and I are the only two of our 'generation' that have not only attended college, but graduated."

provide to assist employees seeking higher education."

Thomas Edison State College's largest client over the years has been AT&T, for which 427 courses have been reviewed. Ratigan points to the changes within AT&T over the last two decades to demonstrate how partnerships must change to accommodate organizations that change. In 1979, the College conducted its first AT&T evaluation at the AT&T Technical Education Center in Piscataway, N.J. Soon, evaluations followed at the School of Business and Technology in Somerset, N.J. and NOET (the AT&T Network Operations and Engineering Training Center) in Bedminster, N.J. When Lucent Technologies was created, Thomas Edison State College also began reviewing its courses.

As the partnership developed, it expanded to other areas. When the College set out to develop its first graduate-level degree program, the Master of Science in Management, it did so with AT&T as a partner. The program's first group of students was composed of AT&T managers recruited and admitted to the program with corporate support. Their advice and feedback were sought throughout the development and implementation of the program, which continues today.

Another Thomas Edison State College staff member available to assist corporations with their education and training needs is Janet Eickhoff, the College's corporate relationship manager in the Office of Marketing and College Relations. Eickhoff regularly visits corporate sites to see how the College can help meet their training and education needs. Recent visits include Public Service Electric and Gas, Verizon, Prudential, Trump Casino, AT&T, Ford and the NUI Corporation (formerly Elizabethtown Gas).

Eickhoff has been working with the Boeing Corporation, the largest aerospace company in the world, at its McGuire Air Force Base location to help a group of boom flight operators

complete college degrees. Following an initial presentation, a program of courses and workshops were set up that will lead to graduation in July for the group.

One of the longest standing relationships the College has enjoyed is with the Technical Training Project (TTP)—an ACE sponsor since 1988. TTP, a consortium of 10 pharmaceutical companies in the New Jersey-New York area, is a private nonprofit organization that offers entry-level laboratory training to the unemployed or underemployed. TTP was created in the mid-60's as an effort for the pharmaceutical industry to become more socially responsible, but has proven to be a solid business investment as more and more participants are trained for entry-level lab positions that the companies sometimes have difficulty filling. In addition to classes in math, chemistry, and biology, for example, students have the opportunity to work under a skilled professional in state-of-the-art laboratories at participating companies such as Johnson & Johnson and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

To date, more than 1,100 people have gone through the program; there is a job placement rate of 85 to 90 percent, depending on current market needs. Because the program has been reviewed by Thomas Edison State College for ACE, those who successfully complete the training can earn up to 29 college credits. William Holt, who is in his 30th year of directing the project, believes the program has opened doors for many people who might never have believed that college was possible for them. "I have seen people's lives change. There are a lot of success stories", he said.

Al Cottle, for example, was 19 when he entered a Manpower Training office in Newark, N.J. looking for a job. He was tested and interviewed for the Technical Training Project and admitted to the program.

His on-the-job training was at Merck 31 years ago, and he has been there ever since. (After completing the program, he had three job offers from pharmaceutical companies and chose to stay with Merck.) "It worked for me. I spent 10 years in the labs and have spent the last 21 in management. Currently, he is a senior lab services supervisor, managing a staff that supports the scientific staff.

Because he was able to earn college credits for his training, Cottle was encouraged to continue his education, and, over time, took courses at Essex County College and Kean University. He is currently enrolled in Thomas Edison State College's Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree program and hopes to finish soon.

"This partnership with corporations benefits us all," Ratigan stated. "We know that increasing the level of education of employees increases their productivity and performance. It's a win-win for the College and the organizations."

For further information on having training courses evaluated by the College Credit Recommendation Service, call the Office of Corporate-Higher Education Programs at (609) 633-6271 or e-mail Jim Ratigan at [corpinfo@tesc.edu](mailto:corpinfo@tesc.edu). To learn about the College's degree programs and other services available to organizations, contact Janet Eickhoff at (609) 984-3181.



Margie Phillips, newly appointed project manager-university degree programs for leadership and learning at AT&T, recently met with Jim Ratigan, director of corporate-higher education programs at Thomas Edison State College.