

Summer 2000

Invention

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE



Highlights in this Issue:

Historic Townhouse
Renovation

New Degree Offerings
Available

Phonathon Update

Meet One of Our Best
(Alumni Profile)

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On the cover:
The exterior façade of our
new townhouses has
been renovated to its
original style. See page 4
for complete story.



Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

This is a very exciting time at Thomas Edison State College. Our townhouse renovation project is complete, resulting in a remarkable addition to our College campus; we have several new degree offerings from the associate level all the way to the graduate level available to students; and our annual Phonathon was one of the most successful ever. As you've probably noticed, we've added yet another accomplishment to our list of achievements—the complete revision and redesign of *Invention*, the College's news magazine for alumni, students and friends of the College.

This news magazine will be published periodically to keep our alumni community, students and friends of Thomas Edison State College abreast of news, happenings and special events in and around the College. As always, *Invention* will contain an alumni updates section called "Applause, Applause." This feature provides our graduates a forum to share good news with fellow alumni and College staff.

At Thomas Edison State College, we understand and embrace the idea that no two adult students are exactly alike. No two students have the same schedules, the same family obligations, the same work experience, or the same responsibilities outside of their educational goals. Despite these differences, however, our adult students tell us they have a sense of community with their fellow students and with the College as a whole. I hope that through the efforts of our alumni and the publication of *Invention*, this spirit of "family" will continue long after graduation day.

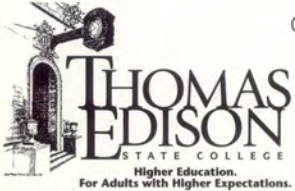
Please enjoy the premier issue of our revised news magazine. If you have any suggestions for upcoming issues, don't hesitate to let us know. Simply e-mail your ideas to the Alumni Affairs Office at alumni@tesc.edu, or call the office at (609) 633-8592.

These are remarkable times at Thomas Edison State College, and there is much in which we can take pride. One of our greatest assets is our dynamic community of College students, alumni and friends. I thank you for your ongoing support of this fine organization, and I look forward to its future with confidence and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt".

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President



Meet One of Our **Best...**

Joseph P. McNamara '97 (BA), '99 (MSM)

If there is one thing that Joseph P. McNamara is proud to do, it is follow in his father's footsteps. And McNamara will be the first to tell you that he has learned a lot from his dad, John F. McNamara. So when his father—who holds two degrees from Thomas Edison State College—recommended the College to his son, McNamara listened.

"Thomas Edison State College was right for me because I was an adult student who had many credits from a number of other colleges," explained the younger McNamara, who also holds two degrees from the College. "Thomas Edison State College was able to put them together for a degree program that worked for me. The College offers the flexibility of working at your own pace in a fully accredited program and the opportunity to pursue a wide variety of methods for earning credits."

Using testing as well as the credits he transferred from other accredited institutions, McNamara earned his Bachelor of Arts degree

in social science/history in 1997. After receiving his undergraduate degree, McNamara decided that he wanted to continue his educational pursuits and enrolled in Thomas Edison State College's Master of Science in Management (MSM) program.

Explaining why the MSM component of his education worked so well for him, McNamara said, "The program offered me the flexibility of an on-line classroom that had a backbone and structure to it. It was a set, two-year program with other full time career professionals like myself. The cohort that you start with is the cohort that you finish with, and that added a lot of value and support for me. While working with other classmates in the program, you soon begin to realize that they are working just as hard as you in achieving their goal of quality education."

McNamara is a credit supervisor for Castrol Consumer North American in Wayne, N.J., a subsidiary of Burmah Castrol PLC. He

has over eight years of experience in credit analysis, management and customer relations. As credit supervisor for Castrol, he is responsible for financial analysis of prospective new accounts, oversight of collection policies and preparation of data reports for the organization that employs 650 people.

"With my BA and MSM degrees I was able to change companies and move up the corporate ladder," McNamara explained. "I believe that the skills that I learned from Thomas Edison State College show through in my work daily. Recently, I was promoted at my company and, without a doubt, it was because of my experience and education that I received at the College. I talk about Thomas Edison State College every chance I get and, in fact, I have referred a number of friends to the school."

McNamara lives in Newtown, Pa., with his wife Teresa and their 2-year-old daughter Kristen. He noted that the "flexibility of the MSM program allowed me to spend quality time with my wife and my daughter, who was born while I was in my first semester in the MSM program."

Currently an associate director on the Alumni Association Board, Joseph McNamara revealed that he aspires "to hold a higher office in the future. I am very proud of the quality education Thomas Edison State College was able to offer to me. I want to give back to the College so I try to pass the word along to others of the school and help to motivate and empower other students and alumni to do the same."

That's just another example of the lessons McNamara has learned from his father, who was an active member of the Alumni Association as a student mentor from 1988 to

New Degree Offerings Expand Options Available to Students

From Associate to Graduate Level

Since its inception nearly 30 years ago, Thomas Edison State College has been known for the variety of high-quality, flexible learning options it has made available to students to earn college credits. While those many credit earning options are the hallmark of the College's history, the newest chapter in its chronicle may just be the addition of two new degrees and a specialized graduate program available to students, providing even more options to meet educational goals.

New Associate Degree Debuts

Not long ago, Thomas Edison State College announced the addition of an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree designed to meet the educational and professional needs of mid-career adults in a wide variety of applied fields.

The AAS Degree was originally created to serve the needs of military personnel who have training and education in occupations that parallel the options offered within the degree including Administrative Studies, Applied Electronic Studies, Mechanics and Maintenance, Occupational Studies and Applied Health Studies. However, the degree is also applicable to non-military individuals who have earned college credits in a traditional

college classroom in an applied subject area. Individuals who have completed courses or examinations reviewed by the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service such as the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (NIASE), Ultrasound Diagnostic School, the Computer Learning Center or the Hohokus School of Secretarial and Medical Sciences also will be served by the new AAS degree.

Within each of these options, students will complete requirements in a specialty area corresponding to the credits they have earned, such as Paramedic Studies or Dental Laboratory Studies within Applied Health Studies, or Personnel Studies or Storekeeper within Administrative Studies. The program is designed to include 21 semester hours of general education, 21 semester hours in a major area of study and 18 semester hours of free electives. Many of the credits earned through the AAS degree will be considered for transfer into a Thomas Edison State College bachelor's degree.

Project Management Track Available

For more than four years, Thomas Edison State College has offered its on-line Master of Science in Management

(MSM) degree, which has become one of the most highly sought-after degrees in business today. Now, a specialized track in Project Management is available within the MSM degree.

The new MSM Project Management track will help students develop sophisticated project management skills by integrating specialized knowledge within the context of management and leadership.

Thomas Edison State College launched its MSM degree in 1996, and to date 183 students have been admitted to the program, which now has 48 graduates. The degree, offered at a distance, was developed with the guidance of corporate leaders and focuses on management, leadership and building the competencies needed in today's ever-changing, technologically advanced work environment. The degree can be completed in as little as 20 months.

In general, the MSM program is designed for employed adults with professional responsibilities in management, and for those in technical and administrative positions. The specialized project management track—the first such specialized track to be offered within the general MSM program—is designed for managers with project management responsibilities.

Because the MSM degree is offered entirely on-line, there is no scheduled time in which a student must be present in a classroom for instruction. Students study when and where it is convenient for them. With the exception of two weekend sessions held at the beginning and the end of the program, there is no residency requirement to complete the

degree, allowing a student anywhere in the world to earn Thomas Edison State College's MSM degree.

The new Project Management track is offered in partnership with the Hampton Group, Inc., an international provider of project management education.

Master of Arts Degree Launched

Possibly the most exciting addition to Thomas Edison State College's roster of degree programs available is the newly created Master of Arts in Professional Studies (MAPS) degree, a rigorous degree program focusing on the liberal arts designed to explore multi-cultural perspectives, professional values and problem solving tactics. The degree will be available to students in September 2000.

The MAPS degree is intended for working professionals interested in broadening and deepening their professional skills, knowledge and competencies through an extensive exposure to the liberal arts. Similar to the MSM degree, this 36-credit program is offered entirely on-line allowing students to study wherever is convenient for them without the need to travel to the College's campus in Trenton, N.J.

The MAPS degree allows students to use tools drawn from the study of liberal arts to help examine and address real-life issues confronting working professionals, as well as sharpen professional skills, knowledge and competencies as they pertain to effective leadership while gaining a deeper appreciation of the arts, sciences and humanities.



Joseph P. McNamara (left) shares a special post-graduation moment with his father, John F. McNamara. Both father and son are two-time graduates of the College. Joseph was awarded a Master of Science in Management degree at the College's commencement ceremonies in 1999, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1997. John holds Associate in Science in Management and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees from Thomas Edison State College.

Continued on page 7

Continued on back inside cover

Historic Townhouses Mark Next Phase of Expansion at Thomas Edison State College

Walking along West State Street in Trenton, N.J., one passes the historic state capitol building and annex—home of the New Jersey state legislature and senate, the New Jersey State Museum and the New Jersey State Library. Anchoring these significant structures is Thomas Edison State College's historic Kelsey Building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Until recently, five neglected 19th century townhouses adjacent to the Kelsey Building were a gloomy site on one of the state's most

important avenues. That was until Thomas Edison State College embarked on a massive renovation project to restore these structures to their original architectural structure and style. Two years in the making, the five townhouses have now been painstakingly and meticulously transformed to their original style. No detail has been overlooked and the spectacular transformation now stands as a proud example of the use of modern architectural technology in the service of

heritage preservation. Architect David Gibson of DFGibson Architects, P.C., Newark, N.J., is responsible for the restoration. Construction of the townhouses began with a groundbreaking ceremony in August 1997. After that, the structures were gutted right down to the wall studs so that new electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling systems could be installed. Two of the townhouses were originally part of the same mansion, but were separated by a common wall during later renovations. The College has now readjoined the rooms on the first floor of this building which include ten-foot high and five-foot wide pocket doors that slide into the walls when not in use. During the construction it became evident that portions of the exterior brick façade of the townhouse buildings had been destroyed over the years. In order to restore the façade as closely as possible to the way it looked when it was originally built, a mason skilled in historical matching and replacements was brought in to do the work. Replicated bricks were cast to match the existing original brick.



In addition, modern window technology was employed in order to replicate as closely as possible the window style of the original buildings. One of the most exciting discoveries uncovered during archaeological excavations in advance of construction, was the site where the first iron plating mill in New Jersey and one of the earliest in America was unearthed. Built by Isaac Harrow between 1731 and 1734, it is believed Colonial settlers used the plating mill to produce a wide range of iron tools and implements for sale in Trenton and Philadelphia by heating and hammering bars of iron into thin sheets. The mill used the power from the water flowing in the Petty's Run stream (now flowing underground) to drive a waterwheel. The waterwheel in turn would have powered a bellows and one or more large hammers. The massive hammers were lifted by projections on the shaft from the waterwheel, and beat the iron into plates on large anvils. Artifacts such as pottery, ammunition and Indian arrowheads found during excavation of the plating mill have been turned over to the New Jersey State Museum for evaluation and possible exhibit. This historical restoration project, which also features attractive nineteenth-century fireplaces made of marble imported from Turkey and one of the finest examples of restored Greek revival architecture, now houses the College's new electronic classrooms, computer labs and educational conference and training rooms,



as well as the College's newly designed distance learning support, development and delivery facilities. A new 28,000 square-foot addition was also built on the site of a parking lot behind the townhouses. This addition is joined to the townhouses with a 40-foot high atrium, called the Great Hall. The new space is wired for modern data and communication transmissions including a master control room allowing the College to connect electronically with other colleges and universities around the world. Recently, the College received two awards for its townhouse renovation. In April, Thomas Edison State College received the Grand Award for Excellence

from Downtown New Jersey at their annual Excellence in Downtown Awards for the year 2000. In May the College was honored by Trenton's Landmarks Commission for Historic Preservation at their annual awards ceremony. The College was awarded an Institutional Preservation Award for its townhouse restoration. The new townhouse facility has successfully been transformed to stand proud next to its noteworthy neighbors on West State Street. The expansion is just one more example of the College's efforts to provide the highest quality educational opportunities to adults within New Jersey, the United States and beyond.



“Applause, Applause”

Gary Kronenberger
BA 1993
Gary was named 1999 Police Officer of the Year for the Keansburg, N.J. Police Department. He was assigned as a detective in that department in August 1998.

Michael Mitchell
BA 1994
Michael married Michelle Gaskey on April 25 and will complete his studies for the Master of Library Science degree at North Carolina Central University this August.

Bobby Flack
BSBA 1995
Bobby has just completed his MBA degree from Hood College in Maryland.

Jeffrey Scott Pascale
BA 1995
Jeffrey passed away prematurely at the age of 42. His parents, Elmo and Ella Pascale, say Jeffrey was very happy to have been a student at Thomas Edison State College and was appreciative to the College "for providing one of the significant moments in his lifetime."

Emmanuel A. Appiah
BSBA 1997
Emmanuel completed his MBA degree in May 2000 from Central Missouri State University.

Robert Ochess
BSHS 1997
Robert has recently completed his Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J.

Nancy Arduengo
BSBA 1998
Nancy completed her master's degree in Organization Development at the American University in Washington D.C. in December 1999. She has been accepted into the Doctoral program in Human Development at the Fielding Institute in Santa Barbara, California.

Thomas Patrick Bradley
BS 1998
Thomas graduated from Colorado Christian University in December 1999 with a Master of Arts in counseling.

Marita Lawler
BSHS 1998
Marita graduated from Capella University with a master's degree in Human Services in 1998 and is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Addiction Psychology from the same university.

Paul Konschak
BSHS 1999
Paul has graduated from Seton Hall University with a masters degree in Education. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in distance education from Capella University.

Nellie J. Winters
BA 1999
Nellie has been accepted by California State University, Dominguez Hills to pursue her graduate studies in humanities.

“Applause, Applause”
Information for *Invention*

New Job? Promotion? New Job?
Award? Marriage? Baby?
If it's news to you, it's news to us!

To better serve 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 and we'll include your updates in a future issue of *Invention*. To make it easy for you to contact us, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Thomas Edison State College, *Invention* Editor, 101. W. State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608; fax it to (609) 984-1376; or e-mail your good news to kbrown@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*:

What Our Students Have to Say

I wanted to take a moment and send my thanks to you and the staff at Thomas Edison State College. I wanted you to know how much I appreciated all of your help.

I really appreciated the flexibility and availability of Thomas Edison State College and its ability to support my needs as a member proudly serving in the United States Air Force. Despite the fact that I continually moved or performed temporary duty at various locations around the world, Thomas Edison State College was always there for me. Your school made it simple and easy to complete my degree and achieve this significant milestone.

When I applied to graduate school at Arizona State University, I was one of 12 people selected from a field of over 80 candidates for their program in criminal justice. Your help and my degree program from Thomas Edison State College were definitely assets for me when competing for this privilege.

Once again, thanks for all the help and I continually sing the praises about your program and how flexible and convenient it was, especially for members of the Armed Forces.

Sincerely,
James W. Crissinger, SMSgt, USAF
Bachelor of Science in Human Services (2000)
Specializing in Administration of Justice

For the past eight years or so, I have been enrolled in your college. I have to say that there was never a time when I wasn't satisfied. Your staff has made something that is usually very stressful into a pleasant experience. Thank you for all your assistance.

Martin O'Donnell
Bachelor of Science in Applied Science and Technology (2000)
President, Dynaload Division of Transistor Devices, Inc.



"Thomas Edison State College is great for the adult learner. If you want a quality degree and can't sit in a college situation for a few years, Thomas Edison (State College) is the answer."

-Lieutenant Michael Peoples
Associate in Science in Public and Social Services (1998)
Bachelor of Science in Human Services (1999)

One of our Best...continued from page 2
1990. Furthermore, when John McNamara earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in 1987, he wanted to honor his wife for her support during the time it took him to complete his degree. The senior McNamara, who also holds an Associate in Science in Management degree ('81), approached the College's Alumni Association with the idea of presenting an award that would recognize the support and encouragement individuals gave to a family member or friend who earned a Thomas Edison State College degree. The College liked the idea and Rosemary McNamara was

awarded the first PHT (Putting Him/Her Through) Certificate in 1988 in honor of her husband's initiation of the program. In all, 386 PHT certificates were awarded that first year. The program continues today with the Annual PHT Banquet held after commencement ceremonies each October.
And wouldn't you know it—Joseph McNamara, in addition to presenting a PHT certificate to his wife Teresa in 1997 for all her help and support, took pride in presenting the PHT to his parents as well. Like father, like son.

New Director of Development appointed at Thomas Edison State College



Stephanie R. M. Bray

Thomas Edison State College is pleased to welcome Stephanie R. M. Bray of Trenton, N.J., as the College's newly appointed Director of Development.

In this role, Stephanie is primarily responsible for the development and management of the College's annual and major giving programs and serves as the liaison between the College and its Foundation. She will also work to identify potential sources of support for the College such as corporations, foundations, alumni, students, staff and friends of the institution.

Stephanie brings more than a decade of development experience to the College. Most recently, Stephanie was the Director of the 50th Anniversary Campaign for Recording for the

Blind & Dyslexic in Princeton, N.J. There she coordinated a fund-raising campaign to raise \$35 million in celebration of the organization's 50th anniversary.

Prior to this, Stephanie acted as Director of Development for A Better Chance, Inc., in New York, N.Y., a national organization benefiting academically talented minority youth. Among her achievements there, Stephanie solicited major gifts of up to \$1 million from corporations, foundations and individuals, resulting in \$2.7 million for the organization's campaign.

In addition, Stephanie has also held development-related positions at The College Fund/UNCF in New York, and the

Mercer County Unit of The American Cancer Society in Lawrenceville, N.J.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Douglass College, Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

Stephanie is a welcome addition to the Thomas Edison State College staff. To contact her, please call the College's Office of Development at (609) 984-1588 or e-mail her at sbray@tesc.edu.

Hold the Phones!

Thomas Edison State College alumni, students, friends of the College and staff volunteers made phone calls coast-to-coast over an eight-day period in May from the College's headquarters in the historic Kelsey Building in Trenton, N.J. for the College's Alumni Annual Fund Phonathon. This year, alumni pledged their support to the tune of \$47,928. This dedicated effort brings the total in pledges and gifts received as a result of the 2000 Alumni Annual Fund activities to \$57,409. Thanks to all who participated and for your generous donations. If you did not have a chance to make a pledge during the Phonathon and would still like to do so, please contact Patricia Memminger in the College's Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 984-1588 or via e-mail at pmemminger@tesc.edu.



Pictured from the left are Maria Abbamont, secretary, Thomas Edison State College Office of Development and Alumni Affairs; Mark Memminger (BSBA, '98); John Thurber, vice president of Public Affairs at the College; and Barbara Rovnyak (BSHS, '81).

Getting in the Swing of Things

Members of the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's Sixth Annual Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic planning committee gathered together at the Cherry Valley Country Club in Skillman, N.J. to "test out" the links in anticipation of the College's annual golf outing. Pictured from the left are Michael Letteire of Lawrenceville, N.J., accountant Lear & Pannepacker; Jim Kelly of Newtown,

Pa., corporate pilot, Pfizer Inc.; Stacy Mattia of West Windsor, N.J., relationship manager, First Union Corp.; and Golf Committee Co-Chair Eric Lear of Titusville, J.J., managing partner, Lear & Pannepacker.

The Golf Classic was held on Monday June 19 in memory of Thomas C. Streckewald, a College administrator who was killed in an automobile collision in 1994. Tom's wife Catherine serves as honorary chair of the Golf Classic.

Please look for more highlights from this year's Golf Classic in the next issue of *Invention*.



New Degree Offerings...continued from page 3

MAPS students will experience a multicultural focus by incorporating the values of different ethnic cultures and traditions, issues pertaining to racial and ethnic diversity, as well as tolerance and celebration of cultural differences into the degree program.

The program requires a core of six courses, 12 semester-hours of electives and a capstone project that allows students to explore

their own interests or to deepen their understanding in a particular area of interest. GMAT or GRE scores are not required for admission.

Distinguished faculty who understand the unique needs of adult students pursuing a post-graduate degree will lead the MAPS curriculum. The credentials and background of our distinguished faculty parallels the intellectual qualities the program

seeks to develop in its students. In addition to their advanced degrees and university teaching experience, faculty members have real-life experience in the liberal arts having worked in such areas as art, education, public relations, law, philosophy and sociology. All faculty members in the MAPS program are experienced in and committed to teaching in a distance learning environment.

For More Information

If you, or someone you know is interested in any of Thomas Edison State College's degree programs, including the AAS degree, MSM degree and Project Management Track or MAPS degree, please call (609) 984-1150, e-mail us at info@tesc.edu or visit us on the web at www.tesc.edu.



THOMAS EDISON

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Higher Education.
For Adults with Higher Expectations.

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