

The Bridge

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



ALUM HEEDS CALL OF THE WILD

Plus

**2020-2021
Annual Report
of Gifts**



LUZERNE
County Community College

Honoring our mission

As the nation begins to turn the corner in its battle against the Covid-19 pandemic and the College was able to rescind its mask mandate during the spring semester, something we had been missing returned to all of our campuses: smiles. Not that joy and wonder had not been evident in the sparkling eyes of our students, but once again being able to see their wide smiles not only brightened our classrooms, but also seemed to invigorate everyone associated with the College. And Luzerne County Community College had plenty to smile about this past year.



*Thomas P. Leary,
LCCC President*

As the College enters its 55th anniversary, our Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute, launched and maintained with incredible support of our late dear friend Joseph A. Paglianite, who passed away in May at the age of 96, hit 10 years of training chefs and pastry artists in our communities. The Schulman Gallery, the result of a gift from another dear friend, the late Dr. Norman Schulman and his wife, Roxanne, reached 15 years of showcasing our students' creative talent in addition to the artwork of local and national artists. And our Hazleton Center, providing higher educational opportunities for hundreds of students who otherwise may not have been able to attend college, marked 20 years since opening classes in downtown Hazleton.

What has been consistent in all of these milestones is our steadfast commitment to our mission. The pandemic served to highlight the importance of our continued, unwavering support for our students, and underscored how vital the two hallmarks of our institution, affordability and accessibility, truly are. We became even more committed and determined to remove roadblocks keeping students from attending college and pursuing individual success. With the College's new Strategic Plan "2022-2026: Get Ready for Success," LCCC has strengthened its mission by creating an inclusive, equitable learning environment. Fostering student success always has been at the heart of the College and this additional focus will serve to empower students to succeed personally and academically.

One way LCCC has made the College more accessible is our scholarship programs. I'm proud to announce that our Foundation has achieved, for the first time, more than \$400,000 in scholarship support that will be awarded to students for this coming year.

In addition, over this past year, we have expanded our facilities and added science labs and computer labs in our Hazleton, Pittston, and Wilkes-Barre Centers. These labs will provide students in those areas the opportunity to begin career paths they otherwise may not have been able to. We are sensitive to the transportation difficulties of our students and providing every opportunity we can for students who are able to attend

college by walking to one of our off-campus Centers, is the type of investment that the College will continue to make.

LCCC now offers a new Medical Assistant program where students will be trained to assist doctors and patients administratively and medically in physicians' offices, clinics, hospitals, laboratories, or other health service areas.

There has been quite a buzz on and off campus about LCCC's new and exciting esports program. A state-of-the-art esports arena will be constructed during the summer in our Campus Center and the College will offer a degree in esports coaching and create an esports team in the fall.

Our Early College program continues to grow with high school partnerships in 44 school districts. This program not only gives students a chance to get started on their college education, but also encourages students who never envisioned they had a chance to attend college. LCCC delivers many phases of the program, including a remediation phase to help students who need additional academic preparation to attend most colleges. The best evidence of the enormous opportunity provided by our Early College program is highlighted by Lauren Boyer, David Cooper, and Sofie Foster who received associate's degrees at this year's commencement, two weeks before their high school graduation.

Amazon continued its commitment for employees to attend Luzerne County Community College tuition free to receive their associate's degree. This is part of the strategy we're providing to our region to prepare citizens for the workforce, and to retain people here in northeastern Pennsylvania.

All of these accomplishments and achievements are on top of the resounding affirmation the College received from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools with full Accreditation. We had the rare recognition of exceeding each of the seven standards for accreditation which shows the quality of education that is provided by our faculty and staff.

Finally, as we recently announced, LCCC has achieved Military Friendly® School status. LCCC is the largest provider of services for veterans among Northeastern Pennsylvania colleges and universities. More than 1,800 colleges submitted nominations for this recognition and we are one of only 600 that received this status.

I am profoundly proud of all our accomplishments and ever grateful to be part of this College community. Everyone associated with the College helps build on our updated mission and supports our new Strategic Plan as Luzerne County Community College positions itself for the future. LCCC touches countless lives and has a fundamental impact on the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania. We will never lose sight of this vital role.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Leary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LCCC earns Military Friendly® School designation

Luzerne County Community College has earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2022-2023 survey with 665 earning special awards for going above the standard. LCCC has been awarded the Silver ranking.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Viqtory, with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer), and loan default rates for all students, and specifically, for student veterans.

The 2022-2023 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May and October issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Campus services available to veterans and active military students at LCCC include early registration opportunities, customized admissions events, accommodations for students with disabilities, discount and scholarship opportunities, a full-time veteran counselor, academic support and tutoring, financial aid counseling, career planning services, mental health counseling, use of the LCCC Patrick J. Solano Veterans Center, a student club for veterans, veteran support group meetings, and a veterans affairs office. LCCC currently has more than 100 veterans and military students enrolled at the College.

"We are proud to announce that for the first time in history, LCCC has earned the Military Friendly® School designation," says Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC. "We always want to do more for our veterans and active military students and we are honored to be able to salute and recognize these students."

For more information about student veteran programs at LCCC, call the Financial Aid Office at 570-740-0351 or (800) 377-5222, extension 7351 or go to www.luzerne.edu/veterans.



From left, Luzerne County Community College President Thomas P. Leary poses with Board of Trustees Chair Daniel Rodgers, U.S. Navy Veteran and college alumnus Matthew King, National Guard member and nursing student Samuel Elliott, U.S. Army veteran and nursing student Elizabeth Dorris and college veterans club advisor and Financial Aid Director, Laura Kapalka.

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About the cover: Rebecca Wolfe '17 achieves her dream job as a Pennsylvania Game Warden working in her favorite environment, the great outdoors.

Schulman Memorial Scholarship Announced at LCCC Gallery 15th Anniversary Celebration

Luzerne County Community College recently celebrated the 15th anniversary of the opening of the College's Schulman Gallery with a red carpet reception at the College's Campus Center. In celebration of the 15th anniversary, the gallery proudly displayed "Tunnel Vision," an art exhibit featuring recent paintings by Sue Hand of regional coal breakers and coal miners and their families, as well as anthracite mining memorabilia from the private collection of Joseph Husty, Jr.

"The exhibition conveyed the significance the anthracite mining industry of Northeastern Pennsylvania had on the American Industrial Revolution and reflected the impact it had on the lives of the individuals who participated in this challenging venture," stated Robert R. Husty, Curator of the Schulman Gallery.

The reception, attended by more than 150 guests, included an announcement of a new scholarship in memory of the late Dr. Norman Schulman. Dr. Shulman and his wife Roxanne helped establish the Schulman Gallery in 2006 through a generous donation. The Dr. Norman Schulman Memorial Scholarship, established by Roxanne Schulman and the children of Dr. Norman Schulman, will be awarded to a student enrolled full-time in a Fine Art, Photography, or Digital Media Design degree program for the 2022/2023 academic year. "This gift is a wonderful tribute to the life of Dr. Schulman and his love for arts and culture. It further preserves his legacy and provides an opportunity for a student to pursue their passion for the arts," stated Rebecca Brominski, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and LCCC Foundation, Inc.

To contribute to the Dr. Norman Schulman Memorial Scholarship, or to become a scholarship donor, visit www.luzerne.edu/give or call 570-740-0731.



Some of the attendees from the Schulman Gallery 15th anniversary celebrations include the Schulman family with LCCC President Thomas P. Leary, artist Sue Hand, collector Joseph Husty, Jr., and College staff Rebecca Brominski and Robert Husty.



Roxanne Schulman poses with her daughters Rebecca and Sarah

ESPORTS COACH DIPLOMA Offered For Fall



Luzerne County Community College will offer a new esports coaching diploma program for individuals wishing to obtain a coaching position in esports.

The completion of the 17-credit diploma program provides students interested in coaching esports with the skills associated with esports coaching at the high school, collegiate, and professional level.

The program teaches the foundations of coaching as well as the unique aspects of esports and prepares individuals for coaching esports across levels and game titles.

Photo on left depicts the proposed new esports gaming lab for classes and upcoming esports team.

Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute Marks 10 Year Anniversary

Luzerne County Community College recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute. The evening event, "A Taste of the Season," showcased the culinary talents of the College's students, faculty, and alumni. The celebration also included a check presentation to honor the milestone from Joseph A. Paglianite, whose donation established the Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute in 2010. The funds will support culinary scholarships for incoming and current students.

In addition, another highlight of the evening was welcoming Rob Friedman of the Friedman Hospitality Group to the South Valley. This innovative partnership will provide a new scholarship for culinary students, additional restaurant exposure to enhance the learning experience for students, internship opportunities, and access to the finest local chefs as guest presenters.

Since its 2010 inception, the Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute has produced over 200 graduates eager and ready to take on hospitality positions throughout the region. The Institute also offers Personal Enrichment Community programs as well as Summer Camps for children and young adults.

Since the celebration, we lost Mr. Paglianite in May of 2022. Reflecting on Mr. Paglianite's passing, Rebecca Brominski, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and Foundation commented, "Mr. Joseph Paglianite was a true friend and steadfast supporter of the College and our students. His overwhelming generosity and philanthropy will be felt by our culinary students from many years to come. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed."



Shown at the check presentation are, from left – Rebecca Brominski, executive director, institutional advancement, LCCC; the late Joseph A. Paglianite, donor; and Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC.



Olive Garden Bar Manager, Heather Shimko '18 shared her LCCC success story at the 10 year anniversary celebration. As soon as Shimko graduated LCCC with her degree in Hospitality Business Management in Culinary Arts, Olive Garden promoted her to Assistant Kitchen Manager and sent her to Italy to become a Culinary Institute of Tuscany Graduate. Shimko has aspirations to be a General Manager and a Director at Olive Garden one day.

Hazleton Center of Luzerne County Community College observes milestone anniversary

This story originally ran in the Standard-Speaker in Hazleton on November 22, 2020 and is reprinted with permission.

BY KENT JACKSON, STANDARD SPEAKER STAFF WRITER

A bluegreen "L" hanging at an angle next to "LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE" lettering over storefronts at 100 W. Broad St. marks a portal.

In the past 20 years, approximately 8,000 students have passed through. Some arrived directly after graduating from high school. Others worked and raised families before entering.

They sought two-year diplomas while aiming at higher degrees from other colleges or pursued certificates in various trades. Many sandwiched classes between full time work, while seeking better jobs or more training for jobs that they already held. A few took courses remotely, even before the pandemic. Some learned English as their language while others took Spanish.

As the college observes the 20th anniversary of its Center in Hazleton, students and faculty from past and present recalled the role that LCCC played in their lives and what it added to the community.

Directors

When the Center opened its doors in Hazleton on Sept. 26, 2000, Terry Moran Bauder was there as the first director, registering new students and giving pep talks as they continued their studies.

"It was the most fulfilling, satisfying job I could have ever had," said Bauder, a radio news director and chief executive of Leadership Hazleton before she worked for the college. Bauder said LCCC offered courses for traditional students seeking degrees. But the college also designed programs to teach skills that employers wanted their workers to learn. Restaurant workers studied food safety to meet a state requirement. Teachers completed professional development classes to update their certifications. Teenagers earned college credits while still in high school.

"For me, it was a thrill to be able to offer a high-quality education in their own back yard. We would have students who would work their jobs in the day and come to classes in the evening," Bauder said.

Students and instructors patronized local businesses on

their way to and from classes. The Center also became an impromptu site where civic groups met or held training sessions. Ed Rendell stopped by in 2004 while he was governor to announce a grant for a new bus station. All of that added vitality to the community, Bauder said.

She directed the Center for 19 of its 20 years before retiring. During her tenure, two of her sons earned degrees at LCCC, and two other sons took classes there.

Bauder's longevity made Kim Whalen feel comfortable about succeeding her.

"I knew it's a great place. That was a great sign for me," Whalen said.

In Hazleton, Whalen said students can take basic classes and finish some programs entirely or move to the main campus in Nanticoke to finish studies in scores of other majors that LCCC offers. Whalen has one student who took care of younger siblings after their mother died, who worked full-time and who still took courses.

"It strikes me that even our young students, lots of them, work full-time and come to school as well...That's a feat that I'm always amazed by," she said. The students who can balance, they're so hardworking, committed when they decided to do the schooling. They're really dedicated because they have so much on their plates."

Students

Mark Mlynek is a volunteer firefighter and scuba diver with the West End Fire and Rescue Co. in Mahanoy City. He works full-time at a distribution center, but since graduating from Marian Catholic High School he also has attended LCCC part-time to further his career ambition.

Mlynek has applied to become a Pennsylvania State Trooper and is now three courses shy of completing an associate's degree, which the state requires of police cadets.

He can go to classes at the Hazleton center before or after work, so the college fits his schedule, and his budget. Tuition at LCCC is \$2,010 per semester. "I look at a lot of people going to school. I know they're going to be \$20,000 to \$30,000 in debt. I don't have any debt. I have a brand new vehicle," Mlynek said.

For Jordany and Victoria Krawinkel, a brother and sister from



Jordany Krawinkel '20 speaks at 20th anniversary event in Hazleton

Hazleton, LCCC provided a place where they could start college. Jordany graduated in the spring, although the pandemic shifted his commencement exercises online and his unit of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard into action.

"Right when I graduated, I had to go to Philly," where his unit helped keep order. Now he is taking classes from Kutztown University where he is studying toward a bachelor's degree in computer science and aiming at a career designing video games.

At LCCC, he spent the first year in Hazleton and did work study at the Hazleton One Community Center, where he continues to volunteer. In his second year, Jordany attended the main campus, where he took part in drama and computer clubs. Also, he got to know his professors. "It was really good for me," he said. "Especially what I loved the most at LCCC was they gave me that perspective, one to one."

His sister, Victoria, is still at LCCC, where she is studying health sciences and plans to become a surgeon. Like her brother, she is in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and does work study at the Hazleton One Center. Also, she has become a tutor for other students.

"LCCC has helped me become a more independent person, more confident about myself to not be scared to speak up when you have to," Victoria said in an email. "I am a Latina, and throughout all of my classes I have learned a lot of things that proved everything is possible, if you make it possible."

For families that moved to Hazleton from other countries, like the Krawinkels who came from the Dominican Republic, the Center offered classes in English as a second language for free through a continuing education program. Students in degree programs also can take English as a second language to prepare for other classes. English as a second language now is a separate entity at the Hazleton Center, where 68% of students were Hispanic when Bauder retired. "We filled a niche for affordable, high-quality education for our new neighbors and friends," she said. During her tenure, 400 to 450 students a year attended the Hazleton Center.

The pandemic reduced enrollment to 240 students at the center this year, when more students are studying virtually. LCCC's distance learning program attracted 2,939 students, up from 1,544 last year.

Distance learning began pre-pandemic. Bauder told students that they could take courses in their pajamas. "It really helped because we had shift workers, moms with children. They took advantage of distance learning," she said.





New science lab at the Hazleton Center expands class offerings.

Origins

LCCC sought to make education convenient for people in Hazleton even before the Center opened. Prior to then, students could take night classes, which the College offered inside rooms of Hazleton public schools.

After LCCC opened a Center in downtown Wilkes-Barre that drew well, the College sought to replicate that model in Hazleton. After searching for a home for its Hazleton Center, the College chose a four-story complex that previously held Deisroth's and J.J. Newberry department stores and had been remodeled into the Downtown Business Exchange.

Across the Hazleton area, students responded to the chance to get an education without driving to the College's main campus in Nanticoke. Bauder and co-workers put in hours of overtime signing up new students on registration night. "It was just amazing. We ran out of applications," she recalled.

LCCC projected that the Hazleton Center would lose \$110,000 its first year. Instead, it turned a profit of \$160,000, a result that validated the decision to open.

"I loved it. It was such a great blend of traditional and non-traditional students, all of whom chose to be there to make their lives better," said Sheryl DiSabella, who taught computer science shortly after the Center opened. "I am so grateful to have been such a small piece of a much bigger puzzle solving problems and making our community better."

The Hazleton Center recently took more space on the first floor of the Downtown Business Exchange which the building's manager said added to the campus atmosphere.

"They are constantly improving and expanding and have authorized some recent renovations that have added beautifully to the setting for the students," Mark Soback, whose firm manages the building, which is owned by Luzerne County said in an email.

Academic opportunities

Daniel Guydish had been retired from a career with the Hazleton Area Public Schools for five years when he began to miss the classroom. At LCCC, he resumed teaching history and political science for a decade before closing his books again in 2012.

While with LCCC, he taught at the main campus and in Berwick, one of seven centers the college has now, but he liked convening classes in Hazleton.

"I found it to be a terrific facility atmosphere, very friendly students," Guydish said. "That conception of it's 13th grade by no means did that apply. It truly was an academic facility that

really met the needs of the students."

Pat Trosky said although she was an instructor, she learned, too, while at LCCC. Having spent much of her career as a newspaper reporter at The Citizens' Voice, a Times-Shamrock newspaper, Trosky was well qualified to teach an introductory writing course. But she had jitters.

"I never taught before. I was deathly afraid to talk in public," she said. While she overcame her fear, Trosky found it ironic a few years later when she was asked to teach public speaking. Because she had trembled about her first lectures, she related to students who had stage fright, including one man, who had been in prison.

Before giving his first speech, he started sweating. "He said I've had guns held to my head, and I'm more scared now than I was then," Trosky recalled.

She had other students who were autistic, stuttered, were blind. "I tell them when they come up, Just breathe! It's almost like a respite for them," Trosky said. "They know it is a safe place."

One of her students, Raul Santana, chose LCCC partly because he didn't drive and the center was close to his home in Hazleton. To work his way through LCCC, he put in 36 hours at local distribution centers on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays after attending classes Mondays through Thursdays. Also, he served in the National Guard. Finishing his course work took a lot of late-night studying and required understanding from his instructors. "They knew I was in a special situation," he said.

Santana not only completed two years at LCCC, but he went on to Bloomsburg University where he earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in educational leadership.

His academic and Army experience led him to Marywood University, where he now works as director of military and veteran services.

"LCCC not only opened those doors for me, but allowed me to go through them and allowed me to get to the point where I am today I'm able to set an example not only for the Hispanic community but my little brother" Santana said. "That campus really helped me, and I'm hoping it helped so many other people."



LCCC President Thomas P. Leary touts accomplishments and changes of the LCCC Hazleton Center during it's 20th anniversary celebration.



Call of the Wild

"I grew up in the outdoors," says Rebecca Wolfe '17. "My dad would take me hiking, fishing, hunting, and kayaking. He always had a vast knowledge of the outdoors so he taught me a lot. I have always had a passion for the woods and wildlife." Wolfe says she always thought she wanted to be a game warden. But that position seemed unreachable to her due to limited job openings and high demand of applicants.

"I considered becoming a nurse or a police officer," she says. "I really wasn't sure what I wanted to do." Wolfe, originally from Drums, PA is a high school graduate of Immanuel Christian School. When considering a college, Wolfe felt Luzerne County Community College was close by, affordable, and offered a large variety of degrees to choose from. Wolfe chose a major in General Studies so she could try different classes and get a feel for what direction she might go.

Wolfe says she had a great experience at LCCC. "The teachers were excellent and approachable. They really cared

about the students. I made many longtime friendships there." In addition to studying, Wolfe joined the BASIC club and played on the Trailblazer Basketball and Volleyball teams. "I really enjoyed my time at LCCC," she says.

After graduating from LCCC, Wolfe took environmental classes through a program at Penn State University Wilkes-Barre. She saw a flyer for a Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Pennsylvania Civil Service Commission and decided to try for it. Over the next year, she took a number of tests including background, medical exams, and physical fitness tests.

Applicants for the position must have 60 college credits, be in excellent physical condition, have knowledge of hunting and outdoor activities, and be able to interact positively with people of all backgrounds.

Wolfe was accepted into the program as a cadet and completed her training at the Ross Leffler School of Conservation, the Game Commission's training school located

in The Pennsylvania Game Commission Headquarters in Harrisburg. Wolfe became a 2021 graduate of the 32nd class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation. She was assigned originally as the Pennsylvania Game Warden of Chester County and was recently transferred to Cumberland County in the South Central district in early February.

"I love every minute of what I do," Wolfe says with a smile. "This is a call heavy district, so I stay very busy." Typically, Wolfe handles game animal injuries and checks in on the hunters during hunting season. She also deals with small animal nuisance complaints. During the interview, Wolfe was transporting an injured seagull in her truck to a rehab center.

Wolfe says her favorite animals are owls. "I love owls and working with them. I came across a stuck barn owl in a foul ball net 40 feet above a set of bleachers in a baseball field. I had to get up on a ladder to cut the poor thing out to free it."

In addition to emergencies and enforcing game laws, Wolfe provides educational and information sessions and classes. She attends the Pennsylvania Farm Show and sportsmen's clubs to offer wildlife and hunter education courses.

"Every day is unique," she says. "There is a lot of responsibility; paperwork has to be done on time, and I make sure the public



is satisfied with how I respond to calls." Wolfe says she's happiest when she is outside patrolling the woods, either on foot or in the patrol vehicle. Wolfe has a wide area to cover of the eastern side of Cumberland County from the Susquehanna River to Carlisle, south from Perry County to the top of York County.

Wolfe credits LCCC with giving her the foundation and degree to pursue her dream job. She encourages others interested in this type of career to follow her lead. "Just go for it and give it a try," she says. "Spend time outdoors, learn about wildlife and hunting, study everything you can about nature, and earn your degree."



Rebecca Wolfe and her father, Jim Wolfe, at her graduation in 2021 at the 32nd Class of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation.

LCCC Foundation receives donation to establish Friedman Scholarship



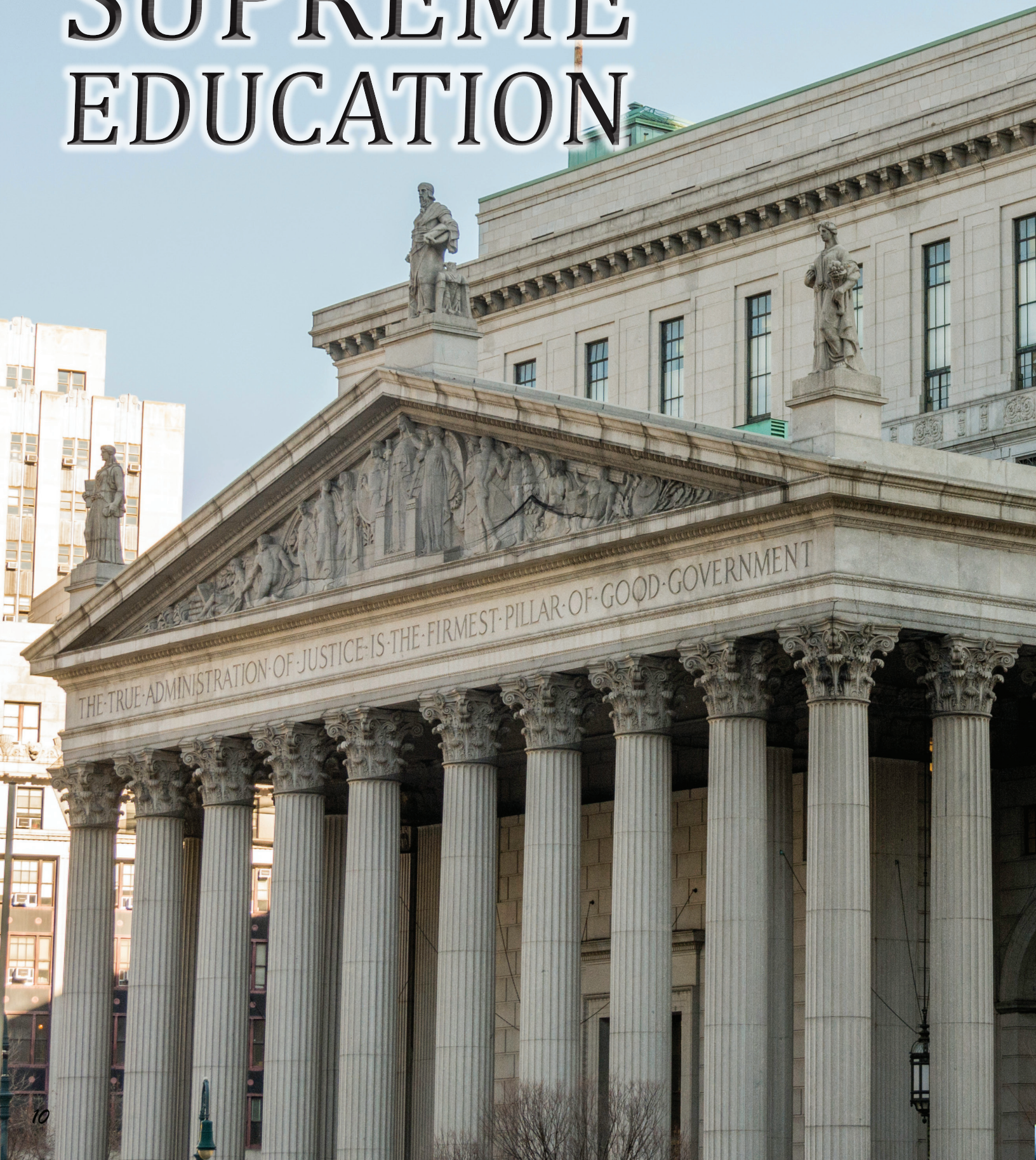
The Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. recently received a donation to establish the Friedman Hospitality Group Scholarship.

The newly-established scholarship provides financial support and assistance for qualified applicants who are enrolled full or part-time in the LCCC Culinary Arts program at the College's Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute.

For more information on scholarship opportunities, call 570-740-0731 or email foundation@luzerne.edu.

Shown at the check presentation are, from left – Joanne Yuhas, assistant director, institutional advancement, LCCC; Rebecca Brominski, executive director, institutional advancement, LCCC; Rob Friedman, Friedman Hospitality Group; Libby Yeager, dean of curriculum, LCCC; and Susan Spry, associate vice president, academic affairs, LCCC.

ALUMNUS RECEIVES SUPREME EDUCATION



"If LCCC hadn't been there for me and the people there didn't support me like they did, I don't know where I would be today."

Today, The Honorable Shawn Kelly '93 is a judge of the New York Supreme Court, 1st Judicial District. He admits his life almost went down a different path.

"I was raised by a single working mother living in Kingston," Kelly says. "I went to Wyoming Valley West High School and would have graduated in 1983, but I left school in my junior year." Kelly says he had a difficult time back then. "To be a gay kid at that time, I had to deal with a lot of bullying and a lot of tough stuff that led me to drop out," Kelly states. "I did work, but I was a young kid with no direction and no real skills. I went down a bad path with a lot of partying, misdirection, and false starts. I always felt education is what would get me out of it all. It all started with LCCC and I'll always be grateful."

Kelly says he knew at Luzerne County Community College everyone is welcome. "They remove barriers to education," he says. "That was amazing and helpful to me to get my life on track and put things together." Kelly admits even in college, he still wasn't ready to change. "I had to go at it twice. My first go around, I failed many of my classes. I didn't show up for school and didn't bother to withdraw when I knew I missed so much. I was not focused." Kelly recalls sitting in the student development office with then Dean of Student Affairs, Thomas P. Leary, begging to withdraw from his failing classes. "I really had no excuse," Kelly admits. "But once I finally got myself back together, I came back. LCCC not only accepts everybody, but the College also gives second chances to make it work. I cleaned up my mistakes, took all those classes over, and received the credit and grades I should have achieved."

Kelly worked full-time and built his class schedule around his job, taking classes during the day and at night. "It was a lot of work trying to juggle both work and education, but I did it," Kelly says proudly. "My grades came up. There were so many people at LCCC who had the patience, and took the time to make sure you learned the material and were able to succeed.

*The Honorable
Shawn Kelly '93*

I had tremendous professors like Sheldon Spear, Ann Williams, and Bob Mittrick. Teachers should never forget the impact they can have on students."

Kelly majored in Social Sciences because he always enjoyed history, sociology, and psychology. "I didn't know what I wanted to do," Kelly says. "I was interested in becoming a lawyer, but didn't think I could make it in that field because I dropped out of high school. But after succeeding at LCCC and earning my degree in 1993, I transferred to King's College and did well with my education there too. I built up my confidence at that point and said 'Well, why can't I be a lawyer?'"

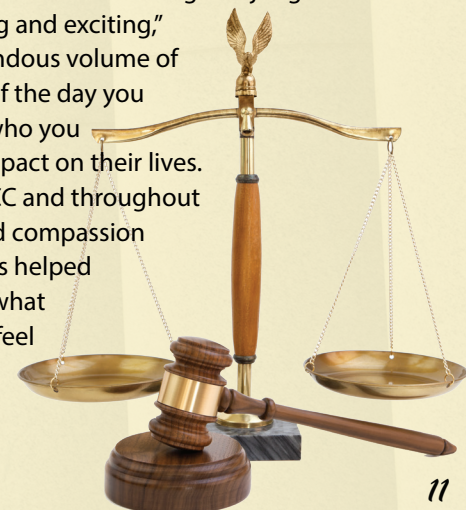
Kelly put everything he had into achieving that goal. He finished his B.A. degree in Human Resources Management at King's College in 1996, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and was accepted at Tulane University, where he went on to earn a J.D. from Tulane University Law School in 1999.

"I applied and started with a small legal firm in New York City," Kelly says. "I worked through a couple of additional law firms serving a diverse range of clients in a variety of areas of the law." Kelly's litigation experience includes civil, criminal, trial, and appellate work as well as numerous arbitrations and mediations. He jointly drafted a "friend of the court" brief submitted to New York's highest court when it considered recognition of out-of-state same-sex marriages and argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, where the court commended Kelly for appellate advocacy. As a federal public defender, Kelly tried felony and misdemeanor cases. "In my last position before taking the bench," Kelly says, "I served as an associate counsel at NYSUT, New York's largest union, where I represented union members in labor arbitrations and in state and federal litigation."

In 2012, Kelly was elected into the civil court, and in 2019 he was elected to the New York State Supreme Court.

"My life experience, together with my professional background and community service, have left me with a deep sense of fairness and compassion, a commitment to equal access to justice, and a real understanding of the every day problems facing New Yorkers who appear in our courts," Kelly says. "I believe serving on the bench is the most significant way I can give back to the community and pursue my passion for equal access to justice and community service."

Kelly says he enjoys his career. "Working as a judge in New York City is fascinating and exciting," he says. "We have a tremendous volume of workload, but at the end of the day you are working with people who you can have a tremendous impact on their lives. The values I learned at LCCC and throughout my life about empathy and compassion and listening to people has helped me become successful in what I do. It's a wonderful job. I feel very lucky to be here."



An International Friendship



*Shakeel Ahmad Khan, '21 and
LCCC Director of Accounting
Robert Linskey in Pakistan.*

The American dream drove Pakistani native Shakeel Ahmad Khan across an ocean in 2010 to start a new life. His aspiration to earn a college degree led him to the doorstep of Luzerne County Community College.

It was College's Director of Accounting Robert Linskey that helped open the door for Khan. The simple act began a journey that led Khan from U.S. citizen, to college graduate, and back to Pakistan December of 2021 for his arranged marriage. Throughout his journey, Linskey was by his side serving first as a mentor to Khan, then as a father figure, and finally a close friend.

When Khan, 29, returned to Pakistan in late December for his wedding, Linskey was with him.

"He wanted to be there for my wedding. I wasn't sure if he was going to go. I didn't think his wife would let him," said Khan. "He did go. I was more concerned for him there than I was for myself. You hear things about how crazy it is there. But when you actually see things, all the worries go away." Linskey, Khan, and Khan's brothers left December 26, 2021, for Pakistan and eventually arrived in Khan's native village of Ghalegay on December 28. For Khan, the wheel had come full circle. He had originally arrived in the United States as a teenager. His family settled in New York but moved to Nanticoke searching for a more economical and quieter place to live. His father opened a business in the downtown, Crown Fried Chicken. Khan worked for him and began attending classes at the College in 2014. He liked the college, the small classes, and the instructors, but struggled at times with the language barrier and course work.

In 2017, he turned to Linskey for help registering for the Fall 2017 semester. Linskey, an alumnus of the College, understood the difficulty of adjusting to college life.

"I work with a lot of students. Shakeel had been in my office in 2015. I did what I could do for him the first time and he went on his way," Linskey said. "The second time he came in, there was a lot going on in the press about what was being referred to as a 'Muslim ban.'"

To make Khan feel comfortable, Linskey spent time talking with him about Pakistan, his new life in America, and the state of affairs in the United States. Khan was concerned about the hostility in the nation and how it might impact him and his family.

"He asked me 'how do you feel about America?'" Khan recalled. "It was a bit scary. I didn't know if life was going to change. I didn't know what was going to happen, but now my whole mind set has changed."

A seed was planted that day in Linskey's office and both men made an attempt to get to know each other better. Khan took a work study position in the College's Business Office. Over countless cups of coffee, tutoring and study sessions, lunches at Khan's family restaurant, trips to the movies and workouts at the gym, Khan and Linskey became close friends.

Then after nine-and-a-half years, Khan made his first return trip to Pakistan. While visiting with family and friends,

Shakeel met the family of a young woman named Arzoo. He didn't know then, but soon Arzoo would become his wife.

Khan's family is Pashtun, an Iranian ethnic group whose tribes are found largely in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Arranged marriages are a tradition of the Pashtuns and Khan wanted to honor the tradition. With the help of Khan's mother, a marriage proposal was made to Arzoo. She accepted and soon plans to return to Pakistan for Khan and Arzoo's wedding were underway.

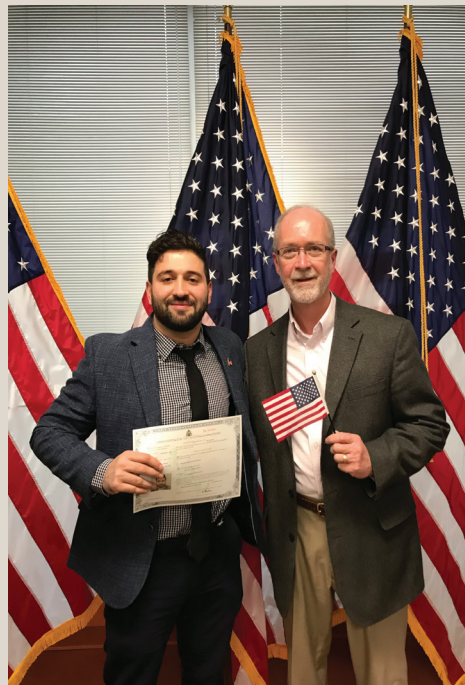
"He did tell my wife and I that even if he had found someone here on his own, he could not be as happy as he is now with Arzoo," said Linskey.

Khan's mother also arranged marriages for Khan's brother, Jalil, who married Gulrina. His father arranged the marriage for his sister, Mahrukh, who married Sangar Khan. While the Nikahs or religious wedding ceremonies were held previous to the Khan's trip to Pakistan, their wedding celebrations were held during his trip. Jalil and Gulrina's wedding was celebrated with Khan and Arzoo's wedding celebration. Mahrukh and Sangar's celebration took place on January 17 in Pakistan.

The past few years have been busy for Khan. He became a United States citizen in 2019. Khan and Linskey made three trips to Philadelphia over the course of several months as Khan worked through the requirements for citizenship. Linskey was with Khan when he was sworn in as a U.S. citizen. Khan also completed school in Fall 2020 and graduated in Spring 2021 from the College with an Associate Degree in Accounting. On January 3, 2022, Khan married Arzoo. He traveled to Pakistan for a month for the wedding and to spend time with his new wife. Traditionally, Pakistani weddings last several days,

but Khan's family learned when they arrived overseas that his grandmother had passed away and, respectfully, the wedding festivities were shortened as a result.

"It was a one-day wedding. There were a lot of people about 1,300 men, women and children," said Khan. The wedding began at 9 a.m. and lasted throughout the day with a religious ceremony taking place, followed by



Shakeel Ahmad Khan, '21 poses with Director of Accounting Robert Linskey in Philadelphia after his swearing-in ceremony for Khan's U.S. citizenship.

an elaborate celebration with food, music, and photos of the bride and groom.

Linskey, still in disbelief he was in Pakistan, was asked to have an intricate part in the wedding ceremony.

"I was thinking that I am sitting with Shakeel's father and I am witnessing a marriage," he said. "When we first got to the wedding hall, they had the Nikah, which is the religious component of the marriage. Shakeel had told me previously that you are going to be there for the Nikah."

The Nikah is attended by only a select few family members, representatives of the couple and the Imam or worship leader. There are many components to the ceremony which ended with an Arabic prayer.

"The Imam did some prayers in Arabic and they were married" Linskey said. "They (Khan and Arzoo) weren't even there, but I was. What an honor to be a witness to this. That was one of the biggest honors of my life."

Linskey returned to the states on January 6, 2022; Khan followed a few weeks later. Arzoo will also hopefully arrive in the U.S in the upcoming months.

"Our journey has been amazing. Our friendship has now blossomed into a friendship between two families," Linskey said. "I am friends with Khan's father and brothers. Likewise, my wife is friends with his mother and sister. Now we are all excited to welcome Arzoo to America."



A Bench for Your Thoughts



The members of the LCCC Alumni Association recently supported The Bench Project, an initiative started locally by LCCC graduates Beth and Leonard Romanowski and has since expanded to a national effort. The intent is to focus on mental health issues and encourages individuals to journal in the provided notebook to reflect on what is on their mind. The first Bench Project bag has been dedicated to the Leadership LCCC class project – a beautification of an area near the Campus Center incorporating the Student Government Association bench. Plans are in place to expand across campus and to the College's other sites.



*In photo, seated, are: Leonard Romanowski '76 and Beth Romanowski '80
Standing, Cindy Malkemes, program counselor, LCCC; Ursula Uhrin, director of career and employment services, LCCC; Rebecca Brominski '91, executive director, institutional advancement, LCCC; and Bonnie Lauer '87, director of alumni relations, LCCC.*

Filling Workforce Needs

LCCC partners with Geisinger to create Medical Assisting degree

Luzerne County Community College has developed a new Associates of Applied Science Degree in Medical Assisting. This program is intended to provide a basic knowledge of the medical office and procedures that may be utilized in the physician's office. The skills acquired include scheduling patients, preparing patient records, managing financial matters, handling insurance arrangements, processing correspondence, and managing an office. Skills also include measuring vital signs, phlebotomy, electrocardiography, pulmonary function testing and laboratory procedures.

The student is trained to assist doctors and patients administratively and medically in physician's offices, clinics, hospitals, laboratories, or other health service areas.

LCCC conducted a meeting with representatives from a variety of health care settings in early September 2021. At this meeting, the College heard about skills needed in ambulatory healthcare settings that combined clinical skills with communication and office skills. LCCC then met with officials from the Geisinger Health System who expressed that they have multiple openings for Certified Medical Assistants. The collaboration continued resulting in the creation of the Medical Assisting Degree program. Embedded in the program are both academic and hands-on skills development with clinical application of those skills and an industry-recognized certification.

"This program is a win for our region," says Susan Spry, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. "It provides an accessible, affordable educational opportunity for individuals in our service region and it fills a vital workforce need in the healthcare



Medical Assistants are highly needed in health care industry.

community, the largest employment sector in our region." Spry says the need for Certified Medical Assistants will grow by 25% by 2025 and there are numerous current openings in northeastern Pennsylvania for individuals with these skills.

"On behalf of Geisinger, we are very excited for LCCC to have helped develop this program," says Maria Scopilitti, Associate Vice President of Neurosciences at the Geisinger Health System. "There is an ever-increasing challenge in the nursing skill set and in clinical support services," she says.

"Geisinger has been reaching out to school districts about opportunities and careers in the health care industry and working closely with Luzerne to help develop the curriculum for this much needed Medical Assisting program."

Providing Compassion to the Grieving

In 1914, John V. Pacovsky opened a funeral home on North Main Street in Wilkes-Barre. His wife, Mary V. (France) Pacovsky became the first licensed female funeral director and embalmer in Northeastern Pennsylvania. At a young age, John would lose his life at a crossing gate on Conyngham Avenue in a train collision, along with his cousin, delivering the family's extra folding chairs to an East End funeral home. Mary would later meet and marry Joseph Morris, another funeral director. More than 100 years and four generations later, the John V. Morris Family Funeral Home Inc. is still in business under the helm of LCCC alumnus John V. Morris III '90.

"In April, we will have been in business for 108 continual years of service, providing comfort to area residents during the most difficult time in their lives," Morris says proudly. He says running a funeral home is a great deal of work and admits it's not a job for everyone. In fact, Morris had considered a different path for his life early on.

"I considered going into the medical field," Morris admits. "I wasn't sure if this profession was right for me at the time." Morris said he started looking into some medical schools, but all that changed while cleaning up after a funeral one day. "I came across a thank you card," he says. "The card expressed how professionally caring, supportive, and compassionate our family was for this family throughout their grieving process. I felt overcome by what we do as a family that really touches people's lives. That was the moment I realized this was my calling."

Determined on his path, Morris needed to start his education process. Knowing that Luzerne County Community College was nearby and highly affordable, he enrolled in the Business Administration program and started his journey. "LCCC is a gem in our community," Morris remarked. "The College gave me a great foundation. There was an amazing sense of community there that allowed me to feel accepted and supported. All my instructors were very approachable and willing to help with whatever I needed." Morris also immersed himself in the student



John V. Morris III '90 stands before his 108 year old family business, John V. Morris Family Funeral Home Inc. Morris recently joined the board of the LCCC Foundation, Inc. and praises his time spent at Luzerne County Community College.

activity culture at LCCC. He joined several clubs and became elected president of the Student Government Association. "I have such an attachment to my time at LCCC, it just feels like home," Morris says. "I made many lifetime friends through the College including President Leary."

After graduating from Luzerne in 1990, Morris continued his education toward his professional vocation by attending the former Simmons Institute of Funeral Service, Inc. in Syracuse, New York, where his father likewise attended. Upon his return to start his resident internship while beginning his ministry with his family, he finished his Bachelor of Arts degree taking evening and weekend classes at King's College. He was thrilled to know that his business education that began at Luzerne successfully transferred to complete his education. Morris became licensed

as a Pennsylvania funeral director following the successful completion of his national and state board examinations.

He worked with his father until his dad turned the reigns over ten years ago. Morris says you have to love what you do to work in this field. "You wear many hats," he says. "In this profession, you must be a grief counselor, a business person, marketer, scientist, custodian, and lately a computer expert. A lot has changed over the past few years. Services are live-streamed and tributes are placed online or into video presentations for DVDs." His wife, Lori, another Luzerne alum, also plays a major role at the funeral home, helping coordinate the services and providing secretarial work.

Morris loves what he does. "We help people through their process of grieving," he says. "It's very rewarding to take some of the hurt and confusion off people's shoulders while planning a personal, lasting tribute for someone who was truly loved and cared about in this life."



Save the Date
**30th Annual
Foundation Scholarship Dinner
Wednesday
October 19, 2022**

LCCC Foundation receives donation to establish Hand Scholarship



Shown at the annual Suzanne Maria Rosetti Juried Art Show Winners Exhibition at the LCCC Schulman Gallery are, from left Tim Maderia; Heather Maderia; Joe Hand; Sue Hand; Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; and Robert Husty, curator, Schulman Gallery, LCCC.

The Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. recently received a donation to establish the Sue Hand Art Scholarship.

The new scholarship was established by Sue Hand's Imagery and is open to current or former students of Sue Hand's Imagery or current or former participants in the annual Suzanne Maria Rosetti Juried Art Show Winners Exhibition which is held every year at the LCCC Schulman Gallery. Applicants also must be enrolled full-time in the LCCC Fine Arts program, be in good academic standing, and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

For more information on the Sue Hand Art Scholarship, or to contribute to the scholarship, call Joanne Yuhas at LCCC at 570-740-0731 or email jyuhas@luzerne.edu.

Luzerne
Love
Story





When Rachel met Ethan

By Rachel Holly Farrow '16

I never dreamt I would find “love at first sight” sitting in a classroom -- but here we are. I met my husband sitting across from me in the semi-circle of desks in the ATC (Advanced Technology Center) during the spring 2015 semester. It was an Intro to Communications class taught by Ed Ackerman.

That day, I could only truly describe the encounter as electric. He was three people between me – clutching a coffee mug, clad in a pea coat, and had his long hair pulled up underneath a warm knit hat.

Life for both of us was unique – this was a pivotal point in both of our lives. I started my journey at LCCC the semester prior, and was trying to rebuild my life from the bottom up. I was a victim of teen dating violence (note: February is teen dating violence awareness month) and got trapped in a cycle of vicious abuse from the time I was 17 until I escaped at 20. My abuser stole my dreams, my autonomy, and my spirit -- but my childhood dream of being a writer was still within me. When I escaped, I got myself a tiny apartment in Nanticoke and decided to enroll

in college. At first, that initial semester, I was a general studies student -- I was still trying to muster up the courage to follow my heart, but getting back on campus seemed like a start -- but I was convinced that fall to just commit and declare a Journalism major.

Sitting in that class was the first day of my journey to follow my dreams and my heart -- and there he sat.

Little did I know, it was a pivotal time for him as well: When we first met, he was about three weeks dry from alcohol. He will tell you now, his journey to sobriety was a long and winding one, but he identifies as a “real deal” alcoholic – a person who was powerless to the bottle. Although true sobriety came a little while later, his last drink of alcohol was a mere handful of days before we first met in that classroom. Like I said: new beginnings.

Anyone who ever took an Ed Ackerman class can attest that it is part educational seminar, part brain trust, and part performance art event. I never ever thought I would be in a room of strangers that would connect so fiercely, using the topic of communications to wind up baring pieces of our soul to each other. That was part of the magic.

We watched each other from afar across the class for a very long time -- until we had an assignment to submit

that forced us to discuss some of our misconceptions and hidden traits. I don't remember the exact lead-up to the assignment anymore, unfortunately, but what I do know is this: I submitted an honest review of the fact that I was a victim of domestic violence, and at that point, barely 20 years old and newly divorced from a monster I was forced to marry. He submitted a retrospective about his struggles with substance abuse and in his own words – the first time he was ever honest with himself about the mistakes he made.

Ed asked us if he could anonymously share our pieces to the class. We both said yes. And as they were being read aloud, he and I locked eyes and were the only ones in the class to figure out that we were the ones who wrote the pieces.

I remember the conversation we had at the front of the classroom: We discussed how I was always a “fixer” and he was a “hopeless romantic.” I was spinning.

I wish our story just began right there. It would've saved me a lot of time and heartache, but like many stories that happen in a college class, spring happened. The semester ended, and we parted ways. He wasn't one for social media, but once summer break turned into fall semester, I didn't see him. He would tell you that we never stopped wondering. He assumed I dropped out or graduated, and I thought the same. I was still untangling messes. I had wound up in a relationship with a much older guy who wasn't very nice to me, he began dating a girl as well and we kept missing one another.

Eventually, winter came again. I was in my final semester of my degree, one of those classes being JOR102 with Andy Petonak. I walked in to the class of five students, and suddenly, a guy in a blue striped sweater was seated directly in front of me: it was him.

I perked up and we picked up like we hadn't skipped a beat. He sat next to me and we began discussing the “beats” we chose to cover – his was music, mine was social justice – and we exchanged student emails to “edit each other's pieces.”

We started meeting on campus early, sitting around, sharing cigarettes in the smoke hut, grabbing lunch at the Cocoa Hut down the road. The big moment was Lobby Day 2016, organized by Ed and Ron Reino (I think), we all boarded a bus to the state Capitol and went to lobby with state lawmakers on the importance of community colleges. This was my second year attending. I was always passionate about advocacy, but this year he came along. We palled around that entire day, and at lunch I remember admitting to a classmate that I had a “terrible crush” on

him, as I pulled up a chair for us to eat lunch together. That was our very first photo.

Later that afternoon, we wound up breaking away from the group and walking the halls of the Capitol and I was sharing with him my dreams of someday maybe writing for a major news outlet or running for office myself. It all seemed so far away, but it really felt magical.

The next class day, he met me in the computer lab before class like usual, but asked me to step outside to talk. He admitted his feelings for me, and how much he cared about me. I was floored. But I definitely felt the same way.

As I grew closer to graduation, I knew I needed to be true to my heart. I was ashamed to admit I wound up in a back to back unhealthy relationships (that older guy was living with me, he himself an alcoholic) and I was afraid.

I was nominated for the awards luncheon, and I remember sitting down next to Ed Ackerman, who became a mentor to both of us both personally and professionally, and admitting my feelings. That day I was awarded Outstanding Communications Graduate 2016, was offered my first job in my field as a Staff Reporter for the Hazleton Standard Speaker, and Ethan found out I had feelings for him. Pretty banner day, huh?

When I started working there, he drove from his Nanticoke apartment nearly everyday to Hazleton to have lunch with me on my lunch break. He was so terrified once class ended, I would disappear from his life again.

The night of graduation, he was there. He zipped me in my gown and walked me down the steps of the Arena. And that is how we began.

That was over five years ago now. We have since built a life together bursting with memories. We got married twice – eloping December 21, 2017 and celebrated with a large wedding August 18, 2018. We moved all over the state following my career in Communications, and he supported my educational goals, helping me to graduate with a Bachelors in 2019 (while six months pregnant!) and now as I begin my journey into a Masters in Strategic Communications. We have added a son to our family in March of 2020, and he will celebrate four years of complete sobriety in April 2022. Life has handed us some wild tests, but I will forever be grateful to our story of how we met, because it was about learning lessons, and we learned how to love each other, too. We now have two dogs, a cat, the baby and each other and are living in Central Pennsylvania for the time being. We are so grateful to our Luzerne love story!



Pennsylvania Nurse Says She Wouldn't be in Healthcare without Community College

"The nursing program at Luzerne County Community College was the most academically challenging thing I've ever done in my life – and also one of the most rewarding. If I could do it all again, I would still start postsecondary education with my community college nursing program because of how well it prepared me for the future," said Samantha Labenski, who will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from King's College this spring. "I know so many people – especially the nurses I work with – who wouldn't be where they are today without community college. The flexibility, cost savings and quality education I found there changed my life for the better."



Samantha Labenski '21

Labenski – who has worked at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital since September 2018, including a stint in the COVID Unit, and moved to obstetrics after graduating from Luzerne and passing her NCLEX in June 2021 – said her next goal is to save for a house here in Pennsylvania. In addition to wanting to be close to her family, she has formed close relationships and found a career in which she can thrive in the Wilkes-Barre area.

However, being on the front lines during COVID-19, she also saw the devastating impact the pandemic had on the healthcare industry. Pennsylvania desperately needs nurses. Hospitals are reporting record vacancies. Patients are waiting hours, sometimes days, for beds due to nursing staff shortages. Labenski said she sees all of this and knows the healthcare field needs more employees – and she's proud to be one of them.

"Being employed in the healthcare field right now is mentally and physically draining, but I also really value the personal connections I make with my patients. I see them during some of the hardest days in their lives, but also the most memorable because I work in obstetrics," Labenski shared. "I'm honored I get to do this critical work, but we also need more people trained to do this work. The healthcare industry is in a real crisis right now."

Community college nursing programs provide a way out of this crisis. Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges educate and train nearly a quarter of a million students annually including critically needed nurses, granting over 75 percent of nursing associate degrees in the Commonwealth.

Per the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, in 2021, pass rates for first-time NCLEX-RN test takers graduating from

Luzerne County Community College was 95.12 percent, which exceeds the national average of 78.78 percent for ADN (Associate Degree Nursing) program. Based on the percentage of graduates passing the NCLEX-RN for 2021, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) ranks Luzerne's nursing program in the top 15 percent of local nursing programs. Nationally, Luzerne's nursing program is ranked in the top 10 percent of associate degree nursing programs and in the top 13 percent of all nursing programs, including those that offer a bachelor's degree.

Labenski also said she saved thousands of dollars on the cost of higher education by starting at community college.

"At 17 years old when I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life, it was way too expensive for me to start as an undecided undergrad at a four-year college or university. I found both my passion and a pathway to a job in that industry at Luzerne County Community College," said Labenski.

"I want to tell everyone that there's nothing wrong with starting at community college; it's a quality education that costs less. So many of the nurses I know got their start there, and I think community colleges deserve state investment that reflects that."



ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION HONOR ROLL

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 Gloria Bailey
 Edward Baltrushes '89
 Carol Baran '82
 Rachael Baratta '10
 Benjamin Barchik '14
 Christina Barna '16
 Pamela Bartholomew '05
 Raymond Bartosh '73
 Deborah Beck '03
 Melinda Bedford '04
 Tara Bending '79
 Jean Berneski '85
 Valerie Berzanski '71
 Kate Bianchi '17
 James Biehl '85
 Helen Pamela Bird

Christopher Blizzard '71
 Janice Blose '83
 Michelle Bloss
 Melissa Bonham '20
 Sandra Boos '96
 David Borofski '69
 Marlene Borzok
 Paul Bosco '77
 Lisa Bowen '89
 Shannen Brady '18
 Adele Brelsford '20
 Cynthia Brenner '99
 Melessia Briggs '03
 Karen Brighindi Webb
 Katie Brislin '17
 Donna Broadt '84
 Judith Brown '92
 Kelly Brown '17
 Richard Brown '77
 Kathryn Brownell
 Heidi Buchanan
 Stan & Theresa Buckley '80
 C.J. & Maureen Bufalino
 Kayla Bulford '19
 Ivan Burman
 Thomas Burns '00
 Amy Butchko '79
 Joseph & Lillian Caffrey
 Maureen Cairns
 Lee Calabro '73
 Alexa Campbell '12
 Campbell Business Machines
 John Carey '69
 Kimberly Casey '20
 Kristen Casey
 Ann Marie Castelgrande
 Lauren Castelli '14
 Caryn Cave '15
 James Cawley '96
 Emily Cholish '15
 JoAnn Chukinas '02
 Janet Cirko '86
 Althea Clark '87
 Jennifer Clarke '91
 Rachel Coffee '02
 Clark Cohee '02
 Sharon Comitz '80
 Deborah Condon '07
 Sally Corl '89
 Karen Cornell '81
 Beth Cottle '13
 Donna Cottone '91
 Michelle Coveleski '87
 Kristin Culver '90
 Laura Cunningham '20
 Richard Cups '73
 Nancy Cush
 Joseph Damiano '72
 Karinna Davidovich '06
 In honor of Bill Davidowitz
 David & Virginia Davis
 Kimberly Davis '84
 Dr. Lisa Dean
 Jennifer DeBarry

William Deletconich '72
 Michael Demko '79
 Danielle Demshock '02
 Suzanne DePrimo '81
 Mary Brittnay Diana
 Heather Diano '03
 Maura DiNovo
 Ange Dippre '10
 Jennifer Divers '05
 Chris Domashinski '90
 Louis Dominick '71
 Angela Donadi '11
 Michelle Donato '81
 Carolyn Dorshefski '86
 Donna LS Dotson '80
 Holly Dottle '14
 John '78 & Cindy '98
 Dougherty
 Diane Duca '12
 Marisa Duchnik
 Lindsey Duffy '08
 Conrad Duhoski '70
 John Dylski
 Michael & Rachael Dziak
 John Ellison '69
 Morgan Elmy '18
 Tina Engleman '98
 Erin Ervin '15
 Amy Evans '11
 Denise Evans
 Gertrude Evans '92
 Ingrid Everett '10
 Leeann Fallabel
 Cassandra Faust '18
 Mal Faust '99
 Andrew Fedorchak '77
 Stephanie Fetch '09
 Kathryn Finch '07
 Lisa Fine '97
 Linda Finkel '85
 John Fisher '73
 Elaine Flanagan '98
 Rachel Flegle '98
 Jamie Fletcher '11
 Jill Flickinger '07
 Follett Corporation
 Diane Fontinell '92
 Jeffrey Fox '95
 Gwen Foy '88
 Irene Franco '78
 Cindy Franklin '94
 Mary Ann Gabel '91
 Harold Gabriel '84
 Katlyn Gabriele '17
 Martin Gallagher
 Elizabeth Galvin '11
 Justine Garstka '84
 Daniel George '00
 Roberta Gerzarowski
 Mario Giacini '03
 Martin Gieda '70
 Deborah Ginocchietti '98
 Sheila Gionfriddo '08
 Jane Girvan '97

Robert Glycenfer '81
Dolores Goble '76
Cynthia Gocek '93
Stacey Godak '01
Barbara Godlewski '90
Edit Adina Gonczi
Lorenzina Gorski '06
Shelby Goss '18
Janet Grazul '75
Halaina Green '08
Kathleen Green '84
Dr. David Greenwald
Stacey Gregory '02
Susan Grohowski '88
Lois Gross '86
Gerald Gruver '92
Amanda Guarneri '11
Thomas Gushaulis '89
Donna Gustave '70
John Gutkowski '90
Jazmin Guzman
Karen Haberek
Joann Hadsall '91
John Halko '70
John Halliday '69 +
Susan Hanusek '95
Emily Harchar '19
Marc Hardwick '98
Lori Harris '07
Jon Hart
Karen Havy '89
Stacy Hawkins
Autumn Hefty
Diana Hepburn '94
Liann Himmelwright
Sherry Hoffman '94
Diane Hogan '80
Michael Hogan '78
Jane Holgate
Sandra Hopkins '89
Marianne Horwath
Judi Howe '90
Michael '78 & Mary '91 Hronich
Kenneth Humiston '74
Frank Hummel '13
Edith Hunjo '91
Brooke Hunter '02
Erica Hunter '18
Helen Hutnick '17
Patricia Insalaco '03
Renee Jakubovics '76
Kelly James '01
Teddi Janosov
David '94 & Suzanne '91
Jarrett
Paige Johnson '11
Phyllis Johnson '13
Beth Jones
Jennifer Jones '14
Ronald Jones '69
Anne Kachline '75
Schelly Kalmanowicz
Robert & Carol Kaluzavich
Ashley Kane '14
Michelle Kaneski '89
Donald Kapral '90
Mary Ann Kapral
Christinte Kaskiel '97

Joanne Katarsky '96
Hope Katchko '95
Joanne Kawczenski
Jacqueline Kearn '04
Mary Ann Kearny '82
Ellen Keefer-Jancewicz '97
Doris Keeler '80
Byron Keener '05
Judith Keller '97
Kathleen Keller '96
Cheryl Kelly '03
Paulette Kern '90
Tammy Kettel '10
Kathleen Kilcourse '77
Sherry Killian '82
Lavada Kinney '08
Carmelita Klatch '91
Brenda Kline '88
Mary Ann Kline '97
Jeanneann Knaus '05
Mark Koch '08
Karen Kresge Kollar '81
Bruno Kolodgie '72
Lori Kolodgie
Sharon Kondracki '82
Natalie Kotulski '08
David '72 & Joy '84
Kozemchak
Kayla Kraser '15
Kendra Kraser '18
Kevin Kratzer '91
Janette Krebs
Gale Kresge '71
Kim Krofchok '15
Thomas Krupa '76
Denise Krupko '87
William Kuklewicz '71
John Kulick
Beverly Kuprionas '79
George Lacey '85
Christopher Lacy
Brittany Lahoda
Sherri Langan '16
Theresa Langan '85
Joe Larock Family
Paul Lawson '71
Michael Leahey '90
Robert Leshko '16
Edward Lewko '73
David Lloyd '74
Cynthia Lombard '88
Peggy Long '76
John Macey '71
Susan Macnamara '07
Carol Maculloch '94
Kathleen Magnotta '85
Mary Makuta
Joan Malishchak '77
James Mallon '75
Sophia Mangan '84
Richard Marchetti '70
Anna Alogna Maresca
Susan Marsicano
Diane Martinez '94
Joan Martins
Cathy Martinson '84
Joann Mason '93
Peter Mataloni

Todd Materna '02
Ed '77 & Arline '95 Matkins
Colleen Mattey '92
Thomas McBrearty '12
Thimred McCall '77
Arlena McCauley
Valerie McCreary '85
Dr. Ann McDonough
James McGill '71
Patrick McHale '74
Alicia McMonigle '12
Megan McMynne '10
Nancy Meade '81
Cassandra Mebus '18
Maurita Medash '92
Dawn Metheny '16
Genevieve Mihalick '72
Dr. Calandria Miller
Cynthia Miller '94
Nick Mitchell '18
Lori Mizenko '94
Florence Mokris '83
Maryann Moran
Lloyd Mordan '14
Fran Moriarty '07
Allison Mosher
James Moss '85
Betsy Mott '73
John Mudrian '05
Nicole Mullen
John Munley '79
Jan Murphy '02
Luciana C. Musto '00
Kristin Myers '18
Joseph & Irene Nardone
Amanda Neidlinger '07
Deborah Neumeister
Mary Neureuter '93
Valerie Nezelkewicz
Regina Niedzwiecki
Mauro Notaro '69
Amanda Novack
Judith Novak '92
Kimberly Novak '86
Rena Novitski '14
David Nutaitis '87
Thomas Obrzut '89
Christine Ochsner
Stephanie O'Hora Reese '90
Morgan Okonski '19
Alex O'Malia '76
James Opet '83
Carolyn Orloski '96
Joanne Orloski
Alicia Orwig '17
Kimberly Osilka
Cheryl Oster '93
Lori Ostir
Nicole Overwise '15
Sandra Paciotti '93
Brenda Padden '91
Ericka Palladino '12
Dale & Ellen Parmenteri '82
Jennifer Pawlowski '88
Josephine Pearson
Gina Pechulis '00
Sandra Person '77
Patricia Peters '99

MaryAnne Petrilla
Phillips Supply
Nicole Pinciotti '11
Joseph Pluskey '76
Jody Potter
Karen Prestys '99
Dr. Barbara Price
Danita Puhl '84
Amy Pyrah '99
Joseph Quather '74
Ryan Quinn '98
Nick Radle '80
Deborah Radogna '84
Jean Ragantesi '81
Holly Ratowski '92
Gloria Rawls '86
Blaine Readler '74
Michele Reese '17
Susan Regan '89
Ron Reino
Carl Remley '70
Heather Ricko '02
Tara Rinehimer '93
JoAnn Rinehimer-Kotarsky '94
Raymond Ripka '08
Carol Risch '89
Lisa Robins '14
Michael Roper '07
Jacalyn Rorick '16
Lisa Rowley '89
Carol Ann Royer '77
Denise Rusinko '07
Tammy Kerzic Russo
Laureen Sabol '88
Nicole Sandrock '09
John Sandstrom '86
Jill Santos '90
Nicole Saporito '89
Edward Sartin '93
Heather Sartin '93
Debra Scanlon '11
Susan Schneider '96
Robert '92 & Valerie '98 Schultz
Tammy Scoblick '98
Patricia Searfoss '20
Diane Searles '93
John Thomas Sedlak '88
Jessica Sedorchuk '18
Laurie Selecky '08
Patricia Sentigar '91
Andrew Shiner '76
Galina Shmakov '18
Grace Shoemaker '92
Janice Siefing '90
Betty Sikora '83
Marilyn Sladon '88
Robin Slater '88
Barbara Smith '06
Ciara Smith '18
Machelle Smith
Terry Snider '10
Danielle Sobinsky '20
Kathleen Socha '80
Samantha Solack '11
Amber Sones '10
Patricia Soranno '84
Beatriz Sosa '11
Elaine Sozzi '77

Dr. Michael Spataro
 Kathy Spect
 Jennifer Stafursky
 Linda Stapert '77
 Judith Steigerwald '83
 Michelle Steve '72
 Cynthia Stone '82
 Lisa Stout '99
 Angela Stroup
 John Stubb '90
 Nicole Sulitka '17
 Robin Sweeney
 Sarah Swinick '18
 Kathleen Talcott '05
 Bruce Talipan '84
 William Taney '99 +
 G. Theresa Thomas '79
 George Thomas
 John Thomas '78
 Todd Thomas '82
 Morgan Thompson '20
 Richard Timko '69
 Darleen Tomayko '10
 Michael Topa '02
 Brittney Torres
 Chanh Tran '97
 Carl Tranell '84
 Debbie Tressa '80
 Virginia Trevethan '04
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 Emily Tyson
 Richard Uhing '72
 Patricia Urbanovitch '85
 Jennie Valick-Kopacz '74

Linda VanGorder '97
 Shawna Vanwhy '18
 Deborah Veltri
 Denise Wagner '99
 Laura Wagner '03
 Hollie Walizer '14
 Frank Walton '96
 Paul & Christine Warchal
 Donna Warren '91
 Amber Wegrzynowicz '17
 Dean Welch '71
 Donald Werts
 Chelsea Wetzel '10
 Christopher White '77
 Daniel White '10
 Ellen Wilbur
 Norma Wildoner '94
 Kelsey Williams '20
 Timothy Williams '84
 Andrea Winder '10
 Betty Wojcik '71
 April Wolfe Sposto '03
 Michelle Wzorek '93
 Kendra Yakobitis '16
 Diane Yale '83
 Candida Yashkus '94
 Cheryl-Ann Young '89
 Mercede Zack
 Ann Zaff '85
 Tanya Zambetti '11
 Joseph Zamulinsky '74
 Chester Zaremba '79
 Gail Zaykoski '86
 Gary '77 & Bonnie '74 Zisko
 Donald Zlotek
 Christine Zuber '94

+ deceased



The Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association and Dental Health Department recently held the 23rd Annual Dental Health Alumni Day on May 13 at the College's Educational Conference Center.

Trish Osuna, RDH, BSDH, FAADH presented "How to Change Your Thoughts and Improve Your Outcomes – An Update on Protocols, Products, and Treatment Options."

Graduates of LCCC's dental programs and dental health professionals attended the annual event. The graduates from the first five years of the program were recognized during the seminar. Shown are members of the represented classes: Valerie McCreary '85, Rachel Coffee '02, Director, LCCC Dental Health program, Deborah Radogna '84, Charlene Miller '84, Barbara Montante '83, Dental Health faculty, Kathleen Magnotta '85, Patricia Lavan '84, Ellen Rudis '82, Lisa Rowley, former Director, Dental Health, Samantha Thomas '85, and Bonnie Bell '81.

LCCC Foundation receives donation to establish the Jonathan F. Stegura, Funeral Director Memorial Scholarship.



The Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Inc. recently received a donation to establish the Jonathan F. Stegura, Funeral Director Memorial Scholarship.

Established and supported by the Stegura Family, friends, and the community, the Jonathan F. Stegura, Funeral Director Memorial Scholarship will give preference to applicants who are enrolled in the LCCC pre-mortuary science program.

For more information about the scholarship, or to make a contribution, call 570-740-0731 or go to www.luzerne.edu/give.

Shown at the check presentation are, from left – Joanne Yuhas, assistant director, institutional advancement, LCCC; Frantz Stegura, director, Stegura Funeral Home; and Rebecca Brominski, executive director, institutional advancement, LCCC.

IN MEMORIAM

Sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of our graduates and members of the College family who passed away since the last issue of The Bridge was published through March 31, 2022.

Graduates of the College

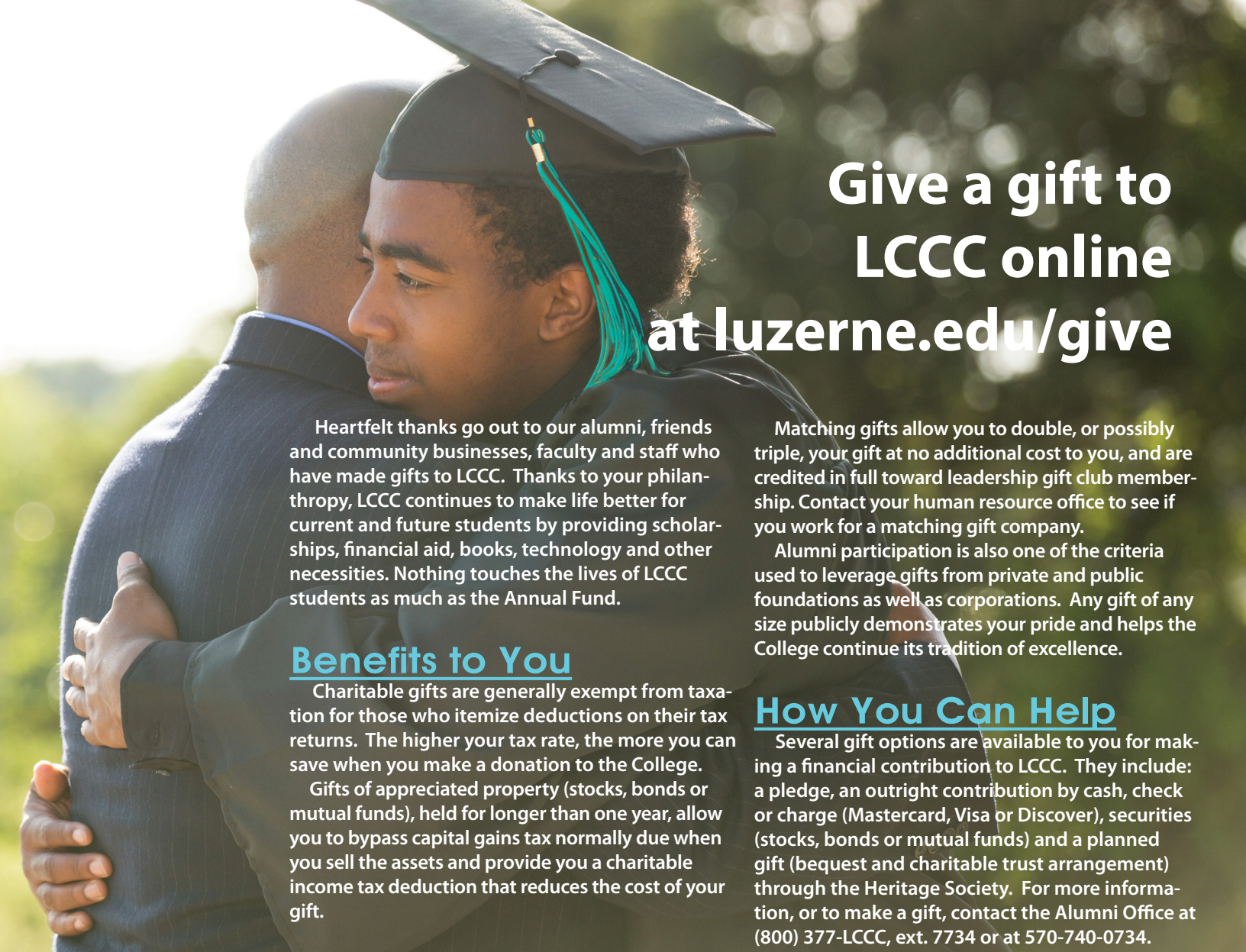
Catherine Anderson '82 (Accounting Tech.)
Donna Arnold-Klotz '79 (Criminal Justice)
Karen Hess Bardick '80 (Early Childhood Education)
Andrea Bocci '75 (Nursing)
Aaron Boyt '11 (Music Recording Tech.)
Robert Brannon '83 (Science)
Joseph Brice Jr. (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Samuel E. Brown '19 (Graphic Design)
Robert Camasse '82 (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Patricia Carr '94 (Nursing)
Joyce Mahoski Ciarla '82 (Hotel and Restaurant Mngt.)
Beverly Copeland '04 (Human Services)
Cindy Lou Crowley Taylor (Medical Office Asst.)
Donna Desiderio '87 (Office Information Tech.)
Joyce Dombroski-Gebhardt '77 (Office Information Tech.)
Robert Donahue '74 (Graphic Design)
Crystal Stash Donnelly '08 (Education)
Joseph Dvornicich '97 (Plumbing and Heating Tech.)
Jack Evans '90 (Business Administration)
Joseph Fedorchak '02 (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Roxanne Foy '87 (Education)
Karen Franchella '85 (Nursing)
Charlotte Frisco '90 (Surgical Tech.)
Bridget Fulkerson '96 (Computer Information Systems)
Anthony George '78 (Electrical Construction Tech.)
Emmeline Giarrizzi '92 (Business Administration)
Donna Gromala Bartosiewicz '81 (Medical Transcriptionist Specialist)
Sandi Groszewski '07 (Human Services)
David Phillip Gumina '12 (Social Science)
John Halliday '69 (Business Administration)
Charles Hannon '86 (Hotel and Restaurant Mngt.)
Jim Hollock '71 (Photography)
Anna Hopiak '97 (Culinary Arts)
Billy T. Hughes (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Logan Jennings '21 (Welding)
Robert Jones '74 (Education)
Susan Kaminski '96 (General Studies)
Deborah Kirkwood '92 (Accounting Tech.)
Sherry Kolodziej '77 (Medical Transcriptionist Specialist)
Benjamin Komorek '84 (Computer Information Systems)
Gail Korus '79 (Nursing)
Joann Rinehimer Kotarsky '94 (Dental Hygiene)
Jeffrey Krieger '94 (Human Services)
Michael Krygier '73 (Hotel and Restaurant Mngt.)
Robert Krzywicki '71 (Education)
Arthur Leffler '14 (Criminal Justice)
Joseph McEvoy '13 (Electrical Construction Tech.)
Susan H. McFadden '00 (Nursing)

David Meeker '80 (Hotel and Restaurant Mngt.)
Donna Mowrer-Earnhart '77 (Nursing)
Jay Munson '76 (Electrical Construction Tech.)
Jay Neely '90 (Criminal Justice)
John J. O'Brien '97 (Human Services)
Michael Olshefski '10 (Photography)
John Kipp Oplinger '17 (Nuclear Engineering Tech.)
Lori Ann Ostrowski '00 (General Studies)
Matthew Petrosky '14 (Accounting Tech.)
Morgan Purcell '17 (General Studies)
Rosemary Puterbaugh '99 (Accounting Tech.)
Ashlee Puzio '07 (Dental Assisting)
Robert Raineri '76 (Architectural Engineering Tech.)
Scott Ravert '89 (Criminal Justice)
Edward Roche '79 (Industrial Electronics/Power)
John Rogan Jr. '82 (Exercise Science)
Gary Scavone '76 (General Studies)
Naomi Schiffer '77 (Medical Transcriptionist Specialist)
David W. Schoenwetter '69 (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Hurley Sickler '98 (Electronics Engineering Tech.)
Delilah Graham Smith '82 (Nursing)
Mary Stadulis '99 (General Studies)
William Taney '99 (Photography)
Lucille VanAuken '01 (Business Mngt. Tech.)
Nina Walck '11 (General Studies)
Michael Washcalus '74 (General Studies)
Marjorie Wedgie '82 (Criminal Justice)
Richard Weikel '00 (Social Science)
David Williams '74 (General Studies)
Elaine Marie Williams '84 (Office Information Tech.)
Cheryl Yaskoweak '90 (Nursing)

*Multiple Degree

Past and Present LCCC Staff

Albert Capozucca
Coleen Cooper
David Daniels
Kevin C. Dowse Sr.
George Elias
Vincent Garvey Esq.
Daniel Gydish
Alexandria "Sandy" Hollock '85
Kenneth Kirk
Marie Kishel
Mary Claire Manganiello
Willard Miller
John Milot
Michael Molnar
Biagio V. Musto
Marilyn Devlin Olenick '94
Mary J. Petrokonis
Dr. Nancy Jeanne Resciniti
Patrick William Sammon
Joseph H. Williams Jr.



Give a gift to LCCC online at luzerne.edu/give

Heartfelt thanks go out to our alumni, friends and community businesses, faculty and staff who have made gifts to LCCC. Thanks to your philanthropy, LCCC continues to make life better for current and future students by providing scholarships, financial aid, books, technology and other necessities. Nothing touches the lives of LCCC students as much as the Annual Fund.

Benefits to You

Charitable gifts are generally exempt from taxation for those who itemize deductions on their tax returns. The higher your tax rate, the more you can save when you make a donation to the College.

Gifts of appreciated property (stocks, bonds or mutual funds), held for longer than one year, allow you to bypass capital gains tax normally due when you sell the assets and provide you a charitable income tax deduction that reduces the cost of your gift.

Matching gifts allow you to double, or possibly triple, your gift at no additional cost to you, and are credited in full toward leadership gift club membership. Contact your human resource office to see if you work for a matching gift company.

Alumni participation is also one of the criteria used to leverage gifts from private and public foundations as well as corporations. Any gift of any size publicly demonstrates your pride and helps the College continue its tradition of excellence.

How You Can Help

Several gift options are available to you for making a financial contribution to LCCC. They include: a pledge, an outright contribution by cash, check or charge (Mastercard, Visa or Discover), securities (stocks, bonds or mutual funds) and a planned gift (bequest and charitable trust arrangement) through the Heritage Society. For more information, or to make a gift, contact the Alumni Office at (800) 377-LCCC, ext. 7734 or at 570-740-0734.

What's *NEW* with YOU

The Bridge is our way of keeping you up-to-date. This is your way to keep us up-to-date. Let us know about changes in your career, family, or place of residence (attach additional sheet if necessary). We may publish your news in an upcoming issue. You may include a recent photo of yourself, too. Thank you!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Year of graduation/program _____
Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____ E-mail _____
Spouse's name _____
Names, birth years of children _____
Post LCCC education _____
Program & completion date _____
Name & address of employer _____
Present position and job responsibilities _____
Recent accomplishments/points of interest _____



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A Look Back



WOMEN'S SOFTBALL — The Luzerne County Community College women's softball team were enjoying a 6-1 record at the time this photograph was taken. Karen Evans of Sweet Valley was the team's "red-hot" pitcher, and Tara Bending, Freeland, and Ellie Grabski, Nanticoke, were leading the team with hitting averages well over .500.
Kneeling in front, from the left, are Marge Vrabel, Ashley; Darlene Thieman, Wilkes-Barre; Karen Tronsue, Nanticoke; Karen Evans, Sweet Valley; and Ellie Grabski, Nanticoke. Standing: Steve Chanecka, Wilkes-Barre, coach; Anita Falatko, Freeland; Sue Prushinski, Nanticoke; Sue Malenovitch, Wilkes-Barre; Tara Bending, Freeland; Maureen Morriken, Wilkes-Barre; and Doreen Baranski, Hanover.



The Executive Committee of the Luzerne County Community College Alumni Association met during the week in the Board Room on the main campus in Nanticoke for the purpose of reviewing the progress made so far this year in activities and to plan events that will carry through the Spring.

Becky Mooney, president of the alumni association, introduced Thomas J. Moran, dean of external affairs, and explained that alumni affairs will be coordinated with this office on the campus. Moran outlined the college's plans for making a strong effort to work with the alumni advisory council in an effort to attract more of the 6,000 regional alumni to the interests that have been assigned to the association.

Plans were made to coordinate activities with the Student Government Association so that the two organiza-

tions might work together for the benefit of the student body and the general growth and development of the community college. Among the plans being considered is a Graduation Dinner-Dance, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 24, prior to the May 29 Commencement.

Taking part in the meeting were, from left, seated—Kathy Inman, Kingston; Joanne Roberts, Wilkes-Barre, treasurer; Becky Mooney, Plymouth, president; Elaine Mikolosko, West Pittston, secretary.

Standing—Dave Roberts, secretary, Wilkes-Barre; Thomas J. Moran, Laflin, dean of external affairs at LCCC; Pauline Gildea, West Pittston, secretary in the LCCC Office of External Affairs; Judi Howe, Wilkes-Barre; Mary J. Onisko, Wilkes-Barre; Carl Kosch, Wilkes-Barre; and Francis Curry, Kingston, member of the LCCC staff.

