

# INVENTION

SPRING 1990

NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS A. EDISON STATE COLLEGE

## ALUMNI SUPPORT UNMATCHED DURING PHONATHON

At Edison State College there aren't any sports teams to cheer or a student union building in which to congregate, and most Edison students never meet until they attend the annual commencement ceremony in October—but when it comes time to give something back, Edison alumni celebrate the college degree they received with loyalty and support that is unmatched by many traditional institutions.

The 1990 Alumni Phonathon, held recently at the College's headquarters in Trenton's historic Kelsey Building, was the most successful ever, with over \$63,000 in pledges received and a record number of volunteers participating. Alumni, student and staff volunteers contacted over 3,557 alumni and received pledges from 62 percent, a remarkable response. Nationally, about 23 percent of all alumni solicited make a contribution to their alma mater.

Under the leadership of Alumni President Mildred Koslow, '82, the Alumni Board launched the Phonathon this year with a pledge commitment of over \$4,500, representing 100 percent participation from all board members. This group, known as the Alumni Leadership Circle, is comprised of officers, directors and associate directors of the Alumni Association including



*Spirit and participation were at an all-time high this year during the Annual Phonathon. Pictured above making calls are (l. to r.) Larry Lehman, spouse of Alumna Eileen Lehman, Student Pat Farrell and Alumni Lea O'Shea and Wendy Tooker.*

Leona Bothwell, Edwin Matlack, Cecile Caruso, Ida Hammond, Norma Horton, Ondina Jeffers, Walter Keller, Jr., Wendy Tooker, Charles Jack, Jr., Phillip Nevius, M. Jane Coult, Nat Zocco, Adele Ellis, Nancy Goehrig, Kevin O'Brien,

James Perri, Eileen Lehman, Lea O'Shea, Phyllis Sinoradzki, Henry Van Hegans, William Vohs and Henrietta Zachary.

There was an overwhelming volunteer response from Edison

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## New VP For Public Affairs Appointed

For Dr. Norman C. Crawford, Jr., accepting the position of Vice President for Public Affairs at Edison State College was more than a "coming home" to New Jersey. It was a return to a philosophical commitment to adult higher education that began with his first job and continued to grow throughout his life. Looking back on a career which included two college presidencies and several educational leadership positions on a national level, there is a pattern of student advocacy (especially for those who could not afford college) and a special interest in adult higher education.

As early as his first job, Dr. Crawford observed the zeal and dedication of the adult learner. "You had the sense that you were doing something really worthwhile, that you were helping other people experience the joy of learning," Dr. Crawford recalls. At the time he was Assistant to the Registrar at University College-Newark, the evening degree division of Rutgers University.

In later positions in financial aid at Rutgers-New Brunswick and then as Scholarship Director of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Dr. Crawford set out to eliminate the financial barriers which prevent students from attending college. His doctoral dissertation provided the first documentation ever which showed that talented high school seniors were not attending college because they could not afford it. Although the general feeling in the early 60s was that financial aid was available to the best academic students, Dr. Crawford surveyed Merit Scholarship finalists and developed 80 case studies which illustrated that some of the brightest students were in fact not going to college for financial reasons.

Throughout his career, Dr. Crawford set out to eliminate

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*Dr. Norman C. Crawford, Jr.*

## Edison's Electronic College Is 'On-CALL'

Imagine going to class on a laptop computer, having an entire college at your fingertips, using your PC to get a college degree.

Such possibilities are not a hacker's pipedream. At Edison State College, "school is just a disk drive away," as one state government report recently described the College's Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network.

In order to make itself even more accessible to its population of adult students, Edison State College has designed a computer-facilitated service-delivery system which electronically provides a majority of the College's services to students who own or have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible personal computer with a modem.

By dialing a telephone number, PC users interested in learning more about the College will have 24-hour access to a data base which includes general information about the College, methods of earning college credit, an application form from admissions services and a two-way message service between the PC user and the College staff.

Edison students using the CALL network will have access to three major components: Testing and Assessment, Guided Study, and electronic students services (ESS). Students using CALL will also be able to make electronic requests to review their program plan, the status of their current bill and transcript information. Utilizing the electronic mail feature, they will be able to communicate with College staff—academic advisors, the bursar, portfolio advisors and others.

The Testing and Assessment component will facilitate student use of the credit-by-examination method of earning credit that is available at the College. By taking a series of diagnostic predictor tests, students would be able to determine their success rate in a given area. Tests would be announced on an electronic bulletin board available to PC users.

"By using electronic means to help our students to prepare for tests, we are providing them with an enormous amount of flexibility," says Dr. Thomas F. Donlon, interim director of Edison's Office of Test

Development and Research. "Once tests are made available, students can take them at any time of day, at their convenience. These exams are also available on diskette."

Another major component of the College, Guided Study, has been adapted and enhanced for electronic use. Originally conceived as a means of study for the distance learner, Guided Study has incorporated the latest technology to provide educational materials—extensive readings, audio cassettes and videotaped programs.

Through the CALL Network, Guided Study students will be able to interact electronically with their faculty mentor and their fellow students, regardless of their physical location. They will be able to participate in regularly-scheduled course conferences and open class discussions, which would be posted on the electronic bulletin board. By using electronic mail, each student would communicate privately with the faculty member regarding written assignments and faculty comments.

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# Edison's Faculty Consultants At The Top of Their Fields

Faculty consultants for Edison State College provide a variety of academic services throughout the year and assist Edison in maintaining its academic quality and integrity.

- This year, 220 faculty from other colleges are working for Edison as consultants.
- Sixty-seven percent of the faculty are at the associate or full professor rank at their home institutions. Faculty consultants for Edison are required to have a minimum of a master's degree in the discipline or related area in which they serve; or, in the case of retired faculty, five years of recent college teaching experience.
- Consultants perform diverse functions for the College. Some serve on the Academic Council, advisory committees for specific degree programs, or in test development. Others work more directly with students, by serving as mentors for guided study courses, assessing prior learning through portfolio, or helping them demonstrate currency of knowledge in the business area.
- Faculty consultants are drawn from 32 colleges and universities in New Jersey and 25 colleges and universities in other states.
- Regardless of how they serve the College, faculty are provided with individual and group training opportunities. One-hundred-and-twenty attended the three workshops held this year; others participated in small group sessions on specific topics.



Edison State College faculty consultants Joseph LeMay (right), professor of political science at Ramapo College of New Jersey, and Norman Lederer, director of education and training for the New Jersey Division of District 65 United Auto Workers, are two of the 120 faculty consultants that participated in training workshops held at the College this year.

## Crawford

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financial and other barriers. He discovered that many students were hampered in their educational pursuits because of academic policies that were punitive. He felt that the "fear of failure" which discouraged exploration and risk-taking needed to be minimized.

At the University of Delaware, Dr.

Crawford worked with marginal students. In many cases decisions on dismissal or readmission were based on the student's grade point average (GPA). Ironically, Dr. Crawford was also teaching "Tests and Measurements" while at Delaware and he was struck by the limited validity of "averages" as a measure of academic success. He feels that "too often we confuse how fast people learn with how well they learn; we

should not set up arbitrary time barriers for learning. If Michelangelo had to complete painting the Sistine Chapel by the end of the semester, he would have gotten an 'F.'

"Higher education should establish criteria for success based on acquiring certain knowledge, competencies, skills, appreciations, etc. This would make learning more fun and more rewarding and students would not be compared to one another."

While serving as president of Salisbury State College in Maryland, Dr. Crawford continued to question the role that grades and averages played in demotivating students and introduced a change in academic policy which produced surprising results. The graduation requirement was changed to require students to earn 120 hours of "C" or better, rather than to have a "C" average, and the "F" grade was replaced with an "N" (meaning "no credit").

Dr. Crawford felt that this was a rational, humanistic decision which not only eliminated "failure," it eliminated fear. Shortly after the change in policy, large numbers of adult students, who had not wanted to risk failure, enrolled.

Throughout his career, Dr. Crawford was aware of Edison State College and saw it grow and become the nationally recognized model of adult higher education that it is today. He welcomed the opportunity to become a part of it. "Edison acknowledges that there are a lot of valid ways that people learn. Other colleges emulate it in developing programs and services for the adult learner," Dr. Crawford pointed out.

What are Dr. Crawford's goals in his new position? As the vice president for Public Affairs, he feels that it is important to raise the visibility and public understanding of Edison and to be able to communicate its mission and purpose in a way that the public will understand.

"I would like to see us imitated more around the country," Dr. Crawford continued. "We have a social benefit and serve a constituency that appears to have no alternative. Edison is called upon quite often to assist other colleges in formulating policy to serve the adult learner and I would like to see more of that. Through our Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships we have been successful in working groups of adults in the workplace, helping them and the companies for which they work reach educational goals."

Attracting major foundations and corporate sponsors to assist Edison in expanding its programs so that others can benefit from the College is another of Dr. Crawford's goals.

"I see the alumni as our greatest resource," Dr. Crawford continued.

"We have provided them with the opportunity to truly enrich their lives and they project unequaled enthusiasm and appreciation for Edison. Happy, satisfied alumni spread the word about Edison and contribute to the vitality of the organization. I look forward to working very closely with them in the years to come."

by Barbara W. Eklund

## CALL

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"There are definite advantages to using Guided Study on CALL," says William J. Seaton, director of the Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning (DIAL).

He explained that "CALL allows students to interact with other students and faculty while studying at a distance independently. They can exchange ideas with students from all over the country without having to leave home. Students can sign on and off at any time of the day or night any day of the week. Turnaround time for assignments is significantly reduced."

The CALL Network is being developed with funding that was originally awarded to the College through the Governor's Challenge Grant Program.

by Idalie M. Muñoz



Edison State College officials, Dr. Norman C. Crawford, Jr., vice president for Public Affairs (left), and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president (right), greet New Jersey Bell Community Affairs Manager Cyril V. Collins (center), who presented the College with a check as an unrestricted financial gift from the telephone company.

## Phonathon

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students this year. In fact, the total amount of participation doubled over last year, and Annette Singer, director of Alumni Affairs at Edison, credited the Alumni Phonathon Committee and the Board for a most successful pre-phonathon recruiting effort.

The volunteer callers had the opportunity to discuss two projects for which the College is seeking funds: the production of a video to assist Edison students in their

academic program planning and the annual Program Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning. An alumni directory is also being planned.

Once again substantial contributions were made to the scholarship fund created to honor former Alumni Association President Norma Horton.

by Linda Soltis

Please detach and mail with your check.

### Thomas A. Edison State College Foundation, Inc. 1990 Alumni Fund

If you haven't already contributed to the 1990 Annual Fund and wish to do so, complete the form below and send it with your check to:

Thomas A. Edison State College Foundation, Inc.  
101 West State Street, CN 545  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

☐ Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to enhance the educational programs and services of Thomas A. Edison State College.

Please credit the donation to:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Alumnus, Year \_\_\_\_ ☐ Student \_\_\_\_ ☐ Staff \_\_\_\_ ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My employer or my spouse's employer matches gifts to higher education.

Name of company \_\_\_\_\_

☐ The matching gift form is enclosed.

## 'Testing' the Tests

Part of the CALL project involves developing computer-based pre-tests to help students determine the level of knowledge that they have of a specific subject in order to decide when they are ready to take a TECEP examination for credit.

When a call went out for volunteers to help the Office of Testing and Assessment by "testing the tests," 19 graduates volunteered. On the average, each graduate volunteered to take four tests but there were two graduates who volunteered to take seven tests each. "This is quite a time contribution by our alumni and demonstrates the remarkable spirit and willingness of Edison graduates to assist their *alma mater*," Dr. Thomas F. Donlon, interim director of Test Development and Research, pointed out. Test results of the volunteers will be used to evaluate the validity of the tests.

Donlon is still looking for volunteer test-takers for tests in the business area. More information may be obtained by calling 609/984-1140.



# ALUMNI Highlights



John Saul (center foreground), 65, gets an A+ from his booster club of friends who are helping him earn his college degree through Edison State College, (l. to r.) Joan Pearson, recreational director, Belle Reve Health Care Center in Lakewood; board members Leona Bothwell and Ida Hammond, Edison State College Alumni Association; Jules Kahn, Edison's director of financial aid and veterans affairs; Edison Alumni Association Past-President Norma Horton and President Mildred Koslow.

## Alumni Assist Student To Fulfill a Lifelong Dream

(Editor's Note: John Saul is a recipient of an Alumni Scholarship. Full or part-time students are eligible for awards, which are granted annually by Edison's Office of Financial Aid.)

It wasn't too long ago that being 65 and confined to a wheelchair would have marked the end of any plans to attain a college education. But that thought never occurred to John Saul, a resident of the Belle Reve Health Care Center in Lakewood, N.J.

As a child Saul began his education in a one-room schoolhouse in Hunterdon County. He sacrificed his formal education as a teenager to help out on his father's poultry farm, but the desire to complete his high school education and go on to college was strong and enduring.

Saul's route to Edison actually began while Alumni Association President Mildred Koslow, '82, was working as administrator of the Belle Reve facility. It was she who sensed in Saul a vigorous mind which needed an outlet to reach its full potential.

"I identified him as a candidate for Thomas Edison," Mildred explained, noting that Saul was printing a newsletter and acting as patient advocate at the health care center. He also was keeping busy painting and assembling scrapbooks on his favorite subjects.

But he quickly seized on the opportunity to attend college. The only difficulty was financial and Mildred solved that with the assistance of Jules Kahn, director of financial aid and veterans affairs at Edison, who arranged financial assistance.

"What evolved was a partnership involving many people who worked together to get John started on the road to his college education," Mildred stressed.

The staff at Belle Reve pitched in, too. Jean Pierson, director of recreation at the facility, organized a 50-50 benefit for Saul. Other employees bought tickets in Saul's name and their winnings went into his growing college account.

"This is something I've always wanted to do," said Saul, who has been enrolled at Edison for the past two years. He has progressed about a quarter of the way to his associate

degree. Most of his study is accomplished through the Edison Guided Study program, ideal in his case since it eliminates the necessity for travel to classes.

Saul reports regularly to Mildred on his progress, "I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the degree once I get it, but just being able to complete my education is rewarding."

by Claire Cope

## 'Enthusiasm, Helpfulness' Cited

## Alumni Peer Counseling Program a Success

It's our way of giving something back to the college—by helping other students to find their way through."

This is the way Eileen Lehman, '89, explained Edison's Alumni Peer Counseling Program. Lehman currently is chairman of the Peer Counseling Committee which implements the program, a joint effort of the Alumni Association, Office of Academic Programs and the Office of Alumni Affairs.

Peer counseling was developed three years ago with the help of Nancyanne Kopp, '76, and Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of Academic Programs. Kopp and Cecile Caruso, '83, were the first alumni project coordinators.

"You don't have to live near a peer counselor to take advantage of this program," Lehman said. "You can communicate via phone or mail."

The purpose of the project is to assist students to navigate through the college system. Many students need to compare notes with someone who already has been through the same procedures, encountered the same problems, worked toward the same degree.

Since its inception, the Peer Counseling Program has processed 282 requests. Questions range from how to prepare for exams to tips on the pre-graduation conference. Peer counselors provide guidance based on their own experience; they are not intended to replace the expert advice of college advisors.

Lehman pointed out that a recent survey of students who worked with

## Focus On: Mildred Koslow President, Alumni Association



Q. What motivated you to earn a degree at Edison State College?

A. I started working toward my degree in 1978, but at a light pace. Then in 1980 I wanted to get my Nursing Home Administrators license and having a baccalaureate degree was one of the requirements. I stepped up the pace of my studies and earned the major portion of my credits from 1980 to 1982. While continuing to network and attend seminars in my field, I earned credits on a full-time basis attending classes and compiling a portfolio for assessment. I received my degree in December of 1982.

Q. When and why did you join the Alumni Association?

A. I joined the Alumni Association on graduation day. When I was studying toward my degree I felt very isolated. However, when I met my fellow classmates on graduation day, we developed an immediate sense of involvement, a connection which dissipated that feeling of aloneness. Alumni from the North Jersey chapter invited me to join in some of the activities and I've been involved ever since! I have always had this desire to pay back the College for the support I received while earning my degree.

Q. What is your main goal as president?

A. I hope to get more alumni—new graduates as well as past graduates—actively involved in the association. Through regional seminars to be held in the near future, I hope to meet many of the graduates and interest them in future projects that will enhance the image of the College and the association.

Q. What do you do in your spare time?

A. I like tennis, hiking, camping, the opera, ballet and museums. Right now I am very busy planning an engagement party and wedding for my daughter.

Good luck Mildred and thank you!

by Adele Ellis '88

peer counselors disclosed that these students were most satisfied with the experience. Comments often dealt with the "enthusiasm" and "helpfulness" of the peer counselor. Most indicated that they were reassured by their conversations with the counselor.

"There is much to be said about the opportunity to talk with someone who knows what you are going through, who has been there," the chairman noted.

Lehman's Peer Counseling Committee consists of Lea O'Shea

and Nat Zocco. Alumni peer counselors include Marilyn Caprio, Jane Coult, Harold Frankel, Ida Hammond, Norma Horton, Mildred Koslow, Eileen Lehman, John McNamara, Edwin Matlack, Adela Rescigno, Wendy Tooker and Nat Zocco.

Students receive a letter each year reminding them of the availability of this service. Anyone interested can write to the Office of Alumni Affairs for more information.

by Eileen Lehman '89



For all those household jobs where you need to protect your clothing, or just for fun, you can't beat the Edison Alumni aprons. Bright yellow with blue imprint asking, "Have You Hugged an Edison Alum?", the aprons cost \$10 plus \$2 shipping/handling. To order yours, send a check for \$12 payable to The Edison Foundation, c/o Office of Alumni Affairs, Edison State College, 20 Evergreen Place, East Orange, N.J. 07018. Please include your name, mailing address (no P.O. Box) and phone number (in case we need to contact you concerning your order). All proceeds benefit the Alumni Association.



## Applause, Applause

**73 James A. Taylor (AA)**, Harrisonville, Mo., recently completed 40 years as a safety professional in the insurance industry. Presently employed as a senior loss control specialist, he is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP). A retired U.S.A.F. M/Sgt., he served in both Korea and Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star, five Air Force Medals of Commendation and 14 other decorations during his military career. Taylor also is a member of the Air Commando Association.

**76 Russell H. Farr (BA)**, Blytheville, Ark., was elected chairman of the Arkansas Manufactured Home Commission (AMHC) in October 1989. He had been appointed to the Commission three years ago by Gov. Bill Clinton. The ten-member commission is a state agency which regulates the manufactured housing industry in the state.

**82 Joan S. Wielgus (BS)**, Sciota, Pa., has been granted board certification as an Eating Disorders Professional Therapist (CEDT). Currently in private practice, she also works for Human Affairs International and is a board-certified alcohol counselor for New Jersey and an addictions counselor for Pennsylvania.

**83 Peggie Shillito (BSBA)**, East Brunswick, N.J., has been



*Peggie Shillito '83*

promoted to vice president and manager of investor services at National Westminster Bank USA. She joined the bank's Loan Officer Development program in 1982 and was promoted to assistant vice president in 1987. In addition to her BA from Edison, she holds a certificate in Financial Planning from Adelphi University.

**Andrew R. Kaufman, Esq. (BA)**, Cherry Hill, N. J., is a member of the law firm of Batt and Halpern, with offices in Philadelphia, Pa., and Collingswood, N.J. He graduated from Villanova University in 1986 with a Juris Doctor degree, and is a member of both New Jersey and Pennsylvania bars.

**85 Hooman Rowshan (BA)**, Long Beach, Calif., is a Navy Lt. JG and recently completed Officer Indoctrination School at the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, R.I. The six-week

course prepared the newly-commissioned officer for duty in the naval staff field of law, his chosen career. He graduated in 1987 from Washburn University, Topeka, KS, with a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.

**86 Carole A. Nerlino (BSBA)**, Morris Plains, N.J., is the host of her own radio show Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. on station WMTR-AM. She answers callers' questions concerning personal finance and recommends investment strategies. She is a vice president and certified financial planner with Shearson Lehman Hutton in Morristown.

**88 Wayne F. Green (BS)**, Pasadena, Texas, has been elected to membership in Outstanding College Students of America for 1989. He earned an MS in industrial education at Texas Southern University.

**89 Charles H. Jack (BSBA)**, Point Pleasant, N.J., is an instructor in business at Ocean County College, as well as a real estate broker and owner of Pilot Realty Agency. He holds an MBA from Syracuse University and recently earned an MA in administration, supervision and curriculum from Georgian Court College, Lakewood, N.J. Currently he serves as Alumni Association vice president for development.

**Phillip G. Capehart (BS/AST)**, Mystic Island, N.J., is pursuing his master's

degree in health physics at Georgia Institute of Technology. Recently he obtained a senior reactor operator's certification at G.P.U. Nuclear's Oyster Creek plant, and now is an instructor in the operator training department at the nuclear plant.

**Anthony J. Derderian (BS/AST)**, New Britain, Conn. has accepted a position with United Parcel Service as a Boeing 727 flight engineer. Previously employed as a captain for a commuter airline, he attributes his career advancement to his Edison degree which, he says, "helped me to move on and fly heavy jets with a bigger and better company."

**William L. Hinkel (BSBA)**, Mentor, Ohio, is a senior quality engineer at Bailey Controls Company in Wickliffe, Ohio, where he started as a technician in field service 21 years ago. Hinkel, who was an Arnold Fletcher Scholar of the Class of '89, plans to begin an MBA program this fall.

## In Memoriam

Timothy A. Burns (AA '85), of Allentown, N.J. passed away on December 15, 1989.

A certified U.S.-F.A.A. commercial instrument and multi-engine pilot, Burns had received the William Kershner Award for Excellence in Aviation. He was employed by National Waste Disposal, Inc.



# I N S I D E INVENTION



## 1 Support for the College Unmatched

Participation and pledge rate during the Annual Phonathon demonstrate support for the value of the Edison degree.

## 1 The Electronic College

Edison students begin using computers to enhance their learning, communication with the College.



## 2 Edison's 'Faculty'

Consultants for the College participate in a variety of workshops and small group sessions.

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

Dr. George A. Pruitt, President; Dr. Norman C. Crawford, Jr., Vice President for Public Affairs; Idalie M. Muñoz, Director of Communications and College Relations; Barbara Waters Eklund, Editor-in-Chief, *Invention*; Linda Soltis, Program Assistant; Cindy Warrick, Secretary; and Annette Singer, Director of Alumni Affairs

Mildred Koslow, '82, President of the Alumni Association  
Alumni Newsletter Committee: Claire Cope, '89, *chair*; Adele Ellis, '88; Leona G. Bothwell, '78; and Phyllis Sinoradzki, '88

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