

WBZC-FM radio host celebrates 1,000th show

By FRANK HALPERIN
Courier-Post Staff

Most progressive-rock fans may know Emerson Lake & Palmer's classic 1974 album, *Welcome Back My Friends To The Show That Never Ends*.

Tom Gagliardi knows it backward and forward.

He's the creator and host of *Gagliarchives*, the prog-rock radio show that airs weekly from 10 p.m. Saturday to 2 a.m. Sunday on Burlington County College's WBZC-88.9 FM and 95.1 FM.

And you could say that *Gagliarchives*, which has been broadcast on the Pemberton Township station for 12 years, is

MORE INFORMATION

■ 'Gagliarchives' is broadcast from 10 p.m. Saturday to 2 a.m. Sunday on Burlington County College's WBZC 88.9-FM (Bordertown Township to Atlantic City) and 95.1-FM (Burlington City/Township-Willingboro area). Visit www.gagliarchives.com online.

a show with no apparent end in sight.

Saturday, Gagliardi went on the air with his 1,000th show.

He celebrated the milestone with an expanded, eight-hour broadcast that included some previous interviews he'd done with Jan Hammer, who composed the theme for the *Miami Vice* TV series, and Tony Banks,

of the popular progressive-rock group Genesis.

The 34-year-old Gagliardi never planned on hosting a 1,000th edition of *Gagliarchives*.

"In 1997, I hosted a concert at the TLA Theater in Philadelphia, and someone had asked me if *Gagliarchives* would last for 1,000 shows," said Gagliardi, of Maple Shade. "At that point, I had no idea how long it would go.

"Each week I do the show is a blessing — and I don't take it for granted," he said.

Gagliardi became a fan of progressive rock — a genre known for its classical music-in-



Photo provided
Burlington County College radio personality Tom Gagliardi is host of a progressive-rock show called 'Gagliarchives.'

See FM, Page 8BBC

FM/Radio personality celebrates 1,000th show

Continued from Page 5BBC

fluenced melodies and imaginative lyrics — at age 12.

"My sister bought me Genesis' *Invisible Touch* album, and that got me hooked," he said.

A graduate of Maple Shade High School, Gagliardi began his radio career in 1991 while attending Camden County College in Blackwood.

He received his first on-air exposure while working at the college's radio station, WDBK-91.5 FM. He created and started hosting *Gagliarchives* while at WDBK.

His radio show soon developed a strong following and caught the attention of Burlington County College's faculty and student body, who were planning to launch a station.

In 1994, while the station was being built, Gagliardi joined the college's fledgling radio staff. In January 1995, WBZC went on the air, and so did *Gagliarchives*.

It continues to be a popular show, and Gagliardi, who works a full-time job as a supervisor's assistant at PHH Mortgage in Mount Laurel, has high hopes for its future.

He said that he's pursuing the prospect of having satellite radio stations, such as Sirius or

TOM GAGLIARDI

- **Age:** 34
- **Residence:** Maple Shade
- **Occupation:** Supervisor's assistant, PHH Mortgage, Mount Laurel
- **Personal:** Single
- **Hobbies:** Studying South Jersey history, watching Philadelphia Eagles football games
- **Favorites:** Three favorite progressive rock groups: Genesis, Emerson Lake & Palmer, Yes

XM Radio, add *Gagliarchives* to their programming lineup. Ultimately, he aspires to be a program director at a satellite station.

Brett Holcomb, the WBZC operations/program director, is not at all surprised Gagliardi's show has reached the millennium mark.

"Every Saturday night that *Gagliarchives* is on, the phones are constantly ringing — we get constant calls from listeners wanting to make song requests," said Holcomb, from Delran.

"Tom's listeners are as devoted as viewers of *American Idol*," he said, "and his show continues to enhance the diversity of programming that we try to offer."

Reach Frank Halperin at (856) 486-2920 or fhalperin@courierpostonline.com.