

Summer 2005

The Bridge

Luzerne County Community College Alumni Magazine

**Nursing's
30th Reunion:
A Commitment
to Caring**

**The new
Public
Safety
Institute**

**All class
Alumni
Reunion:
1969-74**

**Alumni
Profiles**

**Letter
from
England**



Years of Nursing

30



BE A PART OF LCCC

BY PATRICIA C. DONOHUE, Ph.D., PRESIDENT

Luzerne County Community College is pleased to provide you with the Summer 2005 edition of *The Bridge*. Our faculty and staff continuously seek to attract new students. However, just as important to us is attracting our former students, our esteemed alumni, back to campus by keeping you informed of the latest happenings at LCCC and involved as active participants in our College.

We are proud of this publication that highlights the accomplishments of our graduates, faculty and staff as one avenue through which we keep you informed.

We hope reading about exciting upcoming events at LCCC in *The Bridge* will inspire you to enhance your involvement with your alma mater. For example, LCCC is hosting a reunion to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first nursing graduating class. All nursing graduates to date, current nursing students, and former and current faculty and staff are invited to participate in this exciting celebration. The College is also beginning to plan for a full year of festivities beginning next year to mark the 40th anniversary of our opening. In addition, we are planning a combined reunion for our first six graduating classes, the classes of 1969 through 1974, who attended LCCC when the main campus was still in downtown Wilkes-Barre. We hope all members of these reunion classes will come back to campus and celebrate our continued success in providing learning to the community and developing the workforce of Northeastern Pennsylvania and witness how much we've grown.

Not only have we grown physically, but programatically as well. As alumni, you are aware of the many benefits of obtaining a degree, certificate or diploma at LCCC, and may wish to obtain additional professional development or even consider entering a new field. Learning about the new programs LCCC offers can help you make that decision. For instance, we are currently developing the LCCC Regional Public Safety Training Institute, which will educate fire, police, and emergency service personnel across Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are also expanding our Allied Health Sciences programs so that we may better serve our students and community.

I hope you will use *The Bridge* as a resource for keeping informed of LCCC activities and programs, and consider becoming more active with our College either by taking credit or non-credit courses or volunteering with our Alumni Association.

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ALL CLASS REUNION '69-'74

Save the Date!

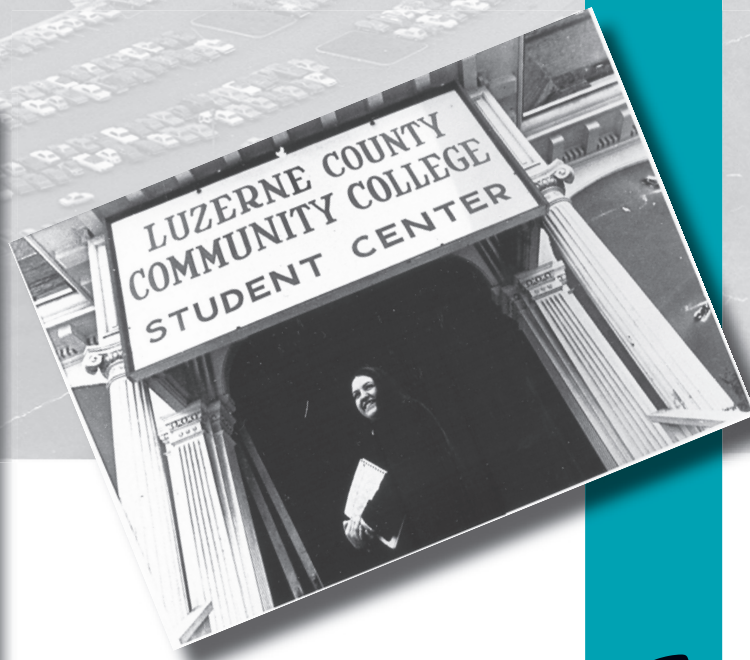
Join us for the 1969-1974 All Class Reunion

**Saturday, September 24, 2005
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

**We need your help planning this event!
Do you have any LCCC memorabilia that
you would like to share?
Check out our website for updates and to
help find our "lost alumni"!**

**Come see your friends and faculty from
LCCC!**

**Luzerne County Community College
Nanticoke, Pa 18634
Alumni office: (570) 740-0734
www.luzerne.edu**



TONY

WAICHULIS



Acclaimed Trompe L'oeil Painter returns to LCCC to share his passion and knowledge with others

Anthony Waichulis hails from rural Pennsylvania and has established a national reputation for his representational Trompe L'oeil paintings. The brilliant dimensionality he achieves is as effective and as brilliant as the two most well know American Trompe L'oeil artists John Peto and William Harnett. But Waichulis goes well beyond in terms of the finiteness of his imagery. His paintings are compelling while conveying a sharp and wry sense of humor. Working with a focused discipline and a steady hand, he achieves perfection. Currency, cards, photographs, ephemera and memorabilia make up the subject matter and the results are unbelievable.

Waichulis began his academic artistic training under the tutelage of esteemed realist painter and Luzerne County Community College instructor Michael Molnar. It was at Luzerne County Community College where Waichulis met Mr. Molnar, inducting him into a world of painting that he would dedicate his life to. Within two years LCCC would provide significant strides in Waichulis' artistic development resulting in much attention locally and afar.

His first one-man show sponsored by the college would end up a near sell out within one hour of its opening. This was a foreshadowing of the reception his work would receive across the nation.

Continuing his education in Baltimore, Maryland, Waichulis attended the Schuler School of Fine Arts. He would meet some of the most respected artists in their field. The school was founded by nationally renowned portrait artist Ann Schuler, who had served as assistant to Jaques Maroger, former Director of Restoration at the Louvre.

The faculty would consist of an all-star stable of esteemed professionals such as famed portrait artist Polly Mitchell, acclaimed watercolorist Fritz Briggs, still life artist Carol Lee Thompson and visiting artist, Will Wilson.

Applying the influences of such a wide spectrum of expertise would add a multitude of dimensions to Waichulis' endeavors. Baltimore would also receive his work with resounding interest, allowing his Trompe L'oeil paintings to become highly prized by knowledgeable collectors from across the country and abroad.

It was at this time Waichulis thought of returning to Northeast Pennsylvania to continue to pursue his

work in the region in which it began.

The Waichulis Studio is now located in Pennsylvania, where he had taken his first steps towards a promising future. His works have since been published in every major art publication worldwide including The Artist's Magazine, American Artist, American Art Review, Art News, Art-Talk, as well as many others. Waichulis, now exclusively represented by the John Pence gallery in San Francisco, has staged many appearances in key exhibitions across the country including the Smithsonian Institute and Arnot Art Museum's "Re-presenting Representation," an exhibit broadcast on CNN to over 250 countries. Dozens of successful

Waichulis has since returned to Luzerne County Community College as an instructor, where, along side his former mentor Michael Molnar, he hopes to bestow the same influence and guidance granted him.

"My desire to educate people... remains unfettered."

"My painting efforts still remain as steadfast and focused today as they had when my journey began. I continue to teach and lecture privately, at academic institutions, and various art associations throughout Northeast Pennsylvania. My desire to educate people as to

shows across the United States have refined Waichulis' endeavors as his work has taken top awards in national and international competitions such as Artist's magazine's Annual Competition and the Art Renewal Center's International Salon Competition.

the facets Representational painting and the art of Trompe L'oeil as perceived by a contemporary realist remains unfettered. I aspire to honor those I do follow and strive to give benefit to those who may one day follow me." -Anthony Waichulis

Waichulis's work can be seen at www.thewaichulisstudio.net

Below: Samples of Waichulis's work.



Tracy Fine

by *Luciana Musto '01*

-from notes provided by Tracy Fine

In the Spring of 1999, Tracy Fine was participating in the Disney Internship Program at the Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. Her internship was part of an educational program through which she planned to become a teacher.

It was during her time there that she changed her mind.

Tracy quickly discovered her desire to study all aspects of government and enrolled at LCCC after returning home.

Her first major, education, wasn't making her happy. Tracy was looking for something that would help her meet many different types of people, to serve a larger population, and also to give her the opportunity to travel and experience many cultures firsthand.

After developing an interest in political science while serving as a student government officer in high school, she decided to turn her natural ability to speak to large groups and handle different opinions into a political career.

While at LCCC, Tracy was instrumental in starting the College's chapters of Phi Theta Kappa and Psi Beta. She also worked in the Financial Aid and Academic Affairs offices. She said, "I made so many wonderful friends and contacts through my work-study service that I cannot imagine I'd have made it this far without them."

Tracy's education at LCCC became her foundation. When she transferred to American University in Washington, D.C. after graduating from LCCC in 2001, she realized how much LCCC had helped her to define her goals and choose her major. "Luzerne County Community College provided me with an opportunity for learning, growth and



understanding that proved essential for my success at American University," said Tracy.

While at American University, Tracy had the opportunity to serve as an intern with Congressman Paul Kanjorski,

and took advantage of the opportunity to study abroad in England. During her semester in London, she worked for a Member of Parliament, witnessed Prime Minister Tony Blair speaking about the war in Iraq, and was also able to visit Ireland, Scotland and Italy.

Tracy's mother, Joann Fine '89, an LCCC graduate, and her sisters, one of whom is a current student, always told her to follow her heart and pursue the things in life that would make her happy.

“ NEVER FORGET
WHERE YOU
CAME FROM. ”

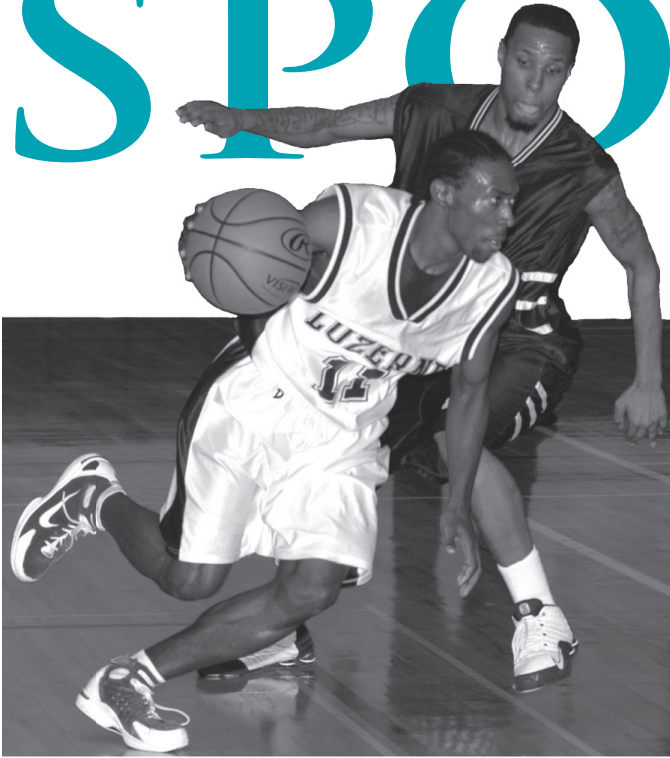
- TRACY'S FATHER,
DAVID FINE

Her father, David Fine, who passed away eight days before she graduated from American University, said, "Dream big, shoot for the big time and be as successful as possible, but never forget where you came from."

"This is where I came from," said Tracy, "Luzerne County Community College. This is my foundation, and I couldn't be happier to say so."

Tracy is currently employed as a Junior Analyst at Booz Allen Hamilton, an international consulting firm in McLean, Virginia. She hopes to one day be a diplomat.

SPORTS



CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH RON STROTHERS, '95, ON BEING NAMED THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE (EPCC) MEN'S BASKETBALL "COACH OF THE YEAR" FOR BOTH 2004 & 2005. IN ADDITION, MICHELLE TESTAGUZZA, '87, WAS HONORED AS THE EPCC'S WOMEN'S SOFTBALL "COACH OF THE YEAR" FOR 2005. CONGRATULATIONS RON & MICHELLE!

LESHAWN HAMMET, '05, DRIVES TOWARD THE NET

The Year in Sports at LCCC

by Donald Stefanovich '05

The winter season saw the men's basketball team take home their second consecutive Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference championship with a final score of 76 to 73 over Stevens Tech.

They lost the Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Association state title to Beaver County Community College in a close game, but it was the third time the Trailblazers have made it to the PCAA championship with a season counting over twenty wins to their name.

They wound up a 23-6 season as first in their league, something which coach Ron Strothers attributes to the hard work of the players and the extra hours committed by the assistant coaches. "They began rough," says Strothers, "but toward the end, they have meshed as a team." With most of the players graduating, Strothers will have new faces to work with next year. This, he says, is the hardest part.

Leshawn Hammet, leading scorer of the Trailblazer's two years running, has chosen St. Francis of Pennsylvania to continue both his education and athletic career.

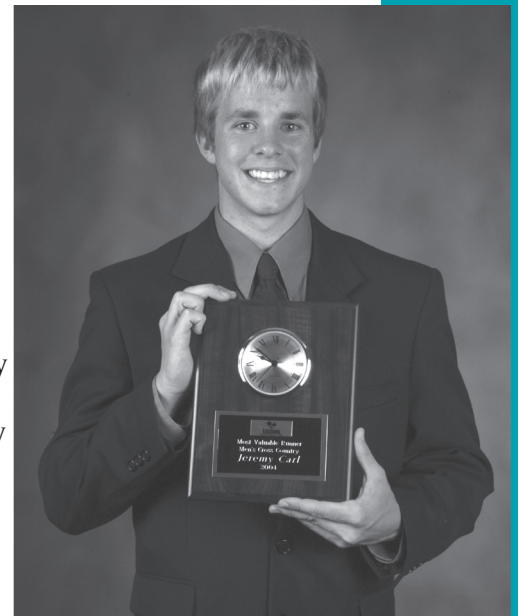
The women's basketball team included many first year players. They played strong throughout the season claiming five wins.

In Cross Country over the fall, the Trailblazers did well in both the conference and state meets. Jeremy Carl finished second in the conference meet held at PSU Scranton.

Carl set LCCC records in nearly every event he ran. Finishing in the top 10 at the state meet, Jeremy also received All-Conference and All-State honors.

The golf team finished second in the conference and fourth in the state meet. Eric Eyerly finished in the top 15 golfers in Pennsylvania.

Women's volleyball struggled in the beginning, but finished strong taking away five victories in the last six games of the season.



JEREMY CARL, '05, MVP CROSS COUNTRY 2004-05



EVEN HEROES NEED A PLACE TO TRAIN

by Robert Bogdon

“September 11, 2001 changed how America thinks about keeping our communities safe and secure. The tragic events of that day helped us understand that local emergency service personnel, both volunteer and professional units, need the best resources and training available to ensure the safety of our communities. A regional public safety facility will deliver those resources, and I can think of no better institution to provide this quality training than Luzerne County Community College.”

State Representative John Yudichak
119th Legislative District

Area emergency responders all echo the same sentiments: training resources currently available to them are limited. Basic fire, EMS and police training facilities such as classrooms, drill grounds, and basic training props are nearly nonexistent. Fire fighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians are looking for training grounds, realistic emergency scenarios and hands-on training needed for technical field training activities.

Since coming to Northeastern Pennsylvania almost three years ago, LCCC President, Dr. Patricia C. Donohue has met with emergency service personnel, both career and volunteer, regarding their training

needs. She also created a task force of emergency responders and college staff to further investigate public safety training and education needs and to develop recommendations for meeting those needs.

“We have found that there is a tremendous regional need for a comprehensive facility that would address the training needs of all three concentrations of public safety service personnel in the ten-county region we serve,” Dr. Donohue says. A business plan was developed and approved by the Board of Trustees in December of 2004.

The plan calls for the creation of a comprehensive Public Safety Training Institute on twenty acres of land which the College currently owns. This facility will serve all emergency and public safety personnel in Northeastern Pennsylvania including: fire, EMS, local and state police, sheriffs, constables, railroad emergency and security personnel, as well as Penn Dot, hospitals, and private industry.

“Until I left this area, I really didn’t realize how much we lacked in fire training capabilities,” says William Owens ‘93 of the New York City Fire Department. “As both a career fire fighter and a Pennsylvania Local Level Instructor, a training center at LCCC would be a tremendous addition to Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

Based on the study and the interviews with emergency service personnel, the College will develop the drill grounds to feature a drill tower/burn building using natural gas; outdoor props using propane to simulate hazardous material spills; urban search and rescue rubble pit; railroad tanker derailment simulations; driving track for emergency vehicle operator training as well as a skid pad for vehicle control in hazardous conditions. The skid pad will double as a helicopter pad for Life Flight emergencies in our area. The main building will accommodate classrooms, indoor shooting range, weapon cleaning room, secure armory storage room, locker rooms, and a 16-station computer lab.

“This is a great opportunity for the emergency services in our region,” says James Wills, President, Luzerne County Fire & Rescue Association and fire fighter for the Municipality of Kingston. “We will now have the ability to standardize training utilizing a fixed facility which will provide more realistic training for the first responders in Northeastern PA.”

Dr.
Karen Flannery ‘78, Associate Dean of Public Safety Training Institute and Workforce Initiatives,

is spearheading programming for the new training

facility. “The Luzerne County Community College Regional Public Safety Training Institute is designed to provide the



The PSTI will provide training opportunities for 151 police departments, 352 fire departments, and 21 hospitals.

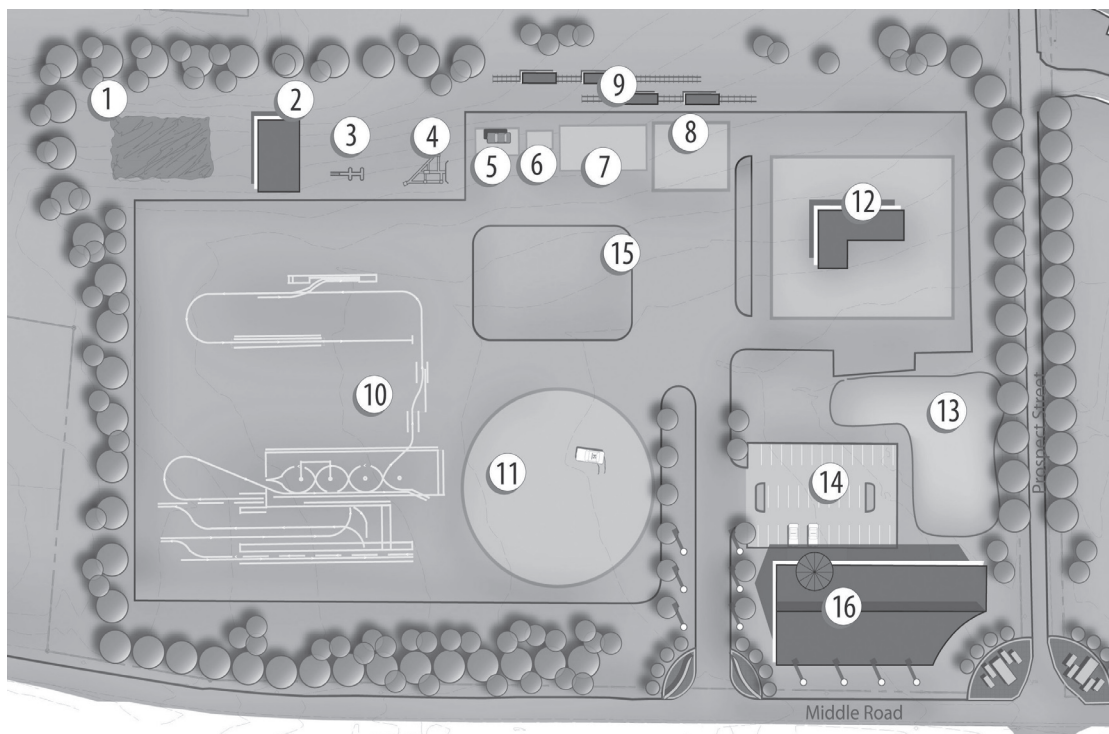
emergency training our region needs,” Dr. Flannery says. The Institute will focus on technical field training and the physical hands-on training needed to handle emergency situations. Fire fighting, search and rescue, lethal weapons training, and emergency vehicle maneuvers are all intended to make sure personnel know appropriate skills, to create a safe and productive work environment, and to reduce costly workplace injuries. “Training courses will be designed to encourage students to make the right decisions in possible life-and-death situations,” Dr. Flannery adds.

Dr. Donohue hopes alumni play an important role in developing this much needed facility for the area and is looking for support for the project. “I hope you will consider contributing to the LCCC Public Safety Training Institute to support equipment,

material and facility needs so that we may provide the highest quality training and preparation for emergency responder personnel in Northeastern Pennsylvania,” Dr. Donohue says. “Together we can ensure that our community is protected by the most qualified and best-trained public safety professionals possible.”



Above: simulation of what the burn building may look like.



Map

1. Complete Structural Collapse

Rescue Rubble Pile – simulated collapsed building/structure.

2. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Partial Structural Collapse Rescue

– simulated partial collapse of building/structure.

3. Trench Collapse Rescue

– simulated collapse of open excavation or pit.

4. Confined Space Rescue

– involves a confined space where there is only one way in or out such as an electrical vault, silo, manhole, or industrial tank.

5. Vehicle Fire Simulator

– outdoor, propane fueled burn prop engineered for a car fire using proper fire fighting techniques in a controlled manner.

6. Horizontal Propane Tank/ Rail Car Fire Simulator

– outdoor prop simulating a wrecked rail car or tank fire.

7. Vertical Industrial Pipe Fire Valve

(X-Mas Tree) Fire Simulator – prop that can be used to train firefighters on how to control and contain a gas fire emitted from a pipe or valve.

8. Flammable Liquid Spill/Fire Containment

– the fire control of a variety of flammable liquid fires.

9. Rail Hazards

– Simulated rail crossings with overturned and unstable rail cars.

10. Driving Training Pad

– This driving course and open range would provide a standard, low speed obstacle course as well as real world streets, intersections, and road configurations.

11. Driving Skid Pad/Helicopter Landing Pad

– a “skid area” using water on a smooth driving

track to practice emergency driving and skid control techniques.

12. Training Tower/Burn Building

– The five story building will be designed and constructed to withstand live fire training drills.

13. Drafting/Water Retention

– Recyclable water source to be used in firefighting training exercises.

14. Parking

15. Staging Area

– Holding area for emergency equipment and vehicles to be used in exercises.

16. Classroom/Firing Range

– A building housing a variety of classrooms using “smart” technology and computer labs with job-related software. The building will also feature an indoor firing range.

A COMMITMENT TO CARING

LCCC's Nursing Program Celebrates 30 Years of Excellence in Caring for the Community

NURSING

by Donald Stefanovich '05

Aaahh. Alaska. Six months of darkness. Winters cold enough to make anyone from the lower forty-eight shiver at the thought. You can make it across the largest city, in traffic, in about 15 minutes, and the municipalities are more likely to invest in a Zamboni than a bus.

Perhaps not what most would consider an ideal destination and probably the last place one might expect to find LCCC alumni, but in spite of the harsh weather, Fairbanks is a place that Esther Payne has come to call home. According to Payne, a NEPA native, communities are much more close-knit in Alaska and people rely on one another. Kindness in Fairbanks, she says, is a way of life.

As the town's school nurse, kindness is something she dispenses as regularly as the cafeteria workers dish up mystery meat. "Lots of times the kids are just looking for a hug or a pat on the head," said Payne.

She oversees approximately 500 students as the registered school nurse of Ladd Elementary, something she described as the "Cadillac job of nursing." She got the position after moving to Fairbanks with her husband in 1998, prior to which she worked at the V.A. Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania for five and a half years.

"I was thrilled to get the position," said Payne, who holds an A.A.S. of Nursing from Luzerne County Community College. The position of a school nurse is something usually only available to those with a B.S.N.

Having entered LCCC's nursing program at the age of 50 with the encouragement of her husband and family, Payne graduated in 1992 and is just one example of the far reaching impact and success of LCCC's nursing program which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

An all class nursing reunion is being held at the College to mark the occasion this September 23. At least 200 graduates representing 30 years of the program are expected at the campus according to Dr. Dana Clark, Director of Nursing and Acting Dean of Health Sciences and Technologies at LCCC.

Dr. Clark is the fourth Director of Nursing since the program's conception in 1973, preceded by Leona Lanz Castor, the late Ruth G. Seeherman, and Dr. Jane Brown.

According to Castor, who was instrumental in the program's early stages and was appointed the first Director of Nursing in 1973, there was a great deal of skepticism in the community about the program and what it would take to educate nurses in only two years. The first four faculty members, Ann Isaacs, Cora Porter, Marie Rasimovicz Robine, and Ruth Seeherman, began in 1973 at the College's original Wilkes-Barre campus. "I was firmly convinced that with a strong, well-qualified faculty and administrative support, we could develop a sound nursing program," said Castor. "After the first graduating class, we soon had wide community support."

Norma Koscinski, class of '76, who is now a Nurse Supervisor at the Clark Summit State Psychiatric Hospital and per

diem nurse for Wyoming Valley Health Care, recalls Marie Rasimowicz Robine as "the most inspirational mentor you could ever imagine."

The program, with 16 full-time faculty, received full accreditation by the National League for Nursing in 1978 and occupied the current nursing building for the first time that year.

In 1975, the College itself was still in its infancy. Having only moved to its Nanticoke site a year earlier, the College's first nursing class which graduated that spring counted only 49.

The 2005 nursing class boasted 125 graduates, 2,760 nurses have graduated



Nurses wear their pin throughout their career as a symbol of pride in their profession and their alma mater.

from LCCC to date, and the incoming 2005-2006 freshman class consists of 235 students.

In 1988 LCCC implemented a nursing curriculum at its Elk Lake campus and in 2001 at its Kulpmont satellite, both of which admit and graduate students every other year. "A survey in Northumberland County (Kulpmont) showed the community felt there was a need for an R.N. program," recalled Dr. Jane Brown. "They turned to LCCC."

As Director of the program from 1993 through 1998, Dr. Brown was fundamental in reinstating the evening curriculum at the College as well as starting the Introduction to Nursing course.

The program is constantly expanding to accommodate the growing nursing shortage, and the opportunities for graduates in the field are boundless, reaching far beyond the hospital. Nursing graduates find themselves in various facets of the industry, from clinical to sales. According to Dr. Clark, the average annual starting salary for an R.N. with an A.A.S. can range from \$35,000 to \$45,000 in Northeast Pennsylvania, which is the same

starting range available to those with a B.S.N.

One main cause of the nursing shortage, according to Dr. Clark, is the aging nursing population coupled with the lack of young nurses entering the field. Grant money from Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania is being used to market to younger students. "We see a lot of non-traditional students," said Dr. Clark. "We're at a point in nursing that we need to grow our own. We need to demonstrate to students the importance of nursing and the great role nurses play in the community."

A program is being initiated known as the "cohort group," which will select the top twenty high school graduates applying to the program based primarily on academics. This young group will be kept together throughout their time in the program—the concept being to eliminate the alienation some freshmen feel out of high school when they find themselves surrounded by an older, non-traditional student body.

The cohort group will begin their freshman year at the College with all core classes, and be eased into the nursing courses to avoid being initially overwhelmed by the transition from high school.

Nursing students spend an average of 20 hours a week at school and in the hospital, a figure that does not include their non-nursing courses; a rigorous program, which for the graduates, pays off.

LCCC nursing graduates maintain a 94% pass rate on the state board exams, which according to Dr. Clark, is significantly higher than the national average.

"I've preceptored many students," said Edward Matkin, "and LCCC still produces the best bedside nurse." Matkin, a 1977 LCCC nursing graduate and Laflin native, was Nurse Manager for 21 years at the Wilkes-Barre V.A. Medical Center. Matkin, who now works as an outpatient staff nurse, is a Vietnam Veteran and feels a special connection to his patients. Matkin decided to become a nurse while witnessing the care his father received at the V.A.

The tradition of caring is one that runs in his family. Matkin's wife, Arlene, class of '95, and his daughter, Melissa, class of '02, are both nurses and LCCC graduates.

Matkin pursued his B.S.N. and eventually his M.S. in Organizational Management at College Misericordia, but he hasn't forgotten his roots. "Even though I continued my education," said Matkin, "LCCC is the alma mater that's in my heart."

Cathy Gegaris, class of '77, followed a similar path and obtained her BSN/CNS

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from College Misericordia in 2003. Gegaris, currently the Vice President and Director of Nursing at Geisinger Wyoming Valley, has a professional resume which has accumulated seven pages since she graduated from LCCC in 1977. She is credited with being the primary developer and, until 1992, instructor for the Basic and Advanced Critical Care course at LCCC. In 1999 Gegaris received the Lehigh Valley Quality Award for developing an open-heart surgery program. "LCCC is a great foundation," said Gegaris, "it gave me my building block."

Leona Castor reflected on the first ten years of the program as the original Director of Nursing at LCCC. "Looking back, it was an exciting time to be in nursing education," she

said, "but the real rewards and satisfaction come when I look back over my roll-book and see the names of over 750 graduates who are now engaged in meaningful careers. For many of those individuals, this was an opportunity which they may not have had if this program did not exist."

Dr. Clark noted that in facing the 21st century, the program's goals will be to keep in step with the changes in healthcare and to continue to use cutting edge technology



Debbie Brooks '05, Michael Chehovich '06 and Marcey Wielgopolski '05, on campus in a mock hospital setting

in preparing students for a career in caring.

"It's the only job where you are with someone at the happiest and saddest times of their lives," said Dr. Clark. "You're with a family when a baby is born and when a loved one dies. These are really awesome moments."

Serving up Opportunity

After 30 years, the hospitality programs at LCCC continue to grow

by Donald Stefanovich '05

Friday night.
Dinner and a movie?
No.
How about cake and comedy?

Students have returned to the campus to kick off their weekend by seeing a well-known comic. The hallway of the College's Educational Conference Center looks like the lobby of a local movie theater on the weekend. Laughter and small talk can be heard among groups of friends. Young faces crowd around the tables waiting for a gourmet appetizer instead of popcorn and candy at the concession stand. The young men and women in the tall, white hats serving these dishes

are students of the College's Food Production Management program. For \$10, students and faculty, as well as

the general public, are able to get their fill of the confections and see a renowned comic perform a stop of their national tour right here on campus.

While this is not a reality yet, it is just one fund-raising idea being considered in support of the ever-growing hospitality programs at Luzerne County Community College.

The hospitality programs, which now include Hotel and Restaurant Management, Food Production Management, Travel&Tourism and Pastry Arts, have experienced continual growth since the college opened its Nanticoke campus thirty years ago. Today, LCCC remains the area's institution of choice among students and employers within the discipline.

The hospitality programs have expanded to include the original six-month certificates as well as two-year A.A.S. degrees. A new Pastry Arts certificate program was added last year and a Professional Food Service course, which would teach students proper table service and dining etiquette in a mock dining setting, is on the horizon.

According to Department Chairperson, Salvatore Shandra '93, the program has been showing significant signs of growth and interest with no signs of stopping. He described the opportunities in the field and gave what he says was a conservative job to graduate ratio of six to one. "With the right ability and experience," said Sal, "the average starting salary for a graduate can be over \$30,000."

The average number of students graduating from the program is between twenty and thirty, which may not seem like a large class, but consider for a moment that the program originally had only five or six students at a time. According to

Sal, they are quickly outgrowing the facilities. The kitchen has recently undergone reconstruction to create more space and working stations for the increasing number of students. "It will be a more creative learning environment," Sal said.

Cutting-edge technology is also being integrated in the kitchen. One recent addition is a Combination Cooking Center, which, according to Sal, is a recent trend among large resorts and institutions. Even with a price tag of \$18,000, many large resorts are sucking up the sticker shock. "It does everything," he said. With its ability to allow one person to prepare food for 200, the Combination Cooking Center is considered to be labor-cost effective in spite of its price tag.

Due to its modern facilities, the kitchen has been approved as a test-site by the Professional Chefs Association. This means that area chefs, including LCCC graduates, will be able to become Certified Executive Chefs, Working Chefs, and Cooks without having to travel to Philadelphia, New York, or New Jersey, which up until now, were the nearest test sites.

The department is also working with the State of Pennsylvania to create funding and availability for an apprentice program, which would allow students to attend classes in the morning and work in the field at night, providing valuable on-the-job training for careers, which Sal says, take students around the world.

Sal spoke of the importance of feedback from alumni, something he said, provides him with job leads, contacts, and keeps him up to date on new trends and industry standards.

"We teach it," he said, "but they're the ones in the battlefield."

While many students continue to work and live in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Sal has received correspondence from students in Florida, California, and as far away as England. He spoke of an alumna who cooks on a schooner off the coast of Florida. "Everyday she actually dives for fresh fish," he said. "The sky is the limit."

A letter from England...

A former student of the LCCC Food Production Management Program writes from abroad

Attention!
Did you graduate from the Food Production Management, Hotel & Restaraunt Management, Travel and Tourism or Pastry Arts programs?
We'd love to hear from you!
Let Sal know what you're up to!
(570) 740-0516 or
(800) 377-LCCC ext. 516 or
Sshandra@luzerne.edu

Hi Sal,

I really am honored that you remember me & would mention me to the alumni association. Thank you!

Looking back on the various jobs I've had over the years, I can honestly say that I gained the most from my time at LCCC. Strange, that when I was there I recall thinking "When will I ever use this in real life?" quite a bit. You and Bob were extraordinarily patient and supportive and I recall that when I have to train people.

Before I started at LCCC, both of you recommended that I do the ACF apprenticeship as well, which I did and think that the combination of the two programs was far better than going to some pompous cooking school. I also remember you telling me to be prepared to work my backside off. You definitely weren't joking there! It has been hard work, lots of long hours, late nights, missed holidays, etc., but I wouldn't trade one second of my career for anything! The most difficult job I've ever had was here in England at Vodafone World Headquarters. I was one of only six chefs feeding 2000 people a day. Fortunately for my aging body I had coupled my chef training with management and was offered a job as Catering Manager at a much smaller site, where I am currently. It's a lot less work...there's only one chef here and we only serve 300 people a day.

That's my life in a nutshell. I do have two bits of advice to offer your students. In fact, I probably learned them from you and Bob.
1) Never let 'em see you sweat! 2) Never, ever give up!

If it's ok, I'd like to pop in next time I'm stateside. I miss LCCC, it was a real laugh. Thanks for everything Sal. I remember what a great guy you were. I've come to realize that you're a real unsung hero. Thanks for giving me such a great start to a wonderful career!

With Kind regards,
Michelle Matera Charles
Catering Manager
Compass Group

Remembering

PAUL KARPOWICH

A student, friend, and soldier.

by *Luciana Musto '00*

Master Sergeant Paul Karpowich, a 1999 graduate of the Architectural Engineering Technology program at LCCC, recently lost his life in an attack by a suicide bomber while serving in Iraq.

Paul was honored during a memorial at LCCC on February 17, 2005.

Family, friends, members of the College, and members of the community attended to pay tribute to his life.

Thomas Leary, Vice President for Student Development, said that "Paul had an understanding and empathy for people, beyond his years."

"Paul would often sit with an officer trying to learn the Iraqi language so that he could help Iraqis understand our interest in improving their lives," said Leary.

Paul was a very popular student. His work ethic and up-beat demeanor inspired the other students in the program, and Paul became the natural leader.

According to Brian Overman, an assistant professor and Coordinator of

the Architectural Engineering Program at LCCC, Paul would often give boxing lessons before class, pushing the desks and chairs against the walls of the room and going toe-to-toe with his classmates.

Paul received the 1999 Outstanding AET Graduate Award from the American Institute of Architects and continued his education at Temple University.

"Paul was our star," remembered Overman. He said that Paul thrived on leaving his comfort zone. Paul often told him that he would go for hikes at midnight, and that in those moments, he found his bliss. "That's the way I choose to remember him," said Overman.

State Representative, John Yudichak, Freeland Mayor Timothy Martin, and Wilkes-Barre Mayor, Tom Leighton, were all in attendance at the memorial service.

Mayor Leighton donated a flag from the Healing Fields to the family, and both State Representative Yudichak and Mayor Timothy Martin commended Paul for his willingness



MASTER SGT. PAUL KARPOWICH '99

to serve his country.

Paul is survived by his wife, Amanda Karpowich; his mother, Jackie Getz; father, Richard Karpowich; sister, Kristen Moore, and brother, Phil Karpowich.

REMEMBERING JAMES FISHER



JAMES P. FISHER

Mr. James P. Fisher passed away unexpectedly on March 15, 2005. Jim was a long-time educator in the Wyoming Valley.

he served as evening administrator for LCCC's support services program. He retired from the college on January 31, 2005.

In addition Jim's work at LCCC, he was employed by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District as a guidance counselor at GAR Memorial High School and later at Plains/Solomon Elementary and Junior High School.

One of his GAR students, Carol McGrane, who later became his colleague, described Jim as "...a man who to many was a legend, a man of trust, a friend, a mentor, and a man who gave many a lifetime of guidance and memories."

Jim also devoted his time as a football coach for both Meyers High School and GAR Memorial High School. He later served as a football official for the Pennsylvania

Intercollegiate Athletic Association and served as the secretary/treasurer of the Wyoming Valley Track & Cross Country League.

Tom Leary, LCCC's Vice President of Student Development, had these remarks to offer. "Jim was a gentle person who always had a kind word for everyone. He found the good in people and was always interested in how others were doing...you were a true gentleman."

Leary offered a final wish, "May God hold you in the palm of his hand until we meet again."

Jim is survived by his wife of 29 years, Elaine Ferris Fisher; daughters, Barbara Sciandra and Ann Fisher; brothers, Patrick J. '72 and Joseph F. Fisher.

by *Bonnie Lauer '87*

The Luzerne County Community College community recently lost a valued member of its family.

James P. Fisher passed away unexpectedly on March 15, 2005.

Jim dedicated 35 years of his life to education, many of which,

A message from the **PRESIDENT** OF THE **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Greetings to my fellow alumni and congratulations to the more than 700 new graduates who received their degree at the May 2005 commencement ceremony!

I am so proud to be affiliated with our college and its Alumni Association. We are fortunate to have a very active Alumni Association Board that works hard to plan events throughout the year to raise funds for scholarships, equipment purchases and other important needs for LCCC and its students. The funds raised from alumni events continue to impact current students, as well as future students, by providing financial assistance, state of the art equipment and opportunities for innovative learning.

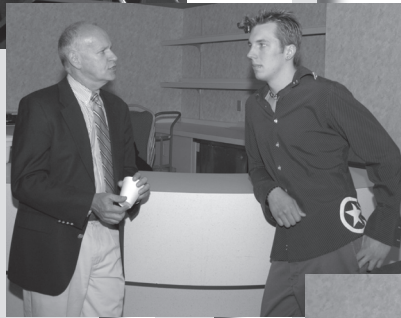
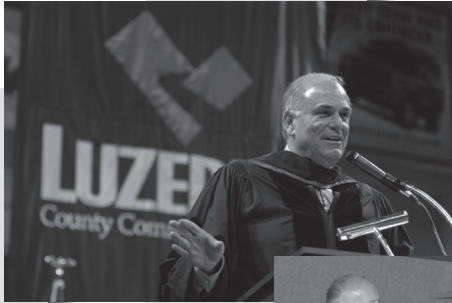
We are very excited to be planning two alumni reunions for September: one for all graduates of the Nursing program on Friday, September 23 and a second for the members of the graduating classes from 1969 – 1974 on Saturday, September 24. If you are able to help with either event please contact the Alumni office!

In addition, we are hosting our 16th Annual Craft Festival on October 15, 2005. This is one of the premier craft festivals in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Mark your calendar to stop back to campus for this event which features over 150 vendors!

Thanks for all of your continued support of your alma mater, LCCC.

Lisa Owens

Lisa Owens '97
LCCC Alumni Association
President



Check out our alumni website and guestbook at www.luzerne.edu/alumni. The website has the latest information on the Alumni Association activities and while your there take a few minutes to sign our guest book! See what your classmates are up to and let everyone know what's new with you! Share your email address or home page!

ALUMNI CALENDAR

September 23, 2005 All Class 30th Nursing Reunion, 6 - 9 pm, Campus Center

September 24, 2005 1969 -1974 All Class Reunion, 6 - 9 pm, Educational Conference Center

October 15, 2005 16th Annual Alumni Craft Festival, 10 am - 4 pm, Main Campus

November 5, 2005 College Open House for prospective students

February 8, 2006 18th Annual Alumni vs. Student basketball game, 5:30 College gym

March 20-29, 2006 Alumni Association Phonathon, Campus Center

April 8, 2006 College Open House for prospective students

May 4, 2006 "Dracula" and "Taming of the Shrew" theatrical productions by National Players, Educational Conference Center

May 6, 2006 8th Annual Flea Market & Collectible Show and Antique & Art Appraisal, 8 am - 2 pm, main campus

May 12, 2006 Dental Health Alumni Day, Educational Conference Center

May 23, 2006 Graduate Reception, Educational Conference Center, 7 - 9 pm

May 25, 2006 38th Annual Commencement ceremony, Wachovia Arena

June 4, 2006 Antique Automobile Club of America Car Show, Educational Conference Center & Advanced Technology Center parking lots

More events listed at www.luzerne.edu/alumni

ALUMNI BENEFITS

Many discounts and services are available to LCCC Alumni including:

- **15% discount on non-credit courses taken through LCCC's Continuing Education Department. If registering online or by phone please mention the "Alumni Discount" program.**

- **20% discount at the bookstore (some exclusions apply, i.e. textbooks)**

- **career services including resume enhancement & job announcements**

- **use of the college library and computer terminals**

- **membership in the Cross Valley Federal Credit Union.**

Many of these services require an alumni ID card. To obtain yours please contact the alumni office at (570) 740-0735 or email: alumni@luzerne.edu. For more information on the Alumni Association check out: www.luzerne.edu/alumni

*It's not too late
to register for*

fall classes!

For more information contact the Admissions Office at (800) 377-LCCC ext. 337 or (570) 740-0337 or email admissions@luzerne.edu

The Alumni Office has made every effort to make the information contained herein accurate. Should you observe any discrepancy or error, we ask that you contact the Alumni Office by calling (570) 740-0734.

RETIREEES

Your Gift is Important

The following are members of the faculty, administration, and staff who have recently retired after many years of service to the College and its students. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Regina Baron

Director, Student Services

Mary Ann Gabel '92

Human Resources
Assistant

Edward Garrity

Counselor

Kathleen Kapes '75

Media Coordinator

Helen Kopec

Director, Enrollment
Management

Dr. Robert Mittrick

Professor, History,
Social Science *

John Pisaneschi

Professor, Speech,
Philosophy, Fine Arts *

Susan Searfoss '87

Director, Evening Programs

Marion Wishnefski '86

Professor, Computer
Information Systems

*Professor Emeritus

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 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.

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. 734 or at 740-0734.

IN MEMORIAM

Sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of the following alumni and faculty who have passed away since the last publication of "The Bridge" in March 2004.

Alan Bogdon '73 (General Studies)

David Cerp '81 (Hotel & Restaurant Management)

Mary Ann Connor '76 (Health & Physical Education)

Sally Ann Diaz '96 (Nursing)

Celeste Dorak '83 (Nursing)

James Fisher (Faculty)

Shirley Friedrich '82 (Business Administration)

Shirley Gehrts '78 (Office Management Technology)

Sandra George '85 (Nursing)

Nancy Gloman (Retired Faculty)

Elberta Jane Jones '84 (Journalism)

Paul Karpowich '99 (Architectural Engineering Technology)

David Lashford '98 (Computer Systems Technology)

Richard Maiers '70 (Business Administration)

Sarah Lee Marconi '76 (Nursing)

Nancy Molter '01 (Surgical Technology)

Joseph Osmanski '82 (Electrical Construction Technology)

Deborah Pshar-Bonner '98 (Computer Graphics)

Connie Roberts '82 (Commerical Art - Graphic Design)

Rose Sebastian '72 (Social Science)

Beverly Smith (Staff)

Gordon Stackhouse '92 (Food Production Management)

Susan Patyk Villano '83 (Nursing)

Gary Whitesell '95 (Information Systems)

Mary D Zawatski '90 (Information Systems)

Class of 1969

Leonard Shimko (Business Administration) was named as the recipient of the Abigail M. George Award from the LCCC Alumni Association. The award, which recognizes outstanding service to the College, was established in 2000 in memory of Abigail M. George, a member of the LCCC Alumni Association. Shimko is president of the Cross Valley Federal Credit Union and serves on the LCCC Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors.

Class of 1973

Kingston photographer, Ed Lewko, (Commercial Art-Photography) received two major awards at a recent print competition of the Northeast Pennsylvania Professional Photography Association. Lewko's photograph titled "Waiting for Guests," received the MPPPA's Best Use of Color award. He also received the Art Leather Award for best wedding album.

Class of 1975

Milton boys basketball coach, Tony Fannick, recently posted his 500th victory, another milestone to add to 10 league championships, 10 District 4 championships and the 1988 Class AAA state runner up trophy.

Class of 1977

Catherine Gearis, (Nursing) RN, CCRN, Associate Vice President of Nursing at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, was recently recognized for achieving 20 years of continuous certification in critical care nursing. The AACN Certification Corporation presented her with a special certificate for dedication to continued competence and excellence in bedside critical care nursing.

Class of 1978

Sister Susan Brown recently returned to Old Dominion University honoring their 1980 National Championship team. While attending LCCC Sue played on two teams her freshman and sophomore years, that went to the National Championships with their best showing finishing 5th in the nation. After graduating from LCCC she was accepted to Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. The team won the AIAW nation crown with a 35-1 record. Sister Susan now teaches at a Catholic school on Staten Island.

Class of 1979

Eugene C. Cunard (Business Administration) has been promoted to vice president of Pennstar Bank's trust and investment division. Eugene graduated from Wilkes University with a BS in accounting. He is also a graduate of the Central Atlantic School of Trust at Bucknell University and has completed the certified financial paraplanner program through the College for Financial Planning. Eugene resides in Upper Askam with his wife, Karen and children, Justin and Alyssa.

Class of 1980

William Dillon, Jr. (Criminal Justice) senior credit manager at Keystone Automotive Operations Inc, Exeter, received a master of business administration degree with a concentration in finance at Wilkes University's winter commencement. Dillon resides in Plains Township with his wife, Janet, and the couple has four children.

Thomas Druby, (Electronics Engineering Technology) vice president of information technology and chief information officer at Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, recently spoke at the national Managed Healthcare Industry Forum on Emerging Technology conference in New York. He is an active member of

the Pennsylvania State University Technology Advisory Council, the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society and the Health Care Management Forum. Druby resides in Mountaintop with his wife Donna and their two children, Marissa and Michelle.

Class of 1988

Priti Patel (Business Management Technology) has been promoted to the branch manager of the PNC Wyoming Valley Mall location. Priti joined the bank in 1996.

Class of 1983

James "Red" O'Brien (General Studies) was the Grand Marshal of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick's event held on March 17th. O'Brien is the proprietor of O'Brien's Irish Pub and Grill in Avoca.

Class of 1989

Carolyn M. Scavone (Commercial Art-Graphics Design) and Thomas J. Flannery were married in March, 2004. Carolyn is employed with her family's business Sucali's Tavern. The couple resides in Mountain Top.

Class of 1991

Eileen Younker, (Nursing) was hired as CORF Coordinator/Nurse Manager by Riverside Rehabilitation. Younker received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Delaware. She resides in Hanover Township.

Class of 1992

Lujean Baab (Journalism) of Lehighton was recently named Director of Distance Learning at Northampton Community College. Baab has a doctorate in education technology from Pepperdine University.

Class of 1993

William B. Palmer (Accounting) recently earned a master of business administration degree from Wilkes University. He is currently employed by Lockheed Martin Logistics for the Department of Defense.

Daniel C. Payne (Criminal Justice) of the United States Coast Guard was recently promoted to Chief Petty Officer. He is currently serving aboard the CG Cutter CAPSTAN, a 65-foot ice breaking harbor tug which is home ported in Philadelphia.

Class of 1994

Congratulations to Melissa Szafran Jones '94 (Broadcast Communications Technology) on earning her Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh. Missy is the Library Director of the Pittston Memorial Library. She earned her bachelors degree in political science from King's College. Missy and her husband Kevin Jones '95 (Broadcast Communications Technology) live in Plains.

Denise Yatko (Medical Office Assistant) has joined the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute as a cancer registrar. Denise resides in Hanover Township.

Class of 1996

Jason J. Metrick (Criminal Justice) was recently honored at the annual Hyattsville City Public Safety Awards Banquet. In addition to receiving the Silver Medal of Valor, Metrick was named Police Officer of the Year for the City of Hyattsville, Md. Metrick also received this prestigious award in 2000. He lives in

Washington D.C., metropolitan area with his wife, Aimee.

Class of 1998

Joe Figlerski (Computer Graphics) was recently featured in a senior art exhibit at Lizza Fine Arts Studio, Tunkhannock. Figlerski is a senior art education major at Keystone College in LaPlume.

Class of 1999

Jaime Commodario (Graphic Communications/Printing) has been named Marketing and Web Development Specialist of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance.

Brian E. Houston (Criminal Justice) and Jennifer L. Zack were married in May, 2004. Brian is employed as a store manager with Footlocker. The couple resides in Port Blanchard.

Carrie Robbins (Business Management Technology) was united in marriage to Aut Hinson in July, 2004. Carrie is employed as an accountant at Chemical Specialties Inc. The couple resides in Concord, NC.

Rebecca Telep (Nursing) married Christopher J. Goetter in October, 2004. Rebecca is employed as a registered nurse in the coronary care unit at John's Hopkins Hospital. The couple resides in Harrisburg.

Class of 2000

Teresa Lambert (Education) graduated Magna Cum Laude from Keystone College in LaPlume.

Justin Taylor (Fire Science Technology) was recently honored as a recipient of the Legion of Honor of the Chapel of Four Chaplains at the 11th annual ceremony at St. Patrick's Church in Olyphant for his service to the local community. Taylor has served as Carbondale mayor and city administrator since January 2004 and a member of city council from January 2000 to December 2003.

Class of 2001

Lisa Pisano (Nursing) and Christopher Gilchrist were united in marriage in September, 2004. Lisa is employed at the Valley Surgery Center as a Registered Nurse. The couple resides in Old Forge.

Caroline Stephens (Dental Assisting) became the bride of Joseph Fisk in August 2004. Caroline is employed as a dental assistant. The couple resides in Pembroke, VA.

Class of 2003

Crystal M. Cumberland (Nursing) and Stuart D. Gorka were united in marriage in June, 2004. Crystal is a registered nurse at Barnes-Kasson Hospital in Susquehanna. The couple resides in Susquehanna.

Congratulations to Melissa Taney-Williams '03 (Journalism) and her husband Jason on the birth of their baby girl, Mallory Grace! Melissa is attending Bloomsburg University and works at LCCC's Berwick site.

Gerald Tipler (Computer Systems Technology) and Dori Hosler were recently united in marriage. George is employed by Berwick Offray. The couple resides in Berwick.

Robert J. Vassil (Plumbing & Heating Technology) was married to Tamara B. Dougher in August, 2004. Robert is self-employed. The couple resides in Lenoxville.

Joseph P. Hayer (General Studies) received a B.S. Degree in sociology from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD. at its winter commencement. Joseph resides in Hagerstown, MD.

Class of 2004

Jessica Rupp (Computer Information Systems) has been named staff assistant by the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute.

CLASS NOTES

It's all about... 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) _____ Email _____
Spouses 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

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