

The Bridge

Winter 2009

Luzerne County Community College

Alumni & Friends

Community Involvement • Polish Children Art Exhibit • Job Shadowing

**Alumnus "lights"
her way to success**



LUZERNE
County Community College

**Annual Report of Gifts
2007-2008**

Support Education

As businesses and companies continue to downsize and close as a result of the current economic crisis, more and more of our friends and neighbors are losing their jobs and having difficulty finding employment. Still others who are employed are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Short-term solutions are being implemented throughout our country as we struggle, as individuals and communities, to meet the financial challenges we face. Unfortunately, too little attention is being paid to the long term solution – education.

Educating and training our workforce will ensure economic stability in the long run, providing business and industry with the skilled employees necessary to thrive in an ever-changing global market.

On an individual basis, education and training can mean the difference for some between living a quality life and living in constant stress, wondering where the money will come from to fix the car, pay the heating bill, and put food on the table.

Many in our community know that obtaining an education will help them to overcome their financial struggles and enable them to provide for their families. Many of those same people, however, struggle to find the money to pay for that education. Luzerne County Community College offers the lowest tuition for higher education in the region, but even that may make education unattainable for the warehouse manager who has been unemployed for months, or the single mother who can barely afford rent.

Financial aid is the answer for some, but not all. Some students make just enough money to disqualify them for aid, although it is not enough to cover their living expenses and finance their education alone. Taking out loans often exacerbates the problem, giving students the added stress of another bill hanging over their head. Even for those who do qualify for financial aid, the costs associated with going to college – tuition, books, transportation, and sometimes child care – can be more than a student's budget can maintain.

Luzerne County Community College, like so many other institutions of higher education, has been extremely fortunate in receiving support from generous donors throughout our community who provide funding for scholarships that make it possible for students to achieve their academic and career goals. Many of our students rely on these scholarships to fill in the financial gap. Colleges and universities also rely on philanthropic donations for purchasing equipment and constructing new facilities that students need to be adequately prepared for the workforce, that tuition and other funding sources simply cannot support.

Unfortunately, even our most generous donors who we rely on for this support are not immune to the impact of the financial instability we are currently facing. Those who have given time and again, both individuals and corporations, must now be cautious with their spending. When profits are down and costs are up, everyone looks first to cut expenses that can most easily be scaled back.

Historically, education has been negatively impacted when these dynamics come into play. When the economy affects philanthropy, contributions to education oftentimes are reduced more so than those that support basic needs, such as soup kitchens and clothing drives. Donors recognize that those in the community who have fallen upon hard times must eat, must stay warm.

As a community, we need to recognize that those same individuals must fulfill their educational goals as well if they are to rise up out of their economic hardships and find self-sustaining employment. Continuing to support education can be as effective as supporting other non-profit organizations in getting us through these difficult times.

I encourage you to remember the important role that education plays in overcoming a failing economy, both for the individual and for our community. Support for student scholarships and other higher education projects is support for a healthy economic future for all of us.

Sincerely,
Thomas P. Leary
President



“Community” College

LCCC continues to increase its outreach in the community through community service projects.

Over 30 LCCC staff and students, including members of the College's Circle K Club, took part in the Salvation Army's annual holiday kettle/bell ringing campaign in December. LCCC staff and students rang the bell at both the retail and grocery entrances of Wal-Mart in Wilkes-Barre Township for an entire Saturday to assist in the Salvation Army's ongoing efforts to help those members of our community who are in need. Some staff even brought members of their family along to help.

Many staff have also used the College's new Community Service Leave time to volunteer for one of the countless service opportunities available in the community. Many staff have applied their leave time to serve the community for such organizations/events as the Commission on Economic Opportunity and the Fine Arts Fiesta.

The Community Service Committee and the LCCC Diversity Committee are also sponsoring an Emergency Student Nutrition Fund (ESNF) drive to provide meals for students in emergency situations when they cannot afford to eat otherwise. So far, over \$2,000 has been raised for this effort and meal tickets have been provided to needy students.

This program is totally funded by donations. Canisters have been placed around campus to collect funds for this initiative. Off-campus sites are sponsoring individual fund drives to support local food banks, where students in need of emergency support at these sites are referred.

The United Way Leadership Team recently held an all-College fundraiser in December. The fundraiser provided students and staff with an opportunity to join in collegiality, as well as delicious homemade appetizers and desserts, in exchange for donating to one of the many organizations collecting monetary and other donations. The event was a great success, with many students and staff participating and raising funds and items for a variety of organizations, including Toys for Tots, The Salvation Army, Ruth's Place Women's Shelter, Domestic Violence Center, HIV/AIDS Foundation, Weinberg Food Bank, Volunteers of America, Christmas Angels, Weather Wood Nursing Facility, and the United Way.



Shown above are some LCCC Salvation Army bell ringers. From left, seated: Grace Bynon, Captain Patty Richwine (Salvation Army), Sandy Richards and Sandra Nicholas. Standing: Joseph Clark, Janis Seeley, Kate Clemente, Thomas Leary, Anna Mary McHugh, Roseann O'Connor and Ursula Tracey.

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LCCC President Hits the Ground Running

College President Thomas Leary has been very busy during his first year in his new position. But this has not stopped him from taking time to visit LCCC graduates while on his travels.

In February, he met with **Carl Kosch '72** and his wife, Jeanne, while on a trip to the Washington D.C. area. Carl is retired from his thirty-year career with the government and is enjoying his time traveling and visiting with his family in northeastern Pennsylvania.

President Leary also had the opportunity to travel to New York City for a conference in October and met with **Anne Grega '76** and **Dennelle Catlett '03**, both of whom live in the city. The three had an enjoyable time reminiscing about the College and Leary spoke of life at LCCC now and what the plans for the College are for the future. Anne has been employed at a medical center for nearly thirty years and currently works with veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan war and other conflicts. She earned her bachelor's degree in 2007. Dennelle is a senior publicist for Planned Television Arts, a book publicity company. Dennelle also earned a bachelor's degree from Bloomsburg University.

In November, President Leary, Academic Vice President **Dr. Dana Clark**, and other members of the College staff visited with a number of graduates employed in the Berwick area on a tour hosted by **Dr. John DeFinnis**. Dr. DeFinnis is an LCCC Foundation Board member and the founder of Berwick Dental Arts. He is also a board member on the Berwick Hospital. The staff of Berwick Dental Arts includes nearly a dozen hygienists, assistants and other professionals who are graduates of LCCC.

Their next stop was a visit to the Berwick Hospital which employs nearly 60 LCCC graduates in 19 different departments. Some of the jobs our graduates hold are in the departments of nursing, dietary, recreational therapy, marketing, and administration. Ninety percent of their respiratory therapists are LCCC alumni. LCCC graduate **Mary Jo Duna '05** received the 2008 Patient Choice Award. Patients at the hospital have the opportunity to vote for a nursing staff member that made a positive impact during their stay at the hospital and Mary Jo was presented this award. **Paula Ochs '93** is also a past recipient of this award. **Annette Craig '88** was the 2007 Employee of the Year. Annette is currently the Assistant Director of Physician Practices and was previously the Administrative Assistant to the CEO.

More gatherings are in the works for the upcoming year and there are plans to meet with graduates living in the Lehigh Valley. If your organization employs a number of LCCC graduates, we want to hear from you. For more information on presidential visits contact Bonnie Lauer, Director, Alumni Relations, at blauer@luzerne.edu or (800) 377-5222 ext. 734.



President Leary met with alumni Anne Grega '76 and Dennelle Catlett '03 while at a conference in NYC



Shown at Berwick Hospital are, from left, seated: Annette Craig '88, Medical Office Assistant; Lori Kelchner '87, Nursing; Cindy Stephens '06, Resp. Therapy; Danyale Mackert '90, Resp. Therapy; Cheryl Kanouse '84, Nursing; Carol Radishofski '95, Nursing; Carol Ashworth '84, Nursing; Julie Curland '01, Nursing; Christina Shaw '96, Journalism; Dr. Dana Charles Clark, provost and vice president, academic affairs, LCCC; Bonnie Lauer '87, director, alumni relations, LCCC; and Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC.

Second row: Catherine Diane Steele '07, Nursing; Kelly Steeber '94, Nursing; Cathy Glossenger '93, Nursing; Katherine Zabko '02, Nursing; Diana Federici '91, Nursing; Linda Kolb '91, Nursing; Carol Augustine '01, Nursing; Crystal Temple '05, Nursing; Diane Krolikowski, Assistant CEO, Berwick Hospital Center; John Kristel CEO, Berwick Hospital Center; and Dr. John DeFinnis, President, Berwick Hospital Center Board.

Third row: Toni McDonald '90, Science; Denise Whitmire '07, Nursing; Deb Cook '77, Hotel and Rest. Mgmt.; Ellen Creveling '94, Health / Physical Education; Sally Piazza '99, Nursing; Darlene Bankus '95, Business Admin.; Randy Richardson '02, Business Admin.; Michelle Williams '02, Nursing; and Mary Jo Duna '05, Nursing.



Shown at Berwick Dental Arts are, from left, seated: Shannon Meade, '92; dental assistant; Kirsten Yaple, '06, dental assistant; Jan Murphy, '02, dental hygienist; Thomas P. Leary, president, LCCC; Dr. John DeFinnis, dentist; Christine Knorr, '98, dental assistant; and Joanne Katarisky, '96, dental hygienist. Second row: Jeannie Hofauer, '05, dental hygienist; Lisa M. Miller, '91, dental hygienist; Dr. Dana Charles Clark, provost and vice president, academic affairs, LCCC; Dr. Dustin Syder, dentist; Dr. Susan Emish, dentist; Sherry Killian, '82, dental hygienist/CDA; and Dr. Bryan P. Carlin, dentist. Absent from photo was Gloria Bailey, EFDA.

LCCC program helps dislocated workers during economic slump

In recognition of LCCC's concern for those affected by the recent economic downturn, the Board of Trustees approved a program providing a one-time, 12-credit tuition waiver equal to \$1,200 for students living in the Luzerne County Community College service area who have lost their job in the last year due to the current economic crisis.

Dislocated workers who receive this waiver will be responsible for all other fees and book costs. The program started in the Spring 2009 semester and is administered through the Office of Workforce Development.

LCCC offered this same program once before, in 2002, after the 9/11 tragedy negatively impacted the economy. One hundred students participated, and the majority continued their studies following completion of the waiver program. Eligibility and further information on the program is available by contacting Susan Spry at sspry@luzerne.edu / 1-800-377-5222, ext. 480.

CRAYONS & CARE

LCCC's Schulman Gallery Hosts Polish Children's Hospital Art Exhibit

Luzerne County Community College and the John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine recently hosted "Crayons & Care" art exhibit at the Schulman Gallery located in the College's Campus Center.

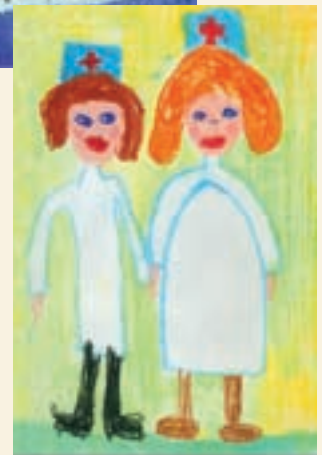
Colorful artwork by the children of Litewska Hospital in Warsaw, Poland filled the Gallery walls during the exhibit which ran from December 6 through January 25. Crayon renditions of rainbow fish in a pastel sea, children smiling as they play in the falling autumn leaves, little girls dressed as princesses in a field of flowers, kids building snowmen, and even images of the nurses who care for these children provided an endearing, positive, and powerful exhibit by children facing life threatening illnesses.

During the opening reception of the new exhibit, Thomas E. Pugh, Senior Vice President of the John Heinz Institute, spoke of their involvement with the Litewska Hospital and his visits to the hospital. Pugh said he was struck by how positive the children are despite their situation. John Heinz holds fundraisers for art supplies and employees donate their coffee money to the hospital.

Also in attendance was Pawel Kotowski, political counselor through the Embassy of Poland. Kotowski spoke of the amazing philanthropy of America and of the large number of Polish people in northeastern Pennsylvania. Kotowski also said he was impressed on how Polish traditions are still practiced in this area.

At the opening of the exhibit, Helen Grebski, a local expert on Polish traditions, presented a program on winter and Christmas traditions. The Polish Children's Choir from St. Stanislaus Church, in Scranton, entertained the crowd with traditional Polish songs and carols. The event was filled with dancers, crafts, and candies that all highlighted Polish culture. Christmas cards and note cards with pictures painted by the children of Litewska Hospital were sold at the reception and St. Nicholas visited with goodies for the children who attended.

The Litewska Hospital treats children with the most serious medical conditions including cancer, kidney disease and heart disease. Since



Helen Grebski demonstrated several Polish traditions associated with winter and Christmas.



The Polish Children's Choir from St. Stanislaus Church sang traditional Polish songs and carols.

the hospital stay for so many children is almost a year, the facility has a fully-functioning school with an art department that has a distinguished reputation. The children's art classes are therapeutic as well as recreational and provide the patients with some relief from their daily medical treatments.

The John Heinz Institute became involved with the Litewska Hospital through a United States Aid Project in 1995. The Institute has provided training for Polish nurses in the United States and has sent nurses to Warsaw to provide instruction on various topics including the latest techniques in infection control. Through public donations, the John Heinz Institute sends funds to the Litewska Hospital that are used to keep the hospital's art school open.

Proceeds from the sale of artwork, notecards and postcards are being donated to the Litewska Hospital.

"Crayons & Care" is the second international exhibit held at the Schulman Gallery in 2008. "East Meets West," an exhibit by Malaysian artist, Chew Fang Chin, toured at LCCC's Schulman Gallery last spring.



Above: Children learn about the "Legend of St. Nicholas" at the Saint Nicholas Day program held on December 6.

Left: Official opening of the Crayons & Care exhibit. Thomas E. Pugh, vice-president of John Heinz Rehab; Paul Halesy, LCCC board chairman; Pawel Kotowski, political counselor at the Embassy of Poland; Thomas Leary, LCCC president; and Sue Sponenberg, art department chair.



A light in the dark

Alumna helps bring safety to dangerous situations

Seventeen hundred feet below the surface in West Virginia and five miles deep into a mine tunnel, the lights went out for Laurie Cywinski, '91. Cywinski and the miners around her activated their Koehler Caplights and illuminated the mine shaft. The miner next to Cywinski said, "this is why your products are so important to us."

"People count on our lights to get them through life threatening situations," Cywinski said. "We have to be the best."

Cywinski is Vice President of Finance and Administration at Koehler-Bright Star, Inc. Nestled inside the Hanover Industrial Park in Hanover Township, Koehler-Bright Star manufactures lighting products for mine safety and fire responder use.

Koehler manufactures rechargeable lighting products designed specifically for mine safety and is considered the leader in underground lighting technology. Bright Star Lighting Products, a unit of Koehler-Bright Star, Inc, creates professional-grade flashlights, lanterns, spotlights, batteries and accessories for the industrial and municipal markets.

Cywinski said she recently started learning more about her ancestry and found out that many of her early ancestors were coal miners. "Now I work for a company that manufactures underground lighting for miners," she said.



Laurie Cywinski watches Bernadine Korey assemble a Bright Star flashlight at their plant in Hanover Township.

But that was not her first dream. "Ever since I was little, I wanted to be a nurse," she said. Growing up in Nanticoke, Cywinski knew about LCCC's acclaimed nursing program and enrolled. "I did well in my science classes," she said, "but once clinicals began, I started to rethink my career choice."

Cywinski next chose the business curriculum and found her fit. "I thought I knew what I wanted to do. LCCC is affordable enough and offers many choices. It's a good start for anyone and a wonderful place to explore your career goals."

Cywinski started her education at LCCC in 1983, took some time off to work, got married, and eventually returned to campus to graduate with a Business degree in 1991. Cywinski continued her education at King's College and Misericordia University.

In 1999, she started her career at Koehler-Bright Star as a controller. She quickly moved up to the vice-president position. "My job is to develop long term financial plans and strategies for the company," Cywinski said. "I work with budgeting, payroll, contract negotiations, legal issues with patents, and cash management."

Cywinski said her career is interesting because there is always something new to experience. “At Koehler-Bright Star, I’ve been able to travel all over the United States as well as to China, Germany, England and Australia,” she said.

She still has an affinity for Luzerne County Community College.

Cywinski recalls her favorite class at LCCC was with Tony Wideman who has since passed away. “He made class fun,” Cywinski said. “He taught us to think differently when writing business letters and not use the same old clichés. I still remember his lessons when I write a letter.”

A member of LCCC’s Presidential Alumni Advisory Council, Cywinski has the chance to tell others of her experiences at the College. “I am part of an effort with Bonnie Lauer, Alumni Director, and President Thomas Leary to get the message out to the area that we have many successful alumni who have made a difference in their careers and communities,” she said.

Koehler-Bright Star recently made a major donation of flashlights to LCCC’s Public Safety Training Institute. The company donated ten Lighthawk, 4-Cell Fire Lanterns designed specifically for fire fighters.

Cywinski also participates as a job shadow mentor for current LCCC students. Allie Bricek, an accounting major at LCCC, just finished the job shadow program with Cywinski. “She is excited about her LCCC education and deciding what future career she will pursue.”

Cywinski gave Bricek a good overview of the company and how accountants interact with the business. “It was also nice that she had a female executive as a mentor,” Cywinski said. “We’ve become friends and I still check in on her on a regular basis.”

Nursing students from the College have even presented health programs at Koehler-Bright Star. Cywinski said the employees enjoyed the smoking cessation and ergonomics lessons they learned.

Cywinski said she enjoys still being involved with the College. “LCCC came at an important growth point in my life and helped me get to where I am now,” she said. “I’m glad to be able to give something back.”

Alumni Job Shadowing Program

The President’s Alumni Advisory Council kicked off an Alumni-Student job shadowing program during the Fall 2008 semester. Students had the opportunity to shadow IT professionals at Blue Cross of NEPA, Koehler-Bright Star in Hanover Township, and the Pittston YMCA. Participating students appreciated the opportunity to learn more about their field of study in a professional setting.

More than twenty first and second-year students participated in the shadowing program. Some of the student comments included:

“Job shadowing is definitely an experience to open your eyes to people that make a difference and are local!” says Allie Bricek, Accounting major.

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to job shadow at Blue Cross. It showed me what to look forward to in the computer field and I appreciate it,” says Carl Pruitt, CIS major.

“It was a valuable experience, as I was able to meet IT professionals and observe them at their jobs. I am now more certain about my own choice for a career in Information Technology,” says Joann Evan, CIS major.

If you are interested in having an LCCC student shadow you for a day, please contact Bonnie Lauer, Director, Alumni Relations at blauer@luzerne.edu or (800)377-5222 ext. 734.



Seated are some of the participating students: Erica Weber, HPE; Brenda Ortega, Nursing; Elizabeth Zagrosky, CIS; Jennifer Lowery, CIS; and Allie Bricek, Accounting. Standing: Shirley Yanovick, professor and chair, CIS; Tina Fisher '93, Instructor, Pittston YMCA; Brian Rinker '81, Senior Vice President, Blue Cross of NEPA; Tom Druby '80, Vice President and Enterprise CIO, Blue Cross of NEPA; Laurie Cywinski '91, Vice President, Kohler-Bright Star Inc.; and Thomas P. Leary, President, LCCC.

Reaching



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In keeping with its mission of making education available and accessible to all members of northeastern Pennsylvania, Luzerne County Community College constantly strives to ensure that the College offers the programs and services necessary to meet the varied learning and support needs of the region's population; needs that are constantly changing due to demographics, technology, and other factors.

For example, as the region's English as a Second Language (ESL) population continues to increase, especially those of Hispanic/Latino descent, Luzerne County Community College has made it a priority to implement new programming and enhance existing services.

Serving the Hispanic/Latino and other ESL population enables Luzerne County Community College not only to ensure that education is available and accessible to all, it also enhances LCCC's efforts to support economic and community development for northeastern Pennsylvania.

In order to attract new business and industry, the region must ensure that it has a skilled workforce available. Today, a quality workforce is a diverse one in which the unique contributions and strengths of its members support the organization's success in meeting its mission and goals. Therefore, in order to attract new and retain existing business and industry, all members of the community must be well educated so they can contribute to the region's future economy.

The Hispanic/Latino and other ESL neighbors in this area comprise a significant part of the local community. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Luzerne County has the fourth fastest growing Latino population in the country. LCCC's Hazleton Center has experienced a 15% increase in Latino students since the Fall 2007 semester. Also, there has been a 252% increase in non-English speaking students in the Hazleton Area School District from 2003 to 2007.

In response to this growing population, Luzerne County Community College has offered English as a Second Language (ESL) through which adults who are looking to increase fluency in the English language receive free instruction to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They also study for United States citizenship. To date, the program has provided services to more than 900 learners, and over 60% of the adult learners have obtained or retained full or part time employment.

ESL and Developmental ESL are also offered at LCCC's Hazleton Center and Wilkes-Barre Corporate Learning Center. The Bridge Program, an after school program for sophomores and juniors, focuses on reading, writing and math in preparation for the annual Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), a standards based, criterion-referenced assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the academic standards.

Students are transported to LCCC's Hazleton Center for two hours twice a week. The Bridge Program also

prepares students for job readiness by working on interviewing skills and resumé writing. This program has run several times over the past three years and is currently being funded under The College Board Greenhouse Grant. The College plans to develop a tutoring/mentoring program through which students who successfully complete this program mentor new students.

LCCC provides literacy skills and information to Latino families on enrolling children in school (elementary/pre-school) and other related issues. The parents of young children are instructed on ESL and learn the basics of the American education system and Hazleton School District policies. They are encouraged to volunteer at the school district and join PTAs. The children are prepped on basic literacy skills and what to expect when they enter preschool and kindergarten.

The College received a Dollar General Family Literacy grant for \$19,500 covering the intergenerational ESL program for parents and their young children. The grant will also fund an additional ESL basic class and two additional sessions of a Spanish GED prep course.

In January 2008, LCCC started its first Spanish GED prep course and continues to offer courses throughout the year. LCCC is an official testing site for GED. Through the Pennsylvania Workforce Improvement Network (PA WIN) Program, LCCC offers customized ESL programs to companies. The College has received several grants to support these programs, which assist workers with learning basic English in order to function adequately in their jobs.

LCCC's Division of Workforce and Community Development offers the Command Spanish program, the country's leading provider of occupational Spanish language materials and workshops adapted specifically for various professions. The course is designed to target basic Spanish terms and phrases needed for various businesses and industries such as: Emergency Spanish for Firefighters, Office Spanish for Secretaries and Receptionists, Survival Spanish for Paramedics and EMTs, and Spanish for other professionals such as Bank Tellers, Child Care Providers, Construction Site Employees, Hotel and Motel Staff, Survival Spanish for School Administrators and Teachers, and many others.

LCCC is also looking into the creation of a bilingual library at the College's Hazleton Center. Luzerne County Community College is striving to help meet the educational needs of this growing population. The College's mission to provide excellence in education and create a learning environment that fosters value for lifelong learning, respect for diversity, and development of students as contributing members of society matches our commitment to all residents of its service area.

The Importance of Planned Giving

Bill Runner, president emeritus of the Luzerne County Community College Foundation Board of Directors, speaks passionately about the importance of scholarships and planned giving.

“The students at LCCC need your help,” Runner said to the crowd of people who attended the Foundation’s Annual Dinner at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in November. “Simply add a line in your will or trust endowing a scholarship upon your passing,” he said. “Let the school know what you have done so they can thank you.” He spoke of the wonderful donation by Getha and Isadore Edelstein, founders of Hazel Drugs in Hazleton, who left a portion of their estate to LCCC.

Runner also spoke of giving through a cash payment or, if you are over the age of 70 1/2, a donation through a traditional or Roth IRA of up to \$100,000.

Runner and his wife, Joanne, created the Gregory A. Runner Endowed Scholarship at LCCC in 2007. The scholarship is named for their son, Greg, who passed away from Lymphoma in September of that year. “When our younger son Greg graduated from high school, he took developmental studies classes at LCCC,” Runner said. Greg had a learning disability and needed assistance preparing for future education classes.

“He had two special instructors at LCCC, Mary Knaus and Carol Conaway,” he said. “They helped prepare him for his acceptance, enrollment and graduation from the Hiram G. Andrews School, a vocational facility in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.” Runner said their guidance is the main reason he and Joanne endowed the LCCC scholarship in Greg’s memory. Greg graduated with a diploma in warehousing and found employment at Boscov’s in the shipping and receiving



Bill Runner speaks on planned giving at the 16th Annual Scholarship Donors and Community Outreach dinner.

department where he worked for 19 years.

Runner’s older son, Bill, attended LCCC where he majored in General Studies. He continued his education at the University of Arizona.

“It’s nice to know Greg’s name will be associated with a scholarship to help those who most need it as Greg did.” Runner said.

The Gregory A. Runner Endowed Scholarship benefits an LCCC student pursuing courses in special education or developmental studies.

Bill Runner is now retired and, along with Joanne, volunteer with many community organizations. The couple resides in Shavertown.

Runner served as a member, treasurer and president of LCCC’s Foundation Board of Directors for six years. He worked more than 20 years in the banking industry at First Eastern Bank and PNC Bank. While at First Eastern Bank, Runner took several banking and real estate courses through the American Institute of Banking offered through LCCC which helped him with his career.

Because of their belief in the importance of education, the Runners make annual gifts to several colleges and universities. They have endowed a scholarship at his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, in memory of the dean of the Wharton School who guided him throughout his academic career. He encourages others to give money to existing scholarships or to create their own.

“Planned giving is so important,” Runner says. “Unfortunately, a lot of people never get around to remembering colleges in their will or estate plan. Luzerne County Community College plays a significant role in so many people’s lives,” he says. “I would like people to sit down and think what LCCC has meant to them, and then put that one line in their will or trust. Make history and endow a scholarship.”



Bill and Joanne Runner meet with Louise Shibley, recipient of the Gregory A. Runner Endowed Scholarship.

Over \$30,000 raised at Outreach Dinner

The LCCC Foundation hosted their Annual Scholarship Donors and Community Outreach Dinner on November 13 at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. More than 300 scholarship recipients, donors and community representatives attended this annual event which is in its 16th year.

This dinner gives donors an opportunity to meet the students who will benefit from their scholarships. It also provides those students with a chance to meet the person who funded their scholarship, usually previously unknown to them, and thank them in person for their generosity.

Proceeds from the dinner amounted to \$31,000 which will provide funding for scholarships, upgrades to instructional technology, requests for emergency book funds, and areas of greatest need not funded through other sources.



Participants at the LCCC Foundation's 16th Annual Scholarship Donors and Community Outreach dinner enjoy comedic entertainment from Al Ducharme.

LCCC Institute educates professionals and community about substance abuse issues

It is apparent that the drug problem in our area is of great concern to all of us. To help aid in the identification of this problem facing our local area, Luzerne County Community College established the Substance Abuse Education and Training Institute.

Luzerne County ranks third out of 67 counties in the rate of alcoholism in population. In 2007, the overdose death breakdown for Luzerne County was 54 confirmed deaths with several still pending and there are approximately 15 DUI deaths annually according to the Luzerne County Coroner's Office. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that nationally, there are approximately 1,700 alcohol-related deaths and nearly 600,000 injuries annually. In addition, there are almost 70,000 assaults in which alcohol or drugs play a role. In schools, the academic setbacks include missed classes, failing grades, and flunking out for an estimated 25% of students.

The Substance Abuse Education and Training Institute provides comprehensive training and education to students, area substance abuse providers, and the general public. The Institute is responsible for the development of a variety of non-credit courses, workshops and

symposia as well as class presentations and trainings intended to address the severe problem of drug and alcohol use and abuse in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Institute serves as an area-wide information and education resource center and works with legislators at the federal, state and county levels to encourage advanced legislation. It works with agencies to create model programs which help establish best practices that will advance job seeking, education and other useful services for recovering individuals.

The Institute assists the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program, the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program, the PA Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Program and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to develop a unified strategy to address and prevent the proliferation of substance abuse.

On an annual basis, the Institute conducts and hosts the Northeast Pennsylvania School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, a multi-day seminar designed specifically for drug and alcohol professionals, teachers, counselors, students, families and recovering

continued on page 20

CALENDAR OF 2009 EVENTS

March 10: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni Room (#214)

March 30 – April 8: Alumni Association Phonathon, Educational Conference Center

April 15: Application deadline for Alumni Association Scholarship and Abigail M. George Scholarship

April 23: CIS Graduates Mixer. For more information e-mail alumni@luzerne.edu

May 2: 10th Annual Alumni Flea Market & Collectible Show, Educational Conference Center, 8 am - 2 pm

May 2: Dr. Lori, Fine Antiques & Art Appraiser, Educational Conference Center, 11am - 2 pm, Fee

May 12: Alumni Association Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Campus Center, Alumni Room (#214)

May 15: Dental Health Alumni Day, Educational Conference Center, Keynote Speaker: Colleen Rutledge, Fee

May 26: Annual Graduate Reception, Educational Conference Center, 7-9 pm

May 28: Commencement Ceremony, Wachovia Arena

June 4: Displaced Home Makers / New Options / New Choices Graduates Reunion & Picnic. For more information contact the Alumni office at (800)377-5222 ext. 734

June 7: Antique Automobile Club of America Car Show, Main Campus, portion of the proceeds benefit LCCC student scholarships

RETIREES

The following are members of the faculty, administration and staff who have retired from the College since the last issue of The Bridge was published. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Nancy Burke
Student Records Manager

Diane Melvin '74
Secretary for Physical Plant

Bernadine Rybak
Custodian

Vicky Kisacky
Library Cataloging Clerk

Pat Merkel
Print Shop Foreman

Barbara Struckus '72
Human Resources Associate

Roseann Libus
Assistant to Registrar

Phyllis Petrochko
Library Circulation Desk Manager

Terry Vosik '00
Assistant to Associate Dean of Workforce Development

IN MEMORIAM

Sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of the following alumni and members of the College family who have passed away since the last publication of "The Bridge."

LCCC Graduates

Valorra Claiborne '80 (Criminal Justice)
Mary Ellen Patricia Hunter '78 (Nursing)
Kenneth Hutchison '99 (Application Develop/Operation)
Joseph Kovalik '82 (Architectural Engineering)
Amy Masher '08 (Dental Hygiene)
Lyndon Murillo '02 (Hotel/Restaurant Management)
Dwight Norquest '82 (Electrical Construction)
Cheryl Grabosky Shager '97 (Nursing)
Kathryn Sockalosky '96 (Education)
James Stadulis '94 (Criminal Justice / General Studies)
Donald L. Thomas '70 (Drafting and Design)

LCCC Faculty & Staff

Charlie Aten (Security Guard, retired)
Marguerite Flanagan Bohn (Executive Secretary, President's office, retired)
Kay Hoban (Student Records Manager, retired)
Monica Karpinski (Financial Aid staff member, retired)
Rita Keller (Principal Secretary in the Finance Office, retired)
Elmer Kotalik (Shipping & Recieving, retired)
Vince Prushinski (Maintenance, retired)
Dr. Chorinjeth (Menon) Rajagopalan "Dr. Raj"
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Your Gift is Important

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, library books, technology and other necessities. Nothing touches the lives of LCCC students as much as the Annual Fund.

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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.

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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. 734 or at 740-0734.



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 Theresa Vida
 Yvette Viercinski '86
 Robert '90 & Terry '00 Vosik
 Denise Wagner '99
 Ann Walker
 Susan Walkowiak '77
 Albert Wallace '93
 Frank Walton '96
 Ann Marie & George Warnick
 Jacqueline Warnick-Piatt '89
 Joann Wascalus '99
 Joan Wasserott '84
 Vincent Waszczak
 Robert Watkins '86
 Tammy Watkins '97
 Sheryl Weaver '88
 Ramona Wech '82
 Valerie Weigand '07
 Dean Welch '71
 Karin Wellings '98
 William Wentz '82
 Lisa Whalan
 Christopher White '77
 Robert Whitmire '84
 Theodore Wiaterowski
 Stanley Wielgopolski '93
 Norma Wildoner '94
 Jean Williams '88
 Mary Williams '78
 Thomas Williams '89
 Timothy Williams '84
 Marion Wilson '80
 Thomas Wilson '79
 Wise Solutions

Jean Witinski '80
 Melanie Wojak '76
 Betty Wojcik '71
 Marylou Woodring '03
 Carmela Worrall '97
 Deborah Wruble '82
 Diane Yale '83
 Sandra Yanchick '95
 Denice Yanchik '79
 Mark Yanus '84
 Jayme Yesenofski '84
 Lori Yost-Cotrone '89
 Cheryl-Ann Young '89
 Sean Younker '96
 Olga Yudisky
 Shanna Yurko '04
 Thomas Zabroski '69
 Ann Zaffuto '85
 Kathleen Zambotti '94
 Joseph Zamulinsky '74
 Barbara Zardus '84
 Chester Zaremba '79
 Sandra Zbierski '94
 Carl & Anne Zechel
 Gerri Zielinski '75
 Bonnie Zisko '74
 Karen Zmijewski '84
 David Zurek '83
 Michael Zwartjes

+ Deceased

The Foundation & Alumni Office have made every effort to make the information contained within this publication accurate. Should you observe any discrepancy or error, we ask that you contact the Development Office at (570)740-0735.

“During and after earning my Associates Degree in Criminal Justice, I continued working as a Waterways Conservation Officer in the Bureau of Law Enforcement in the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. In October 2001 I was promoted to Assistant Regional Supervisor for the Northeast Region. In March 2003 I was promoted my current position as Northeast Region Law Enforcement Manager. I really enjoyed my time at LCCC.

The instructors in the Criminal Justice program had real life experience and a passion for their respective jobs that they shared with their students in every class. As a result of my positive experience, I have encouraged a lot of young people to explore their educational opportunities at LCCC. My own son and daughter, although attending college full-time elsewhere on ROTC scholarships, have benefited by taking classes locally at LCCC. Luzerne County Community College helped pave the way for my career successes.”

*Sally A. Corl '89, Criminal Justice
 Law Enforcement Manager
 PA Fish & Boat Commission*

Matching Gifts

Many community-minded organizations match the gifts their employees give to non-profit and community organizations. Financial support was received during the past fiscal year (7/1/07-6/30/08) by the following organizations.

Alcoa Foundation
 Entergy Corporation
 GE Foundation
 Guard Insurance Group
 The Lord & Taylor Foundation
 MetLife Foundation
 The P&G Fund
 PPL Services Corporation
 The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts
 The Sallie Mae Fund Employee Contributions Program
 Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc.
 Verizon Foundation
 Xerox Employee Matching Gifts Program

“*The whole experience had great impact on my life. I went on to get a bachelor's degree and then a master's. I worked twenty-two years in the Educational System. If it were not for Luzerne County Community College I could have never done it.*”

*Marianne Argenio, '77
 General Studies
 Educational Counselor
 Luzerne Intermediate Unit*

In-Kind Gifts

The College receives “In-kind” support (contributions of equipment, services, supplies, or other non-cash gifts) from philanthropic-minded companies to support our student programs. In-kind support was received during the past fiscal year (7/1/07-6/30/08) from the following individuals and organizations.

Alden Manor Complex	Lisa Owens '97
Asian Café	Jennifer Pawlowski '88
Cross Valley Federal Credit Union	Tony Pedregon
Carol Dean '90	Pizza Bella
Chew Fang Chin	R Kids 2 Yours
Company's Coming	Consignment Shop
Helen Ann DiPrimo	Red Robin
Barbara Dobrowalski,	Sanitary Bakery
Longaberger Independent	Tuxedo Junction
Branch Leader	Nancy Snyder
The Dough Company	Starbucks Coffee Co
Elaine Flanagan '98	US Tuxedo
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates	
Carl Gross	
Dr. & Mrs. William Grossman	
Grotto Pizza	
Joe & Sue Hand	
Linda Kobuski '81	
Bonnie Lauer '87	
Eric Lee	
LCCC Bookstore	
LCCC Literary Arts Society	
LCCC Student Activities Office	
Gloria Migatowski '88	
Mil n Jims Historic Parkway Inn	
Mountain City Productions	
Multimatic Motorsports Inc.	
Olive Garden Restaurant	
Outback Steakhouse	

Substance Abuse

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addicts to aide in education, prevention, identification, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of substance abuse and chemical dependency. Nationally renowned speakers are on hand to provide the most up to date information available.

The Third Annual Northeast Pennsylvania School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies has been scheduled for July 7-10, 2009. The school will take place at the Educational Conference Center and the confirmed speakers include; Dr. Cardwell Nuckols, Dr. Merrill Norton, Mr. Delbert Boone, Mr. Mark Spurlock and Mr. Michael Graber. They will speak on a variety of topics ranging from developmental trauma to post-traumatic stress disorder and dealing with adolescent issues. Additionally, the annual Community Night, an open event where residents can meet with local drug

and alcohol and mental health providers, is scheduled for July 9, 2009 in the campus center.

Another goal of the Institute is to continue working towards a credit curriculum and the ability to provide students with a Certificate in Addiction Studies leading towards a career as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor or a job in a related field. Additionally, information will continually be available to students from the Substance Abuse Education and Training Institute to help further their education and identification of the substance abuse problems facing our area.

For more information on the Substance Abuse Education and Training Institute, contact Michelle McCabe Piazza at 570-740-0244 or email her at mpiazza@luzerne.edu. You can also visit the website at www.luzerne.edu/sainstitute.

CIS Mixer slated

Attention all Computer Information Systems graduates! Join us for the inaugural CIS Mixer on April 23, 2009 at Bar Louie located in the Mohegan Sun in Wilkes-Barre. Food, fun and give-aways await you at this casual event to reunite you with the College, your faculty and your friends.

For more details, check out the Luzerne County Community College Alumni Facebook page. More information will be sent out closer to the date. Please contact the alumni office at alumni@luzerne.edu if you have moved and no longer receive mail from the College so we can keep you in the loop! Hope to see you there!

Attention! Displaced Home Makers / New Options / New Choices alum!

It's been thirty years since the program began and we want to celebrate!

If you were a part of this program offered at LCCC we want to hear from you! Let us know how this program impacted your life. We are proud of our participants and want you to help us celebrate thirty years of success at LCCC. Mark your calendar: a celebration is planned for June 4, 2009. Please contact the alumni office at alumni@luzerne.edu or call 1-800-377-5222, ext. 734 for more information.

Show off your artwork at the Faculty and Alumni Art Show

We are looking for submissions of photos and painting from LCCC graduates for inclusion at the upcoming Faculty & Alumni Art Show slated for December 2009.

For more information please contact Sue Sponenberg '69 at susansponenberg@yahoo.com or Sam Cramer at scramer@luzerne.edu. We hope to hear from you!



Become a part of LCCC History!

Paving the Way to the Future: Luzerne County Community College Walk of Honor Brick Project

Who belongs on the Luzerne County Community College Walk of Honor?

You Do! And so do your colleagues, family and friends. Purchase a brick with your name and year of graduation; in honor of the memory of a loved one; or to commemorate your favorite faculty member. Area business and industry, fire departments, ambulance companies, police departments and their families and friends are encouraged to dedicate a brick to honor our every day heroes.

The Walk of Honor will be located on the site of the Public Safety Training Institute (PSTI) and will be near the College's Prospect Street entrance. The PSTI's mission is to train first responders from throughout the region in all aspects of emergency support and protection. Phase One of the PSTI project was completed in the Spring of 2008. We anticipate that the walkway will be unveiled in 2010 at the completion of Phase Two.

Join us in this exciting new initiative and purchase your brick today. Bricks start at \$100 each and come in three sizes. For more information visit us online at <http://www.luzerne.edu/alumni/welcome.jsp> or contact:

Bonnie Brennan Lauer '87
Director, Alumni Relations
(800)377-5222 ext. 734 or blauer@luzerne.edu

Hey, we're on Facebook!

If you have a Facebook account, why not become a fan of LCCC. Just search for Luzerne County Community College and click "Become a fan." Also, please join our Luzerne County Community College Alumni group. Keep up to date with all the happenings at LCCC and keep connected with friends.

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 JoAnn Chukinas '02
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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. Thank you!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Yr. 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 _____

Return completed form to: Luzerne County Community College Alumni Office,
 1333 S. Prospect St., Nanticoke, Pa 18634. Or email your information to: alumni@luzerne.edu



The Polish Children's Choir from St. Stanislaus Church sang traditional Polish songs and carols at the St. Nicholas Day Program in conjunction with the Schulman Gallery Crayons & Care exhibit.



LUZERNE
County Community College
Office of Alumni Relations
1333 S. Prospect Street
Nanticoke, Pa 18634-3899

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