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UPDATE

A newsletter for alumni and friends of Calumet College Volume 33, Aug. 2011

CCSJ CELEBRATES 49TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Dr. Rittenmeyer has often proudly said, "It has never rained on Commencement". The forecast was not promising, but that remark proved true once again as Calumet College of St. Joseph held its 49th Commencement on May 21st.

The day began with a Baccalaureate Mass at St. Margaret Mercy Church where graduates, family and friends gathered to thank God for the blessings of the day. Bishop Dale Melczek of the Diocese of Gary, The Very Rev. Larry Hemmelgarn of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, and Trustees Rev. John Kalicky and Rev. Timothy McFarland concelebrated the Mass.

Promptly at noon the graduates marched into the Bishop Noll Institute fieldhouse. Three hundred forty-five students earned degrees: 57 master's degrees, 264 baccalaureate degrees and 24 associate degrees.

Co-valedictorians were Marcy Fortner of Dyer and Don Hiemstra of St. John. Marcy is married with three daughters. She is a Registered Nurse and for the last 10 years has worked at Hartsfield Village Nursing Home in Munster as the Resident Services Coordinator. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education. Don and his wife, Patti, have two children. He has been the owner and operator of Area Glass in St. John since 1985. Don also received a B.S. in Elementary Education. The valedictorian address was given by Don as Marcy was unable to attend.

Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the college he has loved and nurtured for 24 years. For the first time he had the opportunity to address those gathered for commencement. He closed his address with a quote from Prime Minister Winston Churchill. He said, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But, it is the end of the beginning." He urged the graduates to be a credit to their family, their community, their country and their alma mater.

The college welcomes these graduates to the alumni family of CCSJ – now numbering over 10,000.



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WE BID FAREWELL TO DR. RITTENMEYER

Over 300 family, friends and colleagues gathered on June 7th to honor President Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts. Dr. Rittenmeyer retires after 24 years being at the helm at Calumet College of St. Joseph, the longest serving college president in the State of Indiana. If you read the Update on a regular basis, you know that he took this little Cinderella of a college and tried on slippers until he found the one (or maybe two or three) that changed everything. You also know that he worked tirelessly to build the first institution in Northwest Indiana to offer baccalaureate degrees into a University that now offers four master's degrees. His efforts extended beyond the college to address social justice issues such as the need for a mass transit system, gun control, and immigration reform. He never forgot the needs of the under-served and marginalized in our communities.

The fruits of his years of service were evident by the well wishers who attended. U. S. Rep. Pete Visclosky thanked Dr. Rittenmeyer for his commitment to education and the region and felt that each of us has been enriched because of his good work. A statement honoring Dr. Rittenmeyer had also been entered into the Congressional Record on June 2nd. Bishop Dale Melczek said that at the time Dr. Rittenmeyer was hired, the college "had a need to sharpen its vision and strengthen its Catholic identity, and Dennis proved to be the perfect man to step up to those challenges. The college is now in a better place than it ever has been."



Dr. Rittenmeyer with U.S. Congressman Visclosky

The emcee for the evening was incoming President, Dr. Daniel Lowery. Other speakers included Ken Rittenmeyer, representing the Rittenmeyer family, Michael McCafferty, representing the faculty, and Lynn Duimich, representing the staff. Tomas Pieprzycki represented the student body and presented Dr. Rittenmeyer with a painting of the campus commissioned in Tomas' hometown in Poland.

The Dennis and Leslie Rittenmeyer Scholarship has been established to assist veterans at CCSJ in achieving their higher education goals.

As Mitch Albom said in The Five People You Meet in Heaven, "But all endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time." We wish Dr. Rittenmeyer a host of wonderful new beginnings...and the happy endings to go along with them.

**Save the Date: Sept 23, 2011 for the
Inauguration of President Daniel Lowery, Ph.D.**

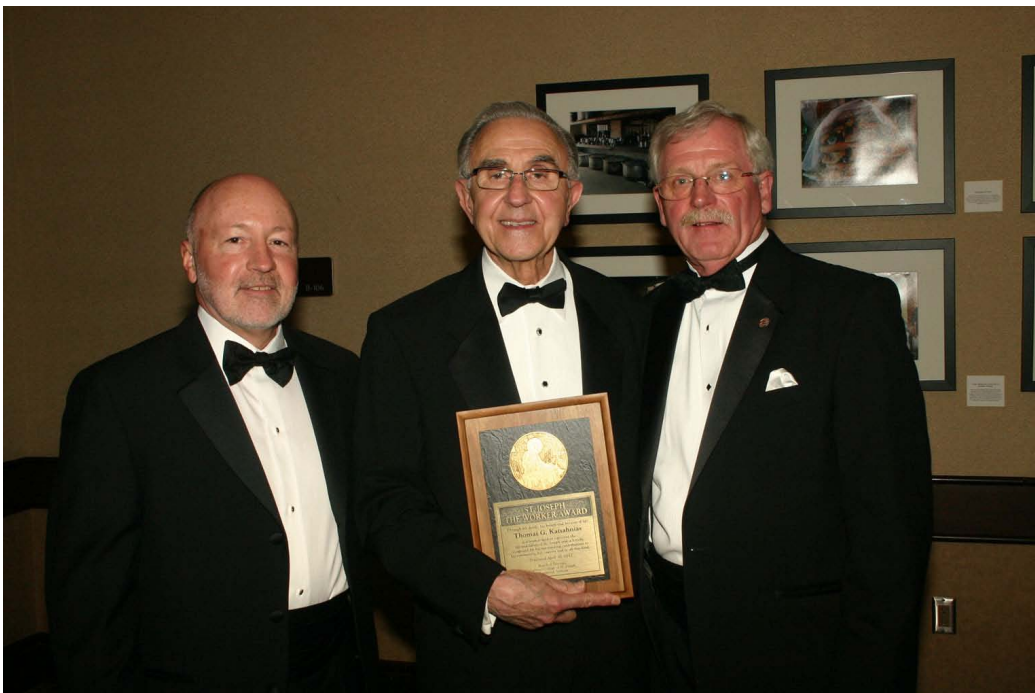
Alumni Events

Alumni and CCSJ Supporters Enjoy 46th Annual Ball

Supporters of Calumet College of St. Joseph gathered at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster on April 30th for the 46th Annual Ball. The music of Carl Linden & Artists entertained guests before and during dinner, with their strolling violins setting the tone for the evening.

Chairman of the Board, Mr. Larry Meyers, served as the emcee and introduced the honorees. Thomas Katsahnias, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, received the St. Joseph the Worker Award. This is one of the highest award the college can bestow on an individual. It is given annually to a person who exemplifies the life of St. Joseph through devotion to God, community and vocation. In 1986 he was named to the Board of Trustees. He also became chairman that year and had served until his retirement this year. His guiding hand has steered the college through some rough waters, two capital campaigns, our first new building, our change in status from college to university, and the day to day problems and successes that happened in between. His leadership and faith are among the reasons the college is where it is today and his actions have embodied the qualities of the St. Joseph the Worker Award. He truly is a good and faithful servant.

George and Denyse Buck were the recipients of the Br. Gerard Von Hagel Alumni Award. The award recognizes outstanding accomplishments by alumni and was established in honor of former CCSJ Alumni Director, Br. Gerard Von Hagel. Mr. and Mrs. Buck both received their bachelor's degrees in education in 1992 and returned to CCSJ to earn their master's degrees from the Leadership in Teaching Program. They share their love of teaching and together they have developed a strong sense of service to the community and CCSJ. For the past three years, they have hosted the "Friendship Tea" at CCSJ. They continue to donate all food and expenses for the tea, and have engaged their friends to contribute as well. So far, the teas have added more than \$12,000 to the Education Scholarship Fund. The College is proud to honor them for their example of the spirit of stewardship and service.



Larry Meyers, Chairman of the Board and MC with St. Joseph the Worker recipient Thomas Katsahnias and former CCSJ President, Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer

Student representatives this year were Ashley KIELTYKA, Daniel Medina, C.J. Montgomery, and Jennifer Ortiz.

After the program, those who attended were treated to a beautiful pastry and fruit table and the wonderful sounds of Phase 4. The dance floor remained crowded throughout the evening and we can safely say that a good time was had by all!

ALUMNI NEWS

- '68 **John Zunac** retired from the School City of East Chicago last July after 21 years of teaching at McKinley Elementary School. He is also retired from St. Catherine Hospital in East Chicago after 16 years of service- 8 years part time and 8 years full time. He is enjoying his retirement in Wheatfield, IN with his wife Rebecca, a '72 graduate of CCSJ, and his son 24 year old son Jake.
- '10 **Cryomia Hughes-Love** will begin law school at Louisiana State University in the fall. Based on her outstanding record, she was named a Faculty Scholar. She is a proud member of CCSJ Organization Management Cohort 141.
- '03 **Tameka M. Singh** is currently serving as the PMI Education Initiative Project Manager. Congratulations, Tameka!

Are you experiencing some exciting changes in your life - perhaps a new job, engagement, marriage, or a new baby? We would love to hear about it and share it in an upcoming Update! Send your news to Herb Yekel, Director of Alumni, at hyekel@ccsj.edu.

Alumnus' Books added to CCSJ Library

Specker Library has recently purchased two volumes by Emery Mehok, a proud alum of CCSJ.

- ◆ *Johnny Bluehorse and Other Western Tales*
- ◆ *The Search for Sarah Owen and Other Western Tales*

Each book features two novellas plus short stories of lawmen, gunmen, riverboat gamblers, Indian war chiefs, buffalo hunters and ranchers, as narrated by Grant Kirby, a colorful new character in Western fiction. The Library thanks Herb Yekel, Director of Alumni Relations, for drawing our attention to Mr. Mehok's writing. If you would like to suggest items to be purchased for our collection, please send them in writing, by phone or by e-mail to Virginia Rodes, Library Director.

Browse the library catalog to see what other titles you may enjoy at: www.ccsj.edu/library.

IN MEMORIUM

- '75 **Ruth Anne Slicko**, of Lodi, CA passed away in February 2011.
- '46 **Doris M. (Hildebrandt) Maurer** passed away on February 14, 2011
- '76 **Joseph Kozdras** passed away in May 2011
- Pat Horvatic**, CCSJ Secretary, passed away on March 30, 2011



2010-2011 Crimson Wave Athletic Highlights

Bowling

Both the Men's and Women's Bowling Teams received a total of nine honorees to the National Bowling Coaches Association Academic All-American Team for the 2010-11 season: Dorothea West, Alice Veenstra, Shannon Wensel, Rhiannon Bauer, Sara Bell, Shannon Finton, Jessica Funk, Jordan Harrington, and Sammy Krucek.

The Men's Bowling Team made it to the second round of the USBC Intercollegiate Team Championships in Columbus, GA. This is the fifth straight year that they have made an appearance. In addition to the teams' success, a few individuals stood out. Sammy Krucek was named NCBCA Second Team All-American for 2011 as well as an NAIA All-American. Alice Veenstra finished the season as one of the top four female collegiate bowlers in the nation!

Next year's team looks just as promising with the addition of Anthony Fiorenzo from Wall Township, NJ who just signed his national letter of intent to continue his career in education and athletics at CCSJ. Welcome, Anthony!

More NAIA Scholars Named

The Women's Tennis team was named an NAIA Scholar Team for the third year in a row, and the Women's Basketball team was honored with the NAIA Team scholar for the first time.

Women's Tennis earned the top team GPA with Angela Hughes and Shannon Wensel grabbing the top senior GPA.

Senior Arthur Grubba has been named to the NAIA All-Scholar Athlete team for the 2010-11 season for Wrestling. He is the first Crimson Wave Wrestler to earn this honor. *To be considered for the NAIA Scholar Team award it must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale as defined by the institution.*

Jon Contos earned this year's Andy Juscik Character Award based on his four years here at CCSJ. The Senior Female Athlete of The Year was given to women's bowler Alice Veenstra who qualified for a spot in 2011's USBC intercollegiate Singles Championship. Sammy Krucek was named Senior Male Athlete of the Year. Wilfredo Escobar was named this year's Athlete of the Year for Basketball. Escobar is the programs all time leader in scoring assists and steals. Escobar was also named to the NAIA division II Men's Basketball All-American Team as an honorable mention recipient.

Baseball

Nick Bolda was named CCAC's Pitcher of the Year 2011, despite a challenging season for the team. He is the first CCSJ Baseball Player to be named so.

Alumni Phon-a-thon Calls Up Success

The Annual Alumni Phon-a-thon kicked off on Sunday, June 5 and concluded the next night. Volunteer alumni and staff had a great time contacting alumni all over the country and hearing about their lives. Many phone messages were left, but from those of you who were home, over \$3,000 was raised just in the first night! We sent out pledge forms as well, and so far we have raised over \$7,000 through the generosity of our Alumni. A hearty thanks to you who have donated, and for those of you who haven't sent your slips back yet, please think about doing so.

Again, thank you all for your dedication and generosity!

Farewell to Andy Juscik

Andy Juscik, CCSJ's first Athletic Director who played an instrumental role in the formation of the Athletic Program, retired from CCSJ this April. He is a familiar face to many on- and off-campus, and while he still stops by, he has moved on to other projects. Having published his illustrated children's story Tear Catchers last year, he is concentrating on extending the series and is working through his new venture, Smidgens Studios.

His website is www.smidgensstudios.com.

Tear Catchers is available for sale online through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Strategic Publishing Group. You may also purchase a copy through Calumet College's bookstore (219) 473-4395.

Dr. Rittenmeyer Honored by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood, sponsoring religious order of Calumet College of St. Joseph, recently honored Dr. Rittenmeyer for his many years of service.

The statue is a hand-carved portrayal of St. Joseph the worker and was presented by The Very Rev. Larry Hemmelgarn, Provincial Director of the Cincinnati Province. He said it was chosen



“because we thought it exemplified Dennis, his hard work and commitment throughout his 24 years at CCSJ.”

The statue was created by Demetz Art Studio, which is located in Ortisei, a village nestled in the Dolomites, a mountain range in northern Italy in the heart of the Alps. In this region the tradition of woodcarving dates back to the 16th century.

The inscription reads: In gratitude to Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer, President of Calumet College of St. Joseph, 1987-2011, who has embodied the character of Saint Joseph as educator, builder, man of faith and risk-taker.

Pictured: Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer, Dr. Leslie Rittenmeyer , Fr. Larry Hemmelgarn

The Women’s Guild Holds Annual Luncheon

In support of scholarships, the Women’s Guild of Calumet College of St. Joseph held their annual luncheon at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond on June 6th. The afternoon was filled with fun and fellowship as those attending reconnected with friends and shopped the booths stocked by vendors such as Bea’s Purse Parties, Tastefully Simple, Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Scentsy, and Signature Ink. After the delicious luncheon, raffles winners were drawn and door prizes awarded. Marge Gorby, President, thanked Dr. Dennis Rittenmeyer for his years of leadership and for his support of the Guild. Thank you to all who supported this event and scholarships for CCSJ students.

Friday - August 19, 2011
Save The Date
12th Annual
Golf Outing
Lost Marsh GC
Hammond, IN



Calumet College of St. Joseph

CCSJ Announces New Programs for the Fall Semester

Thinking of returning to school? Have a son or daughter looking for a new path? CCSJ is introducing several new programs this fall.

General Science Program: The renovation of the 2400 New York building will be breaking ground shortly. New science labs are a large part of this plan. In conjunction with this a new General Science program will debut along with four concentrations. They are: Life Science Pre-Professional, Restoration Ecology, Exercise and Sports Science, and Forensic Science.

The International Studies & Service Program: This is a five year bachelor degree program that incorporates several global immersion initiatives. Students participate in three years of on-campus academic work and then serve two years with the Peace Corps. They will pay only for the three years they spend at CCSJ. This is a life-defining leadership experience that students will draw upon throughout their lives. This program also includes expense-paid travel to destinations such as London, Rome, and New York.

Honors Program: The St. Gaspar's Honors Learning Community provides an exceptional educational experience to a diverse group of highly motivated students. This program includes dedicated Honor's scholarships, special activities, and leadership and service opportunities. The added rigor of HLC classes coupled with integrated learning experiences serve as an ideal preparation for continuing educational opportunities.

On-Line Courses: The Paralegal Certificate is offered on-line as a post-baccalaureate program. If you have a bachelor's degree and are passionate about working with people, have an appreciation for the law, and enjoy the satisfaction of making a real difference in your work, a paralegal career is the perfect choice for you. Masters of Quality Assurance is a broad-based, practitioner-oriented degree designed for mid-career professionals and is structured to address the needs of working adults. The program will enable students to demonstrate an understanding the role of laws, standards, models, associations and professional bodies play as each relates to quality management.

Br. Ben Basile Impresses with Organ Recital

Br. Ben Basile is primarily known to students for his math and teaching prowess. He is, however, also an accomplished organist. On June 15th he gave a recital at the First Congregational Church in Michigan City and played the 1891 Roosevelt Pipe Organ, which has been named by the Organ Historical Society as an "historically significant instrument".

The 45 minutes program included the famous Adagio in G minor by Tomaso Albinoni, a paraphrase on "Ubi Caritas" by Fr. Ralph Verdi, C.P.P.S., and a number of hymn-tune settings in diverse styles by contemporary composers.

Br. Ben has been a featured performer in this series for several years. He is also the parish music director and organist for the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary where he co-produces the Cathedral Arts Concert Series, and a board member of the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society. Br. Ben Basile – CCSJ's Renaissance Man!



Alumna Recounts her Trip to Guatemala for the We Are Family Project

Emily Genova has participated in the Guatemala We Are Family Project for the last three years. Students and staff go to La Labor, Guatemala to bring dental and school supplies to the local parish, and also participate in various educational projects. One major project was helping to open up the Sewing Center so that the community can create their own clothing as well as uniforms for students. This year, seven volunteers went to Guatemala from May 5-12, 2011.

I had gone to Guatemala as part of Calumet College's We Are Family Project because I had always wanted to volunteer my services and go to a less fortunate country. My husband went on one of the first Guatemala trips and showed me photographs of the people and their towns. After listening to his stories, I immediately knew that I wanted to go and help with the Guatemala We Are Family Project. During my first trip, I was amazed to see how grateful women and children were when they were given simple items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils, and crayons. It made me realize that Americans are very fortunate and take so many things for granted. I had one box of crayons with a couple of broken crayons in the box, but as I handed the box to a little girl, she gave me a big smile and hug. She excitedly ran to her mother and showed her the gift she had just received. I was fortunate to have visited the Sewing Center during two of my trips. On my first trip, I witnessed the dedication of the Center, and the following year we met the women involved in the sewing projects. They proudly displayed the numerous blouses, skirts, and outfits each had sewn for themselves and other family members. The Sewing Center enabled these women to develop a skill that they otherwise would have not been able to achieve.

Each time I return to Guatemala, I enjoy seeing familiar faces of local people from the neighboring towns who welcome members of Calumet College with a hug and /or kiss. They love trying to express a story despite language barriers; they are always very excited to introduce us to every one of their family members. I too, consider each and every one of them a member of my extended family.

On our last visit, the library inside of The Institute School needed to be painted. This year our group was able to help complete that project. We were able to move books and paint the walls that were once dull and dingy with bright bold colors. Every now and then, a small group of children would peek their heads through the door to see our progress and give us their "thumbs up" of approval. The transformation was amazing! When finished, the library became even more inviting for students to pick up a book and sit at a desk, relax on the floor, or climb the stairs of the newest loft where they could enjoy reading and learning. I read to my own children from a young age and always encouraged them to read throughout the years, knowing how important it is to their development. I have observed during my trips to Guatemala that the once barren library has now become stocked with numerous books for the children, and I look forward to them having the opportunity to grow up with books in their lives.



It is very important that the Guatemala We Are Family Social Justice Outreach Program continues. Every trip to Guatemala gives the town's people a little more hope and lets them know that they are not forgotten. They know that there are caring people at CCSJ who love to give up time from their own busy schedule to help out where ever help is needed. Cleaning gutters and clearing twigs from a rooftop, planting trees, painting walls, and moving bricks are just a few of the simple but very meaningful projects that have been done over the years. Each time I return to the states, I bring back memories that will be with me forever, and I hope that I will again be given the opportunity to return to Guatemala. – Emily Genova



This past May, the We Are Family Guatemala Project and their seven volunteers: Br. Jerry Schwieterman, Jim Adduci, Kyle Kocsis, Emily Genova, Bobbie Tucker, Donald Kubaki and Chad Allen brought thousands of supplies to La Labor.



The contributions included 1,036 tubes of toothpaste, 3,604 pencils, 8 sets of window blinds, 2 lbs of buttons, 91 lbs of religious items, 176 books, and 4 soccer balls.



Do You Like Email? So Do We!

If you would like to start receiving email Updates, announcements and more, let us know! Send an email to development@ccsj.edu and we will make sure to add your email to our list. As an added bonus, if you send us your current email you get to sleep more soundly knowing that you may have just saved a tree or two.





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Congrats Class of 2011 Grads!!



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