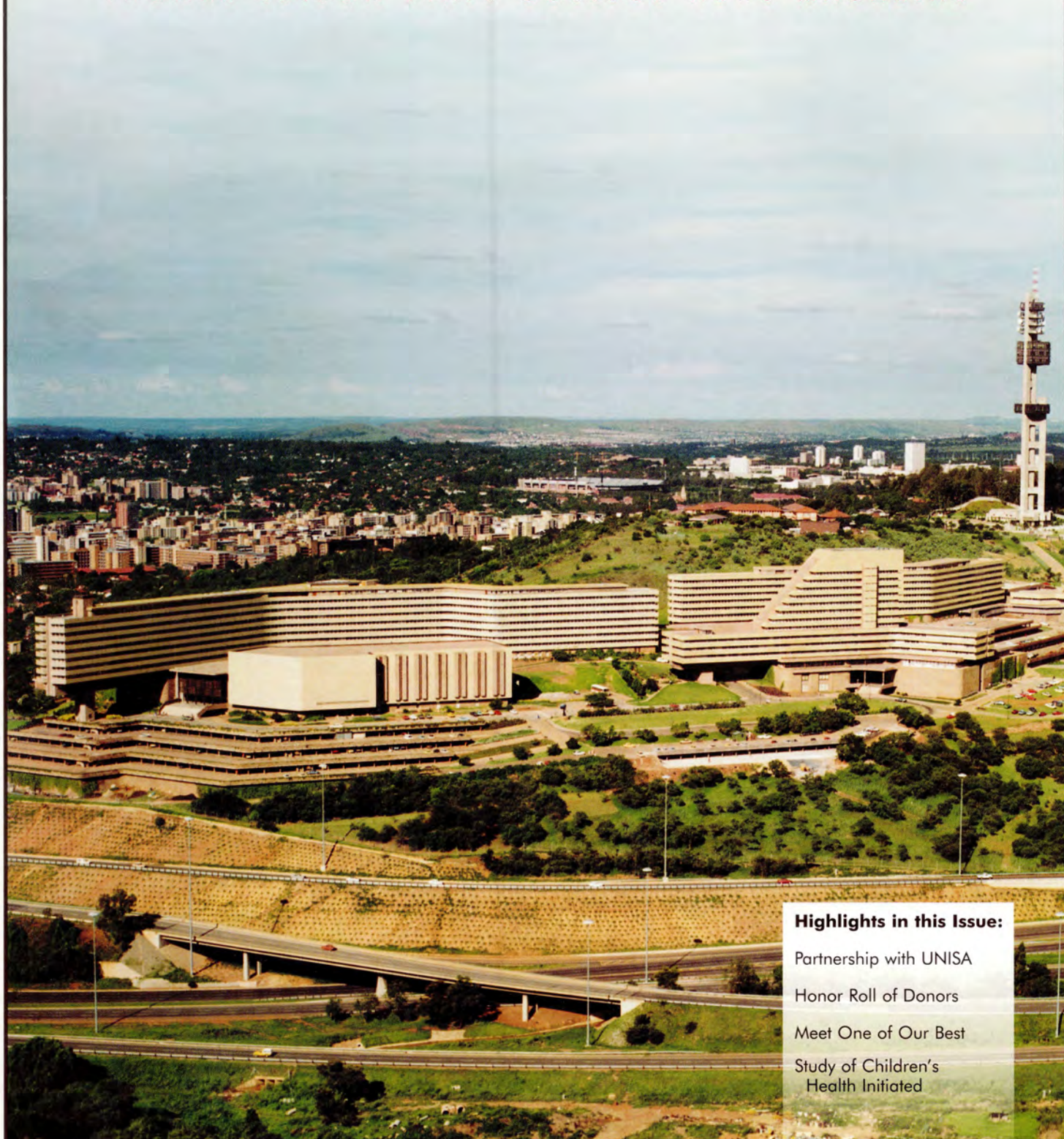


Spring 2001

# Invention

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE



## Highlights in this Issue:

Partnership with UNISA

Honor Roll of Donors

Meet One of Our Best

Study of Children's  
Health Initiated



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On the cover:  
The main campus of  
the University of  
South Africa (UNISA).

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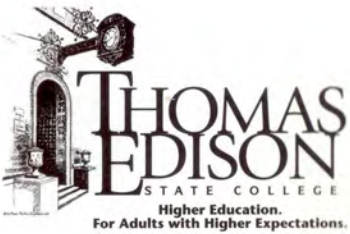
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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

At this time each year, I take time to reflect on the generosity of the many individuals, employees, businesses, corporations and foundations who help to make Thomas Edison State College the best choice for adults seeking to achieve their educational goals. It is through this unselfish support that we are able to provide the educational programs and services for which we have become internationally known.

In this issue of *Invention*, we are pleased to acknowledge our Honor Roll of Donors. Please take time to peruse this list of friends whose charitable donations help support our unique mission of providing the highest quality educational opportunities to adults through a variety of flexible credit-earning methods. These gifts help to ensure that our students have access to state-of-the-art educational technologies, as well as to a wide variety of resources that assist them in accomplishing their collegiate objectives.

I am extremely proud of the fact that this list of donors grows each year. This is a testament to the fact that our donors continue to recognize and support the outstanding accomplishments of Thomas Edison State College and its Foundation.

We are grateful for the support of our donors at every level. Your meaningful contributions are truly appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing, faithful support.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Pruitt  
President



## Grant Supports Faculty Training Certification Program

The Thomas Edison State College Foundation has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the Verizon (formerly Bell Atlantic) Foundation to develop the College's new Certificate in Distance Education Program, which provides faculty with professional training in developing courses and in teaching courses on the World Wide Web.

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Verizon Corporation, supports a variety of projects domestically and internationally, with an emphasis on new technology applications in education, health and human services, the arts and humanities, and civic development in the communities served by Verizon.

"This grant acknowledges the truly outstanding accomplishments that have been made possible by the support of the Verizon Foundation and others on behalf of the College and its students," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "Their support will help the College to work together with faculty to help them prepare for the challenges of the 21st century as well as securing personal enrichment in their profession."

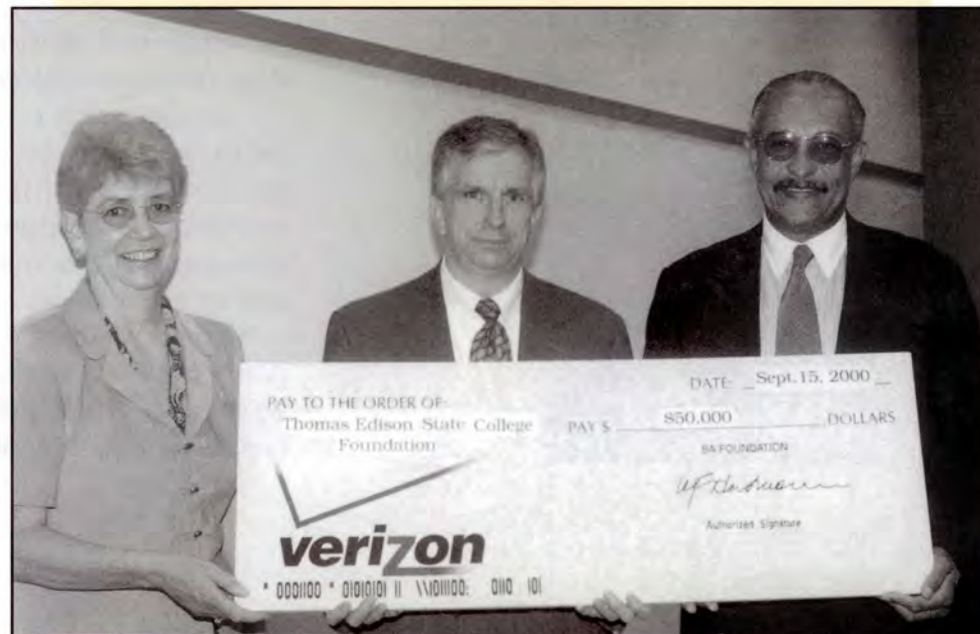
The Certificate in Distance Education Program consists of an innovative curriculum focused on the techniques of developing materials and courses, and teaching distance education courses. Through a series of professional development seminars, faculty learn

how to prepare course materials for distance learners, develop computer-based presentations and interact effectively with students in an online environment. This program stimulates faculty imagination, empowering them to communicate, teach and facilitate student learning in new ways.

"For faculty, a key factor in successfully teaching in a distance learning environment is learning how to avoid or overcome the barriers that sometimes occur in a networked learning community," explained William Seaton, associate vice

president for Distance Education, Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL) at Thomas Edison State College. "For example, how does one make a course delivered online personal and interactive? This program will address these concerns, and deal with issues like timely feedback to and from students and with the technical difficulties that some students will have."

For further information about the Certificate in Distance Education Program, please call (609) 633-3308, e-mail [CDEP@tesc.edu](mailto:CDEP@tesc.edu) or visit the College's Web site at [www.tesc.edu/CDEP](http://www.tesc.edu/CDEP).



*Dr. George A. Pruitt (right), president of Thomas Edison State College, receives a check from Dennis Bone, state president, Verizon N.J., and Thomas Edison State College Foundation Board member Kathleen E. Tully, senior specialist, Verizon N.J. The \$50,000 Verizon Foundation grant was awarded to underwrite the College's new Certificate in Distance Education Program, which provides faculty with professional training in developing and teaching courses on the Web.*

## Competing in a Global Economy? New e-Commerce Certificate Program Can Help

The Internet has made it possible for businesses large and small to compete in the global marketplace. To assist those faced with this competition, Thomas Edison State College has developed an online e-Commerce certificate program that provides students the skills needed to compete in a global economy.

The 12-credit, e-Commerce certificate program, created specifically for Thomas Edison State College, is being offered online during the College's Summer 1 semester beginning in May 2001.

The certificate program includes three newly developed, 3-credit courses: Creating and Implementing the Electronic Enterprise, Product and Services Development for Electronic Enterprise and Marketing with Electronic Media. These courses were created by College faculty mentor Nora Carrol, president of FirstForward.com, an interactive learning and communications company. Students will also need to complete

either Principles of Management or Introduction to Marketing online as part of the e-Commerce certificate requirements.

"Commerce on the Internet is growing beyond all expectation as enterprises expand their operations in all spheres," said Dr. Henry van Zyl, director of the College's Distance Education Programs. "Thomas Edison State College recognizes the need for thorough preparation and grounding for entrepreneurs who venture into this arena. The online certificate in e-Commerce, which includes a choice of two existing courses and three new courses designed and created specifically for the purpose of preparing entrepreneurs for this environment, is a timely offering. It should prove very valuable—especially among entrepreneurs seeking to establish their credentials in this field."

The new e-Commerce certificate program will be available in May 2001. For more information on the program, courses or how to register, call toll-free (888) 442-8372 or e-mail [info@tesc.edu](mailto:info@tesc.edu).





## Meet One of Our Best...

### Dr. Sharon L. Bender '96, '97



When Dr. Sharon L. Bender began to pursue her goal of earning a college degree at Thomas Edison State College, she did not realize that her experience would eventually culminate in a doctoral degree. Nor did she realize that she would accomplish several awards for academic achievement, a career as a distance education professor and the authorship of a college textbook.

Reminiscing about that time eight years ago when she first decided to pursue an associate degree, Dr. Bender said, "I felt left out not having a college degree. So when I found a small article in a local New Jersey newspaper that talked about earning a degree at a distance from Thomas Edison State College, it certainly caught my eye. I remember thinking that living in New Jersey was convenient just in case I had to travel to the campus, and I could learn from home meaning there would be no interruption in my work life. This was the first time I had even heard about distance education."

She enrolled in the College's Associate in Science in Management program and was awarded the degree in 1996. Dr. Bender recalls, "When I completed the program and was awarded the degree, I enjoyed the greatest sense of accomplishment imaginable. But I couldn't stop there. I was

hooked."

So the next step was to enroll in Thomas Edison State College's Bachelor of Arts program which she completed in 1997. Not only did she earn a baccalaureate degree, but she was also listed in the publication, *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* and was named a recipient of the College's Arnold Fletcher Award for exceptional achievement in independent learning.

The completion of her bachelor's degree was still not the end of her educational journey. "My college experience was so addictive," she said, "that I went on to earn the Master of Science in Information Management—Technologies Focus from ISIM University (International School of Information Management) in Denver, Colorado, also at a distance." After earning the MSIM degree in 1998, she enrolled in Capella University's distance doctoral program in Organization and Management and was awarded a Ph.D. in December 2000. "I had an eight-year contiguous distance education experience that is likely unparalleled," Dr. Bender said.

"As a result of these melded experiences I was subsequently hired as a faculty member at both ISIM University and Capella University where I design and teach courses in bachelor's and master's degree programs. One of the courses I've designed will

be featured on the Internet among the best-designed distance education courses worldwide through a program called *Basket of Winners*."

She continued, "As a distance education instructor, I have the chance to help others achieve their dream. And because I want my students to come away with a little more than they expected, I've developed a Web site to assist them in successfully completing the numerous courses I teach."

Dr. Bender was recently asked to design a course for Capella University concerning the organizational impact to technology adoption, but she could not find an existing textbook that would work for the course. The only acceptable solution was to write the textbook herself. Dr. Bender enthusiastically noted that upon submitting a proposal, it is already being considered for publication.

When asked what she would say to someone who was "leery" of learning at a distance, Dr. Bender said she informs aspiring distance learners about the history of distance education and discusses how it is now in its fifth generation. "I also mention that some famous

individuals have earned their degree through distance learning," she said, citing that Franklin D. Roosevelt, Walter Cronkite and Barry Goldwater are among these learners.

To assist these aspiring distance learners, Dr. Bender has produced a guidebook, *Preparing for Distance Education*, which is nearing readiness for publication. The book features what other distance learners are saying about their experiences, such as the fact that it makes it possible to spend more quality time on their studies rather than have to travel to the classroom. Dr. Bender noted that others report that they have been able to escalate the degree earning process for much the same reason.

In the guidebook, Dr. Bender further notes, "It is a simple matter to produce a paper or homework assignment at your desktop computer and send it through e-mail directly to your respective instructor for immediate assessment. No longer is distance education referred to merely as education that takes place where there is geographic distance between learner and instructor. It has evolved to a higher level of sophistication."

Dr. Sharon (as her students affectionately refer to her), resides in Newton, N.J. with her husband of 29 years and her two grown children. In her spare time she likes to write about the work environment, women's issues, the Internet and distance education. Her

first in a series of articles on the American Women Entrepreneur will be featured in an upcoming issue of the magazine *Garden State Women*. The remaining series will appear on the magazine's Web site.

"I feel as though I'm just getting started in the career I've only dreamed about until that small article in a local New Jersey newspaper about Thomas Edison State College caught my eye," Dr. Bender said. She concluded, "In sum, I studied in the convenience of my home and now I work from the convenience of my home doing something I absolutely love to do, thanks to Thomas Edison State College. I would never have had the credibility or courage to pursue my dreams otherwise."

## Reaching Beyond Our Walls: *Studying the Future of Children's Health*

In the Mission & Purpose statement of Thomas Edison State College, section VI reads, "The College seeks to fulfill the public service obligation inherent to American institutions of higher education." One of the ways in which the College fulfills this mission is through its John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy.

The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy is a vital resource for community and statewide leaders across New Jersey providing practical research, technical assistance and other expertise. The College established the Watson Institute to support the state's decision-makers and assist them with the most critical issues facing New Jersey, as well as to honor the outstanding record of public service of the late New Jersey Assemblyman, John S. Watson. The Watson Institute conducts its affairs in a non-partisan manner fully consistent with the College's traditions of excellence.

Recently, the Watson Institute has undertaken a major project in cooperation with The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, N.J., to ascertain opportunities to improve the health status of and health care options available to children living in urban communities such as Trenton.

The project, called Children's Futures, provides for an intensive effort to explore opportunities, leadership, ideas and financing committed to improving children's health outcomes in Trenton.

The purpose of the project is to learn more about what it would take, building on ideas which have been shown to work and working over a longer period of time, to improve health outcomes for all children living in one community. The initiative focuses especially on strengthening prevention.



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Thomas Edison State College would like to thank everyone who gave to the College through various opportunities this year\*. We deeply appreciate your support.

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Jeffrey Pickens  
Virginia Potter  
Ann Prime-Monaghan  
Juliette Punchello  
Karla L. Qazilbash  
Nancy L. Reffner  
B.J. Rodgers  
Monica Sanders  
Carol Sarnoe  
James Sheipe  
Els Sincebaugh  
Michael J. Smilack  
Bettye Smith  
Delores Smith  
Haddi Smith  
John Smith  
Linda M. Soltis  
Thomas Stanics  
Marie Tane  
Rose Tardugno  
Thomas Edison State College  
Thomas Edison State College  
Alumni Association  
John P. Thurber  
Mary Ann Tolbert  
Janice Toliver  
Richard Tompkins  
Donald Trucksess  
Village Traditions  
Kera Voigtlander  
Sherry Walker  
Deborah Ware  
Patricia Williams  
Christina M. Yuncza  
Charlotte C. Zanidakis  
Caroline M. Zucker

*Annual Gala  
Contributors, Participants,  
Sponsors and Volunteers*

A-1 Salon  
Maria Abbamont  
Aegis Property Group  
Deborah Aguiar-Velez  
A La Mode Clothing Store  
Alicja-Aniela Ladies Apparel  
American Cancer Society  
American Institute of Banking  
Herbert K. Ames  
Amoroso Flower Shop, Inc.  
Antonio's Cleaners  
Applebee's Restaurant  
Artifacts Gallery & Custom  
Framing  
AT&T Foundation  
AT&T Solutions  
Gilda Rorro Baldassari  
Bally's Park Place Casino Resort  
Sharon Beach  
Sandrea Behrens  
Russell Bennett  
Boehm Porcelain  
Thomas Borda  
Stephanie R. M. Bray  
Café Olé  
Capital Health System  
Capitol Copy Service  
Jim & Nancy Carnes  
Nicholas & Marjorie Carnevale  
CD 109—Smooth Jazz  
Charles Louis Hair Design  
Cherry Valley Country Club  
Christofle Silver, Inc.  
Chuckles Pizza & Pasta  
Citigroup, Inc.  
City of Trenton/Trenton First  
Colavita Jewelers  
The College of New Jersey  
Donald & Patti Conover  
Continental Airlines  
Council of New Jersey  
Grantmakers  
Courier Post  
Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Tracey Destribats  
DK Interior Concepts  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Doele  
Robert Downs

Marc Alan Drimmer, M.D.  
Druker, Rahl, & Fein  
Jill Edwards  
Sidney H. Edwards  
Enzo's La Piccola Cucina  
Fell & Moon Company  
First Union National Bank  
Lisa Folmer  
Michael Foster  
Jack Francis  
Friend of the College  
Generex Biotechnology Corp.  
Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan,  
Griffinger, & Vecchione  
The Gift Basket  
Gillespie, Inc.  
Richard & Donna Gillespie  
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Gillock  
Mayor Glen Gilmore  
Brian & Maxine Goldsmith  
Graycar Travel Agency  
Greater Princeton Youth  
Orchestra  
Dr. & Mrs. Phil Grossman  
Hamilton Area YMCA  
Hand, Little, Pennington &  
Codrington  
Carolyn & Skip Harper  
Adrienne Hayling  
John & Peggy Henderson  
John Hickey  
Kim Hoftiezer  
Richard & Margaret Hoisington  
Hoisington Engineers  
Drew Hopkins  
Hyatt Regency Princeton  
Maria Imbalzano  
Senator & Mrs. Peter Inverso  
Cal Iszard  
Italian American Hall of Fame  
Janssen Pharmaceutica  
Johnson & Johnson Family  
of Companies  
Edward Kahn & Hanna  
Muzika-Kahn  
Richard & Bonnie Kisco  
Kindred Spirits  
KPMG LLP  
Dr. Arthur & Evelyn Krosnick  
Sally Lane  
La Terraza  
Eric & Joanna Lear

Lear & Pannepacker LLP  
Lynch, Jones & Ryan, Inc.  
Steven Mazzilli  
John McCann  
McCarter Theatre  
Brenda McElroy  
Maureen McGuire  
Mark & Patricia Memminger  
Mercer County Community  
College  
Merrill Lynch Bank & Trust  
Middletown Country Club  
Lorena Miller  
Barbara Murdoch  
John P. Neary  
New Jersey 101.5  
New Jersey Symphony Orchestra  
Margaret Norton  
Rita Novitt  
Thomas O'Neill  
Oxford Communications  
Mayor Douglas Palmer  
Daryl Pennington  
Scott Pennington  
Pennington Athletic Center  
Maurice T. Perilli  
The Perilli Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Perlman  
Dr. John Piazza  
Pine Creek Miniature Golf  
The Present Company  
Princeton Flower Shop  
Princeton Internet Group  
Princeton Nassau Conover  
The Princeton Packet, Inc.  
Public Service Electric & Gas  
Company  
S. John & Bess Quattrone  
S. John Quattrone & Associates  
Rats Restaurant  
Recording for the Blind and  
Dyslexic  
Robert Wood Johnson University  
Hospital at Hamilton  
Roma Federal Savings Bank  
Rossi's Tavern  
Robert Rottkamp  
Paul Rotundi  
Sal De Forte's Ristorante  
Sarah's of Pennington  
Sarnoff Corporation  
Anne Marie Senior

Serendipity  
Linda M. Soltis  
Spadaccini, Main &  
Sheridan LLC  
Albert Stark  
Stark & Stark  
Dennis & Diane Steadman  
Christy Stephenson  
St. Francis Medical Center  
Studio 35  
Paul Sulyok  
Summit Bank  
Dr. Harry & Renee Swartz  
Tangles  
Tattoni's Café  
Robert Taylor  
1010 Wins  
Thomas Edison State College  
Thomas Edison State College  
AFT Local 4277  
Thomas Edison State College  
Alumni Association  
Thomas Edison State College  
Foundation Gala Committee  
John P. Thurber  
The Time Out Center  
The Times  
Trenton Country Club  
Trenton Education Development  
Corp.  
Trenton Titans  
U.S. Trust Company  
Verizon Communications  
V.J. Scozzari & Sons, Inc.  
WPVI-TV  
Yardley Inn  
Yardville National Bank  
Zeiger Enterprises



*The Thomas C.  
Streckewald Golf Classic  
Participants, Sponsors  
and Volunteers*

Maria Abbamont  
Aegis Property Group  
Amper, Politzner, & Mattia  
Automatic Data Processing, Inc.  
Carron Albert  
American Re-Insurance Company  
AT&T Solutions  
Sharon Beach  
Bell Atlantic – New Jersey  
Allan Bowman  
Stephanie R. M. Bray  
Rose M. Breining  
Ronald Brown  
Capital Health System  
Carl Simpson Consulting Group  
Dr. James Carnes  
The College of New Jersey  
Pheobe Crammer  
Daniel DeRose  
DeRose & Associates  
Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Cheryl Dienes  
Peter Fadejew  
First Union National Bank  
Fund for New Jersey  
The Gift Connection  
Gillespie, Inc.  
Global Value Investors, Inc.  
Anthony Golowski  
Mark S. Gordon  
Granville Charter Schools  
Graycar Travel  
Maureen Griffin  
Sean Griffin  
The Hibbert Group  
Kim Hoftiezer  
Margaret Hoisington  
Robert E. Humes  
Dr. Jerry Ice  
Janssen Pharmaceutica  
Johnson & Johnson Family of  
Companies  
KDL Electric  
Jim Kelly  
Kathy Kelly  
KPMG LLP

Anna Krum  
Lawrence Lexus  
Eric Lear  
Lear & Pannepacker LLP  
Michael Lettiere  
Lynch, Jones & Ryan, Inc.  
Paul MacMurdo  
Tim McDonald  
Mark & Patricia Memminger  
Mercer County Community  
College  
Merrill Lynch  
Merrill Lynch Bank & Trust  
Timothy Moonan  
New Jersey State Library  
Eric Pennington  
Pennington Quality Market  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Pine Creek Miniature Golf  
PNC Bank  
The Princeton Packet, Inc.  
Public Service Electric & Gas  
Company  
Rider University  
Robert Wood Johnson University  
Hospital at Hamilton  
Roma Federal Savings Bank  
Sarnoff Corporation  
Michael J. Scheiring  
Linda M. Soltis  
Somerton Springs Golf Center  
Sovereign Bank  
Stark & Stark  
St. Francis Medical Center  
Catherine J. Streckewald  
Daniel Streckewald  
F.L. & Joan Streckewald  
Kevin Streckewald  
Thomas Edison State College  
Thomas Edison State College  
AFT Local 4277  
Thomas Edison State College  
Alumni Association  
John P. Thurber  
The Times  
Anne Tither  
Janice Toliver  
Mary Toth  
Trap Rock Industries  
Jayne Ulmer  
John Walsh

**Kevin Murray**

1982 BA

Kevin is pleased to announce the launch of his new business, Mate' for Life, a company dedicated to the introduction and promotion of yerba mate' to American consumers. Yerba mate' is the national beverage of Paraguay and, according to Kevin, is a healthy and nutritious alternative to coffee. More information on Kevin's new company can be found on the Internet at [www.iloveyerba.com](http://www.iloveyerba.com).

**Caroline M. Capone**

1990 BA

Caroline says her Thomas Edison State College degree has opened the doors necessary to obtain field experience needed for her present position as the Social Services Director at an adult respite. She has also recently authored a children's book titled, *A Westy Tale*, published by Dorrance Publishing Company in Pittsburgh, Pa.

**James Bonn, Esq.**

1992 BSBA

James was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States in May 2000. He is also a member of the Colorado Bar, California Bar and Bar of the United States Court of International Trade.

**Albert G. Curving**

1996 ASM

1996 BSBA

1997 BA

Al was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Five in a recent ceremony held at the Trenton Artillery Armory of the New Jersey Army National Guard. He was "pinned" to his new rank by his wife, Joyce, and Major General Paul J. Glazar, Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard. In his new position, Al serves as the Quartermaster Policy Actions Officer for the Director of Logistics.



*Albert G. Curving*

**Stephen A. Scott**

1997 BSAST

Since graduating in 1997, Steven says his "career has taken off and my life has been enriched in many ways." He directly attributes having his degree in computer science from Thomas Edison State College with his recent success. He said, "No question it opened the doors for me." Before earning his degree, Stephen worked as a technical associate at AT&T in New Jersey, but since graduating, he has held several positions in software engineering for Intel and Motorola in Arizona, each one increasing in responsibility. Most recently he secured a position as a Principal Staff Engineer for the Motorola Computer Group in Tempe, Az. Stephen was also granted a U.S. patent for "tuning module for a dual frequency PLL synthesized tuner." He is currently completing classes towards a master's degree in computer science at Arizona State University, as well as Java certification and photography classes. He received his private pilot license last year.

**Roger Bowles**

1998 BSAST

In January 2001, Roger authored the book titled, *Critical Careers: A Guide to Opportunities in Medical Equipment Service*. The book provides a broad introduction of the many career opportunities and pathways available in the medical equipment service industry. Roger is currently a Senior Instructor in the Biomedical Equipment Technology Department at Texas State Technical College in Waco, Tx.

# "Applause, Applause"

**Michael Gierdowski**

2000 BSAST

Since completing his degree in May, Michael has finished his eight-year-enlistment in the Navy as a Nuclear Trained Electrician and has moved to Massachusetts to begin a new career in the nuclear field. He is currently employed as an Operations Instructor at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, Ma.

**Mary-Ellen Piche**

1980 AASRT

1994 BSAST

The VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York has selected Mary-Ellen as its Chief Operating Officer of the Medical VA Care Line which includes administrative responsibility for medicine and surgery within the VA Medical Centers from Albany to Buffalo, NY, and more than 20 outpatient clinics. She coordinates all matters associated with operations, planning, patient services education and research. Mary-Ellen also recently achieved diplomat status in the American College of Healthcare Executives and is a board certified healthcare quality professional.



*Mary-Ellen Piche*

## "Applause, Applause" Information for *Invention*

**New Job? Promotion?  
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*. Please tell us how your experience at Thomas Edison State College changed your life. 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 [akrum@tesc.edu](mailto:akrum@tesc.edu). Feel free to send us photos to accompany your news. We'll publish them as space permits.

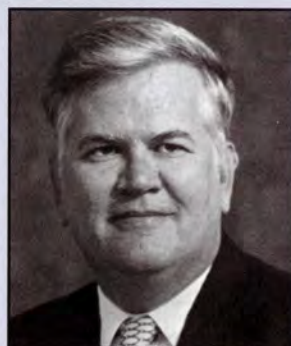
Thank you for this opportunity to better serve our valued Thomas Edison State College alumni family.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Former Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
Information for *Invention*:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of Thomas Edison State College:



This past year was a very exciting and successful one for Thomas Edison State College. All of us want to thank you for your support of the 2000 Annual Fund. The combined generosity of alumni, students, faculty, staff, Foundation Directors and College Trustees, as well as many corporations and foundations, generated over \$400,000. These funds enabled us to take full advantage of every opportunity to advance the mission of the College.

Yours is an investment that has already begun to reap wonderful returns for our students and faculty. During this past year, the College has forged an exciting new partnership with the University of South Africa that gives Thomas Edison State College students more high quality educational options than ever before. Under this agreement, the College has been provided access to an outstanding collection of distance education courses and opportunities to develop new joint degree programs. This year also marked the beginning of an innovative partnership program with the Navy, as well as efforts to enhance educational opportunities for other military personnel. The College's new and highly acclaimed Distance Learning certificate program for faculty strengthens the skills and experiences necessary to facilitate courses using the World Wide Web, which in turn, benefits our students. The College has also renovated its historic townhouses and equipped the beautiful new facility with state-of-the-art technology vital to teaching and learning at a distance.

Whether you contributed directly to the Annual Fund, made a gift in perpetuity for a loved one, or participated in one of the special events sponsored by the Thomas Edison State College Foundation, we thank you.

Thomas Edison State College is increasingly recognized as a national leader in higher education. We invite you to continue to invest in Thomas Edison State College to help maintain the standard of excellence in higher education that adult students around the world have come to expect.

Sincerely,

John P. Neary, Chairperson  
Thomas Edison State College Foundation

## Phonathon Supports Unique Mission of Thomas Edison State College

It's that time of year again when the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association will be conducting its annual Phonathon.

The mission of the Phonathon is important to Thomas Edison State College because it promotes the College and its programs which assist individuals in changing their lives and attaining their educational goals. This support occurs through financial or equity gifts, as well as the donation of personal time.

During the Phonathon, students, alumni and College staff volunteer their time to reach out to alumni via the telephone to ask them to make a pledge to the College. Through these personal gifts, the College is able to broaden its visibility and reinforce the excellent services provided to our students, while helping to secure our future. Both the dedication of your time and these gifts make the dream of attaining a degree possible for those who follow in the footsteps of the alumni before them.

This year's Phonathon will be held from Saturday, April 28 to Sunday, May 6, 2001 at Thomas Edison State College, in Trenton, N.J. Times vary each day.

For more information, or to sign up to help reach out to alumni through telephone calls, please call (609) 633-8592.



## New Member Appointed to Alumni Association Board of Directors

Nate H. Zauber, of Cherry Hill, N.J., is the newest member to be appointed to the Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association Board of Directors. Nate earned his associate degree from Thomas Edison State College in 1979.

In 1999, Nate retired as President and CEO of Ace Service Agency, Inc., in Haddonfield, N.J., where he had been employed since 1954. Currently, Nate is working for Sandone Realty in Haddon Township, N.J.

In addition to his degree from Thomas Edison State College, Nate is a graduate of the N.J. Real Estate School, the U.S. Army and Air Force Radio & Navigation School and the Police Academy of Camden County in New Jersey.

He is currently a member of the American Legion, Jewish War Veterans and the Centura Association Board of Directors (a condominium association). He is also a consultant and advisor to the Miss New Jersey Scholarship Foundation. From 1965-1995 Nate was the New Jersey Director for the Miss America Pageant and still volunteers his time as a consultant to its Board of Directors. Nate also

volunteers his time for the Humane Society, the Leukemia Society of America, and the USO (United Service Organizations).

The Thomas Edison State College Alumni Association, incorporated in 1979, supports College programs and activities

through volunteer programs including fund raising, admissions outreach and student advising. In addition, the Association affords an opportunity for fellowship and mutual interchange for graduates of the College.

## Win a Free Round of Golf

For the past several years, the Thomas Edison State College Foundation has hosted the Thomas C. Streckewald Memorial Golf Classic, held in memory of the late Thomas C. Streckewald, a respected and well-loved colleague. This year's event will be held at the Cherry Valley Country Club in Skillman, N.J., on Monday, June 18, 2001.

Once again, the Alumni Association is raffling a free round of golf which will allow the lucky winner to participate in this year's outing. Enrolled students and alumni are eligible to win this raffle, valued at \$250. The fun-filled day includes lunch, golf and prizes, followed by an awards dinner. The golf outing provides an excellent opportunity for an alumnus/ae to meet College staff, Foundation members and corporate friends while enjoying a wonderful day on the links.

To enter the contest or for more information, please visit the Alumni and Friends section of Thomas Edison State College's Web site at [www.tesc.edu](http://www.tesc.edu). All entries must be received by Friday, April 27, 2001. The winner will be selected and notified during the annual Phonathon on Saturday, May 5, 2001. In addition, the winner's name will appear on the Web page on or about May 7, 2001. For more information, please contact Patricia Memminger, Director of Alumni Affairs at (609) 984-1588 or via e-mail at [pmemminger@tesc.edu](mailto:pmemminger@tesc.edu).



# Thomas Edison State College Signs Partnership Agreement with University of South Africa

In a groundbreaking agreement with one of the world's leading distance learning universities, Thomas Edison State College has entered into a far reaching partnership with the University of South Africa (UNISA). UNISA is the oldest and largest university in South Africa, one of the most well respected purveyors of distance education in the world, and it counts Nelson Mandela among its distinguished alumni. The agreement will provide the College with access to an outstanding collection of distance education courses and opportunities to develop new joint degree programs, giving Thomas Edison State College students more high quality educational options than ever before.

The partnership also provides UNISA with access to Thomas Edison State College's

expertise in such areas as prior learning assessment (the documentation of college-level learning a student may have gained outside of a traditional classroom) and with a new perspective on North American higher education, in general, and distance education, in particular.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this partnership is that it links two institutions that have common missions, despite their being some 9,000 miles apart and on different continents. Both Thomas Edison State College and the University of South Africa are dedicated to providing flexible high quality educational opportunities to adults, and this partnership will support that shared mission in a most meaningful way.

The recently signed agreement was the culmination of months of discussions between the two institutions of higher learning. Under the terms of the agreement, Thomas Edison State College gains access to the more than 2,000 high quality distance education courses developed by UNISA's internationally recognized faculty. Thomas Edison State College will adapt and revise selected UNISA courses and offer them to its students in the United States and around the world. In addition, the two insti-

tutions will initiate the development of joint degree programs, beginning with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American and African Studies. Under the agreement, Thomas Edison State College staff will also provide UNISA with expert advice and training in the areas of prior learning assessment and the evaluation of corporate training for college credit.

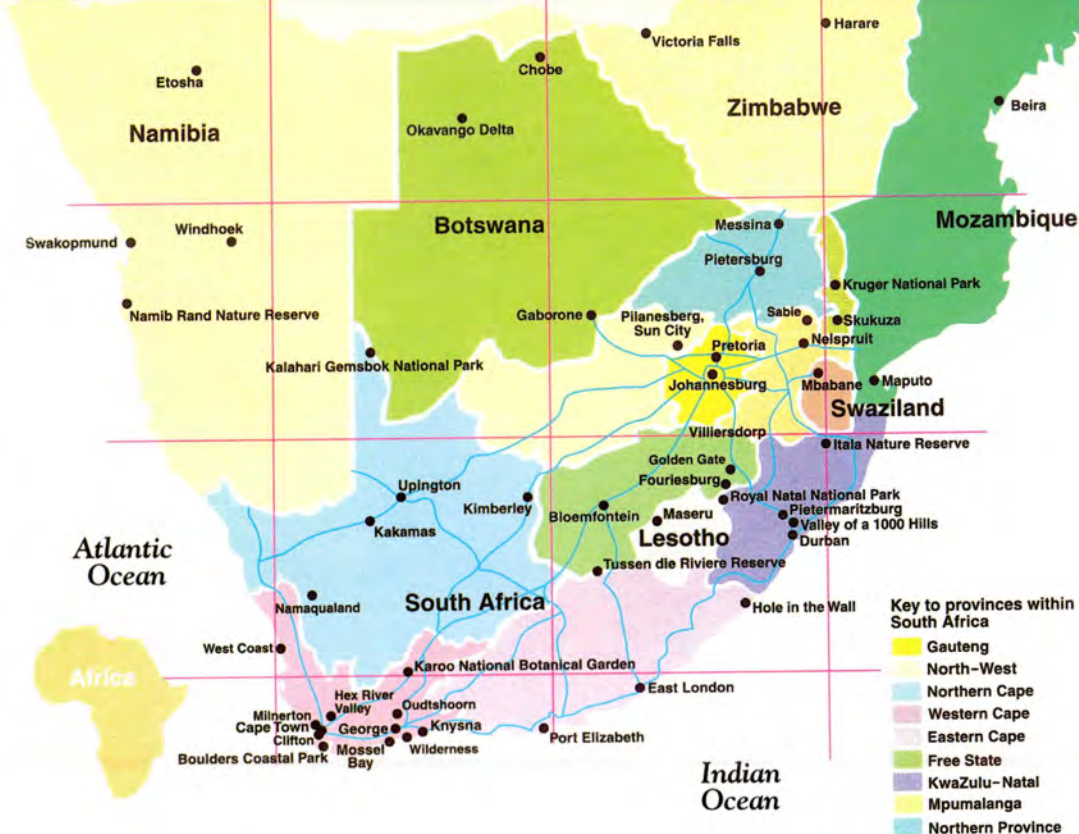
At a ceremony held in Pretoria, South Africa, a Memorandum of Agreement was officially signed by Thomas Edison State College's president, Dr. George A. Pruitt, and UNISA's principal and vice chancellor, Prof. Antony Melck. The signing of the agreement was witnessed by delegations from Thomas Edison State College and UNISA. In addition to Dr. Pruitt, the Thomas Edison State College delegation included Carole Nerlino-Cerepak, Chairperson of the College's Board of Trustees; Esther Paist, Executive Assistant to the President and Director of Institutional Planning at the College; and Dr. Henry van Zyl, Director of Distance Learning Programs in the College's Center for Distance & Independent Adult Learning (DIAL).

In remarks made at the ceremony, Dr. Pruitt said, "By entering into this agreement with the University of South

Africa, Thomas Edison State College sets the seal on its first international partnership. I can think of no finer institution to be affiliated with in this capacity than UNISA."

The agreement allows for the two institutions to share faculty consultants and gain access to new perspectives on distance education in an international context. Both institutions will benefit mutually from the exchange of ideas, materials and staff. Thomas Edison State College and UNISA will also explore other areas of partnership as needs arise and interest is expressed.

UNISA is the largest university in South Africa and one of the largest distance education institutions in the world. It was established in 1873 as the University of the



Cape of Good Hope and chartered in 1877. In 1916 its name was changed to the University of South Africa. In 1946, it pioneered tertiary distance education in the western world and has

been a leader in this field ever since. UNISA's many distinguished alumni include Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa. In fact, Mandela studied at a distance with UNISA while he was incarcerated on Robben Island.

UNISA is one of 11 mega-distance education universities in the world (universities with more than 100,000 students), and its qualifications are recognized worldwide. It has approximately 112,000 registered students and 4,000 faculty and staff. UNISA offers certificate, diploma and degree programs up to the doctoral level in six "faculties" or schools: Arts, Economic and Management Sciences, Law, Science, Education, and Theology and Religious Studies.

In further comments made after his return from Pretoria, Dr. Pruitt said, "It is wonderful to know that because of this agreement, Thomas Edison State College students will now have

access to some of the finest course materials available in the world. These new courses, along with Thomas Edison State College's existing distance education courses and other credit-earning opportunities, will provide our adult students with an unparalleled level of high quality educational options. I am also pleased that UNISA will be able to benefit from the expertise of Thomas Edison State College staff, as they provide training to UNISA staff on the assessment of prior learning. This is a true partnership in every sense of the word."



Prof. Antony Melck (left), principal and vice chancellor of the University of South Africa (UNISA), and Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, sign a Memorandum of Agreement at UNISA in Pretoria, South Africa.



The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy was chosen to lead the study because of the Institute's effectiveness as a non-partisan organization committed to conducting research that will inform the public policy decision-making process. Thomas Edison State College, the only higher education institution based in Trenton, provides administrative, technical and other support for the project through the Watson Institute.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grant-making in three goal areas: to assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at a reasonable cost; to improve care and support for people with chronic health conditions; and to reduce the personal, social and economic harm caused by substance abuse including tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

The Children's Futures project team is currently analyzing the major threats to children's health in Trenton, reviewing research findings about effective programs, developing a profile of local institutions and programs working to improve children's health, identifying gaps in local services and programs, and exploring ideas to improve health outcomes for children.

Directing Children's Futures for the Watson Institute is Rush L. Russell. He said, "Despite the best efforts of many organizations and individuals, many critical health outcomes for children fail to improve. Although some progress has been made recently, the United States—the wealthiest nation on Earth—ranks at the bottom of most industrialized nations in terms of the health of our children."

He added, "But the real disparity lies, not just between the U.S. and other countries, but between how our children are faring in communities like Trenton, and those living in more affluent communities. This study is designed to help us better understand why these gaps exist, and what could be done to narrow them for children in Trenton."

Dr. George A. Pruitt, President of Thomas Edison State College, expressed the College's support for the project. "The Children's Futures project holds great promise in identifying practical ideas for improving the health of children throughout Trenton. We are proud that The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has selected Thomas Edison State College as its partner to undertake this groundbreaking work."

It is the hope of the Watson Institute and Thomas Edison State College that the results of this very important project will not only have a positive impact on the health status of Trenton's youth, but will also result in a far-reaching positive outcome for children all around the country.



*Rob Reiner, founder of I Am Your Child Foundation, visited Thomas Edison State College to share some of his ideas with the Trenton-based Children's Futures project staff to emphasize why investments in early childhood are so important for children's health outcomes.*