

I·N·V·E·N·T·I·O·N

NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Spring 1992

Alumnus John Molner helps PSE&G, College forge a partnership

by Barbara W. Eklund

Although few students and graduates have met alumnus John Molner personally, his behind-the-scenes work has increased access to a college degree for many of his professional colleagues in the radiation protection field.

"As an alumnus, John's ongoing involvement with the College has the potential to benefit thousands of his professional colleagues," Iris Saltiel, director of Corporate Programs, pointed out. "John is one of several alumni who have helped

us forge partnerships within their professional associations or companies that have helped others earn college degrees. As alumni, they value their Thomas Edison degree and want to help others meet their educational goals," Saltiel observed.

While working toward his Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison, Molner realized that much of the knowledge he had acquired during his career was shared by many of his colleagues, and that there

was already an examination offered by the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) to verify that knowledge. Since he was serving on the Board of Directors of the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) at the time, he began to explore ways for the NRRPT and Thomas Edison to work collaboratively to help his colleagues earn college degrees. The NRRPT is a nationally recognized registry which sets the standard at the technologist level for professionals in the radiation protection field. Inclusion in the registry is possible only after successfully passing the examination. Due in part to Molner's efforts, the examination has been evaluated through a special program of the American Council on Education. Today, those who pass the examination can earn up to 30 credits toward a college degree.

"Enrollment in the radiation protection specialization of our B.S.A.S.T. degree has quadrupled since 1988," said Dr. Susan O. Friedman, coordinator of the Bachelor of Science degree program. "A major reason for that increase is the ability of students who have been certified by the Registry to earn college credits. We tell them about that opportunity from the start."

Since it has been possible to earn college credits for the Registry's examinations, interest in taking the examinations has grown as well. According to Molner, "requests to take the examinations have

increased over 100 percent in each of the last two years."

Molner is a senior nuclear performance supervisor at Public Service Electric and Gas's (PSE&G) Hope Creek Generating Station in Salem County, N.J. "Earning my Thomas Edison degree has helped me professionally, and I believe in trying to give something back," John said recently. Earning his B.S.A.S.T. degree made him eligible to sit for a test which has added a master's-level credential to his portfolio, "Certified Hazard Control Manager."

Molner recalls attending "both" his graduations and having quite a celebration with his family each time. (He earned his A.A. in 1984; B.S.A.S.T. in 1990.) After the 1990 ceremony, he attended the Alumni Banquet with his wife, Jackie and son, Patrick, and honored each of them with PHT Certificates ("Putting Him/Her Through" certificates that alumni give to family and friends who have been supportive of them while they worked on their degrees).

He has participated in several Alumni Association activities, including the Leadership Conference and the Annual Fund Phonathon, and expects to become more involved. He is a volunteer in the Peer Counseling Program as well, and lends support to other students, who are often PSE&G colleagues. He explained, "As a peer counselor, I am there to tell others by my example, 'yes, it can be done', and to encourage them along the way."



John Molner (right) and Harry Roman inspect sophisticated equipment at the PSE&G Applied Robotics Test Facility. Molner's involvement with Thomas Edison State College is helping his PSE&G colleagues meet some important goals.

Alumni push annual fund over the top: \$72,427 raised in April



Alumni volunteers were the reason for the success of this year's Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon. Busy callers raised over \$72,000 to benefit the College.

Focusing their efforts on "results, not reasons," the volunteers at this year's Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon reached a record number of alumni to surpass the 20th Anniversary goal of \$72,000.

During Phonathon training sessions, volunteers were asked to list reasons that could explain not reaching the goal. The single-minded volunteers could find few reasons not to make this a record-breaking year, and instead vowed to focus on the results they expected to get during the Phonathon.

"This enthusiasm spilled over to the alumni who were called," said Annette Singer, director of Alumni Affairs. "The alumni who were reached responded very generously. This is some way to celebrate our 20th Anniversary!"

Watch the summer issue of *Invention* for full coverage of this milestone Phonathon.

We couldn't have done it without you

Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon Co-chairs Stephanie Feist '90, Paul Hays '89 and Gail Anne Palatine '91 would like to send a big thank you to all the alumni, students, staff and other volunteers who spent countless hours calling, tabulating, computing and handling other important tasks. They noted that without this overwhelming support, the goal might not have been met. The stellar volunteer turnout enabled the Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon to reach a record-number of generous alumni. A full listing of volunteers will appear in the summer issue of *Invention*.

Leading Thomas Edison State College into the next decade

Members of the Thomas Edison State College Board of Trustees took time out of their hectic schedules recently to pose for a photo in the College's historic Prudence Townsend Kelsey Memorial Room. Porcelain cherubs, framed portraits of the Kelseys, vases and other belongings are carefully maintained throughout the room as a tribute to Mrs. Kelsey, for whom the entire building is dedicated.

The building that spawned such devotion and now houses Thomas Edison State College continues to evoke dedication to this day. The College's Board of Trustees has a big hand in moving time forward for today's Thomas Edison student by providing leadership, direction and stewardship. These men and women, all community leaders, volunteer their time to make sure that there will be many more decades of dreams fulfilled for adult learners.

Trustees include:
Chairman Christian Yegen, president, The Yegen Companies; Vice Chairman Fred J. Abbate, general manager, Corporate Communications, Atlantic Electric; John Blossom, retired vice president, Corporate Finance, PruCapital, Inc.; George Fricke, retired managing director, Corporate Training, New Jersey Bell; George Hanford, retired president, The College Board; Theodore Kessler, student trustee; E. Harvey Myers, president, E. Harvey Myers Architects; Carole A. Nerlino, vice president, Shearson Lehman Hutton; Marilyn R. Pearson, assistant vice president, marketing manager, Merrill Lynch Business Financial Services; Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison State College; Thomas Seessel, president, SEEDCO; Laura J. Simurda, student trustee; Emelia Timpo, deputy assistant chancellor for academic affairs, New Jersey Department of Higher Education



Presenting the Thomas Edison State College Board of Trustees: (seated, from left) Emelia Timpo, Carole A. Nerlino, Marilyn R. Pearson and Laura J. Simurda; and (standing, from left) George Hanford, John Blossom, Christian Yegen, George Fricke, Dr. George A. Pruitt, Thomas Seessel, Fred J. Abbate, E. Harvey Myers, Theodore Kessler.

Save the date: *Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled*

If you attend one event this season, make it the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's Ball, *Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled*. The evening is a celebration of the College's 20th anniversary and is shaping up to be quite spectacular. The black-tie dinner-dance will be held on Saturday, October 24, at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton. Tickets are \$125 per person, the proceeds of which benefit programs and services at Thomas Edison State College. In addition, the Foundation is producing a commemorative ad book. Ads begin at \$100—contact the Foundation at (609) 984-1588 for information. The event is being chaired by Foundation board member Rita Novitt, a former member of the College's Board of Trustees.

Notes Novitt, "There are two important celebrations in October 1992: the 500th anniversary of Columbus reaching these shores and a spectacular gala to honor and celebrate the graduates of Thomas Edison State College for their 20 years of dreams fulfilled. Mark your calendars, not for the 12th, but for the 24th!" Other committee members are Richard Gillespie, president, Gillespie Advertising, Inc.; Ida Hammond, president of the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association; Linda Holt, director of Communications and College Relations at Thomas Edison; and Ida Julian, director of Development at Thomas Edison and executive vice president of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

Calling all . . . Mensa members

We know that Thomas Edison students and alumni are the best and brightest. Some, however, shine a bit brighter and stand a bit taller—for them, Mensa membership has been their reward. Mensa is a society of select intellects. Only those whose scores on standard I.Q. tests are higher than 98 percent of the general population are invited to join. There are nearly 50,000 Mensa members in the United States—surely an impressive part have been touched by Thomas Edison State College. If you've mastered this mental aptitude of monstrous proportions, we'd like to know about it! Please send your story to the managing editor at the College. A good quality black and white photograph is always appreciated. "Calling all . . ." will be a regular future in *Invention*. Keep your eye on this spot for future requests.

New members join Foundation Board of Directors

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of four new members to its Board of Directors: Richard W. Arndt, Dr. James E. Carnes, Brad Cerepak and Owen O. Freeman, Jr.



Richard W. Arndt



James E. Carnes



Brad Cerepak



Owen O. Freeman

Richard W. Arndt is the executive vice president and chief executive officer of the New Jersey Division of the American Cancer Society (ACS). He has worked for ACS almost exclusively for the last 28 years. Arndt is a graduate of Rider College, where he received a B.S. in Commerce with a Journalism major. He has also taken continuing education and executive development courses at Indiana University and Columbia University, and has participated in numerous ACS inservices. Other civic activities include: Board of Directors, Rider College Alumni Association, vice president; New Jersey State Governor's Committee on Public/Private Sector Initiatives; New Jersey Business and Industry Association; New Jersey

State Chamber of Commerce; New Jersey Society of Association Executives, vice chairman of Membership Committee; and Center for Non-Profit Corporations, Membership Services Committee. **Dr. James E. Carnes**, is the president and chief operating officer of the David Sarnoff Research Center. He previously served as vice president, Consumer Electronics and Information Sciences Research, at the Sarnoff Center, where he has worked for 23 years. Carnes has been issued nine U.S. patents and is the author of more than 85 technical papers. He was a recipient of the David Sarnoff Award for Outstanding Technical Achievement. He received a B.S. in Engineering Science from Penn State and earned his Ph.D. in Electron Device Physics from Princeton University. Carnes is chairman of Rider College's Science Advisor Board. He is also involved in the IEEE Spectrum Editorial Board; the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey Inventors Congress and Hall of Fame; the Board of Trustees of the Independent College Fund of New Jersey; and the Board of Directors of the State Chamber of Commerce. He is the recipient of several awards, notably the IEEE Centennial Medal and the Engineer of the Year Award from the Central Jersey Engineering Council. He is listed in "American Men and Women in Science and Engineering" and "Who's Who in America."

Brad Cerepak is senior audit manager in the New York office of Price Waterhouse, where he has worked for over ten years. Cerepak is a New Jersey certified public accountant (CPA). He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs; a member of the Fairleigh Dickinson Alumni Association; a member of the Price Waterhouse Manager Evaluation Committee and captain of the Price Waterhouse New York United Way campaign. He is also a past member of the New Jersey State Society of CPAs Committee for Cooperation with Educational Institutions. **Owen O. Freeman, Jr.**, has been working in commercial banking for 35 years. He is currently chairman of the Board of Commonwealth State Bank in Newtown, Pa., in Bucks County and chairman of the Board of First Capitol Bank in York, Pa. Prior to these appointments, Freeman was president and CEO of The Broad Street National Bank of Trenton from 1978 until 1985. Freeman is also a member of the Board of Directors and vice chairman of the legislative committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers; a member of the Bank Operations Committee of the Independent Bankers of America and chairman of its subcommittee on lending issues; chairman of the northeastern region of the Political Action Committee of Independent Bankers Association of America; a member of the Board of Directors of: Versus

Technology, Inc., Oven Industries, Inc., H.C. Gulden Manufacturing, Inc., the Trenton YMCA, the Mercer Unit of the New Jersey Association of Retarded Citizens, the George Washington Council Boy Scouts of America, the Rescue Mission of Trenton, the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce (treasurer); and is a past president of Rotary Club of Trenton and a Paul Harris Fellow. Other Foundation board members include: Andrew J. Brown, executive director, Princeton Center for Leadership Training; Dr. Nat S. Caliendo, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison; Nicholas L. Carnevale, active chairman, Walter B. Howe, Inc.; John J. Connolly, former president and CEO, National State Bank; John R. Fisher, vice president, Digital Equipment Corp.; Richard J. Gillespie, president, Gillespie Advertising, Inc.; J. Robert Hillier, chairman, The Hillier Group; Richard E. Ingram, attorney-at-law; Rita Novitt; Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison; S. John Quattrone, president, S. John Quattrone Associates; Ingrid W. Reed, assistant dean/director of Admissions, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University; Michael J. Scheiring, vice president for Administration and Finance, Thomas Edison; Thomas Seessel, president, SEEDCO; and Thomas H. van Arsdale, chief executive officer, Franklin First Federal Savings Bank.

A·L·U·M·N·I

H I G H L I G H T S

Alumni Association News

New annual award created in commemoration of the College's 20th Anniversary

Achieving two decades of outstanding service in adult education deserves extra-special attention. So thought the Alumni Association Board of Directors when it voted to establish the Outstanding Professional Achievement award. This new, annual award is designed to recognize a Thomas Edison State College alum who has excelled in his/her professional life. It differs from the Outstanding Service to the Alumni Association award in that professional achievement, not

service to Thomas Edison through alumni activities, will be the criterion used for judging.

The Awards Committee Co-chairs, Ondina Jeffers '82 and Nancy Goehrig '85, are asking all interested alumni to watch their mail for the announcement and nomination forms that will be arriving shortly. For more information about these awards, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (201) 877-1450.



Get in on the fun...

Commencement Committee forming

How do alumni at a site-free institution meet, greet and network with other alumni? At Commencement!

Each year, alumni have the opportunity to participate in Commencement activities such as helping the graduates gown-up before the ceremony, greeting and congratulating new graduates and their families, and assisting with the post-Commencement banquet. The Alumni

Association Board of Directors is gearing up for this year's Oct. 25 celebration and is looking for a few good women and men.

Alumni Association Vice President for Alumni Relations Adele Ellis '88 will be working to coordinate the day's activities. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (201) 877-1450.



Course Description Book

The **Course Description Book** contains a listing of the current courses/exam credits awarded by Thomas Edison State College. The book may be used by students to select examinations, Guided Study courses and course descriptions for Portfolio Assessment. The comprehensive listing of 3,000 descriptions will assist students in the preparation of their program plan in conjunction with their Program Planning Handbook.

To order the book,
fill out the following form and mail it with \$10 (check or money order)
to the Office of the Bursar.

Course Description Book Order Form Thomas Edison State College (\$10)

Name: Last _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Social Security Number _____

Make check or money order payable to Thomas Edison State College
and mail to:
Office of the Bursar
Thomas Edison State College
101 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-1176

One of our best . . . **Paul Hays '89**



There's a certain amount of irony in the way that 1992 Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon Co-chair Paul Hays, B.S.A.S.T. '89, became involved with the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association. During the 1991 Phonathon, volunteer caller Dr. Sonja Eveslage, dean of the Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships, struck up a phone conversation with Hays. When they were done with what had become a lengthy conversation, Eveslage had not only gotten a pledge, but had signed up a new alumni volunteer.

Hays, a trainer at General Public Utility Nuclear in Forked River, N.J., told Eveslage the words that Annette Singer, director of Alumni Affairs, loves to hear: "If you want me to do anything else, let me know."

"That's all he needed to say," Singer recalled. "I contacted Paul and invited him to the Alumni Leaders Conference, which was held in December 1991 for current and future alumni leaders. He showed such an interest in getting involved that the Board of Directors asked him to be an associate director on the Alumni Association Board. We also invited him to an Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon meeting. The rest is history."

Hays attended the first Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon meeting in January of 1992. Impressed with the synergy of the group, and the dedication the board members displayed to the College, Hays not only volunteered to work at the Phonathon, but jumped right in as co-chair. Along with Stephanie Feist '90 and Gail Anne Palatine '91, Hays led the charge that raised over \$72,000 to benefit the College.

What continues to impress Singer about Hays is his unswerving loyalty. "Here's someone who lives and works over one hour from the College who gladly drives here for meetings. He attended every single session of this year's Phonathon!"

Singer continued, "Paul not only attended all eight Phonathon sessions, but pitched in to help in many ways. He arrived early and stayed until the very end. He lent a hand in cleaning up, as well. And, we had some real fun with the 'camcorder' he brought to the final session."

Hays' involvement with the College also includes a position on Eveslage's Advisory Council for the Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships. This council was developed to help the Center understand what is going on "out in the field," according to Eveslage. "It provides advice and helps us reach out to new organizations that could benefit from a partnership with Thomas Edison."

Paul Hays' affiliation was the result of an alumni representative recruitment effort aimed at securing members working in the training and development field. Noted Eveslage, "alumni representatives provide a unique perspective to the Council. They not only understand their field—in Paul's case, training and development—but they also understand the College."

Like others who work with him, Eveslage characterized Hays as enthusiastic. Reflecting on her first conversation with him, she recalled how Hays' story is typical of those who want to get involved with the College—all it takes is a little interest, a lot of enthusiasm and an incredible amount of energy. Thanks to the Paul Hayses of the world, the Alumni Association is achieving big goals. It all starts with a small step. Ask Hays . . . the opportunities are just a phone call away.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the follow-up Phonathon November 8-10, 1992, or for any other alumni activity, can contact Annette Singer, director of Alumni Affairs, at (201) 877-1450.

Alumni Association of Thomas Edison State College Calendar of Events

The following committees will meet during the months of June, July and August:

- Awards Committee
- Commencement Committee
- Nominating Committee

Committee members will be contacted in advance with specific dates.

JUNE _____
9 1992 Annual Fund Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Thomas Edison State College

JULY _____
9 Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m., Thomas Edison State College

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 24, 20th Anniversary dinner-dance. The Thomas Edison State College Foundation presents

Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled.

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

'76

Russell Farr (B.A.) of Blytheville, Ark., was recently elected vice-chairman of the Mississippi County Community College Board of Trustees. He has served on the board since 1983. Farr was also reappointed by Governor Bill Clinton to serve on the Arkansas Manufactured Home Commission.

'79

Thomas R. Schultz (B.A.) of New Brunswick, N.J., will receive his Master of Arts in Music History and Literature from Trenton State College this spring. Schultz is the organist and choir director of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in New Brunswick.

'81

John F. Cox (B.A.) of New Castle, Va., received his Master of Arts degree in psychology from West Georgia College in Carrollton, Ga. Cox is a clinical social worker/substance abuse therapist with the Virginia Department of Corrections. He is a Virginia Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and operates an intensive Substance Abuse Therapeutic Community at the Botetourt Correctional Unit in Troutville, Va. He writes that he "will always be grateful for the Thomas Edison service and degree."

'83

Michelle B. Bowman (B.S.B.A.) of Cherry Hill, N.J., was recently promoted to manager at Bowman & Company in Voorhees, N.J. Bowman is a Certified Public Accountant.

'85

Charles F. Holden (B.S.A.S.T.) of San Diego, Calif., a Navy Lt. serving with Fighter Attack Squadron 126, Naval Air Station Miramar, recently completed the Fleet Fighter Air Combat Maneuvering Readiness Program. Holden participated in missions culminating in multi-plane exercises with as many as 10 aircraft engaged in simulated air-to-air combat.

Casimer J. Smerecki (B.S.H.S.) of Inverness, Fla., is campaigning for the Florida State Senate, District 4.

'87

Gayle D. Lacey (B.A.) of Greensboro, N.C., recently graduated from Wake Forest University's MBA program, Babcock Graduate School of Management. She writes: "None of this would have been possible without my already having earned my B.A ... from [Thomas] Edison. Thank you ... for the very important function you perform in adult education."

'88

Christine Holzer (B.A.) of Randolph, N.J., has been accepted into the Master of Arts program at Montclair State. Holzer, who is participating in several "rotating art shows" throughout New Jersey, is a teacher at the Pratt Institute of Art and a freelance artist.

'89

Karen Smith Jaminson (B.S.B.A.) of Westampton, N.J., recently earned the Certified Insurance Counselor designation. She has worked for the New Jersey Department of Insurance for 22 years and is the supervisor of insurance education. Jaminson also holds designations as an accredited customer service representative, a chartered life underwriter and a Certified Public Manager (CPM).

'90

Daniel D. DelGesso (B.A.) of Collingswood, N.J., is now a full-time doctoral student in Adult Education at Temple University in Philadelphia. DelGesso, who was an Arnold Fletcher Award recipient, is currently a teaching associate in the College of Education at Temple. He recently completed his Ed.M. at Temple while serving as a graduate assistant. DelGesso credits Thomas Edison as the catalyst in his successful move into continuing education.

John "Mac" McCormick (B.A.) of Bonita, Fla., was recently named excellent employee of the month at Lakeside Plantation, a healthcare center in Naples, Fla. Mac, a Certified Dietary Manager who manages the food service for Lakeside, has been known to do everything from handling the budget and working on purchase orders to checking the trays in the kitchen and talking to the residents about their food.

'91

Ibis M. Roman (B.S.A.S.T.) of Keasbey, N.J., recently began working at AT&T Bell Labs in Holmdel, N.J., as a software developer and analyst consultant. She has also been admitted to the program of Master of Science in Computer Science and Software Engineering at Monmouth College. Roman writes: "Thank you [Thomas] Edison State, because you made me realize that the sky is the limit, and an education [through Thomas] Edison State is the tool to get it."

If you would like news of your accomplishments included in the *Applause, Applause* section of *Invention*, please send information to: Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898. You may enclose a black-and-white photograph for consideration. Please include your daytime phone number, Thomas Edison degree(s) earned and year of graduation. Rest assured that your news will be published as soon as possible; however, due to our quarterly publication schedule, it may not appear in the next issue.

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

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