

Invention



Fall 2003

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE

IN THIS ISSUE...

Grammy® Award Winner

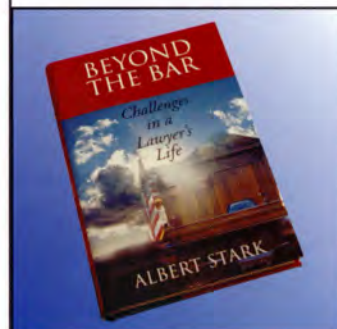
31st Annual Commencement

Historic Clock Restoration

Albert Stark's New Book Benefits College

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Front Cover:
Set against a backdrop of the
historic Kelsey Building, circa 1920;
Alexander Horn works to restore the
hands of the building's landmark clock.

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A Message from the President



Tempus fugit. This ancient quotation, first attributed to the Roman poet Virgil, describes a basic truth: Time flies, never to return.

At times it is necessary to look backward, to reflect on the gifts that time has brought us. This process helps us renew our sense of purpose and offers us an opportunity to refocus the things that are important to us, or recall things that have disappeared from our consciousness with the passage of time.

In this issue of *Invention* we examine the process of recollection and restoration of bygone times. You will read about Keith Benson, a recent graduate of Thomas Edison State College. Benson and his colleagues were honored this year by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences with a Grammy® Award for their work on the motion picture "Standing in the Shadows of Motown."

Once news of the Grammy® Award hit, Benson found himself shifting into high gear in order to complete work on the remaining classes for his Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate degree in history. Completing his coursework at a distance while touring internationally as a drummer has made for some interesting experiences. Benson has always felt that education is important, whether it is his own college education, or his work as a musician to restore the public's knowledge about the vintage sounds of Motown. In fact, Benson will speak to graduates at the College's Annual Commencement Ceremony on Oct. 18 of this year.

Also in this issue you will learn more about the restoration of the landmark clock that has long been a symbol of Thomas Edison State College. While we have missed seeing the familiar clock as it stood sentry on the front of our historic Kelsey Building, we have been intrigued as we follow the process of renovation under the direction of Alexander Horn, a master gemologist and horologist. Horn has assembled a team of master craftsmen who have all come together to restore what time and weather had taken away. Through technological innovation, they will make our venerable old clock the most punctual timepiece in all of Trenton.

Noted Trenton attorney Albert Stark is also profiled in this issue of *Invention*. Stark, who has practiced law in New Jersey for four decades, holds a deep commitment to public service and the community. His recently published book, "Beyond the Bar," chronicles his early years as a young lawyer in Trenton. A longtime friend of the College, Stark has stipulated that all proceeds from the sale of his book be earmarked for an endowment that will allow the College's John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy to administer programs to provide a network of young civic leaders through programs like Leadership Trenton. We hope you will enjoy reading about the life of this generous individual.

Time has certainly flown as the College enters its 31st year of providing a quality education to adult students. We're proud of the work that we do and invite you to come celebrate our 31st Annual Commencement on Oct. 18. U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine will be joining us on Commencement day to receive an honorary degree from the College and to present an address to the graduates.

On behalf of the staff at Thomas Edison State College, I hope that you will enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

COLLEGE NEWS



In Remembrance...

It is with great sadness that Thomas Edison State College announces the loss of Gerri Collins, former executive assistant to the president, who passed away on July 18, 2003, after fighting cancer with dignity and grace for many years. A writer, composer and playwright, Collins worked at Thomas Edison State College for 20 years, from 1977 until her retirement in 1997. Collins attended Bethany College in West Virginia in the 1950s, and like many Thomas Edison State College students, returned to college much later at Purdue University, where she earned her baccalaureate and master's degrees. "Gerri was a beloved member of the Thomas Edison State College family, and we will miss her greatly.

She was a consummate professional, a fine colleague and a dear friend to me," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thomas Edison State College hosted the 5th Annual Conference of New Jersey Urban Mayors, Superintendents and School Board Presidents on May 29, 2003. Keynote speaker for this year's conference was Alfred T. McNeil, CEO, New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation. Other participants included Diana MTK Autin, Esq., co-executive director of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN); Tom Jannarone, director of Urban Affairs for the New Jersey Association of School Administrators; Edwina M. Lee, executive director of the New Jersey School Board Association; Douglas H. Palmer, mayor of Trenton and D. Bruce Wheeler, president of Fleet Bank, a major sponsor of the event.

Alfred T. McNeil was appointed on July 29, 2002, by Gov. James E. McGreevy to serve as the chief executive officer of the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation. His keynote presentation focused on the process for school construction, current trends and plans for the future. He also gave his thoughts on how school construction can be expedited in the Garden State.

Autin's remarks focused on parent involvement in school construction. As the co-executive director of one of New

Jersey's largest parent advocacy organizations, Autin emphasized keeping children, families and communities at the center of the Abbott debate. The New Jersey Supreme Court's Abbott

**ALFRED T. MCNEIL, CEO
NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS
CONSTRUCTION
CORPORATION, WAS THE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER RECENTLY
AT THE 5TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF NEW JERSEY
URBAN MAYORS,
SUPERINTENDENTS AND SCHOOL
BOARD PRESIDENTS AT
THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE.**

vs. Burke decision was issued in June 1990, when the court mandated that the state equalize funding between suburban and urban districts for regular education and to provide extra or supplemental programs.

The conference included a program introduction by Dr. Joseph Youngblood II,

executive director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy; a welcome address by Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison State College and greetings by Wheeler. Remarks were made by Jannarone, Lee and Palmer in his role as president of the New Jersey Urban Mayor's Association.

Jannarone moderated a panel discussion on the topic of "Modification of the Abbott V Remedial Measures: Challenges and Lessons Learned." Panelists included the superintendents of three New Jersey urban school districts: Superintendent James H. Lytle of Trenton, Superintendent Mark Cowell of Pemberton and Superintendent Antonio N. Lewis of Asbury Park.

The conference attracted mayors from 24 urban cities in New Jersey. The superintendents of school districts across the state also attended.

The conference was sponsored by the College and a portion of the financial support was underwritten by Fleet Bank showing that institution's confirmed dedication to support education.

COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE DEVELOPS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



In the aftermath of Sept. 11, New York City's fire department experienced the loss of 343 brave men and women who put their lives at risk to save others. Now it is the challenge of increased homeland security that confronts New York City as well as the nation.

To meet the increased demand for emergency personnel with specialized training and academic credentials, Thomas Edison State College and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) have established an educational partnership. Current and retired members of the department and civilian employees who have completed New York City Fire Academy courses that have been recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE), New York PONS and ACE Military are eligible to participate in the degree completion program.

Officials from the College and FDNY signed the partnership agreement during a signing ceremony at Thomas Edison State College's campus in Trenton, on June 6.

The agreement allows firefighters to apply their ACE credit recommendations toward degree requirements at

Officials from Thomas Edison State College and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) during the signing of the partnership agreement. Pictured from the left (seated): William J. Seaton, vice president and provost, Thomas Edison State College; Dr. Victor Herbert, dean of Instruction, FDNY; Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison State College; Maryelizabeth Roban, director of Admissions/College Advisement, FDNY; and Jacqueline Bradnock-Merveil, registrar, FDNY; (standing): Dr. Esther Taitsman, associate dean/director of MSM Program, Thomas Edison State College; Dr. Judith Krom, associate dean, Undergraduate Programs and Human Services, Thomas Edison State College; and Dr. Maxine Lentz, vice provost and academic dean, Thomas Edison State College.

Thomas Edison State College. Through the partnership, firefighters will be able to earn credits that may be applied toward an undergraduate degree at Thomas Edison State College by taking any of the ACE recom-

mended courses offered through the fire academy. Students will also take additional general education courses that will fulfill College degree requirements.

"We are pleased to be able to provide educational opportunities to the members of this fine organization," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "With this agreement, New York's bravest will have the opportunity to earn their college degrees while still serving their community. We are honored to be of assistance to them."

"We are thrilled to be working with FDNY," said Dr. Judith Krom, associate dean, Undergraduate Programs and Human Services at Thomas Edison State College. "This cooperative agreement is a win-win situation for the College and FDNY. We are proud of this affiliation."

Grammy® Awards DO NOT DISTRACT STUDENT FROM EARNING BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

Keith Benson considers himself a fortunate man. The 48-year-old musician is the associate producer of the film "Standing in the Shadows of Motown," which was recognized with two Grammy® Awards by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc. Benson and his collaborators received awards for "Best Traditional R&B Performance"



Keith Benson

and "Best Compilation Soundtrack Album." The film has also received a New York Film Critics Circle Award and a 2002 National Society of Film Critics Award.

Winning an award such as the Grammy® can have a great impact on one's life. Despite the accolades and

the necessity to take the band on the road, Benson was so close to completing his degree requirements that he was not about to give up on his dream of earning his baccalaureate degree in history at Thomas Edison State College.

"Since we won the awards my life has gotten a bit busier," he said. "Now I'm hitting the road and going on tour." Benson is traveling with the Funk Brothers band. Known as the band behind the Motown's hit-making machine, the Funk Brothers "stood in the shadows" of the label's artists—names like Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Smokey Robinson.

According to Benson, every hit that came out of the Motown group had two commonalities: Berry Gordy and the Funk Brothers band. "They put the backbeat—the soul—into countless hits for Motown Records," said Benson. While the label's artists enjoyed wealth and fame, the Funk Brothers band wound up in obscurity.

Benson became involved in the movie project after several discussions with the film's producer over the course of a decade. The two were neighbors, musicians in rival bands and would often meet to talk about history, one of Benson's passions outside of his music. "The Funk Brothers have played on more hit tunes than the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Elvis—combined," pointed out Benson. "They are the greatest hit-making machine in pop music history,

yet they are hardly known at all."

"Al Slutsky and I wanted to make a film that would be a fitting tribute to the body of work of these artists," said Benson. "We wanted to dig out their story, tell it and feel satisfied that we've righted an unintentional wrong. All the positive public reaction is just gravy."

A resident of Cherry Hill, N.J., Benson is a long-time studio musician. For more than two decades, he has been a session drummer for Philadelphia International Records (PIR), playing for the label's artists, including Teddy Pendergrass and The Four Tops. According to Benson, there were 12 original members of the Funk Brothers; now there are six remaining. Even though the band members may be aging, Benson says they are still top musicians. "They may be old guys but they can still play!" exclaimed Benson. "I only hope that I am able to do half of what those guys are doing when I'm their age."

Married 24 years to his wife Terri, Benson has always held education in high regard.

"My two kids have just finished getting their college degrees and my son will start law school in the fall," he said. "I didn't want to be the only one in the house without my degree."

Obtaining his college degree has long been a goal for Benson. It has been 30 years since he enrolled in his first college course at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He has always stressed to the children in his neighborhood the importance of going to college, "until one day, one of the boys asked me if I had my college degree," said Benson. "I had no excuses."

Benson will be cutting short an engagement in Atlanta and will rush home to attend the Thomas Edison State College Commencement Ceremony where he has been selected to deliver the Response for Graduates speech.

"In my quietude, when I think of the history courses and of the differing requirements and the personalities of the professors, most of whom were PhDs; when I think that I earned As with every one of them—it gives me a rush that I can't get from a stage. And I love it," admitted Benson.

"The stage thrill goes away with the crowd or the post concert party. But the feeling of academic satisfaction is still with me even now. I don't know why, and I'm not going to try to analyze it. I'm just enjoying the feeling of accomplishment," he said.



THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE TO HOST 31ST ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT



U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine

Thomas Edison State College's 31st Annual Commencement will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003, in the Patriots Theater of the historic Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial in Trenton, N.J. Of the graduating class of 1,621, approximately 250 graduates are expected to travel to Trenton to march in this year's Commencement.

During the ceremony, U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ) will present the Commencement address and receive a Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa*.

Corzine was elected to his first term in the U.S. Senate in November 2000, after a long and successful career as an investment banker. The former co-chairman and co-chief executive officer of the investment company Goldman Sachs, Corzine's private sector experience and financial expertise have put him in the forefront of a number of major economic and regulatory issues confronting Congress. He is a member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; the Foreign Relations Committee; and the Senate Budget Committee.

Corzine is a member of the board of trustees of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark,

N.J.; the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; the University of Chicago; and New York University's Child Study Center. The senator graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1969 and received his MBA from the University of Chicago in 1973.

Response for the Graduates speaker this year is Keith Benson of Cherry Hill, N.J. Benson, a Bachelor of Arts degree in history recipient, is an accomplished musician and associate producer for the documentary film "Standing in the Shadows of Motown," the soundtrack, which was recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences with two Grammy® Awards. (See related story, page 4.)

Those interested in lodging accommodations during Commencement weekend may contact the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard hotel. Located adjacent to The Soldiers and

the Thomas Edison State College Commencement.

A featured event of the weekend will be the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association's first annual New Graduate and Alumni Reception. The Alumni Association invites all graduates and alumni to the reception, which will feature a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres, on Friday, Oct. 17, in the Mercer Room of the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard hotel from 7-9 p.m.

The Alumni Association and the Alumni Affairs office are again holding the traditional "Putting Him/Her Through" (PHT) Banquet. Often it is the family, friends and co-workers who encourage the graduates to stop at nothing to achieve their dream. Alumni honor the support system the graduates used while working toward their degrees. The banquet will begin one half-hour after Commencement ends in The George Washington Ballroom of the Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial.



Sailors' War Memorial, the hotel is offering a special discount rate of \$89 per night to those attending Commencement ceremonies the weekend of Oct. 17-19. For more information, call the hotel's toll free number at (800) 228-9290. Please mention that you will be attending

For more information about the reception and the banquet, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (609) 984-1588 ext. 2080 or via e-mail at alumni@tesc.edu.

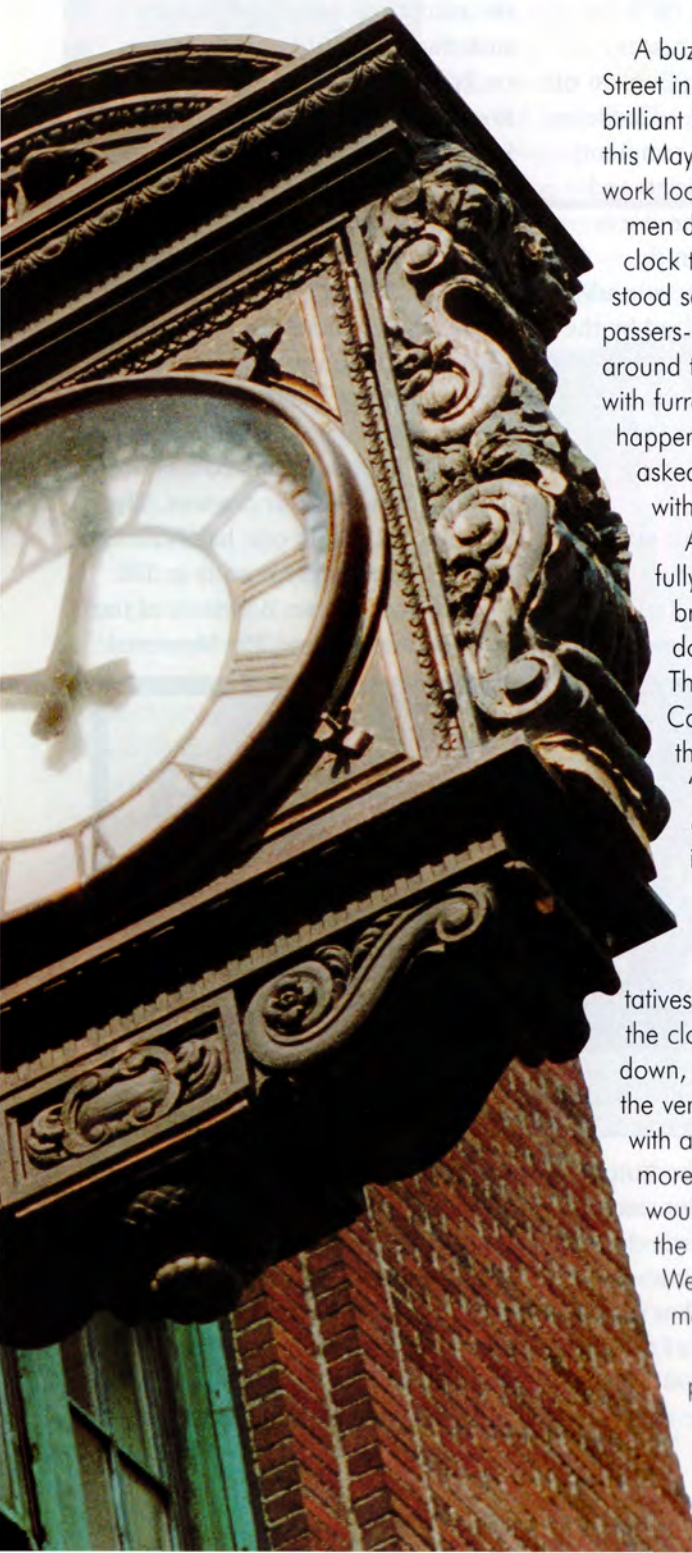
TEMPUS



FUGIT

HISTORIC KELSEY CLOCK

UNDERGOES RESTORATION



A buzz of activity at West State Street in Trenton was capped by a brilliant blue sky on a Monday this May. Trentonians walking to work looked up at a crew of five men dismantling the landmark clock that has for 93 years stood sentry over the city. Many passers-by navigated their way around the bright orange cones with furrowed brows. "What's happening to the clock?" they asked. "What are they doing with 'our' clock?"

As the crew worked carefully throughout the day to bring the historic old clock down from the front of Thomas Edison State College's Kelsey Building, the questions kept coming, "Why are they taking it down?" "They're bringing it back aren't they?"

Each pedestrian was given an answer of assurance by representatives of the College. While the clock was indeed coming down, it was time to pamper the venerable old timepiece with a major restoration, and more importantly, the clock would be back at its post at the corner of Barrack and West State Streets in a matter of a few months.

After several hours of painstaking labor, the workers gingerly bundled

the old clock into a minivan and drove away. "Now our city looks like it has one of its front teeth missing," laughed one woman who works nearby. "I look at the clock every day on my way into work and had taken for granted that it would always be there."

For many who live and work in the city of Trenton, the clock has been part of the landscape for as far back as they can remember. It is a city landmark that was first introduced to Trenton by Henry



The College's historic Kelsey Building, located at 101 W. State St. in Trenton, N.J.

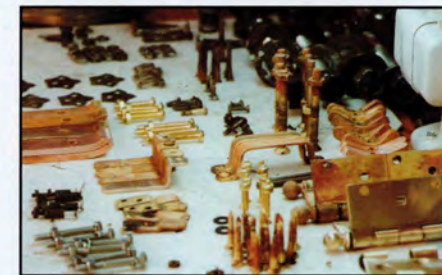
Cooper Kelsey, who commissioned the clock as part of the building project that is now known as the Kelsey Building, home to Thomas Edison State College. The building, completed in 1911 at a cost of more than \$140,000, is listed

on the National Register of Historic Places. The building was built by Kelsey to honor his deceased wife, Prudence Townsend Kelsey. Designed by noted architect Cass Gilbert, famous for his work on the Woolworth Building in New York City, the design of Kelsey's building was taken from the Palazzo Strozzi, a Florentine palace that was a favorite of Mrs. Kelsey.

Henry Kelsey had the reputation of being a very punctual man. Legend has it that if a gentleman was late to one of Kelsey's meetings, he would not be admitted. He had an appreciation and predilection for clocks. On the second floor of the building, Kelsey built a memorial room dedicated to his wife. Inside the room, which is lavishly decorated with many of the porcelains that the couple collected on their European voyages, are several clocks. Each of the clocks is permanently stopped at 11:49, the exact time that Mrs. Kelsey died on Jan. 3, 1904. Outside, Kelsey's large clock holds a similar tribute. Brass markers point to 11:49 on the face of the clock. Kelsey's clocks were of such importance that he stipulated in his will that the owners of the building would maintain the clock exterior in perpetuity.

The restoration of the clock is the final phase of a \$14.2

million restoration project that Thomas Edison State College began in 1997. The bulk of the funding provided for the refurbishing of five historic townhouses adjacent to the Kelsey Building.



Some of the intricate pieces of the historic Kelsey Building clock.

This restoration was chosen to receive the prestigious Grand Award from Downtown New Jersey, a statewide organization

which focuses on the strengthening of commercial and business districts. Ceding to Kelsey's wishes, the state of New Jersey, as owners of the Kelsey Building, has sought to give the clock some long overdue tender loving care.

"The refurbishing of the clock is part of an ongoing restoration," said Carl Costantino, project manager with the New Jersey Building Authority (NJBA). "The funding called for restoration of the exterior of the building and we felt that the clock certainly qualified as part of this project."

The NJBA selected Alexander Horn, a Wynnewood, Pa., gemologist and horologist, to oversee the restoration of the clock. Born in Venezuela to Hungarian



Alexander Horn, gemologist and horologist

immigrants, Horn is an expert craftsman. Selected to repair a Papal chalice for Pope John Paul II in 1995, Horn says that the Kelsey clock is not the largest or the oldest he has ever worked on, yet he is clearly animated while describing his work on the project.

"This clock is a fine timepiece," he said during a recent visit by representatives of the College to his studio. Sitting atop his jeweler's bench are all the inner workings of the Kelsey clock. Astride to the left are the face and hands of the clock, which have been stripped of years of grime and weather and given new protective coverings. "I would even consider this clock to be a piece of jewelry," he added.

Horn said that he did a good deal of research when he took on the restoration project. He had read about Henry Kelsey and his wife, and had visited the Prudence Townsend Kelsey Memorial Room. Horn's goal was to give the old clock new life, and also bring it up to date with high tech hardware that would especially please Mr. Kelsey.

"I will be installing a new motor with a special microchip," said Horn. Among his plans for updating the grand old clock is the addition of a global positioning system (GPS) antenna. Several times a day, the GPS will link to satellites that keep atomic time. The clock will then read the time and adjust accordingly. "The clock will automatically be controlled," said Horn excitedly. "If the electricity should go off, the clock will automatically reset itself." According to Horn, the clock will self adjust during the transition from Daylight Saving Time and back again. "The Kelsey clock will be the most precise clock in Trenton—perhaps the state of New Jersey," said Horn. "It will be the clock that everyone will set their watch to."

While Horn's expertise is in the

inner workings of the clock, he needed assistance to restore the outer cabinetry. He recruited two master wood artisans to bring the outer portion of the clock back to its original condition. Horn selected Julius Rigo, an Ardmore, Pa. furniture maker, to restore the box of the clock and Ion Tilica, an artist from Trevoze, Pa., to restore the clock's intricate carvings.



Julius Rigo, furniture maker and expert at historic restorations.

Rigo, who came to the U.S. from Hungary, is well-known as a maker of fine furniture. At age 19, after leaving his homeland during

A HIGHLY SKILLED CRAFTSMAN, RIGO HAS DONE WORK FOR JACQUELINE KENNEDY AND RESTORED ONE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S SOFAS.

the Hungarian uprising, Rigo was selected by Jacqueline Kennedy to craft 23 Hepplewhite and Chippendale chairs for the White

House. He crafted the long conference table that graces the boardroom of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. His studio is filled with historic furnishings that await his rejuvenating touch. The waiting list is long to have Rigo work on a particular piece, but he was intrigued by the large clock that Horn brought to his attention.

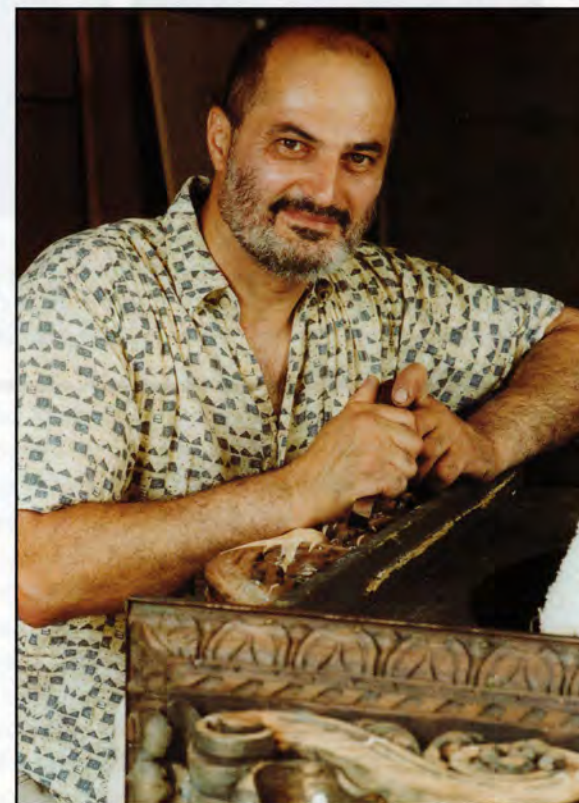
"The thing that surprised me

was that the cabinet was made of cherry wood," said Rigo. "Usually in clocks of this type you will see them made of pine or oak." Rigo set to work stripping the wood of the many layers of paint. What he found was surprising. The clock had been painted six times. Rigo found the colors green, gray and black in varying shades—with a surprise—the clock had portions decorated in 24 karat gold leaf.

Taking responsibility to restore the clock's carvings is Tilica, an artist who specializes in wood carvings. A native of Romania, Tilica has a great appreciation for the craftsmen who originally fashioned the clock. His goal is to restore the

carvings to as close to their original detail as possible.

"The clock was in terrible shape when we began working on it," said Tilica from his studio garage. "The weather had taken a terrible toll on the carvings, especially the section of the clock that faces



Ion Tilica, an artist who is restoring the clock's intricate carvings.

northeast. The wood was so fragile that we were able to pick off pieces with our fingers." Like Rigo, Tilica worked through several layers of paint to resurrect the clock's intricate carvings. In some areas, like the acorn finial, he found the 24 karat gold leaf foil. If one looks closely, remnants of the gold leaf may be found embedded in the carving.



The clock's acorn finial, is shown with remnants of original 24 karat gold leaf.

According to Tilica, the clock had been repaired one or two times previously. Those who made the repairs used plaster and foam injection, which did little to correct the situation. In his restoration of the Kelsey clock, Tilica used epoxy putty to fashion elements that

have been worn away by years of weather.

"This compound is much better suited for outdoors and will last another 100 years," he said.

Tilica's best guess is that the Kelsey clock is Italian in origin. "I can tell from the faces that the artists were most likely Italian because the faces have a Latin look to them," he said. The four corners of the clock each has a face that represents the four seasons.



He also noted that the use of acanthus leaves throughout the design is typically a Florentine style. On the bonnet of the clock is the traditional hourglass and eagle's wings, which signify the Latin "Tempus Fugit," or "Time Flies." Although there are many missing elements, Tilica is able to restore the carvings by using the symmetry of the whole clock as a model.

Using his hands to mold the putty and his woodcarving tools to carve away years of paint, Tilica estimates that he has worked nonstop for one month "on the Kelsey clock. To him it is a labor of love. "This clock is a work of art," he said. "It is only right that it should be made right

again. We are fortunate that God has brought three sets of capable hands together to restore this clock for the people of New Jersey."

THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE CLOCK EACH HAS A FACE THAT REPRESENTS THE FOUR SEASONS. HERE, THEY ARE IN THEIR CURRENT STATE OF REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTED WITH EPOXY PUTTY.

BEYOND THE BAR

Albert Stark's New Book Benefits Thomas Edison State College Foundation

No matter what the endeavor, noted Trenton attorney Albert Stark has always sought a way to empower the disadvantaged. Throughout his career, which has spanned four decades, Stark has always acted with idealism. Whether dealing with indigent clients or the politically connected, the Princeton, N.J., resident has always taken the high ground. In his newly published memoir, Stark poignantly writes how traveling the high road as a young lawyer was often filled with potholes.

Stark's book, "Beyond the Bar, Challenges in a Lawyer's Life," (Riverdel Press L.L.C., 2003), is a look at the first 15 years in Stark's career. A Trentonian to the core, Stark writes of his experiences and feelings as he begins practicing law. Written in a conversational style, the book is organized in a series of chapters; each centers on a theme that ultimately proves to be an instrumental life lesson.

"I really didn't write the book as a memoir," said Stark during a recent book signing at Thomas Edison State College. "The purpose of the book is to help young lawyers in their quest to help people." The book also fills another purpose. Stark has stipulated that all the proceeds from sale of "Beyond the Bar" go toward an endowment fund established within the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, which will provide the financial means for the development of the College's Leadership Trenton program.

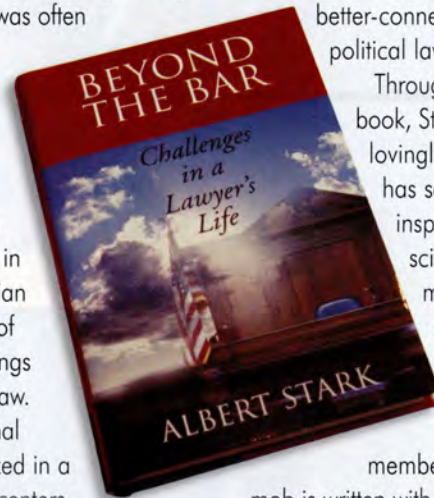
Principal partner in Stark & Stark, one of New Jersey's premier law firms, employing 80 attorneys in three regional offices, Stark has come a very long way since he took the oath to be an attorney in 1964. In his book, Stark writes frankly of the political lessons he learned as a young lawyer. Just before taking his bar examination, Stark worked for Richard J. Hughes, then governor of New Jersey. He was asked to form Mercer

Housing Associates, a non-profit housing corporation. At that time, Stark was thrilled to be able to use the law to make the world a better place for the people of Trenton, only to experience the "devastation and disappointment" of seeing management of the organization he created go to a better-connected political lawyer.

Throughout the book, Stark writes lovingly of his wife Ellen who has served as sounding board, inspiration and even conscience. "She encouraged me to write from the heart," said Stark. One vignette describing the attempted recruitment of Stark as permanent counsel by members of the Philadelphia mob is written with such detail that the reader can easily visualize the faces seated around the restaurant banquet. In relating this quandary, Stark credits his pragmatic wife with coming up with the appropriate solution to his uneasy predicament.

The idea to write "Beyond the Bar" was conceived several years ago during a boat trip. Stark and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, both of whom are recreational boaters, braved raw, drizzling conditions during an early spring weekend to discuss Stark's idea to write a book. A son of Trenton, Stark felt that the lessons he learned working in the capitol city should in some way provide the means to help support those starting their careers there. Thus the idea of donating the proceeds to establish an endowment fund was born.

"If you know Albert Stark, you will know that he has made a difference in the lives of so many people," said Pruitt. "This book and the proceeds derived as a result are truly an act of kindness and generosity."



Leadership Trenton board chairman Albert Stark signs copies of his newly published book, "Beyond the Bar" at a book signing event hosted by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Joining Stark are current and past fellows of Leadership of Trenton.

"Albert's work will go on much longer than we will. Many young professionals in Trenton will be able to do great things as a result of this work," Pruitt added. "We can't thank him enough."

Stark, who chairs the advisory board of the Leadership Trenton program, has a goal of raising \$100,000 for the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. To date, Stark's efforts have brought in \$65,000 to the endowment fund, which will support Leadership Trenton and other leadership development programs of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy. "Trenton has had its ups and downs," said Stark. "Today, Trenton is up."

In one of the final chapters in the book, Stark writes of his desire for freedom so that he can "make things happen close to home." He tells readers of his wife Ellen who reminds him of his constant goal of using the law to change things to benefit just one person, "and society as a whole." Through his efforts to build a better network of civic leaders in Trenton with the establishment of an endowment fund, Stark is once again demonstrating how one person can make a difference.

"This endowment project is an extraordinary act of leadership by Albert Stark," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College. "We thank him for his support."

If you would like to purchase a copy of "Beyond the Bar," contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (609) 984-1588.

Alumni & Foundation News

ANNUAL FUND 2003 GROWS

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Annual Fund 2003 is well underway. Thank you to the more than 600 alumni who have supported the Annual Fund and to the volunteers who donated 80 hours during our Phonathon. The Alumni Association invites you to make your contribution to the 2003 Annual Fund today. Last year, more than 1,600 alumni supported the Annual Fund. Our goal this year is to add 1,000 new donors. New contributors who donated \$50 or more will receive a Thomas Edison State College golf shirt. You may make your gift online with your Visa or MasterCard at www.tesc.edu, or you may mail your check or money order, payable to Thomas Edison State College Foundation, to Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176. If you would like to make a gift of securities or would like to contribute other assets to the College, please call Stephanie Bray, director of Development at (609) 984-1588 ext. 2085.

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC A SUCCESS

Perfect weather prevailed at the Ninth Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic on June 16, 2003. Eighty-nine golfers participated in the event, hosted at Olde York Country Club by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. Sun National Bank was the Eagle Sponsor this year. The foursome from Johnson & Johnson, Tony Armenti, Ron Larkin, Chris Kjeldsen and Jim Hemm, came in first in the scramble. The foursome from Mid Atlantic Resource Group, John Adams, Tom Boesch, Mike Braender and Steve Hay, took second place. Eric Lear of Lear & Pannepacker won the putting contest, and Kevin Corcoran from Commerce Bank won the Circle of Gold. First place men's and women's individual gross were Ron Guy and Marcia Scheiring, respectively. Joe Papp of KDL Electric won first place overall net with a score of 73. Tony Armenti's 21-footer won him closest to the pin on the 11th hole. Longest drive went to Tom Boesch for the men and Linda Vasbinder for the women. The event raised \$40,000.



The foursome from Johnson & Johnson came in first in the scramble. Pictured from the left are Ron Larkin, Tony Armenti and Jim Hemm with John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College, who presented the awards. Not pictured, Chris Kjeldsen, who rounded out the foursome.



First place men's individual gross award winner Ron Guy (right) with John Thurber.



John Thurber (left), presented the award for the longest drive in the women's category to Linda Vasbinder.



Joe Papp (left) of KDL Electric won first place overall net with a score of 73. John Thurber, presented the award.

Alumni Association Annual Meeting

This year's meeting is scheduled for Oct. 18, 2003, prior to the College's 31st Annual Commencement Ceremony. All alumni are invited to attend. The Alumni Awards and the Alumni Association Scholarship will be presented. For nomination forms and general information, please visit the College's Web site at www.tesc.edu, or call the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (609) 984-1588.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPONSORS SEMINAR ON NEW JERSEY TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Following its May board meeting, the Alumni Association hosted 40 alumni and students at a seminar on how to become a certified teacher in New Jersey. Vicky Forcier from the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Teacher Certification presented the program and answered questions posed by the group. A second program on this topic is being planned for the fall.

Alumni Association to Host Annual "Putting Him/Her Through" Banquet

The Annual "Putting Him/Her Through" Banquet will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003, in The George Washington Ballroom at the Soldiers and Sailors' War Memorial immediately following Commencement. Family and friends are invited to celebrate the accomplishments of our newest alumni. Tickets to the banquet are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. For information, please call the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at (609) 984-1588 ext. 2080.

"Applause, Applause"

William Agar Jr. '00, BSBA

William Agar Jr. earned an MA in human resource training and development from Seton Hall University through the New Jersey State Police Graduate Studies Program in May 2003.

Rita Diana Benasutti '94, BA Social Science '90, AA Liberal Arts

Rita Diana Benasutti received her PhD in family therapy from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in Nov. 2002. She received her master's degree in counseling in Aug. 1996 from New York Institute of Technology in Boca Raton, Fla. Her pilot study for her dissertation, entitled "Infertility: Experiences and Meanings," has been accepted for publication and will be published in the fall of 2003 in the *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy*. Benasutti has a private counseling practice in Boca Raton.

Kenner F. Bisch '93, ASM '93, BSBA

Kenner F. Bisch, president of KFB Electrical, was selected as a member of the Who's Who Historical Society, (International Who's Who of Professionals) for 2003. He is also listed as a member of the National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals, 2004. Bisch is currently pursuing an Associate in Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in electronic engineering technology and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in electri-

cal technology at Thomas Edison State College. He completed an accounting certificate at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, in June 2003.

Mark W. Boelte '02, BA Liberal Studies

Following graduation from Thomas Edison State College, Mark W. Boelte found employment with the State of New Jersey Department of Labor Employment Services. Boelte noted, "This is a big step up in my career from being an inventory clerk. As Gov. McGreevy (directed) us in his address at Commencement, I increased my income and I'm spending it."



Karen F. Brundage-Johnson '00, MSM

Karen F. Brundage-Johnson, PhD, has recently been appointed as director of Talent Relations Management at the Borgata Hotel, Casino & Spa in Atlantic City, N.J. She is responsible for the oversight direction of talent engagement, training and development, talent relations and communications. Brundage-Johnson completed her doctoral degree in education administration from LaSalle University in Philadelphia. She is a chair-

person for the 2003 ShopRite LPGA and an active member of the Atlantic City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Pastor Nathaniel Dixon '95, BSHS

Pastor Nathaniel Dixon graduated from Springfield College in Tampa, Fla., with a Master of Science degree in human services.

David G. Esposito '00, BA History

David G. Esposito received a JD from Rutgers School of Law in Camden, N.J., on May 22, 2003.

Gregory S. Harris '99 BA Liberal Studies

Following his graduation from Thomas Edison State College, Gregory S. Harris received a promotion from a GS-9, meteorological technician to a GS-11, meteorologist and became a lead forecaster with the Air Force at the 15th Operational Weather Squadron at Scott AFB, Ill. Harris received a master's degree in geosciences from Mississippi State University in Mississippi State, Miss., in Aug. 2002 with a 3.75 GPA. He was promoted in Feb. 2003 to science and technical services officer. In Sept. 2003, Harris will mark his fifth year of consecutive service as a federal meteorologist.

Robert "Rob" J. Malone '93, BSAST Nuclear Engineering Technology

Rob Malone completed his Master of Science in Management (MSM) degree at Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) in Central, S.C. A safety review engi-

neer-nuclear operations with Duke Power in Seneca, S.C., Malone noted, "I am thankful that Duke allowed me to pursue this degree and hope to use it both in helping my company and perhaps allowing me to teach at SWU in the near future. None of these opportunities would have been possible without the unique flexibility Thomas Edison State College afforded me in completing my baccalaureate degree. It really did change everything."



Patti Sherlock '00, BA Humanities

Patti Sherlock's book, "Taking Back Our Lives: Reflections for Survivors of Childhood Abuse," was released by ACTA Publications, a Catholic publisher located in Chicago, Ill. It is Sherlock's fourth book.

"Applause, Applause"

Information for Invention

New Job? Promotion? Award? Marriage? Baby?

If it's news to you, it's news to us!

As a member of our family of Thomas Edison State College alumni, you are invited to tell us about the exciting things happening in your life. Let us know what is new with you since you graduated from Thomas Edison State College and we may include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*. Please tell us how your experience at the College changed your life. To contact us, please fill out the form below and mail it to:

Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor,
101 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608-1176;
fax it to (609) 984-1376;

or e-mail your good news to Invention@tesc.edu.

You may include photos to accompany your news. All items will be published as space permits.

Thank you for this opportunity to better serve our valued Thomas Edison State College alumni family.

Name _____

Former Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone (____) _____

Evening Phone (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Class Year _____ Degree(s) _____

Information for *Invention*: _____
(Please attach typed separate page if necessary).



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