THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE



EIGHTEENTH COMMENCEMENT

October 14, 1990
The War Memorial Building
Trenton, New Jersey

The
Eighteenth Annual Commencement
of
Thomas Edison State College

2:00 p.m.
October 14, 1990

The War Memorial Building
Trenton, New Jersey

Dr. Jerry Ice, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Presiding

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Processional	"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar
"America the Beautiful"	by Samuel A. Ward and Katherine Lee Bates
Welcome and Introduction	George H. Hanford Chairman, Board of Trustees
Greetings	The Honorable Douglas Palmer Mayor, City of Trenton
Distinguished Service Award Presentation	Recipient: Rita Novitt
Conferring of Honorary Degree	Dr. George A. Pruitt President
Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*	Alex J. Plinio
Commencement Address	Alex J. Plinio Former President The Prudential Foundation
Musical Presentation	"The Battle Hymn of the Republic" by Peter Wilhousky

Conferring of Degrees	Dr. George A. Pruitt President
Presidential Charge	Dr. George A. Pruitt President
Response for Graduates	Arthur Eberhard
Induction into the Alumni Association	Mildred Koslow President, Alumni Association
Closing Remarks	Dr. Jerry Ice Vice President for Academic Affairs
Singing of the Alma Mater	The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club
Recessional	"Semper Fidelis" by John Philip Sousa

Everyone is asked to stand during the Processional, the singing of "America the Beautiful," the singing of the Alma Mater, and the Recessional.

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This Commencement Program does not constitute an official certification of graduation.

ARNOLD FLETCHER AWARD

The Arnold Fletcher Award recognizes Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate graduates for exceptional achievement in independent learning. Students selected have demonstrated excellence and have earned a large number of credits using one or more of the nontraditional learning modes recognized by the College: Assessment of Prior Learning through Portfolio, Testing, Guided Study, Correspondence Courses, and Nursing Performance Examinations.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Arnold Fletcher, Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1973-1983.

The Selection Committee, composed of the Coordinator of Liberal Arts Programs, Coordinator of Business Programs, Coordinator of Applied Science and Technology and Human Services Programs, Director of Nursing Program, and the Dean of the College has selected the following to receive the Arnold Fletcher Award at the October 1990 Commencement:

Irene F. Boyle
Elizabeth A. Brady
Kenneth E. Davidson
Arthur Eberhard
Stephanie Franco
Daniel D. Del Gesso
Jay B. Gibson
Linda S. Green
Lilian S. Gorham
Catherine M. Gunn
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Graduates wearing the gold colored *double honor cords* are the Arnold Fletcher Honors Award recipients.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of the College wishes to thank the Trenton Brass Quintet for providing music for the ceremony: Joseph Scannella and John Peraino, trumpets; Nancy Gallagher, horn; Peter Reichlin, trombone; Karl I. Megules, tuba, and Director of the group.

The staff also wishes to thank the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club. Members are:

Hamilton Grandison, Director/Conductor
Willis Coker, Accompanist
Norman Abraham
Rudy Adams
Clarkson Askew
Maurice Barnes
Robert Bryant
Reginald Bynum
Ben Champion
Colin Charles
Lawrence Dantzler
James Freeman
Glen Gamble
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Paul Ray
Robert Simmons
Alan Stephens
Leon Vaughan
Donald Watkins
Edward Williams
Ronald Williams

ACADEMIC HERALDRY: THE SYMBOLS OF LEARNING

While the current code concerning the types of academic costumes to be used by the colleges in the United States dates from 1960, distinctive academic dress dates from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The college or university commencement procession today is a pageant, alive and bright with a dress and ceremony deep in the tradition of the oldest universities.

Academic life as we kown it today began in the Middle Ages - with Bologna and Paris, Oxford and Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Louvain - first in the Church, then in the guilds. The teaching guild was the Guild of the Master of Arts, where the Bachelor was the apprentice of the Master and the dress was color and pattern, the unity of men of like purpose. Twelfth century records of Oxford University carry this justification for academic dress: "It is honorable and in accordance with reason that clerks to whom God has given an advantage of the lay folk in their adornments within, should likewise differ from the lay folk outwardly in dress."

The principle features of academic dress are three: the gown, the cap, and the hood. Their design and heraldry were, from as early as the eleventh and twelfth centuries in the great European universities, the outward sign of the bringing together of students and privileged persons under the same discipline.

To preserve their dignity and meaning, it early became necessary for these universities to set rules for academic dress. American universities agreed on a definite system in 1895 and set up a suitable code of academic dress for the colleges and universities of the United States. In 1932 and again in 1959 the American Council on Education revised the code which, for the most part, governs the style of academic dress today.

THE GOWN. The flowing gown comes from the twelfth century. Many think it was worn in olden times as protection against the cold of unheated buildings. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. It is black for all degrees with pointed sleeves for the Bachelor's degree; long closed sleeves for the

Master's degree, with a slit for the arm and round open sleeves for the Doctor's degree. For the Bachelor's or Master's degree, the gown has no trimmings. For the Doctor's degree it is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains. Of late years, the official colors of the College may appear in the gown or its decorations.

THE CAP. When Roman Law freed the slave he won the privilege of wearing a cap. And so the academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as wquare to symbolize the book, although some authorities claim that the mortar board is the symbol of the masons, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline.

THE HOOD. Since almost all of the students and faculty in the medieval universities were clerics (minor church ecclesiastics) and were tonsured, the hood served to cover the shaved head from the cold of unheated buildings. Eventually the hood was superseded by the skull cap which evolved into a headdress more or less like those in use today. Heraldically, the hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the college or university from which the degree was granted.

The Associate degree is a modern degree which dates back only several decades rather than centruies. In the hierarchy of the academic world, the associate degree is the modern entry point. Its equivalent in the guild of teachers would be that of a junior apprentice.

The hood is not worn by the Associate graduate. The Associate's cap and gown are grey.

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Linda Lengyel
Patricia Mayer
Charles Nanry
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ALEX J. PLINIO

Alex J. Plinio, a Vice President with The Prudential Insurance Company of America and former President of The Prudential Foundation, has a distinguished history of service to higher education and an impressive record of executive leadership at one of the largest and most respected insurance companies in the nation.

In his current position as Vice President, Individual Insurance Services, with the Individual Insurance Services Department of Prudential, Mr. Plinio is responsible for: initiating new product development; negotiating marketing partnerships and agreements; and managing marketing communication and service delivery.

Mr. Plinio joined Prudential in 1972 and was promoted to several management positions in public affairs and personnel. He was elected Vice President, The Prudential Foundation, in 1979 — just two years after its founding — and, in 1982, was elected President. Since 1977, the Foundation has awarded more than $94 million in grants to educational, cultural and community service institutions.

Mr. Plinio was named Vice President, Public Affairs, in 1983 in Prudential's Corporate Office in Newark, assuming responsibility for social investments, community affairs and external relations support for executives. In 1988, Mr. Plinio joined the Prudential Asset Management Company, a subsidiary of the Prudential Insurance Company, as Vice President, Marketing.

Mr. Plinio is well-known throughout the nation for his active service on the Board of Trustees of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Independent Sector (IS), the Corporate Advisory Committee of the United Negro College Fund, the Corporate Associates of the United Way of America, the Corporate Philanthropy Committee of the Council on Foundations, and the Contributions Council of the Conference Board. He as a founding member of the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers and founder of the Newark Collaboration Group and served as its chairman from 1984 to 1987. He was also Chairman of the Governor's School of New Jersey.

Mr. Plinio presently serves on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Realty Title Insurance Company and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He is chairman of the Foundation Committee of the Rutgers University Foundation.

Among the audiences he has addressed at workshops, seminars and conferences are: The Council on Foundations, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Organization for Women, United Negro College Fund, CASE and the Conference Board. In 1982, on behalf of Prudential and its employees, Mr. Plinio accepted the Outstanding Philanthropist Award of the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives. In 1987, he received a Presidential Recognition Award for community service.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains' majesties
Above the fruited plain.
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears.
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

Music by Samuel A. Ward
Words by Katherine Lee Bates

ALMA MATER

Here's to our College
Our alma mater
You met the challenge of our needs.

Age didn't matter
Only our knowledge
We did indeed
Dare to succeed
In college.

You served our lifelong dream
You answered every need
Now on this day we pay you
Tribute - Honor.

Here's to our College
Our alma mater
All hail to thee
Edison State
All hail to thee.

Thomas Edison
State College
All hail to thee

The Thomas Edison State College *alma mater* was composed in 1984 by noted jazz pianist and recording artist, Roy Meriwether.

We are indeed fortunate that Roy Meriwether has chosen to recognize the uniqueness of Thomas Edison State College by donating his considerable talents to the creation of our *alma mater.*