

# I·N·V·E·N·T·I·O·N

NEWSLETTER OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Summer 1994

## Serving students through county college links: New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program

An exciting new affiliation is helping county college associate graduates achieve the dream of a baccalaureate degree—without leaving their home counties. At press time, six New Jersey community/county colleges had signed agreements to participate in the New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program (NJBDCP) with Thomas Edison State College, enabling their busy associate degree graduates to more easily transfer to Thomas Edison and earn a baccalaureate degree.



Signing the NJBDCP agreement at Camden County College (CCC) are (seated left to right): Dr. Phyllis Della Vecchia, president of Camden County College, and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. Dr. Jerry Ice, (standing, right), vice president and provost of Thomas Edison, and Michael Donahue, vice president for Academic and Student Affairs at CCC, witnessed the signing.

Under the program, community/county college graduates will be able to transfer immediately to a baccalaureate program at Thomas Edison, where they can continue their education without leaving their counties. All New Jersey community/county colleges are expected to offer the program by 1996. Thomas Edison has signed agreements with Atlantic Community College, Camden County College, Cumberland County College, Gloucester County College,

County College of Morris and Ocean County College.

"Thomas Edison offers students the opportunity to complete a high-quality degree program wherever they live or work," said Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of the College and architect of the program. "NJBDCP enables students to receive Thomas Edison's services without leaving their home counties."

Students transferring to Thomas Edison State College under the program will be able to earn one of five baccalaureate degrees in 118 areas of specialization. Courses may be delivered through a variety of media, including "distance technologies" such as Thomas Edison's Guided Study courses and the On-Line Computer Classroom, which are offered over personal computer via the CALL (Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning) Network. Other options include the New Jersey Intercampus Network (NJIN), which features live interactive courses taught at another college and delivered to the community/county site.

According to Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, the program opens up the possibility of a four-year college degree to community college graduates who would not otherwise have had the opportunity. "A large number of community college graduates do not continue their education in four-year institutions because the four-year colleges don't have room for them, are too far away or are too expensive," he said.

Dr. Pruitt noted that most students in the state's two-year colleges are over 25 and go to school part-time due to jobs and family responsibilities. While two-year colleges are close to home for many, transferring to four-year colleges that are miles or hours away can be difficult. "Our challenge is to provide an opportunity to those students," he added.

"This is not only a major advance for our college, but also for thousands of area residents," said Dr. Richard H. Jones, president of Gloucester County College (GCC) in Deptford, N.J. GCC



Thomas Edison State College President Dr. George A. Pruitt and Cumberland County College President Dr. Roland J. Chapdelaine make NJBDCP a reality at the Vineland, N.J. college.

was the first county college to engage in the NJBDCP partnership. Like the other community/county colleges, GCC will assist students by providing a dedicated computer facility, classroom space for testing and other support services.

Thomas Edison will help students overcome barriers of distance by providing testing services on-site at the community/county colleges for students who choose to demonstrate college-level knowledge by successfully completing Thomas Edison College Examination Program (TECEP) exams. Thomas

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## Phonathon a huge success

by Linda Solits

At Thomas Edison State College, there aren't any sports teams to cheer or a student union building in which to congregate. Most Thomas Edison students never meet unless they attend the annual Commencement ceremony in October. But when it comes time to give something back, Thomas Edison alumni celebrate the college degree they received with loyalty and support.

The 1994 Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon, held at the College's headquarters in the historic Kelsey Building in Trenton, was one of the most successful ever, with over \$68,000 in pledges and gifts received. Alumni pledged their commitment to the College at the rate of 50 percent, which is much higher than the national response rate of 15 percent for alumni pledges.

Under the leadership of Alumni Association President Jane Coult, B.A. '86, the Alumni Association Board launched the Annual Fund Phonathon with a pledge commitment that represented 100 percent participation from all board members. This group, known as the Alumni Leadership Circle, comprises officers, directors and associate directors of the Alumni Association. This is the seventh consecutive year that board members have joined to launch the Phonathon as a group.

There was an overwhelming volunteer response this year. Annette Singer, director of Alumni Affairs at Thomas Edison, credited the Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon Committee and Alumni Annual Fund Co-Chairs Paul Hays, BSAST '89, and Joe Kulak, B.A. '93, for a most successful Pre-Phonathon recruiting effort. During the Pre-Phonathon, alumni



Dialing for dollars: Dedicated alumni volunteers call fellow alumni, students and friends during the Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon held at the College's headquarters in Trenton.

and students were called and asked to volunteer their time during the five-day Phonathon. In addition, Hays and Kulak spent a day at the College recruiting staff. More than 100 alumni, student and staff volunteers were recruited this year.

According to Hays, the volunteer callers had the opportunity to discuss projects the College is seeking funds to support including the Master of Science in Management; technological innovations and improvements for Guided Study services; and the creation of a Local Area Network (LAN) to expand access to educational services.

"Alumni support is key to the success of this institution," said Dr. Natale S. Caliendo, vice president for Public Affairs. "Leaders like Jane, Paul and Joe, and the dedicated corps who come to phone, are an inspiration to those of us who work at the College."

Alumni and students, who traveled to Trenton from all over New Jersey to volunteer their time, made phone calls coast-to-coast over a five-day period. Thomas Edison alumni pledges increased by nearly 10 percent, averaging \$44.50, and the total pledged increased by \$3,000 over the previous year.



Atlantic Community College (ACC) was the third NJBDCP affiliate. Attending the signing (left to right): Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost, and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president, both from Thomas Edison State College; and, from ACC: Dr. John May, president, and Dr. Agnes Armao, acting academic dean.



## IN MEMORIAM

# THOMAS C. STRECKEWALD AND THOMAS M. EKLUND: EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE FOR TWO EXTRAORDINARY LIVES



Thomas C. Streckewald

Thomas Edison State College staffers, faculty consultants, alumni and students mourned the passing of two outstanding colleagues, Thomas C. Streckewald, director of Institutional Planning, Research and Outcomes Assessment, and Thomas M. Eklund, assistant dean for Academic Advisement, who died in an automobile accident in March.

***"...Beyond his work and his commitment to whatever tasks he undertook, Tom (Streckewald) was a friend."***

Streckewald had worked for the College since January 1978. He started as a program advisor; was the first director of Development; and for the last 12 years worked as director of Institutional Planning, Research and Outcomes Assessment. He was involved in many community organizations, serving as the president of the Princeton Chamber of Commerce, among other activities. He was also fiercely proud of his family: wife, Cathie, and sons Kevin and Daniel.

Eklund had also worked for the College for 16 years, starting in the Office of the Registrar, moving to senior program advisor, then coordinator of advisors,

before his last position as assistant dean. He also spearheaded the Americans with Disabilities Act effort at the College. Eklund left behind the family of which he was so proud: wife, Barbara, whom he met at the College, and daughter Katherine.

The following are brief excerpts from remarks made by College colleagues at memorial services for Streckewald and Eklund. Gerri Collins, executive assistant to the president, spoke during Streckewald's memorial service; Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost, spoke at a memorial mass for Eklund.

"...Beyond his work and his commitment to whatever tasks he undertook, Tom (Streckewald) was a friend. ... Some of us waited each morning for his newest joke or his latest story about his sons, Kevin and Daniel. Tom's sons became our sons, because he talked about them so much. He was so proud of his family!

"Some of us will remember Tom as a great organizer, whether in the Chamber of Commerce, or planning for an accreditation site visit at the College, or developing a system for reaching out to potential students, or in visually representing college statistics so we could all understand them. I think Tom could probably have organized himself right out of a pickle barrel, and if you don't



Thomas M. Eklund

know whether or not to laugh at that, please do, for we have many examples of when and how Tom organized his way out of tough spots. ...

***"What can we learn from Tom's life? To give ourselves up to caring. To let ourselves go in loving our families, our work, each other"***

"Pull up those wonderful memories of Tom. Let them be your comfort in this time of mourning and in the days to come, for we are privileged just to have known him. To us, he was the epitome of the ideal parent, the ideal husband, the ideal friend and the ideal colleague. ... Tom Streckewald was our friend!"

"Each will remember Tom (Eklund) in their own special way; however, some memories we all share in common. His

humor, his easy-going manner and his unique ability to work with a variety of people are special qualities which come immediately to mind. ...

"One of the qualities best remembered about Tom was his social commitment. Caring about others and the plight of the less fortunate was a very real part of his personal philosophy. ... Social justice wasn't the only form of love Tom found at Thomas Edison. It was at the College that Tom met his wife, Barbara. ... Many of us remember their wedding and the birth of their daughter, Katherine. ...

"What can we learn from Tom's life? To give ourselves up to caring. To let ourselves go in loving our families, our work, each other. To extend a helping hand to someone who needs assistance along the way. To experience real feeling and concern for our larger community: the nation and the world. Tom's life has taught us to set high standards and then to live up to them. It's a tough act to follow, Tom. But for you, we'll give it a try."

## Added convenience for students: College accepts Discover card, credit line

Thomas Edison State College is pleased to be able to offer students two new payment options: acceptance of the Discover card and the Academic Credit Line.

Tuitions and fees can now be charged directly to the Discover card, as well as Visa, MasterCard and American Express. As in the past, a check or money order will also be accepted, as will cash for payments made in person.

Students may now take advantage of the Academic Credit Line offered by Academic Management Services (AMS).

The AMS plan provides a substantial line of credit, from \$2,500 to \$25,000, with affordable monthly payments and an attractive, low interest rate. For information about this option, or to receive an Academic Credit Line application, call AMS at 1-800-722-1300.

All payments must be made in United States dollars, and should be sent to the Office of the Bursar. For information about tuitions and fees, or payment options, contact the Office of the Bursar at (609) 984-1589.



Thomas Edison State College's proposed computer and satellite system were discussed by members of the (former) Department of Higher Education (DHE) and College officials recently at the Capital Equipment Leasing meeting. Seated, from the left representing DHE are: Nancy Stiles, special projects; Nicole Yates, program assistant; Barbara Pratt, executive director, Office of Statewide Budget Issues; and Sarah Kleinman, director, Office of Senior Institutions. Standing, from the left and representing the College are: Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost; and Michael J. Scheiring, vice president and treasurer. Not pictured but integral to the success of the program at the College are: Bill Seaton, director, Center for Directed Independent Adult Learning; and Drew Hopkins, director, Management Information Systems.



# NJ Baccalaureate Degree

(continued from page 1)

Edison will also offer on-site Portfolio Workshops for NJBDP participants interested in earning credit for learning they have acquired outside the classroom. Along with powerful distance technologies like CALL and the On-Line Computer Classroom, and partnerships like NJIN, these innovative methods of earning credit will allow busy associate graduates to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

"It's a step into the 21st century," said Camden College president Dr. Phyllis Della Vecchia during the May signing at that college, located in Blackwood, N.J. "We're using distance learning and computer technology to deliver education."

Marie Cifelli, a 51-year-old student from Winslow, N.J., will be one of the first NJBDP participants from Camden County College. Cifelli, who holds an associate's degree, had been taking courses locally for "enjoyment" since her 1988 graduation while she contemplated completing her degree "traditionally." Then, she heard about Thomas Edison.

"It has a lot of flexibility," she said. "I'll be able to complete my degree more quickly."

In addition to the powerful distance technologies that will connect students to "classrooms" and Thomas Edison, 83 faculty mentors for Guided Study and the On-Line Computer Classroom will be available during evenings and Saturdays for students with questions or concerns. In addition, all 339 consulting faculty from Thomas Edison will also work with the NJBDP program.

Atlantic Community College's president, Dr. John May, pledged his support during the signing at the Mays Landing, N.J., campus in April. "This agreement is a great match between us and Thomas Edison because of our strong involvement with distance learning. It's a great opportunity for the students of Atlantic and Cape May counties."

Atlantic Community Associate Dean Mary Wall added, "This now becomes another option for people who have problems with transportation or swing shifts or babysitting. It certainly takes a very distinct type of learner because they have to be very self-directed."

NJBDP is the response to a task force that was created by the Department of Higher Education. The report, submitted in July 1993, indicated that adult students in South Jersey did not have the same educational advancement opportunities afforded students in North Jersey because they had fewer colleges near them.

Matching the needs of these adult students with a quality higher education fit perfectly into Thomas Edison State College's goals. "This agreement adds a new dimension to our mission of providing diverse and alternative methods of achieving the highest quality collegiate education by mature adults," noted Dr. Pruitt.

Dr. Roland J. Chapdelaine, president of Cumberland County College in Vineland, N.J., was enthusiastic about the "marriage" during the March signing. He noted, "both institutions are nontraditional, and this provides opportunities where students can move on and get their baccalaureate degrees on their own time and schedule."

Officials from Ocean County College (OCC) in Toms River, N.J., concur. "This agreement provides an answer as to when OCC will become a four-year college. You can now earn your baccalaureate degree right here," said Dr.



Officials from Thomas Edison State College and Gloucester County College (GCC) sign the first New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program agreement. Representing Thomas Edison (from left) are Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost; Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of the College; and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president. Representing GCC are: Dr. Richard H. Jones, president; Evelyn Webb, vice president of Student Services; Vanel Perry, vice president of Instruction; and Dr. Gerald Middlemiss, vice president of Lifelong Learning.



Ocean County College (OCC) joins NJBDP. Representing OCC are (from left) John L. Weber, dean of Instruction, and Dr. Milton Shaw, president. Signing on behalf of Thomas Edison is Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost.

Judith Icklan, associate dean of instruction, during the July signing.

The newest signee, County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J., concurs. "We are very excited about the opportunity to participate in your program as it meets the need for affordable upper division work in northwest New Jersey. It is a wonderful opportunity for students who want to continue their education at an affordable price in a convenient location," said Dr. Edward Yaw, president, County College of Morris.

"The response from graduates of the county colleges, as well as residents of the counties the colleges serve, has been tremendous," added Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of Thomas Edison. "Thomas Edison State College looks forward to working closely with the staff and graduates of each county college."

To find out more, call (609) 984-1150, or write to: Office of Admissions Services, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176.

## Master of Science in Management degree program receives approval

The New Jersey Board of Higher Education, at its May 25, 1994, meeting, approved the expansion of Thomas Edison State College's mission to include offering competency-based master-level degree programs through the College's first graduate degree: Master of Science in Management.

The approved master's program, which would represent the first graduate-level offering of any kind by the College, would be competency-based (rather than course-based in the traditional sense) and serve employed adults who have substantive management experience. The program is being designed to capitalize upon Thomas Edison's distinctive educational assessment and delivery systems, particularly its pioneering Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network.

The core curriculum will be composed of a series of learning modules which will be grouped into credit blocks, some of which may be larger than the typical

three semester hour course. The core will contain, in total, 21 semester hours of required coursework and six semester hours of elective coursework. The topics of study will be interdisciplinary, and will address two related domains, one emphasizing issues of organizational environment, structure and behavior, and the second emphasizing the tasks of planning, organizing, leading and controlling.

After completion of the core, students will proceed to the second instructional phase, which is composed of three components: a three-credit week-long residential assessment; a six-credit year long project that culminates in a master's thesis; and a six-credit capstone seminar. Prior to the residential component (Professional Leadership Development I), students will engage in extensive reading and preparation in the area of strategic planning and policy. Once on-site, they will receive additional instruction, and undergo a rigor-

ous assessment of their ability to demonstrate effective leadership styles, strategies and objectives through simulations, exercises, case studies and examinations.

The final program phase will consist of a noncredit, one-week, integrative, residential seminar (Professional Leadership Development II). Students will present their thesis findings to their committees, individual and group projects will be evaluated, and there will be a final assessment of individual skills, with a built-in career guidance element.

For more information, or to be added to the list of inquiries, write to: MSM Program, c/o Office of the Vice President and Provost, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176.

\*Note: On July 1, 1994, the Board of Higher Education was replaced with a Commission of Higher Education.



# College efforts garner awards

During the last year, Thomas Edison State College was the recipient of a number of honors. The Office of Communications and College Relations accepted accolades for the following: National University Continuing Education Association: Gold awards for first place in the nation for the "Foundation Gala" and the "Corporate Appeal Flyer"; Delaware Valley Neographics: The Benjamin Franklin Award of Excellence for Best Brochure for "The Corporate

Brochure"; Astra Awards: best single piece (1 - 3 colors) for the "Corporate Appeal Flyer," JASPER awards: First place for *Invention* and for the media kit for the "Thomas Edison Earned Degree."

The Office of Communications and College Relations is staffed by Linda Holt, director; Nina Malone, assistant director for publications and editor of *Invention*; Linda Soltis, program assistant; and Cindy Warrick, secretary.

# Workshops keep consulting faculty current with College



Consulting faculty, who mentor and evaluate students through the the Division of Academic Affairs at Thomas Edison State College, were kept current with College happenings at seven different workshops held in Trenton. Staff from the Office of Academic Programs, Directed Independent Adult Learning and other areas of the College facilitated each workshop under the direction of Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of the College. Pictured are Thomas Handler of Middlesex County College with Dr. Samone Jolly, coordinator of Liberal Arts Programs, during the Liberal Arts Degree Committee Workshop.

# Thomas Edison and Wang teaming up to serve students

Thomas Edison State College and Wang have joined forces to further enhance student services. The College teamed up with Wang several years ago by installing a variety of Wang's computer capabilities at the College. Wang computers handle transcripts, student records and other data, making it a snap for staff to meet students' needs.

A multivendor environment, the College's technology infrastructure is diverse to support a variety of Wang VS systems and DEC VAXs. According to Michael J. Scheiring, vice president and treasurer, "Most of the student systems have been developed by a very talented MIS unit of 12 professionals. They have been able to develop and integrate a variety of data, voice and video technologies that enable a student to have almost complete flexibility in pursuing a degree. This is the only College in the country where students can apply or graduate on a daily basis."

The College's Office of the Registrar handles more than 15,000 transcripts annually from more than 3,000 U.S. colleges and from hundreds of institutions overseas. "We use a Wang Integrated Imaging System to enter all transcripts for evaluation," Scheiring noted. "Prior to re-engineering the transcript system and implementing Wang imaging, it would take 60 to 90 days to complete a student evaluation, depending on the complexity. Since implementing Wang imaging, we can now turn around student evaluations within a week.

"These systems handle administration, enrollment and registration, and hold all student records and

transcripts," Scheiring continued. "Wang imaging helps alleviate storage requirements for paper-based copies and has provided much faster access to student information."

Wang VS/PACE databases are used to hold student records at Thomas Edison. "Our programmers love it for its ease of use. VS/PACE enables us to quickly change, add, delete and update applications with relative ease and has eliminated the need to recompile thousands of our applications," said Drew Hopkins, director of Management Information Systems. "What sets us apart is that students can transact almost every phase of college life by computer through our CALL (Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning) Network."

According to Hopkins, "Our long-term goals involve moving to UNIX to implement client/server computing. We are currently evaluating transitions to Wang's open software solutions including Wang's OPEN/image, OPEN/office and PACE for Open Systems software, as well as Wang's new OPEN/workflow offering."

Creating a revolution in learning technology, Wang and Thomas Edison have developed an education network that enables someone on a Navy ship in the middle of the ocean or a handicapped person who can't leave the house to interact with students and faculty members. The College's innovative use of imaging technology and solutions has increased productivity levels and enhanced its capacity to help adults throughout the world achieve their dreams of completing a college degree.



Caldwell College hosted the spring meeting of the Statewide Testing and Assessment Center. Fourteen higher education institutions were represented and 29 guests were present. The day's discussion focused on research regarding adult students. Three panel members participated: Dr. Sonja Eveslage, associate vice president for Public Service at Thomas Edison State College, shared her research on "Learning Connections: Feedback from the Workplace about Graduate Performance"; Dr. Iris Saltiel, director of Corporate Programs at Thomas Edison State College, delivered her research on "Support Systems: A Comparison of Factors That Influence Adult Doctoral and Undergraduate Students Who Are Employed Full-Time"; and Dr. Denise Hart, director of External Degree Programs at Fairleigh Dickinson University, presented her research on "Student and Faculty Perceptions of the Portfolio Process."

# SAVE THE DATE!

WHO WILL WIN THE FIRST SPIRIT OF EDISON AWARDS?

FIND OUT AT THE THIRD ANNUAL GALA ON DEC. 3, 1994.

THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION WILL HONOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE.

SEE PAGE SIX FOR DETAILS.



## Bowman appointed to national board

Theresa A. Bowman, a longtime resident of Trenton and senior program advisor of Human Services Degree Programs at Thomas Edison, began her first full term as secretary for the National Organization for Human Services Education (NOHSE) this past fall. As secretary, Bowman is a member of the NOHSE Board of Directors and the Executive



Theresa A. Bowman

Committee. A supporter of the organization since 1987, she has been both a conference participant and frequent presenter.

Bowman was attracted to NOHSE because of its focus and its membership, which she describes as warm and friendly. The organization was founded in 1975 at the Fifth Annual Faculty Development Conference of the Southern Regional Education Board. It grew out of the perceived need by professional care providers and legislators for improved methods of service delivery. NOHSE's focus includes supporting and promoting improvements in direct service, public education, program development, planning and evaluation, administration and public policy. The member-

ship is composed of educators, practitioners and students.

Bowman came to Thomas Edison in 1983. Prior to joining the College, Bowman was assistant director of Grants and coordinator of Graduate Off-Campus Programs at Trenton State College in Ewing Township, N.J. Previously, she held positions as assistant to the dean for Academic Affairs at Mercer County Community College in W. Windsor, N.J., and administrative assistant to the dean for the School of Educational and Community Services at Montclair State College in Upper Montclair, N.J. She also taught biology at Steinert High School in Hamilton Township, N.J., and Piscataway High School in Piscataway, N.J. Bowman, who has done post-graduate studies in higher adult education/student personnel administration at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, holds a Master of Arts in student personnel services and a Bachelor of Arts in science/biology from Montclair State College.

Bowman's most recent presentation was at the 1994 Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Consortium for Human Services in Baltimore, Md. She presented highlights of her research on the social services and social services administration students in her degree program at Thomas Edison titled, "Whose Responsibility is it Anyway? Responding to Cultural Diversity in the Social Services Profession—An Update." The paper focused on two surveys of this population, conducted in 1989 and 1994. The responses were compared to determine whether the students had grown in their multicultural awareness and preparation. She is also slated to present the same paper at the 1994 NOHSE Conference Oct. 6-8 in Tucson, Ariz. Bowman will be heading a round table discussion.

## Success a tradition at National Institute



Byron Wright

As the originator of this international conference for practitioners and aspiring practitioners in prior learning assessment, Thomas Edison State College continues to add groundbreaking features to its annual National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning. This year's event featured two concurrent electronic

conferences for participants: one on subjectivity in experiential learning assessment, the other on currency of student learning. Attendees from as far as Puerto Rico, Montreal and Vancouver, B.C., and as close as New York and New Jersey, benefited from and enjoyed the three-day conference in Princeton, N.J.

## College programs making headlines

by Linda Soltis

The College has received excellent media coverage this year for the Computer Assisted Lifelong Learning (CALL) Network and the New Jersey Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program (NJBDCP), as well as coverage of a number of other College programs and events.

*The New York Times* called Thomas Edison State College "one of the brighter stars of higher learning" in an article about the CALL Network on Feb. 21. Articles highlighting the CALL Network also appeared in *The Times* (Trenton), the *Sunday World-Herald* (Omaha, Neb.) and the *Korean Times* (New York).

A story about the College and the CALL Network was the lead, page-one article in the June 3 issue of *Link Up*, a newsmagazine geared toward users of online services for personal, business and educational use. Information about the College and the CALL Network was featured in the nationally syndicated "Careers" column by Joyce Lain Kennedy which was released for publication April 10.

A major feature about the College and the CALL Network appeared on page one of the South Jersey section of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* with a color photo. The article also referenced the NJBDCP agreement signing at Gloucester County College.

A page one story on the NJBDCP signing appeared in the *Gloucester County Times*. *The Newark Star-Ledger* ran a page one story with a photo of Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, and Dr. Richard Jones, president of Gloucester County College. The *Camden Courier-Post* story appeared on page two of its South Jersey section. Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of the College, was interviewed about our partnership with county colleges during a segment on "Inside New Jersey" (Channel 13) April 11. An interview on the NJBDCP program was aired on WHWH-AM radio news. Articles highlighting the NJBDCP sign-

ing at Cumberland County College appeared on page one of the *Atlantic City Press* and in *The Daily Journal* (Vineland). The *Atlantic City Press* also ran a story about our partnership with Atlantic County College on May 1 and *Trend of Voorhees* printed an article about the NJBDCP signing at Camden County College on May 20.

The College's portfolio and testing programs were highlighted in the *New York Daily News*' Summer Education Guide. Dr. Debra Dagavarian, director of Testing and Assessment, provided information to the News reporter for this article. The *Daily News* has the third largest circulation of any newspaper in the United States (behind the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*).

In May, Michael J. Scheiring, vice president and treasurer, and Mark Gordon, director of Special Services assigned to the Healthcare Information Network and Technologies (HINT) project, appeared on Sen. Dick LaRossa's cable TV program, "Capitol District Report." The subject was the College's partnership with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) on ways to reduce healthcare costs through technologies. The program was broadcast in Trenton and surrounding townships in Mercer County.

A short news item about the College's HINT project was aired on WHWH 1350 AM during the noon news and periodically throughout the day on May 3. HINT was named one of six national demonstration projects by the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI), a task force of business and governmental leaders.

The College, and how it employs technology in providing distance learning to its students, was featured in a full-page story in Wang Laboratories' May issue of *Customer Connection*, which has a distribution of 40,000 businesses and organizations worldwide.

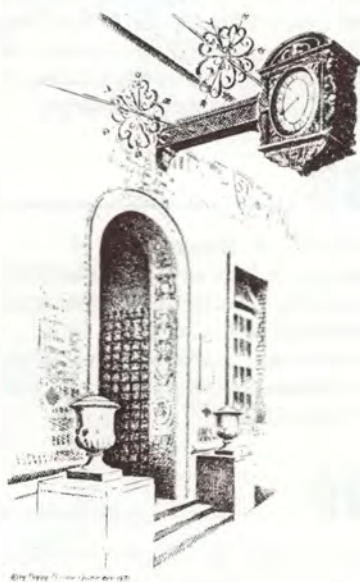
In addition, the College was featured on Mercer County channel 25 and South Korean public television.

## Rate your estate plan: Estate and financial planning ideas

Many things can happen to suddenly make your carefully designed estate plan fall out of date: changes in the lives of your beneficiaries; changes in the nature or value of your property; changes in tax laws; and, most importantly, changes in your wishes. To help make sure that your estate plan is still up-to-date with your needs, Thomas Edison State College is offering a simple checklist for rating your estate plan.

"Rate Your Estate Plan" asks you to consider whether changes have taken place with regard to any of the following so your estate plan can be amended accordingly: marital status, beneficiaries, providing for the care of a minor child, making a gift of money or property, remembering organizations in your will and so much more. It is important to remember that with estate planning, procrastination can result in your wishes not being carried out for those whom you love and support.

Write for a free brochure today and learn the "three Rs" of estate planning—"Rights, Responsibility and Resources": Office of Development, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176.





## Spirit of Edison awards highlight Gala

The first Spirit of Edison awards will be presented this year to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Thomas Edison State College. The awards will be presented on Dec. 3 at the Thomas Edison State College Foundation Gala, an elegant evening at the sumptuous Marriott Forrestal Village in Princeton, N.J.

Guests will enjoy fine dining and a gracious atmosphere at one of central New Jersey's most beautiful

venues. Music and dancing will be provided by the popular band Trilogy. The evening will also commemorate the anniversary of Thomas Alva Edison's invention of the motion picture camera one hundred years ago.

Reserve your space now for this glamorous celebration by contacting the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, Inc., 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176, (609) 984-1588.

## Alumni...your pride is showing

Complete your circle of success by proudly wearing a Thomas Edison State College ring. A symbol of your achievement, your college ring will serve as a constant reminder of the successful completion of your degree.

For more information or to receive an order form, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898, (201) 877-1450.

## Get involved in a Regional Meeting near you

When Ondina Jeffers '82 became vice president for Programs of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, she outlined her plan to develop "focus" groups to enable alumni and students to meet and discuss issues of interest to them, as well as to learn about recent happenings at the College. This was the beginning of the regional breakfast meetings sponsored by the Alumni Association. Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of the College, has had breakfast with the guests at the College in Trenton, in Cherry Hill, N.J. and in East Hanover, N.J. He was

joined by Dr. Ruth McKeefery, dean of the College, and Dr. Jerry Ice, vice president and provost, to discuss current College happenings such as the Masters of Science in Management (MSM) degree. Alumni and students had the chance to mix and mingle with staff and each other during these casual events. If you are interested in working on or hosting an event, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (201) 877-1450, or write to them at Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898.

## Tote your loyalty with you

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association is proud to offer a College tote bag emblazoned with the College logo. At 16" x 12" x 5-1/4", and sporting an extra pocket on the front, this all-purpose, attractive burgundy and white bag is roomy enough to hold diapers, dissertations or documents! To order this elegant but inexpensive bag,

send a check for \$12 (per bag) made payable to the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association to Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898. Note: Alumni Association proceeds help support the priorities of Thomas Edison State College.

## Watch out

Own a piece of Thomas Edison's timeline: an official College watch! Keep an eye on the mailbox for an announcement about the official College watch program. This fine-quality Seiko watch will feature the College's name and logo, and will surely become a treasured part of your wardrobe. The sale is being coordinated by the Alumni Association. Be sure to "watch" for the colorful announcement coming in September!

## Commencement slated for Oct. 23

The 22nd annual Commencement of Thomas Edison State College will be held Sunday, Oct. 23, 1994. This year's event will be held at the Shriner's Hall on N. Clinton Avenue and Wall Street in Trenton.

Each year, hundreds of graduates and their families, including children and

grandchildren rooting for mom, dad and grandparents, gather in Trenton to celebrate a dream fulfilled.

Alumni are also a traditional part of the College's annual Commencement. Alumni volunteers participate by greeting and assisting the graduates as they gown-up for the ceremony, helping

with the sale of College and alumni souvenirs, and answering questions about the Alumni Association.

Interested alumni can contact the Office of Alumni Affairs for more information: 153 Halsey St., 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898, (201) 877-1450.

## Students—we want you!

You don't need to be a graduate to get involved! Thomas Edison State College students are invited to participate in a number of Alumni Association activities, offering students the chance to

meet and greet other members of the Thomas Edison family.

Opportunities open to students are the Alumni Annual Fund, Commencement and Regional Breakfast Meeting com-

mittees. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, Thomas Edison State College, 153 Halsey St., 5th Floor, Newark, N.J. 07102-2898, (201) 877-1450.

## APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

### '77

Ted F. Freeman, Jr., (B.A.) of Spring Lake, N.J., graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. The 11-week program provides advanced investigative, management and fitness training. Freeman, who is undersheriff in the Office of the Sheriff County of Monmouth, is head of the civil division and special projects unit.

### '81

George C. Montee, P.A.-C (A.A.) of Fort Fairfield, Maine, was commended by the commander of Task Force Dirigo while he was deployed in Guatemala, Central America, supporting Fuerzas Caminos-94. First Lieutenant Montee is a physician assistant with the Maine Army National Guard. He received special recognition for his performance and quick medical response during the emergency stabiliza-

tion of a critically injured United States citizen.

Kirk Mahoney (B.A.) of Houston, Texas, won an award in the Interactive Advertising & Media Award competition sponsored by Advertising Age. Mahoney won in the category "Informational CD-ROM or Fixed Media" for his single-floppy-disc demo that uses interactive multimedia to sell the approach and his services. Mahoney is an independent interactive multimedia development consultant who specializes in translating companies' high-tech messages into interactive multimedia for marketing and training.

### '84

Mark A. Platt (B.A.) of Idaho Falls, Idaho, was awarded the Master of Business Administration degree from the Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho. He was also inducted into Beta

Gamma Sigma, the National Honor Society for Collegiate Schools of Business. Platt is employed as a management consultant by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) of San Diego, Calif., and is currently on contract at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.

### '88

Christine E. R. Holzer (B.A.) of Randolph, N.J., is working on her Ph.D. in creativity and communications at the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio. Holzer writes, "...this would not be possible without first completing my degree at Thomas Edison!"

### '89

Arthur J. Billiu (BSBA) of New Orleans, La., has been accepted into membership

in the *Who's Who Worldwide Registry*, effective with the 1994-95 edition. He writes, "Thomas Edison State College was instrumental in enabling me combine 20 years of night school (210 hrs.) while in the United States Armed Forces into a workable degree that is a hallmark of excellence and determination, opening doors of continued opportunity. I am proud to be a member of the Thomas Edison State College family of scholars."

Lea Bayer Rapp (B.A.) of Sayreville, N.J., has received two journalism awards from by the New Jersey Press Women for 1994. Her work on real estate for *New Jersey Monthly* magazine took a first-place award. She received another award for her work on health issues for *The Star-Ledger*. Her real estate article also took first place in the National Press Women competition. Rapp, who was a consultant to the 25th annual N.J. Writers Conference held at the New Jersey Insti-

(continued on back page)



# Highlights

## One of our best...

## Michael Ferraro '91 and Patricia Slaymaker '90

by Linda Soltis

...is featuring two of our best. Thomas Edison State College is honored to count among its alumni such talented and dedicated individuals as Michael Ferraro '91 and Patricia Slaymaker '90. As co-chairs of the Regional Meetings Committee, Ferraro and Slaymaker are serving the College by spreading the word about a concept they believe in.

Michael Ferraro has been around the world, yet he found a College he could believe in right in his own back yard.

In addition to his full-time position as an integration engineer with Sencor Corp. in Ft. Monmouth, N.J., Ferraro is a flight engineer with the Air Force Reserves. He has flown C141s in humanitarian, training and combat missions, including missions during Desert Storm. He has been to Greece,

**Michael Ferraro has been around the world, yet he found a College he could believe in right in his own back yard.**

too, which is his favorite spot. During his four years of active duty, he was stationed in the Netherlands, a central location that gave him the opportunity to see much of Europe. In fact, he said, he would go to Belgium once a month just to get waffles. But it was right here in New Jersey that he was able to realize one of his educational goals.

Ferraro came to Thomas Edison in 1989 on the recommendation of the education officer at McGuire Air Force Base. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology degree in aviation in 1991. Ferraro began working with the Alumni Association as a member of the Nominating Committee over a year ago. But his interest in networking pushed him in the direction of the Regional Meetings Committee.

"My goal is to progressively increase the alumni/student attendance level at each regional meeting in various locations around New Jersey by developing and expanding the alumni/student network, regional meeting program activities and social events," Ferraro explained. "And, in addition, to create alumni chapter locations throughout New Jersey and the country that are supported by the Alumni Association and the College."

Currently, Ferraro is pursuing his masters in avionic science at Embry Riddle in Dayton Beach, Fla., through the extension program offered at McGuire. Although his studies, job and reserve activities keep him busy, Ferraro still finds the time to work with Big Brothers of Monmouth County. He usually takes a couple of kids on outings to the circus or to ball

games. A resident of Bradley Beach, N.J., Ferraro also enjoys getting involved with community-sponsored bike races and five-mile runs.

Despite being actively involved in a number of activities, Ferraro admits that

Slaymaker, who has held a number of positions with Nabisco Foods Group in East Hanover, N.J., since 1984, is currently senior manager Security and Change Management. She is responsible for information security, audit

evaluation done and began my journey to a bachelor degree in business administration."

Slaymaker, who changed her career focus from the pure technical to planning and administrative pursuits, decided to expand her knowledge to the human and organizational aspects of the corporation. In that vein, she has done some master's work in organizational management and is hoping to complete her master's degree when Thomas Edison's Master of Science in Management degree is offered.



Michael Ferraro '91 and Patricia Slaymaker '90 share a moment together during a recent Alumni Association function.

**Michael and Pat didn't wait to "see what it's like" to serve on the Alumni Association Board, they became involved immediately.**

A resident of Randolph, N.J., Slaymaker has two daughters. Katherine lives in St. Petersburg, Fla. with her husband Joseph, and Laura lives in Hoboken, N.J. Slaymaker's hobbies and interests focus on the arts. She has been involved with local theater groups doing costume design and creation, and she loves photography (especially travel photography), needle work and sewing. In addition to her artistic abilities, Slaymaker served in various management capacities over a 10-year period with GUIDE IBM User Association.

It is obvious that Slaymaker has the remarkable ability to accomplish the goals she sets for herself and for the organizations with which she is involved. The Alumni Association is one of the lucky beneficiaries.

"I can remember back just about a year ago when Michael and Pat were considering positions on the Alumni Association Board of Directors," said Annette Singer, director of Alumni Affairs. "They both made it clear that they were keenly interested in developing regional meetings. Although they each expressed an interest in reaching out to different areas—Fort Monmouth and BSAST graduates and students for Michael, and north Jersey and "how-to" workshops for women seeking advancement for Pat—they joined the committee and agreed to be co-chairpersons.

"Alumni and students recently had a chance to see a perfect example of their teamwork at a regional meeting held in East Hanover, N.J., at Nabisco," Singer added. "They both have a way of bringing people in. Michael and Pat didn't wait to "see what it's like" to serve on the Alumni Association Board, they became involved immediately. They are now planning the next event—probably in the Ft. Monmouth area of New Jersey."

his work with the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association and the Regional Meetings Committee is right up there at the top of his list.

"Being a member of the alumni board has allowed me the opportunity to serve with extremely talented and motivated professionals," Ferraro said. "I feel privileged to be a part of an association that is enthusiastic, goal-oriented and people-minded. I look forward to the challenges that face the Alumni Association, and I'm confident that our contribution will bring great achievements well into the 21st century." Patricia Slaymaker loves a challenge.

**"Being a member of the alumni board has allowed me the opportunity to serve with extremely talented and motivated professionals," Ferraro said.**

One challenge was to complete her education while juggling career, family and volunteer activities. Now the challenge is to work with the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association to make regional meetings "self sufficient and to provide an avenue for local alumni and students to network as well as to keep current on critical social and economic issues."

management and change management on mainframe, mid-range and personal computer platforms. Slaymaker initiated the Quality Service Process, which is providing better service to

**"Here was an ideal opportunity to complete my college degree, which I had thought hopeless given my schedule of work and family."**

the divisional customers of Nabisco's Computer Utility, and realized a \$4 million budget reduction in its first year under her leadership. Another of her accomplishments at Nabisco has been to enhance the educational program for the entire staff of the Computer Utility by introducing a variety of inhouse educational media and expanding educational offerings.

Her own educational odyssey led to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in data processing from Thomas Edison in 1990.

"I was taking courses at a county college when a classmate told me about Thomas Edison State College," Slaymaker explained. "Here was an ideal opportunity to complete my college degree, which I had thought hopeless given my schedule of work and family. I enrolled immediately, had an



# APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE *continued*

tute of Technology, is also working on one book—an update of her book previously published by Sterling in 1981 titled “Put Your Kid in Show Biz”—and has completed work as a contributing writer on another, “Life’s Little Destruction Book” part II. She taught a course on “Writing for Publications” in June at Seton Hall University.

## '90

Donald M. Peace, Jr., (BSAST) of Anderson, S.C., received his Master of Science in Administration with a concentration in health services administration from Central Michigan University. Peace is a registered respiratory therapist at Anderson Area Medical Center, Anderson, S.C., where he has been employed for 10 years. As assistant director of Respiratory Therapy, he is responsible for management of the Critical Care Units, coordination of a tutorial center for the training of respiratory therapy practitioners, and clinical consultation to the physician and nursing staffs regarding matters of pulmonary medicine. Peace plans to continue his education by completing a doctorate in Public Health.

## '92

Navy Lt. Mark C. Chayer (BSBA) of Sutton, Vt., recently received the Navy Commendation Medal. Chayer was cited for meritorious service while serving with Commander, Submarine Group Two, Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, Conn., where he is currently assigned. There, Chayer brought about exceptionally high levels of communica-

tions readiness among the units assigned to the squadron. In addition, Chayer wrote communications and security guides for pre-deployment training as well as extensive communications equipment checklists. These each played a key role in the successful deployments of a submarine rescue vessel and 12 fully ready submarines on missions of great importance to U.S. national security. The award, presented during formal ceremonies, is official recognition for Chayer's professional abilities, initiative and dedication to duty.

## '93

Drunell Levison (B.A.) of New York, N.Y., was accepted to New York University's School of Education to pursue a master's degree in Decorative Arts, with a specialization in folk art studies. She has also been awarded a Dean's Opportunity Scholarship to aid in this full-time pursuit.

Michael V. Scalingi (BSAST) of Springfield, Va., has been admitted to the Graduate School of Architecture of the University of Maryland at College Park. Scalingi writes, “Having received that degree [from Thomas Edison], I decided to pursue a goal I thought not possible until now. Scrapping plans to work towards a master's in Nuclear Engineering (I really never was all that interested in engineering anyway), I put together a portfolio and applied to the Graduate School of Architecture at UMCP. Now, I'll be able to study a field I've always been interested in, while working in another field that I have the most experience in (UMCP's Nuclear Engineering Department).”

Esten B. Leinster, Jr., (A.A.) of Whitehouse, N.J., was recently promoted to sergeant major in the position of chief training NCO for the 79th U.S. Army Reserve Command, located at Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Willow Grove, Pa. Leinster writes, “This is definitely the greatest opportunity for me to help others in their military careers through my many years of experience in the field of education/training. I feel very strongly that having a college degree gave me an edge in this very rigorous selection process, and I want to thank Thomas Edison State College for extending this opportunity to me.”

Therese M. Holmes (BSBA) of Arton, Ala., recently earned the CPA designation, passing all parts of the CPA exam on the first try. Holmes, who graduated in July 1993, writes, “Thanks to Thomas Edison State College I was able to compile the credits from five different colleges, from military training and from two tests I took

through Thomas Edison's testing service to complete my degree. This allowed me to graduate in time to have a baby (my first) in August 1993 and sit for the CPA exam in November 1993.”

## '94

Navy Ensign Kenneth D. Smith (B.S.) of Tallapoosa, Ga., recently completed the Officer Indoctrination School at the Naval Education and Training Center in Newport, R.I. At the school, students are prepared for duty in the naval staff field corresponding to their civilian profession. The first five weeks of studies include naval history and traditions, personnel administration, military law, close-order drill and other general military subjects. During the final week, studies concentrate on the application of civilian professions within the Navy. Smith joined the Navy in January 1989.

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 St., 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(s) earned and year of graduation. Rest assured that your news will be published as soon as possible; however, due to our quarterly publication schedule, it may not appear in the next issue.

If you have comments about *Invention*, please address them to the managing editor, *Invention*, Thomas Edison State College, 101 W. State St., Trenton, N.J. 08608-1176. Suggestions for future articles are welcomed!



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*Invention is produced quarterly for the students, alumni and friends of Thomas Edison State College. Please direct any inquiries to the managing editor at (609) 984-4839.*

DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT

PRESIDENT

DR. NATALE S. CALIENDO, JR.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LINDA HOLT

DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
COLLEGE RELATIONS

NINA MALONE

MANAGING EDITOR

LINDA SOLTIS

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ANNETTE SINGER

DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AFFAIRS

CINDY WARRICK

SECRETARY, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
COLLEGE RELATIONS

JANE COULT '86

PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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