

CONNECTIONS



EOF Monthly Connections

May 2011 Newsletter

REFLECTING ON THE 2010-2011 ACADEMIC YEAR...



The weather is warming up, the flowers are coming through and just like that the Spring semester came and went! As we wrap up the year and you get ready to enjoy your time off, graduate or a quick break before summer classes begin, we sit back and reflect upon this year. Things started a bit rough with some heavy heat and rolled into an even rougher winter, causing at times delays and cancellations with your classes. Through it all, you worked hard and tried to stay on track all year

long. As you get ready to go this summer, remember all the hard work you put in, all the difficulties you faced, how hard you worked balancing everything in your life. Take the good and the bad, learn from it and make it better.

If your plans are a well deserved vacation break, enjoy time with friends and family and get a breather. Recharge your energy and look forward to all great things to come next Fall at CCM. If you're graduating, *congratulations!* This is a HUGE step and you should be proud. Look forward to many new opportunities and challenges as you transfer to another college and continue your education or set foot in the workforce. There will be twists and turns, and curve balls ahead....but enjoy the

ride. You'll have so many more accomplishments to look forward to celebrating. If you're continuing your education this summer, keep up the momentum by remembering why you're doing it. Maintain your focus; summer courses are intense, but they let you get ahead as you pursue your degree. Remember EOF is here to work with you all year round, so come see your counselor and if you need additional support. *Let us know!*

The EOF office is proud of each and every one of you; our work never ends, as we are always here for you!

Have fun and enjoy the summer!

Director of the EOF

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EOF Educator of the Year:

Elizabeth Snyder
History/Political
Science & Criminal
Justice Department—
CCM

EOF Service Award:

Dr. Gail Watson
Assistant Department
Chairperson/English
Professor —CCM



Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

~ Henry Peter Broughan

EOF AWARDS CEREMONY, APRIL 25, 2011

Congratulations!



Left to right: Dr. Edward Yaw, CCM President; Mrs. Pamela Marcenaro, EOF Director; EOF Candidates for Graduation—Jason Messina, Justin Mackowiak, Stephany Cedano, Natalie Lattimore, and Joshua Ramos

EOF Scholar of the Year—
Hoai Thuong Nguyen



Community Service
Winner—
Natalie Lattimore



Academic Achievement Awardees—Back row, left to right: Robert Mehan, Edward Akaezuwa, Qwamine Solomon, Natalie Lattimore, Patricia Kijak, Melanie Jimenez, Dr. Dwight Smith, VP of Academic Affairs. Front row, left to right: Stefanie Barone, Victoria Bronson, Hoai Thuong Nguyen, Yury Rincon David Mejia, and Johanny Toro



Oliver Sheffield Scholarship Awardees—Left to right: Stephany Cedano, Johanny Toro, David Mejia, Natalie Lattimore, Qwamine Solomon, Yury Rincon, Melanie Jimenez, Heidi Martinez, and Ms. Katie Olsen—Director of Development Office of College Advancement & Planning

OUTSTANDING EOF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Graduating Seniors and students who received awards at the EOF Recognition Dinner, April 25, 2011.

CCM GRADUATING SENIORS

December 2010

Yasmine Ibrahim

May 2011

Carolina Largo
Justin Mackowiak
Juan Orejuela

August 2011

Stephany Cedano
Natalie Lattimore
Joshua Ramos

RECOGNITION AWARDS

NJ Legislature—Senate & General Assembly Citations

Edward Akaezuwa	Demetrios Makrikostas
Stefanie Barone	Heidi Martinez
Nicole Barrett	Robert Mehan
Staten Baynes	David Mejia
Victoria Bronson	Hoai Thuong Nguyen
Stephany Cedano	Yury Rincon
Thomas Gizas	Qwamine Solomon
Yasmine Ibrahim	Johanny Toro
Melanie Jimenez	Morgan Trapani
Patricia Kijak	Casey Vreeland
Natalie Lattimore	Damon Watson
Lori Macula	

EOFPA NJ Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Demetrios Makrikostas

EOFPANJ Academic Achievement Award

Yasmine Ibrahim

EOFPANJ Outstanding Achievement Award

Natalie Lattimore

Scholar of the Year

Hoai Thuong Nguyen

Community Service

Natalie Lattimore

Alumni of the Year

Yasmine Ibrahim
Donald Marulanda

Persistence Award

Emily Camacho

Academic Achievement Awards

Edward Akaezuwa	Demetrios Makrikostas
Stefanie Barone	Robert Mehan
Nicole Barrett	David Mejia
Staten Baynes	Hoai Thuong Nguyen
Victoria Bronson	Yury Rincon
Thomas Gizas	Qwamine Solomon
Yasmine Ibrahim	Johanny Toro
Melanie Jimenez	Morgan Trapani
Patricia Kijak	Casey Vreeland
Natalie Lattimore	Damon Watson
Lori Macula	

Oliver Sheffield Student Scholarship

Staten Baynes	David Mejia
Stephany Cedano	Yury Rincon
Melanie Jimenez	Qwamine Solomon
Natalie Lattimore	Johanny Toro
Demetrios Makrikostas	Dameon Watson
Heidi Martinez	

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

AESNJ Student Alliance

Aaron Adrian
Ayesha Aly Ahmed
Elijah Barrett
Nicole Barrett
Victoria Bronson
Catalina Carvajal
Aqueela Chaudhry
Cassandra Exius
Katherin Gallego
Thomas Gizas
Denia Guzman
Yasmine Ibrahim
Jessica Jaramillo
Melanie Jimenez
Patricia Kijak
Natalie Lattimore
Adam Linares
Brenda Lizarraga
Yuleisy Lopez
David Mejia
Hoai Thuong Nguyen
Yury Rincon
Johanny Toro
Katijha Uddin
Casey Vreeland
Dameon Watson

Chi Alpha Epsilon (Cont.)

Demetrios Makrikostas
Robert Mehan
Yury Rincon

Gay/Straight Alliance

Justin Mackowiak

Interclub Council

Natalie Lattimore

International Students Association

Hoai Thuong Nguyen

New Social Engine

Ayesha Aly Ahmed

Phi Theta Kappa

Victoria Bronson
Robert Mehan

Strategic Gaming Club

Ayesha Aly Ahmed
Victoria Bronson
Justin Mackowiak

Student Government Association

Victoria Bronson
Natalie Lattimore

Student Nurses Association

Victoria Bronson

Volunteer Club

Robert Mehan

Ambassadors Club

Ayesha Aly Ahmed
Natalie Lattimore

Asian Students Association

Justin Mackowiak

Catholic Campus Ministry

Hoai Thuong Nguyen

Chi Alpha Epsilon

Edward Akaezuwa
Nicole Barrett
Victoria Bronson
Yasmine Ibrahim
Patricia Kijak





SENIOR "SPOTLIGHT"

Robert Mehan



What are your plans after graduation? I plan to pursue both my Bachelor's degree and my Master's degree in Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Madison, New Jersey Campus.

How has County College of Morris and EOF prepared you for life after college? County College of Morris taught me that just because I thought that I was ready to be on my own after high school graduation did not mean that I was, which proved to be true. The college also showed me that our life paths may change in the blink of an eye and that it is very important to always be flexible as a citizen both in school as well as in the real world.

Now that you are approaching graduation, what do you claim as your most important asset as you enter the workforce and the world? The most important asset I have as I continue my life journey beyond CCM is that of my love and gratefulness for life itself. By living every day as though it were my last, I see the world's people and opportunities in a special light that breaks through any fears I may have and that helps me do right by others,

even if that means harder times for myself.

What role has the EOF program played in your academic, personal, and, professional development? I could write until the end of time about all of the blessings that EOF has given me, but most of all, they are always there for their students. I consider them to be an extension of my own family and I would do anything I could be help them in the future. Thank you for everything Judith Dickerson, Pam Marcenaro, Edie Nelson, Beth Pinajian, and Gene Moss.

What things have motivated you to continue striving for academic success and professional growth? All I've had to do to motivate myself for academic success and professional development is to look at all the members of my family.

My family has all of the world's socio-economic statuses within it, ranging from dirt poor people who worry about putting food on the table (my situation) to CEO's of one of the country's biggest companies, including a lot of family members that fall into the middleclass. When I look at all of my family, I see that they all made choices, to get where they are. So, I've learned that I could choose to go all the way with education, stop somewhere in between, or quite differently all together, gamble may life with no degree at all. I choose that first of the three.

What advice or message would you like to leave to current and/or future EOF students? My advice to all EOF students is to practice good communication skills by always keeping EOF informed of what is going on in your college life, no

matter how good or bad it may be. Even if you are doing poorly or going through a rough time, EOF will never judge you but will always help you. EOF is on your team, so utilize them, don't bench them.

What motivated you to get involved in student life initially? What can you say about students getting involved? My love for my extended family in EOF got me involved in student life. Anything that I could do for them I made sure I did, which reflects that you have to have passion for what you do in life. As for the new students getting involved, make sure you all have passion too, because if you do not, your performance will demonstrate it.

What would you say is your philosophy in life? My philosophy in life has three part: family, service, and charity. Take care of your family and be there for them in both good times and the bad. Always serve your community when you can, whether it be community service or military service, because one person does make a difference. And lastly, always give to others in circumstances less fortunate than you are whenever possible. By giving often, you will be reminded how much you truly do have even if you do not believe that you have much.

What personal experience, if any, has had a huge impact on your personal philosophies and/or plans in the future? The one personal experience that had a profound impact on my philosophies (as it did so many others) was the 9/11 tragedy ten years ago. That September day made me, at eleven years old, develop my three part philosophy

SENIOR "SPOTLIGHT"—CONTINUED

mentioned above because I saw those three parts of the human experience at their best on that day. 9/11 also instilled in me the passion I mentioned earlier. In the hours following that terrible day, my passion for America gave birth to a personal promise. I would never give up doing good for this world because, people who do evil never rest, so people who do good should never rest either. And now, ten years later, the brave men and women have captured and killed all

but one of those people responsible for 9/11, which shows what could be accomplished when people work together for either an evil cause (9/11) or a good cause (People coming together for America).

What are memorable moments you have had with EOF? My memorable moments of EOF have all been about serving other people through community service and through Chi Alpha Epsilon events.

When you are not studying and engaging academic life, how do you spend your free time?

When I'm not doing anything academic, I enjoy reading a good book or playing competitive tennis.

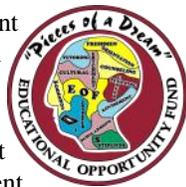
Robert Mehan



EOF STUDENT ALLIANCE ~ "TRICK TRAY"

Edie Nelson

The EOF Student Alliance had another successful year in spite of the mid-semester retirement of our Alliance President, Casey Vreeland. Although Casey was not able to finish serving the semester, she continued to participate as she did in the Fall 2010 semester. For all her efforts, donations and involvement over the course of the academic 2010-2011 year, Casey Vreeland won the EOF Student Leadership Award! This award began in 2009, and is awarded to the student who has attended the most meetings and events throughout the year. This has been a great incentive for future EOF students to participate in the Alliance. Congratulations Casey!



President right away without missing a beat! Brenda helped with all of our ongoing activities including the Food and Bake Sale, the Tricky Tray, and the Spring Picnic. Thank you also to our VP Melanie Jimenez, and our Treasurer, Hoai Thuong Nguyen, who have both given many, many hours of assistance in all the Alliance events.

Paula Garcia & Hoai Thuong Nguyen



Ayesha Aly Ahmed



The highlight of the spring semester, our 4th Annual EOF Tricky Tray fundraiser, was very successful once again, and had a wonderful variety of donated items and store bought baskets. We actually had more EOF hand-wrapped baskets than purchased ones this year! The event raised \$791. for the EOF Contingency Fund.

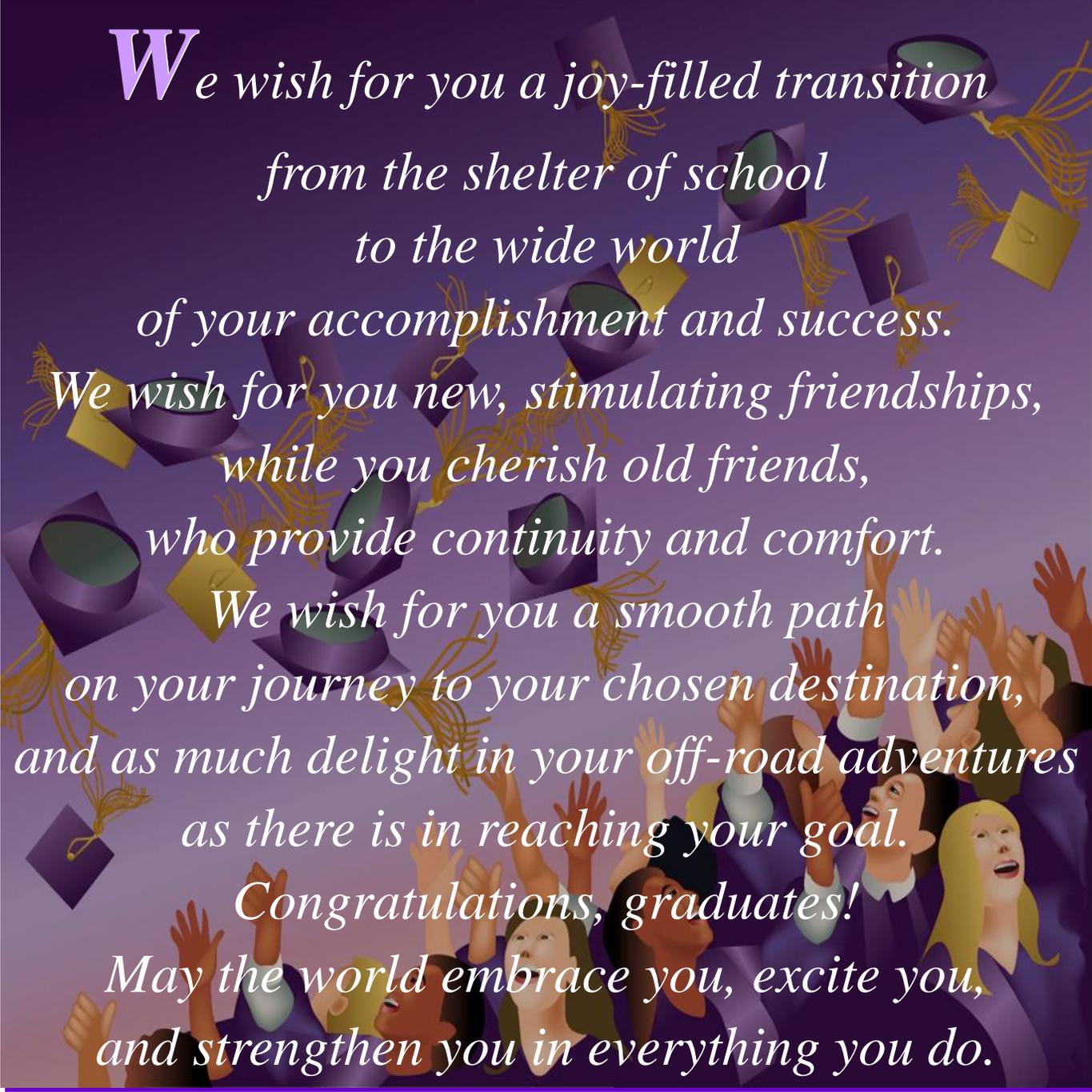
Thank you to everyone who wrapped baskets, sold tickets, donated items, or provided funds. Ayesha and Natalie were a great duo announcing the winners at the Awards Dinner! And a very special thank you to the donors of our trays: Victoria Bronson, Catalina Carvarjal, Jefferson Cartano, Zhurong Chen, Tom Gizas' family, Mr. & Mrs. Gizas, Elaine Johnson, Patricia Kijak, Pam Marcenaro, Parents of Pam Marcenaro, Jean Ann Mirsky, Gene Moss, Edie Nelson, Dr. Dwight Smith, Casey Vreeland, Dameon Watson, and Dr. Gail Watson.



Brett Russo and Ronny Kasabri, Ronny won Golf Tricky Tray.

The Alliance is the driving force behind EOF events and we appreciate all our students who have gotten involved.

Fortunately, for the Alliance, Brenda Lizarraga stepped in as our new

GRADUATION WISH!**By: Joanna Fuchs**

*We wish for you a joy-filled transition
from the shelter of school
to the wide world
of your accomplishment and success.
We wish for you new, stimulating friendships,
while you cherish old friends,
who provide continuity and comfort.
We wish for you a smooth path
on your journey to your chosen destination,
and as much delight in your off-road adventures
as there is in reaching your goal.
Congratulations, graduates!
May the world embrace you, excite you,
and strengthen you in everything you do.*

***Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors
From the EOF Staff***