

Capital Campus

Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • August 2007



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Dr. George A. Pruitt, President
Thomas Edison State College

Dr. Pruitt Receives Award from ESGR

Thomas Edison State College President **George A. Pruitt** was presented with the "Above and Beyond" award recently by Brigadier General Robert S. Dutko Sr., United States Air Force (retired) and state chairman for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The "Above and Beyond" award, given in limited numbers by state and territory ESGR committees, recognizes employers at the state and local level who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements for granting leave and providing support for employees who are on military duty.

Bestowed on behalf of the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve forces, the award was presented to Pruitt for the support of **Randy Schwartz**, desktop application specialist in the College's Office of Management Information Systems, who has been serving with the Army Reserve since June 1, 2004.

"Employees are the backbone of our institution, and we go to great lengths to stand behind them and their families as they serve our country," said Pruitt. "Randy is a valued employee and his dedication to us and to his country deserves the highest level of support."

In nominating Pruitt for the award, Schwartz, a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, said, "I wanted to show my appreciation. The College has supported me and my family while I was mobilized in connection with Operation Enduring Freedom. It's an honor to serve my country, and it is comforting to know that when I have finished my service I can return to the College and resume my duties there."

A Department of Defense organization, the ESGR is a staff group within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. The ESGR was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers.

Thomas Edison State College Foundation Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic

Perfect weather prevailed at the Thirteenth Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic on June 18, 2007, where 89 golfers participated in the event sponsored by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation and hosted at Jericho National Golf Club in New Hope, Pa. Premier tournament sponsors were Bank of America and Merrill Lynch. The event raised more than \$40,000 in gross revenues benefiting the Thomas C. Streckewald Endowment, which is now more than \$300,000.

Beth Dey, director of Special Events & the Annual Fund, would like to give a special thanks to staff and friends of the College who volunteered their time and added to the event's success: **Jill Baker, Nancy Broglie, Jim Chianese, Jeff Dey, Janet Eickhoff, Mary Hack, Shanika Henderson, Stefani Kitz, Dosiree Mims, DeAnna Minus-Vincent, Jennifer Montone, Tom Phillips, Cindy Prisco, Linda Rosner, Kelly Saccomanno, Mindi Shalita, Linda Soltis and Frank Tulli.**



Thomas Edison State College staff **Drew Hopkins** (left), chief information officer, and **Ann Klopp** (right), systems coordinator, Office of Management Information Systems, join **Jeffrey Marks** (left center), S.J. Marketing, and **Herbert McMullen**, Mercaden Group, on the green.

Supporting the troops has got to mean more than bumper stickers on pickup trucks, my friends. We need to give them what they need.

- Solomon P. Ortiz

Focus on: Edward Gall



The Office of Military Education oversees one of the fastest growing populations of Thomas Edison State College students. **Edward Gall**, coordinator of SOC Programs in that office, will be the first to tell you it keeps his job interesting.

"Primarily my job is to assist in all aspects of any Office of Military Education program that has a direct or indirect connection to the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium," Gall explained. "As an organization, SOC provides educational opportunities for service members and their families. As a SOC Network member, the College is required to perform several administrative support functions that aid our military students in their educational endeavors."

Coordination and compliance for these functions falls to Gall. Things such as guaranteed transferability of credit, degree plan updates, and course and class information updates are part of his regular duties.

As an indirect offshoot of SOC, several new initiatives and projects have come across his desk. Most notably is the Army's move from their eArmyU program (that the College has been part of for several years) to their all-inclusive Centralized Tuition Assistance program called GoArmyEd. This was, Gall noted, a significant undertaking that was completed in April 2006. Additional programs Gall has been coordinating include the new Air Force Automated Education Management System. This system is similar but not as complex as the GoArmyEd system. The College also has a national test center at McGuire Air Force Base and will be opening another in the coming weeks at the Naval Weapons Station in Charleston, S.C.

"What I like most about working for the College is the diversity of function within the uniformity of purpose," Gall said. "I enjoy the varying projects that come across my desk. They have given me an opportunity to work with some amazingly talented people here at the College. At the same time, we are providing assistance in one of the most valuable endeavors in which people engage. And as members of the Office of Military Education, we are assisting truly deserving students overcome the inherent obstacles that their circumstances bring about."

Gall, who has been with Thomas Edison State College since October 2006, was previously a general manager of a small communication equipment reseller. He earned a BSBA degree in finance from Villanova University in Philadelphia, Pa., with some additional undergraduate work in psychology from Temple University, Philadelphia. Gall lives in Quakertown, Pa., with his wife Lisa, and daughters, 11-year-old Meghan and 8-year-old Jessica.

Gall's duties at home are as varied as those at Thomas Edison State College. "My family keeps me busy. I am a Soccer Dad, a Piano Dad, a Swimming Dad... well you get the picture. Our family enjoys spending time together. My girls are still young enough to think that their parents are pretty cool. In a few years, when they become teenagers and no longer want to be seen with adults over the age of 18, I will get a chance to rediscover my golf swing and do some long overdue deep sea fishing."



The Diversity Program Committee

organized a food drive during June's Hunger Awareness Month. Reported Chair **DeAnna Minus-Vincent**: "thanks to the generosity of College staff, we collected and delivered enough items to compose more than 200 dinner bags for children at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK)."

Pictured from left to right are **Dennis Micai**, executive director of TASK; and Diversity Program Committee members **Linda Rosner, DeAnna Minus-Vincent** (chair) and **Elyse Perkins**, summer intern.

School of Nursing Staff Don Their 'Tea Party Best' and Pay Tribute to Marian Stone

Thomas Edison State College School of Nursing recently hosted a Tea Party to celebrate the retirement of **Marian Stone**, assistant dean of the School of Nursing. More than 80 staff and mentors from the College gathered to honor Stone's 24 years of service.

Stone joined the College in 1983 to assist with the development and implementation of an examination-based Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program for RNs. She served as the nursing advisor for BSN students and provided guidance and support as the program was transitioned to online format in 2001. In 2004, she was promoted to assistant dean, with additional responsibilities related to the development and implementation of the School's expanding programs.



School of Nursing Staff: First row from the left are, Dr. Susan O'Brien, dean of the School of Nursing; Marian Stone and Jovita Solomon-Duart. Second row from the left are Kathleen Griffiths, Jessica Dougherty, Louise Riley, Susan Cobb and Mary Hough.

Staff Activities

Thomas Edison State College staff were among the participants – some from as far away as Wisconsin, Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas and Chicago – who attended the 19th Annual National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning at the Princeton Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Princeton, N.J., last month. Presenters included: **Bruce Biskin**, director of Test Development & Research and **Todd Siben**, portfolio advisor in Learner Services; Dr. **Marcus Tillery**, dean, and **Tom Devine**, assistant dean from the School of Applied Science and Technology; **Dan Negrón**, director, Corporate-Higher Education Programs, **Ann Prime-Monaghan**, assistant vice provost for Learning Outcomes and General Education, and Dr. **Susan Davenport**, dean, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences.



Tom Devine (left), assistant dean and **Marcus Tillery**, dean, School of Applied Science and Technology chat during a break in the 19th Annual National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning Conference

Carleen Baily, PLA specialist, **Antoinette Lewis**, assistant to the PLA specialist, **Joyce Archer**, secretarial assistant III, and **Carol Smith**, secretarial assistant III, also attended.

Dottie Sconyers, senior program advisor, and **Christine Carter**, Learner Services representative, co-presented at the NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) Region 2 Conference in Tyson's Corner, Va., on March 31. Their presentation was entitled "Taking the Distance out of Distance Education."

Office of Learner Services representatives **Mary Beth Lynch** and **Christine Carter** co-presented "The Academic Puzzle: Making the Pieces Fit" at the NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) New Jersey State Conference on June 14 at Rider University.

Dr. **David Grossman**, vice provost and dean, School of Professional and Continuing Studies, recently spoke to members of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce at their monthly membership luncheon about the value of continuing education and the critical role that education must play in our global economy. Chamber members have been offered a special rate to enroll in the School's MBA Essentials online professional certificate program, which includes five courses that cover the essential skills needed to develop leadership potential.

Dr. **Ann Marie Senior**, director of the Office of Institutional Research & Outcomes Assessment, facilitated a roundtable discussion at the 13th Annual New Jersey Association of Institutional Research conference that was held at Mercer County Community College in April 2007. The topic of the roundtable discussion was "Monitoring Efficient and Timely Customer Service Using Performance Standard Reports." **Ying Jiang**, staff assistant in the Office of Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment, also attended

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New Staff



Jared Chase Coleman has been appointed clerk in the Office of Administrative Services. Coleman is located in the mailroom on the lower level of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 2340.



Joseph Guld has been appointed assistant registrar in the Office of the Registrar. Guld is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3325.



Mike Hopkins has been appointed clerk typist in the Office of the Registrar. Hopkins is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3115.



Debra Shaw has been appointed confidential assistant in the Office of Community Affairs & Government Relations. Shaw is located on the 3rd floor of the Kelsey Building and may be reached at extension 2035.



Jocelyn Tucker has been appointed admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions. Tucker is located on the 1st floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3010.

Staff Activities

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the conference. Senior also participated in the Higher Education Data Advisory Group that was hosted by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education in June 2007.

Dr. **Penelope S. Brouwer**, vice president of Planning and Research, recently served as a convener of a session entitled, "Changing Environments: New Organizational Models and Evolving Modes of Planning" at the Society for College and University Planning's annual conference. The conference was held in Chicago, Ill., in July 2007.

Dr. **Joseph Youngblood II**, (pictured, left) associate vice president for Public Affairs and director, The John S. Watson Institute of Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College, appeared with the Honorable Douglas H. Palmer, mayor, city of Trenton; the Honorable Gwendolyn Faison, mayor, city of Camden; the Honorable Wayne



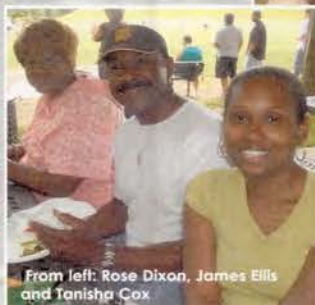
New Jersey Urban Mayors Association

Smith, mayor, city of Irvington; the Honorable Mims Hackett Jr., mayor, city of Orange; and the Honorable Robert L. Bowser, mayor, city of East Orange, at a recent New Jersey Urban Mayors press conference at the State House.

2007 Staff Picnic @ Rosedale Park

More than 275 employees and their family members attended the 2007 Staff Picnic at Rosedale Park in Hopewell Township. Many thanks go out to the College Picnic Committee:

Nancy Broglie, Beth Dey, Gregg Dye, Janet Eickhoff, Joe Guzzardo, Mary Hack, Debbie Lutz, DeAnna Minus-Vincent, Jennifer Montone, Noreen O'Donnell, Wendy O'Hare, Carla-Maria Ratico, Estelle Reeves, Ashley Schneider, Todd Siben, Linda Soltis (chair), Kelly Saccomanno, Nicole Smith and Denise Weber.



From left: Rose Dixon, James Ellis and Tanisha Cox



Nia Abuwi, Barbara Murdock and Denise Weber



Tom Phillips and Tom Callahan

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