

Capital Campus

APRIL 2016

University Completes Renovations to the PTK Memorial Room

A Memorial from a Man to the Woman He Loved and Lost

The lavishly decorated Prudence Townsend Kelsey Memorial Room (Memorial Room) reminds us that valentines come in many forms.

Filled with the treasured souvenirs of a lifetime of collecting – art, porcelain and glass; cherubs, charms and china – the century-old installation that was recently restored was completed in February, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Dedicated to Prudence Townsend Kelsey, the room is located on the second floor of the Kelsey Building and is a showcase for objects Prudence collected on her annual trips to Europe and throughout the U.S. with her husband, Henry Cooper Kelsey.

Kelsey, a banker who served as New Jersey secretary of state for 27 years at the end of the 19th century, wanted a lasting memorial to his wife. He made gifts to churches she'd attended and donated to hospitals in her name.

Determined to do more in her memory, he bought land in Trenton's State House block in 1909 and hired Architect Cass Gilbert to design a new building to house the local School of Industrial Arts.

By the time it was finished in 1911, Kelsey spent more than \$3.55 million in today's money on what is still called the Kelsey Building.

The room he concentrated on was the Memorial Room, which is entered through

a door case of Siena marble and double doors, the outer mahogany and the inner inlaid satinwood decorated with enamel. Pottier & Stymus Co., of New York, designed and furnished the room to house objects Prudence collected, which were arranged by her husband.

He kept the only set of keys to the room until his death in 1920, permitting one public viewing a year.

we did, the more we appreciated the quality of the room."

Restoration of the Memorial Room was carried out by John Canning Co., of Cheshire, Conn. Reinstallation of Prudence's collection was managed by Ellen Paul Denker, an independent exhibition curator formerly with the New Jersey State Museum, now based in North Carolina.



Post-renovation photo of the Memorial Room showcases with Prudence's collectibles arranged as Henry Cooper Kelsey had them when he was still living.

The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, as "one of the most important visual landmarks" of the State House Historic District.

Gilbert was the president of the American Institute of Architects when hired by Kelsey and had completed the Minnesota State Capitol; he went on to design the state capitols of West Virginia and Arkansas and the U.S. Supreme Court building, but is best known as the architect of the Woolworth Building in New York.

Pottier & Stymus, one of the premier 19th century American cabinetmakers, boasted 750 employees in 1875. Works by the firm are on view in the current Metropolitan

Museum of Art exhibition, "Artistic Furniture of the Gilded Age."

The University plans to open the room for group tours by appointment in the coming months, in conjunction with the New Jersey State Museum and the tour office of the New Jersey State House.

A nine-month restoration of the rarely seen room was completed by the University, which has occupied the Kelsey Building since 1979.

"We're the stewards of this building," said **Dr. George A. Pruitt**, the University president. "We began by realizing that the cracks in the decorative plaster had to be addressed and the more research

Focus On: Andrew Bugdal

► **What is your current title at the University? What other positions have you held?**

Currently I am a technical support specialist, but I was previously an admissions counselor. I started as a temp in the Office of Admissions.

► **How long have you been with the University?**

I'm coming up on my third year with the University.

► **What attracted you to the University?**

Working at an institution such as TESU affords me the opportunity to follow my passion and affect some real change in people's lives. Once I got in the door the thing that has kept me around is the people. Dr. Pruitt often refers to the "TESU family" and I don't think that you have to look far to find perfect examples of that.

► **Can you describe some of the activities associated with your position?**

The duties for my current position are basically twofold: first, I'm the University's primary Ellucian Recruiter user, and, second, I do whatever the Office of Admissions needs me to do. When I'm wearing the first hat, I manage the online application, provide data to people that ask for it and do some other fun things with the Recruiter system. With the second hat, it's mainly the same things that the other admissions

counselors do – answer incoming calls and emails from prospective students, meet "walk-in" visitors to the University and attend various events for recruiting efforts.

► **What do you like most about your work at the University?**

My position gives me quite a bit of flexibility in my day-to-day duties. On Monday I may be answering calls, while Tuesday finds me providing reports for my supervisor and Wednesday brings an overhaul of an outreach effort to prospective students.

► **College(s) attended or attending?**

I earned my associate degree in humanities and social sciences at Mercer County Community College, my BA in psychology from Montclair State University and am currently attending Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, for a master's of public administration. Long term, I'd like to attend California Institute of Integral Studies for the PhD in philosophy, cosmology and consciousness.

► **What are your hobbies and interests?**

I enjoy exploring, whether it's the great outdoors, the urban jungle or the inner landscape. I'm an avid reader and writer. I try to keep myself active, but I'd be lying if I said I didn't like video games, too. One of my big goals for the future is to do some housebuilding, both as a volunteer action and to broaden my skillset.



Andrew Bugdal, admissions counselor, Office of Admissions

► **What are some activities you'd like to do or places you'd like to visit in the future?**

The short answer is just about everything and every place. My girlfriend, Victoria, and I have been kicking around an idea for a nonprofit organization, and we plan on starting that up in the next year or so, depending on how much time we're able to commit to it (which has been admittedly slight thus far). Twenty years out, I'd like to have purchased a sizable tract of land to start working on my other lifelong goal – a self-sustaining homestead. Within 50 years, I hope that I get to realize another pipedream and visit space. With private companies investing in the space race, especially now that the U.S. has signed cosmic mining policies into law, it may not be so far-fetched!

► **Where do you live?**

Currently, I am living in Hamilton, N.J.

2016 National Institute Highlights Perspectives on PLA

The 2016 National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning will be held from June 8 to June 10, with an optional preconference workshop on June 7 at the Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, Pa. This year's theme, *Perspectives on PLA: Strategies for Student and Institutional Success*, is meant to focus on discussions about prior learning assessment and keys to success for students and institutions.

The National Institute is one of the University's marquee events and provides an excellent professional development opportunity for some staff members. If you believe the National Institute would be relevant for you and are interested in attending, request permission through your department head for registration and payment approval. University employees and mentors are welcome to attend the National Institute at a significantly reduced rate of \$350. To register, send an email to the National Institute at ni@tesu.edu.

University Stalwart Retires Following 30-Plus Years of Service



The bursar's safe that served 30-plus years of service at the University before "retiring."

For more than 30 years, the Office of the Bursar's safe has secured monetary items that make up the daily deposit, petty cash and other objects of value. Now going into retirement, the safe's duties will be handled by a fireproof file cabinet.

"This safe has been in my office since my first day at the University," said Bursar **Philip Sanders**. "I don't know how long the safe was in use before I started. It has also made four moves since I started in September 1985. It made three moves on the fifth floor of Kelsey, and a final move to the Canal Banks Building in 2006."

Recalling the "life" of his steadfast companion, Sanders noted that most of the handle broke off his second week at the institution; the remaining section of the handle broke off in December 2015. "Back in the 1990s, I came into work one morning to find my letter opener lying on the floor next to the safe bent and with the tip broken off," Sanders recalled. "Someone had tried to pry the door open; they failed."

Applebee's Selects Operation College Promise To Receive Grant

Operation College Promise, Thomas Edison State University's national policy, research and education program that supports the transition and postsecondary advancement of U.S. veterans, is one of 10 organizations recently selected to receive a \$2,500 grant from Applebee's Restaurants, LLC as part of the company's renowned Thank You Movement honoring veterans and active duty military members and their families.

"We are grateful to receive support from Applebee's and honored to be part of the Thank You Movement," said **Wendy Lang**, director of Operation College Promise at Thomas Edison State University.

Thomas Edison State University is the largest provider of collegiate programs for active duty service members and veterans in New Jersey and has been creating degree programs for the U.S. military for more than 40 years.



Wendy Lang, director, Operation College Promise

Staff Activities

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, was honored by the American Institute of Architect's New Jersey (AIANJ) chapter as the organization's 2015 Resident of the Year. The only honor given by the AIANJ to a non-architect, the award recognizes the individual for a long-time contribution to improving the environment and community. Pruitt was acknowledged for his ongoing commitment to the revitalization of Trenton.



Dr. George A. Pruitt

John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, was recently re-elected to serve as chairman of the board of commissioners of the Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA). The MCIA serves the needs of Mercer County through its \$67 million annual budget by providing programs and services for the county, local municipalities, school and fire districts and nonprofits in the areas of financing, project management, redevelopment, solid waste and recycling.



John P. Thurber

Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management, interviewed Richard P. Miller, president and CEO of Virtua Healthcare System, at the Camden County Regional Tri-Chamber of Commerce's "Game Changer" member breakfast in January. Williams interviewed Vernon Hill II, founder and chairman of Metro Bank, a United Kingdom retail bank, in the same executive interview series in September.



Dr. Michael Williams

Kelli Parlante-Givas, director of Strategic Partnerships, and **Don Cucuzzella**, assistant director, School of Applied Science and Technology, were presented with an award of recognition by the Flight School Association of North America (FSANA) President Bob Rockmaker for Thomas Edison State University's ongoing partnerships in aviation management.



Kelli Parlante-Givas

Matthew Cooper, associate provost, Center for Learning and Technology, was a presenter for the WCET webcast "Strategies and Tools for Finding, Adopting, and Managing OER" in February. The free 60 minutes webcast discussed the efforts of Intellus Learning's work with seven campuses to optimize how it enables staff to find, evaluate and adopt Open Educational Resources. Cooper and **August "Chip" Stoll**, associate director, MIS, were featured in Moodlerooms' *eLearn Magazine*, "Thomas Edison State College: 5 critical steps to a highly effective online offering" in November.



Don Cucuzzella



Matthew Cooper



August "Chip" Stoll

Welcome *New Staff*



Terrence Carter has been appointed admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions. Carter is located on the first floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3042.



Maureen Clark-Gallagher has been appointed assistant dean and director of distance learning in the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing. Clark-Gallagher is located on the third floor of the Townhouses and may be reached at extension 3255.



Pamela DeMartino has been appointed director of Academic Advising. DeMartino is located on the second floor of the Academic Center and may be reached at extension 3365.



Lauren Durkin has been appointed assessment specialist in the Center for the Assessment of Learning. Durkin is located on the third floor of the Canal Banks Building and may be reached at extension 3222.

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

Assistant Dean Participates in ABET Review and Accreditation



Dr. Richard P. Coe (center, wearing lanyard) with ABET accreditation team members and doctors, professors and intern students during the visit to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to evaluate the BS - Medical Physics and BS - Radiological Protection programs at the King Abdulaziz University (KAU).

Dr. Richard P. Coe, assistant dean, School of Applied Science and Technology, travelled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to evaluate the Bachelor of Science – Medical Physics and Bachelor of Science – Radiological Protection programs at the King Abdulaziz University (KAU) for ABET accreditation in October 2015.

The institution was established in 1967 as a national university aimed at offering higher education in the western area of Saudi Arabia. The university's College of Engineering was established by a Royal Decree in 1975 and is the only faculty in the Kingdom that has departments offering programs in nuclear engineering, aeronautical engineering and biomedical engineering. The Faculty of Engineering is one of 15 faculties groups at KAU.

The institution currently enrolls 95,000 students. The College of Engineering enrolls 2,700 undergraduates and 150 graduate students and offers 12 engineering programs. The review also included an extensive tour of the adjacent King Faud Oncology Hospital reviewing equipment and interviewing doctors, professors and intern students.

The visit report was made by the ABET team to the Saudi Arabia Minister of Higher Education and university officials. The KAU programs will be formally granted accreditation this summer at the ABET commissioner's meeting in Baltimore, Md.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mildred Taylor, program assistant, Strategic Partnerships, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach, husband Eric and daughter Arya, welcomed Freya Zuri Amanda to the family on Feb. 25. Freya Zuri Amanda weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 21.25 inches.

