

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Grande Ball

TRENTON 2002

Thomas Edison State College

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence



the
Thomas Edison
S T A T E C O L L E G E
FOUNDATION BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

Congratulates
the Spirit
of Edison
Recipients

Thomas A. Bracken

&

Bonnie Watson Coleman

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The
Grande Ball
T R E N T O N 2 0 0 2

*Saturday,
November 16, 2002*

Lafayette Yard Marriott Conference Hotel

Welcome

Margaret B. Hoisington
Gala Co-Chair

Greetings from the Foundation Chair

John P. Neary

Spirit of Edison Awards

Maria P. Imbalzano
Gala Co-Chair

Recipient Responses

Thomas A. Bracken
Bonnie Watson Coleman

Closing Remarks

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President
Thomas Edison State College

Cocktail Reception

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Silent Auction

6:30-9:30 p.m.

*Dinner and Dancing to the Sound
of the Wayne Gustafson Group*

7:30-11:30 p.m.

The Grande Ball

TRENTON 2002



Gala Committee

Honorary Chair

Dr. George A. Pruitt

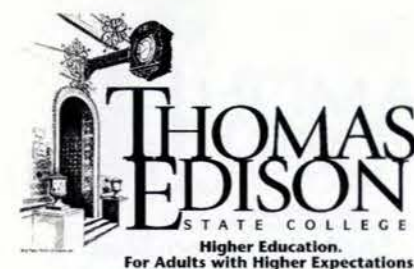
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Maria P. Imbalzano

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Marjorie Carnevale
Nicholas L. Carnevale
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Dear Friends:

On behalf of Dr. George Pruitt and our fellow Gala Committee members, we welcome you to the 11th annual Thomas Edison State College Foundation Gala, The Grande Ball – Trenton 2002. We thank you for joining us as we present the Spirit of Edison Awards to two outstanding members of this community, and as we celebrate the College's 30 years of providing quality higher education for adult learners. We gratefully acknowledge all of our attendees and contributors, and are especially pleased to welcome and thank those of you who have been longtime friends of the College.

The Spirit of Edison Awards are presented each year to those whose professional achievements and community leadership have helped make a difference in the lives of all citizens. This year we are pleased to present the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award to Thomas A. Bracken, President and CEO of Sun National Bank, for his leadership in fostering economic development in the greater Trenton Community and for his personal involvement in many civic endeavors. We are also pleased to recognize New Jersey State Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman as this year's outstanding alumna. Assemblywoman Coleman has labored tirelessly on behalf of the citizens of her district as well as around the state, and has been a longtime advocate and friend of the College.

We would like to thank our fellow Gala Committee members for their hard work to make this evening a success. We deeply appreciate their generosity on behalf of the College.

Thank you again for joining us this evening as we celebrate the spirit of achievement.

Sincerely,

Maria P. Imbalzano
Gala Committee Co-Chair

Margaret B. Hoisington
Gala Committee Co-Chair

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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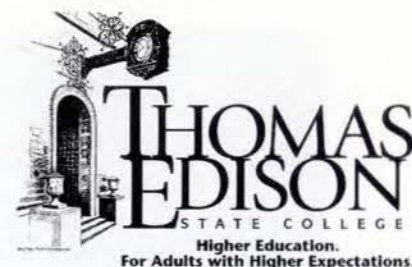
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Dear Friends:

Thank you for joining us at the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 11th annual gala. In addition to honoring Bonnie Watson Coleman and Tom A. Bracken, two outstanding individuals whose contributions to this community are immeasurable, we gather to celebrate 30 years of educational excellence and innovation.

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation has been pleased to be a supporter of the College's mission for over 20 years. The Foundation was formed in 1979 to seek resources to support the day-to-day operations of the College, and to help build an endowment to secure the College's future. Over the last decade, the Foundation has helped raise more than \$4.5 million in support of the College.

There are many members of the Thomas Edison State College family who have helped us along the way, and we honor them tonight as well. We extend a special thanks to Chris Yegen, who was our pioneer in the early days of the Foundation. We thank Dick Gillespie, whose support and guidance led us through a period of tremendous growth. And we thank Nick Carnevale, who continues to lead the College's charge to provide excellent higher education for adults. These former Foundation Board Chairs, along with all of the former Foundation Board members, and past and current Trustees, have made the College what it is today.

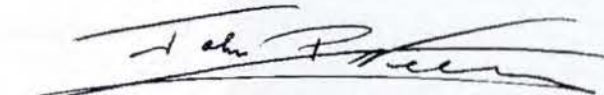
We offer special recognition to Carol Nerlino-Cerepak, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who passed away this past summer. Carol, a graduate of the College, will be missed, but her legacy and spirit remain with us always.

We would be remiss if we did not honor and celebrate the 20 years of visionary leadership of Dr. George Pruitt. Dr. Pruitt's passion, dedication, and wisdom have been invaluable to the growth and success of this institution. He is our mighty force in the higher education arena, and a champion of the greater Trenton community.

As always, we are grateful to the Gala Committee, past and present. Without the support of these generous volunteers, our event would not be possible. We offer a special thanks to this year's Gala co-chairs, Maria Imbalzano and Peggy Hoisington and their committee, for their hard work and continued commitment to making this event a success.

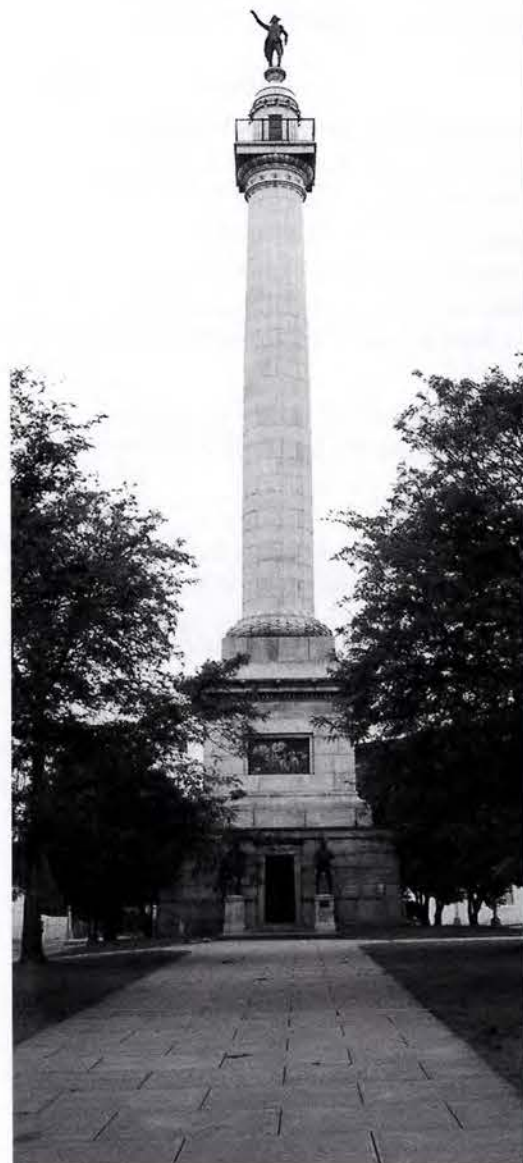
Thank you again for sharing this special evening with us.

Sincerely,


John Neary

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

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Dr. George A. Pruitt
Thomas Edison State College



Dear Friends of Thomas Edison State College:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to The Grande Ball – Trenton 2002. This year marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of Thomas Edison State College. We are delighted to have you join us for what promises to be a fun-filled evening of celebration and recognition.

Tonight, Thomas Edison State College honors two outstanding and dedicated individuals who have contributed greatly to our community and who embody the "Spirit of Edison." Tom A. Bracken and Bonnie Watson Coleman '85 are both leaders who have done great things for this community through their selfless service. We count them among our closest friends and advocates, and they continue to support the College's mission in words and deeds.

I am pleased to report that this has been a banner year for the College. In this, our thirtieth year, our enrollment has topped 9,000, and we are well on our way to reaching our goal of enrolling 10,000 students by the year 2005. The College continues to forge relationships with other institutions to benefit adult learners, and we are well prepared to help corporations tailor degree programs to meet the needs of their employees. Increasingly advanced technologies have enabled the College to explore revolutionary ways to make Thomas Edison State College more accessible than ever. In all of this, we owe our success to your support and advocacy on behalf of adult learners.

As members of the Thomas Edison State College family, you have helped us immeasurably. We look forward to our next thirty years and beyond, as we continue to fulfill our mission of providing excellent higher education for adults. Thank you, again, for your continued support.

Warmest Regards,

George A. Pruitt
President
Thomas Edison State College

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE *Alumni Association Board of Directors*

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Student Representative

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Gala Acknowledgments

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors and Thomas Edison State College gratefully acknowledge and thank each of you who participated in making The Grande Ball-Trenton 2002 and Spirit of Edison Award presentations a special and successful evening!

Thanks to "The Princeton Packet" and "The Times of Trenton" for their public service announcements promoting the event.

Thanks to the Ad Journal sponsors for the many warm wishes and support.

Thanks to our many friends and businesses who provided gifts and services for the Silent Auction.

Thanks to the many corporate sponsors and individuals who attended and supported this event and our honorees.

Thanks to Colavita Jewelers for their generous support.

Thanks to Richard Nisco and Le Fleur, Inc., for the wonderful decorations.

Thanks to the Wayne Gustafson Group for providing the music tonight.

Thanks to Stark & Stark for their courtesy and hospitality in hosting the Gala Committee Meetings.

Thanks to the Lafayette Yard Marriott for the complimentary guest rooms for our Spirit of Edison honorees.

Thanks to Forest Jewelers, Inc. for their donation of a strand of pearls for the silent auction.

*Many, many thanks to
The Grande Ball-Trenton 2002 Committee for their time
and effort spent on this event!*



Embodying the Spirit of Edison

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is pleased to present the ninth annual Spirit of Edison Awards. The prestigious Spirit of Edison Awards are bestowed each year to recognize community leaders and alumni whose creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit reflect the pioneering genius of Thomas Alva Edison.

Selected leaders must demonstrate that they embody the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and the spirit of excellence associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and its namesake. Recognition is given to those who have made a difference at the local, national and international level, which is fitting, given the global nature of Thomas Edison State College's distance education programs.

A special category, the Spirit of Edison Family Award, is occasionally awarded to a friend of the College who demonstrates outstanding service and dedication on behalf of Thomas Edison State College.

Bonnie Watson Coleman, '85, will receive the Spirit of Edison Alumni Award; and **Thomas A. Bracken** will receive the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award. (See recipient biographies on the pages that follow.)

Spirit of Edison Awards Criteria

- *Adherence to a high standard of excellence, innovation and imagination in their careers;*
- *Dedication to humanitarianism and to serving the public good;*
- *Devotion to the ideals of self-discipline, hard work and persistence in the pursuit of excellence;*
- *Enthusiasm for the improvement of our quality of life through the continued availability of higher education for adults; and*
- *Distinguished service at the community, national or international level.*

2001 Award Recipients

(pictured left to right with Dr. George A. Pruitt)



2001
S. John Quattrone - Family Award
Toni Marotta-Brinton - Alumni Award
Dennis Bone - Community Leader Award

Previous Award Recipients

(pictured left to right with Dr. George A. Pruitt)



2000
Eric Pennington, '87 - Alumni Award
Albert Stark - Community Leader Award
Maurice Perilli - Family Award



1999
John J. McCann, '90 - Alumni Award
Alfred E. Mann - Community Leader Award
Nicholas L. Carnevale - Family Award



1998
Dr. Suren N. Sehgal - Community Leader Award
Rita A. Novitt - Family Award
Dr. Marc Jordan Ben-Meir, '84 - Alumni Award



1997
John J. Heldrich - Community Leader Award
The Hon. Joseph Rodriguez - Community Leader Award
Howard E. Butt, '95 - Alumni Award



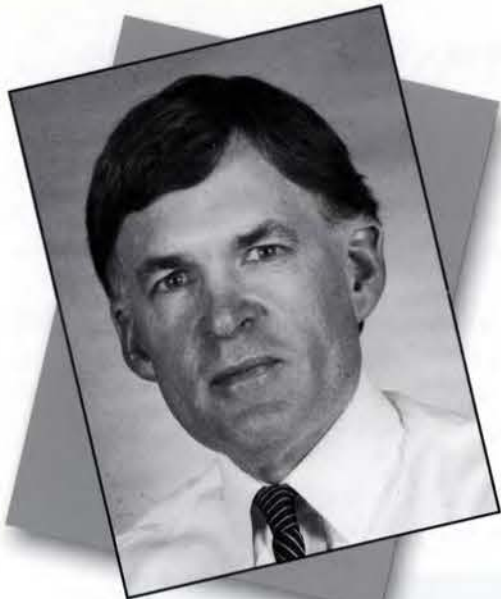
1996
Paula Vaughan, '90 - Alumni Award
Richard J. Gillespie - Community Leader Award



1995
Steven deSouza, '76 - Alumni Award
James Kilgore - Community Leader Award



1994
John P. Neary - Community Leader Award
Frank Z. Hawrylo, '79 - Alumni Award



Thomas A. Bracken

Recognized as a leader in the financial community and well known for his involvement in business and community organizations, Thomas A. Bracken is being honored with the Spirit of Edison Award for Community Leadership.

Named president and chief executive officer of the Sun Bancorp, Inc. in February of 2001, Bracken leads the bank holding company that serves customers throughout the region. Headquartered in Vineland, N.J., Sun Bancorp has 73 Community Banking Centers and six Regional Banking Headquarters located in southern and central New Jersey, New Castle County, Del. and in Philadelphia, Pa.

Actively involved in the community, Bracken was appointed by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman to the Board of Trustees for the College of New Jersey. He is the vice chairman of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Executive Committee. Bracken is chairman of both the Keep New Jersey Moving Coalition and the Economic Development Corporation of Trenton, and

has held the position of President of the Northern New Jersey chapter of Robert Morris Associates.

In addition, Bracken currently serves on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Alliance for Action, is chairman of the Finance Committee for the New Jersey Cancer Institute and serves on the Board of Directors of New Jersey Network (NJN). He is also a member of the Executive Committee of Prosperity New Jersey, serving as the organization's treasurer since June 2001, and co-chairs their Business Ambassadors Program.

Bracken and his wife Suzanne are the parents of two children.

Bonnie Watson Coleman, '85



A tireless advocate for civil rights, children and the disadvantaged, Bonnie Watson Coleman will be honored tonight as the recipient of the Spirit of Edison Award for Distinguished Alumni. Watson Coleman graduated from Thomas Edison State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985.

Watson Coleman has served in the New Jersey General Assembly for three terms. She was the first African-American woman to lead the State party when she was elected chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee on February 4, 2002. She currently serves as the chair of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is a member of the Assembly Budget Committee.

Hailed as New Jersey's most outspoken and insightful legislators, Watson Coleman began her career as a field representative for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights and quickly rose through the ranks to become chief of the Bureau of Housing and Public Accommodations. During her thirty-year career, she has

championed the issues of fairness and equity for all Americans, with particular emphasis on access to education, jobs, healthcare, open space and housing.

In 1974, Watson Coleman established the Office of Civil Rights, Contract Compliance and Affirmative Action in the New Jersey Department of Transportation and remained the director of that office for six years. In 1980, Watson Coleman joined the Department of Community Affairs, where she held a number of positions including assistant commissioner; responsible for Aging, Community Resources, Public Guardian and Women's Divisions.

Watson Coleman resides in Ewing Township with her husband, Minister William E. Coleman.

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Higher Education For Adults With Higher Expectations

Thomas Edison State College is celebrating its 30th Anniversary of providing quality higher education for adults. One of New Jersey's 12 senior public institutions of higher education, Thomas Edison State College provides adults from every state and 84 other nations with access to the best choices in higher education. The College offers educational opportunities to adults who have the inspiration, self-discipline and energy to complete degrees while attending to the demands of family, career and community.

Identified by *Forbes* magazine as one of the top 20 colleges and universities in the nation in the use of technology to create learning opportunities for adults, this accredited public college is an international leader in the assessment of adult learning and a pioneer in the use of educational technologies. Founded in 1972, this world-renowned institution offers 14 associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees in more than 100 areas of study.

Thomas Edison State College offers students the opportunity to earn degrees through traditional and non-traditional methods. These methods take into consideration personal needs and interests while ensuring both breadth and depth of knowledge within the degree program. Students of Thomas Edison State College pursue degrees through a variety of rigorous academic venues, including documenting college-level knowledge they may already have as well as by completing independent study courses, Thomas Edison State College courses and examinations. Students may also

earn college credit for learning acquired through military or corporate education programs, classroom courses at other accredited colleges and other high-quality credit-earning options designed for today's busy adult.

Accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the College had its 10-year re-accreditation visit by the Middle States Evaluation Team in April. The team's report not only affirmed the College's re-accreditation but celebrated its outstanding accomplishments.

For three decades, Thomas Edison State College has served armed forces personnel worldwide by providing flexible education opportunities. The College's Military Degree Completion Program accommodates the special needs of military personnel whose location, re-location and time constraints make traditional college attendance difficult. The program allows students to pursue a college degree wherever they may be stationed. Thomas Edison State College is ideal for servicemembers who desire to use innovative instructional approaches rather than classroom-based courses.

As a result of this long-standing commitment of providing access to education options for military personnel, Thomas Edison State College is one of the colleges chosen to participate in the Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership, created by the U.S. Navy in response to sailors' needs for greater access to higher education and is a participant in the eArmyU program, which enables U.S. enlisted soldiers to obtain

professional technical certifications and associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees using laptop computers to access online courses while they serve in the Army.

Helping students achieve their educational goals has always been at the heart of the Thomas Edison State College mission. In addition to helping students around the world, the College is helping those closer to home. This year, the College awarded three new scholarships through the Fred C. Rummel Scholars Program and renewed the four scholarships awarded last year. Funded by the generous support of the Fred C. Rummel Foundation, this merit-based scholarship is the first of this size and scope to be offered by Thomas Edison State College. It is designed to recognize and support the educational endeavors of outstanding New Jersey community college graduates who plan to continue their studies toward a baccalaureate degree at Thomas Edison State College.

The College has a long history of supporting county and community college students. Thomas Edison State College's Degree Pathways Program allows community and county college students to complete a baccalaureate degree without leaving their home counties and is available to every

associate degree graduate from all New Jersey county and community colleges. This unique program offers two-year college graduates a seamless transfer to Thomas Edison State College's baccalaureate degree programs.

Thomas Edison State College also has partnerships with the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria—one of the most well respected purveyors of distance education in the world; Edison Community College in Fort Myers, Fla., and Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pa., and continues the process of developing other educational alliances throughout the country and around the world.

The corporate and business world is another arena where the College has established itself as a leader. For maximum flexibility and convenience, Thomas Edison State College works in tandem with more than 100 companies to evaluate corporate courses and to provide a college education to employees without disrupting their personal or professional lives. Through the Office of Corporate-Higher Education Programs, Thomas Edison State College has assisted corporate clients since 1983. Working in conjunction with the American Council on Education (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service, businesses are able to document the credit value of inservice programs, create tailored programs to meet employees' needs and accommodate the changing winds of the corporate culture through education with the help of Thomas Edison State College.

This year the College has undertaken a number of exciting initiatives. Thomas Edison State College and The Chubb Institute have developed a partnership to facilitate degree completion for adults who have completed The Chubb Institute courses that have been recommended for college credit by ACE. The agreement allows students to apply their ACE credit recommendations, earned for The Chubb Institute courses successfully completed, to specific degree requirements at Thomas Edison State College. A part-

nership agreement has also been signed with Mortgage Bankers Association of America to facilitate degree completion for adults who have earned ACE credit recommendations for courses that they have completed successfully through CampusMBA.

The College has left its mark in other areas of academia as well. The National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning, created in 1989 as the only national program dedicated to advancing the field of experiential learning, annually attracts an impressive group of educators and practitioners from around the globe.

Thomas Edison State College not only leads the way in quality education for adults, it is also a leader in service to the community. The College is affiliated with the New Jersey State Library and is home to the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, which provides independent policy analysis and review to the public sector, nonprofit organizations and other clients. Furthermore, the College has partnered with the New Jersey Institute of Technology on Healthcare Information Networks and Technologies (HINT), a million-dollar study on the use of technology in the healthcare field. HINT recommendations have resulted in streamlined and reduced healthcare administrative costs.

Governed by an appointed board of trustees, the College is also host and home for two active outstanding volunteer leadership boards. The Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors serves as the primary fundraising and advocacy arm of the College and the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association is a vehicle for alumni advocacy, leadership and support. Each of these boards provide important business, civic and community promotion and resources for the College's programs and activities.

The depth of the College's accomplishment is a tribute to its staff and the leadership of three presidents. The late Dr. James Douglas Brown, Jr., the College's founding president (1972-1979), Dr. Lorraine R. Matusak (1979-

1982) and Dr. George A. Pruitt (1982-present), who is celebrating his 20th anniversary as the College's leader.

A true visionary, Dr. Pruitt's leadership and guidance have made Thomas Edison State College one of the premier institutions of quality higher education nationally and internationally. Honored by the Exxon Foundation as one of the nation's most effective college presidents, he was cited at the 1993 Thomas Edison State College Foundation Gala for outstanding service and unfailing dedication to the institution and its students. This year, U.S. Secretary of Education Rodney Paige has re-appointed Dr. Pruitt to a three-year term on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey appointed Dr. Pruitt to the newly formed Education Cabinet.

Today, Thomas Edison State College's presence has expanded throughout the state's capitol city of Trenton. The College's campus embraces the Kelsey Building at 101 W. State St., and the adjacent townhouse complex, the Academic Center at 167 E. Hanover St. and the Kuser Mansion at 315 W. State St. The recently completed renovations on five historic townhouses has enabled the College to acquire 21st-century technology, from electronic classrooms and computer labs to a corporate-style education conference room and other facilities linking students and mentors at dozens of colleges throughout the country and around the world.

Thomas Edison State College is proud of the opportunities it has had to help adult students achieve their educational goals. As the College continues to evolve and grow, it will pursue new and unprecedented ways to provide the highest quality education for new generations of motivated adults who are seeking college degrees.

Gala Sponsors

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation and The 2002 Gala Committee extend deep gratitude to each of our sponsors whose early commitments helped to make this event a success.

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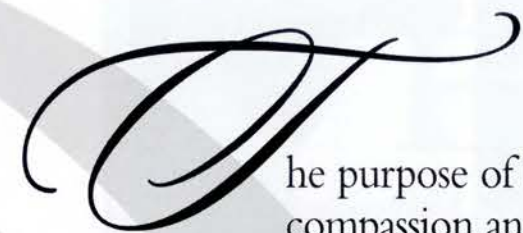
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to a grateful community.

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Alumnus Award

Tom Bracken
*Community Leader
Award*



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recipients



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at this gala event.*



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Without your dedication and support the Foundation would not be what it is today.*

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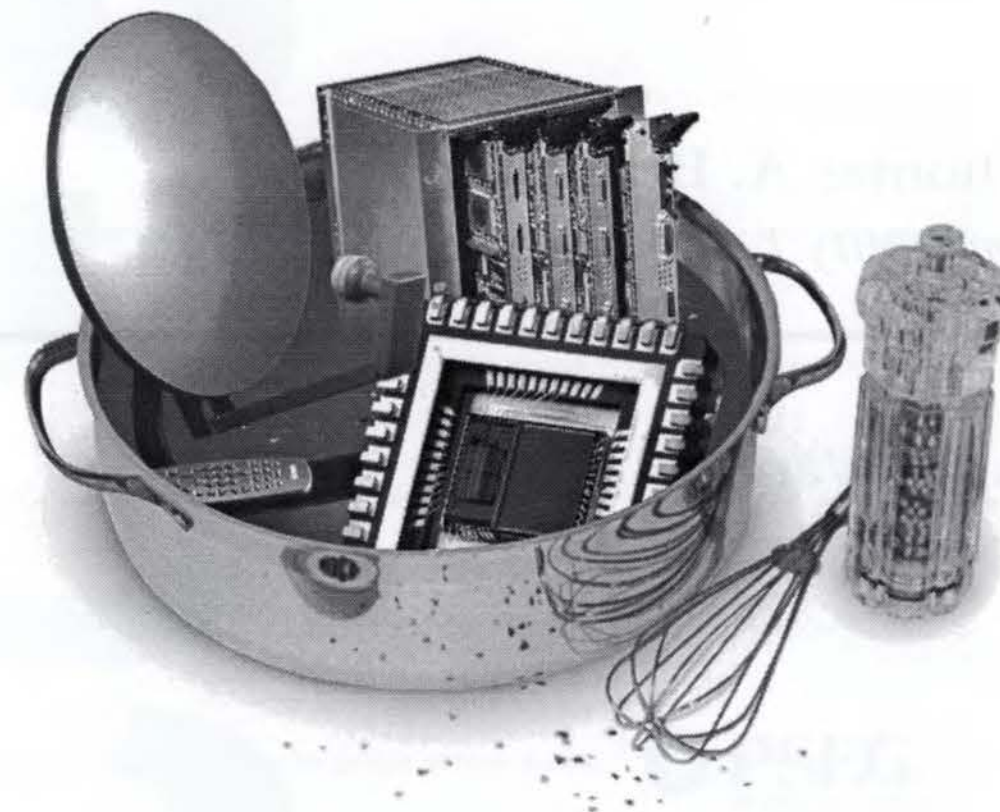
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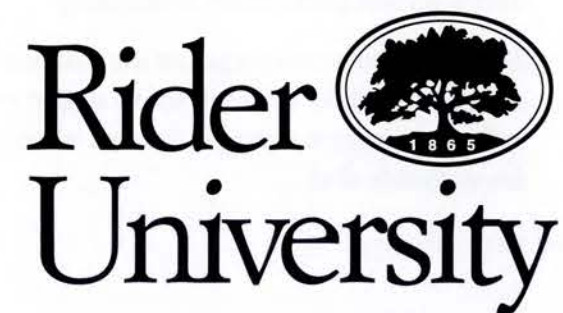
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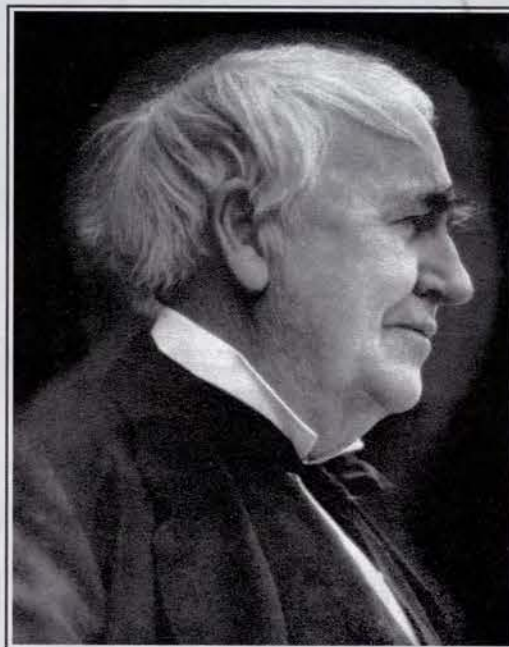
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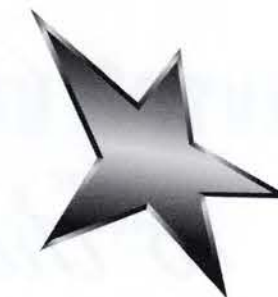
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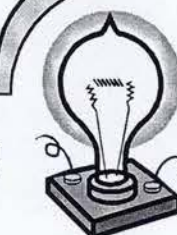


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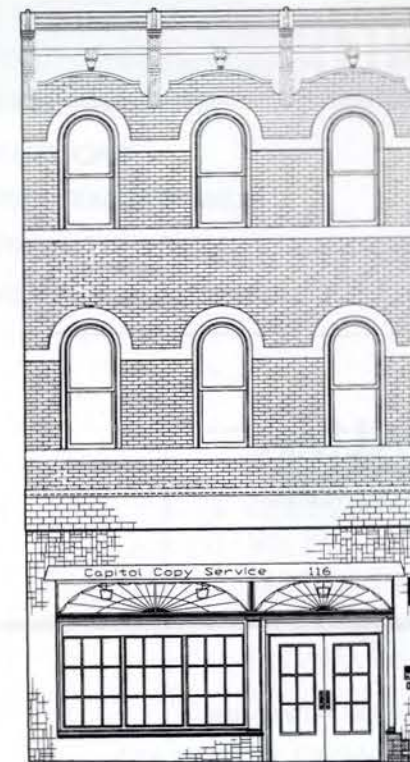
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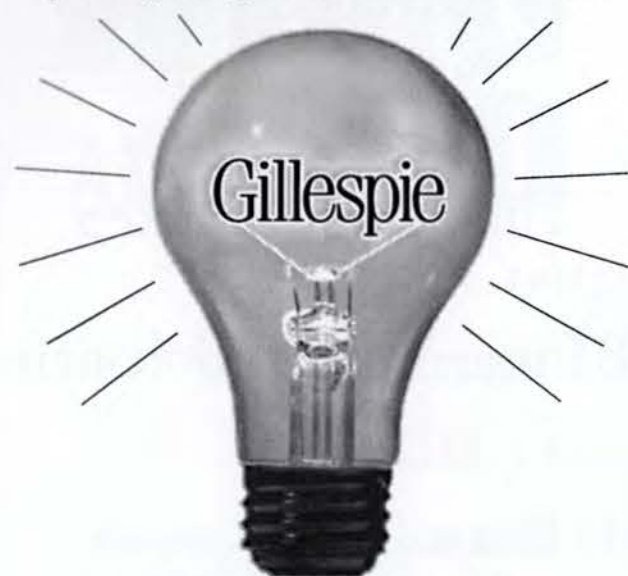
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