



Staff Newsletter of Thomas Edison State College • August 2011

Kelsey Building Centennial Marked

Guests enjoy sweet replica created by the "Cake Boss"



Kelsey Building circa 1920s



Dr. George A. Pruitt is joined during the cake cutting ceremony by wife Pamela Pruitt (right) and Sally Lane.

"Thomas Edison State College is committed to preserving the historical buildings in Trenton."

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

Thomas Edison State College staff and guests marked the 100th anniversary of the historic Kelsey Building with a celebration that included a cake made in its likeness by the famed "Cake Boss" and speeches by Thomas Edison State College President **George A. Pruitt** and Trenton Historical Society Trustee Sally Lane on June 3.

During the festivities, the Kelsey Building's distinguished history was explored. Dedicated by Henry Cooper Kelsey in 1911, the building is a lasting memorial to his deceased wife Prudence Townsend Kelsey. Now considered a gem of Trenton, the building was nearly destroyed in the 1970s when city planners were determined to demolish it in order to erect a visitors' center in preparation for the nation's bicentennial.

Designed by Cass Gilbert, one of America's most famous architects, the Kelsey Building originally housed the Trenton School of Industrial Arts noted Dr. Pruitt. In keeping with Kelsey's declaration at its dedication that it be used for education purposes, the building has been the home to a sequence of four education institutions, including Thomas Edison State College, which moved into the

building in 1979. Gilbert, past president of the American Institute of Architects and designer of the prominent Woolworth Building in New York, modeled the Kelsey Building after one of the most famous palaces of the Florentine Renaissance — the Palazzo Strozzi, built in Florence, Italy, in 1489. Gilbert said at the dedication of the building that Kelsey's gesture reminded him of the Renaissance princes of Florence, according to Lane, a former copy editor of the *Trenton Times*, whose 1970s article detailing the building's history prompted the campaign to save it.

It was Lane's article, "No room for Italian Palaces in Trenton?" that inspired then State Senator and Senate President Joseph P. Merlino to introduce a bill to save the building. Lane recalled that Merlino, a proud Trentonian and a proud Italian, took her article and had his legislative aide put a "Whereas" in front of each paragraph to create the bill.

Preservation was the underlying theme of the event.

Pruitt stressed that "Thomas Edison State College is committed to preserving the historic buildings in Trenton" and referenced the restoration of the College's 19th

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Focus On: David Hofftiezer

With an occasional fire hose and parachute, Director of Admissions David Hofftiezer has spent the past decade at Thomas Edison State College evolving right beside it.

"My job has changed so much over the years," noted Hofftiezer, a volunteer fire fighter and novice sky diver, who began working at the College in February 2001. "I was hired as the Contact Center supervisor managing the College's newly formed phone center in the Office of Admissions. It was later known as the Information Center. Now, it is known simply as the Office of Admissions."

Along the way, he and his colleagues transitioned the office into a "one-stop shop" to more tactically serve the College's prospective and enrolled students. In fiscal year 2010, the Office of Admissions took 114,000 incoming calls, met 300 walk-ins, resolved 16,000 Help Desk tickets, responded to nearly 20,000 requests for materials, conducted 12 Information Sessions and processed more than 9,000 applications for admission. For Hofftiezer, this equates to a satisfyingly brisk pace and a job description that changes daily.

"Most often I'm working with prospective students helping them with the admissions process, coordinating with the New Jersey Unemployment Office in processing workforce grants, conducting College Day events on campus, reviewing online applications and performing a number of other duties related to the admissions process," he said.

What originally attracted him to the College was the balance it offered in work, family and life. His previous management positions with Target, Wegmans Food Market and Red Lobster restaurants demanded travel and job transfers over the entire east coast. Growing family responsibilities necessitated a change.

"I transferred from Buffalo in 1998 with a young family seeking a position that allowed me more time with my family and a chance to channel my management experience into professional growth. Thomas Edison State

College was the perfect place for this transition. What I continue to admire most about the College is its leadership. From the president to my direct supervisors, I truly feel that I work for a visionary organization. I take pride in coming to work each and every day."

Striking a balance was even more crucial as he completed his own academic journey – first by earning his associate degree, then his bachelor's and later, his Master of Science in Management degree from the College in 2005. "I have a unique perspective when it comes to my educational background. When I talk to prospective students, I can relate to their experience as working adults trying to balance school responsibilities. I take pride in the education I've received from Thomas Edison State College," he noted.

Hofftiezer and wife Kimberlee, a human resources director for UPenn Libraries, have been married for 18 years. "I have four children. My oldest son, Joshua, is 26, and he will be completing his master's degree at Rowan in the spring," he said. "I also have two daughters: Kiana, who is 15-going-on-21, and Madison, who is 12 years old. My youngest son, David, is 9. Madison plays piano and David is busy with travel hockey."

There is no doubt that Hofftiezer is in a good place, but he is not one to bask in his achievements. Recently, he has taken to fighting fires and jumping out of planes to ward off any chance of inertia. At the age of 45, he began training as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Medford, N.J., and, in June, passed the New Jersey State Firefighters Exam. Moving down his personal 'to do' list, he also recently conquered sky diving for the first time. In what free time that remains, Hofftiezer manages his son's hockey team and teaches online courses for Burlington County Community College.

"David is a dynamic person who never fails to achieve his objective," said **David Anderson**, assistant vice president for Learner Support. "His personal and professional goals exemplify that inner drive – whether it is directed to the Admissions office, the students or in training as a fire fighter."



Director of Admissions
David Hofftiezer

National Institute Draws Record Attendance

It has been 23 years since Thomas Edison State College established the National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning. The theme of this year's event was "Virtual Assessment. Real Outcomes." and it took place from June 14–17 in Atlantic City, N.J. It was the largest National Institute ever, attracting participants from all over the world.

On Wednesday, June 15, Atlantic City Mayor Lorenzo Langford presented the College with a proclamation declaring the day "Thomas Edison State College Day" in Atlantic City. Approximately 110 education professionals involved in the assessment of adult learning participated in sessions focusing on distance education, prior learning assessment, assessment methodologies, effective learning outcomes, college-level learning, workforce development and leveraging technology in higher education.

Committee members, including **Karen Hume**, **Marc Singer**, **Carol Smith**, **Tom Devine** and **Dave Schwager**, worked diligently throughout the year to ensure that the event was successful in positioning the College as a leader in the field of adult learning. The event was sponsored by KNEXT, Excelsior College, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, SUNY-Empire State College and the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).



Atlantic City's Mayor Lorenzo Langford presents **Marc Singer**, vice provost of the Collegiate Credit Assessment Center, with the "College Day" Proclamation.

Kelsey Centennial Marked

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century townhouses that adjoin the Kelsey Building as well as the current renovation of its Kuser Mansion at 315 West State Street.

Attended by more than 150 invitees, the event was held in the aptly named Prudence Hall.

Following the speeches, guests were treated to pieces of the replica cake created by Carlo's Bakery of Hoboken, N.J., whose owner is the subject of The Learning Channel's reality show, Cake Boss.

Brightest Light



Sean Wunderlich, desktop support specialist in the Office of Management Information Systems (MIS), is the July 2011 Brightest Light. Wunderlich was recognized for his pleasant attitude and professional dedication.

Congratulations

Carla-Maria Mangum, Learner Services representative, and her husband, Michael, welcomed twins Sarah Anne and Michael Bryce on May 29. Sarah Anne weighed 4 pounds, 11 ounces, and Michael Bryce weighed 4 pounds, 8 ounces.

Staff Activities



Dr. Adrian Zappala

Dr. Adrian C. Zappala, assistant dean, Educational Leadership, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, delivered a presentation entitled "Graduate PLA Options for Professionals in Education" at the 2011 National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning at Caesars Atlantic City, N.J.

Dr. Richard P. Coe, assistant dean, School of Applied Science and Technology, was a speaker at the Uranium Fuel Cycle Conference 2011 in April. Hosted by the U.S.

Department of Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and New Mexico Junior College (NMJC), the conference focused on the training and education of the future nuclear energy workforce for a growing global nuclear industry. During the conference, Coe, representing Thomas Edison State College, met with the president of NMJC and concluded an articulation agreement between both institutions. Coe also met with many NMJC students interested in potential enrollment in Thomas Edison State College bachelor's degree programs.

Division of Planning and Research staff members, **Robertson Bamfo Sr.**, research analyst, and **Dr. Ann Marie Senior**, director, Office of Institutional Research and Outcomes Assessment, attended the 17th Annual Spring Conference of the New Jersey Association for Institutional Research (NJAIR) in Madison, N.J., in April. The conference included a panel discussion on the future of higher education in New Jersey by several N.J. college presidents and sessions relating to leveraging technology in tracking student success. In May, Senior attended the Annual Forum of the Association of Institutional Research where she presented a workshare session entitled, "Measuring Persistence vs. Retention among Nontraditional College Students." Senior was also recently selected to serve on the Board of Trustees for LIFE St. Francis, a program that assists the elderly to live independently at home. She will serve a three year term.

Carla Colburn, senior program advisor, School of Applied Science and Technology, **Vanessa J. Meredith**, academic program advisor, Office of Learner Services, and **Andrea O. Mirsky**, program advisor, Office of Learner Services, attended the Serving Adult Learners Conference, presented by the Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges in Allentown, Pa., on June 2.



Todd Siben

Todd Siben, senior program advisor, Liberal Arts and Sciences, did a presentation entitled "I'm Here...You're There...Now What?" dealing with advising and assisting military students at a distance at the annual one-day Advising Opens Doors to Opportunities conference for New Jersey NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J., on June 15. Other academic advisors who attended this conference were: **Carla Colburn**, **Donald S. Cucuzzella**, **Donna K. Keebler**, **Andrea O. Mirsky**, **Doris Simmons**, **Sherwood K. Brown**, **Patricia Certo**,

Vanessa J. Meredith, **Rhonda Beckett** and Acting Academic Advisor **Iris B. Lewin**. Siben attended the National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning held June 15-17 at Caesars Atlantic City; where he did a two-session presentation on "Evaluating Prior Learning – a Hands On Workshop."

Juliette Punchello, manager, enrollment management, Office of Enrollment Management and Strategic Partnerships, attended Improving Customer Services with a One-Stop Enrollment Model hosted by Academic Impressions in Chicago, Ill., June 27-29. This three-day

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Welcome New Staff

College Night @ The Trenton Thunder



Julie Kulak has been appointed assistant dean, Undergraduate Nursing Programs, in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. Kulak is located on the 1st floor of the Townhouses and may be reached on extension 3332.



Shoshanna Page has been appointed program assistant with The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy. Page is located on the 1st floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 4265.



Fifty staff, family and friends spent a fun evening at the Trenton Thunder on July 15, watching the home team beat the Reading Phillies, 3-1. Pictured is **Anna Krum** and family. Son Derek, with his arm in the green cast, threw out the "first pitch" as the Thomas Edison State College group representative.

Staff Activities

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conference provided an overview of the reasons colleges choose to implement a one-stop customer service center model. The conference included a site visit to DePaul Central, where the attendees got to see DePaul University's one-stop shop and call-center in action.

Dr. Susan Davenport, dean, Heavin School of Arts and Sciences, participated in the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass., June 19 - July 1.

W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing staff **Dr. Susan M. O'Brien**, RN, dean, and **Louise Riley**, MS, RN, BC, assistant dean and director for Distance Learning, and **Matthew Cooper**, MA, director of Instructional Technology and Instructional Design and Development, presented "Learning on the Cloud" at the Rutgers Twenty-Ninth Annual International Technology Conference in Cambridge, Mass., on July 26. This presentation included discussion on a new method of collaborative

course development, providing students access to courses on mobile devices through Google Docs, which allows participants to see a most current version of a working document without having to e-mail it back and forth.

John Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, was recently appointed to the New Jersey 9/11 Commemoration Committee. Under the leadership of honorary co-chairs Gov. Chris Christie and former Gov. Tom Kean, this committee is charged with providing oversight for New Jersey's year-long calendar of statewide activities in honor of the memory of the 9/11 victims as well as the special program, "Remember 9.11 - Reflections and Memories from New Jersey" that will include artifacts, photographs, personal stories and other materials.

Marie R. Power-Barnes, associate vice president, Office of Marketing, has been appointed to a one-year term on the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce's Mercer Business Committee. Mercer Business, the premier business

magazine in the region, is owned by the Chamber and published monthly. The publication serves to promote business growth and knowledge to the marketplace; the committee provides guidance and assistance to White Eagle Printing, which prints and produces the editorial content.



Pictured from the left are **Olga Napoleon**, **Milady Gonzalez** and **Heidi Hanuschik** enjoying treats at Thomas Edison State College's **Ice Cream Social**. More than 100 employees made their way to the Great Hall in the Townhouses on Aug. 4 to partake of the goodies that are a rite of summer.



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