



Spring/Summer 2016

# Meet Our Students



## Mirella Quintana '16 *Business Administration*

When her parents told her they would soon be moving from their native Peru to the U.S., Mirella Quintana remembers being both excited and scared. "I was happy that there was going to be a new opportunity for us but I was also frightened at the prospect of learning a new language."

Now a U.S. citizen, Mirella arrived a month before her seventh birthday and was enrolled in Lincoln Elementary School in Rockaway Borough and an English as a Second Language (ESL) course through the school. She showed a propensity for her new language and completed the ESL course in just six months.

From an early age, the world of business fascinated her. "My parents were business people," she says. "They actually started the

school – then pre-school through second grade – that I attended. In Peru, you have to be good in business or you won't survive."

After high school, Mirella was accepted into the Finance and International Business Academy at the Morris County School of Technology. At 17, there was another life-changing experience. She interned with DoSomething.org, America's largest non-profit organization for youth. Her work there inspired her to combine her growing business expertise with philanthropy. She worked together with family to form a non-profit and each year returns to Peru to assist students in advancing their educations.

After graduating from CCM this spring, she intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in

finance at a four-year college and continue her philanthropic work. As a tribute to her outstanding scholarship, Mirella is the recipient of both the *David Rossnagel Memorial Scholarship* in business and the *Oliver Sheffield Minority Student Scholarship*. In May, she will represent all of CCM's scholarship students at the Foundation's annual Scholarship Gala, where she'll deliver remarks.

"Receiving these scholarships means the world to me," she says. "It means that someone believes in me."

## Ribbon Cut on New DeCroce Media Center

More than 70 guests, including trustees, Foundation board members, donors, staff and political leaders, gathered on December 8 to dedicate the new Alex DeCroce Media Center at CCM – the first complete overhaul and technology upgrade of the broadcasting facility in more than 20 years.

the Foundation's *Visioning the Future* capital campaign and was completed by a \$1 million grant from the Morris County Board of

Chosen Freeholders. The center was named for the late Alex DeCroce, a freeholder, CCM trustee and former Board of Trustee chair.

"As a result of the generosity of those who contributed to the campaign, we were able to create a state-of-the-art facility for the benefit of our students and local businesses," said Dr. Edward J. Yaw, CCM president.



The new center was made possible by

*CCM Trustees and Political Leaders Gather for DeCroce Ribbon Cutting: (From left) Trustee Vice Chair Paul Licitra, Trustee Chair Dr. Joseph L. Ricca, Freeholder Thomas J. Mastrangelo, Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce, CCM President Edward J. Yaw, Freeholder David Scapicchio, Freeholder John Krickus and CCM Foundation President Joseph Vitale. Credit: Farlekas Photography*

Assemblyman DeCroce's wife, Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce, also attended the event and

*Continued on page 4*

## Acknowledge Special Occasions With a Gift to CCM

Weddings, retirements, birth announcements – they are all joyous occasions. But too often in our busy lives, we simply send a card or post congratulations on social media. While that is certainly a genuine acknowledgment of a milestone or an event, wouldn't a donation to help a person in need in the name of a loved one be a more meaningful gesture?

With any gift in honor or in memory of your loved one, the County College of Morris Foundation will send a thoughtful card to the person or family to acknowledge your donation. There are a variety of scholarships and programs that you can support. For example, if your loved one is a U.S. military veteran, we have veterans' scholarships. If he or she is in the medical profession, we offer several nursing scholarships. Your generous gift, no matter how much, is a testament to the person you are honoring or memorializing.

Please consider making a donation and help our students. Your gift and generosity can be life altering.

For more information on how to make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one, contact the Foundation at 973-328-5060 or [foundation@ccm.edu](mailto:foundation@ccm.edu).

## Double Your Donation to CCM. It's Easy.

Do you or your spouse work for a company that offers a contribution match? If so, you can significantly increase your gift to the CCM Foundation at no additional cost. Make a gift to CCM ([www.ccm.edu/donate](http://www.ccm.edu/donate)) today, then check to see if you or your spouse's company offers these programs by visiting [doublethedonation.com/ccm](http://doublethedonation.com/ccm).



## Scholarship Recognition Celebration Brings Together Students and Donors



Above: Claire and Gil Zweig (far left and far right), founders of the Glenbrook Technologies Scholarship with Sebastian Sosa (left) and Michael Masino (right), this year's recipients. The Glenbrook Scholarship, named after Gil and Claire's Randolph-based company, supports students majoring in Engineering.

Left: Tom Margetts, founder of the W. Thomas and Donna Margetts Scholarship for International Students, with Selen Koksal, recipient of the 2015-16 award.

Twice a year, the Foundation sponsors a unique gathering – the Scholarship Recognition celebration. The events bring together more than 200 CCM scholarship award-winners, their parents, spouses and the donors who funded the awards. The events – held in December and February – allow donors and students to get to know one another and provide a face – and a human story – to scholarship fundraising.

"This is always my favorite event of the year," says CCM Foundation President Joseph Vitale. "The chance for students – and in many cases their parents – to meet the donors who have provided this wonderful opportunity is truly heart-warming. It's great to see the donors and students chatting and getting to know one another. These events remind all of us that our fundraising is all about helping students achieve their dreams."

The CCM Foundation provides funding for more than 120 scholarships in disciplines ranging from business and horticultural science to engineering, nursing and the performing arts. "It's nearly impossible to find an academic department at CCM that is not supported by at least one scholarship," says Vitale. If you would like to make a gift to the scholarship program – or if you would like to start your own – please contact the Foundation at 973-328-5060 or [foundation@ccm.edu](mailto:foundation@ccm.edu).

## Foundation Establishes Engineering Scholarship

Thanks to a new scholarship, engineering students will have additional financial opportunities to support their educations. The Gene Haas Foundation has established the *Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship for Mechanical Engineering Technology* with a gift of \$10,000.

The scholarship, which provides up to \$5,000 a year in support, is open to both full- and part-time students as well as incoming freshman and, in particular, seeks qualified female candidates. The Haas Foundation's goals coincide with CCM's Women in STEM initiative, directed to recruiting more female students into science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

"My hope was for the money to be used to create a scholarship for women interested in engineering and manufacturing," said Eric Pedersen, a lab assistant in the Engineering Department, who learned of the Haas scholarship while attending a national engineering conference. "I wanted a more welcoming environment here at CCM for women. Scholarships can help open the doors for education and help well-deserving students pay for tuition."



From left to right, Dr. Dwight Smith, vice president of Academic Affairs; Dr. Edward J. Yaw, CCM president; Eric Pedersen, engineering lab assistant; John Schamarek, a representative from Haas Factory Outlet, a division of Allendale Machinery; Luisa Palacio Zapata, a CCM mechanical engineering technology student; Patrick Enright, dean of Business, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology; and Venny Fuentes, chair of Engineering Technologies/Engineering Science.



## Meet Our Students

Marianna Goncalves Severgnini, '16

### CCM Student Receives Full-Tuition Scholarship at Drew

Marianna Goncalves Severgnini, of Madison, counts herself fortunate to be the second CCM student to receive a full-tuition scholarship from Drew University to earn her bachelor's degree through the dual admissions program the college now holds with the university. While at CCM, Marianna was the recipient of the *David Rossnagel Memorial Scholarship* in Business.

Raised in a small town in Brazil, Marianna did not have many higher education options open to her when she and her family moved to the U.S. CCM, however, provided her with the chance to start college and eventually earn a 3.9 GPA.

"I also am so grateful for the teachers and staff at CCM," she says. "I have had the best teachers in my life here. They have such a passion for teaching and relating what you are learning to real-world experiences."

Had it not been for the college's transfer services coordinator, Kari Hawkins, Marianna adds, she also would not have been aware of the dual admissions program with Drew and the two annual full-tuition scholarships the university provides for CCM students.

At CCM, Marianna focused on completing her associate degree in less than two years. She did make time, however, to get involved in a number of student clubs, including the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, which allowed her to establish a larger network of friends and develop her leadership skills. She also served as a member of the Ambassadors Club, which assists in recruitment, retention and community relations.

At Drew, she plans to take full advantage of the experiential learning opportunities the university offers. Chief among those is Drew's Wall Street Semester Program, which brings students into the financial district to connect with financial professionals and institutions that play a critical role in the U.S. economy.

A business administration major at CCM, Marianna will be studying economics at Drew. When she graduates, she hopes to obtain a job with a financial firm and eventually would like to help small businesses grow their operations.

If you would like to make a gift to CCM's scholarship program to assist students like Marianna, please contact the Foundation at 973-328-5060 or [foundation@ccm.edu](mailto:foundation@ccm.edu).



COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS FOUNDATION

## Scholarship Gala

Honoring

*Dr. Edward J. Yaw*

MAY 6, 2016

For more information call 973-328-5060 or visit [www.ccm.edu/foundation/gala2016](http://www.ccm.edu/foundation/gala2016)

## Why I Give to CCM



**Name:** Tom Gillon '93

**Title:** Director, Network and User Services of CCM's Information Systems Department

**What do you like most about your career?** Working at CCM for the past 20 years has afforded

me the chance to work with some wonderful people, all the while learning and doing some amazing things in the technology field.

**What do you value most about your CCM experience?** I've had the unique opportunity to be a CCM student, a staff member and an adjunct faculty member, all of which has provided me with valuable experiences. But, most of all, knowing my work is helping students further their education is the most rewarding aspect of my job.

**What is your favorite CCM memory?** As a student, completing my degree was most rewarding. As a staff member, building the CCM information network from its beginning and introducing new technologies to the campus. As a teacher, experiencing that moment when the student "gets it."

**Why do you give to CCM?** It's all about the students. I want to help them have the opportunity to obtain a college education, an opportunity they may not otherwise have had without the help of myself and so many others who give to CCM.

## Make a Gift Online Today!

[www.ccm.edu/donate](http://www.ccm.edu/donate)

### Legacy Society

*The spirit of philanthropy endures forever . . .*

*The following individuals have generously provided bequests to the CCM Foundation in their estate plans:*

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Helen M. Bauer*                                 | Walter and Carol McDonald |
| Catherine Bencivenga* and Dominic A. Bencivenga | Roz Nadel*                |
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| David E. Jones                                  | Eleanor Rockefeller*      |
| Donna Kahn                                      | Kathleen Sheffield*       |
| Dean Malanga*                                   | Carl Vogt*                |
|   | Linda M. Willetts*        |

\*Deceased

## A Generational Gift Supports the Arts at CCM

In October, John Fuentes '09, the son of CCM professor and chair of the Engineering Technologies/Engineering Science programs Venny Fuentes, "adopted" two seats in the Dragonetti Auditorium as part of the Foundation's Adopt-a-Chair program. Under the program, donors' gifts are acknowledged with name plates on the theater's seats with proceeds going to the performing arts program.

In John's case, he wanted to name the seats in honor of his maternal grandparents – John and Francesca Sanderson – and commemorate their wedding anniversary: June 10, 1951. John's grandmother, Francesca, had recently passed away and it made John's gift even more poignant. John is currently serving as a Special Victims' Counsel in the U.S. Air Force and stationed at Osan Air Force Base in South Korea.



*(Back row/from left) Professor Venny Fuentes, David Fuentes '09 and Ellen Fuentes join with John Sanderson (front row) for the unveiling of two plaques in the Dragonetti Auditorium. Thanks to a gift from Professor Fuentes' son, John '09, an enlisted man stationed in South Korea, two chairs in the auditorium were named for his maternal grandparents, John and Francesca Sanderson.*

On the day of the unveiling, a Facetime link was arranged so John could witness his father, mother Ellen, and grandfather John unveil the plaques. John's brother, David '09, also a CCM alum, was there as well.

"Having John recognize his grandparents and their wedding anniversary with this gift makes Ellen and me very proud," said Professor Fuentes. "It was a fitting tribute as John and Francesca enjoyed many events at the

Dragonetti Auditorium. Francesca loved the arts and would be very pleased to have her name affiliated with such a great cause. The only thing that could have made the unveiling ceremony better would have been having her there as well."

If you would like to "adopt a chair" in the Dragonetti Auditorium for a loved one, please contact the Foundation at 973-328-5060 or [foundation@ccm.edu](mailto:foundation@ccm.edu).

## Ribbon Cut (Continued from page 1)

was joined by her family. "Our family greatly appreciates this recognition," she said. "We are so pleased that the investment into this state-of-the-art media center will serve not only the students but the community at large."

Freeholder John Krickus noted that, "this greatly enhanced facility will improve what is already an outstanding communications and media program."

The new facility features high-definition technology, a

digital media editing classroom, scenery work room, two studio control rooms, a green room, a teaching studio and a professional studio, both with green-screen cycloramas to create a variety of background images for videos.

The DeCrocce Center functions as a TV studio and classroom for students majoring in Broadcasting Arts and Technology

or Communication. It also is a vital resource for faculty, staff and the community, providing multimedia support for a range of activities including classroom presentations, audio and video productions, sound and video for computer programs, and on-campus conferences. It also will be available to the area's corporate and business community for the production of training, promotional and other videos.

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