

SPRING 2012

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Always Giving Back

Antonia Marotta-Brinton '83

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2011 Honor Roll of Donors

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DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT
President

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Contributors



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Oprah Winfrey said, "I don't think you ever stop giving... I think it's an ongoing process. And it's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life."

Once again, this issue of *Invention* is dedicated to those who support Thomas Edison State College and continue to value our institution and our unique mission.

The annual support we receive from individuals and businesses plays an increasingly important role in helping the College to serve more students, expand programs and continue our commitment to academic excellence and integrity.

An example of that excellence is illustrated in our cover story, which profiles Antonia "Toni" Marotta-Brinton '83, a longtime supporter of the College and the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Toni provides a classic example of why Thomas Edison State College was created and of the importance of the financial support we receive every year.

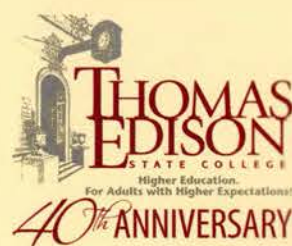
On behalf of the entire College family, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our supporters and to the Foundation for the extraordinary work it does every year on behalf of the Annual Fund, our special events and other development initiatives.

We are grateful for the Foundation's support and the generous gifts made by all of our donors.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

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TD Charitable Foundation Supports Watson Cultural Competency Program

For the fourth consecutive year, the TD Charitable Foundation, the charitable giving arm of TD Bank, has supported a mentoring program based in The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College that helps teachers become more culturally aware of students with diverse backgrounds.

The TD Charitable Foundation supported the program, which is coordinated by the Institute's Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, through a \$7,500 grant in 2011. The program helps educators examine personal bias that may impact the manner in which children of diverse cultures and speakers of languages other than English are educated. In the last four years, 100 educators have completed the program and become more culturally and linguistically responsive to diverse students by incor-



(from left) John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College; Barbara George Johnson, executive director, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy; Renee C. Rattigan, vice president, community relations manager at TD Bank; Ana I. Berdecia, senior fellow/director, Watson Institute's Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children; and Joseph P. Tredinnick, senior vice president/regional vice president at TD Bank

porating teaching strategies that focus on celebrating culture and supporting first and second language acquisition.

The program includes teachers taking part in a three-day summer program at Thomas Edison State College, nine months of mentoring and two learning communities via teleconference.

"The funding is critical to our ability to support teachers who are working with diverse children and families across New Jersey by helping them understand that culture and language are anchors for child development and future academic success," said Ana I. Berdecia, MEd, director of the Watson Institute's Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children.

The TD Charitable Foundation has supported the program since 2008. The program has also received support by the New Jersey Department of Human Services-Division of Family Development; Family Strengths Associates, Inc.; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; and The Schumann Fund for New Jersey.

College President Honored by African American Chamber of Commerce of NJ

Thomas Edison State College President Dr. George A. Pruitt was recently honored by the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey for his work in higher education.

Pruitt accepted a Circle of Achievement Award at the chamber's second annual Circle of Achievement Awards Gala on Feb. 18 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick,

N.J. The annual event honors a select group of African Americans who have distinguished themselves through accomplishments in a wide variety of fields, such as business, public service, education, sports and entertainment.

"I am honored to be recognized by the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey," said Pruitt. "It is a privilege to be

acknowledged by this renowned organization for serving the needs of adult learners in New Jersey and throughout the world."

The chamber also honored former New Jersey Attorney General Paula Dow; Champion Top Fuel Car Driver Antron Brown; and Fredrick S. Humphries Jr., vice president, U.S. Government Affairs for Microsoft Corporation.

College Plans Launch of Master of Public Service Leadership Degree

The John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies is launching the College's latest graduate degree program, a Master of Public Service Leadership, that is designed to develop the next generation of leaders for nonprofit organizations, faith-based and community-based organizations and local, state and federal government.

"Our new program meets the accelerating demand for education and careers in public service, both here in New Jersey and across the country," said Dr. Joseph Youngblood II, vice provost and dean of the John S. Watson School of Public Service and Continuing Studies. "This is a broadly

defined sector that includes government agencies as well as nonprofit, philanthropic and nongovernmental organizations."

The 36-credit program will offered entirely online and has been developed in alignment with the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) standards for accreditation. Students will have the option of selecting one of seven areas of study, including:

- ▶ Community and Economic Development
- ▶ Environmental Policy/Environmental Justice
- ▶ Information Technology Management for Public Service

- ▶ Learner-Designed Area of Study
- ▶ Nonprofit Management
- ▶ Public Finance
- ▶ Public Health Management

"We have created a program that is aligned with the realities and needs of working professionals," said Youngblood. "The program gives students an applied experience that provides both an opportunity to learn and grow and to apply what they learn to their actual work environments."

The first class for the new program is scheduled to begin in the October 2012 term. For more information on the program, contact the College at gradstudies@tesc.edu or visit www.tesc.edu/watson.

College's Polysomnography Program Earns Accreditation

Thomas Edison State College's associate degree program and undergraduate certificate in polysomnography has recently been awarded initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

Polysomnography is an allied health discipline focusing on the diagnosis of sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea, narcolepsy and insomnia. The accreditation focused on the College's 60-credit Associate in Applied Science degree in polysomnography as well as the 17-credit Undergraduate Certifi-

cate in Polysomnography and found the programs are in compliance with nationally established standards. The initial accreditation status is valid from March 16, 2012, until March 31, 2017.

"We are very pleased and excited that the polysomnography program has earned its initial accreditation," said Dr. Thomas Devine, acting dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State College. "This accreditation validates that our program meets national standards of excellence and best serves adult learners interested in preparing for advancing in this allied health field."

Thomas Edison State College developed its polysomnography program with sleep medicine professionals from Capital Health in New Jersey.





Onward

Alumni Profile Kate Kennedy

& Upward



Kate Kennedy knows that overcoming obstacles can be transformational, especially for those with special needs.

Kennedy is president and COO of Ultimate Allstars, a nonprofit organization based in Flemington, N.J., that is dedicated to helping children with special needs learn to play and create music through special instruction tailored to their unique needs. Kennedy oversees the business and administration of Ultimate Allstars. Her partner, Anthony Gemignani, a professional musician with more than 20 years of teaching experience, handles musical instruction and helps parents determine whether their children are appropriate for the program.

"I love to sing and take voice lessons — that's how I met Anthony," Kennedy explained. "He owns Allstar Music Academy and, after getting to know each other over a few months, he asked me how to go about marketing this fabulous idea he had called Ultimate Allstars. We decided to become partners and turn his idea into a nonprofit organization."

Established as a pilot program in June 2011, Ultimate Allstars brings music to youngsters with special needs by providing private, after-school lessons for drums, piano and keyboard. The venture became a full program in January 2012 and now offers 30-minute sessions taught by musicians who are experienced in teaching special-needs children how to play music.

Kennedy's passion to help children with special needs is deeply rooted. She was born with cerebral palsy (CP). Despite growing up with the condition,

Kennedy refused to let it hold her back. Instead, it pushed her to get over hurdles and reach for higher goals.

One of those goals was to complete her college education and discover her true calling.

While earning her MSM, she became interested in human resources and decided to pursue a career in the field.

Kennedy earned her Professional Human Resources® certificate in 2006 from the Human Resources

“My passion to help special needs kids and young people obviously comes from experience. I have seen some of the ways music can be beneficial to special needs students.”

Kennedy had accumulated most of her bachelor's credits pursuing a theatre arts degree at Elon University in North Carolina, but was unable to complete her degree due to personal reasons related to CP.

"Elon was an amazing experience that lead to an internship as part of the summer stock at Mount Holyoke," recalled Kennedy. "Unfortunately, the experience at Holyoke and discussions with advisors and professors at Elon made me realize that theatres, outside of the academic world, would not be as willing to accommodate my needs. For the first time in my life, the CP was stopping me from living my passion. For the first time, my body and brain were at war, my body won and it hit me like a ton of bricks."

When it was time to return to college, Kennedy was working full time and did not drive. She did research and discovered Thomas Edison State College and its flexible programs fit her needs.

After graduating with her Bachelor of Arts degree in humanities in 2001, she continued on to earn a Master of Science in Management degree in 2005.

Certification Institute, which inspired her to return to school. In 2009, she earned a Master of Science in Human Resources Management degree at Thomas Edison State College.

With Ultimate Allstars, Kennedy said she has the opportunity to combine her love for the arts, extensive business and management knowledge and her desire to help children with special needs. She noted that her biggest inspiration is her nephew, who has autism.

"My passion to help special needs kids and young people obviously comes from experience," said Kennedy. "I have seen some of the ways music can be beneficial to special needs students. Though our program is not a therapy program, I have seen therapeutic effects. One father told us that he wasn't even sure if his son liked the piano lessons, but every week his son is at the door ready to go. Another student was strumming guitar along with her favorite band. To anyone else, it was unrecognizable but to her, she was playing the song and it gave her a sense of pride, accomplishment and self-esteem."



Antonia Marotta-Brinton '83

Always Giving Back

For Antonia “Toni” Marotta-Brinton, philanthropy became a way of life at a very young age. >>

As a child during World War II, every Saturday, after her piano lesson, Marotta-Brinton would spend afternoons at her father's New York City hairdressing salon, doing whatever was necessary to help out.

"One of his clients was a very enthusiastic lady and she talked about her duties as a volunteer for the AWVS (American Women's Voluntary Services); remembering the acronym tells me that this experience certainly made an impression in my consciousness," recalled Marotta-Brinton. "She talked about the work the organization was doing, collecting used aluminum foil that would be recycled and turned into ammunition, and how it was helping the war effort."

One of the items collected was the aluminum that was used in

cigarette packs and Marotta-Brinton, after thinking about what the woman had said, realized that she could easily collect aluminum and, in so doing, she

“It truly is the responsibility of the College’s alumni to support the organization that supported them.”

could also help the war effort.

"In the 40s aluminum foils were used as one of the steps in creating permanent waves, so I began collecting the used aluminum permanent wave sheets and the discarded cigarette packs in the streets, and there were lots of them. So, that early effort, which

I found emotionally rewarding, was probably the start of my involvement in philanthropy."

Today, Marotta-Brinton continues

to use her time, talent and treasures to make a difference in the lives of others. Among the many organizations she supports, Thomas Edison State College holds a special place in her heart.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity the College provided," said Marotta-Brinton, who earned her Associate in Arts degree in 1983. "I always wanted a college degree, but there was little hope. Traditional institutions required taking courses in the traditional form — attending classes at specified times, that didn't work for me. I had a husband, whose executive role required a wife's support, three children still at home and my very demanding business, which left very little time for educational pursuits."

Ultimately, she found the solution. While shopping in the Livingston Mall in New Jersey, Marotta-Brinton noticed a display touting the College.

"The signage spoke to me," she remembered. "Earn a degree at your pace. Get credits for those earned at another institution.' I

was a student at Long Island University, which was located in downtown Brooklyn, at that time. I accumulated a few credits and had very little hope of ever making use of them. And there, in bold letters, was the answer. I, being of the depression era, would always seize any opportunity that would allow me to advance myself."

Seizing opportunities has been a hallmark of Marotta-Brinton life. She had already found success as the co-founder and co-director of Lean Line Inc., which she established in 1968 and grew to become one of the country's leading companies focused on healthy, long-term weight loss through proper nutrition and behavior modification.

Marotta-Brinton, who retired from Lean Line in 1995, is a noted authority on weight loss and weight control. She was the co-creator, co-producer and co-host of the "Willpower Quarter Hour," a cable program that aired daily for more than two years. She also co-authored two books, *Diet Cybernetics for Lean Lines* and *One Month Lighter* as well as numerous articles for newspapers and magazines.

In addition to her support of Thomas Edison State College, Marotta-Brinton contributes her time and talent to serve on boards and provide philanthropic support to a number of organizations. Among her many endeavors is serving as a trustee with the United Family & Children's Soci-



At the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 2001 Grande Ball, Marotta-Brinton received a Spirit of Edison Award, along with (from left) the late S. John Quattrone, former Foundation board member, Dr. George Pruitt, college president; and Dennis M. Bone, president of Verizon New Jersey.

ety, the Partnership in Philanthropy (PIP) and the Discovery Orchestra, and actively supporting the Morris Museum.

In 2001, the Thomas Edison State College Foundation recognized Marotta-Brinton for her creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit and awarded her the Spirit of Edison Award for Distinguished Alumna.

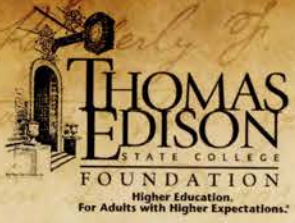
"It truly is the responsibility of the College's alumni to support the organization that supported them," she asserted. "Thomas Edison State College took good care of me in my time of need, so it is now my turn to give back. I appreciate and I am grateful for the opportunity the College provided and I believe in its mission. If an institution is to grow, it needs the financial support of those who have benefitted. The

funds provide opportunities and scholarships for those that may be less fortunate, making a difference in the lives of others."

Marotta-Brinton mused on the dilemma many face when considering philanthropy.

"I'm a firm believer that we must give back in life, whether it be in money or in kind. Each human being is so constructed that all we want to do is contribute to the well-being of others," she said. "So why do we hesitate? Are we waiting for instructions on how, when, where or how much? It is so simple, truly. Look into your consciousness and see who has contributed to you, who has made a difference in your life and begin to consider what it is you can do to enhance the lives of others. The universe recognizes our deeds and rewards accordingly."





The Thomas Edison State College Foundation presents its 2011

Honor ROLL of Donors



Honor Roll of Donors

Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,



On behalf of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who provided financial support this year. I am honored to present this year's Honor Roll of Donors.

As we continue to expand programs and ensure quality in challenging economic times, your contributions continue to play a critical role helping Thomas Edison State College offer flexible, high-quality programs for adult learners throughout the world.

This year, your support made it possible for the Foundation to fund two of the most exciting new degree programs aimed at developing human capital in New Jersey and around the country. This includes support for the development of an online Master of Business Administration degree program and support for the creation of a human patient simulator laboratory that will be located on the College's Trenton, N.J., campus and serve our Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program.

Your support has enabled the College and the Foundation to remain strong. In fact, the College is home to the largest nursing program in New Jersey. Now that is an accomplishment worth talking about!

Together, we are building a stronger future for the College and the more than 20,000 students we serve throughout the country and around the world.

For more information on the Foundation and how your support is funding College programs for adult learners, visit www.tescfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Maloney

Brian T. Maloney
Chair, Thomas Edison State College Foundation

Foundation Financials

Thomas Edison State College Foundation: 2011 Financial Information

The fiscal and organizational health of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation is excellent as the Foundation has maintained steady support for Thomas Edison State College during the past several years, despite challenging economic times.

Total support and revenues increased by approximately 15 percent in 2011 compared to 2010, and expenses decreased by approximately 15 percent in 2011 compared to 2010. The Foundation's net assets as of Dec. 31, 2011 were \$5.9 million.

Statement of Activities

	Year Ending 12/31/11	Year Ending 12/31/10
Support & Revenue		
Contributions & Grants	\$379,566	\$250,227
Special Events	\$152,674	\$143,761
Donated Services & Auction Materials	\$281,437	\$296,870
Total support & revenues	\$813,677	\$690,858

Expenses		
Grants	\$259,173	\$133,500
Scholarships	\$22,142	\$13,740
Promotional	\$17,394	\$9,923
Special Events	\$89,553	\$98,014
Donated Services & Auction Materials	\$281,437	\$296,870
Management & General	\$69,706	\$66,065
Fundraising	\$18,918	\$21,329
Total expenses	\$758,323	\$639,441

Change in net assets (before investment return)	\$55,354	\$51,417
Net investment return	\$236,390	\$389,120
Change in net assets	\$291,744	\$440,537

Net assets, beginning of year	\$5,636,693	\$5,196,156
Net assets, end of year	\$5,928,437	\$5,636,693

Revenue



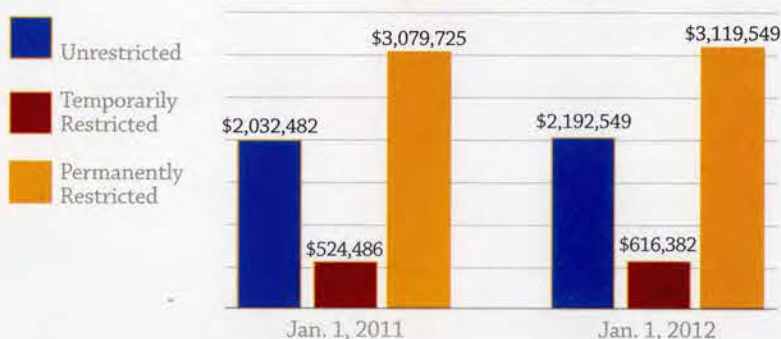
Expenditures



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Net Assets



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John McCann BSBA '90
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Expanding Course Delivery & Access

In 2010, the Thomas Edison State College Foundation provided \$65,000 to support several strategic projects related to programs, course delivery and services. This funding supported the initial implementation of an electronic book initiative designed to save students money, the development of a new prototype for the College's FlashTrack® courses aligned with the institution's move to a new learning management system and expanding the capacity of the College's Online Proctoring Service, which enables students to take exams at the location of their choice.

Support of the e-book and FlashTrack® programs played a critical role in building the foundation of the College's move to a new learning management system, scheduled to take place in 2013, that will enable students to access entire courses in a wider range of formats. Expanding capacity of the Online Proctoring Service enabled the College to offer the program to more students. The service is expected to be fully implemented later this year and include all undergraduate courses with an exam.

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Thomas Edison State College opens opportunities to everyone. I am grateful for having a college that, in my time, allowed me to complete my degree and continue to work. I believe in donating to Thomas Edison State College because I know I'm helping current and future students.

Michael Vagianos BSAST '83

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I highly value the education I received at Thomas Edison State College. My support as a staff member and donor will ensure that students who follow me will have the resources they need to fulfill their academic goals.

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Creating a Master of Business Administration Exclusively for Adults

In 2011, the Foundation provided \$100,000 to fund the development of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. The College plans to offer the online, 48-credit program pending approval by the New Jersey Presidents' Council.

Recent student surveys conducted by the College and Stamats Corp. have found there is great interest from the College's current population of adult learners in graduate business programs. The College's survey data from undergraduate business students suggest that the MBA is widely preferred over other graduate programs offered by the College. The program is being designed to meet the needs of adults and will enable students to transfer of credits from other regionally accredited institutions and earn credit through the assessment of prior learning.

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Thomas Edison State College empowers adults to succeed by enhancing and expanding skills. The school provides a flexible and customized educational experience, so students can learn while continuing to work in their professions. The efficient and effective delivery of educational services is consistent with our firm's core values of quality and exceptional service, and we are proud to support Thomas Edison State College in helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders.

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Patient Simulator Laboratory for Nursing Students

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation began raising funds for the creation of a human patient simulator laboratory on the College's Trenton, N.J., campus for its Accelerated 2nd Degree BSN Program in 2011. The laboratory, a critical component of the one-year accelerated BSN program, will utilize 12 technology-equipped mannequins that help students learn and practice vital assessment, diagnostic and clinical skills, and develop optimum critical-thinking, decision-making and teamwork abilities in a safe and controlled environment. In the simulation laboratory, students can experience numerous situations that they may not face in an actual clinical setting and are able to repeat procedures and simulated experiences, learn by making errors that do not harm actual patients, observe different outcomes that stem from actions chosen, and practice teamwork, debriefing and team interactions.

The development of the laboratory is estimated to cost \$726,500. To date, the Foundation has raised more than \$185,000 for the project, including grants provided by Bristol-Myers Squibb; the Roma Bank Community Foundation; Janssen Pharmaceuticals; the Fred C. Rummel Foundation; Provident Bank Foundation; the Gary and Diane Heavin Community Fund, Inc. and Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

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APPLAUSE

Kim Choma BSN '96

Kim Choma graduated with a MSN from Seton Hall University's Women's Health Program in 2001 and was inducted into SHU's Gamma Nu Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. In May 2011, she graduated from the Rutgers College of Nursing, with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP). Her capstone project focused on cervical cancer screenings in the adolescent female and she has done two poster presentations on her project: "Cervical Cancer Screenings in Adolescents: A Review of the Evidence for Practice Improvement," at the Seton Hall University College of Nursing and Gamma Nu Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing's 24th Annual Reinkemeyer Research Conference in South Orange, N.J., and at the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health 14th Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, in October 2011. Choma also presented her poster at the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology's 2012 Biennial Scientific Meeting in San Francisco, March 15-17. The abstract of her poster was published in a special supplement to the *Journal for Lower Genital Disease* that was distributed at the meeting. Choma is in a private practice as a nurse practitioner and serves as a part-time lecturer for Rutgers College of Nursing. (Pictured with son Alexander and husband Mike.)



Tammi Joyner AA '08

Tammi Joyner has gained notice from World Poetry Movement, an organization that promotes and encourages the art of poetry among amateur poets, for the publication of "A Theory of Maternity and Togetherness." Written by Joyner for her son, Marquel Green, the poem will be showcased in an heirloom-quality edition of *Stars in Our Hearts*, an international showcase of poets from 18 nations.

Tammie L. Otukwu BA '05

Tammie L. Otukwu graduated from the University of Phoenix in January 2012 with a master's degree in psychology. This is her second master's degree and she knows that she could not have completed it without her faith in God and the love and support of her family. (Pictured with her son, Innocent Otukwu.)



Kristina Sisco Romero BA '06

Kristina Sisco Romero, who is most known for her work as an actress on CBS Daytime's *As the World Turns* where she earned two Daytime Emmy nominations, has released her debut novel *Calling Extra*. Inspired by the historical events of New York in the summer of 1899, the novel explores the Child Labor and Women Rights Movement as well as immigration and life in the impoverished slums of New York at the turn of the 20th century. The novel, which is available on *Amazon.com*, follows 13 year-old German immigrant Elsie and 15-year old newsboy "Grin" as their adventures weave in and out of many iconic and ground-breaking people, places and events of their time. Romero's additional accomplishments and credits include director, writer and Web designer. Currently, she runs her own Web design company, KR Media & Designs.



Keep Us Posted!

Please send your news to invention@tesc.edu and be sure to include your first and last name, your address, your preferred phone, the year you graduated and what degree you earned. Updates can also be sent to:

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