Acknowledgments

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In Harm’s Way

Matt Angelillo, 17
“Matt was a determined competitor. He worked hard to catch up with his Lacrosse skills, he never picked up a stick until he was 13 years old... He was confident, and fearless about trying anything. He was not intimidated by being behind in Lacrosse; he worked out with the best players on the team to improve his game.” — Email correspondence with Marc Angelillo, Matt’s father, 09.22.08

Jered Fry, 15
“Jered the great hunter, the daring dirt bike rider and the one who loved to play soccer... So much potential, so much more to do.” — Jasper-Troupsburg Central School 2008 Yearbook
“Jered was an athlete who played soccer, wrestled and participated in karate. He was a no-nonsense type of kid.” — Principal Christopher Parker, Jasper-Troupsburg Central School, 10.02.07

Ronald Moore, 21
“True point guard with great vision... Has emerged as great team leader... Possesses tremendous composure and courage... Durable presence who has started 61 consecutive games entering senior season...Has recorded more turnovers than assists just nine times in 94 career starts...Enters senior season ranking fourth all-time in team history in assists and second in assists per game.” — Excerpt taken from Moore’s Profile, Official Athletic Site of Siena College, 04.28.10

Tiara O’Dell, 17
“She was a very friendly person; she was everyone’s best friend. She was involved in so much; cheerleading, soccer, soccer camp, she was everywhere.”
— Interview with Twila O’Dell, Tiara’s aunt, 01.26.09
“Tiara had such a sparkle about her and a smile that could brighten any room. She constantly had such a positive outlook on life, even though it wasn’t the easiest for her. Tiara was continually giving and cared more about others than she did herself.” — Jasper-Troupsburg Central School 2008 Yearbook
In Harm’s Way

Katie Almeter, 18
“Katie’s first organized experience of running track was in the 4th grade track meet. She tried softball in 7th grade, but softball didn’t have enough action for her. She tried track again in 8th grade and started breaking school records. Now, 10 years after she graduated from high school, she still holds more track records than anyone else at Norwich H.S. and was the first Norwich High School track athlete to be crowned a New York State champion.”
– Email correspondence with Betsy Almeter, Katie’s mother, 05.05.10

Emily Collins, 18
“Emily was an incredible athlete, as a senior she graduated from Norwich High School with the most varsity letters of ANY graduating senior. She participated in Varsity Girls Gymnastics for 6 years, Varsity Girls Swimming and Diving for 4 years, and Varsity Track for 4 years. Receiving a total of 14 varsity letters. Truth be told, in our family she definitely had the athletic genes!”
– Interview with Kelly Collins Colozi, Emily’s sister, 05.17.10

Brandon Dunlavey, 18
“All young kids are special but Brandon was a class act. He was a role model for all young kids. This is a real blow to the community, but if there is one positive to come out of all this negative, it’s that while he lived, Brandon left a legacy of how young kids should be. You don’t come across kids like this often.”
– Fred Gagnier, founder and coach of the youth football league, Burke Teen Dies in Crash, Sue Botsford & Denise A. Raymo, The Press-Republican, 06.06.06

Jonathan Mueller, 18
“Jonathan ran all four seasons for Arlington High School. It was cross country in the Fall, indoor training in the Winter, and in Spring he competed with the track team and in Summer he went to running camp. He was determined.”
– Interview with Victoria Mueller, Jonathan’s mother, 05.22.10

“I ran because it was fulfilling and satisfying.” – Interview with Jonathan Mueller, 05.22.10
One Second, Everything Changes

A car accident can happen to anyone. It can be caused by poor road conditions, driver error or chance circumstances. An alcohol related crash is different. An alcohol related crash occurs when someone chooses to drink and then drive. When someone chooses to drink and drive, no one is safe. Not even the strong, the fast, the young – the student athlete.

This exhibit, through words and images, portrays high school and college athletes from New York State whose lives were put in danger by someone’s choice to drink and drive. It focuses on fateful events in a forensic style.

As you tour and reflect, get to know their stories and legacies. They are sisters, brothers, daughters, sons, teammates and above all, friends. They had everything to live for, but the immortality of youth met a culture of the extreme and in one second, everything changed.
Brandon’s Story

“You will always be missed. You were the best athlete this town has ever had.”
– Graffiti written on Brandon’s memorial wall

After golf practice and a trip to the mall, Franklin Academy senior Brandon Dunlavey was riding in the passenger seat of his girlfriend Alicia’s car when the car was hit head-on by Bare Hill Corrections Officer Charles Peryea. Peryea’s blood alcohol content at the time of the crash was .12. Brandon was extricated from the car with the Jaws of Life.

After being called and told about the crash by Alicia’s mother, Brandon’s parents made the 45 minute drive to the hospital – the whole time they kept telling each other, “Brandon is ok.” They arrived at the hospital only to find that Brandon had already died.

Charles Peryea had previous DWI’s. He was arrested for 2nd degree vehicular man slaughter, driving while intoxicated and failure to keep right. He was found guilty and sentenced to 5-15 years in prison.

Both Maryann and John Dunlavey worked with Charles Peryea at the Bare Hill Correctional Facility. Since Brandon’s crash, both have left their jobs. “I could no longer work for a system that had let a person go unpunished, allowing him to drink and drive again only to kill my son.”

– Excerpts taken from the One Second, Everything Changes exhibit and an interview with Maryann Dunlavey, 06.06.07
Jonathan’s Story

Determination. The Race Is Not Always To The Swift But To Those Who Keep Running.

On a typical Friday night, SUNY Cobelskill freshman Jonathan Mueller was driving with his friends to pick up some Chinese food. Meanwhile, after consuming the equivalent of 12 pints of beer, Thomas J. Berg, 48, climbed into his pick up truck and began driving. Without warning, Thomas’ truck crossed lanes and hit Jonathan’s car head-on. The crash killed Thomas while Jonathan sustained massive brain injuries that have changed his life.

– Crafted with information from Student in critical condition after crash that killed man, Carol DeMare, Albany Times Union, 12.05.98 and Students urged to have a safe spring, Christen Deming, Times Union, 03.24.05

“My memory can’t get me through a day. Thirty minutes from now, I won’t even remember that I stood here and spoke to you.”

– Jonathan Mueller, 24, speaking at Safe Spring 2005 Student Leadership Conference at Skidmore College

“During his senior year, Jonathan was diagnosed with stress fractures in both legs. If he raced, he stood the chance of breaking a leg in a way that might not heal properly. Jonathan was determined not to miss his senior year season with the team.

It was raining the morning of the race. I watched the massive start of runners take off, knowing I would have to wait a long while for a sight of Jonathan, if he finished at all. Then I caught sight of him, running with all the determination in the world, coming in sooner than anyone had expected.

Jonathan’s 10th place finish was instrumental in his team not only winning the meet but going on to have the most successful year to date. After the race, Jonathan’s coaches and teammates awarded him with a plaque that reads, ‘Determination. The Race Is Not Always To The Swift But To Those Who Keep Running.’ Over these past years, it has sat in plain sight, as a reminder to Jonathan of not only that race, but of his continued determination to win the races he must face every day.”

– Email correspondence with Victoria Mueller, Jonathan’s mother, 05.30.10
After a night of drinks, dancing and pizza, first-year Colgate student Katie Almeter, her two best friends from high school, Emily Collins and Rachel Nargiso and Colgate first-year Elke Wagle flagged down a Jeep for a ride back to the dorms. Colgate junior Rob Koester was behind the wheel. Also in the car were Rob’s friends Kevin King and Chris Rea. The girls climbed inside, not knowing that the driver had been drinking all night. The Jeep turned onto Oak Drive and sped off. Seven seconds later, the Jeep failed to negotiate the turn. It left the road and struck a large oak tree on the passenger side, then rotated in a clockwise direction moving further up Oak Drive, at which point Kevin was thrown from the front seat. The Jeep continued to rotate until the rear passenger side struck another large oak tree on the opposite side of the road, finally coming to a stop and ejecting Emily and Rachel. Katie came to rest face down in the back cargo space.

Katie, Emily, Rachel, and Kevin were all pronounced dead at the scene. Rob, who had been drinking that night at the DKE Fraternity and a downtown bar called Peabody’s, was found to have a blood-alcohol content of .17%. He sustained minor injuries and was charged with driving while intoxicated and four counts of second degree vehicular manslaughter.

– Excerpts taken from the Friends exhibit. Visit the Friends website https://people.sunyit.edu/~lhmi/Friends to learn the whole story.
“Our family moved from Pennsylvania to New York when Matt was in the 3rd grade. Unfortunately, we found out we moved from a baseball and football town to a hockey and lacrosse town. Matt was small, but was a fierce competitor and wanted to be in the mainstream with all his friends. He decided to learn to play hockey and lacrosse, but had to catch up to many friends who had started playing these sports when they were 5 or 6. It was not easy for Matt as he tried so hard to learn the skills quickly. He was small, but tough, and ended up moving up to the varsity lacrosse team as a sophomore. He loved this sport and was thrilled to be a part of such a competitive program. This program was extremely successful and was developing Division I athletes every year. We had high hopes for him to be a key player his senior year. I videotaped every game his junior year, and produced the highlight film with Matt for the end of the season banquet. This is one of the very difficult videos to look back on. Matt asked me not to highlight him as he had his whole senior year ahead of him.”

– Marianne Angelillo, Matt’s mother, email correspondence, 09.22.08
"This sentence is the consequence of having no consequences, of accepting unacceptable behavior regarding teenage drinking. There was no terminal illness, no act of God, no battle in defense of our country and no cowardly terrorist attack to justify his death. Matt’s life, which had so much promise, was just unnecessarily wasted. Within hours of the accident, I realized that nothing I could do would bring my son back. This is a horrific feeling of helplessness. I also knew in my heart that Steven (the driver) was suffering with us. The absence of anger and bitterness for him was replaced with sympathy. The horrifying reality of drinking is that it is so unnecessary. However, as a society we have allowed alcohol to become a prerequisite to everything we do. We will continue to bury our loved ones unnecessarily as long as this culture continues to glorify alcohol."

– From the victim impact statement prepared by Marc Angelillo, Matt’s father, read by Onondaga County Senior Assistant District Attorney Joanne Michaels, at the sentencing of Steven Corsello on June 29, 2005.

A week before the crash, Matt went to the Air Force Academy for 6 days. Two days after his death, Matt was posthumously accepted to the Academy, the only person in their history to receive this honor.
He Killed His Best Friend

The Ferrari driven by Steven Corsello is Saturday’s fatal crash is stored at the Onondaga County sheriff’s office impound lot on East Maltby Road. Accident investigators said Corsello was driving west on Route 20 just before 11:30 p.m. Saturday when his Ferrari crossed into the oncoming lane and crashed into a 2000 Dodge minivan driven by Karl Field, 40, of Onondaga. The Ferrari relied several times then landed on its roof in a field 300 feet away. Passenger Matthew Angelillo was pronounced dead at the scene. Another passenger, David Prendergast, was thrown from the vehicle and was at University Hospital Monday in fair condition. Field and his wife Valerie, 38, were treated at the scene. They could not be reached for comment Monday.

Deputies seeking details of party

By Sue Wedescht — Staff Writer

Marc Angelillo prided for his son Monday, but declined to express anger toward the teens who investigators say was driving drunk when the car they were riding in crashed Saturday night.

Matt Angelillo, 17, of Skaneateles, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on Route 20 just west of Lee-Mair Road.

The driver, Steven S. Corsello, 17, was Matt’s best friend, and may now face a charge of vehicular homicide, police said.

I don’t hold him to blame, Marc Angelillo said. It was bad judgment on all their parts and me pointing the finger at him isn’t going to bring back Matt.

Angelillo said he talked with Corsello at length about the crash.

He’s devastated; he killed his best friend, Angelillo said.

I told him this was going to be very hard for him to get over but he had to make something of his life. He owed it to Matt.

Corsello, Matt Angelillo and another Skaneateles High School classmate, David J. Prendergast, 18, had been at an outdoor party where alcohol was served earlier Saturday night. Prendergast was thrown from the car and was in fair condition at University Hospital Monday.

Angelillo said he didn’t know where the party was or where the teens got the alcohol. I wish I could tell you why they get served, Angelillo said. That’s just very disappointing to me. Onondaga County sheriff’s deputies have charged Corsello with driving while intoxicated, refusing to submit to a breath test, driving after 9 p.m.at age 17, reckless driving and failure to keep right.

Corsello is expected to appear in Skaneateles town court Wednesday. He could face an additional charge of vehicular manslaughter if the case goes to a grand jury.

Deputies are also looking into who may have supplied the alcohol to the teens.

We’re following this up very aggressively, John F. D’Eretila said, speaking for the sheriff’s office. Those people could face charges of providing alcohol to minors and endangering the welfare of a child.

He would not comment on the investigation into the location of the party, saying the inquiry is continuing.

The teens weren’t celebrating a prom or graduation, Angelillo said. A number of them gathered outdoors to socialize, he said.

Although students are finished with their final exams, a number of them are taking Regents tests this week. Counselors were available at the high school Monday and will continue to be there throughout the week for students who want to talk, superintendent Dr. Walter Sullivan said.

It’s been a very difficult two days for the whole community — a very big loss for us all, he said. The kids were close and the parents were close.
### STATE ROUTE 20, SKANEATELES, NY, CRASH TIMELINE | JUNE 19, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>The red Ferrari makes a grand entrance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Steve wants to leave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:36 p.m.</td>
<td>Emergency responders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:25 a.m.</td>
<td>Emergency responders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:17 a.m.</td>
<td>State Police arrest Steve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Steve wants to leave.</td>
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</tbody>
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**Crash** 11:28 p.m.

- “One teen at the party says Steve was drunk, impatient and loud. Another teen at the party says Steve was slow and soft-spoken.”
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**Emergency responders.**

- “Rescuers arrived on a chaotic scene. People were crying and taking pictures. In their reports, the EMTs said the passenger had no pulse.”
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**State Police arrest Steve.** 2:17 a.m.

- “Steve is arrested for driving while intoxicated, escaping from the scene, and leaving the injured hunter at the scene.”
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**A part of me died that night with Matt.” — Steven Corsello**

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**Site of the bonfire and drinking party.**

**Steve's Ferrari post crash.**

**Front view of the Field's minivan.**

**Matts's mom stands at his grave.**

**Onondaga County Court House.**

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**Photo of party sit courtesy of the Onondaga Sheriff's Department.**

**Photo of cars courtesy of Mike Greenlar/Staff Photographer, The Post Standard.**

**Photo of gravesite courtesy of Denis Foley.**

**Photo of party site courtesy of the Onondaga Sheriff’s Department.**

**Photo of court house courtesy of The Post Standard.**

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**Photo of grave courtesy of Dennis Foley.**
Moore’s legacy is probably still safe

Moore enters not guilty plea

There’s a clear error in judgment — this will not be the defining moment in his life, nor should it tarnish his career. But the way the story played out, it was too long after hearing about the 27-year-old Moore and how the local media covered the case. Monday night was his graduation, and any future hearing routine in all ways, except for the defense. The question is, how will this case end? Perhaps if he’s found not guilty by the court. There will be a lot of issues here. He will have the same legal defense — and argued by Mark McGuire.

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“Every time I went to the soccer field I could be assured that Tiara would holler at the top of her lungs, ‘Hi Coach!’ It was a special greeting that was more than just words. Tiara had a way of making that statement that made you feel special.”

– Nancy Wyant, Head Coach, Jasper-Troupsburg Wildcats Varsity Soccer, Interview 01.26.09

“The girls get bloodied up at soccer. Her knee was bleeding. Tiara said, ‘Don’t tell anyone. When you see a little of your own blood, it’s good soccer.’”

– Interview with Twila O’Dell, Tiara’s aunt, 01.26.09

“O’Dell, nicknamed ‘T,’ was a senior and captain of the girls’ varsity soccer team, of which she was a three-year member. The defender and midfielder wore jersey number 11 for the Lady Wildcats. Many have described her as being a good student and a talented soccer player.”

– “Jasper Says Goodbye to its Children,” Jen Carpenter, Hornell Evening Tribune
“The community as a whole, including the classmates of the four, spent the weekend and Monday searching various points between Canisteo and Jasper. Some children even put signs in front of the school Monday with the youths’ pictures and words of hope.”

– “Jasper Says Goodbye to its Children,” Jen Carpenter, Hornell Evening Tribune

“Kids think they’re supermen, but it can happen big time.

The kids clammed up. It was terrible. They would not tell us what they knew. Carrie Lubberts and I went to all the party sites. We met some kids who said they were at the party. Then I called the police.

Today, people don’t want their children to know about a crash.

Tiara’s funeral was on a Saturday. They found her on a Monday. That Saturday, after the funerals, the kids had a drinking party. That following June, they had another graduation drinking party, and the state police had to break it up. The parents didn’t do anything about it.”

– Interview with Twila O’Dell, Tiara’s aunt, 01.26.09
Teenage Driver Was Drunk

All four victims in last weekend’s crash had been drinking, police said.

By Larry Wilson

Sara Doud, 18, a 2007 graduate of Jasper-Troupsburg Central School, works on a sign at the site of the fatal crash. It says, "Forever in Our Hearts."

BATH — All four youths who died in a Sept. 29 car crash near Canisteo had been drinking alcohol prior to the accident, state police said Friday.

The driver, David M. Cady, 17, of Jasper, had a blood alcohol content of .13 percent when his body was found more than two days after the crash, said state police Maj. Steven White. "The driver was the most intoxicated," White said at a press conference at the state police barracks in Bath. "Two were above the legal limit (.08 percent) and two were below."

White declined to make public the blood-alcohol content of the other three victims, 21-year-old Joseph Lubberts of Corning, 17-year-old Tiara O’Dell of Jasper and 15-year-old Jered Fry of Jasper. The three teenagers were students at Jasper-Troupsburg Central School. Lubberts was a 2005 graduate of the school. White said the four were apparently drinking at an outdoor party on Grass Hill Road outside Jasper beginning about 10 p.m. Sept. 28. He said alcohol was provided by some of the people at the party, including some of the victims.

One young adult who may have provided alcohol to underage drinkers has been identified, but has not been charged, White said. "The adult may have provided alcohol at another location than the party," he said. White said those who provide alcohol to people under age 21 can be charged with unlawfully dealing with a child, a misdemeanor that carries a maximum one-year jail sentence. All those at the party were under 21 except Lubberts. Monroe County Medical Examiner, Caroline R. Dignan, said all four of the victims died of blunt force trauma, White said. The medical examiner said Lubberts and Fry died on impact and Cady and O’Dell shortly thereafter. "The medical examiner said immediate medical attention would not have saved them," White said.

Despite a search by hundreds of police, firefighters, forest rangers and volunteers, the car in which the four were killed was not found for more than two days after the accident. White said the four left the party between 2 a.m. and 2:20 a.m. Sept. 29. All four of them purchased food at the Acorn Market in Canisteo at 2:47 a.m. Their car was videotaped at 3:05 a.m. passing an ATM security camera at a Canisteo bank. "A short time thereafter the accident occurred," White said. "We have a witness who heard a noise like a (tree) limb breaking shortly after 3 a.m." The youths’ car crashed into a concrete bridge abutment on state Route 248 near Sugar Creek Road about three miles south of Canisteo and overturned in a creek. White estimated the car was traveling at about 50 mph at the time of the accident. The speed limit there is 55 mph. "Alcohol was the primary reason for the crash," White said. "Alcohol and driver distraction. A 17-year old with a BAC of .13 is probably very intoxicated. He was distracted in some way. I don’t believe cell phone texting had anything to do with it."

Three of the occupants of the car had cell phones, White said. He said he is unsure whether Cady’s blood alcohol content would have been higher if the car had been found sooner. Cady, who had a junior license, was prohibited by law from driving after 9 p.m. unless an adult was in the front seat. White said state police will present evidence about the source of the alcohol the youths consumed to Steuben County District Attorney John C. Tunney, who will decide whether to file criminal charges. The youths’ car was finally discovered Monday afternoon by an Alstom employee on his way to work in Hornell. "An animal ran out in front of him and he slowed down and saw the car," White said. A funeral for Fry was held Friday. Funerals for the other three victims are scheduled today. The fatal crash occurred on homecoming weekend at Jasper-Troupsburg Central School. O’Dell was crowned homecoming queen at a dance the night before the fatal accident.