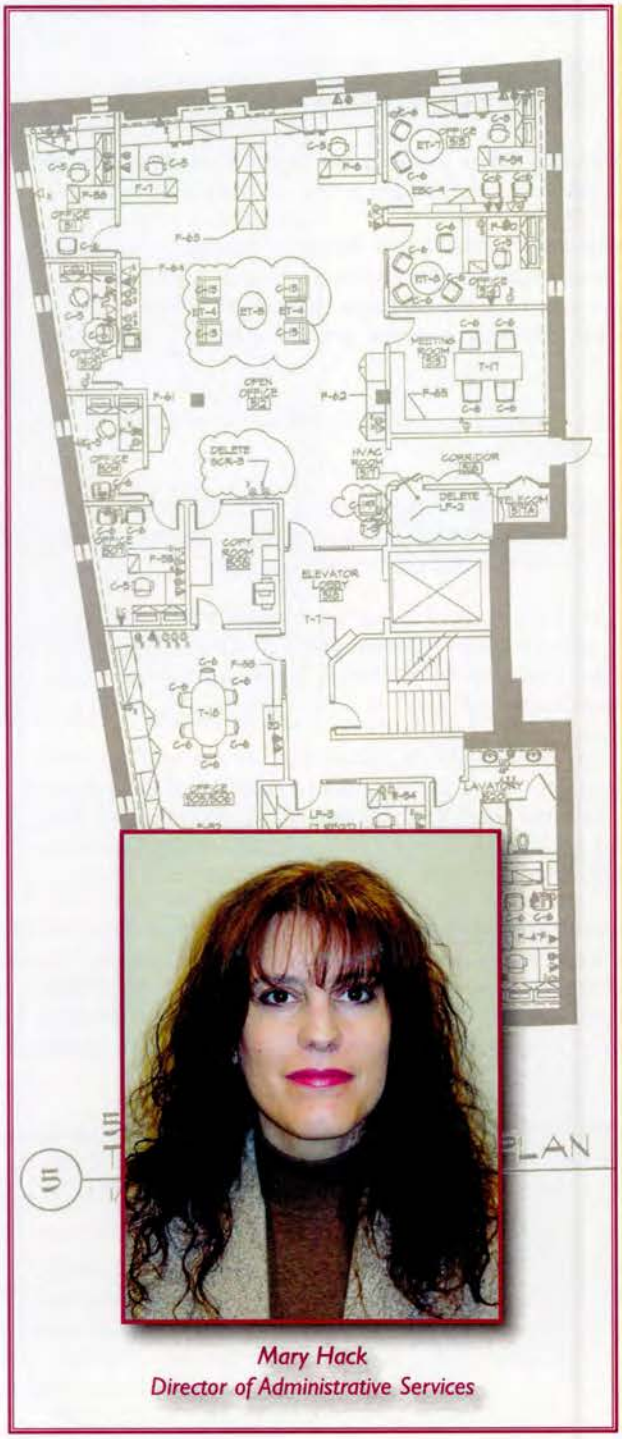
Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • April 2008



Mary Hack
Director of Administrative Services

Kelsey Renovations Begin This Spring

The historic landmark building will experience a renewal as it approaches its 100th anniversary

It has been more than 20 years since the historic Kelsey Building was refurbished. This year, the notable Trenton landmark will experience another renewal as it verges on the 100-year anniversary of its conception and the public announcement of the plan, which took place on May 2, 1909.

The Kelsey Building renovations will consist of new carpeting, paint, window treatments, bathroom fixtures and furniture. The project will proceed floor by floor, starting from the 5th floor and proceeding to the 1st. Each floor should be completed within five to six weeks. The 2nd floor will serve as "swing space" for staff members vacating their floors while work is underway.

The architect and interior designer is Nadaskay Kopelson Architects; the general contractor is Levy Construction Company; and the furniture vendor is Meadows Office Furniture Company.

"Coordinating this renovation has been a monumental task but it all came together with the support of the Office of the President and the Division of Administration and Finance," said **Mary Hack**, director of Administrative Services. "This whole project would not be moving forward so efficiently without the coordination and efforts of **Tracy Tosti** and **Jennifer Montone**."

"The process to get to this point was complex and the next few months, while the work is completed, will be challenging; however, I think staff will be very happy with the end result."

The entire project should be completed by the end of 2008.

Updating the Vision

In keeping with the College's Strategic Vision Plan to promote professional development, Admissions and Learner Services staff recently spent a unique afternoon of team building, facilitated by Bob Goger, professional development director of Project USE. The exercises emphasized developing character, building community and enhancing curriculum.

The workshops helped staff to appreciate each other's talents, abilities and dedication; strengthened bonds among employees; reinforced the values and vision of the offices of Admissions and Learner Services; expanded the concept of what is possible on both personal and group levels; and provided an interactive, lively and fun session away from the typical workday.

Admissions and Learner Services staff stay balanced

Focus On Pamela Sims Jones

The first thing that strikes you about **Pamela Sims Jones** is her worldliness. But make no mistake, the Monmouth County native has both feet planted firmly on Trenton ground.

The self-described "whale-watcher and news junkie" who shares a rehabbed house on Bellevue Avenue with her high school sweetheart-husband, admits to wanderlust at an early age. "I spent my sophomore year of high school in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as an international exchange student," recalled Jones. "That probably laid the groundwork for my lifelong impulse to travel!"

Employed by the College since December 2003, Jones is a fellow and director of Leadership Trenton, a program of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College.

Jones came to the College with an impressive list of accomplishments. Among them, serving as associate publisher for the Africa World Press, Inc., and The Red Sea Press, Inc., based in Mercer County; and more recently, as deputy director of the New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission at the N.J. Department of State.

"I have lived in Trenton since 1984 but my hometown is Freehold, N.J., where my mother and brothers still live. I have one sister in Neptune, N.J., and another in Franklin, Ky." Jones has been married for eight years to Rodell "Joe," a former chef. "I *love* his cooking!" enthused Jones. The couple worships at Bethel AME Church in Freehold where Jones was both baptized and married.

Jones holds a BA in sociology and anthropology from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., and remains active with her alma mater as a member of the alumni council and volunteer. She has also served on the boards of a number of local charities and nonprofits. She is currently board secretary of TASK (Trenton Area Soup Kitchen) and is a co-founder and vice president of Bellevue Restoration, Inc., a nonprofit that has restored six houses on the 200 block of Bellevue Avenue in Trenton – one in which she and her husband now live. Jones has also amassed numerous community and civic awards.

If you invite this maestro of team-building to brainstorm, be prepared for a sprint. Jones' rapid-fire delivery of ideas can leave less energized colleagues in the dust. It is the same vitality that she brings to the helm of Leadership Trenton. "My role is to advance the program's mission to build the network of civic and community leaders committed to making Trenton a better place to live and work," she explained. Jones' responsibilities range from organizing and leading the program's monthly seminars, to fundraising, expanding the network of civic and community leaders involved and meshing the program's initiatives with the mission of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy.

"The aim of Leadership Trenton is to identify, engage and honor emerging leaders through a 10-month series of experiential seminars designed to instruct participants and stimulate discussion on critical policy issues that impact the city of Trenton and the region," explained Jones. "I enjoy meeting new people, connecting people, networking, improving the program and being a change agent for this endeavor."

In addition to her husband's gourmet fare, Jones is a fan of the N.Y. Yankees, Tiger Woods, bowling, reading, film noir and classic movies, traveling and whales. "I've been on several whale-watching trips in different parts of the world where I've lived and worked – particularly East Africa, which is near and dear to my heart," she reflected. "I'm also a news junkie, read at least five daily newspapers and am an NPR, NJN News, and BBC supporter."

A Toast to You!

Thomas Edison State College is offering a professional development opportunity for staff by sponsoring a Thomas Edison State College -New Jersey State Library Toastmasters Club.

HR' sTom Phillips

Toastmasters International is a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable speaking in front of an audience. The introductory meeting, which was held in February and sponsored by the Office of Human Resources, was well received with more than 30 staff in attendance.

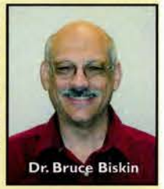
A nonprofit organization, Toastmasters has nearly 220,000 members in 11,300 clubs in 90 countries, offering a proven and enjoyable way to practice and hone communication and leadership skills. Classes will be held monthly during lunch, with an additional time commitment outside of work hours for speech preparation. Participants should expect to commit six months to the program.

E-Mail Project Cuts Costs

The Office of Academic Advisement with the support of the Office of Management Information Systems began a new process in January to alert students through e-mail that their academic evaluation was available online.

By notifying students through e-mail that they can view and print their current academic evaluation, it is estimated that the College will save approximately $30,000 in mailing and supply costs alone during the year. Students without e-mail or those who prefer a hard copy of their academic evaluation can still have it mailed to them upon request.

Staff Activities


Dr. Bruce Biskin

Dr. Bruce Biskin, director, Office of Learning Assessment, recently had two test reviews included in *The Seventeenth Mental Measurements Yearbook*. He reviewed the Interpersonal Intelligence Inventory and the Personnel Tests for Industry-Oral Directions Test. Since 1938, the MMY series, published by the Buros Institute of Mental Measurements, has been "an essential resource for both individuals and organizations seeking information critical to the evaluation, selection and use of specific testing instruments (p. xvi)."

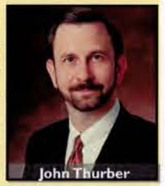
Gregg Dye, director Graduate Student Services, recently was part of a group that had an article published in the fall 2007 edition of the *Journal of Continuing Higher Education*. The article, "Good Practices in End-of-Course Surveys for Online Master's Programs," was co-authored by **Dr. Sonja Eveslage**, retired associate vice president & dean, Office of Graduate Programs; and Dr. Betty Wilson, private education consultant and Thomas Edison State College mentor.

Dr. David Grossman, vice provost and dean, School of Professional and Continuing Studies, and **Sylvia G. Hamilton**, vice provost, Strategic Partnerships, presented at the *University Continuing Education Association's Workforce Development Forum* in Clearwater Beach, Fla., on Jan. 11. The session was titled "Creating a Customized Baccalaureate Program that Aligns with a Company's Tuition Assistance and Succession Plans." The presentation described the UPS partnership and explored the implications for other universities and colleges aspiring to develop similar relationships. Pat Myers, tuition assistance program manager at UPS, was a co-presenter.

Dr. Susan M. O'Brien

Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean, School of Nursing, was recently awarded the 2008 C.A.R.E. Award for Excellence in Education by the New Jersey State Nurses Association. The C.A.R.E. Award for Excellence in Education recognizes an individual who has demonstrated excellence in the development and implementation of sound and creative educational programming for nurses, students of nursing or healthcare consumers in New Jersey. C.A.R.E. Awards focus on excellence in clinical practice, administration, research and education. O'Brien will be honored at the awards banquet at the New Jersey State Nurses Annual Convention in Atlantic City, N.J., in April.

Dr. Nicky Sheats, The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College, recently testified on two occasions before the New Jersey State Legislature on global warming and authored a short article on the topic published by the ANJEC report. He also helped organize and host a groundbreaking meeting of environmental justice lawyers from New Jersey and New York City.


John Thurber

John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, was recently elected to the board of trustees of the Lawrence Township Community Foundation. The Lawrence Township Community Foundation seeks to respond to the needs of the greater Lawrenceville area by supporting nonprofit organizations and other groups that provide services to the community. It also sponsors community dialogue, promotes a sustainable community and serves as a catalyst for community improvement and development efforts. The board includes representatives of local stakeholder organizations including Bristol-Myers Squibb, ETS, Stark & Stark, Rider University, The Lawrenceville School, Mercadien Group and other local organizations.

Dr. George A. Pruitt on CCME panel

Members of the Thomas Edison State College community attended The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) annual symposium recently in San Francisco, Calif. Staff included **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, president, Thomas Edison State College; **Louis Martini**, director of Military Education; **John Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs; **Terri Tallon-Hammill**, associate director of Military

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New Staff

David Anderson has been appointed assistant vice provost for Learner Support in the Office of Learner Services. Anderson is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3045.

Wendy Connuck has been appointed director of Corporate & Foundation Relations in the Office of Development. Connuck is located on the 5th floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2093.

Jaime Helmuth has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of the Associate Vice President & Treasurer. Helmuth is located on the 2nd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 2385.

Barbara George Johnson has been appointed acting deputy director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy. Johnson is located on the 2nd floor of Kuser Mansion and may be reached at extension 3213.

Raymond O'Brien has been appointed acting assistant dean, School of Science and Technology. O'Brien is located on the 3rd floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3192.

Staff Activities

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Education; **Edward Gall**, coordinator of SOC Programs; **Misty Isak**, associate director of Military Education; **Marie Power-Barnes**, associate vice president for Public Affairs; **Tom Devine**, acting dean, School of Applied Science and Technology; **Bill Mulkeen**, director, Paralegal Studies Program; **Diane Koye**, budget director; **Dr. Susan Davenport**, dean, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences; **Maria Marte**, military base counselor, Hawaii; **George Berko**, military base counselor, Washington State; **Gary Campbell**, military base counselor, South Carolina; and **Ellen Coleman**, military base counselor, Virginia.

John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, and **Louis Martini,** director of Military Education at CCME

Thomas Edison State College was a sponsor recently at the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Mercer annual fundraiser at The College of New Jersey. The proceeds went to support free educational programs and services for families and individuals affected by mental illness. Staff attending were **John Thurber**, vice president for Public Affairs; **Dosiree Mims**, confidential assistant, Division of Public Affairs; **Tom Callahan**, admissions counselor, Office of Admissions; and **Caroline Tompkins**, admissions counselor, Office of Admissions, and NAMI Mercer Board Member.

Upcoming Events

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is hosting its **14th Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic** on June 16, 2008, at Olde York Country Club in Columbus, N.J. The 2008 Golf Committee invites staff to meet on the links for fun and prizes. Staff can participate by purchasing an entry ticket into the tournament; donating a prize to the silent auction or raffle contests or by volunteering to work the event. For more information, contact Beth Dey, director of Special Events & the Annual Fund, at extension 2083, or *edey@tesc.edu*.

Thomas Edison State College and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning are sponsoring the 20th annual **National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning** on June 19-20, 2008, at the Nassau Inn in Princeton, N.J. In honor of the Institute's 20th anniversary, the College will host a one-day forum on "Assessing Learning at a Distance: Lessons Learned," on June 18. Registration will be accepted until May 16. For more information or to register online, visit *www.tesc.edu/nationalinstitute* or contact Joyce Archer, secretarial assistant, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning, at (609) 984-1130, extension 3205 or *jarcher@tesc.edu*.

Capital Campus is produced by the Office of Communications at Thomas Edison State College. To submit a story idea for the newsletter or for more information, please contact Linda Soltis at extension 2065.