

Invention

SPRING 2006

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Honor ROLL

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FOUNDATION

of
Donors

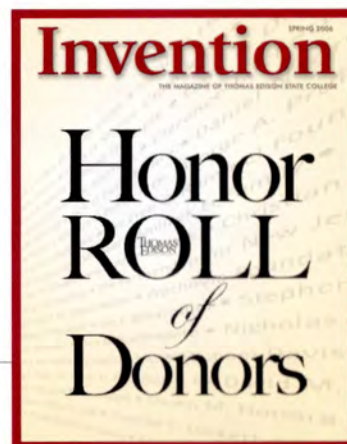


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*Invention is published by
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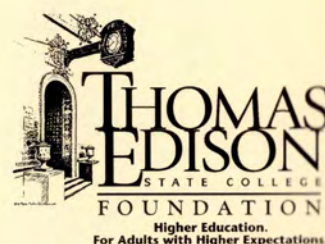
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

On behalf of the entire Thomas Edison State College family, I would like to thank everyone who participated in fund-raising efforts to support to the College during this past year.

very fortunate to have had generous financial support from individuals, businesses, corporations and employees of the The annual support we receive helps the College to continue enrollment, expand educational programs and maintain its to academic excellence.

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We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to Thomas Edison State College.

Every contribution we receive is a meaningful gift that allows our College to build on its reputation as the nation's premier institution of higher learning for adults.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
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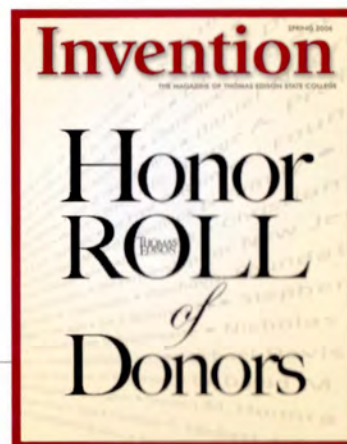


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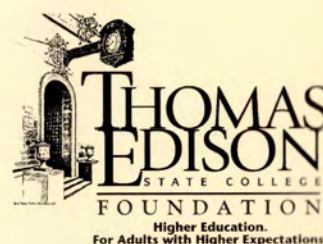


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“The annual support we receive helps the College to continue to increase enrollment, expand educational programs and maintain its dedication to academic excellence.”

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This year, we expanded programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level. For example, the philanthropic support we received this year allowed us to build new degree and certificate programs that meet the needs of busy adults. One of our new efforts led to the creation of the nation's first baccalaureate program in energy utility technology. The development of this program, created in partnership with Public Service Electric and Gas Company, will help the energy industry respond to expected labor shortages in the coming years.

I would also like to extend sincere thanks to all of the talented individuals who make our fund-raising events so successful. The Thomas Edison State College Foundation is at the heart of these efforts and we are grateful for its extraordinary support. Under the Foundation's leadership, these events have raised both awareness and funds for the College and its mission to provide flexible, high-quality, collegiate learning opportunities for self-directed adults.

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Every contribution we receive is a meaningful gift that allows our College to build on its reputation as the nation's premier institution of higher learning for adults.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Noted Banking and Investment Executive A. Bruce Dansbury Elected to Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board

A. Bruce Dansbury, of Langhorne, Pa., executive vice president of Sun National Bank's Credit Division in Vineland, N.J., has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. A nonprofit corporation affiliated with Thomas Edison State College, the Foundation raises funds to support higher education for adults and other initiatives of the College.



Newly elected board member A. Bruce Dansbury

"The Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Bruce Dansbury," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "His experience and commitment will help further the mission of the College and the Foundation."

Dansbury, who also serves as the bank's senior credit officer and chief credit policy officer, has more than 30 years of management and senior-level experience in wholesale and consumer banking. Prior to joining Sun National Bank in 2001, he served as business banking executive at First Union National Bank (now Wachovia Corp.). Dansbury began his extensive business banking career with New Jersey National Bank in 1975.

Dansbury is past director and past president of the Trenton Downtown Association. He currently is a member of the Rutgers University Executive Advisory Council and the Rider University Business Advisory Board. He also serves on the board of the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce and the ShopRite™ Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Classic. For seven years (1993-2000), he served as chairman for the First Union Classic, and was responsible for managing the New Jersey Bike Race.

"Bruce Dansbury has made significant contributions both in the business world and in the community," said John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College. "He will be an invaluable addition to the College family as a member of the Foundation Board."

ENERGY UTILITY TECHNOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM Unveiled

**PROGRAM WILL HELP THE
ENERGY INDUSTRY ADDRESS
ANTICIPATED LABOR SHORTAGES**

Thomas Edison State College and Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) have developed the nation's first baccalaureate degree program in energy utility technology, a program designed to help the energy industry meet labor shortages expected over the next 15 years.

The 120-credit Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in Energy Utility Technology has a curriculum that focuses on the technical core competencies integral to the utility industry and the principles of business and management. The new program leverages PSE&G training and builds on the associate degree programs in energy utility technology the company has already developed with Mercer County Community College, Essex County College and Middlesex County College.

"We went away from the traditional model of developing a degree program in order to best understand what expertise needed to be gained with a four-year degree focusing on energy utility technology," said Dr. Marcus Tillery, dean of the School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State College. "The result is a program that combines the technical core of the field with business management and general education, including technical writing, social sciences and natural sciences."

Those interested in finding out more about the energy utility technology degree program are encouraged to call (888) 442-8372 or e-mail the College at info@tesc.edu.



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

It is my honor to present you with the 2006 edition of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Honor Roll of Donors. On behalf of everyone at the Foundation, we extend our sincere thanks to those of you who provided financial support to Thomas Edison State College this year.

Your support is critical to enhancing and expanding the exceptional educational programs the College provides to adult learners, who often juggle personal and professional responsibilities while completing their education.

The generous contributions we receive from alumni, students, friends and College staff, have enabled Thomas Edison State College to continue its growth this year as well as strategically plan for the future. Our corporate supporters have also played a vital role this year by providing major sponsorships to Foundation events and partnering in the College's Corporate Choice™ program, which enhances access to higher education for employees working in the corporate sector. In 2005, Sun National Bank became the first company to enroll in the program. Today, several organizations are Corporate Choice™ partners, including the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, United Auto Workers – Ford, Public Service Electric and Gas Company and Virtua Health System.

In addition, your support has helped us maintain our commitment to expand course develop initiatives and enhance our relationships with the U.S. military and the other learning institutions, such as the University of South Africa.

As we continue our work, it is important to remember how important your donation is to the College. Public funding levels are at an all-time low for colleges and universities throughout the country. In New Jersey, this is especially true. For the College, private funding is crucial in bridging this gap and ensuring we can continue to establish and expand new courses that meet the needs of self-directed adults.

Your support secures the future of this outstanding institution.

Again, please accept our special thanks and gratitude.

Your support makes the success of Thomas Edison State College possible.

Sincerely,

John P. Neary
Chair, Thomas Edison State College Foundation

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donor profile

By the time **Steve King** registered for

courses at Thomas Edison State College, he was already shepherding companies toward exponential growth.

So why fuss over an academic degree?

To King, obtaining his baccalaureate degree was critical and it would help him land a perfectly executed jump from sales into management.

"The more I continued to work in sales and business development, the more attracted I became to the idea of obtaining a degree in business," said King, who began his career with a two-year degree in graphic arts.



While he loved graphic arts, King also discovered that he had a strong proclivity for technology.

"I was attending a Chamber of Commerce meeting in the early 80's and saw a presentation on a microprocessor and its application for

businesses," said King. "I found it fascinating."

Soon, he became a sales representative for a Seattle, Wash., based company selling design and printing services. Later, he worked for Ziff Davis' electronic publishing division, managing the sales of online information products to the corporate market in 11 western states.

Increasing levels of responsibility for an expanding array of technology-driven products and sales territories brought him to a turning point.

"In order to get to the next level, I knew I would have to complete my undergraduate degree. I researched alternative methods of earning a degree, and Thomas Edison State College bubbled to the surface," said King. "As I narrowed my choices, I noticed that Thomas Edison State College was a stark contrast to the others. The staff was more responsive and helpful."

King said that obtaining his degree has enhanced his career in numerous ways.

"It's not just acquiring the degree. What mattered most to me was that I was able to apply what I learned every day to my career," he said. "It made the experience of learning much more effective and was pivotal in my move to the management side."

King admits that earning his degree while juggling personal and professional responsibilities had its challenges.

"There was no question that it was difficult," he said. "I was very busy in my working life and had two small children. But Thomas Edison State College offered course options that worked for me and allowed me to go at my own pace."

continued on the back cover

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Ida Hammond can tell you about

life-long learning. As a parent, an education professional and a student advocate, she has worked for more than 40 years to enhance education for children and adults and has witnessed the benefits of higher learning first-hand.

"Without an education and earning a degree today, it is not likely that an adult will be able to get what they need from their profession," said Hammond, who has earned both an associate and baccalaureate degree

from Thomas Edison State College and currently serves as chair of the College's Board of Trustees.

She recalled first applying to the College in the early 1970s. Hammond, who was working and raising two children at the time, said she realized that only through education was there a chance for a promotion and professional growth.

"Earning my degree gave me an opportunity to develop my career and take

on new responsibilities," she said. "I took classes whenever I could fit them around my work schedule."

While she pursued her degree at Thomas Edison State College, Hammond served as a student representative on the College's Academic Council, where she provided feedback on curriculum issues from the perspective of an adult student.

During this time, Hammond's daughter was also attending college and her son was in elementary school. As an adult working on her college degree, she was able to demonstrate to both children the importance of completing an education.

In 1977, Hammond earned her Associate of Arts degree and two years later, received her Bachelor of Arts degree. Soon after that, she began to rise through the ranks at the New Jersey Department of Education.

Hammond also became an active alumna, volunteering for the Annual Phonathon and joining the Alumni Association Board, where she served two terms as president. She also served as an alumni representative on the College's Foundation Board of Directors.

In 1992, Hammond retired from the Department of Education after 34 years of service. She was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1995. In 2005, she was named Chair.

As a trustee, Hammond said she enjoys taking part in Commencement to honor the hard work and dedication of Thomas Edison State College students and their families.

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Antonia "Toni" Marotta-Brinton

was a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist, author and community volunteer, but there was still something missing in her life.

That something was a college degree.

"There was an incompleteness," Marotta-Brinton explained. "I was very successful. I had my own business, but I still felt like something was missing. I felt I had to earn my degree for my own fulfillment."

She did just that, earning her Associate of Arts degree in liberal arts/general studies from Thomas Edison State College in 1983.



Marotta-Brinton is co-founder and former co-director of Lean Line, Inc., one of the leading companies in the country focused on sound, healthful, long-term weight loss through proper nutrition and behavior modification. The company was established in 1968.

Marotta-Brinton, who retired from Lean Line in 1995, is also a noted authority on

weight loss and weight control. She was the co-creator, co-producer and co-host of the "Willpower Quarter Hour," a cable program that aired daily for more than two years. She has also co-authored two books, *Diet Cybernetics for Lean Lines* and *One Month Lighter* as well as numerous articles for newspapers and magazines.

Today, she contributes her time and talent to serve on boards and provide philanthropic support to a number of organizations. Among her many endeavors are serving as a board member of the United Family & Children's Society, the Henry H. Kessler Foundation and Partnership in Philanthropy. She also serves as a member of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) Board, a federally funded organization that advises people who are interested in starting their own businesses.

In 2001, the Thomas Edison State College Foundation recognized Marotta-Brinton for her creativity, commitment and entrepreneurial spirit and awarded her the Spirit of Edison Award for Distinguished Alumnus.

Widowed in 1991 after 40 years of marriage to Nicholas Marotta, former president and CEO of National Starch and Chemical Corp., she married S. Jervis Brinton Jr., chairman of Brinton Eaton Associates of Morristown, in 1998. The Brintons' combined household consists of five Marotta children and 13 grandchildren, and three Brinton children and five grandchildren.

"Back when I decided to return to college there were many road blocks to completing an education at a distance,"

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Sun National Bank is a community bank that was founded with an unwavering mission to meeting the needs of its customers and building lasting partnerships with the local communities it serves.

It is this mission that lies at the foundation of Sun National Bank's long-time support of Thomas Edison State College and events sponsored by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, such as the annual Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic and Grande Ball gala.



From left: Sandy Wandelt, senior vice president and director of Human Resources; Jessica Wilson, assistant vice president and CBC Manager; Michelle Burman, senior vice president of Retail Banking for the Southern Region; Judi Johnson, regional vice president of Retail Banking for the Southern Region. Wilson was the first John P. Neary Scholarship recipient.

"Thomas Edison State College is on the cutting edge of education, bringing the classroom to students at a time and place that's right for them, as well as serving as a center for the community," said Thomas A. Bracken, president and CEO of Sun National Bank. "It's only natural for Sun to partner with the College to support its contributions to our communities, as well as our economy today and in the future."

In 2005, Sun National Bank took its relationship with Thomas Edison State College a step further by becoming the first company in the state to enroll in the College's Corporate Choice™ program, which enhances access to higher education for adults working in the corporate sector.

Through the program, Thomas Edison State College can tailor degree programs for Sun employees to directly meet their career objectives and maximize the use of the bank's tuition assistance program.

"Sun's employees are our most valuable asset," added Bracken. "It only makes sense, then, that we offer our employees the opportunity to further both their academic and professional careers with a flexible and manageable degree program like Corporate Choice™. With a program like this, everyone wins – now and for years to come."

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Thomas R. Alexander ASPSS '04 BSHS '04

Thomas Alexander recently graduated from Boston University with a master's in criminal justice. A 23-year veteran of the New Jersey State Police, Alexander is currently assigned as a captain in the Special Investigations Section. Furthermore, he is a 2002 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy. The 10-week program at the National Academy in Quantico, Va., brought approximately 250 law enforcement officials from around the world together for a curriculum of law, management, physical fitness and forensic science. Alexander noted, "The flexibility of study at Thomas Edison State College allowed me to incorporate credits already earned, with a course of study to fulfill my goals of attaining an associate and baccalaureate degree, without giving up a full-time career. Additionally, it provided the necessary

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Joanne T. Ceres received a Master of Arts degree in human services administration from Rider University in May 2005. Ceres noted, "My daughter Sharon also graduated from Rider in May with a BA in sociology so we were able to participate in the commencement ceremony together, which was great."

Michael R. DeCaprio BSAST '03

Michael R. DeCaprio attended Thomas Edison State College while working as auxiliary operator with the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Michigan. Prior to this employment with Palisades, DeCaprio was a nuclear machinist's mate (ELT) with the U.S. Navy onboard submarines. He graduated from the College with a BSAST in nuclear engineering technology in 2003. In December 2004, DeCaprio accepted a position as power operations engineer with the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO), Kahe Power Plant, Oahu, Hawaii. In December 2005, he received a promotion position with HECO as a boiler reliability optimization engineer. As part of this position, DeCaprio utilizes metallurgy and thermodynamics to predict potential failures to the boiler

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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. Items will be published as space permits.

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John T. Baker Jr. MSM '02

John T. Baker Jr. retired with the rank of major from the United States Army following a 22-year career. He now serves as director of Programming at Aiken Technical College in the Workforce and Business Development Division in Aiken, S.C.

Lawrence C. Bell ASAST '99

Lawrence C. Bell earned a baccalaureate degree in software engineering technology from Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Ore. Bell graduated magna cum laude.

Douglas Capella BA '05

Douglas Capella has a new position with Mount Juliet Christian Academy as a middle school history and geography teacher and high school football coach. He is attending Trevecca University in Nashville, Tenn., pursuing a Master of Education degree.

Joanne T. Ceres BA '00

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

We invite you as a member of our family of Thomas Edison State College Alumni to tell us about the exciting things happening in your life. Let us know what's new with you since you graduated from Thomas Edison State College or how your experience at the College changed your life, and we may include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*.

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. Items will be published as space permits.

Name _____

Former/Maiden Name _____

Company _____ Title _____

Street Address _____

☐ Check here if this is a new address.

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone () _____

Evening Phone () _____

E-mail Address _____

☐ Check here if this is a new email address.

Class Year _____ Degree _____

Information for *Invention*: _____

donor profiles (continued from pp. 7, 9, 11 & 13)

Steve King

In 1993, King earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in marketing. Today, after serving executive management roles at E*Trade and E*Offering, where he was president and chief executive officer, King is now president and chief executive officer at Zantaz, Inc., based in Pleasanton, Ca.

Zantaz, Inc. boasts more than 600 customers globally, including large corporations, law firms and government agencies. The rapidly growing company enables organizations to efficiently capture, preserve and access digital information, including email, IM files and scanned documents.

King is a consistent contributor to the Annual Fund.

"For me, earning my degree was a life-changing event and I'm happy to help Thomas Edison State College in any way I can. Achieving my degree was a real turning point. I feel I owe a lot to the College," he said. "I'm considering embarking on a master's degree as soon as time permits."

Ida Hammond

"I know all that they have gone through to get there. You get tired and weary along the way, but you keep working at it until you reach your goal," she said. "The satisfaction you get from that is a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Hammond said she supports the College's Annual Fund as a way to help give back to the institution that has given her so much.

"It was important to have a college that reached out to me as an adult when I was ready to continue my education," she said. "I want to support the work we are doing so it will always be there to help adults go as far as they want to."

Antonia "Toni" Marotta-Brinton

Marotta-Brinton explained. "Thomas Edison State College was the only college at that time offering adults a way to earn a degree while still pursuing career and family responsibilities."

Marotta-Brinton is a regular contributor to the College's Annual Fund because she feels it is important to support high-quality, collegiate education for adult students.

"The College has an extraordinary mission," she said. "Thomas Edison State College makes a difference in the lives of its students; it made a difference in mine. And after I completed my degree, my daughter, Constance Spagnola, went on to get her associate degree. Now, my granddaughter, Christina Marotta, is a Thomas Edison State College baccalaureate student."

Sun National Bank

To further encourage the professional development of its staff, Sun National Bank created a scholarship program for employees enrolled at Thomas Edison State College. The program was established in the name of John P. Neary, former executive vice president at Sun and chairman of the Board of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. The first John P. Neary Scholarship recipient was Jessica Wilson, assistant vice president and a branch manager.

As an organization dedicated to forging relationships in the communities it serves, Sun National Bank is playing an integral role supporting higher education for adults, as well as several other worthy initiatives that positively impact New Jersey's communities.

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE (CONTINUED)

systems of the company's 14 generators at three power plants and manages various predictive maintenance programs.

Marc Von Musser BSBA '04

Marc Von Musser recently graduated from Amberton University in Garland, Texas, with an MBA in Strategic Leadership. Von Musser, an Arnold Fletcher Award recipient who earned a baccalaureate degree from the College in 2004 with an emphasis in real estate, is currently employed as a real estate broker and sales trainer in Carlsbad, Calif. Von Musser wrote, "I am extremely grateful to Thomas Edison State College for providing a realistic but challenging bachelor's program. As the sole provider for my family, a traditional brick and mortar degree wasn't an option. I have been accepted and will begin my PhD in business administration later this year. Thanks again!"

Kirsten Person-Ramey BA '04

Kirsten Person-Ramey completed her first feature film, titled "Proud, Mary," in September 2005. It was released nationwide on DVD on Oct. 11, 2005.

Mark A. Platt BA '84

Mark A. Platt was recently promoted to facility nuclear safety supervisor on the Waste Treatment Project (WTP) in Washington state, while working for Bechtel National, Inc. Bechtel is one of the largest engineering and construction firms in the world and WTP is the largest construction project in the United States. Platt received a BA in social sciences from Thomas Edison State College in 1984 after years of college work. He noted, "The degree allowed me to pursue an MBA, which I received from Idaho State University in 1993. Because of my Navy nuclear power experience and the college degrees, I was able to qualify for supervisory positions at Bechtel. Currently, I am responsible for regulatory safety compliance on this large scale nuclear waste processing project. The Thomas Edison State College degree was the initial stepping stone to a successful career in engineering. Without Thomas Edison State College, I wouldn't be anywhere near where I am today in career satisfaction and financial fulfillment."