On October 6, the County College of Morris Foundation hosted a program and dinner to honor Edward J. Yaw on reaching the 25-year milestone as the college’s president. The program, which was held on campus in the Dragonetti Auditorium, featured remarks from public officials including Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.; State Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks; Morris County Freeholder Director William Chegwidden; Assemblyman Alex DeCroce; Paul Boudreau, President, Morris County Chamber of Commerce; Sister Francis Raftery, S.C, President, College of Saint Elizabeth; and Elaine Johnson, chair of the CCM board of trustees.

Representing the faculty were Professor Marielaine Mammon, who performed the song “Nine” from the Broadway musical of the same name, accompanied on piano by Professor Joseph Bilotti; Dr. Jose Bevia on piano and Professor Chris Nam on violin performing an original composition “Past, Present, and Future”; and Professor Sander Zulauf, who recited an original poem written to honor Dr. Yaw, who became president in September, 1986. The CCM Choir entertained the audience, performing “The Best of Times,” and there was also a video tribute to Dr. Yaw. Following the program, the CCM Foundation hosted a dinner in the college’s Student Community Center to honor Dr. Yaw.

“A quarter century is a significant milestone — whether in the life of an individual, an institution or a term of leadership,” said Joseph Vitale, president of the CCM Foundation. “Here in Morris County, we have been privileged to have as a member of this community a man who has contributed enormously, not only to the academic life of this county, but to its quality of life.”

Since Yaw became president, CCM has had one of the highest transfer rates of any community college in New Jersey, one of the highest graduation rates in the state, and its students and faculty are regularly presented with awards and honors.

Jenni Wellman – Helping Others Through Dance, Nursing & Education

By Mary Ann Kiczek

Jenni Wellman ’98 has been going to school for 20 years. She is a graduate of CCM and Stockton College and a current CCM nursing student. But it was a trip to Gambia, Africa that gave her a far deeper appreciation for the value of education.

When Jenni’s cousin, who teaches in England, suggested that Jenni join her and her students on a trip to Gambia to visit several orphanages and schools, Jenni didn’t know what to think. “Australia…maybe. Hawaii…why not! Somehow Africa just wasn’t on my radar screen as a place I would be visiting any time soon,” she explained in a recent interview. But it didn’t take long for Jenni’s desire to help others and her sense of adventure to kick in. The next thing she knew she was following the lead of her cousin’s students and actively raising funds for what turned out to be a trip that changed her life.

At the Jazzercise studio, where she teaches, Jenni implemented a Dollar a Day fundraising program. The Black River Barn, where she also works, agreed to donate 15% of all checks on June 2, 2011. Together, these two efforts raised more than $1,000. Jenni was surprised to learn that in Africa, education is not a ‘given.’ “It’s a privilege to go to school, and there’s no such thing as public education. Everyone must pay. What I saw was that if you’re fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be educated, you take seriously your responsibility to learn,” she explained.

Jenni offers gift of education

In Gambia, after thinking long and hard about how she could have the greatest impact, the answer came to her. She would commit to ensuring a quality education to one promising student. Jenni found exactly what she was looking for in Lamin, a Gambian student who, despite his desire and good intentions, was about to discontinue his high school education because his family could no longer afford to fund his education.

Just before Lamin was ready to trade in his books for working in the fields to help his family, Jenni stepped in. For the next four years, Jenni will provide...
From the Director

The bus trip to South Street Seaport saw a decent turnout. It was a beautiful summer day to walk the cobblestone streets along Pier 17. With music playing from the bandstand, the seaport offered a variety of activities. Some enjoyed a leisurely Circle Line cruise viewing the NYC skyline, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Bodies Exhibit captured the attention of others. Shopping and dining at the selection of delightful restaurants was a popular option for most. A little oasis by the water without the noise and distractions of midtown, was a nice way to spend a summer afternoon. Be sure to check out the photos from this trip that are posted on the CCM Alumni Facebook page.

I know some of you took advantage of our deeply reduced group rates to purchase tickets to see the new Cirque du Soleil “Zarkana” in July. I must say this was a uniquely bizarre show. Send me your comments by email or on our Facebook page.

The Alumni Bus Trip to Radio City for the Christmas Spectacular will be on Thursday, December 8 this year. See page 8 in this newsletter for price and details. This year’s show has been significantly changed and will include digital mapping technology, six new scenes, more use of 3D vision, new Rockette numbers and a new adventure theme. The beloved scenes will remain, but this is definitely a newly engineered show. Using cutting-edge technology, the audience will be part of an immersive experience as the scenery extends beyond the stage onto the ceiling and walls, transforming the interior of Radio City Music Hall into a massive magical canvas.

Just a reminder – all bus trip participants must show a valid CCM Alumni Identification Card to be able to board the bus. If you need a new card, there is a $5 replacement fee. Please include it with your ticket payment, and a new card will be provided along with your ticket confirmation/bus boarding passes.

Your connection to CCM does not end when you graduate from CCM. You automatically become a member of the Alumni Association and will receive a welcome letter in the mail along with your new alumni identification card and benefit brochure. You will need that ID card to take advantage of the many benefits and discounts on and off the campus.

Keep in mind that changes to this benefit program do occur from time to time. The most current benefits and discounts are listed on the CCM website in the Alumni Section. While many services that you had as a student are still available to alumni, please be aware that use of photo labs and the aquatic facility are NOT among them. Discounts at local merchants are added, changed or dropped based on their discretion. Please check the website or call the Alumni Office if you have questions.

Barbara Capsouras, ’82
Alumni Director
bcapsouras@ccm.edu

Lisa Martone ’03 Credits CCM
Adding Value to Career

By Mary Ann Kiczek

When Lisa Martone came to CCM in 2000, she knew something that many students do not. Lisa knew exactly what she wanted to do. Broadcast journalism was her interest, and the CCM program turned out to suit her to a ‘T’.

Over the course of the program, Lisa learned many video and broadcasting skills that serve her well in her current role as an on-camera reporter for WOI TV5, the ABC affiliate in Des Moines, Iowa.

“What I learned in the media classes at CCM was extremely valuable to my career. CCM provided me with the knowledge and skills I needed to be successful in the industry,” she said reflecting back on CCM. Lisa spoke highly of CCM’s Professor Ray Kalas, recalling that he not only taught her the skills she needed, but provided much-appreciated encouragement along the way.

From CCM, Lisa moved to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where she earned her bachelor’s degree. The early part of Lisa’s career was split between print and broadcast journalism. After working for several newspapers in North Jersey and at Fox News in NYC, Lisa decided to pursue her dream of becoming an on-camera reporter. She produced a resume reel, and was pleased to receive an offer from WOI TV5.

Since 2009, Lisa has been a member of the channel’s news team, responsible for general assignment reporting from in and around Des Moines, Iowa’s capital and most populous city. She appears on two newscasts, each evening, and has had the opportunity to cover many amazing stories. “A highlight was covering the 2010 floods that swept across the Midwest, for ABC World News Tonight with Diane Sawyer,” she noted.

While Lisa misses her family and friends in New Jersey, she very much enjoys the people and the lifestyle of the Midwest.

For Jacie Woznicki, CCM Job Listings are Sweet

By Mary Ann Kiczek

When checking the CCM Job Board in the January after she graduated from Rutgers University, Jacie Woznicki ’07 came across a sweet listing. Mars Direct Inc. was offering a month-long opportunity on its MY M&M’S® team. The job responsibilities called for preparing the photos for customers’ orders of the brand’s personalized, custom-printed MY M&M’S® chocolate candies for the Valentine’s Day season.

As the month-long assignment drew to an end, Mars Direct asked Jacie to continue working with the team, which also markets personalized M&M’S® for weddings, birthdays, new babies, and other celebrations, as well as for business. Later that Spring, Jacie was tapped for a new role on the team redesigning the company’s MY M&M’S®, M&M’S World and Ethel M Chocolates brands’ websites. Today, working with the company’s Marketing and Development teams, she designs banner ad campaigns, email newsletters, homepage highlights, landing pages and various other elements for the company. Jacie also creates new clip-art for the MY M&M’S® library and she also organizes and styles photo shoots for MY M&M’S® and M&M’S World products.

“After eight months of fruitless job searches on design-centric and general job sites, one day of browsing CCM’s job listings yielded an interview and a job offer. CCM not only prepared me for earning my bachelor’s at Rutgers University, it got me my first post grad job,” Jacie commented.
Rive Video Makes Music Dreams Come True
By Mary Ann Kiczek

“It’s got to be in your blood,” is how Christine (Myers) Warden ’94 describes what it takes to be successful in the music video business. Her husband and business partner, John Warden ’86, heartily agreed. John is President and Christine is Vice President of Rive Video Promotion based in Red Bank, New Jersey. Both have always been huge music fans.

John established Rive Video Promotion in 1994 after working for Megaforce Records for 5 years, where he established their video promotion department. It was there that John networked with programmers and began to direct music videos in-house for Megaforce artists, such as S.O.D. Wanting to work with artists beyond the Megaforce home, Rive Video Promotion was formed.

John and Christine Warden in their studio and with their daughters Leila and Chloe.

John and Christine partner in life and work
After marrying John in 2007, Christine walked away from the corporate world and joined Rive Video, bringing her broad experience in the fashion, recording, and marketing industries. She’s never looked back, and quickly acknowledges how rewarding it is to work for yourself. “I know it sounds like a cliche, but I love what I do so it doesn’t seem like work: I watch hundreds of music videos every week – if I didn’t love it, that would be very difficult.”

In its earlier years, Rive Video’s focus was on music video production, with John doing much of the directing and producing. Back then, the company’s clients were primarily record labels. Few musical artists, who were just starting out, had the financial resources to create high quality, music videos.

Rive Video changes with the times
But as the music industry evolved and new cameras and recording technology became affordable, more musical artists began creating their own videos. Now they just need a way to promote them, and that’s where Rive Video comes in.

Working with national music outlets, such as MTV, Fuse TV, and Music Choice, along with regional video programs, Internet sites, video pools, and digital cable programs, Rive Video Promotions takes on the task of getting an air play for those videos. Rive Video is also a full production company.

Rive Video Promotion boosts on Impressive roster
While its original focus was on Hard Rock and Heavy Metal, Rive Video has broadened its reach and now caters to all genres of music, including Reggae, Hip-Hop, RAP, CCM, Country and more. They’ve worked with such diverse acts as Emmy and Tony Award winner Kristin Chenoweth, who played Glinda on Broadway in Wicked, the legendary Alice Cooper, contemporary Christian singer Amy Grant, and popular rock bands Nickelback and Switchfoot. (Visit www.rivevideo.com to learn more.)

One of Rive Video’s recent favorites is 2CELLOS, a unique cello duo invited by Sir Elton John to join him on his worldwide tour. Recently, Rive Video took a step beyond the music industry when it attended Fashion Week in New York City and produced a runway shoot for Ivana Helsinki’s fall collection.

Relationship building is key success factor
When asked what makes Rive Video Promotion successful, Christine and John agree that success is dependent on building strong relationships. “Anyone can send a video out, but having strong relationships with media outlets and programmers delivers results,” Christine said. John adds, “You also need a great staff that establishes goals and works as a team.”

“Running a business like this takes lots of hard work and flexibility. You must be willing to adapt and change, along with a constantly changing industry. And it’s important that you’re on your game at all times – you need to be out there demonstrating your company’s capabilities,” Christine explained.

CCM lays groundwork for success
Christine and John agree that CCM provided the foundation for their future. “It prepared me for working in the business world, and taught me great communication skills, which are critical in the work I do,” she noted.

John adds, “If you are going to work for yourself, make sure you take a few accounting and economic classes, and stay on top of the technology. You’re going to need to love what you are doing, because you’ll be pulling 60 hour weeks, but it’s worth it.”

The Wardens enjoy life and work
John and Christine love living near the Jersey Shore. With daughters Chloe, 4, and Leila, 3, they enjoy boating, visiting Sandy Hook, and beach trips. “I can’t imagine living anywhere else,” says Christine.

They agree, too, on what they like best about their job. In Christine’s words, “There’s nothing more rewarding than telling a client ‘We got you played on MTV. We make people’s dreams come true. What could be better than that?’"
What’s New With CCM Graduates

By Barbara Capsouras

The following class notes information was obtained from submitted Alumni Update forms. Graduates who completed work for their CCM degrees in December are officially recorded and listed under January of the following year.

1974
Anthony W. Yermal graduated with an A.A.S. in Business Career. He is employed at County College of Morris as a Maintenance Mechanic. Anthony enjoyed participating in this year’s CCM Foundation Golf Outing and competing in the Alumni Challenge.

1977
John J. O’Connor received an A.A. in Business Administration. He continued his education at Montclair State University and received a B.A. in 1998. John is retired and resides in Riverdale, NJ.

1981
Kathleen Anne Walls obtained an A.A. in Human Services/Social Science. She also achieved certification as a wood processing specialist from Dover Business College. Kathleen works at COSTCO where she was recently moved from stocker to front end assistant.

1982
Walter K. Maier earned an A.A. in Business Administration. Walter holds the title of Grants Administrator/Evaluator at the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, an independent, endowment-grant-making organization dedicated to reducing disparities in the delivery of health care and improving access to quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in the greater Newark, NJ area and the Jewish community of MetroWest NJ.

1985
Marie Hankinson obtained an A.A. in Business Administration. She earned an Educational Specialist degree from The George Washington University in 2006, an M.S. in Human Resource Management from Troy State University, and a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA. Marie was named principal of Town Creek Elementary School in Maryland earlier this year after recently serving as acting principal and assistant principal at Oakville Elementary School, and also assistant principal at Benjamin Bannister Elementary School. In joining the school system in 2006, she served as a second grade teacher and librarian in Belle Chase, LA. and a gifted resource teacher and second grade teacher in Virginia Beach, VA.

1988
Russell W. Clarke earned an A.A.S in Hospitality Management. He is currently employed at the Dolce International in Basking Ridge, N.J. as the Director of Sales & Marketing. Russell has been involved in sales in the hospitality industry throughout his career at the Mexican Hilton, East Brunswick Hilton, and the Hilton Fort Lee. In 2019, he received Dolce’s Sales Team of the Year Award. Russell is a member of the CCM Hospitality Advisory Committee. He encourages all to hold their next event at any Dolce Hotels and Resorts property worldwide.

1991
Clara M. Wolford graduated with an A.A.S in Business Career. Clara is a Sales Associate at Lord & Taylor in the Rockaway Townsquare Mall.

1992
Christine E. Tardell received an A.A.S in Medical Laboratory Technology. She is employed at Hoffman LeBoeuf Inc. as an Associate Principal Scientist.

1993
Barbara J. Cumella obtained an A.A.S in Business Career. She worked at ATRT and is now retired and residing in Delaware.

1994
Claudia Deerp earned an A.S. in Business Administration. She graduated from Montclair University and a M.S. from NYU. Claudia is a Global Mobility Manager at Varian Medical Systems in California.

1998
Thomas A. Petrilillo graduated with an A.A.S in Landscape Management & Design. He is the Horticulture Manager at the Island Shores Weingarten Real Estate. MWRE, Inc. In a New Jersey based real estate company. He specializes in ground improvements, development and property management for hotels, shopping centers and apartment houses. Tom resides in New Providence, NJ.

1999
Aimee Barychko received an A.A.S in Photography Technology. She is a self-employed photographer at Aimee Barychko Photography and specializes in editorial, advertising, stock photography, fine art, lifestyle, product, interior, landscapes, and real estate. See Aimee’s photograph work at www.ai- memphoto.com or find her on LinkedIn. She previously worked for Conde Nast Publications, Barney’s NY (web), & Mac’s Advertising.

2000
Kelly M. McGlinery obtained an A.A.S in Nursing. She is currently working on obtaining her BSN. Kelly is a R.N. Field Supervisor for Always Homecare in West New York, N.J. and conducts in-services for the home health aides.

2001
John L. Bolger earned an A.A.S in Management Information Systems. John is employed at J.P. Morgan Chase as a Vice President.

2002
Kara Baramski graduated with an A.A. in Humanities/Social Science. She is a B.A. in Journalism and Media Studies from Rutgers University in 2005. Kara is the Art Director for American Spa Magazine. In her free time, she has volunteered to build homes with Habitat for Humanity in Cameroon, Africa and serves as a junior chair for the International Help Foundation. After CCM, Kara went to London and completed her B.A. in Hospitality Management from Middlesex University in 2007. She currently resides in New Jersey.

2004
Kelly Ann Budnara received an A.A. in Human Services. Kelly Anne serves as the Document Management Services (DMS) Project Supervisor at Employment Horizons in Cedar Knolls, N.J. Employment Horizons is committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

2005
Rebecca J. (Moore) Sanchez obtained an A.A. in Design. She continued her education at Keene State College where she obtained a B.F.A. in design. Rebecca has been the Style Designer for Toys R Us Inc. Last year marked her most important event in her life when she got married on July 3, 2010.

2007
Alex Zukovich earned an A.A.S in Digital Media Technology. He is currently the Head of State Post Production at AZMO Video Productions based in Northern New Jersey. AZMO is a full service video production company that offers high quality video production at an affordable rate. See the variety of services they offer at www.azmovideos.com.

2009
Kelly M. Lackner graduated with an A.A. in Journalism and then received a B.A. in Graphic Design from Montclair State University in 2011. Kelly already has had a varied career serving as an intern at the Daily Record and Seventeen Magazine, writing for Patch.com, and currently holds the following title: On Premise Manager for Habitat for Humanity. While at Keen, she was the Editor-in-Chief of its campus newspaper, The Tower, and was inducted into the Communication National Honor Society. Megan currently is the Assistant Editor at Quadrant HealthCom Inc. where she works on a peer-reviewed, medical journal called Federal Practitioner, www.fedprac.com.

2011
Megan M. Muller obtained an A.A. in Humanities/Social Science. She continued her education at Keen University where she obtained a B.A. in Communication/journalism and graduated cum laude. While at Keen, she was the Editor-in-Chief of its campus newspaper, The Tower, and was inducted into the Communication National Honor Society. Megan currently is the Assistant Editor at Quadrant HealthCom Inc. where she works on a peer-reviewed, medical journal called Federal Practitioner, www.fedprac.com. Diego Ortiz earned an A.A. in Broadcasting Arts & Technology, along with an A.A. in Journalism and was the Editor of the Youngtown Edition. He graduated from Rutgers University where he studied Spanish Language and Literature, Business Administration, and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Delta Pi honor societies, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper. The Rutgers Observer. In 2009, Diego and two fellow CCM graduates, took a fund-raising bicycle trip from Virginia to California to raise money to help survivors of traumatic brain injuries and to raise awareness of Parkinson’s disease. In January 2012, Diego will embark on another adventure when he leaves for South America. He is selling unique alpaca design t-shirts through his website www.dearto- diego.com and hopes to raise enough money to live, travel, and volunteer throughout Latin America. His first stop will be Peru where he plans on volunteering with two non-governmental organizations and working as an English teacher.

2011
C. Derrick Turner received an A.A. in Human Services. Derrick has spent many years on the management team of the Chubb Townsquare Dining Service and as a student. His mom, Linda, also a long-time employee of Chubb Dining Service, is a favorite face to many. Derrick is so well-known to students and staff at CCM, when they called his name at Commencement this year, he received a standing ovation from the crowd! He appreciates that the CCM community was so wonderfully supportive of him and that he was able to complete his degree and maintain full-time employment.

In Memoriam

1971
Della A. Brunmeier A.A.S Nursing

1977
Gary P. Rarick A.S. Criminal Justice

1978
Andrea Giordano A.A.S Business Career

1982
Ruth C. Haering A.A.S Computer Information Systems

1989
Ellen Marie Pekrul A.A. Humanities/Social Science Opt

1992
Wendy Meyer Olson A.A. Humanities/Social Science Opt

1995
Joanne Mary Walsh A.A. Business Administration

2005
Patricia Richard Gehrett A.A. Humanities/Social Science Opt

2006
Carolyn Sherwood A.A.S Business Career

2009
David Michael Boyle A.A. Mechanical Eng. Tech

2010
Catherine M. Serbeck A.A.S Biomedical Equipment Option
Work In Progress for Baseball Team

After a double-header sweep of Raritan Valley on the road, the CCM baseball team was 14-10 and in position to post a strong record for the season. But the Titans dropped eight of the final nine decisions and finished the year 15-18. Part of the problem was that 17 times during the spring CCM saw its games postponed or canceled by rain.

"We knew it was going to be a work in progress just to get everyone on the same page and accomplish what we want to as a program," second-year head coach Brian Eberly said in the May 4 issue of Youngstown Edition, when the team was 14-14 and headed into the Region XIX Division II Baseball Tournament.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't hoping for a better record at this point," Eberly said then. "On the bright side, we've put ourselves in a position to play one week of 500 ball and make the playoffs. Unfortunately the Titans lost four of their last five games.

Trevor Haughney, a freshman third baseman from Old Bridge, led the Titans at the plate and was named to the first-team all-Garden State Athletic Conference squad and All-Region XIX team for his efforts. Haughney hit .347 for the season.

Brian McDonald, a freshman first baseman/pitcher from Boonton, joined Haughney as a GSAC first-teamer and was named to the second-team all-region squad. He was eighth in the region in strikeouts with 38 in 45 innings pitched.

Softball Team Shows Impressive Progress

On the surface, a 4-8 record on a trip to Florida was a rough way for the CCM softball team to begin its 2011 season. But it may have been just what the young team needed.

With only six returning players from a team that dominated Region XIX, Division II play with a 40-victory season in 2010, the somewhat inexperienced Lady Titans "grew up," in a way, on that trip and rebounded to finish the season 22-23 overall. The squad finished 10-4 in region games and had a winning record in both their brand new softball complex (10-9) and away (8-6) contests.

"The final result is perhaps a little deceiving because the team grew stronger as the season progressed," says Greg Wardlow, in his seventh season as head coach of the Lady Titans.

One of the highlights of CCM’s region season was a 10-9 victory over Region XIX division 2 champ Delaware Tech in the second half of an April 3 doubleheader. That marked the team’s first victory over Delaware Tech in Wardlow’s tenure.

The team also defeated Burlington twice, including a 5-1, nine-inning thriller that snapped the Barons’ 23-game winning streak. “That had to be one of the best games in CCM softball history,” says Wardlow.

Offensively, sophomore infielder Meganne Smith, from Branchville, led the team with 25 runs batted in and was named a first-team all-region all-star.

Freshman outfielder Jenna Bessemer from Hopatcong, a second-team all-region selection, was a perfect 20-for-20 in stolen base attempts. She also led the team in batting average (.327) and on-base percentage (.520).

Teammate Grace Tirella, a freshman outfielder from West Orange, safely swiped a base in all 11 of her attempts. And Jasmine Gomez, a sophomore infielder from Montville, set a CCM softball record for most career bases on balls – 53.

Vicky Del Polito, a Sophomore first baseman from Oak Ridge, was the team’s No. 1 defensive player for the season and also its Region XIX first-timer. Her 260 putouts were the most in the region, and she finished the year with only four errors and a .986 fielding percentage.

On the mound, the Lady Titans were led by Caitlin Ross, a freshman from New Providence. Injured early in the season, Ross appeared in 36 games and finished 11-9 with a 2.59 earned run average. Nicole Lipinski, a freshman from Bloomington, was the team’s No. 2 pitcher with a .98 record and an ERA of 4.29.

Rain Dampens Golf Season

Mother Nature wasn’t kind to the CCM golf team as it prepared for its spring 2011 season. And that set the tone for a sub-par year from the Titans.

“Because there was so much rain early, the first time we were able to get out on the course was our first match,” recalls head coach Jim Chegwidden. “It’s hard to work on your game and improve that way.”

Despite the lack of practice, Chegwidden’s squad finished 2011 with a 23-24 record, including a respectable 20-15 mark within the Garden State Athletic Conference, and 21-18 record in Region XIX Division 3 play. They finished fifth—one stroke out of fourth—in the GSAC Championships, and came in seventh of nine teams in the regional tournament.

Unfortunately, the Titans failed to qualify for the national junior college tournament. And for the first time in eight seasons, they also failed to send an individual qualifier to the nationals.

Their individual standouts were Dan Bentsson, a sophomore from Branchville, and Greg Scalley, a sophomore from Mine Hill. Bentsson notched the team-low score of 76 for the season.

"Overall, it wasn’t a good year," says Chegwidden. "It started with a lot of rain and it was difficult for us to overcome that."

Success Of Young Lacrosse Program Eases Pain From Region XIX Title Game Rout

The sting of the humbling 19-6 defeat at the hands of Brookdale Community College in the Region XIX championship game still smarted for Jim Roussey, who saw his third season as head coach of the CCM lacrosse team come to an end with that May 1 loss.

"We were shocked," says Roussey, whose 2010 team also lost to Brookdale in the region title game. "In my 17 years as a coach, I don’t think I ever better prepared a team for a game. We had scouting films and we broke them down, player by player. I even gave each of our kids a CD so they could study Brookdale’s tendencies. Plus, we had a great week of practice leading up to the game. But Brookdale’s players came out fired up, and they just pounded us."

The one-sided defeat left the Titans with an 8-7 record for the 2011 season. They had finished the regular season 4-0 in Region XIX play, including a 12-10 victory over Brookdale on home turf. “I’m beginning to think it’s bad luck to beat them in the regular season,” Roussey notes.

The young Titans program can be proud of what it accomplished. The first year, Roussey had only 16 players on a team that, predictably, went 0-9. “It wasn’t difficult to schedule good teams last year, after our first season,” Roussey says with a laugh. “But now it’s getting a lot more difficult.”

With good reason. The 2010 squad went 9-6, reached the region title game and knocked off some national powerhouse teams along the way. So this past season, of CCM’s 15 games, eight were against top-10 teams. The Titans won two of those.

CCM also boasted its first all-America selection this past spring – two year player T.J. McAndrew from Randolph. McAndrew scored 23 goals in 13 games. Vinny Gencorelli, a sophomore from Rockaway, tallied 38 goals and chipped in with 20 assists. The Titans’ Max Becker, a freshman from Oak Ridge, scored 24 goals—good enough for third in the region—and added 14 assists. Tom Leahy, a freshman from Landing, who scored 20 goals on the season, led the entire region with 24 assists.

McAndrew, Gencorelli and Sean Lepicard, also a sophomore from Rockaway, were named to the all-Region XIX team. Lepicard finished the season with 14 goals and seven assists. And Titan goalkeepers Travis Witty, sophomore from Towaco, and Calvin Spinelli, a freshman from Spring Lake, combined to allow just 16 goals for the season.

"Any time you finish above .500 with such a young program and such a tough schedule, you’ve got to be happy," says Roussey.

By David Artuso
For CCM Alum, Gift Annuity Was The Way to Give

If nothing else, Joan Finelli ’93 is tenacious. She enrolled in college in 1981 in hopes of receiving her associate’s degree and achieved that goal 12 years later. “It was a struggle at times,” she says. “I took one course each semester and didn’t take any courses in the summer. I also worked full time and had family obligations. When I look back at it, it’s hard to believe I stuck with it.”

Finelli, who eventually graduated with a degree in Humanities/Social Science, was working at Fortunoff’s in Wayne, NJ, at the time. “It was a struggle at times,” she says. “I took one course each semester and didn’t take any courses in the summer. I also worked full time and had family obligations. When I look back at it, it’s hard to believe I stuck with it.”

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Finelli, who eventually graduated with a degree in Humanities/Social Science, was working at Fortunoff’s in Wayne, NJ, at the time. “It was a struggle at times,” she says. “I took one course each semester and didn’t take any courses in the summer. I also worked full time and had family obligations. When I look back at it, it’s hard to believe I stuck with it.”
Jim Relyea ‘94 – Glving Back Is Good for the Heart

Jim lives in Rockaway Township with his wife, Stacey, and two daughters, Kyra, age 7, and Kim, age 5. There aren’t too many people out there who would say that having a heart attack at age 39 was the best thing that happened to me.” But for Jim Relyea, it might have been just what the doctor ordered.

That’s because for Jim, the heart attack he experienced in May 2010 was a serious wake-up call that led to dramatic changes in his life. He came out of heart surgery commited to adopt a healthier lifestyle – not just for himself but for his wife and children. As part of his personal rehabilitation efforts, he began a walking regimen that had him walking up to seven miles a day, and losing 30 pounds.

Jim didn’t stop there. Two other realizations came to him after his heart attack. The first was that he hadn’t done enough to help the less fortunate, and the other was that in order to maintain his healthy lifestyle, he needed to surround himself with active, healthy people.

Jim is accomplishing both by participating in fundraising events with an active element. Just 13 weeks after his heart attack, he participated in his first competitive event – a 5k walk/run in Long Branch sponsored by the New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association. He may have finished toward the end of the pack, but he left the event feeling empowered to create a better life for himself and others.

Since then, Jim has participated in the Essex County Heart Walk, the Walk to Cure Diabetes at County College of Morris, and the Team Kessler’s Polar Bear Plunge to benefit the New Jersey Special Olympics. He is also working with the White Meadow Lake’s Beach Committee to raise money for a sand wheelchair. “Giving money is a great thing to do for charity, but when you give of yourself it means so much more,” he commented.

Although Jim’s volunteer efforts to help others may be new, in reality, he’s been bettering the lives of patients for many years in his work as a nurse with Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. For 12 years, he worked with patients who had spinal cord injuries. “I’ve seen the worst of the worst. I’ve always tried to appreciate the little things in life, but it never really hit home before I became a patient myself,” Jim said.

More recently, Jim became part of Kessler’s acute certified stoke unit, one of the largest in the country. He currently manages 57 acute stroke and ortho patients. CCM recognized his good work by presenting Jim with the Alumni Humanitarian Award in 2008 which he keeps on his desk at work.

In reflecting on CCM, Jim commented, “The CCM nursing program was challenging, but I came out of it well prepared for my career. I’ve since hired many nurses who graduated from CCM. I’ve always been very proud of the school. It set me up for success, not just professionally, but personally as well,” he concluded.

Jim lives in Rockaway Township with his wife, Stacey, and two daughters, Kyra, age 7, and Kim, age 5.
Eligible students benefit from free tuition for healthcare training.

The County College of Morris (CCM) has launched the Northern New Jersey Health Profession Pathways to provide qualified low-income individuals with free educational opportunities and support services in one of several health professions educational programs.

The program, supported with a $1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, offers free enrollment in eight healthcare fields:

- Certified Home Health Aide
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Certified Electronic Health Record Systems Technologist
- Certified Clinical Medical Assistant
- Phlebotomy Technician
- EKG Technician
- Pharmacy Technician

Eligible students enroll in courses offered by the college’s Continuing Education division. Depending on the program, classes are offered either on the CCM Randolph campus, the college’s location in Morristown or through the Morris County School of Technology in Denville.

“The pathways program is designed as a comprehensive career-ladder opportunity for individuals who are struggling in this economy to take advantage of strong job growth areas in the world of healthcare,” explained Dr. Jane Armstrong, Dean of Corporate Education, Community Programs and Academic Initiatives at CCM.

The pathways program is open to individuals who are recipients of either Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or General Assistance, or whose annual income falls within 125 – 185 percent of the poverty guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Individuals who are interested in exploring this option for education and training can contact Linda Lower at CCM at 973-328-5182 or llower@ccm.edu.