The best runners in the college's history. Cornell was a member of CCRI's first two New England title teams and was he was the college's first All-New England cross country runner in 1982 in the top 10 at the NJCAA Division III national championship three times. The season for the team will include three middle distance athletes: Kody Sankey (Cumberland, RI), Jared Gruslin (North Smithfield, RI) and Ian Fletcher (Lincoln, RI). The three will all compete in the 800m, 1000m and mile run. Another new face, Giovanni Colon (Providence, RI), will run the 800m and compete in the long jump for the Knights. The lone Lady Knight to lace up her racing shoes in 2016 will be Nina Perez (Providence, RI). She is a first-time track athlete who will be running in the 200m and 400m events.

In 2012, Cornell received Coach of the Year honors from NJCAA Division III Track Coaches Association. The college presented Cornell with the Distin- guished Alumnus Award during the Rhode Island Legislative Scholar-Athlete Awards ceremony at the State House in April 2010. He previously received an excellent student, Stewart was a recipient of the Rhode Island Legislative Scholar-Athlete Awards program.

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Hunter Stewart, who competed for CCRI's cross country, indoor track and field teams, will serve as assistant coach of cross country squad for his sixth year. As a student, Stewart was a member of the 2005 Northeast District Division III cross country team and the first-ever CCRI indoor track Northeast District Championship team. He was a member of the indoor track 600m district champion in 2006 and 2007, and the outdoor track 800m and 400m district champion in 2007. He also received all-district honors in cross country in 2006 and in the outdoor track 800m event in 2007. Stewart held CCRI indoor track records in the 500m (1:08.75) and the 600m (1:23.15). He shares the 4x800m relay record (8:41:35) with Kevin White, Joe Hannon and Bryan Galvin.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Athletics is not about winning. Rather, it is about testing one’s character to the limits. To dig deep when the chips are down and the time on the clock is running out. As Olympic wrestler Dan Gable once said, “Gold medals aren’t really made of gold. They’re made of sweat, determination, and a hard-to-find alloy called guts.”

The Community College of Rhode Island Department of Athletics provides countless opportunities for student-athletes to better themselves and face challenges with strength and resolve. While they are not competing for a gold medal, the lessons they learn being part of a team and competing are a valuable component of their CCRI experience. They are the lessons that prepare them to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

CCRI athletic teams boast a tradition of excellence with nearly 5,400 victories, 213 All-Americans and 819 All-Region selections. During the 2014–15 academic year, several teams reached the playoffs in their sport, representing the college at the regional, district and national levels. The foundation behind those outstanding accomplishments is built on an academic support program and the dedication of CCRI coaches.

Whatever your athletic dreams might be, consider pursuing them at CCRI and join our tradition of success.

Ray Di Pasquale
President