

# I·N·V·E·N·T·I·O·N

NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Winter 1992

## Garnering Public Support

# Thomas Edison State College's Division with a Mission



Photos by Linda Solis

by Barbara W. Eklund

It's noontime, but the stack of papers on the chair in front of Dr. Nat Caliendo's desk are hardly noticeable to a man who hasn't sat down yet that day.

Five months into his new position as vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College, Dr. Caliendo is spending a great deal of his time on the road meeting the College's many constituencies: business and community leaders, alumni and students, politicians and other friends of the College. When he is in the office, he can be found darting from one office to another, directing the efforts of a staff that collectively has responsibility for the external relations of the College.

As vice president for Public Affairs, Dr. Caliendo also serves as the executive vice president of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, a role for which he has amassed

quite an admirable record of experience and achievement in previous positions. During his five years at the University of Rhode Island, for example, support from foundations and corporations increased over 1,400 percent, and assets of the University of Rhode Island Foundation climbed from just under \$3 million to a level of over \$9 million. At Rhode Island, he developed comprehensive marketing and fund-raising plans for all functional areas of advancement, including capital programs, the annual fund, planned giving, corporate and foundation relations, athletic fund-raising and special events.

"I was attracted to Thomas Edison because of its unique mission of serving adult learners, the outstanding reputation of its president and the quality and commitment of the College's faculty and staff," Dr. Caliendo stated. He is especially impressed with the alumni and Foundation leadership, whom he says play "an important role in the vitality of this institution."

"We are doing wonderful work here at Thomas Edison," he emphasized, "but we need to more effectively communicate to others the important role we play in adult education in this country." He pointed to the growth of the College's Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships, the National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning and the pioneering work of the Directed Independent Adult Learning office in developing techniques to deliver distance education to adult learners as examples where Thomas Edison's leadership is well recognized.

"It is equally important to communicate our needs as well as our accomplishments," Dr. Caliendo stressed. He explained that, with a tight state budget and a faltering economy, it is essential for the College to look to its friends (alumni, corporations and foundations) for the support necessary to grow in both scope and quality. The Alumni Association recently voted to establish

a \$5,000 endowment in the Thomas Edison State College Foundation and has pledged to add a minimum of \$1,000 to the Foundation each year. "It is their legacy to the institution that helped fulfill their dream of a college degree," Dr. Caliendo said. He explained that "one of our goals is to increase the endowment so that the College can consistently and predictably plan for its future growth."

Another goal Dr. Caliendo has is to expand the Foundation Board. "We have an outstanding Board, and we hope to increase it with persons of stature and influence; people who are committed to our mission and to helping us meet our fund-raising goals and objectives," he said. "The fact that we are attracting Foundation Board members of such high stature already illustrates that our mission is respected and appreciated."

In the short time since he has been at the College, he has lead the Division of Public Affairs in developing a comprehensive plan directed to operational goals and objectives, and to finding financial support for a number of priorities. "These priorities build upon the College's five-year plan and rely

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## Emmy Winner is One of Our Own

by Adele K. Ellis '88

For Emmy-winning Thomas Edison alumnus Larry LaSota, the path to a college degree began with a little ad in the *Newark News*. "I wanted to make use of all the college credits I had accumulated through the years," said LaSota in a recent telephone interview. "I was enrolled in St. Francis College in Pennsylvania, but left in the middle of the year, and I wanted to make my parents proud by finishing my degree."

LaSota describes his college career as that of a "drop-in" student. In his line of work he had to travel, and getting an education meant attending various colleges and universities around the country. Some of the institutions he attended, in addition to St. Francis, were Arizona State, Seton Hall, and New School of Social Research. Although he never visited the "campus" at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, he became a member of the first graduating class by having enough

credits transferred from other accredited colleges and universities to complete an associate degree in 1973.

LaSota has a very interesting career background. He got into his current occupation in a way that, interestingly enough, resulted in his leaving college. He was working at a college radio station when he was thrust into the sound business. "I was sort of forced into sound mixing," he explained. "One day the mixer for the band didn't show up, someone told me I could do it and I did. I literally left school with the Guess Who [a popular music group at the time]."

Over the years, LaSota has traveled with bands such as Johnny Winters, The Birds, Edgar Winters, Buddy Miles, John Sebastian and many others. His talents also earned him work in the television industry. He has worked on shows such as "Family Ties," "Major Dad" and "Doctor, Doctor," and is currently the production mixer for "Designing Women."

These are just a few of the shows he has to his credit. He has seen many

things happen behind-the-scenes on TV shows, and explained how the attitude of the cast is "very catching." He spoke of how the ad libs of the cast on the set of "Doctor, Doctor" improved the show. LaSota also spoke warmly of the current cast of "Designing Women."

Television awards the Emmy to those who are voted, by their peers, outstanding in the field—LaSota has one to his credit. In 1986, he received the award for his work on the special "Mr. Previn Comes to Town," a classical special starring Andre Previn. He was also nominated for another Emmy for "Designing Women." *Prosound Magazine* gave him an award for his work on the special "Liberty Weekend" in 1986.

LaSota's success is typical of the Thomas Edison graduate, and we are proud to have him as one of our alums. If you know of or are a graduate who has a success story to share, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (201) 877-1450.

## A Celebration

*Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled* is the theme for the upcoming ball to celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of Thomas Edison State College. The black-tie dinner-dance will be held Saturday, October 24, at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton.

The event is part of the year-long celebration of the College's Twentieth Anniversary. It is being organized by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Foundation member Rita Novitt, a former member of the college board of Trustees, is chairing the event.

Alumni and friends of the College will receive details in the upcoming months.





Seated, Ida Hammond '78, Adele K. Ellis '88. Standing, first row from left: Leona G. Bothwell '78, Rita Ackley '90, Judy Toll-Trauben '89, Ondina Jeffers '82, Nancy Goehrig '86, M. Jane Coult '82, Leila Wollman '90, James A. Conway '91. Standing, last row: Dorothy Ruvel '90, John J. McCann '90, Charlotte Cooney '91, Art Eberhard '90, and Marilyn Peterson '91. Not pictured are Anthony Mangeri '87, Mildred Koslow '82 and Eileen Lehman '89.



New Board Orientation and Executive Committee Roundtable for the 1992 Alumni Association is held each year at the College. Planning their goals for the Association for the coming year are: Adele K. Ellis '88, vice president for alumni member relations, Art Eberhard '90, director, and Rita Ackley '90, vice president for development. Hidden from view is Marilyn Peterson '91, director.

## Nat Caliendo

(continued from page 1)

heavily upon the support of our friends if they are to be fully implemented," Dr. Caliendo pointed out. "The price tag to meet these needs is substantial and will require extraordinary efforts from Development staff, and the participation of alumni and Foundation Board directors."

When this high energy, highly motivated man does take a minute to sit down in his office, he is just as eager to talk about his four children—Nat, Danny, Christopher and Nicholas—as

he is about the College. Photographs of his children and his parents are all over his office, making it look more like a living room than one might expect. "I spend a lot of time here. I want to be surrounded by reminders of the people I care the most about," he says fondly, pouring himself another cup of coffee.

It is no secret among staff that he is also fond of his Italian heritage. He has been known to brag about the fine manicotti he makes "from scratch—

there's no other way." Staff recently had a chance to sample it when he brought some in as his contribution to an office party.

His best "can you top this?" story is about how he spent his first weekend in Trenton. "I used a tankful of gas driving around the 'Burg' (Chambersburg, the Italian section of Trenton, known for its fine restaurants), checking out the neighborhoods and restaurants," he recalled. "In fact, I was actually

stopped by a policeman who wondered if I were lost. After all, I had out-of-state license plates!"

No longer a stranger to the Burg or its cuisine, Dr. Caliendo can be seen meeting with donor prospects over a fine antipasto in this ethnic section of the city. He already has some favorite restaurants, but, as would be expected from this experienced public affairs vice president, he refused to single out any one restaurant and recommend it.

## Alumni Association Endowment: An investment in the future

To commemorate the College's Twentieth Anniversary and lay the groundwork for many more anniversaries, the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association has donated \$5,000 to establish an endowment fund.

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association Endowment Fund

will also receive a minimum yearly contribution of \$1,000 from the Alumni Association. These commitments were made at the January 1992 Alumni Board of Directors meeting.

"The Board is excited about the College's 20th year and looks forward to celebrating it with you, your staff and friends of the College," wrote

president-elect M. Jane Coult '82 in her announcement to College President Dr. George A. Pruitt.

Ida Julian, director of Development, commented: "The vitality of the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association can be attributed to the loyalty of its alumni and to the leadership the Alumni Association has

attracted. They have set a high standard, and we are thankful for all they have done—and continue to do—for Thomas Edison State College.

"The Alumni Association has always played a significant role in shaping the future of the College. I know they will continue to do so."

### Calling all . . . . . . Inventors!

As we prepare to celebrate *Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled* at Thomas Edison State College, the *Invention* staff is looking for alumni who have experienced the thrill of shouting "Eureka!" Have you fulfilled a dream by taking a seed of an idea, sowing it and nurturing it into full-fledged invention? If so, we want to know about it.

Please send your success story to the managing editor at the College. A good quality black and white photograph of you, or you and your invention will also help us discover the person behind the prize.

"Calling all . . ." will be a regular feature in *Invention*. Keep your eye on this spot for future requests . . . or send us your suggestions today!



Planning for *Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled* are members of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Ball Committee (from left) Rita Novitt, committee chairperson and a member of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors, John McCann, treasurer of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Ida Hammond, president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



# A·L·U·M·N·I

H I G H L I G H T S

## The Alumni Association Board: Who they are and what they do for you

by Adele K. Ellis '88

You are a member of a large, active and important organization by virtue of your Thomas Edison State College alumni status. Whether you received an associate or baccalaureate degree, your graduation from the College was your induction into the Alumni Association.

One of the goals of the Alumni Association, which receives 10 percent of the net proceeds of the Alumni Annual Fund in order to operate, is to get alumni involved with the College through various activities. These activities are planned by a volunteer Board of Directors and its officers. A hard-working group, the Alumni Board of Directors is responsible for the Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon, including participation in the Pre-Phonathon to call for volunteers. This is a fun and rewarding activity. Alumni get to meet each other and speak to other alumni while phoning. The money raised helps the College purchase equipment, provide scholarships and meet other goals and priorities.

The Alumni Board also participates in Commencement activities such as assisting graduates with their caps and gowns. This is a big day for the graduates, and one of the few times the alumni can get together to meet and share experiences.

There are 26 officers and directors. Officers are the president, president-elect, vice president of development, vice president of alumni member relations, vice president of programs, secretary, treasurer and immediate past president. These positions are one year terms. To ensure that there are experienced members serving at all times,

there are nine directors positions that are never open at the same time. Five are open one year, followed by four open positions the next year. Directors serve for two-year terms. In addition, nine associate directors serve in one-year, nonvoting positions.

Thomas Edison wants you! To become a member of the Alumni Board, an alum should submit a resume, along with the nominating form mailed to all alumni in the late spring. Interested alumni can also attend alumni events and speak to Board members about becoming candidates. All applications are reviewed by the Nominating Committee, and interviews are conducted. It is important to remember that to be a member, you must be available to attend six Board meetings per year, become active on at least one committee as well as participate in the Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon.

Interested in finding out more, but don't have the time for a Board position? Alumni can become involved through committee memberships, which are not limited to Board officers or directors. Committees which meet throughout the year include: Finance, Newsletter, Nominating, and Graduate Relations. Short term committees with fewer meetings include the Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon, and Commencement/Banquet. While committees exist to benefit the College, socializing and fun are always on the agenda. The new friends and business connections that can be realized are more than worth the time invested.

Those who are interested in becoming a member of the Alumni Board or participating in any committee activities can contact the Office of Alumni Affairs in Newark, NJ at (201) 877-1450.

## FOCUS ON:

### Ida Hammond BA '78

by M. Jane Coult '82

**Q.** You were instrumental in developing and implementing the first alumni community service project. Tell us about the Odyssey of the Mind Project.

**A.** The Alumni Association will be working with an elementary school in the city of Trenton to initiate our first community service project. Odyssey of the Mind is a program that works for students from Kindergarten through college and offers them an opportunity to participate in challenging and motivating activities both inside and outside their regular classroom curriculum. The Odyssey of the Mind project should make learning fun, not only for the elementary school students, but also for our alumni who will be involved with the program.

**Q.** If alumni are considering becoming involved in activities, such as Commencement or the Phonathon, then what can they expect by becoming involved?

**A.** During Commencement, alumni are always there to help the new grads on their special day. Just before the ceremonies, some of us help the new grads suit up in the caps and robes. We greet them and introduce them to other graduates and alumni. After graduation, we travel to the banquet hall and share jobs of preparing reservations and table placements, arranging for social hour, preparing the program for the evening and keeping the new grads comfortable and happy.

The Phonathon is a two-week event held in April each year that is part of the College's Annual Fund program. For the first time ever, it will also be held a second time in November of this year. It requires a lot of planning and work, and we need people who will dedicate their time to helping us reach our thousands of fellow alumni and students of Thomas Edison State College. A pre-Phonathon session is held to recruit callers to help us make the calls during the Phonathon. The volunteer callers come to the College to make the telephone calls. It is work, but it is also fun and entertaining. We are, of course, elated when we see the total scores of all the money we raise to support scholarships, new programs, new technologies and facilities that accommodate student and College needs.

**Q.** You recently retired from state government after many years of service with the Department of Education. What will retirement allow you to do that you never had time for while you were working full-time?



**A.** I'm not sure that I have more free time now that I'm not going into the office every day; it's just that my priorities are rearranged. Once I get over the "guilties" for feeling so free and excited because I can take the time to do all the things I enjoy so much, then I will settle down and plan some travel and vacation time. I'll probably begin by taking a leisurely trip this spring across the country to visit relatives in Washington. I'll also be taking trips to Maryland to visit my daughter Harolyn, her husband Alfred and my grandchildren Alfred, Raleigh and Marlene. My son, William Jr., will begin his chiropractic practice in New York City, Philadelphia or Indiana.

**Q.** The hobby you are most known for in the Alumni Association is collecting cat figurines. How many do you have and what kinds?

**A.** I haven't taken inventory in quite some time, but there are more than 300 cats in my collection, and I'm always adding more. Just sitting and admiring the beautiful pieces gives me so much pleasure. I enjoy sitting and admiring the beauty of the cats, the strength, the mystery, the cunning, the cute poses, the real, live, true qualities in the imagery of the figurines.

**Q.** Is there anything you would like to say to alumni as incoming president of the Association?

**A.** Like all of you, I wanted an opportunity to earn a degree, and Thomas Edison State College provided that vehicle. We have all worked hard, faced challenges and taken charge of our lives while we lived our dream. The same qualities we exhibited as students must be utilized as alumni. We can make a difference as we join with the College to continue to reach out to other adults and the community at large. We can provide positive community involvement, we can organize and participate in regional social events and we can assist in the fundraising programs, finding ways to give back and to share the many benefits we have realized in our personal lives, in our working careers and as part of our civic responsibilities. We have work to do. We need your help and we welcome your support to get the job done together.

### What is the Alumni Association Board of Directors doing? Calendar of Events

#### APRIL

Phonathon to support the Annual Fund

4/5 noon, 6:30 p.m.  
4/6 6:30 p.m.  
4/7 6:30 p.m.  
4/12 noon, 6:30 p.m.  
4/13 6:30 p.m.  
4/14 6:30 p.m.

#### MAY

Executive committee meeting

5/6 6:30 p.m.

Regular Board meeting

5/6 7 p.m.

The above events are held at the College's main offices in Trenton, N.J.

#### Mark your calendar for these upcoming events

##### October 24

20th Anniversary dinner dance: the Thomas Edison State College Foundation presents *Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled*

##### October 25

Annual Alumni Board meeting

##### October 25

Commencement, reception and banquet

Read future Invention issues for the times and places of these events.



# APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

'83

**Douglas Batson** (BA) based in Nuremberg, Germany, was deployed to Southwest Asia as an Army Reservist during the Persian Gulf crisis. He earned the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during the 1st Armored Division's sweep into Iraq. Batson, a National Certified Career Counselor (NCCC), has since been promoted to outplacement specialist with the Department of the Army Career and Alumni Program.

## In Memoriam

Nancy Cook of Peterborough, N.H., passed away on May 30, 1991. Some of the special interests that led her to Thomas Edison were French art and culture, which she initially pursued while living in France for several years. She completed her studies at Thomas Edison State College, graduating in 1989.

Nancy was active in the Unitarian church in Peterborough, where she lived for the past 17 years. She was an excellent cook, with a special skill for pastries. For the past several years she was pastry chef at Sandy Island Summer Camp. She is missed by many friends.

She is survived by her children Brian, Christopher and Rachel Cook, her mother Harriet Carpenter of Belmore N.Y., and her sister and brother, Carol C. Kitcham of Avon, Conn. and Robin Carpenter of Plainfield, N.H.

Submitted by Robin L. Carpenter

'86

**Jon K. Finne** (BSBA, AA '76) of Fanwood, N.J., is a partner in Westfield, New Jersey-based A and M Business Services. He recently affiliated his firm with Triple Check Income Tax Service, the second largest income tax preparation company in the country. His firm provides income tax preparation and computerized book-keeping and payroll services. Finne is a member of the National Society of Public Accountants and the National Association of Tax Practitioners.

'87

**Jay W. McKelvey** (BS/AST) formerly of Alexandria, Va., began a three-year assignment with the U.S. State Department in Casablanca, Morocco, in December 1991. He is serving as a security engineer at the regional office. McKelvey just completed service as the senior instructor at the Security Engineering Branch of the Diplomatic Security Training Center in Virginia. McKelvey writes that his Thomas Edison degree is directly responsible for his new job assignment.

'89

**Lena Friedel** (BA) of Edison, N.J., graduated with a Masters in Library Studies (MLS) degree from Rutgers University, School of Communication and Information Studies, in 1991. She is the director of the Medical Library at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

**Edward A. Sierra** (BS/AST) of Mastic Beach, N.Y., earned his Masters of Science degree in Training and Learning Technology from the New York Institute of Technology in 1991. In October 1991, he was promoted to operations instructor at Brookhaven National Laboratory's high flux beam reactor (HFBR). The HFBR is one of the most advanced research reactors in the world.

'90

**Al Johnston** (ASM) of Irvine, Calif., was recently granted a patent for his invention, the Safe-T-Box Carrier. He is marketing his tool at retail outlets throughout the United States.

**Christine Zimmerman** (BA, AA '86) recently completed the Paralegal Graduate Certificate program at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, N.J. "I now have my graduate level certificate, thanks to Thomas Edison State College," she wrote recently.

'91

**David Adams** (BS/AST, AAS '89) of Jersey City, N.J., has been accepted into the Masters program of New Jersey Institute of Technology's Computer Science department for the January 1992 semester. He is the coordinator of computer systems in the operating room department of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City.

**John W. Stouffer** (BSBA) had completed 45 college credits from "traditional college study" when he enrolled at Thomas Edison in November 1989. In March 1991, he was awarded an ASM, followed shortly by his BSBA in May. His hard work paid off in other dividends—he received the Arnold Fletcher Award for exceptional achievement in independent learning that same year. Stouffer is currently working towards a second bachelor's in Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison, as well as a second national computer certification. He received the first from the Institute for the Certification of Computer Professionals. His Thomas Edison degree also opened the door to the South Texas College of Law in Houston, which he attends part-time. He is a database administrator for Shell Oil Company, runs a computer consulting company, Compu-Aide, and does volunteer legal work for the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program. He resides in Houston.

If you would like news of your accomplishments included in the *Applause*, *Applause* section of *Invention*, please send information to: Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey Street, 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898. You may enclose a black-and-white photograph for consideration. Please include your daytime phone number, Thomas Edison degree(s) earned and year of graduation. Rest assured that your news will be published as soon as possible; however, due to our quarterly publication schedule, it may not appear in the next issue.



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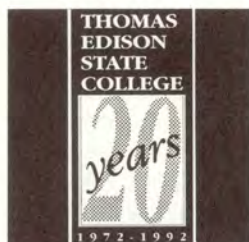
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## Garnering Public Support: Thomas Edison State College's Division with a Mission

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## Two Decades of Dreams Fulfilled Ball set for October 24

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## A new Alumni Association Board takes office

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*Invention is the newsletter of Thomas Edison State College.  
It is distributed to students, alumni and friends of the College.*

DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT, President; DR. NAT S. CALIENDO, Vice President for Public Affairs; LINDA L. HOLT, Director of Communications and College Relations; NINA MALONE, Managing Editor; BARBARA WATERS EKLUND, Contributing Writer; LINDA SOLTIS, Contributing Writer; ANNETTE SINGER, Director of Alumni Affairs; CINDY WARRICK, Secretary, Communications and College Relations; IDA HAMMOND '78, President, Alumni Association; *Alumni Newsletter Committee*: ADELE ELLIS '88, Chairperson; M. JANE COULT '82 and NANCY SEMON '90



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