

I·N·V·E·N·T·I·O·N

NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Summer 1991

First College Forum Focuses on Adults' Views of Learning

Characterizing Thomas Edison State College as "a prophet not recognized in its own country," Dr. Stephen D. Brookfield, an internationally honored leader in adult education, outlined the characteristics of adult learning to a large audience at the College's headquarters in Trenton recently. The event was the first in a series of College Forums developed by a committee, which is chaired by Dr. Sonja Eveslage, dean of the Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships.

"Outside of New Jersey and even the United States, Thomas Edison State College has been known to people for quite some time," stated Dr. Brookfield, who is a professor of adult education at Columbia University and the author of seven books, including *The Skillful Teacher*. "The College has a much better approach to higher education for adults because it provides learning which conforms to the natural rhythms and circumstances of adult lives."

Citing his research and interviews with adult students, Dr. Brookfield identified a number of ways in which adults view or react to the learning process, including the emotional impact of learning, the sense of challenge and community, feelings of inadequacy (the "imposter" syndrome), the need to balance active learning with private reflection, and

connecting learning to other aspects of life.

One of the phenomena which Dr. Brookfield has observed is a pattern in adult learning which he calls "incremental fluctuation." "When we learn, we take two steps forward, one step backward, and continue to make progress this way in a zigzag pattern. This pattern may start with enthusiasm for learning, only to hit a block where the student may experience disappointment or frustration. After this initial setback, a new realization or wave of enthusiasm may occur, propelling the student forward in the learning process," he explained.

Speaking in an engaging, self-deprecating style laced with quiet humor, Dr. Brookfield also entertained questions from staff and guests on a variety of issues, from negative perceptions of

learning to critical thinking.

A New York City resident, Dr. Brookfield received his Ph.D. in adult education from the University of Leicester in England. He serves on the editorial boards of five adult education journals internationally. He received the Cyril Houle World Award for Literature in Adult Education in both 1986 and 1989, and the Imogene Okes Award for Outstanding Research in Adult Education.

The Thomas Edison State College Forum Committee is scheduling additional presentations by national and international leaders in adult higher education in the coming year. Readers who would like to be put on a mailing list to receive notices for upcoming Forums should write or call the Office of Communications and College Relations, 609/984-4839.—LH



Participating as a faculty member at the National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning was Dr. Morris T. Keeton, who was the chief executive officer of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) from 1977-1989. During his presentation on the history and future of prior learning assessment (PLA), Dr. Keeton predicted that many colleges across the country would add PLA programs to their offerings to accommodate the growing number of adult learners. Dr. Keeton applauded the efforts of the Institute and its participants for helping to uphold the quality of PLA as programs grow. Thomas Edison State College sponsors the Institute each year in cooperation with CAEL.

Alumni Surpass Goal in Annual Phonathon

by Linda Holt

Colleges where alumni have fond memories of frat parties, football games, and Spring Weekend have a hard enough time raising funds through

their annual phonathon. So what kind of support can be expected from the alumni of a college which has no classrooms, no sports, and no extracurricular activities?

"Plenty!" said Dr. Norman C. Crawford, Jr., vice president for public affairs at Thomas Edison. "Even though our alums rarely met each other during their college years, they came together in April as never before to exceed our phonathon goal for 1991."

"This might surprise a lot of people, but it doesn't surprise anyone who knows our alumni," said Alumni Director Annette Singer. "Thomas Edison students are adults who never had the opportunity to start or complete college when they were young." Ida Julian, director of development, agrees. "Thomas Edison alumni value the College's unique mission, which is to help adults earn college degrees in a convenient, dignified fashion," she said. "Because of this, they are committed to

giving something back to the college after they graduate."

As Alumni Association and staff volunteers made phone calls coast-to-coast over a six-day period, alumni pledged their support in the amount of \$60,700, easily breaking this year's target of \$60,000. Fifty-eight percent of alumni who spoke with phonathon volunteers made pledges averaging \$33. From a bank of 20 phones in the College's headquarters in Trenton, volunteers spoke to nearly 3,000 alumni throughout the nation during the phonathon.

Thomas Edison is innovative, and its phonathon proceeds support that innovation. "The College has no library, athletic program, or dorms. As a result, every cent pledged to the College goes to help students and alumni and to advance the concept of higher education for adults," Dr. Crawford pointed out. This includes

(continued on page 2)



Thomas Edison Alumni (l. to r.) Rita Ackley, Jane Coult, and Rod McCaughey helped raise funds during the Annual Phonathon.

BSN Program Granted Five-Year Accreditation

The National League for Nursing (NLN) has granted five-year accreditation to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Thomas Edison. NLN accreditation is the highest standard of excellence in the nursing profession in the nation.

News of accreditation came in late March following intense scrutiny of every aspect of the program by the League's Team of Visitors, who spent five days at the College interviewing staff, observing test sites and study groups, and reviewing documentation on the program's processes and effectiveness. Initial accreditation is effective as of the date it is granted and retroactive to 12 months prior to the date of the accreditation site visit (September 1990). Therefore the program is accredited from September 1989 for five years.

The College's BSN program, which began in 1983, is designed for Registered Nurses who have a current license to practice and who live or work in New Jersey. The program already is accredited by the New Jersey State Board of Nursing.

Flexible and self-paced, the BSN program provides an alternative approach to traditional, campus-based baccalaureate nursing education. Students may use different assessment methods to meet the liberal arts requirements, and, if they choose, may complete the program entirely by examination.

College's Expertise Sought Out Near and Far

The recognition of Thomas Edison as the premier college for adults, and as the innovative leader in adult higher education practices in this country, continues to grow. Recent activities have included invitations to address key educational conferences; visitors to the College seeking our input and experience; and appointments of key staff to significant boards and committees.

Scottish Educators Meet to Improve Adult Programs

Thomas M. Eklund, coordinator of academic advisement at Thomas Edison, was the only representative from the United States invited to speak at "Access At Work: A Major Conference," held in Glasgow, Scotland in May. The national conference, sponsored by The Scottish Wider Access Programs, The Scottish Enterprise, and British Petroleum, focused on how higher education institutions and public and private sector organizations can work together to increase access to higher education for workers.

Representatives from companies such as British Petroleum, Ford Motor Company, and Motorola met with key government educational staff and college administrators to explore work-based learning programs, evaluation of prior learning assessment, and potential partnership programs.

"Although individual companies and agencies have made significant progress in adult education, they see the need to coordinate their efforts and develop standards in principles and practices. They view Thomas Edison as a model for doing this and were interested to hear about the College's approach. Conference participants were very impressed with what we have accomplished in such a short time," Eklund pointed out. His presentation, which opened the general session on the second day of the Conference, focused on how Thomas Edison's services and programs work to increase access to quality higher education opportunities for adults. Eklund also participated in the panel discussion at the close of the conference.



Thomas M. Eklund

College Hosts Visitors

Thomas Edison staff recently hosted visitors who were interested in learning about the College's programs.

Dr. Tadashi Kaneko, chief, Research Division for Higher Education, National Institute for Educational Research in Tokyo, Japan, met with various people at the College as part of his research on "The Comprehensive Comparative Research on the Development of Nontraditional Higher Education toward Lifelong Learning between Japan and the USA."

Dr. Dale Huffington, associate director of University Extension-University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., met with the College's Guided Study staff about its offerings for adult students.

Dr. James C. Butler, international coordinator, Centre for American Education in London, visited to discuss the College with Registrar Jack Phillips. Dr. Butler, who receives many inquiries from students in Europe and the Middle East, met with Phillips because most foreign students have credentials which require English translation before they can be evaluated.

Dr. Pruitt Appointed to Advisory Positions

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison, has been appointed to two advisory positions at the national and state levels.

Dr. Pruitt has been appointed to the Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials of the Washington-based American Council on Education (ACE) and was recently appointed to the Work Force Quality Task Force of the



Dr. George A. Pruitt

Governor's Economic Conference in New Jersey.

The Commission on Educational Credit and Credentials is the advisory and policy body of the Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials, which operates the national high school

equivalency program (the GED—General Educational Development) and reviews similar programs for college credit at the nation's colleges and universities.

"The Center is concerned specifically with those innovative areas of higher education for which Thomas Edison has received national recognition," Dr. Pruitt said. Examples include the review of college-level credit and credentialing policies and practices in postsecondary education and operating and fostering programs to assess learning that occurs outside the sponsorship of licensed or chartered educational institutions.

The Work Force Quality Task Force appointment was a result of the Governor's Economic Conference in March, in which 10 task forces were appointed to study specific areas of the New Jersey economy such as work force quality, business retention, and government relations.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a substantive contribution to the important issue of work force quality in our state," Dr. Pruitt said in accepting the appointment. "As part of its mission to represent and serve adult learners, Thomas Edison is committed to taking an active role in policy-making at the highest levels of state government."

Dr. Eveslage Selected to Serve in PSAL

Dr. Sonja A. Eveslage, dean, Center for Corporate and Public Partnerships at Thomas Edison, has been selected by Illinois State University to serve as one of the initial Research Fellows in the Project for the Study of Adult Learning (PSAL).

The organization, which grew from ISU faculty research on adult learners, was created to identify researchers who are testing theories of how adults learn and what methods are most effective for older students. Ultimately, the goal is to use the research findings to improve learning at all levels and in all settings.

Phonathon

(continued from page 1)

expanding the College's nationally recognized use of computer, satellite, and other technologies to help the distance learner.

Phonathon proceeds also support short-term, no-interest loans to students and help the College serve higher education and the public interest as a center of innovation, information, policy formulation, and advocacy on behalf of adult learners. (See related phonathon stories on page 3.)

TESC and Trenton Form Policy Study Office

Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison, recently announced the formation of the Trenton Office of Policy Studies (TOPS).

"The College is pleased to work with Mayor Palmer and the City in this cooperative venture," Dr. Pruitt stated. "With nearly 20 years serving the educational needs of government, industry, and individuals, Thomas

Edison is uniquely experienced and qualified to provide the context for sound policy analysis and development. The Office will not only benefit the City but will act as a national model for municipal-collegiate partnership." TOPS will provide the City with a "think tank" to analyze capital city policy issues (such as those affecting housing and recreation programs) and suggest new initiatives.

Pictured during the announcement of the formation of the Trenton Office of Policy Studies is (l. to r.) John Thurber, executive director, TOPS; Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, Thomas Edison.



Photo by Linda Solis

A·L·U·M·N·I

H I G H L I G H T S

Alumni Gear Up as Banquet Preparations Begin

by Adele Ellis '88

Words cannot describe the feeling of pride and accomplishment when a student finishes that last graduation requirement. Ask any Thomas Edison graduate how they felt walking down the aisle and receiving their degree with their family and friends in the audience. It is one of the most memorable experiences in anyone's lifetime. This year, Commencement will be held October 20.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Banquet Committee are working to make this year's graduation the highlight of the 1991 graduates' academic careers. The festivities will begin with members of the New Graduate Relations Committee greeting the graduates as they receive their caps and gowns. Souvenirs such as pennants, pins, sweatshirts, and rings will be available for purchase.

After the Commencement Ceremony at the War Memorial Building, a Commencement Banquet will follow at the Hyatt Regency-Princeton. At the Pre-Banquet Reception in the Hyatt, graduates and their families will have the opportunity to meet other alumni, college staff, and the Alumni Board of Directors, who will be available to

explain many of the alumni functions. PHT awards for family members and friends will be presented at the banquet by College President, Dr. George A. Pruitt.

This year the banquet program will include a section for graduates to place a name line ad to thank their families for their support and another section for friends and families to congratulate their favorite graduate. The addition of congratulations from the College, businesses, and families will be another pleasant keepsake for the new graduates. The cost of these best wishes is \$5 per line. Graduates will receive an announcement with details on the PHT certificates and the banquet program.

Students or alumni who are interested in helping the Alumni Association during Commencement Day activities are invited to call the Alumni Office at 201/877-1450 and leave a message for Judy Toll-Trauben, banquet chairperson, or Adele Ellis, co-chair of the New Graduate Relations Committee. The Alumni Association invites all alumni to become a part of the most exciting College/Alumni function of the year and to relive their Commencement memories. Invitations will be mailed to all Thomas Edison graduates in August.

Alumni Survey Reveals Interest in Calendar, Graduate Degrees

by Nancy J. Semon '90

The Alumni Newsletter Committee recently conducted an informal, random survey of alumni residing in New Jersey, to get feedback on the Alumni Highlights section of *Invention*.

An overwhelming 100 percent of the respondents consider the "Applause, Applause" section a favorite. When asked whether they would like to see a "Calendar of Events" in each edition, the response was extremely favorable—80 percent said they would be interested in a calendar that would keep them informed of alumni activities. Feature stories on alumni are also popular. Fifty-five percent of the respondents

would like to read about fellow graduates and quite a few said they wanted more human interest profiles.

The survey also asked alumni what they would like to read more about in their section. The topic that came up most was graduate degrees. "Now that we've graduated from Thomas Edison, where do we go from here?" asked one woman who said she wished to pursue a master's degree but was prevented from doing so because of economics.

Several respondents asked whether Thomas Edison would be offering a master's degree program. (Thomas Edison is planning to offer a graduate

level degree in the future and progress on its development will be reported in *Invention*.) Information about external degrees offered at other colleges is available through the Alumni Office.

Other questions asked by respondents during the survey were: What is the college staff like? Who are the Alumni Board members? Future issues will address some of these questions. The Newsletter Committee invites alumni to suggest future story ideas and send news of their accomplishments to the Alumni Newsletter Committee, Thomas Edison State College Alumni Office, 153 Halsey Street, 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898.

FOCUS ON:

Adele K. Ellis, '88 ASM Newsletter Committee Chair

Q: What do you hope to accomplish as the chairperson of the Alumni Newsletter Committee this year?

A: I would like to have different types of articles that include accomplishments of many of our alumni. We all seem to have very different lives; however, there is that one ingredient in all Thomas Edison graduates that makes us feel special. I believe it is the desire to reach our full potential while continuing to function fully in our personal lives. I would like to hear from more alumni about their successes which resulted from their Thomas Edison degrees. The newsletter is very important to me; it is the main link we have to each other.

Q: You also serve as secretary on the Alumni Board of Directors. How did you get involved?

A: My graduation day is one of the most precious memories I have. At graduation, I was part of class in the Thomas Edison film, "Opening Doors." I wanted to stay involved in the College because of its part in helping me accomplish my goal of a college degree. An application was mailed to me (as well as all the other graduates) asking if I would be interested in being a part of the Alumni Board. I responded and was thrilled when Bill Vohs called and asked if I would accept a director



position. In 1991 I was elected secretary.

Q: You have an associate degree. Do you intend to continue your education and pursue a baccalaureate degree?

A: Yes, as a matter of fact I am a current Thomas Edison student as well as an alumna. I am pursuing my last 30 credits a little more slowly than the first 90, because I am putting more time into my career. However, I am really looking forward to walking down that aisle again as a graduate.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: My sons take most of my "non-working" time. I love doing simple family things with my husband and children. We go fishing, picnic and walk in the many nearby parks, fly kites, and visit zoos. Now is the time when you never find me indoors!

Special thanks to the Alumni Newsletter Committee: Adele Ellis '88, chairperson; Jane Coult '86; and Nancy Semon '90, for developing and writing the articles for the Alumni Highlights section of *Invention*.

Annette Singer,
Director of Alumni Affairs

Reception Planned at Monmouth Museum

by Jane Coult '86

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Brookdale Community College Alumni Association, is sponsoring an informal reception for graduates and students of Thomas Edison who are also alumni and/or students at Brookdale.

The reception is scheduled for Friday, September 13, at 7 p.m., at the Monmouth Museum on the Brookdale Community College campus in Lincroft, N.J. No formal program is planned; the reception is intended to be an informal get together for alumni who live near one another and may have attended the same colleges to meet and share their experiences. A portrait of Count Basie, which was created by Letty P. Thoms, a graduate of Thomas Edison and Brookdale, will be exhibited at the reception. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served.

Thomas Edison alumni who have attended other community colleges in New Jersey and would like to help with getting a similar program together may contact the Program Committee by calling the Alumni Office in Newark at 201/877-1450.

1991 ALUMNI PHONATHON VOLUNTEERS

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Rita Ackley
Vito Addotta
William S. Agress
George Alfano
Linda Bork
Leona G. Bothwell
Florence Broadway
James A. Conway
Charlotte Cooney
Jane Coult
Jane E. Dougherty
Alfred O. Farrar
Stephanie G. Feist
Frank Gervasi
Ruth Giacobbe
Charlotte A. Gibson
Nancy Goehrig
Phyllis Greenberg
Ida B. Hammond
Raymond Harker
Norma Horton
Warren Huff
Ondina Jeffers
Wilfred Jeffers*
Walter S. Keller, Jr.
Mildred Koslow

Eileen Lehman
Marilyn Leseke
Gwen Lockhart
Diane LoPinto
Joan C. Masterson
John J. McCann
Rod J. McCaughey
Becky McFarlane*
Ronald McFarlane
Linda McKeegan
John Molner
Lisa A. Morris
Claire R. Murphy
Barbara J. Mussell
Phillip W. Nevius
Catherine O'Donnell
Gail Ann Palatine
Elizabeth C. Pardi
Polly F. Passis
Angel A. Perez
Donald Povia
Ricardo Rodriguez
Joann Schulz-Joseph
Emilia Stepek
Havelin St. John
Mary Elaine Stofko
Letty P. Thoms
Marchia Thoms*
Judy Toll-Trauben

Wendy Tooker
James T. Webster
Maurice N. Wells
John Whalen
Melvin Williams
Marcia R. Wood
Christopher Wynings
Henrietta Zachary
Margaret A. Zeis
Nat Zocco

*Guests

STAFF

Kathleen Adamczyk
Sedell Bailey
Peg Bodnar
Rose Breining
Jim Broisioie
Carla Caputo
Ellen Carriere
Tywanna Clark
Dr. Norman Crawford
Belinda Dalton
Jack Davis
Dr. Tom Donlon
Gregg Dye
Dr. Sonja Eveslage
Ed George

Hope Gillico
Vincent Gray
Wenrich Green
Mary Haggerty
Bill Harrison
Bill Hobson
Linda Holt
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Nadine Hoston
Robert Jackson
Jules Kahn
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Evelyn Spradley
Marion Stone
Francine Taylor
Bill Thompkins
Janice Toliver
Tony Van Morter
Debbie Ware
Donna Watson
Betty Wright
Nettie Youngblood

Congratulations...

RITA ACKLEY '90 — for the highest total for first time pledges and dollars pledged. This was Rita's first phonathon. Prize: Gift Certificate for two for Sunday Brunch at the Scanticon.

CHRISTOPHER WYNINGS '82 — for having the highest dollar totals in all categories for one session. Prize: General Electric Clock Radio

CHARLOTTE COONEY '90 — for highest total in matching gift pledges. Prize: Gift Certificate for Sunday Brunch at the Hyatt Regency.

JANE COULT '86 — for having the second highest total for money pledged. Prize Boehm Panda.

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

'86

Evelyn Clarke Mott (BSBA), Yardley, Pa., recently had a children's book that she wrote and photographed published by Walter & Company. **STEAM TRAIN RIDE** is a picture book for three to eight-year olds that Mott photographed at Strasburg Railroad in Lancaster County (Pa.). It is about a young boy's visit to the railroad yard and his exciting ride on a steam train. The cover photograph is a picture of Mott's son, Christopher. Her second book, **BALLOON RIDE**, about a young girl's ride on a hot-air balloon, was photographed in the Lambertville-Rosemont (N.J.) area and has a November publication date.

In a recent letter to *Invention*, Mott wrote,

"Many people would question why a Thomas Edison graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (Marketing specialization) is writing children's books. What can I say? I finally realized what I really wanted to do. I must add that in the tough world of publishing, my marketing background helped me immensely. Thank you, Thomas Edison!"

The book is available at Rivergate Books in Lambertville and Titles Unlimited, or can be ordered from the publisher at 1-800-AT-WALKER.



Evelyn Clarke Mott



Gregory J. Jungwirth

'89

Gregory J. Jungwirth (B.A.), Milwaukee, Wis., has been accepted into the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Master of Social Work Degree Program and will begin graduate studies at the School of Social Welfare in August. Jungwirth is a practical nurse at the Milwaukee Veterans Administration Hospital.

'89

Havelin D. St. John, (B.A., also A.A. '87), Trenton, N.J. was recently granted a patent for his invention, "Magnetically Linked Theft-Sensing System." St. John hopes to have his invention in the marketplace this year. The invention is designed to deter theft of electrical and/or electronic equipment in home offices and businesses. St. John owns his own home improvement company, H.D.S. Enterprises.

St. John serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors as an associate director. He is also chairperson of the scholarship committee.

'89

Adrian Restivo Levitt (B.A.), Long Branch, N.J., is currently a graduate assistant at Trenton State College and enrolled in the M.A. Counseling Program as a full-time student. Levitt is also a counselor at the Center for Children of Alcoholics in Red Bank and is an adjunct professor at Brookdale Community College in the Community Services Department.

'91

Sharon Drain (B.A.), Amarillo, Tex., was recently re-elected president of the Panhandle Professional Writers. Also, her personal data was requested by *Who's Who in America Environmental and Energy Management*, 1991 edition. The Independent Scholars Network recently honored Drain for her outstanding accomplishments (which included graduating from Thomas Edison as an adult student).

If you would like news of your accomplishments included in the Applause, Applause section of *Invention*, please send information to: Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey Street, 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898. You may enclose a black-and-white photograph for consideration. Please include your daytime phone number, Thomas Edison Degree earned and year of graduation.

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With the help of alumni, students, staff, and friends, the Annual Phonathon was a great success, with pledges exceeding the \$60,000 goal

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1



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2

Invention is the newsletter of Thomas Edison State College. It is distributed to students, alumni and friends of the College.

DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT, President; DR. NORMAN C. CRAWFORD, JR., Vice President for Public Affairs; LINDA L. HOLT, Director of Communications and College Relations; BARBARA WATERS EKLUND, Editor-in-Chief, *Invention*; CINDY WARRICK, Secretary; ANNETTE SINGER, Director of Alumni Affairs; MILDRED KOSLOW, '82 President of the Alumni Association; Alumni Newsletter Committee: ADELE ELLIS, '88 chairperson; JANE COULT '86; and NANCY SEMON '90



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