

SUMMER 2013

Invention

THE MAGAZINE OF THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

FITNESS



***From Halfball
to Headlines***
Dick Sheeran '91

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- > MBA PREP PROGRAM IS GATEWAY TO MBA PROGRAM
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Dick Sheeran: From Halfball to Headlines



THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE
Higher Education. For Adults with Higher Expectations.

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Dear Alumni, Students and Friends,

Thomas Jefferson said, "The press is the best instrument for enlightening the mind of man, and improving him as a rational, moral and social being."

This issue of *Invention* celebrates a man who dedicated his career to reporting the news in one of our country's largest and most historic cities and who leveraged his Thomas Edison State College education to help prepare a new generation of reporters, editors and producers who bring us the news.

We are excited to bring you the story of Dick Sheeran '91, who reported some of the biggest stories of the 20th century during his career as a reporter and anchor in Philadelphia that spanned more than 40 years. Sheeran recalls growing up in South Philly and what it was like joining the staff of one of the first all-news radio stations in the country. He also shares his inspiration for completing his degree at Thomas Edison State College.

Also in this issue, we meet Otok Ben-Hvar '08, who shares his story of overcoming adversity to eventually study classical ballet at The Juilliard School and become a pilot and a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's famed 82nd Airborne Division. Even though he has achieved an impressive list of accomplishments, Ben-Hvar explains how earning his degree at Thomas Edison State College helped enhance his self-esteem.

We also share photos from the 25th National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning, which provides an intensive learning experience on the best practices in prior learning assessment for professionals in education. This year's event, which was held in at the Revel resort in Atlantic City in June, was our largest Institute ever.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Invention*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dr. George A. Pruitt
President

Assistant Dean Named as ABET Commissioner

The ABET Board of Directors Executive Committee has appointed Richard P. Coe, PhD, assistant dean in the School of Applied Science and Technology at Thomas Edison State College, as an ABET Applied Science Accreditation Commissioner.

Founded in 1932, ABET is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization whose accreditation provides assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards established by the profession. ABET accreditation is considered a global benchmark in the



Dr. Richard P. Coe

“Dr. Coe’s appointment recognizes his outstanding contributions to the profession and elevates the College and its applied science and technology programs nationally.”

> William J. Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College

“The College is extraordinarily fortunate to have Dr. Coe as a member of its community,” said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College. “Dr. Coe lead the team in the promotion and advancement of the College’s Nuclear Energy Engineering Technology program and that program’s successful ABET accreditation.”

disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology in higher education.

As an ABET commissioner, Coe will serve as an Applied Science Accreditation team chair for the organization’s higher education site visits during the organization’s 2013-2014 cycle and attend 2013 and 2014 Summer Commission meetings.

Prior to joining the College in 2010, Coe spent 20 years in line management and senior consulting in the domestic and international nuclear power industries and 15 years in higher education, most recently as associate vice president for Academic Affairs at South Carolina State University.

“Dr. Coe’s appointment recognizes his outstanding contributions to the profession and elevates the College and its applied science and technology programs nationally,” said Seaton.

MBA Prep Program is Gateway to MBA Program

Interested in earning a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree but still need to satisfy the program’s prerequisites? If so, the School of Business and Management’s new MBA Preparatory Program is for you.

The three-course, noncredit program prepares adults who already possess a nonbusiness undergraduate degree for admission to Thomas Edison State College’s MBA degree program. The online MBA Preparatory Program, guided by a course mentor, follows

a customized curriculum in the following areas:

- > Principles of Economics (four-week course)
- > Principles of Financial Accounting (four-week course)
- > Principles of Statistics (eight-week course)

Students need only to take the courses they need.

MBA Preparatory Program

First Four Weeks

- ▶ Principles of Financial Accounting
- ▶ Principles of Economics (Microeconomics)

Next Eight Weeks

- ▶ Principles of Statistics

Prepares Students for...

First MBA Courses

Eight Weeks

- ▶ Management Communications (MCO-740)
- ▶ Ethics For Managers (ETH-750)

For more information, contact Dr. Michael Williams, dean of the School of Business and Management, at (609) 984-1130, ext. 3202, or mwilliams@tesc.edu or visit www.tesc.edu/business/MBA-Prep-Program.cfm.

The Next Generation for General Education

For the first time in its 40-year history, Thomas Edison State College is implementing a new general education curriculum for undergraduate programs.

Courses in the College's revamped curriculum, which became effective on July 1, contemporize the traditional model and connect more to the meaningful, real-world objectives of today's adult learners.

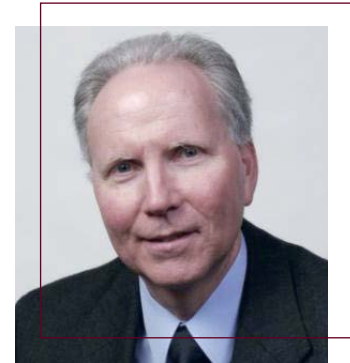
"Our revised general education curriculum is much more in tune with what our students need as adult

HUMAN CULTURES AND THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL WORLD (18 CREDITS)

> Includes course work in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences and the humanities, including interdisciplinary courses.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (9 CREDITS)

> Requirements encompass diversity/global literacy, responsible global leadership and lifelong learning course work.



William J. Seaton

“Our general education requirements will be threaded throughout the curriculum and across all undergraduate programs. We think this is an exciting development that will better serve our students.”

> *William J. Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College*

learners working and competing in the 21st century economy,” said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost at Thomas Edison State College. “It’s about quality and developing a foundation of knowledge that can be applied to what our students do in the world, both in their professions and in their lives.”

The common core of most accredited bachelor’s degree programs, general education requirements typically encompass half of the credits students must fulfill in order to graduate. The College’s new curriculum integrates contemporary subject offerings on diversity, global literacy, ethical leadership and social responsibility. Credit distribution includes:

INTELLECTUAL AND PRACTICAL SKILLS (15 CREDITS)

> Includes course work in communication, information literacy, quantitative literacy and technological competency.

INTEGRATIVE AND APPLIED LEARNING (18 CREDITS)

> Includes course work in critical analysis and reasoning.

The revised general education requirements will not apply to students who enrolled at the College prior to July 1, 2013, though all students have the option to complete their course work under the new curriculum standards.

The College’s new general education requirements are aligned with a national model and mapped to the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ (AACU) “Essential Learning Outcomes.” All Thomas Edison State College students satisfying bachelor’s degree programs at the College will complete 60 credits of general education requirements by demonstrating competency in general education electives as outlined by the AACU in the benchmark Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) outcomes.

“We have created an innovative general education model that is outcomes-based and integrative, rather than distributive,” said Seaton. “Our general education requirements will be threaded throughout the curriculum and across all undergraduate programs. We think this is an exciting development that will better serve our students.”



College Names New Business School Dean

Dr. Michael Williams, of Short Hills, N.J., has recently been appointed as dean of the School of Business and Management at Thomas Edison State College.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Williams has accepted the position of dean in the College and look forward to beginning a new era for our business and management school," said William J. Seaton, vice president and provost. "He brings a tremendous track record of growing enrollments and developing effective academic programs, and will play a critical role in helping us achieve our strategic goals and serving adult learners interested in business programs at the undergraduate and graduate level."

Prior to his appointment as dean, Williams served as associate dean of the MBA Program at Thomas Edison State College. Previously, Williams

served as dean of the Graduate School of Business and professor of Business Management at Touro College in Brooklyn, N.Y. He also served as faculty chair for graduate programs in human resource management, leadership and organizational development in Graduate School of Business and Technology at Capella University.

Williams earned a PhD in educational leadership and an MS in Human Resources Management from the Fordham University Graduate School of Education, an MS in Labor and Employment Relations from the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations, and an MBA from the DeVry University Keller School of Management.

"This appointment as the dean of the School of Business and Management is a wonderful opportunity to shape the



Dr. Michael Williams

direction of the school, enabling it to become a premier provider of practitioner-focused business education for adult learners," said Williams. "We provide students with valuable skills and credentials similar to those at other institutions, but can do so in a way that complements today's demanding lifestyles."

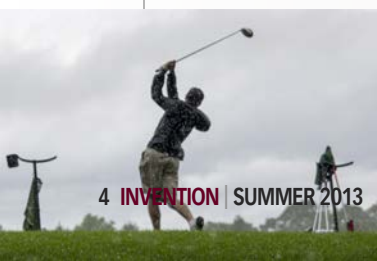
Streckewald Golf Classic Raises More Than \$70,000

Rain seemed to follow the Thomas Edison State College Foundation this year, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the golfers and sponsors who bring the Thomas C. Streckewald Golf Classic to life each year.

Despite a postponement due to rain, the 19th annual golf tournament raised more than \$70,000 for the Thomas Edison State College Foundation. More than 125 golfers braved the rain on the event's make-up date, July 1, to hit the links at TPC Jasna Polana in Princeton, N.J.

Tournament sponsors included:

Bank of America, Merrill Lynch (Eagle sponsor); Claremont Construction Group, Inc. (Golf Cart sponsor); UBS (Flag sponsor); Children's Specialized Hospital, NJM Insurance Group, TD Bank, Stark and Stark, PSEG, and Lear and Pannepacker, LLP (Corporate sponsors); Bunker Hill Consultation Center (Boxed Lunch sponsor); Nexus Properties, Inc. (Hole in One sponsor); PNC Bank (Reception sponsor); Roma Bank, St. Francis Medical Center, Spencer Ryan, LLC and Burlington County College (Deuce sponsors); Capital Health, Clarke Caton Hintz, Digital Dog Direct, Hoisington Engineers, IBEW Local 269, KPMG, Mercer County Community College, NK Architects, Office Furniture Partnership, Princeton Packet, Inc., Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton, Simpson Scarborough, Workforce and Economic Strategies and Zeldis Research Associates (Tee sponsors).



New Options for Earning Credit via Prior Learning Assessment

Thomas Edison State College has recently created new options for earning credit via prior learning assessment (PLA). Two new courses are designed to provide students with an

Education (ACE) evaluations for college credit and more.

After students complete PLA-100, they will have two options.



Marc P. Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning

“Our new process does a better job of educating students about prior learning assessment as a credit earning option and how it can save them time and, potentially, tuition.”

> Marc P. Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning

overview of how to earn credit through the assessment of prior learning and how to develop a portfolio to document college-level knowledge acquired outside the classroom.

The courses build on the College’s flexible methods of earning credits for college-level knowledge and are designed to help students maximize the number of credits they can earn through PLA.

“Many adult learners acquire college-level knowledge. They gain it through their careers, technical training, military training, hobbies or volunteer activities, and can apply that knowledge toward their degree program,” said Marc Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning at the College. “Our new process does a better job of educating students about prior learning assessment as a credit earning option and how it can save them time and, potentially, tuition.”

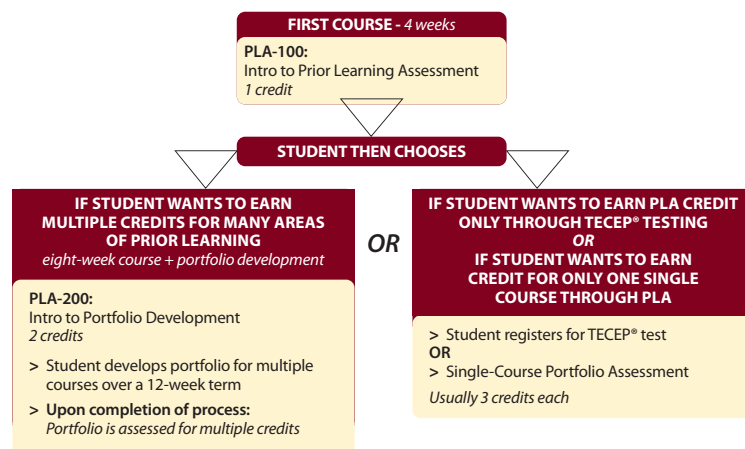
The first step in the new process is taking Introduction to Prior Learning Assessment (PLA-100), a four-week, 1-credit introductory course that examines the various methods of PLA offered by the College, including portfolio development, credit by examination (testing), academic program review, American Council of

First, they can take Introduction to Portfolio Development (PLA-200), an eight-week, 2-credit course that teaches students how to develop a PLA portfolio covering multiple subject areas where the student may be able to earn credit

the course objectives. The courses I received credit for were technical courses I could not have earned credit for via CLEP or DANTES.”

The cost for evaluation of the first 12 credits of a portfolio is \$350, with a \$200 fee for each additional 6 credits.

A second option after completing PLA-100 includes the College’s TECEP® exam program or other credit-by-exam programs, or to earn credit through the College’s evaluation of licenses,



for prior learning. The PLA portfolio documents a student’s prior learning and provides evidence proving a student’s mastery of the subject.

“The PLA program gave me the ability to earn credit for seven courses required in my degree program within six months,” said Robert N. Phipps ‘13, a motor operated valve coordinator at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Tennessee. “The PLA-100 and PLA-200 courses help you to organize your experiences and address

certifications or professional training. Students may also pursue a Single-Course Portfolio Assessment, which allows students to earn college credit via portfolio assessment on a course-by-course basis.

For more information, visit www.tesc.edu/pla or contact the Office of Portfolio Assessment at plaweb@tesc.edu.

College Celebrates 25th Anniversary of National Institute

In June, more than 130 educators from around the world attended the 25th National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning, an event established by Thomas Edison State College to provide an intensive learning experience on the best practices in prior learning assessment (PLA) for professionals in education.

This year's event, held at the Revel resort in Atlantic City, N.J., marked the 25th anniversary of National Institute. In honor of this milestone, the theme of

to, or better than, what traditional colleges offer traditional students," said Singer, who coordinates the development of the Institute's annual program. "Institutions continue to send administrators and faculty to learn how Thomas Edison State College and its sister institutions do PLA. They want to know everything from theory to policy to daily practice. After 25 years, this hasn't changed."

Prior learning assessment was initially developed in the early 1970s by the

The 25th Annual National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning 2013

Looking Back. Moving Forward.

In 1989, Thomas Edison State College organized and sponsored the first National Institute in conjunction with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, the organization that ultimately grew out of the Cooperative Assessment of Experiential Learning project in the early 1970s.

At this year's event, Thomas Edison State College honored Dr. Debra A. Dagavarian, associate provost at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and Dr. Alan Mandell, professor of Adult Learning and Mentoring at SUNY-Empire State College, for their contributions to the event. Dagavarian served as director of the Institute from 1989 to 2002 and Mandell has served as an Institute faculty member since the event's inception.



(from left) National Institute presenters Dr. Alan Mandell and Dr. Debra A. Dagavarian join Todd Siben, assistant director of Portfolio/Prior Learning Assessment at Thomas Edison State College and William J. Seaton, vice president and provost of Thomas Edison State College, in a panel discussion looking back at 25 years of the National Institute and looking ahead.

the Institute was "Looking Back. Moving Forward."

What has remained consistent over the years is the Institute's focus on quality assurance and the future of the practice, according to Marc P. Singer, vice provost of the Center for the Assessment of Learning at Thomas Edison State College.

"People who work with adult students are very concerned that the quality of education and the value of the credentials they provide are equivalent

Cooperative Assessment of Experiential Learning, a project made up of a small group of colleges and universities, including Thomas Edison State College. Prior learning assessment is a process where students demonstrate that they possess college-level knowledge of a subject that has been acquired outside of a traditional classroom setting, such as at work or through volunteer service. It is a core competency of Thomas Edison State College and one of its unique programs.



Dr. Elena Silva, senior associate, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, was the keynote speaker.

Taking a Look Back

Following a brief presentation, Dagavarian and Mandell joined Singer, Todd Siben, assistant director of Portfolio/Prior Learning Assessment at Thomas Edison State College, and William J. Seaton, vice president and provost of Thomas Edison State College, in a panel discussion looking back at 25 years of the National Institute and looking ahead.

"The panel focused not only on what has stayed constant in PLA, but also some of the newer developments at the National Institute, such as competency-based learning and how college-level learning is starting to break free of the restrictions of the credit hour," said Singer. "There is also a new emphasis on accountability as tuition costs have escalated, and a focus on degree completion."

The longevity of the National Institute and the growing number of schools that offer prior learning assessment – from a handful of schools in the 1970s to approximately 1,000 institutions today – is a testament to the success of the early work of the cooperative project and the Institute itself, according to Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College.

"It was revolutionary and controversial when it was first developed, but has since become accepted in academia," he said. "We still have a vested interest to ensure practitioners, both new and experienced, learn the latest and best practices as well as quality assurance, accreditation issues and making sure the process is done right."

Thomas Edison State College established the National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning in 1988 to ensure that prior learning assessment is practiced appropriately and to help educators learn the best practices related to the field and understand the importance of quality assurance and accreditation issues as they pertain to prior learning assessment.

Prior learning assessment was initially called portfolio assessment when it was developed in the early 1970s by the Cooperative Assessment of Experiential Learning, a project made up of a small group of colleges and universities, including Thomas Edison State College. The cooperative eventually grew into the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). The College began organizing and sponsoring the event in conjunction with CAEL and held the first National Institute in 1989.



Attendees and presenters of the first National Institute event, held in 1989 at the Henry Chauncey Conference Center in Princeton, N.J.



(from left) Dr. Harriett Cabell Walker, Dr. George A. Pruitt and Dr. Barry Sheckley share a moment at the second National Institute in 1990.

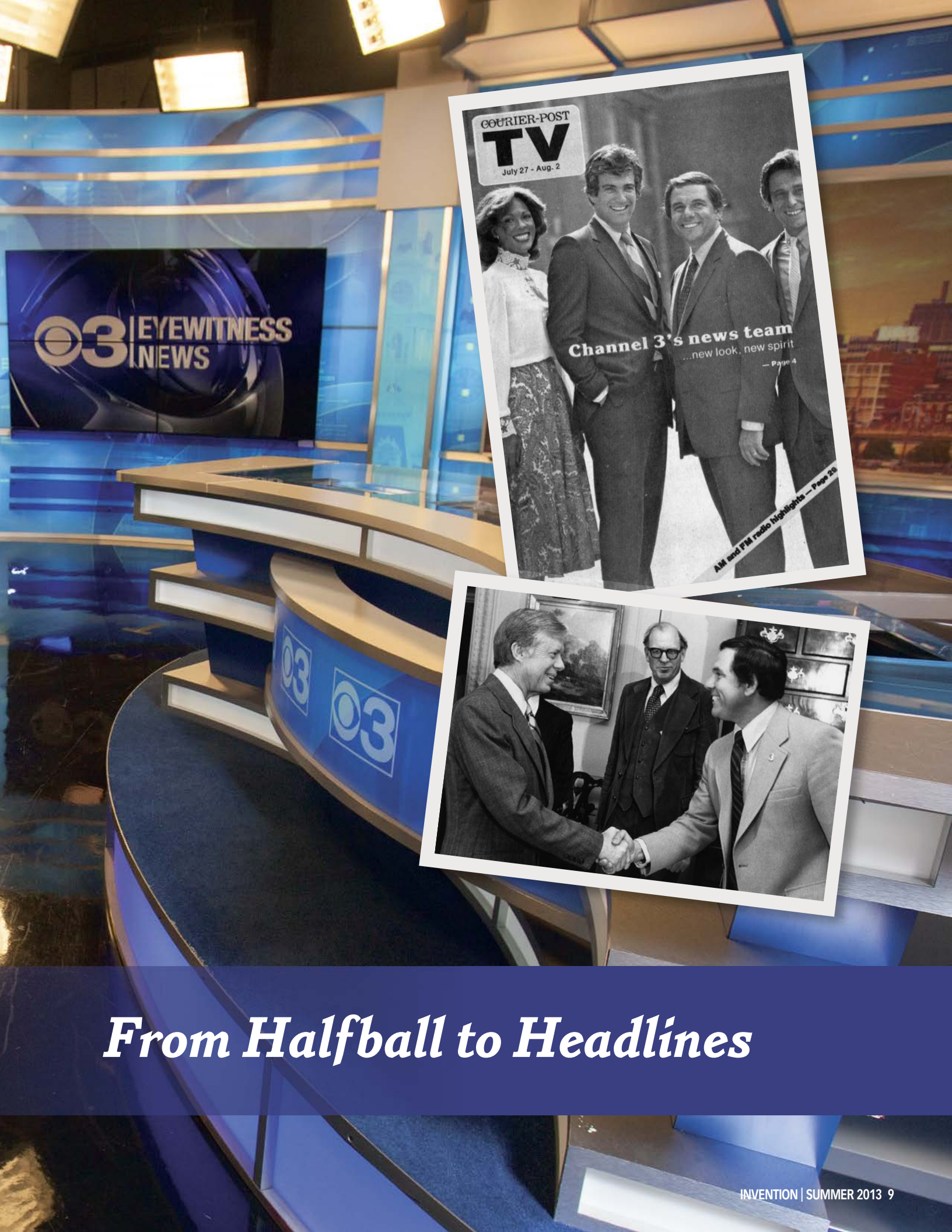


Dr. Morris Keeton, who served as CAEL's first chief executive officer and who is considered by many as the "father of prior learning assessment," presents at the National Institute in 1991.



Dick Sheeran '91

NEWS HOUND



From Halfball to Headlines

During his 43-year career in Philadelphia media, Dick Sheeran reported some of the nation's biggest stories and interviewed a sitting president at the White House, but it was seeing his autobiography in the window of a local bookstore that thrilled him the most.

"I learned that an area store was interested in selling my book, so I dropped off a few copies and went a couple of blocks or so to have lunch," said Sheeran. "By the time I headed back past the store, my book was in the window. I had been on TV every day for 30 years at a major Philadelphia station, but the most exciting thing for me was seeing my book in that bookstore window. It has been the highlight of this whole thing. It's been fun!"

The book, *News Hound: From Halfball in South Philly to TV News*, chronicles Sheeran's life from his childhood in South Philadelphia to his career in print and broadcast journalism in Philadelphia.

Written mostly from memory, the book remembers a simpler time when television was in its infancy and children played in the street while adults sat on the steps chatting.

"Socially, it was a different time," recalls Sheeran, 73. "My South Philly neighborhood was made up of first generation immigrants living close together in row homes, 40 to a block, built at the turn of the 'last' century for factory workers, and people talked to one another directly. It was a time when there weren't many cars and no air conditioning, so during the warm weather people sat on their front steps. People had a greater sense of community then."

Sheeran explained the book was originally intended as a memoir for family and friends and a chance to share his childhood with his seven grandsons.

"I wanted to let them know what it was like growing up back then," he said. "Families were closer; now they are scatter across the country. That was the motivation that grew to 'maybe I should write about my experience as a newscaster as well.'"

Starting out as a copy boy with the *Philadelphia Daily News*, Sheeran worked his way up to reporter and then rewriter and night city editor before he was offered the opportunity to join the unprecedented all-news start-up KYW 1060 AM, one of the first in the country to adopt an all-news format. Despite skepticism from some of his colleagues, he took a chance and it paid off.

Sheeran worked for five years as an on-air reporter with the successful news radio station, which led to a 30-year career in broadcast news with KYW-TV 3, then the region's NBC affiliate.

Sheeran covered many of the biggest stories impacting the Delaware Valley and the country, including the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, the canonization of Bishop John Neumann, the funeral of Princess Grace Kelly, legalized gambling in Atlantic City and several national political conventions. He also interviewed President Jimmy Carter at the White House as a reporter for KYW-TV 3, which became a CBS affiliate in the mid 1990s.

During his career, Sheeran took some college courses at Temple University, St. Joseph's University and at other local institutions. When he learned about Thomas Edison State College, Sheeran decided to pursue his degree for his own personal satisfaction.

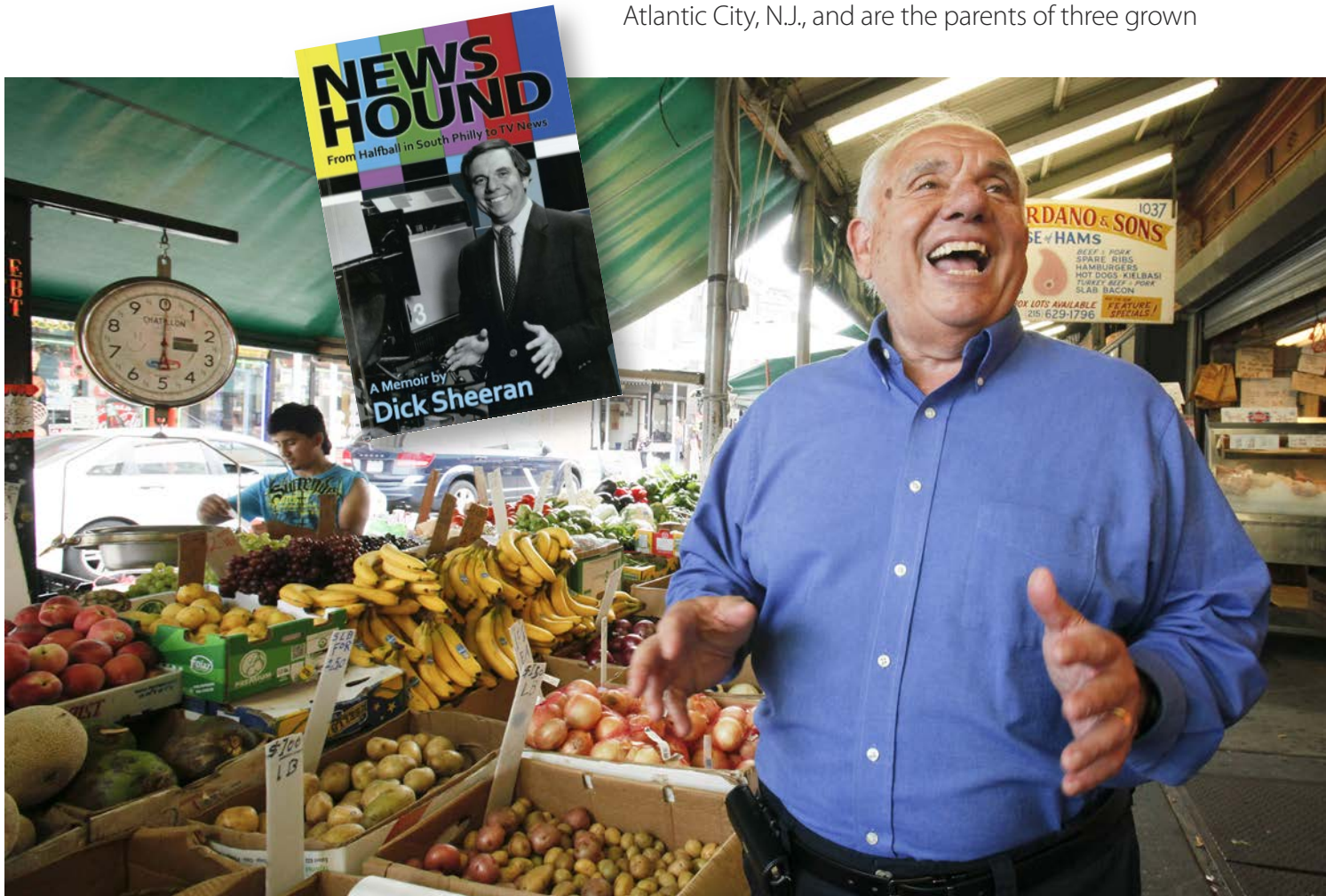
"Even though it was good for me to get my education to help me in my job and with current events, the importance of it really hits me now that I'm retired, because having a BA has enabled me to



“ I did it (got my degree) for self-pride. A lot of people are in the same situation, and the fact that you can pick up your education later in life and finish is unique. ”

a wonderful career,” he said. “I did it for self-pride. A lot of people are in the same situation, and the fact that you can pick up your education later in life and finish is unique. I’m always telling people ‘you should look into Thomas Edison State College.’ It just made sense to me.”

Sheeran and his wife of 50 years, Katherine, live in Atlantic City, N.J., and are the parents of three grown



Dick Sheeran shares a laugh at Philadelphia's famous 9th Street Italian Market, located near his old neighborhood in South Philadelphia.

teach,” said Sheeran, an adjunct professor at Temple University, where he teaches journalism courses.

Sheeran, who completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism in 1991, served as a student trustee while pursuing his degree and served as an alumni ambassador.

“I used Portfolio Assessment and Guided Study, and a few courses at Burlington County College helped me fill some of the requirements, all in the midst of

children. He was inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia in 2010.

His book is available at a few local bookstores and through publisher ComteQ at www.comteqpublishing.com.

“I didn’t write it to make money,” said Sheeran. “I’ve had a book signing and sold few copies, and I’ve given a lot away. It’s just been a lot of fun!”

CONCRETE



Persistence and determination
kindles success in art and life

Alumni Profile

To say Otok Ben-Hvar is an artist may be an understatement.

The Jersey City, N.J., native is a creative spirit who likes to push the limits with his performance works of art and his life.

Ben-Hvar, who graduated from Thomas Edison State College in 2008

with a Bachelor of Arts degree, has driven a lawn mower cross country, lived in a telephone booth for 30 days and planted a tree in soil supplied to him from each governor from every U.S. state, commonwealth, territory and the

mayor of Washington, D.C., all in the name of art. Ben-Hvar planted a seed in the combined 56 soils creating a seed (as noted in the 107th Congress)

America's First National Tree. Over a 10-year, 41-day expedition he carried the tree more than 100,000 miles back to each place from whence the soil came. His newest artistic venture, however, is the explosive fulfillment of a long-held vision — creating art with firecrackers.



Otok Ben-Hvar paints an original work in his art studio.

Opposite, an example of Ben-Hvar's firecracker art.

Otok Ben-Hvar BA '08

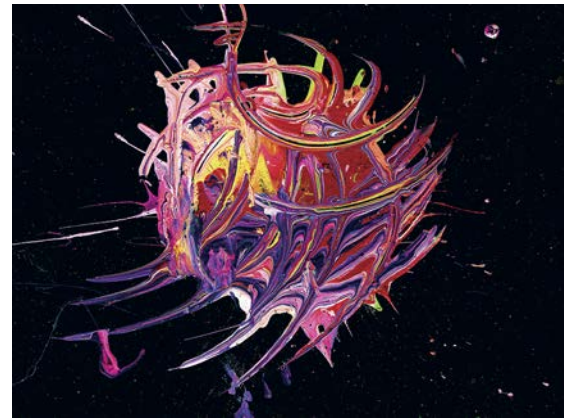
Otok Ben-Hvar

“Receiving a baccalaureate degree from Thomas Edison State College has not only given me an immense uplift in self-esteem, it also made profound alterations with my ongoing efforts to seek out an understanding of the best of the best in art, literature and spiritual values.”

“While a Thomas Edison State College student, I engaged in art courses and began to experiment with my life-long dream of painting with firecrackers,” he said.

To create his pyrotechnic displays, Ben-Hvar lays small firecrackers on

canvas and covers them with layers of paint, leaving only the fuses exposed. Using various fashioned techniques plus a large contribution of creativeness, Ben-Hvar shields himself from the firecrackers/pyrotechnics and lights the fuses. The resulting



Another example of Ben-Hvar's firecracker art.

explosions on the canvas provide the basis for supplementary applications of paint and color. Due to weather and gun powder residue, a completed artwork may take a week to complete.

After graduating from Thomas Edison State College, Ben-Hvar went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree from Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt.

For a man who is now planning to pursue a doctoral degree in art, Ben-Hvar's educational journey was at first arduous and ambiguous.

Born Ben Garcia, the son of a Spanish immigrant father and Irish mother, Ben-Hvar was the family's first son and third of five children. His was not a typical childhood. He was born with a cleft-palate, which made it difficult to eat and drink and almost impossible to speak.

His education began in a school for the physically handicapped. However, since he was not physically handicapped, just inarticulate, he was soon transferred to a school with special education classes for the blind, deaf and mentally challenged.

(left) Otok Ben-Hvar before taking off and after crashing during the Great Atlantic Air Race in 1969, which ended with his eventual arrival in Europe.

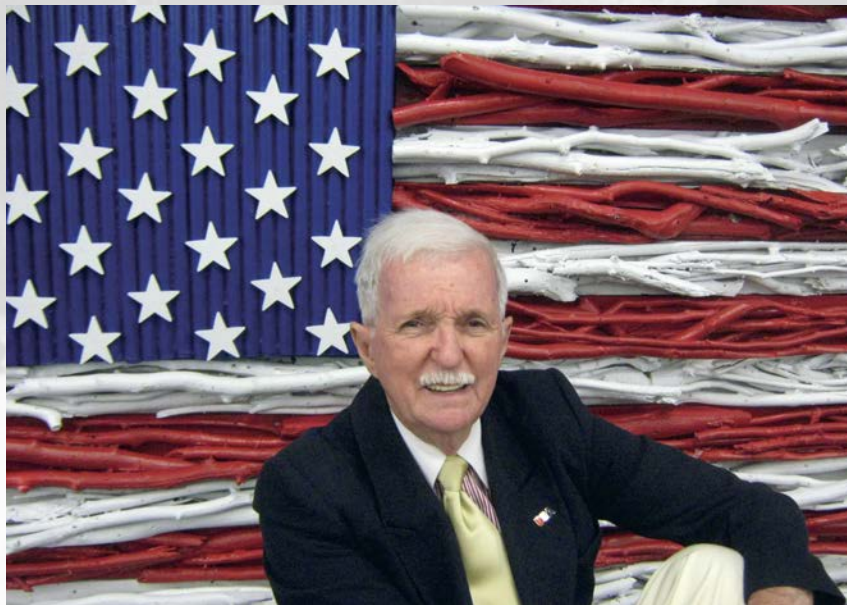


"It was obvious I wasn't blind or mentally challenged, so I was assigned to the hearing conservation class," explained the 76-year-old Ben-Hvar. "Seventy years ago, special education was in its infancy and I spent most of my time being transported from school to school. After eight years in special education, I graduated and was thrust into a normal high school. Barely able to read and write, I was lost, devastated and learned the anguish of oppression, being taunted and not mattering."

After the trauma of high school, Ben-Hvar began improving his life by seeking medical help for his speech impediment and continuing his education. His persistence paid off. Over the years, he, as a dancer, studied classical ballet at The Juilliard School, became an accomplished ice skater, a pilot and a paratrooper with the U.S. Army's famed 82nd Airborne Division. He was listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* (Longest Lawnmower Ride) for driving that lawn mower from Maine to Los Angeles; in the name of "Peace through Friendship."

He learned about Thomas Edison State College from one of his professors.

Ben-Hvar poses before a flag sculpture made from the branches collected during his ascent up Mt. Washington.



"Receiving a baccalaureate degree from Thomas Edison State College has not only given me an immense uplift in self-esteem, it also made profound alterations with my ongoing efforts to seek out an understanding of the best



Ben-Hvar traveled more than 100,000 miles with "America's First National Tree."

of the best in art, literature and spiritual values," he said.

Today, Ben-Hvar's firecracker art is displayed around the world. His latest works have been on display in the

Miami and New York ArtExpos.

"Thomas Edison State College was the key to my being more open and thoughtful," he said. "Life, for me, in my newly found art practice became

well-versed, better expressed and more significantly attested to my 'can do' attitude and principles."

To view his work, visit firecrackerart.com.



Otok Ben-Hvar at Thomas Edison State College's Commencement Ceremony in 2008.

Keith A. Ambersley BSBA '95, MSM '04

Keith A. Ambersley authored a book called *Autism: Turning on the Light*. This book is a gift of hope and inspiration. It is filled with lots of real life examples, relevant information and is a great resource for parents and caregivers raising a child diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

Luis E. Arrese BA '08

Luis E. Arrese was promoted to Environmental Lab chemist at the San Antonio Water System in San Antonio, Texas, in 2012. Arrese noted that his BA degree from Thomas Edison State College made it possible for him to go on to earn his Master of Science in Quality Management from Eastern Michigan University in 2013. He also recently became a Certified Quality Engineer by the American Society for Quality.

Ann Reynolds Bergeron AA '12, BA '12

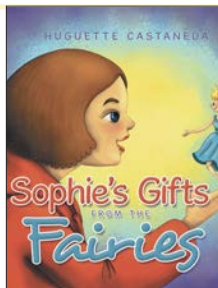
Ann Reynolds Bergeron has been named the executive director for Friends of Dietzel, the campaign organization for Paul Dietzel II, candidate for U.S. Congress in the 6th District of Louisiana.

Matthew A. Boyles BA '13

Matthew A. Boyles was accepted to the University of Louisville full-time MBA program starting Aug. 16, 2013.

Huguette Castaneda AA '91, BA '92

Huguette Castaneda published *Sophie's Gifts from the Fairies*. The book, inspired by Castaneda's granddaughter, is a magical journey for the young and the young at heart. Sophie experiences her dream of seeing fairies, who remind her that we are all interwoven in the fabric of nature; our feelings affect our surroundings, and joy and harmony unite all. Proceeds from the book, published by XLibris, go to fund the Weekend Power Pack program of Collier County, Fla., which provides food that is bagged and placed in children's backpacks every weekend; Castaneda is the coordinator. Please view the YouTube video using the search phrase "Sophie's Gifts."



Russ Carfagno ASAST '97

Russ Carfagno, after leaving the Naval Submarine Force, was able to transfer his training from the Navy into credits at Thomas Edison State College. Inspired to become a lifelong learner following his education at the College, Carfagno was recently accepted into the PhD program in organizational leadership at Eastern University. He explained that he continues to give back and help others realize the benefits education can bring to the lives of students and families by teaching part time at Central Penn College, in Summerdale, Pa. He noted, "The start [I got] at Thomas Edison State College made this all possible. Thank you for the opportunity, I hope to continue sharing the value of education by telling my story and helping my students improve their lives."

Luke Douglas BA '12

Luke Douglas is currently a law student at Liberty University School of Law in Lynchburg, Va. Douglas (right) is pictured with three other Thomas Edison State College graduates, who are also attending the university, (from the left) Jeremy White, Jefferey Sumeay and Benjamin White. Douglas noted, "All of us have achievements at the law school including Law Review, Student Government/Organizations, internship placements, etc."



Rivka Edery BA '06

Rivka Edery published *Trauma and Transformation: A 12-Step Guide*, which provides a personal spiritual approach that can lead a survivor in a new and powerful direction, perhaps not previously considered. In the book, Edery, a clinical social worker, demystifies the misunderstood resource of spirituality as it applies to healing from trauma. The book is available in paperback through Amazon. "I am deeply indebted to your wonderful institution, not only for the education I received, but for supplying me with a venue to work full time and obtain my education," Edery noted.



Rev. N. Thomas Johnson-Medland BA '95

Rev. N. Thomas Johnson-Medland has been promoted to chief executive officer (CEO) of Lighthouse Hospice, Inc., of Cherry Hill, N.J. Johnson-Medland has been a part of Lighthouse Hospice since 1999, most recently as the chief information officer. He is an ordained clergyman in the Orthodox Church, has written 10 books and published more than 40 articles as well as spoken nationally on hospice issues and

end-of-life care. He will use his knowledge and experience as both a member of the clergy and a hospice care professional to continue to strengthen the end-of-life care services offered by Lighthouse Hospice.

Tammi M. Joyner AA '08

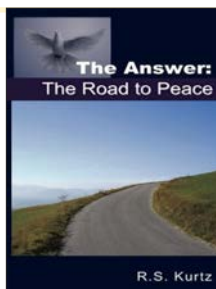
Tammi Joyner and Marquel Green created an Internet radio show entitled "Theory of Parenting" on *Blogtalkradio.com*. The show is dedicated to the communication efforts of parents and teens, and creates a platform for discussion.

Delia King BA '10

Delia King is leading a mural project, the *Shore to Love New Jersey Mural Tour*, starting in the town of Seaside Heights, devastated by Hurricane Sandy. The team will build solid construction fences and adhere polytech murals designed and painted with the local community in a free, open-to-the-public boardwalk art studio. These murals will tell a story of these displaced people's enthusiasm for the future of their town. It will help them regain a sense of place and pride, helping them recover emotionally from all that they have lost. Visit www.shore2love.com for all of the details about the artists, processes and funding.

Rose Kurtz BS '80

Rose Kurtz published her book, *The Answer: The Road to Peace*, under the pen name of R.S. Kurtz. The book tells of her childhood attraction to the tenets of Christianity and fusing her developing faith with the beliefs of her conservative Jewish parents. Her quest set a pattern that she has followed since. "I was very spiritual as a young child," noted Kurtz, who now embraces the Baha'i Faith. "In the interim, I've raised four children, earned a college degree, had a rewarding career as a social worker and founded a nonprofit housing group from which I retired two years ago. I felt it was the right time to tell my story which extolls joining together for peace, unity and love." Kurtz' book is available in paperback through *Amazon.com*.



Lena C. Marchetta AA '12, BA '13

Lena C. Marchetta, director of Guitar Conservatory, has been named a Worldwide Who's Who Professional of the Year in Music. Marchetta possesses 45 years of professional experience in the field, 38 of which she spent as director for the Guitar Conservatory. Marchetta attributes her success to self-discipline and hard work and said she has studied with top leaders in the classical guitar industry. According to a related Worldwide Who's Who press release, she also received a certificate in audio technology from the Institute of Audio

Research. She is a member of the Society for the Preservation of the Classical Guitar, has served as president of Lutheran Youths of Zion and has served as a music minister for the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Leon W. Mount AA '80

Leon W. Mount's book *Old One Twenty Eight: A House of Secrets* was released for publication on June 5, 2013. A true story about a home Mount lived in for more than 20 years and the relationships he and his parents had with a female spirit that dwelled within its walls; it runs the course from happiness through eerie sadness and ends in a mystery that even the author did not expect to uncover. It is currently available on CreateSpace ebookstore as well as Amazon in the United States and is also being carried by Amazon in five European countries and Japan.



Richard Oliver BSBA '89

Richard Oliver is living in Abu Dhabi teaching computer fundamentals to recruits for the United Arab Emirates palace guard.

Gail Pankey-Albert BSBA '10

Gail Pankey-Albert recently received a Master of Arts with honors in international relations/conflict resolution from the American Public University. She is currently in a PhD program for business administration/management.

Aura Rose BA '12

Aura Rose recently started Aura Rose's Treasures (aka A.R.T.), a cooperative artisan business venture, that features wholesale and retail local sustainable fine art, artisanal crafts and custom items, and online shop www.aurarosestresures.etsy.com. A.R.T. offers internships to local community college art students and graduates. Rose married Terry La Sorda on March 28, 2013. She is current working on some books, writing stories and recipes "with a very different format."



James Wallace BSAST '04, MSAST '12

James Wallace, ETC (SW/SS) U.S. Navy retired, has been promoted from production control engineer to chief operating officer at his place of employment, and is pursuing a PhD at Capella University, studying business management with a project management specialty.

ALUMNI & STUDENT NETWORKING EVENTS

tesc.edu/alumni-events

SEPTEMBER

18 > New Brunswick, N.J.

OCTOBER

16 > New York, N.Y.

21 > International Association of Chiefs
of Police Annual Conference,
Philadelphia, Pa.

23 > San Francisco, Ca.

NOVEMBER

7 > New Jersey Education Association,
Atlantic City, N.J.

20 > New Jersey League of Municipalities,
Atlantic City, N.J.



SAVE THE DATE

Thomas Edison State College Foundation's
22nd Annual Grande Ball

> Saturday, November 2
The War Memorial, Trenton, N.J.

CONNECT WITH US!



For more information about these events or having an event near you,
contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (609) 633-8592 or alumni@tesc.edu.