



## Fiocco investigation

Dear Friends,

The College of New Jersey family has suffered a traumatic and sorrowful experience this spring. From the announcement of freshman art major John Fiocco Jr.'s disappearance to the discovery of his body, our campus has been gripped with anxiety and sadness.

Throughout this time, the College endeavored to keep students, parents, faculty and staff members, prospective students, and alumni informed of developments through daily (often multiple) mass e-mail announcements, meetings with campus groups, and periodic letters. Though there were periods during which very little was known or could be confirmed about the status of the investigation, we understood that frequent communication was imperative. Reminders about available counseling services and the need to provide support for one another were distributed routinely, as was information about campus security and opportunities for community members to gather and express their feelings.

We also understood that this sad situation would result in an overwhelming media presence on campus and that it was critical for the College to face this trying time openly and honestly. In doing so we acknowledged what was being reported in the press, shared all the reliable information we had, and repeatedly emphasized the dangers of reckless speculation.

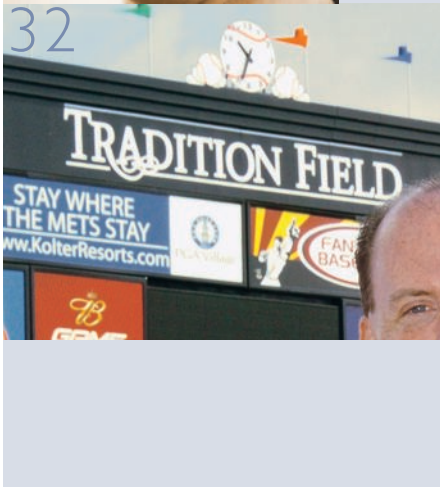
The compassion and strength exhibited by our students, parents, faculty and staff members, alumni and friends throughout this ordeal have been remarkable. They have cared for one another and faced tragic circumstances with courage and dignity.

The past few months have been among the most difficult of my professional life, but I have never been more proud to be a member of any community. I am honored to be the president of this particular community, The College of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

*R. Barbara Gitenstein*

R. Barbara Gitenstein



*Students residing in Travers Hall sent sympathies to their neighbors and classmates in Wolfe Hall, as well as John Fiocco Jr. and his family.*

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