

FALL 2001

Invention

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE



In This Issue...

Alumni Profile on
Jim Kelly

A Better Trenton for All
College Prepares for
29th Commencement
Ceremony

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Jim Kelly, pilot, stands beside the Gulfstream V aircraft and the Sikorsky helicopter that he flies.

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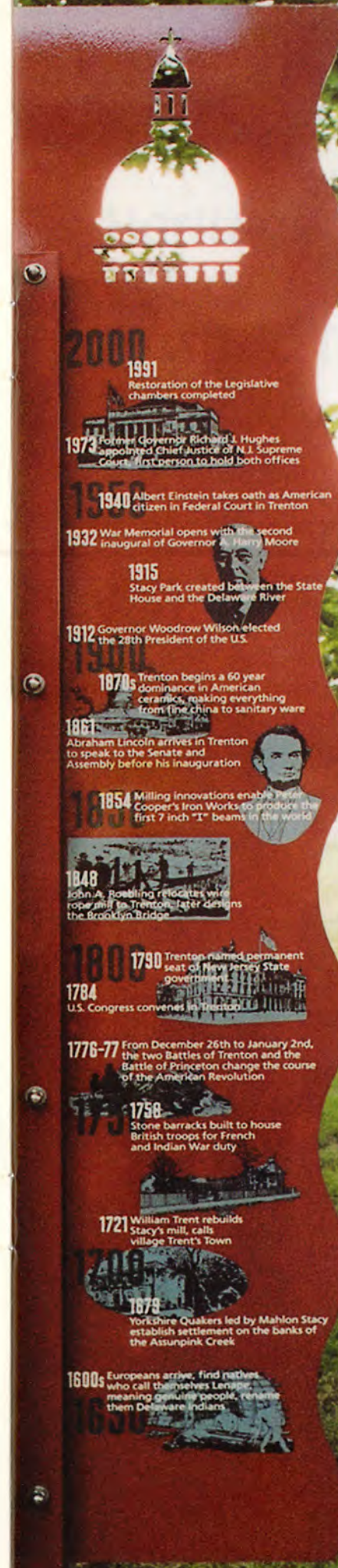
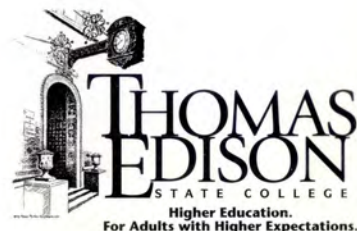
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Thomas Edison once said, *"Show me a thoroughly satisfied man, and I will show you a failure."*

I've taken a look around, and I have yet to find one thoroughly satisfied man or woman at Thomas Edison State College. Instead, what I've found is one over-achiever after another, and one success story after another, and I'm proud of that.

Our students have entered the workforce and realized they want to know more, that the degree they already hold is not enough, or perhaps not the right one. Consider pilot Jim Kelly, featured in this issue, who fit earning a BA into an already hectic pilot's schedule, or Barbara Mann, whose persistence was rewarded with a BA from Thomas Edison State College at the age of 71. Both alumni are featured in this issue.

We have instructors, administrators and colleagues who, rather than resting on their laurels, strive to learn something new every year by engaging in such activities as our National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning. The Institute provides for a meeting of the minds that for 13 consecutive years has attracted experts in experiential learning to share their insights and delve into workshops about what's new. The Institute is featured in this issue.

We have administrators who have jumped headfirst into initiatives designed to make Trenton, our gracious host for these last three decades, a better place to live, work and visit. Those initiatives, Leadership Trenton and Heritage Tourism, are highlighted here.

In short, what we have at Thomas Edison State College is a group of winning people and winning programs that I'm proud to be associated with. The drive and determination exhibited by the people and programs featured in these pages, as well as by everyone working behind the scenes, is a fitting tribute to the man who once said, *"Genius is 1 percent inspiration, and 99 percent perspiration."*

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President



Programs Share A Goal:

Wanted: Civic Leaders To Join 'Leadership Trenton' and Make Capitol City A Better Place to Live and Work

Ask Nelida Valentin, the petite dynamo who oversees Leadership Trenton, why she decided to get involved in this new program, and her eyes light up.

"Trenton is an unspoken gem," Valentin says. "It offers the best of all worlds. We're at the center of the state, we're easy to get to, there are tree-lined streets and pockets of historic interest, and we're on the Delaware River."

Leadership Trenton is a new program with a definite goal: develop a network of emerging civic leaders who together work to improve Trenton. The program is being developed by graduates of Leadership New Jersey, a statewide leadership program sponsored by The Partnership for New Jersey and by the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College.

Leadership Trenton will benefit the city by enlarging and strengthening its network of well-informed, motivated civic leaders who will, in turn, put their skills to work on behalf of Trenton and its residents.

"The initiative to create Leadership Trenton is based in the belief that a city's greatest resource is the quality and commitment of its civic leaders," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

To that end, Valentin, director, center for leadership development, is currently collecting applications from city leaders who feel they might have something to offer to Leadership Trenton.

The plan is to have 25-40 fellows seated by January, for a year's worth of seminars, simulations and case studies which will allow each Fellow to adopt an issue, analyze it, and suggest and implement a course of action for improvement.

Among the issues Valentin expects the group to tackle are: cultural relations, housing, education, economic development, image/perception of the city, childcare, health and human services and transportation.

"This is an opportunity to bring people together to work and talk about real issues, and to find solutions," Valentin explained. "In the end, if people do something to help the city, that's a good thing."

Throw Your Hat In The Ring

To be considered for a fellowship position with Leadership Trenton, applicants must:

1. Live or work in Trenton
2. Have a commitment to Trenton and its future in the region
3. Provide evidence of civic involvement in the city or region

Applications will be available at the end of August, and selections will be made in November. To request an application, call (609) 777-4351, or visit www.tesc.edu/leadership-trenton.

A Better Trenton for All!

Heritage Tourism Steering Committee Seeks to Focus Spotlight on Trenton's Historic Treasures

Ask William Watson, executive director of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, to describe what he envisions when the work of the Heritage Tourism Steering Committee is done, and it takes only a moment for him to ponder and say, "We'll see hordes of people visiting Trenton to see the historic sites, and we'll see a wealth of new jobs and services that don't exist now: tour operators, trolleys, boutiques, restaurants and hotels."

A big vision, yes, but one firmly grounded in reality.

Historic tourism is the most lucrative and the fastest growing segment in the tourism industry, according to the Travel Industry Association of America. It attracts slightly older travelers (48 years of age vs. 46) with more money to spend than the average traveler (\$615 vs. \$425).

Plus, focusing on historic tourism is a particularly smart move for

Trenton, Watson suggests, for three reasons: the city's unique place in America's history, its close proximity to a variety of cultural and historic attractions (e.g. New York City, Philadelphia, Great Adventure and Sesame Place), and the success gained by other capitol cities, including Annapolis and Richmond.

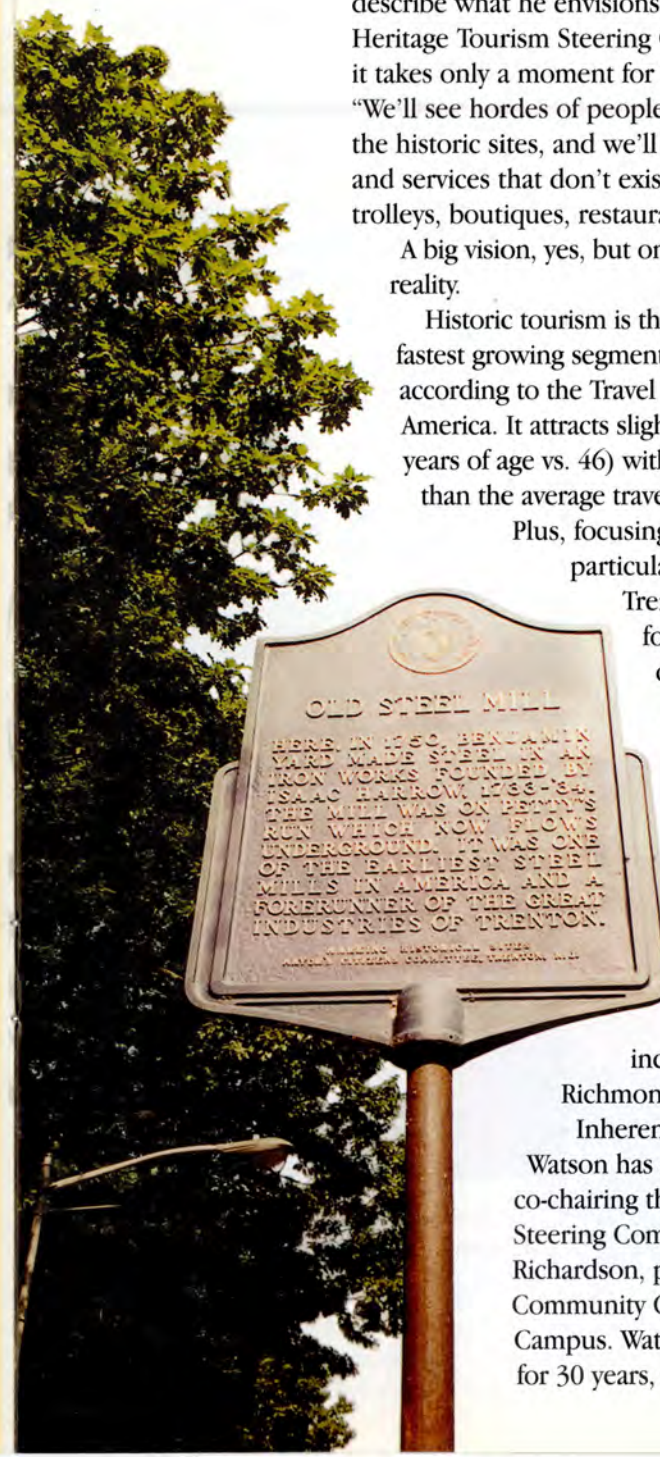
Inherent business value aside, Watson has a personal reason for co-chairing the Heritage Tourism Steering Committee with Dr. Beverly Richardson, provost of Mercer County Community College, James Kearny Campus. Watson has lived in Trenton for 30 years, and has spent much of

Heritage Tourism Master Plan

New Jersey's Capitol Region will be a visually appealing, diverse, easily accessible and an entertaining world-class destination, attracting international and domestic business and leisure travelers (including tri-state visitors and group tours) to experience the unique heritage attractions, meet the friendly residents and leave behind an economic impact.

that time involved in its public policy. From these experiences, he's grown to love the charm and beauty of historic Trenton. "I want to make sure the important sites are not lost to demolition or deferred maintenance," Watson said.

The Heritage Tourism Steering Committee, brought together in 1995, comprises 37 individuals representing attractions, businesses, tourism services, institutions of higher learning and government agencies from the city, county and state. The group meets every four to six weeks, and is currently focusing its attention on transitioning the Trenton Convention and Visitors Bureau into a Capitol Region Convention and Visitors Bureau, thereby widening the scope of proactive public relations and marketing activities undertaken on behalf of Trenton and its environs.



Founder Describes 13th Annual National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning the 'Best Ever'

Debbi Dagavarian is certain that this year's National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning was "the best ever."

With a laugh, she fully admits bias in this regard. The Institute is, after all, her "baby," a project she took on when she joined Thomas Edison State College nearly a decade and a half ago.

But this year, the Institute's 13th, was especially successful in a number of ways. It provided the Institute with an opportunity to properly honor Dr. Urban Whitaker, who retires this year after working as an Institute instructor since the beginning, and it brought together, once again, the world's experts on experiential learning for a four-day immersion in the newest techniques.

Despite the fact that Dagavarian, the College's deputy vice provost, plays a major role in the Institute's development each year, she attends every workshop offered and says "I always learn something new."

Separate programs for beginning and advanced experiential learning assessors, and seminars for all participants, filled the schedule, which was punctuated with social events. Among the events were the President's Reception, a walking tour of Princeton and a buffet dinner.

This year's Institute, held from June 9-12 at the Merrill Lynch Conference and Training Center in Plainsboro, N.J., attracted 30 participants from the U.S., Bermuda and Jamaica. The conference is sponsored by Thomas Edison State College, in cooperation with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.

"I love the Institute," says Dagavarian, whose entire adult professional life has been devoted to prior learning assessment. "It's the most rewarding thing I've done professionally. I'm incredibly proud of the way it's turned out." The attendees couldn't agree more.

Asked to give their feedback on the Institute, the attendees praises were exuberant. Among some of their comments:

- "Without exception, this Institute is the best experience of my professional career. It is a rich experience."
- "This experience has been stimulating and revelatory. The new thinking and the changes that I will bring back to my campus will set the stage for major departmental restructuring."
- "Time to think and discuss ideas with other people was wonderful... I left with a list of over 20 specific ideas."

Following are few of the courses offered during the 2001 National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning:

Beginners

- Identifying Learning and Portfolio Development
- Portfolio Development and Academic Program Planning

Advanced

- Online Training and Development of Faculty Assessors
- Advising the Adult Student on Prior Learning Assessment Options

All

- Selecting Appropriate Methods and Tools for Prior Learning Assessment
- Evaluating Prior Learning Portfolios: A Hands-On Workshop



Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Miller goes over Advising in Prior Learning Assessment at the National Institute.

Matriarch of the Arts Lauded with Prestigious 'Star of Touring Broadway' Award

Thomas Edison State College Grad Has Unique Connection To College's Namesake

When Barbara Mann first heard that she and two members of her family had been selected to receive the prestigious 'Star of Touring Broadway' award, it took a day or two for the immensity of the honor to sink in.

"Then I realized it was connected with the Tony Awards, and I thought, 'Oh, my!'" Mrs. Mann said recently during a telephone interview from her home in Fort Myers, Fla. "We were chauffeured to and from the airport to our hotel, the Marriott Marquis," she recalled, stressing the word 'chauffeured' with glee. "It was a wonderful time."

Such is the life of Barbara Mann. The 88-year-old, completely unpretentious alumna of Thomas Edison State College didn't set out to become the matriarch of the arts in Fort Myers, Fla., it just worked out that way.

An Illuminating Start

When Mrs. Mann graduated from Fort Myers High School in 1929, the man who presented her diploma was none other than Thomas Alva Edison, who spent part of each year in Fort Myers with his wife, Mina Miller Edison. Mrs. Mann (then

Miss Balch) was 16, and the fact that Edison was on the stage with her didn't make much of an impression—at the time.

"I was more excited about the flowers Mrs. Edison had sent me!" Mrs. Mann said, recalling the enormous basket she had received

earlier that week, in honor of her performance as the lead in the senior class play. Then there was the quartet Mrs. Mann sang with the night of the graduation. That too took precedence over Mr. Edison's presence on stage.

As it was the era of the Great Depression, and with money being scarce, Mrs. Mann went straight to work as a secretary at the high school from which she had graduated. She also worked some days as a substitute teacher in the Fort Myers grade schools.

In 1937, at the age of 24, Mrs. Mann married husband George, had two boys and worked as a secretary in her husband's general contracting business. She was busy with the ordinary events of life – running a household, raising children, helping her husband grow his business and dabbling in the arts, mainly singing – until the early 1950s, when a local crisis of sorts developed.

"Every February, we celebrated the Edison Pageant of Light in Fort Myers, in honor of Mr. Edison's birthday," Mrs. Mann recalled. "One year, the pageant organizers wanted to bring in out-of-towners to sing, but I stepped in and persuaded them that there was plenty of local talent to use."

Given the go-ahead, Mrs. Mann developed the Edison Choraliers, a group of 80 talented singers culled from local church choirs. The group, drawn together hastily to fill an immediate need, was an instant success and became a main event at the pageant for the next 12 years.

It was around that time that Mrs. Mann's attention turned to the arts



Above: Barbara Mann (center), along with Franklin Mann (left), and Mary Lee Mann (right), pose on stage at the "2001 Star of Touring Broadway" from The League of American Theatres and Producers at the Supper Club in New York City.

Matriarch...continued on page 13

Pilot *Soars* to New Heights with his Thomas Edison State College Degree in Hand



After 22 Years as a Career Pilot, Jim Kelly's BSAST is the Icing on The Cake

It was Jim Kelly's passion for jumping out of planes that determined his career as a pilot.

Hoping to find a new channel of release for her thrill-seeking son, Kelly's mother bought him a gift certificate for an introductory airplane flight lesson. She thought that maybe he would become a pilot.

It turns out, her intuitions were right. Kelly, then 19, loved the idea of being at the controls and he loved to travel. Suddenly, a whole new world loomed on the horizon. It wasn't long before Kelly traded the thrill of a free fall for the sensation of soaring.

A Leap of Faith

Kelly was working the midnight shift for General Motors, but knew that he wanted to do something else. His wife, Kathy, was working for the New Jersey Department of Transportation as a drafting technician. After some discussion, the couple took a leap of faith: Jim left his job, which had provided good pay and benefits, to train for a career as a pilot, and Kathy supported them during this time.

It wasn't always easy. The family moved often (seven times in the first 10 years of marriage) so that Kelly could climb the ranks. While working as a freight pilot for General Motors, Kelly's father often accompanied him, keeping him company on what would otherwise have been fairly long, monotonous flights.

"We bonded during those trips," Kelly recalled. "It was during these trips, I think, that he realized I was more than just his boy. I had become a man."



The Alumni Office is forming a Pilot Affinity Group of students and alumni of Thomas Edison State College's aviation program. The group will be spearheaded by Jim Kelly, BSAST '99, who has been flying for 22 years. The group will:

- network with aviation alumni and current students through e-mail and other means
- assist the College in reaching out to prospective students in the aviation field who have not yet earned a degree
- encourage aviation alumni to become mentors to current students in the program
- sponsor events and activities for aviation alumni, such as an annual pilots' get-together
- exchange career development information
- explore other ways to support the College and each other

If you are interested in becoming part of this group, please send an e-mail to pmemminger@tesc.edu. We will add your name and e-mail to our distribution list.



It wasn't until 1984, when Kelly took a job as a Learjet pilot and the family moved to Allentown, PA, that Kathy could stop working and focus on raising their growing family. Jim and Kathy now have three children – Shannon (18), Jacki (15) and James (10). The Kelly family resides today in Newtown, PA.

All of the sacrifices and expert schedule juggling paid off.

Twenty-two years have past since that first memorable airplane ride and today Kelly is a corporate pilot with Pfizer, an international pharmaceutical company. His natural talent for flying and expert piloting skills have allowed him to fly Pfizer's executives to meetings across the globe.

Along the way, he has found time to enjoy the sites: golf courses in Hong Kong and Monte Carlo, King Tut's tomb in Luxor and the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, to name a few.

He has also found time to study.

Despite his success as a pilot, and his pride in a growing family back home, Kelly felt that there was still something missing.

"I was flying doctors and lawyers, but I didn't have a degree," Kelly said. "I felt incomplete."

Kelly had an associate's degree that he had earned at a community college, but he didn't have a bachelor's degree. While he felt he was at a good place professionally, he thought he could do better.

An advisor at Mercer County Community College told Kelly about Thomas Edison State College and he knew that this was exactly the opportunity that he needed.

Now, in addition to his regular duties piloting Pfizer's Gulfstream jets and Sikorsky helicopters, Kelly is a standardization and safety pilot. In short, he's in charge of developing a safety management program and ensuring that standard operations procedures are in place and adhered to for Pfizer's aviation department. His current projects are developing and implementing an emergency response plan, in case of an accident or incident with one of the aircraft or in the hangar, and ensuring Pfizer's maintenance department is in compliance with OSHA's strict guidelines, which are designed to protect them from the hazards of the job.

"That [Thomas Edison State College] degree opened doors for me. It definitely helped me get that job," Kelly said.

Jim Kelly...continued on back cover

"Applause, Applause"

Rich Altrath
2000, BA, Humanities
Rich, a training director with the School of Defensive Firearms in Bloomfield, N.J., has completed a master of science degree in adult education at Capella University. Altrath is a member of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors and the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers.

David M. Brady
1988, BSAST, Electronic Engineering Technology
Dr. Brady was recently appointed Chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences at the University of Bridgeport, Colleges of Naturopathic Medicine and Chiropractic, in Bridgeport, CT, where he has been a professor for four years. Dr. Brady has also recently been named co-editor of the upcoming new edition of the textbook, *Fundamentals of Chiropractic Diagnosis and Treatment*, with Dr. Dana Lawrence of the National University of Health Sciences. Dr. Brady maintains a private practice of functional and natural-based medicine at the Integrative Medical Arts clinic in Orange, CT.

Gabriele E. Chorney
1999, BA, Liberal Arts
By Gabriele's account, it was Thomas Edison State College's flexible schedule that enabled her to realize a dream and earn two degrees in four years. The first is a BA from Thomas Edison State College, which she received in January 1999, along with the Arnold Fletcher Award and a mention in "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges." The second is a master's degree in psychoanalysis from the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis in Brookline, Mass.

Jo-Ann C. Dixon
1977, AA, Social Science/History
1978, BA, Social Science/History
On March 2, Jo-Ann was awarded the George F. Hixson Fellowship by Kiwanis International. She was nominated for the award by the Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West



Essex, where she served as Distinguished President from 1998-1999. The George F. Hixson Fellow is one of Kiwanis International Foundation's highest honors, and is awarded to those whose community service, dedication to Kiwanis and commitment to youth and society are exemplary. Dixon was also named Businessperson/Community Leader of The Year, in 2001, by the West Essex Chamber of Commerce. She works as regional director for the American Management Association International, and is a sociologist and Gestalt practitioner with over 25 years experience in business and human organization.

Capt. Anthony Derderian
1989, BSAST, Aviation
Capt. Derderian recently transitioned to the Airbus 300. A pilot for United Parcel Service, he has flown for the airline for over 11 years and most recently was a B757/767 International Captain.

Barry G. Hedrick
1985, BSAST, Respiratory Therapy
Barry, active in the field of respiratory care for 26 years, was promoted to clinical coordinator at Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte, NC.

Sze Hian Leong
1985, BSBA, Management of Human Resources
Sze Hian, a resident of Singapore, spoke on "Financial Planning: Implications for Leadership Development and Corruption," at the International Leadership Forum, Institute of International Leadership and Public Affairs, in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 2001. During the event, Leong rubbed elbows with fellow speakers Oscar Arias, a Nobel Laureate and former president of Costa Rica; Harriet Fulbright, chairperson of the Fulbright Commission; and Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of Russia.



Richard Kosmoski
1994 AA, Liberal Arts/General Studies
1996 BA, Social Science/History
Richard, a former fire chief, was vacationing in Wildwood, N.J. with his wife, in June 2000, when he noticed smoke pouring from a window in a building across the street. While his wife dialed 911 Rich went across the street to investigate. He scaled a six-foot concrete wall surrounding the back yard, entered through the back door and went up to the second floor, where he discovered an apartment engulfed in smoke. The fire was coming from the refrigerator. Without the aid of protective clothing or gear, Kosmoski crawled through the apartment, but no one was home. He then went to the other apartment, and led its occupants, a woman and two children, to safety. Kosmoski was on hand when firefighters arrived, and was able to brief and assist. For his actions, Kosmoski netted seven awards: Firefighter of the Year awards from the VFW and borough of Sayreville, N.J. where he lives; citations of heroism from the NJ State Senate and Assembly, and Congressman LoBiondo; Heroism Awards from the 200 Club of Atlantic/Cape May counties and the American Legion Department of Middlesex County; and a Medal of Valor from the American Legion Department of New Jersey.

Hunter J. Lewis
1993, ASM, General Management
1993, BSBA, Management Info Services
After earning two degrees the same year, Hunter continued his educational quest and was awarded a master of science degree in information systems from Drexel University in June. Lewis now plans to apply to two doctorate programs in the fall. He believes that the education he received at Thomas Edison State College helped him secure several promotions in his career with the United States Postal Service (USPS), and gave him "a great feeling of accomplishment in my personal life." Lewis is currently a senior level information technology specialist at the USPS Headquarters in Washington, DC, and an adjunct professor of information technology at numerous colleges. In his 20-plus years in MIS, Lewis has received many honors, awards and scholarships for his professional and academic achievements.

John (Mac) McCormick
1990, BA, Communications
John is pleased to announce the recent publication of his book, "Days of Death, Nights of Service," which he describes as a "positive, upbeat collection of touching human interest stories loosely based on my experiences as a

funeral director and embalmer." The second half of the book, *Funerals of the Famous*, examines the lives, deaths and burials of many prominent Americans. McCormick is also a regular columnist with *American Funeral Director*, and credits his writing success to the "fine education and skills I earned at TESC." To obtain more information about McCormick or his book, you can e-mail him at jarmac1@home.com.

David B. Palmer
1994 ASM, 1999 BSBA, Management of Human Resources
In May, David was awarded a master's of public administration degree from Old Dominion University. He was also recognized by the faculty and staff at the College of Business and Public Administration as the Outstanding MPA Student for the 2000-2001 Academic year, and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the Business Academic Honors fraternity, an honor he shares with his father, Dr. Allan V. Palmer, who was inducted at UNC, Chapel Hill, 40 years ago. Palmer was also inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the academic honors fraternity for public affairs and public administration programs.

David A. Rankin
1993, BSAST, Nuclear Engineering Technology
David graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in May 2001, and is now working as a resident of the U.S. Army at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas. Rankin hopes to pursue further training in pathology.



Dan Shanok
1992, BA, Social Science/History
Dan is the president of Sandler Sales Institute's newest venture, TD Sales Enterprises, based in Warren, N.J. TD Sales Enterprises offers corporate training and development to large and small businesses throughout central New Jersey. Sandler Sales Institute, founded in 1967, is a nationwide training organization dedicated to improving sales and management skills. The company serves businesses of all sizes with short and long-term training programs that can be customized.

Applause, Applause...
continued on page 10

Edward A. Sierra
1988 ASAST, Nuclear Engineering Technology
1989 BSAST, Nuclear Engineering Technology
 Edward, a project engineer at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY, was awarded a master's degree in education from Dowling College in May 2001. He also holds a master's in training and learning technology from the New York Institute of Technology, which he earned in 1991.

Gloria R. Stein
1981, BA, Humanities
 Thomas Edison State College degree in hand, Gloria is now working as a certified activity director with Marriott's Senior Living Services Division.

Arthorine Walker
1992, BA, Social Science/History
 Arthorine, a native of Jamaica and author of articles on education research, was invited to lead a series of workshops at Caribbean University, formerly West Indies College, in Mandeville. The topics covered conflict resolution, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, and integrating language arts and math across the curriculum. While there, she adopted the Albion Primary and Junior High School, and will solicit donations from Jamaicans living in the U.S. Among her donations to the schools were books on staff development and a world atlas. Walker lives in Englewood, N.J. and works as a resource teacher for grades 1-5 at Lincoln Elementary School. She holds master's degrees in education and learning

consulting, and is presently pursuing a doctorate.

Lynn Van Ek
1987, BA, Humanities
 After graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Lynn went on to study at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, in New Jersey, from which she graduated summa cum laude in 1989. In 1990, she was ordained into the Reformed Church in America, and began a ministry as a hospice chaplain. In 2000, Van Ek graduated from the Westchester Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy. She is certified as a psychoanalyst by the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis, and runs a private practice. She is also on the faculty of the Westchester Institute for the Fall 2001 semester.

Marita A. Lawler
1998, BSHS, Mental Health and Rehabilitation
 Since completing her studies at Thomas Edison State College, Marita has enrolled in the doctorate program at Capella University. The Alaska resident is currently working on her comprehensive examinations and Ph.D. dissertation at the college's Harold Able School of Psychology. Upon graduation, her title will be Doctor of Philosophy, specializing in addiction psychology. Lawler has a private practice, Lawler Consulting and Counseling, where she treats people with addictions to alcohol and drugs. As a consultant, she provides insight and direction to substance abuse programs, employers, courts, defense attorneys and prosecutors.

"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, NJ 08608; fax it to (609) 984-1376; or e-mail your good news to 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*:

And the Winners are....

Winners of the 2001 Thomas C. Streckewald Seventh Golf Classic, held on June 18th, were from the Johnson & Johnson Company foursome: Chris Kjeldsen, Jim Hemm, Tony Armenti and Tim Touhey. The event is sponsored annually by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation.

One hundred and eight corporate sponsors and friends participated in the event. Student and alumni players included: Mike Davis, Nicholas Micale and Ron Roma.



Enjoying a day of golf are Thomas Edison State College alum, Mike Davis, BA, head coach of the Indiana University basketball team, and Dr. George Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison State College.

In Search of All Thomas Edison State College Alumni

Have you ever tried to get in touch with an old classmate, only to find that the last directory is eight years old? Well, your troubles are over. Soon an impressive directory will be available to help you locate fellow alumni.

The new Thomas Edison State College Alumni Directory, scheduled for release in late May 2002, will be the most up-to-date and complete reference of over 17,000 Thomas Edison State College Alumni ever compiled! This comprehensive volume will include current name, address, phone number, academic data, plus business information (if applicable), bound into a classic, library quality edition.

The Alumni Office has contracted the prestigious Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc. to produce the College's directory. You will receive, or may have already received, an important questionnaire

in the mail. This questionnaire is being sent to give every alumni the opportunity to be accurately listed in the upcoming new Thomas Edison State College Alumni Directory.

Once received, your information will be edited and processed by Harris Publishing Company for inclusion in the new directory. At a later point in the project, you will be contacted by Harris directly to verify that your personal data is absolutely correct.

If you don't return your questionnaire, it is possible you may be inadvertently omitted or your personal information will be printed incorrectly. So don't take a chance... watch for your questionnaire form and remember to return it promptly!

For more information on this directory, or if you prefer not to be listed, please contact Anna Krum via e-mail at akrum@tesc.edu no later than December 3, 2001.

Thomas Edison State College Congratulates UMDNJ Graduates

Heather Marie Cabral, Thomas Edison State College BA, 1997, earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from UMDNJ in May 2001.

Nancy Raiti Biddle, Thomas Edison State College BS, 1998, earned a Masters of Science in Nursing from UMDNJ in May 2001.

Koushby Majagah, Thomas Edison State College BS, 1994, earned a Masters of Science in Biomedical Informatics, a degree offered jointly by the New Jersey Institute of Technology and UMDNJ, in May 2001.

Thomas Edison State College Announcements

College Prepares for 29th Commencement Ceremony

More Than 250 Grads Expected to March
at Historic Trenton War Memorial



Above: Daughter
and mother,
Elizabeth
Crocker and
Margot
O'Connell
graduate at last
years ceremony.
Right: The War
Memorial
Building.



**Thomas Edison State College's
29th Commencement:**

**When: Saturday, Oct. 13, 2001
2:00 p.m.**

**Where: War Memorial,
Trenton, N.J.**

When the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" fill the halls at historic Trenton War Memorial this October, 250 members of the Class of 2001 will be lined up backstage, ready collect their hard-earned degrees. But they'll represent only a fraction of the graduating class, which numbers over 1,000 and, as in years past, hails from all over the world.

This will be the College's

29th commencement ceremony. The event will feature a speech by Carla Tisdale Walker, a student speaker; the conferring of degrees, which is led by College President Dr. George Pruitt; and the awarding of honorary degrees.

"The College does not bestow these honors lightly," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "We search for

individuals who personify what the institution stands for and the kind of adult learners we serve."

For the graduates, the ceremony will be the culmination of many hours of work and the realization of a dream, and no one will understand

that better than the graduates' families which is why the College is again hosting its traditional "Putting Him/Her Through" (PHT) Banquet. The banquet begins one half-hour after commencement ends, in the War Memorial's Upper Ballroom.

**SAVE
THE
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The Grande Ball TRENTON 2001

Tenth Annual Thomas Edison
State College Foundation Gala

Saturday, November 17, 2001

The War Memorial Building
Trenton, N.J.

For more information,
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Stephanie Bray or
Anna Krum at
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Maria
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Gala Co-Chairs

College Says 'Thank You' at Chairman's Circle Dinner

When Thomas Edison State College first collected alumni donations, the grand total raised was \$600 in four years. This year, the College's Foundation Board collected more than \$600,000.

To honor the Foundation chairpersons who have steered this phenomenal success, Foundation Board Chairman Jack Neary invited all former chairmen to a special Chairman's Circle dinner. The dinner was held at the College on May 7 and was hosted by College President Dr. George Pruitt. Chairman Neary and former chairmen Nicholas Carnevale, Richard Gillespie and Christian Yegen, John Thurber, vice president of public affairs, and Stephanie Bray, director of development, attended the event.

The purpose of the dinner, Bray explained, was "to recognize the contributions of these individuals, and invite their invaluable insight on the College's future. These men are part of our history, and they are very much a part of our future," said Bray.

Dr. Pruitt shared the College's five-year plan during the dinner, and according to Bray, the attendees were "very impressed with the College's vision."

Matriarch...continued from page 5

in Fort Myers. Since 1948, Mrs. Mann had been involved with the Community Concert Association, and was dismayed at the fact that the city lacked a proper facility to showcase the talents of the performers visiting Fort Worth. Concerts and other performances were held in one of the city's grade schools, which seated only 600, until the 1950s, when a new high school, whose auditorium seated 1,400, was built.

Still, Mrs. Mann was not satisfied, but for the next two decades, she made do. Then she kicked her efforts into gear.

woman who helped build it, opened in December 1985, on the campus of Edison Community College in Fort Myers. Since then, musicians, comedians, ballerinas and major Broadway shows have taken turns sharing the spotlight in a hall that seats 1,700. The center has been a resounding success.

In typical fashion, Mrs. Mann deflects the immense success of the arts center she helped found to the company that manages it. She also praises her son, Franklin and daughter-in-law, Mary Lee, who are advocates of the arts and avid fundraisers, and who were co-recipients of the Star of Touring Broadway award.

Establishing Mann Hall as a major presence in Fort Myers – and in broader performing arts circles – was the realization of a dream.

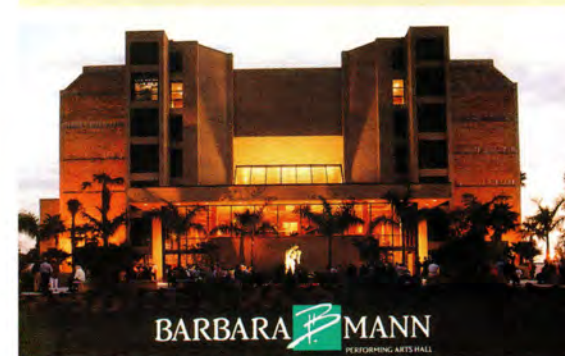
Not long before that, another of Mrs. Mann's long-cherished dreams came true. In 1984, Mrs. Mann was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in humanities at the Thomas Edison

State College commencement ceremony. She was 71 years old, but felt almost as giddy as she did at 16, when she earned her high school diploma. At the time, she never expected that Mr. Edison would be associated with both of her degrees!

"I wanted that degree," she said, her voice rising an octave, "and am proud that I accomplished something that I'd set out to do years and years before – why, as soon as I'd graduated from high school."

Even as she nears 90, Mrs. Mann has not slowed down. Not much, anyway. She works 20 hours a week as president of the Fort Myers Community Concert Association, a group charged with attracting world-class performers to the arts center, and serves on the board of the Lee County Alliance of the Arts, a group that organizes music, dance, theater and camps for children.

For Mrs. Mann, the show must – and will – go on.



Dreams Come True

Mrs. Mann's vision and persistence began to pay off in the 1970s, when she was appointed chairman of a committee charged with finding a way to make a freestanding performing arts center a reality. Among its members were the president of the Chamber of Commerce, the president of Edison Community College (future home of the arts center), bank presidents and other members of the business community.

The committee's attempt, in the 1970s, to raise money through a tourist tax referendum failed when voters rejected the idea.

For another decade, the arts community made do. Then, in the 1980s, when son Franklin was a member of the Florida House of Representatives, Mrs. Mann learned that Edison Community College was awarded \$13 million for the construction of the hall.

Mann Hall, fittingly named for the



"When you're on call as a pilot, there is plenty of down time between flights. Plenty of time to log on to the Internet and do some homework," said Kelly.



Ready to Fly At A Moment's Notice

Kelly never meant to postpone the completion of his degree, at least not for such a long time, but such is the life of an aspiring pilot hoping to earn his wings. Kelly is not alone.

To become a pilot, one must be ready to jump in at a moment's notice. Aviation is a cyclical market known for its extremes. At one end are the dry periods, when a glut of pilots graduating from military schools make it nearly impossible to get a job; at the other end are the times when the market is suddenly awash with opportunity because every pilot turning 60 (the mandatory age for retirement) is gearing up for a final flight.

Until recently, pilots had only two choices: put your career on hold for an education, or put your education on hold for a career.

Thankfully, that's no longer the case, due to programs like those offered at Thomas Edison State College, which enable degree seekers to put their work experiences to work for them.

"When you're on call as a pilot, there is plenty of down time between flights. Plenty of time to log on to the Internet and do some homework," said Kelly.

This is exactly what Kelly did, and what he now encourages fellow pilots to do.

On the Home Front

Using work downtime to study has another benefit: when you're home, rather than huddling over books, you can spend time with your family.

Kelly enjoys coaching his son's soccer team, playing soccer and golf (sports he describes as his passions), and reading. Tom Clancy, John Grisham and Michael Crichton are his favorite authors – which isn't too surprising, considering Kelly's penchant for thrill seeking in the real world.

Twice a year, Kelly's family vacations together. In the summer they visit the shore, either Ocean City, MD or Hilton Head, SC, where they enjoy sailing and golf. In the winter, they go to Vermont for skiing.

Through it all, Kelly and his wife Kathy, who both come from large families (Kelly is one of five children, his wife one of six), have remained close with their parents, siblings and extended families. Thanks in part to Jim's profession, they have had opportunities to see some of the world's sites together, with Kathy occasionally taking a commercial flight to meet her husband in an exotic locale.

All in all, the chance gift given to Kelly by his mother – a \$15 gift certificate for an introductory flight lesson – was truly a gift from the heart that will last a lifetime.