

FALL 2002

Invention

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE

In This Issue...

Profound Changes

Helping the Healing

Looking Back On An
Amazing Year



Table of Contents

Message from the President	1
Alumni Adapts to Profound Changes	2
Helping the Healing	3
Chubb Partnership Formed	4
College Announces Re-accreditation	5
Looking Back On An Amazing Year	6
"Applause, Applause" (Alumni Updates)	9
Alumni & Foundation News	12



Front Cover:
Rahway Battalion Fire Chief
Robert Latherow, Jr.

Photo by Kevin Birch

Invention is published by
Thomas Edison State College.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

John P. Thurber
Vice President for Public Affairs

Stephanie R. M. Bray
Director of Development

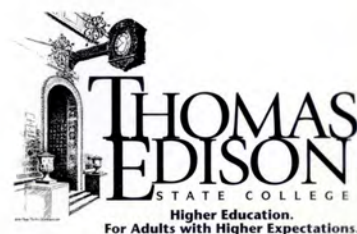
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Frank P. Barrows III
Designer



A Message from the President

Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

The Irish poet William Butler Yeats once wrote, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." As the students and staff of

Thomas Edison State College degree has benefited him as he's dealt with the tremendous changes he's experienced in his profession this past year.

These alumni, and many, many more are good examples of our typical graduates. Our students come to us from all sectors, public and private.

They are mature adults who are motivated not only to increase their own knowledge, but also to use that knowledge for the betterment of their families and society as a whole.

Each year at Commencement, we celebrate the educational achievements of all our graduates. As the College marks its 30th anniversary, we pause to reflect on the personal growth

of our students and of the College as an institution.

Thomas Edison State College is proud of the opportunity we've had to help adult learners achieve their educational goals. We've enjoyed sharing in their accomplishments for the past three decades and look forward to lighting the educational "fire within" new generations of motivated adults who are seeking college degrees.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Please
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COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Street
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about Battalion Chief Robert Latherow of the Rahway Fire Department, an alumnus who is dedicated to serving the public and giving back to the community. In addition, we feature Deputy Police Chief Richard Wurpel of the Ewing, New Jersey, Police Department, who talks about how his

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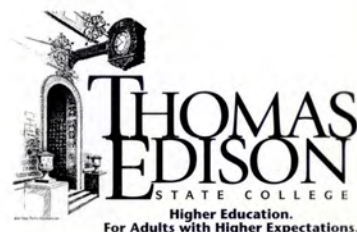
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

The Irish poet William Butler Yeats once wrote, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." As the students and staff of Thomas Edison State College approach October's 30th Commencement ceremony, we look with pride at the enthusiasm and thirst for lifelong learning that characterizes our degree recipients.

Many of our graduates have heeded the call to "light the fire within." Some are working in various areas of public service. Recent world events have given us a greater appreciation of those who undertake public services, and in this issue of *Invention*, we profile a few of the many Thomas Edison State College alumni who are working to protect the public interest.

In these pages, you'll be reading about Battalion Chief Robert Latherow of the Rahway Fire Department, an alumnus who is dedicated to serving the public and giving back to the community. In addition, we feature Deputy Police Chief Richard Wurpel of the Ewing, New Jersey, Police Department, who talks about how his

Thomas Edison State College degree has benefited him as he's dealt with the tremendous changes he's experienced in his profession this past year.

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Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Alumni Adapts to Profound Changes



The Boy Scout motto exhorts us to "Be prepared." When it comes to police work, Deputy Chief Richard E. Wurpel of the Ewing Township, New Jersey Police Department says that his bachelors degree from Thomas Edison State College was a main consideration in his being prepared for what

he describes as "profound changes in policing" in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

Wurpel, who celebrates 26 years with the Ewing Police Department, says that the entire public sector has experienced a paradigm shift. "The whole persona of the police officer, fire fighter and emergency medical technician has changed," he said. "Now we have to think differently about the way we look at things. This requires that we change the way we do police work."

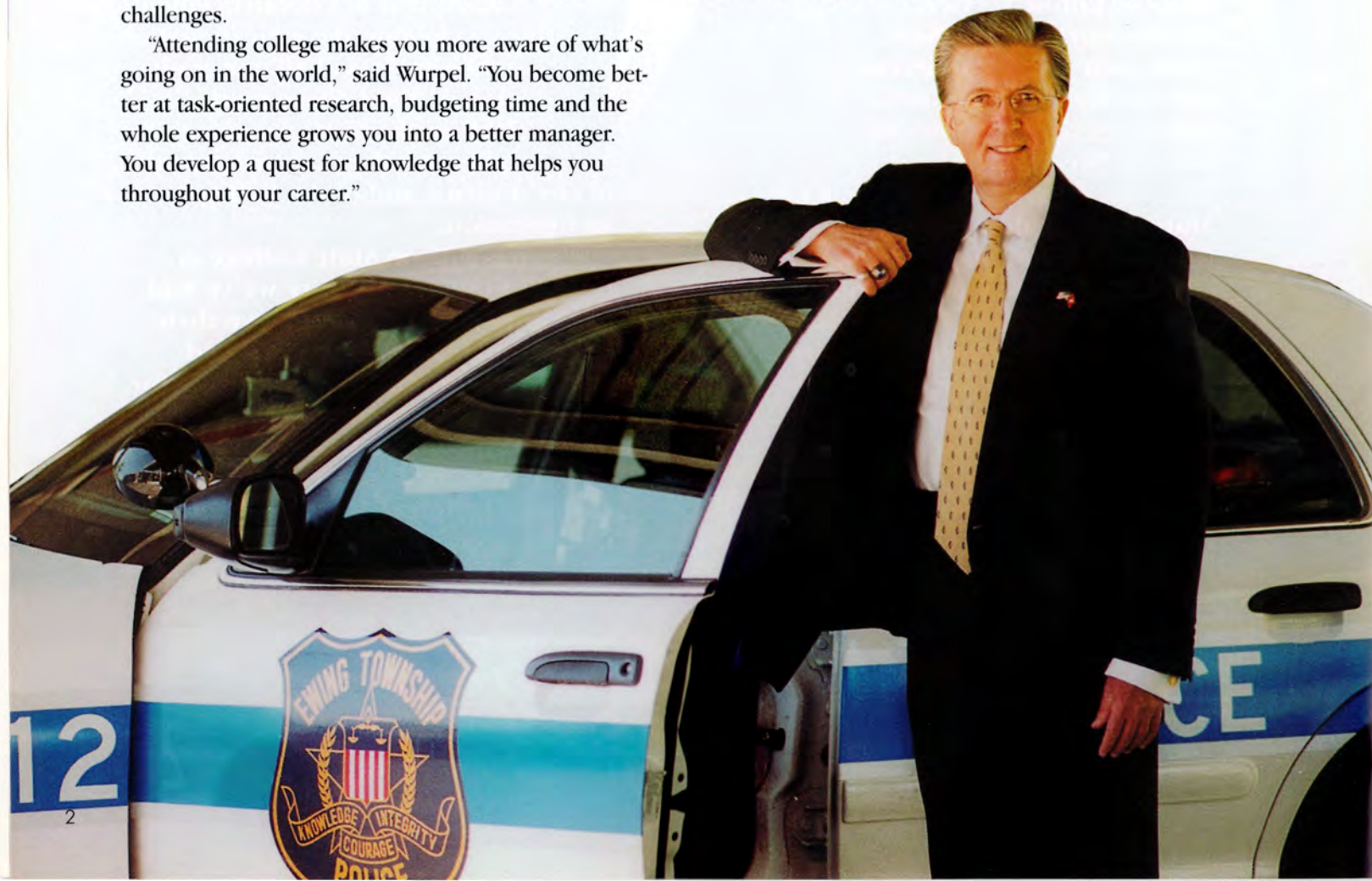
One of the changes that Wurpel has observed is the increased use of analytical and critical thinking skills. He says that his experience attending Thomas Edison State College and obtaining his degree has given him the expertise needed to meet the new on-the-job challenges.

"Attending college makes you more aware of what's going on in the world," said Wurpel. "You become better at task-oriented research, budgeting time and the whole experience grows you into a better manager. You develop a quest for knowledge that helps you throughout your career."

"Now that our freedom has been threatened, we have become more aware of the battle that needs to be fought," said Wurpel. He observes that situations that were once common overseas are a very real possibility here in the United States. "We haven't really had to deal with it before and now we do."

Wurpel is now engaging in plans for his local department that will address these global concerns. "We have to continue to create an awareness with the public now that we didn't have to do before," he said. "Who would have thought that a simple box cutter could be used as a weapon, or an airliner as a means of mass destruction." Wurpel and his department are putting their skills in strategic thinking to work and are taking extra precautionary measures. "We now have to think about what targets of opportunity are in the community and work to safeguard the public."

By his own admission, Wurpel says that completing his degree at Thomas Edison State College was the best thing he could have done for his career. "When it came time for promotion, I know in my heart that the fact that I had my college degree made a difference," he said. "My college experience has not only enhanced my opportunities, but it has helped me effectively deal with the new challenges that have come in the past year."



Thomas Edison State College alumni and September 11 Quilts organizer Drunell Levinson, (above) stands next to one of the 50 quilts in the traveling exhibit. Photos (right and below) of other quilts in the exhibit are courtesy of the September 11 Quilts Web site.

September 11 Quilts memorial, which is modeled after the AIDS Memorial Quilt. More than 115 people are now participating in the project, which is designed to assist the

Helping the Healing

community in mourning the loss of life on September 11th. The first exhibition took place in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Upcoming exhibitions include Skillman, New Jersey; Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania; Santa Clara, California; and Japan. The

project currently contains 50 quilts and Levinson is seeking other quilters from around the country who would like to participate.

September 11 Quilts is a fiscal sponsorship project of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, with funding provided in part by the American Craft Council, and the Manhattan Community Arts Fund/New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. For more information about the memorial and information on upcoming exhibitions visit www.september11quilts.org.

In September 2001, Drunell Levinson, a Thomas Edison State College alumnus, ('93 BA Humanities) received a Ph.D. in Art Education from New York University. Shortly after being awarded her degree, the September 11th tragedies occurred. A New Yorker who lives approximately one mile from Ground Zero, Levinson took her feelings of helplessness and reached out to her community and to the world community at large. Levinson conceived and organized the



Chubb Partnership Formed

Thomas Edison State College and The Chubb Institute have developed a partnership to facilitate degree completion for adults who have completed The Chubb Institute courses that have been recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE). College and Institute officials signed the Partnership Agreement at The Chubb Institute's corporate offices in Parsippany, N.J., on July 15.

The agreement allows students to apply their American Council on Education credit recommendations, earned for The Chubb Institute courses successfully completed, to specific degree requirements at Thomas Edison State College. The Institute's diploma programs were evaluated by ACE, and through the partnership, Chubb students completing the Web Development & Business Programming curriculum may be awarded 27 credits toward degree requirements in the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Applied Computer Studies: Web Design. Students completing Chubb's Network Technician program may have 24 credits applied toward an AAS in Applied Computer Studies: Hardware and Software; and students completing Chubb's Network Administrator + Engineer program may have 24-36 credits applied toward an AAS in Applied Computer Studies: Network Administrator.

Upon completion of Chubb's three diploma programs listed, students may enter the College's AAS degree program with almost half their degree requirements, and the remaining requirements may be met through distance learning courses, credit by exam or other credit bearing options at the College.

"The partnership is a win-win-win for the College, The Chubb Institute and the students," said Dr. Maxine Lentz, vice provost and academic dean at Thomas Edison State College. "We are proud of the strength the two institutions bring to the partnership

so that students may achieve their educational goals. As a result of the agreement, students know exactly where their Chubb coursework meets specific degree



Dr. Maxine Lentz (seated, left), vice provost and academic dean, Thomas Edison State College, and J. Merten, vice president of Education, The Chubb Institute (TCI), recently signed a partnership agreement to facilitate degree completion for adults who have completed TCI courses that have been recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE). The Chubb Institute's Mike O'Donnell (standing, left), president, and David Fowler, chairman and CEO, also participated in the signing ceremony.

requirements before they even apply to the College."

With 11 campuses located in six states, The Chubb Institute is a technical career school providing hands-on, intensive training to help students develop the technical skills they need for a successful career as an Information Technology (IT) Professional. The Institute is a wholly owned subsidiary of the multi-billion dollar Chubb Corporation. For information about The Chubb Institute's training programs, visit www.chubb institute.com.

Thomas Edison State College Announces Re-accreditation

Thomas Edison State College is pleased to announce that it has been re-accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.



This announcement comes after a lengthy process of self-assessment, culminating in an on-site visit by commission evaluators, who take a comprehensive look at the College's mission, publications, reports and the Institutional Self-Study report, which was issued in January 2002. Interviews were conducted with representatives of the College during the on-site visit.

This regional re-accreditation is critical in that it indicates that Thomas Edison State College maintains the highest standard of quality and operates in a way that is consistent with its mission.

"The outcome of the College's self-study and re-accreditation visitation was excellent," said William Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College.

The College's self-study report was developed after a year-long review of four core competency areas. These are individualized program planning and learner services, the assessment of experiential learning, distance learning and public policy. These four areas were analyzed in light of the College's mission statement as well as the relation to the themes of quality, access, alliances, technology, resources, self-assessment and planning.

"The report exceeded my expectations and is a tribute to the fine work of the staff, both in terms of the self-study itself and more importantly the ongoing educational opportunities they provide for our students," said Seaton. "Our challenge now is to take the Middle States Self Study report and use it as a benchmark for improving the institution. I look forward to working with the staff in accomplishing that."



Looking Back On An *Amazing* Year

September is a time of reflection for Robert Latherow, Jr. Like many professionals who fight fires for a living in the New York City metro area, the past 12 months has brought about a range of emotions. The 24 year veteran with

Manhattan.

"The guys got real close," said Latherow, a Thomas Edison State College Alumni who earned his BSAST in Fire Safety and Technology in 1997. "There's a real camaraderie that wasn't



Robert L. Latherow, Jr., Battalion Fire Chief, Rahway, N.J., proudly displays some of the awards that he has received for his hard work and dedication over the past 24 years. In May of 1994, Latherow was awarded the prestigious national award of Fire Officer of the Year by the Burglar and Fire Alarm Association in San Francisco, California.

the Rahway Fire Department describes the experiences of his department as "amazing" and still finds it difficult to speak about the days that followed the terrorist attacks and the overwhelming outpouring of public support that followed.

"It was a very emotional time," says Latherow, the Battalion Fire Chief in Rahway. "We saw and heard things that I never thought I would see in my lifetime." For the first 36 hours after September 11th, Latherow and his battalion from Rahway were stationed around the clock at Engine Company 156 on Staten Island and other firehouses in Brooklyn. Their job was to take care of the outer boroughs so the NYFD crews could be dispatched to Lower

there before," he said. "Now we will often take our wives and go out to dinner."

The 51-year old Latherow said that despite Rahway being situated in an urban environment, the municipality has a small town feel. "September 11th hit us very close to home," he said. "We lost seven people in Rahway alone." One of the things that has surprised him is the support that his department has received from the community.

Like many departments around the country, Rahway's Fire Company rallied to help the community recover not only physically, but emotionally. "We held candlelight vigils and memorial ceremonies afterward, and the public response was well above our expectations," he said.

According to Latherow, the Fire Company was touched by the way the community rallied around its public service sector. "We held a candlelight service in Clark, New Jersey and a vigil in Rahway at the Union County Arts Center," he said. "The place was packed at the testimonial meeting."

Latherow's department also held its annual fundraiser and was pleasantly surprised with the community support. "We watched in amazement," he recalls. "You've seen those bucket drives where the firemen pass the bucket around and people will toss in a quarter? In three-day's time, our department raised \$20,000, which is ten times more than we have done in the past."

Many Changes

During the past year, Latherow has seen a shift occur in the field of fire protection. "There have been a lot of changes that you won't see because we prefer not to talk about it," he said. "But the

main area of emphasis has been in the area of disaster training." He says his department has purchased an enormous amount of equipment and is training in its use should anything happen. "We've been coordinating with the office of Emergency Management on evacuations and how to protect the public," he said.

Even though Rahway might be a little town, it has big city needs. "Our post office is right next-door," Latherow said. "If anything happens, we're the ones who are going to get the call." The Rahway department is currently training for bio-hazards, which was something that was not covered much in the early days of Latherow's career. "Now were training with quick masks and encapsulation suits," he said.



Giving Back

Serving the public interest has long been a family tradition for Latherow. His father and four of his uncles have all been fire fighters. In addition to the day-to-day work of fire protection, Latherow has long been active in the community.

When the Public Library was destroyed during Hurricane Floyd, Latherow and his fellow fire fighters wanted to help. The children's library section was a total loss and Latherow wanted to provide a resource for the children to go to. He approached the Fireman's Benevolent Mutual Association and within a few months the FMBA Web site had a children's page.

"I realized that through my experience at Thomas Edison State College writing term paper after term paper, I was a pretty good writer," said Latherow. The Web site, www.childrensafetycorner.com, features help with homework, fire safety tips, games and activities for children.

Another priority for Latherow is organizing quarterly blood drives. "We have a tremendous shortage of blood," he said. His last effort in June of 2002 netted the Red Cross 44 pints of blood. "We would like to expand our efforts," said Latherow.

Working with the Community Blood Council of New Jersey, Latherow says he hopes to tap into the continuing goodwill of the public by organizing a large blood drive near the anniversary date of the terrorist attacks. "We

want this to be an activity as well as a memorial to the victims too," he said.

Firefighting is in the Latherow genes. "I am the fifth person in my family who is a firefighter," said the battalion chief. "My father and four uncles were all in the business." Latherow is married to Delores, who works as a secretary for United Pensions in Warren, New Jersey. His oldest child Jessica recently graduated with

honors at the New Jersey Institute of technology. She spent the summer in Italy participating in an architectural outreach program and plans on pursuing a master's degree. His son Robert Latherow, III is currently finishing up his studies at Union College in New Jersey where he is majoring in communications.

Latherow credits his success to his experience at Thomas Edison State College. It really gave me a leg up and getting my degree has given me more opportunity that I wouldn't have had otherwise." Latherow is currently finishing up his Master's in Public Administration at Kean University and is quite proud of his 3.9 GPA. "I started college in 1969," he says. "I would take one or two courses at a clip. Now I'll finish up my master's in 18 months at age 52."

While simultaneously working through an amazing year and completing his graduate work, Latherow says he'll look forward to a long vacation with his wife Delores. The time off will certainly be well deserved.



Robert Latherow, as well as the rest of the Rabway Fire Department, are very committed to the community, especially its children. As part of their commitment, they actively participate in the Infant Smoke Detector Program. Through this program, parents of "crib age" children, who have recently enrolled in Rabway day care programs, are given new smoke alarms, to place above the infants cribs. The program has been funded by grants from the McDonald's Corporation and local fundraisers by the Rabway Fire Department.

"Applause, Applause"

Rita Ackley '90, BSBA General Management

Rita Ackley has just completed the degree program (class of 2002) for a Master's in Health Administration at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Althea Alexander '01, BA Liberal Studies

Althea Alexander is currently working for Merrill Lynch as a banking specialist. With the tools Althea obtained at Thomas Edison State College, she was able to enroll in the MBA program through Merrill Lynch which is facilitated by Rutgers University.

Ernest A. Benson '88, AA Liberal Arts '89, BA Humanities

Ernest A. Benson received the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas on May 19, 2002.

Patricia Berlinski '96, BSBA Hospital Health Care Administration

Patricia Berlinski is a clinical laboratory technologist at Atlantic Health System, Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, New Jersey. The baccalaureate degree she received from Thomas Edison State College has afforded her the opportunity to become program director for an American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP)

approved phlebotomy program. Her present duties at Mountainside are phlebotomy educator for patient care technicians and nurses, as well as the phlebotomy instructor for an allied health patient care technician course, laboratory point of care testing coordinator and clinical laboratory quality assurance coordinator. Patricia has been employed at the hospital for 17 years.

Mark Brown '97, ASNSM Mathematics '99, ASM Operations Management '00, BA Mathematics

Michael Brown was awarded a J.D. degree with honors from Rutgers School of Law-Newark on May 31, 2002. His law school coursework focused on intellectual property and technology law. Michael, who also holds a BA in Computer Science and an MS in Computer, Information and Control Engineering, plans to pursue a career in patent law.

Betty Sue Bryan '89, BA Humanities

After receiving her Master's degree (English) in 1992 from Louisiana State University, Bryan was accepted into the Doctoral program at the International Bible College and Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama. She was awarded her Ph.D. in Theology in February of 2002.

Diane C. Chierchie '01, MSM

Diane C. Chierchie is presently the manager of the New Jersey Turnpike Highway Advisory Radio and recently was accepted to Touro University's Ph.D. program. Diane has also accepted a position as a professor at DeVry University, North Brunswick, New Jersey where she teaches business classes.

Joseph De Monte '02, BSBA Accounting

Joseph De Monte received his degree from Thomas Edison State College in March of 2002, and was recently appointed the Chief of Administration for the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, and Morristown National Historic Park.

Carl F. Eddy '85, BSAST Electronics

Carl F. Eddy was recently promoted to the rank of associate professor of engineering at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. He has been included in the 5th, 6th and 7th editions of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." Carl is also certified as a telecommunications engineer and a member of the Mensa Society.

Lynda Eisenmann '02, BA Biology

Lynda Eisenmann has been accepted into the Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences Molecular and Cell Biology doctorate program for the 2002-2003 academic year.



Maryann Fishler '99, AA Liberal Arts

On June 5, 2002 Maryann Fishler was presented with the New Jersey College and University Public Safety Association Commendation. This award was presented to Maryann for her help in evacuating an academic building at Rutgers University, New Jersey, during an arson incident last fall.

Carol L. Franklin '01, BA Psychology

Since obtaining her degree from Thomas Edison State College, Carol L. Franklin has accepted a position with the State of Texas as a Workforce Development Specialist with the Texas Workforce Commission. Carol attributes the quality education she received from Thomas Edison State College with her ability to assist her clients in obtaining employment, qualifying for training, and improving their skills.



Leyla R. Gomez-Comesana
'85, BSHS Mental Health Services

Leyla R. Gomez-Comesana obtained an MSW (Social Work) from Fordham University in New York in 1987. She is currently a licensed MSW in the state of Florida where she has a private practice. She is also affiliated with Jackson Memorial Hospital, where she chairs the Psychiatric S.W. Educational Committee. Her primary responsibility is that of a field instructor.

Stephanie J. Hale
'02, BA English Literature

Stephanie J. Hale recently married Michael Johnson on May 25, 2002 in Denver, Colorado.

Michael B. Johnson
'99, BA Natural Sciences/Mathematics

Michael B. Johnson was bestowed the Arnold Fletcher Award for academic achievement upon the completion of his degree at Thomas Edison State College. He recently accepted a position running particle accelerators at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in northern California. Prior to accepting his new position, Michael worked with the U.S. Navy Nuclear Program, Siemens, General Dynamics, NASA, and

Hewlett-Packard/Agilent Technologies. He looks forward to applying his Thomas Edison State College education toward the advancement of science.

Patricia LaRosa
'96, BSN

After completing her nursing degree at Thomas Edison State College, Patricia LaRosa furthered her education and was awarded an MSN degree from The University of Phoenix in October 2001.

Claudia Newton
'01, BSBA Human Resources

Claudia Newton earned her BSBA degree from Thomas Edison State College in 2001. In January of this year she relocated from Irvington, New Jersey to Columbia, South Carolina after being offered a position as Credentialing Supervisor at Companion Healthcare, a subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Carolina.

Thomas L. Page
'94, BA
'00, MSM

Thomas L. Page has been named the Region I Correctional Educational Association "Teacher of the Year" for the year 2002. He was selected from a field of nominees ranging from Pennsylvania to Maine, and represented the region at the Region I CEA Conference at Bolton Landing in Lake George, New York on May 27-29, 2002, where he was honored at a Teacher of the Year Luncheon. Thomas also represented the region at the CEA Annual Conference in Portland Oregon from August 11-14, 2002.



Henry "Rick" Pasqualini
'94, ASPSS Criminal Justice
'96, BSHS Criminal Justice

Since earning his baccalaureate degree from Thomas Edison State College, Rick Pasqualini received a master's degree at Seton Hall University. Rick completed his undergraduate studies at Thomas Edison State College while employed with the Dover Township Police Department (DTPD) in Toms River, New Jersey. In 2000 he retired as Lieutenant of Police from the DTPD and went on to teach as an adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2001. In February 2002 Rick was appointed to Chief of Police of New Hope, Pennsylvania.

Nigel Pestano
'00, BSAST Aviation Maintenance

Nigel Pestano was recently married and has welcomed a new son into his family. He is scheduled to graduate with an MBA/Technology Management in January 2003. Nigel currently works for Verizon as a field technician but hopes to advance his career into the Human Resources field or product management upon completion of his degree.



Mary-Ellen Piche
'80, ASAST
'94, BSAST Radiologic Science

Mary-Ellen Piche has been selected as the new Director of the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, New York. Prior to assuming her new position, Mary-Ellen was the Associate Director at the Lyons New Jersey VA Medical Training Center and the Network Chief Operating Officer of the Medical/Surgical Care Line that extends through all the VA facilities from Albany to Buffalo. She was named Network Chief Operating Officer in 2001 before being appointed to her new position.



Brenda Pichler
'01, BSHS Child Development

Brenda Pichler is currently working in Early Intervention as a Developmental Educator.

Lea Bayers Rapp
'89, BA Journalism

Continuing to make excellent use of the knowledge she obtained while earning her journalism degree from Thomas Edison State College, Lea Bayers Rapp has had a stellar year. Her latest book, "Mazel Tov! The Complete Book of Jewish Weddings" was published June 30, 2001. In addition to the book's success, Lea's cover story on elementary education for *New Jersey Monthly* magazine garnered the first place award for "Individual Achievement in Print" from the New Jersey Press Women's Association.

Christiana E. Rodgers
'00, BA Music

Christiana E. Rodgers began studying for an MA in Comparative World Religions in March 2002 through Greenwich University's distance learning program. After experiencing an eight-month setback due to illness, Christiana is back at the computer and enjoying her studies very much. In April 2002 she released her second book, "A Topical Recreation: A Collection of Fifty Elizabethan Sonnets." Christiana's first book, "Twilight Sunrise: A Collection of Fifty Tankas" was published in the U.K. in 1999 and will be available for its second printing in the near future.

Carlos Rodriguez
'91, BSAST Electronic Engineering Technology

Shortly after obtaining his BSAST degree from Thomas Edison State College, Carlos

was selected for the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program, receiving a commission to second lieutenant upon completion of the Officer Candidate in 1992. As a result of his enlisted experience in the field of communications and the education he received from Thomas Edison State College, Carlos was trained and designated as a communications officer. He currently serves as the Inspector-Instructor for Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Allentown, Pennsylvania where he is responsible for the operational readiness of several hundred Marines, active duty and reserve, and numerous community oriented projects. Since graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Carlos has been promoted four times and has received two Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals and a Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. In June 2002 he was promoted to his current rank of Major.

Suzanne E. Vahala
'91, BSBA Transportation

Suzanne E. Vahala, who is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Management at The College of Saint Elizabeth in Morristown, has been inducted into Sigma Beta Delta, the International Society in Business, Management and Administration.

"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, we invite you 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 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 Street, Trenton, NJ 08608; fax it to (609) 984-1376; or e-mail your good news to akrum@tesc.edu. Feel free to send us photos to accompany your news. We'll publish them 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 _____

Information for *Invention*: _____

Alumni & Foundation News

College Looks Forward to 30th Annual Commencement Ceremony

The administration and staff at Thomas Edison State College are looking with great anticipation towards the 30th annual Commencement ceremony, scheduled to take place October 12th at 2:00 p.m. in the historic War Memorial in Trenton, New Jersey. More than 250 graduates are expected to travel to Trenton, N.J. to march in this year's ceremony.

This year's Commencement speaker will be New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, who is also being awarded the degree of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Response for the Graduates speaker will be H. Gary Heavin, a Bachelor of Science in Health and Nutrition Counseling degree recipient. Heavin, of Waco, Texas is founder of Curves International, Inc.

The College is looking at ways to celebrate the new beginnings of the graduates and highlight its 30th anniversary by encouraging those who come to partake in the celebration to explore Trenton's historic past.

The College is pleased to note the opening of the new Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel in Trenton, located steps away from the War Memorial building. The hotel has graciously set aside a block of rooms for the week-end of October 11-13 at a special discount rate of \$89 per night. For more information, call the hotel's toll-free number at (800) 228-9290. Be sure to mention Thomas Edison State College.

For the graduates, the ceremony will be the culmination of many hours of work and the realization of a dream and no one will understand that better than the graduates' families which is why the Alumni Association and the Alumni office is again holding its traditional "Putting Him/Her Through" (PHT) Banquet. The banquet begins one half-hour after commencement ends in the War Memorial's Upper Ballroom. For more information about the banquet, please call the alumni office at 609-633-8592.

Annual Fund Drive

The Annual Fund Drive is currently underway and will run until December 31, 2002. This year, in honor of the College's 30th Anniversary, there have been a large number of first time donors to the Annual Fund. Thank you very much for your contribution and welcome to the Honor Roll of Donors.

The Alumni Association held its phonathon in May with over 80 volunteers manning the phones throughout the two-week sessions. If you haven't had a chance to contribute, but would like to, you can

visit the College's Web site at www.tesc.edu and make a pledge or donation online.



Please, Let Us Thank You...

Did you know that some of our alumni have included Thomas Edison State College in their wills? We are grateful to all who have done so—especially to Joyce ('82) and Robert Stecher for their kind letter telling us specifically of their bequest. "As I am an alumna," she wrote, "and feel that I owe the college much ... my husband and I have decided to name the Foundation in our respective wills."



Colleges often receive bequests from donors whom they don't get a chance to thank because they are unaware of their intentions. Our knowing about the Stecher's bequest allowed us to honor the couple with membership in the Heritage Circle, the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's premier philanthropic leadership group.

Have you named Thomas Edison State College in your estate plans? If so, please let us know. If not, let us send you information on estate planning.

For further information on Planned Giving, please contact Patty Burch Byers at pbayers@tesc.edu or call (609) 984-1588 or visit the College's Web site at www.tesc.edu/alumni/waystogive.

Streckewald Golf Outing

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation held its 8th annual golf classic at Olde York Country Club in Columbus, New Jersey. This year, nearly 100 golfers participated in the always successful event.

The winning team in the scramble division was the Canada Dry Bottling Company of New York, Inc. foursome of Kelly Breen, Paul Coppa, Sal Munizza and Kevin Walker. First place individual gross winners were: men's division, Tony Watson, The First Tee; women's division, Caron Albert, Thomas Edison State College.



Thomas Edison State College was founded in 1972 for the purpose of providing diverse and alternative methods of achieving a collegiate education of the highest quality for mature adults.

Please visit us at
www.tesc.edu



Joseph Papp, project manager, KDL Electric Company, Inc., received the Circle of Gold Contest prize from John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, during the Eight Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic sponsored by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. The annual event was established to honor the memory of Thomas C. Streckewald, a College administrator who was killed in an automobile collision in 1994.

Trance...

With great sadness that Thomas Edison State College announces the loss of Carole A. Pak, Chairman of the Board of Trustees,

who succumbed the morning of June 26, 2002, after a courageous fight against cancer. She graduated from Thomas Edison State College in 1986, was active with the alumni association, and had been a trustee for more than a decade serving as Board chairman for the last two years. She was a vice president at Shearson Lehman Hutton in Morristown, New Jersey, and was a member of their President's Council. "We have lost an outstanding trustee, alumna, and beloved friend," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Carole will be missed by those of us here at the College who had the pleasure of knowing and working with her over the years. She will be remembered for her intellect, commitment, humor and never-failing kindness."



Alumni & Foundation News

College Looks Forward to 30th Annual Commencement Ceremony

The administration and staff at Thomas Edison State College are looking with great anticipation towards the 30th annual Commencement ceremony, scheduled to take place October 12th at 2:00 p.m. in the historic War Memorial in Trenton, New Jersey. More than 250 graduates are expected to travel to Trenton, N.J. to march in this year's ceremony.

This year's Commencement speaker will be New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, who is also being awarded the degree of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Response for the Graduates speaker will be H. Garv Heavin, a Bachelor of Science in Health and Nutrition Counseling degree recipient. Heavin, of Waco, Texas founder of Curves International, Inc.

The College is looking at ways to celebrate the beginnings of the graduates and highlight its 30th anniversary by encouraging those who come to part in the celebration to explore Trenton's historic past.

The College is pleased to note the opening of the new Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel in Trenton, located steps away from the War Memorial building. The hotel has graciously set aside a block of rooms for the weekend of October 11-13 at a special discount rate of \$89 per night. For more information, call the hotel's toll-free number at (800) 228-9290. Be sure to mention Thomas Edison State College.

For the graduates, the ceremony will be the culmination of many hours of work and the realization of a dream and no one will understand that better than the

From _____

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THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

101 West State
Trenton, NJ 08602

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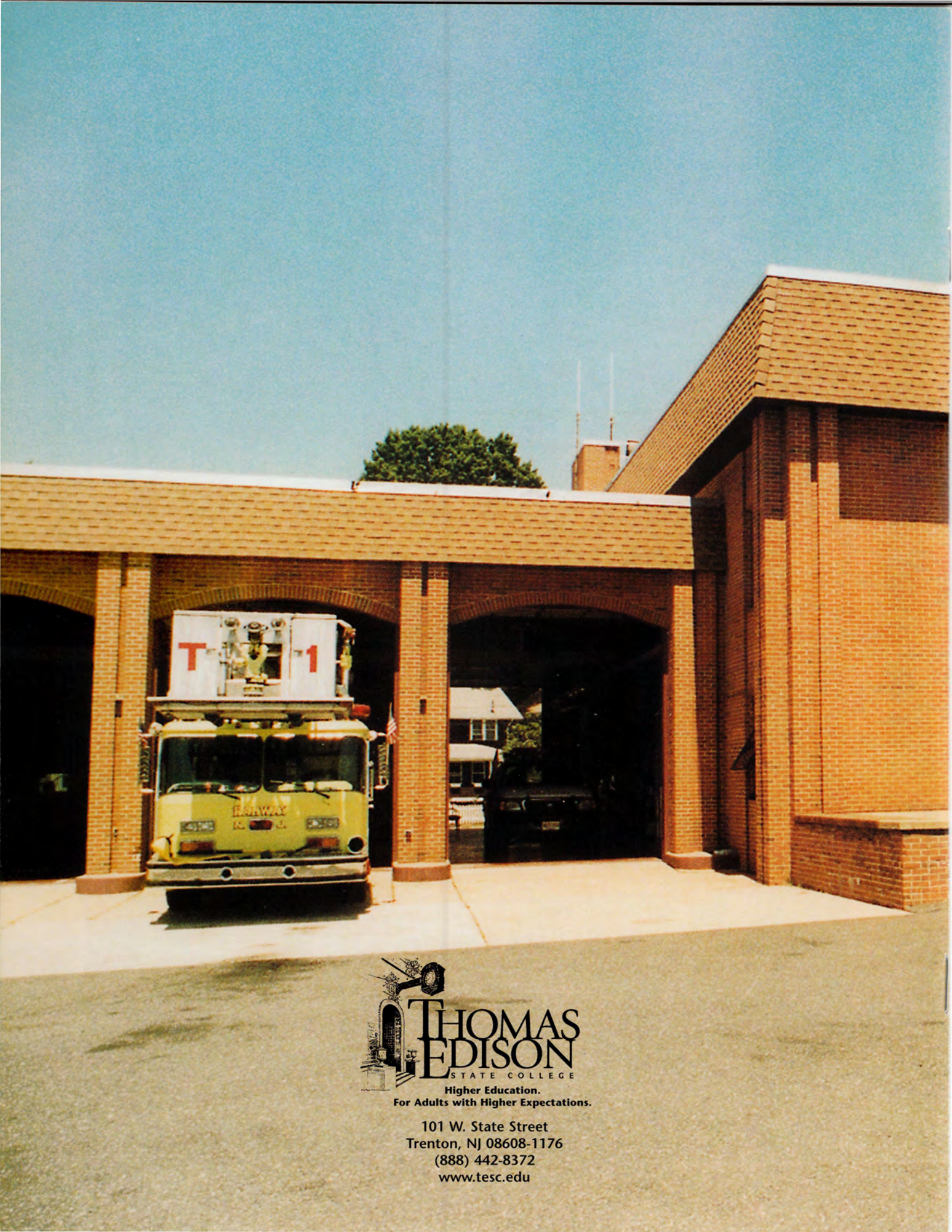


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In Remembrance...



It is with great sadness that Thomas Edison State College announces the loss of Carole A. Nerlino-Cerepak, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who succumbed the morning of June 26, 2002, after a courageous fight against cancer. She graduated from Thomas Edison State College in 1986, was active with the alumni association, and had been a trustee for more than a decade serving as Board chairman for the last two years. She was a vice president at Shearson Lehman Hutton in Morristown, New Jersey, and was a member of their President's Council. "We have lost an outstanding trustee, alumna, and beloved friend," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Carole will be missed by those of us here at the College who had the pleasure of knowing and working with her over the years. She will be remembered for her intellect, commitment, humor and never-failing kindness."



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