

WINTER 2011

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

Taking Stock

Gail Pankey-Albert '10

INSIDE:

- ▶ College Gets High Marks in National Alumni Survey
- ▶ Preparing for First Mid-Year Commencement
- ▶ The Grande Ball 2010

5



10



14

6

Contents

WINTER 2011



1 Message from the President

College News:

- 2 ▶ Thomas Edison State College Gets High Marks in National Alumni Survey
- 3 ▶ College Partnering with Teach for America to Help Bring Educational Leaders to Underserved School Districts
 - ▶ Heavin School of Arts and Sciences Begins New Honor Society Chapter
- 4 ▶ TD Charitable Foundation Funds Watson Institute Initiative to Help Teachers Become More Culturally Competent Educators
 - ▶ Dean Deemed a "Diva"
- 5 ▶ College Preparing for First Mid-Year Commencement in April
 - ▶ New Jersey Higher Education Task Force Submits Report to Gov. Christie

6 Cover story:

- ▶ Gail Pankey-Albert '10: Taking Stock — From Brooklyn's Fort Greene to a Seat on the New York Stock Exchange

Alumni Profile:

- 10 ▶ Mary Lukes Stamoulis '97: Deep Roots

12 Feature story:

- ▶ The Grande Ball 2010

16 Applause, Applause:

- ▶ Alumni News



Cover Story: 6
Gail Pankey-Albert '10

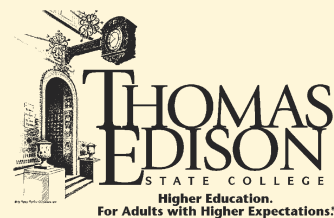
Invention is published by
Thomas Edison State College

DR. GEORGE A. PRUITT
President

JOE GUZZARDO
Editor

CHRIS MILLER
Art Director

KELLY SACCOMANNO
LINDA SOLTIS
Contributors





Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Albert Einstein said, “Learning is not a product of schooling, but the lifelong attempt to acquire it.”

This issue of *Invention* focuses on lifelong learners, like Einstein, whose lives celebrate the journey of expanding their education.

In this issue, Gail Pankey-Albert '10 tells us what it was like working on Wall Street just a few days after graduating from high school. She eventually became the first African American woman to earn a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. Pankey-Albert shares the story of her exciting career and how she chose to achieve a lifelong goal of earning a college degree at Thomas Edison State College.

Also in this issue, we meet novelist Mary Lukes Stamoulis '97, who earned her degree just shy of her 70th birthday. She discusses how she uses ancient Greek history as a historical backdrop for her novels and how her experience at the College helped her become a published author.

We are also pleased to share photos from the Thomas Edison State College Foundation's 2010 Grande Ball, which raised \$113,000 for the College and honored three extraordinary individuals: Thomas X. Geisel, president and CEO of Sun Bancorp, Inc., this year's recipient of the Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award; Foundation Vice Chairman Dr. Michael R. Toscani, president of Clinical Solutionz, this year's recipient of the Spirit of Edison Family Award; and the late W. Cary Edwards, former chief counsel to Gov. Thomas H. Kean, New Jersey attorney general and member of the New Jersey Legislature. At this year's gala, the College formally announced the naming of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing in honor of the critical role that Edwards played to help establish a nursing program at the College.

We are honored to serve and work with individuals like those featured in this issue. I hope you enjoy this edition of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Thomas Edison State College Gets High Marks in National Alumni Survey

Recent graduates of Thomas Edison State College gave their alma mater high marks in a national study released this week by the American Council on Education (ACE) that focuses on the satisfaction of college graduates between the ages of 25 and 39.

Thomas Edison State College alumni who took the ACE Young Alumni Survey said they were satisfied with the College and that the education they received was worth the cost. Specific highlights from the survey included:

- ▶ **85 percent** of Thomas Edison State College alumni said they were effectively prepared with the knowledge and skills they needed, compared to 81 percent nationally.
- ▶ **90 percent** of Thomas Edison State College alumni said their alma mater charged a fair price for their college education, compared to 76 percent nationally.
- ▶ **96 percent** of Thomas Edison State College alumni said they believed their college education was worth it, compared to 89 percent nationally.
- ▶ **78 percent** of Thomas Edison State College alumni said they would attend the same school if they could begin again, compared to 79 percent nationally.

“We are honored that our alumni took time to participate in this important survey, which indicates that institutions of higher education across the country, and here in New Jersey, are meeting the needs of their students,” said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College and a member of the ACE Board of Directors. “We were especially pleased to hear our alumni say the College prepared them with the skills they needed and that they consider Thomas Edison State College a good value.”

The survey was conducted for ACE by the Washington, D.C.-based Winston Group and included 8,800 alumni from 22 colleges and universities from across the country, which volunteered to participate in the survey. Approximately 400 Thomas Edison State College graduates participated in the survey.

“We were especially pleased to hear our alumni say the College prepared them with the skills they needed and that they consider Thomas Edison State College a good value.”

Thomas Edison State College Partnering with **TEACHFORAMERICA** to Help Bring Educational Leaders to Underserved School Districts

Thomas Edison State College has recently formed a partnership with Teach For America, a national organization that recruits outstanding college graduates from a variety of backgrounds to teach for two years in traditionally underserved urban and rural public schools.

The College is one of only three graduate schools in the state, and the only senior public institution in New Jersey, to enter into an agreement of this kind with Teach For America.

“The collaboration allows Teach For America alumni to enter seamlessly into the College’s Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program and provides a valuable opportunity for the organization’s alumni from across the U.S. to earn a graduate degree and certification completely online,” said Dr. Adrian Zappala, assistant dean of Educational

Leadership programs at Thomas Edison State College.

Zappala said the College is honored to partner with Teach For America, which has earned a reputation for recruiting, training and supporting effective beginning teachers and fostering their long-term leadership in the movement to end educational inequity. The College is waiving its graduate application fee of \$75 for Teach For America alumni entering the program.

In 2009, the College’s Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program was granted initial accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) for a period of five years, from Dec. 11, 2009, to Dec. 11, 2014.

For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org.

Heavin School of Arts and Sciences Begins New Chapter Educational Leadership Students Initiated in International Honor Society in Education

The Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at Thomas Edison State College celebrated the induction of students and graduates of the College’s Educational Leadership programs into Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education, during a fall ceremony at the College.

Membership in the College’s newly established chapter, Alpha Zeta Epsilon, is open to students in either the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program or the post-master’s Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership program who have maintained a GPA of 3.5 or better.

“The students inducted represent a distinctive segment of professional educators who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and leadership. Many are already significant contributors to educational leadership in their own communities,” said Dr. Adrian Zappala, assistant dean of Educational Leadership programs.

Students and alumni who would like more information about the chapter can contact the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences at heavin@tesc.edu.

Alpha Zeta Epsilon chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education induction attendees pictured first row (from left to right) are: Teresa Herrero-Taylor of West Windsor, N.J., chapter vice president; Jill Green of Manalapan, N.J.; Kadejab Tillery-Davis of Piscataway, N.J.; Jessica McLelland-Ayers of Fords, N.J.; Jennifer Maguire of Roebling, N.J.; and Virginia Bittner of Sewell, N.J. Second row: Maryjane Finne of Fanwood, N.J.; Heidi Brache of Manchester, N.J.; Robyn Katz of Elizabeth, N.J.; Kimberly Ash of Willingboro, N.J.; Stacy Slomko of Fords, N.J., chapter secretary; and Jennifer Kaufman of Washington, N.J., chapter president.



TD Charitable Foundation Funds Watson Institute Initiative to Help Teachers Become More Culturally Competent Educators

For the third consecutive year, the TD Charitable Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to support a mentoring program based in The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State

College that helps teachers become more culturally aware of students with diverse backgrounds.

The program, coordinated by the institute's Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children, recently completed its fourth year of helping educators to examine personal bias that may impact the manner in which children of diverse cultures and speakers of languages other than English are educated. In the past two years, program evaluations indicate that the intensive mentoring is helping both novice and seasoned teachers to translate their new knowledge into sound cultural and linguistic teaching practices.

"We are honored to have received this important support by the TD Charitable Foundation," said Ana I. Berdecia, MED, center director. "The funding is critical to our ability to support teachers who are working with diverse children and families across New Jersey."

Funding from the TD Charitable Foundation has supported the mentor-based part of the program in 2008, 2009 and 2010. The program includes the teachers taking part in a three-day summer program, held at Thomas Edison State College. Participants also receive nine months of mentoring, and take part in two learning communities via teleconference to continue the dialogue about why culturally and linguistically responsive classrooms and caregivers are important to young children and their families.

The program was created to address a growing need in New Jersey for early childhood educators to learn more about developing a more culturally aware classroom.

The program has also been supported by the New Jersey Department of Human Services-Division of Family Development, Family Strengths Associates, Inc., Bank of America Charitable Foundation and The Schumann Fund for New Jersey.



(from left) Ana I. Berdecia, director of the Watson Institute's Center for Positive Development of Urban Children; Jacquelyn R. Sheridan, assistant vice president, TD Bank's E. State Street store in Trenton, N.J.; Frank J. Fresca, vice president and relationship manager at TD Bank; and John P. Thurber, vice president for Public Affairs at Thomas Edison State College.

Dean Deemed a "Diva"



Dr. Susan O'Brien

The Institute for Nursing of the New Jersey State Nurses Association Foundation recently presented its venerable Diva Award to Dr. Susan M. O'Brien, dean of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing at Thomas Edison State College, during its annual Divas and Dons Gala at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton, N.J., in December.

"Dean O'Brien's recognition by her peers is a fitting tribute to her outstanding contributions to the field of nursing education," noted William

Seaton, vice president and provost at the College. "We are justifiably proud of all that Susan has accomplished both for Thomas Edison State College and the field of nursing."

Through its annual Divas and Dons gala, the Institute recognizes significant achievements of accomplished New Jersey nurses and nurse educators and their contribution to the advancement of healthcare and the nursing profession. Proceeds from the gala fund scholarships for nurses advancing their education and provide grant funding in the field.

College Preparing for First Mid-Year Commencement in April

Buzz Aldrin to Receive Honorary Degree

Thomas Edison State College is preparing for its first mid-year commencement ceremony, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, at Rutgers University's College Avenue Gymnasium in New Brunswick, N.J.

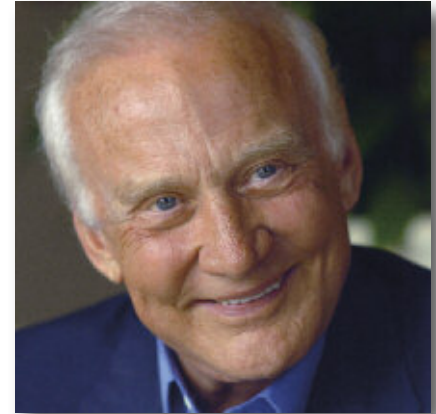
The College is scheduled to present an honorary degree at the Spring Commencement to legendary NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who remains at the forefront of efforts to ensure America's leadership in human space exploration.

"We are thrilled about honoring Col. Aldrin at our first Spring Commencement this April," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. "His passion for discovery and the advancement of space exploration continue to inspire people

throughout our country and around the world."

The College is holding a Spring Commencement to better accommodate the growing number of graduates and their families who attend commencement. Due to an event in Trenton that can potentially disrupt the spring Commencement and that is beyond the College's control, the location of the April ceremony has been moved to New Brunswick, N.J. The change of venue ensures that the College's graduates and their families and friends have the safe, pleasant and memorable day they deserve on April 16.

Those eligible to participate in the Spring Commencement must have been certified to graduate in December



Legendary NASA astronaut Buzz Aldrin will receive an honorary degree at the College's first Spring Commencement on April 16.

2010 or March 2011. The College will continue having its Fall Commencement in October. This year's fall ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011, and will take place in Trenton, N.J.

For more information, visit www.tesc.edu/commencement.

New Jersey Higher Education Task Force Submits Report to Gov. Christie

The New Jersey Higher Education Task Force recently submitted its recommendations to New Jersey Gov. Christopher Christie, who released the report Jan. 4.

The task force was chaired by former Gov. Thomas H. Kean and also included Thomas Edison State College President Dr. George A. Pruitt; John McGoldrick, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Association of State Colleges and Universities; Peggi Howard, vice president of Administration at Drew University; and Robert E. Campbell, former vice chairman of Johnson & Johnson.

"It was an honor and a privilege to serve on the task force and to work with such distinguished individuals under the leadership of Gov. Kean," said Pruitt, the only current college president appointed to the task force. "We believe our recommendations provide appropriate measures that recognize current fiscal climate while setting short- and long-term strategies to strengthen higher education in New Jersey."

The report outlines ambitious goals for New Jersey's system of public higher education, which includes exploring private partnerships, updating regulations and improving governance.





FROM
Brooklyn's
Fort Greene
to a seat
on the
New York
stock
exchange

Talking Stock



Gail Pankey-Albert '10

taking stock

When it comes to chasing your dreams, Gail Pankey-Albert knows you have to jump right in with both feet.

Brooklyn's Fort Greene neighborhood served as a rickety springboard for Pankey-Albert, who dreamed of attending college since she was a youngster. Unfortunately, her family could only afford tuition for one of her three siblings, so her academic dreams would have to wait.

But not her professional dreams.

Pankey-Albert's inner drive fueled the rest of her journey, which led her to become the first female minority member to hold a coveted seat on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

"I was determined that if I could not go to college, I was going to find a way to alter the dynamics of my life," she said. "To me, that meant crossing the East River in search of the right opportunity."

Pankey-Albert got right to it, graduating from high school on a Friday night and reporting to work at the New York Stock Exchange the following Monday. She had already interviewed successfully for a position during spring of her senior year of high school.

By June 1971, she was working as a carrier, which entailed traveling among traders gathering computer punch cards that were then fed into the NYSE's ticker system. She was quickly promoted to a squad messenger.

"I was now on the trading floor moving correspondence, stock quotes and transactions between various members and their respective clerks," recalled Pankey-Albert. "The pre-

Street firms, serving first as a computer operator; then as an institutional clerk; and, later, as an elected floor official – all the while accruing professional credentials, securities and exchange licenses and working with seasoned colleagues who guided her.

In 1981, Pankey-Albert became the first minority female NYSE seat-holder representing York Securities, a discount brokerage house.

“In my online courses, I found the discussion board assignments to be an extraordinary way to interact with fellow students who came from all walks of life bringing with them diverse ideas, perspectives and knowledge.”

digital NYSE floor was the size of a football field and could be populated with 3,500 people at any given time.”

Only a handful of them were women.

Over the course of the next decade, she would work for several Wall

At the time, seats on the NYSE were a fervently sought-after commodity and Pankey-Albert had radically altered an established mold. She encountered attitudes that ranged from reverence to abject hostility.

“Needless to say, it was a lot to



Gail Pankey-Albert

process,” she said.

Pankey-Albert later held a position as vice president and director of floor operations for Fahnstock and Co. Inc., and eventually launched her own institutional trading firm, which remained successful for the next decade.

In March 2001, after a 30-year affiliation with Wall Street, she decided to close the doors of her firm and take stock of her own life. Her new direction would include earning a college degree.

“Up until that time, my academic dreams had been placed on hold,” said Pankey-Albert. “I heard about Thomas Edison State College about 20 years ago, and its groundbreaking format stood out. Like a good investment, I continued to watch the College’s progress. Another NYSE colleague of mine had already obtained his master’s degree from the College, which was one of the deciding factors in my decision to enroll.”

In 2006, she enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administra-

tion degree program and completed her degree in 2010.

Pankey-Albert found the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests, which the College readily accepted, an efficient way to earn credit for the college-level knowledge she already possessed.

“In my online courses, I found the discussion board assignments to be an extraordinary way to interact with fellow students who came from all walks of life bringing with them diverse ideas, perspectives and knowledge,” she said. “It was a nurturing and constantly evolving intellectual experience for me.”

Pankey-Albert had plenty to contribute to the discussions.

She has served as chair, moderator and featured speaker at national conferences on subjects ranging from financial markets, pension planning, business policy and ethics and has been a keynote speaker on various industry and academic panels. She has also served on a number of professional and university boards and founded a college scholarship for New York City borough youths. In addition, Pankey-Albert has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes* magazine; and from 1994 to 2000, she served as a bimonthly commentator for CNBC’s Street Signs and CNN-FN. She is also featured in the Library of Congress’

2000 Notable American Women, 7th Edition.

Today, Pankey-Albert lives with her architect husband, Fred, in South Brunswick, N.J. The couple shares their home with two Collie Shepherds named Storm and Jade.

“I want to help adult learners that cross my path to achieve their academic goals like I did,” said Pankey-Albert. “In my experience at Thomas Edison State College I had the pleasure of being the recipient of some of the best mentoring. When I asked for assistance, there were always staff members eager to lend a hand. By their example, I gained clarity about the role I wanted to take for the next chapter of my life. It will be a long way from Wall Street, but it feels so right.”



DEEP ROOTS

Mary Lukes Stamoulis '97

HOW MARY LUKES STAMOULIS '97 USES GREEK HISTORY AS A BACKDROP FOR HISTORICAL NOVELS

Alumni Profile: Mary Lukes Stamoulis

As a child, Mary Lukes Stamoulis was fascinated and entertained by the fairy tales her mother would make up for her and her brother.

“Mother also wrote her letters to friends and relatives in poetic form, which, as a child, I thought was very strange,” Stamoulis recalled. “I now think them remarkable, because she hadn’t finished third grade in the old country.”

It was those allegories and poetic correspondence as well as the four formative years in the early ’30s when Stamoulis lived in Greece that influenced her passion for writing.

An author and novelist, Stamoulis has written five self-published works of historical fiction, including *Shadow War in Crete*, *Liberated in the Valley of the Kings*, *Knights in Rhodes*, *The Last Emperor of Constantinople* and *Lost in Atlantis*. They are all available in paperback and the first two books, *Shadow War in Crete* and *Liberated in the Valley of the Kings* are also available for e-readers, such as the Kindle and Nook, through SynergEbooks.

In addition, she has recently completed two unpublished manuscripts: *King Philip II & King Alexander III, Greatness & Romance in Macedon* and *Pericles & the Acropolis*. Stamoulis is currently looking for an agent to assist her in getting both published.

“I write accurate historical novels in which I bring the characters to life, so my readers can feel what events or circumstances or personal attributes contributed to their greatness,” Stamoulis explained. “I write things out with pencil and paper; then, after I’m fairly satisfied, I go to the computer. I do research from any library book, computer article or movie that I can find which pertains to my character or event. I especially like children’s books for a faster reference. The fourth or fifth book is not easier to write than the first; they all present different challenges.”

Stamoulis, who attended New York University (NYU) for one semester before she married and earned an associate degree from Brookdale Community College, noted, “I would not be where I am today, the author of five novels with a sixth and seventh ready for publication, if it wasn’t for Thomas Edison State College.”

As an older student returning to school, Stamoulis was 69 when she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in literature from Thomas Edison State College in 1997. She explained that the College’s flexible program made all the difference.

“It was the College’s home-study program and its research as to what courses I needed to take — directing me to various colleges around the country, so I could enroll for credit in required classes and the other services the staff performed invisibly — that allowed me to succeed,” she said.

Born in Mobile, Ala., it was at age three that Stamoulis left with her mother and brother to spend the next four years in Greece on the island of Ikaria with her grandparents — a time she remembers fondly.

“I left a post-depression era and starvation in America and found paradise there in the home and land and love of my grandparents,” she reminisced. “My father sent us there because he had no job, no welfare and no unemployment compensation. After four years, my father got a job and brought us to New York. He then bought a candy store where all the family worked. After I married, my husband, Mike, was transferred to New Jersey by his company, Lily-Tulip Cup Corporation.”

When thinking about the financial turmoil that is plaguing Greece today, Stamoulis noted, “I’m very sad about it. They have their problems to solve as do we.”

Stamoulis, who has been a court approved interpreter for the courts of New Jersey in Greek/English translations for more than 25 years, resides in Holmdel, N.J.

She is an active member in the Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church in Holmdel, and was one of its original founders. Stamoulis is the mother of three children, including her son, Paul, a retired New Jersey judge; her daughter, Lori, a former vice president at Qualcomm; and her daughter, Angela, who has a master’s degree in physical therapy. Stamoulis has four grandchildren.

To find out more about Mary Lukes Stamoulis and her novels, visit: www.m-stamoulis.com.

THE GRANDE BALL 2010

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION HONORS THOMAS X. GEISEL, DR. MICHAEL R. TOSCANI AND THE LATE W. CARY EDWARDS

More than 200 guests helped the Thomas Edison State College Foundation honor three outstanding individuals and raise money for Thomas Edison State College at its annual Grande Ball, which was held at Princeton Airport in Princeton, N.J., on Nov. 6.

The black tie gala event featured the theme of “The Roaring ’20s” and raised approximately \$113,000 for Thomas Edison State College. The Foundation honored three distinguished individuals for their accomplishments and support of the College. This year’s honorees included:

- ▶ Thomas X. Geisel, president and CEO of Sun Bancorp, Inc., recipient of the 2010 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award.
- ▶ Dr. Michael R. Toscani, president of Clinical Solutionz, recipient of the 2010 Spirit of Edison Family Award.

▶ W. Cary Edwards, former chief counsel to Gov. Thomas H. Kean, New Jersey attorney general and member of the New Jersey Legislature. The College formally announced the naming of the W. Cary Edwards School of Nursing in his honor at the gala. Edwards passed away in October 2010.

Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, said this year’s honorees exemplify the commitment to innovation, concern for the public good and spirit associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and the inventor for whom the school is named.

“We are honored to recognize individuals of such tremendous distinction this year,” said Pruitt. “Thomas, Michael and Cary illustrate the commitment to innovation, concern for public good and spirit of excellence associated with the mission of Thomas Edison State College and its namesake.”



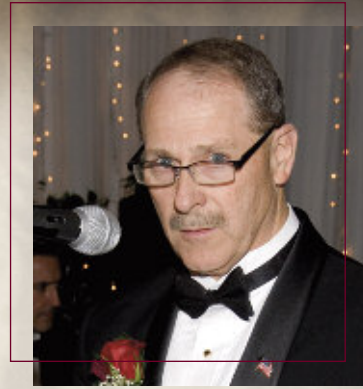
(from left) Dr. Michael R. Toscani, 2010 Spirit of Edison Family Award recipient, College President Dr. George Pruitt and Thomas X. Geisel, 2010 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award recipient.



The College’s Jaclyn Joworisk modeled the diamond necklace featured in the Gala’s Champagne Raffle sponsored by First Choice Bank.



(from left) Karen Maskin, Stacey Lewis and Lauren Murphy



Dr. Michael R. Toscani 2010 Spirit of Edison Family Award

Michael R. Toscani, Pharm.D., is the owner of a private healthcare consulting company in New Hope, Pa. During the past 25 years, he held senior executive positions in the pharmaceutical, contract research and disease management industries and is a frequent national speaker in these areas. In 2004, he was named senior scholar of the Department of Health Policy at Jefferson Medical College and is currently a senior fellow at the newly formed Jefferson School of Population Health. He is also affiliated with several other universities where he mentors students and postdoctoral fellows during their professional training.

Currently, he is the vice chairman of the Foundation Board for Thomas Edison State College. In addition to his Board activity, Toscani began his work with the College helping develop and mentor an online Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Management, which has been recently approved as a fully accredited master's degree program. Because he lost both of his parents at a young age, he has also established an annual scholarship fund for students at Thomas Edison State College who have lost a parent during their high school years to help them realize their dreams despite similar life-altering challenges.

As a current board member and co-president of the Central New Jersey Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Toscani helps direct efforts to promote preventive education, research and support services to

patients and families affected by cancer. He participated in the development of the Trenton Crusade Against Cancer, a program designed to reduce the cancer burden of individuals living in the greater Trenton area by providing health screenings, diagnostic workups and education to those residents who are homeless, jobless or without health insurance. The project recently was awarded a grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb to conduct free colonoscopies for those at risk for colon cancer.

In addition, while serving as president of the Association for the Advancement of Mental Health Board of Trustees, he and colleagues successfully expanded the association's services by acquiring a new building, securing a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant and offering professional mental health services to broader populations.

A Paul Harris Fellow, Toscani has been a member of the Lambertville-New Hope Rotary Club for nine years, where he currently serves as membership and public relations chair and assistant governor for his district. Through his leadership, many club projects have focused upon the improvement of healthcare locally and globally. He is the recipient of the 2009 Rotary International District 7510 Vocational Award for his work in healthcare.

He and his wife, Lauren, have also been the host parents for three Rotary Youth Exchange students in the past six years.

THE GRANDE BALL 2010



Thomas X. Geisel

2010 Spirit of Edison Community Leader Award

Thomas X. Geisel is president and chief executive officer of Sun Bancorp, Inc. and Sun National Bank.

Geisel joined Sun in January 2008 and brings more than 20 years of financial services experience to his position. His background is well diversified and includes experience in investment banking, private equity investing, commercial banking and executive management.

Prior to joining Sun, Geisel held a number of positions with KeyCorp. He joined KeyCorp in July 1999 in New York City, where he served as managing director of Investment Banking for the east and west regions of KeyBanc Capital Markets (formerly McDonald Investments' Key Business Advisory Services division). In 2002, he was

promoted to president of Key's capital region New York district and subsequently to regional executive for Commercial Banking for which he relocated to Albany, N.Y. From 2005 through 2007, he served as president for KeyBank's northeast region, which comprised eight districts across New York, New England and Florida, with assets of approximately \$20 billion and revenue exceeding \$550 million.

Geisel's other experience includes representing the U.S. Department of Justice in various capacities domestically and as a diplomat in Latin America and the Caribbean.

His banking and financial insight and expertise have been showcased on prominent business news network shows, including Bloomberg News, CNBC's "Squawk Box," Fox Business Channel's



(front row, from left) Rob Rosenbaum, Diane Steadman, Susanne Culliton, Dennis Steadman and Eric Ludwig; (back row, from left) Maria Imbalzano, Gala sponsorship chair and Foundation board member, John Stillman and Chris Pyne.



This original 1920s high speed, open tourer Rolls-Royce, which was loaned to the College, added an air of authenticity to the Roaring '20s Grande Ball.



(from left) Barbara George Johnson, executive director of The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College, and Alysia Welch-Chester, director of Membership and Public Affairs for the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, and member of the Gala Planning Committee.



College Announces School of Nursing Named In Honor of W. Cary Edwards

At the 2010 Grande Ball on Nov. 6, Thomas Edison State College formally announced its School of Nursing has been named in honor of the late W. Cary Edwards for the instrumental role he played in the 1980s to help establish a nursing program at the College.

During his tenure as chief counsel to New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean, Edwards was instrumental in securing the initial funding that made it possible to begin nursing education at Thomas Edison State College and did so in the midst of a significant budget crisis in New Jersey.

“In the early 1980s, shortly after I arrived at Thomas Edison State College, we had been granted approval to offer a nursing program, but had no means to develop and implement the program,” said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College. “The fiscal climate in New Jersey at that time was rough, but I met with Cary about our situation and explained to him the importance of launching this program. He saw the value in supporting it.”

Edwards played a key role in securing \$240,000 for Thomas Edison State College, which enabled the College to launch its nursing program in 1983.

“Without this funding, we would not have been able to launch our nursing program at that time,” said Pruitt. “Since then, it has grown into the largest nursing program in New Jersey and one of the largest of its kind in the country.”

The College’s Board of Trustees approved the naming of the School in honor of Edwards at its June 2010 meeting. Edwards’ distinguished record of public service also includes serving as commissioner and chair of the New Jersey State Commission on Investigation, New Jersey’s attorney general, a member of the New Jersey State Legislature and on numerous boards. He passed away on Oct. 20, 2010, after a courageous battle with cancer.

“Cavuto” with host Neil Cavuto and “America’s Nightly Scoreboard” with David Asman. He also has contributed to articles that appeared in national publications, including *American Banker*, *US Banker* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

As an active member of the community, Geisel has spoken on topical business, financial and economic issues and trends. He serves on the board of directors of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce and is a member of its Government Committee. He also serves on the board of the Atlantic County Community Development Corporation (CDC) and is a member of the CEO Group. Geisel also served as the chair of the American Heart Association’s 2009 Southern New Jersey Spring Heart Walk.



(from left) Mercer County Community College guests Joanne Generals; Mellissia Zanjani, vice president for College Advancement; Jacob Eapen, vice president for Administration and chief business officer; and Dr. Donald ‘Guy’ Generals, vice president for Academic Affairs.

Catherine M. Bergh BSN '09

Catherine M. Bergh, RN, had an abstract she prepared for a research proposal in her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) course at Thomas Edison State College presented at the American Society for Reproductive Medicine held in Denver, Colo., in October 2010. Bergh said that mentor Donna Bailey, PhD, in her Nursing 530: Evidenced-Based Practice course, was influential in the submission. "Donna has had a huge impact on me and my practice," noted Bergh, who also recently garnered an award through Merck & Co., Inc., for her research work in the field.

James A. Beeman BA '10

James A. Beeman noted that he married the love of his life on June 12, 2010, Joy Ellen Shoemaker. "We currently reside in the beautiful state of Washington and look forward to many happy years together!"

Ronald Biddle BA '96

Ronald Biddle, a Veterinary-Medical Corps officer, is the first African American promoted to chief warrant officer 5 (CW5) in his field. Biddle noted that not only is he the first African American promoted to the highest rank of warrant officer in the Veterinary-Medical Corps, but he is also the first to ever be considered for this prestigious rank. Biddle is the senior food safety officer who helps maintain the safety and health of our troops in and out of the continental U.S.

Linda Cline BSBA '01

Linda Cline, after receiving her BSBA degree from Thomas Edison State College, was able to pursue a career in the quality assurance field. Her degree also provided an avenue for her to do something that no one in her immediate family had done — pursue a master's degree. Through the U.S. Army's Naval Postgraduate School, Cline attained her master's degree in program management in 2009. Cline stated that it was the opportunity the College afforded her that made it all possible. "Thank you Thomas Edison State College."

Lincoln Cory BA '80

Lincoln Cory recently completed six graduate courses in the Adult Evening School at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va. Cory plans to use his education to help his pastor with several projects in the Arlington Church of the Brethren. He recently traveled to Germany with his wife, Carol, to visit Schwarzenau the birthplace of the Church of the Brethren. While in Europe, they attended the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany; the once-a-decade performances have been staged as a tradition by the inhabitants of the village since 1634.

Cindy A. Craze BA '04

Cindy A. Craze graduated with her first MBA in healthcare management in 2010 and, in spring 2011, will be conferred with a second MBA in marketing. She noted, "I found the expertise of my professors to be the most valuable part of my educational experience at Thomas Edison State College. The instructors brought not only their subject knowledge to the table, but their life knowledge as well. I received a very thorough education at the College, and the BA that I earned served as a springboard to reaching even higher. Your mission and the dedication of your instructors truly inspired me to perpetually challenge the reaches of my mind."

Deborah Donnelly-McLay ASAST '94, BSAST '95

Deborah Donnelly-McLay, a 767 international pilot with United Parcel Service, plans to finish her doctorate degree in education from Nova Southeastern University in June 2011. Donnelly-McLay has been actively involved in helping youths gain interest in aviation and science. The most recent initiative has been her invitation to join the Strategic Board of Molecular Frontiers Foundation (www.molecularfrontiers.org), which helps promote science to young people worldwide. Working along with Nobel Laureates, the Molecular Frontiers Foundation utilizes scientists to mentor young students ages 8-18 and help their curiosity grow. Consisting largely of volunteers, the organization has three main activities: the annual Molecular Frontiers Symposium in Stockholm, Sweden; the interactive website for children (www.moleclues.com); and the Molecular Frontiers Inquiry Prize, which encourages youngsters to submit questions about anything that may fall within the molecular realm for a chance to win iPods, laptop computers, etc.



Tefferi K. Gashaw BA '96

Tefferi K. Gashaw, who was promoted to supervisor in the print center department of the *Sacramento Bee*, credits her Thomas Edison State College education. She noted, "Thomas Edison State College gave me a leverage to shape up my life for the better. Thanks!"

Albert L. Gutierrez BSAST '91

Albert L. Gutierrez was recently appointed president and CEO at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend, Ind. Prior to his appointment, Gutierrez had spent 25 years with Shore Memorial Health Systems in Somers Point, N.J., where he was president and CEO since 2002.

Dr. John Hill BSHS '91

Dr. John Hill was presented the Best Paper Award (Education) at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters for presentation paper entitled "The Weakening of Tenure

and Post-Tenure Review: An Issue Analysis." As Best Paper, the scholarly work was also accepted as one of the few conference papers for publication in the *Journal of the Utah Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters*, 2010, Vol. 87, ISSN -0083-4823 (peer-reviewed). Hill serves as an associate professor of criminal justice at Salt Lake Community College in Utah.

Larry LaSota AA '73

Larry LaSota and his wife, Elaine, are owners/operators of Profile Video Productions, a video production company that was the 2010 winner in "The Knot Best of Weddings" section of *The Knot* magazine and online at "Weddings from The Knot," one of the top wedding resources trusted by brides. An Emmy Award winner for sound mixing, LaSota was nominated four other times while working on such shows as *The Merv Griffin Show*, *Lucy*, *Family Ties*, *Alice*, *Golden Girls*, *Designing Women*, and award presentations such as the *Grammy Awards*, the *Emmys*, and the *Academy Awards*. LaSota noted, "It's truly amazing for us to be selected by the brides....it was quite a surprise for us when *The Knot* called us to tell us their brides picked Profile Video Productions for the Best of Weddings 2010. It's gratifying to know that when you go the extra mile, it pays off."

Susan E. Lindsey AA '89

Susan E. Lindsey, owner of Savvy Communication LLC in Louisville, Ky., was recently honored with two awards for her media relations work on behalf of Louisville-based Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Her media campaign helped generate more than \$10 million in donations in less than six months for relief and recovery work in Haiti. Lindsey's efforts were recognized with a local Landmark of Merit Award and a regional Diamond Award. The Landmark awards are co-sponsored by local chapters of the International Association of Business Communicators and the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The Diamond awards are sponsored by PRSA's East Central District, a six-state region with 16 chapters.

Byron Love BA '91

Byron Love, a certified life skills consultant, has self-published his first book. *The Golden Rhythm: Righteous and Empowered Living* helps readers find their path in life. It teaches how to define and refine dreams and goals, how to find balance in life, how to overcome barriers and bad habits, how to set goals, how to maximize strengths and minimize weaknesses, and how to establish a "Golden Rhythm" through which goals are achieved and dreams come true. This Christian self-empowerment guidebook, which also serves as a roadmap for mentoring others, is available through online retailers.



John J. Mc Gurk BSHS '08

John J. Mc Gurk received his BSHS in September 2008 two days before his 60th birthday; he used the College's military program to complete degree requirements. He applied for a job with the state of New Jersey in the Division of Family and Youth Services and was hired in September 2010. Mc Gurk noted, "I was pleasantly surprised to be selected for the position at my age. I am also thankful for the support and guidance Thomas Edison State College has given me along the way, not only for me, but for all of the members of the military who are continuing their education no matter what their age."

Charles E. Moore BSBA '79

Charles E. Moore became the president and CEO of IGI Laboratories, a Buena, N.J., pharmaceutical company in April 2010, culminating 30 years in the pharmaceutical industry. Moore, who noted that it was the opportunity afforded him by Thomas Edison State College that made it possible, said "I am eternally grateful."

Shannon Rae O'Leary BSBA '09

Shannon Rae O'Leary recently passed all four CPA exams. O'Leary has been hired by UMB Fund Services as a fund accountant and is finishing her Certified Financial Planner certification at Waukesha County Technical College.

Mark Pflug MSM '04

Mark Pflug recently started a new job as radiation safety officer with Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Jean Quinn MALS '07

Jean Quinn recently helped dedicate the first Habitat for Humanity home in Hudson County. Quinn, who is vice president of corporate communications at The Provident Bank, is the president of Habitat for Humanity of Hudson County, a Christian organization that welcomes partner families and volunteers from all faiths who are committed to Habitat's mission to build decent and affordable housing in partnership with those in need.

Houman Sedaghat BA '07

Houman Sedaghat is currently working as a consultant at Sedaghat & Associates, a leading electrical engineering company in Los Angeles, Calif.

(continued on back cover)



APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Harry E. Siegrist III BA '83

Harry E. Siegrist III is a licensed EMT, master optician, doctor of chiropractic, an attorney with a JD and an LLM, and a lieutenant colonel with the Civil Air Patrol, USAF auxiliary. Siegrist noted that Thomas Edison State College's flexible program allowed him to pull all of his college credits together from a number of other accredited institutions to graduate and continue his education at a higher level.

Victoria Ellen Sokoloff BA '04

Victoria Ellen Sokoloff received a Master of Science in Library Science from Clarion University of Pennsylvania during its May 2010 spring commencement.

S. Rudy Wilson BA '82

S. Rudy Wilson, after graduating from Thomas Edison State College, continued his education and received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa. Wilson has published two books *The Red Truck* and *Sonja's Blue*. This year, Wilson has also had two stories published in the literary magazines *Unsaid* and *Kitty Snack*.

Tom Winternitz AA '83

Tom Winternitz, a committee member with the Brainerd Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center and the proud grandfather of three, is retired from Telcordia "Bell Labs" in Piscataway, N.J.

Kyle Younger BA '96

Kyle Younger recently earned a Master of Education in Communication from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Charlotte C. Zanidakis BSBA '91

Charlotte Zanidakis earned a Master of Science in Higher Education degree from Drexel University in June 2009.

Leave Your Legacy with Thomas Edison State College

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

- ▷ Do you want to make a gift for the future of Thomas Edison State College that costs you nothing today?
- ▷ Do you want to leave more of your estate to your family?
- ▷ Do you want to avoid capital gains liability and benefit from the tax deduction?
- ▷ Do you want to create a long-term gift that will not draw funds from your estate?

There are many questions you may have about long-term support of your alma mater, but with careful planning and guidance, leaving your legacy of support at Thomas Edison State College has never been easier.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PLANNED GIVING,
DETACH AND RETURN THE INFORMATION REQUEST BELOW
OR CONTACT US AT (609) 984-1588 EXT. 2077,
DEVELOPMENT@TESC.EDU OR VISIT WWW.TESC.EDU/LEGACY.

Information Request Form

Name _____ Former/Maiden Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Preferred Phone () _____ E-mail Address _____