



Winter 2005

Invention

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE

IN THIS ISSUE

College News

College Announces Major
Academic Restructuring

Graduates Gather to Celebrate
32nd Annual Commencement

13th Annual Grande Ball—2004

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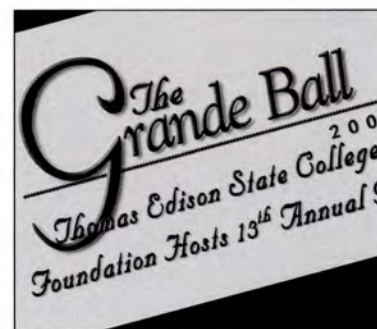
COLLEGE ANNOUNCES MAJOR ACADEMIC RESTRUCTURING



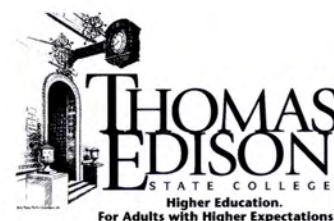
College Announces Major
Academic Restructuring



Graduates Gather to Celebrate
32nd Annual Commencement



The 13th Annual Grande Ball - 2004



A Message from the President



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

"Achievement" can be defined in many ways. James Allen, the late 19th-century author said, "The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream." We at the College have made it our priority to help our students achieve their educational goals. In this issue of *Invention*, we are pleased to bring you the stories of some of the many individuals who first dreamed of the achievement of these goals.

Commencement is always the highlight of the academic year at Thomas Edison State College. It is the tangible recognition of the achievement of dreams, as students march across the stage to receive their diplomas. It is a time for celebration of their hard work and dedication.

At this year's Commencement, we heard a special story of perseverance and commitment. Charles Schulz, who delivered the Response for Graduates address, spoke to his fellow graduates of his dream to earn his baccalaureate degree.

A Navy veteran, Schulz left college to join the service where he said his first education came at the "university of bombs and bullets." Like many of his fellow students, Schulz said that work and family responsibilities kept him from returning to a traditional college setting. Then he enrolled in Thomas Edison State College. This

year, after spending much time and effort, Schulz graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. Prior to the Commencement activities, he was inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda national honor society and was named an Arnold Fletcher scholar. In his speech, Schulz told the audience he now no longer had to skirt the issue of his academic credentials, and took pride and satisfaction in the achievement of his dream of having his college degree.

Each fall, the College's Alumni Association recognizes several individuals who have made significant contributions to the College and to society. Among those honored this year were members of the College family. Honorees profiled in this issue of *Invention* are Carla Tisdale-Walker, MSM '01, who was presented the Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association and the Outstanding Service to the Office of Alumni Affairs Awards. Rosa Lee Eickhoff received the Lifetime Achievement Award; Richard A. Sheeran, BA '91, and Janet Eickhoff were each honored with the Association's Professional Achievement Award; Lt. Col. Randolph S. Schwartz, BSBA '03, was honored with the Outstanding Service to Society Award; and Barry Pilla, BSHS '02, was recognized with the Thomas Edison Alumni Merit (TEAM) Award.

The Spirit of Edison Awards are bestowed at the annual Gala by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. This year's honorees are both distinguished in their fields and embody the Spirit of Edison. Brian M. Hughes, '92, '00, county executive of Mercer County, N.J., was the recipient of the Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award. Reginald E. Davis, Northern Banking Group executive for Wachovia, received the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and friends. They are the achievers who dare to dream. Please enjoy reading their stories in this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

College Announces Naming of Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

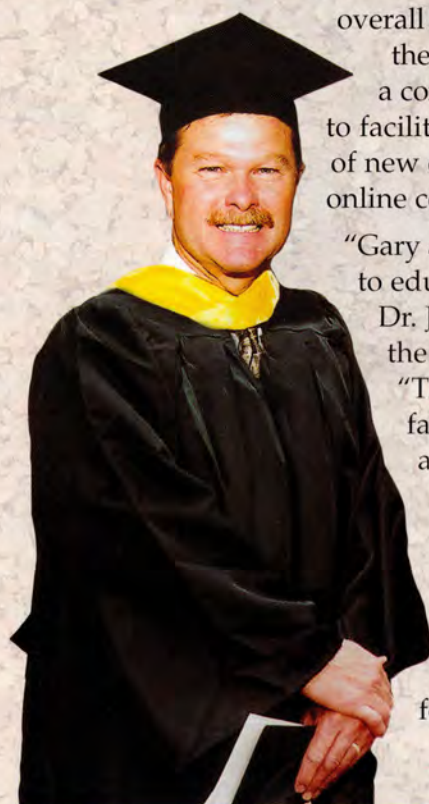
Thomas Edison State College announces the establishment of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The announcement was made by Thomas Edison State College President George A. Pruitt at the Curves annual convention in Las Vegas on Nov. 12, 2004. The honor is the first bestowed by the College and recognizes the significant support of Gary and Diane Heavin, who have played a key role in the creation of the College's cutting-edge academic programs in Fitness and Wellness Services.

The Heavins, of Waco, Texas, are internationally known in the health and fitness community as the founders of Curves International, Inc., the world's largest fitness center franchise. Gary Heavin is an alumnus of the College, having received a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree in 2002.

The Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences administers three undergraduate degree programs: the Associate in Science in Public and Social Services, the Bachelor of Science in Human Services and the Bachelor of Arts. Students may choose from 22 areas of study, including gerontology, administration of justice, psychology and emergency disaster management. The School's academic programs in Fitness and Wellness Services were developed in 2002 through an academic partnership between Curves and the College. The partnership, funded at a cost of \$237,500, established certificate and associate degree programs in Fitness and Wellness Services.

"The Heavins have been extremely generous to the College," said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost of Thomas Edison State College. "Their support has enabled us to create innovative programs in the health services area and position the College as a leader in academic programs for fitness and wellness. We are pleased to name the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences in their honor."

The couple has also made a \$2 million gift to the College to establish the Gary and Diane Heavin Family Endowed Fund (see related story on Page 12). The endowment supports the development of new distance education programs and courses, and fosters



overall excellence. Funding from the endowment will provide a continuing stream of income to facilitate the development of new degree programs and online courses.

"Gary and Diane's commitment to education is laudable," said Dr. Judith S. Krom, dean of the newly named school.

"Their generosity has facilitated new options for adults studying in the human services field. We look forward to the continued growth of the Heavin School as we develop additional programs and services for our students."

About Curves

Curves offers a 30-minute workout that combines strength training and sustained cardiovascular activity through safe and effective hydraulic resistance. Curves also offers weight management counseling featuring a breakthrough, scientifically-proven method to raise metabolic rates and end the need for perpetual dieting. Gary Heavin, Curves' founder and CEO, is the author of several books, including *The New York Times* best-sellers "Curves: Permanent Results Without Permanent Dieting" and "Curves On the Go."

Curves franchises are 100 percent independently owned and operated. With more than 8,000 locations and 3 million members worldwide, Curves is the world's largest fitness center franchise. For more information or to find the Curves nearest you, please visit: www.curvesinternational.com.

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

The Thomas Edison State College Board of Trustees recently welcomed two new members, Rev. J. Stanley Justice and Rosita Saez. Both were appointed to



Rev. J. Stanley Justice



Rosita Saez

six-year terms by former New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey. The 11-member Board of Trustees holds the College and its affiliate, the New Jersey State Library, in trust for the public, representing the public interest in governance, policies, and development of the College and Library. Members of the Board include business, civic, nonprofit and community leaders.

Justice is the pastor of the Mt. Zion AME Church in Trenton, N.J. He is a graduate of Delaware State University in Dover, Del., where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. He received a master's degree from the University of Delaware, Newark, Del., and has studied theology at the Yale Theological Seminary in New Haven, Conn.

Active in community affairs, Justice organized the Mt. Zion Neighborhood Development and Economic Corporation. He is chair of the education committee of the New Jersey Black Ministers Council and CEO of the New Jersey Human Development Corporation-State Commission on HIV/AIDS. He is the recipient of the Religion Award from the Trenton NAACP, the Bo Rietta, Inc. Award and the Mercer County, N.J., HIV Consortium Award.

Saez is senior vice president and regional manager of Community Relations for Wachovia. She is a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa., where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in social work.

A community activist, Saez has been recognized for her advocacy and support of the Puerto Rican community and participates in various citywide task forces that address issues of interest and importance to that community. Saez also serves on the Corporate Advisory Board for the National Society of Hispanic MBAs and is co-chairperson of the Central East Area Resource Board for the School District of Philadelphia. She was recently recognized as one of the 50 Best Women in Business in Pennsylvania.

KEVIN RALPH APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Kevin M. Ralph of Lawrenceville, N.J., has been appointed director of Development at Thomas Edison State College.

In making the announcement, John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College, said, "Kevin brings a wealth of development expertise to this important position. We are very excited that he has joined our staff and look forward to working with him to increase the external support for the work of the College."

Ralph brings more than a decade of experience in educational development to the College. Most recently, Ralph was the director of Major Gifts for Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J. There he managed a major gifts staff as part of Rider's successful \$55 million capital campaign.

Previously, Ralph was involved with two other successful capital campaigns. As executive director of the Tiger Athletic Fund at Towson University in Towson, Md., Ralph was involved in a successful \$17.5 million capital campaign. During his tenure as associate director of Development and Special Gifts at Drew University in Madison, N.J., he solicited major gifts from alumni and other individuals, which ultimately resulted in \$76 million for the university's capital campaign.

In his role at Thomas Edison State College, Ralph is primarily responsible for the development and management of the College's annual and major giving programs, two principal fundraisers for the College and serves as the liaison between the College and its Foundation. He also works to identify potential sources of support for the College such as corporations, foundations, alumni, students, staff and friends of the institution.

Ralph earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Drew University, and has pursued graduate work at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Florham Park, N.J., and New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, N.J.

COLLEGE ANNOUNCES MAJOR ACADEMIC RESTRUCTURING

Citing increased student enrollment and a growing demand for services, Thomas Edison State College has announced a major academic restructuring of its Division of Academic Affairs.

The College's academic programs have been reorganized into schools. Previously, all undergraduate academic programs were under the leadership of a single academic dean. Each of the new schools now falls under the stewardship of its own dean. A new Office of Academic Partnerships & Outreach has been established, as well as a new School of Professional and Continuing Studies. The development of all the College's credit-bearing products will be consolidated within the Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL), and the Office of the Registrar will now fall under the auspices of the Office of Learner Services.

The College initiated the changes as a result of the profound growth experienced in many areas. "Both the growth and the diversification of our student body required a thoughtful response," said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College. The College, with more than 11,000 students and approximately 4,400 active duty military students participating in special partnerships with the armed forces, has achieved

its five-year enrollment growth plan two years ahead of schedule.

The College has experienced growth in enrollment numbers, and its students are taking advantage of more learning opportunities while they are enrolled in the College. "We have seen annual double-digit increases in the number of course enrollments in the College," said Seaton. "This means that more students are taking more classes than in the past."

According to Seaton, the number of course delivery methods has also increased. "We've had

A NEW OFFICE OF ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, AS WELL AS A NEW SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING STUDIES.

historic diversification in the kind of e-learning methods offered by the College," he said. The College

was one of the first to offer e-Pack® courses and is currently developing state-of-the-art portable electronic courses for sailors studying through the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE). This partnership program allows sailors to experience a challenging education while on sea duty assignments.

The academic restructuring will allow Thomas Edison State College to refine and refocus its efforts on providing quality educational opportunities for adult students. "This restructuring will allow us to focus on continued growth in course development while maintaining a quality academic experience," said Seaton. "Our long-range plan is to expand our degree offerings in the graduate area and to continue to improve our historic role in the assessment of adult learning."

The vice provost and dean of the newly created School of Professional and Continuing Studies is Dr. David Michael Grossman, who assumed his duties in September 2004. He comes to Thomas Edison State College from Florida International University, Miami, Fla., where he was dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

"As the College has expanded partnerships with the military and corporate America, it revealed a need for educational offerings that fall outside the traditional degree structure," said Seaton. "To address



Mary Ellen Caro



Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage



Dr. David Michael
Grossman



Dr. Judith S. Krom



Dr. Susan McMullen
O'Brien



Dr. Lois C. Richardson



Dr. Marcus D. Tillery

this need, we created the School of Professional and Continuing Studies." Under Grossman's leadership, the College will establish noncredit educational offerings to meet the needs of the emerging 21st-century workforce. These will include certificate programs, noncredit courses and professional training.

Dr. Marcus D. Tillery has been named dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology. Tillery, who assumed his duties in August 2004, comes to Thomas Edison State College from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University, Greensboro, N.C., where he was associate professor in the Department of Manufacturing Systems.

Dr. Lois C. Richardson has been named dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Richardson, who assumed her duties in September 2004, comes to the College from Kean University, Union, N.J., where

she was assistant vice president of Academic Affairs.

Mary Ellen Caro has been named dean of the School of Business and Management. Caro, who assumed duties in August 2004, comes to the College after a 25-year career with AT&T where she was vice president of AT&T's Business Services unit.

Dr. Susan McMullen O'Brien has been named dean of the School of Nursing. O'Brien joined the staff at Thomas Edison State College in 2001 as the associate dean and director of nursing programs.

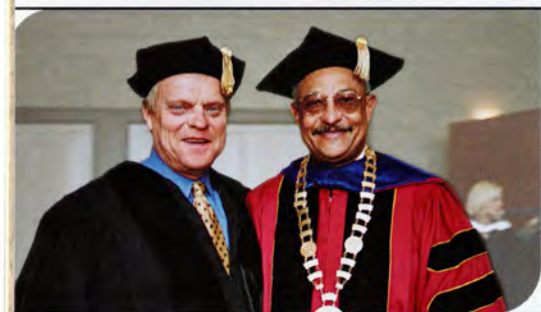
Dr. Judith S. Krom has been named dean of the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Krom joined the staff at Thomas Edison State College in 1996 and has served as associate dean for the human services programs.

Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage has been named dean of the Graduate School. Eveslage joined the staff of the College in 1982 and previously

served as dean of the graduate studies program.

According to Seaton, students should see no difference operationally as a result of the academic restructuring. "They should perceive no difference in student services," he said. "The transition has been seamless." What Seaton anticipates students will experience as a result of the restructuring are broader choices in course and degree curriculum. "The quality of the overall educational experience will be enhanced as we make more options available to our students," he said. "This will be the most significant and meaningful change our students will discern."

GRADUATES CELEBRATE CULMINATION OF EDUCATIONAL GOALS AT 32ND ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT



Blustery weather did not dampen the spirits of the Thomas Edison State College class of 2004 as more than 250 graduates gathered in Trenton, N.J., on Oct. 16, 2004, to celebrate the achievement of their college degrees.

As family and friends filled the Patriots Theater of the historic Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial building, graduates donned caps and gowns and marched up the aisles of the theater to Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance."

With cameras flashing and the enthusiastic cheers of loved ones, the graduates each announced their names before striding across the stage to accept their diplomas. Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, and Nicholas L. Carnevale, chair of the College's Board of Trustees, presented the diplomas, with William J. Seaton, vice president and provost, presiding over the Commencement.



Doctor of Humane Letters Conferred

Dr. Kenneth A. Shaw, (pictured above, left) chancellor emeritus of Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., delivered the Commencement address and received an honorary doctorate during the Commencement ceremony.

Focusing his comments on the topic of leadership, Shaw noted that Thomas Edison

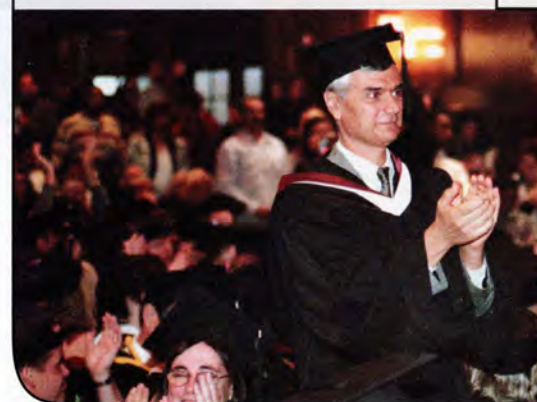
State College graduates are already leaders because they are "students who refused to quit" when life got in the way of their obtaining their college education.

"Leaders find ways to balance work with their personal activities," said Shaw. "But you graduates have already done that. You are the masters at multitasking."

Shaw urged the graduates to maintain the persistence they used during the time they earned their degrees at Thomas Edison State College. "Persistence looms large," he said. "I've met men with dandruff on their suits and halting speech, but they were successful because they kept at it."

As chancellor of Syracuse University, Shaw led an institution that served more than 11,000 undergraduate and 4,000 graduate students. During his tenure at Syracuse, Shaw guided the university through a comprehensive restructuring that resulted in its emergence as the nation's leading student-centered research university.

Prior to his service at Syracuse, Shaw was president of the University of Wisconsin system. Currently, he teaches seminars at Syracuse University in leadership and serves as a consultant to business and higher education. Shaw is past chair of the Commissioner's Advisory Council on Higher Education for the New York State Education Department. He is a member of the board of directors of the Student Loan Marketing Association and of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. He served on the New York State Governor's Commission on Education Reform, and on the boards of



the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the American Council on Education.

Shaw earned a baccalaureate degree from Illinois State University, a master of education degree from the University of Illinois-Urbana and a doctoral degree from Purdue University.

In presenting Shaw with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, Pruitt noted, "You have served the higher education community, students and staff with insight, compassion, humor and brilliance over the course of more than 30 years."

Response for Graduates Address

Charles W. Schulz, an explosives demolition specialist and counterterrorism expert with the U.S. Secret Service, was selected to deliver the Response for Graduates address.

A resident of Fredricksburg, Va., Schulz is a 17-year veteran of the U.S. Secret Service.

An expert freefall parachutist, Schulz is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Despite his lack of a college degree, Schulz applied to the U.S. Secret Service in 1987 and was accepted into the service because of his unique skill set. He made a personal goal to complete his baccalaureate degree at a later time. Seventeen years later, Schulz earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and graduated with honors, having been inducted into the Alpha

Sigma Lambda national honor society. Schulz is also an Arnold Fletcher Award recipient. The award recognizes baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in nontraditional learning.

Noting that he was fortunate to have been accepted by the Secret Service, which waived its educational requirements, Schulz expressed his lifelong desire to complete his college degree. "For years, I was forced to skirt the issue of academic credentials while serving on various committees and working groups, often times with other members possessing postgraduate degrees," he said. "When submitting my biographical information for a speaking engagement, there would always be this gap in my credentials, like a missing tooth in an otherwise bright smile."

Schulz is now proud to share his academic credentials. "I no longer skirt the issue and am able to reply with the personal pride and satisfaction that comes with anything that you've worked hard to obtain." In his closing remarks, Schulz thanked the staff at Thomas Edison State College for its "care, nurturing and professionalism."

Additional photographs of Commencement 2004 may be found at www.tesc.edu/alumni/ginfo.php.



Graduates Inducted into the Alumni Association

After the graduates received their diplomas, they were inducted into the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association by Thomas J. Kosdemba, BSBA, '97, president of the Association.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the newly minted alumni all gathered on the steps on the War Memorial building for a class photo, and broke for smaller group photos with friends and family.



The Grande Ball

2004

Thomas Edison State College Foundation Hosts 13th Annual Gala

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board hosted College alumni, friends and supporters for a black-tie evening of dinner and dancing at its 13th annual gala, held Nov. 20, 2004, at the Doral Forrestal in Princeton, N.J.

The gala opened with the traditional silent auction and cocktail hour. Guests browsed and placed bids on items such as a trip for two to Rome, Italy; a trip to Maui, Hawaii; and a trip to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands—all provided by American Airlines. Local businesses came out in force to support the Foundation, with many area restaurants donating dinner certificates. Sports fans had a selection of items from area professional sports teams, and guests who were in the mood for pampering could bid on a number of day spa opportunities. All proceeds from the silent auction benefited the Foundation.

Following the silent auction, guests enjoyed dinner, selecting from a choice of grilled filet mignon with béarnaise sauce, or orange roughy in a sundried tomato pesto and chive butter sauce. Guests danced to the sounds of the "Wayne Gustafson Group," which was back by popular demand.

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



John P. Neary (left), chairman of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors, with S. John Quattrone, a fellow Foundation Board member. Both men have generously served the Foundation Board for more than a decade.



Dr. George A. Pruitt (center), president of Thomas Edison State College, with Brian M. Hughes, '92, '00, (right), recipient of the Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award, and Suzanne Swizeny (left), Wachovia Market President for Southern New Jersey. Swizeny accepted the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award on behalf of Reginald E. Davis who was unable to attend.

Marjorie Carnevale, chair of the 2004 Thomas Edison State College Foundation Gala planning committee, and an alumna, delivers welcome remarks at this year's event.

Selected recipients demonstrate:

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



BRIAN M. HUGHES, '92, '00



A champion of openness in government and a proponent for fiscal responsibility, Brian M. Hughes was honored as the recipient of the Spirit of Edison Distinguished Alumnus Award. Hughes has been awarded two degrees from Thomas Edison State College. He earned his Associate in Arts degree in 1992, and a baccalaureate degree in social sciences and history in 2000.

On Jan. 1, 2004, Hughes became the fourth person to serve as county executive in Mercer County, N.J. During his administration, Hughes has advocated a "back to basics" government, touting the value of a well-run operation that gives taxpayers the services they need at a price they can afford. As a key element of this initiative, Hughes appointed Mercer County's first inspector general who has been tasked with eliminating fraud and abuse from county government, and to work with department directors to improve management practices that will translate into cost savings for county taxpayers.

A strong believer in accountability in government, Hughes has made it a priority to be responsive to constituents' needs. His administration has gained notice for such diverse projects as cleaning the tombstones in the veterans' section of Greenwood Cemetery and improving the county's four golf courses. Attuned to the needs of the county's most vulnerable citizens, Hughes has worked to improve areas such as human services and the Workforce Investment Board, and has been an advocate for the rights of the elderly and a proponent of open space preservation.

The son of former New Jersey governor and state Supreme Court chief justice, Hughes has lived in Mercer County most of his life. Prior to becoming county executive, Hughes served as deputy executive director of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Hughes was elected to the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1997. As a freeholder, Hughes was an advocate for preserving open space and protecting reminders of Mercer County's role in two revolutions – the War for American Independence and the industrial period that put Trenton on the map as a center for steel and ceramics. Hughes also gained notice for exposing problems at the Mercer County Geriatric Center. As county executive, he has continued to make open space preservation and quality of life for seniors high on his list of priorities. Key issues on this year's agenda for the Hughes administration include efforts to preserve the Braghelli tract in Hamilton Township, and expand transportation service for seniors and those with disabilities.

Hughes lives in Princeton Township and is married to Pamela Rago Hughes. The couple has one son, Sullivan.

REGINALD E. DAVIS



In recognition for his civic commitment, Reginald E. Davis was honored with the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.

Formerly Wachovia's CEO for New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, Davis was recently named Northern Banking Group executive. Davis is responsible for banking operations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Washington, D.C.

During his four years as CEO for Wachovia's Atlantic Region (New Jersey, New York and Connecticut), Davis positioned Wachovia as both a premier financial services organization, and a recognized and valued community partner and leader. He was instrumental in Wachovia's successful retail expansion into Manhattan.

Davis led Wachovia (the second largest bank in New Jersey) with visionary leadership and an unwavering commitment to customers, employees and communities. Under Davis's leadership, Wachovia/Atlantic has been the performance leader for the corporation during his tenure, achieving best-in-class customer service, according to research conducted by Gallup and the University of Michigan; became an employer of choice; and set the standard for corporate citizenship, receiving the 2003 Corporate Philanthropy Award from The Community Foundation of New Jersey.

Wachovia takes corporate citizenship seriously, and Davis leads by example. As chair of the New Jersey Network Foundation, member of the boards of the Newark Alliance, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and Teach For America, Davis has been recognized for his willingness to commit the time, expertise and financial resources required to create systemic and sustainable change. He also contributes his time and experience to the Mentorship Program of Morehouse College from which he graduated with a degree in insurance and actuarial science.

Davis has been named to *NJBIZ* magazine's "40 Under 40," and has received leadership awards from Monmouth University, the Metropolitan Trenton African-American Chamber of Commerce and the Diocese of Newark. He is also the 2003 recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award given by Newark's North Ward Center.

Davis now lives in Atlanta, Ga., with his wife Sharon and their children, Clarke and Brandon.

Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association Hosts 17th Annual Putting Him/Her Through (PHT) Ceremony

Alumni Association Presents Annual Awards

The "Putting Him/Her Through" College ceremony began 17 years ago at the suggestion of a graduate who wanted a way to thank his wife for the support she provided while he earned his degree. This year's ceremony was held immediately after Commencement in the Washington Ballroom at the Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial in Trenton, N.J. At the ceremony, graduates present a PHT (not to be confused with a PhD) certificate to family members and friends who helped and supported them through their Thomas Edison State College program.

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association also presented its annual Distinguished Alumni Awards during the PHT ceremony. These awards hold great meaning to the Association and to friends of the College.

The following individuals were honored:



Carla Tisdale-Walker, MSM '01, was presented the **Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association Award**.

This award is given to the graduate whose service has significantly enhanced the growth and development of the Alumni

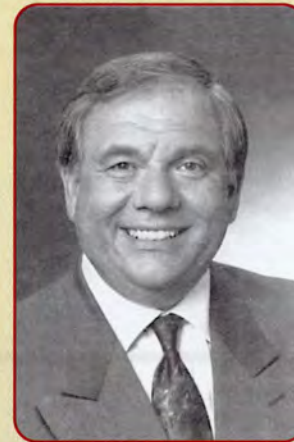
Association. Tisdale-Walker is the director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Thomas Edison State College. In this capacity, she is responsible for cultivating, organizing and stewarding corporate and foundation relationships statewide and nationally. She

also oversees and monitors all corporate and foundation communications for the Division of Public Affairs through the Office of Development. Tisdale-Walker also received the first annual **Outstanding Service to the Office of Alumni Affairs Award (Director's Award)** in recognition of her past and ongoing service to the Office, the College and the alumni.



Rosa Lee Eickhoff received the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Eickhoff is a senior program advisor in the Office of Learner Services at Thomas Edison State College. As senior program advisor, she supports students in earning their baccalaureate degrees. Eickhoff has served as a board member of the National Academic Advisory Association. Eickhoff, who has been employed at Thomas Edison State College for 20 years, was recognized for her devotion and dedication to the College and its alumni.

The Alumni Association honored **Richard A. Sheeran**, BA '91, and **Janet Eickhoff** with the **Association's Professional Achievement Award**. Both were honored because their professional achievements have earned the recognition and praise of their colleagues.



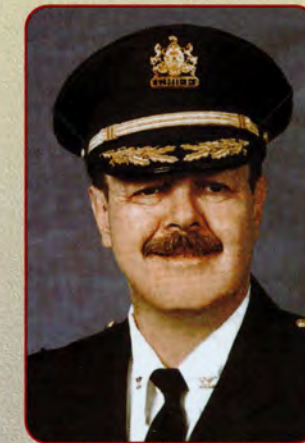
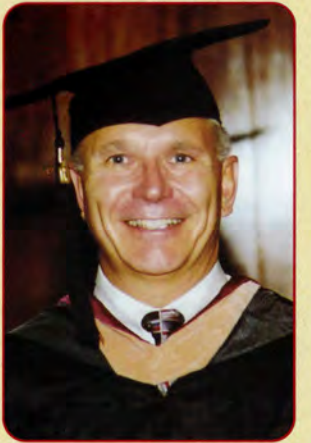
Sheeran retired after three decades as a reporter and anchor for KYW-TV (CBS 3) in Philadelphia, Pa. His media experience began in 1960 as a reporter for the *Philadelphia Daily News*. During his career, Sheeran has covered thousands of news stories, including the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, Pope John Paul II's

historic first visit to the United States and several political conventions. Sheeran's international assignments include the canonization of Bishop John Neumann of Philadelphia in Rome and the accident that took the life of Princess Grace of Monaco.



Eickhoff is the corporate relationship marketing manager at Thomas Edison State College and is known for her exemplary work in managing the College's relationships with corporations and other target populations. A member of the American Marketing Association and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, Eickhoff earned a master's in public administration from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and a baccalaureate degree in journalism from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Lt. Col. Randolph S. Schwartz, BSBA '03, was honored with the **Outstanding Service to Society Award**. This award is presented to the graduate whose voluntary efforts contribute to the advancement of a cause to improve society or quality of life in the community. Schwartz, a desktop applications specialist at Thomas Edison State College, is a 29-year military veteran and an officer in the N.J. Army Reserve. In May, Schwartz was called to active duty and began serving with the 78th Battle Projection Group, training noncommissioned officers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In his absence, Schwartz's award was accepted by his wife Dorothy Donnelly.



Barry Pilla, BSBS '02, was recognized with the **Thomas Edison Alumni Merit (TEAM) Award** for his energy, enthusiasm, inspiration, humor and leadership in the development and execution of an alumni event. Under Pilla's leadership, the Alumni Association enjoyed a successful 25th anniversary celebration on

Aug. 13, 2004. Pilla has worked in law enforcement since 1971. He is chief of police of the Northampton, Pa., Police Department, a force of more than 60 full- and part-time police officers and civilian staff that serve a community of more than 40,000 residents. Pilla is currently a graduate student at Thomas Edison State College and serves on an alumni committee that advises the College on the development of academic content in the area of homeland security.

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE RECEIVES \$2 MILLION ENDOWMENT

Thomas Edison State College has received a gift of \$2 million from Gary and Diane Heavin, founders of Curves International, Inc., to support the development of new programs and courses, and foster overall excellence. The gift, which will create the Gary and Diane Heavin Family Endowed Fund, is the largest in the College's history.

"As an innovator who has influenced the lives of millions of women, I appreciate the educational innovations achieved by Thomas Edison State

College. They made a quality education available to me and thousands of others who wanted to further their professions," Heavin said.

The Gary and Diane Heavin Family Endowed Fund will provide funding for the development of programs and courses to be offered at a distance. Thomas Edison State College enjoys a national reputation for excellence in distance education, the assessment of prior learning and adult higher education. The College is a leader in the use of educational technologies to provide flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults. The endowment will provide a continuing stream of income to facilitate the development of new degree programs and online courses.

The contribution is the second made to the College by the Heavins. An academic partnership agreement between Curves International, Inc. and the College was established in 2002. The partnership, funded at a cost of \$237,500, established certificate and degree programs in fitness and wellness services. Curves' franchisees have taken advantage of these programs,



From left: Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, with Diane and Gary Heavin, founders of Curves International, Inc. The Heavins gave a \$2 million gift to the College.

in conjunction with scholarships offered by Curves, to further their training and enhance the quality of service they offer to their members.

"We are truly grateful for the Heavins' gift," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Their generous financial support is significant to our mission and will substantially increase educational opportunities for our students. The Heavins' gift will

provide a margin of excellence for the benefit of our students."

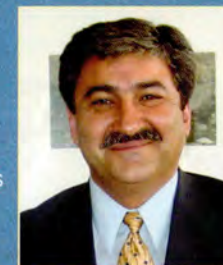
The Heavins are internationally known in the health and fitness community, having taken Curves from one facility to the world's largest fitness center franchise in just eight short years. Headquartered in Waco, Texas, Curves is the fastest growing franchise in history, with more than 8,000 locations worldwide serving more than 3 million members. Gary Heavin received a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree from Thomas Edison State College in 2002.

"Gary and Diane's investment in the future of the College is a remarkable reflection of their vision and values, enabling the College to add depth to existing degree programs and to develop new degree programs that will give adults more options for areas of study," said John P. Neary, chairman of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. "This gift represents their commitment to the development of educational opportunities for adults throughout New Jersey, across the country and around the world."

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation recently elected four new members to serve as directors of the board. The Foundation Board of Directors is a volunteer group of business and community leaders, which oversees the administration of the Foundation's activities. The College is pleased to welcome Al Maghazehe, Ahmed Azmy, Lawrence Krampf and Margaret Martinson into their new leadership roles.

Dr. Al Maghazehe, of Holland, Pa., is currently the chief executive officer of Capital Health System. He has helped transform the former Helene Fuld Medical Center and Mercer Medical Center into a successful two-hospital system that today is a regional health care destination attracting specialists and patients from the greater Mercer/Bucks County area and beyond. A diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Maghazehe received his PhD in business management from Pacific International University in California, a master's degree in health services administration from Wagner College in New York and a baccalaureate degree from the Institute of Paramedical Studies.



Dr. Ahmed Azmy, of Princeton, N.J., is chairman of the Board of Directors of Urban Planning for HACBM Architects Engineers Planners. Azmy is renowned for his consummate ability to conceptualize and refine project design from complex criteria to an elegant solution. Throughout his career, Azmy's project highlights have ranged from designing corporate headquarters facilities, to the development of award-winning Middle East urban design plans.

Lawrence Krampf, of Princeton, N.J., is CEO of Princeton Communications Group. Founded in 1990, PCG is a full-service marketing and communications firm with a growing number of regional and national accounts. PCG has received numerous awards for the agency's work on behalf of its health care, energy, retail, technology, publishing and university clientele. Krampf is involved in numerous civic and business organizations.



Margaret Martinson, of Pennington, N.J., is president of the Martinson Family Foundation. A former English teacher, Martinson is a leader in the philanthropic community. She has been active in supporting the development of innovative online courses at the College as well as other educational programs. Her husband, John Martinson, is a former member of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board and is founder and managing partner of the Edison Venture Fund.

"Applause, Applause"

Emmanuel Appiah
BSBA '97

Emmanuel Appiah earned a Master of Business Management degree from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Mo. He passed the CPA examination in July 2004, and said, "I attribute my success largely to the independent nature of Thomas Edison State College courses."

John Baker Jr.
MSM '02

John Baker Jr. was selected for promotion to the rank of major, U.S. Department of the Army, and was chosen to be a member of the prestigious acquisition corps. He was also selected for membership on the board of directors at Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga.

Rita Bonin
BA '81

Rita Bonin recently retired from her position at Berkeley College, Little Falls, N.J., where she served as dean and director of Alumni. Her career as a member of the faculty and administration spanned 33 years. According to Bonin, "Thomas Edison State College played a major role in giving me a wonderful career!"

Joseph M. Coccozza Jr.
BA '94

Joseph M. Coccozza Jr. is currently working at the new CNN facilities at Time Warner headquarters in New York City as a broadcast information technologist and provides technical support for studio productions.

Ambrose E. Edebe
BSBA '99

Ambrose E. Edebe was recently awarded the Mayor's Citation for community service in the city of Baltimore, Md., on Aug. 23, 2004. He also received the governor's citation in July 2004, from the state of Maryland, for his advocacy on behalf of those in need.

Maryanne Brown-Mackay
BSBA '93

Maryanne Brown-Mackay was awarded a Master of Arts degree in liberal studies from the University of Delaware, Newark, Del. She is the founder and past president of the Historical Society of Penn's Grove-Carney's Point, N.J. Having grown up in Penn's Grove, she chose as her master's thesis "Architectural Eclecticism in Penn's Grove: The Houses on Delaware Avenue." She is currently employed at the University of Delaware and resides in Carney's Point with her husband Don.

Kevin P. Miller
BA '98

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin P. Miller received a Master of Distance Education degree from the University of Maryland University College in August 2004. He currently serves as multimedia superintendent with the Air National Guard Training and Education Center in Knoxville, Tenn., and retired from the USAF in November after 23 years of service.

"Applause, Applause"

Ruth Olinsky
BA '84

Ruth Olinsky retired in 1984, the same year she graduated from the College. She is the past recipient of an award representing Thomas Edison State College in an intercollegiate competition involving poetry with pen and ink illustrations.

Michael C. Orth
BA '04

Michael C. Orth was accepted into Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich. He will begin studies in January 2005, and has received a 50 percent tuition scholarship.

Gerri C. Popkin
BA '85

Gerri C. Popkin received her Master of Administrative Science degree in May 2003, from Farleigh Dickinson University, Florham Park, N.J. She was also inducted into the Neptune High School Alumni Hall of Fame. Popkin was elected deputy chair of the Monmouth County, N.J., Republican Committee.

Glenn Reeves
BSAST '93

After receiving his degree, Glenn Reeves was promoted three times. He also earned an MBA degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2004.

Felipe J. Risso
BA '01

Felipe J. Risso completed an MBA program in international management at the University of London, Royal Holloway School of Management.

Sharon Ryan
BSBA '00

Sharon Ryan recently graduated from Capella University in Minnesota with a master's degree in addiction counseling.

Suzanne Salamanca
BSN '03

Suzanne Salamanca recently married Thomas Edison State College alumnus Luis Febus, BSN '03.

Frank J. Wagner
AA '73

Frank J. Wagner retired after 31 years of employment with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. Wagner was also a special collections supervisor at Kean University, Union, N.J., for 14 years and at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Pomona, N.J., for 17 years.

Kenneth Williams Sr.
BA '02

Kenneth Williams Sr. recently earned a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Long Island University, Brookville, N.Y.

"Applause, Applause"

Information for *Invention*

**New Job? Promotion?
Award? Marriage? Baby?
Did you move?**

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

We invite you as a member of our family of Thomas Edison State College alumni to tell us about the exciting things happening in your life. Let us know what is new with you since you graduated from Thomas Edison State College, or how your experience at the College changed your life, and we may include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*. To contact us, please fill out the form below and mail it to:

Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor,
101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176;
fax it to (609) 984-1376; or e-mail your good
news to Invention@tesc.edu.

You may include photos to accompany your news. Items will be published as space permits.

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

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Former Name _____

Company _____ Title _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____

Evening Phone (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

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Class Year _____ Degree _____

Information for *Invention* _____

